

*his vision...
our mission*

T.R. SESQUICENTENNIAL

150

1858 - 2008



Theodore
Roosevelt
Conservation
Partnership





*I*t is...vandalism wantonly to destroy or to permit the destruction of what is beautiful in nature, whether it be a cliff, a forest, or a species of mammal or bird. Here in the United States we turn our rivers and streams into sewers and dumping-grounds, we pollute the air, we destroy forests, and exterminate fishes, birds, and mammals But at last it looks as if our people were awakening ...

T. Roosevelt

-1913



Cover hunting image by dusansmetana.com

Welcome from the Chairman



Important work is covered in the following pages, which outline the last year of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, a young, energetic, driven, principled and effective organization. The organization has these qualities because of its staff, partners and Board of Directors. It is their exceptional reserves of talent and dedication that make this group unique. As a coalition that builds consensus on issues of critical concern to those interested in the conservation of our natural resources, the TRCP is able to skillfully apply pressure at points in the policymaking process where things often get stuck. We are able to do so because our mission to guarantee all Americans places to hunt and fish is clear – and backed by grassroots support.

It has been a pleasure for me to watch the TRCP's accomplishments grow, especially because the policy outcomes we have influenced all were made better by the incorporation of sportsmen's perspectives. That is what we'll continue to stand for in the years to come: Making sure that hunters and anglers have a say in the issues that affect them, and making sure that their voices are heard by the right people at the right times.

After reading this report, I hope you will agree that our causes are worthy ones.

I am sure you will see that the TRCP is as dedicated as it is solvent.

And I believe that our team will be made stronger if you join and support us.

J. Range
James D. Range

Introduction from the President and CEO



The TRCP tirelessly works to shape our natural resource policies in ways that guarantee all Americans a place to hunt and fish. By cultivating and combining the policy and scientific expertise necessary to guide decisions, the TRCP is able to bring an informed, fresh and formidable voice to the policymaking arena.

It's been a banner year for us. Armed with a real-world understanding of important western landscapes and a close knowledge of the failings in the federal oil and gas leasing process, we have battled poor federal decisions to lease those lands for energy development. That is not to say that we are against all development - we're absolutely not - but when federal actions would cause fish and wildlife resources to be harmed unnecessarily, we have been compelled to act.

It has been incredibly gratifying to see many lands removed from the auction block following our protests, and it is with great pride that I present the tally of sensitive acres spared from development in the following pages of this report. Even more gratifying have been the moments in which I have learned of the requests from sportsmen in various corners of the West to expand our work to their locales.

In an era whose mantra is often, "Not in my backyard," we've got folks saying to us, "Please work in my backyard." This fact bears proof of the TRCP's effectiveness as an organization, and it is not lacking for company.

Congress included Open Fields, a TRCP signature issue since the organization's inception, in a new Farm Bill, one whose conservation provisions were strengthened by the determined involvement of a TRCP-sponsored coalition. That same bill also included an extension of key tax incentives for easements, another major TRCP priority.

We've successfully launched a new "We Are Wetlands" campaign designed to add 80,000 voices, one for each acre of natural wetlands that will be lost this year, to the call for lasting wetlands protection legislation.

Our roadless initiative continues to inform and engage sportsmen in the process that will shape the future of these favored destinations, especially in Idaho and Colorado, the states where comment deadlines loomed largest in the past year.

We've entered into first-of-their-kind collaborations with other conservation organizations like Trout Unlimited and the National Wildlife Federation to urge sensible and long-past-due reforms to federal mining laws.

The TRCP recently has entered into the climate change debate for the first time, issuing a call on our elected leaders to identify significant funding sources to help state fish and wildlife agencies deal with the effects on species from climatic shifts.

Our marine conservation work continues to involve recreational anglers in the federal management process for the benefit of coastal species and habitats.

Our television shows, which have been graciously supported by several AFL-CIO labor unions, continue to expand their audiences. Similarly, the continued expansion of our Union Sportsmen's Alliance is infusing the community of conservationists with new muscle, while helping extend union benefits to the woods and onto the water.

As my wonderfully patient wife Caroline observed after a recent high school reunion of mine, I can go on and on about the work of TRCP and our mission. I was excited to tell old friends about the new approach this group is taking to shake up natural resource policy decision-making. The following pages will lay out our progress better than I could and will show you why I am so excited about the future of this organization.

Enjoy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Cooper".

George Cooper



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TRCP Partner Organizations



*I*t is impossible to win the great prizes in life without running risks.

T. Roosevelt

Policy Initiatives

Our approach is rooted in the understanding that the fundamental requirements for almost every form of outdoor recreation are healthy habitat and access to it.

To us, these are the great prizes.

We are an organization willing to take risks for the sake of our natural resources.

To facilitate close consultation with our wide-ranging partner groups, we have formed working groups on issues to chart the course to our goals.

These, our Policy Initiatives, are outlined in the following pages.



Farm Bill

The Farm Bill's Conservation Title is the nation's single largest investment in fish and wildlife stewardship on private lands. In the midst of a bill that reauthorizes everything from food stamps to sugar subsidies, the Conservation Title mobilizes billions of dollars for some of our most accomplished fish and wildlife stewardship programs. Say "CRP" to a bird hunter, for instance, and you'll see a pair of eyes light up, doubtlessly mindful of the fields of healthy habitat that come with the Conservation Reserve Program. Other programs, like the Wetlands Reserve Program and Grassland Reserve Program, are unparalleled protectors of fast-disappearing ecosystem types.

More than two years ago, at the outset of the extended policy debate that ultimately led to the passage of a new Farm Bill in spring 2008 (over a presidential veto), the future for each of these major programs looked uncertain at best.

At the same time, the Agriculture and Wildlife Working Group, a TRCP-sponsored coalition of more than 15 hunting, fishing and conservation organizations, began meeting at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation Headquarters to analyze various aspects of the alphabet soup of Farm Bill conservation programs. After generating two dozen white papers, the AWWG distilled its findings – and recommendations for the future of those programs – into a report entitled "Growing Conservation in the Farm Bill."

This country will not be a permanently good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a reasonably good place for all of us to live in.

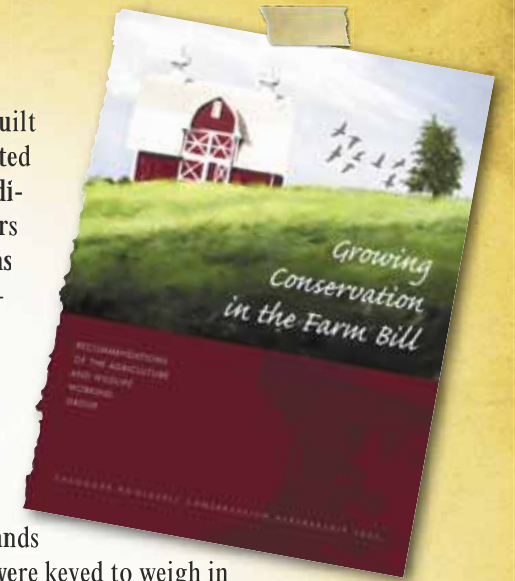
T. Roosevelt



Upon this sturdy platform, the groups built a comprehensive and highly coordinated advocacy campaign that remained in direct communication with key legislators until the day the final Farm Bill deal was done. The working group developed extensive legislative language intended to improve key programs and pulled together on 45 sign-on letters that were distributed across the Hill. Its members injected the group's message into more than 50 media filings on the policymaking process. And thousands upon thousands of grassroots member were keyed to weigh in on that process at key times as a result of the coalition's action alerts.

"The proof of this group's effectiveness is seen in the final bill," said Dave Nomsen of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, a co-chair of the AWWG. "In a time of very tight budgets, we greatly expanded baseline funding for the Conservation Title and accomplished – even exceeded – many of our collective goals."

But the group's work is far from finished, says Policy Initiative Manager Geoff Mullins: "It seems that every time we put one threat to effective agricultural conservation programs to bed, another rears its ugly head." Mullins points to the rule-making process that follows the passage of any major legislation as a key time for the working group to be engaged. "From the first steps of this working group to its most recent, the team has been up to every challenge. There's no doubt that they'll continue harvesting bountiful returns for our nation's fish and wildlife."



Open Fields

The TRCP scored a major victory in the Farm Bill with the inclusion of an Open Fields program, a signature issue since the organization's inception. In an time of declining sportsmen's numbers, Open Fields is designed to address the main reason active sportsmen become former sportsmen – lack of access to quality places to hunt and fish.

Open Fields is designed to support voluntary, state-run programs that provide incentives to private landowners who allow public hunting and fishing access on their land. Many states have established programs that work in this vein, while others have expressed the desire to create them. An added bonus of most of these types of programs is the fact that landowners who enroll their property are required to utilize best management practices for fish and wildlife.

Preliminary details released by Congress indicate that Open Fields will receive a total of \$45 million in funding through the life of the new Farm Bill, which will expire in 2012.

“Open Fields is a winner on all fronts,” said initiative manager Geoff Mullins. “It helps farmers and ranchers by establishing new financial incentives, it helps fish and wildlife by expanding their habitat base and it helps sportsmen by expanding the places where they can hunt and fish.”

Open Fields might not have found its way into the final Farm Bill were it not for America's union sportsmen, who made it well-known on Capitol Hill that the program is one of their favorites. Multiple national unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO joined together to push for Open Fields, as did scores of rank-and-file union members from across the country.

“These folks have seen the declines in opportunities in their own backyards,” said Mullins, “and they've done something about it. We owe them a debt of gratitude.”



TRCP Vice President Dr. Terry Riley drafted the original language of the Open Fields bill.



I heartily enjoy this life, with its perfect freedom, for I am very fond of hunting, and there are few sensations I prefer to that of galloping over these rolling limitless prairies, with rifle in hand ...

T. Roosevelt



Conservation Tax Incentives

Another long-term TRCP priority, conservation tax incentives for easements, was addressed in this Farm Bill.

Not usually handled in the omnibus bill, the looming expiration of a law that expanded the availability of tax incentives for easements made the Farm Bill the ideal vehicle to carry forward a two-year extension of these critical tools.

Many of the nation's 40 million sportsmen are intimately familiar with easements and the way the groups to which they belong have used them to benefit fish and game species. Organizations like Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited and Pheasants Forever have used conservation tax incentives to engineer arrangements with landowners that benefit a spectrum of species. Lands trusts belonging to the Land Trust Alliance and organizations like the Trust for Public Land and The Nature Conservancy have used easements to stabilize key habitat.

"This renewed tax incentive for donations of conservation easements is one of the best things Congress could do this year to help landowners choose the conservation option over sprawl," said Rand Wentworth, president of the Land Trust Alliance. "Especially for family farmers and ranchers of modest income, this is a great way to help them keep productive land from being lost."

As Montana Sen. Max Baucus, who originated the incentive provision, said, "Simply put—this is an incentive that works: for conservation, for farmers, for ranchers, and for all landowners who want a fair deal for their tremendous generosity in donating conservation easements. Many ranchers and other landowners in Montana and across the U.S. have told me they could not afford to conserve their land without this measure."

Responsible Energy Development

The TRCP Responsible Energy Development Initiative focuses on conserving our Western hunting and fishing traditions by ensuring that energy development is balanced with the needs of fish and wildlife.

Never before have our efforts to achieve balance been so important. Since 1996, close to 27 million acres of federal public land in the Rocky Mountain West have been leased for energy development – often to the detriment of the fish, wildlife and open spaces that define the region. Without careful planning, energy development can devastate game populations and dramatically alter valuable habitat.

In August 2007, the TRCP filed a complaint in U.S. District Court over an energy project near Rawlins, Wyo., called the Atlantic Rim. Home to literally thousands of elk, mule deer, pronghorn and sage grouse, the Atlantic Rim is one of Wyoming's most productive regions for wildlife. The Bureau of Land Management planned, in its own words, to "industrialize" this important area for wildlife and sportsmen. Its own analysis found that advancing development would render the area "unsuitable" for hunting and fishing for generations to come.

The TRCP currently is prosecuting its case against the BLM for improperly authorizing coal-bed methane development in the Atlantic Rim to the detriment of sage grouse and big game and the recreational hunting opportunities they afford.



"This and every TRCP action on energy development is rooted in the understanding that we very much need increased domestic energy production," says initiative manager Steve Belinda. "But development should only be allowed to advance after comprehensive planning for fish and wildlife is completed and strategies for monitoring development's effects are firmly in place."

The TRCP energy team continues to protest federal lease sales that would adversely affect wildlife and hunting opportunities in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Our efforts to work cooperatively with stakeholders, including sportsmen, local residents, conservation groups and government, have resulted in state fish and wildlife agencies in Montana and New Mexico protesting BLM lease sales in their states – unprecedented actions.

The TRCP's own protests are netting an impressive record of successes. An April 2008 sale in New Mexico resulted in the BLM withdrawing every contested acre – more than 60,000 acres. And approximately 144,000 acres in the Rio Grande National Forest were deferred from a Colorado lease sale in May 2008 following protests by the TRCP, citizens groups, government officials and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.



*A*ll the great resources which are vital to the welfare of the whole people should be kept either in the hands or under the control of the whole people.

7. Roosevelt

The following list highlights TRCP actions on federal lease sales, along with BLM responses. Overall, the TRCP has protested approximately 1.5 million acres. About 400,000 of those acres have been deferred from leasing by the BLM.

- In 2007, the TRCP protested 12 lease sales totaling 1.1 million acres in Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming.
- In 2007, two lease sales were cancelled by the BLM – in Montana and Utah (primarily due to TRCP protests).
- In 2007, 185,500 acres were deferred due to TRCP protests.
- In 2008 to date, the TRCP has protested six lease sales totaling more than 475,000 acres in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.
- In 2008 to date, more than 211,000 acres have been deferred due to TRCP protests.



Pinedale Lawsuit

In June 2008, the TRCP filed suit in U.S. District Court against the Department of the Interior over its mishandling of energy development on the Pinedale Anticline natural gas development project in southwestern Wyoming—where 1,000 existing wells soon could swell to 4,000.

The TRCP suit contends that the Bureau of Land Management failed to implement “adaptive environmental management” and mitigation requirements as committed to in the decision documents for the project area, which encompasses approximately 200,000 acres of the Green River Basin in Sublette County.

In formulating the plan for development of the Pinedale project eight years ago, the BLM committed itself and industry to processes that the agency concluded were essential to develop the region in an environmentally sensitive manner that complied with BLM obligations under federal law. The TRCP contends that these adaptive environmental management procedures, which attempted to address concerns regarding wildlife, air quality and water quality as they arose, have failed. The BLM violations have resulted in serious damage to wildlife populations in and around the Pinedale Anticline.

“The government points to the Pinedale Anticline project as a model of responsible development,” said TRCP President and CEO George Cooper. “But when we actually look at this fractured landscape and the shrinking wildlife populations, we see the effects of a model that is seriously flawed.”

The 2000 plan, or “record of decision,” for the Pinedale Anticline authorized development in an area that supports substantial populations of sage grouse and contains crucial winter range for one of the state’s largest mule deer populations. The latter has declined by nearly half in the project area since development began. These species and other game found in the region offer some of Wyoming’s best hunting and fishing opportunities.

The TRCP also contends that the BLM disregard of the adaptive environmental management process violates the National Environmental Policy Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, laws meant to ensure responsible management of federal public lands. The suit notes that BLM decisions regarding development in the Pinedale Anticline consistently ignored current science on the impacts of energy development on populations of mule deer and sage grouse.



Sage Grouse Struggles

Also in June 2008, the TRCP and North American Grouse Partnership formally requested that the Department of the Interior undertake landscape conservation measures for sage grouse habitats on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Sage grouse currently are being considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for protection under the Endangered Species Act. We want the BLM to better manage sage grouse during energy development on federal public lands to avert an endangered listing of the popular upland game bird.

The TRCP and NAGP "petition for rulemaking" requests that the Secretary of the Interior commit the BLM to utilize the best available information on the impacts of oil and gas development on sage grouse and alter agency management of sage grouse populations in areas currently being developed or planned for development. The groups propose an immediate evaluation of existing protections and management for the bird, an assessment of risks, and interim protections pending development of a better strategy.

"A pile of current, peer-reviewed science is being ignored, and it's costing us our grouse," said Dr. Rollin Sparrowe, a TRCP board member.

Sage grouse populations historically encompassed vast expanses of the Rocky Mountain West; however, the species' abundance and distribution have declined precipitously. Energy development can have wide-ranging impacts on habitat use and survival of numerous game species, including sage grouse. Recent research on sage grouse has identified population declines with energy development activities. In particular, activity too close to sage grouse leks, or breeding sites, can result in permanent displacement.

If sage grouse are listed under Endangered Species Act, hunters would be first of many stakeholders to experience negative impacts due to the possible elimination or restriction of hunting opportunities. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been ordered by the U.S. District Court in Idaho to revisit a 2005 decision that determined the bird was "not warranted" for protection. In its ruling, the court specifically focused on a lack of sufficient information about grouse management efforts by the BLM.

"If adopted, the rules we have proposed will go a long way toward conserving sage grouse and helping ensure that the future of sage grouse on public lands is secure — a factor that significantly influences the Service's decision to list a species," said Michael Hutchins, executive director/CEO of The Wildlife Society.

"By adopting the proposed recommendations, the BLM can play a unique role in sustaining populations of this iconic upland game bird," said Ralph Rogers, executive director of the NAGP.

"Half of the remaining sage brush habitat in this country lies on BLM-managed lands. The agency's ability to contribute — or fail to contribute — to sage grouse conservation is unprecedented and unparalleled."

The TRCP energy initiative continues to be backed by the Fish, Wildlife and Energy Working Group. An assemblage of this country's leaders in fish and wildlife conservation, the working group has developed a plan that balances the needs of energy with the needs of fish and wildlife. The energy initiative promotes this plan, "FACTS for Fish and Wildlife," which offers federal land managers guidance on how to responsibly administer energy extraction on public lands.

Early in 2008, the initiative rebranded its grassroots campaign. "Hunters and Anglers for Responsible Development," or the HARD campaign, focuses on engaging interested sportsmen in the energy debate on public lands through using HARD Data (collected by sportsmen from sportsmen), asking the HARD Questions (from sportsmen to agency officials during planning for energy development) and promoting the HARD Solutions (the FACTS model and other TRCP recommendations). Energy initiative field representatives are the foot soldiers of the HARD campaign.

The initiative has been stepping up its involvement in on-the-ground projects in our five-state focus areas and is building relationships with sportsmen and state fish and wildlife agencies. Field representatives are continuing to collaborate with local hunters and anglers to map "sportsmen's values" across the West that will enable these recreational values to be incorporated into land and resource agency decision making and planning.

Thanks to these efforts, based on sound science and management principles, and motivated by the desire of sportsmen to maintain hunting and fishing opportunities, the TRCP energy initiative continues to be a driving force toward responsible management of public fish and wildlife and hunting and fishing resources in the Rocky Mountain West.



Climate Change

For the first time ever, the TRCP has engaged in the public debate over climate change, assisting the efforts of our partner organizations that were integral to the publication of the *Seasons' End* report. This position statement on the effects of climate change on species we revere was compiled by the Bipartisan Policy Center, and its message was heard across America – and the world, with news organizations in Europe and Asia reporting on its release.

TRCP partners contributing to the report included the Wildlife Management Institute, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, BASS/ESPN Outdoors, Izaak Walton League of America, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Coastal Conservation Association, American Sportfishing Association and Pheasants Forever.



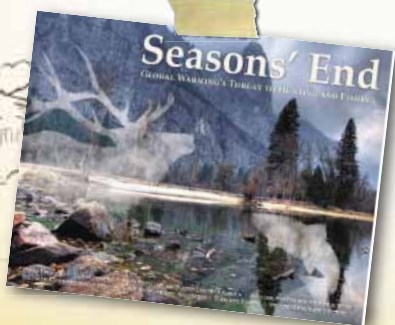
Among the report's key findings:

WATERFOWL

- *The Prairie Pothole Region could lose up to 90 percent of its wetlands, reducing the number of the continent's breeding ducks by as much as 69 percent.*

FRESH WATER FISH

- *Nationally, up to 42 percent of current trout and salmon habitat will be lost before the end of the century, with the south, southwest and northeast experiencing especially severe reductions.*



SALT WATER FISH

- *Sea-level rise will destroy thousands of acres of coastal salt marshes and sea grass beds that are home to egg, larval and juvenile stages of game fish.*
- *Increasingly frequent and severe storms could disrupt feeding and nursery conditions for the eggs and larvae of game fish like snook and croaker, causing declines in recruitment.*

UPLAND BIRDS

- *Across central North America, including the Prairie Pothole Region, global warming will cause droughts that could devastate food sources for upland birds. Prairie chickens, sharp-tailed grouse and pheasants will be among the species most diminished in number by these changes.*
- *In the Deep South, summertime drought and high temperatures will shrink bobwhite quail populations by disrupting the birds' breeding cycles and reducing availability of the insects that hens and chicks eat. Hot, dry conditions also will stunt the growth of vegetative cover, leaving broods vulnerable to predators.*

BIG GAME

- *Rising temperatures will allow forests to climb to higher elevations, severely limiting the alpine habitats that support bighorn and other mountain sheep.*
- *As fragmentation and loss of winter ranges continue, mule deer and elk will dwindle in number in the Rocky Mountain states, the Intermountain West and the northern Boreal Forest. In some locations, over time both species will disappear entirely.*

Because of the dire consequences of inaction on climate change, the TRCP is working to make sure that any measure intended to address climate change that advances on Capitol Hill includes substantial funding for fish and wildlife management.

“Fish and wildlife all across the country will adopt new behaviors and biological responses as a result of climatic changes,” said Steve Williams, President of the Wildlife Management Institute and TRCP Board Member. “If we're to understand these shifts and successfully manage them, we need to train our eyes, ears and hands on the ground. And we need more professionals in the field than ever before.”

Sensible Mining

What does hard-rock mining have to do with sportsmen? Could it affect our hunting and angling traditions? And why should we care about a natural-resources law passed in 1872?

To understand why, look to Wyoming, where the mining industry's interest in gold and uranium could eliminate public access to important big-game habitat. Or to New Mexico's Red River, where a former blue-ribbon trout stream has been devastated by molybdenum mining. Or to California, where mercury from recreational mining is endangering Klamath River salmon populations.

These are just a few examples of the profound and far-reaching impacts of the General Mining Law of 1872, which governs extraction of "hard rock" minerals, such as silver, gold and platinum, on America's public lands. Under the 1872 law, more than 270 million acres of federal land are open to hard-rock mining, mostly in the Rocky Mountain West. More than 40 percent of Western headwaters are contaminated by mine pollution, and an estimated 500,000 abandoned mines blanket our public lands. This isn't just a problem from our past. Mining claims are increasing dramatically across the West as a result of rising commodity prices.

Passed in part to encourage frontier development and settlement, the 136-year-old mining law decrees that "all valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States ... shall be free and open to exploration and purchase." Anyone can stake a claim on most BLM and Forest Service lands and hold it indefinitely for a \$125 annual fee. Because the 1872 law has never been meaningfully reformed, many of America's most treasured public lands are at risk, including important wildlife habitat and hunting areas, valuable fisheries, popular recreation sites, vital water supplies and sensitive roadless areas.

American sportsmen have united to advocate sensible reform of the 1872 Mining Law. Sportsmen United for Sensible Mining, a coalition of organizations and grassroots partners spearheaded by the TRCP, the National Wildlife Federation and Trout Unlimited, formed to protect America's legacy of hunting and fishing from irresponsible mining practices.



The coalition supports the following recommendations for mining law reform:

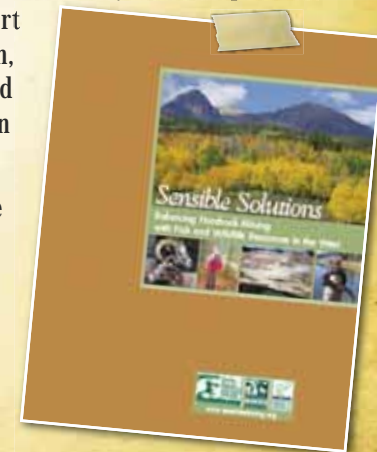
- ending mining's priority status on public lands;
- recovering reasonable royalties on minerals taken from public lands and establishing a fund for fish and wildlife habitat improvement to address impacts from past mining;
- ensuring that resource professionals have discretion in planning and permitting future mining to conserve public lands where high fish, water and wildlife values exist;
- expanding reclamation incentives; and
- prohibiting patenting or sale of public lands.

The sportsmen's coalition released "Sensible Solutions," a report detailing the destructive impacts of hard-rock mining on important public-lands hunting and fishing destinations. More than 400 sportsmen's organizations from across the country have endorsed SUSM's recommendations for reform. And 29 former western fish and game directors sent a letter to Congress detailing necessary revisions to the 1872 law. The signatories, who represent more than 180 years of experience in fish and wildlife management, primarily support reform of the 1872 law to ensure the reclamation, restoration and enhancement of important fish and wildlife habitat and to prevent its future degradation by hard-rock mining.

"The Mining Law of 1872 was enacted the same year that Mark Twain published 'Roughing It,' his famous account of a stagecoach ride across frontier Nevada," said William Molini, TRCP field representative and former director of the Nevada Division of Wildlife. "A lot has changed since then, and it's time that the Mining Law of 1872 is modernized, as well."

TRCP will continue to press for responsible use of America's public lands and to ensure hunting and fishing opportunities for generations to come.

For more information, visit www.sensiblemining.org.



Marine Fisheries Conservation

In the wake of an update of the country's most important coastal fisheries law, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, comes a new challenge: implementation.

The "rulemaking process" in which we are engaged can have an even greater impact on fisheries than can the actual formulation of the act itself. "This is where the stern meets the sea," says Bob Hayes of the Coastal Conservation Association, a co-chair of the TRCP sponsored Angling 4 Oceans Coalition. "It's essential that recreational anglers stay involved in processes like these that most directly affect our days on the water."



Perched on the SALT Principles that guided it during the run-up to the reauthorization of Magnuson-Stevens, the coalition is maintaining a close watch on the implementation of federal coastal fisheries policy. It also is preparing for the coming transition in presidential administrations, assembling policy guidance documents that encapsulate the concerns of anglers and developing relationships with those best in position to address these concerns.

In addition, the Angling 4 Oceans Coalition is publishing a guidebook for recreational anglers wishing to influence the way the Magnuson-Stevens Act is implemented. "Federal rulemaking processes are sometimes convoluted, sometimes arcane and sometimes downright boring," says TRCP Vice President Tom St. Hilaire. "But their real-world effects on marine species and habitat are important and lasting, so we're doing all we can to get anglers into the management equation."

"Anglers know how to handle tangles, both in their spools and in the red tape that surrounds federal fisheries management," St. Hilaire continues. "Pragmatism and attention to detail are the keys to both endeavors, and these qualities don't always define the fisheries management process. That's why it's so important to have anglers involved, and why Angling 4 Oceans is so relevant."



Maureen Bates displays a Columbia River chinook salmon and, from left, Tom Franklin, Geoff Mullins and Steve Belinda hoist Chesapeake Bay striped bass (rockfish). Populations of both species, and the fortunes of the many other TRCP staffers who fish coastal waters, hinge on foresighted marine fisheries laws.



Roadless Initiative

The American West long has provided sportsmen with legendary hunting and fishing opportunities: expansive mountains that jut into the sky, sprawling plains and crystal-clear lakes and rivers that furnish invaluable habitat for our prized fish and game species.

Much of the reason sportsmen continue to experience quality public-lands hunting and fishing is because of unroaded lands. Officially known as “inventoried roadless areas” by the U.S. Forest Service, these backcountry areas are defined as national forest lands having more than 5,000 contiguous acres without improved roads. Roadless areas provide large, contiguous blocks of exceptional habitat for big-game species such as mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goats. These areas also offer the least degraded waters for trout, salmon and other desirable fish species that depend on clean water, stable streamflows and consistent lake storage.

Inventoried roadless areas are in 37 states and Puerto Rico and comprise 58.5 million acres, or 2 percent of the 2.3 billion-acre land base of the United States.

While roads are important for providing sportsmen access to areas where they hunt and fish, too many roads are associated with increased big-game vulnerability and fewer mature bucks and bulls, often resulting in shorter seasons and fewer available tags. Too many roads also can decrease the quality of important spawning habitat for trout, salmon and steelhead.

Most sportsmen and state fish and wildlife agencies agree that the important fish and wildlife habitat found on our national forest backcountry is worth conserving.

However, roadless area management has been unsettled for 30 years, leaving an uncertain future for many of the remaining backcountry areas on which hunters and anglers depend.

For these reasons, the TRCP has been actively educating and empowering our partners to ensure the long-term conservation of inventoried roadless areas and hunting and fishing opportunities.



Rules for Roadless

Maintain Access: Backcountry areas must be managed to remain accessible to all Americans for hunting and fishing purposes. The U.S. Forest Service must continue to allow access points to unroaded backcountry areas for hunting and fishing opportunities on these lands.

Provide Opportunity: Backcountry areas must be conserved on our national forests so opportunities for Americans to hunt and fish can be guaranteed. Currently, more than 58 million acres of our national forests are designated as roadless areas. To conserve valuable fish and wildlife habitat and secure hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands, the U.S. Forest Service and the states should work to maintain the maximum acreages of these backcountry lands as roadless.

Conserve Habitat: Backcountry areas must be managed to sustain fish and wildlife habitat. Unaffected by roads and other development, the headwater streams and rivers that flow through roadless areas offer refuge for many of the West’s native trout, salmon and steelhead. Likewise, roadless areas provide important habitat security for big-game populations, sustaining recreational hunting opportunities in this country.

Support Business: Backcountry areas must be conserved to maintain strong economic engines in rural communities with jobs associated with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation. No one knows the unique value and benefit of roadless areas better than hunters and anglers. Backcountry-dependent businesses that provide services and products to outdoorsmen are the lifeblood of many rural communities and must be taken into account when determining the future management of roadless areas.

The true hunter ... loves all parts of the wilderness.

T. Roosevelt



We Are Wetlands

Wetlands are among the country's most important – and fastest disappearing – ecosystem types. An estimated 50 to 70 percent of our continent's duck population depends on the wetlands of the Prairie Pothole Region. And about 9 of every 10 fish caught by America's recreational anglers are tied to wetlands, as they provide shelter, food supply, spawning and nursery grounds.

Yet our nation loses an average of 80,000 acres of wetlands each year. Meanwhile, recent Supreme Court decisions have only served to weaken wetlands protections – and new federal agency rules have done the same. It has become clear that if we are to slow or reverse the loss of wetlands, Congress is our only hope. It must pass new legislation that restores protections for all types of wetlands, be they bogs, fens, swamps or intermittent streams.

To this end, the TRCP initiated its national "We Are Wetlands" campaign calling for the restoration of stronger federal wetlands protections. This major new grass-roots educational campaign was launched at the Wetlands and Waterfowl Weekend in Minnesota this spring. In addition to educating the public on the critical role wetlands play for fish and wildlife, "We Are Wetlands" will work to collect 80,000 signatures – one for each of those 80,000 acres of wetlands lost each year – on a petition to be presented to the new president.



Photo by dusansmetana.com



TRE TV

Our television programs on the VERSUS network allow us to reach a huge swath of the American public, while highlighting corners of the natural world that many sportsmen only dream of visiting. The programs also have allowed us to spotlight our various policy initiatives in a way that few groups can do.

What's more, at a time when the overall number of active sportsmen is in decline, our shows aim to inspire them into the field.

"The TRCP's programs on VERSUS consistently strike a balance of action and education, adrenaline and conservation," says Gavin Harvey, the network's president. "If T.R. could watch TV, these would be his favorite shows."

The talented producers at Orion Multimedia continue to find new ways to make the shows better, delivering on the goal of maximizing audience appeal.

We're also finding ways to make our programs available to new audiences, such as those tuning in to "video on demand" broadcasts.

It's as T.R. wrote: "The joy of living is his who has the heart to demand it."



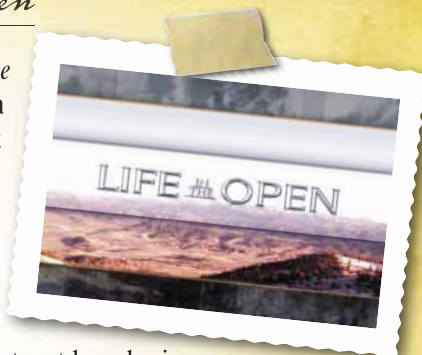
TRCP's *Life in the Open*

Our flagship television program, *TRCP's Life in the Open*, celebrates the grandeur of the sporting life in high-definition on the VERSUS network with about 400,000 people each week. Host Ken Barrett travels the country in search of fur, fin and feather, paying particular attention to the opportunities on public lands that all Americans can share.

"I often don't find the fattest fish or the biggest buck, but I always seek out the essence of our great outdoor heritage, which sustains me in incomparable ways," says Barrett. "It's for reasons like these that I think T.R. himself would have been a weekly watcher of *Life in the Open*."

The show often travels in Roosevelt's footsteps and across landscapes that he forever set aside. Impeccable production by Orion Multimedia LLC and tireless toil by a team of dedicated cameramen highlight the most remote corners of those landscapes – the "lonely lands" that Roosevelt revered.

"Roosevelt understood that future generations should be able to learn the same lessons of the wild that had shaped him early in life," says Barrett. "We try to bring that spirit to the screen, celebrating conservation along with the thrill of the stalk."



Our union partners have made TRCP TV possible, and we are hugely grateful to them for their generosity. "A bonus of doing *Life in the Open* is that it has given me the chance to get out in to the field with several union sportsmen," Barrett says. "Let me tell you, these guys can flat-out hunt and fish."



Escape to the Wild

TRCP's *Escape to the Wild*, sponsored by labor unions and contractor associations, surprises hardworking union members with all-expense-paid trips to world-class hunting and fishing destinations where the monsters roam, the fish are fierce and the birds fly by the hundreds.

As the excitement of each hunting or fishing adventure builds, you get a glimpse into the lives of the winners like Kelly Bingham, a steelworker who helped provide more than 7,500 lbs. of food to those in need since starting the Utah chapter of Farmer & Hunters Feeding the Hungry, and Barbara Ries, a ramp service employee and sportswoman with more hunting experience, backwoods knowledge and pure dedication to the sport than most men.

In season three, winners will venture to Argentina to hunt majestic red stag, join professional angler Byron Velvick for top-notch Texas bass fishing, trek Canada's expansive tundra for caribou, and run and gun for upland bird at a top-notch lodge.



"It's truly an honor to host *Escape to the Wild*. There's just something right about this show. The winners...and they are winners in every sense of the word...are hardworking Americans who share a love of the outdoors and have gone the extra mile in their community, at home or on the job."

—Tom Ackerman
Host of TRCP's *Escape to the Wild*

Union Sportsmen's Alliance



Charter Unions:



Supporting Unions:

Bakery and Confectionary Union
 Boilermakers Union
 Bricklayers Union
 Elevator Constructors Union
 Insulators and Asbestos Union
 Iron Workers Union

Plasterers & Cement Masons Union
 Postal Workers Union
 Railroad Signalmen Union
 United Mine Worker's Union
 Utility Workers Union

Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA)

If you love to hunt, fish and spend time outdoors, you're not alone. These passions are shared by millions of union members of the AFL-CIO. Whether stalking a buck, reeling in a largemouth or basking in nature, these cherished pastimes define you and many union members. They also define the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA), a one-of-a-kind hunting and fishing club exclusively for union members, retirees and their families.

The seeds of the USA were planted when an independent survey showed that approximately 3.2 million members, or 70%, of the TRCP's 20 affiliated unions hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors. Through a multimedia program that combines print and electronic communications, the USA brings together these union hunters and anglers from across North America to share their outdoor experiences; exchange ideas, stories and photos; trade tips; access hunting and fishing news and help ensure a brighter future for our outdoor heritage.

As part of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance, union members have an unprecedented opportunity to impact the future of hunting and fishing in America by lending their combined support to the TRCP conservation effort. With thousands of new voices, the USA will significantly strengthen the TRCP's power to guarantee of all quality places to hunt and fish.

While connecting union hunters and anglers getting them engaged in the TRCP effort, the USA continually works to extend union member benefits to the woods and water by building relationships with outdoor brands and manufacturers. From special giveaways that include a Triton boat, Buck knives and Beretta shotguns to money-saving deals and discounts, the USA makes spending time in the outdoors even more enjoyable for union members, retirees and their families.

There is not a man of us who does not at times need a helping hand to be stretched out to him, and then shame upon him who will not stretch out the helping hand to his brother.

T. Roosevelt

2007 Donors

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(Donors of more than \$500,000)

The Pew Charitable Trusts

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The Orvis Companies

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The following law firms have graciously provided the TRCP with an array of pro bono services and general support:

- King & Spalding LLC
- Husch Blackwell Sanders LLP
- Hogan & Hartson
- Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC

Statement of Financial Position

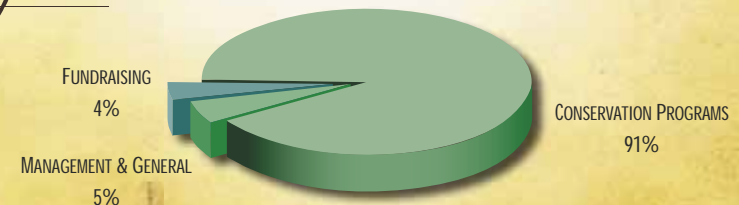
DECEMBER 31, 2007

ASSETS	
Cash and Other Current Assets	1,889,731
Grants Receivable	819,106
Fixed Assets	39,497
TOTAL ASSETS	2,748,334
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	354,227
Net Assets	2,394,107
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2,748,334

2007 Statement of Revenues and Expenses

REVENUE	
Grants	3,461,582
Donations	971,788
Other Revenue	71,705
TOTAL REVENUE	4,505,075
EXPENSES	
Conservation Programs	3,828,165
Fundraising	149,266
Management and General	205,549
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,182,980
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	322,095

Expenses



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and Aerospace Workers*

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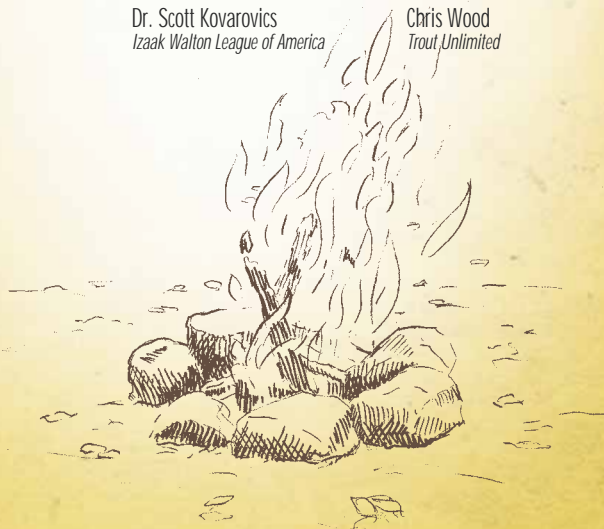
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Russ Shay
Land Trust Alliance

Scott Sutherland
Ducks Unlimited

Gary Taylor
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Chris Wood
Trout Unlimited



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- Director of Finance - Vonetta Faulkner
- Executive Assistant - Melanie Hall

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- Senior Staff Writer and Life in the Open Host - Ken Barrett
- Communications Manager - Britta Blodgett
- Communications Manager - Katherine McKalip

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- Director of Recruitment - John Kesting
- Senior Communications Manager - Kate Cywinski
- Office Manager - Gretchen Vanhorn
- Field Representative, Great Lakes Region - Jim Klatt
- Communications Associate - Sara Gabbard
- Membership Services and Recruiting Manager - Amy Napoli
- Sponsorship Coordinator - Julia Allen

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Photo by Molly McCabe