



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

---

---

USET Resolution No. 2003:061

### SUPPORT FOR RECURRING FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TRIBAL LANDS INCENTIVE PROGRAMS AND THE TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS PROGRAM

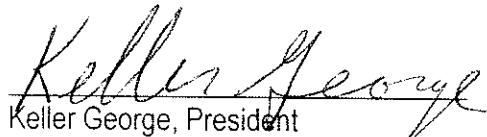
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represents the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET tribes strongly agree that tribal governments should be included in the permanent funding allocations for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and
- WHEREAS,** the USET tribes strongly agree that tribal governments should be included in the planning, coordination, and allocation of reoccurring funding for future USFWS grant programs that benefit fish and wildlife programs/activities on tribal lands; and
- WHEREAS,** tribal members pay individual excise taxes on all hunting and fishing supplies and licenses purchased, as authorized under the Dingle & Johnson, Pitman & Robinson, and Wallup and Breaux Acts; and
- WHEREAS,** taxes authorized and collected are divided among states to fund state wildlife conservation programs to which tribal governments are not eligible to receive these vital conservation funds; and
- WHEREAS,** USET strongly believes that tribal set-aside funding should be allocated directly to tribal governments without having to go through the states to receive funding, and
- WHEREAS,** tribal governments are sovereign nations with a unique government-to-government relationship with the federal government based upon treaties, legislation and trust responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** tribes are being forced to seek funding through unreceptive state governments in order to access needed funding for programs falling within USFWS auspices which is in direct violation of the government-to-government relationship and trust responsibility; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors supports tribal wildlife grants and tribal land incentive programs that authorize annual direct appropriations for tribal governments to support tribal wildlife management programs including direct tribal allocation of DJPI funding which falls within the wildlife management goals and objectives established by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in order to build tribal capacity and self-sufficiency and protect critical tribal natural resources; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors supports the reauthorization of funding allocated specifically to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Lands Incentive Program and the Tribal Wildlife Grants Programs on a permanent basis.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*

USET Resolution No. 2003:061

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, Thursday, February 6, 2003.

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

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