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## Resolution 2000-01-02 Federal Aid Policy Resolution Process Concerning Treatment of Timber Sales Revenue

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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**Resolution 2000-01-02**

**FEDERAL AID POLICY RESOLUTION PROCESS CONCERNING  
TREATMENT OF TIMBER SALES REVENUE**

**WHEREAS**, a decision made September 15, 2000 by the Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget and the Deputy Chief of Staff of the United States Department of the Interior determined that the sale of timber from lands acquired with Federal Aid Grant funds should be treated as disposal of real property; and

**WHEREAS**, in support of this decision, the memorandum conveying it states: "This decision also reflected the long standing policy within FWS, as well as the prevailing current practices in all Federal Aid States except one (Wisconsin)."

**WHEREAS**, this decision is not in accordance with recommendations and supporting materials provided by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies through a Policy Clarification process established by the Association and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

**WHEREAS**, this decision is contrary to a legal opinion issued by the Acting Associate Solicitor for Parks and Wildlife expressly addressing the issue, and also is inconsistent with the treatment of timber sales within other branches of the United States Department of the Interior; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association believes that the United States Department of the Interior has not required other state fish and wildlife agencies in the past to treat the sale of timber for habitat management purposes as a practice subject to regulations for the disposal of real property, and that this decision is therefore a policy change from past practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association believes this decision of the United States Department of the Interior is based on factual misunderstandings and incorrect legal analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association has serious concerns regarding the implications this decision may have on future resolution of other federal aid policy issues affecting Association member states, including the potential expansion of this decision to other habitat management practices including crop and forage production and management, as well as the role of auditors in the creation of policy.

**WHEREAS**, the Association is dismayed and displeased with the decision-making process used by the United States Department of the Interior, and disagrees with the resultant findings.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies hereby requests reconsideration of this decision by the United States Department of the Interior, with opportunity for appropriate input from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.