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Review of *In Trace of TR: A Montana Hunter's Journey* by Dan Aadland

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In Trace of TR: A Montana Hunter's Journey. By Dan Aadland. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2010. xviii + 260 pp. Photographs, notes, bibliography. \$29.95.

The title of Dan Aadland's latest book, *In Trace of TR: A Montana Hunter's Journey*, is intriguing. It implies a connection between Theodore Roosevelt (TR) and the author; less clear is what that connection is, based on the title. In his introduction, Aadland states that the connection between him and the twenty-sixth President of the United States was made with similar experiences in ranching, horsemanship, and hunting. The objective of the book is to invite the reader along for a good ride with TR and Dan. And quite a ride it is.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part includes three chapters describing the author's hunts of pronghorn, his visit to the Elkhorn Ranch, and his relationships with horses. The second part includes four chapters that describe more hunts with family and friends in mountain ranges in and around Montana where TR also hunted. Aadland also discusses Native Americans, his views of TR's religion, and snippets of the president's conservation philosophy. The first of the final section's two chapters includes recollections of hunting near and around the author's ranch and some discussion of the ills of market hunting. The second emphasizes other aspects of TR's legacy, his ability to interact with the common man, and even the author's opinion of how TR may have chosen to die.

Each chapter has a title followed by a list of subtitles that are not again listed as headings in the text, which is distracting. The book is illustrated with twenty-nine photographs: five of the author, ten of family and friends, four of wildlife, three of scenic views, and seven of TR. A map of the areas visited by TR and the author would have been useful for readers, especially those not familiar with the landmarks described.

Aadland's well-written book is an easy and enjoyable read. Its audience, however, is the author's family and friends more than those interested in learning about TR. References to TR scattered throughout the text are not developed enough for readers to fully grasp their meaning. For example, at the end of chapter 5 Aadland writes that TR "was

never a conservationist who also happened to be a hunter. He was a conservationist *because* he was a hunter." This is an important concept, often misunderstood by the nonhunting public, but warranting further development.

In the end readers learn more about Dan Aadland's life than about TR's hunting adventures and conservation ethic.

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