

Ralph and Martha Perry Memorial Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Management Plan
FY 2019-2028



Joel W. Prather

Wildlife Division Chief

9/20/2018

Date

**Ralph and Martha Perry Memorial Conservation Area Management
Plan Approval Page**

PLANNING TEAM

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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Ralph and Martha Perry Memorial Conservation Area, #7214
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1972
- **Acreage:** 4,134 acres
- **Counties:** Johnson, Pettis, and Saline
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

The primary management emphasis of this area is to protect and enhance bottomland and upland forest, and wetland resources, while providing public recreation and educational use that is compatible with these resources.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Ralph and Martha Perry Memorial Conservation Area (CA) is healthy natural communities that include upland and bottomland forest, a mixture of grassland and early successional vegetation, and seasonal marsh.
 - 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 Wetland Reserve Program funds to provide wetland habitat through perpetual easements.
 - 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:** Blackwater River Wetlands – Wetland Conservation Opportunity Area
 - B. Natural Areas:** None

- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.
 - B. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None

III. Existing Infrastructure

- 12 parking lots
- Four fishing ponds (total of 14.4 acres)
- 45 fishless ponds (total of 33.4 acres)
- Seven wetland pools (total of 768 acres)
- One handgun/rifle range
- One river access
- Camping is allowed in designated areas
- West Loop Trail, 1.2-mile hiking trail
- Lake Loop Trail, 1.6-mile hiking trail

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. 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.
- The wetland conservation easements permanently prohibit use of the affected land as cropland and require permanent maintenance of the wetland conditions, except in the case of natural disaster. After the easement has been perfected, no change will be made in the easement without a written request by the participant and the written consent of the Natural Resources Conservation Service chief. Federal funds may also be used in the management of this land.
- This land must be used to conserve and restore wetlands. The federal funds made available under the North American Wetland 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.

C. Easements:

- Wetland Reserve Program easement
- Whiteman Air Force Base military missile cables (no longer active, but remain on-site)
- Natural gas pipeline easement with Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company
- Waterline easement with Public Water Supply District No. 2
- Waterline easement with Public Water Supply District No. 1
- Perpetual conservation easement with the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers

- Utility easement with West Central Electric
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** Yes, records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) environmental compliance coordinators. Managers should follow best management practices for cultural resources found in the MDC Resource Policy Manual.
- E. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- F. Boundary Issues:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Invasive plants continue to be a threat. Bush honeysuckle and autumn olive are widespread and pose a serious threat. Sericea lespedeza, Johnson grass, and tall fescue are well established in some locations. Perennial smartweed and reed canary grass are present in some of the wetland units. Small populations of Japanese honeysuckle, tree of heaven, and teasel have also been found on the area.
- 2) Forest management is limited since much of the area is inaccessible due to fluctuating water levels due to management of wetland pools and flood from the Blackwater River.
- 3) Fertile soils allow natural succession and invasive plants to advance at an increased rate in the open lands on the area. Many of these fields present opportunities for dove management.
- 4) Management of early successional fields is needed. Management is focused on increasing plant diversity and promoting forb response. By managing for a mix of shrub, forb, and grass components, managers can maximize quality habitat.
- 5) Man-made and naturally occurring wetlands comprise more than 20 percent of the area. Management of these wetlands focuses on early-successional, moist-soil plant, and invertebrate response. Some green-tree reservoir habitat exists within several of the wetland pools and is managed to maintain healthy tree growth and mast production.

Management Objective 1: Manage forested areas to improve overall natural community health while improving habitat for wildlife.

Strategy 1: Inventory forests according to the inventory schedule to develop prescriptions for ecological and silvicultural treatment. Significant portions of the area may be omitted from the inventory schedule since access is limited due to fluctuating water levels and lack of road access. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Monitor and control invasive species, where possible, using management techniques including, but not limited to mechanical and chemical treatments. (Wildlife, Forestry)

Strategy 3: Maintain previously established Concordia oak plantings to preserve this unique species. (Wildlife, Forestry)

Strategy 4: Plant more Concordia oak, when necessary, using seedlings from George O. White State Forest Nursery. (Wildlife, Forestry)

Strategy 5: Utilize best management practices, as described in MDC's manuals during forest management: *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests: 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams* (MDC, 2014b) and the *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines: Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (MDC, 2014a). (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Provide food and cover for wildlife and maintain early successional vegetation for a variety of wildlife species.

Strategy 1: Plant food plots annually and rotate plantings to promote soil health. A portion of these acres will be fallowed each year to increase early successional habitat acres for wildlife. Ensure farming practices are conducted in accordance with the Soil and Water Conservation Plan for the area. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Utilize open fields for dove management. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Manage early successional old fields and existing stands of planted native grasses and forbs to maintain diverse vegetative habitats. Rotate management units to provide adequate habitat during management activities. (Wildlife)

Strategy 4: Monitor and control invasive species, where possible, using management techniques including, but not limited to prescribed fire, mechanical and chemical treatments. (Wildlife)

Strategy 5: Maximize moist-soil vegetation response in wetland pools to provide for migrating waterfowl and endemic wetland-dependent species. (Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) This area lies within the Blackwater River watershed. The Blackwater River bisects the area for approximately 7.9 miles. Several smaller streams are also present. There is a high potential for bank erosion and flooding, as a result of channelization activities in the 1940s.

- 2) Several aquatic invasive species, including Asian carp, have been found in the Blackwater River.
- 3) The area has four lakes of sufficient size and depth for effective fisheries management efforts.
- 4) There are numerous, small, fishless ponds on the area. Many of these ponds are managed as wildlife watering holes and for amphibians.

Management Objective 1: Maintain or restore adequate vegetated stream corridors on all streams in order to maintain or improve water quality and promote stable streambanks.

Strategy 1: Maintain a minimum 100-foot vegetated riparian corridor and, where possible (due to access), expand the corridor width to include areas disturbed by high flows. There is a high potential for bank erosion and flooding, as a result of channelization of the Blackwater River and its tributaries. (Fisheries, Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Follow MDC's *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (2009) and MDC's *Resource Policy Manual* to ensure management activities adhere to best management practices. (Wildlife, Fisheries, Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Develop a public information effort to inform area users of the negative impacts of invasive species.

Strategy 1: Inform area users through signage of the hazards and ways to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, such as Asian carp, Eurasian water milfoil, and zebra mussels. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 3: Provide quality fishing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Manage Guier Lake, Guier Pond, North Pond, and Dunksburg Pond for self-sustaining fish populations. Assess sportfish populations, as needed. Stock fish populations, as needed, in Guier Lake and Guier Pond. Manage North Pond as a sunfish fishery. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Monitor aquatic vegetation and use control techniques, including but not limited to, mechanical methods and herbicides to control and suppress invasive species, such as exotic Eurasian water milfoil, coontail, and filamentous algae in order to allow diverse aquatic plant communities to exist. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 4: Manage non-fishing ponds.

Strategy 1: Identify and manage ponds unsuitable for fishing as wildlife watering holes and amphibian habitat. (Fisheries, Wildlife)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Management opportunities exist for a diversity of habitats and wildlife species to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and wildlife viewing within 30 miles of the Kansas City metropolitan area.
- 2) The area is a convenient destination for school and youth groups looking for an outdoor classroom site. There also exists educational workshop opportunities for area teachers.
- 3) Frequent flood events of the Blackwater River make access to the area difficult, and large portions of the area are unusable by the public for extended periods of time.
- 4) Waterfowl viewing and hunting opportunities exist due to the wetland complex that is intensively managed.
- 5) Rifle and handgun target shooting is permitted at the unstaffed range that currently provides 25-, 50-, and 100-yard firing stations.
- 6) Shooting range relocation and improvement may be considered in the future if possible.
- 7) Primitive camping is allowed in close proximity to five parking lots scattered across the area.

Management Objective 1: Maintain a diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats to provide public users with quality hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Provide recreational opportunities by implementing annual management activities, targeting improvement of terrestrial and wetland wildlife populations, including deer, turkey, dove, waterfowl, non-hunted wildlife, and small game, such as squirrel, rabbit, and quail. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Manage the area's aquatic resources to provide access and opportunity to quality fishing experiences. Maintain, evaluate, and improve public access to area ponds, as feasible. Conduct periodic review of area ponds for the suitability of stocking to provide additional fishing opportunities, as resources allow. (Wildlife, Fisheries)

Strategy 3: Maintain adequate access to area habitats through existing network of parking lots, levees, and service roads. (Wildlife)

Strategy 4: Continue to allow trapping on area, as appropriate, through the special use permit. (Wildlife)

Strategy 5: Look for increased opportunities for dove management, as feasible. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Cooperatively patrol the area and report unauthorized activities.

Strategy 1: Regularly patrol and enforce the wildlife code, with emphasis on off trail abuse, vandalism, littering and response to public complaints. (Protection, Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Maintain unstaffed shooting range to accommodate a variety of shooting opportunities in a way that promotes safe and responsible participation in hunting and shooting.

Strategy 1: Work with local conservation agents and law enforcement officials to ensure compliance of range regulations by area users through patrolling efforts. (Wildlife, Protection)

Strategy 2: Promote range safety and the opportunity for public target shooting while keeping the range maintained in accordance with current shooting range management guidelines. (Wildlife, Outreach and Education)

Management Objective 4: Promote the use of the area by school and youth groups for field experience opportunities.

Strategy 1: Allow group use requests that do not interfere with area management priorities. (Wildlife, Outreach and Education)

Strategy 2: Promote educational opportunities and school field trips as area resources and staffing will allow. (Wildlife, Outreach and Education)

Strategy 3: Provide maps and maintain Missouri Atlas database for public use. (Wildlife, Outreach and Education)

Strategy 4: Work with Outreach and Education consultants in Kansas City Region to enhance the usability of the area for the Discover Nature Schools program. Communicate to local schools, universities, and scout and youth groups the opportunities this area offers for ecology classes and field experiences. Explore opportunities to accommodate field experiences by improving facilities (privy) where possible. (Fisheries, Outreach and Education)

Strategy 5: Promote fishing opportunities for the Discover Nature-Fishing angler recruitment program. (Fisheries, Outreach and Education)

Management Objective 5: Maintain current level of management of existing wetlands to provide opportunity for hunting and bird watching.

Strategy 1: Flood and dewater wetlands, as appropriate, to maximize moist-soil plant growth and invertebrate response. Implement management techniques to reduce and remove unwanted trees. (Wildlife)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 2) Opportunities exist to build relationships with neighboring landowners.
- 3) Consider land acquisition, when available.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with MDC guidelines. (Wildlife, Fisheries)

Management Objective 2: Promote a positive working relationship with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Respond to neighbors with requests for shared fencing, boundary issues, or trespass problems. (Wildlife, Fisheries, Protection)

Strategy 2: Respond to neighboring landowners interested in habitat management on their private property. (Private Land Services, Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Continue to communicate area management activities and/or infrastructure changes to area neighbors. (Wildlife)

Strategy 4: Mark area boundary on a regular schedule. (Wildlife)

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 MDC priorities, as identified in the annual MDC land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 1		X								
Aquatic Resource Management Considerations										
<i>Objective 4</i>										
Strategy 1		X		X		X		X		X

APPENDICES

Area Background:

This area is named after the late Dr. Ralph Perry and his wife, Martha, who donated 40 acres to create the conservation area in 1971. This original tract was located in Saline County in the portion of the area now known as Unit 1. In addition to the original donation, the Perry’s donated money between 1971 and 1975 to help purchase more land. In addition to the private funding, Pittman -Robertson and MDC funds have been used to acquire land to the present 4,134 acres.

This area lies in the Scraped Osage Plains Alluvial Plains landtype association of the Osage Plains ecological section. Historically, bottomland prairie, marshes and bottomland forests dominated. The soils are dominated by finely textured alluvium, but drainage is a problem.

The Blackwater River was channelized in the 1940s from its natural location, 0.6 miles south of its present location. This channelization changed both the stream hydraulics and the flooding regime on this area. This flooding regime has major implications for resource management activities on the area and surrounding floodplain.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	2,597		63
Wetlands (managed)	765		18
Open Land	295		7
Old Field	231		6
Grassland (non-prairie)	200		5
Lakes/Ponds	23		<1
Infrastructure	23		<1
Total	4,134		100
Stream Frontage		7	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Ralph and Martha Perry Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period Nov. 1–30, 2017. MDC received comments from seven respondents (Appendix A). The Ralph and Martha Perry Memorial 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.

MDC responses to themes and issues identified through the Ralph and Martha Perry Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan public comment period.

Suggests planting a perennial food source for ducks.

Our management strategy is to use a variety of moist-soil management techniques as well as managing water in the spring and fall to promote and tap into the abundant native annual plant seed source in the soil, such as annual smartweed and millet, making planting unnecessary.

Does not support “enhancements” that were previously made to the area, such as the installation of a water drawdown structure, that resulted in fewer pools to hunt and crowding at the remaining hunting pools.

Ralph and Martha Perry Memorial CA wetlands were developed with a host of wetland species in mind. By having the ability to slowly drawdown water levels, it enhances the area manager’s ability to promote moist soil management and make timely water drawdowns or water additions. Having these capabilities allows the area manager more flexibility in the way the wetlands are managed. The installation of the wetlands created more floodable wetland acres than prior to the development of the wetland pools.

Suggests moving the refuge area back to its previous location to increase hunting opportunities.

The waterfowl refuge was relocated to its current location in 2007. This refuge location provides opportunity for larger numbers of migrating waterfowl to rest undisturbed. Also, when the current refuge was a hunting pool, safety issues arose due to the lack of parking for hunters. Hunters were parking their vehicles on both sides of the road along NE 1075 Rd, which is a heavily used county road and posed a safety concern.

Suggests allowing centerfire rifles during the regular firearms portion of deer season.

A deer study was conducted on the conservation area during 2005-2006 and 2010-2011. Comments from hunters and aerial deer surveys showed that the area had a low deer population, yet still received heavy hunting pressure. During the 2015 change of statewide deer regulations, it was decided to change to muzzleloader and archery methods to help increase the deer population on the area and to alleviate safety concerns raised due to the heavy hunting pressure. Deer hunting is still allowed during the traditional November firearms season, but it is now limited to archery or muzzleloader methods. We will keep this comment in mind when we evaluate deer hunting regulations for this conservation area in the future.

There is a problem with illicit activities near the Blackwater Road access. Suggests closing the gate year-round to vehicles at the Blackwater Road access and installing a gate on the north side of the parking lot.

The Blackwater Road access provides many opportunities for area users such as birding, fishing, and photography. For these reasons, the road access cannot be closed. Conservation agents and area staff routinely monitor the parking areas for user compliance and concerns with other area users. Illegal activity occurs wherever people gather, and unfortunately, the Ralph and Martha Perry CA is no exception. Conservation agents patrol the area and ticket offenders encountered. If area users notice illegal activities, they are encouraged to report it to area staff, and ongoing violations should be reported to local law enforcement.

Would like to provide input on the shooting range relocation (e.g., be included in any meetings about the relocation and be in contact with the manager for this project).

MDC has approved a plan to close the range and to relocate the range to a different part of the area. An open house meeting was held for neighbors and interested parties on August 21, 2018. Members of the public are always welcome to contact staff with questions or comments. The manager for this area is located at our Sedalia office.

Supports efforts to improve the shooting range. This is a great place to shoot. Suggests adding another 100-yard target berm.

Thank you for your support of the shooting range. Based on the approved plan, when the range is relocated and constructed, two 100-yard target lanes will be available.

Suggests more limited shooting range hours to provide more quiet hours for neighbors.

The hours for MDC unstaffed shooting ranges across the state are a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset. On this conservation area, the hours change to “Closed until 12 p.m. during the period of October 1 to December 31.” to aid waterfowl hunters. When the new range is constructed, there will be one day weekly when the range will be closed for maintenance.

Opposes having a shooting range at the area. Concerned that waterfowl will be disturbed by the proximity of the shooting range.

The range at Ralph and Martha Perry CA receives significant use by the local and southeast Kansas City citizenry as well as our servicemen and women from Whiteman Airforce Base. The location of the range does provide a “close to home” location for recreational shooters as well as hunters to prepare for hunting seasons. Balancing a variety of recreational uses on a conservation area is always difficult. When changes to the shooting range occur, we will continue using the same limited shooting hours that are currently used from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 to prevent conflicts with waterfowl hunters.

Suggests better enforcement at the shooting range. Has observed users who are not abiding by the range rules (e.g., after-hours shooting, shooting with automatic weapons).

Conservation agents and area staff routinely monitor the range for user compliance. However, it is not a staffed range, which makes catching every offender difficult. Range rules are posted in

the parking lot for all users to review. Conservation agents patrol the area and ticket offenders encountered. If range users or neighbors notice illegal activities, they are encouraged to report it to area staff; ongoing violations should be reported to local law enforcement.

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

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014b). *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.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map with Easements

Figure 3: Topographic Map Unit #1

Figure 4: Topographic Map Unit #2

Figure 5: Vegetation Map Unit #1

Figure 6: Vegetation Map Unit #2

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A: Ralph and Martha Perry Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Area Map

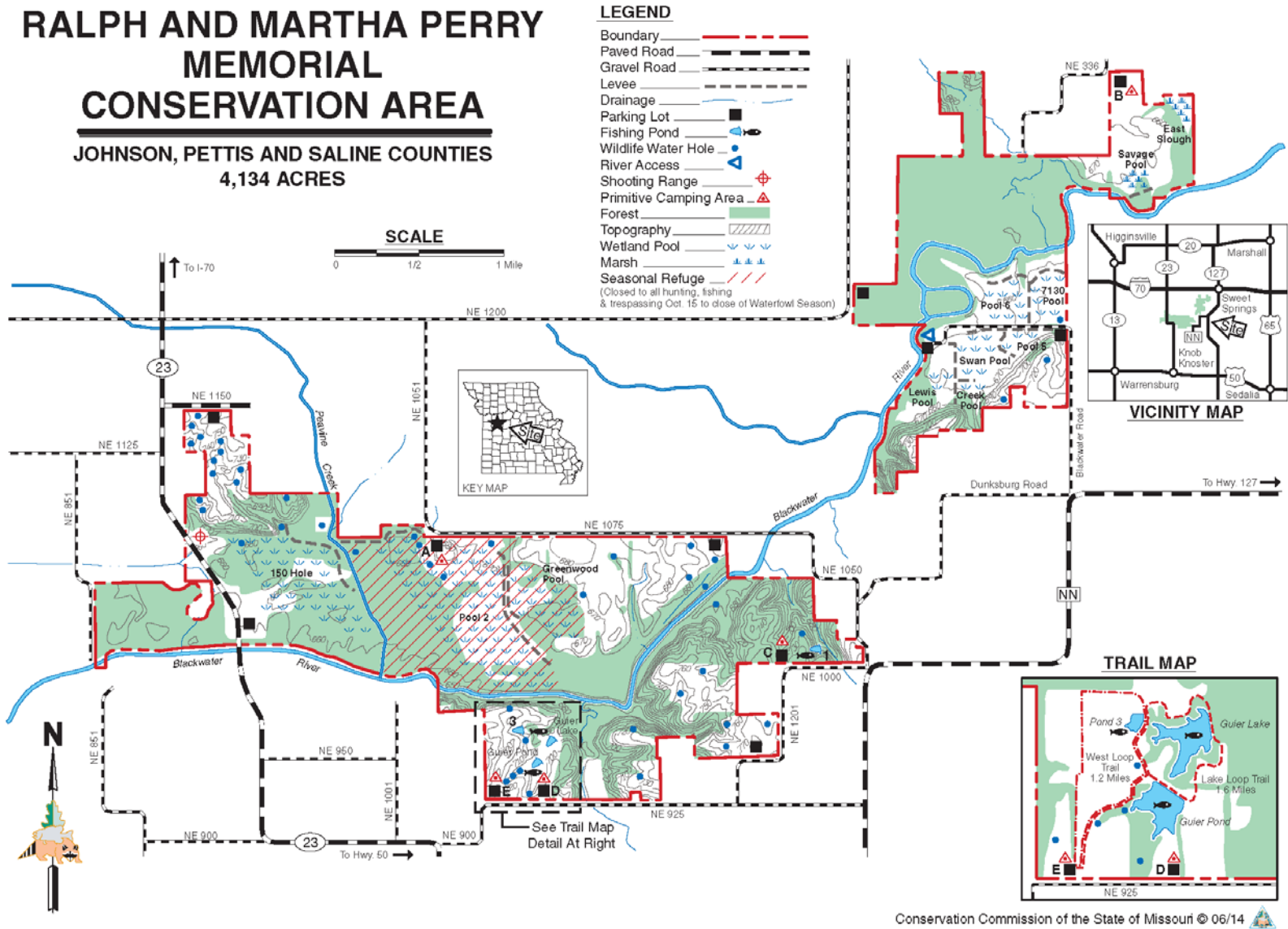


Figure 2: Aerial Map with Easements

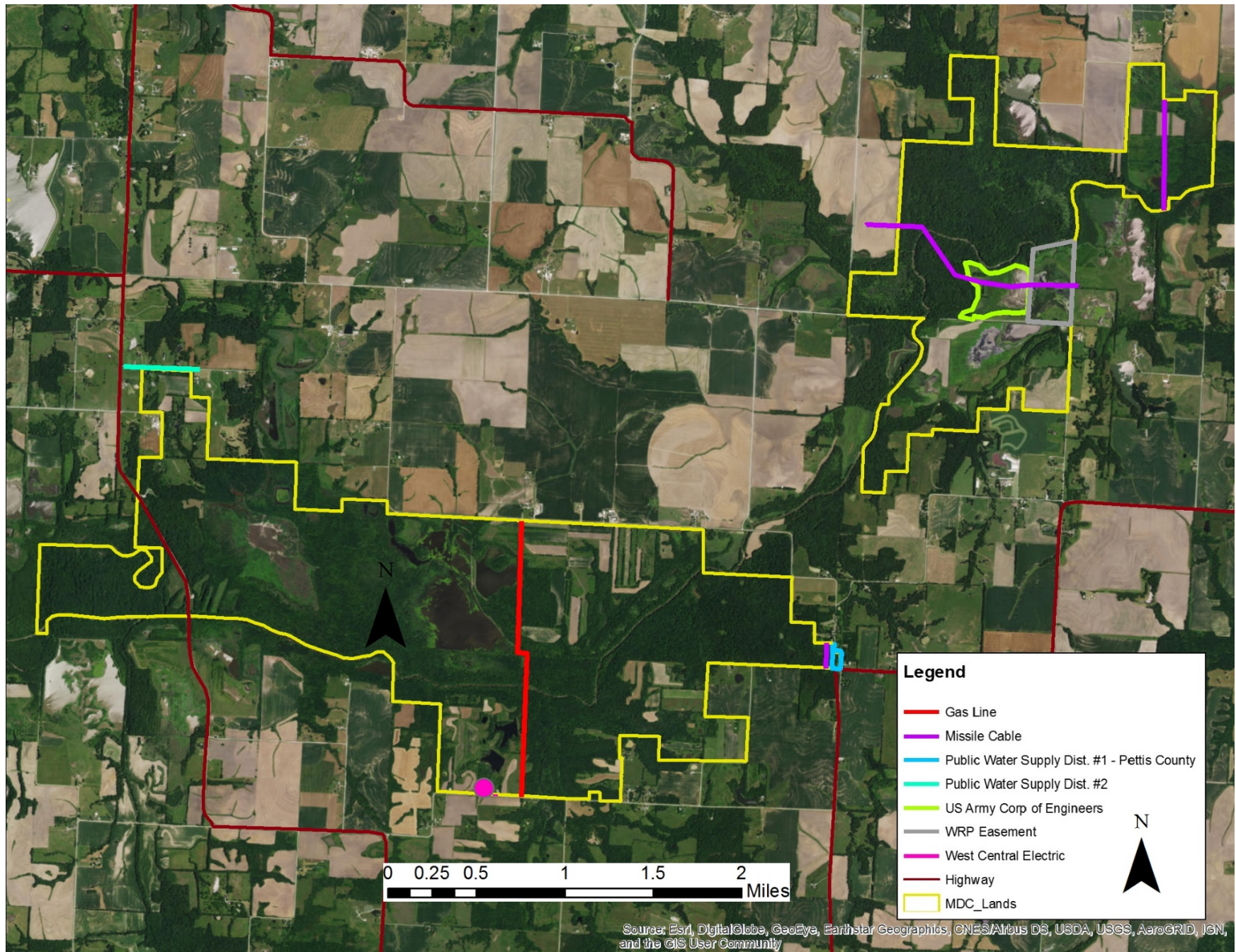


Figure 3: Topographic Map Unit #1

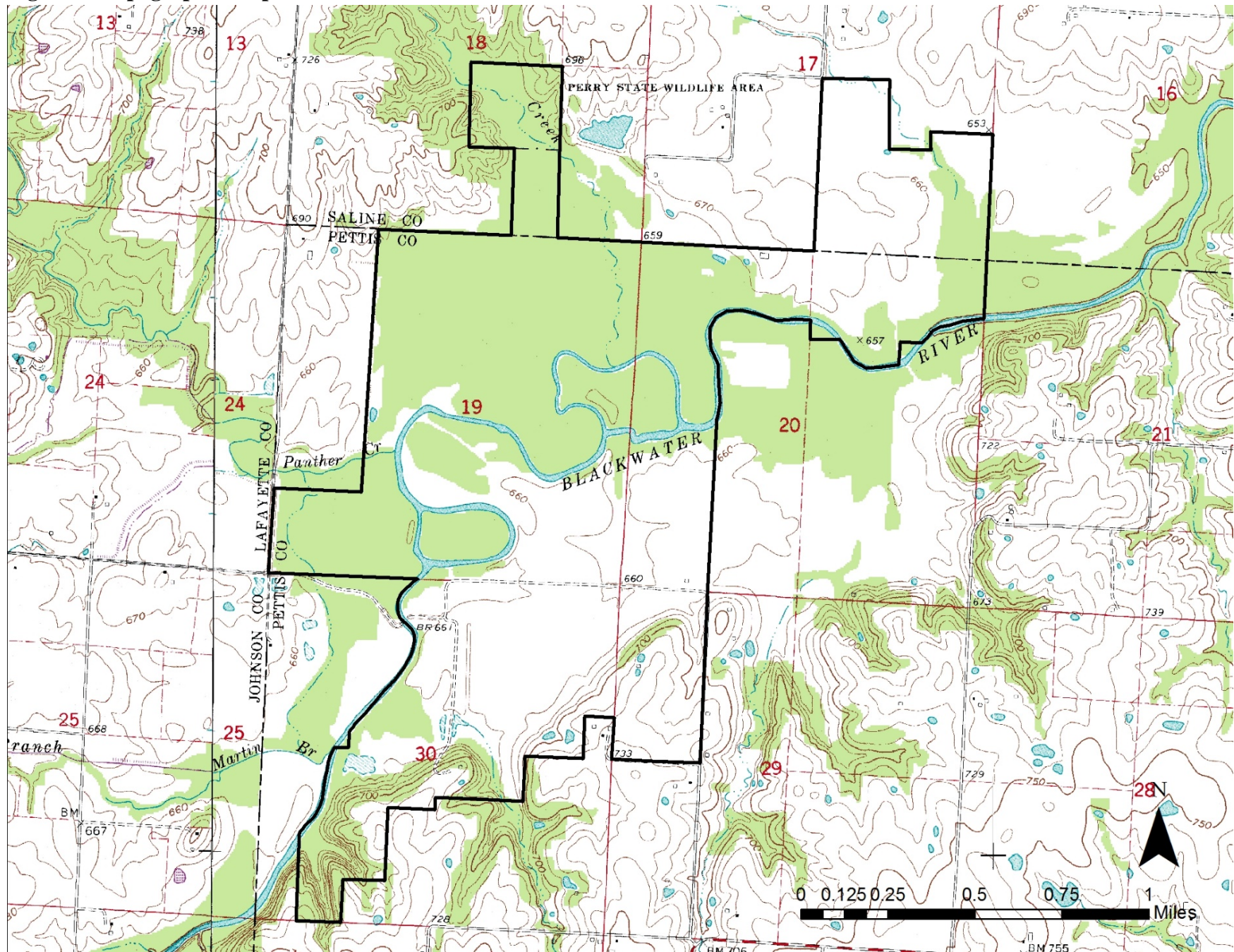


Figure 4: Topographic Map Unit #2

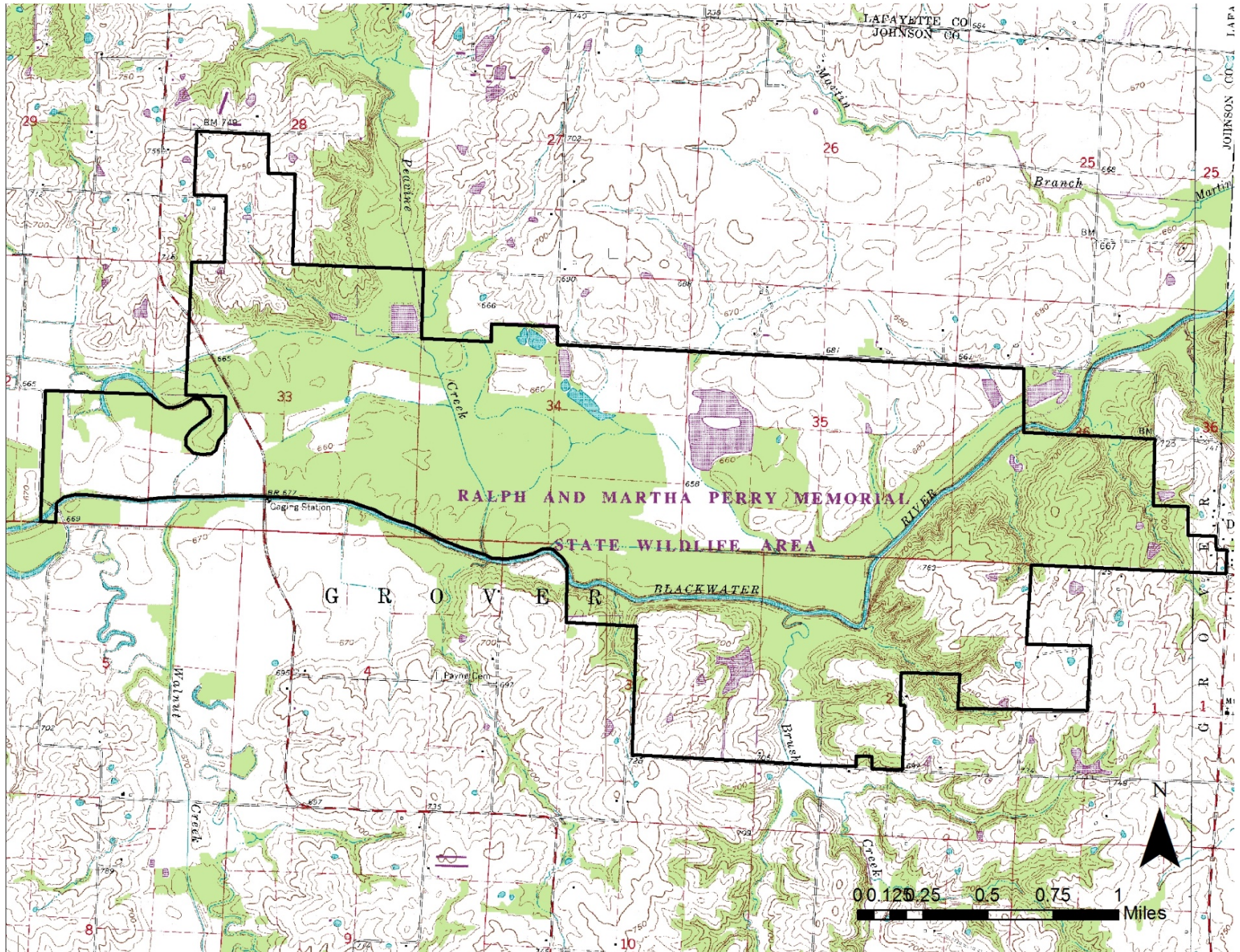


Figure 5: Vegetation Map Unit #1

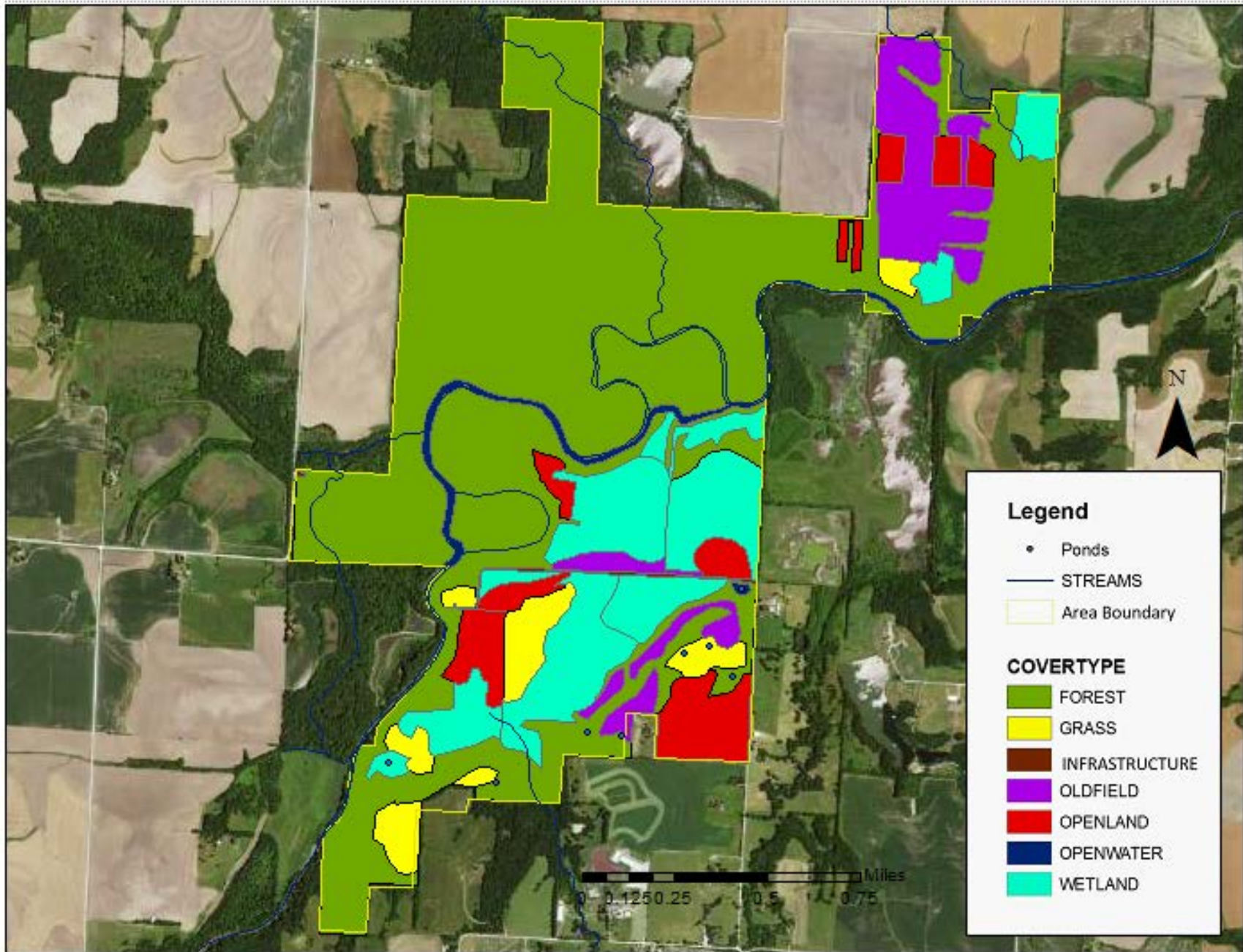
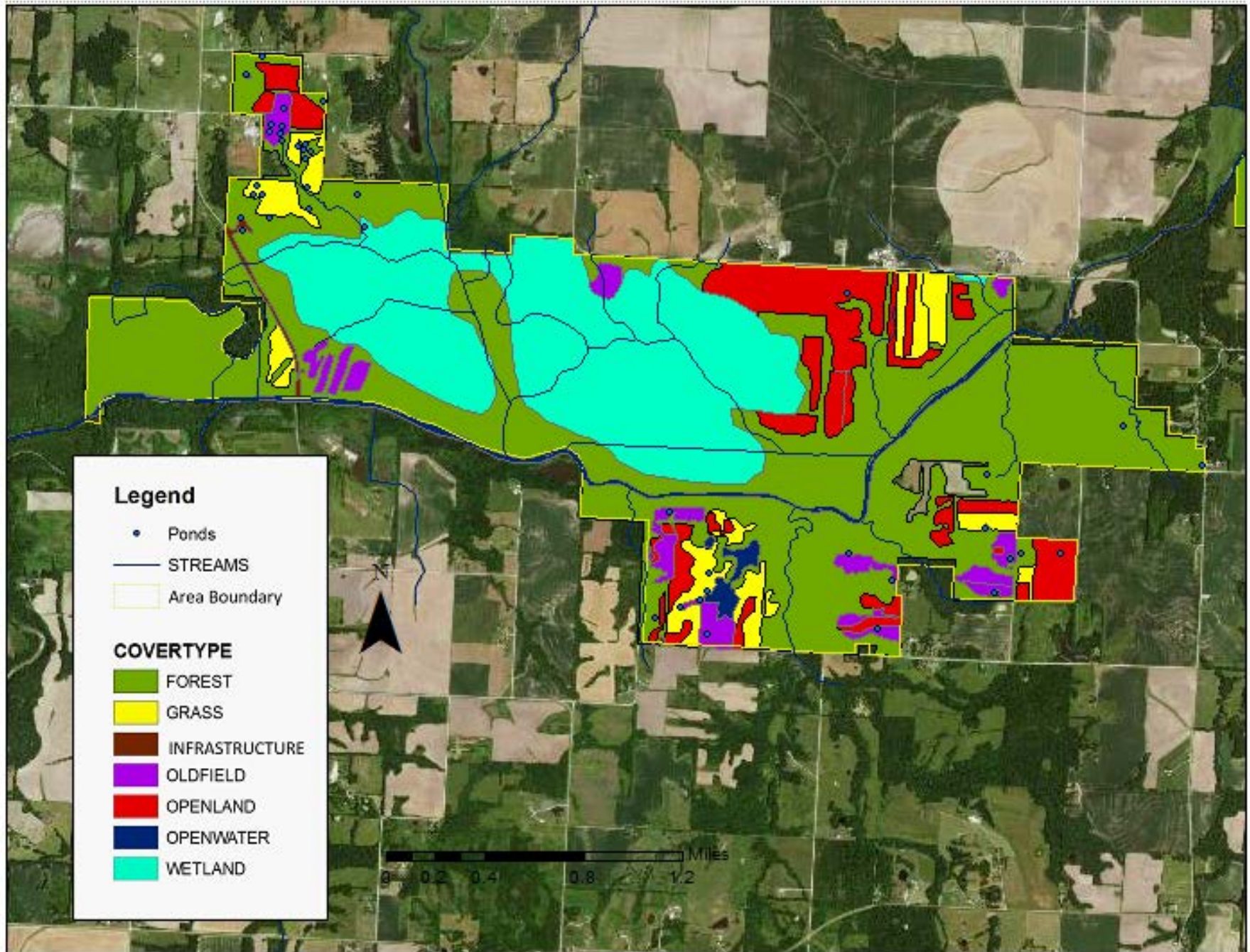


Figure 6: Vegetation Map Unit #2



Appendix A: Ralph and Martha Perry Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (Nov. 1–30, 2017):

plant food for ducks that will grow year after year
I would like to return to Centerfire rifles allowed during the regular firearms portion of deer season.
I just wanted to encourage the effort to improve the shooting range. Its a nice area and its a great place to shoot. Another 100 yard target berm would be great if possible.
This area in the past was a good waterfowl area to hunt, however the current strategy of management has made this area a less than stellar . The 150 hole on the west side always had water in the past , even in dry years it held a decent pool of water that was huntable during early teal and the regular season . Since the water structure was installed for draw down to enhance moist soil growth and refilling the pool is dependent on rainfall the area in most years is completely dry and non huntable for most of the season . That pool could hunt 5 to 7 party's and now it might hunt 2 if your lucky . Since the refuge reassignment took place several years back you have basically crowded everyone into a small area that at best is marginal and at worse making it completely worthless . It was better in its natural state before the " enhancement's" took place . It's disappointing to watch an area that was great to hunt get worse by poor management practices!
Currently on blackwater rd there is a yellow gate that is open and closed seasonally. I would like to see the gate be closed year round to passenger vehicles wanting to access Martha Perry. While a number of outdoorsman access the area through this gate for legitimate recreational use, there is perhaps an equal or greater number of folks who access this area for unscrupulous activities. I have personally found drug paraphernalia, used condoms, and underage kids drinking around a bonfire. These degenerates leave the area intoxicated and obviously pose a danger to Martha Perry neighbors. The road is littered with beer cans and trash and neglectful users routinely drive at a very high rate of speed. Usually these activities take place during the late hours of the night and early morning making enforcement a challenge. My recommendation is that the MDC install a narrow gate on the North side of the parking lot to only allow access by ATV and foot traffic. This would still allow legitimate users to access the river but yet would limit access to nefarious characters. I believe this would improve the area for not only Martha Perry neighbors but for outdoorsman as well. It would put less pressure on the wildlife habitat and uphold the Spirit of what, I believe, Mrs Marthy Perry intended the area to be.
I am an owner of the Sweet Water Hunting Club located on East Side of Martha Perry. Years ago the Martha Perry area that we share a levee with was a refuge and our club experienced abundant wildlife, particularly waterfowl and deer. When the MDC swapped the refuge location with a different tract of land within Martha Perry our wildlife numbers have drastically declined. The hunting pressure on what used to be the refuge pushes migrating birds out of the area prematurely and the constant volley of shots keeps many deer out of the area. This refuge

relocation has had a negative impact on our Clubs usefulness and has opened the temptation for hunters and trappers to trespass onto our club and further pressure our area. My recommendation is to reverse the decision of the MDC to move the refuge and improve the area for Martha Perry neighbors. Thank you.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations--6) Shooting range relocation and improvement may be considered in the future if possible.

---I want to know more about this proposal. Where are you considering moving the range to? It is already to close and quite frankly very poorly controlled. Why on earth does it need to be open before daybreak and after sunset? I believe the residents that live in the area of this shooting range should be afforded the peace and quite at least until 10:00 AM.

---I have heard rumors you are considering moving the range over to 900 rd. which would make the range even closer to my house and several others that live in this area.

---I would like to know exactly when and where the "planning Meetings' are taking place. As a local land owner I want to be part of the decision making processes for Martha Perry area and participate in any or all future meetings.

Thank you, I anticipate your response. I also would like a contact name and phone number for the project manager.

Thank You,

Under #VII Public Use Management Considerations the plan mentions possible relocation of the shooting range in the future. The time to consider this is now. I sent a letter several years ago detailing my feelings on this subject and felt like I was ignored. I understand it is important to have the opportunities a shooting range offers but feel this is the wrong location. It makes no sense to manage pools (#150 for example) for waterfowl and then have a gun range so close in proximity. I mentioned this in my previous letter and was told, if memory serves me correctly, that the range did not negatively affect waterfowl. I can attest from personal experience whenever guns are fired waterfowl flare and it does indeed affect them. Also, the rules for the gun range are not followed. Ninety percent of the time I have been hunting this fall people have begun shooting by 9:30 to 10:00 (against the rules). Occasionally automatic weapons are fired at the range. This year walking out from deer hunting as I was getting close to my pickup I noticed vehicle lights like they were coming on my land and before I knew it a shot rang out, not in the direction of the range. I heard vehicle doors close and then it drove away rapidly. The range is not monitored to make sure the rules are being followed. I have been told in the past to get license numbers and report them. To be quite honest this is not my job and I have should not have to take what limited time I have for hunting to police this area. By the time I call and report any problems and anyone responds it is too late. The person has already left. I respectfully

request to move the gun range to a better location that does not interfere with waterfowl and affect the pools my tax money has gone to help construct. Thank you for your consideration.