

# Milestones in Conservation

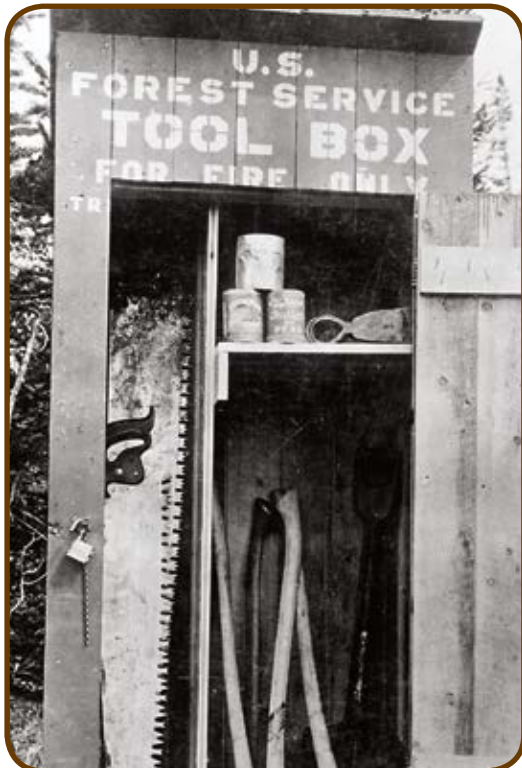
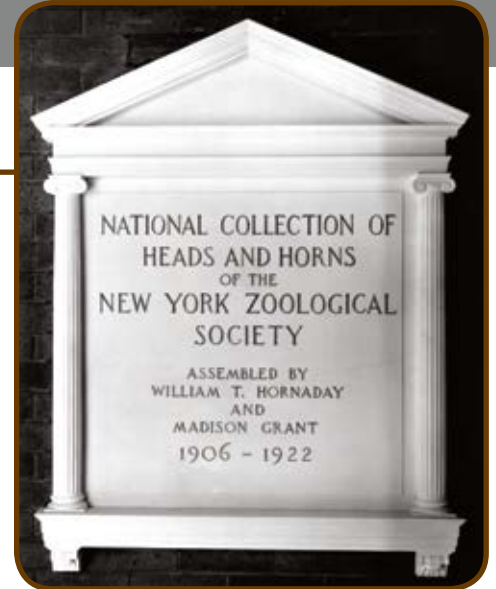
Boone and Crockett Club  
2014

The history of the Boone and Crockett Club is a tale of over 127 years of measured and thoughtful commitment to conservation. It is a commitment that balances human needs with wildlife needs.

We will be celebrating the anniversaries of the passage of laws, the establishment of institutions, and the designation of wildlands, which exist today in large part because of the extensive efforts of the Club and its dedicated membership.

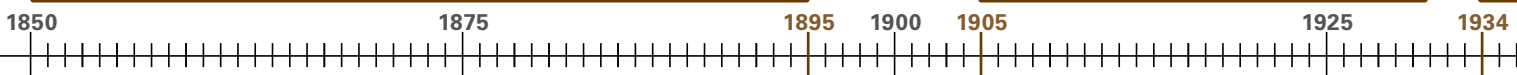
## 120th Anniversary of New York Zoological Society

In 1895, the Boone and Crockett Club helped establish the New York Zoological Society with a mandate to advance wildlife conservation, as well as to promote the study of zoology and to create a first-class zoo. At that time, some species of wildlife were believed headed for extinction. Club members Theodore Roosevelt, Madison Grant, C. Grant La Farge, and zoo director William T. Hornaday believed zoos might be the last hope for some species. Zoos would in fact play a role in wildlife restoration. For example, in 1907, the Bronx Zoo shipped 15 bison by railcar to seed a new herd in Oklahoma's Wichita Mountains. The New York Zoological Society would prosper as well. In 1993, its name was changed to the Wildlife Conservation Society, which now works to conserve wild places around the world. It also manages four New York City wildlife parks in addition to the Bronx Zoo: Central Park Zoo, New York Aquarium, Prospect Park Zoo and Queens Zoo. Together, these parks receive 4.5 million visitors per year.



## 110th Anniversary of the Forest Transfer Act

The national forests that citizens enjoy today were once part of ocean-like expanses of standing timber at the time of European settlement. Keeping some those forestlands protected from complete annihilation took vision and effort. The Boone and Crockett Club began a crusade to save national forests by providing political support needed to pass the Timberland Reserves Bill in 1891. The measure allowed 13 million acres of American forests to be set aside from development, including the Yellowstone reserve that would later become Yellowstone National Park. With those reserves secured, Club members Gifford Pinchot, C. Hart Merriam, T.S. Palmer, and Congressman John F. Lacey pushed forward a bill that would transfer forest management authority from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture. A new Forestry Division, with professional foresters, would now manage these resources. In 1905, Congress passed the pivotal Forest Transfer Act. This bill paved the way for the birth of the U.S. Forest Service, which has managed America's forests for sustainable harvest, recreation, and fire suppression ever since.





Club member and Chief of the Biological Survey, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson releasing a duck into a wildlife sanctuary near Washington DC along the Potomac river on March 8, 1940 as part of a migration survey.

## 80 Years of Reinforcing Science in Wildlife Management

Early wildlife restoration efforts were conducted mostly by trial and error, or worse, political whim. But in the 1920s and '30s, the profession of wildlife management was established as a science-based discipline. Boone and Crockett Club members Aldo Leopold and Herbert Stoddard argued that scientific disciplines should drive conservation, and Leopold's 1933 book "Game Management" was a milestone. In 1934, Club members Jay N. "Ding" Darling, F.A. Silcox, and Ira N. Gabrielson organized the first North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, where wildlife managers could share scientific research and results with peers from around the country. This annual event remains vital today. The 80th iteration is slated March 9-15, 2015, in Omaha, Neb. The conference is organized by the Wildlife Management Institute, which is a professional organization created by Boone and Crockett Club members in 1911 as the American Game Protection and Propagation Association. Its president, Steve Williams, is a professional member and regular contributor to *Fair Chase* magazine.

## Club Commemorates Wilderness Act's 50th Anniversary

The Boone and Crockett Club is joining outdoor enthusiasts across the country in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of a true milestone in conservation and one of America's best ideas—the Wilderness Act.

On September 3, 1964, with several Boone and Crockett Club leaders in attendance, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the legislation protecting millions of acres and establishing legal definitions of wilderness for future designations. (During the same ceremony, Johnson also signed legislation creating the Land and Water Conservation Fund.) Behind the signing, however, were eight years of hard work, over 60 drafts of the bill and strong support from politically active hunters including many Club members.

The crusade for wilderness actually began much earlier. In 1935, renowned Boone and Crockett member Aldo Leopold, along with activist Bob Marshall and others, founded the Wilderness Society to protect unspoiled lands and foster an American land ethic.

Today, more than 109 million acres—five percent of the land in the U.S.—are officially designated as wilderness.

"The sanctity and preservation of wilderness defines our national character," said Lowell Baier, president emeritus of the Boone and Crockett Club. "Every wilderness area today exists because of individuals who had personal connections to the place, were moved by its natural beauty and wild spirit, who understood what it meant for wildlife

and outdoor lifestyles, and who were committed to fighting to keep it intact."

He added, "The Wilderness Act represents a level of grassroots conservation accomplishment that is really quite rare. Even more rare are conservation topics that unite hunters, non-hunters, and even anti-hunters—but celebrating the historic success of the Wilderness Act is one of those," he said.

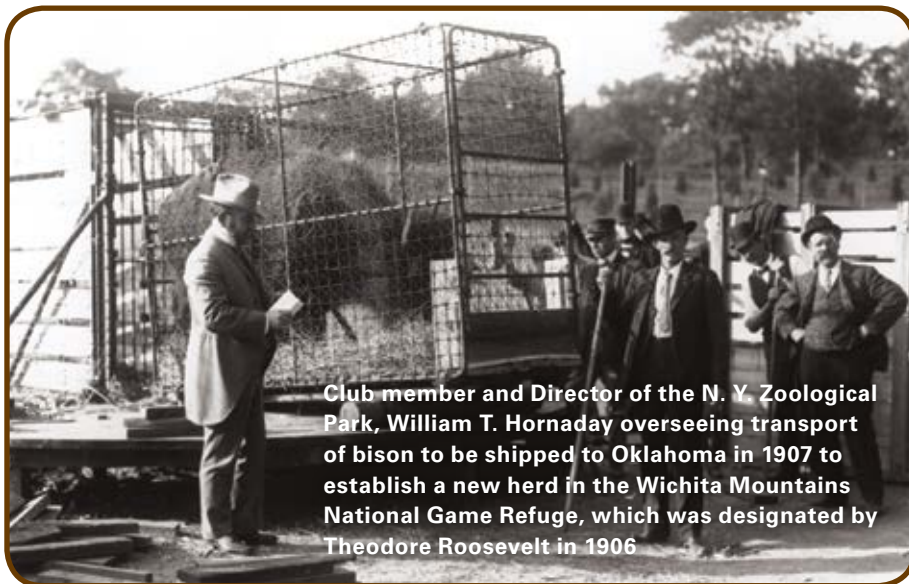
Every year from 1964 to 2010, Congress added lands to America's wilderness system.

However, since 2010, no new wilderness areas have been designated, and Congress has failed to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Baier worries these failures are another clear signal that America's long connections to wildlife and wild places are eroding.

It took nearly 350 years from the time of Columbus' landing for pioneers to reach and settle California. Driven by the quest to tame the wilderness, we altered the landscapes in our path and fueled our conquest with the era's abundant wildlife. The Wilderness Act guaranteed a different future for select remnants of what was once all wild country.

It represented Americans' ultimate desire to leave natural treasures to inspire future generations. It provided our country with landscape-scale monuments to the land ethic for which so many conservationists dedicated their lives.

"Its successes are worth not only celebrating, but growing," said Baier.



Club member and Director of the N. Y. Zoological Park, William T. Hornaday overseeing transport of bison to be shipped to Oklahoma in 1907 to establish a new herd in the Wichita Mountains National Game Refuge, which was designated by Theodore Roosevelt in 1906

1950

1964

1975

2000

2014

2025