Resolution #13
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

IMPROVE CAFÉ STANDARDS AND APPLY A GAS-GUZZLER TAX TO SUVs

Submitted by: The Mazamas

Background: Currently, Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) standards are set to ramp up to 42 MPG for cars, 26.5 MPG for light trucks, and 35.5 corporate average, by 2016. This is too far out on the timeline, and may be not aggressive on the numbers, considering the technologies that are available today.

Regarding the gas guzzler tax, vehicles that get at least 22.5 MPG don't have to pay it. The tax rate goes from $1,000 for vehicles that get at least 21.5 MPG, but less than 22.5 MPG all the way up to $7,700 for vehicles that get less than 12.5 MPG. One big problem: SUVs are exempt, because when the law was first enacted in 1978, SUVs and light trucks represented less than 25% of the vehicles on the road, and were considered primarily work vehicles. However, over the last three decades, the use of SUVs has substantially changed, but the law hasn't.

Proposed Resolution: The FWOC urges member organizations to apply pressure to their Congressional delegations to improve CAFE standards, and apply the gas-guzzler tax to SUVs.

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