

**January – March 2017**  
**Area Plan**  
**Public Comment Summary**



*Bird watchers at Painted Rock Conservation Area*

Missouri Department of Conservation  
May 2017



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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 2017, 22 area plans (covering 28 conservation areas, 24 accesses, and one towersite) were posted for month-long public comment periods ([mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://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 105 comments from 87 respondents on 20 area plans.
- Themes and issues identified for these plans included support of native prairie and grassland restoration, invasive species control, suggestions to add horseback riding trails, improve disabled access, increase enforcement, and general support for conservation areas.
- 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](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans)).

## PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

For the period of January – March 2017, 22 area plans (covering 28 conservation areas, 24 accesses, and one towersite) 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 105 comments on 20 area plans (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Number of comments received by plan, January 2017 – March 2017.**

<b>Comment Month</b>	<b>Area Plan</b>	<b>MDC Region</b>	<b>Comments Received</b>
January 2017	Mint Spring Conservation Area	Central	4
January 2017	Rinquelin Trail Lake Conservation Area	Central	1
January 2017	King Lake Conservation Area	Northwest	5
February 2017	Columbia Urban Conservation Areas <sup>1</sup>	Central	6
February 2017	Cooper Hill Conservation Area	Central	3
February 2017	McGee Family Conservation Area	Northwest	5
February 2017	Patrick Bridge Access	Ozark	10
February 2017	Ripley & Oregon County River Accesses <sup>2</sup>	Ozark	4
February 2017	Castor River Conservation Area	Southeast	14
February 2017	Graves Mountain Conservation Area	Southeast	3
February 2017	Ruth & Paul Henning Conservation Area	Southwest	9
February 2017	Barton County Prairies <sup>3</sup>	Southwest	5
February 2017	Lester R. Davis Memorial Forest	Southwest	4
March 2017	Northwest Region Grand River Accesses <sup>4</sup>	Northwest	10
March 2017	Northwest Region Upland Prairies <sup>5</sup>	Northwest	2
March 2017	Schifferdecker Memorial Conservation Area	Northwest	2
March 2017	Van Dyke Conservation Area	Northwest	0
March 2017	Angeline Conservation Area	Ozark	10
March 2017	Poplar Bluff Accesses <sup>6</sup>	Southeast	0
March 2017	Crowleys Ridge Conservation Area	Southeast	6
March 2017	Hawn and Old Plantation Accesses	Southeast	1
March 2017	Keysville Towersite	St. Louis	2
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>105</b>

<sup>1</sup>Plan includes Henry Jackson Waters and C.B. Moss Memorial Wildlife Area and Hinkson Woods Conservation Area.

<sup>2</sup>Plan includes Greenville Ford Access, Myrtle Access, and George and Vida Martin Access.

<sup>3</sup>Plan includes Bethel Prairie Conservation Area, Comstock Prairie Conservation Area, Dorris Creek Prairie Conservation Area, Mo-No-I Prairie Conservation Area, Mon-Shon Prairie Conservation Area, Pa Sole Prairie Conservation Area, Redwing Prairie Conservation Area, Redwing Prairie Conservation Area, Edward B. & Marie O. Risch Conservation Area, and Treaty Line Prairie Conservation Area.

<sup>4</sup>Plan includes Andy Denton Access, Bosworth Access, Coval Gann – Chillicothe Access, Green Access, Holmes Bend Access, Mockingbird Hill Access, Newman Memorial Access, Savage Access, Sowards Ford Access, Sumner Access, and Wabash Crossing Access.

<sup>5</sup>Plan includes Foxglove Conservation Area, Little Tarkio Prairie, and Tarkio Prairie Conservation Area.

<sup>6</sup>Plan includes Chalk Bluff Trail Access, Dan River Access, Fisk Access, Harviell Access, Hilliard Access, James Clark Access, and Ringo Ford Access.

## DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

### Who responded?

We received 105 comments from 87 respondents (Table 2). Six 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
<b>Individual citizens</b> (no affiliation listed)	72	92
<b>Equestrian groups</b> (Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen, Tri-Lakes Chapter - Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen)	4	5
<b>Hunting/Archery Clubs</b> (Lazy 8 Hunting Club, McKenzie Creek Archery Club)	2	2
<b>Conservation NGOs</b> (Stream Team #2099, Southwest Missouri Fly Fishers, Tri-Lakes Fly Fishers, Fly Fishers International, Quail Forever)	3	3
<b>Other</b> (Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative, Eastpointe Property Owners Association, Cushman Properties)	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>105</b>

### How they responded:

**Table 3. Total number of each response received**

Response Type	Count	Percent
Web comment form	104	99
Hard copy comment form	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>

### Where respondents are from:

**Table 4. Total number of respondents by location**

State	Count	Percent
Missouri	84	97
Kansas	1	1
Arkansas	1	1
Arizona	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figure 1. Map of Respondents by ZIP Code**

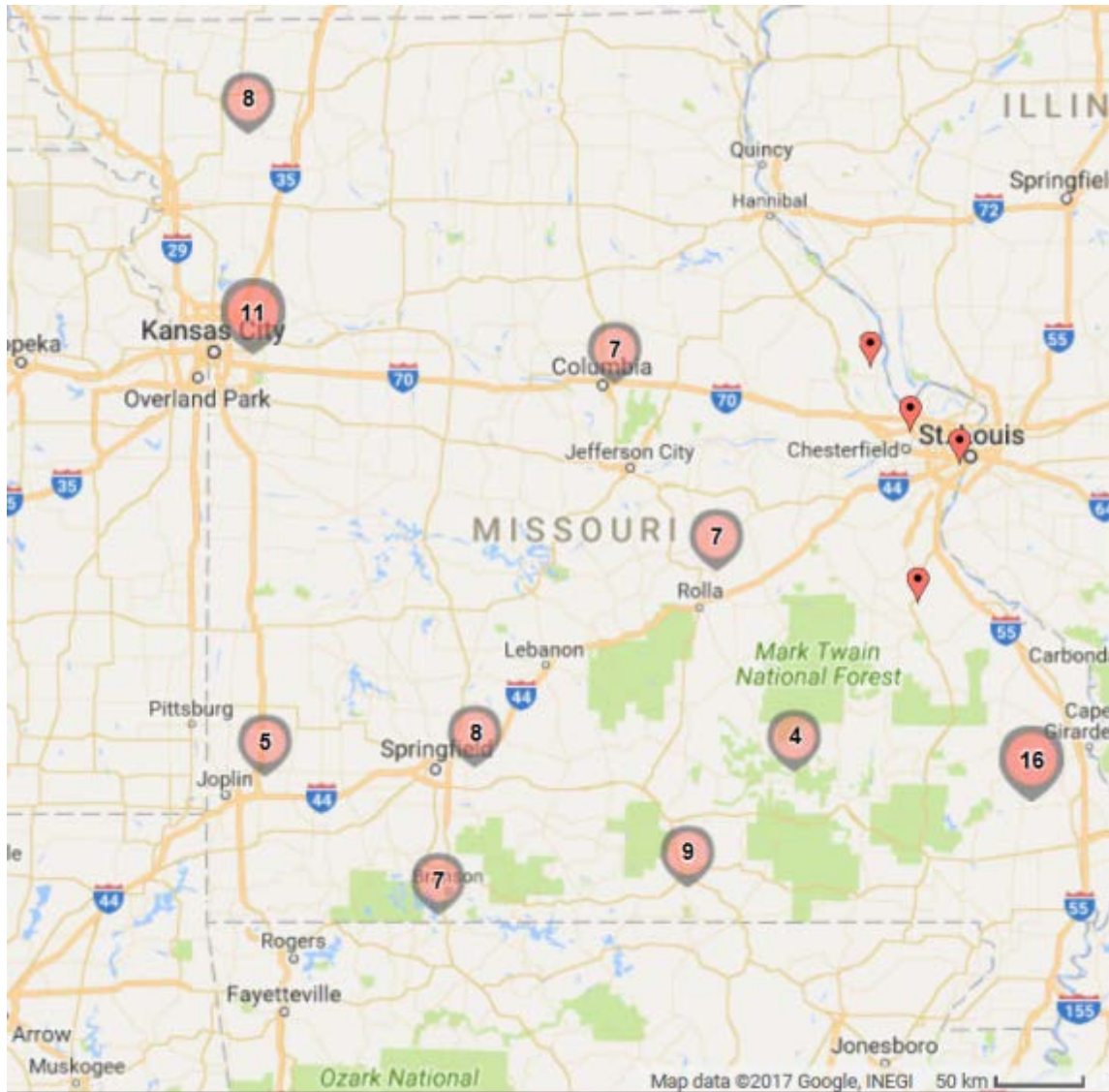
The pinpoints below represent the geographic center of ZIP code boundaries from which a public comment was received (they do not represent actual street addresses). Shaded circles with numbers in them represent multiple responses from a region. Mapped using <http://batchgeo.com/>.





**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. Mapped using <http://batchgeo.com/>.



## **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 2017. 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](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans), once each plan receives final approval.

### **Terrestrial Resource Management**

#### ***Habitat/Wildlife Management***

- Supports adding more warm-season grasses for game species.
- Supports planting milo for game species use.
- Appreciates the Department's efforts to restore prairie chicken populations.
- Supports wetland restoration at King Lake CA.
- Enjoys hunting opportunities at Castor River CA. Suggests adding late-season food plots.
- Suggests adding food plots for upland and migratory birds. Suggests planting sunflowers and milo on the edges of all food plots.
- Suggests using a "hands off" approach to managing Castor River CA.
- Suggests managing for woodcock habitat.
- Suggests investigating the possibility of some prairie restoration in a portion of Hinkson Woods CA.
- Supports native grassland restoration on McGee Family CA.
- Opposes using grazing as a grassland management technique on this area.
- Concerned about the removal of silos disturbing nesting birds. Suggests using alternative nesting site boxes if silos are removed from McGee Family CA.
- Suggests managing the old field north of the campground as food plot for wildlife.
- Concerned current area management practices are not producing the desired results of a quail focus area.
- Suggests adding more crop fields and food plots to support quail, rabbits, deer, and turkey.
- Suggests leaving more crops unharvested as a winter food source for wildlife.
- Suggests burning the area more frequently to enhance habitat for quail and rabbits.
- Suggests conducting more edge feathering for rabbit habitat.
- Suggests burning smaller patches instead of large patches during controlled burns.
- Concerned area management practices are harming existing quail populations.

### ***Natural Community Management***

- Supports reconstructing diverse prairie vegetation on non-prairie areas.
- Suggests planting additional native grasses, forbs, and wildflowers.
- Suggests planting more tree and shrub species which will be beneficial to bears and other wildlife species.
- Opposes prescribed burning activities.
- Appreciates the Department's efforts to protect prairies.
- Appreciates prescribed burning on Foxglove Conservation Area.
- Suggests more management geared toward nongame species.

### ***Invasive Species***

- Supports invasive species control.
- Supports the eradication of feral hogs from Castor River CA.
- Suggests changing wording in the plan from "control" to "eradicate" invasive species.
- Encourages continuing to mow and spray for thistles.
- Supports invasive species removal. Concerned that invasive honeysuckle has damaged "the best kept secret in Columbia" in Waters-Moss Conservation Area.

### ***Other***

- Wonders if there is baseline inventory data and if monitoring has been conducted to evaluate potential degradation of the floral and faunal community.
- Concerned about trees blocking fishing and wildlife access on the Castor River.
- Suggests keeping development to a minimum to keep the Columbia Urban Conservation Areas natural.
- Concerned that the Department harvested walnut trees on area.
- Concerned that reclaimed strip pits have no top soil and no plant growth.
- Concerned about several dead raptors found on the area.

### **Aquatic Resource Management**

#### ***Fishing/Fishing Pond Management***

- Concerned siltation is harming potential recreational opportunity on area ponds and King Lake.
- Wonders if small non-fishing ponds will be managed for wildlife such as amphibians, reptiles, and aquatic invertebrates.
- Concerned that ponds at Dorris Creek CA no longer support a fishable crappie population.
- Concerned watering holes have grown up and are no longer of value to wildlife. Supports additional wildlife watering areas on ridgetops.

- Wonders where the pond is located on the area.

### ***Habitat Management***

- Supports the utilization of low impact methods to discourage soil and stream bank erosion.

### **Public Use Management**

#### ***Hunting***

- Concerned area is too small to allow hunting.
- Appreciates new additional walk in only hunting area (Compartment 6). Suggests this area also change to archery hunting only to further deter trespassing onto neighboring property.
- Suggests allowing archery-only hunting on a portion of Compartment 4 (157 acre tract) due to safety concerns.
- Suggests allowing ATV use to retrieve game.

#### ***Fishing/Boating Access***

- Suggests adding a concrete boat ramp.
- Suggests moving or rebuilding the canoe access area to avoid flood damage.
- Suggests adding an additional take-out on the upstream side of Patrick Bridge.
- Suggests adding fishing ponds.
- Suggests rerouting Fox Pen Road Access Trail to avoid further erosion.
- Suggests adding a boat ramp to Andy Denton Access.

#### ***Trapping***

- Opposes trapping at McGee Family CA.

#### ***Equestrian Use***

- Suggests allowing equestrian use.
- Enjoys horseback riding opportunities at Castor River CA.
- Suggests adding equestrian trails to McGee Family CA.
- Suggests allowing horseback riding.
- Suggests adding better signage to the equestrian trail head from Highway 19 and country road.
- Concerned about the number of equestrian users on the area.
- Suggests expanding, upgrading, and maintaining equestrian trails.
- Suggests creating a “cutoff” trail to reduce strain on equestrian users on the trail located between County Road 203 and Lick Log Falls.

- Suggests adding three to four miles of multiple use trails between County Road 208 and fire roads 239 and 330.
- Suggests opening multi-use trails to hiking and equestrian use during firearms deer hunting seasons and spring turkey hunting seasons.
- Suggests adding a multi-use (hiking and horseback riding) trail around the lake.
- Suggests additional multi-use (hiking and horseback riding) trails.
- Suggests adding multiple use (hiking and horseback riding) trails on larger parcels of Graves Mountain CA.
- Suggests allowing horseback riding on area trails.
- Suggests adding 10-12 miles of multi-use (hiking and horseback riding) trails to Crowley's Ridge CA.

### ***Hiking/Biking Trails***

- Suggests adding hiking trails.
- Suggests allowing bicycles on area trails.
- Suggests improving trails from the campground to the White River.

### ***Amenities***

- Suggests adding electric service at campground.
- Suggests adding a picnic area by the parking lot.
- Suggests adding more benches along area trails.

### ***Disabled Access***

- Suggests improving disabled user access to pond 3 at Dorris Creek CA.
- Suggests increasing the accessibility of the trail leading to Althea Spring.
- Suggests adding an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible boat ramp and fishing area to Andy Denton Access.

### ***Area Maintenance***

- Supports continued maintenance of Rinquelin Trail Lake.
- Concerned about litter found at Castor River CA. Suggests enforcing littering fines and picking up litter more frequently.
- Encourages not mowing a path to the creek at Waters-Moss CA.
- Concerned hunters are generating trash on the area.

### ***Communication/Education***

- Suggests restocking interpretive pamphlets or adding a permanent sign stating the significance of each trail marker.

- Suggests better educating users about the importance of Angeline CA and impacts of all-terrain vehicles and off-road vehicles to natural resources.
- Suggests adding a numbering system to the area map with corresponding numbers on trail signs to aid in navigation.

### ***Enforcement/Policy***

- Concerned that all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are being used illegally on new logging roads. Concerned that there are ATV paths from adjacent private property.
- Suggests adding more agents to patrol Bollinger County conservation areas. Suggests controlling ATVs and better enforcing campground rules.
- Suggests patrolling the area more frequently. Concerned with noise and illegal activities from other campers.
- Supports the existing area use restrictions for firearms and vehicles at Hawn Access.

### ***All-Terrain Vehicles***

- Suggests opening Henning CA to ATV use.
- Suggests not allowing all-terrain vehicles and off-road vehicles except in case of emergencies on the area.

### ***Camping***

- Suggests moving the camping area away from the parking lot.
- Suggests placing a limit on the number of persons and vehicles per campsite to better manage camping activities.

### ***Other***

- Offers volunteer service to assist the Department.
- Suggests adding a marker in honor of the Paul Patrick family home.
- Concerned this plan does not discuss more detailed outdoor land use related to users who hunt and fish.
- Supports the continued maintenance of towersites with their connection to conservation and wildfire prevention.

## **Administrative Considerations**

### ***Land Acquisition***

- Supports acquiring additional land with native prairie.
- Supports acquiring additional land.
- Opposes additional land acquisition adjacent to Myrtle Access.
- Supports acquiring privately-owned inholdings when available.

- Wonders if selling the area and using the money to buy property adjacent to a larger tract would be an option?

### ***Infrastructure Development***

- Appreciates Henning CA and new bridge over the creek. Suggests adding more walking bridges over creeks.
- Suggests improving trails by grading or paving them.
- Suggests adding more hiking trails and a visitor's center.
- Supports creating a small parking lot for area users.
- Suggests adding more accesses to northern Missouri rivers.

### ***Boundary Maintenance/Signage***

- Wonders if the boundaries of Mint Spring CA will be marked to avoid trespassing onto neighboring private property.
- Suggests posting area restrictions on Hinkson Woods CA.
- Suggests posting “no hunting” signs year-round on multiple use trails.

### ***Other***

- Opposes closing any existing roads.
- Concerned area users are parking on the adjacent county road, creating dangerous driving conditions.
- Suggests requesting better county road maintenance.

### **General Comments**

- Appreciates the efforts made by the Department to conserve natural spaces.
- Supports the continued maintenance on these areas.
- Appreciates the efforts made by the Department to conserve natural spaces and offer recreational opportunities for Missourians.
- Supports area management plan.

## **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](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans)).

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A. Mint Spring Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (January 1-31, 2017):

If the intent of this area is to "provide the public opportunities for viewing and studying plants and animals native to oak-hickory forest," there should be more than just a 100 foot path. Hiking trails should be added.

I would love to be able to trail ride in the area!

Put in a nature trail around the whole area for hiking

Hello, for now, we are just mostly concerned about allowing hunting because we feel the size of the property is not large enough. Also, will the borders be marked well? We do not want to have to worry about people "exploring" over onto our land.

### Appendix B. Rinquelin Trail Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (January 1-31, 2017):

We use the lake a lot. Please continue maintenance on it. Thanks.

### Appendix C. King Lake Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (January 1-31, 2017):

I like the idea of more Warm Season Grasses and good cover for Deer, Pheasant and Quail.

I am all for any wetland restoration/ improvements. I think that more of MDC's land should be considered for additional wetlands. They are a precious resource that is diminishing at very rapid rate. I have spoke with the area manager and will also offer any help voluntarily, in any way shape or form to MDC as a whole.

A hiking/equestrian trail around the lake perimeter would be an added bonus. A natural grass surface that is maintained with regular mowing would be sufficient. I walk almost daily around Limpp Lake just west of King City with the exception of summer months because the path is not mowed.

The siltation of this lake makes it a waste of a good potential resource. When new to the area, I only spent 30 minutes on this lake after seeing how shallow and barren it was-very disappointing waste of time. This is a common problem for many lakes in this area (Limpp, Pony Express, Harrison County, etc). I have yet to see the MDC implement any type of lake renovation in recent years. This siltation will continue to become a problem until the MDC develops and maintains a specialized and well funded team focused on rehabilitating many of these lakes. Small water fishing is a valuable recreation for people who desire to get away from the crowds and sometimes dangerous conditions on large impoundments and reservoirs. For example, kayak fishing is gaining in popularity and these medium sized lakes are custom made for this type of



use. Please find innovative ways to open these lakes up to their full potential-either pumping or old fashioned dam cutting,draining and cleaning out. Lakes tremendous fisheries after these actions are taken.

I hunt king lake very frequently for rabbits, quail, and thanks to your wonderful management efforts, even pheasant!!! Your department has done an unbelievable job bringing back turkey, deer, and now- even game birds again. (Which I haven't seen since I was a boy on my first hunting outings. I'm 41 now) The main thing I want to point out is the use of milo on not just king lake, but pony express, and elam bend. It's a great food source during the hard winter months. I've noticed many rabbits and other small game in and around these milo fields, but the number of quail & pheasants that feed on this milo has been just remarkable. I've never seen anything like it in 30 years of hunting. Please continue to plant as much of it as is possible, as your efforts really are noticed and appreciated. Keep up the good work, and thanks again.

#### **Appendix D. Columbia Urban Conservation Areas Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (February 1-28, 2017):

This is great, as a lifelong Missouri resident I've always appreciated the care and planning that goes in to making our natural spaces last forever. Thank you for continuing your efforts on behalf of mine and future generations. Cheers.

Both areas need additional planting of native grasses, forbs and wildflowers. Please consider this in your plans.

My wife and I have lived on a property that borders the eastern side of Waters-Moss for 27 yrs. Shortly after we moved here, an M.U. Botany student identified and photographed numerous wildflower species along the bluff as a class assignment. In a summary to the project, he expressed concern that pedestrian traffic due to an increase in the human population would damage the fragile area. Today, though there are dozens of people daily walking, running, and biking on the sidewalk through the woods, within 20 yds. of this area, there is little danger of excessive foot traffic through the area. It is overgrown with Japanese honeysuckle! Former mayor,

Bob McDavid on several occasions referred to Waters-Moss as the best kept secret in Columbia. Unfortunately, because of the Japanese honeysuckle the best part of the secret will never be revealed.

The city council approved a plan several years ago that complies with the terms of the agreement they made with the Conservation Dept., as well as, the wishes of our property owners association. All areas of the Waters-Moss property are to remain wild except for the city controlled zone and the area around the sidewalk through the woods. We and our neighbors understand this to mean a path will NOT be mowed along the strip formerly used to move equipment to the creek bottom. The city mowed this strip for a couple of years when they first took over the property. It encouraged a lot of foot traffic that we felt was an invasion of privacy plus, there was the nuisance of free ranging dogs running through our yards.

We have thoroughly enjoyed living here. The trees, the birds, the flowers, the wildlife have all been enjoyable.

But, as time has passed we no longer see quail, woodcock, turkeys, coyotes and this past year our sightings of barred owls has diminished.

Thanks for listening!

I consider the Hinkson Woods CA a real gem of peaceful nature for the citizens of Columbia. I enjoy walking there and I have especially enjoyed observing the mating rituals of the Woodcock.

I suggest:

- 1) keeping development to a minimum and managing it for walking and nature study,
- 2) invasive alien plants should be eradicated,
- 3) manage for Woodcock habitat,
- 4) install signs for the area indicating restrictions on uses (I think dogs should be on a leash in the area and bikes should be banned or at least not be allowed in the area when trails are wet.)
- 5) investigate the possibility of some prairie restoration in part of the area.

Thanks for providing this area for the public.

I am encouraged to see a focus on keeping Waters-Moss Conservation Area natural. I believe your stated strategic objectives focusing on removal of invasive plants and aquatic/stream management are on target. This is one of the few truly natural, non-developed areas left in urban Columbia. The bike trail on its southern edge has been a great resource for the area, however further development would be unwise and counter the commitment the City of Columbia made to keep Waters-Moss CA natural and hands/off and would significantly diminish the beauty and value of both the Waters-Moss CA as well the bike trail. Therefore I also believe the absence of any planned development (shelters, roads, additional trails, etc.) furthers the overall objectives and mission of the Waters-Moss area and is very important. I appreciate the efforts of the MDC and their commitment to maintaining natural environments.

Respectfully,

Many thanks to MDC and City of Columbia for maintaining the natural environments of the Waters/Moss and Hinkson Woods CA. I'd like to suggest that native flowering plants (including milkweeds) be planted in flat open areas and along walking/biking paths to feed pollinators and support Monarch butterflies.

## **Appendix E. Cooper Hill Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (February 1-28, 2017):

This is great, as a lifelong Missouri resident I've always appreciated the care and planning that goes in to making our natural spaces last forever. Thank you for continuing your efforts on behalf of mine and future generations. Cheers.

Please put a concrete boat ramp in .

First, let me say how much I appreciate all of MDC's areas. The vast array of areas open to the public should be considered a great achievement to all who work to maintain them. My family has been to the cooper hill conservation area multiple times. We have recently purchased a home approximately 1/4 mile away and plan to use this area much more in the coming years. As it is designated now, the primitive camping site at this area is not in an ideal location. Most of the year the area designated is overgrown with vegetation or is filled with vehicle parking. I suggest moving the camping area to a place that is not next to the parking lot. For safety concerns, when camping with my young children, I do not want to camp right next to where vehicles are being driven without any sort of clear division between parking lot and camping area. Thank you again for all you do to provide citizens of Missouri with access to these natural areas.

### **Appendix F. McGee Family Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (February 1-28, 2017):

Restoration to native grassland should be one of Missouri conservation's, in general, most important goals. A fraction of Missouri native prairie's are remaining, and the species that once thrived there are disappearing. The fact that this management plan focuses on native grass restoration is welcome. Hopefully it see implementation.

Love this area as a place to hike, bird and explore near the city. The creeks are geological gems lined with a smattering of interesting trees and plants, one creek with a pretty waterfall. I am happy you are improving the fields with native grasses and forbs. Two concerns: I do not wish to see grazing there as a management method. My other concern is that you consider placing an alternative nesting site for the avian species of conservation concern that nests in one of the silos. If you find it necessary to remove the silos perhaps they will adapt to a nest box.

This is great, as a lifelong Missouri resident I've always appreciated the care and planning that goes in to making our natural spaces last forever. Thank you for continuing your efforts on behalf of mine and future generations. Cheers.

Please add equestrian trail opportunities. This area of the state is under-served with trail riding opportunities - and a parcel of this size should have some suitable areas for equestrian trails.

On the silos - first off, yes I realize people can be stupid and removal of at least two would save these type of folks from getting hurt, then screaming at MDC about it. However, the southern silo, its still in pretty good condition, needs to stay. It offers a relatively safe resting area for owls. There is no opening a 4-legged predator can get inside. I have seen two different owls - different times - a barn and a horned - inside. My bad, I startled the barn owl when I peeked in. There is a small broken opening on the west side, a peephole you could say.

Trapping - I take my dogs hiking all over McGee. And yes, we follow same areas wildlife does - no my dogs do not hunt/run the wildlife: aside from moles & mice - and the occasional failed

rabbit jumps. I work on training them for behavior off leash - I do have a small game permit - my point, and yes I'm getting there. While there is a healthy pop of coyotes, I see no benefit to wildlife or humans, in trapping on McGee. 2017 is the first time in years I've actually seen red foxes back in this area.

Two years ago we ran across a young coyote in a wire leg trap. #1 area was not marked by trapper as having a trap. #2 it was in a "cross road" area all wildlife & humans - with dogs - walk and #3 it was disgusting what the animal had been thru while caught (they are not more humane traps) . He was dead - recently shot, but not collected. I ran into the trapper up in the parking lot. I did vent regarding area he had put the trap and not marking it. Yes, you guessed it... I'm against trapping. To my experience at McGee, there isn't an "overage" of any "trappable" species.

Hunting on McGee,.... Maybe MDC could offer a "good neighbor" pamphlet. Like used TP & crap - person should take the time to bury it. How about shooters gathering up all their spent shotgun cartridges, empty hand warmer packets etc. And using biodegradable stand markers vs plastic pieces.

One other thing.... in the last 8 months or so. we have found 3 dead owls, 3 hawks and areas I'm pretty sure other raptors were killed just due the area & amount of feathers around. I did notify area agent. But.... in eight years of hiking the area combined - I've never seen so many dead raptors. Kinda makes one wonder what the hell's going on.

Appreciate the MDC & her folks.

### **Appendix G. Patrick Bridge Access Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (February 1-28, 2017):

No issue with the recommendations. What should also be considered is adding a take out on the east or upstream side of Patrick bridge. This would enhance access to the river above the bridge. Particularly in high water when it can be difficult and dangerous to travel under the bridge.

This is great, as a lifelong Missouri resident I've always appreciated the care and planning that goes in to making our natural spaces last forever. Thank you for continuing your efforts on behalf of mine and future generations. Cheers.

There is a huge need for more more patrol due to drug usage and squatters in the area. There also needs to be a noise curfew

I agree with the plan's objectives and goals. Having had a VERY bad camping experience there about three years ago, I would especially support Objective 1, Strategy 2 (protection). My wife and I had such a terrible experience at this campground with noisy, rowdy and drunk campers on

a warm Spring weekend about three years ago that we will not camp in an unsupervised campground again. Campsites were overcrowded which amplified the numbers of misbehaving people. Threats were made against us when we asked politely to not play a radio next to our tent after 10 pm. I would suggest placing a limit on the number of vehicles and persons allowed on a campsite in order to give agents and law enforcement a leg to stand on in order to manage behavior in the campground.

As a caregiver for someone in a wheelchair I would like to comment on the wheelchair accessibility of this area. Specifically the part of the C.A. just downstream of the bridge. First the privy and designated paved parking area in front of it are appreciated. But after that the wheelchair accessibility of the area ends. The trailhead leading down to Althea Spring is barely navigable around the pipe gates. Wheelchair users need to carefully navigate around narrow passages of the boulders. As far as the trail itself it is fairly accessible except near the end at the spring branch overlook. Some exposed tree roots on the surface make it impassible with a wheelchair. The path down to the spring outflow is completely inaccessible. A boardwalk down to it would be greatly appreciated. As a member of a wheelchair user family and lover of the outdoors, it is very difficult to see some of these beautiful springs from a wheelchair. With some minor improvements this area could be a 100 percent accessible gem of the Ozarks. Thank you for considering my comments.

We camp several times each summer at the Patrick Bridge Access Area, and we have for over 25 years. I am sure unless changes are made, we will not camp there again. There has been a gradual decline in law enforcement patrolling the campgrounds and problems have arisen such as loud music, partying, fights, and obvious drug use. Last summer we were kept awake all night with loud music (and I mean loud enough to hurt), screaming, yelling, and people walking through our camp. Also, dogs are allowed to run around without being leashed, and once we had an unfriendly pit bull get off his chain and visit our camp. We witnessed people openly smoking marijuana and passing pipes. In the rare occasion that an officer patrolled the area, they just drove through instead of actually stopping and checking things out. We have had possessions stolen, one time being our tent! Also people place pup tents on the sites to hold a place, then never use the tent all weekend. One family that basically lives there all summer keeps most of the sites closed this way, and people who hold weekday jobs can not get to the campgrounds early enough to get a campsite. Camping last year was scary to say the least and honestly I am afraid to go back.

We enjoyed camping at the Patrick Bridge Campground because it is such a beautiful place. Our children have spent many enjoyable summer days there. We camp, kayak, canoe, hike, and enjoy nature. I noticed last year the campgrounds were clean and neat. I only wish other people that camped there came to enjoy camping, not to have a week (months) long drug and alcohol party.

Some suggestions we have about the management plan are:

More law enforcement ACTIVELY patrolling the area, not just driving through  
 An enforced quiet time.  
 An enforced "dogs on leash" law, and "no dangerous dogs" law  
 No squatters. No unoccupied campgrounds. No drugs.  
 A wider bridge  
 Not allowing people to pull through the boat launch and park on the gravel bar.  
 Repairing the paths from the campground to the river  
 More camp sites

It would be exciting to see changes made to this area. As I said before, we have enjoyed this area for years and years, and we would love to see our grandchildren enjoy it, but not at the risk of their safety. We would gladly pay a camping fee if it would help keep the area safe and clean.

I disagree with stratagy 4. the plan to let the north feild go back to forest. I think it should bee a food plot for deer and turkeys, ect... right now it is in lespedeza, yuck!!!, spray it, burn it, plow it under, just get rid of the lespedeza. also as our population grows open areas to hunt in get rarer. You could use my money, yes I buy tags every year and my taxes on fishin' and huntin' supplies, to make a food plot attractive to waterflow as it is close to the river. same with the open area along the east by the river past the parking/camping area.

My name is \*\*\*\*\*.I am the great great granddaughter of Paul Patrick.I walked the area a couple of years ago.I agree that there needs to be some clean up and better restrooms.I love the old trees along the river and the seclusion for fishing and relaxing that is provided.Was dismayed that I could no longer find the ruins of the old house.I would like if somehow a more informative marker could be put up as to the Paul Patrick family that lived there.

Conduct a study to relocate/rebuild the canoe access area. With each high water episode the canoe launch area becomes almost unusable.

On behalf of Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative, we have no comments or concerns regarding the Patrick Bridge Access Management Plan. Thank you for keeping us informed of the Plan.

## **Appendix H. Ripley & Oregon County Accesses Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (January 1 – February 28, 2017):

I would like to see trails for horses developed in this area. Riding horses is a recreation activity that allows me to see the beautiful scenery in Missouri.

After reading through this plan, I am wondering the logic behind the "consider more land when available" clause in regards to the Myrtle Access. The private and adjacent to the Myrtle Access area is currently being maintained and conservation practices are being utilized by the current land owners. The Eleven Point River is enjoyed in a different manner from other small Missouri Rivers, such as the Current River. This section of the Eleven Point is currently not in danger of being over used or misused. Private land owners adjacent to the Myrtle Access area are striving to create a beautiful setting in which to best utilize the river for fishing and small water craft.

The State does not need to intervene and attempt to purchase additional land near the Myrtle Access. The State should focus efforts and funds in areas that are in danger of becoming over used and/or in areas where private land owners are mismanaging the land. Thank you for your consideration.

We own property adjacent to the MDC Myrtle Access acreage. We only received notice of this Plan via a phone call from an individual who owns the property next to ours. His property is also adjacent to the MDC acreage. He called after receiving a letter from MDC that advised him of the Plan and that he could comment by Jan 31st. We did not receive such a letter, and would like to know why we were not sent one. In general, after reading the Plan online, most of the Considerations seem appropriate, especially those strategies dealing with maintenance of the facilities and signage, patrolling the area, providing a clean and safe user experience, etc. We do have one area of concern and disagreement, that being Section VIII 2) "Consider land acquisition, when available." From our observations, the Myrtle Access is primarily used by local citizens to launch small water craft for fishing and recreational boating, and to recover some floaters and canoe enthusiasts. We have rarely seen anyone using the camping facilities. We note that just last year the MO Dept of Natural Resources purchased 4000+ acres (the Pigman Ranch/Frederick Creek Ranch properties), approximately 6 miles up river from the Myrtle Access, for a proposed State Park. It seems that acquiring additional property for expansion of the Myrtle Access would place it in unneeded competition with the proposed State Park. Since MDC already manages nearly 1 million acres of Missouri land, it would seem prudent to use taxpayers funds to better care for existing property, rather than acquire more.

This is great, as a lifelong Missouri resident I've always appreciated the care and planning that goes in to making our natural spaces last forever. Thank you for continuing your efforts on behalf of mine and future generations. Cheers.

## **Appendix I. Castor River Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (February 1-28, 2017):

This is great, as a lifelong Missouri resident I've always appreciated the care and planning that goes in to making our natural spaces last forever. Thank you for continuing your efforts on behalf of mine and future generations. Cheers.

157 acre tract in area 4 on Hwy 34 that just recently has been TSI. This section really needs to become a Bow Only area - A car window with kid and adult was hit by a bullet two years ago on 34 and because is such a small area on the with hwy thru it. Second the 157 acre area new logging roads are not block off and ATV are going in and out they are doing target shooting during deer season ATV from campground along castor I coming up running into the area from 34 parking lot. Also adjacent landowner are leaving stands up all year and have ATV paths coming in from the East Side of property. One watering hole is so grown up it barely has any benefit for wildlife. The second on is in better condition on top of the ridge. The old growth oaks

on the back or south side has never had a prescribed fire in over 10 years has little to no cover for wildlife other than open timber. This 157 acre is being ignored until the TSI took place. Management of this area needs to really improve.

I am a heavy user of the conservation areas in Madison/Bollinger county, and the Castor River. One thing I believe is very concerning is the amount of trash I see when I am out in one of these areas, and most particular Amidon Conservation Area. The trash is unbelievable, and last summer was the first time I'd ever seen anyone picking up trash out there. I don't know how to solve the problem, because frankly people just don't care, and a lot of people go out there in the summer. It would be nice to see the littering fines actually being pushed on people, and more people cleaning regularly. I can't remember for sure, but I don't think there is a trash can at the entrance of Amidon, and maybe that would help some. A lot of times people just leave full trash bag, cans, diapers, etc. at the entrance for someone to pick up. I care about these places a lot, and honestly Amidon is a party spot for drunks in the summer and the place gets trashed. The pink rocks are unique and I think more should be done to keep the place taken care of.

Castor River Conservation Area is absolutely my favorite place to hunt. I have been hunting there for ten years now and have had much success with great quality of deer and turkey. It would be nice to have late season food plots to increase my odds of harvesting a deer in late season. Maybe this would result in too many deer taken off the area I don't know but late archery season seems to be difficult. Thanks for all you do to make this a great hunting area for us.

My family and friends use and thoroughly enjoy the horse trails throughout the year at this CA. We have used the equestrian campground as well, but it is primitive, so therefore is not conducive to stays longer than 1-2 nights. It would be nice to eventually have electric service. I liked that adding wildlife watering areas along some ridges are being considered. I would like to see more along the horse trails as well.

I like the plan, need to get rid of the hogs, they have taken it over!! We need to allow four wheelers to retrieve game. You can't expect hunters some older hunters to drag a deer a mile or more, I understand we need to protect our forrests. Surely we can come up with a compromise or a special permit.

Thank you for making this information public. My family uses Castor River Conservation Area frequently for horseback riding & we love it! The trails are well maintained & offer numerous choices for riding. We have been riding at Castor River for over ten years & it is still our favorite Conservation Area for horseback riding. Thank you for maintaining & allowing horseback riders this area to enjoy.

The Caster river has been ignored for years from Salma down stream. Trees block the channel and make it almost impossible to enjoy fishing and wildlife.

The local MDC crew do a outstanding job in this area and my hat off to them. Many here in this area (Bollinger County) would like to see more food plots for upland and migratory birds. 99% if not 100% of all food plots are for deer and possible turkey.



The local crew have in the past set aside 5-10 acres around the Blue Pond area for planting sunflowers, Milo not just corn.

If possible we would like to work with the local office and maybe we supply the seed if they provide the area and planting tools.

We know the MDC have dove fields in other areas of the SE area but the crowds and restrictions on some of these are not worth the drive even if its 20-30 miles.

Idea recommendation would be to plant one to two acres of sunflowers/ milo on the edges of all food plots, opening up more areas to hunt for more people.

Thank you

Please continue to maintain and UPGRADE / expand the current equestrian trails within this CA. Additional trails for horses / hikers only should be considered. Bikes and horses do not always mix well. Thank you.

I would love to have some new horse trails added. Especially in the northern part of the area.

Area #6 is closet to our private ground. Recently MDC designated it to be walk in only access which was much appreciated on our part. It has kept traffic low and kept out "unethical" hunters. We would like to see it taken a step further and be designated for bow hunting only. This particular tract is separate from most of the other parts of castor river area. During firearms season there are still many trespassers we have to deal with and it seems to be the same issues every year. Designating this area for bow hunting only we think would help resolve the issues. Thank you for this consideration.

Glad to have mdc as a neighbor but I have the following comments. Our conservation agents are really good but we need more agents to patrol mdc and private lands. The forest has good rules but more enforcement is needed. One agent can not handle a whole county. Atv`s need more control and camping rules enforced. Increase walk in hunting only areas. Enforcement of the new hog regulations on killing hogs on mdc property is very important but increased hog trapping efforts on public land needs to go along with it. There needs to be no shortage of traps available either for mdc employees or private landowners to slow the spread of these nuisance hogs. I would like to see more emphasis on nongame species. All wildlife is important to the balance of nature and our environment. All species are important just not the deer and turkey. I have been on Castor River all my life and I have seen dramatic changes. A severe decline in bullfrogs, mussels, muskrats, mink, quail, weasels, snakes, turtles, foxes. and on and on. Some of these were very plentiful but now my grandkids will be lucky to see one. I am a very avid outdoors person. I enjoy hunting and fishing but want the opportunity for generations to enjoy all aspects of the environment. As a public agency, mdc needs to set the example on their lands that will help guide the private landowner to do the right thing on their land. I also believe that wildlife management is very important but the management of people is what is needed more. Control of peoples abuse of the laws and the environment will allow wildlife to take care of themselves. Nature is good of taking care of herself if left alone. Over management by man in the long run can be the wrong thing. I recommend a simple plan with letting mother nature be the main influence on the operation of Castor River Forest.

You guys are the best in the business at planning and preparing for the future. I'd love to see you guys take some of the parcels close to the Castor River such as opposite side of the road from the gun range to make this area(s) archery only like the Sweetgum Access. Just think what this would do for this area over a ten year period. Keep up the great work!

### **Appendix J. Graves Mountain Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (February 1-28, 2017):

This is great, as a lifelong Missouri resident I've always appreciated the care and planning that goes in to making our natural spaces last forever. Thank you for continuing your efforts on behalf of mine and future generations. Cheers.

Thank you for being an entity that is good for Missouri and all the folks who love the outdoors. Keep up the good work!!

Please consider adding equestrian trails on the larger portions not landlocked. Parcel sizes are conducive to providing equestrian trail use.

### **Appendix K. Ruth & Paul Henning Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (February 1-28, 2017):

This is great, as a lifelong Missouri resident I've always appreciated the care and planning that goes in to making our natural spaces last forever. Thank you for continuing your efforts on behalf of mine and future generations. Cheers.

I grew up in the area and would like to see Paul Henning used for Horseback riding. I would like to see either Henning forest or the new Ozark Mountain State Park used for ATV use. We have a changing demographic that is younger and need more use type areas close to town. Also I would love to see the tower area open after dark. It has one of the most awesome views of the Branson Lights. You could do it with guided night hikes if you don't want to keep it open all the time at night. This area has a lot of history from the Beverly Hillbilly's to the town of garber to Sammy Lane. It would be great to host narrative weiner and marshmellow roasts with stories of the most interesting history of the area.

I would love to have a few more benches along the trails in this area.

This Conservation Area is PERFECT in every way, I enjoy it immensely and don't want to see significant changes. The new bridge over the creek however, was needed.

My family and I enjoy hiking the trails. The backside of the area has a trail with sites along the trial marked by posts with numbers on top of the post. The posts marked former homesteads, old schools, old post office, etc. Years ago there were information boxes with pamphlets saying what each numbered site is. The numbered posts are in good shape, but there have not been pamphlets in the information boxes for years. It would be nice if these were either stocked on a regular

<p>basis, or there was permanent sign/legend as to what each site marker represented. The last time I was able to get a pamphlet with the guide was over 10 years ago. I think it was a boy scout project at one time, if I am not mistaken.</p>
<p>A bridge (rustic arch type walking bridge) across the creek when you first come to it and a trail on the other side winding along the creek with another bridge back to the original trail later would be a great addition. Benches turned to look at the creek (there is a bench now that looks away from the creek. Why?) would enhance the experience of hikers, birders, and photographers. Basicly I do not feel we are utilizing many of the natural resources of the area. Better signage on the trail for areas of interest would also be helpful such as the areas refered to in the book "Shepherd of the Hills". We have enjoyed hiking the trails and plan to continue utilizing the area. Branson area needs more hiking trails.</p>
<p>Please add an equestrian trail head and equestrian trails throughout this CA. This parcel is sizable enough to support equestrian trails and additional hiking trails. Thank you.</p>
<p>I would like to see this area improved by adding grading and payment to make the trails less muddy and more accessible for running, walking and overall safety. It's a great trail and I love it, but it needs some maintenance. I also think that we should work with the school district to allow this trail once it has improvements to be used for the Cross Country meets. Currently the one they use is not long enough to attract the High School meets and give a better area to run and safe too. I believe the Ruth Henning Area could serve the community well in these two ways.</p>
<p>(Hardcopy Comment Received 2/28/2017): Please highly consider adding more hiking trails, a visitors center (because of the impact on the millions that visit to Branson), and most importantly please add biking trails which could be used by the Branson visitors. We own the adjacent property and this could be a great addition to the area.</p>

### **Appendix L. Barton County Prairies Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (February 1-28, 2017):

<p>This is great, as a lifelong Missouri resident I've always appreciated the care and planning that goes in to making our natural spaces last forever. Thank you for continuing your efforts on behalf of mine and future generations. Cheers.</p>
<p>dorris creek needs a handicapped access to pond 3 long walk from parking lot to pond 3</p>
<p>for years I have went to dorris creek and caught all the cappie I could have just over a year ago I found fish traps in the pond now you can not catch a fish where they your traps.</p>
<p>I own 200 A just east of Mo-No-I conservation area. This with the half section north represent a beautiful sq mile of prairie. This fall I had a pair of Prarie chickens on the west portion of my property that a saw on several occasions. Theses were the first ones I have since since I have had this farm (10 years). I was very excited to see this. I appreciate the work you have done to get rid of the trees the hawks use to wait to hunt the chickens. I am so glad this section has been protected. I hope st some point the north half of the section is obtained by the conservation dept.</p>

I am happy to work with your staff in management concerns of my adjoining property. Keep up the good work.

(Emailed comment received 3/14/17): Comments from the Missouri Prairie Foundation on Barton County Prairie Management Plan  
Submitted 13 March 2017

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the management of MDC's prairies in Barton County.

Your 'Statements of Purpose' highlighting diverse suites of prairie flora and fauna, and functioning native prairie communities are excellent.

Terrestrial Management Considerations, objectives and strategies are well thought out and complete. We like the ideas reconstructing diverse prairie vegetation on non-prairie areas, the emphasis on controlling invasive and exotic species, working with adjoining landowners and controlling invasive species on adjoining road right of ways, and maintaining vegetative diversity and habitat for grassland-dependent animals.

It is especially encouraging that under considerations it states that preventing degradation of the system is a priority. We do have a question on what kinds of baseline inventory data is available, and what monitoring will be done to evaluate if there is any degradation of the floral and faunal community?

Aquatic Resource Management Considerations look good. It is good to see the emphasis on the headwater prairie streams given their extreme rarity. We do have a question about the small, non-fishing ponds, and if they will be managed for wildlife like herps and aquatic invertebrates? And finally, for land acquisition we would like to encourage that if adjoining lands with native prairie become available from a willing seller, that the tract would be considered for acquisition. Thank you very much for this opportunity and all the effort and thought used to develop it.

### **Appendix M. Lester R. Davis Memorial Forest Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (February 1-28, 2017):

This is great, as a lifelong Missouri resident I've always appreciated the care and planning that goes in to making our natural spaces last forever. Thank you for continuing your efforts on behalf of mine and future generations. Cheers.

Where is the pond I don't see it on Google Earth? I think you should add a small picnic area by the parking lot. It should be shaded by some trees.  
Thanks

Keep government workers off of the property. My property borders conservation property on Stockton lake. First they came in and destroyed the quail and rabbit habitat and then they came in and cut down a walnut tree grove then two years ago they cut down three of the oldest walnut trees in Dade county believe it or not sometimes Mother Nature knows more than someone that thinks they know better!

upon reclaiming the north end where strip pits presented a hazard to the adjacent road, the state did not apply any kind of top soil that would accomodate planted grasses. Therefore, the whole road frontage is clay and grows nothing of value and appears as poor as it really is.

I understand a similar project is planned on Shawnee Trail, and again, there is no plan to apply any type top soil the the reclaimed area. This is a bad mistake by the state and before the project starts, the plan should be altered.

## **Appendix N. Northwest Region Grand River Accesses Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (March 1–31, 2017):

### **MORE ACCESSES NEEDED**

North Missouri River accesses were originally acquired at about the same distance in river miles as south Missouri Streams. North Missouri streams flow much slower, so we actually need to add a couple more accesses on the Grand River to make it usable for day trips.

Many people in Albany, Stanberry, King City, and all of Gentry county as well as surrounding counties use the Grand River for enjoyment of fishing, canoeing, scouting events, school events, and other activities. Although there has been much improvement in past decades of public access to the river I feel that easier accesses would be appreciated and used by many more people of our community. We have a lot of canoeing and fishing that occurs in the upper Grand, but I feel that senior citizens and those with disabilities and others are limited in these activities because of the difficulties of long walks and steep banks to get to the river. Andy Denton Access with a boat ramp and fishing area would be of great benefit and contribute greatly to the well being of seniors and those with disabilities as well as others. Our area already has limited water recreation, so I believe the addition I mentioned above would be very beneficial to the people. Thank You.

We need boat access at Denton Curve!

I would like to see the Andy Denton Public Access upgraded with a boat ramp and fishing area. People in Albany, Stanberry, King City, and all of Gentry county as well as surrounding areas use the upper Grand river for fishing, canoeing and just relaxing. We are limited in this area for water recreation. The river would be used used much more if there were boat ramps and fishing areas. The banks are steep and muddy and the river is hard to get to. Senior citizens can hardly use it because of the steep banks and long walks to get to the river. Andy Denton would be perfect for float trips since the Havana boat ramp is down stream from it, with lots of fishing along the way. Please consider upgrading the Andy Denton Access. Thank you.

Please consider a boat ramp and fishing area for the Andy Denton Public Access to the Grand River south of Gentryville. This would be a great asset to the area for water recreation. The banks to the river are steep and muddy and it is hard access, especially for senior citizens as well as those with disabilities. Thank you for your consideration.

<p>Please improve access to the Grand River at the Andy Denton turn. We need boating access!</p>
<p>Would be so useful and a great asset to the surrounding towns</p>
<p>Attention to the Andy Denton Access would be greatly appreciated. Years passed it used to be such a great River access for canoeing and such but then River changed and access was lost. There is a great interest in canoeing and being able to have river input in this area. Many individuals and families get great enjoyment from a good float or fishing outing. We hope that something can be done to maximize the potential of Andy Denton.</p>
<p>I am an owner of land on the Grand at Gentryville. I have canoed and fished on the river for 50 years. My children want to continue that tradition. We are grateful for the Elam Bend ramp. At least one more up river would be so helpful. The river at Denton access is nearly inaccessible, especially for older folks. There are no easy access points. A boat ramp there and at the Gentryville bridge would be of great benefit to those of us who float regularly. It would encourage others to use the river. Spend a little money up here in the woods. South Missouri gets plenty! I know there is a bias against the Grand because the forks were straightened almost a hundred years ago. Its a good float. You should try it. Sorry about the mud but that's part of the experience.</p>
<p>I am a land owner on the Grand River in Gentry County (South of Albany). I read about your plans for Andy Denton on your website.</p> <p>I wanted to express my enthusiastic support for this project. The single biggest barrier to more recreational use of the Grand River is lack of access. In most places, it is very difficult to access the river, especially with a canoe, fishing gear, etc.</p> <p>Please let me know if there is anything I can do to show more support for this project.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

## **Appendix O. Northwest Region Upland Prairies Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (March 1–31, 2017):

<p>I'm happy to see MDC protecting some of the disappearing prairie. That's awesome. Thank you so much. I would like to see "control invasives" changed to "eradicate invasives" and instead of "treatment" I suggest "removal and treatment". It takes teamwork, time, and hard work, but it can be done. For example, Honeysuckle Sweep Week and regular volunteers are making a noticeable and sizable dent in the presence of invasive bush honeysuckle in some parks in the St. Louis area. Compared to what they were, prairies are almost gone. It's important to protect, preserve, and restore our natural heritage as much as we can.</p>
<p>I am a adjacent property owner to Fox Glove since before the Dept. purchased it from C. Fine. I appreciate it being burnt off this spring, it has been a long time. The prairie has mostly been</p>

taken over by brush. Please continue to mow and spray for thistles on the property and if possible a request for better county road maintenance would be most beneficial for the overall appearance. It constantly needs more road rock.

On the topic of Public Use, with the regulations in affect for the property, very little usage is allowed or done by the public. Except for an occasional mushroom hunter I never see anyone on the property. I don't mind the stiff restrictions. I'm just letting the Dept .know I see the area is being used.

Thank you for your time and please have the area mowed regularly.

### **Appendix P. W. L. Schifferdecker Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (March 1–31, 2017):

As a Missouri quail hunter,we are always told by the conservation dept. about the loss of habitat and cover causing the decline in quail numbers.I have hunted Schifferdecker CA for many years,and know where to find quail there.At the start of this quail season I hunted the area and as usual found a covey I've found for years.On my next trip back,I found that the strip of cover the covey had lived in for years had been dozed completely down,i hunted hard to locate the covey with no luck.I have seen the same thing done on Bunch hollow CA.I would think that the conservation dept. would practice what they preach,and be knowledgeable enough about the areas they manage to not destroy and illiminate areas that are important to quail survival.

Recently inherited this land from my parents. As this time I see no issues. As long as facilities are maintained. all is good with me.

### **Appendix Q. Angeline Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (March 1–31, 2017):

Outdoor land use is not discussed in any detail and should be. Other than hiking and bird watching the area supports wildlife that should be discussed in terms of hunting and methods plus fishing. While it is understandable that access across pristine areas be limited, foot access and trails should be discussed in terms of being able to participate in hunting, fishing and perhaps camping. Concepts of non-fishing lakes for the protection of a couple of species appears misguided as these species should be able to propagate with other land use. My recommendation is to set aside specific portions of water bodies for limited access and use while enabling outdoor enthusiasts at least a portion of the area for fishing and bird watching.

Angeline is much larger than most CA's in Missouri yet it appears that the 10 year plan is more focused on protection than multiple use. There are many projects going on with sensitive species being encouraged to expand populations. These are not discussed in detail with regarding to area

restrictions and acreage withdrawal from public use.

In general the plan is heavily biased with protectionism and that is at the expense of most of the population of Missouri. Try a more balanced approach and you will receive more support for the planning initiative.

\*\* \*\*\*, Biologist

This immense acreage should be planted with numerous tree and shrub species which provide a multitude of food sources that will accommodate and supplement the nutritional needs of bears and other animal and bird species at times of the year when acorn and hickory mast is generally not available. In addition to, and as a supplement to oak/hickory mast, other species of off-season food source plants should be planted and nurtured wherever feasible in the Area. As a suggestion, I will list a number of food species that will benefit bears- from the time they come out of hibernation in the spring until they once again go into hibernation in the fall of the year. In no particular order, the MDC should consider planting: crab apples, persimmons, both red and white mulberries, gooseberries, red clover, blackberries, sun flowers, raspberries, chokecherries, wild cherries, service berries, wild plums, wild rose, elderberries, scarlet sumac, paw paws, and any other species that I failed to mention, that would be as suitable food, so that bears and other wildlife would have plenty of readily available food sources at their disposal during the spring, summer, and early fall months.

This is obviously a key natural area to be maintained carefully for future generations. My views  
1) keep ATVs & off road vehicles out except in life emergencies  
2) careful re too many horses  
3) if money avail, have staff monitor areas and signs explaining goals, benefits of, wildlife, no ATVs, etc  
4) encourage hiking, birding, study of plants & trees  
5) Maintain paths with barriers from straight downhill accesses (erosion) and signs explaining. I know it's idealistic re financial costs - I'd like to see these areas healthy for great grandchildren. Am still studying your info & may add more later in March. Thank you for reading.

Thank you for asking for public comment, I appreciate the opportunity. I have just three items of suggestion.  
1. Would it be possible to provide better signage to the equestrian trail head from Highway 19, and along the county road to the trail head. There are many visitors from other states that are unable to find the trail head. They end up at Eminence asking for directions.  
2. On the detailed map from the website, could you include numbers that would be referenced to numbers that are placed on the trail, so equestrians and hikers knew where they were on the trail. Very similar to the "you are here" concept that are on exit maps in buildings?  
3, Please allow use of block 35 during the different gun hunting seasons for both equestrians and hikers. Those seasons are prime times for other recreational use. I believe it is close to 60 days a year that area would be closed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Sincerely

MDC Angeline Conservation Area Individual MO Citizen Comments 3-31-17



This is obviously a key natural area to be maintained carefully for future generations. My comments based on observations, reading and life experience:

Upgrade still more: education of facts re how this large area helps us all in the Ozarks & Missouri. I think this is key. I know why, you know why, but unfortunately most citizens still do not. This, ideally, will include science/nature presentations to children in our public schools, state-wide.

Keep ATVs & off-road vehicles out except in life emergencies; and include more regularly accessible info printed in magazines and pamphlets, signs - why ATVs can be negative to soil, water & stream banks, plants & wildlife.

Maintain & perhaps improve monitoring of area regarding number of trail riders/horses (for all natural areas and conservation areas too)

When/if money available:, have staff monitor areas and establish signs explaining goals, benefits of, wildlife info, no ATVs, etc

Continue & improve methods to encourage hiking, birding, study of plants & trees

Maintain paths with barriers from straight downhill accesses (erosion) and signs explaining.

I know budget always effects implementing all of these. My husband and I would like to see these areas healthy for all future citizens as well as our own family. We are still studying the facts concerning our Conservation and Natural Areas. I hope to give intelligent, fact-based thoughts in the future. Thank you for your consideration of my comments. And thank you for your work for our state conservation.

Respectfully,

My wife and I regularly access this area for recreational purposes. I understand the need to redesign some of the stream crossings to reduce sedimentation, but I sincerely hope you do not close any of the existing roads.

Please expand, upgrade, and maintain more equine trails in the CA. Appreciate the efforts to include a place to water horses that will not degrade the stream banks. Thank you for your hard work.

Intensify efforts to acquire private inholdings to increase acreage within the area and consolidate boundaries.

Limit or discourage controlled and prescribed burn activity.

Utilize low impact methods to discourage soil and stream bank erosion.

We would like to see the Angeline equine and hiking trail system areas be posted no hunting year round. These are some of the only areas that we can safely ride/hike during hunting seasons.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Angeline Conservation Area Draft Management Plan. Back Country Horsemen of Missouri commends the Department for

allowing equestrian use of the multi-use trails on Angeline CA, and we appreciate the efforts to stabilize the trails and the intent to continue that permission.

One of the most serious areas of erosion on the existing trail system is on the Fox Pen Road Access Trail. The excessive erosion occurs on the several steep segments. This could be solved by rerouting the trail and letting nature stabilize the eroding segments. From the point where the trail leaves the Fox Pen Road (Co. Rd 205) the trail should stay on a general contour proceeding southwest, staying above the pond, and slowly descending to intersect the trailhead road a little north of the loop.

The original “new” trail between Co. Rd 203 and Lick Log Falls required one to climb well over 100 feet in elevation then descend nearly as many feet to the Falls. The “cutoff” trail that removed about 1/3 of that climb is much appreciated. I would request that another “cutoff” be cut through at a lower elevation—possibly connecting the next two lower switchbacks. This cutoff would reduce strain on trail users (horses and people), reduce use on a steep portion of the present designated trail and still maintain more than adequate buffer between the trail and the Falls and stream.

The biggest contributor to overuse of the trails, of course, is the proximity to Cross Country Trail Ride. The Angeline multi-use trail system, standing alone, does not provide adequate trail length for a quality riding experience. Unfortunately there is little room on the small tract for more trails. I would recommend that three to four miles of trails be developed between Co. Rd 208 (Sutton Creek Road) and the fire roads (329 and 330). Parking could be allowed along dead end roads 329 and 330.

Back Country Horsemen of Missouri offers, depending on availability of volunteers, to advise and assist in any efforts to improve and expand the trail system. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

## **Appendix R. Crowleys Ridge Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (March 1–31, 2017):

Go back and compare how the area was in the 80's and how it is today. A big difference I see in then and now is less Agricultural Crops planted today , too much thick in-penetratable cover today. Not enough open ground under cover for young Quail to survive. Go back to working with are Farmers on a crop share program, leaving un-harvested crops standing around edges. Controled burns are done but not often enough which allows cover to become too heavy. Bush hogging is ok but is not the answer because after repeated times it allows too many small trees to develop and shade out desirable cover such as legumes like common lespedeza, beggar lice, crotons, common ragweed, and desirable weeds for small game to grow. Plowing on areas where

erosion is not a problem and let it lie fallow might help. I am a quail hunter but I am not interested in killing Quail but training dogs. Even with old veteran dogs just finding enough coveys to work dogs on is a challenge. I can tell you that in the 80's and into the 90's there were more quail then than now on this Area. I do not intend for this to be too critical or imply that not enough is being done. I do love the fact that there is 1800 acres of public land there to use and I drive 2 hours to use it. When I heard it was designated as a quail focus area I got excited but to be honest I just do not see results and I know that it would not happen overnight and that every nesting year is different. There are not many old bird hunters left but maybe you could put together an advisory group together to give input on what works and what does not because I promise you they have been there and done that and do care.

Continue all practices like last four or five years with more burning when possible, more open areas much less tall grasses more broom sages and shorter grass or weeds providing much more open ground under better for quail, rabbits, dogs, and hunters, and more small feed fields of peas and beans and milo on newly cleared areas! also might use a disc with buster harrow hanging on back to smooth down disc ridges and make it easier for older fellows like me to walk when it's wet I am 73!

Please consider the addition of hiking / equestrian trails in this area. Thank you.

I think the area is managed very well. I would like see more food plots and more land purchased to expand the area. I see good numbers of deer,turkey,rabbits and hear lots quail. I believe the management practice of burning and food plots are working. One of the challenges of hunting a place like Crowleys Ridge is access,the mowing of lanes is greatly appreciated. Every person that I have met that works for the department has been friendly. The only thing I can say bad is sometime people using the area will park on the county roads in some locations that makes driving around them dangerous. My family drive these roads everyday so I would like to see a solution to this problem if possibly. Overall you guys are doing a great job and hope it continues

Please do more feather edging for rabbit habitat, burn smaller patches instead of great big patches on the control burns. Plowing 2 or 3 furrows around edge cover which provides better nesting areas for rabbits. Leave a bigger percentage of crop for winter food source (corn & mil).  
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Crowleys Ridge Conservation Area Draft Management Plan.

It is good that the Mission of the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Federal Aid Statement in the Crowleys Ridge CA Draft Management Plan, and item 1 under Public Use Management Considerations are in perfect agreement on an important point. The MDC Mission Statement reads, in part, "...to facilitate and provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these (fish, forest and wildlife) resources;" the Federal Aid Statement reads, in part, "...and provide public access for hunting and other wildlife-oriented recreation," and Public Use Management Consideration item 1 reads, "Provide hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities."

Horseback riders are part of the public and some of the neighbors to Crowleys Ridge CA. Public lands, especially Conservation Areas, are popular places to ride because of their unique natural features, their variety of landscapes, and because the professional management provides outstanding opportunities to see wildlife and to learn about forest and wildlife habitat management and the ecology of natural communities. Horseback riders enjoy and appreciate these things as much as anyone. Horseback riding makes such recreational enjoyment possible to members of the public that would otherwise be unable to participate; examples include elderly folks and those with physical disabilities, both young and old. Horseback riding is also frequently enjoyed by families with young children—too big to carry and too small to walk very far; in a natural setting this gives parents the opportunity to teach and pass on a knowledge and appreciation of wildlife, forests, and everything nature offers.

Some may say that since horseback riding is permitted on nearby Holly Ridge Conservation Area riders should simply go there. In the Back Country Horsemen of Missouri's 2015 proposal "Expanding Public Land Multi-Use Trails in Missouri" we assert that no less than 10-12 miles of trails are required to provide a quality, attractive riding experience; we further assert that no less than 10-12 miles of trails are required to meet demand created by every 1,000 horses and mules. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture there are 1,813 horses and mules in the six "Bootheel" counties. Holly Ridge is the only public land in these counties where horseback riding is permitted, and there are only eight miles of multi-use trails there—riding eight miles takes about an hour and a half on a good gaited horse.

Administrative Considerations, item 2 reads, "Deter illicit activities..." the list includes horseback riding. It may be that the illicit activity is being carried on by bad people. It is more likely that the activity is testimony that an underserved public consisting of good people is desperate for a place to have a quality ride.

Administrative Considerations, Management Objective 2 reads, "Use ... conservation agents to enforce rules and regulations and deter illicit activities, e.g.,..."—again, the list includes horseback riding. Public Use Management Considerations item 3 reads, "Build relationships with neighboring landowners." Management Objective 3 reads, "Facilitate a good working relationship with neighboring landowners." And finally Management Objective 4 reads, "Provide area users diverse recreational opportunities on the area consistent with defined management objectives and sensitive to the natural communities and features of the area." I respectfully request that you achieve the latter three and make it unnecessary to burden the conservation agents with the enforcement issue by partnering with those neighboring riders to implement a sustainable, resource-protecting multi-use trail network of 10-12 total miles.

Crowleys Ridge CA is well suited to such a development. The area (1,878 acres) is more than

adequate; access is convenient only a short distance off MO Routes M and PP; the landscape position is upland; soils are predominantly well drained, and the land use and cover is quite diverse.

Back Country Horsemen of Missouri has experience and expertise in developing sustainable, resource-protecting trails and in developing partnerships between public land managers and groups of trail users. The organization offers, subject to the availability of volunteers, to advise and assist the Department and their partnering neighbors to install such a system on Crowleys Ridge CA.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and for your due consideration.

### **Appendix S. Hawn and Old Plantation Accesses Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (March 1–31, 2017):

Please keep the existing use restrictions with respect to firearms and vehicles in place on the Hawn area.

### **Appendix T. Keysville Towersite Management Plan Public Comments**

Received during public comment period (March 1–31, 2017):

Your idea of making a small parking lot for area users is a great idea. It is such a small area I wonder of selling it and using the money to purchase land adjacent to a larger tract might be an option.

Hello,

I love getting the reports of the management plans - especially for those involving fire towersites. I applaud your efforts in not only preserving and managing the woodland, prairie, glade and wetland areas of Missouri and the wildlife contained in them, but also your efforts in preserving the fire towersites in our great state. Please continue to maintain and preserve these important structures --- they represent an important part of conservation and wildfire prevention all across the country. Keep up the good work!