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Resolution 1965-14-26 Proposed Dam Adversely Affecting the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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And be it further resolved that such federal agencies notify and work closely with state natural resource agencies to insure both state and federal consideration of the natural and aesthetic resources involved.

And be it further resolved that these agencies take appropriate action to preclude unnecessary damage to natural and aesthetic resources.

And be it further resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby announce its concern regarding the indiscriminate and wasteful filling of shoreline areas and hereby urges all people to become aware of the serious nature of indiscriminate shoreline developments and the irreparable damage that can be inflicted upon natural resources, particularly with respect to the bays, estuaries, marshes and shallow coastal waters of their area.

RESOLUTION NO. 12

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT RESEARCH PROGRAM OF U. S. FOREST SERVICE AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Whereas, the state fish and game departments and the federal land management agencies are under constant pressure to improve habitat for fish and wildlife on public lands, and

Whereas, livestock and other practices on public lands can have effects both good and bad on game habitat, and

Whereas, there is a great need to add to our knowledge of more effective ways of managing fish and game habitat to their advantage,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby support the fish and wildlife habitat research programs of the U. S. Forest Service and the U. S. Bureau of Land Management and again urges that Congress fully fund these programs in order that the wild lands of the West be utilized fully for their fish and wildlife possibilities.

And be it further resolved that the results of any accelerated research program be closely integrated with state game and fish departments' wildlife habitat management programs.

And be it further resolved that to the extent possible that such wildlife research projects be carried out by state technicians through contractual arrangements with the federal agencies.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

FREE PASSAGE FOR WILDLIFE

Whereas, the Highway Complex through the States is planned to pass through some of the Nation's best wildlife habitat, and

Whereas, the structures necessary to and accompanying this complex are to be fenced in many places with high, woven wire fences, and

Whereas, these fences and other accompanying structures often become impassable barriers to migrating wildlife, and

Whereas, in many cases these barriers create changes in the habitat for fish and wildlife that are detrimental and represent clear and present dangers to the welfare of wildlife, and

Whereas, the social, recreational and economic value of wildlife to present and future generations of Americans is so great as to be reckoned as priceless,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, petitions the Bureau of Public Roads to cooperate with the state game and fish departments in requiring that construction plans and costs include provisions for underpasses and structures which will guarantee the free migration of wildlife and protect existing spawning runs and migration routes and other wildlife habitat necessary to the survival, maintenance and development of wildlife species and the wildlife resource.

RESOLUTION NO. 14

PROPOSED DAM ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS AREA

Whereas, the Bureau of Reclamation is presently proposing the construction of a dam at the Lower Sun Butte Site, just below the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Sun River, and just above Gibson Reservoir, and

Whereas, said dam would flood nine miles up the North Fork and eight miles up the South Fork, thus destroying completely seventeen miles of outstandingly scenic fishing river, the majority of which would be within the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, and

Whereas, in the event of such a dam at this site resulting in an impoundment containing a flood control feature necessitating drastic drawdown each year from 50 to 200 feet with accompanying unsightly mud flats, it would be necessary to readjust the present boundaries of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, excluding approximately 85 square miles of its present area, and

Whereas, the Lower Sun Butte Dam or any dam in this general area would create an impoundment that would be severely detrimental to elk, deer, and mountain sheep by forming a serious block to important and historic migration routes of these big game species to and from vitally needed winter ranges, and

Whereas, said impoundment would also destroy ideal elk calving range, very probably upsetting the present harmonious situation that exists with this nationally important game herd, and

Whereas, the Bob Marshall Wilderness, an area of outstanding scenic beauty of state, regional, and national significance, has become classified under the new Wilderness Act, and

Whereas, it is very possible that alternative sites could be found farther down the Sun River drainage that would adequately achieve the necessary flood control for which the dam above Gibson Reservoir is being primarily proposed, and that such a dam down river would not destroy the many natural resources as previously explained in this Resolution,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners opposes the construction of any dam on the Sun River system in Montana above Gibson Reservoir,

And be it further resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers to thoroughly explore the possibility of achieving necessary flood control by other acceptable methods.