



Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Annual Report 2005



Cover Photo and Above - Dusan Smetana

The TRCP

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is a coalition of leading conservation organizations and individual grassroots partners working together to preserve the traditions of hunting and angling.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, a 501 (c)3 corporation, is driven by a Board of Directors and a Policy Council made up of leaders from many of the country's top fishing, hunting and conservation organizations, including representatives of the many groups whose logos you see on this page.

Our nationwide network of more than 100,000 sportsmen and women is complemented by more than 1,400 affiliated local- and state-level clubs and organizations that collectively represent 9 million Americans.



BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB
Fair Chase and Conservation
SINCE 1887



The Nature Conservancy
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

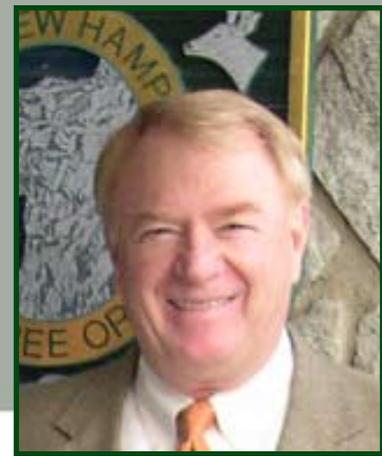


PHEASANTS
forever



We are prone to speak of the resources of this country as inexhaustible; this is not so.

President Theodore Roosevelt's 7th Annual Message to Congress
December 3, 1907



T.R.'s Vision

The conservation vision of Theodore Roosevelt defines our organization, grounding our work in time-tested truth.

In his words from 1886, spoken as a young man in what was then the dusty Dakota Territory, we find some of our earliest guidance:

"It is not what we have that will make us a great nation; it is the way in which we use it."

As president 30 years later, Roosevelt built on this theme in his Seventh Annual Message to Congress:

"We are prone to speak of our resources as inexhaustible; this is not so."

As these lines reveal, Roosevelt's conservation vision was utilitarian, and the TRCP's work is similar in nature. We believe our natural resources are to be enjoyed and used

for both our personal enrichment and advantage, but never expended frivolously or in their entirety. To do the latter would be to steal from future generations an inheritance that is among their greatest birthrights, America's lands and waters. Theodore Roosevelt himself spoke to this imperative, saying later in his 1907 Annual Message to Congress the very words that define our purpose:

To waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is gathering strength in its efforts to conserve our natural resources and guarantee all Americans a place to hunt and fish.

As you will see in the following pages, 2005 saw the TRCP grow its capabilities to levels that represent new highs. It also saw the Partnership simultaneously broaden its policy platform, outreach tools, and overall effectiveness. From the successful launch of a new television show to our fruitful work to find federal conservation funding in non-traditional places, the TRCP has delivered on its promise to promote the stewardship of the fragile natural resources Theodore Roosevelt warned of being in such short supply.

Message From the Chairman and President/CEO

We head into the coming year with sustainable momentum, recognizable potential and a definite need for our work. Our mission-driven priorities for 2006 include:

1. expanding access for hunters and anglers nationwide;
2. conserving and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat; and
3. increasing funding for wildlife management.

We outline in this report the many ways we have already advanced these ideals, as well as the strategies we plan to employ to ensure their continued advancement.

The Board of Directors, Policy Council and staff of the TRCP, several of whom are profiled in this report, will continue working toward

these goals with a rare dedication, a dedication matched only by that of the TRCP's Individual and Organizational Partners.

This unparalleled combination, ultimately based in the love for what Theodore Roosevelt called "life in the open," defines us as we move ahead.

United, much like the masses once did behind Theodore Roosevelt's leadership, we will strive to embody T.R.'s conservationist vision.

Sincerely,


James D. Range, Chairman


Matthew B. Connolly, Jr.
President/CEO



The TRCP in Action

The TRCP acts under three main policy categories:

1. expanding hunting and fishing access;
2. conserving habitat; and
3. increasing funding for wildlife management.

Our work within these areas is driven by working groups that consist of leaders and experts from national hunting, fishing and conservation organizations. By combining their collective expertise and voices, the TRCP working groups bring a strong new force to the policymaking arena.



1. Expanding Access

Hunter and angler opportunities are diminishing and this means declining numbers of hunters and anglers. Despite a very slight recent uptick, from 1991 to 2001, hunter numbers decreased by 1 million, and angler numbers decreased by a million-and-a-half. In a national survey, lack of access was the top-rated cause of hunter dissatisfaction, and nearly a third of all ex-hunters said it was the primary reason they decided to give up hunting. Those decisions ripple throughout the U.S. economy, to which hunters, anglers, and wildlife-watchers make a substantial contribution. These sectors combined to spend \$108 billion in 2001. And with an estimated \$1,852 spent per sporting enthusiast in that year alone, the decline in hunters and anglers meant some \$4 billion in lost national revenue.

The TRCP firmly believes that by offering voluntary incentives

to private landowners who allow public hunting and fishing access on their property, we can slow, and hopefully reverse, the downward spiral in hunter and angler numbers. The TRCP's Partner Organizations staunchly support the passage of bipartisan legislation known as the Open Fields Bill that would make available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture a total of \$20 million each year to states to support public access programs.

Several states have already established access programs. Not only have these states enrolled 26.8 million acres of land, they have curbed the decline in sportsmen's numbers. In a study of 16 states with access programs, hunter numbers declined a modest 1.7 percent from 1991 to 2001. Meanwhile, the national average was 7 percent. For the 16 states

studied, this meant \$512 million that would not have been spent if the hunters had quit.

For states with established public access programs, the Open Fields Bill would provide steady funding. For states without access programs, it would help create them.

The Open Fields Bill was first introduced in the 109th Congress.



It quickly generated support, but needs more to gain passage. The TRCP is mobilizing hunters and anglers, asking them —and giving them the tools— to make their support for the legislation known to their elected officials.



Much of the TRCP's work to expand hunter and angler access is managed by Lynn Tjeerdsma, who joined the Partnership as a Policy Initiatives Manager in January 2005. He brings to this post the perspective of a policymaker (prior to coming to the TRCP he was Chief of the Farm Service Agency's Emergency Preparedness and Programs Branch); a farmer (he grew up on a diversified crop and livestock family farm in South Dakota, where he still owns two farms); and, as the following picture indicates, an avid sportsman. "I consider myself extremely fortunate to be able to use the lessons learned earlier in my life and career to advance the goals of the sporting community," he says.



II. Conserving Habitat

The TRCP's efforts to ensure that hunters and anglers engage in the national discussion on the future of roadless forests are being advanced by Bill Geer, who joined the TRCP staff in 2005 as Policy Initiatives Manager. Geer brings a wealth of experience to the post, having previously served as the Director of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Coordinator for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Vice President for both Field Operations and Conservation Programs for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Executive Director of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. Based in Missoula, Montana, Geer considers his work with the TRCP "among the most worthy of my many endeavors in the conservation arena."



Federal Energy Leasing Standards on Public Lands

A coalition of groups is directing a TRCP policy initiative aimed at reforming the federal energy leasing process on public lands. Of particular concern are decisions being made that affect Western landscapes, home to some of the nation's most important fish and wildlife populations and habitat. American hunters and anglers, regardless of the state in which they live, treasure the sporting opportunities still left in this part of America. Trout, elk, mule deer, pronghorn, turkey, lesser prairie chickens, and sage grouse all rely on particular habitat in this region. The TRCP does not seek to hamper energy development, but to make certain that leasing and permitting decisions include responsible considerations for fish and wildlife.

Roadless Forest Policy

The TRCP Roadless Area Conservation Initiative has worked to make sportsmen's voices heard as new laws are considered for the remaining unroaded wildlands in National Forests and Grasslands. Because these areas contain much of the highest-value fish and wildlife habitat in the country and because these areas present superior hunting and fishing opportunities for the American public, the TRCP is dedicated to ensuring that sportsmen's views factor into decisions on management of these premier landscapes.



Open Rivers Initiative

The TRCP Freshwater Fisheries Working Group has helped shape the Open Rivers Initiative, a new Commerce Department program aimed at eliminating the estimated 2 million derelict small dams and culverts that block fish passage in rivers and streams nationwide. By organizing the marine conservation community to call on the administration to fund Open Rivers at robust levels and by mobilizing sportsmen to apply for program grants, the TRCP working group is helping to generate immediate momentum for the initiative.



Farm Bill

The Farm Bill arguably presents more opportunities for conservation than any other single piece of legislation, in part because it shapes so many programs and in part because it fuels them for so long. With a reauthorization of the Farm Bill on the legislative horizon, the TRCP has organized a large and diverse working group charged with unifying, and thus elevating, the voice of the hunting, fishing and conservation community in the public Farm Bill debate.

Magnuson-Stevens

Like the Farm Bill, the periodically renewed Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management Act sets federal natural resource policy, including catch levels, gear restrictions, and licensing requirements, in multi-year clips. With the act expected to be reauthorized in the near future, the TRCP has drawn together groups concerned with conserving marine resources and pursued important common goals expected to be in the final legislation.



Jodi Stemler joined the TRCP as a Policy Initiative Manager for the Partnership's work on Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization in September 2005. She holds a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from Rutgers University and has a dozen years of communications and legislative experience with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the National Wildlife Federation and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "It's incredibly rewarding to help shape the country's most important law affecting recreational saltwater angling," she says. "Not just because I like to pull



stripers from the surf, but because I want my daughter to someday be able to do so too."



III. Funding for Wildlife Management

The TRCP strives to enable sound, locally led wildlife management by promoting state wildlife grants.

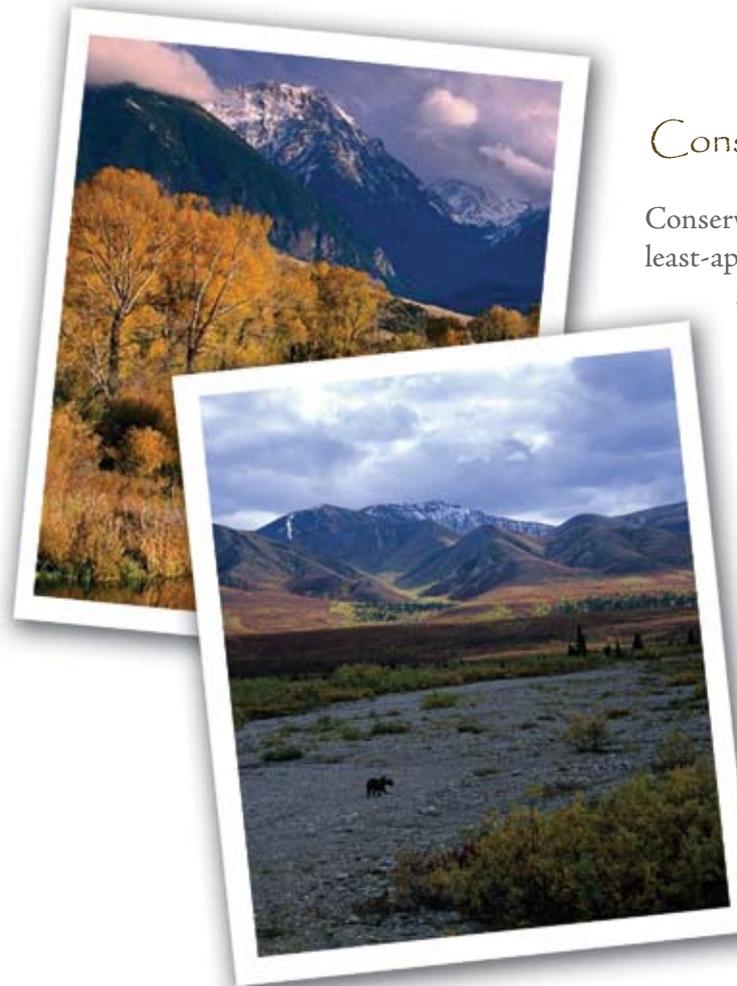
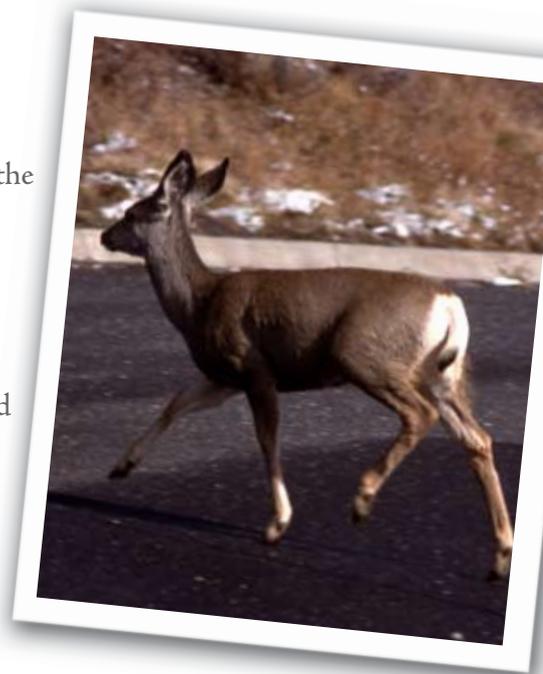


State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies currently receive federal grants to promote the proactive management of all species. Because many states do not have steady, dedicated funding sources for wildlife management, these grants represent our nation's core effort for keeping wildlife species intact. Expanding state wildlife grants is one of several improvement strategies promoted by a national coalition called Teaming With Wildlife, which includes more than 3,000 state wildlife agencies, organizations and businesses throughout the country. The TRCP has been an active member of the Teaming With Wildlife National Steering Committee, and enters 2006 ready to elevate the coalition's goals to national prominence.

Transportation Funding

Seeking conservation funding in unconventional places, the TRCP entered the public debate on the federal highway bill. Signed into law in late July, the six-year funding bill ultimately provided more than \$2 billion that will benefit fish, wildlife, and sportsmen. The TRCP, working closely with its partner organizations, facilitated a multi-year coalition effort that insured the lawmakers creating

this highway bill would address the priorities of the hunting, fishing, and conservation community, including improved funding for groundcover plantings that will help keep animals off roads. Finding similar, often-overlooked opportunities for beneficial funding will remain a TRCP priority in 2006.



Conservation Tax Incentives

Conservation tax incentives are perhaps the most important, least-appreciated conservation tools that affect hunters and anglers. They hold great potential for slowing the loss of the landscapes on which we hunt and fish. And they recently have been as threatened as the same landscapes they are designed to protect. In early 2005, the future of conservation tax incentives looked bleak. After national newspapers reported that some of these incentives were being misused, Congress promised a spate of reforms that appeared to be headed far beyond what was necessary to correct the scattered instances of wrongdoing. Six months later, owing in no small part to the work of a coalition of organizations that included the TRCP, a tax bill emerged from the Senate that not only avoided unnecessary reforms, but provided a significant expansion of the deductions available to landowners who donate a conservation easement.

The TRCP's "Life In The Open"

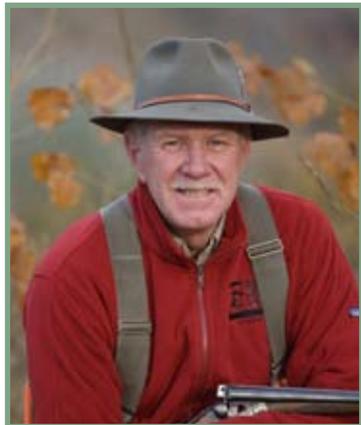
The TRCP was extremely pleased with the strong viewer response that followed the 2005 launch of its new television show on OLN. Produced by Orion Multimedia, the TRCP's *Life In The Open* struck a chord with viewers, rating as the top weekend hunting and fishing show on OLN, in no small part because it challenged American sportsmen to ask themselves "What would Teddy do?" and inspired them to follow in his footsteps.

Focusing on publicly accessible places to hunt and fish, host Ken Barrett often treks on paths left by Theodore Roosevelt's conservation legacy. Along the way, Barrett vigilantly examines the 26th

President's love of hunting and adventures in the outdoors, or "life in the open," as Roosevelt called it.

The TRCP's *Life In The Open* was made possible in large part by the generosity of its anchor sponsor, the Building and Construction Trade Unions (BCTD) of the AFL-CIO. The BCTD coordinates activity and provides resources to 13 affiliated trades unions in the construction industry. One of the BCTD unions, the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC), sponsored the show as an individual organization. More than 70% of the BCTD's members hunt and fish, making a partnership with the TRCP a natural.

An all-new season of *Life In The Open* will debut in October 2006. We look forward to the chance to further explore and showcase America's great landscapes and wildlife, Theodore Roosevelt's lasting contributions to them, and the ongoing work of the TRCP's Partner Organizations. We sincerely hope you'll keep joining us each week.



The TRCP's "Life In The Open" is hosted by Ken Barrett, who has been with the TRCP since its inception. Ken grew up in the Hudson Valley of New York and has resided in Montana for almost 20 years. When not writing, he can be found fishing for trout on the Madison, Yellowstone, or Gallatin Rivers, hunting upland birds on the state's eastern prairies or elk in its mountains. Barrett, a graduate of Cornell University, has been a teacher and a non-profit development director, executive director and board chairman. "I might be the luckiest guy in the world," Barrett says, "Life In The Open" has taken me down many of Teddy Roosevelt's old hunting trails - and many more I'm sure he would have liked to explore.



An Orion Multimedia camera crew shoots an episode of "Life In The Open" along Montana's timeless Bighorn River.

The TRCP's "Life In The Open" was watched by an average of more than 300,000 viewers each week during its first full season on OLN, which reaches almost 70 million households nationwide.



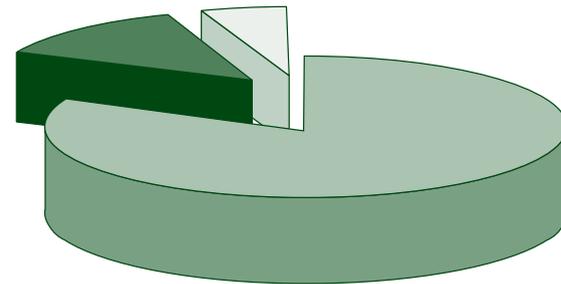
2005 Statement of Financial Position

Financial Statements

Assets	
Cash and Other Current Assets	\$ 1,028,697
Grants Receivable	\$ 1,675,602
Fixed Assets	\$ 23,735
Total Assets	\$2,728,034
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 119,784
Net Assets	\$ 2,608,250
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,728,034

Statement of Activities

Revenue	
Grants	\$ 2,863,544
Donations	\$ 642,009
Total Revenue	\$3,505,553
Expenses	
Conservation Programs	\$ 2,240,275
Membership and Development	\$ 333,179
Management and General	\$ 150,056
Total Expenses	\$2,723,510
Change in Net Assets	\$ 782,043



- Management and General - 6%
- Membership and Development - 12%
- Conservation Programs - 82%



Inspired by Theodore Roosevelt's fully volunteer cavalry regiment that charged its way permanently into our national memory in 1898, in the past year the TRCP began assembling a new group of Rough Riders. T.R.'s conservation vision provides the marching orders for today's regiment - those passionate about America's unique conservation history and determined to demand the proper stewardship of our precious fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of future generations.

The TRCP extends its deep appreciation to the following individuals, foundations, and corporations whose generous support as Rough Riders has helped to advance our conservation mission.

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Donors of more than \$500,000

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*The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem.
Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others.*

Theodore Roosevelt's Address to the Deep Waterway Convention
Memphis, Tennessee • October 4, 1907

THE TRCP 2006 Policy Agenda

The partner organizations of the TRCP have identified a core set of Policy Initiatives on which to focus sustained and coordinated efforts this year. The TRCP will facilitate these groups' efforts to combine forces and put broad, unified support from across the spectrum of the hunting and fishing community behind important issues on which individual conservation organizations already are working hard. These issues include:

- ✦ Promoting public access through Open Fields,
- ✦ Improving USDA conservation programs in the Farm Bill,
- ✦ Improving fisheries and marine resource management in the Magnuson-Stevens Act,
- ✦ Conserving fish and wildlife in the face of energy development on public lands,
- ✦ Promoting public involvement in the roadless forest debate,
- ✦ Working to improve funding for state wildlife grants, and
- ✦ Improving and protecting conservation tax incentives.

These consensus priorities represent the overarching concerns and opportunities of the hunting and fishing community that stand to affect all kinds of sportsmen and women – from small- and big-game hunters to both freshwater and saltwater anglers. Building on momentum gained this past year, the groups represented in the Partnership together will seek to achieve meaningful results in these specific policy areas in 2006 so that the country's 50 million hunters and anglers can all be guaranteed quality places to hunt and fish.



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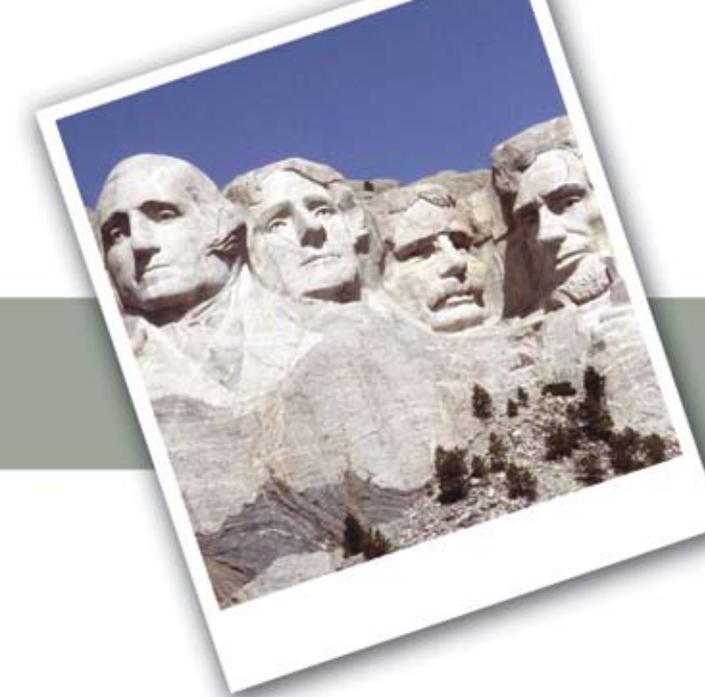
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