

KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

2009 Resolution

SUPPORT FOR THE KANSAS CHILDREN'S OUTDOOR BILL OF RIGHTS

Whereas, today's kids spend nearly 6.5 hours plugged into electronic media each day; and

Whereas, 84% of parents feel it's important for their children to spend time outdoors, but 69% say their children spend less time outdoor than they did; and

Whereas, 43% of kids want their parents to spend more outdoor time with them; and

Whereas, childhood obesity rate has doubled and the adolescent obesity rate has tripled and the costs of this childhood obesity epidemic to our public health system is expected to reach \$100 billion annually; and

Whereas, sixty minutes of daily unstructured free play improves children's physical and mental health; and

Whereas, children who play outside are more physically active, more creative, less aggressive and show better concentration; and

Whereas, daily exposure to natural settings has been associated with children's ability to focus and has helped enhance cognitive abilities; and

Whereas, 83% of Americans say spending time outdoors make them feel refreshed, healthy and excited;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting, March 7, 2009 in Manhattan, Kansas, adopts the following as the:

Kansas Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Every child should have the opportunity to:

- Walk in the footsteps of Kansas History
- Access a natural environment
- Camp under the stars
- Explore nature
- Learn to swim
- Play on a team
- Follow a trail
- Participate in the shooting sports
- Catch fish and harvest game
- Play in a safe environment

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2009 Resolution

SUPPORT FOR REDUCED YOUTH LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

Whereas, a nationwide youth recruitment project entitled Pass It On is underway to recruit youth to the sport of hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation activities; and

Whereas, it is recognized that the current and projected trend indicates continued decline in youth participation in hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation activities; and

Whereas, increasing fees for youth licenses and permits will deter future youth recruitment into the sports; and

Whereas, the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission has alternate opportunities to recover lost potential income from not increasing youth license and permit fees; and

Whereas, the future of hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation activities will be dependent on the number of new young people participating in these sports; and

Whereas, funding to manage fish and wildlife resources by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is dependent upon maintaining or increasing future participants;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting, March 7, 2009 in Manhattan, Kansas, urges the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission to maintain youth license and permit fees at current prices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation provide this resolution to the Governor of the State of Kansas, the Chairperson and members of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission and the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

2009 Resolution

SUPPORT FOR BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS IN LOGAN, CO., KS

Whereas, the Black-footed Ferret, *Mustela nigripes*, an endangered species in Kansas, has been reintroduced by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on private land in Logan County, Kansas; and

Whereas, the Black-tailed Prairie Dog Management Plan, adopted by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, calls for the maintenance of a prairie dog complex of at least 5,000 acres to support the re-establishment of black-footed ferrets; and

Whereas, the private landowners are providing a safe haven for the re-establishment of black-footed ferrets, resulting in evidence of post-release survival and natural reproduction; and

Whereas, these landowners have, as per original agreement, established a vegetative barrier between their property and that of the landowners of adjoining property designed to deter expansion of black-tailed prairie dog colonies onto adjoining property; and

Whereas, the FWS and other conservation partners have, at several locations and at no charge to the adjacent landowners, provided prairie dog control for a distance of up to three miles; and

Whereas, it is a violation of the law to destroy federal and state protected species of wildlife; and

Whereas, toxic chemicals used to eliminate prairie dogs are extremely hazardous to non-target species, including black-footed ferrets, with recently confirmed deaths in Logan County of wild turkeys, owls, hawks and raccoon caused by these chemicals; and

Whereas, some county officials impose eradication mandates on private landowners and impose poisoning campaigns on their land;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting, March 7, 2009 in Manhattan, Kansas, urges the Kansas Legislature to repeal existing laws mandating eradication of the black-tailed prairie dog, which impede the ability of wildlife officials to establish a naturally reproducing population of black-footed ferrets; 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 Environment Committee, the Chairpersons of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee and the Senate Natural Resources Committee and the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.