

**Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Resolution
Concerning the Feeding and Baiting of Big Game**

WHEREAS, the Georgia Chapter of the Wildlife Society is a professional organization comprised of wildlife biologists, researchers, students and wildlife enthusiasts with a statewide membership of 200, and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Society is the only internationally recognized accrediting organization for professional wildlife biologists dedicated to the scientific management and research of wildlife populations for the good of the resource and the general public, and

WHEREAS, the issue of using supplemental food to attract big game to facilitate hunting in Georgia has, and will continue to be, a matter with important implications for wildlife populations, and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence demonstrates that feeding big game concentrates animals at abnormal densities and increases direct and indirect contact among individuals, potentially increasing the likelihood of disease transmission, and

WHEREAS, supplemental feeding can lead to abnormally high densities of big game potentially leading to degradation of native habitats, and

WHEREAS, negative impacts resulting from overpopulation of big game can affect many other species of wildlife, and

WHEREAS, the practice of feeding big game can detract from efforts focused on habitat management and other important wildlife management tools, and

WHEREAS, surveys indicate that legalizing feeding wildlife for the purposes of hunting negatively impacts the general population's opinion on the social acceptability of regulated hunting by making it appear less ethical, and

WHEREAS, the loss of support by the general public for hunting could impact the ability of professional wildlife biologists to manage wildlife populations according to biological and social needs,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society hereby opposes the legalization of feeding, in the form of any food source presented in unnatural concentrations, for the purposes of harvesting big game.