



HONORING THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

March 27, 2013

Writing this introduction is one of the most important things I've been asked to do in my tenure with the Boone and Crockett Club. Part of human nature is to focus on the now and the future—and to forget the past. It is my belief that the success of the Boone and Crockett Club, in large part, is that our founders were pretty smart people. They understood what could be accomplished when you had clearly defined, limited goals based on what was necessary and feasible to achieve.

The following keynote address was delivered in March 2013 by Honorary Life Member and Vice President of Conservation Steve Mealey at the Club's dinner honoring the Club's 125th Anniversary held at the 78th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources conference in Arlington, Virginia. Steve's remarks updated his keynote at the 1989 Black Tie Dinner in Chicago. The theme a quarter century ago was Club conservation policy: past, present and future. The 1989 speech sparked the Club's renewed commitment to national conservation policy leadership. Steve addressed the same theme in March with special emphasis on recent successes and future challenges in conservation policy. It's clear that after 125 years, we have much to celebrate but much yet to do to maintain the Club's great conservation policy legacy.

Roosevelt, Grinnell, et. al. gave us a wonderful template. Their vision is as applicable today, perhaps more so, than it was 125 years ago. Steve was able to capture and synthesize the original Club vision and ideas in his previous speech 24 years ago, as well as apply it to our many challenges we face today.

As you read this, I hope it challenges you to think about and research what B&C stands for.

Robert Model
Past President of the
Boone and Crockett Club

In December 1887, the Honorable Theodore Roosevelt, then a member of the New York Assembly, proposed at a dinner in his New York City home the formation of a club of American hunting riflemen, to be called the Boone and Crockett Club. The suggestion was warmly welcomed by the dozen or so present including Elliot and J. West Roosevelt and George Bird Grinnell. The objectives of the Club were later stated: to promote manly sport with the rifle; to promote travel and exploration in the wild and unknown; to work for the preservation of the large game of this country and to further legislation for that purpose; to promote the natural history of the various wild animals; and to exchange ideas on hunting, travel, exploration, hunting rifles and haunts of game animals.

In 1913, Grinnell summarized the Club's proudest achievements, which included: Preservation of Yellowstone National Park; Successful operation of the 100 million acre forest reserve (National Forest) system; Founding the New York Zoological Society (Wildlife Conservation Society); An 1897 New York law forbidding the hunting of deer in the water or with dogs in the Adirondacks; A 1902 law to protect Alaska game; The establishment of national game refuges; Establishment of Glacier National Park; And beginnings of parks and game reservations in Canada. An impressive set of accomplishments in the Club's first 25 years!

This evening we celebrate the Club's 125th Anniversary and its conservation legacy, which includes a major role in winning "round one" of America's conservation battle: the struggle to save wildlife. Grinnell listed many of the Club's contributions. There were many others we know so well. This 19th and 20th Century success in restoring American game species gave birth to the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation—perhaps the world's most effective concept for wildlife conservation.

"Round two" in the conservation battle emerged in the past two decades and it will be a tougher struggle—requiring a new vision and strategy. The first reality to be faced is its global dimension: 9 billion plus humans by 2050—2 billion more than today. Sustainable development is a key response defined as paths of social, economic, and political progress to meet needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations. Practical, working definitions for sustainability in the global commons will be necessary including those for global change (including temperature and chemistry), deforestation and soil erosion, biodiversity, and endangered species. Round Two's national dimension includes human population growth projected to expand to 400 million by 2050—an increase of nearly 100 million. Most resources will be scarcer relative to demand.

The primary challenge of Round Two will be more difficult than simple resource protection and management in an undersubscribed system, which were the key challenges of Round One. Today's primary problem is to preserve environmental and wildlife quality in a global system increasingly oversubscribed. Conservation must occur in context with global economic growth and keep environmental transformation within safe limits. As the slack will be out of the system we will be operating on the margins of human and resource tolerances. Some response options include a description of safe environmental limits; and, using national and international partnerships to make the case for sustainable growth, sharing, and wise resource use.

I want to share my assessment of the Club's effectiveness since its Centennial in engaging Round Two; and some "urgent business" that needs more attention in carrying out the Round Two campaign.

SCORECARD: 1988-PRESENT

The Club deserves high marks for using partnerships to tackle Round Two's challenges. We are proud of the founding of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP) in a meeting held at our Missoula headquarters in 2000. Since then AWCP, with nearly 50 partner organizations, have leveraged the strength of 6 million hunter-conservationists to advance the interests of wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage. For each new administration, the AWCP have offered *Wildlife for the 21st Century: Recommendations to the President*, listing policy priorities for wildlife, hunters and hunting. During the period, hundreds of "sign-on" letters have been sent to Congress and the administration representing the views of AWCP and the hunting community on key policy issues. Trusting, personal relationships between AWCP and top Administration officials and members of Congress have advanced the interests of wildlife, hunters and hunting. The relationships with Interior Secretary Gale Norton, her assistants Rebecca Watson, and Melissa Simpson; Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, his assistants Mitch Butler and Kaush Arha, and CEQ Chairman James Connaughton, his assistants David Anderson and Greg Schildwachter seem most notable. Most are professional members of the Club. Schildwachter and Arha were B&C Scholars and Fellows at the University of Montana. Results include: creation of the Sporting Conservation Council; Executive Order 13443: Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation; the 2008 White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy; and, the Ten-Year Action Plan for Implementing the Conference outcomes.

We are grateful to secretaries Vilsack and Salazar and their assistants as well as Secretary nominee Jewell for continuing the Sporting Conservation Council in the expanded form of the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council. The Council continues its efforts to implement the Ten-Year Action Plan for the White House Conference—an excellent example of the non-partisan nature of the

AWCP work. In preparation for that conference, they published *Strengthening America's Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities* addressing eight issues confronting wildlife conservation and hunting heritage including the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation; climate change and wildlife effects; access to public and private lands; and hunter education, recruitment, and retention. The current Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, and other entities, are working hard to implement different pieces of the plan.

These accomplishments are a good start in winning Round Two. Looking ahead, the magnitude and urgency of the task of effectively engaging the current round in the conservation battle is both intimidating and humbling as the list of unfinished business grows at the same time that no tasks can be checked off as completed.

URGENT BUSINESS

I believe there are four issues of importance to wildlife and hunting that demand increased attention by the Club and its partners. I believe that unless these issues are effectively addressed, other important issues could become less relevant. These issues are ecologically outdated federal environmental policy and law, climate change and habitat health, energy/wildlife coordination, and gun violence.

Ecologically Outdated Federal Environmental Policy and Law

The Club should champion the development of frameworks for adaptive environmental policy and law that recognize ecological change as a process and ecological integrity and resilience as goals. This would update the ecological context of current outdated laws including the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA) that among other problems permit or require "static" management in "dynamic" ecosystems.

For instance, in the Pacific Northwest, the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) for federal lands preserves old forests in unmanaged ("static") reserves for ESA-protected Northern Spotted Owls (NSO). As a result, creation of early seral habitat necessary for deer and elk and many other dependent species in the Cascades of Oregon has declined approximately 90

percent annually since 1993 and is currently at a low point showing a significant decline in biological diversity. One effect is that blacktail deer harvest and associated hunters have declined dramatically. In 2011 Oregon deer hunters were at the lowest level (166,829) since records keeping began in 1952. Through loss of deer and elk populations and habitat and the resulting loss of hunters and license fees to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and its increasing difficulty in carrying out its public trust role, the NFP is weakening the institution of wildlife management in Oregon.

It's powerful irony that federal protection primarily for one species through unmanaged, "static" reserves that often can and should be managed, is undermining the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation that has restored wildlife to Oregon and America. The NFP often acts as a barrier to active management in fire-prone forest landscapes in need of restoration to reduce the risks of uncharacteristic wildfires, which can and have destroyed NSO habitat and other old-forest values.

I propose a Boone and Crockett Club Center for Adaptive Environmental Policy and Law. The Center would have the task of developing frameworks for adaptive environmental policy and law that recognize ecological change as a process and ecological integrity and resilience as goals. As in the examples, current federal environmental laws, regulations or policy often emphasize or enable preserving the status quo (i.e., establishing static or unmanaged conservation reserves in dynamic ecosystems) and present barriers to management actions necessary in rapidly changing ecosystems to maintain ecosystem integrity and resilience and long-term adaptability. Frameworks for adaptive environmental policy and law would build on principles of adaptive management. Structures would promote tactical flexibility while managers focus on long-term sustainability addressing the needs, for example, of endangered species, clean water, clean air, and healthy forests and rangelands. The intent is to overcome judicial constraints of current case law based on environmental laws enabling static ecosystems.

Climate Change and Habitat Health

Elk and deer populations and habitat are declining in the West mostly because of deteriorating forest and rangeland habitats; a condition accelerated by climate change. Forest and rangeland habitat restoration should be among the Club's highest priorities. Key tools are: improved woody biomass markets, permanent and expanded



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stewardship contracting and good neighbor policy, comparative risk assessment, and continued elk and deer research.

May 20th, 2009 the Club established its climate change policy that advocates to: Fund habitat mitigation and wildlife population adaptation; Accelerate conservation and restoration of forests and rangelands to sequester carbon and prevent uncharacteristic wildfires; Invest in energy conservation and technologies that reduce emissions; and, Maintain affordable energy sources thereby ensuring that private land fragmentation does not result from higher input costs.

Since 2009 the following climate change-related information emerged: The most recent decade was the nation's hottest on record and the warming trend is projected to continue; In the western U.S., 115 million acres of federal forest and rangeland are at high risk of uncharacteristic wildfire damaging key ecosystem components.

Mega fires in excess of 100,000 acres—are now occurring throughout the West where the most intense fires may have eliminated ponderosa pine forests and habitat; As fire and fuel loads in western forests and rangelands increase, habitat for elk and deer is decreasing and restoration of both habitat and carbon balance requires reduction of uncharacteristic wildfire risk.

The Club should support activities related to federal forest and rangeland habitat restoration. This includes supporting improved woody biomass markets and Stewardship Contracting. Club advocacy for comparative risk assessments in federal agency decision-making and for continued elk and deer research at the Starkey Project is imperative.

Energy/Wildlife Coordination

Federal agencies should cooperate with state fish and wildlife agencies to meet state wildlife population goals and objectives on federal lands especially related to energy projects. A draft Club energy/wildlife coordination policy recognizes that domestic energy sources, fuel and power, have and are rising dramatically. Public lands are being increasingly used to site new energy production. To make the most of these developments for conservation, a new federal/state agency coordination paradigm is recommended that should assure that wildlife, habitat, and hunting are sustained. Accordingly, in energy projects the BLM and U.S. Forest Service should cooperate with state wildlife and fish agencies to develop and help meet state target population goals for

important game species on affected lands. If followed, this new paradigm should assure the full compatibility of wildlife, habitat, hunting and energy development.

Gun Violence

The Club should champion a national "Family Watch" gun safety campaign that would be aimed at keeping guns out of the hands of the mentally ill/disturbed. The power of America's families should be utilized in a campaign with the main message: "Families keep mentally disturbed members away from guns" would follow the model of the "Friends don't let friends drive drunk" initiative. Families would be warned/informed of the risks associated with armed mentally ill or disturbed family members and encouraged to make guns unavailable to them, or seek help in doing so.

A family-based gun safety initiative would be inexpensive, could be launched immediately, and could unite Americans—many of whom are now deeply divided—in a campaign to halt the continuation of a national tragedy. Important results would be: Maintaining the right of Americans to keep and bear arms; Continue contributions from the sales of firearms and ammunition to wildlife conservation and hunting; and, Starting to make a difference in avoiding "gun violence" catastrophes. We cannot risk another mass tragedy—especially when a simple, practical means employing the love and wisdom of America's families is available.

Just 125 years ago a mere dozen of our spiritual forefathers sat around a dinner table in New York and committed to the successful battle in round one of America's struggles in conservation. Now we, their successors, surely equally capable and talented, are sharing a meal near the nation's capital and considering the challenges of the next great round in America's conservation quest. Those dozen, lacked no confidence in their commitment and ability to meet the challenges of their times. I know that we too will continue the Club's great legacy of meeting the conservation challenges of our own times. ■



Sustaining Ambition.



“Money is a reality of sustaining an ambitious organization; the heart for the work is still the main ingredient of success.”

Essentially, it all boils down to commitment. Careers are built upon it. Campaigns are won with it. Relationships are nourished by it. Great conservation organizations don't just spring from the imagination; they are carefully assembled through each successive generation. Commitment and the wise stewardship of money are the most effective tools in this process. Your 401(k) beneficiary designation gift will help the Boone and Crockett Club continue its ethic of sustaining wildlife and habitats.

“My will initially included a specific bequest to the Boone and Crockett Club Foundation. In order to maximize this gift, my wife Patt and I decided to change the method to a 401(k) beneficiary designation.

It was very simple. All we needed to do was change the name of the beneficiary to the Foundation. Our gift completely avoids both income tax and estate tax, and the double savings has helped us to increase the size of our gift to the Foundation.”

— Ben Wallace
29th President of the
Boone and Crockett Club

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