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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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TWO-WAY RADIOS USED IN WAR ON COYOTES IN MONTANA

Combined air and ground tactics have become part of the Government's offensive campaign against predatory coyotes.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's Branch of Predator and Rodent Control announced today that two-way radios, mounted on a plane and a jeep, were used recently in coyote-control work in Montana's Milk River valley, near the Canadian border. Coyotes had been killing livestock in the region.

Pursuing coyotes in a radio-equipped jeep, a ground hunter was supported by a low-flying Taylor-craft plane. The jeep-borne hunter cornered two coyotes, directed the plane to the area by radio, and while the airborne hunter killed one animal, he finished off the other with his shotgun.

On another occasion, a ground hunter was being troubled by a coyote running southward on a high rocky ridge. Circling overhead, the plane observed the coyote outsmarting the hunter by making a circle to the north. Radio directions from the air tipped off the ground hunter, who made a short cut with his jeep, running the coyote off the rim of the ridge. The plane then swooped down for the kill.

The howling, dog-like coyote kills more of man's cattle, sheep, game animals, horses, swine, and poultry than all other predatory animals combined. When it was recently estimated that predator damage costs U. S. citizens almost \$20 million a year, the Fish and Wildlife Service blamed the coyote for most of it. In 1947 the Service shot, poisoned, and trapped 103,982 of the killers.

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