

# Settle's Ford Conservation Area

## Ten-Year Area Management Plan

FY 2017-2026



Wildlife Division Chief

26 Jan 2017

Date

## Settle's Ford Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

### PLANNING TEAM

Monte McQuillen, Wildlife Management Biologist

Brian Bokern, Wildlife Biologist

Mike Bayless, Fisheries Management Biologist

Chuck Conner, Community Forester

Andy Carmack, Private Land Conservationist

Phil Needham, Conservation Agent

Mark Miller, Outdoor Skills Specialist

Larry Rizzo, Natural History Biologist

Richard Grishow, Construction and Maintenance Superintendent

### KANSAS CITY REGION

RCT Chair



*Signature*

12-15-16

*Date*

### WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Chief



*Signature*

1/4/17

*Date*

## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Settle's Ford Conservation Area, #8515
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1985
- **Acreage:** 6,766 acres
- **County:** Bates, Cass
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**
  - A. Strategic Direction**

Settle's Ford Conservation Area (CA) is primarily managed for its wetlands which will be enhanced or expanded as feasible. The area is also managed to provide public recreation to the extent compatible with area resources for Missourians, particularly those within close proximity to Kansas City.
  - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Settle's Ford CA is healthy natural communities that include mature forest, woodlands, upland, and wetland complexes.
  - C. Federal Aid Statement**
    - This area, or a portion thereof, was acquired with Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration funds to restore and manage wildlife, conserve and restore suitable wildlife habitat and provide public access for hunting or other wildlife-oriented recreation.
    - This area, or a portion thereof, was developed with North American Wetlands Conservation Act funds to conserve and restore wetland habitats.

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. **Special Considerations:**
  - A. **Priority Areas:** None
  - B. **Natural Areas:** None
  
- II. **Important Natural Features and Resources**
  - A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are not known from this site, but are found in the surrounding area. Area managers should consult annually with the natural history biologist.
  - B. **Caves:** None
  - C. **Springs:** None

### **III. Existing Infrastructure**

- Fourteen parking lots (one Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] accessible)
- One gravel boat ramp
- One staffed office
- Two shop buildings
- Two well houses
- One privy (ADA accessible)
- Two Agri-Drain style-stop log structures
- Five sluice/slide/weir style structures
- Fourteen stop-log style concrete water structures
- One grain bin
- One quonset building
- One waterfowl blind (ADA accessible)
- One chemical shed
- Six fishing lakes/ponds (total of 13.6 acres)
- Sixteen fishless ponds (total of 14 acres)
- Hiking trail (3.4 miles)

### **IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**

**A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None

**B. Federal Interest:**

Uses of land acquired with federal funds may not interfere with the purpose for which it was acquired. This land must be used to conserve and restore wetlands.

The federal funds made available under the North American Wetlands

Conservation Act may not be used for fish and wildlife mitigation purposes under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. Federal funds may also be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

**C. Easements:** Numerous easements exist on the CA including:

- The South Grand River Drainage District holds an easement on the channelized portion of the South Grand River and several drainage laterals including Peter Creek, Elk Fork, and Lick Creek.
- One access easement granted to Dale Cumpton on the south side of County Road 15524.
- Kansas City Power and Light has a high transmission power line easement that runs across the eastern portion of the area.

- Bates County has two right of way easements at the bridges that cross Peter Creek and the South Grand River on the east side of the area.
- A utility easement that runs along McCulloh Road to the area headquarters.

**D. Cultural Resources Findings:** Yes, records kept with the Department environmental compliance specialist. Managers should follow best management practices for cultural resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.

**E. Endangered Species:** None observed.

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

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

#### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) The South Grand River Drainage District controls the rights and the property bordering the South Grand River from 100 feet from center to each side. They also control portions of Elk Fork, Peter Creek, Lick Creek, and several drainage laterals in Unit 1 from 50 feet from center to each side.
- 2) Invasive plants continue to be a threat to the area. Invasive species such as sericea lespedeza, reed canary grass, Johnson grass, perennial smartweed, tall fescue, teasel, and musk thistle are well established. Small populations of invasive plants, such as shrub honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, tree of heaven, common reed, and autumn olive, have been located on or very close to the area.
- 3) Settle's Ford CA has a significant amount of productive bottomland. Under the Department's management, many of the bottom acres that were historically used for row crops have been converted to forest through tree planting and natural regeneration. Additional conversion of these bottom acres to forest communities will provide more diverse wildlife habitat and improve riparian corridor function and stream health.
- 4) The mix of bottomland and upland fertile soils allows natural succession and invasive plants to advance at an increased rate. Cropping in these open lands is useful in helping to set back succession and assist in the fight against invasive plants, while providing both food and brood-rearing areas, as fields are rotated and left idle. Many of these fields also present opportunities for dove management.
- 5) Early successional fields present a unique opportunity for various wildlife species including bobwhite quail, white-tail deer, turkey, rabbits, and grassland birds. Settle's Ford CA has many open fields that were planted to native grasses, forbs,

and converted to other early successional vegetation types. These fields become void of the forb component over time, making them less desirable for wildlife.

**Management Objective 1:** Maximize wetland productivity and potential by maintaining most pools in early successional habitat, while providing emergent vegetation for nesting species.

**Strategy 1:** Manipulate water levels to encourage early successional growth of desirable wetland plants like millet and smartweed. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 2:** Utilize, add, and enhance existing infrastructure to add additional managed wetland acres when feasible. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 3:** Monitor wetlands for invasive species. Eradicate invasive species using chemical or mechanical treatments, as needed. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 4:** Utilize permittee farmers to plant, treat, and disturb large areas of wetlands in an efficient manner to maximize potential impacts to early successional habitat. (Wildlife)

**Management Objective 2:** On appropriate sites, manage forest and woodland communities to provide healthy and diverse habitats for forest/woodland-dependent wildlife.

**Strategy 1:** Conduct inventories on forest/woodland compartments according to the inventory schedule to develop prescriptions for ecological and silvicultural treatments. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Monitor for the presence of invasive forest pests and plants. (Wildlife, Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Utilize a variety of sustainable forest management techniques to promote healthy forest and woodland communities including, but not limited to, timber harvesting, forest thinning, firewood cutting, salvage cuttings, tree planting, seeding, and prescribed burning. (Wildlife, Forestry)

**Strategy 4:** Maintain a diversity of tree age classes that will provide both a diversity of wildlife habitat as well as resiliency to living and non-living (fire, weather, and climate) damaging agents. (Forestry)

**Strategy 5:** Utilize best management practices during harvest as described in the Department's manuals: *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice* manual (Missouri Department of Conservation 2014) and the *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (Missouri Department of Conservation 2014). (Forestry)

**Management Objective 3:** Re-establish and maintain bottomland hardwood habitat.

**Strategy 1:** Identify locations of marginal bottomland cropland to convert to forest. (Wildlife, Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Establish mast-producing tree species that will benefit wildlife. Use tree planting or direct seeding. (Wildlife)

**Management Objective 4:** Provide food and cover for wildlife, and maintain early successional vegetation for a variety of wildlife species.

**Strategy 1:** Use permittee farmers in conjunction with Department staff to plant crops/food plots annually. Rotate crops to improve soil health. Fallow a portion of these acres each year to increase early successional habitat acres for wildlife. Ensure farming practices are conducted in accordance with the Department's Agricultural Land Use Policy and Procedures Manual. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 2:** Utilize appropriate crop fields for dove management. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 3:** Manage old fields and native plantings for diversity. Use mechanical, chemical, and prescribed fire methods to set back succession and control invasive species. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 4:** Continue to use grazing as a management tool to provide better plant structure which is favorable to a variety of wildlife, and look for opportunities to expand grazing areas. (Wildlife)

## VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations:

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) The area encompasses approximately 5 miles (both banks) of the South Grand River. In this area, the South Grand River has been extensively channelized and levied. Over the past 10 years, there has been severe bank erosion within the conservation area. The stream resources on the area are degraded due to past land use practices and large-scale channelization. This is evident by the incised stream channels and numerous past head-cuts in smaller drainages leading to the mainstream channels. These factors limit the amount of quality river habitat within the area.
- 2) Several grazing units on the area contain intermittent tributaries to the South Grand River. Grazing must be monitored and best management practices implemented to avoid negatively impacting aquatic habitat and life.
- 3) There are 22 ponds located on Settle's Ford CA. Six of the ponds are actively managed for fishing. The others are managed for wildlife watering and fishless amphibian ponds.
- 4) There are bank-fishing opportunities in the South Grand River and the Old South Grand River Channel.

**Management Objective 1:** Protect and enhance stream corridors to improve water quality, stabilize stream banks, provide flood abatement, and increase habitat diversity.

**Strategy 1:** Evaluate buffer widths and conditions of stream corridors to provide recommendations for management activities. Additional evaluations should be repeated every five years to account for changes in land management and area boundaries. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain and/or establish appropriately wide vegetated riparian corridors, as outlined in *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009). A diversity of suitable tree and shrub species will be planted where buffers need to be established or increased. Herbaceous vegetation is suitable for buffers along streams with channels that are not deeply incised. (Wildlife, Fisheries)

**Strategy 3:** Install and maintain riparian corridor fencing within grazing tracts. Conduct annual pre- and post-grazing site visits to assess stream, riparian corridor, and stream crossing conditions. Make adjustments to fencing and rock armoring, as needed. (Wildlife, Fisheries)

**Management Objective 2:** Manage fishing ponds for self-sustaining largemouth bass, bluegill, and red-ear sunfish populations.

**Strategy 1:** Sample the six fishing ponds, as needed. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 2:** Stock fishing ponds with supplemental channel catfish as needed. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 3:** Manage aquatic vegetation at levels beneficial to fish populations and in a manner that will permit shoreline fishing. (Wildlife, Fisheries)

## VII. Public Use Management Considerations

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing near Kansas City through the management of diverse habitat and wildlife.
- 2) Provide school and civic groups with opportunities to fish, hunt, and camp through the special use permitting guidelines.
- 3) Continue to build relationships with neighboring landowners.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain a diversity of terrestrial habitats to provide public users with quality hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing opportunities, and other compatible recreational activities.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain parking lots, trails, and roads to aid area users in accessing food plot plantings and natural communities to provide recreational opportunities throughout the area. (Wildlife)



**Strategy 2:** Conduct annual management activities that will provide habitat for a diversity of species. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 3:** Allow trapping on area, as appropriate, through the special use permitting guidelines. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 4:** Manage dove fields at current levels. (Wildlife)

**Management Objective 2:** Manage the area's aquatic resources to provide access and opportunity to quality fishing experiences.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain or improve public access to the South Grand River and area ponds, as is feasible. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 2:** Conduct a periodic review of the area ponds for the suitability of stocking to provide additional fishing opportunities as resources allow. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 3:** Enforce statewide fishing regulations at the area. (Protection)

**Management Objective 3:** Improve educational and interpretive opportunities.

**Strategy 1:** Provide up-to-date maps and information for the public. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 2:** Communicate to teachers and other youth leaders the possibilities for educational programs on the areas. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 3:** Maintain the area's facilities for non-governmental organization meetings and hunter education classes. (Wildlife)

## VIII. Administrative Considerations

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Continue to manage and maintain the area for public use and enjoyment.
- 2) Consider acquisition of land, when available.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines. (Wildlife)

**Management Objective 2:** Maintain good relationships with neighboring landowners.

**Strategy 1:** Work with neighbors to minimize boundary or trespass issues. (Wildlife, Protection)

**Strategy 2:** Assist with wildlife damage issues and offer expertise on land management. (Wildlife, Private Land Services)

### **Lands Proposed for Acquisition:**

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain

unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

## MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

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

## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

Settle's Ford Conservation Area (CA) is a 6,766-acre area that is located on both sides of the South Grand River in southeast Cass and northeast Bates counties. The area was purchased from willing sellers, primarily using U. S. Army Corps of Engineers funds, provided as compensation for the Trimble Wildlife Area, which was inundated by the Smithville Reservoir. Acquisition began in 1985 and continued for the next 10 years. Because the Trimble Wildlife Area had been a wetland area, the major emphasis on Settle's Ford is wetland management.

Settle's Ford CA consists of approximately 3,700 acres of uplands which is dominated by old fields. The remaining 3,000 acres consists of bottomlands which are located in the floodplain of the South Grand River Basin. Numerous privately owned wetlands and wetland reserve program tracts are located within a close proximity to the area and are managed intensively for waterfowl. The majority of the privately owned land within the floodplain adjacent to Settle's Ford is farmed in row crops.

Southern Cass and Bates counties were hotbeds of border violence before and during the Civil War. Eventually, all residents were evacuated by federal troops under General Ewing's infamous Order No. 11. The area received its name from the Settles family, who, shortly after resettlement, operated a grist mill and ford near the center of the current conservation area. The mill was destroyed at least twice by floodwaters and no evidence of it remains on the ground.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Old Field	1,972		29
Bottomland Timber	1,362		20
Crop Fields	1,200		18
Wetlands	873		13
Upland Timber	780		12
Grassland	500		7
Scrub/Shrub	50		1
Roads/Structures	15		<1
Ponds	22		<1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,766</b>		<b>100</b>
South Grand River Frontage		5	

**Public Input Summary:**

The draft Settle's Ford Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period July 1–31, 2016. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from six respondents (Appendix A). The Settle's Ford Conservation Area Planning Team carefully reviewed and considered these ideas as they finalized this document. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they were incorporated or why they were not, can be found below. Rather than respond to each individual comment, comments are grouped into general themes and are addressed collectively.

Department responses to themes and issues identified through the Settle's Ford Conservation Area Management Plan public comment period.

**Suggests restoring some of bottomland to mimic pre-development conditions.**

The planning team agrees that this is a great idea. The Department has already restored over 700 acres by reforesting bottomland hardwoods at Settle's Ford CA. Current plans are to expand bottomland hardwood restoration efforts and restore farmland back into wetlands as budgeting allows.

**Suggests increasing number and size of dove management areas.**

Dove management has been a long tradition at Settle's Ford CA. Dove management has been focused only on those fields that yield good results. Therefore, adding more fields won't necessarily attract more birds to the area than what is currently being drawn in.

**Suggests designating an area for monarch butterfly habitat.**

Settle's Ford CA has a diversity of native plantings scattered throughout the area that provide a wide variety of nectar producing plants. Old fields are managed in an early to late successional phase that provide for annual and perennial flowers. As more fields are taken out of crop production and converted to native plantings, our seed mixes will include milkweed. Providing a broad array of diversity in our plantings will not only benefit the monarch butterfly, but a host of wildlife.

**Suggests removing brush around Pond 5 to allow better fishing access. Appreciates fishing opportunity.**

Settle's Ford CA has six stocked fishing ponds. All of the six ponds have access to them that is maintained periodically by mowing. Some of these fishing ponds existed prior to the Department purchasing the property and already had vegetation growing around them. The area also offers other ponds that are not managed or stocked, which contain good fish populations. Settle's Ford CA also has the South Grand River in the center of the area that offers excellent fishing. Area staff will review access to Pond 5.

**Suggests adding a walking trail for canoe/kayak access to the South Grand River.**

Settle's Ford CA has three parking lots that provide walk-in access to the South Grand River.

**Suggests managing water levels more consistently throughout the waterfowl hunting season.**

Settle's Ford CA currently doesn't have the ability to pump water into its wetlands. The wetlands are opportunistic and rely on precipitation for water which can vary greatly from one year to the next. For this reason, weather conditions during the waterfowl season have a major impact on wetland pool elevations.

**Suggests ending hunting at 1 p.m.**

The planning team agrees that ending hunting at 1 p.m. may result in increased waterfowl use or hunting success. However, the planning team also believes it is important to offer all-day hunting, which gives a larger group of individuals the opportunity to hunt on any given day. It is important to the Department that we maintain a variety of regulations on our wetland areas to reach a broader audience.

**Suggests having a daily drawing for waterfowl hunts.**

The planning team agrees that this would help with overcrowding issues on certain days and may improve hunting success. Currently, the wetlands on Settle's Ford CA are opportunistic in nature and management doesn't have the ability to pump water. For this reason, waterfowl hunting on Settle's Ford CA is dependent on the amount of precipitation the area receives. Waterfowl hunting and wetland conditions can vary greatly from one year to the next, or even vary greatly within the season. Due to staff time requirements, the Department can only offer the intensive managed hunts on a limited number of intensively managed wetland areas and is not expanding that number at this time. Instead it makes the opportunity available to hunters and allows them to self regulate hunting pressure.

**Suggests allowing youth hunters to use Disabled Hunter Zone if not in use.**

The planning team agrees that it is very important to provide waterfowl hunting opportunities for youth. Youth hunters are able to hunt in all the open hunting pools on Settle's Ford CA. Currently, the Disabled Hunter Zone on Settle's Ford CA is open to disabled hunters only on a first-come-first-serve basis. It is impossible for anyone to know when a disabled hunter may show up to hunt because hunters are not required to make prior reservations for the zone and the area is open to all day hunting. For this reason, the planning team believes that it is important to provide access that is exclusive to disabled hunters only.

**Suggests improving access to waterfowl hunting pools and other hunting areas. Suggests adding more parking opportunities.**

The area offers a unique waterfowl hunting experience where wetlands are scattered across the 6,766-acre area with limited access to some. Many of the pools are accessed by public roadways and have parking lots nearby. Some of the other pools are only accessed by maintenance roads or trails. During development, it wasn't possible to construct public roadways to access all of the wetland pools. Although this may not appeal to every hunter, others prefer the limited access to wetland pools. We think it is important for the Department to provide a variety of waterfowl hunting opportunities to the public.

**Supports only limited access to wetland areas.**

The area planning team appreciates this comment. It is very important that our waterfowl areas offer a variety of waterfowl hunting opportunities. Because of the varied ease of access to pools, Settle's Ford CA is somewhat different from many of the other managed wetlands across the state, which makes it appealing to some.

**References:**

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

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

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *Missouri watershed protection practice recommended practices for Missouri forests: 2014 management guidelines for maintaining forested watersheds to protect streams*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (n.d.) *Agricultural land use*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

**Maps:**

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial and Easement Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 4: Grazing Map

Figure 5: Vegetation Map

Figure 1: Area Map

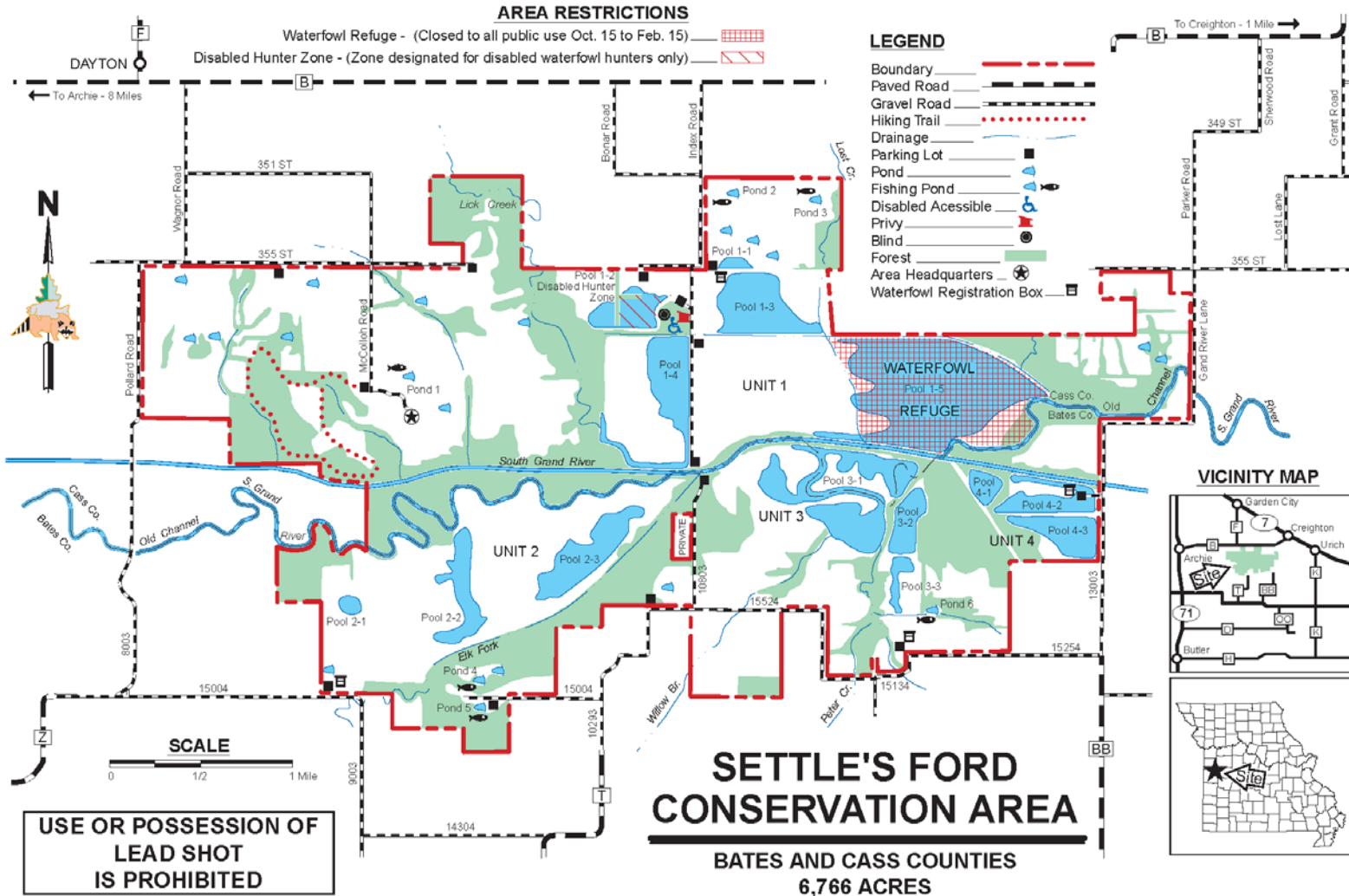


Figure 2: Aerial and Easement Map

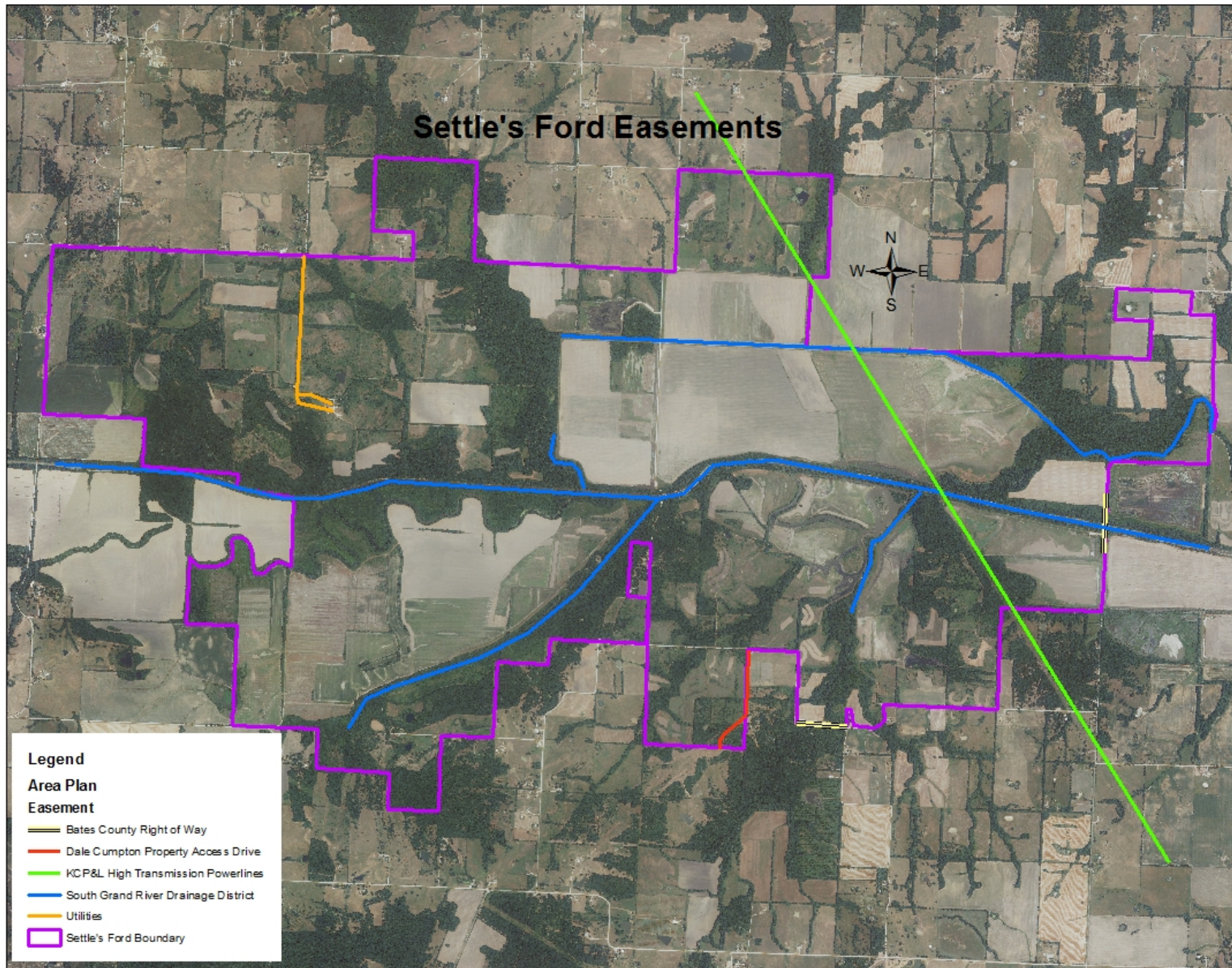




Figure 3: Topographic Map

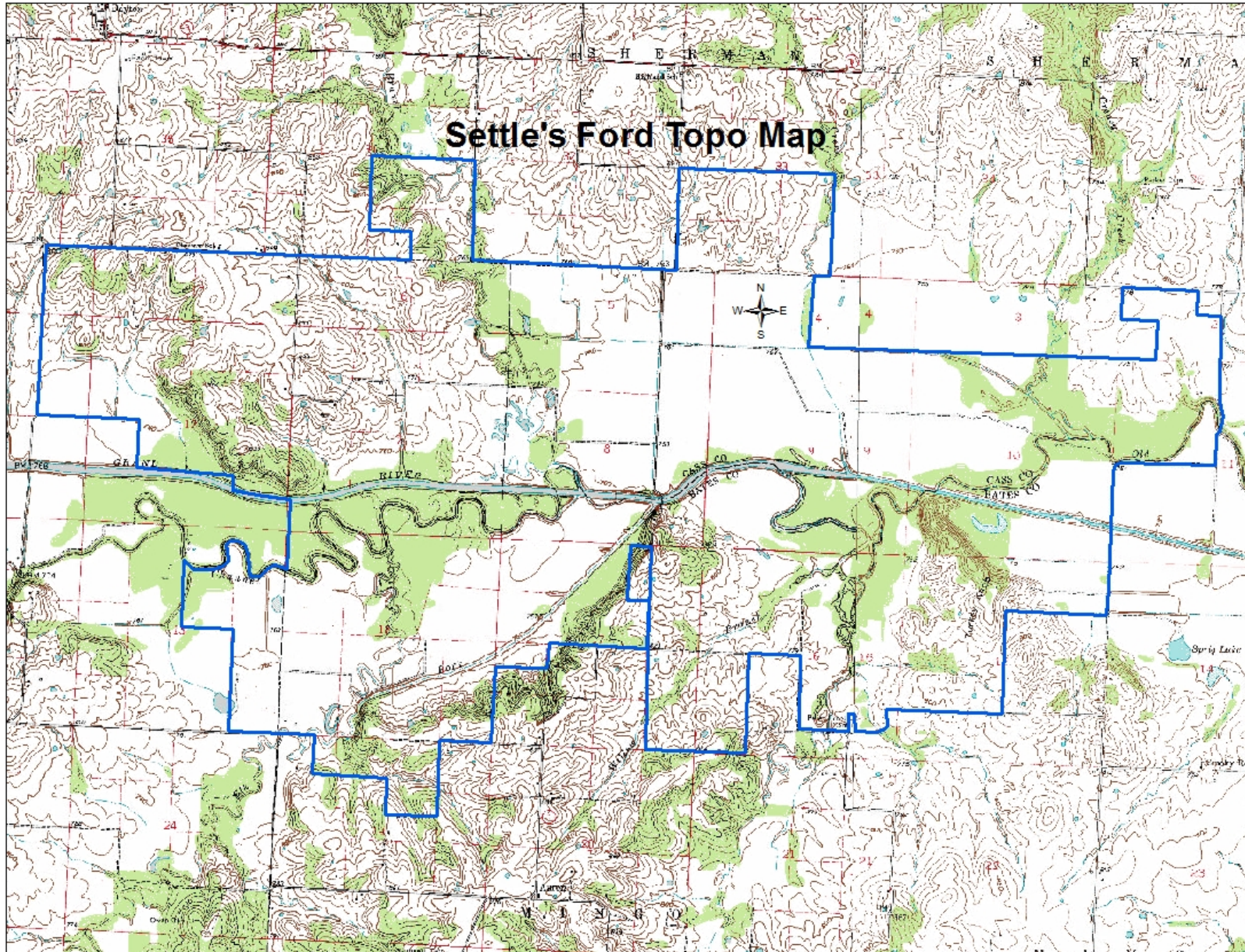


Figure 4: Grazing Map

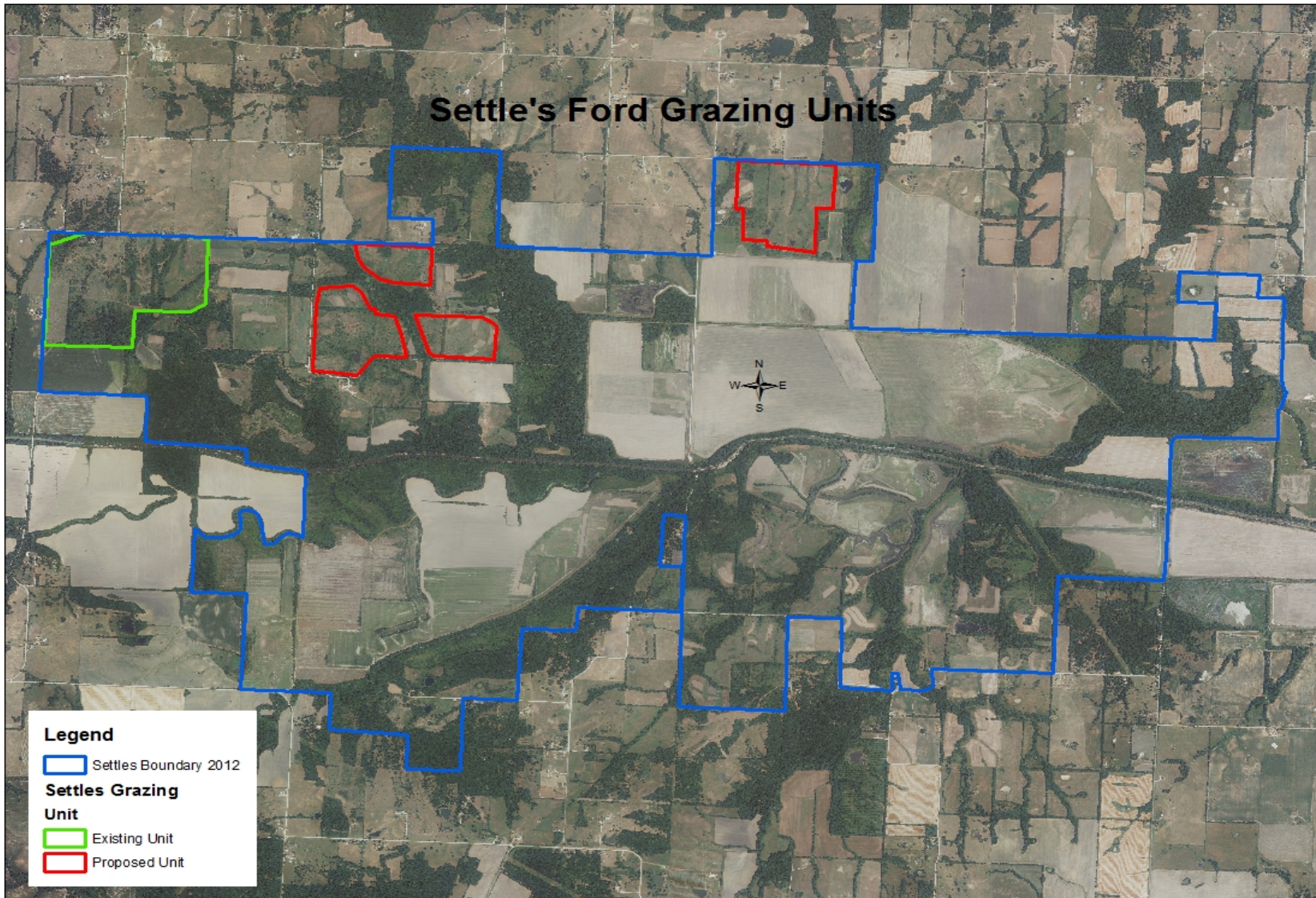
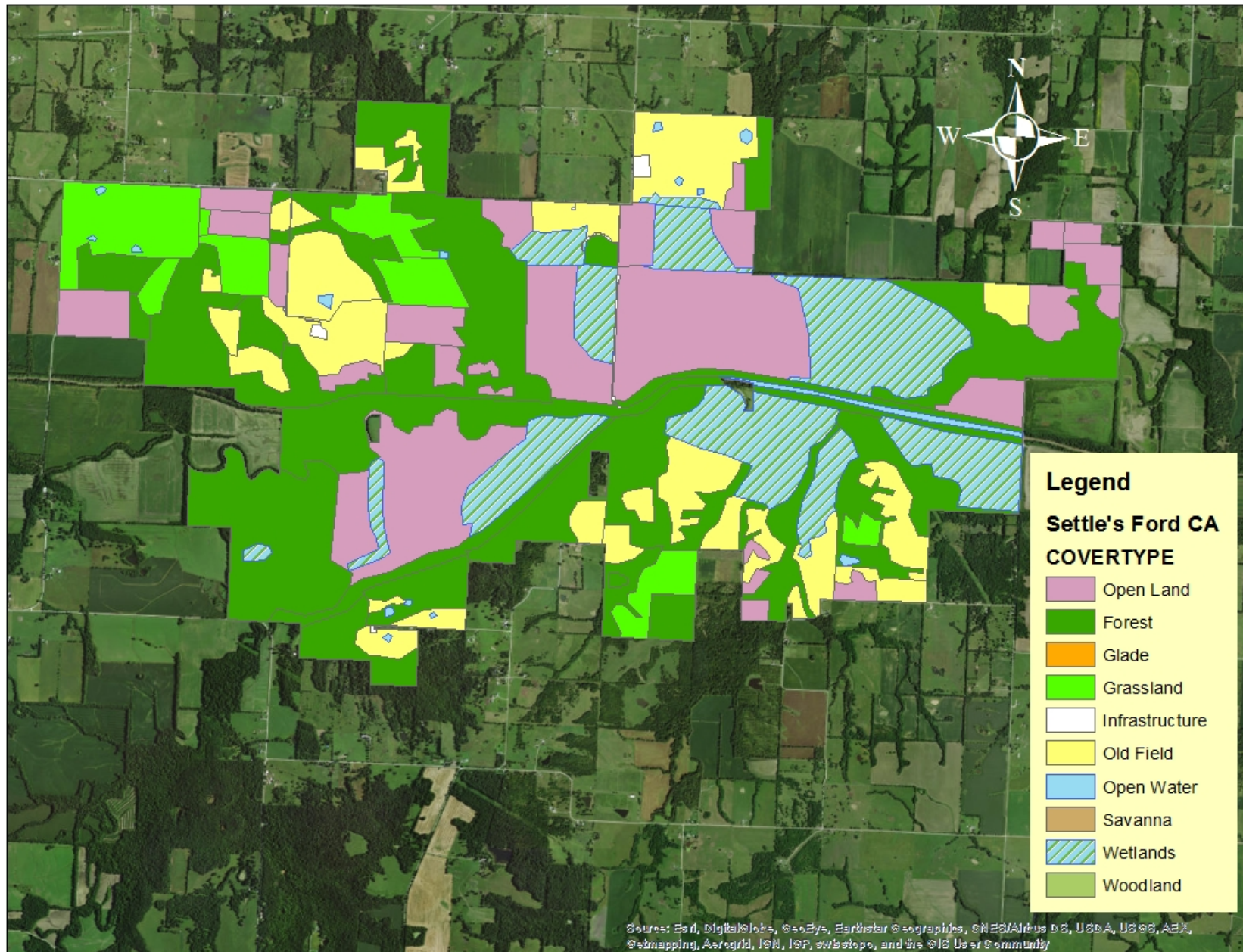


Figure 5: Vegetation Map



**Appendix A. Settle's Ford Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments**

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

<p>Please consider: 1) Providing walking trail access to South Grand River for canoe/kayak access. 2) Increasing number/size of Dove Management Areas. Thank you for opportunity to comment.</p>
<p>this area should be targeted as an intensely managed waterfowl area with a HQ building and daily drawings, etc. If not available an accessible ADA blind should be added. Improved access to hunting pools is needed. All hunting should end at 1pm.</p>
<p>Need to find a way to manage water levels more consistently. At this time the area depends on the Grand River to flood to provide water for the wetland areas. Unfortunately the Grand River does not flood on demand leaving the area with very little to no water during Teal season and the regular duck season. Designate a small area for milkweed to allow for Monarch Butterfly reproduction. Thank You</p>
<p>Hi. I recently discovered the fishing ponds at settlers ford and have been taking the kids quite a lot lately to ponds 4 and 5. I realize the idea is conservation, and helping provide a place in which natural habitat can thrive. The ponds appear to have been managed well. Hooking lots of fish. Just wondering about Pond 5, It is listed as .6 acres I believe, but is much larger. The brush is grown up so badly that very little access to the water is available. There is only one small area that is clear enough to gain access to fish. Just wondering about some brush removal to allow more access to the water. Also, the area where the bank is clear has an overabundance of plant growth in the water. Just wondering about making easier access to fish. Thanks for what you all are doing. I have a 9 year old daughter who lost her dad 3 years ago to cancer. She doesn't laugh a whole lot. Should have heard her this morning trying to land a bass that was nearly 17" long. She had a blast and is begging to go back this evening. Thank you.</p>
<p>I use the area mainly for dove, waterfowl and archery deer purposes. Most of the area is very difficult to access, and parking opportunities are very limited. Water control, or the lack thereof for pool needs to be improved along with potential pumping opportunities. Allowing row crops in more areas south of the Grand would help with access as these would provide "tractor" trails that would be required for Ag purposes. The increased accessibility would provide allow more opportunities for a wider variety of area use access. Allow youth hunters to use the ADA blind pool when not in use by ADA hunters.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In my opinion, the inaccessibility of some of the area wetland units is a plus.</li> <li>2. In my opinion, no boat accessibility to wetland units (with the exception of Unit 4) is a plus.</li> <li>3. Implementing waterfowl hunting stop times would, in my opinion, improve the quality of waterfowl hunting at Settle's Ford.</li> <li>4. Limiting the number of hunters allowed into each wetland unit per day would, in my opinion, improve the quality of waterfowl hunting at Settle's Ford.</li> </ol>

5. It would be a plus, in my opinion, that some of the bottomland within the CA were restored to conditions that mimicked "pre-development" in terms of drainage patterns, landscape, etc. Meaning, contour manipulation so that wetland units reflected more of a natural setting vs. berming only the low end of the unit (field).