



“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

□ Special Report

Conservation Force Institutes Industry-Commercial Services Sponsorships

■ In March, Conservation Force began accepting sponsorships from select for-profit service entities. This is a natural progression. Partnerships between the commercial and non-profit conservation communities are renowned in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. The best example is the 12 percent excise tax imposed on all firearms, ammunition, archery and fishing tackle manufacturers at the time of manufacture. These self-imposed taxes constitute as much as one-third of conservation infrastructure in the United States. The taxes are self-imposed because the industry was behind the underlying legislation and vehemently defends its continuance and dedicated, exclusive utilization.

Now Conservation Force will develop that category of sponsorship to marshal greater support from the industry that itself is a beneficiary of all that we do. By being selective, the partnerships will complement the image of Conservation Force and those for-profit entities that serve the hunting

community the best. We expect that these sponsorships will bloom into conservation project partnerships, but at this stage the crucial funds are directed to maintaining and expanding our basic operations.

The first two sponsors are indeed



examples of service leaders. They are Global Rescue and Fauna & Flora International. Global Rescue truly offers unsurpassed medical evacuation and rescue services. They uniquely provide evacuation and rescue from the field, which is singularly important if one is

to have the service at all. It is what Chrissie and I have, particularly for political/security-type evacuations that we may need in our conservation and hunting travels. Global Rescue can be accessed through a link on Conservation Force’s web site or directly at www.globalrescue.com.

Fauna & Flora International is John Meehan’s import service company in New York. We have long worked with them as trophy import problems have waxed and waned. His understanding and advice has been invaluable. His sponsorship will further help us and permit us to better give Fauna & Flora the credit it deserves for its exceptional services to the hunting community. You would not believe how important their counsel has been all these years. Their web site is www.fauna-flora.org, and it can be reached through Conservation Force’s web site as well.

These two sponsors are super-qualified. We are now inviting other for-profit entities to join forces with Conservation Force.

• Briefly Noted •

Prohibition Against Scrimshawed Tusks Challenged:

The 2007 USF&WS regulation against the import of “crafted” or “worked” trophies of listed species is being litigated in Federal District Courts in Atlanta and New York. In both cases, hunters’ Appendix II elephant tusks were seized because they had the Big Five scrimshawed/pencil-etched on one surface. Conservation Force has filed motions to dismiss the forfeiture cases. Law Enforcement claims if it is scrimshawed, it is no longer a trophy and thus on Appendix I for trade purposes. They claim if it is not a trophy import, it is prohibited under the African Elephant Conservation Act and can’t be imported under any circumstances. This means a permit can’t even be issued to let it in. We filed claims to get the matter into Federal Court rather than just surrender the tusks. Our position is that the ESA has a provision exempting Appendix II non-commercial trade from regulation, and the African Elephant Conservation Act expressly exempts trophies. Furthermore, the USF&WS can’t change the listing of a species by a mere internal regulation. The legal memorandum is on the News and Alerts page of Conservation Force’s web site at www.conservationforce.org/news.html.

Polar Bear Briefs Completed: Conservation Force completed three briefs in February and March on different polar bear challenges. We are waiting on the Government and the antis to complete their replies over the next few months. Oral arguments will be heard in stages during the summer.

The first was our final brief to establish import when the hunting “substantially enhances the maintenance or recovery” of a depleted population. We hope to at least get those permit denials remanded back to the USF&WS. This case may ultimately lead to importation of some polar bear in limited instances in the future.

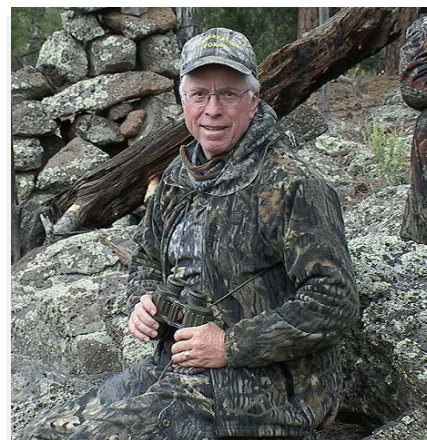
The second brief was the supplemental brief the Court allowed for all those we represent in our suit to chal-

lenge the legality of the polar bear’s listing as a threatened species under the US Endangered Species Act. The brief focused on the obvious failure of the Government to “take into account” Canada’s conservation system and the negative consequences of the listing that were not taken into consideration. “Taking into account” is a separate threshold determination enumerated in the listing section that the USF&WS conspicuously never even acknowledged in the whole process, unlike each of the other factors. It is long past time that this be made an issue when the listing of foreign species is over the objections of foreign countries. Of course, to truly show consideration to a foreign nation’s program the USF&WS should not list those distinct populations that may do well, or those parts of its range that may even improve. The more uncertain the science, the greater the reason not to disrupt another country’s program. The third brief was a joint brief with other challengers of the listing. All three briefs can be viewed at www.conservationforce.org/news.html.

Mongolia Argali Fairing Well: There is good news about Mongolia. The two separate argali surveys completed in late 2009 document that the argali population is healthy and growing. What I will describe as the Friscina and the Harris reports were both positive.

The Friscina report is significant because it is a repeat of the 2002 population survey. Being the same protocol and month, it demonstrated a positive trend. The Friscina study shows more argali and a higher percentage of rams, as expected, because it was in the rut in November when they are concentrated. The number is 26,155, which is 29.3 percent higher than 20,226 estimated in 2002. The Friscina Report is entitled *Mongolian Argali Population Trend 2002-2009 with reference to sustainable use management* by Michael R. Friscina, Baigalmaa Purevsuren and R. Margaret Friscina, February 2010. It can be viewed at www.conservationforce.org/news.html.

The report by Dr. Richard Harris



JOHN J. JACKSON, III
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arises from a survey he designed and did nearly two months before that employed a different methodology. The Harris report included ibex as well as argali. It is entitled *2009 National Assessment of Mountain Ungulates in Mongolia* by Richard Harris, Ganchimeg Wingard and Badamjavyn Lhagvasuren.

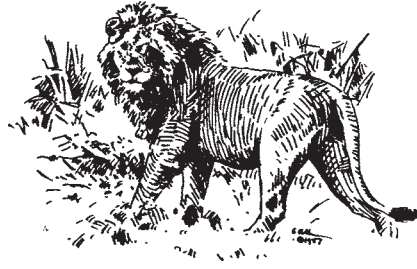
Together, the two serve to increase the confidence level, i.e. confidence that population numbers are true and the population trend is increasing or stable at the very least.

Lion King Award: In January, Conservation Force had its own award to bestow on the individual/entity that contributed critical funding to the development of national action plans for lion in 2009. The winner was Eric Pasanisi of Tanganyika Safaris. He contributed the first substantial sum that kicked off the national action plan campaign, contributed to the most action plans from Benin to Tanzania and contributed the largest amount, exceeding \$50,000.

I can't express how important his leadership was at that time. Right on his heels was second runner-up Dan Friedkin/Legendary Safaris. Dan and his safari operation have long been leaders in lion conservation. In third place was Raoul Ramoni. See Conservation Force's Photo Gallery web site for pictures of some of the donors receiving their certificates of recognition and Eric Pasanisi receiving the *Lion King* award.

Everyone seems to take credit for keeping the lion from being formally proposed for uplisting to Appendix I at CITES CoP15. That is because they all contributed in varying degrees, and every contribution counted. All those contributions that came to Conservation Force were passed through 100 percent, yet our pledges fell short and still must be reckoned with. The preparation of national action plans that began in 2009 must be completed in 2010, so we are still accepting tax-deductible contributions fully dedicated to African lion action plans. Conservation Force started the campaign and pledged the most, but the actual funds arose from true unsung heroes like Eric

Pasanisi, Dan Friedkin, Raoul Ramoni and hundreds of others. The uplisting proposal that the antis passed around from country to country was declined because of the important work of the



hunting community.

The campaign in 2010 has been kicked off by Bob Kern of The Hunting Consortium with a \$7,500 contribution. If you dedicate a donation, the

full amount goes in the field. One hundred percent of each and every lion contribution went to the lion action plans, plus some.

Jacksons Receive Award: Yours truly received another award, and this one went to both Chrissie and I. The award was presented at the Final Convention Dinner of Grand Slam Club/OVIS in Las Vegas. It is entitled *Board of Directors Award* and states *To John and Chrissie Jackson, in appreciation for years of service and dedication to the mission and ideals of Grand Slam Club/OVIS.*

GS/OVIS has long supported Conservation Force and actually funds the printing cost of this monthly bulletin.

Bruce Keller Wins Weatherby Award: Bruce Keller was this year's winner of the Weatherby Award. He summed his hunting up by saying, "I know that I am happiest when I am hunting." Aren't

□ Financial Report Revenue Shortfall

■ There is no denying it: the economic downturn has reached Conservation Force. It is too serious to keep a secret anymore. Regretfully, this has occurred when we need to step-up our work, not shut it down. We are efficient. We are effective. We have an enviable success record. What we do is very important. You can't get more for your money nor are you likely to have a more direct effect than if you support Conservation Force. All that said, we are wholly dependent upon support.

In 2009, we had to wring everything we could from the budget to save lion hunting - and we did, thank goodness. We put more into saving lion than organizations 100 times our size. We were positioned to help save lion. It was necessary, it worked and we would do it again. Unfortunately, that did not leave any surplus to cover the unexpected shortfall to our operating funds from the end of the year fundraiser. We started 2010 without reserves. Then, some loyal donors stopped giving or reduced their contributions.

The signals we received at the

many conventions demonstrate the irony. There were accolades at every turn. One renowned hunter said, "You are the gatekeepers." Another called us, "The tip of the spear." Another, "I don't know what we would do without you." Another said, "You are like a hardy Texas Ranger - when you are gone there will be no more like you." This last accolade expresses what we hear most often - "What are we going to do when you are gone?" Well, we may find out this year, if we don't get funding. The fact is we set out to get the job done now, before any more is lost. We need your help and support now for the job at hand, or there will be too little left to be of concern tomorrow. The losses are likely to be forever.

Because we operate lean, we have already started some dismantling, so please don't delay if you intend to help keep us on course. Tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to Conservation Force at P.O. Box 278, Metairie, LA 70004-0278, by fax at 504-837-1145, or online by credit card at www.conservationforce.com/donate.html.

we all so lucky to be hunters?

Bruce also directed one-half of his award money to Conservation Force. The stipend is given to award winners for the conservation charity of their choice. Congratulations and thank you, Bruce. Many of the past recipi-

ents support Conservation Force and a number have directed the award funds to Conservation Force. We are proud to say that the greatest hunters in the world support what we do.

Another Muzzleloader Hunter Fined: Another hunter has been fined \$2,000

for attempting to travel with pyrodex powder, primers and a bottle of bore cleaner in his checked bag. All three are prohibited, hazardous items.

This is a serious matter. It may flag hunters as passengers that need more thorough inspection. Be forewarned.

□ And Finally....

Dr. Dale Toweill Joins Conservation Force Board of Advisors

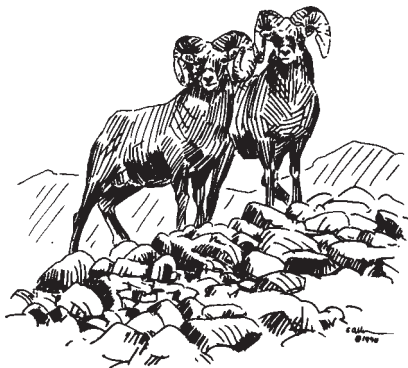
■ Dr. Dale E. Toweill is a wildlife manager, author and hunter-conservationist who will be a tremendous asset to Conservation Force. We are lucky to draw professionals with his talent and experience.

Dale has spent more than 30 years managing wildlife in the West. As the statewide leader of trophy species programs for the state of Idaho for the past decade, he has managed programs for bighorn sheep, mountain goats, moose and grizzly bears and supervises statewide management of waterfowl and upland game. He has also directed public lands policy for the state of Idaho for more than a decade, managed the Idaho Wildlife Health Laboratory and conducted and published research on bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, pronghorns, mountain lions and many other species.

Dale is perhaps best known for his award-winning books about elk and bighorn sheep. *North American Elk: Ecology and Management* (published by Smithsonian Press) has been called “perhaps the best book on a single species ever written,” and *Return of Royalty: the Wild Sheep of North America* was recipient of the international Prix Excellence award presented by the Conseil de la Chasse et tu la Conser- vation, the international hunter’s organization, in 2005. He has written a number of other books, such as *Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep* (for the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center in Duboise, Wyoming) and *Desert Bighorn*, and was a contributing author to *Perspectives on Biodiversity* for the National Research Institute of the National Academy of Sciences. In addition, Dale has contributed chapters to many books, including the *Wildlife*

Techniques Manual published by The Wildlife Society.

In addition to hundreds of papers on technical aspects of wildlife research, Dale is a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America



and has written many popular articles about hunting and the outdoors, most illustrated with his own photographs of wildlife and wild places. Dale has also written several scripts for the

award-winning television series “Leupold’s Big Game Profiles” presented by the Boone & Crockett Club on the Outdoor Channel.

Not an academic, Dr. Toweill is a hands-on manager and avid hunter who has successfully hunted throughout North America as well as Africa, Australia and Europe. He has harvested all varieties of North American wild sheep and has several of his North American trophies listed in *Records of North American Big Game*. As a passionate hunter, he is very familiar with the critical role that hunting plays in wildlife conservation around the world.

Well-known among professional wildlife managers, Dale has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1969 and was among the first recognized as a Certified Wildlife Biologist by that group in 1982. He served as representative of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to the Committee on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and on national review panels dealing with critical and complex land management issues including climate change, forest ecosystem management and a national review of big game habitat on public lands. Dale also spent more than a decade dealing with public land management policy and state and national legislation on environmental affairs.

Dale is especially interested in conservation and management of African wildlife and the worldwide conservation of wild sheep. He is another highly qualified professional volunteer joining forces with Conservation Force for the greater good. – John J. Jackson, III.

Conservation Force Sponsor

Grand Slam Club/Ovis generously pays all of the costs associated with the publishing of this bulletin. Founded in 1956, Grand Slam Club/Ovis is an organization of hunter/conservationists dedicated to improving wild sheep and goat populations worldwide by contributing to game and wildlife agencies or other non-profit wildlife conservation organizations. GSCO has agreed to sponsor *Conservation Force Bulletin* in order to help international hunters keep abreast of hunting-related wildlife news. For more information, please visit www.wildsheep.org.

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