

Wyaconda Crossing Conservation Area

Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan
FY 2018-2032



Lisa B. Allen
Forestry Division Chief

3-06-18
Date

Wyaconda Crossing Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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NORTHEAST REGION

RCT Chair

Matt Embles 29 January 2018
Signature Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

Forest Management Chief

Justin Garver 2/28/18
Signature Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Wyaconda Crossing Conservation Area, # 7838
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1978
- **Acreage:** 148 acres
- **County:** Lewis
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

The primary management emphasis for Wyaconda Crossing Conservation Area (CA) is to provide diverse habitat for fish and wildlife through sound management practices, while offering the public compatible outdoor recreational opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Wyaconda Crossing CA is an area with a healthy bottomland forest ecosystem. The desired future conditions also include established stable, wooded stream corridors that increase water quality and create more public use opportunities.
 - 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:** 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
 - D. Other:** Streamside riparian area and a meandering stream channel

- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - One parking pull-off (alongside of road)

- IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**
 - A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None

B. Federal Interest: N/A

C. Easements:

- Lewis County Commission road
- Warranty deed for this property states, “Also, an easement of right-of-way fifteen (15) feet wide from the public road on the south extending due north along the west line of Section Seven (7), Township Sixty-two (62) north, Range Six (6) west, to the southwest corner of the northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of Section Seven (7), Township Sixty-two (62) north, Range Six (6) west.” However, this easement does not actually extend far enough south to reach the county road as described, thus limiting public access to the northern tract (Figure 4).

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

E. Endangered Species: None observed.

F. Boundary Issues: None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) The bottomland forest on this conservation area is dominated by early successional tree species, primarily eastern cottonwood, silver maple, river birch, and pin oak. Many of the trees have become mature to over-mature in age. Thus, a significant level of decline of the maturing trees is occurring.
- 2) Because access of the northern tract is limited and acreage on this area is small, it is impractical to perform active forest management strategies to improve the future health of these resources. It is expected that shade-tolerant tree species, such as elm, hackberry, boxelder, and Ohio buckeye, will become the dominant species over the next couple of decades.

Management Objective 1: Manage invasive species on the area.

Strategy 1: Monitor area for invasive species populations. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: If an invasive species is found on the area, coordinate efforts to eradicate the species using techniques, including but not limited to chemical and mechanical treatments. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Implement management to maintain or enhance populations of species of conservation concern on Wyaconda Crossing CA.

Strategy 1: Monitor the populations of all listed species every 10 years or more often, as needed, to maintain current records in the Department's Heritage Database. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Implement forest and riparian best management practices as described in the Department's manuals, *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice* manual (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014) and the *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines: Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014), specifically to benefit species of conservation concern. (Forestry, Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) The Wyaconda River and a first-order tributary flow through Wyaconda Crossing CA. The Wyaconda River has been heavily impacted by past channelization efforts upstream of the conservation area. Thus, aquatic habitat is rather poor in this section of river. Sediments are dominated by silt and sand. However, this section of stream is fairly stable and the conservation area does provide quality riparian corridor habitat.

Management Objective 1: Maintain a forested corridor along all streams on the area.

Strategy 1: Maintain a forested corridor through natural regeneration or planting. A minimum width of 200 feet from top of bank will be maintained along the Wyaconda River. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: All management activities on Wyaconda Crossing CA will follow the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009). (Forestry)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Wyaconda Crossing CA provides some public use opportunities, including fishing, hunting, trapping, and bird watching. The area's northern tract is landlocked by private ownership. Ambitious area users can access the landlocked portion of this area by boat.
- 2) Access from 145th Street requires parking along road right of way. Because of flood frequency and light public use, it is impractical to establish a parking lot.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area boundaries.

Strategy 1: Sign and check area boundaries every five years. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Provide hunting and fishing opportunities on the area by maintaining user access where possible.

Strategy 1: Explore modifications to the existing pull-off parking lot to enhance safety and use. (Forestry, Design and Development)

Management Objective 3: 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)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Previous attempts to purchase land along the west side of the Wyaconda River have been unsuccessful. These purchases would have had the potential to eliminate landlocked portions and could have offered a location to install a parking lot out of the flood plain.

Management Objective 1: Assess opportunities to acquire easements or purchase adjoining lands.

Strategy 1: When available, adjacent land or easements will be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Consider the option to pursue selling or trading land-locked tracts that cannot be made accessible to the public. (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

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32
Terrestrial Resource Management															
<i>Objective 2</i>															
Strategy 1										X					
Public Use Management															
<i>Objective 1</i>															
Strategy 1	X					X					X				

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Wyaconda Crossing Conservation Area's original warranty deed is dated 1978. The prior owner was Consolidated Packaging Corporation. Early management by Consolidated Packaging Corporation was for the production of pulp and paper to construct boxes. The company had enrolled this land into the Forest Cropland System that was administered by the Missouri Department of Conservation. This program was established to help prevent land use conversion of forestland by providing tax benefits to forestland owners who maintained their woodlands to certain specifications.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	140		95
River	6		4
Old Field	2		1
Total	148		100
Stream Frontage		1.5	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Wyaconda Crossing Conservation Area was available for a public comment period July 1-31, 2017. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

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

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *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: Aerial Map with Topography

Figure 3: Land Cover Map

Figure 4: Easement Map

Figure 1: Area Map

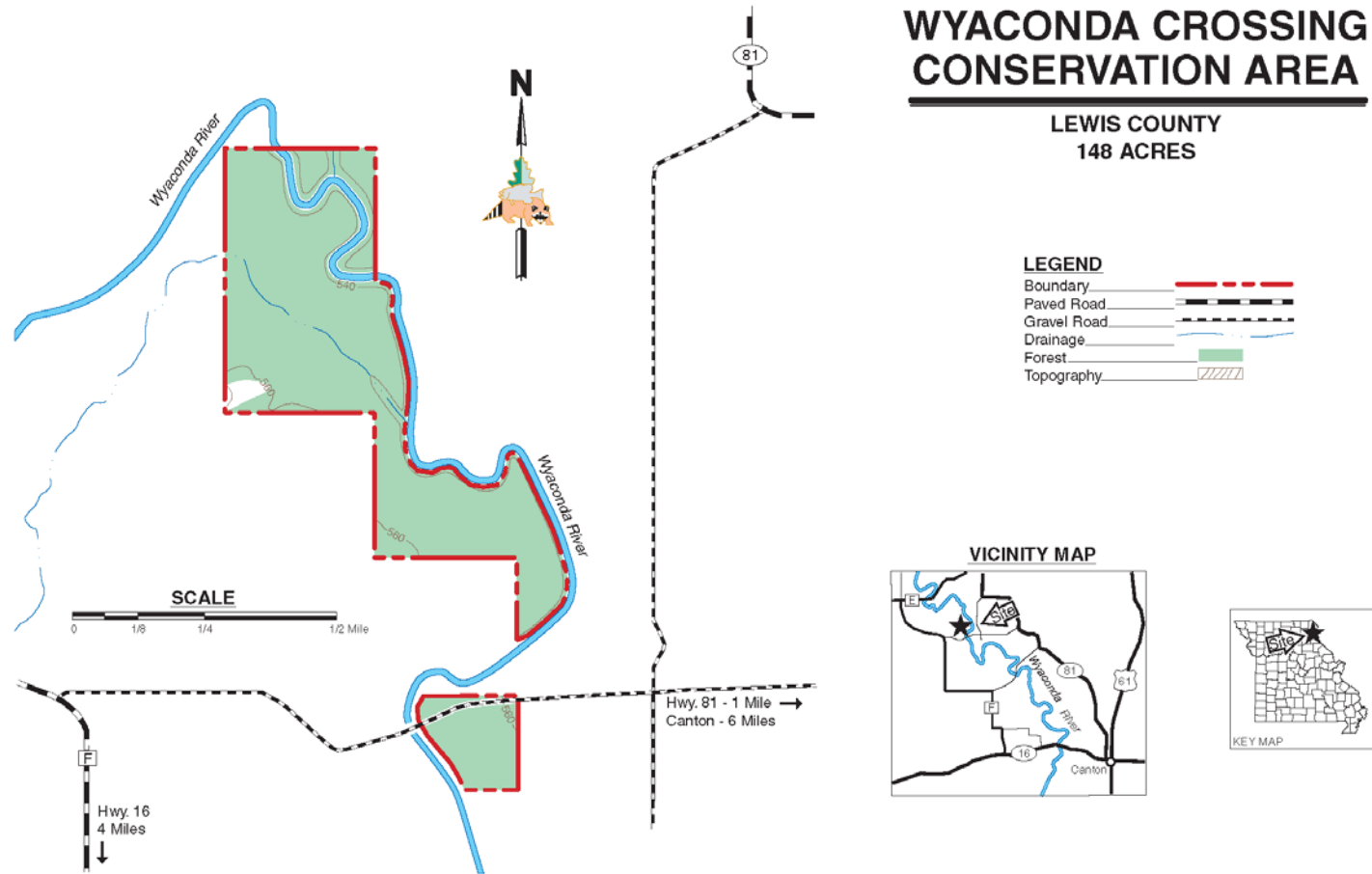


Figure 2: Aerial Map with Topography

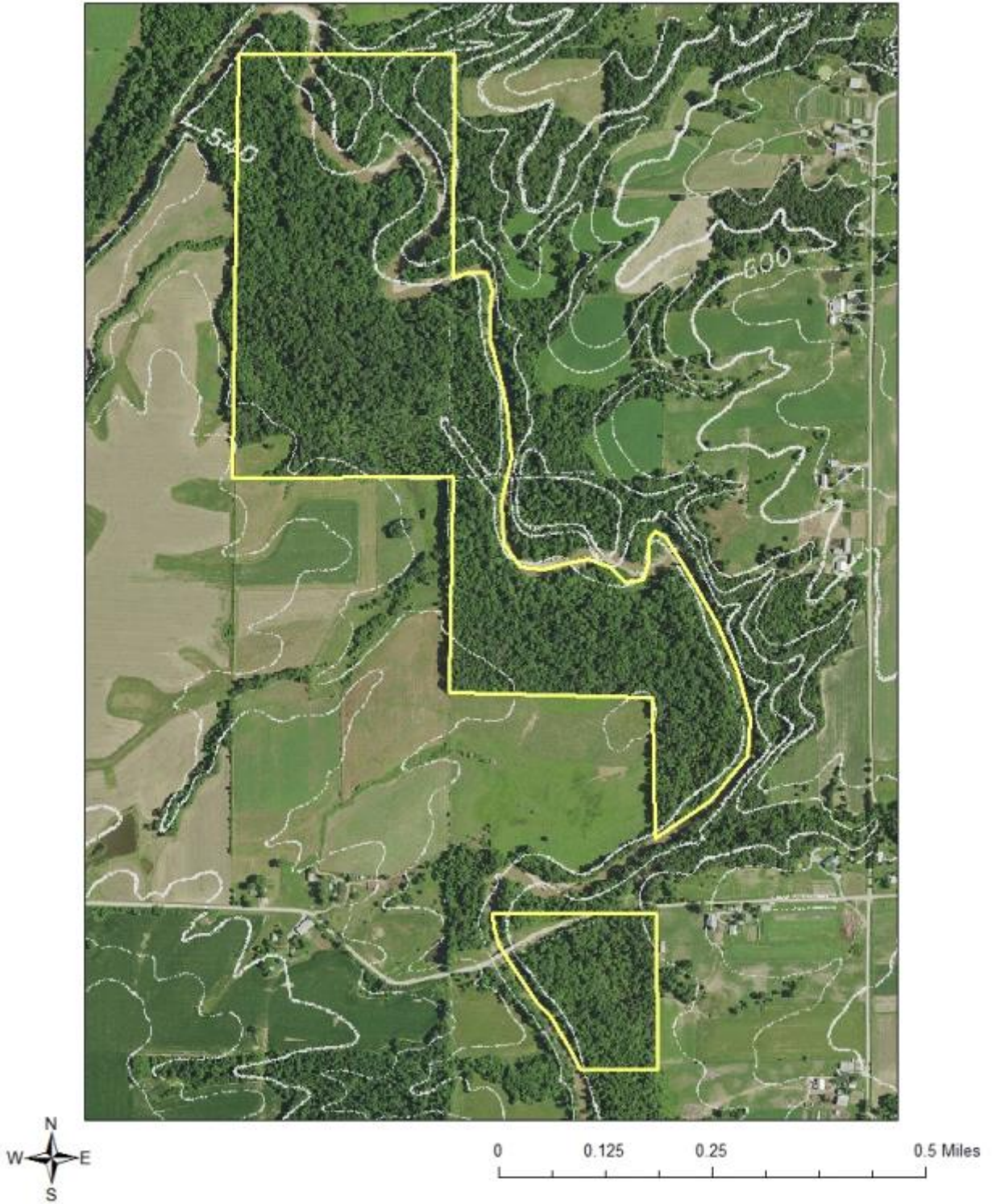


Figure 3: Land Cover Map

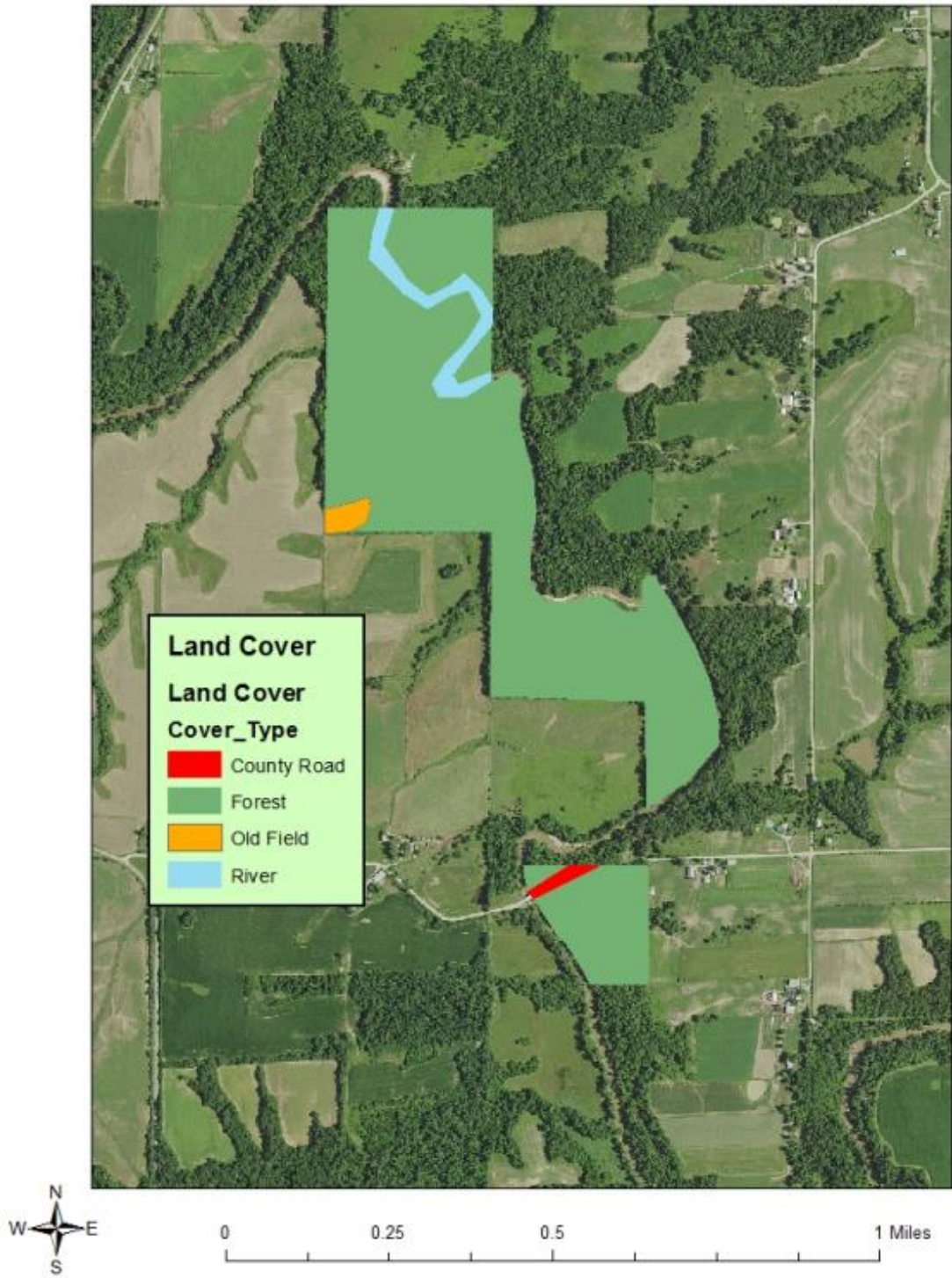


Figure 4: Easement Map

