Public Lands

Hunters and fishermen are on the front line of conservation, with 100+ year track record of preserving, protecting, and increasing both wildlife and habitat. Ours is a legacy worth preserving.

Yet the very existence of the field sports is threatened by a number of factors: the urbanization of America, changing demographics, and politically-correct elitist class that insist our sport no longer has a place in respectable society. But these political obstacles are only part of the problem.

Loss of access to wild lands and waters are a major threat to the viability of the sporting lifestyle. The decline of the family farm, litigation regarding premises liability, and changing demographics all contribute to our declining access to fields, woods, ponds, and streams that leaving sportsmen and women without places to hunt or fish, decreasing the number of both current and future hunters and fishermen. But there is one bright spot for America’s conservationists; public lands.

Public land. The legacy of Roosevelt, Leoupold and other pioneers of the conservation movement has bequeathed us an abundance of wild and unspoiled woods, fields, mountains, and streams for us to enjoy; the birthright of all Americans and one that is made possible by America’s outdoorsmen.

The majority of America’s outdoor treasures are made possible by the financial support of people like you and I, the hunters and fishermen of this great land. The taxes we pay on sporting equipment as established in the Pittman-Robertson, and Dingell-Johnson Acts and others, billions of dollars we’re talking about, ensure a revenue stream adequate to maintain and enhance the vast public lands of this country.

Yet some, yes, those same politically-correct elite, want to restrict access to our public lands, barring those who pay the bills for conservation on the outside looking in. It is a formula for failure that only those with a political agenda would support.

While gun control and anti-hunting propositions generally fail the test of the ballot box, presidential fiat or an agency environmental rulings can achieve the same result without nearly so much messy public scrutiny. As sportsmen and women, we must remain vigilant against those who would deprive us of our American outdoor heritage.

If you would like to know more about this, or other issues that are important to sportsmen, follow me on Twitter, Periscope, Instagram, or Facebook at SteveScottTV. Until next time, know the facts, and keep preserving the heritage.