

January - March 2016
Area Plan
Public Comment Summary



Runge Conservation Nature Center

Missouri Department of Conservation
May 2016



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Missouri Department of Conservation is seeking public input as we develop and revise conservation area management plans.
- For the period of January – March 2016, 14 area plans (covering 17 conservation areas, one river access, one community lake, four towersites, and one conservation nature center) were posted for month-long public comment periods (mdc.mo.gov/areaplans).
- Comment periods were advertised locally with notices posted on conservation area bulletin boards, contacts made with neighboring landowners, and in some cases, news releases or other outreach methods were used.
- During this time period, we received 55 comments from 51 respondents on 11 area plans.
- Themes and issues identified for these plans included suggestions to add/expand hiking and multi-use trails, better mark area boundaries, concern with abundance of deer, and support for acquiring additional land.
- Area planning teams are responding to themes and issues as they finalize area management plans. Final area plans with responses to public comment themes and issues are posted online (mdc.mo.gov/areaplans).

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

For the period of January – March 2016, 14 area plans (covering 17 conservation areas, one river access, one community lake, four towersites, and one conservation nature center) were posted for month-long public comment periods. Comment periods were advertised locally with notices posted on conservation area bulletin boards, contacts made with neighboring landowners and, in some cases, news releases or other outreach methods were used. During this time we received 55 comments from 11 area plans (see Table 1).

Table 1. Number of comments received by plan, January – March, 2016.

Comment Month	Area Plan	MDC Region	Comments Received
January 2016	Four Rivers Conservation Area	Kansas City	4
January 2016	Austin Community Lake	Ozark	3
January 2016	Clark Conservation Area	Northeast	2
January 2016	Ozark Highland Southwest Region Prairies¹	Southwest	4
January 2016	Allred Lake Natural Area	Southeast	1
February 2016	Dan and Maureen Cover Prairie Conservation Area	Ozark	0
February 2016	Shannon Ranch Conservation Area	Ozark	5
February 2016	Tingler Prairie Conservation Area	Ozark	0
February 2016	Neosho, Lanagan, Powell, and Goodman Towersites²	Southwest	2
March 2016	Runge Conservation Nature Center	Central	22
March 2016	Honey Creek Conservation Area	Northwest	5
March 2016	Big Cane Conservation Area	Southeast	0
March 2016	Magnolia Hollow Conservation Area	Southeast	5
March 2016	Clearwater Conservation Area	Southeast	2
TOTAL			55

¹Plan includes Horse Creek Prairie Conservation Area, Indigo Prairie Conservation Area, Kickapoo Prairie Conservation Area, Providence Prairie Conservation Area, Providence Prairie Conservation Area, Sky Prairie Conservation Area, Stony Point Prairie Conservation Area, Twenty-five Mile Prairie Conservation Area, Wade and June Shelton Memorial Conservation Area.

²Plan includes Neosho Towersite, Lanagan Towersite, Powell Towersite, and Goodman Towersite.

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

Who responded?

We received 55 comments from 51 respondents (Table 2). Several respondents submitted multiple comments, so the total number of responses is greater than the total number of respondents.

Table 2. Respondents by respondent category, if self-identified. Respondents may not represent the view of the organization.

Organization Type	Respondent Count	Comment Count
Individual citizens (no affiliation listed)	46	46
Equestrian groups (Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen)	3	6
Non-Governmental Organizations (Bittersweet Garden Club, Central Missouri Master Gardeners)	2	3
TOTAL	51	55

How they responded:

Table 3. Total number of each response received

Response Type	Count	Percent
Web comment form	41	75
Mail comment form	10	18
Phone Call	4	7
TOTAL	55	100

Where respondents are from:

Table 4. Total number of respondents by location

State	Count	Percent
Missouri	49	96
Louisiana	1	2
Minnesota	1	2
TOTAL	51	100

Figure 1. Map of Respondents by ZIP Code

The pinpoints below represent the geographic center of ZIP code boundaries from which a public comment was received (they do not represent actual street addresses). Shaded circles with numbers in them represent multiple responses from a region.



Figure 2. Map of Missouri Respondents by ZIP Code

The pinpoints below represent the geographic center of ZIP code boundaries from which a public comment was received (they do not represent actual street addresses). Shaded circles with numbers in them represent multiple responses from a region.



THEMES AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED

The following are themes and issues that were identified from public comments received on draft area management plans available for public review January-March 2016. Missouri Department of Conservation responses to these themes and issues can be found in each final area plan, posted online at mdc.mo.gov/areaplans, once each plan receives final approval.

Terrestrial Resource Management

Wildlife

- Suggests using edge feathering as a management tool to benefit wildlife on Kickapoo Prairie, Sky Prairie, and Twenty-five Mile Prairie conservation areas.
- Concerned with abundance of deer at Runge and in surrounding neighborhoods. Concerned with deer eating plants in neighbors' yards. Concerned about deer-vehicle collisions near Runge. Supports a managed deer hunt at Runge.
- Concerned with the abundance of deer in other parts of Jefferson City.
- Suggests planting deer specific food plots.
- Would like to see more bucks on area.

Natural Community Management

- Suggests eradicating invasive plants (honeysuckle, winter creeper, Bradford pear) at Runge. Suggests assigning invasive species eradication a priority for the next three years.
- Suggests encouraging native plants through periodic prescribed burns.
- Suggests converting smaller crop fields to green fields.

Aquatic Resource Management

Fishing

- Suggests building a fishing lake.
- Suggests keeping water levels higher year round.

Habitat Management

- Curious why area has fishless ponds.

Public Use Management

Hunting

- Suggests allowing archery hunting only on the small acre tracts for safety reasons.
- Supports bow hunting only at this area, or at least no antlerless permits.

Fishing Access

- Suggests adding a boat access to Establishment Creek or the Mississippi River.

Trails

- Suggests adding a hiking trail around the lake (possibly ADA accessible) with places for bank fishing.
- Suggests adding trails around the lake and throughout the area.
- Suggests allowing multi-use trails for horseback riding and mountain biking. Offers volunteer service to assist with trail development and maintenance.
- Enjoys walking on trails at Runge.
- Enjoys area for horseback riding. Suggests providing information that water is not available
- Concerned that some areas of the multi-use trail have loose rocks. Offers to help maintain trails.
- Suggests using area access roads as a multi-use trail system for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Offers to assist with trail maintenance and planning.
- Suggests developing a multi-use trail system (hike, bike, horseback riding) in compartments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 in conjunction with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands. Offers to help with trail development and maintenance.

Amenities

- Suggests adding trash barrels to combat littering.
- Suggests adding picnic tables and privies to encourage day use of areas by school groups.
- Suggests adding opportunities for rifle and pistol shooting at shooting range.

Area Maintenance

- Suggests a better entrance sign. Lake is difficult to find.

Enforcement/Policy

- Concerned with loitering on area. Suggests greater surveillance.

Other

- Curious about what is meant by compatible recreational opportunities. Concerned this might mean adding cabins to area.

Administrative Considerations

Land Acquisition

- Suggests acquiring additional property.

Infrastructure Development

- Supports maintaining and keeping fire tower at Lanagan Towersite.
- Suggests adding more parking areas for greater access to the middle and southern parts of the area.

Boundary Maintenance

- Concern about fence along border needing repair.
- Concerned with area users trespassing onto private property. Concerned with trees dropped onto boundary line during logging activities, preventing landowner from putting up a fence.
- Suggests keeping property lines well marked.

NEXT STEPS

Area planning teams are responding to themes and issues identified for their particular area plan. Area plans with responses to comment categories are approved by RCT, UCT, and Division Chief and then will be posted on the public website as a final area plan (mdc.mo.gov/areaplans).

APPENDICES

Appendix A. Four Rivers Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (December 1, 2015 - January 1, 2016):

Management Objective 3 Strategy 3- is very important to me. Access to the river in the form of a ramp.

Access to Horton bottoms is also very important.

The ability to flood pool 14 in unit 3 would allow more hunting opportunities and dense waterfowl habitat. After this year, with the flood, it allowed boating access to pool 14 in the tree planting area. The ducks flocked to the stands of millet plus there was adequate cover for hunter concealment. Being on the Bates ditch, and lack of water regulations would allow this area to be flooded without limitation provided the water was available. Please consider this request.

I would like to see a gun and archery range set up at Four Rivers. The closest one to the area is about 100 miles.

I have owned property west of 4 Rivers since 1985, for the sole purpose of duck hunting. At first I was excited when Four Rivers was to come into play for Waterfowl Reserve. When it was developed first as the East and West units we saw lots of ducks coming out to feed and our hunting was what we expected, in fact some years it exceeded our expectations. Then the purchase and development of the land in between the two units changed the flight of waterfowl going out to feed drastically. My friends, family and co- hunters have had many debates on the subject, and can not decide if it's because there is so much food or that the reserve is just such a big body of water that they just do not leave the reserve like they used to. The private sector is valuable to keeping the tradition of water fowling since most of wetlands are owned and managed by the private sector. This brings up the subject of the season opening too early. I plan on being at the open meeting of the 5 year plan on season zones and the dates that they open.

Thanks,

Appendix B. Austin Community Lake Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (January 1-31, 2016):

(Hardcopy comment received on 1/4/2016)The lake needs trash barrels. Littering and "loitering" is bad. More surveillance is needed.

(Hardcopy comment received on 1/11/2016): Austin Lake is a very well kept recreational area - many people from all of this area use it for picnics, fishing, family reunions and just a place to

get away from the pressures of everyday life and relax -- MDC does a very good job of keeping it cleaned up and mowed! I wish there was a better sign showing the entrance. We live just north of the lake on Austin Lake Road. Our property joins the MDC property on the Northside. During the spring & summer months several people stop and ask "Where is the lake"? Another thing - the fence between us is in bad shape, I have called several times over the years - 30 - asking for help. When I had cattle and they got out MDC was quick to tell me to get them off the property. I kept it mended as best I could but at times trees or limbs from both sides would fall across it.

Hiking/walking trail around perimeter of lake would be fantastic. With a little imagination and planning, the trail could be one full mile around the lake. Possibly even a footbridge or two, especially on the east side of lake. A concrete sidewalk could also be made around the lake to allow for those with physical disabilities to also enjoy the full area. Concrete pads can be placed for bank fishing.

Appendix C. Ozark Highland Southwest Region Prairies Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (January 1-31, 2016):

Like many MDC lands, several of these areas are void of any edge feathering. Some of the areas in this group are all prairie and in these cases (Shelton, Indigo, etc.) feathering edges is a moot point. However, areas such as Kickapoo, Sky, and Twenty Five Mile would benefit greatly from extensive feathering and timber thinning. Most of the woody sections on these areas are dense and mature. This open grass to mature tree line offers no cover for small game. As I almost exclusively hunt public ground it is infuriating to hear the MDC tout edge feathering for private land and then not utilize it on public ground. Quite the contrary, nearly all MDC managed areas I have visited have a large brush hogged strip next to much of the area's timbered sections or crop run clear to the edge. Stop mowing and planting next to tree lines. Get the feathering in!

Not knowledgeable enough to comment on specific management details, but would like to acknowledge the efforts and the educational value of the presentation itself

We have appreciated the grazing of the local prairies. It is very beneficial to the local wildlife.

I feel that grazing conservation prairie areas benefits a wider range of wildlife species compared to prairie land that is not grazed.

Appendix D. Clark Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (January 1-31, 2016):

No issues with the plan.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the plan for these conservation areas as your plans do affect neighboring landowners. Thank you.

My concerns are as follows:

Trespassing. Continues to be a problem and “private property” signs are torn down quite often. My plan to help with this was to put a fence up this winter to give a clearer boundary between the public/private boundaries. However, as the area was logged this year, trees were dropped over the property line that would need to be removed first.

Safety. With the small acreage tract that is adjoining my property, it tends to push hunters to the outside corners (or over them). I would like to see this area used as bow hunting only. I do not think it is wise to allow an unlimited number of high-powered rifles to hunt on such a small tract; it is only inviting accidents.

Again, thanks for allowing input on your long-term plans. I understand that Missourians pay for these areas and should be allowed to use them in a responsible manner, but with the extra people that are going to use the new Bear Creek parking lot, I think those suggestions will help everyone involved.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions:

Appendix E. Allred Lake Natural Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (January 1-31, 2016):

Would it be possible to have a trail around the lake. Also it seems there could be other trail in the area.

Appendix F. Shannon Ranch Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

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

It is my hope that in your planning for future use of Shannon Ranch C.A. that you would allow for multiuse trails which would include equestrian trails. The acreage allows for the placement of 10-12 miles of trails that when placed by good trail standards could be easily maintained and be sustainable. More trail miles for equestrians is needed to help underserved areas and Douglas

County in the area of Shannon Ranch is one of these. The amenities of trail heads already exists along with easy access by road. With the interest and support of volunteer organizations to help maintain and support trails it would not be a drain on MDC man hours. The topography is such that would support well placed trail without harming the environment. There are several chapters of Show-Me MO Back Country Horsemen in close proximity that would be eager to adopt multiuse trails making trails work for all trail users. Please consider making this area open to designated multiuse trails.

I would like to see this area opened up to horseback riding and if terrain permits , mountain biking

When planning the future of Shannon Ranch CA I request the planners consider the construct of trails into this beautiful land. My husband and I love to ride horses in the Ozarks, so equestrian trails would be something I would definitely enjoy. The trails could be multi-use trails. This would allow more Missourians to experience our great state.

how come all the management plans in the ozark region, contain fishless ponds?

First, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Shannon Ranch CA Draft Management Plan. Equestrian trail riders in Douglas County are fortunate to be well served by trails on the Mark Twain National Forest, but, based on the equine population, they are still underserved with respect to public land riding opportunities. Shannon Ranch CA is on the top priority list of Conservation Areas recommended for multi-use trail development in the 2015 “Expanding Public Land Multi-Use Trails in Missouri” proposal by Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen.

Shannon Ranch CA exhibits most desirable characteristics for development of a multi-use trail system. Strong points in favor of trail development are size of the CA(adequate for a minimum of 10-12 miles of trails), topography and landscape (upland), a variety of cover types (forest, glade, grassland, and savanna), and a minimum of conflicting uses. The geographic location south of Mountain Grove (in the north part of Douglas county would provide convenient access for trail users from underserved Texas and Wright Counties, and (last but not least) access to the CA via very good roads.

SMMBCH offers our services (availability of volunteers permitting) to help decide on the best location and then clear and mark the trails. We further offer to assist the Area Manager to develop a partnership with local trail users to assist with development and maintenance with the trails and associated infrastructure.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Appendix G. 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 should be preserved for the future.

Thank you for considering,

it would be good to encourage native plant growth in these areas. These areas 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.

Appendix H. Runge Conservation Nature Center Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (March 1-31, 2016):

I am in two garden clubs. Almost everyone in the clubs experiences frustration with the over abundance of deer. Not only do they eat the ornamental plants, but eat the vegetables. One home, right in the middle of town, has given up having a garden. While this is frustrating, the bigger concern is safety. I have hit a deer with my car. My husband has hit a deer twice. Thankfully, we were not injured either time. However, our vehicles were severely hurt and one was totaled.

(3/29/2016 - phone call): Supports managed hunt in Jefferson City. Her neighborhood (east side of Jeff City) has a lot of nuisance deer. They're out in the road, they're eating her garden, they're eating the shrubs, etc. She was surprised and thankful when informed that Jefferson City allows archery deer hunting in the city limits.

I live in the area adjacent to McClung Park and Lincoln U. We have constant deer damage in our yard which is not fenced to protect for wildlife entry. Additionally, it is almost a daily sight to see deer crossing Leslie Blvd. in the area near the high school and Lincoln.

Live near Runge. WAY too many deer in neighborhood, obviously you cannot teach deer to "stay home" in the Runge Center. They eat my plants which I have paid a lot of money to purchase. They have no fear, cannot chase them from my yard.

Continue the eradication of invasive species like honeysuckle, winter creeper, and Bradford pear etc. Add interpretive information telling the public why this is important. For example the removal of invasives cost me about \$1000/year on my Gasconade County 120 acre farm. Mostly

Serecial Lespadeza, bradford pear, and honeysuckle.

People shouldn't plant these for onamentals. Most of these plants should be listed as a noxious weed and not be permitted to be sold in Missouri.

We do not have a particular problem with the deer population because we don't have many plantings as of this time. but seeing the problems that some of my neighbors have makes me leery of doing any plantings in our back yard. Thanks

(Hardcopy Comment 3/15/2016): I spend a hr just talking with the employees that were working today, have had everyone of my many ?s answered with more than enough information & right a report on them all. Love MO conservation.

the deer just clean our hostas and flowers out each year . we have just about given up on a beautiful yard. make it an open season on deer and let us kill about 100 of them and give us a chance. we are selling our house and moving out so I can garden again.

(Phone call 3/31/2016): We have a major deer problem. The deer eat her sunflower seeds from her bird feeder. We need to do something in town to control deer. Supports a managed hunt at Runge.

(Hardcopy comment received 3/21/2016): We enjoy taking a walk on the paths at the Nature Center about 1 or 2 times each month when the weather is nice.

Our main concern is the number of deer in our neighborhood. Many times we have at least 5 or 6 in our yard and they are eating many of our flowers and vegetables. it is a lot of work planning and gardening and purchasing plants and then to have the deer eat them within a week of planning is heart breaking. We would love to get rid of the deer here in the city.

(Hardcopy comment received 3/24/2016)We live in the Orchards Subdivision - **** Drew Perry Rd. We have a huge population of deer. They destroy our flower gardens and eat the buds and blooms. It's very expensive to make an investment in the plants to have them destroyed. Many of us enjoy gardening and the deer travel right next to the house and destroy the flower gardens. We would encourage and request any assistance to help control or eliminate the deer population in our area.

Thank you,

(Hardcopy comment received 2/24/2016)We would welcome some attention to the deer population in our area (Orchard Subdivision). They are lovely to see and watch, but they really enjoy my daylilies as soon as they bloom! They also enjoy chomping off the new growth of any tulips this spring (first time in 4 years we have lived here)

(Hardcopy Comment Received 3/22/2016) I live in a neighborhood of New Townhomes with a large wooded area between us and Industrial Drive. Deer are a constant problem - eating almost anything we plant in pots or raised beds. Examples: Impatiens, tulips, flowering bushes, young tomato plants, green bean bushes, and the list goes on! We homeowners take great pride in our

area. The lawns are well maintained by the homeowners assoc. paid for (of course) by us.

There must be a remedy for the extensive damage constantly happening to our plantings from groups of four or more deer almost daily seen in the area.

In addition: Abundant squirrels make growing tomatoes impossible without elaborate wire cages and netting - event then the squirrels win - getting over 50% of the crop!

Phone call: Indicated she is in favor of a managed hunt at Runge.

I am an active member of the club, and have been an active member since 1979. There are now about 80 women in the club. We all have a huge interest in gardening, and not one of us has not had trouble with deer, or had a friend or neighbor tell stories of what they have eaten, rubbed, and ruined on our property and yards inside the city limits and the area just outside the city. Trees, shrubs, flowers, fruit and veggies, all have been eaten. We have tried all the old home remedies, and the expensive sprays and nothing seems to help. One can hardly put up a 9 foot fence when they live in the city and are just trying to protect the shrubs in the front of the house. Please can we start having more managed hunts and cut the number of deer way down in Jefferson City.

I have been an active member of the Central Mo. Master Gardeners since the early 1980's. We are a large group of almost 200 members, men and women, young and old, new gardeners, and some very experienced gardeners. We all love the outdoors, gardening, growing, and teaching others how to garden and enjoy growing. One topic that always comes up no matter where we are, is the subject of deer problems, and what has happened to our yard, what can we do about it, and what have we tried so far that did not help. Our trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, fruits, and vegetables have all been eaten and ruined by deer. Some of us do live in the county, but most live inside the city limits. Please we are asking for some help with decreasing the deer population in Jefferson City. We invite you to come to one of our monthly meetings and just see a show of hands of all those who have had a deer problem.

(Hardcopy Comment 3/15/2016): As we live in Valley Park West subdivision directly across Hwy179 since 1988 - Runge Center has been a great neighbor. We do feel deer population needs controlled as we count as many as 7 at a time & frustration of hitting one directly at the Runge Center Entrance.

(Hardcopy Comment Received 3/22/2016) We have a continuing deer problem here in the "orchard" town houses with the feasting on flowers, vegetables, and bushes.

In your efforts to manage this issue we would continue to urge look at hunting and other means.

If you found it useful, we would have no objection to relocating a blind, tree, etc on our property at **** Drew Perry Rd

(3/29/2016 - phone call): She supports a managed hunt in Jefferson City. She lives near the Oak Hills golf course on the southeast side of Jefferson City and is inundated with deer. There is deer poop everywhere. They have already eaten all green plants that have come up so far this spring. She wondered if they could hold a managed hunt at Oak Hills golf course (owned by Jefferson City). I informed her that archery hunting was allowed on private property in Jefferson City and that the City could decide to work with the Department of Conservation to hold a managed hunt.

I live very close to Runge. It is a wonderful asset to the community and is heavily used. However, I have concerns about the large number of deer that have populated this area. Behind my home it is wooded and many early mornings I see deer bedding down there. They have become fairly domesticated by living in this area of homes. They are also a hazard on the roads, especially in the dark.

As a result they do quite a bit of damage to gardens and plantings around homes. I hope that you will consider controlling the population. I would not oppose bow and arrow hunting during deer season. Thank you

I have read the plan. There is lack of recognition of the size of the invasive plant problem at Runge. There is currently no effective suppression going on, and the problem grows as little is being done about it. This is the most urgent terrestrial management problem at Runge, and yet it has not been assigned to the priorities table at the end of the plan. It is considered "ongoing", yet suppression is not happening. This should be assigned a priority in year one of the plan as well as at least the next three years, because it will probably take that level of effort to get it under control.

As far as land management responsibility for the grounds at Runge, I would like to see that handled by two MDC land management divisions: Forestry and Wildlife. They are better equipped to recognize the invasive and other ecological problems and would be effective in addressing them.

(Hardcopy comment received 3/21/2016): We have deer roam through our property almost daily. They are a problem for our neighborhood flowers.

Appendix I. Honey Creek Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (March 1-31, 2016):

Take some of those smaller fields scattered around and plant them in green fields instead of crops yearly.

I don't know if I would have much to offer. I think it is a well managed area, decent populations of several different animals. I wouldn't mind seeing more deer in the area, bucks that is. There seems to be a good sized population of does' in this area. I'll have a better idea after I put up a few trail cameras. I love hunting up there. Maybe putting in a deer specific food plot in a

secluded area would bring in some more.

Other than that, I think the Department is doing a good job. Thank you.

Hello,

I'm not sure what is meant by Strategic Direction and Desired Future Condition and if they are in conflict with one another. I enjoy spring turkey hunting at Honey Creek and turkey hunting is mentioned in the Strategic Direction. In Desired Future Condition, it talks of compatible recreational opportunities. What is meant by compatible recreational opportunities? Could this mean putting cabins at Honey Creek that to me would interfere with the natural beauty and wildlife that exist? It is just hard to comment on something that is stated so general without the specifics.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

A great place to stop over with horses, just let people know water isn't available.

First, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Honey Creek CA Draft Management Plan. Equestrian trail riders in Andrew, Buchanan, and Holt Counties are fortunate to be served by the nice trails on the Honey Creek CA. We at Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen commend MDC for providing this quality outdoor experience opportunity.

Trail riders who ride on Honey Creek are complimentary of the job the Department does of maintaining parking and camping areas, hitching rails, and other infrastructure associated with equestrian use of the trails. They also speak well of Department personnel as being friendly and helpful.

I understand that a creek crossing can be quite soft, causing some riders to avoid the area at times. The trails in some spots have a few loose rocks that could cause a horse to lose footing. SMMBCH offers our services (availability of volunteers permitting) to assist the area manager to assess any trail safety or maintenance issues and develop plans to address them. We further offer, if none currently exists, to assist the Area Manager to develop a partnership with local trail users to assist with maintaining the trails and associated infrastructure.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, and thank you for providing this opportunity to the trail community.

Appendix J. Magnolia Hollow Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (March 1-31, 2016):

While the current Magnolia Hollow Conservation Area allows Shooting clay birds there is no opportunity for rifle and pistol shooting. There is nothing in this geographic area that has these opportunities. This would be a great addition to this site and provide for more usage of a under utilized resource. I can speak for a small group of us that would volunteer labor towards this effort. Thanks for this opportunity to comment.

I wish you could offer a boat access to Establishment creek and or the Mississippi River.

More parking needs to be added so there is access to the middle and southern parts of the area. Acquire the 80 or so acre that is privately owned as of now and put a fishing lake in that area. Purchase the ground from Phil Bequette to gain access to the southern part of the area.

Mr. Keeley. We own property along Magnolia Hollow. We have been very satisfied working with the conservation department as our neighbors. Please continue to keep the property lines well marked. this has helped to keep trespasser (theft & hunting) problem to a minimum. We promote bow hunting only at magnolia hollow. we have seen the "brown its down" rifle hunting style here in the past & with the elimination of the point restriction we don't want it back . at least keep it bucks only. Bow hunting requires hunting skills & knowing what you are shooting. We have managed our property thru timber improvement & increased our food plots but the deer numbers have stayed the same or decreased over the last 10-15 years. I have read your plan & agree with it. Thanks.

Wallace Giesler 573-883-0764

Any ideas or problems

First, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Magnolia Hollow CA Draft Management Plan. Equestrian trail riders in Ste. Genevieve County are fortunate to be served by the John Audubon Trail on Mark Twain National Forest in the Southwest Corner of the county. That being said Magnolia Hollow CA offers a rather rare opportunity for multi-use trail users to enjoy the rugged terrain and splendid views found in the Mississippi River Breaks.

The area access trails on Magnolia Hollow CA could be opened to multi-use, providing two very nice loops for bikers, hikers, and equestrians. While Ste. Genevieve County is not identified as underserved with regard to public land equestrian trail opportunities, opening the trails to multi-use would assist CA management to achieve several of the Public Use Management Objectives dealing with wildlife viewing, educational , recreational and interpretive opportunities, and the uniqueness of the area. It would also help to facilitate a good relationship with some neighbors.

It is likely that steep grades, creek crossings and other obstacles might make it advisable to treat or reroute the existing access trails for multi-use. Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen

offers our services (availability of volunteers permitting) to assist the area manager to assess any trail safety or maintenance issues and develop plans to address them. We further offer to assist the Area Manager to develop a partnership with local trail users to assist with maintaining multi-use trails and associated infrastructure.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, and SMMBCH encourages the planning committee to amend the Management Plan to include multi-use trails.

Appendix K. Clearwater Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (March 1-31, 2016):

The water level should be kept higher all year long, better for the fish and more room for them to spawn. I fish there a lot of times, especially during the crappie season. Several areas are real low, hard to get a boat in, like up where the ball is on the high line area.

First, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Clearwater CA Draft Management Plan. Equestrian trail riders in Wayne and Reynolds Counties are fortunate to be served by trails on Mark Twain National Forest, Sam A. Baker and Wappapello State Park, and University Forest Conservation Area. That being said Clearwater CA offers a great opportunity for the Department to add a multi-use trail network to the outdoor opportunities the CA currently offers. Compartments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, in conjunction with land owned by USACE comprise a huge, essentially contiguous area. Accessibility via hard-surfaced roads is very good thanks to Missouri Highways 34 and HH. The upland landscape and soils are well-suited for trails with a natural surface, and there is a minimum of conflicting uses. Some of the area ccess trails shown on the map are essentially public gravel roads, but some of the access trails are no more than 2 tracks through the woods. The latter could be opened to multi-use and a few additional trails could be installed to form connected loops for hikers, bikers, and equestrians. While Wayne and Reynolds Counties are not identified as underserved with regard to public land equestrian trail opportunities, opening multi-use trails on Clearwater CA would assist CA management to achieve several of the Public Use Management Objectives dealing with wildlife viewing, educational and interpretive opportunities, and the uniqueness of the area. It would also help to facilitate a good relationship with some neighbors. In addition to the need to put in some new trails, it is likely that steep grades, creek crossings and other obstacles might make it advisable to treat or reroute the existing access trails for multi-use. Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen offers our services (availability of volunteers permitting) to assist the area manager to access any trail safety or maintenance issues and develop plans to address them; we would also offer assistance with marking and cutting the new trails. We further offer to assist the Area Manager to develop a partnership with local trial users to assist with maintaining multi-use trial associated infrastructure. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, and SMMBCH encourages the planning committee to amend the Management Plan to include multi-use trails on Clearwater CA.