

**Designate the Ozark Trail as Missouri's State Trail**

- 1    **WHEREAS**, The Ozark Trail provides one of the premier backcountry trail experiences in the Midwest;
- 2    and,
- 3    **WHEREAS**, The Ozark Trail has witnessed a resurgence of enthusiasm, use and support; and,
- 4    **WHEREAS**, In 2011 the Ozark Trail was included as one of two Missouri projects in President
- 5    Obama's "America's Great Outdoors" initiative; and,
- 6    **WHEREAS**, The Ozark Trail is recognized as a National Recreation Trail; and,
- 7    **WHEREAS**, The Ozark Trail currently traverses ten Missouri counties, comprises 364 miles of
- 8    backcountry trail (with 275 miles of that being connected); and,
- 9    **WHEREAS**, The long-term vision for the Ozark Trail is to extend from St. Louis to the Arkansas
- 10   border, where it would tie into the Ozark Highlands Trail; and,
- 11   **WHEREAS**, The Ozark Trail connects to some of Missouri's signature natural features, such as
- 12   Taum Sauk Mountain (state high point), Mina Sauk Falls (state's tallest waterfall), Big Spring (largest
- 13   freshwater spring in North America), Grasshopper Hollow Fen (largest unglaciated fen complex in
- 14   North America); the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways (the first
- 15   National Park area to protect a river system), and the rich cultural heritage of the Missouri Ozarks; and,
- 16   **WHEREAS**, The Ozark Trail enjoys a unique partnership between private, state, and federal
- 17   agencies and organizations; and,
- 18   **WHEREAS**, The Ozark Trail is primarily maintained by the Ozark Trail Association (OTA), a
- 19   non-profit organization made up almost entirely of volunteers; and,
- 20   **WHEREAS**, Walking, biking and other outdoor exercise promote physical and mental health; and,
- 21   **WHEREAS**, Trail development contributes to conservation and cultural heritage, promotes
- 22   alternative transportation, promotes quality living, and connects communities to nature and each other:

23 now, therefore, be it

24 **RESOLVED**, That the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel,  
25 Jefferson City, MO, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013, requests the Missouri General Assembly to pass  
26 legislation to formally designate the Ozark Trail as Missouri's State Trail.