

ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION 2014 OMNIBUS

(1) RETENTION OF STATUS OF GRAND CANYON NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation recognizes the Kaibab North as an outstanding example of the multiple use concept in action. The area has attained national recognition because of its ability to provide outstanding hunting recreation and produce outstanding trophy mule deer. Whereas inclusion of this area in the Grand Canyon National Park would exclude hunting, which is part of the multiple use concept in action, the Arizona Wildlife Federation reaffirms its request that the present status of the Grand Canyon National Game Reserve be retained. (#24 -1967)

(2) CAPITALIZATION OF GRAZING FEES -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues its opposition to capitalization of grazing fees or any other concession or recognition of grazing interest which would tend to establish individual possessory interest or right to grazing on national forests or public lands, and continues to urge our Congressional delegation to propose legislation that a larger portion of the public land grazing fees be returned to the resource management agencies to be used for wildlife habitat and range improvements on the public lands. (#19-1969)

(3) RELATIVE TO MOUNTAINTOPS IN ARIZONA -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to oppose the installation of facilities on undisturbed mountaintops in Arizona. (#6-1972)

(4) RELATIVE TO THE SETTLEMENT OF INDIAN CLAIMS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge that land claims by the American Indians not be settled by the transfer of public lands into Indian ownership, but rather by cash payment by the Federal Government which would be given to the Indians as settlement of just claims. (#8-1972)

(5) RELATIVE TO RECREATIONAL LAKES -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to oppose the construction of recreational lakes in locations in Arizona that would destroy important wildlife habitat or would encourage roads or other developments which would destroy important wildlife habitat or would be in serious conflict with wildlife or wilderness values. (#9-1972)

(6) RELATIVE TO THE POSTING OF PUBLIC OR INDIAN LANDS WHICH ARE CLOSED TO HUNTING -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge that the boundaries of all public and Indian lands which are closed to hunting be clearly marked (#13-1972)

(7) RELATIVE TO REORGANIZATION OF THE ARIZONA STATE GOVERNMENT -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to oppose the abolition of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission or any substantial adverse change in the composition or method of selection of the Commission or any reduction in the policy-making authority of the Commission or the relegation of the Commission to a position secondary to that of a Natural Resources Department Chief Administrator who would have the authority to alter or veto decisions of the Commission or the consolidation into a single department of the Arizona Game and Fish Department with other state agencies whose goals are not completely compatible with those of the department. (#29-1972, amended 2010)

(8) RELATIVE TO GRAZING ON PUBLIC AND STATE LANDS IN ARIZONA -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge that a review of all federal and state public lands be made by the respective agencies of those lands where the range shows a downward trend, the appropriate agency be urged to reverse this trend through proper management procedures, and if ranges are depleted to the

extent that management or readjustment of stocking rates cannot conceivably reverse this trend, all livestock should be removed and grazing terminated. (#4-1973)

(9) RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZATION FOR ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION TO ACQUIRE ACCESS TO HUNTING LANDS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge the Arizona State Legislature to amend Title 17, Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 241, A, 1, A.R.S., by adding the words "fishing waters" in said statute. (#12-1973)

(10) RELATIVE TO PERENNIAL STREAMS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department and other land management agencies to give high priority to the acquisition of lands bordering perennial streams in Arizona and manage those lands for wildlife and aesthetic purposes. (#19-1973)

(11) RELATIVE TO THE PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF HANDGUNS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to oppose the abolition of the private ownership of handguns by United States citizens. (#15-1974)

(12) RELATIVE TO THE STATUS OF STATE LANDS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge the Arizona State Land Department, the Arizona State Legislature and the U.S. Congress to take such action as is necessary to establish the Arizona state lands as true "public lands," retaining their function as a financial base for the public schools, and providing for land management and use by the public according to environmentally sound multiple use principles by an adequately staffed professional land management agency. (#18-1974)

(13) RELATIVE TO TIMBER SALE ROAD CONSTRUCTION -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge the use of existing forest roads whenever possible with minimum improvement for the harvest of timber under sustained yield principles. (#19-1974)

(14) RELATIVE TO ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge the Arizona State Land Department, Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, at the time of any sale, exchange or lease of land within their jurisdiction, to reserve existing easement and rights of way for access across such land, and, in the event fencing of any such land is permitted, the transferee or user be required to install and maintain gates for public access over such easements and rights of way. (#8-1976)

(15) RELATIVE TO DIVERSION OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT IMPACTING ON RIPARIAN HABITAT -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge the communities participating in the Phoenix sewage treatment plants to release sufficient sewage effluent to maintain a minimum surface and subsurface flow in the Salt and Gila Rivers necessary to sustain the existing downstream riparian habitat. (#14-1976)

(16) RELATIVE TO MANAGEMENT OF THE KOFA GAME RANGE WILDLIFE -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to encourage the Department of the Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission for proper utilization and control of resident wildlife on the Kofa Game Range. (#8-1977)

(17) RELATIVE TO MANAGEMENT OF FERAL HORSES AND BURROS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation, with support from the National Wildlife Federation urges Congress to appropriate adequate funds for the federal agencies with jurisdictional responsibilities in Arizona to implement management plans that address the multitude of habitat degradation impacts associated with the presence of feral horses and burros in Arizona, particularly in habitats occupied by desert bighorn sheep and mule deer, and that these plans shall include: (a) a complete survey of feral horse and burro populations on public lands in Arizona; (b) an immediate effort to reduce feral horse and burro populations to the low range of appropriate management levels; (c) managing all herds of captive un-

adoptable feral horses and burros to be non-reproducing; and (d) the use of multiple population control methods endorsed by professional wildlife managers on feral horse and burro herds to reduce populations to manageable levels and e) that the appropriate federal agencies be required to document and file a bi-annual report to Congress on the impacts and damage on public lands and wildlife caused by feral horses and burros. (#9-1978, amended 2010)

(18) RELATIVE TO THE DAMMING OF THE COLORADO RIVER ABOVE LEES FERRY -- The Wildlife Federation continues to urge the Bureau of Reclamation to abandon any proposal to alter the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam to Lees Ferry, including dams or any other hydro-electrical process that would alter the present ecosystem and request that the Bureau of Reclamation hold a public meeting in Flagstaff, Arizona, with proper notices published throughout Arizona, prior to any commitment to proceed with projects which would alter the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam to Lees Ferry. (#12-1978)

(19) RELATIVE TO THE POLLUTION OF THE SAN PEDRO RIVER -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge the Arizona delegation to the United States Congress to strongly urge the government of Mexico and Anaconda Corporation to solve the pollution problem of the San Pedro River, and to urge the Governor of Arizona to continue to monitor the pollution of the San Pedro River and order the Arizona Department of Health Services to continue to investigate possible health hazards involved. (#6-1979)

(20) RELATIVE TO OPERATION OF MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT ON RECREATIONAL LAKES AND RIVERS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to request the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department to study the feasibility of implementing rules and requiring education and training in boating safety in a manner similar to the current hunter safety program as it pertains to minors. (#2-1981)

(21) RELATIVE TO LITTER REDUCTION -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to support efforts and programs that will effectively reduce the littering problem and continues to urge the Arizona State Legislature to pass a deposit-return system for beverage containers, utilizing the benefit of experiences of other states which have adopted such legislation and adapting it to fit Arizona's conditions and needs. (#3-1981)

(22) RELATIVE TO PEOPLE TAKING UP RESIDENCE ON FEDERAL AND STATE LANDS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, the Arizona State Land Department and all other agencies who have control of federal and Arizona state lands to take all necessary steps to enforce the laws and regulations pertaining to occupancy in trespass of federal and state lands. (#4-1981)

(23) RELATIVE TO TROUT FISHING ON THE COLORADO RIVER ABOVE LEES FERRY -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department to intensify their current investigation of the impact of the current fishing regulations and to adopt appropriate rules and regulations which will maintain the Colorado River from the Glen Canyon Dam to Lees Ferry as a trophy trout fishery. (#5-1981)

(24) RELATIVE TO ARIZONA STATE LAND DEPARTMENT -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge the Arizona Legislature to provide necessary funding for proper management, use and development of Arizona state trust lands by the Arizona State Land Department and that the Arizona Legislature enact legislation that would allow the Arizona State Land Department to effectively manage the existing Arizona state trust lands. (#6-1981)

(25) RELATIVE TO FINES -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to support significant increases in the penalties, criminal and civil, for willfully killing or attempting to kill any terrestrial or aquatic wildlife species including animals classified by the AGFD as big game, small game, nongame,

predator/furbearer, and threatened/endangered in an illegal manner as identified in AGFD Commission Regulations such as during a closed season. (#4-1982 amended 2009)

(26) RELATIVE TO FUNDING FOR ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to support the Arizona Game and Fish Department in obtaining funding for its budget from any practical source available, including a percentage of tax revenues. (#5-1982)

(27) RELATIVE TO FELONY CLASSIFICATIONS FOR WILDLIFE VIOLATORS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to oppose any legislation that increases penalties to a felony status that does not deliberately differentiate the “accidental” violation from the criminally intended poaching or unlawful commercial use of Arizona wildlife. (#9-1982)

(28) RELATIVE TO COMPETITIVE FISHING TOURNAMENTS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department and other responsible governmental agencies to adopt rules and regulations governing competitive fishing tournaments upon Arizona waters. (#2-1983)

(29) RELATIVE TO MINING ACTIVITY WITHIN SENSITIVE AREAS AND/OR CRITICAL WILDLIFE HABITAT -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation requests the federal and state land management agencies to consider all mineral applications on a site specific basis; that an environmental assessment, minimum prerequisite, be prepared for each individual mining site, and that maximum resource protection be required during each stage of development, exploration to final reclamation activities; and that the Arizona Wildlife Federation request that the National Wildlife Federation take steps to rewrite, amend, or otherwise change the mining act of 1872 to provide better protection to our fish, wildlife and other natural resources. (#3-1983)

(30) RELATIVE TO WATER RIGHTS FOR WILDLIFE -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the strengthening of water rights for wildlife through legislation on both a state and national level and that these rights be evident in all public land agency regulations, policies and directives; that such water rights for fish and wildlife apply to the existing water developments still in use, and that these developments be adapted and maintained to allow fish and wildlife use; that rights for future developed waters, whenever or wherever they are established, be so located, designed and constructed with fish and wildlife consideration, so that wildlife access to, and escape from, these waters will be unimpaired by unnecessary obstructions thus further impinging on their rights; that the Arizona Wildlife Federation opposes any change in legislation, presidential proclamation, policies, or agency directives that reduce the currently established water use rights of fish and wildlife. (#4-1983)

(31) RELATIVE TO PUBLIC LAND ASSET MANAGEMENT -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation opposes such privatization practices and any legislation, presidential proclamation, or agency directive, either currently proposed or in the future, permitting further sales of public lands; that the Arizona Wildlife Federation seeks, by Congressional legislation, a moratorium on the sale of any public lands in the western United States; that the Arizona Wildlife Federation actively urges the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, as well as other land agencies, to consolidate the Public Lands under their administration by land exchanges with private land holders or other governmental units; that these trades be conducted in the most equitable but expeditious manner possible to resolve any problems surrounding this portion of the Public Land Asset Management principle. (#8-1983)

(32) RELATIVE TO ROOSEVELT LAKE CONTAMINATION PROBLEM -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports and encourages the enactment of appropriate regulations and/or legislation in order to improve the water quality of Roosevelt Lake and to assure that the aquatic habitat is improved by a reduction of contamination. (#9-1983)

(33) RELATIVE TO RELEASE OF WATERS FROM LAKE POWELL -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the Bureau of Reclamation to coordinate the release of water from Lake Powell with the Arizona Game and Fish Department so that there is a minimum discharge rate of not less than 4,000 cubic feet per second during the trout spawning period. (#10-1983)

(34) RELATIVE TO THE FREE USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA FOR THE ARIZONA HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM AND THE NATIONAL BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to urge the Arizona State Legislature to further amend ARS 15-451 to require the public schools of Arizona to provide the uncompensated use of school facilities for the conduct of the Arizona Hunter Education Program and the National Bow Hunter Education Program. (#11-1983)

(35) RELATIVE TO MARKING OF HUNTING ACCESS TO FEDERAL AND STATE LANDS BY AGENCIES IN CHARGE OF SAID LAND -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges all state and federal agencies in charge of public lands to mark all federal, state and county highways with appropriate signs at roads giving access to public lands. (#3-1984)

(36) RELATIVE TO FLOOD CONTROL OF THE GILA RIVER AND ITS EASTERN AND SOUTHERN TRIBUTARIES AND WASHES -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges all appropriate government agencies to incorporate recommendations and plans for reparation of viable wildlife resources within or adjacent to areas of habitat loss occasioned by construction and utilization of flood control systems. (#5-1984)

(37) RELATIVE TO THE TUCSON MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE AREAS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the State of Arizona, Pima County and the City of Tucson to adopt regulations that minimize the destruction of wildlife habitat in the Tucson Mountain Wildlife Area by allowing builders to clear only the site on which a building or improvements will actually be located. (#6-1984)

(38) RELATIVE TO THE CRITICAL WINTER RANGE OF THE GRAND CANYON NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports the request of the North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest for the funding and construction of fencing to protect the critical winter range from unnecessary use by livestock. (#2-1985)

(39) RELATIVE TO GRAZING FEES -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the Congress of the United States to impose grazing fees on federal lands which are similar to those imposed for the same use on other comparable lands. (#4-1985)

(40) RELATIVE TO WILDLIFE VALUES -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation requests the USDA Forest Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department to prepare an annual evaluation and analysis of wildlife values in Arizona. (#7-1985)

(41) RELATIVE TO MINIMUM INSTREAM FLOW VOLUMES -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the Arizona Department of Water Resources to simplify its requirements for submission of applications for in-stream flow water rights, and to give these applications equal consideration with other uses, consistent with the Arizona Revised Statutes; that the Arizona Wildlife Federation also urges the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department and all other public land management agencies within Arizona to obtain legal protection for adequate instream flows for wildlife, riparian habitat and recreational use. (#11-1995)

(42) RELATIVE TO LAND EXPANSION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES IN YUMA COUNTY -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation opposes the reduction of lands available for recreational use in Yuma County or the impairment of access to such lands. (#5-1986)

(43) RELATIVE TO MANDATORY HUNTER EDUCATION -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges that the Arizona Game and Fish Department seek implementation of a self-supporting mandatory

hunter education program for all first time big game hunters born during or after a specified year. (#7-1986)

(44) RELATIVE TO LEGACIES OF LAND TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the State Land Department to review those legacies that do not include hunting as a legitimate use on a case by case basis and consider not accepting those offers where the clear intent of such legacies is to prevent hunting. (#12-1986)

(45) RELATIVE TO BOATING SAFETY ON MAJOR RESERVOIRS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the appropriate governing agencies to impose appropriate speed restrictions to eliminate or minimize the probability of accidents in and around coves on major reservoirs. (#4-1987)

(46) RELATIVE TO CHANGING THE NAME OF THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the legislature of the State of Arizona to change the name of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department to the Arizona Wildlife Commission and Department. (#5-1988)

(47) RELATIVE TO PLASTIC BAGS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges all retail outlets operating in the State of Arizona to use only photo- and/or biodegradable plastic bags. (#2-1989)

(48) RELATIVE TO THE STATE LAKE IMPROVEMENT FUND -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the governor and the legislature to oppose the use of state lake improvement funds for any purpose other than the fund's original intended purpose. (#3-1989)

(49) RELATIVE TO PUBLIC WILDERNESS HEARINGS IN ARIZONA -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges that public congressional hearings be held in Arizona prior to the introduction of any Arizona wilderness bill. (#4-1989)

(50) RELATIVE TO DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports the creation of wilderness areas only when:

- (1) The area meets the strict statutory definition for wilderness areas;
- (2) The area has definable and determinable boundaries;
- (3) Traditional motorized access ways within the area are cherry stemmed out of the wilderness designation;
- (4) The law expressly authorizes the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the land management agencies to use motorized vehicles and mechanized equipment within the wilderness areas for wildlife management purposes. (#11-1989)

(51) RELATIVE TO FOREIGN TIMBER MARKETS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the public land management agencies to not sell timber to entities, which provide raw timber products, chips or semi-processed products to foreign markets; and the Federation seeks the passage of federal legislation which would prohibit the sale of raw timber products, chips or semi-processed products to foreign markets. (#2-1990)

(52) RELATIVE TO ECOLOGICAL TIMBER SALES -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges public land management agencies to develop and implement timber practices which meet ecological biodiversity criteria; and that public land management agencies implement timber sales which are ecologically sustainable. (#3-1990)

(53) RELATIVE TO WILDLIFE POPULATIONS ON PUBLIC LANDS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the public land and wildlife management agencies to maximize wildlife numbers on public lands. (#4-1990, amended 2009)

(54) RELATIVE TO GENETIC FORESTRY -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation opposes the proposed stocking of genetically engineered superior coniferous trees as potentially ecologically unsound. (#5-1990)

(55) RELATIVE TO MEETING THE PUBLIC'S DEMANDS FOR WILDLIFE AND RECREATION ON PUBLIC LANDS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges all agencies managing public lands and wildlife to meet the public's demands for wildlife and wildlife related recreation; and that these agencies implement plans to increase wildlife numbers and recreational opportunities to the maximum extent possible within the carrying capacity and capability of the land without adverse impacts to its natural resources within the shortest time frame feasible; and that these agencies implement budgets which meet these demands; and that the Arizona Wildlife Federation urges that the State and Federal Legislatures guide agency actions towards meeting the public's demands for wildlife and recreation on public lands. (#7-1990, amended 2009)

(56) RELATIVE TO DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation approves only those proposed wilderness areas that meet the 1964 Wilderness Act criteria and are so unique as to need protection from the use now made of the area. (#11-1990)

(57) RELATIVE TO CLOSURE OF PUBLIC LANDS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports temporary closures of public lands, where necessitated by resource value and public safety concerns; and requests the public land management agencies to include public involvement when such closures will exceed 30 days. (#14-1990)

(58) RELATIVE TO HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING ON WILDLIFE REFUGES -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports hunting, fishing and trapping on national and state wildlife refuges. (#1-1991)

(59) RELATIVE TO GRAZING IN THE SAN PEDRO RIPARIAN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges that the Bureau of Land Management refrain from allowing any livestock grazing on any or all of the lands within the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area for an indefinite period of time. (#5-1992)

(60) RELATIVE TO INFRINGEMENTS ON THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports severe penalties for the commission of violent crimes with weapons; and that it opposes infringement on the United States' and the State of Arizona's constitutional guarantees of citizens' rights to keep and bear arms. (#6-1992)

(61) RELATIVE TO FORAGE UTILIZATION BY LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges all governmental land management agencies in Arizona to adopt the following forage utilization standards:

(1) At least twenty-five percent (25%) of each different herbaceous species (grasses, forbs and shrubs) must remain ungrazed and be allowed to complete their full annual growth cycle - flowering, seeding or fruiting.

(2) In years of average or above average precipitation, winter grazing, "after the growing season," shall not remove more than fifty percent (50%), by height, of herbaceous plants. In years of below average precipitation, winter grazing, "after growing season", at least 5 inches of stubble shall be left on all grass species.

(3) Once the standards listed above are complied with, then the remaining herbaceous material, which can be consumed by grazing and browsing animals, will be equally divided between wildlife and livestock. (#2-1993)

(62) RELATIVE TO SIERRA VISTA (FORT HUACHUCA ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA) -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the Arizona Department of Water Resources to establish a "Sierra Vista/Fort Huachuca Active Management Area" based upon the Regional Aquifer Drawdown Data of the University of Arizona, Department of Hydrology. (#2-1994)

(63) RELATIVE TO PITTMAN - ROBERTSON FUNDS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges that the United States Congress reject any proposal to alter or divert Pittman-Robertson Funds from the purposes for which they are currently established; and that the Arizona Wildlife Federation opposes additional taxes that would have an adverse effect on the generation of funds for the Federal Aid to Wildlife (Pittman-Robertson) Fund; and that the Arizona Wildlife Federation renews its strong support for the process and the cooperative wildlife conservation programs conducted under the authority of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. (#4-1994)

(64) RELATIVE TO COMPENSATION FOR WILDLIFE DEPREDATION -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation vigorously opposes any legislation or regulations that would provide compensation for wildlife depredation whether such compensation is in the form of actual monetary outlay (from any source other than one created by the livestock owners and funded solely by them) or in the form of the issuance of big game tags. (#5-1994)

(65) RELATIVE TO THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT'S COMBINED HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to adopt the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Combination Hunter Education Course as the official Hunter Education course for the State of Arizona. (#6-1994)

(66) RELATIVE TO ARCHERY HUNTING IN THE TUCSON MOUNTAIN PARK -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports archery hunting within the Tucson Mountain Park. (#8-1994)

(67) RELATIVE TO NATIONAL FISHING WEEK -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports and endorses National Fishing Week. (#2-1995)

(68) RELATIVE TO URBAN SPRAWL -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges governmental bodies to adopt land use plans, which control urban sprawl. (#3-1995)

(69) RELATIVE TO FUNDING FOR WILDLIFE AND FISH CONSERVATION IN ARIZONA -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation strongly encourages and supports that all federal and state land management and wildlife/fish management agencies in Arizona utilize all available funding sources (e.g., Pittman-Robertson Funds, Dingell-Johnson Funds, State Wildlife Grants, Heritage Funds, Wildlife Conservation Funds, Water Protection Funds, Farm Bill Funds, Joint Venture Funding, NAWCA Grants, Partners in Wildlife Grants, and sportsman/conservation group funding) and continue to identify new funding sources (e.g., modest surcharges on outdoor products) that are needed to implement critical wildlife/fish conservation programs in Arizona (e.g., habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement; population management; law enforcement; research: information/education). (#4-1995, amended 2009)

(70) RELATIVE TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports the Endangered Species Act which is designed to protect endangered species while providing appropriate considerations for economic impacts; and the Arizona Wildlife Federation supports greater development and scrutiny of the scientific data supporting endangered species decisions, and welcomes additional scientific research for more cost effective and less cumbersome implementation of the Act; and the Arizona Wildlife Federation supports incentives to encourage landowners to provide good habitat for listed species and encourages more flexibility regarding conservation requirements for small landowners; and the Arizona Wildlife Federation supports species protection while providing appropriate considerations for private property rights; and the Arizona Wildlife Federation supports input of state generated scientific data in ESA decision making; and the Arizona Wildlife Federation is

opposed to heavy-handed changes to the ESA which would only diminish the ability to protect species from extinction; and the Arizona Wildlife Federation supports prompt and responsive answers to landowners and, where appropriate, measures resulting in prompt recovery and de-listing; and the Arizona Wildlife Federation encourages adequate funding to carry out the objectives of the ESA; and the Arizona Wildlife Federation supports habitat conservation planning as an aid in preventing the need for endangered or threatened listing of species. (#5-1995)

(71) RELATIVE TO GOVERNMENT SECRECY IN WILDLIFE TAKING -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation denounces withholding of information from the public about the take of wildlife by its trustee, the State of Arizona; and that to correct this abuse of trustee power, the Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the introduction and passage of legislation to delete the secrecy provisions of the wildlife depredation laws which call for withholding of information about the take of the public's wildlife. (#6-1995)

(72) RELATIVE TO THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ESTABLISHING A NON-POLITICAL CITIZENS' COMMISSION AUTHORITY OVER STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES -- the Arizona Wildlife Federation encourages all states, not currently doing so, to implement a citizen's fish and wildlife commission structure to manage all wildlife resources for sustainability, recreational use and commercial harvest (where appropriate); and that the commission be composed of broad-based volunteer representatives concerned with wildlife management appointed to overlapping 4-6 year terms by the Governor of the State; and that the commission be responsible for appointing the Director(s) of the State Fish and Wildlife Agency(s), to approve all commission staff personnel and to approve all budgets for the Fish and Wildlife Agencies; and that the Commission be allowed to operate as a non-political public body. (#2-1996)

(73) RELATIVE TO INTERPRETATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE LAWS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges federal and state agencies charged with the responsibility for conserving, managing, and protecting fish and wildlife resources to develop clear, concise, easily interpreted and uniformly enforceable fish and wildlife regulations within their respective jurisdictions. (#3-1996)

(74) RELATIVE TO MANAGEMENT FURBEARERS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation strongly supports regulated trapping as a safe, efficient and practical means of taking certain species of fur bearers and includes the use of modern scientifically developed restraining devices as an important harvesting method; and that this organization feels it is essential that the trapping industry continue to develop and adopt methods which make animal welfare the priority in accordance with modern technology; and that the established methods for trapping not be restricted due to emotion or the disregard for scientific and biological data. (#4-1996)

(75) RELATIVE TO PUBLIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS ACROSS PRIVATE PROPERTY -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges Congress to enact legislation to require landowners, as a condition for holding a grazing permit, that the permittee shall grant a permanent public right of way easement to the United States of America for public access across private lands for purposes of hunting, fishing and other recreational activities. (#6-1996)

(76) RELATIVE TO QUALIFICATION FOR ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT HERITAGE FUND GRANTS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports a revision to the Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Fund Grant regulations to remove the requirement for participation of a governmental agency as a qualification for grant applications. (#2-1997)

(77) RELATIVE TO CONSERVATION OF STATE TRUST LANDS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports the setting aside of a significant percentage of presently held state trust lands to protect beauty, natural and heritage values, open spaces and wildlife habitat; and using natural resources in a way that conserves their long term value; and the Arizona Wildlife Federation supports the selling

or leasing of its rights to state trust land as conservation easements to protect open space and maintain environmental quality and wildlife habitat. (#3-1997)

(78) RELATIVE TO CHANGES TO METHODS OF TAKE CONCERNING CATFISH -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports a revision of the current regulations concerning the taking of catfish that legalizes the regulated use of “trot lines” as a legitimate method to take catfish from Arizona’s public waters. (#4-1997)

(79) RELATIVE TO MINING REGULATIONS – The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to implement rules and regulations which strengthen past and/or present mining rules and regulations; and strongly urges Congress to desist from implementing or attaching riders to mining bill reforms which inhibits passage of legislation, or implementation of needed reforms; and strongly urges the Arizona Legislature to implement into law reforms which mirror the Bureau of Land Management 43 CFR 3800, alternative four (4) proposed regulations on mineral mining; and urges implementation of and strongly supports the Bureau of Land Management 43 CFR 3800 proposed mineral mining regulations. (#1-1999)

(80) RELATIVE TO THE ANDERSON MESA ANTELOPE HABITAT - The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the Forest Service to acknowledge the precipitous decline of Anderson Mesa antelope, and that this decline is primarily the result of habitat degradation, and that this habitat degradation is principally the result of long term livestock grazing, and the man-made “improvements,” such as fencing, associated with livestock grazing; urges the Forest Service to aggressively restore the quantity and quality of Anderson Mesa’s antelope habitat, using any and all necessary means and measures, so as to allow a thriving antelope population which is not reliant on interventions, such as predator suppression or supplemental transplants, to maintain and increase its numbers; urges the Forest Service to manage historic Anderson Mesa antelope habitat holistically, i.e., in toto, not on the basis of unnatural subdivisions such as grazing allotments or Game Management Units; urges the Arizona Game and Fish Department to cooperate and collaborate with the Forest Service to identify deleterious effects on the quantity and quality of Anderson Mesa antelope habitat, and to recommend management strategies to eliminate such effects.(#1 2001)

(81) RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO MANGAS CREEK DAM – The Arizona Wildlife Federation stands opposed to the construction of the proposed off stream reservoir in Mangas Creek, which is part of the New Mexico Gila River watershed, and urges all federal and state governmental agencies, Congress and the New Mexico Legislature to oppose this ill-conceived project. (#1 2004)

(82) RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO A SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DROUGHT POLICY – It is the position of the Arizona Wildlife Federation that a Regional drought policy within the Southwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service would substantially benefit public lands and resources throughout the Region, and should be formulated and implemented as soon as possible. Such a Regional drought policy should be science-based and should use accepted scientific indices, such as the Standardized Precipitation Index, to identify drought conditions. Adherence to this Regional drought policy should be mandatory and should require appropriate adjustments to management of all forest uses (including, but not limited to, livestock grazing, recreation, mining and mineral extraction, roads, timber harvest, and surface and ground water diversion, development, and use) to avoid or limit adverse effects to short and long-term conditions of all natural resources. A Regional drought policy should require use of internal and external expertise and peer-review to substantially expand scientifically-based monitoring of upland and riparian vegetation and soils and of stream channels and aquatic habitats for the purpose of identifying changes to natural resource conditions that indicate a need for additional management adjustments and/or mitigative actions. Identification of drought conditions and effects, and management to limit or mitigate those effects, should be based on the best available science and should place primary emphasis

on long-term conservation of the public lands and their natural resources. The Regional drought policy should, while using accepted scientific drought indices to identify the end of below-normal precipitation, moisture, and stream flow conditions, should also predicate restoration of pre-drought management on recovery of natural resource conditions to their pre-drought level, including, but not limited to, soils; herbaceous, woody, and other vegetation (upland and riparian); ground cover/litter; erosion and soil stability; stream channel morphology; faunal communities (upland, riparian, and aquatic); with particular emphasis on maintenance and recovery of any rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species. Time is of the essence in drought management, so that a Regional drought policy should be formulated and implemented as soon as possible with a schedule and completion date in the near future. In addition to immediate implementation of a Regional drought policy, all Forest Plans within the Southwest Region should be amended to incorporate long-term plans for drought management, including, but not limited to the adopted Regional policy. (#2 2004)

(83) RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO SUSTAINING DESERT RIVERS -- The Arizona Wildlife Federation calls for the land management agencies to protect Arizona's perennial desert rivers and their associated tributaries and wetlands from damage caused by unsustainable overdraws of water from within their watersheds. The AWF further calls for Congress and Arizona's legislature to enact legislation that 1) protects Arizona's perennial desert rivers and their associated tributaries and wetlands by prohibiting unsustainable overdraws of water within their watersheds, and 2) ensures sufficient in-stream flows necessary to meet the needs of wildlife, fish and plants that are dependent on those habitats. It is the policy of the Arizona Wildlife Federation to strongly urge that federal, state, and local governments identify and ensure implementation of best available water conservation methods, and that these entities assure coordination and implementation of watershed protection measures to protect and improve natural watershed water storage processes. (#1-2006, amended 2009)

(84) RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF ALL FUNDING PROVIDED TO THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT AND ARIZONA STATE PARKS DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE ARIZONA HERITAGE FUND -- Annual funding provided to the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Arizona State Parks Department as directed through the Arizona Heritage Fund law passed by the Arizona voters in 1990 are critical to the annual operation of many programs within each agency that benefits wildlife and their habitats, and the public (i.e., both Arizona resident/nonresident adults and youth) through a diverse variety of educational and recreational opportunities and programs. Programs funded by the Heritage program through the Arizona Game and Fish Department include five critical statewide management programs: 1) conducting inventory, protection, management, and acquisition of sensitive species and their habitats; 2) developing and implementing environmental education programs; 3) developing schoolyard habitats; 4) developing urban wildlife and urban wildlife habitats; and 5) securing and protecting access for public recreation to public lands that provide significant benefits for wildlife, their habitats, and the public across Arizona. Programs funded by the Heritage Fund through the Arizona State Parks Department include the operation and maintenance of state parks across Arizona of which many provide key habitats for wildlife and variety of educational and recreational opportunities for the public. Due to the critical importance of the Heritage Funds for each of these agencies, the Arizona Wildlife Federation strongly opposes any attempts by the Arizona State Legislature or any of Arizona's elected state officials to reduce, reallocate or re-prioritize any Heritage Fund monies at any time and for any purpose in order to insure that these funds are provided in full to the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Arizona State Parks Department each year and used by each agency as they were intended by law and approved by the voters of Arizona. (#1, 2010)

(85) RELATIVE TO ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN ARIZONA --The Arizona Wildlife Federation with support from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) urges the federal government to "prudently

approach energy and mineral extraction to ensure that wildlife and wildlife related recreation (e.g., hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing) will not be unnecessarily sacrificed in a rush to extract energy and minerals from the public lands” (NWF Resolution No. 10, 1981) and urges the public land management agencies to “end their persistent pursuit of maximizing lands leased for energy development, which puts irreplaceable resources needlessly at risk” and calls on Congress and the agencies to “restore balance to our search for energy” and that “energy leasing and development policies must ensure the protection of critical fisheries, wildlife habitat and other sensitive natural resources” (NWF Resolution No. 1, 1986). The Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the federal government to promote a national energy policy that protects the environment, encourages the efficient use of resources, and promotes the development of clean, renewable energy resources, and also calls on the federal government to increase its efforts toward controlling the adverse environmental impacts of energy production on federal public lands. AWF supports the development of domestic energy sources, both conventional (e.g., oil, natural gas, coal, etc.) and renewable (e.g., wind, solar, geothermal, etc.) including the production, development and transmission of energy that utilize the most advanced technology, include best management practices, and limit the development footprint. The AWF only supports energy development projects that are conducted in a manner that conserves other values on public lands in Arizona such as wildlife, their habitats, and wildlife related recreation and urges both federal and state agencies with permitting authority over energy development projects to conduct a “thorough review of the project’s impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats, and wildlife related recreation including methods to minimize adverse impacts to these important resource values. (#2, 2010)

(86) RESOLUTION REGARDING TRAVEL MANAGEMENT ON NATIONAL FORESTS IN ARIZONA

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations issued in 2005 require all National Forests to designate routes for motorized vehicle travel and to “*coordinate with appropriate Federal, State, county, and other local governmental entities and tribal governments*” when designating National Forest roads, trails and areas for motorized vehicular use; and

WHEREAS, in October 2007 the Arizona Wildlife Federation submitted a position statement supporting the “*development, implementation, and enforcement of comprehensive Travel Management plans in Arizona*”, recognizing the need for dealing with the almost exponential increase in ownership and use of Off Highway Vehicles (OHV’s) and their impacts on National Forest resources and other users, but recommending that dispersed camping should be allowed reflecting the established recreational uses where consistent with the protection of important wildlife/fish habitats and other natural resource values; and that motorized cross country travel for retrieval of hunter harvested large big game animals (elk, deer, bear, bighorn sheep) should be given high priority consideration in the travel management planning process; and

WHEREAS, there is considerable science based research that has been conducted on the adverse impacts of high open road densities (i.e., greater than 1- 2 miles of open roads per square mile) and their use by the public through motorized vehicle activities on key wildlife species such as elk that can negatively affect animal behavior and reduce habitat effectiveness (e.g., elk foraging and calving), and that this issue links directly with concerns regarding excessive open road densities on National Forest lands identified in the 2007 AWF Position Statement on Travel Management”; and

WHEREAS, the six different National Forest units in Arizona have operated independently on different schedules and with apparently different criteria, some on a Forestwide basis and some by individual Ranger District, some not yet finished while others are now in their third or later year of implementation, resulting in frequent differences in allowable motorized uses on adjacent National Forests or portions of National Forests, and creating a great deal of confusion to the public who consider the National Forests to all be “public land”; and

WHEREAS, the Mogollon Rim forests which are currently implementing their Travel Management Plans (Coconino and Kaibab) have greatly reduced opportunities for traditional motorized dispersed camping adjacent to roads which have been historically used, resulting in crowding and greatly increased user conflicts (in response to this issue the Coconino Record of Decision included a statement that those wanting to disperse beyond the crowded authorized segments can just park within one vehicle length of the road and walk to a location to camp); and

WHEREAS, the Travel Management Plans (TMP's) primarily address recreational vehicular use but do not include other vehicular uses which may have environmental effects such as fuelwood gathering, and these other uses are not always consistent between adjacent National Forests; and

WHEREAS, the limited Forest Service Law Enforcement staff is unable to consistently enforce the provisions of the Travel Management plans (TMP's) on the Forests currently implementing them, resulting in a discrepancy between members of the public who are aware of and trying to comply with the TMP's and those who are either unaware or choose not to follow their provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AG&F) has statutory authority and a source of funding for enforcing OHV regulations within the state, but the lack of consistency and confusing rationale for some of the TMP restrictions have led to state legislation authorizing their field officers to exercise discretion in enforcing provisions of the TMP's; and

WHEREAS, the County Sheriffs are responsible for both state law enforcement and Search and Rescue activities on the National Forests, but frequently find portions of more than one National Forest within their county with differing TMP's without obvious differences in natural resource conditions, and crowding of dispersed camping has resulted in more user conflicts and situations requiring law enforcement calls, creating a high degree of frustration in dealing with their publics; and

WHEREAS, the lack of consistency in authorized uses, limited law enforcement, majority reductions in the authorized roadways and traditional motorized camping opportunities, and the confusion of needing to use two maps concurrently in order to determine authorized roadways have led to a lack of credibility in a significant portion of the recreating public, especially those who have historically used the National Forests; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Arizona Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting on June 7, 2014 urges the Regional Forester of the Southwestern Region and the Forest Supervisors of the National Forests in Arizona to place a high priority on responding to the issues raised by the public, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the County Sheriffs in terms of consistency between similar and adjacent units and defensible and understandable rationale for restriction of traditional uses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the Forest Service in Arizona to move toward greater compatibility between adjacent National Forests in order to improve public understanding, providing that increasing similarity should not be based on conforming to the greatest current restrictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Arizona Wildlife Federation strongly recommends that the U.S. Forest Service utilize all available science based research information on the adverse impacts of excessive open road densities on wildlife species such as elk in their planning, design, and implementation of Travel Management Plans and that the open road densities on each National Forest are planned to not exceed more than 2 miles of open roads per square mile where possible which will provide the public suitable motorized vehicle access to pursue their recreational (e.g., hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing) and other outdoor (e.g., woodcutting) activities"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arizona Wildlife Federation further urges the Forest Service to reassess the basis for the major reductions in motorized camping opportunities and for restricting big game retrieval, using appropriate scientific analysis and documentation, including peer-reviewed science where available, and fully documenting the evidence and rationale for imposing restrictions on traditional public uses, when the basis is resource impacts or damage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the Forest Service to fully utilize the expertise and on-the-ground knowledge of the Arizona Game and Fish Department personnel in developing and modifying Travel Management Plans and, to the degree feasible, to utilize the Department as a Cooperating Agency in further analysis through the NEPA process; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arizona Wildlife Federation urges the Forest Service to use a more streamlined process for making adjustments from year to year based on public input and analysis by Forest Service and cooperating agency staff. (#1, 2014)