

ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR OF THE COYOTE IN JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING

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Project Number 168

This is a continuation of an investigation of coyote behavior and ecology initiated in 1969. The work is being conducted on the National Elk Refuge, located near Jackson, Wyoming. The objectives are to investigate coyote territoriality, breeding and denning behavior, and coyote sociability. Observations are made on the hierarchy within coyote packs and the seasonal and yearly changes that take place.

Coyotes are identified by ear tags and natural color markings. Observations are made near dens and from two blinds and several other structures as well as elevated areas throughout the study area. Other observations are made from my vehicle on roadways wherever coyotes are located.

Six coyote dens were under observation this past season and three involved individual coyotes that have been followed for two and three years. The information gathered indicates that coyotes are territorial and that boundaries appear to fluctuate with seasonal food availability.

The investigations have also provided information strongly supporting the hypotheses that coyotes are territorial and form social packs with well developed hierarchies that fluctuate through time.

(Supported by the New York Zoological Society, the University of Wyoming, and the Welder Wildlife Foundation.)