



Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow

Hunting Awareness & Conservation Education

Hunting in Wildlife Conservation: Past, Present, and Future - Part 1

Goal: To convey how, over time in the United States, hunting has influenced the emergence of conservation and the science of wildlife management, with emphasis on both historical significance and current influences.

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

1. Explain the evolution of hunting in the United States, including subsistence, exploitation, recreation, and regulated.
2. Explain that the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (NAM) is a historical retrospective based on successful practices.
3. Explain the historical importance of hunting and hunters in wildlife management and their influence on the NAM.
4. Explain the concept of Public Trust as being central to conservation management and unique to (parts of) North America.
5. Explain conservation funding past to the present and the changing influences, including user pay/public benefit (e.g. PR, state licenses and fees) and taxation models.

Why This Is Important for a Natural Resources Professional

Wildlife Conservation in North America was developed through a unique set of circumstances shaped by the industrial revolution, over exploitation, and those that championed and restored not only game, but wildlife in general. The cumulative experience of these events evolved to shape our wildlife policies, philosophies, and practices resulting in the identified seven principles of the North American Model. Understanding the rich history that hunting and hunters have played in developing conservation (and habitat protection) programs will assist professionals in developing programs that enhance conservation efforts. Understanding the core principles, legal landmarks, and challenges will assist in communicating to users and the public in general the need for support in evolving views, priorities, and funding. Understanding the various roles that public and private entities can play in achieving conservation objectives will assist in developing strong coalitions to achieve conservation objectives. It is also important to understand that conservation programs in other areas of the world have evolved under different environmental conditions, social and cultural

contexts, and economic systems. All of these programs or models are still evolving and can learn from each other to achieve improved on-the-ground conservation.

Additional Resources:

An American Crusade for Wildlife by J.B. Trefethen

Placing Hunting in Perspective by The Wildlife Management Institute (not available electronically. Hard copies available at workshops and/or by contacting CLfT staff)

Organ, J.F., V. Geist, S.P. Mahoney, S. Williams, P.R. Krausman, G.R. Batcheller, T.A. Decker, R. Carmichael, P. Nanjappa, R. Regan, R.A. Medellin, R. Cantu, R.E. McCabe, S. Craven, G.M. Vecellio, and D.J. Decker. 2012. The North American model of wildlife conservation. Wildlife Society Technical Review 12-04. The Wildlife Society, Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

Organ, J.F., S.P. Mahoney, and V. Geist. "Born in the Hands of Hunters: The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation". The Wildlife Professional, Fall 2010. p. 22-27.

Mahoney, S.P., and D. Cobb. "Future Challenges to the Model." The Wildlife Professional. Fall 2010. p. 83-85.

Campbell, M., and K.J. Mackay. 2009. Communicating the role of hunting for wildlife management. Human Dimensions of Wildlife 12(1):21-36.

"Final TWS Position Statement: The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation". The Wildlife Society. Bethesda, MD. 2007.

Conover, M.R. 2001. Effect of hunting and trapping on wildlife damage. The Wildlife Society Bulletin 29(2):521-532.

Geist, V., S.P. Mahoney, and J.F. Organ. 2001. Why hunting has defined the North American model of wildlife conservation. Transactions of the sixty-sixth North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference 66:175-185.

Hansen, L., and J. Beringer. 1997. Managed hunts to control white-tailed deer populations on urban public areas in Missouri. Wildlife Society Bulletin 25(2):484-487.

Reiger, J.F. 1975. American sportsmen and the origins of conservation. Winchester, New York, New York, USA.