

Kansas Wildlife Federation

2001 Resolution

Supporting Prairie Dog Conservation

Whereas, the black-tailed prairie dog is a keystone species that plays an important role in maintenance of grassland ecosystems and associated faunas, including black-footed ferrets, burrowing owls and other raptors; and

Whereas, this species has been widely exterminated due to misunderstandings over its role and true affect on the land; and

Whereas, it has declined dramatically in distribution and abundance due to habitat loss, poisoning, disease, and unregulated take in some areas of the nation; and

Whereas, many states and some federal agencies in the range of the black-tailed prairie dogs have administrative and regulatory structures that either ignore their declining trend or directly contribute to the decline; and

Whereas, black-tailed prairie dog is warranted but precluded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and will be re-evaluated for listing every twelve months; and

Whereas, if management and administrative reforms are not made and implemented to protect and enhance the persistence of prairie dogs and their associated ecosystems, black-tailed prairie dogs may continue to decline in numbers and may be subsequently listed as threatened or endangered in the near future; and

Whereas, it would be beneficial to enhance prairie dog populations now rather than have them decline to even lower populations, thereby furthering endangering them and making recovery efforts more difficult and controversial;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Kansas Wildlife Federation in its Annual Meeting Assembled February 17, 2001, in Salina, KS urges that provisions be made in state law to eliminate mandates on Kansas landowners to control prairie dogs which adds to the demise of the species and the possibilities of federal listing; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Kansas Wildlife Federation encourages efforts by landowners, federal and state agencies, and other non-governmental organizations to implement management plans, and in particular the plans of the multi-state task force created for this species, that will enhance black-tailed prairie dog populations in Kansas; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be supplied to the Governor, appropriate state agencies, key members of the Kansas Legislature and the Kansas Congressional Delegation.

Kansas Wildlife Federation

2001 Resolution

Supporting Water Quality Protection of Kansas Streams

Whereas, the mission and policy of the State of Kansas is to protect the environment for existing and future generations of Kansans along with the wildlife resources of our rivers; and,

Whereas, it is the purpose of the Kansas Wildlife Federation to support sound conservation measures in support of the same purposes; and,

Whereas, clean water is a precious resource in short supply in Kansas which without adequate protection will limit economic growth; and,

Whereas, current legislation is designed to dismantle water quality protection criteria in Kansas and will do great harm to the maintenance of healthy stream systems for wildlife and people by requiring adequate water quality standards on only the largest of our Kansas rivers; and,

Whereas, current legislation will result in a bypass of any public involvement in the water quality criteria setting process, violating provisions of the Clean Water Act and lead to extensive litigation and loss of state authority over water quality protection in Kansas; and,

Whereas, current legislation requires the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to assess the social, economic, and regulatory impacts of each stream prior to classification which is beyond their capabilities and will subject all streams to a state of no classification if this legislation is passed; and,

Whereas, requirements of any legislation that only endangered species considerations are relevant for streams which don't meet the 7Q10 flow criteria do not address the significant sport fish and wildlife use and needs of our streams and rivers.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Kansas Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting on Feb. 17, 2001, in Salina, Kansas, opposes any legislation which reduces water quality protection for Kansas streams; and,

Be It Further Resolved that the Kansas Wildlife Federation urges the State Legislature and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to uphold the water quality standards of Kansas and provide protection of rivers and lakes from degrading pollution so as to prevent any necessity of the Environmental Protection Agency from assuming regulatory authority over Kansas's water quality enforcement; and,

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be supplied to the Governor, appropriate state agencies, and key members of the Kansas Legislature.