

Coldwater Access Conservation Area

Ten Year Area Management Plan FY 2013-2027



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Forestry Division Chief

11-25-13

Date

Planning Team

This plan was completed by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Interdivisional planning team.

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Southeast Region

Chris Kennedy, SE RCT Chair

Signature: _____ Date: 10-31-13

Forestry Division

Mike Hoffmann, Forestry Management Chief

Signature: _____ Date: 11-14-13

OVERVIEW

- **Area Name and Number:** Coldwater Access Conservation Area – 9239
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1991
- **Acreage:** 79 acres
- **County:** Wayne County
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**

A. Strategic Direction

The primary purpose of the area is to serve as an access to the St. Francis River for the public. The area also provides a riparian buffer zone to the St. Francis River, provides wildlife habitat, and recreation, hunting and fishing opportunities. The main objective is to continue to provide these benefits to the public and the environment. The riparian buffer zone will be managed to maintain the health of the trees. The area also contains wildlife food plots and old fields that are managed for wildlife habitat. The old fields and food plots will continue to be managed on an established rotational basis to provide habitat and hunting opportunities.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of Coldwater Access CA is a bottomland forest and riparian buffer zone along the St. Francis River.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

A. **Priority Areas:** Coldwater Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area, Forest Action Plan Priority Forest Landscape, The Nature Conservancy Priority Stream Reach, Audubon Important Bird Area

B. **Natural Area:** N/A

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

- One information bulletin board

- One road approximately ¼ mile long.

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed restrictions:** 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:** No easements exist on the property
- D. Cultural Resource Findings:** There are no known cultural or archeological sites of significance on the area.
- E. Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** The area has potential hazards associated with broken glass along the river bank. A sign warning against littering will be maintained on the information bulletin board.
- F. Endangered Species:** Endangered Species are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.
- G. Boundary Issues:** No boundary issue exists for the area. Boundary lines will be maintained with blue paint and signs on a rotational basis of 5 years.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATION

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) A challenge with managing the old fields and food plots on the area is having the time, resources, and appropriate weather to conduct necessary management. An additional potential challenge is preventing and controlling invasive insect and plant species.
- 2) An opportunity is present for the Department to continue to present a positive image to the public by maintaining the food plots that are also beneficial to wildlife. The Department can also maintain an important riparian buffer zone along the St. Francis River that provides habitat for wildlife.

Management Objective 1: Maintain the riparian buffer zone for ecological purposes.

Strategy 1: Monitor the buffer zone for tree health and implement necessary forest management practices.

Management Objective 2: Maintain existing food plots and old fields.

Strategy 1: Maintain food plots through disking, planting, fertilizing and chemical use and maintain old fields with prescribed burning and chemical use on an established rotational basis.

Management Objective 3: Protect the area from invasive species

Strategy 1: Monitor the area for the presence of invasive species and take the appropriate action to control invasive species.

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Demonstrate the effectiveness of maintaining a healthy riparian buffer in managing for stable river banks. Maintaining a healthy riparian buffer zone will be beneficial to any species of conservation concern that may be present in the St. Francis River.

Management Objective 1: Maintain the riparian corridor along the St. Francis River.

Strategy 1: Monitor tree health in the riparian buffer zone and implement any necessary forest management practices if practical to ensure adequate tree health, composition and density.

Management Objective 2: Monitor aquatic species of conservation concern and update the Natural Heritage database as necessary.

Strategy 1: Aquatic species of conservation concern are present on the area. Assessment of aquatic organism populations to determine continued presence and population stability is necessary. Both Fisheries Biologists and Natural History Biologists will work together to accomplish the monitoring and provide updates to the Natural Heritage database as necessary.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) The greatest public use challenge is ensuring visitor safety and area sanitation at the river access. An additional challenge is ensuring that visitor vehicles are not taken off the designated road area.
- 2) The area offers an opportunity for the Department to continue to present a good image to the public by maintaining the wildlife food plots and providing a point of access to the St. Francis River.

Management Objective 1: Ensure public safety and area sanitation.

Strategy 1: Maintain a “No Littering” sign on the information bulletin board to try and minimize the occurrence of broken glass at the access area.

Management Objective 2: Discourage improper vehicle use of the area.

Strategy 1: Place a sign on the information bulletin board reading “Please Keep Vehicles on Road” to notify visitors to keep vehicles out of the fields.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) An administrative challenge is dedicating the time and resources to maintaining the property given other priorities and commitments that are undertaken by the Wayne County work team.
- 2) Continue to maintain a “defensible” boundary around the area.

Management Objective 1: Maintain road leading to the river access.

Strategy 1: Conduct road maintenance as needed to ensure adequate road condition.

Management Objective 2: Maintain the area’s boundary

Strategy 1: Paint the boundary line with blue paint and boundary signs on an established 5 year rotational basis.

Lands Proposed for Acquisition: Additional land acquisition is of low priority.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table.

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Aquatic Resource Management											
Objective 2											
Strategy 1		X			X			X			
Administrative Considerations											
Objective 2											
Strategy 1	X					X					X

APPENDICES

Area Background:

The Department purchased approximately 77.9 acres of the area in 1991 to be used as a public access to the St. Francis River. In 1999, an additional 1.5 acres was purchased to prevent vehicles from having to cross over private land to gain entrance into the conservation area. The area contains approximately 4 acres of wildlife food plots and 10 acres of old fields that are maintained by MDC staff. Overall the area contains approximately 56 acres of forest, 23 acres of open ground, and 4,825 feet of bank line along the St. Francis River. The area serves as a place for recreation, hunting, fishing, and nature viewing for visitors.

Current Land and Water Types

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Bottomland/ Riparian Forest	56		71
Old Fields/Upland Fields	23		29
Total	79		100
Stream Frontage		4,825	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Coldwater Access Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period August 1-August 31, 2013. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

References:

Golden, Rick. 2012. MDC Resource Assistant. Personal Communication.
 Hovis, Ed. 2012. MDC Resource Technician. Personal Communication.

Maps:

- Figure 1: Area Map
- Figure 2: Topographic Map
- Figure 3: Location Map

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Area Regulations

Figure 1: Area Map

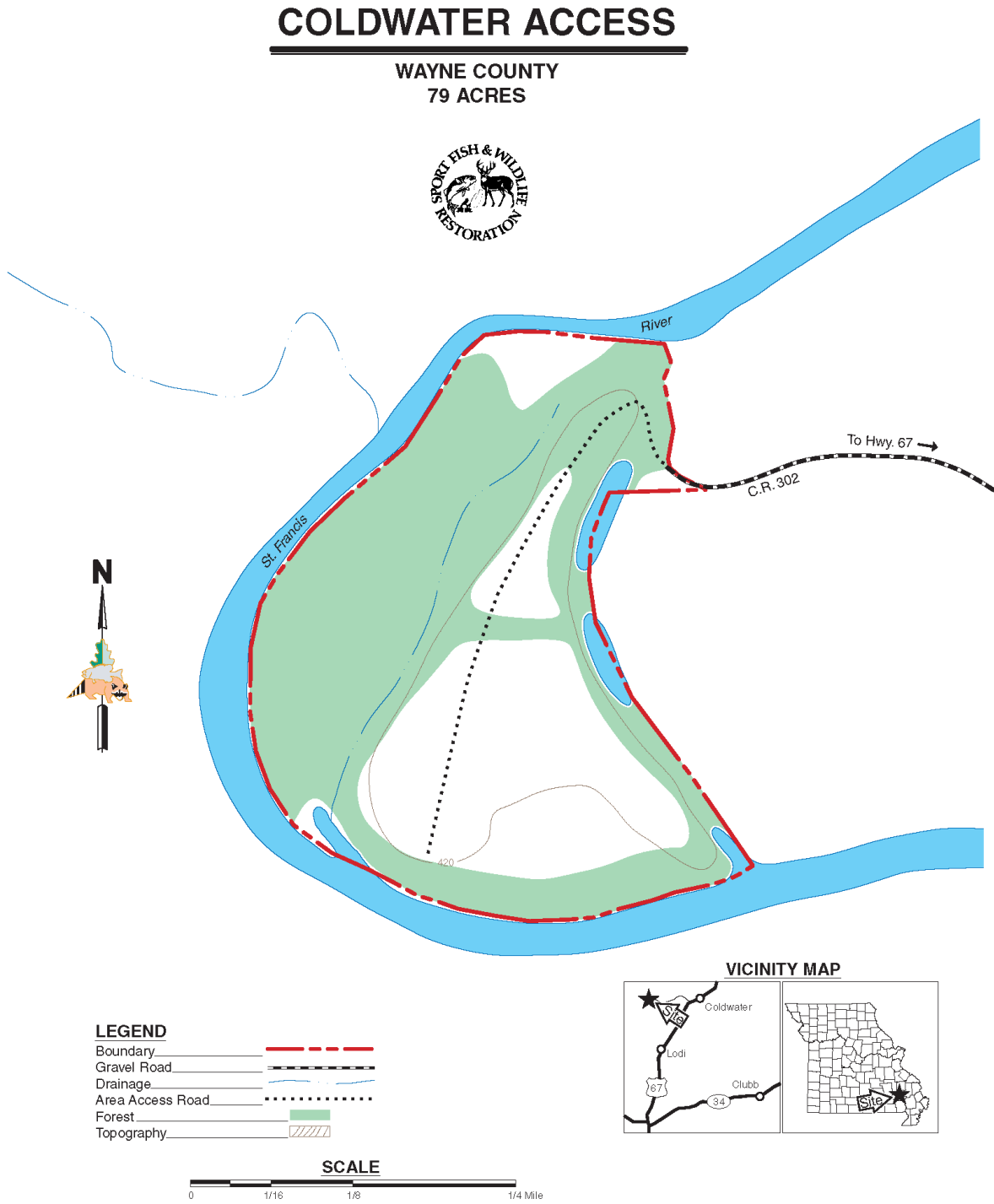


Figure 2: Topographic Map

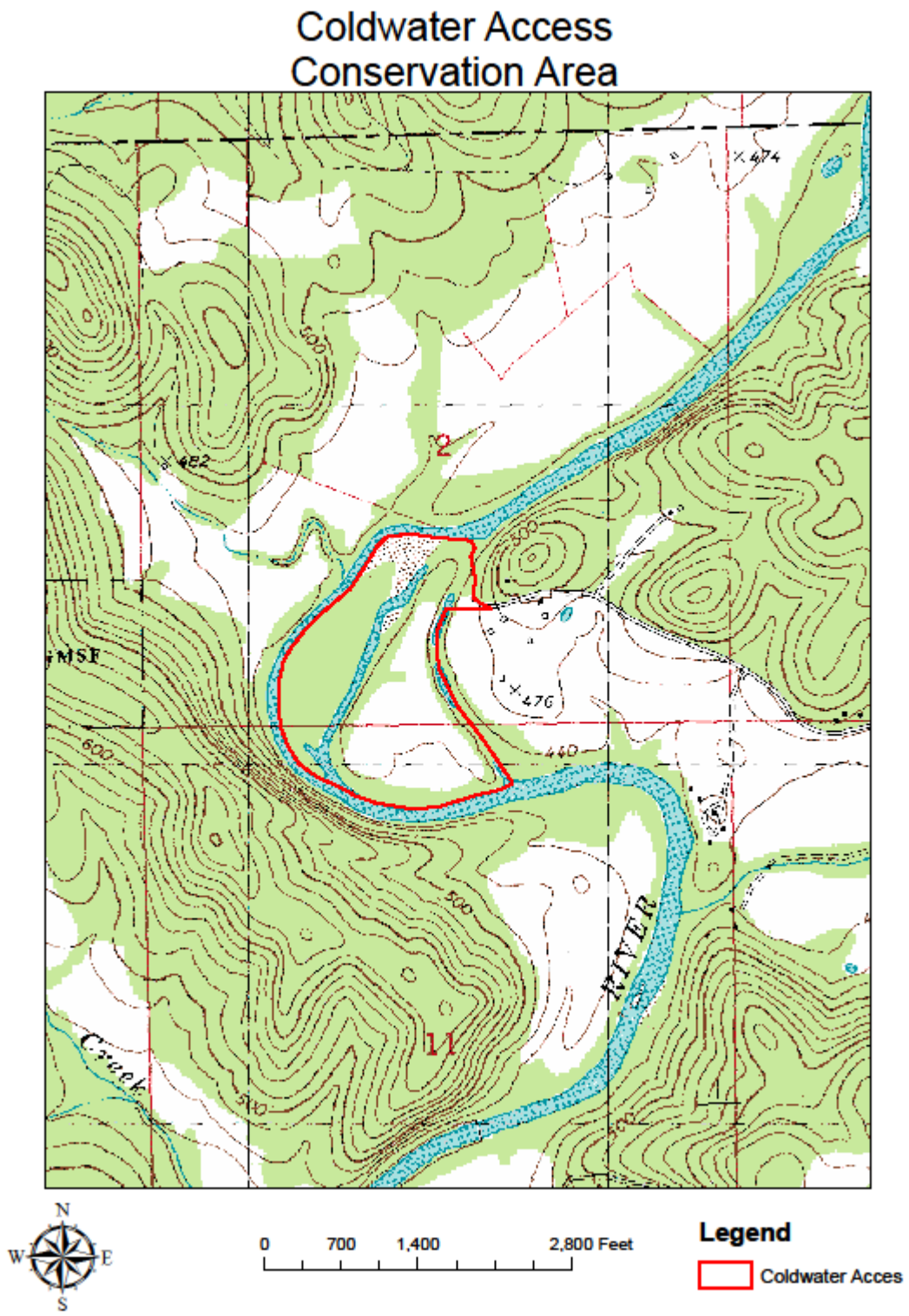
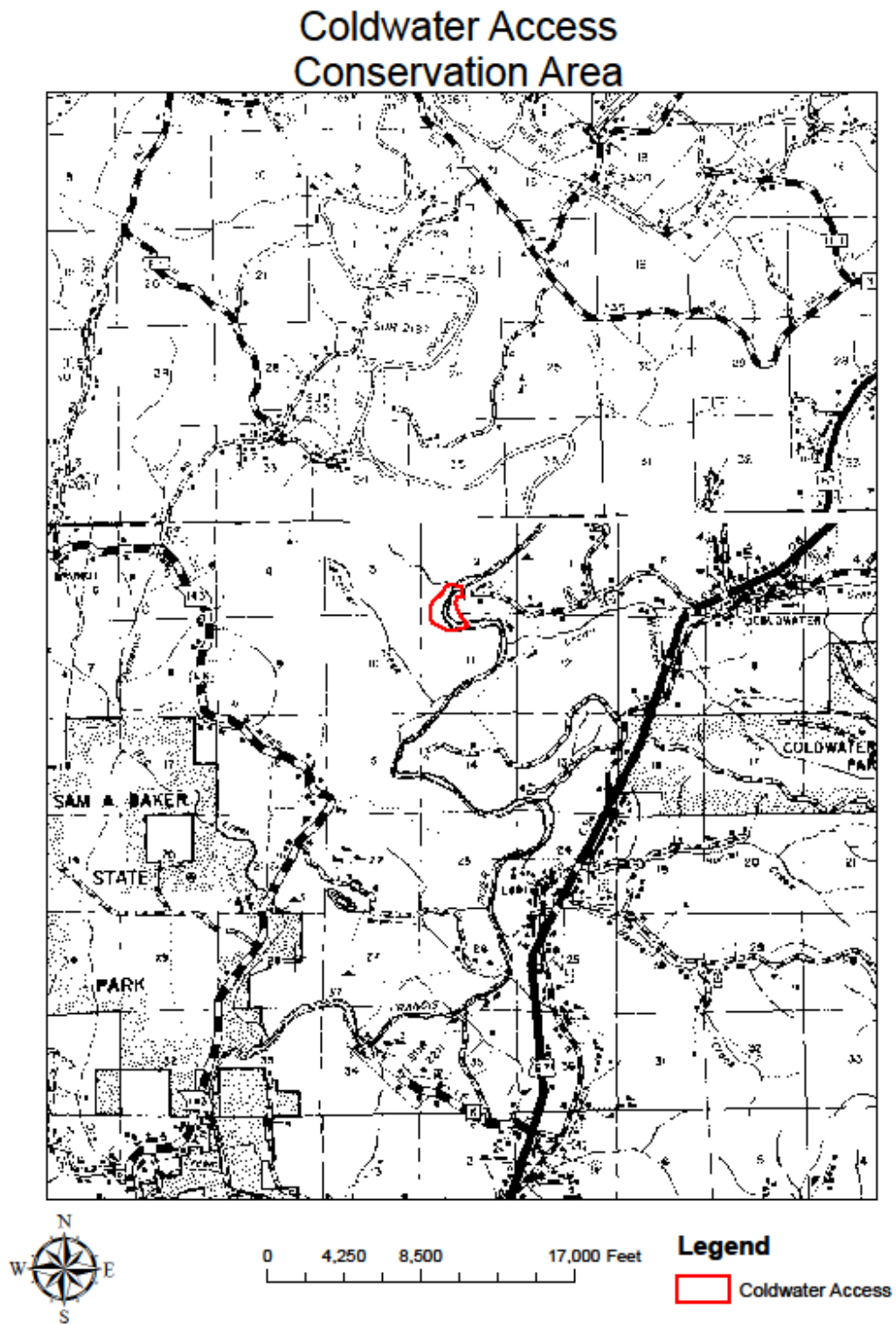


Figure 3: Location Map



Attachment 1 - Area Regulations:

- Area hours: Open daily from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Trapping: By permit only
- No motor vehicle riding off of designated road
- No cutting or removal of vegetation
- No littering
- Mushrooms, berries, other fruits, and wild greens may be picked for personal use only
- Primitive camping is permitted. Campers are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30 day period. Groups of 10 or more campers need a special-use permit
- Dogs must be leashed when not used for training or hunting
- Special-use permits are required for field and retriever trials
- For safety reasons target shooting is not permitted
- Portable tree stands may be used between September 1 and January 31. Stands must be identified with the name and address, or conservation number, of the user. Screw-in steps or other materials that would damage the trees are prohibited.