

*Resolution of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission*  
*February 10, 2017*  
*'Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2016'*

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**WHEREAS**, Oregon is home to more than 850 species of wildlife and fish throughout nine distinct ecoregions from the sage brush desert to the extensive nearshore and estuarine habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, out of the 850 species of wildlife and fish in Oregon only 80 wildlife and 105 fish are considered harvestable game species; and

**WHEREAS**, out of the wide variety of species of wildlife, fish, plants and invertebrates in Oregon, 294 are identified as Strategy Species of greatest conservation need; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux Acts that established a fund to support conservation and science-based management of fish and wildlife species financed by hunters, recreational shooters, fishermen and boaters; and

**WHEREAS**, a dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism is lacking for many species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles that are not hunted or fished; and

**WHEREAS**, across the nation, the number of species petitioned for federal endangered species listing and federal listing protections are costly to implement, cause increased need for regulation/compliance and further the polarization of business, conservation and environmental interests; and

**WHEREAS**, in Oregon there are currently 18 species listed as endangered and 30 species listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon has a statutory responsibility to sustain and conserve all species of fish and wildlife for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and its marine component, the Oregon Nearshore Strategy, was developed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife with the assistance and support of more than 200 technical experts, organizations and individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oregon Conservation Strategy (originally published in 2006, updated in 2016) is the official State Wildlife Action Plan for Oregon, focused on the conservation of priority species and habitats, most of which are not listed as game or sport fish; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a recognized need to expand the funding base for fish and wildlife conservation in Oregon and throughout the Nation to implement State Wildlife Action Plans like the Oregon Conservation Strategy and its marine component, the Oregon Nearshore Strategy, in order to conserve species not listed as game or sport fish; and

**WHEREAS**, Congressman Don Young (R-AK) and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI) introduced the bipartisan 'Recovering America's Wildlife Act' (HR5650) in July 2016 calling for annual dedication of \$1.3 billion in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to state fish and wildlife agencies to conserve species of conservation need as recommended by the Blue Ribbon Panel; and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio is a cosponsor of Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will be reintroduced in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, the ‘Recovering America’s Wildlife Act’ (HR5650) is complementary to Oregon’s efforts to identify alternative, sustainable funding for fish and wildlife management and conservation through recommendations developed by a task force created by Oregon House Bill 2402; and

**WHEREAS**, the HB 2402 task force recommendations would significantly enhance the conservation and management of Oregon’s fish and wildlife, expand recreational fishing and hunting opportunities, recognize the longstanding contribution of hunters and anglers to conserving Oregon’s fish and wildlife, and increase the connection of youth, families and underserved populations with Oregon’s rich outdoor heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding identified by the HB 2402 task force recommendations would provide the necessary 25% non-federal match for any new, dedicated federal funding as a result of passage of the ‘Recovering America’s Wildlife Act’ (HR 5650), Oregon would be well positioned to implement the Oregon Conservation Strategy and its marine component, the Oregon Nearshore Strategy,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that on February 10, 2017, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel and the ‘Recovering America’s Wildlife Act’ recommending Congress dedicate \$1.3 billion dollars annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to diversify funding and management of all wildlife; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission encourages other Wildlife Commissions throughout the West to do the same; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission respectfully requests that the entire Oregon Congressional Delegation support legislation in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress that would implement this recommendation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission supports state policy and legislation that would broaden dedicated funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation and implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy and its marine component, the Oregon Nearshore Strategy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission encourages the Oregon State Legislature to approve and implement the recommendations of the HB 2402 task force to enhance the conservation of Oregon’s fish and wildlife, increase fishing and hunting opportunities, and connect Oregonians with the outdoors.

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Michael Finley, Chair