



NATIVE AMERICAN FISH & WILDLIFE SOCIETY
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Native American Fish & Wildlife Society
RESOLUTION

**Title: Establish Conservation Law Enforcement Officer(CLEO)
within BIA Natural Resources at \$30 National million Annually**

Resolution No. 2022-01

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, 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's 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;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs administers a provisional Conservation Law Enforcement Officer program within Office of Justice Services (OJS) at \$1 million funding with no more than \$47,000 available for applying Tribes and that funding has been static since its inception, and

WHEREAS, the Midwest Region Tribes have over 100 Conservation Law Enforcement Officers, with over 350 nationally.

WHEREAS, the current funding available is not stable and fails to meet the needs of existing tribal CLEO programs limiting the Tribes abilities to protect resources and public safety and ultimately hinders the Tribes ability to exercise treaty protected rights, and

WHEREAS, over 20 federally recognized tribes employ Conservation Officers in the Midwest region and less than 3 receive any CLEO funding;

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED; that the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society requests that the United States Establish Conservation Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) within BIA Natural Resources at \$30 National million Annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the United States increase Conservation Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) funding annually such that funding amount keeps pace with inflation.

Certification

This resolution was enacted by the affirmative vote of the Society membership who attended

the Great Lakes Regional Business Meeting held on September 20, 2022.

The vote is 24 voting in favor, 0 voting against and 1 members abstaining.

_____ Date: _____

Don Reiter, Great Lakes NAFWS Regional Director

_____ Date: _____

Terry Metoxen, Great Lakes NAFWS Director

