

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Ben B. Wallace**  
PRESIDENT  
Boone and Crockett Club

## Sportsmen's Heritage Act

In the past two editions of *Fair Chase*, I have focused on the importance of completing our Boone and Crockett Club's strategic plan and accompanying implementation plan.

The strategic plan has been finalized and approved by the board. The implementation plan is in the final stages of completion and will be presented for board approval in June. The plans will become working documents on July 1, 2012, the beginning of our next fiscal year.

Both plans recognize the importance of the primary reason Theodore Roosevelt founded the Boone and Crockett Club, wildlife and habitat conservation. Roosevelt recognized that the current generation of people must use our natural resources wisely to ensure that future generations can enjoy our wildlife heritage, so the plans require that the Club focus its efforts to continue on with that rich history and legacy.

While all areas of the Club have an effect on wildlife and habitat conservation, the Conservation Policy Committee has the responsibility for the oversight of legislation, rules, policies and procedures at the federal, state and international levels that effect our ability to enjoy the natural resources through hunting, fishing or otherwise. The committee, co-chaired by Past-President Bob Model and Vice President of Conservation Steve Mealey, is composed of members who are active in conservation at all levels.

Through the hard work of many of the Conservation Policy Committee members, organizations they work with and for, and other conservation groups, an extremely important bill passed the U.S. House in mid-April, HR 4089, also known as the Sportsmen's Heritage Act (the act). The act is a compilation of four different bills that promote and advance our hunting, recreational fishing and shooting heritage.

### The act includes the following:

- Require hunting and recreational shooting and fishing to be recognized activities on all Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands;
- Protect recreational shooting on National Monuments under the

jurisdiction of Bureau of Land Management;

- Amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow hunters who legally harvested polar bears in Canada prior to its listing under the Endangered Species Act to purchase permits in order to transport their trophies into the U.S.;
- Clarify that the Environmental Protection Agency does not have the jurisdiction to regulate traditional ammunition with lead components and lead fishing tackle

The Sportsmen's Heritage Act received bipartisan support as it passed the House as well as support from many conservation organizations, including the Boone and Crockett Club. Prior to the act passing the House, I wrote a letter to the Honorable Nancy Sutley, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality requesting that the administration's policy statement support passage of the act. In addition, 38 of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners group signed a letter of support to Speaker of the House John Boehner, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

One of the organizations spearheading the passage of the act is the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). Its president, Jeff Crane, is a Professional Member of the Boone and Crockett Club and sits on the Conservation Policy Committee. In the CSF press release on the act, Jeff is quoted as saying: "The passage of legislation such as this is unprecedented and is largely the result of the bipartisan collaboration of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. The CSF has been working with caucus leadership and other caucus members for several years on a sportsmen's package, and we are thrilled to see our efforts finally come to fruition."

When I asked Jeff about what will happen in the Senate, he seemed confident that the Senate Sportsmen's Caucus will want to work on a similar bipartisan package of bills and that conversations with Senate caucus leadership and other Senate members have been positive.

The outcome of the Sportsmen's Heritage Act in the Senate is uncertain at this time. Hopefully with the continuing efforts of Jeff Crane, CSF, Boone and Crockett Club, members of AWCP and other

like-minded conservation organizations and individuals, there will be legislation passed and signed into law. The act certainly carries forward the vision of Theodore Roosevelt that we should promote the use and enjoyment of our wildlife heritage to the fullest extent by this and future generations.

Thanks to everyone who has worked toward passage of this act. Keep up the great work! ■

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