Black Island Conservation Area

Stephen C. Bradford Unit
Desoto Unit
Gayoso Bend Unit
Wolf Bayou Unit

Ten-Year Area Management Plan

FY 2017-2026

Lisa M. Allen
Forestry Division Chief

8-08-16
Date

Wildlife Division Chief

19 August 2016
Date

Black Island Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

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OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Wolf Bayou Unit	7004	1970	276	Pemiscot	Forestry	Forestry
Gayoso Bend Unit	8613	1986	968	Pemiscot	Forestry	Forestry
Desoto Unit[1]	200013	2000	640	Pemiscot	Forestry	Forestry
Stephen C. Bradford Unit	200510	2005	6,365	Pemiscot	Wildlife	Wildlife

[1]Includes four tracts: Desoto North, Desoto South, Sanders and Merideth Tracts.

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction:

Manage and conserve natural resources and provide compatible opportunities for public use and recreation.

B. Desired Future Condition:

The desired future condition of Black Island Conservation Area (CA) is a healthy Mississippi River lowlands complex of wetlands and bottomland forest communities.

C. Federal Aid Statement

Desoto and Bradford Units, or portions thereof, were developed with Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) funds to provide wetland habitat through perpetual easements. Wolf Bayou Unit, or a portion thereof, was acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars to provide land or facilities for public outdoor recreation. Desoto Unit, or a portion of it, has a floodplain easement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) to address natural disasters. The purpose of a floodplain easement is to restore, protect, maintain, and enhance the functions and values of floodplains and associated wetlands and riparian areas. These easements also help conserve fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention and ground water recharge, as well as safeguard lives and property from floods, drought and erosion.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area Name	Priority Areas	Natural Areas
Wolf Bayou Unit	River Bends Profiled Conservation Opportunity Area (COA), Wolf Bayou Aquatic COA, Wolf Bayou Terrestrial COA, River Bends Priority Forest Landscape	Wolf Bayou NA
Gayoso Bend Unit		
Desoto Unit		
Stephen C. Bradford Unit		

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Wolf Bayou Unit	Yes*	None	None
Gayoso Bend Unit	Yes*	None	None
Desoto Unit	Yes*	None	None
Stephen C. Bradford Unit	Yes*	None	None

***** Species of conservation concern are known in Black Island CA. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the natural history biologist.

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area Name	Concrete Ramps	Boat Slides	Parking Area #
Wolf Bayou Unit	1	1	2
Gayoso Bend Unit	None	None	None
Desoto Unit	None	None	None
Stephen C. Bradford Unit	None	1	5

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area Name	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Easements	Cultural Resources	Hazards	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Wolf Bayou Unit	Yes[1 2 3]	Yes[8]	Yes[7]	None known	None	None observed	None
Gayoso Bend Unit	None	Yes[10]	Yes [5 7]	None known	None	None observed	None
Desoto Unit	Yes[3]	Yes[9 11]	Yes[4 6 7]	None known	None	None observed	None
Stephen C. Bradford Unit	Yes[1 3]	Yes[9]	Yes[4 5 7]	None known	None	None observed	None

[1] Wolf Bayou and Stephen C. Bradford Units: The St. Francis Levee Board Maintains the Main Levee where it adjoins the area.

[2] Wolf Bayou Unit: The St. Francis Levee Board, by access lease arrangement, and U.S. Corps of Engineers (COE) must approve all development plans. Eight acres are leased from the St. Francis Levee District under a 30-year arrangement (current lease expires Jan. 1, 2040).

[3] Wolf Bayou, Stephen C. Bradford, and Desoto Units: Pemiscot County maintains the public roads that pass through or adjoin the units.

[4] Desoto North and Sanders Tracts: The right of service ingress and egress is granted across adjoining landowners to access the areas.

[5] Stephen C. Bradford Unit, Sanders Tract, North Desoto Tract and a portion of the Merideth Tract are enrolled in WRP easements. (NRCS contract #s: 66-6424-9-9548 – Desoto North Tract; 66-6424-5-1082 – Sanders Tract; 6664249900B2Y – Merideth Tract; 66-6424-3-909 – Stephen C. Bradford Unit; 66-6424-3-910 – Stephen C. Bradford Unit; 66642407009TC - S).

[6] The South Desoto Tract and a portion of the Merideth Tract are enrolled in an Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) perpetual easement. (NRCS contract #s: 66-6424-9-9547A – Desoto South Tract; 7564249900B2Z – Merideth Tract).
[7] The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers periodically requires temporary easements to provide riverbank stabilization and install river navigation aids along the Mississippi River bank.
[8] This land must provide land/facilities for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. Federal funds may also 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.
[9] The wetland conservation easements permanently prohibit use of the affected land as cropland and require permanent maintenance of the wetland conditions, except in the case of natural disaster. After the easement has been perfected, no change will be made in the easement without a written request by the participant and the written consent of the NRCS Chief. Federal funds may also 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.
[10] 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.
[11] Except as otherwise provided by Federal statutes, real property will be used for the originally authorized purposes as long as needed for that purposes, and the grantee or subgrantee shall not dispose of or encumber its title or other interests. (43 CFR 12.71(b))

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

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

Black Island CA has a little over six and a half miles of Mississippi River frontage. The topography is very flat and contains a combination of riverfront forest and open wetlands. All tracts are located in the batture land (river side of the mainline levee) and are directly affected by floodwaters of the Mississippi River by backwater and headwater flooding. Portions of all the tracts receive annual flooding, but it is not uncommon for all but a handful of the acres to be completely flooded.

This conservation area contains several large blocks of forested habitat, which is rare in the Missouri portion of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. These forested blocks contain a diversity of bottomland forest cover types in various stages of succession. The physical characteristics of Black Island CA are representative of big river floodplains, including

backwater swamps, historic river channels, backwater lakes, overflow channels, sloughs, swales and seasonal depressions. These physical characteristics influence the species composition within the forests.

Past aerial photographs from 1968 show that most of the land between the river and levee (commonly referred to as Black Island) still had forest cover. These aerial photographs show agricultural fields on the Gayoso Bend, Sanders Tract, North Desoto Tract and South Desoto Tract that were cleared; the majority of the Stephen C. Bradford Unit was cleared.

Through Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easements, large portions of the Stephen C. Bradford Unit have been developed into annually flooded wetland pools. Along the river, several accreted sand islands, associated with wing dikes, are providing important nesting habitat for interior least terns.

Together, the matrix of bottomland forest, wetlands, semi-permanent wetland pools, riverfront and open/early successional communities provide a wide diversity of habitats, and supports populations of desired wildlife species and species of conservation concern.

Soil type associations on the Black Island include:

- Commerce-Crevasse-Caruthersville association: Nearly level and very gently undulating, somewhat poorly drained to excessively drained soils on natural levees adjacent to the Mississippi River.
- Hayti-Portageville-Cooter association: Undulating to depressional, very poorly drained to moderately well drained soils on areas frequently flooded by the Mississippi River.

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Management practices at the conservation area should consider the hydro fluvial processes and flooding regimes that have molded this landscape over time. Flood timing, depth, duration, and water current play prominent roles in shaping the landscape. As these factors change over time, managers need to understand these variables and how they have affected not only what is present today, but what is possible tomorrow.
2) On properties, or portions of properties that are under conservation easements such as WRP or EWP, managers need to be familiar with and have an understanding of the associated policies and regulations.

Management Objective 1: Maintain a diverse mixture of early successional habitat and open land.

Strategy 1: Manage open land for wildlife habitat diversity. (Forestry and Wildlife Divisions)

Strategy 2: Maintain desirable plant communities in open land situations, including wildlife food plots and natural openings. (Forestry and Wildlife Divisions)

Strategy 3: Discourage or eliminate populations of invasive species that threaten the integrity of natural communities and species of conservation concern. (Forestry and Wildlife Divisions)

Strategy 4: Periodically survey for new populations of invasive species. (Forestry and Wildlife Divisions)

Strategy 5: Use green browse food plots to improve hunting opportunities, to control undesirable species, and provide diversity. Areas that are part of WRP easements have restrictions on total acres in food plots and size of food plots. There must be a compatible use agreement with NRCS. (Forestry and Wildlife Divisions)

Strategy 6: Consult with the wildlife biologists for habitat management recommendations. (Forestry and Wildlife Divisions)

Management Objective 2: Provide suitable habitat for native biota in forested stands.

Strategy 1: Implement forest management practices to enhance swamp rabbit habitat. (Forestry Division)

Strategy 2: Enhance herptile habitat by protecting or enhancing wetlands and through the use of forest management activities that includes leaving abundant course woody debris in the bottomland forest. (Forestry Division)

Strategy 3: Utilize forest management strategies to provide a diverse forest structure for migratory and forest interior bird species. These activities should provide vertical and horizontal structure, along with diversity in canopy structure. The Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Ventures (LMVJV) report of Desired Forest Conditions (2007) has good details for providing this type of habitat and should be used as a reference when targeting this habitat. (Forestry Division)

Strategy 4: Monitor for known populations of species of conservation concern and other wildlife, with special emphasis on those that have been found in the vicinity. (Forestry, Wildlife, Fisheries, Protection, and Private Land Divisions)

Strategy 5: Periodically request management recommendations from Natural History Biologist for species of conservation concern. (Forestry and Wildlife Divisions)

Management Objective 3: Manage Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) restored wetlands on the Stephen C. Bradford Tract.

Strategy 1: As needed, conduct moist soil management to stimulate early successional herbaceous vegetation in wetland pools and limit the growth of woody vegetation. This can be accomplished by a combination of mechanical disturbance, chemical disturbance, food plots or water level manipulations. (Wildlife Division)

Strategy 2: Hydrology management should mimic natural flooding patterns. Drawdown activities should maintain the functions and values of the restored wetlands. (Wildlife Division)

Strategy 3: Control noxious weeds, as required in wetland pools. (Wildlife Division)

Strategy 4: When possible, manage pools to provide mudflat foraging areas for spring and fall migrating shorebirds by allowing for a slow, intermittent water drawdown in pools when water is available. (Wildlife Division)

Management Objective 4: Protect, maintain and enhance the bottomland riverfront forest and other natural communities found on the Black Island CA.

Strategy 1: Conduct forest inventory as directed by the inventory schedule. (Forestry Division)

Area Name	Compartment	Next Inventory	Acres	Forest Management Notes:
Wolf Bayou Unit	01	FY 2021	276	Portion of Stands are Natural Area
Gayoso Bend Unit	01	FY 2021	475	Limited Access
Gayoso Bend Unit	02	FY 2015	395	Limited Access
Desoto Unit's	01	As Needed	640	WRP Contract Limitations on Management
Stephen C. Bradford Unit	01	As Needed	6,365	WRP Contract Limitations on Management

Strategy 2: Use bottomland stocking guides for bottomland hardwoods (Goelz, 1995), Department guidelines, and the Lower Mississippi Joint Venture (LMJV) Desired Forest Conditions Report (2007) as a guide in developing and implementing management recommendations. (Forestry Division)

Strategy 3: Manage a 660-foot wide riparian corridor along the Mississippi River. (Forestry Division)

Strategy 4: If necessary, replant a mixture of native bottomland species that are characteristic of the site to obtain adequate stocking or enhance reforestation areas. (Forestry Division)

Strategy 5: Allow for natural regeneration to establish over portions of the open land, primarily on the Stephen C. Bradford Unit. Monitor for natural regeneration

and document re-establishment and species composition. (Forestry and Wildlife Divisions)

Strategy 6: Conduct timber stand improvement practices for tree species composition, improve tree quality, and provide diversity in stand structure that enhances habitat for target wildlife species. (Forestry Division)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

The Black Island CA is well connected to the Mississippi River. Backwater and headwater flood events travel through an abandoned river channel that runs through the Stephen C. Bradford Unit, and connects with the abandoned channel lakes of the Wolf Bayou Unit. Desoto and Gayoso Units are also directly connected to the river with the majority of the frontage being on the inside of a river bend, although a series of wing dikes on the Tennessee side directs most of the current toward the Missouri side. Together, the many sloughs, oxbow lakes, and historic channels running through the complex allow floodwaters to gradually inundate Black Island. This active natural floodway provides a good dynamic that allows for the optimum dispersion of big river fishes into the flooded bottomland. Habitats made available by seasonal flood events provide for spawning, foraging and larval fish habitat.

The forested portions of Black Island are subject to backwater and headwater flooding as a result of its location adjacent to the river. The forested portions are composed of bottomland riverfront forest tree species of varying age and size classes which will produce excellent riparian conditions for aquatic habitat.

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Wolf Bayou Unit has four named bayous (Wolf Bayou, Hostler Bayou, Sample Bayou and Mud Bayou), totaling about 43 acres of surface water. These bayous are subject to flooding by the Mississippi River, providing overflow fish habitat. Although there is little doubt the bayous are river formed, the exact origin remains unclear. The steep-sided, deep, linear bayous have both washout and oxbow characteristics. Wolf Bayou is one of the state's last natural lowland lakes.
2) Boat Club Chute, a frequently flooded backwater, totals approximately 135 acres and is 3.3 miles long, with 6.7 miles of shoreline at a Mississippi River stage of 249 ft. mean sea level (MSL). Gayoso Bend Unit has 2.6 miles of shoreline and contains some of the best fish habitat, in terms of water depth, overhead cover/shade and submerged hard structure, in this chute. The majority of the chute, below the Department's ownership, has concrete blankets, or lacks adequate water depth, and is part of the Caruthersville Harbor of the Pemiscot County Port Authority.

3) On the Stephen C. Bradford Unit, fish habitat should continue to improve over time as habitat elements (i.e., water depth, overhead cover/shade and submerged hard structure) continue to develop across the area. Improvements to restore connectivity to the Mississippi River will also help.

Management Objective 1: Maintain the batture ground so that it functions as a natural floodplain.

Strategy 1: Maintain forested riparian corridors. (Forestry Division)

Strategy 2: Where possible, maintain and improve hydrologic connections between the river and natural sloughs, meander scar wetlands and forested wetlands. (Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Divisions)

Management Objective 2: Improve fish habitat.

Strategy 1: Periodically conduct electrofishing surveys on the bayous of Wolf Bayou Unit to monitor fish populations and detect any changes in lake habitat. (Fisheries Division)

Strategy 2: Allow natural vegetation to develop in and along sloughs, bayous and some ditches, providing overhead cover and shade. This will also provide submerged structure during periods of high water. (Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Divisions)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

The units in the Black Island CA provide a wide diversity of opportunities for people to enjoy and study the unique habitats found on Black Island, and receive a variety of public use. Wolf Bayou Unit receives moderate use, primarily by anglers; although archery hunting is becoming more popular on the area. Portions of the Stephen C. Bradford Unit receive moderate use for hunting and fishing, as well as waterfowl hunting when conditions coincide with seasons. Many of the other units have received light public use overall, but each year public use increases as habitat, opportunity and access to the areas improve. This trend is expected to continue over time.

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Forested lands are extremely limited in Pemiscot County, and surrounding counties along the Mississippi River. Since most of these forested lands are privately owned, and since hunting rights are leased to hunting clubs or individuals, demand for public hunting lands is high. As a result, this area receives a considerable amount of public use by many different types of visitors.

2) The managers of Black Island CA seek to talk to area users to hear their opinions. Based upon these conversations, the majority of users are satisfied with the amenities, maintenance and management of the area.

Management Objective 1: Maintain the area's boundary system.

Strategy 1: Maintain posted boundary and area signs, as required by Department policy along the surveyed boundary. (Forestry and Wildlife Divisions)

Management Objective 2: Maintain the area to provide opportunity for people to enjoy and study this unique habitat.

Strategy 1: Conduct routine maintenance to keep the area inviting for public use. (Forestry and Wildlife Divisions)

Management Objective 3: Observe statewide hunting, fishing and public use regulations for Department areas.

Strategy 1: Enforce area regulations. (Southeast Protection Division)

Strategy 2: Continue to issue Special Use Permits (SUPs) to individuals, as needed, as long as the SUP is appropriate for the area. The Area Manager should consult with Conservation Agent prior to issuing a SUP. (Forestry and Wildlife Divisions)

Strategy 3: Protect the area, wildlife and area users during periods of high river levels. (Forestry, Wildlife, and Protection Divisions)

VIII. <u>Administrative Considerations</u>

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
2) In an area of the state lacking in bottomland forest cover and the associated species, any opportunity to expand bottomland forest and wetlands or enlarge the size of forest or wetland areas should be considered.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines and at currently identified maintenance levels. (Forestry and Wildlife Divisions)

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

All strategies are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

References:

Goelz, J. C. G. (1995). A stocking guide for southern bottomland hardwoods. *Southern Journal of Applied Forestry, vol. 19 (3),* 103-104. http://mdc4.mdc.mo.gov/documents/18984.pdf

Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture (LMVJV) Forest Resource Conservation Working Group. (2007). *Restoration, management, and monitoring of forest resources in the Mississippi Alluvia Valley: Recommendations for enhancing wildlife habitat.* Vicksburg, MS: Edited by Wilson, R., Ribbeck, K., King, S., & Twedt, D. http://www.lmvjv.org/bookshelf.htm.

Public Input Summary:

The draft Black Island Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period September 1–30, 2014. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from one respondent (Appendix A). The Black Island 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 Black Island Conservation Area public comment period

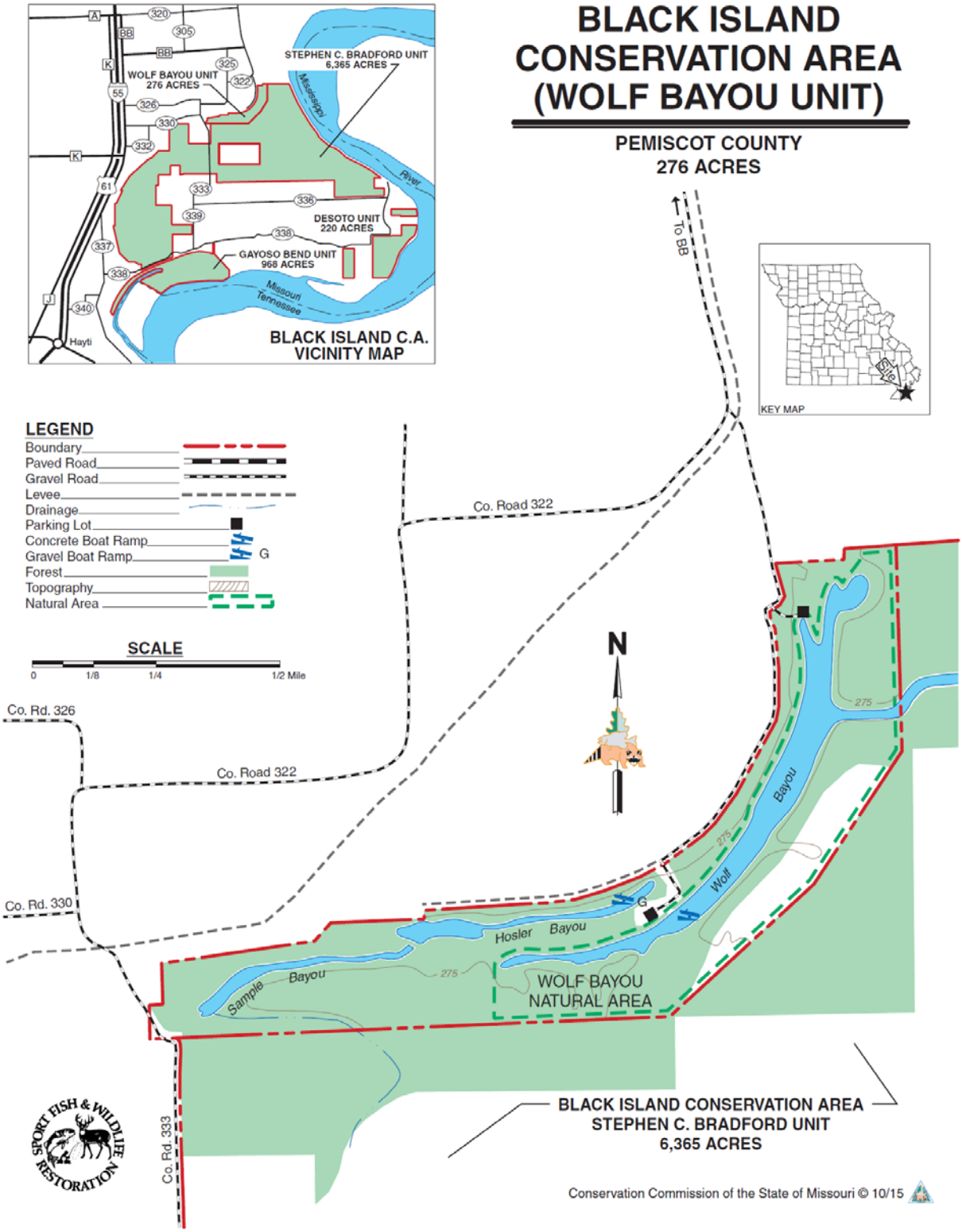
Suggests adding a boat ramp at the north end of Sample Bayou (Wolf Bayou Unit).

The Department has looked into this opportunity several times over the years. There are some logistical issues with developing an access point and boat slide at the lower end of Wolf Bayou Unit into Sample Bayou that have prevented this project.

Maps:

Appendix 1. Wolf Bayou Unit Area Map
Appendix 2. Wolf Bayou Unit Background
Appendix 3. Gayoso Bend Unit Area Map
Appendix 4. Gayoso Bend Unit Background
Appendix 5. Desoto Unit Area Map
Appendix 6. Desoto Unit Area Background
Appendix 7. Stephen C. Bradford Unit Area Map
Appendix 8. Stephen C. Bradford Unit Background
Appendix 9. Vegetative Cover Map
Appendix 10. Forest Compartment Map
Appendix 11. Draft Black Island Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Appendix 1. Wolf Bayou Unit Area Map



Appendix 2. Wolf Bayou Unit Background

Area Background:
This 276 acre area was purchased by the Department between 1971 and 1973. An additional eight acres are leased from the St. Francis Levee District under a 30-year arrangement (current lease expires Jan. 1, 2040).

This area contains three bayous, totaling 43 acres of surface water. Although there is little doubt the bayous are river formed, the exact origin remains unclear. The steep-sided, deep linear bayous have both washout and oxbow characteristics.

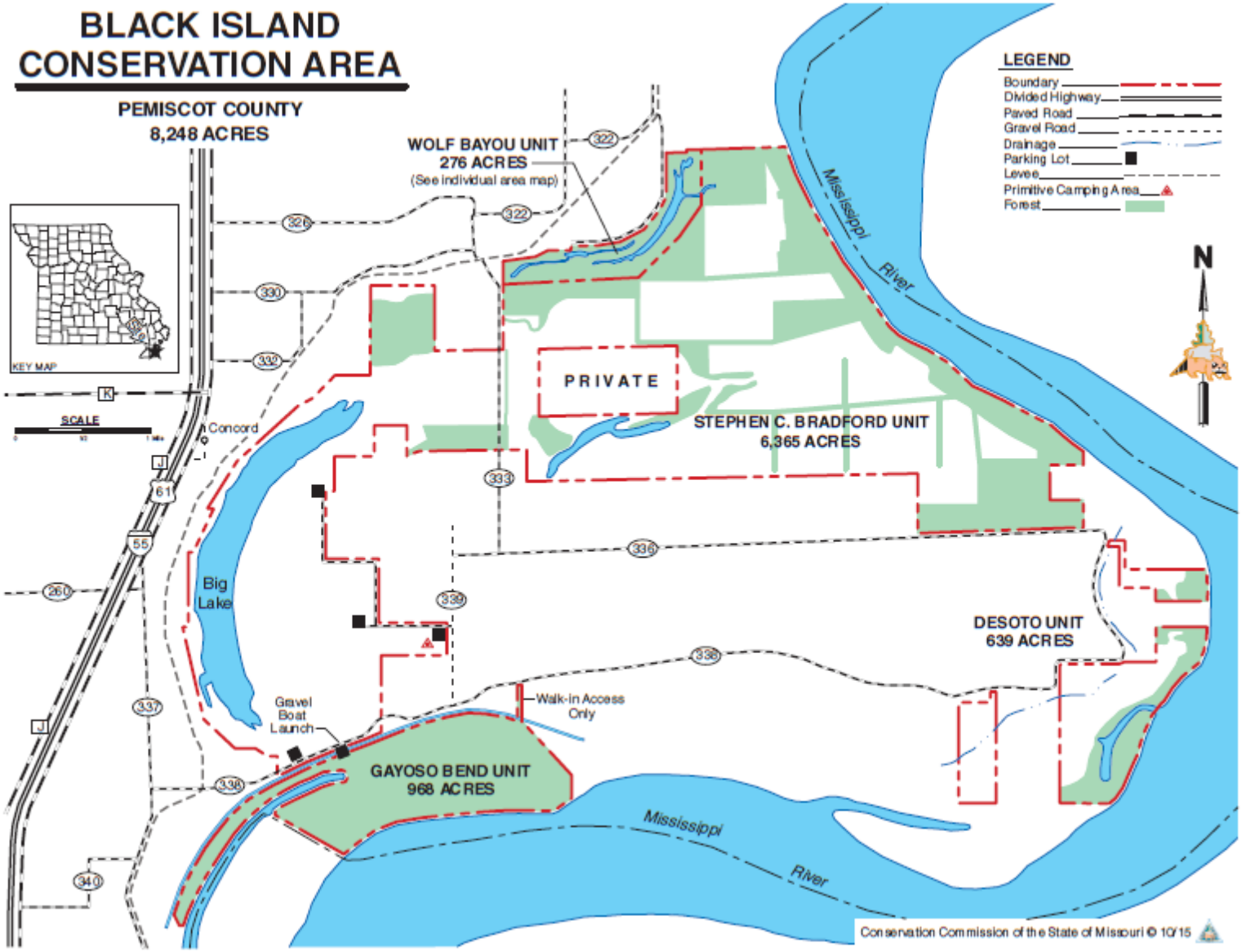
The Forestry Division has maintenance and management responsibility.

Wolf Bayou Natural Area: In 1972, 200 acres of the Wolf Bayou Unit were designated as a Natural Area (Appendix 1). The designated Natural Area includes an oxbow lake, Wolf Bayou and the adjoining bottomland forest. The management goals of the Natural Area are to represent, maintain, restore and protect the Mississippi River bottomland forest, oxbow lake and Wolf Bayou; including the terrestrial and aquatic natural communities, and sensitive flora and fauna found there.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	**Acres**	**% of Area**
Bottomland Forest	230	83
Lakes	46	17
Total	**276**	**100**

Appendix 3. Gayoso Bend Unit Area Map



Appendix 4. Gayoso Bend Unit Background

Area Background:
This 968 acre area was purchased by the Department in 1986 from the Rone family. The area is almost entirely bottomland riverfront forest and wooded sloughs. When purchased there were two agriculture fields totaling 170 acres. Due to frequent flooding, they are now forested.

The area has the Mississippi River as its south boundary, and the frequently flooded Robinson Bayou as the north boundary. Boat Club Chute runs well up into the area, between Robinson Bayou and the Mississippi River.

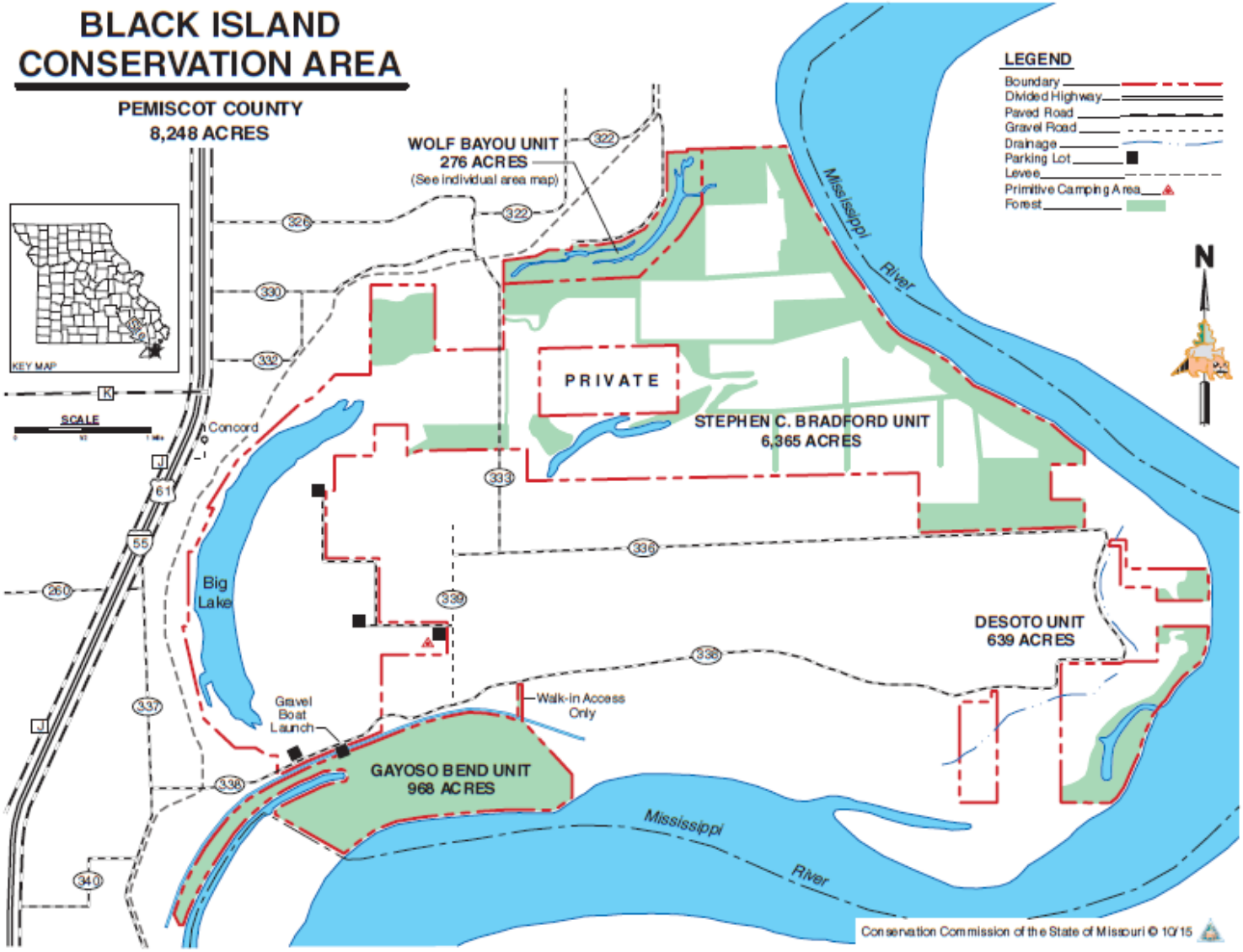
The town of Gayoso was once located on or near the area. Remains of this community are buried deep in silt or have been washed away long ago.

The Forestry Division has maintenance and management responsibility.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Bottomland Forest	968		100
Stream Frontage		2	

Appendix 5. Desoto Unit Area Map



Appendix 6. Desoto Unit Background

Area Background:
This 640 acre unit actually consists of four separate tracts; all of them were donated to the Department by the Sanders family, except for the Merideth Tract. In 2000, the Department received the two north tracts of Desoto Unit. The North tract (81.5 acres) is enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program, and the South tract (22.5 acres) is enrolled in the Emergency Water Shed Protection Program.

In 2007, the Department received the Sanders Tract (118 acres) from the Sanders Family. This tract was last farmed in 2006, then enrolled into the Wetland Reserve Program and donated to the Department. In 2013, the Department purchased the Merideth Tract (418 acres) from the Merideth family. This tract was last farmed in 2000, and then enrolled into WRP and EWP. We are still gathering information to fully develop the area.

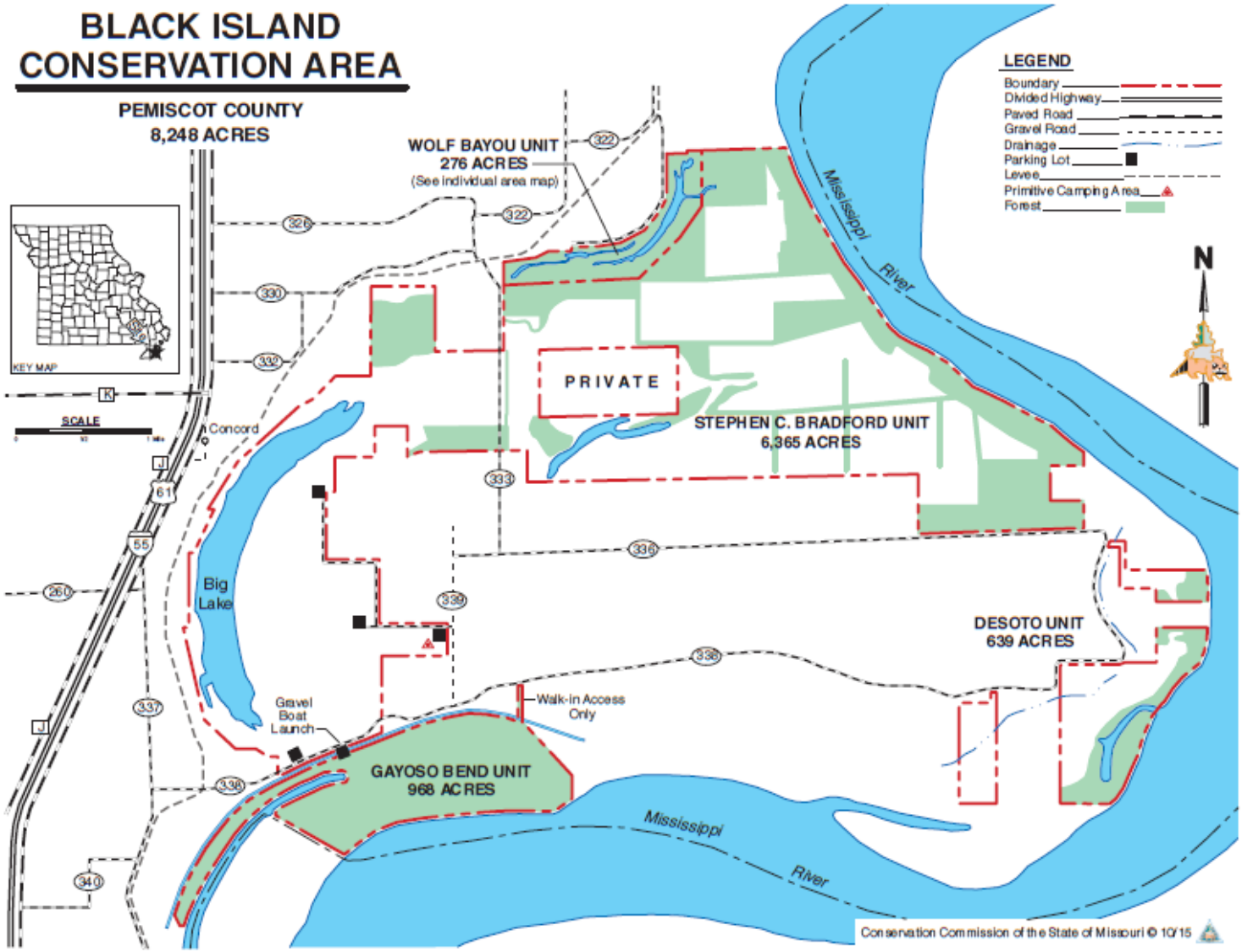
All four of these tracts were at one time primarily in row crops. The majority of the North Desoto Tract and Sanders Tract were farmed the year before the Department took possession. Both of these tracts have since been planted with trees. The Merideth Tract agriculture fields were planted with trees in the 2000 to 2001 time frame. The southern block of Desoto and the north end of the Merideth tract have massive washout holes that run across the property and are a testament to the power of the Mississippi River.

The Forestry Division has maintenance and management responsibility.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	**Acres**	**Miles**	**% of Area**
Developing Bottomland Forest	358		56
Bottomland Forest	264		41
Lakes	18		3
Total	**640**		**100**
Stream Frontage		2	

Appendix 7. Stephen C. Bradford Unit Area Map



Appendix 8. Stephen C. Bradford Unit

Area Background:
This unit was almost entirely in agriculture in the late 1990's. In 2005 the Department purchased 2087 acres that makes up the west side of the area, and in 2015 the Department purchased an additional 4278 acres. The area is enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program.

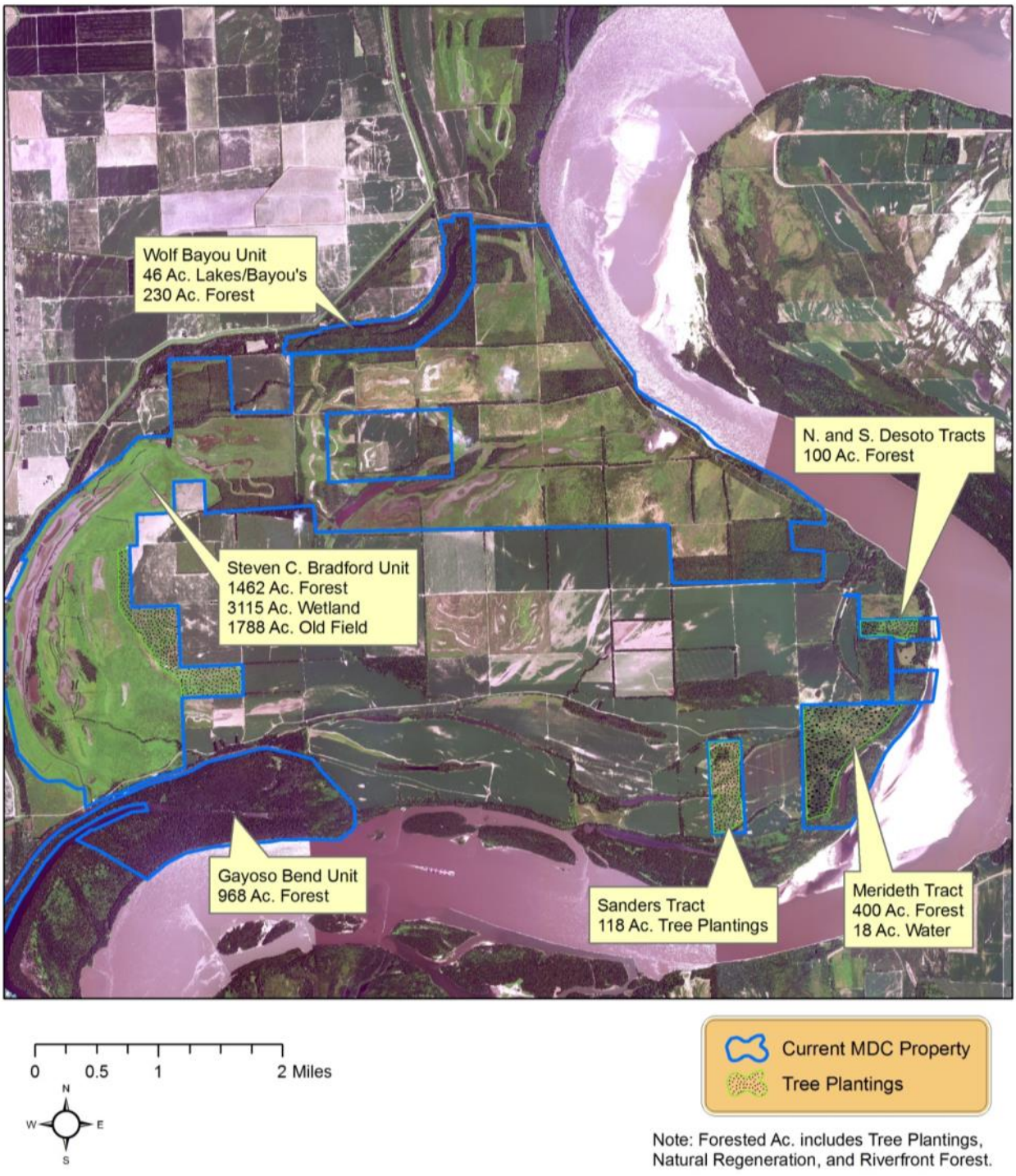
The area consists of a more recently abandoned Mississippi River channel. Multiple wetland pools were created and are passively managed for waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds. Portions of the area have, and will continue to be planted with trees; other large areas will be allowed to naturally regenerate to trees.

The Wildlife Division has maintenance and management responsibility.

Current Land and Water Types:

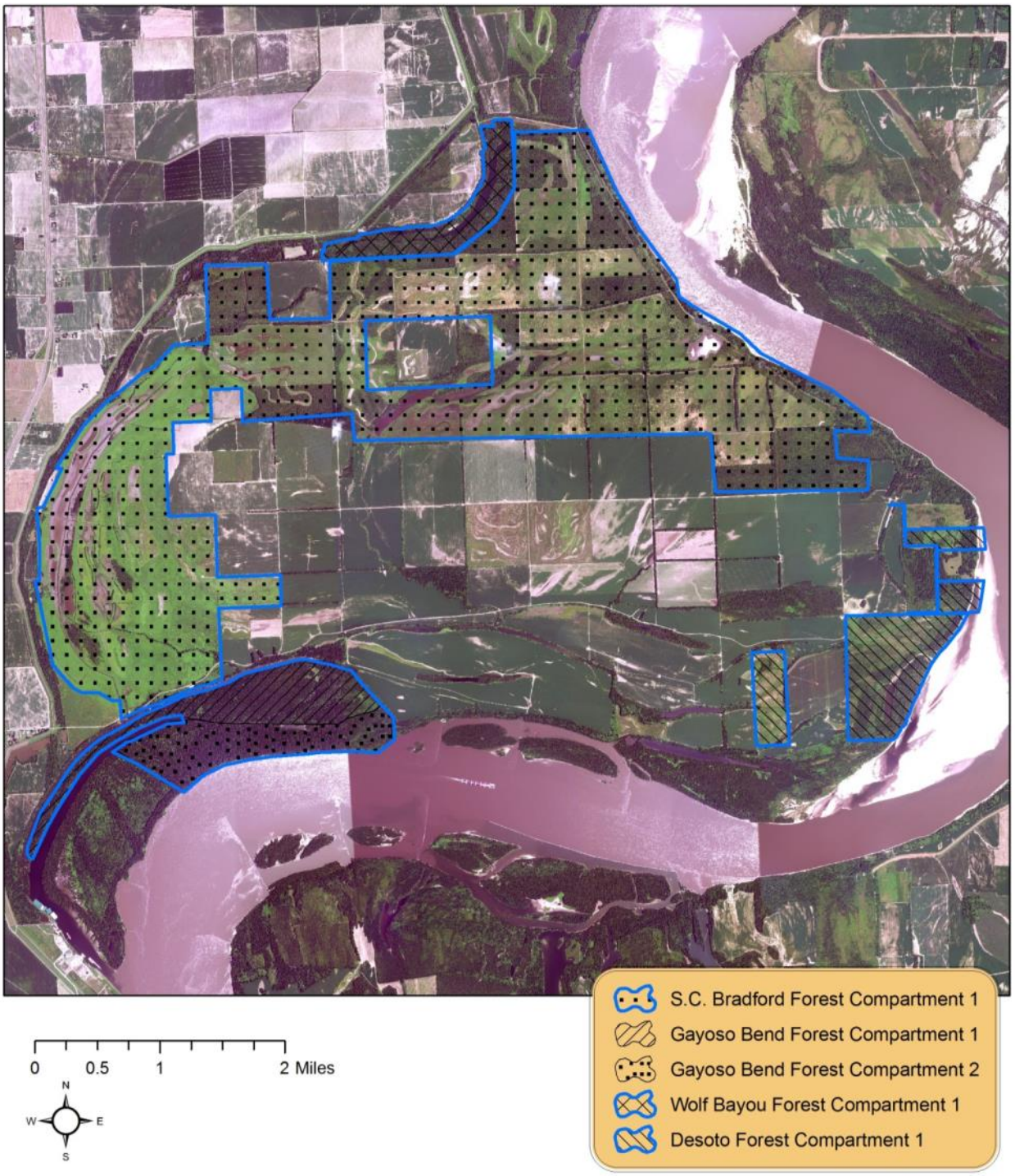
Land/Water Type	**Acres**	**Miles**	**% of Area**
Wetlands	3115		49
Old Field	1788		28
Bottomland Forest/Tree Plantings	1462		23
Total	**6,365**		**100**
Stream Frontage		3.25	

Appendix 9. Vegetative Cover Map



Note: Forested Ac. includes Tree Plantings, Natural Regeneration, and Riverfront Forest.

Appendix 10. Forest Compartment Map



Appendix 11. Draft Black Island Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (September 1-30, 2014):

Could you consider putting a boatslide or ramp at north end of Samples Bayou? Samples Bayou is a good distance from the Hostler Bayou ramp and at times the entrance is blocked by logs or the water is too shallow to get a boat in. Sample has the best fishing and largest brim of all three bayous.