

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

RESOLUTION 4

Support for the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources and for the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife's Campaign



WHEREAS, the states play an essential role in the conservation and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats which contribute to our quality of life and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937, the Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950 and key additions like the Wallop-Breaux Amendment of 1984 established dedicated funds to support conservation and science-based management of wild birds, mammals and sport fish species financed by hunters, recreational shooters, fishermen, and boaters; and

WHEREAS, a similar dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism is lacking for the many species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates that are not game species; and

WHEREAS, the states, territories and District of Columbia developed and recently updated historic, comprehensive and scientifically-based State Wildlife Action Plans that identify 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 more than \$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 recommends that Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and water to the existing unfunded Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies notifies the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies by copy of this resolution that it stands ready to support and participate in national efforts and events of the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife campaign and the Blue Ribbon Panel to work with the U.S. Congress and the Administration to pass legislation 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.

Adopted September 11, 2017