

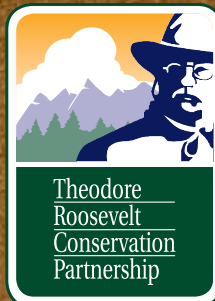


Rough Rider Reader



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A QUARTERLY REPORT FOR OUR INNER CIRCLE ♣ SPRING 2009



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Message from the President



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For the last few months, I have been writing a great deal about Jim Range and trying to find the right words to not only honor my great friend and mentor, but also capture why we loved the man so much. Many of you knew Jim. He was the Chairman of our Board of Directors and founded this organization with a handful of fellow conservation visionaries just seven years ago. His leadership and passion brought the TRCP a long way in a short time.

When I first knew Jim, I spent more time writing for him than about him. I was the first TRCP Director of Communications, arriving soon after Jim, a few staff and a small board launched the TRCP. Jim would get invited to give speeches, and I would write remarks for him to deliver. It didn't take me long to realize that Jim did not speak from a piece of paper, he spoke from the heart, with his own words and in terms that were as salty as they were crystal clear. I soon figured out that the best approach with Jim was to simply tell him who he was talking to and what he was expected to talk about.

Many of you heard Jim speak through the years. In an age of teleprompters and talking points, this man blasted past politely packaged rhetoric and got to the core of the matter he was addressing very quickly and very effectively. More often than not, he was talking about our natural resources and the future of hunting and fishing. Whether it was at his dinner table over fish and game he'd prepared so memorably, sitting next to him on a plane or listening to him at a podium, Jim spoke plainly, he spoke vividly and he spoke from experience culled from almost 40 years of policy making in Washington. Speaking as freely and directly as he did, he sometimes bent noses out of shape, but most of those who disagreed with Jim walked away respecting his honesty and the purity of his convictions.

In recent years, when Jim was speaking, he was often speaking about the TRCP. The TRCP was the vehicle for Jim's vision to fundamentally change the role sportsmen play in the policymaking that is shaping the future of hunting and fishing in this country. In the last seven years, in board rooms, bars, the halls of Congress and duck blinds, I heard Jim talk about what the TRCP could do as a partnership to break through polarizing approaches that had blocked natural resource action in Washington. I believe he was right, and I know he would want us to keep growing the TRCP into an even stronger organization.

With that in mind, the TRCP staff and Board of Directors are establishing the **Jim Range Conservation Fund**. The money raised for this fund will be invested in TRCP programs and will be used to ensure the organization's long-term success and stability. We will be asking for your support—support that will keep his legacy alive through a conservation vision embodied by the TRCP.

Since we lost Jim in January, I often find myself in my office thinking about Jim and wondering what he'd say about a given issue. I don't wonder for long—his words come to me quickly because I listened to Jim when he spoke, and I know where he stood on so many issues—the very issues we're still fighting for here at TRCP.

George Cooper

The Faces of TRCP



Dr. Rollin Sparrowe

Daniel, Wyo.

The TRCP interim chairman of the board and co-founder speaks on his passion for conservation, hunting big game in Wyoming and the future of the TRCP.

I grew up in a northern California city, and no one in my family really hunted or fished. But we used to vacation in the mountains, and the wildlife and streams really piqued my interest in the outdoors. My grandfather was in a band, and he used to take my brother and me on the road with him. He'd leave us to our own devices during the afternoons, so we'd go fishing in the local streams. In high school, one of my good friends wanted to be a gunsmith, so we went out and bought rifles and went hunting. We didn't have any idea what we were doing, but it didn't take me long to get hooked.

My father was a lawyer, and after two years of junior college, I knew that wasn't for me. I had read a lot about conservation and the great stories behind the National Parks Service, U.S. Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. A friend was going to Humboldt State University in northern California for forest management. I packed up and decided to enroll with a major in game management. I was living in the Redwoods, and my passion for conservation took off from there. I've been able to really build my life around it.

When I was working in Washington, D.C. for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and later as the president of the Wildlife Management Institute, I worked with a lot of different sportsmen-conservation groups on a lot of different issues.

I was involved in the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance, which preceded the TRCP. The TRCA tried for a couple of years to make a positive change in conservation, but never really got there. Jim Range and I started talking about how people of our vintage were phasing out of conservation, and we wanted to see if we could form not an organization but a coalition of groups to provide a powerful front to tackle big wildlife issues from a hunting and fishing view. Jim used to say: "Let's see if our guys can win a few without being outgunned by groups that don't believe in multiple use." And that's what we set out to do with the TRCP.

Jim and I worked together in Washington for 31 years, and just when we needed him the most, when things were starting to going well, we lost him. When I was asked to serve as interim chair of the board, I accepted because I wanted to do what I could to help guide the board and organization to find the right person to lead the TRCP. Jim was unique in his passion and skill set, and going forward, the entire board is going to need to be more engaged in the issues. In the six years I've lived in Wyoming, I've become very involved in our energy initiative because I live in the middle of it. I love hunting for mule deer, antelope and elk out here, and our energy work is more important than ever to make sure these mystical migrations of big game keep occurring.

I hope that the TRCP can continue its focused, collaborative effort within the hunting, fishing and wildlife community to solve big problems with habitat as more and more people start using the land both for personal and economic uses. We've always been pragmatic when it comes to the use of land, but we need to make sure that our natural resources always stay viable for hunting and fishing.

— *As told to Brian McClintock*

HELP CARRY ON JIM'S LEGACY

The TRCP is establishing the Jim Range Conservation Fund. For more information on how you can help keep Jim's legacy alive, please contact George Cooper, president and CEO, or Cary Ridder, director of development, at 202.654.4600.

Featured Rough Rider

The TRCP's Rough Riders are a select group of passionate individuals determined to demand proper stewardship of our natural resources, who have invested in this vision for the future with financial contributions of \$500 or more.



Woman's Best Friend Nancy Anisfield with her German wirehaired pointer, Scrub (left) and her German shorthaired pointer, Rimfire.

Nancy Anisfield

Hinesburg, Vt.

Sport-dog lover, international bird-hunter, and outdoor writer and photographer

Q: How did you get interested in hunting?

Spouse and dogs. My husband, Terry Wilson, was a deer and waterfowl hunter when we met. He always looked pretty good to me, but not enough to motivate me for the 4 A.M. freezing duck blind routine. Then a pheasant preserve opened near us in northern Vermont. The first time I saw a pointing dog work, I thought it was the coolest, sexiest thing I'd ever seen. The obsession took hold instantly.

Q: How were you able to turn that into a career?

After years as a commercial illustrator then a college English instructor then a corporate copywriter, I had the background to do the writing and design for the catalog when Terry started Ugly Dog Hunting. The same is true for becoming a magazine editor when the *Upland Almanac* was looking for one. The fact that these opportunities happened to be in the hunting field is luck. I could have as easily ended up writing for a plumbing supply catalog and editing a magazine for kumquat growers. Right now, I'm still doing Ugly Dog, but I stepped down from the senior editor position at *Upland Almanac*, so I can concentrate more on my own freelance writing and hunting dog photography. In the spirit of shameless marketing, please put a plug in here for anisfieldphotography.com.

Q: Tell me a little about Ugly Dog Hunting, what's the history behind it? What do you personally do for the company?

Terry sold his garden cart manufacturing business in 2000 and was looking for something new to do. His love of hunting gave him the idea to start a wingshooting direct-mail business. The Ugly Dog concept was inspired by Scrub, Terry's enormous German wirehaired pointer who actually looks more like a cross between a moose and a coon hound. I write the catalog copy, do the graphic design and a lot of the photography—I'm also the edgy voice of Scrub and the Ugly Dog staff.

Q: Why do you think conservation is important?

We will be in great trouble if we abandon our fundamental connection with the natural world. And by that I mean our connection with the natural world by way of engaging it on its *own* terms, which we do when we hunt and fish. If the outdoors is reduced to the landscape equivalent of a sound byte, something we just passively hear or observe in a condensed form on TV or in an urban park, we will similarly be reduced both physically and spiritually.

Q: Why are you involved with the TRCP?

Because conservation needs a unified voice, and the TRCP provides it. There's too much partisanship and too much wasted duplication of effort in many of the single-purpose conservation organizations and their initiatives. Working as a coalition—one voice, combined expertise—is obviously a position of greater strength.

Q: What other conservation or sportswoman groups are you active in?

Ruffed Grouse Society, NRA Women on Target, and Becoming an Outdoors Woman programs in Vermont. I also support Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever.

Q: What is your most memorable day afield?

The day I shot my first woodcock, or the day I shot a true ruffed grouse double. Or the day hunting in Hawaii where we filled our vests and then quit shooting. We watched Max, a wirehaired, point turkeys, Erckel's francolin, quail and pheasants for hours as we worked our way down the side of the volcano with Maui in the distance. Or one of the days hunting grouse on snowshoes in late December, when your lucky to get a couple of flushes, but it doesn't matter because the



frozen landscape is so beautiful that it's blinding. Heck, it's probably the day my shorthair pointed a porcupine, nabbed a rabbit, tracked turkeys for 300 yards, dragged me through some hideous buckthorn and then managed to lock-tight on a very willing grouse.

There's no such thing as a hunt without a memorable story.

Q: Sporting dogs clearly play an important role in your enjoyment of the outdoors. Why do you think people connect so well with hunting with dogs?

Because they hunt better than us and have a better sense of humor about it than we do.

Q: What would your ideal day of hunting involve?

Just me and my dog. And perfect weather, lots of birds, steady points, no missed shots and a really good tuna fish sandwich with pickles and chips.

READY TO TAKE A RIDE?

The TRCP needs you and your friends to ensure that the conservation legacy of Theodore Roosevelt lives on today. Without you, the TRCP could not stand by its guarantee that all Americans have a place to hunt and fish. Through supporting the TRCP and asking your friends to join the Rough Riders, you are making sure that T.R.'s conservation legacy lives on.



For more information, please contact Cary Ridder, director of development, at 202.654.4624 or cridder@trcp.org.

THE 2008 TRCP ROUGH RIDERS

In 1898, Theodore Roosevelt and his fully volunteer cavalry regiment charged its way permanently into our national memory. Known as the Rough Riders, the diverse group was made up of cowboys, Indians, Ivy-leaguers, shopkeepers and aristocrats. The TRCP Rough Riders are just as diverse and just as dedicated to Theodore Roosevelt's passion for the outdoors and the TRCP mission to guarantee a place for all Americans to hunt and fish.

Legacy Rough Riders (\$5,000 and higher)

Nancy Anisfield
Robert and Martha Fogelman
William P. Hite
Bill LaWarre
David Perkins
Marc Pierce
James D. Range

Heritage Rough Riders (\$1,000 to \$4,999)

Sam H. Campbell IV
Casey Carstens
Charles Collins
George Cooper
W. Carey Crane

Howard and Sharon Davis
Bill and Vivian Heaney
James N. Levitt
Jim Martin
Robert and Jill Olsen
Charles S. Potter, Jr.
Cary Ridder
Don Rollins
Lewis Scheer
John M. Seidl
Fred Stanback
John Tubbs
Ron Vari
Alan Wentz
Steven Williams

Partner Rough Riders (\$500 to \$999)

David R. Anderson
Sid Evans
Thomas M. Franklin
Christopher Hall
Alan Kahn
Todd Keller
Dan Kelly
Cathy Rano
Terry Riley
Rollin Sparrowe
Tony Lyons
Howard Vincent
John B. Winsor

Portfolio

The Flyway Corkboard

At the Flyway Ranch, Jim Range's Montana escape on the Missouri River, large corkboards run the length of two hallways on the main floor. In a very special place to Jim, these spots were among the most special. They served as equal parts family album, wall of fame and record book. The pictures that adorned them were celebrations of the things he most loved. We reprint some of those pictures to celebrate Jim—and the American outdoors heritage he both relished and embodied.

— Photos of Jim's corkboard by Sandee Cardinal





Washington Watch

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



Stimulating Habitat

No one can escape the harsh economy, but the TRCP is working to ensure that some of the money spent in Washington is helping fish and wildlife in your backyard

The ballots were no sooner counted after the November elections when the ripple in the economy turned into a tsunami. Wall Street plummeted further, home foreclosures continued to soar, more major banks went under, the auto industry imploded and unemployment rose to its highest point since the 1980s.

The federal government moved to stem the tide by bailing out Wall Street and the home mortgage, banking and auto industries in a desperate attempt to stave off a deepening recession. Immediately after inauguration, President Obama and Congress collaborated to pass stimulus legislation to help stave off recession and avoid a depression. The idea was for government to kick start the economy by injecting billions of dollars of shovel-ready projects that will create jobs, re-build infrastructure and otherwise benefit the public.

In the face of adversity, there sometimes are opportunities. The TRCP helped lead the effort to identify habitat restoration and conservation infrastructure projects to include in the stimulus package. The TRCP staff worked feverishly with conservation partners, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, and key leaders in President Obama's administration and Congress to identify worthy conservation projects that will create jobs quickly, bolster the economy and benefit fish and wildlife resources. And we were successful in incorporating nearly \$3.3 billion in conservation funding and more than 60,000 conservation-related jobs in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These funds will support projects that will benefit fish and wildlife resources by removing barriers to fish passage, such as obsolete dams and culverts, and improving road maintenance on existing public lands to reduce the sedimentation and other pollution that they create.

Much of the funding will be directed at projects to restore fisheries productivity in major rivers, like the Mississippi, and reclaiming abandoned mined land that is poisoning streams.

In the wake of the stimulus bill, the TRCP was heartened that our interactions with the new administration's transition team back in the late fall and early winter resulted in some very positive proposals in President Obama's 2010 budget. Some highlights in his United States Department of Agriculture proposal include a \$34 million increase in U.S. Forest Service funding to acquire easements of forested lands under development pressures. It also includes funding for the Conservation Reserve Program and conservation tax incentives. The proposed budget for the Department of the Interior appropriates \$420 million to acquire and conserve new parks and public lands; "encourages responsible development of oil and gas resources and closes loopholes that have given oil companies excessive royalty relief for offshore leases;" provides \$40 million for states for wildlife adaptation to climate change; and helps preserve the traditions of hunting and fishing by encouraging youth and minorities to begin hunting and fishing.

So, in the face of heavy social and economic events, the TRCP and our partners are still getting the job done.

T. R.ivia



Theodore Roosevelt was a man with many nicknames: T.R., Trust-Buster, The Colonel. But his most common nickname, Teddy, was never one that his friends or colleagues used. His first nickname was likely Teedie, which is what his family called him growing up. But it was his first wife, Alice Hathaway Lee, who initially called him Teddy. After her untimely death, Roosevelt supposedly grew to hate the nickname, preferring to be called Theodore. While he may not have liked it, the nickname Teddy is the one that lives on the strongest through pop-culture references and little stuffed bears.

Spotlight



A Sure Shot Mark Shaffer (left) with David Williamson after a successful goose hunt.

Dr. Mark Shaffer

New York, N.Y.

Program Director for the Environment
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

Q: What are the goals of Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF)?

The goal of the DDCF's Environment Program is to: "Preserve wildlife, both flora and fauna, in the United States by accelerating habitat conservation."

Q: What habitat issues do you work on the most?

Our focus has been on supporting the implementation of state wildlife action plans. These plans identify the most important habitats to conserve in order to maintain our native wildlife diversity. (For more information on state wildlife action plans, visit the Teaming with Wildlife website: teaming.org) We support action plan implementation through grants for a variety of activities from planning, to policy work to capital grants for land and water conservation.

Q: How did you become involved with the TRCP?

In looking at the policy landscape for habitat conservation efforts, we sought to support a leading organization that could represent the sportsman's view in habitat conservation efforts and could educate that community on the value of state wildlife action plans. TRCP was a standout.

Q: Why are you involved in the TRCP?

DDCF believes it is essential for all those who care about wildlife to get involved in protecting adequate habitat while we

still can. State wildlife action plans provide a blueprint for habitat conservation action and TRCP reaches a very important constituency to promote the implementation of these plans.

Q: Do you enjoy any outdoor pursuits? If so, what in particular?

Anything outdoors is preferable to anything indoors as far as I'm concerned. Most of my outdoor time is spent deer-hunting.

Q: Why did you start hunting?

I grew up out in the "woods" in rural Pennsylvania and it was basically a right-of-passage for young men. Turns out, I really enjoyed the experience and have stayed with it ever since.

Q: What do you think are our most pressing conservation issues today?

The loss of habitat to intensive development and climate change are the leading threats to maintaining the amazing diversity of wildlife this country has been blessed to enjoy.

Q: What is your approach to facing conservation challenges?

Recognize the most important problems, identify practical solutions, build effective partnerships to pursue those solutions.

Q: Why is it important for sportsmen's groups and environmentalists' groups to work together?

The challenges that wildlife faces in the modern world are so large and so pervasive that no one agency or group can hope to solve them. Yet, when we stand back and analyze things, it is clear to us that if we all did work together, we'd really have a chance to get things right for wildlife. State wildlife action plans are a blueprint that will take all of us working together to implement. By that same token, all of us have something we can contribute to their success.

Q: How do you hope to work with the TRCP in the future?

We know that TRCP has been successful in making many in the hunting and fishing community aware of state wildlife action plans and the need to accelerate habitat conservation for wildlife. We hope that our most recent grant will demonstrate that the hunting and fishing community is now taking action in support of implementing those plans.

Q: What hopes do you have for the TRCP?

That it achieves its own goals of conserving those places wildlife need to survive so there are always places to hunt and fish.

Field Work

A Goodbye, Montana-Style

The best way to say a final farewell to a friend like Range is on the stream

By Tim Zink

The morning after the memorial service for Jim Range at his Montana ranch, I sought solace in the same stretches of the Missouri River that had given Jim so much joy through the years. With air temperatures and wind gusts both in the 30s, a 6-weight in hand and friend Todd Tanner by my side, I headed for a side channel in the river whose secrets Jim had told me a few years before.

“Fish it slow as you can,” Jim had said, “they’re in there, wallowing around on the bottom.” He had made fish lips and wiggled his shoulders around a little to show me what they were down there doing.

Soon after tying on a fresh leader and nothing fancier than a black olive Woolly Bugger, Jim’s advice proved sound. After retrieving my first few casts in short strips, one was rewarded with a freight-train like strike. A big brownie surfaced and swirled, then busted me off with a sudden lunge backward.

I cursed an involuntary Jim-like blue streak, then started laughing. The thankfulness that comes with ever getting to

feel such a fine tug soothed the burn that came from losing such a fine fish.

Cutting back my leader to add strength, I tied on a new Bugger and started casting back into the pool. A few minutes later, the same dreadful sequence replayed: strike, set, swirl, “sh*t.”

After another re-tie, the hole was not so forthcoming. A couple scores of casts were met with refusals. Suddenly, my face felt the cold. I noticed that my rod’s guides were freezing up. And my fingers ... what fingers?

With frustration mounting, Todd joined me from his spot downriver to suggest that we hike a bit. I’m sure he’d seen me get concrete feet before and knew that I would stand in that same pool all day trying to get the ones that got away.

We walked down the channel to a bend and waded back into the icy waters. Then the first magic happened. Casting across the channel and crawling the fly across the bottom, a sudden tug was followed by a long run, which was followed by a supreme adrenaline rush and a big rainbow coming to hand. Thankfully I had broken off enough leader to leave me a more stout tippet—lesson learned.

After releasing the fish, I turned back to the river, casted again, and immediately hooked up again, eventually landing an outstanding battler of a rainbow. It was similar to the first fish in size and with the same sheen and a fine moss lacing his back. He must have been there wallowing around on the



The Catch of the Day: *The five trout that the author caught in the waters surrounding the Flyway Ranch. All of them were approximately 20 inches long.*



bottom like Jim said he'd be. The only difference was the spot where I caught it and the spots on the fish. Those on the second fish were broader, from tip to tail.

A bit shocked, I went back to casting, only to find that as had happened upriver, the fish had turned off in an instant.

Too soon into the day, Todd, having caught his first trout of the year and having to return to being a dad, set off on his way up the road. This left me to return alone to my frozen-fingered flailing in the channel, which, try as I might, would produce no more strikes.

Along with the fish-draught came the wind, fierce wind, wind that convinced me after a couple of hours that it was more determined than I was. And so, as the light started waning, I called it a day, one in which I thought near constantly about Jim and what it meant to me and America's fish and wildlife to lose him. Jim advocated more stubbornly than the fiercest Montana wind on behalf of the resources he revered, things like game birds and brown trout.

While walking back upriver, it was with Jim in mind that I looked to the hole in which I had first lost the two big browns. I just had to take one more shot at it.

Instead of a little dark streamer, which had been the order of the day, I went to the other end of the spectrum, a big, gaudy white one. A few swings through the hole went unrewarded, but then the magic happened again, rapid fire. A heavy strike

preceded a solid fight, and a thick, toothy brown eventually came to hand.

Releasing him, I cast again, and lightning struck again. I landed another brownie, slightly thicker than the last one in both stature and spot, after he took me downriver at his will and relented only after multiple minutes of coaxing. Then, with a smile that couldn't be suppressed by the elements, I returned to casting, doing my best to angle my drift off a sharp promontory on the far bank.

I finally hit the spot for which I aimed and was greeted by the sharpest of pulses on the end of my line. The brutish trout took me far downriver, diving as deep as he could in the far corner of the pool, peeling drag as he went. Following some out-loud praying, the trout was turned, and I was able to subdue him.

Looking at the trout's black-blotched side and crimson punctuation, my heart beat as deeply as it could. I felt warm tears running down my frozen face. There, on a landscape to which Jim had introduced me, I had found myself in his presence again.

About the author:

Tim Zink has been the TRCP Director of Communications since 2005, when Jim Range first introduced him to Montana. He considers himself incredibly fortunate to have made both their acquaintances.



On the Range

The Colonel

There are many first-time moments that are forgettable. Meeting Jim Range for the first time was not one of them.

By Ken Barrett

My first conversation with Jim Range lasted nine hours, during which time we emptied a bottle of Jack Daniels in front of his fireplace at the Flyway Ranch. I was one of the few left standing after the demise of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance, which was a precursor to the TRCP. I was summoned to Flyway so Jim could feel me out, and figure out if I might fit in with his vision of what would shortly be called the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. I suspect he was also using me to bounce his ideas off, or maybe just to clarify and hone them as he spoke. Fred Myers, another of the Alliance's survivors, was there, as was Jim's old friend, Mike "Animal" Bailey. We had a most lively, animated, no holds-barred conversation, to say the least. It was the first of many times that I was to hear the Reverend Range give a sermon, and I distinctly remember the main points. They were, and remain, the foundation of his vision for TRCP. Here's what he said that night:

Boys, we got to get the entire hunting and fishing community on board, or at least most of them, 'cause individually, we always end up being a day late and a dollar short when it comes to makin' policy. We got to speak with one voice if we're really gonna change things for our community.

You boys got to be willin' to work harder than everybody else and when there's a victory, you got to be willin' to give others the credit. There's no limit to what we can get done if we're willing to give credit to others, even when the sons of bitches don't deserve it.

Boys, sometimes we're gonna have to make compromises, and do things that might not look good at first. Things we'll come under fire for doin', but which will help us get most of what we want and need down the road a piece. Trust me on that.

Sometimes you're gonna have to keep your mouths shut, even when you know them sons of bitches are wrong.



Photo by dusansmetana.com

Friends Afield (left to right) The author, Jim Range and George Cooper hunting sharp-tails on the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana.

Boys, we got to save this thing we love 'cause ain't nobody else gonna do it. The way I see it, we got 10 years, maybe 15.

Sometime around midnight, Jim fell asleep in mid-sentence, while sitting in his chair. Fred, Animal and I continued to talk. Around 1:00 A.M., Jim woke up and continued

talking, taking up exactly where he left off. He didn't miss a beat. About 3:00 A.M., he turned and looked directly at me and said. "Boy, I know who you are. I checked-up on you. You're a damn communist (a.k.a. Democrat), but hell, that's alright we're gonna need at least one in this organization. Now I'm gonna ask you just one question. Are you gonna be happy if you get 80 percent of what you want?"

Jim wasn't talking about salary. He was asking me if I could compromise, work with him and be happy if we accomplished 80 percent of what I wanted to see and get done—mainly policy changes that would benefit our community and guarantee us all good places to hunt and fish.

"I'll be so damn happy," I replied, "I'll roll on my back, and mess myself, just like a bird dog puppy." Jim smiled, nodded his head, winked and made his trademark snick with his mouth. "Boy," he said, "we're gonna work real good together."

Shortly after, we went off to bed, and I knew that I'd found a new home and colleague. What I didn't know then, was that "the Colonel," as Jim was often called, would become my dear friend. He'd cover my back on many occasions. He'd bring on more staff and board members who were as committed as he was to saving this thing we love, and that TRCP would evolve into the best organization that I've ever worked with.

It was my great delight and privilege to hunt, fish and talk with him around many campfires, usually with a drink in hand. Damn it, I loved that man, and will miss him till the day I die.

VISIT WWW.TRCP.ORG TO JOIN THE TRCP TODAY.