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13-06-13

RESOLUTION: Restoring Beavers to Protected Status Ending the Massive Destruction of the Creator of the Most Valuable Habitat on Earth on "Trout Streams" and statewide

The Problem:

Beavers are a native species, so valuable that American Indians called them the "sacred center" of life. Hydrologists (water experts) say that the major water problems in N. America can be attributed to two human interferences:

1. The massive trapping and destruction of beavers
2. Agricultural drainage

Beavers create the most valuable habitat in the world, freshwater wetlands, home to HALF of the rare and endangered species on earth.

But to serve Trout Unlimited, and the Trappers Association, beavers are destroyed across thousands of miles of river systems, designated as "Class A Trout streams" and killed out on all public lands, providing fur trim for China.

Beavers co-evolved with salmon and trout for millions of years. The science and value of beavers has been ignored to kill them. Children should be able to see thriving ecosystems with beavers all over the state. It costs human wetland restorers $10,000 - $100,000 per acre to develop what beavers provide for free.

In 2009, the DNR estimated a population of 66,800 beavers in Wisconsin. Over the next 16 months, trappers destroyed over 69,000 beavers.

Whereas beavers play a valuable role in an ecosystem our global scientific community warns us is poorly understood and rapidly degrading,

Be it Resolved, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting, held in every county in Wisconsin, recommend that the Dept. of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by ending the trapping of beavers and destruction of beaver dams & beavers be recognized & protected as a state treasure.

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County vote: Yes_____ No: _____