April 15, 2013

David W. Murphy  
Executive Director  
Conservation Federation of Missouri  
728 West Main Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The Outdoor Action Committee (OAK) appreciates the opportunity to respond to Resolution #38, generated during the Conservation Federation of Missouri's (CFM) annual conference in Jefferson City.

The following is our response for your consideration. Please contact either of us if there is any aspect you would like to discuss.

**Resolution 38:** CFM encourages the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and private organizations to develop accessible lists of conservation-minded service projects for groups (similar to CLS) to utilize.

**Response:** Stewardship – taking action to improve the environment – is a core value of OAK and the Committee endorses the idea behind this resolution. While there are many opportunities for groups and individuals to conduct service projects for natural resource agencies and organizations, we recognize these may be difficult to find. At the same time, because projects are local and often season-dependent, developing accessible lists and keeping them current is not practical.

The Committee Co-chairs will send letters of support for the idea to respective agency leaders, and encourage them to promote service project opportunities and more actively publicize ways the public can find out about them. Further, we encourage the Conservation Federation of Missouri to facilitate access to information about potential service projects by adding to their web site links to local, state and federal agencies. Finally, we encourage Conservation Leadership Corps members to contact local agencies' staff and express interest in participating in local conservation projects. Agencies will then be able to involve them as opportunities occur.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Martin MacDonald  
Co-chair  
OAK Outdoor Action Committee

Ginny Wallace  
Co-chair
April 9, 2013

Conservation Federation of Missouri
728 W. Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Re: 2013 Landmark Award for “The Stone House,” 728 W Main Street

Dear Conservation Federation of Missouri,

The City of Jefferson Historic Preservation Commission is pleased to announce that The Stone House has been selected for a local Landmark Award. You are cordially invited, along with any guests, to attend an award ceremony that will be held Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the John G. Christy Municipal Building, 320 E. McCarty Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

A plaque to display on the building will be presented by the Mayor and representatives of the City of Jefferson Historic Preservation Commission.

Please let Diane Cary of the Department of Planning & Protective Services know if you plan to attend. You can reach her at 573-634-6410.

Cordially,

[Signature]

Ed Meyers, Chairman
Historic Preservation Commission

EM:dlc

"building a better community"
April 9, 2013

David W. Murphy  
Executive Director  
Conservation Federation of Missouri  
728 W. Main St.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101-1559

Dear Mr. Murphy,

Thank you so much for your recent letter advising me of the Conservation Federation’s resolution to support Cans for Habitat in Jefferson City. We are sincerely grateful for this support and the good work that will be accomplished because of it.

River City Habitat for Humanity’s Cans for Habitat program does more than raise funds to help build decent, affordable homes. Along with keeping aluminum cans out of our landfills in order to reuse this valuable resource and helping to clean up our streets and roadides, it also increases awareness of Habitat’s work within the community and gives young people a way to become involved in our efforts.

I am certain that executive director Kelly Smith and her team at River City Habitat appreciate this support of their efforts. While it took seven years to raise enough funds from their Cans for Habitat program to build a house, I understand they are looking to raise sufficient funds to build the next home in just five years.

Thank you again for your support of decent, affordable shelter for all families in Jefferson City. Together we can make a difference by building homes, communities and hope.

Best regards,

Jonathan T.M. Reckford

cc: Kelly Smith, Executive Director, River City Habitat for Humanity
April 3, 2013

David W. Murphy, Executive Director
Conservation Federation of Missouri
728 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Mr. Murphy:

We appreciate the concern you express about setting CRP payment rates. Setting them at the appropriate level is, indeed, a challenging exercise. Currently, CRP payment rates are based on cash rent estimates from “a scientifically based survey of farmers from each county” implemented by NASS, to which FSA then applies an inflation factor to reflect a 10-year contract period. Not unlike other county-level surveys, estimates will be more or less precise in relation to the number of survey responses garnered by each county.

While our current approach is essentially identical to the one you advocate, we would be interested to hear from you in greater detail about the potential for bias in such an approach, as well as ways to refine it.

Sincerely,

Mark Cadle
State Executive Director
3/29/2013

Dave Murphy
Conservatoioin Federation of Missouri
728 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Mr. Murphy-

I would like to thank you for your letter regarding the recent CFM resolution in support of the Call Before You Cut program. As private consulting foresters, we are, and will continue to be, charged with the evaluation and administration of most timber harvest that occurs through the Call Before You Cut program. It is in our best interest, and that of Missouri's forests, to advise all landowners to conduct their timber harvest and other management activities in an ecologically sustainable manner, and to strive to continually improve the overall health of their forests.

As noted in CFM resolution #2, only approximately 10% of Missouri's 12 million privately owned forested acres are managed with the involvement of a professional forester. Any program that is dedicated to encouraging landowners to seek professional advice before conducting forest management activities, whether that advice be from a private consulting forester or a state or federal agency forester, does, and will continue to, receive our full support.

Sincerely,

Matt Arndt
MCFA President
816.390.7165
marndt@qfmlc.com

Missouri Consulting Foresters Association
March 22, 2013

Mr. David W. Murphy  
Executive Director  
Conservation Federation of Missouri  
728 West Main Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101-1559

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Thank you for your March 18, 2013 letter with the *Hooking Schools on Fishing* resolution adopted by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, with emphasis on the promotion of sanctioning bass fishing as a high school sport with the Missouri State High School Activities Association.

I am pleased to assist your organization with methods to disseminate this resolution. You may wish to access the online school directory, [http://dese.mo.gov/directory](http://dese.mo.gov/directory) (tab: Data Download) and download all contact information, including street and email addresses, for public school district superintendents, building principals, and charter school administrators.

Other organizations which you may wish to contact to assist you in the distribution of this resolution to their respective memberships include the following:

Missouri Association of School Administrators  
Roger Kurtz, Executive Director  
3550 Amazonas Drive  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
Phone: 573-638-4825  
Fax: 573-556-6270  
Email: roger.kurtz@mcsa.org or ann@mcsa.org

Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals  
Faye Peters, Executive Director  
3550 Amazonas Drive  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
Phone: 573-638-2460  
Fax: 573-556-6270  
Email: faye.peters@maesp.com
Mr. David Murphy  
March 22, 2013  
Page 2  

Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals  
Jim King, Executive Director  
2409 West Ash Street  
Columbia, MO 65203-0045  
Phone: 573-445-5071  
Fax: 573-445-6416  
Email: jking@moassp.org  

I hope this information is helpful in your endeavor to contact Missouri school officials.  

Sincerely,  

Robin Coffman  
Chief of Staff
MAY 23 2013

David W. Murphy
Executive Director
Conservation Federation of Missouri
728 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The Department of Natural Resources appreciates the opportunity to respond to the resolutions generated during the Conservation Federation of Missouri’s (CFM) annual conference in Jefferson City. The department values CFMs continued strong dedication to all of Missouri’s natural resources for today and generations to come.

The following is our response for your consideration. Please contact me if there is any aspect you would like to discuss or if we can be of assistance.

Resolution 1: Continued Support of NASP
CFM recommends that National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) supporters provide continued funding for schools involved in NASP.

Response: While the Department of Natural Resources is not involved in the funding of NASP, the department supports the promotion of outdoor skills, including archery. Archery educational sessions are provided at special events in our Missouri State Parks and Wonders of Wildlife programs throughout the state.

Resolution 3: Thousand Cankers Disease – Education and Awareness
CFM urges support for ongoing research, prevention, detection, awareness, and education of citizens about the risks and consequences of Thousand Cankers disease.

Response: The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is an active member of the Missouri Invasive Forest Pest Advisory Council. We participate in planning, research, annual surveillance with other Missouri resource agencies. Through brochures, posters and other public information we will continue to educate visitors to Missouri’s state parks about Thousand Cankers and other invasive pests that hitchhike on firewood.

Resolution 6: Water Quality in Missouri Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Wetlands
CFM encourages the Department to apply numeric water quality standards protective of aquatic life to all the waters and wetlands of Missouri.
Response: The department agrees this is in the best long-term interest of protecting water resources. We have been working with stakeholders to create practical rules that expand the universe of classified waters in the state water quality standards, as well as, exploring how standards would apply to wetlands. We believe the present rulemaking currently in progress completes the classification of Missouri waters and will be in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act. The department looks forward to completing this rulemaking this year. Because wetlands have a different structure and function than flowing waters, the department has convened a technical workgroup to discuss and develop options for wetland classification and water quality criteria application. The department welcomes CFM’s participation and involvement in the process.

Resolution 8: Ten Year Non-Native Cool-Season Grass Eradication Plan
CFM recommends that the Missouri Department of Conservation implement initial control efforts on every acre of non-native cool-season grass on MDC lands by 2025, and long-term management and control thereafter.

Response: While we defer to our colleagues at the Missouri Department of Conservation on this issue, we support the concept of replacing non-native grasses and other invasive exotic vegetation on public lands, with native species and natural communities. This is the general practice in Missouri’s state parks, and provides tremendous conservation value that helps a wide spectrum of our native plants and wildlife.

Resolution 9: NRCS Seed Mix Development Protocol
CFM supports a NRCS decision to move from pls pounds per acre to a pls seeds per square foot method of seed mix development

Response: The department supports this resolution. NRCS has already incorporated this change from PLS pounds per acre to PLS seeds per square foot into their programs. They are updating their standards to reflect this change and have been working to notify seed dealers regarding these changes in seed measurement. The department’s Soil and Water Conservation Program follows NRCS technical standards and specifications and will adopt the new standards once they are finalized.

Resolution 10: Terminate the Fertilizer Requirement for the Conservation Reserve Program Practice CP2
CFM contact the Missouri Natural Resource Conservation Service State Agronomist, Jodie Reisner, about terminating the fertilizer requirement for the CP2 practice in CRP.

Response: The department supports this resolution. The NRCS practice standard currently allows warm season grass establishment without a fertilizer requirement, and the FSA State Committee has removed the fertilizer requirement from the CP2 practice. Once established,
warm season grasses are deep rooted and are beneficial to soil health and water quality. They are drought tolerant and can provide feed to wildlife and livestock in summer when other cool season grasses are dormant.

**Resolution 11: Have the Missouri Farm Service Agency (FSA) come up with a different way to determine Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Soil Rental Rates**

CFM contacts the Missouri Farm Service Agency (FSA) to discuss changing the way the CRP rental rates are set by FSA. This could include a scientifically based survey of farmers from each county to determine the cash rental rate in that county. From there, the State FSA could set up a Soil Rental Rate based on this survey that includes the 10 year inflation factor that is currently not being considered in over half of the state of Missouri.

**Response:** The department supports this resolution. Competitive crop rental rates can be instrumental in a farmer’s decision to enroll or maintain agricultural land in the Conservation Reserve Program. USDA Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. The department’s Soil and Water Conservation Program promotes practices that are similar to CRP in converting cropland to permanent vegetative cover, and the environmental benefits in reducing soil erosion and protection of water quality are significant. The program uses crop rental rates as a basis for determining incentive payments which are reasonable to enable landowners to install conservation practices.

**Resolution 12: Creation of New EQIP Food Plot Mix that Benefits Quail**

CFM contacts the Natural Resource Conservation Service and urges them to discuss the addition of a grain food plot mix to the EQIP Practice Standards and Specifications at the next State Technical Meeting.

**Response:** The department is neutral on this resolution. The type of seedbed preparation used (no-till vs. conventional till) for establishment of a grain plot could create erosion of land that may otherwise be left in conservation cover. Should this be supported by CFM, the department encourages a no-till method of planting. There may need to be a regional payment schedule developed by NRCS for a grain food plot mix practice.

**Resolution 15: 2013 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance Priorities**

CFM urges the Missouri Congressional Delegation to support the reauthorization of a 5-year Farm Bill that includes Conservation Compliance measures to relink basic soil (Sodbuster) and Wetland Conservation measures (Swampbuster) to federal crop insurance, to enact a national sodsaver program, and lastly, to appropriate no less than $6 billion of funding to the Conservation Title of the next farm bill.
Response: The department supports this resolution. Currently the crop insurance program does not link their requirements to conservation compliance. However, this disconnect may contribute to grassland conversion to cropland during periods of high commodity prices. Any conversion of grassland to cropland can cause an increase in soil erosion and impact water quality.

Resolution 16: Appropriating funds for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act
CFM urges the appropriate members of the United States Congress to support appropriating the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Program at a minimum of the FY 13 enacted appropriation of $35.5 million, whereby as recently as FY 10 NAWCA received $47.6 million.

Response: The Department of Natural Resources has participated in planning for previous Missouri NAWCA projects, and has received funds in the past for NAWCA projects for Missouri’s state parks. This is an important means of securing funds that directly benefit Missouri’s wetlands and wetland conservation efforts.

Resolution 17: Bird Watching for Families
CFM supports the promotion of family bird watching events statewide.

Response: The department has been a leader in providing bird watching opportunities for families for years. Missouri State Park interpreters have provided bird watching opportunities as a staple part of their overall interpretive programming efforts. The annual Christmas Bird Count is just one example. Many of the WOW events include bird watching as an integral part of their overall outdoor recreation and conservation effort. The “Wings over Weston” (Weston Bend State Park) is a relative newcomer to the “birding family of events”. The department will continue partnering with Audubon Society of Missouri for systematic bird count surveys through the State Parks Checklist Project (SPARKS – via the Missouri State Park website to mobirds.org). This effort pays expenses to send volunteer birders to state parks, and provides printable state park bird checklists and information about birds that visitors may download and use to enhance their own state park bird watching trips. The department agrees with CFM in that family bird watching events should be available in every corner of Missouri and will work with park naturalists, park superintendents, volunteers and others to make sure existing events are maintained and new family events are developed and available in a wide variety of locations.

Resolution 18: Implementation of Regional Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems Programs
CFM encourages the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Universities and willing organizations to implement regional GLADE programs in other parts of Missouri.
Response: The department supports the GLADE academies and would be willing to partner with others to promote their expansion to other parts of the state. However, the department must better understand the needed resource commitment before supporting additional academies. The department is currently evaluating a variety of camp opportunities and has recently piloted numerous overnight camps with the Columbia School District.

Resolution 19: Hooking Schools on Fishing
CFM suggests that CFM supports this outdoor activity for high school students and that MDC should consider creating an educational document outlining the benefits of bass fishing as a MSHSAA sanctioned sport, and presenting this document to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for distribution to the principals and superintendents of the state.

Response: We defer to our colleagues at the Missouri Department of Conservation on this issue. Should such a program be considered, collaboration will be important early in the discussions, as some of our state parks would likely serve as locations for school fishing teams to practice or host tournaments.

Resolution 20: Habitat for Humanity’s Cans for Habitat Program
CFM promotes community participation and receptacle placement with the Habitat for Humanity’s Cans for Habitat Program.

Response: The department supports this program and will analyze ways we can participate.

Resolution 21: CFM Supports DNR’s E-cycle Missouri
CFM supports the Department of Natural Resources’ E-cycle Missouri program.

Response: The department appreciates CFM’s support of the E-cycle Missouri program as we believe that proper management of e-waste is critical to protecting human health and the environment. Senate Bill 720, also known as the E-Scrap Management Law, went in to effect on August 28, 2008. The bill however, did not include an appropriate funding mechanism to support this program. The department currently attempts to implement the law’s requirements as best we can with the resources available, but feels that a viable funding mechanism is needed to maintain and adequately implement this worthwhile program.

Resolution 22: CFM Encourages the Statewide Implementation of P2D2
CFM encourages legislation to be created that defines a legal and proper way to dispose of pharmaceuticals such as statewide implementation of the Missouri Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal (P2D2) program currently in use in St. Louis County.
Response: The department agrees that proper management and disposal of pharmaceutical waste is necessary to ensure protection of human health and the environment. Pharmaceutical waste has become a growing concern across the nation as citizens continue to struggle with ways to properly dispose of their expired and unused prescription and over-the-counter medications. Many people improperly discard these and other medicines by flushing them down their toilet or sink releasing pollutants such as antibiotics, hormones and other chemicals that waste water treatment methods currently in use are unable to cleanup. The P2D2 program in St. Louis County is a good example of a local program offering citizens the opportunity to properly dispose of their waste pharmaceuticals in an easy to use program. The expansion of this type of program would make a positive difference in lessening the impacts of pharmaceuticals on our state’s natural resources and citizens. The Department would also like to see this type of program include both human and animal prescriptions. As with any new program, a viable funding source would need to be a part of any legislation to ensure the effectiveness of the program.

Resolution 23: Support of the DNRs’ Closed Landfill Technical Assistance Project
CFM supports the Department of Natural Resources in their efforts to properly manage old landfills, ensuring the protection of human health and the environment both now and in the future.

Response: The department agrees that proper management and care of old landfills is essential to ensure protection of human health, safety and the environment. When landfills are improperly maintained they can cause pollution to water and land resources, as well as become a human health and safety concern. Through outreach and assistance, the department works to educate current and future landfill owners on the proper maintenance and use of landfill properties. The Closed Landfill Technical Assistance Project was an effort made possible through a Rural Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. Through this grant, the department was able to assess the current state of several dozen old landfills across the state. These assessments were then shared with the current owners for their use and the use of future owners to better understand the history and requirements associated with owning these landfills. The information included: a history of the landfill, a compliance assessment and findings, a list of any actions needed to mitigate environmental or public safety concerns, fact sheets related to landfill maintenance and post closure use, and contact information for the department. Also, the department has provided copies of this information to county officials where the landfills are located so that in the event the landfills are sold the information can be shared during the property recording with the County Recorder’s Office.

Resolution 24: Lead Legacy in Missouri
CFM supports the Department of Natural Resources in their efforts to establish and implement a robust, cleanup program for lead contaminated sites.

Response: The department appreciates the support of CFM in our efforts to address Missouri’s lead legacy. Lead mining has played an important role in the economic growth and development
of Missouri. But the economic benefits of lead production have been tempered by a legacy of negative impacts to our citizen’s health and the environment caused by mining-related contamination.

While progress has been made, there remains significant human health and ecological problems created by the legacy of lead mining. It will take many years and significant funding to address these remaining problems. The department will continue to coordinate with the many state and federal agencies, as well as citizen boards and commissions and lead companies to address Missouri’s lead legacy.

Resolution 25: Support of the Department of Natural Resources’ Management of Scrap Tires
CFM supports the Department of Natural Resources in their efforts to properly manage scrap tires, ensuring proper disposal and recycling of scrap tires as well as protection of human health and the environment both now and in the future. CFM wants to ensure that the Department maintains the authority to develop appropriate fees, rules and regulations needed to protect Missouri’s citizens, wildlife, and the environment.

Response: The department agrees that maintaining appropriate fees and the authority to develop and modify scrap tire regulations is necessary to ensure protection of the public and Missouri’s natural resources. The department promotes continued responsible resource management and protection of natural resources through the education and promotion of scrap tire recycling and reuse of scrap tire materials in the making of new products or use as an alternative fuel source. The department further promotes resource protection through the cleanup of scrap tire dumps and inspection and oversight of permitted scrap tire facilities. The end goal of these laws and regulations is to ensure adequate unpolluted resources are available for our future generations and that the costs associated with protecting these resources is shared by all that use and benefit from them.

Resolution 29: Water Quality Standards
CFM supports the revisions to water quality standards by the Missouri Clean Water Commission such that they assertively protect water for beneficial use by all Missourians.

Response: The department agrees this is in the best long-term interest of protecting water resources. We have been working to expand the universe of classified waters through revisions to the state water quality standards. We believe the present rulemaking in process completes the classification of Missouri waters in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act and look forward to finishing that rulemaking this year.
Resolution 30: Clean Water Fees
CFM recommends that the Governor and the General Assembly work with the Department of Natural Resources’ Water Protection Program and stakeholders to adjust clean water permit fees to compensate for the shortfall in income.

Response: The department appreciates the input from CFM and other stakeholders for the many months of engagement where the department explained the clean water functions and how the various funding sources support that work. This has now become a legislative matter since the fees expire September 1 of this year, and the General Assembly is considering how to support the department’s functions. The department greatly appreciates CFM’s support of this legislation.

Resolution 31: Angler Recruitment and Retention
CFM supports MDC and MDNR in their efforts to increase angler recruitment and retention in Missouri.

Response: We appreciate CFM’s recognition of MDC/MDNR’s efforts thus far to provide fishing opportunities as noted in Resolution 31. The department will continue to serve existing anglers and recruit new anglers to this lifetime sport in 2013 through a variety of efforts and programs. We will continue to partner with state and federal agencies in the successful WOW program that introduces families and individuals to a series of outdoor experiences one of which is fishing in many forms (bank fishing, boat fishing, fly fishing, etc.). The department is also in the process of purchasing several fly casting “kits” that we will put to use this summer in various state park locations as part of the “Troutapalooza” event. We have built casting “structures” that can be used on dry land to allow visitors, young and old alike, to practice casting, learning and improving skills under the tutelage of state park instructors or on their own. The department remains committed to attracting and retaining fishing opportunities and experiences throughout Missouri.

Resolution 32: Combine Heat and Power (CHP) and Distributed Generation
CFM urges the Missouri General Assembly, the Public Service Commission, the regulated electric utilities and other interested stakeholders to work together to review and modify policies so the result is increasing investments in combined heat and power and clean distributed generation projects in Missouri, for the benefit of the State of Missouri.

Response: We appreciate CFM’s support of expanding energy efficiency through combined heat and power (CHP) and clean distributed generation technologies. Although House Bill 844 related to CHP is being considered by the Missouri General Assembly, it does not have the support of all key stakeholders. Using technical assistance from federal agencies and lessons learned from other states, the department will continue to work to identify policies and regulatory barriers and
initiate discussions with stakeholders to further CHP development in Missouri. There are about 20 CHP plants currently in operation in Missouri for a total capacity of 225 megawatts. It is estimated that another 220 megawatts could be feasible and cost-effectively installed by 2025 if there are policy changes, while only 20 megawatts are likely in that same timeframe without policy changes (Missouri’s Energy Efficiency Potential, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, 2011).

Resolution 33: Low Impact Development
CFM supports and promotes the Department of Natural Resources in educating the public and local officials concerning concepts of Low Impact Development as well as the use, integration and implementation of Low Impact Development.

Response: The department recognizes the value of well-planned and designed Low Impact Development that can minimize the on-going or remedial maintenance of stormwater management facilities, features and other aspects. Low Impact Development can most often be designed into new development and redevelopment, at little or no additional cost (and in some cases cost savings). Low Impact Development can also be incorporated into retrofit projects for greater water quality protection at a lesser cost than gray infrastructure alone. The foresight exercised in this manner provides benefits well beyond the immediate development since stormwater can be managed to prevent impingement on neighboring downstream properties, and the aesthetic values of well-planned and designed features add to the development’s appearance, function and resale values. Low Impact Development is a sustainable approach to stormwater management that employs strategies to maintain or restore natural hydraulics, including infiltration, evapotranspiration, capture and reuse of stormwater.

Resolution 34: Designate Ozark Trail as Missouri’s State Trail
CFM requests the General Assembly pass legislation to formally designate the Ozark Trail as Missouri’s State Trail.

Response: The State of Missouri is blessed with many miles of great trails. It is difficult to single one trail out as “Missouri’s State Trail” especially in light of the fact that both the Ozark Trail (OT) and the Katy Trail have achieved outstanding success and recognition as places to spend quality outdoor time be it hiking, biking, visiting a winery or just being with family and friends walking. Both the OT and the Katy Trail have received regional, if not national significance, thus singling out one trail might not be in the best interest of a state that has such strong relationships to the tourism industry in general.

Resolution 37: Support Missouri State Park Funding
CFM supports passage of SJR 3 and HJR 14 and encourages the legislature to include funding that will allow Missouri State Parks to address immediate needs and make necessary improvements so that the system can be fully utilized for the benefit of Missourians for many years to come.
Response: The department fully supports the passage of SJR 3 and HJR 14, bills related to the Fifth State Building Fund. The Fifth State Building Fund is an opportunity for Missouri State Parks to immediately make a necessary investment in infrastructure, which will create jobs statewide and improve the services our visitors have come to expect and deserve. Staff has done a great job in addressing deferred maintenance and capital improvement backlogs to make sure that Missouri state parks remain one of the best state park systems in the nation. The Fifth State Building Fund provides a much-needed opportunity to immediately address these issues and make improvements to better our state parks so that they can be fully utilized for many years to come.

Resolution 38: Service Project Lists
CFM encourages the appropriate federal, state and local agencies and private organizations to develop a list of conservation-minded service projects for groups to utilize

Response: The department agrees lists of available service projects is a user friendly way to allow service groups to have an idea of the types of projects available throughout the department. The department is in the process of developing lists and having them available for service-minded groups. Lists will be kept at park/site offices, as well as, on the department’s web site as available.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Sara Parker Pauley
Director
June 1, 2013

CFM Executive Director
Conservation Federation of Missouri
728 W. Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Executive Director:

The resolutions that pertain to the Missouri Department of Conservation (Department), adopted at the 2013 annual meeting of the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM), have been considered by staff. In response, we submit the following comments:

RESOLUTION NO. 1 – CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR NASP
CFM recommends that NASP supporters provide continued funding for schools involved in NASP.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation supports the recommendation that National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) supporters provide continued funding for schools involved in NASP. The Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program (MoNASP) is the state affiliate of NASP and designed to promote the teaching of target archery as a part of in-school curriculum to students in grades 4-12 to improve educational performance and encourage participation in the shooting sports. In partnership with CFM, the Department provides grants to schools to help them adopt MoNASP and conduct certification training for teachers at no cost to the schools. Schools must provide and maintain a certified teacher on staff in order to participate in the MoNASP program. MoNASP has been a successful and growing program in Missouri since 2007, and the Department continues to administer and support the program.

MoNASP not only fosters the lifelong skill of archery, it also improves students' self-esteem, attitude towards school and teachers, and improves attendance at schools. MoNASP stresses the importance of safety and technique, and every student uses identical equipment to ensure safety for all participating in the program. Since all students use the same equipment there is no advantage given to any archer, therefore requiring all students to focus on form and technique.

The Department has hosted an annual state MoNASP tournament for the past five years. The tournament has grown nearly 35% each year. In March 2013, 1,438 archers competed at the University of Central Missouri in the largest MoNASP tournament to date. Currently, there are 290 MoNASP schools and over 63,000 students participating in the sport of archery during the school year.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – CALL BEFORE YOU CUT
CFM urges the Missouri Department of Conservation, Society of American Foresters, United States Forest Service, American Tree Farm System, Missouri Consulting Foresters Association, Missouri Forest Products Association, and the Forest and Woodlands Association Commission

DON C. BEDELL
Sikeston

JAMES T. BLAIR, IV
St. Louis

DON R. JOHNSON
Festus

BECKY L. PLATTNER
Grand Pass
of Missouri to continue in support of this valuable program, help advocate, and publicize the need for sustainable forest management.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation recognizes the value of the Call Before You Cut effort, which began in Missouri five years ago as part of a multi-state federal grant. While this grant is in its final year, staff from the Department's Forestry Division are in communication with other states to ensure the web site remains intact.

Continued budgeting of Department funds is planned to support this program along with a Forestry Program Supervisor position that handles the promotion and outreach. Continued promotion will occur through newspaper and magazine ads, news releases, and web-based advertisements. All respondents receive a free packet of information with recommended methods for conducting a timber sale, forest management advice, and information on use of consulting foresters. In addition, a survey of respondents is currently being conducted to determine how the information provided was used and soliciting suggestions for improving the materials.

Call Before You Cut is a critical tool for reaching a Forestry Division goal of engaging more landowners to actively care for their woods. Continued presence of this message will reach landowners who are considering a timber sale. It is our hope that the 10% forester-use rate cited in the resolution increases dramatically as we continue to reach out to Missouri's 198,000 landowners with more than ten acres of forest.

RESOLUTION NO. 3 – THOUSAND CANKERS DISEASE – EDUCATION AND AWARENESS
CFM urges the Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Walnut Council, United States Forest Service, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Forest and Woodland Association of Missouri, University of Missouri, Missouri Forest Products Association, and Missouri Tree Farm Committee to support ongoing research, prevention, detection, awareness, and education of citizens about the risks and consequences of this devastating disease.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation agrees that black walnut is ecologically and economically important to Missouri, and thousand cankers disease (TCD) represents a serious threat to this resource. The Department supports ongoing research, prevention, awareness, and education of citizens about the risks and consequences of this devastating disease. The Department has and will continue to inform the public, wood industry, and others about the detrimental impacts of TCD through various Department communication tools and outlets.

The Department continues to work with other Missouri and Federal agencies to update the Missouri TCD Action Plan as new information about the disease becomes available. The Action Plan outlines outreach efforts, detection, a response to detection, and research needs. Numerous training sessions on TCD are being provided for Department employees and the general public at a wide variety of venues. A TCD webpage, brochures, and exhibits have been created, are updated as necessary, and are provided to Missouri citizens. Ongoing survey efforts for TCD are an important component of the Forestry Division's Forest Health Program's activities and these efforts will be expanded in 2013. The Department's Forestry Division provides financial support for research by the University of Missouri (MU) to evaluate the potential to develop TCD resistant walnut cultivars and is assisting with MU and USDA Forest Service research on walnut diseases and insects in Missouri that can be confused with TCD.
RESOLUTION NO. 4 – EXTENDING ANTLER POINT RESTRICTION EXEMPTION FOR YOUTH
CFM requests the Missouri Department of Conservation to consider extending the Antler Point restriction exemption to those young bowhunters who purchase the Youth Archery Deer and Turkey permits.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation places a high priority on the recruitment of young hunters and offers a number of opportunities for youths to participate under conditions favorable to success. However, the Department must find the balance between providing opportunity and management of the resource through enforceable regulations. Youth hunters are currently exempt from the antler point restriction during the youth portions of the firearms deer season. That exemption works under those particular circumstances because participation in that portion of the season is limited to only youth hunters. The proposed exemption for youth archery hunters would result in two groups of archery deer hunters participating at the same time under a different set of rules. Exemption of youth hunters during the Archery Deer Season would create an enforcement challenge which may result in the improper use of youth archery permits.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 – EXPANSION OF BAIT DUMPING EDUCATION
CFM supports the expansion and enhancement of educational materials regarding bait dumping in the state of Missouri.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation agrees that the inappropriate dumping of bait species such as crayfish, minnows, and other bait fish causes many ecological problems in Missouri waters including competition for food and resources between endemic and invasive species, introduction of diseases, and habitat destruction.

The Department has and will continue to inform and educate anglers, bait dealers, permit vendors, educators, and others about the detrimental impacts of inappropriately dumping bait and the "Don't Dump Bait!" message through various Department communication tools and outlets including regulations, publications, web information, and media efforts.

RESOLUTION NO. 7 – CREATION OF A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROMOTE WILDLIFE ON MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION VEHICLES
CFM requests that the Missouri Department of Conservation start a pilot program that will allow tailgate advertising on Private Land Services Department vehicles across the state. The project results would be measured by number of contacts that this type of targeted advertising caused above and beyond current numbers. If this shows positive results, then this project could be expanded.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation actively supports and engages in promoting wildlife habitat programs to Missourians and how these programs can connect people to nature while providing many economic, social, and environmental benefits. The Department continues to inform the public about wildlife improvement programs through various communications tools and outlets including print publications, education programs, website and social media, and media relations. The Department will continue to use these and other communications tools and outlets as well as new formats to inform key audiences in Missouri about wildlife programs. The Department is currently reviewing possible uses of vehicle advertising to promote agency programs and the most effective uses for this marketing medium.
RESOLUTION NO. 8 – TEN YEAR NON-NATIVE COOL-SEASON GRASS ERADICATION PLAN
CFM recommends that the Missouri Department of Conservation implement initial control efforts on every acre of non-native cool-season grass on Department lands by 2025, and long-term management and control thereafter.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation recognizes the negative habitat impacts of tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) encroachment on Department owned and managed lands. The Department invests thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of staff time each year controlling fescue encroachment in natural communities and renovating fescue monocultures to diverse stands of site-appropriate native vegetation. Staff also provide Missouri landowners with technical assistance, and in some cases financial resources, to control tall fescue and smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) to meet habitat objectives on their property.

Wildlife Division has adopted the goal of reducing tall fescue by fifty percent on Quail Emphasis Areas (public land), Quail Focus Areas (private lands voluntarily managed to provide quail habitat), and on conservation areas within Grassland Conservation Opportunity Areas and Grassland Focus Areas within three years, with the eventual goal of removing tall fescue from these areas to the extent possible. Although complete eradication of tall fescue from all Department lands is not a realistic objective, the Department will increase efforts to aggressively control this exotic grass in favor of diverse native plant communities.

Today, the presence and expression of native cool-season grasses is limited mostly to native prairie. Certain non-native, cool-season grasses, such as orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), redtop (*Agrostis alba*), and, in limited cases, smooth brome, can be managed to provide important wildlife habitat benefits. As a result, the Department will continue to manage some naturalized, non-native cool-season grasses to meet specific management objectives on some Department lands.

RESOLUTION NO. 14 – REINSTATEMENT OF THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION FOOD PLOT PROGRAM
CFM encourages the Missouri Department of Conservation to reinstate their Food Plot Seed Program.

RESPONSE: The discontinuation of the food plot program occurred in a time of budget constraints for the Department of Conservation. Before budget constraints, a workload analysis of staff focused on private land assistance had already identified a deficiency of available time to address priority work objectives. Food plot seed was identified as a low priority compared to other agency deliverables to landowners. Landowner satisfaction surveys have repeatedly identified technical assistance as the most highly valued product that the Department provides. Monies budgeted for vegetative practices are primarily targeted at permanent habitat created with native species. Food availability has been shown not to be a limiting factor for wildlife in all but the most extreme of circumstances. While the Department was once a primary source of food plot seed for landowners, with the popularity and growth of conservation-minded non-governmental organizations, as well as wildlife-related retail industry, a wide variety of food plot seed is available from a host of easily accessible and reasonably priced sources. The Department recognizes the importance of building relationships with landowners and will continue to provide information regarding food plot development, but will defer the provision of seed to the conservation partners and industry that now provide this product.

RESOLUTION NO. 17 – BIRD WATCHING EVENT FOR FAMILIES
CFM supports the promotion of family bird watching events state wide.
RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation recognizes bird watching as a beneficial activity for bringing families together in the outdoors. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, 71.8 million Americans 16 years old and older participated in wildlife viewing activities in 2011, continuing an increasing trend from 66.1 million in 2001 to 71.1 million in 2006. Among those who watched wildlife around their homes, feeding birds and other wildlife was the most popular activity with 52.8 million participants. The Department's Conservation Nature Centers have bird feeding stations where visitors can enjoy watching birds year round. Discover Nature Families education programs at these centers and the Department's interpretive sites provide additional opportunities for youths and adults to learn about birds and develop an interest in bird watching. These programs are offered throughout the year and include such topics as winter bird walks, bird feeder and nesting box workshops, spring migrants, identifying birds by song, bluebird basics, summer hummingbirds, and owl prowl. The Department provides additional opportunities for families to watch birds at special events including Eagle Days, Vulture Venture, and via the web through Peregrine falcon cams in St. Louis and Kansas City and bird and wildlife cameras at Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City. In 2013, attendance at the statewide Eagle Day events totaled 20,563 participants.

The Department partners with both the Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) and the National Audubon Society state office, Audubon Missouri (AM), on multiple family-friendly projects as well as professional agreements. ASM's CACHE project is an on-line data-entry website that allows birders to enter birds observed on Department conservation areas for use by land managers. The Department partners with AM on a bird-friendly beef project with private landowners both in Missouri and in South America. All bird-related organizations work together on bird conservation projects throughout Missouri via the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MOBCI) with grants available from several state and federal agency partners.

RESOLUTION NO. 19 – HOOKING SCHOOLS ON FISHING
CFM supports sanctioning bass fishing as an outdoor activity for high school students, and suggests that the Missouri Department of Conservation should consider creating an educational document outlining the benefits of bass fishing as a Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) sanctioned sport, and presenting this document to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for distribution to the principals and superintendents of the state.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation enthusiastically supports the MSHSAA's recent action to sanction bass fishing as a high school sport. In addition, the Department is developing an angler recruitment and retention program which includes targeting families of youth from elementary through high school. Promoting the benefits of fishing to stakeholders is important, and we support the spreading of that message.

Youths are typically exposed to fishing through their family or other adult mentors. During the busy teenage years, fishing is often replaced by other activities that offer new challenges and excitement. Providing a competitive, high school sponsored bass fishing sport could provide the additional excitement and "spark" needed to keep teenagers hooked on fishing. With more and more colleges starting bass fishing teams and offering fishing scholarships, a sanctioned high school bass fishing activity could provide high school students an added incentive to begin or remain in the sport.

Examples of our efforts include:
- The aquatics portion of Discover Nature Schools that exposes and educates youth on Missouri's aquatic environment;
- Development of a statewide angler education program targeting youth from the ages of 8-16;
The Department’s ideas on angling education to MSHSAA, state school administration associations, and school counselor associations;

Providing onsite recognition for local school fishing clubs and teams when possible. For example, Master Angler Awards, State Record Fish, etc.

Youth involved in fishing have a better chance of developing an appreciation for the outdoors and conservation. Educational programs on angling are currently being delivered through the Fisheries, Outreach and Education, and Protection divisions, and additional programs are being developed with hopes of introducing a consistent angling education program statewide to families, youth leaders, and schools.

RESOLUTION NO. 27 – JUNIOR HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM
CFM urges the Missouri Department of Conservation to consider developing a junior instructor program.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation recognizes the importance of developing new instructors and the ability of younger instructors to provide information to their peers. The Department’s Hunter Education Working Group (HEWG) is exploring a junior instructor program as part of the State Hunter/Bowhunter Education Program revision.

RESOLUTION NO. 28 – MENTOR PROGRAM
CFM encourages the Missouri Department of Conservation to create a mentor program that includes regional lists of experienced and willing hunters that would mentor first time hunters in a small game hunting experience and introduce them to the outdoors.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation supports the recruitment, retention, and mentoring of hunters. We are approaching this challenging endeavor with long-term efficiency and effectiveness in mind. There are lessons to be learned from other states that have attempted to link mentors with apprentice hunters.

While considering this resolution, we reviewed the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) hunting heritage program, which links apprentices with mentors. The agency screens interested mentors and apprentices and provides training to mentors. The LDWF hunting heritage program has been in existence for about two years and the staff member responsible for coordinating the program indicates the program has its challenges; including, increased work load on hunter education and bowhunter education instructors, declining mentor applicants, and transportation of urban apprentices to rural hunting areas. Details of the LDWF program can be found at: http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/louisiana-hunting-heritage-program

There is value in investigating non-governmental organization (NGO)-led efforts. Several state agencies support and promote NGO-led mentor/apprentice linking programs. Below are a few examples of successful programs worth noting:

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources has partnered with Pheasants Forever in an attempt to link mentors and apprentices and staff members attend to each event when possible.
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation promotes a mentoring program led by the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA). QDMA trains mentors and links those individuals with apprentices. More information available at: http://www.qdma.com/corporate/become-a-mentor
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks promotes a mentoring program led by Pass It On- Outdoor Mentors, Inc. This program works to find mentors for children who want to experience the great outdoors. The organization is comprised of a host of affiliate members including: the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Outdoor Channel, Pheasants Forever, Mule Deer Foundation, Custom Rod Builders Guild, Delta Waterfowl, TIPS Outdoor Foundation,

- Nebraska Department of Game and Fish has partnered with Pheasants Forever to offer mentored hunts. These hunts appear to be similar to a host of special hunts that the Department of Conservation already sponsors in Missouri every year.

After reviewing the resolution and existing mentor/apprentice linking programs, it seems the best approach in Missouri is likely an NGO-led program. A highly influential non-governmental conservation organization such as CFM could potentially collaborate with affiliates to create a worthwhile program. The concept of creating a mentor/apprentice-linking program is noteworthy as it supports ongoing hunter recruitment and retention efforts. Department staff are passionately committed to hunter recruitment and retention efforts and we must ensure our efforts are as effective as possible. As this noteworthy resolution receives further consideration by CFM members, please keep the Department abreast of any developments.

RESOLUTION NO. 31 – CFM SUPPORT OF ANGLER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION
CFM supports the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in their efforts to increase angler recruitment and retention in Missouri.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation recognizes the importance of recruiting and retaining anglers by partnering individuals, groups, and agencies that share in this mission. Examples of our efforts include the many special fishing events and angler education offered at the regional level around the state. These events include kids’ fishing derbies, workshops on specialized fishing techniques, and educational events through our Discover Nature activities. In addition to Department staff and locations, partners in many of these activities provide volunteers and locations such as state parks and community and private lakes.

A multi-divisional committee led by Fisheries Division was organized to develop a plan to increase angler recruitment and retention statewide in a measureable way. Representatives of Fisheries, Outreach and Education, and Protection divisions, as well as private citizens, worked together to develop Fishing for the Future—A Plan for Angler Recruitment and Retention in Missouri. The plan is currently undergoing agency review.

The goals of the plan are:
- The introduction and recruitment of youth anglers to angling (elementary through high school);
- Recruitment of families into angling;
- Modifying permitting for convenience and diverse opportunities for all types of anglers; and
- Retention of existing anglers.

Some of the action items recommended to meet these goals are:
- Implementing a statewide angler education program for families and youth organizations through the use of volunteer instructors;
- Increase fishing locations for angler education programming;
- Strengthen and expand the rod and reel loaner program;
- Development of smartphone capabilities for permitting and information transfer; and
- Development of new permits that offer increased convenience and/or price incentive.

Citizens involved in fishing have a better chance of developing an appreciation for the outdoors and conservation.
RESOLUTION NO. 35 – REEVALUATION OF ANTERLESS PERMITS ISSUED
CFM encourages Missouri Department of Conservation resource managers to evaluate county populations and adjust the availability of antlerless permits to maintain deer population numbers that will increase hunter satisfaction after current disease outbreaks.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation uses harvest data, survey data, public and staff input, and population modeling, and considers biological and social issues to make decisions regarding management of the state’s deer population. Our deer management goal is to maintain deer numbers at levels that are consistent with the land to support deer, provide deer hunters and viewers with acceptable levels of opportunity, and minimize conflicts between humans and deer.

The 2012 hemorrhagic disease (HD) outbreak was likely the most widespread and intense outbreak ever documented in Missouri, as suspected cases were reported in all counties. From June to December 2012, there were 10,177 reports of deer with suspected HD. Commonly, the full impact of such an outbreak at the population level is normally expressed 2-3 years later. This delayed effect of HD results from hunters attempting to harvest the same number of deer as before the outbreak. Combining HD mortality with increased harvest rates often results in population declines for a few years following an outbreak. In southern Missouri, the poor acorn crop contributed to a higher deer harvest and likely intensified the effects of HD on the deer population. The ability of a population to respond quickly from the 2012 HD outbreak will depend upon initial population size and demographics, local prevalence of HD, and level of harvest pressure over the next couple of years. Following the HD outbreak in 2007, some populations did not recover as quickly as in previous HD outbreaks (1980, 1988, and 1998) because of increased harvest pressure and an emphasis on harvesting does as a result of changing regulations and hunter attitudes toward deer management.

The Department recognizes that, to varying degrees, HD-induced mortality affected deer populations across much of Missouri. However, it is still too early to tell if the decrease in harvest in some areas is the direct result of HD or a combination of recent trends of declining deer numbers with the addition of HD mortality. Additionally, there have been long-term declines in deer harvest in parts of central, northern, and western Missouri as a result of reduced deer numbers across those regions over the last decade. Reduced deer numbers are a product of increased harvest pressure on does due to liberalization of antlerless harvest opportunities and implementation of the antler point restriction. In many parts of central, northern, and western Missouri it is no longer necessary to continue high doe harvest to reduce or stabilize deer numbers.

Department staff analyze annual county-level deer harvest data, deer hunter and landowner surveys, population models, and consider staff and public input when making deer regulation recommendations for the upcoming year. In areas where populations have been reduced to socially undesirable levels, a reduction in the number of firearms antlerless permits an individual may utilize has been proposed. The Department recognizes that in some come counties in order to maintain stable deer populations, there either needs to be a reduction in the availability of antlerless permits or hunters must begin to work with neighboring landowners to make localized harvest decisions based on the local deer population and hunting pressure. The need to reduce antlerless permits and continue to educate hunters will be increasingly important in the next several years as the effects of HD mortality on local deer populations becomes evident, particularly in areas that had not yet fully recovered from the 2007 HD outbreak.
RESOLUTION NO. 36 – CFM URGES THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION TO IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON ANY NEW HIGH FENCE HUNTING/BREEDING FACILITY FOR CERVIDS AND/OR ANY OTHER NON-NATIVE SPECIES THAT COULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT MISSOURI'S NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA
CFM urges the Missouri Department of Conservation to impose a moratorium on any other non-native species that threaten to negatively impact Missouri's native flora and fauna.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation is deeply concerned about the relatively recent discovery of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in a captive cervid facility within the state, discovery of CWD in the free-ranging herd in close proximity to that facility, and similar discoveries around the country.

For the moment, the Department has chosen to step back from using a moratorium approach to address this issue. Rather, staff are taking a hard look at revising the regulatory framework governing these facilities within the context of our authority and are working with the Department of Agriculture on those elements over which they have jurisdiction. All options will remain on the table should the regulatory and collaborative approach fail to yield satisfactory results.

RESOLUTION NO. 39 – WILDLIFE COLLECTOR’S PERMIT
CFM recommends the Missouri Department of Conservation review the Wildlife Collector’s Permit process with respect to processing time, authorized assistants, and return of permits to applicants.

RESPONSE: Department of Conservation staff have reviewed the process for approving and issuing Wildlife Collector Permits. The permit application notifies applicants that up to 6 weeks may be required for approval, but very few actually take that much time. During 2012, the average time between receipt of the application and issuance of the permit was 18 days. Three applications took longer than 6 weeks to be approved. In all three of those cases, the review process was delayed because the application was initially submitted with incomplete information.

All Wildlife Collector Permits are valid from the date issued until December 31 of that calendar year. Renewal reminders are sent to current permit holders each November. If applications are submitted promptly and are properly completed, there should be no reason to expect that the permit holder won’t have the entire year available for collection activity.

The individual to whom the permit is issued is responsible for collection activity. In order to preserve the integrity of the permit and accountability for the collection activity allowed by the permit, the Department maintains that it is important for the permit holder to accept the responsibility for collection. If collecting is needed at multiple locations and the permit holder cannot be present on each occasion, assistants responsible for collecting at the additional locations must have their own permits.

After reviewing the Wildlife Collector program, the Department feels that the process in place serves the need appropriately. We pledge to continue to review applications and issue permits as promptly and efficiently as possible while still maintaining protection of the resource.

RESOLUTION NO. 40 – CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)
CFM finds CWD is an extremely serious threat to the wild herd of white-tailed deer in Missouri. CFM urges the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Agriculture, and the Missouri Legislature to focus all resources and move quickly to provide the statutory
and regulatory structure required to minimize, contain, and eliminate the threat to the wild
erd of white-tailed deer caused by CWD.

CFM suggests that such further statutory and regulatory measures should include, but are not
limited to, the following:
1. A moratorium on new or expanded Big Game Hunting Preserves and Class I Wildlife
   Breeders; and
2. The Department resume the comprehensive management and regulatory responsibility for
   the Big Game Hunting Preserves and Class I Wildlife Breeders, the movement of cervids
   into and within Missouri, including the management or oversight of a CWD program that
   requires a system of inventory for breeders and preserves that includes permanent
   physical identification of animals, date of birth, gender, date and source of acquisition,
   date of removal, destination of animal removed, mortality date, cause of death, official
   CWD test result for all cervids one-year of age or older at time of death, and the method
   and location of carcass disposal; and
3. Ban the importation of out-of-state cervids to Big Game Hunting Preserves and Class I
   Wildlife Breeders; and
4. Require, at a minimum, more detailed fencing specifications including double fencing
   consisting of 10' and 8' fences to prevent escape and contact with wild deer; and
5. Require Big Game Hunting Preserves and Class I Wildlife Breeders to obtain a financial
   assurance instrument, such as a $1 million dollar performance bond, to secure a source of
   funds to effectuate a response to positive detection of CWD in captive whitetails in the
   event the Big Game Hunting Preserves or Class I Wildlife Breeders refuse or are unable to
   perform adequate response, depopulation, or closure activities; and
6. Mandatory CWD testing of all whitetails that die or are harvested within Big Game Hunting
   Preserves or Class I Wildlife Breeders; and
7. Impose more stringent herd and fence surveillance requirements with meaningful penalties
   and enforcement for violations; and
8. Require Big Game Hunting Preserves and Class I Wildlife Breeders which have cervids
   that test positive for CWD to depopulate and maintain a deer proof fence for a minimum of
   30 years; and
9. Require Big Game Hunting Preserves and Class I Wildlife Breeders to enroll deer one-
   year or older in a CWD program; and
10. Prohibit the holding of cervids at temporary exhibitions and auction/sale facilities; and
11. Review the standards and regulations surrounding all wildlife confinement and commerce
to determine the level of risk posed to public resources and identify changes needed to
   address those risks.

RESPONSE: The Department of Conservation is deeply concerned about the relatively recent discovery of
chronic wasting disease (CWD) in a captive cervid facility within the state, discovery of CWD in the free-
ranging herd in close proximity to that facility, and similar discoveries around the country.

Because the Conservation Commission has exclusive, constitutional jurisdiction over game and
wildlife resources of the state, we believe that the Commission, not the legislature, must continue to
exert its authority to manage the CWD threat. For the moment, the Department has chosen to step
back from using a moratorium approach to address this issue. Rather, staff are taking a hard look at
revising the regulatory framework governing these facilities within the context of our authority and are
working with the Department of Agriculture. All options will remain on the table should the regulatory
and collaborative approach fail to yield satisfactory results.
Recent discussions involving the departments of Conservation, Agriculture, and members of a working group that included representatives from CFM and the captive cervid industry have focused heavily on improving regulations. Potential regulatory changes could include adjustments to inventory and record keeping, inter- and intra-state movement of cervids, fencing standards, and improved testing requirements. Moreover, future federal CWD program standards may also further define additional needs both programatically and through regulations. The Department will continue to do everything within its power to move quickly in providing the regulatory structure required to minimize, contain, and eliminate the threat to Missouri's free-ranging white-tailed deer herd caused by CWD.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. ZIEHMER
DIRECTOR

c: Conservation Commission
   Deputy Director Draper
   Deputy Director Ripperger
   Commission Secretary