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Resolution 1974-07-20 Wildlife Habitat Management on National Forest Lands

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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ing their responsibilities in perpetuating wildlife species through habitat development, manipulation and management; and

WHEREAS, public access to wildlife resources is also frequently enhanced by state ownership of lands; and

WHEREAS, many thousands of acres having potential for such habitat development and public access and use are federally owned, most being under administrative jurisdiction of the United States Bureau of Land Management; and

WHEREAS, these lands can be acquired by state wildlife management agencies under terms of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, but only in the maximum amount of 640 acres per year; and

WHEREAS, aside from the 640 acre limit being intrinsically inadequate, such limitation is inconsistent with the 6,400 acre annual limitation permitted for disposal to states for other recreational purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby petition the Congress of the United States to amend the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (44 Stat. 741; 43 U.S.C., sec. 869, as amended) to permit State Wildlife Agencies to annually acquire up to at least 6,400 acres of federally owned public lands for fish and wildlife management purposes.

Resolution 6

INDIAN LAND GRANTS

WHEREAS, there is a tendency of the United States Congress to make grants of public lands to enlarge Indian reservations such as the grant involving the Carson National Forest and the proposed grant involving the Grand Canyon National Park and Kaibab National Forest; and

WHEREAS, prior to such disposal these lands are utilized by the general public for all forms of recreation, including hunting and fishing; and

WHEREAS, grants of these lands to special groups usually results in public use being eliminated or severely curtailed; and

WHEREAS, the burden of supplying recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing, falls increasingly upon other lands as these tracts are removed from general public access;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners express its concern to the Congress on the trend to make large grants of public land to enlarge Indian reservations and urges Congress to consider alternatives or substitute actions to satisfy legally supported Indian claims.

Resolution 7

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT ON NATIONAL FOREST LANDS

WHEREAS, at its 60th Annual Convention the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners adopted a resolution urging the Forest Service and the Congress to establish and carry out a realistic habitat improvement program; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Forest Service has just this year announced "An Environmental Program For The Future" which contains a substantially larger commitment for fish and wildlife management on forest lands; and

WHEREAS, the Association emphatically endorses the wildlife habitat improvement program embodied in the U.S. Forest Service's "An Environmental Program For The Future"; and

WHEREAS, it remains for the Congress and the Administration through its Office of Management and Budget and the Congress to implement this program; and

WHEREAS, implementation of a realistic wildlife habitat management program would result in great tangible and intangible benefits to the American public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners again urges the Administration and the Congress to provide funds necessary to carry out the vital wildlife habitat management responsibilities of the U. S. Forest Service under the multiple-use concept and to support cooperative state-federal programs on national forest lands.

Resolution 8

WILD HORSE AND BURRO ACT

WHEREAS, P.L. 92-195 was enacted in 1971 to provide complete protection for wild horses and burros on public lands; and

WHEREAS, latest inventory data reveal an estimated 27,000 wild horses and 14,000 wild burros on lands administered by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management; and

WHEREAS, numbers are increasing at an annual rate of from 20 to 25 percent which will allow the population to double in less than four years; and

WHEREAS, damage to habitat of other wildlife is already occurring due to over-use by wild horses and burros; and

WHEREAS, management agencies do not have the necessary flexibility to maintain wild horse and burro numbers in balance with the carrying capacity of the range;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges Congress to authorize the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to sell, donate or otherwise remove federally owned excess horses or burros to be utilized as the recipient desires; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that use of aircraft and motorized vehicles be recognized as biologically acceptable and economically feasible means of herd management and that their responsible and monitored use be authorized for protection and management of wild horses and burros.

Resolution 9

LEAD SHOT

WHEREAS, lead poisoning of waterfowl, through shot ingestion, has been a major problem in some but not all areas of the United States; and

WHEREAS, proposals have been made to place a nationwide or flyway-wide ban on the use of lead shot either through federal legislation or administrative action of the Fish and Wildlife Service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners endorses the concept that lead shot problems can best be resolved by Federal-State cooperation to address problem areas and that a nation-wide or flyway-wide prohibition of the use of lead shot is unnecessary and undesirable.

Resolution 10

APPRECIATION TO THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation is generously providing office space