

EDITOR'S NOTE



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B&C Adopts Climate Change Position

Following great consternation, a Boone and Crockett Club committee consisting of forward thinkers, scientists, and wise-use conservation activists has recently drafted the Club's position

statement concerning climate change, perhaps the most important question of our time. Certainly, it fits nicely in an edition of *Fair Chase* that seems well laden with great pieces concerning wildlife science and hunting, including Harold J. Salwasser's superb "Our Climate" beginning on page 40.

The organization's first official statement on climate change is included in the inset.

My fourth grader, Sara Beth, is currently engaged in the rudiments of the forces of climate... revolution, rotation, earth's axis, orbit and seasonal variance. Through her social studies, she is concurrently learning about rain shadows, irrigation practices, and water management, particularly in the booming Southwest desert region of the United States. It seems a bit much, but the kids these days are smarter than we were. And they'd better be. During the fourth-grade discussion about science and culture, my wife announced to Sara and me that a recent "TV news report" suggested Lake Mead will be dry by 2012!

Great gads! If true, you'd think I would have heard that from someone other than my dear, exceedingly unscientific wife! Now a conscientious editor for a scientific journal, which this issue certainly seems to qualify as, would have confirmed the Drainage of Mead report and attributed it to a reputable scientific organization, particularly on the same exact page that holds the Club's posi-

tion statement on climate change. But it's late, there's a total lunar eclipse in play this very evening, and I personally (tongue in cheek) enjoy lengths of wild rivers to lakes or the city of Las Vegas. The point is... the earth's warmed up over the past several centuries and to date only God knows exactly why, or precisely what it means to all of His planet's inhabitants.

Maybe more to the point, many pressures impact the existence of our flora and fauna, and only one species—human-

kind—has any chance at managing to a positive outcome.

Notably, most of the features in this issue seem to underscore the Club's willingness, no, *purpose*, for thought, discussion and action across many of these wildlife-related environmental fronts. As per usual, I read them all with clicked-up wonder. Regarding this edition, I was really struck with the reach and depth of these projects and the writings, particularly the Club's leadership role in the presidential Executive Orders 13352

(Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation) and 13443 (Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation). If you read nothing else in this issue, please peruse Lowell E. Baier's treatment (beginning on page 6) regarding these wildlife and wildlife habitat triumphs, which were spearheaded by the 41-member American Wildlife Conservation Partners led by your Boone and Crockett Club. I believe it's the most accessible, thorough piece I've read on the subject.

The spring 2008 issue doesn't stop there. In fact, that's only a good start. This "book," as magazine people often refer to a periodical, is long on thought provoking work to the benefit of big game, whole ecosystems, the everyday citizen and the hunter. On behalf of the magazine staff, a stunningly bright group of contributors, the Club's new President Lowell Baier, a who's who cache of B&C directors and volunteers and North America's big-game treasures, thank you for taking the high road, for your collaboration in making the answers to these important wildlife issues part of your journey. ■

BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB POSITION STATEMENT **CLIMATE CHANGE**

For well over a century, the hunter-conservationists of the Boone and Crockett Club have been at the forefront of wildlife conservation in North America. We have led the way in identifying threats to North America's wildlife and their habitats and, on the basis of scientific research, have taken a leadership position in the implementation of measures necessary to ensure the continued proliferation of these resources. At this time, the Club recognizes that the changing climate poses an indeterminate threat to our North American wildlife and habitat.

As such, we embrace the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's definition of climate change as being "a statistically significant variation in either the mean state of the climate or in its variability, persisting for an extended period (typically decades or longer). Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forces, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use."

The Boone and Crockett Club is concerned that there is a dearth of science focused on the specific effects of climate change upon North American wildlife and habitat. Therefore, the Club shall facilitate the furtherance of science, deliberation, and implementation of policy intended to mitigate the effects of climate change on wildlife and habitats. The Club also encourages all parties with an interest and appreciation for wildlife to become knowledgeable and to engage at an appropriate level.

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