

**Conservation Federation of Missouri
2014 Resolutions**

Committee: Camping, Hiking Trails & Water Sports

#2

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“Save Missouri’s Largest National Park”

WHEREAS, the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers are two of the state’s most outstanding waters, flowing through the heart of the Missouri Ozarks amid high bluffs of dolomite and limestone, vast forests of oak and shortleaf pine, and numerous caves and springs; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Congress recognized the outstanding qualities of these two streams by making them the first federally protected rivers in the nation, to be managed by the National Park Service as a national park known as the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and

WHEREAS, this national park annually attracts nearly 1.5 million people, nearly 90 percent of them non-local, who annually contribute some \$65 million to the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, more than 95 percent of Americans support national parks as an appropriate function of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, there is a movement to transfer the management and ownership of the Scenic Riverways from the National Park Service to the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, such transfer would entail giving up \$8 to \$10 million spent by the federal government annually to operate and maintain the Riverways and obligate the already financially strapped state park system to operate the park and assume its \$32 million maintenance backlog: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, Missouri, this 23rd day of March, 2014, does hereby reaffirm its longstanding and strong interest in the well-being of the Riverways and the national park that is charged with their proper stewardship and opposes any legislation advocating transfer of the ONSR to the State of Missouri or obligating any state agency to assume costs of operation and maintenance.