

RESOLUTION #3
USFWS INTERIM GUIDELINES ON FIELD TRIALS

WHEREAS, the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies does not support the interim USFWS Federal Aid field trial guidelines; and

WHEREAS, there is no need for creation of a national policy as the provisions of 50 CFR part 80.14(b) already provide sufficient guidelines for management of these lands, and the states are in the best position to interpret these requirements; and

WHEREAS, the guidelines imply an unneeded USFWS approval role in approving field trial plans; and

WHEREAS, these guidelines set a precedent for all uses of land acquired or constructed with federal aid funds and the likely expansion of the issue to other recreational uses warrants further discussion prior to developing any guidelines that impact the states' ability to manage public use on their lands;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies feels it is reasonable to expect States to have policies and procedures in place for managing and providing oversight to field trials on Federal Aid lands and state wildlife and fish managers are the most familiar with specific conditions, habitat needs and the impact of field trial activities appropriateness on state lands.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no additional procedures should be needed to insure the protection of these Federal Aid lands.

Passed by Board of Directors of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at the 68th Annual meeting in Saint Paul, Minnesota on July 17th, 2001, with amendments.