FROM THE PRESIDENT

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The Secret World Inside the Animal Rights Agenda — Part One

Queen, country and fox hunting are dear to England's landed gentry, all part of the rarefied world of inherited privilege and tradition. However, when the British Labor Party banned fox

hunting in England in 2004, the victory went not to the liberal politicians, but rather to the secretive, clandestine, Machiavellian worldwide animal rights and liberation movement begun in the early 1960s by a group of United Kingdom Oxford University academics known as the "Oxford Group." Animal rightists and liberationists are of a very different orientation than the antihunting movement, which is a minor component of their agenda.

Rightists are a distilled, radical extension far beyond anti-hunters, driven by intellectuals, academics and the scholastic legal community in a global political movement. Animal rights advocates seek to end the rigid moral and legal distinctions drawn between humans and animals, end the status of animals as property or prey, and end their use in research, food, clothing, hunting and fishing, and the entertainment industries. Their aim is to remove an animal's current status as "property," and to recognize and grant animals "personhood"; that is, to award them legal rights and standing on the same terms humans enjoy fundamental rights to protect their basic interests. The "bible" of the modern animal rights movement, Animal Liberation, was authored in 1975 by Professor Peter Singer from Princeton University.

The philosophical and moral foundations for the animal rights position are that animals have the ability to suffer and feel pain, and that capacity is the vital characteristic that gives every creature with a will to live the right to equal consideration which must be recognized in any moral community and philosophy of natural law. Contrarians argue that animals lack rationality to distinguish between right and wrong; they lack language and are not able to enter into a social contract, make moral choices, assume moral obligations, nor have a moral identity; and hence, cannot be regarded as a possessor of rights. Only humans have duties, therefore only humans have rights, and rights must be accompanied by duties. Theologically the idea of a divine hierarchy based on the concept of "dominion" from Genesis (1:20-28) has been interpreted for centuries to imply ownership, i.e., property rights over birds, wild animals, livestock, and fish.

Animal Welfare morphs into Animal Rights

Since ancient times, animals have been protected from cruelty and animal welfare has been a consistent theme in animal protection legislation. In England, this became an important movement in the early 19th century where it grew alongside the humanitarian current that advanced human rights, including the anti-slavery and women's suffrage movements. In 1824, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) was established in London, followed in 1866 by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), and in 1875 by the National Anti-Vivisection Society, opposed to animals being used in research, was founded. Two years later (1877), the American Humane Association (AHA) was formed as an advocate for both child protection and animal welfare/animal shelter programs. Following World War II, the growth of affluent suburbia and the increase of an elderly population living independently combined to increase the need for pets and companion animals. Today 43 percent of households have pets in this country. Humane groups flourished and prospered on this expanding base of pet owners, and

with their growth came conflicts amongst their leaders over the extent to which principles of protectionism animal should be articulated and advocated. During this same period, societal progressivism ushered in the civil rights and women's liberation movements, disability, handicapped and elder rights, the global human rights movement, the growth environmentalism and the recognition of endangered species, the right to life movement, and most recently, gay and lesbian rights. The

extension of "rights" principles by analogy to animals became an easy reach for activist radicals both here and abroad when environmentalists began winning endangered species protection in the courts starting in the 1970s.

Agitation for more advocacy following World War II split the AHA, and in 1954 The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) split off, and then in 1960 suffered its own split when The Society for Animal Protective Legislation (SAPL) was created, which has lobbied for every important measure on animal legislation since. SAPL is presently an arm of the Animal Welfare Institute which was founded in 1951. These have included the Humane Slaughter Act (1958). the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act (1966), the Endangered Species Act (1969), the Horse Protection Act (1970), the Wild Horse and Burro Act (1971), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972), and all extensions and amendments thereto.

One of the more philosophical animal rightists groups in California clearly defines the animal rightists' demarcation from the original animal welfare movement drawn by them today:

The animal welfare movement begun in the mid-19th century... was quite limited to improve the treatment of animals that were being utilized by humans without changing the basic nature of the human-animal relationship. That relationship was and still is largely based on ownership and exploitation.

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the animal rights movement recognized that there is no way that humans can own and exploit animals without cruelty as the very acts of ownership and exploitation invariably lead to horrific abuses and deny animals the natural lives that their species were intended to lead. Thus, the animal rights movement seeks nothing less than the complete transformation of our relationship with other species from one based on ownership and exploitation, to one based on a guardianship model in which all human relationships with animals must be based on what is in the best interest of the animals, not humans. The guardianship model for animals is itself based on the guardianship model used for children and it recognized that animals, like children, cannot protect themselves from many harms and need special protections. Thus, the animal rights movement seeks to create legal protections for animals, not as an end to themselves, which is the goal of animal welfare, but as stepping stones on the way to the total liberation of animals from the ancient model based on ownership and exploitation.

Fortunately, the animal rights movement's influence in the animal welfare community seems to be growing every year with more and more animal welfare organizations, like HSUS, adopting animal liberation goals including the most important to our transformation to a more humane human species: vegetarianism. Thanks to animal rights groups like PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), Farm Sanctuary and the League for Earth and Animal Protection, we can look forward to the day when the animal welfare movement will be relegated to the dust bin of history, where it belongs, to be replaced by true animal liberation (League for Earth and Animal Protection website, www.leapnonprofit.org).

HSUS didn't start out as an animal rightist organization in 1954, but by 1990, in the view of one watch dog group, Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF), its focus changed from animal welfare to animal rights spurred by the influence of the British Oxford Group's philosophical influence and militant competition to capture donations being attracted by PETA, which was started in 1980.

Rhetoric and linguistics became the bridge the animal rights and liberation movement led by HSUS used to hook the emotions of the world's public into believing animals had "rights." The humane movement had been grounded primarily in sincere,

benevolent sentimentality towards animals, and the words they used to express their sentiments were "welfare," "inhumane," "cruel," and "protection." These are the same words used by the animal rightists interchangedly over the last 50 years, but they deviously added the concept of "rights" into their rhetoric. Subconsciously the public has now come to believe that animals really do have rights because of our confusing parlance using words with multiple meanings that evoke emotional

reaction. Emotion seems to always win over facts, and once emotion is provoked, financial contributions readily follow. That's why animal rightists use these words interchangeably with numerous photos and videos of mistreated dogs, puppies, kittens, cows, horses, etc., to theoretically raise money to protect animals from cruelty. That's the con, because the money doesn't make it to your local animal welfare shelters. It goes to support the hidden agenda of animal rightists groups, i.e., get animals to be recognized with "personhood," and award them legal rights, and end their use in research, food, clothing, hunting, entertainment, and as pets and companion animals.

HSUS Uncovered

The two most recognizable animal rights organizations are HSUS and PETA, both major multi-national conglomerate enterprises. HSUS's name, Humane Society of the United States, can easily confuse contributors into thinking HSUS is a sanctioned government organization or agency, which it is not, and that its donations go to local animal shelters. Conveniently enough, HSUS is headquartered in our Nation's Capital; hence, it has a Washington, D.C., address. To perpetuate the government connection myth, one of the leading investigators and authorities on animal rightist tactics reports that "... in the mid-1990s, HSUS partnered with the U.S. Postal Service to send out 125 million oversized postcards saying: 'Don't let your dog bite the hand that serves you!' Recipients were asked to send a donation in

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a self-addressed stamped business envelope to HSUS. This was clearly a colossal fundraising freebie for HSUS. However, the real gift—in addition to the cost-free mailing to 125 million prospects courtesy of the U.S. Postal Service—was the huge credibility boost, gained by the apparent alliance with a government-run agency. This tactic succeeded in further confusing the public: United States Postal Service teams up with the United States Humane Society—it wouldn't be too much of a reach to think HSUS wasn't in some way government connected."

A February 2010 national survey conducted by Opinion Research Corporation in Princeton, New Jersey, determined that 71 percent of Americans think HSUS is the national umbrella group representing thousands of local humane societies all across America, and 63 percent believed HSUS contributed most of its money to affiliated local organizations that care for cats and dogs. HSUS is ruthless in using the rhetoric of its name and national image to confuse and deceive the American public to contribute to HSUS, not realizing their money is not going to local animal shelters. In 2008, HSUS made donations to pet shelter organizations in only 15 states—less than one-half of one percent of its budget. Between 2006 and 2008, HSUS spent \$277 million, yet only \$6.9 million or 3 percent went to local animal shelters in 39 states. The rest, \$270.1 million, was spent on litigation, lobbying, legislation, advertising, fundraising, direct mail, telemarketing, grant proposals, special events, public relations, and related programs and salaries

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for 555 employees with regional staffs operating in 33 states that service a reported membership and constituent base of 11.5 million. HSUS's 2009 annual report reveals HSUS has net assets of \$191.9 million, \$27.2 million in cash alone. Total revenues and contributions were \$126.7 million. Expenditures for fundraising were \$30.9 million, with an additional \$5.6 million spent for fundraising support services. In 2009, 37 cents of every dollar contributed to HSUS went back out to raise more money. This led the American Institute of Philanthropy to grade HSUS "C-minus" in 2009, and in 2010 Charity Navigator downgraded HSUS' rating from four stars to three because of its fundraising. Charity Navigator also downgraded HSUS' global arm Humane Society International from three stars to one, its lowest rating.

HSUS' diverse programs have included varying tactics to spread its message such as the following:

 The passage of 121 pro-animal state laws, 26 successful ballot initiatives nationwide such as a 2008 California ballot initiative (Proposition 2) to create stringent regulations for livestock farming, which included making it illegal for farmers from any of the 50 states selling eggs in California to maintain hens in confined cages (they want enlarged "enriched cages" comparable to a free-range system);

- Lobbying for legislation prohibiting releasebird shooting, dove hunting, bear baiting and hound hunting;
- Prohibiting the expansion of hunting and trapping on national wildlife refuges utilizing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA);
- Preventing a black bear hunting season in New Jersey;
- Banning trapping in the state of Washington (Initiative 713);
- Banning pork producers in Arizona and Florida from confining sows during pregnancy in gestation pens;
- Banning greyhound racing in Massachusetts;
- Supporting a "humane farms" political action committee and ballot group in Arizona and Colorado;
- Eliminating the use of animals in biomedical or any research labs;
- Phasing out pet breeding, zoos, rodeos, horse racing and circus animal acts;
- Promoting fur-free clothing, and ending fur sales at over 100 retailers including Saks Incorporated, Bloomingdale's, Macy's, J.C. Penney Co., and Lord & Taylor;
- Demonizing hunters and trappers;
- Disseminating literature and lesson plans to grade schools with the message that animals used in medical research is "bad";
- 35,000 classrooms (more than 868,000 children) in grades K-6 monthly receive KIND News promoting the consumption of only cage-free eggs, and the message that eating meat and drinking milk causes animal cruelty, thus promoting a vegetarian diet, and stories on how children must learn to live peacefully with wildlife and not disturb or hunt animals; and
- Infiltrating unsuspecting youth groups such as the National 4-H Conference, the Youth Convention of the U.S. Equestrian Federation, etc.

One of HSUS' major programs was enabled by the 1970 Horse Protection Act and 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act. Political agitation and litigation initiated by HSUS to compel the Bureau of Land Management to strictly interpret and implement the 1971 Act has now resulted in 37,000 feral horses and burros free-ranging in herds far larger than the carrying capacity of the land, degrading the landscapes by overgrazing and hardpacking the soil and polluting the streams

across 45.96 million acres of public rangelands. Another 33,000 feral horses and burros are in 35 government-maintained corrals and pastures that cost the American taxpayer \$40 million annually. That's 70,000 feral horses and burros the American taxpayer supports. In FY 2007, the federal government's budget to support this was \$38.8 million. In the FY 2011 budget, that figure has risen to \$75.7 million, and another \$42.5 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to buy land for feral horse and burro preserves in the East and Midwest.

USDA-regulated commercial horse slaughter for human consumption in America was halted by congressional mandate, driven by HSUS, forcing horses to be commercially slaughtered in Canada and Mexico by unregulated, inhumane means. American horse meat is considered a delicacy in many foreign countries. HSUS is currently lobbying Congress to prevent the export of horses from the United States for slaughter and human consumption abroad, the consequences of which may force many owners to simply abandon their injured, sick and old horses to die if they can't afford to euthanize and properly dispose of their carcasses.

For more on HSUS's activities, go to its website (www.hsus.org) and click on the links to "Campaigns," "Victories," Legislation," and "Legal Action." The scope of its diverse activities is both amazing and disturbing. HSUS CEO Wayne Pacelle is well-versed in the importance of political access and influencing policy decisions. Animal issues are a priority for politicians in maintaining their popularity and getting votes, given the public's mainstream interest in animals; hence public association for politicians with HSUS appears to be one of Pacelle's highest priorities in Washington in maintaining and cultivating HSUS's political agenda. Pacelle proudly says, "We've turned sentiment into legislation and law." It is reported that Pacelle, while working for the Fund for Animals (now part of HSUS) proposed in 1988 merging HSUS, PETA, and the Fund for Animals, which would have really increased their combined political muscle. Moreover, HSUS engages in campaign funding backing or opposing candidates based on their animal-related voting history. HSUS even has its own accredited Humane Society University in Washington, D.C., offering bachelor's degrees in Animal Study, Animal Policy and Advocacy and Humane Leadership.

According to the Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF), one item you will not find on the HSUS website is its connection to people like John "J.P." Goodwin, affiliated with listed FBI eco-terrorist organizations. Goodwin, a former Animal Liberation Front

(ALF) member with a lengthy criminal record and history of promoting arson to achieve animal liberation, was hired by HSUS in 1997, according to the CCF. The HSUS sent him to China on an anti-fur junket in 2000, and a year later he was identified as a HSUS legislative affairs staffer (www.activistcash.com). CCF continues reporting that "Goodwin himself has been arrested and convicted for being the ringleader of a gang that vandalized fur retailers in multiple states during the 1990s." The animal-rights newspaper Animal People News profiled Goodwin in 2000, noting that he "gleefully announced a string of Animal Liberation Front mink releases and arsons against furriers and fur farms" while a "spokesman" for the underground terrorist group. Goodwin also fielded press inquiries after a Petaluma, California, slaughterhouse arson in February 1997, and shocked the public with his comments on the March 1997 arson at a farmer's feed co-op in Utah. Referring to a fire that caused almost \$1 million in damage and could easily have killed a family sleeping on the premises, Goodwin told The Deseret News, "We're ecstatic." J.P. Goodwin doesn't represent HSUS' only intersection with the animal rights movement's violent underbelly. Miyun Park, a Washington, D.C., anti-meat activist hired by HSUS in 2005, was acknowledged in 1999 as a financial benefactor of No Compromise magazine, a publication that supports the ALF and promotes arson and other violent tactics. In an investigation leading to the 2005 animalenterprise terrorism trial of six SHAC (Stop Huntingdom Animal Cruelty) activists, Park was among those named in at least six federal wiretap warrants.

Animals Rightists take on Hunting

No one could have conceived that animal rights organizations could politically maneuver the British Parliament into banning fox hunting, yet in 2004 they did so, turning sentiment and emotion into public policy and legislation. HSUS President Pacelle speculated in 2004 that hunting in America, like the use of wild animals in circus acts and biomedical research, will end. Pacelle stated, "If we could shut down all sport hunting in a moment, we would. Just like we would shut down all dog fighting, all cock fighting or all bull fighting." HSUS with a staff of 30 attorneys (and a network of over 1,000 pro-bono attorneys) operating in its Animal Protection Litigation Section has led much of the litigation utilizing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to force continued protection of wolves and grizzly bears from hunting, as was reported in this column in the Spring 2010 issue of Fair

Chase. Moreover, they were a lead plaintiff in the case that convinced Federal District Court Judge Donald W. Molloy on August 5, 2010, to re-list the gray wolf as an endangered species in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming (even though biologically the wolves are recovered), perpetuating a case that has now been ongoing for years.

Since 1988, HSUS has been a plaintiff in 88 federal district court cases. In 2009 alone, HSUS spent \$26.3 million on advocacy and public policy. However under the Equal

Access to Justice Act (EAJA), enacted during the Carter Administration, and the Judgment Fund (1956), HSUS and other animal rightists and environmental activists groups recover most of their litigation costs and attorneys' fees, so it's cost effective and beneficial for them to perpetuate litigation such as the wolf appeals. During the last decade alone, \$36 million has been paid out to just nine animal and environmental activists groups alone under EAJA and the Judgment Fund in more than 3,300 lawsuits. In the Montana wolf case referenced above, in 2008 alone, HSUS petitioned the court for \$388,370 in attorney's fees, and were awarded \$263,099 by Judge Molloy. This represents an hourly rate of \$300 notwithstanding a federal statutory cap of \$125 per hour. HSUS received \$280,000 in 2007 for a similar wolf case in the Great Lakes Region. This continued litigation is the vehicle HSUS and other rightists groups have used as a cause-related issue to solicit donations through massive, well-choreographed national public relations and fundraising campaigns. The con is that these groups collect twice. For example, they pursue the wolf issue in court and cover first their litigation costs under the EAJA and the Judgment Fund, gain huge publicity that supports and legitimizes their fundraising, and then second, solicit money from unsuspecting donors to "finance" the litigation already paid for with taxpayer dollars per the EAJA and the Judgment Fund. All the while, appeals in the wolf cases remain in play as they have for years, and the wolf remains a listed threatened and endangered species, their populations continue to expand, and their food source populations (deer and elk) continue to decline; hence, the animal rightists win again in protecting and expanding the wolf populations. And, they cunningly win again in their

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campaign to stop hunting because as the elk and deer populations dramatically decline, sportsmen have fewer and fewer animals to hunt.

Here are the statistics just for the greater Yellowstone ecosystem that covers three states where the gray wolf was reintroduced in 1995-96 as a "nonessential experimental population." The official 1987 Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan provided that a sustainable population would be reached—and "recovery" assured—when three states (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) had a combined total of 300 wolves comprising 30 breeding pairs for three successive years. That objective was reached in 2002. Because of the prolonged litigation and inability of the three states to establish a hunting season (except for 2009 in Idaho and Montana), today the wolf population is 1,660—more than 5.5 times the 1987 agreedupon limit of 300. Moreover, the animal rightist litigants are now saying in court that the 1987 limits of a sustainable population of 300 was biologically incorrect, and the number should now be 3,000 wolves.

Now translate this into the effect this expanded wolf population has had on just one state, Idaho, which has the single-largest wolf population at 835. Idaho's management unit No. 10 on the North Fork of the Clearwater, part of the famed Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, has been home to one of America's classic elk herds. In January, 1989, the elk herd totaled 11,507 animals, with 2,298 calves, 604 yearling males and a cow-calf ratio of 100 to 30. Twenty-one years later in February, 2010, the elk population has declined to 1,473 animals (87 percent decline), 144 calves (94 percent decline), 14 yearling males (98 percent decline), and a cow-calf ratio of 100 to 17 (43 percent decline). Look at the effect



this has had on hunters, with the 2010 hunting season starting September 15, October 5 and 10, depending on the management unit. As of August 20, 2010, out of a quota of 12,715 available elk tags for Idaho residents, 7,421 remain unsold (58 percent). Available nonresident elk tags were 10,415, and 7,085 remain unsold (68 percent). The total non-resident whitetail deer tags available are 13,515, and 12,292 remain unsold (91 percent). Total license revenues lost by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game equal \$10 million, which is 12.8 percent of the department's annual budget of \$78 million. Not only has the continued wolf litigation protected and expanded the wolf population, it's dramatically taken down the elk and deer populations, reduced the incentive and number of sportsmen that want to hunt, and financially crippled the ability of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to effectively function, thus demoralizing their ability to manage their fish and game. Idaho outfitters are being put out of business, and related support services in the rural communities like motels, gas stations, grocery and sporting goods stores are all losing critical revenue. The objective of the animal rightist's clandestine, hidden agenda over many decades is now starkly revealed. HSUS' Pacelle would say, "Mission accomplished... for now!"

The reach of HSUS is global, operating in foreign countries under a variety of subsidiary and affiliated constituent names. The HSUS infiltrates legitimate animal welfare organizations here and abroad, and either take them over or gain enough influence operationally to change the group's agenda to fit HSUS' policies. Fund for Animals, The Doris Day Animal League, Ark Trust, Cleveland Armory Black Beauty Ranch, EarthVoice International, Earthkind USA, Worldwide Network, Inc., Species Survival Network, and The World Society for the Protection of

Animals are just a few classic examples of the organization's worldwide footprint, which CCF refers to as a true multinational corporation.

"Global Sanctuary System"

Another major vehicle HSUS has used to stop hunting, trapping and fishing is its Wildlife Land Trust (WLT) established in 1993 as a separate but affiliated 501(c) (3) organization, which issues its own annual report (see wildlifelandtrust.org). In 2009 alone, the WLT's revenues totaled \$7 million, 17 percent of which was spent on fundraising. The trust—which HSUS calls its "global sanctuary system"—has, through outright purchase, gift, bequest or conservation easements, created wildlife sanctuaries called "Shelters Without Walls," throughout the world. Since 1993 WLT has directly established 101 permanent wildlife sanctuaries in 37 states alone, and countless more in 12 foreign countries (see map). "Collaborations," as WLT calls its partnering with like-minded humane groups and governments both in the United States and across the world, have been used to lock up countless reserves and acres WLT doesn't fully disclose other than a footnote reference to 1.8 million acres in its 2009 annual report. In Australia alone as one example, 22,487 acres are in 64 separate sanctuaries.

HSUS/WLT export their sanctuaries' agenda through playing a synergistic and catalytic role in organizing local volunteer groups. Through this role HSUS/WLT supports a specific sanctuary project, lends fundraising and organizational know-how and expertise, serves as a fiscal agent during the organizational phase of a project, providing seed money and matching grants used for outright land purchase, conservation and migration easements. Funding is also provided for biological assessments and outreach

expertise, ecological and biodiversity surveys, field research and volunteer-driven assessments to establish baseline metrics, interpretive centers, hatcheries, and building rescue and rehabilitation centers. It doesn't stop there. WLT purchases cattle- and sheep-grazing permits and allotments to permanently close areas to domestic livestock, campaigns to end trophy hunting and promotes ecotourism as the alternative, and provides economic incentives to ranchers and farmers to not kill wildlife or permit others to do so on their property.

Annually individuals have applied for highly-prized permits and tags in limited harvest areas of North America for sheep, goats, elk, moose, bear and other big game, and once drawn, pay the requisite license and tag fees, but never hunt. It would be a good guess organizations like HSUS, WLT, etc. promote this practice of impounding limited harvest permits and tags quietly amongst its members. WLT's sanctuaries are closed to hunting and fishing. Livestock grazing and selective sustainable logging are also prohibited. Preserving critical habitats to create buffer zones and sanctuaries to avoid land fragmentation, and establishing migration and habitat connectivity corridors linking healthy animal populations to sustain biodiversity and ensure species survival, is the premise HSUS uses to justify these sanctuaries. However, many of the WLT sanctuaries are small, and it is difficult to understand how parcels of two, three, or five acres in size can fulfill the migration and connectivity vision. Moreover, hunting, fishing, and trapping are excluded, notwithstanding the fact that regulated harvests are recognized as a key scientific management principle of sustainability and biodiversity.

Part Two of this column will appear in the Winter issue of Fair Chase. It continues to examine in-depth the deceit and hypocrisy of HSUS, PETA and other radical and militant animal rights organizations, and their attacks on hunting and fishing, zoos and circuses, factory farming, medical and biological research, dog breeders, corporate retailers and manufactures, and their insidious youth education programs promoting veganism, animal rights, animal liberation, and a petless, meatless society. The frightening criminal underbelly of the animal rightists eco-terrorism and veganarchism campaigns are moreover explored, as is the legal system's involvement both in the United States and abroad. The end game and utopian world of animal rightists is a daunting and serious societal threat both to sportsmen and the yery way we live and function.