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Resolution 1997-02-08 The Land and Water Conservation fund and the Teaming with Wildlife Initiative

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 1997-02-08

**THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND
AND THE TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, unlike programs for species which are hunted or fished or for species in danger of extinction, existing state efforts to conserve the wide array of fish and wildlife known as “nongame” species are poorly funded; and

WHEREAS, the Teaming with Wildlife Initiative would address this gap by extending a small excise tax to additional items of outdoor recreational equipment in order to fund comprehensive state conservation programs for these diverse species and provide fish and wildlife-associated recreation and education (trails and viewing areas, for example); and

WHEREAS, addressing a different need, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), enacted by Congress in 1964, applies royalties from offshore oil and gas development to fund federal, state and local acquisition of land and water areas and development of facilities for outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, for many years LWCF appropriations have not kept pace with needs but Congress is now considering a funding request that would reinvigorate the LWCF program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that because the LWCF program and the Teaming with Wildlife Initiative have different but complementary purposes, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports funding of a reinvigorated LWCF and urges Congress to enact the Teaming with Wildlife Initiative as the much needed final link in a nationwide effort to restore and sustain this nation’s fish and wildlife resources.