



LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

"... conserving our natural resources and your right to enjoy them."

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN

WHEREAS, the Pontchartrain Basin encompasses all the lands and waters of southeast Louisiana east of the Mississippi River approximating 10,000 square miles, and

WHEREAS, the Pontchartrain Basin includes many diverse habitats such as upland forest, bottomland hardwoods, swamps, coastal marshes, barrier islands and others, and

WHEREAS, because of impacts from both human and natural causes, many of the Pontchartrain Basin habitats are in states of decline or distress, and

WHEREAS, a team of scientists and engineers commissioned by the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation has developed 100 recommendations to restore Pontchartrain Basin habitats to self sustaining conditions, and

WHEREAS, these recommendations, based on more than 2 years of analysis of Basin conditions, are detailed in the Comprehensive Habitat Management Plan (Plan) for the Pontchartrain Basin and include expansion of the longleaf pine savannah and hills north of the Lake, restoration and protection of riparian habitat along northshore rivers and streams, reintroduction of Mississippi River water into the Maurepas Basin to improve the health of the swamp forest, and restoration of fringing marsh along the south shore of the Lake, all of which will improve the fish and wildlife habitat of this important region of the state, and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes recommendations for remediation of sand and gravel pits, restoration of natural hydrology, habitat acquisition, restrictions on land uses and other complex and challenging strategies, and

WHEREAS, the success of the Plan will require outreach to stakeholders, and cooperation and collaboration with those who may be affected by Plan implementation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports the conservation goals of the Comprehensive Habitat Management Plan for the Pontchartrain Basin and urges state and federal governments as well as Basin stakeholders to work together to achieve these goals.

Adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in convention assembled, March 5, 2006 in Alexandria, Louisiana