

Increasing Awareness and Education of Didymo

1 WHEREAS, *Didymosphenia geminata* (Didymo) is an invasive alga invading coldwater stream systems;

2 AND WHEREAS, Didymo is native to northern latitudes of Asia, Europe, and North America and is

3 now expanding into areas of New Zealand, British Columbia, and the American west, causing problems

4 in such areas;

5 AND WHEREAS, in stream ecosystems, Didymo causes problems such as: decreased biodiversity, a

6 decrease in food sources for specialist, sensitive macro-invertebrates indicative of optimal stream health,

7 an increase in generalist, tolerant macro-invertebrates indicative of poor stream health;

8 AND WHEREAS, in stream ecosystems, Didymo causes problems with chemical characteristics such as

9 fluctuation of pH levels, a decrease in dissolved oxygen, and blockage of light penetration;

10 AND WHEREAS, in stream ecosystems, Didymo causes problems with physical characteristics such as:

11 an increase in turbidity, a restriction in stream flow, and a negative effect on the odor and taste of water;

12 AND WHEREAS, in stream ecosystems Didymo causes problems for people who use the streams as a

13 water resource such as clogging of waterways, negative effects on the fishing and recreation industries

14 through clogging boat motors, interfering with fishing equipment, adversely affecting trout growth rates

15 and reducing preferred stream water quality conditions for trout, and also causing the streams to be

16 aesthetically unpleasant;

17 AND WHEREAS, the introduction of Didymo into the state of Missouri would be detrimental to the

18 health and quality of the stream ecosystems and water related industries;

19 AND WHEREAS, Didymo is now present in the White River system in northern Arkansas and should

20 be prevented from entering Missouri streams;

21 AND WHEREAS, Missouri Stream Teams are invested in protecting and preserving stream health and

22 are willing advocates for the protection of stream resources;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at
24 the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27th day of February, 2011 contributes to the
25 prevention of the expansion of Didymo by continuing and increasing outreach and education efforts
26 through support of organizations and programs such as the Missouri Departments of Conservation and
27 Natural Resources, Missouri Stream Teams and various interstate tourism and outreach agencies in their
28 efforts to educate the public on various practices to prevent the invasion of Didymo into the state of
29 Missouri.

30 RESOLUTION SUMMARY – The Conservation Federation of Missouri supports furthering education
31 in order to prevent the expansion of *Didymosphenia geminata* (Didymo) into Missouri’s cold-water
32 streams.