



For Immediate Release

## **High Plains Films to self-distribute new documentary feature, *Killing Coyote***

VHS copies are available for review by the press. Digital and 35mm still images are also available.

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Additional information and a short trailer can be viewed on-line at:  
[http://www.highplainsfilms.org/fp\\_killcoyote.html](http://www.highplainsfilms.org/fp_killcoyote.html)

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Directed by 2001 Montana Arts Council Fellowship winner, Doug Hawes-Davis, *Killing Coyote*, the new documentary feature from High Plains Films, explores the relationship between people and coyotes in the American West. *Killing Coyote*, which won the John Michaels Award at the 23rd Big Muddy Film Festival in 2001, was shot in five western states including Montana and Wyoming. “*Killing Coyote* is really not a ‘wildlife’ film,” says Hawes-Davis. “Our movies focus on the relationship between nature and society; and this troubled relationship is epitomized by the incredible efforts that society puts into killing coyotes.” The movie was filmed by Hawes-Davis and accomplished cinematographers Dru Carr of Missoula and Franz Camenzind of Jackson, Wyoming.

As the North American landscape is continually altered by human presence, the coyote, an incredible survivor, has thrived, expanding its range and numbers from the arid lands of the West to occupy virtually the entire continent. Ironically, the dramatic increase in population and range has taken place during a hundred year period of intense human exploitation of the animals through trapping, poisoning and hunting. No one knows for certain how many coyotes are killed each year in America, but conservative estimates place the number at half a million. *Killing Coyote* documents the philosophical basis for this “war on wildlife.”

The documentary shows the many sides of the issue. With no narrator to guide the viewer, the film often has a hidden camera feel. Continuing a tradition of cinema verite documentary filmmaking, where the producer is notably absent from the finished film, *Killing Coyote* features live action footage from the National Coyote Calling Championship where hundreds of animals are killed for cash and prizes, at a federal government research/experimentation facility for coyote “control,” and on ranches across the West. Wildlife biologists, ranchers and contest hunters all weigh in as the documentary cuts back and forth between wildlife cinematography, field interviews, the hunting contests and an Arizona Game & Fish Commission hearing on the issue, which serves both as backdrop and to drive the plot - will Arizona ban body count contest hunts?

Since 1992, Missoula, Montana-based non-profit production company, High Plains Films, has produced and distributed fourteen documentaries that explore our relationship with the natural

world. High Plains Films have won more than 30 awards and been screened at film festivals and theaters world-wide. Other titles include *The Naturalist* 2001, *Varmints* 1998, *Motor* 1999, *Southbound* 1995, and *This is Nowhere* 2002.

High Plains Films will self-distribute *Killing Coyote*, but rely on a number of additional distributors on a non-exclusive basis. *Killing Coyote* is also available through Maple Lake Releasing of Winnipeg, Manitoba, which handles broadcast sales and includes the documentary in a touring group of High Plains Films for theatrical screenings. Sales are also being made through Facets Multimedia, USA Test, Instructional Video, The Video Project and others.

More information about High Plains Films is available on-line at [www.highplainsfilms.org](http://www.highplainsfilms.org).

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