THE BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF WILD RUMINANTS

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

SOCIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

by

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CHAPTER 24. SOCIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The size, grace and beauty of wild ruminants make them very attractive animals. The sight of a deer grazing in a field, a mountain goat feeding on a rocky ledge, or a moose foraging on aquatics in a stream may well be the highlight of the day for a nature lover or camper. Photographing them is a satisfying experience for tourists and campers, even if they turn out to be little more than specks on a print or slide.

Deer fawns and the young of other wild ruminants are appealing baby animals. Conservation departments issue press releases each spring urging people not to pick up fawns, but finders are all too eager to believe that the fawn they happen to come across has been abandoned. People have an inner urge to help, forgetting that wild animals are not dependent on human care for their welfare.

Hunters enjoy the pursuit of well-adapted animals. Wild ruminants are well-adapted, and they are a most sought-after group of game species. Many state conservation departments are supported largely by the money from big game hunting license sales. Many hunters wait impatiently for the big game season, scheduling vacation time to enable them to return to the woods for the annual hunt.

The reactions of people to wild ruminants results in sociological and economic considerations that need to be given serious consideration by wildlife professionals. Each of these considerations warrants book-length discussions, which are beyond the pervue of this book and out of the areas of my main experiences as well. I include brief discussions here in CHAPTER 24 to call attention to the importance of sociological and economic considerations, and to provide a place to list references that are available on these subjects.

The two TOPICS (TOPIC 1: SOCIOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS and TOPIC 2: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS) are divided into UNITS that represent major categories for consideration. The UNITS are broad categories. Recreation, for example, includes both consumptive and non-consumptive uses. The brief discussions of such major categories cannot be more that introductions to them. It is my hope that the reference lists will be useful to students and biologists, and that the lists will facilitate further considerations of these areas.

REFERENCES, CHAPTER 24

SOCIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

BOOKS

TYPE	PUBL	CITY	PGES	ANIM	KEY WORDS	AUTHORS/EDITORS	YEAR
	babo dwfe macm		36		game ranching: ecol sensib env conseq off-road vehicl the politics of extinction	heath,r	1970 1974 1975
edbo	laan	loen	335		lab animal handbook, vol 7	mcsheeny,t,ed	1976
aubo	wimi	wadc	40		f & w agencies, org, auth,		1977
aubo	psup	uppa	29	odvi	deer economics	pasto,jk; thomas,	1955
aubo	acpr	nyny	314	rata	hunters, archaelog studies	spiess,ae	1979
aubo	depc	nyny	367	wldl	man kind? our war on wldlf	amory,c	1975