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Resolution 1957-02-30 Recognition of Water for Wildlife and Recreation as a Beneficial Use

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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RESOLUTION NO. 1

COORDINATION ACT

Whereas, this association has long recognized the need for strengthening the Coordination Act of 1946, sometimes known as Public Law 732, and

Whereas, the need for achieving greater recognition in the water resources program of the federal government of fish and wildlife conservation is constantly increasing at a critical pace because of the more intensive competition for land and water resources, and

Whereas, this association at its 1956 meeting in Toronto adopted a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Interior to develop amendments to the Coordination Act based on 10 years of experience, and to circulate the draft of amendments to the states for comments, and

Whereas, the Secretary of the Interior complied with this request and has since received endorsing comments from each of the 48 governors or their authorized representatives.

Now, therefore be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in convention assembled at Las Vegas, Nevada, on September 10, 1957, that:

1. The association heartily commends and expresses its appreciation to Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton and his staff for his actions in cooperating with the association in this matter.

2. The association strongly endorses the amendments to the Coordination Act as developed by the Department of the Interior and submitted to the governors of the states in January, 1957.

3. The association urges that the clearance of the amendments within the executive branch be expedited and that the proposed legislation be transmitted to the congress for its consideration without further delay.

4. The members of the association be prepared actively to support the enactment of this legislation in the congress at the second session of the 85th congress; and

5. That the members of this association be urged to undertake promptly a vigorous educational and information campaign in their respective states to rally support for the passage of this legislation.

Be it further resolved, this association commends Senator Arthur V. Watkins for introducing S. 2496, Congressman Lee Metcalf for H.R. 8631, and other members of the house who have introduced the amendments to the Coordination Act in the form circulated to the states. We reaffirm our endorsement of the principles of this legislation and we urge the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries to hold early hearings.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

RECOGNITION OF WATER FOR WILDLIFE AND RECREATION AS A BENEFICIAL USE

Whereas, wildlife and recreation are recognized as one of the most important of the economic resources in our nation today, and

Whereas, the recognition of water for these purposes as a beneficial use is essential in the maintenance and development of these resources, and

Whereas, other economic developments are constantly encroaching on our natural stream flows and recreation opportunities, and

Whereas, with an ever-increasing human population and demand for expanded recreational facilities,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that each individual state and provincial legislature give serious consideration to the adoption of adequate state water laws to provide for the recognition of the beneficial use of water for wildlife and recreational purposes in order that all of our natural resources may be developed equally.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

TOPOCK MARSH REHABILITATION

Whereas, the 40 mile stretch of the Colorado river from north of Needles to south of Topock, which has been channelized by the Bureau of Reclamation, or is programmed for channelization within the next year, historically included thousands of acres of ideal waterfowl habitat, and

Whereas, commitments prior to 1946 provided for the retention of Topock Marsh to mitigate the loss of waterfowl habitat in the Needles-Topock area, and since then continued opposition by the Bureau of Reclamation to the maintenance of this area as a waterfowl wintering and resting ground has resulted in a continued reduction in Fish and Wildlife Service plans while channelization has continued to eliminate more and more historical waterfowl habitat, and