

**CFM Support of Hellbender Protection through the
Public and Private Rivers and Streams**

1 WHEREAS, Ozark Hellbenders do well in natural environments but are now proposed as
2 endangered species;

3 AND WHEREAS, human activities may cause soil erosion, logging of riparian forest buffer
4 zones and destabilization of stream banks;

5 AND WHEREAS, subsequent sedimentation of Ozark gravel stream beds has impacted river and stream
6 habitat for the Ozark and Eastern Hellbenders;

7 AND WHEREAS, the Ozark Hellbender is in more rapid decline than the Eastern Hellbender due to its
8 extreme sensitivity;

9 AND WHEREAS, chemical pollution caused by noncompliance with chemical use guidelines of
10 agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) and unrestricted storm water management of pollutants
11 by humans with fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides have resulted in habitat loss and stream degradation;

12 AND WHEREAS, this stream degradation has affected Hellbender health, making them more
13 susceptible to diseases and bacteria;

14 AND WHEREAS, due to the rapid decline in Hellbender numbers illegal capture has become more
15 consequential;

16 AND WHEREAS, the Hellbender is a sensitive indicator species for clean streams;

17 AND WHEREAS, there are programs in place such as the St. Louis Zoo Ron Goellner Center which
18 focuses on Hellbender Conservation;

19 AND WHEREAS, further support is needed in the protection of both the Ozark and Eastern Hellbender
20 due to their similarities;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at

22 the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27th day of February, 2011 urges the Missouri
23 Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, The US Fish and Wildlife
24 service, and Missouri Stream Teams to encourage public and private land owners to implement best
25 management practices in conserving the riparian zones along stretches of important stream habitats
26 thereby benefiting Hellbenders.

27 RESOLUTION SUMMARY – Protection is needed for Hellbenders, and can be established by the
28 support of private and public land owners in managing water quality.