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Resolution 1965-05-26 Amendment of Public Law 566

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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RESOLUTION NO. 1

WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT FUNDING AND STAFFING

Whereas, the Wildlife Research Units were first established in 1935 and since that time have contributed significantly to wildlife research, wildlife management, and the training of professional personnel; and,

Whereas, the Fishery Research Units were first established in 1962 and were patterned in most respects after the successful Wildlife Research Units; and,

Whereas, the Fishery Research Units have been staffed with Assistant Leaders who are federal employees, and provided with several thousand dollars in operating funds annually; and,

Whereas, the Wildlife Research Units have not been staffed with Assistant Leaders who are federal employees, nor provided adequate operating funds;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners urges the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to include in its budget request adequate federal financing for the Wildlife Research Units, so as to provide staffing and operating funds equal to those of the Fishery Research Units.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

GRAZING ON CORPS OF ENGINEERS LANDS

Whereas, the Corps of Engineers licenses lands to state wildlife agencies for the production and utilization of wildlife resources, and

Whereas, the wildlife conservation agencies develop these lands in the public interest, and

Whereas, grazing is frequently used as a wildlife management tool, and

Whereas, dual administration of grazing leases by the Corps and state agencies is an undesirable, burdensome, and unworkable arrangement, and

Whereas, in order to utilize grazing as a wildlife management tool, it is necessary for the states to expend state funds for such items as periodic range inspection, fence building, and annual management plan development,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the U. S. Congress to enact legislation which will enable the Secretary of Army, when he licenses lands to state agencies, to delegate authority for the state wildlife agencies to administer the grazing and the collection of grazing fees, and to permit states to utilize said revenue for management and development of wildlife and recreational facilities pertinent to the area from which the fees were collected.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

GRANTS FOR POLLUTION CONTROL

Whereas, fish, wildlife, and water recreation, as well as industry, agriculture, and public health depend on high quality water; and

Whereas, the effective treatment and disposal of municipal wastes are essential to the protection and conservation of such water quality; and

Whereas, the Federal grant participation in the construction of municipal waste treatment facilities is being successfully conducted toward this end; and

Whereas, the waste treatment construction grants program of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act has stimulated expenditure of more than five dollars in local funds for each Federal dollar provided; and

Whereas, there still are currently needed 5,277 municipal waste treatment works to serve a population of more than 33 million people; and

Whereas, the cost of construction increases each year and that in the interest of economy, the backlog of needs should be eliminated as rapidly as possible;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Congress of the United States to increase the construction grants authorization in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to \$500 million annually and to liberalize the percentage of Federal grants assistance to municipalities.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

EXISTING EXCISE TAX ON PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

Whereas, the U. S. Congress in its recent approval of the Excise Tax Reduction Act of 1965 has retained the existing 10 per cent manufacturers' excise tax on pistols and revolvers, and

Whereas, the approximately \$2 million accruing annually from this excise tax is credited to general funds in the U. S. Treasury, and

Whereas, in the aforementioned Act the Congress wisely retained the existing 11 per cent manufacturers' excise tax on sporting firearms and ammunition, the proceeds of which are credited to the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund for apportionment to the States under the terms of the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 be amended so as to receive the annual proceeds from the manufacturers' excise tax on pistols and revolvers (Revenue Act of 1954, Title 26, U. S. Code, Section 4181) for the purposes of said Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, and

Be it further resolved that such amendment authorize the apportionment of up to 50 per cent of the annual proceeds from such tax on revolvers and pistols to the States which may be used for the purposes of conducting approved hunter safety training programs and for the preparation, distribution, and development of suitable program training materials and facilities.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

AMENDMENT OF PUBLIC LAW 566

Whereas, Public Law 566, administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil

Conservation Service, is designed to assist small groups of landowners, situated along existing waterways, in the creation of channels and impoundments to provide these landowners with drainage and flood control benefits; and

Whereas, many of these waterways provide habitat for fish and wildlife, the benefits from which constitute a major resource legally belonging to all of the people of the respective states; and

Whereas, impoundments and channelization generally result in the diminution or destruction of existing fish and wildlife resources in exchange for the immediate personal and financial benefit of the few; and

Whereas, Public Law 566, as presently written, does not require measures for the preservation and protection of fish and wildlife, nor mitigation of damages caused by drainage and flood control projects;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Congress of the United States to amend Public Law 566 to recognize fish and wildlife as important public resources, the protection, preservation, and mitigation for the loss of which must be made a part of project responsibility, included as a condition of project approval, and financed entirely with Federal funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE MANAGERS ON MILITARY RESERVATIONS

Whereas, military reservations control vast holdings of lands, waters, wildlife and other natural resources in the United States; and

Whereas, federal law requires commanders of military reservations to plan and implement a conservation program; and

Whereas, very few military reservations have permanently assigned, professionally trained personnel to supervise their conservation programs;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Department of Defense to provide for the permanent assignment of professionally trained personnel to supervise the natural resource management programs on all major military reservations and to provide professional assistance at regular intervals to those installations where the resources are inadequate to justify a full time assignment.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS

Whereas, there continues to be an urgent and growing need for the preservation of waterfowl production habitat in the member states of this Association; and

Whereas, due to budgetary limitations many of the states are unable to acquire lands for waterfowl nesting habitat; and

Whereas, the states are capable of accelerating the waterfowl nesting habitat program if provided financial assistance;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Fish, Game and Conservation Commissioners urges the Congress to appropriate funds on a non-matching basis to be made available to the states for purchasing waterfowl production areas; and

Be it further resolved that the Grants-in-Aid Committee is directed to prepare the necessary legislation and that an all-out effort be made by the Association to obtain passage of this legislation at the next session of Congress.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

FISH AND WILDLIFE PROBLEMS AT CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECTS

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has repeatedly expressed the Nation's desire to conserve and develop fish and wildlife resources as a part of its water-development program, initially by the passage of legislation in 1934 and subsequently by amendments under which the legislation was strengthened and designated as the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has recently reaffirmed its concern for the welfare of our fish and wildlife and other outdoor recreational resources by the passage of a number of measures, including the Outdoor Recreation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act, and others; and

Whereas, the President, on May 15, 1962, approved for application by the Departments of the Interior, Army, Agriculture and Health-Education-Welfare policies, standards and procedures for use and development of water and related land resources cited as Senate Document 97, which provides that "Full consideration shall be given to the opportunity and need for outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement in comprehensive planning for water and related land use and development, and project formulation and evaluation;" and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of our Nation that such resources be conserved and developed; and

Whereas, in the past the Corps of Engineers maintains that it will consider only navigation in the issuance of permits for construction, dredging and filling activities in navigable waters of the United States; and

Whereas, the Corps is presently implementing a policy which would place the burden of mitigating fish and wildlife damages on the fish and wildlife agencies, except for such integral structures as fishways,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners requests the Secretary of Defense to instruct the Corps of Engineers to:

1. Respect the intent of the Congress as expressed in the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and rescind the interpretation of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act which was presented recently by the Corps before the Senate Public Works Subcommittee on Appropriations and wherein the Corps proclaimed it will not undertake fish and wildlife mitigation except for those features which it considers to be integral parts of the projects.
2. Respect Senate Document No. 97 regarding policies, standards, and procedures for use and