

RE: Polar Bear **EMERGENCY**

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Dear Supporter,

The new year has begun with a shocking development that threatens polar bear and hunting for all time. The USF&WS is taking the Endangered Species Act where it has never been. It is proposing that all the polar bear in the world be listed even though population numbers are at or near record highs. Never before has any species been listed when it was at or near record numbers.

Far worse, the USF&WS has irresponsibly issued misleading press releases that its proposed listing would provide for "recovery" and significant benefits in foreign lands where most polar bear range. To the contrary, the ESA's domestic recovery programs, critical habitat designations, cooperative agreements, land acquisitions and funding have never applied to foreign lands! They have promised recovery efforts that are beyond any authority or capacity they ever hope to have to recover a species – much less recover one that has not yet declined! The misinformation itself is dangerous because it misleads everyone and undermines opposition to this preposterous proposal. They also falsely suggest that trophies might still be importable. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Why mislead the public and foreign stakeholders? It smacks of a hidden agenda as surely as the one-sided proposal which is so skewed that it reads like an argument. The truth is, the proposed listing is the greatest present threat to all bears beyond the borders of Alaska. It cannot provide significant benefits to the bear, but most certainly would harm it.

The USF&WS is supposed to "take into account" foreign nations' conservation programs before listing those country's species, but it has conspicuously neglected to do that. It does not even suggest to foreign interests that listing is inappropriate if it interferes with their programs, such as their user-pay sport hunting. The Marine Mammal Protection Act has a prohibition that no marine mammal that is listed as "threatened" under the ESA is importable, 16 USC 1362 (1)(C). That will immediately stop the fee of \$1,000.00 per trophy import that has been directed to Russian bear conservation. It will eliminate the millions of dollars per year that underlies the Canadian and Nunavut program. The USF&WS does admit those are the best managed polar bear populations in the world but does not consider the irreparable damage this listing will do to that program.

The proposal should not have gotten this far. It is based solely upon doomsday projections and exaggerations. One lone population is cited as having declined by 20 percent over 17 years, down 258 bear. Even that one case is overstated. The period being compared to is not representative. They've selectively compared the population to a point in time 17 years ago when that population was at its all time high following an unprecedented population increase. It's an overstatement. What is inexplicably unstated is the probability that population has simply shifted from the survey sight and is still believed to be living well in the same region. It is a highly flawed comparison without a sound reference point.

The listing will not benefit much less save the bear. Think about that. It should not have gotten this far. It rests upon speculation and dubious projections of doom. That fear rests upon limited and overstated observations on the very outer edge of the bear's range.

This is an emergency that will not wait. This is one we can't leave to others. We must educate and activate our foreign friends and stakeholders. This calls for travel, communication, research and expert consultants which cost way beyond our budget. We have to arm everyone with knowledge of the law and arguments at issue. The misled provincial authorities and scientists must be informed that the listing: will not benefit the bear; that it will stop trophy importation into the U.S.; of their right to comment; of the time limits; that range nation programs "should be considered" in the listing process; and that "distinct populations" can be spared from listing.

Believe me, it is doable with your help but can't happen without it. This is absolutely the front line in a definitive battle. The listing is now the USF&WS's own proposal and the loss of hunting is **forever**. No puffing, no bluffing. The threat to hunting is certain and real if we don't react.

It is now or never and it is forever. Please don't let them take away our or our children's right to hunt. This is a time to be generous. Every contribution counts. Please rush your tax-deductible donation today.

Thank you for caring and contributing,



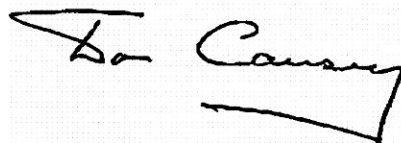
John J. Jackson, III  
Chairman

*I fully agree with John's analysis that the current proposed listing of the polar bear is misdirected, unwarranted, and counterproductive. I've been working with John on importation of polar bear trophies since the early 90's, and we are in danger of losing a hard-won privilege. If anyone can save the day for polar bear imports into the USA, John can. Please support Conservation Force's effort.*



J.Y. Jones, M.D.  
*Impossible to Fail*

*This is one of the most serious threats to hunting I have seen since I started The Hunting Report in 1981. If you care about hunting, help John Jackson turn this around. The loss of opportunity could be forever.*



Don Causey  
*The Hunting Report*