

CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PROPOSAL FOR 2007 ELK HUNT IN TENNESSEE

PREFACE

Resolutions do not contain a preface, however, we feel that persons considering this resolution must be fully aware of the background before they can really understand what motivates us to request the action we seek.

1. The Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Tennessee Wildlife Federation, the County Commissions of Campbell, Claiborne and Scott Counties and many other organizations and individuals have invested money, political capital, individual effort and group support into the effort to establish a Tennessee elk herd.
2. We perceive a real danger to the long term success of the re-establishment effort caused by contingencies not foreseen when the effort started. Among these contingencies:
 - (a) Inability to import the number of animals which we originally believed to be necessary for a foundation herd and genetic diversity.
 - (b) Uncertainty as to when we can have additional imports into our existing herd.
 - (c) A realization that a viable elk herd in Tennessee may well depend on how successful we are at preserving and nurturing the animals we now have.
 - (d) The ever present stark reality that whatever course we choose, the need for substantial amounts of money will be ever present.
 - (e) A feeling that the elk themselves can make a contribution to long term survival of the herd.

In view of the foregoing we suggest consideration of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it is known that elk in Tennessee are producing a good number of healthy calves, bringing the Tennessee free-ranging herd to an estimated 200 animals, and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of this program, the partners (CORA, TWF, TWRA, and RMEF) made promises to the public to (1) keep elk within the elk zone, (2) provide an opportunity for the public to view these magnificent creatures, and (3) establish an elk hunt in Tennessee, and

WHEREAS, five eastern states in the U.S., with elk herds ranging from 40 animals to 5,000 animals currently hold elk hunts, and

WHEREAS, significant funding for the elk restoration program can be raised from the sale and or drawing of elk hunting tags, and

WHEREAS, the harvesting of a small number of bull elk will not harm the growth or population of free-ranging elk in Tennessee, and will generate renewed excitement and enthusiasm with respect to this program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association Board of Directors, meeting this 7th day of February, 2006, in Jacksboro, Tennessee, request that the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency establish an elk hunt in Tennessee for the 2007 big game season;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this hunt be limited in size so as to not significantly impact Tennessee's elk herd, and that the TWRA investigate the possibility of utilizing the hunt to target rouge animals that consistently present management challenges to the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any funds generated by a Tennessee elk hunt be captive funds to be used exclusively for upgrading the existing herd by additional stockings and/or improving habitat to insure the long term nutritional needs of Tennessee elk and natural reproduction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TWRA seek input and support from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commissions, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Tennessee Wildlife Federation, the Royal Blue Chapter of the Elk Foundation and from the County Mayors in the restoration zone.

Unanimously approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association at its regular meeting on February 7, 2006 at Jacksboro, Tennessee

CORA

Lee Asbury, President

Attest:

Secretary