Texas County Towersites

Cabool Tower

Houston Tower

Summersville Tower

Fifteen Year Area Management Plan

FY 2015-2029

Lisa G. Allen

Forestry Division Chief

2-3-15

Date

Texas County Towersites Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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FORESTRY DIVISION

Unit Chief

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Signature *Date*

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Date Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Cabool Towersite	5911	1959	15.5	Texas	Forestry	Forestry
Houston Towersite	6003	1960	17	Texas	Forestry	Forestry
Summersville Towersite	5205	1952	26.3	Texas	Forestry	Forestry

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

These areas were obtained and are currently maintained primarily for wildfire detection purposes. The fire towers on these towersites are all likely eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places. The Houston and Cabool fire towers were erected in 1960 and the Summersville fire tower was erected in 1953.

B. Desired Future Condition

Maintain structural integrity of these towers to ensure safety of Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) fire lookout personnel. Manage surrounding forests to ensure healthy, sustainable forest resources.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area Name	Priority Areas	Natural Areas
Cabool Towersite	None	None
Houston Towersite	None	None
Summersville Towersite	None	None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Cabool Towersite	None	None	None
Houston Towersite	None	None	None
Summersville Towersite	None	None	None

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area Name	Parking Areas	Other
Cabool Towersite	1	Fire tower (built in 1960, 120' tall), locked gate at entrance
Houston Towersite	1	Fire tower (built in 1960, 120' tall), radio tower and building
Summersville Towersite	1	Fire tower (built in 1953, 87' tall)

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area Name	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Cultural Resources	Hazards	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Cabool Towersite	None	Yes[1]	Yes[2]	None	None	None
Houston Towersite	None	Yes[1]	Yes[2]	None	None	None
Summersville Towersite	None	Yes[1]	Yes[2]	None	None	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] Records are kept with Department Environmental Compliance Specialist. Managers should follow Best Management Practices for Cultural Resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. <u>Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations</u>

Challenges and Opportunities:

Managing forests around the towers.

Management Objective 1: Manage forests.

Strategy 1: Assess forests for health and potential improvement. (Forestry)

VI. <u>Public Use Management Considerations</u>

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Recurring vandalism to the towers.
2) Conducting routine maintenance.

Management Objective 1: Reduce/eliminate vandalism.

Strategy 1: Maintain a law enforcement presence through cooperation with Protection Division and other local law enforcement agencies. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Rountinely maintain the towersites.

Strategy 1: Continue routine maintenance on all three sites according to policy and need. (Forestry)

VII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

Ensuring safety of Department fire lookout personnel.

Management Objective 1: Ensure structural integrity of the towers.

Strategy 1: Ensure that regular inspections of the structural integrity of each tower is completed and reported by qualified personnel. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Department personnel will visually inspect condition of the towers on a regular basis. (Forestry)

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Maps:

Appendix 1. Cabool Towersite Background
Appendix 2. Cabool Towersite Area Map
Appendix 3. Houston Towersite Background
Appendix 4. Houston Towersite Map
Appendix 5. Summersville Towersite Background
Appendix 6. Summersville Towersite Map

Public Input Summary:

The draft Texas County Towersites Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period December 1-31, 2014. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

Appendix 1. Cabool Towersite Background

This area is open to the public; however, the tower is closed to the public and the entrance road is barricaded.

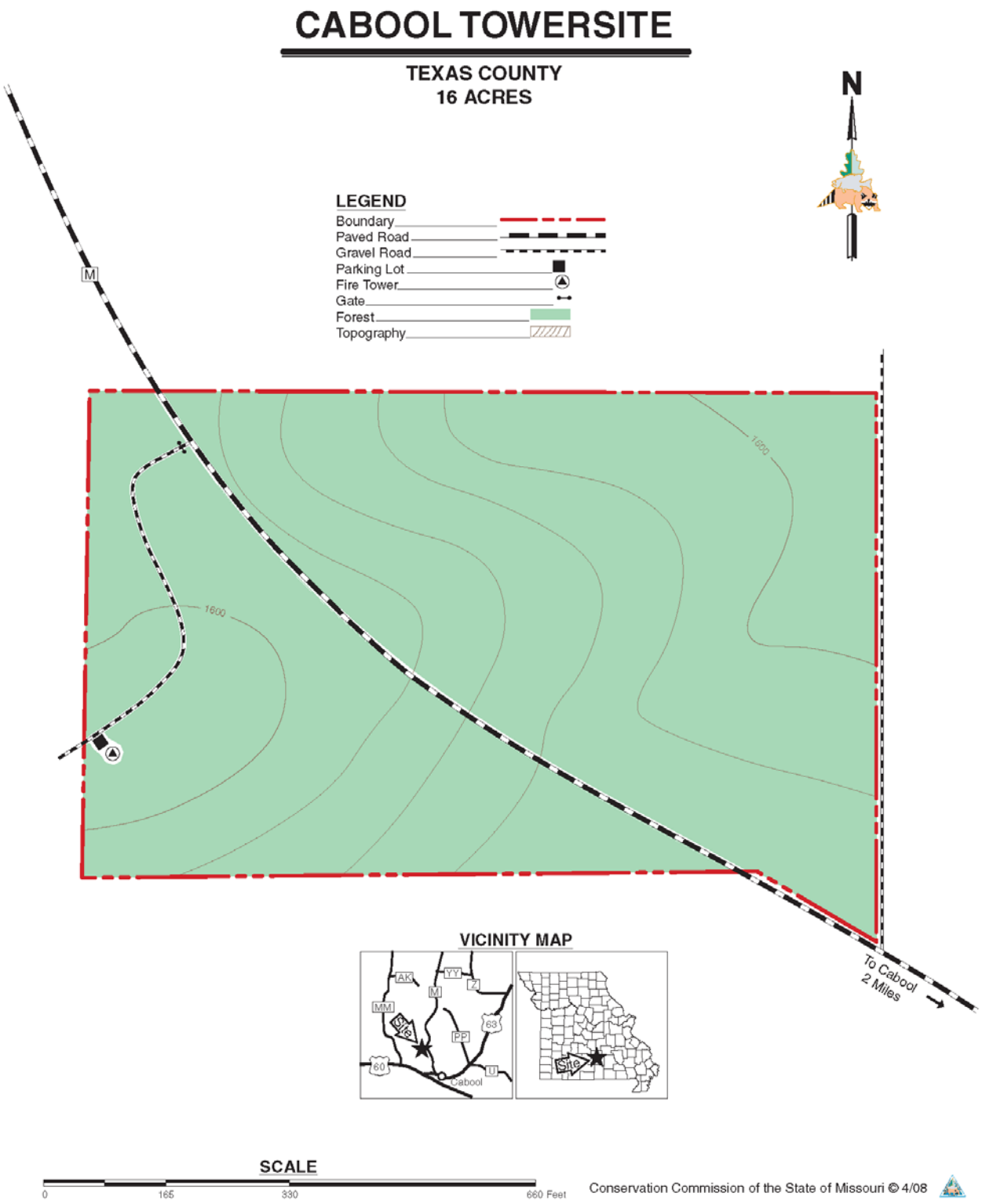
Legal Description: Township 29 North, Range 11 West, Section 33.

Area Location: Cabool Towersite is located approximately 2 miles north of Cabool on Route M.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest	15.5	100
Total	**15.5**	**100**

Appendix 2. Cabool Towersite Area Map



Appendix 3. Houston Towersite Background

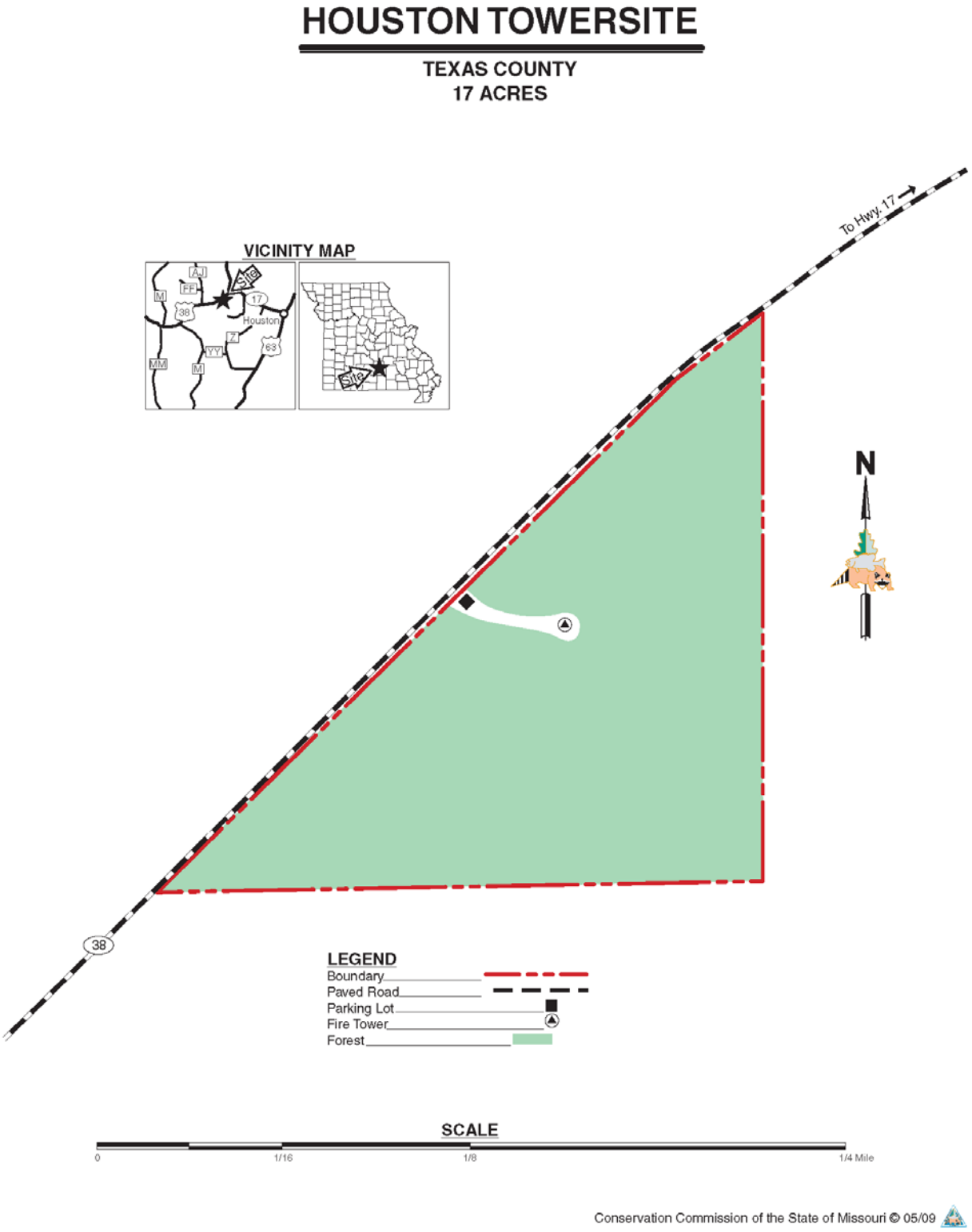
Legal Description: Township 30 North, Range 11 West, Section 1.

Area Location: Houston Towersite is located 6 miles west of Houston on Highway 17. Go 1 mile south on Highway 38.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest	17	100
Total	**17**	**100**

Appendix 4. Houston Towersite Map



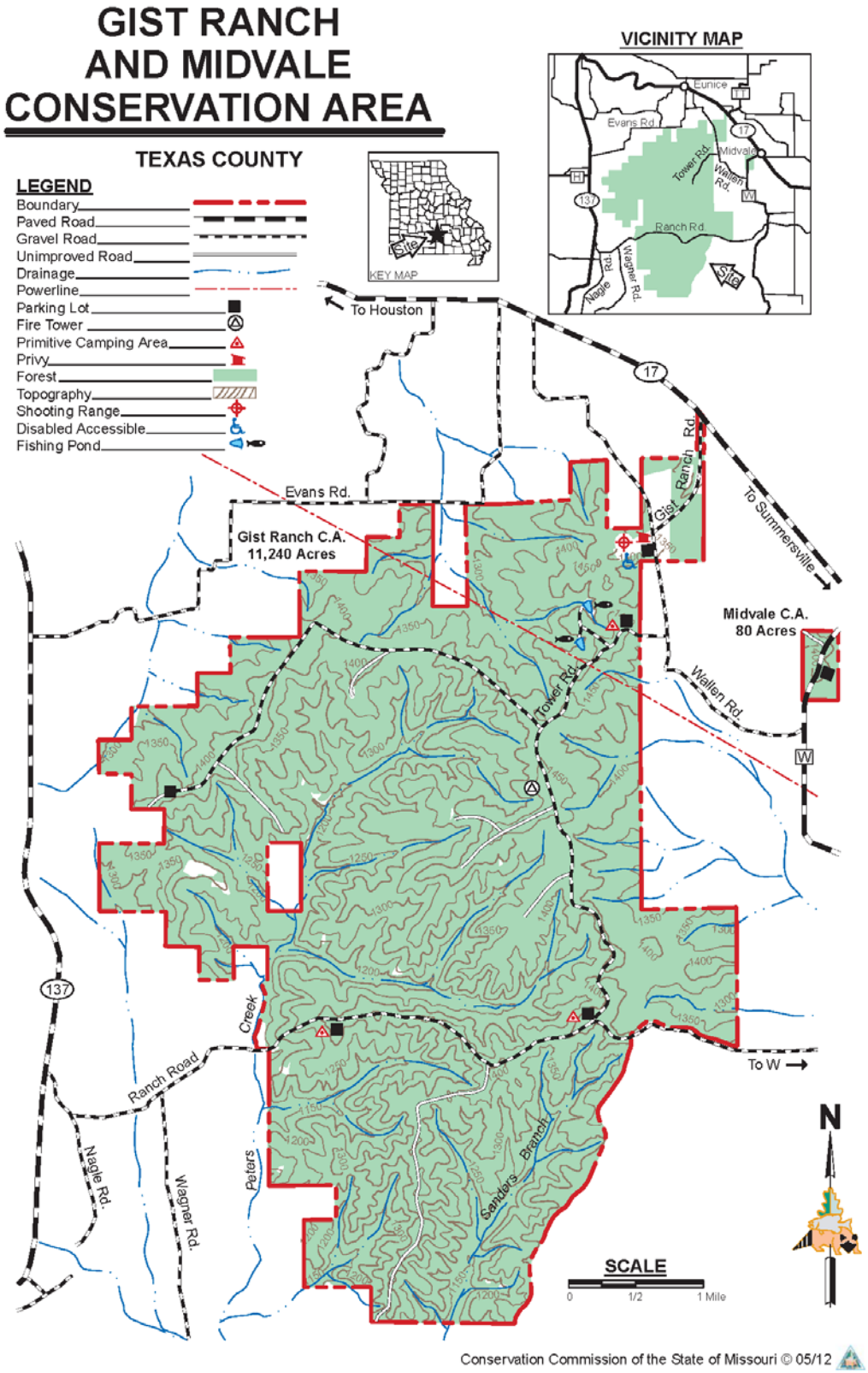
Appendix 5. Summersville Towersite Background

The tower is located inside the boundary of Gist Ranch Conservation Area.

Legal Description: Township 29 North, Range 08 West, Section 13.

Area Location: Summersville Towersite can be accessed off Highway 17. Take Route W south 1 mile. Go 1.5 miles west on Wallen Road, and 1.75 miles south on Tower Road.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest	26.3	100
Total	**26.3**	**100**

Appendix 6. Summersville Towersite Map