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Resolution 1987-02-10 Completion of Land and Resoure Management Plans

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution No. 1

COMMENDATION FOR INNOVATIVE COOPERATIVE HABITAT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Farmers Home Administration currently has approximately 1.7 million acres of land on its inventory, with several million acres likely to be added to the inventory in the near future;

WHEREAS, some inventory properties contain existing or easily restorable wetland basins that could contribute to meeting habitat goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan;

WHEREAS, Vance L. Clark, Administrator of the Farmers Home Administration, and Frank H. Dunkle, Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, recently have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that calls on the Fish and Wildlife Service to identify important opportunities to maintain and develop wetlands and to formulate and implement, or sponsor third party implementation of, wetland restoration projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies endorses these unique, imaginative habitat maintenance and restoration efforts, and expresses its sincere appreciation to Administrator Clark and Director Dunkle for establishing this timely program to help migratory wildlife and agricultural landowners simultaneously.

Resolution No. 2

COMPLETION OF LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

WHEREAS, the member states of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies have cooperated with the United States Forest Service on 191 million acres of National Forest System lands and have signed cooperative agreements addressing various aspects of wildlife and fish management within their respective jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, it has been the mutual desire of the member states of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Forest Service to work in harmony for the common purpose of developing, maintaining and managing all of the wildlife resources on the national forests in the United States for the best interests of the people of the Nation;

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has approved or proposed Land and Resource Management Plans for all the national forest which will direct the management of the forest resources for a period of 50 years as mandated by the National Forest Management Act of 1976;

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has been involved in developing Land and Resource Management Plans for all national forests for over five (5) years, and have expended substantial money as well as personnel time on this effort;

WHEREAS, it is recognized that hunting, fishing, trapping, and appreciative wildlife-oriented recreation account for a considerable proportion of the public use of the national forests in the United States;

WHEREAS, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has worked diligently to ensure the interaction of state fish and wildlife agencies and the Forest Service with respect to wildlife agency input into forest plans;

WHEREAS, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has encouraged its member states to resolve differences of opinion on forest plans through improved interagency communication and coordination efforts in a timely manner to provide consideration for wildlife in conjunction with other resource uses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges the Forest Service and the Secretary of Agriculture to publish and implement Land and Resource Management Plans on all of the national forests without further delay so that public land and resources can be managed under the public involvement process called for in the National Forest Management Act and the Renewable Resources Planning Act.

Resolution No. 3

OPPOSITION TO BLM RULES ON ADMINISTRATION OF GRAZING

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently released proposed rules for grazing administration on public lands, exclusive of Alaska which appeared in the Federal Register on May 20, 1987;

WHEREAS, the proposed rules continue to emphasize coordination and cooperation with grazing permittees and lessees through cooperative management agreements and other means without mention of other interested parties or affected agencies;

WHEREAS, the proposed rules considerably weaken the land use planning process and attendant decisions which in some cases were favorable to the future management direction for fish and wildlife resources on public lands;

WHEREAS, a stated objective of the proposed rules is to ensure "stability in the western livestock industry" without apparent or stated consideration for important natural resource values such as fish and wildlife;

WHEREAS, the proposed rules emphasize and lend support for continued grazing on the public lands as a priority use regardless of the needs and uses of fish and wildlife;

WHEREAS, the fish and wildlife resources on public lands were not given proper consideration in development of the proposed rules;

WHEREAS, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies considers the proposed rules to be a major federal action as identified under