

THE C.A.S.H. COURIER

THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING

A DIVISION OF WILDLIFE WATCH, INC.

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Fall 2026/Winter 2027

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of C.A.S.H. - Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting - is to accomplish what its name says in the shortest possible time. Understanding that abolishing hunting entails a process, a series of steps taken and not a single action that would effect our goal overnight, a time frame cannot be established. We hope for building a succession of wins, and if not wins immediately then at least a succession of stirrings of consciousness. We hope to encourage those who are still silent to speak out, awakening community after community about the heavy hand of state and federal wildlife management agencies. We hope to alter whatever belief still exists that sport hunters are conservationists and champions of the environment to a realization that they are destroyers of wildlife and ecosystems in the narrow and broad sense. Where the natural feeling for wildlife doesn't exist, we strive to engender among citizens outrage that their own rights are violated by legal hunting and their quality-of-life diminished.

Luke A. Dommer was the founder of the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting. He was its president from 1976 until his passing in August 1992. Mr. Dommer's research and publications served as the foundation for the anti-hunting movement. He remains, through this organization, an invaluable and dedicated warrior in the battle to save wild animals, the environment, and general public from the silent economy that encourages and preys on the passion of a few to kill the wildlife that belongs to all.

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WILDFIRES ARE PLAGUING THE WEST AND SPORT HUNTING ISN'T HELPING

by Jim Robertson, President of C.A.S.H.



While their forest burns, desperate deer gasp for air | Photo © Jim Robertson

Unless you've been living under a rock (which isn't a bad idea since it's about the coolest place to be in the West during these days of heat domes and prolonged drought), you have undoubtedly heard of the growing menace of megafires afflicting the land. As I write this, there are hundreds of out-of-control wildfires surrounding the region, often hyped as a "sportsman's paradise."

Just yesterday, a brand-new fire mysteriously started next to a cattle ranch up the creek drainage from here. At noon it was just 35 acres and by 5:00 P.M. (thanks to the 95-degree heat and near-record dryness), had grown to 400 acres and counting.

Only for the fact that there are so many high-end homes threatened in the area is there any hope that this one won't explode into one of those 100,000+ acre monster fires that put out so much unhealthy

smoke you can't see your hand in front of your face.

Much can be found on film or in print throughout the news about the converted passenger jets and twin-rotor helicopters dropping water and retardant on these infernos when they are in the proximity of trophy show-homes, but little is said or reported about the homes, habitats and lives lost of the wild species who struggle to live there too. Yet, their plight is no less dramatic.

(Continued on Page 3.)

Letter from the President

*Dear C.A.S.H.
Members and
Supporters,*



As you read in my article beginning on the previous page, it was another intense summer this year. But that's about over for now, and we're heading right into another intense season: Autumn (better known as hunting season, for those with a rifle and a freezer, but who've yet to grow a conscience for animals).

Among my daily tasks for C.A.S.H. is to search keywords like "hunter," "hunting" or "hunting accidents" to ferret out articles to post to the C.A.S.H. Website (abolishsport hunting.org), the C.A.S.H. Blog (committeetoabolishsport hunting.wordpress.com) and [Facebook](#) page. The problem with wading through search results under the heading "hunter" is that most matches these days are about Hunter Biden and not about obsessed animal killers.

I'm reading more and more about his possible presidential ambitions and I'm not overly enthusiastic about having a U.S. President named "Hunter." But what I'm far more concerned about is if Donald Trump Jr. follows suit and runs in his aged daddy's stead. Then we could end up with a rabid, frothing, trophy hunter as our next commander in chief!

In case you don't yet know, Donald Trump Jr. is a world-touring trophy-getter who proudly posed with the animals he mowed down in Zimbabwe, including (but not limited to) a Cape buffalo, a crocodile and an elephant (whose severed tail he held up for the camera along with the knife used to cut it off). His trip to Mongolia to slay a rare species of sheep cost taxpayers \$75,000.00. He also hunted in Alaska, where he made Sarah Palin look like Jane Goodall. Indeed, compared to Donald Jr., Ted Nugent would seem more like Tiny Tim strumming his ukulele and singing "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" than the crazed psycho mass-murderer he is.

Clearly, voters in this country need groups like C.A.S.H. to keep them informed about candidates who teeter on the edge of insanity. We'll continue to do our best to keep them on the straight and narrow.

Jim Robertson

President, Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting

Wildfires Plaguing the West (Continued from Page 1.)

The sheer numbers of non-human animals killed in wildfires is not something the anthropocentric powers that be like to calculate and it's not high on the list for the mainstream media to cover. Wildfire "managers" strive to drive wildfires back into national forest wilderness areas (regardless of the number of animals who'll spend their last hours trying to outrun the choking smoke and flames), rather than risk a valuable house belonging to a well-heeled taxpayer.

And yet, as the late biologist, geologist, naturalist and steadfast abolitionist, Charles Darwin, put it, back in the mid-Nineteenth century, "There is no fundamental difference between man and animals in their ability to feel pleasure and pain, happiness, and misery."

Those deer lying in smoke-filled clearings, panting and gasping to draw a breath, might appear deceptively calm at first glance. The smoke tends to have a tranquilizing effect on individuals who are unaware of its source. But once flames are visible, shaking them out of their torpor, deer, elk, bears and others are forced to flee, often in blind panic.



A hawk eyes all that's left of the devastation—charred cottonwood snags that once held her nest and favorite perches. | Photo © Jim Robertson

It was just these kinds of distracted deer that hunters in Utah must have hoped to be able to "harvest" when they defied an "Area Closed for wildfire suppression" sign and ventured into the closure this August, without so much as a Pulaski, a shovel or radio between them. I hate to be the one to tell them that their rifles wouldn't have done much good against a wind-driven wall of flame, but they might have earned themselves an honorable mention in the Darwin Awards, or at least a

page on the C.A.S.H. website, under 2026 Hunting Accidents.

Firefighters at the Utah blaze had to cease their efforts and fly the hunters by helicopter out of the area (for the hunter's safety and for the safety of other firefighters). Not only is trying to stop a wildfire in a war zone a risky endeavor, it's also been well documented that bullets ricocheting off rocks have ignited far more than their share of new wildfires.

It was a frightened hunter's out of control signal fire that started California's largest wildfire, which burned 273,246 acres of forest, killed 15 people and destroyed 2,232 houses. And again, no one was even trying to keep track of the number of animals that were killed in the conflagration, but it's safe to say that at least one hunter has filled his kill-quota for many, many lifetimes and then some.

A few more details about this hunter-caused mega-fire will enlighten but are sure to lower Courier reader's opinion of hunters in general (if that's even humanly possible): It turns out the hunter in



Nightmare of approaching mega-fire | Photo © Jim Robertson

question chose to start the deadly fire after being lost out there in the scary woods for less than an hour. It was only three in the afternoon, not even close to dark yet, with strong wind whipping through the canyon and the surrounding brush tinder-dry and ready to burn, yet he had no way of extinguishing or containing a fire once he'd started it.

Like the Utah hunters this year, who defied the "Area Closed for wildfire suppression," this hunter felt similarly entitled to defy the "No Fires" policy California had in place at that time of year. (Even cigarette smoking was banned, unless within one's own vehicle.) It wasn't cold out and although he was within view of a road, he was a lost hunter, and he wanted to be rescued and get to go home.

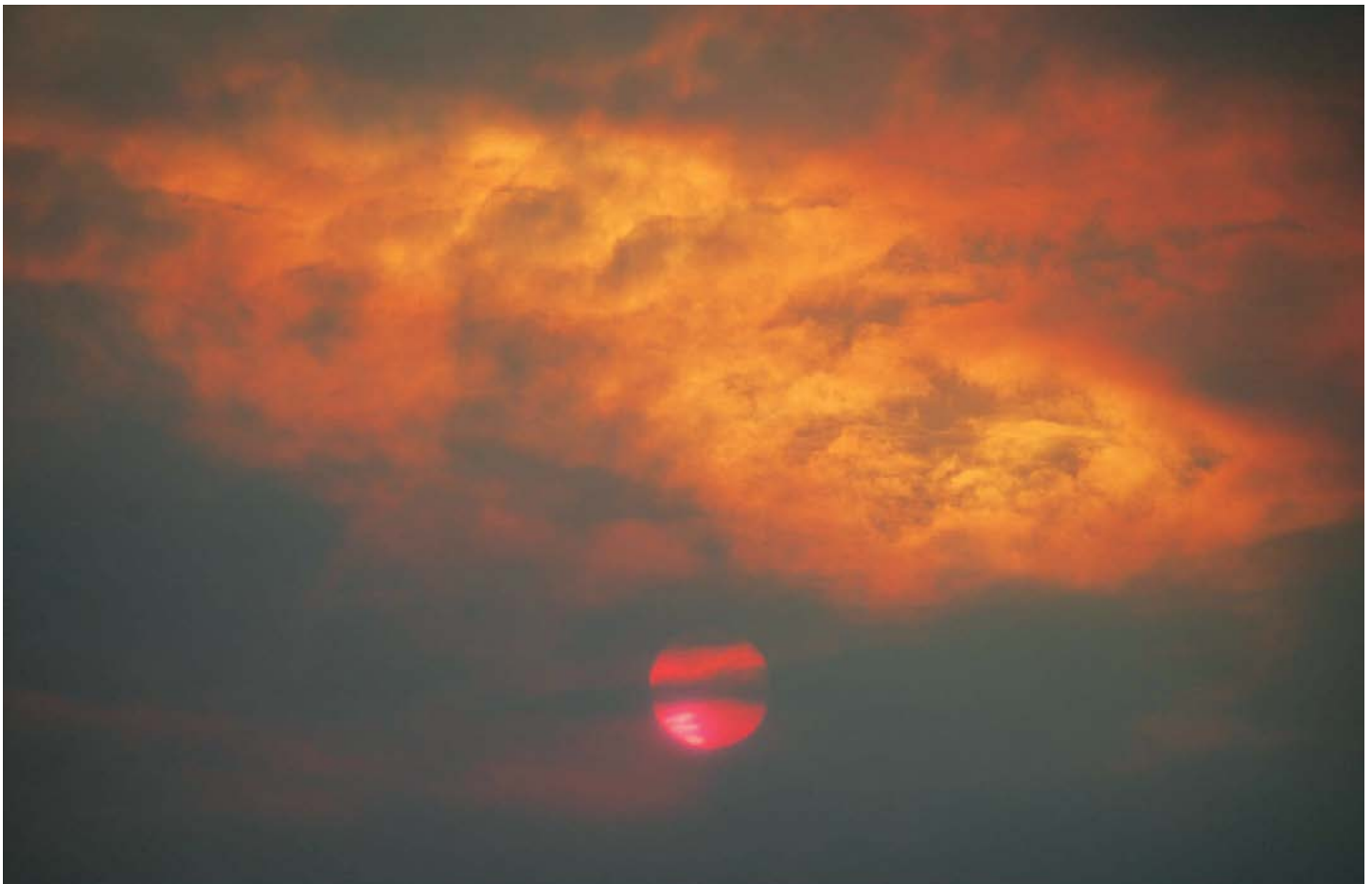
I'm sure Smokey the Bear doesn't appreciate having the risk of forest fires added to the seasonal, mortal threat from Elmers out in force trying to "harvest" him or any other member of his species to fill their empty hearts or overstuffed bellies.

As much as they'd like to keep it a well-guarded secret, the harsh reality that most hunters are self-centered is proven out time and again by the fact that hunting is clearly a self-centered "sport." Like pampered house cats killing mice or birds purely for pleasure, hunters these days kill deer, elk, moose, coyotes, wolves, cougars, bobcats and "game" birds, etc., as a pastime, a hobby—or simply for the fun of it. Unlike the victims they target, hunters can scurry back to their fully stocked, well protected homes whenever a blaze starts (all

too often as the result of their own actions).

Roaring hunter campfires, often located directly under thick canopies of evergreen tree branches, left to continue to burn on cold mornings in case someone in the hunting party needs to come back later to warm up (because they forgot their Cabella's long johns that weekend); excessive use of four-wheelers and other all-terrain vehicles that may or may not come equipped with spark arresters; not to mention an ingrained rejection of all things scientific—like climate change or general ecology—can make an autumn hunting trip a recipe for disaster.

Hunters don't seem to mind climbing over barbed wire fences found throughout the national



The sun appearing otherworldly through thick, dark smoke | Photo © Jim Robertson

forest. To them, it seems to give off a comforting feeling that humans are still in control of the planet. Meanwhile, deer, elk and the like, particularly their fawns or calves, often die in fast-moving fires, but

These days, there are times when it seems Mother Nature hates the human species and is out to kill us off.

the adults of those species can at least jump the pervasive, lethal fencelines that would otherwise ensnare them (when they can see the wretched hazards through the thick, blanketing smoke, that is).

But much of the West's "free range" cows are ultimately held captive behind "cattle guards" cut into dirt roads and barbed wire fences found throughout the so-called "open range," where they are numbered, ear-tagged and left to fend for themselves. Cows and other species considered "livestock" can't jump the fences and far too many each year end up burned to death like in some nightmarish scenario from World War I or II or some other mindless wartime era.

But you might ask, 'Aren't most wildfires started by lightning and isn't that just a part of nature?' Well, not so much anymore. According to National Geographic, human-caused wildfires make up 85% to 90% of all fires in the world today. While it's true that the lightning-caused fires have been around since long before human beings first walked, swam or crawled out onto the land, the lightning-caused fires seen today are exacerbated by human-caused global warming. Heat makes the air hold moisture, which fuels more lightning than what we used to think of as normal. Higher surface heat also causes strong

updrafts in the resultant unstable clouds. Updrafts cause ice particles to crash together, creating the friction which builds up the electrical charges that create lightning.

Worsening droughts from low snowpacks and lack of rain dry out trees, plants and shrubs that can fuel wildfires. Also, Climate change lowers nighttime humidity, further drying out vegetation, causing wildfires to burn hotter

and faster, not to mention longer. And when these conditions are combined with the increasing winds now found even in places that rarely ever saw a windy summer day in the past, today's fires can become not only larger, but also more dangerous and deadly than they were a decade or two ago.

These days, there are times when it seems Mother Nature hates the human species and is out to kill us off. But, although she'd be well within her rights considering how thoughtlessly she's been abused throughout our species' long, reckless history, I can assure you She has nothing more than self-preservation in mind.

I refer to Mother Nature (or Mother Earth) as "She" in part because the label "He" has already been so widely used by believers in a Great Creator, whom, if he in fact existed and brought forth all life in its present state, would have every reason to want, with equal fervor, to do away with our species (whom I can imagine He regrets creating in His own image).

No, Mother Nature's motive for her recent destructive behavior may simply be to begin to clean the slate (as has happened numerous times in the past) to re-stimulate

the evolutionary process that will eventually lead to even more diversity of life than existed before this increasingly one-sided epoch, even as our species of homo dreams of colonizing new planets across the vast, lifeless void of space.

But, if a mother or father figure has anything to say about it, I'm sure he or she would tell us that before we can go out and play, we have to finish our homework and start trying to get along with our brothers and sisters (and not torment the dog and cat). Based on humans' past record of wanton waste and destruction, I wouldn't hold my breath...

Jim Robertson is the President of C.A.S.H. He's the author of *Exposing the Big Game: Living Targets of a Dying Sport*. You can order Jim's book on Amazon.



C.A.S.H.'S HUNTING ACCIDENT TRACKING

Countless animal lives have been stolen in the ongoing and senseless war on wildlife. To highlight the toll that the practice of hunting takes on ALL lives – BOTH human and animal, C.A.S.H. maintains a list of accidents that occur every year.

Please visit our website and witness the results of the continued violence yourself.

<https://abolishsport hunting.org/hunting-accidents/>

COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO RAISING PHEASANTS TO BE SHOT

by Anne Muller on behalf of LOHV/NY



Photo by oliversjoberg on Unsplash

The background below is not a digression; it's vital to understanding the government entity that engages in, and promotes, the rearing of pheasants for the sole purpose of killing them.

If one were to look at an organizational chart of the DEC, it would take a while to find the Bureau of Wildlife (BOW). At some point, it would be seen under the Division of Wildlife and not given much thought. Yet, it is *the* bureau that encourages families and children to raise pheasant chicks to be shot by those who have a hunting permit. BOW needs to be identified as it remains largely out of sight and protected from scrutiny.

BOW's primary purpose is to manage wild animals for hunting. Killing animals for "sport" is not just fun and games for less than 3% of New York's population; it's serious business that works hand-

in-glove with the firearms industry. **BOW is the government entity that the firearms industry funds to increase wildlife populations and provide hunting opportunities. At the same time, hunters, through their purchase of firearms and ammunition, bows and arrows, and crossbows and bolts, increase the revenue of the weapons industry.** Yet, BOW remains in the shadows as the DEC stands in the spotlight using euphemisms to tout BOW's programs. BOW who?

The inextricable relationship between BOW and the firearms industry came about after the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 was approved by Congress. The P-R Act placed a dedicated excise tax on "sporting" firearms and ammunition; it was later amended to include bows and arrows, and crossbows and bolts. Game divisions in all states receive an

apportionment of the weapons excise tax based on the number of hunting permits they sell and their land mass. **In case it was missed, legal "sporting" weapons in New York include semi-automatic handguns and rifles, such as AR-15s. In NY, semi-automatic rifles were mandated to be "safer" allowing a mere seven bullets to be shot in quick succession rather than thirty.**

In 2020, BOW's P-R apportionment was close to 16 million dollars - not one penny of which benefits the general public. The P-R Act requires that the apportionment be used solely to manage wildlife for hunting. Hunting, in turn, requires the purchase of firearms and ammo, bows and arrows, and crossbows and bolts, thus increasing the profits of the firearms industry.

In contrast, the excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco contribute to the General Fund. An analogy to the BOW model would be a Bureau of Smoking that receives funding from cigarette manufacturers to encourage more smoking for the purpose of increasing sales of cigarettes. How long would the public tolerate it?

We are unaware of any other division of government that is in a circular, self-serving relationship with a private industry, or that functions to benefit less than 3% of the NY public!

Using children and families to raise pheasants to be shot, while shocking to most New Yorkers, is "nothing new," according to Reynold's Game Farm, a pheasant production facility that is owned by BOW. In a recent call to them, we were told that pheasant chick-

rearing by families has been going on for about 100 years. It's "tradition"! **What's new is that it's just getting noticed!**

Thanks to a bill introduced by Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal: A00888 "Prohibits the state's participation in artificial pheasant propagation activities; closes any state-owned or operated pheasant production facility."

Should the bill become law, Reynold's Game Farm would be shut down. Thinking ahead, BOW is emulating the 4-H model of having children and others raise animals, in this case, pheasants, to be turned loose so they can be shot by hunters.

LOHV/NY believes that while the New York public will accept raising animals for food, it's unlikely that they would view raising pheasant chicks for the pleasure of killing them in the same light. Add to that the realization that it enhances the profits of the firearms industry, and the program becomes repugnant. Nor would most New Yorkers agree that putting firearms into the hands of 12-year-olds is a normal "sport." And for what purpose? To teach children that killing is fun? That they are serving the noble purpose of "restoring" wildlife? Using such terms as "conservation" in this context brings disgrace to the term itself, and we daresay to the DEC.

...And what effect does this have on children? An interesting article can be found here: <https://sentientmedia.org/when-4-h-kids-choose-sanctuary-over-slaughter/>

...And what about the birds themselves? Just imagine the suffering of wounded birds who may not have been hit with shot in a vital organ and will continue to survive into the winter months when finally, and painfully, they succumb to the elements. That is not even the end of the nightmare, those birds in the process of dying

are predated upon by birds of prey, while the pheasants who have died become carrion for vultures or other wildlife, then those animals become lead-poisoned. Just ask wildlife

Should the bill become law, Reynold's Game Farm would be shut down.

rehabilitators how heartbreaking it is to watch raptors die from lead poisoning. And what does all of the lead-shot that is scattered onto the land year after year do to groundwater and food for both wildlife and humans?

"Restoration" in wildlife management lingo does not mean bringing back endangered species, rather it means annually restoring the decimated populations caused by hunting in order to have sufficient victims for the following hunting season! Hunting of any species cannot be sustained without a continuing supply of individuals.

... the DEC's mission statement and goal are:

To conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.

DEC's goal is to achieve this mission through the simultaneous pursuit of environmental quality, public health, economic prosperity and social well-being, including environmental justice and the empowerment of individuals to participate in environmental decisions that affect their lives.

While noble in theory, we ask how the DEC's advocacy of producing pheasants, non-native birds, for hunters, as well as the

unloading of lead shot into the environment for hunters' enjoyment and recreation can be reconciled with its mission.

Ensconced within the DEC, BOW remains largely undercover and protected from scrutiny. It's difficult to find detailed reports of funding, but we have to assume that BOW is provided with taxpayer

funding, if only for their costly overhead, advertising, promotion, legal costs, etc.

LOHV/NY urges full transparency of BOW's activities, their funding sources and expenditures. We also urge transparency of related DEC divisions that serve the purpose of BOW while still serving their own.

We ask the DEC to discontinue BOW's program of using children and families to raise pheasants to be shot as it is incompatible with their mission - as well as the sensibilities and ethics of most New Yorkers!

To see more about pheasant hunting:

<https://www.newyorkupstate.com/life-and-culture/erry-2018/10/722855ceb03454/7-things-upstate-ny-hunters-sh.html>

Video of how it's done!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=RDCMUCm3af9XtbGdk>

<https://www.wivb.com/news/new-york/new-york-pheasant-release-program-opens-applications/>

LOHV's mission is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.

Anne Muller is the president of Wildlife Watch and co-founder of the League of Humane Voters @ LOHV.org.

EU WILDLIFE PROTECTIONS FACE PRESSURE IN THE NAME OF SIMPLIFICATION

by Susan Hartland



Photo by Becca on Unsplash

A European Union review of wildlife legislation is giving hunting interests an opening to press for greater freedom to hunt and kill protected animals. At a September 29, 2026, meeting in the European Parliament in Brussels, which I attended for C.A.S.H./Animal Rights, calls for flexibility and reduced administrative “burdens” repeatedly accompanied demands that allow faster action against wildlife.

The meeting was co-organized by the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation, known as FACE, and the European Landowners’ Organization. Its subject was the European Commission’s 2026 stress test of the Birds and Habitats Directives, two central pillars of EU wildlife and habitat protection. There are approximately 7 million hunters across the EU.

The review grew out of a broader political drive for simplification and competitiveness. In December 2024, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen instructed Environment Commissioner Jessika Roswall to stress-test existing legislation and reduce administrative burdens. In October 2025, EU leaders urged the Commission to intensify that work and explore faster planning and permitting procedures. On December 10, 2025, the Commission specifically announced the Nature Directives stress test for 2026.

That announcement also promised implementation guidance “including with regard to predatory species.” The wording does not itself authorize killing, but it shows that predators were explicitly part of the announced agenda. The stress test examines species protection, exceptions

to protection and procedures for changing the annexes that determine particular legal protections.

The Commission says its aim is more cost-efficient implementation while maintaining high standards of nature protection. It also leaves open whether the results will justify changes to the legal framework. The process therefore creates an opportunity for stakeholders to argue for changes to how wildlife protection works.

At the Brussels meeting, several speakers portrayed hunters, farmers and landowners as essential conservation partners. According to my contemporaneous notes, a speaker from Malta advocated adaptive “harvest” management, protection of hunting traditions and more usable flexibility within the Directives. **Another speaker called for faster responses when species recover, citing conflicts involving otters, cormorants, beavers and rooks.**

Romanian regional representative Csaba Borboly raised public-safety concerns involving bears and questioned whether authorities could use exceptions quickly enough. My notes record his concern that local officials fear legal action when deciding to kill wildlife, and his question about legal security for officials acting in good faith. He also said options included changes to the Directives and their annexes.

These comments matter because the Habitats Directive already permits exceptions, known as derogations, for public safety and other specified purposes. Article 12 establishes strict protection for listed species; Article 16 allows departures subject to conditions, including the absence

of a satisfactory alternative and safeguards for conservation status. Recovery does not automatically end Article 12 protection for a species that remains listed.

For anti-hunting advocates, the concern is that safeguards against killing may be recast as administrative obstacles.

The question is which constraints speakers want removed. Better data and adequately staffed authorities can improve implementation. Reducing the evidence required for lethal action, weakening consideration of alternatives or insulating decisions from legal scrutiny would put wildlife at greater risk. The meeting notes do not establish that specific amendments have been agreed.

There was one reasonable voice in the room. EUROPARC director Alberto

Arroyo Schnell questioned why the Directives were being revisited when Europe was still losing nature and conservation remained inadequately resourced. Commission official Andrea Vettori emphasized effective monitoring and reporting.

For anti-hunting advocates, the concern is that safeguards against killing may be recast as administrative obstacles. The Commission's report

is expected at the end of 2026, and its conclusions remain open. Wildlife advocates should demand concrete explanations of proposed changes and defend the evidence, alternatives and accountability requirements that give protection practical force.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Susan asks that you reach out to **Jessika Roswall** and simply state that in an era where nature has so many challenges, Europe can be a leader in strengthening protections and bio-

diversity -- and the rest of the world hopes they do the right thing.

Jessika Roswall's contacts are here:

https://commission.europa.eu/about-organisation/college-commissioners/jessika-roswall_en

Susan Hartland's life-long mission is to protect and save animals. Her mission started years ago when she worked with homeless animals in rural shelters. It was through this experience that she began to understand just how widespread the exploitation and suffering was for animals and the need for organizations and individuals to work to end the needless suffering of all animals. Witnessing this suffering also evoked awareness that all animals have feelings and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

Her educational background is in electrical engineering, and she worked in the broadband industry as a technician, design engineer and technical operations director.

Once Susan left the corporate world, she had the honor of holding roles as Director for Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Executive Director of Full Circle Farm Sanctuary and now as Director of Animal Rights in Belgium and the Netherlands.

SPEAKERS

HOST:

- ▶ **MEP Juan Ignacio ZOIDO**, EPP, Spain – President of the “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside” Intergroup

KEYNOTE SPEECH:

- ▶ **Jessika ROSWALL**, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Econom

OPENING SPEECHES:

- ▶ **MEP Alex AGIUS SALIBA**, S&D, Malta – Vice President of the Intergroup
- ▶ **MEP Christine SINGER**, Renew Europe, Germany – Vice President of the Intergroup

SPEAKERS:

- ▶ **Andrea VETTORI**, Head of Unit for Nature Conservation in DG ENV, European Commission
- ▶ **Alberto ARROYO SCHNELL**, Director, EUROPARC Federation
- ▶ **Csaba BORBOLY**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions and Vice-President of Harghita County Council, Romania

MODERATOR:

- ▶ **Hilde EGGERMONT**, Administrator-General, Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)

LETTER OF OPPOSITION TO A "BAIT AND SHOOT" IN THE TOWN OF AURORA

by Rebecca Sunshine



Precious Deer | Photo by Anne Muller

The Town of Aurora's plan to implement a targeted "bait and shoot" of white-tailed deer is wrong and misguided for many reasons:

- Bow hunting is **not** a humane, safe or effective means of deer management. And of all hunting, bow hunting is particularly cruel. Deer shot that are not recovered may suffer for days, weeks or months before dying. The Humane Society of the United States said, "We believe bow hunting is both ineffective and inhumane, and we strongly oppose its use as an urban deer management tool. Numerous studies reveal that for every animal struck and killed by an arrow, there is one animal struck and unretrieved. That's a wounding loss of 50 percent."
- Baiting and luring unsuspecting deer to their deaths is especially malicious.
- Studies by The Humane Society of the United States have shown,

and as cited by the New York State Humane Association, hunting **does not** control the number of deer, but results in the females becoming more fertile to compensate for the diminished herd. It increases the availability of browse and the likelihood of multiple births. It may only have temporary results before other deer move into the area and reproduction increases. The advantage of fertility control projects over culling is that you don't contend with the continual bounce-back in deer numbers.

[Why deer killing programs don't solve conflicts with deer | The Humane Society of the United States](#)

- Studies have shown that the Lyme carrying tick is the black-legged tick which will attach to what-ever host is available to them. White-footed mice, not deer are the primary carriers of Lyme disease. Deer density has no measurable effect on the number of these ticks. Eliminating deer does **not** eliminate ticks or reduce the risk of Lyme disease for people.
[https://www.earth.com/animals/lyme-disease-risk-acorns-mice/](#)
[Deer are not the real drivers of Lyme risk. White-footed mice are. | LymeDisease.org](#)
- While deer are made the scapegoats, studies by the Humane Society of the United States and the Cary Institute have shown that deer density is **not** a leading factor in the loss of flora, mature trees, or a decline in tree regeneration; rather pollutants, insect damage, climatic changes and canopies of mature trees blocking the sun, and more play a major role.

- Studies by the Director of the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies found that in Rock Creek Park in MD forests are self-thinning **regardless** of the presence of deer as a comparison was made between fenced and non-fenced areas.

[http://www.caryinstitute.org/newsroom/new-york-hotbed-damaging-forest-pests](#)

[https://www.caryinstitute.org/news-insights/media-coverage/invasive-insect-eating-away-americas-forests](#)

- Culling is very costly to taxpayers.
- Deer are not a significant cause of car-related accidents. **According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), the four most common causes of accidents are speeding, distracted driving, impaired driving, and not wearing seat belts. Deer are not included as a main risk factor and should not be targeted in the name of protecting drivers.**

I strongly urge the Town of Aurora to take the smart, safe and compassionate route and abandon plans for this inhumane, ineffective, and dangerous bow hunt.

If you believe that deer management is truly needed, please seriously explore the humane and safe alternatives available such as female contraception, deer repellents, fencing and tree cages before you needlessly inflict misery on harmless animals.

Rebecca Sunshine is a staunch protector of wildlife. Here, she presents arguments against killing deer in the Town of Aurora in Erie County. These arguments can be used by our readers if faced with a similar local nightmare. Becky works with Humane Westchester and the League of Humane Voters, NY (LOHV/NY).

COMMENTS ON AN *OUTDOOR NEWS* ARTICLE

Written By Victor Skinner

by Maureen Schiener



Mom and her adorable pup | © Jim Robertson

Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Largest Conservation Organization in the U.S. Calls it a Day. <https://www.outdoornews.com/2026/05/15/michigan-united-conservation-clubs-will-call-it-quits-this-summer/>

Founded in 1937, the same year the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed in Congress, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs has dissolved as of June, 2026.

Citing financial problems due to “relying heavily on fees from member organizations and individuals,” past president Paul Rose

of MUCC said “the whole model was breaking down over time” noting “support shifted over the years to local or species-specific groups.”

Also noted in the article is a stat animal advocates know too well: Even though the U.S. population is increasing, **the number of hunters and anglers has been steadily decreasing.**

To counteract the decline, hunting groups and their allies in states’ departments of conservation or natural resources actively promote hunting, fishing, and trapping as “recreational opportunities” as if

they were genteel hobbies to be pursued. In New York State, a bill in the Assembly (A.2312) with 16 co-sponsors proposes to legalize **ten-year-old children “to hunt small game, fowl, deer, or bear... without obtaining a hunting license or hunter’s education course certification and to possess...a firearm if the person...is within arm’s reach of a qualified hunting mentor.”** Ten-year-old children handling a firearm to kill an animal much larger than they are? This is how desperate the hunters are to add to their numbers.

Even though MUCC advocated for select environmental issues, e.g., passage of the 1976 bottle deposit law, it also courted controversy, like **lobbying for a year-round coyote hunt** which was rejected by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission. (Hunting coyotes is still permitted most of the year but “managed” during certain months). This was one of the conflicts the MUCC had with hunting groups leading to its’ dissolution.

Thus ends the saga of the MUCC. Despite this group’s demise, the hunting fraternity is still well-organized and financed, and still has the media and government in their corner. Animal advocates can take a page from their playbook and be as **organized and focused on our mission** as they are to end the cruelty of sport hunting, trapping, and fishing. When we band together as one, we can accomplish great things for animals.

Maureen Schiener is a longtime animal advocate and active with a number of organizations, including C.A.S.H. www.abolishsportshunting.org and the League of Humane Voters, NY www.lohvny.org

PROPOSED HUNTING REGULATION IN NEW YORK MISSES THE MARK

by Jacob Kamen



Photo by Thomas Tucker on Unsplash

The conversation on gun violence and gun control in recent decades have increasingly become centered on America's youth, burdened by the rise of school shootings and adolescent suicide rates. These interrelated issues continue to garner attention in the national conversation, however its connection to hunting regulation and culture is often not mentioned. This is despite [research](#) finding a positive correlation between the beginning of deer hunting season and an increase in daily total shootings across rural US counties.

Currently, New York is set to consider two new bills in its state legislature aimed at lowering the hunting age to 10 years in the presence of a mentor (Assembly Bill [A2312](#)) and to 12 years to obtain a universal hunting license (Senate Bill [S5100](#)), respectfully. Proponents argue that doing so can expand hunting as a positive learning opportunity for youth, however it is time that we also consider how this may very well contribute to the ongoing epidemic of gun violence among youth, including in suicide rates.

In New York, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for regulating sports hunting, but rather than act in the name of protecting wildlife – and people – it often prefers to use its

office to advance policies which benefit the hunting industry first. This translates to the facilitation of hunting beyond the goal of conservation, and the promotion of expanded hunting opportunities, whether that be to younger children or to already-engaged hunters.

Just take the DEC's [webpage](#) on pheasant hunting for example. After mentioning the decline in wild pheasant populations, it states that "Since the 1970s, the goal of the pheasant stocking program is not to restore wild pheasant populations, but to provide upland game bird hunting opportunity." Through this program, the DEC stocks pheasants raised on a game farm and distributes them across state public land, which does more to promote hunting and firearms use than it does to promote conservation.

In 2023, [over half of all suicides](#) in the US were committed using firearms while firearm deaths continue to result primarily from suicides over homicides. The easing of access to these weapons and the ostensible promotion of their use are only likely to play into these trends.

Paul Nestadt, psychiatrist and medical director at the Johns Hopkins Center for Suicide Prevention, advocates for reducing access to firearms as a broad approach to reducing suicide rates.

"I can't tell you which of my patients is likely to die by suicide in the next six months," Nestadt said at a recent event. "Instead of asking every doctor to figure out which patient will die by suicide and locking that patient up, it might be that we need to make sure there aren't loaded guns available."

Just as installing nets on bridges can prevent suicides, limiting access to firearms is also one method of doing the same, despite its political controversy. As [studies](#) show, increasing the proximity of firearms significantly increases the risk of suicide. Many restrictions on access such as background checks, waiting periods, and red flag laws are already in place across many states, including New York. For example, New York's [child access prevention and safe storage laws](#) require adults to store their firearms in gun-locking devices to prevent unintentional use by minors. Bills A2312 and S5100 currently in the state legislature would take steps to undermine the effectiveness of these preventative measures, all to the benefit of the firearms industry and the potential cost of New Yorkers' lives.

These bills, if enacted, would serve to appropriate hunting regulations and culture for the benefit of the firearms industry while ignoring the likely risk of increased injuries and fatalities. Instead of pursuing an expansion of hunting opportunities and encouraging engagement in them by children as young as 12 years, New York State should recognize the harm these policies can cause and take steps to reverse them, starting with ensuring these bills never leave committee.

Jacob Kamen is a writer with expertise in international affairs and environmental sustainability dedicated to working in the public interest. He graduated from SUNY New Paltz in Fall 2025 with a degree in International Relations and recently completed an internship with the United Nations Department of Global Communications, headquartered in New York.

POTENTIALLY LIFE-SAVING NEWS FOR OHIO DRIVERS AND WILDLIFE!

by Ohio Animal Advocates



Screenshot of the Wildlife Reporting Tool.

Though roadkill reporting may not seem like good news, a crowdsourced public-use roadkill reporting app was recently developed and made available by Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to identify “hotspots,” areas on roadways where collisions with animals tend to concentrate.

The [Survey123](#) app has the potential to translate to the creation of wildlife crossings – overpasses, underpasses, tunnels, and bridges – that increase public and animal safety, and reconnect fragmented habitats for wildlife.

Raven Bugala of Columbus and Lucy McKernan of Seven Hills, Ohio, worked with ODOT and ODNR to deploy an easy access roadkill app.

It's easy to use. Drivers should not use the app while driving, but make mental notes of roadkill locations, then pull over to a rest area or other safe, legal spot to upload data.

It is hoped early adoption will lead to normalization and help demonstrate volume and usefulness quickly, so state agencies can turn the data into siting decisions for wildlife crossings.

Crowdsourcing is necessary for meaningful data, so the public is encouraged to report roadkill data as accurately, and as soon as possible.

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Thank you to **Lucy McKernan** and **Raven Bugala** who worked with the ODOT and ODNR to deploy an easy access roadkill app. Thank you to **Vicki Deisner** for permission to reprint this exciting news.

TAKE ACTION

1. Download the Survey123 app, scan the QR code for the state-specific platform, and answer a few questions.
2. Learn more about the how OAA is supporting [Wildlife Protection](#) on our advocacy page.
3. Subscribe to our e-newsletter to stay up-to-date on animal news in Ohio.

Wildlife Observation Survey



NOW, IT'S UP TO US ALL, THROUGH CROWDSOURCING, TO MAKE THE SURVEY123 APP WORTHWHILE.

There will be much more news about these exciting wildlife crossings in the next issue.

Ask Uncle Jim

by Jim Robertson



GOT A QUESTION FOR UNCLE JIM?

You can e-mail it to: wildwatch@verizon.net

WOULD YOU RATHER SNAIL MAIL YOUR QUESTION?

Send it to: C.A.S.H., PO Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561
Uncle Jim gets a lot of mail so don't be offended if he cannot answer your question in the Courier.



DEAR UNCLE JIM,

What's this I've been hearing that us hunters should check to see if the deer we shot has been infected with screwworms? What the heck are they and how did they get here? First there was CWD and now this?! Are screwworms something I should be worried about next time I harvest a deer or cut up some venison for dinner?

Johnathon Tweedsmuir, El Paso, TX

Dear Johnathon,

The New World Screwworm has been on this continent until the 1950s, when they were temporarily eradicated on the Northern Hemisphere. Now they're back, coming into being whenever a certain species of blow fly lays its larva (in the form of maggots) in an open wound on warm-blooded animal.

As you may have guessed, these guys aren't finicky, being attracted to fresh blood like some kind of vampire. Other points of entry for them include body openings such as the nose, ears, eyes, or mouth; even a tiny tick bite will do.

In this case, lesser-evolved animals like reptiles, fish or amphibians, are the lucky ones. Unlike cows, deer or humans, cold blooded animals don't have to worry about flies leaving flesh-eating maggots in any scratch they might acquire.

Many people still debate about whether or not hunters are in fact warm-blooded animals, but since science recognizes them as mammals, hunters must be conscious about being infected with screwworms, just like they should about CWD from consuming deer meat ultimately ending up in their brain.

I know it's not a pleasant thought that the venison you feel entitled to eat could be infected with something so disgusting. But there is a simple solution: **Don't kill and consume the flesh of other living beings.**

Hunters should know that "harvesting," i.e., shooting, killing, taking the life of, or to be blunt and call it what it is—murdering—not to

mention, cutting up and eating something or someone can be a risky endeavor to say the least.

If Mother Nature seems to be coming up with more and more countermeasures to humans' 'achievements,' perhaps she's getting kind of tired of sitting by and watching as one species of animal (that would be us humans) becomes overly successful and threatens to throw off her time-tested balance.

Uncle Jim



DEAR UNCLE JIM,

Is C.A.S.H. just a bunch of anti-gun nuts who want to make the woods a safer place for hikers and mountain bikers, or what?

Herbert Nesbit, Cheyenne, WY

Dear Herbert,

C.A.S.H. is not a self-serving group like the NRA or the Safari Club, who are only looking out for their own interests or hobbies. We want to see sport hunting abolished for the sake of its victims: the deer, the elk, the bears or wolves, the ducks, geese or sandhill cranes. Bowhunting, or muzzle-loading, black powder doesn't impress us. As far as we're concerned, the only thing worse than killing an animal with a high-powered rifle is crippling them with a more primitive one.

What you may think of as handicapping yourself to make it more of a challenge for you or to make the sport seem more fair for your quarry doesn't make a bit of difference to those who end up wounded or dying so you can have your fun. You'll never find an injured animal on its death bed thinking how lucky or honored they are to be impaled with a wooden arrow, rather than with a chunk of lead.

So in answer to your question, yes, we want to make the woods a safer place, but not for any type of human recreationists, but rather, for the animals who call the wild their home.

Uncle Jim



DEAR UNCLE JIM,

You seem to know a lot about wildlife. Did you get a degree in wildlife at a school?

Alice White, Boone, IA

Dear Alice,

When I started off in college, I wanted to go into wildlife management, but after a semester or two I came to my senses and finally asked myself, "What the hell was he thinking?"

Clearly, I didn't know what I was getting into. I knew I loved animals and wanted to work around wildlife, but what I didn't realize was that about the only work in that field was for some game department promoting hunting, or in the vile Wildlife "Services" department, killing off animals by the droves in horrible ways for the livestock industry.

I had enrolled in a small, rural college where the same teacher taught every class in the wildlife curriculum. In an obvious plug for the local logging industry, he started off each class (no matter which course he was teaching) with the mantra, "Clear cuts are good for wildlife," at which point I would raise my hand and ask, "What about wolves or wolverine or grizzly bears who prefer wilderness and try to avoid people whenever possible?" To that he would rephrase his spiel and say, "Clear cuts are good for deer."

It didn't take long before I realized that wildlife "management" had an agenda, a higher purpose—to serve the logging and hunting industry. Not, as I had imagined, to serve wildlife or to promote the balance of nature. No, quite the opposite, in fact.

Judging by the vehemence with which today's "game managers" want hunters to target wolves, it's plain to see that wildlife management still hasn't come very far in its grasp of nature's mechanisms.

As anthropologist Richard Leaky pointed out the folly of trying to manage wildlife in his book, *The Sixth Extinction*: "It is far better to understand and accept the world of nature in its infinite variety and its infinitely complex processes, acknowledging the near futility of attempts to control them, than to imagine through ignorance that it is possible to do so."

Uncle Jim

C.A.S.H. CATALOG



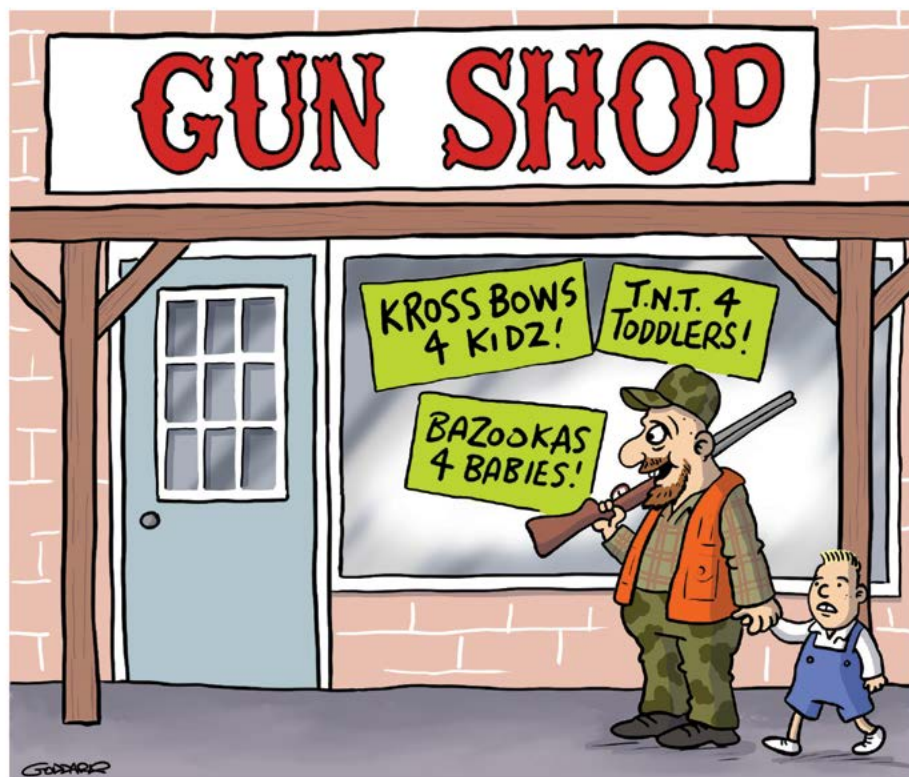
Luke Dommer

A Voice in the Wilderness NOW ON DVD!

DVD approx. 20 min. | \$12.00

This video is an expose of wildlife management by Luke Dommer, founder of C.A.S.H. It was produced by Focus on Animals, CT. Esther Mechler of Focus has generously given C.A.S.H. the right to sell this DVD.

HUMOR



Artwork © Clive Goddard

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- ✓ Donate shares of stock, avoid capital gains, and get a tax deduction! Notify your broker or the company whose stock you hold. Ask them to transfer stock to Wildlife Watch, Inc. Federal Tax Identification Number: 13-3076705

A copy of our latest annual report may be obtained from Wildlife Watch, Inc., or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

***C.A.S.H. is grateful to the
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