



PRESIDENT BUSH IS A FRIEND WHO LISTENS TO SPORTSMEN

President George W. Bush has taken the unprecedented step of meeting with the top sportsmen organizations in America, not once but twice, most recently at his ranch in Crawford, Texas on April 8, 2004. The meetings were opportunities to discuss the top priorities of the hunting and fishing community. The group included representatives of Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, NRA, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Coastal Conservation Association, Boone and Crockett Club, National Shooting Sports Foundation, US Sportsmen's Alliance and Pheasants Forever, Ruffed Grouse Society, American Sport Fishing Association, and BASS, among others.

President Bush on sportsmen and conservation

"There's a big difference between conservationists and preservationists. Conservationists care. People who hunt understand the value of cover, habitat and good management. I am a conservationist."
- President George W. Bush

"Every day is Earth Day if you are a landowner."

- President George W. Bush

What sportsmen leaders say about President Bush

"It was a distinct honor to not only meet with the President again, but to actually see how much he cares about the land and its wildlife. It reminded me of a time when America was lead by another President (Theodore Roosevelt) who was a hunter, a fisherman, and a conservationist and set into motion the most successful conservation system in history."

- Robert Model, President, Boone and Crockett Club (Boone and Crockett Club web site http://www.boone-crockett.org/news/news_dc.asp?area=news)

"To have the NWTF and other conservation partners involved in this ongoing dialogue (with the President) is unprecedented and will help ensure that hunting, fish and natural resource conservation take a front seat in finding common sense solutions."

- Rob Keck, CEO, National Wild Turkey Federation (June-July 2004 North American Hunter Magazine)

"President Bush is one of us—a hunter and fisherman who has first-hand experience scientifically managing his ranchland. He is aware of the concerns of outdoorsmen and women, particularly in regards to hunter access on public lands. The president is not a johnny-come-lately sportsman and clearly understands the importance of active management to ensure healthy wildlife populations."

- Doug Painter, President, National Shooting Sports Foundation (4/12/04 NSSF Bullet Points)

"The president underscored his commitment to support CRP and we discussed working together soon toward options that will continue the CRP wildlife legacy. ...it was clear that the Administration recognized the need for action in support of CRP within the next 3-6 months."

- Howard Vincent, President and CEO, Pheasants Forever (4/20/04 PF Press Release)

"It was a good and useful exchange. The President demonstrated a solid knowledge of the challenges that habitat management faces across our nation and the willingness to shape policies that will continue to support our country's sporting heritage."

- Rocky Evans, Executive Vice President, Quail Unlimited (Quail Unlimited web site www.qu.org)

"We're pleased that the Bush administration is continuing to engage DU and other conservation groups in an open dialogue about wetlands and other conservation issues,"

- Don Young, Executive Vice President, Ducks Unlimited (<http://www.ducks.org/News/BushTomkeApril8.asp>)

"The president's willingness to discuss conservation issues with this group shows he truly understands the essential role sportsmen play in ensuring the health of our nation's wildlife."

- Bud Pidgeon, President, U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (4/9/04, USSA Press Release)