

RESOLUTION

"APPRECIATION TO HOST...GOOD SHOW, IDAHO"

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 8, 1985

WHEREAS, the 115th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society convened in Sun Valley, Idaho, on September 8, 1985, was hosted by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game; and

WHEREAS, members of the American Fisheries Society have thoroughly enjoyed the extraordinary hospitality, the scenic grandeur, and the purple mountain's majesty which has been provided by our host; and

WHEREAS, the overall enjoyment of the meeting has been increased at least one order of magnitude by the spectacular ecological niche provided by Sun Valley; and

WHEREAS, the staff of our host agency is obliged to remain behind and face the ire of the local citizenry on September 12th, when the siege is lifted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the American Fisheries Society, assembled at their 115th Annual Meeting, extend thermal and sincere thanks to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, its staff, to Arrangements Chairman Jim Keating, and to the many individuals, too often not recognized, whose combined efforts have made this meeting an unqualified success.

RESOLUTION

"FARM LEGISLATION"

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 9, 1985

WHEREAS, the continuous and excessive rates of soil erosion are nationally recognized as an unacceptable and unwarranted degradation of the resource base; and

WHEREAS, sediments are having a significant adverse impact on the quality of our nation's surface waters; and

WHEREAS, many natural and man-made lakes and wetlands are filling with sediment, thereby decreasing their values; and

WHEREAS, this process leads to the degradation of fishing resources; and

WHEREAS, eroding agricultural lands, especially croplands, are the greatest single source of sediment contributing about 40% of all sediment discharged into our nation's waters; and

WHEREAS, the rising rate of soil erosion has become the focus of increasing national attention; and

WHEREAS, a strong national policy to reduce the costly effects of soil erosion can be established by the 1985 Farm Bill.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Fisheries Society at its 115th Annual Meeting in Sun Valley, Idaho, on this 9th day of September, 1985, hereby urges the Congress of the United States to include the "sodbuster," "conservation reserve," and "swampbuster" (wetland maintenance) provisions in legislation to reauthorize the National Farm Bill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this position be expressed to the President, U.S. Legislators, and the governors of these United States.

**BACKGROUND:** Farm Legislation

Purpose: To include strong soil conservation measures in the 1985 Farm Bill now before Congress.

Major Provisions:

- A. Sodbuster - designed to discourage farmers or developers from plowing highly erodible lands. This legislation would prohibit federal subsidies (including crop insurance, price supports, and farm loans) from being paid to farmers who till such lands for crop production.
- B. Conservation Reserve - designed to pay farmers to retire erodible lands for 10 years. At that time, such lands would be subject to the Sodbuster provision and could not be brought into production without losing the subsidies described above.
- C. Swampbuster - this is the sodbuster provision applied to wetlands and is designed to discourage farmers from converting wetlands to crop production.

"RIPARIAN HABITAT ON PUBLIC LANDS"  
"ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY"  
SEPTEMBER 9, 1985

WHEREAS, maintenance of riparian habitat is vital to the production of fishery and other aquatic resources; and

WHEREAS, overgrazing of public rangelands resulting from poor land management has degraded, and in some cases eliminated, the riparian habitat on these lands; and

WHEREAS, current grazing fees charged on Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service rangeland are substantially lower than such charges on other federal and non-federal rangelands; and

WHEREAS, such low grazing fees do not return to the U.S. Treasury the cost of administering the grazing programs, implementing range management plans already developed, or restoring damaged rangeland.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society at the 115th Annual Meeting in Sun Valley, Idaho, on this 9th day of September, 1985, hereby urges Congress to raise public land grazing fees to fair market value and direct that sufficient portions of those fees be used to develop and implement good management and restoration programs on federal rangelands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agencies responsible for managing public lands be required to restore and protect riparian habitats to accommodate multiple uses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this concern be expressed to the President, U.S. legislators, and federal agencies responsible for managing federal lands.

BACKGROUND: Riparian habitat on Public Lands

Purpose: To support a new grazing fee equal to fair market value and to dedicate a portion of those fees for restoration and management of federal grasslands for multiple use.

Rationale: Current grazing fees charged by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are approximately one-sixth of the open market fees charged on private land. Fees charged by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Defense are three to four times higher than those charged by the USFS and BLM. It costs the USFS and BLM about 2.7 times more money to administer these lands than is collected in grazing fees. Lost fisheries resources and other recreational opportunities were estimated at \$112 million in 1983.

The Public Rangelands Improvement Act expires in December 1985, and reauthorization provisions are currently under discussion in Congress. Current grazing permit holders are requesting status quo. Incidentally, some permit holders sublease their lands at fair market price and turn a profit at public expense.