



**2007
ADOPTED
RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE
71st ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

**WASHINGTON, DC
MARCH 29-31, 2006**

2007 Adopted Resolutions
71st Annual Meeting
of the
National Wildlife Federation
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National Need for Reversing Our Nature Deficit

WHEREAS, the American public, especially its children, is increasingly isolated from the outdoors and such isolation deprives people of a range of values and healthy interactions; and

WHEREAS, research studies show the “average” child spends over 40 hours per week watching television or otherwise connected to some electronic media and is increasingly subjected to the subliminal message that the “outdoors is a dangerous place;” and

WHEREAS, studies show that children who spend time in outdoor settings tend to be physically and emotionally healthier and spending active time in nature has been shown to benefit cognitive abilities of children, fostering an appreciation for the natural world and a sense of stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has recognized the problem of “nature deficit disorder” as coined by Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, and announced its No Child Left Inside initiative to combat this problem including the Connecticut Great Park Pursuit, of which the Connecticut Forest and Park Association is an active partner, to connect more families with nature; and

WHEREAS, National Wildlife Federation recognizes through its strategic plan the importance of developing sound programming and policy to connect children to nature and help them routinely spend time engaged in the outdoors and nature, and to ensure that one-third of U.S. parents are regularly educated about the importance of nature and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, numerous efforts are underway by organizations, including the American Recreation Coalition, the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators, Project Learning Tree, United States Forest Service, Connecticut Forest & Park Association, and many others to address nature deficit and provide opportunities and experiences for children to develop a conservation value and appreciation for the natural world;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., hereby urges all states to acknowledge the problem of “nature deficit disorder” and secure both educational and political support to ensure that children and families have positive opportunities to connect with the outdoors and nature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation encourages its national network of state affiliate organizations to collaborate with an array of organizations to connect more people with nature and their local environs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports development and implementation of programs nationally and within each state providing an outdoor learning component for all children and families. National Wildlife Federation believes that for nature deficit to be reversed, children need to develop a positive relationship with the

outdoors in a manner that is age-appropriate and begins with discovery and wonderment. The use of technology and media is encouraged as tools for learning, but not as substitutes for outdoor experiences.

RESOLUTION 2007-02

College and University Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

WHEREAS, leading climate scientists have concluded that the world must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% in current levels by 2020 and by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 in order to avert the most serious consequences of global climate change; and

WHEREAS, collectively, colleges and universities spend \$317 billion annually and represent about 3% of Gross Domestic Product and 2% of the workforce, not including the ripple effect of local expenditures, taxes and jobs in the economy, and it is estimated that colleges and universities spend approximately \$18 billion on operations and energy each year and \$11 billion on new construction annually; and

WHEREAS, college and university buildings contribute approximately 19 million metric tons or 1.4% of the total carbon emissions of the U.S. commercial sector alone (not including indirect emissions such as those from employee commuting or significant purchasing from the industrial sector such as paper); and

WHEREAS, with anticipated college and university enrollment increasing by between 15-23 percent between 2000-2013, this climate footprint threatens to grow considerably without successful intervention; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation has a strong history of working with college campuses and recognizing their efforts to reduce energy consumption and increase sustainability; and

WHEREAS, colleges and universities, by their nature, serve as sources of new knowledge and innovation and produce future leaders which are all necessary to confront the climate crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., calls upon colleges and universities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% in current levels by 2020 and by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we recommend that any funders of education consider institutions' progress toward meeting these goals in their awarding of funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation calls upon colleges and universities to serve as a model for the broader community and inspire other institutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports partner and coalition efforts to bring attention to global warming and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on college and university campuses such as the youth led Campus Climate Challenge, the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, and Focus the Nation.

Youth as Leaders in Conservation

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation recognizes the need to diversify racially, culturally, and age-wise the conservation movement of the United States for the future protection, restoration and preservation of its natural resources, as National Wildlife Federation recognizes the future of this movement lies within connecting and engaging youth (as defined as middle school through college) as the future leaders of the conservation movement; and

WHEREAS, youth and student involvement within organizations on multiple levels, including community service and leadership, provides growth and development opportunities for organizations through the new and unique perspective of this and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the youth service movement and supporting organizations recognize the role National Wildlife Federation and its state affiliates can provide through collaboration and innovation of conservation perception and engagement to these organizations, and that the current youth involvement at state affiliate and national level is not utilized to its fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation, in its strategic plan, resolves to engage youth in 10 million hours of service and provide leadership training for over 1,000 youth, and National Wildlife Federation has examples of localized leadership programs which could be utilized as learning models for its state affiliates of youth leadership programs supporting these goals which include Conservation Federation of Missouri - Conservation Leadership Corps and Alaska Youth for Environment Action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., supports the establishment of a National Youth Conservation Council, comprised of youth (representing middle school through college age students) demonstrating exemplary participation in state Affiliate conservation organizations and partner organizations on youth engagement and leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation encourages all its state Affiliate organizations to adopt youth engagement and leadership strategies and models to outreach and cultivate youth at the local level and provide active participation in the council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports the involvement of youth in the legislative conservation processes at the state and national level.

Hunters and Anglers Leading Efforts to Solve Global Warming

WHEREAS, America has more than 13 million hunters and more than 34 million anglers; and

WHEREAS, outdoor enthusiasts are crucial in protecting and enhancing public lands, streams and wetlands from major threats such as global warming; and

WHEREAS, global warming pollution is causing Earth's climate to change in ways that are having negative impacts on people, fish, wildlife and healthy ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Earth is nearing a tipping point in an ecological crisis that could see wholesale loss of wildlife populations and profound changes in our outdoor way of life; and

WHEREAS, independent studies by teams of scientists have concluded that within the next 50 years, as many as a third of the species in studied regions could be headed for extinction from the continued disruption of habitat due to global warming; and

WHEREAS, many impacts from global warming on native habitats and species are expected, just a few of which include:

- warmer freshwater temperatures and changes in the pattern of flows in spawning rivers reduce the abundance of trout, salmon, steelhead and other cold water fish species;
- a 59 percent decline in sagebrush habitats throughout the western U.S., which would have devastating consequences for sage grouse, mule deer, and pronghorn;
- sea level rise and warmer ocean temperatures threatens Florida's coral reefs, near-shore nurseries, coastal wetlands, and popular salt water game fish with total decimation if left unchecked; and

WHEREAS, the threat of global warming can be dramatically reduced if America leads the way to lowering global warming pollution by two percent annually from 2010 through 2050; and

WHEREAS, achieving an annual two percent reduction of global warming pollution can be accomplished through energy conservation, use of renewable and alternative energy, and implementation of existing and new technologies currently under development; and

WHEREAS, U. S. leadership in developing and implementing global warming solutions will stimulate the economy, create new jobs and business opportunities, and protect the high quality of life currently enjoyed by Americans; and

WHEREAS, America's hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts are in a unique position to lead the effort to develop and implement practical and effective programs to reduce global

warming pollution and to achieve the benefits associated with stopping climate change for wildlife and for people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., hereby urges all fish and wildlife managers to develop plans to protect fish and wildlife from the impacts of global warming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports dedicated funding for fish and wildlife conservation in federal and state global warming legislation, regulation, and other programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation urges the enactment of state and federal policies that commit to a two percent yearly reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through energy conservation and clean/renewable energy sources that do not cause harm to wildlife and its habitat; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation urges hunting and fishing organizations, and fish and wildlife conservation groups to recognize the threat of climate change to fish and wildlife and make addressing climate change a high priority for their organizational work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation urges a national mobilization of sportsmen and conservation groups to support global warming action to protect wildlife.

RESOLUTION 2007-05

**Shift Subsidies from Conventional Fossil Fuels to Clean Energy
Technologies & Practices**

WHEREAS, climate change is a serious long-term threat to the health of our planet, a fact universally accepted by the scientific community; and

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas emissions are the primary contributor to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the United States, with only 5% of the world's population, is responsible for 23% of global greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas emissions in the United States originate primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels, including petroleum; and

WHEREAS, the United States consumes more petroleum than it does any other fuel resource; and

WHEREAS, the United States depends on foreign imports for 60% of its annual petroleum consumption; and

WHEREAS, much of this "foreign oil" is imported from politically unstable areas of the globe, exacerbating national security issues; and

WHEREAS, the petroleum industry and other fossil fuel industries have profited from a variety of government subsidies encouraging exploration and development of these resources; and

WHEREAS, improving energy efficiency and shifting to renewable energy resources are crucial in efforts to reduce the effects of climate change and promote national security; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed legislation that would shift fossil fuel industry subsidies to renewable, non-carbon fuels;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., urges Congress and the administration to enact legislation that shifts subsidies from conventional fossil fuel energy technologies, and provides tax credits and incentives that:

- 1) encourage research and development and use of energy efficiency technologies and practices; and
- 2) encourage research and development and use of renewable technologies that have low impacts on wildlife and habitat where needed to meet increases in energy demand; and

- 3) encourage energy conservation and demand management practices; and
- 4) mitigate the potential economic impacts on low- to moderate-income families of the transition to a carbon-neutral economy.

Green Buildings: Architecture 2030 Challenge

WHEREAS, energy used in homes and commercial buildings is responsible for one-third of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and buildings account for an even greater percentage of emissions when energy used from industrial complexes and for building construction are taken into account; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the world's largest contributor to global warming; and

WHEREAS, buildings are long-term capital investments and design decisions in this sector will have long-term impacts on U.S. emission trends; and

WHEREAS, opportunities for design changes and the use of smarter technologies exist that could reduce energy use and emissions in the building sector significantly; and

WHEREAS, The Architecture 2030 Challenge initiative has set goals to reduce fossil fuel energy consumption to 50% below the current average for a given building type for both new and renovation projects undertaken between today and 2010, with additional 10% reductions every five years to be carbon-neutral by 2030; and

WHEREAS, The Architecture 2030 Challenge aims to not only encourage the design of high-performance and carbon-neutral buildings but also advocates actions that will require all builders and developers to meet these targets as well (through building codes, government regulations and legislation);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., supports The Architecture 2030 Challenge and encourages the building design and construction industry and their customers to help meet the initiative's goals.

Promote an Equitable Climate Policy for Low-Income Families

WHEREAS, climate change is already underway, as indicated by rising temperatures and melting ice in the Arctic, melting glaciers, shifting ranges of plants and animals, and the earlier onset of spring; and

WHEREAS, global warming poses an unprecedented environmental threat not only to wildlife and its habitat but also to the security, safety and prosperity of people everywhere; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that climate change will disproportionately affect the elderly, children, the infirm, and the urban poor; and

WHEREAS, our growing dependence on oil, which is a major contributor to global warming, is creating unpredictable swings in energy prices that have especially disruptive impacts on people with low income; and

WHEREAS, addressing the impacts of global warming and the effects of global warming policies on people with low income is important for the just and equitable treatment of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, climate change will disproportionately affect low-income people through deaths during heat waves and worsened air pollution and unemployment and economic hardships associated with climate change, and low-income people spend a significantly higher portion of their expenditures on direct energy purchases; and

WHEREAS, policies that reduce carbon dioxide emissions can also lower emissions of other pollutants, including particulates, ozone, nitrogen, and sulfur oxides and would create major health benefits, particularly for urban communities; and

WHEREAS, the most effective measure to combat global warming is to invest in energy efficiency, and a wide variety of energy efficient home products are currently available; and

WHEREAS, policies that reduce energy consumption will provide significant benefits to people with low incomes; and

WHEREAS, states are the laboratory of democracy and must act in the absence of federal leadership to protect citizens from the effects of global warming; and

WHEREAS, states that are imposing limits on global warming pollution and implementing market-based 'cap and trade' programs face important decisions on whether major polluters should be allowed to freely emit a large share of their greenhouse gas emissions, or instead should be required to pay the government for the pollution they emit; and

WHEREAS, states and the federal government can generate substantial revenues by auctioning available permits to emit greenhouse gases under a ‘cap and trade’ system for reducing pollution, or through other market-based climate policies; and

WHEREAS, revenues raised from climate policies can be used toward important public purposes related to global warming, including addressing the impacts of global warming and the effects of global warming policies on people with low income;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C. supports state and federal legislation that will:

- Increase funds for low-income energy efficiency programs that would provide energy audits, replace energy inefficient appliances, replace old windows, and insulate homes.
- Ensure that low-income residents have sufficient information on the long-term cost savings of joining a program that would allow them to invest in energy efficient measures.
- Ensure that any ‘cap and trade’ program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions requires polluters to pay for emissions that endanger the public’s right to a safe climate.
- Ensure that revenues raised by the government from climate and energy policies are used to fund essential public purposes related to global warming, including measures to reduce any costs to people with low-incomes, to help communities prepare for and respond to damaging impacts of global warming, to provide assistance to workers adversely impacted by climate policies, and to improve the vitality of natural systems such as wetlands that help safeguard people from storm surges and other extreme climate events.

Promote Sustainable “Next Generation” Bioenergy to Address Global Warming

WHEREAS, new scientific studies underscore the evidence that global warming is already having a significant impact on wildlife and habitats; and

WHEREAS, one recent review of 866 studies of wildlife responses to global warming shows that many animal and plant species have been dying off or changing sooner than scientists had predicted, including the extinction of at least 70 species of frogs (Parmesan, 2006); and

WHEREAS, the Bush Administration is calling for polar bears to be listed as a threatened species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act due to declines in Arctic sea ice from global warming; and

WHEREAS, new research reveals that wildfires in western forests have become much more frequent and larger since the mid-1980s, a trend that corresponds with insect infestations, warmer springs, and an expansion of summer dry periods; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that the nation transition to sustainable, renewable sources of energy that are better for the environment and reduce global greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, some of the rapidly expanding alternative energy technologies, such as ethanol from corn, biodiesel from soybeans, and co-firing of wood and grasses with coal have the potential to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, “next generation” bioenergy technologies, such as cellulosic ethanol or methanol from perennial grasses, trees and organic wastes, and thermochemical or gasification processing of plant materials, garbage and animal wastes have the potential to greatly improve upon existing bioenergy technologies in terms of sustainability, positive impacts on fish and wildlife populations, reduction of chemical input needs, improved net energy balances, and greater greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions; and

WHEREAS, even “next generation” bioenergy technologies need to be implemented carefully, with regard to feedstock production, refining, transport and use to ensure that negative impacts do not occur to soil and water quality, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and water supplies and to realize the greatest benefits to these resources as well as to global greenhouse gas reductions; and

WHEREAS, several nations in Europe and the state of California are considering or in the process of developing standards that would identify “sustainable biofuels” which are those produced with safeguards for the environment and local communities, to allow these to be recognized in the market place, and given special incentives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington D.C., encourages the President of

the United States to promote and the United States Congress to enact, legislation to advance incentives for research and development and mandates for production of “next generation” bioenergy as part of the solution to global warming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports the development of sustainability standards for bioenergy production that will enable targeting of the greatest incentives and mandates for bioenergy to those produced, refined and distributed with the greatest global greenhouse gas reductions and largest positive net energy balances, while minimizing any negative impacts and maximizing any positive impacts on habitat, biodiversity, soil productivity, air and water quality, local communities and water supply; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports the passage of a new “Biofuels Innovation Program” to provide incentives in the next Farm Bill to promote development and advancement of “next generation” bioenergy from native perennial plants, preferably from mixtures of native species grown and harvested with wildlife, soil and water quality needs in mind, as well as robust research funding dedicated to understanding and improving bioenergy technologies in order to maximize net global greenhouse gas reductions, net energy balances, and positive soil, water, air and wildlife results; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation does not support the break-out of new land or reduction of forest habitat quality for the production of biofuels, or the use of Conservation, Wetlands or Grasslands Reserve program lands for production of dedicated biomass energy crops until it has been proven that such crops can be grown and harvested in such a way that their soil, water, air and wildlife benefits are retained.

Incentives for Access to Private Lands Enrolled in Farm Bill Conservation Programs

WHEREAS, hunters and anglers recognize that private landowners own millions of acres of fish and wildlife habitat and that protecting and enhancing these habitats is essential for well-being of America's wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Farm Bill provides many important agricultural programs including programs to stabilize farm and ranch income, enhance farm and ranch commodity protections, promote economically efficient and environmentally sound farming practices and to protect the entire spectrum of natural resource values found on private farm and ranch lands; and

WHEREAS, hunters and anglers and hunting and fishing organizations have been important participants in supporting a strong, well funded Farm Bill in every Farm Bill reauthorization; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and building the support of hunters and anglers and their organizations is an important component of maintaining public support for all titles in the Farm Bill but particularly the Conservation Title; and

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to provide incentives for landowners to open their lands for reasonable levels of free access to the public for no additional cost to taxpayers, and in so doing promote a stronger public alliance to promote the wise conservation of natural resources on private lands; and

WHEREAS, most Farm Bill programs, such as the Conservation Reserve Program, are oversubscribed and farmers and ranchers are required to competitively bid to participate in such programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., hereby urges the President and the Congress to take all necessary action to pass legislation within the Farm Bill that provides farmers and ranchers with a competitive advantage in participating in Farm Bill Programs if they provide reasonable levels of free public access to their lands for fair and equitable public hunting, fishing, bird watching, or related outdoor activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a competitive advantage could be provided by adjusting the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) and other competitive scoring systems within the Farm Bill to reward farmers and ranchers to voluntarily opt to provide public access as part of a Conservation Reserve Program contract or other Farm Bill programs, without diminishing the conservation emphasis of these programs.

General Mining Law of 1872

WHEREAS, mining of hard rock minerals in the United States is governed under antiquated 19th century rules that were signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant; and

WHEREAS, the “General Mining Law of 1872” allows private mining companies to take valuable mineral resources like gold, copper, silver, and uranium from public lands without paying federal royalties on any of the minerals they extract; and

WHEREAS, since this law was passed, the U.S. government has given away hundreds of billions of dollars of mineral reserves by means of this royalty-free mining program; and

WHEREAS, many of the companies who have benefited from this law are foreign owned; and

WHEREAS, this law mandates government agencies to offer public land for sale at \$5 an acre, the same fee charged in 1872; and

WHEREAS, the General Mining Law of 1872 authorizes the patenting of public lands for mining with no regard for other potential values or uses of public lands or consideration for the impact to clean water and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1994 Congress has inserted a temporary moratorium on patenting of public lands in the annual Interior Appropriations bill stating that none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available shall be obligated or expended to accept or process applications for a patent for any mining or mill site claim located under the general mining laws; and

WHEREAS, literally hundreds of thousands of hard rock mines have been abandoned across the U.S., leaving the American taxpayer liable for the cost of cleaning up the environmental mess left behind; and

WHEREAS, unlike the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund financed by the coal industry, no designated fund exists to finance the clean up of abandoned hard rock mines and the federal government has not appropriated adequate funds for reclamation; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, mining activities have polluted more than 40 percent of the headwaters of watersheds in the western United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., urges the United States Congress to replace the “General Mining Law of 1872” with more modern legislation which:

- assesses royalties and severance taxes that reflect the current fair market value of the minerals extracted to provide a fair return to taxpayers for extraction of publicly owned minerals;
- updates the fee mining companies pay to maintain their unpatented claims on public lands;
- eliminates mineral patenting, which amounts to the giveaway of public lands;
- gives consideration to other values of public lands and the impact mining will have upon local citizens, air, soils, landscape, water, and wildlife;
- establishes a reclamation fund to reclaim abandoned hard rock mines on public lands;
- requires reclamation bonds sufficient to cover all required short and long term reclamation activities;
- allows additional public participation in mine siting and permitting decisions; and
- gives government agencies the authority to set environmental performance and reclamation standards for mining companies.

RESOLUTION 2007-11

Reducing the Effects of Global Warming By Reducing Oil Consumption

WHEREAS, global climate change science has shown that carbon dioxide emissions have a direct impact on global warming, and that rapid global warming is detrimental to most wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, automobile emissions, both from driving and time spent idling, are a major source of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, our dependency on foreign oil threatens the energy security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing vehicles that get better fuel economy is a promising option for long-term reductions of America's oil dependency; and

WHEREAS, implementing smarter community designs that reduce sprawl and increase use of mass transit are also an important part of any strategy to reduce America's oil dependency; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of urban areas often leads to an increase in global warming pollution through destruction of natural systems that sequester carbon, and increased energy demand from community designs that require driving for access to employment, goods and services; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies have shown urban areas retain significantly more heat as compared to rural areas, and this "Urban Heat Island Effect" may exacerbate the impact of increasing temperatures due to global warming on urban communities; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of urban areas and loss of natural landscapes to buildings and roads will expand the "Urban Heat Island Effect" to larger areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., hereby urges the President, Congress, and state and local governments to take immediate action to reduce U.S. consumption of oil for transportation through a range of policy options, including improving fuel economy of vehicles, improving urban planning to reduce sprawl, increasing use of mass transit, and promoting alternative fuels that significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions and are developed using sustainably managed crops that integrate energy production with soil, water, and wildlife habitat conservation.

Klamath River Dams

WHEREAS, the Klamath River has a storied history as one of the best salmon-producing rivers on the west coast of the United States with historic populations of over 1 million adult Chinook, coho, pink and chum salmon returning annually, as well as abundant steelhead; and

WHEREAS, Klamath River salmon and steelhead once supported a thriving ecosystem which in turn supported a strong and productive human culture, economy, and recreational and commercial salmon fishery; and

WHEREAS, four lower dams (Copco I, Copco II, Iron Gate, and JC Boyle) built on the Klamath River between 1918 and 1962 block all anadromous runs of salmon and steelhead from over 350 miles of historic high quality spawning habitat; and

WHEREAS, conditions of agricultural diversions, loss of wetlands, altered in-stream flows, drought, and degraded water quality have been exacerbated by the impacts of global warming to result in devastated salmon populations in the basin, resulting in the extinction of chum and pink salmon, and declines in Chinook salmon populations by over 90% and coho populations by 99%; and

WHEREAS, what was once a strong and productive fishery was declared a disaster and closed in 2006 by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, restoration of Klamath River salmon is biologically necessary, technically feasible, and economically beneficial to the Pacific Coast and to the citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in an effort to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and improve migration conditions for Chinook salmon, is currently examining a strategy to trap salmon at Iron Gate dam and haul them via truck to a point above JC Boyle dam for release in the Klamath River; and

WHEREAS, this trap and haul strategy does not comply with NOAA Fisheries' requirement for full passage at the dams, and moreover, similar trap and haul efforts across the Pacific Northwest have resulted in a strong opinion that these programs are frequently not biologically supported; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the California Energy Commission and the U.S. Department of the Interior concluded that removing the four lower dams on the Klamath River and replacing them with efficient power plants to replace the 150 megawatts of electricity they produce would be more cost-effective than attempting installation of fish ladders required by NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, the four lower Klamath River dams do not create irrigation diversions; and

WHEREAS, the four lower Klamath River dams provide electricity for approximately 70,000 homes, a need that could be replaced by energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., supports the retirement and removal of the four lower Klamath River dams (Copco I, Copco II, and Iron Gate in northern California and JC Boyle in southern Oregon) as an essential requirement to recover and restore Klamath River salmon; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports a comprehensive effort by the States of Oregon and California and the Federal Government to enhance and restore the fisheries on the Klamath River and its tributaries both in the short and long run, to eliminate impediments to fish habitat and restore degraded water quality throughout the River and Upper Klamath Lake; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports educational efforts that inform the public of the economic and ecological benefits of retiring the four lower Klamath River dams and of the vital role salmon play in the cultural heritage of Pacific states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports further economic analysis to determine how all parties affected by retirement and removal of the four Klamath dams are adequately and fairly compensated and further scientific analysis to determine the appropriate timing, actions to mitigate sediments and contaminants, and other factors affecting continuity of ecological health to achieve full restoration of the fishery.

Ocean Health

WHEREAS, the rich and diverse ocean and coastal resources shared by the states of Washington, Oregon and California provide tremendous environmental and economic benefits to these states and to the entire country; and

WHEREAS, these rich resources are threatened on many fronts, including, but not limited to, polluted waters, declining populations of marine life, degraded nearshore habitats, and impacts related to climate change; and

WHEREAS, Washington, Oregon and California have recognized that the serious threats jeopardizing ocean resources know no political boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Washington, Oregon, and California have begun ecosystem-based approaches to managing their coasts, marine resources, and oceans, emphasizing the importance of coordinating conservation efforts among the state, local, tribal and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of this approach and in recognition of their shared challenges, the Governors of the states of Washington, Oregon and California have entered into a collaboration to address these critical issues, as evidenced by the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health, September 18, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health states the following goals as its priorities:

- Ensuring clean coastal waters and beaches;
- Protecting and restoring healthy ocean and coastal habitats;
- Promoting the effective implementation of ecosystem-based management of ocean and coastal resources;
- Reducing adverse impacts of offshore development;
- Increasing ocean awareness and literacy among the citizens;
- Expanding ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring; and
- Fostering sustainable economic development throughout the diverse coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission also concluded that an ecosystem-based approach to ocean management is needed and urged improved coordination among governing bodies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., formally supports the seven priority goals outlined in the West Coast Governors' Agreement of Ocean Health, September 18, 2006 and urges Washington, Oregon, and California to develop regional recommendations and initiatives that meet the seven goals of the Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation urges the President and Congress to provide appropriate leadership, funding, and coordination of Federal activities to assist the coastal states of Washington, Oregon, and California with meeting the goals of the Agreement.

Marine Protected Areas

WHEREAS, The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council held public hearings in September 2006 in the management process to implement a series of eight (8) marine protected areas in federal waters in the South Atlantic; and

WHEREAS, the proposed marine protected areas are the result of years of planning with recommendations from advisory panels and public input through workshops, scoping meetings and informal hearings to protect overfished species; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative approach was utilized to identify the sites; and

WHEREAS, the eight (8) proposed marine protected areas being considered are to protect a portion of the population and habitat of long-lived, deepwater snapper grouper species (snowy grouper, misty grouper, speckled hind, yellowedge grouper, warsaw grouper, golden tilefish and blue tilefish) from direct fishing pressure; and

WHEREAS, within the proposed marine protected areas fishing for and the possession of snapper grouper species would be prohibited, but fishermen would be allowed to troll for pelagic species such as tuna, mackerel and billfish; and

WHEREAS, The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council plans to work closely with the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fisheries' Highly Migratory Species Division to prohibit the use of bottom longlines by shark fishermen; and

WHEREAS, sportfishing anglers recognize the importance of conserving all species for the long term benefit of the marine ecosystem;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., recognizes the vulnerability for deepwater species being overfished and urges the establishment of the marine protected areas proposed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to serve as nursery areas and refuges for deepwater species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports marine protected areas being managed by federal marine fisheries professionals with the primary and foremost objective of conserving the marine resource, and that this management may include provisions for complete closure to exploitation when professionals determine or reasonably believe closure is in the best interest of marine resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports the provision of opportunities for regulated fishing within marine protected areas only when that activity is projected to be sustainable and not to have a significant negative impact on marine resources.

RESOLUTION 2007-15

Support for Public Recreation on Navigable Rivers of the United States

WHEREAS, navigable rivers have been declared public waters of the United States; and

WHEREAS, hunting, fishing, boating, and furharvesting are activities that led to such waters being declared navigable rivers; and

WHEREAS, recreational users have a right to access these resources that is rooted in federal common law, the Federal Navigational Servitude, the Public Trust Doctrine, the United States Constitution and several state constitutions; and

WHEREAS, protection of navigable waters for public use is vital to the conservation of those waters; and

WHEREAS, a 2006 ruling by a Judge of the United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana, excludes hunting and fishing as legal activities below the ordinary high water mark on navigable waters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., supports the rights of public use on navigable waters of the United States up to the ordinary high water mark of such waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., urges the Congress, the states, the Secretary of the Interior and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take the necessary actions to affirm and establish laws and regulations ensuring the rights of public use on navigable waters of the United States up to the ordinary high water mark of such waters.

RESOLUTION 2007-16

Native American Tribes and Climate Change

WHEREAS, over 560 Native American tribes and Native Alaskan Villages are recognized nationally; and

WHEREAS, Native American tribes are sovereign nations and have far-reaching management authority and can directly impact conservation decisions on over 95 million acres of land; and

WHEREAS, tribal reservations provide important habitat for hundreds of native North American species that occupy both tribal and non-tribal lands, including over 525 species of plants and animals recognized by the U.S. government as requiring special protection; and

WHEREAS, to the detriment of wildlife and habitat, there is increasing pressure on Native American tribes to develop their natural and mineral resources because of chronic lack of economic opportunity and declining federal support for tribes; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a human rights and environmental justice issue with significant impacts to Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, Native American tribes can be important partners for the nation in confronting climate change by providing key inspiration regarding climate change and its impact on our natural world; and

WHEREAS, the development on tribal lands of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power could provide important sources of electrical power thereby alleviating the growing impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Native American organizations, such as NativeEnergy, are supporting Native American, community-based projects that create social, economic, and environmental benefits, while offsetting the carbon emissions generated by such climate change projects as the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., supports tribal efforts to develop clean/renewable energy sources that are compatible with wildlife and habitat conservation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation encourages support for Native American tribes on energy/renewable energy development and the impact or benefit to the environment, tribal natural resources, and tribal communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports Native American organizations and other partners that offer responsible solutions to climate change that integrate economic development, natural resource sustainability, and cultural preservation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports assistance for tribes to restore and protect habitat to ensure refuges for wildlife impacted by climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports strengthening partnerships with Native American tribes and intertribal organizations to increase awareness of climate change, generate active responses to combat climate change, and advance climate justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation urges the formation of a national coalition of Native American tribes organized to confront climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation encourages the U.S. Congress, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of Energy, and other appropriate federal agencies to support tribal efforts to confront climate change and develop clean/renewable energy resources.

**Public Trust Doctrine and
North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation**

WHEREAS, the Public Trust Doctrine is the keystone component of fish and wildlife conservation in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Public Trust Doctrine mandates that fish and wildlife resources are held in trust by the government(s) for the benefit of the present and future generations of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Public Trust Doctrine is well-established in contemporary common law and was first addressed by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1800s, *Martin v. Waddell*, 41 U.S. 367 (1842), and *Illinois Central Railroad v. Illinois*, 146 U.S. 387 (1892), where the Court explained that states hold natural resources in trust for the people and cannot alienate the trust; and

WHEREAS, it is through the Public Trust Doctrine that fish and wildlife are managed by governmental fish and wildlife agencies with professional fish and wildlife managers ascribing to the North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation; and

WHEREAS, the public must be made aware of the Public Trust, and it must be enforceable against the government, and it must be adaptive to contemporary concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Public Trust Doctrine protects fish and wildlife so that they may be enjoyed by all citizens for bird-watching, hiking, camping, hunting, trapping, fishing and other outdoor wildlife-associated experiences;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., fully supports the Public Trust Doctrine wherein fish and wildlife are held in trust by the government for the benefit of all citizens now and in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation urges state wildlife agencies to cooperatively fund and staff a strategic plan for strengthening the Public Trust Doctrine and to communicate the existence and importance of the North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation to internal and external stakeholders.

RESOLUTION 2007-18

Support for Non-toxic Shot for Hunting Webless Migratory Game Birds

WHEREAS, spent lead shot has been demonstrated to be lethal to migratory waterfowl and other migratory birds; and

WHEREAS, waterfowl hunters have been using non-toxic shot for decades to minimize lead shot poisoning; and

WHEREAS, some states do not require non-toxic shot for hunting wetland obligate migratory game species such as rails, snipe and sandhill cranes; and

WHEREAS, toxicity studies conducted by the Missouri Department of Conservation show high mortalities of captive mourning doves after ingesting lead shot; and

WHEREAS, dove hunting can result in significant deposition of lead shot in the field, depending on the concentration of hunters, which is available for consumption by non-target species such as nongame birds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled March 30-31, 2007, in Washington, D.C., urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to mandate non-toxic shot be required to hunt all wetland obligate migratory game species such as rails, snipe and sandhill cranes by September 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others should be encouraged to fund research to determine the extent and frequency of lead shot ingestion in mourning doves in the United States and to determine the best practices to reduce lead shot ingestion. Conservationists should work together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies, and industry leaders to persuade influential people and organizations if it becomes clear that requiring the use of non-toxic shot will be in the best interests of wildlife and the future of hunting.