

MINNESOTA CONSERVATION FEDERATION
ANNUAL MEETING

September 14, 2014

Resolution #4

Deerwood, Minnesota

Federal Wilderness Act Expansion to Include Alaskan Coastal Region

WHEREAS, the Federal Arctic Wilderness Act is celebrating its 50 birthday this year, and

WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act protects 109 million acres in 25 states including the Voyageurs National Park and the Bounty Waters Canoe Area in Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, approximately eight million acres out of the over 19 million acres of the Alaskan Arctic Wilderness Refuge is already designated as Wilderness, and

WHEREAS, the biological heart of the Alaskan Arctic Refuge, the 1.5 million acre Coastal Plain, is not protected as Wilderness,

WHEREAS, the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge provides vital habitat for much of America's most spectacular wildlife, including three species of bears, caribou, wolves, muskoxen, and millions of birds from all 50 states that migrate to the Coastal Plain to nest, rear their young, molt and feed;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that The Minnesota Conservation Federation meeting at its annual meeting in Deerwood, Minnesota on September 14, offer strong support for H. R. 139, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act that would add Wilderness protection to the 1.5 million acres of Coastal Plain in Alaska, and

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the MCF encourage the entire 10 members of the Minnesota Congressional delegation to sign onto the bill in the House and the Senate and support its passage in this the 50th anniversary of the original bill passage.

Submitted by