

# Charity Access

## Ten Year Area Management Plan FY 2013-2022



*Jessie B. Allen*

Forestry Division Chief

*1-27-14*

Date

## Charity Access Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

### PLANNING TEAM:

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Craig Fuller, MDC Fisheries Management Biologist

Jay Barber, MDC Education Consultant

### SOUTHWEST REGION

SW RCT Chair

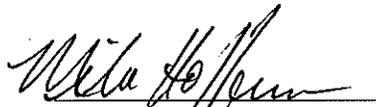
  
Signature

12-31-13

Date

### FORESTRY DIVISION

Forestry Management Chief

  
Signature

1-14-14

Date

## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Charity Access, #8249
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1982
- **Acreage:** 163 acres
- **County:** Dallas
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry Division, Southwest Region
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry Division, Southwest Region
- **Statements of Purpose:**
  - A. Strategic Direction**

Provide public fishing access to the Niangua River for both boat and bank anglers and manage for healthy, sustainable, forest, woodland, and aquatic communities for future generations to use and enjoy.
  - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Charity Access is forested uplands and riparian corridor with some grassland/early successional habitat.
  - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
  - A. Priority Areas:** None
  - B. Natural Area:** None
  - C. Other:** Federally designated critical habitat
  
- 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**
  - Concrete Ramp: 1
  - Parking Lot: 1
  
- IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**
  - A. Deed restrictions or ownership considerations:** 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:** Conoco Pipeline Company, Missouri Department of Transportation
- D. Cultural resources findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. Hazards and hazardous materials:** None observed.
- 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:** None known.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Management centers on providing bank and boat access to the Niangua River, preventing activities from compromising stream bank integrity and providing some limited upland wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities. Area maintenance is provided by staff within Forestry Division.

#### **Challenges and Opportunities**

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

**Management Objective 1:** Enhance, restore, and protect forest and riparian natural communities (Forestry).

**Strategy 1:** Suppress all wildfires on the area through direct control and by maintaining or adding firebreaks.

**Strategy 2:** Use even-aged and uneven-aged management practices to correct deficiencies in tree composition (species and age) and/or stand structure according to current structure, age, site index, and species composition. Maintain loose bark tree composition for bat habitat.

**Strategy 3:** Due to the small tract size, forest inventory may be completed on an as needed basis to monitor stand composition and assess needs for forest health.

**Strategy 4:** Use prescribed fire as well as chemical and mechanical treatment to control invasive woody plants to restore and maintain grassland natural communities.

**Management Objective 2:** Maintain riparian corridors as specified in the Department's Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines (2009). (Forestry/Fisheries)

**Strategy 1:** Allow natural vegetative processes to continue.

**Strategy 2:** Replace dead trees as needed to maintain riparian cover.

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

**Management Objective 3:** Prevent soil erosion due to infrastructure (Forestry).

**Strategy 1:** Ensure roads and road-side drainages are maintained to reduce runoff, sedimentation and erosion.

**Management Objective 4:** Control invasive and exotic species (Forestry).

**Strategy 1:** Monitor area for invasive and exotic species periodically and use appropriate strategies for control. These could include mechanical, chemical or prescribed fire treatments.

## VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Management centers on providing bank and boat access to the Niangua River, preventing activities from compromising stream bank integrity and providing some limited upland wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities. Area maintenance is provided by staff within Forestry Division.

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Prevent excessive stream bank erosion.

**Aquatic Management Objective 1:** Ensure that area infrastructure doesn't increase bank erosion (Forestry/Fisheries).

**Strategy 1:** Boat ramp will be maintained to have a low profile on the bank to prevent back eddies and scouring currents.

**Aquatic Management Objective 2:** Protect and enhance watershed and aquatic habitat (Forestry/Fisheries).

**Strategy 1:** Continue to maintain the established forested riparian corridors associated with intermittent streams on the area.

**Strategy 2:** Employ appropriate best management practices associated with management and enhancement projects.

## VII. Public Use Management Considerations

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Providing public access along the Niangua River.
- 2) Keeping the public informed of the opportunities available at this area.
- 3) Maintaining the area in a desirable condition.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain suitable public access (Forestry).

**Strategy 1:** Ensure existing infrastructure is maintained to Department standards.

**Management Objective 2:** Continue to inform the public of the opportunities at this area (Forestry/Fisheries/O&E).

**Strategy 1:** Maintain signage at Charity Access in accordance with MDC policy.

**Strategy 2:** Work with local media specialist to highlight special opportunities on the area.

**Strategy 3:** Maintain up to date information about Charity Access on MDC web page.

**Management Objective 3:** Provide recreational and educational opportunities for the public (Forestry).

**Strategy 1:** Provide signage to acknowledge and educate the public about partnerships.

**Strategy 2:** Issue trapping permits through the Special Use Permitting process.

## VIII. Administrative Considerations

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Ensuring all easements are properly documented and filed at County Recorder's Office.
- 2) Evaluate land offered as additions to this area.

**Management Objective 1:** Ensure all easements are properly filed at County Recorder's Office (Forestry).

**Strategy 1:** Use GIS and surveys where necessary to ensure that any easements are properly located.

**Management Objective 2:** Expand this area only if unique conditions occur (Forestry).

**Strategy 1:** Evaluate any property offered to MDC to ensure it will help promote and enhance the purpose of the area or helps to protect sensitive habitat.

**Strategy 2:** Any expansion of this area should be considered only after review of the impacts to work loads and whether the area can be maintained using current staffing level.

## MANAGEMENT TIME TABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Administrative										
Objective 1										
Strategy 1		X								

### References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (April 2009), *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*, (32 pages)

## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

Charity Access was purchased by the Department of Conservation for use as a river access in 1982, and has provided significant public use since that time. Bank anglers also have a small length of bank that provides access to some rocky areas and root wads that hold game fish throughout the year. Due to significant spring water inflow just above this access, this stretch of stream retains relatively cool water year round. The area includes a small amount of bottomland timber. Open areas in the riparian zone have been planted with a variety of native bottomland tree species to provide bank stabilization and to slow flood waters that flow through the area and encourage overland deposition of silt to enhance water quality of the river. Small boat access is provided by a recently constructed concrete boat ramp and parking lot adjacent to the Route M Bridge.

Legal Description: Township 32 North, Range 19 West, Section 2.

Area Location: Two miles east of Buffalo on Highway 32, then eight miles south on Route H, and 2.75 miles east on Route M to Niangua River. Charity Access is the upstream-most public access to the Niangua River and lies 19.3 miles upstream of Big John Access.

**Current Land and Water Types:**

<b>Land/Water Type</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>% of Area</b>
Forest/Woodlands	120		73%
Grassland	43		27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>		<b>100%</b>
Stream Frontage		1.3	

**Public Input Summary:**

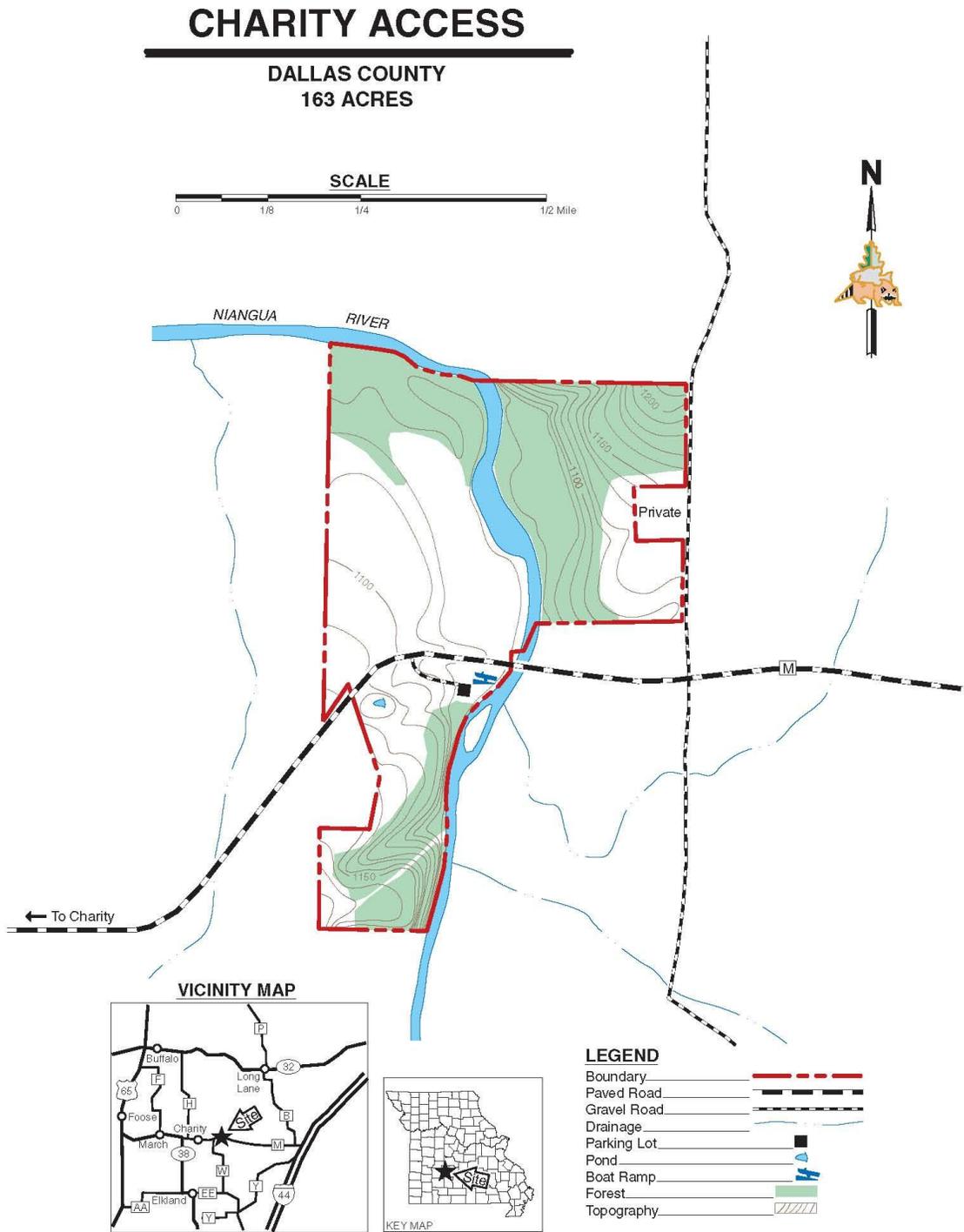
The draft Charity Access Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period October 1 - October 31, 2013. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

**Maps:**

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Vicinity Map on the Niangua River

**Figure 1: Area Map of Charity Access.**



**Figure 2: Vicinity Map on the Niangua River.**

