

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT WILDERNESS DESIGNATION ON THE  
CURRENT INVENTORIED ROADLESS LANDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA AND TO  
SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF FUTURE PROPOSED WILDERNESS  
DESIGNATIONS IN SOUTH DAKOTA**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service has inventoried 71,000 acres of Forest Service roadless lands in South Dakota that meet the stringent criteria for potential designation; and,

WHEREAS, two suitable areas for wilderness designation that have been recommended and supported by the most recent Record of Decision released by the Forest Service are Indian Creek (27,600 acres), Red Shirt (14,800 acres); and,

WHEREAS, a Citizen's Proposal for Wilderness in South Dakota has identified two additional areas suitable for inclusion in the wilderness designation, the Cheyenne River Canyon Area (8,555 acres) and First Black Canyon (10,218 acres); and

WHEREAS, these four areas, located in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands in western South Dakota, total 61,173 acres and represents 0.1% of the state's acreage and approximately 10.4% of the total Buffalo Gap National Grasslands; and,

WHEREAS, these unique roadless areas, with their special landscapes, can only be permanently protected by Congressional designation as wilderness areas; and,

WHEREAS, these areas would be the first nationally designated wilderness areas on our National Grasslands; and,

WHEREAS, wilderness designation does not affect the public's access to and use of these public lands for recreation and education; and,

WHEREAS, wilderness designation does allow grazing and maintenance of facilities to support grazing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society supports wilderness designation for the four suggested areas, and supports the future considerations and possible wilderness designations of other special areas in South Dakota; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of South Dakota, the South Dakota Congressional Delegation, and any other interested party.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2004 at the annual meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society, at Oacoma, South Dakota.