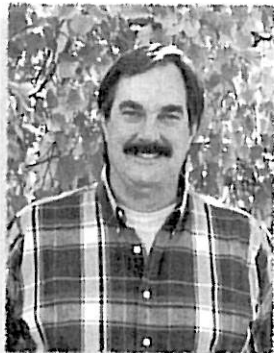


FROM THE CENTER

B&C Strengthens Conservation with Partnerships



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BOONE AND CROCKETT HAS JOINED OTHER CONSERVATION PARTNERS TO IMPROVE OUR EFFECTIVENESS IN CONSERVATION POLICY MATTERS. THE FIRST OF OUR PARTNERSHIPS IS CALLED THE WILDLIFE PARTNERS NETWORK. IT IS A PROGRAM SETUP AND MANAGED BY THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THE PURPOSE OF THE PARTNERS NETWORK IS TO STREAMLINE THE FLOW OF INFORMATION THAT IS ROUTINELY COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE PERSONNEL THROUGH THEIR CONTACTS WITH ORGANIZATIONS, FEDERAL AGENCIES AND CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES TO THE PARTNERS FOR USE AS THEY SEE FIT. THIS INFORMATION PERTAINS TO LEGISLATION AND POLICY MATTERS CONCERNING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND USES.

The founding partners in the network include Boone and Crockett Club, National Wild Turkey Federation, North American Outdoor Group, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ruffed Grouse Society, Wildlife Forever, and Wildlife Management Institute.

With ever increasing amounts of federal wildlife regulations and legislation to worry about, we have created an alliance to detect and track federal actions that affect our interests. Thousands of bills are introduced, annually in Congress, many of which bear directly on wildlife and wildlife management. Federal agencies issue hundreds of proposed regulations each year that could influence wildlife similarly. One characteristic of the Partner groups (except WMI) is that we have our primary focus on the ground at local and regional scales and therefore do not have a significant presence in Washington, D.C., to track issues for us. WMI fills that gap and strengthens our linkage to D.C., and at the same time it strengthens WMI's linkage to the field and our groups.

Collectively, the Partner groups raise and contribute millions

of dollars each year for habitat and population improvement work as well as wildlife research and education. The success of our programs on behalf of sportsmen and sportswomen across the nation often depends on congressional mandates and administrative policies of federal agencies. Challenge Cost-Share program of the Forest Service and BLM and the Conservation Reserve Program of the Farm Bill are just two prominent examples.

Boone and Crockett joins Wildlife Partners Network and 7th American Forest Congress to strengthen public service in wildlife conservation.

The Wildlife Partners Network may eventually take on more than just tracking and commenting on federal actions, such as developing a shared vision among ourselves about what we would like to see wildlife conservation accomplish over the next several decades. For now, however, we are working to bring our knowledge of one another and what is going on at the federal level up to date. We hope to enlist more Partners who share our interests and approaches in the near future. For information on the Network, contact Patricia Peacock, Wildlife Management Institute, 1101 14th Street, Suite 801, Washington, D.C. Pat is our Network coordinator and is a bi-

ologist with master's degrees in Public Administration from Harvard University and in Fisheries from University of Alaska. She has broad experience with federal agencies and the Congress.

The other partnership the Boone and Crockett Club is co-sponsoring is the 7th American Forest Congress with a broad array of groups. The Congress will be held in Washington, D.C., in February 1996. It aims to establish a new shared vision and guiding principles for national forest policy. The Congress will be a citizen's congress following a year of local and regional assessments of current policies guiding America's forest resources.

I have participated with a small group known as the Yale Forest Forum over the past year to convene the American Forest Congress Roundtable in January 1995, at the Arbor Day Foundation in Nebraska. The roundtable brought together about 60 leaders from the environmental community, conservation groups, forest industry, public agencies and grassroots organizations to discuss the values that should guide our nation's forest policies. We also drafted a vision of desired policy elements, addressing such issues as sustainability of forest ecosystems and forest-related businesses and communities; equity in the distribution of benefits and costs of forest conservation and management; productivity of forests for their many values and uses; and security of forest benefits for the long term. Because forests cover more than 700 million acres of the United States, and provide about 1/3 of all our wildlife habitat, the success and direction of the Congress is vitally important to wildlife and wildlife conservation.

The first American Forestry Congress, held in 1882, led to establishing a system of forest reserves from the public domain. The second Congress in 1905 was convened by Boone and Crockett Club founder

Theodore Roosevelt (who happened to be the president at that time). That Congress led to the creation of the U.S. Forest Service and the mandate of the Service to manage the forest reserves as a National Forest System. The last Congress was held in 1975 and we have seen policy and action gridlock since. Too many laws, policies, court decisions and directives for forest management are in direct conflict. The conflict pits individuals and organizations against each other in public meetings and courts instead of bringing them together to find common solutions to difficult problems.

The gathering of such varied interests as came together at the Arbor Day Foundation showed that the

time might be ripe to begin rebuilding the shared vision that once characterized our forest policies. The process leading to the Congress is now moving to local and regional activities to consider the values, vision and principles for a new forest policy. Pre-Congress events will build a broad constituency of stockholders through a series of roundtables, symposia and workshops. Pilot roundtables are already planned for Arkansas, Minnesota, Oregon, Connecticut and Vermont. The participants will then bring their views and ideas of the Congress in hopes of finding a sensible middle ground in the political spectrum of ideas for forests.

Citizens at the center, who share many common values for pro-

tecting forests while producing their many uses and values for human well being, have not been an articulate voice in the resource policy dialogue for the past two decades. We intend for the Congress to turn that around. In fact, some of us view ourselves as radical advocates for a common vision on shared use of forests.

An estimated 2,000 people will attend the Congress. As you might guess Boone and Crockett is honored to be playing a strong role in convening the 7th Congress and hopes that it will have the kinds of success that the 2nd Congress had. If you want more information on the Congress, contact Dr. William Bentley, Office of the Congress, 205 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511.

BACK AT THE RANCH

Nature Walk to be Implemented at Ranch

A MILD MARCH HAS AIDED IN TAKING THE EDGE OFF THE BUSY CALVING SEASON HERE AT THE TRM RANCH. LATE WINTER AND EARLY SPRING STORMS ALONG THE FRONT OFTEN PRODUCE SNOW FALLS IN EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS, BUT THIS YEAR HAS BEEN AN EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE - TO DATE.

Calving began early February with the 40 plus heifers we purchased from the Maggie Creek Ranch in Elko, Nevada. The majority of these heifers calved during a two week cold spell. The mercury hovered around minus 25 degrees below zero, nighttime temperatures plunging even lower. The calving barns were heavily strawed and the cattle were checked frequently - keeping our death loss to a minimum. Despite all efforts to keep new born animals comfortable - many suffered from frost bite. In an attempt to combat this excessive stress, all new born calves are vaccinated with a stress biotic, boosting the effectiveness of their own immune systems. This technique has proved quite successful and is the eighth year which I have done this. Only about 25 cows are left to calve and we should finish up by mid-April.

The month of April will prove to be a busy time as always. Calving draws on, older calves get sick and the cattle are still on full feed. Fertilizing hay meadows, spring fencing and branding will more than adequately take up the balance of my time. Despite the work, I always enjoy April...as it holds the first true promise of the greener and warmer times to come.

As part of it's education and demonstration efforts, the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch and Research Center is currently in the process of creating a nature trail in the heart of the ranch in conjunction with a project known as Watchable Wildlife. About three years ago while gathering cattle off some high ridges on the TRMR, my young son, Chad, and I rode out on to a promontory and witnessed a breath taking view. Looking out into a sea of meadows, grasslands and conifers - the Rocky Mountain Eastern Front loomed before us...Volcano Reef, Mount Frasier, Old Man of the Hills, Walling Reef and all of their majestic counterparts stretching out far to the North and South. We kept

our spot a secret, but with the advent of the watchable wildlife trail, we felt that it is only fair to share this magnificent view with others. It will be the turning around point of this new nature walk. The trail to this lookout has already been surveyed and will be completed in 1996. It is our intent to include children of Boone and Crockett members and other various youth organizations within the community in the actual construction of the trail. I'm looking forward to this experience. I would like to extend a special word of thanks to lifelong friend, Ray Mills (U.S.F.S.) and Lisa Flowers (B&C Research Assistant in Education) for helping to survey the trail. Both people will continue to be integral figures in the professional development of this trail into the heart of the Boone and Crockett Club's privately owned ranch. B&C Club Associates will be notified as to trail construction dates. The abundance of flora and fauna in conjunction with the spectacular scenery are sure to make this hike a favorite with those who love the out of doors!



Robert K. Peebles

MANAGER
*Theodore Roosevelt
Memorial Ranch*