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During the seventh annual Camp Gibbs Predator Hunt, Scott Weslin (left) and Kelly Taetsch teamed up for a first place win by harvesting six coyotes. At the Jan. 27 check-in, nine predator hunting teams registered 17 animals, all coyotes.

IRON RIVER—The Camp Gibbs Predator Hunt is growing bigger each year, said organizers during the check-in of the seventh annual event Jan. 27. This year, 51 hunters registered for the event, which ran from Jan. 24 to 27 and was headquarters at Camp Gibbs Recreation Area.

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Of the registered participants, nine teams brought in 17 animals to the weigh-in, all coyotes.

First prize, $380, went to Kelly Taetsch and Scott Weslin with six coyotes. One of Taetsch's five coyotes weighed over 36 pounds.

Three entries harvested two coyotes. Placement was determined by weight. Second prize, $300, went to Travis Koski with both of his animals weighing over 37 pounds. He also received the prize of $50 for the largest coyote.

Third prize, $230, went to Gary Sarafiny and Mark Johnson. Their two coyotes averaged around 28 pounds each.

Fourth prize, $150, was awarded to Zane Safariny and J.B. Allen with two coyotes: 26 pounds and 28 pounds.

Bob Chmielewski and Jerry Smith took fifth place with one 30 pound coyote. They won a 2013 U.P. Championship Rodeo raffle calendar.

Mike Masti with partner Dean Dallavalle and Darrin Long with partner Bruce Long tied for the smallest coyote: 25.3 pounds. They each received $50. Bill and Bob Phillips received $25 for their single harvested coyote, as did Ed Rometti and hunting partner Jim Marcell.

Total prize money awarded was $1,250. During the registration, two predator hunting rifles were raffled. Winner of the snow camo .22-250 Savage was Don Hebertt, and the winner of the.22 mag Savage was Scott Westphal. Along with other door prizes, hunters were offered a chance to win a trapper's hat purchased by Camp Gibbs Predator Hunt. Tim Aho was the winner. He will be supplying USA Fox furriers with one hide for a hat, and then he will receive a second hat, compliments of USA Fox.

Many contributors provided door prizes for the hunt including the Ontonagon Valley Sportsmen's Club, which donated the prize monies for the largest and smallest coyotes. Their club will be hosting a predator hunt Feb. 21-24, with registration taking place on the evening of Feb. 21 at Hoppy's Bar in Kenton.