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Resolution 1967-02-21 Wild Rivers Legislation

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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RESOLUTION NO. 1

FIREARMS CONTROL LEGISLATION

Whereas, restrictive firearms legislation proposed in the 90th Congress as S. 1 (as amended) or H. R. 5384 conflict with the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which constitutes the American citizen's right to keep and bear arms; and

Whereas, any unreasonable restriction on firearms would tend to reduce the amount of hunting enjoyed by the American people, one of the basic freedoms traditional to the growth and development of this great country; and

Whereas, a reduction in the sport of hunting would impair the economic welfare of the United States, where the pursuit of wild game represents a thriving industry; and

Whereas, this proposed legislation on gun control would only restrict, unnecessarily, law-abiding American citizens, leaving the criminal free to steal or smuggle firearms at will, since criminals do not abide by any laws, let alone firearms control; and

Whereas, the sportsmen of the United States, representing a large portion of the population, have repeatedly expressed their disapproval of firearms control legislation; and

Whereas, legislation should hit hard at the unlawful use of firearms rather than at the right of ownership;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, does hereby express opposition to the legislation proposing restrictions on firearms as submitted by Senator Thomas J. Dodd and Representative Emanuel Celler in the first session of the 90th Congress in S.B. 1 (as amended) and H.R. 5384; and

Be it further resolved, that the Association supports the principles contained in S. 1853 and S. 1854 as introduced by Senator Roman L. Hruska which would provide reasonable controls over handguns and heavy military weapons used by criminals, incompetents and drug addicts and would have the least effect on sporting firearms.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WILD RIVERS LEGISLATION

Whereas, legislation has been proposed in the 90th Congress to retain scenic, fish, wild-life, and outdoor recreation resources, in portions of the nation's outstanding free-flowing rivers; and

Whereas, the Salmon River is an important spawning stream for salmon and steelhead which constitute extremely valuable fishery resources in several western states; and

Whereas, if the salmon and steelhead resources of the Salmon River system are to be protected and perpetuated, it is absolutely essential that the portion of the Salmon River from Riggins to its mouth be included;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners reaffirms its endorsement of the concept of scenic and wild river preservation as contained in S. 119 and its recommendation to the Congress that a system of classification and environmental protection on a national basis be established; and

Be it further resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners recommends to the 90th Congress that "wild" or "scenic" rivers legislation be enacted; and

Be it further resolved, that the portion of the Salmon River from the town of Riggins to the mouth of the Salmon River be included for initial designation as a "wild" or "scenic" river.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK IN NORTH CASCADES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

Whereas, the State of Washington, smallest of the western states and second in population, has two established national parks embodying 1,137,000 acres; and

Whereas, the projected ten-year growth of the State of Washington is 127% against a projected national average of 36%, and licensed hunters and fishermen increasing in a proportionate ratio; and

Whereas, the National Park Service prohibits hunting on its lands, and fishing is limited; and

Whereas, wildlife management under the Park Service leaves much to be desired, with problems of over abundant elk and deer herds in the existing parks of the State of Washington; and

Whereas, mining operations would not be prohibited, as witness uranium mining in Grand Canyon National Park, and mine workings in Death Valley National Monument; and

Whereas, the U. S. Forest Service provides for wildlife habitat, unlimited recreation and selected harvest; and

Whereas, the Washington State Department of Game, charged with game management, possessing the personnel equipped with the necessary knowledge, is doing a commendable service;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners opposes the creation of a national park in the North Cascades, State of Washington; and

Be it further resolved, that this area remain under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, and managed by the U. S. Forest Service, as it has in the past 61 years.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT ON NATIONAL FOREST LANDS

Whereas, the United States Forest Service is obligated by law to provide for multiple uses of the National Forest Lands; and

Whereas, these lands contain some of our best forest game habitat potential, especially for deer; and