



Whether or not hunting has a real future in North America will not be solely determined by North Americans.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

We live in a global village. Understanding the importance of wild meat to food security, livelihoods, and economies is a global concern for international scientific, social, and political institutions and legislative bodies facing international pressures to discontinue and, in some cases, criminalize, sustainable wild animal harvests, which critics incorrectly deem “irrelevant” and “harmful.”

In the past, there has been a disproportionate focus on the study of wildlife harvests in tropical and sub-tropical regions. As a result, the

North American circumstance, which has been uniquely successful in terms of wildlife restoration, conservation, and management, has been largely ignored in scientific literature and international debates.

Yet, we know that decision-making processes influencing policies and laws that impact the North American Wild Harvest Community begin most often in international forums where treaties and conventions determine best paths forward for regions and nations.

It is no longer sufficient to prove that recreational hunting and fishing in

North America are sustainable. We must also prove that our traditions have value that resonates beyond the less than 5% of the population who actually participate, extends to non-hunters, and can be understood and appreciated by individuals who are generally opposed to use.

The Wild Harvest Initiative® has proven an effective vehicle to deliver this messaging to the global decision-making community in a way that cannot be dismissed or ignored. In providing relevant, accurate analyses of the combined conservation, economic, and social (including food and health) significance of sustainable

wild meat and fish harvests in the U.S. and Canada, we are bolstering international support and tolerance for sustainable wildlife use around the world and, especially, in North America.

Recent Engagements

Very recent engagements have included participation in the 24th Meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) and the 3rd Meeting of its Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3), as well as technical review of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' (IPBES) new Sustainable Use of Wild Species Assessment (second draft). The latter,

especially, provided a very meaningful opportunity to interject key WHI principles, which must now be considered for inclusion in a final document draft that is intended to provide guidance concerning sustainable use activities to its 134 Member States.

Upcoming Engagements

Looking forward, we have planned attendance and meaningful participation in a number of international forums over the course of the next several months. These include the Annual Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), as well as a CPW Wildlife Forum; the One With Nature World of Hunting and Nature Exhibition and World Conservation Forum; the 111th Annual Meeting of the

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA); the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) World Conservation Congress; the 35th Congress of the International Union of Game Biologists (IUGB) & 15th Perdix Congress; the 67th General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC); the 3rd Meeting of the CBD's Open-ended Working Group (OEWG); and the CBD's CoP15.

Opportunities for Partners

Partners who are interested in exploring opportunities to engage more directly with international forums and sustainable wildlife use decision-making processes are encouraged to reach out and discuss further with Conservation Visions.



OTHER PROGRESS REPORTING

Wild Harvest Initiative® Database

Hunting and Harvest Data Analyses

The collection of hunting records for the period 2016-2019 is expected to be completed during the next four months.

Economic Valuation

Work to assign accurate retail dollar values to recreationally harvested fish species in Canada is complete.

A technical paper focusing on the food value of Canada's recreational fishery is in process.

Database Updates

The Wild Harvest Initiative® Database is being updated, and will also receive a facelift, as we prepare to migrate it to a cloud-based server. The new and improved set-up has been designed to facilitate controlled remote access and data sharing, as well as more complex analyses and interdisciplinary research.

Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index

We are delighted to report that our Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Surveys are progressing well and ahead of schedule.

Our Wyoming Survey was launched at the beginning of June and responses have already surpassed the minimum required to enable all planned analyses, including comparative

analyses with other states and regions. The survey is also receiving considerable media attention in Wyoming, which bodes very well for promotion and distribution of broader results and related social messaging.

Wyoming Media links:

https://www.wyomingnews.com/news/local_news/game-fish-to-study-role-of-hunting-and-fishing-in-food-system/article_d057deab-ccc6-578a-bee5-e96caed0e784.html

<https://capcity.news/latest-news/2021/06/07/wyoming-gf-survey-to-help-wild-harvest-initiative-study-role-of-hunting-fishing-foraging/>

<https://oilcity.news/community/2021/06/07/wyoming-gf-survey-to-help-wild-harvest-initiative-study-role-of-hunting-fishing-foraging/>

<https://localnews8.com/news/wyoming/2021/06/08/game-and-fish-to-study-the-role-of-hunting-and-fishing-in-food-system/>

<https://buckrail.com/game-and-fish-to-study-hunting-an-angling-impacts-on-food-system/>

Our Nevada Survey is scheduled for launch by June 30th and Arizona is also on track to launch its survey during the month of June.

We will continue to work with staff at Alaska Fish and Game to finalize and mobilize a survey in that state before the beginning of next quarter.

We are in discussions with other U.S. states concerning subsequent surveys.

We are also currently investigating the possibility of expanding this program initiative to administer similar surveys in other parts of the world, thus potentially documenting the true universality of the wild meat sharing phenomenon.

Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance

Exploring New Partnerships

We are currently engaged in partnership discussions with several organizations, including an alternative energy company, a land trust, and an international NGO focused on sustainable wildlife use and community-based natural resource management.

Communications

Factsheets

A new WHI factsheet focused on elk (*Cervus canadensis*) will be released this week (Attachment 1). Special thanks to our Partner, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, for providing feedback.

Films

We've produced a new short film with Backcountry Hunters & Anglers that is now ready for distribution and will be launched next week. It focuses on the important linkages between wild harvesting and public land, an issue of relevance to the entire Partnership. Please look for this film in your email and on your

social platforms. We encourage all Partners to support this effort and share as widely as possible.

We've also produced a new short film with Nevada Department of Wildlife, which discusses our program and the Wild Harvest Community. This film was primarily purposed for internal use, but should become available for public viewing in the coming weeks (we'll share a link with everyone ASAP).

New Promotion

We've recently purchased ad space in the 2021 USA TODAY Hunt & Fish publication. This special edition magazine, produced and distributed by USA Today Sports Weekly, will "celebrate the Great American Wild and Her triumphant re-opening in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic." The magazine will hit newsstands in late Summer and will commemorate National Hunting & Fishing Day.

Additionally, USA TODAY will feature a complete digital edition of Hunt & Fish on their official website, usatoday.com, which experiences approximately 129M unique visitors monthly.

We look forward to also sharing this link with you once it becomes available.



THE WILD HARVEST INITIATIVE® PARTNERSHIP ALLIANCE



Not pictured is Richard A. "Dick" Corbett