

Kansas Wildlife Federation

1998 RESOLUTION

SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED PUBLIC MANAGEMENT OF DEER RESOURCE

Whereas, the Kansas wild deer population is a natural resource vested in ownership of all the citizens of Kansas; and

Whereas, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) is the state agency designated by law to manage this resource; and

Whereas, KDWP recognizes that biological carrying capacity for deer is greater than the cultural carrying capacity in terms of tolerance for agricultural crop damage by landowners and deer-car accidents by motorists and insurers; and

Whereas, cultural carrying capacity, the level for tolerance of agricultural crop damage and deer-car accidents, has been reached in some areas of the state; and

Whereas, control of the population by issuance of permits to kill deer in specific archery and firearms seasons is the most logical statewide management approach; and

Whereas, effective population control depends more on the removal of doe or female deer than similar removal of buck or male deer, therefore harvest management for trophy class buck deer is not inconsistent with population control within cultural carrying capacity; and

Whereas, some Kansas landowners and specific representative groups have lobbied for legislation for landowners to be given deer permits, one for each eighty acres of agricultural land, which they in turn could sell to anyone for any price; and

Whereas, there are more than 45 million acres of agricultural crop and rangeland in Kansas, which is the equivalent of 562,000 eighty-acre tracts, more than seven times the number of firearms deer permits issued in 1996; and

Whereas, there would be a ready market for buck deer permits under such a system, however there would be no market for doe permits which is the segment of the deer population in most serious need of control; and

Whereas, giving permits to landowners for resale would limit the ability of KDWP to effect population control where needed and to provide sound harvest management for trophy class composition of the herd on a statewide basis; and

Whereas, Kansas landowners and tenants are already eligible to obtain firearms deer permits at a cost of \$15.50, approximately one-half of the cost of general resident permit; and

Whereas, Kansas landowners are already guaranteed an opportunity to hunt every year by applying for a "hunt-on-your-own-land" permit costing \$10.50, approximately one-third of the cost of a general resident permit; and

Whereas, Kansas landowners can already transfer "hunt-on-your-own-land" permits to other members of their family; and

Whereas, many Kansas landowners already lease their land for deer hunting privileges; and

Whereas, deer hunting is a commodity but deer, being owned by the state, are not; and

Whereas, the Kansas Wildlife Federation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and sustained wise use of our natural resources and the preservation of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Kansas citizens;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Kansas Wildlife Federation, assembled during its annual meeting, February 6 - 7, 1998 in Manhattan, Kansas, encourages the Kansas Legislature to refrain from enacting any legislation that would further liberalize the issuance of transferable or saleable permits to landowners other than through the existing laws and permit procedures as administered by KDWP; and

Be It Further Resolved; that KDWP aggressively manage the deer permit process to effect deer population control where needed and to reduce or at least stabilize the rate of agricultural crop damage and deer-car accidents while maintaining a herd with composition quality that has existed during the past ten years; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Kansas Wildlife Federation provide this resolution to the Governor of the State of Kansas, the Chairperson of the House Environmental Committee, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Kansas Wildlife Federation

1998 RESOLUTION

SUPPORT FOR INCREASING THE AGE FOR EXEMPTION FROM PURCHASING KANSAS HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES AND STATE PARK PERMITS

Whereas, the State of Kansas currently provides exemption for persons over age 65 from the requirement to purchase fishing and hunting licenses and state park permits in order to avail themselves of the privileges to utilize fish and wildlife resources and those related to the State Park System; and

Whereas, the expected life span for Americans and Kansans is increasing because of medical technology and better life-style choices; and

Whereas, Kansans currently reach age 65 in better health than their predecessors two or three generations earlier when such exemption were created and therefore can expect to use these natural resources for a longer period of time; and

Whereas, the increasing use of these natural resources by persons over age 65 is not without attendant costs to the state; and

Whereas, there is no current funding system designed to offset the costs incurred by use by Kansans over age 65; and

Whereas, potential costs to individuals for fishing and hunting licenses and state park permits are very small compared to the expenditures these same individuals make to equip and outfit themselves and for travel to utilize these resources; and

Whereas, potential costs to individuals for fishing and hunting licenses and state park permits are very small compared to expenditures for alternate recreational pursuits; and

Whereas, active Kansas hunters and anglers over age 65 are not included in the formulae to allocate Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Funds (Pittman- Robertson) or Federal Aid in Fisheries Restoration funds (Dingell-Johnson) to the State of Kansas by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

Whereas, Kansans over 65 currently enjoying the benefits of exemptions to fishing, hunting and park fees should not be expected to start paying such fees; and

Whereas, past legislative efforts to increase age level for such exemptions to fishing, hunting and park licenses and fees have failed when linked to an *en masse* approach; and

Whereas, the Kansas Wildlife Federation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and sustained wise use of our natural resources and the preservation of outdoor recreation;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Kansas Wildlife Federation, assembled during its annual meeting February 6-7, 1998 in Manhattan, Kansas endorses the raising of age exemptions to age 70, based on a incremental approach, so that all persons born after July 1, 1933 would be required to purchase hunting and fishing licenses and state park permits in order to avail themselves of the privilege to utilize fisheries and wildlife resources and those related to the State Park System; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Kansas Wildlife Federation provide this resolution to the Governor of the State of Kansas, the Chairperson of the House Environmental Committee, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, and the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Kansas Wildlife Federation

1998 RESOLUTION

SUPPORT FOR PARK RENOVATION FUNDING

Whereas, Kansas State Parks provide an important recreational service to Kansas citizens and to non residents visiting our state; and

Whereas, Kansas State Parks are generally less attractive than similar facilities in surrounding states; and

Whereas, Kansas State Parks are in need of extensive renovation just to maintain the *status quo*; and

Whereas, a viable State Park system is vital to the tourist industry of the state; and

Whereas, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is not adequately funded to provide quality management of the State Parks; and

Whereas, the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission has appointed the Task Force on Outdoor Kansas to evaluate State Parks and other long term funding needs; and

Whereas, the Commission's Task Force on Outdoor Kansas has identified six major areas of State Park renovations including buildings, utilities, toilets and showers, camps and beaches, roads and parking lots, and renovations to bring the state park facilities into compliance with the American Disabilities Act; and

Whereas, the Commission's Task Force estimated these renovations at \$10 million; and

Whereas, park permit fees and other current appropriations are insufficient to proceed with these renovations and still provide basic operational services; and

Whereas, the State of Kansas currently enjoys surplus income of more than \$300 million in excess of anticipated revenues; and

Whereas, the Kansas Wildlife Federation is a non-profit organization dedicated to sustained wise use of our natural resources and the preservation of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Kansas citizens;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Kansas Wildlife Federation, assembled during its annual meeting February 6-7, 1998 in Manhattan, Kansas encourages the Kansas Legislature to authorize funding for the findings of the Wildlife and Parks Commission Task Force on Outdoor Kansas, particularly as it relates to the renovation of State Parks; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Legislature is urged to appropriate \$10 million of the state general fund revenues specifically earmarked for the renovation of the State Park system without a provision for repayment; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Kansas Wildlife Federation provide this resolution to the Governor of the State of Kansas, the Chairperson of the House Environmental Committee, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Parks and the Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

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1998 RESOLUTION

SUPPORT FOR STATE ACQUISITION OF WILDLIFE AND PUBLIC RECREATION LANDS

Whereas, The State of Kansas has less than 500,000 acres of land and water managed for public wildlife-related recreation by the Department of Wildlife and Parks; and

Whereas, Kansas is the fourteenth largest state, with over 52 million acres, yet ranks near the bottom of all states in the availability of such lands; and

Whereas, in a 1991 study, 85 percent of Kansans surveyed responded that they support state land acquisition for the management of certain wildlife species; and

Whereas, responses to a 1994 survey indicated that more than a third of Kansans are interested in hunting, almost two-thirds are interested in wildlife viewing and nearly 70 percent are interested in fishing; and

Whereas, these figures are evidence of the public desire for outdoor recreation opportunities, many of which are limited by the dearth of public lands in Kansas; and

Whereas, the lack of public lands in the state is a detriment to the Kansas economy, with only a fraction of the economic benefit of wildlife-related recreation is realized in Kansas; and

Whereas, land acquisition is the most effective tool for conserving key wildlife habitats, of which wetlands and streams are among those special habitats that are most threatened in the state; and

Whereas, many Kansas landowners desire to keep the habitat they have developed and maintained protected from future development; and

Whereas, Kansas landowners should be able to exercise their basic property right to sell their property to any entity in order to protect its habitat in perpetuity; and

Whereas, the Department buys land only from willing sellers, at fair market values determined by appraisals; and

Whereas, the Department makes payments to counties in lieu of taxes, to insure the county does not lose its tax base; and

Whereas, the Kansas Legislature controls the acquisition of wildlife and recreation lands in the state; and

Whereas, the Kansas Wildlife Federation is a non-profit organization dedicated to sustained wise use of our natural resources and the preservation of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Kansas citizens;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Kansas Wildlife Federation, assembled during its annual meeting February 6-7, 1998 in Manhattan, Kansas encourages the Kansas Legislature to authorize annual funding, without undue restrictions, for land acquisition by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Kansas Wildlife Federation provide this resolution to the Governor of the State of Kansas, the Chairperson of the House Environmental Committee, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Parks.

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1998 RESOLUTION

IMPROVING ACCESS TO PUBLIC WATERS

Whereas, the Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas Rivers are navigable streams in Kansas; and

Whereas, these streams are public waters for navigation and outdoor recreation, including boating, hunting and fishing; and

Whereas, the public access points to these streams are extremely limited; and

Whereas, the Department of Wildlife and Parks has initiated a Fishing Access Program, designed to gain public access to private waters in the state; and

Whereas, the Kansas Wildlife Federation is a non-profit organization dedicated to sustained wise use of our natural resources and the preservation of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Kansas citizens;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Kansas Wildlife Federation, assembled during its annual meeting February 6-7, 1998 in Manhattan, Kansas, encourages the Kansas Legislature to establish a paddle craft boating fee for use of public waters and designate the funds generated for increasing access for the recreational use, such as canoeing, kayaking, hunting and fishing, of our rivers and lakes; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Kansas Wildlife Federation provide this resolution to the Governor of the State of Kansas, the Chairperson of the House Environmental Committee, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Parks.