



“SERVING THE HUNTER WHO TRAVELS”

“Hunting provides the principal incentive and revenue for conservation. Hence it is a force for conservation.”

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by John J. Jackson, III

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Speech made by John J. Jackson, III
at the 70th Conference of the Alberta Fish and Game Association

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(Introductory Note: Sportsmen were the bedrock of wildlife conservation from the beginning to the end of the 20th Century. One exemplary sportsmen's organization that served almost the entire century is the Alberta Fish and Game Association. It was formed in 1908 and remains the dominant wildlife conservation organization in Alberta. It has 15,000 anglers, hunters and 110 clubs as members. I was honored to be the Keynote Speaker at their 70th Conference on February 26, 2000. The Conference theme was "Proud to Be a Member," which I adopted in my address. They really took up and cheered with pride when this address was given. It helped set the tone for the conference and, hopefully, for the years to come).

Dear fellow sportsmen, sportswomen, members, officers and guests of The Alberta Fish and Game Association:

Conservation Force is a professional nonprofit organization that has formed, advises and supports a worldwide coalition of sportsmen's conservation organizations. The name "Con-

servation Force" means and stands for the simple but all important axiom, that sportsmen are the foremost force for wildlife conservation in the world and particularly in North America. It



is time to celebrate that critical role and value of sportsmen. It is something to "crow" about.

At the turn of the 20th Century, the urgent imperative of hunters was the

restoration of wildlife. To do it required the unshakable resolve of people like you and me, to say we are going to change the state of affairs in our world. Again and again in history some special people wake up, make unpopular demands and take bold, audacious actions. The hunters did it. The present state of our wildlife speaks eloquently for them. Sportsmen changed the world. Our fingerprint is the abundance of wildlife despite the march of all those who don't care as much. We did it.

Game Numbers

Indeed our conservation successes are something to be proud of. Many wildlife populations are now at historically high levels, thanks to the conservation efforts of hunters in North America:

- Whitetail deer have increased from 500,000 to 34 million. The highest

