

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Conservation and Money

EVERYTHING TANGIBLE IN OUR SOCIETY CARRIES A PRICE TAG AND WE GOVERN OUR PERSONAL ACTIVITIES ACCORDINGLY. THE CLOTHES WE BUY, THE FOOD WE EAT, AND THE SHELTER OVER OUR HEADS HOPEFULLY STAYS IN LINE WITH THE INCOME WE RECEIVE. AFTER PAYING FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED ESSENTIALS, WE CAN THEN DEAL WITH THE DISCRETIONARY FUNDS LEFT OVER.

These discretionary monies point many of us toward lakes and streams, to harvest fish and waterfowl, or toward the fields, forests, and mountains, to hunt upland game and big game. Whichever of these interests take you to the great open spaces, the price you pay to enjoy your hunting and fishing pursuits is considerable, in fact, almost beyond belief when you add all the other sportsmen's costs up and total them with yours.

To illustrate this point, I was recently reading some materials distributed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and discovered some astounding facts that I would like to share with you:

1. Sportsmen like you and me contribute something over \$1.5 billion each year to wildlife conservation.
2. We (the same you and me) have contributed over \$17 billion since the conservation effort started back in the late 1800's when Boone and Crockett Club founder Theodore Roosevelt started our organization. Seventeen billion dollars (\$17,000,000,000.00) is a staggering amount of money.
3. Also, sportsmen (you and me again) contribute an additional \$300 million each year through over ten thousand specially-focused conservation groups such as Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Boone and Crockett Club etc.

Well, how are we doing after \$17,000,000,000.00-plus dollars of support? In one word - **Great**. With few exceptions, big game animals, for example, are thriving as evidenced by new World's Records entered in each triennial Awards Period. You can find these results in the Club's newly published records books. Our wildlife conservation people have established an extraordinary track record, one that all of us can be proud of.

A few dates that should have significance to us as sportsmen:

1872 Yellowstone National Park established, the first National Park.

1887 Boone and Crockett Club established, the first conservation club in North America.

1903 President Theodore Roosevelt established the first wildlife refuge. He set up over 75 more wildlife refuges during his presidency.

1905 President Roosevelt established the U.S. Forest Service

1929 Migratory Bird Conservation Act establishing the National Wildlife Refuge System.

1934 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act to fund the 1929 National Wildlife Refuge System.

1937 Pittman-Robertson Act which put an 11% excise tax which you pay, on guns and ammunition sales, the proceeds of which are given back to the states for wildlife programs.

In spite of extraordinary negative pressure from

the anti's, our hunting heritage is alive and very well. We are succeeding. The huntable numbers of most big game animals have continued to climb up to this point in time, but habitat pressures from a growing people population are setting the stage for land use priorities.

We can't take our eye off that elusive wildlife conservation target. It is incumbent upon each of us to keep our hunting heritage alive and well for ourselves and for future generations. This means your continuing personal vigilance regarding the activities of the "preservationist" community who would have us cease harvesting our bountiful game populations. It is also mandatory that you continue to generously fund conservation organizations that will speak out and act for you in our very complex ecosystem-based wildlife conservation arena.

Your past support of conservation activities has brought our hunting population of sportsmen to this point of success. Keep it up. Numbers do count, both in terms of people and dollars. And knowledgeable conservation counts, too.



Paul D. Webster

PRESIDENT
Boone & Crockett Club



THE MISSION

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB TO PROMOTE THE GUARDIANSHIP AND PROVIDENT MANAGEMENT OF BIG GAME AND ASSOCIATED WILDLIFE IN NORTH AMERICA AND TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF FAIR CHASE AND SPORTSMANSHIP IN ALL ASPECTS OF BIG GAME HUNTING, IN ORDER THAT THIS RESOURCE OF ALL THE PEOPLE MAY SURVIVE AND PROSPER IN ITS NATURAL HABITATS. CONSISTENT WITH THIS OBJECTIVE, THE CLUB SUPPORTS THE USE AND ENJOYMENT OF OUR WILDLIFE HERITAGE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT BY THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
BOONE & CROCKETT CLUB
December 4, 1974