

DRAFT

Eagle Bluffs

Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Plan
FY 2017-2026



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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, #8931
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1989
- **Acreage:** 4,429 acres
- **County:** Boone
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**

A. Strategic Direction

The primary purpose of Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area (CA) is to restore and manage a dynamic wetland system; provide food and sanctuary to migratory water birds and resident wildlife; and furnish the public with a diversity of enjoyable outdoor recreational opportunities, with an emphasis on providing quality waterfowl hunting, superior wildlife viewing, and educational programs that promote conservation of dynamic wetland systems.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of Eagle Bluffs CA is a diverse wetland habitat for resident wildlife and migratory waterbirds and an area that provides a variety of recreational opportunities.

C. Federal Aid Statement

This area, or a portion thereof, was acquired or developed with North American Wetlands Conservation Act funds to conserve and restore wetland habitats.

This area, or a portion thereof, was acquired with Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration funds to restore and manage wildlife, conserve and restore suitable wildlife habitat and provide public access for hunting or other wildlife-oriented recreation.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Consideration

A. Priority Areas: Mid Missouri Riverlands Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area, Manitou Bluffs Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area, Priority Forest Landscape, Audubon Missouri Important Bird Area

B. Natural Areas: None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

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

III. Existing Infrastructure

- 26 parking lots (3 Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] accessible)
- 9.6 miles of gravel roads open to public vehicles
- 1 office building
- 1 barn
- 1 grain bin
- 1 junction box building
- 1 river pump station
- 2 ADA accessible waterfowl hunting/wildlife viewing blinds
- 3.2 miles hiking trails
- 30 miles of levees
- 43 water control structures
- 2 privies (ADA accessible)
- 1 observation/ viewing deck on top of bluff

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations: Since 1990, thirty acres have been leased to the City of Columbia for wetland cell number 2 (two) through a 99-year lease agreement.

B. Federal Interest:

- Uses of land acquired with federal funds may not interfere with the purpose for which it was acquired. Federal funds may also 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.
- This land must be used to conserve and restore wetlands. The federal funds made available under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) may not be used for fish and wildlife mitigation purposes under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. Federal funds may also 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:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Fish and Wildlife Missouri River Recovery Program easement, McBaine Wetlands.
- Smith, Lillie Beatrice - waterline easement
- Davidson, Allene V., Trustee, Roberts, Nellie R., Smith, Robert G. Jr. – electric, pipeline, county road, waterline, Fish and Wildlife Missouri River Recovery Program easement
- Sapp Trust – Fish and Wildlife Missouri River Recovery Program easement
- Holiman, Bud - sewer easement. This easement was transferred in 1991 with the stipulation that it was only in effect until sewage facilities are available.
- Holiman Trust - fiber optic communications system easement
- Holiman Trust - waterline (City of Columbia, expires February 21, 2082)
- McBaine Levee District – levee easement
- Williams Gas Pipelines Central, Inc. – pipeline easement
- Ralph and Dick Johnson – roadway easement

D. Cultural Resources Findings: Yes, records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) environmental compliance specialist. Managers should follow best management practices for Cultural Resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.

E. Endangered Species: Endangered Species are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the natural history biologist.

F. Boundary Issues: Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage for diverse wetland habitats to meet the life history needs of resident and migratory wildlife.
- 2) Manage the forest communities.
- 3) Manage upland open lands for diverse grassland/forb plant species.
- 4) Control invasive plant species (e.g., sericea lespedeza, reed canary grass, Japanese hops, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, and Johnson grass).

Management Objective 1: Manage diverse wetland habitats to meet the life history needs of resident and migratory wildlife.

Strategy 1: Manipulate water levels to alter plant composition and structure, create dynamic littoral zones, and provide food resources for wildlife. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Use permittee farmers, disking, mowing, and other treatments to manipulate fields to set back woody encroachment and provide food for wintering waterfowl. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Seasonally provide shallow water and mudflats for migrating shorebirds. (Wildlife)

Strategy 4: Manage moist soil vegetation to maximize plant growth and seed production. (Wildlife)

Strategy 5: Provide emergent marsh habitat for secretive marsh birds. (Wildlife)

Strategy 6: Provide open water for wading birds. (Wildlife)

Strategy 7: Implement techniques that enhance the abundance of swamp milkweed. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Manage forest communities.

Strategy 1: Use mechanical, prescribed fire, or other techniques to manage bluff top woodland complexes. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Plant tree seedlings, where needed, to maintain riparian corridors that are at least 100 feet in width. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Conduct upland forest inventory in FY2017. (Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Manage the open lands that are not impacted by moist soil management for a diverse grassland/forb plant species.

Strategy 1: Use disturbance factors (prescribed fire, soil disturbance, herbicide applications, mechanical woody vegetation control or other techniques) to maintain desired early successional habitat. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Enhance crop field borders with native forbs and grasses. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 4: Control invasive plant species (e.g., sericea lespedeza, reed canary grass, Japanese hops, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, and Johnson grass).

Strategy 1: Reduce invasive plant species to levels that will have minimal impacts to terrestrial habitats. (Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Restore and manage a diverse wetland ecosystem for multiple resources and public benefits, utilizing City of Columbia effluent as a partial water source.
- 2) Provide connectivity between the Missouri River and the floodplain.
- 3) Prevent excessive stream bank erosion along Perche Creek.

Management Objective 1: Restore and manage a diverse wetland ecosystem for multiple resources and public benefits, utilizing the City of Columbia’s effluent as a partial water source.

Strategy 1: Use effluent to provide year-round habitat for aquatic species.
(Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Provide connectivity between the river and the floodplain.

Strategy 1: Allow water to flow through fish-friendly structures and reconnect the Missouri River to the floodplain to enhance fish reproduction and foraging opportunities. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Prevent excessive stream bank erosion along Perche Creek.

Strategy 1: Evaluate riparian corridors and widen them with tree plantings, when necessary. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Monitor condition of stream banks and consult with Fisheries and Design and Development staffs for solutions to bank erosion issues. (Wildlife)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide area users with varied recreational opportunities (e.g., hunting, fishing, hiking, photography, and nature viewing).
- 2) During waterfowl season, people without Daily Waterfowl Hunt Tags trespass and enter areas closed to them, which disturbs waterfowl refuge areas or interferes with waterfowl hunting.
- 3) The area includes considerable infrastructure (roads, trails, buildings) for public enjoyment, which requires significant maintenance.
- 4) Provide a quality managed hunt program for area users.
- 5) Work with partner groups to provide outreach and education events.

Management Objective 1: Provide area users with varied recreational opportunities (e.g., hunting, fishing, hiking, photography, and nature viewing).

Strategy 1: Provide current habitat information and wildlife hunting and viewing opportunities via the internet, hotline, and personal communication. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Mow along roadways at key locations so that wildlife is easily visible from a vehicle. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Provide diverse habitats near roads that attract a variety of wildlife for viewing. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Educate visitors about area regulations and accessibility.

Strategy 1: Maintain and update proper signage to ensure that all area users fully understand the area regulations. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Enforce area rules and regulations. (Protection)

Strategy 3: Utilize each opportunity to inform the public of the area regulations via personal communication. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: The area includes considerable infrastructure (roads, trails, buildings), which require significant maintenance.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure so that it is inviting to the public. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 4: Provide a quality managed hunt program for area users.

Strategy 1: Conduct managed hunts for dove, waterfowl or other species as appropriate to allocate hunting opportunities that promote safe and quality hunting. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Provide rail hunting opportunities by flooding moist soil vegetation in September and October. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Provide fall snipe hunting opportunities in harvested crop fields by creating edge habitats as water levels increase. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Provide information at the waterfowl draws that emphasize hunter safety and ethics. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 5: Work with partner groups to provide outreach and education events.

Strategy 1: Work with volunteer groups to provide special events. (e.g., waterfowl banding, youth clinics, and educational habitat programs). (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Provide educational programs for conservation partner organizations, university, and school groups. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Utilize opportunities for volunteers to be involved with area management (as per policy) and wildlife population surveys. (Wildlife)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Enforce area and statewide regulations to ensure protection for area users and resources.
- 2) Cooperate with the City of Columbia and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to maintain water quality.
- 3) Partner with the McBaine Levee District to maintain the flood protection levee.
- 4) Maintain water delivery infrastructure to ensure that water management strategies can be implemented.
- 5) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funded the development of 775 wetland acres through a mitigation partnership and continues to provide funds for operation and maintenance.

Management Objective 1: Enforce area and statewide regulations to ensure protection for area users and wildlife resources.

Strategy 1: Work in cooperation with Department conservation agents and other law enforcement to enforce and investigate violations of the *State Wildlife Code of Missouri* and other state laws. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Work with the City of Columbia and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to ensure water quality.

Strategy 1: Attend an annual meeting with City of Columbia staff who represent the Water and Light and the Public Works Divisions to ensure that procedures are being followed. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Provide water flow records to the City of Columbia and its contractors when requested. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Partner with the McBaine Levee District to maintain the flood protection levee.

Strategy 1: Follow U.S. Army Corps of Engineers standards for maintenance of the flood protection levee. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 4: Maintain water delivery infrastructure to ensure management strategies can be implemented.

Strategy 1: Follow manufacturers' recommendations for maintenance of pumps and water control structures and repair as needed. (Wildlife and Design & Development)

Strategy 2: Keep channels clear of silt, debris, and blockages so water flows freely. (Wildlife, Design & Development)

Management Objective 5: Cooperate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to manage the mitigation acres.

Strategy 1: Provide annual management plan and report management activities to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as required. (Wildlife)

Lands Proposed for Acquisition:

When available, inholdings and/or adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations										
<i>Objective 2</i>										
Strategy 3	X									
Public Use Management Considerations										
<i>Objective 2</i>										
Strategy 1	X			X			X			

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area (CA) is in Boone County at the southwest edge of Columbia, near McBaine. The Missouri River and Perche Creek provide over 10 miles of stream frontage on Eagle Bluffs. Through the years, the Missouri River has changed its course many times. The town of Providence, across Perche Creek from Eagle Bluffs, was once on the bank of the Missouri before the river changed its course in the late 1800s. Providence is now almost a mile north of the river.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) purchased and developed this 4,431 acre area to help offset the loss of nearly 90 percent of Missouri's historical wetlands. The areas wetlands have been restored by creating 17 shallow pools. The wetland management infrastructure includes 30 miles of levees, 43 water control structures, river water supply pumps, a water supply junction box, pump-out facilities, and a pipeline linking the area to the City of Columbia's wastewater treatment wetlands. The City of Columbia and the Department entered into a cooperative agreement that allows the Department to use treated wastewater from the city as a primary water source for the wetlands. The City of Columbia's "recycled" wastewater provides a near constant source of water, but river pumps can supplement the water supply when the area's needs exceed the flow from the city.

The area's 17 wetland pools allow the flooding of 1,100 acres of moist soil marshes, emergent marshes, and crop fields. These marshes provide year-round habitat for migrating and wintering birds and permanent wildlife and excellent wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities.

In the fall, the area's beauty is enhanced by colorful foliage along the bordering limestone bluffs. The Katy Trail State Park passes through a portion of the area and adds to the public's use and enjoyment of Eagle Bluffs CA. The parking lot located on Warren School Road provides walking access to the area's scenic overlook.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Wetland	1,390		31
Forest	1,344		30
Open Land	755		17
Old Field	428		10
Open Water	367		8
Grassland	140		3
Infrastructure	5		<1
Total	4,429		100
River Frontage (Missouri River)		6.6	
Stream Frontage (Perche Creek)		6.5	

Public Input Summary:

Prior to writing this draft area management plan, the Department conducted a public input process (the Eagle Bluffs CA Idea Gathering Stage) from May 1-31, 2015. The objective of this phase was to inform stakeholders about the area planning process and ask them to share their ideas. To communicate about this comment period, staff:

- Posted an online comment form available at mdc.mo.gov/areaplans;
- Sent news releases to local media outlets in early May and posted to Missouri Department of Conservation Facebook and Twitter accounts;
- Sent an announcement to the area plan email list (with more than 4,000 recipients);
- Made personal visits and sent mail and email to neighboring landowners, non-governmental organizations, and local government offices; and
- Made personal contacts with visitors to the area.

The Department received input from 23 respondents (see *Eagle Bluffs Conservation Areas Idea Gathering Stage Public Input Summary* at on.mo.gov/1Pe47OP). The area planning team took comments into consideration as they drafted this 10-year management plan. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they will be incorporated or why they will not be included, can be found in Appendix A.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (n.d.). *Natural heritage database*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Nelson, P. W. (2010). *The terrestrial natural communities of Missouri*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Natural Areas Committee.

Nigh, T. A., & Schroeder, W. A. (2002). *Atlas of Missouri ecoregions*. Jefferson City: MO Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Existing Cover Types

Figure 4: Topographic Map

Figure 5: Easements Map

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A: Department Responses to Public Comments – Eagle Bluffs CA Idea Gathering Stage

Figure 1: Area Map

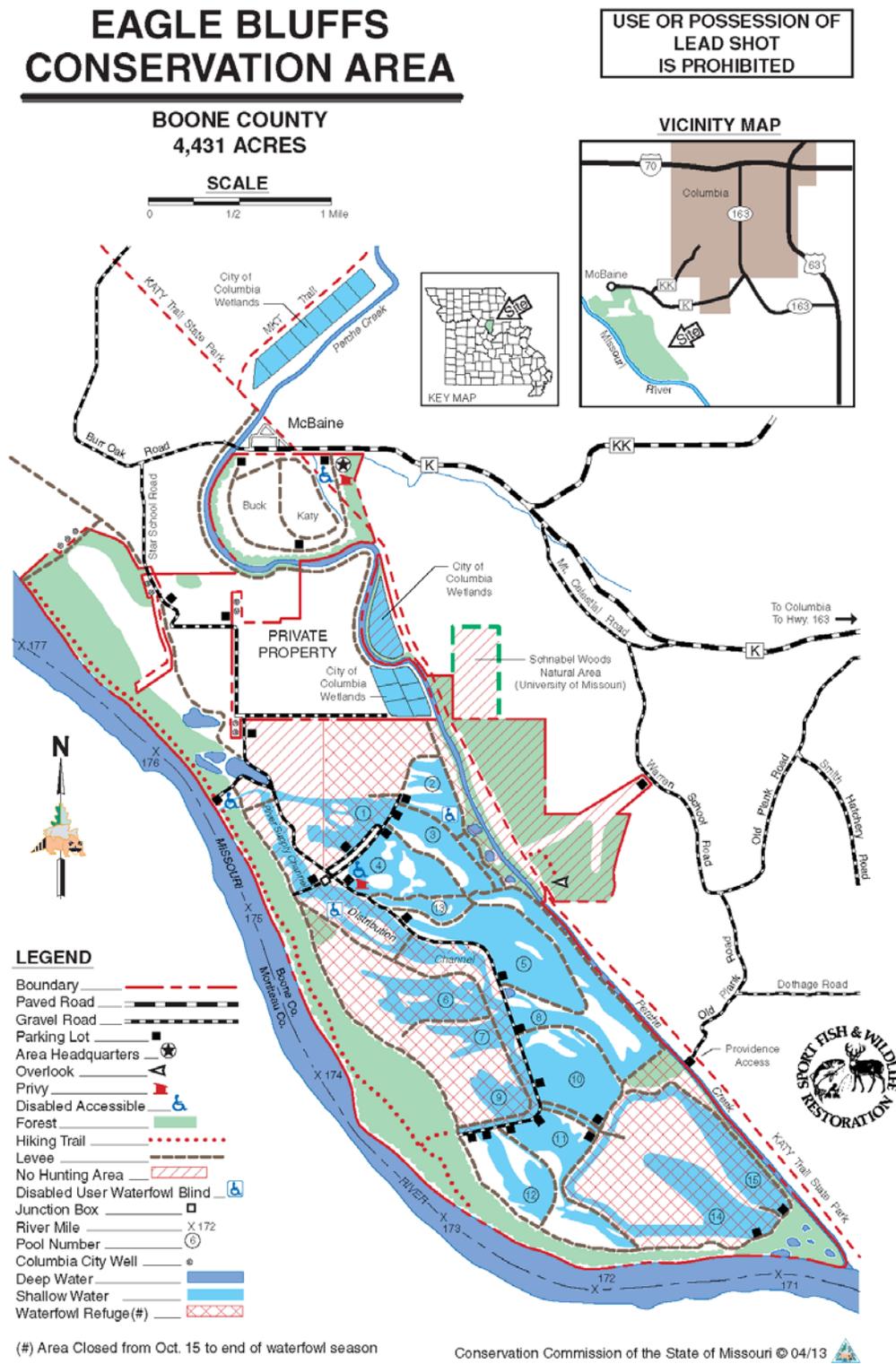


Figure 2: Aerial Map

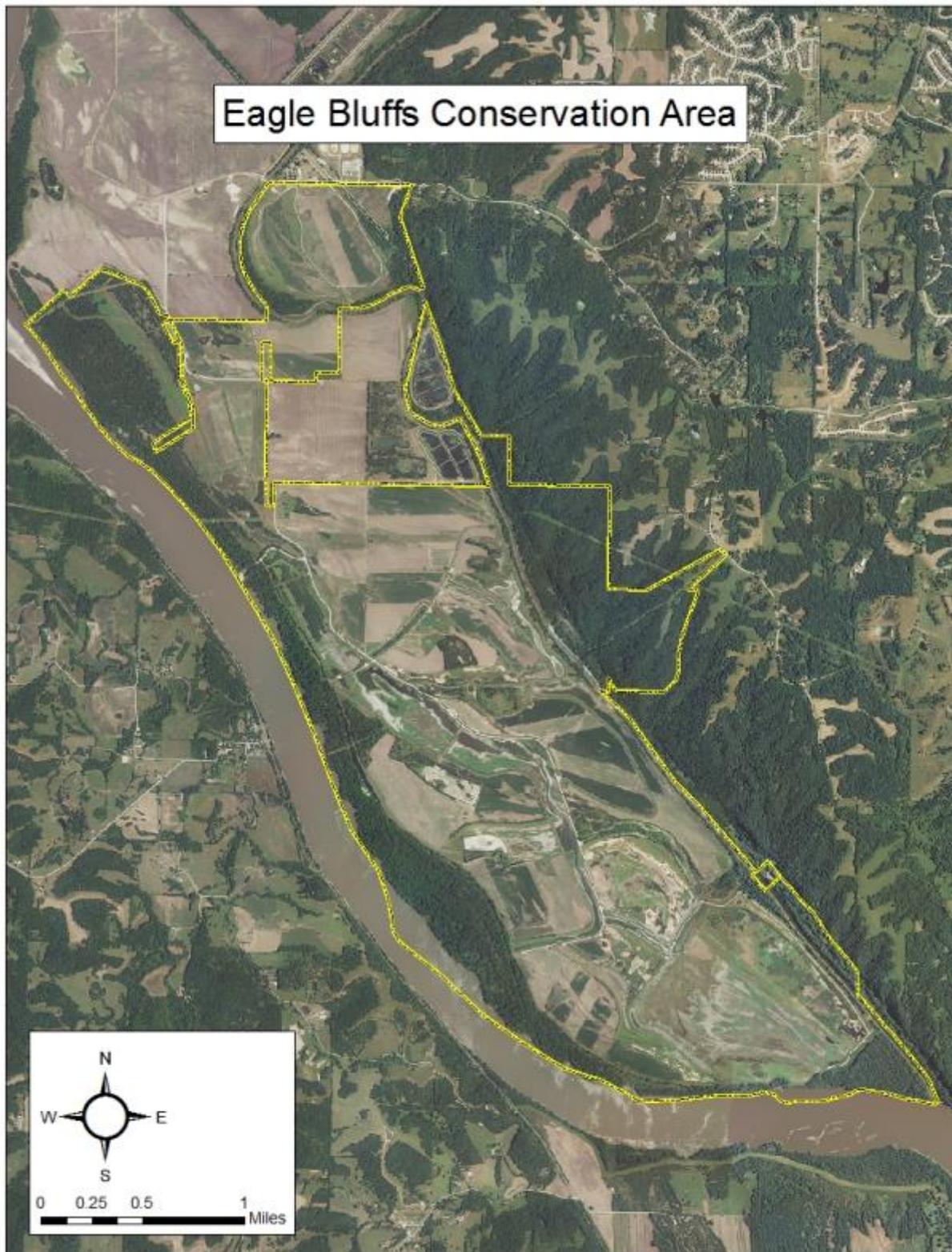


Figure 3: Existing Cover Types

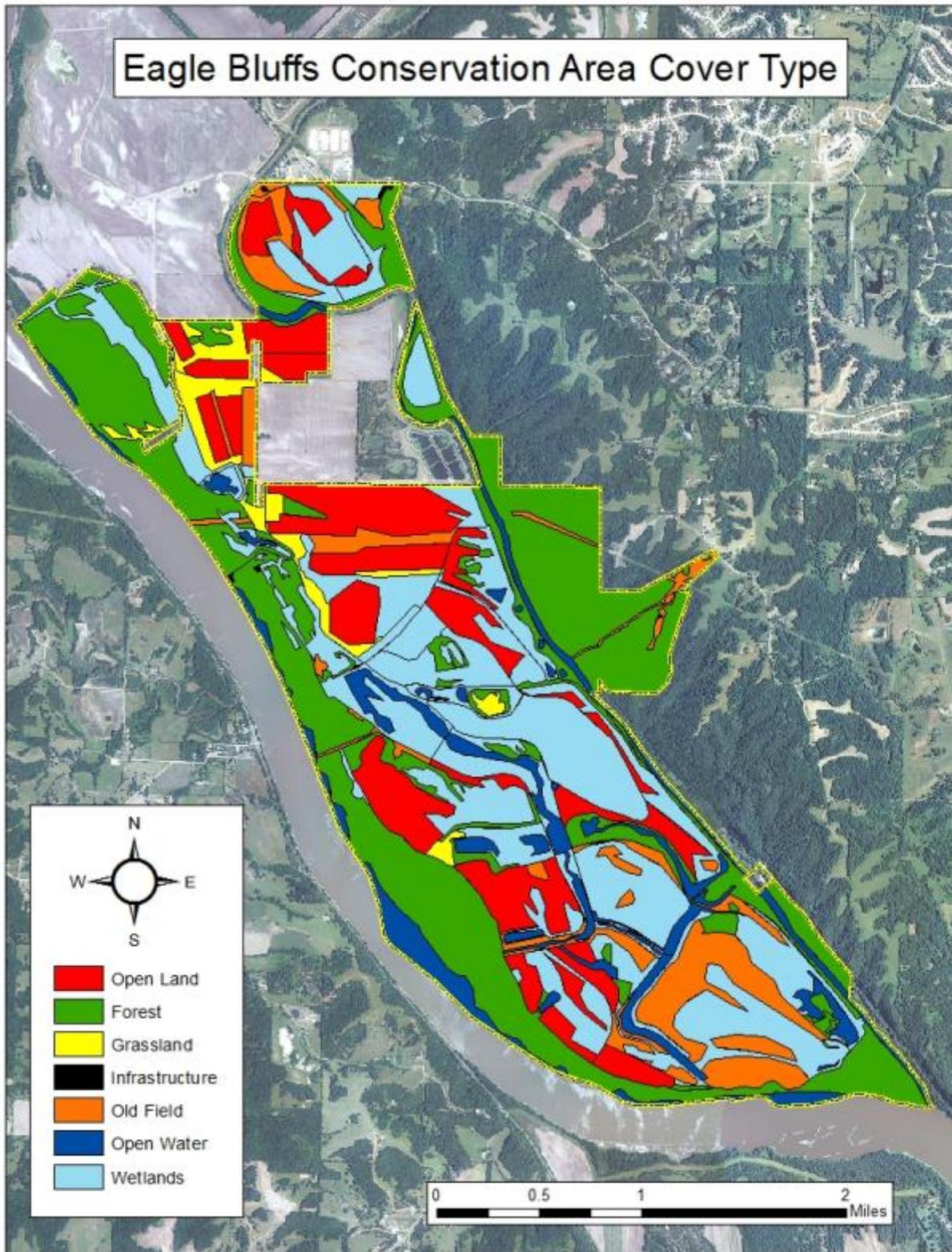


Figure 4: Topographic Map

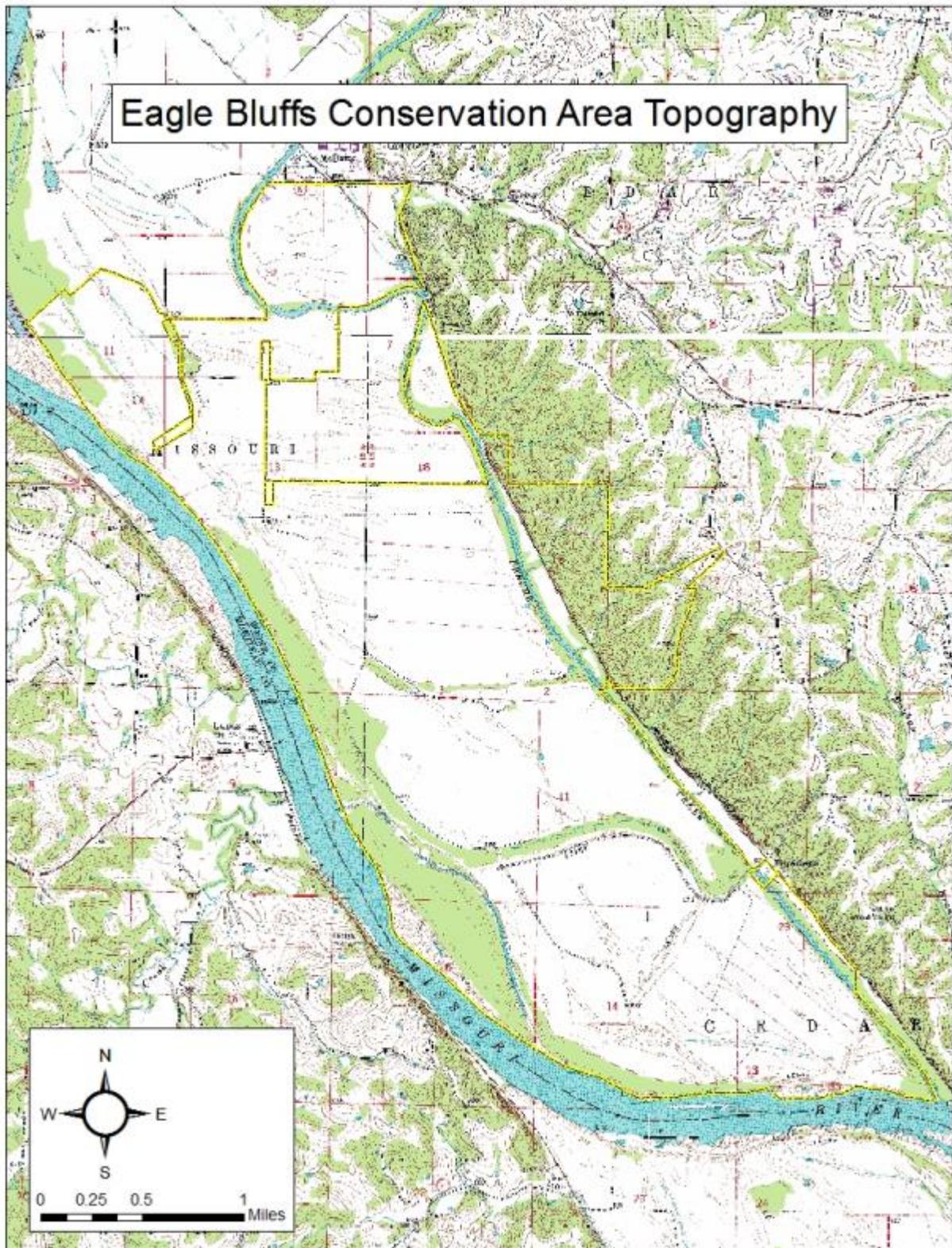
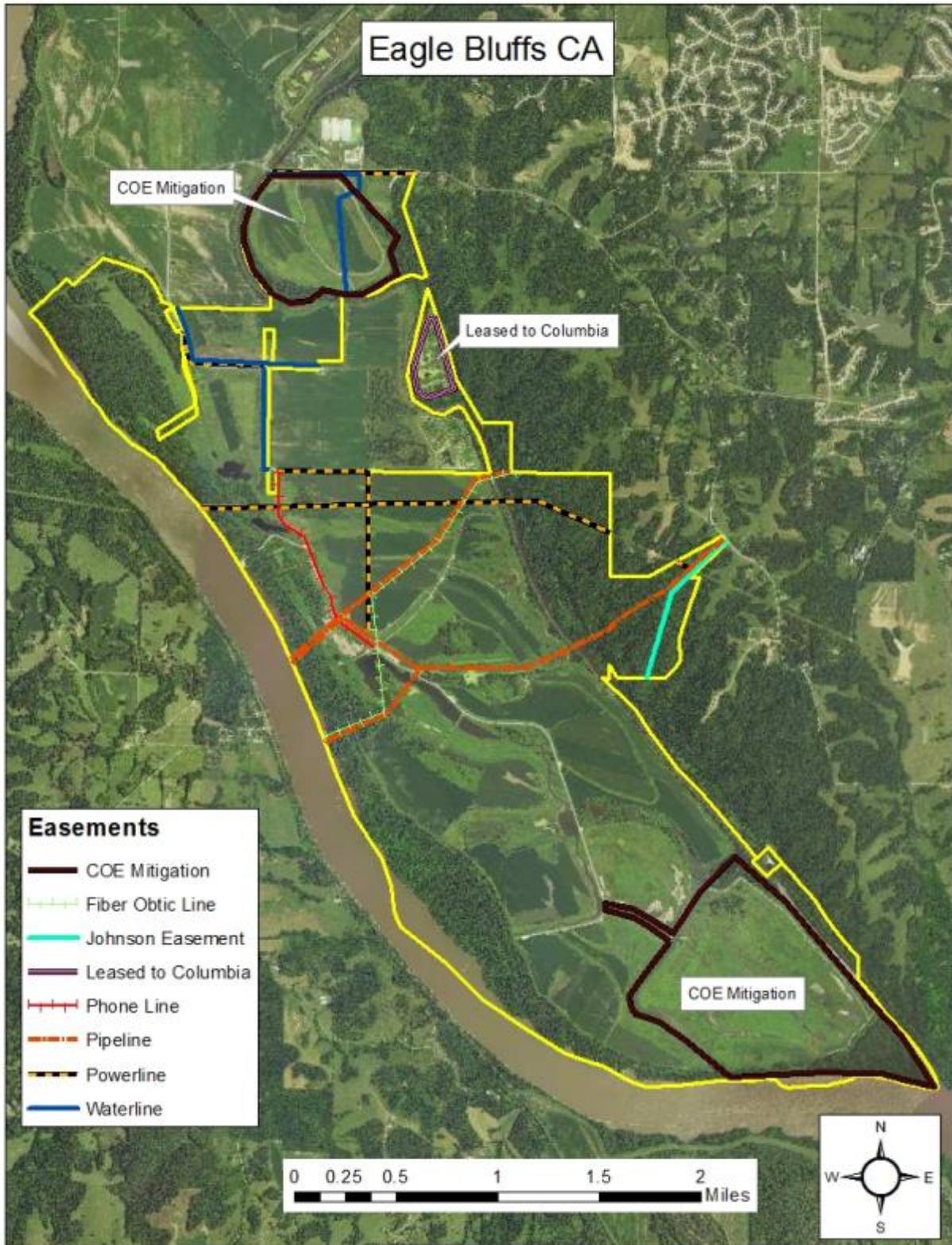


Figure 5: Easements Map



Appendix A: Department Responses to Public Comments – Eagle Bluffs CA Idea Gathering Stage

Background:

Prior to writing the draft *Eagle Bluffs CA Area Management Plan*, the Department conducted a public input process May 1-31, 2015, as described on Page 12. Altogether, 23 comments were received. Common themes included suggestions for increased water management and shorebird viewing opportunities, construction of an elevated viewing platform, increasing road access, and general support of the area. The area planning team took comments into consideration as they drafted the plan. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they will be incorporated, can be found below. Comments were grouped into general themes and addressed collectively.

Terrestrial Resource Management

Suggests increasing marshy areas and manipulating pool levels in spring/fall to create mudflats for shorebirds.

Shorebird management is a fall and spring management objective for the area. Water levels are manipulated to provide mudflats and shallow water for shorebirds to forage on invertebrates.

Concern that cover is too thick in dove hunting areas.

Studies have found sunflower fields with minimal other vegetation and bare at the ground level are best for dove use and hunting, but due to weather variability some field treatments cannot be applied at the proper growth stages for weeds or sunflowers.

Suggests more native plants in wetlands and fewer corn fields. Focus on native habitat conservation.

Using row crops sets the stage for moist-soil plants and keeps woody vegetation out of the open marsh. Standing crops provide high carbohydrate winter food for wildlife as well as a place for birds or hunters to hide. Staff attempt to balance the amount of crop necessary with the amount of moist soil.

Suggests planting more trees along the water.

The west side of the area has many more trees close to the edges of pools than the rest of the area. Allowing more woody vegetation to grow along the edge of the pools in the eastern half of the area (along roadways or trails) would greatly limit the wildlife viewing ability of the visiting public.

Forest management should not occur during peak migration season.

The most common management during peak migration seasons is water-level manipulation. Other management activities are completed at times when they would be least impactful to area users and wildlife. That said, sometimes management is accomplished at less-than-desirable times due to “peak” migration occurring nearly year round when you consider the variety of wildlife using the area. For example spring migration north begins as early as February for some water birds and runs through May, while fall migrations start as early as late July and runs through December.

Opposes use of pesticides, fertilizers, and genetically modified organism seed on the area.

There is much discussion of this topic nationally. The Department has begun to implement some non-genetically modified crops on areas in recent years and insecticide use on Department areas is only done on a case-by-case basis. Fertilizer is used judiciously. The Department is beginning a research project to study the use of seed treated with insecticides and the possible effects on aquatic invertebrates.

Suggests adding an alfalfa field to attract bobolinks, three-awn grass to attract Smith’s longspurs, and native grasslands for Henslow’s sparrows.

Staff enjoy trying to implement specific management practices for specific wildlife uses/responses when practical. There are some grassland patches of planted native grass that might be used by Henslow’s sparrows.

Aquatic Resource Management

Concern with limited water in pools during hunting season. Suggests making pools more level to flood more evenly. Suggests adding small levees to reach more desirable water levels.

The Department has found largescale renovation of wetland pools is necessary as they age; however, Eagle Bluffs CA is several decades away from this. Making pools completely level would take away the natural variability of water depths across the landscape that create micro-climates. Water draining or flooding at the same depth across the landscape is not desirable. Wildlife use these transitional zones at varying degrees throughout the year.

Suggests keeping water behind water control structures rather than annual releases.

Some pools do have water held in them for aquatic wildlife to complete life cycles. The majority of the pools are dewatered so that vegetation, cereal grain crop or native wetland vegetation can grow and go to seed, providing a food source for migrating birds in the fall and spring. Drawdowns or complete drying-out occurs naturally in wetlands and in part is what makes a wetland dynamic.

Consider lowering a small portion of downstream levee to allow for back-river flooding.

This action would require the permission of the McBaine Levee District, who may or may not be in favor of it. The two large fish-friendly structures near the lower end of the area are designed to let the river back into the area through the structures at even low level flooding. At low level flood elevations, water does indeed flow into the lower end of the area through these structures.

Public Use Management

Birding/Wildlife Watching

Suggests constructing an elevated viewing platform near mudflat areas.

A group of individuals desired to build a portable elevated blind for moving around the area for both bird watching and waterfowl hunting opportunities. As a result, one of the area's users (in memory of his son) has constructed a moveable blind that is placed in an appropriate location.

Concern about eagle harassment by public (getting too close) at nest sites. Suggests educational campaign/signs asking people to stay a certain distance away.

This subject has been coming up with some regularity the last few years. Area staff and conservation agents are monitoring area use to determine the level of disturbance. Additional signage and temporary gate closings will be considered as potential solutions.

Suggests a hotline to call to get updates about which birds are migrating through the area.

There is a lot of Internet traffic on bird related websites which, in effect, do this. Staff time to track and document all migrations would be significant - local citizen birders share findings on the MOBirds website (<https://po.missouri.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=MOBIRDS-L>). Being close to Columbia provides an abundance of capable bird watchers to track migrations.

Suggests maintaining clear viewing opportunities along area roads.

Staff attempt to maintain a mix of cover for wildlife and open vistas for wildlife viewing.

Suggests allowing access for birders to some pools during hunting season.

This is a discussion point for the area manager and the birders who would like access. There is a balancing act between hunter and birder satisfaction. The hunting season is less than 100 days; whereas birding can take place any day of the year. Waterfowl hunting during the season will take precedent.

Appreciates ability for birders to access area from 1-3 p.m. during waterfowl hunting season.

Thank you!

Trails

Suggests allowing low-impact all-terrain vehicles for people with mobility disabilities on area trails.

People with mobility disabilities may use all-terrain vehicles on Department roads open to public vehicles, provided that such use complies with Missouri State Statutes. See the Department's *Accessible Outdoors* website, on.mo.gov/1S6qTge, for more information.

Suggests improvements to walking/hiking trail.

The overlook trail typically gets annual maintenance as does the river trail. The river trail presents a substantial challenge to clear large fallen trees and repair the trail after flood events.

Suggests developing mown trails along levee tops.

The levees are mowed at least two times per year. To mow them more frequently is impractical.

Opposes mountain biking on conservation areas.

Biking is only allowed on roads that are open to public vehicles.

Suggests allowing horseback riding.

Horseback riding is only allowed on area roads that are open to public vehicles. Three Creeks Conservation Area is only about 10 miles away and it features an 8-mile multi-use trail that allows horseback riding.

Roads

Suggests posting speed limit signs. Concern about speed of vehicles on area.

This has not been a common complaint, but if it becomes common, we can discuss it with Boone County officials who own the road up to the point that it enters the area. The speed limit on Department lands is 45 mph except as otherwise posted.

Suggests making the Sapp Tract extension into a loop road. Suggests adding two additional one-way loops to the road system for additional viewing opportunities. Suggests allowing public access to area behind the disabled hunting blind.

Area staff will discuss with the McBaine Levee District the feasibility of upgrading approximately 1.5 miles of levee top to support regular vehicle traffic. In addition, we would have to weigh the substantial cost of the work. Having some areas inaccessible to vehicles is important for attracting and holding wildlife on the area.

Fishing

Suggests a primitive boat launch for canoes/kayaks along the Missouri River or Perche Creek.

The Missouri River parking lot does allow for a person to carry a canoe or kayak down the rocky bank to the Missouri River. Providence Access on Perche Creek is about 3 miles from the Eagle Bluffs CA Office.

Hunting

Suggests allowing rifle hunting.

By the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* firearms firing single projectiles are prohibited except during managed hunts for deer. Deer may only be pursued with archery equipment. Staff will discuss the implication of changing this regulation when the Code is reviewed.

Concern that waterfowl hunters are still hunting after 1 p.m.

When violations of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* are committed, witnesses can contact area staff or call the Operation Game Thief hotline at 1-800-392-1111.

Suggests banning hunting on this area. Concerned with lead shot on area.

Lead shot is prohibited for use on the area. Hunting will remain an activity as a portion of the funds used for acquisition and management come from Federal program grants including Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) and North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).

Other

Suggests continuing turtle monitoring program.

The turtle monitoring program was very popular with the public. Unfortunately, the staff person who studied turtles in their graduate degree work left employment with the Department.

Supports continued focus on both nature viewing and hunting/fishing.

Staff will continue to manage the area in a way that is inviting to participate in numerous outdoor recreational activities.

Suggests holding more public seminars/trainings on conservation topics at Eagle Bluffs CA.

The facility was used for Missouri Master Naturalist meetings and trainings for several years before they decided to begin using a building closer to downtown Columbia. The facility has the capacity to seat about 50 people comfortably and can be used for appropriate seminars and trainings. At this time we do not have staff committed to interpretive programs but use the building for numerous staff meetings due to its central location in the state.

Suggests interpretive signage about the area.

There is not much in the way of interpretive signage on the area. Many of the floodplain habitats change from year to year so signage would have to change frequently as well. There is some interpretive signage at the overlook platform in the bluffs.

Suggests encouraging field trips by school groups to Eagle Bluffs CA.

The area is available for field trips by school groups. Educators interested in using Eagle Bluffs CA in this manner should talk to area staff to get ideas for educational topics. They could also talk to Missouri Department of Conservation Education Consultant, Kim Cole, at 573-815-7900 for additional ideas.

Administrative Considerations

Suggests having area blog similar to Duck Creek Conservation Area.

Area staff are not opposed to having a blog; however, as staff change through the years, they may or may not have the interest.

Suggests naming wetland units after nearby communities.

Pools Buck and Katy are adjacent to the village of McBaine and combined they are known as the McBaine Wetlands.

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<https://mdc.mo.gov/node/10013?ap=13633>