



**2009
ADOPTED
RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE
73rd ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

**PITTSBURGH, PA
APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2009**

**2009 Adopted Resolutions
73rd Annual Meeting
of the
National Wildlife Federation
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Green Education and Training: Making the New Clean Energy Future a Reality

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

WHEREAS, the United States must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% of current levels by 2020 and by at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 in order to avert the most serious consequences of global climate change, and to meet these targets our nation must have a population that is knowledgeable, ready, and prepared to reduce our nation's energy consumption and trained to transition to our new green economy; and

WHEREAS, cap and invest legislation to curb global warming pollution will also create unparalleled opportunities for new careers and public and private investment as we move to a clean energy economy; and

WHEREAS, widely accessible education and training in green technology jobs is essential for economic recovery, and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, more than 2.3 million jobs in the renewable energy sector have been created in recent years and this number is expected to grow significantly over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, stimulus investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency programs will train approximately 140,000 Americans for green jobs in the next two years and create new green jobs through billions of dollars of investments in a unified national smart grid, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and green building design; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life of many working Americans could be improved with appropriate job education and training programs in the new clean energy economy; and

WHEREAS, our nation's higher education institutions, including more than 1,200 community colleges, need additional financial resources to educate and re-train workers in green jobs for the future, including energy retrofits, alternative energy careers, sustainable agriculture, and other opportunities; and

WHEREAS, one third of the student population of our nation's community colleges are from minority populations and community colleges provide the most economical opportunity for higher education and job training; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation's commitment to creating a new energy future and career opportunities for future generations focuses on exchanging

information on best practices for green jobs education and training at universities and community colleges across the country; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation's vision of our transition to a new clean energy future should result in high-quality, accessible green collar jobs for diverse, under-represented populations and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 – May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, hereby urges Congress to use the opportunity of cap and invest legislation to support green jobs and sustainability education and training at our nation's universities and community colleges and other career training institutions and programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation strongly encourages government at the federal, state and local levels to support green job education and training within the existing structure of America's education systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation supports green job education and training programs for workers at universities, community colleges, and any other career training education institutions and programs across the country to ensure a smooth transition to the green economy, to promote clean energy, and to protect wildlife from global warming.

2009 RESOLUTION NO. 2

Presidential Commission on Americans Outdoors

WHEREAS, Americans today are less connected to the outdoors than any time in human history, as evidenced by recent surveys that show children today spend half as much time outdoors as they did just twenty years ago, and as evidenced by decreasing visitation at National Parks and National Forests, as well as declining state revenues from hunting and fishing licenses; and

WHEREAS, our nation must prepare and educate natural resource managers and recreation professionals to safeguard our public lands and natural resources from the impacts that detrimental natural events and adverse human activities will have on our public lands, natural resources, wildlife, and recreation assets; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation provides key opportunities to connect communities, children, and families with nature, and these opportunities must be expanded so more Americans have the chance to enjoy the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the first Presidential Commission established in 1958, the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC), resulted in key new federal supports for conservation and recreation, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Wilderness Act, the National Trails System, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and other new federal, state and local policies; and

WHEREAS, the second Presidential Commission established in 1985, the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors (PCAO), resulted in significant action at the state and local level including numerous new recreation and open space bond issues, new tax initiatives, new public private partnerships, creation of greenways, and improved outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in July 2008, an Outdoor Resources Review Group (ORRG) was established to provide recommendations to the Administration and the Congress in anticipation of the formal creation of a third Presidential Commission; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 – May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, hereby urges Congress and the Administration to establish and strongly support a Presidential Commission on Americans Outdoors to make recommendations on crucial issues such as connecting children to nature and the impact of humankind on our natural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation strongly encourages government at the federal, state and local levels to support and fund outdoor recreation and educational opportunities that connect children, families, and communities with nature to foster a stronger conservation ethic and improve children's health, both of which have long-term benefits to the economy.

Eco-Schools U.S.A.

WHEREAS, America faces numerous, profound environmental challenges and U.S. elementary and secondary schools will be called upon to prepare students to become effective stewards of the environment and to participate in a new, clean energy economy that is built upon environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in Denmark, a non-governmental organization (NGO) affiliated with the United Nations Environment Programme, selected the National Wildlife Federation as its U.S. host organization for the International Eco-Schools program, establishing this program in the United States for the first time; and

WHEREAS, Eco-Schools USA will combine effective “green” management of school facilities and grounds with high-quality environmental education and volunteerism, through an organized process of building a team of students, faculty, administrators, parents, and community leaders that will create an action plan to measurably improve their environmental performance and educational effectiveness as a demonstration for future living; and

WHEREAS, Eco-Schools USA will focus on eight primary areas, including energy and water, travel and traffic, sustainable school grounds, sustainable consumption and waste, global dimensions of sustainability, the “Green Hour,” climate change education, and community engagement, to educate students, faculty, and community on these important issues and also develop pathways to becoming more sustainable in school, at home, and in the larger community; and

WHEREAS, there is a solid base of research that demonstrates how environment-based education programs improve student motivation to learn, student behavior, critical analysis skills, and academic performance, including standardized test scores; and

WHEREAS, surveys indicate that schools waste an average of 25 percent of their electricity and water, and American schools spend \$6 billion annually on utilities, and Eco-Schools USA will help to address and reduce this waste; and

WHEREAS, schools with environment-based programs present fewer toxic risks to students, lower stress levels, and offer students more opportunities for healthy time outdoors which has positive impacts on students’ physical and mental health;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 – May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, hereby urges Congress and the Administration to advance policies and fund programs to support schools throughout our nation to prepare students to become effective stewards of the

environment, to make schools more environmentally and energy sustainable, and to educate students, faculty and the community about this sustainability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation strongly encourages state and local government, including governors, state boards of education, mayors, local school boards, school superintendents, and school principals to support these school initiatives.

State Plans to Connect Children with Nature

WHEREAS, to sustain the natural world and safeguard wildlife requires the stewardship of future generations; and

WHEREAS, stewardship is not possible without a strong sense of connection to the natural world; and

WHEREAS, America's children are losing their connection with our natural world, an alienation that threatens the future of our nation's great natural resources and the quality of life for future citizens, diminishes use of the senses, creates attention difficulties and causes higher rates of physical and emotional illness and obesity; and

WHEREAS, spending frequent time outdoors in unstructured and structured experiences is the best way to develop a connection to nature and the foundation on which to build an environmental stewardship ethic; and

WHEREAS, states across this land must renew their efforts to ensure that our children have abundant opportunities to connect with the places they live and grow, to become informed and responsible stewards of the environment, and who are prepared for future environmental challenges and opportunities as individual citizens and as members of the workforce; and

WHEREAS, environmental education increases student engagement in science, improves student achievement in core subject areas, and increases student awareness about individual actions they can take to restore the health of the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, open space, parks, natural play areas, greenways, trails, water bodies, and other green features of the built environment provide children the opportunity to experience nature close to home; and

WHEREAS, conservation parks and recreation facilities and personnel are important resources for connecting children with nature; and

WHEREAS, increasing contact with nature has measurable health benefits for children; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation and its affiliated organizations support a comprehensive policy approach to connecting children with the natural world that incorporates policies relating to parks, schools, built environment, and public health;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 – May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, hereby urges Governors and State Legislatures to issue executive orders or pass legislation creating and implementing a comprehensive state plan to connect children, families, and communities with nature to foster a stronger conservation ethic and to improve children's health, both of which have long-term benefits.

2009 RESOLUTION NO. 5

Incentives for Building Contractors to Increase Energy Conservation in Existing Homes and Structures

WHEREAS, climate change is a serious threat to forests, wildlife and habitat, and local economies that depend on natural resources; and

WHEREAS, energy conservation helps reduce the pollution that contributes to climate change; and

WHEREAS, buildings are responsible for more than 45 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the U.S. population lives and works in older structures often without updated energy saving materials, efficient central heating sources, and energy efficient windows, insulation, lighting, storm doors, etc.; and

WHEREAS, existing state and federal energy programs have been effective incentives for people who have had the ability to match available funding or use tax incentives; and

WHEREAS, the existing federal tax deduction incentives are not sufficient in that they only work for those who can afford to take the deductions; and

WHEREAS, solar, geothermal, and other low emission technologies often require larger upfront retrofit investments compared to traditional building materials and technologies; and

WHEREAS, homeowners and small businesses, especially during the recession, are less able to afford or finance the significant upfront costs to improve home energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to put skilled people back to work to conserve energy, revitalize neighborhoods and cities, and put human energy and value back into what exists; and

WHEREAS, a new federal "Energy Conservation Incentive Program For Contractors" could help homeowners/small local business owners match existing state incentives for energy updates; and

WHEREAS, a program that gives incentives to contractors to do energy efficiency retro-fitting projects would ultimately help the economy and the majority of the population who live or work in older houses or buildings; and

WHEREAS, funding for training and certification of contractors would encourage proper use of incentive funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 – May 2 2009 in Pittsburgh, PA, urges Congress and the Administration to enact legislation to encourage the conservation of energy by the American public that live and work in existing structures by:

- 1) continuing the tax incentives for energy conservation upgrades for homeowners;
and
- 2) continuing funding into existing state energy conservation programs; and
- 3) creating an "Energy Conservation Incentive Program for Contractors" to update existing homes and structures for energy conservation and for training and certification.

2009 RESOLUTION NO. 6

Reducing Coal Power Plant Pollutants

WHEREAS, to prevent the worst impacts of climate change, scientists say that greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced as swiftly as possible; and

WHEREAS, climate change could have catastrophic consequences for people, wildlife and the natural resources on which we depend if pollution that contributes to climate change is not dramatically cut; and

WHEREAS, coal use, primarily for electricity generation, currently accounts for approximately 20 percent of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide and approximately 27 percent in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Energy Information Administration currently projects coal use in the U.S. to grow by more than 16% by 2030; and

WHEREAS, more than half of U.S. electricity is generated by power plants that burn coal; and

WHEREAS, in addition to producing greenhouse gas emissions, coal use poses several other environmental threats, including production of pollutants that can endanger public health, such as nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxides, mercury and other hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), as well as mining and ash disposal practices that can critically impair natural resources; and

WHEREAS, research, development, and deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies has substantial potential to reduce energy demand and meet energy supply;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 - May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, hereby urges federal and state lawmakers to support policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the nation's existing coal-fired power plants at a minimum rate of 20% by 2020, leading to an 80% reduction by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NWF urges old, inefficient coal-fired power plants be retired when cleaner energy alternatives are available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NWF urges that before the construction of new coal-fired power plants, an assessment is done and a determination is made that alternatives, including energy efficiency and renewable energy generation, are not viable to meet anticipated new demand; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NWF urges that if a new coal-fired power plant is constructed, it be required to capture and permanently store or sequester its

carbon emissions upon startup, and achieve near zero carbon emissions within 10 years of start-up; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NWF urges that any carbon emissions resulting from coal combustion be captured and permanently stored or sequestered in a manner that ensures performance, public health, and minimal impacts on water, wildlife and wildlife habitat.

International Action on Climate Change

WHEREAS, global warming creates an unprecedented environmental threat not only to wildlife and its habitat, but also to the security, safety and prosperity of people worldwide that cannot be solved without a global cooperative solution; and

WHEREAS, to prevent the worst impacts of global warming, scientists say that global warming pollution must be reduced as swiftly and deeply as possible and developed countries as a whole need to reduce their global warming pollution by at least 80% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, historically the U.S. is a leading emitter of global warming pollution and has a significant and unique leadership role to play in securing a fair climate treaty with both developed and developing nations that are seeking a new climate agreement; and

WHEREAS, the International Energy Agency projects that global energy demand could increase 45% by 2050 and fossil fuels, particularly coal, in developing countries will account for much of that increase; and

WHEREAS, many developing countries are taking action to reduce global warming pollution, but their effectiveness will depend on assistance from developed countries to finance the deployment of clean energy technology, protect forests, and confront lack of access to energy by poor communities; and

WHEREAS, deforestation in developing countries accounts for about 20% of all human-caused CO₂ emissions and has devastating impacts on watersheds, and conversely, tropical forest growth absorbs about 20% of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion and protects fresh water resources; and

WHEREAS, the adverse impacts of global warming—including increased probability of natural disasters, spread of disease, and food and water shortages—will fall disproportionately on the poorest countries that have done the least to contribute to global warming and have the smallest capacity to adapt to them; and

WHEREAS, climate change acts as a “threat multiplier” in some of the most volatile regions of the world by destabilizing economies and undermining stability and security in developing countries; and

WHEREAS, the “Bali Road Map”, which was adopted at the thirteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali, Indonesia in 2007, emphasized the importance of assisting developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation, deploy clean energy technology, and adapt to unavoidable climate impacts, and committed toward agreeing on a new international climate treaty in Copenhagen in 2009;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 - May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, urges the U.S. government to expeditiously negotiate and ratify a fair and effective international treaty that will, in accord with scientific findings, avoid climate change by keeping any further rise in global temperatures below 2 degrees Fahrenheit, and assist developing countries in deploying clean energy technology, avoiding deforestation, preventing fresh water shortages, and adapting to the unavoidable impacts of global warming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to do its part in reaching a global agreement, NWF calls upon Congress to pass global warming legislation that includes specific targets to reduce global warming pollution as swiftly and deeply as possible in accordance with current climate science; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to negotiate an international treaty, NWF urges Congress to adopt global warming legislation that includes measures, with necessary funding levels where appropriate, to: a) assist developing countries to deploy clean energy technologies to launch rapid transformations to low-carbon economies, b) build strong institutions to reduce deforestation through improved law enforcement, land management and public participation by local communities and recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and c) cope with the unavoidable impacts of global warming and equitably protect the most vulnerable people and natural resources from harm.

Oil Shale Development Must Not Jeopardize Fish, Wildlife and Water

WHEREAS, oil shale production is dramatically more CO₂ intensive than conventional hydrocarbon production and even the best emerging technologies would result in 20-45% more global warming pollution per gallon of fuel produced compared to conventional gasoline; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of oil shale is located in arid states with limited water resources and oil shale production may require up to five gallons of water to produce each gallon of fuel, meaning that a viable commercial oil shale industry could consume enough water to support two cities the size of Denver (more than 315 million gallons of water daily); and

WHEREAS, leasing of lands for oil shale production puts at risk millions of acres of wildlife habitat throughout the Rocky Mountain West important to hunters, anglers and other wildlife enthusiasts, including the Green River Formation, which is home to some of the most valuable wildlife habitat in the United States, and where most of America's oil shale is found; and

WHEREAS, production of oil shale has other adverse environmental impacts, including acid and metal drainage into surface-water and groundwater, increased erosion, and particulate matter air pollution;

WHEREAS, 1.5 tons of spent material can be produced for every barrel of oil, resulting in millions of tons of material generated each year by a commercial oil shale operation; and

WHEREAS, the spent material produced by oil shale is very likely to contaminate ground and surface waters with salts and arsenic, affecting not only wildlife, habitats and the human population, but also water quality for millions of down stream users in the greater Colorado River drainage basin;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 – May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, calls upon the Administration and Congress to take necessary steps to halt the commercial oil shale leasing on public lands until the technology is developed to ensure that the production of transportation fuels from oil shale does not result in a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions when compared to conventional oil production, threaten limited water resources in arid regions, or impair important wildlife habitat, sensitive species, and public recreation access; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation calls on the Administration to ensure that all leasing of public lands for oil shale research and development includes sufficient measures to avoid, minimize, and fully mitigate

significant impacts on important wildlife habitat, sensitive species, public recreation access, and limited water resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation calls on Congress to end subsidies and other incentives for oil shale development, including those for refinery upgrades to process oil shale and other high-carbon feedstocks.

2009 RESOLUTION NO. 9

Restoration of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

WHEREAS, the longleaf pine ecosystem once dominated the southeastern United States, encompassing more than 89 million acres in nine states from southeast Virginia to east Texas; and

WHEREAS, the longleaf pine ecosystem is one of the most ecologically diverse systems in the world – rivaling even tropical rainforests; and

WHEREAS, longleaf pine forests are home to some of the most rare and unique plants and animals on the continent including:

- Approximately 900 plant species found in longleaf pine forests and nowhere else in the world
- 170 of the 290 reptiles and amphibians occurring in the Southeastern U.S.
- 26 federally listed endangered or threatened species, including the red-cockaded woodpecker, gopher tortoise and flatwoods salamander; and

WHEREAS, the longleaf pine ecosystem is valued not only for its outstanding biodiversity and its habitat value, but also for its aesthetic appeal, for the quality of the longleaf pine lumber, and for its natural resistance to fire, insects, diseases, and wind; and

WHEREAS, longleaf pine is suitable for multiple management objectives, making it very attractive to private landowners; and

WHEREAS, longleaf pine could play a significant role in carbon sequestration; and

WHEREAS, today the longleaf pine forests are one of the most threatened ecosystems in North America with less than three percent of the original longleaf pine forests remaining; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the USDA Southern Forest Resource Assessment estimates a further loss of as much as 19 million forest acres by 2040 within the historic range of longleaf pine from development and other conversion pressures if current trends continue; and

WHEREAS, restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem within its historic range is of high importance and the actions needed to achieve restoration are many and varied;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 - May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, supports national, regional, and state efforts to advance landscape level restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem throughout its historic range in the southeastern United States.

2009 RESOLUTION NO. 10

Protection of the Neches River in Texas, a National Treasure

WHEREAS, the Neches River, located in the Texas Forest Country, is a river of great scenic beauty; and

WHEREAS, the Neches River corridor contains the longest contiguous stretch of forested, riparian wildlife habitat left in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Neches River and its bottomland forests, located in the heart of the North American Central Flyway, provide crucial habitat for wildlife and migrating waterfowl and songbirds; and

WHEREAS, the overbanking flows of the Neches River are vital for maintaining the ecosystems of two national forests, two wilderness areas, several state wildlife areas, and the exceptionally diverse habitat of the Big Thicket National Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the timing and volume of freshwater flows from the Neches River into Sabine Lake estuary are key factors influencing salinity gradient and delivery of nutrients, sediments and organisms; and

WHEREAS, these functions are, in turn, important elements affecting populations of shrimp, mollusks, and numerous species of fish and also affecting recreational and commercial fishing and shrimping in both Texas and Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Neches River has played an important role in Texas' history, providing transportation, food, and shelter to Native Americans, early Texas settlers, and later the timber industry; and

WHEREAS, the Neches River is threatened by various dam proposals that together would inundate a hundred miles of river and 175,000 acres of floodplain forests; and

WHEREAS, the Texas 2007 State Water Plan includes alternative water supply options sufficient to meet projected water needs at reasonable cost and with less environmental damage than new dams on the Neches River; and

WHEREAS, designating the Neches River as a National Wild and Scenic River would protect the river and riverside landowners from unneeded dams; and

WHEREAS, designating the Neches River as a National Wild and Scenic River would increase its visibility as a tourist destination, thus providing more outdoor recreation potential and an enhancement to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, a diverse coalition of groups and individuals in the Neches River Valley, and across Texas, supports designating the Neches River as a National Wild and Scenic River;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 – May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, urges a study of the designation of the Neches River as a Wild and Scenic River, and its ultimate addition to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Economic Stimulus, Protection of Water Resources and Investments to Address Global Warming

WHEREAS, Congress has recently passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 economic stimulus legislation, including funding for a wide variety of water resources, energy and transportation and other public works developments and programs; and

WHEREAS, in cases of allocation of stimulus monies for public works projects, the potential exists that poorly directed stimulus or other funding could substantially undermine environmental protections, including hard-fought victories such as defeat of the Yazoo Backwater Pump; and

WHEREAS, Congress has also recently passed the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations legislation, which includes additional funding and earmarks for economically wasteful and environmentally damaging projects, including attempts to move forward with long-controversial Mississippi River Basin projects, such as the vetoed Yazoo Backwater Pump, Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River Navigation Expansion (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin), Grand Prairie Irrigation Demonstration Project (Arkansas), and others; and

WHEREAS, almost immediately the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which received an additional \$4.6 billion of stimulus funds, began seeking support for plans to conduct maintenance dredging and channelization of streams in the Upper Yazoo River Basin of the Mississippi Delta, which streams have been among the highest in aquatic biological productivity in the nation, and which activity would reverse natural ecosystem restoration processes and increase the frequency and magnitude of flooding in the lower Mississippi Delta; and

WHEREAS, in August, 2008, after decades of controversy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a Section 404(c) veto of the Corps of Engineers' Yazoo Backwater Pumping Plant (Mississippi), finally halting a project that has long threatened to damage or destroy as much as 200,000 acres of Mississippi Delta wetlands and habitat; and such veto constitutes a substantial victory for the nation's environment and for the people of the Mississippi Delta region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, in annual meeting assembled April 30 – May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, hereby calls upon the Administration and Congress to direct the Army Corps of Engineers to cease the planning for or implementation of maintenance dredging and channelization of streams in the Upper Yazoo River Basin of the Mississippi River region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation also calls upon the Administration and Congress to adhere to existing environmental safeguards

and adopt strong criteria and controls on all economic recovery stimulus and other public works spending to avoid continued damage to the environment, waste of public resources, and inappropriate flood plain development, and to assure that such funding supports sustainable protection and restoration of the health and productivity of the nation's waters ecosystems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that wherever possible such funding should directly contribute to improvements to the nation's energy efficiency, the development of renewable resources and the reduction of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Gulf of Maine Restoration

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Maine and its abundant biological diversity are vital to human health and the region's economy and millions of people depend on the Gulf of Maine for food, recreation, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, it is a unique ecosystem, whose beauty and bounty enrich the lives of all who live, work and visit there; and

WHEREAS, each day, the Gulf of Maine watershed and its streams, lakes, bays, and beaches are damaged by untreated sewage, toxic pollution, invasive species, and loss of wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the threat of climate change is one of the most serious threats to the natural and man-made environment humanity has ever confronted; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change are already being seen in our coastline, e.g. changes in species range and distribution and ocean acidification damage to shellfish; and

WHEREAS, a key strategy in adapting to the effects of climate change is to immediately increase the health and resiliency of ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, restoration of ecosystems and reduction of non-climate stressors are key tactics to safeguard wildlife and people from the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation has urged Congress to adopt a climate change program that will provide funding for natural resource programs nationwide, including restoration of ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Maine parallels the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, Everglades, Louisiana Coast, and Puget Sound in the breadth and diversity of natural resources and in its dependent human populations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 - May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, hereby recognizes the Gulf of Maine as one of America's critically important ecosystems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation endorses the creation of a public/private partnership in the region to develop a Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Restoration Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this partnership should build on the region's existing restoration plans and programs to identify a comprehensive future strategy and consider restoration priorities that bridge human and wildlife needs and adapt to changing climate conditions by:

- upgrading aging storm water and waste water treatment systems,
- combating invasive species,
- cleaning up toxic sediments in rivers and harbors,
- protecting and restoring wildlife habitat, including access for migratory fish, developmental habitat for marine fish species, and wetland habitat for birds,
- abating nutrient loading in rainwater runoff from agricultural and residential sources, and
- adopting other strategies to address problems that may be unique to the region.

Natural Resources Adaptation Funding and Global Warming

WHEREAS, global warming is already adversely impacting fish and wildlife, their habitats, and other natural resources and presents an unprecedented threat to the survival of our natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects that with a two to four degree Fahrenheit rise in global temperature, 20-30% of species are at increased risk of extinction, and even at increases of less than this amount, ecosystem resilience would be impaired, threatening already imperiled species and habitats; and

WHEREAS, natural resources are the foundation of public health, providing clean air, clean water and protection to people and communities from floods, hurricanes, and other catastrophic weather events; and

WHEREAS, natural resources are the foundation of the American economy, with outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling, wildlife viewing, and other activities, contributing over \$700 billion annually to the United States economy and supporting over 6 million jobs, and ecosystem services providing far more economic value, estimated to be trillions of dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, Americans have an ethical responsibility to help prevent human-caused extinctions to the extent possible and to remedy and prevent damage to natural resources caused by global warming; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and tribal natural resource and wildlife managers must address the many new threats of global warming while continuing to address ongoing threats to fish, wildlife, and natural resources, such as loss of habitat, invasive species, disease outbreaks, extreme weather events, all of which could be made worse due to global warming; and

WHEREAS, protecting America's natural resources from global warming will need to be done across ecosystems with inter-departmental and inter-agency coordination and require multi-year studies and projects; and

WHEREAS, the principle of "polluter pays" has been established as the moral and legal guidance in conservation and natural resource protection, ranging in laws from "Superfund" cleanup to the Clean Air Act to the Clean Water Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 - May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, calls on Congress and the Administration to enact federal legislation that:

- requires federal agencies to write and implement plans to safeguard natural resources and wildlife from global warming based on best-available science and community values; and
- requires these plans are coordinated among agencies; and
- requires these plans are regularly updated to reflect the best currently available science and local community values; and
- provides Indian tribes the necessary resources and technical assistance to develop and implement plans to safeguard their natural resources and fish and wildlife from global warming based on best-available science and traditional, tribal knowledge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation calls on Congress to pass federal legislation that provides annual dedicated funding to federal, state and tribal agencies responsible for implementing the natural resource plans, with funding at a scale commensurate with the scope of the problem and cost of implementing solutions to address climate change impacts on natural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation urges that funding for implementing plans to safeguard natural resources from global warming be provided in federal legislation that requires a reduction in the emissions causing global warming, such that the entities responsible for global warming pollution provide funding to protect natural resources and wildlife from the impacts of global warming.

Wild Salmon and Steelhead Recovery on Lower Columbia River

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation is fully committed to saving endangered and threatened species through the protection and restoration of their natural habitat and to maintaining healthy populations of all wildlife species, which avoids the necessity to list species; and

WHEREAS, wild salmon and steelhead populations, already adversely affected by human activities such as flood control and hydroelectric power production, are being further affected by the current management framework, with 13 out of the 18 species of Columbia River salmon and steelhead listed as threatened or endangered and protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); and

WHEREAS, the Warm Springs, Umatilla, Yakama, and Nez Perce tribes have treaty-protected fishing rights on the Columbia River and recently completed a ten-year fisheries management plan with the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho and the federal government, which includes fisheries arrangements designed to achieve the equitable harvest sharing principles outlined in the U.S. v. Oregon and other federal court decisions; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation is fully committed to working with and fostering collaboration among all stakeholders to conserve wild salmon and steelhead on the Lower Columbia River; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Columbia fishery produces high-quality fish for human consumption, supporting an important commercial fishing industry, as well as trophy-class salmon and steelhead and a robust sports fishing industry, all of which generate tens of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the inadvertent harvesting (by-catch) of threatened and endangered species in the Lower Columbia prematurely closes commercial and sport fishing seasons in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, diminishing the socio-economic, political and environmental significance of the fishery; and

WHEREAS, in the current absence of abundant wild populations, hatchery salmon and steelhead in the Lower Columbia are important for ecosystem health, subsistence cultures, sport/recreational fishing, and commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, excessive hatchery salmon and steelhead competing and interbreeding with wild salmon and steelhead can cause damage to wild salmon and steelhead populations; and

WHEREAS, commercial gill-net operations on the Lower Columbia River inadvertently harvest significant numbers of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead, as well

as non-ESA-listed wild salmon, steelhead and sturgeon, thereby harming conservation efforts to restore all these wild species to self-sustaining populations; and

WHEREAS, commercial gill-net operations in Select Area Fisheries Enhancement (SAFE) areas are less susceptible to by-catch of ESA-listed species and are able to harvest hatchery fish more intensively, with a 95% recapture rate of the returning hatchery fish, thereby reducing the number of stray hatchery salmon and steelhead competing and inter-breeding with wild fish; and

WHEREAS, reducing or eliminating the by-catch of all wild fish species in the Lower Columbia would be beneficial to the recovery of these populations; and

WHEREAS, solutions may exist to mitigate negative impacts of inadvertent by-catch of wild fish species in the Lower Columbia without significantly impacting commercial gill-net operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled April 30 - May 2, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA, supports efforts to recover ESA-listed wild salmon and steelhead populations and reduce by-catch of these species and other wild fish on the Lower Columbia River; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation urges the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife to minimize the by-catch of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead and other wild fish, while abiding by the 2008-2017 United States v. Oregon Management Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation urges tribal, regional, and state governments and the federal government to collaborate in development and implementation of policies that aid in the recovery and conservation of wild fish populations to ensure the restoration of self-sustaining and harvestable wild salmon and steelhead populations for the benefit of all who live in and visit the irreplaceable Columbia River Ecosystem; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that National Wildlife Federation urges regional resource managers to consider appropriate development of areas known as Select Area Fisheries Enhancement (SAFE) fishing areas in a way that reduces the number of stray hatchery fish in wild fish spawning grounds during wild fish spawning season and decreases by-catch of wild fish, while increasing the available catch for commercial gill-net fishing to sustainable commercial catch in the Lower Columbia.