Welcome to the “Annual Report Issue” of our Rough Rider Reader.

Seven years ago, Jim Range had the vision of an organization focused on enabling the sportsmen’s community to have a more effective voice in Washington, D.C. He astutely observed that the views of 50 million hunters and anglers too often were overlooked in critical policy issues because sportsmen lacked an insider’s knowledge of how decisions are made and how to get involved. Consequently, he pioneered the creation of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

Early in the planning process, Range recruited me onto the TRCP board. As a lifelong fisheries biologist from Oregon and a committed hunter and angler, I understood immediately how an organization like the TRCP could help sportsmen have a more effective and powerful voice on policy issues. Following the loss of Jim, I was proud to step forward and answer the call of my fellow board members—world-class conservationists all—to accept the role of TRCP board chairman. I am excited and humbled to take on this challenge and follow in my mentor’s footsteps.

This edition of the Rough Rider Reader presents information about the TRCP’s conservation initiatives and our recent accomplishments in the interest of American sportsmen. Important to note is that our group did not achieve our objectives alone. The TRCP is part of a broader community of hunting, fishing and conservation organizations pushing for sustaining huntable and fishable wildlife populations and the habitats on which these populations depend.

Whether working on the Farm Bill in America’s heartland or on energy policy that affects habitats from the Rocky Mountains to the outer continental shelf, the TRCP is there, fighting for fish and wildlife populations. On the following pages you’ll see how we are working on mining law reform, roadless area management, conservation funding in the climate bill, the restoration of Clean Water Act protections to wetlands, sportsmen’s access and our growing Union Sportsmen’s Alliance, all in the name of guaranteeing all Americans quality places to hunt and fish.

The TRCP is proud to demonstrate how the conservation legacy of Theodore Roosevelt is alive and well today and is applied to the most modern conservation challenges of the 21st century. We constantly remind ourselves of how T.R. would do it if he were here today, standing shoulder to shoulder with us in the fight. He would neither waver nor shuffle about, trying to be politically correct. He would tell it like it is, with science as his sword, and he would be looking out for the hunters and anglers of America and their children to come.

The TRCP is funded with grants from conservation foundations and large donations from outstanding conservationists and companies across America who want to give back. We also benefit from small donations from everyday sportsmen who understand what’s at stake in the conservation policy battle currently underway in our nation’s capital.

This year, the TRCP has launched a funding initiative in honor of our founder and visionary called the Jim Range Conservation Fund. Hunters and anglers from across America are sending checks and volunteering to help us fight the battles that will make a long-term difference in our sporting legacy. If you are as excited about the conservation opportunities before us as we are, please join us with your check and let Congress and the president hear your voice. Every day, important actions affecting our wildlife legacy are being pursued in Washington. And the TRCP is here to ensure that sportsmen’s values are represented in these far-reaching decisions.

Check out this special Rough Rider Reader and join us in our campaigns any way you can. T.R. would be smiling; if he were here, and so would Jim Range.

Jim Martin, Chairman of the Board
Conservation Director of the Berkeley Conservation Institute
Jim Range was a driving force in the establishment of the TRCP in 2002, and he continued to provide leadership and direction to the organization until his death in January 2009. In an average week, Jim Range accomplished more for America’s fish, wildlife and sportsmen-conservationists than most do in a lifetime. Through the TRCP, Jim channeled his passion for conservation and his firm belief that all Americans must have access to the pleasure of hunting and fishing. His legacy is the TRCP’s realization of a vision for redefining the role that sportsmen play in natural resource policymaking.

“The TRCP represents the crossroads of Jim’s passions for hunting, fishing and conservation and his career as a policymaker,” says George Cooper, TRCP president and CEO. “His work ensuring a secure future for the TRCP was his way of ensuring the future of America’s sporting traditions.”

While Jim’s life was cut short, his dedication to the conservation of fish and wildlife in support of our nation’s sporting traditions is entrenched in our lives through the TRCP. At the spring meeting of the TRCP board of directors, the Jim Range Conservation Fund was established. The JRCF assures that Jim Range’s vision will continue to influence the way we as a nation use and enjoy our fish and wildlife habitat.

“The TRCP is pleased that the ACES bill would provide substantial new funding to state and federal conservation agencies to implement fish and wildlife adaptation strategies. The bill included a tiered allocation from carbon allowances auction revenue, with fish and wildlife adaptation programs receiving 1 percent from 2012 to 2021, 2 percent from 2022 to 2026 and 4 percent from 2027 to 2050. The average annual funding through 2030 would approach nearly $2 billion for the state-implemented plans. Hunters and anglers already have witnessed changes in fish and game abundance and movement patterns while in the field, and many are encouraged by the bill’s intent to ameliorate the effects of climate change. Scientists expect greenhouse gas pollution to affect fish and wildlife habitat in many ways, including a rise in sea level that inundates existing freshwater wetlands, fluctuating stream flows, evaporation of wetlands (especially the prairie potholes of the Dakotas), the acidification of oceans and a higher frequency of intense storms, floods and droughts.

“The JRCF assures that Jim Range’s vision for the future of the TRCP, which is the best way that any of us can keep Jim’s vision alive,” says Mick Seidl, member of the TRCP board of directors and chair of the development committee.

For questions about the Jim Range Conservation Fund and to learn more about opportunities to support the TRCP’s conservation work, contact Maureen Bates, TRCP vice president of administration, at 202-654-4600 or mbates@trcp.org.

**Living up to the Legacy**

The Jim Range Conservation Fund will help the TRCP continue to achieve its goals that Jim Range believed are crucial to America’s sportmen. Under the direction of the TRCP board of directors, the fund will be used to further the following efforts:

- Enhance the TRCP’s flexibility to seize unexpected opportunities or confront sudden challenges on issues that affect the conservation of fish and wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing;
- Supplement funding to the TRCP’s signature conservation programs in three major areas: Western public lands, agricultural private lands and marine fisheries; and
- Provide general operating support to the TRCP to ensure greater financial security, longevity and the ability to invest in organizational components necessary to move the TRCP to a new level of strategic effectiveness.

**The JRCF Leadership Council**

The use of all funds raised through the Jim Range Conservation Fund will be guided by the TRCP board of directors. A group of Jim Range’s closest friends and colleagues has stepped forward to lead this effort and to ensure that Jim’s conservation legacy endures.

Co-Chairmen
The Honorable Howard H. Baker Jr.
Ted Turner

Council
James A. Baker IV
Charles S. Potter Jr.
John M. Seidl
R. Bruce Turner

Charles "Chop" H. Collins
Matthew B. Connolly Jr.
George Cooper V
David Perkins

**The TRCP Policy Council**

Dr. Steve Williams, Cambria, Wildland Management Institute
Dr. Karen Range, Rapunzel and Utopia Unlimited
Laurie B. Wells, The Wildlife Society
Howard C. CÂNH SUCCESS
Warren EAF, International Hunter Education Association
Sean C. CARMICHAEL, Federation of Fly Fishers
Dave Gruber, Heckend fish and wildlife Foundation
Doris Hines, Potomac Waterkeeper
Bob Harnes, Council Conservation Association
Chris Heyd, Bass/SEP Outdoors
David HEMPEL, Quiet Unlimited
Dr. SCOTT ROWEY, Brook Watersheds of America
George LADY, Public Lands Foundation
Miles PRATTMAN, Wild Bear Foundation
Dave Remaley, Phlox Mountain Hunting

**Survival Adaptation**

As CONGRESS WEIGHS CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION, SPORTSMEN ANTICIPATE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

On the heels of the U.S. House of Representatives’ passage of climate change legislation, sportmen are embracing the prospect of billions of additional dollars for state and federal agencies to safeguard fish and wildlife from the effects of climate change. But approval in the Senate is far from certain.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 passed in the House on June 26. The ACES bill would create the Natural Resources Climate Change Adaptation Fund to provide substantial new funding to state and federal conservation agencies to implement fish and wildlife adaptation strategies. The bill included a tiered allocation from carbon allowances auction revenue, with fish and wildlife adaptation programs receiving 1 percent from 2012 to 2021, 2 percent from 2022 to 2026 and 4 percent from 2027 to 2050. The average annual funding through 2030 would approach nearly $2 billion for the state-implemented plans.

Hunters and anglers already have witnessed changes in fish and game abundance and movement patterns while in the field, and many are encouraged by the bill’s intent to ameliorate the effects of climate change. Scientists expect greenhouse gas pollution to affect fish and wildlife habitat in many ways, including a rise in sea level that inundates existing freshwater wetlands, fluctuating stream flows, evaporation of wetlands (especially the prairie potholes of the Dakotas), the acidification of oceans and a higher frequency of intense storms, floods and droughts.

Despite its positive attributes for fish and wildlife conservation, political controversy dogs the ACES bill because of its “cap and trade” approach, which imposes a limit on greenhouse gas emissions. Proponents of the bill, such as the AFL-CIO, a TRCP partner, believe cap and trade will stimulate an investment in energy efficiency and new jobs in renewable energy technologies. Some groups, however, are concerned that measure could have serious economic consequences. This is the dilemma that senators face as they take action on a climate change bill in September.

The TRCP is pleased that the ACES funding would assist America’s farmers, ranchers, forest-land owners and public-land managers in solving the climate challenge. While applying fish and wildlife friendly conservation practices to the nation’s lands and waters, the program also would enable the sequesterization of atmospheric carbon and improve water quality. We will continue encouraging Congress to ensure that any future climate change legislation will include safeguards for fish and wildlife populations that sportmen everywhere treasure.

—By Tom Franklin, TRCP Senior Vice President and Certified Wildlife Biologist

**Washington Watch**
CONSERVING WHAT’S BEST IN THE WEST

TRCP INITIATIVES: CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, MINING LAW REFORM, ROADLESS

Federal public lands in the West always have hosted a wide range of uses and activities. Theodore Roosevelt conserved 230 million acres during his presidency yet cited ongoing conflicts with lobbyists representing timber, mining and grazing interests who used state and local politicians to generate public opposition. Then, as now, there is a need for sportsmen-conservationists to ensure that these vital fish and wildlife habitats are developed in a responsible, science-based manner.

The TRCP launched the Center for Western Lands in February 2009, increasing the TRCP’s effectiveness in conserving public-lands fish and wildlife habitat and American sporting traditions. Theodore Roosevelt conserved 230 million acres during his presidency yet cited ongoing conflicts with lobbyists representing timber, mining and grazing interests who used state and local politicians to generate public opposition. Then, as now, there is a need for sportsmen-conservationists to ensure that these vital fish and wildlife habitats are developed in a responsible, science-based manner.

The TRCP has made inroads into reforming the 1872 Mining Law with provisions that end mining’s priority status on public lands and conserve important wildlife habitat and sporting opportunities. Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), a longstanding critic of mining, has stated his support of passage of such legislation as early as 2010, and CWL staff is mobilizing sportsmen in promoting revisions to the nation’s most archaic natural-resources legislation.

Guided by the recently formed Roadless Initiative Working Group, CWL staff is coordinating sportsmen to advocate for strong national roadless area conservation through regulations that moderate backcountry development. In Idaho, CWL staff organized sportsmen to improve the Kiholo Roadless Rule and successfully increased conserved habitat for more than 6 million acres. CWL staff also is actively involved in development of the Colorado Roadless Rule, currently in draft form, to conserve more than 4 million acres. And through its Banking on the Backcountry campaign, the TRCP has engaged hundreds of sportsmen-focused businesses and groups in influencing the management of 49 million acres of national forest roadless areas.

Finally, the CWL is working with Congress to ensure that climate change and energy legislation fund state agencies to address the impacts of climate change safeguard on fish and wildlife. The TRCP promotes the use of “sustainable wildlife planning,” an approach that will guarantee places to hunt and fish for generations to come.

—By Kate McKalip

TIM CRAWFORD

Belgrade, Mont.

Rancher, Big-Game Hunter, Conservation Advocate

I suppose the real origin of my interest in the outdoors came from my grandfather reading stories of the American Frontier, James Fenimore Cooper—those sorts of stories. That was how the real seed got planted. I continued to participate in hunting and fishing and seriously became involved in conservation issues.

Here at my ranch, my wife says I ranch for wildlife. That’s not really true, but I believe that you need to manage your lands in a balanced way. We always leave some extra grain after the harvest for the wildlife, which has its hunting benefits, too.

I first became involved in the TRCP when my good friend Ken Barrett introduced me to Jim Range, and they hounded me into getting involved. I’ve always thought that hunters and anglers take the resource for granted. It’s easy for them to do at rural, drink beer and complain about license fees, but it’s nearly impossible to get the average sportsman to contact their elected officials to urge them to manage public assets to benefit the public usage of the land. The TRCP has been able to do that, especially in the area of mining conservation. The average sportsman has no idea how terrible mining can be to the land and water.

—As told to Brian McClintock

JANE DANOWITZ

Washington, D.C.

Senior Officer

Pew Environment Group

Director

Mining Law Reform

Why are you and your foundation interested in the TRCP’s work?

The Pew Charitable Trusts, with the Turner Foundation, was an original funder of the TRCP. Since the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt, sportsmen and women have been critical to conservation efforts in this country. Given the threats to our environment today, we thought it critical to facilitate their participation in shaping new policies to provide long-term protections for our public lands.

What do you think is the most important conservation issue facing hunters, anglers and outdoor recreationalists today?

So many critical conservation issues must be addressed that they’re hard to rank. Global warming, unchecked energy development, mining and sprawl are just a few on a list, which, unfortunately, gets longer every day. In my view, what’s most important is for everyone who cares about the outdoors to be actively engaged in promoting public policies that protect it. That means communicating to your members of Congress and other elected leaders that you want valuable fish and wildlife habitat protected.

What are your hopes for the future of the U.S. roadless area policy?

A game-changing victory was secured recently when the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which protects roughly 60 million acres of undeveloped national forestland. We hope that the Obama administration will fulfill its pledge to ensure that this landmark policy remains the law of the land. The TRCP has been critical to our success to date in protecting national forest roadless areas. But the continued clout that the TRCP and hunters and anglers bring to the table can ensure these treasured lands are protected for generations to come.
Conserving your local fish and wildlife habitat

TRCP INITIATIVES: ACCESS, FARM BILL, HIGHWAYS & HABITAT AND WILDLANDS

Much of the most vital fish and wildlife habitat in this country is found on land owned by ranchers, farmers and other private citizens. Whether a prairie pothole on a South Dakota ranch used by migratory birds, a roadside waterway that empties into a native brook trout stream in Pennsylvania or a bobwhite quail nesting field in Texas, private-lands habitats are relied upon by fish and wildlife, regardless of where they are located and who owns them. The TRCP established the Private Lands Working Group has remained busy providing input and monitoring implementation of established programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program and defining the details of the newly created Open Fields program, which the TRCP helped develop and which provides incentives to landowners for allowing sportsmen access.

The TRCP’s work to restore lost protections of the Clean Water Act that conserve vital wetlands and waters also received a victory early in 2009 when the Clean Water Restoration Act was successfully advanced in a key Senate committee.

“The congress is very active right now working on legislation that directly affects hunting and fishing,” says Geoff Mullins, initiative manager for the TRCP CAL. “If we prove the demographics of those who hunt and fish, if we don’t educate a younger generation, we will end up losing the battle on all the important conservation fronts. Luckily, I think that Secretary Ken Salazar understands the importance of bringing younger people outdoors. At the end of the day, ensuring that future generations are hunting and fishing is what conservation is all about.”

This past year, the TRCP has educated sportsmen and federal policymakers alike on many legislative issues important to conservation. Since its success in May 2008 in ensuring passage of an updated Farm Bill, the TRCP Agriculture and Wildlife Working Group has remained busy providing input and monitoring implementation of established programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program and defining the details of the newly created Open Fields program, which the TRCP helped develop and which provides incentives to landowners for allowing sportsmen access.

My first real exposure to hunting was going to a duck camp, Winous Point, off the Sandusky Bay in Ohio, when I was growing up. I am the fifth generation in my family to belong to this club. Since World War II, a wildlife biologist has served as superintendent of Winous Point, and it was there that I learned the importance of conservation as it relates to hunting.

I have continued to quail hunt in Georgia, waterfowl hunt in Louisiana and annually visit Winous Point. These experiences led me to publish the Bird Hunting Report, a newsletter for the traveling bird hunter, and volunteer on the boards of the Civil War Preservation Trust, the Land Trust Alliance and Ducks Unlimited’s Wetlands America Trust.

I first heard of the TRCP through Jim Range, who I met on a bird hunt in Georgia. I always thought that outdoor groups were too polarized, and Jim did a brilliant job in bringing groups with a narrow focus on preserving America’s natural resources and the more hardcore hunting and fishing groups to the same table in the name of conservation. Bringing together that full spectrum of groups that relate to hunting and fishing, he was able to focus them on important conservation issues. The bipartisan strategy that the TRCP has established is the only way to achieve long-term success on these issues.

This conservation work will be lost if we don’t improve the demographics of those who hunt and fish. If we don’t educate a younger generation, we will end up losing the battle on all the important conservation fronts. Luckily, I think that Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar understands the importance of bringing younger people outdoors.

At the end of the day, ensuring that future generations are hunting and fishing is what conservation is all about.

—As told to Brian McClintock
**Ensuring Effective Management of our Saltwater Resources and Angling Traditions**

TRCP Initiative: Fisheries

Our ocean and coastal resources face an increasing number of proposed activities and pressures—including wind and wave energy, liquefied natural gas, gas terminals, desalination plants, oil exploration, aquaculture, recreational activities, shipping and commercial fishing. Current management practices, however, are usually inadequate to assure the long-term health and support the range of sporting traditions that rely on them.

In 2009, the TRCP’s Center for Marine Fisheries set an ambitious goal of better mobilizing and engaging our partners and affiliates toward balancing these multiple and competing interests. Chief among these efforts entails continuing to educate and inform our nation’s elected leaders and officials on the important role of recreational saltwater fishing in our nation’s overall economy. The TRCP and its coalition allies have taken these recommendations to key authorities in Washington and at the regional fisheries council levels to urge endorsement before development occurs.

Congress asked the TRCP to testify on behalf of recreational anglers, and the CAST principles were introduced as part of that briefing. Currently, TRCP partners are analyzing and commenting on energy legislation that has incorporated some of these guidelines and are working with the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure that crucial fisheries habitat is safeguarded to support fish populations as development occurs—both in our oceans and on our shores.

Whether it is weighing in on new policies shaping offshore energy development or providing timely input and specific recommendations on implementation of other new federal policies that stand to affect saltwater recreational fishing, the TRCP through its Angling 4 Oceans coalition stands ready to continue building the effectiveness of the recreational angling voice in marine fisheries policymaking.

“...Our national policy regarding our marine resources reflects 30-plus years of commercial exploitation,” says Tom Franklin, TRCP senior vice president. “This has led to repeated boom-and-bust cycles in the federally regulated fisheries of our oceans and shores as a catalyst for economic growth, and it drove headfirst into the emerging public policy debate.”

In early 2009, the Angling 4 Oceans coalition learned that the new administration intended to tap energy resources from our oceans and shores as a catalyst for economic growth, and it dove headfirst into the emerging public policy debate.

The coalition recognizes the need for both renewable and nonrenewable domestic energy production from the outer continental shelf and our coastal regions. Yet its members have seen the undesirable effects of unplanned and unchecked energy development occurring on our onshore public lands, and these leaders believe strongly that energy development derived from the country’s marine resources can and must be conducted responsibly to conserve the nation’s fish and wildlife legacy for the benefit of all Americans. That’s why the coalition developed its CAST principles—Conservation, Allocation, Science and Transparency—that spell out specific recommendations for federal decision makers to safeguard fish and wildlife resources and recreational angling opportunities as they look to the oceans for sources of energy. The TRCP and its coalition allies have taken these recommendations to key authorities in Washington and at the regional fisheries council levels to urge endorsement before development occurs.

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During our time on the water, my family and I have experienced changes to the marine environment that deeply concern us. Once-plentiful Monterey Bay rockfish populations(520,239),(717,337) have declined, resulting in extensive closures for both recreational and commercial anglers in recent years. And, of course, our recreational and commercial salmon fishing has been closed for the past two years in California.

Most fishing and marine environmental organizations have a common interest in “more fish.” These two groups do work constructively together on specific issues; however, in some cases friction can result. In the past 30 years, recreational fishing has done more for marine conservation than generally is known by the marine environmental community.

In some fisheries, the numbers of commercial bycatch of popular recreational fishing species outnumber those fish caught by recreational anglers. It is important to note that not all commercial fishing is wasteful, but the commercial fishing focus of the National Marine Fisheries Service has led to poor management of some fisheries and popular-gamefish species, such as bluefin tuna.

To do the most good for the common interest of “more fish,” these groups must work together. And the TRCP is in an ideal position to facilitate this collaboration.

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Randy Repass

Monterey Bay, Calif.

West marine owner, avid boater and angler, Saltwater Conservation Enthusiast

I am a serious boater and a casual angler. After college, I lived aboard and raced sailboats and fished for salmon and rockfish in Monterey Bay, Calif. My family and I own a 42-foot lobster yacht, which we cruise and fish in the Pacific Northwest. We also own a 65-foot passagemaking sailboat that we sailed through the South Pacific to Australia.

During our time on the water, my family and I have experienced changes to the marine environment that deeply concern us. Once-plentiful Monterey Bay rockfish populations have declined, resulting in extensive closures for both recreational and commercial anglers in recent years. And, of course, our recreational and commercial salmon fishing has been closed for the past two years in California.

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As told to Brian McClintock

**Featured Rough Rider**

**Mike Nussman**

Washington, D.C.

President and CEO

American Sportfishing Association

Why are you personally and through the ASA involved in the TRCP’s work?

My involvement with the TRCP began with TRCP co-founder Jim Range. Jim made it his life’s mission to ensure that our outdoors was conserved for everyone to enjoy, and he let nothing stand in his way. Jim brought me into the organization, and I’m honored to be a TRCP board member and to represent the sportfishing industry’s interests.

In your opinion, what are the most important conservation issues facing saltwater anglers today?

The Obama administration is focused on rebuilding our marine fish stocks. This is a laudable goal. Without good science and sound data to inform their decisions, however, it’s only going to be guesswork. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service has done a poor job of collecting recreational saltwater fishing data. Since its inception, the NOAA and NMFS have focused on commercial fisheries, with recreational fishing as an afterthought at best, which is no surprise since NOAA is a part of the Department of Commerce. This is despite the fact, as affirmed by data published on NOAA’s Web site, that although recreational saltwater fishing has only a 3-percent share of the total take of saltwater fish, from a jobs perspective, commercial and recreational saltwater fishing are pretty close in terms of employment. Put simply, if your focus is commercial fishing, recreational fishing is bound to be pretty far down the list. On the other hand, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are committed to developing the next generation of natural resources managers through the new Office of Youth. One way they plan to accomplish this is to teach young people to hunt and fish.

**How do you envision the TRCP playing a role in the future of marine fisheries conservation?**

If past results are any indication of future action, the NOAA and NMFS will have a difficult time focusing their attention on recreational saltwater anglers. We have argued for better data and better management practices for years. The ASA, TRCP and other organizations worked cooperatively to include provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization to vastly improve data collection, which is the only way we can improve the conservation of our saltwater resources.
Providing a Conservation Voice to Union Members

If you are a union member and a sportsman-conservationist, you belong. That always has been the philosophy behind the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance. In early 2009, the USA put that concept into words through its “You Belong” member recruitment campaign, and in its wake support for the union-dedicated club is growing rapidly.

July 2009 marked the USA’s second anniversary, and the club is growing rapidly. In its first two years, the USA “persuaded that hunting and fishing are not a luxury but an essential part of life for many union members,” says Fred Myers, USA executive director. “The USA is proud to connect thousands of union members, including a record 1,256 Cordell for the USA, with two consecutive months of 1,000-member gains in individual members, including a record 1,256 signings up in June. Since the beginning of the year, the USA has averaged 900 new members per month, compared to an average of 480 members per month during the same time period in 2008.

“Though many Americans are feeling the effects of difficult economic times, the USA’s record recruitment numbers suggest that hunting and fishing are not a luxury but an essential part of life for many union members,” says Fred Myers, USA executive director. “The USA is proud to connect thousands of union members, including a record 1,256 members and renewing 65. And in June, 152 shooters participated in the first-ever USA Capital Area Sporting Clays Shoot, which raised approximately $30,000, after expenses.

“The USA’s growth in the past year has been nothing short of phenomenal,” says George Cooper, TRCP president and CEO. “As more and more union members join the USA and become TRCP partners, they strengthen the unity of sportsmen in critical conservation issues. The hard work of our terrific staff and our union and corporate partners has made these record achievements possible.”

By Kate Czyniarski

The TRCP is dedicated to the stewardship of the American landscape, helping to expand fish and wildlife habitat and increasing public access to quality hunting and fishing.

Unions are about a better quality of life for working men and women, not only in the workplace but also in the outdoors, where millions of union members enjoy hunting and fishing. Today’s union members are finding that access to lands and waters for them, their children and grandchildren is becoming increasingly restricted. To help answer that need, the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance was founded. While union members enjoy many benefits when they join the USA, their greatest benefit is that the USA and the TRCP strive to protect and maintain public access to quality hunting and fishing.

Why are you involved with the TRCP and the USA?

The TRCP is dedicated to the stewardship of the American landscape, helping to expand fish and wildlife habitat and increasing public access to quality hunting and fishing.

We need to protect existing public lands, expand public lands, reverse wetland loss and maintain proven programs that protect wildlife habitat like the Conservation Reserve Program, the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program.

Why is conservation important?

It is our responsibility to be the stewards of all that man has been granted us and rob future generations of the treasures that rightfully belong to them. I believe it is my duty to help others understand the principle of protecting our natural resources so that those future generations may enjoy them.

Why did you get introduced to hunting?

My father taught me about hunting at an early age. I started taking hunting excursions with him for grouse, pheasant and squirrels and began target shooting when I was 8 years old. I was accompanying him on duck hunts by the time I was 12. My father, now 87, no longer hunts, but he was still proudly taking to the field for ringnecks pheasants when he was 85 years old.

How can we protect the USA?

The USA is proud to connect thousands of union members, including a record 1,256 members and renewing 65. And in June, 152 shooters participated in the first-ever USA Capital Area Sporting Clays Shoot, which raised approximately $30,000, after expenses.
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**December 31, 2008**

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## STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,482,587</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| NET ASSETS | December 31, 2008 | 1,714,854 |

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**2008 DONORS**

**FOUNDERING ROUGH RIDERS**

- Donors of $500,000 or more
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**2008 STAFF**

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  - John Tubbs
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- **Vice President and USA Director**
  - Mike D’Oliveira
- **Director, Center for Western Lands**
  - Cary Ridder
- **Executive Assistant**
  - Kellie Stone

**Life in the Open**

- Episode aired on season 3 of Escape to the Wild.
- Hosted by Ken Barrett (left) with Maj. Brent Cummings during a Montana upland bird hunt. This hunt will air on season 5 of Life in the Open.
Pen-raised birds provide great shooting opportunities for bird hunters, but hunting wild bobwhite quail is a true adventure

By Ken Barrett

Lord Alfred Tennyson described the wild as “nature, red in tooth and claw.” I’m not sure if Tennyson was a bird hunter, or if pen-raised birds existed in 1849 when his poem was published, but anyone who has hunted pen-raised birds versus wild birds knows exactly what “red in tooth and claw” means.

As bobwhite quail habitat and populations continue to shrink, the opportunities to hunt wild birds become scarce. Luckily, through filming for the TRCP’s Life in the Open, I had two chances in the past year to chase wild bobs: first, in one of the last bailiwicks of bobwhites, south Texas, and, later, in the name of science, at Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy in Tallahassee, Fla.

Missing is bird hunting’s version of catch and release.

For those accustomed to pen-raised birds, the switch to hunting wild bobwhites can be striking. Pen-raised birds amble off through the air like so many vintage biplanes, while their wild brethren scatter in all directions like turbo-charged fighter jets. I can hit the pen-raised birds with regularity, while wild birds often leave me with egg on my face. At my age, however, the only thing better than missing a bird is missing one. Missing is bird hunting’s version of catch and release.

Mick Seidl, TRCP board member, hosted me on his lease on the famed Kenedy Ranch next to the Gulf of Mexico for my inaugural bobwhite hunt of the season. Quail numbers were at a record high in 2008, and we kicked up enough birds to provide us with plenty of shooting. Joining Mick and me was Jeff Reh of Beretta, who cut his wing-shooting teeth on wild quail as a boy, and he quickly showed us how to do it. The wide-open landscape made for easy shooting with my Beretta Silver Pigeon 20-gauge over-under. In addition to quail, south Texas hosts abundant wildlife, including javelina, some head-spinning whitetails and nilgai—a large species of antelope native to India, introduced to Texas 70-plus years ago.

While the Texas trip was for pleasure, my hunt at Tall Timbers in Florida was for “scientific purposes.” A preeminent bobwhite quail research center, Tall Timbers is hunted only a few times per year and “for scientific collecting purposes only.” I always am happy to contribute to wildlife research.

Dave Perkins, Tall Timbers chairman, TRCP board member and vice chairman of Orvis, arranged the hunt with our guide and host Dr. Bill Palmer, one of Tall Timber’s head researchers. Though I consider myself a good upland shot, those little brown buzz bombs of the Florida tangles whipped past my eyes more times than I care to admit. I barely hit one third of the birds I shot at, while Dave seemed to scratch down a bird or two whenever a covey flushed. While I blame my new progressive-lens glasses for my poor shooting, I learned more about the lives and natural history of bobwhites in three days than in all my years of hunting them previously. For instance, more than one bobwhite hen will lay eggs in a single nest, and 75 percent of a local bobwhite population can succumb to raptors in as little as six weeks.

Catch the Action

Both the Texas and Florida hunts will be featured on season 5 of Life in the Open, produced by Orion Multimedia, beginning in October on Versus. Tune in to watch as Ken practices “catch-and-release quail hunting.”