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## Resolution 2011-02-07 Urging Financial Support for Implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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**Resolution 2011-02-07**

**URGING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN (NAWMP) AND THE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT (NAWCA)**

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

**WHEREAS**, hunters and anglers in the United States spend \$76 billion per year, and hunting and fishing activities support more than 1.6 million jobs and generate more than \$25 billion a year in federal, state, and local taxes, and

**WHEREAS**, 2011 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the NAWMP which has contributed to the protection, restoration and enhancement of more than 27 million acres of wetlands and associated habitats in Canada, the United States and Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2012 revision of the NAWMP currently in progress acknowledges these habitat accomplishments but also recognizes there are increasing threats to critical waterfowl habitat across North America and identifies the need to redouble our conservation efforts, reverse the decline in hunter numbers, and reach out to other members of society who could contribute to and benefit from wetland and waterfowl conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, NAWCA has facilitated the conservation of 25 million acres of wetlands and associated habitats in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands involving more than 4400 public-private partnerships and \$1 billion of federal funds matched with over \$3.4 billion in non-federal funding which creates an average of 3,800 new jobs annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) signed into law in December 1989, and most recently reauthorized at \$75 million in 2006, and up for reauthorization in 2011, provides a significant source of funding for wetland and waterfowl projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, NAWCA requires that a minimum of 30 percent of Act funds be used outside the U.S., and further requires that U.S. federal funds sent to Canada through NAWCA be matched at least 1:1 by non-federal funds, of which at least 50 percent must originate within the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1991 and again in 2005 the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies passed resolutions that established a goal for the State Fish and Wildlife Agencies of contributing \$10 million annually for NAWMP/NAWCA habitat projects in Canada, and because that goal has not yet been reached, there is a shared interest in working to increase the collective contribution of states and make progress toward that goal, recognizing that states differ in their capability to attain individual goals.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies reaffirm the original goal for states to strive to maximize their support in the range of \$10 million per year as U.S. matching funds for North American Waterfowl Management Plan projects in Canada; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies commit to making progress toward achieving the \$10 million goal by encouraging each state to make an annual contribution, based on the state's proportion of active adult waterfowl hunters and duck harvests averaged over the period from 1970 through 2009; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies adopt the Action Plan Framework recommended by the Task Force on State Contributions to Canadian NAWMP/NAWCA Projects and continue to develop, through the Bird Conservation Committee, and other appropriate avenues, a detailed Action Plan to identify ways and means of achieving the \$10 million goal and to encourage states and other partners to review and adopt relevant actions contained within the Action Plan.

*Submitted by the Bird Conservation Committee*