

Committee: Public/Private Lands

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Intended Recipient: Missouri Legislatures and Missouri Congressional Delegation

CFM Opposes Transfer of Ownership of Federal Lands to the State

WHEREAS, around the nation there is a current movement to transfer ownership of federal lands to state possession; and

WHEREAS, once states have secured ownership, lands are at a much greater risk of falling under private ownership than if they were owned federally, as states struggle to find the funds to manage the lands; and

WHEREAS, tremendous expanses of wildlands have already been sold around the country in various states in order to supplement state's budgets; and

WHEREAS, according to Field and Stream; Utah has already sold off 50% of its state granted lands to private ownership; and

WHEREAS, Oregon has been selling off its state land to offset the declines in timber revenue it has experienced. According to a State Trust Lands publication made by the Oregon Department of State Lands, Oregon was originally granted 3.4 million acres and now has only 741,000 left; and

WHEREAS, according to a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources press release published by DNR's central office on June 17th, 2016, between June of 2014 and the end of 2017 Wisconsin will have sold off 10,000 acres of its land in various parcels in order to ease its budget difficulties; and

WHEREAS, private acquisition of federally set aside land would drastically cut opportunities for all Missourians to enjoy recreational opportunities and our bountiful natural resources as federal public lands guarantee our rights to do so; and

WHEREAS, states have entirely different rules for land management, hunting, fishing and other recreational opportunities on newly state-granted lands are not guaranteed; and

WHEREAS, should the state-granted land fall under private ownership, private lands are not accessible to the average hunter and fisher and other outdoor enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the future for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation in Missouri, as well as the preservation of our bountiful natural resources efforts must be taken to protect federal lands in the show me state; now, therefore, be it

**Conservation Federation of Missouri
2017 Resolutions**

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RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 12th day of March, 2017, asks both chambers of the Missouri Legislature as well as the Missouri Congressional Delegation to oppose the transfer of ownership of federal lands in Missouri to state ownership.