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Resolution 2010-02-04 Statement of Appreciation and Support for 10 Years of State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Funding

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 02-04 2010

**STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT FOR 10 YEARS OF
STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANT FUNDING**

WHEREAS, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) recognizes and supports the important role that states play in protecting this nation's fish and wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, States have principal jurisdictional authority over fish and wildlife within their borders, and where Congress has given federal agencies certain conservation responsibilities such as for migratory birds or listed threatened and endangered species, the state jurisdiction remains concurrent with the federal jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, States have long recognized the need for more comprehensive fish and wildlife programs to conserve all species; however, adequate funding has remained elusive for over 30 years; and

WHEREAS, States have demonstrated their commitment to comprehensive programs by expeditiously completing congressionally-required Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies (State Wildlife Action Plans), which are the primary conservation tool for keeping fish and wildlife healthy and off the threatened and endangered species list; and

WHEREAS, States also have had a decade of success delivering on-the-ground conservation to species of greatest conservation need using the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program which was created by Congress in 2000;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the valuable accomplishments of the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program over the past 10 years in developing and implementing State Wildlife Action Plans and extends its appreciation to Congress, the Administration, and the American people for investing in this vital program; and be it further,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association stands ready to work with Congress and the Administration to identify an appropriate source of funds that is statutorily dedicated through the established Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program account to state fish and wildlife agencies to deliver proactive conservation actions that sustain fish and wildlife and their habitats for current and future citizens.

Resolution submitted by the Teaming With Wildlife Committee with recommendation that it be passed.