

Implementation of Waterfowl Refuges on the Missouri River

1 WHEREAS, the precedent for refuges along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers has been established;
2 AND WHEREAS, during the 1950s and 60s several waterfowl refuges existed along the Missouri River
3 in Missouri but were eventually phased out;
4 AND WHEREAS, several things have changed since that time;
5 AND WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation sets the annual fall waterfowl hunting
6 season to maximize the harvest of mallard ducks in Missouri;
7 AND WHEREAS, duck use days (DUD) on Missouri Department of Conservation, Conservation Areas
8 totaled more than 13 million in 2009 and mallard ducks accounted for over 75% of those days;
9 AND WHEREAS, waterfowl especially mallards and Canada geese tend to winter at northern latitudes
10 as long as food and open water are available;
11 AND WHEREAS, weather, short food supply, and disturbance/harassment are major factors causing
12 waterfowl to move/migrate;
13 AND WHEREAS, waterfowl customarily utilize the Missouri River as a source of open water during
14 December when Conservation Areas and private wetlands are frozen solid;
15 AND WHEREAS, high energy foods such as corn remains standing in Conservation Areas flooded
16 pools, following freeze-up waterfowl can walk on the ice and continue to feed there;
17 AND WHEREAS, waste corn is available extensively in harvested fields on private land in the Missouri
18 River bottoms and uplands when snowfall is in short supply;
19 AND WHEREAS, waste grain in the floodplain and open water in the Missouri River would entice
20 waterfowl to endure the cold weather and utilize the Missouri River to satisfy their daily needs for open
21 water;
22 AND WHEREAS, waterfowl that would use the Missouri River as a source of open water and refuge
23 from disturbance/harassment, would not be forced to move/migrate and would continue to be available

24 for hunters to pursue in crop residue fields and on non-refuge stretches of the Missouri River.
25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at
26 the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27th day of February, 2010 urges the Missouri
27 Department of Conservation to research and provide recommendations and need for waterfowl refuges
28 on the Missouri River.