

## **KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

### **SUPPORT FOR THE INCREASED PRICE OF THE FEDERAL DUCK STAMP**

**Whereas**, March 16, 2014, marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (the Duck Stamp Act); and

**Whereas**, one of the founders of the National Wildlife Federation, Ding Darling, was the creator of the first Duck Stamp; and

**Whereas**, the federal duck stamp program provided a funding source to preserve and protect wetlands; and

**Whereas**, this nation's wetlands provide productive habitat for fish and wildlife, contain biologically rich ecosystems, support numerous recreational activities, provide commercial fishery and fur resources, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, trap pollutants and sediments, and control erosion; and

**Whereas**, about 50 percent of this nation's original wetlands have been destroyed and about 450,000 acres of wetlands are lost each year; and

**Whereas**, since its enactment, the federal duck stamp program has protected more than 6 million acres of wetlands – an area the size of Vermont – through expenditures of more than \$750 million; and

**Whereas**, the federal duck stamp program has contributed to the conservation of more than 2.5 million acres in the Prairie Pothole region, including the protection of 7,000 waterfowl production areas totaling 675,000 acres; and

**Whereas**, land prices for wetlands and wetland habitat have increased 250% since 1991; and

**Whereas**, the fee for a Duck Stamp has not increased since 1991; and

**Whereas**, the federal duck stamp program is one of the most effective federal programs in existence, using \$0.98 of every dollar on the ground; and

**Whereas**, a bill, S 1865, has been introduced in the U. S. Senate to increase the price of the federal duck stamp to \$25.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting, February 22, 2014 in Salina, Kansas, reaffirms its commitment to the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp and calls upon Congress to pass S 1865; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress provide additional legislation to regularly review the fee for the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp (the Duck Stamp) to ensure the fee is commensurate with changes in wetland values.