



WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**

#1 ELK



Only 41,000
Remained



1907

550
Thousand

1984

More than
1.1
Million

TODAY

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.

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#2 WHITE-TAILED DEER

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**



Only 500,000
Remained



1900

More than
30
Million

TODAY

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

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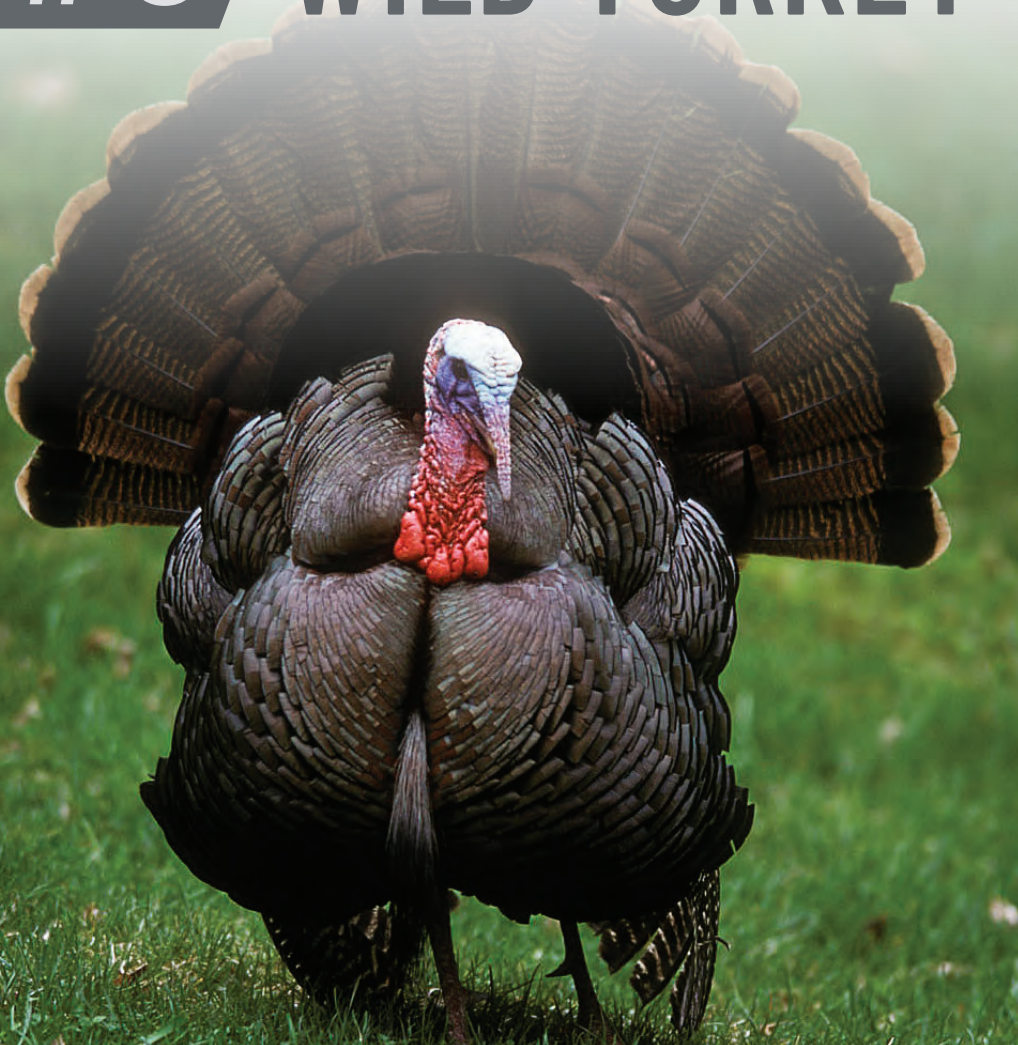




WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#3 WILD TURKEY

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**



Only 100,000
Remained



1900

More than
6
Million

TODAY

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

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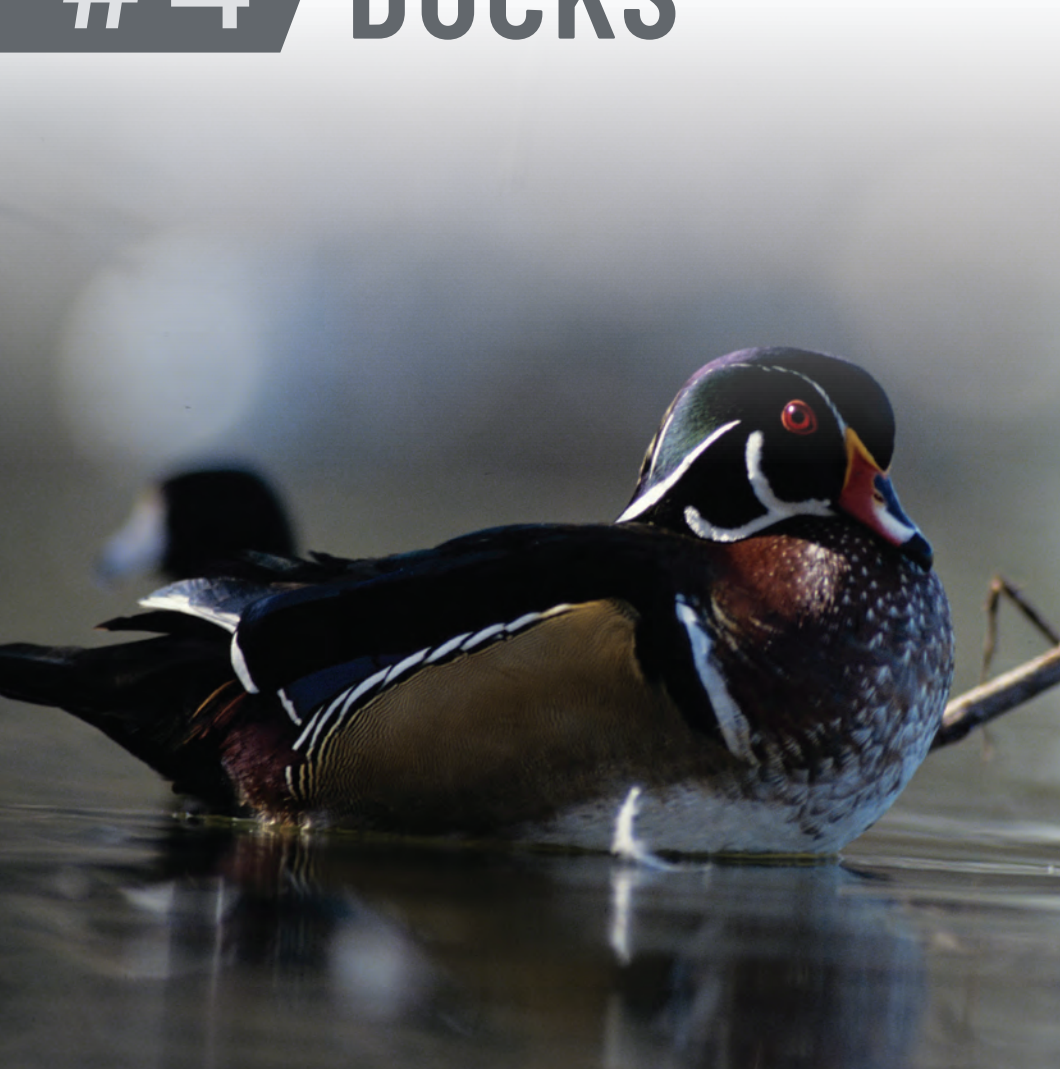




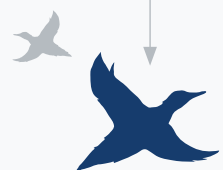
WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#4 / DUCKS

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**



Only FEW
Remained



1901

More than
32
Million

TODAY

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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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#5 PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

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Only 13,000
Remained



1920s

More than
1.1
Million

TODAY

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

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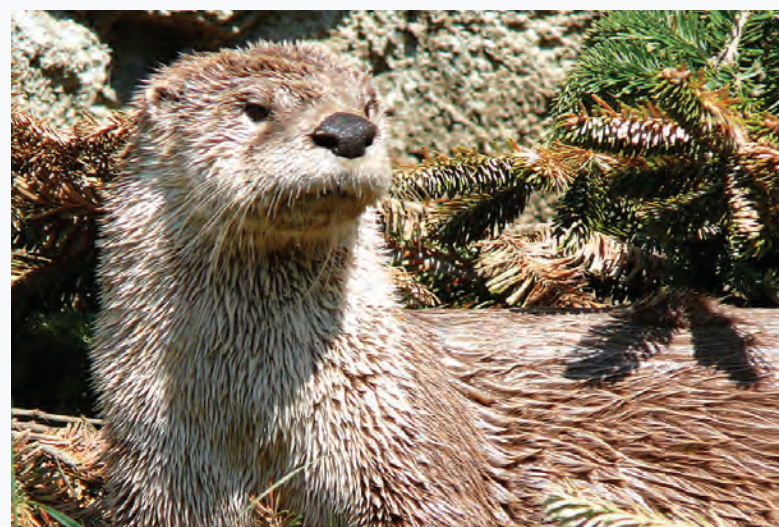




WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

6 / NON-HUNTED SPECIES

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**



Habitat, research and wildlife law enforcement work, all paid for by hunters, help countless non-hunted species.

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#7 HUNTING LICENSES & FEES

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**



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

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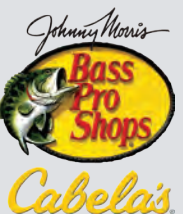


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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

8 / DONATIONS

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**



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

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#9 / CONSERVATION DOLLARS

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**



11%
TAX
EST. 1937



GENERATES **\$1.2** BILLION
ANNUALLY



HAS GENERATED **\$16.7** BILLION
MORE THAN CUMULATIVELY

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.

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#10 STATE AGENCY FUNDING

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**



60% OF BUDGET FUNDING

COMES FROM

EXCISE TAXES & LICENSES/FEES

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.

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

11 CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**



WILDLIFE LEADERSHIP
AWARDS

\$1.6 BILLION A YEAR FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

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

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#12 HUNTING APPROVAL

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80% OF
AMERICANS
APPROVE OF
HUNTING



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

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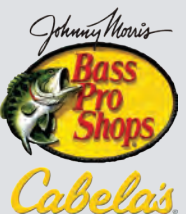


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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#13

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

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or at **NSSF.ORG**



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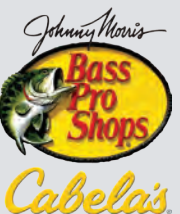


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#14 LAND CONSERVATION & ACCESS

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**

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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.

IN 2023
72,813 ACRES CONSERVED
IN 9 STATES

Lifetime total = 8.9 million acres

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#15 LAND CONSERVATION & ACCESS

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**

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.

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IN 2023
77,960 ACRES OF OPENED/IMPROVED
PUBLIC ACCESS

Lifetime total = 1.59 million acres

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#16 HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

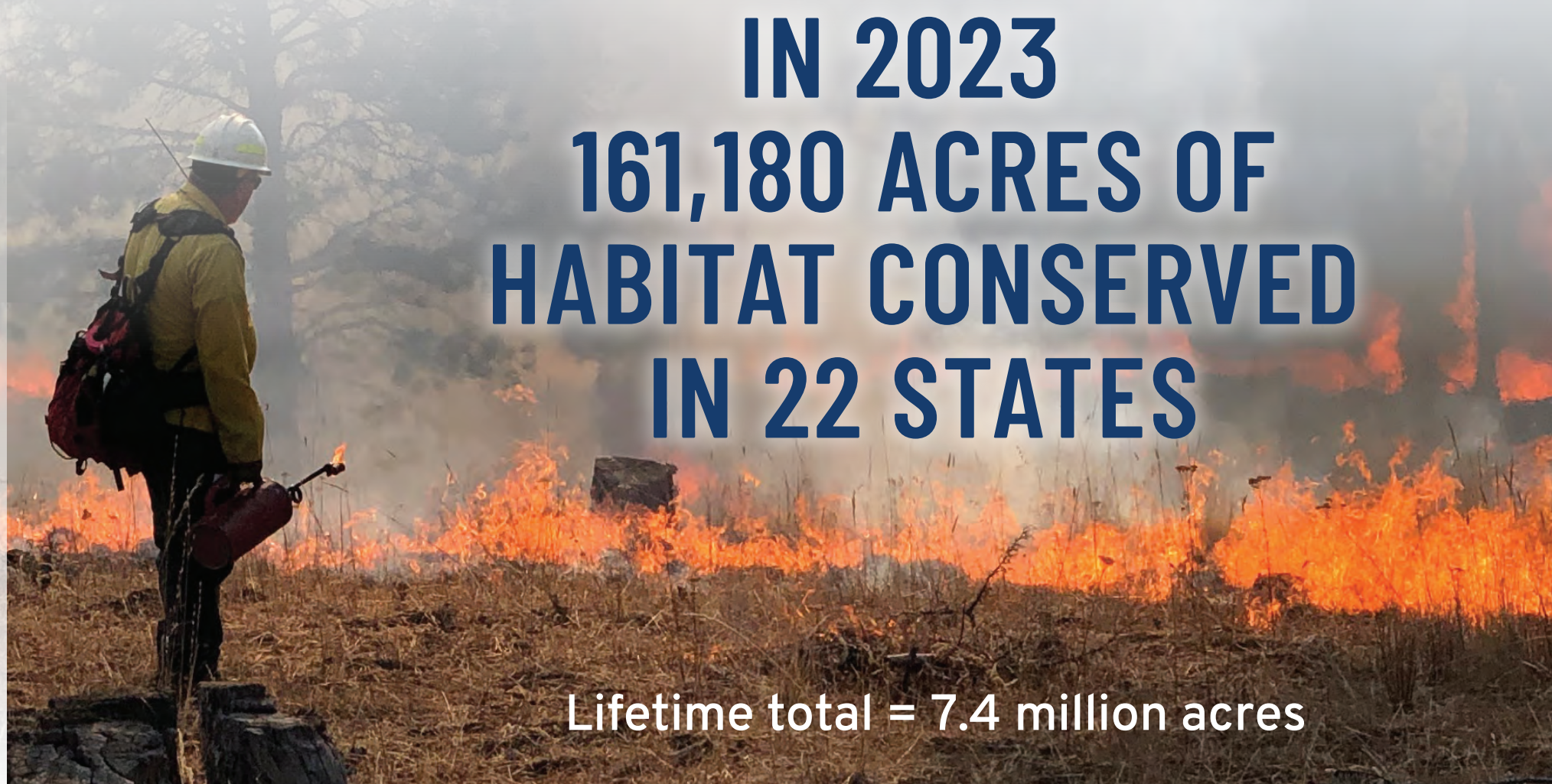
Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**

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

**IN 2023
161,180 ACRES OF
HABITAT CONSERVED
IN 22 STATES**

Lifetime total = 7.4 million acres



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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#17 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**

HUNTING HELPS BALANCE

WILDLIFE POPULATION

CROP DAMAGE

DISEASE MANAGEMENT

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

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#18 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**

\$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.

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

#19 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**



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.



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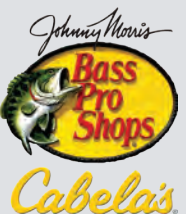


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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

20 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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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.

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

21 / HUNTING HERITAGE

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**

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.

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

22

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**
or at **NSSF.ORG**

HUNTERS BOOST THE ECONOMY BY \$149 BILLION ANNUALLY

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



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SPORTSMEN'S
ALLIANCE

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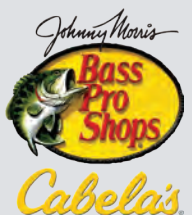


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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

23 / HEALTHY NUTRITION

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ELK MEAT LEAN & TASTY

22.95% protein | 1.45% fat

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

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.

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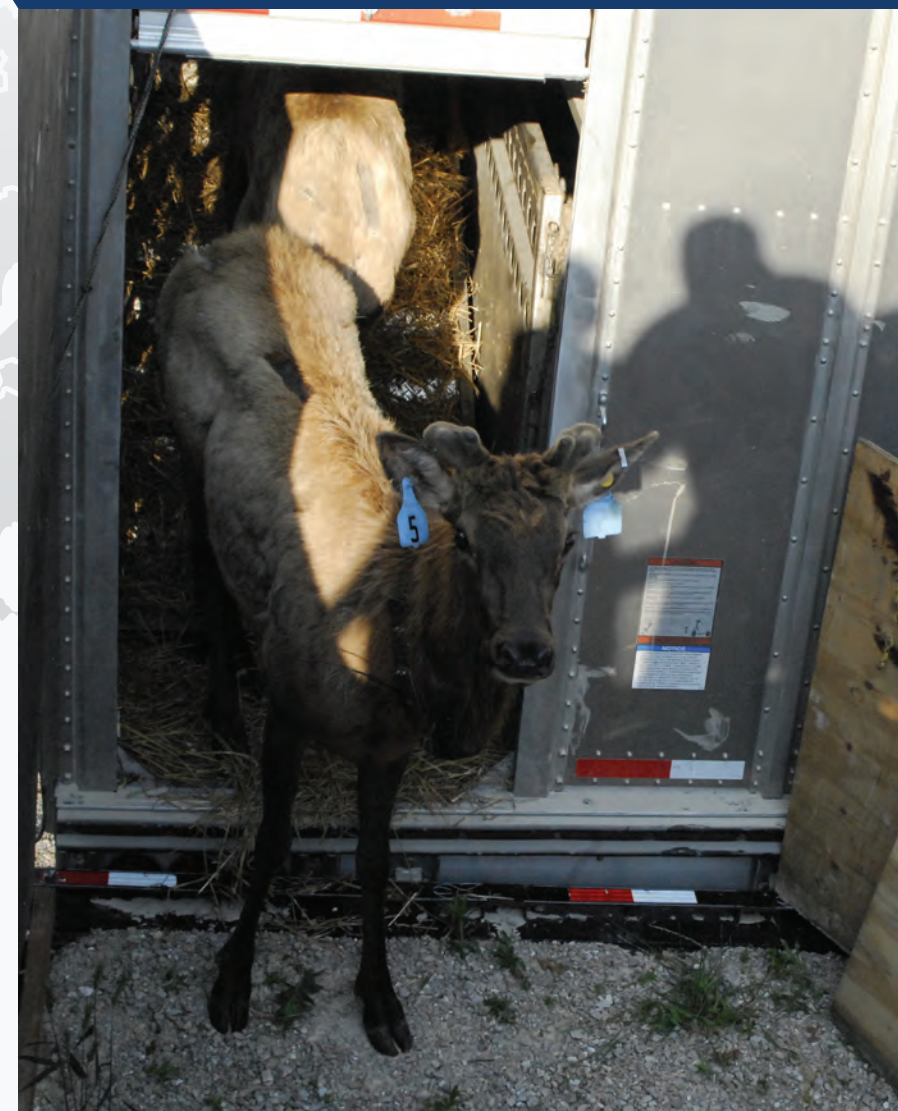
WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

24 / ELK RESTORATION

Learn more at **RMEF.ORG**

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

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WHY HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

25 HABITAT CONSERVATION

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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.

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