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Resolution 2019-1

Coyote-calling Contests Involving Cash-Value Prizes

_ WHEREAS, the North American Model of Wildlife Management and its seven core tenets have long been the guiding philosophy of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation; and

_ WHEREAS, the North American Model prohibits commercialization of wildlife; and

_ WHEREAS, coyote-calling contests are organized and often sponsored competitions in which contestants compete to kill multiple coyotes, or unique coyotes such as largest or smallest, for prizes of money or prizes of monetary value; and

_ WHEREAS, cash-value prizes are a distinguishing element between coyote-calling contests and other sport hunting for coyotes, including competitions which do not offer cash-value prizes; and

_ WHEREAS, the base, breeding-age coyote population in New Mexico is approximately 120,000 animals and is stable or growing, and the coyote population throughout North America has nearly tripled its range and increased its numbers by an even greater percentage since the arrival of Europeans; and

_ WHEREAS, neither coyote-calling contests nor other, non-competitive sport hunting have more than localized, temporary biological effects in the areas hunted and no measurable impacts on the total coyote population or population trends in New Mexico; and

_ WHEREAS, The New Mexico Wildlife Federation evolved from a group founded by visionary conservationist Aldo Leopold and other sportsmen more than a century ago; and

_ WHEREAS, Leopold repeatedly emphasized in his writings the importance of respect for all wildlife and his opposition to wanton killing and waste. In his book, "A Sand County Almanac," he wrote, "Voluntary adherence to an ethical code elevates the self-respect of the sportsman, but it should not be forgotten that voluntary disregard of the code degenerates and depraves him;" and

_ WHEREAS, The North American Model reinforces this ethic, stating that wildlife can only be killed for a legitimate purpose, inspiring laws that restrict casual killing, wasting of game, and mistreating wildlife,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board of directors of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation finds that coyote-calling contests featuring cash-value prizes amount to commercialization of wildlife and are contrary to the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NMWF board finds that competitive killing of multiple or unique coyotes for cash or cash-value prizes reflects badly on hunting and hunters, as it is deeply offensive to many people in both the non-hunting and hunting communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NMWF board does not condone and will not defend such competitions, and strongly urges organizers to desist from offering such prizes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NMWF board of directors also declares that the above resolution applies only to such competitions involving cash or cash-value prizes; NMWF has and will continue to support the taking of coyotes through legal and ethical trapping or hunting, including non-monetized competitions involving calling and shooting.

