

Bootleg Access

Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2016-2025



Lisa D. Allen
Forestry Division Chief

6-28-16
Date

Bootleg Access Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

Matt Pilz, Resource Forester

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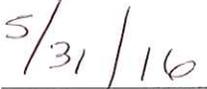
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Heather Garrison, Fisheries Management Biologist

ST. LOUIS REGION

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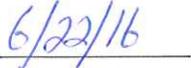

Signature


Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

Forestry Management Unit Chief


Signature


Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Bootleg Access, # 8212
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1982
- **Acreage:** 303 acres
- **County:** Washington
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Bootleg Access was acquired by the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) to provide walk-in access to the Big River.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Bootleg Access is a healthy forest, woodland, and glade complex supporting aquatic resources, providing walk in access to the Big River, and providing additional recreation opportunities.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

- A. Priority Areas:** Potosi Pinery Dissected Plains Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area, Bootleg Access Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area, Meramec River Hills Priority Forest Land, St. Francis Knobs Priority Forest Land, Big River Fisheries Priority Watershed (Figure 1)
- 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:** Occurs in the Clear Creek Pine-Oak Woodland Dissected Plain and the St. Francois Dolomite Glade/Oak Woodland Basins landtype associations. The Clear Creek Pine-Oak Woodland Dissected Plain landtype consists of moderately dissected upland plains from which streams drain radially into several drainage basins. Historically, pine and pine-oak woodland (called “the pineries” by Henry Rowe Schoolcraft) dominated. Today second-growth oak and oak-pine forest

dominate. The St. Francois Dolomite Glade/Oak Woodland Basins landtype association consists of low, flat to rolling lands around igneous knobs. Historically, a mosaic of oak forest, woodland, dolomite glades and small prairies dominated. Today cleared pasture with timber on steep slopes and along streams dominate (Nigh & Schroeder, 2002).

III. Existing Infrastructure

- 3 gravel parking lots
- 4 culverts
- 3 camping spots, no amenities provided
- 1.5-mile hiking trail
- 1 viewing deck
- 1 staircase
- 3 small wooden bridges
- 4 benches
- 1 gate
- 1 gravel access road

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:** Highway Construction Easement, Public Water District #2 right of way
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** None observed
- F. Endangered Species:** None observed
- G. Boundary Issues:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Bootleg Access contains approximately 300 acres of forest and woodland. The forest and woodland types on Bootleg Access include bottomland forest, upland forest, woodland and woodland/glade complex (Figure 2) (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2012).

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain healthy forests and woodlands with emphasis on water quality.

Management Objective 1: Maintain healthy forests and woodlands.

Strategy 1: Monitor forests and woodlands for invasive exotic species. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: If invasive exotic species are found, develop a strategy to address them. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Allow bottomland old fields to continue to revert to forests. (Forestry)

Strategy 4: Implement forest management practices to promote forest health as needed. Prior to implementing forest management activities, a forest inventory should be conducted. (Forestry)

Strategy 6: During forest management activities such as timber harvesting, follow the *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice – 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams*. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Monitor for stream bank stability.

Strategy 1: Annually monitor for eroding sites along stream bank. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Inform fisheries biologist of any potential or existing stream bank erosion issues. (Forestry)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

The Big River watershed drains 955 square miles of the upper Mississippi River basin in portions of six Missouri counties (Figure 6). Of the Big River's eight fifth-order tributaries, the Mineral Fork has the largest drainage. The Big River empties into the Meramec River 35.5 miles from its confluence with the Mississippi River.

Riparian corridor habitat is fair to good, with the Big River having slightly better habitat than its tributary streams. Nearly 75 percent of basin stream banks have minimal or no erosion and are protected by trees or shrubs.

The basin exhibits good aquatic biodiversity. One hundred fish species, 34 mussel species, eight crayfish species, and 107 aquatic insect taxa have been found within the Big River, including several of which are state or federally endangered.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Address stream bank erosion issues as presented by Forestry.

Management Objective 1: Address stream bank erosion issues.

Strategy 1: As warranted, develop stream bank stabilization strategies to address specific erosion situations. (Fisheries)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide river access for canoes and small watercraft.
- 2) Provide fishing and hunting opportunities.
- 3) Provide hiking opportunities.
- 4) Provide camping opportunities.

Management Objective 1: Provide river access for canoes and small watercraft.

Strategy 1: Maintain path to river. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Provide fishing and hunting opportunities.

Strategy 1: Maintain standard Department signs pertaining to fishing and hunting regulations. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Conduct patrols to enforce area regulations. (Protection)

Management Objective 3: Provide hiking opportunities.

Strategy 1: Maintain hiking trail. (Forestry)

Management Objective 4: Provide camping opportunities.

Strategy 1: Allow camping at designated sites from Sept. 15 through May 15 to support hunting opportunities. (Forestry)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 2) Acquisition of land.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines (Forestry).

Strategy 2: Maintain boundary in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 and 2024. (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:

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Administrative Management										
Objective 1										
Strategy 2				X					X	

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Bootleg Access is in Washington County, about 10 miles south of Potosi. The Department acquired this area in 1982 and manages it to provide walk-in access to the Big River.

The 303-acre area is located in an area known as the Palmer Fault Zone (Beveridge & Vineyard, 1991). The area is mainly forested and offers access to the Big River for canoes, small watercraft and fishing. Other activities include hunting, hiking and seasonal camping.

The area is open to the public from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Area facilities include three parking lots, three seasonal campsites and a hiking trail.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Bottomland/Riparian Forest	124		41
Upland Forest	100		33
Woodland	60		20
Woodland/Glade	19		6
Total	303		100
Stream Frontage		1.25	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Bootleg Access Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period October 1–31, 2015. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from four respondents (Appendix A). The Bootleg Access 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 Bootleg Access Area public comment period

Suggests adding a shooting range.

Washington County currently has a firearms shooting range available for public use (Little Indian Creek Conservation Area Shooting Range). The Bootleg Access Area is considered too small to build a shooting range.

Suggests expanding the hiking trail.

The planning team discussed additional trails and determined the 1.5 miles currently on the area supports the established use and will continue to maintain the area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines.

Suggests adding a road from the back parking lot so vehicles can get closer to the river.

Bootleg Access is a small area with only 2/10 mile of stream between the front and back parking lot, and the front parking lot has river access.

Suggests adding a bulletin board that contains area map, location of nearby river accesses, and phone number for conservation agent.

The team will maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines.

Suggests adding privy near parking area.

At this time, due to vandalism and maintenance concerns, a privy will not be considered at this area.

Supports acquiring additional land, if available.

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.

References:

Beveridge, T. R. & Vineyard, J. D.. (1991). *Geologic wonders and curiosities of Missouri*. Second Edition. Jefferson City, MO: Department of Natural Resources.

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

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2012). *Geographic Information System layer*. Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

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, Missouri: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

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

Maps:

Figure 1: Priority Areas Map

Figure 2: Current Vegetation Map

Figure 3: Area Map

Figure 4: Aerial Map

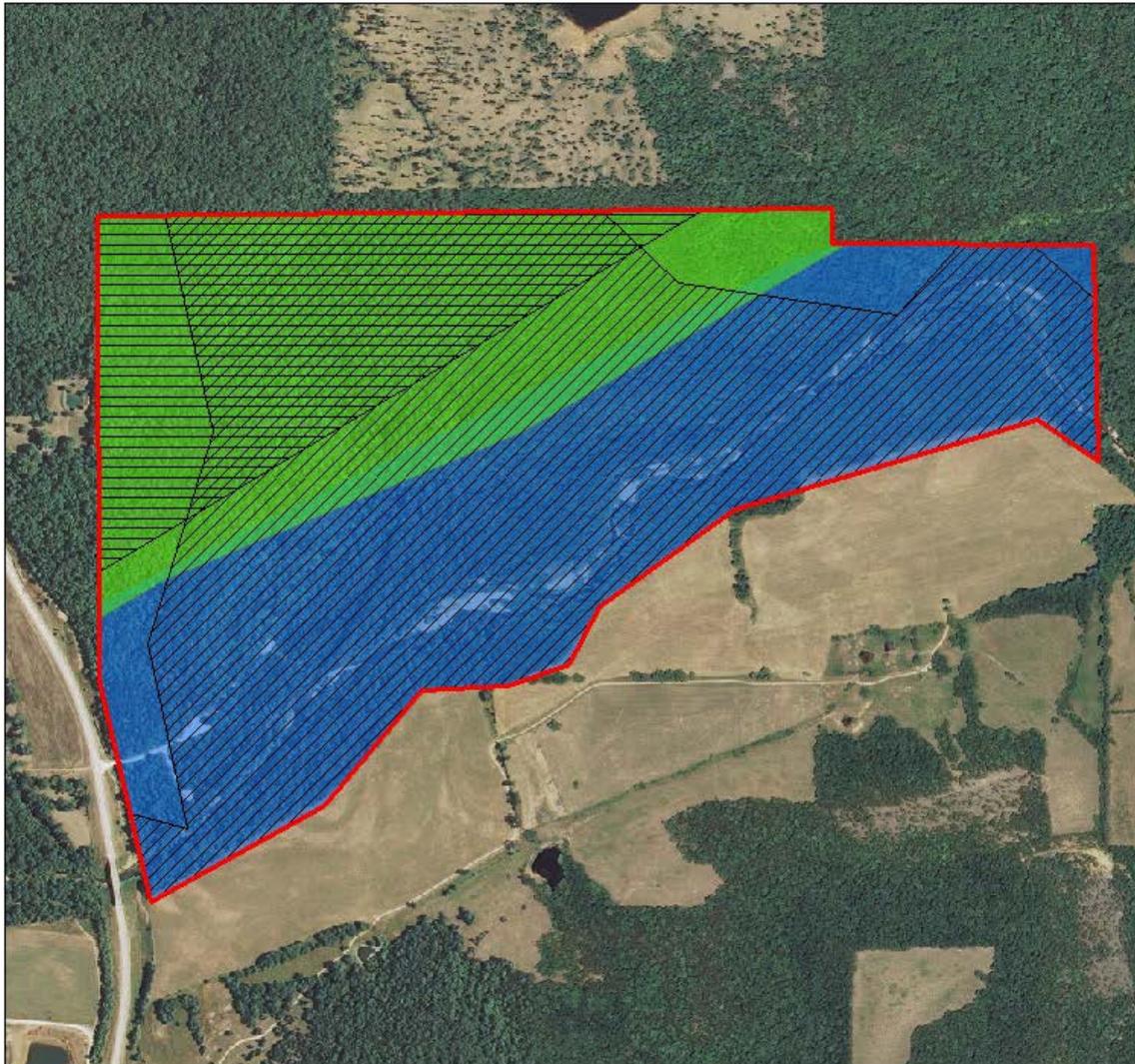
Figure 5: Topographic Map

Figure 6: Big River Watershed Map

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A. Bootleg Access Area Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Priority Areas Map



Legend

-  Bootleg Access Conservation Area
-  Bootleg Access Aquatic COA
-  Potosi Pinery Dissected Plains Terrestrial COA
-  Meramec River Hills PFL
-  St. Francis Knobs PFL



Figure 2: Current Vegetation Map

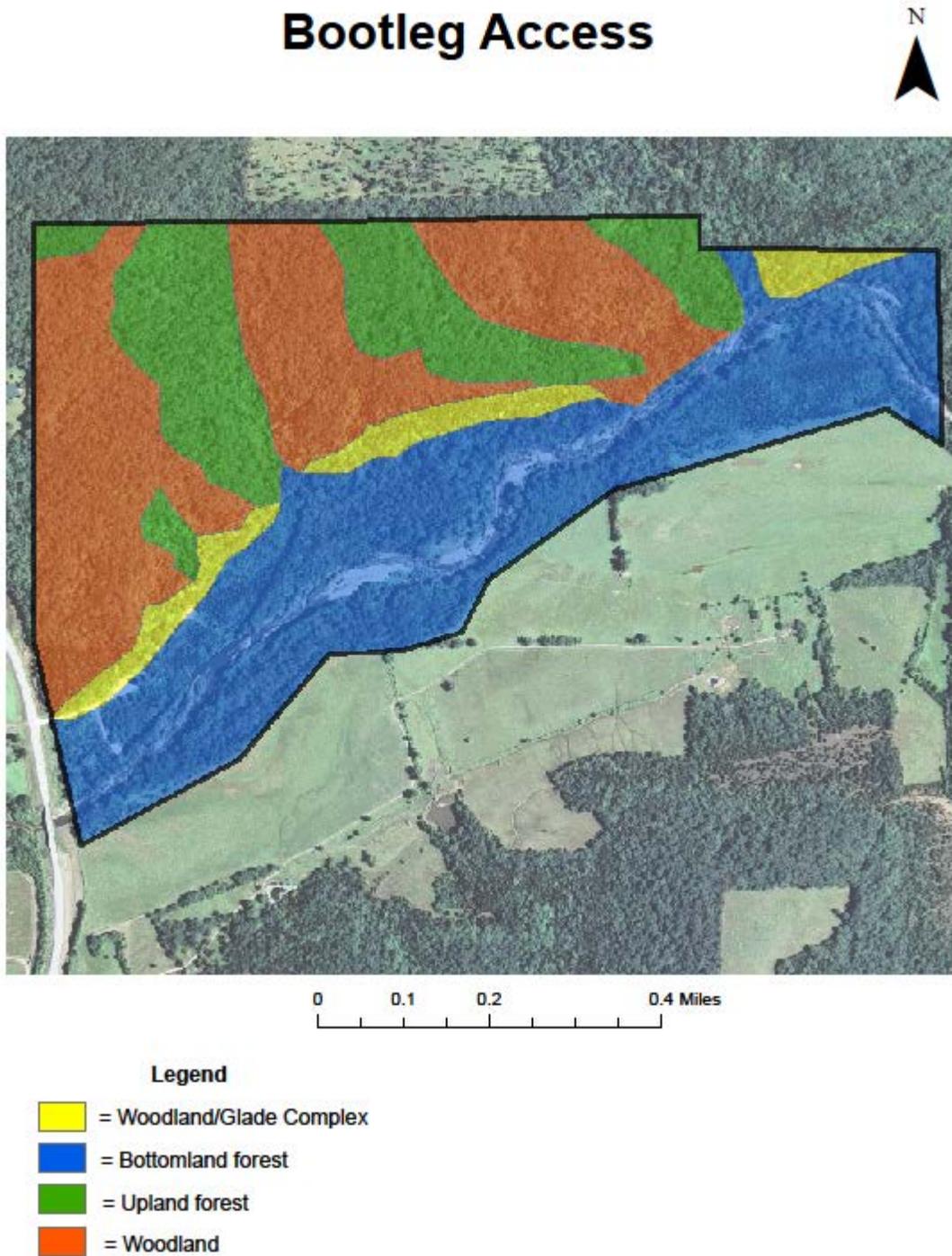


Figure 3: Area Map

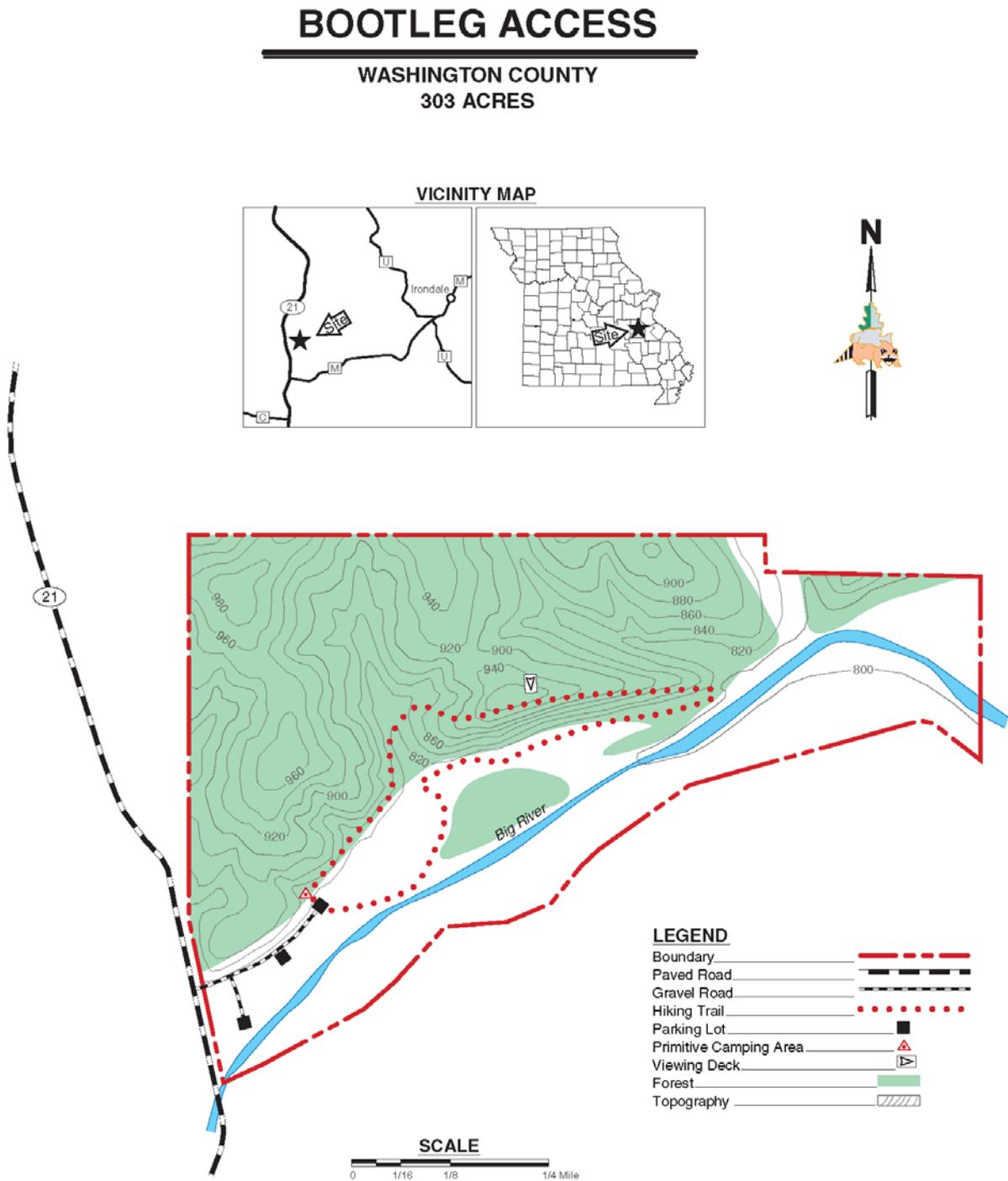


Figure 4: Aerial Map

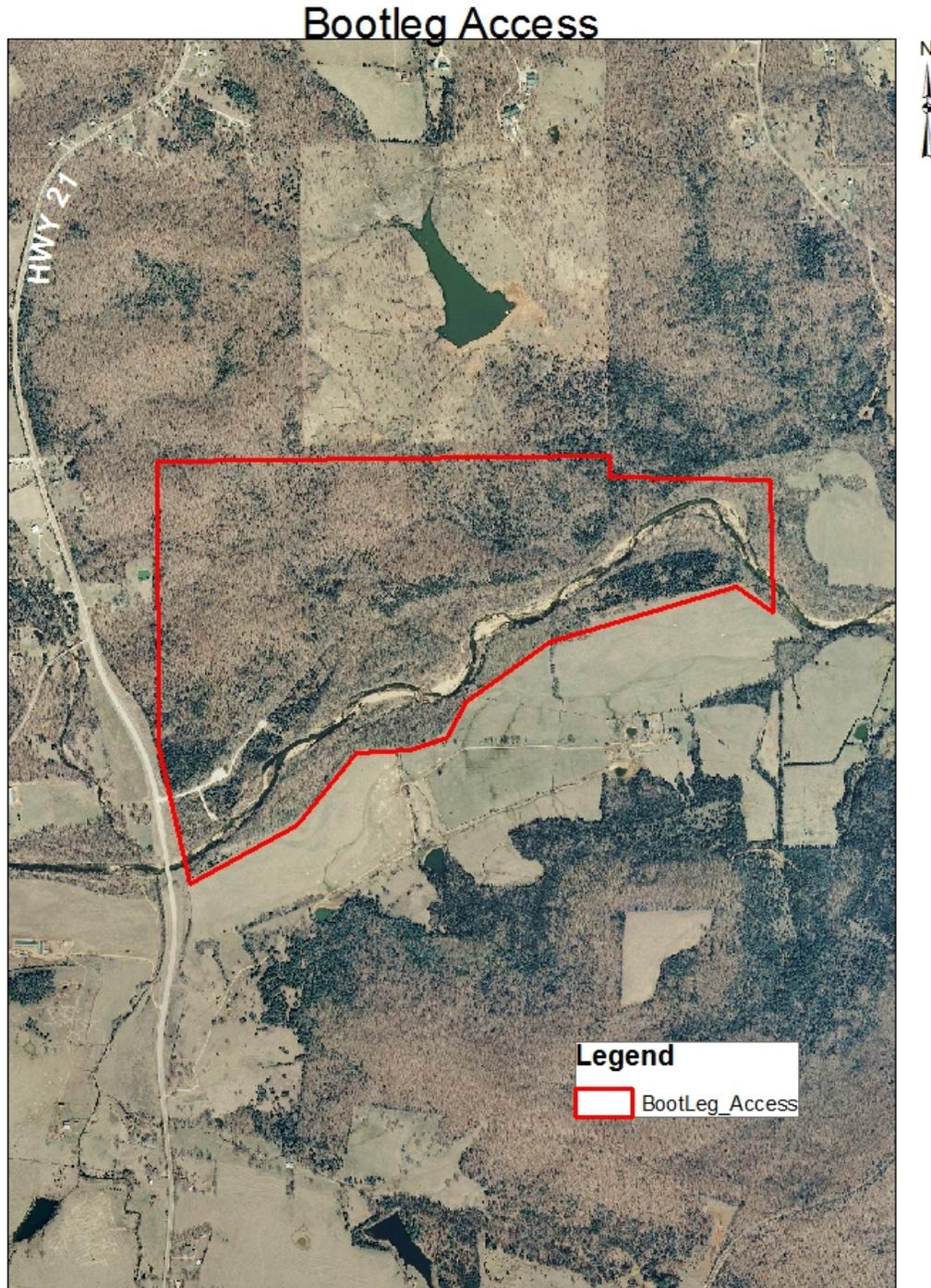


Figure 5: Topographic Map

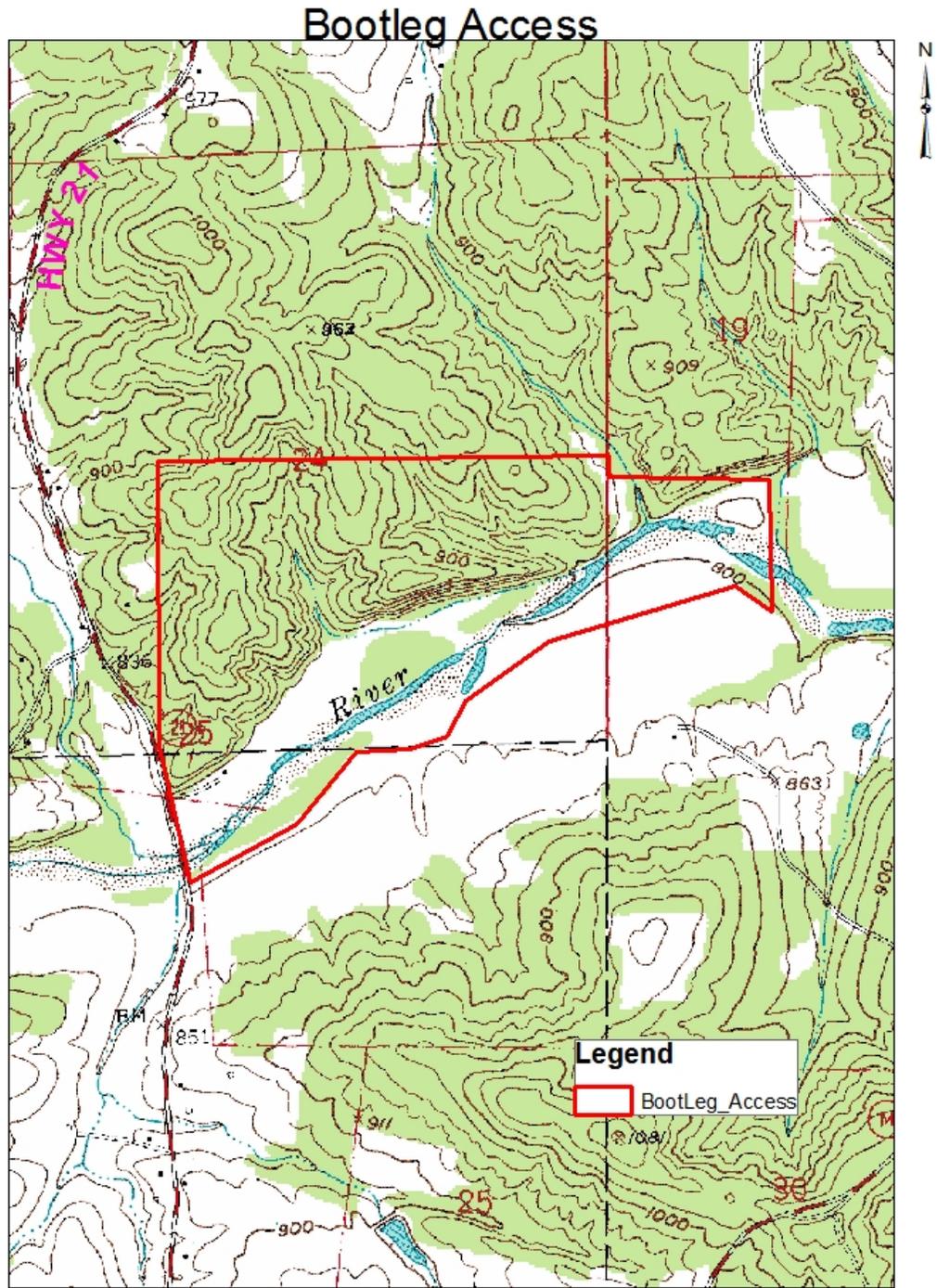
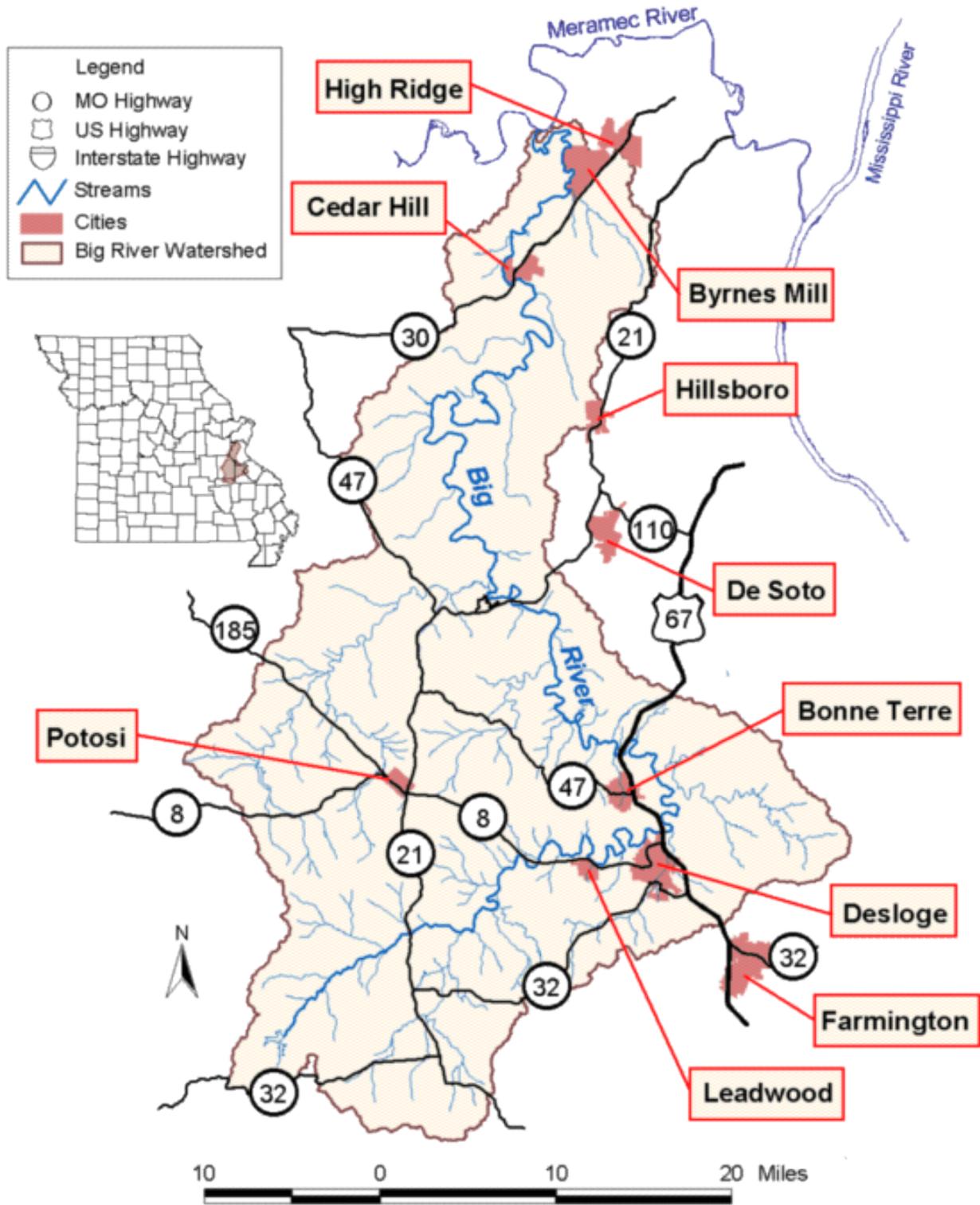


Figure 6: Big River Watershed Map



Appendix A. Bootleg Access Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (October 1-31, 2015):

<p>The area (southern Washington county) needs a shooting range. Hopefully it can be considered at this site or look into land acquisition in the area for a more suitable site. The range at Indian Creek in the north end of the county seems to get heavy use, however little use from Washington county residence.</p>
<p>Protecting any river frontage is very important. If this area can be added to so much the better. Adding to the hiking trail would also be a great idea.</p>
<p>"A second road access to Big River from the back parking lot that can get a vehicle closer to the river so folks like me who have walking issues can reach the river. General ideas for all Access Areas would be a bulletin board which would contain the following information: A map of that access area such as you have on your website, the location of the next closes access area, a phone # for that area Conservation Agent"</p>
<p>Provide outhouse near parking lot</p>