

**Conservation Federation of Missouri**  
**Legislative Policy Platform**  
January 2017



**Conservation Federation**  

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**MISSOURI**

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## Introduction

Founded in 1935, the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) serves as the voice for wise use and conservation of Missouri's abundant natural resources at the local, state and national level. CFM is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization, consisting of 4,651 individual members, 81 affiliate organizations, and 89 business alliance members. Members and affiliates represent a broad and diverse array of interests, all with a deep concern for and appreciation of Missouri's natural resources. CFM is governed by a board of directors elected by the general membership; day-to-day operations are handled by an executive director and professional staff headquartered in Jefferson City, Missouri. CFM is an affiliate member of the National Wildlife Federation.

### **Mission of the Conservation of Federation**

*To ensure conservation of Missouri's wildlife and natural resources, and preservation of our state's rich outdoor heritage through advocacy, education and partnerships.*

The Conservation Federation of Missouri, as approved by the Executive Committee, hereby establishes the following positions regarding topics that may be considered by the Missouri General Assembly during the 2017 legislative session. These statements are not meant to be wholly inclusive of every issue of interest to the CFM and are intended to only serve as a general guide to the Federation and its members. As appropriate, these statements may be reconsidered and modified by the CFM Legislative and Executive Committees at any time.

## State Legislative Priorities for 2017

*The following summarizes select legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session.*

- Restitution for illegal taking of wildlife – CFM will work for passage of a meaningful fines or restitution provisions as an additional deterrent against poaching and other illegal taking of wildlife.
- Feral hogs – CFM will work with legislators and the Department of Conservation to ensure adequate laws to prevent the spread of feral hogs and associated damage to public and private property.

- Captive cervids – CFM will work to protect ensure adequate laws and regulations over the captive cervid industry in Missouri in order to protect wild free-ranging deer and elk from disease and genetic degradation, and to protect the public interest and traditions of ethical, regulated hunting.
- Conservation funding – CFM will work to protect and maintain, without deviation, the dedicated, continuous funding for the Conservation Commission as approved by the citizens in 1976.
- Public lands – CFM will work to protect and maintain state and federal public lands as public trust resources, and the right of citizens to access and use these lands in a state of conservation and management. Moreover, we will oppose transfer of federal lands to state ownership and transfer of state lands to private ownership unless clearly in the best interest of conservation.

## **General State Legislative Issues**

### **Air Quality – Clean Air**

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed to protect or enhance air quality statewide.

### **Captive Cervids**

CFM is deeply concerned about the impact of keeping cervids (i.e., members of the deer family) in captivity for a wide variety of reasons, including concerns about disease risks, genetic integrity, and a desire to sustain the principles of the North American Model of Conservation. In this regard, CFM supports regulation of captive cervids by the Conservation Commission, maintaining the definition of captive white-tailed deer as wildlife, and opposes reclassifying captive white-tailed deer as livestock.

### **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed to aggressively control the spread of CWD statewide and within local areas where the disease has been detected.

2013 Resolution - Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) - Urges the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Agriculture, and the Missouri Legislature to focus all resources and move quickly to provide the statutory and regulatory structure required to minimize, contain and eliminate the threat to the wild herd of white-tailed deer caused by CWD. (Deer, Wild Turkey and Elk Committee)

## Disabled Users - Americans with Disabilities Act & Inclusion

CFM supports programmatic access (as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and more recently the 2010 updates specific to Parks and Conservation) to all natural resource areas, parks, and historic sites throughout federal, state, county, and local parks and conservation sites. CFM believes that diversity is the cornerstone of our society and culture and thus should be celebrated. Including people with disabilities in the fabric of society strengthens the community and its individual members. The value of inclusive leisure experiences in enhancing the quality of life for all people, with and without disabilities, cannot be overstated. As we broaden our understanding and acceptance of differences among people through shared leisure experiences, we empower future generations to build a better place to live and thrive.

## Energy

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed enhance energy use and efficiency statewide while emphasizing conservation and environmental protection.

**2012 Resolution - Energy Efficiency** - Urges the Missouri General Assembly, the Public Service Commission, the regulated electric utilities and other interested stakeholders to work together to find a resolution that is fair to both customers and shareholders and results in increasing investments in energy efficiency programs in an expeditious manner, for the benefit of the State of Missouri. (Ecology, Environment, Climate Change & Energy Committee)

**2013 Resolution - Combine Heat and Power (CHP) and Distributed Generation** - Urges the Missouri General Assembly, the Public Service Commission, the regulated electric utilities and other interested stakeholders to work together to review and modify policies so the result is increasing investments in combined heat and power and clean distributed generation projects in Missouri, for the benefit of the State of Missouri. (Ecology, Environment, Climate Change & Energy Committee)

**2014 Resolution - CFM Support of Missouri Solar Industry** - Urges the Missouri General Assembly, the Public Service Commission, and regulated electric utilities (KCP&L and Ameren) to work together to reinstate the rebates provided under law with a provision to step down the rebates to 0 in 2020 as currently agreed upon. (Ecology, Environment, Climate Change, and Energy Committee)

## Environmental Stewardship

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed promote environmental stewardship and a conservation ethic among the citizenry throughout the state.

Generally, initiatives, the protect human life, protect the environment, and conserves valuable natural resources are desirable as they are integral to sustaining and improving the quality of life for all citizens today and into the future. Moreover, CFM recognizes that environmental stewardship can be most successful when locally embraced and implemented.

**2013 Resolution - CFM Encourages the Statewide Implementation of P2D2 -**

Encourages legislation to be created that defines a legal and proper way to dispose of pharmaceuticals and for the state of Missouri to implement the Missouri P2D2 program. (Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee)

## Firearms and Shooting Sports

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed to promote the shooting sports and protect citizen's rights to the lawful possession and use of firearms.

**2013 Resolution - Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines** - Opposes the Missouri House Bill 545, banning large capacity magazines. (Sportsmen's Rights Committee)

## Funding

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed maximize the use of existing and potential funding mechanisms by the state and local entities in support of natural resource management and use, conservation, and outdoor recreational. Moreover, CFM encourages the State of Missouri to take the lead in developing policies, practices and funding that support critical maintenance and development of facilities and infrastructure at state and local parks.

## Historic and Cultural Resources

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed to conserve, protect and preserve cultural and historic sites for the appreciation, study, and enjoyment of citizens today and in the future.

**2015 Resolution - Preservation of CCC and WPA Buildings and Structures** - Encourages the Missouri legislature to allocate additional general revenue funds to assist in the repair and upkeep of these historic structures located within Missouri. (Natural History, Parks & Wildlands Committee)

## Missouri Department of Conservation

CFM is historically and deeply invested in the conservation of the state's fish, forests, and wildlife resources. CFM's fundamental support of the Department of Conservation mission is expressed as follows:

**Conservation Commission Constitutional Authority** - Support continuation of the Conservation Commission's constitutional authority as stated in Section 40 of the State Constitution.

**Conservation Sales Tax** - Support continuation of the dedicated conservation sales tax as stated in Section 43 of the State Constitution.

**2011 Resolution - Conservation Sales Tax** - Strongly opposes any constitutional amendment that would sunset the one-eighth of one percent conservation sales tax. (Sportsman's Rights, Firearms and Hunter Safety Committee)

**Conservation Commission Appointments** - Support maintaining the composition of the Conservation Commission, and the process by which the Commission is appointed.

**Legislative Authority** - Oppose legislative interference in conservation issues for which the people have granted full constitutional authority to the Conservation Commission.

**2011 Resolution - North American Wildlife Conservation Model** - Supports elk restoration and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and strongly opposes legislation that places ownership and liability upon the MDC. (Sportsmen's Rights, Firearms and Hunter Safety Committee)

## Missouri Department of Natural Resources

CFM is historically and deeply invested in the protection and wise use of the state's soil and water resources, development and maintenance of natural resources, and protection and enhancement of historic and cultural resources. CFM's fundamental support of the Department of Natural Resources' mission is expressed as follows:

**Constitutional Authority - Soil and Water Conservation and State Parks** - Support continuation of the constitutional authority as stated in Section 47 of the State Constitution.

**Dedicated Funding** - Support continuation of the dedicated sales tax for soil and water conservation, and state parks as stated in Section 47 of the State Constitution.

## Open Space/Green Space

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed to create, preserve and protect open spaces and green spaces with special emphasis on the urban/suburban environments and future developments.

## Outdoor Recreation

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed to promote and enhance citizen participation in nature-based outdoor recreation throughout the state.

**2015 Resolution - Protecting the Recreational Usage of the Waterways of Missouri -**

Encourages the Missouri State Legislature to continue to protect the ability of all citizens to utilize areas alongside Missouri waterways. (Natural History, Parks & Wildlands Committee)

## Public Lands (State and Federal)

CFM supports protection and maintenance of state and federal public lands as public trust resources, and the right of citizens to access and use these lands in a state of conservation and management. Moreover, we will oppose transfer of federal lands to state ownership and transfer of state lands to private ownership unless clearly in the best interest of conservation.

**2014 Resolution - Save Missouri's Largest National Park** - opposes any legislation advocating transfer of the Ozark National Scenic Riverway to the State of Missouri or obligating any state agency to assume costs of operation and maintenance. (Camping, Hiking Trails & Water Sports Committee)

## State and National Parks

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed to maintain, protect, preserve, and promote Missouri's state and national park resources for use by citizens today and in the future.

**2011 Resolution - Support for Missouri State Parks** - Supporting an amendment to House Joint Resolution No. 9 Fifth State Building Fund or any state bond issue for capital improvements to specify that 10% of the total (\$80-100 million) be designated for back-logged capital improvements in Missouri State Parks; and supporting the retention of interest on moneys in the State Park Earnings Fund within the fund to be used for state park purposes, as provided by House Bill 89; and including within CFM's media mix information about the Missouri State Parks Donation Program including but not limited to articles in CFM's Missouri Wildlife publication and by adding a hyperlink from the Conservation Federation of Missouri website to the State Parks Donations website; and recommending that Governor Jay Nixon provide all possible support to the management of the Department of Natural Resources in seeking creative solutions to this crisis that will sustain its employees and facilities while maintaining the level of integrity and excellence for which Missouri state parks are known across the nation. (Park Resources Committee)

**2012 Resolution - Support for Missouri State Parks** - Supporting an amendment to House Joint Resolution No. 57 Fifth State Building Fund or any state bond issue for capital improvements to specify that 10% of the total (\$80-100 million) be designated for back-logged infrastructure rehabilitation and other capital improvements in Missouri



State Parks; and Supporting the retention of interest on moneys in the State Park Earnings Fund within the fund to be used for state park purposes, as provided by House Bill 1191; and Including within CFM's media mix information about the Missouri State Parks Donation Program including but not limited to articles in CFM's Missouri Wildlife publication and by adding a hyperlink from the Conservation Federation of Missouri website to the State Parks Donations website; and Recommending that Governor Jay Nixon provide all possible support to the management of the Department of Natural Resources and Missouri State Parks in seeking creative solutions to this crisis that will sustain its employees and facilities while maintaining the level of integrity and excellence for which Missouri state parks are known across the nation. (Natural History, Parks & Wildlife Committee)

**2013 Resolution - Support Missouri State Park Funding** - Supports passage of SJR 3 and HJR 14 and 25 encourages the legislature to include funding that will allow Missouri State Parks to address immediate needs and make necessary improvements so that the system can be fully utilized for the benefit of Missourians for many years to come. (Natural History, Parks & Wildlands Committee)

**2014 Resolution - Support Bond Initiative to Fund Missouri State Parks Capital Improvement Projects** - Urges the Missouri State Legislature and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to support the issuance of general obligation bonds to maintain and upgrade the infrastructure of state parks all throughout Missouri in order to provide construction jobs to benefit the economy, increase ecotourism rates, provide employment opportunities for the younger generation, and provide a better environment for outdoor recreation. (Natural History, Parks and Wildlands Committee)

**2016 Resolution – Defend Missouri's State Parks** - Staunchly opposes harmful state park bills (e.g., HB2187, SB682, SB683, HJR101, HB2047) and encourages CFM affiliates and citizens to contact their legislators opposing the bills and asking for their support of the people of Missouri in their desire to support state parks; and supports restoration in the Senate of funds for state parks deleted by the House from HB2006; and vigorously supports renewal of the Parks, Soil, and Water Sales Tax and use of CFM communication capabilities and media access to encourage CFM members, affiliate organizations, and the general public to likewise support renewal of the tax. (Natural History, Parks and Wildlands)

**2016 Resolution – Restoration of Maintenance Funding** - Encourages the Missouri General Assembly to restore funding approved for fiscal year 2016 to the Department of Natural Resources for the maintenance needs of Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites. (Natural History, Parks and Wildlands Committee)

## Trails for Hiking and Biking

CFM supports initiatives that enable local and state agencies to develop and promote trail connections across Missouri. In April, 2013, Missouri was named the "Best Trails State" by American Trails. Missouri's Katy Trail State Park has encouraged communities to develop trail linkages, greenways and neighborhood greenbelts. Trail development, soon to include the Rock Island corridor, contributes to conservation, promotes alternative transportation, and connects communities to nature and to each other.

**2011 Resolution - Statewide Trail Linkage System** - Strongly encourages the governor, state legislature and DNR to proceed with any actions necessary to ensure the trail's completion, specifically a link from Pleasant Hill into Kansas City and near Arrowhead Stadium and any remaining portions in the St. Louis area. CFM is strongly opposed to any action that would threaten the integrity and continued extension of the Katy Trail corridor. (Park Resources Committee)

**2012 Resolution - Establish the Missouri Trails Alliance and Comprehensive Statewide Trails Plan** - Supports the full appropriation of general funds necessary to develop, maintain and staff this project. The Conservation Federation of Missouri strongly encourages the governor, state legislature, federal and state agencies to proceed with any actions necessary to ensure the establishment of a Missouri Trails Alliance and a Comprehensive Statewide Trails Plan for the purposes of overseeing, and promoting Missouri's trails and for expanding Missouri's trail system and for managing a statewide trail plan (Camping, Hiking, & Water Sports Committee)

**2013 Resolution - Designate the Ozark Trail as Missouri's State Trail** - Requests the Missouri General Assembly to pass legislation to formally designate the Ozark Trail as Missouri's State Trail. (Camping, Hiking, & Water Sports Committee)

**2016 Resolution - Amend Recreational Use Act to Protect All Landowners** - Support the amendment of section 537.347, RSMo to delete subsection (3a). (Natural History, Parks & Wildlands Committee)

## Water Quality

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed to ensure the availability of clean water for drinking, recreation and the needs of fish and wildlife.

**2013 Resolution - Support Clean Water Permit Fee Increases** - Recommends that the Governor and the General Assembly work with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Water Protection Program and stakeholders to adjust clean water permit fees to compensate for the shortfall in income. (Fisheries Committee)

**2016 Resolution – State-wide Ban of Micro-beads** – Recommends the Missouri General Assembly enact a state-wide ban on domestically-sold micro-bead products within Missouri. (Ecology, Environment, Climate Change, and Energy Committee)

## Water Quantity

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed to ensure abundant water resources adequate to support drinking supplies, recreation and the needs of fish and wildlife.

## Wetlands

CFM supports legislative action and policy decisions designed to preserve, protect, and enhance wetlands across the state adequate to support the needs of fish and wildlife, recreational demands, and flood control.

## Federal Legislative Issues

Federal legislative will be monitored and added to the CFM priority list as needed, in addition to related resolutions. Federal topics we are monitoring include:

**Recovering America’s Wildlife Act of 2016** – (H.R. 5650) – This bill calls for an annual allocation of \$1.3 billion dollars to the currently unfunded Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account in order to better fund wildlife conservation efforts in the United States. Funding for this bill would come directly from existing federal revenue and involves no additional or increased taxation, and would provide funds necessary to more fully implement State Wildlife Action Plans and other management, education, and wildlife recreation efforts aimed at the full array of wildlife species. (Support)

- **2016 Resolution – National Conservation Funding** – Recommendation of the national Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America’s Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources is for Congress to dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program (16 U.S.C. 669b(a)). (Legislative Committee)

**Pittman-Robertson Act (Wildlife Restoration Program)** – (H.R. 4818/S. 2690) – This program needs to be modernized in order to address hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation, thereby allowing the use of these earmarked trust funds in support of these important programs. Efforts are underway to pursue legislation to modernize this vita program.

**Farm Bill 2018 Reauthorization** – The Farm Bill contains many critical, longstanding conservation programs. Efforts will be monitored as reauthorization moves forward.

**Endangered Species Act (ESA)** – After many successful years, it is widely believed that the ESA needs major reform in order to meet the challenges of the future.

**Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act** - This bill revises a variety of existing programs to expand access to, and opportunities for, hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. Language from the original bill was to be included in the Energy Policy Modernization Act; however, elections and the change in administration has affected the future of this effort. Status at this point is uncertain.

### **North American Wetlands Conservation Act**

- **2013 Resolution - Appropriating funds for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act** - Urges the appropriate members of the United States Congress to support appropriating the NAWCA Program at a minimum of the FY13 enacted appropriation of \$35.5 million. As recently as FY10 NAWCA received \$47.6 million dollars. (Waterfowl and Wetlands Committee)

### **Wetlands Reserve Program**

- **2014 Resolution - CFM Support of Wetlands Reserve Program** - Encourages the United States Congress to increase funding for WRP that would support a national cap of at least 250,000 acres annually. (Waterfowl and Wetlands Committee)

**Federal sequestration of trust funds (PR/DJ)** – Excise tax money that rightfully belongs in the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Programs trust funds established under the Pittman-Robertson/Dingell-Johnson Acts was swept in 2013 and must be restored. Status of this issue is currently unknown.

***Revised and approved by the CFM Legislative Policy Committee, January 19,2017***

*(Jim Kent, Chair; Robert Brundage, Vice-chair; Dave Graber, Steve Jones, J.C. Kuessner, Jerry Presely, George Seek, Gary Van de Velde, Dan Zekor)*