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Statement of Senator Mike Mansfield (D. Montana)

Mr. President, National Wildlife Week is being observed throughout the country this week, March 17-23. The United States has had a good record in recent years in the preservation of our wildlife and scenic resources and these values are being realized more each year. But it is a constant battle to protect and preserve these things so important to the American way of life.

There are millions of Americans who hunt, fish and use our parks and forests. The purpose of Wildlife Week is to make these people and others aware of the daily threats to scenic resources and many other outdoor values, things which are too often taken for granted. The National Wildlife Federation and the numerous state and national organizations are spearheading this campaign and are to be commended for their fine work.

The population of this country is ever increasing; our cities and industries are constantly expanding; lumbering activities are increasing in our forests and the waters of our streams and lakes are being harnessed to provide power, irrigation and flood control. We must have all of these things if this Nation is to prosper but it does not mean that we have to forego the pleasant outdoor experiences connected with our forests and rivers.

National Wildlife Week is the time for the Nation and the Congress, to take an inventory of our progress in learning to live in balance with our natural resources--our soils, forest, waters and wildlife. Every person shares in the responsibility for taking an interest in our wildlife and outdoor scenic resources, regardless of whether he is in his own backyard, city park, a great state or federal park or the fields that he enjoys seeing on a

Sunday drive.

Montana has a special interest in National Wildlife Week because the Treasure State has such an abundance of wildlife and scenic resources, mountains, lakes, streams and wild game.

In Montana we are at present attempting to develop one of the finest nesting areas for ducks and geese, Benton Lake. Such projects as this will insure an adequate supply of wild fowl in future years. The resources are there for all to enjoy but we want to make sure that we can continue to take pleasure in these things. We can do this if we alert ourselves to the goals of the National Wildlife Week.

The theme for 1957, "Make a Place for Wildlife", is a very good starting point.

Wildlife is an important part of our national heritage. Since it is shared by each of us, we all must shoulder the responsibility of guarding and protecting it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the "Nine Courses of Action" as set forth by the National Wildlife Federation to protect and preserve nature's living places be printed in the Congressional Record at the conclusion of my remarks.

Nine Courses of Action: As Outlined by the National Wildlife Association

1. Start education campaigns in your neighborhood and community. Interest your leaders in saving and improving wildlife areas. Tell civic organizations- sportsmen and conservation groups, women's clubs, garden clubs, Lions, Rotary, church leaders--what must be done. Point out to leaders the relationships between wildlife and our basic water, soil, and plant resources. Healthy wildlife crops do not come from polluted waters and abused lands--these bring forth nothing but disease and desolation.
2. Encourage and support research on wildlife and its living areas. Cures for wildlife scarcities are discovered through study of each animal's needs and the ability of the land to satisfy these. Every habitat improvement program should be based on plans developed through careful research.
3. Show the people who are using the land--the farmers, ranchers, lumbermen, home builders, engineers, industrialists--how they can manage their lands without destroying wildlife living areas.
4. Encourage citizen groups (conservation and sportsmen clubs, youth organizations, etc.) to carry out wildlife habitat improvement projects in the field. This work should be done in close cooperation with state and federal fish and game agencies.
5. Get behind programs of state and federal conservation agencies. They need your help to stop wasteful destruction of natural habitats. Work toward public purchase and management of vital wildlife areas where these are threatened.
6. Recognize and support sound policies for using our lands and waters to insure protection and improvement of wildlife habitats. Strengthen the Coordination Act (Public Law 732, 79th Congress) to make certain wildlife values will be protected and developed in connection with federal drainage and water projects. Make sure that wildlife areas are improved as part of water conservation programs. Stop wasteful drainage of marshes and swamps--vitally important to the survival of ducks, geese, and other "wetlands" species.
7. Protect and defend our state, federal, and private sanctuaries, refuges, parks, forests, wilderness, and management areas. Stop the invasion of primitive habitats which provide living quarters for endangered animals.

8. Make it your business to find out if your state's waters are protected against pollution. Fight to keep them clean and useful for wildlife and healthful recreation. See if your state pollution abatement program is adequate. Get acquainted with the new federal pollution control law (Public Law 660, 84th Congress). It provides many benefits to state and local communities which can help in protecting wildlife habitats in streams, lakes, marshes, and coastal waters.
9. Support the efforts of private conservation organizations. With your help they can defend wildlife and recreational resources against attack from people who seek to sacrifice these for selfish or political gain.