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Resolution 1963-07-21 Federal Land - Conversion Program to Benefit Pheasants and Other Farm Wildlife Species

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners commends the Secretary of Agriculture for adopting the current regulations in the public interest.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

REQUEST TO MANUFACTURERS OF HEAVY EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT TO HELP SOLVE THE SERIOUS STREAM DAMAGE PROBLEM CREATED BY THEIR PRODUCTS

Whereas, the careless use of heavy earth moving equipment on steep terrain for building roads, dams and other structures and for logging is severely damaging many streams, and
Whereas, this causes continuing losses of natural fisheries resources when equipment destroys stream habitat by operating in or along stream beds and in the watershed, and when abnormal erosion impacts the stream bed with sediment, often for many miles below an operating area, and

Whereas, such damage can be largely prevented by the use of good operating procedures, if equipment operators desire to do so and have the necessary knowledge and supervision, and

Whereas, laws and regulations are only a partial answer to this problem, because the great variation in local circumstances makes them so difficult to draft and to enforce, and

Whereas, the manufacturers of heavy equipment are in good position to exercise leadership in protecting streams and other natural resources,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby invite the principal manufacturers of such equipment to help reduce stream damage by informing their customers of the value of the resources at stake, and by educating them in methods of damage preventing through informational programs utilizing established channels of communication within the trade, and

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the following companies which make heavy equipment: Caterpillar Tractor Company, International Harvester Company, Northwest Engineering Company, John Deere, Hyster Company, Tractor Equipment Division, American Hoist and Derrick Company, Baldwin Lima Hamilton, Euclid Division of General Motors, Manitowoc Company, Inc., and Allis Chalmers.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF FEDERAL AID FUNDS FOR FISH ERADICATION

Whereas, the natural production of game fish is often influenced by competition from non-game species, and

Whereas, the use of chemicals is a proven means of eliminating undesirable fish and enhancing the production of game fish, and

Whereas, the responsibility for the fishery management of waters within state boundaries is a prerogative and responsibility of the state, and

Whereas, the state have considered the fish, wildlife and public health aspects of fish control programs, and

Whereas, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through Amendment No. 164.6 to the Federal Aid in the Fish and Wildlife Restoration Manual, has placed restrictions on the use of federal funds for fish rehabilitation programs by requiring investigations of unrealistic proportion to justify and evaluate said programs, and

Whereas, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service took this action without consultation with the states,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners petitions the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reconsider Amendment No. 164.6 to the Federal Aid Manual and work with the state to draft a regulation agreeable to all parties concerned.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

FEDERAL PESTICIDES LEGISLATION

Whereas, increased use of various insecticides, herbicides and other chemicals used to control pests inimical to agriculture and human welfare are becoming increasingly used in our modern life, and

Whereas, in recent years the chemical industry has responded to this need by developing myriads of new formulations, such formulations in many instances having been put into practical application without adequate testing as to their effects on wildlife, and

Whereas, in recent years there are proven instances of harm to species of fish and wildlife and the environment in which they exist as a result of this increased development, and

Whereas, federal conservation agencies must as part of their management programs employ pesticides for resource management, and

Whereas, such federal conservation agencies if they are properly to do an overall job of conservation, must be particularly conscientious in the pesticide use field.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby endorse the provisions of H.R. 2857 requiring federal agencies to consult wildlife management agencies before initiating major pesticide programs, and

Be it further resolved that in order that there be a better understanding of the hazards of such materials, the International Association of State Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby endorse the provisions of H.R. 4487, requiring more stringent labeling of these materials with respect to their effects on wildlife.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

FEDERAL LAND - CONVERSION PROGRAM TO BENEFIT PHEASANTS AND OTHER FARM WILDLIFE SPECIES

Whereas, the pheasant is the number one game bird in many states, and is pursued by

millions of sportsmen, including a large number of farmers and their families who have inherent interest in the welfare of wildlife on the farm and the economic benefits connected therewith, and

Whereas, agricultural land-use practices are becoming more unfavorable for pheasant and other game bird production through adverse effects on nesting and winter cover as a result of wetland drainage, early hay cutting, intensive farming, a trend toward more row crops at the expense of nesting cover types such as small grains and hay, a shift to continuous growing of corn on highly fertile soils in some areas, and destruction of available cover by brush clearing, uncontrolled burning and grazing, and

Whereas, the majority of land necessary for good wildlife production will remain in private ownership despite acquisition of many areas by state and federal agencies, causing future pheasant and other game bird populations to depend to a large extent on the proper management of well distributed food and cover units on private lands, and

Whereas, agricultural economists estimate that 50 million acres of good crop land should be converted to other uses within the next 20 years to reduce crop surplus, and a new land-conversion program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will undoubtedly be developed to make it economically possible for landowners in highly productive agricultural areas to convert some crop land acreages to other uses, and

Whereas, a well-designed land-conversion program geared to benefit wildlife would convert more crop land (total acreages) to other uses than would such projects as golf courses, picnic and camping areas, and farm ponds, and would establish areas which would not be greatly altered, permitting immediate restoration to agricultural crop production in the event of a national emergency, and

Whereas, some modifications or adjustments in currently accepted land-conversion practices are advisable and necessary in order to obtain maximum benefit for wildlife and sportsmen,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners recommends that the following points be considered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the development of new LAND-USE CONVERSION PROGRAMS:

1. Premium payments should be provided for conversion of land, based on wildlife values in addition to potential yield of surplus crops;
2. Conversion of land should be encouraged in areas where these lands will be most beneficial to pheasants and other game birds;
3. Attempts should be made to achieve a better distribution of smaller tracts of land on a large number of farms in good range and large tracts on isolated farms;
4. Land already in a preferred nesting cover type (legumes) should be encouraged for conversion to wildlife uses;
5. Practices permitted on converted acres should be better defined and include methods of weed control and use of selected forage species that will encourage high quality wildlife cover;
6. These land-conversion programs should be coordinated with state fish and game agencies directly concerned with managing wildlife, inasmuch as the conditions affecting management practices may vary from state to state.

Be it further resolved that, in addition to current modification in U.S.D.A. programs to benefit wildlife, the following adjustments should be made in A.S.C.S. practices for wildlife:

- a. New ACP guide lines emphasizing wildlife values should be established to cover land-conversion programs;
- b. The landowner should be discouraged from converting present wild land to crop land;
- c. Grazing rights should be regulated on all converted lands to a degree consistent with good wildlife management;
- d. Cost-sharing benefits should be provided for maintaining wetland and other habitat types for wildlife.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

FOREIGN GAME INTRODUCTION PROGRAM

Whereas, the Foreign Game Introduction Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has supplied exotic game birds during the past several years to states participating in the program, and

Whereas, several of the more desirable species sent to the states for release into the wild have been too few in numbers to adequately evaluate their success, and game farm reproduction of these birds has been extremely limited,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this Association urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, to exert renewed effort toward acquiring exotic game birds suitable for introduction,

Be it further resolved that this Association does hereby commend the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and particularly the Foreign Game Introduction Program for the work that has been done to date, and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE UNITED STATES

Whereas, the Administrator of General Services does not have the necessary authority to make excess personal property of the United States available to the state agencies charged with the responsibility for managing fish and wildlife resources in the public interest, and

Whereas, the programs of such state agencies would benefit materially by the donation of excess personal property of the United States as now may be done under existing authority for other state agencies charged with natural resources responsibilities,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Congress to enact H.R. 4705 or comparable legislation.