

**CFM Support of Cave Protection Through
Cave Gating With Key Sign-Out On Public Land**

1 WHEREAS, Missouri's cave systems are unique and fragile;

2 AND WHEREAS, unwanted trespassers in our caves leave behind trash, bacteria, and vandalism;

3 AND WHEREAS, many of these caves are home to endangered bat species that can be disturbed by the
4 uninformed public;

5 AND WHEREAS, a fungus called White Nose Syndrome, which has a 75 to 100 percent mortality rate,
6 can possibly be transmitted by humans from one cave to the next if gear is not disinfected;

7 AND WHEREAS, White Nose Syndrome has infected ten states east of Missouri including the
8 neighboring of state Tennessee;

9 AND WHEREAS, bats support all life in the cave by providing energy in the form of guano to sustain
10 life where no energy is otherwise available;

11 AND WHEREAS, cave gates keep unwanted people out;

12 AND WHEREAS, many caves have been successfully gated with key check-out systems in Missouri;

13 AND WHEREAS, access to caves is important for research and informed recreation;

14 AND WHEREAS, such gates would help prevent vandalism and human disturbance of resident cave
15 species, especially if Missouri bat populations become infected with White Nose Syndrome;

16 AND WHEREAS, cave gating requirements from the Bat Conservation International (BCI) and
17 American Cave Conservation Association (ACCA) can make cave gating expensive but nevertheless
18 is desirable.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at
20 the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27th day of February, 2010, supports the protection of
21 cave ecosystems through cave gating and encourages public land management agencies to adopt the
22 guidelines established by the BCI and ACCA and allow access for research and recreation with key
23 check-out systems on public and private land.