

Gasconade Hills Conservation Area

25-Year Area Management Plan FY 2020-2044



Joel W. Porath

Wildlife Division Chief

8/7/2019

Date

Gasconade Hills Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Gasconade Hills Conservation Area, #9113
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) leases this area from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The lease began in 1979.
- **Acreage:** 371 acres
- **County:** Pulaski
- **Region:** Ozark
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. **Strategic Direction**

The Gasconade Hills Conservation Area (CA) provides citizens with outdoor recreational opportunities. The area was given to MDC as a temporary lease and management activities are lease-limited.
 - B. **Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition is a forested landscape that provides limited public access and wildlife viewing and hunting activities.
 - C. **Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

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 known from this area. Area managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the natural history biologist.
 - B. **High Quality Natural Communities:** None
 - C. **Caves:** None
 - D. **Springs:** None

- III. **Existing Infrastructure**

This area does not contain any infrastructure.

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. **Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
- 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:** There is a powerline easement on the area.
- D. **Cultural Resources Findings:** Yes, records kept with MDC environmental compliance coordinators. Managers should follow best management practices for cultural resources found in the MDC 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:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Gasconade Hills CA is comprised of an entirely forested landscape. MDC does not manage the terrestrial resources on Gasconade Hills CA.

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Gasconade Hills CA borders the Gasconade River. There are two wildlife watering ponds on this area. MDC does not manage the aquatic resources on Gasconade Hills CA.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Due to the nature of this area being a temporary lease and having a limited vehicular access point, access is restricted.
- 2) Maintain access to area.
- 3) Provide public access to outdoor recreational activities.

Management Objective 1: Annually maintain area signs.

Strategy 1: Annually inspect county road frontage signs. Annually replace or repair area signs.

Management Objective 2: Maintain county road access.

Strategy 1: Due to limited vehicle access points to the area, the county road access is the only option.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Consider whether to renew lease.

Management Objective 1: Determine whether lease will be renewed.

Strategy 1: Consider whether lease with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be renewed.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Gasconade Hills CA was acquired by MDC from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1979 as a temporary lease.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest/Woodland	371	100

Public Input Summary:

The draft Gasconade Hills Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period May 1-31, 2019. MDC received no comments during this time.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 1: Area Map

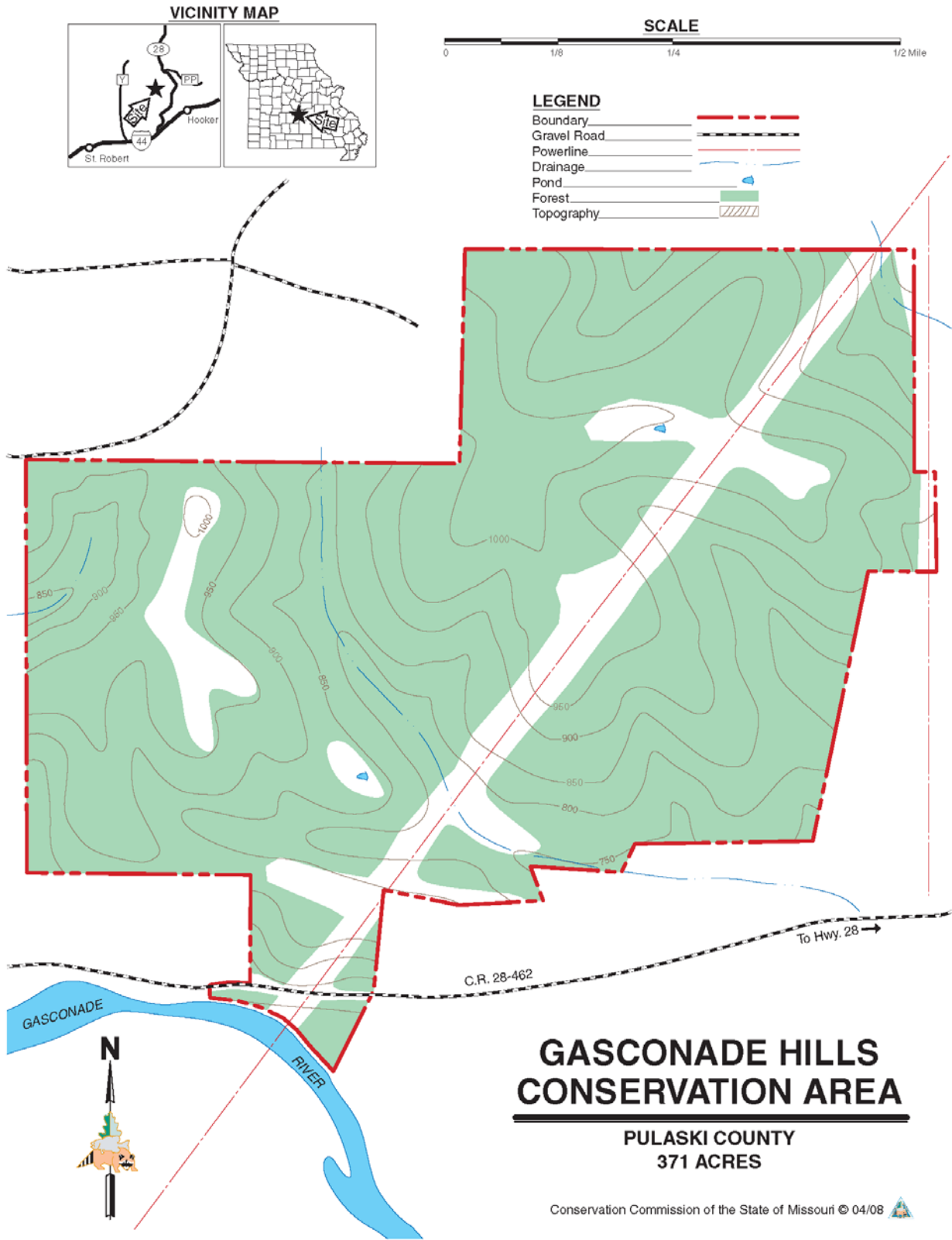


Figure 2: Aerial Map

Gasconade Hills Conservation Area

