

Boston Ferry Conservation Area

Ten Year Area Management Plan FY 2014-2023



Josie M. Allen
Forestry Division Chief

7-11-14
Date

Boston Ferry Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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SOUTHWEST REGION

RCT Chair



Signature

Date

June 25, 2014

FORESTRY DIVISION

Forest Management Chief



Signature

7-7-14

Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Boston Ferry Conservation Area, #8708
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1986
- **Acreage:** 181.82
- **County:** Taney
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry, Southwest Region
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry, Southwest Region
- **Statement of Purpose:**

A. Strategic Direction

Boston Ferry Conservation Area (CA) is managed for forested natural communities and the species that they support. A native warm season grass field (NWSG) is managed for recreational hunting opportunities for game species such as deer and turkey. Boston Ferry CA receives moderate public use, especially during archery deer season. The public also enjoys using the hiking trail and hunting for mushrooms in the spring. While management for a large deer herd is not practical due to the size of the area, every effort will continue to be made to provide quality deer hunting opportunities for the public that use Boston Ferry CA.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of Boston Ferry CA is a forest/woodland landscape that supports a healthy watershed. The area is utilized by the public mainly for archery deer hunting. Emphasis is placed on management for a healthy forest as well as upland game and other associated forest wildlife.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

- A. **Priority Areas:** None
- B. **Natural Area:** None
- C. **Other:** None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

- A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** None
- B. **Caves:** None
- C. **Springs:** None

III. Existing Infrastructure

- gravel parking lot
- ½ mile long hiking trail

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed restrictions or ownership considerations.** The property was donated to the Department with the stipulation that firearms hunting be prohibited.
- 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:**
- 1) A White River Valley Electric 30 foot right-of-way easement exists at the south end of the native warm season grass field. It runs east/west across the lower portion of the CA.
 - 2) A White River Valley Electric 30 foot right-of-way easement exists along the northeast boundary.
- D. Cultural Resources:** Yes, records kept with MDC Environmental Compliance Specialist. Managers should follow Best Management Practices for Cultural Resources found in MDC Resource Policy Manual
- E. Hazards and hazardous materials:** None
- F. Endangered species:** None
- G. Boundary issues:** Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.
- H. Other:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) A forest inventory of the area was completed in 1990. Site indexes were identified as low and forest management practices were not recommended at that time. The area is currently managed for wildlife and recreation.
- 2) Monitoring forest stands for insects and diseases such as emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire), gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), thousand cankers disease (the fungus *Geosmithia morbida*) and the walnut twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandi*) will be a challenge in the future.
- 3) Control of exotic and native invasive species on the area such as sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), Reeds canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) will also be a challenge.

Management Objective 1: (Forestry) Maintain forest cover for wildlife and recreation.

Strategy 1: Protect forested areas from wildfire, insects and disease.

Management Objective 2: (Forestry) Monitor forest for insect and diseases outbreaks.

Strategy 1: Forestry staff will monitor forested stands for insect and disease outbreaks on an on-going basis as regular area maintenance and boundary work is performed.

Management Objective 3: (Forestry) Monitor area for exotic and native invasive species.

Strategy 1: Forestry staff will monitor the area for exotic and/or invasive species as regular maintenance and boundary work is performed.

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Boston Ferry CA contains a 1st order ephemeral stream.
- 2) There is little opportunity to promote the use of aquatic resources on Boston Ferry CA; however, efforts should be made to protect the small ephemeral stream on the property.

Management Objective 1: (Fisheries, Wildlife, Forestry) Maintain, enhance, or expand the riparian corridor of the first order stream to a minimum of 50 feet on each side of the stream where appropriate.

Strategy 1: Allow trees to naturally revegetate the riparian corridors or plant trees and shrubs within the corridors where regeneration is not likely to succeed.

Strategy 2: Implement stream Best Management Practices (BMPs) on all streams according to the department's "*Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation*".

Strategy 3: Management activities on the area will be done according to the MDC document "*Missouri Watershed Protection Practice: 1997 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams*".

Strategy 4: Roads and trails will be managed according to appropriate BMPs to minimize runoff and sedimentation into stream resources.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Boston Ferry CA receives moderate public use in the form of hiking, archery deer hunting and mushroom hunting.
- 2) Hunting with firearms is not permitted on Boston Ferry CA. The existing foot trail is sufficient for accessing the majority of the area. There is potential for interpretive signs in the future about the importance of the area to the local cultural history.

Management Objective 1: (Forestry) Maintain public access at the parking area and along the trail.

Strategy 1: Forestry staff will perform regular parking lot maintenance as needed, including grading, replacing gravel and parking lot posts, and maintaining signs. Trail maintenance will be done as needed to repair eroded sections and to remove hazard trees.

Management Objective 2: (Protection) Ensure proper use by area visitors.

Strategy 1: Periodically patrol this access to ensure compliance with area regulations.

Management Objective 3: (Forestry/Outreach and Education) Maintain current foot trail.

Strategy 1: Forestry & O&E staff will maintain the existing foot trail for public use. O&E will make recommendations for possible trail signage as needed.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Urban development adjacent to Boston Ferry CA creates boundary issues.

Administrative Management Objective 1: (Forestry) Maintain boundaries annually.

Strategy 1: Forestry staff will annually maintain boundaries by replacing boundary signs and painting lines with blue paint.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Area Background:

The Boston Ferry Conservation Area was donated by Ralph and Virginia Lucas in 1986. The original donation consisted of 177 acres. In 1988, they donated an additional 3.96 acres. In 2012 an additional 0.86 acres was donated by Janice Harris and Daniel L. Gilmore. At the time of the original donation, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas stipulated that no firearms hunting be allowed on the area. The area is currently open to archery hunting. It was originally named the Boston Ferry Natural History Area, but was changed later to a Conservation Area. The area is named for a nearby ferry crossing on the White River that was used by travelers before the impoundment of Lake Taneycomo. Habitat on the area is mostly upland forest and woodland. An 11-acre native warm season grass prairie is also present at the south end of the area.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Upland Forest	167.67		91
Native Warm Season Grass Field	11		6
Old Fields	3		2
Ponds	.15		1
Total	181.82		100
Stream Frontage		1570	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Boston Ferry Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period April 1 – 30, 2014. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

References:

Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation, PP. 32, Jefferson City: Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009

Missouri Watershed Protection Practice: 1997 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams, Jefferson City: Missouri Department of Conservation

Maps:

Figure 1 – Boston Ferry CA Area Map

Figure 2 – Boston Ferry CA Vicinity Map

Figure 3 – Boston Ferry CA Aerial Photo Map

Figure 4 – Boston Ferry CA Features and Facilities Map

Figure 1: Boston Ferry CA Area Map

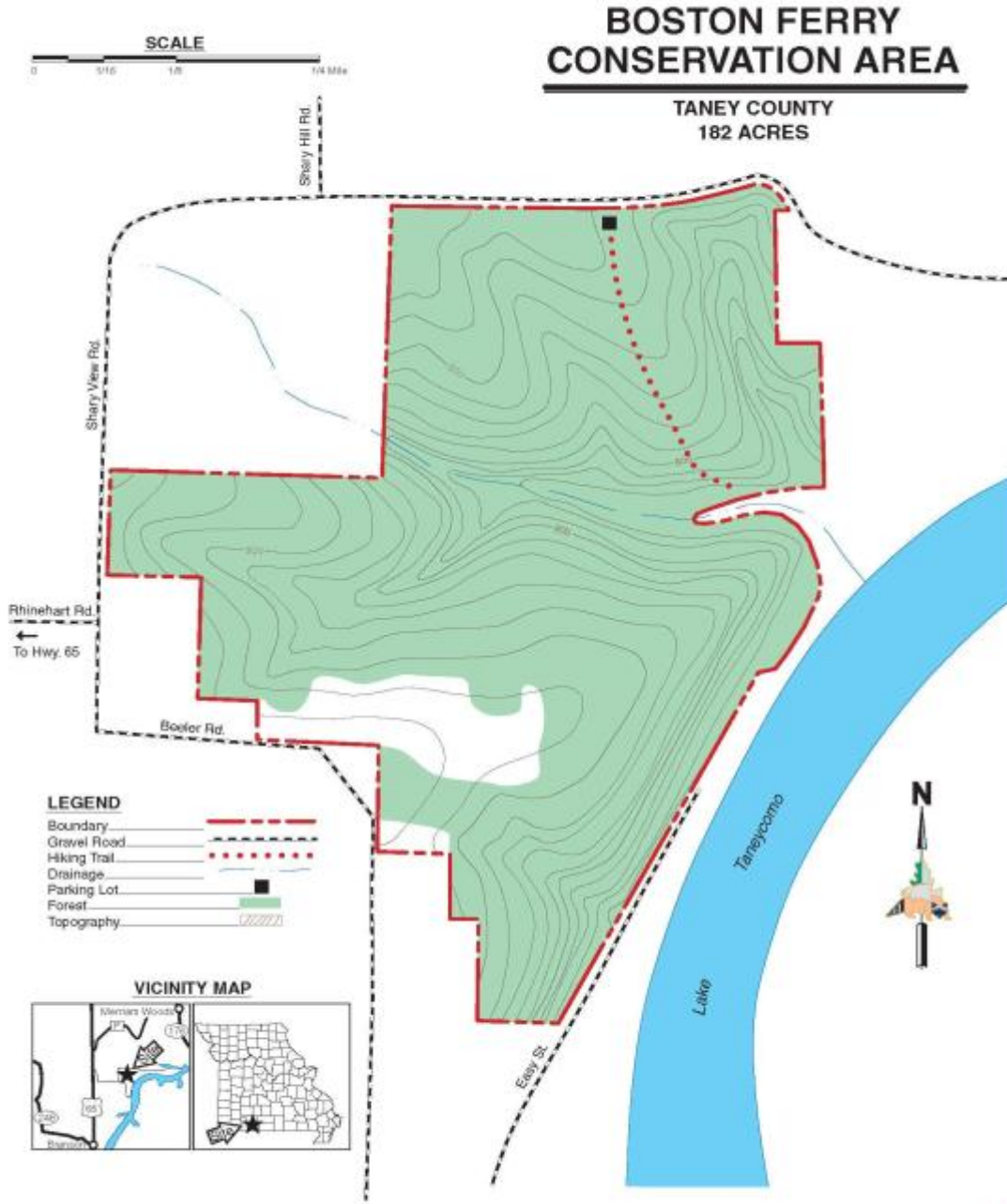


Figure 2: Boston Ferry CA Vicinity Map

Figure 2. Boston Ferry CA
Vicinity Map

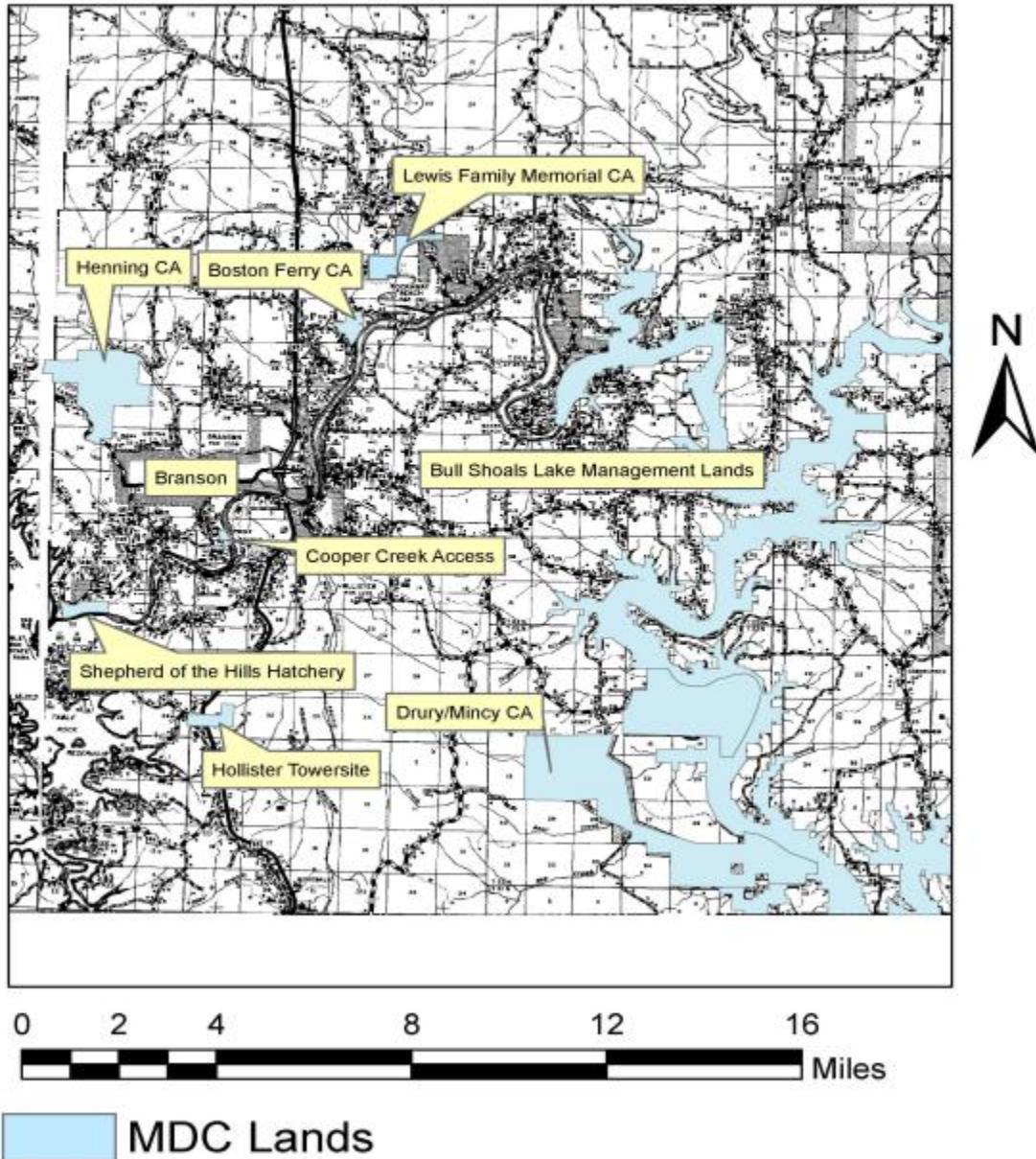


Figure 3: Boston Ferry CA Aerial Map

Figure 3. Boston Ferry CA
Aerial Photograph

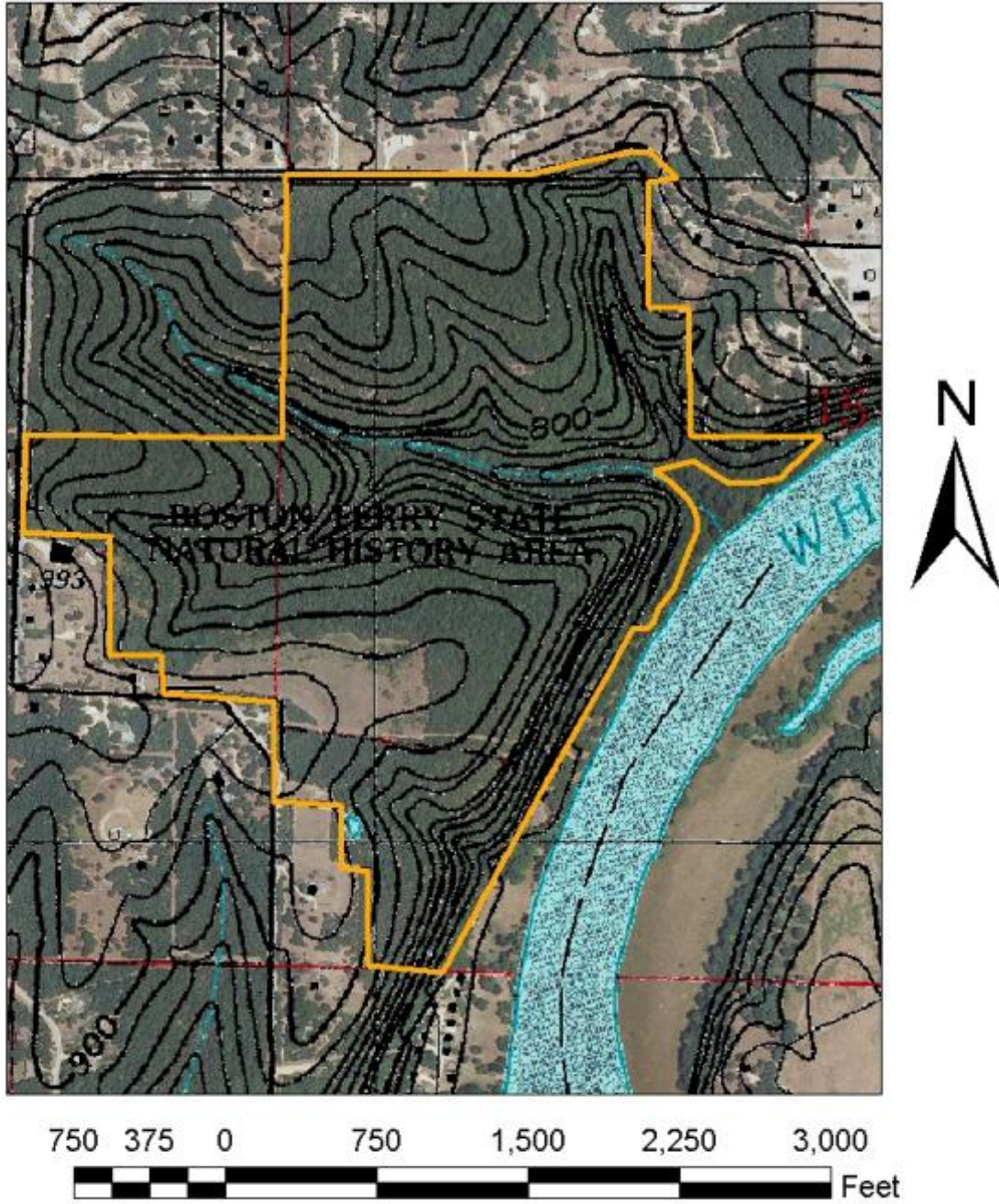


Figure 4: Boston Ferry CA Features and Facilities

