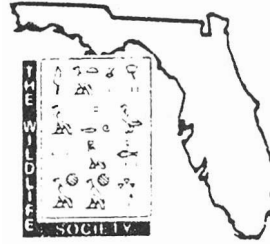


FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF PRESCRIBED FIRE

WHEREAS the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society is an organization of professional wildlife biologists, managers, and administrators in the State of Florida;

WHEREAS many native plant communities in the State of Florida have historically been maintained by the natural periodic occurrence of fire in the ecosystem;

WHEREAS many plant communities in the State of Florida require recurring fire to maintain their biological integrity;

WHEREAS prescribed fire is a valid, necessary, cost-effective, and, when properly conducted, safe management tool used by the wildlife and other professions;

WHEREAS changes in the frequency, season, and intensity of prescribed fire can attain distinct management objectives;

WHEREAS increasing urbanization and other intensive land uses fragment fire-adapted plant communities;

WHEREAS fragmentation and fire suppression policies have adversely impacted natural fire ignition and fire's role in maintaining biological diversity;

WHEREAS many publics, particularly new residents, do not have an understanding of the importance of fire to this state's environs; and

WHEREAS the loss or restrictions of the use of prescribed fire as a management tool would have a devastating impact on many wildlife habitats and plant communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Chapter, The Wildlife Society:

Supports the judicious and professional use of prescribed fire as a management tool for wildlife habitat enhancement, forest and range management, and ecosystem restoration and maintenance;

Supports educational programs for prescribed fire practitioners on state-of-the-art fire management science; and

Supports educational efforts directed at Florida's political and public entities, including young Floridians, on the natural role of fire in Florida's plant communities and its use as a management tool to maintain natural fire-type plant communities and associated wildlife.

A Resolution of the ***FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY***:

WHEREAS the *Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society* is an organization of professional wildlife biologists, managers, and administrators in the State of Florida;

WHEREAS the people of the State of Florida have repeatedly affirmed the 1942 amendment that constitutionally empowers the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to exercise the regulatory and executive powers of the State with respect to wildlife and freshwater fish;

WHEREAS the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has been recognized as one of the five most effective state conservation agencies nationally with respect to its expertise and performance in the conservation of game, nongame, and commercially exploited fish and wildlife by the Management Effectiveness Study Project, a cooperative effort of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, private conservation organizations, and other state fish and wildlife agencies; and

WHEREAS the marine, freshwater, and terrestrial fish and wildlife resources of the State would be best served if conservation authority was consolidated into one agency whose sole focus was fish and wildlife conservation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the *Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society*:

Supports the creation of a constitutionally-empowered Florida Department of Fish and Wildlife to include the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Marine Fisheries Commission, and those administrative, technical, and law enforcement elements of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in the Divisions of Marine Resources and Law Enforcement that are primarily responsible for fish and wildlife conservation, including the transfer to the Department of Fish and Wildlife of all funding and statutory authorities associated with the Marine Fisheries Commission and those elements of the Department of Environmental Protection to be transferred;

Opposes the transfer of any component of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to the Department of Environmental Protection; and

Encourages the Department of Fish and Wildlife, upon its creation, to work cooperatively with the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, water management districts, regional planning councils, Department of Community Affairs, and other state and federal agencies to ensure that fish and wildlife conservation needs in Florida are met.

Approved by the membership on October 28, 1993