Dr. Bernard Bruns Access

Ten Year Area Management Plan

FY2014-2023

Wildlife Division Chief

9/24/14

Date

Dr. Bernard Bruns Access Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

Clayton Light, Resource Technician

Jerod Huebner, Resource Assistant

Phil Pitts, Fisheries Management Biologist

Chris Newbold, Natural History Biologist

Matt Hamilton, Conservation Agent

Kyle Lairmore, Private Land Conservationist

Aaron Holsapple, Resource Forester

Nathan Morfeld, Resource Assistant

CENTRAL REGION

RCT Chair — Signature: Tim Grace — Date: 9/3/14

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Unit Chief — Signature: Michael D Schwan — Date: 9/23/14

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Dr. Bernard Bruns Access, # 7830
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1978
- **Acreage:** 77 acres
- **County:** Osage
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Primary Purpose:**

  A. Strategic Direction

  The primary purpose of Dr. Bernard Bruns Access (Bruns Access) is to provide outdoor natural resource-based recreational opportunities including public fishing access to the Maries River. Bruns Access consists of 77.2 acres of primarily bottomland and upland field habitat. Ephemeral wetlands in the floodplain create management opportunities for numerous reptiles and amphibians. Enhancing upland areas for early successional habitat will create opportunities for small game and deer hunters as well as provide quality wildlife/wildflower viewing, hiking and numerous other outdoor recreational activities.

  B. Desired Future Condition

  The desired future condition of Bruns Access is riparian and bottomland forest that transitions to upland and early succesional areas that will promote and maintain good water quality for the adjacent Maries River.

  C. Federal Aid Statement

  N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. <u>Special Considerations</u>

A. Priority Areas: Bruns Access occurs within the Maries River Priority Watershed (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2011). The Maries River Priority Watershed lies within the Salem Plateau subsection of the Ozark Plateau and is comprised mostly of forest and woodlands (42% of the watershed) and grasslands (44% of the watershed) (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2012). The watershed supports a high diversity of aquatic species. Threats in the watershed include loss of riparian habitat, declining water quality due to various point and non-point source pollution, and excessive stream erosion/sedimentation (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2012).

B. Natural Areas: None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

A. Species of Conservation Concern: Species of conservation concern are not known from this site, but are found in the surrounding area. Area Managers should consult annually with the Natural History Biologist.

B. Caves: None

C. Springs: None

III. Existing Infrastructure

- 4 parking lots
- 1 graveled river access for hand-launching boats

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations: None

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. Hazards and Hazardous Materials: None observed.

F. Endangered Species: Endangered species are not known from this site but are found in the surrounding area. Area Managers should consult annually with the Natural History Biologist.

G. Boundary Issues: The boundaries on Bruns Access are defined but need to be periodically remarked. The local work team will maintain the boundary as needed.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Bottomland fields need management to promote the regeneration of bottomland forest, which will improve the connectivity from upland woodlands to riverfront forest.
2) Control of invasive species is high priority.
3) Open land habitat in the upland needs periodic disturbances to maintain habitat for small game species.
4) Monitor success of reforestation plantings versus natural reforestation in bottomland habitats.

Management Objective 1: Maintain and enhance the area's existing upland and bottomland habitats.

Strategy 1: Implement management strategies designed to restore bottomland forest conditions.

Strategy 2: Enhance grassland and woodland habitat diversity through a variety of management techniques.

Strategy 3: Regularly monitor area for aggressive invasive/exotic species and utilize control measures to remove them when found.

Management Objective 2: Control the spread of invasive species.

Strategy 1: Identify the extent of invasive species and develop an integrated pest management plan.

Strategy 2: Conduct invasive species treatments and follow-up annually to evaluate effectiveness and re-treatment needs.

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

Stream, pond and ephemeral wetland water quality must be maintained to support a healthy ecosystem.

Management Objective 1: Maintain quality of streams, gravel and stream bank communities.

Strategy 1: Monitor for presence of invasive species and treat as needed. Proper management of surrounding terrestrial communities is crucial to maintaining stream quality.

Strategy 2: Utilize Best Management Practices to maintain soil, water and visual integrity.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Ensure a safe, clean, and user-friendly area for appropriate public use.
2) Manage to ensure the public has easy fishing and recreation access to the Maries River.

Management Objective 1: Maintain a safe and clean access that invites public use.

Strategy 1: Perform regular area maintenance to ensure boundaries are well marked; signage is correct and updated; and the area is maintained in a way that is inviting and safe for public use.

Management Objective 2: Provide fishing access to the Maries River while promoting stream quality.

Strategy 1: Perform regular maintenance to ensure accessibility to the Maries River. Footpaths that provide access to the river will be maintained to maximize fishing opportunities.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

Encourage appropriate public use of the area.

Management Objective 1: Discourage littering, vandalism, and other unlawful activities.

Strategy 1: Ensure area is properly signed with area regulations and information. Work with Protection Division to deter vandalism, littering and all other illegal activities on the area.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Area Background:
Bruns Access was purchased in 1978 with Design for Conservation funds. There are several diverse plant communities on this small conservation area. There are two fields of native grass/native forbs planted on the upland. The north facing hillside is an old field that has succeeded into mature trees; and has the structure of a closed woodland. There are a few acres of wooded old field with southwest exposure as well.

In the floodplain there are ephemeral wetlands when there is an abundance of rainfall or flooding occurs from the adjacent Maries River.

Access to the river for canoes and small carry-in boats is provided. The area also has a small wooded wetland and several acres of riparian and riverfront forest.

Hunting, fishing and camping are permitted on the area.

Current Land and Water Types

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Cropland/hay land	22		29
Bottomland/riparian forest	21		27
Woodland	14		18
Old fields/upland fields	12		16
Warm-season grass fields	8		10
Impounded water	<1		<1%
Total	**77**		**100%**
Stream frontage		1.0	

Public Input Summary:
The draft Dr. Bernard Bruns Access Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period July 1 – 31, 2014. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this period.

References:
Missouri Department of Conservation. (2011). *Conservation Priorities; Decision Support Tool.* Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2012). *Maries River Watershed Characterization.* Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map
Figure 2: Aerial Photo
Figure 3: Cover Types 2013-2014

Figure 1: Area Map

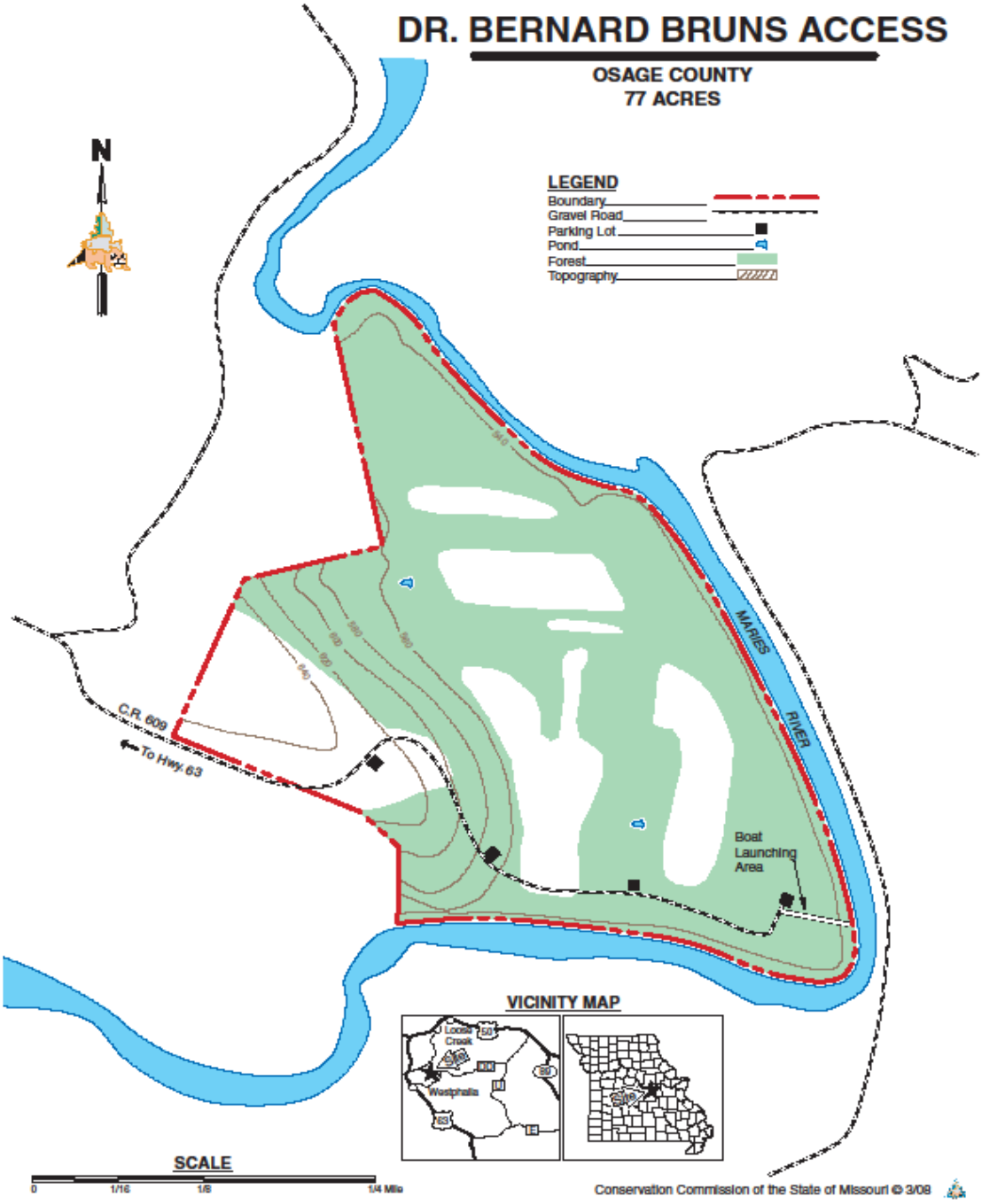

Figure 2: Aerial Photo
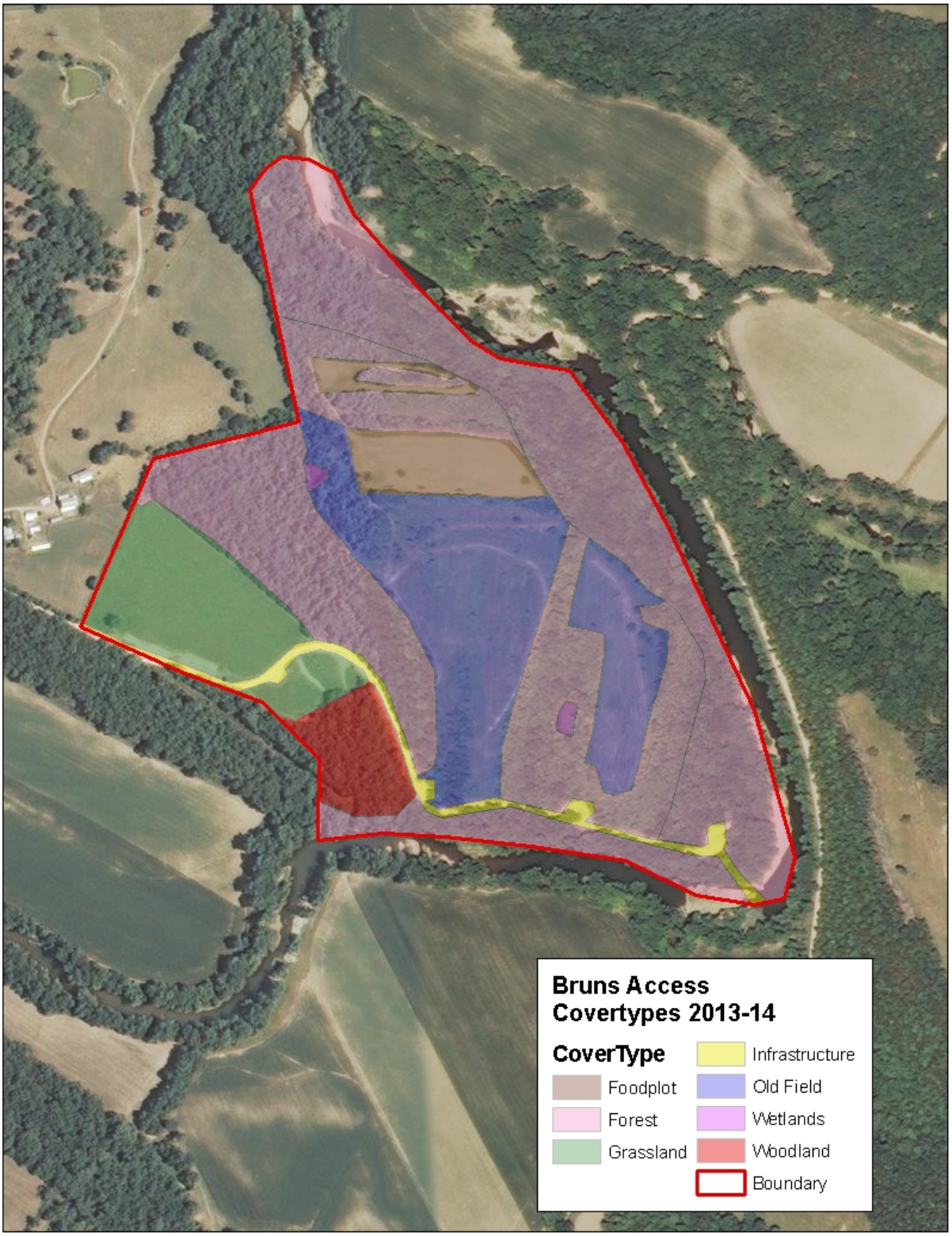
Figure 3: Cover Types 2013-2014