WHEREAS, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society ("NAFWS") was established in recognition of the importance and respect accorded to fish and wildlife by Native American people; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS is composed of Indian Tribes, organizations and people as well as federal and state agency representatives forming "a national Native American organization to aid in the development and protection of Native American fish and wildlife resources"; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS purposes include “To protect, preserve and conserve the wise use and management of tribal fish, wildlife and recreation resources”; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS purposes include “To educate Native Americans involved in fish and wildlife management, policy, decision-makers, community members and others similarly dedicated to tribal natural resource management of the best natural resource management practices”; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS purposes include “To provide administrative support, expertise and advice to tribal governments, relating to tribal fish, wildlife and recreation resources”; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS purposes include “To improve the general welfare of tribal people through educational, charitable, as we as fish and wildlife enhancement activities”; and

WHEREAS, the NAFWS purposes include “To provide professional publications and promotional activities for disseminating pertinent information regarding Native American fish and wildlife resources to Society members, Indian and non-Indian organizations, public officials and the general public”; and

WHEREAS, each tribe is unique in their needs and priorities, there are issues that span Indian Country such as climate change, invasive species wildlife disease and biodiversity; and
WHEREAS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service shares these priorities and concerns as “they strive to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people”; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAFWS seeks to implement a Tribal Collaboration Project with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (“Service”) through a self-determination contract pursuant to Public Law 93-638 to collaborate with the Service on shared priorities including, climate change, biodiversity, wildlife disease and wildlife corridors and connectivity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Service will provide funding to initiate such contract and work as identified in the Scope of Work and budget, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society’s Board of Directors hereby authorize a self-determination contract with the Service beginning January 1, 2022 for a minimum of three (3) years and requests that the Executive Director for the Society signs all required documents for such contract.

Certification

This resolution was enacted by the affirmative poll vote of the Board of Directors who voted for such in January, 2022 prior to January 12, 2022. A total of 11 Board members voted with the vote being as follows: 11 voting FOR, 0 AGAINST, and 0 ABSTAINING.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2022.

Elveda Martinez, Southwest Regional Board Member and Society President

Mike LaVoie, Southeast Regional Board Member and Society Vice-President

Attest:

Mitzi Reed, Southeast Regional Board Member and Society Secretary/Treasurer