

3 **Originating Committee:** Forest Resources and Management Committee

4 **Author(s):** Brian Schweiss adapted from an issue briefing of the Missouri Forest Resource Advisory
5 Council

6 **Intended Recipient(s):** Missouri Congressional Delegation

7 **CFM Support for Hardwood Trees in the Farm Bill**

8 **WHEREAS**, for the first time in the 33-year history of the Conservation Reserve Program
9 (CRP), language of the 2018 farm Bill, Section 2201 (d)(2)(A), and provisions of the Code of
10 Federal Regulations (CFR), 7 CFR 718.2, 7 CFR 1410.2 and 7 CFR 1410.62 significantly
11 discriminate against hardwood tree plantings in Missouri and the nation; and

12 **WHEREAS**, only hardwood tree contracts are limited to one re-enrollment period, while this
13 limitation does not apply to other CRP plantings, whether softwood trees (pines), grasses or
14 legumes; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the CFR contains provisions that disallow the re-enrollment of tree practices when
16 a contract expires, such as in a year when there is no general CRP signup; and

17 **WHEREAS**, these provisions are biased against hardwood tree plantings, and their continued
18 management, thereby making planting of hardwood trees counter to the economic interest of the
19 farmer; and

20 **WHEREAS**, trees provide some of the best opportunities for long-term public benefits including
21 carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, wood products, lower soil erosion, streambank stability,
22 and improvements to water quality; and

23 **WHEREAS**, these benefits to society extend far beyond the maximum 30-year enrollment limit
24 currently imposed by the 2018 Farm Bill; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Farm Bill is reauthorized and amended every 4-5 years; now, therefore, be it

26 **RESOLVED**, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri, assembled this 6th day of March,
27 2021, calls for revisions to current and future Farm Bills and the Code of Federal Regulations
28 that reflect equal treatment of Conservation Reserve Program plantings and their maintenance
29 especially in regard to hardwood tree plantings.

30 Searchable Keywords: Conservation Reserve Program, CRP, trees, hardwood trees, Farm Bill.

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