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Resolution 1959-05-25 Public Land Management and Access Problems

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Whereas, studies carried out by state and federal agencies indicate that a doubling of the construction grants program could result in the substantial elimination of sewage pollution in this nation within a decade;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners commends the house and senate of the federal congress for passing H. R. 3610, a bill to accomplish such an increase in the construction grants program, and request the president to sign this bill into law.

Be it further resolved this Association commends the Honorable Arthur S. Fleming, secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, upon his efficient administration of Public Law 660 and especially upon his vigorous enforcement of the provisions of the law relating to the abatement of interstate water pollution.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT AND ACCESS PROBLEMS

Whereas, the public domain of the United States, including some 470 million acres in the Western states and Alaska, encompasses and produces natural resources of vast economic and social value to all Americans, and

Whereas overgrazing, range trespass, soil erosion, inadequate fire protection and other land abuses are known to persist on the public domain in many areas to the detriment of the local economy and the public welfare, and

Whereas, overgrazing, range trespass, soil erosion, inadequate fire protection and other land abuses are known to persist on the public domain in many areas to the detriment of the local economy and the public welfare, and

Whereas, access for hunting, fishing and other legitimate uses is denied the public in many places by the owners or operators of adjacent private lands, and preliminary estimates indicate as much as 14 million acres of federal lands are so closed to the public in the western states, and

Whereas, the Bureau of Land Management is underfinanced and understaffed for its highly important task of managing and protecting the public land resources under its jurisdiction, and the Taylor Grazing Act and other laws under which the bureau operates are believed to be outdated and deficient in other respects;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners commends and endorses the proposal by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, that the Department of Interior prepare a comprehensive and long-range program for the conservation, rehabilitation and development of the lands under the Bureau of Land Management and further endorses the proposal calling for a senate committee staff study of problems of public access to the public lands.

Be it further resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners recommends that appropriate committees of congress initiate studies leading to the revision and strengthening of the Taylor Grazing Act and other laws relating to the conservation and multiple-use management of the public domain lands.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Whereas, it is believed enactment of S. 812, a bill to establish a Youth Conservation Corps, will assist materially in the conservation of American youth, as well as in the conservation of natural resources.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the international Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners recommends enactment of S. 812 and its implementation by the necessary appropriations.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

ELIMINATION OF ACP SUBSIDIES FOR MARSH DRAINAGE

Be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners re-affirms its opposition to federal subsidies which encourage the drainage and destruction of valuable and irreplaceable waterfowl habitat and requests the congress to enact corrective legislation, incorporating the principles of the Ruess-McGovern bill, H. R. 3909, as introduced in the 86th congress, and

Be it further resolved that pending the passage of such corrective legislation, this association urges the Secretary of Agriculture to revise the guidelines and eligibility regulations governing the administration of the