



“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

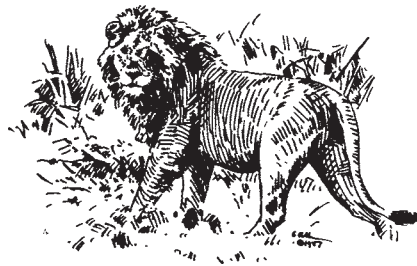
by **John J. Jackson, III**

DATELINE: AFRICA

News... News... News
Nation-by-Nation Plans
To Save African Lion

Last month I wrote how the National Wild Turkey Federation was completing turkey conservation action plans in every state in the US in partnership with state wildlife departments. A similar effort is required immediately in Africa, if the African lion is to be saved. Conservation Force has begun a new initiative to strategically institute and implement lion conservation by developing nation-by-nation action plans in the primary lion range nations. The plans will follow the regional models that were established at regional workshops held after Kenya’s proposal to list all African lion on Appendix 1 of CITES. In essence, we have set out to become the Ducks Unlimited or the National Wild Turkey Federation of the African lion. The hunting community must take action, or we all too soon won’t have African lion.

This is an extraordinary but necessary undertaking if the African lion is to be saved. It will include the preparatory collection and analysis of field data in each country, then the hosting of a workshop with stakeholders to draft the most appropriate action plan to conserve the lion at the level con-



servation must take place. The regional plans adopted in 2005 and 2006 (West-Central Africa Workshop and Southern-Eastern Workshop) will provide models, but actual conservation action must be taken by national wildlife authorities and stakeholders on a country-by-country basis.

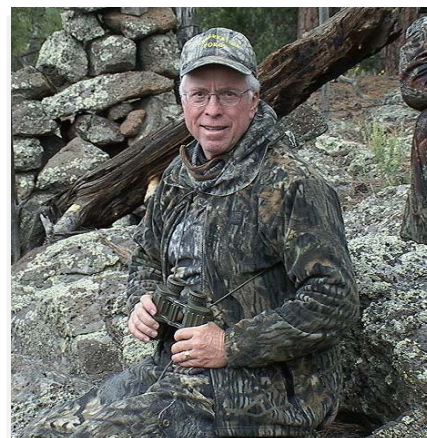
The preparatory work and work-

shops to draft the most important action plans will cost in excess of one million dollars over the next three years. The ambitious undertaking will require an unprecedented fundraising effort by Conservation Force. All funding received will be dedicated exclusively to the *National Lion Conservation Plan Initiative*. Nothing will be deducted for overhead. We need both organizations and individuals to step up to the plate as never before if the lion is to be saved. We also need to do it now before the 15th Conference of CITES in January 2010 if the lion is to be kept from being listed on Appendix 1.

No organization has had more lion conservation projects in more countries than Conservation Force. Conservation Force board members serve on both the IUCN Cat Specialist Group and the African Lion Working Group. This uniquely positions us to help host workshops that count. It was Conservation Force that completed the *Chardonnet Lion Study*, which is the most comprehensive, continent-wide study of the status of the African lion. That study includes the opinion of more than 50 consultants and authori-

ties. We also published *A Hunter's Guide to Aging Lions in Eastern and Southern Africa*. We have had 10 or more lion conservation projects going on at all times over most of this decade. All that said, this ambitious undertaking is beyond our means. It is time for the hunting community to step up and be taken into account when and where it really counts. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law as Conservation Force is a 501(c)(3) public foundation. We are

breaking the bank to even start this initiative and need funds right now. It won't wait, so we have already had to contract the commitments across Africa. The African lion needs us now. We need legacy level gifts from hunters that really care to weigh in when and where it counts. Please call me at 504-837-1233 or send your dedicated donation to Conservation Force at PO Box 278, Metairie, LA 70004-0278 USA. Earmark it for *Lion Action Plans Initiative*.



JOHN J. JACKSON, III
Conservation Force

□ Special Report

Hunting For Truth: Why Rationalizing The Ritual Must Fail

By Shane Mahoney, originally written for Outdoor Canada

(Editor Note: Shane Mahoney joined Conservation Force's Board upon the death of founding Board Member Bart O'Gara. He is perhaps the world's foremost authority on caribou as Dr. O'Gara was on pronghorn antelope. He is part of the "think tank" of Conservation Force as well as a gifted speaker and writer on the philosophical underpinnings of hunting. We first recruited him to help define and express "why we hunt" in human terms, i.e., "why is it so important to us that it should be afforded protection and respect in its own right aside from its conservation benefits?" This is an important step in defending the morality of hunting if hunting is to remain part of the wildlife conservation paradigm. This month we have included an article Mahoney wrote for Outdoor Canada. We suggest you read it twice, save it, and read it again from time to time. It is about you.)

Across the wide belt of the North American continent a profound debate surges. It is a collision of world views; a refinement of man's view of himself; a reinterpretation of Eden; a great contemplation of the future of mankind. Yet, despite this profound nature, the debate in question is delivered to the public as a clash of soft sentimentality and rigorous rationalism, the central theme portrayed by both sides as something so far removed from its essential self that it is at worst belittled, at best trivialized. The evisceration of man's greatest achievement, naturalness, is the work of two opposing forces, each wrapped in the cloak of conservation, striving for supremacy in a tournament of frauds and follies. The problem for hunting today is that nobody will tell

the truth.

On the one side, there are those who are opposed to hunting, who obviously do not hunt, and who portray the activity as barbaric, unnecessary and inappropriate to today's society and mankind's future. They concentrate on the suffering of the individual animal and upon the behavior of persons who might inflict it. They portray nature as more benign, more right, without man than with him; and hunters as fermented juveniles who enjoy killing as a diversionary sport and who see animals as targets for their violence. To persons who argue for animal rights, hunting is a cruel wastefulness and the hunt an anachronism, something we should have put behind us, as we have bear baiting and cock fighting. Hunting is empty of merit, devoid of value and without deep meaning. Its adherents are therefore the same. The activity is personified and therein lies the target. The concept, the rich idea, of hunting, becomes displaced. For the public, the gruel is watered down until it can be bottle fed. The question is asked: "Why (do you) hunt?"

On the other side, stand those who support hunting, primarily hunters themselves, but not exclusively so. They fall for the trap. Their arguments in support of hunting are that it helps manage wildlife populations, it provides healthful recreation, physically and socially, it provides meat and it generates wealth, especially in rural



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“Serving The Hunter Who Travels”

economies. Supporters argue it is their right, and not the animal’s rights, that are to prevail, and because their activity harms no one, but benefits many, they should not be interfered with. Hunters don’t discuss animal suffering, but concentrate on the health of populations. They rightfully point out the contributions, financially and politically, hunters have made to conservation, often when other voices of support were not being raised. They trot out the balance of nature, without ever defining natural balance. They portray anti-hunters as misguided extremists whose views would have mankind being overrun with tick infested deer, drowning in goose macaroni, or starving so other predators might thrive. Hunters argue simply, or simply don’t argue. They too keep the debate easy ...to digest....or dismiss. One thing they conscientiously avoid however: they never, ever answer the question, “Why (do I) hunt?”

Why is this? What is it about this short little question that is so ponderous, so daunting? What is it that hunters fear; what is it they do not comprehend? And, if they do comprehend, why won’t they offer an explanation? Why so quick to identify the benefits of hunting but so reticent to at least try and describe their true motivation for engaging it? This is a conceptual divide that must be breached. We have been treating the two as though they were the same. They are not. Explaining the benefits of hunting does not in any way explain why we hunt, and why we hunt is the question, really, that society is asking. We confuse and avoid the issue...but we will either answer it, or we will be dismissed. The one thing we must protect and define for hunting is its relevance; notoriety and debate will not kill it. Fabrication and irrelevance will. Once deemed irrelevant, hunting will no longer be debated; nor will it be engaged in. If

we want continuity and recruitment, if we want respect and tolerance for what we do, then we best get busy earning it...by explaining to the reasonable majority what hunting really is.

Hunting is not simple. It is the generator of our human condition, the crucible of intellect, and the fire of creativity. It is our mirror of the world, the image maker of wild creation; it has defined how we see, literally and figuratively. It is the only absolute re-discovery mechanism available to human beings; the mind-body fusion of all meditative, spiritual experience is derived from its pasturage. Those who return there know full well the sense



of universal intimacy it gives over. Explaining this odyssey is our greatest challenge; but succeeding will be our greatest achievement. The world remains perpetually absorbed by this search, yet hunters know the way. Why not celebrate the truth for a change? Hunting is a deliberate journey to the union of birth and death; it cannot but create a deeper perspective and appreciation for the glorious importance of both. What society does not dream for such citizens?

Like it or not we have to search deep within ourselves, journey to the place where the mind is floating free. We have to voice what is silent; capture what is shadow. The hunt is a universe of emotion that overwhelms, scatters all notions of other preoccupations,

and delivers the persona complete. Hunting is a love affair; turbulent, gnawing and all possessing. It is composed of lives, but has a life of its own; a life held precious by the participant who, in part, creates it. But then there is the “other,” unpredictable, honored. Yes! An affair of the heart; and like all such affairs it drags the mind along, a great force subjugated by the senses engaged to their fullest; but alive just the same, and capturing memories and creating fantasies that are nearly one and the same. Hunting is an immersion; a drowning in connectedness that squanders pride and privilege; the true hunter is the humble man, the enthralled child, and the knowing prince. All is ready, nothing is restive; all is rhythm, nothing is in friction. Hunting is knowing why the senses were made! It displaces both the practical and the excess. It represents evenness, oneness and the knowledge of self. Hunting is a cataclysm of inward progress. We hunt for spiritual reasons; we hunt to find inner peace; we hunt to understand the world. Hunting is our first great myth! The true hunter is both the alert and the meditative man. Thought and action combined in purpose; a hymn for the unity of world and self. Hunting is a search for all.

Truth makes a great message, not an easy one! But saving the preciousness of life is never simple. We need remember, however, that if hunters are viewed as dopes, hunting is viewed as a pass time for the dim witted; if hunters are viewed as slobs, hunting is a wasteful debauchery; if hunters are viewed as juvenile, hunting is deemed delinquent. Only hunters can change such stereotypes. The task at hand is to articulate the relevance of hunting; not its correctness, nor its practical service to human kind. Rationalizing the mythology is both a tactical error and a diminishment of pride. Lies and excuses usually are.

Briefly Noted

Conservation Fact from QDMA: Guess who is paying for biodiversity? Here is an interesting fact from the

Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) that came out at the recent White House Conference to develop

President Bush’s Executive Order to facilitate the American hunting heritage and conservation. Its 51,000 mem-

bers own and/or hold 13.5 million acres for deer hunting purposes. This is in addition to the 50 million acres of state-operated wildlife management areas that are largely funded by America’s deer hunters. As impressive as these figures are, they don’t begin to capture the conservation reach of deer hunting. In the dead of winter from a plane window, it is amazing to see the mosaic of rich, green food plots across the eastern United States.

Adrian Sada Trevino Passes: Adrian Sada Trevino died on October 14, 2008 at the age of 85. Adrian was a supporting contributor of Conservation Force and a world-renown hunter, as is his son. Adrian won the Weatherby Award in 2001 in recognition of his hunting and wildlife conservation achievements. His son Federico won the award in 2006.

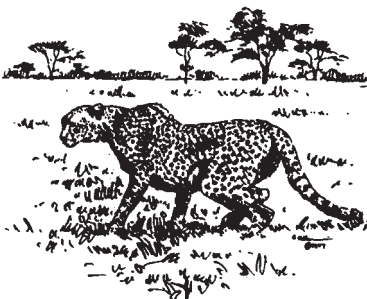
I once ran into Adrian while wolf hunting near the Arctic Circle. He was keenly excited about the Arctic experience and crossing paths with a fellow hunter during the adventure. His life proves once again that people who have everything choose to hunt. It is an activity worthy of kings and queens and the worthy choice of people who have everything. At Conservation Force, we are privileged to have known Adrian and his enthusiasm for the sport.

Adrian owned and developed Carmen Island, renowned for its desert bighorn sheep. He was a generous donor of sheep hunts to Grand Slam Club/OVIS, which itself is a generous and important supporter of Conservation Force and this monthly bulletin. We most certainly will miss his enthusiasm for the hunt and warm greeting this and every year at the Weatherby Awards dinner and conventions.

James Teer Receives Texas Hall of Fame Award: Conservation Force founding Board Member Dr. James Teer received the Texas Hall of Fame Award on October 3, 2008. He received the Conservation Educator Hall of Fame Award for “56 years in the field” and was described by Senator Hutchinson as being “the greatest conservationist in Texas.” United States Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson made

the presentation as well as delivery speech.

In the past, Dr. Teer has received the prestigious Leopold Medal from The Wildlife Society. He is the retired Chair of the Wildlife Management Department of Texas A&M, where he held the Caesar Kleberg Chair in Wildlife Ecology, the retired head of the Wilder Wildlife Foundation, and the past president of The Wildlife Society. He cited both Chrissie and me in his



Hall of Fame acceptance speech and continues to be part of Conservation Force’s “think tank” of leaders working for you on the Conservation Force Board of Directors.

Dr. Teer has recently published his autobiography, *It’s a Long Way from Llano – The Journey of a Wildlife Biologist*. It is available from Texas A&M University Press in College Station, where he is still professor emeritus

of wildlife and fisheries sciences. In the book, Dr. Teer also devotes a chapter, “The Great Cats,” to his truly epic work on the jaguar, cheetah and leopard. In his autobiography, Dr. Teer cites Conservation Force’s cheetah management plan in Namibia and his work to establish the original Enhancement Compact where licensed hunters pay a sum above other costs exclusively for cheetah conservation, and our work to establish trophy imports. No less extraordinary was his seminal study on the African leopard, which was the foundation for its downlisting and which permits the US importation of those trophies today. As a Conservation Force Board member, he is your champion, whether you have known it or not.

Congressman Don Young a Hero Again: Longtime hero of the hunting community Congressman Don Young of Alaska, has done it again. He has introduced two polar bear bills for importation of hunting trophies.

The first is H.R. 6936, introduced by Young on September 18, 2008. It would allow the import of those polar bear already taken before the listing on May 14, 2008. There are millions of dollars of trophies from “conservation hunts” that took place before the bear was listed and that this bill would allow to be imported.

The second bill is H.R. 7171, introduced on September 26, 2008, which amends the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow the continued import of polar bear from approved populations, both those taken in the past and those in the future.

Don Young is the ranking minority member of the House Committee on Natural Resources as well as past chairman of that committee. He was one of the co-authors of the original polar bear MMPA Amendment that lead to polar bear imports that have now been interrupted. There is not enough space in this entire bulletin to list all the similar legislation Congressman Young has authored for the sportsmen and women of America over the years. He is as true as true comes.

Both bills need co-sponsors, so contact your own congressman today.

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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