

APR 11 2008

Missouri  
Department  
of Transportation



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Pete K. Rahn, Director



2007 Missouri Quality Award Winner

March 31, 2008

Conservation Federation of Missouri  
David W. Murphy, Executive Director  
728 West Main Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101-1559

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Thank you for the resolution provided with your letter of March 14, 2008. The resolution requests that MoDOT adopt, as a minimum standard, the USDA's Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitat Standard Number 643 when the goal is to restore a diverse native-grassland community. MoDOT has used many of the standard's recommendations for several years in our efforts to encourage biodiversity along the roadsides.

Several years ago MoDOT made a major commitment to the planting of native vegetation along the roadsides in areas where appropriate. We have been involved in the discussions to foster Missouri source and origin seed for these plantings. It is encouraging to see this program progressing to the point where seed supply is sufficient for large projects.

Even with the difficult planting conditions of the roadsides, MoDOT realizes the benefits of native plants. We recently completed a three-year project with the Missouri Department of Conservation converting 1,100 roadside acres to native vegetation. Preference points were given to the contractor providing source-identified seed for this project. The plantings continue to mature and increase the plant diversity on Missouri roadsides.

Although unable to adopt the resolution in its entirety, we will continue to use the recommendations listed where appropriate and economically feasible. Thank you for your interest in Missouri's roadsides.

Sincerely,

Pete K. Rahn  
Director

pr/sa-mt

*Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.*