



RESOLUTION 2019-01-10

PROMOTING A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO THE PERVASIVE LOSS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

WHEREAS, a landmark study was recently published in *Science*, documenting a pervasive loss of 3 billion North American birds across all major habitats, taxonomic and ecological groups since 1970;

WHEREAS, the majority of the loss of bird abundance is seen in common and familiar species, previously believed to be habitat generalists and well-adapted to human-altered landscapes—indicating that bird declines are not restricted to rare and threatened species;

WHEREAS, the response to the *Science* publication has received unprecedented media and public attention, representing a “moment in time” for promoting key messages about the critical importance of birds, wildlife, and nature to human well-being;

WHEREAS, the 2019 *U.S. State of the Birds report* highlights the critical role of state agencies in reversing declines in bird populations and addressing the loss of birds and other wildlife, and proposes solutions to increase support for state agencies, such as the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act;

WHEREAS, a broad coalition of bird conservation organizations have created the neutral partner website, 3BillionBirds.org, which provides numerous resources for agencies and organizations to use for promoting key messages: including study findings, fact sheets, 7 simple actions for individuals, and digital media assets for sharing as appropriate;

WHEREAS, birds are well known indicators of larger environmental impacts and serve as the literal “canaries in the coalmine” telling us of problems in other wildlife that we cannot as easily monitor;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the seriousness and urgency of this loss of bird abundance across North America, and commits to joining in the response by a unified wildlife conservation community to achieve healthy populations of all bird species by replicating the known successes for waterfowl and other game species, and leveraging the existing scientific expertise and resources within the bird conservation community.

Submitted by the Bird Conservation Committee.

Adopted by the Association on September 25, 2019 in St. Paul, MN



RESOLUTION 2019-02-10

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act has helped conservation organizations, private landowners, and government agencies to restore, protect and enhance wetlands and their associated uplands since 1989. This voluntary, non-regulatory program has engaged with more than 6,200 conservation organizations and private landowners who have conserved 30.3 million acres in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

WHEREAS, wetlands are among the most biologically productive ecosystems in the world with up to one-half of all North American bird species feeding or nesting in wetlands and nearly 30% of the world's wetlands are distributed throughout North America; however, approximately 50% have been lost and the continent continues to suffer from the loss and degradation of wetland habitat; and

WHEREAS, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) was signed into law on December 13, 1989 and provides a significant source of funding for wetland, waterfowl and other migratory bird conservation throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) has been the most successful continental wildlife conservation effort in history through critical funding from NAWCA, and provides habitat essential to waterfowl and other wetland-related species; and

WHEREAS, NAWCA has been the catalyst for partnership development, resulting in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service working in partnership with States, and other federal agencies through voluntary regional Migratory Bird Joint Ventures to achieve shared goals in wetland and migratory bird habitat conservation and management; and

WHEREAS, wetlands conserved with NAWCA funds provide natural benefits to society, such as improving water quality, abating flood waters, recharging groundwater, storing carbon, and mitigating natural and man-made disasters, and wetlands provide opportunities for reconnecting people with nature through outdoor education and recreational opportunities such as wildlife-watching, hunting, fishing, and trapping which contribute many economic benefits to local communities; and

WHEREAS, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act will achieve its 30th Anniversary on December 13, 2019, and since the signing of the NAWCA, it has facilitated the conservation of over 30.3 million acres of wetlands and associated habitats in all 50 states, Canada, and Mexico involving more than 6,200 public-private partnerships, and \$1.7 billion of federal funds have been matched with \$3.5 billion in non-federal funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the substantial accomplishments of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and its valuable contributions to the conservation of our wetland and associated upland resources in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and reaffirms its support for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to the Administration, the Congress, and the North American people and that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports continuation of the current funding sources for NAWCA from federal appropriations; and the dedication of interest derived from the Wildlife Restoration account.

Submitted by the Legislative & Federal Budget Committee and the Bird Conservation Committee.

Adopted by the Association on September 25, 2019 in St. Paul, MN



RESOLUTION 2019-03-10

PROMOTING THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, the state fish and wildlife agencies support and manage our valuable wildlife resources in keeping with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation; and

WHEREAS, the American System of Conservation Funding is the funding foundation for the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation; and

WHEREAS, the ability of the state fish and wildlife agencies to carry out their fish and wildlife management activities and to provide access for hunters, anglers, boaters and recreational shooters is largely dependent on the funding provided through this funding system; and

WHEREAS, the resulting sustainable fish and wildlife resources and convenient access provided through the funding available through this funding system represent key components in the recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters, anglers, boaters and recreational shooters; and

WHEREAS, industries are important contributors to this funding strategy, both through excise taxes and import duties on certain equipment used for hunting, recreational shooting, angling and boating; and

WHEREAS, the nongovernmental organizations in the conservation community are also supporters of this funding strategy through their considerable financial and in-kind support of the priorities of the state fish and wildlife agencies; and

WHEREAS, airgun technology is developing such that airguns (including arrow shooting airguns) are being considered by an increasing number of state wildlife agencies as an acceptable method of take for regulated and/or managed wildlife,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the state fish and wildlife agencies and other partners recognize and invite the airgun industry to become a contributing partner to the American System of Conservation Funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the state fish and wildlife agencies commit to working collectively with the airgun industry on legislative efforts intended to include them as contributors to the American System of Conservation Funding which supports the management of fish and wildlife resources and the growth of hunting and fishing.

Submitted by the Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee.

Adopted by the Association on September 25, 2019 in St. Paul, MN



RESOLUTION 2019-04-10

DEMONSTRATING SUPPORT AND NEED FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE MODERNIZING THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON FUND FOR TOMORROW'S NEEDS ACT

WHEREAS, since the original passage of the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937, the legacy of the successful management of wildlife populations in the United States has depended largely upon a robust population of the American public participating in hunting and/or target shooting; and

WHEREAS, through a system referred to as one in which the “user pays and public benefits” more than 12 billion dollars in funding have been sourced through an excise tax placed on the equipment used in hunting and target shooting activities since 1937; and

WHEREAS, funds raised through this system are leveraged and matched by the state fish and wildlife agencies with license revenue and other non-federal funds to implement wildlife conservation activities, provide wildlife-associated recreation opportunities, acquire and manage habitat for wildlife populations, provide hunter education, and much more; and

WHEREAS, current participation rates in hunting and target shooting are shifting and may continue to decline over the coming years as current participants age out, threatening this current wildlife conservation funding system and the future of hunting, target shooting and conservation heritage in America; and

WHEREAS, in recognizing the shifting participation rates in hunting and target shooting and the significant negative impact it could have on wildlife conservation funding, and with an interest to connect to a larger and more inclusive constituency in hunting and conservation efforts, state fish and wildlife agencies and many other conservation partners have invested in efforts to recruit, retain, and reactivate participants into these activities; and

WHEREAS, parity of spending authority is needed between Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson programs and would enable state fish and wildlife agencies the flexibility to communicate with sportsmen and sportswomen more effectively, an approach which has demonstrated proven results in increasing participation in angling and boating efforts; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity offered by the *Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act* (H.R. 877 in the 116th Congress, initially introduced as H.R. 4818 in the 114th Congress and subsequently passed the House as H.R. 2591 in the 115th Congress by voice vote) would allow for critical flexibility needed by state fish and wildlife agencies at this time, not only to recruit, retain and reactivate

participants in hunting, but also to communicate with hunters on key management issues such as chronic wasting disease and public access; and

WHEREAS, without a federal mandate or any increase in user fees or taxes, this legislation would allow state fish and wildlife agencies to reconnect Americans of all backgrounds to important wildlife conservation, hunting, and target shooting opportunities, and thus sustain the current “user pays-public benefits” funding model;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies strongly supports the passage of the Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act in the 116th Congress.

Resolution jointly submitted by the Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee and the Fish and Wildlife Trust Funds Committee.

Adopted by the Association on September 25, 2019 in St. Paul, MN



RESOLUTION 2019-05-10

ADDRESSING THE LONG-TERM DECLINE IN SMALL GAME HUNTER PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND MITIGATING ITS EFFECTS ON HABITAT CONSERVATION DELIVERY

WHEREAS, according to the 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, small game (i.e., rabbits, squirrels, and resident game birds excluding wild turkey) hunter participation has declined 54% since 1991, far outpacing declines observed in migratory bird (-22%), big game (-14%), and “other animal” (-7%) hunter participation; and

WHEREAS, revenue from small game license sales is an important but declining funding source for many state wildlife agencies; and

WHEREAS, small game species and their pursuit create a unique impetus for upland habitat conservation initiatives on public and private lands in many states, which in turn benefit other species of conservation concern; and

WHEREAS, non-governmental organizations whose membership is composed primarily of small game hunters are key conservation partners in many states and nationally, and declines in participation-driven membership threaten the continuance of the conservation benefits these partnerships deliver; and

WHEREAS, several states have expressed a lack of confidence in their current methods of monitoring small game hunter participation and harvest, and the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Related Recreation will no longer estimate hunter participation and associated metrics at the state level unless individual states choose to pay for additional sampling, making it difficult to detect and understand differences in trends among states or regions; and

WHEREAS, current national R3 plans and initiatives include goals to bolster hunter participation generically, but do not specifically acknowledge the loss of small game hunters as a primary driver of overall hunter participation declines nor the irreplaceable role of small game hunters in supporting and justifying the states’ upland habitat management initiatives; and

WHEREAS, achieving the goals of the 2016 National Hunting and Shooting Sports National Plan is unlikely unless a more specific response to declining small game hunter participation is formulated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that AFWA finds the decline in small game hunter participation is a serious national conservation concern that will require a coordinated effort among states to understand and address; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFWA directs its Bird Conservation Committee and Hunting/Shooting Sports Participation Committee to cooperatively assess this challenge of declining small game hunting participation, and present a prioritized list of key questions or issues and recommended steps for subsequent actions to this body in a timely manner.

Submitted by the Bird Conservation Committee and the Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee.

Adopted by the Association on September 25, 2019 in St. Paul, MN



RESOLUTION 2019-06-10

REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE USE AND REGULATED TRADE

WHEREAS, the sustainable use of fish and wildlife is the foundation of natural resource conservation and management in the United States and Canada as embodied by the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictions and governments have a responsibility to manage fish and wildlife to ensure sustainable populations; and

WHEREAS, hunting, fishing, and trapping are regulated methods of take informed by science which engage the public in a meaningful role in fish and wildlife management and conservation; and

WHEREAS, regulated hunting, fishing and trapping are essential for the conservation of species including endangered and threatened species, management of populations, control of disease, resolution of human-wildlife conflicts, support of indigenous peoples' livelihoods, and protection of sensitive habitats; and

WHEREAS, scientifically managed sustainable use may involve individual personal use and/or the trade in fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, well managed, regulated hunting, fishing, and trapping supports and promotes biodiversity conservation, can affirm strong cultural ties, and is a heritage activity across eons; and

WHEREAS, international conventions and treaties promote the sustainable use and trade of fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, two of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity are to conserve biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components; and

WHEREAS, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) exists to ensure international trade in fish, wildlife and plant species is sustainable; and

WHEREAS, sustainable trade in CITES-listed species can be an important and beneficial component of sustainable use of fish and wildlife and their conservation including providing funding for and economic incentives to local communities to support fish and wildlife conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies reaffirms its support for the sustainable use and regulated trade of fish and wildlife.

*Submitted by the International Relations Committee and the Sustainable Use of Wildlife Committee.
Adopted by the Association on September 25, 2019 in St. Paul, MN*



RESOLUTION 2019-07-10

WESTERN INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT: AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE SAGEBRUSH BIOME

This resolution is to support the implementation of the Western Invasive Plant Management: An Action Plan for the Sagebrush Biome that was collaboratively developed by state agencies and other government and non-government entities in the 13 affected western states.

WHEREAS, long considered the “sagebrush sea,” the sagebrush biome is one of the largest single North American shrub ecosystems in the United States, providing habitat for hundreds of wildlife species, and supporting regionally and nationally significant economic activities such as livestock grazing, hunting and fishing, general outdoor recreation, mining, energy production, and transportation. All these activities can impact the management of invasive and noxious weeds; and

WHEREAS, lack of coordination in the development, implementation, and evaluation of actions designed to address the challenge of invasive species and noxious weeds that affect our western landscapes have resulted in the continued spread of these species across the sagebrush biome; and

WHEREAS, these shortcomings present an opportunity for coordination and collaboration across the region to create an Action Plan that addresses these challenges and barriers that local, state and federal partners can support and implement; and

WHEREAS, this Action Plan was developed by a consortium of state and federal agencies with responsibility and/or interest in the control and management of invasive plant species in the west; provides direction for managing exotic/nonnative and state and federally listed noxious/invasive plant species in the sagebrush biome, with a focus on restoring or maintaining functionality of native systems; is regional in scope; is designed to address the invasive plant management needs in the sagebrush biome in the West; and

WHEREAS, the sagebrush biome spans 13 western states (AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, NV, NM, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY) and includes federal and non-federal partners; these partners include the county weed districts, conservation districts, county commissioners, cooperative weed management areas, home owner associations, researchers, state agencies, public, non-governmental groups, and tribal, municipal and private landowners; the Action Plan is designed to provide specific direction so that all entities can meaningfully engage in actions and projects to specifically accomplish and address challenges from invasive plant species that threaten the sagebrush biome; to be effective, there must be a collective vision and direction that everyone can be meaningfully engaged in by contributing what they can to the overall mission of invasive species and noxious weed management; preexisting relationships among the

state departments of agriculture can help to close current gaps in communication between the state, federal and private land managers; and

WHEREAS, the *Western Invasive Plant Management: An Action Plan for the Sagebrush Biome* sets the framework for partnerships with agencies, organizations, tribes, communities, individuals and private landowners to cooperatively accomplish the action items listed in the attached “living” action plan; the focus of the Action Plan is on solutions and action items that local, state and federal partners can support and implement; this Action Plan recognizes organizational and ecological differences yet promote sharing of ideas, resources and support to address these problems; this document provides direction for managing state and federally listed noxious/invasive plant species in the sagebrush biome; the plan falls into four challenges and barriers categories of equal importance:

1. Funding
- 2: Policy and regulation
- 3: Coordination and cooperation, including data sharing
- 4: Research and reporting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) supports the recognitions and implementation of the *Western Invasive Plant Management: An Action Plan for the Sagebrush Biome* by the impacted states and entities as the framework for addressing the management and control of invasive plants in the sagebrush biome; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFWA supports the implementation of the specific actions identified in the plan to address the four challenges and barriers categories, and fully supports efforts to annually review and update the Action Plan to adapt to changing conditions.

Submitted by the Invasive Species Committee.

Adopted by the Association on September 25, 2019 in St. Paul, MN



RESOLUTION 2019-08-10

SUPPORT FOR THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION RESTORATION PROGRAM FUNDING AND THE ALLIANCE FOR AMERICA'S FISH AND WILDLIFE CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, the states are principally responsible for the management of fish and wildlife within their borders, including on federal lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, this conservation and management of fish, wildlife, and their habitats contribute significantly to our quality of life and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux Acts and the contributions of hunters, recreational shooters, anglers, boaters and their industries led to the unprecedented recovery and sustainable management of our nation's game and sportfish species; and

WHEREAS, despite the success of those funds, states still lack a robust, dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism that enables the management and conservation of all species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates that are within their public trust responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the states, territories and District of Columbia developed and recently updated historic, comprehensive and scientifically-based State Wildlife Action Plans that identified over 12,000 species of greatest conservation need; and

WHEREAS, there is a recognized need to expand the funding base for wildlife conservation throughout the nation as effective implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans would require an annual investment of over \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources was tasked with recommending a new funding mechanism to support state fish and wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel recommended that Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue to the existing, unfunded Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program; and

WHEREAS, funding apportioned to the states through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program would provide 75% of the funds needed for states to effectively implement the State Wildlife Action Plans, and states would provide a 25% nonfederal match with all funds used to implement state-led proactive, voluntary and incentive-based conservation actions to conserve state species of greatest conservation need, including to stabilize and recover species trending toward listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and to help recover species listed under the ESA; and

WHEREAS, states can also use a portion of these funds on wildlife conservation education, which enhances their ability to work with communities and landowners, and on wildlife-associated recreation projects; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel also recommended that the impact of societal changes on the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation be examined and recommendations made on how programs and agencies can advance to engage and serve broader constituencies; and

WHEREAS, the Association thanks co-chairs Mr. John Morris and former Governor David Freudenthal and the business and conservation leaders of the Blue Ribbon Panel for their valuable contributions and commitment to further support implementation of the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendations; and

WHEREAS, this resolution builds upon Resolution #2017-01-04 that was adopted in September 2017, supporting the implementation of the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendations, which were instrumental to launching the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife, a diverse coalition of conservation organizations, industry associations, businesses, and scientists that all support permanent, dedicated funding of the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association stands ready to work with the Blue Ribbon Panel members, the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife, the US Congress, the Administration, and others to create a 21st century conservation funding model that provides states, territories, and the District of Columbia with sustained and dedicated funding to conserve all fish and wildlife and their habitats by enacting the "*Recovering America's Wildlife Act*;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association strongly supports the "*Recovering America's Wildlife Act*" and respectfully requests that US Congress to take immediate action to conserve the diverse array America's fish and wildlife today, before it becomes more biologically and ecologically difficult and more economically expensive, by enacting "*Recovering America's Wildlife Act*" as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association will continue to develop guidance and recommendations in support of the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendation on relevancy, which will ensure state fish and wildlife agencies remain relevant and supported by all citizens well into the future.

Submitted by the Legislative & Federal Budget Committee and Wildlife Diversity Conservation and Funding Committee.

Adopted by the Association on September 25, 2019 in St. Paul, MN



RESOLUTION 2019-09-10

FISH AND WILDLIFE RELEVANCY ROADMAP

WHEREAS, healthy fish and wildlife and their habitats are essential to the quality of our lives and provide food, fiber, recreation, pollination, water purification and other ecosystem services; and

WHEREAS, for more than a century, state, provincial and territorial fish and wildlife agencies have been guided by the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, sportsmen and women have long been recognized as strong partners with fish and wildlife agencies and have made significant contributions to conservation; and

WHEREAS, hunting and angling have been and will continue to be important avenues to participate in the outdoors and connect people with nature; and

WHEREAS, society is becoming more diverse and wildlife value orientations are changing; and

WHEREAS, society is becoming more urbanized, people are spending less time outdoors, participation in traditional outdoor pursuits is declining and people are acquiring information through new and different means; and

WHEREAS, over twenty-five peer reviewed or peer edited papers have been published in natural resources journals on relevancy or related topics and the subject has been a frequent topic of plenary and special sessions at major fish and wildlife meetings; and

WHEREAS, to meet the needs of changing societies, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the need to engage and serve broader constituencies to help more people connect with nature and understand the value of fish and wildlife agencies; and

WHEREAS, every state, provincial, and territorial fish and wildlife agency has its own unique circumstances, challenges, constituencies and socio-political environments; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources made two recommendations including "*examine the impact of societal changes on the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation and make recommendations on how programs and agencies can transform to engage and serve broader constituencies*"; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Wildlife Management Institute convened a team and enlisted the help of over 60 individuals from state, provincial and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, tribes, business, industry, academia and private citizens to develop the Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap is to enhance conservation through broader engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap is intended to be non-prescriptive and a “living” document that will be regularly updated as new science and learning are acquired;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, adopts and supports the implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap, recognizing that each fish and wildlife agency may implement it in a manner and within a timeframe that meets its needs, interests and capacities.

*Resolution jointly submitted by the Wildlife Diversity Conservation and Funding and Education, Outreach and Diversity Committees with a recommendation that it be passed.
Adopted by the Association on September 25, 2019 in St. Paul, MN*



RESOLUTION 2019-10-10

APPRECIATION TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies convened its 109th Annual Meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, an industrious and neighborly city overlooking the Mississippi River near its confluence with the Minnesota River, on September 22-25, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the amenities of our host city, its gracious residents and most of all the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' tireless and dedicated staff offered us a cordial and vibrant atmosphere in which to carry out the business of fish and wildlife conservation, and deepen and broaden our vital connections to each other; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's residents and visitors enjoy a strong connection with the state's bounty of native mammals including white-tailed deer, bobcat, moose and ruffed grouse, waterfowl including its state bird the loon, birds of prey and sport fish—a legacy whose importance is reflected in Minnesota's place in AFWA history as one of the six founding states of the National Association of Game and Fish Wardens and Commissioners in 1902; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Strommen, Commissioner of Minnesota DNR and her outstanding staff gave abundantly of their time, hospitality and support, going above and beyond in all aspects of their roles as Annual Meeting hosts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Association extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for hosting a highly successful, productive, and enjoyable 2019 AFWA Annual Meeting.

Adopted by the Association on September 25, 2019 in St. Paul, MN