

**Wolves, Bounty on. "Brush Wolf," Defined. Bounty, on Wolves.**

The wolf referred to in the Bounty Law is the "Canis Lupus." The "Brush Wolf", so called, belongs to the "Canis Latrans," or Coyote family. Unless such animals are classified as coyotes, the State is not liable for the payment of bounty claims upon certificates issued for the killing of such animals.

June 2, 1915.

Hon. D. W. Raymond,  
Secretary State Board of Stock Commissioners,  
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 28th ultimo, setting forth that bounty certificates for the killing of wolves have been issued recently in large numbers by the sheriffs of some of the northwestern counties of this state. It appears that these certificates were issued for slaughtered animals locally known as "brush wolves," and you request my opinion as to whether fifteen dollars can legally be collected from the state for each such animal killed?

The word "wolf" as used in the bounty laws, refers to the canis lupus, common in the northwest, and of which the timber wolf is generally regarded as the only variety of the species for which bounty may be collected. The "Brush Wolf", so called, is, we are informed, of a different species altogether, and belongs to the canis latrans, or coyote family. In an opinion addressed to Hon. R. N. Hawkins, Clerk of the State Board of Examiners, and which is reported in Volume 5, Opinions of the Attorney General, page 317, the dimensions of the American Wolf are given, and your attention is respectfully directed to what is there said on the subject. We are advised the so-called "brush wolf" does not measure up to the specifications given by the authorities cited in the opinion referred to, and that the term "brush wolf" is a misnomer or provincialism, probably invented for the purpose of collecting bounty as for the real wolf mentioned in the bounty laws.

You are, therefore, advised that the State is not liable for the payment of any bounty claims upon the certificates issued for the killing of such animals unless they be classified as coyotes, for which a bounty of \$3 is allowed.

Yours very truly,  
J. B. POINDEXTER,  
Attorney General.