

DRAFT

Alice Ahart Mansfield

Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Management Plan
FY 2017-2026



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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Alice Ahart Mansfield Conservation Area, # 7306
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1973
- **Acreage:** 80 acres
- **County:** Camden
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose**

A. Strategic Direction

Alice Ahart Mansfield Conservation Area (Mansfield CA) is managed for wildlife, forest and woodland resources with an emphasis on maintaining healthy forests and compatible recreational opportunities.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of Mansfield CA is a healthy forest ecosystem that is accessible for public recreation.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

- A. **Priority Areas:** None
- B. **Natural Areas:** None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

- A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.
- B. **Caves:** None
- C. **Springs:** None
- D. **Other:** Mansfield CA is located in the Lake of the Ozarks Oak Woodland/Forest Breaks, a land type association that occurs in the Osage River Hills subsection of the Ozark Highlands. This land type consists of rugged hills, described as having narrow ridges, steep-sided slopes with outcrops and narrow valleys. Historically, dolomite glades and savannas were common in this otherwise oak dominated forest and woodland complex. These habitat complexes persist today; however, much of the historic glade and savanna habitats have degraded in the absence of fire (Nigh & Schroeder, 2002).

Mansfield CA is 100 percent forested. It is mostly an upland oak/hickory cover type of black, white, post and red oak with some scattered blackjack oak and

hickory species. This cover type is described as a dry-mesic chert forest (Nelson, 2010). Variations exist within this community, depending on soil characteristics, topographic position and slope. Pockets of dry or dry- mesic chert woodland are present in a matrix along the exposed south- and west-facing slopes or ridge tops (Nelson, 2010).

III. Existing Infrastructure

- One parking lot
- One hiking trail (0.75 miles)

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:

Mansfield Conservation Area was acquired as a donation, given by the previous landowner. Recorded in the deed as a provision of the donation, the Conservation Commission would maintain the property in a forest and woodland management program until it becomes clearly apparent, that it is not feasible to maintain the area in this manner. At which time, the Conservation Commission may dispose of the property and use the proceeds to acquire additional property elsewhere within the state, in honor of the original donating party.

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: Electric utility easement

D. Cultural Resources Findings: No known cultural resources.

E. Endangered Species: None observed.

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

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

The current condition of the forest at Mansfield CA is a healthy saw-timber-sized oak dominant forest/woodland with pockets of small pole-sized timber, as a result of previous firewood harvesting. The saw-timber size class is in great condition and exhibits desirable growth, but is nearing maturity. The pole timber is overstocked, but is in good condition. Annually, crews conduct hazard tree removals and forest health monitoring.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain healthy forest and woodland ecosystems.
- 2) Provide diverse wildlife habitats.
- 3) Control invasive species.
- 4) Protect the headwater streams present.

Management Objective 1: Maintain healthy forests and woodlands through active forest management.

Strategy 1: By 2019 inventory the forest and determine a long-term management strategy. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Implement prescribed plan, as determined by the forest inventory by the end of 2024. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Annually monitor forest health. (Forestry)

Strategy 4: To minimize soil loss utilize best management Ppractices during timber harvest and woodland management as described in the Department's *Missouri Watershed Protection Practices Recommended for Missouri Forests* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014) and the *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014). (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Maintain a diversity of wildlife habitats.

Strategy 1: Maintain an abundance of cavity trees and snags for wildlife. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Provide cover and increase browse for wildlife by implementing forest thinning, where appropriate and as prescribed by forest inventory. (Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Implement an integrated pest management plan to control the spread of invasive species.

Strategy 1: Monitor and document the proliferation of problematic species on a regular basis. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Use a combination of mechanical, herbicide, and prescribed fire to suppress any infestations that may develop. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Monitor the treated areas for effectiveness and long term condition of the site. (Forestry)

Management Objective 4: Maintain the ephemeral headwater stream on the area. Improve long-term stream stability and ecological function.

Strategy 1: Maintain the existing wooded riparian corridor, through natural

regeneration, on all lands bordering the first-order streams at a minimum of 50 feet wide. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Follow the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009) for all management activities on the area. (Forestry)

VI. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide for hunting and viewing opportunities.
- 2) Provide accurate area regulation information.

Management Objective 1: Provide public hunting and viewing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Annually ensure that the area is accessible for approved hunting methods and approved recreation. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Maintain the hiking trail. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Maintain accurate information about Mansfield CA.

Strategy 1: Review and update the Conservation Atlas database annually to maintain accurate information about the area. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Annually update signage to communicate area regulations. (Forestry)

VII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 2) Build relationships with neighboring landowners.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

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

Management Objective 2: Facilitate good working relationships with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Request a survey to establish accurate boundary lines. Maintain with paint or posted signs on a regular basis. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Inform neighboring landowners of planned management activities. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Respond proactively to issues or concerns generated by neighbors or the public. (Forestry)

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

| | FY17 | FY18 | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 | FY26 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Terrestrial Resource Management | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Objective 1</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategy 1 | | | X | | | | | | | |
| Strategy 2 | | | | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| <i>Objective 3</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategy 1 | | X | | X | | X | | X | | |
| Public Use Management | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Objective 1</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategy 2 | | X | | X | | X | | X | | |

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Alice Ahart Mansfield Conservation Area is in Camden County, approximately 2.5 miles west of Osage Beach on Highway KK. This area was donated to the Department in 1973 by Mr. Roy Mansfield of Osage Beach, Missouri and was named in honor of his mother Mrs. Alice Mansfield. The donation was made to maintain a forest and wildlife management program on the land.

The entire 80 acres is forested with an oak hickory cover type, most of which lies on the northwest side of Baydy Peak Road. The area habitat is unique for the surrounding area. Much of the adjacent forest lands have been converted into lake community subdivisions, resorts or golf courses; one-third of the boundary has been developed into subdivisions. The potential for an unwanted insect pest or invasive species outbreak is significantly higher due to forest fragmentation and the abundance of tourism received by the surrounding area.

Visitors to Mansfield CA can view wildlife while hiking the 0.75-mile hiking trail that loops through the forest and back to the parking lot. The area supports a fair population of whitetail deer, wild turkey and other game species.

This area is open for daily use from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m., however special regulations apply for authorized activities noted in the area regulations and as defined in chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code of Missouri. Hunting is permitted; however, special regulations apply by season and game species. Archery methods only are permitted during the fall deer hunting season. Single projectiles are prohibited. Refer to the fall deer and turkey hunting booklet and the spring turkey hunting booklet annually for more information about season regulations.

Current Land and Water Types:

| Land/Water Type | Acres | % of Area |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|
| Forest cover | 80 | 100 |

References:

- Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). Missouri Watershed Protection Practice: Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests. Jefferson City: Missouri Department of Conservation.
- Missouri Department of Conservation. (2015). Missouri Forest Management Guidelines Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests. Jefferson City: Missouri Department of Conservation
- Nelson, P. W. (2010). *The terrestrial natural communities of Missouri*. Missouri: Missouri Natural Areas Committee, Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

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

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 1: Area Map

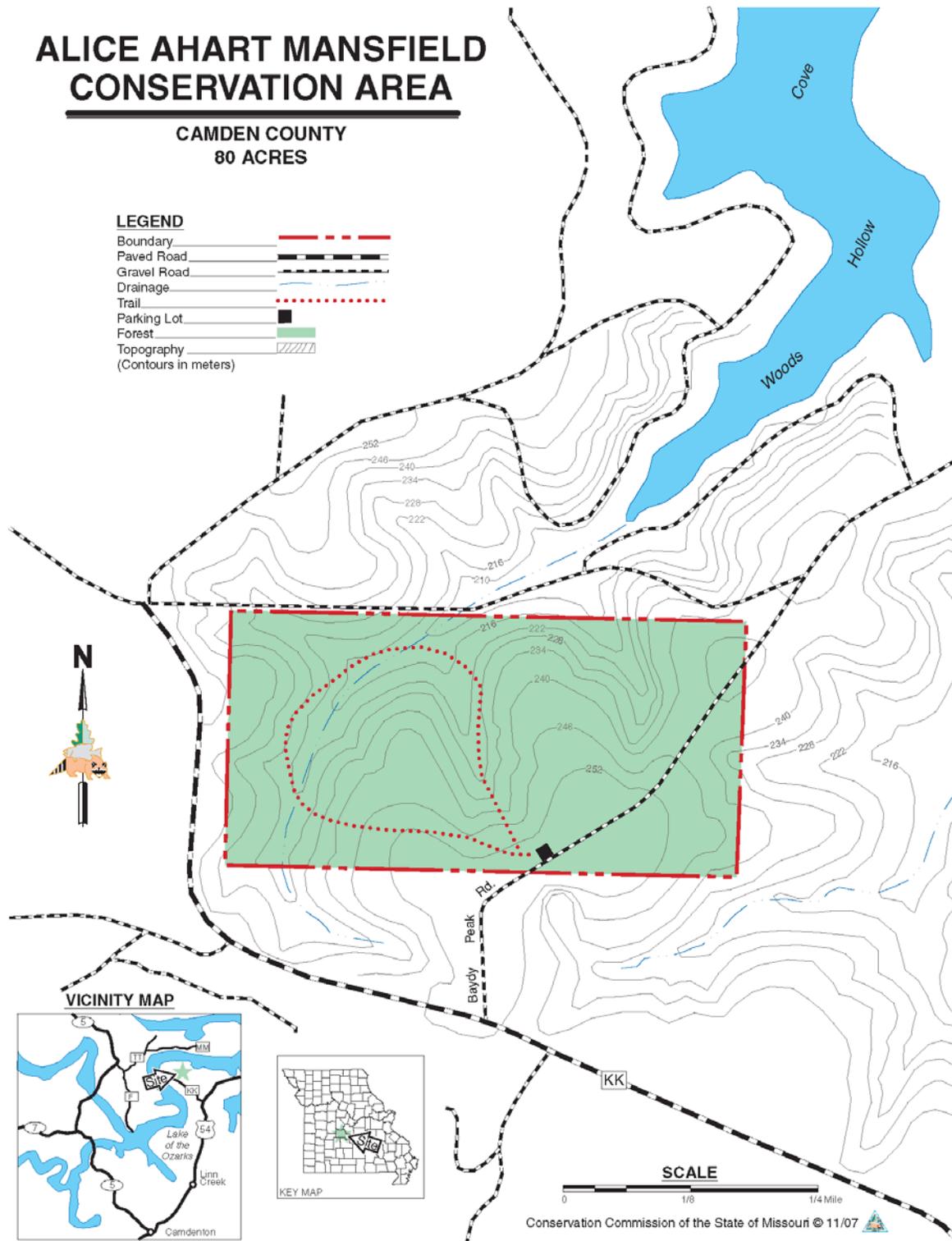


Figure 2: Aerial Map

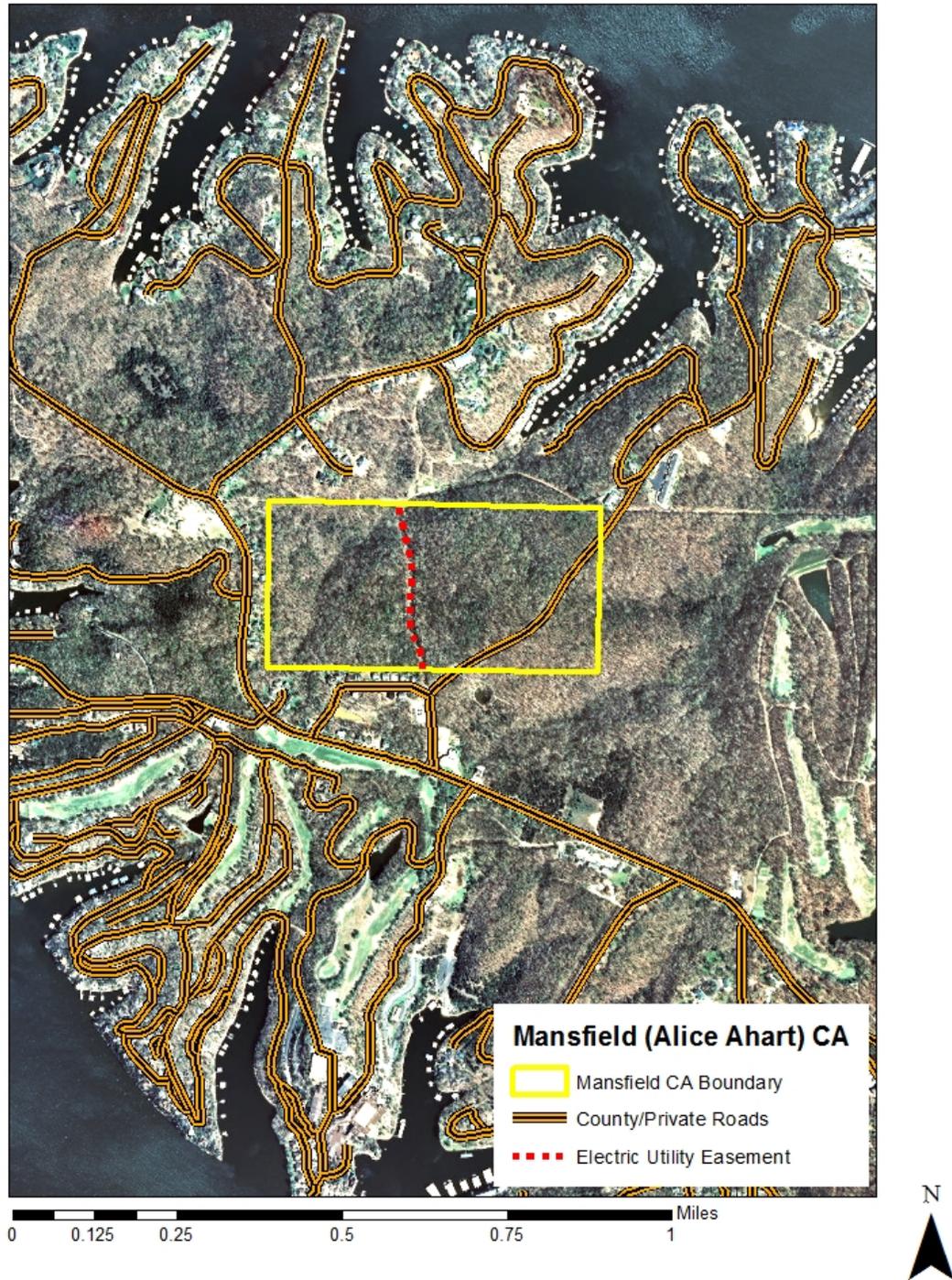


Figure 3: Topographic Map

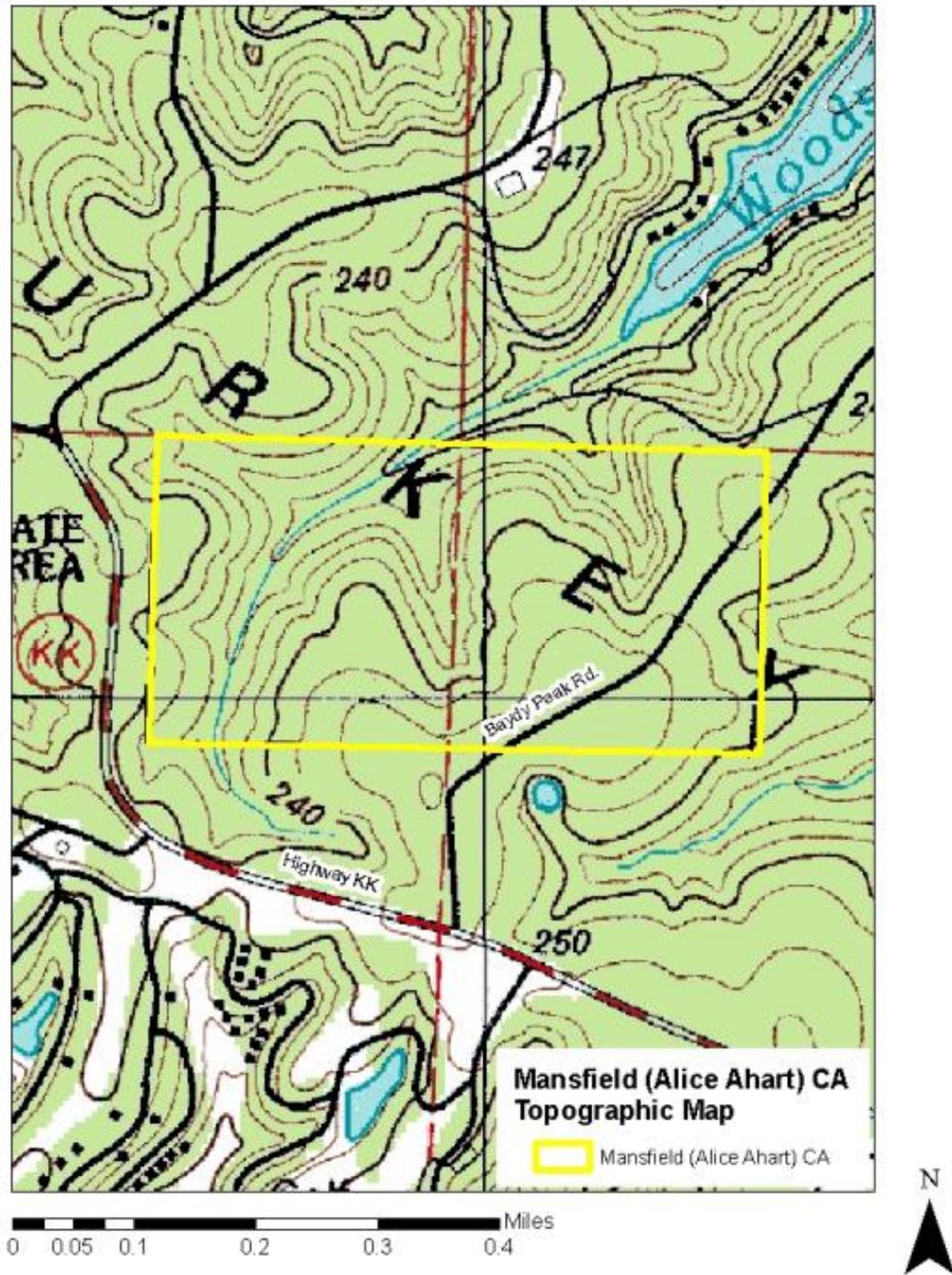
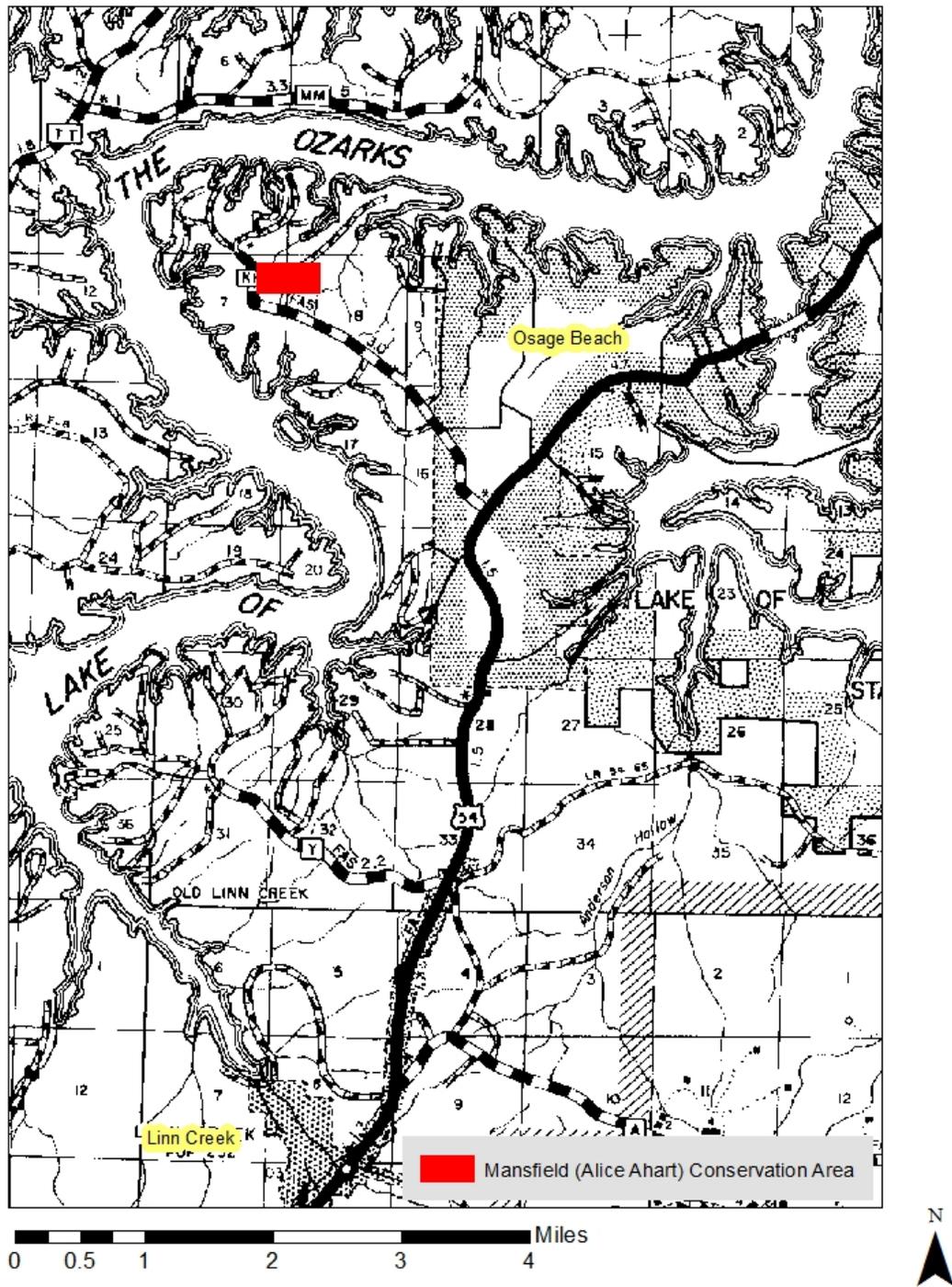


Figure 4: Location Map



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