



IN APPRECIATION of the

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

WHEREAS, the 2019 Spring Director's Meeting of the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) was held on April 3-5, 2019 at the Charleston Marriott Town Center in Charleston, West Virginia *The Mountain State*; and,

WHEREAS, Paul Johansen, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section Chief, and his talented staff have planned and provided an excellent opportunity for the exchange of important information among attendees and stimulating discussions of items of mutual concern and interest and where the state motto is "Mountaineers Are Always Free."; and

WHEREAS, our gracious hosts in *Almost Heaven* West Virginia, have provided an excellent meeting location at the Charleston Marriott Town Center which features the Charleston Town Center Brick Salt Bar restaurant and where West Virginia is a primary world provider of salt and home of the West Virginia Salt Brines established in 1806, and where Charleston is the location of Summers Street, the first brick street in the nation completed in 1873; and where famed American pioneer, explorer, woodsman and frontiersman Daniel Boone made his last survey of Charleston on September 8, 1798; and

WHEREAS, the Great State of West Virginia – *The Mountain State*, is home to the 500 year old 112 foot tall Webster Sycamore tree, home of the first steamboat launch in the Potomac River at Shepherdstown in 1787, home to the second highest steel bridge in the nation-The New River Gorge Bridge, home of the infamous U.S. Congressional underground fallout shelter built in the 1950s beneath the Hot Springs Resort; and, home to Author Pearl Buck, TV Host Peter Marshall, Air Force General and test pilot Chuck Yeager, Actor Don Knotts, Olympic gold medalist Mary Lou Retton and famed country music singer, Kathy Mattea; and,

WHEREAS, the Great State of West Virginia - *The Mountain State*, and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, have named the black bear as the state animal, the Northern Cardinal as the state bird, the Brook Trout as the state fish, the Timber Rattlesnake as the state reptile and the Northern Red Salamander as the state amphibian; and

WHEREAS, this 2019 Spring Director's Meeting of the SEAFWA Directors has facilitated abundant discussions, both informal and formal regarding wildlife resource management and the challenges for the sustained success of those renewable resources - where 75% of the Great State of West Virginia is covered by forest land; and serving as our gracious hosts, have provided for a tour of the elk restoration area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that SEAFWA expresses its sincere gratitude and warmest appreciation to *Wild, Wonderful West Virginia* and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section for hosting an outstanding 2019 SEAFWA Spring Director's Meeting.

ADOPTED by SEAFWA in official session at the Charleston Marriott Town Center in Charleston, West Virginia, *The Mountain State*, on April ____, 2019.

