

**Conservation Federation of Missouri  
2015 Resolutions**

**Committee:** Waterfowl & Wetlands

**# 1**

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**Incentive Program for Private Wetland Owners**

**WHEREAS**, wetlands in the state of Missouri provide some of the most important resources for migratory waterfowl and other wetland associated species in the Mid-Continent U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 200,000 acres of important wetlands in Missouri are privately owned; and

**WHEREAS**, cost share funding is provided for many practices in land management in Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, private duck clubs and landowners that flood cropland provide a significant amount of crucial habitat during the fall migration but much of this ground is drained after waterfowl season; and

**WHEREAS**, if the draining of cropland wetlands were delayed until spring, it would create more habitat for waterfowl during the spring migration and offset historical wetland loss due to agriculture cropland conversion; and

**WHEREAS**, most habitat available for waterfowl during the spring migration period consists primarily of national wildlife refuges and conservation areas across Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, delayed draining of flooded cropland and wetlands offers habitat for invertebrate populations to flourish as water temperatures begin to rise in flooded croplands; and

**WHEREAS**, during the spring migration waterfowl eat high quantities of invertebrates as a source of protein and calcium, which waterfowl (especially hens) need in order to replenish fat reserves, maintain body condition and produce eggs as they prepare for the breeding season; and

**WHEREAS**, the increase of habitat during the spring due to delayed draining would also benefit other wetland dependent organisms; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 22nd day of March, 2015 encourages the Missouri Department of Conservation, Ducks Unlimited, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Farm Service Agency to support an incentive program for Missouri, such as the

Missouri Agricultural Wetlands Initiative Program (MAWI III), to encourage private duck clubs and wetland owners to manage their wetlands for spring migration habitat, specifically to retain water coverage throughout the spring migration period.