

Dean Davis Conservation Area

25-Year Area Management Plan FY 2020-2044



Justine Gartner

Forestry Division Chief

8/21/2019

Date

Dean Davis Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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7/26/2019

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8/13/2019

Signature

Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Dean Davis Conservation Area, #5506
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1955
- **Acreage:** 173 acres
- **County:** Howell
- **Region:** Ozark
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Manage for healthy forests and wildlife, the restoration of natural landscapes, and public recreational opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Dean Davis Conservation Area (CA) is woodland/forest landscape with open land habitats.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

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:** None observed.
 - B. High Quality Natural Communities:** None
 - C. Caves:** None
 - D. Springs:** Yes, records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) natural history biologist.

- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - One parking lots, including one gravel lot with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible concrete pad
 - One privy (ADA accessible)
 - One-mile hiking trail
 - Two fishless ponds
 - One borrow pit fishing pond (0.75 acres)
 - Unstaffed walking loop archery range

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
- B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may 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:** Howell Oregon Electric has a 50-foot wide easement, approximately 0.4 miles long and totaling 2 acres.
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- F. Boundary Issues:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Management will be focused on maintaining appropriate and healthy natural communities.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage forest and woodland communities.
- 2) Maintain healthy and diverse habitats on open ground.

Management Objective 1: Maintain healthy woodlands with management emphasis on wildlife habitat.

Strategy 1: Monitor woodlands annually for diseases and insects and for expansion of invasive species. Continue to reduce current infestations and suppress any new infestations that may develop. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Utilize disturbances such as thinning or prescribed fire, where appropriate, to promote healthy populations of native trees, shrubs, and plants best suited to the site. Conduct a forest inventory on the forest stands before any mechanical thinning activities to determine tree species composition, health, and density. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Follow the appropriate best management practices when conducting forest habitat work, per the *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines: Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (MDC, 2014a) and the *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests: 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams* (MDC, 2014b). (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Reduce the amount of open land by tree plantings that will sustain healthy habitats and sustain wildlife food sources.

Strategy 1: Utilize tree planting to reduce the amount of open land on the area. Plant species that are native that will allow the area to go back to its natural conditions to improve native cover and food sources for wildlife. (Forestry, Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

The area consists of three small ponds, two of which are too small and shallow to support fish and one approximately 0.75 acres, which contains a manageable fish population. According to topographic maps, nearly 4,700 feet of first-order streams flow across the area.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage the 0.75-acre fishing pond.
- 2) Manage all other impoundments on the property.

Management Objective 1: Manage the 0.75-acre pond for fishing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Keep the area around the pond maintained to allow for easy access for fishing.

Management Objective 2: Manage all other small impoundments on the property as wildlife watering impoundments that can also provide habitat for amphibians, reptiles, or aquatic invertebrate communities.

Strategy 1: Maintain fishless impoundments as wildlife watering holes and herpetofaunal habitat, according to the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (MDC, 2009). (Forestry, Fisheries)

Management Objective 3: Continue to protect and enhance riparian areas along the first-order tributaries that traverse the property.

Strategy 1: Maintain a riparian corridor with a minimum of 50 feet from the top of the bank on each side for first-order streams, according to MDC's *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines* (MDC, 2009). (Forestry, Fisheries)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide hunting and viewing opportunities for the public.

- 2) Discourage illegal activities (e.g., all-terrain vehicle use, vandalism).
- 3) Build relationships with neighboring landowners.

Management Objective 1: Provide public hunting and viewing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Conduct management activities that will provide habitat for a diversity of species of plants and wildlife, including but not limited to prescribed burning and forest thinning. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Maintain area boundary signage so that boundary lines are clearly identified. Inspect area boundary signage yearly. Replace missing or damaged signage, as needed. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Maintain current levels of area maintenance. (Forestry)

Strategy 4: Maintain the multiuse trails for hiking following the appropriate best management practices, outlined in *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests: 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams* (MDC, 2014b) and the appropriate standards per the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (MDC, 2009). (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Discourage illegal uses and vandalism.

Strategy 1: Communicate with Protection Division and the area maintenance contractor to monitor and deter illegal all-terrain vehicle use and vandalism activities. (Forestry, Protection)

Management Objective 3: Facilitate a good working relationship with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Maintain relationships with neighbors to minimize any boundary, trespass, or vandalism affecting Dean Davis CA or private property. (Forestry, Protection)

Strategy 2: Promote habitat management on neighboring landowner properties. (Private Land Services, Forestry)

Management Objective 4: Inform public about area regulations.

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

Strategy 2: Maintain accurate and timely information on MDC's website. Review information annually. (Forestry)

Management Objective 5: Maintain the archery ranges according the 2013 Shooting Range Facility Program Manual.

Strategy 1: Maintain signs around the range yearly. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Maintain targets on the range yearly. (Forestry)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Reduce area infrastructure

Management Objective 1: Reduce area infrastructure.

Strategy 1: Reduce area infrastructure by removing the privy, and the parking lot at the second circle drive. (Forestry, Design and Development)

Strategy 2: Reduce the number of targets on the archery range. (Forestry)

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Dean Davis Conservation Area (CA) is located in Howell County. It lies approximately 10 miles north of West Plains, east of Highway 63 and north of Howell County Road 2420 in Sections 26 and 27 of Township 26N, Range 9W. The property contains 173 acres.

The area was donated in 1955 by the Dean W. Davis family. In 1959, a dam and spillway were constructed in the hopes of creating a lake. The lake was never able to hold water because of the karst geology of the area. A one-acre walnut plantation was planted on the west side of the area in 1967. In 1979, a hiking trail was constructed to increase use of the area. Most of the area has been previously managed for early successional wildlife habitat. The property is composed of approximately 51 acres of open land and the rest is forested.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest	121	70
Open Land	51	29
Ponds	1	<1
Total	173	100

Public Input Summary:

The draft Dean Davis Conservation Area Plan was available for a public comment period May 1-31, 2019. MDC received no comments during this period.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Easement Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 4: Land Cover Map

References:

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. (2013). *Shooting range facility program manual*.

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

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: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Figure 1: Area Map

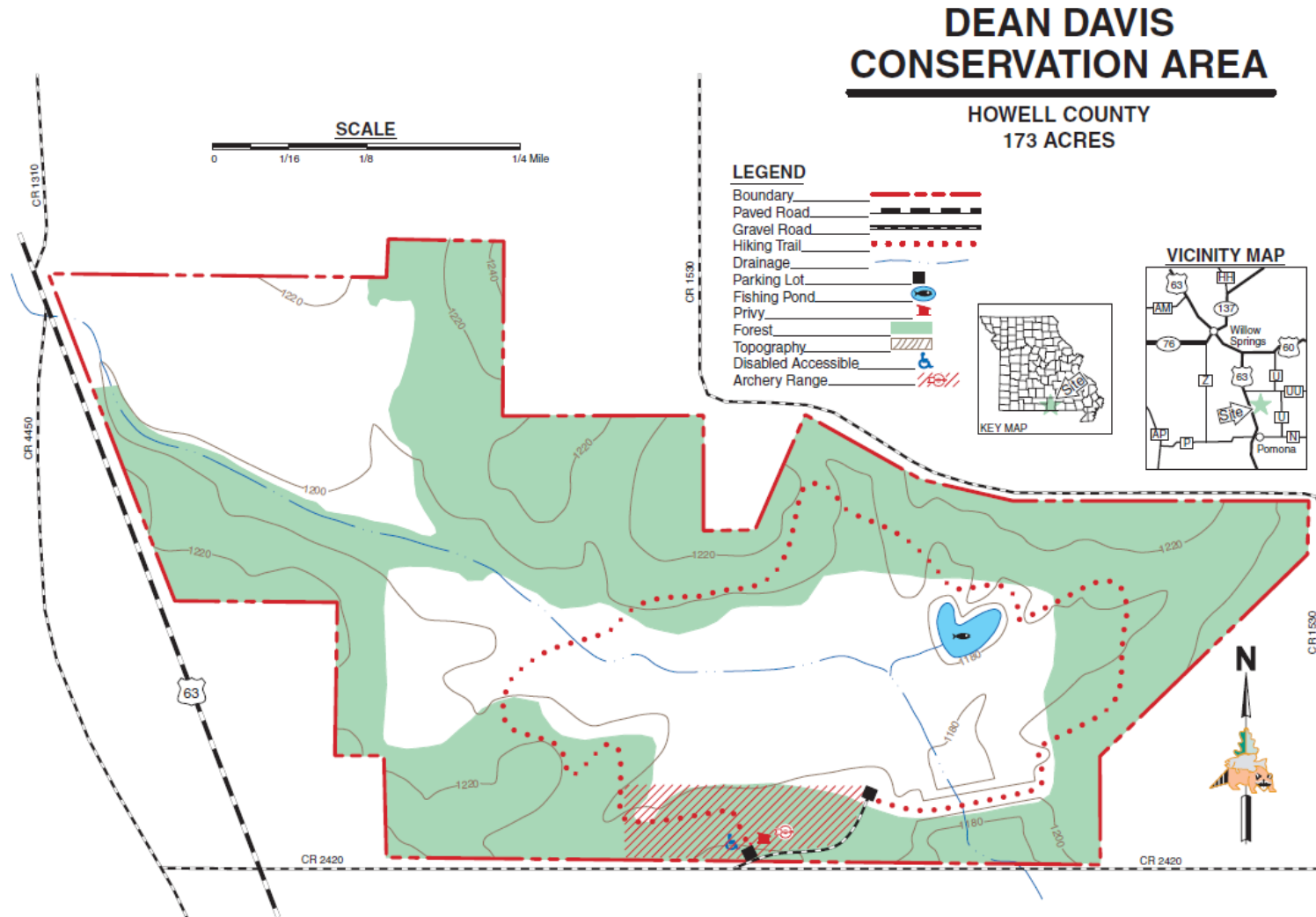


Figure 2: Aerial Easement Map

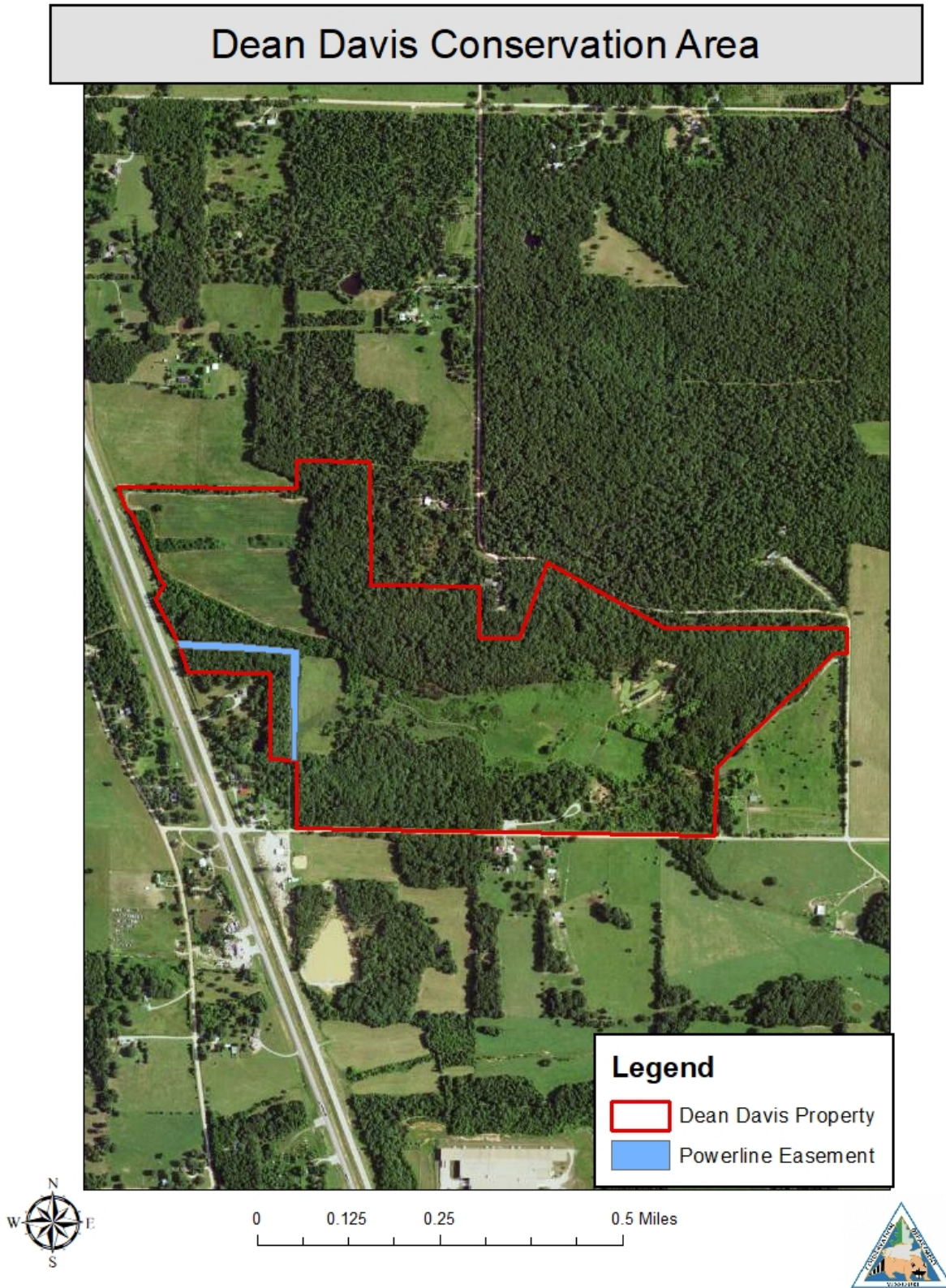


Figure 3: Topographic Map

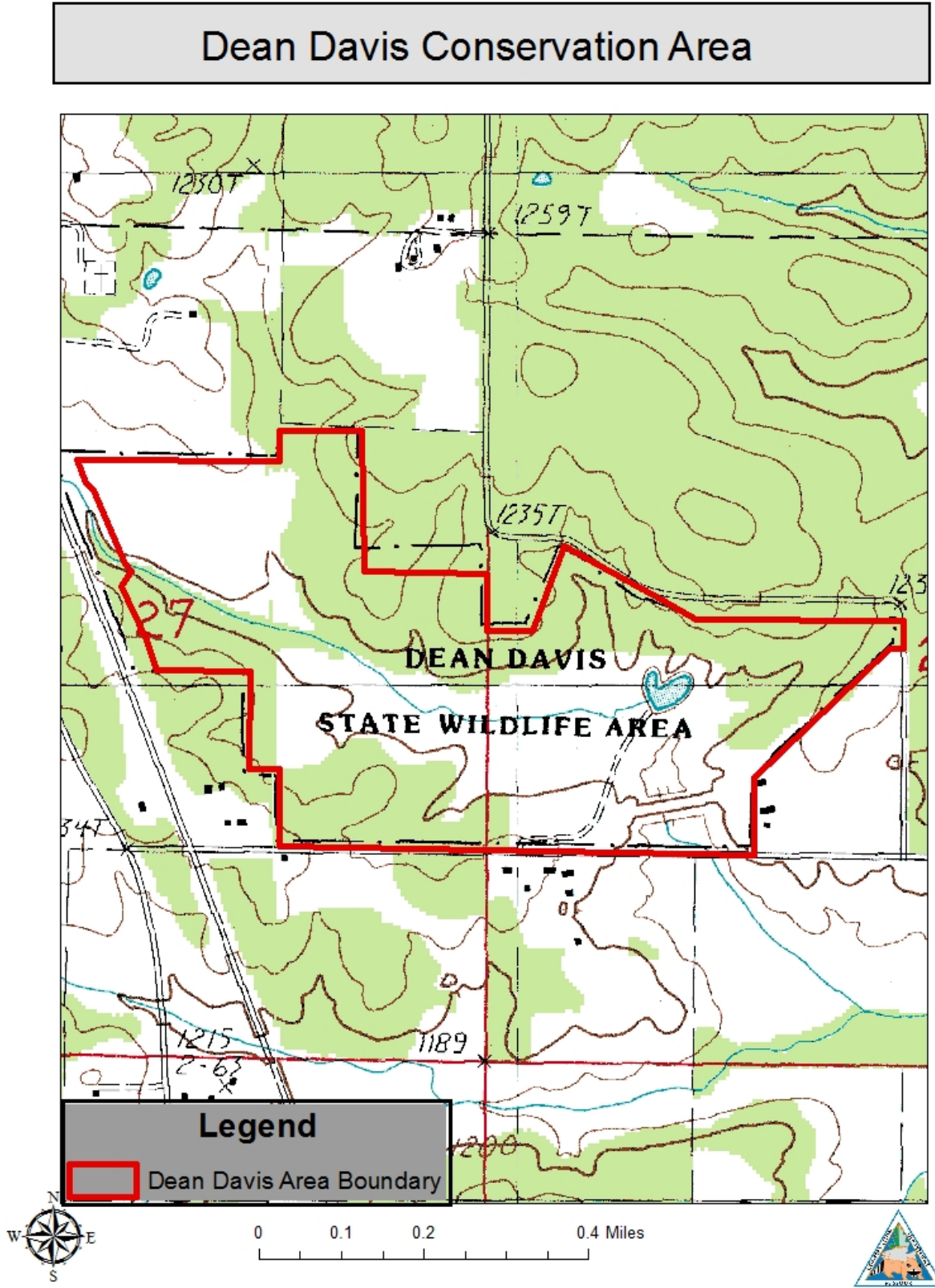


Figure 4: Land Cover Map

