



NATIVE AMERICAN FISH & WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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Native American Fish & Wildlife Society

RESOLUTION

Title: Establish Conservation Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) funding within BIA Division of Natural Resources at \$30 Million Annually

Resolution No. 2022-005

WHEREAS, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (“NAFWS”) was established in recognition of the importance and respect accorded to fish and wildlife by Native American people; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS is composed of Indian Tribes, organizations and people as well as federal and state agency representatives forming “*a national Native American organization to aid in the development and protection of Native American fish and wildlife resources*”; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS purpose includes “*To assist in the facilitation and coordination of inter-tribal communication in regards to fish and wildlife matters, including issues with treaty rights, court cases related to fish and wildlife, and hunting and fishing regulations*”; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS purpose includes “*To protect, preserve and conserve the wise use and management of tribal fish, wildlife, and recreation resources*”; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS purpose includes “*To improve the general welfare of tribal people through educational, charitable, as well as fish and wildlife enhancement activities*”; and

WHEREAS, this nation is blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife, and while some of these species are thriving, many more are facing increasing challenges and are in steep decline – increasing their possibility of becoming endangered. Nationwide, 12,000 species have been identified that are in need of proactive conservation action, and we must rise to the challenge that confronts us; and

WHEREAS, Tribes own and influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands; and

WHEREAS, Tribes are proven leaders in the protection of these landscapes and their wildlife that provides a model and lessons for other natural resource managers; and

WHEREAS, Tribes have signed numerous Treaties under which hunting, fishing and gathering rights have been reserved and have entered into treaty related Consent Decrees, MOU/MOAs and other such instruments which allocate wildlife and fisheries and assign wildlife and fisheries management responsibilities to the Tribes, States and United States Government; and

WHEREAS, the ability to exercise Treaty reserved hunting, fishing and gathering rights is dependent on the proper management of resources including the development and enforcement of harvest regulations; and

WHEREAS, Tribes employ Conservation Law Enforcement Officers to provide public safety, protect treaty rights and to enforce the hunting, fishing, gathering and environmental rules, regulations and laws of the tribes and are a critical component of resource management and protection; and

WHEREAS, CLEO costs represent an increasing need and financial burden for individual Tribes and these needs have not been adequately met by the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs administers a provisional Conservation Law Enforcement Officer program within Office of Justice Services at \$500,000 funding with no more than \$45,000 available for applying Tribes and that funding has been static since its inception; and

WHEREAS, the funding available is not stable and fails to meet the needs of national Tribal CLEO programs, their 300 ± officers, and limits the Tribes abilities to protect natural resources, regulate public safety, and ultimately hinders the Tribes ability to exercise treaty protected rights; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society's Board of Directors hereby support that the United States Establish Conservation Law Enforcement funding within BIA Division of Natural Resources at \$30 Million Annually; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States increase CLEO funding annually such that the funding amount keeps up with inflation.

Certification

This resolution was enacted by the affirmative vote of the Board of Directors who attended the Board of Directors Meeting held on December 3, 2022. The vote is 9 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 voting abstaining.

Dated this 3rd day of December 2022.



Elveda Martinez, SW Regional Board Member and Society President



Mike LaVoie, SE Regional Board Member and Society Vice-President

Attest:



XX, XX Regional Board Member and Society Secretary/Treasurer