



19605 Trout Loop
Spearfish, SD 57783

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Tom Busiahn
National Fish Habitat Action Plan Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fisheries & Habitat Conservation
4401 N Fairfax Drive
Suite 730
Arlington, VA 22203

Tom,

I have enclosed a resolution approved by the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society for your consideration. Feel free to use and distribute this as you wish. Thank you!

All the best,

Michael Barnes
Dakota Chapter President

**RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION IN THE GREAT
PLAINS, MIDWEST GLACIAL LAKES, AND RESERVOIR FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIPS**

**TO BENEFIT FISHERIES, AQUATIC HABITATS,
AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, the Dakota Chapter of The American Fisheries Society was initially chartered because of a concern for the well being of the fisheries resources; and,

WHEREAS, the chapter has maintained a long term commitment to the fisheries resources of the Dakotas; and,

WHEREAS, both North and South Dakota have substantial small rivers, streams, glacial lakes, and reservoirs that contribute to the overall health of the aquatic systems and recreational opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, with 40 percent of all threatened and endangered species in the United States directly dependent upon aquatic habitats (National Fish Habitat Conservation Act of 2008), the current fragmented approach to fish habitat protection and preservation has clearly not worked; and,

WHEREAS, these resources continue to degrade due to natural and anthropogenic factors such as land use, water withdrawals, contaminant spills, droughts, invasive species and degradation; and,

WHEREAS, the fishery resources of these aquatic habitats represents great environmental values important to the resource base in the Dakotas; and,

WHEREAS, the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act of 2008 encourages collaborative regional conservation efforts that bring together federal government agencies, state, tribal and local governments, conservation groups, fishing industry groups, and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, the strategies outlined in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan provides a framework for a geographically or system based partnership effort to address aquatic habitat restoration,

WHEREAS, there are now three formally recognized fish habitat partnerships, Glacial Lakes, Great Plains, and Reservoirs, established as part of the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan that encompass essentially all major aquatic habitat types within the Dakotas,

WHEREAS, formal recognition was an important first step, the ultimate success of each partnership is contingent upon active recruitment and participation of individuals and groups interested in the conservation of the aquatic resources of the Dakotas,

WHEREAS, the Dakota Chapter of The American Fisheries Society is comprised of fisheries

resource professionals and aspiring students throughout the Dakotas whose interpersonal skills and expertise in science and management are foundational towards long-term success of the Glacial Lakes, Great Plains, and Reservoirs Fish Habitat Partnerships,

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that members of the Dakota Chapter of The American Fisheries Society fully supports each partnership and encourages participation by its membership to facilitate collaboration towards the conservation of fisheries resources in the glacial lakes, streams, and reservoirs of the Dakotas.