

25 REASONS WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION[®]

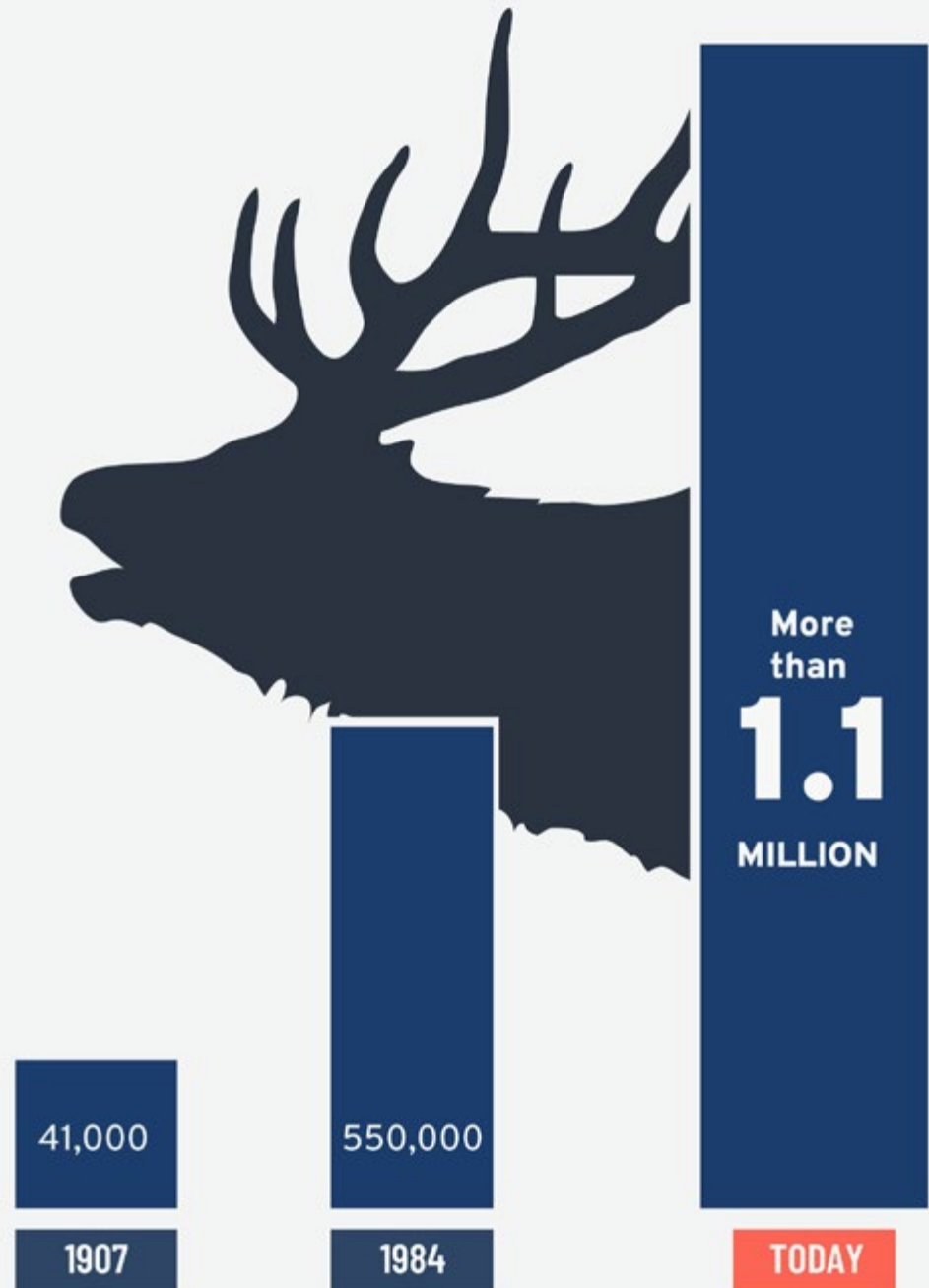


RMEF[®]
CONSERVING AMERICA'S BIG GAME[™]

25 REASONS WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION[®]

#1 ELK POPULATION

In 1907, only 41,000 elk remained in North America. Thanks of the money and hard work invested by hunters to restore and conserve habitat, elk number grew to 550,000 by 1981, when RMEF was founded. Today, there are more than 1.1 million.



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#2 WHITETAIL POPULATION

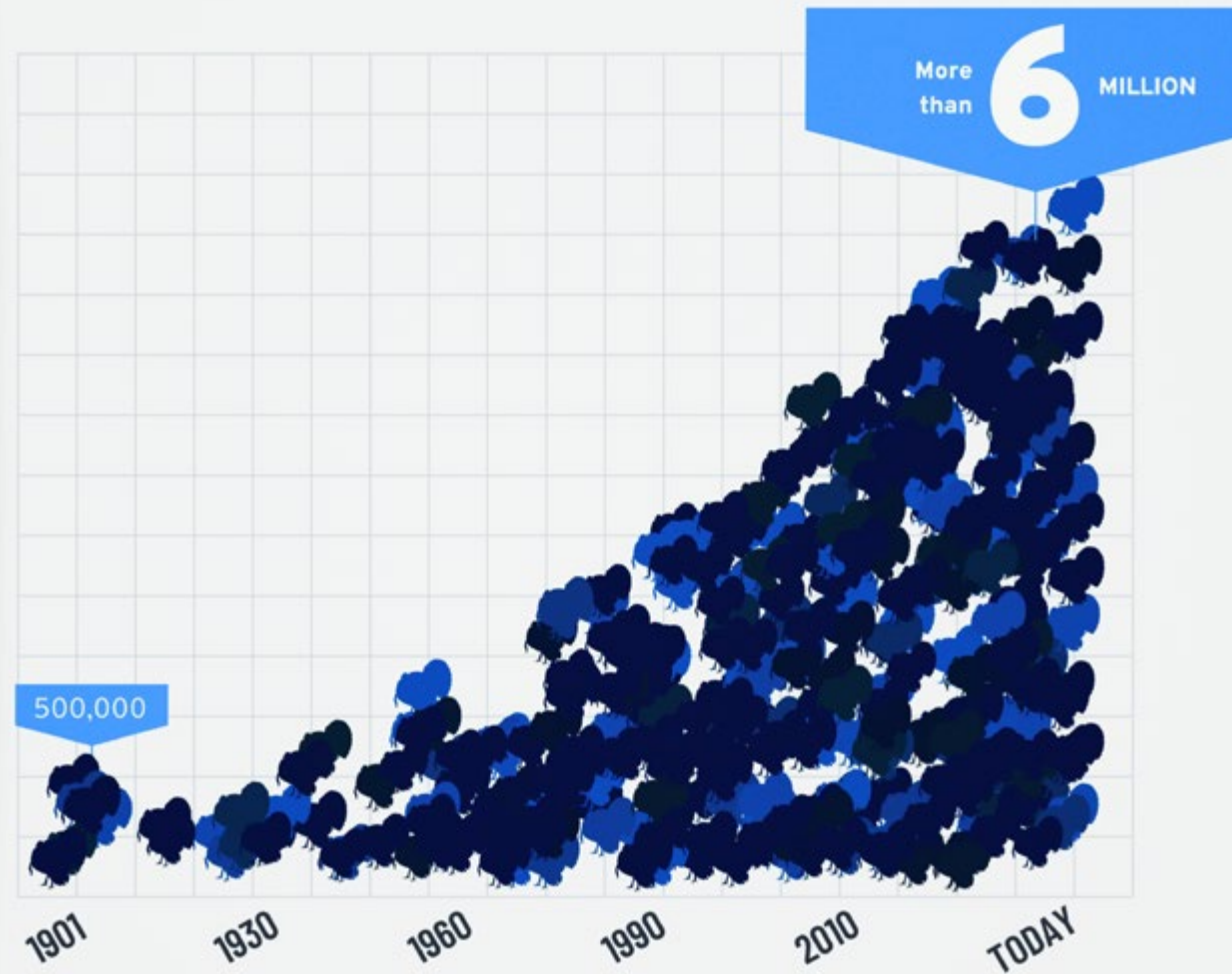
In 1900, only 500,000 whitetails remained in North America. Thanks to conservation work spearheaded by hunters, today there are more than 30 million.



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#3 TURKEY POPULATION

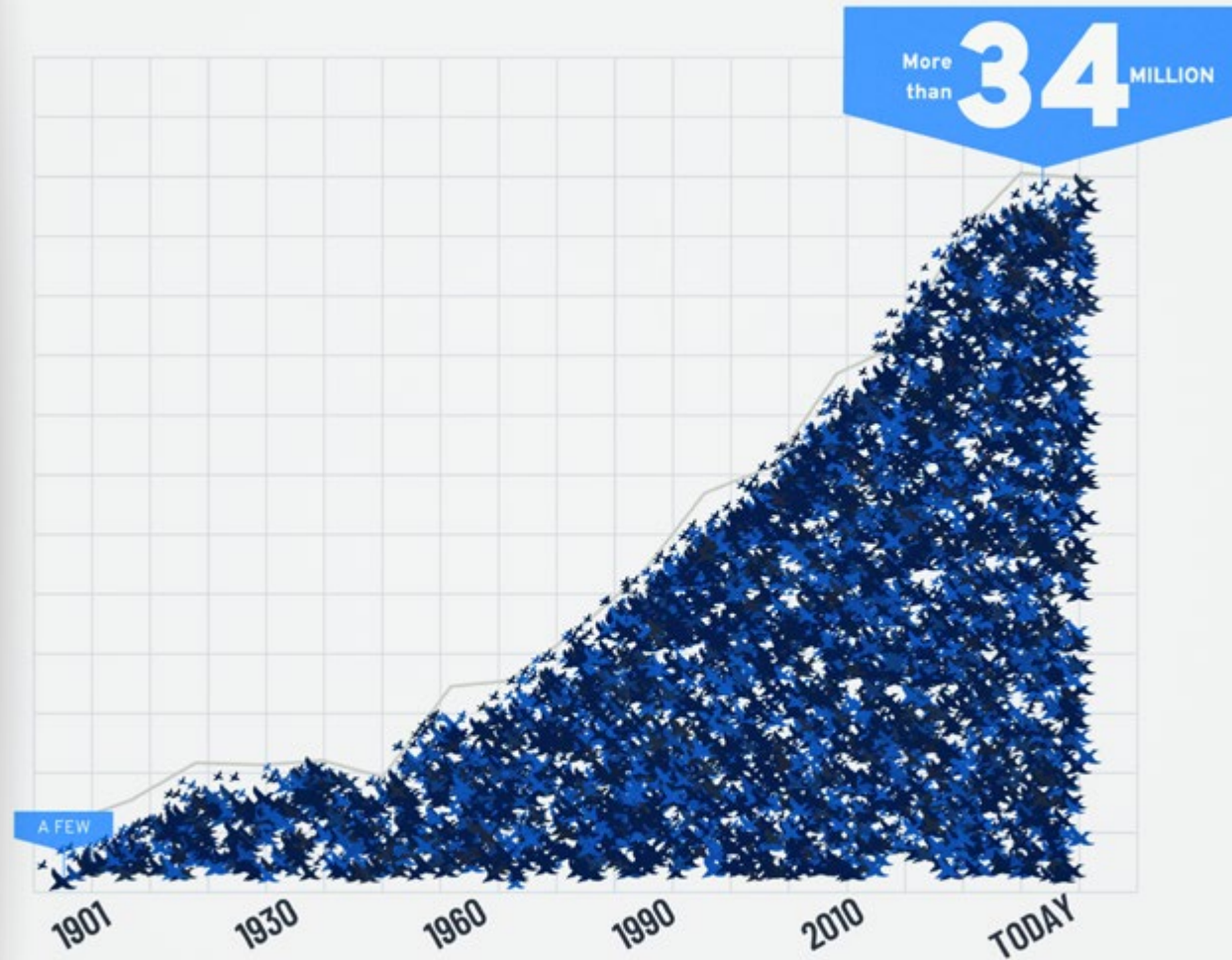
In 1900, only 100,000 wild turkey remained. Thanks for hunters, today there are more than 6 million.



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#4 DUCK POPULATION

In 1901, few ducks remained.
Thanks to hunters' efforts
to restore and conserve
wetlands, today there are
more than 32 million.



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#5 PRONGHORN ANTELOPE POPULATION

In the 1920s, only 13,000 pronghorn antelope remained. Thanks to hunters, today there are more than 1.1 million.



13,000

1920's

More than **1.1** MILLION

TODAY

25 REASONS WHY **HUNTING IS CONSERVATION**

#6 NON HUNTED SPECIES

Habitat restoration, scientific research, and wildlife law enforcement—all funded by hunters—benefit countless species that are never hunted.

HUNTERS DOLLARS
protect countless
NON-HUNTED species



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#7 HUNTING LICENSES & FEES

Through state licenses and fees, hunters pay \$896 million per year for conservations programs.

Hunters pay
\$896 MILLION
towards conservation programs



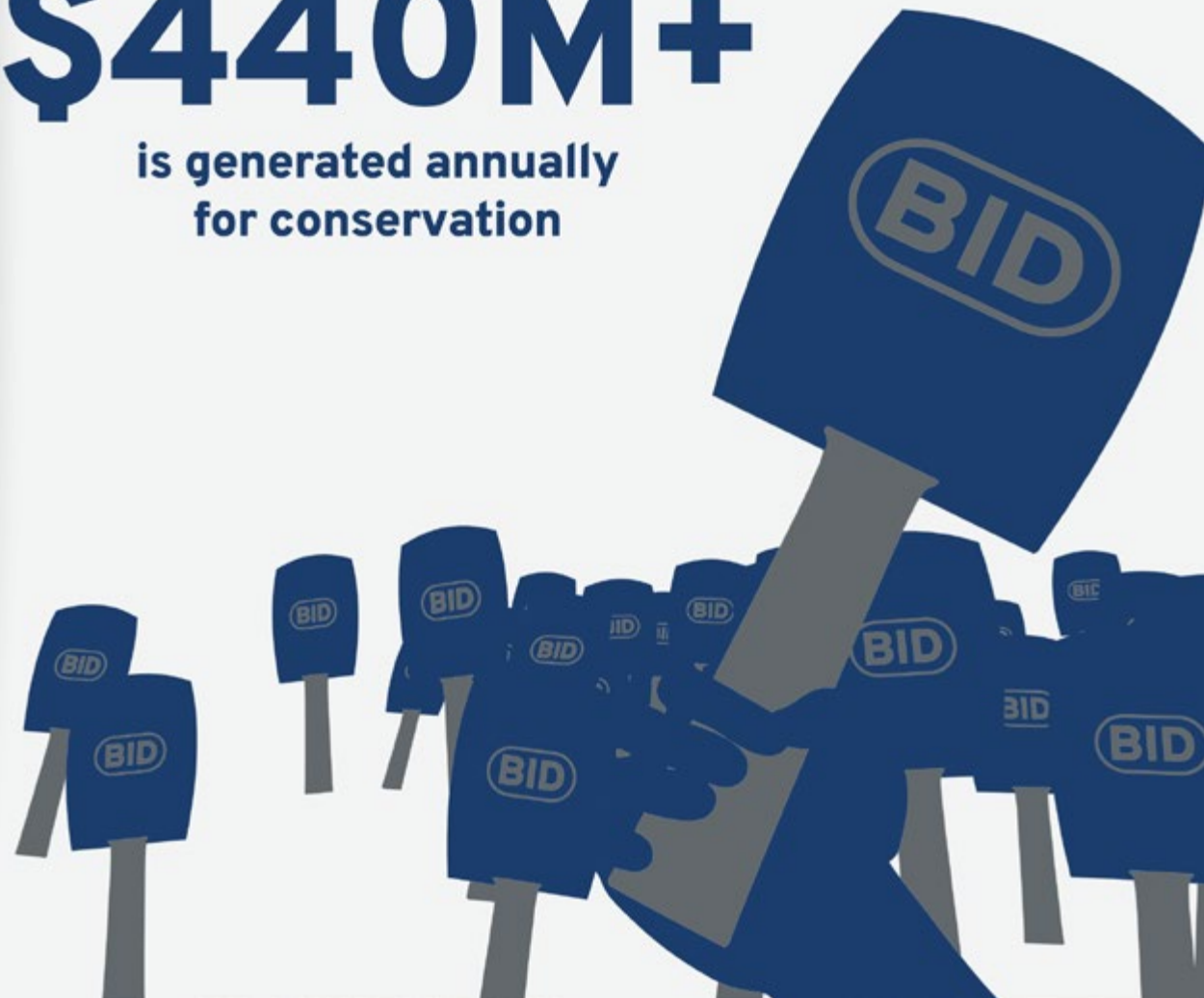
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#8 AUCTIONS & DONATIONS

Through donations and auctions to groups like RMEF, hunters add \$440 million per year to conservation efforts.

\$440M+

is generated annually
for conservation



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#9 CONSERVATION DOLLARS

In 1937, hunters requested an 11% tax on guns, ammo, bows and arrows to directly fund conservation. That tax, so far, raised more than \$17.7 billion to date and nearly \$1 billion in 2024.

11%
TAX



generates nearly
\$1 BILLION
ANNUALLY



has generated more than
\$17.7 BILLION
CUMULATIVELY

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#10 STATE AGENCY FUNDING

60% of budget funding for state fish and wildlife agencies, which are tasked with the responsibility of wildlife management, is generated by hunters and anglers, thanks to excise taxes and the purchase of licenses/fees.



60% of **BUDGET
FUNDING**

comes from

**excised taxes
& licenses/fees**

25 REASONS WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION[®]

#11 CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

All together, hunters pay more than \$1.6 billion a year for conservation programs. No one gives more!

\$1.6B
per year for
conservation
programs

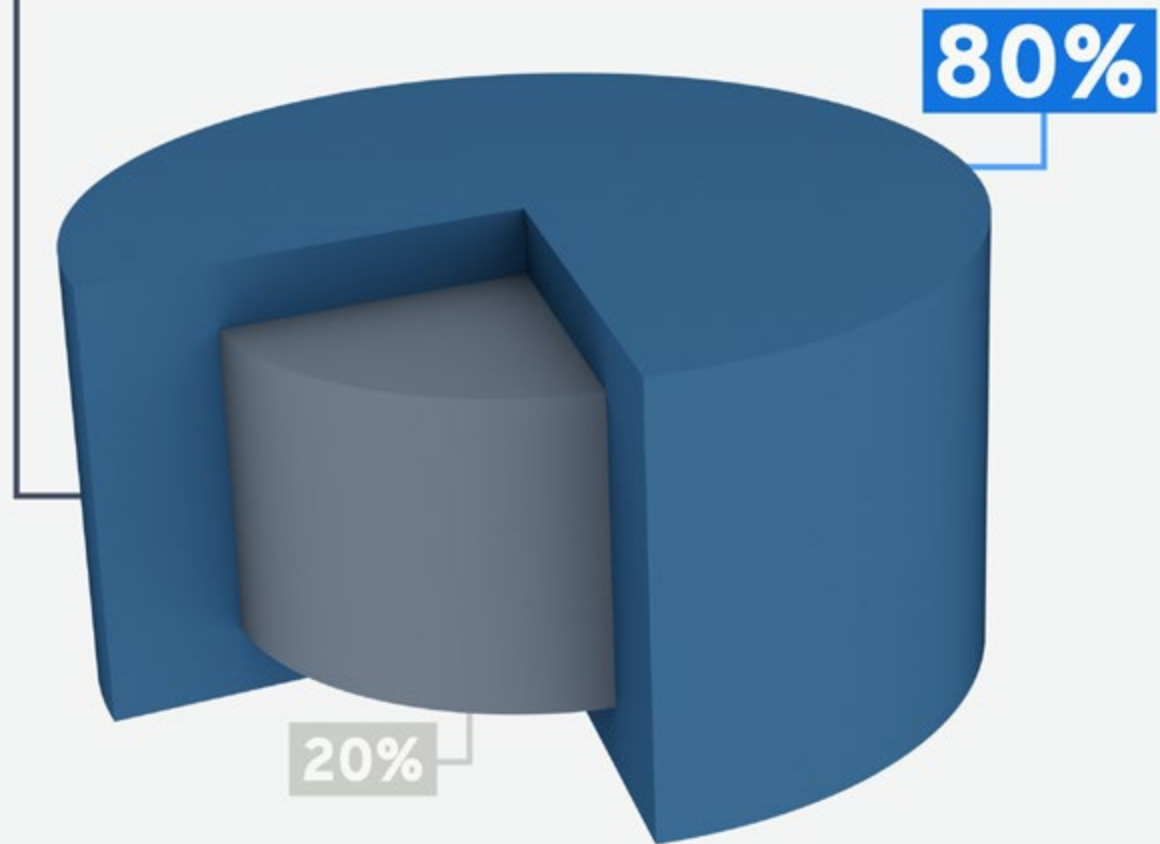


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#12 HUNTING APPROVAL

Four out of five Americans approve of hunting, partly because hunters are American's greatest positive force for conservation.

**80% of Americans
APPROVE of Hunting**



**25 REASONS WHY
HUNTING IS CONSERVATION®**

**#13 SPORTSMAN
& WOMEN**

Every single day, sportsman and women contribute \$8.1 million to conservation.

**\$2.9 BILLION
ANNUALLY**



25 REASONS WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION[®]

#14 LAND CONSERVATION & ACCESS

Hunters generate funding for land conservation and public access work. In 2024 alone, RMEF completed 18 land projects in 12 states that conserved 25,594 acres of elk and big game habitat.

25,594 ACRES

conserved in 12 states
in 2024

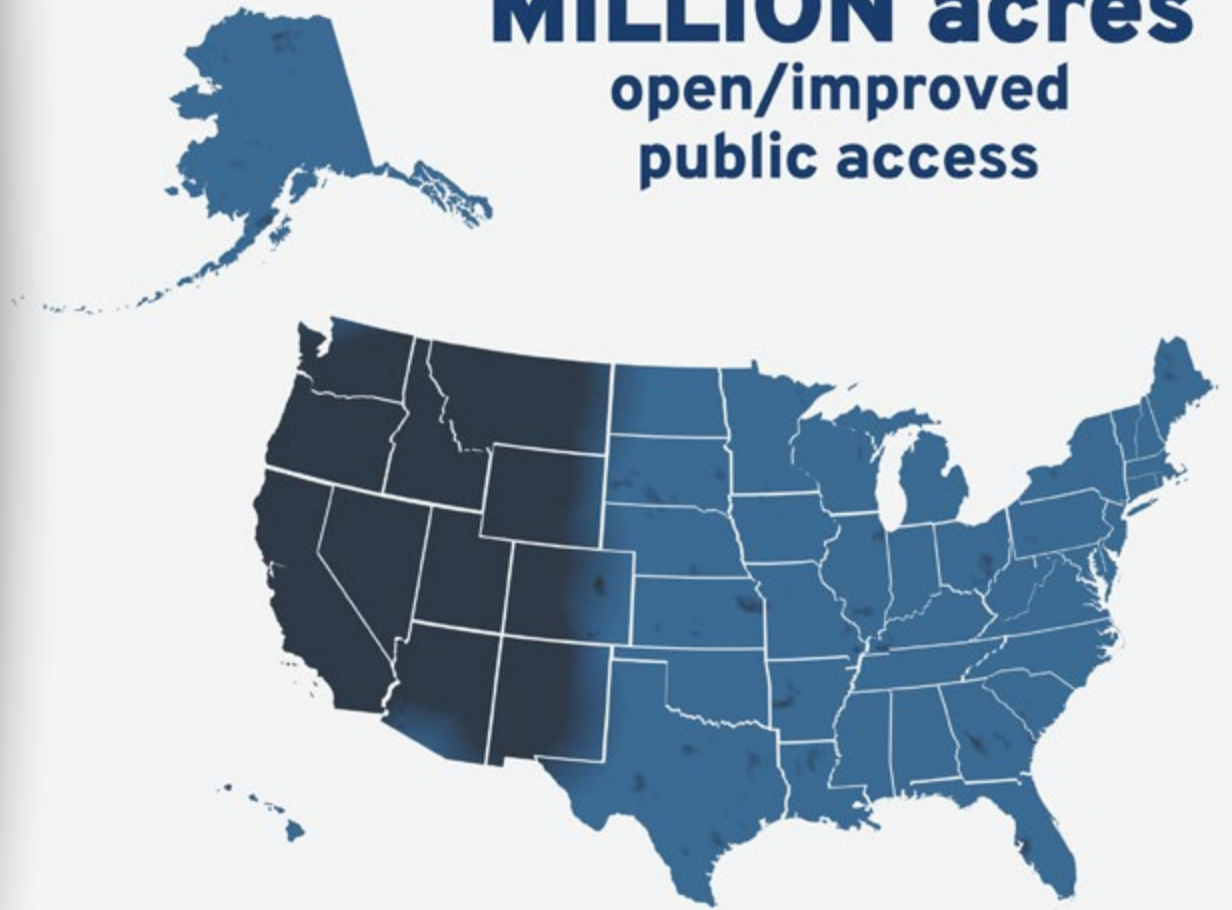


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#15 LAND CONSERVATION & ACCESS

Hunters generate funding for land conservation and public access work. In 2024, RMEF opened or improved public access to 21,816 acres with a lifetime total of 1.6 million acres.

1.6+
MILLION acres
open/improved
public access



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#16 HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

Hunters generate funding for active forest management techniques, including prescribed burns, to enhance habitat for elk and other wildlife while also improving overall forest health. In 2024, RMEF completed 138 habitat stewardship projects in 22 states that enhanced 178,081 acres.

**In 2024,
178,081
ACRES
were enhanced in 22 states**



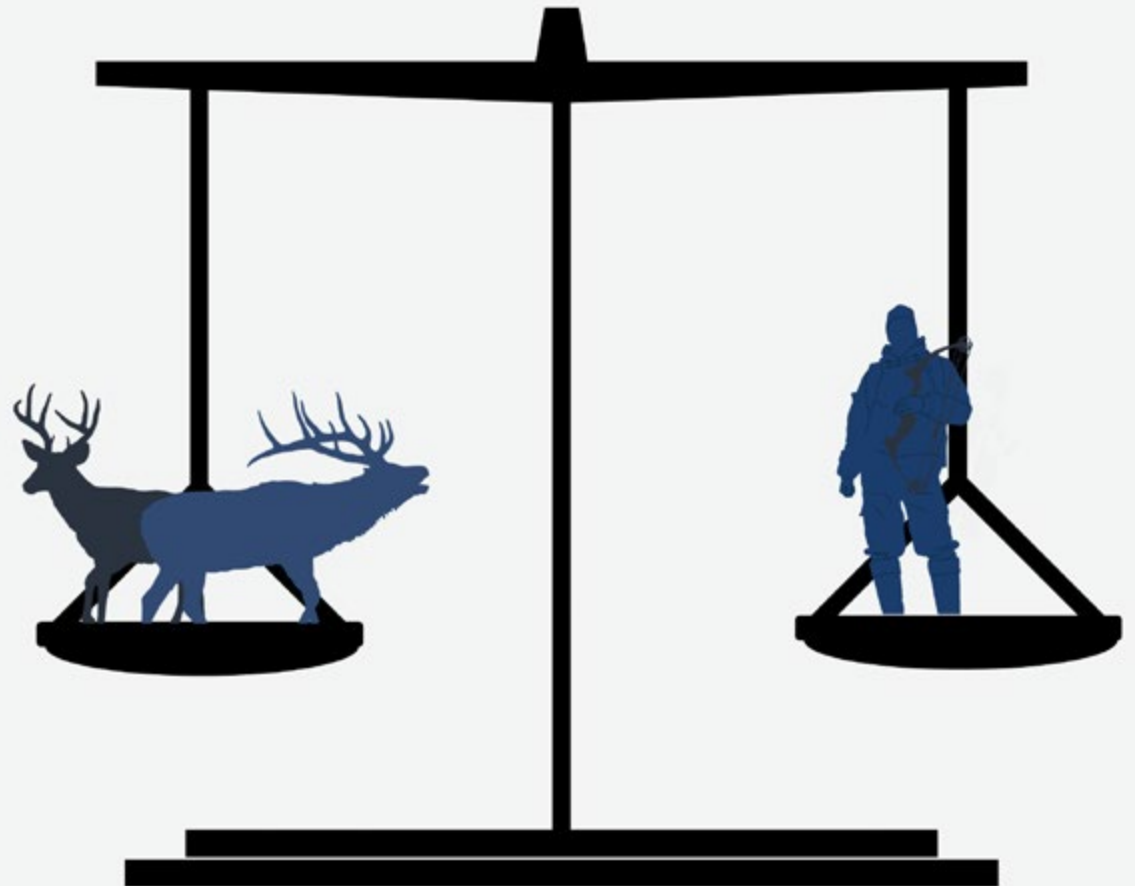
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#17 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

A wildlife management tool, hunting help balance wildlife populations with what the land can support, limits crop damage and assists with disease management.

HUNTING HELPS BALANCE

wildlife population, crop damage,
disease management



25 REASONS WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION[®]

#18 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Hunters generate funding for scientific wildlife research. In 2024 alone, RMEF allocated just over \$1 million that leveraged \$5.8 million in partner funding for elk research in 13 states and three projects of national benefit.

\$5.8 MILLION

granted in 2024 for
scientific elk-related research

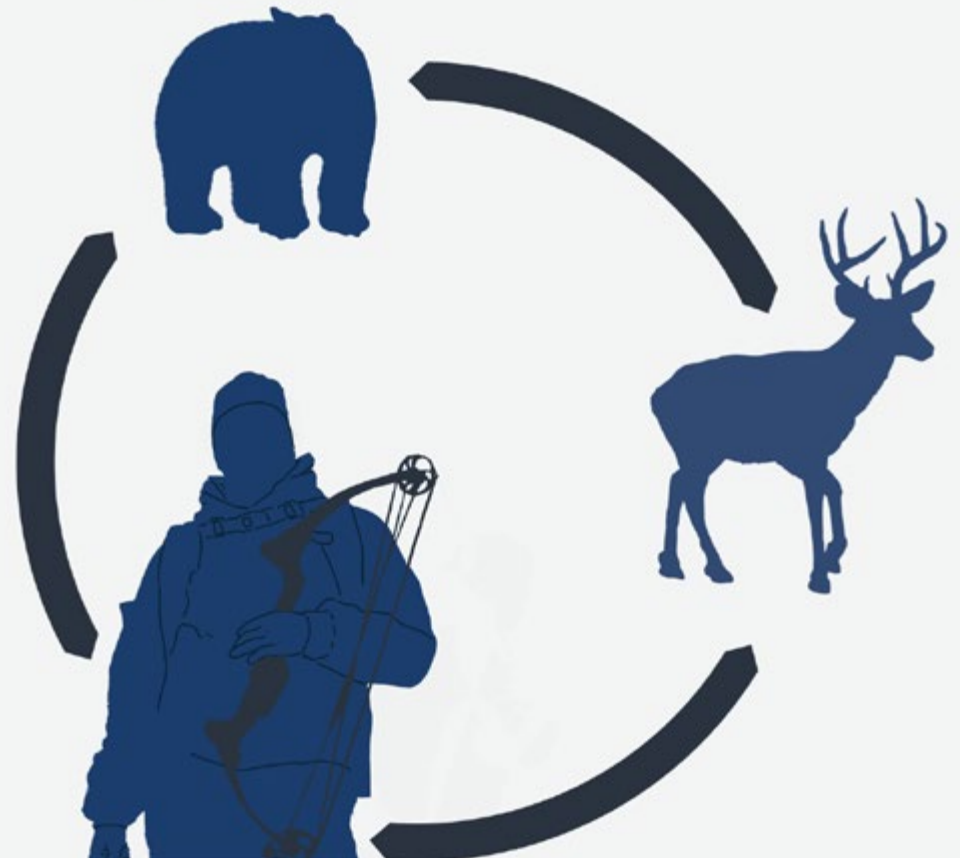


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#19 PREDATORS

Hunters help manage growing number 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.

HUNTERS help control PREDATOR populations



25 REASONS WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION[®]

#20 BIG GAME COLLISION'S

Deer-vehicle collisions kill over 200 motorists and cost over \$7.5 billion a year. For every deer hit by a driver, hunters take six.

Hunting means fewer
DEER-VEHICLE
collisions



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#21 HUNTING HERITAGE

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

Completed
273
HUNTING HERITAGE
projects in 40 states
in 2024

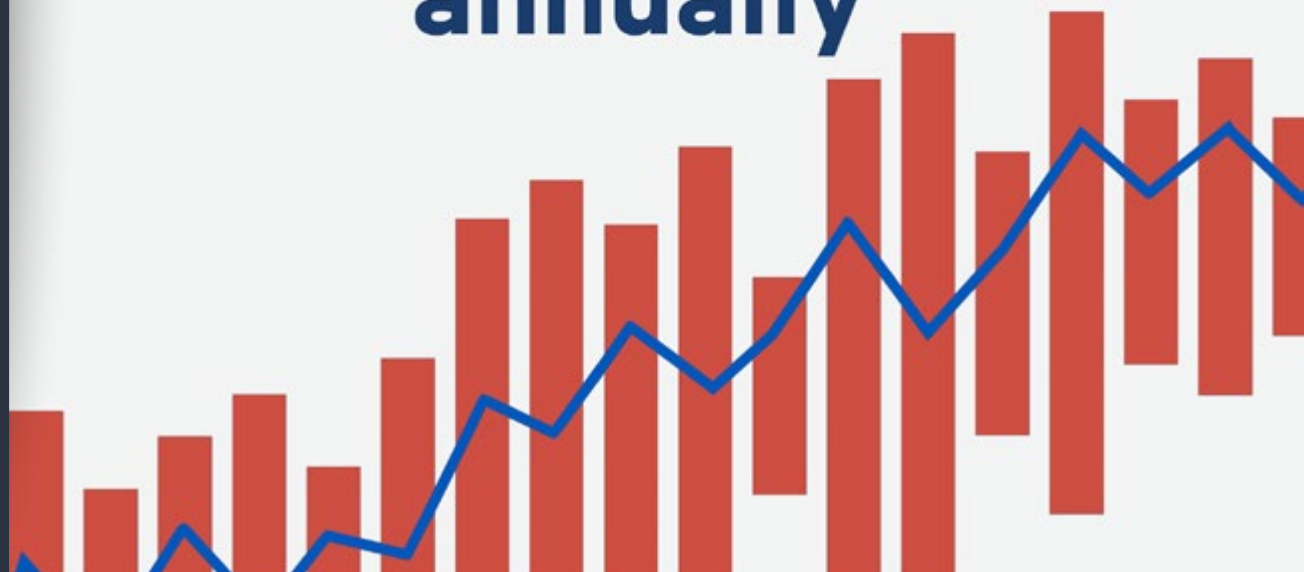


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#22 ECONOMY

Hunters and recreational shooters combine to boost the economy by \$149 billion per year in wages/income and supports job growth.

Hunters boost
the economy
\$149
BILLION
annually



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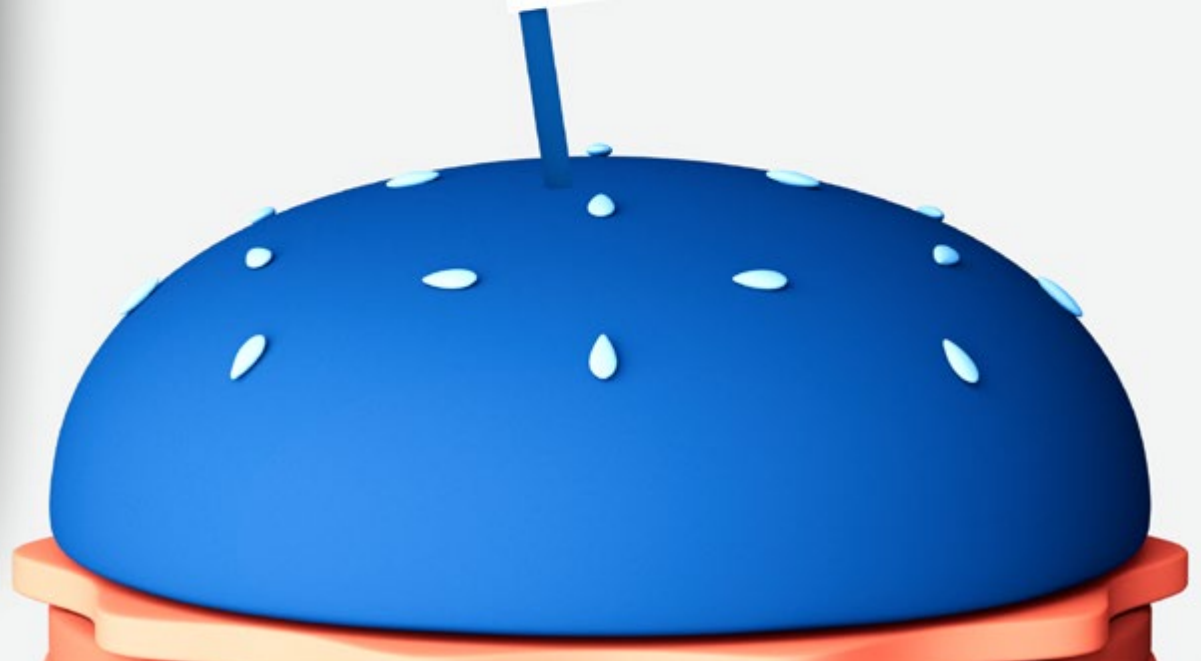
#23 HEALTHY NUTRITION

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.

Elk meat has **MORE PROTEIN**
per pound than other animal proteins

ANIMAL	PROTEIN	FAT	CALORIES
	%	%	per pound
-		1.45	503
ELK	22.95	12.73	870
BEEF (grass-fed)	19.42	21.19	1189
PORK	16.88	8.10	641
CHICKEN	17.44		


Source: USDA Nutrient Database



25 REASONS WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION®

#24 ELK RESTORATION

With funding from hunters, RMEF helped restore wild elk herds to eight states and provinces.



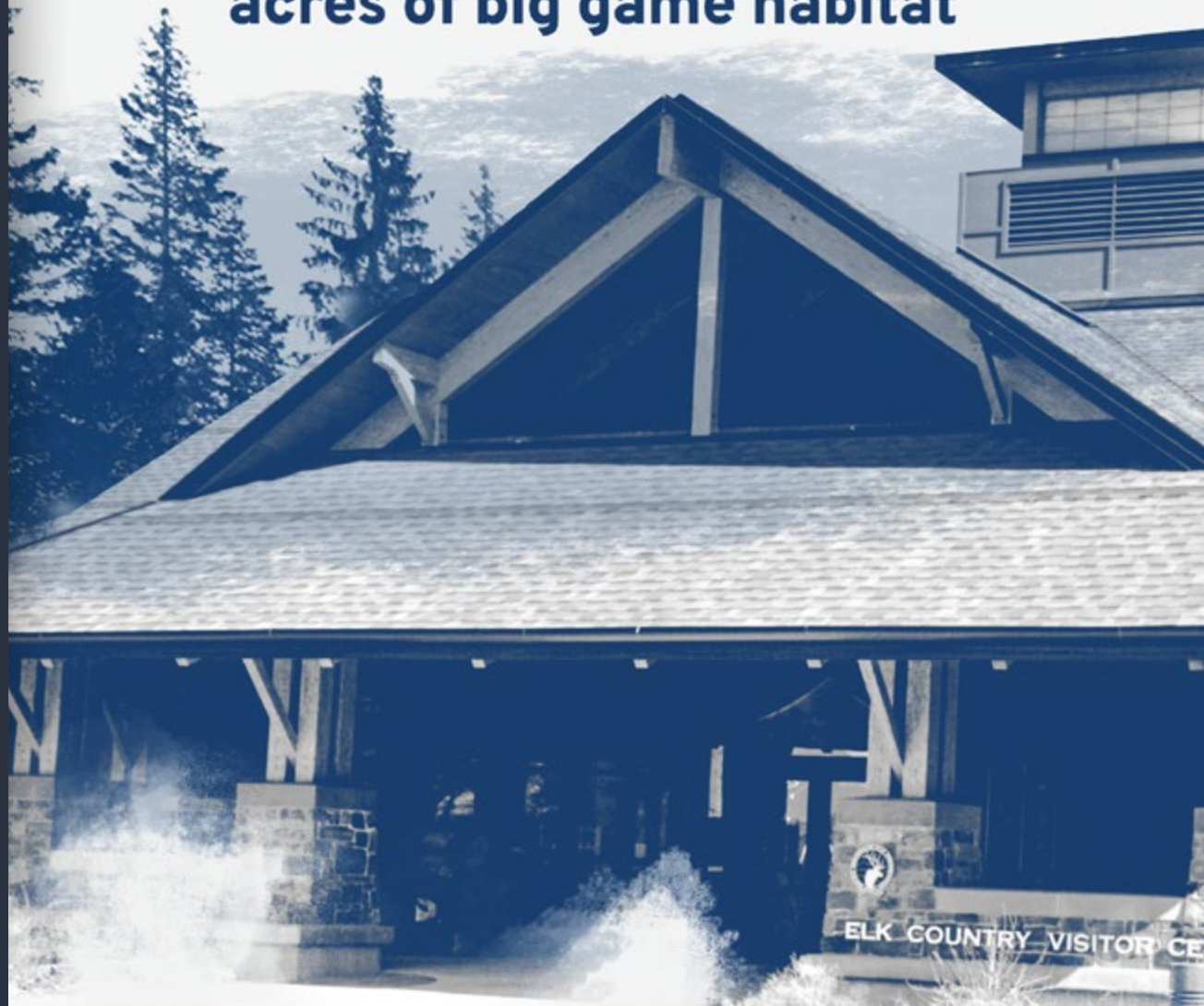
Restored elk to
8 STATES
and provinces

25 REASONS WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION®

#25 RMEF MISSION

RMEF is dedicated to ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage.

RMEF has conserved and enhanced
9.1+ MILLION
acres of big game habitat





25 REASONS WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION[®]

SPONSORED BY

