



“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: CANADA

News... News... News

USF&W Reduces Import Of Polar Bear Trophies

In an “emergency rule” the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) has stopped issuing polar bear trophy import permits from the M’Clintock Channel bear population area of Canada. In effect, the Service has withdrawn the Rule authorizing import of bear trophies from that particular area. Bears taken before May 31, 2000 are still importable but not bears for this year and sport hunting season. The principle communities in the M’Clintock Channel are Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak.

The Service has discontinued import approval of the area because of a letter sent to it by the Canadian Wildlife Service stating that the M’Clintock Channel “population is in a severely depleted state and current harvest quotas are unsustainable.” The “preliminary” results of a

three year mark/recapture study indicate the bear population is between 238 and 399 bears, with 288 as the best estimate. The quota of 32 bears per annum (22 males and 11 females) had been based upon various estimates of 700 to 900 bears in the population.



A total of 266 bears have been harvested in this area over the past 10 years. Fifty-two of those (one in five) were sport hunted. All but five of the sport hunted bear were males (47 of 52), which suggests that sport hunting has not significantly affected the reproductive capacity or growth of the population, as males

are biologically surplus. Nevertheless, the Service has expressed concern that future sport hunting may shift to females since they comprise 65 percent of the current M’Clintock Channel adult population.

Most of the bear that have been harvested, four of five, have been taken in community subsistence hunts in which the harvest of male bears still outnumber the harvest of females, but not by the large margin of sport hunting. The hunting has been within the quota and sex ratio of two males per female. The sole difficulty is the quota was too large because the population estimate it was based upon was too great - if the new estimate is correct. “Even with remedial steps, the population will not likely recover for some time,” according to the Service.

Though the rule is effective immediately, it is only an interim emergency action. It is open to comment until March 12, after which a Final Rule will be issued. The Notice can be found at 66 FR 1901 dated January 10, 2001 and on the Service’s International Affairs home page at

<http://international.fws.gov>. Here at Conservation Force we have not yet reviewed the new “preliminary estimate” or the letter from the Canadian Wildlife Service to determine the context of the alarming quotes cited by the Service.

The earlier higher population estimate was also based upon a mark/capture population study. We believe that male-bear-oriented sport hunting is not significant to the population growth rate since less than one of 10 sport taken bears have been female. Importantly, the government of Nunavut is doing another more reliable population estimate based upon the age data from polar bear teeth. That new estimate is expected to be available in February, which is before a Final Rule is made by the Service.

On a positive note, the Service’s Notice announces that Canadian authorities have lifted the five-year harvest moratorium in the Viscount-Melville Sound population area imposed on August 1, 1999, more than

one and one-half years ago. That area has already been approved by the Service for import and was merely awaiting the end of the self-imposed Canadian moratorium. You can now import bears from that population, and the Service has merely noted it. The quota for the area is four bears.

WASHINGTON, DC

News Analysis
Anti’s Now Hurting
Recreational Fishing

Hundreds of millions of acres of public land such as parks have long been closed to sport hunting. Many sport fishermen have felt immune from such exclusions. Not any longer! Recreational fishermen are now beginning to feel the sting of protectionism. Environmental organizations, some very prominent, have been clamoring for protected areas on the high seas and along large sections of our coasts.

Eaton Joins Leadership Of Conservation Force

■ Dr. Randall Eaton has joined the Conservation Force leadership team. Effective January 1, 2001, Dr. Eaton is to serve as the Conservation Force Director of Communications to help us with our education, conservation and advocacy programs. He is renown for more than 35 years of high profile conservation and education successes.

In 1971 Dr. Eaton organized and funded the First International Symposium on the World’s Cats. One of his graduate students did the first study on cheetah on ranch lands in the mid-70s in Namibia. He conducted the first economic study of trophy hunting in sub-Saharan Africa in the mid-70s. He has written extensively as a professional on the theory and origin of trophy hunting as a fundamental aspect of human behavior and life. He has experience in film making, lecturing and writing. He has authored 16 books and had articles and other writings in

more than 100 publications. His book credits include *The Cheetah: Fastest Race on Earth* and *The Sacred Hunt*. His articles have appeared in *J. Wildlife Management* and *Current Anthropology*, among other publications. He also founded and edited for many years the scientific journal, *Carnivore*. His video credits include “The Sacred Hunt: Hunting As A Sacred Path” and “The Sacred Hunt II: Rite of Passage.” The former is a top-selling, award-winning documentary on hunting.

Dr. Eaton is an author on both animal behavior and human evolution and has been on the faculty of three universities. His education, experience, knowledge, skills, talent and devotion to the purpose and cause of Conservation Force all make him another highly qualified professional voluntarily serving you. With help like this we can successfully protect wildlife, wild places, and our hunting way of life.

JOHN J. JACKSON, III
Conservation Force



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The pressure and proposals for protection are growing.

Former President Clinton issued an Executive Order that has permanently banned all recreational sport fishing on 4 million acres of the Hawaii coast, now called “preservation areas.” It is a part of the 84-million-acre Coral Reef Reserve created simultaneously by the President, which is the largest protected area ever created in the US. Fishing is capped at present levels on the other

80 million acres, which we must presume will now be managed at least in part by the federal government.

This is more than a temporary closure, more than the requirement of a license, more than setting a species, size or quantity limit and more than limiting use to a particular season or period. It is more than a ban on commercial fishing. It is a total prohibition against recreational fishing forever! This is just the beginning. The movement, we expect, will

take on a life of its own and eventually carry over into everyone’s turf, or should we say surf. Then the creep will set in: Preserve the areas for themselves, not as resources for the purpose of man. Fish will live and die there without benefiting man. In the last session, Senator John Breaux had to introduce the Freedom to Fish Act (S. 3234) to insure free and open access to the water. This sounds all too similar to what has happened to the hunting community in the past.

Briefly Noted

How Much Will The Antis Pay: PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) was willing to spend \$2.5 million to run a 30-second ad during the Super Bowl. Some singing cows were to decry leather. Dr. James Swan, author of “In Defense of Hunting” and a regular collaborator of Conservation Force, has told me that CBS turned down the ad because it was felt to be what’s called an “Advocacy Ad,” which CBS will not air. Imagine the hunting community spending \$2.5 million for 30 seconds of public relations!

Gunnison Sage Grouse Designated A Candidate Species: On December 28, 2000, the US Fish and Wildlife Service designated the Gunnison Sage Grouse as a Candidate Species, 65 FR 82310. A candidate species is one the Service has sufficient information on file to support issuance of a Rule Proposal to list it under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). There is a priority system used to determine how soon the Service makes the listing proposal for “candidate species.” The Service gave the Gunnison Sage Grouse a listing priority of five. The Service will accept comments on the designation at any time at its Western Colorado Field Office, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506. Contact person is Terry Ireland, Tel. 970-243-2778. E-mail: <terry_ireland@fws.gov>.

Prairie Dog Hunting Illegal In Colorado: The Colorado Wildlife Commission has banned recreational

hunting of black-tailed prairie dogs. The purpose of the Commission’s ban is to keep that state’s prairie dogs from being listed. Prairie dogs throughout the Western states may be listed as “threatened” on the Endangered Species Act, according to the USF&WS. In reality, the ban will do little to serve its purpose because hunting is one of the lesser causes of prairie dog decline. Introduced disease and loss of suitable habitat have lead to the finding issued by the



USF&WS that black-tailed prairie dogs may be listed throughout their range.

Conservation Force’s Website: This is a reminder that our website address is www.conservationforce.org. We have links to all the state and federal wildlife agencies. Use it to get everything from federal import permit forms to state seasons and regulations. We are also linked to all the major hunting conservation organizations, from the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus to the Interna-

tional Professional Hunters Association. You can do a lot of great surfing from our web. You can also contact us by e-mail at cf@conservationforce.org.

Woodland Caribou Delisting Denied: The USF&WS has denied a petition to delist the Woodland Caribou from the Endangered Species Act, 65 FR 65287. The downlisting petition was not made by the hunting community. The petition was filed by the Chamber of Commerce of Bonners Ferry, Idaho on six grounds. The species has been listed since 1984 and the review demonstrates that it is not likely to be delisted in the foreseeable future. A federal recovery plan has existed since 1994 but has provided little or no recovery.

Ducks Unlimited and Hunters Inseparable: Ducks Unlimited’s (DU) January/February 2001 magazine leaves no doubt about the natural relationship between DU and hunting. DU’s Executive Vice President, Don Young, states “that hunting and Ducks Unlimited are inseparable institutions. In fact, DU and hunters enjoy one of the most mutually beneficial relationships anywhere.” He states, “Of course, hunters and others who enjoy the outdoors (fishermen) have raised more money for real, on-the-ground conservation projects than any other group combined.” “DU’s founders were all concerned sportsmen who realized the value of conservation work to the future of hunting - one of our most

cherished traditions.”

“What it comes down to is this: DU and hunters are partners in a natural, inseparable relationship. And the glue that holds that relationship together is passion. For 64 years, the members of DU have been passionate about their conservation mission . . . [M]ore often than not, hunters and conservationists are one and the same. True hunters have a passion for wildlife . . . [a]nd a passion for protecting both the future of our natural resources and the future of our outdoors traditions. It’s a time-tested relationship. (For hunters) it’s the natural thing to do.”

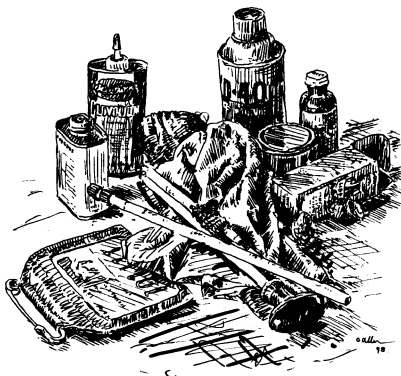
In our estimation, DU is irrefutable proof to disbelievers that sportsmen are the foremost conservationists, hence a conservation force. DU and hunters have no conservation match in the world. That is undeniable. DU has raised more than \$1.3 billion and put it where it counts, contributing to the conservation of more than 9.4 million acres of prime wildlife habitat for 900 species of wildlife. Sportsmen are responsible for our 95 million waterfowl. We can be Proud.

Grizzly Bear: Conservation Force is actively involved in bear conservation on many fronts. Now, we have also become a member of the Grizzly Bear Committee of the Wyoming Guide and Outfitters Association (WYOGA). More than 17 hunters were attacked by grizzlies in that region this year. We know it, because that was how many grizzly were reported killed in self defense, with the exception of a few that were mistaken for black bear.

WYOGA is leading education and training programs to reduce conflicts, conserve the bears that appear to be very abundant (one friend recently saw eight grizzlies in two days of deer hunting) and protect hunters and hunting interest. Members of WYOGA voluntarily equip their hunting clients with bear spray and instruct them how to use it. A number of authorities are reporting that pepper spray can be more effective than a firearm when a bear attacks.

More than half the people who shoot bears in self defense are still injured by bears that are not stopped on the spot, while bear spray has been successfully employed to totally avoid injury more than 90 percent of the time.

Dog and Cat Protection Act of 2000: The Dog and Cat Protection Act of 2000 passed Congress and was signed by President Clinton. The



Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), pushed the legislation. It prohibits interstate trade, possession or international commerce in cat or dog pelt or skin for commercial purposes. We tracked this HSUS legislation because the cat and dog definition could have easily been broad enough to include wolves and mountain lions, but was not. Cats are de-

defined as *Felis catus* and dogs are defined as *Canis familiaris* in the Definition section of the Act. The hearing and legislation “findings” make it clear that the targeted species are dog and cat pet species, specifically stated not “fox, rabbit, coyote, wolf and mink.”

The legislation also has a provision exempting importation, exportation and transportation of personal pets that are “deceased, including a pet preserved through taxidermy.” Despite HSUS’s promotion of the legislation, the stated purpose of the Act is to eliminate the unfair trade practice of passing off cheaply acquired pet fur for more expensive wild animal fur. Ironically, the legislation improves and protects the competitive position of those industries trading pelts and skins from wild animals.

Congressional Repositioning: Congressman Don Young, Republican from Alaska, is to remain in a leadership position on the House Natural Resources Committee. Though he is no longer the Chairman, he is now the Vice Chairman of the committee. Congressman Young has been the champion for hunters and wildlife management interest. For example, he fathered the reform of the National Wildlife Refuge Act that made hunting and fishing priority uses.

Another good note is, Congressman George Miller (who was the ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee) is no longer on the committee. He had been the foremost spokesman for anti-hunting interest. Had he become chairman, it would have been a dark period for sportsmen’s interest. He led the campaign against CAMPFIRE funding, and even took a personal interest in opposing cheetah trophy imports from Namibia. Correspondence from him was cited by the Service in its denial of the Namibian Cheetah downlisting petition. - *John J. Jackson, III, Chairman.*

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

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