

Eighteen Inch Length Limit Stream Black Bass Special Management Areas

1 WHEREAS the Stream Black Bass Special Management Project was created by the Missouri
2 Department of Conservation in order to improve smallmouth bass (SMB) fisheries;
3 AND WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation has managed 20 miles of the Gasconade
4 River and 26 miles of Jacks Fork River to improve the quality of SMB fishing by restricting the daily
5 harvest to one fish, which must measure 18 inches or more;
6 AND WHEREAS, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation's issued report, these
7 regulations resulted in significantly greater average sizes of SMB in the populations, higher angler catch
8 rates of SMB and higher proportional stock densities of larger SMB;
9 AND WHEREAS, anglers who fish in these areas, when surveyed, were known to generally support
10 such regulations;
11 AND WHEREAS, it is believed that if such regulations were to be implemented into the following
12 areas; the Big Piney River (USFS East Gate access to Gasconade River: 19 miles), the Meramec River
13 (Bird's Nest access to MDC Blue Springs access: 29 miles), the Gasconade River (MDC Mitschele
14 access to MDC Riddle Bridge access: 38 miles) and the Current River (Powder Mill access to Van
15 Buren City Park access: 26 miles), the smallmouth bass populations and fisheries would respond
16 similarly;
17 AND WHEREAS, these stream sections are traditionally recognized as some of Missouri's finest trophy
18 smallmouth bass fisheries and exhibit strong potential to produce larger smallmouth bass;
19 AND WHEREAS, improving the quality of smallmouth bass fishing in these selected fisheries would
20 provide significant economic benefit to Missouri by generating non- resident revenue and tax revenues
21 from the state's resident anglers;
22 AND WHEREAS, cost of expanding the number of Special Management Areas would not result in an
23 additional tax burden to the residents of Missouri.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at
25 the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27th day of February, 2010 requests that management
26 regulations of an 18 inch minimum length limit and a daily creel limit of one fish be implemented into
27 the above named areas. These areas would furthermore be recognized as Stream Black Bass Special
28 Management Areas.