



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2000:56

ENDORSEMENT OF UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE NATIVE AMERICAN POLICY

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS") instituted a Native American Policy which states in part, that the USFWS will recognize tribes as governmental sovereigns, will maintain government-to-government relationships with the tribes, supports self-determination, is committed to entering into contracts, cooperative agreements, or grants with tribes, and will assist tribes in identifying Federal and non-Federal funding sources, as well as communications, cultural, natural resources, law enforcement, technical assistance, and training issues; and
- WHEREAS,** the USFWS has yet to have a separate line item in their budget for Tribes, despite their Policy which states they are committed to doing this as seen above, thus forcing the Tribes to compete with the States who have a more competitive advantage due to their larger organizations and long term relationship with the USFWS for the limited amount of funding available for Fish and Wildlife Programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the USFWS' Native American Policy has been in place since 1994, but there is no consistency in the application of this policy at either the national and regional levels by the Native American Liaisons, as evidenced by the differing amounts of support shown at each respective USFWS Region; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors hereby endorses the USFWS Native American Policy at the national and regional levels and urges consistent application of the policy; be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests that the USFWS establish a tribal set-aside budgetary line item for use in contracts, cooperative agreements and grants with tribal governments; be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors recommends that each USFW Native American liaison be committed to carrying out the mandates of the Native American Policy, act as tribal advocates at the regional and national levels, and be required to attend tribally approved American Indian culture sensitivity training; be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors recommends that the USFWS advocate and actively recruit an American Indian to fill the position of Native American Liaison.

"Because there is strength in Unity"

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CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Board Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Houston, TX Thursday, June 8, 2000.



Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.