



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2007:031

OPPOSITION TO FY 2008 PROPOSED PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST
FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES

- 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 represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS, the FY 2008 President's Budget Request proposed to reduce or eliminate two significant Tribal programs, namely the Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) and the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program (TLIP), within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); and
- WHEREAS, the TWG and TLIP programs have provided first-time funding that has enabled Tribes to initiate fish and wildlife management programs and projects; and
- WHEREAS, the management and protection of fish and wildlife populations provided by these programs produce significant social and economic benefits to Tribal communities and surrounding municipalities; and
- WHEREAS, the biological and ecosystem health benefits afforded by fish and wildlife population management go beyond measurable socioeconomic boundaries and significantly impact preservation of Tribal cultures and traditions; and
- WHEREAS, the TWG and TLIP programs are unique in that they recognize culturally significant species that are not necessarily protected or enhanced by state or federal regulatory agencies; and
- WHEREAS, the FWS Native American Policy recognizes and furthers the federal government's trust responsibility to manage and protect fish and wildlife populations and other natural resources; and
- WHEREAS, the TWG and TLIP programs provide an opportunity for the FWS to fulfill the Federal government's trust responsibility and realize the goals and objectives of the FWS Native American Policy; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly opposes negative funding requests within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, namely the reduction of funding for Tribal Wildlife Grants and the elimination of the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests that Congress recognize the socioeconomic and cultural significance of fish and wildlife management programs and increase funding based on government-to-government consultation between Tribes and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 15, 2007.

Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Cheryl Downing, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Because there is strength in Unity