

9-16-1966

Resolution 1966-14-23 Administration of Livestock Grazing on Corps of Engineers Lands

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, *Resolution 1966-14-23 Administration of Livestock Grazing on Corps of Engineers Lands* (1966),

Available at: http://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/afwa_reso/534

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Whereas, the continuation of this important program is dependent upon continued financial support;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that a letter be sent by the Association to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife expressing appreciation for past support and asking for renewal of the Annual Contract to ensure continued funding so that work by the Conservation Library Center can be effectively continued.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

OPPOSING AN INCREASE IN THE MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP FEE

Whereas, legislation providing authority to the Secretary of the Interior to increase the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp fee from its present \$3 up to \$5 is being considered by the Congress; and,

Whereas, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners favors an increase in the rate of acquisition and development of waterfowl habitat, but not this method; and,

Whereas, the current \$3 fee for Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps is equal to or greater than the fees charged by many states for small game hunting licenses; and,

Whereas, hunter license fees have historically been the primary source of revenue for the support of state programs designed to manage all species of small game; and,

Whereas, any increase in federal fees required of hunters could seriously jeopardize the use of this source of funds to support state conservation programs;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is opposed to any increase in federal hunting fees; and,

Be it further resolved that the Congress be urged to appropriate funds from general revenue to increase the rate of acquisition and development of waterfowl habitat in order to maintain the waterfowl heritage of this Nation which to date has been maintained solely by only those who enjoy the recreation of waterfowling—only one of the many benefits of this wildlife resource.

RESOLUTION NO. 14

ADMINISTRATION OF LIVESTOCK GRAZING ON CORPS OF ENGINEERS LANDS

Whereas, the Corps of Engineers designates many acres of reservoir perimeter lands under its control for fish and wildlife in the public interest; and,

Whereas, these lands are granted under license to state wildlife agencies for management; and,

Whereas, controlled livestock grazing can be an important habitat management tool, and the Corps of Engineers' current rules provide that state wildlife agencies can make recommendations regarding livestock grazing, although the Corps retains administration of the grazing contracts and collects the grazing fees; and,

Whereas, such administration results in conflict between livestock and wildlife use of these lands to the detriment of wildlife;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that state wildlife agencies should administer grazing contracts and collect fees therefor under provisions of the license granted by the Corps of Engineers; and,

Be it further resolved that money collected from grazing be used exclusively for development of hunting, fishing and other recreational benefits on the Corps of Engineers' lands.

RESOLUTION NO. 15

REGULATION OF ANGLING ON FEDERAL REFUGES

Whereas, the management of fish and resident wildlife is the responsibility of the states; and,

Whereas, the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is promulgating sport fishing regulations on Federal game refuges through the Federal Register; and,

Whereas, the traditional principle that fish and wildlife are public properties not attached to ownership of land is violated by virtues of this practice; and,

Whereas, Section 10 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, which is the organic law establishing the Fish and Wildlife Service, specifically states that the authority of the states to manage the fish and game is not to be affected;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the Department of Interior through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service should adhere to language and intent of Section 10, and to fully respect the rights of the several states to manage the public use of fisheries resources.

RESOLUTION NO. 16

DEVELOPMENT OF WATERFOWL PRODUCTION HABITAT

Whereas, waterfowl production habitat is in short supply and is continuing to be lost as the population expands and resources development and use intensifies; and,

Whereas, the U. S. Forest Service has provided an imaginative plan for improving public-owned wetlands in the Chippewa National Forest (Minnesota); and,

Whereas, the wetland development procedures for the Chippewa Forest constitute a model plan that can be applied to any suitable private, local, state or federal government land; and,

Whereas, restored wetlands could substitute for waterfowl habitat being converted to other uses;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners: