



Resolution #2015-01

An Endorsement of Full Staffing of the USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program

This resolution urges Congress to fully fund the USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program, in order to address critical staffing vacancies in this program, which delivers high-quality, actionable scientific research and training to the state fish and wildlife agencies.

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit program was established in 1935 to enhance graduate education in fisheries and wildlife sciences and to facilitate applied research between natural resource agencies and universities to address current and emerging management-oriented science needs; and

WHEREAS, today, there are 40 Cooperative Research Units in 38 states; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Research Units provide much-needed applied scientific research to the state fish and wildlife agencies, delivering on average over 300 scientific papers and over 700 scientific presentations per year; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Research Units provide much-needed scientific training for the next generation of fish and wildlife biologists, graduating on average over 100 students per year; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Units Act as amended (P.L. 86-686, 1960) establishes the Cooperative Research Units as a cooperative effort among states, universities and the federal government with each party responsible for their share of the support; and

WHEREAS, the States and Universities have met and are providing their share of the support; and

WHEREAS, Congress has not provided adequate funding to fully staff the USGS Cooperative Research Units; and

WHEREAS, Cooperator needs, particularly those of the States and universities, cannot be met without full federal participation;

WHEREAS, current vacancies across the Cooperative Research Unit Program amount to 25% of the scientist workforce;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association) urges Congress to provide adequate funding to fully staff the USGS Cooperative Research Unit Program to accomplish applied research that is fundamental to the mission of the Association and its member agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encourages the United States Department of the Interior's US Geological Survey to administer funding provided to the USGS

Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program in support of research programs with direct application to the needs of the federal and state land and wildlife resource management agencies.

Adopted September 16, 2015
Tucson, Arizona

