The Potential Hazard of Kudzu Destroying Missouri Habitats

WHEREAS The Kudzu plant is a Japanese ground cover that has been growing out of control from the eastern coastal states to the western states of the U.S. and kills any native plant life that gets in its way;

AND WHEREAS this invasive species can grow rapidly, and is able to grow up to one foot per day;

AND WHEREAS kudzu has already taken over much of the east coast’s vegetation and is growing out of control and is drawing dangerously close to becoming a problem in Missouri;

AND WHEREAS kudzu is a non-parasitic but invasive species of flora that could potentially take over Missouri’s native vegetation;

AND WHEREAS Missouri has many different natural habitats that native wildlife depend upon to survive;

AND WHEREAS kudzu is a threat to the natural habitat of native plants and animals of Missouri;

AND WHEREAS Kudzu kills or degrades other plants by suffocating them under a solid blanket of leaves, by girdling woody stems and tree trunks, and by breaking branches or uprooting entire trees and shrubs through the sheer force of its weight;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27th day of February, 2011 understands that kudzu is a potential threat to the natural habitats of wildlife in Missouri.
CFM recommends the Missouri Department of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Agriculture create a plan of action before this invasive species overwhelms the native flora of Missouri.

RESOLUTION SUMMARY -- CFM recommends that a plan of action should be put in place before kudzu invades Missouri’s natural habitats and threatens their diversity and native wildlife.