

## **KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

### **PROMOTE CONTINUOUS CRP AS MEANS OF MAKING FARMING EASIER AND UPLAND BIRD FRIENDLY**

**Whereas**, in Kansas, most land is privately owned and in agricultural production and therefore most upland bird (pheasant and quail) habitat is on private farm land; and

**Whereas**, edge habitat occurring when two cover types meet has decreased due to changes in farming practices and the trend to ever larger field sizes by removing fence rows, etc., resulting in huge fields of a single crop like wheat or corn with limited benefit to upland birds; and

**Whereas**, the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program , CCRP, a USDA conservation program is available to retire small acreages of land for specific conservation purposes (buffers), normally planted to native grass and allow the majority of the field to be farmed as usual; and

**Whereas**, CCRP is open to continuous enrollment and farmers can enroll in a variety of practices. Examples include filter strips along each side of a defined drainage, field borders around the perimeter of a field and SAFE which can be small parts within the field for wildlife habitat; and

**Whereas**, there is a great need and opportunity to enroll more land in CCRP, creating better soil conservation and increasing diversity along with upland bird habitat.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting, Feb 22, 2014 in Salina, recommends the start of a publicity campaign to market CCRP buffers to members of the Kansas Conservation Coalition, National Resources Conservation Service at the national, state and county levels and private landowners; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that KWF emphasize practices that will make farming more efficient, by eliminating point rows and other hard to farm places, as an incentive to gain participation by landowner/tenants.