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Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 2008-04-05

SUPPORTING WAIVER OF HUNTER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR DISABLED MILITARY VETERANS PARTICIPATING IN SUPERVISED HUNTS

WHEREAS, increased numbers of U.S. military servicemen and women have been and are being wounded and disabled in International conflicts; and

WHEREAS, these disabled veterans often spend months or years in military hospitals and other institutions while being treated for disabilities incurred in service to our nation; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that participation in supervised hunting activity has proven successful in enhancing the mental and physical rehabilitation of these disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of organized activities are being sponsored to provide supervised hunting opportunities for these disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the lack of previous hunter education by these disabled veterans may be an obstacle to participation; and

WHEREAS, participation in scheduled hunter safety education courses by these disabled veterans can be extremely difficult or impossible; and

WHEREAS, careful supervision of hunt participants is a key component of hunts organized for disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, some state wildlife agencies have implemented special regulations that facilitate safe and successful participation in supervised hunts by non-hunter education certified disabled military veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that state fish and wildlife agencies are respectfully encouraged to consider implementing suitable methods of removing barriers to participation by disabled veterans, such as apprentice permits, and special authorizations, temporary exemptions, on-line hunter education, or other appropriate regulations and controls.

This resolution was approved by the Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee.