

Resolution to Support the Reauthorization of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund

Whereas , the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides money to federal, state and local governments to purchase land, water and wetlands for the benefit of a wide-range of outdoor recreational benefits, the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, protection of watersheds , protection of historical and archaeological sites and the preservation of wilderness lands.

Whereas, the (LWCF) receives the great majority of its funding from royalty fees from offshore oil and gas leases with some of the funding coming the sale of surplus federal real estate and taxes on motorboat fuel. The theory behind the use of off-shore oil and gas lease revenues for this purpose is that these are natural resources owned by the federal government being diminished by use and that the some of the financial benefit from their use should be applied to protecting other valuable natural resources in this country.

Whereas, the citizens of Wisconsin have benefited greatly from \$211 million of Land and Water Conservation funds being spent in Wisconsin by federal, state and local governments, including major purchases for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, the Lower St. Croix National Scenic River and the Ice Age Trail.

Whereas, active outdoor recreation annually contributes over \$9.7 billion to the Wisconsin economy, supporting over 129,000 jobs across the state, generating \$570 million in annual state tax revenue and producing \$7.5 billion annually in retail sales and service.

Whereas, the U.S. Census reports that over 2.9 million people hunt, fish or watch wildlife in Wisconsin each year, spending over \$3.9 billion on wildlife-related recreation.

Whereas, the federal authorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund is set to expire in 2015.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin on April 10 and 11, 2015, endorses the reauthorization of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and strongly encourages the US Congress and the President of the United States to reauthorize the program in 2015.

Submitted by the WWF Parks and Forestry Committee
Jerry Knuth, Chairman