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Resolution 2013-03-06 Support for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 2012-03-06

**RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARTNERS
FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program" works to restore valuable habitat on private lands. It is an incentive-based, voluntary, non-regulatory program which encourages partnerships in implementing on-the-ground habitat restoration projects. State agencies are among its traditional and frequent partners. Since its inception in 1987, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has supported the restoration of over 1,200,000 acres of wetlands; 3,200,000 acres of uplands; and 9,000 miles of riparian and stream habitats through 44,000 partnership agreements.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program" (Partners Program) is a significant contributor to the restoration and maintenance of habitat essential to sustaining our Nation's fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, the Partners Program supports the Service's mission to "work with others" in promoting and achieving shared stewardship of fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, the Partners Program since its inception has worked in partnership with State agencies to achieve shared goals in habitat and fish and wildlife resource management; and

WHEREAS, the Partners Program, as a matter of Service policy, will give priority consideration to State Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plans when directing its resources to on-the-ground habitat restoration activities; and

WHEREAS, the Partners Program will achieve its **25th Anniversary** in 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the valuable accomplishments of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and its partnership with State agencies in shared stewardship of fish and wildlife resources. And, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies reaffirms its support for the Partners Program to the Administration, the Congress, and the American people.

Submitted by the Agricultural Conservation Committee