

URBAN WILDLIFE SERIES

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS
AND
WILDLIFE- USE TRADE
ASSOCIATIONS



STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS AND WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE[▲]

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE. WMI board of directors (2000): Remington Arms, Inc. Browning Arms, Inc.; Alliant Powder; Olin Corporation; Hodgdon Powder Com.; Blount, Inc.; Marlin Firearms Company; H&R 1871 Inc.; Sturm, Ruger & Co.; O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.; SigArms Corporation; Taurus International Firearms; Weatherby, Inc.; and Smith & Wesson. (www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org Jan 2000).

WMI has made cosmetic changes to its board of directors, most of whom are still represented under the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The 2010 board is as follows: Chair: Hornaday Manufacturing; Retired Deputy Commissioner, NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation; National Shooting Sports Foundation (see board below); ATK Security and Sporting; Boone and Crocket Club; Pheasants Forever; Wildlife Management Institute. 2009 board chair: ATK Ammunition Systems. (www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org May 2010.)

WMI manufacturers operate under partnership agreements with the Department of Interior and state wildlife agencies:

"No other organization has a greater hand in molding state, federal and provincial resource agencies, typically working away from the limelight to catalyze and facilitate strategies, actions and decisions." (Mission Statement, www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org Jan 2000. Removed/revised.)

Each of the Department of the Interior's Cooperative Research Units is a "partnership among the U.S. Biological Resources Division, the state natural resource agency, a host of universities and the Wildlife Management Institute." WMI also "conducts in-depth reviews of state, federal and provincial wildlife agencies' organizations, authorities and programs." WMI reach extends to land-grant universities and research funding.

ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES. Teaming with Wildlife is an AFWA project. AFWA is an umbrella trade association that commingles state wildlife agency regulators and trade. Trade members, e.g., fur and hunting publicists, were permitted to write government publications. Highlighted "wildlife organization" partners: Archery Trade Association, Safari Club International (SCI has challenged the Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Acts); Weatherby, and U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (retail, shooting, trappers and furriers). Federal partners: USDA/APHIS, U.S. Geological Survey; National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

AFWA ASSOCIATE/CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS: The Wildlife Management Institute, (see above); Archery Trade Association (ATA), currently headed by Muzzy Products - Bad to the Bone. ATA board members "[w]ork[s] with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which promotes hunting and bowhunting nationwide" (www.archerytrade.org May 21, 2010); Safari Club International-First for Hunters (Sourcewatch: "An organization of trophy hunters"); U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance members include Flemington Furs, National Trappers' Association; Ducks Unlimited: partners include Federal Premium Ammunition, Winchester Ammunition, Mossy Oak, and Budweiser; National Shooting Sports Foundation: "The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) is the trade association for the firearms and recreational shooting sports industry." NSSF Board of Governors: Remington Arms, Beretta USA, Smith & Wesson, Hornaday, Olin Corporation, RSR Group, Mossburg & Sons, Camfour, Glock, InterMedia Outdoors, Browning Arms Co, Leupold &

▲ Teaming with Wildlife cites trade associations as "wildlife organizations" or "nature-related businesses."

▲ New Jersey Teaming with Wildlife Coalition Co-Leader: New Jersey Audubon Society.

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Stevens, ATK Armament Systems, Taurus International Firearms, The Sportsman's Shop, Colt's Manufacturing (www.nssf.org/industry/boardNSSF.cfm May 19, 2010); The National Wild Turkey Federation, which includes but is not limited to Winchester Ammunition, Federal Premium Ammunition, Marksman, Browning, Precision Beeman Airguns, CASE, SARGE, Outdoor Underwriters Inc, McConnell Hall Outfitters, Leupold, Knight & Hale Game Calls, Gun Broker.com, Hevi-Shot, Foxy Huntress, and so on; Delta Waterfowl^a; The Nature Conservancy.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP. The Theodore Roosevelt Partnership explains: "America's hunters, shooters and anglers, and its hunting, sport-shooting and sport-fishing industries are inextricably connected. They depend upon and need each other." The partnership "would like to thank these corporations for their generous donations to our organization. These corporate donors have shown their support of the TRCP and our work of 'Guaranteeing You a Place to Hunt and Fish.'" Current corporate sponsors include Beretta, Bellini, Buck Knives, and Winchester. Among partners: Wildlife Management Institute, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Union Sportsmen's Alliance USA; FFF, and The Nature Conservancy.

"TRCP accomplishes its mission" by "expanding access to places to hunt and fish":

Dwindling access to quality hunting and angling opportunities is a trend that slowly is pulling apart the American sporting tradition. Urban sprawl and other factors are making it more difficult for the average sportsman to access hunting land and fishing waters, which has led to a decline in the number of American hunters and anglers in the field.

Open Fields funding has the potential to make millions of additional private lands available for hunting and fishing, by augmenting existing state access programs and encouraging the establishment of new "walk-in" programs. (www.trcp.org/issues/access.html. May 2010) Emphasis added.

TRCP "drafts model access legislation."

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY. Board members: Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (Immediate past president) see above; Boone & Crockett Club; Wyoming Game & Fish, Mississippi State Wildlife and Fisheries. Represents "state and federal wildlife employees; land grant, cooperative research universities." (www.joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=78&Itemid=104 May 21, 2010.)

TWS Coalitions:

- THEODORE ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP. See above.
- AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PARTNERS: Wildlife Management Institute, National Rifle Association, The Wildlife Society, National Trappers' Association, Safari Club International, U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation; National Shooting Sports Foundation.

^a Delta Waterfowl specializes in "predator management" by way of trapping and poisoning red foxes, raccoons, skunks and other natural predators. When asked, "Why do it, when duck populations are at near record levels?" Delta responded: "Tell that to the pintail and scaup lovers out there." "Ducks that don't get out of the egg don't migrate," said Delta President Rob Olson, and hence, cannot be shot. Delta Waterfowl counts Donal C. O'Brien, former chairman of the National Audubon Society, as an honorary trustee. Delta Waterfowl, deltawaterfowl.org/programs/predator.html (Jan 2004).

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- TWS lists "Bird Conservation Alliance PARTNER: NJ Audubon Society" (www.birdconservationalliance.org/about/memlist.cfm May 22, 2010) "WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE AND ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES ARE MEMBER [sic]."
- TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION. The national federation of state sportsmen's clubs, many of which are re-named the State Wildlife Federations. In some areas, NWF may mildly broaden its constituency. The NWF recently appointed the New Jersey Audubon Society as its state representative.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY. *The Washington Post* series on the Nature Conservancy and green washing concerns is accessible online at www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/nation/specials/natureconservancy/ to present, "Nature Conservancy Faces Backlash from Ties to BP" - May 24, 2010.

THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. Audubon has laudable programs, not least of which is addressing habitat fragmentation and loss. However, since partnering with trade, National Audubon Magazine has "assigned" a columnist (Incite!) to "promote hunting" (Guns and Greens.) "Incite!" articles and magazine editorials have attempted to: dissuade readers from supporting bans on internationally outlawed wildlife traps[▲] because doing so offends "NRA types"; scolded Michigan Audubon for its opposition to a mourning dove hunt[▲] ("embarrassing"); called for more hunters and increased hunter access "Wanted: More Hunters"), and assailed efforts to broaden state wildlife councils dominated by shooting interests to include unaffiliated mammalogists, biologists, and public representation.

In the related *Audubon Magazine* article, "Management by Majority: ballot initiatives have conservationists concerned," (May-June 1999), the only Audubon-quoted "conservationists" were WMI employees. The magazine did not inform readers that WMI is a firearms and ammunition trade association. Richly, Audubon deplored public involvement as "tyranny of the majority." Prior to Audubon "teaming" with ammunition, firearms, and archery manufacturers, the same author had argued the polar opposite, urging more public involvement. The 1986 article entitled, "Who's Managing the Managers?" counseled: "'The non-sporting public,' as the managers refer to it—is free to demand the same kind of representation. Of course, they will have to pay for it, and they will have to fight to pay because managers prefer to conduct business as

[▲] Online, Audubon "Incite!" advises readers that state Sierra Club attempts to outlaw steel traps are unwise: "However, there is no evidence to suggest that most legal trapping, including trapping in her state, is anything other than a humane issue. The Rio Grande chapter's crusade to ban trapping in New Mexico comes at an enormous cost for the national organization because it is the prime example used by NRA types to make the case that the Sierra Club is a bunch of closet 'antis.'"

[▲] National Audubon Magazine's "Incite!": "But they [Audubon, Sierra] are perceived as anti-hunting because of embarrassing behavior by some of their members." The cited "embarrassing" behavior: In 1995, the Michigan Audubon Society opposed a bill to hunt mourning doves. "[t]he Michigan Audubon Society (the second biggest chapter with 40 sub-chapters of its own) shouted the bill down. 'Many, in these violent times, point to the irony of a proposed hunting season on the international symbol of peace,' it seriously asserted... For any sober, practical champion of biodiversity, dove hunting is the quintessential non-issue. Yet when I explained this in the March 1985 *Audubon*, as part of an eyewitness report on Indiana's first dove hunt, the editor was deluged with mail and wound up printing 49 letters, 26 of them irate. 'Are robins next?' demanded one reader... If there's one piece of advice I have for environmental groups it's this: Get right up front and say that you aren't anti-hunting." ("Hunters and Environmentalists: Natural Allies," National Audubon Magazine 1997.)

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usual and sportsmen prefer to keep the power where it is." Fur Commission USA featured Audubon's "Management by Majority" on its website.

CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S FOUNDATION. Archery Trade Association; National Shooting Sports Foundation; Safari Club International - First for Hunters; National Rifle Association; Browning Worldwide; NASGW - "The NASGW is comprised of wholesalers, manufacturers, and independent sales reps - both national and international - all of whom are primarily involved with hunting and shooting sports equipment and accessories"; National Beer Wholesalers Association; Shell Oil; UST; Versus; Wild Turkey Federation; Cabelas; Bass Pro Shops; Comcast; Anheuser-Busch.

"Headquartered in Washington, DC just steps from the U.S. Capitol, CSF's sole focus is providing access and a voice for sportsmen in the U.S. Congress" (www.sportsmenslink.org/About-Us).

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY. Primarily State Fish and Wildlife Departments; USGS, NOAA.

ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS. AZA represents:

- More than 200 AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums nationwide
- 45 accredited zoos and aquariums in the top 25 media markets
- Promotional programs and sponsorships scaled to fit almost any marketing budget (www.aza.org/partnersandsponsors/)

ISSAC WALTON LEAGUE. Primarily a fishing grassroots organization working for local access with a record, however, in clean water and habitat preservation programs.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY. Bronx Zoo. The Wildlife Conservation Society performs superior global conservation work and has not, to our knowledge, actively promoted recreational hunting or access.