

Originating Committee: Forestry Resources and Management Committee

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Intended Recipients: Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, L-A-D Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Ozark Chinquapin Foundation

Encourage Ozark Chinquapin Restoration

WHEREAS, the Ozark chinquapin (*Castanea ozarkensis*) was once an important species in the Missouri Ozarks; and

WHEREAS, the Ozark chinquapin was once used for many products including barns, furniture, railroad ties, and fence posts; and

WHEREAS, chestnut blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) is a fungal pathogen from Asia that removed the Ozark chinquapin from much of its native range; and

WHEREAS, only a handful of large trees remain in the wild with the majority surviving as root collar sprouts that do not produce fruits; and

WHEREAS, non-blight resistant Ozark chinquapins produce few fruits for wildlife and regeneration; and

WHEREAS, successful reintroduction of blight-resistant chinquapins will result in more resilient and diverse ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Ozark chinquapin can provide ample amounts of mast for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, wildlife such as bear, turkey, elk, and deer prefer the chinquapin nut due to its higher nutrient density; and

WHEREAS, forest and woodland restoration practices provide conditions to replant Ozark chinquapin; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled in Osage Beach, Missouri, this 25th day of February, 2023, urges the Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, L-A-D Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy to support the further development of blight-resistant Ozark chinquapin planting stock and work with the Ozark Chinquapin Foundation to establish test plantings on their lands where appropriate.

Searchable Keywords: Ozark chinquapin,

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