

# CONSERVATION PRIORITIES



## MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN *Fiscal Years 2017–2019*

### **Our Mission**

To protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state; to facilitate and provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources.

### **Our Values**

**Excellent public service is essential**

We work to deliver more than is expected.

**All citizens are important**

We respect their opinions and value their trust.

**Missourians are partners to achieve conservation success**

We communicate openly and look for ways to make it easier to partner.

**Fairness, objectivity, sound science, integrity, accountability,  
and transparency guide our actions**

**Employees are the Department's most important asset**

We all work to advance conservation by being results driven, working as a team, serving as ambassadors for conservation, and living out the conservation ethic through our actions.

### **Our Vision**

A future with healthy fish, forests, and wildlife where all people appreciate nature.



# Conservation Priorities

The Conservation Department's mission and vision are achieved by sustaining and improving fish, forest, and wildlife resources; connecting citizens to fish, forest, and wildlife resources; increasing citizen access to fish, forest, and wildlife resources; and enhancing operational excellence and superior customer service.

The following conservation priorities are the most important areas of emphasis for the next three years.

## **Cultivate a conservation ethic by promoting the relevance, importance, and value of fish, forests, and wildlife.**

This means increasing understanding and interest in natural resources beginning at an early age; communicating the social and economic value and quality of life provided by fish, forests, and wildlife; increasing citizen participation in outdoor activities; and partnering with landowners, non-profits, businesses, agricultural groups, communities, schools, and others to increase support of fish, forest, and wildlife conservation efforts.

## **Focus fish, forest, and wildlife management in identified priority geographies.**

This means implementing the Department's comprehensive conservation strategy; coordinating with partners to identify the best opportunities to invest resources on a larger scale across the landscape that will sustain fish, forests, and wildlife; and targeting land acquisition in priority geographies.

## **Help citizens connect with fish, forests, and wildlife where they live, through a statewide approach to community conservation.**

This means providing citizens across the state with opportunities to learn about and experience the outdoors where they live; providing technical assistance to communities and partner organizations to help citizens protect fish, forests, and wildlife; and demonstrating and promoting conservation-friendly development practices in urban settings.

## **Promote water quality and quantity for healthy fish, forest, and wildlife resources.**

This means working with partners, including individuals, farmers, landowners, communities, non-profits, and other governmental agencies to promote best practices and policies that ensure sufficient aquatic habitat for fish, forests, and wildlife; communicating to citizens the relationship between water quality and quantity and healthy fish, forests, and wildlife; and setting an example for best practices in fish, forest, and wildlife management activities.

## **Implement a strategic approach to land acquisition to enhance habitat management and public access.**

This means focusing land acquisition to both maximize fish, forest, and wildlife habitat conservation and increase citizen access to outdoor opportunities near where they live; and partnering with private landowners to implement voluntary access and easement programs.

## **Implement an equitable compensation system that balances fiscal responsibility with the ability to attract, retain, and develop staff.**

This means investing in high-performing staff to deliver fish, forest, and wildlife conservation to Missourians; enhancing the Department's ability to recruit staff that reflect the diversity of the citizens we serve; and providing incentives for staff to advance their skills and abilities in both leadership and supervisory assignments.

