

Good Morning, My name is Kate Scott, co-founder and director of the Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center located in the western Huachuca Mountains of Santa Cruz and Cochise counties.

My intention in speaking to you today is to bring to your attention wildlife killing contests. Needing only a hunting license these contests can be held at any time of the year on public lands. In a killing contest, prizes are awarded in different categories for the most animals killed, the smallest, the largest, or any other category deemed worthy by the organizers. The targets of these contests include any predator, fur-bearing animal not currently listed under the Endangered Species Act; mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, foxes, coatimundi, badgers, raccoons, skunks, rabbits, and squirrels.

Afterwards, the bodies of the dead are often left in large piles to be scavenged by wildlife. Lead poisoning which is almost always fatal in large raptors is a clear danger.

**“There are three seminal tests of ethical hunting
fair chase, humane killing and no wanton waste.**

First: Does the prey animal have any reasonable opportunity for escape?

Response: No

Coyotes are “called in” with devices that sound like pups in distress.

When the frantic animal comes into view it is shot, very often with an assault rifle, AR 15 with scope with a range of 4 football fields.

Second: Is the killing done in a humane manner?

Response: No

In the rush to kill as many animals as possible within a short amount of time,

many animals are simply gut shot and left to die slowly until gathered (personal testimony by Carter Niemeyer, Retired Director, USDA Wildlife Services for Idaho, Wyoming and Montana).

Third: Is there wanton waste in the killing?

Response: Yes

Most of the corpses of the killed animals are either dumped into dumpsters or left in piles on the earth to rot.

I urge you to join with other counties in our state, who have passed resolutions banning these contests: Pima, Dewey-Humboldt, Yavapai, and Coconino.

AZGF has opened a public comment period from April 12-May 12 to propose a new ruling under Article 3. Taking and Handling of Wildlife:

R12-4-303. Unlawful Devices, Methods, and Ammunition:

Participate in, organize, promote, or solicit participation in a contest where a participant uses or intends to use any device or implement to capture or kill predatory animals or fur-bearing animals as defined under ARS 17-101

Comments can be mailed to:

Attn:DOFP Rules

AZGFD

5000 W. Carefree Hwy

Phoenix, AZ 85086

Or emailed to rulemaking@azgfd.gov

Blood sport in my state on our wildlife is unacceptable, despicable, depraved and morally repugnant. Please let your collective and individual voices be heard to protect our native wildlife.

Thank you.

