



Resolution #2017-01-04

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; 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 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 from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the existing unfunded Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program; and

WHEREAS, funding apportioned to the states through the Wildlife Conservation 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, including to stabilize and recover species trending toward listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and if states choose use the funds to help recover species listed under the ESA; and

WHEREAS, states can also use these funds on conservation education, which enhances their ability to work with communities and landowners, and up to 10% on wildlife-associated recreation projects;

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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association recognizes and appreciates the valuable contributions of co-chairs Mr. John Morris and former Governor David Freudenthal and the business and conservation leaders of the Blue Ribbon Panel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association stands ready to work with the Blue Ribbon Panel members and other conservation groups, businesses and industries that form the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife campaign to work with the US Congress and the Federal administration to implement the Blue Ribbon Panel's funding recommendation by passing 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association also stands ready to support continuing efforts by the Blue Ribbon Panel to develop recommendations that 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