

Missouri Wilderness Coalition Newsletter
March 2007

MWC Affiliates and Friends –

Since distribution of our report and proposal a few weeks ago, several developments have taken place. For one thing we have been in contact with several other citizen groups who have a strong interest in Missouri wilderness and wildlands. In particular, we have met with **Jim Scheff** of the Missouri Forest Alliance to discuss how we can best coordinate the good efforts of his group along with those of MWC. Jim brings new blood to the public land arena and has begun to stimulate a new constituency of conservationists. We intend to work toward an effective level of coordination and cooperation with him and with them.

Even more importantly, a huge step forward was achieved on March 17 and 18 as the Conservation Federation of Missouri adopted a strong resolution in favor of protection of the Seven Sensitive Areas of our current proposal under the provisions of the Wilderness Act (see the attached working draft). This resolution was introduced, considered, and passed at CFM's annual conference at Lodge of the Four Seasons at Lake of the Ozarks. Key roles were played by CFM's executive director, **David Murphy**, who encouraged us to participate in the conference; **Ron Coleman**, who welcomed our presentation and the introduction of the resolution in the Parks Committee which he chairs; **Abe Philips**, who shepherded the Parks Committee proposal through the Resolutions Committee process; and especially **Ed Stegner**, who spoke favorably on the resolution from his veteran's experience as a leader of the earliest campaign on behalf of wilderness back in the 1970's. All of these gentlemen, and others, deserve our thanks for

this critically important endorsement. The Federation's strength and credibility will play a vital role as this campaign moves forward.

We intend to keep you posted as events unfold, and remind you that we continue to need your help and support.

Until next time,

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