

**Conservation Federation of Missouri
2015 Resolutions**

Committee: Forestry

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MDC Research of Rapid White Oak Mortality (RWOM)

WHEREAS, MDC should dedicate additional funding and research to further understanding of the phenomenon known as Rapid White Oak Mortality (RWOM); and

WHEREAS, current funding for RWOM research has been exhausted; and

WHEREAS, white oak (*Quercus alba*) is the most prevalent tree species in Missouri, and constitutes nearly 30% of timber harvested in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Missouri is the leading producer of cooperage (barrel production) in the world; and

WHEREAS, white oak is a leading contributor to acorn production and habitat necessary to a variety of wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, healthy forests produce abundant clean water and other environmental benefits; and

WHEREAS, the unknown cause, rapid spread and unpredictable nature of RWOM deserves additional efforts to further our understanding of this affliction; and

WHEREAS, funds and research could be used and conducted in partnership with organizations such as: the University of Missouri at Columbia, Missouri Forest Products Association, US Forest Service Northern Research Station and the Missouri Consulting Foresters Association to identify the cause and nature of RWOM and establish effective management practices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 22nd day of March, 2015 encourages MDC to dedicate additional funding and research to the understanding of RWOM.