

Resolution #2011-1

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
FOR REGULATED TRAPPING IN THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, a principle objective of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is to encourage rational management of fish and wildlife resources using the best available scientific information; and

WHEREAS, modern regulated trapping in North America is consistent with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation; and

WHEREAS, modern regulated trapping of furbearers is a necessary and beneficial conservation activity, licensed and regulated by the states and provinces; and

WHEREAS, the trapping and utilization of furbearers in a sustainable manner is a sound basis for conserving furbearers as important natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States (BMPs) are being developed to help sustain regulated trapping through a science-based approach that evaluates animal welfare, efficiency, selectivity, safety and practicality to determine and advocate traps and trapping techniques that meet current international standards; and

WHEREAS, the association has previously endorsed the development and research of trapping BMP's and the development of trapper education materials, and encourages the use of Best Practices in education; and

WHEREAS, BMP research and development has been funded primarily through a cooperative agreement between the AFWA and the USDA-APHIS-WS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies advocates:

1. The continued development of Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States as a means of improving traps, trapping systems, and trapper education; and
2. The continued funding of the development of Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States via a Cooperative Agreement between the AFWA and USDA-APHIS-WS at a level of \$300,000-\$500,000 annually.

RESOLUTION #2011-2
DETRIMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE GROWING PRACTICE
OF BAITING AND FEEDING DEER AND WILD TURKEYS

WHEREAS: Wildlife belongs to all citizens equally; method of take is entrusted to the state or province in consideration of the resource for the benefit of the public; and

WHEREAS: Effective communication, education and enforcement are enhanced when rules and regulations are consistent across state and provincial boundaries; and

WHEREAS: Baiting is not necessary to successfully harvest deer or wild turkey; and

WHEREAS: Feeding is not necessary to sustain healthy deer and wild turkey populations; and

WHEREAS: It is not possible to bait or feed deer and wild turkey without increasing the likelihood for the spread of diseases and parasites; and

WHEREAS: Concentrating deer by baiting and feeding can facilitate the transmission, establishment, and spread of diseases such as chronic wasting disease, bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and Johne's disease and parasites such as ticks, mites and nematodes; and

WHEREAS: Concentrating wild turkey by baiting and feeding can facilitate the transmission, establishment, and spread of diseases such as blackhead, avian pox and parasites such as ticks, lice, tape worms and round worms; and

WHEREAS: Deer and wild turkey pathogens often remain viable at bait or feed sites long after the feed or bait no longer exists; and

WHEREAS: Increased transmission and spread of diseases and parasites in deer and wild turkey may potentially put other wildlife and domestic livestock and public health at risk; and

WHEREAS: Once certain diseases such as bovine tuberculosis become established in a deer population the cost of management dramatically increases thereby diverting limited public funds from traditional wildlife management activities; and

WHEREAS: Feeding deer and wild turkey acclimates these animals to people which creates nuisance animals. Once the general public perceives a species as a nuisance, tolerance for and value of the species to society diminishes; and

WHEREAS: The National Wild Turkey Federation technical committee resolution (1982) discourages the artificial feeding of turkeys, and The Wildlife Society position paper, Baiting and Supplemental Feeding of Game Wildlife Species (2007) discourages supplemental feeding and baiting of all wild game species; and

WHEREAS: We acknowledge that feeding of wild ungulates has been a long tradition with some state, federal and provincial agencies dating back to the early 1900s; and

WHEREAS: We acknowledge that banning baiting and feeding will not totally eliminate the possibility of disease transmission, establishment, and spread in free-ranging deer and wild turkey populations, but it is a positive, proactive step.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies hereby advocates that member states and provinces:

1. Collectively work to educate deer and wild turkey hunters, conservation organizations, the agricultural community and the general public as to the dangers and potential impacts resulting from baiting and feeding of deer and wild turkey; and
2. Remain resolute in prohibiting the practice of baiting and feeding of deer and wild turkey in those states and provinces where baiting and feeding bans currently exist; and
3. Prohibit baiting and feeding of deer and wild turkey in those states and provinces where those practices are currently allowed; and
4. Communicate these concerns to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

RESOLUTION #2011-3

SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO THE NATIONAL BOBWHITE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes and appreciates the productive leadership provided by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) and its former Southeast Quail Study Group (SEQSG) in launching the national movement in 2002 to restore the Northern Bobwhite Quail across its range through the development and successful early implementation of the *Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI)* – hereafter referred to as the “Initiative;”

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies states have actively supported the continued advancement and growth of this Initiative in part by engaging as full partners in the process that produced a revised, expanded, and upgraded NBCI 2.0 in March 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies states recognize the new National Bobwhite Technical Committee (NBTC) – the expanded, range-wide replacement for the SEQSG – as the bobwhite states’ unified technical guidance body for the NBCI, and will strive for greater staff participation in the NBTC annual meeting and related processes; and

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies states recognize the University of Tennessee as the national operational center for the NBCI as designated in 2008 by representatives of the states, and the NBCI Management Board as the national administrative leadership body to shape, steer and support the Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies bobwhite states pledge, to the extent practical, to strive to step down and integrate the NBCI into other bird and habitat conservation initiatives in their individual states, and to implement the habitat objectives of the NBCI in support of the Initiative’s population restoration goals; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the unique logistical challenges of working at regional and national levels to restore resident game birds, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies also stands ready to ally with the SEAFWA, the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA), and other partners to seek ways to continue "raising the game" for implementation of the NBCI.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual meeting in Moravia, Iowa on June 29, 2011, foresees and suggests the need to work with the SEAFWA, NEAFWA and other partners to begin charting a long-term course for the nation that fosters greater collaborative conservation of priority resident game birds across state and regional boundaries.

RESOLUTION #2011-4
ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 26-29, 2011, MORAVIA, IOWA

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has so efficiently and enthusiastically organized and conducted the 2011 annual meeting of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; and

WHEREAS, Department of Natural Resources Director Roger Lande and Deputy Director Pat Boddy and staff have worked together with local and national conservation partners making all the participants welcome; and

WHEREAS, Pat Boddy has announced that she is leaving the Iowa Department of Natural Resources at the end of this month to pursue new opportunities and has served the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies admirably, most recently as its President; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies wish to express their gratitude for the efforts of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual business meeting in Moravia, Iowa on June 29, 2011, acknowledges the hard work and hospitality of Director Lande and Deputy Director Boddy and the staff from the great state of Iowa, and hereby passes this resolution in a showing of great appreciation.