DRAFT
Williams Ford Access

Ten-Year Area Management Plan
FY 2017-2026

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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Williams Ford Access, #9008
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1990
- **Acreage:** 40 acres
- **County:** Dallas
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
  - **A. Strategic Direction**
    Provide public fishing access to the Niangua River and manage for healthy and sustainable forest, woodland, and aquatic communities for future generations to use and enjoy.
  - **B. Desired Future Condition**
    The desired future condition of Williams Ford Access is forested uplands and riparian corridors with some grassland/early successional habitat.
  - **C. Federal Aid Statement**
    N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. <u>Special Considerations</u>

- **A. Priority Areas:** None
- **B. Natural Areas:** None
- **C. Other:** Federally designated critical habitat for endangered species.

II. <u>Important Natural Features and Resources</u>

- **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

III. <u>Existing Infrastructure</u>

This area contains no existing infrastructure.

IV. <u>Area Restrictions or Limitations</u>

- **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: Dallas County Road, Southwest Electric Cooperative has a right of way access.

D. Cultural Resources Findings: Yes, records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) Environmental Compliance Specialist. Managers should follow Best Management Practices for Cultural Resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.

E. Endangered Species: Endangered species are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.

F. Boundary Issues: None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Maintain adequate riparian corridors.
2) Prevent soil erosion.
3) Control invasive species.

Management Objective 1: Enhance, restore, and protect forest and riparian natural communities.

Strategy 1: Due to the small tract size, forest inventory may be completed on an as-needed-basis to monitor stand composition and assess needs for forest health. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Use even-aged and uneven-aged management practices to correct deficiencies in tree composition (species and age) and/or stand structure according to current structure, age, site index, and species composition. Maintain loose bark tree composition for bat habitat. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Use management techniques such as prescribed fire, chemicals, and mechanical treatments to control invasive woody plants to restore and maintain grassland natural communities. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Maintain riparian corridors as specified in the Department's *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009).

Strategy 1: Allow natural vegetative processes to continue. (Forestry, Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Maintain riparian cover by implementing management practices that encourages new tree ingrowth to replace dead trees (Forestry, Fisheries)

Strategy 3: Control access by restricting vehicles to developed roads and parking areas. (Forestry, Fisheries)

Management Objective 3: Prevent soil erosion due to infrastructure.

Strategy 1: Ensure that roads and road-side drainages are maintained to reduce runoff, sedimentation, and erosion. (Forestry)

Management Objective 4: Control invasive species.

Strategy 1: Periodically monitor area for invasive species and use appropriate strategies for control. Management techniques may include, but are not limited to, mechanical, chemical, or prescribed fire treatments. (Forestry)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Prevent excessive stream bank erosion.

Management Objective 1: Protect and enhance watershed and aquatic habitat.

Strategy 1: Continue to maintain the established forested riparian corridors associated with streams on the area. (Forestry, Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Follow best management practices to prevent erosion during timber harvesting or other enhancement projects according to the Missouri watershed protection practice recommended practices for *Missouri Forests: 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014). (Forestry/Fisheries)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Provide public access along the Niangua River.
2) Keep the public informed of the opportunities available at this area.
3) Maintain the area in a desirable condition.

Management Objective 1: Continue to inform the public of the opportunities at this area.

Strategy 1: Maintain signage at Williams Ford Access in accordance with Department policy. (Forestry, Fisheries, Outreach and Education)

Strategy 2: Maintain up-to-date information about Williams Ford Access on the Department web page, Missouri Conservation Atlas, and area brochures. (Forestry, Fisheries, Outreach and Education)

Management Objective 2: Provide recreational and educational opportunities for the public.

Strategy 1: Provide signage to acknowledge and educate the public about partnerships. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Provide limited upland wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Evaluate land offered as additions to this area.

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 for this management plan are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Area Background:
Williams Ford Access was purchased by the Department for use as a river access in 1990, and has provided significant public use since that time. The area contains a small length of bank that provides bank anglers with access to rocky areas and root wads that house game fish throughout the year. The area includes a small amount of bottomland timber.

Legal Description: Township 34 North, Range 18 West, Section 6

Area Location: From Windyville, take Route MM west 2 miles. Take the Indian Creek Loop south and the Benton Branch Road south to area signs. Williams Ford Access lies 10.9 miles downstream from Big John Access and lies 10.1 miles upstream-from Moon Valley Access.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest/Woodlands	35		87
Grassland	5		13
Total	**40**		**100**
Stream Frontage		0.25	

References:

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

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map
Figure 2: Vicinity Map on the Niangua River
Figure 3: Easement Map
Figure 4: Land Cover Map

Figure 1: Area Map

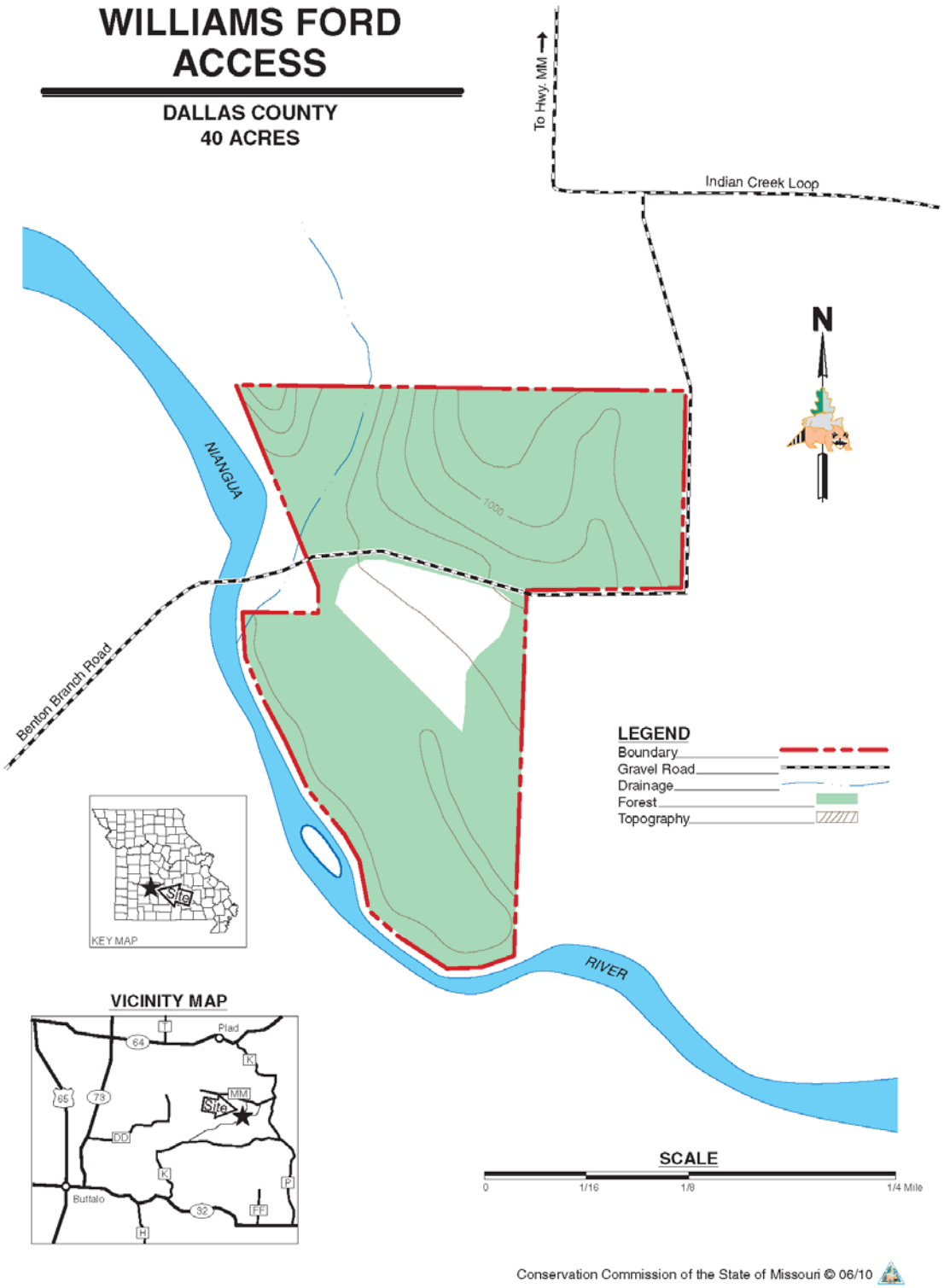


Figure 2: Vicinity Map on the Niangua River

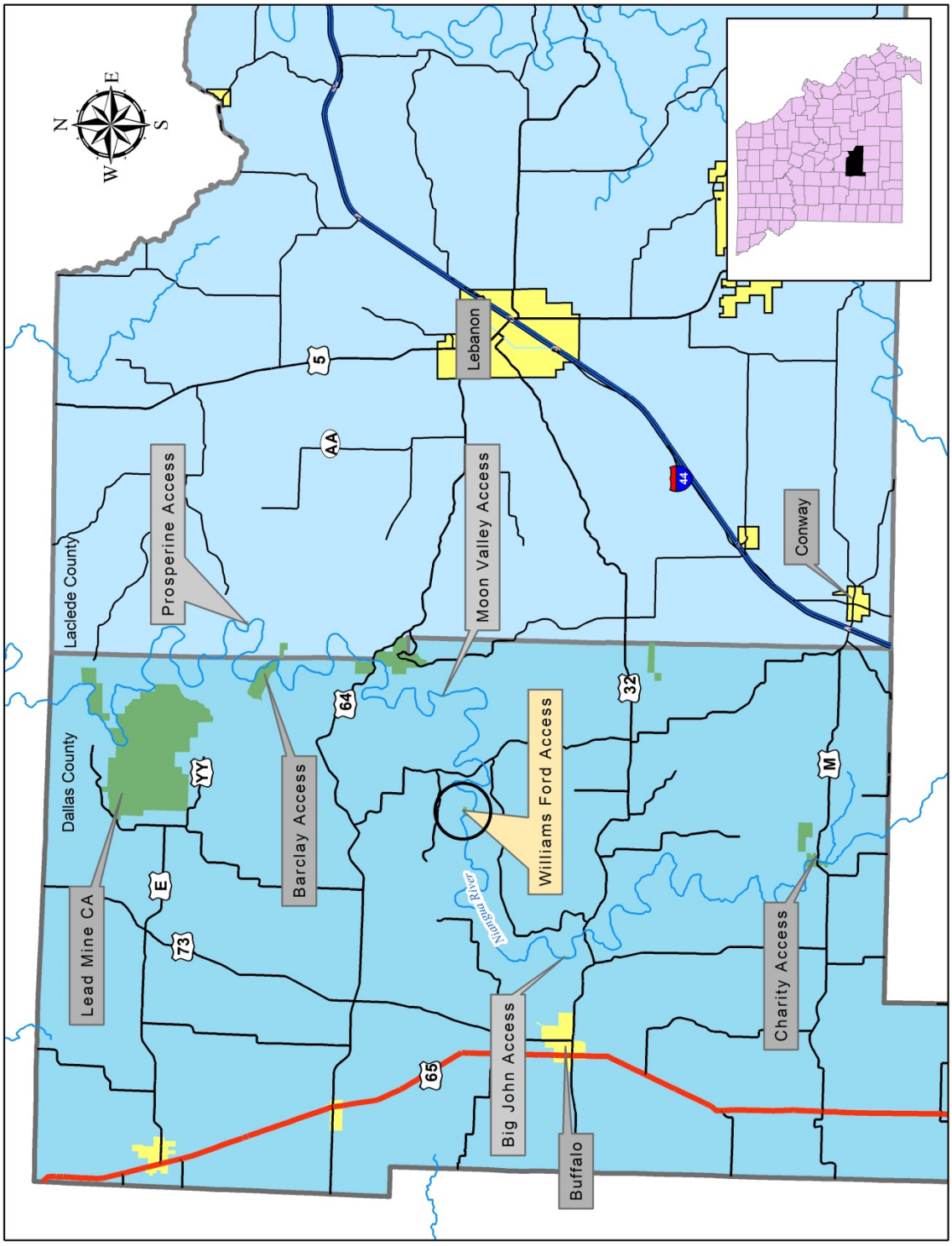


Figure 3: Easement Map

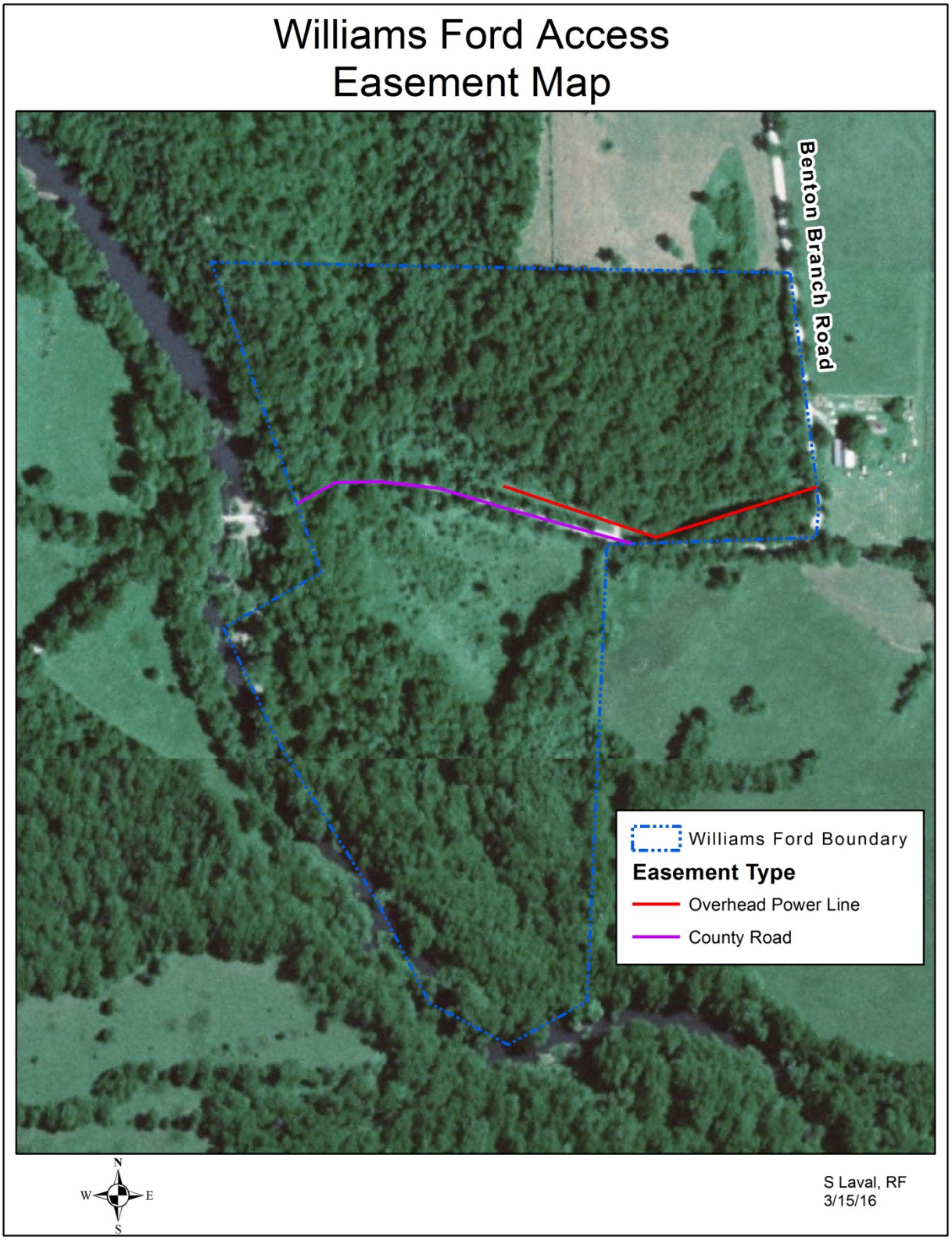
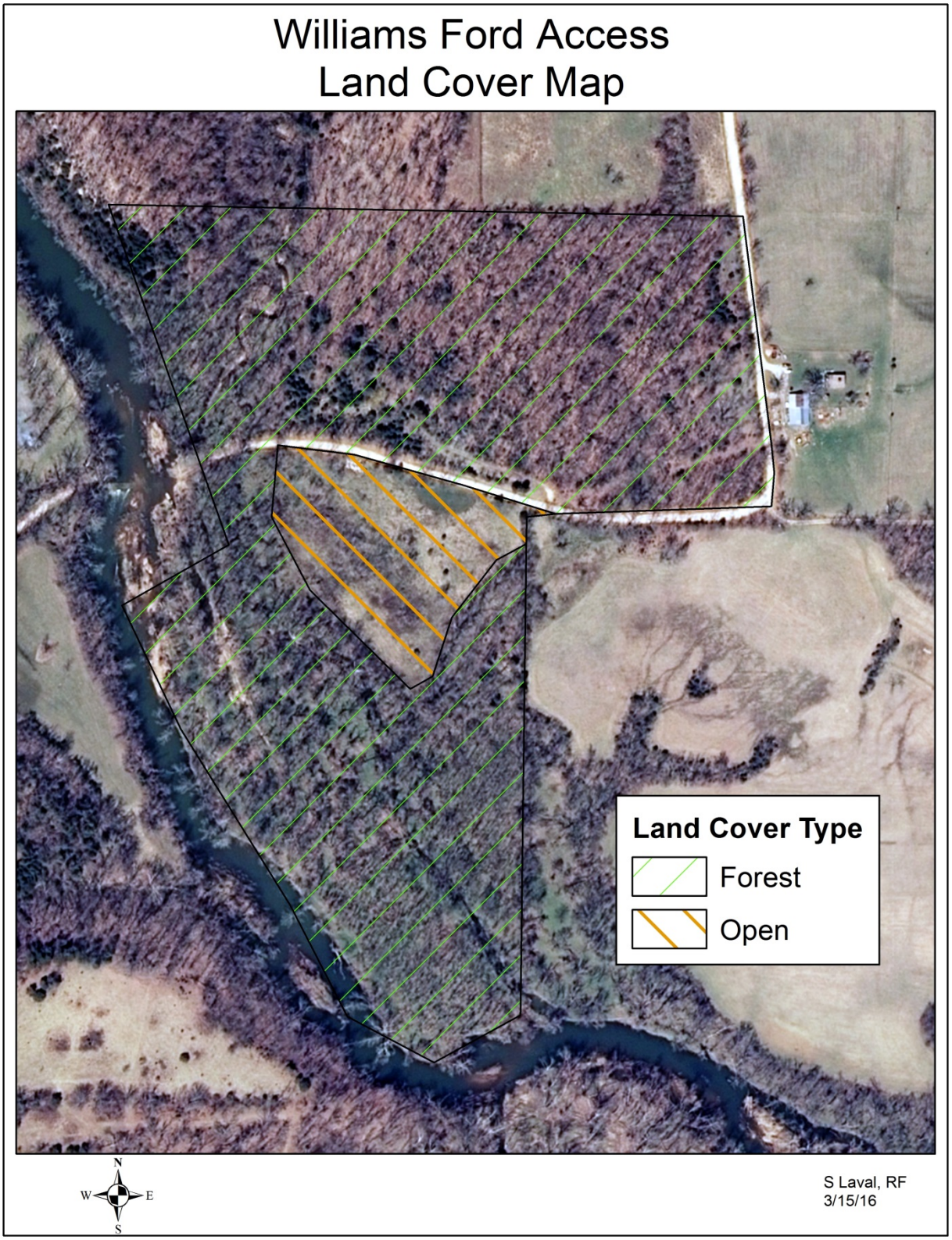


Figure 4: Land Cover Map



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