

Coyotes—Bounty—Payment Of—Sheriffs, Duty Of.

Scalps of coyotes must be presented to the office of the sheriff, nearest which they were killed, who then makes out his report.

December 21st, 1918.

Mr. F. G. Bassett,
535 N. Washington St.
Dillon, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of recent date asking whether or not the Sheriff of Beaverhead County may punch the scalps and issue the bound certificates for coyotes killed in Madison County, but nearer to the office of the Sheriff of Beaverhead County than to the office of the Sheriff of Madison County.

The bounty law, Chapter 91, Session Laws 1913, specifically provides that the skins must be presented to the sheriff nearest to the place where the animals are killed. I take it that this does not mean that they must be presented to the sheriff of the county in which killed, but to the sheriff residing nearest the place where killed.

It is therefore my opinion that if coyotes are killed in Madison County, and the place where killed is nearer the office or residence of the Sheriff of Beaverhead County than it is to the office or residence of the sheriff of Madison County, the skins must be presented to the nearest sheriff, that is, the Sheriff of Beaverhead County. It is his duty to punch the scalp, remove the paws and make out the proper certificate. The sheriff should then forward his report to the County Clerk of Madison County, and the person to whom the certificate is issued should present, or send the skins to the County Clerk of Madison County, who should then issue the proper bounty certificate.

Respectfully,

S. C. FORD,

Attorney General.