

File Code: 1950 (8814058)

Date:

Mr. Tyler Schwartze
Executive Director
Conservation Federation of Missouri
728 West Main Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Mr. Schwartze:

Thank you for your letter of March 22, 2022, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service regarding the recent resolutions adopted by the Conservation Federation of Missouri to work collaboratively updating important data for conservation in Missouri. I apologize for the delayed response.

The Forest Service shares many of the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) values and has a long tradition of working with partners to deliver world class science, technology, and land management. Work remains to update available data to inform conservation decisions. In April 2021, the Forest Service and MDC entered into a Shared Stewardship Agreement, which documents the intent to cooperate across jurisdictional boundaries to accomplish mutual goals, further common interests, and effectively respond to increasing ecological challenges in Missouri. Our goal is to continue working together to identify high priority investment needs that proactively meet conservation goals across all lands.

Between 2019 and 2021, the Forest Service financially supported updates to the National Hydrography Data (NHD) resulting in over 90 sixth level watersheds being updated. These updates were possible because of earlier Forest Service investments and conservation partners obtaining high quality remote sensing mapping of priority ecological restoration areas. We expect this foundational work to contribute to the goals of the National Wetland Inventory and NHD updates being coordinated in Missouri.

The Forest Service will continue working with Missouri, MDC, and other partners to improve the data and science needed to make the best decisions for land management on a landscape scale.

Again, thank you for writing. If you have additional questions, please contact Roman "Ray" Torres, Acting Forest Supervisor, at roman.torres@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

RANDY MOORE
Chief

