

Originating Committee: Upland Wildlife Committee

Author: Joshua Marshall, Jacob Swafford

Intended Recipients: Missouri Department of Conservation, Pheasant Forever and Quail Forever in Missouri, Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation

Support for Creation of a Missouri Small Game Hunting Challenge

WHEREAS, small game hunting is a longstanding tradition in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, hunting for small game species is popular among Missouri hunters, with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) selling an average of 59,000 licenses annually over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, small game hunting challenges can provide benefits to hunter recruitment, retainment, and reactivation efforts; and

WHEREAS, opportunities to hunt multiple small game species, such as, squirrel, rabbit, dove, and quail, serve as an important, low-barrier approach to introduce new hunters to Missouri's outdoors; and

WHEREAS, small game hunting provides mentors the opportunity to teach mentees ethical hunting, firearms safety, and firearms familiarity; and

WHEREAS, the MDC has administered two successful challenges focused on fisheries with the Blue Ribbon Trout Slam, and Smallmouth Slam; and

WHEREAS, a Missouri small game hunting challenge could encourage hunters to use MDC public lands or Missouri Outdoor Recreational Access Program lands; and

WHEREAS, increased engagement of hunters and individuals participating in a small game hunting challenge would assist MDC in reaching one of their strategic goals of connecting people with nature; and

WHEREAS, increased engagement of hunters and individuals participating in small game hunting can provide increased funding to conservation by incentivizing hunters to purchase more small game licenses; and

WHEREAS, hunting challenges for small game can draw attention and interest to critical habitats that benefit small game; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled in Osage Beach, Missouri, this 25th day of February, 2023, requests that the Missouri Department of Conservation, Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, and Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Missouri partner to create a small game hunting challenge that will incentivize and provide increased opportunities for hunters.

Searchable keywords: quail, pheasants, upland game, small game

Expires: February 25, 2028