

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society is an organization whose membership is comprised primarily of professional wildlife biologists, managers, researchers, educators, and administrators; and

WHEREAS, the experiences of the collective membership provide a broad understanding of the challenges to effective management and conservation of New Mexico's wildlife and habitats; and

WHEREAS, research is demonstrating that highways and associated vehicle traffic are having increasingly adverse effects on habitat connectivity, wildlife behavioral patterns, and population productivity and viability; and

WHEREAS, significant federal funds are available for mitigation of the impacts of highways and associated vehicle traffic on wildlife populations and habitats; and

WHEREAS, incorporating wildlife-related considerations into the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of highways can reduce direct mortality of wildlife due to vehicle strikes, maintain wildlife movement patterns, reduce habitat fragmentation, and improve public safety related to the potential for vehicle/wildlife collisions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department should work closely and cooperatively with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to plan, establish and maintain a highway system that strives to minimize adverse impacts to wildlife populations and movements, by identifying and prioritizing high-frequency wildlife-vehicle conflict areas, and utilizing the latest mitigation technologies such as enlarged underpasses, overpasses, animal-proof fencing, one-way gates, and any other technologies and strategies proven effective, to achieve expected benefits to both public safety and the wildlife resource in New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society offers its technical support to the State to achieve such goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution, and its support by the New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society, be conveyed to the Governor of the State of New Mexico, the Director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the Secretary of the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department with a request to support this resolution through implementation by both state agencies.