

objection from the landowners or hunting outfitters. In fact, no pachyderms may be legally hunted with a bow in South Africa. This comes from the recommendations of Tomkinson and Ludbrook back in 1985 and has never been challenged even though it is possible for a skilled and strong bowhunter to kill an elephant, rhino or hippo with a bow. The perceived likelihood of wounding remains unacceptably high.

Bow hunting in South Africa has evolved over the past 30 years, shaped by economic forces as well as social and political pressures and the parameters set by legislation. It has grown in popularity with local hunters as well as landowners and as a bow hunting destination for foreign bow hunters, primarily American, where bow hunting has been practiced for years. As long as hunting remains popular in South Africa, bow hunting will continue to grow as a challenging means of hunting.

It must also be mentioned that there is tremendous potential in Europe and elsewhere to grow this activity. It takes a change in mindset of those in charge of policy formulation, but with a bit of research and support, they can get all the information needed to justify this activity to the hunting fraternity as well as to the general public.

The information and statistics are all out there and it has all already been scrutinised in the USA and South Africa and passed the tests necessary to justify it as a legitimate form of hunting. It may also stimulate more people to become hunters, as it has done in South Africa.

Another reason to support bow hunting in Europe and other countries, is that it places another obstacle for the growing anti-hunting lobby to tackle. It is getting one back from them. We all know that the anti-hunting lobby is attempting to take down hunting bit by bit and if we give them more issues to deal with it will make their task of trying to stop hunting more difficult.

US Endangered Species Act: Southern White Rhino Listing

John J. Jackson, III www.conservationforce.org

On September 11, 2013, the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued an "Interim Rule" listing of all southern white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, ESA. 78 FR 55649. The listing was made effective immediately and without prior notice, or a call for comments. Comments are being accepted before the Interim Rule is made final, but the listing has the force of law now.

The Notice explains that the immediate "threatened" listing is made because of the similarity of appearance of the southern white rhino to those rhino that are listed as "endangered" under the ESA. All other rhino are already ESA listed. Treating the southern white rhino as threatened "will substantially facilitate law enforcement actions to protect and conserve all endangered rhino species." The agency reports that "[o]n January 17, 2012, the OLE (Office of Law Enforcement of USFWS) requested that the southern white rhino be listed as a threatened species based on the similarity of appearance provisions of section 4(e) of the Act and our (FWS) implementing regulations at 50 CFR 17.50." The agency explains that the immediate listing without prior notice, a comment period and re-noticing of the rule is because "persons could seek to take advantage of the regulatory loophole caused by the similarity of appearance with the southern white rhino before this impending regulation under the Act became effective... (and) the Service reasonably believes a spike in the illegal trade and poaching of endangered rhino species could occur with this delay." A USFWS press release the day before the official Federal Register Notice, further explained that the similarity of appearance "has allowed traffickers to mislabel the horns of other protected rhino species as white rhino horn in an effort to evade restrictions on sale and transport."

Both the press release of the agency and the Federal Register Notice state that import permits for hunting trophies will not be required. ("The threatened designation will not change current permitting requirements for sport-hunted trophies of southern white rhino," says the press release, and "Therefore, a sport-hunted trophy of southern white rhino, legally taken and exported from South Africa or Swaziland would not require a separate ESA regulatory permit to import it into the United States" says the FR Notice.) The USFWS cites Section 9(c)(2) of the ESA, which provides that "non-commercial importation into the United States of threatened species that are listed under CITES Appendix II...are presumed not to be in violation of any provision of the Act or any regulation under the Act..."

So it is proposing that no import permit will be required for the rhino from South Africa and Swaziland, but the interim rule is not yet a final rule. Import permits are already required for white rhino imported from elsewhere under CITES because they are on Appendix I, not Appendix II.

The threatened listing does immediately prohibit the sale of white rhino horn in interstate commerce. Readers don't want to get caught selling it interstate or attempting to sell it interstate without a permit. ("[t]his interim rule will...make it illegal for any person...to deliver, receive, carry, transport, or ship southern white rhino...in foreign or interstate commerce...; sell or offer for sale in interstate and foreign commerce any specimen of southern white rhino.") It remains to be seen what interstate commercial transactions will be issued permits.

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to

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The rhino is not being listed because of its own status. Southern white rhino are at record numbers despite escalating poaching of all rhino. A “growing market demand is fuelling a dramatic increase in rhino poaching” and a “transition from ordinary poachers to groups has created additional challenges for law enforcement personnel”. In 1895 the southern white rhino was considered extinct until a small population of less than 20 was discovered in Natal, South Africa. The population has since been built to more than 20,160 in 2012. This is thanks not only to the efforts of the South African government, but also private landowners.

The USFWS states that “[p]rivate landowners have made a large contribution toward rhino conservation through private ownership and custodian agreements on behalf of range states, and account for almost 25 percent of the African rhino populations....Private owners contribute roughly 20,000 sq. km. (4,942,110 acres) of land toward rhino conservation efforts.” The Notice emphasizes the importance of these privately-owned lands and that “[t]he possible loss of these privately-owned lands has the potential to result in overcrowding or higher population densities within protected areas...which are already under siege from poachers.” This reasoning and the tenor of the whole listing suggests that import permits or other restrictions on white rhino trophy hunting are not in the plans. The white rhino benefits from trophy hunting and needs that added, legitimate value more than ever.

The Challenge of Regulating Private Wildlife Ranches for Conservation in South Africa

Cousins, J. A., J. P. Sadler, and J. Evans. 2010. The challenge of regulating private wildlife ranches for conservation in South Africa. *Ecology and Society* 15(2): 28 <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol15/iss2/art28/>

The authors address the new attempts at regulating wildlife ranches on private land in South Africa. Although positive conservation impacts can be attributed to private wildlife ranching, there are a number of ecological consequences that often arise as a result of economic priorities. They present and analyze new national regulations aimed at coordinating provincial legislation and guiding the wildlife industry in a more conservationist direction, and examine tensions that have arisen between different socio-political scales as a result. Data were obtained through a desk-based study of legal documents and interviews with key stakeholders. The new regulations begin to address international obligations and national policy on biodiversity conservation by potentially combating a number of specific ecological problems associated with wildlife ranching. However, in practice, the regulations are a significant source of tension among stakeholders and will be challenging to implement. A key issue is competing agendas between incentive-driven ranchers and conservationist aims. It may be that in addressing the ecological problems at the margin, the new regulations will encourage some ranchers to convert their land away from conservation friendly land use.

The Southern African Wildlife College and Professional Hunter Training

Cleve Chene

A survey conducted across a number of SADC countries by the Southern African Wildlife College in 2009-2010 to identify training needs delivered some surprises. Structured training for professional hunters was unexpectedly highlighted as one of the pressing needs.

This issue was investigated by the College and it was discovered in July 2011 that professional hunting Unit Standards had already been established by a Standards Generating Body (SGB) and registered with the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA) but no accredited training institution had up until that time put together a program for professional hunting based on these Unit Standards. The College decided to compile a program and added to the SAQA program a number of additional subjects which it was felt were missing. There was some initial scepticism and opposition from some of the established hunting schools and associations in South Africa. To cut a long story short the Professional Hunting Association of South Africa (PHASA) now endorses the course and will be sponsoring a trophy to the top student.

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