

**Mitigating Habitat Lost to Pick-Sloan Program Projects and Resolving
Jurisdictional Disputes On and Adjacent to the Missouri River in
South Dakota**

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the floodplain and adjacent uplands of the Missouri River in South Dakota provided breeding, migration, and wintering habitat for over 400 species of wildlife, including some of the most diverse, unique, and irreplaceable habitat in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS the Secretary of the Army acquired approximately 500,000 acres of land adjacent to the Missouri River from the State of South Dakota, Native American Tribes, and private individuals to carry out the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program; and

WHEREAS approximately 300,000 acres of habitat adjacent to the Missouri River, including 117,000 acres or 80% of bottomland cottonwood forests, were inundated by creation of the Missouri River reservoirs; and

WHEREAS 221,000 acres of this habitat were inundated under lakes Sharpe and Oahe; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has never applied the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to adequately mitigate these habitat losses; and

WHEREAS this habitat is not recoverable, and wildlife managers are faced with the challenge of replacing lost riparian habitat with habitat that, while not of comparable quality, meets the needs of wildlife that historically occupied and depended on the Missouri River floodplain; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, a professional society of approximately 200 wildlife managers, enforcement officers, biologists, researchers, and educators, on this day of 3 March 1998 at its annual meeting in Pierre, South Dakota, urges elected officials in Washington and in South Dakota to further the welfare of wildlife that inhabit or migrate through South Dakota by agreeing on mitigation for Pick-Sloan Program projects, and to resolve long-standing disputes over jurisdiction and access on and adjacent to the Missouri River between the State of South Dakota, Native American Tribes, and private individuals.