

JOINT RESOLUTIONS
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Stock Growers Association * Wyoming Wool Growers Association

CONSERVATION FORESTRY

Whereas, decades of effective fire suppression coupled with a lack of silvicultural treatment implementation have resulted in extreme fuel loading and a decline in overall forest health on many forested lands in Wyoming; and

Whereas, WACD, WSGA and WWGA recognize that current fuel loads on forested properties pose an imminent threat to the lives, property and economic stability of Wyoming citizens as a result of extreme and unreasonable risk of catastrophic fire danger as evidenced by the past three fire seasons; and

Whereas, catastrophic wildfire events can pose significant threats to other resources including water quality, air quality, wildlife habitat, soil degradation, and aesthetics, and adverse economic impacts to communities, and

Whereas, WACD, WSGA and WWGA agree with the four principal dimensions as outlined by the National Partnership Restoration Program to address the existing extreme fire potential which are (1) Community based collaboration with stake holders; (2) integration of best management practices that incorporate peer reviewed science; (3) Expedited implementation of watershed and landscape restoration and enhancements projects at the stand and landscape levels and (4) Flexibility in authorities and programming, and

Whereas, WACD, WSGA and WWGA desire to offer conclusions and proposals for action that are consistent with the following: (1) avoid management scenarios that result in a static forest condition; (2) not restrict management actions to a particular size or age of wood material; (3) concentrate activities on current condition as compared to desired condition; (4) contains an aggressive time table for management implementation; (5) uses a systemic, diagnostic approach to anticipate forest health problem; (6) works with and not against nature; (7) accurately accounts for forest health costs and uses a long term risk analysis; (8) prepares the forest for inevitable periods of drought and encourages research into climate/forest health relationship and the aforementioned forest management scenarios utilize silviculturally sound harvest of forest products and materials to finance non-commercial management prescriptions to meet desired condition or funded in conjunction with local, state or federal programs; and

Whereas, Conservation Districts as local governments, pursuant to §§ 11-16-101 et. al seq. have the authority to develop local land use plans, which can include a component on forest health and management and

Whereas, the CEQ has endorsed the role of local government agencies, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, which was solidified in the 28 July 1999 from then-acting Chair of CEQ, George Frampton to the heads of all federal agencies to "...urge agencies to more actively solicit in the future the participation of state, tribal and local governments as cooperating

agencies in implementing the environmental impact statement process under the National Environmental Policy Act

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA encourage Wyoming Conservation Districts to take the following actions to assist in ensuring healthy and sustainable Wyoming forests:.

- 1) Wyoming Conservation Districts should be encouraged to become actively involved in multi-jurisdictional / county level coordinating committees such as those formed under the National Fire Plan, or where these committees do not currently exist, initiate committee formation to address forest management concerns; and
- 2) Wyoming Conservation Districts should examine criteria for the USDA – Forest Service competitive grant process for the National Fire Plan to determine avenues to improve ranking of projects from Wyoming designed to address wildfire fuels mitigation; and
- 3) Wyoming Conservation Districts shall be encouraged to provide review and comments to PRE-planning project implementation, EA's and EIS's, document development;
- 4) Wyoming Conservation Districts should seek cooperation agency status where appropriate and capacity within the district exists, either as a independent appointment or under the state of Wyoming umbrella, to facilitate input into planning and management for Wyoming forest lands, and
- 5) The Conservation Districts support the National Forest County Partnership Restoration Program to formulate a multi-year plan that encompasses: a) Community-based cooperation with stake holders; b) Integration of best management practices that incorporate peer reviewed science; c) Expedited implementation of forest and watershed enhancement projects at the stand and landscape levels; and d) flexibility in authorities and planning.

COMPOSTING OF LIVESTOCK

Whereas, rendering plants no longer provide pick-up services for dead livestock.

Whereas, it is cost prohibitive for feedlot owners and feeders to store and transport dead livestock to rendering plants.

Whereas, an environmentally cost effective alternative must be established

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA work to explore the need for administrative actions to allow for proper composting of dead livestock.

SOIL SURVEYS

Whereas, soils data is integral to resource management planning, development, reclamation, development of a carbon sequestration program, etc., and

Whereas, at the current staffing level of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Surface soil survey staff it would take an estimated 45 years to complete the soil survey in Wyoming, and

Whereas, much of the land without completed surveys is federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and funding from the BLM for soil surveys has been inconsistent and for acceleration has not yet been committed, and

Whereas, the NRCS has conducted soil surveys on state lands at no cost to the state,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA support the following efforts to obtain the necessary resources to accelerate the completion of the soil survey in Wyoming:

1. Increased funding to the USDA NRCS for soil survey mapping
2. NRCS be charged to complete the soil survey on priority lands in Wyoming
3. State support of the soil survey effort on state lands

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA promote a philosophy that includes an integrated economic development infrastructure in the State of Wyoming. It should include but not be limited to upfront money and business model advice, low interest rate loans, and long term financing. Investment in projects that add value to Wyoming agriculture strengthens those industries and the overall Wyoming economy.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA, will jointly produce an agriculture education packet for all Wyoming Legislators with the cost not to exceed \$1000 or \$333 per organization. Legislators will receive both a printed and electronic copy on issues including, but not limited to, in-stream flow, wolf management, vocational education, public access/private property, the Farm Bureau Ag Tax Brochure; Implement tax general Ag information, and the Wyoming Ag Survey.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA, jointly support equal vocational education opportunities for all Wyoming students. All Wyoming students, at both larger and small schools deserve the opportunity to learn job-creating skills in such programs as ag education.

MEGA AG CONVENTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA formally invite the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation to actively participate in the next Mega Ag Convention.

AG SUCCESS STORIES RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RECOMMENDED, that WWGA and the WSGA join WACD in highlighting Wyoming Ag success stories weekly on Wyoming Public Radio.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT COORDINATOR

Whereas, Wyoming has numerous threatened and endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, and

Whereas, it is anticipated that Wyoming will face an increasing number of threatened and endangered species issues, and

Whereas, it is anticipated that Wyoming will face an increasing number of threatened and endangered species issues, and

Whereas, the Governor of Wyoming recently developed an Endangered Species Coordinator position to provide coordination and leadership on these issues,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA communicate to the governor-elect support for continuing this position and making it a permanent position.

SOIL SURVEYS ECOLOGICAL SITE DESCRIPTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA recommend the prioritization of soil survey mapping and the uniform use of ecological site descriptions developed by NRCS as the foundation for the inventory, evaluation, settling of monitoring objectives, and management of rangelands and forestlands because ecological sites are the basic units of soils and associated plant communities and they provide the basis for setting vegetative management objectives, monitoring and extrapolations of management impacts to other areas.

THUNDER BASIN

BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA

1) Request support from the Governor-Elect David Freudenthal, Senator Mike Enzi, Senator Craig Thomas, and Congresswoman Barbara Cubin to support he counties' and grassland association's administrative appeal of the Thunder Basin Grassland plan and its July 2002 revision.

2) Request support from them for a verbal presentation of this administrative appeal to the United States Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey and

3) Request a full administrative review of this Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plan by the United States Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey.

WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA support immediate emergency federal funding specifically targeted to assist the BLM in reducing wild horse numbers to targeted AMLs.

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Whereas, Wyoming's water resources are its most valuable resource, and

Whereas, the current drought in the state has brought forth the importance of water resources including adequate supplies, and Whereas, some efforts have and are anticipated to be pursued to modify in-stream flow section of Wyoming water law,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA, and WWGA support the following strategies to address further development of Wyoming's water for beneficial uses:

1) Priority should be given to the development of water storage projects to ensure Wyoming's water is utilized to the benefit of Wyoming people

2) Support the current in-stream flow statute and oppose any legislation to broaden the current in-stream flow statute

3) A comprehensive effort to address flow should be supported, to include water storage development, in-bank storage through direct diversion, and watershed/forest health management, predator management, etc.

4) the agricultural organizations shall develop a public outreach and education program aimed at educating Wyoming citizenry on the role agriculture has played in developing and enhancing Wyoming fisheries and recreational opportunities through water storage and irrigation practices.

5) The organizations reinforce those water policies set forth in the Wyoming Water Coalition water policy document created 2/14/98.

PREBLE'S MOUSE – ECONOMIC IMPACT

BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA strong support the efforts of Platte County Commissioners et al. to obtain federal and state funding to do the studies necessary to quantify the economic and other effects of the Prebles Meadow Jumping Mouse and any other species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act on the region and on the State of Wyoming.

WOLF STATUS

BE IT RESOLVED, that WACDK, WSGA and WWGA strong support the WY Game & Fish Commission's current position of maintaining the predator status of the wolf in Wyoming except within Yellowstone and Teton National Parks, Jackson Hole Elk Refuge and those congressionally designated wilderness areas contiguous to the parks that are determined to be necessary to maintain a minimally viable wolf population as defined in a Wyoming Wolf Management Plan.

ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

BE IT RESOLVED, that WAC, WSGA and WWGA commend the efforts of the Animal Damage Management Board and support legislative removal of the current sunset provision together with the appropriation of additional funding to continue this cooperative effort.

WILDLIFE FORAGE COMPENSATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that WACDK, WSGA and WWGA support the concept of forage compensation for forage harvested by wildlife on private lands provided that such compensation is made available on an equitable basis to all landowners and is payable from monies collected by or appropriated to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and provided further that the current trophy and big game damage compensation programs remains intact as a means of compensation for damage other than the harvesting of forage.

PREBLE'S MOUSE – LITIGATION

Whereas, the listing and designation of critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse will have a significant impact on the proper management of natural resources and the customs and culture of southeast Wyoming,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA shall work to encourage the State of Wyoming to support litigation challenging the listing of the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse and the designation of critical habitat.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT MODIFICATION

Whereas, the Endangered Species Act was intended to protect and recover threatened and endangered species, and

Whereas, as the Act, and its regulations are currently implemented, there is a lack of credible science utilized through implementation of the Act, including but not limited to listing decision, designations of habitat and recovery plans, and

Whereas, the Act and resulting restrictions serve as a disincentive to landowners to conserve species and often result in a taking of private property without just compensation, and

Whereas, the WACD, WSGA and WWGA have existing broad policy in support of the use of credible science, landowner incentives and private property protection,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA formerly adopt the 17 billet points developed and adopted by the Coalition.

The Endangered Species Act should be changed to:

1. Provide full compensation to individuals for current and long-term “takings”. Take into consideration cost-benefit analysis and mitigate for adverse economic, social, and cultural needs of the human element (change Section 4(b)(2) of ESA)
2. Consider and evaluate cumulative effects in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Single species management does not consider ecosystem needs and may be detrimental to the well being of other organisms. (add to Section 4)
3. Focus on species recovery by improving ecosystem health, instead of single species listing. Listing should be incentive based rather than regulatory (add to subsection (c) of Section 3 and a new statement of Section 4)
4. Seek scientific consensus and require mandatory non-governmental, non-bias peer review prior to the listing of any species.
5. Petitioners requesting endangered or threatened species designation should be responsible for costs incurred if a listing is determined to be unwarranted.
6. Require appropriate bonding by any petitioner for a proposed listing of a species. Bond to be forfeited if a species is determined not warranted to be listed. (add to Section 4(b))
7. Ensure agency regulations conform to ESA law. (ex. Adhere to critical habitat provision)
8. Allow states to design, control, and implement functionally equivalent, state-specific programs for endangered species recovery planning and critical habitat designation with federal funding.
9. Codify applicant status to make clear that permit applicant’s (consists of any individual seeking a federal permit or license) are provided the opportunity of direct involvement in the Section 7 process (amend Section 6 and 7(a) and (d)).
10. Allow implementation action of any project or activity already underway prior to completion and forma approval of a Recovery Plan (amend Section 7(a))
11. Direct the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce and Interior to streamline the ESA Section 7 consultation process through a tiered programmatic consultation at the national, state and local level.
12. Eliminate the proposed listing of any sub-species. (Amend Section 3(16))

13. Not allow taxpayer funds to be utilized by non-governmental entities to sue the Government or others (add to Section ©(4) as new policy and amend Section 11 (9)(g))

14. Enhance the incidental take rules to reduce the need for civil violations penalties.

15. Expedite the delisting process. (add new subsection under Section 4)

16. Revise the “taking” definition to protect private and states property rights in conformance with the United States Constitution. (section 3(19)).

17. Provide for “safe-harbor” provisions to make the act more flexible and to encourage landowners to manage lands in a more “endangered species friendly” manner.

ACTION ON ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTING PETITIONS

Whereas, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has the obligation to address the legitimacy of listing petitioned species in a timely manner as directed by the Endangered Species Act, and

Whereas, Fish & Wildlife’s failure to act on such a petition often results in litigation compelling Fish & Wildlife to take action,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WACD, WSGA and WWGA urge the US Fish & Wildlife Service to act immediately on the petitions for listing as threatened or endangered for the Yellowstone Bison, White Tailed Prairie Dog and the Greater Sage Grouse.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS: WYOMING STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION, WYOMING WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARY GRADUATES

Whereas, there is a significant shortfall in the number of food animal veterinarian graduates to service the livestock production areas of the United States, and

Whereas, Livestock producers rely on their local veterinarians for guidance to ensure food product’s safety, herd management and disease control, and

Whereas, animal welfare issues and the increasing public scrutiny of human care and management of livestock are often closely related to emergency veterinary attention, and

Whereas, the physical nature of the work as well as accrued indebtedness tends to divert many capable graduate veterinarians away from food animal practice, and

Whereas, veterinarian practice can involve long travel distances and extended absence from the clinic in rural areas creating a demand for multi-veterinarian staffed clinics,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WSGA and WWGA encourage Colleges of Veterinary Medicine to vigorously pursue recruiting and training students with the aptitude and desire to fill the increasing void of food animal veterinarians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, even though WSGA and WWGA recognize the importance of scholastic excellence, they also recommend an attempt be made to identify a process of recruiter that selects individuals with skill and physical capabilities in addition to academics.

WEST NILE VIRUS

Whereas, West Nile Virus is mosquito-transmitted disease that affects birds, humans, and horses, and can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord), and

Whereas, There is no specified treatment for West Nile Virus infection nor is there a human vaccine, and

Whereas, Wyoming state health officials identified West Nile in 15 counties this year, the first year the virus has appeared in Wyoming involving two people and 96 horses, and

Whereas, in all probability the cases in Wyoming will more than double in 2003 endangering more citizens and livestock, and

Whereas, many communities that state do not have any mosquito control program in place nor do they have the necessary resources to develop and implement those programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WSGA & WWGA recommend the Wyoming State Legislature that a coordinated state-wide mosquito control program be implemented Funding for implementing such a program should be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Subsequent funding should be through the establishment of special districts within each county with additional financial support from state appropriations and/or federal funding as needed.

FREE TRADE

BE IT RESOLVED that WSGA & WWGA oppose free trade agreements with Australia and/or New Zealand with regard to livestock meat and wool.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

BE IT RESOLVED, that WSGA and WWGA work to prohibit an animal, bird, or plant that interfere with food production by curtailing grazing and/or farming from being placed on the Endangered Species list. The Sage Grouse, Mountain Plover, and the Black Tailed Prairie Dog are the primary subjects at this time, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WSGA and WWGA work to prohibit any further animal that is a domestic animal predator from being placed on the Endangered Species List and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WSGA and WWGA work to delist the wolf from the Endangered Species List dependent upon maintaining its predator status.

WYOMING STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS

ANTITRUST

BE IT RESOLVED, that WSGA support legislation that allows indirect purchasers and indirect sellers to enforce the antitrust laws where they have been harmed.