

Originating Committee: Education and Outdoor Recreation

Author(s): Emily Tracy-Smith, Zach Morris

Intended Recipient: U.S. Department of the Interior, Missouri's Congressional delegation, and White House

Protect the Cooperative Research Units

WHEREAS, Missouri is a national leader in science based natural resource management; and

WHEREAS, advancements in fisheries and wildlife sciences are essential to improving our ability to effectively manage fish, forests, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey (USGS)'s Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units provide critical science support to state and federal management agencies; and

WHEREAS, the collaborative work conducted by Cooperative Research Units helps sustain fish and wildlife research and outdoor recreation needs of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Research Units provide opportunities for research and graduate training to support future natural resource professionals; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Research Units employ more than 1,100 researchers at 40 universities across the country; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Research Units produced 365 peer reviewed research publications and 981 research presentations in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the outdoor recreation supported by fish and wildlife research is an over 10 billion dollar industry that supports 8,000 jobs in the state of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the funding for the Cooperative Research Unit Program was proposed to be eliminated in the President's budget for fiscal year 2019; and

WHEREAS, the loss of the Cooperative Research Units would be a direct and significant loss to our ability to effectively manage natural resources in Missouri and across the nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 11th day of March, 2018, supports the full funding of the Cooperative Research Unit program, and will oppose any efforts to defund or weaken the program.

Searchable key words: Cooperative Research Unit, Fisheries and Wildlife Research, Research Funding

Expires: March 11, 2023