Archie and Gracie Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest

Ten Year Area Management Plan
FY 2016-2025

Lisa B. Allen
Forestry Division Chief

1-11-16
Date

Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Archie and Gracie Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest, #8915
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1988
- **Acreage:** 140 acres
- **County:** Howell
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
  - **A. Strategic Direction**
    The purpose of Archie and Gracie Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest (Vanderhoef SF) is to provide the public with outdoor recreational opportunities; protect natural features; ensure healthy, sustainable forests; and enhance wildlife habitat diversity.
  - **B. Desired Future Condition**
    The desired future condition of Vanderhoef SF is a healthy forest ecosystem complimented by early successional habitat and aquatic resources that together provide a safe and aesthetically pleasing area for public recreation.
  - **C. Federal Aid Statement**
    N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. <u>Special Considerations</u>

A. Priority Areas: White Ranch Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area, Priority Forest Landscape

B. Natural Areas: None

II. <u>Important Natural Features and Resources</u>

A. Species of Conservation Concern: Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.

B. Caves: None

C. Springs: None

D. Streams: South Fork of the Spring River

III. <u>Existing Infrastructure</u>

- 1 parking lot, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible
- 0.5 mile hiking trail
- 1 picnic table (ADA accessible)
- 1 fire ring

- 1 privy (ADA accessible)
- 1 viewing deck

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations: There is a 10-acre boundary irregularity on the west side of the area that includes the residence of the late Mary Vanderhoef Drummy (deceased 2011) who donated the area to the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department). The terms of the donation included the following:

1. Naming the tract the "Archie and Gracie Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest."
2. That the property be held in perpetuity by the Department and used solely for the control, management, restoration, conservation, and regulation of the forest and wildlife resources.
3. That the 10-acre inholding would be fenced with three- or four-strand barbed wire at the Department's expense.
4. The harvesting of timber would not be permitted while Mrs. Drummy was in residence.
5. Deer hunting on the area would be by archery only while Mrs. Drummy was in residence. The area would be open to small game hunting and fishing in accordance with statewide regulations.

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 Material: None observed.

F. Endangered Species: None observed.

G. Boundary Issues: None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Control exotic and invasive species.
2) Improve overall forest health.

Management Objective 1: Enhance, restore and protect forest communities.

Strategy 1: Use even-aged and uneven-aged forest management practices to correct any existing deficiencies in composition and/or stand structure according to current structure, age, site index, species composition and health. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Implement an inventory to monitor forest health and condition as needed. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Modify management activities, as needed, to quickly address any forest health issues that arise. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Identify, manage and reduce the presence of exotic and invasive species

Strategy 1: Use biological, mechanical, chemical and other treatments, as needed, for control of selected species. (Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Maintain open land habitat to benefit wildlife.

Strategy 1: Continue managing open land for diverse vegetation types, including native warm-season grasses and forbs. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Implement early successional wildlife habitat practices such as burning, disking and edge feathering as needed. (Forestry)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Protect water quality on the South Fork of the Spring River.

Management Objective 1: Maintain an adequate riparian corridor along stream frontage.

Strategy 1: Utilize Streamside Management Zones (SMZs) and other best management practices (BMPs) according to the *Missouri Watershed Protection Practices* booklet during forest management activities. (Forestry)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Encourage multiple public use of the area including hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing.

Management Objective 1: Maintain existing infrastructure and make improvements where necessary.

Strategy 1: Keep hiking trail mowed and all bridges, platforms and steps in good repair. Keep picnic area and privy clean and operational. Maintain parking lot. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Eliminate dead tree snags with potential of falling onto the trail. (Forestry)

VIII. <u>Administrative Considerations</u>

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Ensure boundary lines are easily identifiable.

Management Objective 1: Keep boundary lines in a condition that makes them easy to locate.

Strategy 1: Maintain signs and repaint boundary lines every five years or as needed. (Forestry)

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies for this management plan are considered on-going.

APPENDICES

Area Background:
The 140-acre tract that is the Archie and Gracie Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest was donated to the Department in 1988 by Mary Drummy with the consent of her siblings. Mrs. Drummy was born in the house on the 10-acre inholding, which was built in 1898 from trees harvested on the tract. Her parents were Archie and Gracie, the area's namesake. The land was in the Vanderhoef family since 1893.

Archie and Gracie lived off the land and knew the value of the resources they depended on. They protected it from fire and very closely controlled the trees that were cut. The high quality of the resources present is the result of their understanding and care for the land.

A large portion of the tract (115 acres) is forested with typical upland Ozark hardwood species. The remaining 15 acres consists of old fields. A half mile of the South Fork of the Spring River also dissects the forest. The area was home to the former state champion tulip poplar, which was planted in 1840 by the original settlers. The impressive specimen was 122 feet tall with a 17-foot circumference and could be seen from the county road towering over the rest of the forest. In March 1991, the area was hit by a tornado that toppled the giant tree. The large old root wad and the split-rail fence that used to surround the tree, are all that remains of the former champion. However, the surrounding forest is full of its progeny.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Upland Forest	125		89
Old Fields/Upland Fields	15		11
Total	**140**		**100**
Stream Frontage		0.5 mi	

Public Input Summary:
The draft Archie & Gracie Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period September 1–30, 2015. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from one respondent (Appendix A). The Archie & Gracie Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest Area Planning Team carefully reviewed and considered these ideas as they finalized this document. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they were incorporated or why they were not, can be found below. Rather than respond to each individual comment, comments are grouped into general themes and are addressed collectively.

<u>Department responses to themes and issues identified through Archie & Gracie Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest Area public comment period:</u>

Opposes allowing mountain biking on this area.
Protecting the natural resources, ensuring water quality, and improving stakeholder satisfaction is important to proper state land management. If any public use is detrimental to these objectives the area manager will take action to correct the inadequacies. Bicycles are only allowed on public roadways at Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (1988). *Archie and Gracie Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest interim operation management plan*. West Plains, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:
Figure 1: Area Map
Figure 2: Aerial Map
Figure 3: Topographic Map

Additional Appendices
Appendix A. Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Area Map

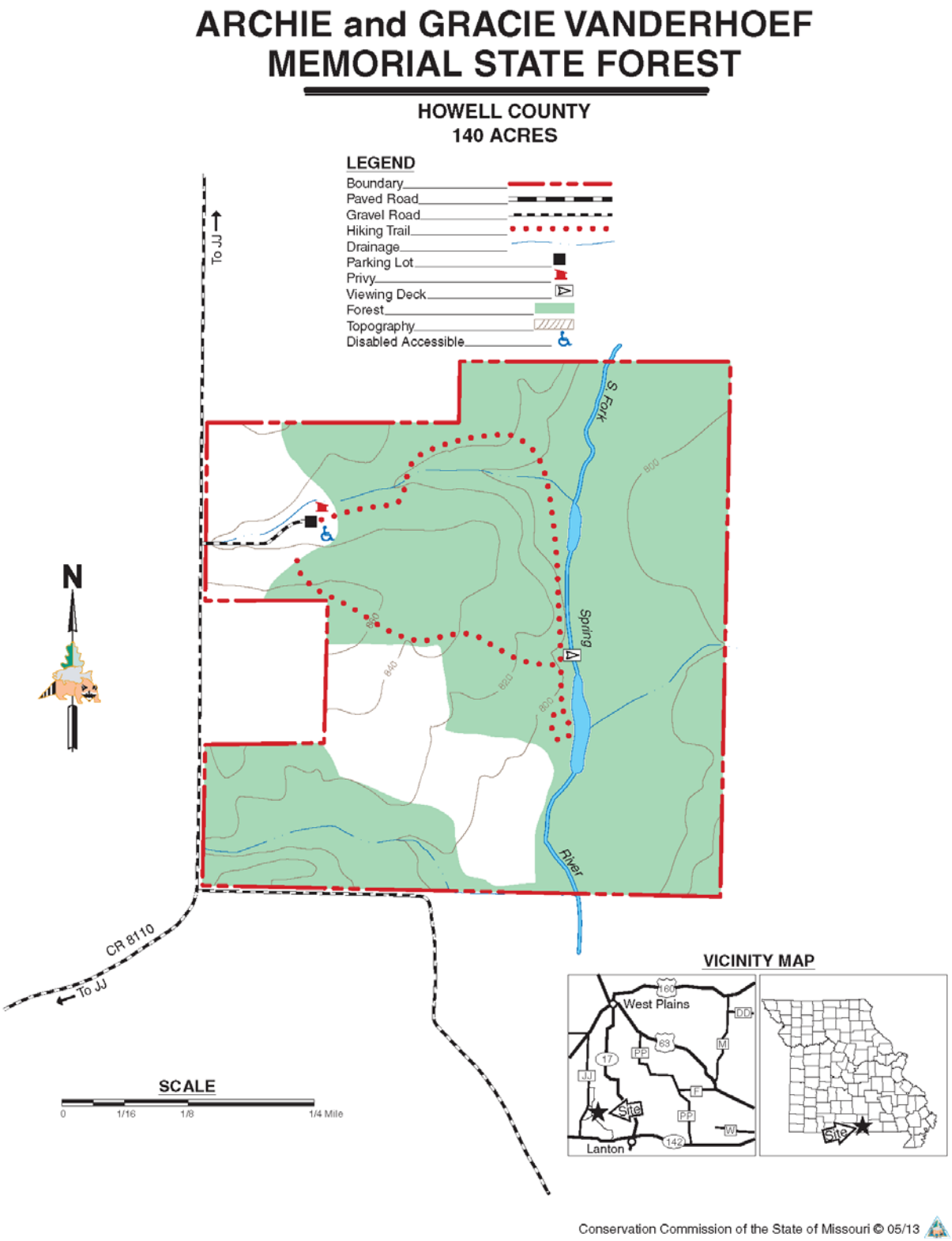


Figure 2: Aerial Map

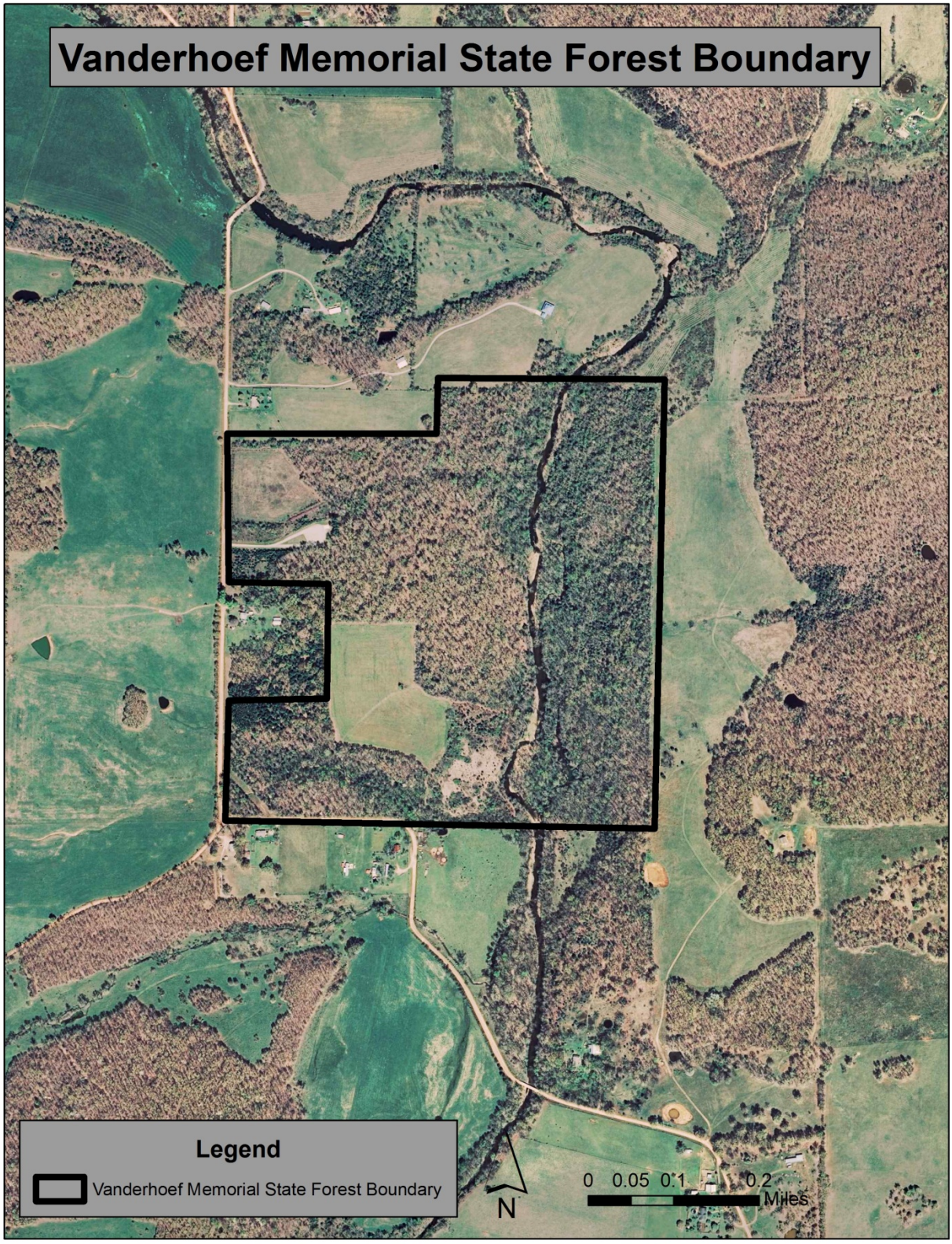
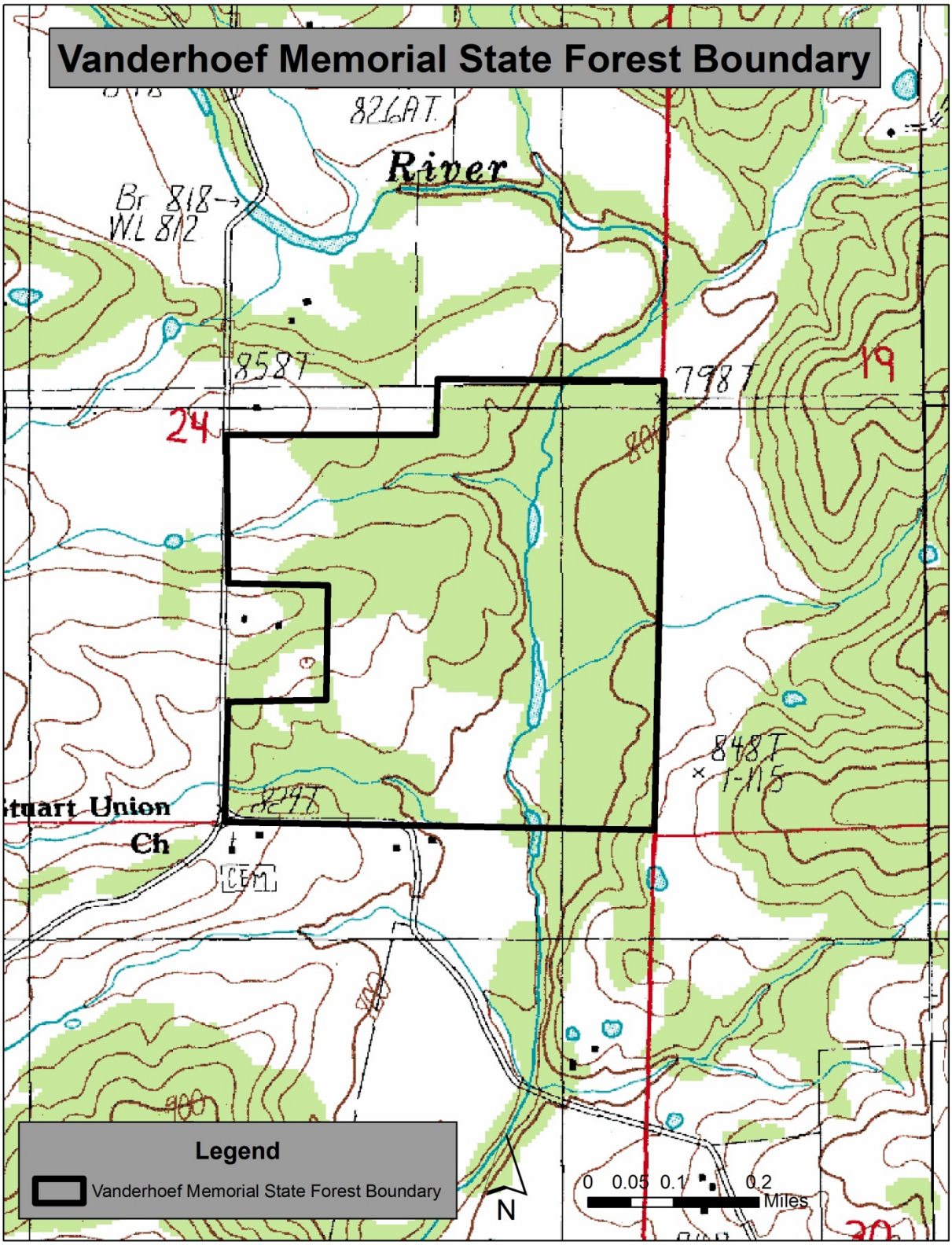


Figure 3: Topographic Map



Appendix A. Archie & Gracie Vanderhoef Memorial State Forest Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (September 1-30, 2015):

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb10.htm . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking....

A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see http://mjvande.nfshost.com/scb7.htm). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions.

Those were all experimental studies. Two other studies (by White et al and by Jeff Marion) used a survey design, which is inherently incapable of answering that question (comparing hiking with mountain biking). I only mention them because mountain bikers often cite them, but scientifically, they are worthless.

Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT?

To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video: http://vimeo.com/48784297.

In addition to all of this, it is extremely dangerous: http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb_dangerous.htm .

For more information: http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtbfaq.htm .

The common thread among those who want more recreation in our parks is total ignorance about and disinterest in the wildlife whose homes these parks are. Yes, if humans are the only beings that matter, it is simply a conflict among humans (but even then, allowing bikes on trails harms the MAJORITY of park users -- hikers and equestrians -- who can no longer safely and

peacefully enjoy their parks).

The parks aren't gymnasiums or racetracks or even human playgrounds. They are WILDLIFE HABITAT, which is precisely why they are attractive to humans. Activities such as mountain biking, that destroy habitat, violate the charter of the parks.

Even kayaking and rafting, which give humans access to the entirety of a water body, prevent the wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.