



Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow

Hunting Awareness & Conservation Education

Contemporary Management Issues

Goal: To convey that hunting and harvest management, however contentious or complicated, are core responsibilities of resource management professionals.

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

1. Identify, review, and discuss hunting and non- hunting issues with potential impact on hunters with which resource agencies commonly grapple.
2. Explain that wildlife professionals must deal with issues practically and efficiently, not merely academically or philosophically and thus must weigh many different perspectives and possible outcomes of management decisions.
3. Recognize that hunting related issues are rarely resolved with consensus.

Why This Is Important for a Natural Resource Professional

Hunters are, and will remain, an important constituency for resource management. However, hunters are only one of many stakeholders in conservation issues. Hunters have been historically critical to conservation funding, but new funding initiatives could alter that balance. Regardless, as discussed elsewhere in CLFT, hunters can be an important, powerful, conservation ally. But they can also be an opposition force to management actions if they feel decisions could reduce hunting opportunity. Professionals must consider the potential impacts on hunting embedded in ANY management or regulatory actions they are involved with. Issues or regulations can be explicitly related to hunting or only impact hunting indirectly, as noted above. Given the diverse pool of stakeholders and hunter groups involved in any conservation issue, consensus is elusive, but even without it, decisions must be made and conservation programs advanced.