

Transfer of Ownership of Federal Lands to the State

1 WHEREAS, Around the nation there is a current movement to transfer ownership of federal lands to  
2 state possession.

3 AND WHEREAS, Once states have secured ownership, lands are at a much greater risk of falling under  
4 private ownership than if they were owned federally; as states struggle to find the funds to manage the  
5 lands.

6 AND WHEREAS, Tremendous expanses of wildlands have already been sold around the country in  
7 various states in order to supplement state's budgets.

8 AND WHEREAS, According to Field and Stream; Utah has already sold off 50% of its state granted  
9 lands to public ownership.

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

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

16 AND WHEREAS, Private acquisition of federally set aside land would drastically cut opportunities for  
17 all Missourians to enjoy recreational opportunities and our bountiful natural resources as federal public  
18 lands guarantee our rights to do so.

19 AND WHEREAS, States have entirely different rules for land management, hunting and fishing on  
20 newly state-granted lands are not guaranteed.

21 AND WHEREAS, Should the state-granted land fall under private ownership private lands are not  
22 accessible to the average hunter and fisher;

23 AND WHEREAS, To ensure futures for hunting and fishing in Missouri; as well as the preservation of  
24 our bountiful natural resources efforts must be taken to protect federal lands in the show me state.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at  
26 the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016 asks the both chambers of  
27 Missouri Legislature, Representatives of the House as well as Missouri Senators to oppose motions to  
28 transfer ownership of federal lands in Missouri to state ownership of these lands.

29 RESOLUTION SUMMARY – CFM asks the Missouri Legislature to oppose motions to transfer Federal  
30 Lands in Missouri to the state in order to preserve recreational opportunities for all in the state of  
31 Missouri as well as natural resources in our state.