

**Support for Prioritization of
State Fish and Wildlife Agency
Private Land Technical Assistance Efforts**

Whereas, private lands make up 61% of the landscape of the United States (USGS PADUS Version 1.4 2017) and make up most of the agricultural regions of Canada; and

Whereas, the majority of North American Hunters utilize private lands for the bulk of their hunting experiences (USFWS National Survey of hunting, fishing and wildlife-associated recreation 2016); and

Whereas, most state fish and wildlife agencies focus attention more broadly on public lands management; and

Whereas, 12,000 species of conservation concern (AFWA 2019), which includes 75% of threatened and endangered species (Turner and Rylander 1998), and many economically important game species all require habitat on North America's private lands; and

Whereas, private land technical assistance for the delivery of conservation of fish and wildlife habitat is based on a 1 on 1 relationship with each landowner; and

Whereas, there are diverse sources of conservation financial assistance, however, the 2010 Congressional Research Service Report, cited a lack of technical assistance as a barrier to the adoption of conservation and enrollment into state and federal conservation programs; and

Whereas, private land can be addressed through targeted geographies to make meaningful impacts on wildlife species and their habitats; and

Whereas, partnerships between state fish and wildlife agencies, federal agencies, non-government organizations and joint ventures have

proven effective in reaching landowners and conserving species habitat; and

Whereas, state fish and wildlife agencies can partner with University Extension and agricultural organizations to integrate conservation into agricultural operations; and

Whereas, maintaining relevancy with landowners and the non-hunting public has been a challenge for state agencies with limited staffing and reductions in funding opportunities; and

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the need to direct attention toward North America's private lands to address agency relevancy, economically important game species, threatened and endangered species, and species of conservation concern towards sustainability for future generations.

Be it further resolved, that prioritization of private land assistance in partnership with conservation and agricultural interests is supported by State and Provincial members.