



**To:** Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners  
6980 Sierra Center Pkwy #120  
Reno, NV 89511

**Re:** Ban on Hunting Contests

**Position:** Oppose

**Date:** March 19, 2020

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Chair East, Vice Chair Barnes, and members of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners:

My name is Keely Hopkins and I am the Pacific States Assistant Manager for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). I respectfully urge you to oppose a ban on hunting contests in the state. Hunting tournaments are a time-honored tradition in Nevada that provide increased opportunities for Nevada's sportsmen and sportswomen to participate in the great outdoors, while also contributing to effective wildlife management and supporting local economies.

Since 1989, CSF has dedicated itself to the mission of working with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting and trapping. The unique and collective force of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus, and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses, working closely with CSF, and with the support of major hunting, recreational fishing and shooting, and trapping organizations, serves as an unprecedented network of pro-sportsmen elected officials that advance the conservation interests of America's hunters and anglers.

Hunting tournaments are a well-regulated practice that requires participants to abide by the regular hunting laws, while also offering increased opportunities for sportsmen and women to form new relationships and bonds. These tournaments offer a heightened level of comradery and affability amongst the participants. In general, hunting often spawns a friendly, competitive environment between family and friends; however, tournaments offer the ability to challenge each other in a regulated environment, spurring a determination that often leads to lifetime memories and newly built relationships. During these events, competitors become friends, and friends become family. New methods and strategies are passed from one hunter to another, increasing the collective effectiveness and unity of the hunting community.

Contrary to the misinformed narrative that often circles the topic of hunting contests, parties to these tournaments are not exempted from following the same honorable wildlife laws and regulations as other sporting pursuits – especially in regard to methods of take, hunting hours, and rules pertaining to license requirements and/or certain uses of the pelt after the harvest.

Furthermore, hunting tournaments may be an effective management tool for specific species, such as coyotes, where localized issues of overabundance may result in increased human-wildlife conflicts and attacks. It has been proven that short-term removal mechanisms, such as tournaments, can provide immediate relief to farmers and ranchers by helping reduce livestock losses due to those varmint species. Numerous accounts of conflicts between coyotes, humans, and their pets have been well-documented in the media, and it stands to reason that the frequency of these occurrences are likely to increase if hunting opportunities are limited. Eliminating a potential management tool to deal with localized issues of overabundance and human-wildlife conflict is not in the best interest of the Commission, or public safety.

Tournaments also have the ability to support local economies through increased expenditures and tourism. Increased tourism associated with hunting tournaments provides vital revenue for Nevada's rural communities.

Respectfully, I urge the members of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to oppose a ban on hunting contests in the state. I appreciate your time and consideration on this issue. Should you require any additional information on this, or any other sportsmen-related topic, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



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