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Resolution 1968-15-23 Diversion of Pittman- Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Funds

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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RESOLUTION NO. 13

PUBLIC LAND GRAZING PERMITS

Whereas, the wildlife resources of the public lands are a unique asset to the national recreational picture; and

Whereas, the competition between domestic livestock and wildlife is one of the elements contributing to a reduction of wildlife habitat; and

Whereas, the state wildlife agencies have purchased areas for the primary purpose of relieving range competition between livestock and wildlife; and

Whereas, the purchase of private lands is generally accompanied by the transfer of grazing permits to the new owner; and

Whereas, similar grazing privileges are seldom transferred to state wildlife agencies when they acquire private land:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners requests the Federal Land Management Agencies to meet with, and consider recommendations of, the state wildlife agency prior to retiring or redistributing grazing permits previously associated with private lands which have been acquired by the state wildlife agency.

RESOLUTION NO. 14

STATE PLANNING - FEDERAL WATER PROJECTS

Whereas, several agencies of the Federal Government are engaged in the planning and construction of numerous water development projects including channelization, which have the potential to damage seriously or significantly enhance fish and wildlife; and

Whereas, federal law and executive policy as expressed in Senate Document 97, the Federal Water Projects Recreation Act (P.L. 89-72) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (P.L. 85-624) provide for full consideration of water development projects; and

Whereas, under the Federal Water Projects 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 enhancement features; and

Whereas, it is essential that sufficient time and effort be provided to properly investigate and evaluate fish and wildlife in relation to water projects, in order to formulate recommendations for the protection and enhancement of these resources; and

Whereas, this Association finds that greater consideration of fish and wildlife is necessary in connection with federal water developments, and that in order to implement studies of sufficient depth and detail to permit sound judgment and recommendations for the protection and enhancement of these resources; and in order to make a prudent assessment of the merits of including fish and wildlife enhancement in federal projects, it is essential that such studies be considered 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 sufficient funding for fish and wildlife studies by the state agencies in cooperation with federal agencies when it considers the appropriation of funds for authorization and planning of federal water projects; and

Be it further resolved, that this Association requests the federal agencies to establish necessary liaison and interagency coordination to assure that fish and wildlife studies will be properly funded.

RESOLUTION NO. 15

DIVERSION OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON AND DINGELL-JOHNSON FUNDS

Whereas, the Revenue and Expenditure Control Act of 1968 (Section 205) allows the President to reserve funds which are automatically appropriated and made available for distribution as federal grants by application of various formulae applied to annual revenue collections; and

Whereas, the President may exercise this authority and withhold a portion of federal aid funds which should be available to states for fish and wildlife restoration programs; and

Whereas, the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson programs, based on the user-pay principle whereby the sportsmen of the United States pay an excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition, and fishing tackle, have been carried on successfully and continuously for many years, with inestimable benefit not only to sportsmen but to the general public; and

Whereas, the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson funds are not federal funds, but in a real sense are monies which belong to the states for the collection and distribution of which the treasury of the United States acts as a trustee for the use and benefit of the states; and

Whereas, all states depend upon these monies for financing their planned, long-term land acquisition, habitat development, and research programs; and

Whereas, many states will suffer from lost options, broken continuity of research, and personnel losses:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is opposed to the withholding, reduction, or diversion by the Federal Government of such funds which are paid by sportsmen for state fish and wildlife restoration projects, and urges the President to insure the availability of these funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 16

MEMORIAL RECOGNITION FOR ERNEST FREMONT SWIFT

Whereas, Ernest F. Swift dedicated his entire lifetime to the cause of conservation for which he gave more than full measure of devotion in many leadership positions including Director of the Wisconsin Conservation Department, Assistant Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation, Chairman of the National Waterfowl Council and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners; and

Whereas, Ernie Swift fought effectively on many diverse battlefields, using arguments based