

A Resolution in Support of New Legislation
for the
Missouri River

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Whereas, the Missouri River is an important biological, social, and cultural resource of South Dakota, many other states, and the Nation; AND

Whereas, the Pick-Sloan Flood Control Act of 1944 was enacted to stabilize the Missouri River flows through the construction of dams and channel stabilizing structures to provide for flood control, navigation, water supply, hydropower, fish and wildlife, and recreation due to the social, economic, and political philosophies and perceptions of the time; AND

Whereas, the current socio-economic demand and future out-look for water supply, hydropower, and recreation has and will continue to greatly surpass the socio-economic demand for navigation; AND

Whereas, the altered flow regime of the Missouri River has contributed to the decline of several river-related threatened and endangered species of fish and wildlife; AND

Whereas, the continued maintenance of a navigational channel and management of the Missouri River for navigation precludes society from realizing the benefits of enhanced flood control, ecological restoration, enhanced fish and wildlife populations, enhanced recreational benefits, increased tourism, AND

Whereas, current flow management of the Missouri River favors downstream navigation at the expense of water supply, hydropower, recreation, and threatened and endangered fish and wildlife; AND

Whereas, recent attempts by Federal agencies and the courts to more properly balance the regulation of the Missouri River to provide for more benefits to river uses other than navigation have failed; NOW

Therefore Be It Resolved that the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society at its annual meeting in Chamberlain, South Dakota, on this day of March 18, 2008, supports amending the Flood Control Act of 1944, or re-writing it altogether, to reflect the contemporary social and economic demands for a more equitable balance of uses of the Missouri River at the same time putting in place the flexibility for future generations to manage the Missouri River for their 'contemporary' needs and not being unduly restrained by visions of the past ; AND

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be distributed to South Dakota's United States Congressional Delegation – the Honorable Senators Tim Johnson and John Thune and the Honorable Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth Sandlin; South Dakota

Governor Michael Rounds; Missouri River Natural Resources Coordinator, Wayne Nelson-Statny; and Chairman of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes, John Cooper.