

Carpenter Memorial Conservation Area

Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan FY 2018-2032



Lisa D. Allen
Forestry Division Chief

3-28-18
Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Carpenter Memorial Conservation Area, #6506
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1965
- **Acreage:** 365 acres
- **County:** Morgan
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Carpenter Memorial Conservation Area (CA) is managed for wildlife and forest resources with an emphasis on maintaining healthy forests and compatible recreational opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Carpenter Memorial CA is a healthy forest ecosystem that is accessible for public recreation.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

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 Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** Priority Forest Landscape; adjacent to Big Buffalo Creek Priority Geography; adjacent to Big Buffalo Creek Forest and Woodland Conservation Opportunity Area, and adjacent to Big Buffalo Creek Fisheries Priority Watershed
 - B. Natural Areas:** None

- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.
 - B. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None
 - D. Other:** Carpenter Memorial CA is located in the Middle Osage River Oak Woodland Hills, a landtype association that occurs in the Osage River Hills Subsection of the Ozark Highlands. This landtype consists of rolling hills and narrow ridge tops with steep-sided slopes. Historically, this landscape marked a subtle transition between oak woodlands and prairie. Typically, the upper ridge tops were dominated by open oak savanna or woodlands interspersed with pockets of prairie habitat. The more rugged side slopes were likely woodland dominant, transitioning to exposed glades. Today,

what once was open savanna is now pasture dominant. That which was rugged woodlands and glades is now dense stands of second-growth oak forest. Some notable natural features that occur in this landtype association are several known fen communities and bat caves (Nigh & Schroeder, 2002).

Carpenter Memorial CA is completely forested. It is mostly an upland oak/ hickory cover type of black, white, post, and red oak with some scattered blackjack oak and hickory species. This cover type is described as a dry-mesic chert forest (Nelson, 2010). Variations exist within this community, depending on soil characteristics, topographic position and slope. It is likely that pockets of dry or dry- mesic chert woodland are present in a matrix along the exposed south- and west-facing slopes or ridgetops (Nelson, 2010).

III. Existing Infrastructure

- One gravel parking lot

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations: None

B. Federal Interest Conditions/Restrictions: 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.

C. Easements: Electric utility easement held by Union Electric Light & Power Company; telecommunication remote concentrator easement held by Alltel Missouri, Inc.

D. Cultural Resources Findings: No known cultural resources.

E. Endangered Species: None observed.

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

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

The current condition of the forest at Carpenter Memorial CA is a healthy saw-timber-sized oak dominant forest/woodland. The saw-timber size class is in good condition, exhibiting desirable growth, but is nearing maturity. The pole timber is overstocked, but

is also in good condition. Annually, crews conduct hazard tree removals, as needed, and forest health monitoring.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain healthy forest ecosystems.
- 2) Provide diverse wildlife habitats.
- 3) Control invasive species.

Management Objective 1: Maintain healthy forests through active forest management.

Strategy 1: Inventory the forest and determine a long-term management strategy. The next inventory is scheduled for 2027. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Implement habitat work identified in the inventory in a timely manner. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Utilize best management practices during all forest management as described in the Department's manuals: *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests: 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014) and *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines: Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014). (Forestry)

Strategy 4: Annually monitor forest health and take action to address issues as they emerge. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Maintain a diversity of wildlife habitats.

Strategy 1: Maintain an abundance of cavity trees and snags for wildlife. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Provide cover and increase browse for wildlife by implementing forest thinning, where appropriate and as prescribed by the forest inventory. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Maintain current grassland (non-prairie) openings through brush hogging on an as-needed basis. (Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Implement an integrated pest management plan to control the spread of invasive species.

Strategy 1: Monitor and document the proliferation of problematic species on a regular basis. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Use a combination of mechanical, herbicide, and prescribed fire to suppress any infestations that may develop. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Monitor the treated areas for effectiveness and long-term condition of the site. (Forestry)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Roberts Branch, an intermittent stream, runs through Carpenter Memorial CA for 1 mile.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Protect the headwater streams present.

Management Objective 1: Maintain the ephemeral headwater stream and Roberts Branch on the area. Improve long-term stream stability and ecological function.

Strategy 1: Maintain the existing wooded riparian corridor, through natural regeneration, on all lands bordering the first-order streams at a minimum of 50 feet wide and 100 feet on Roberts Branch. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Follow the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009) for all management activities on the area. (Forestry)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Hunting opportunities, specifically for deer and turkey, constitute the bulk of annual public use.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide walk-in hunting and natural resource viewing opportunities.
- 2) Provide accurate area regulation information.
- 3) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels. Current infrastructure is limited to one parking lot.

Management Objective 1: Provide public hunting and viewing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Annually provide access for approved hunting and recreational activities, by maintaining parking lots at current levels in accordance with Missouri Department of Conservation guidelines. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Maintain accurate information about Carpenter Memorial CA.

Strategy 1: Review and update the Conservation Atlas database annually to maintain accurate information about the area. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Annually update signage to communicate area regulations. (Forestry)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Build relationships with neighboring landowners.
- 2) Consider land acquisition, when available.

Management Objective 1: Facilitate good working relationships with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Inform neighboring landowners of planned management activities.
(Forestry)

Strategy 2: Respond proactively to issues or concerns generated by neighbors or the public. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Determine accurate and identifiable property boundary lines.
Maintain them according to Department guidance. (Forestry)

Lands Proposed for Acquisition:

When available, 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.

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Carpenter Memorial Conservation Area is in Morgan County, approximately 17 miles southwest of Versailles, Missouri on Highway T; then 2 miles on Possum Trot Hollow Road. This area was donated to the Department in 1965 by Mrs. Agnes Carpenter of Morgan County, Missouri and was named in honor of her late husband Mr. Frank Carpenter. The donation was made to maintain a forest and wildlife management program on the land. Subsequent purchases have increased this area to its current size of 365 acres.

Nearly, the entire 365 acres is forested in an oak-hickory cover type, with exception to three small fields, totaling 13 acres. These fields are in varying stages of early succession habitat. Most of the surrounding private land is forested or is managed in small cattle grazing operations. Adjacent forest lands to the south and along the Lake of the Ozarks frontage have been converted into lakeside community subdivisions. The potential for an unwanted insect pest or invasive species outbreak is somewhat higher in this area due to forest fragmentation and the abundance of tourism received by the surrounding area.

Public use on this area occurs mostly during the major hunting seasons, including deer and turkey seasons. The area supports a fair population of white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and other game species.

This area is open for daily use from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m.; however, special regulations apply for authorized activities noted in the area regulations and as defined in Chapter 11 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*. Hunting is permitted; however, special regulations apply by season and game species. Refer to the fall deer and turkey hunting booklet and the spring turkey hunting booklet annually for more information about season regulations.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	352		96
Old Field (Grassland Non-Prairie)	13		4
Total	365		100
Stream Frontage (Intermittent) – Roberts Branch		1.0	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Carpenter Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period Sept. 1-30, 2017. The Department received no comments during this time period.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2009). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and waters managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

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, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *Missouri forest management guidelines: Voluntary recommendations for well-managed forests*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Nelson, P. W. (2010). *The terrestrial natural communities of Missouri*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

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

Maps:

Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Area Map

Figure 3: Covertypes and Easement Map

Figure 1: Location Map

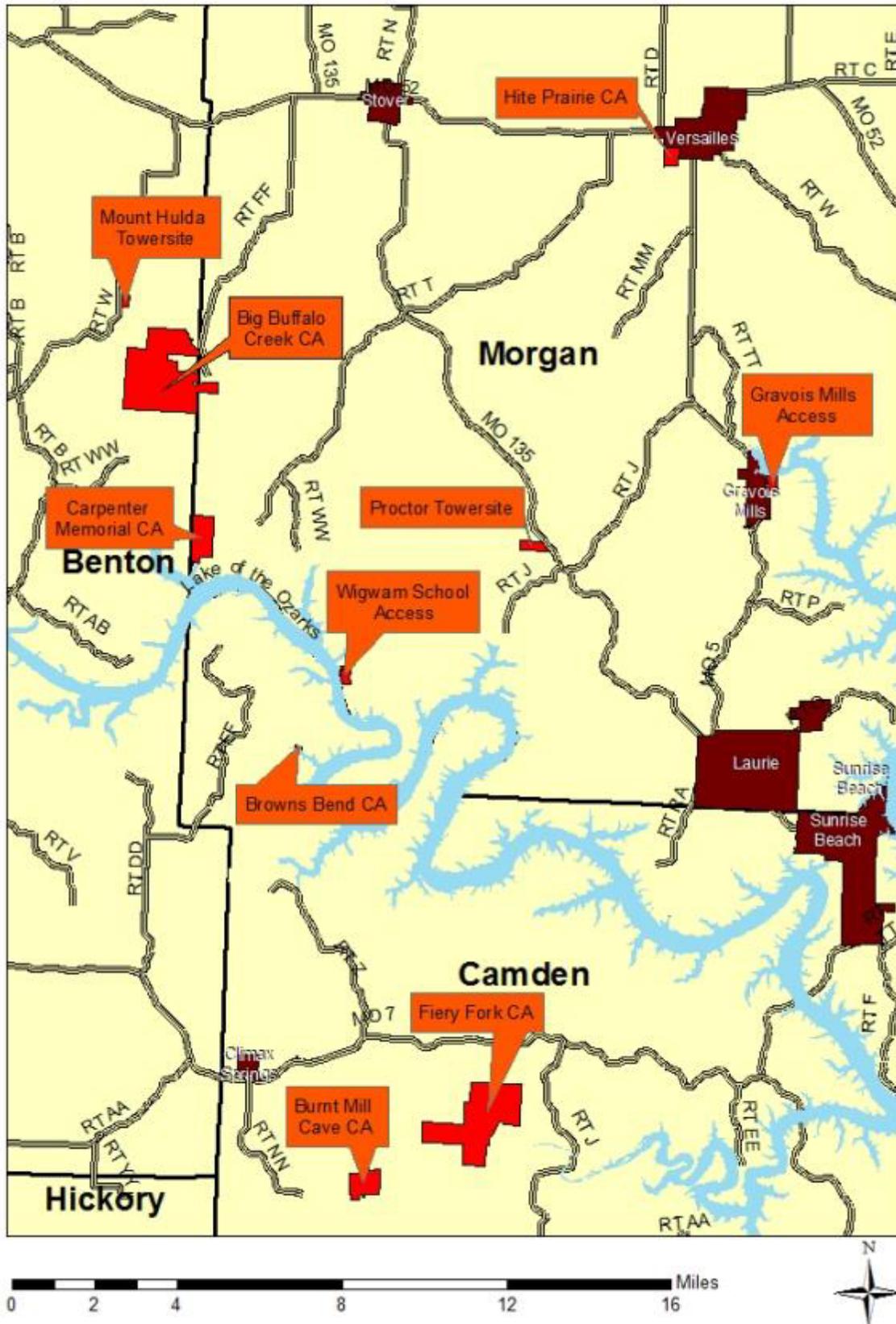


Figure 2: Area Map

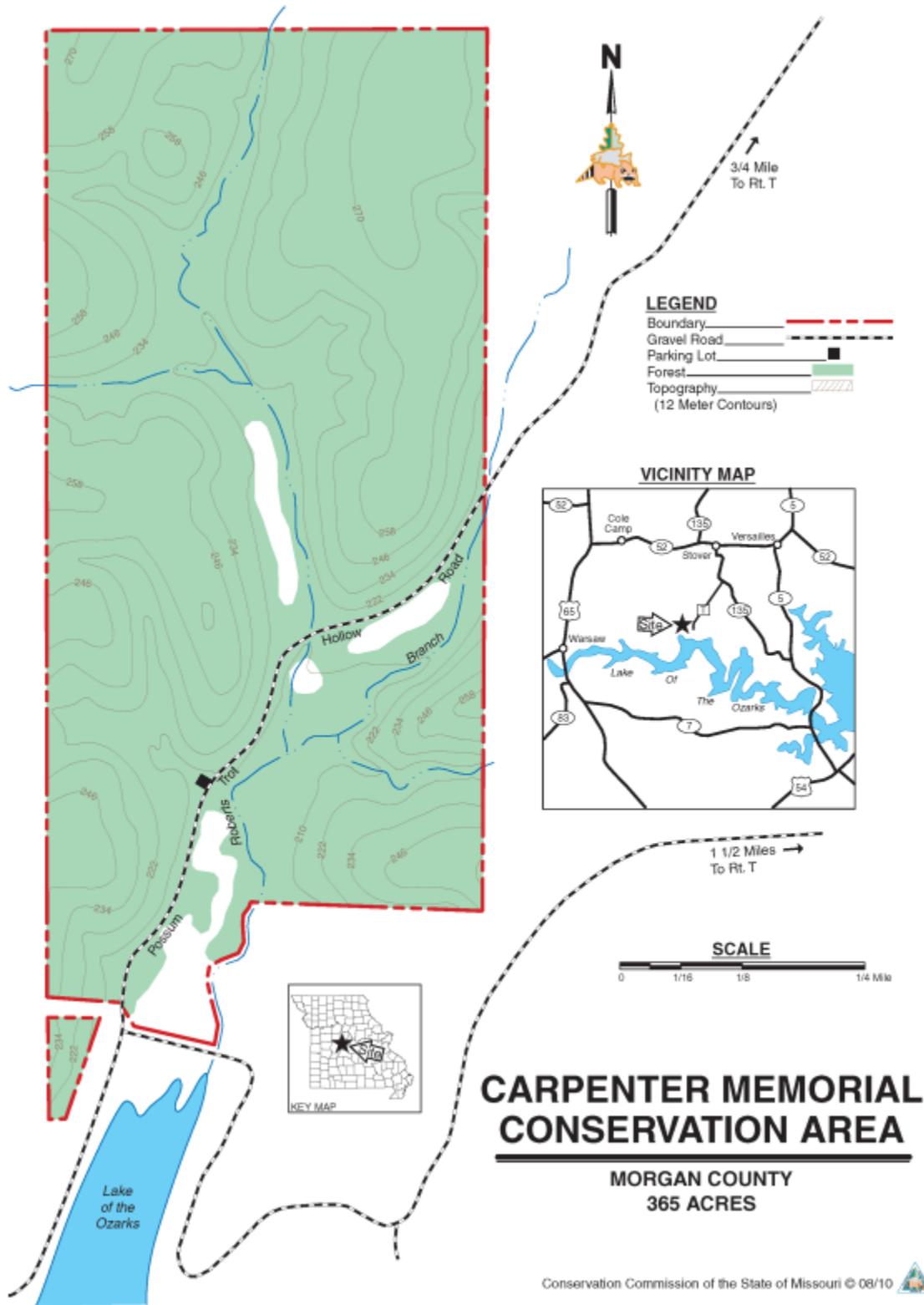


Figure 3: Covertypes and Easement Map

