

HUNTING AND FOREST HEALTH

FROM THE PRESIDENT



James F. Arnold
PRESIDENT

To increase hunting opportunities and successful harvests, we must dedicate more time, careful thought, and planning into improved management of our public lands. As we know, carbon emissions continue to threaten the sustainability of forest resources that support healthy environments. Increasingly in the last few years in the western U.S., we have also observed massive forest fires devastate much of our cherished public lands. In the face of these threats, wildlife can no longer find food resources, shelter, rear their young, and move freely throughout their habitat. Wildlife simply cannot survive.

The health of our forest resources, habitats, and rangelands—many of them held in public trust—has always been a priority of the

Boone and Crockett Club. We understand that these resources support wildlife, and therefore offer opportunities to ensure the sustainability of wildlife populations for future generations. The Club has now undertaken a major effort to obtain support for the U.S. Forest Service in the amount of \$40 billion as part of the infrastructure package for active management of Forest Service lands. We believe that more money directed toward enhanced forest management and restoration will reduce the chance of catastrophic fire events, which damage and destroy the critical habitat that sustains wildlife. In the end, healthy forest habitat equates to healthy wildlife populations composed of abundant, well-nourished, and reproductively viable animals. Healthy wildlife populations offer additional hunting and wildlife management opportunities, which are vitally

important to our *Fair Chase* audience.

The Boone and Crockett Club supports including funding for forest restoration across our national forests. This funding would ensure that the federal government is a willing and able partner in supporting forest and watershed health, especially in the Intermountain West. We support the U.S. Forest Service's needs to fund more replanting as well. Industry interests, hunting groups, environmental organizations, and other advocates have already lined up to support this proposal.

This year, Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) introduced the Outdoor Restoration Partnership Act, which would invest up to \$40 billion for targeted projects to restore wildlife habitat on federal lands and reduce wildfire risk across the country. Another \$20 billion would go toward state, tribal,

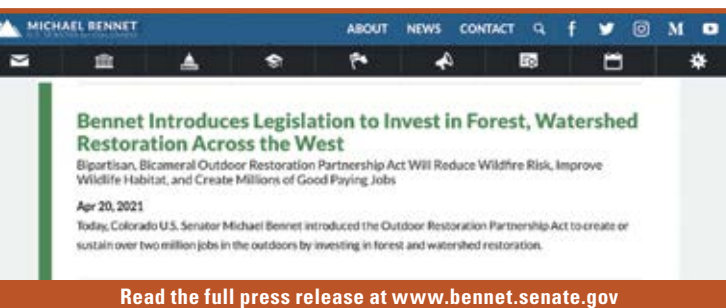
and private forest restoration. There is a companion bill in the House sponsored by Congressman Jason Crow (D-CO) and Congressman Mike Simpson (R-ID).

Organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the Boone and Crockett Club, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Federal Forest Resource Coalition, the National Association of State Foresters, and others are also working together to get forest restoration funding included in an infrastructure bill. We believe the Congressional infrastructure effort is our best chance to support U.S. Forest Service needs in moving through the forest restoration backlog in a meaningful way.

WHAT IS NEEDED

The U.S. Forest Service needs significant funds to not only reduce wildfire risk but to restore and reforest areas damaged by the 2020 fire season as well. We are working to outline those needed funds in a future "green" infrastructure bill.

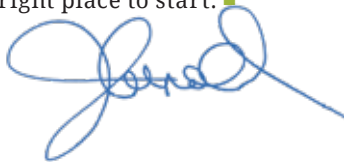
U.S. Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen has said that the Forest Service needs to undertake "2 to 4 times" more thinning and management to treat the 20 million acres of federal forests at the highest risk for future wildfires. The Forest Service estimates this cost at \$20 billion over 10 years—and even more for "all lands."



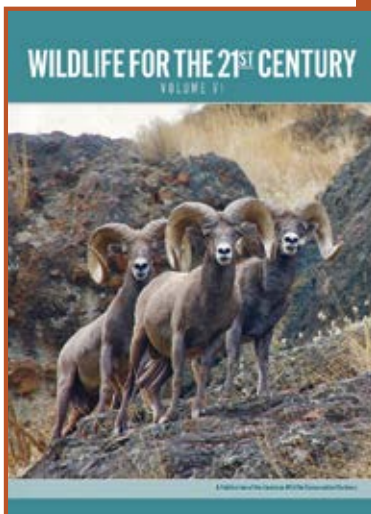
The health of our forest resources, habitats, and rangelands—many of them held in public trust—has always been a priority of the Boone and Crockett Club. We understand that these resources support wildlife, and therefore offer opportunities to ensure the sustainability of wildlife populations for future generations.

© KYLE LEHR

In summary, our members should be proud of the past and excited about the Boone and Crockett Club's current efforts in forest restoration as we continue to emphasize the need for healthy forest habitat. Since the founding of the Club in 1887, our members' efforts have been centered around wise and shared use of natural resources. At the same time, we have always tried to strike a balance between man and nature so both can thrive harmoniously. Throughout the last 134 years, we have seen many successes. Despite those triumphs, we all realize there are more challenges to come, and our task is to be vigilant and ready to manage those challenges. We are confident that directing our support and funds toward positive changes for basic needs of wildlife populations is the right place to start. ■



Read more about *Wildlife for the 21st Century Volume VI* in the Fall 2020 issue of *Fair Chase*.



READ MORE ABOUT THE CLUB'S INVOLVEMENT ONLINE AT BOONE-CROCKETT.ORG SEARCH 'FOREST HEALTH'

BOONE AND CROCKETT CALLS FOR \$45 BILLION INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT IN FOREST MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION ON FEDERAL LANDS

The Boone and Crockett Club released a new factsheet outlining the need for \$45 billion in federal infrastructure investments in forest management and restoration on federal lands over the next decade. The document notes that the U.S. Forest Service has over 80 million acres of land at moderate to high risk from catastrophic fire and that there are millions of acres in need of reforestation when high-intensity fires reduce the potential for natural regeneration.

FEDERAL FOREST HEALTH - RESTORING AMERICA'S LARGEST NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTION

Boone and Crockett Club is actively engaging in the policy discussions centered on improving the health of forests that are stressed by lack of management and a changing climate. Read on for information the Club recently developed for a conservation policy factsheet on forest health.

BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB THANKS REP. WESTERMAN FOR INTRODUCING TRILLION TREES ACT CALLING FOR IMPROVED FOREST MANAGEMENT AND REFORESTATION

The Boone and Crockett Club welcomed yesterday's introduction of the Trillion Trees Act by House Natural Resource Committee Ranking Member Representative Bruce Westerman. The bipartisan legislation would set a target of restoring one trillion trees worldwide through forest restoration, management, and utilization.

BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB RELEASES UPDATED POSITION STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

"Those of us who spend time in the field hunting have seen firsthand the effects of changing weather patterns through catastrophic wildfires, severe coastal storms, and extremes of droughts or floods. Habitat is destroyed or changed in these events limiting the ability for wildlife populations to be resilient. The Boone and Crockett Club has been a leader in conservation for over 125 years and we recognized the need for our organization to play a role in the growing discussions on climate change," commented former Club president Tim Brady. "We hope that our recommendations will ultimately result in policies that reduce atmospheric carbon and ensure that natural systems are able to provide for our wildlife resources, while ensuring a robust economy and strong job growth."

WILDLIFE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Recommendation 9 - Climate Change

Focus Climate Policy on Habitat Conservation and Restoration – America's sportsmen and women are experiencing firsthand the consequences of increasing temperatures, prolonged droughts, record forest fires, more powerful hurricanes, inland flooding, spread of invasive species and wildlife diseases, and algal outbreaks. These cascading problems degrade habitat, threaten fish and wildlife, and reduce hunting and fishing opportunities. As a result, communities and the recreation economy are put at risk.

Recommendation 6 - Active Management of Federal Lands

Increase Active Management of Federal Lands and Reduce Litigation through Collaboration – The U.S. has the most extensive network of federal lands in the world. Sportsmen and women are committed to making this federal land estate work to sustain fish and wildlife populations, provide access for hunting and other recreation, retain ecosystem services for our citizens, and allow careful, science-informed development that helps sustain the country's economy.



THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB ASKS THAT YOU PLEASE THANK OUR TRAILBLAZERS WITH YOUR PATRONAGE.