

CLUB PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Common Ground for Conservation



Paul D. Webster

PRESIDENT
Boone & Crockett Club

AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB, I HAVE THE HONOR OF WRITING MY FIRST ARTICLE FOR *FAIR CHASE*. LIKE MY PREDECESSOR, STEVE ADAMS, I AM PROUD TO BE ELECTED TO SERVE AS THE PRESIDENT OF A CLUB THAT HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO THE CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT IN NORTH AMERICA FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED AND SEVEN YEARS.

"Conservation" is a buzz word of our times. It is a word used commonly in the newspapers, speeches, and casual conversation. Everyone seems to be in favor of "conservation," but what does the word really mean? Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition defines "conservation" as the "act of preserving, guarding, or protecting." As we all know, that means different things to different people. "Conservation" to one person means minimizing human influences and emphasizing the amenity values of a particular resource. To another, "conservation" means the use and management of a resource for commodity products.

We can count on our natural resources becoming more and more scarce relative to demand. The United States population has more than tripled since 1900. It will probably continue to do so. The amount of land available to support the population has, and will, remain the same. There is an increasing demand for fuels, minerals, and other finite resources. Growing urbanization, affluence, and mobility, has changed the expectations and demands placed on wildlife and wildlife habitat. Although our wildlife, for the most part, is in significantly better condition today than it was a century ago, we are still facing a compelling problem; how to use and manage our resources to meet increasing human demands and facilitate economic growth in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Jack Ward Thomas, Chief of the United States Forest Service, spoke at the recent Boone and Crockett Club Annual Meeting in Houston. He told us that in order to define a resource use level that is socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable, we must take two steps: (1) develop scientifically sound ecosystem-based management strategies; and (2)

every one of us to "be leaders in finding common ground for solutions to regional and local problems."

In response to Mr. Thomas, the Boone and Crockett Club is currently organizing "common ground" workshops and symposiums that will meet on an ongoing basis. Associate members are welcome to participate in these efforts. Information about the workshops and symposiums will appear in future issues of *Fair Chase*. Watch for them. You all have valuable information and experiences concerning the places where you live and hunt. We encourage you to help resolve the problems facing wildlife and the shared use of wildlife on public and private lands, by actively participating in these forums.

I hope that in the coming years, the meaning of the word "conservation" takes on a more clear definable meaning. It is time for all of us to move away from discussions that center on owls versus old growth or the environment versus jobs. Let's move instead to ensuring that a future edition of Webster's Dictionary includes "sustainable development" within the definition of "conservation."



develop regional forums that describe common ground for sustaining use and ecosystems.

He also asked each and

EDITOR'S NOTE: PAUL WEBSTER, THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB, IS A FIFTH GENERATION LUMBER MAN WHO HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF MINNESOTA MOST OF HIS LIFE. THE FIRST TWO GENERATIONS OF LUMBERING WEBSTERS RESIDED IN THE STATE OF MAINE. WHEN NOT ACTIVELY RUNNING WEBSTER INDUSTRIES, HE CAN USUALLY BE FOUND HUNTING WILD SHEEP WORLDWIDE, WHICH HE HAS DONE FOR MORE THAN THIRTY-FIVE YEARS. HIS COMPANY ACTIVELY PRACTICES CONSERVATION IN FOREST PRODUCTS; THEY HAVE BEEN HARVESTING TREES IN THE SAME TIMBERED ACREAGE FOR OVER NINETY YEARS.



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