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Resolution 1967-09-21 Fund Biological Studies as Part of Water Project Planning

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Be it further resolved, that drainage subsidies be withdrawn for drainage programs on Type VI lands; and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

Whereas, the Bureau of Reclamation of the U. S. Department of the Interior and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers are now planning and propose to construct a massive system of dams and appurtenant facilities for a wide variety of purposes; and

Whereas, the proposed water developments will have a major impact on the existing fish and wildlife resource; and

Whereas, little information is now available regarding the magnitude, characteristics and requirements of these resources or resultant reservoir fisheries upon which to formulate sound recommendations for their protection and/or enhancement; and

Whereas, it is essential that biological studies be initiated promptly to keep pace with the engineering and other aspects of project planning so that the studies may be integrated into the formation of projects under the multiple purpose concept, or alternate solutions to water problems be investigated to preserve high value existing resources; and

Whereas, hunters and fishermen pay for basic fish and game studies on water development projects through their special license fees and excise taxes on their sporting equipment while the Bureau and Corps preconstruction studies are paid from the general fund;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby request the Congress of the United States to include sufficient funds in project costs to the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the U. S. Corps of Engineers, to (1) study solutions to water problems, and (2) enable the states involved through direct Federal appropriation or funding to formulate and implement biological studies of existing resources which would be affected by water developments for the purpose of providing essential information to plan for the protection and/or enhancement of these resources in connection with said developments.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

STATE CONTROL OF FISH AND WILDLIFE ON FEDERAL LANDS

Whereas, by law, history, and tradition, in the United States the ownership of wildlife has been separated from ownership of the land; and

Whereas, all species of fish and resident wildlife are held in trust for the people of each state by the individual states through their official agencies; and

Whereas, authority of the federal government for the management of wildlife relates to migratory species which are subject to international treaties and to wildlife on lands over which the states have ceded jurisdiction; and

Whereas, contrary to Supreme Court decisions and sound fish and game management policies, a Solicitor of the Federal Department of the Interior has held that the federal government has full and exclusive power and control over fish and resident wildlife on all federally-owned lands;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners holds that the respective state governments have the basic right and responsibility for conserving, managing and regulating the fish and resident species of wildlife on all lands and waters within their boundaries, except where such jurisdiction has been specifically ceded to the Federal Government.

*Alaska abstained from voting.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

COMMON VARIETIES AND MATERIALS ACT

Whereas, S.B. 1049 (Common Varieties and Materials Act) has been introduced to change the mining laws on public lands; and

Whereas, there is need to retain federal land in public ownership for multiple use, including public recreation;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is opposed to any changes in the law permitting the location of common variety minerals under the terms of any mining law.

Be it further resolved, that common variety minerals continue to be utilized under the terms of the Mineral Leasing Act.

RESOLUTION NO. 12

INCREASE IN DUCK STAMP PRICE

Whereas, H.R. 482, containing a proposed increase in the Duck Stamp fees is before the U. S. Senate for consideration; and

Whereas, the last time the Duck Stamp fee was increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00 the net income to the U. S. was decreased during the first 10 years and the number of duck hunters was decreased proportionately to the price increase; and

Whereas, duck hunters' interest is vitally needed to protect the nation's diminishing wetlands resource;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby oppose H.R. 482 and any other Bills providing for an increase in the duck stamp fee.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

RELATING TO LEASES ON NATIONAL FOREST LANDS

Whereas, H.R. 740 and H.R. 4882 have been introduced to change private leases on public lands which would provide for certain possessory rights for the lessee; and

Whereas, such changes and action would not be in the best long-term interests of the general public;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners goes on record in opposition to H.R. 740 and H.R. 4884 and the concept of such legislation.