

Missouri Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Allocation

1 WHEREAS, the loss of historic wetlands in Missouri has exceeded the national rate;
2 AND WHEREAS, approximately 87% of Missouri’s original 4.5 million acres of wetlands have been
3 lost;
4 AND WHEREAS, the state of Missouri includes two flyways used by migratory waterfowl and
5 shorebirds, the Mississippi and Central, and Missouri is a vital location for the migration of millions
6 of waterfowl and shorebirds each year;
7 AND WHEREAS, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation, 41 million ducks and
8 750,000 Canada geese use the aforementioned two flyways;
9 AND WHEREAS, the Mississippi Alluvial Basin (2,537,195 acres), provided the highest percentages of
10 potential support of any eco-section to wetland status species in every category analyzed;
11 AND WHEREAS, WRP is a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program that offers
12 landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection
13 while being reimbursed for some of their costs;
14 AND WHEREAS, demand for WRP land exceeds available acreage allotted to the state and eligible
15 acreage is left every year unused and unproductive;
16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at
17 the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27th day of February, 2011 suggests the increase of
18 allocated WRP acres available through the NRCS for enrollment in subsequent years.
19 RESOLUTION SUMMARY – Due to the loss of Missouri wetlands and the magnitude of waterfowl
20 that migrate through the state, we strongly suggest an increase in allotted acres of WRP per year for
21 Missouri.