

B&C Public Discussion on Wildlife Conservation

The public service objective of the Boone and Crockett Wildlife Conservation Program was enhanced this Spring by the first B&C Public Discussion on Wildlife Conservation. The Discussion was led by our guest, Michael J. Bean, expert in wildlife law and the Endangered Species Act.

The vision of the Public Discussion is to bring to Missoula national figures such as Bean for the benefit of conservationists on campus and in the community. By making Mr. Bean available, the B&C Wildlife Conservation Program established the Boone and Crockett role as one of providing local conservationists with high-quality, timely, and challenging conservation thinking.

Mr. Bean is renowned in the wildlife community and represents the caliber of conservation thinking the Public Discussion will attract. A graduate of Yale, Mr. Bean now directs the wildlife program at Environmental Defense Fund, he wrote The Evolution of National Wildlife Law, and consults with several market-based conservation projects. He visited Missoula from April 18-20, 1995.

During his stay, Mr. Bean met with students and faculty of the School of Forestry, joined a discussion with local conservation leaders at their Aldrich Brown Bag Lunch group (a monthly meeting held at the Boone and Crockett Club Headquarters), met privately with local conservationists, led the 1995 Boone and Crockett Club Public Discussion on Wildlife Conservation. His visit coincided with the Public Land Law Review Conference, for which he delivered the keynote address and moderated a panel discussion.

The point of view represented by Mr. Bean in his presentations and discussions challenged all participants. Bean and the Environmental Defense Fund have led the conservation community in experimentation with market approaches to conservation and he presented some of those ideas. Mr. Bean's perspective on conservation is focused on the federal political process, especially the judiciary, and includes his experience with local case-studies such as the red-cockaded woodpecker in the sand hills region of North Carolina and the Karner blue butterfly in the Lake States region.

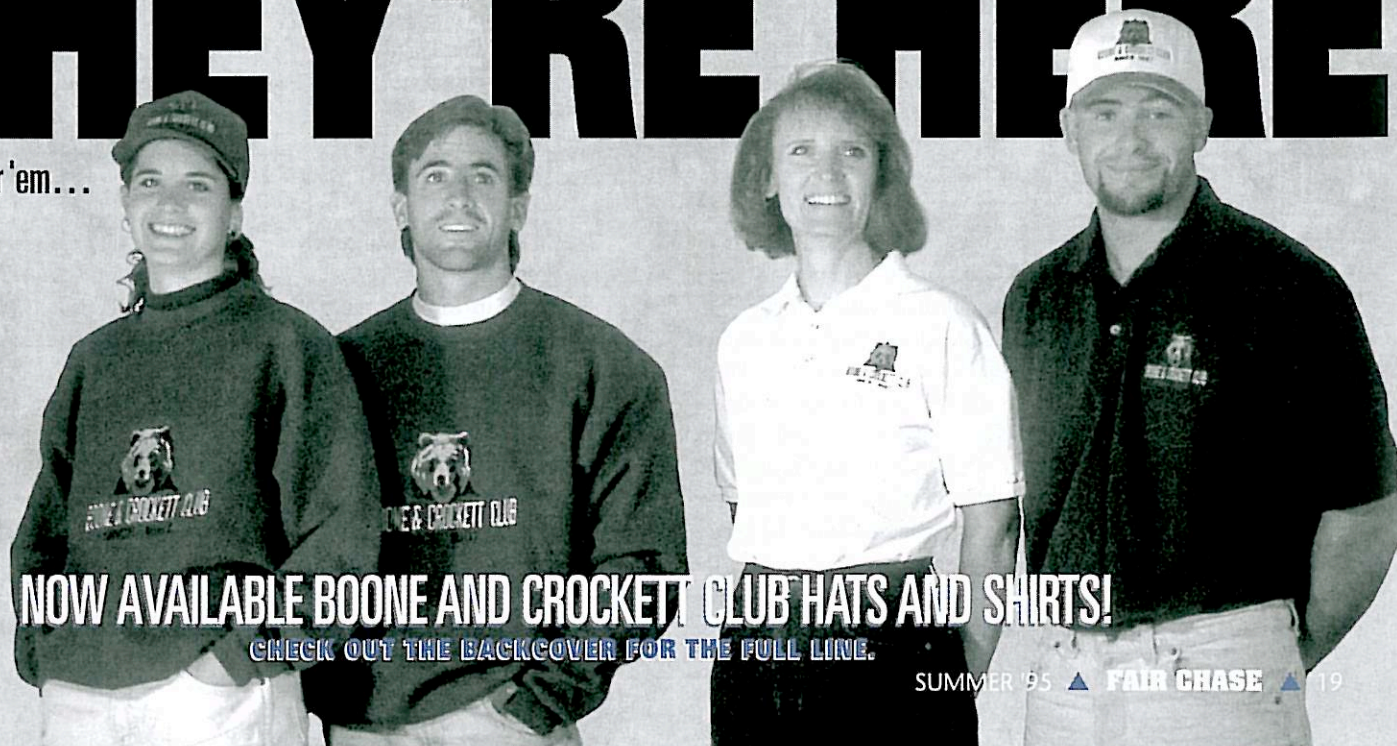
Mr. Bean's visit was timely: the day before his arrival, Mr. Bean attended oral arguments in the Supreme Court on the case challenging the federal definition of harm regarding endangered species. On account of this timing, Mr. Bean was featured by Missoula news media on the same day that national outlets reported his expert view of this case.

An important feature of the Public Discussion is how it brings students into the realm of actual conservation work. The event is planned by a team of graduate students, chaired by a B&C Research Assistant, and supports courses taught by the B&C Professor of Wildlife Conservation. This year's planning team consisted of students from Forestry, Recreation, and Resource Conservation: Greg Schildwachter (chair), Beth Brantley, Joe Moll, Charlie Sperry, and Porter Hammitt. This year's discussion completed the Case Studies in Natural Resources Conservation Policy class. Not only did Mr. Bean's insights into the political process illustrate important factors in the development of a current policy, but his contribution to the Wildlife Conservation Program library was an exhaustive outline on the subject of wildlife conservation law.

By GREG SCHILDWACHTER,
B&C RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Chair of the Planning Team

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