From: RbinAnth@aol.com
Subject: Re: PABIODIV: Coyote Issue Questions
To: PABIODIV@webmail.upb.pitt.edu
Sender: owner-pabiodiv@webmail.upb.pitt.edu
Date: Sun, 27 Mar 2005 19:24:56 -0500 (EST)

Obviously, if coyote are eating deer, they are culling the herd. Culling by a predator species other than man will tend to make the prey species more robust, as coyotes would tend to take the young, old and sick while man, trophy-hunter that he is, would cull the best deer, not the weakest deer, from the herd. Therefore I see predation of deer by coyotes as a good thing.

Obviously, man has changed the dynamics of the ecosystem forever. The fact that coyotes have migrated here to replace former predator species indicates to me that they are filling a niche. How they are actually exploiting that niche, ie what food provide their sources in what amounts, has not been adequately studied, just casually observed.

It is interesting that in the original ecosystem, it appears that prey species were the more migratory while predator species stayed within a more limited range. It appears that in the new ecosystem, the prey species remain in one place, while the predators range according to available food supply.   I say appears, as I have not heard of any funded studies that have addressed the specifics of the changing ecosystem. I think it important to fund such studies before any decisions regarding management of the coyote is made. We need to know what the current ecosystem actually is before we start tampering with it or we will make a disaster of it, just as we did with the ecosystem in the last century.

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