

**Originating Committee:** Big Game, Turkey, and Furbearers Committee

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**Intended Recipient:** Missouri Department of Conservation

**Support of Science-Based Management of Black Bears**

1 **WHEREAS**, black bear populations in Missouri have been increasing by 9 percent each year in the past  
2 few years and continue to increase and disperse throughout the state, due to high survival rates; and

3 **WHEREAS**, this increase in Missouri black bear numbers has resulted in an increase in bear sightings,  
4 including in urban areas near major roads; and

5 **WHEREAS**, at least two interactions already have required the Missouri Department of Conservation  
6 (MDC) to intervene for the welfare of bears and humans; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the public is not accustomed to these greater numbers of black bears and might not be  
8 prepared for increased interactions with black bears if the population is left unchecked; and

9 **WHEREAS**, states with sufficient populations of black bears have successful hunting seasons without  
10 negatively affecting bear populations; and

11 **WHEREAS**, MDC’s proposed plan includes three bear hunting management zones, each re-evaluated  
12 annually to determine the maximum potential harvest quota per zone; and

13 **Whereas**, the hunting season outlined in MDC’s Black Bear Management Plan will last ten days or until  
14 the maximum quota is reached; and

15 **WHEREAS**, MDC has used science-based management practices since its creation in 1937, and this is  
16 important to uphold the MDC black bear management program’s goal to “use science-based methods to  
17 manage a self-sustaining population of black bear, a native species, increase bear awareness, minimize  
18 human-bear conflict, and provide recreational opportunities for all Missourians”; and

19 **WHEREAS**, these science-based practices have included measurable objectives, evidence,  
20 transparency, and independent review; now, therefore, be it

21 **RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021, that  
22 the Conservation Federation of Missouri strongly supports the Missouri Department of Conservation’s  
23 science-based of black bears, including carefully regulated hunting to maintain a healthy bear population  
24 at levels that are biologically sustainable and socially acceptable, and urges the Missouri Department of  
25 Conservation to continue educating the public about hunting as part of black bear management.

26 Searchable Keywords: black bear, hunting, season, sustainable, management, science-based.

27 **Expires:** March 6, 2026