

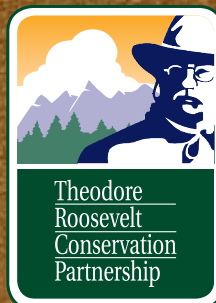


Rough Rider Reader



PHOTO BY DUSAN SMETANA.COM

A QUARTERLY REPORT FOR OUR INNER CIRCLE • FALL 2010



WWW.TRCP.ORG

Getting to Know our President and CEO

FOR WHIT FOSSBURGH THE PATH TO CONSERVATION BEGAN TWO MILES DOWN A DIRT ROAD



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH STORER

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What led you to a career in conservation?

My father worked for the conservation department in New York state, and we lived two miles down a dirt road with no neighbors. For fun, my brother and I played in the woods, often fishing in the trout stream that ran through our property. After four years of studying government and international relations in college, I still felt I knew more about forests, fish and wildlife than geopolitics, so I went to forestry school and finally got formal training in natural resource issues.

What makes the mission of the TRCP unique and relevant?

Sportsmen were the driving force behind many of America's first conservation accomplishments. Over time, the voice of sportsmen became more diffuse and less powerful – we have groups that fight for ducks, pheasants, mule deer, wild sheep, trout and just about every game species. The TRCP brings together these diverse voices to develop and promote science-based solutions to the issues facing our fish and wildlife. Our organization reaches out and brings new voices – ranging from the AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions to local rod and gun clubs – into the conservation arena. This is uniquely TRCP.

What goals do you have for the TRCP for the coming years?

First, I want to make sure the TRCP has the infrastructure in place to be a strong and vibrant organization well into the future. Second, I want to help our smaller partner groups by providing services and funding to make them more effective. For our larger partners, I'd like to direct new supporters and resources to their key issues. Finally, I'd like to bring nontraditional voices into the conservation debates.

The TRCP recently launched a special donor program, the Bull Moose Circle. Can you talk about the program?

The Bull Moose Circle is the TRCP's premier giving program and is composed of people who care about fish and wildlife and have the ability to make a \$1,000 annual commitment. The BMC will give the TRCP a pool of flexible funds to use whenever and wherever it's needed – allowing us to respond quickly and decisively when opportunities arise.

Speak about the positive impact of donors on helping the TRCP accomplish its mission.

Without donors, from a \$35 member to a major foundation, guaranteeing you a place to hunt and fish would be an empty slogan. Our staff is the best in the business, but they have families, mortgages and other needs. None of them has taken a vow of poverty. Our donors pay the staff's salaries, allow us to send monthly newsletters and reports to Congress, and ensure that we hire the best of the best on each of our initiatives. I'm proud that more than 80 cents of every dollar given to the TRCP goes directly to conservation programs – not fundraising and administration. Without our donors, this would not be possible.

I want to thank you for your dedication to American conservation, to the policy issues that matter most to sportsmen and to the TRCP's vision for our outdoor heritage.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH STORER

Join the Bull Moose Circle

The Bull Moose Circle is the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership's community for members who give \$1,000 or more annually to the TRCP. Bull Moose Circle members enjoy many exceptional benefits, including the following:

- Special premium offerings from top outdoor retailers such as Orvis
- Invitations to the TRCP's Capitol Conservation Dinner and other special events
- Exclusive travel opportunities



Without the support of trusted and committed individuals such as Bull Moose Circle members, the TRCP's mission of guaranteeing all Americans a quality place to hunt and fish would not be possible. Join today at www.trcp.org or by contacting Meg McKinnon, development manager, at 202-639-TRCP (8727), ext. 24 or mmckinnon@trcp.org.

Michael Gewirz on why he is a Bull Moose Circle member...

As a sportsman I am constantly seeking ways to connect with the outdoors – whether I do this with a farm-pond cane-pole, fly-rod, a Daisy Red Ryder or a shotgun is simply a means to an end. It's not the guns or rods, but the people and places that keep me coming back.



MICHAEL GEWIRZ AND HIS DAUGHTER, LILY.

Birds and fish do help make these experiences special, and thanks to the work of the TRCP and other groups I've learned that we need to conserve quality places for our fish and wildlife to thrive. Now that my children are old enough to hunt, it's becoming increasingly important to me that they have the same experiences – looking, listening and anticipating – that I have benefitted from so incredibly. By supporting the TRCP, this desire becomes a reality.

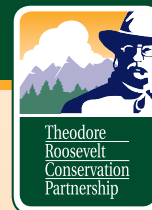
Our Gifts to You!

To show our appreciation for helping the TRCP guarantee all Americans a place to hunt and fish, please choose one of the following as our gift to you. Of course, you can always decline the gifts and have 100% of your gift go directly to conservation.



\$1,000 – Limited Edition TRCP Orvis solid maple gunning box

This solid maple, cherry-stained USA-made gunning box will be a welcome addition to any room. A removable top tray hides two gun-mount stand-ups that lock in place when the tray is replaced. With five compartments up top and five in the drawer underneath, you will have ample room for all your accessories and cleaning supplies. The drawers are constructed with quality dovetail joinery, and the outside is finished with brass pulls and handles. To top it off, your gunning box is adorned with a solid brass plaque engraved with TRCP. This will certainly be an heirloom piece. 19½" L x 12¼" W x 8" H. Retail: \$479.



\$1,000 – Limited Edition TRCP Hydros rod

Winner of the Midcurrent.com 2009 Best of Show award, Orvis's new Hydros rods use the same graphite and scrim technologies as the award-winning Orvis Helios rods. Incredibly lightweight, the Hydros exaggerates the delicacy and feel needed for the smallest dry flies while strong enough to easily handle big weighted nymphs and streamers as well as the big fish they target. Our friends at Orvis will not only inscribe your rod with TRCP, but they will also personalize your rod with your name in silver lettering. Choose between 8'6", 4-piece, Tip-Flex for 5 wt. lines or 9'5", 4 piece, Tip-Flex for 9 wt. lines. Retail: \$495.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Every donation of \$35 or more will be thanked with the TRCP's camo hat and bumper sticker.



555 11th St. NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20004

Initiative Spotlight

THE TRCP CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE: FIGHTING POLITICAL INDIFFERENCE WITH EDUCATION, ADVOCACY



PHOTO BY DUSANSMETANA.COM

As the TRCP point person for climate issues, I've seen a definitive shift in the public's attitude toward climate change over the years. Now more than ever before, people appreciate the importance of creating strategies to address the effects of climate change. But if the general public accepts that climate change is real and the need for greenhouse-gas reduction is compelling, then why are we still struggling to pass national climate legislation in Congress?

In the past two years, more than a dozen climate-focused bills have been introduced in the House and Senate – none of which passed into law. The experts analyzing the scientific evidence are smart and the policymakers drafting comprehensive legislation are informed, but the political will in Congress simply isn't there.

WHAT IS THE TRCP DOING NOW IN THE FACE OF THIS LEGISLATIVE IMPASSE?

The TRCP is working to educate hunters and anglers about the impacts of climate change on fish and wildlife. Climatic alterations currently under way could have dramatic results, ranging from the decline of mule deer populations to the disappearance of greenback cutthroat trout, and have profound implications for hunting and fishing.

While interacting with Western sportsmen, TRCP field staff stresses the importance of state wildlife action plans as a tool for responding to climate change. These plans outline adaptive strategies that help fish and wildlife survive a changing environment and remain our nation's core program for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. We are on the road and in the field with rod and gun clubs and engaging in grassroots education that will build a larger constituency of informed sportsmen – sportsmen who are willing to support landscape-level efforts that will sustain our outdoor traditions.

We are arming hunters, anglers, advocates and elected officials with knowledge and counting on them to become allies in our cause. TRCP supporters have repeatedly proven that they will stand up for what is right for fish and wildlife and our sporting heritage. Our on-the-ground work with individual hunters and anglers will help result in meaningful legislation to conserve our shared resources throughout the global climate changes that lie ahead.

—Bill Geer

Director, TRCP Center for Western Lands



Washington Watch

RETAINING SPORTSMEN'S PRIORITIES FOLLOWING THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM FRANKLIN

With the midterm elections behind us, Americans are settling into a new political climate that will shape the direction of D.C. policy for the next two years. Despite these changes, the challenges faced by hunters and anglers will remain, and the TRCP will continue to work with members of Congress to address these challenges. Specifically,

the TRCP will focus on a new Farm Bill, climate and energy legislation and the Highway Bill overhaul up for debate in the 112th Congress.

The TRCP will continue to engage the Obama administration and Congress to preserve and expand on the 2008 Farm Bill. The 2008 bill largely funded programs that improve hunting access, increase the amount of private lands enrolled in conservation and habitat improvement programs and much more. The TRCP will ensure that programs such as Open Fields that help sustain ample hunting and fishing opportunities on our nation's farmlands and ranchlands are sustained and improved upon in the 2012 Farm Bill.

In the last five years alone, more than 40 million acres of public lands in the West have been leased for oil and gas drilling. Natural gas development is expanding on private lands in the

eastern United States as well, and the demand for renewable and alternative energy projects is growing (see *Field Notes* on page 8). The TRCP will hold government agencies accountable, ensuring that they assess the impacts that expanding energy development may have on fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Additionally, the TRCP will hold Congress to its promise of developing offshore drilling reforms in the wake of the Gulf oil spill. The TRCP will continue to promote programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund that effectively use fees from energy production to preserve fish and wildlife habitat and ensure wildlife populations can adapt to climate change.

The Surface Transportation Act, also known as the Highway Bill, maintains the nation's transportation infrastructure and has the potential to effect dramatic changes on fish and game populations prized by sportsmen. The TRCP will focus on minimizing the impacts that roads, bridges and public transit infrastructure may have on fish and wildlife and habitat. Additionally, the TRCP will work to ensure these projects are held accountable for the impacts to fish and wildlife and that new development plans provide access for hunting and fishing.

These and other issues important to hunters and anglers will remain priorities for the TRCP in the 112th Congress as we position ourselves front and center to provide a strong and consistent voice on behalf of our nation's sportsmen.

—Tom Franklin, TRCP Director of Policy and Government Relations and Certified Wildlife Biologist



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH STORER

Partner in Focus

FEATURED PARTNER

TOM TROTTER

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE, AFL-CIO
WASHINGTON, D.C.



Can you inform us about your work?

I help workers achieve what everyone who goes to work wants: a fair wage; affordable, quality health care; a secure and dignified retirement; and a safe workplace. I want to ensure hard-working Americans a good quality of life – including the ability to enjoy the outdoors. To accomplish this, I advocate and promote workers' rights and sportsmen's conservation issues before Congress, the administration and other policymakers.

Are there any specific issues the TRCP works on to which you are particularly attached?

The TRCP's mission to guarantee access for sportsmen hits home with me and a lot of folks who don't have access to private hunting or fishing areas. Everyone should be able to find a place to hunt or fish in their region that provides them high-quality sporting opportunities.

Why is it important to involve sportsmen and union members in conservation efforts?

A large number of union members are also sportsmen, so it's no surprise that they want to be included in the process of preserving the values and traditions that are part of our heritage. Union members understand that if we want to ensure that critical habitat, special hunting grounds and productive fishing holes will be around for future generations, we must plan carefully and take action today.

How did you get involved with the TRCP's work?

I was asked if I would bring some of my advocacy skills and political connections to help increase the TRCP's presence on Capitol Hill. As a lifelong hunter and angler, of course I said yes. Working with the TRCP was one of the more rewarding experiences of my career, and I look forward to continuing my work as part of the TRCP's Policy Council.

Do you have a favorite outdoor pursuit?

I am always looking for new adventures, but it's hard to beat a good morning in the duck blind or fishing for wall-eye in northern Minnesota.

In what direction would you like to see the TRCP move going forward?

The TRCP is perfectly positioned to expand its role in the conservation movement. The TRCP is fortunate to have many experienced, dedicated and well-regarded people on its staff who love what they do and believe in the goals of the organization. With new President and CEO Whit Fosburgh now bringing his decades of conservation leadership to the TRCP, the future looks bright indeed for the TRCP.

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ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOM TROTTER

FIND TRCP ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER



Do you want to connect with other sportsmen and conservationists? Do you have questions for our policy issue experts and field reps? Do you want access to the most up-to-date news stories affecting the sportsmen-conservationist community? Join the TRCP's social media network on Facebook and Twitter.

Go to <http://www.facebook.com> and search for "Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership"

Or follow us on Twitter by going to <http://twitter.com/thetrpc> and clicking "follow."

Howdy FROM THE HIGH LONESOME RANCH

The 2010 TRCP media summit brought together the best and brightest in outdoor media to hunt, fish and discuss conservation policy issues important to sportsmen. This year's event would not have been possible without the help of our sponsors including Paul Vahldiek and the folks at The High Lonesome Ranch. Additionally, Orvis, American Sportfishing Association, Sportsman Channel, Platte River Basin Environments Inc., Patagonia, Winchester Ammunition, Dry Fly Distilling, New Belgium Brewing Company and Costa all contributed to making the 2010 event a huge success.

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Please call Meg McKinnon, development manager, at 202-639-TRCP (8727), ext. 24, or e-mail her at mmckinnon@trcp.org.



Field Notes

PLUGGING IN' SPORTSMEN TO THE ISSUE OF TRANSMISSION LINES



PHOTO BY STEVE BELINDA

When you flip the light switch in your home you don't usually think about how a lamp works. And you probably don't regard the various transmission lines as you drive by them on your way to work.

Well, I guarantee that if you saw a map of all the new, old and proposed transmission lines in the United States you would most certainly take note. What you would see is a complex web resembling the mess of tangled fishing line in the bottom of your tackle box. When I look at this map – as I've been doing for the past 10 months as part of the TRCP energy transmission project – I see a colorful mess or a brilliant abstract work of art. It depends on the day. These maps show the routes new transmission lines will take as our nation tries every feasible way to harness alternative energy sources in the midst of an energy crisis.

What lies beneath this mapping exercise is a complex and subtle set of consequences – many of which remain unseen – for sportsmen. Energy transmission lines pose a growing threat to key areas of fish and wildlife habitat. If we don't proceed with the notion that our fish and wildlife resources are at stake, these projects will come at a high cost to our sporting traditions.

The push for new forms of power generation in this country is outpacing the research and planning that can ensure that our lands and natural resources are responsibly managed in the process. This is where the TRCP's involvement begins.

As part of our energy transmission study, set to be released shortly, we ask the question: What price are we willing to pay for our energy?

The reality is that no form of energy production comes without a cost. Industrial-scale wind and solar seem like promising ideas, but is producing power in a sensitive elk corridor in Oregon, Colorado or Wyoming and sending it 1,000 miles to homes in California worth the risks to our wildlife and outdoor traditions?

America must find ways to produce reliable, affordable clean energy, and the TRCP is

working to ensure this is done in accordance with current science and with the conservation of important fish and wildlife habitat in mind. We have the scientific capacity and good ol' American ingenuity to produce power without sacrificing our irreplaceable natural resources. Energy policy must reflect the importance of conserving these for future generations to experience and enjoy.

—Tim Kizer,
TRCP Energy Consultant

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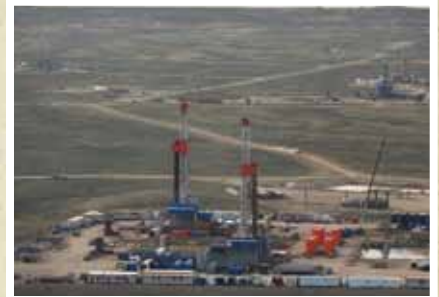


PHOTO BY CAMERON DAVIDSON

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