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Resolution 1966-18-23 Establishment of Water Bank for Small Watersheds

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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1. Commends the U. S. Forest Service for completing the unique plan to develop waterfowl habitat on the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota;
2. Energetically encourages the Congress of the United States to provide adequate funds to complete the planned wetland developments on the Chippewa National Forest in the immediate future; and,
3. Urges private individuals and groups, and local, state and federal governmental agencies to use this model plan for developing aquatic areas on their lands.

RESOLUTION NO. 17

FISH AND WILDLIFE IN OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

Whereas, fish and wildlife resources are highly important to millions of Americans for fishing, hunting and nature study; and,

Whereas, fish and wildlife resources have been recognized as integral parts of outdoor recreation programs on both State and Federal levels; and,

Whereas, the states have been given wide latitude in the development of their programs for outdoor recreation; and,

Whereas, it appears that unnecessary delays and undesirable difficulties are being encountered in reviewing and approving fish and wildlife projects for early implementation;

Now, therefore be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation be urged to give consideration and recognition to fish and wildlife projects equal to that accorded other types of outdoor recreation.

RESOLUTION NO. 18

ESTABLISHMENT OF WATER BANK FOR SMALL WATERSHEDS

Whereas, a water bank for small watersheds is essential to hold runoff water rather than removing it rapidly through channelization; to funnel excess water into selected basins and detention reservoirs thereby aiding landowners and reducing flood hazards; to enhance recharge of ground waters and aquatic habitat especially valuable for waterfowl breeding; and,

Whereas, such wetlands are of inestimable value to local wildlife species in addition to migratory waterfowl for which such habitat is essential and of primary concern especially in the Southeast and other parts of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways; and,

Whereas, draining and clearing of such wetlands usually results in permanent destruction and habitat loss which often is accelerated through government subsidies for the questionable purpose of increasing agricultural production;

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

1. Urges prompt endorsement of the water bank concept to retain runoff waters within small watersheds as long as possible.
2. Encourages the Secretary of Agriculture and all other concerned agencies of the Federal Government to promote the water bank concept with associated incentive payments for private land-owners for wise management of water, land, fish and other wildlife within small watersheds.
3. Recommends that Wetland Types I and VII, which are Federal categories for Bottomland Hardwoods and Wooded Swamps respectively, be included among those types for which drainage subsidies in the form of financial assistance and technical assistance are denied.

RESOLUTION NO. 19

ACCESS TO FEDERAL LANDS

Whereas, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act is designed, among other things, to assure access to outdoor recreational resources; and,

Whereas, accessibility of public lands to the public for recreational purposes is a mounting problem, and,

Whereas, each year, more and more private landowners are controlling access to federal lands by charging fees to enter or to cross their lands, or by leasing exclusive recreational rights on their lands, or by outright prohibition of access, thereby excluding the public or causing them extra expense and hardship;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners strongly recommends that the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964, be amended to provide that money from the federal portion of the Fund may be used to acquire easements or lands for the purpose of providing public access to federal lands which have been classified for retention in federal ownership and which possess significant value for outdoor recreation.

RESOLUTION NO. 20

POSITION ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Whereas, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is vitally concerned with legislation pertaining to conservation;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners is opposed to the following legislation now pending before Congress:

1. Restrictive Firearms Regulations as typified by S. 1592 and any other unreasonable restrictions on long guns.
2. Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp increases as provided in H. R. 14136.
3. Elimination of the Federal Excise Tax on sport fishing tackle as provided in H. R. 15618.
4. Metal Mining Subsidies as provided in S. 1377, unless they are conditioned upon adequate pollution control by the recipients of such subsidies.