

Incentive for Encouraging Conversion of CRP to Diverse Native Mixes

1 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Conservation Reserve
2 Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that helps agriculture producers use environmentally
3 sensitive land for conservation benefits;

4 **AND WHEREAS** Missouri currently has approximately 1.3 million acres enrolled in the CRP with
5 65.8% enrolled in practices seeded to introduced, cool-season grass species which have become
6 dominated by tall fescue and smooth brome;

7 **AND WHEREAS** USDA has announced another general sign-up that will occur March 12 through
8 April 6, 2012;

9 **AND WHEREAS** Missouri will have approximately 377,473 CRP acres expiring in 2012 and
10 eligible for reenrollment with a large portion of those acres containing dominant stands of tall
11 fescue;

12 **AND WHEREAS** research and the scientific community agree that when comparing tall fescue to
13 native grasses and forbs the native species provide better nesting habitat and structure for
14 ground nesting wildlife and provide other improved resource benefits including pollinator habitat;

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri
16 assembled at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 26th day of February, 2012
17 petitions the Missouri Department of Conservation to offer a sign up incentive payment to CRP
18 landowners who are willing to convert fescue to a diverse mixture of native grasses and forbs,
19 similar to the CREP incentives offered in 2007.