



“SERVING THE HUNTER WHO TRAVELS”

Special To The Hunting Report
World Conservation Force Bulletin

 by **John J. Jackson, III**

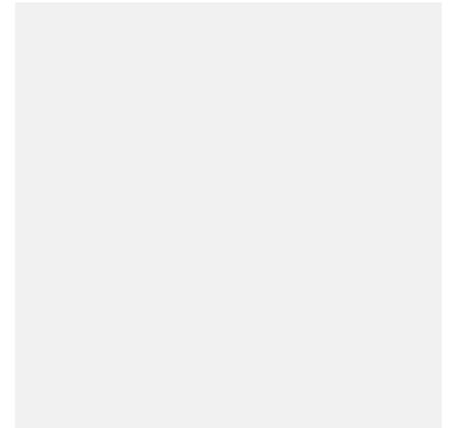
“Hunting provides the principal incentive and revenue for conservation. Hence it is a force for conservation.”

The *Hunting Report* is pleased to have formed a strategic alliance with famed wildlife and hunting attorney, John J. Jackson, III, whose many successes in the international legal arena include blocking an effort to list the African elephant as endangered on the US Endangered Species List. The purpose of the alliance is to provide fee-based legal services for individual hunters as well as class-action-type services for groups of hunters. More broadly, the alliance will also seek to open up new hunting opportunities worldwide and ward off attacks on currently available opportunities. See page 4 for details on how to inquire about those services. An immediate benefit of the alliance to paid subscribers is this occasional column by John J. Jackson, III on matters of interest to hunters. The column is an added bonus, printed on additional pages budgeted for that purpose, so it does not diminish the hunting coverage you have grown to expect from *The Hunting Report*. On the contrary, Jackson’s column adds depth and a new dimension to our coverage of world hunting. It makes your subscription to *The Hunting Report* more valuable than ever. Enjoy! - *Don Causey*.

Gun Ban for Individuals Convicted of a Misdemeanor Crime of Domestic Violence

It is now unlawful for “any person” to transfer a firearm or ammunition to a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence crime. To do so is a federal felony punishable by 10 years’ imprisonment. It is likewise unlawful for any person ever convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence offense to possess a firearm or ammunition. The new provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968 were enacted and effective on September 30, 1996 as part of the 1,700-page Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997. Yes, part of the appropriations bill! Domestic violence is all-inclusive. It includes all misdemeanor offenses that have an element of the use or attempted use of physical force between two spouses, between parents and their children and between guardians and their wards. In lay language it is a federal felony

for such a person to be in the same house or vehicle with a gun or even a bullet. Because constructive possession is so broad, guns and ammunition have been outlawed in more households than ever before. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms issued an Open Letter To All Federal Firearms Licensees on November 26, 1996 advising that the act includes all misdemeanor domestic violence offenses, state and local ordinances, even if the offense is not specifically defined to be one of domestic violence. “For example, a person convicted of misdemeanor assault (the mere threat of a battery) against his or her spouse would be prohibited from receiving or possessing firearms or ammunition.” The new law applies “even if the conviction occurred prior to the new law’s effective date, September 30, 1996.” Firearms dealers can contact their



JOHN J. JACKSON, III
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local ATF office or the Firearms and Explosives Regulatory Division at 202-927-3800 with questions. There is one relief for the hundreds of thousands of individuals, gun dealers and households that will be directly effected by this legislation. The law does not apply if the conviction that constituted the domestic violence is expunged or has been pardoned.

Ballot Referendums and Initiatives

The animal extremists take undue credit for their limited referendum success at the polls. They didn’t invent the referendum process nor do they monopolize it. There were more than 240 ballot initiatives this past November on the environment alone approving more than \$4 billion dollars in new spending on environmental concerns. One political consulting firm estimates that more was spent on all of the various ballot initiatives than on the presidential campaign. Ballot initiatives are in vogue. It is just that simple. The most touted bal-

lot success of the animal extremists is the failure of the California Mountain Lion Initiative this past year. A more accurate perspective comes from the realization that mountain lions have not been sport hunted in California in over 25 years. It has been the status quo for a quarter of a century, consequently not a great animal rights victory to brag about. The division among hunters over the propriety of hunting big game with dogs is also not an invention of the anti-hunters for which they deserve credit. Some hunters have felt that the use of dogs is un-

sportsmanlike for more than a century (not this writer). It can be observed early in an editorial in *Forest and Stream*, November 6, 1884, by George Bird Grinnell who asked “Is hounding a legitimate way to kill deer in the Adirondack?... Ought it be abolished? Can it be abolished? Will it be abolished?” That commenced a signature campaign by sportsmen to end the practice. Teddy Roosevelt, then president of the Boone and Crockett Club, supported the *Forest and Stream* position. Within a few years, dog hunting was permanently illegal

in New York and other Eastern States quickly followed the example by forbidding dog hunting of deer. The point is that anti-hunters today are merely taking advantage

of a long-standing division over sportsmanship practices that has long existed between various hunting interests. They are just adding to the wedge until we get

as smart as hunters did in the states of Michigan and Idaho. Michigan and Idaho hunters achieved victory because they pulled together.

Polar Bear Sport Hunting Regulations Coming Soon

“...sport hunting has stimulated the greatest advances in polar bear conservation in decades”

The US Fish and Wildlife Service’s regulations governing import of sport-hunting polar bear trophies are imminent. They may be published before you read this. It has been more than 2 1/2 years since Congress passed the amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act that authorized the trophy imports. Regardless of what the regulations provide, the biological status of polar bear has improved as a direct consequence of the increase in sport hunting of the bear. The IUCN Red List book does not even list the polar bear in any threatened category. It is merely found to be dependent

upon the conservation it is receiving. The revenue the Inuit people are deriving from their polar bear



harvest has tripled since the MMPA reform. The total number of polar bear harvested annually has decreased by 100 which is ap-

proximately 20 percent. Even more significantly, the harvest has shifted away from females to males, which itself will lead to a greater population of bears. The top scientist in the Northwest Territories advises that sport hunting has stimulated the greatest advances in polar bear conservation in decades. Safari Club International, particularly Dr. J.Y. Jones, the Director of SCI’s Polar Bear Initiative, has been the single most instrumental force in the positive conservation developments. It remains to be seen whether the US Fish and Wildlife Service will hamstring the positive developments.

International Fund for Animal Welfare Rejected by IUCN

The animal rights organization that has contracted with the South African Park Board to pay \$2.5 million dollars for elephants not to be killed has been rejected for membership in one of the most respected and influential organizations for conservation in the world. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) is most noted for its work to stop the harvesting of seals. Recently IFAW and HSUS made simultaneous proposals to the Park Board that

dealt with everything from culling to elephant birth control. The Park Board rejected the HSUS proposal but is reported to have accepted \$2.5 million dollars not to ever harvest or cull elephants on new land they are being relocated to that IFAW is purchasing. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) does not seem to share the Park Board’s regard for IFAW. IFAW’s membership was rejected by 25 votes to one by the IUCN’s governing Council. Then IFAW appealed its

membership denial to the IUCN World Congress in Montreal and was soundly defeated. 79 governments voted against its membership and only 23 voted in favor of its admission. 169 non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) voted against it and only 87 voted in favor. It needed a two-thirds vote to succeed in its appeal and is now disqualified to reapply for membership for five years. Many of those conservationists who warned the Park Board of South Africa not to contract with IFAW hold it in

● **Briefly Noted** ●

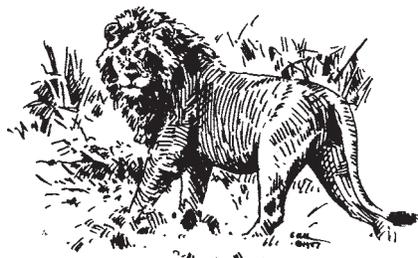
Urial Listing, HSUS 1997 Calendar, And More...

equally low esteem.

Urial Listing: The US Fish and Wildlife Service has been of the published opinion that most urials were not intended to be listed on Appendix I of CITES. Now, all urials are expected to be officially treated as being on Appendix I after the 10th Conference of the CITES parties in June 1997. If the US Fish and Wildlife Service adopts that position, US hunters will have to get Appendix I import permits before a urial trophy can be imported lawfully into the US. It was the Appendix I listing of markhor that stopped their import. That may regrettably be true of the urial as well. Hunters report a great abundance of urial. The original listing of the urial is suspect. The inclusion of all urials within that listing is bound to compromise the species instead of save it. It remains to be seen whether the US will honor the reform of resolution 2.11 as amended at COP 9. Those amendments clarified that an importing country was not intended to duplicate the biological findings that the exporting country must make to authorize the sport hunting of the Appendix I species that exporting countries are in the best position to make. It may be inconsistent for authorities to follow the resolution treating all urials as being listed while simultaneously ignoring another resolution, 2.11, exempting sport hunted trophies from findings that retard their import. At COP 9, in Fort Lauderdale, the US Secretary of Interior, Bruce Babbitt, promised the nations of the World that the US would facilitate the import of sport hunted trophies. Urinals will

soon be the litmus test.

The Ghost and the Darkness: The recent motion picture *The Ghost and the Darkness* is based upon a true man-eating lion episode that occurred in Africa in the late 19th Century. You can tell disbelievers that the lion's periodic taste for human flesh is not unusual. In the past five years, some villages in Tanzania have been devastated by lion attacks on people. One village alone has had from 29 to 50 people killed a year. Even a Game Scout who was sent to the village to dispatch the man-eating lions was himself killed by the lions. The village is



on the edge of the Selous Reserve, which is only a few hundred miles south of the scene of the episode portrayed in the movie.

HSUS 1997 Calendar: The 1997 calendar that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has sent to its members describes its legislative agenda for the coming year. Its “federal legislative priorities include defense of the Endangered Species Act [and] banning ‘canned hunting’ operations.” It admits they “...are working to eliminate hunting and trapping on national wildlife refuges” and “...to stop the senseless killing of predators.” It brags that “We are

also expert at organizing and passing statewide ballot initiatives banning hounding, trapping and many other forms of animal abuse.”

DU Conservation: Ducks Unlimited is most singularly responsible for saving duck hunting in the US by saving ducks themselves. It recently announced that its conservation contribution has now exceeded \$1 billion dollars! This remarkable record will not stand for long because DU raised \$77.6 million for conservation in 1996 alone.

Wolf Reintroduction: Defenders of Wildlife are circulating a signature petition to reintroduce wolf into Adirondack Park. It reports that more than 40,000 signatures in the state of New York have been obtained. Supposedly there is enough land and prey to support approximately 155 wolves. The idea is not entirely new. The Eastern timber wolf recovery plan first written in 1978 and revised in 1992 identified the Adirondacks and northeastern Maine as possible reintroduction sites. In Yellowstone National Park the wolf population is now at 40. The Service has reported that it will stop returning the wolves that leave the park. Instead it will allow the territory of the wolves to expand across the region.

(Editor Note: For more information on Conservation Force and/or the services available through Jackson's alliance with The Hunting Report, write: Conservation Force (One Lakeway Center, Suite 1045, Metairie, LA 70002. Tel. 504-837-1233. Fax 504-837-1145); or The Hunting Report, 9300 S. Dadeland Blvd., Suite 605, Miami, FL 33156-2721. Tel. 305-670-1361. Fax 305-670-1376.)