

Resource Committee	X Recommend Approval	0 Recommend Do Not Pass	0 Recommend Approval w/ Amendment
Resolution Committee	x Recommend Approval	0 Recommend Do Not Pass	0 Recommend Approval w/ Amendment
Approval by CFM Delegates	x Recommend Approval	0 Recommend Do Not Pass	0 Recommend Approval w/ Amendment

Committee: Furbearers and Small Game
 Author: CLC

12

Black Bears of Missouri

1 WHEREAS Missouri’s largest native free-roaming mammal, the black bear (*Ursus americanus*),
 2 represents a critical part of the natural and historic ecosystem and its functions;
 3 AND WHEREAS, the State of Missouri has an expanding and increasing black bear population,
 4 which in the future may come under certain state management regulations and plans;
 5 AND WHEREAS, there has been no extensive scientific research and assessment of the black bear
 6 in Missouri;
 7 AND WHEREAS, this population is connected to a strong, viable, an contiguous Arkansas population,
 8 which has imperative implications for this species long-term persistence in this region;
 9 AND WHEREAS, the Ozark region of southern Missouri offers one of the largest continuous blocks
 10 of eastern deciduous hardwood forest on the North American continent, that may potentially harbor
 11 a significant population and an abundance of quality habitat;
 12 AND WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation has designated the black bear as a
 13 watch species within the state, and therefore it is of important conservation concern;
 14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at
 15 the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 26th day of February, 2006, requests and supports the
 16 Missouri Department of Conservation in conducting a scientific population estimate, with identification
 17 of major travel corridors, reproductive evaluations, habitat and resource selection, denning location,
 18 behavior, and dispersal and distribution patterns of the black bear in the Ozarks of Missouri;
 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Conservation Federation of Missouri requests and supports the
 20 Missouri Department of Conservation in conducting a large-scale assessment and study of the black
 21 bear in Missouri.