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Resolution 1966-20-23 Position on Federal Legislation

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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1. Commends the U. S. Forest Service for completing the unique plan to develop waterfowl habitat on the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota;
2. Energetically encourages the Congress of the United States to provide adequate funds to complete the planned wetland developments on the Chippewa National Forest in the immediate future; and,
3. Urges private individuals and groups, and local, state and federal governmental agencies to use this model plan for developing aquatic areas on their lands.

RESOLUTION NO. 17

FISH AND WILDLIFE IN OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

Whereas, fish and wildlife resources are highly important to millions of Americans for fishing, hunting and nature study; and,

Whereas, fish and wildlife resources have been recognized as integral parts of outdoor recreation programs on both State and Federal levels; and,

Whereas, the states have been given wide latitude in the development of their programs for outdoor recreation; and,

Whereas, it appears that unnecessary delays and undesirable difficulties are being encountered in reviewing and approving fish and wildlife projects for early implementation;

Now, therefore be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation be urged to give consideration and recognition to fish and wildlife projects equal to that accorded other types of outdoor recreation.

RESOLUTION NO. 18

ESTABLISHMENT OF WATER BANK FOR SMALL WATERSHEDS

Whereas, a water bank for small watersheds is essential to hold runoff water rather than removing it rapidly through channelization; to funnel excess water into selected basins and detention reservoirs thereby aiding landowners and reducing flood hazards; to enhance recharge of ground waters and aquatic habitat especially valuable for waterfowl breeding; and,

Whereas, such wetlands are of inestimable value to local wildlife species in addition to migratory waterfowl for which such habitat is essential and of primary concern especially in the Southeast and other parts of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways; and,

Whereas, draining and clearing of such wetlands usually results in permanent destruction and habitat loss which often is accelerated through government subsidies for the questionable purpose of increasing agricultural production;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners:

1. Urges prompt endorsement of the water bank concept to retain runoff waters within small watersheds as long as possible.
2. Encourages the Secretary of Agriculture and all other concerned agencies of the Federal Government to promote the water bank concept with associated incentive payments for private land-owners for wise management of water, land, fish and other wildlife within small watersheds.
3. Recommends that Wetland Types I and VII, which are Federal categories for Bottomland Hardwoods and Wooded Swamps respectively, be included among those types for which drainage subsidies in the form of financial assistance and technical assistance are denied.

RESOLUTION NO. 19

ACCESS TO FEDERAL LANDS

Whereas, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act is designed, among other things, to assure access to outdoor recreational resources; and,

Whereas, accessibility of public lands to the public for recreational purposes is a mounting problem, and,

Whereas, each year, more and more private landowners are controlling access to federal lands by charging fees to enter or to cross their lands, or by leasing exclusive recreational rights on their lands, or by outright prohibition of access, thereby excluding the public or causing them extra expense and hardship;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners strongly recommends that the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964, be amended to provide that money from the federal portion of the Fund may be used to acquire easements or lands for the purpose of providing public access to federal lands which have been classified for retention in federal ownership and which possess significant value for outdoor recreation.

RESOLUTION NO. 20

POSITION ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Whereas, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is vitally concerned with legislation pertaining to conservation;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is opposed to the following legislation now pending before Congress:

1. Restrictive Firearms Regulations as typified by S. 1592 and any other unreasonable restrictions on long guns.
2. Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp increases as provided in H. R. 14136.
3. Elimination of the Federal Excise Tax on sport fishing tackle as provided in H. R. 15618.
4. Metal Mining Subsidies as provided in S. 1377, unless they are conditioned upon adequate pollution control by the recipients of such subsidies.

5. Establishment of Sonoran Desert National Park as provided in H. R. 11695 unless the Cabeza Prieta Game Range and National Land Reserve areas are retained under existing agency control.
6. Enlargement of Grand Canyon National Park as provided in H. R. 14176 as related to the transfer of agency jurisdiction of the Grand Canyon National Game Preserve and the Kaibab National Forest.

Be it further resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners supports the following legislation now pending before Congress: provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall imply that this Association endorses any provision of any federal statute or regulation which prohibits the management and regulation of public hunting of resident wildlife species and of public fishing on federal lands by the various states.

1. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (H. R. 51).
2. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (S. 936).
3. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (H. R. 8678).
4. Oregon Dunes National Seashore (H. R. 7524).
5. Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area (S. 491 and H. R. 2778).
6. Guadalupe Mountains National Park (H. R. 698).
7. Protection of Endangered Species of Wildlife (H. R. 9424).
8. Strengthening of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (S. 2947 and H. R. 16076).
9. Strengthening of the Clean Air Act (S. 3112).
10. Protection of fur seals and sea otter on the high seas (S. 2102 and H. R. 9602).
11. Establishment of a National System of Estuarine Areas (H. R. 13447) provided that the legislation does not infringe on the present rights of any states having jurisdiction over fisheries.
12. Extension of United States fisheries jurisdiction to twelve miles (S. 2218 and H. R. 14961).
13. Extension of the emergency waterfowl wetlands loan program, with allocations to states (S. 3308 and H. R. 13495).
14. Establishment of a Redwood National Park approximately 45,000 acres in size, with any other acquisitions to be funded from monies other than the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
15. Using Land and Water Conservation Funds to acquire public access to Federal lands for recreational purposes (H. R. 17662).
16. Extending and strengthening wildlife laws and their enforcement (S. 3475).
17. Establishing a National Water Commission to review water problems (S. 3107 and H. R. 14151).
18. Establishing a Wild or Scenic Rivers Preservation System (H. R. 12797 and S. 1446).

Be it further resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners directs its officers and urges its members to advise the appropriate committees and members of Congress of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 21

HONORING SETH GORDON

Whereas, the by-laws of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners provide for the recognition of outstanding service rendered by a conservation administrator; and,

Whereas, this authority has been used sparingly in recognizing those who have, by long years of devotion to duty, demonstrated outstanding leadership, willingness to aid in the administration of the Association, and, generally, have left their influence over the people of North America who administer renewable natural resource work;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that Mr. Seth Gordon, former Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, former Director of the California Fish and Game Commission, President of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in 1940-41, and present General Counsel for the Association, a diligent, unselfish and devoted worker for the Association, mankind and the management of our natural resources, be extended honorary life membership in the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners.

RESOLUTION NO. 22

APPRECIATION

Whereas, the 56th annual meeting of this Association in Kansas City, Missouri, has been an outstanding and memorable one; and,

Whereas, the efforts of the Program and Arrangements Committees have resulted in one of our most successful conferences;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners extends its appreciation to Governor Warren E. Hearnes, to the Missouri Conservation Commission, to the management of the Muehlebach Hotel, and to all the others for the many courtesies and favors which contributed so much to this convention; and,

Be it further resolved that thanks and appreciation be extended also to all who appeared on the program, thereby making this convention one of the most interesting and profitable in the history of this Association.

RESOLUTION NO. 23

REALIGNMENT OF SMALL WATERSHED PROGRAM - P. L. 566

Whereas, the original intent of the P. L. 566 program was to attain the wisest use of all resources within individual watersheds; and,

Whereas, this concept recognized the desirability and necessity of coordinated efforts between landowners, various government agencies and scientific disciplines; and,