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## Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing

AWA's mission is to "defend Wild Alberta through awareness and action". That is, our goal is to defend and preserve big wilderness. Hunting, trapping, and fishing are not central issues to wilderness protection. Consequently AWA's position on hunting is neutral: we are neither for nor against it, as long as it is well managed in ways that are humane, sustainable, and scientifically sound. Hunting is not the primary threat to wilderness, habitat degradation and destruction is, and that is where our focus must remain.

AWA believes that hunting, trapping, and fishing should be carried out humanely and sustainably. These activities must not damage the long-term health of wild populations. We recognize and support traditional harvest by Indigenous peoples and its role in reconciliation, but this too must be sustainable. Ecological integrity, the mandate of the National Parks is the first priority.

We oppose the hunting of species that are threatened or endangered, as this is a threat to the ecology of large wilderness. The precautionary principle should prevail: hunting, trapping, and fishing should only be practiced where they can be proven, by valid and independent scientific studies, to not harm wild populations.

AWA has a separate position on Wildlife Economies and Game Farming. AWA has always opposed the domestication of wildlife through game farming, including any sort of "hunting" associated with it.

AWA has a very large and diverse membership base, which includes hunters, trappers, and fisherpersons, as well as people who oppose one or all of these practices. The one common goal of all of our members is the preservation of wilderness which is primary wildlife habitat, and that is and will remain to be our number one directive.

### References:

1. Alberta Fish and Wildlife: Hunting licensing, regulations and wildlife management programs  
<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/hunting/index.html>
2. Alberta Fish and Wildlife: Trapping regulations and management issues  
<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/trapping/index.html>
3. Alberta Fish and Wildlife: Fishing licensing, regulations, and management programs  
<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/fishing/index.html>
4. Alberta Fish and Game Association  
<http://www.afga.org/>
5. Canadian Wildlife Service: Hunting and Fishing – regulation of migratory game birds  
<http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/theme.cfm?lang=e&category=6>
6. Survey on the Importance of Nature to Canadians: A Federal-Provincial-Territorial Initiative  
[http://www.ec.gc.ca/nature/index\\_e.htm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/nature/index_e.htm)
7. Alberta Outdoorsmen: Alberta guides to hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations  
<http://www.albertaoutdoorsmen.org/>
8. Calgary Animal Rights Coalition <http://carc.enviroweb.org/>

### Other Organizations' Positions

#### American Forestry Association:





American Forests believes that wildlife and fisheries are a critical component of healthy forest ecosystems. Hunting and fishing under proper regulation are valuable tools in the professional management of forest ecosystems.

Recreation on our forests is an important and growing use of the resource on both public and private lands. Hunting and fishing under appropriate regulation are legitimate forms of forest recreation.

**Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society:**

CPAWS is opposed to hunting/trapping in national parks or national parks reserves, with the exceptions of hunting by Aboriginal people whose hunting rights are established by legislated land claims agreements, treaties, or other constitutional rights or where provisions for local sport hunting rights for a limited time period were made for the national park or park reserve during its establishment provided that these activities do not compromise ecological integrity or harm the long term health of habitats or species.

CPAWS supports hunting in provincial/territorial parks and protected areas by Aboriginal people with established rights, provided that these activities do not compromise ecological integrity or harm the long-term health of habitats or species.

**Canadian Wildlife Federation:**

The CWF is a national conservation organization focusing on issues affecting Canadian wildlife as a whole such as endangered species legislation and conservation education in schools across Canada. We do not promote hunting, however, we are not opposed to it provided there is an adequate number of species to sustain the population, there is no abuse involved, and it is carried out according to established provincial rules and regulations.

**Defenders of Wildlife:**

Defenders advocates policies which are in the best interests of all wildlife, by analyzing wildlife management programs to determine the appropriate response. We do not take a position for or against hunting. Defenders opposes all trapping that inflicts pain or causes injury, damages ecological systems, is non-selective, or is conducted for profit or for recreation.

**Ducks Unlimited:**

We make no distinction for recreational, commercial, or management purposes as long as the harvest is conducted in a sustainable and ethical manner. Ducks Unlimited Inc. supports the sustainable use and harvest of renewable resources based on sound science. We support hunting and trapping, when conducted in an ethical and sustainable manner, as a legitimate and acceptable use of a renewable resource.

**Friends of Animals, Inc.:**

Friends of Animals opposes hunting in all its forms. Hunting is socially unjustifiable because it is an unnecessary waste of life and resources. There is a question of social ethics involving the presumed “right” of hunters to turn what little wild areas are left into seasonal shooting galleries. Hunting is ecologically disruptive. The concept of “natural selection” becomes meaningless among heavily hunted wildlife populations, and hence evolution itself – the very foundation of life in all its diversity – is undermined.

**The Fund for Animals:**

The Fund for Animals is unalterably opposed to the recreational killing of wildlife. Besides being a piteously unfair and cruel slaughter of innocent animals, sport hunting is also ecologically destructive. And it’s not just an issue of animals’ rights, but one of the public’s rights as well. A mere seven percent minority of the public – the hunters – has 100 percent control of our wildlife.

**The Humane Society of the United States:**





The Humane Society of the United States is strongly opposed to the hunting of any living creature for fun, trophy, or for sport, because of the trauma, suffering and death to the animals which results. The HSUS also opposes such killing because of the negative effect upon the young who may learn to accept and live with needless suffering and killing. The HSUS believes that a civilized society should not condone the killing of any sentient creature as sport.

**The National Audubon Society:**

Audubon supports hunting when sound scientific data indicates that it is necessary for the continued welfare of a particular species. While we are not a hunting advocacy organization, and we do not actively promote hunting, we do not oppose it when and where it is legal. The same goes for trapping, both commercial and sport.

**National Geographic Society:**

The Society is a scientific and educational organization. As such, we do not take a stand for or against legal hunting or trapping activities; we simply report on these activities and any consequences when appropriate.

When we report on any topic, we work hard to present it accurately and objectively. With hunting, we are careful to differentiate between modern sport hunters, whose hobby supports conservation efforts, and poachers, who kill animals – often endangered species – illegally.

**National Wildlife Federation:**

Wildlife populations are a renewable resource and under scientific and professional management can safely sustain hunting and fishing. In these situations and with public input into wildlife management decisions, NWF supports providing opportunities for those who chose to hunt or fish.

While many people would like us to spend considerable effort with promoting or opposing hunting, they

lose sight of the fact that the real and fundamental problem facing wildlife is not hunting, but habitat degradation and destruction.

**The Nature Conservancy:**

...do not encourage hunting or fishing on the majority of conservation sites that we own or manage....At many of our sites...we sometimes employ carefully managed hunting as a tool to reduce populations of native and non-native animals] in order to reduce the damage that they cause, allowing natural communities to recover....We sometimes allow the continuation of traditional hunting and fishing practices after we have acquired new properties in order to avoid disrupting the local economy. The Nature Conservancy's policy for hunting and fishing also applies to trapping. The Conservancy doesn't have a policy or position on what people do for sport or recreation, unless the action is taking place on one of our preserves. We would not allow hunting/trapping/fishing solely for sporting or recreational purposes on our preserves.

**The Sierra Club**

Sport hunting and fishing: Acceptable management approaches include regulated periodic hunting and fishing when based on sufficient scientifically valid biological information and when consistent with other management purposes and when necessary total protection of particular species or populations.

...The Sierra Club opposes "game ranching" with non-native species and the use of captive wildlife for sport hunting ("canned hunts") or commercial products. "Game ranching" of native species may be appropriate only when activities will not degrade natural ecosystem and endanger populations and when commercial activity will not encourage poaching... The Sierra Club opposes the use of non-selective and often misused predator control techniques such as poisons, bounties, and aerial shooting...

**The Wilderness Society:**





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The Wilderness Society views hunting as a legitimate use in wilderness areas, national forests, lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and certain wildlife areas, subject to appropriate regulation for species protection. Because they provide such strong protection for wildlife habitat, wilderness areas offer some of the highest quality hunting experiences found anywhere.

**Wildlife Conservation Society**

WCS does not have “official” stances on either hunting or trapping per se. However, WCS is against any activity that is unsustainable for wildlife populations, or any activity that harms endangered or threatened species. That said, WCS is in favour of human activity that does not harm wildlife populations over the long term...

As long as there is no threat, the WCS would not take a definitive stand against hunting or trapping for sport, recreation, wildlife management or commercial purposes.

**Wildlife Society**

The Wildlife Society supports regulated hunting and trapping as legitimate management techniques of wildlife conservation. Regulated hunting and trapping are legitimate tools to be used to reduce abundant and overabundant populations. The one point that may be confusing is that we don't use a lot of modifiers such as recreational, sport, commercial, subsistence, etc. to describe these tools. If we monitor populations that are being manipulated (up and down) to be sure the numbers are moving in the proper direction and within desired populations levels, then the types of value-laden modifiers are unimportant.

We are not opposed to recreational hunting, trapping or shooting preserves if they are managed according to appropriate wildlife agency regulations.

**World Wildlife Fund**

...While we do not support hunting and trapping, neither do we condemn the practices in all circumstances. It is legal to hunt many non-endangered species in countries around the world. The decision to allow trophy hunting is a sovereign one made entirely by the governments concerned... We will continue to monitor governments' enforcement of important trade laws to ensure trophy hunting is done within legal standards of that area.

