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Resolution 1973-12-31 Use of Fire in Maintaining Biotic Communities

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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boards called for in the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973; and to seek funding to carry out the programs as recommended.

Resolution 10

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE IN THE NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the first annual action report of the National Coordinating Committee, consisting of representatives of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, the regional associations of fish and wildlife commissioners, the National conservation organizations, and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, has been prepared; and

WHEREAS, this report adequately presents action needed to improve the planning, construction, and operation of federally and federally-assisted or permitted water development projects:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners endorses the principles and recommendations of the September 1971 Action Report on Conservation and Enhancement of Fish and Wildlife in the National Water Resources Program and urges all organizations and agencies having the authority to effect them, to take such action as may be necessary to implement these recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association urges the National Coordinating Committee to prepare annual reports of its activities and engage in public discussion concerning these activities at appropriate national and regional meetings.

Resolution 11

IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE ON NATIONAL FORESTS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service by Congressional mandate is directed to manage the national forests under the multiple use concept strongly supported by this Association; and

WHEREAS, budgets of the U.S. Forest Service continue to favor timber production over other functions and yields of products and services; and

WHEREAS, forests managed predominantly or solely for timber production can result in monotypic forest stands, poorly planned and constructed roads, degradation of water quality, loss of esthetic landscape values, and destruction of valuable fish and wildlife habitat;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges (1) the U.S. Forest Service to do a better job of protecting watersheds and their associated multiple values in timber harvest areas, and (2) the Congress and the Administration to provide adequate funds to employ more specialists, besides foresters, at the field level to insure better coordination for maintaining, enhancing and, where necessary, restoring watershed, fish, wildlife and recreation values.

Resolution 12

USE OF FIRE IN MAINTAINING BIOTIC COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the ecological and inspirational values of our National Parks, Wilderness Areas and other publicly-owned management areas depend heavily on our suc-

cess in maintaining biotic communities, and

WHEREAS, the forest ecosystems of some of the most cherished areas are endangered by subtle ecological changes, and

WHEREAS, these ecological changes are occurring because "protection" programs frequently alter the very factors that produced unique plant and animal communities, and

WHEREAS, fire is perhaps the single most important environmental factor being excluded, and

WHEREAS, many species of wildlife are adapted to early successional plant communities, and

WHEREAS, maintenance of a variety of plant and animal communities is a desirable objective,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges alteration of public land policy so that a natural fire regime is acceptable where fire was a significant environmental influence on vegetation and, where natural fires cannot be tolerated, employ prescribed and controlled burning to replace the natural fire regime.

Resolution 13

RELEASE OF AUTHORIZED POLLUTION ABATEMENT FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has authorized five billion dollars for F.Y. 1973 and six billion dollars for F.Y. 1974 for Federal grants for construction of pollution abatement facilities, by local governments under provisions of PL 92-500; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has impounded six billion dollars of this authorization; and

WHEREAS, pollution abatement needs now existing require the commitment of the full authorized amounts:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges that the President of the United States comply with the provisions of PL 92-500 by directing release of the total authorized eleven billion dollars for Fiscal Years 1973 and 1974 to meet the pollution abatement needs of our local governments.

Resolution 14

USE OF AIRCRAFT BY CONSERVATION AGENCIES

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) has recently refused to reissue to the States of Nevada and California, Departments of Fish and Game, waiver of certain regulations on low flying; and

WHEREAS, we have been advised that the FAA intends to deny all waiver requests from state and Federal agencies in the future; and

WHEREAS, low flying is vital to the success of many fish and wildlife projects, including law enforcement missions; and

WHEREAS, conservation flying has been conducted over many years in accordance with such waivers in a safe manner, without hazard to the general public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners petitions the Administrator, FAA, for relief from this act of refusal, either by reissuance of said waivers, or by other form of exemption or regulation as is deemed necessary, in order that the states may carry on with their normal work routines.