

A Proposed Resolution in Support of the Consolidation of
School Lands in Western South Dakota

Whereas, the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society is concerned with the rational management and equitable distribution of the wildlife resources of South Dakota; and

Whereas, most of South Dakota*s school lands are scattered about the western one-half of the state in mostly isolated parcels of a section in size that are difficult to access by anyone except the adjacent landowner; and

Whereas, South Dakota*s school lands represent a significant asset to the wildlife resources of the State; and

Whereas, South Dakota*s school lands represent a significant opportunity for the State*s residents and guests to access the wildlife resources of the State; and

Whereas, the primary purpose of the existence of school lands is to produce income for the State; and

Whereas, the consolidation of school lands into larger parcels using an “assembled land exchange” mechanism has resulted in an increase in income for the State by increasing the amounts paid to the State to lease those lands for livestock grazing; and

Whereas, the consolidation of school lands into larger parcels has also improved the State*s ability to manage the wildlife resources on those lands; and

Whereas, the consolidation of school lands into larger parcels has also improved the ability of the State*s citizens and their guests to access the wildlife resources on those lands;

Now therefore be it resolved that the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society at its Annual Meeting in Spearfish on March 6, 2001, supports the current policy and practice of the South Dakota Office of School and Public Lands to consolidate school lands by “assembled land exchanges” as it results in positive benefits to the State*s citizens and their guests, the State*s wildlife resources, and the State*s treasury; and

Be it further resolved that we suggest that the South Dakota Office of School and Public Lands give consideration to any unique ecological values of both parcels in consideration for exchange; and

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the South Dakota Commissioner of School and Public Lands, the Governor of the State of South Dakota, and any other interested party.