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Resolution 1969-05-17 Public Land Review Commission Report to Congress

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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WHEREAS, under the Federal Water Project Recreation Act, the states may be called upon to administer and share fifty percent of the separable capital costs and all of the operation, maintenance and replacement costs of fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that each project prior to its authorization be comprehensively evaluated in order to formulate recommendations for the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, this Association believes it is essential that such evaluation be included in the earliest phases of project formulation and as an integral part of project planning, funding and scheduling:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges Congress to insure adequate funding for the states to make fish and wildlife studies in cooperation with federal agencies when it considers project planning, funding and scheduling:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Association requests federal agencies to establish necessary liaison with the states as well as interagency coordination to assure that fish and wildlife studies will be properly funded.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

PUBLIC LAND LAW REVIEW COMMISSION REPORT TO CONGRESS

WHEREAS, the Public Land Law Review Commission is scheduled to complete its deliberations early in 1970 and to make its final report to Congress in June, 1970; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of this Commission and subsequent recodification of the public land laws by Congress will greatly affect the future of hunting, fishing and all other forms of outdoor recreation on federal lands:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges legislation be recommended by the Public Land Law Review Commission:

- A. To retain in public ownership all existing lands not needed to meet immediate housing and industrial needs.
- B. To provide for multiple use administration and management of these public lands, giving wildlife, recreation and aesthetic values equal consideration with other uses. Priorities of land use are to be determined by the inherent properties of the lands and their ability to satisfy the greatest public need.
- C. To provide authority and funding for reasonable and adequate public access to all federal lands.
- D. To encourage private land purchases to consolidate federal land ownership patterns in order to improve management effectiveness.
- E. To clearly enunciate the respective authority and responsibilities of state and federal governments concerning wildlife as set forth in that portion of the Public Land Law Review Commission's report on wildlife prepared by Colorado State University, which suggests . . . that public harvest of fish and wildlife on all federal land shall be in accordance with applicable state regulations . . . and all other removals . . . be in accordance with any existing state procedures . . ."
- F. To repeal all outdated mining laws and require all mineral exploration and development on unreserved public lands to be accomplished under the provisions of the mineral leasing act

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game Fish and Conservation Commissioners go on record as commending the Public Land Law Review Commission, the Advisory Council, Governors' Representatives, and the Public Land Law Review staff for the manner in which they have approached their difficult and complex assignment.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

COLUMBIA RIVER PRESERVATION

WHEREAS, the section of the Columbia River between Richland, Washington, and Priest Rapids Dam, a distance of approximately 59 river miles, is the last free-flowing section of said river; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Ben Franklin Lock and Dam project would destroy the last remaining spawning areas for anadromous fish in the Columbia River and impound the last free-flowing section of the river, and otherwise impair the anadromous fishery and other wildlife values:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners declare its opposition to proposals of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for construction of a navigation channel or Ben Franklin Dam, or for any project of development whatsoever of this section of the Columbia or its riparian lands, which project or development would in any substantial degree be detrimental to the environment and to fish and wildlife.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

AMENDMENTS TO FEDERAL AID ACTS

WHEREAS, the state fish and game agencies have recognized the need to clarify and modernize the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act and the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act; and WHEREAS, the provisions of H. R. 12475 will delete the engineering, maintenance and management limitations and effect other housekeeping changes which are long overdue; and

WHEREAS, the bill's provision would add the revenue from the 10 per cent federal excise tax on pistols and revolvers to the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program; and

WHEREAS, one-half of these revenues would be apportioned among the states to pay up to 50% of the cost of hunter safety programs including construction, operation, and maintenance of target ranges; and