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Resolution 1967-05-21 Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) Drainage Program

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Whereas, the Forest Service does employ competent wildlife biologists; and
Whereas, their wildlife habitat development operations are extremely limited due to lack of money:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners goes on record as favoring a substantial increase in the wildlife budget of the Forest Service, adequate to carry out a realistic program of fish and game habitat improvement on National Forest Lands.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ACP) DRAINAGE PROGRAM

Whereas, a new special Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) practice for constructing permanent open drainage systems to dispose of excess water (Practice F-2-B) has been approved for the Great Lakes Resources Area of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan at a high cost-share rate (65 per cent); and

Whereas, this practice is aimed at draining Type VI wetlands to bring new land into agricultural production; and

Whereas, Resolutions No. 1 and No. 18 of the 1966 convention of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners have recommended that other essential types of wetlands be included in the category with Type III, IV, and V now prohibited by the Reuss Amendment from receiving drainage subsidies; and

Whereas, the Type VI wetlands affected by this practice are increasingly important habitat for deer, grouse, woodcock, and other wildlife species as well as waterfowl:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is opposed to the special agricultural conservation program practice of constructing permanent open drainage systems to dispose of excess water aimed at draining Type VI wetlands which are important habitats for wildlife; and

Be it further resolved, that drainage subsidies be withdrawn for drainage programs on Type VI lands; and

Be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be mailed to chairmen of the State ACP Committees involved and to the Secretary of Agriculture and to members of the Advisory Board on Wildlife appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

CROPLAND ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

Whereas, the Cropland Adjustment Program (CAP) of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 has been an active program for only two of the five years authorized; and

Whereas, farmer requests to participate in the programs of cropland diversion and public-access provisions have been greater in some states than budgets would permit:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners strongly urges the Congress to restore the necessary funds in the Department of Agriculture appropriation bill to continue the Cropland Adjustment Program of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 which has opened thousands of acres of private lands to public hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

INTERPRETATION OF PUBLIC LAW 566

Whereas, subsequent amendments to Public Law 566 of 1954 have broadened the act to provide for numerous other benefits including municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat improvement, as well as agricultural water management and flood control; and

Whereas, each of these public purposes is given equal consideration in the act; and

Whereas, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Congressional Committees are required to approve P.L. 566 projects which would cost more than \$250,000, or which include a structure capable of storing over 2,500 acre-feet of water; and

Whereas, the interpretation given by the Department and the Committees precludes consideration of projects not having as their major purpose agricultural water management (primarily drainage) or flood control;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners strongly urges congressional action to ensure that Public Law 566 of 1954, as amended, be implemented as now written, to give equal weight to all purposes such as municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, agricultural water management and flood control.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

CHARGES FOR HUNTING AND FISHING ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Whereas, state fish and game agencies are dependent upon license revenues for management and perpetuation of fish and wildlife resources within their respective states; and

Whereas, the addition of federal hunting and fishing access fees competes with state fish and game agencies in their ability to collect such license revenues; and

Whereas, the establishment of any special access fee charges for National Wildlife Refuges should be the prerogative of the states;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners opposes the charging of federal access fees for hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges.

* Alaska abstained from voting.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

FUND BIOLOGICAL STUDIES AS PART OF WATER PROJECT PLANNING

Whereas, the rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs of the United States are the major elements in the rapidly expanding tourist and recreation industry; and