



“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: WASHINGTON

Legislative Matters
Fund for Animals Is
Focusing On Four Bills

In the Fund for *Animals Capital Hill Update* for the Summer 1999, they ask their members to get their Congressmen to support specific legislation. The Update describes the following four as “exciting animal protection legislation.” (1) Endangered Species: H.R. 960, the Endangered Species Recovery Act, that has been introduced by Rep. George Miller (D-CA). Miller is the leading Democrat on the House Resources Committee and commonly represents anti interest. Should the Democrats become the majority party at the next election he can be expected to replace Don Young as Chairman of that important committee. Right now Young is the sportsmen’s best friend. (2) Canned Hunts: H.R. 1202, the Captive Exotic Animal Protection Act, reintroduced in the 106th Congress by Rep. George

Brown (D-CA). He is represented as “a longtime supporter of animal protection” by the Fund. The Fund states “[t]he bill would ban the interstate commerce and transportation of exotic mammals used in canned hunts (the unsporting practice of killing tame animals in fenced-in enclosures.)” In



reality it would end the very existence of exotic animals much less all recreational hunting of them. (3) Leghold Traps: H.R. 1581 introduced by Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) and S.1006, introduced by Senator Robert Torricelli (D-NJ) which “would ban steel-jawed leghold traps which cause severe in-

jury and suffering of wildlife and family pets. Several states and 88 foreign countries already prohibit these cruel devices.” In reality leghold traps are an important wildlife management device. As this is being written the antis have succeeded in adding an amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill in the House to eliminate trapping for recreation or commerce on all National Wildlife Refuges, 92 million acres of which 85 percent or 77 million acres are in Alaska and the balance is spread across nearly every state. It is important for removal of invasive pests like nutria and predators like coyote. Amazingly, 62 members of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus mistakenly voted for it. It is expected to be introduced in the Senate by Senator Robert Torricelli (see S.1006 above), and there will be an all out battle. The bill would eliminate the trapping by eliminating the funding to “authorize, permit, administer or promote” it, all of which are necessary for the activity to take place under the *Refuge Reform Act* that passed several years ago. It proves we

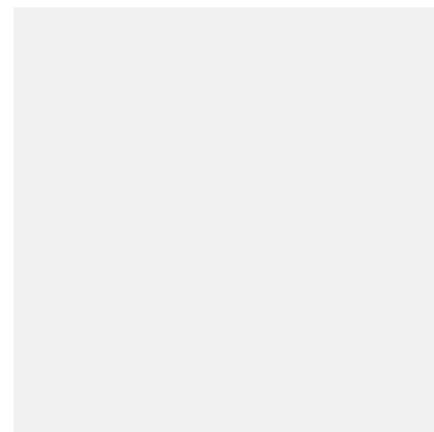
must forever be vigilant or pay a very heavy price for neglecting our interest. (4) Great Apes: S.1007, the Great Ape Conservation Act has been introduced by Senator Jim Jeffords (R-VT). “This bill would establish a federal fund from which grants could be made to protect gorillas, chimpanzee, bonobos and orangutans in the wild.” In reality this is a copy of the African Elephant Conservation Act and Tiger/Rhino Conservation Act that ex-Congressman and sportsman Jack Fields introduced that have become model acts. It seems to be a component of a new scare campaign by the antis to save the gorillas, chimps, etc. of West and Central Africa – the new elephant. It no doubt relates to an alleged bushmeat (including primates) trade crisis that you will be hearing more about as the protectionists search for a new elephant to center-stage for fundraising. There are two ironies in this. The first is the fact that the need for creation of a special legislative fund for apes proves once again that the Endangered Species Act has little in benefits for foreign species. The second is that in East and Southern Africa people eat cattle in lieu of bush animals with the result that the cattle displace wildlife and are viewed to be a conservation threat. In West and Central Africa, the people eat bushmeat because of the absence of cattle, but the consumption of bushmeat is viewed as a possible threat to conservation. The conservation formula in the South is less cattle and in the West, more cattle. Where cattle exist, it is perceived to be a threat, where it doesn’t, it is perceived to be the solution.

DATELINE: US WEST

**News... News... News
Yellowstone Grizzly
Plan Bears Watching**

The draft criteria for recovery of the grizzly in and around Yellowstone is available and is open to public comment. It is of interest to all hunters and recreationalists.

There is a progression that’s of concern. The Fund for Animals filed the litigation that originally stopped the hunting of grizzly bear and effectively all game species listed as “threatened” within the continental U.S.A. Now, bear-human conflict and resultant mortality arising from general hunter presence and access to the recovery area and the number of hunters in the U.S. Forest areas surrounding the park are all becoming an issue because of the Fund. Will they stop other hunting as well? The draft plan definitely calls for the monitoring and ultimately the control of access roads, hunter numbers, all recreationalists and livestock in the surrounding national forest and wilderness areas. In 1993, the recovery plan was first issued by the USF&WS, but it has been in litigation since then. In 1994 the Fund for Animals and 22 other organizations and individuals filed suit attacking it. Then the National Audubon Society and 19 other organizations and individuals filed suit. The new draft plan addresses the issues raised in those suits that the USF&WS had to supply to the Court in May, 1999. The draft generally provides an example of the limits as well as the complexity of modern wildlife science. It analyzes everything from the choice foods of grizzly to methods of estimating populations. “The available habitat for bears is largely determined by human activities.” “There is no known way to calculate the number of grizzly bears that can live in an area in relation to ongoing changes in habitat values nor to fully understand the social system of the grizzly and how it is influenced by changes in bear density (number of bears in a fixed area) and related social interactions (between the bears) at various densities.” “As food availability fluctuates, there are corresponding changes in bear density . . . and changes in social tolerance within the bear population.” “Additional numbers of bears . . . result in increasing human/bear conflicts and resulting erosion of public support for bears and expansion of bear range.” All these bear-bear and human-bear relationships are complex and act in relation



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to densities of bears, densities of humans, and availability of foods.” The criteria states that “there is no quantitative way to precisely estimate the number of animals required for a viable population of any species.” It estimates that the grizzly population in the Yellowstone area is growing at the rate of 3 to 4 percent or more per year. The “probability of persistence for the Yellowstone population is greater than 95 percent even out to a 500-year time period.” “Its probability of extinction is 0.0004 (4/10,000) – a very low probability.” “Human activities are the main factors that influence grizzly bear survival.” The draft lists activities that cause conflicts between humans and bears which result in increased bear mortality. They include roads, trails, numbers of hunters and numbers of livestock allotments. There are significant hunting areas in Mon-

“In fact most of the recovery area is hunting area, and hunting is perceived as a conflict-causing use that is increasing.”

tana, Idaho and Wyoming involved. In fact, most of the recovery area is hunting area, and hunting is perceived as a conflict-causing use that is increasing. The number of hunters is increasing, and the number of mortalities caused by hunters is increasing. The Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone is 9,209 square miles. The park is only approximately 40 percent of the Recovery Zone. Surrounding U.S. Forest Service land is 59 percent, and two percent is private land. “Hunters are one of the primary conflicts with grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem,” according to the draft recovery criteria. “A significant number of bear mortality have been due to bear-hunter encounters.” The draft provides that if the increases in bear mortality can be related to increases in hunter numbers “then management agencies will act to minimize such conflicts... initially by outreach/education efforts, and if these fail by limiting hunter numbers

to those levels where grizzly mortality (accumulated from all sources) is within the limits in the Recovery Plan.” “While the number of hunters using the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone in Wyoming has slightly increased, the number of self defense shootings of grizzly bears by hunters and/or licensed outfitters and guides has increased in the last 10 years. There is disagreement as to why this is occurring. Theories range from too many hunters in occupied grizzly habitat, bears learning to seek food at the sound of gunshots, to more bears increasing the odds of bear-hunter encounters. The reasons for the increase in bear mortality are not that clear-cut, however. The most consistent theme is that most of the bear losses could have been avoided if people had acted



according to recommended safety standards.” “The number of elk hunters in Wyoming in the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone... were estimated and compared to grizzly bear mortalities, both verified and probable from 1988 to 1997 to determine if bear mortality is correlated to hunter numbers. The data show there is little relationship between hunter numbers and human-caused grizzly mortality.” (Emphasis added). Apparently the greater number of hunters has not been causing the escalating bear mortalities, and the mortalities are within sustainable limits. This is particularly important because up to 41,269 hunters per season hunt elk not counting other species in or within 10 miles of the Recovery Zone. (Up to 17,842 in Wyoming, 20,645 in Montana and 2,782 in Idaho. Most of the recovery zone is outside of the park. The four principle

food items of the Yellowstone grizzly have an interesting connexity to human-bear conflicts. They are the seeds of Whitebark pine, army cutworm moths, large ungulates (mostly calf elk or winter mortalities) and spawning cutthroat trout. There are significantly more bear mortalities from human/bear conflicts when there is a shortage of one or more of those natural foods. To the contrary, “[d]uring years when these food sources are abundant there are very few human/bear conflicts in the Yellowstone ecosystem . . .” The ecosystem is unique in that “ungulates are a major food source, as indicated by bear scats, feed site analysis and bear hair isotope analysis in the Yellowstone ecosystem. On average, approximately 79 percent of the diet of adult males and 45 percent of the diet of adult females... is meat.” “Ungulates rank as the second highest source of net digestible energy available to grizzly bears” in the area. “Ungulates are also important to bears because they provide a high quality food source during early spring before most vegetal foods become available.” “Grizzly bears feed on ungulates primarily as winter-kill carrion from March through May.” “Grizzly bears also obtain ungulate meat through predation on elk calves.” Winter kills are monitored under the plan on more than 41 spring ungulate carcass survey routes. The army cutworm moth is also a hot food item. As many as 51 different grizzly bears have been observed feeding at moth sites on a single morning. The moths “have the highest calorie content per gram of any bear food and are available during the late summer-early fall periods when bears are consuming large quantities of foods in order to acquire sufficient fat levels for winter.” A grizzly’s annual energy budget is reported to be 960,000 calories, and in 30 days feeding extensively on moths a grizzly can consume half of that. The bears also work the streams hard for spawning cutthroat trout because the “trout are one of the highest sources of digestible energy available to bears.” In Yellowstone Park one year 44 different bears were making use of the streams around Yellowstone Lake

alone. Whitebark pine cones are also an important food. When cone production is low, the bear “seek alternate foods at lower elevations in association with human activities, and the number of nuisance bear management actions and human - caused grizzly bear mortalities both increase during fall. During years when whitebark pine cones are abundant, there are generally very few grizzly human/bear conflicts during the fall season. Whitebark pine are threatened by infections of white pine blister rust which is being

monitored. Other areas are being affected as well as hunting. “Existing sheep allotments will be phased out as the opportunity arises” according to the draft. Ironically, snow machine use is not yet thought to be a problem because of the season in which it occurs. There are formulas or models to evaluate the effect of everything including motorized access, e.g. IGBC Motorized Access Management process, etc. “Motorized access is one of the most influential factors affecting grizzly bear use of habitats.” “[I]n

addition to open road density, restricted roads and motorized trails are important.” The development of sites on public lands is also to be frozen at its 1998 level because it allows “a stable to increasing grizzly population.” The deadline for public comments is September 15, 1999 to the Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, USF&WS, University Hall, Rm. 309, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812. Call if you want a copy of the draft criteria from Conservation Force.

Briefly Noted

NAACP Suit: There is a new twist to the firearms litigation. The NAACP has filed suit against the industry on behalf of black Americans. The media does not reflect the race of crime victims any longer, but the latest suit most certainly does. Black Americans suffer the most from gun violence in our cities. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is not suing for money damages. It is asking for court orders to monitor firearm distribution and limit sales.

Don Clower To Head Idaho Commission: Don Clower, who headed the Sportsmen’s Heritage Defense Fund, has been named to the Fish and Game Commission of Idaho. The Sportsmen’s Heritage Defense Fund was the organization that defeated the HSUS anti-hunting bear initiative in Idaho in 1996. It was the only ballot initiative we won that year. He has been a hunter education instructor for 15 years and was the chairman of the Idaho Wildlife Council which is one of the largest sportsmen’s groups in Idaho. He received the National Sportsmen’s Outstanding Achievement Award from FNAWS in 1997 and similar awards from others. I have worked on and off with Don for much of this decade and can attest that he will bring a lot to the table for the good people and wildlife of Idaho.

Disabilities Act Expanded: The federal government has issued a notice of

proposed rulemaking to amend the Americans With Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) by adding a new special application section for recreational facilities that are not adequately addressed by the existing guidelines. The proposed new section will cover boating facilities, fishing piers, shooting ranges, trails, golf ranges, etc. The proposal was published in the Federal Register on July 9, 1999. There is to be a public meeting on August 26 in Dallas, Texas, and public comments must be filed before November 6, 1999. The 62-

page document is available by dialing 202-272-5434, pressing 1, then 1 again and requesting publication S-37. It is also available on the Internet at <http://www.access-board.gov/rules/recnprm.htm>. The ADA is a civil rights law to prohibit discriminations on the basis of disability. It applies to newly constructed and altered commercial as well as public facilities. The committee has been working on these special recreational guidelines since 1993. The new architectural guidelines explicitly cover boat gangways, boat slips, boat launch ramps, docks and piers.

Agreement to Protect Congo Basin: The World Wildlife Fund reports the signing of the “Yaounde Declaration” by five governments pledging to create new cross-border protected areas in the forest of the Congo Basin. This begins a new transborder initiative between Gabon, Cameroon and Congo-Brazzaville designed to protect 8.6 million areas of forest in addition to the existing protected 2.5 million between Cameroon, Central African Republic and Congo-Brazzaville. WWF describes the Congo Basin generally as “the world’s second largest tropical forest” containing “[o]ne quarter of the world’s rain forests. The heads of five African governments including the President of Cameroon attended the summit and signing. WWF has long been involved in the region.

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

MEMO

To: Jim Young, Print N Mail
From: Nilton Aquino, The Hunting Report
Re: August 1999 Issue of Conservation Force Supplement
Date: August 2, 1999

Jim,

Here's the August 1999 issue of the Conservation Force Supplement, to be inserted in The Hunting Report. Don't forget to insert John Jackson's picture on page 2. Please fax "blue lines" for approval ASAP.

Total print run is 4,050. That includes 3,905 copies for insertion into The Hunting Report (active circulation); 50 copies to be shipped directly to John Jackson; and the remaining 95 copies are to be shipped to us here in Miami. As usual, bill John Jackson for all costs relating to Conservation Force.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Nilton