

Sand Pond Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Management Plan

FY 2018-2027



Lisa D. Allen
Forestry Division Chief

2-5-18
Date

Sand Pond Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

Steve Paes, Resource Forester

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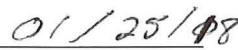
Susan Farrington, Natural History Biologist

OZARK REGION

RCT Chair



Signature



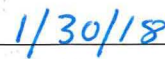
Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

Forest Management Chief



Signature



Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Sand Pond Conservation Area, #8113 and #8427
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1981
- **Acreage:** 302 acres
- **County:** Ripley
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statement of Primary Purpose:**

A. Strategic Direction

Sand Pond Conservation Area (CA) was purchased to protect the dune and swale/bottomland hardwood community association, and the species of conservation concern on the area, including federally endangered species. The primary management emphasis for Sand Pond CA is to maintain and enhance the forest natural communities associated with the unique sand dune and swale topography to protect and expand habitat for federally endangered and other listed species.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of Sand Pond CA is a healthy and diverse dune and swale bottomland hardwood forest, providing habitat for numerous species of conservation concern.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

- A. **Priority Areas:** All of Sand Pond CA is within the Sand Pond Wetlands Wetland Conservation Opportunity Area. The number of species of conservation concern was the criteria for establishing the Conservation Opportunity Area. Sand Pond CA is also within a focus area of The Nature Conservancy.
- B. **Natural Areas:** Sand Ponds Natural Area (68 acres, Figure 2) was established to recognize the unique dune-swale topography and its associated rare plant communities.

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

- A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are known from the area. Area managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the natural history biologist.
- B. **Caves:** None
- C. **Springs:** None
- D. **Other:** There are several forested wetlands and a marsh on the area.

III. Existing Infrastructure

- Three parking lots (Figure 2)

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions:** The 100 acres bought separately in 1984 has a stipulation that it be named the Nancy B. Altvater Addition and that a sign be displayed with this name and that the tract was purchased with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy.
- B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation
- C. Easements:** A public road easement is on County Road W-3. Center Point Energy Gas Transmission Corp. Mississippi River Transmission maintains a 150-foot wide easement for two natural gas transmission pipelines (Figure 3).
- D. Cultural Resources:** Yes, records kept with environmental compliance specialist. Managers should follow best management practices for cultural resources found in the Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) Resource Policy Manual.
- E. Endangered Species:** Endangered species are known from this area. Area managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the natural history biologist.
- 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) Maintain the natural hydrologic regime and natural processes to support the associated natural communities and rare species.
- 2) Prevent threats to biodiversity from invasive plants and animals.

Management Objective 1: Manage and enhance the existing marsh and forest communities to maintain their natural quality and species diversity.

Strategy 1: Implement management recommendations as outlined in approved forest inventory in Fiscal Year 2027. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: In cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and other partners, investigate the feasibility of restoring the natural hydrology by manipulation of the drainage ditch at the south end of the marsh (Figure 3). (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Manage old growth forests according to the *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines: Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests*

(Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014), except as dictated by management needs of species of conservation concern or catastrophic events. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Monitor and eradicate invasive plant and animal species as feasible.

Strategy 1: Annually assess invasive exotic plant species (e.g., sericea lespedeza Japanese honeysuckle) and control as feasible. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Monitor for feral hog activity. If found, report to the regional feral hog coordinator for guidance on elimination actions to take. (Forestry, Wildlife, Protection)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) The natural communities found on Sand Pond CA are wetland terrestrial communities. There is very little topographic relief on this site with no streams, rivers, or constructed ponds. Therefore, erosion is not a concern, but any rutting would cause hydrologic changes to this sensitive area.

Management Objective 1: Protect the hydrology of this sensitive wetland.

Strategy 1: Any use of equipment on the conservation area should be restricted to periods when the soil is dry. (Forestry, Wildlife, Design and Development)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide for quality public use opportunities for a variety activities that are compatible with protecting natural features on the area.

Management Objective 1: Evaluate archery only deer hunting regulations and change if appropriate.

Strategy 1: Propose regulation changes as needed. (Forestry, Wildlife, Protection)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Work with Center Point Energy Gas Transmission Corp. Missouri River Transmission to maintain right of way.

APPENDICES

Area Background:

A 202-acre tract of Sand Pond Conservation Area (CA) was purchased in 1980 for \$161,760 from the Owen Hamlett Estate. The primary purpose of the acquisition was to protect the dune-swale/bottomland hardwood community association, federally endangered, and species of conservation concern. In 1984, an additional 100 acres of adjoining land (the Nancy B. Altvater Addition) was purchased for \$90,000 for the same purposes. The Nature Conservancy contributed \$7,500 toward the purchase of this tract. On March 13, 1987, the Conservation Commission designated 58 acres of Sand Pond CA as a Missouri natural area.

The Nature Conservancy of Missouri owns 536 acres of adjoining lands. A partnership between The Nature Conservancy of Missouri and the Department has been in place since 1985. The partnership has consisted of joint efforts for area planning, grants/funding, inventory, hydrology testing, soils mapping, and tree planting.

Restoration of agricultural fields to dry-mesic sand forest has occurred in several stages on the area with varied success. Plantings have included oak acorns and bare root stock of a variety of species, including pecan, black walnut, sweet gum, sycamore, white oak, overcup oak, bur oak, willow oak, nuttall oak, cherrybark oak, swamp chestnut oak, water oak, and bald cypress. Due to these efforts, stocking and species composition in the restoration areas are currently very good. The most recent plantings occurred in 2003 as a cooperative effort between the Department and The Nature Conservancy.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Bottomland Forest	296		98
Open/Field (pipeline right-of-way)	6		2
Total	302		100
Stream Frontage		0	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Sand Pond Conservation Area was available for a public comment period July 1-31, 2017. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

References:

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

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

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

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

Maps:

Figure 1: Vicinity Map

Figure 2: Area Map

Figure 3: Topographic and Easement Map

Figure 4: Land Cover Map

Figure 2: Area Map

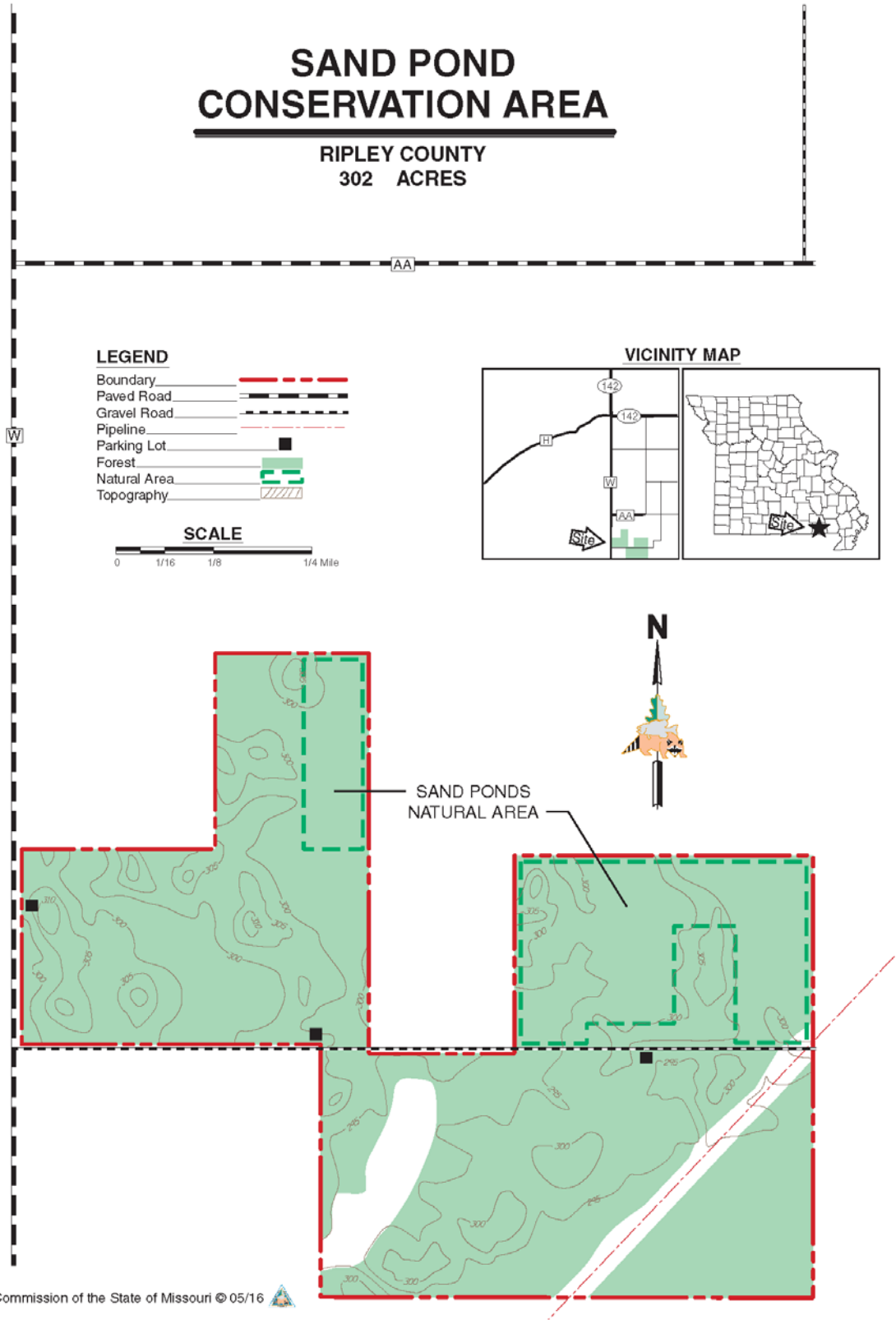


Figure 3: Topographic and Easement Map

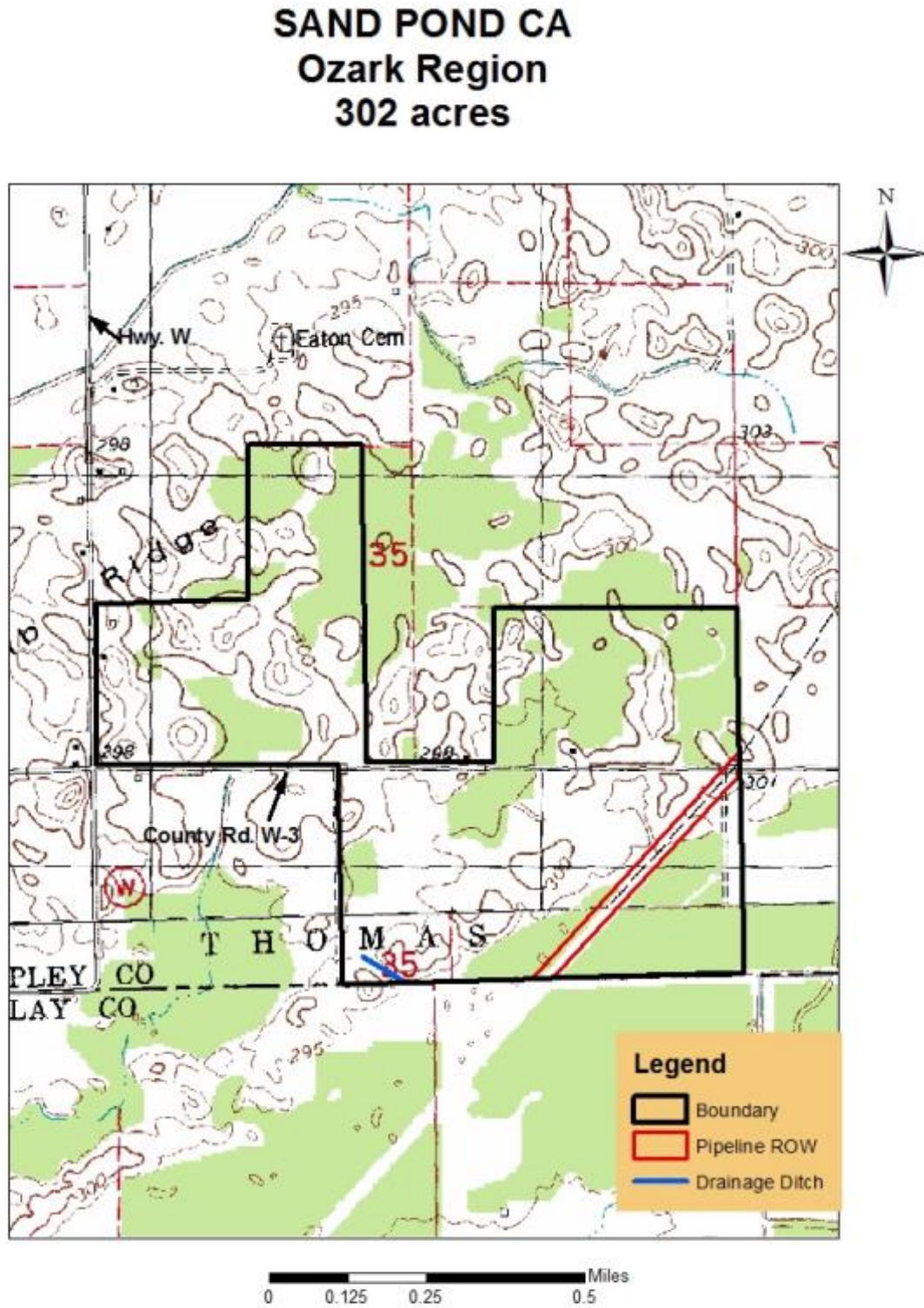


Figure 4: Land Cover Map

