

PUBLIC SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DETERMINES THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE APPROVE OF HUNTING

Seventy-three percent of America's voting public approves of hunting, and 81 percent believe hunting should continue to be legal, according to results of a recently released study conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1994. The yearlong survey, which randomly phoned 2,085 people across the nation and included only 376 active hunters and 351 inactive hunters, clearly showed the 1,358 nonhunters contacted approved of hunting as a conservation method.

"This study puts to rest the age-old animal rights claim that the public does not approve of hunting," said John J. Jackson III, President of Safari Club International. "It's obvious the public-at-large fully comprehends the necessity of scientific wildlife management through hunting, and acknowledges its unparalleled revenue-generating capacity for critical wildlife conservation efforts that otherwise would go unfunded."

"The study also determined that anti-hunter sentiment does not significantly affect the overall satisfaction hunters have with hunting," Jackson said. "Less than 10 percent of the hunters listed it as a concern, even though most hunting protests are covered in detail by the media with little mention of all the good America's sportsman has accomplished."

— SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

CONCERNED CITIZEN AND GAME WARDEN LASSO ELK

LARAMIE— If team elk roping were a rodeo event, Laramie game warden, Bill Haley and Cheyenne hunter, Gary Lowe would lead the standings.

The men teamed up September 1 to lasso and pull to safety two elk -- a rag horn bull and a cow -- out of a bog near the head of Illinois Creek in the Snowy Range. Assisted by Haley's 12 year-old son, Justin, who held the flashlight, the team of wildlife law enforcement

and conscientious sportsman worked over two hours in the dark hand-wincing the animals to their rescue.

"The elk couldn't get out on their own because the perimeter of this bog was just like the sides of a bathtub -- hard and slick," Haley said. "The bog must have been spring fed because the water was really cold. If it weren't for Gary Lowe taking action, there would be two dead elk in that bog now."

Lowe chanced upon the animals while bowhunting that afternoon. He reached Haley at home around 6:15 p.m. and waited for the warden near the scene. "It's a good thing Gary was willing to meet me, because you couldn't have given me enough directions to find the remote spot in the dark," Haley said.

Using a "come-a-long" and a lasso around its antlers, the bull was

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winched out "without much problem," according to Haley. The cow proved to be more of a challenge. Lacking antlers for attachment, it took repeated attempts to get a lasso around the cow's neck in the 4 by 12-foot bog. Taking precautions to prevent choking, the men slowly eased the animal out, but after removing the lasso the bewildered elk bolted back into the bog. Trying again, they lassoed its front legs and coaxed the exhausted elk out a second time and forced it away from the water.

"You just don't see that type of guy very often," Haley said referring to Lowe. "He went out of his way to help those elk when he

might have said, 'the heck with fair chase' and shot one in the bog. He deserves a lot of credit for his wildlife respect."

— WYOMING GAME & FISH

NUMBER OF HUNTERS AND ANGLERS STABLE WHILE REVENUE FROM LICENSE SALES CLIMBS

The number of hunters and anglers remained roughly stable during 1994, while expenditures for licenses, tags, and other permits rose sharply, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced.

The Service reported that 15.34 million hunters purchased licenses last year, a slight decrease from 15.63 million in 1993. Hunters bought the same number of license, tags, permits, and stamps -- 31.6 million -- but spent more to do so, \$525.8 million in 1994 compared with \$492.7 million in 1993.

Revenues raised through license sales support state wildlife conservation management, aquatic resource education programs, and hunter safety and education programs.

"The support hunters and anglers have provided in the form of license fees has been one of the foundations of the conservation movement in America, contributing billions of dollars for wildlife and habitat programs and projects over the years," Service Director Mollie Beattie said. "All Americans have benefited from their contributions."

License sales figures are compiled annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from information submitted by state fish and wildlife agencies. State funding through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration programs, both administered by the Service, is apportioned in part by the number of paid fishing and hunting license holders in each state.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has hunting and fishing programs on many of the 504 national wildlife refuges it manages when compatible with the reason a refuge was established. Currently, 272 refuges allow hunting while 254 allow fishing.

— DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR