

Milestones in Conservation

Boone and Crockett Club
2015

The history of the Boone and Crockett Club is a tale of over 127 years of measured and thoughtful commitment to conservation. It is a commitment that balances human needs with wildlife needs.

We will be celebrating the anniversaries of the passage of laws, the establishment of institutions, and the designation of wildlands, which exist today in large part because of the extensive efforts of the Club and its dedicated membership.

100th Anniversary of the National Park Service

In 2016 the country will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. Unfortunately, the millions of international visitors and Americans that will visit a National Park this year will have no idea who had the foresight and commitment to remove these lands from development, and keep them and the wildlife there in wild perpetuity for all the people. We need to ask ourselves why there is not a sign or a plaque to be found anywhere within these sanctuaries acknowledging sportsmen for their efforts? Why is our history unknown?

The history of our national forests and national parks are intertwined. President Ulysses Grant designated the first national park in 1872 as, “a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.” Yellowstone was born out of a motivation to preserve

at least one special, wild place in its natural state removed from the path of human development and destruction. The problem was, Yellowstone was weeks away by horse and wagon from the population centers of the East. Few had seen it and fewer yet knew what a national park was or how to care for it.

With few laws or enforcement of these laws in place, Yellowstone was being plundered by mining, timber, and commercial and sport hunting interests. To exploit the park even further the Northern Pacific Railroad was planning on a rail line through a portion of the park to take people in and resources out. The protection of Yellowstone was the first major initiative of the newly formed Boone and Crockett Club. Although the Club initially came together over concerns of losing big game species and the opportunity to hunt them, this emphasis

quickly took a jump back. What was needed was presidential authority to set aside more lands.

Habitat became the first focal point of the Club’s agenda. With protecting land seen as a top priority to wildlife security and recovery, Club members drafted, rallied support for, and helped pass the Timberland Reserve Bill of 1891. This law made it possible for the President to claim land under federal authority for all the people. Using this piece of legislation Club members persuaded President Harrison to begin setting aside forest reserves, the first of which was the Yellowstone Reserve in Montana and Wyoming, which added 1 million acres to the borders of the park. Not only did this act birth the national forest system it also paved the way for future national parks and the national park system. The Club next drafted and got

Timberland Reserve Bill of 1891

Civil Service Appropriations Act of 1897

Yellowstone Park Protection Act Legislation Passed in 1894

Legislation pushed through Congress by U.S. Congressman and Club member John F. Lacey increased the size of Yellowstone by 3,344 square miles and served as the model legislation for the protection of future national parks. Key club members also included U.S. Senator George Vest, George Bird Grinnell, and General Philip Sheridan.

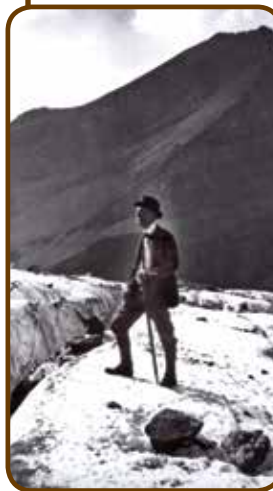


National Park Service Established in 1916

The National Park Service was established, with Club member Stephen T. Mather appointed as its first director.

Glacier National Park Established in 1910

President William Howard Taft signed legislation for establishing Glacier National Park—first surveyed and proposed by Club member George Bird Grinnell, along with the help of other Club members and U.S. Senator Thomas B. Carter. Also instrumental in initiating this included Club members Professor Raphael Pumpelly, Henry S. Graves, and Chief of the U.S. Forest Service Gifford Pinchot.



1850 1875 1891 1894 1897 1900 1910 1916 /17 1925

To help engage and create our next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates, the White House, in partnership with the Federal Land Management agencies, launched the Every Kid in a Park initiative. The immediate goal is to provide an opportunity for each and every 4th grade student across the country to experience their federal public lands and waters in person throughout the 2015-2016 school year.

Beginning September 1st all kids in the fourth grade have access to their own Every Kid in a Park pass at www.everykidinapark.gov. This pass provides free access to national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and more!



passed in Congress the Yellowstone Park Protection Act of 1894, essentially shutting out the commercial interests and putting enforcement in place to keep them out.

Now that lands could be set aside, they needed to be managed for both use and sustainability. The next piece of legislation proposed by the sportsmen of the Boone and Crockett Club was the Civil Service Appropriations Act of 1897. Later known as the Organic Act, this federal law provided the management system for the newly formed forest reserves. Boone and Crockett Club members fought hard to push back the power of western timber barons who vehemently opposed both acts as attacks on their previously unchecked commercial timber cutting interests.

Harrison, President Cleveland claimed another 20 millions acres of

forest. In the meantime, Club members George Bird Grinnell proposed the Flat-head Forest Reserve in Montana, which would then become Glacier National Park in 1910. In 1917, over concerns to protect the natural beauty surrounding Mt. McKinley in Alaska, the Club's executive committee organized a team of members led by Charles Sheldon to steer through the Washington bureaucracy and draft a law that would create a 2,000 square-mile Mt. McKinley National Park. The legislation was drafted by the Boone and Crockett Club, the park's boundaries defined by B&C, and the act promoted publicly by B&C to secure its passage. Sheldon insisted that it be named after what the native people called the mountain, Denali. But, it wasn't until this year that President Obama officially changed the name of the park to Denali National Park.

Every American owes it to themselves and their families to visit a National Park, and as many as possible. The history of our National Parks is but one touchstone in the history of sportsmen-led conservation. People will not learn this history on their own. We must teach them.



Mount McKinley National Park Act Legislation Passed in 1917

With the help of Club member Charles Sheldon's campaigning and surveying of the area for the protection of Dall's sheep, and legislation written by the Club that designated the park's boundaries, the Club helped secure passage of the Mount McKinley National Park Act, now Denali National Park. In addition to Sheldon, this was initiated by Club members Chief of the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey Dr. Ed. W. Nelson, Stephen T. Mather, and Belmore Browne.

Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch became protected in 2007

Club member Lowell E. Baier spearheaded a fundraising campaign and orchestrated the federal government's acquisition of Theodore Roosevelt's 23,550-acre Elkhorn Ranch from a private landowner. Considered the "Cradle of Conservation," the ranch, which is adjacent to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, will be protected in perpetuity.

Mt. Mckinley Park's name changed to Denali National Park 2015



1950

1975

2000

2007

2015

2025