



IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

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Upper Snake Region
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Jerry Meyers
Salmon Region
North Fork, Idaho

RESOLUTION OF THE IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES:

THAT CONGRESS DEDICATE UP TO \$1.3 BILLION ANNUALLY IN EXISTING REVENUE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES ON FEDERAL LANDS AND WATERS TO THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION RESTORATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Idaho is home to unique populations of a tremendously diverse array of wildlife species, some of which are found nowhere else on earth; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan prioritizes species of greatest conservation need and the habitats upon which they depend for survival; and

WHEREAS, of the 205 species of greatest conservation need identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan, only 20 are classified as game species; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, and Wallop-Breaux Acts that established user pay, user benefit funds to support conservation and science-based management of wildlife and sport fish species financed by hunters, recreational shooters, fishermen and boaters; and

WHEREAS, a similar dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism is lacking for species of greatest conservation need that are not hunted, fished, or trapped; and

WHEREAS, Idaho has a statutory responsibility to protect, preserve, perpetuate and manage all species of fish and wildlife in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, proactive conservation actions for species of greatest conservation need are necessary to maintain healthy, sustainable populations and prevent federal listing under the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, made up of 26 business and conservation leaders, was tasked with recommending a new funding mechanism to support state fish and wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations.

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho Fish and Game Commission supports the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America’s Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources that Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to diversify funding and management of all wildlife; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Fish and Game Commission respectfully requests that the Idaho Congressional Delegation support federal legislation, including HR5650 entitled “Recovering America’s Wildlife Act of 2016” that would implement this recommendation by amending the Pittman-Robertson Act to make additional dedicated federal funding available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that because securing dedicated federal funding is likely to require a non-federal state match similar to that in place for the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission encourages efforts that would enable funding mechanisms to support State contribution for wildlife conservation and implementation of the Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan.

Adopted November 17, 2016.

Brad Corkill, Chairman

Virgil Moore, Secretary / Director