



Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

TO: New Mexico State Game Commission
River Otter Working Group

FROM: Pete David, President, New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society

RE: River Otter Restoration

The below resolution to support the restoration of river otters in New Mexico was passed unanimously by the Chapter membership on February 2, 2006. As stated, the Chapter is available to provide technical support for the State's river otter restoration efforts.

**RESOLUTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, NEW MEXICO CHAPTER
on
RESTORATION OF RIVER OTTERS TO NEW MEXICO**

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, river otters were a keystone species in New Mexico's rivers and have been extirpated from the state; and

WHEREAS, river otters were extirpated from eleven other states, and restored; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is the only state where river otters have not been restored; and

WHEREAS, restoration of river otters would benefit both the citizens of New Mexico and the aquatic ecosystems of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of New Mexico has declared that recovery of species is a benefit to all of society;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Mexico Chapter supports restoration of river otters to appropriate river systems in the state to achieve expected benefits to both the public and the aquatic ecosystems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico Chapter 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 New Mexico State Game Commission.