



Give and Take



Hunters and fishermen have long accepted the need to pay for the privilege of using natural resources. These consumptive wildlife users contribute millions annually to the protection and management of wildlife habitat through annual user licenses. A number of other programs raise funds for wildlife and habitat conservation such as the sale of waterfowl stamps and the collection of excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment.

Current trends in our society show that many people are turning away from consumptive uses of wildlife such as hunting and fishing to non-consumptive uses like photography and bird watching. This paradigm shift presents an unfortunate problem, a decline in funding for wildlife habitat, and those responsible for managing it.

One of the many challenges facing wildlife managers in the 21st Century will be how to continue to fund important projects while revenue from hunters declines. One way non-hunters can support conservation in Alabama in the short term is to purchase a hunting and fishing license. These funds can then be used to continue to conserve Alabama's precious natural resources.

Maintaining Balance

Hunting is a very important management tool for wildlife managers. Populations of some wildlife such as White-tailed Deer are at record high levels due to abundant food sources and the elimination of predators. If these populations continue to rise to unnatural levels, they could out compete other species or drastically alter their own environ-

ment. Such populations are also more susceptible to a catastrophic disease outbreak or starvation. Hunting plays a very important role in keeping populations in check. An important role for wildlife managers is to monitor wildlife populations and adjust hunting seasons accordingly, to insure that balance is maintained.



ADCNR Photos



Cypress Forest/ADCNR Photos

The Threat of Habitat Loss

As our world continues to urbanize and more and more wild areas disappear, it is important to remember that hunting is not a threat to wildlife. The biggest threat to wildlife in America is habitat loss. With this in mind, consumptive and non-consumptive users must work together to conserve the habitats and wildlife that both groups enjoy.



Food plot/ADCNR, Mark S. Sasser

Planting Food for Wildlife

One of many ways wildlife managers help wildlife is through the planting of additional food crops. Foods such as corn, wheat, oats, millets and various legumes are planted annually to supplement wild food sources. These additional foods can help increase the survival rates and health of many species by providing food and cover for both game and nongame species.