

W. L. Schifferdecker Memorial Conservation Area

Twenty-Year Area Management Plan
FY 2018-2037





Wildlife Division Chief

18 May 2018

Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** W. L. Schifferdecker Memorial Conservation Area, #7302
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1973
- **Acreage:** 241 acres
- **County:** Carroll
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. **Strategic Direction**

Provide, develop, manage, and protect quality upland, wetland, and woodland habitats and associated wildlife species while providing a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for the public.
 - B. **Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of W. L. Schifferdecker Memorial Conservation Area (CA) is a healthy wetland and upland/woodland complex.
 - 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.

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:** None observed.
- B. **Caves:** None
- C. **Springs:** None
- D. **Other:** This area lies within the Shoal Creek Prairie/Woodland Scarped Plain Landtype Association. This landtype association consists of low, but sharp, breaks in relief on the plains and in the shallow valleys. These breaks are caused by resistant Pennsylvanian limestone strata that are only slightly covered with residuum or glacial till. Historically, the landtype association was prairie on the broad, flat uplands, with oak woodland and forest (especially limestone forest) in scarped valleys and some wetlands and bottomland forest in the wider valleys (Nigh & Schroeder, 2002).

III. Existing Infrastructure

- Four parking lots
- Three individual campsites (no amenities)
- Two 1-acre fishing ponds
- Six fishless ponds (2 acres)
- West Wetland (26 acres)
- East Wetland (10 acres)
- Two water control structures
- Two wetland levees (3,500 linear feet)
- One monument

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
- B. Federal Interest:** Uses of this 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.
- C. Easements:** Public water supply, drainage, and road right of way easements exist on the area.
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- F. Boundary Issues:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Control invasive species and manage grasslands for a diverse plant community.
- 2) Maintain and promote healthy upland and bottomland forests.
- 3) Promote desired early successional habitat and provide a high energy food source for wildlife.
- 4) Maintain old field areas to provide nesting and brood rearing habitat.
- 5) Maintain healthy wetland habitat.

Management Objective 1: Manage grasslands to provide a diverse plant community of warm- and cool-season grasses, legumes, forbs, and bare ground. Seek to maintain these fields in 30-50% grasses, 30-40% annuals, forbs or legumes, and 20-30% bare ground.

Strategy 1: Maintain grassland habitats using a combination of management techniques, including, but not limited to, prescribed burning, mechanical and chemical treatment to woody vegetation, disking, mowing, and overseeding. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Maintain and promote healthy upland and bottomland forests using sustainable forest management practices to optimize wildlife habitat and forest health.

Strategy 1: Implement forest prescriptions, as needed, based on a site visit in 2017 with the resource forester and area manager. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: 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. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Utilize Best Management Practices during timber 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: Utilize cropping and disturbance to promote desired early successional habitat in subsequent years and to provide a high-energy food source for wildlife in a manner that complies with the Natural Resources Conservation Service soil conservation plan and promotes small game.

Strategy 1: Employ a four-year rotation (corn/soybeans/sunflower and idle/legume) on most upland fields. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Maintain food plots in non-crop areas. Food plot rotation will be variable, but a sorghum or corn/legume/idle rotation is preferred. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 4: Maintain old field areas to provide nesting and brood-rearing habitat such as bare ground, annual forbs, warm- and cool- season grasses, and shrubs.

Strategy 1: Maintain old field habitats in various successional stages, providing 30-50% warm- and cool-season grasses, 20-30% annual forbs, 10-20% shrubs, and 20-30% bare ground. Use a combination of management techniques, including, but not limited to, prescribed burning, mechanical tree removal, disking, mowing, and overseeding. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 5: Maintain healthy wetland habitats.

Strategy 1: Monitor the wetland areas for invasive species. Suppress any infestations that may develop. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Maintain native vegetation and promote early successional plant communities, where feasible, using a combination of techniques including, but not limited to, prescribed burning, mechanical tree removal, disking, mowing, planting of annual grain food plots, and overseeding. (Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resources Management Considerations

The area contains two 1-acre ponds managed for recreational fishing as well as intermittent stream habitat. Turkey Creek is in the eastern part of the area. There are limited opportunities for stream management on Turkey Creek. A drainage easement allows the county to periodically dredge the channel.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide quality fishing opportunities.
- 2) Establish and maintain adequate riparian corridors.

Management Objective 1: Monitor and manage two fishing ponds.

Strategy 1: Periodically inventory fish populations to assess health and recommend needed changes. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 2: On riparian and streamside habitats, implement and maintain good riparian corridor practices as outlined in the Missouri Department of Conservation's (the Department's) *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (2009).

Strategy 1: Periodically monitor habitat conditions of area streams. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Identify riparian corridors that need to be widened and establish appropriate vegetation using tree planting, direct seeding or allowing natural regeneration. (Fisheries, Forestry, Wildlife)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

The area is managed primarily for upland and wetland wildlife species and consequently receives significant public use during the spring turkey, fall firearms deer, and waterfowl seasons. Other upland wildlife such as bobwhite quail and cottontail rabbits are pursued to a lesser extent, based on reports from wildlife and protection staffs.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide for hunting and viewing opportunities.
- 2) Improve educational and interpretive opportunities.
- 3) Build relationships with neighboring landowners.

Management Objective 1: Promote diverse recreational opportunities on the area that are consistent with defined management objectives and sensitive to the natural communities and features of the area.

Strategy 1: Maintain the parking lots, camping areas, bulletin board, and service roads to promote a presentable appearance for area users. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Annually review Atlas database in order to maintain current and updated information for the public. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Provide public hunting and viewing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Conduct annual management activities that will provide habitat for a diversity of species. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Improve educational and interpretive opportunities.

Strategy 1: Communicate recreational opportunities to the public (e.g., using brochures, Atlas database). (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Communicate the uniqueness of the area and promote as a possible destination for ecology classes, school programs, and workshops to teachers, students, scout groups, and youth groups. (Outreach and Education)

Management Objective 4: Facilitate a good working relationship with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Work with neighbors to minimize any boundary, trespass, or other issues affecting W. L. Schifferdecker Memorial CA or private property. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Promote habitat management on neighboring landowner properties. (Private Land Services)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 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)

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:

W. L. Schifferdecker Memorial Conservation Area is in Carroll County, about 10 miles west of Carrollton. This area was established in 1976 after 80 acres were donated to the Department in 1973 by the Schifferdecker family and an additional 160 acres was purchased by the Department in 1973.

In 2005 this area received a Ducks Unlimited MARSH grant, which helped convert over 36 acres of flood prone and marginal production cropland to seasonal and semi-permanent marsh. These marshes are heavily used by migratory birds and hunters alike in the spring and fall.

The area consists of 40 acres of cropland, 20 acres of forest/woodland, 100 acres of old fields and hedgerows, 20 acres of native, warm-season grasses, two small wetlands, two fishing ponds and six small ponds. Turkey Creek crosses a portion of the area.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Old Field	100		41
Grassland	40		17
Open Land	40		17
Wetland	36		15
Forest/Woodland	20		8
Lakes/Ponds	5		2
Total	241		100
Stream Frontage		0.5	

Public Input Summary:

The draft W. L. Schifferdecker Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period March 1–31, 2017. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from two respondents (Appendix A). The W. L. Schifferdecker 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.

Department responses to themes and issues identified through the W. L. Schifferdecker Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan public comment period.

Concerned area management practices are harming existing quail populations.

Loss of early successional habitat for quail, rabbit and grassland birds has been significant in many parts of northern Missouri where agriculture and urban sprawl has removed necessary cover. Recent habitat work at W.L. Schifferdecker Memorial CA was aimed at setting back later successional trees with low wildlife value (such as honey-locust, Osage-orange and shingle oak), in favor of early successional plants such as grasses, forbs, and various shrub species. Acres that were treated were not bulldozed, but rather treated with a rotating drum cutter, which cuts and mulches the existing woody material to regenerate plants with higher value for small game animals, like quail and rabbit, while minimizing soil disturbance.

Supports area management plan.

Thank you for your input.

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.

Nigh, T. A., & Schroeder, W. A. (2002). *Atlas of Missouri ecoregions*. Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Infrastructure and Public Use Facilities Map

Figure 3: Area Easements Map

Figure 4: Habitat Cover Types Map

Figure 5: Streams and Ponds Map

Figure 6: Topography Map

Figure 7: Soils Map

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A: W. L. Schifferdecker Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Area Map

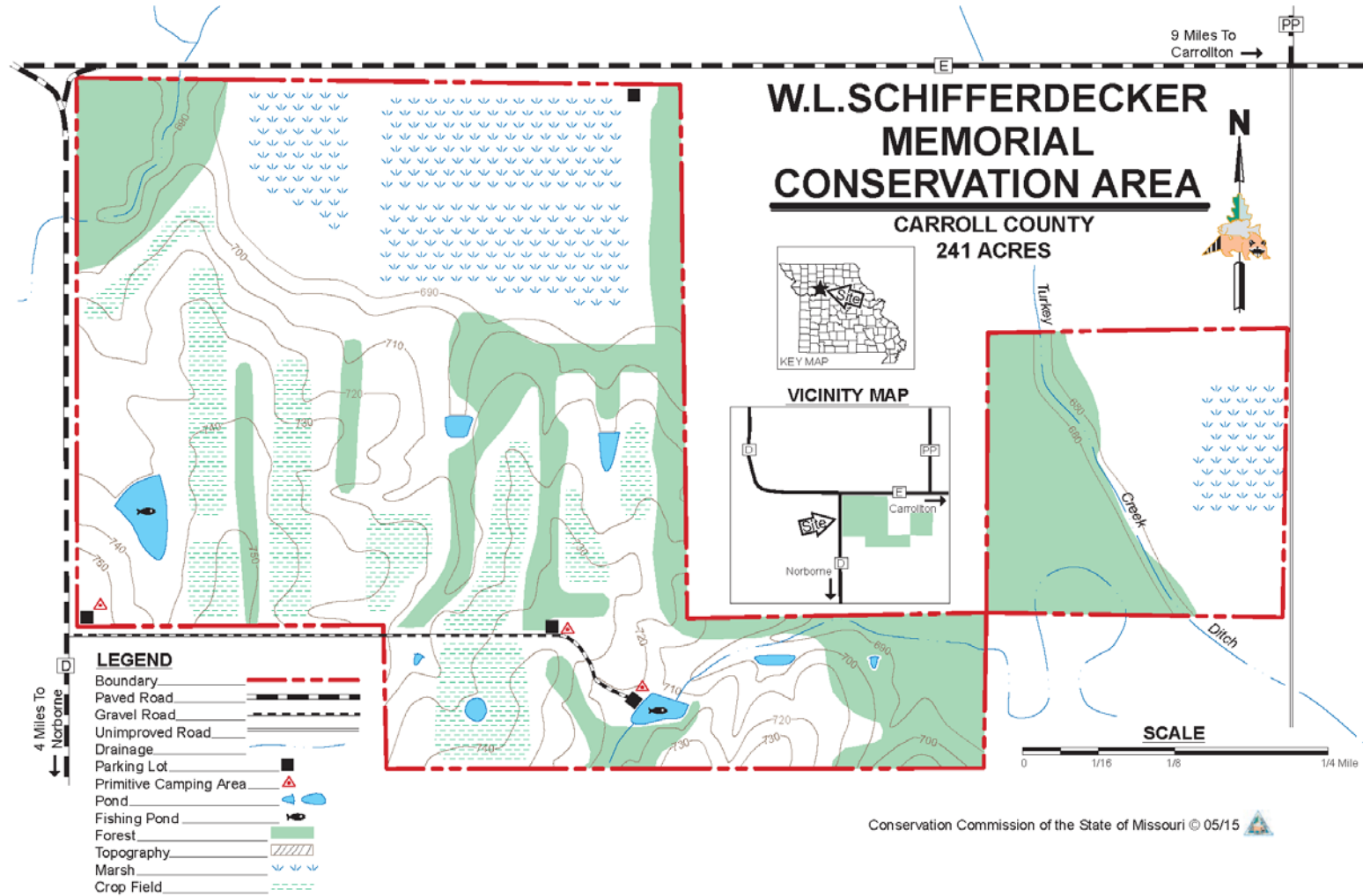
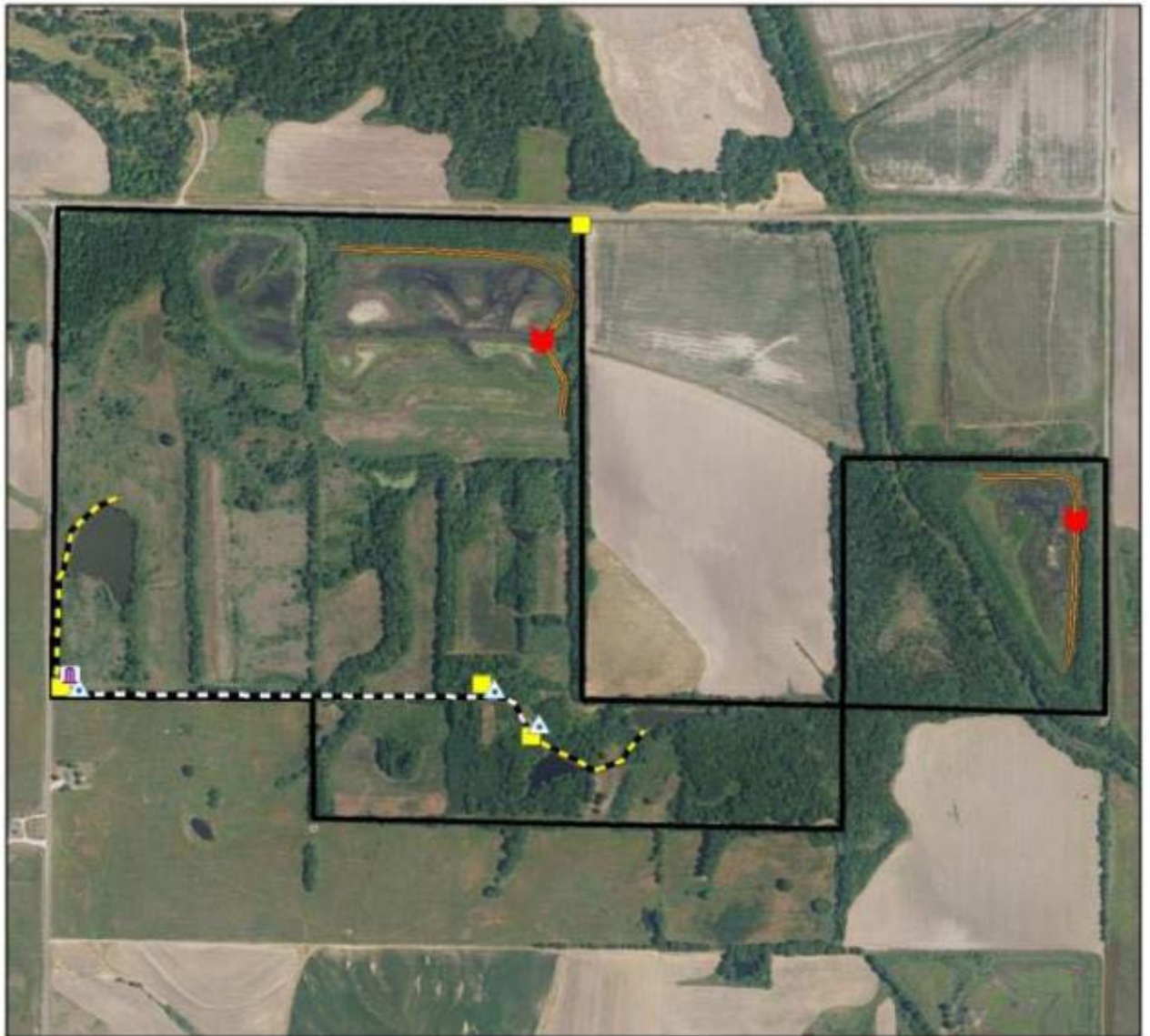


Figure 2: Infrastructure and Public Use Facilities Map



Legend









- | | |
|---|--|
|  Parking Lot |  Access Trail |
|  Primitive Camping |  Levee |
|  Water Control Structure |  MDC Gravel Road |
|  Monument |  Schifferdecker CA Boundary |



Figure 3: Area Easements Map



Legend





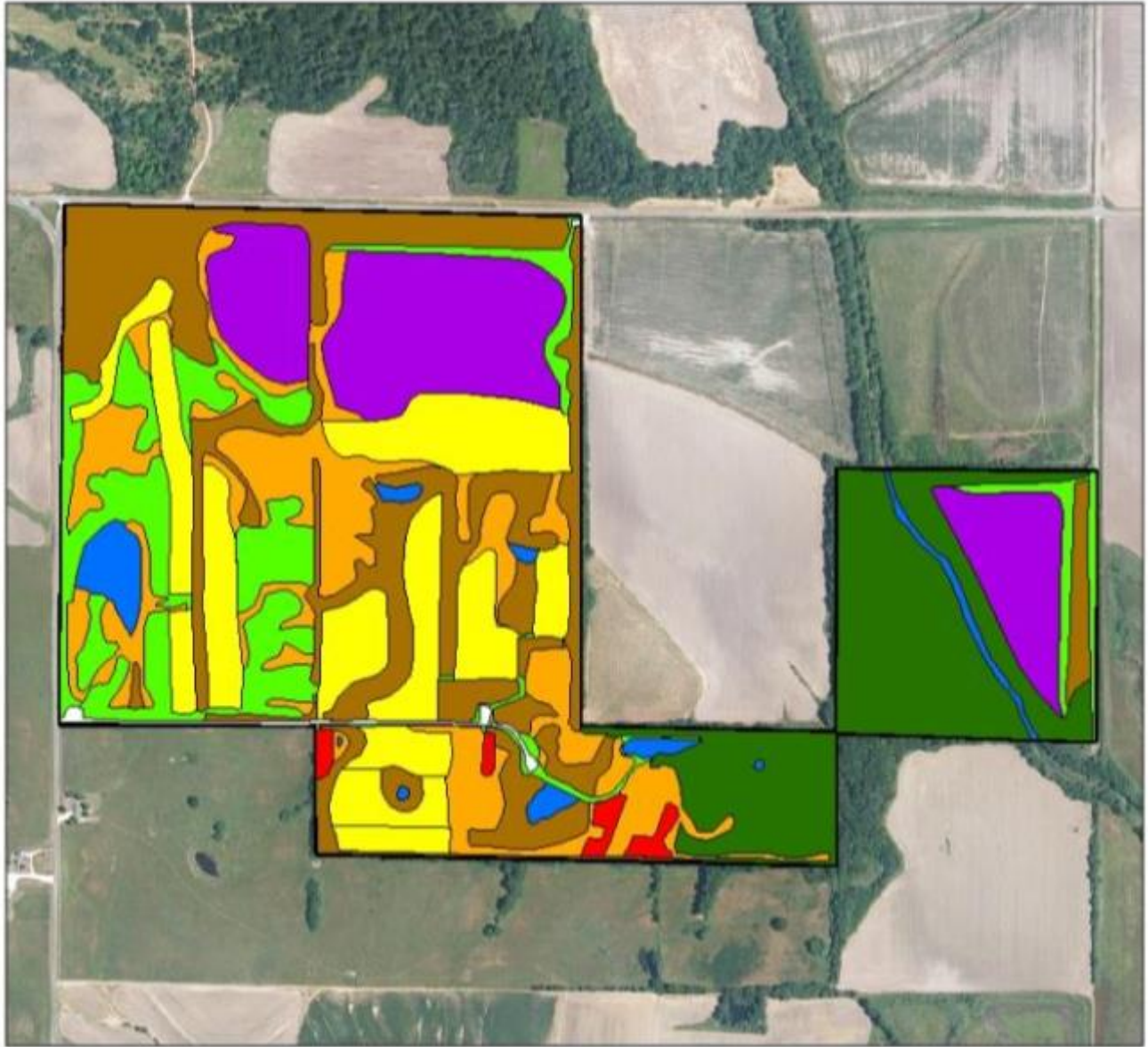
-  Drainage Easement
-  Public Water Supply Line
-  Road Right-of-Way
-  Schifferdecker CA Boundary



Figure 4: Habitat Cover Types Map



Legend

Habitat Cover Types

 Food Plot


 Forest

 Grassland

 Old Field

 Permanent Water

 Permittee Cropland and Openlands

 Undefined

 Wetland

 Woodland

 Schifferdecker CA Boundary



Figure 5: Streams and Ponds Map



Legend

-  Fishing Pond
-  Non-stocked Pond/Wildlife Watering Holes
-  STREAMS
-  Schifferdecker CA Boundary



Figure 6: Topography Map



Legend

 Schifferdecker CA Boundary



Figure 7: Soils Map



Legend

 Schifferdecker CA Boundary



Index to Map Units

01B—Lagonda silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	11	21C2—Wakenda silt loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, eroded	27
02C2—Lagonda silty clay loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, eroded	12	23C2—Higginsville silt loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, eroded	28
03B—Armster loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	13	25C—Gosport silty clay loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes	28
03C—Armster loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes	14	25D—Gosport silty clay loam, 9 to 14 percent slopes	29
04C2—Armster clay loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, eroded	15	25F—Gosport silty clay loam, 14 to 30 percent slopes	30
04D3—Armster clay loam, 9 to 14 percent slopes, severely eroded	16	30—Nodaway silt loam	31
05B—Grundy silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	17	32—Colo silty clay loam	31
07C2—Knox silt loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, eroded	18	34—Zook silty clay loam	32
07E2—Knox silt loam, 14 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	19	36—Wabash silty clay	33
07F—Knox silt loam, 20 to 30 percent slopes	20	42—Bremer silt loam, occasionally flooded	33
08D3—Knox silty clay loam, 9 to 14 percent slopes, severely eroded	20	60—Aholt silty clay	35
09B—Sharpsburg silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	21	62—Booker silty clay	35
09C2—Sharpsburg silt loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, eroded	22	64—Cotter silt loam	36
11B—Ladoga silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	22	66—Gilliam silt loam	37
11C2—Ladoga silt loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, eroded	23	68—Haynie very fine sandy loam	37
14C2—Greenton silty clay loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, eroded	24	70—Hodge loamy fine sand	38
14D2—Greenton silty clay loam, 9 to 14 percent slopes, eroded	25	72—Kenmoor loamy fine sand	38
16B—Sampsel silty clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	25	74—Landes fine sandy loam	39
21B—Wakenda silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	26	76—Leta silty clay	39
		84—Norborne loam	40
		86—Parkville silty clay loam	41
		88—Bremer silty clay loam, rarely flooded	41
		90—Waldron silty clay loam	42
		92—Waubonsie fine sandy loam, loamy substratum	42
		100—Udorthents, nearly level to strongly sloping	43

Appendix A: W. L. Schifferdecker Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (March 1–31, 2017):

As a Missouri quail hunter, we are always told by the conservation dept. about the loss of habitat and cover causing the decline in quail numbers. I have hunted Schifferdecker CA for many years, and know where to find quail there. At the start of this quail season I hunted the area and as usual found a covey I've found for years. On my next trip back, I found that the strip of cover the covey had lived in for years had been dozed completely down, I hunted hard to locate the covey with no luck. I have seen the same thing done on Bunch hollow CA. I would think that the conservation dept. would practice what they preach, and be knowledgeable enough about the areas they manage to not destroy and eliminate areas that are important to quail survival.

Recently inherited this land from my parents. As this time I see no issues. As long as facilities are maintained, all is good with me.