

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Lowell E. Baier
PRESIDENT
Boone and Crockett Club

Seizing a Unique Funding Opportunity and Making Conservation a National Priority

Our visionary founder, Theodore Roosevelt, in his heroic struggle to make the conservation of America's natural resources a national priority, said, "There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country."

In Theodore Roosevelt's era, he first elevated America's consciousness to focus on the diminishing wildlife, wild lands, the devastation of our related natural resources and the long-term consequences to our country and its people if it remained unchecked. TR then identified the solutions to the problem, and literally framed the agenda for action and change in America. From TR's agenda, today we have inherited a system of national forests, parks, refuges, the administration thereof, and governing laws unique amongst all nations of the world. TR's conservation theme was relevant, timeless, universal, non-partisan, and apolitical, criticized only by the timber, mining, livestock, and greedy profiteers of the commercial market hunting interests, all of whom harvested a living at the expense of depleting the country's natural resources. TR took the moral high ground for the benefit of the American people, because it was the right thing to do at the time. It has been ratified by history ever since—celebrated, improved upon, and protected by each successive generation.

Following the century-old vision of Theodore Roosevelt, the creation and work of the Sporting Conservation Council (SCC) is the highest refinement of organization and political acumen achieved by the sporting community since TR's era a century ago. The Sporting Conservation Council, chaired by Bob Model with Boone and Crockett Club members occupying 11 of the 12 Council seats, has over the past 17 months, framed the contemporary conservation issues and challenges that are relevant to our country today—issues that are universal, non-partisan, and apolitical. The Council's December 30, 2008, report, *Strengthening America's Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation in the 21st Century:*

Challenges and Opportunities, is the basis for the companion plan directed by President Bush's Executive Order 13443. The plan, Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation (December 14, 2008), is a 10-year action plan with 58 action items for immediate implementation that address the compelling wildlife conservation and hunting heritage challenges of our times.

The Council's report addresses eight principal issues:

- Access to public and private lands
- Hunter education, recruitment, and retention
- Responsible energy development
- Climate change and wildlife's adaptation and mitigation
- Habitat conservation
- Federal, state, and tribal coordination
- Preserving the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation
- Funding the North American Model

The action plan responding to these eight principal issues was formulated by a

apolitical, bipartisan product addressing the contemporary challenges facing the conservation of wildlife and its habitats, and the hunting heritage of America. The challenge now of the Sporting Conservation Council is to demonstrate the contemporary relevance of its work product to both the new Obama Administration and the 111th Congress. That work product is universal in character and has broad application across America's diverse populations far beyond the sporting community, and was derived from a bipartisan base of multiple constituencies. That relevance is what gives it both currency and credibility.

When the incoming Obama transition team arrived at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), their first question put to Dr. Greg Schildwacher (Director for Agriculture, Lands and Wildlife at CEQ, and a Boone and Crockett member) was about the work of the Sporting Conservation Council (SCC) and their 10-year action plan. Early signals suggest a

As Robert Ruark said in his memorable book *The Old Man and the Boy* (1957) on a grandfather mentoring his grandson, a young bird hunter, "don't shoot at the entire flock, pick out one bird at a time, and shoot it." For our sporting community today, that one bird we need to focus on now is climate change legislation, because the covey of 58 action plan items is about to flush, and we need to be ready to participate in the legislative process on the one item closest at hand.

broad coalition of participants from across the spectrum of private conservation organizations and state and federal governments, working together through a strenuous series of focus groups, workshops, and committees. The end result truly represents a balanced

strong interest in the plan's implementation, but to have currency and be implemented over the next 10 years, the action plan must have the continued strong support of the White House and Congress. It was reassuring to hear Dr. Schildwacher remark at the Shooting, Hunting, and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show in Orlando this past January 17th when the action plan was rolled out, that "For the last month or so, we've had a lot of detailed agenda-building going on between the outgoing Administration and the incoming Administration. The serious people in government behind the scenes, out of the lights and out of the spin zone, work very closely together on keeping important issues organized, and this is one of them." However, we as a conservation community must remain vigilant and unite to support continued implementation; that is the key to success, that and the action plan's contemporary relevance. In Dr. Schildwacher's words, "There now exists an institutional footing for hunters to constantly be in contact with government."

While presenting the action plan in Orlando, Dr. Schildwacher said, "The American hunter has never been better

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- Benjamin H. Bristow 1895-1896
- William Austin Wadsworth 1897-1918
- George Bird Grinnell 1918-1927
- Madison Grant 1928-1937
- Kermit Roosevelt 1937-1940
- Frederic C. Walcott 1940-1947
- Archibald B. Roosevelt 1948-1952
- Karl T. Frederick 1953-1955
- Fairman R. Dick 1956-1959
- Alfred O. Hoyt 1960-1961
- Robert Munro Ferguson 1962-1964
- Robert S. Waters 1965-1967
- John E. Rhea 1968-1970
- Frederick C. Pullman 1971-1973
- John E. Rhea 1974
- Wesley M. Dixon Jr. 1975-1979
- Jack S. Parker 1980-1982
- William I. Spencer 1983-1984
- Judge F. Anderson 1985
- James H. Duke Jr. 1986-1989
- George C. Hixon 1990-1991
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- Earl E. Morgenroth 2001-2002
- Robert Model 2003-2005
- C. Robert Palmer 2006-2007
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organized, and that’s saying something because the American hunter, in the history of American sporting and wildlife conservation, has been a model of organization.” Dr. Schildwachter’s remarks are reflective not only of Theodore Roosevelt’s era when he mobilized the sporting community into action over a century ago, but more specifically how the sporting community has organized itself since the early 1970s. Starting in 1972 when Safari Club International first organized, over 35 sporting conservation organizations have followed suit, many focused on a single species like turkey, mule deer, elk, sheep, bear, etc.

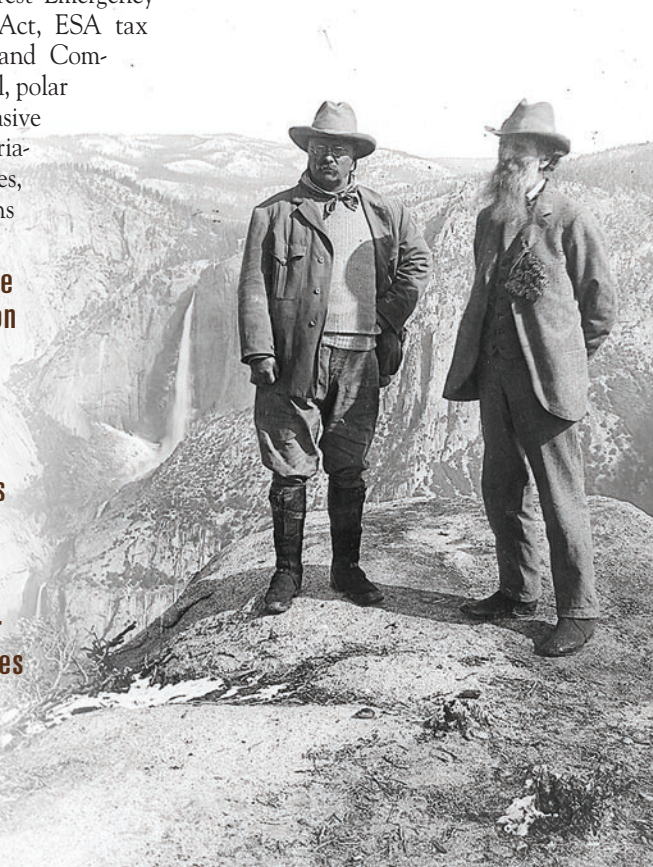
In 2000, 32 conservation groups (some formed before the 1970s) came together at the Boone and Crockett Club’s Headquarters in Missoula, Montana, and after three days formed the American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP) group. Today, the AWCP consists of 43 member organizations representing nearly 8 million voters. Since 2000, there have been 106 separate political action initiatives undertaken by the AWCP. Notable examples of their collective focus include positions on the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, the Clean Water Wetlands Act, fire suppression funding, chronic wasting disease, hunting on national forests, the Forest Emergency Restoration and Research Act, ESA tax incentives, Rural Schools and Communities Act, 2008 Farm Bill, polar bears, ballast water and invasive species, open fields appropriation, delisting of gray wolves, etc. Many of their positions

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have proven to be very persuasive with the Washington establishment.

The collective fundraising, organizational and political power the united sportsmen-conservation groups have come to represent since the early 1970s is truly awesome, and if mobilized, they can provide much of the support that will be required to keep implementation of the Sporting Conservation Council’s action plan relevant and visible to the Washington political establishment.

During his presentation at the SHOT Show, Dr. Schildwachter remarked, “The agenda, especially at a transition time, is so vast and there are so many priorities that the heroes of conservation have to make 10 phone calls for every call back they get, just to get the ball rolling.” Of the eight principal issues formulated by the SCC, Boone and Crockett member Jeff Crane, vice chair of the council and president of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, said during the presentation of the action plan, “If we can achieve even some part of this, we’re going to move the needle far off the mark. If we can get anywhere near half of it or more, we will accomplish things that are Rooseveltesque.” This, however, cannot be done alone.





Outdoor Adventure Camps - Summer 2009

Have you experienced a clear night sky full of stars or the wind rustling through the pine trees? Western history books describe wide-open prairies and big skies of Montana that in years past invited pioneers and conservationists out West. The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch is such a place where youth come in the summer to experience a safe getaway full of outdoor adventure and new challenges along the scenic and beautiful Rocky Mountain Front.

LITTLE CRITTERS DAY CAMP

Have you ever wondered where your favorite animals live? Or what they eat? Do you wish you could spend some time fishing and studying what lives around the edge of a pond? Day activities include short hikes, fishing, exploring the plants and animals found in the area, wildlife tracking, and discovering ways to enjoy the out-of-doors.

Shuttle service is available for an additional \$10.00. Pick-up leaves Choteau and Conrad at 8:00 a.m. and returns by 4:30 p.m. All camp equipment, snacks and meals are covered in the registration fee. Parent or guardian may accompany their children. For an additional fee, adult camp lunches are available.

WHEN: July 13, 14, 15, 2009

WHO: Youth ages 5-8 (or entering grades K-3)

TIME: 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

COST: \$25/day/camper (You can register for one, two or three days)

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP INTERMEDIATE OUTDOOR SKILLS & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Do you have an interest in the outdoors, conservation and advanced outdoor skills? Join us for four days of wildlife-related, hands-on activities and engaging presentations by wildlife and natural resource professionals. Topics include conservation ethics, species diversity, habitat management, population ecology, predator-prey interactions, capture and census techniques, animal and plant identification, hunting as a management tool, hunter safety, and shooting and fishing skills. The camp goals are: 1) To encourage youth to be conservation-wise citizens and; 2) To develop an avenue for youth interested in natural resource-related careers—fish, wildlife, ecology, water, etc.— to have an opportunity to interact with professionals.

WHEN: August 2-5, 2009

WHO: Youth ages 15-17 (or entering grades 9-12); Limited to 20 campers

COST: \$300/camper; Scholarships are available.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP OUTDOOR SKILLS

Do you want to learn basic outdoor skills, such as knot tying, fly tying, shooting sports, campfire building, journaling, and tracking skills? Campers will use digital cameras, GPS units, maps, and compass to gather and analyze their experiences on the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch and adjacent public lands. Primary goals of this camp are: 1) To develop an understanding, awareness, and appreciation for the great outdoors of Montana's Rocky Mountain Front and the importance of conservation and natural resources and; 2) To provide an opportunity for youth to gain a variety of outdoors skills on private and public lands.

WHEN: August 9-12, 2009

WHO: Youth ages 10 -15 (or entering grades 5 -9); Limited to 20 campers

COST: \$300/camper; Scholarships are available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:
406-472-3311 or email cobb@boone-crockett.org

Some of these 58 action items are readily achievable, and some will take a long time to materialize. One of the items that universally affects every American, is apolitical, and will likely be acted upon by Congress within the next 24 months is climate change. This legislation will likely establish a cap and trade system for carbon credits, and an auction system that will generate massive revenues. Regardless of your view of climate change as fact or fiction, Congress will likely act on the issue, and our community needs to be part of the dialogue to insure auction proceeds will flow to wildlife and habitat adaptation and mitigation, and be properly apportioned. In the 2008 Lieberman-Warner bill, following the models established by President George H. W. Bush of an acid rain cap and trade system, and the European cap and trade auction model, 14 percent of auction proceeds went to wildlife and habitat, which was estimated to produce \$75 billion over the next 20 years. This would meet or exceed the intent of the SCC challenge and opportunity to properly fund the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. This is the one we now need to focus on.

As Robert Ruark said in his memorable book *The Old Man and the Boy* (1957) on a grandfather mentoring his grandson, a young bird hunter, "don't shoot at the entire flock, pick out one bird at a time, and shoot it." For our sporting community today, that one bird we need to focus on now is climate change legislation, because the covey of 58 action plan items is about to flush, and we need to be ready to participate in the legislative process on the one item closest at hand. Other constituencies and interest groups have already lined up to play.

The political landscape in Washington has shifted, and the competing demands for funding from the federal government make it far tougher to get money dedicated to wildlife conservation. There are many conservation groups from across the political landscape that will need to align to secure a portion of the auction proceeds for wildlife habitat adaptation and mitigation because of multiple competing funding demands for mass transit, highways and bridges, expansion of the electric grid, health care and education, etc. The best potential ally the sporting community can join forces with on this issue is the coalition known as the "Green Group," 31 organizations which are the counterpart of the AWCP.

Most members of the Green Group were organized during the era of environmental legislation beginning in the 1960s, with notable exceptions such as the Sierra Club (1892), and the National Wildlife



Federation (1936). For two years or more, the Green Group has organized itself and coordinated climate change legislation with Congress. They've identified the key representatives and senators that will support legislation, and their respective committees and staff people that participate in the legislative process, and have matched their sizeable professional staffs up to facilitate legislative implementation. They have secured their access to the current Administration so critical inside the Washington establishment. It was this group that led a coalition including AWCP which secured placement of the wildlife funding provision in the Lieberman-Warner bill, the majority of which would have been disbursed through the Pittman-Robertson mechanism. Recently, many have played key roles on the Obama transition team. They are well funded and collectively focused, locked, and loaded, and are on the move.

Most importantly however, the Green Group recognizes they cannot secure this legislation alone, that it will take conservation organizations across the political spectrum—including our sporting community—to unite with them, and they have reached out to us to participate in this endeavor. From our past collaborative work with the Green Group in 2001 on passage of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), we almost succeeded in realizing permanent federal funding of \$3.1 billion annually for conservation programs across the country, and it's time to do it again. Prior to that opportunity, many of our organizations worked with this group in the 1960s and 1970s when much of our early environmental legislation was enacted, starting in the era of the Johnson and Nixon Administrations. It was a collegial collaboration for both groups in each instance.

The Green Group is to be congratulated for its continuing work in advancing permanent wildlife conservation and funding provisions in new climate change legislation reflecting provisions advocated by AWCP partners in their October 18, 2007, sign-on letter to Senators Warner and Lieberman. Funding is the critical issue in preserving the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, and a partnership with those seeking this same end is more than justified. Climate change legislation is going to happen, and the vital dialogue has already begun. It's time to join the Green Group again in seeking similar permanent federal funding for wildlife as called for by the Sporting Conservation Council in climate change legislation.

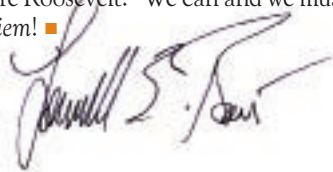
The current opportunity to capture major long-term funding for wildlife and

habitats cannot be lost when there is a unity of purpose over conflict and discord, and common cause of such universal merit that is apolitical in character. Adequate funding for wildlife is a critical national priority for the states as well as the federal government, and cuts across each of the eight principal issues identified by the SCC. As Dr. Schildwachter said, "The American hunter has never been better organized." It's time we use our organized power base given that a funding opportunity far larger than we've ever seen since the inception of the conservation movement is at hand, perhaps even larger in promise than funding under Pittman-Robertson. Time is of the essence to achieve this single monumental goal that we failed to achieve in 2001 with the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA).

Our country was founded on democratic principals that encourage differing opinions and partisanship. However, when we have critical national issues of universal appeal, by tradition compromise leads to consensus, where collaboration overcomes conflict through constructive dialogue. Our Nation is built on ideas, dreams and challenges—and yes, hope. Iron sharpens iron, like one man sharpens another (Proverbs 27:17). Ideological rigidity may at times be part of the problem, and the resolution thereof becomes part of the solution. We sportsmen-conservationists may be proud, but we've always been pragmatic first.

Over a century ago, the Boone and Crockett Club took the lead in devising the conservation agenda for the Nation. It's done so again through the SCC, a product of the visionary work of our Government Policy and Government Affairs Committees led by Bob Model and Steve Mealey. The heroic leadership of TR and the historic legacy of the Boone and Crockett Club is to seize the opportunity to participate in a dialogue that has already begun to facilitate climate change legislation that will generate significant funding for wildlife habitat adaptation and mitigation. Moreover, the progressive legacy of the conservation movement in America is when critical issues of national priority arise, conservation organizations from across the political spectrum collectively unite, put partisanship aside, and make conservation of our country's natural resources a national priority, just as Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir did a century ago.

Can we do it? To quote President Theodore Roosevelt: "We can and we must." *Carpe diem!* ■



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