

EASTERN COYOTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Raised by Working Group October 28, 1999

Population/Control

- Can we reduce the coyote population to such an extent that the deer population can increase downeast and in northern Maine?
- How far does one go to manipulate one species in favor of another?
- Poisoning, shooting, and trapping on a broad scale in other parts of the coyote's range has not worked.
- How would the presence of wolves affect the coyote population?
- Continue existing local control programs, at least until the effectiveness of these programs is determined.
- Need greater coyote control adjacent to deer wintering areas.
- It is not feasible to control the coyote population over large areas.
- Coyotes can play a useful role in controlling the deer population in areas where it is desirable to maintain or reduce the deer population to prevent or control the spread of Lyme disease.

Use

- Need to develop better information concerning hunting and trapping effort. Develop a voluntary reporting system. Eliminate tagging fees.
- Develop programs to promote coyote as a game species rather than a nuisance: allow hunting on Sundays, expand night hunting opportunities, and institute a September trapping season.