

MOSCB RESOLUTION ON GRAVEL MINING

written November 29, 2004

to be presented and voted on at the annual business meeting, February 2, 2005

Resolution text: The Missouri Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology shall sign on as a supporter of the petition on Missouri gravel mining sponsored by the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, Missouri Smallmouth Bass Alliance, Missouri Trout Unlimited, Ozark Fly Fishers, and the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Petition text: "We, the undersigned citizens, businesses, and organizations of the state of Missouri and non-resident visitors who contribute to Missouri tourism, hereby express our support for strengthening enforceable protections of water quality in Missouri rivers and streams. We oppose any weakening of existing statutes and regulations governing the excavation standards, permitting, and reporting of in-stream sand and gravel mining."

This resolution meets the objectives of the Society for Conservation Biology in that it: 1) promotes conservation and responsible stewardship; 2) advances a position on public policy; and 3) creates a forum of awareness and involvement for Chapter members.

This resolution is needed to support a petition that will be sent to the Missouri state legislature in 2005. The goal of the petition is to prevent the weakening of gravel mining statutes and regulations in Missouri, which are currently being challenged by parties interested in gravel mining. Pro-mining changes to existing legislation may be devastating to Missouri rivers and streams and their associated flora and fauna.

Scientific documentation about the harmful effects of gravel mining includes:

Roell, MJ. 1999. Sand and gravel mining in Missouri stream systems: aquatic resource effects and management alternatives. Missouri Department of Conservation Technical Report. 25pp. (and references therein)

Doisy KE, Rabeni CF. 2004. Effects of suspended sediment on native Missouri fishes: A literature review and synthesis. Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Columbia, Missouri. 167 pp. (and references therein)

Proposed recipients of this resolution will be the sponsors of the gravel mining petition.

Disclaimer of responsibility: Resolutions of the Missouri Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society for Conservation Biology.