



“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

□ Permits To Import Certain Endangered Species Understanding That Draft Trophy Import Policy Change

The United States Fish & Wildlife Service has announced a “policy change” that is the most important change in its trophy permitting practices in the 30-year history of the Endangered Species Act. The Service has announced a change in policy to begin issuing import permits for game species listed as “endangered” in select instances.

The published notice was entitled, *Draft Policy for Enhancement-of-Survival Permits for Foreign Species Listed Under the Endangered Species Act*, 68 FR 49512, August 18, 2003. The Service states in the notice that trophy importation permits will begin being issued as a “conservation tool” to enhance the species survival and that the hunter/permit applicants and related interests will be treated as “conservation partners.”

The Service states that the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”) and the regulations allow the Service to issue trophy import permits of endan-

gered species when it “enhances the survival or propagation of the listed species, but in the past we have generally chosen to limit these types of permits.” “We now believe there could be a greater conservation benefit by providing for the import . . .



of carefully selected ESA-listed foreign species, or their parts and products, that are obtained from . . . well-managed conservation programs that . . . promote and advance the conservation of the species within the range countries.”

The Service admits that even

though a large number of foreign species are listed, “most of the key conservation provisions of the ESA do not apply to foreign species.” “In some situations, listing under the ESA may provide few, if any, additional benefits and may complicate the implementation of conservation initiatives, such as CITES. . . . Ultimately, the incentives that the United States can employ to encourage conservation activities for foreign species in other countries are limited, and we need to consider the use of every possible means available. In practical terms, one of the few available means for encouraging the conservation of foreign endangered species is through our decisions about whether to issue import permits.”

The Service stated its goal is to use the “permits program to promote the longtime conservation of animals . . . and their habitats” as outlined in its recent publication, *Leaving a Lasting Legacy: Permits as a Conservation Tool*, (<http://permits.fws.gov>).

That publication was the product of permit reform begun during the Clinton Administration that has not yet been put into practice. Objective Five of that Service publication is to “recognize permittees as partners in conservation.” It also provides that it is important to “treat people . . . as partners, treat them with dignity, treat them with respect.” That is in complete contrast with the Service’s past practices. It has had an attitude that permitted activities are otherwise prohibited, so it is of no great concern. Here at Conservation Force, we have not seen any change in practices. If anything, permitting has been worse than ever. Applications for permits of new species and/or areas, even though only listed as Threatened, have been bottled up for several years. It has never been worse.

The Service states that its “permitting authority is not being fully used even though it (permitting) is internationally recognized as one of the most effective conservation tools employed by CITES and other multilateral, international agreements.” “Implementing this policy could encourage proactive conservation through the use of ‘enhancement of survival’ findings to allow for imports that result from programs that significantly advance the conservation of a species within a given range in the country.”

The Pakistan markhor and Canadian Wood bison are cited in the notice as examples of two species listed as endangered under the ESA that the Service may find warrant the issuance of trophy import permits. In both instances, CITES has taken special action to facilitate tourist hunting, but the Service has just been stalling on the issuance of import permits for years. The very existence of some populations of markhor in Pakistan is dependent upon tourist hunting.

The notice states that the “draft policy presents guidance to help the public understand the requirements” for permit issuance under the ESA. “It is not intended to be prescrip-

tive,” but it is only proposed for “certain limited situations” where it “enhances the survival of the species in the wild.” The “[e]nhancement must be demonstrated through support of a substantive conservation program for that species in the range country with a positive benefit for the species and/or its habitat.” The enhancement must provide a “net benefit” to the species. The conservation objection of the permit is to “encourage” conservation programs that provide a net benefit by rewarding those that have such programs. Perhaps others will follow the positive examples that have borne fruit.

DATELINE: TEXAS

Special Report

**Assessing The Latest
Governor’s Symposium**

Most of the leaders and thinkers of the North American hunting community came together in Houston, Texas, in the first week of December to better identify the issues facing hunters and the future of hunting. It was a forum or discussion and analysis by many hundreds of experts on hunting. I have attended all but one of these conferences and have learned a great deal at each of them. The hunting community has become much more sophisticated about itself as a result of the conferences.

The opening presentation was made by Joseph Fitzsimons, Chairman of the Texas Wildlife and Parks Commission. He emphasized that hunters have every reason to be proud and should never apologize. He repeated with emphasis, “**never apologize.**” “Remember that hunting is the single most effective wildlife conservation tool available to us today, if you hear nothing else.”

One surprising discovery was the opinion of many of the participants that there are enough hunters, we do not need any more than the numbers we presently have. Recruitment, particularly of youth, and retention is

JOHN J. JACKSON, III
Conservation Force



“SERVING THE HUNTER WHO TRAVELS”

World Conservation Force Bulletin

Editor/Writer

John J. Jackson, III

Publisher

Don Causey

Copyright 2000© by Oxpecker Enterprises Inc. ISSN 1052-4746. This bulletin on hunting-related conservation matters is published periodically free of charge for subscribers to *The Hunting Report*, 9300 S. Dadeland Blvd., Suite 605, Miami, FL 33156-2721. All material contained herein is provided by famed wildlife and hunting attorney John J. Jackson, III with whom *The Hunting Report* has formed a strategic alliance. The purpose of the alliance is to educate the hunting community as well as proadvocacy of hunting rights opportunities. More broadly, the alliance will also seek to open up new hunting opportunities worldwide and ward off attacks on currently available opportunities. For more information on Conservation Force and/or the services available through Jackson’s alliance with *The Hunting Report*, write:

Conservation Force
One Lakeway Center, Suite 1045
Metairie, LA 70002
Tel. 504-837-1233. Fax 504-837-1145.
www.ConservationForce.org

For reprints of this bulletin or permission to reproduce it and to inquire about other publishing-related matters, write:

The Hunting Report
9300 S. Dadeland Blvd., Suite 605
Miami, FL 33156-2721.
Tel. 305-670-1361. Fax 305-716-9119.

“Serving The Hunter Who Travels”

important to maintain the number of hunters, but perhaps the goal should not be to increase the overall number of hunters. For example, Texas has 1.2 million hunters, but a survey concluded that two million more people in Texas would like to hunt and would if invited. The number of hunters could potentially be 3.2 million (1.2 + 2) million in Texas. Two million more “would like to hunt.” “Watch it, you may get what you ask for,” was voiced by many. “We need

more supporters for hunting, than hunters themselves.” On the other hand, there was almost universal consensus that recruitment needs to be focused more on young hunters and that the “gateway” barriers to entry have to be reduced and minimized.

The following are some nuggets for thought from the program:

1.) According to the Texas Wildlife and Parks Department, in Texas “Hunting = Habitat”. (Texas has

230,000 landowners that own 84% percent of Texas amounting to 144 million acres).

2.) We are not looking for more hunters, we are looking to keep them.” For example, Texas expects to lose about 10,000 of its 1.2 million hunters each year in the foreseeable future. It has developed a “Future of Hunting in Texas Strategic Plan” to take action. Alberta and Ontario also have action plans.

3.) The very appealing and emotive

AMERICA’S BLACK BEARS ARE THRIVING

North American Black Bear Population Estimate, 2003

State	Low Estimate	High Estimate	State	Low Estimate	High Estimate
Alberta	40,000	40,000	New Hampshire	4,400	4,900
Alabama	50	100	New Jersey	1,300	3,200
Alaska	150,000	250,000	New Mexico	5,200	6,000
Arkansas	3,000	3,000	New York	5,000	+6,000
Arizona	5,000	6,000	North Carolina	10,000	11,000
Arkansas	3,000	3,000	North Dakota	25	50
British Columbia	120,000	160,000	Nova Scotia	8,000	8,000
California	25,000	35,000	NWT	10,000	10,000
Colorado	8,000	12,000	Ohio	20	60
Connecticut	30	100	Oklahoma	250	375
Florida	3,000	3,000	Ontario	127,000	152,000
Georgia	1,700	2,150	Oregon	25,000	30,000
Idaho	20,000	25,000	Pennsylvania	10,000	10,000
Kentucky	75	100	Quebec	60,000	60,000
Louisiana	300	600	Saskatchewan	30,000	30,000
Maine	22,000	23,000	South Carolina	300	300
Manitoba	25,000	30,000	Tennessee	1,500	2,000
Maryland	250	450	Texas (West)	100	200
Massachusetts	1,750	1,800	Utah	1,200	3,500
Michigan	15,000	19,000	Vermont	3,000	3,500
Minnesota	30,000	30,000	Virginia	4,000	6,000
Mississippi	25	50	Washington	+30,000	+30,000
Missouri	100	500	West Virginia	8,000	8,000
Montana	20,000	20,000	Wisconsin	12,000	14,000
Nevada	300	500	Wyoming	6,200	6,200
New Brunswick	14,500	16,000	Yukon	10,000	10,000
New Foundland	10,000	10,000			

Totals- Low Estimate: 871,103 High Estimate: 1,108,135 Mean Estimate: 989,619

Conservation Force Updates Black Bear Chart: Conservation Force has completed an update of its black bear population chart. The revision is based upon our continuous monitoring of all published data and literature. The population trend continues to be upward. The population is increasing or stable in nearly every state and province revised. Virtually all new data indicates increasing populations across both the United States and Canada. The revised chart is published here and will be available on Conservation Force’s web site at conservationforce.org. Click on “Projects,” then “Articles.” Look

for America’s Black bears are Thriving. American hunters have been the greatest force behind the improved status of the black bear. No one has contributed more. It is the greatest, best protected, best managed and valued bear species in the world. You, American hunters, are the single most important part of the conservation equation. Thank you. We would like to blow the chart up and circulate it more widely, but we need financial support to do that. Contributions are tax deductible and should be sent to Conservation Force at 3900 N. Causeway Boulevard, Suite 1045, Metairie, Louisiana, 70002-1746.

“Water Works Wonder” advertisements do not focus on the catching of a fish. Rather, the focus is on the personal relationship between the participants while fishing. It is not about catching (killing) fish. It is affordable family entertainment that provides an opportunity to bond. The hunting community can do the same.

4.) The “blue collar” hunter is not represented at most hunting forums and in action coalitions.

5.) Hunters are their own harsh judges. Many hunters oppose hunting for profit, trophy hunting, hunting behind fences, baiting and the methods of others. It has always been this way. We cannot avoid the debate. It is part of our makeup.

6.) “It is easier to sell a simple activity than to sell a complete religion.” Recruit people to hunting by their participation in one appealing activity at a time, *i.e.*, start small.

7.) A more preferable term to “mentor” may be “master hunter” or “master trainer” like “personal trainer.”

8.) Hunting is not a “spur-of-the-moment” choice. We have gateway problems. Perhaps rabbit or squirrel hunting can be gateway experiences because they are less elaborate to prepare for yet permit mentoring and bonding. Then we need to create linkages like a nature trail for paths to other types of hunting.

9.) Perhaps there is a need and market for lodges that families can go to for entry-level experience with a master hunter to walk the family members through the steps from start to finish in a few days like a fast scuba school that culminates in a group dive at a resort. “Bring your children and let us help you.”

10.) “Hunter education is more than an obligation, it is an opportunity.”

11.) “Hunting is one of the deepest, strongest anchors to nature and to land.” “It is an enormously profound activity.”

12.) “It is time for best government practices versus best management practices.” “Make regulations customer friendly.” (*This one was dear to my heart.*)

13.) “Hunting evokes more passion

than any other outdoor sport.”

14.) “Guided hunting is not the sale of an animal, it is a service.”

15.) “If cigarette smoking can be marketed successfully, then we can market hunting.”

16.) “We need to walk the walk of coalitions.” “We can all rally around a good plan if we can agree on one.”

17.) “Ducks Unlimited has sold more



than 600,000 shotguns at its fundraisers”: Don Young.

18.) To attract youth, make it “relevant” to them and “bigger than hunting.”

19.) “Fair chase is mostly preference, not true ethics”.

20.) Alternatively “why we hunt” is also called that mysterious force, the “call of the hunt.”

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 25 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

African Elephant Numbers Up:

■ The latest report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission’s African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) indicates African Elephant numbers are increasing. The new African Elephant Status Report is the latest of the African Elephant Database, which is the largest and most detailed source of information on the global distribution and abundance of *any* species. This report estimates that there are between 400,000 and 660,000 elephants currently in Africa. The estimate is less than the true number of elephant. That is because it does not include all African elephants, only those in protected areas. “Most elephant surveys are restricted to protected areas . . .”, according to the report. Though there are more elephants than estimated, the apparent increase could be misleading. It could be caused by more elephants being compressed into protected areas by expanding human populations. It’s not possible to take that into account without the existence of continuing elephant population estimates outside protected areas.

The estimate increases primarily arise from recent surveys in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Tanzania. The lower figure of 400,000 is a no less than “definite” figure. The higher 660,000 figure is the total when the less than definite estimates are added to definite. That means the total estimate is really 660,000 as usually understood, but the AfESG likes to separate the definite part of the estimate from the less definite.

The populations are divided for estimate purposes: Southern Africa, definite 246,000, with speculative 300,000; Eastern Africa at least 118,000 and speculatively up to 163,000; Central Africa between 16,500 definite and 196,000 possible; West Africa, 5,500 definite to 13,200 speculative. The report can be found at www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/afesg.