



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2019 SPF:014

SUPPORT FOR DEDICATED FEDERAL FUNDING TO RECOVER WILDLIFE

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** this nation is blessed with a diverse array of fish and wildlife, and while some of these species are thriving, many are in steep decline and at least 12,000 species have been identified that are in need of proactive conservation action, thus forcing Tribal Nations to rise to the challenge that confronts us; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nation lands and waters are essential for wildlife conservation on Tribal lands; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations own and influence the management of a natural resource base of nearly 140 million acres, including more than 730,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, over 10,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 18 million acres of forested lands; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal lands provide vital habitat for more than 525 federally-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, many of which are both ecologically and culturally significant to Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations are proven leaders in the protection of these landscapes and their wildlife that provides a model and lessons for other natural resource managers; and
- WHEREAS,** current funding for both Tribal Nations and states only provides a mere fraction of what is needed to conserve wildlife species; and
- WHEREAS,** despite a history of underfunding and exclusion from federal funding, Tribal Nations have some of the most accomplished natural resource programs in the nation and protect hundreds upon hundreds of wildlife species and their habitat; and
- WHEREAS,** draft federal legislation, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) would create a Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Subaccount with funding arising from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters by dedicating \$1.3 billion annually to supplement not supplant existing funding through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sportfish Restoration act; and
- WHEREAS,** these funds will be utilized for the recovery of fish and wildlife species to prevent same from becoming endangered; and


WHEREAS, even though Tribal Nations are not presently included in the draft version of RAWA, there is an effort to establish a Tribal Nation set aside in the Act; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

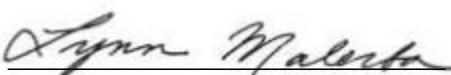
RESOLVED USET SPF urges that Tribal Nations be included in the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act and that \$97.5 million be set aside within the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act to assist Tribal Nations with wildlife conservation.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, March 7, 2019.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund