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Resolution 1967-04-21 Wildlife Habitat Management on National Forest Lands

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, wildlife, 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

Whereas, the Forest Service does employ competent wildlife biologists; and
Whereas, their wildlife habitat development operations are extremely limited due to lack of money:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners goes on record as favoring a substantial increase in the wildlife budget of the Forest Service, adequate to carry out a realistic program of fish and game habitat improvement on National Forest Lands.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ACP) DRAINAGE PROGRAM

Whereas, a new special Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) practice for constructing permanent open drainage systems to dispose of excess water (Practice F-2-B) has been approved for the Great Lakes Resources Area of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan at a high cost-share rate (65 per cent); and

Whereas, this practice is aimed at draining Type VI wetlands to bring new land into agricultural production; and

Whereas, Resolutions No. 1 and No. 18 of the 1966 convention of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners have recommended that other essential types of wetlands be included in the category with Type III, IV, and V now prohibited by the Reuss Amendment from receiving drainage subsidies; and

Whereas, the Type VI wetlands affected by this practice are increasingly important habitat for deer, grouse, woodcock, and other wildlife species as well as waterfowl:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is opposed to the special agricultural conservation program practice of constructing permanent open drainage systems to dispose of excess water aimed at draining Type VI wetlands which are important habitats for wildlife; and

Be it further resolved, that drainage subsidies be withdrawn for drainage programs on Type VI lands; and

Be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be mailed to chairmen of the State ACP Committees involved and to the Secretary of Agriculture and to members of the Advisory Board on Wildlife appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

CROPLAND ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

Whereas, the Cropland Adjustment Program (CAP) of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 has been an active program for only two of the five years authorized; and

Whereas, farmer requests to participate in the programs of cropland diversion and public-access provisions have been greater in some states than budgets would permit:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners strongly urges the Congress to restore the necessary funds in the Department of Agriculture appropriation bill to continue the Cropland Adjustment Program of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 which has opened thousands of acres of private lands to public hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

INTERPRETATION OF PUBLIC LAW 566

Whereas, subsequent amendments to Public Law 566 of 1954 have broadened the act to provide for numerous other benefits including municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat improvement, as well as agricultural water management and flood control; and

Whereas, each of these public purposes is given equal consideration in the act; and

Whereas, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Congressional Committees are required to approve P.L. 566 projects which would cost more than \$250,000, or which include a structure capable of storing over 2,500 acre-feet of water; and

Whereas, the interpretation given by the Department and the Committees precludes consideration of projects not having as their major purpose agricultural water management (primarily drainage) or flood control;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners strongly urges congressional action to ensure that Public Law 566 of 1954, as amended, be implemented as now written, to give equal weight to all purposes such as municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, agricultural water management and flood control.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

CHARGES FOR HUNTING AND FISHING ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Whereas, state fish and game agencies are dependent upon license revenues for management and perpetuation of fish and wildlife resources within their respective states; and

Whereas, the addition of federal hunting and fishing access fees competes with state fish and game agencies in their ability to collect such license revenues; and

Whereas, the establishment of any special access fee charges for National Wildlife Refuges should be the prerogative of the states;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners opposes the charging of federal access fees for hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges.

* Alaska abstained from voting.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

FUND BIOLOGICAL STUDIES AS PART OF WATER PROJECT PLANNING

Whereas, the rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs of the United States are the major elements in the rapidly expanding tourist and recreation industry; and