Two Decades “In the Arena”

REFLECTING ON TRCP’s 20TH YEAR OF SECURING DURABLE CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS FOR HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

THIS JULY WILL MARK THE END of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership’s 20th anniversary year, during which we celebrated many past achievements and saw a handful of long-pursued policy solutions come to fruition.

Perhaps the most prominent legislative victory of 2022 was the greatest investment in climate resilience and natural infrastructure in our country’s history. Congress has enacted conservation provisions worth billions of dollars that our community has sought since the start of TRCP’s Conservation Works for America campaign in 2022—securing habitat protection, creating conservation jobs, and enabling hunter and angler opportunity along the way.

We also celebrated final passage of the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act, which will strengthen oversight, management, and scientific study of this fatal wildlife disease. TRCP staff and partners helped shape and drive this bill to the finish line at the end of a busy congressional session—no easy feat with so much competing for lawmakers’ attention.

It has been a special time for those of us who have watched and contributed to TRCP’s growth since the days of our late co-founder Jim Range—if this describes you, we sincerely thank you for being a champion of conservation and our cause of uniting and amplifying the voices of hunters and anglers for all these years.

If you’ve just discovered TRCP’s work recently, you are an equally important part of the past year’s successes, which indicate that together we can achieve our most far-reaching goals for habitat, access, and conservation in America.

Already in 2023, some major conservation milestones that we have prioritized for years have been attained. During a single week in March, in fact, decisions were made that will secure the future of critical fish and wildlife habitat in Minnesota’s Boundary Waters, Alaska’s Bristol Bay, and the Tongass National Forest.

Still, we have hard work ahead of us. Later this year, a new Farm Bill will determine the course of private land conservation over the next five years. And there are many other important matters pending congressional approval. This includes the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, which would invest in our most at-risk species; the North American Grasslands Conservation Act, which would restore grasslands and sagebrush habitats that are disappearing at an alarming rate; and the Forage Fish Conservation Act, which would conserve species at the base of the marine food web.

Thank you again for your support in these endeavors. We’re proud to have you in our camp as we continue this important work for the next 20 years.

Please enjoy this annual report highlighting our achievements in 2022 and TRCP’s priorities for the future.

Sincerely,

REFLECTING ON TRCP’s 20TH YEAR OF SECURING DURABLE CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS FOR HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

Jamie A. Baker IV
Board Chair
Whit Fosburgh
President and CEO

Two Decades “In the Arena”

WHIT FOSEBURGH
President and CEO

PorTRATS BY KYLE HILTON
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Two Decades “In the Arena”

REFLECTING ON TRCP’s 20TH YEAR OF SECURING DURABLE CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS FOR HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

THIS JULY WILL MARK THE END of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership’s 20th anniver- sary year, during which we celebrated many past achievements and saw a handful of long-pursued policy solutions come to fruition.

Perhaps the most prominent legislative victory of 2022 was the greatest investment in climate resilience and natural infrastructure in our country’s history. Congress has enacted conservation provisions worth billions of dollars that our community has sought since the start of TRCP’s Conservation Works for America campaign in 2022—securing habitat protection, creating conservation jobs, and enabling hunter and angler opportunity along the way.

We also celebrated final passage of the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act, which will strengthen oversight, management, and scientific study of this fatal wildlife disease. TRCP staff and partners helped shape and drive this bill to the finish line at the end of a busy congressional session—no easy feat with so much competing for lawmakers’ attention.

It has been a special time for those of us who have watched and contributed to TRCP’s growth since the days of our late co-founder Jim Range—if this describes you, we sincerely thank you for being a champion of conservation and our cause of uniting and amplifying the voices of hunters and anglers for all these years.

If you’ve just discovered TRCP’s work recently, you are an equally important part of the past year’s successes, which indicate that together we can achieve our most far-reaching goals for habitat, access, and conservation in America.

Already in 2023, some major conservation milestones that we have prioritized for years have been attained. During a single week in March, in fact, decisions were made that will secure the future of critical fish and wildlife habitat in Minnesota’s Boundary Waters, Alaska’s Bristol Bay, and the Tongass National Forest.

Still, we have hard work ahead of us. Later this year, a new Farm Bill will determine the course of private land conservation over the next five years. And there are many other important matters pending congressional approval. This includes the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, which would invest in our most at-risk species; the North American Grasslands Conservation Act, which would restore grasslands and sagebrush habitats that are disappearing at an alarming rate; and the Forage Fish Conservation Act, which would conserve species at the base of the marine food web.

Thank you again for your support in these endeavors. We’re proud to have you in our camp as we continue this important work for the next 20 years.

Please enjoy this annual report highlighting our achievements in 2022 and TRCP’s priorities for the future.

Sincerely,
CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS

$1.5 BILLION SECURED FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION

Construction of the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir began, which will restore natural north-to-south flows.

GROUNDBREAKING WIN FOR PUBLIC LAND ACCESS

The TRCP-led Modernizing Access to our Public Land Act (MAPLand Act) was signed into law, directing federal land management agencies to digitize recreational access information and make it publicly available as geospatial files.

BIPARTISAN CLIMATE SOLUTIONS BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

The Growing Climate Solutions Act improves access to carbon markets for farmers, ranchers, and foresters, enabling climate-smart agriculture and new revenue streams while keeping lands intact. By establishing trusted and credible third-party verifiers and technical service providers, land managers can better generate carbon credits while improving habitat, as well as air and water quality, allowing them to contribute to the economy and climate resilience.

LARGEST CLIMATE RELATED INVESTMENT IN U.S. HISTORY

A $20-billion increase for private lands conservation efforts to conserve and restore habitat, and an additional $10+ billion for forest health, coastal resilience, and drought mitigation.

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW INVESTMENTS: LANDMARK PROJECTS

That advance migration corridors, aquatic connectivity and fish passage, and restore habitat are breaking ground across the U.S.

SUCCESS STORY

Authorizes $70 MILLION annually to CWD management and research through 2028.

In a 2022 poll, 88 percent of American voters said they support additional federal investment in CWD management at the state level. Provisions of this bipartisan legislation include:

- $35 million per year for research that focuses on detection and reducing occurrences of the disease
- $35 million per year for management, including surveillance and testing
- Directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture to review its Herd Certification Program

CONSTRUCTION OF THE EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA RESERVOIR BEGAN, WHICH WILL RESTORE NATURAL NORTH-TO-SOUTH FLOWS.

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW INVESTMENTS: LANDMARK PROJECTS THAT ADVANCE MIGRATION CORRIDORS, AQUATIC CONNECTIVITY AND FISH PASSAGE, AND RESTORE HABITAT ARE BREAKING GROUND ACROSS THE U.S.
Comprised of a diverse group of leading scientists, conservationists, anglers, tribal leaders, boaters, business leaders, and policy experts, the AIS Commission was established to develop recommendations that aim to address major aquatic invasive species challenges across the U.S. Their report will be released in 2023.

The 14th annual Capital Conservation Awards Dinner, co-hosted by MeatEater crewmember Steve Rinella, bestowed conservation achievement awards to Representative Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), Senator Steve Daines (R-Mont.), and business leader Ben Speciale, president of Yamaha Marine Group.

Throughout 2022, the TRCP’s Agriculture and Wildlife Working Group convened 26 hunting, angling, landowner, and conservation organizations to release a detailed list of recommendations on USDA conservation funding levels and to maximize habitat and access benefits. These recommendations are a roadmap for development of the next Farm Bill, the single-largest source of private lands conservation funding, which is due for reauthorization in 2023.

“ALIGNING GOALS AND SHARING IDEAS IS VALUABLE IN ENSURING THAT WILDLIFE AND LANDS RECEIVE AS GREAT A BENEFIT AS POSSIBLE FROM THIS NEXT FARM BILL.”

—Nick Pinizzotto, president and CEO of the National Deer Association.
PAPER TRAILS: A PUBLIC ACCESS STORY

TRCP IDENTIFIES THE PROBLEMS AND OFFERS SOLUTIONS TO HELP HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ACCESS THEIR PUBLIC LANDS.

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) unveiled its new documentary film, "Paper Trails," which explores the complexities of accessing public lands in the West. The film, produced in collaboration with Eastmans’ Hunting Journal, onX, Savage Arms, SIG SAUER, and Kenetrek, follows a group of Wyoming antelope hunters as they navigate the challenges of accessing public lands.

"Hunters know from firsthand experience that public access can be difficult, and even confusing to figure out, but many people don’t know why it is so complex or what to do about it," said Joel Webster, TRCP vice president of Western conservation. "Recognizing this challenge, TRCP and several of our partners created Paper Trails to reveal issues surrounding public access that have never before been explored on film—such as difficult-to-retrieve public easements and inaccurate or absent public signage—and offer solutions to the problem moving forward, such as the MAPLand Act."

The film highlights the unfortunate reality that the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have 90,000 road and trail easements scattered across the nation, of which 50,000 remain on paper file and have not yet been digitized or made readily available. "Sportsmen and sportswomen know all too well how complicated and daunting it can be to navigate access to the millions of public land acres that the West holds," said Guy Eastman of Eastmans’ Hunting Journal. "To begin to cure this problem, better, more accurate mapping resources need to be developed and recorded in order to open up the full spectrum of public access options available, including state walk-in programs and public road easements."

Additionally, Paper Trails explores the need for better information to be made readily available about the location of county roads, which are also open to the public, and the status of BLM travel management plans, of which only 20% are completed nationally. All of these hurdles trip up hunters and anglers trying to reach their public lands.

“We have been honored to work with TRCP over the years to better understand and solve the access challenges outdoorsmen and women face across the U.S.,” said Lisa Nichols, access advocacy manager for onX. “We’ve partnered with TRCP since 2018 on the first of the Landlocked series of reports, which were integral in helping pass the MAPLand Act in 2022.”

Spearheaded by TRCP, the MAPLand Act requires federal land management agencies to consolidate, digitize, and make publicly available recreational access information on public lands. The implementation of the law will mean clarity for hunters, anglers, landowners, and land agencies alike. "This deep dive into the status of public access in America, coupled with the excitement of hunting antelope in the sage country of Wyoming, melds the mission and passion of TRCP, resulting in a film that entertains hunters and anglers, while at the same time revealing a path forward toward a future of better public access."

"Paper Trails uncovers the challenges public land users encounter when trying to reach their lands, and identifies solutions to 21st century access barriers," said Joel Webster, TRCP vice president of Western conservation.
1 INVESTING IN LANDOWNER-LED CONSERVATION

Voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs improve fish and wildlife habitat on farms and ranches. These programs are being debated as part of the 2023 Farm Bill and will shape habitat on private lands for the next five years and beyond.

Two programs to watch: the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Improvement Act and the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP). The CRP Improvement Act, from Senators Thune and Klobuchar, would make a number of these important changes, which will benefit farmers and ranchers while improving the CRP’s habitat value.

The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP), which provides funding directly to state and tribal agencies to expand local hunting and fishing access opportunities by working with willing landowners, is another priority for TRCP. The program has dedicated funding to construct this essential infrastructure and the TRCP is encouraging local decision-makers to prioritize such projects.

2 MOVING MENGHADEN REDUCTION FISHING OUT OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

Virginia is the only East Coast state that allows menhaden reduction fishing in state waters. Thousands of anglers have signed a petition in support of limiting industrial menhaden fishing to boost spottail popula-
tions in the Chesapeake Bay. The TRCP continues to urge lawmakers to change the regulations with- out delay.

TRCP is working with willing landowners to expand local hunting and fishing access opportunities by working with willing landowners. The Voluntary Public Access Improvement Act, from Senators Daines, Bennet, and Marshall would make this much needed investment.

3 BUILDING WILDLIFE CROSSINGS TO SAVE LIVES

Wildlife crossings support the unimpeded movement of ani-
mals as they migrate across roads—and they save lives. In Wyoming, the Trappers Point crossing decreased wildlife-vehicle collisions by 80 percent. A series of five overpasses and four underpasses in Nevada have documented nearly 40,000 safe crossings by wildlife, keeping them off highways. A $350 million competitive grant program, first established in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, has dedicated funding to construct this essential infrastructure and TRCP is encouraging local decision-makers to prioritize such projects.

4 KEEPING THREATENED SPECIES OFF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST

The TRCP is urging lawmakers to pass the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, landmark legis-
lation that would provide $1.4 billion annually to state wildlife agencies to conserve species of greatest concern. This would also improve soil, water, and air quality through more habitat conservation and restoration projects that benefit game and non-game spe-
cies alike. This bipartisan bill almost made it over the finish line in 2022. It’s time to send it to the president’s desk.

5 ACCELERATING CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

In 2023, Congress and the Biden Administration have the opportunity to improve and expedite project approvals to ensure that the funds made available by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and other recent legisla-
tion touch down on the landscape to benefit fish and wildlife and improve climate resilience.

TRCP spent 85 percent of all contributions directly on conservation, keeping our overhead at 15 percent. As a testament to the integrity of TRCP’s work, we have received the highest possible rating from Charity Navigator for seven years in a row, a Platinum Seal from Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance. In 2022, TRCP spent 85 percent of all contributions directly on conservation, keeping our overhead at 15 percent. As a testament to the integrity of TRCP’s work, we have received the highest possible rating from Charity Navigator for seven years in a row, a Platinum Seal from Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance. The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that takes great pride in its financial accuracy, transparency, and accountability. The TRCP uses every dollar as efficiently as possible to honor the generosity of our donors. In 2022, the TRCP spent 85 percent of all contributions directly on conservation, keeping our overhead at 15 percent. As a testament to the integrity of TRCP’s work, we have received the highest possible rating from Charity Navigator for seven years in a row, a Platinum Seal from Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.