(4)

13-04-13

Resolution for All Non-Consumptive Citizens in Paying and Having Fair Say and Fair Take from our Public Lands

The Problem:

Under the Wildlife Public Trust Doctrine, all wildlife and our public lands belong to all citizens. Citizens who kill wildlife have been allowed to pay and remove wildlife from our public lands, for private trophy or consumption. There is no equal way for non-consumptive citizens to remove and take living wildlife for their use.

All citizens should be treated fairly, with the same responsibilities to pay and take from our public lands & wildlife. This has never been the case. To democratize both funding & responsibility for wildlife and fair treatment of all citizens and the wildlife we are all entitled to steward,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in every county on April 8, 2013, recommends that the Congress work with the Department and legislature to take action to correct this inequity by introducing rule changes and legislation that initiates a Fair Pay, Fair Take policy.

Like hunters, all citizens who desire to remove living wildlife from our common lands, would pay comparable fees (tag an orphan fawn living on your property for permanent protection instead of permanent death paying the same as deer hunting license). The fees would be comparable to those charged for killing wildlife and the limits of how much take per citizen per year would be the same. This evens the playing field for citizens who would like to protect. Licenses for protection could be transferred from urban citizens to rural citizens for better habitat for non-consumptive license recipients to participate fully.

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County vote: Yes_____ No: _____