

## A Balance Between Humans and Nature

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To conserve, or to not conserve. That is the real question, is it not? Hunting has been a part of human nature as long as history stands. Oftentimes, people who do not hunt misunderstand the impact hunting has on the environment. However, hunting is just a small part of the big picture known as conservation, this is because the money hunters spend on tags goes straight to the conservation fund.

In today's world people do not think about how hunting helps the conservation of wildlife because they just see it as the killing of harmless animals; however, this is not correct. Conservation is the protection of species in order to keep them from going extinct. According to the *National Wildlife Refuge System*, “hunters directly support wildlife in many ways” because “since 1934, almost 6 million acres of habitat have been conserved with the help of Duck Stamp funds” and “through the Pittman-Robertson [Act], sportsmen and women have contributed more than \$14 billion to conservation since 1937” (“Hunters as Conservationists”). Because of funds such as the Duck Stamp and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, also commonly known



as the Pittman-Robertson Act, the wildlife populations have sufficiently increased. For example, according to *NEBRASKAland Magazine*, “in 1907, only 41,000 elk

remained in North America. Thanks to the money and hard work invested by hunters to restore and conserve habitat, currently there are more than 1 million elk!" ("Why Hunting Is Important"). This statement is major because it shows that hunting is leading to the conservation of wildlife, and the populations are still growing because the amount of tags in each state is regulated.

Many wildlife management centers depend on sportsmen and women for funding of their



program. *NPR* explains that, "state wildlife agencies and the country's wildlife conservation system are heavily dependent on sportsmen for funding. Money generated from license fees and excise taxes on guns, ammunition and angling equipment provide about 60 percent of the funding



for state wildlife agencies, which manage most of the wildlife in the U.S." ("Decline In Hunters Threatens How US Pays For Conservation"). This means that if hunting was to no longer exist, wildlife funding would not be enough to help conserve the wildlife of the U.S. With that there would be an abundance of animals and "they'd probably eat a lot more of our crops, predators would eat our cats, and there may be more animal-borne diseases to deal with, but we'd

probably see a lot more animals” (Is Hunting Conservation? Let’s examine it closely). But would that really be worth it? It does not seem so. If the animals were to eat more of the crops then there would not be enough for the people in the U.S. leading to more poverty in not only the U.S. but also possibly worldwide. The animals would also become overpopulated and they would run out of land due to the fact that much of the land has now been urbanized. This would then cause them to catch each other's diseases more often and could lead to more sick animals

Hunting is important to wildlife conservation because it helps fund wildlife management



and it keeps wildlife populations under control. Hunting gives families the chance to step away from the busy world they live in and just enjoy family time and nature. The trade of hunting has been passed down generation to generation, and it is the world’s responsibility to keep it that way.

Sources:

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