

**CFM Encourages Reauthorization of the North American
Wetlands Conservation Act**

1 **WHEREAS**, *the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) was enacted in 1989*
2 *as way to incentivize non-federal contributions to wetland wildlife habitat in North America;*
3 **AND WHEREAS**, the law requires each federal dollar put into the program to be matched by at
4 least \$1 in non-federal funds. In actuality, each federal dollar is matched 3:1 on average;
5 **AND WHEREAS**, since enactment, NAWCA grants have leveraged more than \$3.4 billion in
6 matching funds to deliver a total of over \$4.5 billion in on-the-ground conservation;
7 **AND WHEREAS**, these expenditures have created, on average, nearly 3,800 new jobs annually
8 in the United States, generating nearly \$840 million in worker earnings each year;
9 **AND WHEREAS**, partners include all 50 state wildlife agencies, hundreds of private
10 landowners, a diversity of private conservation organizations, corporations, businesses, tribes,
11 and local governments;
12 **AND WHEREAS**, wetlands store water and recharge aquifers, thus securing future water
13 supplies purify water, remove high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, and in some cases,
14 remove toxic chemicals before entering the water supply;
15 **AND WHEREAS**, NAWCA projects also benefit other fish and wildlife species, including
16 rare, threatened, and endangered species that are dependent on wetlands ecosystems;
17 **AND WHEREAS**, the abundance of wildlife including many species of waterfowl, other
18 migratory birds, fish, and mammals supported by wetlands translates into multi-billion dollar
19 activities for Americans who enjoy hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and photography;
20 **AND WHEREAS**, this local involvement over the last 20 years has made NAWCA one of the

21 federal government's most successful conservation programs;

22 **AND WHEREAS**, federal and non-federal funding have resulted in the conservation of over

23 25.9 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands across North America;

24 **AND WHEREAS**, 22 NAWCA projects have either been completed or are underway in Missouri,

25 conserving a total of 90,902 acres of wildlife habitat;

26 **AND WHEREAS**, in Missouri NAWCA funding of over \$15.7 million stimulated partner

27 contributions of over \$88.1 million;

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of

29 Missouri assembled at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 26th day of

30 February, 2012 urges the Missouri Congressional Delegation to support reauthorizing

31 the NAWCA Program for 2012 through 2017 at 75 million dollars annually, which is no change

32 from the previous authorization.