

April - June 2016 Area Plan Public Comment Summary



A view of Grand Bluffs Conservation Area overlooking the Katy Trail and the Missouri River

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 April – June 2016, 20 area plans (covering 20 conservation areas, two river accesses, one natural area, one community lake, and one conservation nature center) 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, we received 56 comments from 51 respondents on 14 area plans.
- Themes and issues identified for these plans included suggestions to control invasive species, provide assistance to adjacent landowners, remove trees, limit hunting, permit horseback riding on multi-use trails, deter illegal activities on the area, improve area boundary markers, and add camping areas, trails, and infrastructure.
- 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).

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

For the period of April – June 2016, 20 area plans (covering 18 conservation areas, two river accesses, two wildlife areas, one natural area, one community lake, and one conservation nature center) 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 56 comments from 14 area plans (see Table 1).

Table 1. Number of comments received by plan, April – June, 2016.

| Comment Month | Area Plan | MDC Region | Comments Received |
|----------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| April 2016 | Lick Creek Conservation Area | Central | 0 |
| April 2016 | Lowe, Northcutt, and Sears Conservation Areas ¹ | Central | 0 |
| April 2016 | Drury-Mincy Conservation Area | Ozark | 0 |
| April 2016 | Southeast Regional Office and Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center | Southeast | 2 |
| April 2016 | Catawissa Conservation Area | St. Louis | 7 |
| April 2016 | Crooked Creek Conservation Area | St. Louis | 7 |
| May 2016 | Grand Bluffs Conservation Area | Central | 0 |
| May 2016 | P. F. Barnes Conservation Area | Ozark | 3 |
| May 2016 | Ashe Juniper Natural Area | Southwest | 2 |
| May 2016 | Williams Ford Access | Southwest | 1 |
| May 2016 | Young Conservation Area | St. Louis | 6 |
| June 2016 | Danville Conservation Area | Central | 9 |
| June 2016 | Mansfield Conservation Area | Central | 5 |
| June 2016 | Pinhook Access | Kansas City | 3 |
| June 2016 | Anderson and DuPont Conservation Areas ² | Northeast | 0 |
| June 2016 | Shelby County Conservation Areas³ | Northeast | 1 |
| June 2016 | Crooked River Conservation Area | Northwest | 2 |
| June 2016 | Nodaway County Community Lake | Northwest | 6 |
| June 2016 | Dan and Maureen Cover Memorial Wildlife Area | Ozark | 0 |
| June 2016 | Coldwater Conservation Area | Southeast | 2 |
| TOTAL | | | 56 |

¹Plan includes William Lowe Conservation Area, Clarence L. Northcutt Memorial Conservation Area, and F. O. and Leda J. Sears Memorial Wildlife Area.

²Plan includes Edward Anderson Conservation Area and DuPont Reservation Conservation Area.

³Plan includes Arrow-Wood Conservation Area, Fred Bollow Conservation Area, and Pin Oak Conservation Area.

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

Who responded?

We received 56 comments from 51 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 | Respondent Count | Comment Count |
|--|------------------|---------------|
| Individual citizens (no affiliation listed) | 41 | 46 |
| Equestrian groups (Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen, Monroe County Saddle Club) | 8 | 8 |
| Non-Governmental Organizations (North American Wildlife and Habitat, Missouri Master Naturalists) | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 51 | 56 |

How they responded:

Table 3. Total number of each response received

| Response Type | Count | Percent |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| Web comment form | 44 | 86 |
| Mail comment form | 7 | 14 |
| TOTAL | 51 | 100 |

Where respondents are from:

Table 4. Total number of respondents by location

| State | Count | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Missouri | 55 | 100 |
| TOTAL | 55 | 100 |

Figure 1. 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. Mapped using <http://batchgeo.com/>.



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 April-June 2016. 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, once each plan receives final approval.

Terrestrial Resource Management

Wildlife

- Seeks information about promoting wildlife on neighboring property.
- Concerned with groundhogs dumped on conservation area and invading neighboring property. Seeks assistance with nuisance groundhogs.
- Wonders how to combat invasive Asian lady bug beetles.
- Suggests managing area for waterfowl. Suggests allowing waterfowl hunting.

Natural Community Management

- Supports controlling invasive species.
- Requests assistance with tree removal on neighboring property.
- Suggests conducting annual prescribed burns to benefit wildlife.
- When forest thinning, suggests thinning the weakest and least desirable trees.
- Suggests removing undesired woody growth along electric utility easement.
- Suggests hosting and advertising invasive species removal events for volunteers.
- Suggests notifying public prior to conducting large-scale prescribed burns.
- Supports managing shortleaf pine on area.

Aquatic Resource Management

Fishing

- Suggests cleaning out pond and developing fishing area.

Habitat Management

- Supports maintaining healthy riparian corridor.

Public Use Management

Hunting

- Suggests closing roads through Compartment 7 during turkey season to allow for walk-in hunting only. Concern that vehicle traffic through this area disturbs hunting and is unsafe.
- Suggests limiting hunters to steel and non-toxic shot.

- Opposes modern firearms deer hunting on Crooked Creek CA due to small size.
- Suggests allowing archery hunting only.
- Suggests allowing hunters to use vehicles on service roads during deer season in order to retrieve deer.
- Concerned that Fred Bollow Conservation Area is too small to allow firearms hunting. Suggests allowing archery hunting only.

Fishing Access

- Suggests maintaining year-round access to the Meramec River.

Trails

- Suggests improving hiking trail. Suggests adding a walking path.
- Concerned about the safety of area users who use the roads to walk and jog; would like these users to use area trails.
- Suggests allowing horseback riding on area trails or developing a multi-use trail system.
- Suggests allowing horseback riding and camping.
- Suggests connecting Young CA trail system with LaBarque Creek CA trails, partnering with willing landowners or building trail close to road right-of-way.
- Suggests expanding trail system on Young CA. Suggests better marking area trails.
- Suggests adding trails to access other lakes.

Amenities

- Suggests holding more tournaments/events at Nodaway Community Lake to attract more visitors.
- Appreciates the parking lot.
- Suggests allowing camping. Suggests allowing primitive camping on the west side. Suggests adding gravel camp sites.
- Suggests allowing primitive camping with horses.

Area Maintenance

- Concerned about the lack maintenance of trail on the west side of the lake. Suggests mowing trails more often.
- Would like the pavilion to be rebuilt.
- Suggests clearing logjam near the southern-most parking lot.
- Appreciates cleaning up litter on area.

Enforcement/Policy

- Concerned about illegal activity on the area. Suggests closing the access.
- Suggests adding more conservation agents to patrol the area.

- Concerned with area users trespassing, discharging firearms, and dumping trash on neighboring property.
- Concern about amount of vandalism on area. Suggests adding a gate that would be locked after hours to prevent partying and vandalism.

Other

- Suggests posting the acreage of P.F. Barnes Conservation Area.
- Provided information that this area has geological interest due to a meteor impact thousands of years ago.

Administrative Considerations

Land Acquisition

- Suggests acquiring additional property to enlarge the area.

Infrastructure Development

- Wonders if there are roads that would allow closer access to the west side of the lake?
- Suggests developing 10-12 miles of multi-use trails on the largest tract of Coldwater Conservation Area.
- Concerned with lack of decent access point to Fred Bollow Conservation Area.
- Suggests adding signs to encourage courtesy and safety among hunters and hikers.
- Suggests adding a parking lot.
- Suggests adding a fishing lake.
- Suggests adding canals to connect all of the area lakes for boating and fishing.

Boundary Maintenance

- Seeks information on repairing boundary fences.
- Concern with trespass from Fred Bollow Conservation Area users onto private land. Suggests better marking of the area boundaries.
- Requests a survey of the western boundary line.

Other

- Encourages partnerships with hunting organizations like Quality Deer Management Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Ducks Unlimited.

General Comments

- Suggests keeping area as is.
- Appreciates the area.

- Wonders what changes are planned for this area.
- Supports preservation of the area.
- Is curious about the plan because the landowner owns property nearby.

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).

APPENDICES

Appendix A. Southeast Regional Office & Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (April 1-30, 2016):

Need more PRO HUNTING / PRO PARTNERSHIPS WITH hunting groups like the QDMA, NWTF, RMEF and DU. Groups and members gave money to nature center to occur and little to no support is given back to groups.

What are you doing about the Asian lady bug beetles?

Appendix B. Catawissa Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (April 1-30, 2016):

I have kayaked in this area just once when the water level was high enough to access via the Meramec. The area has a great deal of potential for recreational small boats (canoe & kayak) if you can maintain year-round access via the Meramec. Canals connecting all of the lakes together would make this a terrific place for boating and fishing.

Can we start hunting, or at least start managing this area for waterfowl? There are few people in the area during waterfowl season but there is an abundance of waterfowl. There are also very few public waterfowl hunting areas in this part of the state.

MDC could turn this into a prime waterfowl habitat, if not for hunting it would make a great refuge.

I read over the projected 10 year management plan and think MDC is heading in the right direction with maintaining the Catawissa CA. I frequent the area periodically to fish and would like to see trails leading to other bodies of water across the CCA besides the first stretch. One of the best spots to fish is heading just west of the parking lot towards the backside of the large reservoir. Its about 100ft but depending on the season it is a hassle to hike. Thank You.

I think this conservation area has potential to be a phenomenal duck hunting area. I would like to see improved hunting and fishing opportunities. This however may be difficult due to the vandalism taking place on the area.

My property joins yours. For the most part it is used for fishing by day. At night , all hours it is cars doing donuts in the parking lot loud music and who knows. I know you cannot be everywhere and I know if you came down tonight know one will be there. I have talked to our local agent he is here often. Wish you could close a gate after hours. I know these are useful areas . this is all the property is good for. thank you for lisening.

Since this area is close to St. Louis as well as other small communities, there should be hiking trails and/or bike trails. If this is a problem because of river flooding, I understand but if not there

should be trails around or leading to the lakes. It would also make it easier for fishermen. I think that birders would also visit this area if it were more user friendly.

I would like to see access to the many lakes made easier via trails or something similar. This would benefit the bank fisherman and attract more people to the area. More people could discourage vandalism and other nuisance activities.

Appendix C. Crooked Creek Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (April 1-30, 2016):

Dear MDC,

Within minutes of each other, many thousands of years ago, parts of Missouri and Oklahoma were impacted by a string of large bolides - one of which 'flattened' the area which would someday be known as Crooked Creek CA. It would have been an extremely bad day to live anywhere near Cherryville, MO - where my wife and I are currently retired.

As a direct result of that impact, Crooked Creek CA is today blessed with some of the most fascinating geology of any place in the state of Missouri. There's a multicolored 'bulls-eye' subterranean rendering of the impact site that unfortunately, I'm currently unable to find - but I believe the division of geology and land survey of MO's DNR may have originally published it.

Respectfully folks, any updated Area Management Plan for Crooked Creek CA should take into account this single most important event ever to happen to it. Not sure however, how that might be accomplished. Some information on its crater tectonic structures may be found here.....

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Crooked_Creek_Crater_tectonic_structures_v4.svg

Enjoy the weather while it lasts....

Thank you for putting in the parking lot.

We own the land adjacent to Crooked Creek CA on the west side, south of VV.

We recently agreed to donate a small piece of land to the Steelville ambulance service for an emergency helicopter pad at the jct. of M and VV.

Is the MDC aware of the survey discrepancy of your western line?

Would you be willing to help with another survey to confirm or deny this discrepancy?

The main intent is to actively manage this area for hunting opportunities as the boundary permits. The management of shortleaf pine should be given priority as this is a dwindling resource. Other

activities should not interfere with the entitled purpose of hunting. However, this is a rather small area and I do not believe that modern firearms be permitted for deer hunting. Thank you.

Why not clean out pond fix dam and make a little catfish bluegill pond. Thank you for cleaning up the trash it was looking bad

I am a land owner that has property which borders the Crooked Creek Conservation area. I have experienced multiple problems in the past six years I have owned my farm that have stemmed from the Conservation area. These issues have been with multiple people trespassing while hunting, discharging firearms onto my property and trash dumping. While I understand this is an area approved for firearms hunting, due to it's small acreage and the volume of hunting, it causes safety issues. I have spoken to other surrounding land owners who have experienced these same issues and safety concerns. I appreciate your concern and willingness to accept feedback regarding this area. I ask on my behalf and other surrounding land owners that this area be considered for an archery only hunting area to minimize the most important issue of injury to a person. This could also help to reduce the amount of trespassing and firearms activity experienced by myself and surrounding land owners. With the high volume of hunters in this small area, we have encountered countless hunters who access private property through this area. I personally have been involved in confrontations with hunters using the Conservation area to trespass on my property and harvest deer. Thank you for the opportunity to address this Conservation area and please consider this feedback in your future plans.

Owning and leasing property surrounding the Conservation area for several years has created several problems. The Conservation area is too small a piece of land to facilitate the amount of firearms hunters. In addition to all the hunters is the fact that being a small piece of land, many of the hunters find their way onto the adjoining private properties to hunt. If the hunters are not trespassing onto private property they are hunting the fence lines and shooting onto private property. A hunter myself as well as my children and family members, this has caused many safety concerns. It's not if in this situation it is when someone is going to get shot. This is a big liability that I think the Conservation Dept needs to consider. If someone trespasses onto my property and is injured by the multiple surrounding hunters, who is liable? It certainly shouldn't be the land owner who has posted their property according to the law. I'm a supporter of the Conservation and everyone's right to hunt, but the amount of firearms and bullets flying around is a major concern of all the land owners in this area. I think this area could be better utilized as a wildlife refuge/sanctuary or an archery only area. Thank you for your consideration on this area.

Appendix D. P.F. Barnes Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (May 1-31, 2016):

I tried to open the area plans but was unable to do so.

I do not know what you are intending to do on this area but here are my recommendations for not only Barnes CA but all of the CA's which my family frequents in south-central MO. We recommend that the department build fishable lakes on ALL conservation areas. This will greatly reduce the fishing stress on lakes already managed by the department and provide many additional opportunities for citizens and visitors to MO.

We also recommend that the department open some of the service roads during the deer hunting seasons so that hunters can more easily retrieve game. The department could allow vehicles to only enter designated areas for the purpose of retrieving the deer and have to leave immediately after recovery.

We also recommend for ALL areas that the department increase the number of Conservation Agents by at least 100% and maybe 200%. We witness far too many wildlife violations. It makes us angry to know so many people are getting away with stealing game while we abide by every little regulation in the book. We've reported violations in the past only to never see any follow up due to there not being enough agents. We don't even bother calling anymore.

We also recommend that the department notify the public PRIOR to any large-scale burns on CA's. It is quite upsetting when you arrive at a Youth Turkey hunting area on opening morning only to discover the Department conducted a control burn of the entire area in the same week.

We could go on with many other recommendations however these are the biggest. Thanks for giving us an avenue to share our thoughts.

You should build a fishable lake on this property. The area which has recently been logged would be a choice location. The Conservation Department should build fishable lakes on ALL Conservation Areas. It would dramatically increase the opportunities as well as the value of these areas.

(Hardcopy Comment Received 5/31/2016): Post acreage on PF Barnes Conservation Area.

Appendix E. Ashe Juniper Natural Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (May 1-31, 2016):

(Hardcopy comment received 5/23/2016): I am curious about the plan for this adjacent property to my 40a to the east.

- 1.) What plan is presently in place?
- 2.) What change do you contemplate?

(Hardcopy Comment Received 5/27/2016): Hope you continue to preserve this area. Would like to have a parking area. People ask us where the parking area is.

Appendix F. Williams Ford Access Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (May 1-31, 2016):

What this area really needs is a small gravel parking lot even if you have to put it a short distance up the hill from the river. Presently, you can only park on the shoulder of the road which can impede traffic flow.

Appendix G. Young Conservation Area Management Plan Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (May 1-31, 2016):

With preserving the native warm grasslands (even woodlands for that matter), an annual burn may benefit the area. It could also be beneficial for hunters including dove hunters if burned at a particular time. In order to preserve the watershed and the magnitude of species present in La Barque creek, I think hunters should be limited to steel and non-toxic shot only when hunting with shotguns.

While a 10 year forest management plan looks good, I would hope that MDC has a 100-200 year plan for this area. Most of us will not see significant forests of 200 year age but our descendants will --if you manage appropriately.

When you mention mechanical thinning but do not reference an actual strategy, I would much prefer to see you call out the best practices demonstrated for 60 plus years in Pioneer Forest, managing to improve the forest over time by selecting the weakest and less desirable trees.

The trails on the properties are great. I would urge MDC to work to connect LaBarque Hills with Young CA through a trail along the creek. Many landowners will participate, including The College School (at least the last time it was discussed). I urge MDC to purchase the Washington U property from the university to facilitate that creek corridor trail. (Note I think the trail could be built close to or on the road right of way where private property access if not available.

thanks.

Not specifically addressed in the Management Plan for Young CA is the area of the electric utility easement. This area, specifically that lying just above (northeast) of the Taconic Loop Trail (at about 38.442694, -90.660772) differs markedly from most of the remainder of the Conservation Area and supports numerous species which are rare or absent in other parts of the

Conservation Area. Examples are *Astragalus crassicaarpus*, *Draba cuneifolia*, *Primula meadia*, *Comandra umbellata*, *Camassia scilloides*, and other species consistent with an upland prairie or glade ecosystem. Unfortunately, it is being heavily overrun by young woody growth which is destroying the unique biodiversity of this segment. Perhaps this should be dealt with specifically, consistent with Section V (Terrestrial Resource Management), Objective 2 (Manage open lands), Strategy 2 (Remove and thin undesirable tree species).

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

I love Young Conservation Area. As warm weather approaches, I always look forward to revisiting the old field, an idyllic setting of birds and pollinators among blackberry brambles, tall grasses and wildflowers. We also enjoy the frog pond and, of course, beautiful LeBarque Creek.

My only disappointment with Young CA has been inability to locate the Taconic Loop and LeBarque Hills trails. We have skirted the edge of the forest around the fish pond but somehow have never found the trail entry into the woods. This could be just us, but maybe the trail could be more clearly marked in this area?

Another suggestion might be, and this includes Glassberg and LeBarque CA's, to create and publicize more volunteer invasives removal events. I would like to help if I knew of such events. Could there be MDC email alerts to potential volunteers? If so, please put me on the list

Other than that, all I can say is I love Young CA and am grateful to MDC and all others who have contributed towards land preservation in the LeBarque watershed. Thank you for your ongoing care of Young CA. The management plan looks great.

I would like to see more trails at Young CA. A connecting trail between all the nearby public areas would really be an asset to the LaBarque area.

A LaBarque trail is a great idea. Extending it through different areas would make it even better. If additional properties become available, always buy them to increase the size of the area. Increase signage to let hikers and hunters know to be careful and courteous of each others activities.

Appendix H. Danville Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (June 1-30, 2016):

As I was reading your plan, I noticed no mention of equestrian usage. Seeing that you have over 3,000 acres in this area, you have 5 parking lots, and some existing trails, please consider allowing equestrians on the Danville CA. I understand topography, soil types, and the presence of marshes and wetlands could limit the length of trails. But, I think the sensitive areas can be avoided, which is what the Back Country Horsemen mission is all about.protecting our trails for future generations.

Please consider allowing horse/mule use on existing trails, or allowing the planning, building and maintenance of separate trails. I'm sure the SMMBCHA would help in all phases of any projected new or existing trails.

This area appears to be a great opportunity to bring more wildlife areas to the avid hiker, bicyclists and an equestrian trail in the Central Region of Missouri (which is currently lacking in trails). I would like to see a multi-use trail along with camping facilities for both primitive and equestrian camping. The close proximity to the highway would make travel easier for every visitor. Thank you.

Please consider the multi-use area to include horseback riding. This region of the state is somewhat lacking in this resource and would greatly benefit. As I'm sure you're very well aware my organization BCHA can prove to be a very valuable asset to your overall plan. I look forward to hearing more about the progress of the project. Thanks in advance.

I would love to see some additional trails added that would include multi use trails. Most trails (horse trails) have heavy use so if we had more I feel it would spread the usage out. In reviewing the map it appears there are some area's outside the glade area where this might work. I realize we need the right type of soil so hopefully it would work in this area.

First, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Danville CA Draft Management Plan. Equestrian trail riders in Montgomery, Callaway, and Audrain Counties and are underserved with respect to public land riding opportunities. To address this lack of opportunity Danville CA is on a priority list of Conservation Areas recommended for multi-use trail development in the 2015 "Expanding Public Land Multi-Use Trails in Missouri" proposal by Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen. This is consistent with the purpose of providing outdoor recreation opportunities as required by the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund monies on Danville CA.

Danville CA exhibits most desirable characteristics for development of a multi-use trail system. Strong points in favor of trail development are size of the CA (adequate for a minimum of 10-12 miles of trails), topography and landscape (predominantly upland), a variety of cover types, and a minimum of conflicting uses. The presence of extensive glades offers opportunity for trail users to view a landscape and ecosystem that is uncommon in North Missouri. The location, near Interstate 70, would provide safe and convenient access to the CA via very good roads.

SMMBCH offers our services (availability of volunteers permitting) to help decide on the best location and then clear and mark the trails. We further offer to assist the Area Manager to develop a partnership with local trail users to assist with development and maintenance with the trails and associated infrastructure.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

We very much enjoying riding in Missouri and would be interested in more trails and a place to camp. Primitive camping would be okay. We appreciate your considering opening trails for equestrian.

Thank You

I am a proponent of trail development on the Danville CA. Many citizens recreate by using trails, not only for hunting, but also for geocaching, hiking, horse riding, and other diverse activities. Multi-use trails would make this conservation area beneficial for many purposes. The trails can be single track, and of adequate length to provide a day of outdoor recreation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Danville Conservation Area Management Plan.

Hi,

I would like to ask you if you would please consider developing horse trails on the Danville Area? The horse trails at the Rudolph Bennitt Conservation Area are very popular with horseback riders and we need the same thing in the Danville Area.

Thanks for your consideration of the needs for riding trails for Missouri horse lovers and owners.

I would like to see the existing hiking trail made a multi use trail for cyclists and horses. Also expanding the trail would be a way for more people to enjoy the area. Thank you.

Appendix I. Mansfield Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (June 1-30, 2016):

(Hardcopy Comment Received 6/9/2016): We get many critters from the wildlife preserve. Someone dumped many groundhogs that they trapped & released. Now we need help with them. They are taking over our sheds & grounds. They are also burrowing into our pond (lake) behind our house. Now the pond leaks. Any help you could give us with the groundhogs would be appreciated. Our neighbor is in their 80's & have a whole family by the front door and porch. Our shed had a family of 5. We finally got rid of them but now its infested with fleas.

Would it be possible to improve the hiking Trail?

(Hardcopy Comment received 6/20/2016): There are people who walk, jog, & run in this area, they can only use the road, which is dangerous. I and neighbors would use the trails if they were in the conservation area. Please consider our needs.

(Hardcopy comment received 6/30/2016): I would welcome the fact that you would consider improving the Conservation Area. If I can be of help, please call. Walking path would be great.

(Hardcopy comment received 6/30/2016): Dear Mr. Johnson, I went to the website, didn't see any place to make comments, nothing on the attached sheet so here are my comments. LOVE living next to the conservation area, enjoy deer, turkeys, etc. No one bothers us, everything is great! My only concern is one of our huge trees came down with a disease and presented a safety hazard, would you folks take care of it? Thank you for your time.

Appendix J. Pinhook Access Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (June 1-30, 2016):

I am currently a candidate for Eastern Pettis County Commissioner. If I am elected, the Pinhook Access will fall within my area of oversight in the county. I have reviewed the draft plan, and agree with your focus and goals. Concentration on invasive species and maintaining a healthy riparian corridor is imperative. I am also well aware of the issue with dumping, vandalism and "partying" at this site. If I can be of any assistance in contacting landowners and securing their help in monitoring at Pinhook, please let me know. As an avid outdoorsman, fisherman and volunteer with stream team 2800 and LMVP I understand the importance of protecting water quality and the watershed from human activities while still allowing full enjoyment of the outdoor opportunities an area such as Pinhook has to offer.

Thank your to allowing comments. My property and home are adjacent to the Muddy Creek Fishing access and I have lived here for over 20 years. During that time there has been little use of the area and as stated in the management statements it is a site that has litter problems, plus parties, drinking, and probably drug related exchange. Add to that shooting and fireworks. It also invites trespass across the road to my property. I must admit it is not as bad as it was, but I don't appreciate the litter that sometime is left. This area was called the Ruins and historically it was a party place. That is not nearly the problem it was in the past, but at times there is noise well past 10 o'clock.

There are few fishermen and few people attending and actually appreciating the area. At times people do trespass to the west on my property but I have never seen anyone fishing. Usually, it is to look for arrowheads I believe.

The four acres were originally party of my property and if it were being used as it should be I would be pleased, but there is little usage and what there is, most is not appropriate. The previous owner gave the 4 acres to MDC.

Well, thanks for letting me relay my opinions and I hope all is well for you and the department.
Respectfully

Recently I respond to the management plan and had few issues and statements. I agree with the problems MDC recognized and added a couple of other issues. I am not sure if I indicated my recommendations for the area. So, even if I am not to recommend I hope you will not take it as a

negative to anyone.

It is my opinion based on the little used access for fishing and just relaxing, plus the constant upkeep that is never ending. Too much litter, drugs and fire arms and fire works. I live up on the hill and if any fires starts below it will not be easy to stop.

Close the access and I doubt there will be little back comment.

Thanks for the opportunity to speak and I hope good things for MDC and you.

Respectfully

Appendix K. Shelby County Conservation Areas Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (June 1-30, 2016):

(Hardcopy Comment Received 6/10/2016): This C.A. of 41 acres is far too small for gun hunting. Every year we have shots coming into my property. It is likewise a doormat to my property. We have had many trespassing over the years from this property. If they are going to continue to have hunting, it should be BOW only. This property doesn't even have a decent access point. If a deer is killed many hunting simply cross my ground with it, because it is the easiest to travel. The signs need to be reprinted showing the boundaries of the ground. As you can tell I am very disappointed with the lack of management of the property.

Sincerely

Appendix L. Crooked River Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (June 1-30, 2016):

Great area use it often. Would it be possible to clear the logjam on Crooked River that is up river from the southern most parking lot along the river ? I paddled up river from the low bridge on the north edge of the area until the water got to shallow, then when back the the bridge and put in on the other side and paddled down river till I got to the log jam. To bad I was hoping to get several miles down stream.

Our land backs up to the conservation land, and a lot of the fence is down due to trees falling on the fences,

What is the best idea to take care of this , also what can we due to help promote wildlife on our land.

Appendix M. Nodaway County Community Lake Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (June 1-30, 2016):

Our family used to picnic at Nodaway Lake frequently before a weather-related incident destroyed the shelter house. It was a nice, quiet, family place to go, away from crowds. We

would appreciate a shelter house being rebuilt there so we could once again enjoy Nodaway Lake. We no longer visit, and it's a shame.

Hello,

I generally agree with the plan, but not sure about the implementation of the plan. My main concern is the walking/hiking trail on the west side of the lake. It is currently not well maintained and has some washout areas that make it difficult to use at times. I know the plan doesn't get into specifics like I just mentioned, but do want to bring it to the attention of those developing the area plan and then the implementation of such plan.

Thank you!

Russ Schuster

Since I live right across from the lake and walk the lake many times throughout the year, I have a pretty good sense for use. The lake during prime fishing times, has only 2 -4 cars parked in the area, with maybe 1 - 2 boats on the water fishing. The lake is not utilized much, and even on the "Big Fish" weekend, with a nice prize, it appears they cannot attract a very big crowd to join in the fun. The lake is a nice lake and has plenty of water fishing areas. It may be that Mozingo being close and a larger lake has taken away those that may have come here in the past. Would suggest keeping it mowed up better, as many times when try to walk the trails in late summer it is grown up pretty badly and hard to walk. I know it was wet last year, but does seem to be left undone on trails. It seems there is a lot of money spent on this lake with small results or use of lake. Maybe if there were some better tournaments for fishing, maybe some contests etc. more would be involved. Nice lake, just not used that much.

PRIMITIVE camping is way to far from fishing. could use more primitive camping on the west side. the shelter that was once there at the entry would be nice to have again as well as bathrooms. .we used that on several occasions when it was there. why doesn't nodaway lake have gravel camping spots like brick yard hill/charity lake. i use nodaway lake more than i use mozingo lake . nodaway lake would be a good change for others when mozingo is full and no camping left. other than that i think it is maintained well .i could use an easier way to get over to the west side to fish ,having knee problems an unable to walk over and back a lot.and i don't own a boat. is there a back road that could be used on the west side?

I think it would be nice if camping was allowed. And have a nice picnic area. I hiked there years ago and at that time don't remember there really being a " trail" to follow. My horseback riding friends are always looking for places to ride and camp. Good luck! It's a nice lake.

Keep it like it is!!

Appendix N. Coldwater Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (June 1-30, 2016):

To whom it may concern,

I would like to see all or part of section 7 of coldwater ca turned into a walk in area at least for the spring turkey season. The roads that lead through the area (at least this particular section) lead to a lot of vehicular pressure throughout the season. This area holds a good turkey population but is hammered by people driving the road and stopping every so often and calling. At times it is like a parade of road hunter after road hunter "checking for a gobble". This isn't only a hassle while hunting but it is also adding danger to the turkey season because those driving around aren't aware there may be other hunters who may have parked further down the road. Additionally these road drivers only pressure the turkeys further and father off the area onto private land surrounding it.

The extensive road make this are very easy to hunt but the added danger and pressure lead me to believe it would be better for the hunters and the game if the roads were closed during the season. This would lead to most hunters parking in the same area and then spreading out (by walking) in my opinion this would lead to a safer hunt by hunters being aware of each other's presence. Also it would relieve a lot of pressure that typically doesn't lead to a harvested turkey. There are multiple areas that could be used as the walk in hunting parking area and I think it would be a great improve the turkey hunting on the section. Coldwater provides a great hunting opportunity and I believe this would be a welcome addition and would enhance the hunting and hunter experience.

First, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Coldwater CA Draft Management Plan. Equestrian trail riders in Wayne County are well served with respect to public land riding opportunities thanks to trails available on MDC and Missouri State Park lands. That being said the large unit off U.S. 67 Highway offers a good venue to enhance those opportunities. The location near Highway 67 would make access convenient and safe for local users as well as those traveling from more distant points to the north and south

This large tract on Coldwater CA exhibits most desirable characteristics for development of a multi-use trail system. Strong points in favor of trail development are size of the unit (adequate for a minimum of 10-12 miles of trails), topography and landscape (upland), and a minimum of conflicting uses.

SMMBCH offers our services (availability of volunteers permitting) to help decide on the best location and then clear and mark the trails. We further offer to assist the Area Manager to develop a partnership with local trail users to assist with development and maintenance with the trails and associated infrastructure.