

**Proposed Resolution #01**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Erik Schnelle, Michigan Quality Deer Management Association and Rob Miller  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Passed:** December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting  
**Title:** **ANTLER POINT RESTRICTIONS (APR) INITIATIVE ACCELERATION**

**WHEREAS,** Both Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) are now established deer diseases in the State of Michigan with increasing prevalence rates, and we must act now to fight the further spread of these diseases and to keep them at low prevalence rates; and

**WHEREAS,** Deer hunting in the State of Michigan is +/- a \$2.6 billion-dollar industry; and

**WHEREAS,** Our deer herd is out of balance with its habitat, our deer harvest is unbalanced with far more bucks being harvested than does. As a result, in many areas of Michigan our deer herd has many more does than bucks, and those does are on average much older than the bucks, creating high disease risk, high population density, and causing excessive habitat and agricultural damage; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of Michigan is losing hunters and not recruiting enough young hunters; and

**WHEREAS,** Antler point restrictions (APR) have strong majority support from hunters state wide in every Department of Natural Resources (DNR) survey since 2012 (57% support with only 16% against in the DNR 2016 harvest survey); and

**WHEREAS,** In the Northwest APR counties, APR regulations have led to an increased doe harvest of 13% and in the 2016 harvest survey gained 77% support from hunters in the area; and

**WHEREAS,** In the R3 (recruitment, retention, and reactivation) study commissioned by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and DNR, Antler Point Restrictions were the change most cited by all hunters when asked what regulatory change would lead them to hunt more, with younger hunters the strongest supporters of the change; and

**WHEREAS,** There are proven biological benefits of a more balanced harvest and herd. (reduced dispersal, shorter, more intense, and synchronized rut, and increased natural selection for more genetically fit males (larger body size & antlers). NOW,

22 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) advocate for  
23 acceleration of Antler Point Initiative process to take no more than a calendar year from initiation to  
24 regulation change and more quickly when practical; and  
25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the APR initiative process should be conducted at no cost to the  
26 sponsoring sportsmen's groups.

**Proposed Resolution #02**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Erik Schnelle, Michigan Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA and Rob Miller  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Passed:** December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting  
**Title:** **MUCC WORKING CLOSELY WITH DNR IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CWD, TB, AND OTHER DISEASES.**

1 **WHEREAS**, Both Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) appear to be established  
2 diseases in the state of Michigan; and  
3 **WHEREAS**, Deer hunting in the State of Michigan is +/- a \$2.6 billion-dollar industry; and  
4 **WHEREAS**, There is no known cure for CWD; and  
5 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) 2017 convention passed unanimously two  
6 resolutions in regards to this issue, #13. Bringing Cervid Carcasses into Michigan From Other States and #14  
7 Captive Cervid Regulation Reform.  
8 **WHEREAS**, the MUCC 2017 Convention passed unanimously a resolution regarding funding of the  
9 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) #12, Unfunded Mandates on the DNR. NOW,  
10 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC bring to the forefront the above-mentioned resolutions and  
11 work with the DNR to enforce the above as well as find alternate funding than fish and wildlife funds to  
12 combat these diseases; and  
13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all the below points be considered:

- 14 • MUCC stay on top of the education of members by use of magazine, website, email and or whatever
- 15 they have available to both educate as well as promote hunter involvement in cooperation with the
- 16 DNR while combatting these diseases.
- 17 • MUCC support additional harvest of does in the effected DMU's, may be late season, reduced doe tag
- 18 cost or other means.
- 19 • MUCC support the implementation of Antler Point Restrictions (APR's) being put in place to help
- 20 promote the take of does and maintaining a balanced herd.
- 21 • MUCC continue to support baiting bans in all disease areas and per DNR recommendations.
- 22 • MUCC works with other organizations such as the Michigan QDMA in combining resources to help
- 23 the DNR and NRC with this disease and management issue.

**Proposed Resolution #03**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Millard H. Holton, MUCC Individual Member

**MUCC Region:** 7

**Passed:** December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting

**Title:** **COMBINE BOTH OF THE SPRING TURKEY SEASON IN HUNT UNIT ZZ INTO  
ONE SIX-WEEK SEASON**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Early Spring Turkey Season, Hunt Unit ZZ, Hunt Number 301, usually  
2 encompasses the later part of April and a few days of early May for a total of 14 days; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Late Spring Turkey Season, Hunt Unit ZZ, Hunt Number 234, is held during the  
4 last four weeks of May; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Fall Turkey Season, Hunt Unit YY, has recently been expanded to include 60  
6 days, starting on September 15 and ending November 14 where up to 60 turkeys of either sex can be  
7 harvested; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Hunt Units ZZ and YY consist of the 38 most southern Counties of the Lower Peninsula; and

9 **WHEREAS**, most of the State's turkey populations are found in Hunt Units, ZZ and YY; and

10   **Whereas, Hunt Units ZZ and YY are private land hunts only** with the exception of Fort Custer, therefore  
11   hunter pressure and overcrowding can be controlled by the land owner; and  
12   **WHEREAS,** hunting seasons are designed to control the amount of hunters allowed to enter a designated  
13   hunting area at one time in order to prevent overcrowding, as well as to protect the resource from over  
14   harvesting; and  
15   **WHEREAS,** a few decades ago we had far more hunters than we had most game animals, however that  
16   problem has nearly been reversed for most species at the present time; and  
17   **WHEREAS,** only 80% of persons purchasing a Spring Turkey License ever go afield to exercise their right to  
18   hunt turkeys; and  
19   **WHEREAS,** most Turkey Seasons in Michigan have shown a steady decrease in the amount of licenses sold  
20   **WHEREAS,** the DNR has determined that "family commitments" and "time constraints" are major  
21   contributors to the decline in license sales for the ZZ hunt seasons; and  
22   **WHEREAS,** due to the short, spring days, most working hunters, as well as students are limited to only four  
23   weekend days afield at best, during the 14-day early season; and  
24   **WHEREAS,** the early, 14-day season in Hunt Unit ZZ, experiences dramatic shifts from year-to-year, in the  
25   type of weather patterns hunters encounter, i.e., driving rains, gale type winds, sleet, extreme cold, and snow,  
26   as well as, a few days of sunshine; and  
27   **WHEREAS,** the spring turkey hunts feature the added challenge of being able to call in a gobbling, strutting,  
28   displaying trophy; an experience like no other; and  
29   **WHEREAS,** inclement weather combined with strong winds make it nearly impossible to use a turkey call  
30   effectively; and  
31   **WHEREAS,** the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has recently reduced the offered license quota for  
32   the Early Turkey Season in Hunt Unit ZZ from 65,000 to 35,000, and still there are "leftover licenses"  
33   available; and

34 **WHEREAS**, combining the two Spring Turkey Seasons in Hunt Units ZZ would lead to increased turkey  
35 license sales along with a desired rise in recruitment of new hunters, as well as a retention of the current  
36 hunters who are pressured to pursue competing activities, and  
37 **WHEREAS**, allowing one, six week long, spring turkey season with over the counter license sales would  
38 provide a lot of expanded hunting opportunities during a period of time that is crowded with numerous  
39 competing events; and  
40 **WHEREAS**, the short, early, Spring Turkeys Seasons are competing with all the other spring activities, such  
41 as, little league baseball, fishing seasons, graduations, open houses, gardening, farming duties, spring  
42 vacations, Holidays, church attendance and numerous other events; and  
43 **WHEREAS**, in discussions with DNR personnel reference combining the Two spring turkey seasons in Hunt  
44 Unit ZZ, there has never been any scientific reasons presented for opposing the merger of these seasons; and  
45 **WHEREAS**, based on the previously offered 65,000 desired license sales, there should be little if any harm to  
46 the turkey population or natural resources by combining the Hunt Unit ZZ turkey seasons. NOW,  
47 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the  
48 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and frame a Wildlife  
49 Order that would combine the two existing Hunt Unit ZZ turkey seasons into one, thereby increasing hunting  
50 opportunities, as well as recruiting and retaining more hunters.

**Proposed Resolution #04**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** UP Whitetails of Marquette County  
**MUCC Region:** 1  
**Passed:** December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting  
**Title:** **IMPROVING NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LAND**

1 **WHEREAS**, the current law states that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is required to keep land  
2 under its control open to hunting unless it determined that it should be closed to hunting because (1) public

safety; (2) fish or wildlife management concerns; (3) homeland security concerns; or (4) other legal requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department is required to manage land under its control to support and promote hunting opportunities to the extent authorized by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department is required to manage land under its control to prevent any net decrease in the acreage of such land that is open to hunting; and

**WHEREAS**, the “no-net-loss” provision also requires the state to open additional lands to hunting if it closes land currently open to hunting; and

**WHEREAS**, the current law does not acknowledge where the additional lands must be compensated, such as within the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Zones 1 (all of the Upper Peninsula), 2 (Lower Peninsula Northwest Michigan), and 3 (Lower Peninsula Southeast Michigan); and

**WHEREAS**, these requirements do not apply to private land that qualifies as “commercial forestland” for certain tax incentives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department shall submit a report to the Legislature detailing the location and acreage of land under its control (except for commercial forestland) that is closed to hunting during the previous year ending March 1, and the reason for closure, and the location and acreage of land under its control (except for commercial forestland) that it opened to hunting during the previous year to compensate for the land that was closed.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Michigan Legislature, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to continue to ensure that the amount of public land available to hunters does not decrease in the future; and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that should land under the control of the DNR close to hunting,  
26 compensation of additional land will be opened within the same region it was closed, to ensure fair  
27 opportunities to hunters within the designated regions.

**Proposed Resolution #05**

**Submitted by:** Greg Peter, MUCC At Large Director  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Passed:** December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting  
**Title:** **RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES (DNR) TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE MOOSE MANAGEMENT  
PLAN**

1 **WHEREAS**, the DNR has created comprehensive management plans targeting various species, including  
2 bear, elk, wolf, and deer.

3 **WHEREAS**, several states, including those located in the upper Midwest and northeastern United States,  
4 have a comprehensive moose management plan.

5 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Moose Advisory Council was established and tasked by Public Act 366 of 2010  
6 with the development of a comprehensive moose management plan and their report of September 2011 made  
7 recommendations for the establishment of a plan along the guidelines of the North American Model of  
8 Wildlife Management

9 **WHEREAS**, the Council's White Paper of February 2011 outlined a management plan contingent upon many  
10 factors impacting the sustainability of the species population

11 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC encourage the Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
12 to create a comprehensive moose management plan understanding the need for an increased commitment of  
13 funds and personnel to work to ensure a vibrant, sustainable moose population supporting hunting as a  
14 management tool understanding the many complicating factors in consideration.

**Proposed Resolution #06**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Saginaw Field and Stream Club  
**MUCC Region:** 6  
**Passed:** December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting (*proposed amendment for March 10, 2018 below*)  
**Title:** **LINE 5 AND ALTERNATIVES TO UNDERWATER PIPELINES**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Line 5 pipeline *consists of two parallel pipelines 4.09 miles long* underneath the Straits of  
2 Mackinac, was built in 1953 and runs from Superior, Wisconsin, through northern Michigan *and ultimately*  
3 *crossing the St. Clair River* at Sarnia, Ontario and is currently operated by Enbridge Inc., and

4 **WHEREAS**, Enbridge is also the company that operated the pipeline that ruptured and spilled over 840,000  
5 gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River in 2010, and

6 **WHEREAS**, there are numerous places along the underwater section of the pipeline where protective coating  
7 is missing, and for much of the history of the pipeline until recently, numerous sections of pipe were not  
8 properly supported on the Lake Michigan lakebed – where it gets stressed by currents, and

9 **WHEREAS**, a recent 2017 National Wildlife Federation (NWF) report revealed that the land-based sections  
10 of Line 5 have leaked 29 times since 1968, spilling over 1 million gallons of oil; and

11 **WHEREAS**, a 2016 University of Michigan study estimates an oil spill in the Straits could cover a segment  
12 as large as 20 percent (150 miles) of 700 miles of shoreline potentially at risk from a spill and impact a  
13 17,000-square mile spill zone; and

14 **WHEREAS**, at risk are the fish and wildlife of the Great Lakes, the drinking water relied upon by citizens,  
15 and the region's recreation and tourism economy which supports Michigan's way of life; and



16 **WHEREAS**, the agreement between the State of Michigan and Enbridge Energy Company dated November  
17 27, 2017 was not executed with any other concerned group participation. **NOW**,  
18 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with National  
19 Wildlife Federation and the appropriate decision makers to make every effort to protect the Great Lakes and  
20 its tributaries from any potential oil spill, including serious consideration of alternatives to pipelines across or  
21 below the Great Lakes.

**Proposed Resolution #07**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Diane Konneck  
**MUCC Region:** 7  
**Passed:** December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting  
**Title:** **ESTABLISH REGULATIONS ON THE OPERATION OF WAKE BOATS**

1 **WHEREAS**, it is becoming more common to see a surfer or wake boarder riding a wave being produced  
2 by a boat, and  
3 **WHEREAS**, some of this activity is taking place on small to medium inland lakes in Michigan, and  
4 **WHEREAS**, The waves produced to support this activity are larger and create more energy than any wave  
5 produced naturally, even in the strongest winds or storms, and  
6 **WHEREAS**, these waves are producing inordinate amounts of damage to on shore and near shore  
7 structures such as docks, sea walls, beaches and swim platforms, and people have been knocked down or  
8 off docks and swim platforms, and  
9 **WHEREAS**, the propulsion units on wake boats that have the ability to pump water in and out of a boat  
10 are very disruptive to plant and animal life on the lake bottoms in shallow areas.

11 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the  
12 legislature, Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Commission to create regulations  
13 restricting the use of boats that produce a wake large enough to support surfing and wake boarding to the  
14 larger lakes (example: 2000 acres), areas further from shore than the current rules allow (example: 1000  
15 ft.).

**Proposed Resolution #08**

**Submitted by:** David Van Lopik, Sport Shooting Committee Chair  
**MUCC Region:** 7  
**Passed:** December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting  
**Title:** **FIREARMS EDUCATION AND SAFETY**

1 **WHEREAS**, many public schools do not have a firearms safety program or hunter education safety  
2 program available.

3 **WHEREAS**, many public schools do not allow firearms or conservation clubs to hold extracurricular  
4 classes in firearms safety or hunter safety at their facilities.

5 **WHEREAS**, many public schools do not allow any advertisements, flyers, posters or other information  
6 about firearms safety programs or hunter safety programs on public school property.

7 **WHEREAS**, it has been proven that classes and programs in firearms safety and hunter education safety  
8 have reduced, and in some cases eliminated firearms related hunting deaths.

9 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan United Conservation Club believes firearm safety instruction and hunter  
10 safety instruction are an integral part of safely handling a firearm and promoting firearms safety.

11 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Michigan United Conservation Club will work with the State  
12 Department of Education, Intermediate School Districts (ISD's), and local school districts to provide  
13 access to promoting, advertising and providing information about firearm safety classes and hunter  
14 education classes at local, regional and state facilities and other range facilities open to the public.

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Michigan United Conservation Club will work with the State  
16 Department of Education, Intermediate School Districts (ISD's) and local school districts to ensure each  
17 student has the opportunity to attend a firearms safety course within the public school system, or on the  
18 public school grounds or alternate non-profit facility or sportsman's club.

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Michigan United Conservation Club will work with the State  
20 Legislature and Department of Education to ensure the above goals of providing each student an  
21 opportunity to access a firearms safety or hunter education safety class.

**Proposed Resolution #09**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** George Lindquist, MUCC Vice President  
**MUCC Region:** 1  
**Passed:** December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting  
**Title:** **PERCH RULES FOR LAKE GOGEBIC STATEWIDE**

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2011, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) adopted Fisheries Order 206, which  
2 governs special fishing regulations for coolwater species on select lakes; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the current law authorizes the Director of the Department provide for better protection and  
4 preservation of fish, game and birds; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the regulations contained in Order 206 are more restrictive than the general hook-and-line  
6 regulations that were needed to improve upon the ability of the Department to protect and enhance  
7 populations of sport fish in certain lakes; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Lake Gogebic was added to protect large yellow perch from Order 220 to Order 206; and

9 **WHEREAS**, large yellow perch are highly pursued by anglers, and prized when harvested; and

10 **WHEREAS**, surveys indicate that nearly half of the yellow perch sport angling harvest in Lake Gogebic  
11 consists of fish over 10 inches in size; and

12   **WHEREAS**, in 2011, local angling groups and residents requested that the Department consider reducing  
13   the daily possession limit to help protect and instill stewardship for this population; and

14   **WHEREAS**, this resulted in a 25 fish daily possession limit on yellow perch with no more than five fish  
15   12 inches or greater; and

16   **WHEREAS**, perch fishing is a great way to introduce others, including children, to fishing so those that  
17   desire more than 25 fish could be encouraged to introduce others to the opportunities of perch fishing.

18   **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the  
19   Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to make those  
20   current regulations for yellow perch in Lake Gogebic a statewide rule.

#### **Proposed Resolution #10**

**Submitted by:** Paul Rose, MUCC Past-President  
**MUCC Region:** 4  
**Passed:** December 9, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting  
**Title:** **MICHIGAN ARCTIC GRAYLING STOCKING INITIATIVE RESOLUTION**

1   **WHEREAS**, native Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) were believed to have been extirpated in  
2   Michigan in the 1930's and,

3   **WHEREAS**, the extirpation of Arctic Grayling is believed to have occurred due to the degradation of  
4   habitat and unsustainable harvest and,

5   **WHEREAS**, all prior attempts to plant Arctic Grayling in Michigan have been unsuccessful, and

6   **WHEREAS**, Michigan now enjoys a restored trout fishery which is among the most highly regarded  
7   in the nation, and

8   **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has announced an Arctic  
9   Grayling stocking initiative which lacks a clear public or stakeholder engagement process for the  
10   selection of water bodies and watersheds for planting, and

11 **WHEREAS**, the decline of Arctic Grayling in other states could potentially result in a changed legal  
12 status of the species such as listing under the Endangered Species Act, and

13 **WHEREAS**, many of Michigan's watersheds continue to undergo fisheries habitat restoration which  
14 could be impacted by the presence of a species which may become subject to federal protections  
15 elsewhere, and

16 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC and its partners work with the MDNR to assure that  
17 introduction of Arctic Grayling to Michigan rivers and streams will only be done if the following  
18 conditions are met:

19 1) The management of Michigan's existing fisheries will not be affected by a change of legal status  
20 of Arctic Grayling such as designation as "threatened" or "endangered" under the terms of the  
21 Endangered Species Act elsewhere in the United States.

22 2) The planting of Arctic Grayling will only occur in those water bodies and watersheds where  
23 support exists from stakeholder groups and a surveyed majority of responding anglers who use areas  
24 proposed for stocking, and

25 3) If the funding for an Arctic Grayling planting program is confirmed to be sustainable and will not  
26 undermine existing fisheries programs or staffing requirements in Michigan.

**Proposed Resolution #11**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Region I Policy Board Member Tim Kobasic on behalf of the Hiawathaland Trail  
Association and Straits Area Sportsmen's Club

**MUCC Region:** 1 and 2

**Passed:** September 23, 2017 Conservation Policy Meeting and October 18, 2017 Executive Board  
as interim policy

**Title: PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ADEQUATELY FUND UNITED STATES FOREST  
SERVICE, MAINTAIN NATIONAL FORESTS, NATIONAL PARKS, AND NATIONAL  
MONUMENTS AND REDUCE TORT LIABILITY**

1   **WHEREAS**, the National Forest System was created by the Land Revision Act of 1891, which was signed  
2   under the presidency of Benjamin Harrison; and

3   **WHEREAS**, there are 155 National Forests containing almost 190 million acres of land; and **WHEREAS**,  
4   land management of these areas focuses on conservation, timber harvesting, livestock grazing, watershed  
5   protection, wildlife, and recreation; and

6   **WHEREAS**, there are management decision conflicts between conservationists and environmentalists, and  
7   natural resource extraction companies and lobbies, over the protection and/or use of National Forest lands;  
8   and

9   **WHEREAS**, these conflicts center on endangered species protection, logging of old-growth forests, intensive  
10   clear cut logging, undervalued stumpage fees, mining operations and mining claim laws, and logging/mining  
11   access road-building within National Forests; and

12   **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) is charged with the  
13   management responsibilities of the National Forests; and

14   **WHEREAS**, the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 (P.L. 94-588) is a United States federal  
15   law that is the primary statute governing the administration of national forests and was an amendment to the  
16   Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974; and

17   **WHEREAS**, the NFMA called for the management of renewable resources on national forests lands; and

18   **WHEREAS**, the objectives of the NFMA include requirements for the US Forest Service to develop plans for  
19   national forests from permanent damages; and

20   **WHEREAS**, Congress requires the USFS in conjunction with other applicable agencies, to thoroughly,  
21   research, and plan for the nation's renewable resource use, the current demand, anticipated demands, and  
22   environmental and economic impacts; and

23   **WHEREAS**, the ability for the USFS to fulfill its statutory requirement is paid for through funding  
24   appropriations controlled by Congress; and

25   **WHEREAS**, in 1986, the cost of fire suppression throughout the national forests consumed approximately  
26   15% of the USFS total budget; and

27   **WHEREAS**, due to the annual increases of incidences of forest fires throughout the national forests, the cost  
28   of fire suppression to date now consumes and average of 56% of the USFS total budget; and

29   **WHEREAS**, the negative impact in the loss of funding for the operation of the USFS has caused reduction in  
30   services that include forest management, education and outreach, recreation, and especially road maintenance;  
31   and

32   **WHEREAS**, staffing reductions within some of the national forests have reached epic proportions (i.e.  
33   Hiawatha National Forest @45%) which further complicates their abilities to perform statutory obligations.  
34   NOW,

35   **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs support an initiative for the  
36   United States Congress to amend the budget process used to fund the United States Forest Service operations  
37   to offset the extraordinary costs being incurred with fire suppression and assure committed budget line items  
38   to maintain fundamental services; and

39   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress pass legislation that will assure indemnification of the USFS  
40   and sponsor organizations from liability under Tort Law to reduce litigation from the inherent risks from  
41   outdoors activity by those who use the national forests for recreation; and

42   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress assure that all national forests, parks and national  
43   monuments remain intact and also continue to allow public access.