

RESOLUTION TIPS AND REMINDERS FOR Resource Advisory Committees (RAC)

Use the best information for presentations, letters, resolutions, etc. – Get the best date/research/background information you can find. This may entail emails, calls, and letters to “experts” from agencies, affiliates, other RACs, etc. This background work must be done before sending a DRAFT resolution to the Resolutions Committee.

Engage RAC members in the small and larger committee – Let them be part of the process. Your members should vote on DRAFT resolutions – this gives everyone a voice and helps to avoid a single member’s position from dominating.

Engage other RACs – Consider whether your resolution topic may be of interest to another RAC, then share the information with them and ask for input prior to sending the DRAFT resolution to the Resolutions Committee. There is generally not enough time before convention deadlines to meet/work with another RAC after the Resolutions Committee returns it to be finalized.

Provide enough information – A resolution should contain enough information so that any CFM member or recipient who reads it can understand exactly what is being asked, and why it is important.

Don’t write Resolutions to CFM – In general, resolutions are our desires projected outward, not a way to ask CFM to take action. They shouldn’t create “new” areas of work/assignments for CFM and staff – their work is driven largely by the strategic plan.

Be familiar with past resolutions to avoid repeats – Avoid redundant resolutions; however, resolutions are given an expiration date to allow for updating, or an existing resolution may be brought back for re-consideration or updating.

Resolution not adopted – If a resolution gets to the RAC meeting at convention, or to the General Assembly and is NOT adopted, that is a sign that the process is working! Consider how you might do it differently for future resolutions, if you expected a different outcome.

Tips for Successful Resolutions

(Adapted from National Wildlife Federation)

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 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 some members and organizations, might not work for others. 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 compromise may be better than a resolution that’s voted down or tabled, and this work should always be completed in advance of submitting to the Resolutions Committee.