

### **15 Inch Length Limit Stream Black Bass Special Management Areas**

1       WHEREAS the Stream Black Bass Special Management Project was implemented by The Missouri  
2       Department of Conservation in order to improve smallmouth bass (SMB) fisheries;  
3       AND WHEREAS, the Streams Black Bass Special Management Project currently provides management  
4       practices for ten SMB stream fisheries that are approximately 300 miles in length;  
5       AND WHEREAS, these areas are managed under a 15 inch minimum length limit, as well as a daily  
6       creel limit of one fish;  
7       AND WHEREAS, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation's issued report, these  
8       regulations have proven to have a positive impact on average fish size, angler catch rates and  
9       proportional stock densities of larger SMB in these areas;  
10      AND WHEREAS, anglers who fish in these areas, when surveyed, were known to generally support  
11      such regulations;  
12      AND WHEREAS, it is believed that if such regulations were to be implemented into the following  
13      areas; the Big Piney River (MDC Boiling Springs access to USFS Slabtown access: 14 miles), the James  
14      River (MDC Delaware Town access to MDC Hooten Town access: 12 miles), the Meramec River  
15      (MDC Short Bend access to Woodson K Woods access: 26 miles), the Gasconade River (MDC Wilber  
16      Allen access to MDC Hazelgreen access: 54 miles), the North Fork of White River (Hwy 76 bridge  
17      to MDC Hammond access: 29 miles), Bryant Creek (Bell School access to MDC Florence C. Cook  
18      access: 24 miles), the Bourbeuse River (Hwy 19 Bridge to MDC Union access: 94 miles), the Courtois  
19      Creek (Brazil low-water bridge to Huzzah Creek: 21 miles), and Huzzah Creek (Hwy 49 bridge to MDC  
20      Scotia Bridge access: 29 miles), the SMB populations and fisheries would respond similarly;  
21      AND WHEREAS, these stream sections are traditionally recognized as some of Missouri's finest SMB  
22      fisheries, and exhibit strong potential to produce larger SMB;  
23      AND WHEREAS, improving the quality of SMB fishing in these selected fisheries would provide

24 significant economic benefit to Missouri by generating non-resident and resident angler revenue;

25 AND WHEREAS, the cost of expanding the number of Special Management Areas would not result in

26 an additional tax burden to the residents of Missouri;

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at

28 the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2010 request that the regulations

29 of a 15 inch minimum length limit and a daily creel limit of one fish be implemented into the above

30 named areas. These areas would furthermore be recognized as Stream Black Bass Special Management

31 Areas.