



“SERVING THE HUNTER WHO TRAVELS”

“Hunting provides the principal incentive and revenue for conservation. Hence it is a force for conservation.”

Special To The Hunting Report World Conservation Force Bulletin

by John J. Jackson, III

Premier's Symposium on North American's Hunting Heritage - A Huge Success

The 6th Hunting Heritage program held in late August in Ottawa, Ontario, was a great success. Over 800 leaders of the North American hunting community attended and participated in working groups to devise a charter of principles to promote and protect hunting. The intent is that the draft of principles will evolve and be acted upon from conference to conference. The conferences began in Montana in 1992, then proceeded to South Dakota in 1993, Arkansas in 1994, Wisconsin in 1996 and Pennsylvania in 1998. The next conference, the 7th, will be hosted by Governor Bush of Texas in Austin or San Antonio in October 2002.

The participants get more sophisticated each symposium, as does the program. I have attended most of them, was a speaker as the President of Conservation Force in Pennsylvania, and made two presentations at this symposium. This time, the title

of my presentation was, “We Have Reason To Celebrate and Be Proud of Our Heritage, Conservation Service, Conservation Successes and Our Way of Life.” Each of my presentations were for 20 minutes and then



opened to 10 minutes of questions.

I had the great honor of having the Director of the Canadian Wildlife Service, David Brackett, moderate over the presentation. In brief, my presentation was that for a century hunters have been the foremost con-

servationists in North America. Today, there are more big game hunters and big game than at any time in the past century, thanks to hunters. Hunters contribute more, spend more time in the woods and are proven stewards of our wildlife resources. Our stewardship is as indispensable as it is undeniable. It is time to celebrate and be proud of our heritage, service, successes and way of life. Let it not be a secret anymore.

The program had many highlights and thought-provoking presentations. One outstanding publication produced for and released at the Symposium was entitled, *Investors In Habitat: Hunter Contributions to Wildlife Habitat Conservation in Canada*. The 24-page report provides a preliminary snapshot of the level of contributions of hunters to conservation in Canada over the immediate past 15 years. You guessed it. Hunters are the foremost conservation “force in Canadian society,” accord-

ing to the report, as they are in the United States of America. The report describes just some of the \$335 million worth of habitat conservation projects hunters have invested in province by province. In all, more than \$600 million has been collected in hunter license fees during the past 15 years.

For copies of the *Investors In Habitat* report, contact Wildlife Habitat Canada, 7 Hinton Avenue N., Suite 200, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 4P1 (www.whc.org). The editor, incidentally, is Jennene Powers (powers@whc.org). The Senior Author and Editor of the report wrote Conservation Force that our earlier speech at the Canadian Outdoor Writers Association in Montreal in June was “excellent” and provided them “with a number of good points” that were incorporated in their report. We are proud that our educational efforts are positively helping preserve, protect and shape our hunting future around the world.

The following are the draft statements of principles developed at the Symposium.

#1 - The Hunting Community

(1.1) Hunters' Attitudes

- Institutions (government agencies, organizations) establish a clear priority to (a) fund, (b) package, (c) deliver the hunting heritage history.
- Agency staff (political, policy, operational) requirement to be trained/understand the heritage of hunting.

Action Items

- Government priority ranking of hunter heritage projects
- Mentoring
- Better access to training
- Capture local conservation stories
- Club newsletters
- Internet
- Report card 2002

(1.2) Self Organization

- To unite, organize and educate conservation groups.
- 1. Research successful organizations and “look and learn” from these groups.
- 2. Based on this research, develop a strategic plan for the hunting com-

munity to carry out.

3. Research and establish a communication network.
4. Establish a “United Way” type of funding base that will be equally redistributed.
5. Establish a network of media liaisons.

(1.3) Redefine the meaning and role of hunting

- A clear definition of hunting is essential.
- Recognition that hunters are conservationists.
- Acknowledge and promote the cultural significance of hunting.

Action Items

- Select a committee of our peers to develop a definition.
- Utilize a continental hunting heritage webpage.

#2 - Declining Numbers

- Retain existing hunters by removing obstacles and creating initiatives.
- Create opportunities for participation by elderly and disabled hunters.
- Recruit potential hunters from all ages, genders and ethnic groups.
- Develop, support and implement mentorship and apprenticeship programs.
- Create a positive image of hunting.
- Re-recruit past hunters.

#3 - Public Perception

1. Hunters need to recognize that hunting is at risk and that improving/optimizing hunter image is paramount to improving public perception.
2. Hunters' efforts to improve public perception must be a constant and ongoing effort.
3. Hunters should proactively capitalize and promote the positive attributes and contributions that hunters provide.
4. Hunting must be perceived to be a recognizable tool of conservation.
5. Hunting must always be perceived to be relevant - hunting can never become irrelevant.

Action Items

- Get involved in the community.

JOHN J. JACKSON, III
Conservation Force



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- Show leadership roles.
- Recruit high profile speakers to deliver message.
- Develop positive relationship with media.
- Take non-hunters hunting.

#4 - Education of The Public

- 1.The hunting curriculum (message) will include heritage values and current importance.
- 2.All hunters must be educated and educators/ambassadors.
- 3.Hunter organizations must be proactive and positive messengers.
- 4.As a key component of the North American hunting community, aboriginal peoples have an essential role in educating the hunting and non-hunting public.

#5 - Changing Social Trends

Principle #1: The future of hunting depends on its acceptance by society.

Initiative #1: Actively educate and encourage participation in hunting among those who are non-committed.

Principle #2: Ensuring a place for hunting requires acceptance through respect, responsibility and sharing of our natural environment with non-hunters.

Initiative #2: In the face of social changes and competing interests, hunters must present a positive image to society.

#6 - Access to Opportunity

- Increase access to public and private lands to provide more quality hunting opportunities.
- Improve hunter-landowner relations.
- Participate in land use planning decisions where hunting access is an issue.

#7 - Firearms Legislation

- North American hunters support legislators in ensuring public safety through the lawful ownership and safe use of firearms.
- To preserve the hunting culture, it is imperative that legislation is

recognized and protects this hunting heritage and does not impede participation in hunting.

#8 - Legislation, Regulation and Enforcement

- 1.Laws and regulation and their enforcement are an essential part of wildlife conservation efforts and our hunting heritage.
- 2.Laws and regulation and their application must be clear, simple, effective and enforceable.
- 3.Hunters should be involved in the process of formulating conservation laws, regulations and policies.
- 4.The punishment associated with wildlife violations must be effective deterrents, and any fines resulting from these violations must be returned to the resource management/enforcement agency for management purposes.



5.Hunting should be a right, subject to laws and regulations.

6.Hunters support applicable and relevant laws and regulations that enhance wildlife conservation, habitat conservation and management and hunting opportunities.

#9 - Hunting Ethics

Hunting comes with responsibilities.

- Hunters will continue their stewardship of natural resources.
- Hunters will celebrate their hunting heritage and respect the variety of hunting practices.
- Individual skills and abilities will determine their hunting practices.

#10 - Hunter Safety and Training

Assure hunting continues to be a safe, life-enriching experience.

- Equal access to training opportunities.
- Quality, practical, enjoyable educational programming.
- Involve youth (an under-represented group) in the decision processes.

#11 - Resource Management

- 1.Wildlife resource management should be based on the constructive interaction of wildlife, people, habitat and money for the public good.
- 2.Wildlife resource management should be science- and experience-based.
- 3.Wildlife should be managed as a renewable resource, in which hunting is an effective and valid management tool.
- 4.Wildlife management requires public involvement and support.
- 5.Success depends on cooperative efforts.

#12 - Fair Chase

We hunt in the spirit of fair chase and believe that fair chase and harvest:

- Provides that the quarry has the opportunity and the inclination for escape.
- Reflects respect for the land, the quarry, the hunt and the law.
- Acknowledges the diversity of North America’s hunting culture.
- With no guarantee of a kill.

#13 - Aboriginal Rights and Relations

- Communication between aboriginal groups and non-native hunters is essential for preservation of the hunting heritage of both groups.
- Groups need to share information such as harvest data, so wildlife populations can be managed sustainably.

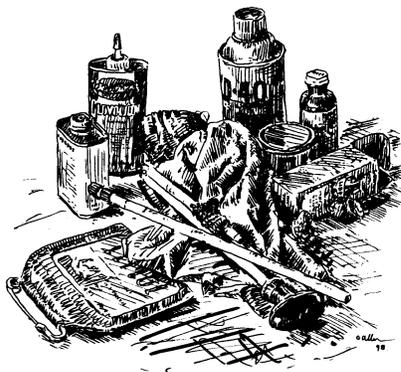
Briefly Noted

It's Time To Vote: Hunters notoriously fail to vote in elections. If you are going to be out of town during the November 7th election, then perhaps you can vote at your local registrar's office in late October, or by absentee ballot. Call your registrar's office now, but plan to vote. Make yourself and your way of life count now and in the future. The votes of those that don't vote are not counted and therefore don't count. The National Rifle Association even has a campaign to help firearm owners register. Call NRA-ILA at (800) 392-VOTE.

New Leader: The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) has appointed Ray Lee as its new Executive Director. We have known and worked with Ray for many years. For 18 years, he has been the Big Game Management Supervisor for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, as well as a Wildlife Management Faculty Associate and Instructor at Arizona State University. His experience has varied from private wildlife management consultation work for Turner Enterprises to playing a large role in establishing the desert bighorn sheep conservation and hunting programs in Mexico and Arizona. Ray was instrumental in helping Conservation Force defeat the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to list the Baja population of desert bighorn sheep as endangered, and most recently in helping us defeat the German proposal to list all urial on Appendix I of CITES. He and FNAWS, which he has long served, are a marriage made in Heaven. FNAWS and its Eastern and British Colombia chapters are “Supporting Members” of Conservation Force. We are proud to have their confidence. They really do put sheep back on the mountain! At this very time, for example, FNAWS has a \$10 million Endowment Capital Campaign, as well as supporting Conservation Force.

Tragic Death: Henry Nsanjama, one-time director of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife in the

African country of Malawi has died tragically in an car accident near Washington, D.C. Nsanjama led the failed attempt to reopen safari hunting in that country and helped me try to reopen it a second time. For the past 10 years, he has worked for World Wildlife Fund in Washington as Vice President of African Programs. Henry



was respected by everyone. He was an exemplary African who fully supported the sustainable use of wildlife, including African elephants. I never heard him say anything I did not like.

The Exotic Wildlife Association (EWA) has changed leadership. Longtime friend, Ike Sugg, has resigned as executive director to take

over management of his family's large Texas ranch. He wants to see the principles he believes in practiced on the ground. The new executive director of EWA is James Stinebaugh. He is a recently retired Special Agent of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who served most of his years in Texas at the supervisory level of enforcement. He is looking forward to working with the Association to protect landowner rights and the Association's interest. He says he plans to “...pay special attention to the Endangered Species Act and the status of captive-bred endangered species in particular.” We will be conferencing with him in the next few weeks on these issues.

Hunting License Sales Increase: Some states in the US are reporting that the sale of hunting licenses increased in 1999. It is not just big game hunting licenses this time. According to US Fish and Wildlife Service data, the total number of licenses sold increased to 15,143,375 in 1999. That's a 1.7 percent increase over 1998. The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) expects another increase next year because of the increasing efforts on recruitment and retention of hunters around the nation. The pledge of the participants at the 2000 Shooting Sports Summit was to work towards the goal of “no net loss” of hunters or of hunting opportunities. Ditto the National Wildlife Conservation Partnership held at the Boone & Crockett Club in Missoula, Montana, and the Premier's Hunting Heritage Symposium in Ottawa. Similarly, legislation is pending in Congress to establish “no net loss” of hunting habitat on federal lands (H.R. 4790, Hunting Heritage Protection Act). This is a bill largely conceived by Wildlife Legislative Fund of America. It has been formally endorsed by 90 sportsmen's hunting organizations, including Conservation Force. It was introduced by the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus leadership.

Conservation Force Sponsor

The Hunting Report and Conservation Force would like to thank International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife (IGF) for generously agreeing to pay all of the costs associated with the publishing of this bulletin. IGF was created by Weatherby Award Winner H.I.H Prince Abdorrezza of Iran 20 years ago. Initially called The International Foundation for the Conservation of Game, IGF was already promoting sustainable use of wildlife and conservation of biodiversity 15 years before the UN Rio Conference, which brought these matters to widespread public attention. The foundation has agreed to sponsor *Conservation Force Bulletin* in order to help international hunters keep abreast of hunting-related wildlife news. Conservation Force's John J. Jackson, III, is a member of the board of IGF and Bertrand des Clers, its director, is a member of the Board of Directors of Conservation Force.



International Foundation for
the Conservation of Wildlife