



July 22, 2020

Mr. Don C. Bedell, Chairman
and Members of the Missouri Conservation Commission,
2901 W. Truman Blvd.,
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Regarding: Missouri Department of Conservation's Proposed Changes Regarding Coyote Hunting Methods and Seasons (3 CSR 10-7.410)

Chairman Bedell and Members of the Missouri Conservation Commission:

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) proposed changes to 3 CSR 10-7.410 regarding hunting seasons and methods. CSF continues to support state fish and wildlife agencies as the entity best equipped to make science-based wildlife management decisions. As such, we are pleased to voice our support for several of the provisions contained within the proposed regulations, and we appreciate the increased access and opportunities that those provisions will provide for Missouri's sportsmen and women.

Since 1989, CSF has maintained a singleness of purpose that has guided the organization to become one of the most respected and trusted sportsmen's organization in the political arena. CSF's mission is to work 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 interests of America's hunters and anglers.

As noted above, CSF supports state fish and wildlife agencies as the entities best equipped to make science-based wildlife management decisions. Current research from the southeastern United States suggests that trapping is an effective means of harvesting coyotes without long-term negative impacts on populations¹, and targeted and sustained hunting activities, including coyote

¹ Kilgo, J.C., C. E. Shaw, M. Vukovich, M. J. Conroy, and C. Ruth. 2017. Reproductive characteristics of a coyote population before and during exploitation. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* 81(3).

hunting with the use of artificial light or the use of night vision, thermal imaging, and infrared optics may further increase the efficacy of localized population management efforts. Additionally, the use of these nighttime technologies, in conjunction with the other population management techniques mentioned above, may allow MDC to further rely on hunters to achieve and maintain target coyote population objectives for the long-term benefit of Missouri's wildlife populations. Currently, such activities are safely and successfully employed, or are being considered, in several other states across the Midwest. Finally, we also agree with the proposed coyote season during which these methods may be used in order to minimize the impact that these methods may have on Missouri's other hunting seasons.

For these reasons, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation supports the provisions of the proposed amendments to the Missouri hunting regulations described above. Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment on these regulations. If you have questions or would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Keene", written in a cursive style.

Kent Keene

Lower Midwestern States Coordinator | Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
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