

## **Tips for Successful Resolutions** (Adapted from National Wildlife Federation with minor modifications)

Members and Affiliates propose resolutions that are important and relevant to their conservation work. Given the diverse set of organizations within the Federation, there can be differences of opinion, and different expertise. The following tips may be useful when considering proposing what may be a controversial resolution, or one that would benefit from broader expertise and involvement:

- **Prepare the issue or resolution early.** Share your issue or draft resolution with Resource Advisory Committee(s) (RAC) members/Chairs. Discuss potential sticking points and work together to identify areas of conflict. Ensure you have also contacted agencies or organizations involved to get all the pertinent background information.
- **Talk it through.** Have discussions with the leaders of other affiliate organizations or RACs who may have concern or input about your proposed resolution—try to work out differences of opinion in advance.
- **Involve a group.** When possible, work your resolution through all relevant RAC(s) or another group of individuals, in order to hear the opinions of others across the Federation who may have expertise in the area, reach early compromises, and gain support from other members and affiliates.
- **Be open to compromise.** Remember that policy resolutions represent the voice of the entire Federation. It is possible to have reasonable differences of opinion on a given conservation topic. A position that might work for one organization, might not work for a different organization. There may be changes you can make that help to better represent the breadth of the Federation – always keeping in mind CFM’s mission. Consider that this may be better than a resolution that’s voted down or tabled, when this work could have been completed in advance.