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Resolution 1966-01-23 Preservation of Valuable Wetlands

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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RESOLUTION NO. 1

PRESERVATION OF VALUABLE WETLANDS

Whereas, wetlands constitute habitat of inestimable value for waterfowl and other birds, furbearers, and other mammals and fish; and,

Whereas, the maintenance of wetlands affects subterranean water tables; and,

Whereas, marshes along lake shore areas and rivers are being filled for a variety of purposes or drained through channelization for flood control, navigation, mosquito control, or other purposes; and,

Whereas, marshlands, wetlands, and bottomland hardwood areas of the nation are being drained or filled for agricultural and other purposes;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby urges action in the following ways:

1. Support to obtain emergency wetlands funds on a non-matching basis;
2. Extension of the Wetlands Loan Act;
3. Commend the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for recommending that State Development Committees reduce their 1966 expenditures for drainage and propose continuation of this procedure;
4. Support amendments to the Agricultural Appropriations Act which include saline marshes and other types of essential wetlands; and
5. Oppose the drainage or filling of wetlands of value to wildlife and any federal cost-sharing in subsidies encouraging loss or destruction of these resources;

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife, House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, the Senate Interior Affairs Committee, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS SYSTEM

Whereas, primitive areas within national forests and roadless tracts within national parks and national wildlife refuges are being reviewed for possible addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

Whereas, recommendations of the administering agencies will be made to the President after field hearings are held in the local areas concerned; and,

Whereas, the President, in turn, will recommend necessary legislation to the Congress and public reaction again likely will be invited in hearings held by the body;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby declares its endorsement of the principle of adding suitable areas to the National Wilderness Preservation System for the protection of this great national heritage thereby assuring its availability for use by future generations; and,

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to all federal agencies administering such lands.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

POLICY ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES

Whereas, chemical pesticides, their use, and their effects on the environment are and should be a vital concern to agencies administering natural resources; and,

Whereas, such agencies in managing public lands frequently require the use of various chemical pesticides as management tools; and,

Whereas, the use made of such materials by governmental agencies should be exemplary; and, Whereas, Senator Gaylord A. Nelson of Wisconsin has introduced legislation to prohibit the distribution and sale of DDT anywhere in the United States;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners hereby commends Senator Nelson for aggressive action on a vital problem; that this Association adopts the following policy on the use of chemical pesticides, for guidance of conservation agencies and as an example for governmental agencies around the world; and that the Executive Board of this Association take whatever steps are necessary to aid states and provinces in implementing this policy and to make annual progress reports in this area;

POLICY FOR USE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES FOR CONSERVATION AGENCIES

1. Pesticides are chemicals or other substances used to kill or control animals and plants. Employed with knowledge, skill, and restraint, they are important tools in the management of natural resources. Used unwisely, they may harm desirable forms of wildlife and contaminate the environment for years to come. Governmental agencies should lead the way in wise and safe use of such substances.
2. Pest control problems must be viewed ecologically. Consideration of control programs must include both short-term and long-term effects on the entire environment. Because of these involved ramifications, pest control programs must be demonstrated as absolutely necessary before being approved.
3. Biological or non-chemical controls should be used in preference to chemical controls even if the cost is greater. If chemicals are necessary, non-chemical methods should be used in conjunction, if possible, to reduce the amount of chemical applied. Chemicals alone should be used only when there is no satisfactory alternative, and then only the least toxic and least persistent effective chemicals, in the smallest effective concentrations, applied in the safest possible manner, should be used. Selective rather than broad-spectrum pesticides should be used.
4. Highly toxic chemicals known to concentrate in living organisms and to persist in the environment for long periods should not be used unless all alternatives have been explored and found inadequate. Even relatively safe, short-lived pesticides should be used carefully and judiciously to avoid injury to desirable forms of wildlife.