## Safeguarding Wildlife from Climate Change: Supporting Adaptation Planning and Implementation

WHEREAS, climate change is one of the largest threats facing fish, wildlife and their habitats and already is adversely affecting these resources across North America and the world; and

WHEREAS, even with aggressive climate mitigation to reduce atmospheric carbon levels, climate change impacts on fish, wildlife and their habitats, as well as the built environment, will be significant and will require meaningful climate adaptation efforts to prepare for and cope with these impacts; and

WHEREAS, the challenges of wildlife conservation in a world impacted by climate change will require an expanded emphasis on landscape-scale conservation, connectivity among protected habitats, and sustaining ecological functioning of working lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into adaptation decisions in other societal sectors, such as transportation, agriculture, and energy, will be important to reduce the likelihood that human responses to climate impacts will harm biodiversity, ecosystems, and the services they provide; and

WHEREAS, most existing natural resource conservation and management efforts, including those of local, state, and federal governments, do not adequately address the effects of climate change on target resources and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, important local, state, and federal policies and programs that support ecologically and economically sound climate change adaptation measures, such as the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, currently lack sufficient financial and political support; and

WHEREAS, existing local, state, and federal policies (e.g., the National Flood Insurance Program) that perversely incentivize inappropriate and harmful activities, such as new construction and rebuilding in areas at high risk of flooding and storms, are in need of critical reforms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, at its annual meeting assembled May 18-20, 2012 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, encourages the timely completion and implementation of the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy, and urges Congress and the states to maintain and enhance conservation funding programs that will be required to implement the Strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the National Wildlife Federation urges states to complete state adaptation plans and integrate consideration of climate change into all existing and new natural resource management plans, including State Wildlife Action Plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation encourages federal, state, tribal, and local agencies to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystems into their climate preparedness and risk reduction efforts, and to adopt ecosystem-based adaptation approaches where possible for protecting people and property from climate impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the National Wildlife Federation supports the work of broad-scale regional partnerships, such as the

U.S. Department of Interior's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, to plan and promote climate adaptation at landscape scale, and encourage actions designed to improve habitat connectivity and ecological functioning of working lands and waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the National Wildlife Federation urges local, state, and federal governments to strengthen relevant policies and programs to promote sound climate change adaptation, including eliminating costly incentives for inappropriate human development in ecologically important areas that face increasing risk of hazards from climate change.