



“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

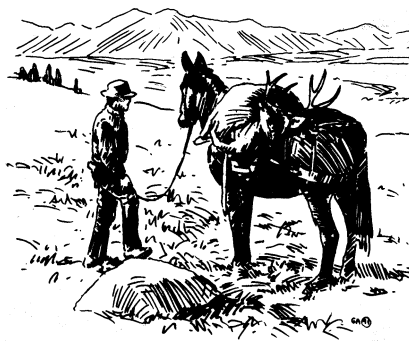
by John J. Jackson, III

DATELINE: WASHINGTON DC

Regulatory Issues Conservation Force Files Refuge Comments

Conservation Force filed five important comments in December. Two concerned the future use of National Wildlife Refuges by the public. We commented on the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) proposal establishing all System level policy towards “uses” and on the Service’s proposed regulations governing how the compatibility of “uses” is to be determined. Only “uses” that are compatible will be allowed. It was very important that hunting, trapping and fishing interests participate in the regulation-making process because the policy and compatibility regulations will affect all uses for decades. The USF&WS states that the 93-million-acre refuge system, which continues to grow rapidly, is the largest system of lands managed for the conservation of wildlife in the world. Sportsmen have traditionally

been the core supporters of the system and their Duck Stamps have made an enormous contribution towards the acquisition of refuge land. The contribution is well recognized, but the service proposal was resistant to giving it effect. The Refuge Reform Act actually names hunting as the first of



the “priority” uses. Nevertheless, the service proposal stated that no public use was part of the mission of the system. Furthermore, the service also proposed that hunting and fishing were not to be preferred over other “priority” uses when there was a conflict between priority uses. That completely ignored the underlying reason for ref-

uge reform - namely, to protect hunting, which had come under challenge. It also ignored the fact that hunting is the first-named priority use everywhere it appears in the Reform Act and Congressional Hearing records, and the historical importance of sportsmen as the financiers and stakeholders of the system. According to Congress, “the Refuge System grew substantially... (and) largely in response to concern by hunters....” Chalk up another conservation success largely owed to American hunters! The comments were filed collaboratively by Dallas Safari Club, Dallas Ecological Foundation, Houston Safari Club, African Safari Club of Florida, Louisiana Chapter of Safari Club International, Grand Slam Club, National Taxidermy Association, the David Terk Foundation and Conservation Force. Conservation Force also issued an alert to many hundreds of sportsmen’s organizations which even found its way to the cover page of the Mule Deer Foundation newspaper, *Mule Deer*.

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■ Still on the subject of filing comments, Conservation Force also pre-

pared an opposition this past month to the Republic of Germany's proposal to list all urials on Appendix I of CITES - an issue which is to be decided in April 2000 at the 11th Conference of the Parties. The proposal is aimed exclusively against “trophy hunting.” It is uncommon for a proposal to single out and only be against licensed, regulated hunting. It even states that “the only significant international trade in this species is in trophies.” It goes on for pages attacking “trophy hunting” and its alleged “anthropogenic impact.” It raises issues about hunting never before raised at CITES, or before any other treaty or legislative body for that matter. Frankly, we are concerned that far more than urial hunting may ultimately be affected. It challenges the biological impact of trophy hunting even though it involves a minuscule percentage of the population and affects far fewer animals than the maximum sustainable yield level of harvest. There are also a few other conspicuous things about the proposal. The US Office of Scientific Authority rendered a great deal of assistance and support to Germany in making its proposal and almost co-sponsored it. Of course, that may have doomed it to failure because of the growing distrust and even anger towards the US by many of the Parties to CITES. We have been witnessing a lot of animosity towards US protectionism, which developing countries and even the growing European Union correctly assume is being driven by animal extremist influences upon and within the USF&WS. The anger arises from years of diplomatically inept practices being forced upon sovereign nations. Those pushing for the listing of all urials may claim not to be anti-hunting, but they would never take note of any other use that was so inconsequential. The minuscule trophy trade is only an issue because it arises from hunting. Moreover, they are indiscriminately proposing to list all urials, including those under exemplary management programs wholly dependent upon the revenue and incentives arising from limited hunting.

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■ Finally, Conservation Force also

filed a comment expressing concern over the proposal to close roads on 40 to 50 million acres of National Forest Service land. The proposal inexplicably confuses the building of new roads in roadless areas with the restoration or maintenance of existing roads. We also pointed out that the elimination of public access through road closures based solely on a maintenance “backlog” could equally lead to closures on National Wildlife Refuges and BLM land. A case can be made that the BLM and the Refuge System have an even greater road maintenance backlog. Will these lands be next? Conservation Force is watching.

DATELINE: CANADA

News Analysis
Antis Up To Tricks
On Two New Fronts

A new twist has been added to the fight over grizzly bear hunting in British Columbia. The antis have not had much success getting the British Columbia Ministry to close all grizzly bear hunting. Now, they have turned to the national government of Canada that administers CITES for all the provinces, just as our USF&WS administers CITES for the states. The antis are pressing to get national authorities to stop issuing CITES export permits for bear trophies. All bear were placed on CITES Appendix II so that the trade in gallbladders in Canada could not be confused with the trade in gallbladders of Asian bears, which were represented to be at risk (a fact I now have doubts about). The antis have the gall (pun intended) to misrepresent that Canadian grizzly were placed on Appendix II by CITES because the grizzly's status was thought to be at risk. That lie should not confuse the Canadian authorities. This broadened attack is analogous to one that was mounted here in the US by animal extremists, who managed to stop the USF&WS from issuing CITES Appendix II permits to export bobcats from the US nearly two decades ago. More recently, such a tactic has been used to

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stop the export of turtles from the US.

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■ In a related matter, Canada is again considering the passage of an Endangered Species Act (ESA). Those favoring it have exaggerated the number of species at risk, ignored the causes of the risk and largely ignored the conservation success of the provinces. At the request of interests in Canada such as the Fraser Institute, Conservation Force reviewed some of the representations made by those promoting the adoption of the act. We joined in the conclusion that only a fraction of animals were at risk (less than one third of those claimed) and that provincial programs were restoring and maintaining the status of those species as well if not better than could be expected by the remote national government. According to the Fraser Institute, the last mammal extinction in Canada was 79 years ago, and the last bird extinction 85 years ago - hardly a crisis. A Canadian ESA would provide the antis the ultimate anti-hunting weapon, as it has in the US.

cently threatened to turn videos over to anti-hunting organizations and to file a complaint of wildlife law violations because of a personal dispute with an outfitter. The videographer has made quiet a nuisance of himself with no concern whatsoever for the uninvolved safari client. My advice is to think twice before you let anyone outside of your party film your private safari. If you allow it, then at least have a written agreement that you re-



tain all rights, exclusively, to the video and must pre-approve any and all use of any kind whatsoever of the video. A small industry has grown up around the videoing of safaris, with some videographers operating under contract and others just collecting material to sell to all those who will pay the price. The antis have a history of obtaining and then doctoring film to make their point, from the clubbing of seals to hunting mishaps. Have the good sense not to let anyone film your

private hunt. Videos of shots from a vehicle near a waterhole, or at late hours, can get you into deep trouble. Although you have to keep shooting when you have a misplaced shot, you certainly should not be recording errors and mistakes that absolutely no one wants to happen or to see. The antis have film of a leopard being shot under a vehicle and another of a captive exotic animal looking out through a fence with no place to escape - with many misplaced arrows in him - as the guide dutifully congratulates the client on his good shooting. The Owens in Zambia had the bad taste to allow the filming of an unarmed poacher lying on his stomach being shot! The antis got a lot of mileage in the mountain lion fight in California out of the film of a mountain lion being shot from a tree. The filming of a canned African lion hunt in South Africa has seriously impacted captive breeding conservation programs of a number of species, despite the proven conservation benefits of some programs. You can't possibly know what is going to happen on your next safari, so you can't know in advance whether it should be video taped by third persons for their own discretionary use and purposes. You also can't know how it is going to be used by whomever the film is given or sold to. Remember, the videos of professionals are always for sale.

SPECIAL REPORT

A Word To The Wise Why Safari “Images” Can Be Dangerous

Be very careful letting anyone videotape your safari. One videographer in Zimbabwe re-

Briefly Noted

Latest on Firearms Fiascos: Some of the many suits by cities against the firearms industry have been wholly or partially thrown-out of court (Cincinnati, New Orleans and Atlanta), but others have survived early dismissal attempts. President Clinton is now threatening to file a government suit against the industry. The National Housing Authority is also considering it. Al Gore has certainly made more firearms control a campaign issue, as anticipated. The SHOT (Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade) Show is

to return to New Orleans next year after being canceled this year in reaction to the Mayor of New Orleans filing the first suit against the industry. The Louisiana Legislature and Governor passed legislation to forbid the New Orleans suit and went to great lengths to invite the SHOT Show back and to make it welcome.... In another turn of events, the Second Amendment Foundation filed a lawsuit on the last day of November against the U.S. Conference of Mayors and 23 mayors individually for conspiring to violate

the constitutional rights of gun owners. The suit was filed in Washington, D.C. It alleges that the mayors are obstructing interstate commerce, and that they are conspiring to violate the First, Second and Ninth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.... Still on the issue of guns, up in Canada, The Canadian Firearms Act of 1994 has proven to be a fiasco. It was supposed to cost 85 million Canadian dollars over five years to implement it. Instead, 300 million has already been spent, and annual costs alone are now projected

to be 60 million by the Department of Justice. The Ministry of Justice has admitted to making seriously misleading representations of gun crime statistics when the Act was promoted.

BACA Ranch: Congress has appropriated \$101 million to purchase famed elk property, Baca Ranch, in New Mexico. There are still some obstacles before the sale can be concluded, however. If the Forest Service does acquire the property, the plans are for a special board to manage it to pay for itself through multipurpose uses, which should include hunting.

Know Hunting: There is a new book that every hunter must own. Dr. David Samuel is one of the top hunting authorities in the US, and he has cogently, comprehensively and simply covered all the issues - or, as he states it, all the “truths, lies and myths” for those who want to understand and defend hunting. It is appropriately entitled *Know Hunting*. Nowhere has so much about the issue been so comprehensively and simply presented. Dr. Samuel has done the hunting and wildlife community a great service. The book can be purchased for \$22 (this includes shipping) on the Internet (www.bowsite.com); or through Know Hunting Publications, PO Box 18115, Cheat Lake, West Virginia 26507.

21 People Eaten By Lions: The Ministry in Tanzania reports that 21 people in southern Tanzania were eaten by lions in 1999. This is not an uncommon statistic in Tanzania. Over the past decade, the number of people eaten by lions has been more than twice that on at least two other occasions.

International Hunter: Bert Klineburger has written what will undoubtedly be considered his greatest book, entitled *International Hunter, 1945 - 1999: Hunting's Greatest Era*. It covers the hunting experiences of too many famous hunters to list, from movie star Roy Rogers to Weatherby Award winner Thornton Snider, hunting in every corner of the globe and hunting nearly every premier game animal. Bert is uniquely qualified to describe the full glory and development of hunting during the second half of the 20th century because he has

been part of it like no other individual. His book contains over 400 photographs and 400 pages to hold your attention about the exciting people, hunting destinations and game that have made hunting what it is today. Read it, and you will understand why Bert was carefully selected to be a Board Member of the Conservation Force team. This pioneer of our hunt-



ing world continues to help Conservation Force expand and protect hunting around the globe. The book can be purchased from Sportsmen on Film, 231 Earl Garret, Suite 300, Kerrville, TX 78028. Tel. 830-792-4200. Fax 830-792-4224. E-mail: kwilson@sportsmenonfilm.com. Price, \$125. Texas residents add \$10.31 tax. Shipping: \$10 in North American; \$29 elsewhere.

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 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 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

Budgets of Antis: The animal rights extremist organizations are all 501 (c)(3) charities. Believe me, the deductibility of donations can be a great fund-raising advantage. The organizations have to file a Form 990 annually. According to Americans for Medical Progress, those filings for 1998 show that the Humane Society of the United States had a budget of \$36,633,759 and spent \$14,747,900 (over 40 percent) of it on overhead. The HSUS also had an exceptional \$81,782,537 in assets and \$54,372,701 in cash and securities. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) had a budget of \$14,543,860 and spent \$2,335,633 of it on overhead. The Fund For Animals budget was \$5,445,455, and spent \$1,053,449 of that on overhead. Friends of Animals had a budget of \$4,514,292, of which \$583,273 was spent on overhead. Other information on animal rights groups and other charities can be found on the web at: <http://www.guidestar.com>.

Mule Deer Foundation: The Mule Deer Foundation is really taking off. Their new Executive Director, Bill Morrill, and new Publications Director, Guy Sagi, offer great promise, and early signs are confirming more. America will never have too many great sportsmen's conservation organizations but the obvious resurgence of the Mule Deer Foundation is particularly timely because of the sagging mule deer populations. Their convention this year is to be held March 16 to 18, 2000, at Salt Lake City's Salt Palace.

Snow Geese: President Clinton has signed the Snow Goose bill that allows more geese to be harvested before they destroy their Arctic habitat. Congress passed the bill to bypass a suit HSUS (Humane Society of The United States) had filed against USF&WS, forcing the service to file an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before taking special measures to harvest more geese. The Service is still going forward with its EIS, which it had begun before the suit against it was filed. A total of 438,000 extra geese were harvested last year because of the addition season and liberalized hunting techniques. - *John J. Jackson, III.*