1. **2017 WAS A YEAR OF GREAT ADVANCEMENT** for BHA.

With a new Congress in session and a new administration in power, BHA rose to the occasion by defending our opportunities and traditions. From Washington, D.C., to town halls and community events, our motivated members and chapter leaders stood firm against public lands trans- fers, irresponsible development in critical wildlife habitat, fair chase infringements, water access controversies, and a legion of other threats to the wild animals and wild places we cherish. People noticed. BHA’s membership doubled in 2017, with new recruits lending their time, resources and voices to our conservation mission. Do- nors stepped up to help us grow our staff and impact. The press took note of our strong stances and young and growing membership. Politicians took heed of the power of grassroots sportsmen and women as the No. 1 reason for forgoing hunting opportunities to hunt, fish and simply revel in the splendor of our public lands.

2. **DEFEATING PUBLIC LANDS SEIZURE LEGISLATION**

BHA chapters across the U.S. were instrumental in defeating every piece of meaningful public lands seizure legisla- tion introduced in state legislatures in 2004 to a membership in the tens of thousands, BHA has become a force to be reckoned with. Following are just a few of our proud accomplishments from the last year. Much work remains to be done, however. You can help continue this growth and engagement to make sure future generations will have the same or better opportunities to hunt, fish and simply revel in the splendor of our public lands.

3. **BUILDING A WINNING TEAM**

Team BHA continued to grow in 2017 with the strategic addition of seven new staffers. To keep pace with the needs of our growing mem- bership, we hired chapter coordinators across the continent as well as new headquarters staff to support them. With a new Congress in session and a new administration in power, BHA rose to the occasion by defending our opportunities and traditions.

5. **WATERS ACCESS, STATE BY STATE**

In 2017, BHA engaged in critical water access legislation. In Montana, we worked as the lead stakeholder in the creation of Caribou Lake, a popular duck hunting destination. In South Dakota, we worked to resolve arguments and ownership of many “non-motorized” lakes. In Washington, we helped re-es- tablish access facilities. Water access is in- sufficient across access by sportmen and women as the No. 1 reason for for- eing time afield, BHA works on stream and water access across the country to continue to gain momentum.

6. **PUBLIC LANDS DEFENSE**

In January, then-Rep. Jason Chaf- fi of Utah introduced legislation mandating the sale of 3.3 million acres of public lands. BHA was at the fore- front of a crowd of hunting, angling and outdoor recreation groups vocally op- posed to this misguided legislation. Fac- ing this tidal wave of pressure, Chaffetz withdrew his bill within a week, citing pressure from sportmen and women as the deciding factor.

7. **SAGE GROUSE**

A diverse threat to Western stake- holders – including land and wild- life management agencies, ranchers, sugar beet industries, urban subdivisions and others – spent the better part of a decade developing cooper- ative conservation plans to conserve the sage grouse’s range and its habitat and keep the land off the endangered species list. However, in 2017 Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke moved to roll back those plans, and BHA mobilized to oppose the administration’s course of action, driving dozens of public comments, show- ing up at meetings and working with a broad coalition of sportmen and other interests in support of the sage grouse and the Western sage steppe. We also worked to keep bad sage grouse related legislation out of the National Defense Author- itation Act.

8. **PUBLIC ACCESS ON OUR ELLIOTTE STATE FOREST**

Established in 1930 as Oregon’s first state forest, the Elliott was dedicated to providing a sustainable source of timber revenue to Oregon public schools. Unfortunately, due to declining tim- ber revenue the state was forced to put the Elliott up for sale. BHA har- nessed the power of grassroots sportmen and women in support of the Elliott and public access, attending public meetings and generating 4,000-plus signatures on a petition – ultimately playing an instrument role in convincing the state land board to revoke course and keep the El- liott available to the public.

9. **NATIONAL MONUMENTS**

In April, President Trump ordered Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to under- take a review of 27 national monuments, including places providing quality wild- life habitat and hunting and fishing op- portunities. In response to the review, BHA drove media dialogues, held field tours and turned advertising campaigns to keep public access a priority. We developed educational resources regarding hunting opportun- ities and fishing access into the discussion. Unfortunately, despite overwhelming public op- position, in August the secretary recom- mended altering the boundaries of four monuments including placing the greater sage-grouse-Endangered National Monument by half and Bears Ears National Monu- ment by 85 percent.

10. **BOUNDARY WATERS**

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota, the most visited wilderness area in the world, is a bucket list item for anglers, paddlers and sportsmen across the globe. However, the Boundary Waters is threatened by proposed ad- ditions on its southern boundary, within the wilderness watched. In 2017, BHA continued its strong stances and working with a broad sportsmen’s movement to conserve the Boundary Waters.

11. **NEW CHAPETERS IN THE U.S. AND CANADA**

2017 saw the addition of four new BHA chapter: Albertas, the Capital Region, the Southeastern Region and South Dakota. All four worked no time engaging in their own fights to conserve and improve public access to public lands. By the end of the year, BHA had established chap- ters covering 35 states, two provinces and Washington, D.C.

12. **COLLEGE STUDENTS HELP DRIVE GROWTH**

In 2017, BHA grow our collegiate pro- gram from 17 chapters to 25 chapters and 85 percent. (More than 40 others are currently in the works.) Hunting for Sustainability, a BHA program that teaches college students the basics of hunting and pro- cessing their own game, saw great growth in Montana, spurring plans to expand the program in 2018 to Colora- do, Idaho and Wyoming. College club members participated in BHA D.C. fly-in, state game commission hearings, USFSR service projects and are leading the charge for major hunting regulation clarifications and changes.

13. **AMPLIFYING THE VOICE OF SPORTSMEN ANDWOMEN**

Public lands hunters and anglers achieved new visibility in 2017 thanks to BHA’s outreach online, in social me- dias and with the press. We’ve surpassed an online fan base of more than 250,000 and are harnessing this growing voice to engage on the issues outlined here.