

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT SENATOR JOHNSON'S PROPOSED WILDERNESS DESIGNATION ON THE BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND IN SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Tim Johnson from the State of South Dakota has announced his intention to introduce Federal legislation to designate between 40,000 and 50,000 acres of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland, known as the Indian Creek, Red Shirt, and Chalk Hills areas, as wilderness; and,

WHEREAS, these three areas represent less than 0.1% of the State's acreage and less than 10% of the acreage of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland; and,

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

WHEREAS, these areas would be the first nationally designated wilderness areas in the National Grassland system; and,

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

WHEREAS, the proposed wilderness designation does allow for continued grazing and the 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 three aforementioned areas of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland, 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 2nd day of March, 2010 at the annual meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society, at Oacoma, South Dakota.