

### Support for Missouri State Parks

1 WHEREAS, our nation and state have come into a condition of severe economic distress;

2 AND WHEREAS, sixteen million people visit Missouri State Parks and historic sites  
3 which generate over \$700 million annually in economic activity (2003 data);

4 AND WHEREAS, the sales tax revenue generated from the Parks and Soils Sales Tax  
5 which the Department of Natural Resources depends on to operate and maintain state  
6 campgrounds, parks and historic places, is in decline from \$41 million in FY 2008 to a  
7 projected \$36.7 million in FY 2010 resulting in elimination of 120 staff positions;

8 AND WHEREAS, the Missouri State Park system has been unable to keep up with the  
9 critical infrastructure rehabilitation, resulting in a growing capital improvement backlog  
10 exceeding \$200 million;

11 AND WHEREAS, the Missouri State Park system must operate with a balanced budget  
12 while at the same time remaining true to its mission to protect and provide the best of  
13 cultural, natural and recreational resources in Missouri;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri,  
15 assembled at the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27 day of March,  
16 2010, convey its support for State Parks by:

- Supporting an amendment to House Joint Resolution No. 77 Fifth State Building Fund or any state bond issue for capital improvements to specify that 10% of the total (\$80-100 million) be designated for back-logged capital improvements in Missouri State Parks;
- Including within CFM's media mix, information about the Missouri State Parks Donation Program including but not limited to by articles in CFM's Missouri Wildlife publication and by adding a hyperlink from the Conservation Federation of Missouri website to the State Park's Donations website;

- Recommending that Governor Jay Nixon provide all possible support to the management of the Department of Natural Resources in seeking a creative solution to this crisis that will sustain its employees while maintaining the level of integrity and excellence for which Missouri state parks are known across the nation.