



“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

Cameroon Elephant Imports OK'd... ESA Reform Proposals Flawed... More

by John J. Jackson, III

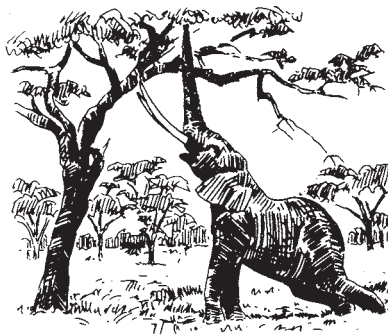
DATELINE: CAMEROON

News... News... News...

Victory! Elephant Import Appeals Are Won

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has overturned its denial of import permits for sport-hunted elephant trophies from Cameroon. In mid-September, the USFWS began sending out trophy import permits to all those permit applicants who requested import permits for 1996. The USFWS had previously denied all permits for trophies taken in 1996 under an administrative regulation it adopted - a “special rule” that required proof of “enhancement” before it would issue an elephant import permit. In the case of Cameroon, it had gone one step further by refusing to accept anything as “enhancement” except the drafting of an updated elephant management plan by the Cameroon authorities. The documen-

tation of that new draft plan arrived just as the USFWS was on the verge of “affirming” its “denials” of all of the permits. Had all of the administrative appeals been lost, the only remaining alternative would have been litigation, which we were hoping to



avoid. The appeal process had required identification of what the USFWS (its Offices of Management Authority and Scientific Authority) would accept as “enhancement,” i.e., what would satisfy the Service to get permits. It has been a paper chase requiring work in

the field as well as the office. The permit applicants had to be identified. Formal, written administrative appeals had to be filed on behalf of each permit applicant, along with the submission of voluminous documents addressing all conceivable issues until the enhancement issue was identified, then more documents had to be filed satisfying that issue. In this case, we were on the verge of losing after spending 1 1/2 years working on the administrative appeals because of the difficulty involved in getting a copy of the Cameroon authorities’ management plan to the USFWS before their decision deadline. It is another hard-earned victory, more so because of those who said it could not be done and the difficulty of getting cooperation within the hunting and conservation community itself. Those most elated by the new decision are those who actually took elephant in Cameroon in 1996. For them and elephant conservation in Cameroon it is an important victory. It is much more

than simply getting in trophies, however. The Cameroon Initiative has done more for the conservation of elephants and the expansion of sport hunting in West Africa than anything else in this quarter of the century. An elephant management plan has been completed and a substantial number of Americans are now hunting in Cameroon. The denial of all permits has been reversed but there are still permits pending for the period beyond 1996. Those are the permits for 1997 which have neither been granted nor denied, so they were not included in the administrative appeals for “reconsideration.” The Cameroon Initiative must continue until the job is fully done. I personally handled all of the 1996 appeals and it became necessary for Conservation Force to carry it to its final successful conclusion. Conservation Force must have support if it is to continue with the project and the Elephant Initiative that began in 1990. Whether or not it continues is largely dependent upon the support that Conservation Force gets. Those who wish to continue the effort to import sport hunting trophies from Cameroon and to expand hunting and all it entails in Cameroon and West Africa should send their tax deductible contributions to Conservation Force, Suite 1045, 3900 North Causeway Blvd., Metairie, LA 70002. The Cameroon Initiative arose out of and has been part of the Elephant Initiative that I started in 1990. Cameroon permits were on the verge of being added to the Elephant Lawsuit, *SCI, Jack Atcheson, Sr. and Richard Elliott v. Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt*, when the case was successfully concluded in 1995, at which time we were told by the USFWS that there would not be any problem with the permits then outstanding for imports from Cameroon. The problem subsequently arose when the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which normally assumes the important conservation leadership role of drafting country elephant management plans, got distracted by donor projects with much bigger bucks. The Cameroon authorities had to initiate their own plan and assume a lot of the

responsibility themselves that organizations like WWF usually perform. Ultimately, WWF did come through in the end with necessary funding and technical assistance when the plan was being concluded and will be very important in assisting with its implementation. A special thanks goes to Cameroon Safari Operators Alain Raoul of Africam Safaris, Felix Barrado and to the Louisiana Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI) that together have provided most of the funding of the Cameroon Initiative since it began. The hunting world also owes a debt of gratitude to all the permit applicants who allowed their permit denials to be appealed for the good of those that would follow; to Andre DeGeorges of SCI’s African Office for his indefatigable assistance (in spite of the doomsayers)



and for his collection of vital documents and materials; to the Louisiana and Northwest Chapters of SCI; and to Safari Club International; as well as to Conservation Force.

DATELINE: AFRICA

**News... News... News
Jumbo Rules Relaxed
In Bots/Zim/Namibia**

The Department of the Interior Solicitor’s Office has advised that import permits for elephant trophies from the three countries that were downlisted from Appendix I at the 10th Conference of the Parties of CITES in Zimbabwe in June are no longer required. Those countries are Botswana, Zim-

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babwe and Namibia. The change became effective on September 18, 1997. Elephants in those countries are now listed on Appendix II so a CITES export permit is still required from the country the hunt is conducted in. CITES does not require an import permit for Appendix II species and the US Endangered Species Act (ESA) has a special provision called the “Dingell Amendment,” after its author, Congressman John Dingell of Michigan. That provision expressly provides that the Secretary of Interior shall not require import permits for sport-taken trophies for CITES Appendix II species that are listed as “Threatened” under the US Endangered Species Act. John Dingell is considered the “father” of the US Endangered Species Act of 1973 as well as the two acts that preceded it in 1966 and 1969. He has always been a strong advocate of sport hunting. He was also Committee Chairman when both the Environmental Protection Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act were passed, like sportsman Congressman Don Young fortunately is today. If you haven’t gleaned it, all of those laws were instigated by America’s foremost conservationist, the sport-hunting community, as most of our wildlife laws have been. John Dingell recognized that the status of listed species in foreign lands could be improved by fostering licensed, regulated sport hunting of them by non-residents (US hunters), hence the Dingell provision expressly exempting sport hunting trophies when the CITES parties don’t think a species warrants being listed on Appendix I. Wildlife conservation and sport hunting are recognized to be interdependent. The Dingell provision forms part of the existing legal infrastructure for conservation that we owe to past political leaders. The need for even more reform to the ESA has become apparent to leaders like John Dingell. He never intended the ESA to be used to obstruct licensed, regulated sport hunting in foreign nations. (See Special Report on ESA that follows.)

SPECIAL REPORT

News Analysis

ESA Reform Proposals Are Deeply Flawed

None of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) reform proposals going around Congress any longer contain any reform of the foreign aspects of the Endangered Species Act. The Miller House Bill, HR 2351, was filed on July 31. It contained no reform provision regarding the application of the ESA on foreign animal species. On September 16, S.1180 was introduced in the Senate. It too does not contain any reform whatsoever concerning foreign species. It addresses the need to “cooperate” with and provide “technical assistance” to



“state” authorities here in the US, but wholly ignores the need for such diplomacy and assistance with foreign nations. The House and Senate proposals disregard the most basic principles of foreign relations and the compelling need for reform of the foreign application of the ESA. This enormous oversight is made more obvious by the fact that most mammal species that are currently listed as endangered are foreign species. This means the recovery needs of most species that are listed are being ignored as are as the programs of foreign nations. In the last Session, there had been reform provisions in both the House and Senate respecting foreign nations’ wildlife management and recovery programs based upon licensed, regulated sport hunting which is the only means and incentive for a species conservation in

many instances. There is wide recognition of the need for reform of the ESA regarding foreign species particularly in consideration that incentives, cooperation and assistance, not regulation or import restrictions, better serve the recovery of animal species. The fact remains that the ESA needs to be brought up to date with contemporary management principles and practices both within and outside of the US. The existing proposals ignore the many formal diplomatic protests that have been made by foreign nations, the fact that listed foreign species do not get the benefits that listed domestic species get in funding, habitat protection and recovery support, and the fact that the current ESA enables animal extremist groups to impose their peculiar philosophy upon foreign wildlife managers even though those extremists would prefer that a species be extinct than be sport hunted.

SPECIAL REPORT

News Analysis

“Education” Proposal Raises Big Questions

An application has recently been made by an animal extremist group for P-R Funds (commonly called the Pittman-Robertson Program, correctly designated Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act) to teach school children “what’s wrong with hunting.” The grant request was denied but it raises a rather serious issue about a non-game program being proposed to Congress that is modeled after the P-R Fund. Suppose that grant application had been made under the proposed “Teaming With Wildlife” program? In that event, will sportsmen themselves end up paying for an attack on sport hunting - the very institution that is the cornerstone of wildlife conservation? The Pittman-Robertson program imposes a special excise tax on firearms (11 percent on rifles, 10 percent on pistols) and ammunition (11 percent) and certain archery equipment (11 percent) at the point of manufacture. It generates ap-

proximately \$160 million per year in funds for grants for wildlife conservation and related support. The Teaming With Wildlife proposal is forecasted to annually generate more than twice the sum that P-R does, \$390 million per year “primarily” for non-game grants versus \$160 million per year for P-R. Originally, Teaming With Wildlife was to be spent exclusively on non-game species and projects. More recent drafts have been changed to provide that the funds are to be spent “primarily” on non-game matters. This important but still inadequate improvement has resulted from the efforts of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF), National Rifle Association (NRA) and SCI, which of course support funding for wildlife conservation but want more safeguards for the most important wildlife conservation institution of this century, regulated sport hunting. After all, hunters also buy the items that are proposed to be taxed for use “primarily” for non-game purposes, particularly ATV’s, binoculars, spotting scopes, sleeping bags, range finders, etc. Sportsmen will probably be paying twice because it will undoubtedly be their license fee revenue that will be used as matching funds to get the Teaming With Wildlife grants as well. Many respected organizations are supporting the adoption of Teaming With Wildlife because of the positive benefits it could generate, as are the animal extremists for whatever reason. There will always be a perpetual search for new money for conservation. Organizations need to insure that the proposal contains all necessary safeguards lest it be used to fund programs in lower grade schools preaching “what’s wrong with hunting.” That would be more a matter of “preaching” than teaching because it is based on a new extreme morality, not wildlife management science. The CSF, SCI and NRA should not have to stand alone for changing the Teaming With Wildlife proposal to include safeguards to protect the institution of licensed, regulated sport hunting!

SPECIAL REPORT

News Analysis
DU Proves How
Important Hunters Are

Hunting has incorrectly been accused of being out of date, irrelevant to conservation or an anachronism no longer needed or acceptable. Some state and federal agency personnel have lost sight of the importance of hunting to conservation. Nothing could be further from the truth. Recent developments in one particular organization, Ducks Unlimited (DU), demonstrate conclusively the relevance and indispensable role of hunters. Analysis discloses that DU is annually generating more conservation

funds than the highly acclaimed Pittman-Robertson Fund! Ducks Unlimited and the Pittman-Robertson Act (P-R) have both recently celebrated their 60th anniversaries. DU is a sportsmen’s nonprofit conservation organization, and P-R is a conservation fund created directly by Congress. DU is funded largely by waterfowl hunters and has generated \$1 billion. P-R is funded with excise taxes on all firearms and ammunition and has generated \$3 billion. This 3 to 1 ratio is no longer representative of the enormous conservation contribution sportsmen are making through DU, however. This year, DU announced the most visionary conservation plan of the century. It is campaigning to raise \$600 million in the next few years alone under HABITAT 2000. That is more than \$150 million additional revenue for conservation each year. In the first months of the campaign it has raised \$262 million towards the \$600 million fundraising goal. That is approximately \$75 million more than expected to be generated in P-R funds this year (\$165.2 million). The DU sum so far this year is a higher sum than the record year for P-R funds, \$225 million, when revenue from that excise tax on firearms and ammunition leaped in response to record sales that followed the passage of the “Brady Bill.” To fully appreciate the enormity of the DU contribution to conservation, just take into account that P-R funds on average are approximately one-fourth of the size of the sum of all state conservation budgets each year. DU has conserved eight million acres of waterfowl habitat and has 604,000 members. The goal of HABITAT 2000 is to conserve a total of nine million acres and increase its membership to 750,000. I bet they do it. They may be the US hunter’s brightest conservation star. That is reflective of the incentive and commitment of American sportsmen to conservation of our natural resources. DU’s contribution provides prospective about the value of having incentives and committed stakeholders like hunters in wildlife conservation.

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MEMO

To: Jim Young, Print N Mail
From: Elaina Panozzo, Hunting/Angling Reports
Re: October 1997 issue of Conservation Force Bulletin
Date: October 1, 1997

Jim,

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Elaina