

# **DRAFT**

# **Coldwater**

# **Conservation Area**

**Ten-Year Area Plan**  
**FY 2017-2026**



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## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Coldwater Conservation Area, #4634
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1952
- **Acreage:** 10,738 acres
- **County:** Wayne
- **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 provide hiking, hunting, nature viewing, and other outdoor recreational opportunities; and to produce timber products for the local economy. This will be accomplished by managing the area's forest and field resources for the benefit of wildlife and timber production.

### B. Desired Future Condition

The desired condition of the Coldwater Conservation Area (CA) is to have healthy and productive forest, woodland, savanna, old field, and warm-season grass areas that provide habitat for wildlife and timber products.

### C. Federal Aid Statement

This area or a portion thereof (Compartment 3 and parts of Compartments 1, 2, 4, and 7), was acquired with Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration funds to restore and manage wildlife, conserve and restore suitable wildlife habitat and provide public access for hunting or other wildlife-oriented recreation.

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

### I. Special Considerations

A. **Priority Areas:** Coldwater Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area, Coldwater Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area, Priority Forest Landscape

B. **Natural Areas:** N/A

### II. Important Natural Features and Resources:

A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are not known from this site, but are found in the surrounding area. Area managers should consult annually with the natural history biologist.

B. **Caves:** None

C. **Springs:** None

**III. Existing Infrastructure:**

- One fire tower, fenced
- One Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible hunting zone
- Six parking lots
- Approximately 19 miles of roads
- 47 permanent wildlife watering holes

**IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations:**

**A. Deed Restrictions:** No restrictions apply to the area.

**B. Federal Interest:** Uses of land acquired with federal funds may not interfere with the purpose for which it was acquired. 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.

**C. Easements:**

- One easement for Exxon Mobile (pipeline)
- One easement for Black River Electric
- Two easements for the Missouri Department of Transportation along Highways 34 and 67

**D. Cultural Resource Findings:** No known cultural resources.

**E. Endangered Species:** None observed.

**F. Boundary Issues:** Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this area.

**MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

**V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations:**

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Controlling the potential spread of invasive species on the area.
- 2) The size of the area allows for the opportunity to implement different management techniques to provide quality wildlife habitat, timber harvesting opportunities for the local economy, and hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for the public.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain the woodland and savanna areas for ecological and wildlife habitat purposes.

**Strategy 1:** Continue to implement prescribed burning and mechanical tree thinning as needed. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Manage the forested area for wildlife habitat and timber production.

**Strategy 1:** Conduct scheduled forest inventories to make informed forest management decisions. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Implement the necessary forest management treatments, such as forest thinning and timber stand improvement to encourage mast production, provide cover for wildlife and increase timber volume growth. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 3:** Manage the open fields for wildlife habitat.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain old field and warm-season grass habitats through prescribed burning, mowing, herbicide treatments, and other appropriate management techniques. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Continue to manage food plot areas through proper farming techniques to provide wildlife browse. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 4:** Control invasive plant species.

**Strategy 1:** Monitor all areas including pipeline and roadways for invasive species. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Control invasive species infestations using appropriate measures. (Forestry)

## VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations:

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Manage the Coldwater Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area with care to maintain the integrity of the permanent stream and the intermittent streams that cross the conservation area.
- 2) Maintain the riparian buffer zones along the intermittent stream banks to protect water quality and aquatic species.

**Management Objective 1:** Protect the area's streams

**Strategy 1:** Maintain or restore a 100-foot riparian buffer zone along the intermittent streams on the area. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Implement stream side management zones during timber harvests according to the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department)'s watershed protection practices manual (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014). In addition, follow the guidance in this document when maintaining and constructing roadways and conducting timber harvests to prevent erosion. (Forestry)

**VII. Public Use Management Considerations:**

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) The area’s close proximity to Highway 67 and its large size provide the public with access to quality outdoor recreational opportunities.

**Management Objective 1:** Expand hunting opportunities for disabled users.

**Strategy 1:** Implement a new disabled accessible hunting zone on Compartment 6. (Forestry)

**VIII. Administrative Considerations:**

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) As a result of the area’s large size and high public use (especially during hunting seasons), the challenge is keeping the area free of litter and maintaining area signs and boundaries.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain area signs, parking lots, and information boards.

**Strategy 1:** Post and maintain signs and area parking lots as necessary. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain fence around fire tower. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Maintain the area’s boundary.

**Strategy 1:** Paint the boundary line with blue paint on an established 7-year rotational basis. (Forestry)

**MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE**

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
<b>Terrestrial Resource Management</b>										
<i>Objective 2</i>										
Strategy 1	X		X	X						
<b>Public Use Management Considerations</b>										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 1		X								
<b>Administrative Considerations</b>										
<i>Objective 2</i>										
Strategy 1	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X

## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

The Missouri Department of Conservation purchased the first tract of the Coldwater Conservation Area (CA) in 1952 with partial funding from the Pittman-Robinson Act. This first acquisition was referred to as the “main tract.” It consisted of Compartments 2, 3, and 4 and totaled 3,727 acres. This tract was acquired for the primary purpose of restoring wildlife populations in the area.

Additional tracts of land were purchased during the 1950s and 1960s with the main goal of providing more recreational opportunities for the public and to produce forest products. Much of the forested land had been “high graded” and was also damaged from livestock grazing and wild fires, or improperly managed fires. Managers worked to protect the forest from fires and to improve the timber quality through forest stand improvement practices. In 1954, the Cascade Fire Tower was constructed on Compartment 6 in order to help with fire detection. Starting in 1987, managers began to create permanent openings on the area in order to create green browse and nesting cover for wildlife. Numerous other management practices have been implemented on Coldwater CA in order to improve wildlife habitat and promote the production of high-quality timber products. Management techniques included intermediate thinnings, regeneration harvests, and prescribed fire to create woodland and savanna habitat and to maintain old field and warm-season grass habitats. Wildlife watering holes were also constructed across the area in order to create a permanent source of water. Some of the most recent management activities include a 519-acre intermediate thinning on Compartment 4, a 28-acre forest thinning to improve woodland habitat on Coldwater CA 6, and a 697-acre woodland burn on Compartment 2.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Upland Forest	8,151		76
Woodland	2,142		20
Savanna	320		3
Old Fields/Upland Fields	70		<1
Cropland	23		<1
Grassland	20		<1
Impounded Water	12		<1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,738</b>		<b>100</b>
Intermittent Stream Frontage		33.2	
Permanent Stream Frontage (Turkey Creek)		0.4	

**References:**

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, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

**Maps:**

Figure 1: Area Map

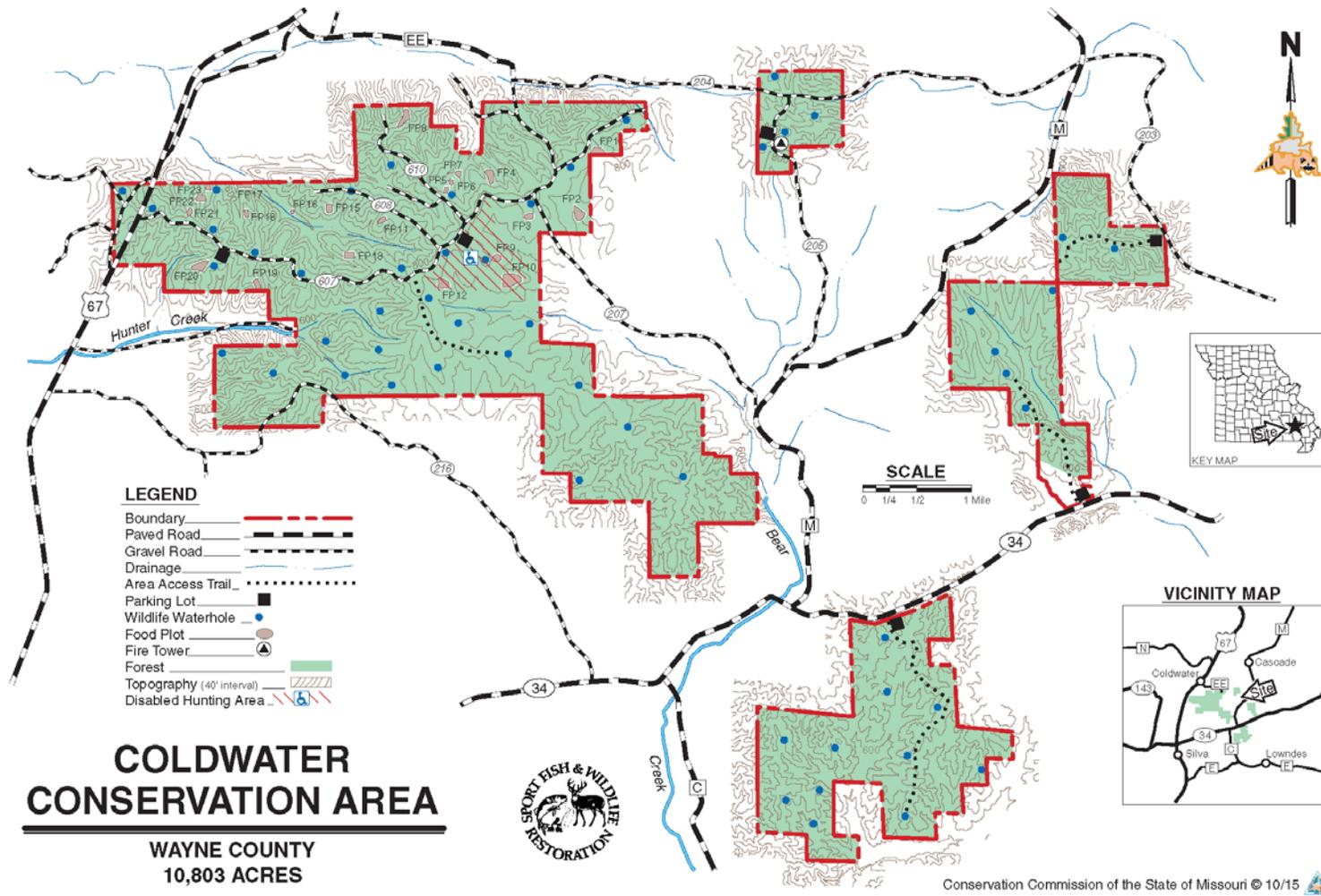
Figure 2: Topographic Map

Figure 3: Compartment Map

Figure 4: Landcover Map

Figure 5: Easement Map

Figure 1: Area Map



**Figure 2: Topographic Map**

### Coldwater CA

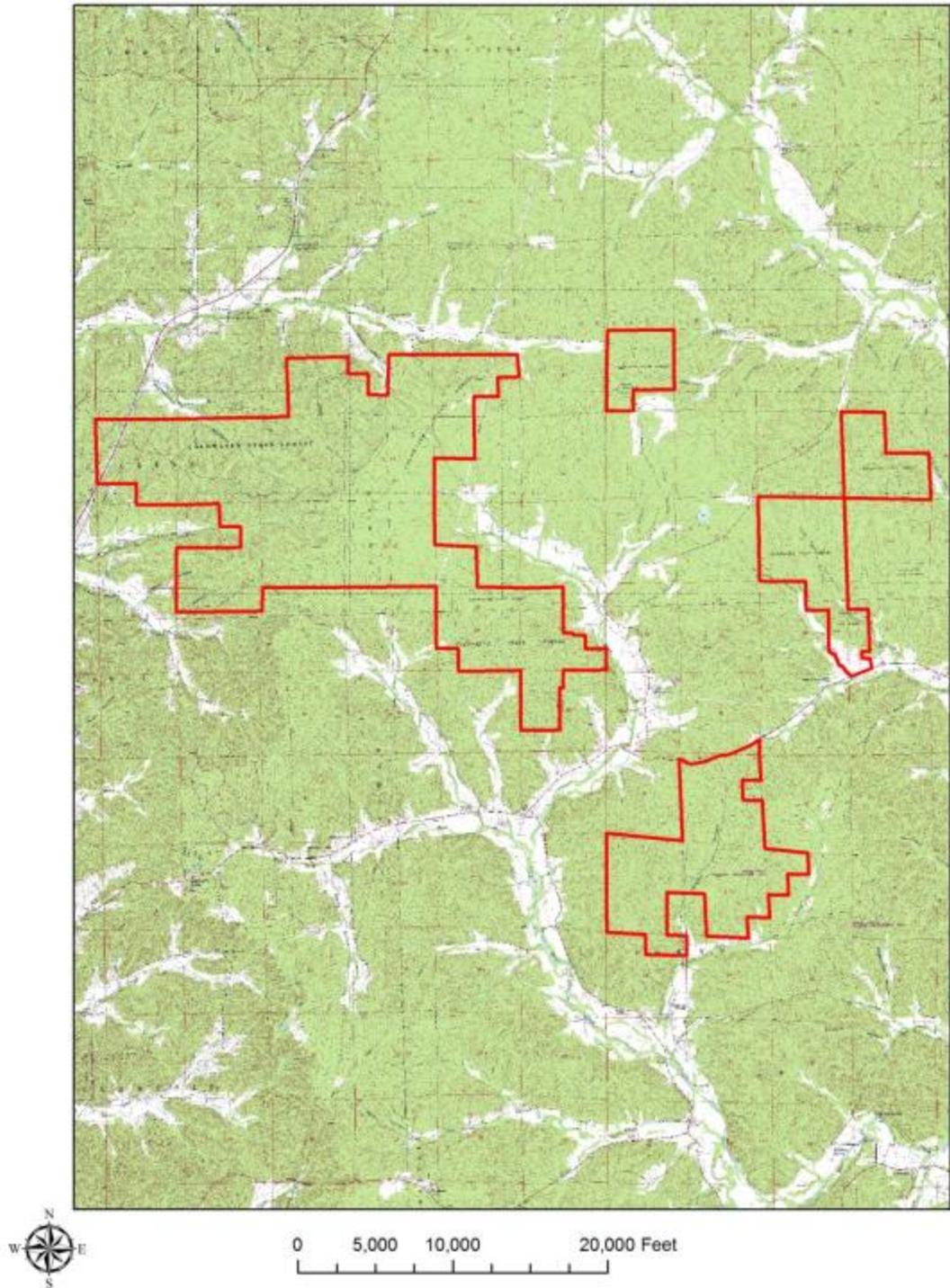


Figure 3: Compartment Map

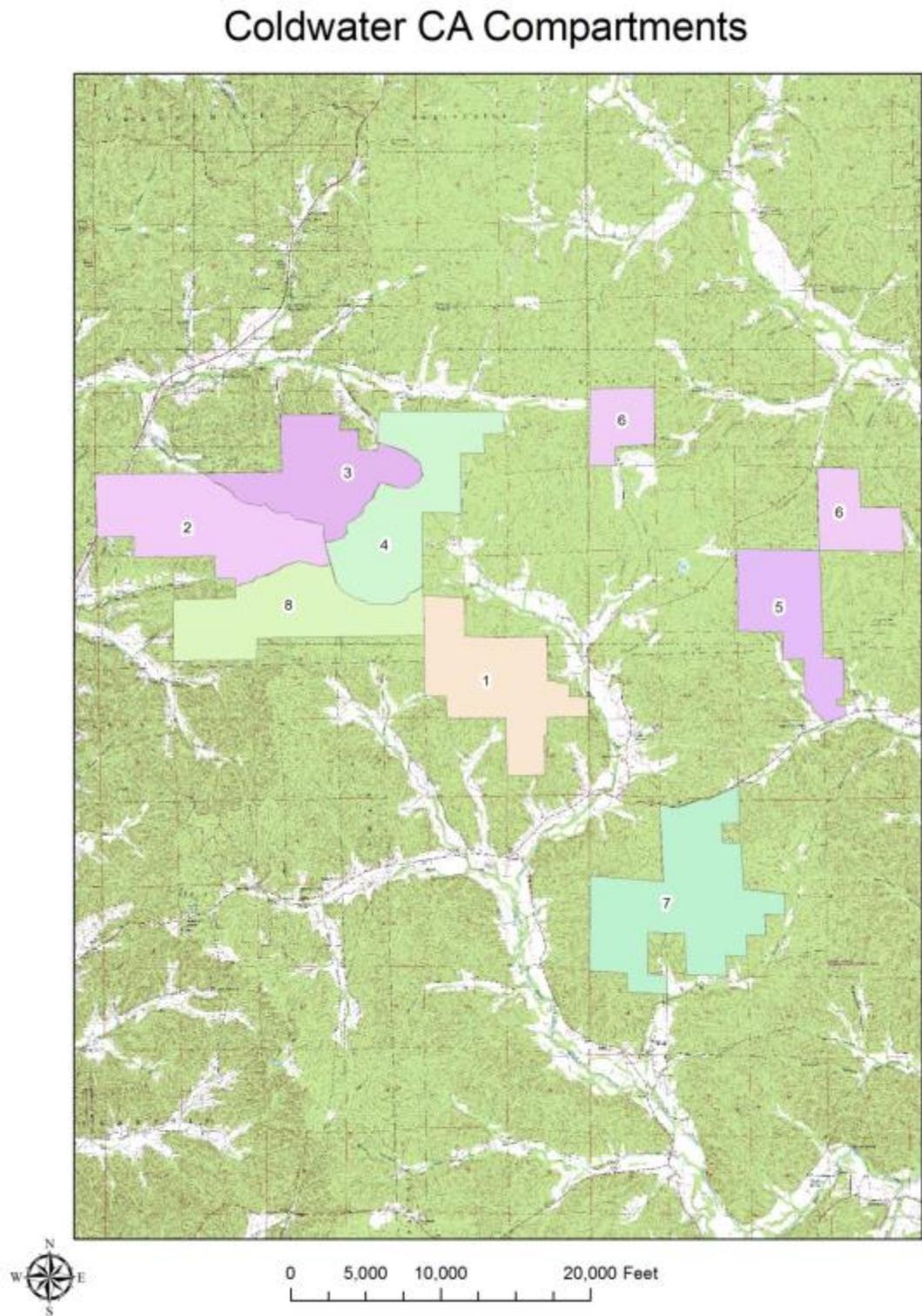


Figure 4: Landcover Map

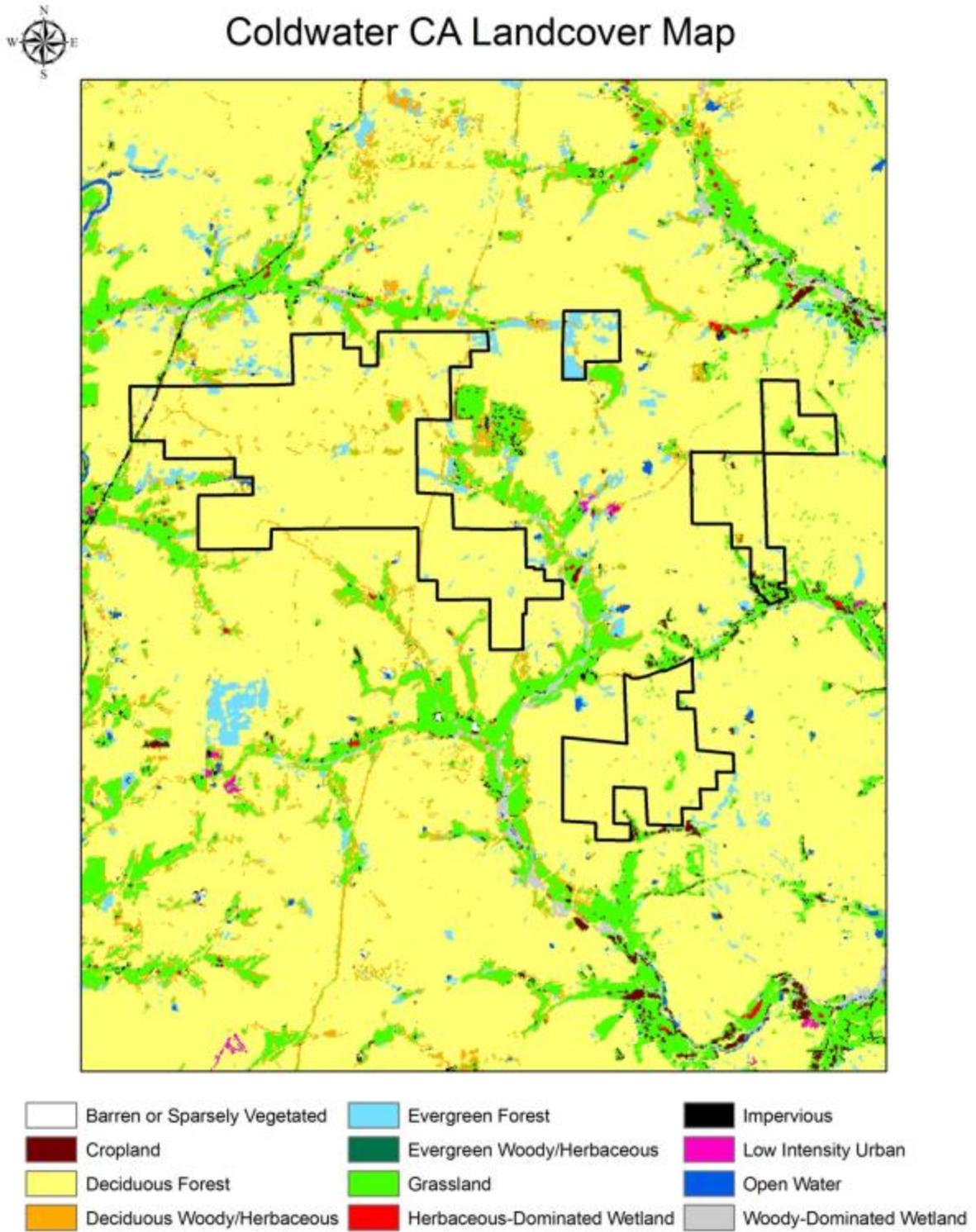
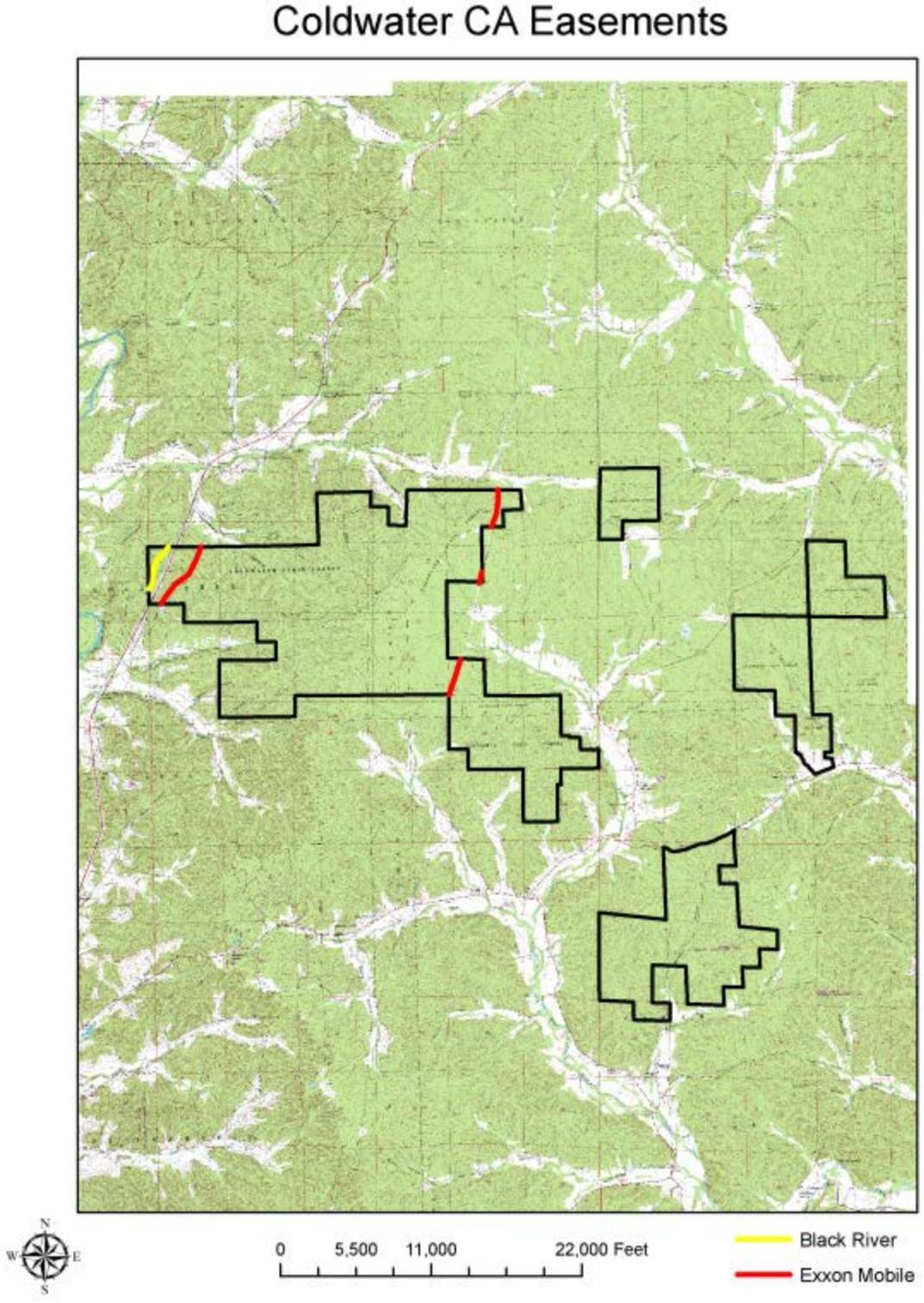


Figure 5: Easement Map



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