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Resolution 2014-03-04 Resolution Encouraging Exploring Partnership Opportunities Between The Southern Wings Program and The Department of the Interior, Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) Program

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 2014-03-04

RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING EXPLORING PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN THE SOUTHERN WINGS PROGRAM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NATURAL RESOURCES DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION (NRDAR) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, breeding, stop-over and overwintering habitats throughout the Americas are critical to the conservation of migratory birds; and

WHEREAS, conservation of shared migratory birds in the U.S. hinges on also addressing threats in their wintering areas in Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Wings Program was created in 2009 to provide a mechanism for state wildlife agencies to join in conservation projects for shared priority bird species with partners in Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Wings Program developed a 10-year Vision in March 2012 with an annual goal of \$2 million in state contributions to projects that support conservation of shared priority bird species throughout the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) Program was created to implement provisions under the Oil Pollution Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Compensation and Liability Act and the Clean Water Act, through which natural resource trustees, federal agencies, states and tribes, are authorized to restore natural resources injured by oil spills or the release of hazardous substances; and

WHEREAS, the state fish and wildlife agencies are frequently trustees in NRDAR cases; and

WHEREAS, migratory birds are frequently injured as a result of oil spills or due to hazardous substance releases, and natural resource trustees seek to implement effective restoration to recover impacted species; and

WHEREAS, the efficacy of migratory bird conservation and stewardship activities would be improved by considering the annual life-cycle needs of birds when determining compensation strategies in a NRDAR settlement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encourages the NRDAR Program to collaborate with the Southern Wings Program and include annual life-cycle needs of migratory birds when assessing NRDAR compensation strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encourages natural resource trustees to include the annual life-cycle needs of migratory birds when assessing NRDAR compensation strategies.

Adopted, September 24, 2014
St. Louis, Missouri



ASSOCIATION *of*