



“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

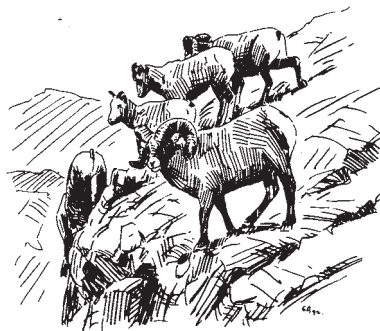
by John J. Jackson, III

DATELINE: MEXICO

News Analysis Baja Desert Sheep Hunting Is Spared

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has listed the Peninsular population of desert sheep as “endangered” in California, but it stopped at the Mexican border. The sheep populations on the Baja Peninsula of Mexico were not listed. The USFWS proposed and was hell bent on listing the Mexican population but a concerted effort to oppose the listing by a select number of sportsmen’s conservation organizations and the Mexican authorities prevailed. Conservation Force, the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS), International Sheep Hunters Association, The Grand Slam Club, The Dallas Ecological Foundation, Dallas Safari Club, Houston Safari Club and the new Mexican Sheep Foundation filed multiple, coordinated comments in opposition to the listing in Mexico. The joint effort was effective and is a credit

to each of the organizations that participated. Had the Baja populations been listed, none of us were likely to ever hunt and import them as trophies again. This would have raised the prices even more in other desert sheep areas. By eliminating sport hunting, the listing would also have wiped out



the only revenue-based incentive Mexicans have to conserve these animals. A special thanks is due FNAWS, which indeed does “put sheep back on the mountain,” and to the new Mexico Sheep Foundation, which may well determine the future of the sheep. Conservation Force performed just as it was designed to do. It helped moni-

tor, advise, coordinate and develop a solution and strategy for the problem, filed legal and multiple biologically based comments, filed strategic Freedom of Information Act requests, petitioned for reopening the comment periods and helped link the cooperating organizations together into a unified force. We still have one last Freedom of Information Act request outstanding and will be following it up with conservation measures. There would be a lot of crying if we had not been successful.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

News Analysis More Turnover of Key Personnel At USFWS

There has been more turnover of USFWS employees who determine and issue trophy import permits. Kenneth Stansell, who has been Chief of the Office of Management Authority (OMA), has been promoted to Deputy Assistant Director for Internal Affairs. He has been with the

Service 24 years. As Deputy, he will provide support to Marshall Jones who has been the Assistant Director of International Affairs since 1994. There are three officers, 65 biologists and a combined budget of \$9 million under them. Stansell was replaced by Teiko Saito who has been transferred from the Interior Department's Office of Equal Opportunity to the position of Chief of OMA. She had been the Director of Civil Rights and served as the Chief of OMA once before. This is the office that you send all your trophy import permit applications to whether they be polar bear or elephant. Susan Lieberman has now been made the new Chief of the Office of Scientific Authority (OSA). That is the office that makes the scientific findings for trophy import permits. The office also handles listings and delistings of species. She replaces Charles Dane, who retired. In 1990 Lieberman came to the Service from The Humane Society of the United States where she was Associate Director for wildlife, specializing in international wildlife trade issues. It appears that three or four additional people are being added to OSA to be under Lieberman's supervision but nothing is known about them yet. More next issue.

cause outfitters practice a trade or business rather than just hunt for recreation they should be accorded more protection under the US Constitution, particularly under the Dormant Commerce Clause. Discrimination against issuing licenses to their non-resident hunting clients directly affects outfitters who have a legal standing to complain. This combination of local outfitters and non-resident hunters offers the best opportunity to establish a legal precedent that favors more parity in license allocations. With two million hunters - one of every seven - hunting out of state each year, this case is important to all of us. Conservation Force won the *Terk* case in New Mexico in January so licenses for desert sheep, bighorn sheep, ibex and oryx are available equally to



DATELINE: WYOMING

**News... News... News
New Battle Over
Non-Resident Licenses**

The Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association voted at their Spring Board meeting to file a petition for declaratory and injunctive relief against the State of Wyoming because of its discriminatory practices against non-residents in allocations of licenses. The resolution in favor of the litigation passed by an 87 percent favorable vote after days of discussion. The Association exhausted all other avenues before it decided to sue. The case is to be filed in Federal District Court. Conservation Force will support the effort and I will be the litigation attorney. Be-

residents and non-residents alike in that state. Conservation Force is also a plaintiff in *Conservation Force, U.S.O., et al v. Duane Shroufe, et al (the Commission)* in Arizona that is still pending. Conservation Force has also filed an Amicus Curiae brief in a South Dakota federal prosecution that squarely raises the issue whether interstate hunters and those businesses that serve them are entitled to protection under the Commerce Clause. The government is contending that when hunters travel interstate it is not commerce even though the US Supreme Court has ruled that when campers travel interstate to enjoy nature it is protected interstate commerce. We are also reviewing other instances of discrimination against hunters who travel for possible action.

JOHN J. JACKSON, III
Conservation Force



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World Conservation Force Bulletin

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SPECIAL REPORT

News Analysis

“Brady Check” Will Be Required To Buy Rifles

Most people don't realize that the Brady law mandates instant background checks of anyone seeking to purchase any firearm, including long guns, after an instant background check system goes into effect on November 30, 1998. The FBI is to administer the system and it is expected to cost \$200 million per year to operate. An interesting comparison of just how much that is can be made to the Pittman-Rebertson Fund. The P.R. fund only generates \$150 million in special tax revenues each year. As ominous as all this sounds, don't panic. It will likely have no measurable effect on you whatsoever. If you could not get a pistol before, you will also not be able to get a rifle in the future. Incidentally, the number of licensed federal firearm dealers, FFL holders, has dramatically decreased from 282,000 to less than 106,000 - more than half - since President Clinton began stricter controls on their issuance and renewal. Most of those who have been eliminated are in-home dealers and those not truly in the “business” of selling firearms for profit. What's ironic is that this has occurred following the passage of Brady that caused firearm sales to skyrocket to unprecedented levels.

SPECIAL REPORT

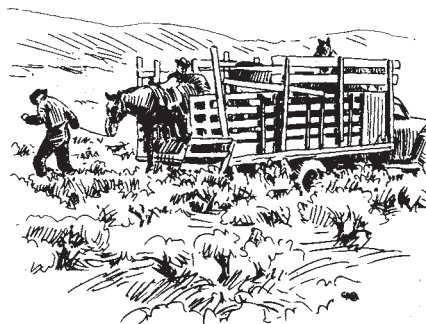
News Analysis

Wildlife Meeting Yields Many Important Insights

Dr. Jim Teer, a Director of Conservation Force, and I both attended the 63rd North American Wildlife Conference. Dr. Teer has many credentials. He is Past President of the 11,000-member Wildlife Society, past Head of Texas A&M Wildlife Management Department, and currently Head of the IUCN North Ameri-

can Sustainable Use Group of IUCN. Conservation Force attempts to send someone to represent hunting interests at every major wildlife conservation and management conference in the world. This year's Conference was awesome. For example, in little more than one hour the Secretary of Interior, the Director of National Parks, the Director of Fish and Wildlife Services, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency all addressed the attendees. The exchange of information was too much and far too technical to share but the following tidbits are food for thought.

1.) The US role in the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has eroded because its policy is reflective of animal rights and protectionist extremists and be-



cause of its use of tactics such as alleged blackmail and hypocrisy. Source: Past CITES Secretariat.

2.) The public attitude towards “hunting” is better than towards “hunters.” It is better towards “legal hunting” than “hunting.” It is best towards “regulated, legal hunting.” So, choose your words carefully when you talk about “hunters.” Say “licensed, regulated hunting” instead of “hunters.” The same is true of “regulated trapping,” versus “trapping.”

3.) Hunting is being hurt more by inside forces than by outside forces.

4.) Ethics is a personal obligation, not a biological management consideration.

5.) What opinion polls indicate to be “unacceptable” is not as bad as “intolerable.”

6.) The general public equates being “unfair” with being “inhumane;”

therefore, non-fair chase is being perceived as inhumane because it is viewed as unfair.

7.) The National Forest Service is the biggest provider of recreation in the US - according to its Director!

8.) A proposed new waterfowl baiting rule would make it unlawful to build a blind within 10 days of the duck season. (See below for more.)

9.) There are no cattle in some parts of Africa so people must poach to get meat. In other areas, there are plenty of cattle so people don't have to poach to get meat, yet cattle are considered to be evil competitors with wildlife wherever they are found. It seems to be one or the other - poaching or cattle - and both threaten wild animals.

10.) There is over-population of deer in 61 national parks. Source: National Park Director, Robert Stanton.

11.) Never say “problem” - always say instead “opportunity.” Source: Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Patrick Shea.

12.) The USFWS's Wildlife Damage Control unit is now called “Animal Services.”

13.) You can't tell which way a train is going by looking at the track. (Is this a deep or a long thought?)

14.) Agency study of human dimension, or factors, is another way of stating that public opinion is to be considered in agency decisions concerning resources, but it also means identifying and partnering with stakeholders. Since hunters are stakeholders, their viewpoints should have added weight.

15.) It is not what it costs, it is what it pays that counts.

SPECIAL REPORT

News Analysis

New Waterfowl Baiting Proposal A Real Threat

The proposed new rules on waterfowl baiting contain a very troubling proposal. Specifically, the USFWS is proposing that natural vegetation may be manipulated and subsequently hunted over only if

the manipulation ceases more than 10 days prior to any waterfowl season. If adopted, this proposal will mean among other things that you can't make a duck hunting blind during the season or within 10 days before the season if you are going to hunt anywhere in the area. Any changes in natural vegetation will be viewed as baiting. The principal reason given for the proposed change is that such a rule "provides law enforcement with clear time periods when manipulations are not allowable if such areas are to be hunted." Manipulation, mind you, includes much more than making a blind. Its proposed definition includes "trampling," "flattening," "chopping" and "rolling" as well as more intentional disturbances of "all" natural as well as introduced vegetation. If adopted, the courts will have to determine its application in factual situations. It undoubtedly may be illegal to walk around your blind in the marsh vegetation to look for wounded ducks because that would meet the definitions of trampling and flattening. Will hunters be able to hunt after someone has to go to the bathroom in the bush? Manipulation of the marsh grass in your blind during the hunt will also be against the law. It doesn't seem that the USFWS is getting the message being sent by Congress and the public. The incredible proposal can be found at 63FR14415, March 25, 1998. All comments are due on or before May 26, 1998 and should be sent to Director, US Fish & Wildlife Service, PO Box 3247, Arlington, Virginia 22203-3247.

Briefly Noted

Cameroon Elephant: There is again reported to be a temporary holdup within the Office of Management Authority of the US Fish and Wildlife Service on the issuance of elephant trophy import permits from Cameroon, this time for 1998 hunts. The problem seems to be that the Cameroon authorities have not finalized the Elephant Management Plan quite yet. The Plan simply needs to be signed. It appears to be only a short-term delay while the Minister is out of the country traveling. There is no reason what-

soever to panic.

Wolf Decision: By now, most everyone knows that a Federal District Court in Wyoming has ordered the removal of the wolves in the Yellowstone region that were introduced from Canada. The decision was based upon the plain law that experimental populations can't be introduced where native populations exist because it jeopardizes them. What many are scrupulously not disclosing is that the Audubon Society was one of the principal plaintiffs. Though they won the case, the relief cannot be what they expected or they would be celebrating. My guess is that they intended that the introduced wolves be afforded the absolute protection that native wolves are accorded. I am going to stick my neck out a little and suggest that may very well happen. The appeal courts may afford the introduced wolves the same level of protection as the native wolves, perhaps on the grounds that the litigation was filed or resolved too

late. In any event, it is an interesting case to follow and it will be even more interesting to see if and when Audubon shows its head again, perhaps when the results are reversed.

Orlando Disneyland: After reading in *Parade* that Walt Disney personnel represented that hippo are one of the most endangered species, I made a concerned inquiry about it while in Orlando at the North American Wildlife Conference. No need to worry. What was actually said was that hippo are thought to be one of the most dangerous species, not most endangered species.

Old Growth Supports Fewer Species: Extensive forests of uniform age or vegetative structure have dramatically fewer species than those with openings and aquatic habitats. For example: landscapes of unbroken mature forests have approximately 100 vertebrates; forest and early successional habitats, about 200; and forests with early successional and aquatic habitats, more than 300 vertebrates. (Reported in New Zealand area by USDA Forest Service personnel.)

Myth About Single-Parent Households: Various reasons are commonly offered for hunting and fishing participation not keeping pace with the overall population growth. The growth of single-parent, female-headed households has incorrectly been presumed to be one of the reasons. From 1970 to 1995, such households increased from 11 percent of all households to 26 percent. Four recent separate studies indicate the opposite. There is no statistical difference between the number of hunters and fishermen growing up in those households and dual-parent households. On the other hand, there is a correlation to the declining ratio of whites to blacks and to rural to urban populations. Whites and rural people hunt and fish more, so a growth in ratio of blacks and urban residents manifests as a reduction in growth of hunting and fishing. Of course, big game hunters continue to grow to record numbers irregardlessly. There are more licensed big game hunters now than anytime in history.
- John. J. Jackson, III.

Conservation Force Sponsors

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. Our thanks also go out to the following. Their early support helped launch this publication and keep it in print until IGF stepped in with full support:

Individual (\$100)

**David J. Hanlin
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David E. Combs**

*IGF was created by Weatherby Award Winner H.I.H Prince Abdorreza 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 matter 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

“Serving The Hunter Who Travels”

MEMO

To: Jim Young, Print N Mail
From: Elaina Panozzo, Oxpecker Enterprises
Re: May 1998 Issue of Conservation Force Supplement

Jim,

Here's the file for the May 1998 issue of the Conservation Force Supplement, to be inserted in the May 1998 issue of The Hunting Report. Do not forget to insert John Jackson's picture on page 2. Please fax blue lines for approval ASAP.

Total print run is 4,150. That includes 3,970 copies for insertion into The Hunting Report (active circulation); and 50 copies to be shipped directly to Jackson. The remaining 130 copies are to be shipped to us here in Miami. As usual, bill John Jackson for all costs relating to Conservation Force.

Please call if questions -
Elaina