

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Governor of the State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Aerial gunning

Dear Governor Napolitano:

I am writing to advise you of my great concern regarding activities of the Arizona Game & Fish Commission and Department. I was shocked to learn that the Arizona Game and Fish Department is engaged in aerial gunning of coyotes in several areas of Arizona. I find this practice to be an unethical and unacceptable tool for wildlife management. As a citizen of Arizona, I believe aerial gunning is inconsistent with the department and commission's duties to manage wildlife in public trust for the benefit of all citizens.

I am especially troubled that the commission and department do not understand that predators are part of a healthy ecosystem. The department and commission seem to look first to lethal control of predators, rather than following accepted ecosystem-wide wildlife management practices.

I understand that the department is attempting to justify its actions, saying that aerial gunning is being implemented to protect antelope fawn recruitment. The truth is, coyote populations will not be affected by this gunning for more than a period of weeks, or months. I urge the department to stop using this band-aid approach. Instead, look at the big picture. Antelope numbers are down because of loss of habitat, drought and overgrazing. The department and commission have failed to be advocates for habitat protection, and failed to use resources they have to help set aside critical habitat.

I am outraged by aerial gunning. It is just one more example of the department and commission's continued mismanagement of our wildlife. Please look into activities of the department and commission and direct them to stop aerial gunning now, and develop predator management policies that look at the entire ecosystem and are consistent with current science and their duties to manage wildlife for the benefit of all citizens of our great state.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,