



To: Margaret Eckelkamp (Chair) and Members of the Missouri Conservation Commission
Re: Missouri Department of Conservation's Proposed Changes Regarding Coyote Hunting Methods and Seasons (3 CSR 10-7.410)
Position: Support
Date: July 29, 2025

Dear Chair Eckelkamp and Members of the Missouri Conservation Commission:

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), I would like to thank the Commission 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.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

CSF supports state fish and wildlife agencies as the entities best equipped to make science-based wildlife management decisions. As shared by CSF in response to the most recent update to 3 CSR 10-7.41 in 2020, research from the southeastern United States suggests that trapping is an effective means of harvesting coyotes without long-term negative impacts on populations¹. By extension, targeted and sustained hunting activities, including with the use of artificial light or the use of night vision, thermal imaging, and infrared optics are also likely to increase the efficacy of localized population management efforts. Additionally, the increased 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. Finally, we appreciate the Commission and MDC's efforts to allow these opportunities while seeking 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.

Sincerely,

Kent Keene

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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).