

Douglas & Wright County Towersites

Twin Knobs Towersite
Squires Towersite
Blue Slip Towersite

Twenty Year Area Management Plan FY 2015-2034



Jessie B. Allen

Forestry Division Chief

2-3-15

Date

Douglas & Wright County Fire Towersites Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

Randall Roy, Wildlife Management Biologist

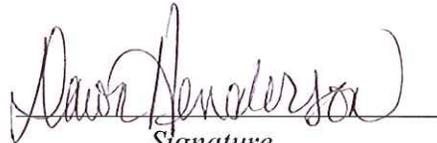
Shane Rice, Resource Forester

Mark Henry, Conservation Agent

Keith Wollard, Conservation Agent

OZARK REGION

RCT Chair


Signature

01/21/2015
Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

Unit Chief


Signature

02-02-15
Date

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Twin Knobs Towersite	7223	1972	1	Douglas	Forestry	Forestry
Squires Towersite	6221	1962	5	Douglas	Forestry	Forestry
Blue Slip Towersite	6626	1966	5	Wright	Forestry	Forestry

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

The Douglas and Wright County Fire Towersites were obtained and are currently maintained primarily for wildfire detection purposes.

B. Desired Future Condition

Maintain structural integrity of these towers to ensure safety of Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) fire lookout personnel. Manage surrounding forests to ensure healthy, sustainable forest resources.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area Name	Priority Area	Natural Area
Twin Knobs Towersite	None	None
Squires Towersite	None	None
Blue Slip Towersite	None	None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Twin Knobs Towersite	None	None	None
Squires Towersite	None	None	None
Blue Slip Towersite	None	None	None

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area Name	Parking Area #	Camping Sites	Other
Twin Knobs Towersite	1	None	Security fence
Squires Towersite	1	None	None
Blue Slip Towersite	1	None	Storage shed

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Easements	Cultural Resources	Hazards	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Twin Knobs Towersite	Yes ¹	Yes ²	None	Yes ⁵	None	None	None
Squires Towersite	None	Yes ²	Yes ³	None	None	None	None
Blue Slip Towersite	None	Yes ²	Yes ⁴	None	None	None	None

¹ The area is owned by the USDA Forest Service, with the Department staffing in fire season and sharing maintenance responsibilities. It is not open for public use.

² 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.

³ 1998- White River Electric Cooperative easement

⁴ 1968- Se-Ma-No Electric Cooperative easement

⁵ The Twin Knobs Fire Tower has been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Records are kept with the Department Environmental Compliance Specialist. Managers should follow Best Management Policies for Cultural Resources found in the Department’s Resource Policy Manual.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

Managing forests around the towers.

Management Objective 1: Manage forests.

Strategy 1: Assess forests for health and potential improvement.

VI. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Recurring vandalism to the towers.
- 2) Conducting routine maintenance.

Management Objective 1: Reduce/eliminate vandalism.

Strategy 1: Maintain a high level of law enforcement presence through cooperation with the Protection Division and other local law enforcement agencies.

Management Objective 2: Maintain the towersites.

Strategy 1: Continue routine maintenance on all three sites according to policy and need.

VII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

Ensuring safety of Department fire lookout personnel.

Management Objective 1: Ensure structural integrity of the towers.

Strategy 1: Ensure towers are inspected for structural integrity by a qualified inspector regularly (preferably a minimum of every two years).

Strategy 2: Department personnel will visually inspect the condition of the towers on a regular basis.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Maps:

- Appendix 1: Twin Knobs Towersite Area Background
- Appendix 2: Twin Knobs Towersite Area Map
- Appendix 3: Twin Knobs Towersite Topographic Map
- Appendix 4: Twin Knobs Towersite Aerial Map
- Appendix 5: Squires Towersite Area Background
- Appendix 6: Squires Towersite Area Map
- Appendix 7: Squires Towersite Topographic Map
- Appendix 8: Squires Towersite Aerial Map
- Appendix 9: Blue Slip Towersite Area Background
- Appendix 10: Blue Slip Towersite Area Map
- Appendix 11: Blue Slip Towersite Topographic Map
- Appendix 12: Blue Slip Towersite Aerial Map

Public Input Summary:

The draft Douglas and Wright County Towersites Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period December 1-31, 2014. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

Appendix 1: Twin Knobs Towersite Area Background

Land Acquisition History: The property on which the site is located was acquired by the federal government (USDA Forest Service) on April 13, 1936.

Land Use History: Data on the date of tower construction are conflicting. While we might assume that construction followed government purchase of the land, information from a former Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollee suggests that construction of the tower may actually have begun before 1936. Cliff Brown (1982:9) recalled in an interview that the Twin Knobs Tower was under construction when he was enrolled at the Cabool CCC camp in 1935. Some time after the tower was built, a dwelling complex, for use by the towerman, was added to the lookout station. None of the buildings originally constructed in the dwelling complex remain standing on the site. These structures are believed to have been removed some time during the late 1960s or early 1970s. The tower is used by the Department under a special use permit for fire detection.

Historical and Cultural Resources: The fire tower has been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under the National Register.

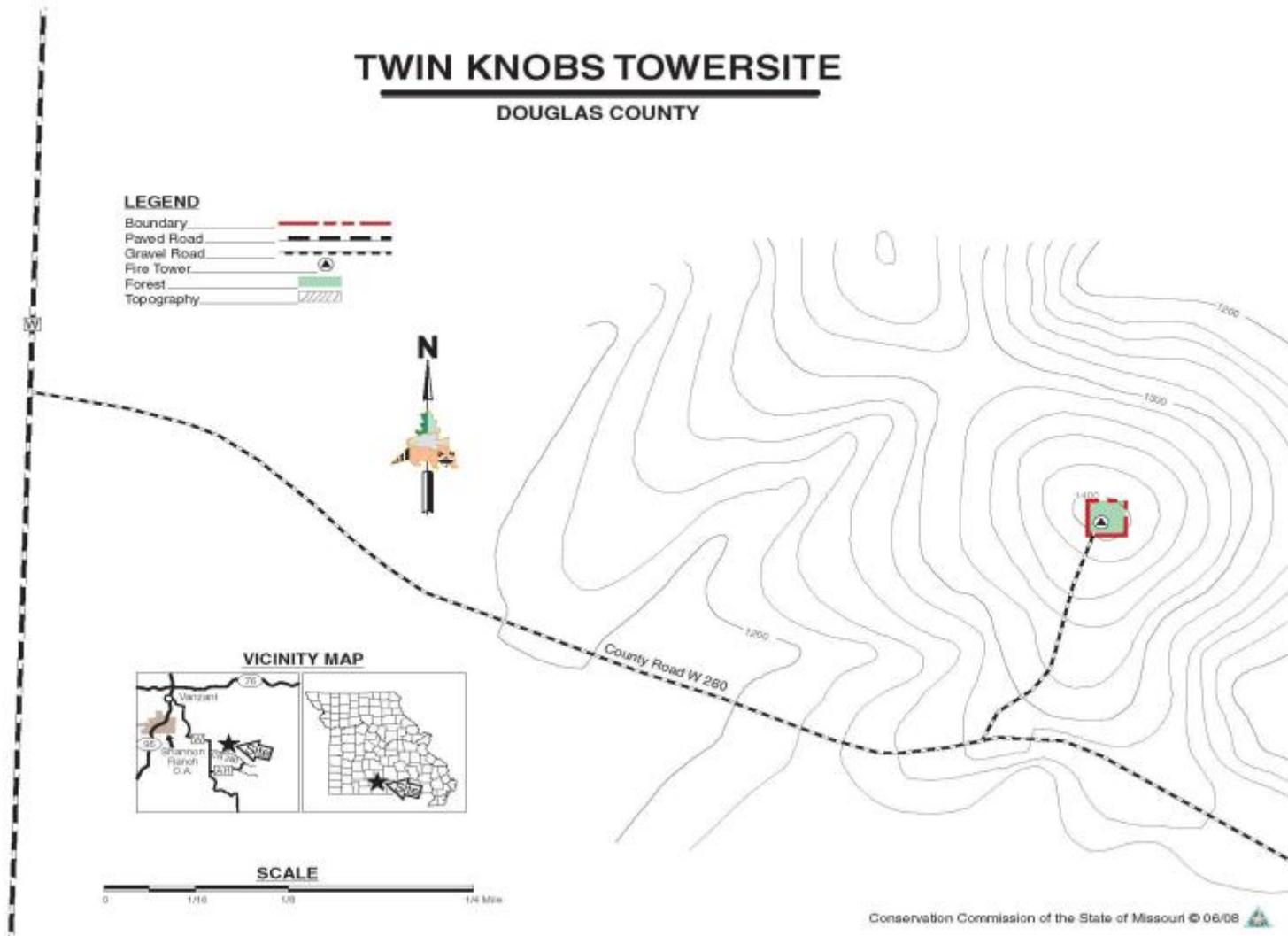
Area Location: From Vanzant, go east on Route W to County Road 260; then east 0.5 miles to the access road.

Legal Description: Township 26 North, Range 12 W, Section 22.

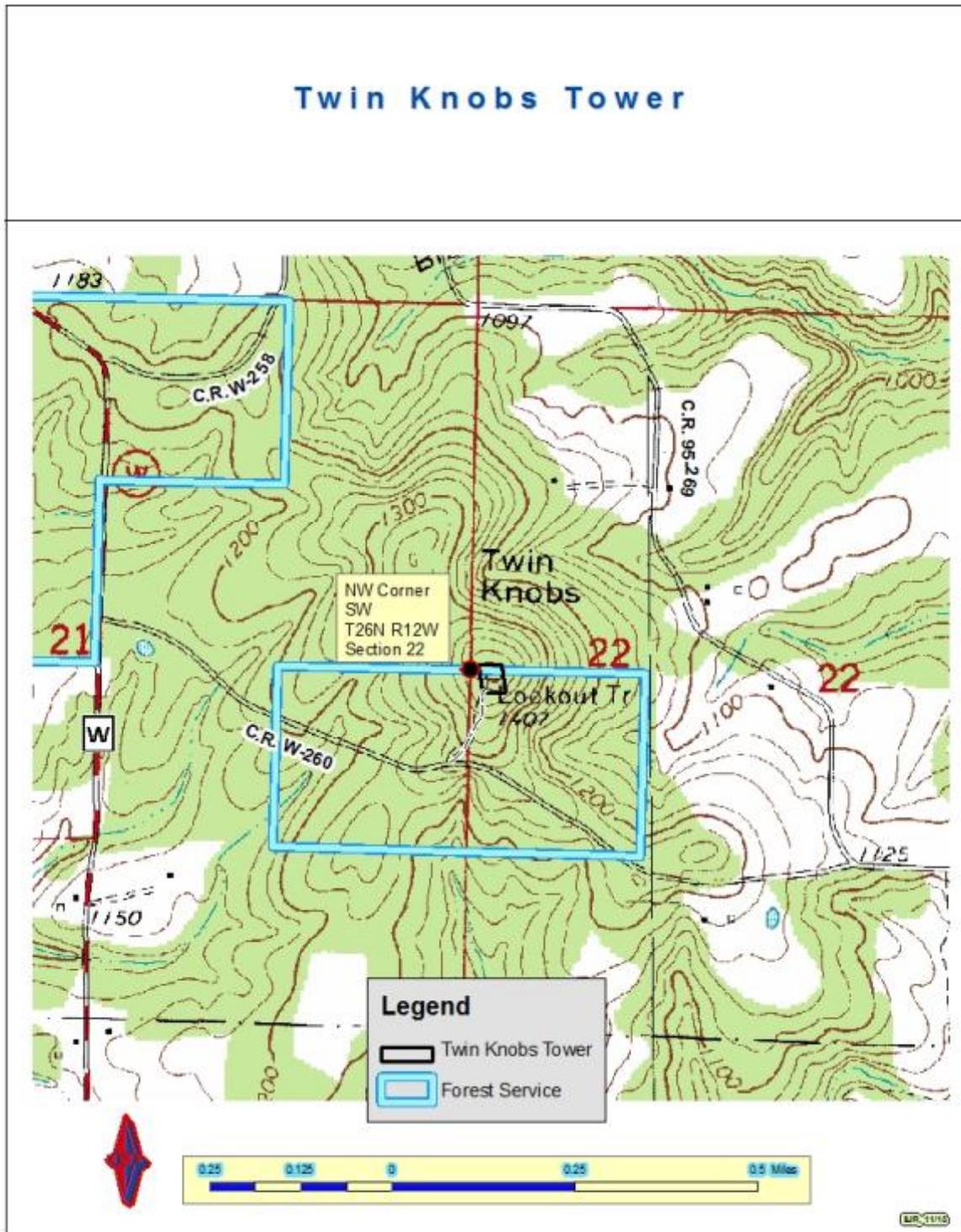
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Woodland	1	100

Appendix 2: Twin Knobs Towersite Area Map



Appendix 3: Twin Knobs Towersite Topographic Map



Appendix 4: Twin Knobs Towersite Aerial Map



Appendix 5: Squires Towersite Area Background

Land Acquisition History: The property on which the site is located was acquired by the Conservation Commission in 1962.

Land Use History: The tower is used by the Department’s Forestry Division for fire detection.

Historical and Cultural Resources: None noted.

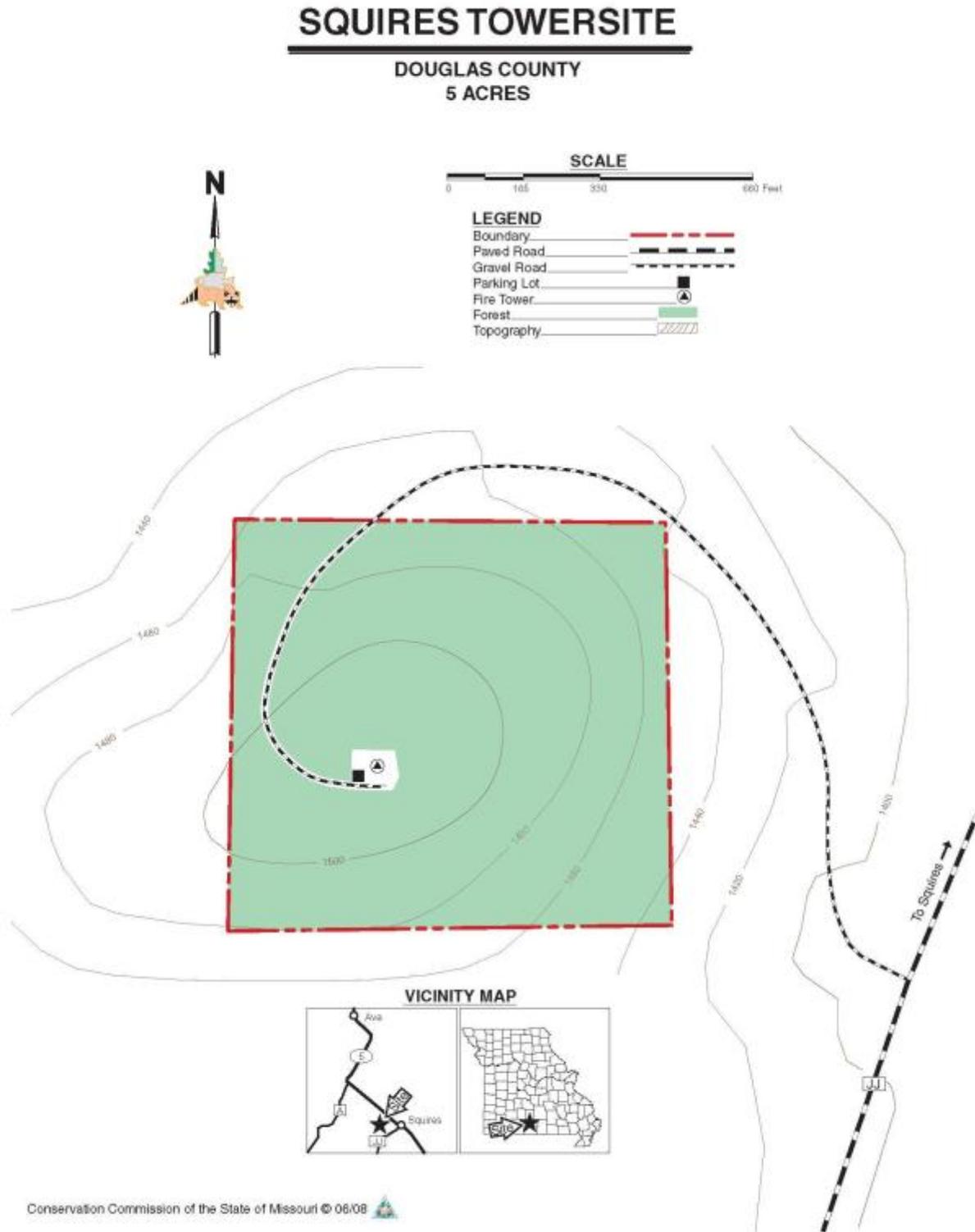
Area Location: Squires Towersite is 0.25 miles west of Squires on Route JJ.

Legal Description: Township 25 North, Range 15 W, Section 18.

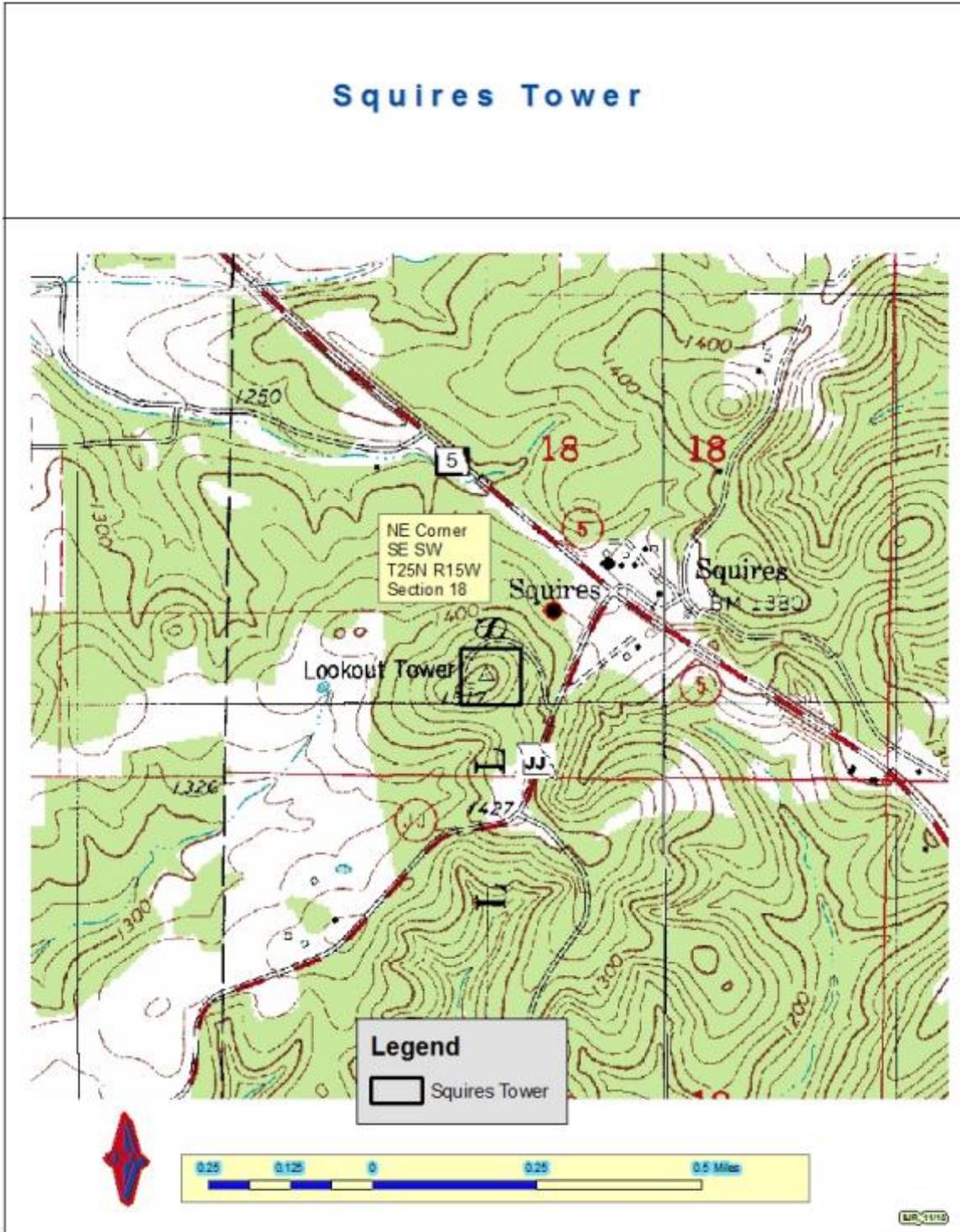
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Woodland	4	80
Open	1	20
Total	5	100

Appendix 6: Squires Towersite Area Map



Appendix 7: Squires Towersite Topographic Map



Appendix 8: Squires Towersite Aerial Map



Appendix 9: Blue Slip Towersite Area Background

Land Acquisition History: The property on which the site is located was acquired by the Conservation Commission in 1966.

Land Use History: The tower is used by the Department’s Forestry Division for fire detection and as the Blue Slip radio relay.

Historical and Cultural Resources: None noted.

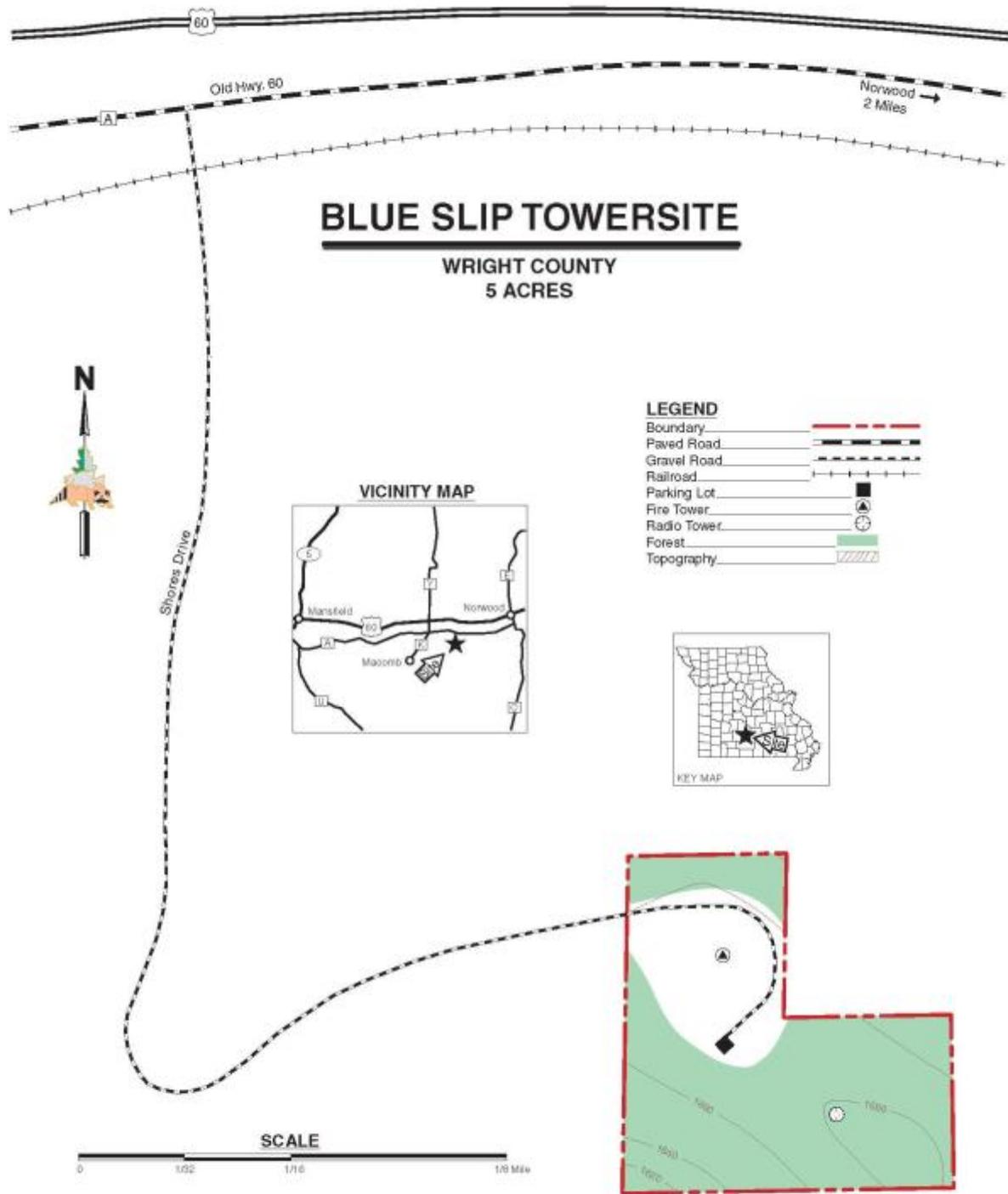
Area Location: On Old Highway 60, 2 miles west of Norwood to Shores Drive. Turn south on Shores Drive to the fire tower.

Legal Description: Township 28 North, Range 15 W, Section 15.

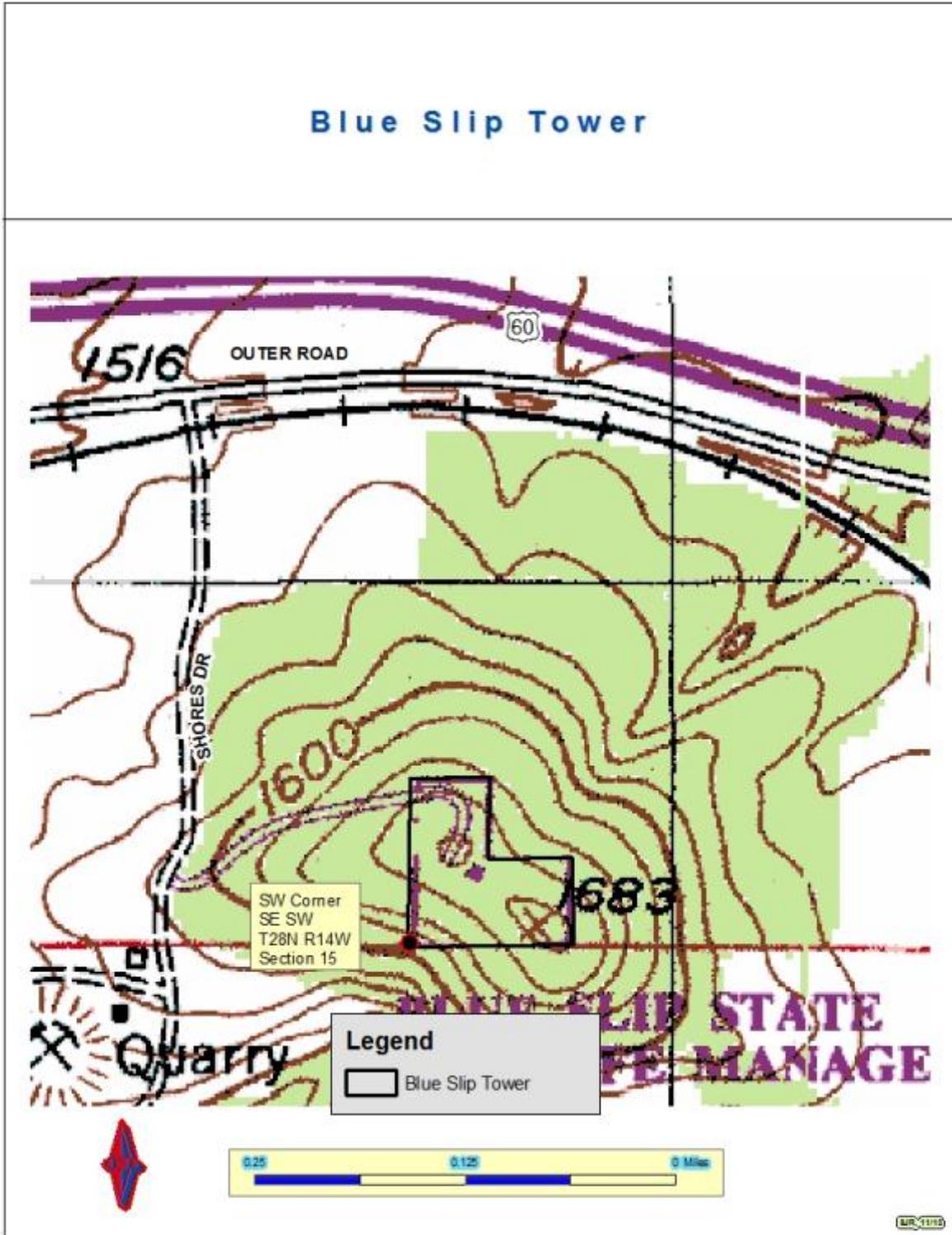
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Woodland	3	60
Open	2	40
Total	5	100

Appendix 10: Blue Slip Towersite Area Map



Appendix 11: Blue Slip Towersite Topographic Map



Appendix 12: Blue Slip Towersite Aerial Map

