

# Lower Flat Creek and Stubblefield Accesses

## Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2015–2024



Lewis B. Allen

Forestry Division Chief

11-13-15

Date

**Lower Flat Creek and Stubblefield Accesses Management Plan Approval  
Page**

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## OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Date Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Lower Flat Creek Access	6808	1968	4	Barry	Forestry	Forestry
Stubblefield Access	7610	1976	56	Barry	Forestry	Forestry

### Statements of Purpose:

#### A. Strategic Direction

These areas are managed to provide public fishing access to Flat Creek for boat and bank anglers.

#### B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of these accesses is to provide boat and bank access while maintaining appropriate riparian corridors along Flat Creek.

#### C. Federal Aid Statement

Lower Flat Creek Access: N/A

Stubblefield Access, or a portion thereof, was acquired with Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration funds to restore and manage sport fish, conserve and restore sport fish habitat (or a buffer to protect that habitat) and provide public access for sport fishing.

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

### I. Special Considerations

Area Name	Priority Areas	Natural Areas	Other
Lower Flat Creek Access	None	None	N/A
Stubblefield Access	None	None	Demonstration – Stream bank stabilization project

### II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Lower Flat Creek Access	Yes <sup>1</sup>	None	None
Stubblefield Access	None	None	None

<sup>1</sup> 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.

**III. Existing Infrastructure**

Area Name	Concrete Boat Ramp	Gravel Bar Access	Parking Areas
Lower Flat Creek Access	None	1	1
Stubblefield Access	None	1	1

**IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**

Area Name	Deed Restrictions	Easements	Federal Interest	Cultural Resources	Hazards	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Lower Flat Creek Access	None	None	Yes <sup>1</sup>	None	None	None	None
Stubblefield Access	None	None	Yes <sup>2</sup>	None	None	None	None

<sup>1</sup> Federal funds were used in the development of this area, or a portion thereof. The Department must maintain the developed project throughout its useful life. 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.

<sup>2</sup> Uses of land acquired with federal funds may not interfere with the purpose for which it was acquired. Closures to sport fishing must be based on the recommendations of the state fish and wildlife agency for fish and wildlife management purposes. 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.

**MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

**V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations**

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain adequate riparian corridors.
- 2) Prevent soil erosion.
- 3) Control invasive and exotic species.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain riparian corridors as specified in the Missouri Department of Conservation’s (the Department’s) *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines* (2009).

**Strategy 1:** Allow natural vegetative processes to continue in the riparian corridors. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Replace dead trees, as needed, through natural regeneration and seedling plantings to maintain riparian cover. (Forestry, Fisheries)

**Strategy 3:** Control access by restricting vehicles to parking lots and boat ramp or boat launching area only. (Forestry, Protection)

**Management Objective 2:** Prevent soil erosion from existing infrastructure located on the area(s).

**Strategy 1:** Ensure roads and road-side drainages are managed with Best Management Practices to reduce runoff, sedimentation and erosion. (Design and Development)

**Strategy 2:** Ensure stream bank stabilization structures are maintained to prevent failure and loss of stream bank. (Design and Development)

**Management Objective 3:** Control invasive and exotic species.

**Strategy 1:** Periodically monitor area for invasive and exotic species and use appropriate strategies for management. (Forestry, Fisheries)

## **VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Prevent excessive stream bank erosion.

**Management Objective 1:** Ensure that infrastructure located on the area(s) does not increase bank erosion.

**Strategy 1:** Primitive launch areas will be maintained to have a low profile on the bank to prevent back eddies and scouring currents. (Design and Development)

## **VII. Public Use Management Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Provide public access along the Flat Creek.
- 2) Inform the public of the opportunities available at these areas.
- 3) Maintain areas in a desirable condition.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain suitable public access at each area.

**Strategy 1:** Ensure existing infrastructure on the area is maintained to Department standards. (Design and Development)

**Management Objective 2:** Continue to inform the public of the opportunities on these areas.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain signage at the accesses in accordance with Department policy. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Work with local media specialist to highlight underutilized resources. (Fisheries, Forestry, Wildlife, Outreach and Education)

**Strategy 3:** Maintain up-to-date information of all river accesses on Department Web page. (Forestry)

## VIII. Administrative Considerations

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Evaluate land offered as additions to these areas.

**Management Objective 1:** Expand these areas only if unique conditions occur.

**Strategy 1:** Evaluate any property offered to the Department to ensure it will help promote and enhance the purpose of the area or help to protect sensitive habitat. (Forestry, Fisheries)

**Strategy 2:** Expansion of these areas should be considered only after review of the work load impacts and whether the area can be maintained using the current staffing level. (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.

## **MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE**

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

## APPENDICES

### **Public Input Summary:**

The draft Lower Flat Creek and Stubblefield Accesses Management Plan was available for a public comment period June 1–30, 2015. The Missouri Department of Conservation received two comments (Appendix A). The Lower Flat Creek and Stubblefield Accesses 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 Lower Flat Creek and Stubblefield Accesses public comment period

#### **Concern that Flat Creek is shifting course at Stubblefield Access and boat ramp may no longer be at water's edge.**

The Area Planning Team understands this concern. The existing ramp structure is not intended to be useable or designed for motor driven watercraft, based on the size and navigability of Flat Creek in the Stubblefield Access area. The access to the stream at this ramp will continue to be serviceable for canoes, kayaks, and small watercraft that are most likely to be utilized at this access point. The ramp structure is largely composed of a gravel base and may be extended if Flat Creek shifts course.

#### **Questions what plans for providing public access might mean for local landowners.**

The Area Planning Team intends to maintain its current infrastructure at both Stubblefield and Lower Flat Creek accesses along the Flat Creek. Public access is intended to provide boat and bank creek access to area users for fishing, trapping, and hunting, within the Missouri Department of Conservation area boundaries, while maintaining appropriate riparian corridors. Vehicle access is limited to access roads, parking lots, and boat ramp or boat launching areas only. Local landowners should see no additional changes in public use access to their lands.

### **References:**

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

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1. Barry County River Accesses on Flat Creek

Appendix 2. Lower Flat Creek Access Area Background

Appendix 3. Area Map of Lower Flat Creek Access

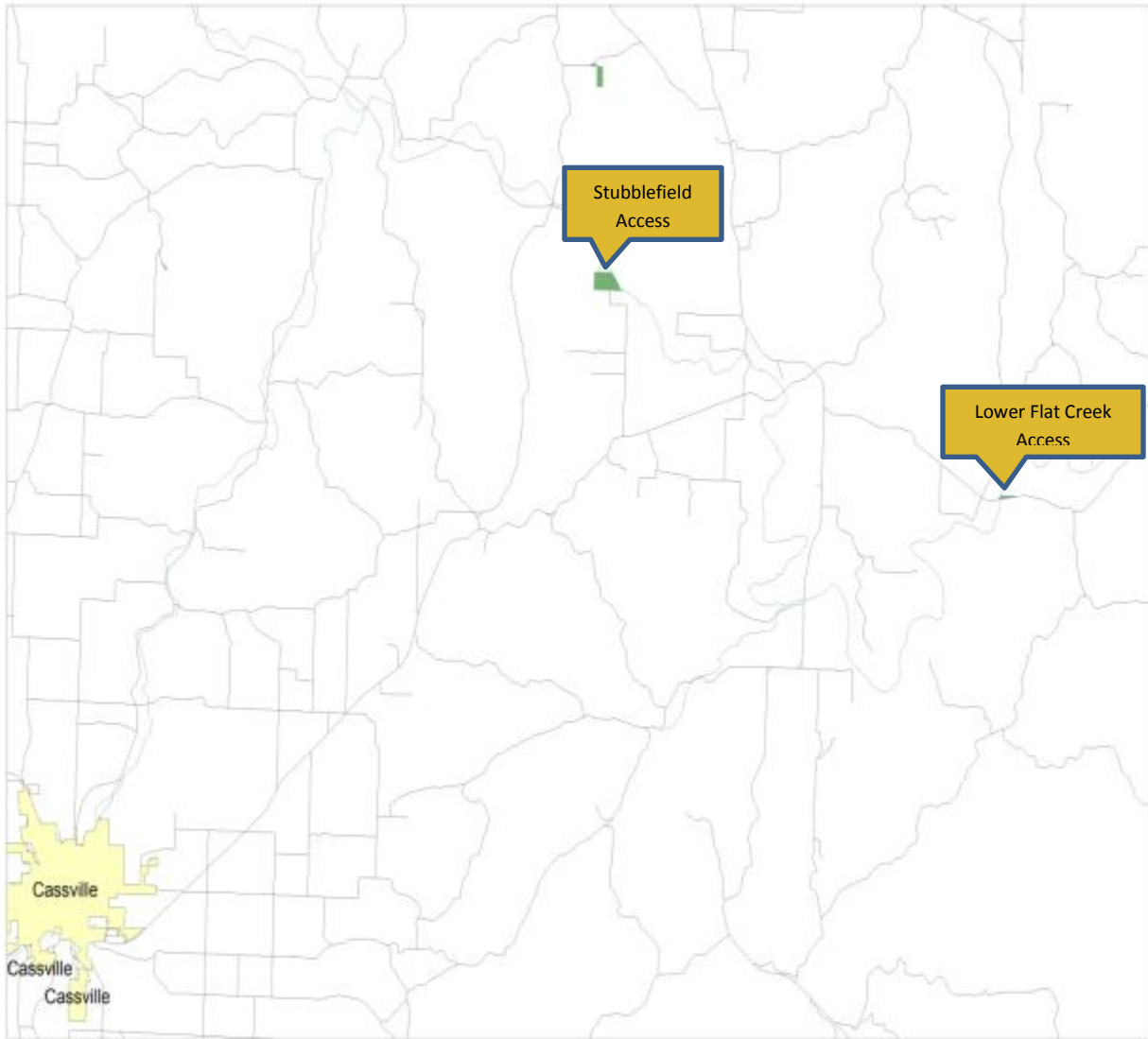
Appendix 4. Stubblefield Access Area Background

Appendix 5. Area Map of Stubblefield Access

Appendix 6. Lower Flat Creek and Stubblefield Accesses Management Plan Public Comments



**Appendix 1. Barry County River Accesses on Flat Creek**



**Appendix 2. Lower Flat Creek Access Area Background**

Lower Flat Creek Access was purchased in 1968. The area consists of small length gravel bars for bank angling that provide access to some rocky areas and root wads for catfish and bass. The area also has a mowed lawn for picnics and family outings along Flat Creek. There is no boat ramp, but canoes can be launched from the gravel bank.

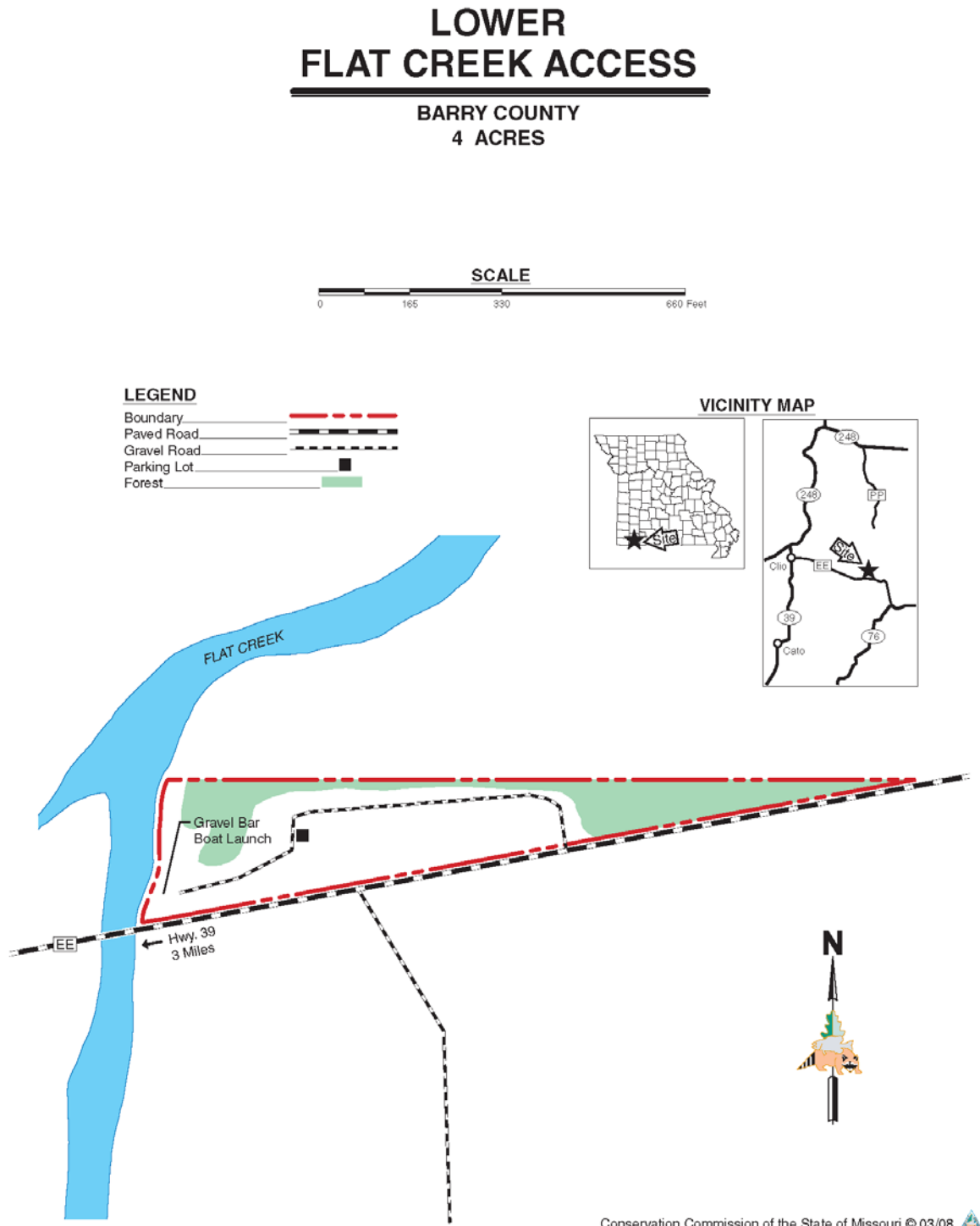
Legal Description: Township 24 N, Range 25 W, Section 34.

Area Location: Lower Flat Creek Access is located 3 miles east of the Highway 39/Route EE junction in Barry County.

**Current Land and Water Types:**

<b>Land/Water Type</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>% of Area</b>
Warm-season grass fields	3		75
Upland forest	1		25
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>100</b>
Stream frontage (first-order and above)		0.10	

### Appendix 3. Area Map of Lower Flat Creek Access



#### Appendix 4. Stubblefield Access Area Background

Stubblefield Access was purchased in 1976. The area is mostly forested with a low sloping stream bank that provides bank anglers good access to bass populations. The area also has an ongoing demonstration area for stream bank stabilization. This area has a small gravel boat ramp.

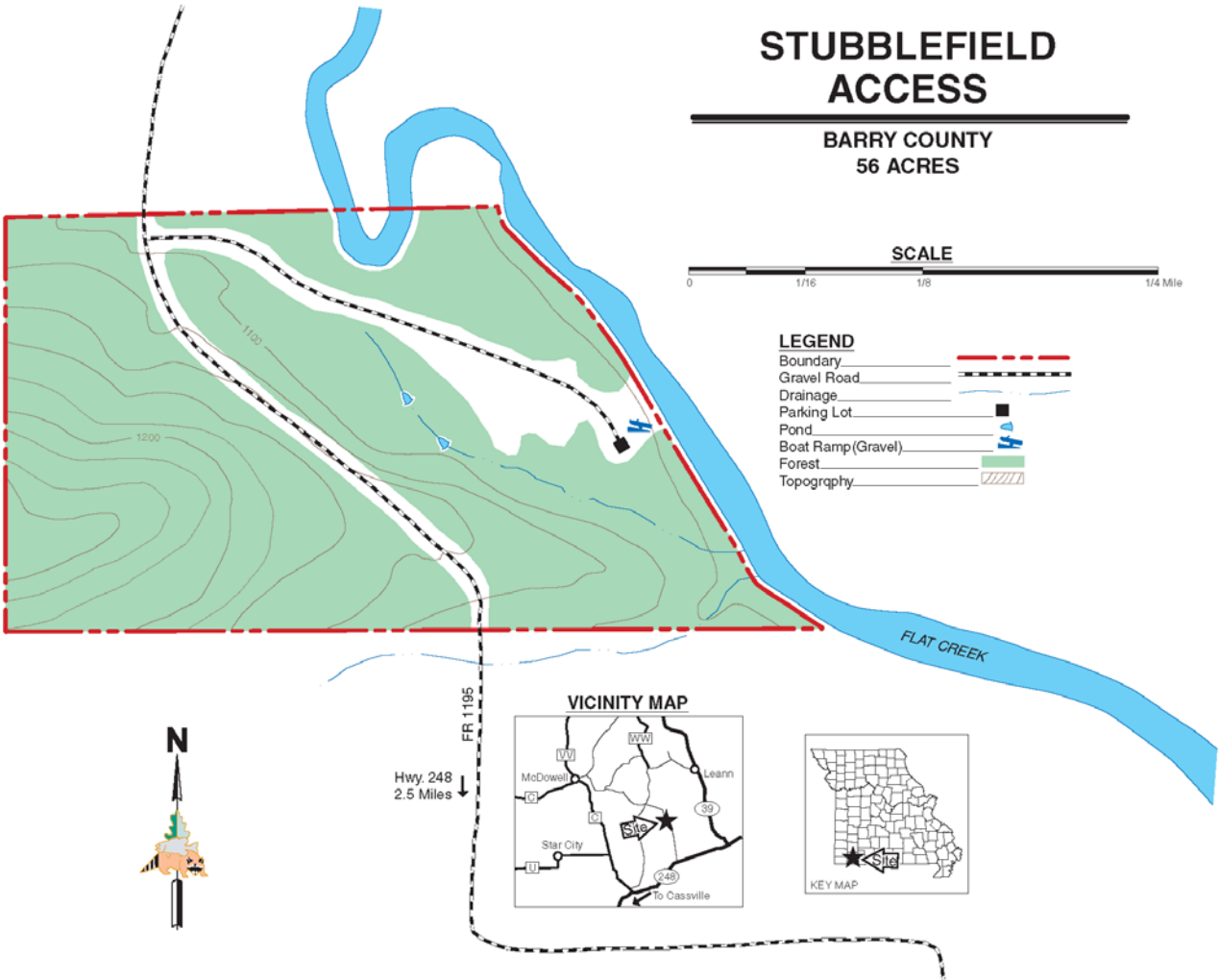
Legal Description: Township 24 N, Range 26 W, Section 15.

Area Location: Stubblefield Access is located 2.5 miles west of the Highway 39/248 junction on Highway 248, then 2.5 miles north on Farm Road 1195.

#### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Upland forest	52		93
Old fields/upland fields	4		7
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>		<b>100</b>
Stream frontage (first-order and above)		0.20	

Appendix 5. Area Map of Stubblefield Access



**Appendix 6. Lower Flat Creek and Stubblefield Accesses Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (June 1-30, 2015):

I own the land across Flat Creek from Stubblefield Access. I am well pleased with the way it's being managed. The creek though is hard to manage. The creek is moving east below the boat ramp because of driftwood buildup and if it continues the ramp may not be at the waters edge.

Section VII.

Challenges & Opportunities

1. Provide public access along Flat Creek. What does this mean for us local landowners?