

Originating Committee: Environment and Ecology

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Intended Recipient: Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Amphibian Chytrid Awareness

WHEREAS, amphibian chytrid fungus, (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, or BD), is a water-borne fungus that infects frogs, toads, salamanders, and other amphibians; and

WHEREAS, BD inhabits moist soil and fresh water, and is found on plants, algae, or invertebrates; and

WHEREAS, BD infection can be fatal to amphibians; and

WHEREAS, BD spreads from infected amphibians through motile spores released into the environment; and

WHEREAS, amphibians worldwide are dwindling both in numbers and distribution, and according to the latest assessment of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, at least 33% of all extant amphibian species worldwide are at risk of extinction; and

WHEREAS, amphibians add to the overall biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Missouri is home to 43 amphibian species that are important links in the food chain, eating pests and other insects and providing food for other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, 40-60% of central newts (*Notophthalmus viridescens louisianensis*) in Missouri have tested positive for BD; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to unintentionally spread BD by moving amphibians, live bait, and invertebrates from one area to another; and

WHEREAS, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts can help prevent the spread of BD by taking simple precautions; and

WHEREAS, current BD treatments are invasive, requiring the amphibians to be captured and treated with fungicide in a lab; and

WHEREAS, fungicide treatments of large bodies of water are expensive and impractical, making prevention of the spread of BD a better alternative; and

WHEREAS, public awareness is essential to slow the spread of BD and its negative effects; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri, assembled this 6th day of March, 2021, encourages the Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Department of Natural Resources to inform Missourians about the threat of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (BD) and how they can prevent the spread of BD, and to promote the practice of basic sanitation regimens between bodies of water.

Searchable Keywords: Chytrid, Amphibian, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, BD, Missouri Department of Conservation, MDC, Department of Natural Resources, DNR, Education, Anglers, Boaters, Central Newt, *Notophthalmus viridescens louisianensis*, frogs, toads, salamanders

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