

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Facts for the Hunter & Conservationist

So many times during the past several years, I have been subjected to a high level of scrutiny and often criticism, for admitting to being a hunter and in the same breath claiming to be a staunch conservationist. Has it happened to you?

I have found that using simple facts I have committed to memory, without being defensive, is the best response. Next time the anti-hunting conversation comes up, you might use the particulars that I do, and explain that hunters represent approximately 15% of the public-user base and pay nearly 80% of the bill to support wildlife. Here is the information to support these numbers:

1. Hunting and fishing license fees contribute nearly 50% of the revenue to operate state and fish wildlife agencies.

2. The Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 places an excise tax on the sale of all firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. This amounts to about 23% of the revenue used to operate state fish and wildlife agencies.

3. Sportsmen's organizations indirectly contribute another 6% a year to state fish and wildlife agencies (Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Pheasants Forever, and on and on).

4. Hunters and fishermen are the only outdoor recreationists who pay for the privilege of using these resources.

5. Of the 100 million-plus Americans who benefit from wildlife

recreation, only 15% of them are licensed hunters.

6. You might also mention to the anti-hunter that even the Bible supports the reasoning behind hunting. A good friend (who happens to be a man of the cloth) and I were hunting elk, several years ago in Idaho. We were lying on an outcropping of rock glassing the facing mountain and were talking about the philosophy of the hunt and man's need to hunt. He quoted from Genesis I, verse 28 (I looked it up later), "Multiply and fill the earth and subdue it; you are master of the fish and birds and all animals."

I would appreciate your sending to me, any arguments which you have found to be persuasive in convincing those who believe hunters cannot be conservationists.

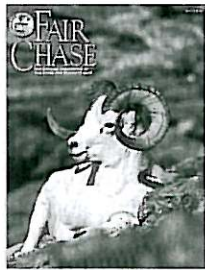


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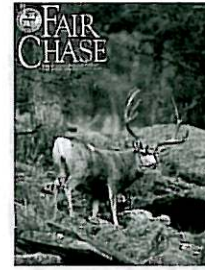
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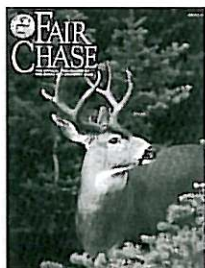
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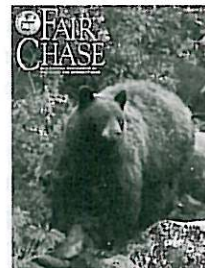
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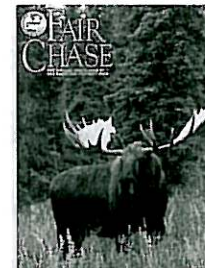
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