

# Rudolf Bennitt Conservation Area

## Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan FY 2019-2033



Lisa G. Allen

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**Forestry Division Chief**

5/23/2018

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**Date**

## Rudolf Bennitt Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

### PLANNING TEAM

A.J. Campbell, Resource Forester (Area Manager)

Steven Noll, Wildlife Management Biologist

Darby Niswonger, Fisheries Management Biologist

Chris Newbold, Natural History Biologist

Tyler Mason, Conservation Agent

Justin McGuire, Outdoor Skills Specialist

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### CENTRAL REGION

RCT Chair

Thomas M. Strother III

5/8/2018

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*Date*

### FORESTRY DIVISION

Forest Management Chief

Justine Gartner

5/16/2018

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*Date*

## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Rudolf Bennitt Conservation Area, #6214
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** Original tract was acquired in 1962.
- **Acreage:** 3,575 acres
- **County:** Boone, Howard, and Randolph
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
  - A. **Strategic Direction**

Manage forest, woodland, wildlife, and aquatic resources, as well as compatible recreational opportunities.
  - B. **Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Rudolf Bennitt Conservation Area (CA) is a landscape of diverse natural communities that provide habitat for wildlife and a variety of recreational opportunities for users.
  - C. **Federal Aid Statement**

This area, or a portion thereof, was acquired with Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration funds to restore and manage wildlife, conserve and restore suitable wildlife habitat, and provide public access for hunting or other wildlife-oriented recreation.

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. **Special Considerations**
  - A. **Priority Areas:** None
  - B. **Natural Areas:** None
  
- II. **Important Natural Features and Resources**
  - A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the natural history biologist.
  - B. **Caves:** None
  - C. **Springs:** None
  
- III. **Existing Infrastructure**
  - Four parking lots, including one Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible parking lot at Rudolph Bennitt Lake
  - Six camping areas with a total of 27 camping sites
  - One ADA-accessible concrete boat ramp

- Two ADA-accessible docks (one fishing and one courtesy dock)
- One ADA-accessible privy
- One unstaffed shooting range
- Moniteau Trail, hike/bike/horse multi-use trail (12.5 miles)
- Rudolf Bennitt Lake, 48-acre fishing lake
- 42 nonstocked small ponds (22 acres total)

**IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**

**A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None

**B. Federal Interest:** Uses of land acquired with federal funds may not interfere with the purpose for which it was acquired. Federal funds may also be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

**C. Easements:** County road and utility easements occur on this area.

**D. Cultural Resource Findings:** Yes, records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) environmental compliance coordinators. Managers should follow best management practices for cultural resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.

**E. Endangered Species:** Endangered species are not known from this site, but are found in the surrounding area. Area managers should consult annually with the natural history biologist.

**F. Boundary Issues:** Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.

**MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

**V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations**

Rudolf Bennitt CA is primarily forested. Other terrestrial resources at the area include woodland habitat, old field habitat, remnant and restored prairie habitat, and savanna habitat. The forests and woodlands are composed primarily of white oak, red oak, and hickory species.

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Manage forests and woodlands to ensure long-term health and sustainability.
- 2) Maintain healthy forest, woodland, and savanna habitat for wildlife.
- 3) Maintain healthy forested riparian corridors.

**Management Objective 1: Manage forest and woodland resources to ensure long-term health and sustainability.**

Strategy 1: Conduct inventories on forest and woodland compartments according to the inventory schedule to develop prescriptions for ecological and silvicultural treatments. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Monitor forests and woodlands for invasive vegetation, diseases, and insects. Suppress any infestations that may develop. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Implement the inventory recommendations in a timely fashion. (Forestry)

Strategy 4: Utilize a variety of sustainable forest management techniques to promote healthy forest and woodland communities including, but not limited to, timber harvesting, forest thinning, firewood cutting, salvage cuttings, tree planting, seeding, and prescribed burning. (Forestry)

Strategy 5: Develop landscape level woodland management plan.

Strategy 6: Utilize best management practices during forest and woodland management, as described in the Department's manuals: *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests: 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014b) and *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines: Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014a). (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2: Maintain healthy forests and woodlands with management emphasis on wildlife habitat.**

Strategy 1: Implement forest stand prescriptions that are beneficial to wildlife. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Promote native vegetation while suppressing any invasive species, utilizing a variety of management techniques including, but not limited to, spraying, prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, disking, mowing, haying, grazing, and seeding. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Management Objective 3: Maintain riparian corridors on the area to minimize erosion.**

Strategy 1: Utilize best management practices during forest and woodland management, as described in the Department's manuals: *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests: 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014b) and *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines: Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014a). (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Periodically monitor habitat conditions of area streams to identify riparian corridors that need to be widened and establish appropriate vegetation, using tree planting, direct seeding, or allowing natural regeneration, as appropriate. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Implement and maintain beneficial riparian corridor practices, as outlined in the Department's *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009).

**Management Objective 4: Maintain or improve open lands for wildlife.**

Strategy 1: Maintain remnant prairie and savanna species, using a variety of management techniques, including prescribed burning, as needed. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Use prescribed fire and appropriate chemical and mechanical techniques to combat invasive species. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Continue limited rotational row-cropping through the Agricultural Crop Program in order to maintain quality early successional habitat. (Wildlife)

**VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations**

Aquatic resources on the Rudolf Bennett CA are extensive and provide excellent fishing opportunities. There are 42 small ponds (totaling 22 acres), 32 stream drainages (totaling 17.15 miles of stream), and a 48-acre fishing lake (Rudolf Bennett Lake) on the area.

***Area Lakes***

Rudolf Bennett Lake is the largest lake on the area and was built in 1999 by the Department in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as part of the Moniteau Creek Watershed Conservation Plan. The lake has 3.3 miles of shoreline, a volume of approximately 528 acre feet, a maximum depth of 36 feet, a watershed ratio of 13:1, and a mean depth of 11 feet. All 620 acres of the lake's watershed are contained within the Rudolf Bennett CA. The entire watershed is forested. Siltation and turbidity are minimal and should not create any significant fisheries management problems. The lake receives moderate public fishing pressure, and the current fishing regulations at the lake are statewide regulations. These regulations include a 12" to 15" protected slot length limit for largemouth bass, with a daily creel limit of six, and a daily creel limit of four channel catfish in aggregate.

Almost all of the 42 ponds on the area are fishless and each is less than 0.5 acres. These small shallow ponds were primarily built as water sources for wildlife. Over the years, many of the ponds have filled due to siltation and the accumulation of organic material,

making them more seasonal in nature. However, these fishless ponds provide ideal habitat for amphibians and reptiles. There are also a few larger ponds (1 to 2.2 acres each) that provide a limited fishery of largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish.

### ***Area Streams***

There are 32 stream drainages on the area that total 17.15 miles of stream frontage. There are 23 first-order streams (10.25 miles in length), six second-order streams (3.1 miles), three third-order streams (3.4 miles), and one fourth-order (0.4 miles) stream on the area. Perche Creek is the largest stream on the area and forms part of the area's eastern boundary. At its mouth, Perche Creek is a sixth-order permanent stream. The other large stream on the area is third-order Moniteau Creek. This stream is also classified as permanently flowing and forms part of the area's western boundary.

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain a productive fishery in Rudolf Bennitt Lake and all suitable area ponds.
- 2) Protect aquatic resources from erosion and non-point source pollution.
- 3) Maintain adequate fishless pond habitat for amphibians and other wildlife species.

### **Management Objective 1: Maintain, or develop and implement, management strategies, as needed, to maintain high quality sport fisheries in Rudolf Bennitt Lake and all suitable area ponds.**

Strategy 1: Monitor the fish community in Rudolf Bennitt Lake, based on its designation as a Priority 1 impoundment under the *Fisheries Management Public Lake Standardized Sampling Guidelines* (Eder, Nueswanger, & Dent, 1989). Sampling the fishery as needed by spring electrofishing. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Maintain a slot length limit of 12 to 15 inches and a daily limit of six largemouth bass, unless population indices cannot be met for three consecutive years. (Fisheries)

Strategy 3: Maintain the daily creel limit of 20 sunfish, unless population indices cannot be met for three consecutive years. (Fisheries)

Strategy 4: Maintain the daily creel limit of four catfish, unless population indices cannot be met for three consecutive years. (Fisheries)

Strategy 5: Maintain a quality sport fishery in all suitable area ponds through monitoring and best management practices. The fish community in area ponds will be monitored based on their designation as Priority 3 impoundments under the *Fisheries Management Public Lake Standardized Sampling Guidelines* (Eder, Nueswanger, & Dent, 1989). Priority 3 impoundment monitoring requires sampling the population by electrofishing triennially, or as needed. (Fisheries)

**Management Objective 2: Maintain or develop and implement management strategies, as needed, to enhance diversity and quality of all stream resources. Maintain and improve water quality and critical stream habitat areas for fish and other aquatic species throughout the area so that it is sufficient to support diverse aquatic biota.**

- Strategy 1: Ensure that the Rudolf Bennitt CA demonstrates best watershed, riparian corridor, and stream management practices. Maintain, expand, and restore riparian corridors, where inadequate, through natural regeneration and tree planting; enhance watershed management; improve in-stream habitat; and reduce streambank erosion throughout the area. Establish and/or maintain area fields in some type of native cover year-round to avoid excess soil erosion. Manage riparian corridors according to the Department's *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009). (Forestry)
- Strategy 2: Inventory area stream fish communities by electrofishing and seining to monitor fishery, species composition, and status by FY21. (Fisheries)
- Strategy 3: Develop and implement management recommendations, as needed, for area streams with erosion problems. Inspect all streambank stabilization practices annually for three years after completion and undertake appropriate corrective and maintenance activities if deemed necessary. (Fisheries)

**Management Objective 3: Manage all fishless ponds on the area for amphibian and wildlife benefits.**

- Strategy 1: Renovate ponds, as needed, and maintain as fishless to promote amphibians, reptiles, and other wildlife. Manage ponds as fishless based on recommendations provided in *Amphibian and Reptile Management on Conservation Department Impoundments* (Johnson, 1994), *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Missouri* (Johnson, 1997), and the *Amphibian and Reptile Management Guidelines* (Johnson, 1998). (Wildlife)
- Strategy 2: Enhance fishless ponds with aquatic vegetation plantings or installing basking logs where needed. (Wildlife)
- Strategy 3: Use chemical, biological, or mechanical methods to control aquatic vegetation, as deemed appropriate. (Fisheries)

**VII. Public Use Management Considerations**

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Provide for hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- 2) Maintain necessary infrastructure for equestrian users.
- 3) Provide fishing opportunities.



- 4) Build relationships with neighboring landowners.
- 5) Maintain multi-use trails.
- 6) Keep the area inviting for public use.
- 7) Provide opportunities for target shooting.
- 8) Enforce area and statewide regulations.

**Management Objective 1: Provide public hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.**

Strategy 1: Conduct management activities that will provide habitat for a diversity of species. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Conduct invasive species suppression, when necessary, to improve wildlife habitat. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Maintain accurate area information and regulations through the Atlas database, area brochures, posted information, and staff contacts with area users. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2: Provide for fishing opportunities in Rudolf Bennett Lake.**

Strategy 1: Communicate recreational opportunities to the public (e.g., using brochures, Atlas database). (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Maintain the lake dam in a mowed, non-brushy condition to meet Missouri Department of Natural Resources specifications. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Maintain the concrete boat ramp and docks for lake access. (Forestry)

Strategy 4: Develop and maintain signs and displays, as needed, that explain current regulations and management efforts. (Fisheries)

**Management Objective 3: Facilitate good working relationships with neighboring landowners.**

Strategy 1: Work with neighbors to minimize boundary, trespass or any other issues affecting Rudolf Bennett CA. (Forestry, Protection)

**Management Objective 4: Improve angler access at fishing areas.**

Strategy 1: Cut shoreline vegetation at existing bank-fishing areas on the dam, near boat ramp, and around the west side of the lake to keep grass and brush short for fishing. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Keep the boat ramp clear of debris and trash. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Monitor aquatic vegetation and treat/remove, as needed, to facilitate fishing access. (Fisheries)

**Management Objective 5: Keep the area inviting for public use.**

Strategy 1: Keep the parking lots graded and graveled. (Design and Development)

Strategy 2: Explore planting shade trees at camp sites. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Routinely clean and pump privy near Rudolf Bennitt Lake and provide portable toilets at the slab parking lot. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 6: Maintain hike/bike/horse multi-use trails for appropriate uses.**

Strategy 1: Routinely inspect trails for downed trees, erosion issues, and damage. Identify problem erosion areas and sections that need re-routing to improve sustainability and reduce maintenance. (Forestry, Design and Development)

Strategy 2: Remove downed and hazard trees from trails in a timely manner and repair trails where needed. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Explore partnership with local saddle clubs for the upkeep and improvement of trail segments. (Forestry)

Strategy 4: Identify and reach out to local horseback riding individuals and/or groups to facilitate communication about trail improvements. (Forestry)

Strategy 5: Update and maintain accurate signage on all trails consistent with Department guidelines. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 7: Furnish target-shooting opportunities to area users.**

Strategy 1: Maintain the firearms range according the *2013 Shooting Range Facility Program Manual* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2013) (Forestry, Outreach and Education, Design and Development)

Strategy 2: Evaluate the safety and accessibility of the range to all users. Submit appropriate requests for capital improvement and/or small construction projects as necessary. (Outreach and Education, Design and Development, Forestry)

Strategy 3: Develop Environmental Stewardship Plan and Standard Operation Procedure for shooting range during FY2018. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 8: Monitor and administer area and statewide regulations.**

Strategy 1: Ensure all Special Use Permit users and contractors are following standards set within the contractual agreement, and address violations in a punctual manner. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Regularly patrol and enforce the Wildlife Code of Missouri, with emphasis on off-trail abuse, vandalism, littering, and response to public complaints. (Protection, Forestry)

Strategy 3: Work in cooperation with conservation agents and other law enforcement to enforce and investigate violations of the Wildlife Code of Missouri and other state laws. (Forestry, Protection)

Strategy 4: Monitor and document multiple-use conflicts or concerns. Identify potential timing/seasonal use conflicts and modify special use permit conditions and dates, as needed, to minimize conflicts. (Forestry)

## VIII. Administrative Considerations

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 2) Consider acquisition of land, when available.

### **Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.**

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines. (Forestry)

### **Management Objective 2: Facilitate a good working relationship with neighboring land owners.**

Strategy 1: Promote habitat management on neighboring landowner properties. (Private Land Services, Forestry)

### **Management Objective 3: Maintain clearly identified property lines.**

Strategy 1: Inspect and maintain boundaries on a regular cycle. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Resolve boundary issues with adjoining landowners as they arise. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Determine and clearly mark all area boundaries. (Forestry)

### **Management Objective 4: Inform public about area regulations.**

Strategy 1: Maintain signs according to Department policy. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Maintain accurate and timely information on the Department's Atlas Database. Review information annually. (Forestry)

### **Lands Proposed for Acquisition:**

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.



## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

Rudolf Bennett Conservation Area (CA) contains 3,575 acres at the junction of Boone, Howard, and Randolph counties. It is named for Dr. Rudolf Bennett, a zoology professor who was instrumental in forming the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) in the 1930s. Bennett also served as technical advisor to the first Conservation Commission.

The original tract was purchased from 10 sellers in the mid-1960s, the largest former landowner being the Catholic Church of Moberly.

The mostly gentle, rolling terrain is 75 percent forested. Fields of native warm-season grasses and row crops are scattered among the forests. Before the area was purchased by the Department, the timber was grazed, logged, and burned by occasional fires sweeping through the area. Through forest management, the Department is trying to improve tree growth, quality, and diversity. Better forests provide wildlife habitat for animals such as deer, turkey, dove, and quail, and help maintain watershed quality. The Department has recently thinned a significant portion of the area’s woodlands and is periodically applying prescribed fire to promote native woodland vegetation and structure.

Rudolf Bennett Lake (48 acres) was built in 1999 by the Department in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service as part of the Moniteau Creek Watershed Conservation Plan. The lake provides a good fishery for bass, catfish, bluegill, crappie, and redear sunfish. Lake facilities include an ADA-accessible boat ramp, fishing dock, and privy.

Watering ponds were built and crop fields are planted under contract with local farmers to provide food for wildlife. Occasional tree harvests encourage shrub growth for animal forage and cover.

Hikers, bikers, and equestrians enjoy the Moniteau Trail. During all portions of the firearms deer season and spring turkey hunting season, the trails are closed to all other uses except hunting.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest and Woodland	2,833		79
Old Field	370		10
Grassland (non-prairie)	125		4
Savanna	120		3
Other	67		2

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Lakes/Ponds	60		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,575</b>		<b>100</b>
Streams		17.15	

**Public Input Summary:**

The draft Rudolph Bennett Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period Jan. 1–31, 2018. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from four respondents (Appendix A). The Rudolph Bennett Conservation Area Planning Team carefully reviewed and considered these ideas as they finalized this document. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they were incorporated or why they were not, can be found below. Rather than respond to each individual comment, comments are grouped into general themes and are addressed collectively.

Department responses to themes and issues identified through the Rudolph Bennett Conservation Area Management Plan public comment period.

**Suggests expanding equestrian trails. Suggestions include: expanding the Moniteau Trail to provide a looped trail for horse-drawn wagons, and adding a trail that runs parallel to CR 2910 to provide access to the existing trail.**

The area management team will begin allowing horse-drawn wagons on the existing trail loop at the end of the current wagon trail located on the east side of the area. The area map will be updated in fiscal year 2019 to reflect this change in use. Trail expansion, however, is not currently under consideration on this area due to infrastructure maintenance limitations.

**Suggests allowing hiking and horse-riding on the same trails, but not bicycling.**

Allowing multiple uses on the Moniteau Trail contributes to the Department mission of providing opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about the state’s fish, forest, and wildlife resources.

**Suggests making the area an archery-only property to improve the safety of hikers and equestrian users; and to prevent conflicts between neighboring landowners and rifle hunters.**

The Department is not currently considering altering the deer regulation on this area to archery only. This area is inside a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management zone where we believe lower deer densities will likely slow and reduce the disease spread. Area trails are closed to all uses but hunting during modern firearm deer seasons and spring turkey season for public safety reasons. This regulation is listed in the official area brochure, and the area management team places trail closure signs throughout the area prior to these seasons. Neighboring landowners

who are experiencing conflict with area hunters are encouraged to contact the area management team and/or local authorities.

**Appreciates the additional mounting blocks on the trails. Appreciates that the campground horse hay-racks were changed.**

Thank you for your comment. The equestrian mounting blocks were made possible by a partnership between the Department and the Back Country Horsemen of Missouri. The horse hay-racks were replaced because of comments from area users.

**Suggests enlarging the parking lot on CR 2910 to accommodate day-use riding traffic.**

Expanding parking lots is not currently under consideration due to infrastructure maintenance limitations.

**Suggests adding equestrian camping sites on the east side of the conservation area (as you enter the “Horse Camp”).**

Adding camping areas is not currently under consideration due to infrastructure maintenance limitations.

**Appreciates horse-riding opportunities provided at the area. Appreciates the area manager and staff’s cooperation and assistance in providing these opportunities. Appreciates how the area trails and infrastructure are maintained.**

Thank you for your comment. The area management team strives to provide safe and ample recreational opportunities and well-maintained facilities for the public.

**References:**

Eder, S., Nueswanger, D., & Dent, R. (1989). *Fisheries management public lake standardized sampling guidelines*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Johnson, T. R. (1994). *Amphibian and reptile management on Conservation Department impoundments*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Johnson, T. R. (1997). *The amphibians and reptiles of Missouri*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Johnson, T. R. (1998). *Amphibian and reptile management guidelines*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2013). *Shooting range facility program manual*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2009). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and waters managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014a). *Missouri forest management guidelines: Voluntary recommendations for well-managed forests*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014b). *Missouri watershed protection practice recommended practices for Missouri forests: 2014 management guidelines for maintaining forested watersheds to protect streams*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

**Maps:**

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Easement Map

Figure 3: Aerial Photograph

Figure 4: Topographic Map

Figure 5: Land Cover Map

**Additional Appendices:**

Appendix A: Rudolf Bennitt Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments



Figure 1: Area Map

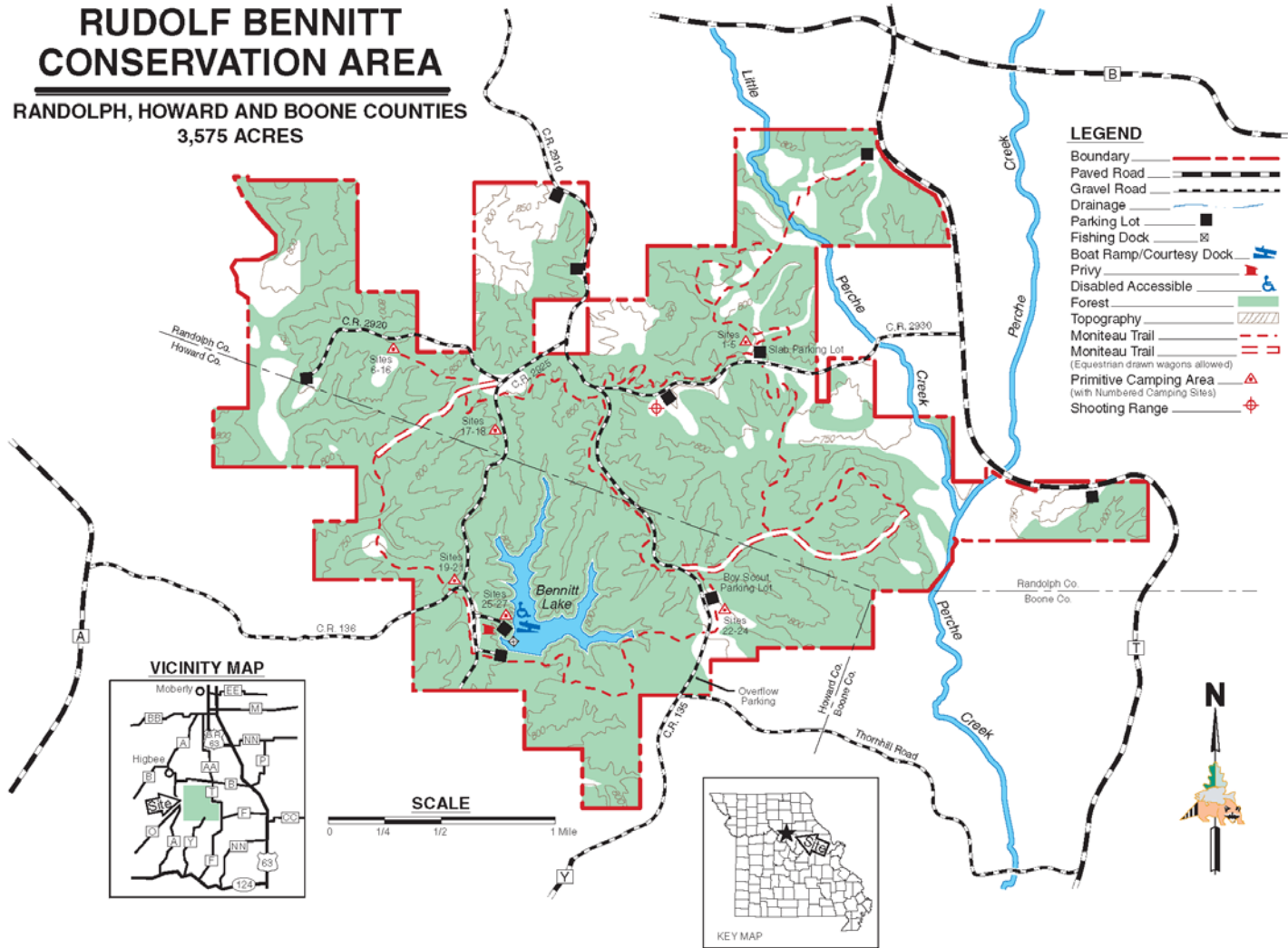


Figure 2: Easement Map

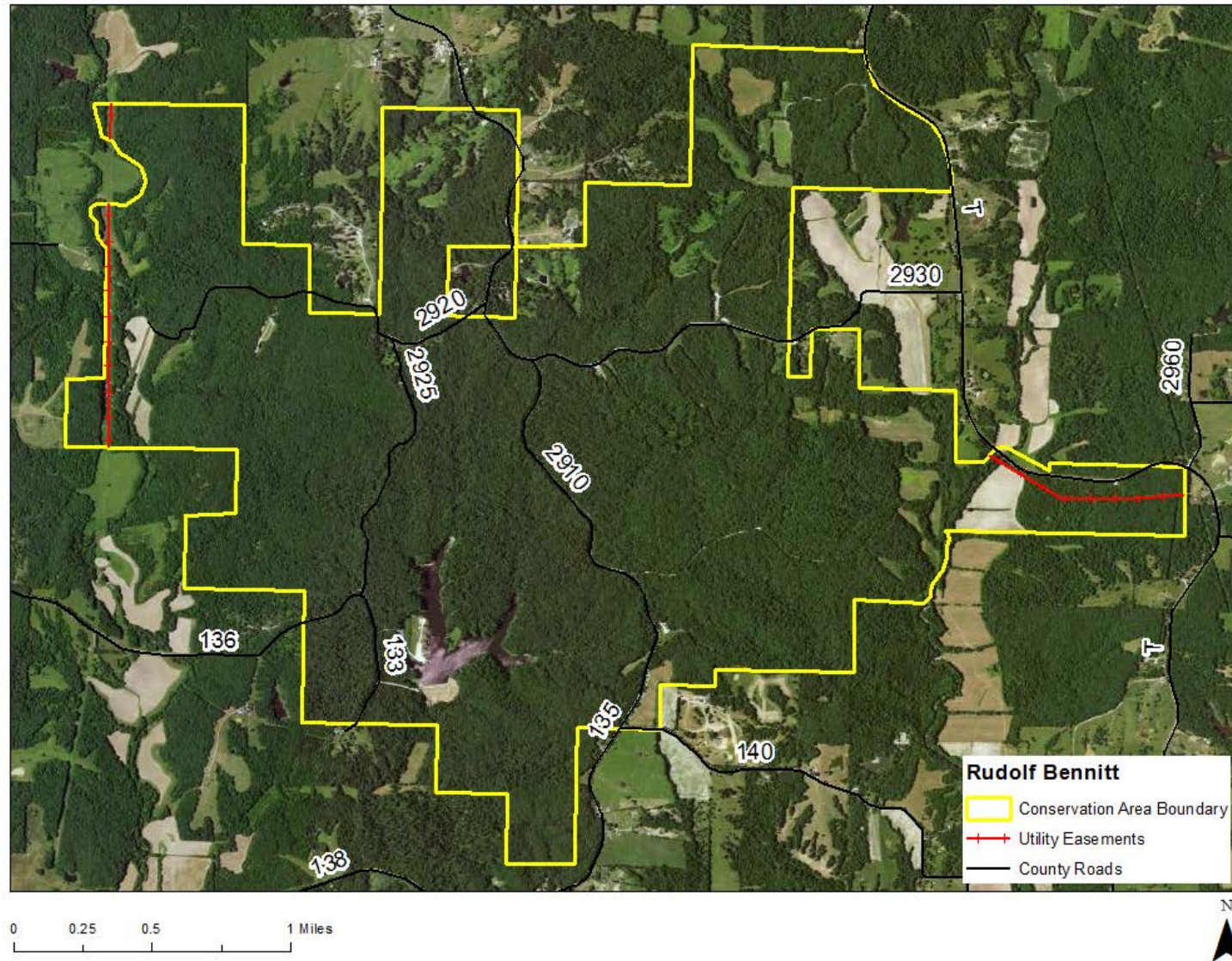


Figure 3: Aerial Photograph

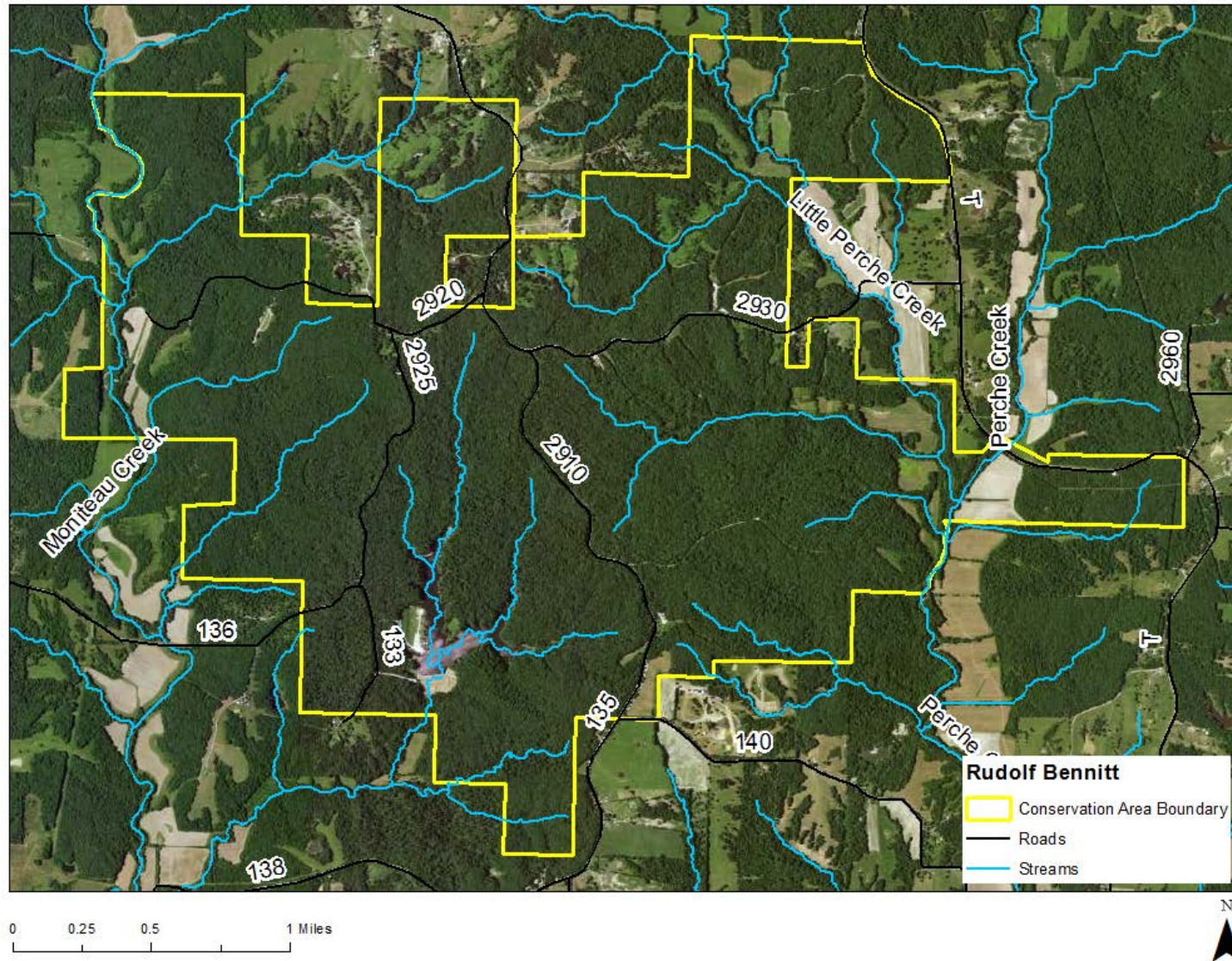


Figure 4: Topographic Map

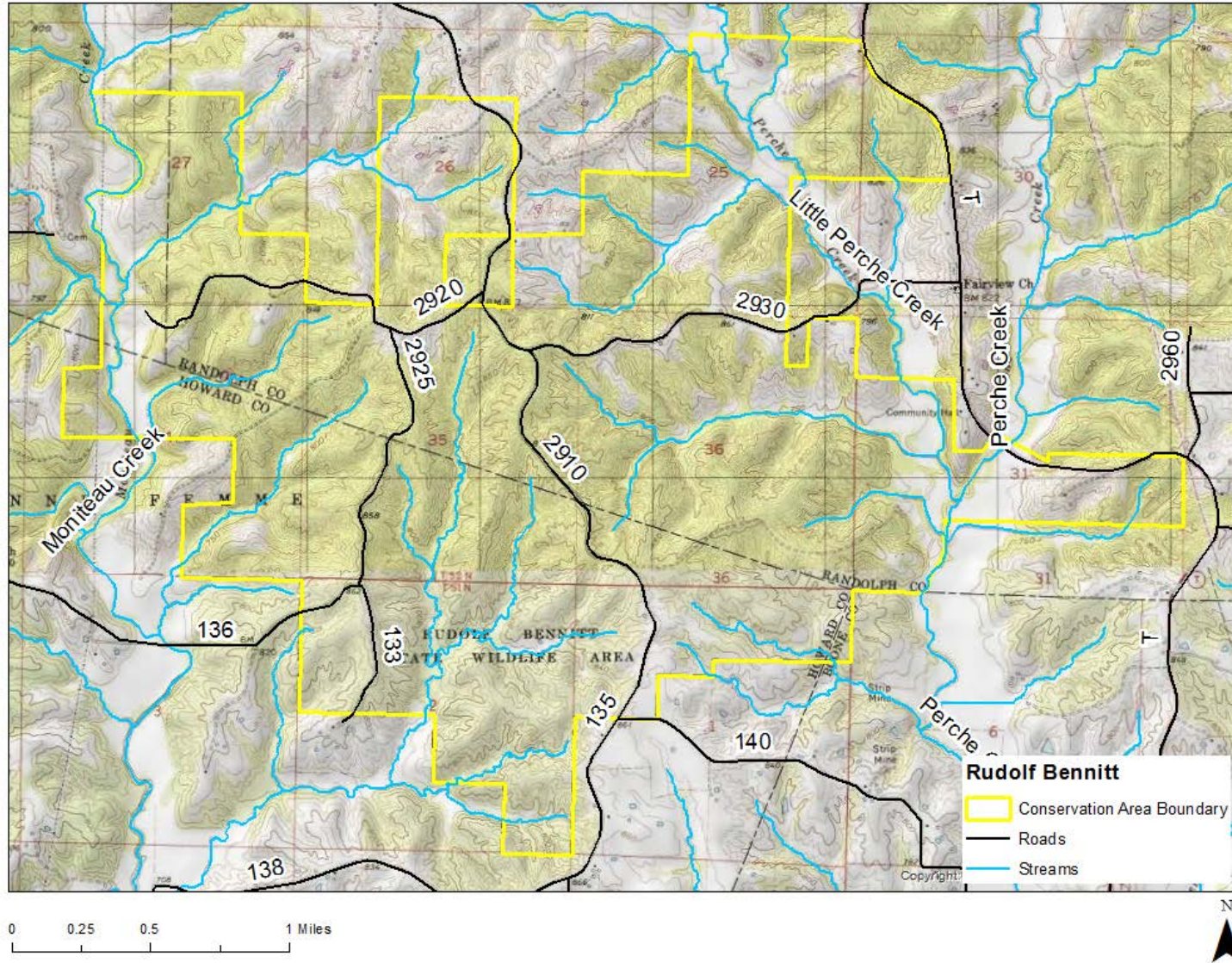
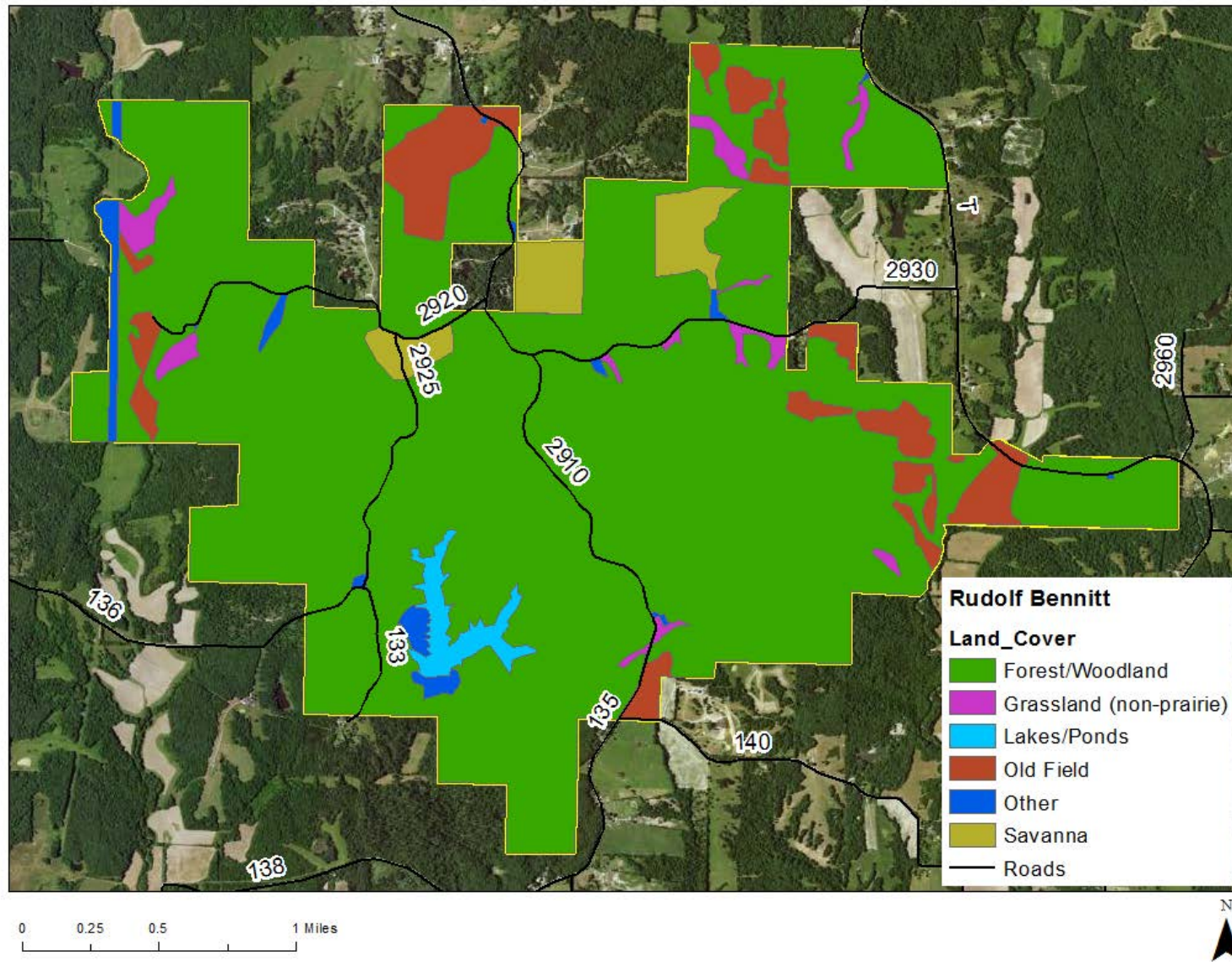


Figure 5: Land Cover Map



## Appendix A: Rudolph Bennett Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (Jan. 1–31, 2018):

Please maintain the equestrian trails and improve / expand them where possible; dedicating some if not all lengths of trail for hikers and equestrians only. Bikers and horses do NOT mix on many areas of trail and serious injuries can result. Thank you for all you do to maintain our natural areas.

Consider turning RB into an archery only property. I am and adjacent landowner and have had problems with rifle hunters throughout the years. With all of the horse/mule riders and hikers I think it is an unsafe environment and in the end someone will probably get hurt.

Thank you

Just a few thought for your consideration, and as always, thank you!

The Moniteau trail, which is open to horse drawn wagons, just stops. It would be nice if the rest of the trail were widened to its junction with the wide trail 1/2 mile further West. Then there would be a loop for horse drawn wagons.

Thank you for allowing additional mounting blocks.

Further consideration of enlarging the north parking lot on CR 2910 to handle day use riding. Also a parallel trail with the road to connect to the trail system.

Also, add additional equestrian camping spots on the east side just as you enter the Horse Camp

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Rudolf Bennett CA Management Plan. Trail riders appreciate MDC providing an excellent trail riding opportunity in this area, and we appreciate Area Manager A. J. Campbell and his staff being so cooperative and accommodating. They do a very good job of maintaining the trails and infrastructure.

The addition of the equestrian mounting block at the “Boy Scout” Area is a welcome amenity, and we look forward to the blocks planned to be installed at the “Slab” and “Horse Camp.” Thanks for changing hay racks at campgrounds to make them safer for the horses.

Here are a few suggestions to make a fine riding experience even better. I encourage consideration of enlarging the north parking lot on C.R. 2910 to accommodate horse trailer parking for day-use riding. Since C.R. 2910 has a lot of traffic, for safety of trail users and vehicle drivers I would also encourage a new trail (generally parallel to C.R. 2910) to connect to existing designated trail system. Since location of trailer parking has a big influence on trail use this day-use parking would help to balance use across the trail network.

I recommend adding four camping spots in the woods on the east side of the road as you enter the “Horse Camp.” There is plenty of room.

One section of the Moniteau Trail that is accessible to horse drawn wagons goes east off the county road just north of the “Boy Scout” Area. At present the widened, wagon-accessible

portion of that trail dead ends just west of Perche Creek. Please consider widening the trail from that point on around to its junction with the widened trail about ½ mile west—this would make the whole loop usable by horse drawn wagons.

Thank you for your consideration.