Neosho, Lanagan, Powell, and Goodman Towersites

Ten-Year Area Management Plan

FY 2017–2026

Lisa D Allen
Forestry Division Chief

6-16-16
Date

Neosho, Lanagan, Powell and Goodman Towersites Management Plan
Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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SOUTHWEST REGION

RCT Chair — Garrit Albright (*Signature*) — 5/24/16 (*Date*)

FORESTRY DIVISION

Forestry Management Chief — John Turtle (*Signature*) — 6/6/16 (*Date*)

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Neosho Towersite	4706	1947	80	Newton	Forestry	Forestry
Lanagan Towersite	4640	1945	57	McDonald	Forestry	Forestry
Powell Towersite	4639	1946	80	McDonald	Forestry	Forestry
Goodman Towersite	4707	1947	40	Newton	Forestry	Forestry

Statement of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

- Neosho Towersite is an 80-acre parcel of land that is forest and woodland with a small gravel parking lot on the property. The fire tower has been removed. Uses permitted on the area include bird watching, hiking, archery deer hunting and turkey hunting.
- Lanagan Towersite is a small parcel of land that is primarily forest and woodland with a small gravel parking lot on the property. A fire tower is still in place. McDonald County E911 has a special use agreement allowing a communications antenna to be affixed to the tower. Uses permitted on the area include hiking (no designated trails), deer hunting, squirrel hunting and turkey hunting.
- Powell Towersite is a small parcel of land that is primarily forest and woodland with a small gravel parking lot on the property. The fire tower has been removed. Uses permitted on the area include hiking (no designated trails), deer hunting, squirrel hunting and turkey hunting. The White Rock Fire Department has a substation built on this property.
- Goodman Towersite is a small parcel of land that is primarily forest and woodland with a small gravel parking lot on the property. The fire tower has been removed. Uses permitted on the area include bird watching, deer hunting and turkey hunting. The Goodman Fire Department has a substation built on this property.

B. Desired Future Conditions

The desired future condition of the forested/woodland component of these towersites is a healthy natural community.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area Name	Priority Areas	Natural Areas
Neosho Towersite	Hickory Creek Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area	None
Lanagan Towersite	Big Sugar Creek Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area, Priority Forest Landscape	None
Powell Towersite	None	None
Goodman Towersite	None	None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Neosho Towersite	None	None	None
Lanagan Towersite	Yes[1]	None	None
Powell Towersite	None	None	None
Goodman Towersite	None	None	None

[1] 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.

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area Name	Parking Areas	Other
Neosho Towersite	1	
Lanagan Towersite	1	1 fire tower
Powell Towersite	1	Substation (built by White Rock Fire Department) and Missouri Department of Conservation communications tower
Goodman Towersite	1	Substation (built by Goodman Fire Department)

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area Name	Deed Restric-tions	Federal Interest	Ease-ments	Cultural Resources	Hazards	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Neosho Towersite	None	Yes[4]	Yes[5]	None	None	None	None
Lanagan Towersite	Yes[1]	Yes[4]	Yes[6]	None	None	None	None
Powell Towersite	Yes[2]	Yes[4]	Yes[7]	None	None	None	None
Goodman Towersite	Yes[3]	Yes[4]	Yes[8]	None	None	None	None

[1] Ten-year special use agreement with McDonald County E911 to allow up to two communications antennas on the fire tower (expires 6/30/2016); Land use permit for installation of radio communications equipment with Roper Butane Gas Company.
[2] Lease with the White Rock Fire Department (expires 1/7/2062) for their substation on the Powell Towersite.
[3] Lease with the Goodman Fire Department (expires 3/28/2066) for their substation on the Goodman Towersite.
[4] Federal Interest conditions/restrictions: 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.
[5] Powerline easement with Empire District Electric Company along east edge of property
[6] Road (and residential utility) easement to neighboring property; powerline easements with New-Mac Electric Cooperative and KAMO Electric Cooperative
[7] Powerline easement with New-Mac Electric Cooperative along northern boundary line
[8] Powerline easement with Empire District Electric Company

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. <u>Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations</u>

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Manage forests.

Management Objective 1: Manage forest health.

Strategy 1: Assess forests for health and potential improvement by conducting forest inventories on each towersite. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Implement management resulting from the forest inventories. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Implement Best Management Practices following potential forest management activities according to the Missouri Watershed Protection Practice Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests *(2014).* (Forestry)

VI. <u>Public Use Management Considerations</u>

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Maintain areas for public use (e.g., hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing) and provide suitable public access to areas.
2) Enforce area regulations.

Management Objective 1: Maintain areas for public use and access.

Strategy 1: Mow, trim and apply herbicides, as necessary, to maintain a favorable appearance around parking areas. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Maintain known boundary lines. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Enforce area regulations.

Strategy 1: Conduct regular enforcement patrols during peak hunting seasons. (Protection)

VII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Keep areas around the Lanagan fire tower and Powell communication tower free of vegetation to allow for use of fire tower.
2) The towersites provide opportunity to partner with county level E911 and rural fire departments for installation of radio communications equipment and remote fire stations housing rural firefighting equipment.
3) Powell Towersite is a valuable asset to the Missouri Department of Conservation's (the Department's) communications infrastructure and should be maintained as such.
4) These towersites are comprised of approximately 6 miles of boundary lines.

Management Objective 1: Maintain tower guy wire lanes and anchor pointsat Lanagan fire tower and Powell communication tower by keeping them free of grass, trees and other brushy growth.

Strategy 1: Apply herbicide no less than twice a year and trim trees and brush, as necessary, to maintain guy wire lanes and guy wire anchor points. (Forestry).

Management Objective 2: Maintain adequate buffers around the Lanagan tower and Powell communications tower, mitigating concerns caused by vegetation.

Strategy 1: Mow or spray grass and trim back trees that may interfere with guy wires, electrical grounding rods or perimeter fences. (Forestry).

Management Objective 3: Maintain agreements, leases, and easements to ensure conditions are met.

Strategy 1: Maintain long-term lease with White Rock Fire Department for their substation on the Powell Towersite. (Forestry).

Strategy 2: Maintain agreement with McDonald County E911 for communications equipment at Lanagan Towersite. (Forestry).

Strategy 3: Maintain agreement with Goodman Fire Department for their substation on the Goodman Towersite. (Forestry).

Management Objective 4: Maintain clearly identified property boundaries.

Strategy 1: Paint boundaries on a 5-7 year cycle with standard light light blue boundary marking paint. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: In appropriate high use areas, maintain signage that informs the public of "End of Public Use Area." (Forestry)

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										
Objective 1										
Strategy 1	X									
Strategy 2		X								
Administrative Considerations										
Objective 4										
Strategy 1	X					X				
Strategy 2	X					X				

APPENDICES

Public Input Summary:
The draft Neosho, Lanagan, Powell, & Goodman Towersites Management Plan was available for a public comment period February 1–29, 2016. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from two respondents (Appendix A). The Neosho, Lanagan, Powell, and Goodman 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 the Neosho, Lanagan, Powell, and Goodman Towersites Management Plan public comment period</u>

Suggests encouraging native plants through periodic prescribed burns.
The Planning Team agrees that prescribed fires may be beneficial to the areas to encourage the growth of our native plants. We are currently undergoing inventories on all our towersites to assess forest health and potential improvements. We will then be implementing management activities based on this data to help the health of the forest and wildlife habitat. Based on the area, and individual needs for that area, the use of prescribed fire may be of benefit to reduce tree density, increase ground flora cover and diversity, and provide quality brood-rearing habitat for turkey as well as food and habitat for numerous other species.

Supports maintaining and keeping fire tower at Lanagan Towersite.
Currently, there are no plans to remove the fire tower at the Lanagan Towersite. The Planning Team understands and agrees that this fire tower is a reminder of our history to prevent and suppress wildfires not only in southwest Missouri but all across the state.

Suggests adding infrastructure to encourage day use of areas by school groups and others.
The area manager will suggest to users who request day use facilities for activities, to pursue this recreational opportunity on one of the many conservation areas or river accesses which currently have these day use facilities. No picnic tables or privies are provided at the area towersites, as they typically are subject to vandalism and theft due to being located in remote areas.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests: 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams*. Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Neosho Towersite Background
Appendix 2. Area Map of Neosho Towersite
Appendix 3. Easement Map of Neoshow Towersite
Appendix 4. Lanagan Towersite Background
Appendix 5. Lanagan Towersite Area Map
Appendix 6. Powell Towersite Background
Appendix 7. Area Map of Powell Towersite
Appendix 8. Easement Map of Powell Towersite
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Appendix 11. Easement Map of Goodman Towersite
Appendix A. Neosho, Lanagan, Powell, & Goodman Towersites Management Plan Management Plan Public Comments

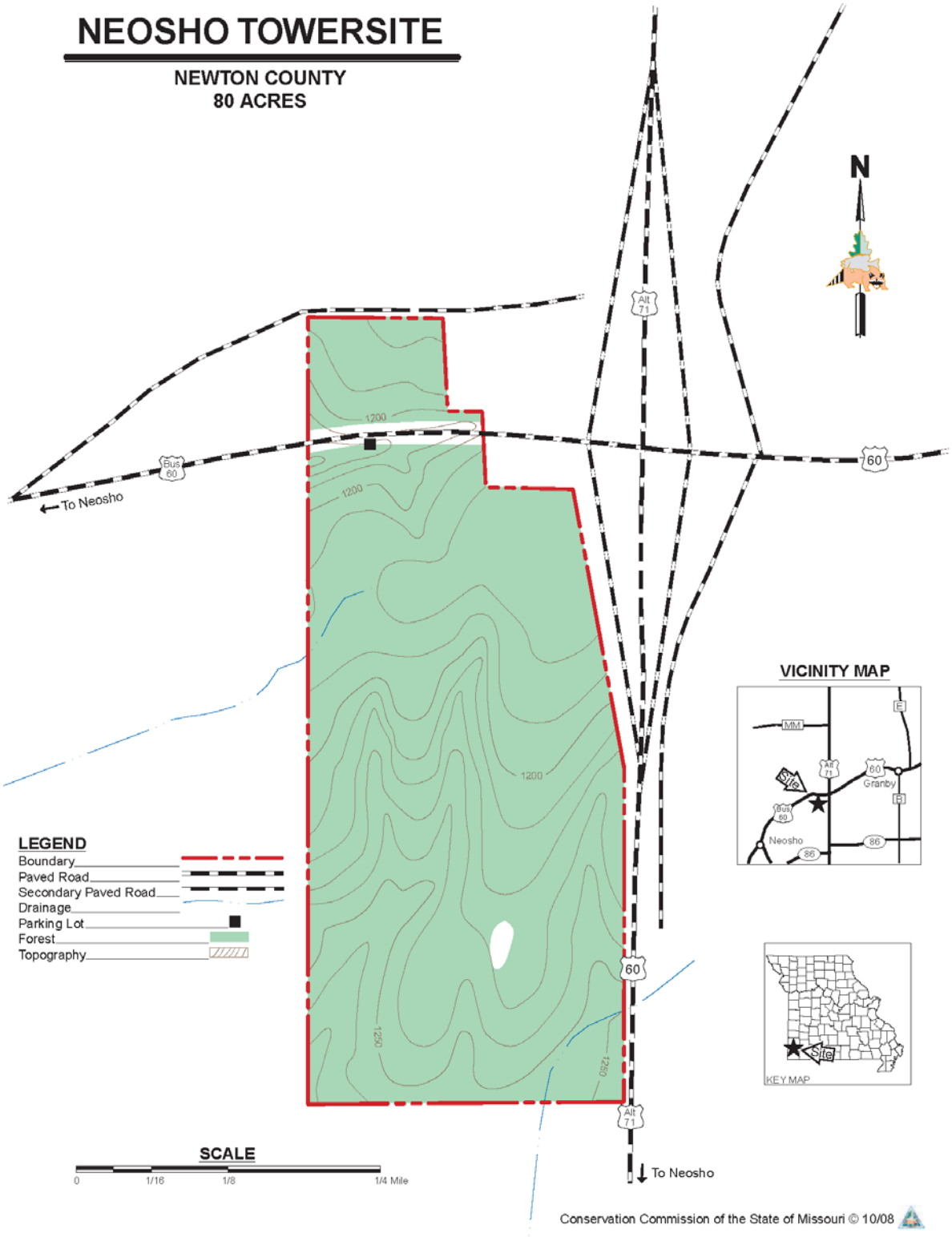
Appendix 1. Neosho Towersite Background

Neosho Towersite is a nearly 80-acre parcel of land that is forest and woodland with a small gravel parking lot on the property. The fire tower has been removed. Uses permitted on the area include bird watching, hiking, archery deer hunting and turkey hunting. Access to the towersite is made by traveling 3 miles east of Neosho on Business Highway 60. Parking area is to the south. The Conservation Commission holds a driveway permit with the Highway and Transportation Commission to access the property via Highway 60.

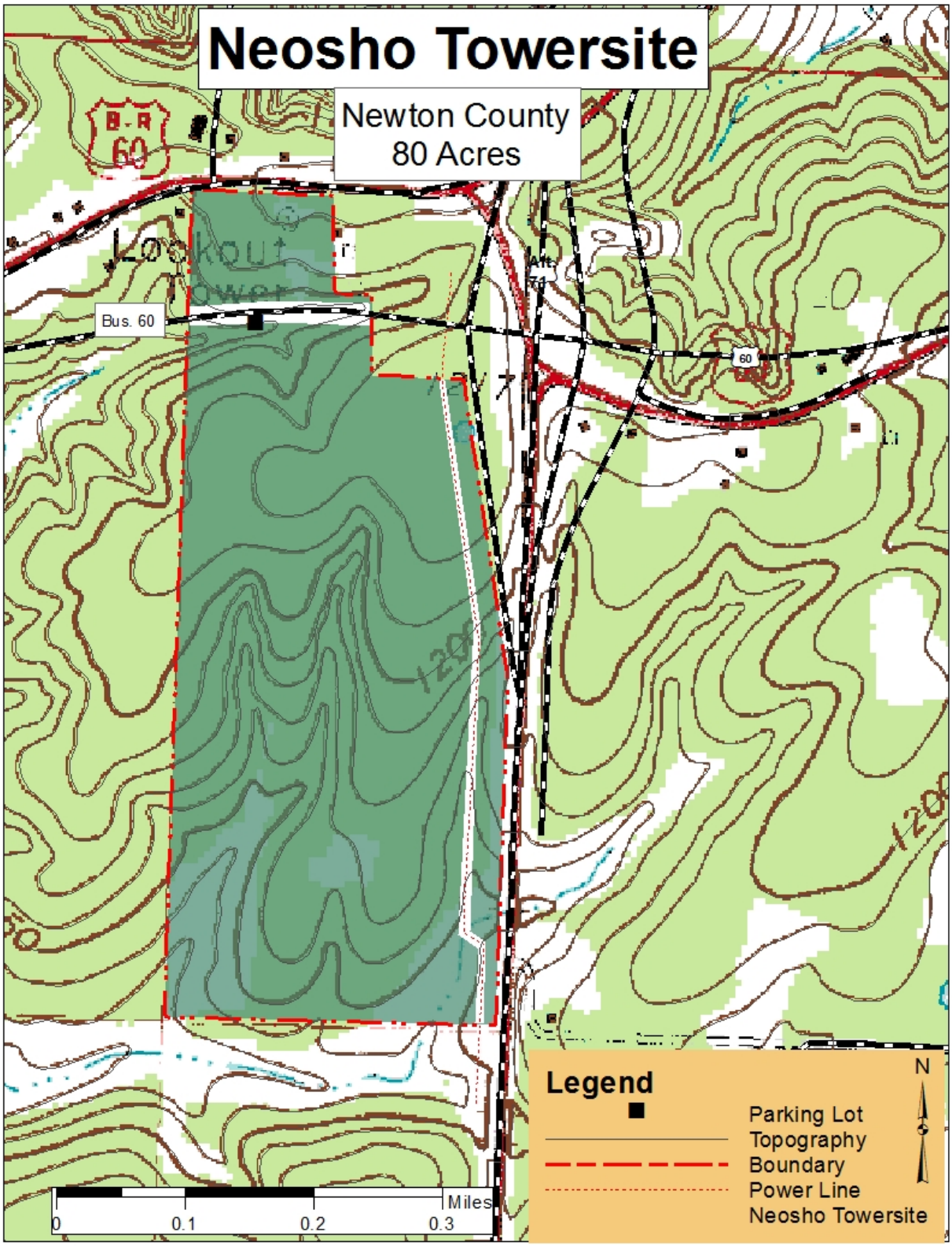
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Upland Forest	80	100

Appendix 2. Area Map of Neosho Towersite



Appendix 3. Easement Map of Neosho Towersite



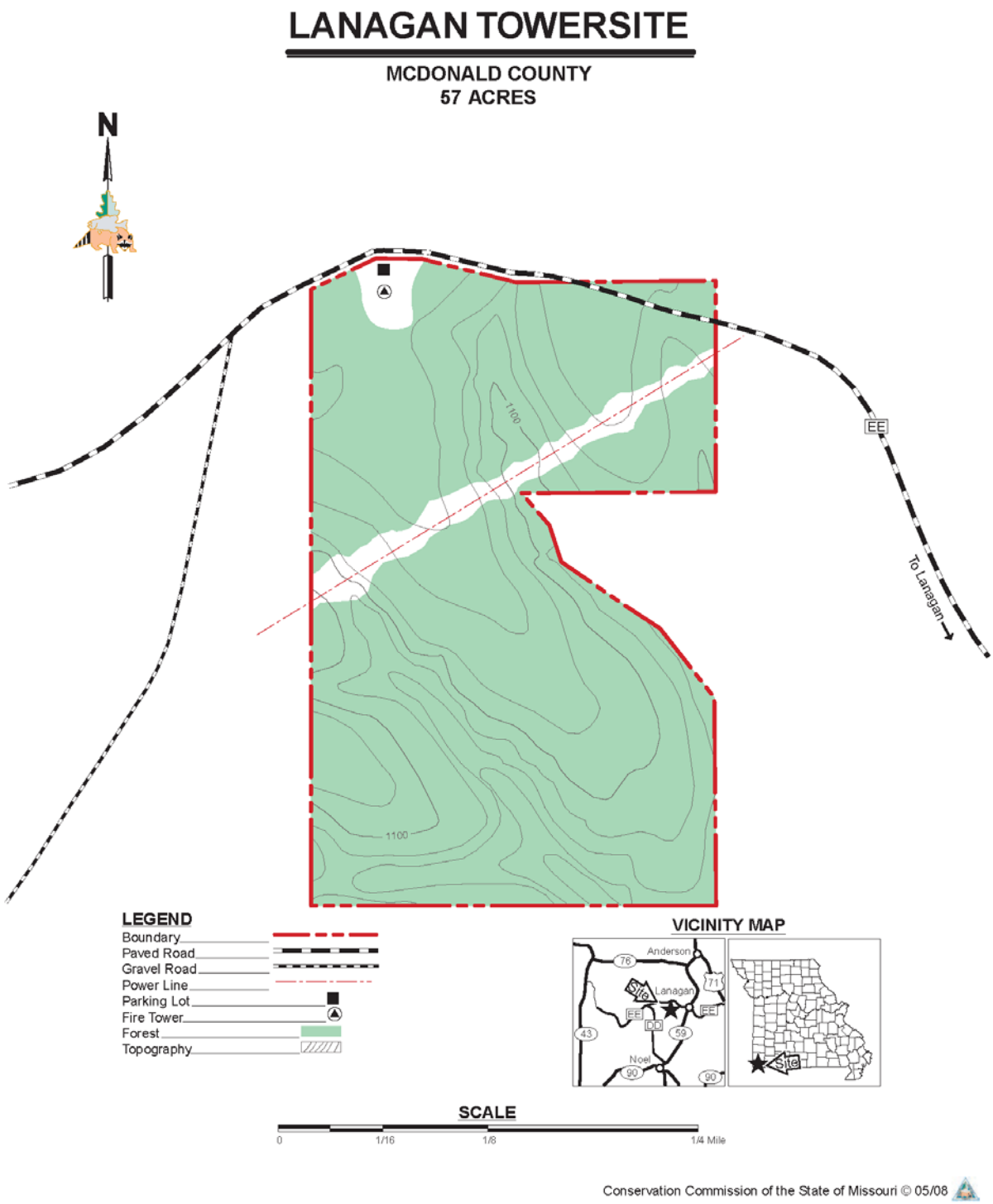
Appendix 4. Lanagan Towersite Background

Lanagan Towersite is a 57-acre parcel of land that is primarily forest and woodland with a small gravel parking lot on the property. A fire tower is still in place. McDonald County E911 has a special use agreement allowing a communications antenna to be affixed to the tower. Uses permitted on the area include hiking (no designated trails), deer hunting, squirrel hunting and turkey hunting. Access to the towersite is made by traveling south of Lanagan on Highway 59 to Route EE. Turn west on Route EE and continue 1 mile. Parking area is to the south.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Upland Forest	56	98
Other	1	2
Total	**57**	**100**

Appendix 5. Area Map of Lanagan Towersite



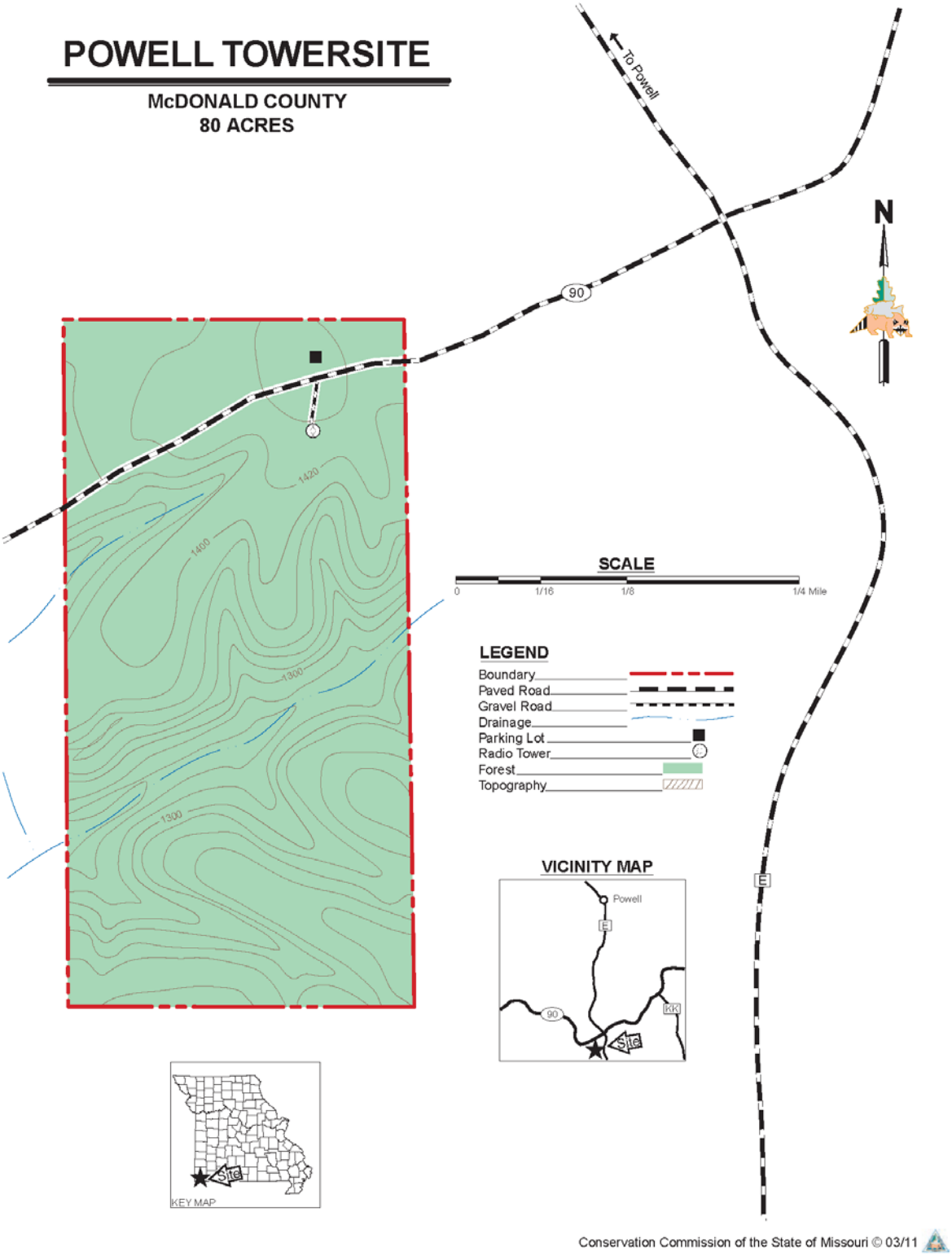
Appendix 6. Powell Towersite Background

Powell Towersite is an 80-acre parcel of land that is primarily forest and woodland with a small gravel parking lot on the property. The fire tower has been removed. Uses permitted on the area include hiking (no designated trails), deer hunting, squirrel hunting, and turkey hunting. The White Rock Fire Department has a substation built on this property. Access to the towersite is made by traveling south of Powell on Route EE to Highway 90. Turn west on Route EE and continue 0.5 miles. Parking area is to the north. A 196 foot, guyed radio tower is on site as well as an associated radio equipment building.

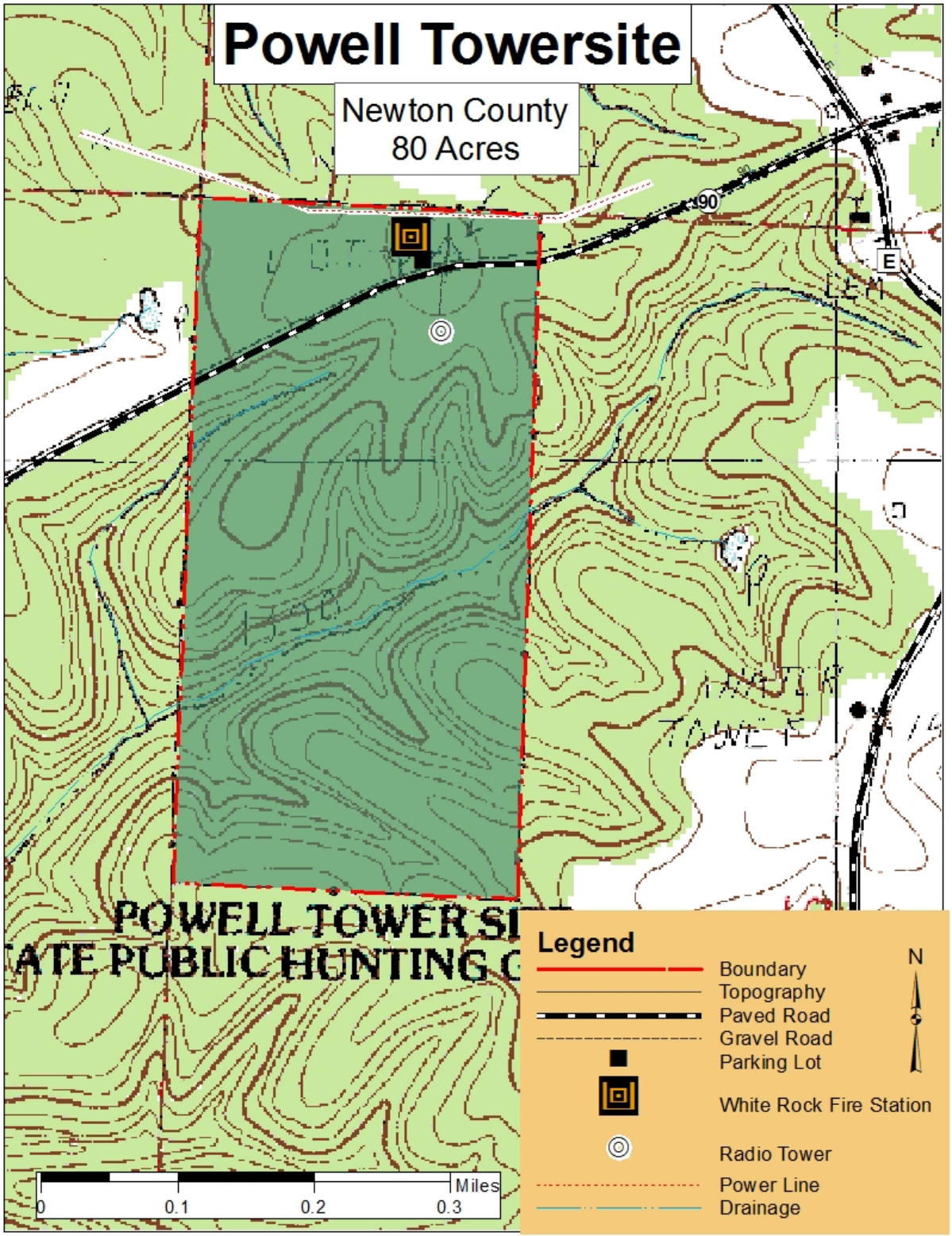
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	**Acres**	**% of Area**
Upland Forest	79	99
Other	1	1
Total	**80**	**100**

Appendix 7. Area Map of Powell Towersite



Appendix 8. Easement Map of Powell Towersite



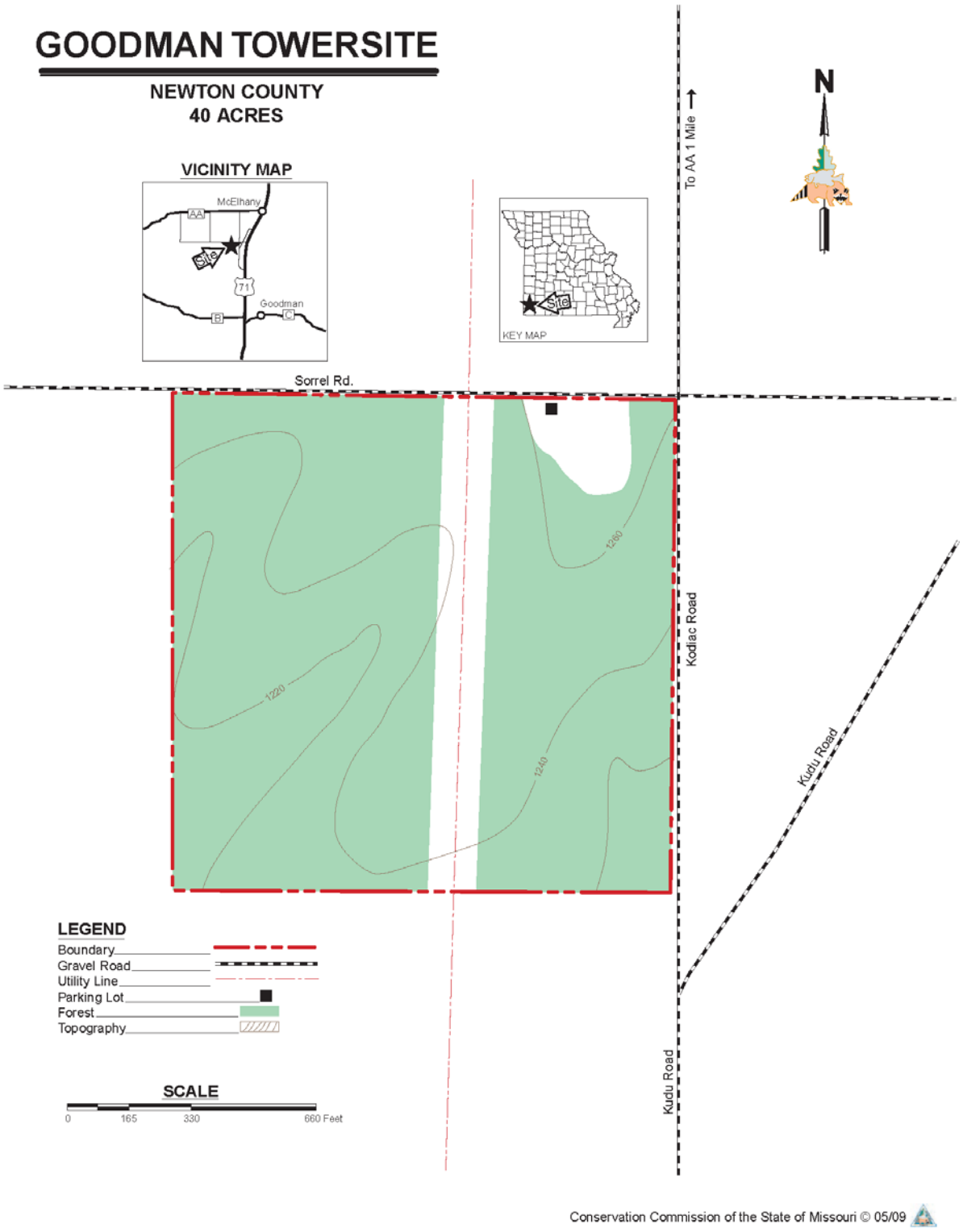
Appendix 9. Goodman Towersite Background

Goodman Towersite is a 40-acre parcel of land that is primarily forest and woodland with a small gravel parking lot on the property. The fire tower has been removed. Uses permitted on the area include bird watching, deer hunting and turkey hunting. The Goodman Fire Department has a substation built on this property. Access to the towersite is made by traveling south of Neosho on Highway 59, then travel west on Sorrel Road for 0.75 miles. Parking area is to the south.

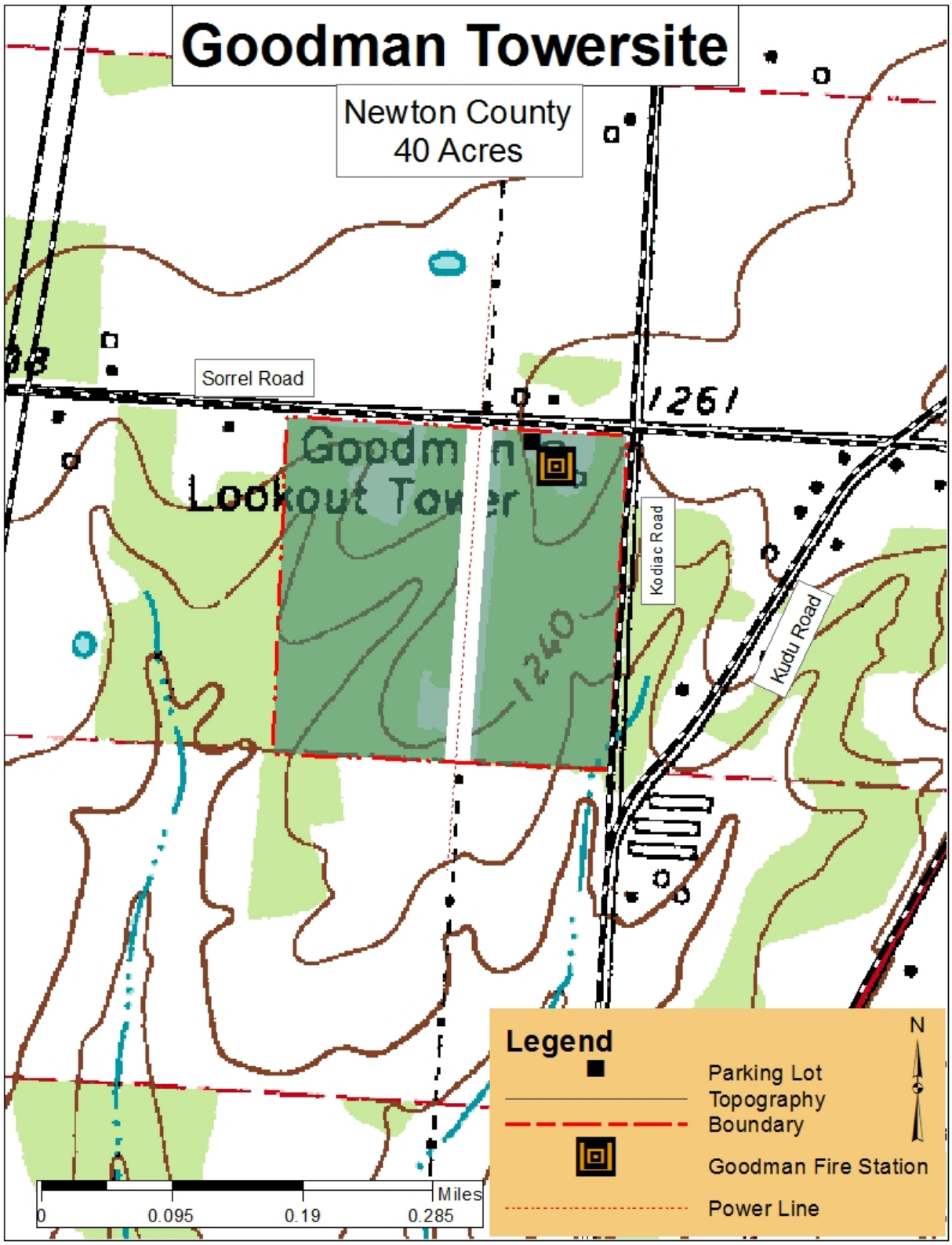
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	**Acres**	**% of Area**
Upland Forest	39	98
Other	1	2
Total	**40**	**100**

Appendix 10. Area Map of Goodman Towersite



Appendix 11. Easement Map of Goodman Towersite



Appendix A. Neosho, Lanagan, Powell, & Goodman Towersites Management Plan Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (February 1-29, 2016):

Hello, I know that the fire towers from Powell and Goodman Conservation Areas have already been removed, but I urge you to continue to maintain and keep the fire tower that remains at the Lanagan site. These are valuable and inspiring monuments from the history of the Forestry and Conservation departments and showed be preserved for the future. Thank you for considering, Pleasant Hill, MO
it would be good to encourage native plant growth in these area. these area could be maintained better with periodic controlled burns to combat the brush under story. this might be a good field trip area for local schools/colleges. picnic tables and bathroom facilities would encourage day use of the areas.