

9-11-2013

## Resolution 2013-03-06 Support for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/afwa\\_reso](http://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/afwa_reso)

---

### Recommended Citation

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, *Resolution 2013-03-06 Support for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act* (2013),  
Available at: [http://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/afwa\\_reso/1](http://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/afwa_reso/1)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the The (International) Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Conservation Collection at Digital Commons at Michigan State University College of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Resolutions by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Michigan State University College of Law. For more information, please contact [domannbr@law.msu.edu](mailto:domannbr@law.msu.edu).



## Resolution 2013-03-06

### SUPPORT FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT (NAWCA)

**WHEREAS**, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) signed into law in December 1989, and most recently reauthorized at \$75 million in 2006, provides a significant source of funding for wetland and waterfowl projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), has been the most successful continental wildlife conservation effort in history through critical funding from NAWCA, benefiting recreationally and economically important waterfowl and other wetland-related species throughout Canada, the United States and Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, NAWCA grants totaling \$1.26 billion have leveraged \$3.4 billion in contributions from non-federal partners, and has facilitated the conservation of 27.3 million acres of wetlands and associated habitats in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and involving more than 5000 partners and 2,305 conservation projects, representing a federal/non-federal partnership at its best; and

**WHEREAS**, these 27.3 million acres provide habitat not only for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife species, but they also attenuate floods, purify water, recharge groundwater, store carbon, and buffer storm surges, thus providing benefits of incalculable value to our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the combination of outdoor recreation, nature conservation and historic preservation in the U.S. provided 9.4 million jobs, \$107 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues, and added \$1.06 trillion in economic activity; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011 hunters in the United States spent \$38.3 billion in retail sales, and migratory bird hunting alone created 68,827 jobs and generated more than \$3.4 billion in sales and generated over one billion dollars in tax revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for wetland habitat conservation through NAWCA currently is derived from federal appropriations and interest generated from unobligated Wildlife Restoration funds; and

**WHEREAS**, since Fiscal Year 2010 and expiration of the NAWCA authorization in 2011, Congressional appropriations for NAWCA have declined over 29%, jeopardizing the stability of NAWCA funding and reducing the amount of funds available to states to conserve high priority wetland habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, Title 16, Chapter 5B, Subsection 669(b)(1), of the United States Code, provides authorization for the interest on unobligated Pittman-Robertson funds to be appropriated for carrying out the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, including NAWCA, which continues to provide a vital and stable source of funding for NAWCA and which provision expires on September 31, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, since the purpose of the Pittman-Robertson program is to finance wildlife restoration, the use of interest earned by investment of unapportioned Pittman-Robertson funds is in keeping with the spirit of the Pittman-Robertson Act because it expedites wetlands conservation projects that are in accord with State interests and responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the support for NAWCA and the wetland conservation benefits it provides is demonstrated by the constant submission of high quality projects that outpace current funding levels;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies reaffirms its support for the reauthorization of NAWCA and encourages Congress to reauthorize this important piece of bipartisan legislation as soon as possible; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports continuation of the current funding sources for NAWCA from federal appropriations; and the dedication of interest derived from the Wildlife Restoration account to the end of fiscal year 2026.

*Submitted by the Legislative & Federal Budget Committee and Bird Conservation Committee*