

January-March 2014 Area Plan Public Comment Summary



White Alloe Conservation Area

Missouri Department of Conservation
May 2014



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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 January – March 2014, eight area plans (covering 11 Conservation Areas and 17 Accesses) were posted for month-long public comment periods (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 (January – March 2014), we received a total of 13 comments on five area plans.
- Each plan receiving comments during this time period received 3 or fewer comments. Themes and issues identified for these plans included support for prairie restoration; suggestions for converting cropland to native plants, adding horseback riding trails, improving camping areas, acquiring more land; concern about noise from shooting range during firearms deer season; and more.
- 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).
- The Missouri Department of Conservation also conducted a public involvement idea gathering stage for Springfield Conservation Nature Center in January 2014. Results from that effort can be found in the report, “Springfield Conservation Nature Center Idea Gathering Stage Public Input Summary” found online at mdc.mo.gov/areaplans.

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY:

For the period of January – March 2014, eight area plans (covering 11 Conservation Areas and 17 Accesses) 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 a total of 13 comments from on five area plans (see Table 1). The Missouri Department of Conservation also conducted a public involvement idea gathering stage for Springfield Conservation Nature Center in January 2014. Results from that effort can be found in the report, “Springfield Conservation Nature Center Idea Gathering Stage Public Input Summary” found online at mdc.mo.gov/areaplans.

Table 1. Number of comments received by plan, January - March 2014.

| Comment Month | Area Plan | MDC Region | Comments Received |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| January 2014 | Cooper Creek Access | Southwest | 0 |
| January 2014 | Donaldson Point CA | Southeast | 0 |
| January 2014 | Kingston Access | St. Louis | 2 |
| February 2014 | Urban Wild Acres of KC Region¹ | Kansas City | 3 |
| March 2014 | Spring Creek Gap CA | Central | 0 |
| March 2014 | Marshall Junction CA | Central | 3 |
| March 2014 | Prairie Home CA | Central | 3 |
| March 2014 | NE Region Small Accesses² | Northeast | 2 |
| January-March TOTAL | | | 13 |

¹Plan includes White Alloe Creek CA, Liberty Bend CA, Maple Woods NA, Walnut Woods CA, Rush Creek CA, Lipton CA, and Saeger Woods CA.

²Plan includes Fort Pike Access, Santa Fe Access, Paris Access, Fabius Chute Access, Thompson (Robert H) CA, Indian Camp Access, Calumet Creek Access, Hamburg Ferry Access, Ashley Access, Mullanix Ford Access, Truitt (Henry) Access, Hunnewell Access, Archangel Access, Cook (Elmer A) Mem Access, and Rocky Ford Access.

Demographic Summary of Respondents

Who responded?

We received 13 comments from 11 respondents (Table 2). Several respondents submitted multiple comments, so the total number of comments is greater than the total number of respondents.

Table 2. Respondents by respondent category, if self-identified.

| Organization Type | Count |
|---------------------|-------|
| Individual citizens | 11 |

How they responded:

Table 3. Total number of each response received.

| Response Type | Count | Percent |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Web comment form | 12 | 92% |
| Hard copy comment form | 1 | 8% |
| TOTAL | 13 | 100% |

Where respondents are from:

Table 4. Total number of respondents by location.

| State | Count | Percent |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Missouri | 10 | 91% |
| Out of state responses (Florida*) | 1 | 9% |
| TOTAL | 11 | 100% |

*This person indicated that he was a neighboring landowner.

Figure 1. Map of respondents by zipcode.

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 single zip code or region.

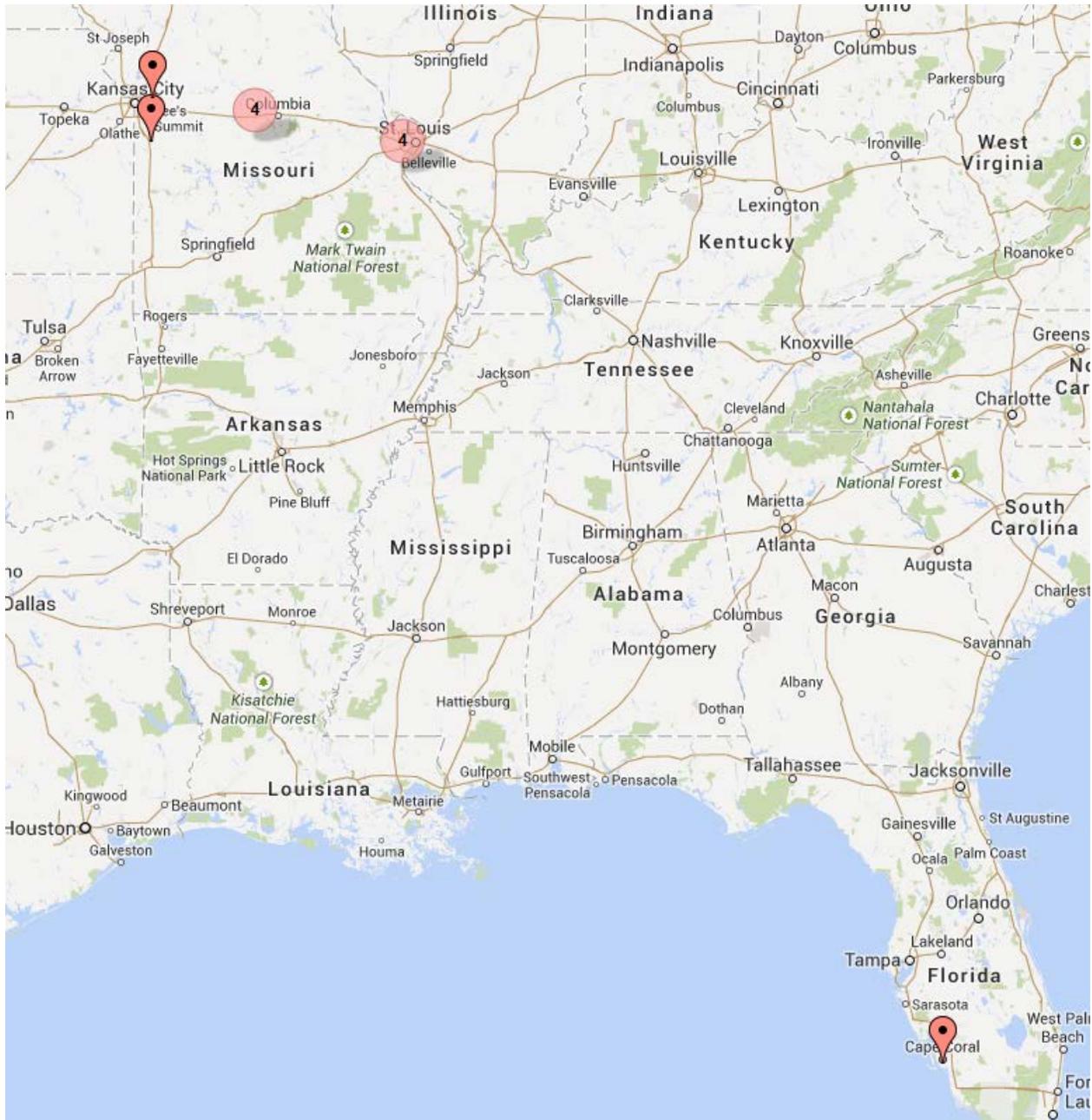
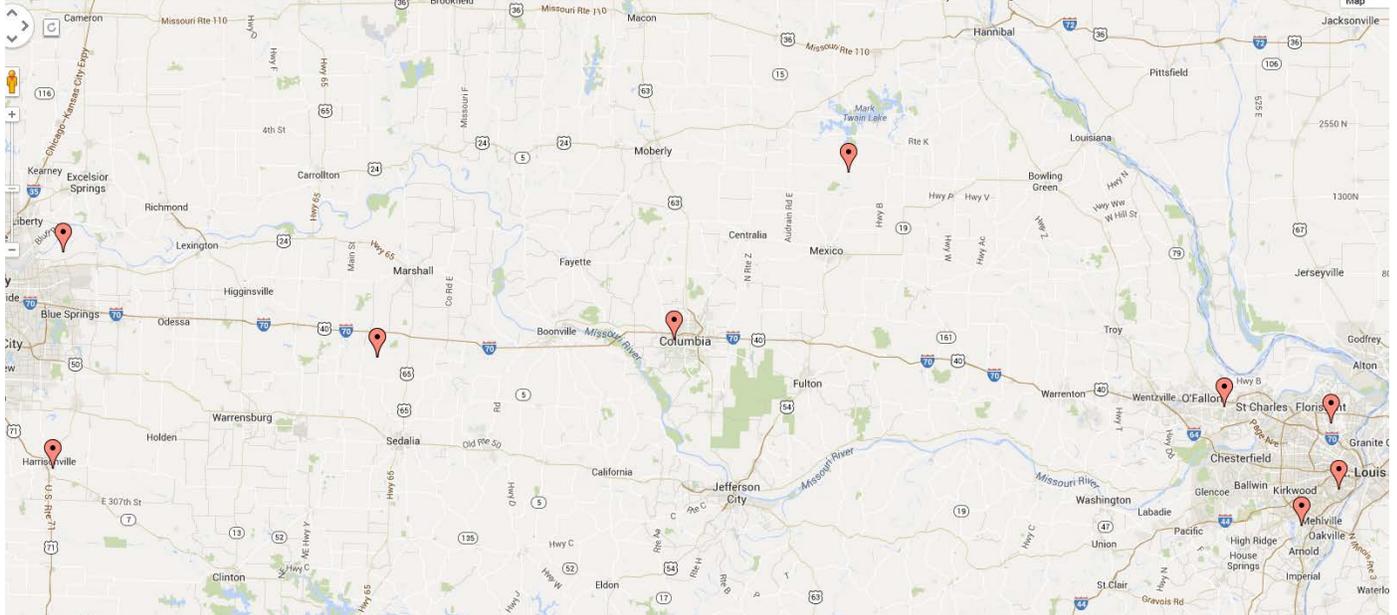


Figure 2. Map of Missouri respondents by zipcode.

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).



Themes and issues identified through the January-March 2014 area plan public comment period:

Terrestrial Resource Management

- Supports prairie restoration at any site that was formerly prairie.
- Suggests converting cropland to native plants.
- Suggests improvements to dove management.
- Suggests developing a 20-acre wetland complex and placing wood duck nest boxes around area.

Public Use Management

Trails

- Supports adding to and improving trails, including having horseback riders involved in maintaining trails.
- Suggests allowing horseback riding on the area (other than public roadways).

Amenities

- Suggests improving camping areas on conservation areas.

Shooting Ranges

- Concern with noise from shooting range during firearms deer season. Suggests closing the range during firearms season.

Other

- Suggests allowing swimming at the area.
- Concern with deer hunters parking on sides of road instead of using parking lots.

Administrative Considerations

- Suggests acquiring more land, including more access to Ozark streams near St. Louis.
- Appreciates area management plan.
- Concern that grass around parking area at Santa Fe Access is not mowed often enough.
- Concern that property line is not accurate on south side of Hamburg Ferry Access.

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).

Appendix A. Kingston Access Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (January 1-31, 2014).

Always, when possible, buy more land. Whatever can be put into public use is a great idea.

First don't close off the river to water based recreation, that is swimming ect.

We need more areas like this on Ozark Streams not too far from the St, Louis area. More access to the Meramec, Little Meramec (of which there is none), upper portion of Big River, the Mineral Fork (of which Kingston is the only access). Also the south Fork of the Cuiver River above the Middle Fork is an Ozark type stream and has virtually no access. Ozark streams are an asset for both Missouri's citizens as well as a tourism booster. Lets try to get more access to them rather than more and more access being closed off.

Appendix B. Urban Wild Acres of KC Region Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (February 1-28, 2014).

Please improve designated camping areas on conservation lands. Using Harmony Mission as an example, the designated camping area is no more than a small gravel lot in an open field. It seems that most of the designated camping areas I have noted are very stark and not aesthetically pleasing at all. I understnad the concept of not making them too attractive, thus encouraging long-term camping, but the present camping sites at most areas are what I consider very sub-standard.

I realize that the K.C. areas probably will not have camping areas because of size, location, and area-use, but I ask that you please submit my comments to appropriate parties that have the power to address the issue of improving camping areas, if just slightly, on conservation areas.

Thank you for your concern.

The most important thing in all of these areas is the trail system. Adding to and improving trails is a great idea for all involved. If there is to be a multi-use trail involving horseback riders, be certain they will help maintain the trail. Horses cause damage and increase erosion problems and most hikers to not enjoy sharing a trail with them. If possible allow them to have their own trails.

Thank you for all your conservation efforts. Please include Prairie restoration if any sites were historically a prairie. Prairies are not specifically listed in the mission of the Conservation Department. Prairies should have equal status with woodlands since they were a significant part of our landscape.

Appendix C. Marshall Junction Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (March 1-31, 2014).

I would like horseback riding to be allowed off the main road. We visit several other CA's each year that allow this... we would sure appreciate the opportunity.

Thank you

This was my first year living next to this conservation area, and I enjoyed it. I was able to have a lot of friends and family out this fall for the hunting seasons. I think the property is managed well for hunting. My main issue is with the gun range. I do think it is a good thing to have it. I would like to see time restrictions on its use during deer and turkey hunting seasons. During early bow season it had typical use, sounded like people siting their rifles to get ready for gun season and that was fine. But on the weekends during the gun seasons there was a group of people at the range that were doing rapid fire drills from sunrise to sunset in what was an obviouse attempt to make as much noise as they could. I don't know if they were trying to mask more sinister activities or just wanting to annoy every hunter within 5 miles. I think that it would be reasonable to most people that use this site to have shooting hrs at the range during bow season (like 10am to 2pm). I think in the interest of hunter safety the range should be closed during the firearms seasons too help hunters be able to locate other hunters by where they here shooting. My other issue involved parking. I would like to see parking onely aloud at posted parking lots instead of on the side of the road. Especialy in front of my house. Last year I had a four wheeler and trailor stolen during the first week of firearms season while I was in another county trying to escape the noise at the gun range.

Please don't interpret this as the ramblings of a winey neighbor. I had a lot of conversations with hunters that used this property last fall and everyone complained about the gun range noise and having someone park there truck on the side of the road next to there stand.

If you need any help over there let me know. I do have a vested interest in the area.

Convert all cropland acreage to native plants. Preservation should have priority over any management consideration and decisions especially within conservation areas.

Appendix D. Prairie Home Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (March 1-31, 2014)

Strongly urge having a permittee responsible for timely planting of at least 40 acres of sunflowers. If planting is not timely the permittee should forfeit a portion of their crop to use for doves.

These should be planted in no more than 3 locations with a minimum size of 10 acres and preferably larger. One of these should be easily accessible for hunters but at least one should be farther from parking to encourage distribution of hunting. Ideally, these should be open only one

half day or on alternate days to extend the usage by doves. Fields should be mowed or disced at least 10 days prior to the season.

also the area should be surveyed for possible sites for a wetland complex of approx 20 acres for shorebirds, etc. Wood duck boxes should be placed in appropriate locations around the area.

This appears a very comprehensive and ambitious long range plan. For this, I thank the MDC. As a pre-Design for Conservation acquisition, this precious property has continue to grow and flourish under sound management plans.

The implementation of the proposed plan, will only add to a brighter shine of this wildlife gem.

MDC makes us proud !

Convert all cropland acreage to native plants. Preservation should have priority over any management consideration and decisions especially within conservation areas .

Appendix E. NE Region Small Accesses Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (March 1-31, 2014)

Please allow me to remind my Conservation Commission property owner neighbors that your Hamburg Ferry Access that your survey and property lines are flawed. I am your neighbor to the South and my deed clearly says my property goes to "the Rivers Edge" You have documentation of this in your files as this is an ongoing problem. Thank you for allowing me to remind you of this information.

HARD COPY comment for Santa Fe Access: The mowing crew aren't mowing the weeds around the parking and fishing access. They mostly mow the driveway. They mow it real often. I don't have anyone here that fish any more. My son passed the 20 Dec and the son here don't fish. We enjoy the Access. I helped with rocks on all of them. Allendale from Ill made them. All 3 of my sons, my husband and me all worked for him.