



"... the nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired in value ..."

—Theodore Roosevelt, 1910

NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION | THE UNTOLD STORY

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is the world's most successful. No other continent retains as close to a vast complement of native wildlife species. While other countries struggle to conserve the little they have left, we enjoy great abundance and diversity of native wildlife.

This is due, in large part, to forward-thinking early conservationists who saw the need to preserve wildlife and their habitats. Their efforts were the source of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which strives to sustain wildlife species and habitats through sound science and active management.

SPORTSMEN'S ROLE IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Hunting and angling are the cornerstones of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. These activities continue to be the primary source of funding for conservation efforts in North America. Through a 10 percent to 12 percent excise tax on hunting, angling and shooting sports equipment, hunters and anglers have generated more than \$10 billion toward wildlife conservation since 1937.

Though past conservation efforts have focused on hunted species, non-hunted species reap the rewards as well. Protecting wetlands for ducks, forests for deer and grasslands for pronghorn have saved countless non-hunted species from peril. Regardless of whether one chooses to actively participate in hunting or angling, people interested in wildlife and its future should understand the conservation role sportsmen play.

WHAT IF HUNTING ENDS?

Hunters and anglers actively support wildlife conservation through tangible actions such as buying licenses and paying taxes on hunting and fishing equipment. Why are hunters and anglers so willing to support conservation through their pocketbooks? Because people place added value on — and are willing to pay for — what they can use.

In some states, the number of hunting and fishing licenses sold has remained stable in recent years. But given the rate of population growth, particularly in Western states, the percentage of people participating in hunting and fishing is actually decreasing. There is no alternative funding system in place to replace the potential lost funds for conservation. If hunting ends, funding for wildlife conservation is in peril.

CALIFORNIA SPORTSMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS*

Economic activity associated with hunting and fishing is a vital part of California's economy. Sportsmen, in California, annually contribute the following:

- California hunters and anglers spend \$3.5 billion.
- Their spending directly supports 56,000 jobs and generates \$487.5 million in state and local taxes. This especially benefits rural communities.
- Jobs supported by hunters and anglers pay employees more than \$2.3 billion in salaries and wages.
- Sportsmen support more jobs in California than the U.S. Naval Station in San Diego (56,000 vs. 43,000**), the state's largest employer.
- The economic stimulus of hunting and fishing equates to \$18 million a day being pumped into California's economy.

* "America's Sporting Heritage – Fueling the American Economy" (2013). Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

** Inforgroup/Government Division - <http://referenceusagov.com/> (2012)

CALIFORNIA CORE CONCEPTS OF NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Wildlife is Held in the Public Trust

The public trust doctrine means that wildlife belongs to everyone. Through shared ownership and responsibility, opportunity is provided to all.

Regulated Commerce in Wildlife

Early laws banning commercial hunting and the sale of meat and hides ensure sustainability through regulation of harvest and regulating commerce of wildlife parts.

Hunting and Angling Laws are Created Through Public Process

Hunting seasons, harvest limits and penalties imposed for violations are established through laws and regulations. Everyone has the opportunity to shape the laws and regulations applied in wildlife conservation.

Hunting and Angling Opportunity for All

Opportunity to participate in hunting, angling and wildlife conservation is guaranteed for all in good standing, not by social status or privilege, financial capacity or land ownership. This concept ensures a broad base of financial support and advocacy for research, monitoring, habitat conservation and law enforcement.

Hunters and Anglers Fund Conservation

Hunting and fishing license sales and excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment pay for management of all wildlife, including wildlife species that are not hunted.

Wildlife is an International Resource

Proper stewardship of wildlife and habitats is both a source of national pride and an opportunity to cooperate with other nations with whom we share natural resources. Cooperative management of migrating waterfowl is one example of successful international collaboration.

Science is the Basis for Wildlife Policy

The limited use of wildlife as a renewable natural resource is based on sound science. We learn as we go, adapting our management strategies based on monitoring to achieve sustainability.