

**2021 Resolutions**

**Originating Committee:** Wetland and Waterfowl

**Author(s):** George Seek, David Graber, Dale Humburg

**Intended Recipient(s):** Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)

**Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) support of Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) intensively managed wetland areas and a Missouri Wetland and Waterfowl Symposium**

**WHEREAS**, wetlands provide essential ecological services affecting flood storage, water quality, nutrient and sediment filtering, ground-water recharge, as well as a broad range of biological and societal benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, wetlands provide aesthetic and recreational opportunities for viewing, education, hunting, and fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri has lost 90% of its original wetland habitats and the remainder occur in a highly altered landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, landscape, climate, and societal changes continue to occur, thus increasing the long-term threat to wetland functions and values; and

**WHEREAS**, through the passage of “Design for Conservation” and the 1/8 of 1% sales tax all Missourians made a significant investment in the acquisition, restoration, infrastructure, and management of MDC intensively managed wetlands; and

**WHEREAS**, the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants and the Corps of Engineers (COE) Missouri River Mitigation projects that involve working with many federal, state, local, and non-profit partners, resulted in major funding assistance in restoring Missouri wetlands; and

**WHEREAS**, recent infrastructure design and development of MDC intensively managed wetlands is considered “state of the art” for withstanding flood damage and providing a diversity of habitats for wetland wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, this investment has made measurable impacts on wetland wildlife and related public use both locally and on a continental scale; and

**WHEREAS**, the current MDC wetland objectives were developed in partnership with national and joint venture planning initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, managed wetlands on MDC areas serve as models for management of private and other public wetlands; and

**WHEREAS**, best management practices for wetlands require up to date knowledgeable staff to achieve a balanced management program that will result in the desired vegetative and wildlife responses; and

**WHEREAS**, biologists and waterfowl hunters alike have questions relating to the impacts habitat loss, climate change, agriculture, refuges, and wetland management are having on the distribution of waterfowl and corresponding hunting success throughout the Mississippi flyway; and

**WHEREAS**, ongoing management and related infrastructure must “keep pace” with ecological, landscape, and social changes; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri, assembled this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021, urges the Missouri Department of Conservation to maintain adequate staffing and resourcing of intensively managed wetland areas necessary to achieve desired management objectives; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri urges the Missouri Department of Conservation to maintain the investment in managed wetlands in Missouri and related management infrastructure and strategies that ensure the integration of diverse wildlife benefits and a broad range of public benefits thus perpetuating the model of waterfowl and wetlands conservation that has been a hallmark of Missouri conservation for more than 70 years; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that to provide the foundation for achieving the above results, the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) urges the Missouri Department of Conservation to partner with CFM’s Wetland and Waterfowl Resource Advisory Committee to develop a joint proposal for review by leadership of the two entities to carry out a Missouri Wetland and Waterfowl Symposium to be held during a future date but no later than 2022.

Searchable Keywords: symposium, waterfowl, Department of Conservation, intensively managed wetlands

Expires: March 6, 2026