

Voices of Wildlife in NH (VOW)
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May 14, 2019

Mr. Glenn Normandeau, Executive Director
NH Fish & Game Department
11 Hazen Dr.
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Rulemaking petition to require reporting by hunters of coyotes

Dear Mr. Normandeau,

Enclosed is a rulemaking petition and sample reporting form for consideration that we submit under the guidance of Fis 214.01.

The coyote is an animal whose functional role in NH's ecosystem has not been appropriately valued. This is evident in the NH Fish and Game Department's (NHFG) policy that permits coyotes to be hunted year-round with no reporting required by coyote hunters. Coyotes are killed in large numbers by firearm and bow and arrow but there is no data as to actual numbers, much less the effect of this killing on the coyote population.

The New Hampshire legislature had a bill in 2019 to close the coyote hunting season during pup rearing months. It failed, in part, because those who opposed the bill, including the NHFG Department and its Commission, testified that there was insufficient data on coyotes in NH to evaluate the effect of a closed season.

Requiring hunters to file a yearly written report will correct that problem and with a minimum of incremental effort will give the department the data that they need to make decisions about coyote hunting seasons.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dionne

Linda Dionne, President

Cc: Wildlife Div. Chief Mark Ellingwood

RULEMAKING PETITION to Glenn Normandeau, NH Fish and Game Executive Director

Submitted by:

Linda Dionne
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Representing:

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We petition the NH Fish and Game Department to amend Fis 303:06 to require yearly written report filing from coyote hunters which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Date of coyote killed
2. Location of coyote killed
3. Number of coyotes killed
4. Hunting method used
5. Whether killed during night hunting
6. Sex of coyote killed and if female, whether nursing

Reason to require yearly reporting of coyotes killed in NH:

The NHFG department allows year-round hunting with insufficient data to evaluate how year-round hunting affects NH's coyote population. As coyotes play an important functional role in NH's ecosystem it is critical that more data on coyote abundance be acquired in order to evaluate how the take of coyotes affects their abundance and population sustainability. Requiring reporting from coyote hunters, when combined with coyote trapping data, would give the department some of the data they need to make sound scientific decisions on hunting and trapping of coyotes.

Landowners are required to report per RSA 207:27. Landowners will be exempt from filing this report. Trappers are required to report per RSA 210:23, FIS 303:10. Trappers will be exempt from filing this report.

Signature: *Linda Dionne*

