

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Please send your letters to us at Boone and Crockett Club, Old Milwaukee Depot, 250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801. We welcome a lively exchange of ideas and suggestions. Associates are encouraged to send their hunting and trophy room stories along with photographs. We try to publish as many letters as possible. Letters are published as written but may be edited for brevity.

Wayne D. Holt
with his bison
taken in
November of
1995 in the Henry
Mountains of
Utah. Sent in by
Jason Davis.



Jason Bailey with a mule deer taken on the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch during the 1995 season. Jason and his father, Mike would like to thank the Boone and Crockett Club for letting them hunt on the B&C Ranch this year. Mike says, "There's nothing like seeing my son so excited as he was the day he shot his buck."



ASSOCIATES IN THE FIELD

"On October 15, 1995, I shot my first pronghorn ever. Two months later, I had triple bypass surgery and I am recovering now, hoping that it was not the last pronghorn! The horns were 18" long and do not make the record book, but it was a wonderful hunting experience.
Peter A. Reimers, Germany



Lee R. Anderson with his desert bighorn sheep taken in 1995 near Canyon Lake, Arizona. This was the Governor's Auction tag. Below, his daughter, Kathy, with her pronghorn taken near Socorro, New Mexico, in September of 1995.



NEW TROPHY CERTIFICATES

I would like to offer a suggestion. Please do not construe my comments as being ungrateful. I am offering a positive, constructive suggestion that I think has merit and will provide a better level of service and recognition to B&C award recipients.

Last year I shot a Rocky Mountain goat which was eligible for the 22nd Awards Program. I was thrilled and am very proud of my accomplishment. Imagine my disappointment when I received in the mail my certificate acknowledging the acceptance of my trophy. We give out better certificates at my son's Cub Scout Pack.

I would recommend that B&C consider upgrading these certificates to something that can be framed and hung on the wall with pride. The one I received is an embarrassment considering it acknowledges, for me, a lifetime accomplishment. Please pass on the additional costs to the award recipients. I for one will be more than happy to pay extra for something more professional than what I received. Also, you can get machines that will do excellent calligraphy for certificates and it looks wonderful. I suspect that computers can do this also with the proper font.

Anyway, that is my suggestion. Please keep up the good work. I enjoy the *Fair Chase* magazine and read it cover to cover.

David G. Paullin

EDITOR'S NOTE: YOU CAN FIND A SAMPLE OF THE NEW CERTIFICATE ON PAGES 4 AND 11 OF THIS ISSUE.

A TROPHY BUCK TALE

Thank you for the copy of *Fair Chase*, and the opportunity to receive a copy of the *B&C Club's 22nd Big Game Awards*.

I truly appreciate the job you did with publishing my story, "A Trophy Buck Tale." I am thrilled with the quality, and the integrity with which you handled the contents. *Fair Chase* is the fourth magazine that has published one of my outdoor stories, and the results ranked number one with me.

Pastor Steven G. Coy

TONGASS TALK

After reading the articles by Carl Rosier and Jimmie Rosenbruch, former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Alaska Master Guide, respectively, and Don Young, Congressman for the three giant timber corporations in Southeast Alaska, I must respond as a long time Southeast Alaska resident, avid hunter, and sport fisherman.

Messrs. Rosier and Rosenbruch's article is a true and accurate description of just how the Alaska Congressional Delegation: Young, Stevens and Murkowski, have mounted an all out attack on the ethical management of what remains of the Tongass National Forest. Since their ascent to powerful positions as a result of the 1994 election, all have opened their doors to corporate interests, who seek huge, short-term profits by exploiting the remaining publicly-owned timber to the detriment of fish and wildlife habitat and other resources. These corporations contribute heavily to the reelection campaigns of Young, Stevens, and Murkowski and now they want a return on their investment.

After reviewing Young's article, I am outraged by his false and misleading statements to the membership of Boone and Crockett. Sportsmen had better well be scared that these bills will diminish hunting opportunities and ethical forest management, especially in the Tongass National Forest.

Young is either completely ignorant of the basic geography of the Tongass Forest or is attempting to defend his rape-the-Tongass legislation by planting big, absurd lies in the minds of his colleagues in Washington to obtain their votes and by publishing articles such as appeared in *Fair Chase*.

This is borne out in his December 13 speech on the House floor where, as House Resources Committee Chairman, he stated, "There are 15 million acres of the Tongass that are off limits to logging...15 million acres of rainforest...15 million acres of those great old trees." Interestingly

enough, the total area within the present Tongass Forest is approximately that size and it is certainly not all off limits to logging.

Young knew during that speech that 40% of the area is not forested at all, but bare high elevation rock, glacial ice, permanent snow fields and muskeg meadows. Another 26% is composed of naturally occurring stunted scrub trees and brush that offers little of the fish and wildlife winter habitat so critical to species survival in these latitudes. Together almost 2/3 of the Tongass Forest is either not a rain forest or is insignificant forest, yet it is within the Forest boundaries and is counted in the total acreage.

Except for Admiralty Island National Monument, the existing designated Tongass Wilderness Areas are composed almost entirely of this non-forested and insignificant forested land type. Within the remaining 1/3, huge acreages of the best timber have been clear-cut during the past 35 years under the two 50-year timber contracts held by Alaska Pulp Co. (a Japanese owned firm since 1954) in Sitka and Ketchikan Pulp Company. In 1993, the APC contract was cancelled by the U.S. Forest Service for breach of contract. Don Young has always been a champion of APC interests.

I encourage Boone and Crockett members to ponder the possibility of requesting Representative Young's resignation from its noble organization.

I remain,
Ben Mitchell

After reading both sides of the argument, I suspect that many of your readers will be confused. Fortunately, we have scientific information that should help.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in the U.S. Forest Service have worked cooperatively for many years on researching the effects of clear-cut timber harvests on fish and wildlife habitat. This research has shown that timber harvesting as presently done in Alaska seriously and adversely affects all of the resources that have been studied. There is extensive research on some resources like deer and brown bear and the major salmon species.

A brief statement published in our local paper a few years ago states a fact that is backed by extensive data - that is, that most of the high volume areas have already been harvested. In forestry jargon that is called "high grading." The Tongass has already been high graded.

The Alaska Delegation of Young, Murkowski and Stevens have been so threatening to the Tongass that some of us have formed an organization called, The Tongass Hunting and Fishing Coalition. You and any members of your Club are welcomed to join.

If the legislation proposed by the Alaska Delegation becomes law, the effects on the Tongass will be devastating. A harvest of the magnitude they want to mandate would require a scramble and would still be non-sustainable. The jobs they talk about wouldn't last long and the end result would be a devastated national treasure.

Thanks for providing a forum for this debate. I hope it can be seriously discussed by people with knowledge instead of those driven by uninformed emotion.

Sincerely,
Don Schmiede

I would like to respond to the article about the Tongass National Forest. My family and I live and work in the Tongass and have done so for over twenty years. All of the bills introduced to Congress by the Alaskan delegation are potentially harmful to fisheries, wildlife and those pursuits of fish and wildlife which we all enjoy. Despite what Congressman Don Young claims, all of the bills would increase the logging on the Tongass and that is precisely their intent.

Congressman Young cast shame on Messrs. Rosenbruch and Rosier for allegedly using unfounded allegations and half truths as scare tactics. Well, pox on his house, for that gasbag's counterpoint is fraught with outright lies and half truths. For instance, a sustainable yield of 874 million board feet annually is only possible if all the com-

mercial forest land on the Tongass were available for harvest, including stream banks, wilderness areas, National Monuments, beach fringe and estuaries.

The "craziest of the crazies" and their "lazy science" he refers to were a panel of 18 of the foremost wildlife biologists in the U.S.A. and Canada. They were embodied to review the Tongass Land Management Plan. Their immediate management recommendations were: 1) The existing largest blocks of contiguous high volume old-growth forest not be further fragmented by timber harvesting or road building and 2) The letter and spirit of the provision against high grading in the Tongass Reform Act be



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If we are serious about ecosystem management and timber harvest, we need to understand what wildlife's needs are and determine at what level we can log wildlife habitat. We need to balance wildlife's needs and our needs for wildlife with logging. Somewhere there is a level that is satisfactory to all; we haven't found it yet. Congressman Young's approach is taking us giant steps backward. There is no reason wildlife should be valued lower than timber and no reason all logging should be foregone for wildlife.

Sincerely
Dave Helmick

BEN MITCHELL IS A RETIRED U.S. FOREST SERVICE PROFESSIONAL CIVIL ENGINEER AND LOGGING ENGINEER WHO WORKED FOR 20 YEARS ON THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST.

DON SCHMIEGE IS A RETIRED BIOLOGIST. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING THE TONGASS HUNTING AND FISHING COALITION WRITE TO:

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