

**WAIVER OF WMA HUNTING PERMIT FOR SMALL GAME HUNTERS
TO ENCOURAGE RECRUITMENT/RETENTION OF HUNTERS**

WHEREAS, hunters provide both financial and political support for wildlife conservation, and more than any other segment of the population, are responsible for the preservation and enhancement of habitat and science-based wildlife management that benefits all species of wildlife, and

WHEREAS, hunters' willingness to pay for conservation is a hallmark of their dedication to the stewardship of the Earth's living natural resources, and is the foundation upon which institutional wildlife conservation is largely based, and

WHEREAS, due to many factors, including urbanization, loss of tradition, aging population, modern technology and alternative recreational opportunities, as well as loss of available places to learn woodsmanship and about hunting, and to engage in that activity, the numbers of hunters are declining, thus diminishing the support base for wildlife conservation, and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the future of conservation that its traditional support base of hunters be maintained, even as other strategies to expand the wildlife conservation support base are pursued, and **WHEREAS**, a traditional avenue for the recruitment of hunters has been the opportunity to roam the woods hunting small game, particularly squirrels, and

WHEREAS, for various reasons, including the popularity and proliferation of lands dedicated to deer hunting/management, and emphasis on big game and turkey hunting by the popular sporting media, entry-level hunting for small game has received less attention as the vital hunter recruitment and retention pathway that it is, and

WHEREAS, a longstanding tradition in Louisiana has been the celebration of the opening weekend of squirrel season with large, extended family campouts, and woodland adventures involving many young hunters and their mentors stalking wily bushytails, and

WHEREAS, it has been observed that, since the \$15/year Wildlife Management Area Hunting Permit has been in effect, the numbers of early-season WMA squirrel hunters has declined, and

WHEREAS, in response to the imperative to recruit and retain hunters, the traditional support base for wildlife conservation, it is reasonable to consider a variety of strategies to stimulate participation, including relaxing fee requirements when such fees are determined to be an impediment to recruitment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission to consider waiving the Wildlife Management Area Hunting Permit for small game hunting during the first 9 days of the squirrel hunting season and that the Louisiana Legislature amend pertinent statute to authorize the Commission to take such action.

NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), was established in Kentucky in March 2002 with 22 middle schools participating in the first year, and

WHEREAS, of the 1600 kids (45% girls; 55% boys) participating in the NASP during its initial year, 72% did not own a bow and 62% had never shot one before, and

WHEREAS, 89% of the participants enjoyed the class, and 45% wanted to own archery equipment, 59% wanted to become target archers and 39% wanted to try bowhunting after participating in the program, and

WHEREAS, over 800 Kentucky schools have adopted the NASP program and in 2006 the NASP championship competition attracted 2,164 student archers, and

WHEREAS, NASP has been adopted by 44 states as of September 2007; Australia and Canada have also initiated NASP, and

WHEREAS, over 3 million youth have participated in archery through NASP, during school hours, and

WHEREAS, there have been zero accidents/injuries involving participants or instructors, proving that NASP is a safe and carefully thought out program, and

WHEREAS, the instructors and teachers of the NASP are required to attend training where they are taught safety and how to institute the NASP in the schools, and

WHEREAS, NASP was introduced to Louisiana in 14 pilot schools around the state in 2004, and
WHEREAS, C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport held the first Louisiana NASP tournament in May 2007, with 37 young archers participating in the competition, and

WHEREAS, although just 3 Caddo Parish schools participated in the NASP during the 2006-2007 school year, over 700 kids learned about archery and benefited from the program, and

WHEREAS, considering the decline in hunter recruitment, especially among youth, and low youth participation in the shooting sports, NASP is a perfect program for schools to introduce kids to archery skills that can lead to a lifetime of wholesome recreational enjoyment as well as promote the development of capacities that will be useful to them throughout their lives.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) supports the growth of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) in Louisiana and urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF), in partnership with the Bayou State Bowhunters Association and other appropriate sporting and education groups to promote the development of NASP throughout the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the LDWF to consider establishing a position of “shooting sports coordinator” within the agency to work on the development of the NASP and other organized shooting education programs, activities and events to promote the shooting sports among youth and adults alike.

STATEWIDE AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, Governor Bobby Jindal has recently issued Executive Order No. BJ 2008-8 – Green Government, establishing state policy on energy efficiency and conservation, and waste management and recycling practices by state agencies, and

WHEREAS, municipal solid waste generation is a major contributor to the global problem of excess garbage and trash currently disposed of in landfill operations, and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the waste stream waste consists of recyclable materials such as paper, plastic, glass, aluminum, copper, and tin, and

WHEREAS, there are currently many successful, and profitable municipal recycling programs in operation throughout the state and the nation, illustrating that effective recycling programs are feasible if designed, promoted and managed properly, and

WHEREAS, there is a huge variation in the availability and comprehensiveness of recycling programs among communities in the state, from popular single-stream curbside recycling operations that enjoy strong citizen participation to “Maw Maw, where should I put my empty soda can for recycling like we do at home?” “Aw, baby, just throw it in the trash, it all goes out with the garbage here in _____.”, and

WHEREAS, every citizen of this state and especially our children have a stake in the outcome of our waste management practices, pollution and its effects on the environment, but many residents of our state are not afforded the means to conveniently contribute to the conservation effort through an effective community recycling program, and

WHEREAS, municipal governments, managing cities of sufficient size and populations to support a viable recycling program, should be obliged to afford their citizens the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive recycling program including “curbside” pick-up as well as managed drop off sites.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation commends Governor Jindal for issuing Executive Order No. NO. BJ2008-8 – Green Government, and urges that he consider expanding that order to direct the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to develop and implement a plan, in cooperation with local governments, to make comprehensive recycling programs conveniently available to citizens in all communities in the state.

REDUCING LOUISIANA’S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

WHEREAS, it is well accepted within the world’s scientific community that sea levels and temperatures are rising globally and that our global climate is changing due to excessive emissions of carbon and other greenhouse gases, and

WHEREAS, with hundreds of miles of coastline and thousands of square miles of fragile low-lying coastal wetlands that are important to both the state and nation’s economy, Louisiana is more at-risk to the effects of rising sea levels and violent tropical storms than most other states, and

WHEREAS, a significant economic benefit of Louisiana’s at-risk low lying coastal wetlands derives from their productivity as fish and wildlife habitats and the commercial and recreational uses of their dependent natural resources, and

WHEREAS, more than 75 percent of Louisiana’s electricity is generated by fossil fuels which contribute greatly to the state’s greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks third among the fifty states in per capita energy consumption, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has substantial bioenergy potential due to its productive agriculture and forestry industries, and considerable potential for the generation of power from wind and solar energy provided disincentives are removed and incentives applied, and

WHEREAS, current means are available to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, mitigation in the form of enhancing carbon sequestration is an important way to reduce greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, and

WHEREAS, other coastal states such as Florida, California, and North Carolina have adopted renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction standards, and

WHEREAS, the actions Louisiana takes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in concert with actions taken elsewhere in the United States and the world could significantly reduce the potential for adverse climate change impacts in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, because of our rapid loss of coastal wetlands and the potential exacerbation of this crisis from rising sea levels caused by a warming climate, Louisiana should lead by example in the fight against global climate change by reducing our own emissions of greenhouse gases and demonstrating the economic value of such reductions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) commends Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana, for his vision and wisdom in recognizing that energy efficiency and conservation are essential components of responsible fiscal management, by issuing Executive Order No. BJ 2008-8 which promotes the use of renewable and alternative energy sources, waste management and recycling, and other conservation measures by the state agencies under his direction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF, for the intended purpose of reducing Louisiana's greenhouse gas emissions, does hereby urge and request Governor Bobby Jindal to issue an Executive Order to establish specific goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the state and develop a plan for reducing such emissions that includes the increased use of renewable/clean energy sources and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for significant sources of such emissions including public utilities and industrial producers of electricity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the Governor to establish a full-time coordinator in his office to be responsible for developing the plan in cooperation with all state departments and to take actions needed to increase Louisiana's carbon sequestration through reforestation and other resource management practices.

REDUCING NON-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, millions of plastic bags are provided to Louisiana shoppers at retail checkout counters each year, and

WHEREAS, often, more plastic shopping bags are used than are needed to secure groceries and other retail goods for the trip home, and

WHEREAS, although some plastic shopping bags can be put to good secondary uses as garbage bags and for storing household goods, in most cases, a shopper's supply of bags far exceeds any practical and useful secondary uses for which they can be employed, and

WHEREAS, untold billions of such bags are distributed to shoppers each year in the United States; the worldwide estimate is 4 trillion to 5 trillion non-biodegradable plastic bags distributed annually, and

WHEREAS, it takes 430,000 gallons of oil to produce 100 million plastic bags, and

WHEREAS, not only are errant plastic shopping bags a blight on the our scenic Louisiana landscapes, the environmental impact of their proliferation includes the combustion of fossil fuels used in their manufacture causing the emission of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants and soil and water contamination as they slowly decompose, releasing toxic chemicals from which they are made, and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of excess plastic shopping bags encourages their escape into the environment where they can create litter, despoil Nature, plug storm sewers and strangle and choke wildlife, and

WHEREAS, countries all over the world have recognized the problems caused by the proliferation of plastic shopping bags in the environment and some, including China, Belgium, India, Denmark, Hong Kong, Australia, Ireland, South Africa and Canada have initiated measures to address the problem, and

WHEREAS, across this country legislation has been passed or is pending approval in New York City, San Francisco and San Jose, CA, Anchorage, Alaska, Virginia, New Jersey, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and other places, dealing with this problem in various ways, such as banning their use, taxing their use, rewarding reuse of the bags, or use of alternate methods of carrying goods such as canvas bags, or use of biodegradable carrying bags, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation recognizes that a workable solution for the problem of errant non-biodegradable plastic bags in the environment must be found for Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal's Executive Order No. BJ 2008-8 regarding "Green Government" states: *efficient and effective waste management conserve tax dollars and natural resources, and reduction of waste and recycling of what would otherwise be waste are proven waste management strategies.*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges retailers and other purveyors of plastic shopping bags to reduce their distribution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF commends those businesses in Louisiana that have already taken it upon themselves to cease distributing non-biodegradable plastic bags and applauds them for their environmental responsibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF does hereby urge and request Governor Bobby Jindal in reference to Executive Order No. BJ 2008-8 regarding "Green Government" to direct the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality to develop a plan to ultimately ban the free distribution of non-biodegradable plastic bags in Louisiana.

HISTORIC & SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION FOR BAYOU MANCHAC

WHEREAS, beautiful Bayou Manchac, which lies along the boundaries of three parishes - Ascension, East Baton Rouge and Iberville – has been a river significant in Louisiana history, and has been included in the Louisiana State Historical Markers program, and

WHEREAS, throughout history, Bayou Manchac was home to numerous native American cultures, as well as later European settlements including Galveztown, Fort Bute, Fort San Gabriel, Manchac, and Hope Villa, and

WHEREAS, Bayou Manchac served as an international boundary in the original Louisiana Purchase, and

WHEREAS, Bayou Manchac, known for a time as the Iberville River, is described in the journals of Pierre le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, and in later writings of William Bartram, and

WHEREAS, much of the banks of Bayou Manchac are wooded and provide excellent habitat for a wide variety of riparian and aquatic plants and wildlife, and

WHEREAS, Bayou Manchac remains a quiet, natural, scenic waterway, protected by a canopy of trees growing from both banks, and is regarded by those that live in the vicinity as one of Louisiana's most beautiful examples of nature.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports the designation of Bayou Manchac, from its origin near the Mississippi River to its union with the Amite River, as a Louisiana Historic and Scenic River, and urges the Louisiana Legislature to nominate Bayou Manchac for such designation.

LOUISIANA NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM DESIGNATION FOR CASTOR CREEK IN RAPIDES PARISH

WHEREAS, Castor Creek was judged to be qualified for the National Scenic River System by the U. S. Forest Service in the 1999 Forest Plan, and

WHEREAS, much of its 4.9 mile length flows through towering loblolly pine, beech, magnolia, sweetgum, ash and bald cypress within the Evangeline Unit of Kisatchie National Forest and is crossed by the Wild Azalea National Recreation Trail, and

WHEREAS, Castor Creek and two tributaries make up the expanded Castor Creek Scenic Area with numerous trees over 100 years old, and

WHEREAS, this clear, sandy-bottomed stream is habitat for the federally listed threatened Louisiana pearlshell mussel and the sensitive Teche painted crawfish, and is a good stream fishery for largemouth and spotted bass, longear and bluegill sunfish and eastern chain pickerel (jackfish), and

WHEREAS, Little Brushy Creek, Long Branch, Loving Creek and Little Loving Creek are part of the Castor Creek watershed and come together to enter Bayou Boeuf, and

WHEREAS, together these streams constitute over half of the pearlshell mussel population in Rapides Parish and have similar older plant communities and aesthetic appeal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports the nomination of Castor Creek, Little Brushy Creek, Long Branch, Loving Creek and Little Loving Creek for designation from their origin to their terminus as Louisiana Natural and Scenic Streams, and urges the Louisiana Legislature to nominate these streams for such designation.

CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT

WHEREAS, H.R. 2421 and S. 1870 will return protection to isolated wetlands as originally intended under the Clean Water Act, and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act, as originally interpreted protected small isolated potholes and other wetlands, and

WHEREAS, small isolated wetlands constitute 20 million acres and supply breeding habitat for 40% of the waterfowl in the prairie pothole region of the Dakotas, and

WHEREAS, these wetlands are jeopardized by rising product prices, and

WHEREAS, these wetlands provide vital storm water absorption capabilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation hereby is in support of H.R. 2421 and S. 1870.

PROVIDING PUBLIC FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH COASTAL RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PROJECTS

WHEREAS, participation in recreational fishing and recruitment of young people into the sport is declining in Louisiana and across the nation, and

WHEREAS, lack of opportunity due to limited access discourages participation and recruitment of new participants to the recreational fishery, and

WHEREAS, in years past many people started out fishing when they were kids, at places that they could access on their own, and

WHEREAS, the creation of new “borrow pits” that will be necessary for building new and expanded hurricane protection levees presents the opportunity to provide for public access for fishing and other appropriate recreational uses of such borrow pits, and

WHEREAS, lands and wetlands created by coastal restoration projects as well as lands that the state must acquire for coastal restoration projects may provide further opportunities to secure access for public fishing and recreation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF), for the purpose of creating recreational fishing opportunities for the public, urges the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to secure public access to and use of suitable borrow pits that are created in the construction of hurricane protection levees, and to provide for public access to and use of public and

suitable private lands/wetlands in cooperation with participating landowners that are created by coastal restoration projects as well as lands that the state must acquire to implement coastal restoration projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to coordinate appropriate federal and state agencies to select borrow pits that are best located and suitable for public fishing and to provide fish stocking and habitat management services to establish and maintain healthy native fish populations.

USE OF TRIPLOID GRASS CARP FOR HYDRILLA CONTROL

WHEREAS, grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) are voracious vegetarians, consuming up to 300% of their own body weight a day, and

WHEREAS, a preferred food of the grass carp is hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), and

WHEREAS, hydrilla is one of the most problematic invasive, aquatic weeds in Louisiana waters, and

WHEREAS, standard methods of aquatic vegetation control – mechanical removal, draw-downs, and chemicals - are expensive and provide only a short term remedy, and

WHEREAS, triploid grass carp are sterile, and

WHEREAS, grass carp require moving water in order to spawn successfully, and are therefore incapable of reproducing in static bodies of water, and

WHEREAS, fertile, diploid grass carp are already present in the major rivers of the state, thus diminishing the concern that utilizing triploid grass carp for aquatic vegetation control will promote the uncontrolled spread of grass carp in state waters.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) supports the experimental use of triploid grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) in an integrated program of aquatic vegetation control in state waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the Louisiana Legislature to modify and clarify RS 56:319 to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and/or the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to utilize triploid grass carp in nuisance aquatic vegetation control efforts, including providing for the possession of diploid grass carp at LDWF fish hatcheries to produce stock for use in the LDWF's aquatic vegetation control program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the LDWF to consider and include the use of triploid grass carp in the Comprehensive Statewide Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the LDWF to allocate hatchery resources to producing the triploid grass carp required for hydrilla control.

LOUISIANA OCEAN POLICY

WHEREAS, with its commercial and recreational fisheries, mineral development, ports, pipelines, and potential for wind energy and aquaculture, Louisiana has the most heavily utilized and impacted coastal region in the country, and

WHEREAS, the amount of ocean activity will only increase offshore Louisiana as world needs for energy, food and international trade increases, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's commercial fishery annually ranks second in the U.S. in number of pounds landed and in value of catch landed, trailing only Alaska, and Louisiana's coastal and offshore recreational fishery ranks among the best in the world, and

WHEREAS, the congressionally-created US Ocean Policy Commission set forth the need for a coordinated US ocean policy nationally, regionally, and at the state level in its final report: An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century (Ocean Blueprint), and

WHEREAS, the Ocean Blueprint stated that the nation's coastal zones and oceans are suffering from polluted runoff, extensive coastal development, habitat loss, and overlapping regulatory jurisdictions, and

WHEREAS, the United States Government recognizes a 12 mile Territorial and a 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone off its coasts as a generally accepted rule of International Law giving it control over resource exploitation, and

WHEREAS, although Louisiana currently has jurisdiction over state coastal waters out to 3 miles, it is likely that additional jurisdiction out to 12 miles will be ceded to the states by the federal government in the future, and

WHEREAS, the probability of an expanded territorial sea has motivated 13 US ocean states to develop or be in the process of developing state comprehensive ocean policy documents, among them Florida, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Alaska and California, often through ocean resource management improvement funding pursuant to Section 1456 (b) of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana should follow the lead of its sister states in embarking on the development of a comprehensive, coordinated Louisiana Ocean Policy for the next 2 decades.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the Governor and Legislature to establish a committee or other appropriate task group to research and draft a comprehensive state ocean policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LWF urges that such Louisiana Ocean Policy work group be comprised of stakeholders including representatives of pertinent government and non-government organizations, industries, businesses and members of the academic community with ocean law and policy expertise and that Louisiana ocean resource management enhancement funds be obtained under Section 1456 (b) of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act and other appropriate funding sources to support this work.

EXPIRATION DATES OF HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

WHEREAS, in recent years, hunting and fishing license sales have stagnated or declined, and

WHEREAS, declining hunting and fishing license sales impacts the operating funds for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), and

WHEREAS, a change in the expiration date of hunting and recreational fishing licenses to twelve months from the date of issue may result in more new resident licenses being sold, and could also increase the sale of annual non-resident licenses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to conduct a fiscal impact assessment of, and consider the relative benefits of, making the expiration date of recreational hunting and fishing licenses twelve months from date of issue.

LOUISIANA BULLFROG MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*), and its close cousin the pig frog (*Lithobates grylio*) have been a part of the culinary culture of South Louisiana since Native Americans inhabited the woods and waters of our great state, and

WHEREAS, for untold generations these miniature “amphibian athletes” have maintained their abundance, protected from ever increasing harvest and predation by a variety of natural defenses including impenetrable swamp and vast grassy marshland habitats, keen senses, and resilience to environmental stressors, and

WHEREAS, commercial and recreational harvesters have always depended upon the seemingly endless supply of frog’s legs available for home consumption and the enjoyment of restaurant diners around the world, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law currently allows harvest of frogs for 10 months of the calendar year, excluding April and May during the peak of the bull and pig frog reproduction season, with no daily/nightly limits during open season, and

WHEREAS, during the months of February and March as frogs emerge from their winter “sleep,” they are sluggish and less capable to respond to danger, and much of their protective cover in the form of water hyacinth and other aquatic plants have been greatly reduced or completely eliminated during the cold season die-off, factors making it less sporting and easier for froggers to approach and capture them, and

WHEREAS, the coastal wetlands of Louisiana, home to the majority of the bull and pig frog populations of the state, are particularly susceptible to dramatic changes in habitat and water quality due to salt water intrusion and storm surge flooding; the population of frogs residing along the state’s coastal freshwater barriers likely were significantly reduced due to the effects of hurricanes Katrina and Rita that diminished both cover and forage for bull and pig frogs, and

WHEREAS, with the degradation and loss of wetland habitat in Louisiana and the increase in frog harvest efficiency afforded by modern-day tools and technology such as stronger lighting, high-powered mud boats, airboats, mechanical grabbers, nets, etc., coupled with the increased market demand for frogs both domestically and internationally, an assessment of the status of the bull and pig frog populations in the state and consideration of new harvest regulations to insure and conserve sustainable populations of these species is warranted, and

WHEREAS, coastal restoration should include consideration of restoring populations of bull and pig frogs and other sensitive, wetland dependent species to their former abundance in the coastal wetlands of the state.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to determine the status of the bullfrog and pig frog populations in the state, with emphasis on the coastal parishes impacted by the hurricanes of 2005, and further, to consider the need to establish a daily bag limit on bull frogs and pig frogs.

USE OF MUZZLELOADERS-ONLY IN MUZZLELOADER SEASON

WHEREAS, the muzzleloader has one characteristic that distinguishes it from other firearms: it is loaded from the muzzle of the gun, and

WHEREAS, the black powder cartridge rifle shoots a rifle cartridge, and is loaded from the rear of the gun, and

WHEREAS, each time a muzzleloader is fired, powder must be measured and loaded into the muzzle, followed by the projectile, in order to reload, and

WHEREAS, the cartridge rifle has the exact amount of powder, and the projectile is seated in the exact same position every time and can be reloaded simply by inserting a fresh cartridge into the firing chamber, and

WHEREAS, the cartridge rifle has an the advantage of both accuracy and consistency compared to the muzzle loading rifle and is a substantially different firearm than envisioned for use when the muzzleloader or primitive firearm season was first conceived.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation opposes allowing the use of firearms which are breech loaded during the designated muzzleloader deer season and supports allowing only those weapons that are loaded from the muzzle to be permitted to be used during the muzzleloader hunting season for deer.

RECOGNIZING PREVENTION AS A VITAL COMPONENT OF COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION

WHEREAS, the 2000 census documented that over 50 percent of Louisiana's population live and work in the coastal zone, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastal zone and marshes support and protect extensive oil and gas production and infrastructure, five of the nation's fifteen largest ports, a highly productive commercial fishing industry, as well as recreational fishing, hunting, wildlife-watching, fur harvest, and alligator harvest, and

WHEREAS, the historic and continued loss of Louisiana's coastal barriers and wetlands represents a threat to the state's economy and a clear and present danger to people and communities, and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that projects and activities in support of commerce, flood control and the development of natural resources for sustenance and economic gain have contributed substantially to and accelerated the natural processes of erosion and subsidence of coastal lands, and

WHEREAS, plans to restore Louisiana’s coastal wetlands, while critically needed, have a daunting price tag, and their implementation is dependent upon the support of the tax-paying American public and the vagaries of the federal funding process, and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable and realistic for federal appropriators to expect the state of Louisiana to demonstrate consistency between requests for federal funding to restore areas experiencing land loss, and the stewardship and protection of existing coastal barrier and wetland habitats, and

WHEREAS, the least expensive and most effective “coastal restoration” is achieved by preventing the destruction of coastal wetland habitats in the first place, and

WHEREAS, regardless of the past inattention to the application of this common-sense approach to the conservation of coastal barriers and wetlands, it is imperative it be embraced as Louisiana moves forward to save its coast from further loss and degradation, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Governor, Bobby Jindal in his recent **Executive Order No. BJ 2008 -7, “ACTIVITY AND PERMIT CONSISTENCY WITH LOUISIANA’S COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE COAST”** recognized the importance of managing coastal activities such that they are not counter to the state’s imperative to protect, restore and conserve the coast, and therefore also recognizes the concept of prevention as a vital component of coastal protection, restoration and conservation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges that coastal land loss “prevention” be fully integrated into the state’s coastal protection and restoration policies and plans, including in the exercise of its existing authority to guide and regulate coastal uses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF calls upon those industries and operators in the coastal zone who, by virtue of their activities, may contribute to the loss of coastal barriers and wetlands, to avoid damages to coastal barriers and wetlands where feasible and to fully mitigate damages so that such activities do not contribute to further loss and jeopardy of Louisiana’s coastal communities, and further, to pioneer innovative practices and techniques that prevent damage or destruction of existing coastal wetlands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF encourages Governor Jindal to fully execute the policy articulated in **Executive Order No. BJ 2008 -7, “ACTIVITY AND PERMIT CONSISTENCY WITH LOUISIANA’S COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE COAST”** to prevent further degradation and loss of Louisiana’s coastal barriers, cheniers and wetlands.

RETURNING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO ITS DELTA

WHEREAS, coastal Louisiana was formed by the depositional processes of the Mississippi River over the past 7,500 years, and

WHEREAS, the thick fluvial deposits that comprise the Mississippi River delta are naturally prone to compaction under their own weight, but if sediment supplies are sufficient the delta can build and maintain its surfaces as sea level rises, and

WHEREAS, the land building processes of the Mississippi River have been halted in South Louisiana by a combination of levees (which prevent seasonal overbank flooding and sediment deposition), dredged

waterways (which channel fresh water and sediment to the Gulf of Mexico), and upstream dam construction (which prevent sediment from naturally reaching the Louisiana coast), and

WHEREAS, over 1,500 square miles of Louisiana's coastal wetlands and barrier islands have been lost to open water since the early 1930's and scientists project that another 500 square miles will be lost by 2050 if current resource management practices continue, and

WHEREAS, more than 120 million tons of river sediment that could be used to sustain the Mississippi Delta will be lost to the Gulf of Mexico each year if nothing is done to restore the natural hydrology of the Mississippi River, and

WHEREAS, prevention of wetland loss in the Mississippi River Deltaic Plain, which comprises most of the southeastern Louisiana coastal zone, is dependent upon restoring flows of fresh water and sediment to the delta, and

WHEREAS, an international team of scientists convened for the express purpose of advising the State of Louisiana about its coastal land loss problem in 2006 concluded that "The most fundamental and essential action needed to achieve a sustainable coast is to reduce, to the greatest extent possible, the amount of Mississippi River sediment and freshwater flowing directly into the deep waters of the Gulf. These valuable resources, which originally built coastal Louisiana, can only benefit the coast if they are redirected to inshore and nearshore waters. This would occur naturally if the river were not artificially maintained for navigation along its present course into deep water.", and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal in his recent Executive Order No. BJ 2008 -7, "ACTIVITY AND PERMIT CONSISTENCY WITH LOUISIANA'S COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE COAST" recognized the importance of managing coastal activities such that they are not counter to the state's imperative to protect, restore and conserve the coast.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) calls upon the state of Louisiana, through its legal authorities and executive policies, to demand the US Army Corps of Engineers to permit no additional dam or levee construction along the mainstem or tributaries of the Mississippi River.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF requests the State of Louisiana, through its legal authorities, to urge and request the U. S. Congress to fully fund the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers the total amount of funds currently being collected from the Harbor Maintenance Fees and that the funds be used for the beneficial use of dredged material to protect, restore and conserve the coast of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF calls upon the state of Louisiana and the US Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with haste to restore the deposition of sediment in the deltaic plain region, sediment that created coastal Louisiana and which is required for its survival, through the implementation of restoration projects adopted in WRDA 2007, State of Louisiana Coastal Comprehensive Plan, the Corps' Louisiana Area Coastal Protection and Restoration Plan, and other restoration actions that enhance deltaic land building processes.