

Committee: Furbearer and Black Bears

Author: Dan McMurtry, Chairman, Furbearer and Black Bear Committee

CFM Supports MDC's Proposed Regulation to Not Allow the Take of Feral Swine on Property Owned, Leased or Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation

WHEREAS, in the State of Missouri, feral swine are an invasive species that pose a threat to a wide range of resources including wildlife, threatened and endangered species, agriculture, general property and human health and safety; and

WHEREAS, feral swine can carry at least 30 diseases and nearly 40 parasites that may affect humans, pets, livestock and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, six million feral swine can now be found in 35 states; and

WHEREAS, if local populations of feral swine are not addressed in a timely manner, their numbers increase rapidly; and

WHEREAS, land managers and land owners agree feral swine are a detriment of Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife populations; and

WHEREAS, several state and federal agencies, including the Missouri Department of Conservation, the USDA Wildlife Services, US Forest Service, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the US Army Corps of Engineers and non-government agencies and private landowners are working together to address feral swine damage in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, information from other states shows that hog hunting actually increases feral hog numbers and distribution because of illegal releases of more animals into the wild to create future hunting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in order to remove all feral swine from Missouri's landscape, the incentive for the public to move and populate new areas with feral swine populations must be stopped; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO this 20th day of March, 2016, encourages the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) not allow the take of feral swine on MDC owned, leased and managed lands.