

Wild Harvest Initiative - Quick Facts

Biomass, Economic Valuation and Ecological Replacement Costs of Wild Protein Harvest in the United States and Canada

- **The Wild Harvest Initiative** is multi-year program designed to measure and analyze the biomass of wild animal protein harvested by citizens of the United States and Canada, and to assess its nutritional and its economic value. The initiative will also determine the ecological and financial costs of replacing this food through standard agricultural and domestic livestock production.
- Understanding the scale and importance of wild harvest to livelihoods and economies is a global concern, established as a high priority for leading international conservation organizations, such as the *United Nations' World Conservation Union (IUCN)* and *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*.
- **Conservation Visions Inc.**, a private conservation organization focused on building broader coalitions in support of biodiversity and sustainable use conservation approaches, has conceptualized this initiative and will lead and manage it.
- **Conservation Visions Inc.** hopes to link with a broad spectrum of conservation partners to implement **The Wild Harvest Initiative**. These will include government agencies at state/provincial and federal levels, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and representatives from the business, health, and recreation communities.
- **The Wild Harvest Initiative is an original idea.** Despite the long history of wildlife and fish harvest in both countries this is the first time the amount of wild protein harvested by Canadian and American citizens will be examined on such a large scale. The initiative will not deal with commercial harvest practices but will be restricted to personal, non-commercial harvest by anglers and hunters.
- **The Wild Harvest Initiative** will be relevant to people everywhere who are concerned with safe, healthy food. It will have significance for food security, wildlife management, cultural traditions, human health and fitness, conservation and sustainable resource use, as well as for agriculture, and for public and private land use policies. It will:
 - ♦ highlight the importance of recreational wild animal harvest to human food provisioning in the US and Canada
 - ♦ draw attention to the importance of maintaining habitat for the conservation of all wild species, including those that contribute to human food security
 - ♦ raise awareness and concern for wild lands and the wildlife habitats those lands provide
 - ♦ offer a broader understanding of the benefits achieved through sound land and water management approaches
 - ♦ outline the protein and nutritional benefits of wild food as alternatives to other protein sources
 - ♦ analyze costs necessary for the expansion of agricultural systems to replace current wild protein harvests
 - ♦ catalyze wider conversations about the sustainability of wild meat procurement, the importance of animal protein consumption to all humans, and the organic aspect of wild animal protein
 - ♦ describe the minimal ecological impacts of hunting and angling for harvesting wild food as well as the social, health, economic and environmental benefits these activities provide
 - ♦ discuss how access to wild food is governed and help identify what governance structures or policy platforms best lead to equitable human access and benefits sharing
 - ♦ provide common ground for discussions and public engagement in wildlife conservation issues, leading to wider-reaching and more effective coalitions for conserving wildlife and wild lands
- If your organization is interested in joining or supporting **The Wild Harvest Initiative**, or if you would like further details, please visit **Conservation Visions Inc.**'s website at www.conservationvisions.com.