THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

CONSERVATION POLICIES

2013

About the Izaak Walton League of America

The Izaak Walton League of American is a national conservation organization founded in 1922 and dedicated to protecting America's outdoor recreation resources. The League believes that America's future lies in ensuring our outdoors are clean and healthful for people and the full range of fish and wildlife. Working through approximately 250 local chapters as well as nationally, the League promotes common-sense and practical solutions to conservation issues.

Mission Statement

To conserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife.

Vision

Through the efforts of the League,

- Conservation becomes part of everyday life
- Everyone enjoys sustainable outdoor recreation
- Healthy lands and waters support thriving fish and wildlife populations

Goals

1. Connect more young people to conservation and outdoor recreation.
2. Conserve and restore habitat to support healthy, sustainable fish and wildlife populations.
3. Ensure America's streams, rivers, lakes, and other waters are safe for fishing, swimming, and other uses.
4. Engage more people in sustainable outdoor recreation.
5. Raise the profile of the League as a leading voice for common-sense conservation and sustainable outdoor recreation.
6. Strengthen partnerships among all levels of the League to advance the League's mission.

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CITATIONS

Recommended citation formats:

- IWLA Conservation Policy I (Sustainable Use of Resources), B (Economic Reform), 1a.
- IWLA Policy I, B (Economic Reform),1a.
- IWLA Policy I,B,1a.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This update of the Izaak Walton League's conservation policies incorporates policies approved by delegates during the 2013 national convention. This process represents a joint effort of League members at the chapter and division levels and League staff. Special thanks go to members of the Resolutions Committee and the League's eight resource committees, who manage the resolutions process and review proposed policies. League staff also plays an important role by providing technical guidance and serving as liaisons to the resource committees. This level of collaboration and commitment to the League's democratic process reflects the very foundation of the organization and its special place in the conservation community.

Jeffrey Deschamps
Chair, IWLA Resolutions Committee

INTRODUCTION

This booklet summarizes official positions developed by the Izaak Walton League of America over more than 90 years of work on conservation issues. These positions have been adopted formally as resolutions by League members at annual national conventions. They reflect the spirit of League concerns and actions at community and state levels in response to specific problems and they guide the work of League staff, chapters, and divisions as new issues emerge. The League resolves to use the best science available as the basis for development and execution of League policies, and we urge all levels of government to do the same.

One of the League's most important goals is to ensure that America's natural resources are protected, managed, and used to provide long-term quality of life. Our conservation policies expand on this goal and give it meaning as it applies to a variety of conservation issues.

Although the booklet is divided into sections, the natural world is indivisible and none of its parts can be considered independent from the whole. Accordingly, no section of this booklet should be read in isolation. All sections should be examined for policy statements that apply to a specific issue.

THE LEAGUE'S RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

The resolutions process is about more than setting the League's policy—it is a function that unites us in our mission. League policies also influence national and international environmental policy—policies vetted and approved by the League's diverse membership provide a barometer for policies that are likely to pass muster with the American people.

Each year, League members draft resolutions outlining the steps they would like the organization to take to address natural resource problems. Resolutions that are formally adopted at the national convention become official policy and, together with the body of policies developed in the past, provide guidance to League staff, officers, and members as they seek solutions at the local, state, and national levels. The process also serves to educate members about critical natural resource issues.

At the national convention, draft resolutions are first considered by one of eight resource committees with jurisdiction over specific issues such as fish and wildlife or public lands. Then, the resolutions committee, consisting of the chair of each resource committee, considers the proposed resolutions and if approved by this committee, presents its recommendations to the delegates for their consideration.

Here are a few pointers to aid in submitting a proposed resolution:

1. **Members are encouraged to submit resolutions as far in advance of the national convention as possible**. Earlier submissions can be reviewed more thoroughly, making for a more robust resolutions process. However, to allow at least some time for review, members are required by League bylaws to submit proposed resolutions and supporting materials to the national headquarters at least two weeks in advance of the national convention.

2. Make it clear the proposal is intended for consideration by delegates to the national convention.

3. Write the resolution in simple essay format (**not the "whereas" style**).

4. Include background articles, fact sheets, studies, or other information with the proposal to provide reviewers a better understanding of the issue.

5. Identify and credit the author of the resolution.

6. Identify someone familiar with the resolution and its history who will be prepared to answer questions from the relevant resource committee at the convention.

Proposed resolutions for consideration at the national convention should be sent to:

IWLA Conservation Staff
Attn: Resolutions
707 Conservation Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2983
mleahy@iwla.org

For more information about the resolutions process, visit www.iwla.org.

NEW RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN 2013

Emerging Contaminants of Concerns in Our Waterways
Therefore, be it resolved that the Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on July 26, 2013, supports locally-based take-back programs to allow for the safe disposal of unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs, and federal and state legislation establishing and regulating such programs. Wherever possible, these programs should be supported through a combination of private sector (participating pharmacies) and public sector (local law enforcement) engagement as needed to assure that all residents have a low-cost or no-cost way to return unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs for proper disposal.

Sustainable Clean Energy Resolution
Therefore, be it resolved that the Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on July 26, 2013, supports a goal of 100 percent energy production from renewable sources.

Safe Disposal of Coal Ash
Therefore, be it resolved that the Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on July 26, 2013, calls upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to finalize, without further delay:

1. Regulations governing the disposal of coal ash under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; and
2. The most protective Power Plant Effluent Limitation Guidelines requiring, where applicable, zero discharge of heavy metals in coal ash to waters of the United States.

Oil and Natural Gas Drilling
Therefore, be it resolved that the Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on July 26, 2013, amends its Oil and Natural Gas Drilling policy (Chapter VII Energy, Section H) Oil and Natural Gas Drilling and Extraction, part 1) a)) to read:

1. a) Congress should repeal sections 402(l)(2) and 502(24) of the Clean Water Act, which exempt oil and natural gas drilling from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements, and section 322 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which exempts hydraulic fracturing operations from the drinking water protections required for other forms of underground injection through the Safe Drinking Water Act.
   b) Following repeal of sections 402(1)(2) and 502(24) of the Clean Water Act, and Section 322 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the EPA shall develop and adopt regulations:
      i. applying the NPDES permit process to discharges of storm water runoff from oil and natural gas operations. Regulations

must require monitoring and reporting of storm water discharges and can utilize general permits, provided such permits require individual site registration and address factors specific to each geographic area and geologic production zone; and

ii. under the Safe Drinking Water Act that reflect repeal of Section 322 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Chapter I

SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES

Since its inception, the Izaak Walton League has recognized that people are an integral part of the natural world. People are unique, however, due to the relative speed with which we can alter the biosphere and our ability to see the consequences of our actions. The League believes that people can and must play a stewardship role in conserving natural resources and systems at the local, national, and global levels. Although League policies often address specific, time-sensitive issues, they historically reflect these broader understandings. By 1965, the League began to consider human ecology directly, speaking out about the ultimate human carrying capacity of the nation and the Earth in its policies.

A) Principles

1) It is important to promote productive equilibrium between people and the environment by bringing population and consumption into balance with the resource base.
2) Public policies must recognize that quantity and quality are not always mutually attainable.
3) All segments of the population must have opportunities to achieve lives of quality and dignity.
4) The long-term productivity and carrying capacity of America's resources can not be sacrificed for short-term uses.
5) Individuals, institutions, and governments should promote sustainability education that addresses lifelong learning, interdisciplinary approaches, partnerships, and multicultural perspectives.
6) People of all ages should have opportunities to learn about the stewardship of natural resources.
7) Broad participation in sustainability practices should be encouraged.

B) Economic Reform

1) The League calls on all levels of government to promote economic reforms that would:
   a) Reflect the true costs of natural resource extraction, transportation, processing, consumption, and waste while avoiding a disproportionate burden on lower-income individuals and families.
   b) Eliminate subsidies for economic activities that distort a true measure of economic efficiency or damage the environment, and enhance subsidies that promote conservation.

c) Develop and use indicators and methodologies that measure the interactions among the economy, society, environment, and natural resource base.

2) Controlling pollution also will require fundamental changes in the ways our government and our economy view and account for environmental degradation. We must recognize that environmental costs are real costs, and that they now are being paid by the public in ill health, shortened lives, lost recreational opportunities, and publicly-funded cleanups. In the future, the full environmental costs involved in producing, consuming, and cleaning up after any product or service should be included in the price tag and paid by the consumers of the product. Only then will market-based decisions by businesses and consumers tend to clean up our environment. To reach that goal, the Izaak Walton League has called for setting discharge limits at levels that will meet or exceed society's environmental goals. In this way, pollution is prevented, the environment is protected from further damage, and the costs of cleanup are built into the price structure so that market choices fully reflect environmental costs.

C) Population

1) Because of the environmental impacts of population growth and movement on finite natural resources, the League urges governments and private agencies to conduct scientific research and encourage polices, attitudes, social standards, and programs that will—through voluntary actions consistent with human rights and individual conscience—bring about the stabilization of human population. Government and private efforts should include but not be limited to:
   a) Developing a national policy on population and natural resources that integrates population, natural resources, and technology.
   b) Incorporating sustainable development principles in U.S. policies, both foreign and domestic.
   c) Developing goals for stabilizing populations that incorporate the principles of sustainable economic development, social equity, education, basic and reproductive health care, and environmental conservation.
   d) Providing age appropriate education for people, especially students, on human development and the relationship between human populations and the environment.
   e) Supporting efforts to stabilize population through family planning and by promoting equality between men and women.

2) The League supports the right of all persons to freely decide the number and spacing of their children consistent with the dictates of individual conscience and accepted medical practice.

D) Public Participation

1) In the pursuit of conservation, the League supports the democratic right of citizens to be fully involved in the policy-making process and its implementation, guided by the values of credibility, integrity, and fairness. Accordingly, the League:
   a) Supports the continuation of federal policy that allows nonprofit organizations to participate in the policy-making process.
   b) Urges federal, state, and local lawmakers to pass legislation that requires candidates to disclose all sources of financial support, requires public discussion of issues in free and open forums, and prohibits the use of "soft" money to influence elections.
   c) Supports legislation that would encourage candidates in federal and state campaigns to voluntarily reject private money and limit their campaign spending, especially in those states that have established a publicly financed campaign fund.
   d) Opposes any acts of eco-terrorism, violence, or illegal activities in the name of conservation.

2) The League supports the use of strict, joint, and several liability that allows victims to file suit to collect damages from all responsible parties, as well as doctrines that protect and preserve the victim's right to full compensation for their claims. Legal incentives should encourage the use of best management practices for handling toxic and hazardous materials.

3) Lawsuits designed to intimidate conservationists who oppose controversial developments should be dismissed. Congress should adopt legislation establishing the grounds for such dismissal and provide for recovery of court costs, attorney's fees, and damages from the suing party in a dismissed intimidation lawsuit.

4) The League affirms its support for openness in government and opposes any administrative or legislative restriction that could withhold public information about conservation and environmental issues that are plainly not a matter of national security.

5) The League supports the power of local government units to enact pollution control measures more restrictive than federal laws.

E) Resource Consumption

1) The United States increasingly faces critical shortages in renewable and nonrenewable resources, including farmlands, forest resources, fossil fuels, important metals and minerals, and even water. Extraction and consumption of these resources cannot be sustained at present rates without unacceptable impairment of environmental quality and reduced

productivity of lands and waters traditionally used for agricultural and wildlife purposes. Therefore, the League urges the government to develop resource utilization policies that:

a) Recognize that each generation has the right to use only a small portion of limited resources and has the responsibility to share those resources with coming generations.
b) Generally reduce demand for and consumption of scarce resources.
c) Encourage resource recovery, recycling, and reuse.
d) Identify priority uses for scarce resources.
e) Encourage technological developments that increase efficiency while reducing the environmental impacts of resource extraction and processing.
f) Integrate demographic data into resource decision-making.
g) Direct foreign aid to sustainable projects.
h) Promote practices that reduce consumption and waste.
i) Support stewardship among nations in resource use.
j) Encourage all levels of government to promote and practice full recycling of all nonrenewable and scarce resources and to develop and adopt technologies to do so.

F) Sustainable Growth

1) Sustainability is defined as a system that meets the basic needs of all people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own life-sustaining needs. Pressures of unplanned, unconstrained residential and commercial growth contribute substantially to social and environmental problems. Unrestricted growth threatens quality of life, natural surroundings, and social and economic aspirations. Long-term growth choices often are made by default. As society moves from an era of apparent resource abundance to an age of resource shortage, it must come to terms with the futility of attempting to sustain endless growth in a world of finite resources. Accordingly, the League urges all levels of government to address major residential and commercial growth issues and to participate in the development of a national growth policy that would:

a) Describe growth alternatives in terms of their social, economic, and environmental costs and benefits—with attention to topics such as energy, food, land use, transportation, and urban sprawl.
b) Ensure that long-range growth implications of program and budgetary choices are centrally considered during public decision-making.
c) Urge planners at all levels of local, state, and federal government to develop long-term strategies that preserve the quality and diversity of outdoor recreational experiences essential to the human spirit.

d) Encourage government-wide adoption and implementation of community-based planning principles that address community sustainability.
e) Call on state legislatures and local governments to support comprehensive and coordinated land-use planning that requires objective evaluation of environmental impacts of proposed development, prior to issuance of requisite permits or approvals.
f) Encourage all levels of government, working in partnership with the citizens, to adopt and implement community-based planning principles that address sustainability through comprehensive public accounting of short- and long-term social, economic, and environmental costs and benefits.

G) Transportation

1) The League encourages the implementation of transportation initiatives that will:
   a) Improve the technology and materials used in construction and maintenance.
   b) Provide an improved public transportation system to meet the needs of citizens in urban, suburban, and rural areas.
   c) Urge all levels of government to review their decision-making processes and fiscal policies with respect to all transportation programs, to ensure that they include an accurate assessment of social, economic, and environmental costs and benefits, including their potential contribution to sprawl.
   d) Implement an education program for local and state government officials and the general public that will create improved understanding of transportation impacts.
   e) Provide for safe movement of wildlife.

H) Urban Sustainability and Sprawl

1) The League supports federal funding for an urban forestry program within the U.S. Forest Service that would provide grants and technical assistance to cities for planting, maintaining, and protecting trees and shrubs and related natural resources.

2) The League supports the use of federal grants to local governments for the acquisition and development of urban open space, park and recreation facilities, and historic and cultural sites, buildings, and facilities.

3) The League opposes the establishment of “enterprise zones” that allow deviation from federal, state, or local regulations on health, safety, or environmental protection.

4) Urban sprawl has been shown to be supported by federal highway construction, tax breaks for buying new homes, and investments in new sewer and water systems. The League urges all levels of government to control urban sprawl, to review their decision-making processes and programs that may contribute to sprawl, and to reduce the expansion of metropolitan areas that threaten farmland and open space.

5) The League encourages industry-funded cleanup of polluted industrial sites with government involvement and new owner contribution. Re-use of these "brownfields" provides jobs, increases the tax base, and eliminates unsightly dormant sites. Use of such sites can also protect nearby agricultural land from undesirable development. The League encourages regulatory agencies to institute a bonding surety mechanism for cleanup of contaminated abandoned brownfield sites for which responsible parties cannot be found.

Chapter II

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Izaak Walton League affirms the right of all people to be free from ecological and environmental assaults and to be active participants in any governmental decision-making that affects our environment and natural resources held in public trust.

A) Air Quality

1) Clean air is a public necessity; no person or agency has the right to degrade this resource.

2) Federal, state, and local governments should take steps to prevent or control air pollution that damages public health or private property, causes acid deposition, reduces agricultural productivity, impairs visibility, or causes offensive odors.

3) Effluent charges, pollution trading systems, and fines for wastes released into the air all can work to bring the costs of air pollution control into the marketplace.

4) The League supports the fundamental features of the federal 1970 Clean Air Act, as well as the act's 1977 and 1990 amendments, including:
   a) National Ambient Air Quality Standards set at levels to protect public health and welfare and provide a margin of safety for sensitive members of the population (elderly, youth, pregnant women, and people with respiratory ailments). Standards are to be set without regard to cost.
   b) State implementation plans that set deadlines for meeting standards.
   c) Penalties for states that fail to make progress toward meeting standards.
   d) Requiring the Maximum Available Control Technology for hazardous pollutants, such as asbestos, mercury, and vinyl chlorides.
   e) Strict auto emissions standards for hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide, including a complete phase-out of the use of lead in gasoline.
   f) Strict emissions standards for industrial facilities as well as for new and existing solid-, medical-, and hazardous-waste incinerators.
   g) The program for prevention of significant deterioration of clean air resources and standards to protect visibility in national parks and wilderness areas.

h) Transportation control strategies, alternative fuel requirements, and mandatory automobile inspection and maintenance programs for areas that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

i) An acid rain control program that uses a pollution credit trading system and emissions monitoring program to reduce emissions by at least 10 million tons of sulfur dioxide and 2 to 4 million tons of nitrogen oxides from existing utility sources.

5) The federal government should expand its public education program about the hazards of radon and indoor air pollution and should conduct a nationwide survey to assess the magnitude of the problem.

6) The League endorses clean air campaigns that:

a) Require older and grandfathered coal-burning power plants to meet the same air pollution standards as similar modern plants.

b) Require electric utilities to disclose the price and environmental impact of the electricity offered.

B) Composting

1) Nationwide, topsoil is being depleted rapidly on millions of acres of cropland. Composting can process municipal residential solid waste into agricultural humus that can be used as an additive to reduce the depletion of topsoil.

2) Modern composting methods should involve sufficient separation of organic and inorganic compounds prior to composting so that a compost will be produced that passes all federal and state standards for heavy metals and other toxins and has no adverse effects on human health and the environment. Compost should further contain an absolute minimum of solid inorganic materials and should be a product that can be safely added to soils to replenish organic matter.

3) The League supports the use of composting facilities, including the use of co-composting methods that can reduce the solid waste stream significantly. Such facilities should produce Class 1 agricultural-grade humus from residential solid waste and sewage sludge.

4) Soil is being depleted by intensive farming, erosion, urban sprawl, misuse of land, and highways. The League calls for the passage of a National Fertile Soils Act, which would establish a program to encourage the use of organic plant and animal waste to revitalize soils in a manner that does not adversely affect other resources.

C) Electromagnetic Fields

1) The League urges the U.S. Department of Defense to conduct studies on low-level electromagnetic fields produced by power lines and the "extremely low frequency" (ELF) project and to place a moratorium on expanding similar projects until the environmental effects are known and adequately provided for.

D) Environmental Impacts of Construction

1) All construction activities—particularly construction of public facilities such as highways, dams, sewers, and energy installations—should provide for the protection of environmental values. Costs of such protection should be included when calculating the total cost of the project. Furthermore, all new highway construction should take advantage of existing transportation corridors.

2) Plans and programs for the construction and maintenance of public facilities should enhance environmental values by including lakes, roadside recreation areas, hiking and bicycle paths, wildlife plantings, access to streams, and other amenities.

3) Plastic netting materials are commonly promoted for the "stabilization" of the banks and bottoms of waterways. Frequently, this material comes loose and forms snags and tangles. The material is not easily biodegraded. The League opposes the use of plastic netting for these purposes and urges appropriate authorities to stipulate that only natural fiber material be used.

4) Utility companies, municipalities, or other entities, whether private or governmental, that use temporary markers to post locations at project sites should use markers made of biodegradable materials or should take responsibility for the removal of non-biodegradable materials upon completion of the project.

5) State and federal agencies should be required to collect data to predict the effects of in-stream construction/excavation on the total stream ecosystem. These finding should be made available to the public.

E) Greenhouse Gases

1) The greenhouse effect—the name scientists give to the process in which certain gases are released into the air and block heat from escaping—will produce drastic and long-term climate changes that will surpass all other environmental crises past and present.

2) The League urges the federal government to take action to:
   a) Reduce combustion of fossil fuels by 60 percent by the year 2008.
   b) Rapidly expand use of conservation and renewable energy sources.
   c) Ban the use of chlorofluorocarbons.
   d) Curtail worldwide deforestation.

3) The League urges the federal government to:
   a) Support the necessary action to achieve the emission reductions set forth in the Kyoto Protocol.
   b) Work closely with China and other developing countries to ensure cooperation in tracking and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
   c) Ensure that developing countries have access to clean-energy technologies that will ensure progress toward their commitments to greenhouse gas reduction goals.

4) Subject to the above conditions being met, the League calls on the U.S. Senate to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

5) The League urges federal agencies to evaluate market-based measures, such as cap-and-trade, as potential policy solutions for curbing global climate change. The League believes that cap-and-trade is a promising market-based policy tool and supports the adoption of a cap-and-trade system as a means of reducing global climate change as well as green house gasses in the United States, in conjunction with regulatory measures. Any cap-and-trade system established should strive to have a cap that is at a level consistent with the emission reductions necessary to minimize climate disruption. In the absence of federal action, the League supports state and regional efforts to move forward with establishing cap-and-trade systems.

6) The League calls on Congress, petroleum refiners, biofuel producers, and other transportation fuel developers to lower the greenhouse gas emissions coming from transportation fuels and commit that:
   a) Future transportation fuels consumed in the United States have progressively lower greenhouse gas emissions than conventional gasoline or diesel.
   b) The greenhouse gas emissions associated with growing and extraction all the way through distribution and consumption of the fuel should be considered (i.e. the “life-cycle emissions”) to get a true sense of the global warming emissions and costs associated with the fuel.
   c) The next generation of biofuels be grown and developed in a way that supports lower life-cycle greenhouse gas practices, such as the use of low-fertilizer perennial crops and high-efficiency facilities.

F) Hazardous and Toxic Substances

1) To prevent any immediate or cumulative damage to human health or the environment by any of the thousands of new chemical substances fabricated every year, state and federal agencies should:
   a) Require that all potentially toxic or hazardous substances be tested thoroughly for safety prior to their introduction into the environment (as now generally provided for by the Toxic Substances Control Act).
   b) Strictly regulate or even prohibit the generation, transportation, storage, and ultimate disposal of substances that are likely to pose significant risks to human health or the environment.
   c) Ensure development of safe and effective ultimate disposal methods for all hazardous and toxic materials, including chemical warfare materials such as nerve gas.
   d) Fund more research on the effects of pesticides on humans and wildlife, banning those pesticides that cause significant harmful effects.
   e) End the production of and eliminate existing sources of persistent organic pollutants in a responsible environmental manner and pursue aggressive programs for testing other chemicals for which toxic effects remain unknown.
   f) Give strong consideration to the impacts on environment, people, fish, and wildlife populations that would result from any changes in pesticide regulation.

2) The League calls for:
   a) Each state to establish a waste disposal plan to properly collect and dispose of hazardous waste from residences and small businesses.
   b) Terminating the manufacture, importation, and exportation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), DDT, and related persistent pesticides and banning all uses of cyclodiene pesticides such as chlordane, aldrin, heptachlor, and dieldrin.
   c) Monitoring the use and persistence of pesticides in the environment.
   d) Placing a moratorium on dredging river bottoms for navigation purposes and other areas where high concentrations of hazardous chemicals occur until techniques are developed to prevent their re-release.
   e) Establishing strict limitations on the use of the pesticide 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) and restrictions on the application of the herbicide 2,4-D (2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid).
   f) Developing alternatives that will cut the chlorine and chlorine-based compounds from pesticides, water treatment, solvents, and plastics.

3) The League supports legislation that gives the public the right to know about hazards posed by toxic and hazardous chemicals in their environment and workplace. The burden of proof regarding the safety of a substance and the cost of controlling such substances should be borne by the manufacturer, user, or discharger of that substance.

4) The League believes that the export of hazardous waste materials should be prohibited.

5) Government should enact and enforce laws and regulations requiring that the location and constituents of major oil and toxic or hazardous substance spills, storage areas, or disposal sites be legally recorded in property records and titles.

6) The League supports the federal Superfund program, funded primarily by fees levied on the oil and chemical industries, to clean up abandoned disposal sites. The fund also should be used to compensate victims of toxic exposure and to mitigate environmental damage.

7) The League recommends phasing out toxic petroleum-based solvents and promoting the further development of nontoxic substitutes.

8) Electric-generating facilities in Florida are considering converting to a new fuel known as Orimulsion. This would be the first use of this fuel in the United States, and its impacts on human health, agriculture, and estuarine systems are unknown. The League opposes the use of Orimulsion fuel at this time.

9) The League opposes the continued use of the additive methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) in gasoline because it is carcinogenic and has been shown to infiltrate groundwater supplies. Any new additive for commercial or military fuel must undergo thorough testing for all adverse environmental and human health effects prior to approval for general use. At this time, ethanol appears to be a safer oxygenate than other chemicals.

10) Cleaning up contaminated sediments from the nation's waterways poses a variety of risks, which can be addressed through existing practices and treatments. The League finds that:
    a) Disposal and remediation of toxic organic compounds should be done by best management practices based on studies of individual pollution sites.
    b) Proper studies should also be done in areas of pollution after remediation to verify a decrease in movement of the toxins and the effects on the environment.
    c) Field tests are only a first step in proper remediation.

d) Removal and remediation plans should include local and downstream monitoring to ensure that toxins are not merely redistributed.
e) Storage of these toxins must be considered temporary until technology is developed to eliminate them.

G) Light Pollution

1) Electrical lighting constitutes 20 percent of the power generated in the United States. Unnecessary light (that which offers no extra safety or security) interferes with bird migration and nocturnal habits of other animals and ruins the natural beauty of the night sky. Current technology could reduce the electricity required for lighting by 50 percent. The League commends those programs that promote lighting efficiency such as the International Dark-Sky Association and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Lights Program. The League encourages its members to:
   a) Minimize the inefficient usage of light.
   b) Use only shielded lights to eliminate "light trespass."
   c) Replace mercury or halogen lighting where high- or low-pressure sodium lighting will work.
   d) Use timers or photocells to shut off lights when not needed.
   e) Refrain from using exterior globe lighting except in cases of personal safety.

H) Noise Pollution

1) The League recognizes that noise can damage human health and detract from the quality of the environment and therefore advocates:
   a) Diligent enforcement of the Noise Control Act of 1972.
   b) Comprehensive and systematic noise abatement plans for federally funded mass transit systems.
   c) Government purchasing policies that encourage the use of quieter equipment and vehicles.

I) Nuclear Proliferation

1) The League urges that the United States negotiate with other countries that have nuclear weapons to achieve an immediate, mutual, and verifiable freeze and reduction in the numbers of nuclear weapons as stated in Senate Joint Resolution 2 in the 98th Congress.

J) Oil Spills

1) The League supports oil spill liability legislation that requires a standard of strict, joint, and several liability for all who handle and transport oil.

This liability shall extend to property, natural resource damage, clean-up rehabilitation, and long-term monitoring without any ceiling on corporate liability for spills. A fund to clean up emergency spills should be financed from a tax on oil production, but states shall have the right to establish more stringent oil spill standards.

K) Pesticides

1) The League recognizes that control of pests often is desirable, necessary, and in the public interest. The public interest also requires that:
   a) Biological controls should be developed and applied to the fullest practicable extent.
   b) If pesticides are required for pest control, they should be as selective and nonpersistent as possible.
   c) Public health and the environment should be protected from immediate and cumulative effects of pesticide use.
   d) Federal pesticide control laws should:
      (i) Enhance citizens' right to sue.
      (ii) Strengthen worker safety and job protection provisions.
      (iii) Require strict testing and adequate labeling of pesticides before they are placed on the market.
      (iv) Strengthen the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's authority to restrict, suspend, or ban dangerous pesticides.
      (v) Require pesticide applicators to be trained and certified.

2) No federal law should impair states' rights to enact standards stronger than contained in federal laws.

3) Pesticides and other toxins—especially persistent and bioaccumulative substances—should be kept out of the nation's waters.

4) Testing for pesticide residues on imported produce has not been adequate to protect the health of American consumers. Therefore, the League advocates expanded federal testing for pesticide residues at all ports of entry so that contaminated produce can be kept off the market. The League supports an adequate number of food inspectors at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ensure a safe food supply and to expand research on food safety.

L) Radioactive Waste

1) The League strongly urges the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to suspend the process of site selection for high-level radioactive waste repositories until the public is informed about the transportation, handling, duration, and adequacy of storage of these wastes.

2) The League adopted its "no new nuclear plant construction policy" largely because of concerns about the creation of radioactive wastes for which no known safe method of disposal or storage existed. Massive amounts of these wastes continue to accumulate while the government seeks a safe, permanent storage facility. Transportation of these wastes across the country poses other risks to health and safety. The League urges that:
   a) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and state regulatory authorities reject all applications for transport of nuclear plant waste beyond the property lines of the commercial plant where the waste was generated.
   b) DOE take ownership responsibility for the safety and security of all in-site waste and any in-site decommissioning of commercial nuclear power plants.
   c) The Nuclear Waste Fund continue to fund those decommissioning operations deemed safe and reliable by DOE, make appropriate compensation available, and/or relocate individuals who might be adversely affected by proximity to commercial nuclear power plants.
   d) Research be conducted to develop alternative uses of nuclear waste material.
   e) The federal government financially support and encourage safe methods of handling current nuclear waste, including reprocessing. The development of safe alternatives should include the involvement of the federal government and independent scientific entities.

M) Sewage Sludge

1) The Izaak Walton League believes that intensified efforts should be made to find beneficial uses of sewage sludge. It urges communities whose sludges are not contaminated with heavy metals and other undesirable chemicals to consider composting or other management that allows sludge to be applied to the land for beneficial purposes. The League also supports development of technology for producing useful energy from sewage sludges.

N) Solid Waste Management and Recycling

1) The optimal strategy for solid waste control should first emphasize the reduction of potential wastes at the source before solid wastes are created. Then programs should shift the nation's "throw away" philosophy to one of reusing and recycling waste materials. Finally, any remaining waste should be disposed of in properly managed facilities.

2) The League encourages establishment of local, state, and national programs to increase awareness of littering problems and to promote

education focused on litter prevention. The League further encourages full enforcement, by appropriate agencies, of existing and all future anti-litter laws and ordinances.

3) Waste material from manufacturing and other sources have raw materials that are potentially valuable in other processes. The League calls on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Commerce to develop "standard of equivalency" criteria for waste materials generated by manufacturing industries to create an increased potential to market and use what are now wasted resources.

4) The League calls for the manufacture and marketing of nonpolluting and biodegradable products that can be reused or recycled rather than those that impose disposal costs and deplete nonrenewable resources. The League supports economic incentives, such as state disposal fees and taxes, to help bring about these changes. To encourage recycling, all levels of government should create specifications for recycled materials, establish tax and financial incentives to encourage the use of recycled materials, eliminate tariffs and other trade barriers to the use of recycled materials, create long-term public information and education programs, and increase the budget for enforcement and oversight of our present solid waste regulatory program.

5) Federal, state, and local governments should actively encourage the development of additional markets for old newsprint and the construction of de-inking paper plants near sources of old newsprint. To set an example, the League's national headquarters, divisions, chapters, and members shall use recycled paper and refrain from expanding their use of polystyrene products and nonrecyclable containers to the greatest extent possible.

6) The League urges state legislatures and the U.S. Congress to enact laws prohibiting the use of nonreturnable beverage containers. The League further supports the establishment of a uniform federal antilitter beverage container bill that would require a deposit on all beverage containers. This would include containers used to distribute any beverage as packaged by manufacturers and distributed for sale, whether used for water, fruit juices, carbonated beverages, beer, wine, liquor, or any other beverage.

7) The League further encourages the establishment of efficient centers for ease of collections and the use of some portion of deposit funds for local conservation and beautification projects. The ability to return empty drink containers to grocery stores and other places of purchase must be maintained.

8) Congress should create pilot programs at federal facilities to demonstrate source reduction, recycling, and composting and should appropriate funds to encourage the recycling, recovery, or reclamation of items that are difficult to landfill, such as old tires.

9) Each state should adopt a comprehensive solid waste management plan that:
   a) Encourages reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and resource recovery by creating regulatory and economic incentives.
   b) Identifies sites that are environmentally safe and socially acceptable for landfilling or other disposal of wastes that cannot be recycled or reused.
   c) Ensures proper management of disposal sites and facilities. The League urges a moratorium on the construction of incinerators, except for infectious waste, until adequate federal standards are in place to protect human health and the environment.
   d) Discourages the export of solid waste.
   e) Allows rejection of landfill permits from firms that have a history of failing to manage facilities in an environmentally sound manner.
   f) Regulates fossil fuel combustion wastes as hazardous wastes.

10) The League calls upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to finalize, without further delay, regulations governing the disposal of coal ash under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

11) Tire disposal poses a massive environmental problem that is exacerbated by low-mileage tires. The League urges that all tires sold within the United States have at least a 60,000-mile warranty and that all car makers be required to install 60,000-mile warranty tires or better on all new cars.

12) Used motor oil is burned in gravity-fed furnaces across the country – especially at service stations and garages – with little, if any, regulation. These waste oils can be heavily contaminated and contribute to unacceptable levels of air pollution. The League opposes such burning of used motor oil.

Chapter III

STEWARDSHIP OF THE LAND

As an organization rooted in rural America, the Izaak Walton League has long recognized the rights and stewardship responsibilities of private landowners. Early League policy in this area dealt with topics such as soil conservation, watershed protection, and wildlife habitat management. Rapid growth and suburban sprawl through the 1950s and 1960s led the League to promote land-use planning measures in the 1970s. In the 1980s, the League continued its focus on agricultural policy, playing an influential role in the enactment of the landmark Food Security Act of 1985 (generally known as the "Farm Bill"), which established the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Sodbuster, Conservation Compliance, and Swampbuster. In subsequent years and Farm Bills, the League continued that commitment and has been instrumental in protecting wetlands and water quality and promoting sustainable farming practices. Today, the League continues to work to protect the public resource values associated with private lands, including fish and wildlife habitat and clean water, and the rights of private land ownership.

A) Principles

1) The public interest requires that all capabilities of each acre of land should be considered in planning for its use. The public and future generations have a valid interest in the resource capabilities and potentials of private lands, and government therefore should work cooperatively with private landowners to secure sound management of those resources.

2) Through cost sharing, property tax relief, technical assistance, extension education programs, and demonstration projects, states should encourage rural landowners to set aside, conserve, and improve wildlife habitats.

3) With few exceptions, intensive development—especially public facilities such as highways, sewers, and water impoundments—does not belong in public forests and recreation areas, critical fish and wildlife habitat areas, flood plains, wetlands, steep slopes, erosive soils, unique natural areas, and other environmentally fragile areas.

4) No public funds, loan guarantees, subsidies, or other assistance should be made available for intensive development of land or water that would jeopardize environmental values of major public interest.

5) Preservation of cultural values and the local economy should be considered along with environmental factors in land-use planning.

6) The League opposes "takings" bills that undermine private property rights and public health, safety, and other laws.

B) Agricultural Conservation

1) Federal farm policy should have as a priority the responsible stewardship of our nation's farmlands and specifically:
   a) Retain, improve, and fully implement USDA conservation programs accommodating regional distinctions in cooperation and consultation with state wildlife agencies and other entities.
   b) Maintain an effective Conservation Compliance regimen that links all forms of federal farm program payments, including crop insurance premium subsidies, to violation penalties, maintains a five-year prohibition of all payments on land without a prior cropping history, and ensures an impartial and independent appeal process.
   c) Advance environmentally sound farming by replacing existing commodity program subsidies with programs that strengthen conservation and stewardship incentives.
   d) Target incentives to independent, family-sized operations and those now excluded from farm programs to encourage crop diversification and the use of environmentally sound farming practices.
   e) Support a water quality incentive program and National Buffer Strip Initiative.
   f) Support the USDA Forest Stewardship Program and Stewardship Incentives Program.

2) The League recommends that all state legislatures provide funds for the implementation of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

3) The League supports federal and state measures to slow conversion of farmlands to non-agricultural uses and to preserve high-quality agricultural lands. The League also urges:
   a) Limiting public investments that stimulate conversion of agricultural lands to other uses, including public projects such as sewer, road, energy, or water resource projects.
   b) Reviewing federal and state actions to determine whether they are consistent with preserving prime farmlands.
   c) Revising tax-code provisions that encourage conversion of agricultural lands, and that agricultural land – where qualified conservation practices have been applied and maintained to prevent soil erosion, protect water quality, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat – be defined as land devoted exclusively to agricultural use and so recognized by taxation authorities.

d) Providing technical and financial assistance to local, state, and regional efforts to protect important farmlands through agricultural conservancy districts, preferential taxation, purchase of development rights on key tracts, and strict agricultural zoning.
e) Enacting measures necessary to ensure that livestock confinement facilities are sited, operated, and monitored in ways that adequately protect water, soil, and other areas of the environment and that local governments can enact control measures more restrictive than federal laws, provided they do not violate constitutional rights.
f) Supporting research about modifying the feed of livestock as one method of reducing excess nutrients in manure.
g) Using "whole farm" planning as the basis for long-term protection of natural resources on agricultural land.

4) Despite decades of conservation efforts, there remains an overwhelming need to improve our stewardship of soil, water, forest, wildlife, and other resources. The League has long supported a range of rural conservation programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and state agencies that provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners, such as the Conservation Reserve Program, the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and the Conservation Stewardship Program. The League also supports adequate funding of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to maintain and expand existing conservation programs.

5) Federal conservation programs should:
a) Target lands with the most critical water quality and erosion problems.
b) Emphasize long-term soil conservation improvements rather than agricultural production.
c) Direct support toward small landowners rather than large economic interests to most effectively improve the quality of rural life and the rural environment.
d) Expand government-sponsored research and the development of agricultural techniques and crop types that minimize erosion problems, reduce dependence on pesticides, and otherwise enhance habitat for fish and wildlife while protecting water quality, soil, and the health and safety of farmers and the public.
e) Assist landowners in safely controlling noxious plants that overtake pastures and forests.

6) The League supports the development of agricultural systems that sustain both natural resources and people. Policies and rules in commodity, tax, and other farm-related programs that work against conservation and sustainable agriculture should be changed. Incentives and cost-sharing arrangements should be provided for sustainable farming systems that

work in concert with nature and are designed to produce quality food, protect human health, enhance opportunities in farming, and strengthen farm communities. Funding should be provided for education, research, and traditional agricultural extension services.

7) Government policies should not encourage or subsidize crop production on the country's environmentally sensitive lands, such as wetlands and virgin prairies, or on highly erodible grasslands and woodlands. Public funds should not be used to support crop production unless the landowner is implementing an approved conservation plan designed to keep erosion below levels that jeopardize the soil's long-term productivity and that prevents leaching and run-off of pollutants. Sugar quotas and price protection should end.

8) The League urges local, state, and federal governments to prevent further pollution of groundwater. Promoting farming methods that use fewer agricultural chemicals, including integrated pest management programs, can help. Applications of fertilizers and pesticides via irrigation systems should not be used without anti-backflow valves or when any possibility exists for contaminating underground aquifers.

C) Agricultural Research

1) The League supports federal and state funding for government agencies and universities to acquire needed manpower and equipment for scientific evaluation of bee and other pollinator disappearance and its relationship to food production. The findings of the incidence of the problem in local areas and the impact on food production in various states should be disseminated.

D) Confined Animal Feedlot Operations

1) The League urges states to establish a moratorium on new concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) so that studies on water quality; air quality; land use; and manure distribution, utilization, and application can be completed and evaluated.

2) The League recommends measures necessary to ensure that livestock confinement facilities are operated in ways that adequately protect the environment and quality of life by:
   a) Urging local, state, and federal governments to enact measures holding all parties with operational control of a facility responsible for management of the facility and holding them jointly liable for environmental damages incurred by the operation of that facility.
   b) Urging Congress and other governing and permitting bodies to enact measures requiring the co-permitting and joint liability of the

agriculture corporation invested in a confinement facility and the owners and operators of the facility.

E) Conservation Easements

1) Federal income and inheritance tax laws should be tailored to encourage private landowners to donate easements or other partial rights in land to protect public values identified by government at any level. Tax laws should ensure that tax benefits from such donations are available to all potential donors. Provision should be made for:
   a) Appraisal policies that are fair and reduce donor expense and uncertainty.
   b) Long-term spreading of deductions.
   c) Availability of tax credits, rather than deductions, as a donor option.
   d) Elimination of estate taxes to help permit agricultural and forested lands to be passed from generation to generation.

F) Cultural Heritage Areas

1) The League supports the establishment of a national heritage program that would:
   a) Identify sites, artifacts, and areas most significant to America's natural and cultural heritage.
   b) Recognize the central role of states in heritage protection.
   c) Encourage voluntary cooperation in preserving heritage values while assuming purchase of critical natural areas, where necessary.
   d) Establish a national register of natural areas.
   e) Protect identified heritage areas from adverse federal actions.

G) Federal Role in Private Land Management

1) The federal government should provide private owners with guidance and incentives to encourage wise management of soils, forests, wetlands, and other land resources.

2) The federal government should encourage states to build effective land-use planning and information programs.

3) The federal government should recognize the national interest in preserving and protecting large and important landscape units that are mostly in private ownership. The federal government should help to protect such nationally significant landscapes when the task is beyond the capabilities of local or state governments acting alone. Protection mechanisms should respect traditional uses of the land and the rights of those who have been its faithful stewards. Such mechanisms should be

flexible and emphasize public-private cooperation and voluntary action by landowners. The League supports testing an array of mechanisms including tax incentives, designation of nationally significant areas, special intergovernmental planning districts, review of proposed federal expenditures and actions for consistency with landscape protection goals, federal cooperation with state and local governments in acquiring easements or development rights, and special loans or grants to assist compatible commercial uses of the land.

H) Grasslands and Prairies

1) Grassland and prairie ecosystems are disappearing from the United States at an alarming rate. The vast majority of remaining grasslands and prairies that could be restored are held in private ownership. Existing federal programs designed to provide incentives to conserve grasslands and prairies have not been effective in stopping this decline. The League supports development of programs to compensate private landowners for preserving or restoring grasslands and the associated wildlife and endangered species, without bias of only enrolling agricultural production land. The programs should:
   a) Consider wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and grassland preservation.
   b) Cover most, if not all, of the input costs and provide private landowners with economic incentives, such as tax relief, grants, or maintenance stipends, to maintain prairie remnants and restored grasslands.
   c) Be voluntary, but recognize the need for special management of some wildlife and plants.
   d) Provide additional compensation or preference when endangered species protection is provided.
   e) Allow the USDA Farm Service Agency to reduce payments to producers who use poor management practices.

2) The League supports inclusion of a provision in the Farm Bill requiring the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency to annually gather and publicly report information on wetland and grassland acres converted to crop production of all producers enrolled in the federal crop insurance program.

I) Mining

1) All mining should be subject to controls that protect other resource values—particularly the quality of surface and subsurface waters.

2) When any mining operation ceases, the mine should be sealed or reclaimed so as to prevent land slippage, subsidence, pollution of surface and subsurface waters, and other environmental impairment.

3) Mining should be prohibited unless it can be assured that radioactive or other hazardous substances will not enter the environment.

4) The Mining Law of 1872 should be replaced with a mineral leasing system that no longer will allow mining interests to gain ownership rights to the surface.

J) Modified and Organic Foods

1) Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have become increasingly significant as a food source and could threaten the biodiversity of global ecosystems, local habitats, and the gene pools of organisms. Demand for labeling of these altered products is increasing. Production of sterile hybrid seed threatens existing seed-saving practices. Given that many uncertainties exist about GMOs and their impacts on the environment, the League urges that:
   a) An independent federal Council on Genetically Modified Organisms be established.
   b) This independent, nonpartisan council establish technical guidance for assessing current and proposed technology, ecological issues, consumer concerns, and organic agriculture and wildlife issues as part of a comprehensive, pre-market approval system that promotes sustainability and provides oversight to regulatory entities dealing with GMOs.
   c) The scientific community study and evaluate the long-term effects of GMOs.
   d) Consumers be informed of what is being consumed through required labeling, and that they have the right to naturally produced foods.

2) The widespread use of antibiotics in the production of livestock raises concerns about development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria strains. The League supports federal legislation to help prevent the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria by forbidding use of antibiotics in livestock as growth promoters or for disease prevention except those for which studies have demonstrated that there is no harm to human health due to development of resistant strains.

3) The production and marketing of food for human consumption without the use of chemicals or artificial preservatives has grown in recent years, as has consumer confidence in and demand for these “organically produced” products. The League opposes any attempt by the U.S. Department of

Agriculture to modify established "organic" food certification standards by authorizing irradiation, fertilization by sludges, and other additives and chemical applications in organic food production or processing.

K) Phosphate Mining

1) Phosphate mining in the United States, as it is currently conducted, destroys important wetland resources, jeopardizes water supplies, and threatens to exhaust U.S. phosphate reserves.

2) The League supports a federal policy on phosphate mining and export that would control:
   a) The sequence of phosphate mining—including planning, removal and reclamation.
   b) The amounts of phosphate exported.
   c) The development of technology to recover phosphates from sewage and solid wastes.

L) Private Woodlands

1) The League recognizes that private woodlands must provide a major share of the nation's long-term needs for timber, pulp, and other forest products. All states should have laws encouraging high standards of forest management. Federal and state forestry agencies should provide information and assistance to improve productivity of privately owned forests and woodlots. Forestry assistance programs should emphasize all the resources of private woodlands—including watershed, wildlife, and recreation values—and not focus solely on timber production. Congress should substantially increase annual appropriations for the Forest Legacy Program to make non-industrial private woodland conservation efforts more effective.

2) With nearly three-fourths of our woodlands privately owned, public programs are needed to help landowners better manage private forests by:
   a) Helping landowners develop land-management plans before timber is harvested.
   b) Reforesting cutover lands and planting trees on eroding pastureland, when suitable.
   c) Better integrating federal, state, local, and private forestry efforts.
   d) Expanding incentives for forestation in federal farm programs.
   e) Stimulating investments from state and private landowners.

3) The League supports limiting federal financial and tax incentives to benefit only those landowners who are managing their lands in accordance with locally approved plans that consider forestation; enhance fish and wildlife habitat; and protect water quality, soil, and wetlands.

M) Seabed Mining

1) The League has opposed seabed strip mining for non-energy minerals. Offshore leasing for such minerals should not be permitted unless:
   a) Site-specific scientific research has shown minimal environmental risks.
   b) The minerals are economically recoverable or essential for defense.
   c) The site is very low in biological productivity or sensitivity.
   d) Leasing is consistent with state coastal zone plans.

N) Silica (Frac) Sand Mining

1) The League recommends that all levels of government with oversight and regulatory authority over silica (frac) sand mining implement a moratorium for permitting new silica (frac) sand mining operations. The moratorium would be lifted when regulations are in place that must protect human health and the environment from a range of impacts related to silica sand mining. The regulatory process must include the following components at a minimum:
   a) A public environmental assessment and permitting process.
   b) The environmental assessment process, to be conducted by qualified personnel, must examine impacts on air and water quality, wildlife, fish, other natural resources, human health, and local infrastructure.
   c) Any permit authorizing silica sand mining must establish site-specific plans to adequately protect natural resources, human health and local infrastructure, and include measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate such impacts.
   d) Permits must be enforceable and non-compliance penalties must be in place to ensure regulations are implemented at mining locations.
   e) The permitting process shall require mining companies to post a bond or otherwise prove financial capability for mine closure and site reclamation.

O) Strip Mine Controls

1) The League supports strip mine regulations that:
   a) Prohibit mining on steep slopes and other environmentally fragile or aesthetically important areas.
   b) Require returning the mined area to approximate original contour.
   c) Require that reclamation be kept current with mining.
   d) Assure that all mining operations, including construction of access roads, are conducted so as to protect water, land, other resources and social values.

e) Require that re-vegetation be demonstrated successfully prior to release of bonds.
f) Require that the mined area be reclaimed to the extent that it can be put to useful purpose, or that pre-mining conditions are substantially restored.
g) Prohibit issuance of strip mine permits to parties who, under any name, have failed to meet strip mining requirements during previous mining operations.

2) Environmental damage from cyanide "heap-leach" techniques for mining gold and silver ores should be limited by:
a) Restricting them to valid, existing permits.
b) Prohibiting any contamination of surface or subsurface waters.
c) Requiring restoration of mine and mill sites to original contour, vegetation, and productivity.

3) Abandoned mines should be restored, and surface and subsurface waters should be protected from acid or toxic mine drainage. In general, reclamation should be financed by the mining industry, as is done for coal through the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. Reclamation efforts should be accelerated and focused on controlling mine drainage.

4) Congress should increase appropriations from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, including from the unappropriated balance, in order to expedite abandoned mine reclamation efforts.

5) The practice known as mountaintop removal and valley fill is growing and resulting in permanent damage to, and loss of, forest and headwater streams, especially in the Appalachian Mountains. The League strongly urges that no variances or waivers to existing stream buffer zone requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act be granted by state and federal agencies for valley fills associated with mountaintop removal mining.

P) Uranium Mining

1) The League finds that uranium mining by means of injection wells poses a grave threat to groundwater and should be prohibited wherever groundwater is a prime source of water for irrigation or human consumption.

2) No new uranium mines should be located in populated areas until toxic mine tailings can be isolated successfully from the environment and the public.

3) In the eastern United States and other "net-precipitation" regions, uranium mining and milling should be regulated stringently and held to a standard of zero discharge of effluent to or surface or subsurface waters.

Chapter IV

PUBLIC LANDS

In more than eight decades of defending the public interest, the Izaak Walton League has adopted hundreds of position statements concerning lands administered by various agencies of the federal government.

From its beginning, the League recognized that certain outstanding land and water areas should be set aside for special management by government. In 1924, the League secured the establishment of the 300,000-acre Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Since those early days, the League has been a staunch promoter and dedicated protector of the National Wildlife Refuge System and National Parks System. It also helped to develop the National Wilderness Preservation System and wrote important sections of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The League also believes that other public lands can serve a variety of uses, including commercial and non-commercial activities. For example, public lands have historically provided and continue to provide timber, energy, and minerals; wildlife habitat; clean water; and recreational opportunities. However, it is essential that these lands be managed on behalf of the American people to ensure the sustainability of public resources over the long term.

In principle, League policy applies to all lands owned by the federal government and to most state and county lands.

A) Principles

1) Public lands are a perpetual trust to be administered for the long-term benefit of all people. Local and other special interests should receive due consideration in the administration of public lands; however, the overall public interest must be paramount, and special interests must not be allowed to exploit public lands or to gain vested rights to the public's resources.

2) Any individual or group that is granted the privilege of special use of public lands should pay a reasonable fee for that privilege, based on fair market values, and should be held accountable for any abuse.

3) There should be no mass transfer of public lands to private ownership or of federal lands to the states.

4) Public lands should be managed to protect or enhance the resource base.

5) Under the concepts of sustained yield and multiple use, public lands should be managed for a mix of purposes, including watershed protection, soil and forest conservation, wildlife habitat improvement, wilderness, and outdoor recreation as well as for the production of timber, livestock, minerals, and other commodities. The public interest requires continued availability of renewable resources of the highest quality.

6) Public lands should be classified into management units, with each unit managed according to a comprehensive, multiple-use land management plan. Management plans should be prepared by interdisciplinary teams of natural resource professionals, with ample public participation and in full compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

7) To realize the long-term productivity potential of public lands, mechanisms should be established to promote long-term management planning and to ensure commitment of long-term funding.

8) To permit efficient administration and management of all public land resources, action should be taken to eliminate undesirable private in-holdings, dispose of isolated tracts not useful to the public, block out boundaries, and otherwise consolidate public land holdings through exchange, purchase, sale, or other means.

9) User advisory boards should be truly advisory—not administrative in nature—and should equitably represent all land-user interests, including outdoor recreation and wildlife.

10) The League rejects the concept of dominant use proposed by the Public Land Law Review Commission and opposes any measure that would give timber production, livestock grazing, or mineral extraction philosophical or legal precedence over other multiple-use objectives for public lands.

11) Public land resources should be managed by professional managers without political intervention in the analysis, evaluation, and display of management options. Choices among options may be made properly on political or economic grounds.

12) Publicly owned conservation areas should not be used as waste disposal sites.

13) The League supports payment-in-lieu-of-taxes systems as an option to compensate local governments for lost taxes from land within their jurisdictions taken from the tax rolls for conservation purposes such as forests, hunting, fishing, and other recreation.

B) Alaska

1) Since World War II, and particularly during the 1970s, the League worked diligently with other conservation organizations to ensure optimum long-term planning for and management of federal lands in Alaska. The League believes Alaska offers unparalleled opportunity to protect entire ecosystem units, abundant wilderness for dispersed recreation, and ecological baselines against which to measure environmental change.

2) The League supported passage of the final Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980 but found it to fall short of the League's goals, particularly in acreage for national wildlife refuges, protection for southeastern Alaska forests, and protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The League also opposed the inclusion of subsistence provisions in the act.

C) Antiquities Act

1) This statute has for decades allowed the U.S. president to designate national monuments by proclamation. Nearly all presidents have used the law to set aside, from most forms of development, natural areas of special value. The League opposes any congressional attempt to limit the power of the president to dedicate these rich historical and environmental areas for future generations.

D) California Desert

1) Although much of the California desert has been managed for multiple uses, the League found that the protection and preservation of the desert's fragile natural resources should be the foremost management consideration. The League has called for much of the California desert to be managed as wilderness and as national park preserves, where hunting and wildlife management would continue to be permitted.

2) The U.S. Army currently controls some 643,000 acres at Ft. Irwin in California's Mojave Desert and seeks to expand that by an additional 331,000 acres. The expansion area is largely under the management of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and borders the Death Valley National Park and the Mojave National Preserve. The operations at Ft. Irwin cause massive and potentially permanent damage to areas used for tank training. The League urges the U.S. Secretary of Defense to withdraw the request to acquire this land and for Congress to reject approval of funds for this expansion.

E) Military Lands and Uses

1) Military lands of the United States should be available for the use and enjoyment of the public to the extent practical and consistent with public safety and national security. The recreational assets of military lands should not be considered a special privilege reserved for military personnel.

2) All renewable resources of a military reservation should be managed professionally and used to serve the public interest, in general accordance with management practices, laws, and regulations applying to other lands.

3) The League opposes the use of public parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or other conservation areas for military training missions.

F) Mining on Public Lands

1) Mining and oil and gas operations on public lands should be regulated so that all other resource values are protected to the fullest extent and water and land resources are restored insofar as possible to their previous conditions.

2) The Mining Law of 1872 should be replaced with a mineral leasing system that no longer will allow mining interests to gain ownership rights to the surface. An acceptable approach would include provisions to:
   a) Ensure thorough consideration of non-mineral values before a decision is made to allow mineral recovery.
   b) Protect air, water, and adjacent land resources.
   c) Ensure fair return to the federal treasury for the value of minerals extracted.
   d) Protect units of the National Park, National Wildlife Refuge, National Wild and Scenic River, and National Wilderness Preservation Systems.
   e) Require mining companies to provide irrevocable financial assurance to cover liabilities such as reclamation and cleanup after closure.

3) The leasing of hard-rock minerals should be prohibited within designated wilderness or wilderness study areas. Oil and gas leasing should be permitted only if Congress and the president approve a specific exception.

4) The League generally opposes strip mining of public lands. When such mining is in the public interest, mining practices should be instituted to give maximum protection to other values and ensure complete reclamation by the mining company.

G) National Historic Areas

1) These units are established and managed by the National Park Service to preserve and interpret scenes important in the history of the United States. The League believes low-intensity recreational uses should be allowed in such areas, as long as they are compatible with historical values.

H) National Parks

1) National parks and monuments are established to preserve unique scenic, ecological, geological, historical, or other environmental values and the associated native ecological communities. They should be managed to maintain those values in natural condition, to educate visitors about the natural world, and to provide opportunities for outdoor enjoyment of the natural environment.

2) Artificiality and development should be minimized. User facilities should, insofar as possible, be located outside the park and operated by private enterprise. Constructed recreation facilities, such as golf courses, ski lifts, and marinas, should be prohibited and eliminated where they exist.

3) Water-resource development, timber harvest, mining, livestock grazing, and other commodity uses should not be permitted in parks and monuments except as they are phased out of new areas during fixed periods.

4) Because it believes visitors should have maximum opportunity to view and enjoy wildlife, the League holds that hunting should not be permitted in national parks and monuments.

5) All private properties within these areas should be acquired by the public.

6) The League specifically urges that restoration work in the Everglades focus on land acquisition using eminent domain as necessary.

7) The National Park Service should be authorized to ensure implementation of sound land-use controls within holdings and adjacent to park and monument boundaries to preclude development that adversely affects area values.

8) National parks face serious threats: industrial and commercial development on adjacent lands; air pollution that cuts visibility and hides famous vistas; noise; overcrowding; overdevelopment; soil erosion; and encroachment of exotic species of plants and animals. In response, the League calls for:

a) Increasing the role of science in park management and sharply boosting the budget for research, monitoring, and resource management.
b) Focusing more efforts on external threats to parks, including closer cooperation with managers of adjacent public lands.
c) Decreasing overcrowding and use that poses a threat to park resources.
d) Controls on the use of all off-road vehicles in national parks and monuments due to impacts on wildlife, habitat, air, water, soil, and solitude.

9) The League urges Congress to provide funding to the National Park Service at a level that will preserve and protect the parks for future generations while providing access to the parks consistent with good management and protection of the wilderness experience.

10) Units of the National Park System should provide special transportation services to urban residents who lack automobiles.

11) The League urges local, state, and federal authorities to reject a proposal by Florida Power and Light Company to construct new nuclear power plants at Turkey Point adjacent to Biscayne National Park.

12) Yellowstone National Park is home to America's largest remaining free-roaming bison herd. Adjacent ranchers have significant concerns about potential brucellosis infection from bison, though no case of transmission to cattle has been documented. Recent years have witnessed efforts to control the bison herd that now exceeds the park's carrying capacity, at least seasonally. The League opposes the wholesale slaughter of these bison and supports the adoption of a comprehensive bison management policy, such as the Citizen's Plan to Save Yellowstone Buffalo, which treats the bison as wildlife rather than as domesticated animals. The plan should:
a) Give bison priority over domestic cattle on national forest land adjacent to the park.
b) Encourage private landowners to accommodate bison, but allow for hazing of bison off private property when necessary.
c) Permit limited sport hunting to control bison outside the park.
d) Include winter road grooming by the National Park Service to limit easy migration out of the park for the bison.

I) National Park Preserves

1) The League supported the creation of National Preserves in Alaska, the California desert, Florida's Big Cypress, and at other sites where it is desirable to protect the resource base as a unit of the National Park

System. The League supports the permitting of traditional uses of the area – such as hunting, fishing, and, in some cases, motorized off-road access – to continue. Park preserve areas should be managed on the basis of sound biological data and established wildlife management principles. Traditional uses should be discontinued if not in harmony with other resource values of the area.

J) National Recreation Areas

1) National recreation areas are established where outdoor recreation values of lands or waters are of national or broad regional significance. These areas are managed to provide public recreation opportunities with protection of scenic and other natural values. Limited commodity uses may be permitted under careful regulation, as long as they are compatible with the primary purpose of public recreation and protection of resource values. Hunting and fishing should be permitted except when public safety requires otherwise.

K) National Wilderness Preservation System

1) Since its inception, the League has supported actions to ensure that significant and representative portions of national forests, national parks, national wildlife refuges, national grasslands, and other federal lands are forever set aside in their natural, wild condition for the enjoyment and education of people and for scientific purposes. No developments – such as roads, tourist facilities, mining, and timber harvesting – should be permitted in such areas (although some mining may be permitted under the Wilderness Act). Consumptive uses (primarily grazing) should be allowed only when established prior to designation and compatible with the wilderness concept. Primarily, wilderness is a place for hiking, climbing, camping, hunting, fishing, and aesthetic enjoyment. The League supports management of wilderness for controlling recreational use, overcrowding, and damage to environmental values. The League further recognizes the essential role of fire in the replenishment of certain ecosystems and calls for:
   a) Better definition of the objectives of the role of fire management in wilderness.
   b) Definite guidelines under which natural fire can be allowed to burn.
   c) Implementation of planned ignition of fire as a management tool for meeting wilderness objectives and protecting wilderness values.

2) The League believes carefully selected areas that show some evidence of human impact, as in the eastern United States, should be designated as

wilderness and managed so that wilderness conditions are restored by the forces of nature.

3) The League has been intimately involved with the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) since its formation, and we assert our opposition to any attempt that would encourage and allow increased development of or motor access to the BWCAW or any other wilderness area.

4) The League urges Congress to pass legislation to add 49,000 acres of roadless areas within Minnesota's Superior National Forest, as identified in the 2003 report from the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness entitled "Preserving the Canoe Country Heritage," to the BWCAW and urges the U.S. Forest Service to protect these areas as roadless until Congress acts.

L) National Wildlife Refuges

1) Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, national wildlife refuges are established to preserve and manage habitat for the protection and propagation of migratory waterfowl and other wildlife species.

2) The League believes certain refuges are adjacent to land and water resources of unique national significance and should be expanded and managed to protect those values in perpetuity. Further, the League believes there are critical riverine and wetland ecosystems that contain unique fish and wildlife values that warrant protection by designating them as new units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The League believes such areas should be available to carefully controlled hunting, fishing, and other compatible recreational uses to the extent they do not intrude upon environmental values or primary management purposes. Subject to proper regulation, timber harvest, agricultural production, and other commodity uses may be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

3) The League calls specifically for full wilderness protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

4) The original 500,000-acre Grand Kankakee Marsh in Indiana and Illinois has been largely drained and the river channelized to facilitate agriculture and flood control. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a proposed a portion of the area as a national wildlife refuge. The League supports the establishment of the Grand Kankakee Marsh National Wildlife Refuge.

5) The League supports full funding for the Refuge Revenue Sharing Fund by increasing annual appropriations to balance declining receipts from

commodity uses of refuge lands as needed to meet the federal government's full in-lieu-of-tax obligations to local governments.

M) Public Forest Management

1) Public forests include national forests managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the federally owned forests managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and numerous state forests dedicated to multiple-use management. Public forests should be managed to serve a broad spectrum of public purposes and uses, recognizing that the bulk of the nation's long-term timber potential is on lands owned by industry, farmers, and other private parties. Commodity uses of public forests must not be overemphasized at the expense of public values such as fish and wildlife, outdoor recreation, water quality, scenic beauty, wilderness, and natural ecosystems.

2) The League supports the sustained-yield concept of forest management but recognizes that sustained timber yields should not necessarily be taken from lands that are valuable primarily for non-commodity purposes and where sustained-yield harvest would be incompatible with those purposes.

3) Management of timber on federal forest lands should be according to standards that:
   a) Are consistent with the non-declining, even-flow, sustained-yield concept.
   b) Analyze each proposal for the culture and harvesting of forest products and related construction activities in terms of impacts on water quality standards, fish and wildlife habitat, old-growth values, protective buffer strips, endangered species, aesthetic values, silvicultural practices, and forest type.
   c) Permit individual forests to set their own goals through the forest-planning process, even if those goals do not meet national output targets.
   d) Provide for public participation in planning.
   e) Identify areas where harvesting of forest products is prohibited or subordinate to other uses.
   f) Require reforestation of inadequately stocked forest land and generally prohibit timber sales in the absence of techniques and funding to ensure restocking with desirable species within five years.
   g) Base allowable cut on actual standing timber, not on theoretical gains from intensive forestry practices.
   h) Provide for the full utilization of any timber cut or killed.
   i) Ensure that rotations are sufficiently spaced to serve wildlife, recreation, and other public purposes and are fully compatible with multiple-use management.

j) Prohibit conversion of existing stands to other forest types solely to maximize commodity outputs.
k) Ensure that management practices minimize damage to the environment and that unavoidable damage is promptly mitigated.
l) Encourage uneven-age management, especially in eastern hardwoods.
m) Limit the size and visual impact of clear cuts where even-age management is used.
n) Implement an environmentally safe gypsy moth management program.
o) Are conducted in strict compliance with all environmental laws.

4) In general, the next generation of forest plans should de-emphasize timber harvest relative to other resource values, scale back excessive road building, and place greater emphasis on fisheries, aquatic resources, remote habitats, watersheds, and wildlife.

5) When properly planned, controlled burning offers a valuable tool for scientific forest management.

6) Exportation of raw logs from federal and state lands should be restricted to ease demands on federal forests and protect domestic wood product jobs. Importation of foreign timber products that have not been treated for pests should be banned.

7) Federal old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest should be given special protection wherever old-growth values are incompatible with timber harvest. These forests should be managed to protect old-growth-dependent species through new management standards that minimize fragmentation of old-growth stands into smaller tracts, preserve migration corridors among stands, and maintain existing old-growth attributes, including dependent plant and animal communities. The old-growth conservation strategy recommended by the Interagency Scientific Committee should be implemented fully to protect the threatened northern spotted owl. Harvests of old-growth stands at unsustainable levels should not be mandated by law, nor should Congress limit judicial review of federal forest management.

8) The national forest road system includes some 380,000 miles of roads, many of which are in poor condition and causing environmental damage. Approximately one-third of national forest lands are still roadless and provide many ecological benefits for wildlife and the environment. The U.S. Forest Service has established policies that would protect these areas from future road building and restore roads that are causing associated damage. The League supports:

a) Forest Service efforts to delineate and protect the inventoried roadless areas from permanent road building.
b) Elimination or repair of existing roads that are causing environmental damage.
c) Adequate Forest Service appropriations by Congress to accomplish these goals.
d) Exclusion of all off-highway vehicles within designated roadless areas, except on officially designated trails.
e) Active management, when deemed necessary, by stewardship contracting rather than commercial logging contracts.

N) Public Lands Access

1) All public lands should allow for a range of outdoor recreation opportunities consistent with other values and uses, although not every type of recreation should be accommodated on every public land area.

2) Government should ensure public access to public lands.

0) Public Rangelands

1) Grazing by domestic and wild animals should be balanced with range capacity so that soils, forage, and other resource values are not depleted.

2) Public rangelands should be classified according to their suitability for livestock grazing. Livestock should be excluded from unsuitable ranges.

3) On suitable ranges, livestock numbers and seasons of use should be reduced as needed to rehabilitate depleted rangelands.

4) Forage resources should be allocated to meet fish and wildlife needs fully.

5) Protection and restoration of damaged riparian areas should be given high priority in management and funding.

6) Livestock grazing programs should provide incentives for good stewardship and improved range condition.

7) All permit and lease conditions should be enforced strictly.

8) Range conditions and trends should be monitored aggressively on all allotments.

9) Feral horses and burros must be held to population levels that protect native wildlife species and the productive capacity of the range. The

League endorses disposal of feral animals by humane means, including shooting.

10) Fencing that prevents free, natural movement or migration of wildlife should be prohibited.

11) The League supports the restoration of soils, watersheds, riparian areas, vegetation, and fish and wildlife populations as the priority focus for federal investment in improving range condition on the lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

12) Public land grazing fees should be set at fair market values and, at a minimum, should cover administrative costs and needed improvements. The League has proposed an innovative compromise that increases grazing fees to fair market value but buffers the impact on ranchers by offering an offsetting credit to any public land rancher who meets conservation targets.

13) Multiple-use advisory councils that represent all public land users should replace grazing advisory boards.

P) Surplus Federal Lands

1) Outdoor recreation, environmental protection, and related purposes should receive equal consideration with other public uses in determining proper disposal of land that is surplus to the needs of the federal government.

2) The League consistently has rejected proposals to sell off or give to states large tracts of public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service or the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Our multiple-use public lands are an irreplaceable public asset; they are not surplus to the nation's needs.

3) Individual tracts of public land that are identified as surplus through the land-planning process should be exchanged for other tracts of greater value for multiple-use management.

4) Any federal land exchange program should focus on enhancing resource management, stewardship, and protection equally with increasing administrative efficiency. The League calls for reform of the public land exchange process that would:
   a) Require public notice written in a local newspaper for general circulation and Internet notice to all interested parties at least 180 days prior to approval of any public lands exchange.
   b) Provide opportunities for public onsite inspection of proposed lands to be exchanged provided by the controlling agency.

c) Consider all non-monetary values, such as loss of access to adjoining public lands and wildlife habitat values associated with those lands to be exchanged.

5) The League opposes the transfer or sale of any public lands bought with Pittman-Robertson or Dingell-Johnson funds, state license fees, or other user-group funds without full public participation and unless the property is replaced with other lands of equal conservation value.

6) The League opposes "no net loss of private lands" legislation that restricts or limits land or property sales to public and nonprofit buyers.

7) The League also opposes any law that allows local government officials to veto land purchases by states or nonprofit organizations.

Q) Wild and Scenic Rivers

1) Administered by federal land management agencies or by the states, wild and scenic rivers are designated to preserve selected waterways in free-flowing and natural or pastoral condition and to ensure continued public access and recreational opportunities. Because land ownership and use patterns vary greatly from river to river, management approaches must be flexible and individually tailored. Generally, the League believes that where designated rivers flow primarily through public lands, those lands should be managed insofar as possible to maintain a wilderness landscape. Where river corridors are privately owned, the League generally believes attempts should be made to protect riverbanks and maintain pastoral surroundings by use of easements and similar agreements with landowners as a desirable alternative to large-scale public acquisition.

2) Consistent with our long support for the Wild and Scenic River System, the League urges Congress to designate the 148 miles of the South Platte River and North Fork of the South Platte River, as outlined in the U.S. Forest Service proposal, as a national wild and scenic river.

3) Many waterways across the United States have gained special status, including national recognition for their natural, scenic, and recreational value. The League urges local, state, and national governments to protect these waterways as highest quality "outstanding resource waters" under the Clean Water Act. These waterways should be guarded in the public interest without degradation and should be named as such in states' water-quality standards.

Chapter V

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Although Izaak Walton League members are some of America's most active outdoor recreationists, the League's policies recognize that conflicts involving wildlife and fisheries should place the highest priority on protecting habitat and sustaining the resource and give the lowest priority to accommodating the needs of the user.

A) Principles

1) Strenuous efforts should be made to prevent the extinction or local extermination of any fish, wildlife, or plant species. Where practical, fish and wildlife species – including predators – should be re-established in areas from which they have been driven by human activity.

2) The League views habitat management and improvement as the basic tool of fish and wildlife management. It does not consider artificial stocking to be a primary management technique, except in special cases. Wetlands, which provide key habitat for waterfowl and many other species of wildlife, should receive special protection.

3) The League believes the public should support active management and research for non-game species of fish and wildlife as well as for game species.

4) The League supports international arrangements to ensure proper management and protection of migratory species, marine fish and wildlife, polar species, and other species inhabiting areas under control of various nations.

5) The League believes that conflicts about wildlife, fisheries, or other wild, living resources should be resolved using the following hierarchy: placing the highest priority on protecting the resource base (the habitat); giving second priority to sustaining the wildlife or fish resource itself; and giving lowest priority to accommodating the needs of the user. Sustainable human use depends on healthy wildlife populations, which in turn depend on productive habitats. The mission of wildlife conservation is to perpetuate natural habitats that will support abundant wildlife populations, not to preside over the allocation of a vanishing resource.

B) Commercial Uses of Fish and Wildlife

1) The League opposes commercial transport or sale of game animals or fish or the meat thereof.

2) The League regards carefully regulated trapping as a valid economic use of wildlife populations as well as a means for controlling particular wildlife populations and specific nuisance animals.

3) Commercial fishing or specific fishing practices should be curtailed or prohibited where stocks of target species have been seriously depleted, impairment of recreational fishing values is greater than any commercial losses to be sustained (as in the case of commercial gill nets on the Great Lakes), or protection of other environmental values (as in national parks) is necessary.

4) The League supports an amendment to the Columbia River Compact to ban the use of commercial gillnets in the Columbia River and its tributaries.

5) The League urges the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and U.S. federal agencies responsible for regulating the harvest of menhaden to ban the use of spotting aircraft, satellites, and other viewing methods in the commercial harvesting of menhaden.

C) Feeding Wildlife

1) The League urges the appropriate natural resources agencies to regulate artificial feeding by the public of game animals in developed areas, excluding backyard bird feeding, and provide resources for enforcement.

D) Fish and Wildlife Funding

1) Following the principles embodied in the Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration Acts, the League supports the principle of a small user fee on outdoor recreation equipment to be distributed to state resource agencies for many unmet fish and wildlife needs, especially for non-game species. The League also supports a proposal that would provide new federal funds for fish and wildlife as well as full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other natural resource purposes with the source of revenue being receipts from offshore oil and gas leasing and production.

2) American hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers spent $108 billion on wildlife-related recreation in 2001 ($122 billion in 2006), which provided billions of dollars in tax revenue to state treasuries. Most state governments provide little or no general funds to support their fish and

wildlife agencies. The League supports efforts at the state level to increase funding for fish and wildlife agencies through the provision of either a dedicated percentage of existing sales tax receipts or through increased general fund appropriations.

3) In the United States, the states have ownership of fish and wildlife and they hold such ownership in trust for the benefit of the public. Economic damages to fish and wildlife, as from fish kills for example, are not limited to compensation for replacement of the lost fish. Agencies can incur other costs such as staff time and restoration of the damaged systems that caused the loss. The League urges state legislators to enact legislation enabling their fish and wildlife agencies to develop appropriate fines and cost-recovery schedules for all expenses where fish and wildlife are killed or otherwise harmed by the discharge of pollutants or the physical alteration of stream channels.

4) The League calls on Congress to increase annual appropriations for the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project to create a string of natural places along the Missouri River.

5) The League calls on Congress to provide adequate funding for natural resource programs that protect important wildlife habitat such as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an incentive-based, non-regulatory program designed to protect migratory bird habitat.

6) Since their adoption in 1937 and 1950, the League has worked to support and upgrade the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson acts, under which revenues from federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment are used to assist states in wildlife and fish management. In 1984, the League helped pass the Wallop-Breaux bill, which greatly expanded the funding base for the fisheries program by including additional fishing equipment, import duties on pleasure boats, and part of the motorboat fuel tax.

7) Pittman-Robertson or Wallop-Breaux funds should not be diverted for purposes other than wildlife restoration, hunter education, sportfish restoration, or boating safety. Such diversions are a violation of the basic user-pay principle on which these funds are founded.

8) The League has also supported the expansion of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program by adding an excise tax on component parts used in hand-loading ammunition to be used for hunter education on shooting ranges. We support the similar Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative (Teaming with Wildlife) – a modest levy on outdoor supplies not covered by the existing funds.

9) The League commits to advocating for and supporting state and federal legislation requiring that all funds generated by wildlife officers enforcing federal, state, and local hunting and angling regulations(e.g., fines paid for violations) be returned to a dedicated wildlife management fund for that wildlife agency and not to a general fund. Any property that is recovered by a wildlife agency should be forfeited to that agency, and all resulting funds from all resale of that property be returned to the wildlife agency's dedicated wildlife management fund.

E) Fisheries

1) To protect and restore severely depleted native runs of anadromous fish in the United States, the League has called for:
   a) Rebuilding populations of native strains in their historical habitats through stocking using river-specific genetic strains only.
   b) Limiting the impact of dams and irrigation withdrawals by installing ladders, screens, and other fish-passage facilities; controlling water flows to maximize fish passage; protecting spawning habitats; and rejecting dams that would diminish fish runs or limit recovery.
   c) Limiting harvests to healthy runs.
   d) Restricting harvests of all imperiled fish species.
   e) Giving sport harvest precedence over commercial take and strictly enforcing all harvest restrictions.
   f) Honoring all existing treaties to protect established Native American fisheries but establishing no new treaty rights.
   g) Regulating logging, farming, road building, mining, and pollution discharges to protect spawning and rearing habitats.
   h) Instituting emergency closures of fishing in bodies of water containing imperiled species whenever and wherever such closures may be necessary.

2) Dams that restrict the passage of anadromous fish or degrade water quality vital to fisheries should be managed or retrofitted to ensure fish passage. Water flows should be adequately maintained and properly timed. Water quality and adequate temperature should be maintained for spawning and passage.

3) The League urges states to establish fish consumption advisories and make them widely available with comparative risk data that is meaningful to the public, identify sources of contamination, and recommend cleaning and cooking methods to reduce contaminants.

4) The League strongly encourages voluntary use of barbless hooks in all catch-and-release areas.

F) Invasive Species

1) Utmost caution should be exercised in the introduction of fish and wildlife species or invasive varieties of plants, such as purple loosestrife, into areas where they are not native.

2) The League urges governments at all levels, private companies, and organizations to undertake research, develop policies and regulations, and implement programs – in a collaborative and coordinated fashion – that will reduce or eliminate the introduction of exotic invasive species into the waters and lands of the United States, control current infestations, and prevent their dispersal to uninfected areas. Government and private efforts should include, but not be limited to:
   a) Developing national policy that addresses the ecological and economic threat of biological pollution from both terrestrial and aquatic species invasions.
   b) Reauthorizing the National Invasive Species Act of 1996. Once the statute is enacted, federal authorities should take immediate action to implement its provisions and intent through full funding, inspections, and enforcement actions to ensure compliance with the law.
   c) Implementing a moratorium on the entry of any ocean-going vessel into the Great Lakes, including ships claiming no ballast on board (NOBOBs), from any salt water port that cannot provide satisfactory documentation it has effectively treated all of its ballast water with an acceptable treatment method to meet protective standards. We further support the use of transportation alternatives until such time as the federal government adopts and implements meaningful, timely, and enforceable legislation to prevent the continued introduction and movement of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the ballast water of ships. All regulations developed should apply to all commercial vessels operating in the Great Lakes.
   d) Establishing a permanent hydrological separation of the Great Lakes basin from the Mississippi River basin to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, including Asian carp.

3) All legislation on biological pollution should address the following concerns:
   a) Assessing all vectors for the introduction of exotic species, including ballast tank residuals.
   b) Developing adequate but realistic standards that must be met by treatment and control technologies based on input from the scientific and business communities.

c) Using best management practices as an interim measure until standards are implemented and as the basis for the ultimate development of standards for controls of invasive species, including genetically modified species.

d) Ensuring that control treatments and technologies for all species are environmentally sound. Exotic species control efforts have historically been over-reliant on toxic chemicals.

e) Where only ecologically harmful chemical controls are currently available, there is a need to develop new, environmentally sound, preferably non-chemical methods.

f) Developing a national capacity for the early detection, rapid response, and control of new threats (practices used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are a potential model).

g) Identifying and funding research on the economic and ecological impacts of invasives as well as methods for exclusion and control of species invasions.

h) Providing federal financial and human resources support for regional coordinating bodies, development of state exclusion and management plans, and private sector incentives.

i) Facilitating coordination among government agencies at all levels from multiple nations, private industry, and national and local non-governmental organizations.

4) The League supports research and subsequent efforts to reduce and manage the population of invasive mute swans; furthermore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is urged to issue permits to reduce by any means the mute swan population as soon as possible.

5) The League urges Congress to promptly pass legislation requiring the use of environmentally sound treatment methods for ballast water and sediments, such as sterilization, by all ships capable of discharging ballast water, whether equipped with ballast tank systems or otherwise. Additionally, upon enactment of such legislation, the League calls on federal authorities to take immediate action to implement its provisions and intent, inspecting vessels and taking enforcement action as necessary to ensure strict compliance with the law.

6) The League supports appropriate regulations and enforcement, including educational incentives, necessary to encourage anglers and boaters and related industries to follow recommended practices to prevent and control aquatic nuisance species invasions.

G) Native American Hunting and Fishing Rights

1) The League recognizes the legitimate hunting and fishing interests of Native American tribal governments and acknowledges that the cultural uses of fish and wildlife are important to Native American tribes.

2) Collaboration on issues such as the scientific management of fish and wildlife, as well as long-term natural resource protection, can mutually benefit both the League and participating tribes.

3) The League supports those tribes that choose to have sustainable wildlife practices, and we will work cooperatively with tribes where mutual interests overlap.

4) The League believes that the laws and regulations we rely on to sustain our fish and wildlife resources must apply equally to all users.

H) Predator Control

1) The League recognizes the intrinsic value of predatory species and their important ecological roles.

2) There is no justification for widespread destruction of animals classified as predators.

3) Authority for predator control should reside with wildlife management agencies rather than with agricultural agencies.

4) Predator control should be conducted professionally on a discriminate basis, focusing on animals shown to be undesirable in specific instances. Non-target species must be protected.

5) The use of poisons to control predators should be outlawed except for emergency use by qualified personnel. Secondary toxicants should be banned.

6) The League opposes payment of bounties on predators or varmints.

7) The League supports the reintroduction of predator species where appropriate to restore an ecological balance, as with the controlled reintroduction of wolves into the Yellowstone ecosystem.

I) Threatened and Endangered Species

1) Habitat critical to threatened or endangered species of fish, wildlife, or plants should not be destroyed or adversely modified.

2) To preserve genetic and ecological diversity, representative examples of the full range of natural ecosystems should be protected.

3) The League has supported the passage and implementation of the federal Endangered Species Act, including the listing of plant and animal species, the protection of habitat, the vigorous enforcement of regulations, and the funding required to carry out the act.

4) Decisions to list a species under the Endangered Species Act should be made solely on biological – rather than economic – grounds.

5) The League supports a moratorium on commercial harvest of endangered whale species and a halt to the importation of fisheries products from any nation refusing to abide by international whaling accords.

6) The gray wolf was reintroduced into the Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho to restore a natural predator that had been exterminated. The League strongly supports the continued existence of the gray wolf where reintroduced and opposes the removal or killing of these wolves.

7) Bats perform an array of important functions, such as pollinating flowers, dispersing seeds, and regulating insect populations. However, bat populations are declining worldwide. Given this, the League supports educational and legislative efforts designed to promote conservation of bats.

J) Waterfowl

1) Protection of wetlands and acquisition of key waterfowl habitats has been a major goal of the League since the 1930s. Much progress has been made. However, the combined effect of drought and drainage of more than 400,000 acres of wetlands a year has kept the country from meeting our goal of restoring abundant populations of waterfowl. The League supports an aggressive national effort to acquire wetland habitats and conserve declining duck populations to meet the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and restore a fall flight of 100 million ducks. The League calls for:
   a) Accelerated acquisition of wetland habitats and upland nesting cover.
   b) Raising the duck stamp fees paid by waterfowl hunters and wildlife refuge entrance fees to purchase more wetlands.

c) Restricting harvest to protect breeding duck populations and closing the season when necessary.
d) Controlling illegal take of waterfowl through aggressive enforcement.
e) Implementing hunter education programs for all waterfowlers.
f) Strengthening wetlands protection provisions in all federal programs.

2) The resident Canada goose population has increased tremendously in recent years, thereby increasing associated environmental and health issues. The League reaffirms its view that regulated hunting is the best wildlife management tool to control these populations. In areas with an overabundance of Canada geese and where hunting is not permitted, the League supports humane trapping and donation of the meat to food pantries or other programs.

3) Enormous increases have occurred in the mid-continent lesser snow goose population, causing severe damage to their arctic breeding grounds. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is developing plans to reduce the population. The League believes that any modification to the current hunting regulations should neither abandon nor diminish the principles of fair chase and ethical hunting. Specifically, we do not advocate use of electronic calls, live decoys, or bait.

4) The League urges the U.S. Department of Interior to resist political pressure to unilaterally extend waterfowl hunting seasons in any section of the United States. Instead, the department should continue to support the management authority residing in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the four flyway councils, restrict harvests to protect breeding duck populations, and close seasons when necessary.

K) Webless Migratory Game Bird Permit

1) The League supports a federal permit for hunting webless migratory birds – doves, woodcocks, snipes, and cranes – so that hunters of these species can be contacted to collect information on populations, hunting efforts, harvests, etc., needed for proper regulation of seasons and take. Permit fees should be set to cover the costs of collecting and analyzing the data.

L) Wildlife Diseases

1) The United States needs a strong federal program to protect wildlife from diseases. Therefore, the League urges that state, national, and international boundaries be controlled by adequate laws to protect wildlife in the United States from contamination by the importation of foreign animals, meat, and feed.

2) The League urges that the risks of the spread of wildlife diseases, such as chronic wasting disease (CWD), be seriously monitored and controlled by any and all means necessary, including, but not limited to, the potential banning of private holding and farming of cervids (deer and elk).

3) The League urges that:
   a) The appropriate natural resources agencies in each state continue to maintain, study, and promote health and welfare of game animals, whether on game preserves or free roaming.
   b) States with state-appointed committees relating to the welfare of game animals have public health officials, natural resources personnel, wildlife biologists, veterinarians, and other trained persons other than those with merely financial interests on the committees.
   c) The appropriate natural resources agencies continue to act in enforcement capacity over these game animals.

4) The League will continue to work with the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance in preventing the spread of CWD and in urging Congress to request a study and recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences on the impact and spread of CWD.

Chapter VI

WATER RESOURCES

The League was founded in 1922 by anglers who were concerned about water pollution and rapidly deteriorating waterways across the country. The League's historic interests in clean water and protecting unspoiled areas quickly led to an involvement with national water policy issues. Throughout the years, the League has forcefully opposed many proposed dams and other water resource projects while supporting others that it considered economically and environmentally sound.

In addition, the League has been at the forefront of efforts to safeguard water quality, wetlands, and other water resources. At the request of President Calvin Coolidge, the League conducted the first nationwide water quality assessment in 1927, which yielded information from all 48 states in the Union at that time. In the 1960s, the League pioneered citizen-based stream monitoring. More than 40 years later, Save Our Streams (SOS) provides every American with the basic tools they need to reliably assess water quality in their communities.

A) Principles

1) Conservation of water should be a priority component of all water resource planning programs. The fundamental national water policy should stress careful management of naturally available water resources, including recycling and re-use, as preferable to "water resources development."

2) The river basin is the natural unit for planning the management and use of water and related land resources. Comprehensive river basin planning is preferable to a piecemeal, project-by-project approach.

3) The League supports the adoption and administration of local river corridor and wetlands protection ordinances by appropriate government agencies and urges citizens to actively pursue such protections.

4) As a rule, the League believes an area's water needs should be met from resources available within the watershed. The League opposes inter-basin transfer of water, since such transfer encourages recipient areas to ignore growth and development issues at others' expense.

5) Full consideration must be given to all environmental values affected by water management decisions, including scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values of in-stream uses of water. The League recognizes the need

to leave certain rivers and other water resources free-flowing, otherwise undeveloped, and in their natural state.

6) Parks, wilderness, and other designated natural preserves must be protected from any encroachment by water development projects.

7) Costs and benefits of proposed water development must be assessed realistically through:
   a) Accurate initial cost estimates.
   b) Inclusion of all costs.
   c) Accurate estimates of project life.
   d) Application of contemporary discount rates (interest charges).
   e) Stringent accounting of claimed benefits.
   f) Full accounting of the benefits of nondevelopment and of values destroyed by development (e.g., future productivity of lands inundated by an impoundment).

8) Costs should be allocated realistically among all project purposes, and full project costs should be recovered from the direct beneficiaries of flood control, drainage, navigation and irrigation development—reducing direct and indirect subsidies until the price more closely reflects the true costs.

9) Upstream soil and other resource conservation programs (including special controls on timber harvest practices and strip mining) should be related integrally to reservoir construction since they prolong reservoir life through protection from siltation. All proposals for reservoir construction should contain assurance that upstream conservation programs will be implemented.

10) All water development projects authorized in the past but never built should be deauthorized. Reauthorization should be consistent with modern policy requirements.

11) Water management planning should respond to environmental and social needs as well as to economic opportunities. Project planning should explicitly consider the system-wide impacts and net benefits of a wide range of viable alternatives. Planning should be conducted with vigorous public participation and in full compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The League generally has supported the principles and standards for water resource planning issued by the Water Resources Council.

B) Barrier Islands

1) No federal funds should be provided or permits issued for projects that would alter or destroy the recreational, scientific, or environmental values

of any barrier island or barrier beach. The League strongly supports the designation of all undeveloped coastal barriers as units of the Coastal Barrier Resources System, particularly along the Great Lakes, Pacific coast, Florida Keys, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The League urges Congress to include all areas recommended by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

C) Barriers to Fish Passage

1) Dams and other artificial barriers are among the most significant obstacles to restoring the integrity of river systems and are a primary cause of fishery declines throughout the lower 48 states. Many opportunities exist to remove these barriers in an ecologically sound manner. The League supports:
   a) Increased commitment of state and federal resources to the study and removal of dams and other artificial barriers to fish migration.
   b) Congressionally appropriated funds dedicated to studying sediment transport in streams and potential adverse ecological impacts from release of accumulated sediment.
   c) Notice to all potentially affected agencies prior to the release of accumulated sediment-laden water.
   d) Holding owner/operators financially responsible for fish and wildlife losses and restoration costs when such releases cause damage to natural resources.

2) The League advocates modifying hydropower facility operations to reduce their adverse impacts whenever such facilities are required to be re-licensed and encourages members to participate in such re-licensing processes. The League believes that the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission (FERC) should:
   a) Make re-licensing decisions on a watershed and river-system basis.
   b) Consider all alternatives to re-licensing projects.
   c) Ensure that hydropower projects are consistent with water quality requirements.
   d) Restore sufficient flows and habitat to rivers.
   e) Establish a mitigation fund for river conservation and restoration programs.
   f) Mandate needed facilities for upstream and downstream fish passage.
   g) Ensure free public access to rivers.
   h) Guarantee sufficient funding for dam decommissioning.
   i) Limit re-licensing to a term not to exceed 20 years.

D) Channelization, Drainage, and Diversion

1) Any proposal to modify the regimen of a stream must be evaluated carefully. The League recognizes that channelization, drainage, and stream-straightening projects might in some cases accord with the public interest. Most often, however, such projects have been noted for impairments to fish and wildlife habitat, timber, recreation, and other resource values. In 1973, the League called for a moratorium on federally funded channelization and drainage projects until new measures to protect environmental values were assured.

2) The League calls on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to:
   a) Stop issuing permits for channel and streambank modification without proper planning, review, and mitigation for impacts.
   b) Stop issuing permits for channel and streambank modification "after the fact."
   c) Stop "defining" free-flowing and/or navigable streams as irrigation ditches, thus allowing exemption from Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

3) Any agreement developed between federal and state agencies to facilitate the Section 404 permitting process should:
   a) Limit the size of modifications or repairs allowed.
   b) Provide for public notice, comment, and hearings.
   c) Not allow streams to be defined as irrigation ditches.
   d) Provide for mitigation of stream impacts.
   e) Retain and restore native trees and shrubs in the riparian corridor whenever possible.

E) Coastal Zones

1) The League urges each state to plan for and protect the resource values of its coastal zone.

2) The federal government should develop and implement a coastal zone management program for any state that fails to do so.

3) Major interstate coastal resource areas, such as the Chesapeake Bay, should be managed according to formal interstate agreement or by the federal government if no such agreement exists.

4) States should have the right to participate in Outer Continental Shelf decisions that affect their coastal zones whether such activities are within, landward, or seaward of the zones.

F) Compliance with the Clean Water Act

1) The League supports the objective of the Clean Water Act to "... restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters." To achieve that objective, the League supports the act's goals, which state that the discharge of pollutants will be eliminated and that all waters will be both "fishable and swimmable." Other Clean Water Act measures include:
   a) Pollutants may be discharged into waterways only under the terms of a discharge permit that sets effluent limits and establishes a schedule for compliance.
   b) Municipalities must use the best practical waste treatment technology (defined as secondary treatment).
   c) Federal funds should be provided to help communities build municipal sewage treatment plants.
   d) Industries should pay the full costs of cleaning up their own wastes.
   e) Uniform technological requirements should be imposed to achieve and maintain water quality standards. Measures and practices should be in place to control nonpoint source pollution, and more stringent controls are needed for point source pollution.
   f) States should adopt specific numeric water criteria for toxic pollutants to protect human health and the environment.
   g) Industries discharging wastes directly into waterways must meet nationwide, technology-based requirements.
   h) When, for point-source dischargers, technology-based requirements are not sufficient to ensure a water body will meet water quality standards, more stringent requirements shall be required for all dischargers that will ensure that water quality standards will be met with an adequate safety margin.
   i) Because of its threat to human health and the environment, the use of chlorine as a disinfectant in sewage treatment should be minimized and, if possible, eliminated in favor of alternative methods.
   j) States should take full advantage of the water quality certification authority granted by the Clean Water Act to ensure the protection of the existing integrity of their own waters.
   k) Water quality standards should be used to augment technology-based standards when those standards alone do not adequately protect water.
   l) Industries that discharge wastes into publicly owned treatment works must first remove any incompatible pollutants from their discharge as required by uniform, nationwide pretreatment standards.

m) For national and state water quality programs to be implemented properly, presidential administrations should request and Congress should fully appropriate funds authorized under the Clean Water Act.

n) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should assume administration of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater discharge permit program of any state that is not adequately administering the program pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act.

2) Clean Water Act regulations permit dilution of discharges of 128 chemical substances for which specific numeric criteria were established. The League believes that the most stringent level of discharge requirements must be used and measured at the end of the pipe without benefit of mixing zones for all water bodies. Further, certain substances known to persist and bioaccumulate should not be allowed to be present in the discharge.

3) If government agencies develop water quality trading policies or programs, those policies or programs must meet the following criteria:

a) Limit trading to nutrients and sediment and only allow trades between the same pollutant (nitrogen for nitrogen for example).

b) Occur in watersheds where a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for nutrients or sediment has been established pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act.

c) Occur in states that have established numeric water quality criteria for nutrients or sediment, or have filed a plan with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for developing numeric water quality criteria, under the federal Clean Water Act.

d) Protect local water quality from degradation as well as improve overall water quality within a larger watershed. Local water quality protection measures may include restricting the geographic area within which trades can take place to the smallest possible watershed that can support a viable trading program.

e) Include certified, independent monitoring and verification of nutrient or sediment reductions from credit sellers.

f) Limit credit-generating practices to those that are measurable, verifiable, and remain in place for a period at least equal to the period of the credit.

g) Use protective trading ratios in order to ensure that water quality standards are being met and nutrient reductions are equal to or greater than credits purchased.

h) Use on-the-ground monitoring or best practices computer modeling to make site-specific calculations of nonpoint source nutrient or sediment reductions.

i) Include adequate enforcement measures to ensure compliance from all participants.
j) Include periodic evaluation and independent review of the trading program to assess its effectiveness, include mechanisms to modify, improve or suspend the program as needed, and provide for ample public participation, including adequate notification and comment periods.

4) The League opposes any attempt by the Environmental Protection Agency to weaken water quality standards through the rule-making process. Any revision to water quality standards should be guided by the goals of the Clean Water Act, not to accommodate polluters. Any revision of water quality standards should address:
a) Sediment criteria.
b) Biological criteria.
c) Hydrologic balance criteria.
d) Whole effluent toxicity demonstrations.
e) Total maximum daily loading demonstrations.
f) Tightening of water quality certification under Section 401 of the act.

5) The League supports state efforts to develop effective and enforceable Total Maximum Daily Load programs and encourages states to develop citizen-based water monitoring programs.

6) The League calls upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to finalize, without further delay, the most protective Power Plant Effluent Limitation Guidelines requiring, where applicable, zero discharge of heavy metals in coal ash to waters of the United States.

G) Contaminants of Concern

1) The League supports locally-based take back programs to allow for the safe disposal of unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs, and federal and state legislation establishing and regulating such programs. Wherever possible, these programs should be supported through a combination of private sector (participating pharmacies) and public sector (local law enforcement) engagement as needed to assure that all residents have a low-cost or no-cost way to return unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs for proper disposal.

H) Coral Reefs

1) Congress should prohibit the sale of all reef coral in the United States and regulate the use of fish traps and other practices contributing to despoliation of reef communities.

2) The League urges the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to:
   a) Establish cooperative global initiatives to safeguard these systems worldwide.
   b) Establish and implement a National Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation and Protection Plan that includes a prohibition on live-rock harvest, except for permitted research purposes.
   c) Conduct a status review of coral species and associated organisms for possible listing under the Endangered Species Act

I) Drift Nets

1) Monofilament drift nets used by ocean fishing fleets indiscriminately kill thousands of marine mammals, birds, sea turtles, and fish. The League supports a global treaty banning the use of drift nets and urges a boycott of any company that knowingly sells seafood caught with ocean drift nets.

J) Drinking Water

1) The League supports a two-part drinking water protection program that protects surface water and groundwater supplies by requiring states to implement entire watershed protection programs that establish stricter standards for drinking water treatment and frequent monitoring.

2) The League urges measures that:
   a) Ensure that all people, especially those at risk (elderly, youth, and people with chronic diseases) have access to clean water.
   b) Do not weaken the provisions protecting small cities with populations between 3,300 and 10,000.
   c) Toughen drinking water standards to protect people against cancer-causing chemicals and deadly microorganisms by increased monitoring for both.
   d) Increase funding to assist systems in paying for improvements.
   e) Strengthen the enforcement authority of citizens and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that safe water standards are met.
   f) Pass amendments to ensure citizens' right to know about toxins and pathogens in their drinking water.
   g) Establish national standards for water turbidity levels and particulate counts along with protocols for the issuance of boil-water advisories that eliminate all risk of illness and fatality.

K) Flood Control

1) Flood protection can be accomplished through control of water and through control of the human use of watersheds. Control in the latter

sense, involving non-structural alternatives (including floodplain zoning and other restrictions on use of flood-prone areas), should receive first consideration in planning for flood protection. Federal funds should be reassigned to programs employing nonstructural techniques. Flood control programs should first address the restoration of natural retention capacity of the watershed, including re-establishment of wetlands, removal of structures in the 100-year floodplain, and restoration of the river to its original streambed.

2) The League opposes development within the floodplain so that these areas might aid in the control of floodwaters. Therefore, although the League supports the principles inherent in the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, we urge that a policy be developed under these statutes for the protection and restoration of the environmental values of floodplains. To implement this policy, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should:
   a) Require stricter floodplain management ordinances to protect the floodway and the floodway fringe from encroachment and unnecessary channelization of the waterway.
   b) Expand the program of flood hazard area clearance.
   c) Coordinate with other federal agencies to ensure protection of these lands from encroachment and fill.
   d) Disallow recurring flood insurance claims totaling more than the property value.
   e) Delineate coastal erosion zones and deny flood insurance for these zones.

3) The League also encourages flood-prone communities to implement the zoning policies and construction standards required for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

L) Florida Keys and Everglades

1) The League calls for a moratorium on major development in the Florida Keys until the state has implemented a program to limit future development to the carrying capacity of the area. The League also urges the acquisition of all private lands on north Key Largo that do not have inhabited homes.

2) The League urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Florida to purchase all land contained in the Everglades Agriculture Area as it is retired from agriculture. We also call on the relevant authorities to condemn and acquire the “8.5-square-mile” area so that efforts to protect the Everglades National Park can be completed.

M) Great Lakes and Lakeshores

1) The League urges Congress to pass as soon as possible the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Great Lakes Compact) as it was passed by all eight of the Great Lakes states as well as Quebec and Ontario.

2) The League urges the Great Lakes states to implement the Great Lakes Compact by promulgating the water diversion application process and rules before considering any requests to divert water outside of the Great Lakes basin. The League further urges that the water diversion application process:
   a) Be transparent, with ample opportunity for public and expert review and comment.
   b) Include requirements for effective water conservation measures on the part of the applicants to minimize the quantity of water diverted.
   c) Include protective water quality standards for waters returned to the Great Lakes after use.
   d) Require that applicants fully explore other supply alternatives.
   e) Ensure that diversions are not granted to support significant new residential and commercial development in areas that could not support such development in the absence of the diversions.

3) The League supports the Great Lakes Initiative as well as programs and policies that will result in "zero discharge" of bioaccumulative, persistent toxic substances into the Great Lakes.

4) The League opposes open lake dumping of dredge spoil material in the Great Lakes.

5) Lakes and reservoirs comprise 39.9 million acres in this country. Lakeshores are experiencing increased development, both residential and commercial. Largely due to this development, 39 percent of U.S. lakes are impaired by pollution, according to the Environmental Protection Agency's 1996 report. The League urges federal, state, and local governments and private agencies to ensure adequate protection of our inland lakes by enforcing existing laws and regulations and by developing new policies and programs that:
   a) Place the highest priority on protecting lake water quality, ecological integrity, and natural beauty.
   b) Emphasize the crucial role that individual shoreline and near-shore landowners play in protecting these values.
   c) Make provision for education, financial, and other incentives to implement conservation practices.

d) Ensure that shoreline and near-shore zoning regulations adequately address development and land-management practices that threaten the ecological values of lake resources.
e) Provide needed technical and financial assistance to local governments to operate programs and enforce regulations that protect inland lakes.
f) Facilitate full participation by a representative cross-section of the public in data collection, planning, program design, and implementation.

N) Groundwater

1) Groundwater is an essential resource that must be protected against depletion and contamination. The League advocates a comprehensive federal groundwater strategy that involves all responsible federal and state agencies and:
   a) Encourages water conservation to reduce consumption of groundwater.
   b) Identifies appropriate recharging zones and best management practices to ensure water quality.
   c) Protects critical recharge waters.
   d) Protects groundwater from contamination by agricultural chemicals.
   e) Regulates land uses that cause groundwater contamination.
   f) Regarding underground injection:
      (i) Prohibits the underground injection of hazardous wastes.
      (ii) Recognizes that underground injection of water produced from coal-bed methane production may be acceptable.
      (iii) Immediately stops permitting the underground injection of insufficiently treated surface water or wastewater or water that may disrupt natural salinity levels.
      (iv) Revokes such existing injection permits and determines the extent of the movement of the injected materials and the concentrations of any contamination that has occurred.
      (v) Ensures that responsible parties clean up these injection wells and properly treat and dispose of the recovered materials.
   g) Sponsors research on groundwater contamination and saltwater intrusion.
   h) Creates incentives for states to restrict groundwater withdrawals to the rate of recharge.
   i) Utilizes the most appropriate tools and technology to monitor changes in groundwater caused by man-made disturbances and prevent pollution problems.

O) Hydraulic Fracturing (Hydrofracking)

1) The League urges all levels of government with oversight and regulatory authority over natural gas extraction to implement a moratorium on issuing permits for drilling new, high-volume hydraulic fracturing directional wells until:
   a) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completes its study of the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on water quality and public health.
   b) Using results of the EPA study and other information, EPA issues guidelines to the states for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing and the establishment of protective requirements for freshwater usage, flowback treatment and disposal, ground and surface water quality, spill prevention and response, and other natural resources that could be impacted by hydraulic fracturing.
   c) Such states have established and implemented regulatory programs in accordance with the guidelines issued by EPA.
   d) Congress repeals the exemption for the gas extraction industry from meeting requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act and subjects chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process to full public disclosure.

P) Marine Resources

1) The natural resource jurisdiction of the United States should extend to the outer limit of the continental shelf or 200 miles seaward from the coast, whichever is greater.

2) The public should be permitted access to and use of U.S. beaches.

3) The League supports the preservation of especially significant natural resource values through the designation of marine sanctuaries, public acquisition of wetlands, and establishment of shoreline and underwater preserves.

4) The federal government should:
   a) Protect critical coastal resources through easements and fee acquisition.
   b) Ensure opportunity for coastal recreation near urban centers.
   c) Stimulate rehabilitation of existing ports and urban waterfronts to focus commercial and other water-oriented activity in already-developed shoreline areas.
   d) Deny federal flood insurance for new construction in high-hazard coastal areas.
   e) Protect fisheries and vital fisheries habitat.

Q) Mississippi Delta

1) Due to human activities, the Mississippi River Delta marsh areas are eroding at a rapid pace. Therefore, a comprehensive emergency program should be developed to restore inflows of fresh water, repair wetlands damaged by canals and dikes, and prohibit the construction or expansion of canals in the coastal zone.

R) Mitigation

1) Mitigation of fish, wildlife, and recreational values damaged or destroyed by water development projects is a minimum goal. Such values should be enhanced whenever practical.

2) The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the basic authority for mitigating fish and wildlife impacts of federal water resource development projects, should be strengthened to:
   a) Apply to all water projects constructed, licensed, or assisted by the federal government, including those of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
   b) Ensure that fish and wildlife become "equally considered purposes of water development plans."
   c) Require replacement of habitat losses.

S) Navigation

1) Commercial navigation is only a part of the nation's transportation picture. Navigation development should not be regarded as an integral part of every water development program or an automatic need for every major river. Navigation development should proceed only when clearly needed to advance public benefits from transportation as a whole, only when economically justified, and only to the extent that other values of water and related resources are not unduly impaired. For example, the League has been concerned about the effects of commercial navigation on the Upper Mississippi River ecosystem and therefore opposes expansion of navigation capacity in the basin.

2) The costs of navigation development should be paid in the form of user fees by those who benefit directly.

3) Barge fleeting and mooring on inland waterways should be regulated through a system of permits by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard, and the states to protect safety, fish and wildlife habitats, water quality, recreation, and natural areas. Barges carrying ecologically hazardous cargoes should be equipped with double hulls, and a rapid spill response should be developed.

4) The League opposes any legislation that would authorize the extension of any locks on the Upper Mississippi River prior to completion of an adequate planning process and required Environmental Impact Statements. We oppose expansion of navigation facilities on the Upper Mississippi River and urge Congress, relevant federal agencies, and states to restore the degraded habitat and other natural resources contained within the watershed. We call for a qualified independent study to review the Corps' economic studies supporting the project. The League also calls for a comprehensive action plan concerning the economic and ecological sustainability of the Upper Mississippi River and urges that a citizen-based task force be established to monitor the implementation of such a plan.

5) No dam that is impassable or otherwise adverse to migratory fish should be constructed on any river that supports valuable resources of such fish. Rivers that are especially important to fisheries should be declared fish sanctuaries, with construction of dams forbidden.

6) The League opposes any additional alterations to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system for the purposes of accommodating larger commercial vessels and winter navigation. The League also opposes additional funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers studies to determine the feasibility of increased navigation on these waterways because previous independent reviews have found that the project is economically unjustified and environmentally unacceptable.

7) Public access should be provided to all important streams, lakes, and other waters.

8) Every reservoir constructed with public funds or under public license should be accessible to the public and appropriately developed for recreational use and to enhance fish and wildlife.

9) To guarantee free public access, the federal government should secure linear easements along the shores of the lakes and streams within the 44 million acres of Alaska lands transferred to native ownership.

T) Offshore Oil/Petroleum Facilities

1) The League generally is opposed to siting any refinery, oil port, bunkering station or petroleum transfer facility in any estuary, wetland, or other shoreline or offshore area not already affected significantly by petroleum pollution.

2) National policy on offshore oil and gas development should include:
   a) Separating the exploration phase from leasing and development.

b) Ensuring comprehensive assessment of economic, social, and environmental impacts before leasing.
c) Requiring physical and biological baseline research prior to leasing.
d) Withholding from drilling areas that have high environmental value or high risk of damage.

3) Congress should pass legislation to protect coral reefs from potential negative impacts due to oil tankers and other coastal shipping by moving shipping lanes farther offshore and by siting an oil spill response station in south Florida.

U) Sarasota and Chesapeake Bays

1) The Sarasota and the Chesapeake bays were identified as National Priority Estuaries under the Water Quality Act of 1987. The League supports the development and implementation of comprehensive management plans to restore and protect these bays and urges Congress to provide sufficient federal funding for this purpose.

V) Sea-Level Canal

1) Because of the potential adverse effects of mixing the marine organisms of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the League is opposed to construction of a sea-level canal across the Isthmus of Panama, pending adequate biological study.

W) Wastewater Management

1) Every industry and municipality bears full responsibility for treating its own wastes. It is the responsibility of industry – not government – to discover and perfect methods of reducing its discharges to the extent required by government.

2) The League has worked for years to support substantial federal appropriations to assist local governments in the construction of wastewater management facilities. The League also has endorsed cost-sharing initiatives with rural landowners to control nonpoint source pollution as well as investment tax credits for industries investing in treatment facilities. But, as indicated above, the ultimate responsibility for pollution control rests with the polluter. Furthermore, the federal government has no obligation to subsidize community growth through expenditures for pollution control (or other) facilities. Providing necessary wastewater management facilities or practices should not depend on the availability of federal financial assistance.

3) There should be no mixing zones or zones of dilution for the discharge of toxic pollutants.

4) Discharge of heated water into natural bodies of water (thermal pollution) should be reduced to the minimal level that is practical. Cooling water should be recycled through cooling towers, ponds, or other means.

5) Sewage discharge from commercial, military, and recreational vessels should be eliminated.

6) The program of federal grants for the construction of municipal sewage treatment systems should be strengthened by:
   a) Guaranteeing predictable, multiyear funding.
   b) Allocating funds based on unmet treatment needs.
   c) Eliminating federal grants that subsidize growth and induce sprawl.
   d) Stimulating the use of innovative and alternative technologies.
   e) Encouraging efficiency in treatment plant design, construction, and operation.

7) The League supports a moratorium on the development of unlined community sewage lagoons until proper studies of the environmental impact of these facilities and ways of preventing leakage have been conducted. These studies should include evaluation of existing lagoons.

8) Roughly 10 percent of all communities throughout the nation have sewer systems that combine sewage and stormwater discharge. These systems are far more likely to exceed the capacity of the receiving treatment facilities, thus discharging untreated sewage into the receiving waters. The League urges states to:
   a) Issue early warning notices for all combined sewer overflow (CSO) communities prior to reaching treatment capacity.
   b) Ban sewer connections once “bypass at first flush” occurs or when treatment capacity cannot meet public health standards for fecal coliform bacteria.
   c) Provide matching funds to CSO communities to help implement corrective actions and to adopt notice rules to those neighboring affected waterways.
   d) Ensure that long-term control plans are implemented in a manner that eliminates disproportionate impacts on minorities or low-income residents and environmentally sensitive and recreational areas.
   e) The League also urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promptly establish and implement regional plans to address CSO issues.

f) Immediately require all CSO communities to complete their long-term control plans as soon as possible and to issue compliance schedules to stop discharging sewage into the nation's lakes, streams, and aquifers.

X) Water Quality

1) Clean water is a public trust. Such public trust shall include clean water supplies and distribution systems that will protect the health and safety of citizens.

2) There is no justification for water pollution. The people of the United States are entitled to wholesome surface water and groundwater, usable for all human needs. At a minimum, surface water should be of suitable quality for both recreational contact and for the protection and propagation of fish and wildlife.

3) The public goal should be maximum removal of pollutants from all waters. The League neither accepts "waste assimilation" as a proper use of America's water nor believes water should be impounded to dilute waste loads during low-flow periods.

4) The primary strategy for controlling pollution should be to control the quantity and quality of effluent discharged by municipalities and industries. In no case should water quality be degraded below present levels; waters of high quality should be protected from contamination.

5) While the Clean Water Act has made substantial improvements to the nation's water quality by controlling point sources of pollution, 40 percent of our surface water remains degraded and unfishable. To address the need for effective control of nonpoint source pollution that affects fish and peoples' recreational and consumptive use of fish, the League supports legislation that provides and funds voluntary, nonregulatory, incentive-based projects recommended in watershed management plans approved at the appropriate levels of government.

6) Pollutants washing off the land (nonpoint source pollution) must be controlled. Ultimate responsibility for such control rests with the landowner, but adequate federal funding for planning, implementation, and technical assistance will be needed to aid in nonpoint source pollution control.

7) Federal funds should be granted to develop area-wide water quality planning and to develop land management practices that reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Y) Wetlands

1) Wetlands are critical economic and ecological resources. To maintain the integrity of the nation's waters, all wetlands must be protected against destruction by dredging and filling.

2) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should fully evaluate not only the environmental impact of any single proposal to drain or fill a wetland or alter a wetland or shoreline but should also consider the cumulative impacts of any such proposals.

3) The League opposes any legislative or regulatory proposals that would reduce the jurisdictional scope of the Section 404 program under the Clean Water Act.

4) The League endorses the concept of "no net loss of wetlands" and urges adoption of a comprehensive wetlands policy that would:
   a) Eliminate federal programs that subsidize and encourage wetlands destruction.
   b) Increase funding for nationwide wetlands mapping and for restoration projects.
   c) Require wetland losses to be mitigated through the sequential process of avoiding, minimizing, and compensating on a greater than 1:1 acreage ratio for adverse environmental impacts.
   d) Require no net loss of either acreage or function.
   e) Require onsite compensatory mitigation or mitigation in the same watershed.
   f) Stop the filling of wetlands for non-water-dependent projects.
   g) Require long-term commitment to the success of compensatory mitigation projects.
   h) Expand the Clean Water Act's Section 404 program to apply to drainage as well as filling activities.

5) We encourage state and federal governments to adopt a wetland conservation tax-credit program to provide incentives for private landowners to restore and conserve their wetlands.

6) To minimize or prevent the destruction of small wetlands by ditching, draining, and excavating, the League supports including the principles of the Tulloch rule into the Clean Water Act and state wetland regulation.

7) It is the practice of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Transportation to mitigate for impacts of projects that destroy or degrade wetlands by buying "credits" in wetlands mitigation banks. Those monies are spent on wetland creation, restoration, or enhancement projects at other locations. The League believes that

mitigation banking is one alternative for sustaining wetlands acreage but that it must be carried out with stringent protections, including:

a) Adherence to and enforcement of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines, which call for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation – in that order.
b) General prohibition against wetlands mitigation banks (WMBs) that create wetlands. The focus should be on restoration.
c) Prohibition against WMBs that sell credits before financial and legal mechanisms have been put in place to perpetually protect wetland acres to be banked.
d) Prohibition against locating WMBs in a different watershed from the one in which wetlands impacts occur, except when relocation can be shown to be the most ecologically favorable alternative.
e) Priority acquisition of conservation and flowage easements.
f) Setbacks of development and agricultural activity.
g) Significant reduction in conventional drainage activity that results in conversion of wetlands.
h) Economic incentives for wetland owners to adopt protective and restorative measures, and fuller implementation of provisions addressing this goal in the Farm Bill.

8) The League urges local entities, individual states, and the U.S. Congress to strengthen and/or pass legislation to protect all of America's valuable wetlands, including isolated wetlands. Furthermore, the League urges these same governing bodies to pass legislation that would strengthen and implement new conservation programs to bolster support by producers for wetland and water protection in their management plans.

Chapter VII

ENERGY

The League's energy policies rest on the premise that our production and use of energy should conserve precious natural resources while limiting impacts to air, water, and land. The organization has promoted energy efficiency policies and practices that conserve natural resources and save consumers money. The League has also supported the development of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and sustainable biomass that can be substituted for conventional fuels, including coal, oil, and natural gas. Finally, it has supported a transition away from the use of fossil fuels to power homes, businesses, and transportation systems, given concerns about the damaging affects these fuels are having on human health, wildlife, and our environment. This transition will also improve our energy independence, create jobs, and support economic growth.

A) Principles

1) An energy policy for the United States should strive to have energy prices closely reflect total energy cost. This policy should favor least-cost means of providing energy that include consideration of external costs (e.g., environmental damage, costs associated with a trade deficit, interest payments, or defense costs).

B) Climate-Friendly Coal Technologies and Practices

1) The League urges that future coal users strive to produce zero levels of harmful emissions and carbon dioxide as quickly as technologically feasible. This means that coal use must:
   a) As quickly as possible become carbon dioxide emissions neutral.
   b) Produce minimal or no emissions of other pollutants.
   c) Become more efficient in converting coal to useful power.
   d) Reduce dependence on unstable foreign energy sources.
   e) Keep energy affordable and reliable for consumers.
   f) Become part of a national energy mix that includes significantly more renewable energy, such as wind and biomass.

2) To achieve these goals, the League supports aggressive research, development, and demonstration of climate-friendly coal technologies such as Integrated Coal Gasification Combined Cycle and the safe capture of carbon dioxide for geologic sequestration.

C) Electric Transmission Lines for Wind Energy

1) The League urges the implementation of transmission policies and business practices at the local, state, regional, and federal levels that:
   a) Maximize the use of existing transmission lines and corridors prior to developing new transmission corridors.
   b) Encourage the active participation of affected landowners and communities throughout the transmission planning, siting, and routing processes, including consideration of possible health effects.
   c) Support the responsible development of new transmission capacity needed to bring thousands of megawatts of wind power from the rural Midwest to markets.
   d) Provide appropriate compensation for all property owners affected by transmission projects.
   e) Ensure that wind energy generation facilities have adequate access to needed transmission lines.
   f) Encourage the development of both small- and large-scale wind projects.
   g) Do not discriminate against variable resources such as wind power.

2) The League also supports efficient transmission of power and encourages use of modern technological methods as well as maintenance of the present system to achieve higher levels of efficiency.

D) Energy Deregulation

1) Electrical energy generation is a significant contributor to environmental problems, including global climate change, acid rain, ground-level ozone, air toxins, land use, and water impacts. Efforts to restructure (deregulate) the electric industry will have important impacts on the environment. The League calls on federal and state regulators to consider the environmental impacts of the electric industry before approving any restructuring proposals. Such proposals must:
   a) Consider the public interests and take effect over an appropriate period of time to ensure smooth transition.
   b) Maintain environmental quality and stewardship of resources.
   c) Maintain existing state-level review of siting power-supply and distribution facilities.
   d) Allow wholesale competition to take effect and require thorough evaluation of its environmental consequences before retail competition is considered.

E) Energy Efficiency

1) A major shift in energy policy and research efforts is mandatory. The objective should be to drastically reduce dependence on fossil fuels and nuclear power by:
   a) Achieving maximum efficiency from fuel use, including the use of waste heat from power generation and co-generation from existing industrial processes.
   b) Reducing energy demand by educating the public about energy conservation and by changing public policies that promote energy consumption.

2) Future energy needs can be met most economically by more efficient utilization of energy supplies through conservation. Utility rates should be reformed to provide incentives for utilities to invest in improving system efficiency. Also, utilities should be required to enact effective demand-reduction programs.

3) The conservation provisions of a national energy policy should include:
   a) Uniform building code requirements for insulation and efficient lighting.
   b) Increased use of mass transit in urban areas.
   c) Shifting interstate freight from trucks and airlines to railroads.
   d) Enacting a Corporate Average Fuel Economy standard of 45 miles per gallon to encourage the utilization of new auto-efficiency technologies.

4) The League urges Congress to support transportation policy that continues and enhances environmental programs, promotes non-motorized transportation methods, encourages development of transportation systems that use land and energy most efficiently, and rewards long-term planning.

5) The League supports clean-air and energy-efficient technology in automobiles and urges all automobile manufacturers to continue to improve low-emission vehicles and energy-efficient technology so that vehicles will eventually have zero emissions.

6) The League encourages municipal, state, and federal government agencies to transition to hybrid and other energy efficient vehicles for all applications where appropriate and to replace their automobile fleets with such vehicles whenever turnover allows.

7) The League supports the principles of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program of the U.S. Green Buildings Council and its potential to educate homebuilders/owners on active and passive energy practices. We ask that governmental bodies

require that building permit applications include a statement that the applicant has consulted LEED or similar guidelines to reduce energy consumption in the construction or renovation of a home, even if they chose not to adopt enough measures to earn the certification. In addition, governmental units should require that plans for public buildings incorporate measures to seek at least a silver LEED rating.

F) Energy Importation

1) Canadian hydroelectricity suppliers respond to both peak power demands and to general consumption in the United States. These demands can cause expansion of facilities and system operation that leads to severe impacts for northern river basins, wetlands, boreal forests, fish and wildlife resources, and native people. The League opposes the importation of Canadian electricity generated from environmentally sensitive areas and supports:
   a) State and federal review of proposed contracts for electricity between Canada and the United States that would require new hydroelectric-power development, similar to existing state-level siting and federal National Environmental Policy Act review.
   b) State and inter-state review of proposed high-voltage power lines designed in whole or in part to carry imported Canadian hydroelectricity to customers in the United States, with emphasis on local generation and transmission alternatives to proposed transmission line projects.

G) Nuclear Energy

1) Existing nuclear power plants should be allowed to operate.

2) No new nuclear-construction permits should be granted until full and satisfactory answers are available to questions concerning disposal of nuclear wastes and cumulative environmental impacts of multiple nuclear power plants.

3) Nuclear power should be utilized only if all other least-cost alternatives have been utilized fully, including efficiency measures and alternative sources of energy.

H) Oil and Natural Gas Drilling and Extraction

1) The League supports enactment of the following requirements for all oil and natural gas drilling sites:
   a) Congress should repeal sections 402(l)(2) and 502(24) of the Clean Water Act which exempt oil and natural gas drilling from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements,

and section 322 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which exempts hydraulic fracturing operations from the drinking water protections required for other forms of underground injection through the Safe Drinking Water Act.

b) Following repeal of sections 402(l)(2) and 502(24) of the Clean Water Act, and Section 322 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the EPA shall develop and adopt regulations:

iii. applying the NPDES permit process to discharges of storm water runoff from oil and natural gas operations. Regulations must require monitoring and reporting of storm water discharges and can utilize general permits, provided such permits require individual site registration and address factors specific to each geographic area and geologic production zone; and

iv. under the Safe Drinking Water Act that reflect repeal of Section 322 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

c) As part of any permit system regulating oil and natural gas drilling sites, the appropriate regulatory agency shall require compliance with relevant Best Management Practices (BMPs) for site development, operation, closure, and reclamation, and impose penalties for non-compliance.

d) Any permit system regulating oil and natural gas drilling sites should protect wetlands and riparian zones by requiring compliance with all relevant local, state and federal ordinances and regulations concerning such resources.

e) Prior to drilling permit issuance, a notice of intent to drill shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area to be drilled. This notice shall include a right to a public hearing by residents and landowners in the affected communities.

f) Groundwater monitoring shall be required for all oil and natural gas drilling, production, disposal, and drilling fluids storage.

g) All drilling permits must require adequate bonding to provide sealing, reclamation, and environmental remediation.

I) Pipelines

1) Congress should not approve the use of eminent domain to secure coal slurry pipeline routes unless clear assurance is provided that water, air, and other resources will not be impaired by the use of coal slurry technology.

2) Pipelines to transport fuels frequently pass through environmentally sensitive areas and areas that raise concerns about the safety of homes, businesses, and agricultural facilities. Often there are existing right-of-ways such as railroads and highways that offer alternative sites. The League encourages state and federal regulatory agencies to follow a policy

of siting and permitting pipelines near existing pipelines or on such right-of-ways.

3) The League urges that owners and operators of pipelines that transmit fuel or other chemicals be held responsible for any leak, be held liable for pipeline repairs, and be penalized for failure to do so.

4) The League opposes construction of the Keystone XL pipeline and any other tar sands pipelines until the following conditions are met:
   a) Any proposed pipeline shall undergo thorough review by all relevant local, state and federal regulatory bodies with authority over the pipeline and its design and operation to ensure that public and environmental health is protected.
   b) Governmental permitting and regulatory agencies shall require the incorporation of fail-safe provisions, such as double wall pipe and leak detection monitors, in new pipeline construction and operation and in repairs of existing pipelines in order to protect surface water and groundwater, human health, soils and wildlife.
   c) Penalties, financial assurance, and/or reparations should be established as part of the construction and operation permitting process in the event of any noncompliance and to mitigate any damages to the public and environmental health.

J) Renewable Energy Sources

1) The League supports a goal of 100% energy production from renewable sources.

2) Petroleum and coal are not only principle energy sources, they are also the raw materials for hundreds of products used by modern society. Continuing or expanding their use is unwise. National energy policy should call for conservation of hydrocarbons and should take full advantage of energy-saving technologies and renewable forms of energy such as solar, wind, and geothermal. The League supports the use of renewably produced ethanol, if the necessary adjustments in fuel volatility are made to prevent increased production of smog and ozone. We also oppose a massive conversion to natural gas for base-load electricity generation, while recognizing its need as a transition fuel until more sustainable sources of renewable energy are available.

3) The League supports increased reliance on distributed generation technologies to meet customers' onsite demands that use natural gas, renewable resources, and other efficiencies to provide cleaner, more efficient, and competitively priced electricity to customers.

4) The League takes the position that utility companies that receive power from individual owners of renewable energy systems should pay them at same rate charged for power being provided to these owners.

5) The League believes Congress and all appropriate state government agencies should require that electric utilities use renewable sources to supply at least 20 percent of their energy by 2020.

K) Synthetic Fuels/Oil Shale

1) The League opposes large federal subsidies to hasten the development of a commercial-scale synthetic fuels industry. Such subsidies would hide the true cost of the technology and artificially stimulate premature development of a synthetic fuels industry. Federal leasing of oil shale and synthetic fuel development should be delayed until the environmental and social effects are understood more fully and adequate safeguards are in place to minimize and mitigate the environmental impacts.

Chapter VIII

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

As illustrated by its early support for the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and nurturing the Conservation Education Association in the 1950s, the League has always recognized the special role of young people and the importance of education in achieving environmental and conservation objectives. By supporting the Environmental Education Act and No Child Left Inside Act, the League has championed teaching environmental education in our nation's schools. The book *Last Child in the Woods* has focused national attention on the alarming disconnect between children and the natural world around them. A growing body of research highlights how a "nature deficit" is negatively impacting children's physical and mental health. In addition, the looming question is: Will future generations of Americans care enough about our land, water, and wildlife to conserve them if they never caught a fish, camped in a national park, or walked in the woods? The League and its members, with a network of hundreds of local chapters across the country, are leading efforts to connect children to the outdoors, fish and wildlife, and conservation.

A) Principles

1) The League recognizes that in seeking improved environmental quality, the nation's first and best hope lies in the environmental education of youth and adults. This belief is the basis for the League's annual Youth Convention.

2) The League seeks the teaching of resource facts and recognizes the need for conservation education at all age and grade levels in public and private educational institutions.

3) Except at advanced levels and in specialized courses, environmental topics and issues should be incorporated into existing courses rather than taught separately.

4) The League believes that environmental education course credits should be a prerequisite to the granting of teaching certificates.

B) Federal Environmental Education Programs

1) The League supports establishing a national environmental education policy that directs all federal agencies with environmental education responsibilities to integrate environmental education into their ongoing programs.

2) Federal environmental education programs should place greater emphasis on opportunities for environmental education outside the formal school system.

C) Public Awareness

1) The first national Earth Day on April 22, 1970, developed an unprecedented amount of interest in and understanding of environmental concerns and has been celebrated nationally by League members and other conservation-minded citizens young and old every year since. Members of the League observe Earth Day every day by their actions. The League urges local chapters to set aside a day near April 22 to celebrate Earth Day in a way that involves local League members and citizens of their communities.

D) Youth Conservation Education and Employment Programs

1) The League affirms its support for broad programs of environmental education, especially non-formal education, and encourages all schools to teach environmental education within their science curriculum at all levels and to include prairie-environment outdoor classrooms.

2) It is recognized that fewer and fewer Americans are participating in outdoor recreation, including activities enjoyed by League members. Well-designed and energetic hands-on outdoor educational activities could help change that trend. One of the goals of the League should be mentoring and educating future generations of conservationists. The League urges all divisions and chapters to hold environmental education programs to which the public is invited. These programs should take place as often as possible.

Chapter IX

OUTDOOR ETHICS AND RECREATION

The Izaak Walton League inspires all types of outdoor enthusiasts to take personal responsibility for protecting the outdoors. League chapters promote outdoor ethics and provide various outdoor recreational opportunities. Chapters offer programs focused on educating and supporting ethical behavior among all outdoor users, particularly gun owners and hunters, to ensure the safety of others, protect the environment, and conserve fish and wildlife for future generations.

The League is recognized for its leadership in developing a national outdoor recreation policy that addresses personal behavior and the public's ability to enjoy the lands, waters, and other natural resources that belong to all Americans. Spurred by escalating pressures on America's outdoor resources after World War II, the League actively led national efforts to comprehensively assess the future of outdoor recreation. This national perspective spurred expansion of the National Park System and wilderness areas and laid the foundation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Through the LWCF, a portion of the revenue from federal oil and gas leases on public lands is invested in conserving additional public lands and wildlife habitat and supporting recreation at the state and local levels.

A) Principles

1) There should be preserved, developed, and made accessible to all American people such quantity and quality of outdoor recreation as is necessary and desirable for individual enjoyment and physical, cultural, and spiritual benefits to the nation.

2) Natural areas and areas dedicated wholly or largely to recreational use must be adequate in distribution and number to serve the entire public.

3) The public interest requires that recreation and fish and wildlife values be considered fully in the planning and management of all public lands and waters.

4) The League recognizes that this overall recreational objective can be achieved only through public and private cooperation in recreation planning and development. The League encourages private landowners to make recreation resources available to the public. Private owners who make their lands available for public recreation should be protected fully from legal liability. State and local agencies should make special enforcement or other arrangements for patrolling and protecting private properties that are opened for public recreation.

5) Public programs should be designed and conducted to protect and, when possible, enhance recreation and fish and wildlife values.

6) Abandoned railroad corridors should be preserved for public recreational use through a national rails-to-trails program.

7) The League believes that it may be proper to permit hunting and fishing, subject to careful regulation, wherever populations of game species are large enough to support controlled harvest. Sport hunting and fishing are valid recreation pursuits in their own right. They may provide food for the table. Hunting is used as a management tool in balancing wildlife populations with the carrying capacity of their habitat.

8) The League recognizes that, for reasons of public safety and public enjoyment of the natural environment and related purposes, it is in the public interest to close some areas to some or all forms of hunting and fishing – even where wildlife and fish populations are large enough otherwise to support such use.

9) Hunting and fishing regulations should be based on scientific principles rather than on political pressures. They should reflect the best biological data available, and they should be set by trained personnel of fish and wildlife agencies rather than by legislatures.

10) Lawful hunters, anglers, and trappers should be protected from intentional harassment (blocked access, verbal interference, and disturbing game animals) by other persons who are opposed to those activities.

11) The illegal taking of wildlife and fish is unethical, unsportsmanlike, and destructive to fish and wildlife. The League supports vigorous enforcement of wildlife and fisheries laws and urges sportsmen to report violations.

12) Billboards should be banned in scenic areas and restricted in size, number, and location outside of scenic areas.

B) Contests

1) The League urges support for fishing events and activities that encourage the engagement of individuals and communities in outdoor recreation while abiding by proper outdoor ethics; complying with rules and regulations set forth by state and federal agencies; observing and promoting sportsman-like conduct; and encouraging wildlife, fisheries, and habitat conservation.

2) The League stands neutral on professional fishing contests and supports the further development and implementation of ways to educate the angling community and improve wildlife and fisheries conservation practices and the habitat impacted by these events.

C) Fair Chase

1) The League urges states to:
   a) Maximize conservation opportunities, fair chase, and ethics when creating policy on the use of electronic technology in hunting and in examining how the use of such technology affects the resources and the image of hunters.
   b) Ban big game shooting preserves that do not allow for fair-chase hunting. Shooting pen-reared, human-conditioned big game animals within the confines of fenced enclosures that prohibit their normal free-ranging movement is inconsistent with ethical hunting.
   c) Oppose any killing of animals when the shooter is not in the immediate area of and does not have actual visual contact with the game being pursued. The League would request and support state and/or federal law banning any killing of animals through the use of any type of equipment from a remote location (e.g., computers and the Internet).
   d) Pass laws requiring a hunter to dismount or exit any off-highway vehicle (OHV) or vehicle prior to shooting at any game animal. These laws should not prevent or restrict the use of an OHV or vehicle operated by or for any person with a documented physical or medical handicap to pursue the sport of hunting and should not conflict with existing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) laws.

D) Firearms Rights

1) The League supports the constitutional right of law-abiding citizens to own and use firearms.

2) The League opposes legislation or other action that would require the general registration of firearms.

3) The League objects to gun control proposals that do not address the problems of violent crime or safety; rather we support vigorous enforcement of existing firearms-related laws.

4) The League supports efforts to prevent firearms sales to or possession by felons, people found by a court of law to be mentally incompetent or insane, and people under the age of 18.

5) The League supports laws establishing severe and mandatory penalties for the use of firearms in the commission of any crime and severe penalties for flagrant misuse of firearms in any way. We oppose attempts to classify criminal activities as health care issues.

6) The League opposes federal controls on commerce in firearms and related equipment that restrict the lawful activities of private gun collectors, part-time dealers, gunsmiths, hobbyists, or black-powder users. The League opposes taxing firearms to pay for any problems other than sound conservation programs and related research.

7) Although millions of semiautomatic firearms are used legally and routinely for recreation, some legislative proposals fail to distinguish "assault weapons" from other semiautomatic firearms and would ban or restrict the legitimate use of semiautomatic sporting arms. The League calls on Congress and other legislatures to reject such proposals restricting the possession and use of semiautomatic firearms.

8) The League supports state "shall issue" concealed carry handgun laws, requiring that carry permits be issued to applicants who meet uniform standards established by the state legislature.

E) Hunter Apparel Safety Color

1) The League urges all state fish and wildlife agencies to require, where appropriate, the visible display of colors which are shown by scientific study to be the most visible under the greatest number of conditions to the greatest number of hunters.

F) Hunting with Dogs

1) The League urges state fish and wildlife agencies to support hunting with the assistance of dogs to enhance the recreational experience and reduce potential loss of game. At the same time, agencies should reasonably limit the time frame in which hunting dog training can be conducted in the field.

G) Land and Water Conservation Fund

1) The federal government should provide financial assistance to states for outdoor recreation programs under matching-fund principles. The states similarly should assist local government outdoor recreation efforts.

2) The League supports the expenditure of all funds raised by the Land and Water Conservation Fund for their intended purposes every year and opposes their diversion to other purposes. The Land and Water

Conservation Fund should be financed at the full authorized level from a variety of sources, including but not limited to:

a) Fees for recreational use of federal lands, waters, and outdoor recreation facilities.
b) Excise taxes on recreational equipment.
c) Federal leasing of offshore oil and gas rights.
d) Energy resource leases on federal lands.

3) The primary mission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is the acquisition of the land base for outdoor recreation and the preservation of our natural heritage. Fund monies should be used only for outdoor recreation programs. Indoor recreation facilities should be financed separately.

4) The League has endorsed the idea of a National Heritage Trust fund that would generate funding from interest generated each year for parks, recreation, and historic preservation, as a successor to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

H) Law Enforcement

1) The League supports:
   a) New laws, as needed, in an effort to end poaching, hunting from vehicles, and indiscriminate shooting.
   b) Increased enforcement of federal wildlife laws by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, stiffer penalties for waterfowl violations, and vigorous enforcement of existing statutes.
   c) Licensing systems that make it possible to deny license sales to people convicted of major wildlife and fisheries laws and other hunting and fishing violations.

I) Non-Motorized Trails

1) The League endorses and encourages the development of an extensive network of non-motorized trails across the United States.

J) Non-Toxic Shot and Fishing Weights

1) Because of the serious problem of lead shot poisoning of waterfowl and secondary poisoning of other birds, the League has supported a phased conversion to non-toxic shot for hunting migratory waterfowl.

2) Recognizing the toxicity of some forms of lead and its potential impact on wildlife, the League encourages:
   a) The use of non-toxic ammunition and fishing lures and weights in areas where lead is demonstrated to be a problem.

b) Manufacturers of ammunition and fishing tackle to develop environmentally-friendly and cost-effective alternatives to lead projectiles and shot, and fishing lures and weights.
c) Users of these products to take advantage of these alternatives as they become available.

K) Off-Highway Vehicles

1) The League opposes:
   a) Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on federal lands except where and when expressly permitted.
   b) The use of all vehicles in streambeds.

L) Outdoor Ethics Education

1) The League urges state fish and wildlife agencies to:
   a) Use higher hunting license fees, if necessary, to finance actions such as new hunter education programs that include concentrated attention to hunting ethics and supplementary training for all waterfowl hunters.
   b) Develop of a model hunter mentoring program based on survey of existing programs.
   c) Have all hunter education programs include a significant unit on outdoor ethics and be conducted under the supervision of certified hunter education instructors.
   d) Educate the outdoor-using public about the ethics, as well as legalities, of various outdoor recreation activities.
   e) Provide vigorous leadership in statewide campaigns to educate hunters about safe, legal, and ethical practices.

M) Personal Watercraft

1) The League recognizes that jet skis and other personal watercraft (PWC) are the fastest-growing segment of the boating industry. PWCs account for a disproportionate share of all boating accidents, and they contribute to air and water pollution as a consequence of inefficient 2-cycle engines and the manner in which they are normally used. Due to noise, speed, and the ability to travel in shallow areas, PWCs can displace marine organisms from their habitat and disrupt the migration, feeding, and breeding patterns of fish and wildlife. PWCs are often incompatible with most other water-related recreation activities and are a source of intrusion into the tranquility necessary for aesthetic enjoyment of our lakes and rivers.

2) The League urges:
   a) All manufacturers to phase out the production and sale of 2-cycle engines of two horsepower and above and to replace them with cleaner-burning engines until the 2-cycle engines can equal or exceed the standards of the 4-cycle engine.
   b) That 2-cycle engines and smaller be replaced or upgraded as technology becomes available.
   c) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other governmental bodies and agencies with regulatory authority over PWCs to adopt and implement the most restrictive rules possible that would prohibit the use of PWCs and limit their noise levels in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.
   d) State legislatures to amend boating laws to allow regulation of PWCs apart from other watercraft to enable counties and municipalities to adopt and enforce their own PWC regulations.

N) Shooting Ranges

1) The League supports state legislation to protect shooting ranges that conform to safe and generally accepted operation practices from "nuisance" lawsuits or civil liability caused by natural and foreseeable risks and conditions. The League supports the creation of state commissions to help define range liability. The League opposes zoning changes that would close ranges in operation before the change of law.

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