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Resolution 1952-08-10 Subsidies for Drainage and Other Agricultural Practices Affecting Wildlife Habitat

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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RESOLUTION NO. 6

FAVORING PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION SIMILAR TO TACKETT BILL

Whereas, the multiple use nature of the U. S. Forests is hereby recognized; and

Whereas, adequate funds for the development of recreational resources on these national forests have not been available, and there has been a deterioration and decline in the value of these resources;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in annual convention assembled at Dallas, Texas, this 12th day of September, 1952, does hereby recommend the passage of a Bill to provide that 10% of National Forest income shall be available for the development, maintenance and operation of wildlife habitat and recreational resources within the National Forests; and

Be it further resolved that this Association goes on record as again opposing any federal use stamp for hunting and fishing on National Forest land.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BOARD OF REVIEW

Whereas, the need for better co-ordination of federal agencies dealing with natural resources has long been evident and is continually growing more urgent;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners in annual convention assembled at Dallas, Texas, this 12th day of September, 1952, that we reaffirm the provisions of Resolution No. 13 adopted at the 1950 annual convention, favoring the creation of a federal department of natural resources, and urging Congress to provide immediately for the creation of a Board of Review, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, with power to deal with all projects involving the development or use of natural resources, substantially as recommended by the minority report of the Hoover Commission and its Task Force on Natural Resources.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

SUBSIDIES FOR DRAINAGE AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AFFECTING WILDLIFE HABITAT

Whereas, the reduction of wildlife habitat is continuing at a rapid rate throughout North America; and

Whereas, a recent survey of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicates that farm drainage has reduced the aquatic habitat for waterfowl and fur-bearers by fifteen to twenty per cent in the prairie pothole country alone during the past five years, despite the fact that the constantly increasing human population and more leisure hours are placing greater demands on wildlife resources and available recreational facilities; and

Whereas, the policies of the Department of Agriculture in providing payments for drainage and certain other agricultural practices, while not the only stimulus for such work, has encouraged the destruction of urgently needed wildlife habitat; and

Whereas, in a recent press release the Secretary of Agriculture stated that increased agricultural production was accomplished largely by higher yields rather than by reclaiming lands, and that wildlife interests will receive greater consideration in agricultural programs, including the possibility of eliminating drainage subsidies;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in annual convention assembled at Dallas, Texas, this 12th day of September, 1952, hereby commends the Secretary of Agriculture for his expressed interest in wildlife problems and urges that the payment of subsidies for drainage and other practices which destroy or damage wildlife habitat be eliminated, and that in connection with drainage projects and other agricultural practices, effective measures be adopted for protection of wildlife values and other natural resources; and

Be it further resolved that the Association likewise urges the Secretary to give consideration to the following facts:

- (1) That the small addition to the total agricultural program is rather insignificant as compared to the increases that can be attained through the utilization of improved farming practices.

- (2) That substantial income to landowners is possible through the proper management of wetlands for wildlife production, especially fur-bearing animals.
- (3) That the full results and effects of wholesale drainage upon underground water supplies and run-off rates is not fully understood.
- (4) That the preservation and sound management of breeding, feeding, and resting grounds is of vital interest to millions of people throughout the United States and Canada, and that the federal government is obligated to protect and preserve the migratory bird resources under the terms of an International Treaty.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

REAFFIRMATION OF CERTAIN 1951 RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, it is desirable to reaffirm the action taken at the Forty-First Convention at Rochester, New York, during 1951, on several important resolutions ;

Be it therefore resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in annual convention assembled at Dallas, Texas, this 12th day of September, 1952, reaffirm the resolutions adopted by the Association at the 1951 annual convention, relating to the following subjects :

- No. 1 OPPOSING EXTENSION OF FEDERAL CONTROLS OVER FISH AND GAME
- No. 3 NATIONAL FOREST ADVISORY BOARDS
- No. 5 OPPOSING "PROPOSAL FOR AN ACT" RELATING TO GRAZING PERMITS
- No. 7 MODIFICATION OF MINING LAWS
- No. 9 CONSERVATION EDUCATION
- No. 13 FENCING OF PUBLIC GRAZING LANDS

Be it further resolved, that this reaffirmance of the resolutions above specified shall not be deemed to detract from or impair the effect of any other resolutions heretofore adopted by the Association.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

APPRECIATION OF COURTESIES

Be it resolved, that the members of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in annual convention assembled at Dallas, Texas, this 12th day of September, 1952, express our most sincere thanks and appreciation to Howard Dodgen, Executive Secretary, Texas Game and Fish Commission, and his associates ;

To the members of the Texas Game and Fish Commission for their splendid assistance ;

To the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, the Fort Worth Anglers Club, the Dallas Business Men, and the Shell Producers Association, for their valuable assistance ;

And to the management of the Baker Hotel for the courteous and pleasant services rendered.

Mr. Frye: The members of the Resolutions Committee have given careful consideration to all of the resolutions. We believe they should be adopted for the good of the organization. I, therefore, move their adoption.

President Davis: You have heard the motion. Is there a second?
(The motion was seconded.)

President Davis: The motion has been seconded by Mr. Bode. All those in favor of the adoption of the motion please say "aye." (ayes) Those opposed, "no." (no response) The "ayes" have it. The printed program has been amended. We are now concerned with the report of the Executive Committee, or, if we do not insert it at this particular time, the Executive Committee will be voted out of existence and will not be afforded an opportunity to make a report. The Chairman of the Executive Committee, Howard Dodgen of Texas,