

## TRAPPING ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

**WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Refuge System protects over 150 million acres and includes 551 National Wildlife Refuges in every state and U.S. territory; and**

**WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Refuge System is essential to the conservation of fish, wildlife and plant in the United States; and**

**WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has long supported professional scientific management of wildlife resources and their habitat on National Wildlife Refuges; and**

**WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recognized the importance of trapping on National Wildlife Refuges for predator control, for threatened and endangered species and migratory bird protection, habitat management, facilities protection, research, surveys, monitoring, public safety and health, feral animal control, population management, disease control, recreation, commerce and subsistence; and**

**WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has long recognized trapping as a legitimate recreational pursuit and a useful wildlife management tool; and**

**WHEREAS, periodically state and federal regulations are proposed that are not based on principles of professional scientific management and would directly or indirectly prohibit or severely restrict trapping on National Wildlife Refuges;**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation in Annual Meeting assembled April 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin reaffirmed trapping to be a legitimate recreational pursuit and a useful scientifically based wildlife management practice; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation opposes governmental regulations that would directly or indirectly prohibit or severely restrict trapping on National Wildlife Refuges if such regulations are not based on principles of professional scientific management,**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation contact Wisconsin's Congressional delegation and ask them to oppose legislation that would directly or indirectly prohibit or severely restrict trapping on the National Wildlife Refuges.**

**Background Narrative: Trapping has been a historically important wildlife management practice utilized on private and public lands throughout the country. The use of trapping as a scientifically based wildlife management tool is necessary for furbearer management on National Wildlife Refuges and has been endorsed as such by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service has recognized the importance of trapping for predator control, for threatened and endangered species and migratory bird protection, habitat management, facilities protection, research, surveys, monitoring, public safety and health, feral animal control, population management, disease control, recreation, commerce and subsistence. In recent years there have been legislative efforts on a state and federal level that would have prohibited or severely restricted trapping as a scientifically based wildlife management tool for those purposes.**

**Ralph R. Fritsch, Chairman  
WWF Wildlife Committee**