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Resolution 1957-06-30 Land Withdrawals for Salmon River Spawning Areas

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Whereas, provisions under the Boulder Canyon Act permit the U. S. government to take water from the Colorado river for its lands according to legal counsel, and such diversions shall not be chargeable either to Arizona or California as individual states,

Whereas, the future of the Great Basin Canada Goose is in jeopardy, and

Whereas, the Department of Interior has not taken definite steps to correct this situation,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urges the Secretary of the Interior to order the diversion of water to permit a flow of 26,500 acre feet annually through the Topock area, not more than 4,500 acre feet of which will be for consumptive use, and that a determination of the amount of water necessary for the future maintenance of Topock Marsh be made, and

Be it further resolved that the secretary should order a study made immediately of the minimum amount of water that must be permitted to flow through this area to maintain wildlife values.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

Whereas, the increasing use of radioactive materials has created a disposal problem which may in the future affect all marine resources and sea-side communities, and

Whereas, radioactive materials once disposed of into marine waters cannot be retrieved, and

Whereas, ocean disposal of these materials has resulted in concern on the part of public officials and consumers as to the safeness of ocean products as human foods, and

Whereas, this concern itself may result in irreparable damage to the fishing industry,

Now therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners recommends to all public agencies concerned that radioactive wastes be disposed of in appropriate underground depositories.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

MAINTENANCE OF FISH STRUCTURES ON COLUMBIA RIVER DAMS

Whereas, the United States government, through the Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Engineers, has constructed more than 40 dams on the Columbia river watershed, and

Whereas, an agreement has been entered into between the United States and the several states concerned in the Columbia Basin regarding the construction of fishways, salmon hatcheries, and other facilities to provide for the passage of fish, resulting in the completion of many of these projects and the planning of others, and

Whereas, the maintenance of these structures will result in a continuing cost that has not been provided for in the original agreement, and

Whereas, the several states concerned, through their legislatures, have petitioned the president and congress of the United States to recognize the permanent maintenance of these structures as a federal responsibility,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners does hereby urge the congress of the United States to recognize the permanent maintenance and operation of these facilities as a federal responsibility and to appropriate monies for their continued operation and maintenance on a permanent basis.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

LAND WITHDRAWALS FOR SALMON RIVER SPAWNING AREAS

Whereas, the perpetuation of the anadromous fish resources of the Snake River Basin generally and of the Salmon river particularly depend on the adequate passage of fish through the various dams constructed in this system, and vast sums of money have been expended to insure such fish passage, and

Whereas, adequate provisions are needed not only for fish passage, but also for the protection of the natural spawning areas in the headwaters of the Salmon river,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners goes on record as endorsing the request

of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for withdrawal of some 33,000 acres of public lands along the headwaters of the Salmon river from all forms of entry, including the mining laws, but not including the mineral leasing laws, and

Be it further resolved that the association does hereby request the Secretary of the Interior to take prompt action to issue a Public Land Order to set aside these lands for the preservation of these spawning grounds in their natural state.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

PUBLIC ACCESS FOR RECREATIONAL USE ON AND AROUND RESERVOIR IMPOUNDMENTS

Whereas, federal laws now provide that under certain conditions federal agencies administering our public lands are permitted to issue special use permits to private individuals for the construction of dams for the purpose of impounding water, and

Whereas, it is recognized that said special use permits allow development of our agricultural lands and provide for the highest use of said land, and

Whereas, public access for recreational purposes does not interfere with the primary purpose for which the special use permit was granted, and

Whereas said lands belong to all the public rather than a few individuals,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies authorized to issue said permits be requested to include, at the time of granting, a provision stipulating the right of public access for wildlife and recreational purposes.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

SOIL BANK ACT

Whereas, the Soil Bank Act of 1955, through its conservation reserve program, has a great potential in the field of preservation and restoration of sorely needed habitat for fish and wildlife, and

Whereas, the early experience on the part of the several state game departments with this program has led to frustration and an apparent lack of fulfillment of the purposes of the program, and

Whereas, the federal regulations dealing with the conservation reserve program appear to be partially responsible for the program not living up to its expectations,

Now, therefore be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the Secretary of Agriculture modify existing regulations governing the conservation reserve program of the Agricultural Act of 1956 as follows:

1. Provide that wet lands be made eligible for conservation reserve payments, irrespective of past crop history.

2. Provide that wildlife practices be entitled to 80 per cent federal cost-share based upon the average cost of establishing the practice as specified by the state administrative committee.

3. Provide that the contract period for establishing woody plantings under Practice G-1 be made from 5 to 15 years and that the contract period for G-1 herbaceous practices be for a period of from 5 to 10 years as it is in respect to A-2 practices at the election of the landowner.

4. Provide that the respective game and fish departments be offered contracts under which such departments would be reimbursed for establishing wildlife habitat as provided by G-1, G-2, and G-3 of the regulations, and that they be reimbursed for such services.

5. Be it further resolved that we favor the enactment of the objectives of legislation introduced in congress by Senator Milton Young to provide that wetlands shall be eligible for conservation reserve (soil bank) payments irrespective of past crop history.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

HUNTING AND FISHING ON MILITARY LANDS

Whereas, there has been insufficient cooperation between the military authorities and state game and fish departments relative to the management and harvest of game and fish on military reservations and on other public lands proposed for military use, and

Whereas, the Defense Department is continually requesting large withdrawals of public lands for the exclusive use of the armed forces, and