

Outline of Remarks by Greg Schildwachter on behalf of the Boone and Crockett Club  
ESA Working Group Forum: Reviewing 40 Years of the Endangered Species Act and Seeking  
Improvement for People and Species.

1. The interest of the Boone and Crockett Club and all sportsmen-conservationists.

B&C founder Theodore Roosevelt was a published naturalist with broad interest in all wildlife, especially concerning the risk of extinction. Hunting groups today are also interested in all wildlife because the species we hunt and all other wildlife are all part of the same system.

2. Sportsmen recognize that while there are good ideas for improving ESA, there is also a rigid political gridlock preventing improvements.

With Department of Interior officials in successive administrations, representing both major political parties, having publicly expressed support for efforts to update and modernize ESA, sportsmen also support changes that promote recovery of species and promptly return species to state jurisdiction upon meeting recovery goals.

3. The most notable and widely accepted problem today is the vulnerability of listing and delisting decisions to lawsuits that elevate points of process above the science-based conclusions of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The repeated lawsuits over the listing program have all been based on the fact that ESA requires all species under consideration for listing to be decided by the same deadline. This is neither scientific nor practical. Species should be considered based on a schedule, taking into account our best estimates of which species are most at risk and most likely to be helped by listing. Even the lawsuits against the listing program have now resulted in a schedule instead of a one-size-fits-all deadline. It's time that listing decisions (which include delisting decisions) be carried out on a rational schedule, based on science, public input, and appropriations.

The Boone and Crockett Club, now in its 125th year, founded by Theodore Roosevelt, is the pioneer of professional wildlife conservation and hunting ethics. The Club today was instrumental in organizing a common agenda among national hunting-conservation organizations, entitled *Wildlife for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. It keeps the longest-running standardized record of natural history measurements in the Record Book of North American Big Game, and maintains a network of graduate research fellowships across 5 universities.

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