



Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow

Hunting Awareness & Conservation Education

Role of Hunting in Society

Goal: To convey an overview of the economic, social, and political influences of hunters and hunting on society in the United States.

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

1. Describe the current values (intrinsic, scientific, economic, ecological, cultural, biological, and personal) of hunting to various publics
2. Explain that most but not necessarily all hunters consider hunting more than sport or recreation – that it is a matter of lifestyle, culture, tradition, and fundamental values.
3. Describe public perceptions and misperceptions of hunters and hunting and how those perceptions can influence hunting values and opportunities
4. Explain how political and special interest considerations may supersede or constrain wildlife management/ hunting decisions and actions based on sound biological and social science.

Why This Is Important for a Natural Resource Professional

An in-depth examination of hunting makes it much more difficult to simply dismiss hunting as an archaic activity that has no place in modern society. Understanding the complex array of intrinsic, scientific, economic, ecological, cultural, social, biological, and personal components that motivate hunters will assist resource professionals who are developing programs and regulations that are more likely supported by the hunting community. In addition, understanding the economic, social, and political context in which hunting takes place will help professionals better articulate the role of hunting to society at large and will improve the support for their conservation programs.

Additional Resources:

Dizzard, J.E. and R.M. Muth. 2001. The value of hunting: connections to a receding past and why these connections matter. *Transactions of the sixty-sixth North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference* 66:154-170.

Knezevic, I. 2009. Hunting and environmentalism: conflict or misperceptions. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 12(1):12-20.

Peterson, M.N.. 2004. An approach for demonstrating the social legitimacy of hunting. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 32(2): 310-321.

Seng, P.T., D.J. Case, M. Conover, D.J. Decker, J. Enck, S.N. Frey, M.Z. Stange, B. Staton, R. Stedman. C. Thomas, D. Thorne. 2001. Contributions of hunting to North American society and culture. *Transactions of the sixty-sixth North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference* 66:202-231.

Southwick, R., M. Teisl, and M. Gable. 2001. Economics: How it can assist hunting and wildlife management. *Transactions of the sixty-sixth North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference* 66:233-242.