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Resolution 1969-07-17 Amendments to Federal Aid Acts

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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WHEREAS, under the Federal Water Project Recreation Act, the states may be called upon to administer and share fifty percent of the separable capital costs and all of the operation, maintenance and replacement costs of fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that each project prior to its authorization be comprehensively evaluated in order to formulate recommendations for the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, this Association believes it is essential that such evaluation be included in the earliest phases of project formulation and as an integral part of project planning, funding and scheduling:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges Congress to insure adequate funding for the states to make fish and wildlife studies in cooperation with federal agencies when it considers project planning, funding and scheduling:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Association requests federal agencies to establish necessary liaison with the states as well as interagency coordination to assure that fish and wildlife studies will be properly funded.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

PUBLIC LAND LAW REVIEW COMMISSION REPORT TO CONGRESS

WHEREAS, the Public Land Law Review Commission is scheduled to complete its deliberations early in 1970 and to make its final report to Congress in June, 1970; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of this Commission and subsequent recodification of the public land laws by Congress will greatly affect the future of hunting, fishing and all other forms of outdoor recreation on federal lands:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges legislation be recommended by the Public Land Law Review Commission:

- A. To retain in public ownership all existing lands not needed to meet immediate housing and industrial needs.
- B. To provide for multiple use administration and management of these public lands, giving wildlife, recreation and aesthetic values equal consideration with other uses. Priorities of land use are to be determined by the inherent properties of the lands and their ability to satisfy the greatest public need.
- C. To provide authority and funding for reasonable and adequate public access to all federal lands.
- D. To encourage private land purchases to consolidate federal land ownership patterns in order to improve management effectiveness.
- E. To clearly enunciate the respective authority and responsibilities of state and federal governments concerning wildlife as set forth in that portion of the Public Land Law Review Commission's report on wildlife prepared by Colorado State University, which suggests . . . that public harvest of fish and wildlife on all federal land shall be in accordance with applicable state regulations . . . and all other removals . . . be in accordance with any existing state procedures . . ."
- F. To repeal all outdated mining laws and require all mineral exploration and development on unreserved public lands to be accomplished under the provisions of the mineral leasing act

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game Fish and Conservation Commissioners go on record as commending the Public Land Law Review Commission, the Advisory Council, Governors' Representatives, and the Public Land Law Review staff for the manner in which they have approached their difficult and complex assignment.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

COLUMBIA RIVER PRESERVATION

WHEREAS, the section of the Columbia River between Richland, Washington, and Priest Rapids Dam, a distance of approximately 59 river miles, is the last free-flowing section of said river; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Ben Franklin Lock and Dam project would destroy the last remaining spawning areas for anadromous fish in the Columbia River and impound the last free-flowing section of the river, and otherwise impair the anadromous fishery and other wildlife values:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners declare its opposition to proposals of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for construction of a navigation channel or Ben Franklin Dam, or for any project of development whatsoever of this section of the Columbia or its riparian lands, which project or development would in any substantial degree be detrimental to the environment and to fish and wildlife.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

AMENDMENTS TO FEDERAL AID ACTS

WHEREAS, the state fish and game agencies have recognized the need to clarify and modernize the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act and the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act; and WHEREAS, the provisions of H. R. 12475 will delete the engineering, maintenance and management limitations and effect other housekeeping changes which are long overdue; and

WHEREAS, the bill's provision would add the revenue from the 10 per cent federal excise tax on pistols and revolvers to the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program; and

WHEREAS, one-half of these revenues would be apportioned among the states to pay up to 50% of the cost of hunter safety programs including construction, operation, and maintenance of target ranges; and

WHEREAS, the bill provides the option of documenting our Federal Aid programs on the basis of a comprehensive fish and wildlife resource plan which will encourage long-range, worthwhile planning and reduce the red tape in annual documentation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners endorses H.R. 12475 and urges its early enactment by the Congress.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

MODIFICATION OF THE FEDERAL GUN CONTROL ACT OF 1968

WHEREAS, the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968 prohibits sales of firearms to out-of-state residents and bans mail order sales of firearms, ammunition and components of ammunition as well as other restrictions; and

WHEREAS, regulations adopted to administer this Act are a direct contradiction to the expressed intent and purposes of Congress to the extent of requiring that extensive personal information be recorded for all sales of ammunition; and

WHEREAS, the American firearms owner constitutionally has enjoyed a heritage of firearms ownership for recreational hunting and has contributed significantly to sound wildlife management practices through needed harvests while at the same time providing most of the funds for such management and long-term preservation of the resource; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of restrictions upon the possession, use, acquisition and transportation of firearms and ammunition by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes imposes unnecessary and unreasonable burdens on them as well as the small businessman handling these products while at the same time crime involving use of firearms continues to increase in spite of such strong federal controls:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners opposes this trend toward elimination of the lawful ownership and the use of firearms by private citizens of the United States and urges modification of the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968 as expressed in such bills as S. 845 and S. 2817 as they pertain to ammunition and endorses such measures as are provided in S. 849 to reduce crimes of violence with firearms through imposition of severe mandatory penalties upon those convicted of such crimes.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON BILLS TO REGULATE PESTICIDE USE

WHEREAS, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners adopted a "Policy for Use of Chemical Pesticides" three years ago and reaffirmed and amplified this statement by resolution last year; and

WHEREAS, there are pending in the 91st Congress bills to establish a National Pesticide Commission, to require advance consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on federal pesticide control programs, to restrict or prohibit use of persistent pesticides which might be a threat to man or fish and wildlife by polluting public waters—and also to completely ban the sale or shipment of DDT

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Congress to take positive action on pending legislation in this vitally important field so that not only will research efforts be increased, but strict controls will be established for use of all pesticides to the extent necessary and a ban instituted in the use of persistent and cumulative pesticides, except by prescription issued by a statutory board with full authority to rigidly control their use and permit application solely by a determined responsible agency, in the event of an actual human health threat where no effective alternatives are available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the licensing and control of these chemicals be transferred from the U. S. Department of Agriculture to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES UPON NATIONAL FORESTS

WHEREAS, the National Timber Supply Act now being considered by the 91st Congress calls for substantial increases in the timber yield from the national forests and their development for optimum production as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, the greatest danger of the proposed Act is its policy declaration that national forests are to be dedicated mainly to timber production in direct opposition to the National Forest Multiple Use Act of 1960 that gives equal consideration to wildlife, fish, range, outdoor recreation and watershed protection as well as timber management; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service can carry out the needed improvements in timber management and production and still maintain the integrity of the Multiple Use Act, without the passage of the National Timber Supply Act., by being provided with the funds necessary to implement its existing and long-standing program for the management of the national forests:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners respectfully requests that Congress appropriate adequate funds without passage of the National Timber Supply Act, thereby providing the Forest Service with the financial assistance to carry out existing and previously approved programs for the multiple use management of the national forests rather than acceding to the questionable philosophy of single-purpose management and the implications of priority for timber values.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that because of the great impact that will be created on the wildlife and fish resources of the national forests by the increased financing of the timber management activities of the Forest Service that a comparable and realistic increase in the financing of wildlife and fish habitat on the National Forests accompany such increases in timber management financing; and