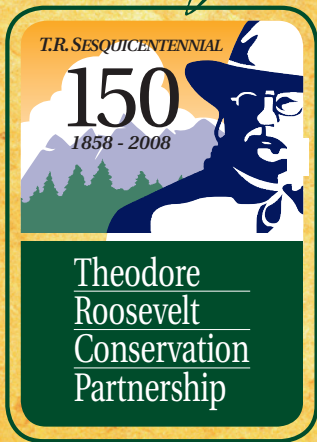


Teddy's Pocket Guide



WHAT WOULD TEDDY DO
FOR CONSERVATION
IF ENTERING OFFICE IN 2009?

TRCP PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is a coalition that includes many of the nation's leading hunting, fishing and conservation organizations, labor unions and contractor associations, and local rod-and-gun clubs. We aim to build consensus on issues of critical concern to the American sportsman.

If you are a candidate running for office, the following pages summarize those issues of great importance to the outdoor community.

If you are a hunter or angler, this guide is an aid in succinctly sharing your concerns with your elected officials.



UNION SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE

CHARTER UNIONS



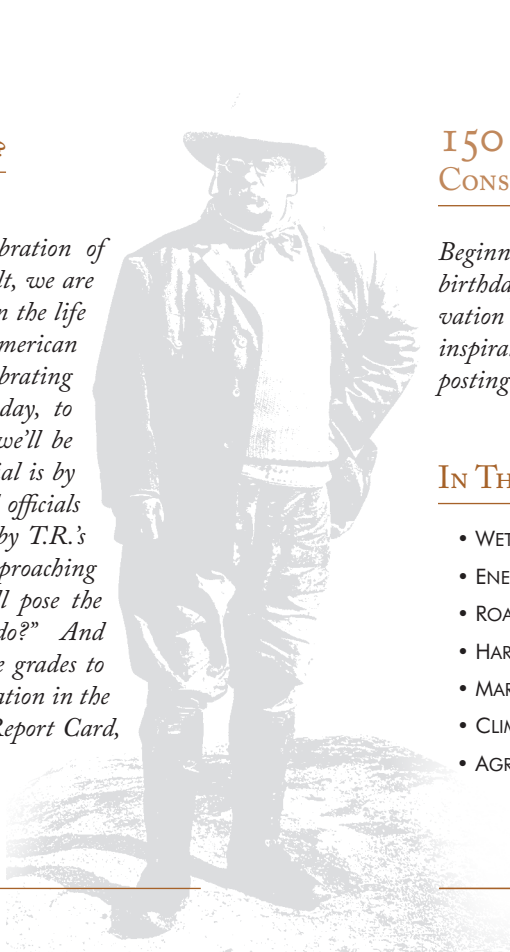
SUPPORTING UNIONS

- BAKERY AND CONFECTIONARY UNION
- BOILERMAKERS UNION
- BRICKLAYERS UNION
- ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS UNION
- INSULATORS AND ASBESTOS UNION
- IRON WORKERS UNION
- PLASTERERS & CEMENT MASONS UNION
- POSTAL WORKERS UNION
- RAILROAD SIGNALMEN UNION
- UNITED MINE WORKER'S UNION
- UTILITY WORKERS UNION



WHAT WOULD TEDDY DO?

In commemoration and celebration of the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, we are placing an unprecedented focus on the life and legacy of the Father of American Conservation. So we're celebrating his birthday – his 150th birthday, to be exact. One of the key ways we'll be marking the T.R. Sesquicentennial is by judging the actions of our elected officials against the barometer given us by T.R.'s very own actions. When approaching natural resource challenges, we'll pose the question, "What would Teddy do?" And based on our answers, we'll issue grades to the new Congress and administration in the TRCP 150-day Conservation Report Card, to be released in summer of 2009.



150 DAYS OF CONSERVATION INSPIRATION

Beginning on October 27, 2008, T.R.'s 150th birthday, we're going to spur the spirit of conservation by publishing a daily dose of conservation inspiration. Each day at www.TR150.com, we'll be posting new content devoted to his life and legacy.

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WETLANDS LOSS

The United States loses an average of 80,000 acres of natural wetlands each year. Over time, wetlands losses have mounted to staggering levels: More than half of our nation's original 221 million acres of wetlands have disappeared. This has profound implications for fish and wildlife, which are integrally linked to wetlands at various points in – and sometimes even throughout – their lives.



WHAT WOULD TEDDY DO?

WERE HE ENTERING OFFICE TODAY,

T.R. would work to advance legislation that protects all wetlands, including geographically isolated wetlands, intermittent and ephemeral streams, bogs, fens, swamps, prairie potholes, playa lakes and vernal pools. He would realize that this is the only way to effectively address rollbacks in wetlands protections resulting from recent Supreme Court decisions. T.R. also would work to strengthen and expand the Wetlands Reserve Program, a U.S. Department of Agriculture initiative to restore wetlands.

THE ISSUE:



ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS

Increases in oil and gas development on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service – and attendant losses in hunting and fishing opportunity – have concerned many of us who hunt, fish and appreciate the outdoors. In recent years, companies have moved aggressively to tap oil and gas reserves in states such as Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. From 1996 to 2007, nearly 26 million acres of the West were leased for energy development — an area comparable in size to the state of Virginia. The federal government has moved quickly to facilitate the development of public land and is doing so at an unprecedented rate, often without taking the necessary precautions to meet the needs of fish and wildlife.



WHAT WOULD TEDDY DO?

WERE HE ENTERING OFFICE TODAY,

T.R. would end the overexploitation of resources that so galled him, moving swiftly to prioritize fish and wildlife conservation in the federal energy development process. Careful planning of activities would become the norm rather than the exception, and the formulation of conservation strategies before leasing begins would become our national standard operating procedures.

T.R. also would reaffirm the multiple-use mandate in public lands management, restricting uses of our public lands that unduly diminish the enjoyment of these lands by other citizens.

Finally, evocative of his “Midnight Forests,” Roosevelt would identify a suite of wild landscapes that are too special to develop.

THE ISSUE:



ROADLESS FOREST MANAGEMENT

Our nation has approximately 58.5 million acres of “national forest roadless areas,” defined as lands encompassing more than 5,000 contiguous acres without improved roads. These areas provide important range for elk, bighorn sheep and mule deer, plus clean water for wild trout. Too many roads can reduce hiding cover for big game, often resulting in shorter hunting seasons and reduced hunter opportunity. Roads also can impair fish spawning habitat, causing less-productive angling. The administration of these areas is under intense debate, with conflicting court decisions challenging the future of the 2001 federal Roadless Rule that was established to protect these last best areas.



WHAT WOULD TEDDY DO?

WERE HE ENTERING OFFICE TODAY,

T.R. would promote administrative and legislative actions mirroring the provisions found in the 2001 Roadless Rule to sustain the future of public lands hunting and fishing. Such provisions would prevent most new road building and development within roadless areas and would conserve the important backcountry characteristics and quality fish and wildlife habitat these areas possess.

THE ISSUE:



HARD-ROCK MINING REFORM

The 1872 Mining Law, which governs hard-rock mining (gold, copper, silver, etc.) on America's public lands, is obsolete. While the economies, cultures and politics of the West have changed since 1872, the mining law has not. More than 270 million acres of federal land are open to hard-rock mining, mostly in the Rocky Mountain West. Because the law has never been meaningfully reformed, many of America's most treasured public lands are at risk, including important wild-life habitat and hunting areas, valuable fisheries, popular recreation sites, vital clean water supplies and sensitive roadless areas.



WHAT WOULD TEDDY DO?

WERE HE ENTERING OFFICE TODAY,

T.R. would reform the 1872 Mining Law with provisions that would end mining's priority status on public lands. This would include balancing mining with other public land uses such as hunting, fishing, timber harvest and water quality; recovering a reasonable royalty on minerals taken from public lands similar to royalties that oil, gas, coal and timber interests already pay; establishing an abandoned mine clean-up fund, with a portion of those funds dedicated to fish and wild-life habitat restoration and to clean up impacts of past mining; and prohibiting patenting or sale of public lands, keeping public lands in public hands for all Americans to use and enjoy.

THE ISSUE:



MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING

Our ocean and coastal resources are being managed poorly. The growing number of proposed activities and pressures facing these areas and resources – including proposals for wind and wave energy, liquefied natural gas, gas terminals, desalinization plants, oil exploration, aquaculture, recreation, shipping and commercial fishing – have given rise to growing concern about how to effectively manage these multiple and competing uses while conserving the resource. The more than 14 million Americans who fish in salt water cherish these experiences. They also treasure the marine and coastal environments that sustain their pastime. They value the fish that they pursue. And coastal communities thrive from the \$34.6 billion in economic benefits generated by recreational anglers each year.



WHAT WOULD TEDDY DO?

WERE HE ENTERING OFFICE TODAY,

T.R. would ensure that the rules and regulations emanating from the Magnuson-Stevens Act – America’s foremost saltwater fisheries management law – protect America’s oceans and coasts while allowing responsible fishing in these waters. He would base his actions on the TRCP SALT Principles: Science must be used in marine fisheries conservation; Allocation of fisheries resources should be fair to anglers; Licensing saltwater anglers will improve data collection and increase funding; and Tackle should reduce unintended catch and not damage habitat.

THE ISSUE:



AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION POLICY

Fifty-two percent of the entire land area of the United States currently is in agricultural use. Therefore, USDA conservation programs incorporated in the Farm Bill represent the largest single federal investment in conservation on private lands. A new Farm Bill was passed in 2008, and funding for conservation programs was increased by roughly \$4 billion. Most of these monies are dedicated toward maintenance of important existing programs. But a few key new conservation programs were authorized, the best of them carried on the shoulders of the American sportsman.

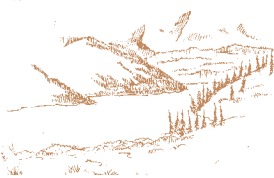


WHAT WOULD TEDDY DO?

WERE HE ENTERING OFFICE TODAY,

T.R. would support the conservation priorities authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill by advocating full funding for and rapid implementation of these programs. He would make it a priority to strengthen the largest and most successful of the USDA conservation programs, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), as it has faced significant challenges in recent years as the prices of corn, wheat and other commodities have skyrocketed. The payment structure and rules governing CRP need modernizing in order to remain a competitive option for landowners seeking to practice conservation. Finally, he would commit full funding at \$50 million to the newly created "Open Fields" program – an access initiative that provides incentives to private landowners who open their land to the public for hunting and fishing.

THE ISSUE:



CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change threatens the health, well-being and ranges of fish and wildlife and their habitats. Big game must adapt to fluctuations in available forage and shift their migration patterns. Changes in water quality and quantity are affecting saltwater and freshwater ecosystems and fisheries. Wetlands losses in the Prairie Pothole Region will severely reduce North America's waterfowl productivity. Invasive species, parasites and diseases may flourish in warmer temperatures, challenging the survival of upland game birds. Hunters and anglers will be among the first to feel the impacts of climate change when their hunting and fishing opportunities diminish. Fish and wildlife numbers could drop, and hunting and fishing seasons may be curtailed or dramatically altered.



WHAT WOULD TEDDY DO?

WERE HE ENTERING OFFICE TODAY,

T.R. would ensure that federal and state agencies develop comprehensive conservation plans to help fish and wildlife adapt to a changing climate. He likewise would push Congress to provide critical funding to implement these plans. And he would emphasize land and water conservation as a matter of urgent national priority.



MANY INVOKE
THEODORE ROOSEVELT WHEN SPEAKING.

WE ENCOURAGE THOSE INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE
THE NEXT STEP BY HONORING HIS CONSERVATION
LEGACY WITH THEIR ACTIONS.



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