



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Headquarters

2901 West Truman Boulevard, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180

Telephone: 573-751-4115 ▲ www.MissouriConservation.org

SARA PARKER PAULEY, Director

April 19, 2019

Mr. Tyler Schwartze
Executive Director
Conservation Federation of Missouri
728 West Main
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Mr. Schwartze:

The Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) recognizes that feral hogs are an extremely destructive-invasive-non-native species. They pose serious threats to the state's fish, forest and wildlife resources as well as agricultural and other interests. The Department's mission is to protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state.

Hunting is a great tool to manage populations of wildlife, but in Missouri, we do not want to manage the feral hog population, we want to eliminate it. We have strong partnerships with other governmental agencies, agricultural groups, conservation groups, and hundreds of private landowners in the battle against feral hogs. Other states have shown that hog hunting increases feral hog numbers and distribution because of illegal releases of more hogs into the wild to establish new populations for future hunting opportunities. Feral hogs travel in large groups. Because of their high reproductive rate, the entire group needs to be removed at once. Otherwise, the remaining hogs quickly replace those that were removed, and no progress is made toward eliminating the entire population. Hunters typically only take one or two hogs from the group and the rest scatter to new areas and become smarter and more difficult to remove. Trapping is the most effective method for eliminating this invasive species. Therefore, the Department banned the take of feral hogs on all lands owned, leased, or managed by the Department. Other agencies have passed similar regulations on lands they own and manage. The Department appreciates the support shown by the Conservation Federation of Missouri through this resolution.

Please feel free to contact Wildlife Management Coordinator Alan Leary at 573-522-4115 ext. 3693 or Alan.Leary@mdc.mo.gov if you have further questions or comments.

Sincerely,

SARA PARKER PAULEY
DIRECTOR

COMMISSION

DON C. BEDELL
Sikeston

MARILYNN J. BRADFORD
Jefferson City

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Columbia

WM. L. (BARRY) ORSCHELN
Columbia