Implementing Off-Road Vehicle Usage in the Mark Twain National Forest

WHEREAS public interest in off-road recreation increases resulting in illegal use of forest service lands;
AND WHEREAS unmanaged recreation is one of the four main threats to the U.S. Forest Service lands;
AND WHEREAS implementation of usage areas would promote legal use and managed recreation;
AND WHEREAS providing an environment in which safe recreation could occur would greatly promote outdoor activity and bring revenue through daily or seasonal use permits along with camping and lodging;
AND WHEREAS the idea of developing new parks has been examined;
AND WHEREAS current examples that exhibit positive operation are Chadwick and Sutton Bluff (Mark Twain National Forest Recreation Areas), Finger Lakes State Park, and St. Joe State Park;
AND WHEREAS existing regulations have provided results that prevent environmental harm, for example, proper trail design and maintenance exhaust regulation, vehicle width restriction as well as rider education principles and ethics;
AND WHEREAS encouraging partnerships, stakeholders, sponsors, and volunteer groups would contribute to the maintenance of the park (groups like but not limited to: the Black River Trail Riders, Ozark Trails ATV Club, Hillbilly Gran Prix racing series riders, and Missouri State Hare Scrambles series riders);
AND WHEREAS the U.S. Forest Service would follow NEPA guidelines for the implementation of trail design;
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 seek the participation of stakeholders in the Mark Twain National Forest to implement additional off-road vehicle recreation
areas as well as contacting different ATV groups around the state of Missouri for their participation and input.

RESOLUTION SUMMARY – Establishment of new off-road vehicle areas would benefit the Mark Twain National Forest service as well as the public.