

PROBLEMS AND STRATEGIES FOR EASTERN COYOTE MANAGEMENT IN MAINE

Prepared by: Walter J. Jakubas
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Problem 1: Areas to trap and hunt coyote may decrease in the future, as a result of urban sprawl, population growth, and a desire by the public to post private land as being closed to these activities.

Strategy 1.1: Work with towns to ensure that sufficient "open-space" is maintained for traditional activities like hunting and trapping.

Strategy 1.2: Provide information to town planning boards, and to the general public, on the wildlife management problems that occur when too much land is closed to hunting and trapping.

Problem 2: The number of people trapping and hunting may decline in the future.

Strategy 2.1: Actively participate in programs that introduce hunting and trapping to children and the non-hunting/trapping public.

Problem 3: Some people have a negative perception of trapping, hunting with dogs, and snaring.

Strategy 3.1: Give and encourage public presentations that address hunting and trapping in today's society.

Strategy 3.2: Produce and distribute information on how to improve the selectivity and humaneness of snares and traps (e.g., Best Management Practices program for trapping).

Strategy 3.3: Inform the public about the steps the Department has taken to ensure that trapping and snaring is being done selectively and humanely as possible.

Strategy 3.4: Work cooperatively with Maine trappers and snarers to improve trapping and snaring techniques.

Problem 4: We do not know whether coyote control is effective in reducing deer winter mortality rates.

Eastern Coyote Problems and Strategies

Strategy 4.1: Review existing documentation and interview wildlife biologists about the behavioral effects (i.e., immigration of other coyotes into vacated territories, establishment of new territories by nomadic coyotes, coyote densities in non-territorial situations, and changes in predation rates) of removing territorial coyotes.

Strategy 4.2: Conduct research that would document the effect of coyote control on deer mortality and recruitment, coyote population dynamics, and coyote social behavior.

Problem 5: Incidental wildlife may be killed or injured during coyote control operations.

Strategy 5.1: Continue producing and distributing information to people interested in coyote control, that would help them avoid incidental captures and recognize when high profile, non-target species are in the area.

Strategy 5.2: Identify areas in the state where there is a high probability of killing non-target species that are of special concern to the Department, and construct special coyote control regulations for those areas.

Problem 6: People hunting coyotes with dogs are concerned about their dogs becoming caught in snares.

Strategy 6.1: Make available region-wide maps of where snares have been set, so houndsmen can evaluate the risks to their dogs.

Strategy 6.2: Designate areas in northern or downeast Maine where only dogs and hunting can be used for coyote control.