In 1907, only 41,000 elk remained in North America. Thanks to the money and hard work invested by hunters to restore and conserve habitat, elk numbers grew to 550,000 by 1984 when RMEF was founded. Today, there are more than 1.1 million.
In 1900, only 500,000 whitetails remained. Thanks to conservation work spearheaded by hunters, today there are more than 30 million.
In 1900, only 100,000 wild turkeys remained. Thanks to hunters, today there are more than 6 million.
In 1901, few ducks remained. Thanks to hunters’ efforts to restore and conserve wetlands, today there are more than 32 million.
In the 1920s, only 13,000 pronghorn antelope remained. Thanks to hunters, today there are more than 1.1 million.
Habitat, research and wildlife law enforcement work, all paid for by hunters, help countless non-hunted species.
Through state licenses and fees, hunters pay $896 million a year for conservation programs.
Through donations to groups like RMEF, hunters add $440 million a year to conservation efforts.
In 1937, hunters requested an 11% tax on guns, ammo, bows & arrows to directly fund conservation. That tax generated more than $16.7 billion to date & $1 billion in 2023.
Sixty percent of budget funding for state fish & wildlife agencies, which are tasked with responsible wildlife management, is generated by hunters & anglers thanks to excise taxes & the purchase of licenses/fees.
All together, hunters pay more than $1.6 billion a year for conservation programs. No one gives more!
Four out of five Americans approve of hunting, partly because hunters are America’s greatest positive force for conservation.
WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

EVERY SINGLE DAY
SPORTSMEN & WOMEN
CONTRIBUTE
$8.1 MILLION
TO CONSERVATION

HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

Learn more at RMEF.ORG or at NSSF.ORG
Hunters generate funding for land conservation and public access work. In 2023 alone, RMEF completed 11 land projects in 9 states that conserved 72,813 acres of elk habitat.
Hunters generate funding for land conservation and public access work. In 2023, RMEF opened or improved public access to 77,960 acres in 8 states.

In 2023, 77,960 acres of opened/improved public access

Lifetime total = 1.59 million acres
Hunters generate funding for active forest management techniques that enhance habitat for elk and other wildlife while also improving overall forest health. In 2023, RMEF completed 130 habitat stewardship projects in 22 states that enhanced 161,180 acres.

More info: rmef.org/wildfire

Lifetime total = 7.4 million acres
A wildlife management tool, hunting helps balance wildlife populations with what the land can support, limits crop damage and assists with disease management.
$6.5 MILLION
GRANTED IN 2023 FOR
SCIENTIFIC ELK-RELATED
RESEARCH

In 2023, RMEF allocated $1,371,907 that leveraged $5,140,975 in partner dollars for elk research in 13 states and three projects of national benefit.
HUNTERS HELP CONTROL PREDATOR POPULATIONS

Hunters help manage growing numbers of predators such as mountain lions, bears, coyotes and wolves. The government spends millions to control predators and varmints while hunters have proven more than willing to pay for that opportunity.
HUNTING MEANS FEWER DEER-VEHICLE COLLISIONS

Deer collisions kill 200 motorists and cost $7.5 billion a year. For every deer hit by a driver, hunters take six.
WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

# 21 HUNTING HERITAGE

COMPLETED 291 HUNTING HERITAGE PROJECTS IN 2023

Lifetime total = 5,988 projects

RMEF provides support for hunter education, outdoor/conservation events for youth/adults, mentored hunts, recreational shooting programs & more. Creating/strengthening bonds with nature spawns the next generation of conservationists.

RMEF manages OutdoorClass, an online hub for all-things hunting featuring the industry’s leading subject matter experts, and provides support for hunter education, outdoor/conservation events for youth/adults, mentored hunts, recreational shooting programs and more.
WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

# 22

HUNTERS BOOST THE ECONOMY BY $149 BILLION ANNUALLY

HUNTERS & RECREATIONAL SHOOTERS COMBINE TO CREATE $45 BILLION IN WAGES/INCOME & SUPPORT 970,000 JOBS

Learn more at RMEF.ORG or at NSSF.ORG
WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

# 23

HEALTHY NUTRITION

ELK MEAT
LEAN & TASTY

22.95% protein | 1.45% fat

Hunters provide for conservation and for their families. Hunting is a healthy way to connect with nature and eat one of the world’s most organic, lean, free-range meats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANIMAL</th>
<th>PROTEIN</th>
<th>FAT</th>
<th>CALORIES per pound</th>
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<td>%</td>
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<td>ELK</td>
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<td>CHICKEN</td>
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</table>

Learn more at RMEF.ORG

SPONSORS
With funding from hunters, RMEF helped restore wild elk herds to eight states and provinces.
WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

HUNTERS FUELED 8.9 MILLION ACRES OF RMEF HABITAT CONSERVATION WORK

RMEF was founded by four Montana elk hunters seeking to ensure the future of North America’s most majestic game animal. Today, more than 98 percent of our members are passionate hunters.