

**Study of Impacts of Horses Along the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers**

1     **WHEREAS**, the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers are beautiful, irreplaceable rivers protected by the  
2     National Park Service in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways;

3     **AND WHEREAS**, the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers and watersheds are important habitats for  
4     many unique, delicate species such as the Current River Saddled Darter and endangered species  
5     such as the Ozark hellbender;

6     **AND WHEREAS**, the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers, watersheds, and riparian zones are unique  
7     and important habitats for a great diversity of species including: salamanders, turtles, birds,  
8     mammals, giant river cane, and benthic invertebrates including unique mussels;

9     **AND WHEREAS**, the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers are enjoyed by visitors for their aesthetic  
10    values, wildlife viewing opportunities, other forms of recreation such as swimming, hiking,  
11    canoeing, fishing, and camping;

12    **AND WHEREAS**, the presence of feral horses and excessive horse riding in and around the  
13    Current and Jacks Fork Rivers is potentially causing destruction and disturbance of the riparian  
14    habitat, river banks and stream beds, degradation of water quality, and presence of elevated levels  
15    of *E. coli* in the streams;

16    **AND WHEREAS**, the disturbance and destruction of habitat along the Current and Jacks Fork  
17    Rivers is detrimental to the health of wildlife, ecosystem, and water quality of these exceptional  
18    streams;

19    **AND WHEREAS**, the presence of *E. coli* in the Current and Jacks Fork River is detrimental to  
20    the health and enjoyment of visitors;

21 **AND WHEREAS**, the degradation of the aesthetics along the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers and  
22 potentially dangerous levels of *E. coli* will have a negative impact on the economy of the  
23 surrounding communities;

24 **AND WHEREAS**, a study of the effects of the feral horses and excessive horse riding on the  
25 Current and Jacks Fork Rivers would allow managers to make more educated decisions on  
26 preserving the beauty, biodiversity, water quality, and overall health of the streams;

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri  
28 assembled at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 26th day of February, 2012  
29 recommends the National Park Service and other agencies conduct a research study on the impact  
30 of feral horses and excessive horse riding along the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers.