

Ozark Highlands Southwest Region Prairies

Horse Creek Prairie Conservation Area
Indigo Prairie Conservation Area
Kickapoo Prairie Conservation Area
Providence Prairie Conservation Area
Sky Prairie Conservation Area
Stony Point Prairie Conservation Area
Twenty-five Mile Prairie Conservation Area
Wade and June Shelton Memorial Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2017-2026



Wildlife Division Chief

28 JUNE 2016

Date

**Ozark Highlands Southwest Region Prairies Management Plan Approval
Page**

PLANNING TEAM

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SOUTHWEST REGION

RCT Chair


Signature

5/23/16
Date

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Chief


Signature

5/31/2016
Date

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Horse Creek Prairie Conservation Area	9334	1993	80	Dade	Wildlife	Wildlife
Indigo Prairie Conservation Area	8115	1981	40	Dade	Wildlife	Wildlife
Kickapoo Prairie Conservation Area	9015	1990	160	Lawrence	Wildlife	Wildlife
Providence Prairie Conservation Area	9504	1995	197	Lawrence	Wildlife	Wildlife
Sky Prairie Conservation Area	8131	1981	200	Cedar	Wildlife	Wildlife
Stony Point Prairie Conservation Area	8839	West 640 acres 1988; East 320 acres 2002	960	Dade	Wildlife	Wildlife
Twenty-five Mile Prairie Conservation Area	200012	2000	334	Polk	Wildlife	Wildlife
Wade and June Shelton Memorial Conservation Area	200908	2009	320	Dade	Wildlife	Wildlife

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

Manage Ozark Highlands prairie areas, including Horse Creek Prairie Conservation Area (CA), Indigo Prairie CA, Kickapoo Prairie CA, Providence Prairie CA, Sky Prairie CA, Stony Point Prairie CA, Twenty-five Mile Prairie CA and Wade and June Shelton Memorial CA, for a diverse suite of native prairie plants and animals using a variety of grassland management tools.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition is functioning native prairie communities that meet the resource needs of a variety of grassland plant and animal species.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area Name	Priority Areas	Natural Areas
Horse Creek Prairie CA	Golden Prairie Grasslands Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area (COA); Audubon Important Bird Area; Grassland Coalition Priority Site, Western Dade County Quail Focus Area	No
Indigo Prairie CA	Golden Prairie Grasslands Terrestrial COA	No
Kickapoo Prairie CA	Golden Prairie Grasslands Terrestrial COA; Audubon Important Bird Area, Spring River Quail Focus Area, Fisheries Priority Watershed	No
Providence Prairie CA	Golden Prairie Grasslands Terrestrial COA; Audubon Important Bird Area, Spring River Quail Focus Area, Fisheries Priority Watershed	No
Sky Prairie CA	Cedar Creek Fisheries Priority Watershed	No
Stony Point Prairie CA	Golden Prairie Grasslands Terrestrial COA; Audubon Important Bird Area; Grassland Coalition Priority Site, Western Dade County Quail Focus Area, Fisheries Priority Watershed	No
Twenty-five Mile Prairie CA	Twenty-five Mile Prairie Terrestrial COA, Twenty-five Mile Prairie Natural Area	Yes-120 acres ¹
Wade and June Shelton Memorial CA	Golden Prairie Grasslands Terrestrial COA; Audubon Important Bird Area; Grassland Coalition Priority Site, Western Dade County Quail Focus Area	No

¹ Twenty Five Mile Prairie Natural Area (120 acres) was designated in 2010 for its rare high-quality dry-mesic limestone/dolomite prairies that support a high diversity of native prairie plant and insect species. This is the largest publicly owned prairie on soils derived from loess over limestone and dolomite deposits. Most of these prairies have been converted to row crops and fescue pasture.

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Horse Creek Prairie CA	Yes ¹	None	None
Indigo Prairie CA	Yes ¹	None	None
Kickapoo Prairie CA	Yes ¹	None	None
Providence Prairie CA	Yes ¹	None	Yes ²
Sky Prairie CA	Yes ¹	None	Yes ²
Stony Point Prairie CA	Yes ¹	None	None
Twenty-five Mile Prairie CA	Yes ¹	None	None
Wade and June Shelton Memorial CA	Yes ¹	None	None

¹ 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.

² Records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) natural history biologist.

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area Name	Parking Area #	Ponds
Horse Creek Prairie CA	None	None
Indigo Prairie CA	1	1 fishless pond (0.1 acres)
Kickapoo Prairie CA	1	None
Providence Prairie CA	1	1 fishless pond (0.1 acres)
Sky Prairie CA	1	None
Stony Point Prairie CA	3	3 non-stocked ponds (1.0 acres)
Twenty-five Mile Prairie CA	1	3 fishless ponds (0.6 acres)
Wade and June Shelton Memorial CA	1	None

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area Name	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Easements	Cultural Resources	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Horse Creek Prairie CA	None	Yes ¹	None	None known	Yes ³	None
Indigo Prairie CA	None	Yes ¹	None	None known	Yes ³	None
Kickapoo Prairie CA	None	Yes ¹	None	None known	None observed	None
Providence Prairie CA	None	Yes ¹	None	None known	None observed	None
Sky Prairie CA	None	Yes ¹	None	None known	Yes ³	None
Stony Point Prairie CA	None	Yes ¹	None	None known	Yes ³	None
Twenty-five Mile Prairie CA	None	Yes ¹	None	None known	None observed	None
Wade and June Shelton Memorial CA	None	Yes ¹	Yes ²	None known	Yes ³	None

¹ 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.

² Driveway easement with neighbor to the north.

³ 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.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

The management focus for the eight areas in this plan is to maintain and enhance the native prairie communities. Native prairie is one of the rarest habitats remaining in Missouri. Management techniques will include but not be limited to the use of prescribed fire, haying and grazing. In addition, chemical and mechanical methods will be used to control exotic species and invasive woody species. Priority will be placed on preventing degradation and increasing biotic diversity using approved management tools and practices.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Control exotic species.
- 2) Manage woody vegetation.
- 3) Improve grassland acres on lands in close proximity to the CA's.

Management Objective 1: Maintain or increase herbaceous diversity and structure of native grasslands and provide critical habitat for grassland-dependent fauna.

Strategy 1: Use prescribed fire and herbicide to minimize the cover of trees and shrubs and ensure that any tree or shrub is less than 15 feet in height (Wildlife).

Strategy 2: Utilize prescribed fire, grazing, mowing, herbicide application and haying as management tools, where possible and appropriate (Wildlife).

Strategy 3: Apply prescribed fire on grassland units frequently enough to create brood rearing habitat, stimulate forbs and increase plant diversity (Wildlife).

Strategy 4: Reduce exotic species without negatively impacting native grasses and forbs (Wildlife).

Management Objective 2: Work with adjoining landowners to improve grassland acres on their property.

Strategy 1: Inventory all adjoining land around listed prairies to determine current land use (Wildlife).

Strategy 2: Make contact with landowners that have existing native prairie on their property that could be improved (Wildlife, Private Land Services).

Strategy 3: Assist interested landowners, including county road districts, to address exotic or invasive species on their property that could pose a threat to native prairie areas (Wildlife, Private Land Services).

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Aquatic features on these prairies consist of small drainages, headwater streams and small ponds. The impoundments on these prairies are not managed for fishing. Headwater streams can be impacted by off-property activities like stream channelization. Such activities can lead to head-cutting and channel instability in upstream reaches.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Prevent stream channel instability and head-cutting.
- 2) Ensure terrestrial management practices are compatible with aquatic resource management.

Management Objective 1: Maintain and/or enhance functionality and quality of headwater streams and ponds on these prairies.

Strategy 1: Continue to implement stream Best Management Practices, as outlined in the Department's Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009) (Wildlife, Fisheries).

Strategy 2: If grazing is used as a management tool, Wildlife and Fisheries staff will develop a grazing plan prior to introduction of livestock (Wildlife, Fisheries).

Strategy 3: Address channel instability as needed (Fisheries).

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Increase public awareness and use of these areas.
- 2) Provide suitable public access.

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

Strategy 1: Maintain parking areas that are aesthetically pleasing and inviting to area users (Wildlife).

Management Objective 2: Inform the public of recreational opportunities at these areas.

Strategy 1: Maintain signage at accesses in accordance with Department policy (Wildlife).

Strategy 2: Work with the local media specialist to highlight area recreational opportunities and natural features in Department publications and digital media (Outreach and Education, Wildlife).

Strategy 3: Provide information at area bulletin boards highlighting the uniqueness and value of the resources on each area (Wildlife, Outreach and Education).

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

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

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 features 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

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Terrestrial Resource Management										
<i>Objective 2</i>										
Strategy 1	X									
Strategy 2	X	X								
Aquatic Resource Management										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 3	X	X	X							

APPENDICES

Public Input Summary:

The draft Ozark Highland Southwest Region Prairies Management Plan was available for a public comment period January 1–31, 2016. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from four respondents (Appendix A). The Ozark Highland Southwest Region Prairies 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 Ozark Highland Southwest Region Prairies public comment period

Suggests using edge feathering as a management tool to benefit wildlife on Kickapoo Prairie, Sky Prairie and Twenty-Five Mile Prairie conservation areas.

In 1999, prior to MDC ownership, nearly 9,000 feet of mature trees were felled along linear draws at Twenty-Five Mile prairie, as part of a Natural Resource Conservation Service cost share program with the landowner. The subsequent growth consisted of both trees and shrubs along those draws. Some of these have now reached a greater height than we desire, and efforts over the last two years have been taken to manage sections of these by removing the existing woody vegetation, with the expectation that more desirable shrubs will return as the dominant woody cover. In FY15, 1400 feet were bullhogged, and a similar amount is slated to be bullhogged in FY16. Additionally, there are 5,700 feet of shrubby cover in linear configuration where old cross fences used to exist on Twenty-Five Mile Prairie. For a 334 acre area, these two combinations of shrubby cover provide well beyond what we normally manage for in regard to shrubby cover on a spatial scale, as compared to the open prairie. There are places where open prairie meets up against mature trees on both Twenty-Five Mile and Sky prairies, but given the adequate amount of shrubs scattered around the area, edge feathering every foot of timber edge would not increase any populations of small game beyond our current levels, nor is such a practice conducted or recommended on every foot of timbered edge.

Similarly, Sky Prairie had 2,471 feet of edge feathering done, in a scattered, well-spaced distribution, in 2004. Most of these locations have grown into shrubby thickets, and no longer require edge feathering, as the initial practice was successful. There is over 3 miles of timbered edge on Sky Prairie. As stated above, edge feathering more than the ½ mile we already have will not increase small game populations. It simply increases the amount of “slack,” a term used by Fred Guthery when describing quail habitat. If quail are utilizing an area that has 10 percent shrubby cover, and the same number of quail will utilize the area with 30 percent shrubby cover, the amount in between those numbers is “slack.” Spending the time to get to 30 percent is not beneficial if 10 percent is adequate. The percentages used in this example are arbitrary, and are

only used to explain the point. The fall quail covey survey at Sky Prairie in 2015 yielded four coveys. For a 200 acre area, four coveys are as good as anywhere in the state for quail densities.

Kickapoo prairie has also recently received edge treatment, totaling nearly 5 acres. This was conducted in 2015.

Appreciates grazing on prairies to benefit wildlife.

We utilize grazing for a variety of reasons, but most importantly it is used to replicate a historical disturbance. These prairies evolved with grazing and fire, and utilizing both those tools today helps ensure all the natural process continue to function within these prairie ecosystems.

References:

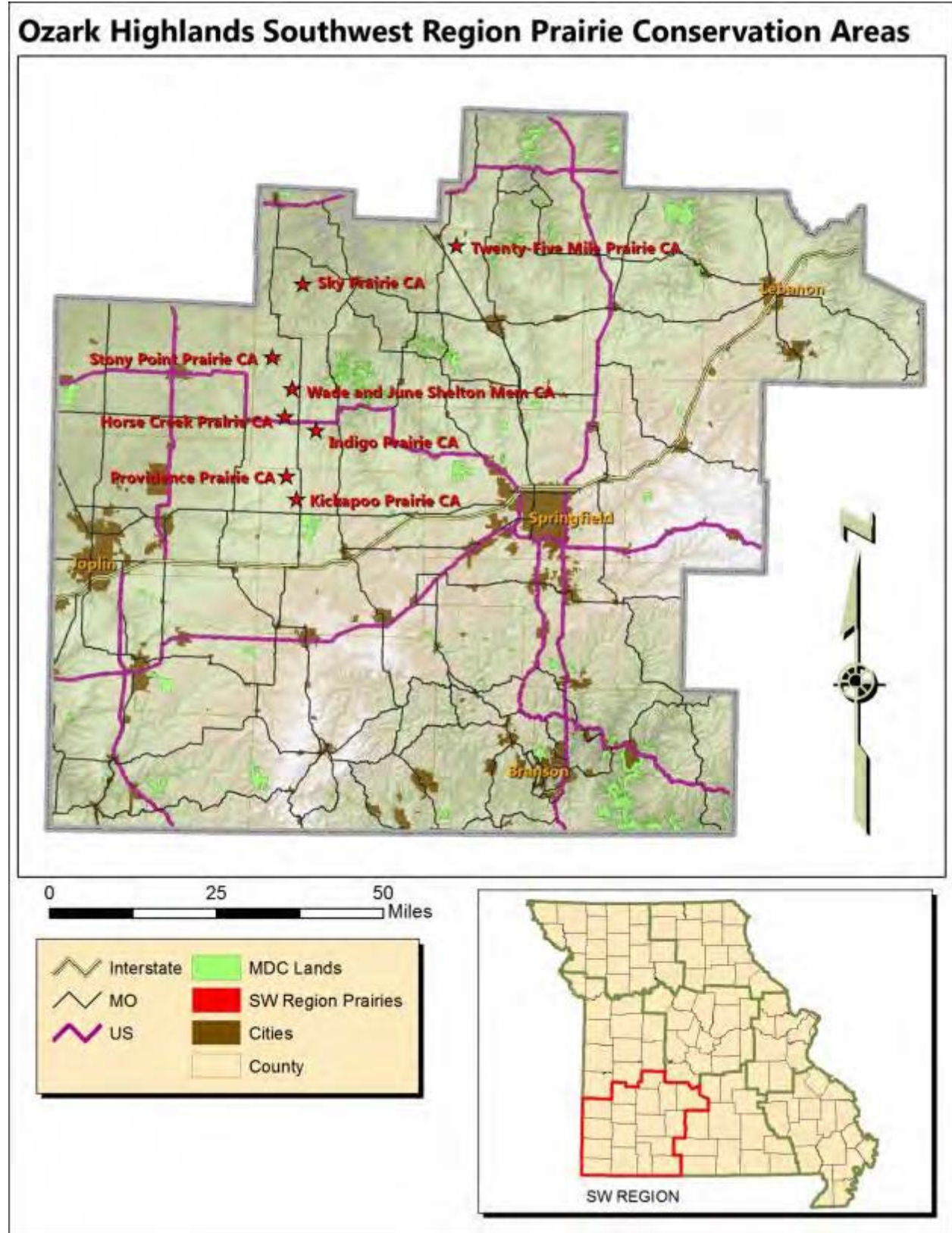
Missouri Department of Conservation. (2009). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and waters managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1. Ozark Highlands Southwest Region Prairie Conservation Areas
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Appendix 1. Ozark Highlands Southwest Region Prairie CAs



Appendix 2. Horse Creek Prairie CA Background

Horse Creek Prairie was purchased in 1993. This dry to dry-mesic upland prairie is nearly flat and occurs on silt soils derived from sandstone/shale bedrock. This prairie was annually hayed prior to the Department’s ownership.

Legal Description: Township 31 North, Range 28 W, Section 22.

Area Location: Horse Creek Prairie is located approximately 2 miles west and 1 mile north of Lockwood at the intersection of County Roads 51 and 122.

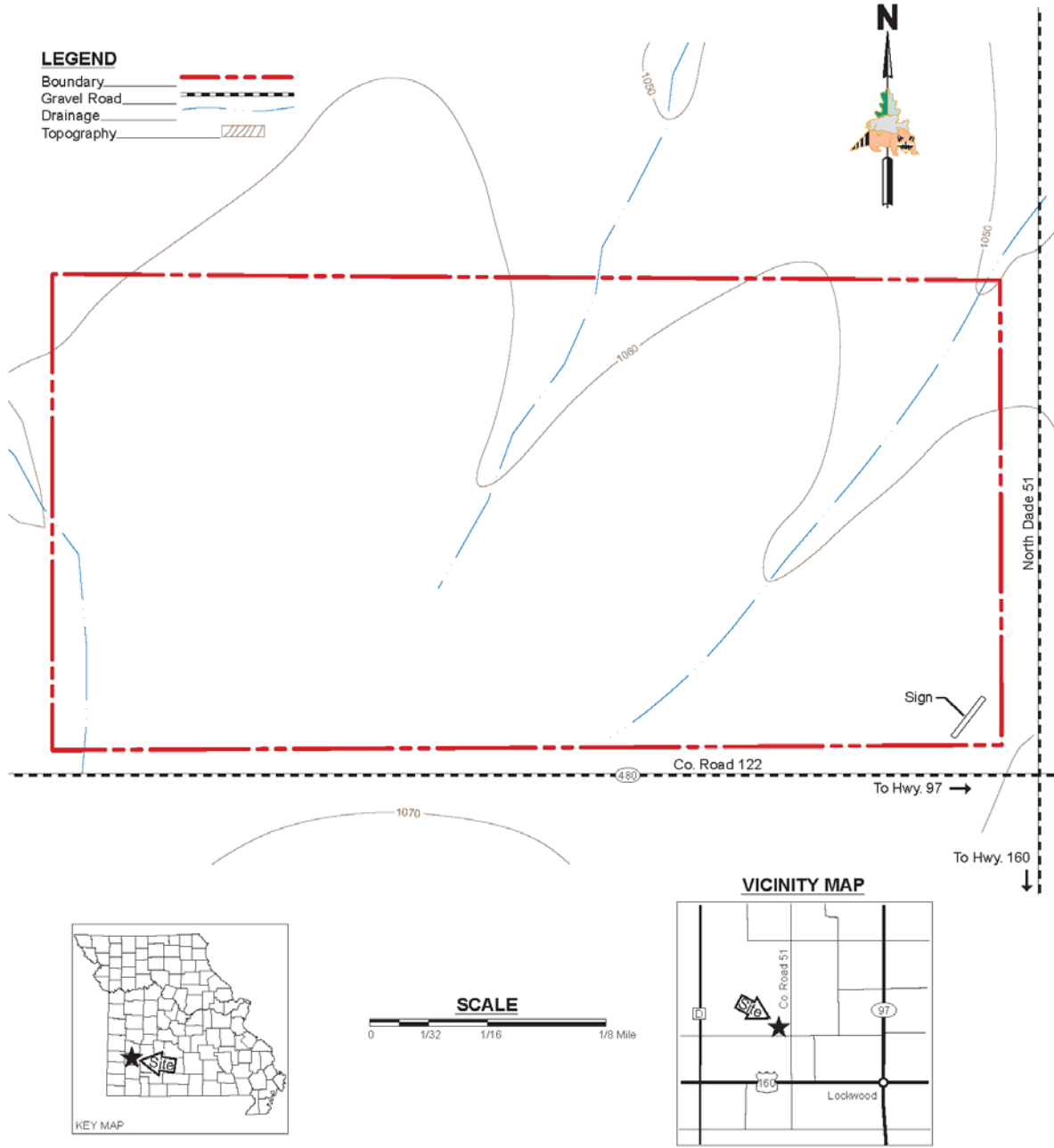
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Native prairie	80		100
Stream frontage		0.35	

Appendix 3. Area Map of Horse Creek Prairie CA

HORSE CREEK PRAIRIE CONSERVATION AREA

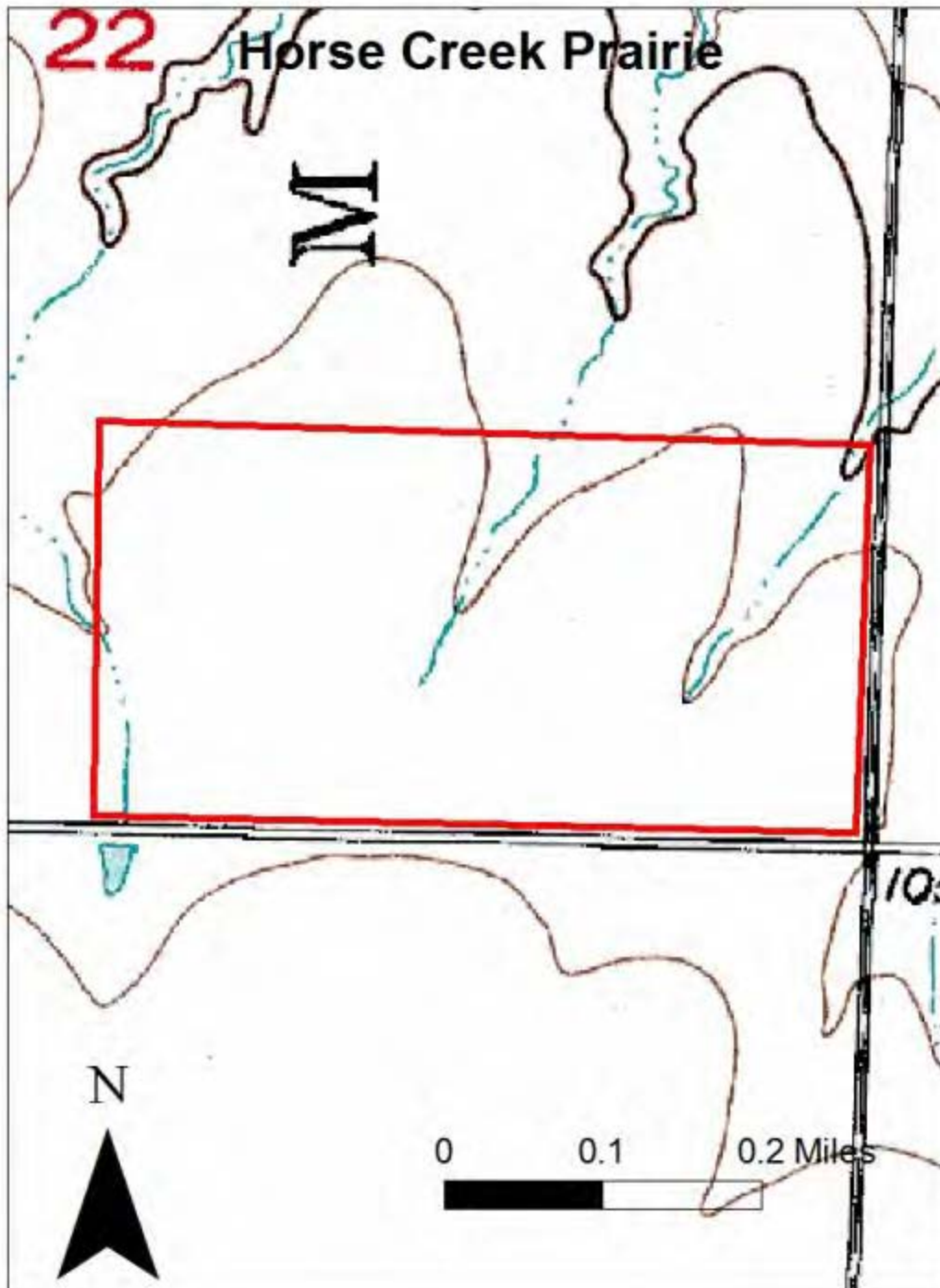
DADE COUNTY
80 ACRES



Appendix 4. Aerial Map of Horse Creek Prairie CA



Appendix 5. Topographic Map of Horse Creek Prairie CA



Appendix 6. Indigo Prairie CA Background

Indigo Prairie was purchased in 1981. This prairie was grazed prior to the Department’s ownership. This upland prairie consists primarily of cherty silt loam soils. The area has a good population of prairie willow, which is not known to occur on any other Dade County prairies owned by the Department.

Legal Description: Township 30 North, Range 27 West, Section 4.

Area Location: Indigo Prairie is located 0.5 miles south and 2.5 miles east of Lockwood.

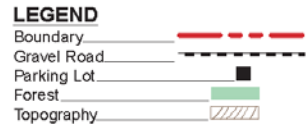
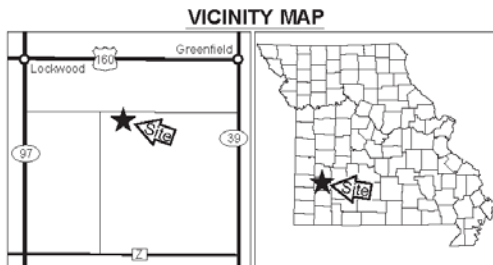
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Native prairie	34		85
Woods/shrubs	5.5		14
Ponds/water	0.5		1
Total	40		100
Stream frontage		0.20	

Appendix 7. Area Map of Indigo Prairie CA

INDIGO PRAIRIE CONSERVATION AREA

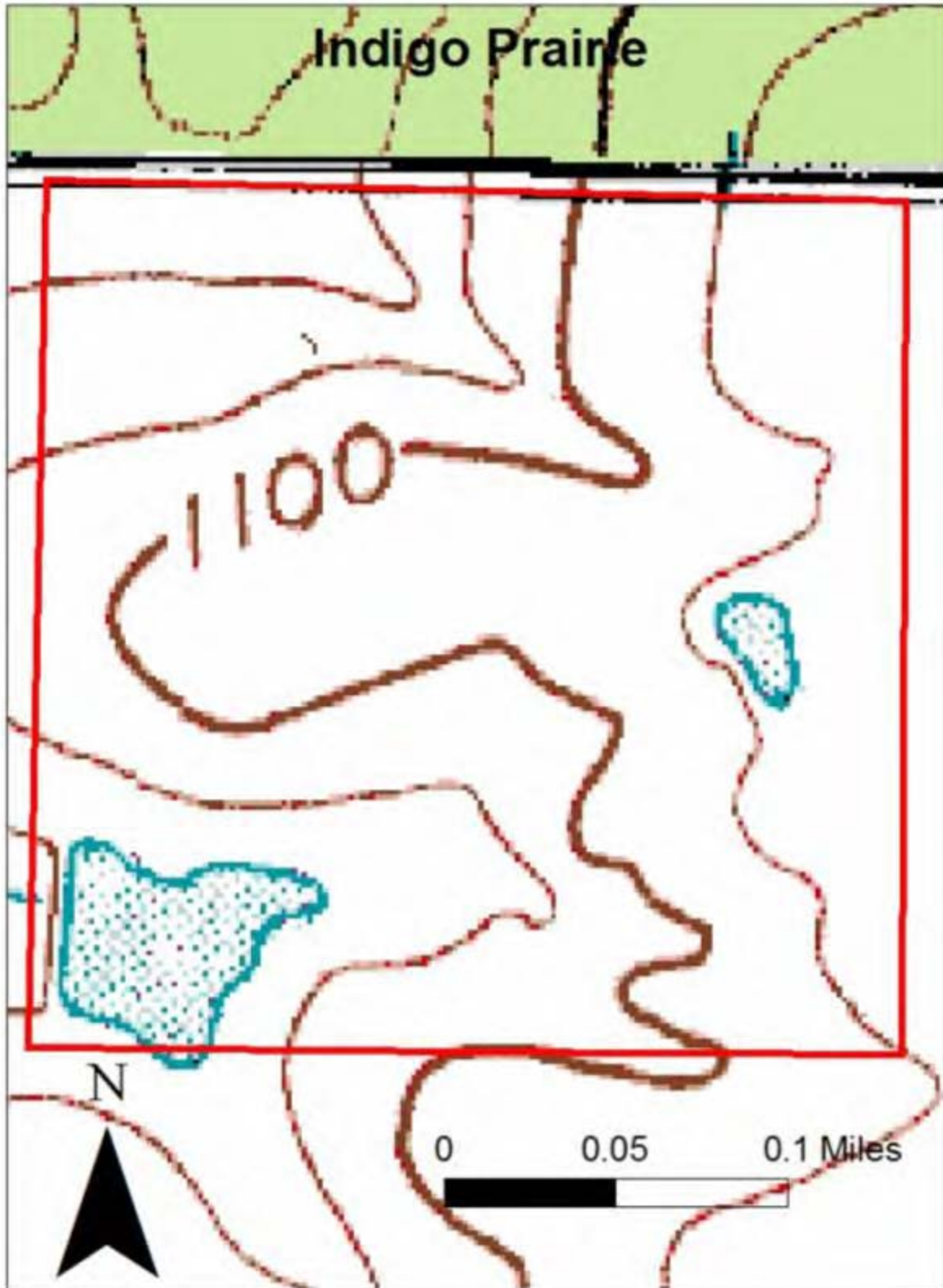
DADE COUNTY
40 ACRES



Appendix 8. Aerial Map of Indigo Prairie CA



Appendix 9. Topographic Map of Indigo Prairie CA



Appendix 10. Kickapoo Prairie CA Background

Kickapoo Prairie was purchased in 1990. This prairie represents a small remnant of a much larger tallgrass prairie ecosystem that once dominated the landscape. The area still supports over 300 native prairie plant species and has a showy wildflower display during the spring and summer months. Kickapoo is an upland prairie with cherty silt loam soils. Interesting plants, such as royal catchfly and gamma grass, are found on the area. A series of draws throughout the area support a diverse reptile and amphibian assemblage. Recreational opportunities include bird watching and fair to good hunting for rabbit and quail.

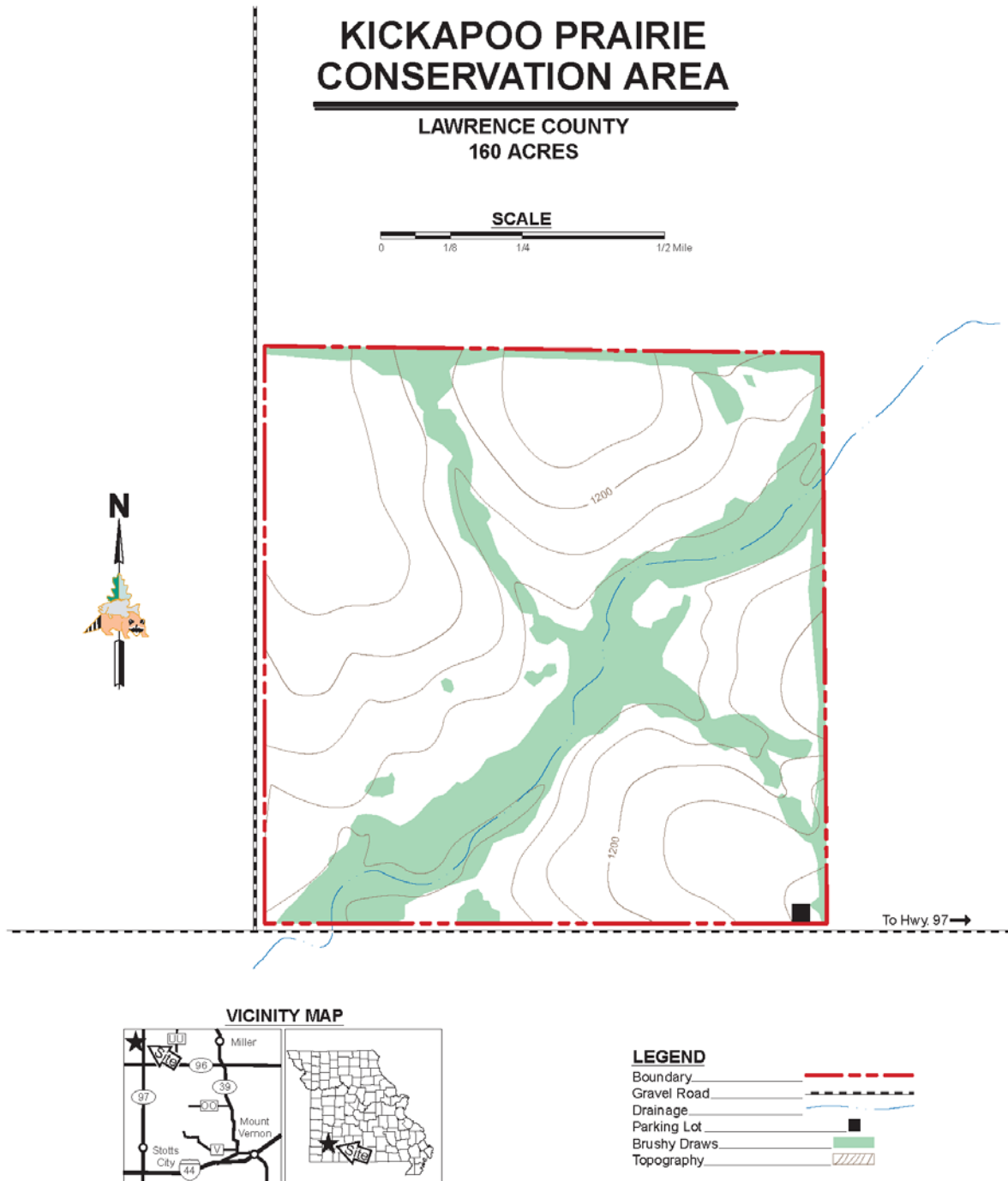
Legal Description: Township 29 North, Range 28 W, Section 14.

Area Location: From Interstate 44, go north 8 miles on Highway 97. Continue 2 miles north of the Highway 96 junction and turn west on a county gravel road for about 0.5 miles to the parking lot.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Native prairie	150		94
Trees/shrubs	10		6
Total	160		100
Stream frontage		0.6	

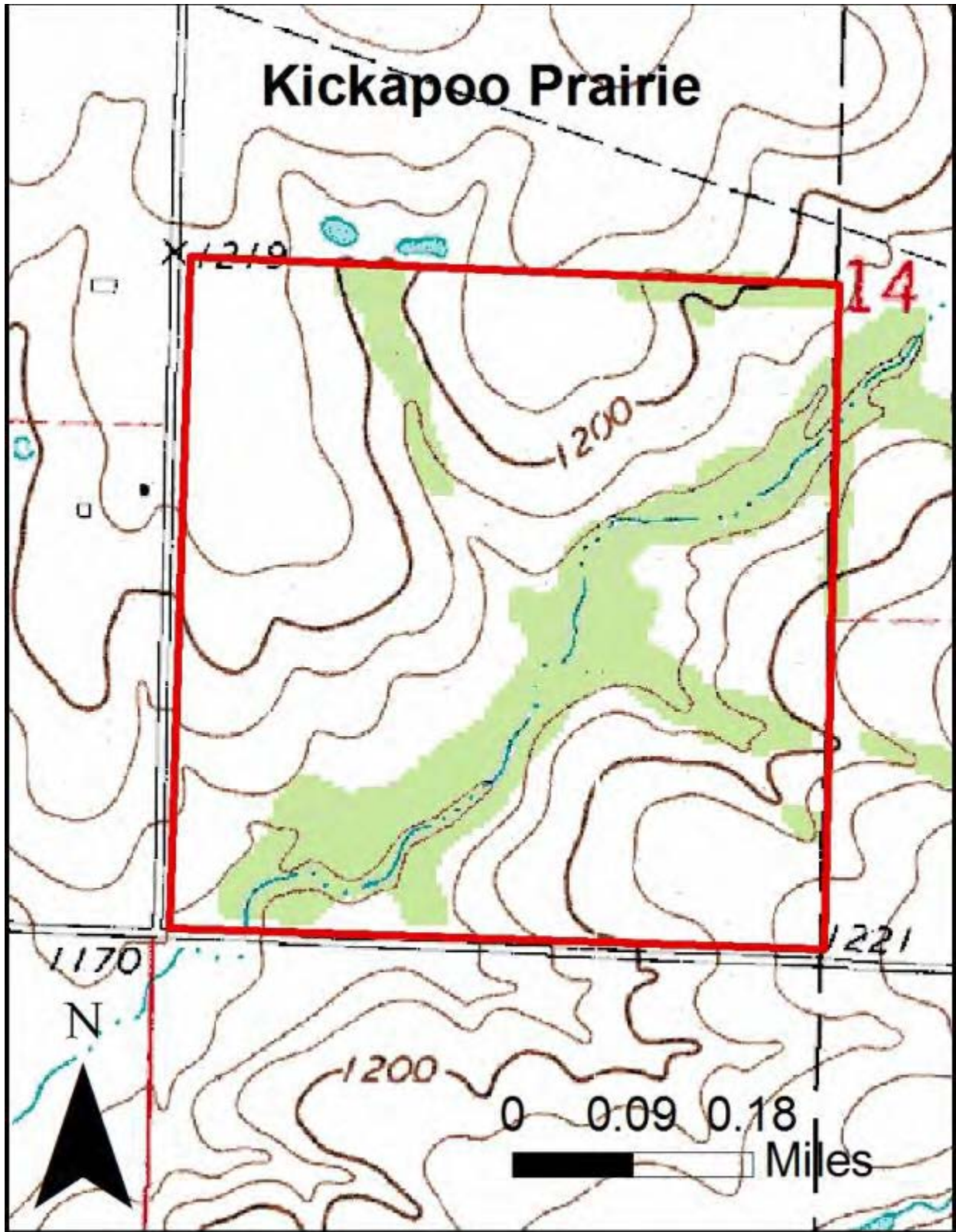
Appendix 11. Area Map of Kickapoo Prairie CA



Appendix 12. Aerial Map of Kickapoo Prairie CA



Appendix 13. Topographic Map of Kickapoo Prairie CA



Appendix 14. Providence Prairie CA Background

Providence Prairie was purchased in 1995. This prairie represents a small remnant of a much larger tallgrass prairie ecosystem that once dominated the landscape. Providence Prairie was destined for the plow, but, by providence, it was saved from cultivation when it was purchased by the Department. Hence, the area was named “Providence” prairie. The area still contains many native prairie plant species and sports a showy wildflower display during the spring and summer months. The majority of the prairie is mesic and supports species such as bunchflower and smooth prairie phlox. Recreational opportunities include bird watching and fair to good hunting for rabbit and quail. Local residents recall old stories of prairie chickens “blackening the sky” when flying from Providence Prairie to outlying crop fields to feed. Past land use included haying and grazing.

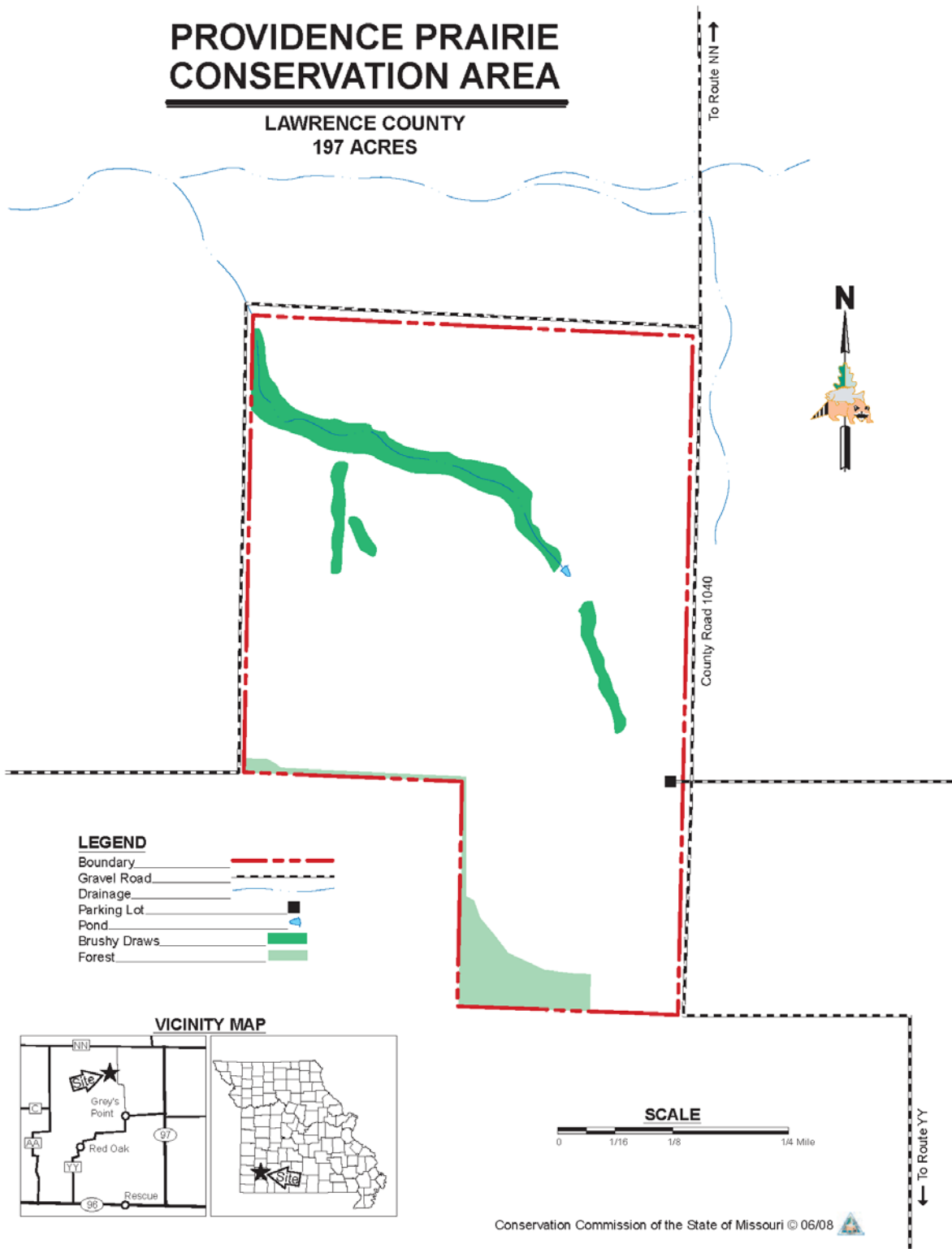
Legal Description: Township 29 North, Range 28 W, Section 4.

Area Location: From the junction of Highway 96 and Highway 97, go north 6.5 miles on Highway 97 to Route NN, then 1.5 miles west to County Road 1040, and then 1 mile south.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Native prairie	170		86
Crop	17		9
Old field	10		5
Total	197		100
Stream frontage		0.6	

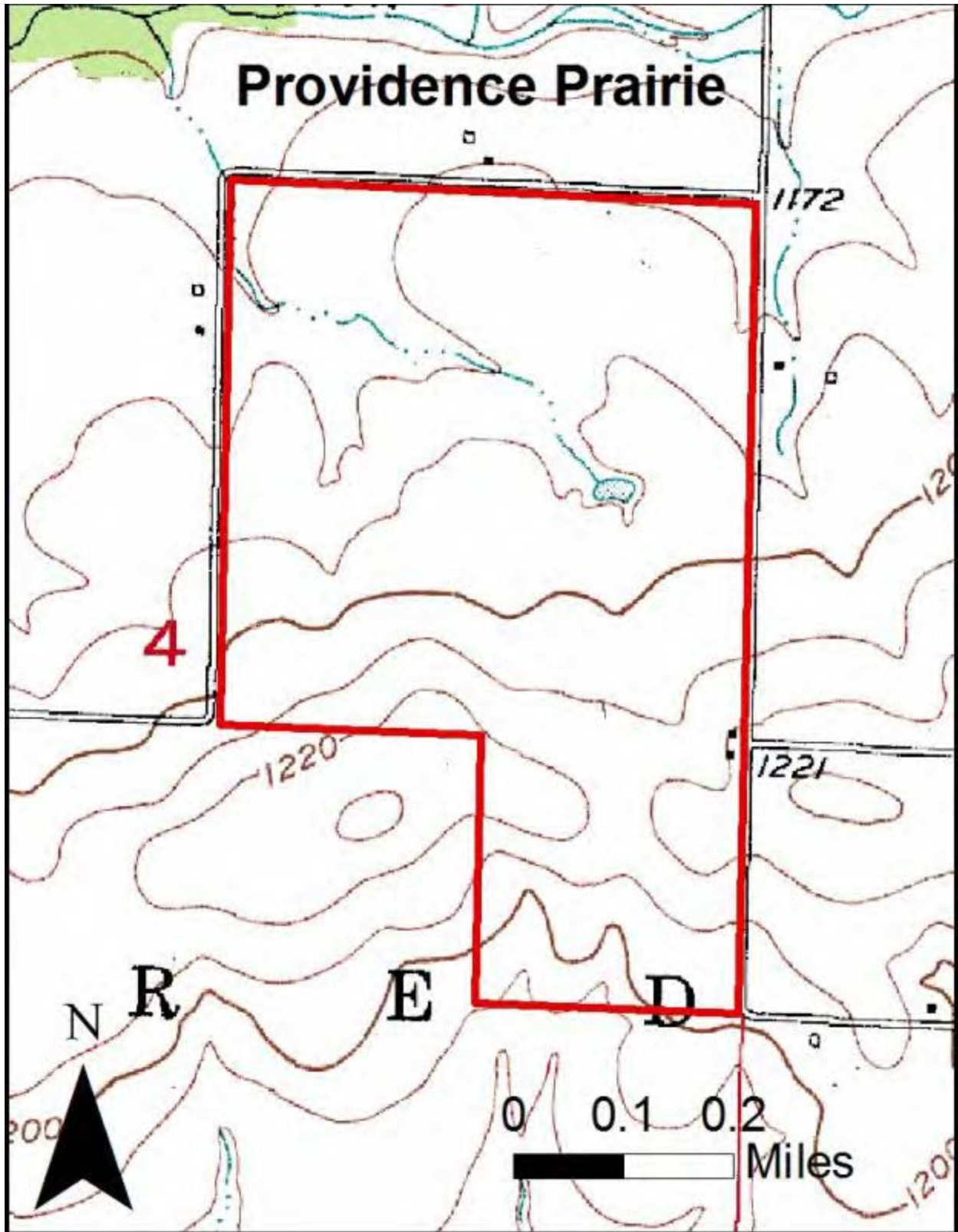
Appendix 15. Area Map of Providence Prairie CA



Appendix 16. Aerial Map of Providence Prairie CA



Appendix 17. Topographic Map of Providence Prairie CA



Appendix 18. Sky Prairie CA Background

Sky Prairie was purchased in 1981. This area supports a diverse prairie bisected by woody draws. Sky Prairie has an elevation change of over 100 feet, which is unlike any other prairies in the area. This prairie is comprised primarily of dry- mesic sandstone prairie. This prairie was a popular cattle and horse watering point in the 1800s when cattle were being driven from Arkansas to Kansas City to be sold. A spring located in the east-central portion of the area provided a reliable water source for the traveling herds.

Legal Description: Township 34 North, Range 28 West, Section 13.

Area Location: Sky Prairie is located 7 miles West of Stockton at the intersection of County Road 1400 and 705.

Current Land and Water Types:








Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Native prairie	148		74
Woods/shrubs	52		26
Total	200		100
Stream frontage		0.30	

Appendix 19. Area Map of Sky Prairie CA

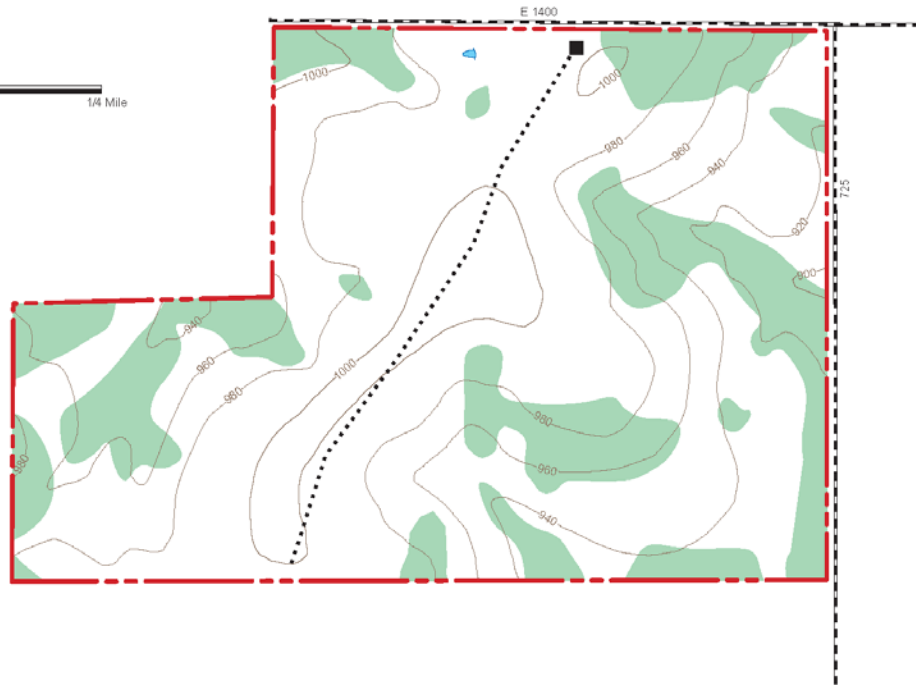
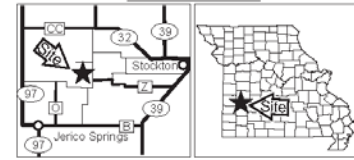
SKY PRAIRIE CONSERVATION AREA

CEDAR COUNTY
200 ACRES

LEGEND

- Boundary 
- Gravel Road 
- Area Access Trail 
- Parking Lot 
- Pond 
- Forest 
- Topography 

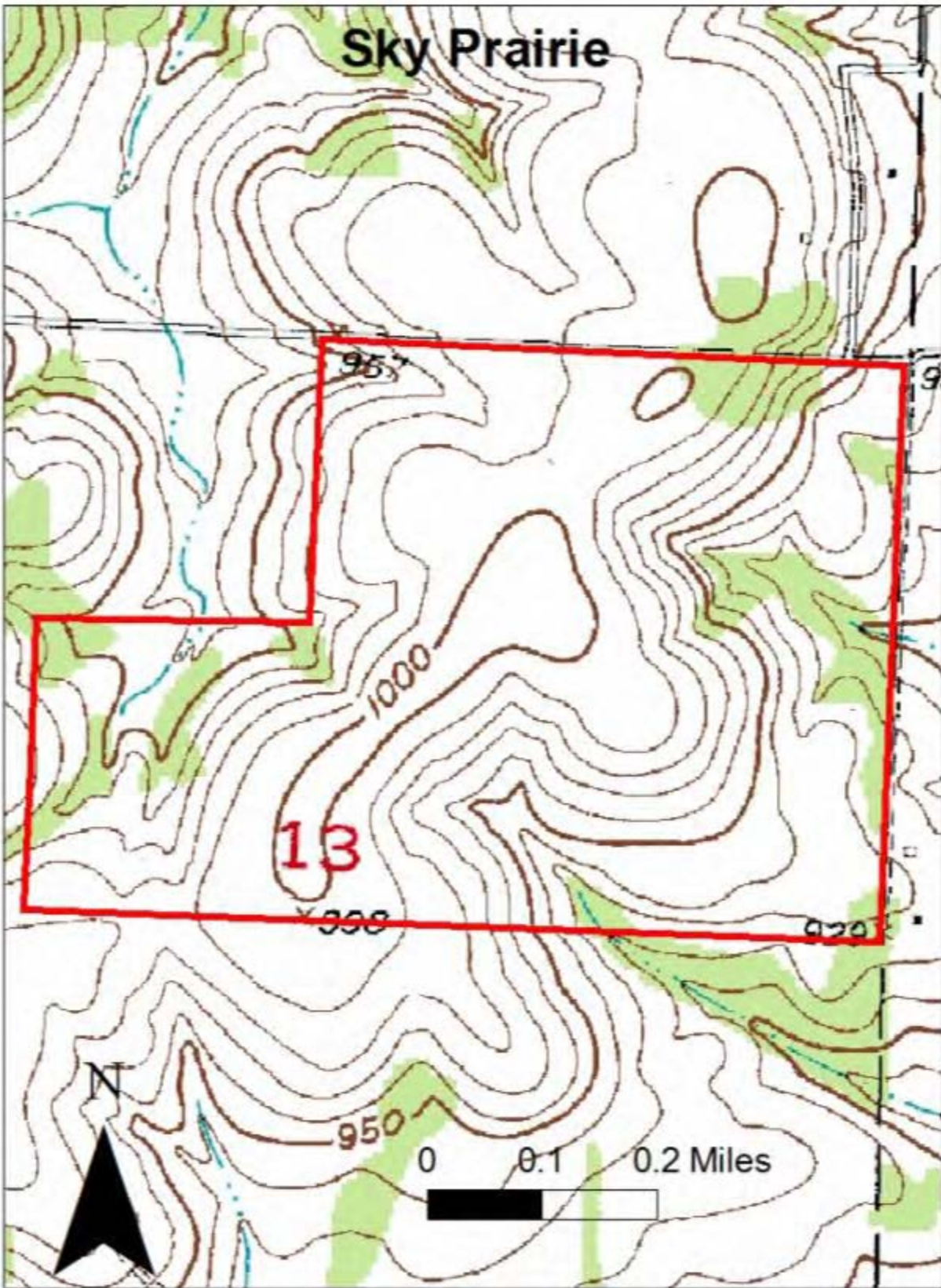
VICINITY MAP



Appendix 20. Aerial Map of Sky Prairie



Appendix 21. Topographic Map of Sky Prairie



Appendix 22. Stony Point Prairie CA Background

The western section of Stony Point Prairie CA (640 acres) was purchased in 1988. The eastern 320 acres were donated to the Department in 2002 by the Burns Family. Stony Point is rolling upland prairie formed from sandstone bedrock. The area features numerous sandstone outcrops and interesting wet-mesic drainages that support many wildlife species. Regal fritillary butterflies and prairie mole crickets are just a few of the interesting species using this area. This prairie had a history of both grazing and haying prior to the Department’s ownership.

Legal Description: Township 32 North, Range 28 West, Sections 8 and 9.

Area Location: Stony Point Prairie is located 3.5 miles west and 9 miles north of Lockwood on Highway D.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Native prairie	920		94
Woods/shrubs	40		6
Total	960		100
Stream frontage		4.8	

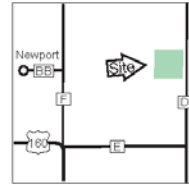
Appendix 23. Area Map of Stony Point Prairie CA

STONY POINT PRAIRIE CONSERVATION AREA

DADE COUNTY
960 ACRES

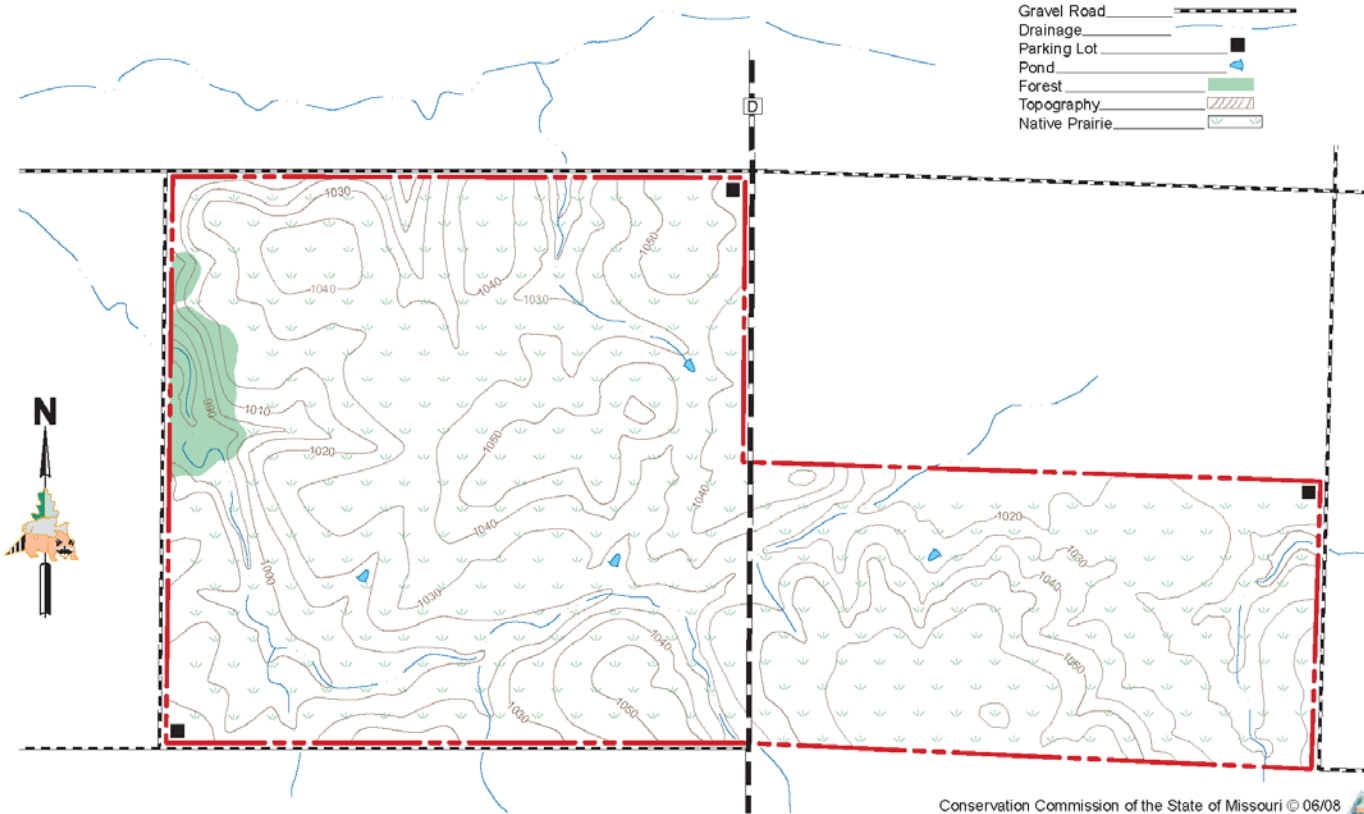


VICINITY MAP



LEGEND

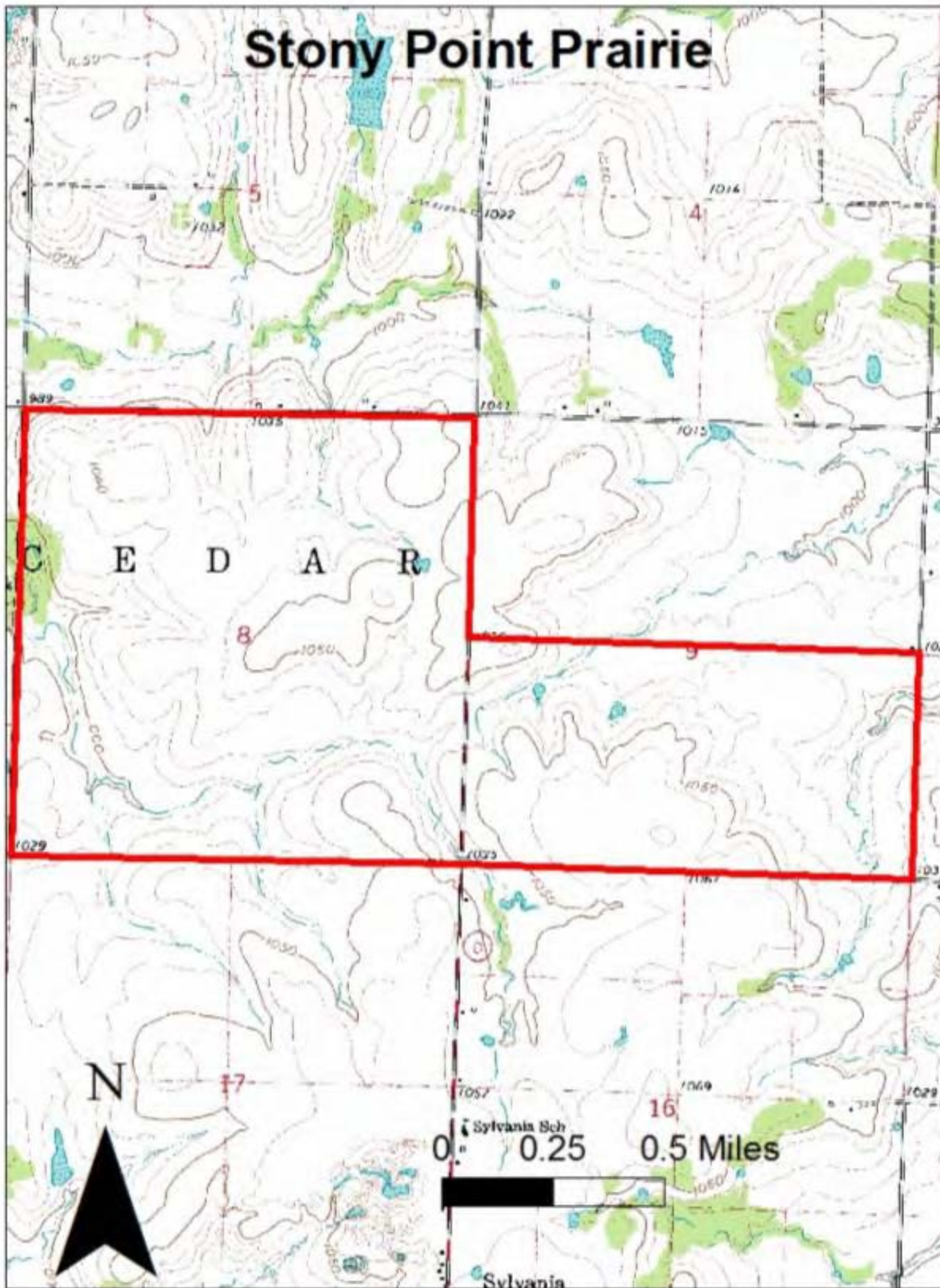
- Boundary
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Drainage
- Parking Lot
- Pond
- Forest
- Topography
- Native Prairie



Appendix 24. Aerial Map of Stony Point Prairie CA



Appendix 25. Topographic Map of Stony Point Prairie CA



Appendix 26. Twenty-five Mile Prairie CA Area Background

Twenty-five Mile Prairie was purchased in 2000. The northern portions of the area were hayed prior to the Department’s ownership. Two small stock ponds are present, suggesting that the area was grazed at some point. The southern portion of the area was grazed prior to the Department’s ownership. Some portions of the southern part of the prairie were used to overwinter cattle with daily feedings of hay and silage. The majority of the area consists of dry-mesic chert prairie. There are also several acres of limestone prairie, which is very rare in Missouri. The northern 120 acres was designated as a Natural Area in 2010 for its rare high-quality dry-mesic limestone/dolomite prairies that support a high diversity of native prairie plant and insect species. This is the largest publicly owned prairie on soils derived from loess over limestone and dolomite deposits. Most of these prairies have been converted to row crops and fescue pasture.

Legal Description: Township 35 North, Range 24 West, Section 24.

Area Location: Twenty-five Mile Prairie is located 2.5 miles east of Humansville on County Road 330.

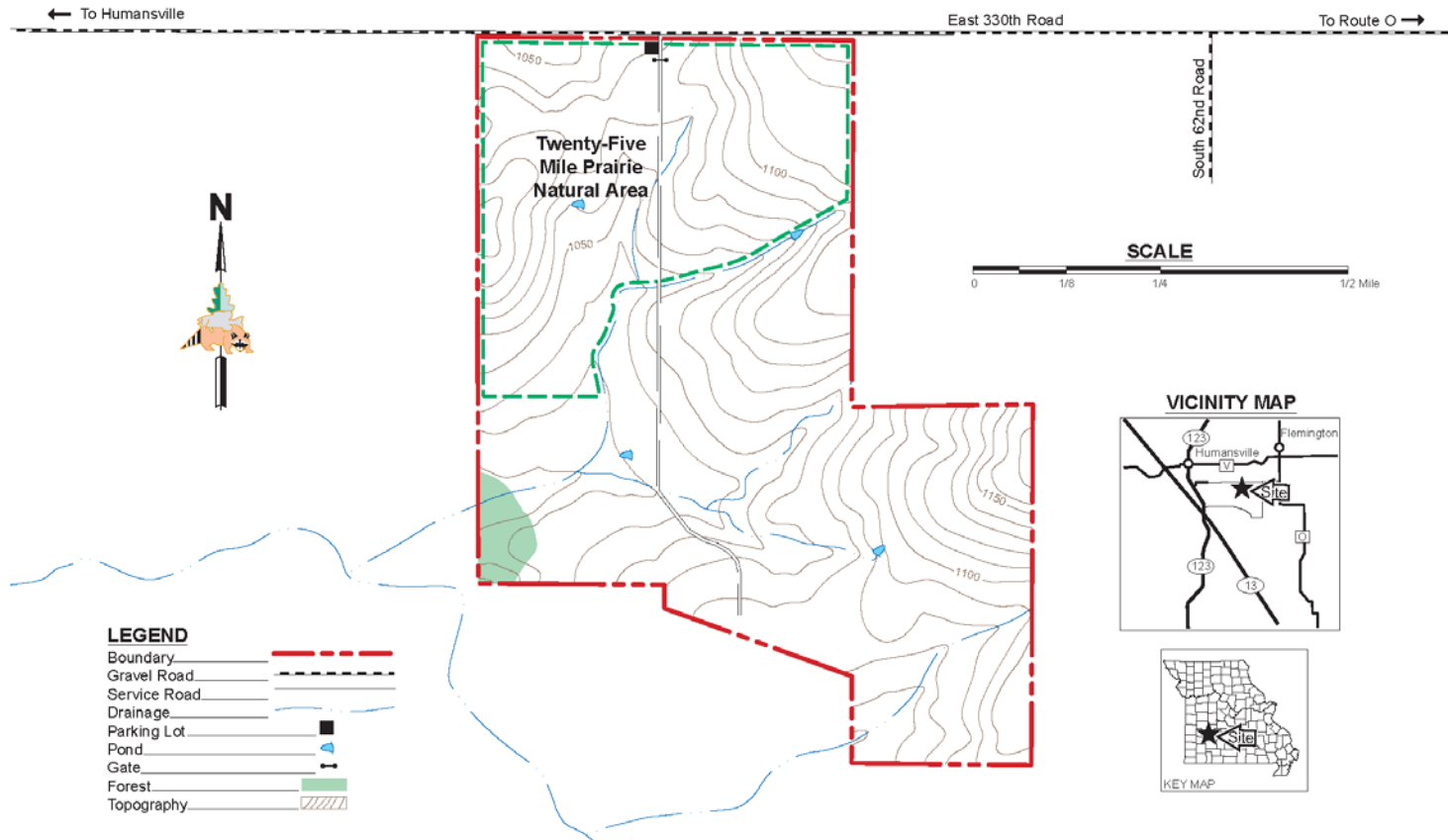
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Native prairie	320		96
Woods/shrubs	14		4
Total	334		100
Stream frontage		2.0	

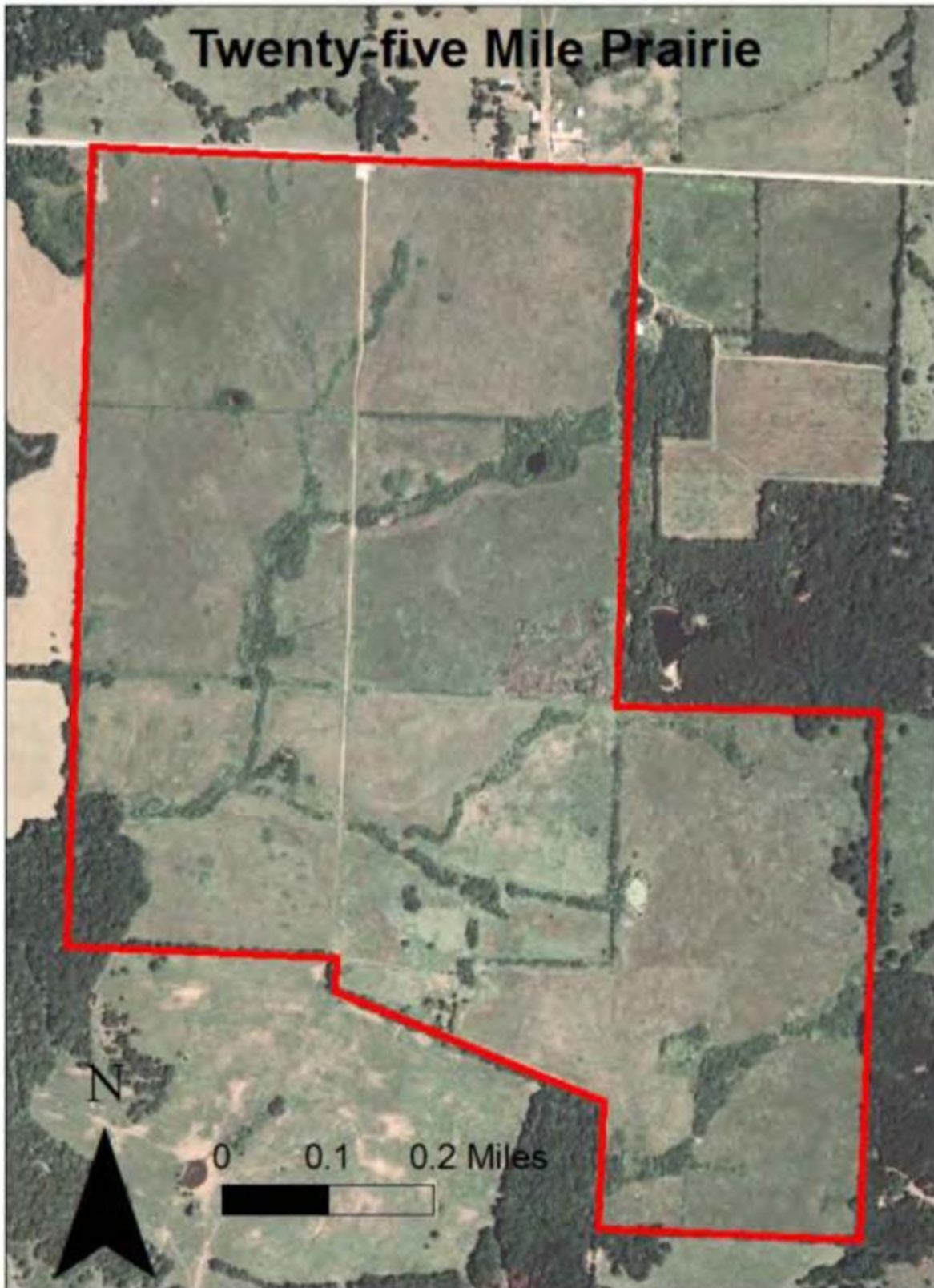
Appendix 27. Area Map of Twenty-five Mile Prairie CA

TWENTY-FIVE MILE PRAIRIE CONSERVATION AREA

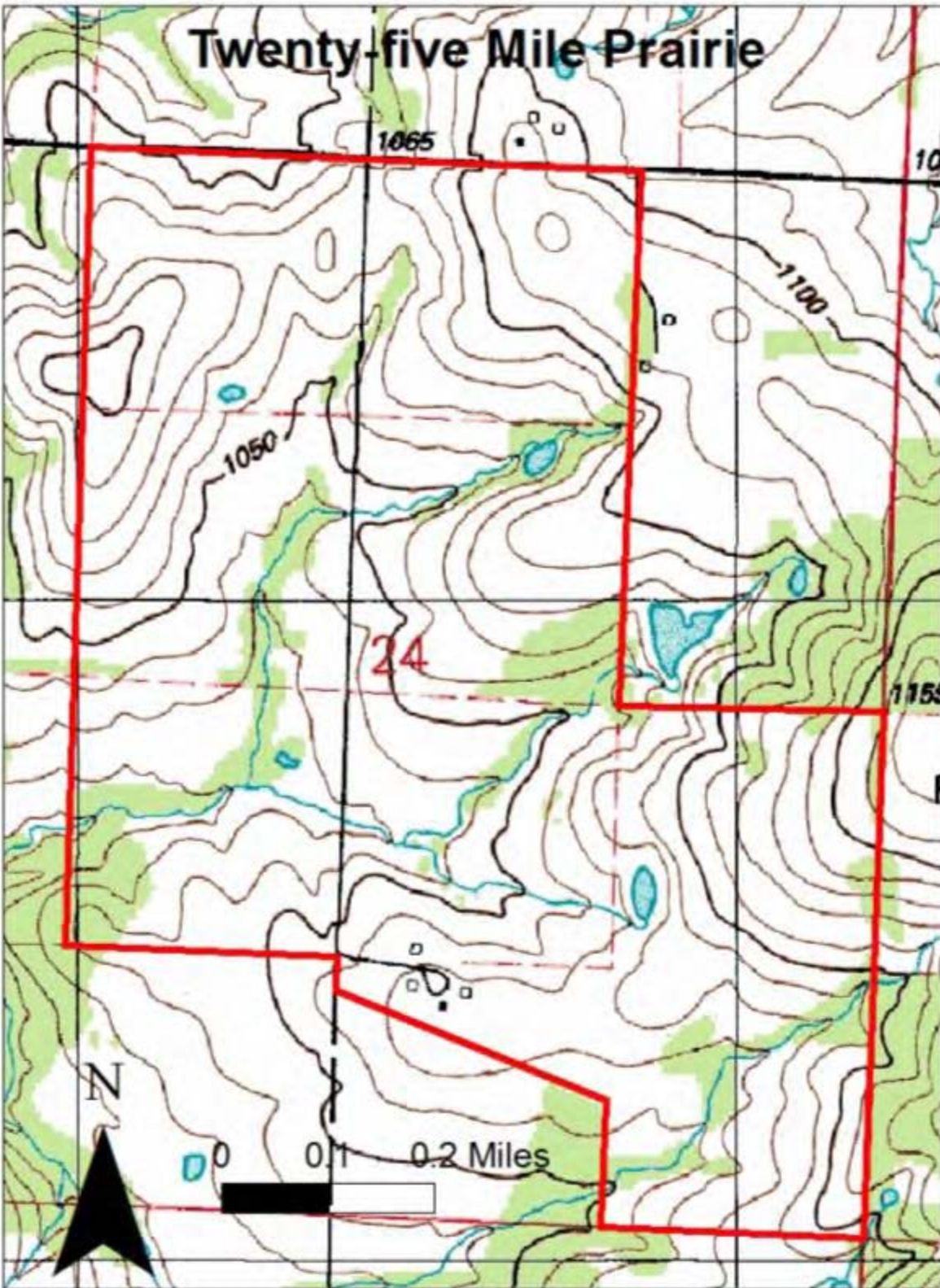
POLK COUNTY
334 ACRES



Appendix 28. Aerial Map of Twenty-five Mile Prairie CA



Appendix 29. Topographic Map of Twenty-five Mile Prairie CA



Appendix 30. Wade and June Shelton Memorial CA Background

Shelton Prairie was purchased in 2009 with funds from the Wade and June Shelton Family. Prior to purchase, the majority of the area was annually hayed and occasionally grazed. The area is dominated by dry-mesic sandstone prairie, but also supports a small area of dry-mesic chert prairie. The draw that bisects the southern portion of the area supports an assemblage of more moisture loving species. As of 2015, this prairie harbors the last remaining Greater Prairie Chicken known in Dade County.

Legal Description: Township 31 North, Range 28 West, Section 2.

Area Location: Shelton Prairie is located 4.5 miles north and 2 miles west of Lockwood. Travel Highway 97 for 4 miles north of Lockwood. Travel west on Highway VV 2 miles, then north on County Road Dade 51 for 0.5 miles.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Native prairie	310		97
Woods/shrubs	10		3
Total	320		100
Stream frontage		1.0	

Appendix 31. Area Map of Wade and June Shelton Memorial CA

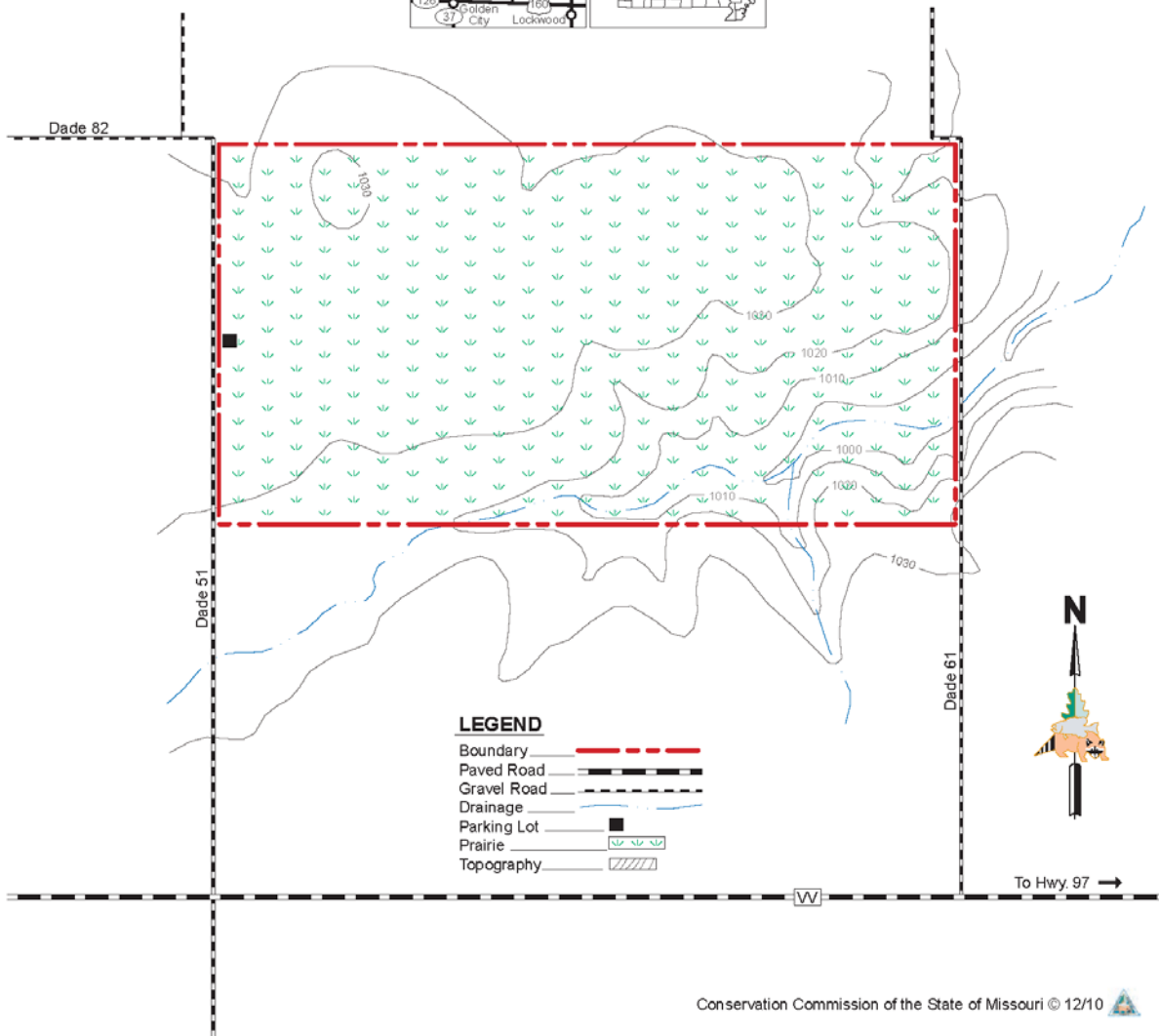
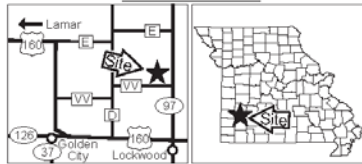
WADE AND JUNE SHELTON MEMORIAL CONSERVATION AREA

DADE COUNTY
320 ACRES

SCALE



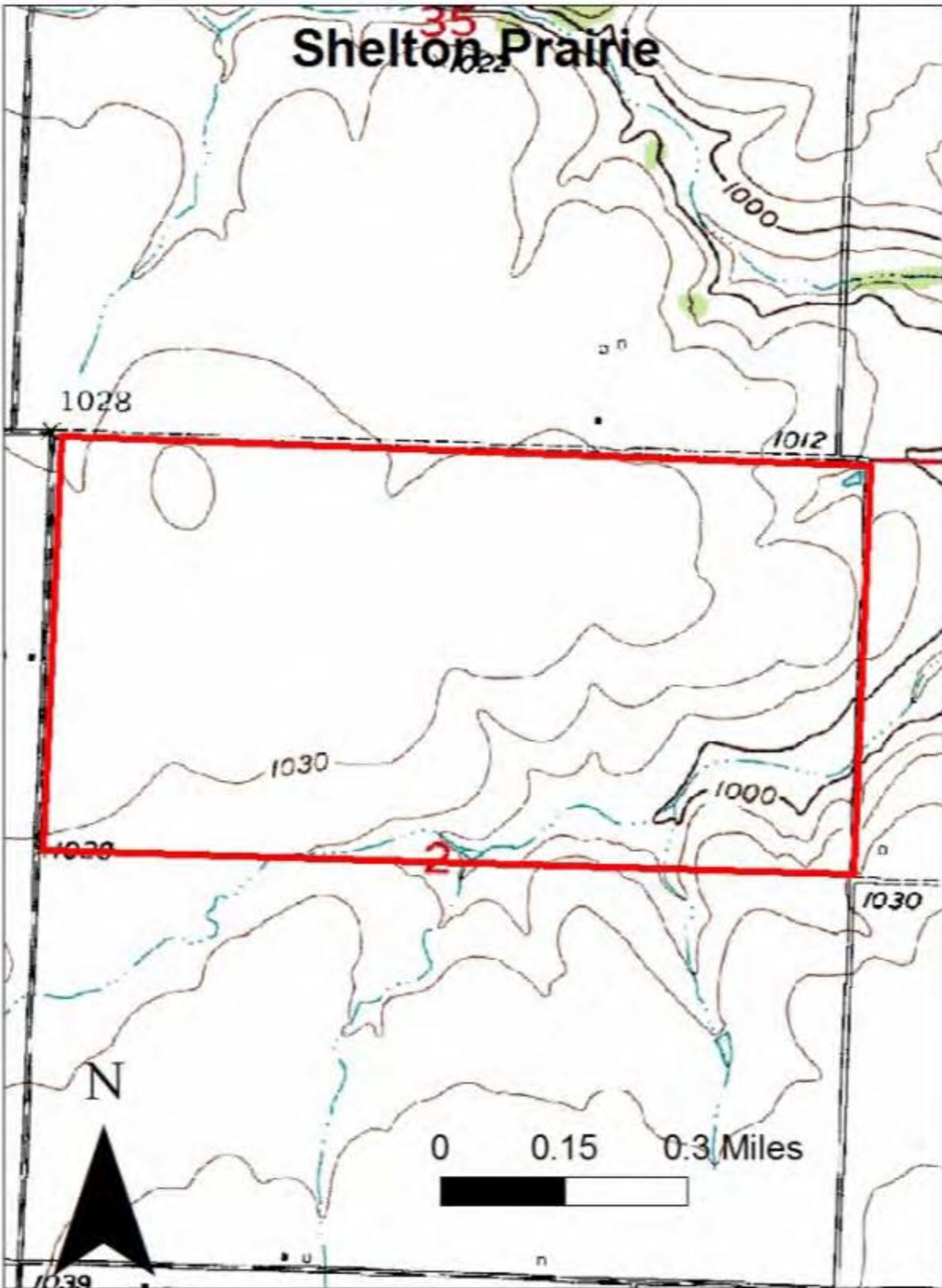
VICINITY MAP



Appendix 32. Aerial Map of Wade and June Shelton Memorial CA



Appendix 33. Topographic Map of Wade and June Shelton Memorial CA



Appendix 34. Easement Map of Wade and June Shelton Memorial CA



Appendix A. Ozark Highland Southwest Region Prairies Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (January 1-31, 2016):

<p>Like many MDC lands, several of these areas are void of any edge feathering. Some of the areas in this group are all prairie and in these cases (Shelton, Indigo, etc.) feathering edges is a moot point. However, areas such as Kickapoo, Sky, and Twenty Five Mile would benefit greatly from extensive feathering and timber thinning. Most of the woody sections on these areas are dense and mature. This open grass to mature tree line offers no cover for small game. As I almost exclusively hunt public ground it is infuriating to hear the MDC tout edge feathering for private land and then not utilize it on public ground. Quite the contrary, nearly all MDC managed areas I have visited have a large brush hogged strip next to much of the area's timbered sections or crop run clear to the edge. Stop mowing and planting next to tree lines. Get the feathering in!</p>
<p>Not knowledgeable enough to comment on specific management details, but would like to acknowledge the efforts and the educational value of the presentation itself</p>
<p>We have appreciated the grazing of the local prairies. It is very beneficial to the local wildlife.</p>
<p>I feel that grazing conservation prairie areas benefits a wider range of wildlife species compared to prairie land that is not grazed.</p>