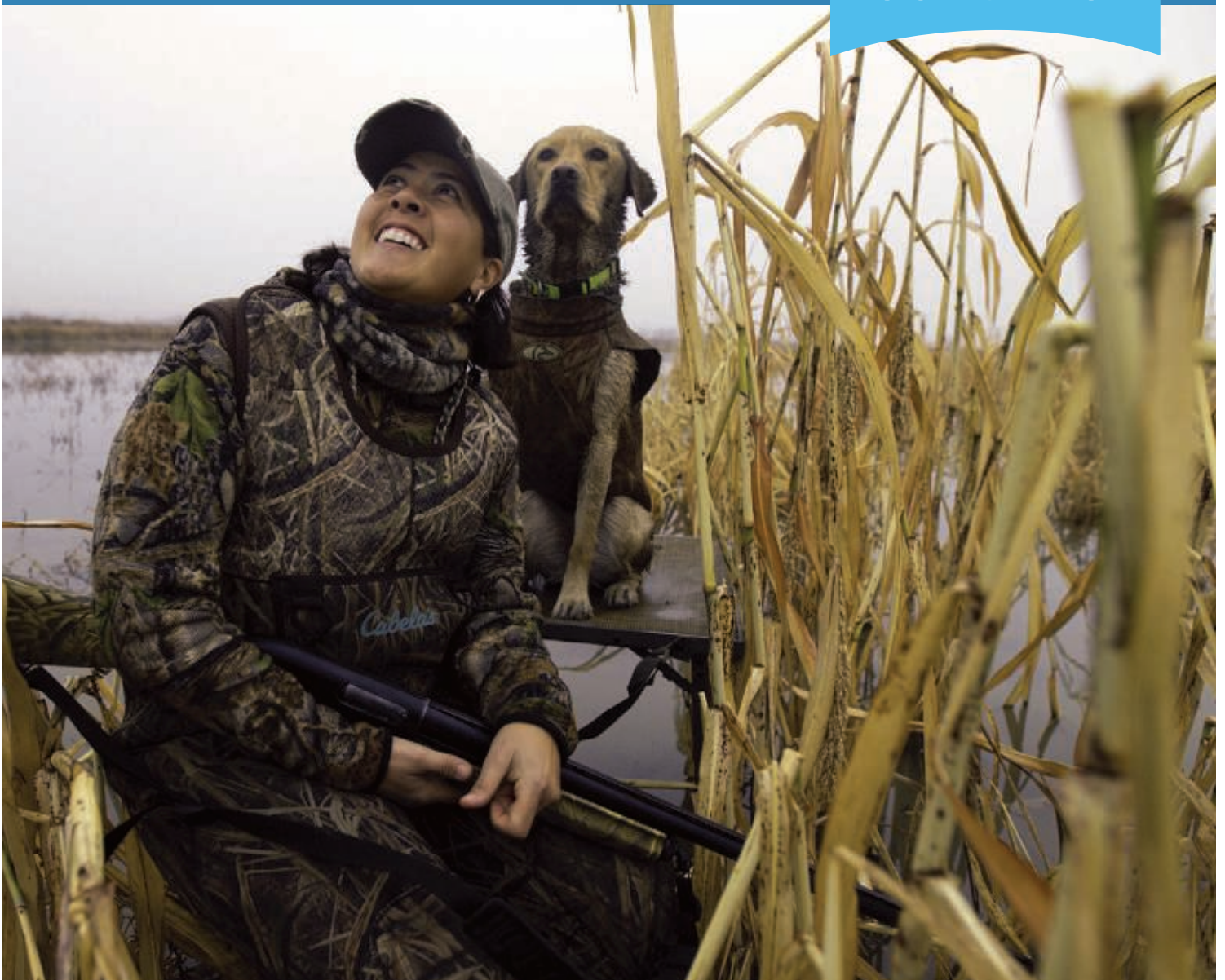


THE INSTITUTE OF
FISHERIES, WETLANDS
AND AQUATIC SYSTEMS

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI



MISSOURI
CONSERVATION
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION



case for support SUMMARY

Overview

THE INSTITUTE WILL:

- **Bring together diverse partners** to collectively define priority challenges.
- **Conduct key, cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research** needed to anticipate, inform or resolve priority issues and maintain healthy fisheries, wetlands and aquatic systems in Missouri, regionally, nationally, and internationally.
- **Ensure conservation workforce development** through internships, cooperative education efforts and graduate assistance programs that guarantee the next generation of researchers, conservationists, managers, and industry leaders are trained in a setting that provides real-world learning opportunities and cross-disciplinary training.
- **Develop and support public policy** focusing on integrated conservation and economics of water, fish and wildlife resources, agriculture, and associated outdoor recreation.
- **Communicate knowledge gained through an array of platforms**, including conferences, scientific and popular publications to convey information affecting the lives and decisions of every citizen.
- **Build a pipeline of talent** to help fill recurring vacancies at the Missouri Department of Conservation, as well as conservation agencies/organizations across the country.

The Institute will be designed to drill down on issues affecting freshwater ecosystems, from agriculture to aquifers to streams, lakes, and wetlands, and guide development of incentive- and technology-based policies and solutions with minimal regulatory impact.



All living things depend on clean and sustainable sources of water. Our goal is to create a national model for private/public partnerships that advance sustainable conservation of fisheries, wetlands, and other aquatic systems by integrating areas of study that often have been addressed separately. We will ensure that future generations have access to world-class fishing, hunting, nature-based recreation, functioning wetlands, clean water, productive agricultural systems, and natural resource-based economies that are even better than we enjoy today.

The Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF), in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and University of Missouri (MU), will establish an **Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems** within the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) at MU. **This Institute will train the next generation of aquatic systems conservationists, environmental scientists and researchers, and serve as a national center of research, knowledge and best management practices impacting fisheries, wildlife, wetlands and aquatic systems.**

The cost

The Institute will be developed in several phases with the initial investment in Phase I being \$10 million in endowment, faculty, and operation funding provided by the partners. The Missouri Conservation Commission has made a lead matching gift of \$1 million to the MCHF endowment and MU has pledged \$3 million for faculty positions as part of the partnership. The U.S. Geological Survey is contributing in-kind support in the amount of \$365,000 for faculty. Overall, MCHF and its partners are committed to building the endowment to \$30 million over the next 10 years. The Institute offers several naming opportunities as part of the funding.

**MCHF & its partners
committed to endow
\$30 million
over next 10 years.**