

# October-December 2014 Area Plan Public Comment Summary



May apple growing at Diana Bend Conservation Area

Missouri Department of Conservation  
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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 October – December 2014, eight area plans (covering seven Conservation Areas, two Community Lakes, one Hatchery, six Towersites and one Access) 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 (October – December 2014), we received six comments on four area plans.
- Themes and issues identified for these plans included support for prairie chicken restoration; suggestion to restore pheasant populations; suggestion to improve fishing; permitted equestrian use on trails; frequency of mowing; suggestion to allow camping; and protection of Department lands.
- 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 October – December 2014, eight area plans (covering seven Conservation Areas, two Community Lakes, one Hatchery, six Towersites and one Access) 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 six comments from four area plans (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Number of comments received by plan, October - December 2014**

<b>Comment Month</b>	<b>Area Plan</b>	<b>MDC Region</b>	<b>Comments Received</b>
<b>October 2014</b>	<b>Riverlands CA<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>October 2014</b>	<b>Limpp Community Lake</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>October 2014</b>	<b>Worth Community Lake</b>	<b>Northwest</b>	<b>1</b>
October 2014	Chesapeake Hatchery	Southwest	0
<b>November 2014</b>	<b>Redman CA</b>	<b>Northeast</b>	<b>1</b>
November 2014	Fiddlers Ford Access	Southwest	0
December 2014	Douglas and Wright County Towersites <sup>2</sup>	Ozark	0
December 2014	Texas County Towersites <sup>3</sup>	Ozark	0
<b>October-December TOTAL</b>			<b>6</b>

<sup>1</sup>Plan includes Franklin Island CA, Diana Bend CA, Plowboy Bend CA, Marion Bottoms CA, Smoky Waters CA and Tate Island CA.

<sup>2</sup>Plan includes Twin Knobs Towersite, Squires Towersite and Blue Slip Towersite.

<sup>3</sup>Plan includes Cabool Towersite, Houston Towersite and Summersville Towersite.

## DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

### Who responded?

We received six comments from six respondents (Table 2).

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

Organization Type	Count
Individual citizens	5
Nonprofit organizations <sup>1</sup>	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>

<sup>1</sup>Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen

### How they responded:

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

Response Type	Count	Percent
Web comment form	6	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>

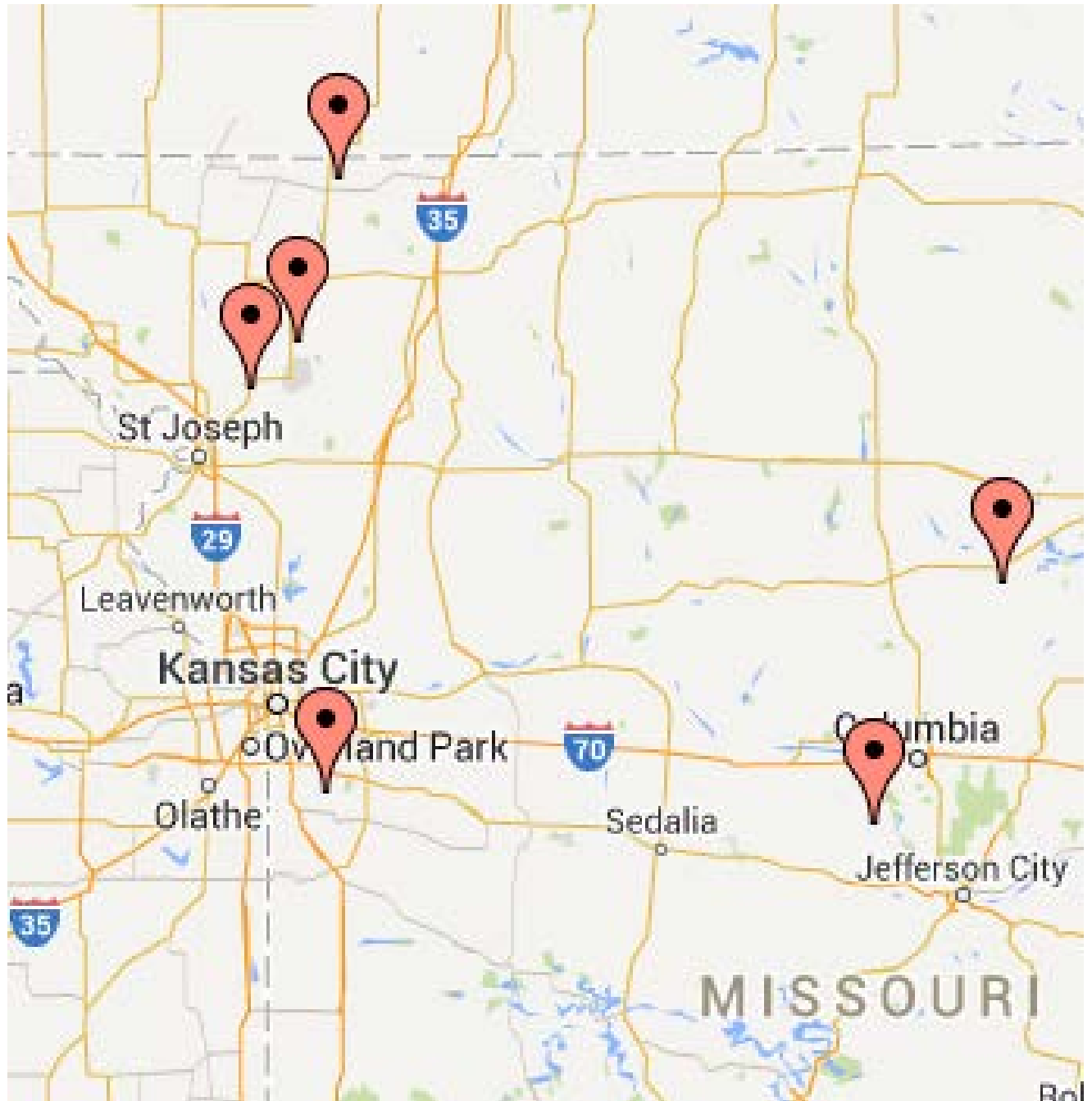
### Where respondents are from:

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

State	Count	Percent
Missouri	6	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</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).



## **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 October-December 2014. 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

- Suggests continuing prairie chicken restoration.
- Suggests restoring pheasant populations.

### Aquatic Resource Management

- Suggests stocking flathead catfish to reduce undesirable fish species.

### Public Use Management

#### Trails

- Suggests permitting horseback riding on existing trails, access routes and/or levees on Franklin Island, Plowboy Bend, and Marion Bottoms Conservation Areas.
- Requests regular mowing around the lake perimeter as a walking trail.

#### Other

- Suggests allowing camping.

### Administrative Considerations

- Concern about private individuals appropriating Department lands.

## **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)).

### **Appendix A. Riverlands Conservation Area Plan Public Comments**

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

Does the plan include making sure that private parties do not steal conservation land? It appears that has happened right across from the entrance to the Marion Bottoms conservation area.

SMMBCH recognizes that these CAs are not ideally suited for multi-use trail development due to flooding, debris, mud, scour damage, etc. It is noted, however, that there is a shortage of trail opportunities on public land in Saline, Howard, Cooper and Moniteau Counties. While the Katy Trail offers opportunity to bikers and hikers in Cooper and Moniteau, the only equestrian opportunity is Prairie Home CA—a nice area, but with limited multi-use trails. We would like to recommend that consideration be given to opening existing access routes/trails and levees to public multi-use on Franklin Island, Plowboy Bend, and Marion Bottoms CAs. We are not advocating opening these avenues to motorized vehicles—foot-travel, bicycle, and equestrian use only. We recognize that the floodplain landscape offers a host of problems as mentioned above—flooding, debris, etc., and we realize that these events would necessarily precipitate closing the trails to multi-use. On the other hand these access routes and levee tops are currently maintained and repaired as necessary; designating them available for multi-use would not increase the Department’s maintenance burden beyond some additional signage.

Franklin Island has no maintained interior access routes, but the several perimeter and interior levees offer several miles with the unique opportunity to observe and appreciate a wetland habitat.

Plowboy Bend has a perimeter levee and numerous interior access routes. This area also includes an upland tract west of the railroad with an excellent opportunity for a couple of miles of upland multi-use trail.

Marion Bottoms is subject to frequent flooding; associated access route/trail maintenance problems are significant. Again, though, we are not recommending any new trails, only open multi-use designation of existing levee tops and access routes which are currently maintained.

SMMBCH would welcome an opportunity to participate in an on-site appraisal of the feasibility of designating multi-use on these Riverlands CAs. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

### **Appendix B. Limpp Community Lake Area Plan Public Comments**

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

It would be greatly appreciated if maintenance of the "trail," the outer perimeter surrounding Limpp Lake could be resumed. It is a great place to walk, but it has not been mowed the entire summer of 2014. Granted, the area around the parking lot and a portion of the dam has been. Can't imagine it would take more than an hour to mow the loop around the lake while the mowers are there! With natural public trails non-existent in this area, that one was conveniently located and accessible.

I fish Limpp quite a bit. Specifically for carp. That is just because I like to catch them for sport. I also will go to King Lake and Pony Express. These are all kind of in the same area and although



the land around each is handled differently each has a common problem. Tons of carp, a lot of shad and a stunted crappie population. I know that you all stock a lot of channel cat but have you ever considered maybe shifting a lot of the stocking to emphasize flathead fishing. I see you are thinking about wipers too but I feel if you would stock those small lakes with as many flathead as you do Channels those bad boys would clean out a lot of your un-desirable fish.

**Appendix C. Worth Community Lake Area Plan Public Comments**

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

Why is camping not allowed? Thought that was part of the original agreement when property was donated/purchased for the building of the lake.

**Appendix D. Redman Conservation Area Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (November 1-30, 2014).

I like the plan for this area a lot. I would encourage you to continue to try the Prairie Chicken restoration and also this seems like a good area to re established pheasant. I own land about 10 miles north and it would really be wonderful if we could bring back the gamebirds in the area