

My name is Pat Young, Haddam, Ct I oppose SB 1018 Legalizing Snares

I have been a wildlife rehabilitator for almost 30 years. We do mostly the RVS species - raccoon, skunk and fox. Every year it becomes more discouraging when release time comes - where can they go to be somewhat safe. The answer is nowhere.

We have a year long hunting season - 313 days minus the 52 Sundays and 5 months of trapping in almost all of our state forests and parks. Our state lands have become one big huge wildlife management area for DEEP, hunters and trappers to enjoy.

There are 97 parcels of state land where trapping occurs. Among them

Haddam Meadows (234 acres)  
Devil's Hopyard (860 acres)  
Selden Neck State Park (527 Acres)  
Rocky Neck State Park (562 acres)

On all these parcels, body crushing traps, leghold traps, traps to drown beaver are used and now the Snare. These traps are indiscriminate and DEEP has no data nor information on what animals are actually caught in these traps,

My special concern is the gray fox. Again no population numbers. The gray fox and coyote are similar in size and looks at first glance. The coyote has vertical black lines on his front legs. Is the gray fox being mistaken for a coyote?

The question is "why so many coyotes? We began hearing coyotes shortly after the turkeys were introduced into the state in the mid-70s. It's common knowledge that putting food into the food chain that's not naturally there will attract predators.

Every year DEEP throws thousands of pheasants onto our state lands for the purpose of hunting. These birds are not native to Connecticut and if they are not killed by hunters, they starve to death or are taken by predators such as the coyote. This happens every year.

Also when hunters kill a deer, they "gut it" which means the deer is cut open and its innards removed. The deer is taken away by the Hunter but the innards are left behind.

Between body parts of the deer left behind and the pheasants which survive we, are giving the coyote one big huge buffet

The Snare trap is just another band-aid to the coyote problem. We need to address the problem of why so many coyotes. Let's concentrate on the pheasant season and why all those deer body parts are left behind.

*Pat Young*