

Resource Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommend Approval	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend Do Not Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend Approval w/ Amendment
Resolution Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommend Approval	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend Do Not Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend Approval w/ Amendment
Approval by CFM Delegates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommend Approval	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend Do Not Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend Approval w/ Amendment

Committee: Fisheries and Water Resources  
 Author: Conservation Leadership Corps

**#16**

Citizen Involvement with the Protection of Aquatic Cave Species

1 WHEREAS, the health of cave/karst ecosystems in Missouri is degrading;

2 AND WHEREAS, organisms, such as the Ozark cavefish, grotto salamander, isopods, bristly cave

3 crayfish and other cave adapted aquatic species, are in danger of losing their habitat due to human

4 disturbances;

5 AND WHEREAS, the historic range of the Ozark cavefish included 24 Ozark Mountain caves in

6 Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma;

7 AND WHEREAS, that range has already shrunk to 21 caves;

8 AND WHEREAS, disturbances by human encroachment and hazardous pollutants carried by run-off

9 from sources such as well-heads, septic tanks, and sink hole dumps are the primary contributors to the

10 demise of cave organisms;

11 AND WHEREAS, the decline of aquatic cave species signals contaminated ground-water supply that is

12 unfit for human consumption;

13 AND WHEREAS, educating citizens and implementing a large-scale monitoring program will assist in

14 the correction of this issue;

15 AND WHEREAS, the Missouri Stream Team program has been successful in involving citizens in the

16 conservation and education of Missouri streams;

17 AND WHEREAS, a program modeled after the Missouri Stream Team, but designed for caves would

18 enhance citizen involvement and aid in gathering vital information on state-wide cave health;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at

20 the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 24th day of February, 2008, urges The Cave Research

21 Foundation, Missouri Speleological Survey, Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri

22 Department of Natural Resources to explore the prospect of a collective effort in implementing the  
23 proposed cave program modeled after the Missouri Stream Team.