



A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ANNUAL FUNDING  
FOR THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION RESTORATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to unique populations of a tremendously diverse array of wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's Southeastern Coastal Plain and Southern Appalachian Mountains are internationally recognized biodiversity hotspots; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937 and the Dingell-Johnson Act in 1950 that established dedicated funds to support conservation and science-based management of bird, mammal, and sport fish species financed by hunters, recreational shooters, anglers, and boaters; and

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

WHEREAS, North Carolina created a Wildlife Action Plan that was first approved in 2005 and revised in 2015 by this Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Action Plan focuses on 457 Species of Greatest Conservation Need and 31 priority habitat types that require prescriptive actions to ensure persistence for future generations; and

WHEREAS, there is a recognized need to expand the funding base for wildlife conservation in North Carolina and throughout the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the recent Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, composed of 26 business and conservation leaders, recommends a new funding mechanism to support state fish and wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations; and

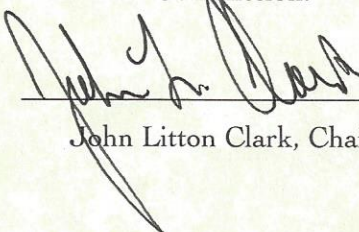
WHEREAS, securing dedicated federal funding is likely to require a non-federal state match similar to that in place for the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts.

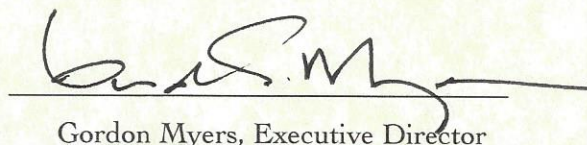
*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Commission supports the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources recommendation that Congress dedicate 1.3 billion dollars annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to diversify funding and management of all wildlife; and

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the Commission respectfully requests that the North Carolina Congressional Delegation support federal legislation, including HR5650 entitled "Recovering America's Wildlife Act" that would implement this recommendation; and encourages other State Fish and Wildlife Agencies throughout the Nation to do the same; and

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the Commission supports efforts that would broaden dedicated funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation and implementation of the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan, and serve as the State's 25 percent match in the event that new dedicated federal funding is secured.

Approved this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 2016, in an official meeting by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

  
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John Litton Clark, Chairman

  
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Gordon Myers, Executive Director