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Resolution 1965-11-26 Shoreline Alterations and Bay Filling

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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development of water and related land resources.

3. Honor its own February 16, 1962, Joint Policy Agreement with the Department of the Interior which states, in part, that insofar as permitted by law the Department of the Army will acquire in fee as a part of the reservoir project construction, such lands as are needed to meet present and future requirements for fish and wildlife as determined pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.
4. Adopt a positive policy of including specific measures including the acquisition of lands in fee at Corps of Engineers projects for the conservation, development and improvement of fish and wildlife resources.
5. Adopt a positive policy of not issuing permits for dredging and filling activities in navigable waters of the United States or requiring appropriate modifications in work contemplated when such activities are expected to cause significant losses to fish and wildlife resources.

And be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the President, to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, to the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Army, to the governors, to the legislators and to other appropriate government officials.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

EXCISE TAX ON HAND LOADING SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Whereas, the re-loading of shotgun, rifle and pistol ammunition by hunters and shooters has reached record proportions, and

Whereas, the existing 11 per cent manufacturers' excise tax on sporting firearms and ammunition has made and is making significant contributions to essential wildlife programs in all of the states through the administration of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 as amended, and

Whereas, the deposit of additional monies in the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund would enable the states to accelerate their wildlife programs so as to provide still greater public benefits to hunters who are reloading ammunition and to others.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the 11 per cent manufacturers' tax on sporting firearms and ammunition be extended to include powder, shot, bullets, primers, metallic, plastic and paper cartridge cases, wads, and other reloading components, accessories and equipment and that the monies received therefrom be credited in the Federal Treasury to the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund for allocation to the states on a matching grants basis under the terms of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 as amended.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

GREENBELT CONCEPT

Whereas, there is an increasing need for open spaces to meet the pressures and demands of rapidly expanding metropolitan and urban areas, and

Whereas, urban developments are frequently situated on or within a short travel distance from river courses which possess great potential for outdoor recreation development and the preservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife, and

Whereas, realization of such potential is now seriously threatened by accelerated industrial, agricultural and urban encroachment upon historic flood plains as a result of upstream flood control and other water developments, and

Whereas, recent declarations of federal policy clearly encourage full development of all resource potentials, including open spaces, in conjunction with federal water projects, and

Whereas, there is a need for greater recognition of fish, wildlife, recreation and other values that can be realized by establishment of "greenbelts" along river courses,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners endorses the concept of "greenbelts" along river courses, particularly near larger cities.

And be it further resolved that the Association encourages all agencies concerned with flood control and other water developments to include, where appropriate, plans for establishment of "greenbelt" areas as a part of such projects.

And be it further resolved that the Association recommends that appropriate state and federal agencies establish "greenbelt" or similarly designated programs within their respective organizations where such are not already in existence. The basic purpose of such programs should be to stimulate a greater recognition of the public benefits to be derived from "greenbelt" areas.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

SHORELINE ALTERATIONS AND BAY FILLING

Whereas, bays, estuaries and shallow coastal waters are absolutely essential to the maintenance of important resident and migratory fish, wildlife resources, and

Whereas, this essential habitat is rapidly disappearing throughout the coastal areas of the country through uncoordinated public and private shoreline development, and

Whereas, with appropriate planning and adherence to existing principles and knowledge such losses can be avoided or mitigated, and

Whereas, it is in the public interest for both present and future generations that all possible means be taken to prevent further loss of this vital habitat, and

Whereas, federal agencies presently issue permits involving navigation and other features of numerous shoreline alteration projects, and

Whereas, through these existing authorities or through the development of broader authority, such federal agencies should exert a beneficial influence on planning for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that all federal agencies having jurisdiction or responsibilities which may influence or be influenced by shoreline alterations and filling developments are urged to consider the public resource values and interests which may be adversely affected by such developments.

And be it further resolved that such federal agencies notify and work closely with state natural resource agencies to insure both state and federal consideration of the natural and aesthetic resources involved.

And be it further resolved that these agencies take appropriate action to preclude unnecessary damage to natural and aesthetic resources.

And be it further resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby announce its concern regarding the indiscriminate and wasteful filling of shoreline areas and hereby urges all people to become aware of the serious nature of indiscriminate shoreline developments and the irreparable damage that can be inflicted upon natural resources, particularly with respect to the bays, estuaries, marshes and shallow coastal waters of their area.

RESOLUTION NO. 12

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT RESEARCH PROGRAM OF U. S. FOREST SERVICE AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Whereas, the state fish and game departments and the federal land management agencies are under constant pressure to improve habitat for fish and wildlife on public lands, and

Whereas, livestock and other practices on public lands can have effects both good and bad on game habitat, and

Whereas, there is a great need to add to our knowledge of more effective ways of managing fish and game habitat to their advantage,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby support the fish and wildlife habitat research programs of the U. S. Forest Service and the U. S. Bureau of Land Management and again urges that Congress fully fund these programs in order that the wild lands of the West be utilized fully for their fish and wildlife possibilities.

And be it further resolved that the results of any accelerated research program be closely integrated with state game and fish departments' wildlife habitat management programs.

And be it further resolved that to the extent possible that such wildlife research projects be carried out by state technicians through contractual arrangements with the federal agencies.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

FREE PASSAGE FOR WILDLIFE

Whereas, the Highway Complex through the States is planned to pass through some of the Nation's best wildlife habitat, and

Whereas, the structures necessary to and accompanying this complex are to be fenced in many places with high, woven wire fences, and

Whereas, these fences and other accompanying structures often become impassable barriers to migrating wildlife, and

Whereas, in many cases these barriers create changes in the habitat for fish and wildlife that are detrimental and represent clear and present dangers to the welfare of wildlife, and

Whereas, the social, recreational and economic value of wildlife to present and future generations of Americans is so great as to be reckoned as priceless,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, petitions the Bureau of Public Roads to cooperate with the state game and fish departments in requiring that construction plans and costs include provisions for underpasses and structures which will guarantee the free migration of wildlife and protect existing spawning runs and migration routes and other wildlife habitat necessary to the survival, maintenance and development of wildlife species and the wildlife resource.

RESOLUTION NO. 14

PROPOSED DAM ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS AREA

Whereas, the Bureau of Reclamation is presently proposing the construction of a dam at the Lower Sun Butte Site, just below the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Sun River, and just above Gibson Reservoir, and

Whereas, said dam would flood nine miles up the North Fork and eight miles up the South Fork, thus destroying completely seventeen miles of outstandingly scenic fishing river, the majority of which would be within the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, and

Whereas, in the event of such a dam at this site resulting in an impoundment containing a flood control feature necessitating drastic drawdown each year from 50 to 200 feet with accompanying unsightly mud flats, it would be necessary to readjust the present boundaries of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, excluding approximately 85 square miles of its present area, and

Whereas, the Lower Sun Butte Dam or any dam in this general area would create an impoundment that would be severely detrimental to elk, deer, and mountain sheep by forming a serious block to important and historic migration routes of these big game species to and from vitally needed winter ranges, and

Whereas, said impoundment would also destroy ideal elk calving range, very probably upsetting the present harmonious situation that exists with this nationally important game herd, and

Whereas, the Bob Marshall Wilderness, an area of outstanding scenic beauty of state, regional, and national significance, has become classified under the new Wilderness Act, and

Whereas, it is very possible that alternative sites could be found farther down the Sun River drainage that would adequately achieve the necessary flood control for which the dam above Gibson Reservoir is being primarily proposed, and that such a dam down river would not destroy the many natural resources as previously explained in this Resolution,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners opposes the construction of any dam on the Sun River system in Montana above Gibson Reservoir,

And be it further resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers to thoroughly explore the possibility of achieving necessary flood control by other acceptable methods.