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## Resolution 1983-02-07 Federal Agricultural Programs

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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## **Resolution No. 1**

### **Cache River Basin, National Wildlife Refuge Proposal**

WHEREAS, the Cache River Basin in northeast Arkansas provides valuable wintering habitat for North American waterfowl, particularly mallard ducks, and for other resident and migratory wildlife;

WHEREAS, drainage and clearing supported by private interests and government projects are threatening the quality and quantity of wetlands in the Cache River Basin;

WHEREAS, continued loss or degradation of those important wetlands will adversely impact wildlife resources enjoyed by thousands of people in both the United States and Canada;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement published in May, 1983, proposed, through combined fee title, acquisition, easement, and other means to protect and preserve said wetland habitat in the 133,000 acre ten-year flood plain of the Cache River Basin;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, to protect wetlands in the Cache River Basin, Arkansas, endorses the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal, listed as alternative No. 1 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be sent to — Chief, Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Chairman, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

## **Resolution No. 2**

### **Federal Agricultural Programs**

WHEREAS, National agricultural programs are again receiving critical attention because short-term programs have not resolved long-standing commodity surpluses, have become inordinately expensive and are counterproductive to on-going USDA programs designed to curtail unacceptable soil losses through erosion;

WHEREAS, the public acceptance of future agricultural programs requires reduction in long-term fluctuations in agricultural commodity surpluses in order to achieve relative commodity price stability, reduction of surplus storage and disposal costs, abatement of soil erosion, improvement of water quality and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat;

WHEREAS, the Congress will be developing a new agricultural bill during the latter part of 1983 and early part of 1984 that will be in effect for the 1985 and subsequent crop years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recommends that Congress enact a new farm bill that accomplishes the following objectives:

- a) Reduces substantially federal expenditures for price supports, commodity loans and storage payments that are now being made due to agricultural overproduction by adjusting commodity supply through adequate acreage set-aside programs. Those programs should contain features that provide long-term price

stability and planning horizons for producers by requiring USDA to set aside, under multiple-year contracts, 10-25% of the base acreage of those commodities in surplus.

- b) Ensures adequate funding for cover establishment on set-aside acres pursuant to Title X — Section 1005-(b) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 or by similar legislation.
- c) Make wetlands, timber, riparian areas, grasslands and other such non-cropland acres ineligible for receiving price supports, acreage set-aside payments, commodity loans and storage payments if converted to cropland.
- d) Eliminates various federal IRS tax incentives and deductions that increase the economic feasibility for converting non-crop areas to cropland.
- e) Eliminates federal funding, publicity and technical assistance for wetland drainage and filling, tillage of native grasslands and pasture, removal of woodlands and riparian vegetation, channelization of streams and other practices destructive of soils, water quality and wildlife habitat.
- f) Ensures that the new agricultural act and USDA's implementing regulations will include official representation on national, state and county committees from soil conservation, water quality, agribusiness, forestry, fisheries and wildlife interests.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the respective chairmen of agricultural committees of the U.S. Senate and House, and to all appropriate and interested conservation agencies and organizations.

### **Resolution No. 3**

#### **Soil Conservation Reserve**

WHEREAS, fluctuations in basic farm commodity production have necessitated federal adjustment programs to protect both farmers and consumers against price uncertainty and increasing costs;

WHEREAS, overproduction of farm commodities has been caused in part by the cultivation of highly-erodible lands, contributing disproportionately to soil erosion and the degradation of wildlife resources;

WHEREAS, federal adjustment programs have not in the past attempted to serve the compatible goal of reducing soil erosion, despite their great potential as devices to achieve this goal;

WHEREAS, limiting the cultivation of highly-erodible lands and placing them in vegetative cover would assist in regulating commodity production, would dramatically decrease soil erosion, and would benefit wildlife;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies endorses the concept of establishing, as an integral component of federal commodity adjustment programs, a soil conservation reserve to set aside from cultivation the most highly-erodible lands on a long-term basis; and supports the initiation of such a reserve program on a pilot basis for the 1983-1984 commodity adjustment programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the respective chairmen of the committees on agriculture, of the U.S. Senate and House and to all appropriate and interested conservation agencies and organizations.