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## Resolution 1979-05-26 Amendment to the Proposed Reclamation Reform Act

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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WHEREAS, the Act has caused populations of wild horses and burros to increase to the extent that approximately 73,000 wild horses and 16,000 wild burros currently inhabit these lands in ten western states; and

WHEREAS, the populations of wild horses and burros are increasing rapidly and will, without more effective measures to control their numbers, double in the next 5 to 6 years at the expense of habitat for native wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to manage the wild horse and burro populations in a manner that protects the natural ecological balance of all species of wildlife inhabiting the public lands; and

WHEREAS, wild horses and burros are already so numerous in some areas that they are causing soil erosion, water degradation, as well as loss of native vegetation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, that the Congress of the United States enact legislation which:

1. Requires the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to control the numbers of wild horses and burros on public lands; and
2. Authorizes additional or more effective methods for the capture, sale, donation, transfer or other removal of wild horses and burros from western public lands.

## **Resolution No. 5**

### **Amendment to the Proposed Reclamation Reform Act**

WHEREAS, surface mining activities throughout the United States have severely altered fish and wildlife habitats; and

WHEREAS, federal laws do not provide adequate compensation and/or mitigation for losses of natural resources incurred by such operations; and

WHEREAS, the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, provides for royalties to be paid to the federal government; and

WHEREAS, fifty percent of the mineral royalties, fees and public land sale monies are given to the states where generated except for Alaska, with 40 percent credited to the "Reclamation Fund" for Bureau of Reclamation water projects and facilities, and 10 percent retained in the U.S. Treasury; and

WHEREAS, an estimated \$195 million from these sources will be credited to the Reclamation Fund in Fiscal Year 1980, an amount that greatly exceeds appropriations made available to the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management for this essential effort, these funds should be for the restoration and maintenance of fish, wildlife, timber, forage and recreation that have been altered and reduced due to mining operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges the Congress to amend the Reclamation Act of 1902 to:

1. Reallocate monies derived from mineral lease fees, royalties and public land sales to the federal land administering agencies for restoring and maintaining resource values, including fish and wildlife habitat, recreation areas and access, water quality and stream flow;
2. Set aside specific monies for the purpose of rehabilitating orphaned mine sites as well as providing for the mitigation, compensation and enhancement of natural resources lost by said mining activities; and
3. Allocate monies based on the amount of land disturbed by mining in each state.

### **Resolution No. 6**

#### **Farmland Wildlife Restoration**

WHEREAS, the quality of wildlife habitat in areas devoted to intensive agriculture has been seriously depleted by land use decisions favoring food and fiber production; and

WHEREAS, such land use is accelerating soil erosion, reducing natural soil fertility, complicating efforts to improve the quality of public waters, depressing fish and wildlife populations; and

WHEREAS, the majority of U.S. citizens support a healthy environment and would support use of their tax funds in bringing about a long-term ecologically balanced farm program which would be economically sound for farmers, protect the soil resource, improve water quality, provide visually pleasing landscapes, and perpetuate fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, fish and wildlife habitat management practices serve dual roles of controlling soil erosion, promoting water conservation and generally enhancing environmental quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, urges the President, the Secretary of Agriculture, and members of Congress to develop a farm program, after consultation with state fish and wildlife agencies, which will establish criteria for minimum wildlife habitat in the intensively farmed regions of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the program be designed to encourage maximum public landowner participation through economic incentives. Economic incentives should include but not be limited to:

1. Cost sharing in the Agricultural Conservation Program be provided at the 100% rate for practices which will enable landowners to meet minimum wildlife habitat criteria. Once minimum wildlife habitat criteria are met, all other wildlife practices be cost