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Conservation Leaders Call for Funds to Restore Gulf

State Delegates from Across the Nation Assemble at National Wildlife Federation's Annual Meeting

Washington, DC (April 15, 2011) – One year after the Gulf oil disaster, wildlife conservation leaders from around the nation assembled today in Washington, D.C. and took a united stand calling for a Gulf-wide program to restore and protect the damaged Gulf of Mexico coastal ecosystems and for stronger safety regulations for offshore drilling.

Delegates from National Wildlife Federation's 47 state and territorial affiliate organizations passed two policy resolutions related to the Deepwater Horizon explosion, as well as four additional resolutions addressing important conservation issues. The Federation's affiliates meet every year to establish policy for the National Wildlife Federation, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

One Gulf resolution supports the recommendations of the [Mabus Report](#) and its recommendations to restore the health and vitality of the Gulf Coast. The resolution calls on Congress "to enact legislation to dedicate at least 80 percent of dollars from Clean Water Act penalties from the Gulf oil spill to the restoration of the damaged Gulf of Mexico."

Another resolution addressing offshore drilling calls for implementation of reforms proposed by the [National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill](#). National Wildlife Federation supports stronger safety regulations for offshore drilling, raising the liability cap on oil and gas developers, and keeping the eastern Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic coast and the Pacific coast off-limits to drilling.

Additional policy resolutions were passed to establish National Wildlife Federation's policy on important conservation issues. The resolutions:

- Call for redesigning the flawed Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a measure of economic health to account for the loss or degradation of ecosystems and the important services they provide to people;
- Support moratoria on the construction and operation of uranium mines and mills adjacent to the Grand Canyon and in the watersheds of the Southeastern and mid-Atlantic United States until these actions are proven to be safe;

- Support efforts to eliminate plastic checkout bags and encourage recycling and the use of reusable bags;
- Recognize the “dire situation and biodiversity conservation challenges now facing the Hawaiian Islands,” calling for increased funding for species recovery and habitat protection in the Hawaiian Islands, and for action to prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive species in Hawai’i.

The [National Wildlife Federation](#) is celebrating 75 years of inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

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