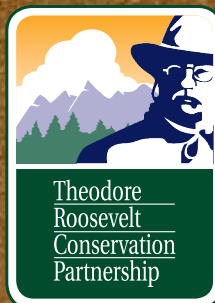




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A QUARTERLY REPORT FOR OUR INNER CIRCLE • SUMMER 2010
THE TRCP ANNUAL REPORT



WWW.TRCP.ORG

Message from the Chairman



We at the TRCP are excited to announce some changes as we prepare to enter a period of growth in 2010. Following completion of a national search, we are proud to announce that Whit Fosburgh has joined us as our group's new CEO and president. Whit comes to the TRCP from a distinguished leadership career at Trout Unlimited, a TRCP partner, and will be leading the TRCP in our efforts to ensure that sportsmen's voices are heard in the Washington, D.C., policy arena. Whit is excited to be working with the TRCP board of directors and staff to implement our strategic plan, and we are thrilled to have a respected conservation policy leader – and passionate sportsman – at our helm.

In the last year, the TRCP elected four new members to our board of directors. At our fall 2009 board meeting, Katie Distler Eckman and Connie Parker were unanimously selected to serve on the board. Ms. Distler Eckman is a seasoned conservationist with significant experience in the nonprofit and foundation communities – having served most recently as executive director of the Turner Foundation. Ms. Parker oversees global administration and infrastructure for JER Partners, a private real estate investment-management company.

George Cooper, former TRCP president and CEO joined the TRCP board at its spring meeting in Nashville, Tenn. George now is consulting on natural resource policy communications in the D.C. area and facilitates the Fish Collaborative, a TRCP-led project that seeks common ground within the recreational fishing community and conservation and environmental groups. Also joining the TRCP board this spring was Ron Regan, executive director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, a TRCP partner. Regan's experience as a biologist, commissioner and program director led to his leadership of AFWA and partnership with the TRCP.

The TRCP is celebrating the establishment of its popular union-focused hunting and fishing club, the Union Sportsmen's Alliance, as a stand-alone organization. Formed in 2007 by the TRCP, the USA gives union hunters and anglers the opportunity to unite their union and outdoor lifestyles and connect with fellow union sportsmen across North America. The TRCP will continue to work actively with our union allies and the USA to promote strong conservation policy in America.

The TRCP and its partner organizations had cause to praise reforms in federal energy leasing protocol announced recently by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. These changes, when properly implemented, should ensure that the leasing and development of oil and gas resources on our public lands carefully considers the fish and wildlife values on which our sporting traditions rely. The TRCP and its partner groups have advocated these changes for many years.

We remain disappointed, however, with the inadequate conservation of lands already leased for energy development. The TRCP took the important stand of suing the federal government over its failure to meet project commitments to adaptive management of wildlife resources during development on Wyoming's Atlantic Rim and Pinedale Anticline. These suits could have been settled by the Obama administration, but instead deliberations have been carried into the courtroom, where the Bush administration's flawed oil and gas policies still are being defended. Arguments in both cases have been presented, and we await the verdict. The TRCP did not take lightly our decision to sue the federal government, but we are willing to use all legal resources available to fight for sportsmen and the public lands resources that hunters and anglers appreciate and on which we depend.

As events surrounding the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico continue to evolve, the TRCP recognizes that responsible planning for the worst-case scenario must be undertaken before a disaster occurs. We believe that domestic oil, gas and renewable energy are important for the future of the United States; however, they demand a landscape-level conservation strategy that takes into account the cumulative effects of development on fish and wildlife resources as well as sporting opportunities. We also maintain the importance of scientific management, careful evaluation of phases of development and allowing response and adaptation before accidents overwhelm fish and wildlife resources.

Whether energy development, mining reform, wetlands protection, watershed conservation, agricultural-lands restoration, sportsmen's access or our other initiatives, the TRCP continues our efforts to ensure that the voices of 60 million American sportsmen are heard in the policy debates in Washington, D.C. Check out our website at www.trcp.org to catch up on the issues in which we are actively involved and join us in fighting for effective conservation of our fish and wildlife resources – and for the continued ability of hunters and anglers to use and enjoy these resources, now and in the future.

*Jim Martin, Chairman of the Board
Conservation Director of the Berkley Conservation Institute*

Message from the President & CEO



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH STORER

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PRESIDENT EMERITUS

I am truly honored and extremely excited to serve as the new president and CEO of the TRCP. Having long observed the TRCP's excellent work in advancing conservation policy and fostering fruitful partnerships in the sportsmen and conservation communities, I joined the TRCP in June with great anticipation. The energy and passion of the TRCP's board and staff for conserving fish and wildlife habitat and maintaining this country's outdoor traditions is second to none, and I am excited about the direction of the organization and the opportunities we have for the future.

I look forward to meeting and speaking with our many supporters over the coming weeks and months, but I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about my background and my personal connection to conservation. I grew up in the mountains of upstate New York, and my father, who worked for the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, introduced my brother and me to fishing and hunting at a very early age. A small trout stream ran through our property where we spent countless hours chasing native brookies. We also regularly ventured to the Adirondacks to fish rivers and ponds for bass and trout. The Adirondacks is where we learned to hunt, and deer camp in November remains a sacred time.

I am lucky to be able to make my avocation a vocation. My career has included almost five years in the Senate, where I handled energy and environment issues for Tom Daschle, and three years running the fisheries program at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. For the last 15 years I was at Trout Unlimited, where I helped to create and grow the organization's conservation programs. TU was a founding partner of the TRCP, and the years I spent at TU gave me a chance to watch the TRCP blossom and become the collective voice of conservation-minded hunters and anglers across the nation.

2010 already has been an eventful and exciting time for the TRCP. In addition to conducting a search for its new president and CEO, the board and staff facilitated the transition of the TRCP Union Sportsmen's Alliance into a stand-alone entity – thus strengthening and diversifying a critical partnership the TRCP has fostered with the nation's labor unions and their interest in conservation issues. In May, the administration announced new rules governing oil and gas leasing on federal public lands, a major victory for the TRCP and its partners who want to ensure that energy development does not sacrifice our fish and wildlife heritage. In July, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced the implementation of the Open Fields program that the TRCP helped to create in the 2008 Farm Bill. Open Fields will make \$50 million available in the next three years to encourage private landowners to open their lands to hunting and fishing.

As I begin my time at the TRCP, I plan to focus on areas that will allow us to be even more successful at informing the debate and effecting change when it comes to conservation policy. First and foremost will be strengthening and expanding our relationships with the TRCP's grassroots, conservation, union, foundation and corporate partners, as these relationships form the foundation of everything that the TRCP does – and play a crucial role in the actions we will be undertaking in the months and years to come.

This edition of the TRCP Rough Rider Reader, which also serves as our annual report, represents the culmination of another year's worth of hard work and dedication to the TRCP by so many people – including you. For that, I say thank you. We appreciate your ongoing support of this organization and the common goal we share in seeking to "guarantee all Americans a place to hunt and fish." I look forward to working with you on this important effort in the future.

Whit Fosburgh
President and CEO

Washington Watch

TRAGEDY IN THE GULF OF MEXICO



With the blowout of the BP well in the Gulf of Mexico, the brutal reality of our nation's inadequate policy governing oil and gas leasing and development became impossible to ignore. The inability of either industry or government to contain the spill as it polluted one of the most productive marine ecosystems

in the world makes it abundantly clear that an urgent need exists to reform the policies that feed the habit of oil consumption in the United States.

The TRCP, through the work of our energy and marine conservation policy initiatives, is carefully studying the procedures regulating oil and gas leasing and development, both onshore and offshore. We have concluded that an overhaul of these policies is critical. Energy development on U.S. lands and waters has been managed inconsistently by the federal government, with neither science nor the multiple-use mandate being adhered to uniformly. The needs of fish and wildlife and the pursuits of hunters and anglers are being neglected. Promises made by federal agencies to conserve sportsmen's values are routinely ignored when projects are implemented, resulting in diminished game populations. Iconic Western species like the mule deer and sage grouse are declining precipitously due to energy development on Wyoming's Pinedale Anticline. In the Gulf, the BP spill is decimating prime spawning areas of prized game species like tarpon and tuna and the coastal marshes that support millions of waterfowl and shorebirds. While the full extent of the spill's ecological effects still are being determined, biologists investigating the disaster fear that long-term damage is likely.

How can we remediate this enormous environmental tragedy? The best minds of our federal and state fish and wildlife

agencies are focused on this very question. Of course, the first order of business has been to stop the uncontrolled flow of oil into the Gulf while employing the best available technology to clean it up. Soon, however, attention must be focused on mitigating the spill's impacts; this process will be extremely expensive both in dollars and in human resources. As a start, a Senate appropriations committee has earmarked \$26 million in a supplemental appropriations bill to begin collecting data for the restoration process. If the House reciprocates, this

*TRCP Promotes Accountability
and Reform of Energy Policies
that Affect our Fish and
Wildlife Resources – Both
Onshore and Offshore*

funding will help develop baseline information about fisheries and the impacts of the spill on the Gulf ecosystem. But the TRCP is in this fight for the long run, and we will not rest until our fish and wildlife resources and outdoor heritage are secure from repeat disasters.

As recognized by the renowned journalist Hal Herring in *Field & Stream*, actions taken by the TRCP on behalf of sportsmen are intended not only to prevent accidents like the BP spill from happening but to end the "unholy marriage of the energy industry and the federal agencies that are supposed to be regulating it, and the resulting sacrifice of wildlife and other public resources." The TRCP and our partner groups will persevere in advancing policy solutions that assure the responsible development of our nation's energy reserves – in the interest of American hunters and anglers and in support of the sporting traditions we cherish.

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

Spotlight

SPORTSMEN HALL LAUNCH OF "OPEN FIELDS"

In July 2010, the TRCP celebrated a huge victory for sportsmen with the launch of Open Fields, a keystone program for the TRCP and one central to our group's mission. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's release of the funding and new rule for the public-access measure, officially called the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program, initiates a program to encourage farmers, ranchers and other private landowners to provide citizens access to their lands for wildlife-dependent recreation such as hunting and fishing.

The TRCP and its partners long have championed Open Fields and are committed to facilitating access to private and public lands and waters for America's hunters and anglers.

Open Fields was authorized by Congress for the first time in the 2008 Farm Bill following tenacious support by members of a TRCP-sponsored coalition. We now are optimistic that the program can be implemented expeditiously so sportsmen and landowners can benefit from it beginning in 2010.

TRCP President and CEO Whit Fosburgh stood together with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Howard Vincent of Pheasants Forever, and two state wildlife agency leaders at a July 8 press conference when the good news about Open Fields was made public. "This program will not only help achieve conservation goals, but also increase opportunities for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation by providing greater access to privately held lands for wildlife-dependent recreation," said Vilsack.



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Open Fields makes available \$50 million in federal monies for state wildlife agencies to create or enhance voluntary hunter-access programs on private lands and encourages landowners who enroll their properties to employ best-management practices for fish and wildlife. Landowners can receive a financial incentive in exchange for opening lands to the public for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation.

"Open Fields is the first federal landowner incentive program of its kind to enhance access for hunting and fishing — and has been a flagship issue for the TRCP since our group's inception," said Fosburgh. "This announcement by the federal government is an unqualified victory for fish and wildlife conservation and our hunting and fishing traditions."



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Center for Western Lands

SECURING AMERICA'S PUBLIC-LANDS SPORTING TRADITIONS



PHOTO BY STEVE BELINDA

TRCP INITIATIVES: MINING LAW REFORM, ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION, ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE

The West can be a place of extremes: drastic climates and harsh terrain fractured by the competing interests of state and federal governments, industry and citizens. Over the past 12 months, the TRCP has made great strides in brokering compromise among these interests. The public-lands issues that can profoundly influence where and how we hunt and fish – climate change and its effects on fish and wildlife habitat, oil and gas development on federal lands, reform of the 1872 General Mining Law and responsible management of important roadless areas – form the core of the TRCP's Center for Western Lands. The TRCP remains committed to upholding America's public-lands legacy – thereby sustaining the outdoor traditions and values of sportsmen from across the country.

MINING LAW REFORM

The TRCP continues to promote reform of the 1872 General Mining Law through the Sportsmen United for Sensible Mining coalition. The 1872 mining law, which governs hard-rock mining for minerals such as gold, copper and silver on America's public lands, leaves more than 270 million acres of federal land vulnerable to destructive mining practices. The

138-year-old law also fails to provide adequate resources for cleanup of abandoned mines that degrade valuable fish and wildlife habitat.

Mining reform legislation has been introduced in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and CWL staff has been working with our sportsmen partners to build congressional support for this important legislation's speedy passage into law.

ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION

CWL staff is stepping up its work with hunters and anglers to conserve undeveloped national roadless forest areas. Commonly known as backcountry, roadless areas provide important habitat security for big-game animals and clean water for fish such as wild trout and salmon.

The TRCP and our partner groups helped persuade the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support meaningful roadless area conservation, evident in the administration's actions to uphold the federal Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Additional clarity about the future of the rule is expected later this year; the TRCP will persevere in our efforts to safeguard America's prime backcountry habitat through strong national legislation.

The TRCP roadless initiative also is working to ensure responsible management of more than 4 million acres of backcountry lands in Colorado by working to improve the proposed Colorado roadless rule for the benefit of hunters and anglers in the state and throughout the nation.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

The TRCP energy policy initiative continues to advocate public-lands energy development that considers the needs of fish and wildlife and the interests of users such as hunters and anglers. As guided by the team of biologists and experts that comprise its Fish, Wildlife and Energy Working Group, the TRCP continues to promote the FACTS for Fish and Wildlife, principles that offer recommendations for how to balance energy extraction and fish and wildlife management on public lands in the Rocky Mountain West.

The TRCP has worked diligently to reform the federal process guiding public-lands energy development and was heartened recently by the announcement of major changes to Bureau of Land Management policy governing leasing these lands to industry. These changes are welcomed, needed and reflect many of the key revisions advanced by the TRCP and our partners. While much work remains to assure these reforms are imple-

mented, a major policy goal of the TRCP has been achieved, thanks in large part to the work of the TRCP and the Fish, Wildlife and Energy Working Group.

In the months to come, CWL staff will continue to review and revise the TRCP's policy priorities to reflect the opportunities at hand and build on the successes of the energy leasing reforms. The recent Gulf oil spill tragedy is changing the ballgame – for onshore energy projects as well as those in public waters – and the TRCP is ready to work with Congress and the administration on policy that considers fish, wildlife and sportsmen's values. These actions will make our work more applicable to all forms of energy development, including the siting and construction of transmission lines, and will expand our commitment to our partners and all American sportsmen. National energy policy continues to be pivotal in realizing the TRCP's mission to guarantee sportsmen a place to hunt and fish – now and in the future.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The TRCP climate change initiative is a multi-year effort to educate sportsmen, state and federal decision-makers, congressional staff and elected delegates about human-influenced climate change on fish and wildlife habitat, its impacts and how it can be addressed. The TRCP, through its Climate Change Working Group, continues to push for the adoption of strong natural resources adaptation language and dedicated funding in congressional climate change legislation.

As part of this effort, the TRCP has cultivated a network of sportsmen in Montana to advocate for fish and wildlife adaptation funding in legislation being considered by the Senate. Beyond Seasons' End, a report produced by the TRCP and the Bipartisan Policy Center in January 2010, defines wildlife adaptation management, shows how to build adaptations and outlines the costs of implementing adaptation at the state level to ameliorate some adverse impacts of climate change on fish and wildlife.

The TRCP currently is completing climate change presentations and displays for a circuit of meetings with sportsmen clubs across Montana. CWL staff will convey the physical evidence of climate change, predicted impacts on fish and wildlife and hunting and fishing, and adaptation strategies to mitigate climate change's impacts. Similar circuits are being planned for Washington and Colorado – all intended to communicate to sportsmen that climate change is real ... and already is influencing our outdoor traditions.

INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

TRCP ENERGY TRANSMISSION STUDY

Alternative and renewable energy development is gaining momentum across the country, and the physical impacts of these projects could be considerable. Up to 28,000 miles of new transmission lines could be constructed to transport new energy resources. Many transmission lines would be located within habitat important to fish and wildlife populations and prized by hunters and anglers. The need for transmission infrastructure improvements is paramount.

As part of our mission to guarantee you a place to hunt and fish, the TRCP has launched a study to understand how energy transmission works, how policy and project siting will affect sportsmen and the future of hunting and fishing. TRCP staff is reviewing case studies throughout the West to determine how fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation resources are being considered during the development of transmission projects.

While developing clean energy resources must remain a national priority, the TRCP maintains the importance of considering a range of multiple land uses, including an area's importance to fish and wildlife and for hunting and fishing, early in the planning process.

"As transmission projects are developed, fish, wildlife and sporting values typically are not considered until the actual route 'siting' process takes place," said TRCP Energy Policy Manager Steve Belinda. "Often, this is too late to effectively avoid or minimize negative impacts to these valuable habitats and hunting and fishing opportunities."

The goal of the TRCP transmission project is to improve national energy policy by incorporating measures that facilitate fish and wildlife habitat conservation as America expands its transmission capacity. As our ability to harness and develop sources of alternative energy increases, the TRCP will work to assure that our fish, wildlife and sporting resources likewise are responsibly managed.

By becoming a TRCP partner and supporting our group's efforts on behalf of hunters and anglers, you can remain involved in policy decisions that can affect the future of your outdoor traditions – and will have the opportunity to make sure your voice is heard. Please continue your investment in the TRCP by making a donation, either via www.trcp.org or by using the donation envelope found in this issue of the Rough Rider Reader.

Center for Agricultural Lands

ADVANCING POLICY THAT SUSTAINS PRIVATE-LANDS HUNTING AND FISHING



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA MEADOWS

TRCP INITIATIVES: FARM BILL, WETLANDS AND CLEAN WATER, CHESAPEAKE BAY

Federal policies that affect the fish and wildlife habitat on America's private and agricultural lands are a critical part of this country's conservation equation. More than 50 percent of the nation's 48 contiguous states is in agricultural use, and the TRCP stresses the importance of science-based conservation in these areas – not only for critters and their habitats but for current and future generations of hunters and anglers seeking recreational access and opportunity. Through our Farm Bill, Wetlands and Clean Water and Chesapeake Bay initiatives, the TRCP continues to actively engage with partners and policymakers to conserve important habitat, sustain fish and wildlife and secure opportunities for sportsmen to access and enjoy these quintessentially American landscapes.

FARM BILL

The outcome of the Farm Bill debate will determine the future of fish and wildlife habitat conservation on the nation's private agricultural lands. House and Senate hearings in preparation for the Farm Bill's reauthorization in 2012 have commenced.

TRCP staff is mobilizing the sportsmen-conservation community to engage in the Farm Bill debate early and often. The TRCP Agriculture and Wildlife Working Group is meeting with administration and congressional staff to emphasize the need to implement 2008 Farm Bill programs that have been slow to hit the ground, such as the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program, or "Open Fields." A flagship issue for the TRCP since our group's inception, Open Fields provides states \$50 million in federal funds to create or enhance hunter and angler access programs on private lands. Through the dedicated efforts of the TRCP and our partner groups, we spurred USDA to action on Open Fields – and are celebrating recent release of program funds.

The TRCP is paying special attention to the federal government's push to expand bio-energy production through the Farm Bill. Incentives for farmers to produce cellulosic, or plant-based, biomass using grasses, trees, residual crops and even algae will significantly affect the rural landscapes on which fish and wildlife depend. TRCP partners are strategizing to address the needs of fish and wildlife in this policy, and our sportsmen's coalition is advocating habitat enhancement while minimizing potentially harmful effects of biomass production on farms, ranches and forests. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Ducks Unlimited, the Izaak Walton League of America and the National Wildlife Federation are teaming up with the TRCP to ensure that the interests of sportsmen are adequately considered in federal bio-energy policy.

WETLANDS AND CLEAN WATER

The TRCP continues to work closely with its partners in the TRCP Wetlands Working Group to restore protections for millions of acres of wetlands and thousands of miles of streams that were lost in the wake of Supreme Court decisions in 2001 (SW-ANCC) and 2006 (Rapanos) and through subsequent Corps of Engineers and EPA guidance. In a February 2010 New York Times article, EPA staff estimates that more than 1,500 major pollution investigations have been discontinued or shelved in the last four years due to these court decisions. Conservation of our critical wetlands ecosystems and waterways can be secured via appropriate federal legislation, which the TRCP continues to advocate.

In 2009, the Senate undertook unprecedented action to advance such legislation, and the TRCP has strongly urged the House of Representatives follow suit. In March of this year, the TRCP successfully completed our We Are Wetlands petition drive, which called for a legislative solution to these problems facing our wetlands and had a goal of collecting 80,000 names – one for every acre of wetlands lost each year. The TRCP praised

the subsequent introduction of The America's Commitment to Clean Water Act in the House, which makes important compromises on property rights and agricultural exemptions yet still addresses the essential question: What waters are protected under the Clean Water Act? The answer is simple. If this legislation were enacted, only waters protected prior to the Supreme Court's 2001 decision would be covered. With this certainty, some 20 million acres of wetlands and 59 percent of all stream miles in the continental United States that now are at risk would be protected.

Time is of the essence, however, in assuring conservation of our waters and wetlands via congressional action. Many competing priorities exist on Capitol Hill, and the legislative calendar is quickly shrinking as the 2010 mid-term elections loom. The TRCP is continuing to work with our partners and allies to promote passage of both the House and Senate legislation this year.

CHESAPEAKE BAY

In 2010, the TRCP joined the Choose Clean Water coalition to incorporate the sportsmen's voice in an important effort that seeks to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act, currently being considered by Congress, would accomplish these objectives and uphold the unique outdoor opportunities afforded by the bay. With the TRCP's support, the coalition has been able to educate key policymakers via targeted meetings, letters, fact sheets and other educational materials on why this legislation is important to sportsmen.

The Chesapeake Clean Water Act would reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in the bay to meet water-quality standards and improve valuable habitat. The bill also would fund fish and wildlife habitat conservation and promote hunting and angling.

The Chesapeake Bay and the rich habitat it contains provide numerous sporting opportunities for the region's 4.5 million hunters and anglers. Seventy to 80 percent of Atlantic striped bass stocks rely on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries for their spawning and nursery areas. In addition, the region is a critical winter stopover for about 1 million ducks, geese and swans in the Atlantic Flyway – roughly one-third of waterfowl wintering along the Atlantic coast. Supporting these clean water provisions is important to the future of a healthy Chesapeake Bay and the hunting and angling activities it can provide for generations to come.

INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

WE ARE WETLANDS

In 2008, the TRCP and partners launched the We Are Wetlands petition to advocate for the restoration of federal protections for wetlands and clean water. With the leadership of the TRCP and its partners in 2010, more than 90,000 Americans signed the petition, affirming the crucial role wetland ecosystems play in our lives. In March of this year, the TRCP Working Group on Wetlands presented the petition to the president and top policy-makers, urging them to restore the integrity of the Clean Water Act.

Subsequently, the America's Commitment to Clean Water Act was introduced in the House of Representatives. H.R. 5088 would help sustain the healthy habitat, robust fish and wildlife populations and range of economic benefits that rely on America's waterways and wetlands and would reverse recent Supreme Court decisions that jeopardize the nation's water resources. The TRCP and its partners are engaged in ensuring this important legislation's swift passage into law.

"America's wetlands control floods and erosion, hold and cleanse water, and give us places to hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors," said Tom Franklin, TRCP director of policy and government relations. "Furthermore, many plant, fish and wildlife species depend on wetlands for survival. More than 90,000 Americans have spoken: Wetlands rank among the most productive and threatened habitats in the world. We are standing up for wetlands."

More than half of the estimated 221 million acres of wetlands originally existent in the United States have been lost. In 1972, the passage of the Clean Water Act played an important role in stemming the rate of loss. Wetlands most important to fish and wildlife continue to decrease by 80,000 acres per year. The TRCP and its partners continue to advocate for the priceless resources and sporting opportunities born out of these lands.



Center for Marine Fisheries

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WHILE SAFEGUARDING OUR MARINE RESOURCES AND ANGLING TRADITIONS



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOAA

TRCP INITIATIVE: FISHERIES

During the past 12 months, the TRCP has continued to take a leadership role in assuring the long-term health of our ocean resources and supporting the range of sporting traditions that rely on our marine fisheries.

To this end, the TRCP has facilitated a number of meetings with the nation's leading recreational fishing, marine conservation and environmental organizations. The goal of this ad hoc group, known as the Fish Collaborative, is to enable the participating organizations to progress together toward healthier and more sustainable marine fishery resources. Thus far, the Fish Collaborative has discussed and worked jointly on issues such as fisheries closures resulting from Magnuson-Stevens Act implementation, federal catch shares policy, recreational fishing data collection and marine spatial planning. Based on the positive results of these undertakings, the TRCP now is further formalizing the group's efforts with additional meetings, communications and information sharing.

Recent months' events have significantly affected recreational angling opportunities in the Gulf of Mexico. The BP oil spill is of major concern for both conservation groups

and recreational fishing groups, and the TRCP is mobilizing members of our community in promoting national policy that addresses its impacts. Along with a number of our partner groups, the TRCP sent a letter to administration officials and Congress outlining how emergency supplemental spending should be allocated to mitigate current and future economic and environmental consequences of this disaster.

The result of these efforts by the sportsmen-conservation community is an important piece of legislation, the Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act of 2010, which passed the Senate on May 27. The bill provides emergency relief funding to address the impacts of the Gulf spill and allocates funding as follows:

- \$15 million for the fisheries disaster declaration in the Gulf;
- \$10 million for an expanded stock assessment of the Gulf fisheries, including but not limited to commercial and recreational catch and biological sampling, observer programs, data management and processing, follow-up evaluations; and
- \$1 million for the Secretary of Commerce to order a National Academy of Sciences study on the long-term ecosystem service impacts of the spill. In particular, it would assess long-term costs to water filtration, hunting, fishing (commercial and recreational) and other economic values associated with the Gulf.

This year the TRCP facilitated a number of meetings with the nation's leading recreational fishing, marine conservation and environmental organizations, including

- American Sportfishing Association
- Billfish Foundation
- Center for Coastal Conservation
- Coastal Conservation Association
- Environmental Defense Fund
- International Game Fish Association
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Ocean Conservancy
- Oceana
- Pew Environment Group

"The Fish Collaborative is bringing together a diverse group of leading sportsmen and conservation leaders to tackle the challenge of establishing national policies to sustain healthy and abundant saltwater fish populations to be enjoyed by future generations of anglers," said Tom Franklin, TRCP director of policy and government relations.

The TRCP will persevere in our efforts to guide public policy surrounding saltwater angling and marine fisheries conservation in the United States.

Initiative Spotlight

THE TRCP'S BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING DATA COLLECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOAA

In July 2010, the TRCP convened a panel of scientists and fisheries experts to discuss recreational saltwater fishing data collection and recommend improvements for conservation of ocean resources. These recommendations will be used to spur federal policy change related to management of marine fisheries – change that will address the chronic lack of timely recreational catch information so that both saltwater angling opportunities and marine fisheries conservation effectiveness are maximized.

Updates three years ago to the federal law governing marine fisheries conservation and recreational fishing, known as the Magnuson-Stevens Act, require the establishment of annual catch limits intended to prevent overfishing and help rebuild depleted fish stocks. Federal marine management plans now must include accountability measures that encompass possible quota adjustments, season and bag limit adjustments and minimum size changes, all intended to keep each angling sector, whether recreational or commercial, accountable for staying within its annual catch limit.

While it can help maintain population numbers, this adjusted fisheries management approach is heavily dependent on timely and accurate catch data. Inadequate recreational catch information already has led to severe limits on recreational fishing opportunities by prematurely closing fisheries to any fishing based solely on outdated or one-dimensional sources of data. The federal agency charged with federal marine resource management, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has focused on fixing the recreational data problem through the federal Marine Recreational Information Program, but this three-year-old program has done little to improve the speed with which that data is provided or used in management decisions.

NOAA has made great strides in recent years with data collection on commercial fishing, allowing it to make in-season management adjustments that give this sector the ability to harvest fish more responsibly and with greater accountability. Data collection for recreational fishing lags far behind. The nation's 13 million saltwater anglers can continue to be effective stewards of our marine resources only if their impact on saltwater fisheries is measured accurately and efficiently. Saltwater anglers deserve resource management systems that utilize up-to-date analysis instead of relying on outdated methods such as phone surveys. The TRCP is engaging the Blue Ribbon Panel to help move NOAA sharply in that direction.

During the daylong gathering, the panel of fisheries experts, who represented state, federal, academic, environmental, conservation and recreational interests, developed recommendations to improve accuracy and timeliness of data gathering pertaining to recreational fishing and the use of that data in marine fisheries management. The recommendations are based on examples drawn from a range of alternative marine data-collection systems, including research and methods currently used in non-federal fisheries and by other natural resource management programs. They will be submitted for consideration to NOAA and the National Marine Fisheries Service for a federal workshop scheduled to take place later this year.

“For too long, recreational anglers have followed catch- and size-limit regulations that are determined by commercial fishing data,” said TRCP Marine Initiative Associate Michael Misurek. “The goal of the sportsman-conservation community is to create a more balanced playing field – and spur development of a robust recreational data collection system that allows adjustments that don't exceed annual catch limits and that sustain healthy fish populations.”



SPOTLIGHT

JOE MCCARTIN

LAMONT, FLA.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO, MEMBER: TRCP POLICY COUNCIL

Can you inform us a little bit about your work?

I lobby and advocate on behalf of the millions of men and women who build this country and attempt to ensure that they get decent pay, benefits and a safe worksite. A great deal of my work is spent trying to impress upon lawmakers the importance of creating a 21st century infrastructure and a clean energy economy that creates good jobs.

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

Like the TRCP, the Building Trades are pushing hard for investments here in the United States. While we are more focused on infrastructure and energy generation, investing in the Conservation Reserve Program, wetlands and climate change adaptation projects are also our priorities. Open Fields is another extremely important issue to us, as it ensures that hunting and fishing opportunities are open to all Americans, not just the rich or those lucky enough to live in areas of the country with public land.

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

Both union members and sportsmen are interested in common-sense solutions. Union members want jobs, but they want good jobs that don't burden the next generation with a toxic landscape. We are on the front lines and know when to speak up because management is skirting safety and environmental laws, and we have the power to do it! Sportsmen, likewise, are on the front lines, and we know when policies are actually restoring habitat and stabilizing animal populations. When we are both at the table and have power, future generations will be protected.

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

Since I was a young child, my dad involved me with many of the TRCP's partners. When I began working for the labor movement in D.C., I jumped at the opportunity to grow this needed partnership between the two most necessary groups – unions and conservationists.

Do you enjoy outdoor pursuits? Where do you spend most of your time outdoors?

These days I spend most of my time fly-fishing around Maryland and West Virginia. I love to hunt pheasant and quail with my dog, Dade, and I recently started duck hunting, which is as addictive as I feared.

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

I think TRCP is doing a fantastic job. I particularly love the Open Fields model and would love to see more states and the federal government adopt it. One issue that really annoys me is the ban on Sunday hunting in some states. It is highly discriminatory against those of us who have to work for a living, and I'd like to see the TRCP take an active stand against it.

Partners in Focus

FEATURED PARTNER:

THE LABOR UNIONS OF THE AFL-CIO

In 2007, the TRCP teamed up with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, or AFL-CIO, and its affiliated unions in a dynamic and exciting relationship – one that is having a tremendous impact on fish and wildlife conservation and the federal policy decisions that affect the resources so important to sportsmen.

Being a union member not only is the source of great pride for 11.5 million Americans; it also forms a way of life. For a majority of these workers, this encompasses a passion for hunting, fishing and the outdoors. In working with our union partners, the TRCP discovered an ally in our efforts to educate and involve sportsmen, policymakers and the media on

issues related to the conservation of our hunting and fishing heritage.

TRCP Strengthens

Partnership with

Nation's Labor Unions

The AFL-CIO and its unions have lent a new and distinct

voice to the TRCP's mission for sound, science-based federal conservation policy. Whether endorsing conservation recommendations for the Farm Bill, testifying before Congress on the impacts of energy development, promoting a petition to restore wetlands protections or participating in policy briefings on climate change, our labor union partners have shown that they value their relationship with the TRCP. The AFL-CIO and its unions also invested time and money into member recruitment to help establish the Union Sportsmen's Alliance as a program of the TRCP. This hunting and fishing club is responsible for uniting thousands of union sportsmen with the TRCP and engaging them in conservation issues. The combined political muscle of union sportsmen has helped "move the needle" on TRCP policy initiatives that matter most to American hunters and anglers.

In May 2010 with the full support of the AFL-CIO and the TRCP, the Union Sportsmen's Alliance established itself as a separate and stand-alone organization. This iteration of the USA became a new partner of the TRCP and enables our group to strengthen and diversify our alliance with the unions of the AFL-CIO. The TRCP now is listed as an "Allied Organization" of the AFL-CIO, which remains ready to work directly with us to share conservation news and policy updates with their members. The TRCP also has expanded its policy council roster to include union representation from former TRCP labor liaison Tom Trotter for the AFL-CIO and Joe McCartin for the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO.

The TRCP looks forward to the continued expansion of our successful partnership with the AFL-CIO and to building our relationship with the USA.

SPOTLIGHT

RON REGAN

WASHINGTON, D.C.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

MEMBER: TRCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

How did you get into hunting and fishing?

I grew up in a small town in Vermont near Lake Champlain, and outdoor opportunities beckoned constantly. I had an uncle who was an avid sportsman, and he was my gateway to hunting and fishing. My uncle helped me buy my first firearm, a .410-caliber shotgun, and took me bird, squirrel, rabbit and deer hunting whenever possible. He loved ice fishing, and we did that together as well.

What led you to your career in conservation?

That's easy to answer – my time outdoors led to a passion for nature, wildlife and conservation. When I learned it was possible to go to college to study such things, my career path was clear. After I graduated from the University of Vermont with a degree in wildlife biology, I began what would become a 26-year career with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. I have never regretted this career choice.

How did you get involved with the TRCP?

I moved to Washington, D.C., three years ago to begin work with the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. A large portion of my job duties focused on fisheries management. At some point, [TRCP Director of Policy and Government Relations] Tom Franklin asked me if I would chair TRCP's Marine Fisheries Working Group, and I said yes.

What do you think the most important conservation issues facing sportsmen are today?

Three issues immediately come to mind. The first one is habitat loss – development, energy transmission and climate change impacts are stressors of great magnitude on habitat quality. This in turn impacts the health, abundance and distribution of fish and wildlife resources. The second issue is access to hunting and fishing; habitat fragmentation, posted land and even competition for access on public land are making it difficult for hunters and anglers to get afield. Finally, state fish and wildlife agencies are the stewards of all fish and wildlife resources. The challenges facing these agencies are huge, and funding is stable at best. Sportsmen need to support new and broader funding for state agencies so our treasured resources remain sustainable and accessible in the future.

What are your hopes for the future of the TRCP?

This is an important time for the TRCP. I look forward to serving on the TRCP board of directors to help shape that future and to define a conservation policy niche on behalf of hunters and anglers.



Partners in Focus

FEATURED PARTNER:

ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies – formed in 1902 just after Theodore Roosevelt began his first term as president – promotes sound management and conservation and speaks with a collective voice on important fish and wildlife issues.

The Association consisted originally of eight wildlife managers who agreed that the nation's rich fish and wildlife legacy would survive only with careful planning and vigilance. Since then, it has expanded to become what it is today: a world-class organization that represents North America's state, provincial and territorial fish and wildlife agencies at every level of government. These agencies have the management authority and responsibility for conserving the full array of fish and wildlife species for their intrinsic and ecological values as well as their recreational enjoyment by the public.

The Association engages with members of Congress and before the administration to advance favorable fish and wildlife conservation policy and funding and help ensure that all entities work collaboratively. It also coordinates for agencies' science-based, cross-cutting and species-based programs that range from birds, fish habitat and invasive species to energy development, climate change, conservation education, recruitment and retention, and more.

The TRCP has worked alongside the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies for eight years, forging a partnership born from a shared belief that long-term conservation success requires the active involvement of an assembly of agencies, organizations and individuals with diverse backgrounds, missions and values.



For more information, visit
www.fishwildlife.org

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2009

ASSETS

Cash and Other Current Assets 1,570,344

Grants Receivable 834,966

Fixed Assets 39,613

TOTAL ASSETS 2,444,923

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities 491,970

Net Assets 1,952,953

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 2,444,923

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

REVENUE

Grants 1,836,698

Contributions 2,586,509

Donations 484,038

Other Revenue 181,720

TOTAL REVENUE 5,088,965

EXPENSES

Conservation Programs 3,916,282

Communications 113,369

Fundraising 153,475

Management and General 667,740

TOTAL EXPENSES 4,850,866

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

238,099

Jim Range Conservation Fund

THE JIM RANGE CONSERVATION FUND WAS ESTABLISHED ONE YEAR AGO AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO JIM RANGE, THE TRCP'S CO-FOUNDER AND LONGTIME BOARD CHAIR.

Jim was a passionate outdoorsman, an astute and experienced policymaker and a world-class friend. Following his untimely death in January of 2009 we at the TRCP set out to realize Jim's vision of securing our magnificent American landscapes for the use and enjoyment of future generations of hunters and anglers. The JRCF celebrates Jim's memory and helps the TRCP ensure that his conservation ideals endure.

The JRCF has emerged as the cornerstone of the TRCP's fundraising efforts in 2009-2010. Fundamentally, the JRCF was established to strengthen the following key areas:

- **Programs.** Advance the TRCP's signature programs – Western public lands, agricultural and private lands and marine fisheries.
- **Opportunities.** Enhance the TRCP's flexibility to seize special opportunities and confront challenges on the issues that affect the conservation of fish and wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing.
- **Sustainability.** Expand the TRCP's fundraising capacity by creating an infrastructure of financial, technological and marketing support to develop a more diverse funding base and ensure financial security.

The JRCF represents a first-time effort by the TRCP to raise significant major gifts. We are pleased to report that in just one year, the fund has received \$504,595 in gifts from 213 individuals, foundations and businesses. These funds allow the TRCP to play an increasingly significant role in the crucial policymaking that is shaping the future of hunting and fishing in this country. JRCF funds are utilized, at the discretion of the TRCP board of directors, to expand the TRCP's ability to positively affect the conservation issues most important to American sportsmen.

A special thanks goes out to Anheuser-Busch and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for recognizing Jim as the 2010 Budweiser Conservationist of the Year. Never before has this prestigious award been bestowed posthumously. It acknowledges a lifetime of important conservation achievements that took place far from the mountains and rivers where most of us would like to spend our days. The votes of thousands of TRCP partners like you resulted in his election as the 2010 honoree.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of the JRCF Leadership Council, whose work in the past year has provided the nucleus of funds for the JRCF and whose efforts are pivotal in promoting Jim Range's vision. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the many individuals, foundations and businesses that made gifts to the JRCF in Jim's memory.

Thanks to your support, the TRCP has been able to advance significant change in the name of American conservation and in the interest of the hunting and angling community. Yet much remains to be done. As Jim Range would say, "We gotta save this thing we love 'cause ain't nobody else gonna do it." Your gift to the JRCF will enable our work to continue.

For information on how to make a donation to the Jim Range Conservation Fund today and help sustain our outdoor way of life, please contact TRCP Development Manager Meg McKinnon at mmckinnon@trcp.org.



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 "Chip" H. Collins
Matthew B. Connolly Jr.	George Cooper V
David Perkins	Charles S. Potter Jr.
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"We gotta save this thing we love 'cause ain't nobody else gonna do it."

—Jim Range

Field Notes

A QUEST FOR MULE DEER ON TRIED-AND-TRUE MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS BY JOEL WEBSTER



With 27 million acres of public land and general season tags in Montana, ample opportunity exists to hunt big game in this expansive landscape I call home. The breadth of options can make a sportsman want

to continually roam from one mountain range to the next. But while exploring new areas is both necessary and fun, I also find that getting to know a specific place and its terrain can add to the fulfillment of a hunt.

One particular windswept basin east of the Continental Divide lifts my spirits while I'm deer hunting each November. Almost instinctively, I traverse the same frosty national forest trail every weekend during hunting season and identify the perfect high point where I can scan the surrounding benches and coulees. My quarry? Mule deer working their way to bed as daylight arrives.

This basin only holds about a dozen deer in early November. What makes this place so special is that a different buck or two always seems to be mingling with the does each time I visit. The bucks move down from the high country during the rut in search of does, but they do not hang around. While a hunter can expect to see bucks, he cannot count on seeing the same animals more than once.

I spent three consecutive weekends on the concave face of that mountain during the 2009 season. As in previous years, I had to decide each Saturday morning if I wanted to engage in a stalk and possibly end my hunt for the year or take my chances on finding a different buck the following weekend – thereby extending the fun and increasing the challenge.

With the season coming to a close, I decided to make my move after spotting a nice muley buck following a doe up a timbered coulee. Three hours later, I had ducked under multiple ridgelines and crawled up numerous draws until I was positioned above the coulee where I last saw the deer. With the wind in my face, I crept around the front of this final ridge and sat with an open shooting lane below me.

I hadn't seen the bedded animals in more than an hour when I started my stalk, but I knew they were nearby. Suddenly, the wind swirled, the deer caught my scent and I could hear them busting through the bush toward my shooting lane. My positioning and familiarity with the terrain paid off, however, and my season ended successfully: I dropped the deer with one shot at 60 yards just as it attempted to escape at the bottom of the draw.

My understanding of this basin and the migratory movements of the deer added to the satisfaction of last year's hunting season. Now, as I look forward to this year, I'm again tempted by the excitement of exploring new and unfamiliar territory. But another part of me wants to hike into that familiar basin and develop an even better understanding of the place I've come to know. In fact, I can hardly wait to sit on my perch this fall and glass different bucks each week. The challenge will lie in harvesting the best one.

Joel Webster is associate director for campaign management for the TRCP. He lives in Missoula, Mont. and loves getting into the backcountry and stalking buck mule deer in the rugged high country of the northern Bitterroot Range.

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