

DNREC- Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife

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Hunting and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

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COMPONENTS OF NORTH AMERICAN MODEL

- Wildlife as Public Trust Resource
- Elimination of Market Hunting of Wildlife
- Allocation of Wildlife by Law
- Opportunity for all
- Wildlife can only be Killed for a Purpose
- Wildlife Considered International Resource
- Science is Proper Tool for Wildlife Policy

NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- WILDLIFE AS PUBLIC TRUST RESOURCE



Whose Wildlife is it?

- European Model was/is that Wildlife belongs to the landowner.
- Colonialists left for some of the same reasons – land, rights etc.
- In this case a landowner could kill everything on his/her property without public input – private rights.
- The Public Trust only works when balanced with reasonable protections for the landowner

NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- ELIMINATION OF MARKET HUNTING FOR WILDLIFE



Elimination of Markets for Wildlife

- “Tragedy of Commons” – If it’s free some take as much as they can!
- Rapid declines when value placed on dead wildlife.
- Market Hunting caused species decline. No extinction cause by recreational hunting.
- Examples – Bison, Passenger Pigeon, White-tailed deer and turkeys

Early 1900's



Unregulated hunting activities were becoming unsustainable and habitat was decreasing.

License sales alone could not support national wildlife conservation efforts.

NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- ALLOCATION OF WILDLIFE BY LAW



Allocation of Wildlife by Law

- Surplus Wildlife are not allocated by market, birth right, land ownership, or special privilege
- Public input into allocation provides opportunity for all citizens to be involved in wildlife management.
- In Delaware this is through Statutes and Regulations. In most cases statutes define DFW's rules and Regulations define the public/user rules.

NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

DEMOCRACY OF HUNTING
OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

- Contrast with European Model (haves vs. have nots)
- North America: broad interest in maintaining wildlife (all are stakeholders)

NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- WILDLIFE CAN ONLY BE KILLED FOR LEGITIMATE PURPOSE



Wildlife can only be killed for a Legitimate Purpose

- Laws define acceptable purpose for take
- Code of sportsman mandates use without waste – wanton waste
- Food, Fur, Self-Defense, Property Protection
- Wanton Waste – bands, feathers, antlers , or disposal etc.

NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- WILDLIFE ARE CONSIDERED AN INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE



Wildlife Considered an International Resource

- Recognition that wildlife transcend boundaries
- One Nation's management can affect the other's resources
- Best example is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1916
- 2 Bird Limit on Canada Geese, 2 Black Duck Limit and 4 Mallard Limit

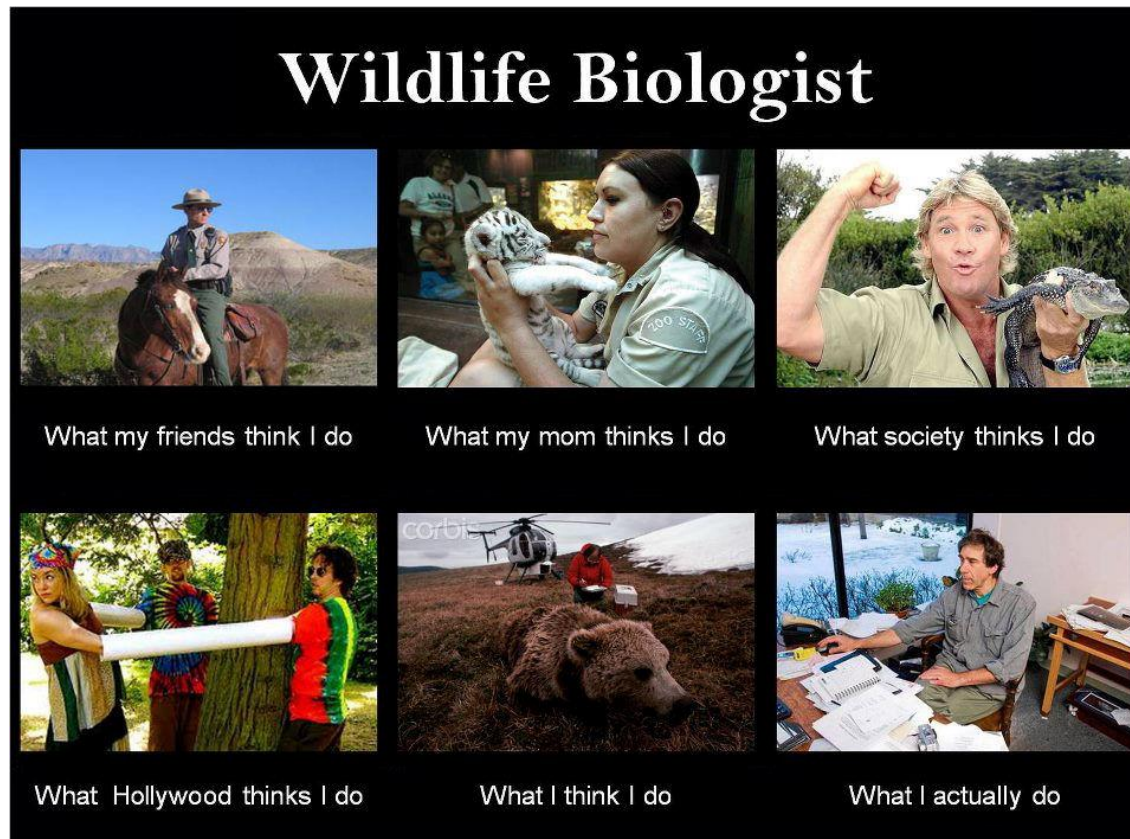
1937 Wildlife Restoration Act passed

User pay/user benefit model – excise taxes on sporting firearms, ammunition, and hunting gear fund national wildlife restoration and conservation programs.



NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- SCIENCE IS PROPER TOOL TO DISCHARGE WILDLIFE POLICY



Science is proper tool for discharging Wildlife Policy

- Wildlife Management is a Profession
- Avoids/limits politics – Flyway Example
- Aldo Leopold – Father of Wildlife Management - 1933
- Decades ahead of global neighbors

TODAY'S ISSUES

“SPRAWL” and HUNTING

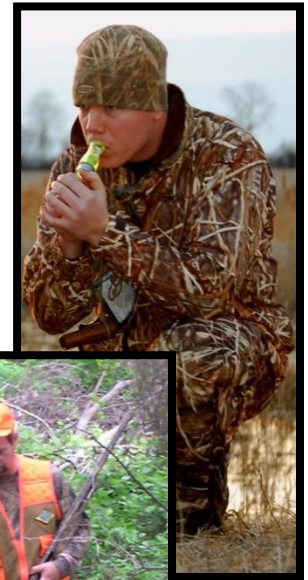
- MORE AMERICANS LIVE IN URBAN OR SUBURBAN VS. RURAL COMMUNITIES
- HUMAN:WILDLIFE CONFLICTS
- INNOVATIVE REGULATIONS AND HUNTING IMPLEMENTS
- HABITAT LOSS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Economic Importance of Hunting

Hunters and trappers in Delaware generate approximately \$4.2 million/year for wildlife management, research and public hunting lands through...

- License Purchases
- Federal Excise Taxes (Equipment)

Hunters spend \$61.7 million each year in Delaware, adding to the state's economy and supporting 549 private sector

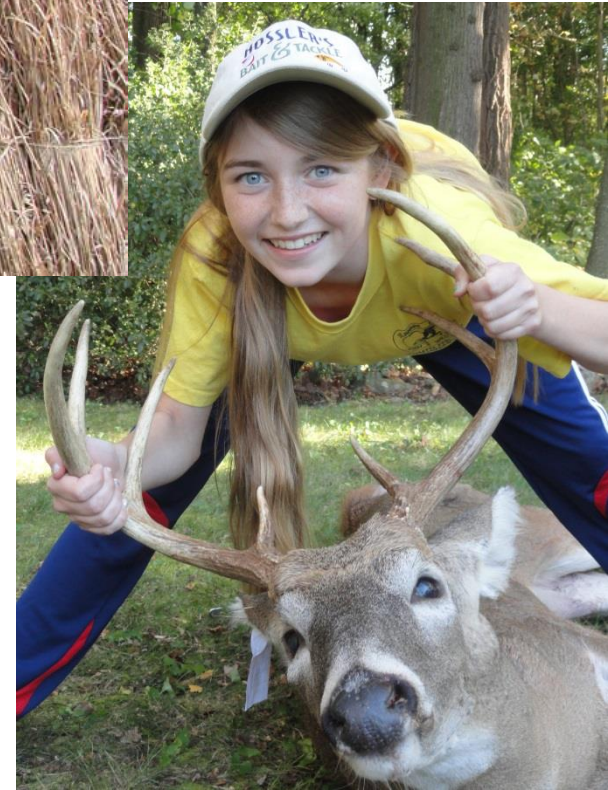


Economic Importance of Wildlife Watching

- Wildlife watchers spend millions of dollars each year in Delaware, adding to the state's economy and supporting private sector jobs.
- Nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of Delawareans are "Wildlife Watchers" (~250,000)
- Contribute nearly \$170 million to Delaware's economy



MORE WOMEN ARE HUNTING



Threats to Model

- Game Ranching
- Overabundant Wildlife
- Commercialization of Wildlife
- What people think about hunters and why they hunt.



WILL THE MODEL SURVIVE?

- 54% of AMERICANS **DON'T APPROVE** OF HUNTING FOR SPORT/RECREATION
- 86% **APPROVE** OF HUNTING FOR PUTTING MEAT ON THE TABLE



LEGAL REGULATED HUNTING

Separates ethical hunters from poachers.



Assure people that legal, regulated hunting does not endanger wildlife populations.



Acknowledge that hunting may not be for everyone.



Questions?

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