

Missouri Wilderness Coalition

Newsletter #4

June 2007

Our May Newsletter reported on new endorsements for the MWC proposal, and since then Ozark Greenways of Springfield, the L-A-D Foundation, and Audubon Missouri have signed on. This now brings us up to 11 endorsing organizations. Additional signups are pending as this is written. We attach for your enjoyment copies of the St. Louis Audubon and Missouri Parks Association statements of support. In addition, our list of individual supporters, such as yourself, now includes 90 names, and also continues to grow. We expect this progress to continue.

Also, since the April 29th meeting in Rolla with The Missouri Forest Alliance, Jim Scheff has produced a statement incorporating the agreement that emerged from that discussion. A copy is attached. There is no provision of this statement which we feel any MWC affiliate needs to hesitate in supporting.

We also attach several new photos. We now have a portfolio of all seven areas and can produce them for presentation at meetings or to officials. For your convenience, all of these images can also be downloaded from the MWC website at this address: <http://www.mowild.org/photos.htm> . We can always use additional images; please let us know if you have any pictures you would be willing to share.

The most important purpose for this Newsletter is to advise that with all that is happening we really need to get as many of us as possible together to plan our strategy for the campaign ahead. Many of us have not seen each other for years, and there are also many new friends to meet and enjoy. Accordingly, we ask that you set aside the date of July 21. Thanks to the hospitality of Dave Murphy and The Conservation Federation of Missouri, we plan to gather at:

Conservation Federation of Missouri
728 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO

For the convenience of all, we will meet from 11:00 – 2:00 to allow for travel time. You may bring a lunch or order out from the meeting. MWC will provide beverages.

This will not be a full conference, but rather a strategy meeting. Among our goals will be:

1. to see and be with each other again, or for the first time;
2. to identify the steps we need to take to introduce and pass legislation enacting our proposal;
3. each of us must accept some task(s) towards implementing those steps;
4. to plan for future communication and perhaps a full conference somewhere down the road.

Dave and John will send-out a more specific meeting announcement closer to the date.

In the meantime, we already know that the backbone of any wilderness campaign is the personal and thoughtful expression of support by the constituents of those who will be most critical for the enactment of our legislation, our Missouri Congressional delegation. As a Missouri citizen, you have three members of Congress whose job it is to specifically represent you: your Congressional Representative and your two U.S. Senators. As the very first phase of this campaign, we ask that you write a letter to these three individuals right away. The most important points to make are:

1. That you support the MWC proposal for the protection and designation of the seven wilderness areas.
2. That you ask them to also support the proposal, and to enact legislation toward that end.
3. If you have any personal knowledge or experience of any of the areas, or of any wilderness in Missouri or elsewhere, it is always helpful to include that.

Send your Senate letters to:

Senator Kit Bond
274 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5721
<http://bond.senate.gov/contact/contactme.cfm>

and

Senator Claire McCaskill
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6154
<http://mccaskill.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

Send your House letters to:

District 1

Representative William Lacy Clay
434 Cannon House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515
(202) 225-2406
<http://lacyclay.house.gov/contact.htm>

District 2

Representative Todd W. Akin
117 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2561
<http://akin.house.gov/contact.html#>

District 3

Representative Russ Carnahan
1710 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2671
<http://carnahan.house.gov/contact.shtml>

District 4

Representative Ike Skelton
2206 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2504
(202) 225-2876
<http://www.house.gov/skelton/zipauth.htm>

District 5

Representative Emanuel Cleaver
1641 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4535
<http://www.house.gov/cleaver/IMA/issue.htm>

District 6

Representative Sam Graves
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-7041
<http://www.house.gov/graves/contact.shtml>

District 7

Representative Roy Blunt
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2507
(202) 225-6536
<http://www.blunt.house.gov/Contact.aspx>

District 8

Representative Jo Ann Emerson
2440 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4404
<http://www.house.gov/emerson/contact/>

District 9

Representative Kenny Hulshoff
409 Cannon Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2956
<http://hulshof.house.gov/Contact.aspx>

Organizational letters are vital also, and can be addressed to as many of our nine representatives as your group's membership includes, plus the two senators.

If possible, we also ask that you send copies of your letters to MWC headquarters in Boss, MO. We will want to discuss the delegation's responses to our letters at the meeting in July, so please send them fairly soon.

By the way, several have inquired about our MWC address, the old one having for years been in Columbia. Boss, Missouri, is a very small community in Dent County on the banks of the upper Huzzah Creek within the boundaries of the Mark Twain National Forest. That community was in part founded by pioneering members of the family of one of our leaders, Scott Merritt, who has maintained ties there and owns the old family farm. It is a beautiful place, and we could not ask for a more appropriate MWC home. Thanks to Scott for allowing us to use the address. (Perhaps one day we'll have a meeting there).

Also in regard to housekeeping, MWC has always operated on a shoestring, and we plan no deviation from that approach. But certain basic expenses still do occur for postage, printing, and the like, and we have at present no organizational sponsorship to cover such expenses. So far in this campaign we have simply paid for them ourselves. But we have set up a bank account in Salem, and we do hope you will consider making a contribution to help us pay for basic limited expenses. Make any checks out to the Missouri Wilderness Coalition, at the address on this newsletter.

That covers things for now. Have a great June and we'll see you in July!

John Karel

Greg Iffrig

Scott Merritt

Missouri Wilderness Coalition

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