



Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow

Hunting Awareness & Conservation Education

Hunting in Wildlife Conservation: Past, Present, and Future – Part 2

Goal: To transform the historical context provided in Part I into a forward-looking discussion about the modern applications, limits, and influence of hunting to current conservation policy and funding in North America. Specific practices, inconsistencies of North American Model principles, and challenges moving forward are addressed relative to participants' current job responsibilities and agency mission. One of the largest of those challenges is funding conservation and managing resources under the public trust doctrine – who pays, who decides, and what roles do agencies have?

Objectives: After this block of instruction the participant will be able to:

1. Explain how public trust is germane to the work roles and daily lives of conservation agency and organization personnel, with specific attention to those attending this workshop.
2. Recognize that user pay/public benefit is still the primary funding model and source for many agencies:
 - a. With specific attention paid to Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Funds, the changing demographics of who pays those funds, and recent policy changes.
 - b. That model has changed and is changing across the United States.
3. Recognize the associated value and focus on Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3) related programs to regenerate customer base and challenges to R3 and other models (e.g., PR and revisions and hunting license & fee increases as solutions).
4. Recognize the trend in conservation funding and support efforts generally engage a broader set of wildlife and user groups (e.g., Restoring Americas Wildlife Act, tax basis funding) not at the exclusion of hunting and fishing, but rather in synergy.
5. Critically review and discuss past, present, and future models of funding for conservation and the possible effects on hunting and hunters, conservation agencies and personnel, public and access, and natural resources in general.

Why This Is Important for a Natural Resource Professional

Wildlife conservation in North America was developed through a unique set of circumstances shaped by historical events, as previously presented in Part 1. As most

agencies grapple with funding, turning to R3 and PR revision as the answers, some states have already changed their funding model from user pay/public benefit to taxpayer pays, changing the influences and priorities on conservation. This will affect personnel throughout wildlife agencies and organizations, regardless of their position.

Additional Resources:

An American Crusade for Wildlife by J.B. Trefethen

Placing Hunting in Perspective by The Wildlife Management Institute (This publication is not available electronically; hard copies may be available at workshops and/or by contacting CLFT staff well prior to a workshop.)