

# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

CONSERVATION  
POLICY COLUMN

**In 1911, as wildlife populations across the nation suffered due to America's "Era of Exploitation," a small cadre of conservationists realized what was at stake for the future of America's once-abundant and widely distributed wildlife resources. In response, the Wildlife Management Institute's (WMI) predecessor was established as the American Game Protective and Propagation Association (AGPPA). At that time, a coalition of firearm and ammunition industry leaders and conservationists, including a number of Boone and Crockett Club members, were gravely concerned about these dramatic declines in wildlife populations. The AGPPA was the brainchild of Harry S. Leonard, a vice president of Winchester Repeating Arms Company. His idea was to convince the sporting arms and ammunition manufacturing companies to agree to create and fund an organization to "furnish a means whereby reasonable protection and increase of the game supply might be obtained." Its founders saw a need for an independent, scientific voice dedicated to restoring and ensuring wild populations and their habitats.**

From the start, WMI has been inextricably intertwined with the B&C mission, values, and leadership. B&C leaders such as Theodore Roosevelt, John Burnham, George Bird Grinnell, Ira Gabrielson, William Ruger, Jack Parker,

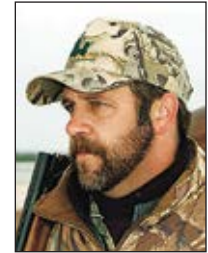
Bob Model and many others have all played a role in WMI's history. WMI was chartered to remain small, mobile and "make things happen," in the words of WMI's president, Ira Gabrielson. And its goal was "to develop optimum wildlife populations consistent with the needs of the people for food, fiber and clean water for the cultural, aesthetic and recreational benefit of the American public." Achievements were to be accomplished without fanfare or vying for credit. If success could be achieved by working behind the scenes and in cooperation with other conservation interests, so much the better.

Through the years and in cooperation with our professional colleagues, WMI has performed instrumental roles in the formation of the nation's Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units, published numerous wildlife textbooks, and hosted 84 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conferences. WMI has served on steering committees to revise the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, advised federal legislation and regulations, and served on Federal Advisory Committees for the departments of Agriculture and the Interior. In addition to our national focus, WMI has executed nearly 80 program evaluations for federal and state fish and wildlife agencies. We administered Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, early successional forest development throughout the northeast, and served

on the boards of directors for state, regional, and national conservation organizations.

In concurrence with Gabrielson's vision in 1946, WMI remains a small, mobile organization that makes things happen. In the last 10-15 years, WMI's staff of seven professionals has played pivotal roles in the development and current administration of the Fish and Wildlife Relevance Roadmap, the National Hunting and Shooting Sports Action Plan, the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance, the National Conservation Leadership Institute, the Inter-agency Grizzly Bear Committee, the Conservation without Conflict Coalition, and the Fish and Wildlife Business Summit. Our independence, professionalism, and ability to forge effective partnerships within the conservation community has assisted in the initiation and leadership of major conservation efforts in the last decade.

Although our funding source has changed dramatically since our inception, our commitment to our founders' vision and our commitment to our profession has not changed. No longer supported by industry, today WMI relies solely on dozens of cooperative agreements and contracts with agencies and organizations, competitive grants, conference income, administration of projects and personnel for federal and state agencies, and private contributions. WMI is a non-membership organization which does not receive membership



Steven Williams, Ph.D.  
B&C PROFESSIONAL MEMBER  
PRESIDENT  
Wildlife Management Institute

dues, nor do we compete with our partner membership organizations. We do not pursue foundation funding for advocacy purposes. As such, we strive to remain non-partisan, independent, and objective in our mission to enhance wildlife conservation.

WMI's work mirrors the very essence of the Boone and Crockett Club's approach and mission—a small cadre of dedicated conservationists committed "to promote the conservation and management of wildlife ... to preserve and encourage hunting ...". We were deeply honored to receive the 2017 Boone and Crockett Club's Conservation and Stewardship Award. We are proud of our 109-year legacy, a legacy that includes occupying an independent, objective, and unique niche within the professional conservation community. WMI is also proud of our long synergistic history with the Club and we would welcome your support to advance the future of wildlife conservation. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Williams".

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For more information about the Wildlife Management Institute, please visit [www.wildlifemanagement.institute](http://www.wildlifemanagement.institute).

