

Dale Sare Conservation Area

Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan

FY 2019-2033



Joel W. Porath

Wildlife Division Chief

12/3/2018

Date

Dale Sare Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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Signature

Date

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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Dale Sare Conservation Area, #200615
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 2005
- **Acreage:** 320 acres
- **County:** Greene
- **Region:** Southwest
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Manage for woodland and grassland communities for outdoor skill education use by small groups.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Dale Sare Conservation Area (CA) is a landscape of woodland and grassland natural communities.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** Little Sac River Fisheries Priority Watershed
 - B. Natural Areas:** None

- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.
 - B. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None
 - D. Other:** Lies within the Ozark Highlands Section, Springfield Plain Subsection, Little Sac River Oak Savanna/Woodland Low Hills Landtype Association (Nigh & Schroeder, 2002).

- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - One parking lot
 - Three camping sites (no amenities provided, special use permit required from the area manager for groups of more than 10 people)

IV. **Area Restrictions or Limitations**

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** In 2005, 320 acres were donated by Dale and Lois Sare to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) through the Ozark Regional Land Trust. Area was donated for Scout groups to use for training and outing events.
- 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:** None
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** Yes, records kept with the MDC environmental compliance coordinators. Managers should follow best management practices for cultural resources found in MDC's Resource Policy Manual.
- E. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- F. Boundary Issues:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. **Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations**

Dale Sare CA contains approximately 290 acres of woodlands and 30 acres of grasslands. Land management will focus on maintaining healthy natural communities for wildlife.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage the woodland natural community.
- 2) Maintain healthy grassland habitat.

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

Strategy 1: Monitor woodlands for invasive vegetation, diseases, and insects.

Suppress any infestations that may develop as time and priorities allow. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Retain and protect existing den trees. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Use prescribed fire to maintain and enhance open woodlands as time and priorities allow. (Wildlife)

Strategy 4: Follow forest management plan recommendations and update plan in 2022. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Maintain healthy grassland habitat.

Strategy 1: Monitor grassland areas for invasive species. Suppress any infestations that may develop. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Maintain native vegetation and add forbs when invasive species are controlled as time and priorities allow. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Manage for pollinator species and supplement with native milkweeds as appropriate. (Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Dale Sare CA has no fishing opportunities. Site conditions and soil types preclude the development of fishing impoundments. A headwater stream does exist on the area, and drains eastward into Kings Branch. The area is located within the Little Sac River Priority Watershed.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) The area is within a priority watershed and has a headwater stream.

Management Objective 1: Maintain and/or enhance functionality and quality of the stream on the area.

Strategy 1: Continue to implement stream best management practices as outlined in MDC's *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines* (MDC, 2009). (Wildlife, Fisheries, Forestry)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide the public with upland game hunting (deer, turkey, rabbit, and squirrel) and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- 2) Increase educational and interpretive opportunities.
- 3) Continue to build relationships with neighboring landowners.

Management Objective 1: Provide public hunting (deer, turkey, rabbit, and squirrel) and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Conduct annual management activities that will provide habitat for a diversity of species. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Improve educational and interpretive opportunities.

Strategy 1: Communicate recreational opportunities to the public (e.g., through area brochures and MDC's *Conservation Atlas* webpage). (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Communicate the uniqueness of the area to teachers, students, scout groups, and youth groups to facilitate as a possible destination for ecology classes, school programs, Discover Nature School fieldtrips, and workshops. (Outreach and Education)

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

Strategy 1: Work with neighbors to minimize any boundary, trespass, or any other issues affecting Dale Sare CA or private property. (Wildlife and Protection)

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

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain current area infrastructure.
- 2) Consider land acquisition, when available.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with MDC guidelines. (Wildlife)

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 MDC priorities as identified in the annual MDC land acquisition priorities may be considered.

APPENDICES

Area Background:

In 2005, the Commission approved the donation of 320 acres from Dale and Lois Sare. Total acreage under MDC management is 290 acres of woodland and 30 acres of grassland. The majority of the area is oak-hickory woodland. There is one open field near the center of the area that has been re-established in native warm-season grasses and is maintained by prescribed fire. The woodland is made up of poor to fair quality pole and sawtimber trees of black jack oak, post oak, chinquapin oak, and hickory. The area is well suited to small groups in a primitive setting to facilitate participation in resource management activities and to provide opportunities for youth groups to use, enjoy, and learn outdoor skills related to forest and wildlife resources.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area	Miles
Upland Woodland	290	91	
Grassland	30	9	
Total	320	100	
Permanent Stream Frontage			0

Public Input Summary:

The draft Dale Sare Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period July 1–31, 2018. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from three respondents (Appendix A). The Dale Sare Conservation Area 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 Dale Sare Conservation Area Management Plan public comment period.

Terrestrial Resource Management

Supports the preservation of the area’s forests.

We support management of healthy forests and will address insect, disease, and decline issues as they arise.

Would like to see Dale Sare CA kept as a natural/undeveloped area.

There are no current plans for structures or development on this area.

Public Use Management

Values educating the public about the importance of having “wild areas,” like Dale Sare CA, in Missouri.

MDC offers many opportunities to discover nature through our conservation areas.

Has enjoyed using the area for outdoor education and training for a Boy Scout Troup.

Dale Sare CA is ideal for these training and education opportunities.

Values MDC’s commitment to caring for and maintaining this area.

We appreciate the opportunity to manage lands for Missouri citizens’ use and enjoyment.

Loves to explore Dale Sare CA.

Thank you for utilizing your conservation areas.

Opposes bicycle use on the area.

Bicycles are not permitted on Dale Sare CA. Opportunities to mountain bike ride are available nearby on the Ozark Greenway’s, Frisco Highline Trail, Galloway Creek Greenway, and Two Rivers Mountain Bike Park.

References:

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

Nigh, T. A., & Schroeder, W. A. (2002). *Atlas of Missouri ecoregions*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Topographic Map

Figure 3: Stand Map

Figure 4: Aerial Map

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A: Dale Sare Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Area Map

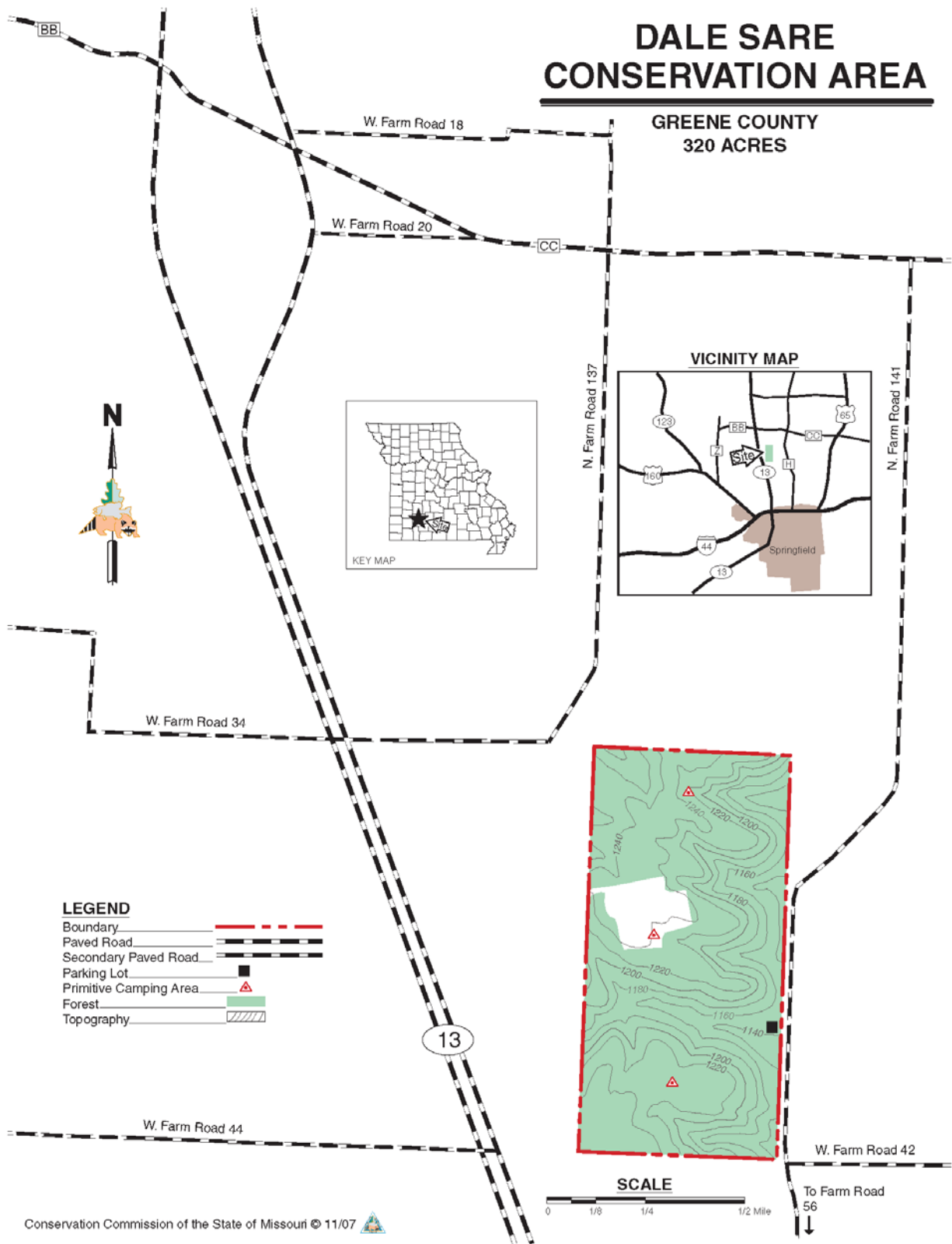


Figure 2: Topographic Map

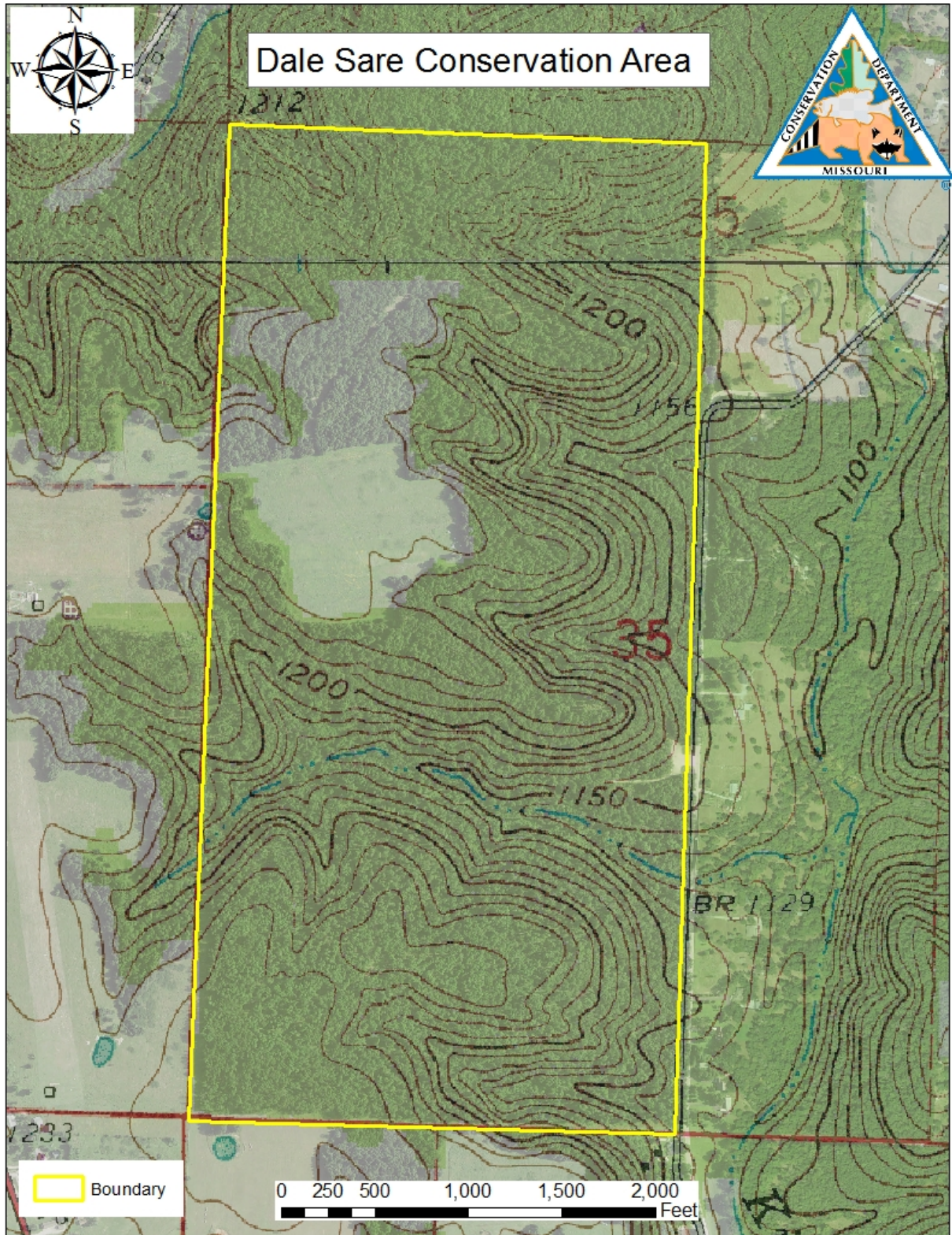


Figure 3: Stand Boundaries Map

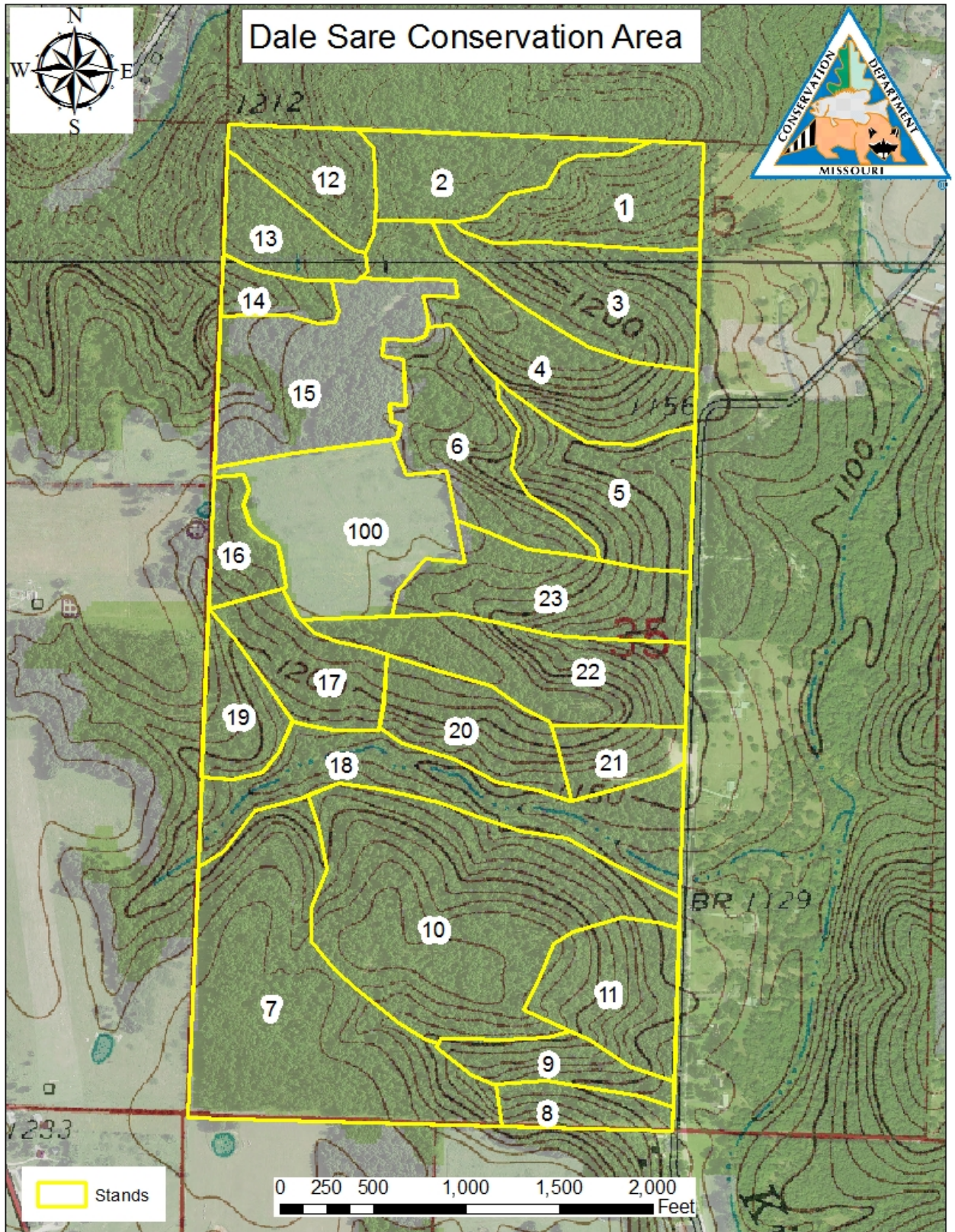
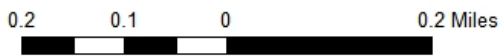



Figure 4: Aerial Map



Legend

 Dale Sare CA Boundary



Appendix A: Dale Sare Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (July 1–31, 2018):

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: <https://mjvande.info/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking....

A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see <https://mjvande.info/scb7.htm>). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions.

Mountain bikers also love to build new trails - legally or illegally. Of course, trail-building destroys wildlife habitat - not just in the trail bed, but in a wide swath to both sides of the trail! E.g. grizzlies can hear a human from one mile away, and smell us from 5 miles away. Thus, a 10-mile trail represents 100 square miles of destroyed or degraded habitat, that animals are inhibited from using. Mountain biking, trail building, and trail maintenance all increase the number of people in the park, thereby preventing the animals' full use of their habitat. See <https://mjvande.info/scb9.htm> for details.

Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT?

To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video: <http://vimeo.com/48784297>.

In addition to all of this, it is extremely dangerous: https://mjvande.info/mtb_dangerous.htm .

For more information: <https://mjvande.info/mtbfaq.htm> .

The common thread among those who want more recreation in our parks is total ignorance about and disinterest in the wildlife whose homes these parks are. Yes, if humans are the only beings that matter, it is simply a conflict among humans (but even then, allowing bikes on trails harms

the MAJORITY of park users -- hikers and equestrians -- who can no longer safely and peacefully enjoy their parks).

The parks aren't gymnasiums or racetracks or even human playgrounds. They are WILDLIFE HABITAT, which is precisely why they are attractive to humans. Activities such as mountain biking, that destroy habitat, violate the charter of the parks.

Even kayaking and rafting, which give humans access to the entirety of a water body, prevent the wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.

An excellent plan to preserve our ever-shrinking forests. Education is very important to show our residence the need for this and more wild area in the state.

As a neighbor of the Dale Sare Conservation area, we appreciate MDC's commitment to maintaining this area. Our continued hope for the Dale Sare Conservation Area is for it to remain a natural and primitive area to be enjoyed by local enthusiasts and Scout Troops. In the past, we have enjoyed it as an area to educate our Scout Troop in Wilderness Survival and completed an Eagle Scout Project in its boundaries. In the present, we continue to enjoy exploring the area. Thank you again.