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Resolution 1963-08-21 Foreign Game Introduction Program

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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millions of sportsmen, including a large number of farmers and their families who have inherent interest in the welfare of wildlife on the farm and the economic benefits connected therewith, and

Whereas, agricultural land-use practices are becoming more unfavorable for pheasant and other game bird production through adverse effects on nesting and winter cover as a result of wetland drainage, early hay cutting, intensive farming, a trend toward more row crops at the expense of nesting cover types such as small grains and hay, a shift to continuous growing of corn on highly fertile soils in some areas, and destruction of available cover by brush clearing, uncontrolled burning and grazing, and

Whereas, the majority of land necessary for good wildlife production will remain in private ownership despite acquisition of many areas by state and federal agencies, causing future pheasant and other game bird populations to depend to a large extent on the proper management of well distributed food and cover units on private lands, and

Whereas, agricultural economists estimate that 50 million acres of good crop land should be converted to other uses within the next 20 years to reduce crop surplus, and a new land-conversion program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will undoubtedly be developed to make it economically possible for landowners in highly productive agricultural areas to convert some crop land acreages to other uses, and

Whereas, a well-designed land-conversion program geared to benefit wildlife would convert more crop land (total acreages) to other uses than would such projects as golf courses, picnic and camping areas, and farm ponds, and would establish areas which would not be greatly altered, permitting immediate restoration to agricultural crop production in the event of a national emergency, and

Whereas, some modifications or adjustments in currently accepted land-conversion practices are advisable and necessary in order to obtain maximum benefit for wildlife and sportsmen,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners recommends that the following points be considered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the development of new LAND-USE CONVERSION PROGRAMS:

1. Premium payments should be provided for conversion of land, based on wildlife values in addition to potential yield of surplus crops;

2. Conversion of land should be encouraged in areas where these lands will be most beneficial to pheasants and other game birds;

3. Attempts should be made to achieve a better distribution of smaller tracts of land on a large number of farms in good range and large tracts on isolated farms;

4. Land already in a preferred nesting cover type (legumes) should be encouraged for conversion to wildlife uses;

5. Practices permitted on converted acres should be better defined and include methods of weed control and use of selected forage species that will encourage high quality wildlife cover;

6. These land-conversion programs should be coordinated with state fish and game agencies directly concerned with managing wildlife, inasmuch as the conditions affecting management practices may vary from state to state.

Be it further resolved that, in addition to current modification in U.S.D.A. programs to benefit wildlife, the following adjustments should be made in A.S.C.S. practices for wildlife:

a. New ACP guide lines emphasizing wildlife values should be established to cover land-conversion programs;

b. The landowner should be discouraged from converting present wild land to crop land;

c. Grazing rights should be regulated on all converted lands to a degree consistent with good wildlife management;

d. Cost-sharing benefits should be provided for maintaining wetland and other habitat types for wildlife.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

FOREIGN GAME INTRODUCTION PROGRAM

Whereas, the Foreign Game Introduction Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has supplied exotic game birds during the past several years to states participating in the program, and

Whereas, several of the more desirable species sent to the states for release into the wild have been too few in numbers to adequately evaluate their success, and game farm reproduction of these birds has been extremely limited,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this Association urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, to exert renewed effort toward acquiring exotic game birds suitable for introduction,

Be it further resolved that this Association does hereby commend the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and particularly the Foreign Game Introduction Program for the work that has been done to date, and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE UNITED STATES

Whereas, the Administrator of General Services does not have the necessary authority to make excess personal property of the United States available to the state agencies charged with the responsibility for managing fish and wildlife resources in the public interest, and

Whereas, the programs of such state agencies would benefit materially by the donation of excess personal property of the United States as now may be done under existing authority for other state agencies charged with natural resources responsibilities,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Congress to enact H.R. 4705 or comparable legislation.