


R. H. Crouch Access

Twenty-Year Area Management Plan FY 2018-2037





Fisheries Division Chief

1-29-18
Date

R. H. Crouch Access Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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ST. LOUIS REGION

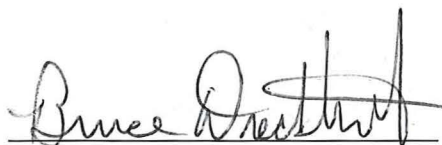
RCT Chair

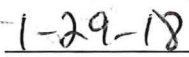

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Date

FISHERIES DIVISION

Fisheries Management Chief


Signature


Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** R. H. Crouch Access, #9002
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1989
- **Acreage:** 2 acres
- **County:** Lincoln
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Fisheries
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Fisheries
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. **Strategic Direction**

This area is managed to provide public fishing access to the Cuivre River.
 - B. **Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of R. H. Crouch Access is a predominately woodland/forest landscape that promotes public recreation on the Cuivre River.
 - C. **Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. **Special Considerations**
 - A. **Priority Areas:** Cuivre River Priority Watershed, Cuivre River Stream Reach Conservation Opportunity Area
 - B. **Natural Areas:** None

- II. **Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the natural history biologist.
 - B. **Caves:** None
 - C. **Springs:** None

- III. **Existing Infrastructure**
 - One parking area

- IV. **Area Restrictions or Limitations**
 - A. **Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** Reverts to owner if not used for conservation.
 - 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: None

D. Cultural Resources Findings: No known cultural resources.

E. Endangered Species: None observed.

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

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Management of the R. H. Crouch Access centers on providing access to the river while preventing activities from compromising stream bank stability. There are few wildlife or forestry resources on this small area.

Challenges and Opportunities:

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

Management Objective 1: Maintain a wooded riparian corridor at least 100 feet wide.

Strategy 1: Maintain existing wooded riparian corridors. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 2: Prevent soil erosion due to infrastructure, heavy public use or flood events.

Strategy 1: Ensure roads and road-side drainages are managed to reduce runoff, sedimentation, and erosion. (Fisheries, Design and Development)

Strategy 2: Clear flood debris as soon as possible following flood events. (Fisheries, Design and Development)

Strategy 3: Plant vegetation or place rock, as needed, in areas where soils become unnaturally exposed. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 3: Promote resource management that deters the establishment of invasive plant species; and treat invasive species as time allows. Invasive species eradication on access areas will be a lower priority than on other conservation areas where higher quality natural communities exist or are being restored.

Strategy 1: Assess and determine the extent of invasive species. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Implement practices to control invasive species through chemical and mechanical methods. Look for opportunities to utilize volunteers for control efforts through Stream Team, Adopt-an-Access, and other groups. (Fisheries, Outreach and Education)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain stream bank stabilization.

Management Objective 1: Maintain stream bank stability.

Strategy 1: As warranted, develop stream-bank stabilization strategies to address specific erosion situations. (Fisheries)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain a clean and user-friendly access for public use along Cuivre River. The access is subject to periodic flooding and the associated maintenance challenges.
- 2) Prevent vandalism from occurring, catch violators, and repair damage from vandalism.
- 3) Keep the public informed of opportunities, regulations, and/or activities on the area.
- 4) Public use of any Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) area involves the establishment and enforcement of appropriate management regulations.
- 5) Consider improvements or changes, as needed, to access parking that will accommodate intended public use, but not put additional workloads on staff.

Management Objective 1: Maintain suitable public access at the area.

Strategy 1: Ensure existing infrastructure is maintained regularly to Department standards. (Fisheries, Design and Development)

Strategy 2: Clean the parking lot of flood debris as soon as possible after flood events occur. (Fisheries, Design and Development)

Strategy 3: Promote Adopt-an-Access. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 2: Reduce vandalism at the area.

Strategy 1: Encourage open and timely communication between Fisheries staff, conservation agents, adjoining neighbors, and local law enforcement, concerning observed unlawful activities. (Fisheries, Protection)

Strategy 2: Determine and implement best methods to deter vandalism. If necessary, conduct patrol operations with Protection and Fisheries staffs. (Protection, Fisheries)

Strategy 3: Install barriers to discourage illegal vehicular access off the parking lot. (Design and Development)

Strategy 4: Address issues concerning regulations as soon as possible.

Management Objective 3: Provide information to the public about this area.

Strategy 1: Keep Conservation Atlas entry up-to-date for the access area (including information about closures) to inform the public. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Install and/or maintain signs on roadways leading to the area, as needed. (Fisheries)

Strategy 3: Keep regulations and area information on bulletin boards posted so the public is aware of them and they are clearly visible. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 4: Maintain safe area for river-way recreational pursuits

Strategy 1: Maintain a high level of law enforcement presence through patrols by Protection Division and other local law enforcement agencies. Respond to and follow up with information provided by other agencies, the public, and neighbors. (Protection, Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Collect information to assist Protection Division in enforcement efforts on access area. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 5: Provide fishing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Maintain standard Department signs pertaining to fishing regulations. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Conduct patrols to enforce area regulations. (Protection)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide opportunities for the public to access the area for recreational activities.
- 2) Maintain identifiable boundaries for area users and to avoid conflict with adjoining property owners.
- 3) Consider land acquisition, when available.

Management Objective 1: Follow Department policy concerning activities allowable through special use permits.

Strategy 1: Refer to the Department's Resource Management Manual for policies concerning issuing of special use permits. If appropriate, avoid issuing special use permits during expected periods of high public use if user conflicts are anticipated, or restrict the amount of area to be used. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 2: Maintain visible area boundaries for the area.

Strategy 1: Mark boundaries at least every five years, or as necessary, to prevent user/landowner conflicts by visitors trespassing onto adjoining private property. (Fisheries)

Lands Proposed for Acquisition:

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural opportunities and /or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

APPENDICES

Area Background:

R. H. Crouch Access is located along the Cuivre River and provides canoe access to the river. Bank anglers also have approximately 1,000 feet of bank that provides access to the Cuivre River. The area was donated by the heirs of Raymond H. Crouch in 1989 and has provided public use since that time.

Area Location: R. H. Crouch Access is located on Shafer Road.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest and Woodland	1.5		75
Other	0.5		25
Total	2		100
Stream Frontage		0.25	

Public Input Summary:

The draft R. H. Crouch Access was available for a public comment period May 1-31, 2017. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 1: Area Map

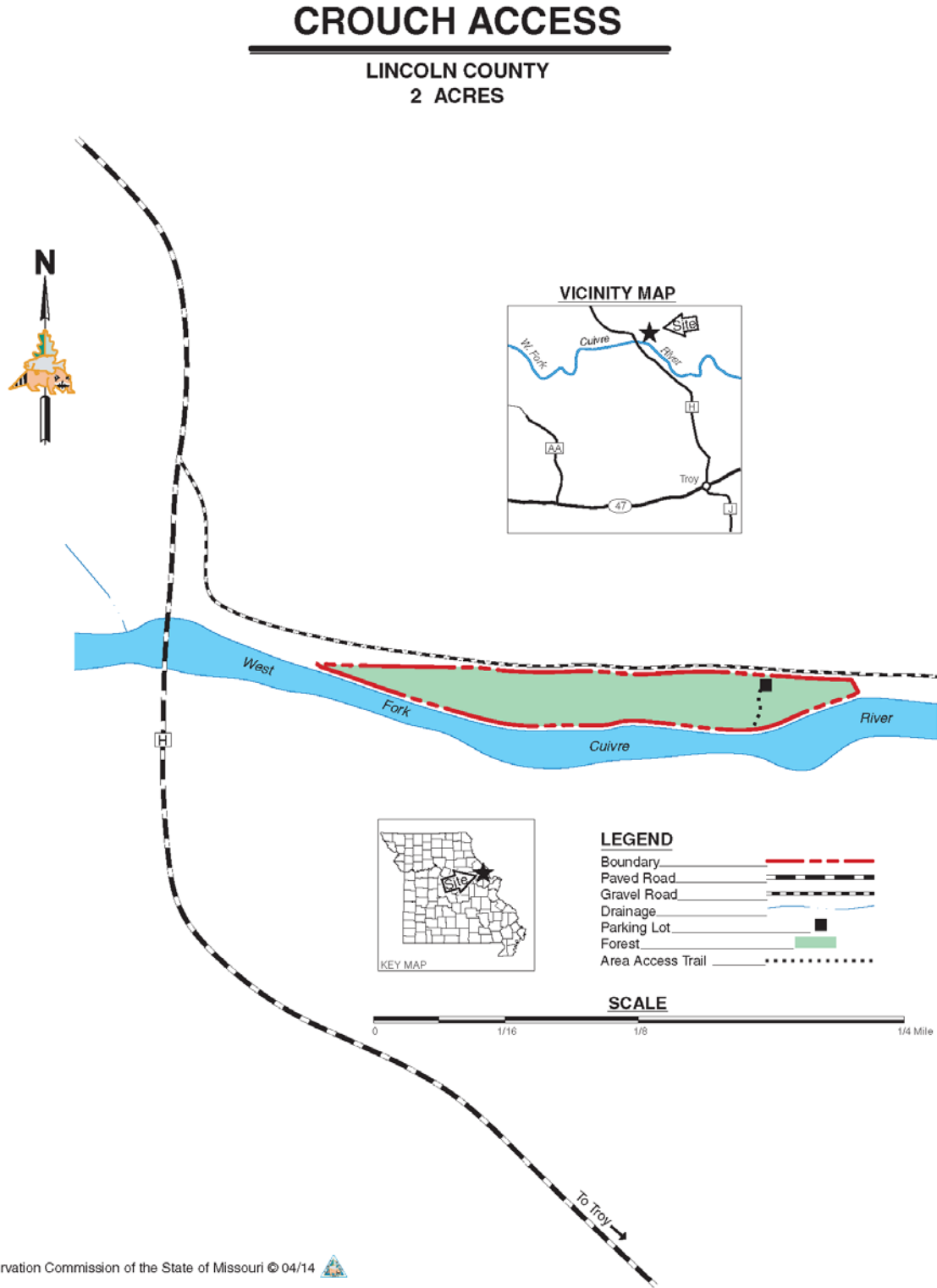


Figure 2: Aerial Map

