



**Resolution 2016-01-04**

**PROMOTION OF RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND REACTIVATION (R3) ACTIVITIES WITHIN STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

**WHEREAS**, The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies would like to emphasize with their constituents, being hunters, anglers, boaters and recreational shooters, the importance of recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) efforts, particularly those marketed by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) and the Council to Advance the Hunting and Shooting Sports (CAHSS) to ensure that hunting, fishing, boating and recreational shooting remain viable sporting activities in the future to help both grow hunting, fishing, boating and recreational shooting in the future and maintain engagement of customers.

**WHEREAS**, since 1937, hunters and sport shooters, and since 1950, anglers and boaters, have been the primary source of funding for fish and wildlife conservation through license fees, motor boat fuels and an excise tax on sporting goods (made possible through the hunting, fishing, boating and sporting arms industry).

**WHEREAS**, since the 1980s, participants in hunting, angling, boating and the shooting sports have been declining, resulting in less funding for conservation. The decline in participation poses an ever increasing threat to fish and wildlife conservation and management. Creation and use of partnerships and strategic models must continue to be utilized to halt and reverse the declining trend in hunting, angling, boating and shooting sports participation.

**WHEREAS**, to improve R3 efforts in the hunting, angling, boating and shooting sports communities, state agencies are being asked to prioritize and improve their R3 capacity leading to more effective R3 efforts. Completion of state self-assessments, resources committed and implementation of R3 recommendations is important for increased R3 success.

**WHEREAS**, understanding that AFWA and member state agencies are critical in the recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters, anglers, boaters, and shooting sports participants, and developing and implementing state R3 plans.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED**, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and its member state agencies, recognize the importance of R3 efforts through both the CAHSS and RBFF, as the efforts of these organizations are critical to the future of the sports of hunting, angling, boating and shooting.

***Adopted September 14, 2016  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania***

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that development and implementation of plans, such as the National Hunting and Shooting Sports Action Plan and RBFF's R3 efforts to reach the goal of 60 million anglers in 60 months, will be dependent on cooperation and participation from state agencies, to help us all collectively move recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters, anglers, boaters, and shooting sports participants in a positive direction.

(Promotion of Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) Activities within state Fish & Wildlife Agencies)

Submitted by the Angler and Boating Participation Committee and Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee

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***Promotion of Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation  
September 14, 2016***

**Resolution 2016-02-04**

**AN ENDORSEMENT OF FUNDING FOR U.S. FOREST SERVICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE MANAGEMENT-RELEVANT SCIENCE TO THE STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

This resolution encourages Congress to fully fund the wildlife research activities of the U. S. Forest Service's Research and Development Program, in order to address critical staffing vacancies in this program which delivers high-quality, management-relevant scientific research to the state fish and wildlife agencies.

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations, which encompasses the goals of state fish and wildlife agencies to sustain terrestrial and aquatic animals and their habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Forest Service Research and Development (FS R&D) program was established in 1915 to inform natural resource management pertaining to forests and grasslands in federal, state, and private ownership; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress enacted the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act in 1978, establishing a program of investigations, experiments, tests, and other activities necessary to obtain, analyze, demonstrate, and disseminate scientific information about protecting, managing, and utilizing forest and rangeland renewable resources in rural, suburban, and urban areas, including renewable resource management, environmental protection, utilization, and assessment research fields; and

**WHEREAS**, scientific research is the foundation for resource management and decision-making in the North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation as envisioned by Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife biology and a one-time U. S. Forest Service employee, and

**WHEREAS**, FS R&D scientists provide relevant and much-needed scientific information for all 50 states, producing more than 2,000 scientific papers and taking part in more than 2,500 science delivery activities in 2015 alone; and

**WHEREAS**, many state fish and wildlife agencies rely on FS R&D products and services as essential resources for natural resource management; and

**WHEREAS**, FS R&D engages in cost-effective collaborative partnerships with state agencies to integrate scientific information into management practices; and

**WHEREAS**, funding support for FS R&D has declined, with a 45% reduction in the number of research scientists employed since 1990, such that FS R&D can only now fill one position for every three vacancies; and

*Adopted September 14, 2016  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

**WHEREAS**, these declines have resulted in reduced FS R&D contributions to interagency landscape-scale and range-wide species and habitat conservation planning, including the management of sagebrush ecosystems, fisheries management, wildlife disease management, pollinator conservation, urban wildlife Conservation, and the development of State Wildlife Action Plans; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous states have lost the benefit of relevant management-driven scientific data and analysis provided by FS R&D to inform state- and region-wide wildlife and fish management efforts, thus reducing the collective ability of the United States to effectively manage threats to iconic wildlife and fish; negatively impacting our natural heritage, and Americans' connection to the outdoors; and

**WHEREAS**, State scientific information needs for fish and wildlife management and policy decision-making are at risk of reduced effectiveness without the restoration of conservation science capacity within FS R&D;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encourages Congress to fund those research activities of U. S. Forest Service Research and Development program that directly benefit the state fish and wildlife agencies, particularly in the areas of sagebrush ecosystem conservation, fisheries management, wildlife disease management, pollinator conservation, urban wildlife conservation, and the development and implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plans.

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*U.S. Forest Service Research and Development Programs*

*Adopted September 14, 2016*

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

**Resolution 2016-03-04**

**STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION TO BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON SUSTAINING AMERICA'S DIVERSE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND ONGONG WORK**

The purpose of this resolution is to express gratitude to the members of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources (Blue Ribbon Panel) and support for their recommendations.

**WHEREAS**, the states play an essential role in the conservation and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats which contribute to our quality of life and economic well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux Acts and the contributions of hunters, recreational shooters, anglers, boaters and their industries led to the unprecedented recovery and sustainable management of our nation's game and sportfish; and

**WHEREAS**, the states, territories and District of Columbia developed and recently updated historic, comprehensive and scientifically-based State Wildlife Action Plans that identified over 12,000 species of greatest conservation need; and

**WHEREAS**, effective implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans would require an annual investment of over \$1 billion annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association) and the national Teaming With Wildlife coalition has been advocating for nearly three decades for dedicated funding so states can sustainably manage all fish and wildlife and their habitats to fulfill their missions and legal responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blue Ribbon Panel was convened to develop a recommendation to sustainably fund fish and wildlife conservation to meet large and growing unmet conservation needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blue Ribbon Panel recommended 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 existing unfunded Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blue Ribbon Panel also recommended that the impact of societal changes on the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation be examined and recommendations made on how programs and agencies can transform to engage and serve broader constituencies.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Association recognizes and appreciates the valuable contributions of co-chairs Mr. John Morris and former Governor David Freudenthal and the business and conservation leaders of the Blue Ribbon Panel; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Association stands ready to work with the US Congress and the Administration to implement the Blue Ribbon Panel's funding recommendation by passing legislation to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century conservation funding model that provides states, territories, and the District of Columbia with sustained and dedicated funding to conserve all fish and wildlife and their habitats; and

*Adopted September 14, 2016  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Association also stands ready to support continuing efforts by the Blue Ribbon Panel to develop recommendations that will ensure state fish and wildlife agencies remain relevant and supported by all citizens well into the future.

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**Members of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse  
Fish and Wildlife Resources**

**John Morris**, Bass Pro Shops  
**David Freudenthal**, Former Governor, State of Wyoming  
**Kevin Butt**, Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing, NA, Inc.  
**Richard Childress**, CEO/Chairman, Richard Childress Racing Enterp.  
**Jeff Crane**, Congressional Sportsman's Foundation  
**Bruce Culpepper**, Shell Americas  
**John Doerr**, Pure Fishing, Inc.  
**Jim Faulstich**, Partners for Conservation  
**John Fitzpatrick**, Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
**Greg Hill**, Hess Corporation  
**Becky Humphries**, National Wild Turkey Federation  
**Stephen Kellert**, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies  
**Jennifer Mull**, Outdoor Industry Association  
**John Newman**, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
**Mike Nussman**, American Sportfishing Association  
**Margaret O'Gorman**, Wildlife Habitat Council  
**Glenn Olson**, National Audubon Society  
**Collin O'Mara**, National Wildlife Federation  
**Connie Parker**, CSParkergroup  
**Charlie Potter**, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation  
**Steve Sanetti**, National Shooting Sports Foundation  
**John Tomke**, Wildlife & Hunting Heritage Conservation Council  
**Jeff Trandahl**, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
**James Walker**, EDF Renewable Energy  
**Steve Williams**, Wildlife Management Institute  
**Bob Ziehmer**, Missouri Department of Conservation  
**Michael Bean**, US Department Interior  
**Ronald Regan**, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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*Blue Ribbon Panel*

*Teaming With Wildlife Committee*

*Adopted September 14, 2016*

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

**RESOLUTION 2016-04-04**

**IN APPRECIATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION AND THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION FOR HOSTING THE AFWA ANNUAL MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Whereas, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies held its' 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in the beautiful city of Philadelphia in the great state of Pennsylvania; and,

Whereas, Philadelphia was the site of deep engagement by the Founding Fathers during the founding of our Nation, having hosted the First Continental Congress before the American Revolutionary War; the Second Constitutional Congress which signed the US Declaration of Independence in 1776 during the war; and the Constitutional Convention which signed the US Constitution after the war; and,

Whereas, Philadelphia served as the temporary capital of the United States from 1790-1800 while the Federal City was under construction in the District of Columbia; and

Whereas, with the founding of our Nation came the basis from English Common Law of fish and wildlife being owned by no one, but treated as a public trust managed by each state for the good of the citizens of each state; and,

Whereas, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016; and,

Whereas, Pennsylvania provides premium outdoor opportunities for fishing, hunting, and wildlife-associated activities; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania has 10 distinct ecoregions ranging from the Great Lakes to the High Alleghany Plateau which provide abundant opportunity for all types of wildlife-associated recreation from hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife viewing, nature photography, and environmental education; and,

Whereas, John Arway, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and Matt Hough, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and their respective staffs, provided a meeting environment of professionalism, collegiality, conviviality, and friendship for the 106<sup>th</sup> AFWA Annual Meeting;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies extends its deep appreciation to both Director Arway and Director Hough and their staffs, for hosting the 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting; and, the Association further extends its sincere congratulations to Director Arway and his staff on this occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

*Adopted September 14, 2016  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*