

RESOLUTION #2012-1

MULTI-STATE COLLABORATION IN COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF OTTER AND BOBCAT HARVEST DATA

WHEREAS, river otter and bobcat are listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES),

WHEREAS, international trade in species listed by CITES is regulated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS),

WHEREAS, USFWS Office of Scientific Authority conducts an assessment of risks caused by international trade in species listed by CITES,

WHEREAS, CITES data collected by states and provinces will allow risk assessments for river otter and bobcat that are comprehensive and authoritative,

WHEREAS, data suggest that dynamics of river otter and bobcat populations are driven by factors that act at multiple spatial scales, including those that cross jurisdictional boundaries,

WHEREAS, reliability and practicality of statistical methods for estimating abundance and forecasting growth of river otter and bobcat at large spatial scales have improved during recent times,

WHEREAS, modern statistical methods enable regional cooperation to estimate abundance and evaluate impacts of state harvest regulations,

WHEREAS, regional cooperation might improve both the individual and collective ability of states and provinces to monitor and manage populations of river otter and bobcat,

WHEREAS, regional cooperation might improve efficiency, reveal appropriate harvest quotas, and reduce costs incurred by individual states or provinces,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that states and provinces represented by the Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies hereby agree to cooperate in an evaluation of the potential for regional monitoring programs for river otter and bobcat by contributing 1) expertise of their designated furbearer biologists, not to exceed 5 working days per jurisdiction per year, 2) philosophical support for pursuit of grants to obtain funding for this project, and, 3) if funding is obtained, access to historical datasets as needed to determine optimal sampling strategies for regional monitoring programs.

RESOLUTION #2012-2

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING ACADEMY

WHEREAS, the future sustainability of fish and wildlife populations and their myriad of associated outdoor recreational opportunities and other important public benefits hinges upon the success of state fish and wildlife agency's to individually and collectively protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their critical habitats across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the ability of state fish and wildlife agencies to accomplish these goals rests in large part on the development of capable and effective agency executive-level professionals; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the National Conservation Leadership Institute has proven to be an effective leadership training model for the natural resource conservation management community at large; and

WHEREAS, through the development of the National Conservation Leadership Institute, participating natural resource professionals are better equipped to provide more effective leadership through their participation in this comprehensive leadership learning experience; and

WHEREAS, state fish and wildlife agency conservation law enforcement professionals face a particularly complex and continuously evolving set of unique leadership challenges based upon the specific and critical set of services they provide to the public through their respective state fish and wildlife agencies; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to continue their efforts to foster and support the development and enhancement of critical, cutting-edge leadership skills amongst all executive-level fish and wildlife management professionals across their member agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports and endorses the efforts of the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs (NACLEC) organization and their member conservation law enforcement executive-level professionals to undertake efforts to develop an executive-level leadership training academy for conservation law enforcement professionals.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies endorses efforts by NACLEC and member state agencies to work in cooperation with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency's Management Assistance Team, National Conservation Leadership Institute staff, and US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center staff to conduct a review of existing leadership development and training programs, conduct a training needs assessment of state fish and wildlife agencies to aid in the prioritization of the types of leadership skills that are required within the conservation law enforcement discipline, and develop a funding support strategy and a draft curriculum for the operation of a conservation law enforcement executive-level leadership training academy.

RESOLUTION #2012-3

ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 24-27, 2012, WICHITA, KANSAS

WHEREAS, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has so efficiently and enthusiastically organized and conducted the 2012 annual meeting of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; and

WHEREAS, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Secretary Robin Jennison and Assistant Secretary for Wildlife, Fisheries and Boating Keith Sexson and staff have worked together with local and national conservation partners making all the participants welcome; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies wish to express their gratitude for the efforts of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual business meeting in Wichita, Kansas on June 27, 2012, acknowledges the hard work and hospitality of Secretary Jennison and Assistant Secretary Sexson and the staff from the great state of Kansas, and hereby passes this resolution in a showing of great appreciation.