



Resolution #2017-07
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Ken Dalton, Individual Member
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **MICHIGAN PHEASANT RELEASE FOR HUNTER RECRUITMENT**

WHEREAS, the current regulations state that pheasants not established in the wild (farmed) in the state may be released and shot on licensed preserves; and

WHEREAS, individuals may buy birds from licensed breeders of pheasants to release on their own private land to hunt as well, but are prohibited (with some exceptions as allowed by the land manager) from releasing ring-necked pheasants and other game birds on state-owned lands; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative (MPRI) is a conservation initiative to restore and enhance Michigan pheasant habitat, populations and hunting opportunity on private and public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has discontinued its own pheasant breeding and release program; and

WHEREAS, there is a large segment of hunters who recall their first experience in hunting was through pheasant and other small game and wish to pass this experience on to generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the "Michigan Pheasant Release for Hunter Recruitment" initiative has a mission to recruit and retain our pheasant hunting heritage as many other states are already doing through release; and

WHEREAS, the desired outcome is to release pheasants on state game areas in order to recruit and retain small game hunters and provide opportunity for success because of the yearly decline in young hunters; and

WHEREAS, this is not a program to re-establish a pheasant population, this is strictly for hunter recruitment, retention and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, The Natural Resources Commission, in consultation with DNR biologists, would establish and oversee the source of pheasants and breeding standards (whether private breeders or DNR facilities are used), release guidelines (not to do it in an area of bird disease, only to release in well-established habitat on publicly-accessible lands, etc) and any other regulations or policy necessary; and

WHEREAS, there is a goal to establish a long-term, user-pay funding source through either the creation of a pheasant stamp or purchasing separate pheasant tags (as we do for deer and turkey); and

WHEREAS, this investment will give opportunity and provide additional income to local game bird breeders, dog breeders, sporting goods stores, restaurants, hotels, and many more. **NOW**,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Michigan Legislature, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to support the Michigan Pheasant Release for Hunter Recruitment with the mission, goals, and outcomes indicated.