

# *Resolute Resolutions*

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

**WHEREAS, effective conservation of fish, wildlife, and the ecosystems of which they are a part depends on adequate and stable funding for research, management, and education; and,**

**WHEREAS, the vast majority of fish and wildlife species in the United States are not classified as game, threatened or endangered, and funding for conservation and recreation programs that target these species is unpredictable and highly variable among states in the United States; and,**

**WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 created the framework for a comprehensive national wildlife diversity program designed to increase and stabilize funding for nongame wildlife conservation, but Congress identified no funding source and has never appropriated funds to effect the intent of the Act; and,**

**WHEREAS, over 76 million Americans recreationally view and enjoy watching wildlife; and**

**WHEREAS, a federal surcharge on hunting and fishing equipment has proved to be a stable mechanism for funding game wildlife and sportfish conservation programs; and**

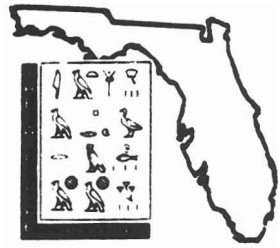
**WHEREAS, a comprehensive study by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recommended a small federal surcharge on supplies and equipment associated with recreational wildlife activities as the best funding option for a national program for the conservation and enjoyment of nongame fish and wildlife and their habitats;**

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

- 1. Strongly supports the concept of a federal surcharge on supplies and equipment associated with recreational wildlife activities to fund a national wildlife diversity program modeled after existing federal aid programs for game wildlife and sportfish.**
- 2. Urges retail purchasers and manufacturers of such equipment to actively support the surcharge.**
- 3. Appeals to Congress to enact legislation effecting the surcharge during the 1995-1996 session at a level that will generate at least \$350 million annually for the increase of management, conservation, and recreational opportunities associated with nonconsumptive use of wildlife resources.**

**Submitted by Brian Millsap and approved by the membership on October 5, 1995**

# FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



1239 S.W. 10th Street  
Ocala, FL 34474  
November 10, 1997

**FIELD(1)**

Dear **FIELD(2)**:

On behalf of professional wildlife biologists in Florida, The Wildlife Society requests your support of the Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) funding initiative. The initiative would fund the conservation of species that are not hunted or endangered. The so called "non-game" species comprise 90% of wildlife yet they receive only 10% of available funding. America's game species are thriving today because, 60 years ago, hunters established a user fee system on their equipment to fund conservation efforts. TWW is modeled after the sportsmen's highly successful Wildlife (Pittman-Robertson) and Sport Fish (Wallop-Breaux) Restoration Funds.

There is strong demand for outdoor recreation in America, with an estimated 63 million participants spending \$31 million in 1996 according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, at a time of increasing urbanization, many people are losing a connection to nature. By providing increased outdoor opportunities to the public, states will be creating a positive opportunity to introduce millions of people to the outdoors through wildlife recreation, education and conservation. Under TWW Florida fish and wildlife and parks agencies would be able to supply citizens of our state with \$20 million worth of fish and wildlife conservation and recreation. For example, new trail, nature and education centers, and bird watching areas would be built.

TWW would place a minimal user fee (.25%-5%) on the manufacturers price of outdoor recreation equipment (such as canoes, binoculars, backpacks, feeders, field guides, camera equipment, bird seed, tents, mountain bikes) that would be dedicated to wildlife. Local communities and state wildlife agencies would retain control over the funds by designing projects funded by TWW. The cost is minimal to take preventative conservation measures before drastic declines cause some species to become listed as threatened or endangered. Under TWW, funds will be used as a proactive tool to prevent declining species from becoming listed as threatened or endangered.

**FIELD(3)**

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**TWW is a “user-pay, user-benefit” program that allows outdoor enthusiasts to play an active role in the conservation of fish and wildlife resources. By joining the national coalition, 2,140 businesses and conservation organizations representing millions of Americans have made a commitment to create a wildlife-rich outdoors. The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society urges you to sponsor the TWW bill. If you require further information, please call me at 352-732-1225.**

**Sincerely,**

**Julie A. Hovis, President  
Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

**cc: Tom Franklin, TWS**

**The Honorable Michael Bilirakis**  
2369 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable F. Allen Boyd, Jr.**  
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**The Honorable Corrine Brown**  
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**The Honorable Charles T. Canady**  
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**The Honorable Jim Davis**  
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**The Honorable Peter R. Deutsch**  
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**The Honorable Lincoln Diaz-Balart**  
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**The Honorable Mark Foley**  
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**The Honorable Tillie Kidd Fowler**  
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**The Honorable Porter Goss**  
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