

**Report to the Natural Resources Commission on Citizens Petition for a year-round coyote season.
Administrative Cause No. 23-FW-022**

Indiana allows year-round coyote hunting and trapping on private land with landowner permission and the appropriate license. Under state law in IC 14-22-6-12, landowners can take coyotes on their own property at any time of year without a license or permit, and they can give written authorization to others to take coyotes on their property as well at any time of year. Wildlife control operators with a permit can also be hired to help landowners and tenants take coyotes on their property throughout the year.

For public lands, the coyote hunting and trapping season runs from October 15 to March 15 pursuant to 312 IAC 9-3-12. Outside of those months, expanding hunting and trapping on public lands have greater opportunities for conflicts with other outdoor recreation activities, like camping, hiking, and wildlife viewing. Coyotes also typically have their young in the month of April, and a year-round season could create more orphaned young.

Coyotes are a wild animal with value for their role in the ecosystem, helping to control small mammal populations, as well as for their fur (which is of more value during the winter). Coyotes are found in all sections of the state, and population indices indicate that they are stable. Many coyotes live around people, pets, and livestock and do not have conflicts with them. Information about coyotes, their management and control, can be found on the DNR's website at: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/living-with-wildlife/coyotes/>

Since coyotes can already be taken year-round by landowners and those with written permission of the landowner, as well as by those with a nuisance wild animal control permit, the DNR does not believe that the season should be extended year-round. Additionally, the increased risk of conflicts and stable coyote populations don't warrant changes to the coyote season on public lands at this time.