

The Sportsman's Voice: Hunting and Fishing in America

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Nearly 34 million Americans ages 16 and older head outdoors to hunt and fish every year. Through hunting and fishing license fees and excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment, hunters and anglers are responsible for the majority of fish and wildlife conservation funding in the United States.

Fish and wildlife management programs funded by these fees have conserved millions of acres of habitat and have brought back many species, including wild turkey, wood duck, bald eagle, and pronghorn antelope, from unhealthy population levels.

Understanding hunting and fishing, and hunters and anglers as a constituency, is vital to effectively managing the nation's natural resources. Policy makers, legislators, fish and wildlife professionals, conservation organizations, and hunters and anglers themselves have an unmet need for science-based, comprehensive information on hunting and fishing to inform their understanding, communications, decision making, and planning.

The Sportsman's Voice: Hunting and Fishing in America is the first book that provides a comprehensive, up-to-date look at hunting and fishing in America. It bridges the gap between hundreds of scientific studies of the human dimensions of conservation and on-the-ground situations, giving this information meaningful context and real-world utility.

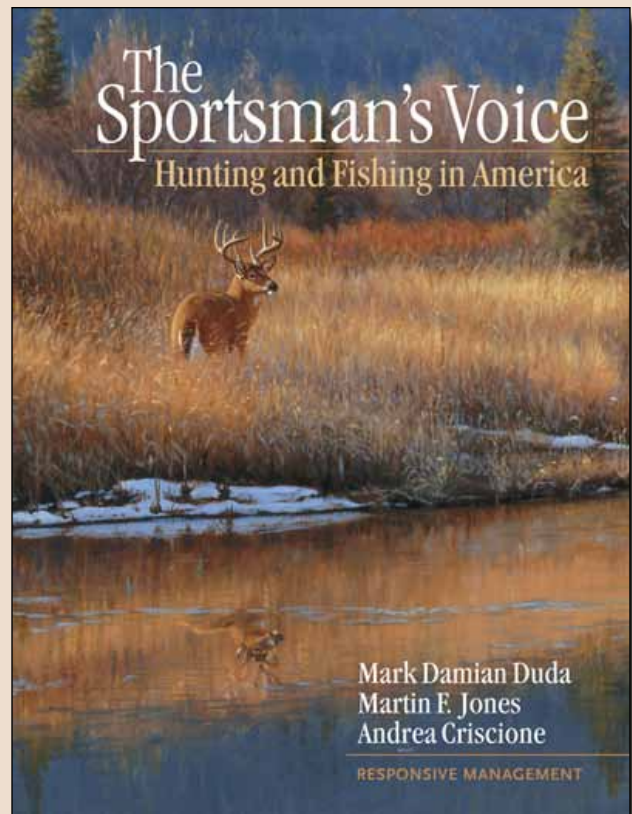


Mark Damian Duda is Executive Director of Responsive Management. He has managed more than 500 studies on outdoor recreation participation and attitudes toward natural resource issues. *The Sportsman's Voice: Hunting and Fishing in America* is his fourth book on wildlife and conservation. Mark holds a Master's degree from Yale University.

Martin F. Jones is Senior Quantitative Research Associate with Responsive Management and has researched and written exclusively about natural resource, fish and wildlife, and outdoor recreation issues for the past 12 years. Marty holds a Master's degree from the University of Vermont.

Andrea Criscione is a Senior Research Associate with Responsive Management where she is a writer, analyst, and focus group moderator. Andrea holds a Master's degree from Virginia Tech.

Responsive Management is an internationally recognized survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.



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Praise for *The Sportsman's Voice*

“Hunting has been an integral dimension of human evolution, and hunting and fishing continue to provide an unrivaled means for deep and participatory immersion in nature in modern society. Mark Damian Duda and his colleagues at Responsive Management provide invaluable insight and understanding of the continued vitality of this relationship to nature in contemporary culture and experience. This critical knowledge will undoubtedly serve as a benchmark of understanding for many years to come.”

— **Stephen R. Kellert, Professor Emeritus, Senior Research Scholar, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and Executive Chair, Bio-Logical Capital**

“*The Sportsman's Voice* is the definitive source of information regarding public attitudes toward and the economic contribution of hunting and fishing in the United States. It further defines the role that sportsmen play in fish and wildlife conservation. Responsive Management has compiled a comprehensive treatise of information regarding hunting and angling participation, federal wildlife laws, agency and organization programs, and the major funding sources that drive conservation. The book should be required reading for aspiring fish and wildlife biologists and managers, as well as anyone truly concerned about the future of fish and wildlife conservation in our nation.”

— **Steve Williams, President, Wildlife Management Institute, and former Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

“*The Sportsman's Voice* provides valuable information and insight to all of us who love America's wildlife and fisheries. If, like me, you believe that quality of life is enhanced by hunting, fishing, and other outdoor pastimes, then you need to pay close attention to this book.”

— **John Tomke, former President, Ducks Unlimited, and Chairman, Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council**

“Mark Damian Duda and his co-authors have created a must-read reference on the wildlife conservation movement in this country. This work will no doubt prove to be indispensable to both working professionals and conservation-minded citizens. . . . This work is ‘spot on’ and comes at a time when agencies are struggling to maintain relevancy and are facing the challenges of the sustainability of funding and the continued success of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.”

— **Bob Duncan, Executive Director, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

“Mark Damian Duda and his colleagues have produced a valuable resource, one that offers a lucid summary of the historical, governance, and legal underpinnings for fish and wildlife conservation in this country, coupled with contemporary public survey data regarding management issues. I especially appreciate the due and deserved consideration given to state authority and the conservation success stories achieved by state fish and wildlife agencies all across the country. Wildlife students and professionals, as well as sportsmen and women, will profit from this new reference work.”

— **Ronald J. Regan, Executive Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**

“*The Sportsman's Voice* paints a vivid picture of hunting, fishing, and conservation in America today on the canvas of important lessons learned from American conservation history. This outstanding book places the most important and useful facts and figures at the reader's fingertips. The authors clearly understand that the need for this information is greater than ever as our conservation values face the most serious challenges and threats since the late 1800s. This book is the ultimate resource for hunters, anglers, fish and wildlife professionals, and every person engaged in today's efforts to secure a bright future for fish and wildlife conservation in America.”

— **Nick Wiley, Executive Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

“Consistent with their usual high standards, Responsive Management once again provides excellent insight into the American mind regarding wildlife conservation.”

— **Doug Inkley, Senior Scientist, National Wildlife Federation**

“When America was new, our unrestrained vigor took wildlife to the brink of oblivion. Between Thomas Jefferson, our third president, and Theodore Roosevelt, our twenty-sixth—the liquidation was near total. Given voice by TR, Grinnell, and others, hunters replaced the commercial killing with a sporting code. It created a relationship with the wild that was for everyone. As the new abundance emerged, the nation embraced the conservation ethic that made it happen. Listen to the voice.”

— **Jim Posewitz, former President, Orion The Hunters' Institute**

“Sportsmen and women are the past and the future of conservation in America. This book very effectively makes the case for the vital role that hunters and anglers play in conserving the lands and waters that sustain the nation.”

— **Chris Wood, President/CEO, Trout Unlimited**

The Sportsman's Voice: Hunting and Fishing in America

"*The Sportsman's Voice* tells very well a story heretofore seldom told at all, the story of hunters' and anglers' direct involvement in fostering America's abundant fish and wildlife resources. From their leadership in historical public policy initiatives for natural resources to the profoundly positive aspects of hunting and fishing in today's society, this wonderful compendium is a must-read for all who wish 'to ensure that the heritage and the resource both thrive.'"

— **M.N. "Corky" Pugh, Director,
Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division,
State of Alabama**

"Congratulations to Duda, Jones, and Criscione. The body of work they have compiled is unparalleled in the conservation and hunting heritage community. Their insight into the issues we face today is derived from hands-on experience. They have captured 'The Sportsman's Voice.' This work is a must-read for everyone at the National Wild Turkey Federation and is recommended for the personal bookshelves of all professionals in the conservation movement."

— **George C. Thornton, CEO,
National Wild Turkey Federation**

"If you want to document how attitudes toward hunting have changed, how many support fishing in Florida, the projected license costs in Minnesota in 2030, or any of a number of other statistics about hunting and angling, this is your book. As an extra, you get an overview of the history of wildlife management in the United States, details on 54 organizations associated with fish and wildlife, and a history of ballot initiatives. Responsive Management is the foremost private human dimensions firm in the United States, and Duda and his associates have taken the time to put together information from a vast array of studies for easy access by the researcher, practitioner, or student."

— **Tom Heberlein, Professor Emeritus,
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

"*The Sportsman's Voice* will be heeded! After decades of misunderstanding and minimalization of the importance of America's sportsmen to our culture, this book will help to ensure their legitimate standing in the panoply of outdoor recreational activities. It details sportsmen's contributions and will help dispel long-held misconceptions about America's outdoorsmen and women with facts and sound research. Bravo!"

— **Steve Sanetti, President,
National Shooting Sports Foundation**

"*The Sportsman's Voice* is a must-read for anyone in a leadership role in the hunting community. This includes state and federal agencies, conservation organizations and the hunting industry. This will make them spend their time and money productively, with much greater results. This book covers it all, from hunter recruitment and retention to ballot initiatives. This is Responsive Management's best work."

— **Merle Shepard, past President,
Safari Club International**

"This book synthesizes years of research by Responsive Management and other scientists examining hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-related activities. The authors have summarized a tremendous amount of data and communicated findings in a straightforward manner. This is a must-read for researchers, students, legislators, and practitioners in agencies and conservation organizations."

— **Mark D. Needham, Ph.D., Assistant Professor,
Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society,
Oregon State University**

"*The Sportsman's Voice* is an excellent resource for students and instructors in university fisheries and wildlife courses. From its coverage of the history of the conservation movement to data on public opinions toward hunting and wildlife management and the descriptions of what agencies and NGOs do, the book provides valuable information for today's students, many of whom lack the kind of background knowledge that previous generations of students had."

— **Steve L. McMullin, Associate Department
Head, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Sciences, Virginia Tech**

"This book is an outstanding resource for policy makers, agency staff, committee and task force members, legislators, and conservation leaders. It provides complex data regarding hunting and fishing in easy-to-use tables and summaries. Given the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Conservation Education Strategy, this reference will be essential for students in natural resource, recreation, parks and tourism, human dimensions, environmental policy, and other courses related to outdoor heritage. In fact, all graduate students and faculty should read this evidence-based anthology of the significant role of hunting and fishing in sustaining conservation."

— **Shari L. Dann, Ph.D., Associate
Professor and Extension Specialist,
Michigan State University**

To order *The Sportsman's Voice: Hunting and Fishing in America*,
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The Sportsman's Voice closes this gap by providing such a syntheses as well as prescriptive advice. Why is closing this gap important? If hunting and fishing was your personal business, would you ignore changes occurring to this \$77 billion a year enterprise (The Sportsman's Voice, p.161)?^Â For example, in Chapter 3, Attitudes Toward Hunting and Fishing, they bring together the meaning of the change in attitudes about hunting in America. Wildlife managers will create trouble for themselves if they ignore the differences in the American mind between the terms "animal rights" and "animal welfare", between hunting for "recreation" versus "ecological concerns", and between "hunting" and "legal hunting". The upshot is that messaging matters. Download Citation on ResearchGate | The Sportsman's Voice: Hunting and Fishing in America | Nearly 34 million Americans ages 16 and older head outdoors to hunt and fish every year. Through hunting and fishing license fees and excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment, hunters and anglers are responsible for the ma-jority of fish and wildlife conservation funding