

From: RbinAnth@aol.com
Subject: PABIODIV: coyotes
To: PABIODIV@webmail.upb.pitt.edu
Sender: owner-pabiodiv@webmail.upb.pitt.edu
Date: Wed, 23 Mar 2005 11:25:53 -0500 (EST)

John D. Laskowski's response is all too typical of hunters, that "man" should be the predator, whose selfishness in wanting to claim all the prey game for themselves is the whole reason that we don't have stable predator/prey relationships in the first place.

Living in the city, where hunting is disallowed, and watching the deer and turkey populations explode these past few years makes me realize what a valuable effect even a migrated predator like the coyote would have.

The loss in diversity is a condition created by man, not coyotes. The meadows that harbor quail have increasingly fallen under man's rapacious land development. And while bobcats are good for controlling the turkey population, but they appear to breed quite slowly and are very sensitive to urban encroachment that isolates the small patches of woods that are today's urban forest. In my area an entire family of bobcat were decimated recently by construction of an unnecessary mini office park (while office space in downtown Pittsburgh goes vacant) that flushed them onto the highway.

Predator species do not have the reproduction rate of prey species and their population is further limited by the abundance of their prey. While it would be ideal to re-introduce wolves and cougars to restore the balance, eliminating predator species altogether also eliminates biodiversity by uncontrolled over-population of certain prey species, such as white-tailed deer.

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