

**Conservation Federation of Missouri  
2016 Resolutions**

**Committee:** Grasslands

**# 21**

**Author:** OAK Natural Resources Committee

**Acknowledging the Value of Native Grassland Landscapes  
Benefitting Wildlife, People and the Land**

**WHEREAS**, at the time Missouri was settled by Europeans, native tallgrass prairie covered one-third of the state, amounting to about 15 million acres, and approximately 70% of our state contained an assemblage of native grassland species; and

**WHEREAS**, today, only one tenth of one percent remains as remnant native prairie. Virtually all original native grassland acres are now dominated by non-native grasses or converted to crops; and

**WHEREAS**, an abundance of native grasses and wildflowers once dominated much of Missouri providing valuable diversity rich in structure, nectar, and other food resources for prairie dependent wildlife including pollinating insects and other invertebrates, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals; and

**WHEREAS**, diverse grasslands further provide high quality livestock forage, address needs of livestock in times of drought, and are important in supporting a thriving and growing cattle industry; and

**WHEREAS**, diverse native grasslands utilized in combination with cool season forage can provide for year-round grazing; and

**WHEREAS**, native grasslands further help ecosystem health by protecting our streams and water quality, reducing erosion, improving infiltration for groundwater, filtering groundwater and storing carbon, and sequestering water to hold soil moisture; and

**WHEREAS**, diverse native grassland plants improve soil health via their complex root systems below ground to improve microbial activity, sequester nutrients, and reducing runoff; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri's native grasslands enhance human health and well-being through educational and recreational opportunities, and sustain and increase economic viability; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 20th day of March, 2016, the advocates for, supports, and promotes the diverse benefits of conserving original prairie remnants and planting native grassland species for the citizens of Missouri.