

Dear OR Fish + Wildlife,

9-2-23

I am writing to you to urge you to ban wildlife hilling contests statewide. I truly can't believe they're even still happening in our state and in this day and time. How barbaric! There is no legitimate

management purpose, they're cruel, ecologically destructive, violate the principles of sportsmanship and fair chase.

I am a teacher and would teach my students about respecting animals, not killing for no reason.

Washington, California, and Colorado have outlawed these contests. Oregon needs to do the same!

ODFW

SEP 18 2023

Director's Office

Angie



Ms. Angie Simpson
3110 Cedar Links Dr.
Medford, OR 97504

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ODFW

SEP 18 2023

Director's Office



From: Gary Madison gmadison812@gmail.com
Subject: coyote calling contest meetings
Date: September 11, 2023 at 10:25 AM
To: ODFD.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov

FACTS.

Awarding prizes and money for wildlife killing contests is both unethical and inconsistent with our current understanding of natural systems. Such contests have no place in modern wildlife management.

Coyote killing contests are growing in Oregon at this time with as many as 600 contestants over a weekend. These competitive killing events are simply a blood bath for entertainment, money and a chance for gambling. Participants glorifying their own habit of killing.

Participants typically dump bodies having no need for them after the prizes are awarded. Investigators of these contests saw chilling scenes of participants dragging the bodies of dead coyotes, grinning next to their bloodied animals, sharing gruesome jokes about their kills. The event ends with a big celebration where participants are awarded prizes and bragging rights.

CONCLUSION

The majority of people believe coyote killing contests are cruel and not necessary. They give hunters a bad name and undermine the public view of hunting. A judge in Harney County years ago stopped coyote killing contests, The events have started up again.

The fish and wildlife is in the business of selling sports hunting license. Coyote killing contests are in conflict with this. The contest lets lots of coyotes called escape and they are educated to calling. This makes for difficult and discouraging calling experience for the sports caller.

The killing contest numbers show it is all about the money. Up to 600 people are competing in contests and pay between \$100 and \$200 per man. That is big money that can encourage unscrupulous methods of hunting.

Finally. Many states around Oregon have stopped coyote killing contests. It is time Oregon does the same!

Respectfully submitted

Gary Madison
541/589/1084

Comments to the Meeting of the Fish & Wildlife Commission

Sept 15, 2023

Chair Wahl, Commissioners and Director Melcher,

Thank you for giving me a chance to comment on the Winchester Dam. I have served for 24 years on the Lookingglass Olalla Water Control District, 6 of those years as President. We sell irrigation water from the Berry Creek Dam to farmers and ranchers. I also served for over 15 years on the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR) the Douglas County local watershed council tasked to work with all stakeholders to restore the Salmon and Steelhead runs in the Umpqua system.

I realize ODFW is not the only State or Federal agency that has authority over the work that was recently done on the Winchester Dam, however as the lead agency on this critical impediment to salmon runs it appears that ODFW gave The Winchester Water Control District a pass on the rules required in the permit. The same rules everyone else must follow. All of the state agencies involved really dropped the ball here but ODFW set the example.

I have also been in masonry construction and commercial real estate for many years as well as public service. It is deeply disturbing to see the dam owners get all ready, expensive equipment and construction materials on site, people hired and ready to roll when the bundle of permits needed came through on a Friday night, too late to go to court and get an injunction. They opened the flood gates Sunday and started work first thing Monday morning. This was not a coincidence. It stinks of favoritism for the wealthy and well connected. Although the ODFW permits were granted sometime back, you should have held a final approval until ALL required approvals and documentation was delivered.

I have two points to make. First, I have stood up for the State process and rules here in Roseburg, I repeat in Roseburg, not Eugene or Portland, in Roseburg at significant person and business expense, because the restoration of the salmon is important part of our heritage. While a pain in the neck, these evolving rules do matter and do make a difference. The State's behavior on the Winchester Dam makes it much harder to advocate that there is a process of State business that should be used and respected. You have damaged my credibility and the credibility many other conservationists in a hostile neighborhood as well as that of all State agencies.

Finally, the Salmon runs have been in deep decline for many years. There has been a lot of money and work spent to help restore these runs. Approval of the Winchester Dam spits in the face of all that effort and money. After a generation of screaming, we finally got the State Department of Forestry to admit clear cutting does impact watersheds and the fish that live there. Sacrifices have been made but there needs to be significant changes soon or some famous runs, such as the Spring Chinook will go extinct. Get ready to have the Winchester Dam thrown in your face when you tell the public it is time to get serious.

The Winchester Dam should have been removed because of its impact on fish runs the length of the river but clout got the pass. The public has made note and it becomes much harder to ask people to make sacrifices when clout gets a pass. I ask ODFW and the Commission to enforce on the violations that have occurred at Winchester Dam and hold the dam owners accountable for harming the fish of Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard M. Chasm

730 Hoover Hill Road