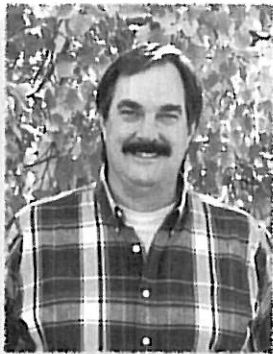


FROM THE CENTER

Year Number Two Comes to a Close



Hal Salwasser, Ph.D.

B & C PROFESSOR OF
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
University of Montana

IT IS EARLY IN THE MORNING AT TRM RANCH. THE SUN WILL RISE OVER THE SWEETGRASS HILLS IN ABOUT AN HOUR OR SO. THE COFFEE IS BREWING AND THE WIND IS BLOWING. IT IS BLOWING HARD AS IT OFTEN DOES OUT HERE ON THE FRONT. AND IT IS BLOWING SNOW. ON OCTOBER 3. FOUR MORNINGS AGO I WAS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA'S SANTA RITA EX-

PERIMENTAL RANGE ABOUT AN HOUR NORTH OF THE MEXICAN BORDER TOWN OF NOGALES. IT WAS 100 DEGREES THAT MORNING AND WE WERE THERE TO DISCUSS THE PROSPECTS OF DIVERSIFYING THE RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE RANGE TO ADDRESS A BROADER SPECTRUM OF RESOURCE CONCERNS AS PART OF THE NEW ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. SANTA RITA, IN DESERT SCRUB AND

GRASSLANDS, IS THE OLDEST RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION IN THE NATION, DATING FROM 1903. NOW HERE I AM IN NORTHERN PRAIRIE IN AN EARLY FALL BLIZZARD WAITING FOR A HALF DOZEN EDUCATORS TO SHOW UP FOR AN ALL DAY SESSION ON CONSERVATION EDUCATION IN THE NORTHERN ROCKIES.

Before leaving for Tucson, I lectured on the linkage between natural resources and societal prosperity to the first-year class in Natural Resources that B&C member, Dan Pletscher, and I teach at the university. In between Santa Rita



and TRM Ranch, I spent Saturday evening with 150 environmental activists in a barn south of Missoula trying to explain that renewable resource management was part of the solution to environmental challenges rather than a problem that only wilderness preservation can cure. I don't know if I made any converts. But I tried. Not that wilderness is not good for wildlife mind you, it just isn't the only solution to tough conservation challenges and may not even be the best one for some problems. In between those events came meetings with our graduate students and a fine day with my family watching the UM Grizzlies roll yet another football team. More than a few of my weeks this past year were like this. It is hard to get bored in this job. Ahh, the coffee is ready.

What this all leads up to, believe it or not, is a brief progress report on the year's activities. My last several columns in *Fair Chase* have discussed concepts such as the relationship between economics and wildlife conservation, ecosystem management and the Crown of the Continent ecosystem as a context for our activities. Now its time to tell you how we're doing at the close of year two in the Program.

I recently finished my term as President of The Wildlife Society (that's the professional organization of some 9,000 wildlife biologists, managers, scientists and educators). We held the society's first ever annual conference in Albuquerque last week and 1,500 people showed up. It was about as fine a wildlife meeting as many of us had ever attended. Just a year earlier, the society, with Boone and Crockett help, convened the first International Wildlife Management Congress in San Jose, Costa Rica for 700

wildlifera from 70 nations. Both of these events aimed to improve the communication of scientific information about wildlife conservation among the professionals. And they both succeeded thanks to a lot of hard work by a lot of dedicated wildlifera.

Back at the U, our spring classes in wildlife conservation policy and ecosystem management drew a fine group of students. The policy class produced eight case study reports and gave each student an opportunity to learn and critique how conservation policy is formed and shaped over time. The graduate ecosystem management class produced a second report on the Crown of the Continent and delivered its public seminar to about 75 people at the Club's headquarters.

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Reports back from the students indicate the classes are well worth continuing in future years.

Throughout the school year our cadre of research assistants polished up their work which was presented to the Club at its June



Ranch meeting. David Keller has now completed the first installment of his environmental history of the Rocky

Mountain Front. People have lived along the Front for more than 12,000 years and their relationships with the land and wildlife resources have changed dramatically over that time. David suspects that early hunters may have had much to do with the demise of the post glacial mega fauna (that's our fancy term for really big animals) before they settled into a more sustainable relationship with bison, deer, bighorn and pronghorn. This is, as you might guess, a controversial subject and David continues to gather information pro and con on the possible role of aboriginal hunters in shaping the nature of wildlife populations. His work this summer focused on the period immediately following contact with Europeans and the influence of trade and technology (especially horses and guns). While doing library work on this period, David also guided his field assistant Tanya So in archaeological surveys of the TRM Ranch. From Willi Rahr's work last summer we suspected that the Ranch straddled the Old North Trail and held several Blackfeet cultural sites. Tanya stopped searching at about 250 tipi rings and dozens of other sites on the Ranch to leave time for measurements and cataloguing. There is little doubt now that the TRM Ranch is a rich cultural site that may have been a major seasonal encampment for hunter and gatherer people for a long, long time. When their work is done I suspect we'll gain valuable insights into how rich wildlife habitats persist for very long periods and support many different and changing cultures of people. David's work will carry him into the settlement and economic development eras of the Front during the

B&C RESEARCH ASSISTANT
David Keller

next six months.

Meanwhile, back at Yale, Colleen Rush completed her B&C supported work and report on the role of changing human values in grizzly bear conservation in Montana. She found a marked contrast in attitudes and tolerance of grizzly bear conservation between long-established residents and recent arrivals in rural Montana. She also saw that the personal styles and attitudes of agency managers and scientists have much to do with the social acceptability of conservation strategies, important lessons for those who think better science is the sole key to successful conservation.

Thomas Baumeister completed three projects for us this past year. His evaluation of mule deer hunting on the Ranch, done in collaboration with ranch manager, Bob Peebles, is already helping us refine the hunt strategy to offer a top quality hunting experience while better protecting the base herd from undue pressure. Tom's evaluation of elk habitat use, based on data collected by Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist, Gary Olson, and UM Professor, Les Marcum, highlights the importance of rough-fescue grasslands in elk winter range on the Front. And his study of conservation policy for the Sun River elk herd south of the Ranch showed that local and regional conservation groups can both help and hinder rational resource management. Thomas has spent

much time this past year developing expertise in geographic information systems and computer modeling in preparation for his field research which will start this spring. One beneficial result of this preparation is that we now have all the baseline data and results of previous field research on the Ranch in a master database and GIS. This will provide an excellent foundation for all future field studies at the Ranch.

Greg Schildwachter completed his review of the use of contracts for wildlife conservation this year and is now compiling an inventory of projects across the nation that are attempting to use market approaches for endangered species recovery. This is a new field and Greg's dissertation research will focus on evaluating the pluses and minuses of the various projects. Greg also finished up his second year as Chair of the Student Affairs Committee of The Wildlife Society and was a major factor in breathing new life into that group.

Kaush Arha spent the summer at Mooncrest Ranch in Cody, Wyoming, with B&C member, Bob Model, and ranch manager, Dick Geving, collecting data for his dissertation project on better accounting for wildlife values in private as well as public land use decisions. Kaush is working with a large area and several elk and deer herds that surround Mooncrest and this summer's work was designed to let him

get to know the area and the people he will work with. Prior to heading for Mooncrest, Kaush finished a preliminary survey on private lands/public wildlife programs in California, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado. Many western states are working to improve the role of private lands in wildlife conservation and Kaush's survey is the first evaluation of the longest standing formal state programs. He is now back at the University of California gathering more information to refine the survey and build the accounting system for his dissertation research.

Chris Gephardt has his report on public participation in federal land use decision making out for review as I write this column. It was six months in preparation and will give managers a solid foundation on the pros and cons of the several options they have for improving public involvement in ecosystem management. While the report is being reviewed, Chris is compiling the data for his second project, a history of public participation on the Bitterroot National Forest. Chris' work is funded by the USDA Forest Service as part of their new ecosystem management research project in the Northern Rockies.

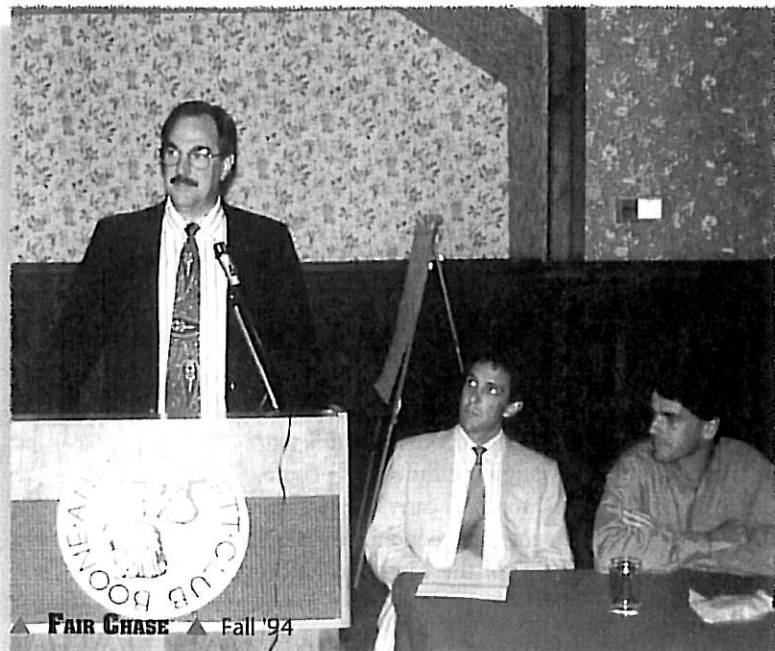
On the conservation education front, Lisa Flowers is folding her work on development of classroom and field units into her new assignment as education director for The Nature Conservancy's Pine Butte Swamp Preserve. Lisa will be testing four units - geology,

B&C RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Lisa Flowers

OPPOSITE PAGE:
B&C RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Kris Hurlburt

ABOVE: THE WIND BLOWS THE SNOW ACROSS THE ROAD TO THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL RANCH MAKING VISIBILITY POOR.

BELOW: BOONE AND CROCKETT PROFESSOR, HAL SALWASSER INTRODUCES THE 1994 GRADUATE CLASS AT A PUBLIC SEMINAR HELD AT BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB HEADQUARTERS. PICTURED HERE ARE GREG SCHILDWACHTER, LEFT, AND THOMAS BAUMEISTER, RIGHT.



botany, wildlife and ecosystem management - this next year before releasing them for use in Montana's public schools. Each unit has a field session at TRM Ranch to complement its classroom work. As with all of our education work, the units stress the integration of literary, quantitative and scientific skills with practical experiences on conservation issues. Also along these lines, Polly Thornton returned from her summer stint on a NASA ecology project to help us build a relationship with the Missoula High Schools and further the work of several high school teachers in field-based wildlife conservation education. Polly is taking this year off to teach English in Korea and will resume her master's degree work in wildlife conservation next fall.

Kris Hurlburt is now rolling on her master's project at TRM Ranch: evaluating the response of vegetation to grazing by livestock, deer and elk. Seven years ago, Russ Offerdahl did baseline vegetation work at the Ranch and helped put up five grazing exclosures and about 50 transects. Kris is reading the transects and studying the vegetation in the exclosures. She spent this summer building a plant collection for the Ranch during her off hours from a full-time job with the Forest Service in Choteau. We're all looking forward to the results of Kris' work because it will be our first scientific evaluation of the management strategy in place at the Ranch for the past seven years.

To complete the report on research assistants, we've recruited Jason Moeckel to classify the Ranch's streams and watersheds and collect baseline information on hydrology. Jason begins his work this fall. Dalice McIntyre rounded up a lot of basic information on ranch management before moving on to other pursuits this summer. We will use that information to help de-

velop the TRM Ranch management/research/demonstration plan during the coming year. We are now looking for field ecologists to help us improve our baseline information on birds, fish, riparian areas, and small mammals at the Ranch. With the students doing their projects, it allowed me to stay active in a variety of public service roles in conservation. In addition to my work with The Wildlife Society, I served as an editor for the scientific journal, Ecological Applications and on the boards/advisory councils of six conservation-related centers, programs and institutes. We are now working with a group called the Yale Forest Forum to convene the seventh American Forest Congress in December 1995.

Getting the word out is a big part of our Program so I gave 36 talks to different groups this past year on ecosystem management, wildlife conservation and the Boone and Crockett Wild-

life Conservation Program and published several book chapters and journal articles on those topics. This summer the B&C Program sponsored a regional workshop with American Forests on managing forest ecosystems in mixed ownership lands at the Club's headquarters and helped Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with a potential research and demonstration project on desert wildlife in the Big Bend area. And I took a little time to rest and recreate with my new family.

Well the education crew is arriving and its time to get ready for the day's events. We've come a long way this past year with the Club's work out here in Montana. We've still got a long way to go. We're mighty grateful for the support that Boone and Crockett Club members and associates have given us.

P.S. The storm finally put 18" of snow on the ground and had several of us in the ditch coming and going before the day was out. Such is life along the Front.



RECENT OFFICIAL MEASURER APPOINTMENTS

The Boone and Crockett Club is especially pleased to announce the appointment of 59 new measurers who successfully completed all aspects of the official measurer training workshops held in Montana, Georgia, and Texas during the past few months.

These individuals are qualified to measure entries for all 35 categories of North American Big Game recognized by the Club.

Anyone needing to reach any of these individuals, or any other qualified measurers, to have their trophies scored can do so by obtaining a complete list of official measurers in their state or province by contacting the Club's office.

The Club would like to congratulate these individuals on their appointments and publicly thank all measurers for the valuable service they perform. Their work is especially appreciated by the Boone and Crockett Club as well as the hunting public in the states they serve. Official measurers offer their time and talents to score trophies as a public service.

CALIFORNIA

H. HUDSON DeCRAY

COLORADO

STEPHEN S. ADAMS

FLORIDA

JACK E. BEAL

GEORGIA

HAVEN R. BARNHILL
DANIEL L. FORSTER
JONATHAN W. GASSETT
J. BRENT HARRELSON
KENT KAMMERMEYER
SCOTT McDONALD
KARL V. MILLER
DAVID A. OSBORN
STEVEN W. RUCKEL
GEORGE W. STEELE JR.
BRONSON K. STRICKLAND
VICTOR VANSANT
LISA M. WHITE

IDAHO

JAMES M. PEEK

ILLINOIS

MIKE KISTLER
TIMOTHY D. WALMSLEY

LOUISIANA

C.R. NEWLAND
STEVE J. HEBERT

MINNESOTA

KEVIN HISEY

MONTANA

SHAWN R. BAYLESS
JOHN M. VORE
JAMES S. WILLIAMS

NEW HAMPSHIRE

ROSCOE BLAISDELL
LEWIS B. MARSTON

NEW MEXICO

EUDANE VICENTI
TOM WATTS

OHIO

ROGER DAVIS

SOUTH CAROLINA

MICHAEL B. CAUDELL
TIM L. IVEY
RICHARD T. MORTON
SAMMY W. STOKES JR.
THOMAS SWAYNGHAM
JEFFERY S. WITT

TEXAS

MARCUS T. BARRETT III
MARKO BARRETT
TREY CARPENTER
TOMMY CARUTHERS
CURTIS S. CHASTAIN
STAN COOK
MICHAEL D. FAIN
ED FOREMAN
DONNIE FRELS
STEPHEN W. FUCHS
GARY E. HOMERSTAD
LEE KIRKPATRICK
MICHAEL MORRIS
CHARLES D. MULLER
RANDAL A. REEVES
BRYAN RICHARDS
CALVIN L. RICHARDSON
DAVID SYNATZSKE
BUTCH THOMPSON
VIRGINIA
W. MATT KNOX
WILLIAM E. MOSS

WASHINGTON

MORRIS G. OWEN JR.

WISCONSIN

GREGORY A. FISH