



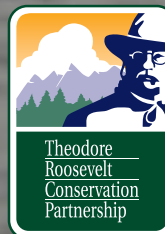
2014 THEODORE ROOSEVELT
CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP
ANNUAL REPORT

Theodore
Roosevelt
Conservation
Partnership

OUR MISSION

To guarantee all Americans quality places to hunt and fish.

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Uniting and Amplifying Sportsmen's Voices



WHIT FOSBURGH
PRESIDENT & CEO



DAVID D. PERKINS
BOARD CHAIRMAN
VICE-CHAIRMAN, ORVIS

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership was created with a simple premise: to unite and amplify the voices of America's sportsmen and women in the federal policy arena.

This was true in 2002, and it is certainly true today, when divided government and partisan politics dominate the headlines. Policy makers must consider many competing demands, and without unity, our nation's broad conservation legacy is at risk.

In 2014, it was easy to see the benefits of standing firm together. This was particularly true in our focus on sportsmen's access and the clear connection between it, the conservation of fish and wildlife habitat, and a strong outdoor economy. The TRCP helped galvanize a coalition of more than 140 hunting and fishing organizations and outdoor recreation-based businesses in support of our federal public lands legacy and the sporting access they provided. In January 2015, to support this effort, we launched SportsmensAccess.org and a petition drive that has sent more than 80,000 letters to decision-makers so far.

On the marine fisheries front, the TRCP and its partners convened a blue ribbon panel, co-chaired by Johnny Morris of Bass Pro Shops and Scott Deal of Maverick Boats, to develop a vision for how recreational fisheries can be managed to achieve conservation, economic, and access goals. In February 2015, the National Marine Fisheries Service adopted one of the report's six major recommendations by establishing a national

recreational fishing policy, formally making recreational fishing a management priority at the agency for the first time.

In the west, the TRCP was active on several major issues, but none more important than conserving greater sage-grouse through voluntary conservation plans. By convening our partners in a coordinated science-based advocacy campaign, we helped policy makers understand sage-grouse conservation as an opportunity, not a threat. By working together, federal land managers, the states, and private landowners can put into place common-sense conservation measures that will conserve the sage-grouse and 350 other species that depend on the sagebrush steppe ecosystem.

In recognition of the work mentioned above, the TRCP was named Bass Pro Shops' 2014 Conservation Partner of the Year. While we appreciate the accolades, much of the credit goes to the individuals, corporations, and foundations that support our work, as well as our 40+ conservation partners and the millions of American sportsmen and women who continue to speak up in support of responsible natural resources management and conservation.

By uniting and amplifying their voices, the TRCP can continue to guarantee that all Americans will have quality places to hunt and fish, today and for generations to come.



MARINE FISHERIES

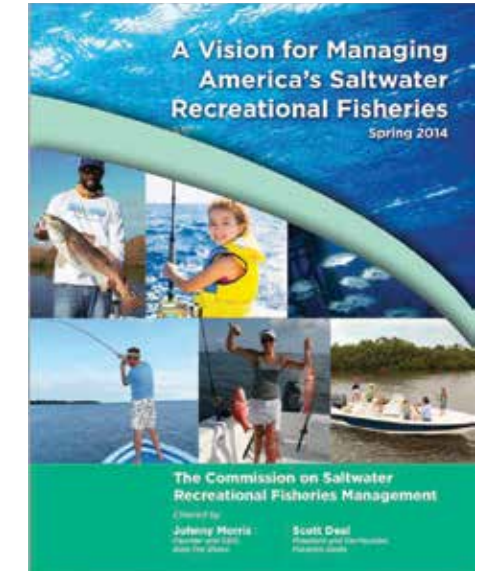
Driving a New Vision for Saltwater Recreational Fisheries

2014 was a defining year for saltwater recreational fishermen in the United States. Working with our partners, the TRCP expanded the influence of the sporting community in calling for improved management of America's saltwater recreational fisheries.

In February 2014, the TRCP released the landmark report, "A Vision for Managing America's Saltwater Recreational Fisheries." For the first time, the sportfishing community had a consensus-based plan for improving federal policies that impact the fisheries, communities, and economies tied to our ocean and coastal resources.

The report was a result of more than a year's work by the TRCP and our sportfishing partners to convene the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management, a delegation of the finest minds in fisheries policy and conservation. Headed by Bass Pro Shops' Founder & CEO Johnny Morris and Maverick Boat Company President Scott Deal, the commission's policy recommendations informed the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's first-ever national policy on saltwater recreational fisheries management, released in February 2015. The report continues to serve as our community's playbook for communications, education, and messaging to congressional leaders, just as reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the nation's chief fisheries management law, gets underway.



Scan to view the 2014 "A Vision for Managing America's Saltwater Recreational Fisheries" report



Bass Pro Shops Founder & CEO Johnny Morris (left) presents TRCP President & CEO Whit Fosburgh with the award for 2014 Bass Pro Shops Conservation Partner of the Year. TRCP was recognized for its role in uniting the saltwater angling community and other outstanding work on behalf of America's sportsmen.

Boosting an Ecosystem by Helping One Bird

The greater sage-grouse cannot survive without large expanses of sagebrush. Once populating 13 U.S. states and 3 Canadian provinces across more than 460,000 square miles, sage-grouse now occupy only about half of their original range. Populations that likely once numbered in the millions are now estimated at less than 500,000 birds. The sage-grouse is indeed a modern-day canary in the coal mine, alerting us to the fact that sagebrush ecosystems are in trouble, and so are more than 350 species that depend on this habitat—including mule deer, pronghorn, and others important to sportsmen. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is set to decide in September 2015 whether the greater sage-grouse warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act.

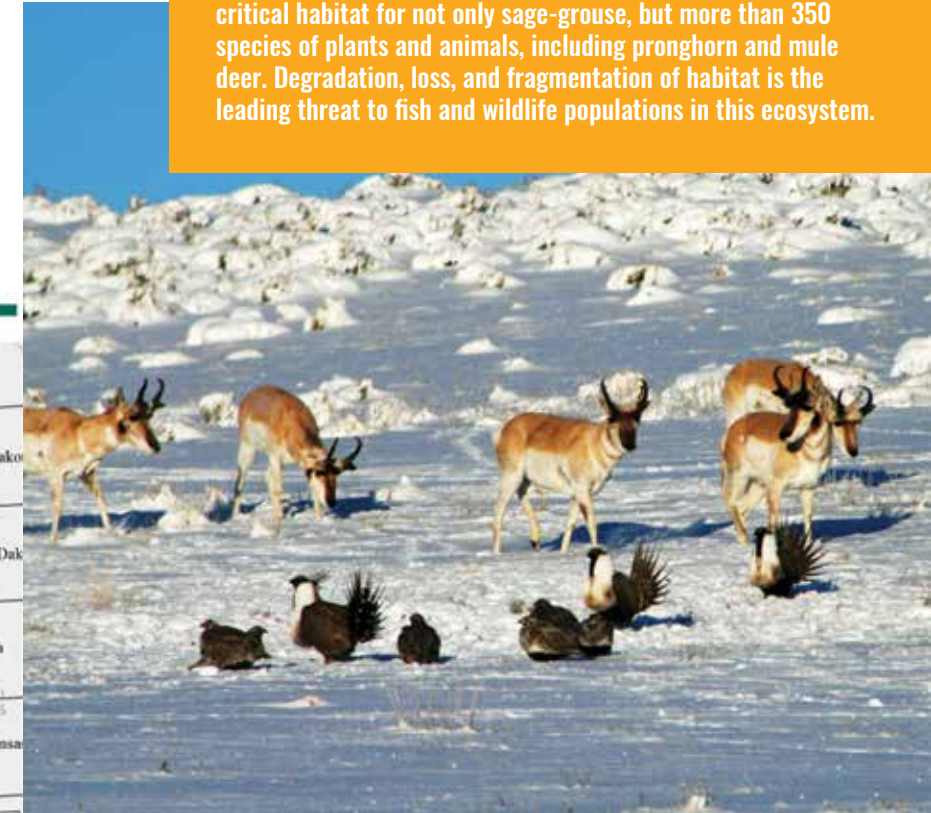
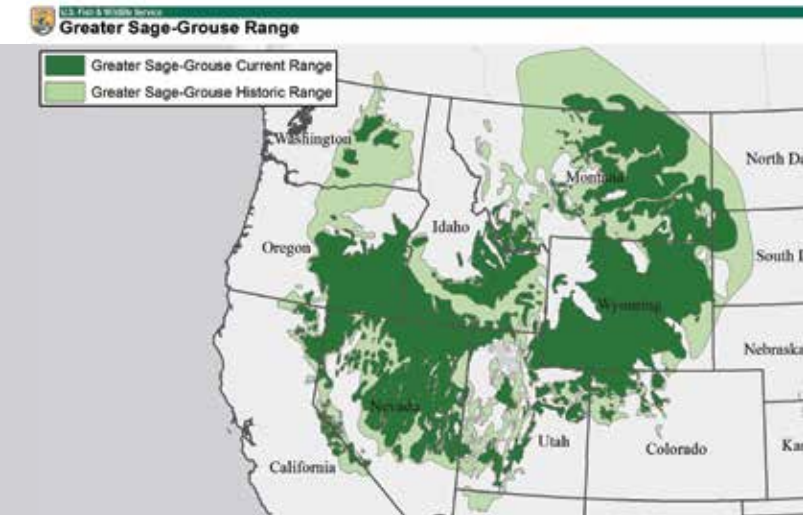
Throughout 2014, the TRCP's efforts have focused on ensuring that federal and state conservation plans will be effective and yield net conservation



benefits for sage-grouse that will ultimately preclude the need to list the species. Working with partners and allies across conservation, landowner, and industry interests, the TRCP helped coordinate a campaign of science-based advocacy, media outreach, and grassroots engagement to promote key reforms in sagebrush ecosystem conservation. Substantial progress has been made in virtually all state plans, and we are optimistic that final Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service plans will incorporate the policy changes and actions needed to conserve sage-grouse. Once all plans are completed in mid-2015, the TRCP and its partners

will work to ensure that they are implemented on the ground in a way that results in increased populations of sagebrush-dependent wildlife.

The iconic sagebrush ecosystems across the West provide critical habitat for not only sage-grouse, but more than 350 species of plants and animals, including pronghorn and mule deer. Degradation, loss, and fragmentation of habitat is the leading threat to fish and wildlife populations in this ecosystem.



“Management of sagebrush habitats is a long-term endeavor. Investing in conservation, responsible rangeland management and energy development is not only essential for our nation’s economy but also for the western way of life.”

DR. STEVEN WILLIAMS

President and CEO, Wildlife Management Institute and former Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Tirelessly Pursuing Clean Water and Improved Wetlands



"Starting Young!" by Brian Slutzky of Glenview, Ill., the Grand Prize Winner of the TRCP's Summer 2014 Fishing Photo Contest.

It has been nearly 15 years since the first of two confusing Supreme Court decisions cast doubt over the scope of Clean Water Act protections, leaving some of the most critical fish and waterfowl habitat in the United States in jeopardy. The TRCP and its partners have been pressing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers—the agencies with authority to implement the Clean Water Act—to clarify that wetlands and headwater streams are indeed protected under the Act. In 2014, the agencies initiated a rulemaking process that will clarify this landmark conservation law once and for all.

In February, TRCP President and CEO Whit Fosburgh joined the EPA administrator and Assistant Secretary of the Army Corps at a press conference announcing the initiation of the rulemaking process. The TRCP was the only non-governmental organization invited to participate, reflecting the importance of sportsmen to the process and the good reputation of the TRCP

in accurately representing sportsmen's values. Since that time, the TRCP and its partners have worked relentlessly to improve the agencies' proposed rule so that it definitively restores Clean Water Act protections to wetlands and headwater streams—all while fending off repeated attempts by some congressional offices to undermine the process. A highlight of this work was the organization of a formal comment letter signed by 185 sportsmen's organizations and submitted to the EPA and Army Corps to demonstrate our community's support of the rule. This was a strong demonstration of support for the EPA policy by the sportsmen's community.

The rulemaking process is expected to be completed in 2015, but it remains under constant attack. The TRCP will continue pressuring the EPA and Army Corps to stand firm and finalize the rule. This is a once-in-a-generation chance to boost the resiliency of headwater streams facing pollution and to stem the tide of wetlands loss.



NEARLY
60% of all the stream miles in the U.S. would be impacted by the proposed clarification of the Clean Water Act.

Protecting Sportsmen's Access to Public Lands

America's 640 million acres of federal public lands provide hunting and fishing opportunities to millions of citizens. They represent the uniquely American values of freedom and adventure that are the envy of the world. This is particularly true in the West, where nearly three-quarters of sportsmen depend on access to public lands for hunting. Without these vast expanses of prairie and sagebrush, foothills, forests, and towering peaks, the traditions of hunting and fishing as we have known them for more than a century would be lost.

Despite their value to so many Americans, alarming efforts are afoot in many Western states and in the halls of Congress to wrest public lands from the federal government and put them under state ownership.

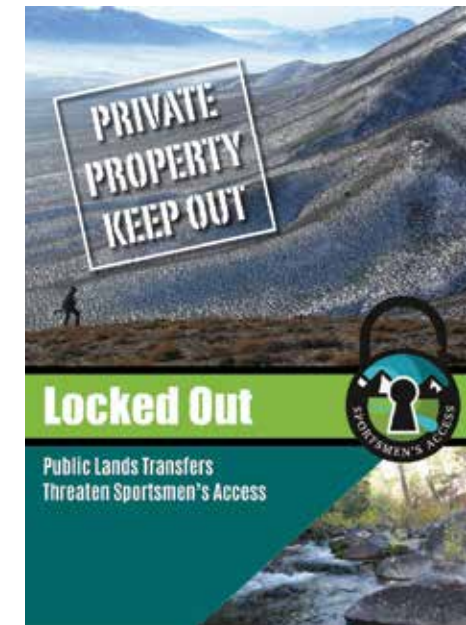
The transfer of federal lands to the states would result in one likely outcome: the sale of any lands not generating large



quantities of timber, minerals, or energy to the highest bidder. Once privatized, these lands would become off-limits to most rank-and-file sportsmen in perpetuity. While no sportsman would say that federal management of public lands is perfect, the idea that individual states can do a better job at running them is fundamentally flawed. States are simply not equipped to shoulder the enormous costs associated with fighting wildfires, maintaining roads and trails, treating noxious weeds, and conducting habitat restoration. Moreover, most state lands are managed for short-term profit and not long-term multiple use.

In 2014, the TRCP launched a broad educational campaign, complete with an online petition, video, social media advertising, and sportsmen's

rallies, to unite hunters and anglers against these attacks on public lands and public access. The "Unlock Sportsmen's Access" campaign drew the support of a sizeable coalition of sportsmen's groups, businesses, and individuals. By early 2015, the campaign had enabled rank-and-file sportsmen from all 50 states to send more than 80,000 individual letters to elected decision-makers in opposition to the sale or transfer of federal public lands.



Scan to view the 2015 "Public Lands Transfers Threaten Sportsmen's Access" Report



80,000 Letters have been sent to lawmakers



141 Organizations & Businesses have joined the coalition



Sportsmen from all **50** states and the District of Columbia have spoken up in favor of public lands

Harvesting Farm Bill Gains for Hunters and Anglers

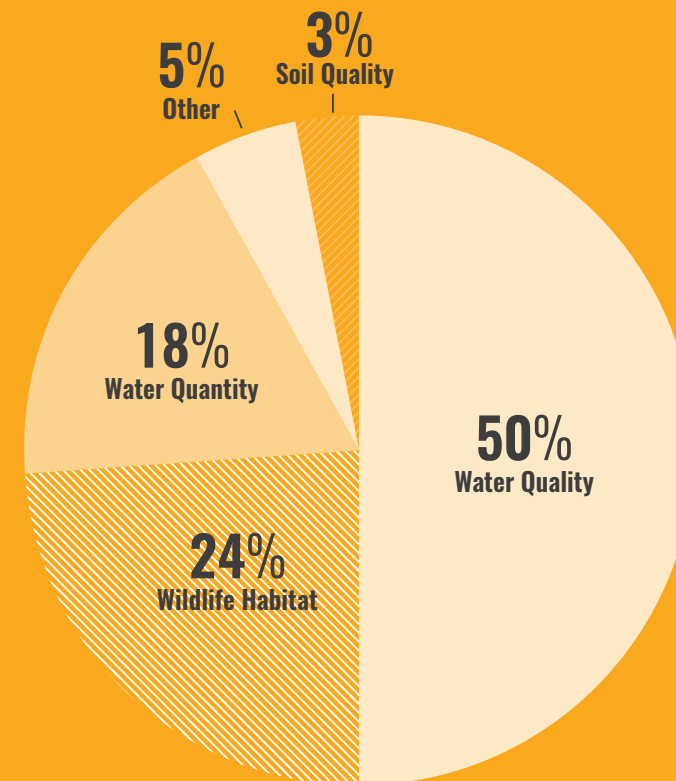
On February 7, 2014, a new five-year Farm Bill was signed into law. The TRCP was instrumental in negotiating a bill that successfully addressed long-term sportsmen's priorities, such as re-linking conservation compliance with the federal crop insurance program and incentivizing private landowners to open their properties to hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation. The bill also introduced new programs, like the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), into the suite of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's conservation tools.

Officially launched in May 2014, the RCPP is a five-year, \$1.2-billion federal conservation program that funds landscape-scale projects involving many private interests. Along with representatives from Congress and the USDA, the TRCP led efforts to educate our partners and other conservation, farming, and corporate stakeholders about this unique opportunity. Four of our partners—Ducks Unlimited, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and Trout Unlimited—were selected to lead 11 out of the 115 projects awarded, and many of our other partners will support projects across the country.

The TRCP continues to be closely involved with implementation and enforcement of the RCPP and other essential Farm Bill programs. By uniting our partners to ensure sound implementation of Farm Bill programs, we are holding decision-makers accountable for policy results and working to ensure that these policies slow the conversion or degradation of wetlands, grasslands, and other essential habitat.

RCPP is leveraging big money for conservation. In just its first year, the RCPP announced nearly \$800 million in projects. Over five years, the USDA will contribute up to \$1.2 billion for conservation, which will be doubled to \$2.4 billion with matching contributions from non-federal partners.

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) isn't just for farmland. The 115 approved project partnerships are spread across all 50 states and Puerto Rico, and will benefit a wide range of sportsmen's priority landscapes, from waterfowl and upland habitat to trout streams and sagebrush steppe.



CONSERVATION FUNDING

Speaking Up for Habitat in D.C. Budget Battles

When it comes to fish and wildlife management, no one has more skin in the game than sportsmen. Over the last 70 years, hunters and anglers have paid nearly \$13 billion in federal excise taxes. These dollars fund projects that restore fish and wildlife populations, conserve habitat, and promote public access. They also create jobs. Each year, sportsmen drive more than \$90 billion in economic activity and sustain more than 1.5 million jobs.

In 2014, sportsmen doubled down on our commitment to funding conservation. Budget issues and funding for responsible natural resources management continue to be the TRCP's top issue. Without robust investments in fundamental conservation programs, the goals of each of our individual campaigns would suffer dramatically.

In 2014, the TRCP worked collaboratively with its partners to heighten sportsmen's engagement on three key funding issues:



1. Last fall, with broad support from the sportsmen's constituency, and with leadership from Ducks Unlimited, Congress passed the first increase in the price of the federal duck stamp since 1991. Since the last increase more than 20 years ago, land prices for waterfowl habitat have tripled. This \$10 increase—from \$15 to \$25—will allow conservation efforts to keep pace with the rising price of land and expand on the more than 6 million acres of waterfowl habitat that the duck stamp has helped preserve since its creation in 1934.

▲ The Duck Stamp fee was last raised in 1991. Since then, the cost of a U.S. postage stamp has been raised **14 times**.

2. In 2014, the TRCP developed a new interactive website—The Sportsmen's Water Budget—to track federal programs that impact water conservation, waterfowl habitat, fisheries, and sportsmen. By knowing where and how much the federal government is investing in water conservation, the TRCP and its partners can better target our education and advocacy campaigns.



Scan to view the TRCP's Sportsmen's Water Budget



3. Thanks in large part to advocacy by sportsmen—and the leadership of the TRCP—the December 2014 passage of the "CRomnibus," a comprehensive spending bill that prevented a government shutdown, maintained or increased funding for vital conservation programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, and North American Wetlands Conservation Act.



TRCP President & CEO Whit Fosburgh (on right) advocates for full funding of conservation initiatives.

Celebrating LWCF's 50th by Calling for Full Funding



2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a program created by Congress to safeguard our nation's natural areas and water resources to provide recreational opportunities to all Americans. Funded through royalties paid by the energy industry, the LWCF enables sportsmen's access to millions of acres of public lands—and has expanded access to millions more—all while strengthening quality habitat for fish and game.

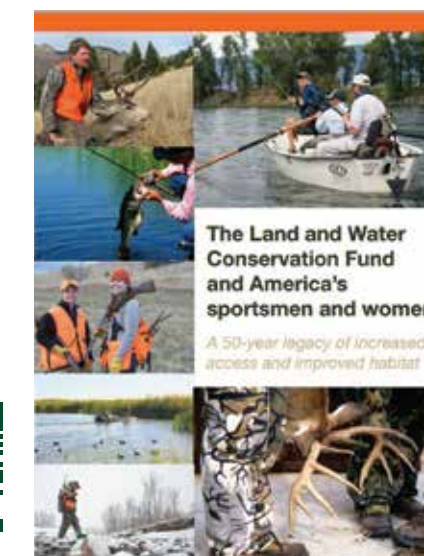
Yet, the LWCF's full potential is far from realized. While authorized at \$900 million annually, the LWCF has been fully funded only once since 1978. In that time, more than \$17 billion in LWCF funds have been diverted elsewhere.

The TRCP and its partners united to celebrate the LWCF's many successes, while also spotlighting its chronic underfunding. In doing so, we instituted a call for change. In April 2014, the TRCP brought together more than 100 western sportsmen's organizations to sign on to a letter urging House and Senate appropriators to prioritize full funding for the LWCF. In September,



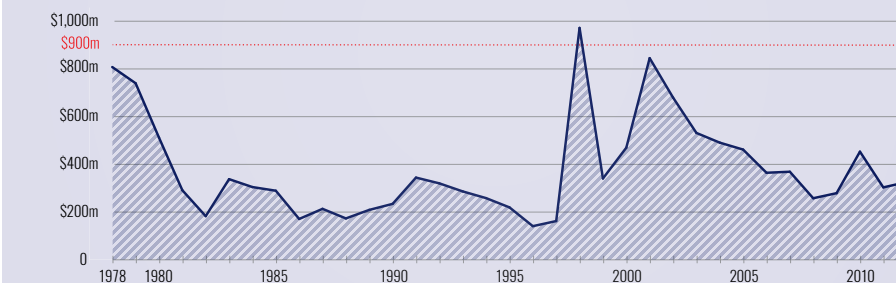
we published a report detailing the importance of the LWCF to sportsmen via case studies stretching from Alaska to Louisiana, where the program has opened up thousands of acres to sportsmen. Backing the report and educational campaign were the nation's most prominent sportsmen's groups: Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Trout Unlimited, to name just a few. Every member of Congress received a copy of the report and the sign-on letter, both of which laid the groundwork for congressional approval of more than \$300 million in funding for the LWCF in the fiscal year 2015 spending bill.

Scan to view the 2014 "Land and Water Conservation Fund and America's sportsmen and women" report



The Land and Water Conservation Fund and America's sportsmen and women
A 50-year legacy of increased access and improved habitat

Since 1978, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been fully funded at \$900 million only once.



Securing BLM Backcountry: Acres That Sportsmen Bank On

Public lands mean big financial bucks for the economic sector that provides services, manufactures sporting goods, and sells products to the nation's millions of outdoor recreationists. America's outdoor recreation economy generates \$646 billion in direct consumer spending annually and supports 6.1 million jobs—numbers that continue to rise every year. Sportsmen play a major role in supporting this growing sector of the economy, and many hunting and fishing businesses are responding to this reality by stepping up to conserve the lands that support their bottom lines.

Public lands also mean big bucks, bulls, roosters, and wild trout. During 2014, the TRCP amplified the voices of sportsmen and business owners advocating in support of backcountry public lands. More than 300 sportsmen's groups and businesses called on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to conserve backcountry public lands that are essential

to hunting, fishing, and maintaining the economic health of the nation.

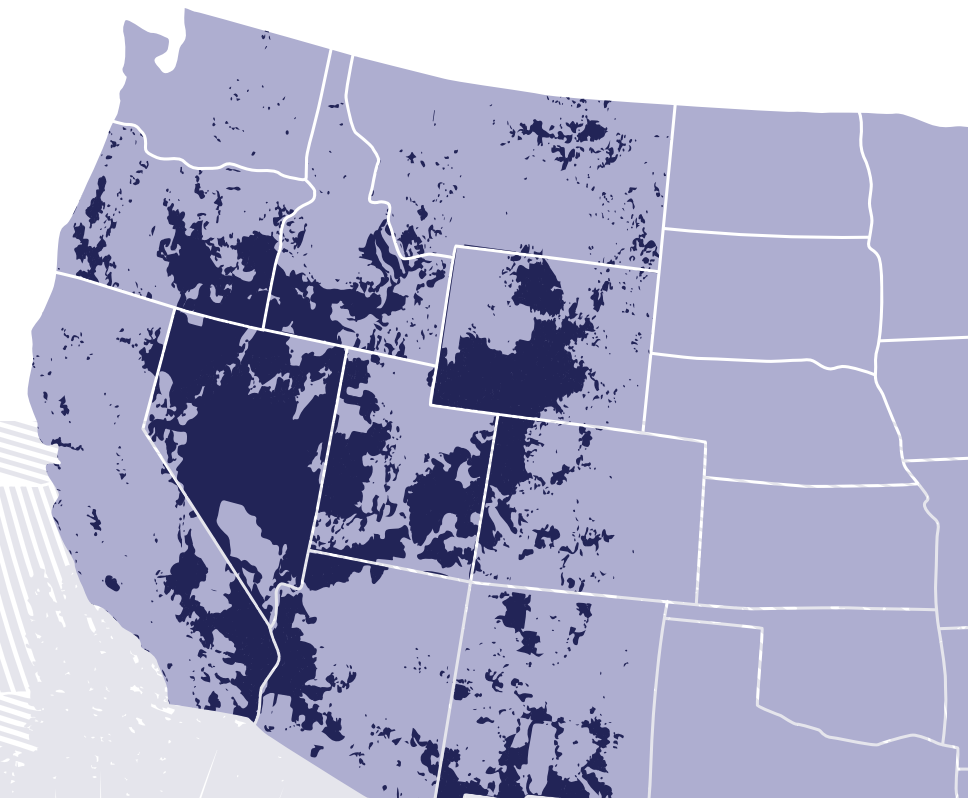
Since 2011, Western sportsmen have been working through BLM public planning processes to shape a new conservation tool for the agency from the bottom up. The tool is a new management designation, called "Backcountry Conservation Areas," designed to conserve, restore, maintain, and ensure access to intact and undeveloped lands with priority habitats and diverse sporting opportunities. Backcountry Conservation Areas were included for the first time in the draft Resource Management Plan for Carson City, Nev., in 2014, and sportsmen are expecting additional backcountry areas to be considered for inclusion in the draft and final land management plans in the coming year.



On a national scale, the BLM is currently revising its planning handbook, which governs the rules for managing all 245 million acres of federal public lands in the West. The TRCP is leading a sportsmen campaign to convince the BLM to officially adopt Backcountry Conservation Area as a management tool through this process, thereby making it available to conserve America's best remaining public lands for hunting and fishing.

245 MILLION ACRES
of public land are managed by the BLM
across the U.S.

■ Dark blue denotes lands managed by the BLM





2014 FINANCIALS



The TRCP is a 501(c)(3) organization and takes great pride in its financial efficiency, transparency, and accountability to donors. We work to use every dollar contributed as efficiently as possible. In 2014, the TRCP spent 82% of your contributions on programs, and we carefully monitor our administrative and fundraising spending to ensure control, transparency, and effective fundraising.



The TRCP has received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator (its highest rating, received by only 6% of the non-profits reviewed), a Gold Seal rating from GuideStar (its highest), and the highest rating from the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.

Statement of Activities

Year ended December 31, 2014

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Foundation Grants	126,500	2,589,997	2,716,497
Donations	273,442	139,840	413,282
Contributions	260,419	73,400	333,819
Jim Range Conservation Fund	1,186	-	1,186
Non-Profits and Associations	-	81,500	81,500
Other Revenue	438,820	130,375	569,195
Interest Income	4,093	-	4,093
Net Assets Released from Restriction	3,391,912	(3,391,912)	-
Total Public Support and Revenue	4,496,372	(376,800)	4,119,572
EXPENSES			
Program Services	3,551,593	-	3,551,593
Supporting Services			
Management and General	431,491	-	431,491
Fundraising	350,895	-	350,895
Total Supporting Services	782,386	-	782,386
Total Expenses	4,333,979	-	4,333,979
Change in Net Assets	162,393	(376,800)	(214,407)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	465,868	1,982,761	2,448,629
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	628,261	1,605,961	2,234,222

Statement of Financial Position

Year ended December 31, 2014

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,644,456
Grants Receivable	408,408
Accounts Receivable	294,416
Prepaid Expenses	103,344
Fixed Assets - Net	40,241
Total Assets	2,490,865
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable/Accrued Expenses	191,090
Accrued Salaries and Vacation	65,553
Total Current Liabilities	256,643
NET ASSETS	
Temporarily Restricted	1,605,961
Board Designated	385,952
Unrestricted	242,309
Total Net Assets	2,234,222
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	2,490,865

82% SPENT ON CONSERVATION PROGRAM SERVICES



18% SPENT ON OVERHEAD

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 Senator Tom Daschle
 Ducks Unlimited
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