

THEODORE ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2010

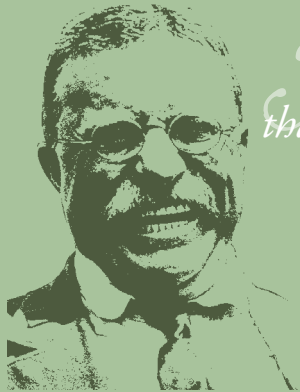


Photo by Phil Hoon

We believe that when sportsmen unite, working in coordinated partnership, the voices of the conservation community are amplified and strengthened. To this end, the TRCP and our partner organizations collaborate on select issues, identify areas of consensus, work toward conservation priorities and establish plans for action. Our mission is straightforward: conserve fish and wildlife habitat so that all Americans have quality places to hunt and fish. In short, sportsmen must stick together and stand up for habitat conservation and the fish and game species we love to pursue.

TRCP Partners





*It is not what we have
that will make us a great
nation; it is the way
in which we use it.*

—Theodore Roosevelt
Dickinson, Dakota Territory
July 4, 1886

A NEW BEGINNING

When the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership was created in 2002, its goal was to unite the voices of America's 40 million hunters and anglers on behalf of conservation. While we've experienced ups and downs along the way, few can dispute that now, more than ever, the hunting and fishing communities are far more engaged and effective in federal policy debates.

The TRCP faced a crossroad in 2009 when founder and chairman Jim Range suddenly passed away. Would we succumb to the loss, or would Jim's vision live on in a strong and vibrant organization?

We are pleased to report that today the TRCP is stronger than ever, in large part because the members and supporters of this organization – from our partner groups and funders to individual hunters and anglers – stepped up to make sure Jim's vision would endure. The proof of this increased strength can be seen in two ways: within the organization – capacity building to ensure the continued vigor of the TRCP – and in the policy arena – successes that directly benefit hunters and anglers.

On the organizational front, in 2010 the TRCP completed a new strategic plan to guide us over the next five years. The first element of the plan is a refined statement of purpose:

"In order to guarantee all Americans quality places to hunt and fish, we strengthen federal laws, policies and practices affecting fish and wildlife conservation by leading partnerships that influence decision makers."

The TRCP's uniqueness lies first and foremost in the creation of partnerships. No other organization leads and effectively draws upon the collective strength of partners to advance fish and wildlife conservation and our hunting and fishing heritage. As we implement our strategic plan, the focus on strengthening and diversifying our partnerships will be paramount.

In 2010, we enhanced other key internal elements of the TRCP. New bylaws clarify organizational operations and structure. A new website connects us more effectively with our partners and members. And new fundraising programs, including the Bull Moose Circle, encourage hunters, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts to step up and support the TRCP financially.

We are excited to share with you many of our recent policy successes in this report. Perhaps most notably, the TRCP also launched a new, overarching initiative focused on conservation funding in 2010. The fiscal year 2011 federal appropriations – and cuts proposed to critical conservation programs – served as a wake-up call to the entire sportsmen's community. Funding jeopardized through these potential cuts enables responsive fish and wildlife management by states, sustains hunting and angling opportunities and results in real economic benefits and jobs – jobs that cannot be exported. The TRCP's Conservation Funding Initiative will remain a top priority for our group for years to come. As Jim Range said, "We gotta save this thing we love 'cause ain't nobody else gonna do it!"

The challenges currently facing America's sportsmen and -women are great – from diminished federal funding to our country's growing need for energy and development that decreases public access to our hunting and fishing areas. But the TRCP is well positioned to continue and expand our work to ensure that all Americans have quality places to hunt and fish.

Thank you for helping make our work possible.



Whit Fosburgh

Whit Fosburgh
President and CEO



Katie Distler Eckman

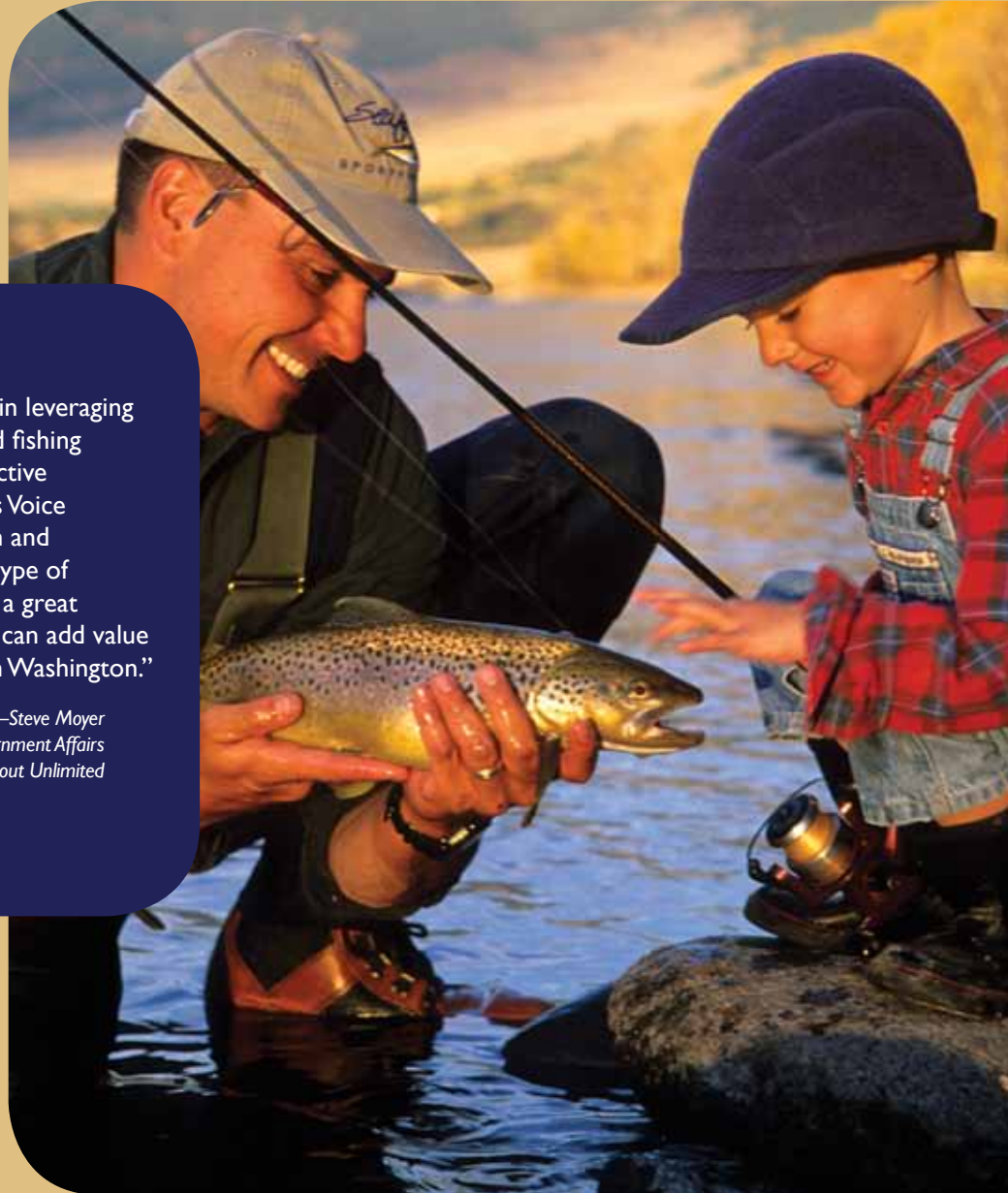
Katie Distler Eckman
Board Chair

CONSERVATION FUNDING



“TRCP has done a great job in leveraging the power of the hunting and fishing community through our collective involvement in the ‘America’s Voice for Conservation, Recreation and Preservation’ coalition. This type of partnership-building effort is a great example of where the TRCP can add value to the public policy debate in Washington.”

—Steve Moyer
Vice President of Government Affairs
Trout Unlimited





habitat for fish and wildlife and our nation's natural resources are the foundation of a vital and flourishing outdoor and recreation-based economy. According to recent analysis of outdoor industry statistics, the total contribution from outdoor recreation in the United States is nearly \$821 billion annually – generating 6,435,000 U.S. jobs and \$99 billion in federal and state tax revenues.

This past spring, the U.S. House of Representatives passed House Resolution 1, a continuing resolution for fiscal year 2011 appropriations. This bill eliminated and/or drastically cut foundational fish and wildlife conservation programs and served as a wake-up call for the sportsmen-conservation community.

Working closely with our partners and allies in the sportsmen, conservation, outdoor recreation and historic preservation communities, the TRCP took a leadership role in and helped drive a unique new coalition showing the diverse and broad impacts that conservation of America's natural resources has on our economy – and why federal funding to continue these conservation programs must be maintained.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Responding to the congressional budget challenge: In response to ongoing congressional budget challenges and following a meeting with the Secretary of the Interior, the TRCP led the creation of a steering committee consisting of a broad array of sporting, conservation and historic preservation groups.

Building a coalition and presenting a unified front: This new coalition, “America's Voice for Conservation, Recreation and Preservation,” worked tirelessly to obtain the support of more than 600 groups and organizations. Representing more than 10 million Americans, these entities signed a letter calling on Congress to stop the proposed funding cuts – an unprecedented show of support for conservation funding issues important to sportsmen. Using this letter as a catalyst, the coalition successfully communicated our priorities for conservation funding to policymakers in Congress and the administration through letter writing and telephone campaigns, in-person meetings and earned media outreach.

Working with Congress: The TRCP was successful in raising awareness of the conservation funding crisis and of the significance of this unique and broad-based coalition in Congress. Our efforts resulted in the coalition's letter being read in the Congressional Record on the floor of the House during debate over Interior and related agencies' budgets. The coalition letter subsequently was referenced by two other members of the House of Representatives.



CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL AND PRIVATE LANDS



“The TRCP’s
commitment to
collaboration helps
to ensure that
there is always
a unified voice
delivering a strong
conservation

message on Capitol Hill. The TRCP also provides an essential forum for partner organizations to develop new ideas, get feedback and build shared strategies. When it comes to the 2012 Farm Bill, the TRCP’s collaborative leadership helps all of us be more effective.”

—Brad Redlin
Director of Agricultural Programs
Izaak Walton League of America



ACHIEVEMENTS

Opposing “early-outs” of Conservation Reserve Program contracts: As crop prices climb and unfavorable weather conditions persist across the country, the pressure on Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to absolve CRP contract-holders of their obligations prior to the end of their contractual terms without penalties continues to build. Not only would so-called “early-outs” harm fish and wildlife habitat, they also would waste years of taxpayer investment in conservation. The TRCP led our Agriculture and Wildlife Working Group effort to submit a letter strongly supporting the CRP and opposing consideration of penalty-free “early-outs” of existing CRP contracts. Numerous TRCP partners signed their support of the letter, which was quoted in the widely read *FarmPolicy.com* brief. Thanks to the TRCP and our partners, USDA officials offered reassurance that CRP early-outs no longer are being considered.

Building support for “waters of the United States” guidance: In April 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released long-awaited proposed administrative guidance on the Clean Water Act definition of “waters of the United States.” The guidance was an attempt to restore legal protections for millions of acres of vulnerable wetlands and millions of miles of ephemeral streams across the nation. Beginning in 2010, the TRCP Wetlands Working Group helped build support for the guidance among stakeholder groups. WWG members also successfully submitted more than 20,000 comments to the EPA supporting the guidance and urging a strong rule. Our work boasted a robust communications component, including a well-attended press conference and quotes from working group members featured in publications across the country.

Engaging local elected officials to support Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plans and Clean Water Act guidance: TRCP staff saw a unique opportunity to engage local elected officials in supporting two TRCP focal issues: the CWA guidance and Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plans. Our outreach to two Republican county commissioners in Maryland resulted in their signing and submitting a TRCP-drafted letter to President Obama supporting both the proposed guidance and Watershed Implementation Plans, making a strong local economic argument for clean water. The TRCP hopes to continue expanding our engagement with these highly credibly elected officials as part of our efforts to conserve the Chesapeake Bay.



ederal policies that affect fish and wildlife habitat on our private and agricultural lands are a critical part of America’s conservation equation. More than 50 percent of the land mass of the nation’s 48 contiguous states is in agricultural use.

The TRCP believes in the importance of science-based conservation in these areas – not only for fish and wildlife and their habitats but for current and future generations of hunters and anglers seeking recreational access and opportunity.

The TRCP Center for Agricultural and Private Lands actively engages with our partners and policymakers through three key initiatives – Farm Bill, Wetlands and Clean Water and Chesapeake Bay – to conserve important habitat, sustain fish and wildlife and secure opportunities for sportsmen to access and enjoy these quintessentially American landscapes.

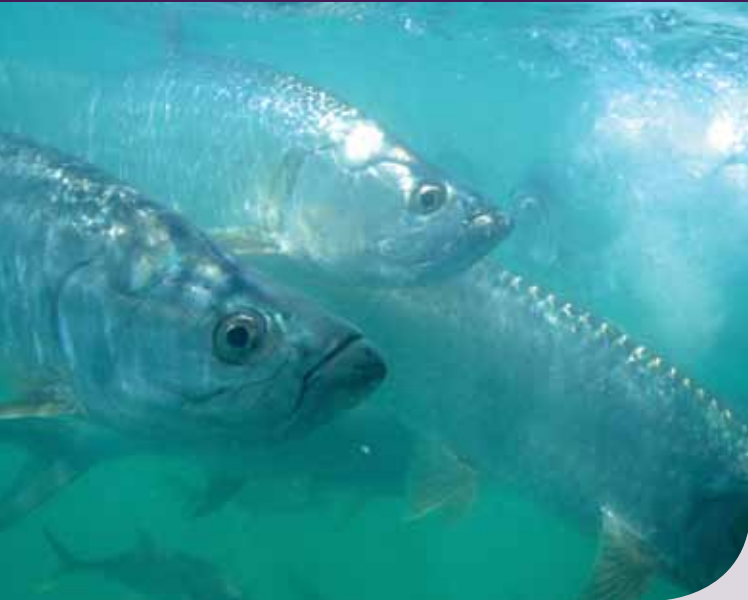
CENTER FOR MARINE FISHERIES



“The TRCP provides a forum for the saltwater recreational angling community – not only to address important issues such as improving fisheries management or restoring the Gulf, but also to amplify the voice of anglers in communicating the many economic and conservation benefits sport fishing provides.”

—Mike Nussman
President and CEO
American Sportfishing Association

ACHIEVEMENTS



Organizing forums along the Gulf Coast and developing recommendations in response to the 2010 oil spill: This spring, the TRCP held meetings in Pensacola, Fla.; Gulfport, Miss; and New Orleans, La., to gather input from recreational anglers and businesses affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. That input became the basis for the report “Gulf Spill Recreational Fishing Response Group: Recommendations for Resource Recovery.” This report reflects input from recreational angling organizations and individual anglers, along with experts including academics and state and federal officials associated with regional recreational fisheries management. The recommendations outline the consensus priorities for investments participants believe should be made to restore the quantity and quality of recreational fishing opportunities in the Gulf of Mexico that existed before the spill.

Convening and facilitating the “Fish Collaborative”: An ad hoc group of recreational fishing, environmental and conservation groups, the Fish Collaborative meets to debate and discuss public policy surrounding saltwater angling and marine fisheries conservation. Through this process, the group develops common-sense policy solutions to issues facing marine recreational fishing. The TRCP then engages in strategic projects that address key issues and injects the voice of the recreational angling community into the policy process.

Our ocean and coastal resources are impacted by a growing number of activities and pressures, from energy development to commercial and recreational fishing. A balanced approach is needed to manage these multiple and competing uses while conserving our vital marine resources.

Policymakers at the National Atmospheric and Oceanographic Administration and National Marine Fisheries Service have tremendous influence on how our saltwater fisheries are managed, directly affecting sportsmen’s ability to pursue our passions. The TRCP is committed to working with our partners to

make sure the voice of the recreational angler and the interests of marine fisheries conservation are considered in policy and fisheries management decisions.

CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

“The Mule Deer Foundation’s partnership with the TRCP has allowed us to address issues that are very important to the future of mule deer and conservation. Working with the TRCP, the MDF has been able to raise awareness of irresponsible energy development. Changed practices are being implemented to protect sensitive mule deer habitats and migration corridors, and better coordination is evident between deer management and energy development activities. This coordination has created a net benefit for sportsmen and mule deer.”



—Miles Moretti
President and CEO
Mule Deer Foundation



ACHIEVEMENTS



The TRCP Center for Responsible Energy Development continues to advocate for public-lands energy development that considers the needs of fish and wildlife and the interests of users such as hunters and anglers.

The TRCP has worked diligently to reform the federal process guiding public-lands energy development and takes a comprehensive approach to examining America's national energy policy. Areas of focus include energy exploration and development in the western and eastern United States, offshore energy development, renewable energy potentials and impacts, and energy transmission issues.



Releasing a report on the impacts of energy development on mule deer populations:

“Mule Deer and Energy: Federal Policy and Planning in the Greater Green River Basin” details problems facing federal land managers in their efforts to manage habitats to meet state wildlife agencies’ population objectives. The report also addresses how most science known on mule deer is not incorporated into federal land use plans or energy projects. The report confirms that energy development has become the Bureau of Land Management’s No. 1 priority and provides specific recommendations on how to improve coordination between agencies to benefit mule deer populations.

Expanding the TRCP’s Sportsmen Values Mapping Project into Wyoming:

The TRCP is directly engaging sportsmen in Wyoming to identify valuable hunting and fishing areas in the state. This data gathering allows the TRCP and the sportsmen’s community to formulate and provide better recommendations to policymakers regarding development practices on public lands. Meetings in communities across the state are enabling sportsmen representing a range of clubs and organizations to offer input. The mapping project has received unanimous endorsement from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, and we anticipate future coordination with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Publishing an energy transmission report and case studies: “Hunting and Angling on the Line” analyzes how sportsmen’s interests are being addressed during energy transmission policy implementation and transmission project siting. Energy transmission lines can profoundly impact our landscapes and disrupt important fish and wildlife habitat and big-game migration corridors. The report examines case studies in Colorado, Oregon and Wyoming and includes specific recommendations on how to improve policy and process to promote good resource stewardship and sustain the future of hunting and fishing.

CENTER FOR WESTERN LANDS



“Backcountry Hunters and Anglers has been working alongside the TRCP to safeguard our roadless public lands for future generations. We are working to protect the peace, challenge and solitude of the backcountry hunting and fishing experience.”

—Jim Akenson
Executive Director
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers



ACHIEVEMENTS

as the U.S. population surpasses 310 million, the pressures to develop and fragment our public lands continue to grow. World-class fish and wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing resources are increasingly threatened by development. At the same time, private lands are becoming inaccessible to rank-and-file sportsmen.

While roads are necessary for providing access to lands where we recreate, one of the greatest threats to the future of public-lands hunting and fishing is the fragmentation of unroaded fish and wildlife habitat on national forest and Bureau of Land Management lands. If this habitat is not conserved, state fish and wildlife agencies will face insurmountable challenges in maintaining adequate public hunting and angling opportunities, and the quality of the outdoor experience will be diminished. Sportsmen must remain involved to conserve the backcountry public lands that safeguard our public-lands hunting and angling traditions.

Strengthening the Colorado roadless rule: The TRCP worked alongside hunters and anglers throughout Colorado to develop and submit recommendations aimed at ensuring that the Colorado roadless rule conserves roadless areas at a level equal to or stronger than the 2001 federal roadless rule. The TRCP-led coalition's recommendations resulted in creation of a conservation alternative by the U.S. Forest Service, with 2.6 million acres of upper-tier lands proposed for increased conservation measures.

Improving National Forest Management Act forest planning: The TRCP developed a set of specific, conservation-focused hunter-angler recommendations for the National Forest Planning Rule. TRCP staff organized broad-based support for "The Buck Stops Here," NFMA planning recommendations from 64 national and state-based sportsmen's organizations. This effort effectively promoted a strong message for the conservation of our public-lands fish and wildlife habitat during the national forest planning process.

Targeting sportsmen education on climate change adaptation: Absent viable legislative activity in Congress, the TRCP has focused on climate change education of hunters and anglers in the past year. Through targeted presentations in several Western states, the TRCP is informing sportsmen about the impacts climate change has on fish and wildlife habitat and populations, while stressing the need for federal support for states and their natural resource agencies to incorporate climate change adaptation into management plans. Presentations for Colorado, Montana and Washington are currently under way.

Supporting conservation and protection of federal backcountry lands: The TRCP vocally promoted and mobilized support from sportsmen for the federal government's efforts to permanently safeguard America's finest backcountry lands and the outdoor opportunities they offer.



FINANCIAL REPORT AND DONORS

“The decision to increase our financial support this year for the TRCP and become a member of the Bull Moose Circle was, quite frankly, an easy one. At a time when our nation’s hunters and anglers appear to be increasingly fragmented, the TRCP represents one of the few organizations truly committed to uniting sportsmen-conservationists through its collective advocacy for our public lands, natural resources and sporting traditions.”

—Paul Rose
President
Michigan United Conservation Clubs



2010 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ASSETS	
Cash and Other Current Assets	1,156,145
Grants Receivable	693,354
Other Current Assets	33,752
Fixed Assets	25,610
Total Assets	1,908,861

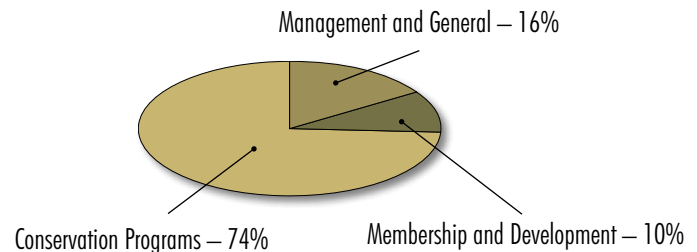
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Accounts Payable	66,891
Other Current Liabilities	103,225
Net Assets	1,738,745
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,908,861

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE	
Grants	2,380,121
Donations	469,104
Total Revenue	2,849,225

EXPENSES

Conservation Programs	2,264,806
Membership and Development	305,653
Management and General	492,974
Total Expenses	3,063,433
Change in Net Assets	(214,208)



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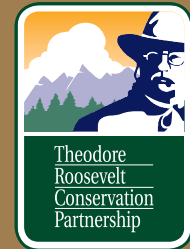
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1660 L St. N.W., SUITE 208
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
202-639-8727
WWW.TRCP.ORG