

# July-September 2015 Area Plan Public Comment Summary



Little Lost Creek Conservation Area

Missouri Department of Conservation  
November 2015



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Missouri Department of Conservation is seeking public input as we develop and revise conservation area management plans.
- For the period of July – September 2015, 27 area plans (covering 24 conservation areas, 27 river accesses, and 1 towersite) were posted for month-long public comment periods ([mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans)).
- Comment periods were advertised locally with notices posted on Conservation Area bulletin boards, contacts made with neighboring landowners, and in some cases, news releases or other outreach methods were used.
- During this time period, we received 98 comments from 77 respondents on 27 area plans.
- Themes and issues identified for these plans included suggestions to add food plots, decrease amount of cropland, add/expand multi-use trails, add camping amenities, expand parking areas, increase partnerships, better mark area boundaries, concern about shooting range safety, and support for acquiring additional land.
- Area planning teams are responding to themes and issues as they finalize area management plans. Final area plans with responses to public comment themes and issues are posted online ([mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans)).

## PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

For the period of July – September 2015, 27 area plans (covering 24 conservation areas, 27 river accesses, and 1 towersite) were posted for month-long public comment periods. Comment periods were advertised locally with notices posted on conservation area bulletin boards, contacts made with neighboring landowners and, in some cases, news releases or other outreach methods were used. During this time we received 98 comments from 19 area plans (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Number of comments received by plan, July - September 2015**

<b>Comment Month</b>	<b>Area Plan</b>	<b>MDC Region</b>	<b>Comments Received</b>
<b>July 2015</b>	<b>Benton County Forestry Areas<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>July 2015</b>	<b>Jim Bridger CA</b>	<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>July 2015</b>	<b>Platte Falls CA and the Sharps Station Access</b>	<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>21</b>
July 2015	Elmslie Memorial CA	Northeast	0
<b>July 2015</b>	<b>Northeast Region Stream Accesses Greater than 40 Acres<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Northeast</b>	<b>4</b>
July 2015	Ruby Clark Willingham Memorial Wildlife Area	Northeast	0
<b>July 2015</b>	<b>Bohigian CA</b>	<b>Ozark</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>July 2015</b>	<b>Hyer Woods CA</b>	<b>Ozark</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>July 2015</b>	<b>Shawnee Mac Lakes CA</b>	<b>Ozark</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>July 2015</b>	<b>Bear Creek CA</b>	<b>Southwest</b>	<b>1</b>
July 2015	Bennett Spring Access	Southwest	0
<b>August 2015</b>	<b>Barn Hollow Natural Area</b>	<b>Ozark</b>	<b>1</b>
August 2015	Buttin Rock Access	Ozark	0
August 2015	Grundy Memorial Wildlife Area	Ozark	0
<b>August 2015</b>	<b>Peter A. Eck CA</b>	<b>Ozark</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>August 2015</b>	<b>Sims Valley Community Lake</b>	<b>Ozark</b>	<b>2</b>
August 2015	Coffin Cave CA	Southwest	0
August 2015	Columbia Bottom CA	St. Louis	0
<b>August 2015</b>	<b>Little Indian Creek CA</b>	<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>August 2015</b>	<b>Little Lost Creek CA</b>	<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>September 2015</b>	<b>Moniteau Creek CA</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>September 2015</b>	<b>Hazel Hill Lake Area</b>	<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>6</b>
September 2015	Charlie Heath Memorial CA	Northeast	0
<b>September 2015</b>	<b>Archie and Gracie Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest</b>	<b>Ozark</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>September 2015</b>	<b>Columbia Bottom CA</b>	<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>September 2015</b>	<b>William R. Logan CA</b>	<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>September 2015</b>	<b>St. Louis Region Southern Small River Accesses<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>July-September TOTAL</b>			<b>98</b>

<sup>1</sup>Plan includes Edmonson Access, Brickley Hollow CA, Mount Hulda Towersite, and Granny’s Acres CA.

<sup>2</sup>Plan includes the Black Hawk, Callahan Mound, Cedar Bluff, Dodd, Dunn, McPike, Mound View, Soulard, Sunnyside School, Sunrise, Tolona, White Oak Bend, and Woodlawn Accesses.

<sup>3</sup>Plan includes Allenton, Campbell Bridge, Chouteau Claim, Mammoth, Mill Rock, Riverview, Sand Ford, Sappington Bridge, Uhlemeyer, and Wenkel Ford Accesses.

## DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

### Who responded?

We received 98 comments from 77 respondents (Table 2). Several respondents submitted multiple comments, so the total number of responses is greater than the total number of respondents.

**Table 2. Respondents by respondent category, if self-identified. Respondents may not represent the view of the organization.**

Organization Type	Count
Individual citizens	65
Equestrian groups <sup>1</sup>	6
Non-profit groups <sup>2</sup>	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>

<sup>1</sup>Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen chapters (Indian Trails Chapter and an unknown chapter), Kearney Saddle Club, Horseback Trails in Missouri, Larkspur Ranch, Show Me Saddle Club

<sup>2</sup>American Canoe Association, Missouri Bee Keepers Association, Mt. Moriah 4-H Club, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, St. Louis Audubon, Audubon Society of Missouri

### How they responded:

**Table 3. Total number of each response received**

Response Type	Count	Percent
Web comment form	71	92
Hard copy form	5	7
Phone call	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100</b>

**Where respondents are from:**

**Table 4. Total number of respondents by location**

<b>State</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
California	1	1.3
Colorado	1	1.3
Illinois	1	1.3
Iowa	1	1.3
Missouri	72	93.5
South Carolina	1	1.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100</b>

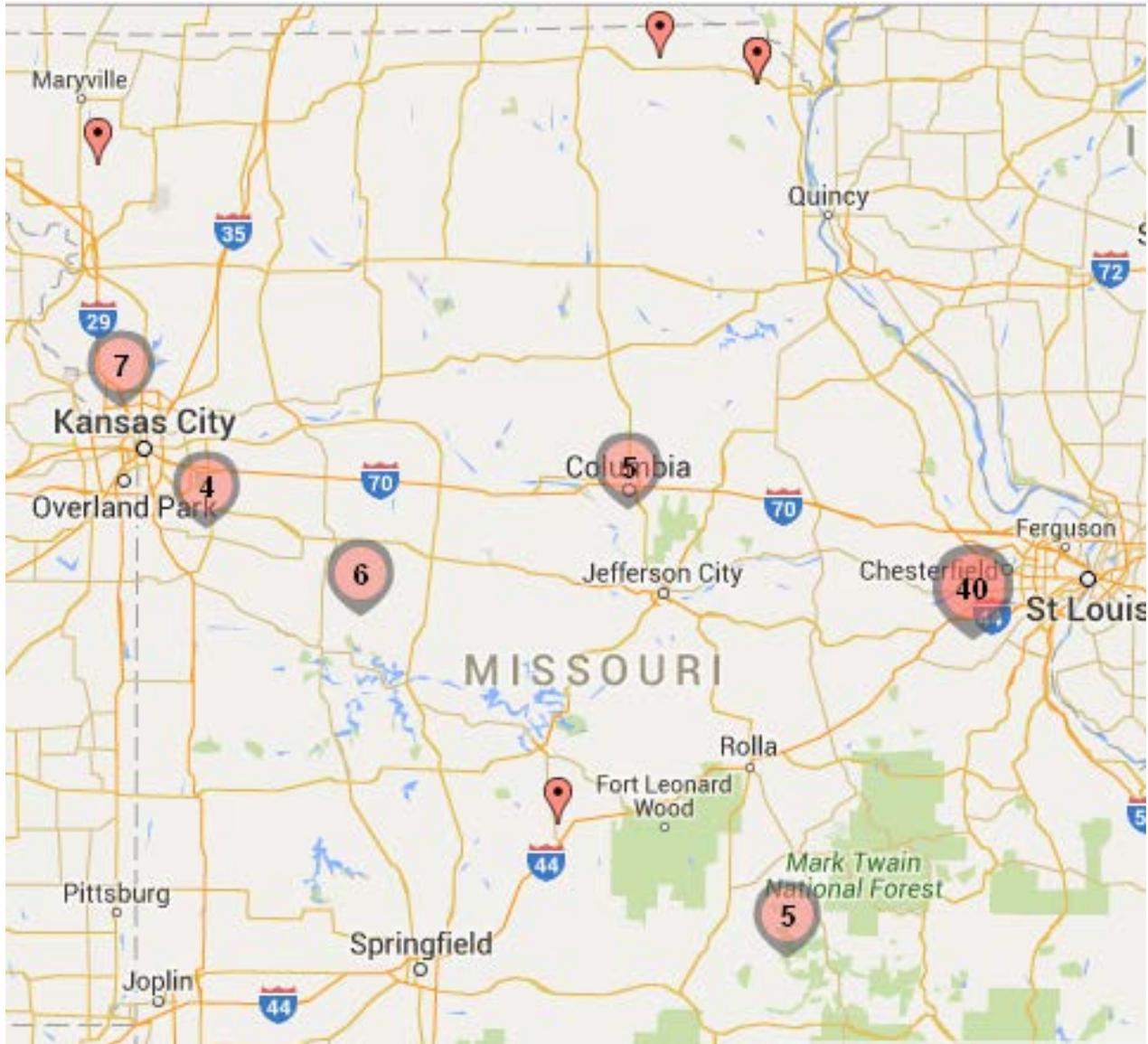
**Figure 1. Map of Respondents by ZIP Code**

The pinpoints below represent the geographic center of ZIP code boundaries from which a public comment was received (they do not represent actual street addresses). Shaded circles with numbers in them represent multiple responses from a region.



**Figure 2. Map of Missouri Respondents by ZIP Code**

The pinpoints below represent the geographic center of ZIP code boundaries from which a public comment was received (they do not represent actual street addresses). Shaded circles with numbers in them represent multiple responses from a region.



## **THEMES AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED**

The following are themes and issues that were identified from public comments received on draft area management plans available for public review July-September 2015. Missouri Department of Conservation responses to these themes and issues can be found in each final area plan, posted online at [mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans), once each plan receives final approval.

### **Terrestrial Resource Management**

#### ***Wildlife***

- Suggests clearing fields in southern part of area for improved wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities.
- Suggests adding more dove fields.
- Suggests adding food plots to old field portion of area.
- Suggests planting crops or food plots (for deer and dove hunting) in some of the old fields.
- Concern with increased nuisance wildlife (groundhog, raccoon, opossum, snakes) on neighboring property. Suggests planting more persimmon and plum trees to keep wildlife on conservation property.
- Suggests adding food plots for dove hunting.
- Suggests providing habitat for honey bees.
- Suggests managing for quail.
- Supports quail management on area.

#### ***Forestry***

- Interested in the replanting of pines.
- Opposes timber cutting.
- Supports continuing diverse forest/woodland management.
- Curious about what is planted in Compartments 1 and 2.
- Suggests clearing out locust trees along road.

#### ***Natural Community Management***

- Suggests allowing open fields to reforest.
- Opposes maintaining cropland on this area. Would like to see less cropland and more trees.
- Suggests eliminating fescue where possible.
- Supports prescribed burns.
- Opposes fire as a management tool.
- Concerned about invasive species on area spreading to adjacent properties.

- Concern about invasive species (buckthorn) expanding onto neighboring lands.
- Suggests conducting a survey of wetland habitats.

#### *Other*

- Neighboring landowner requests notification of management changes (burning, excavating, construction).
- Would like to know what herbicides the Department uses.
- Would like more terrestrial management details.
- Suggests increased feral hog trapping on area.

### **Aquatic Resource Management**

#### *Fishing*

- Suggests adding a fishing lake. Suggests stocking fish in four larger ponds.

#### *Habitat Management*

- Concern with too much vegetation in lakes.
- Concern with county grading of river stream at Mill Rock Access.

#### *Other*

- Would like to know more information about trout spawning habitat; the definition of Blue Ribbon Trout Area; current status of wild trout in Mill Creek; what habitat structures will be added; how to minimize sediment/pollution.

### **Public Use Management**

#### *Trails*

- Appreciates hiking trails.
- Suggests adding multi-use trails for horseback riding and a parking area that can accommodate horse trailers.
- Appreciates multi-use trails for horseback riding. Suggests designating all trails on area (including service roads) as multi-use. Offers to assist with trail maintenance and rerouting trails.
- Suggests better marking of multi-use trails and providing updated trail maps.
- Appreciates multi-use trails for horseback riding. Suggests adding at least five additional miles of multi-use trail to this area. Offers to help maintain multi-use trail.
- Suggests maintaining and improving biking and hiking trails. Suggests repaving trails.

### ***Hunting***

- Suggests adding a deer cleaning station.
- Concerned this area is too overgrown for accessing hunting areas.

### ***Camping***

- Suggests adding camping area for hunters and horseback riders and charging a camping fee.
- Suggests allowing horseback riding, camping, and adding picnic tables.
- Suggests adding electric hookups, water, and horse ties at campground. Suggests allowing horses at camping area.
- Suggests limiting amount of days campers can stay at campground. Consider reservation system for campground to help control litter.

### ***Amenities***

- Suggests adding a restroom at the first parking lot.
- Concern that there is not enough turning area in parking lot to access boat ramp.
- Supports expanding area where horse trailers may park. Suggests additional equestrian parking lot at some distance from the existing parking lot. Suggests allowing horse trailer parking in camping area during summer months (if camping is closed). Requests ability to provide input on design of new equestrian parking lot.
- Suggests improving restrooms.
- Appreciates covered dock and courtesy dock.
- Suggests adding a courtesy boat dock.
- Suggests adding picnic tables.
- Appreciates river accesses for paddle sports and fishing.

### ***Area Maintenance***

- Suggests mowing paths by September 1 to aid hunting access. Suggests brush hogging additional areas for more hunting access.
- Concerned that access to some parts of area is difficult due to overgrown brush and weeds. Suggests prescribed burns or adding more trails.
- Concerned about littering around shooting range.
- Suggests increased maintenance of area grounds.
- Suggests that repairs may be needed due to flooding.
- Suggests larger signage to direct proper parking. Suggests paving parking lot and painting parking stripes.
- Suggests adding signs to low-water crossing asking people not to stand on it when vehicles are crossing.
- Concerned with upkeep of cemetery on area.

- Concerned that levee district doesn't exist and repairs are not being made.
- Suggests promoting public use of these areas as a way to decrease vandalism.

### ***Education***

- Suggests offering an imaginative fairy hunt for young children to get involved with nature along with an introduction to fishing.
- Suggests partnering with local schools and organizations to increase area use.

### ***Enforcement/Policy***

- Concern about safety of shooting range (bullet holes in nearby barn and house; eagles shot). Suggests more signage and patrols of shooting range.
- Concern that automatic weapons are being used at shooting range.
- Suggests closing shooting range during firearms deer season.
- Supports prohibiting single projectile firearm hunting on this area.
- Opposes bicycle use on this area.
- Opposes bicycle use on these areas.
- Opposes bicycle use on this area.
- Opposes bicycle use on this area.
- Opposes allowing mountain biking on this area.
- Appreciates this bike-friendly area. Opposes bicycle use on this area.
- Concerned with recent vandalism of area signs. Suggests increased patrols by conservation agents.
- Suggests expanding time that horseback riding is allowed (from April-August to January-August). Suggests allowing horseback riding year-round in portions of the area closed to hunting. Recommends allowing horseback riding on the Confluence Trail.
- Suggests increased enforcement patrols at this area.
- Suggests allowing road access to Pool 2 during spring and fall migration to view birds.
- Suggests increasing visitor center hours of operation.
- Suggests posting signs about no parking or fire building on boat ramps. Suggests ticketing people who park in front of boat ramps, blocking use.
- Concern with people driving vehicles on river banks.
- Suggests improved signage marking steep decline road.
- Suggests adding safe swimming or wading opportunities as a goal for this plan.

## **Administrative Considerations**

### ***Land Acquisition***

- Neighboring landowner offers to sell property adjacent to access.
- Suggests acquiring land between access and highway bridge.
- Supports acquiring additional land to enlarge this area.
- Suggests acquiring additional land adjacent to this area.
- Supports increasing size of these areas.

### ***Infrastructure Development***

- Suggests partnering with universities to develop a biological field station on area. This would include group sleeping areas, restrooms, cooking/dining area, and one or two classrooms.
- Wonders if there are future plans for a boat ramp, campgrounds, and fencing.
- Expresses concern/ambivalence about possible construction of a wooden bridge and/or observation deck.
- Concerned with how many service roads have been added in the last several years.
- Appreciates limited roads through area.
- Suggests adding a privy.
- Suggests developing additional gravel roads for wildlife viewing from vehicles.
- Suggests partnering with birding organizations to add elevated platforms along road bordering Pools 3, 4, and 5 for wildlife viewing.
- Suggests expanding parking lots.
- Suggests adding a separate canoe launch areas.
- Suggests adding tie down hooks on all boat ramps.

### ***Partnerships***

- Suggests partnerships with NGOs.

### ***Boundary Maintenance***

- Suggests repairing fences between neighboring properties.
- Suggests better signage showing property lines and better trail markers.
- Suggests better marking of area boundaries.
- Suggests better marking property lines.
- Concerned with area users trespassing on neighboring property. Suggests better marking area boundaries.

### **General Comments**

- Would like maps showing current and projected distribution of habitats.
- Would like a more detailed management timeline.
- Suggests providing a more detailed map that shows streams, ponds, trails, and access roads.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Area planning teams are responding to themes and issues identified for their particular area plan. Area plans with responses to comment categories are approved by RCT, UCT, and Division Chief and then will be posted on the public website as a final area plan ([mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans)).

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A. Benton County Forestry Areas Plan Public Comments

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

We are your neighbor to the north property line of Brickley Hollow CA and are reviewing the 10 year management plan recently published for this area. Would you please email if there are any upcoming changes to the environment (i.e. Burning, Excavating or Construction) in the near future. We would really appreciate it! Thank you,

I own property against Henry's Acres and the conservation area Brickley Hollow. I was told previously that these areas would be separated by a fence and I am wondering if that is now part of the plan. What are the future plans about camp grounds, boat ramp, etc.?

### Appendix B. Jim Bridger Urban Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

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

I love hiking trails.

The one thing that I wish I could see out at Jim Bridger Urban Area is a deer cleaning station. A place maybe where we park our vehicles that will allow us to hang a deer up and remove the meat. A lot of times animals are being harvested right before dark. I would like to be able to use my head lights to shine on the animal so I can ensure that I'm removing all of the meat properly. I don't like boning a deer out on the ground because I feel like I am missing a lot of meat on the deer. A lot of people that hunt the area might not have a proper place to take an animal to bone it out. I live in an apartment complex and can't bring a dead animal home. The neighbors might not like that. By having a cleaning station it will also provide an area to be able to dispose of the remains properly. If someone has to take the animal from the conservation area, most of the time remains end up in a dumpster. If the remains were left at the conservation area they will be taken advantage of by the other wildlife. Also, I would like to see the paths to be brush hogged by september 1. That way we will be able to put our stands up without having to walk through 6 ft tall brush. Also, I would like to see more areas to be brush hogged so that we have more places to hunt. I know there was plenty of times last season where there were more hunters than deer because we were all herded together with the minimal access points. And it will allow us a little bit of time to scout the entire 320 acres. I love that soy beans were planted this year as apposed to corn because it allows us to be able to see across the fields. Other than that I believe this piece of conservation land is amazing!

The fields in the south block of the area are grossly overgrown and need to be cleared to improve hunting opportunities while, at the same time, providing for sufficient habitat for wildlife.

**Appendix C. Platte Falls Conservation Area Plan Public Comments**

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

<p>Please consider allowing horse back riding in designated areas. Thank you!</p>
<p>I wanted to say that there are many, many of us out here with horses who would love to be able to utilize your beautiful area. Despite what some, ill informed, people may say..our horses are NOT destructive. We are very good stewards of the land, we bring an enormous financial gain to any area open to us, and the majority of us are more than happy to help keep trails open and clean. I am from South Carolina and travel with my horses all the time...there are a LOT of us who do... We are fortunate to have the money and time to do this...When we come to an area to ride we spend money at local businesses...restaurants, gas stations, hardware stores, convenience stores, hotels, motels, campgrounds, etc.... We would love to be able to come and enjoy your 2300 acres... Many of us are hunters and fishermen ourselves....think of the benefits of having a large, new pool of users...hunting licenses..fishing licenses...camping fees... At a time when so many places are scrambling for funds it seems silly to ignore such an available pot of gold. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Please provide trails for horse riders! Thank you.</p>
<p>2300 acres and no horseback riding allowed. Why not?                  Lead Mine Conservation area allows horseback riding and created the trails to do such. There trails are maintained by the conservation department because they can use a brush hog on many. They also have primitive camping for horses.                  Let's take this a step further, if Platte Falls did open it to horseback riders and created specific trails like LMC has, then it would be a win-win situation for all.                  How many hunters would like to be able to walk down a brush hogged trail to go hunting (going off trail to do such)? Lone Jack Conservation area (LJ, MO), I'd say it is a major struggle to get through the heavy undergrowth, to hunt.                  Don't turn away the horseback riding. Think about setting up a trail camp for hunters and horseback riders and then charge a fee for camping.                  Why not?</p>
<p>would like to see equestrian trails at platte falls in platte county.</p>
<p>This is a prime area to open up for equestrian use. This will allow a greater number to use and appreciate the trails. This also will bring in more revenue to the area as we tend to spend. The options for riding in the area are currently limited and while horse people are not perfect a great portion of them (far greater than not) are interested and careful of protecting the areas they use so that the use can continue on through the generations. Please consider this additional use.</p>
<p>Would like to have equestrian trails added to this plan</p>
<p>I appreciated getting the draft of plans for the Neeper CA and find myself agreeable to the majority of your plans. I also agreed that trespassing is a continuing problem for the adjoining landowners. If the boundary lines were marked with less space between the signs and were</p>

metal it might help - or hunters would have fewer excuses - with trespassers. A sign in the parking area asking them to be respectful of boundaries might also help if you do not already have one there. Thanks again for allowing my input.

My kids and I have used the area to fish and shoot clays. The trash around shooting area at times is bad. We pick up all our used shotgun shells and dispose of properly. But others dont or are out there shooting hand guns and rifles. We love using conservation areas for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. The area lacks some access to areas do to over grown brush and weeds. We like the plan proposed due to increased wildlife in area that changes would bring. All users must be involved !!to help the welfare of the area.

As a Trail Rider living in Platte County I note that there are no equestrian trails at the Platte Falls Conservation Area. With 2300+ acres at the Conservation Area I would like for MDC to consider adding equestrian trails.

My husband and I live in Platte City and we trail ride. It would be convenient for us to ride at the Platte Falls Conservation Area if trails were established. I understand there are over 2300 acres and surely, there is enough area for equestrian trails.

I am resubmitting as I failed to check the Area Plan I am commenting on. As a resident of Platte County, the only other area that is available to us that has equestrian trails is Tiffany Springs Park. Unfortunately, there is roadside parking only on NW Hampton Rd. going into the park. This is a dangerous situation when there are ball games in progress and having horses and horse trailers on the side of the road. Platte Falls Conservation Area has over 2300 acres and I was informed by a member of the Kearney Saddle Club that she and other members used to ride there years ago until it was determined that horses were not welcome and was told not to ride there. Surely, there is enough area to establish equestrian trails that would not disturb the wet lands and hunting areas.

People come out for target practice, and not for hunting every weekend, we end up with bullet holes in our barn and house roofs. The Eagles that winter on the Platte river have been shot every winter. My suggestion is to put up signs and patrol area more diligently.

I would like to see a section develop for equine use (trailer parking and horse ties) as well as marked trails for trail riding. thanks.

29 July 2015 Dear MDC,

I am a professor of biology at Northwest Missouri State University with a suggestion for the Platte CA. I would like you to consider establishing a Biological Field Station on the property. I believe the field station would be of tremendous value not only to Northwest, but also Missouri Western and UMKC as well. The station could offer a wide variety of field-oriented courses allowing students and faculty from all institutions to collaborate. Collaboration could take the form of collectively taught courses, research projects, and grants. Collaboration would also be possible between these institutions and MDC and its needs. The facility would also be valuable in offering public programs, interaction with youth organization such as the Boy Scouts of American, Girl Scouts of America, and church groups to name a few. This kind of interaction

would likely further interest in students pursuing careers in the area of conservation and restoration and should encourage public support for these activities as well.

The field station could provide an excellent opportunity to study river biology as well as prairie biology and especially the loess hill prairies of NW Missouri would all stand to benefit. Interaction with federal agencies such as Squaw Creek NWR which lies along the Missouri River may also be possible.

I would not expect the station to be elaborate although group sleeping areas and toilet facilities for males and females would need to be present for participating students and faculty; a small cooking/dining area, and one or two classrooms areas.

I truly believe this type of facility to be a wise and productive use of resources for Missouri and hope that the MDC can give serious consideration to my proposal.

Alternatively, the field station may be situated in any of the conservation area land that lies along the western side of Missouri between KC and the northern border and provide the same benefits and opportunities.

Thank you for your time and attention.

I would really like to see some equestrian trails built here. There are no designated equestrian trails in Platte county that I am aware of. Northland Trails and Greenways proposed horse trails years ago and it's never happened. Thank you

Would love to see horse trails and equestrian camping areas put in!

Always looking for great places to ride close to home..would love to see equestrian camping and horse trails added to this. Believe there is a need and will pull in a lot of local as well as out of town riders in.

I would LOVE equestrian trails, camping and horse trailer designed parking areas added to these plans! Would be a great recreational area for horse back trail riders. Great view of nature from horse back!

We live in Weston and would be THRILLED to have trails nearby to ride on! As of now we have to travel to Smithville or Tiffany Springs and they are far enough that it has to be a "planned" trip. Trails at Platte Falls would be much closer and handier for us. We ride several times a week and riding where we board the horses is pretty boring-therefore making a quick trip to Platte Falls much better and very exciting for us in contrast...thank you for considering this area; we do go here to fish and mushroom hunt so we already get to use it and love the area!

I, along with many others would love to have some equine riding trails and a campground area for us with our horses. I'm in Kearney Saddle Club and there's about 100-150 members that would like the same

A lot of the area is very difficult to access due to how thick the brush is. Getting stands in and deer out can be nearly impossible unless hunting very close to the parking. More trails or controlled burns in the winter should be considered. Also I'd like to see more dove management fields. To little area for the number of hunters... Thanks.

## Appendix D. Northeast Region Stream Accesses Greater than 40 Acres Area Plan Public Comments

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

Woodland Access:

Recommendation # 1, acquire remaining land to the south between the Woodland Access Area and the Hwy 151 Bridge over the middle fork of salt river (approximately 5 acres).

Recommendation # 2, Implementation additional strategies as documented in the Northeast Regions Stream Access Greater than 40 Acres Management Plan. Specifically, apply wildlife management practices to the Woodlawn access by planting food plots in areas designated as "fields/old fields."

Fire as a management tool should not be allowed at White Oak Bend Access. It is 70% Forest. Any open fields should be allowed to re-forest as it was before white settlers cleared it. Consideration should also be given to the fact that it is a relatively small tract surrounded by privately owned crop fields as well as the past history of destruction caused by poorly controlled burns.

Hard copy comment submitted to Chris Williamson (7/13/2015): Here is my comment, My husband and I owned that ground for many years and I am free to say I have walk it all. As for the boat ramp, I believe that is of no use because there isn't enough water to use a boat. But the ground could be made into a pretty place. I would think horse back riding paths to walk that would be cleared. Or night camping and picnic tables. Maybe I shouldn't comment because I haven't been on the ground. I am glad you do burn, as my farm is next to yours it probably wouldn't be good for me because of people coming more. But I do hope you will think about this. I have found mushrooms, wildflowers, picked blackberries. It could be better than Deer Ridge, people could still fish. It has been a long time since I have been on the Tolona, that's the one next to me.

Hard copy comment (7/30/2015): I own the 40 acres to the north [of White Oak Bend Access]. It is about 50% tillable 50% timber. River runs right through middle. I would consider selling. Think would make better access to rive.  
Sincerely,

## Appendix E. Bohigian Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

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

Looks fine.

I frequently visit Bohigan for trout fishing, making the trip from St. Louis 10-15 times a year, so most of my comments regard item VI- Aquatic Resource Management considerations. Challenges and Opportunities #1- I'd like to see more specifics-how much spawning habitat is on the property now? Where is it distributed? Can it be augmented? Where on the property should efforts be targeted?

No definition of "quality Blue Ribbon Trout Area" is provided in Strategy 1, nor any reference to

the current status of wild trout in Mill Creek- population estimates or trends, size distributions, redd counts, measures of fish recruitment. If MDC plans to sample the stream every other year...what are they going to compare their results to? How are they going to quantify it as a "quality wild trout fishery?" The total number of fish, the number of spawners, the number over a certain length? It'd be nice to have more detail as to how those decisions are made.

Same with Strategy 2- How will habitat structures be maintained or enhanced? What structures will be added, and are their partnerships with TU or other groups to help with funding or manpower?

Under Management Objective 2- Where should efforts to minimize sediment/pollution be focused? Has consideration been given to potential sources of sediment or pollution through groundwater transport? Are their cooperative funds or projects with the Forest Service or private landowners which could help address sediment or pollution on a watershed scale? It'd be nice if the document linked the reader to the Watersheds and Stream Management Guidelines document.

Under Strategy 2, I'd be interested in knowing what herbicides MDC plans to use (specifically), during what time of year, and whether they have any documented adverse effects on non-target plants or animals. The same with Management Objective 3. If the wetland habitats haven't been surveyed for species of conservation concern (as seems to be suggested under Challenges and Opportunities), then it may be good to state those surveys will take place before herbicides are applied.

I think the terrestrial component could benefit from more detail as well. What was the historical vegetation of the region, and are the management proposals designed to restore those vegetation patterns? What terrestrial species would benefit from the management regime (quail? Songbirds? Glade reptiles?). Why is bare-ground habitat a priority? What's the acreage of the different burn units, and are burns going to interfere with recreational activities? What is the current basal area of forest stands, and what is the target basal area? What herbicides will be used and when, and do they have any potential to affect other species? Are their any plans to re-seed grassland areas with native warm-season grasses and forbs, or is it expected the species will the species return naturally?

It's a good outline to a more thorough document. I think a lot of questions and concerns could be alleviated by simply providing more detail and specificity. Maps showing current and projected distribution of different habitat types would certainly help the public understand the trajectory of the property. Providing a timeline with discreet management goals (what projects will be implemented and completed when- for example, which units will be burned during what years), would also be extremely beneficial to the public.

## Appendix F. Hyer Woods Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

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

I have reviewed this plan and look forward to the continued maintenance of the area.

"Hard copy comment submitted to Mike Fiaoni (7/9/2015):" Dear Mr. Fiaoni: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on plans for updating the Hyer Woods Conservation Area. I am Ruth Bowles Bercaw, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Hyer Bowles, donors of the area. My husband and I own the revamped old mill and a bit of land located almost directly across the creek from the Spring. Our family occupies the mill at odd times during summer months when our dispersed members gather there.

Each visit I generally walk across the decaying bridge and along the old spring road, and often do sketching while there. I walked that road quite recently, and generally speaking, I commend the improvements already made -- of a parking area, signage and maintenance. I do not recommend significant changes.

The Hyer Woods Area is small and I am content that there are no picnic tables, which would necessitate garbage receptacles nearby, or invite trash.

While it is true that a wooden bridge over parts of the rocked spring might delay/prevent collapse of the structure separating the spring from the old cooling area, I have ambivalent feelings about that. Though views of the branch in that area of the creek are special to me, I am not sure that an observation deck in that area would be used or warranted. Our two children, (adults now), Hyer Bercaw and Katherine Bercaw-Hartl will eventually inherit the mill property, and I have forwarded your requests for comments to them should they have opinions on the subject. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

## Appendix G. Shawnee Mac Lakes Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

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

Good plan. I like the opportunity to enlarge acreage. Would like to see elimination of fescue when possible

While the lake area is nice your returning the field area behind my house to a more natural state has increased the groundhog, raccoon, opossum and snake population three fold. I have fruit trees that they get more of than I do. I recommend you plant more persimmon and plum trees and repair the fences between the land owner and conservation properties.

You need to install a restroom in the first parking lot, and clean the lakes out of the weeds and take better care of the grounds.

## **Appendix H. Bear Creek Conservation Area Plan Public Comments**

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

Please be advised that the MDC eastern boundry for Squatter no longer extends east of Rustic Drive. I have recently completed the purchase of this property (.89 acres).

Also, FYI: The culvert that crosses Rustic Drive onto my property from Squatter was buried by recent flooding. This has caused runoff over top of Rustic Drive accordingly. I have been trying to maintain the runoff with my tractor to minimize the impact. Repairs in this area may be necessary.

Thank you for the oppportunity to provide comment.

## **Appendix I. Barn Hollow Natural Area Plan Public Comments**

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

I am sorry to report because of travel plans, I have not thoroughly read the info that you have furnished. I did take 4 friends from the Mtn. View Garden Club on a walk to the overlook a few days ago. We were pleased to walk on the mowed path down to the overlook. I was glad the broken wooden parts of the overlook had been replaced.

As an adjoining landowner, I am concerned about invasive species on the area spreading to our property. I am interested in what measures are being taken to preserve our native species on the area. My husband is interested in the replanting of the pine trees.

We feel fortunate to have such conservation minded neighbors. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment, and please do not hesitate to contact us or visit on one of your trips to this lovely area.

## **Appendix J. Peter A. Eck Conservation Area Plan Public Comments**

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

(Hard Copy Comment)

1. Continue NO firearms, walk in only
2. Better Ferrall Hog Trapping on that Area
3. Better signuage at entrance showing property lines
4. Better trail markings
5. NO TIMBER CUTTING!

## Appendix K. Sims Valley Community Lake Area Plan Public Comments

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Generally, good job.

However, to make your product just a little better:

1) Overveiw, Statment of Purpose: B. Desired Future Condition... It appears that the State is not doing the job NOW; suggest " Continue to provide quality fishing opportunities to ... with well-managed..."

General Information and Conditions. Consider adding a definition section, for example; sound resource management, Sims Lake Management Plan (where can I find this), fisheries management tools, glyphososate herbicide, parenthesis items ie (Fisheries) ref. to Department responsible, etc...

Aquatic Resource Management Coniderations:

Challenges and Opportunities: you can Delete "1)" The number "1" is not needed if only one item is listed.

Management Objective 1: Stratege 4: appears to say "Make it up as we go", do you want to infer this?

Management Objective 3: appears to be a "Justicication for Public Relations Staff", is this the message you want to send?

Public Use Management Considerations: Challenges and Oppertunities: Delete "1)". Again, if only one item, the number "1" is not needed.

Administrative Coniderations: Delete "Challenges and Oppertunitives: 1) Ensure boundary lines are easily identifiable.", Management Objective 1:" and "Strategy 1:" so the section reads; Maintain signs and re-paint boundary lines so that they are easy to locate ever five years or as needed."

Again thx,

The objectives are noteworthy. Problems that arise as a user are the installation of a rock lined ditch at the top of the parking lot effectively shortened the turn around distance by 5 feet. This may seem insignificant but the distance was minimal to begin with . A CDL is almost necessary to get a boat properly lined up ready for launch. Signage is not large enough to direct proper parking. I have noticed on several occasions trucks with trailers parking close to the launch ramp with the trailer sticking out into the parking area. If that area is under video observation it is the best hidden camera I have ever seen. My opinion is that the parking lot needs to be made deeper and paved and striped. I realize the natural environment is a consideration. The addition

of the covered dock and the courtesy dock were welcomed additions and I thank you for them.

Good Luck

### **Appendix L. Little Indian Creek Conservation Area Plan Public Comments**

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

Improve restrooms

Put in electric hookups and water at Campground with horse ties or stalls. 3-4 would really improve area for equestrian use.

Much needed control over campers. I would like to see a shorter limit on length of time at campsites. Possible reservations supplying names at campsites to control litter left at campsites. Fines could then be involved to help fund clean up. Area boundaries marked better to control trespass.

Would like to see the shooting range closed after the beginning of deer season. The only days it is tolerable is on Mondays when closed. Other days it seems as anti hunters go to the range and constantly shoot. Also sounds as if automatic weapons are being used.

I own property that borders the Washington, Franklin county lines and have had problems with trespassers and theft.

The area is very nice. love being able to hunt on the land. It has beautiful areas. with that being said when deer season comes the rifle range stays open. when hunting on the conservation land or surrounding properties the range is overly used during the deer seasons. The blasts come every second, making it very hard to listen while hunting. From time to time it even seems as though there are automatic guns being fired. although the land itself is nice there are plenty of open space and fields that go unattended. If the conservation could plant some fields or seed some of the open areas it would only help bring wild life into the area, along with surrounding areas. This will not only benefit hunting, but also help to make the allotted land that much more scenic. We thank you for what you have done to the area and hope that you can at least eliminate the unnecessary and sometimes dangerous gun fire coming from the range during rifle season.

I would love to see the fields planted again to provide the area with a greater opportunity to hunt doves in September. My only other comment would be to adjust the rifle range open/close times. On the first Saturday of the firearms season until the close of the firearms season the rifle range should be shut down.

I have ridden the trails at Little Indian Creek many times. Equestrians (who are many in this area) are very much in need of riding trails. We are willing to help with maintenance (Mo Back Country groups) and would love the opportunity to be represented in any further discussion. Many thanks!!

I like the plan presented, but would like to add a couple of items that would make the area even more enjoyable. First, increase food plot plantings for wildlife. Second, please consider closing the gun range during the fall deer gun season.

I would also like to see in the future more planting of food plots for deer and especially for dove hunting. The area could provide excellent dove hunting with the proper food plots. Already has water and cover.

I would like for the gun range be shutdown over fire arms deer season.

I have ridden horses there for years. I have seen the improvements to the area. The Back Country Horseman have done a great job with the Baker Cemetery, the hitching posts, mounting blocks, picnic table and pavilion. The trails are well taken care of. Here are a few improvements I would like to see;

1. A larger parking lot at the trail head for horse trailers. There are signs posted that say "Horsetrailer parking only" but lots of times there are cars parked there, that are there for swimming. Sometimes there not always considerate of where they park and park right in front of trucks with trailers. Which doesn't allow for much room to get a truck and trailer out. Also a larger parking area for the swimmers, by the slab.
2. Camping with your equine. I know myself and many friends would like to camp there for the weekend. Please add this to your plan. I think it would help improve the type of people who are camping there & detour some of the unwanted activities. What is the reason for not allowing it?
3. Signs on the slab, asking people not to stand on it when cars/trucks/horsetrailers are crossing it.
4. Keep the trails clean and clear, for all users.

I read the plan, and it seems to be along these same lines, keep the conservation area natural, improve the parking lots. Keep the unwanted activities from there.

Thank you,

I hope to see the new horsetrailer parking lot started this year. I also would like to see all trails considered multi-use; that way Back Country could do maintenance on all trails and on gravel maintenance roads also. Back Country is a service organization and we want to keep our conservation area's free of trash and the trails clear for everyone to enjoy. Thank you

Additional parking for equestrian trail users would be good especially if the additional parking can be located at some distance from the existing parking lot that is often congested in warm weather due to it's proximity to the creek where many people congregate to enjoy the water. Additional trails for multi-use would be desirable. It seems that the many service roads that criss-cross the conservation area could be used equestrians, hikers and bikers without additional expense. Missouri residents have contributed to the construction and maintenance of the service roads through their tax dollars. Additional trails would mean less concentrated use of the trails currently designated as multi-use.

Our chapter is please to comment on the management plan as we recently discussed with MDC staff members in Sullivan. We agree that there needs to be a new or larger parking lot for equestrian use. The plan to locate one off of Hwy A seems to be logical the only draw back is there is no easy access for watering your horses after riding. If you close the campground down during the summer months you could also allow horse trailer parking in the camping area since we are not allowed to ride there during hunting season. In the last several years we have watched a massive amount of gravel service roads being built within the conservation area, which are all marked with signs NO HORSEBACK RIDING ALLOWED as well as many other logging roads and trails within the area. We can not understand why all these roads are needed, when you look

at the map I have showing all the roads that we looked at in our last meeting at the Sullivan office it looks like a neighborhood was build in the conservation area with so many roads. We can only imagine that these roads cost the tax payers a lot of money, and can not understand why they are not open for us to use. There is no reason that you should not be able to hike, bike or ride on those roads. Some of those roads could be incorporated into the multi-use trail system and make for a much more diverse system. There are many people that are beginners and youth that do not want to go on a minimum of a two hour loop ride. With the current system there are two loops that interconnect riding on a gaited horse at a good pace each loop is about a two hour riding not stopping for lunch or a break. If you opened up some of these gravel roads it would give people more options and the more options on riding the less impact on trails and this gives people that do not have the time or the skills to ride for two or four hours more options. We are requesting that we are allowed to ride on more of the gravel roads to make a more diverse trail system and that we can have some input on the design of the new equestrian parking lot. We believe in the Departments mission to protect and manage the forest, fish and wildlife resources of the state but also to provide recreation to the area. The back of a horse is the only way many of our chapter members are able to get out into the backwoods and enjoy seeing and hearing the wildlife, seeing the beauty of the glades and ridges the conservation has to offer so the trail system is very important to many equestrian in Franklin County and surrounding areas. We also try to give back to the area though volunteering to help maintain the trails and keep them free of litter.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Little Indian Creek CA Management Plan, and, on behalf of Missouri's trail riders, thank you for permitting equestrian use of the trails on this CA. The public land riding opportunity provided on Little Indian Creek CA helps to meet the needs of the many riders in Franklin and Washington Counties and the Greater St. Louis Area.

The 12.1 miles of trails on the CA is enough to attract trail riders and provide them with a quality outdoor experience. Thank you for that.

Management Objective 3, Strategy 2 states a need to modify/reroute some trails in some locations to minimize trail maintenance efforts, and, I'm sure, reduce resource damage on poorly located trail segments. Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen offers expert assistance in this effort, subject to availability of qualified volunteers.

Management Objective 3, Strategy 3 states a need to expand horse trailer parking. SMMBCH membership includes personnel with extensive experience in design, layout and construction of practical horse trailer parking facilities. Subject to availability of said personnel, SMMBCH offers assistance to the Department in accomplishing this needed improvement.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

I love Indian Creek, like to trailride on my horse there, as I live close. My only complaint is, I get lost frequently. It would be nice if the trails were marked better and updated trail maps were available.

Thanks for providing such a beautiful conservation area for the public to enjoy.  
Sincerely

**Appendix M. Little Lost Creek Conservation Area Plan Public Comments**

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

<p>I did several days worth of bird surveys at Little Lost Creek and Daniel Boone during the summer of 2009 for a grant partnership fulfillment. At that time I was quite impressed at the forest management taking place and its overall impact on songbird populations. Based on my understand of the management plan it seems that you all are continuing to actively promote different micro environments within the forest with woodland restoration and selective thinning. Based on my experience on the area I would continue doing what you are doing... The plan seems sound and I appreciated its benefit to non game wildlife.</p>
<p>We own a land property with Hwy B frontage. This property, Lot 2, is for sale, and is part of the Garland Woods development. It is our aim to sell this property for residential use. We are concerned that our land property will or might be rendered useless to us for that purpose, not knowing or understanding the full impact your plan may have on our property. I would appreciate a response by mail or by phone...</p>
<p>I am glad that controlling evasive plant life is mentioned in the plan. Specifically Buckthorn which has taken over my property bordering the area on the north side. Thanks for your efforts, we have one of the best Conservation departments in the country.</p>
<p>So far we (reeves &amp; Somers) have been happy with the management of Little Lost Creek, One thing I have notice over the pass 2 or 3 years is most of the signs along our 2 properties are missing or the trees have fallen which held the signs, the property lines are not very straight which causes us a problem when cutting down dead trees or non desirable trees down such as cotton wood trees. We hope that we have not caused any problem with the few trees we do cut down and have not done so on Conservation property.</p> <p>Also is the a more detailed map of the Little Lost Creek Conservation Area that is available than is show on this web site. Something that show the streams, ponds, trails and access areas in more detail. I am willing to pay for them if they are available.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
<p>Hoping to use this conservation area for horseback riding this fall. Always on board with protecting these areas and using taxpayer dollars to their fullest and best use.</p>
<p>(phone call to Jacob Careaga): Suggests adding a dove field and adding a lake for fishing.</p>
<p>(Hard Copy Comment) Management objective 1 pg 5 &amp; 2 pg 6 need to protect, provide a healthy environment for the honey bees. Help in re-establish bee colonys with buffer zones of pollen and necture plants (bee food plots). Even provide assistance to local land owners. I would like to know whats planted in comp 1 &amp; comp 2</p>
<p>After reading your plan, I would love to see fish stocked in the 4 larger ponds. I have acreage in a near by development and will be building in the area soon, so I have been using the area often, and my number one complaint would be lack of fishing oppurtunities I have actually seen a quail one of the western parts open area and would love to see some work on bringing them back to the landscape. On the far southern parking lot on HWY B, there was some work done a few years ago and the ground dirt was turned up. This actually attracted some doves that I was able to hunt. I would also love to see some planting's of food plots for doves. The best thing about the area is the fact that there are no roads through the property. This tends to cut down on the distance that people will go in to hunt deer and turkey. In my opinion that is a great thing.</p>

I enjoy riding horses on the trails in this beautiful area. I hope the 10 year plan will include maintaining these trails for equestrian use.

Create public fishing area near one of the larger access points, and possibly rest room facilities like they have in campgrounds (no plumbing).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Little Lost Creek CA Management Plan, and, on behalf of Missouri's trail riders, thank you for permitting equestrian use of the trails on this CA. The public land riding opportunity provided on Little Lost Creek CA helps to meet the demand of the many riders in Warren County and the Greater St. Louis Area.

The seven miles of multi-use trails on the CA is not enough to attract many trail riders because the 2 hours or so required to ride those miles does not represent a quality outdoor experience, one which would make riders want to load their animals and haul to the CA. Little Lost Creek is identified in Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen's 2015 proposal, "Expanding Public Land Multi-Use Trails in Missouri", as an area suitable for adding new trails to the existing network. SMMBCH recommends adding at least five miles of new multi-use trails. SMMBCH offers, subject to the availability of volunteers, to assist in the layout and clearing of the trails.

Public Use Management Consideration Objective 1, Strategy 3, states the need and intent to maintain the multi-use trail. Recognizing that maintaining the trails and associated infrastructure is a big job, SMMBCH further offers to assist the CA manager to identify and organize a local group of riders who will partner with the manager and CA staff to perform that maintenance.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

## Appendix N. Moniteau Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (September 1-30, 2015):

If at all possible is there signage available to make it clear that our property across the road is not part of the consevation area. Last deer season we had hunters that had actually gotten in our deer stands. I have purchased some "No Trespassing" signs but they are thin plastic and I haven't put them up yet.

Thank you,

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking....

A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/scb7.htm> ). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which

did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions.

Those were all experimental studies. Two other studies (by White et al and by Jeff Marion) used a survey design, which is inherently incapable of answering that question (comparing hiking with mountain biking). I only mention them because mountain bikers often cite them, but scientifically, they are worthless.

Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT?

To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video:

<http://vimeo.com/48784297>.

In addition to all of this, it is extremely dangerous:

[http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb\\_dangerous.htm](http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb_dangerous.htm) .

For more information: <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtbfaq.htm> .

The common thread among those who want more recreation in our parks is total ignorance about and disinterest in the wildlife whose homes these parks are. Yes, if humans are the only beings that matter, it is simply a conflict among humans (but even then, allowing bikes on trails harms the MAJORITY of park users -- hikers and equestrians -- who can no longer safely and peacefully enjoy their parks).

The parks aren't gymnasiums or racetracks or even human playgrounds. They are WILDLIFE HABITAT, which is precisely why they are attractive to humans. Activities such as mountain biking, that destroy habitat, violate the charter of the parks.

Even kayaking and rafting, which give humans access to the entirety of a water body, prevent the wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.

## Appendix O. Hazel Hill Lake Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (September 1-30, 2015):

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking....

A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/scb7.htm> ). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions.

Those were all experimental studies. Two other studies (by White et al and by Jeff Marion) used a survey design, which is inherently incapable of answering that question (comparing hiking with mountain biking). I only mention them because mountain bikers often cite them, but scientifically, they are worthless.

Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT?

To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video: <http://vimeo.com/48784297>.

In addition to all of this, it is extremely dangerous: [http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb\\_dangerous.htm](http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb_dangerous.htm) .

For more information: <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtbfaq.htm> .

The common thread among those who want more recreation in our parks is total ignorance about and disinterest in the wildlife whose homes these parks are. Yes, if humans are the only beings that matter, it is simply a conflict among humans (but even then, allowing bikes on trails harms the MAJORITY of park users -- hikers and equestrians -- who can no longer safely and peacefully enjoy their parks).

The parks aren't gymnasiums or racetracks or even human playgrounds. They are WILDLIFE HABITAT, which is precisely why they are attractive to humans. Activities such as mountain biking, that destroy habitat, violate the charter of the parks.

Even kayaking and rafting, which give humans access to the entirety of a water body, prevent the

wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.

concerning forest, tree management, the locust trees on 201 rd. between 575 and the old Bush place should be cleared out and kept down!!!!

As a woman who loves fishing. I find it important to get little girls outdoors. There is so much more than Barbie they can enjoy. But it must be fun and enjoyable to them. My idea is a fairy hunt and short introduction to fishing..or separate. My house has woods behind it and all kinds of wildlife come into my yard. When having large family gatherings, in past I took the wee kids on a fairy hunt. As we tracked through the woods with a few dimes and a bit of sweet cake. (fairies love those)

We talked about the different wildlife, flowers, bugs. I had a few fairy cups placed around for them to put their dimes and sweets. You would not believe how many children have seen fairies ;-)

I want to put a few fairy houses about to make it more fun. After the wee girls could get a short intro to fishing. Or separate. Fairy hunts may seem silly, but the kids love them! They learn about the turkeys, dear, bunnies and birds that come into my yard. This is for young children. They learn dangerous plants. Poison oak! They learn to climb over logs and see different bugs.

This message is for Mr. Steven Cooper -

Our 4-H club has cleaned the cemetery on the premises of this land parcel/state park several times. Our past experience was so horrifying that we have not been back. The cemetery is in awful shape and the state has done ANYTHING to help with dignity of the people buried here. It is grown up, and no preventative maintenance has ever been done. We ruined 2 weed eaters, one chainsaw and had children with poison ivy for six weeks(and numerous dr. bills/shots) all to volunteer our our time to help put this cemetery back in the shape it should be. For respect of the families around, please consider working on this cemetery. Even several applications of brush killer a year would be better than nothing! ALSO - if you have not noticed, there has been quite a bit of graffiti done at the Hazel Hill location. We are adjacent land owners and have noticed this summer that some one or some people have been there and spray painted inappropriate things on signage, road signs, etc. Perhaps a visit at night by a Conservation Agent would be something to consider? Thank you, Luci Smith, Warrensburg, MO

Put in a boat ramp-so one can tie up their boats without dragging them up on the rocks. It would not need to be fancy. Also it would be nice to have a couple picnic tables out at the lake also. Turkey Kern area south of Knob Noster-does not get the boat traffic as Hazel Hill Lake-but a nice boat dock.

In an expansion of your listed of making the area(s) attractive and accessible to citizens, I suggest the development of additional gravel roads with wildlife viewing areas, similar to other areas that have roadways which allow people with disabilities to enjoy viewing wildlife, forests, wetlands and nature. Eagle Bluffs, Dianna Bend, and other areas are very good examples of what I am describing. With two disabled persons in my household, opportunities to view wildlife from just the existing parking lots is limited.

Thank you for considering this idea for the area and any others where feasible.

Sincerely, a life-long MDC supporter, former conservation commission agent (8 years).

## **Appendix P. Archie and Gracie Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest Mangement Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (September 1-30, 2015):

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking....

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biking, that destroy habitat, violate the charter of the parks.

Even kayaking and rafting, which give humans access to the entirety of a water body, prevent the wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.

## **Appendix Q. Columbia Bottom Conservation Area Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (September 1-30, 2015):

The strategic directions states "managed to enhance and restore its large river ecosystem and associated mosaic of bottomlands habitats". Cropland was not a component of the large river ecosystem, The plan is so vague that it is difficult to determine how much cropland will be maintained in the future but it should be almost none. The large river ecosystem on this portion of the Missouri River was mostly riparian forest. The levees and much of the expensive infrastructure are for protecting cropland which is not a habitat that will enhanced the conservation area for big river wildlife and plants plus provide a supplement to river fish and other aquatic resources.

For Columbia Bottom land, a return to trails that are passable, less farming and more scenic nature preserves. I have voiced this opinion to the area manager in 2014.

Presently, plenty of woods, trees have declined. To be blunt, since there is less of a white population here in this area of north county; there seems less energy or willingness to provide the same caliber of care and creative energy for the less fortunate group of former residents of St louis city and surrounding communities.

What is needed is the same unbiased approach to management of the north county land, instead of selling parts or leasing land areas for the local farmers to grow crops.

While I do understand the arrangement, I wonder if this same arrangement is offered in other conservation areas.

In my humble opinion no one speaks for me in regard to managing this property.

Look, I am not affiliated with any political parties and this isn't self serving, my reasons are simple, I love this part of north county, But we are getting a RAW deal here and there seems to be no one willing to go to bat for us.

Excuse me but, I am not a SECOND CLASS CITIZEN,

Finally, I voiced my concerns last year 2014, to the area director took me on a tour to explain the rationale for present management of the land. I am left with the reasoning, we are the losers. When the whites (please forgive the reference this way) moved away, so did the commitment. I am sorry to be so harsh, but that is what I feel.

Contact me, if you want to speak on the Missouri Bottom's land, I won't hold my breath.

If land is available for purchase, that is a must to increase the size of the area. Continue to maintain and improve biking and hiking trails. Do not decrease but instead increase the hours of operation for the visitor center. So many people need to connect with nature and the outdoors so time and programs should be there for them. Partnership with local schools and organizations to increase use and opportunities. Overall the Department of Conservation does a great job.

(phone conversation with Amy Buechler 8/11/2015): The respondent previously submitted an online comment, but called to reiterate some concerns. He has lived near Columbia Bottom Conservation Area since 1997 and really enjoys the park. For many years he walked the area daily. In the last 5-6 years it seems like fewer and fewer people are visiting the area. His concerns include:

- Former walking trails are now closed and have been gated off and converted to cropland.

- Too many crops on area; should be more trees.

- Area should be better maintained and patrolled. Would like to see more police officers patrolling this area. Concerned about people using area as dumpsite and other illegal activities.

I enjoy visiting CBCA and highly recommend to all new to this area. I have stopped biking in the area due to the fact the bike/hiking trails have not been repaired. It would be nice to have the asphalt pavement again.

I would add that it would be helpful to have elevated platforms along the gravel road bordering Pools 5, 4, & 3 to view the wildlife using this area. Partnership with organizations such as St Louis Audubon could possibly help fund the erection of these blinds. I would also like to have access to Pool 2 during Spring and Fall migration to observe the birds using the area. Access could be limited to the road only.

Thank you for accepting and considering our comments.

We run a friendly bicycling competition at CBCA on Wednesday evenings in the summer. Our riders compete individually, against the clock. Our participants are doctors, lawyers, construction workers, college professors, stay-at-home moms and dads, graphic designers... There from just about every profession, and from all walks of life. Many also complete in other related sports such as running or triathlons. All share a the same goal of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

We - the organizers and event participants alike - value the beauty, the atmosphere and the safety that CBCA offers our evening events. CBCA is bike friendly. Area visitors get along well with our riders, making it safe for all. The rideable portion of the road has good visibility and ample room for all traffic. The area itself is well managed and beautiful; and we work hard to help keep it that way when we visit.

Our feedback on the current plan is only this: Continue to manage the area as effectively as it has been to date and expedite repairs on the main road. Repairing/replacing the road will make CBCA more accessible to bicycle traffic, both by our riders and other area visitors.

Thank you,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Columbia Bottom CA Management Plan, and thank you for permitting some equestrian use, albeit very restricted.

The draft plan says horseback riding is permitted on the 7.8 mile Madison Ferry Trail. This "trail" is identified on various other maps as "Madison Ferry Road" or "area service road." There is, it would seem, no trail at all but a gravel road.

The Area Regulations states that no horseback riding opportunities exist except on public roadways, and the Area Summary states that such use is allowed only between April 1 and August 31. Horseback riding on other Conservation Areas around the state is prohibited during the fall firearms deer seasons and spring turkey season. Turkey hunting is not permitted on CBCA; there is no deer hunting allowed following statewide regulations, and there is no managed deer hunt on CBCA during 2015-2016.

The Waterfowl Hunting Zone consists of less than 2,000 acres--less than half the area--and seasons, including dove hunting season, extends from Sept. 1 to Jan. 31. There would seem to be no reason the portions of the area open to waterfowl hunting should be closed to equestrian use after Jan. 31; we recommend that such use be permitted between Feb. 1 and March 31.

Since most of CBCA is never open to deer, turkey, or waterfowl hunting we recommend that service roads and existing trails in areas closed to hunting be open to equestrian use, as well as hiking and biking, during the entire year. We recommend that the Confluence Trail and the River's Edge Trail be designated multi-use trails open to hiking, biking, and horseback riding.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Draft CBCA Management Plan.

I attempted to reach out and contact MDC last year to no avail concerning then need to form a levee district between the five owners of the Columbia Bottoms Levee. MDC elected not to respond to my request. The lack of MDC leadership has left the tax payers with a serious dilemma. The Levee has a big hole in it. This means that the entire MDC Columbia bottoms area is at risk to be damaged or destroyed. In 2013 my levee broke and I agreed to partially repair it and the Corp. of Engineers agreed to finish it. The Corp. also said they will no longer repair the Columbia Bottoms Levee until we five formed an agreement. The letter I sent to MDC to start this process was ignored. Now, two years later the Levee broke again and remains to this date a severe threat to the entire Columbia Bottoms area. Valuable time has passed with the warm weather to fix the Levee. Every spring brings the threat of flooding. So, if this Levee is not repaired during good weather, all of the Bottoms residents and farmers will be facing the spring and the chance of floods. When the bottoms flood, approximately 2,000 acres of crop can be destroyed, numerous amounts of sand is deposited onto the farm fields which contaminates the soil and the crop yield. There are some homes that are also effected during a flood. I personally do not see how any plans can be made, or if crops can be planted while this hole exists. And I do not understand how the management of MDC will allow tax payers dollars to be wasted, or put in jeopardy. When a Levee breaks usually the owners put in 20% of the cost and the Corp. 80%. Without a levee agreement, the Corp. will not participate. As it stands MDC will just take the loss (the tax payers money) because they are not accountable to anyone. I'm hoping an elected official takes an interest and looks into this matter.

I do not expect an answer back from MDC. Why? Because they don't have to.

This area is Awesome, I have hunted this are.

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rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking...

A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/scb7.htm> ). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions.

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Even kayaking and rafting, which give humans access to the entirety of a water body, prevent the wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.

## Appendix R. William R. Logan Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (September 1-30, 2015):

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wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.

I have been hunting in Logan for nearly 6 years now, and bowhunting there for about 4 years now. I was just out there today, and I could not believe how overgrown everything was. I am talking about the area near the southwest entrance to Logan where one of the campgrounds is. I noticed the dam to the lake was recently mowed, but further up near the field has not been touched. It was absolutely ridiculous to try to bring my tree stand through there. All I am asking for a 3-5 foot wide path to be mowed to allow hunters access to the woods in that area. Even the "path" near my tree stand is way overgrown. It would be nearly impossible to drag a deer out of that area. Please call me if you want further direction about the area I am talking about. I would greatly appreciate it if this could be taken care of within the next couple of weeks.

My property borders Logan Wildlife on the southeast side. With my recent quail habitat plantings and TSI, our plans match perfectly. We share at least one covey of quail along my west border. This is the service I have grown to expect of the finest conservation departments in the nation. Keep up the good work.

### **Appendix S. St. Louis Southern Small River Accesses Management Plan Public Comments**

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Consider parking lot expansion for area. Possibly different angle for entry into boat launch. Post signs and keep them posted about using ramp only for loading and unloading of water craft and NO parking on ramp or fire building etc on ramp. Been there numerous times (and Merrell Horse) where the access to turn/back in the boat is blocked by vehicles of non-floaters and they are nowhere to be found. Give tickets or give people permission to report, take photo and send them ticket in the mail if there is a vehicle on the ramp or blocking the turn around/back in area. We can help be guardians of the area if we know how and what to do. Giving tickets for parking where they are not supposed to would be a good start. Otherwise the access has begun to drop off at the end, suggest maybe additional ramp farther into water or at the very least maintenance to keep the end from being a drop off. I know with the flooding, this will be an on-going issue, and not sure what the best way to handle it would be. Love having the access. Didn't know Brown's Ford had been given to Jefferson County, what a shame.

You have done a great job with the accesses (in Franklin, Crawford counties). I would suggest that Sands Ford needs more parking. All accesses (except those already having) need a separate canoe, raft launch area, away from the trailered boat ramp. I would like to see tie down "hooks" on all ramps (an eye bolt type) so that we can tie a rope to keep boat from floating away. It isn't fun to go swimming after a boat in the winter, because of the wave from pulling the trailer up the ramp.

River access is very important to the continued growth of paddle sports and to allow the citizens of Missouri to use the wonderful rivers. The use of river will spur growth in the sale of kayaks, canoes, paddle boards. Also there will be growth in the sale of fishing supplies. Access to Missouri streams will also increase the awareness of the citizens of Missouri of the importance of clean waters and their role in being good stewards of the streams of Missouri, They will understand the important role the Missouri Department of Conservation plays and support the Department.

Decreasing vandalism is a great idea and goes hand in hand with making the public more aware

of the areas. If there are more visits the vandals are more likely to stay away and with a clean area the public is more likely to visit. Increasing the size of any of the areas is a great idea to further protect more of the shore line of the rivers. If it is possible to provide safe swimming or wading opportunities, this should be a goal.

i live near mill rock,and i have been wondering why does the county grade up and down the river stream from time to time.and why are people allowed to take their vehicles and drive on the gravel banks in the river.i know the county clears the slab after a big rain and the river goes down.i see trucks,cars and atv's parked on the river and not the parking lot.not sure if this is the best way to let you know what i see. thank you.

Mammoth Access: I agree with the proposed plan for Mammoth Access. However I know personally that Additional (adjoining) land was offered to Mo. D.N.R. to increase the size of the Mammoth Access.

As a neighbor of Sand Ford Access, it is a wonderful resource for the community and visitors.

I have a comment that pertains to the safety of that area.

There is a very steep hill before you get to Sand Ford Access and vehicles can really pick up speed going down it. Local residents know the area and usually use their brakes. Visitors however are unfamiliar with the decline and can really pick up speed.

There is a sign at the top of the hill showing a decline. Would it be possible to improve that sign making it more noticeable.

Thank you for your consideration!

Meramec Caverns