

The Role of Predator Control as a Tool in Game Management

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Foreword

Predator control is one of the most controversial topics in wildlife management. On the one hand, many livestock producers feel it is a necessary tool to maintain their economic viability. On the other, advocates of animal rights oppose the taking of animal life for any purpose. Currently, wildlife managers on private lands are increasingly using predator management as a part of their overall game management systems in the hopes of increasing productivity. We convened this symposium to explore the current state of knowledge regarding the effects of predators on populations of economically important wildlife species; principally game animals such as deer, turkey, and quail. Our goal is not to advocate any one position but to explore in an unbiased way the current state of our knowledge, and to openly discuss the pros and cons of predator control. It is clear from the papers in this volume that much is known and that much remains to be known. It is also clear that a wide range of views exist regarding the efficacy and necessity of predator management. It is our sincere hope that this proceedings will be a starting point for discussion and further research, and will be useful to persons identifying with all sides of the issue.

— *The Steering Committee* —

Table of Contents

Keynote Address: Making Predator Management Decisions	1
The Role of Predation in Wildlife Population Dynamics	7
Predation Management for Livestock and Wildlife Enterprises	26
Making Sense of the Data: Whose Science is Sound?	31
Ecosystem Impacts of Predators: To Control or Not to Control, That is the Question	39
Public Attitudes and Predator Control: the Biologist's Puppeteer?	44
Deer-Predator Relationships	52
Mountain Lions, Deer and Predator Control	70
Impacts of Small Predators on Deer	74
Predator Management: Part of a Comprehensive Plan for the Wild	79
Impacts of Predation on Quail	84
Supplemental Feeding and Nest Predation	102
Predator Control in Deer Management: South Texas	109
The Role of Predator Management as a Tool in Game Management, Case Study: Rolling Plains ..	113
Predator Control and Deer Management: an East Texas Perspective	115
Predator Control and Upland Gamebirds in South Texas	120
Predator Control and Game Bird Management in the Edwards Plateau of Texas	132
Turkey, Quail, and Predators in the Rolling Plains, Texas	139
Management Alternatives Relative to Predators	144
Regulations Related to Predator Control in Game Management	158
Trap and Snare Use for Predator Control	163
Calling and Aerial Hunting as Tools for Predator Control	170
Nonlethal Control options for Predation Management on Wildlife	176
Predators are a Liability: Holding Back the Tide	183
Predators are an Asset: the Case Against Predator Control	185