



“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

BE PROUD - FEBRUARY 2000 - ALBERTA

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

Red Deer, Alberta
February 26, 2000

(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

in recorded history.

- Waterfowl have increased from 45 million to 105 million. The highest in recorded history.
- Pronghorn have increased from 5,000 to 1 million;
- Elk have increased from 40,000 to 1.2 million.
- Sheep have increased from 10,000 to 200,000;
- Black Bear have increased to +900,000. They were vermin; we gave them game animal status. I repeat - game animal status.
- Turkey were nearly extinct - we increased them to 5.2 million.

Sportsmen even fund nongame animal conservation more than all other non-governmental interests combined.

That is plenty of reason to Be Proud. In Europe they call hunters “Game Keepers.” That’s right! We are the foremost keepers of the game. No one has done better. We’re entitled to BE PROUD.

We Are Indispensable

Sportsmen pay more for wildlife conservation than all other groups combined. In the US, 85 percent of state Department of Natural Resources budgets are derived from hunters and fishermen. It is over a billion dollars a year in license fees alone. We also pay a third more through special stamps and excise taxes as well. These are voluntary taxes. It is unmatched and apparently, un-match-able. That contribution is IN-DIS-PENS-ABLE to the whole conservation paradigm. Reason to BE PROUD.

But wait, there is more! There is no equal to the additional contribution of sportsmens’ conservation organizations, singularly or combined. Ducks Unlimited has 6,200 fundraisers a year! It has 800,000 members and has spent \$1.3 BILLION where it counts. Mostly in Canada - where it really counts. The hunters of Ducks Unlimited have no match in the conservation world, from pole to pole. BE PROUD!

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep “puts sheep back on the mountain” by adding millions each year to joint state or provincial projects. BE PROUD.

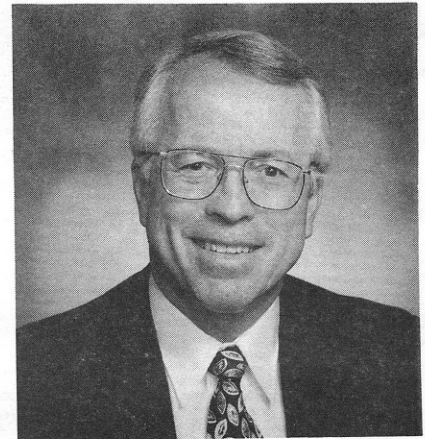
The National Wild Turkey Federation has spent over \$100 million reintroducing turkeys, which were on the brink of extinction at the beginning of the 20th century. BE PROUD. Organizations of North American hunters, tens of thousands of them, large and small, complement and even overshadow governmental wildlife conservation. BE PROUD.

Conservation Success Cycle

There has never been anything equal to this sportsmen FOUNDED and sportsmen FUNDED system in the history of the world. Knowledgeable scientists recognize it as the foremost wildlife conservation development of the 20th century. This remains true as we enter the 21st century. BE PROUD. It is a self-funding, perpetual cycle of success. The more hunters, the more revenue. The more revenue, the more habitat, enforcement, incentives, research and all it pays for. In turn, more wildlife. The more wildlife, the more sportsmen – an enormous army of stakeholders, of game keepers, the foremost force for wildlife conservation. It is time that it be acknowledged that we are, like it or not, the engine. Don’t accept any less credit any more! BE PROUD!

Big Game Hunting Popularity

Our activity that is most under attack by detractors - that is, big game hunting - is doing the best. Big game hunting in the US is more popular today than it has ever been at any other time in our history. Big game hunting is indeed on the rise. This facet of hunting has risen to a level of unprecedented popularity despite a slight decline in overall hunting participation during the past several years. The growth in the US is dramatic! Most astonishing, its growth rate surpasses that of all other popular outdoor activities, such as fishing, taking trips to watch wildlife and even watching wildlife near our own homes. In the US, it is the only popular outdoor activity that has a growth rate exceeding the human growth rate. Between 1950 and 1996, the US population increased 49 percent, while big game



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"Serving The Hunter Who Travels"

hunting increased 615 percent (from 1.5 million participants in 1950 to 11.3 in 1996). It is a long term trend that is the bedrock of the system in the US. There is nothing else with such a rate of growth, nothing else with such a long term rate trend of growth either. **BE PROUD.**

Big Game Hunting presents an admirable picture:

- 1) The typical big game hunter is a college-educated man between 35 and 54 years of age.
- 2) 81 percent of all hunters hunt big game.
- 3) Big game hunters are involved! 26 percent are members of conservation organizations, while only eight percent of other hunters are, and far, far fewer other North Americans are!
- 4) Big game hunters contribute more to conservation per person and more per group than anyone. **BE PROUD!**
- 5) Big game hunters are devoted to our sport. They spend more time afield in the woods - more time, in fact, than all other categories of hunters, saltwater fishermen and even wildlife watchers that have no seasons or limits to restrict them.
- 6) Big game hunters have the most intense, the most natural, the most complete relationship with wildlife and wild places. **BE PROUD!**

All Sportsmen

All hunting and fishing sportsmen as a group and per capita: (1) Contribute more revenue for wildlife conservation; (2) Spend more time in touch with the natural world; (3) Have more conservation organizations; (4) Are more likely to belong to a conservation organization; (5) Are more truly proven to be stewards of our natural world. It means we care more. **BE PROUD!**

Givers Not Takers

You pay for the management. You pay for the law enforcement. You pay for the research. You pay everyone and are paid by no one. You are the givers, not the takers. Stand up. Don't take it anymore. **STAND UP. BE PROUD!**

Human Value

There are those who don't care about our contribution or about us, our

ancestors or our children! In fact, they don't really care about the resource. Teddy Roosevelt said, "We grieve only for what we know." "The erasure of (a species) is no cause for (real) grief if one knows it only as a name in a botany book." They don't know what hunting is, what it means in human terms. We know the trees, the soil, the beauty, the solitude. We have not simply seen or been in it; we are still a part of it. We are hunters! **BE PROUD.**

Aldo Leopold said "that hunting and fishing are an indispensable social resource of tremendous national value." He said, "Of course we hunters have always known this, but until recently we failed to tell the public." Perhaps that is still correct. Let's stand up and let everybody - I mean everybody! - know what it means to us in human terms. When we do, we honor



our ancestors and create a legacy for our progeny. **STAND UP. BE PROUD.**

Karen Blixen, the woman who was the focus of the movie, *Out-of-Africa*, was a hunter. She wrote that safari hunting "is really Africa's greatest charm" and upon returning from a hunt that "I have never in my life enjoyed myself more." It "was like returning to the really true world again." "I most kindly apologize to those hunters whose delight in the chase I failed to understand. There is nothing in the world to equal it." **BE PROUD.**

Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife management, liked to "arrive too early in the marsh" just for "an adventure in pure listening." He wrote that hunting "is not merely an acquired taste; the instinct that finds delight in the sight and pursuit of game is bred into the very fiber of this race... the

love of hunting is almost a physiological characteristic.... We are dealing, therefore, with something that lies very deep. Some can live without opportunity for the exercise and control of the hunting instinct, just as I suppose some can live without work, play, love, business, or other vital adventure. But in these days we regard such deprivations as unsocial. Opportunity for exercise of all the normal instincts has come to be regarded more and more as an inalienable right." He was so right. **STAND UP. BE PROUD.**

Although many of the foremost social scientists of our times, including Freud, Jung and Fromm, consider hunting instinctual in man, it is much more. It is the highest order experience and expression. It is the pinnacle. Kings and queens, as well as common men, have held it in the highest esteem since the beginning of time. It is time-honored, time-proven. **BE PROUD.**

Jose Ortega y Gasset wrote that "Hunting submerges man deliberately in that formidable mystery and therefore contains something of a religious rite and emotion in which homage is paid to what is divine, transcendent, in the laws of nature." It is a transcendent experience. We know the cathedral of nature as only those in the choir can know it. **BE PROUD.**

Probably the most practical and clearly stated ethic for hunting and for judging all environmental action in general was Aldo Leopold's "land ethic" in *A Sand County Almanac*.

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise.

The bottom line is - we are the greatest force for the biotic community, and our detractors unwittingly tend to be otherwise. They should be gone and we should **BE PROUD!**

THANK YOU GOOD MEN AND WOMEN FOR INVITING ME. It has been my privilege!

STAND UP! BE PROUD!

(The packed audience stood up! We hope they continue to stand up. Don't all sportsmen need to stand up and be proud now?)

NATIONAL SUMMIT ON AFRICA

■ Something is happening that may affect Africa as we know it. In late February, I attended the National Summit on Africa. Five thousand people attended the four-day summit in Washington, D.C. They included President Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and dozens of other world leaders. It was principally funded by the Ford Foundation. The theme throughout was "Africa Matters." It was the culmination of US Regional meetings over the past two years to establish an "action plan" for a closer and more supportive relationship to Africa in the next millennium. President Clinton was the keynote speaker.

"Thirty million Americans trace their history to Africa." "Thirteen percent of the oil production is from Africa." "There are 700 million consumers" in Africa. He said we must be involved. We can "no longer refuse to know, only refuse to act" when Africa needs US help. He stated the caveat that plans depend first on Africa itself having affirmative "leadership," then outlined five steps he plans to take: (1) Open world trade to Africa, including passage of the bi-partisan trade bill in conference. (The African Growth and Opportunity Act has passed the House and Senate and now is in Conference); (2) Establish a US program to write off all debt for 27 African countries (delegates generally agreed the debts can't be paid regardless); (3) Increase support for education in Africa; (4) Fight diseases, including AIDS, TB and malaria; (5) Help end the bloody conflicts. (There are eight African countries engaged in the Congo conflict, and one half of African countries have had a bloody conflict in the past decade - in contrast to only one-half of the other countries in the world.)

The summit was a bi-partisan effort. Congressman Edward Royce, Republican-California, who chairs the African Sub-Committee of the International Relations Committee, addressed the assembly twice. He co-authored the bi-partisan African

Growth and Opportunity Act. What was impressive was the overwhelming presence and interest of black African Americans in the Summit. America's black Mayors (Denver, District of Columbia, Atlanta) were present, as were its business leaders, black congressmen and women, its political and religious heroes such as Reverend Sullivan, Ex-Ambassador Andrew Young, Reverend Jessie Jackson, Leonard Robinson and Dick Gregory. It was Selma Alabama of 35 years ago, including some of those who marched with Martin Luther King and thus share the clout of his legacy in Black America.

In the new millennium, this new campaign of black Americans may become a *cause celebre*. Of course, American hunters since Teddy Roosevelt have been greatly concerned and interested in Africa, but our concerns have been largely ignored by the rest of the population. America's 30 million blacks may be in the process of changing that. We may not plea for Africa alone or in vain any longer.

Significantly, in spite of the fact that the environment was one of the five major areas of concern of the Summit, Conservation Force was the

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 Clercs, its director, is a member of the Board of Directors of Conservation Force.



International Foundation for
the Conservation of Wildlife

only sportsmen's conservation organization in attendance. We have monitored and participated in the program from its inception two years ago. At the Summit, we distributed literature on the human and wildlife benefits of safari hunting in Africa. Virtually every African nation also had representatives in attendance.

What does all this mean for American sportsmen who have come to love Africa, its wildlife and its people? We may have new and influential allies on the Hill that will be speaking for 30 million black Americans. The African nations will be able to do something with their meager money besides pay interest on their indebtedness. New external and internal air transportation may result. It was claimed that two new air flights owe their existence in part due to the Summit's black American leadership. One is Delta's SAA direct flight from Atlanta to Johannesburg. The other is a direct flight from Washington, D.C. to Addis Abba, bypassing Europe for the first time. Ex-Ambassador to Africa, the past-black-Mayor of Atlanta, Andrew Young, described his efforts to establish the new Delta-SAA Atlanta flight. There is a third flight direct from the US to northwest Africa that I did not get the details about. Rodney Slater, the head of the US Department of Transportation, with the blessing of President Clinton, promised there will be many more flight improvements to facilitate business and trade. As hunters, we could be the beneficiaries, along with black American businessmen.

My own thoughts about all this are that Africa is three times larger than the Lower 48 states of the US and has three times more people (700 million and growing fast). It has 54 countries and 3,000 languages as diverse as night and day. Africans' incomes average less than \$1 per day per person. All of the people and all of the wealth in America may not be able to move Africa, but it will help. The American tourist hunter should welcome this belated help. - *John J. Jackson.*