Lon Sanders Canyon Conservation Area

Ten Year Area Management Plan

FY 2013-2027

Lisa D. Allen
Forestry Division Chief

11-25-13
Date

Planning Team

This plan was completed by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Interdivisional planning team.

Brian Towe, MDC Conservation Agent — Initials: BT Date: 12-21-12

Mark McLain, MDC Wildlife Management Biologist — Initials: MM Date: 12-20-12

David Hasenbeck, MDC Private Land Conservationist — Initials: DH Date: 12/20/12

Mike Reed, MDC Fisheries Management Biologist — Initials: MR Date: 12/21/12

Bob Gillespie, MDC Natural History Biologist — Initials: BD Date: 01/22/12

Pat Holloway, MDC Conservation Education Consultant — Initials: PH Date: 12/21/12

Shane Bozard, MDC Resource Forester — Initials: SB Date: 12/21/12

Southeast Region

Chris Kennedy, SE RCT Chair

Signature: Date: 10-15-13

Forestry Division

Mike Hoffmann, Forestry Management Chief

Signature: Date: 11-14-13

OVERVIEW

- **Area Name and Number:** Lon Sanders Canyon Conservation Area – 8827
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1988
- **Acreage:** 130 acres
- **County:** Wayne County
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statement of Primary Purpose:**

  A. Strategic Direction

  The primary purpose of the area is to serve as a place for outdoor recreation including hiking, hunting, fishing, nature viewing, and outdoor education. This will be accomplished by maintaining a walking trail and an interpretive loop trail on the area. The area will receive limited management in order to maintain an undisturbed and natural appearance for visitors. Prescribed burning will continue to be used to maintain the glade on the area for ecological and educational purposes. The parking lot, hiking and interpretative trails will be maintained and updated to provide recreational and educational opportunities for the public that visit the area.

  B. Desired Future Condition

  The desired condition of Lon Sanders Canyon Conservation Area (CA) is a forest/glade landscape.

  C. Federal Aid Statement

  N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. <u>Special Considerations</u>

A. Priority Areas: Mudlick Igneous Knobs Conservation Opportunity Area; McKenzie Creek Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area, Forest Action Plan Priority Forest Landscape, Audubon Important Bird Area.

B. Natural Area: N/A

II. <u>Important Natural Features and Resources</u>

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

- One interpretive trail approximately ½ mile in length with one concrete bench. One walking trail approximately ¼ mile in length.
- One foot bridge and two old stone and concrete dams.
- One parking lot with information bulletin board

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

A. Deed restrictions: The donated portion of the property (80 acres) is to be retained by the Department as a wildlife study, hiking, and natural area. No other restrictions apply to the area.

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: No easements exist on the property

D. Cultural Resource Findings: There are no known cultural or archeological sites of significance on the area.

E. Hazards and Hazardous Materials: The area has potential falling hazards due to steep slopes, edges, and loose rocks. This will be addressed by placing a sign reading "Caution – Steep Slopes and Loose Rocks Ahead" on the information bulletin board to warn visitors. The area also contains an old stone and concrete dam that has a concrete top walkway that can be slippery. This will be addressed by placing signs at the edge of the walkway that read "Caution-Concrete Walkway may be Slippery".

F. Endangered Species: No known populations of endangered species are known to exist on the area.

G. Boundary Issues: No boundary issues exist for the area. Boundary lines will be maintained with blue paint on a rotational basis of 5 years and boundary signs maintained on an annual basis.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) The Lon Sanders Canyon Conservation Area provides an opportunity for visitors to easily enjoy the outdoors due to its close proximity to the city of Piedmont. The scenic beauty and interpretive trail allow visitors to view and learn about nature in an area that has limited disturbance to the forest. The interpretive trail in

particular allows visitors to learn more about the outdoors and resource management including the use of prescribed fire in habitat restoration in the Missouri Ozarks.

2) With limited management due to consideration of public use and limiting terrain, the greatest challenge for the area is sanitation issues due to litter from the public.

Management Objective 1: Maintain the glade area for ecological and educational purposes.

Strategy 1: Continue to implement prescribed burning on a rotational basis to reduce woody cover.

Management Objective 2: Maintain an undisturbed and natural forest area.

Strategy 1: Limit operational activities to the trail, parking lot, and boundary maintenance. Trail maintenance will be implemented in order to provide a safe and easily identifiable trail for visitors while causing minimal disturbance.

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) With McKenzie Creek being in an Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area, care is necessary to maintain the integrity of the portion of the creek that crosses the conservation area.
2) With the Department owning a section of the land along McKenzie Creek, the opportunity is present to allow visitors to enjoy the beauty of the creek while also providing a riparian buffer area along the creek that receives limited disturbance. The riparian buffer zone will also be beneficial to any species of conservation concern that may be present in McKenzie Creek.

Management Objective 1: Maintain the riparian corridor along McKenzie Creek.

Strategy 1: Minimize disturbance when maintaining the trails on the area and prohibit vehicular traffic beyond the parking lot.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) The greatest public use challenge is ensuring visitor safety and area sanitation. The potential for litter and Department property vandalism is present.
2) With a close proximity to the city of Piedmont, the area serves as a place of relaxation and solitude for visitors. The area provides an opportunity for the Department to present a good image to the public by providing an enjoyable place to visit. By updating the interpretive trail, the area can also continue to provide an

educational aspect to visitors. Updating the interpretive trail also represents a potential project for the local Boy Scout troop.

Management Objective 1: Locate warning signs to ensure public safety.

Strategy 1: Post a caution sign on the information bulletin board to warn of steep slopes and loose rocks, and place caution signs at the old dam to warn of the slippery surface.

Management Objective 2: Update the interpretive trail to provide an educational aspect for visitors.

Strategy 1: Update trail by replacing missing trail station signs or moving station signs to new locations. Create new trail guide pamphlets to match the interpretive trail.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) An administrative challenge to the area is dedicating the time and resources to maintaining the property given other priorities and commitments that are undertaken by the Wayne County work team.
2) Continue to maintain a "defensible" boundary around the area

Management Objective 1: Maintain the area's boundary

Strategy 1: Paint the boundary line with blue paint on an established 5 year rotational basis and maintaining boundary signs on an annual basis.

Lands Proposed for Acquisition: Additional land acquisition is of low priority.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Terrestrial Resource Management											
Objective 1											
Strategy 1				X			X			X	
Public Use Management											
Objective 1											
Strategy 1		X					X				
Objective 2											
Strategy 1		X					X				
Administrative Consideration											
Objective 1											
Strategy 1					X					X	

APPENDICES

Area Background:

The Department purchased 50 acres of the area in 1988 from Lena G. McGhee. In that same year the Department also received a donation of 80 acres from Nan Gardner Weber to form the present Lon Sanders Canyon Conservation Area. Mrs. Weber donated the land to be used as a wildlife study area and a hiking and nature area. The area was named after a previous owner, Lon Sanders, who had a goal of turning the canyon area into a nature park. With the help of others, he built stone benches, wooden pavilions, built the two stone and concrete dams, and built concrete and rock grills along the creek. At present, much of what was built has been damaged or destroyed. Additional history of the area includes quarrying of stone blocks to be used for buildings in the communities of Piedmont and Patterson. In 1883, some of the stones may have been used as cobblestones in streets in St. Louis. Currently, the majority of the area is dominated by oak-hickory forests, with an approximately 7 acre glade prescribed burn area, and 2 acres of McKenzie creek. The area is used for hiking, swimming, and relaxation by visitors.

Current Land and Water Types

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Upland Forest	121		93
Glade	7		5
Stream Frontage	2		2
TOTAL	**130**		**100**

Public Input Summary:
The draft Lon Sanders Canyon Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period August 1-August 31, 2013. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

References:
Rowold, David. 2012. MDC District Forester. Personal Communication.
Lon Sanders Canyon Conservation Area Plan. 1995. MDC Area Plan Document.

Maps:
Figure 1: Area Map
Figure 2: Topographic Map
Figure 3: Location Map

Attachments:
Attachment 1: Area Regulations

Figure 1: Area Map

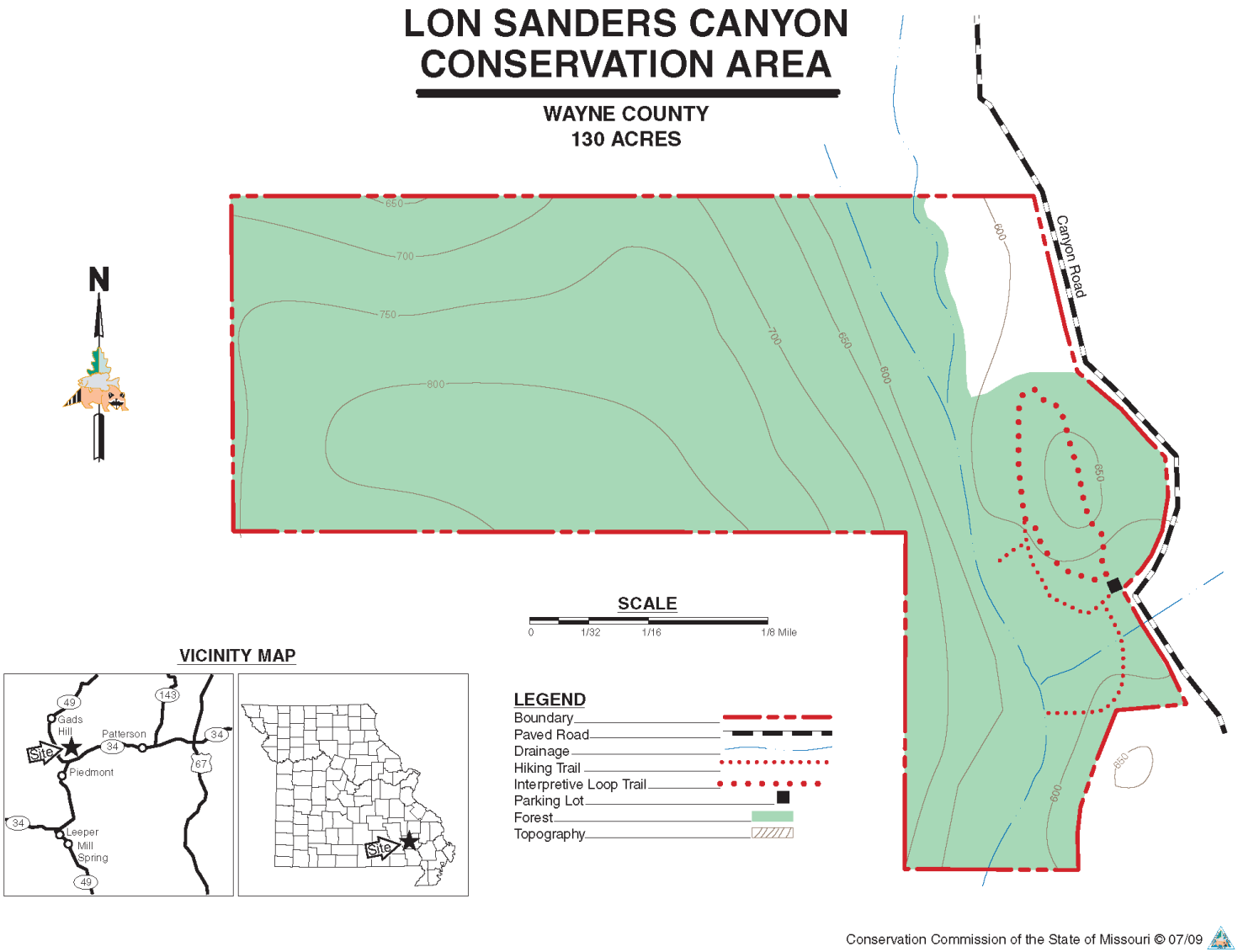


Figure 2: Topographic Map

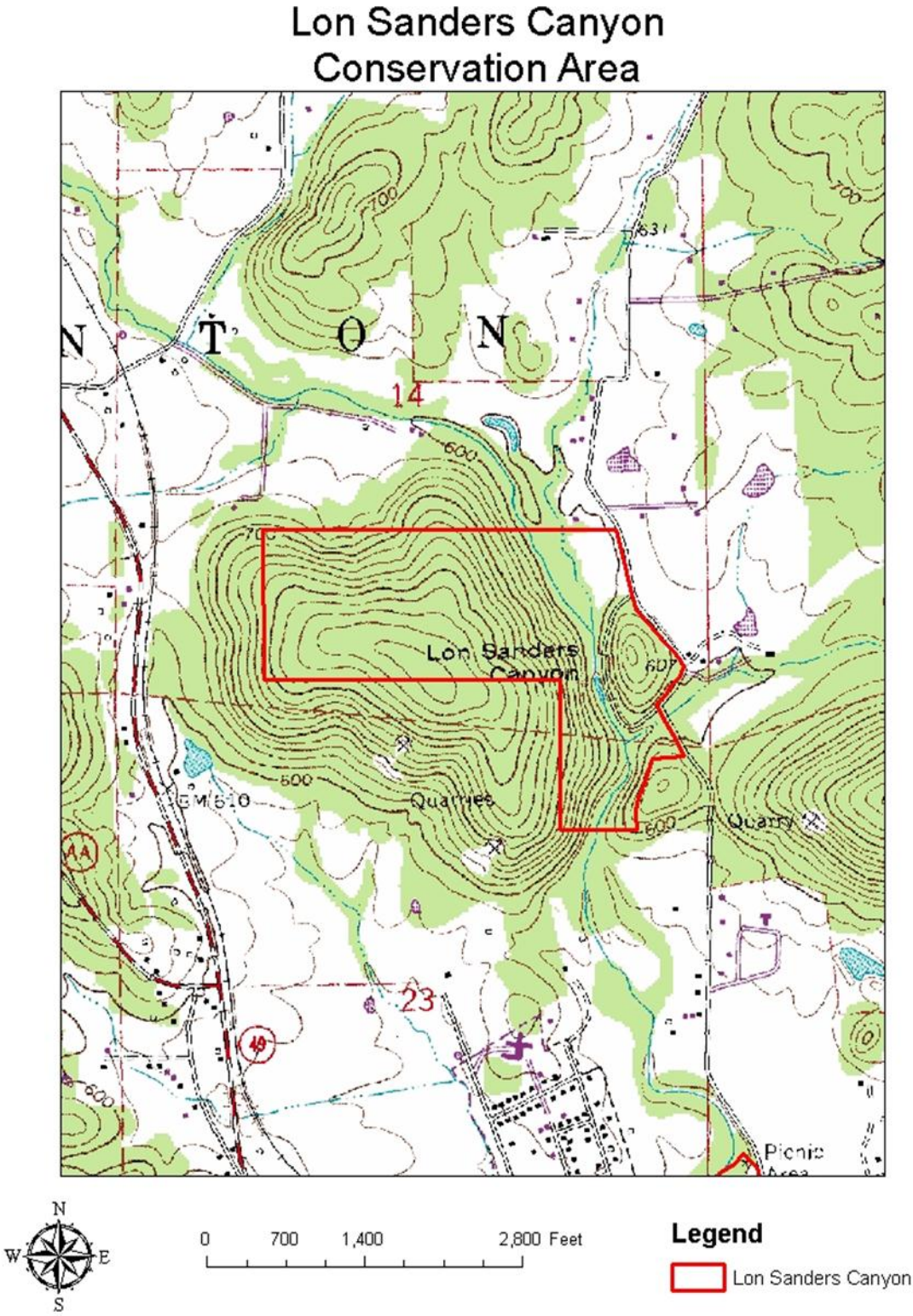
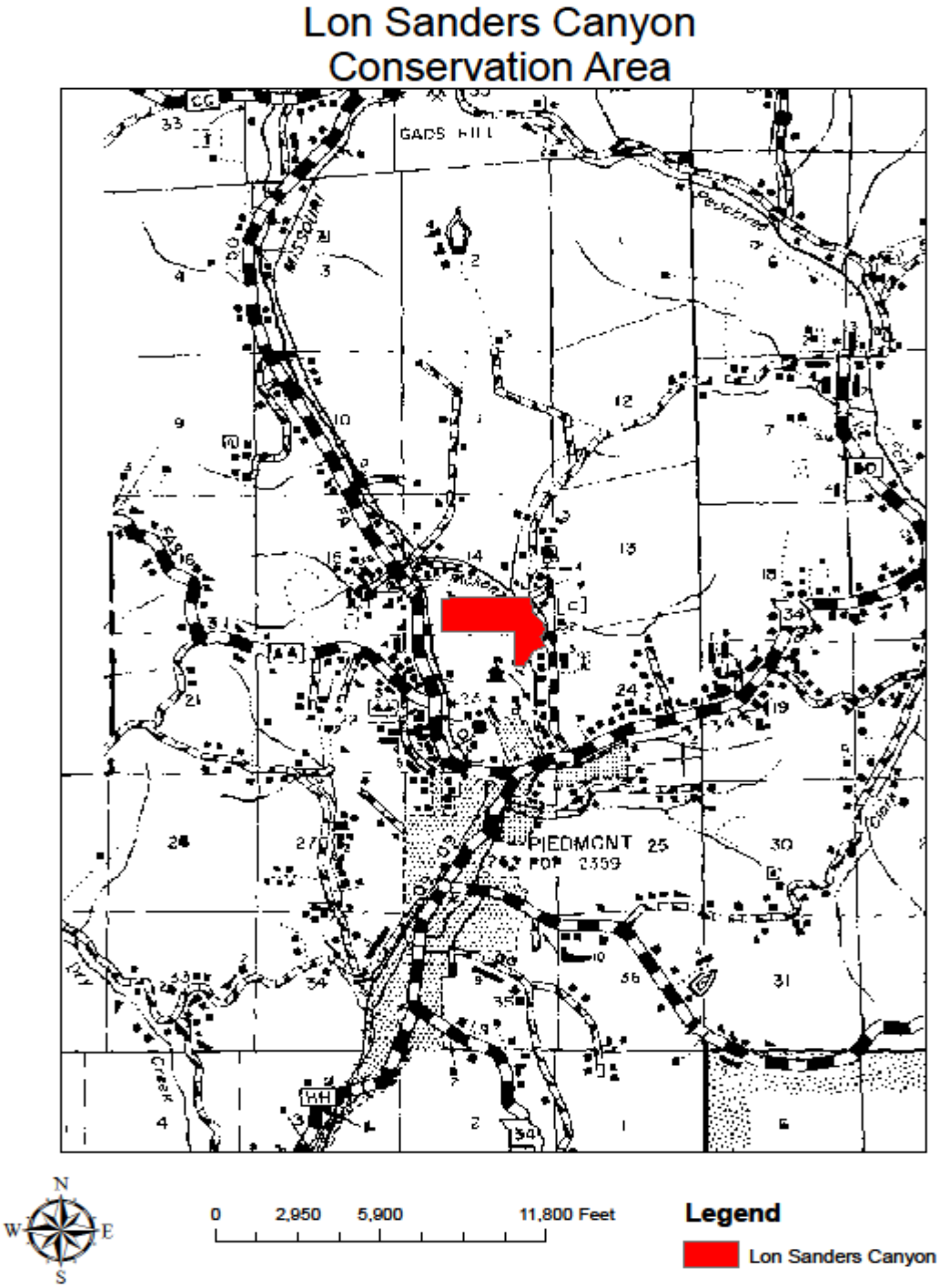


Figure 3: Location Map



Attachment 1: Area Regulations

- Area hours: Open daily from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Trapping: By permit only
- Day use only – No camping
- No firearms
- No horseback, bicycle, or ATV riding
- No cutting or removal of vegetation
- No littering
- Mushrooms, berries, and other fruits may be picked for personal use only