

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS

The Boone and Crockett Club University Program is designed to provide science-based knowledge from seasoned wildlife professionals and educators to college graduates in the wildlife field to better prepare the graduates for the responsible and wise management of wildlife in the future.

FROM: 2018 Boone and Crockett University Programs Retreat Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch

The second annual Boone and Crockett Club University Programs Retreat was held on June 8-10, 2018, at the Boone and Crockett Club Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch, in Dupuyer, Montana. The intent of the retreat was to bring together University Program (UP) leaders, Club members and university administrators to participate in a strategic planning process.

During this two-day retreat specific goals were discussed:

- Identify organizational structures and processes that can effectively strengthen relationships between the members of the Club and the leaders of its program.
- Identify a set of performance metrics that can be used to evaluate program accomplishments, promote growth and communicate program successes.
- Construct a practical vision for University Programs.

There was general agreement that the mission of the University Programs is well-aligned with the Club and that the Club is well-served by the diversity of approaches to research, instruction and outreach among the universities. Club oversight committees are valuable and would benefit from greater

engagement with university administrators as well as program leaders. Performance metrics could be strengthened by focusing on process measures as well as product measures. Strategic planning produced a rich set of ideas for development of a comprehensive action plan that will focus on three priority areas: (1) a common set of objectives and goals across programs, (2) increased collaboration and communication among programs, the Club and external organizations, and (3) stabilization of existing programs and sustained financial viability. A point person for each focal area was identified and tasked with moving forward with action items identified during the strategic planning process.

Attracting bright young people and the nation's top wildlife universities to our cause are signs that our vision is getting good traction. Still, we need to keep our eye on the ultimate goal—placing effective advocates at the decision-making table in the next generation. We all know that 20 years from now the challenges facing wildlife conservation and our hunting heritage will be enormous. The Boone and Crockett Club stands as the major conservation organization preparing those future leaders and scientists, those who will advocate for all we hold dear. ■



Michigan State professor Bill Porter addresses the group during the retreat. The Elmer E. Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center (RWCC) is a 5,500-square-foot building that hosts education, research, and demonstration programs that take place at TRM Ranch. RWCC can sleep up to 30 guests, feed 60 people from the commercial kitchen, and seat 60 to 104 in the main conference room. The lab/classroom is setup for 30 students to work on field related activities. There is also a dining area, and outdoor deck surrounding the west end of the conference room perimeter. The building was constructed to blend into the surrounding landscape and have a high energy efficient rating due to the high winds and inclement winter weather. RWCC takes advantage of the surrounding vistas and prevailing strong winds. The building is used year round by students, teachers, and others.

The group, including University Program professors, Club members, university administrators, and B&C staff took advantage of the scenery with early morning hikes and evening fishing.



LEARN MORE: TRMR & RWCC

Each year hundreds of students (ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade) and teachers visit the Elmer E. Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center and the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch. These workshops and field trips provide a new perspective that will help foster a passion for science and discovery and a commitment to care for the wildlife in the natural world.

The TRM Ranch is also the host for MOHAB—Montana High Adventure Base—the nation’s premiere wilderness expedition training and instruction program serving the High Adventure needs of Boy Scouts and Venturers worldwide. MOHAB’s uniqueness is defined by its remote location, wilderness character, and multi-sport expedition travel.

MOHAB training programs are designed to give scouts the skills and training necessary while at Basecamp that will prepare them to lead their own safe and successful wilderness expedition.

The ranch also has a Watchable Wildlife Trail that is open to the public all year with the exception of hunting season. The ranch participates in Montana Fish, Wildlife & Park’s block management program which provides hunting opportunities on private lands. The public hunting program at the TRM Ranch is operated by the ranch manager.



Read stories about other students' and campers' experiences at the TRM Ranch and learn more about the history of the ranch by logging into the Associates Community online and reading past issues *Fair Chase*.