

Kansas Wildlife Federation

2007 Resolution

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; and

WHEREAS, the Bush Administration is calling for polar bears to be listed as 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 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 Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting February 10, 2007 in Manhattan, Kansas, 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 Kansas Wildlife Federation supports that 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, largest positive net energy balances, minimizing any negative impacts and maximizing any positive impacts on habitats, biodiversity, soil productivity, air and water quality, local communities and water supply; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kansas 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 perennials grown and harvested with wildlife, soil and water quality needs in mind, as well as a robust research title 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 Kansas Wildlife Federation does not currently support the break-out of new land for 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 wildlife benefits are retained; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation provide this resolution to the National Wildlife Federation, the President of the United States and the Kansas congressional delegation.

Kansas Wildlife Federation

2007 Resolution

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 and furharvesting are activities that led to such waters being declared navigable rivers; and

Whereas, recreational anglers have a constitutional right to fish; and

Whereas, the right to fish navigable rivers originates in the United States Constitution and is also implicit in the federal Public Trust Doctrine; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting February 10, 2007 in Manhattan, Kansas, urges the Congress, the Secretary of the Interior and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take the necessary actions to establish laws and regulations that allow public recreation, including hunting and fishing, on navigable rivers of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation urges the National Wildlife Federation to request the U. S. Attorney General, the Secretary of the Interior and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to appeal the 2006 ruling of the United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana, judge that excludes hunting and fishing as legal activities on navigable waters.

Kansas Wildlife Federation

2007 Resolution

SUPPORT FOR NON-TOXIC SHOT FOR 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 Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting February 10, 2007 in Manhattan, Kansas, 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 Kansas Wildlife Federation urges the National Wildlife Federation study the issue of whether to develop and implement a ban on lead shot for dove hunting. NWF should work together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies and industry leaders to persuade influential people and organizations that requiring non-toxic shot is in the best interest of all wildlife, both game and nongame, and the future of hunting.