

FROM THE PRESIDENT



C. Robert Palmer
PRESIDENT
Boone and Crockett Club

Industry and Game Can Coexist

Mineral exploration and development are not the enemies of wildlife conservation. In fact, they can become one of wildlife's major benefactors.

I can assert these facts with confidence because of my own history. I am retired after spending 50 years in the oil and gas industry, but I still hold the title of chairman emeritus of Rowan Companies, Inc., an oil service company.

Now, I "work" at two jobs: as president of the Boone and Crockett Club, and as a South Texas cattle rancher. Being B&C's president is a temporary position — my term ends December 31, 2007, but owning a ranch is a lifetime commitment.

But it is my combination of experiences in industry, hunting, and ranching that tells me how important our work at Boone and Crockett Club is. Boone and Crockett Club members are the trailblazers in conservation, Fair Chase hunting, and the shared use of natural resources. We are conservationists — not preservationists. This point is

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made clearly and professionally in this issue of *Fair Chase*. In these pages, you will find John Baughman's presentation during the 72nd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference titled, "Energy Development and Fish and Wildlife Trade Off." Also, there's a summary of Steve Mealey's recent testimony before the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 27.

I found these articles informative, in part because they confirmed what I've learned about the oil-and-gas business and ranching over the past 25 years. Our ranch, while small by South Texas standards, is stratographically blessed — that is, we have valuable minerals under the ground.

Thus I find myself the chief — *el patron* — of lease negotiations, environmental impact

arbitrator, and chief of regulatory/contract oversight, and incidentally recipient of the monthly royalty checks (mailbox money). The net result is that our ranch sustains both a cow-calf operation and serious wildlife habitat for deer, turkey, and quail. (Unfortunately, it also attracts invaders in the form of Nilgai and feral hogs, which are definitely unwelcome.)

All it takes is for the owners of the surface and mineral rights to declare what is desired and to know how to achieve it. Believe me, it is not rocket science! When B&C members read Baughman's and Mealey's ideas, they'll further realize how industry and game can coexist — and thrive — together.

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BY THEODORE ROOSEVELT**

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