15 Inch Length Limit Stream Black Bass Special Management Areas

WHEREAS the Stream Black Bass Special Management Project was implemented by The Missouri Department of Conservation in order to improve smallmouth bass (SMB) fisheries;

AND WHEREAS, the Streams Black Bass Special Management Project currently provides management practices for ten SMB stream fisheries that are approximately 300 miles in length;

AND WHEREAS, these areas are managed under a 15 inch minimum length limit, as well as a daily creel limit of one fish;

AND WHEREAS, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation's issued report, these regulations have proven to have a positive impact on average fish size, angler catch rates and proportional stock densities of larger SMB in these areas;

AND WHEREAS, anglers who fish in these areas, when surveyed, were known to generally support such regulations;

AND WHEREAS, it is believed that if such regulations were to be implemented into the following areas; the Big Piney River (MDC Boiling Springs access to USFS Slabtown access: 14 miles), the James River (MDC Delaware Town access to MDC Hooten Town access: 12 miles), the Meramec River (MDC Short Bend access to Woodson K Woods access: 26 miles), the Gasconade River (MDC Wilber Allen access to MDC Hazelgreen access: 54 miles), the North Fork of White River (Hwy 76 bridge to MDC Hammond access: 29 miles), Bryant Creek (Bell School access to MDC Florence C. Cook access: 24 miles), the Bourbeuse River (Hwy 19 Bridge to MDC Union access: 94 miles), the Courtois Creek (Brazil low-water bridge to Huzzah Creek: 21 miles), and Huzzah Creek (Hwy 49 bridge to MDC Scotia Bridge access: 29 miles), the SMB populations and fisheries would respond similarly;

AND WHEREAS, these stream sections are traditionally recognized as some of Missouri's finest SMB fisheries, and exhibit strong potential to produce larger SMB;

AND WHEREAS, improving the quality of SMB fishing in these selected fisheries would provide
significant economic benefit to Missouri by generating non-resident and resident angler revenue;
AND WHEREAS, the cost of expanding the number of Special Management Areas would not result in
an additional tax burden to the residents of Missouri;
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, 2010 request that the regulations
of a 15 inch minimum length limit and a daily creel limit of one fish be implemented into the above
named areas. These areas would furthermore be recognized as Stream Black Bass Special Management
Areas.