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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 14

June, 1981

IMPACT OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is a Trojan horse. The U.S. Supreme Court in its infinite wisdom on the Tellico Dam decision stated "...beyond doubt Congress intended endangered species to be afforded the highest priorities... to halt and reverse the trend towards species extinction [reminds one of that old king who got his feet wet when the tide refused to stop on royal edict] whatever the cost." [damn, those jokers are free with my money !] The Court felt Congress wanted to give endangered species priority over "primary missions of Federal agencies" so that "any attempt to balance the interests of the species against the value or cost of the project are therefore inappropriate.

The implications of this decision are frightening. Greenwalt [former director of the USFWS] tried to get the Environmental Protection Agency to require instructions for the protection of specified endangered species included on the labeling. As new species are added all the time to the list, the range and status of species shifts constantly and considering the paucity of knowledge concerning these "rare and endangered" species [it is estimated critical habitats still need to be identified for 83% of the 284 species currently on the Federal list], this would be like writing on the wind so even EPA turned down this suggestion.

The ESA further requires an opinion be obtained from Interior's Office of Endangered Species (OES) on the impact of land management programs on endangered species which adds even more time to the registration process of new chemicals. Through the process of civil suits, an activist group bitterly opposed to a project, even for reasons not associated with a hazard to endangered wildlife, will have no difficulty in locating some yet unlisted but alleged endangered species, delaying the project and modifying the cost/benefit ratio. As the ESA gives some 120 Federal agencies legal responsibility to issue permits, licenses or easements, they are a party to the protection of endangered and threatened species. Thus many Bureau of Land Management routine management programs come under the scrutiny of the OES. For example, the following are items in BLM's 1979-80 budget:

Energy - 2,500 leases
Timber - sale of 1.25 billion board feet
Grazing - 24,000 allotments
Wilderness - 55 studies
State selections - 502,900 acres (excluding Alaska)
Rights of way - 1,700 applications
Mineral leasing - 63 million acres private; 290 million acres other Federal land
Other land actions - 8,000 cases

Even worse, animal or plant candidates for endangered or threatened species status need not have reached the Federal Register's proposed list but only have a petition in the OES file. Thus any threatened modification of habitat would bring these additional objections to light. As the ESA encourages State and Federal cooperation, some states have added species to supplement the Federal listings. Some species rare or in low numbers within a State but not necessarily endangered or threatened over the rest of their range are included.

As of last year, the Federal Register listed 1800 plants which OES considered endangered with at least 1200 more waiting in the wings to be recognized. There is small comfort that the waiting list for animals is not as long as that of plants because the program has yet to focus on invertebrates. Butterflies, pillbugs, snails, cave shrimp, and even minute amphipods are already in the works. Just as troublesome is the expanding list of critical habitats. As recovery programs are successful in increasing numbers of endangered species they will be reintroduced into unoccupied suitable habitats. For example, the successful captive breeding and reintroduction of peregrine falcons. The program expects to release 150-200 birds per year into potential vacant habitats east of the Rocky Mountains. While no critical habitats have yet been designated, you can expect every established breeding pair to be accorded priority habitat use. Congress must be persuaded to recall this act. - *Donald A. Spencer*

Give a politician a free hand and he'll put it in your pocket.

TRAPPING ! WHAT'S IN IT FOR WILDLIFE ?

Jeff Jackson, Wildlife Extension Specialist from the University of Georgia [also NADCA member], had a series of articles by Margaret Wollen quoting him under that title. Jeff feels nature's way is not always the best..."She favors some (species) and penalizes others." So some species left unharvested will overpopulate and destroy their food supplies and suffer the ultimate penalty. He contends some species in Georgia under wildlife management, which includes trapping, are in much better shape than they were when nature was left to her own ways. He points out that while the protectionists' favor the quick-kill (Conibear) trap proclaiming the leghold is too inhumane, the leghold is designed to restrain an animal and not break its leg. The big advantage is if a non-target animal is captured it can be released. "Nobody who traps says the practice is good for an individual animal that is captured...But the survivors are better off when some animals are removed leaving more food and space for the rest."

"Trapping serves man...it's an excellent way to limit damage done by wild animals." It furnishes food for man as meat of furbearers is higher in protein and lower in fat than the meat of domestic animals. The marketing of fur is an economic boost to the State. Despite the protectionists' objections to fur coats, Jackson suggests

wearing a coat of skins is no worse than wearing shoes made from the hide of a cow. Natural furs are a renewable resource. The rate of turnover in a gray fox population, for example, is an average lifespan of a year or less so it is wasteful not to utilize them. And finally there is the opportunity for an "outdoor experience" as it challenges the trapper's skill in reading sign and outguessing furbearers. This is what motivates the trapper to trap, not the sadistic pleasure of killing animals.

Jeff feels: "The essential difference between the trapper and the non-trapper is that the non-trapper has his killing done for him out of sight and mind." The urban populace has grown up in isolation, protected from the facts of life and death. He poses a test of taking 100 live chickens into Atlanta and asking 100 persons at random if they will take one, kill it, pluck it, gut it, and cook it for dinner. He feels the answer would be three or maybe four chickens taken. However, if you had done the same thing 100 years ago you would be out 100 chickens and this would be true in most foreign countries today, too. "...these are weird times for urban Americans...(they) are among the unusual few who believe that killing something is a bizarre act." He deplores the attitude of those eating a chicken killed by someone else who feel we should be moralistic about killing wild animals. These try to impose their beliefs on others, as for example, urban voters stopping rural landowners from trapping on their own land. "We must keep the options open to the trapper and the non-trapper, the meat eater and the vegetarian, the fur wearer and the cotton wearer. And all of these people must leave options open to each other."

Marriage is like any job - - it helps if ya like the boss.

DAMNED IF THEY DO - - DAMNED IF THEY DON'T

Our environmentalists have been confronted recently with a horrible dilemma. Several deer were planted on Angel Island off the coast of California in 1915 by the Army. Thus began the usual feast and famine routine as their numbers increased to the point where they destroyed their food supply until starvation reduced the herd to the point the food supply could recover. The public had severely criticized the Army in 1966 when it shot 50 out of the estimated herd of 300 deer on the island to prevent this cycle. So now it is considering an idea of a UC-Berkeley wildlife specialist to put 6 neutered coyotes on the island.

At a public hearing [why is it always necessary in a democracy to have to listen to laymen on professional matters?], this solution was greeted with an even greater cry of rage at such inhumane thoughts. These are the same people who believe in the "balance of nature" as long as it is only coyotes-mice-grasshoppers. And where were those who say coyotes kill only the handicapped? One also wonders where these objectors are when coyotes are turned loose on a sheep herd? The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals gave its stock recommendation - - catch and relocate the deer. They should be given the same opportunity the Fund for Animals was given to make an ass of themselves hauling other jackasses out of Grand Canyon.

So the cycle of boom and bust goes on. These innocent little Bambis will make love and gluttons of themselves until the cupboard is bare. Who is most inhumane? Those who would make them suffer the slow pangs of hunger or those who prefer the quick hunter's bullet or the coyote's sharp fangs? - *Los Angeles Times, May 16, 1981 - thanks to Norm Rousset.*

USDI CHANGE IN POLICY

Secretary Watt is expected to revise the ADC policy to permit more research on 1080 and increase use of denning according to a recent letter he sent to Rep. Williams (D-Montana). Watt said he was "...reviewing all aspects of the ADC program including control techniques and funding with the intent of providing a field effort more responsive to the nation's needs." He also said that 1080 use in the toxic collar for predator control required registration by EPA and rescinding Executive Order 11643 before it could be used on federal lands. (*Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News*, 15 April 1981 - thanks to Dale Wade) But before you start to cheer too loudly and question a shift from the friendly hands of Interior to Agriculture read the following article.

Government programs all have a begging, a middle and no end.

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THIS - - WHO NEEDS ENEMIES ?

"Meeting in Washington, D.C. in mid-April, representatives from the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Wildlife Management Institute, and other national conservation organizations devised some recommended adjustments in the Service's budget that would soften the overall impact of funding reductions... The recommended increases include: \$4 million for grants to States for endangered species...\$300,000 for the peregrine falcon restoration project...requested increases total \$15 million...The recommended decreases include: \$4 million from the \$18.2 million animal damage control program; \$1 million from the operation of area offices..."

At a time when the transfer of ADC from Interior to Agriculture is under study, the above budget adjustment shows where the interests of the conservation groups lie. *Outdoor News Bulletin*, 17 April 1981 - thanks to Don Spencer.

Seems what's prevailing in Washington is the "law of the bungle".

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND -

We have a copy of a letter (31 December 198) to the Presidential transition team written by Jack Berryman, Executive Vice President of the above IAFWA, which made the following agreeable recommendations before USFWS budget cuts were mentioned:

1. The USFWS should be reorganized by elimination of all area offices except those in Alaska and Hawaii and by a realignment of the regions.
2. Reexamine, reevaluate and renegotiate the memorandum of agreement between the USDI and the International Conventions Advisory Commission (ICAC) [which replaced the Endangered Species Scientific Authority] with the view of revoking the delegation of Interior's authority to that body as well as reexamining the qualifications of the members of ICAC, all of whom are not scientists.
3. Adopt a policy which acknowledges wildlife losses and makes responsibility for their alleviation a wildlife management function to reduce animal damage to an acceptable level; recognizes the need for employing appropriate control tools and technologies under professional supervision and careful regulation; and which encourages research into effective control methods. Also rescind Executive Order 11643 (prohibiting the use of toxicants on federal lands and programs) and name a

chief of the Division of ADC who is not only a professional wildlife manager but is experienced in ADC work with an understanding of land users.

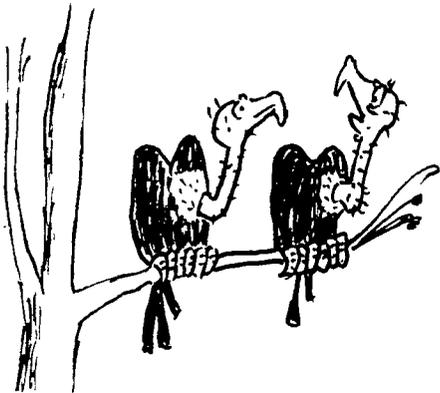
4. Remove the bobcat from the Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora [CITES] which makes the bobcat a potential endangered species if trade is not strictly regulated.

By the time we get solar energy the Arabs will own the sun.

EAT YOUR HEARTS OUT - - OR ONLY IN TEXAS

Jim Winnat and Con Thomas were called into a ranch west of Lubbock that was losing a number of newborn calves to coyotes. The ranch is small [Texas style - only 24,000 acres], but it lies in a grassy draw completely surrounded by farmland. They started aerial hunting one morning under less than ideal conditions, but in 4.5 hours they took 93 coyotes running in bunches of five to seven. They also noticed the coyotes displaying an odd behavior. When spotted on the edges of some large saltwater lakes on the ranch, the coyotes instead of running for mesquite cover would break for the center of the lake beds - - making easy targets. The best explanation they could make for this rather stupid reaction from a normally smart animal was the coyotes were accustomed to being chased by pickups and knew they were safe from these noisy machines on the lakes. Con claims he saw a bunch of them later studying World War II training slides with different silhouettes of choppers and pickups.

DFA Egger of the Fort Worth District caught a 59-pound female coyote (?) and reported another even larger set of tracks with her. He later caught that larger set of tracks but it only had a 35-pound body connected to them.



WAIT HELL !!! LET'S KILL SOMETHING

Alvin Combs responded to a problem in the College Station District where a rancher was losing lambs. There were coyote signs and a number of raccoons, but when 15 lambs (1-18 days old) were killed in 3 days, Al decided the big concentration of buzzards on the ranch were not just feeding on dead lambs but were actively killing them. The buzzards were scared off with automatic acetylene exploders and exploding shotgun shells (plug for MARSHALL HYDE). Al found

they had short memories, however, for when the scaring operations stopped, the buzzards were back in the pastures in two hours.

Upon returning to work one Monday morning, DFA Trimble ran his equipment on a ranch in Bandera County. He found where he had obviously caught a coyote in a snare, presumably the one he had been after for the past seven months, but neither coyote nor snare were around. Upon questioning the rancher, he was told one of the deer hunters had found the "poor old coyote" in the snare and let it loose. According to the rancher, the hunter seemed to be proud of his good deed.

Jimmy Beavers and Greg Pena have had good success with some large bolo ties for coyotes. A snare is securely attached to a large log with four feet of bailing wire. The log is leaned against the fence and the snare set in the hole as usual using very fine wire ties. They claim the advantages are the animals get away from the hole reducing theft of the animal by fur trappers and good holes are not ruined by digging, chewing or scent of dead animals. Also the coyote has "more rope to hang him self" and dies quicker. When the log is hung up in brush, the coyotes attack that instead of the snare cable. The only disadvantages are the set takes longer to make and ya gotta find logs which would be a problem in south Texas. - *The Trapline (Texas) March, 1981.*

Anatomy is something everybody has but it looks better on girls.

GAY BEAVERS

A study of beaver colonies in Massachusetts [R.P. Brooks, et al: *Beaver colony response to fertility control - Evaluating a concept*, Journ. of Wildlife Mgt. 44(3):568-575 (1980)] indicates the potential for population control by changing the "attitude" of one of the adult beavers in an individual colony. This attitude is changed by castration or tubal ligation. The study showed reproduction was halted in 11 out of 13 colonies. The pair bond remained and the beaver without the operation did not mate with any offspring as long as both adult beaver remained in the colony. The two failures occurred where the pair bond was broken by the disappearance of one of the adults.

Marriage is like a 3:00 AM phone call - - it wakes ya up fast.

TALON VERSUS THE ZOO

We haven't had the courtesy of a reply to our inquiry from Dr. Armand of the Philadelphia Zoo where the birds were apparently killed with TALON™ (PROBE #11), but we did hear from ICI representatives. Apparently 8-9 birds did die from TALON poisoning. However, the blame was apparently on bait spilled out of the bait stations rather than ingestion of poisoned cockroaches, etc. As ICI reps pointed out, deaths occur regularly from other anticoagulant toxicants so the use of all rodenticides in zoos must be carefully attended.

Middle age is when liftin' yourself outa bed is exercise enough.

HELP !!!!!

As one of the implied objectives of NADCA is to serve as an ADC information interchange center, YE ED wants some help from the troops. I've got to give a talk on sparrow control at the Great Plains ADC Workshop (Lincoln, NE) October 13-15th. Any information you can give me on individuals doing any research on this species or papers on the topic will be most appreciated. I also got myself invited to the 10th California Vertebrate Pest Conference in 1982. The subject here is rat glues so any experiences along these lines will also be gratefully accepted. Thank you'll.

There are no answers in the bottom of a cocktail glass, but if you look long enough you'll forget the questions.

THE BALANCE OF NATURE IS UPSET AGAIN !

Studies by the Arizona Game & Fish showed coyotes were mostly responsible for the 80-90% mortality of the annual antelope fawn crop on the Anderson mesa. Trapping efforts by USFWS personnel were hampered by mud, snow, isolation and other factors. Therefore, as Arizona has legislation forbidding aerial hunting, it was necessary for the State Game & Fish to get a special dispensation from the legislature to permit the use of aircraft as a part of the management scheme for reducing pressure on the current fawn crop. On the first day of a 6-day control operation, 10 coyotes were taken. My how quickly black becomes white when coyotes start to chew on something of yours ! - *Pink Madsen*

Some men are born with consciences. Others marry them!

WE STAND CORRECTED

We published a note in PROBE # 12 recommending dyeing snares like traps to camouflage them. Then we found a note [G. Geiland, *The Trapper*, March, 1981 p.8] stating the acetic acid might dissolve the lead sleeve used as a crimped stop on snares made by "Raymond Thompson Co. and others."

Never listen to your conscience as ya shouldn't take advice from a stranger.

DISNEYWORLD, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Sierra Ski Ranch near Echo Summit, CA was required to make the restrooms of its new lodge accessible to people in wheelchairs. The lodge itself is only accessible to those on skis.

A safety official required workers to wear life preservers while on a bridge going over a dry river bed.

They are saving an estimated several hundred thousand dollars a year by installing new telephone equipment. The equipment will prevent government workers from using official phones to call Dial-A-Joke. *Off the Record*, 3(2)4, May, 1981.

Joe Lamberta, a potato farmer in Delaware, found an OSHA (Oh! you know - Occupational Safety & Health Administration) employee taking pictures of grass alongside his farm building. The grass had been mowed but the mower would only cut so close to the building. When asked why he was taking so many pictures, the OSHA man said he wanted "to use up the film." He then found the toilets only 95 feet from the packing house instead of 100 feet required. He told Joe he could appeal after he'd been fined but both he and Joe knew the lawyers would cost more than the fines so Joe got out of the potato business. *Thanks to Jimmy Trampota.*

Ya usta got a lot for ten cents - - my ! how dimes have changed !!

THANK YOU !!!

Just a word of thanks to some very fine salesmen for NADCA who brought some lambs into the fold - Dave Fjelling (Lincoln, CA), Gary Simmons (College Station, TX), and Con Thomas (Lubbock, TX). We would like to reward you with a free trip to Hawaii, but the tail fell off our kite.

EDITORIALY SPEAKING

From *Family Affairs* by Oklahoma ADC:

The latest edition of N.A.D.C.A.'s "The Probe" #12 contained interesting reading. However what concerns me is that not all of ADC people have paid their 1981 dues. All of us in our line of work have a very significant interest in this group--mainly because it can and does speak and argue for our benefit. The dues of \$10.00 per year are not that steep, especially when our profession and work conditions are threatened by those who either don't know or won't understand the importance of what we do and how we do it.

Issue #11, February 1981, contained a list of paid up members from our Oklahoma ADC. While the record looked pretty good--the fact remained that at that time we were only 50% supportive. If you were not on that list and still have not paid, I urge you to do so. We need an active force representing us and this group knows exactly how it is with us--remember--they've been there.

THANK YOU, OKLAHOMA.

If you think education is expensive you ought to try experience.

TALL TAILS FROM TEXAS

Ray Trimble gave us a report on the "Lacy" dogs of Texas that you might not be ready for yet. The breed (not registered) arose when an exceptional specimen owned by a gentleman named Lacy [the blood line (dog's not Lacy's) included - English collie, coyote and Italian grayhound] made love to another Lacy's dog [blood line included but apparently not restricted to English collie, Italian grayhound and Weimeramer]. The result was a nondescript 25-pound animal with a smooth bluish coat, short ears and a small head with a backdoor resemblance to a Weimeramer.

According to Jack Lacy (who might be slightly prejudiced) these dogs will work sheep, goats or cattle all morning, catch hogs or wounded deer in the afternoon, hunt squirrels or cottontails with the kids in the evening and then catch 'coons at night. You then bring him home and he will guard you and your property and be a faithful companion to your wife and family. And he will do this on about three cups of commercial dogfood per day.

Ray Trimble (USFWS District Supervisor) says: "I honestly believe that the Lacy dog either male or female has the ability to do whatever the owner wants it to do with less training than any dog of any other breed I have ever dealt with. They are for sure the best dogs available for use as a trap dog by the professional trapper or fur hunter." Address all your inquiries direct to Ray (303 Meadowview Lane, Kerrville, TX 78028).

The trouble with being against sin today is finding something that still is.

WATT'S HAPPENING ?

"The environmental news in the first 3 months of the Reagan Administration has been uniformly bad (?) [YE ED's "?"]: 1500 jobs are to be eliminated from the Environmental Protection Agency; the Council of Environmental Quality has been virtually abolished; there is no presidential science advisor; and the talk of deregulation is everywhere." Secretary of the Interior Watt is the greatest source of aggravation as he has been accused of transforming his job from chief custodian of public lands to advocate of industrial and natural resources development. But the "good news" [again from their point of view] is that business has been booming for the environmental groups. Contributions to these organizations are up 20 percent over last year [and ours are down 14%]. These groups report increased public concern since the election and general feeling things are going worse than anyone anticipated with Watt getting most of the "credit". [The unfortunate thing is that much of the furor is created by the media making simple government press releases into scare headlines to sell more newspapers. But it also indicates to YE ED that ADC had better get its ducks in line and get some support because we are going to suffer increased harassment from the better-funded environmentalists.] - *Science*, 212:422 (1981)
Thanks to Dale Wade.

I usta like cliches but now I avoid them like the plague.

ALL TOGETHER NOW

Ron Thompson just sent us a copy of a position paper sent to Secretary Watt by the National Cattlemen's Assn., National Wood Growers Assn. and the Public Lands Council dated May 6, 1981: We recommend the following:

"Recognition of the importance of the agricultural industry of the U.S. and a corresponding emphasis on its protection from vertebrate pests is imperative. This is not to be construed as a policy for eradication of any species, but instead is a policy for a coordinated and cooperative professional program for prevention of and protection against agricultural losses. Such a program must be practical and cost effective. The terms "practical" and "cost effective" shall relate to both the costs and effects on the ADC program and on the affected industry and individuals.

Vertebrate pests are a serious problem to agriculture and in certain instances are detrimental to other wildlife species; therefore, ADC should be an integral component of agricultural and wildlife production.

Employment policy in federal and state programs shall require professional credentials and competence in ADC and an understanding of agricultural needs.

To assure that essential direction, cooperation and coordination of operations and research are achieved, the ADC program shall include administrative, research and service functions under a single line of supervision.

An essential component of an effective operational ADC program is an adequate support system at the federal, state and local levels to provide assistance in development of operations, research, information and public education."

The following actions should be taken to bring about an effective ADC program:

"Transfer the ADC program to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There is an inherent conflict of interest between wildlife enhancement and ADC functions within the Department of the Interior. As a result of this conflict USDI has placed far greater emphasis on wildlife enhancement than on meeting agricultural needs."

AMEN - YE ED - William D. Fitzwater

Surprise - another extra issue out ahead of time.

**National
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