

WSI ENews

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Civic Responsibility in Maintaining our Hunting Heritage

So, how can you do your part in exercising your duties as a hunter to engage civically? There are many ways this can be accomplished, and here are a few.

1. Continue to buy a hunting license. Monies raised from hunting license sales are critical in funding conservation practices.
2. Become more informed. The more intelligent you are regarding the role that hunters play in wildlife conservation, the stronger the pulpit you'll have to project your message.
3. Come out of the shadows. Do not be intimidated and shouted down from hunting adversaries. Remember, it is your civic responsibility to defend the importance of hunting as a conservation component. Don't be bashful.....be proud, and be pro-active.
4. Be sensitive and mindful about ethics. Ethics is a personal matter that tends to vary from one hunter to the next, but do not be so naïve as to assume that hunting ethics is so personal that ethical values should not be imposed onto other hunters. And the catch phrase that "we should not legislate ethics when it comes to hunting," is baloney in my books. Ethics have shaped our game laws in the U.S. as much as science, and in the sensitive society that we live in, we are blowing both of our legs off if we assume that blatant non-ethical hunting practices will be allowed in mainstream USA. Our hunting community must practice sound discretion and we must recognize that we need reasonable regulations to help us help ourselves.
5. Don't go at it alone. There are many great hunting/conservation groups where your voice can be amplified. There is strength in numbers, and NGOs provide a great platform for you to have more traction in advancing your interest and efforts. Groups such as Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Safari Club International, Dallas Safari Club, Texas Wildlife Association, Ducks Unlimited, and many others are great options in engaging and supporting, if nothing else through your membership dues.

People being people, it's awfully convenient to sit on the side-line, expecting the next person to carry your water. If you value hunting, and if you want your grandkids to enjoy the same wildlife and hunting pleasures that your generation has enjoyed, it is your civic duty to engage in some fashion. Little is better than nothing, and nothing will get us no-where. Collectively we can make a difference....you can make a difference.

Thanks for taking the time to peruse this edition of our WSI ENews. Please drop us a line if we can assist in any way. Generous rainfall of over 10" in some areas over a 3-day period a few weeks back sure has this country around San Angelo looking nice right now. Life's better outdoors, so get out and enjoy it!

Best,

Greg Simons