

# Carter Creek Conservation Area

## Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan FY 2019-2033



*Lisa B. Allen*

Forestry Division Chief

*9-12-18*

Date

## Carter Creek Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

### PLANNING TEAM

John Ackerson, Fisheries Management Biologist

Skyler Bockman, Education Center Supervisor

Susan Farrington, Natural History Biologist

Devin Wood, Private Land Conservationist

David Baldrige, Conservation Agent

Dawn Henderson, Resource Science Field Station Supervisor

Ryan Houf, Wildlife Management Biologist

Nick Zaczek, Resource Forester

Michael Smith, Construction and Maintenance Supervisor

### OZARK REGION

RCT Chair

Michael D. Smith  
Signature

9-6-2018  
Date

### FORESTRY DIVISION

Forest Management Chief

John Tuttle  
Signature

9-10-2018  
Date

## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Carter Creek Conservation Area, #9514
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1993
- **Acreage:** 407 acres
- **County:** Carter
- **Region:** Ozark
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
  - A. Strategic Direction**

Manage for healthy forests, the restoration and enhancement of native plant and animal communities, and provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities.
  - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Carter Creek Conservation Area (CA) is a diverse contiguous forest/woodland landscape that provides a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for multiple user groups.
  - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
  - A. Priority Areas:** Cave/Karst Conservation Opportunity Area
  - 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:** Yes, records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) natural history biologist.
  
- III. Existing Infrastructure**
  - There is no existing infrastructure at Carter Creek CA.
  
- IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**
  - A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None known.

- 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:** U.S. Highway 60 and County Road 21-306 run through the property and have right of way easements.
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- F. Boundary Issues:** Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

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

- 1) Improve and restore forest/woodland habitat to achieve greater biodiversity and sustainable forest management.
- 2) Monitor and eradicate invasive plant and animal species.

#### **Management Objective 1: Maintain, enhance, and restore healthy forests and woodlands.**

Strategy 1: Inventory compartments according to forest inventory schedule.  
(Forestry)

Strategy 2: Implement management recommendations as outlined in approved forest inventory and following the *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines: Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014). (Forestry)

#### **Management Objective 2: Maintain biodiversity at Carter Creek CA.**

Strategy 1: Survey for high priority invasive species (e.g., spotted knapweed, Japanese stiltgrass, and feral hogs). Eradicate and/or control these species as possible. (Forestry, Wildlife)

### VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

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

- 1) Provide watering holes for wildlife use.

**Management Objective 1: Opportunistically create shallow watering holes as habitat for amphibians and reptiles, and as a source of water for other wildlife.**

**(Forestry)**

Strategy 1: Seek approval for a habitat project to build shallow watering holes for wildlife through the Capital Improvements process. Follow best management practices while conducting forest management activities to maintain water quality and to prevent soil erosion according to the *2014 Missouri Watershed Protection Practices* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014) booklet. (Forestry)

**VII. Public Use Management Considerations**

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain management goals while meeting high public use demands.
- 2) Enforce area laws and regulations.

**Management Objective 1: Provide and manage for recreational opportunities compatible with natural community management and Department public use policy.**

Strategy 1: Consider and utilize, where appropriate, management applications that will maintain or enhance viewshed experiences and opportunities. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2: Maintain area to invite legitimate public uses, consistent with area regulations and state laws.**

Strategy 1: There is light but regular use of the area by local members of the public throughout the year, with a significant increase of non-local use during the major hunting and summer tourism seasons. Public use is not to be discouraged, but access should be confined to areas of low impact to the landscape. Any trails constructed for the purpose of timber harvest and determined to be unnecessary for future management will be closed immediately post-harvest. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Conduct special, routine, and group patrols, as necessary, according to demands caused by user impact. (Protection)

**VIII. Administrative Considerations**

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Resolve any boundary line disputes.
- 2) Consider land acquisition, when available.

**Management Objective 1: Resolve boundary line disputes as they arise.**

Strategy 1: Request surveys as needed. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Continue to contract boundary line painting every eight years according to the boundary line painting schedule. (Forestry)

**Lands Proposed for Acquisition:**

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.



## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

Carter Creek Conservation Area (CA) was part of the Kerr McGee land acquisition in the early 1990s. This conservation area currently contains a mix of pole, large pole small saw, and mature saw timber mixed oak and pine timber. The first entry in the two tracts occurred in the late 1990s. Management included commercial timber harvest and forest thinning. In 2004-2005 the highway department expanded U.S. Highway 60 cutting through the south tract of Carter Creek CA. A small spring is located in Bear Spring Hollow within the north tract. Both tracts' boundaries were re-surveyed in 2009 which caused several property lines to shift.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area	Miles
Forest and Woodland	407	100	
Stream Frontage – Bear Spring Creek			0.25

### Public Input Summary:

The draft Carter Creek Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period June 1-30, 2018. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time.

### References:

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

### Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map





**Figure 2: Aerial Map**

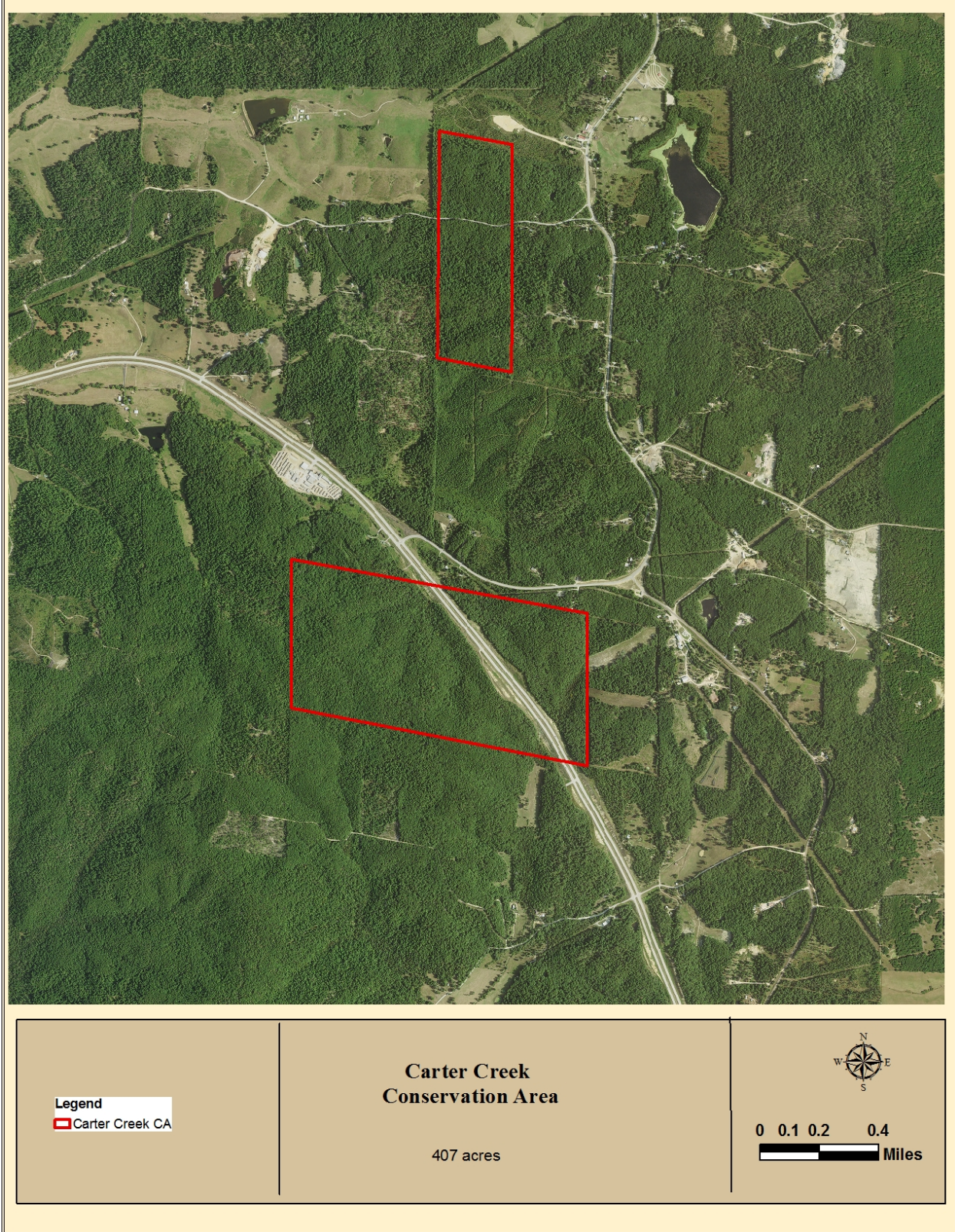
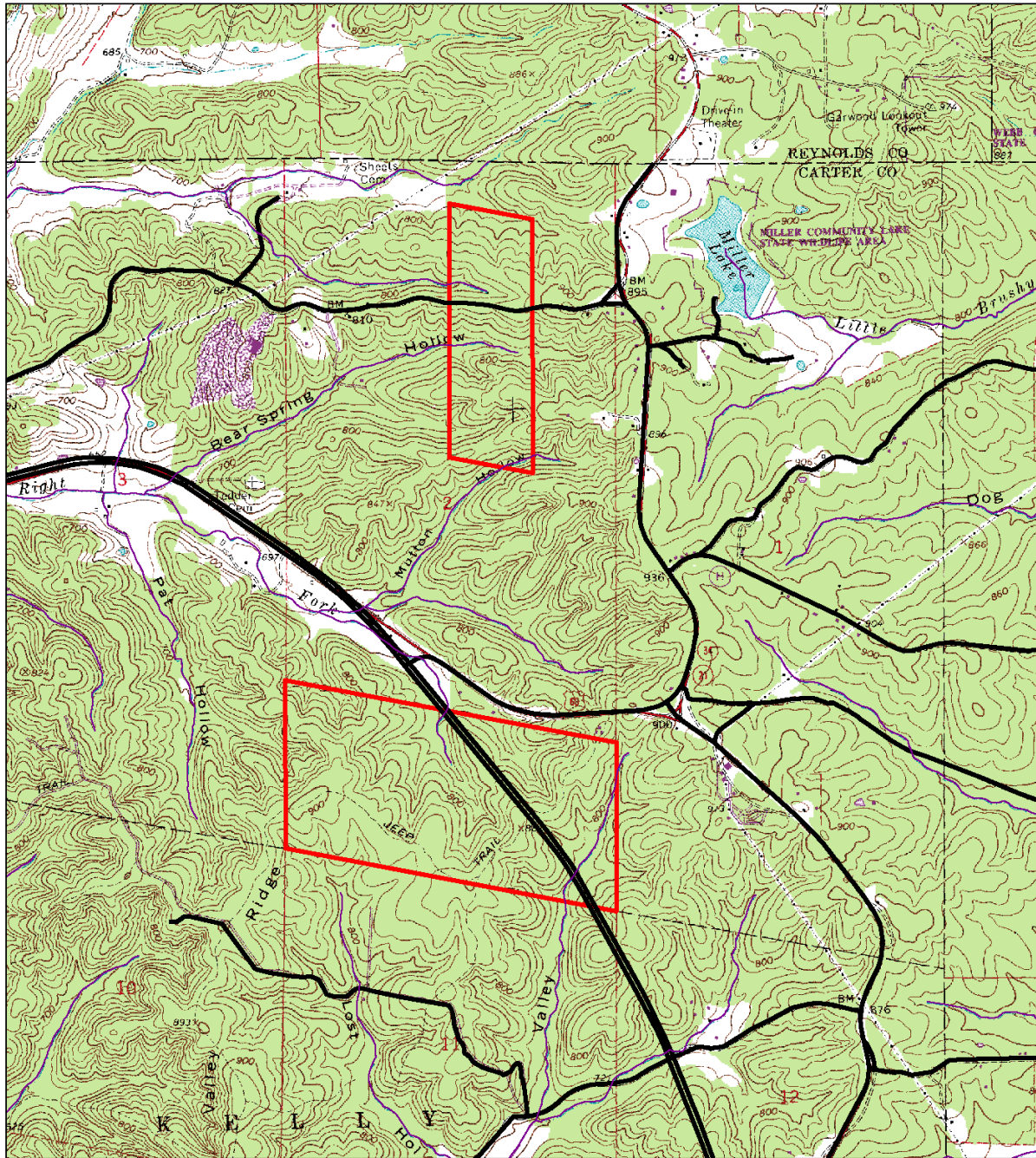


Figure 3: Topographic Map



**Legend**

— roads

□ Carter Creek Topo

Carter Creek  
Conservation Area  
407 Acres

