

Resolution 1

**Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
(MAFWA)**

**Summer Meeting July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Bismarck, North Dakota**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SEPARATE BUDGET LINE ITEMS TO  
DISTINGUISH MISSOURI RIVER ENDANGERED SPECIES COMPLIANCE,  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, and BANK STABILIZATION EFFORTS**

**WHEREAS:** The Missouri River and its historic floodplain have been significantly modified in the past 50 years to serve a diversity of important human needs including flood control, navigation, hydropower generation, municipal and industrial water supply, and irrigation; and

**WHEREAS:** These modifications have profoundly impacted 552,000 acres of riverine and floodplain habitat for many dependent species, resulting in three being federally listed as endangered or threatened (least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon) and numerous other species of native fish (sturgeon chub, sicklefin chub, flathead chub, silver chub, speckled chub, plains minnow, western silvery minnow, blue sucker, and lake sturgeon) which could potentially become listed because their life cycle needs are not being adequately met; and

**WHEREAS:** The Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project was first authorized by Congress in Section 601(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662) to restore 48,100 acres of habitat lost in the past and since this acreage has been achieved and Congress has authorized an additional 118,650 acres in 1999 through Section 334(a) of the Water Resources Development Act and

**WHEREAS:** The 2002 National Research Council report entitled *The Missouri River Ecosystem, Exploring the Prospects for Recovery* stated that "Degradation of the natural Missouri River ecosystem is clear and is continuing" and

**WHEREAS:** The December 2003 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biological Opinion on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Master Manual found jeopardy to the pallid sturgeon and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers subsequently submitted a fiscal year 2005 Budget Justification Sheet for \$69 million titled "Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Recovery, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota" and

**WHEREAS:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intends to combine Corps responsibility to protect threatened and endangered species in the Missouri River Basin with infrastructure needs

and mitigation responsibility related to the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP) as authorized by the Water Resources Development Acts of 1986 and 1999; and

**WHEREAS:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers makes no programmatic distinction between these three distinct purposes (endangered species compliance, infrastructure needs, and BSNP mitigation) and

**WHEREAS:** There is danger of funds from the successful mitigation project (ecosystem based) being usurped into an endangered species (single species) compliance effort for pallid sturgeon through the 2005 Budget Justification Sheet submittal;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota on July 13, 2004 hereby unanimously supports separate line item budgeting to distinguish between endangered species compliance, infrastructure projects, the BSNP mitigation efforts and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the *Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Missouri Department of Conservation; Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks; Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department* fully endorse this separate budget line request and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be distributed to interested citizens, members of state Legislature's, Governors, Congressional Representatives and Senators, and other appropriate federal officials with budget approving responsibilities.