

Henry Sever Lake Conservation Area

25-Year Management Plan

FY 2019-2043



Joel W. Porath

Wildlife Division Chief

5/29/2019

Date

Henry Sever Lake Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Henry Sever Lake Conservation Area, #5801
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1958
- **Acreage:** 1,248 acres
- **County:** Knox
- **Region:** Northeast
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statement of Primary Purpose:**

A. Strategic Direction

Henry Sever Lake Conservation Area (CA) has a 158-acre fishing lake and diverse natural communities that support many species. The area is managed to provide diverse habitat for fish and wildlife through sound management practices, while offering the public compatible outdoor recreational opportunities.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of Henry Sever Lake CA is reduced invasive plant species and improved quality of native grasslands and upland woodlands. Additional desired future conditions include enhanced woodland communities, diverse old fields, stable wooded riparian corridors that improve water quality, and improved in-lake habitat quality, while creating more public use opportunities.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

- A. **Priority Areas:** This area is in the South Fabius River Fisheries Priority Watershed.
- B. **Natural Areas:** None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

- A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.
- B. **High Quality Natural Communities:** None
- C. **Caves:** None
- D. **Springs:** None

III. Existing Infrastructure

- Ten parking lots (three are Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] accessible)
- Concrete boat ramp
- Fishing dock (ADA accessible)

- Courtesy dock with a fish cleaning station
- Five pit toilets (three are ADA accessible)
- Picnic pavilion and campground with 84 gravel pads
- Equestrian camping/loading area with seven gravel pads
- Henry Sever Lake (158-acres)
- Five fishless ponds (4 acres total)
- Multi-use hike/bike/horse trail (7.5 miles)
- One ADA-accessible hunting access
- Three fishing jetties

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:** The conservation area contains easements for Public Water Supply District #1, a family cemetery, radio equipment, Mark Twain Telephone Company buried cable, Lewis County rural electric, and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Reserve Program land (contract expires Sept. 30, 2022).
- 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) The majority of management on Henry Sever Lake CA is targeted to benefit northern bobwhite quail and other early successional wildlife. Approximately 200 acres of Henry Sever Lake CA consist of open fields. Open fields are farmed by both permittee farmers and area personnel. Open fields supplement natural food supplies and provide cover, creating more hunting and viewing opportunities for area users. Cropping is also used to setback succession and make areas attractive for ground-nesting birds during idle years. All fields are farmed to meet requirements established by USDA and best management practices set by Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC).
- 2) Eradicating invasive plant species continues to be a challenge in the open land areas. Fescue tends to invade on richer upland sites and reed canary grass

encroaches in moist areas. *Sericea lespedeza* is a common invader in old fields and native grass stands.

- 3) Old fields are managed to provide nesting, brood rearing, food, and escape cover for a variety of upland wildlife. Old fields contain an array of plant species, ranging from annual weeds to grassy fields heavily invaded by shrubs and young trees. Although most of this area was likely farmed in the past, it has been recolonized by a moderate diversity of native grasses and forbs. By harvesting and planting native seed from recolonized old fields, native genotypes of prairie vegetation may be preserved. These native plantings may be used as a future seed source for additional native plantings.
- 4) Approximately 350 acres of Henry Sever Lake CA is wooded. Most of these acres were open pasture prior to MDC ownership and now consist of woodland tree species that typically invade open land areas. In 2008 and 2009, thinning was conducted on nearly all woodland acres to enhance habitat for small game species. Prescribed burning has been applied to the woodlands; this practice will continue to be the main management tool for most of the woodland acres on this CA.

Management Objective 1: Provide food and cover for wildlife and maintain early successional vegetation.

Strategy 1: Use permittee farmers and area staff to plant annual crops and food plots. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Manage old fields by burning, disking, spraying, and mowing to combat invading woody plants and to encourage native grass and forbs. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Incorporate cover crops into the permittee crop system. (Wildlife)

Strategy 4: Establish field borders by edge feathering, herbicide application, and/or planting grass/legume borders to create nesting and brood-rearing cover. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Reduce invasive plant species.

Strategy 1: Reduce reed canary grass, fescue, and *sericea lespedeza* by increasing the frequency of herbicide treatments. Staff should take extra care to clean mower decks so invasive species are not moved around Henry Sever CA or to other conservation areas. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Monitor habitats for other invasive plant species and treat them if/when they appear. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Increase and enhance prairie and woodland communities on the area where opportunities exist.

Strategy 1: Manage existing old fields using fire, over-seeding with native species, and herbicide treatments to increase species diversity and habitat value, while suppressing invasive plant species. (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, timber stand improvement, firewood cutting, salvage cuttings, tree planting, seeding, and prescribed burning. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Manage existing woodlands using fire, thinning, and herbicide treatment to increase species diversity and improve early successional habitat within woodlands. (Wildlife)

Strategy 4: Utilize best management practices during timber harvest, as described in MDC's manuals: *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice* manual (MDC, 2014b) and the *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines: Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (MDC, 2014a). (Forestry)

Strategy 5: Establish approximately 7 acres of diverse native plantings along the primary entrance to the boat ramp and campgrounds. (Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Aquatic resources at Henry Sever Lake CA include Henry Sever Lake (158 acres), five small ponds, and several intermittent streams.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Henry Sever Lake was built in 1960 and is a popular destination for both resident and nonresident anglers. The lake is managed for quality fishing for largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish, and channel catfish. The lake also includes specialty fisheries for blue catfish and muskellunge. Overall, the fishery is currently in fair to good condition.
- 2) Henry Sever Lake has been proposed for a large-scale renovation and was ranked 34th of 42 proposed lakes across the state. Large portions of the upper end of the lake and many of the coves are silted in and shallow, reducing our ability to manage the lake for quality fishing. Excessive shallow-water areas provide perfect conditions for growth of difficult-to-control nuisance plants. We are currently unable to drawdown the lake to control vegetation or to dredge silted areas because there is no valve for draining water.
- 3) There are five small ponds on the area that primarily provide suitable habitat for amphibians and reptiles and provide water sources for wildlife. None are managed for fishing.

- 4) The area contains 1.6 miles of first-order tributary streams and 0.5 miles of second-order streams. Except for 1,100 feet of stream below the dam, all streams on the area flow into Henry Sever Lake.

Management Objective 1: Maintain largemouth bass abundance and size structure with a moderate density of stock-size bass.

Strategy 1: Maintain the current 12- to 15-inch slot length limit and six fish daily limit for bass. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Control excessive aquatic plants chemically or biologically to promote efficient foraging by largemouth bass. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 2: Maintain bluegill abundance and size structure with a moderate density.

Strategy 1: Implement strategies under Management Objective 1 to maintain adequate predatory control on bluegill. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 3: Maintain crappie population size structure.

Strategy 1: Maintain moderate density of largemouth bass to exert predatory control over small crappie to prevent overpopulation. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Encourage anglers to harvest crappie up to their daily limit of 30. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 4: Maintain the low density, high-quality catfish fishery.

Strategy 1: Continue the current channel catfish stocking rate of five per acre annually. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Continue the current blue catfish stocking rate of five per acre every other year. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 5: Manage the muskellunge fishery, as outlined in Missouri's *Muskie Management Plan* (Woods et al., 2017).

Strategy 1: Continue fall stockings of muskellunge according to the statewide management plan (Woods et al., 2017). (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Maintain the fish barrier located on the emergency spillway to reduce muskellunge escapes. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 6: Evaluate the feasibility of a large-scale renovation of Henry Sever Lake.

Strategy 1: Explore feasibility of removing sediment, enhancing aquatic habitat, and installing drainage valve.

Management Objective 7: Provide suitable habitat for amphibians and reptiles in the five ponds with no fisheries management potential.

Strategy 1: Do not stock ponds that provide no long-term fisheries management options. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Maintain good water quality and clarity by protecting a 100-foot wooded or grassed corridor around each pond. (Fisheries, Wildlife)

Management Objective 8: Establish or maintain a permanently wooded corridor along all shorelines and waterways on Henry Sever CA.

Strategy 1: Maintain a permanently wooded corridor through natural regeneration or planting. A minimum width of 100 feet, from top of bank, should be maintained, where not limited by area boundary, access road, parking lot, or utility easement. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Inspect corridors along all agricultural fields every three years to determine the need for field adjustments. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: All management activities at the conservation area should follow the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation* (MDC, 2009). (Wildlife)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Henry Sever Lake CA offers numerous public use opportunities, including fishing, hunting, camping, picnicking, hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Hunting is one of the main reasons many people visit the area in the fall. The area attracts moderate numbers of hunters during the archery and firearms deer seasons. A good quail population attracts bird hunters each fall. Additional small game hunting opportunities exist for squirrels and rabbits. Some crop fields are planted with sunflowers, which provide excellent dove hunting opportunities. Waterfowl hunters occasionally hunt the lake during fall and winter. Spring and fall turkey seasons also attract hunters to the conservation area with good numbers of turkey present.
- 2) Henry Sever Lake provides one of the area's most important fishing resources and is managed to provide quality fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, catfish, and muskellunge. Primitive camping is permitted in 84 camping sites.
- 3) Seven additional gravel pads are located on the west side of the area to accommodate equestrian users. Potable water is available near the boat ramp.
- 4) A large pavilion with tables and a large grill are located near the boat ramp offering picnic opportunities.

- 5) A 7.5-mile multi-use trail, utilizing a combination of area roads and mowed trails, offers opportunity for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding.
- 6) Other amenities on the area include an ADA-accessible fishing dock and a courtesy dock with a fish-cleaning station. The courtesy dock is nearing the end of its expected life span and will need to be repaired or replaced soon.

Management Objective 1: Provide quality hunting for quail, doves, rabbits, squirrels, deer, and turkey. Manage for a variety of game species where appropriate habitat exists.

Strategy 1: Manage the conservation area's diverse habitats for a variety of wildlife species, emphasizing quail management and maintaining a stable to increasing quail population. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Continue to plant a sunflower or wheat field and manage for dove hunting. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Maintain parking lots, camping areas, and privies to facilitate use by hunters and other area users. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Provide designated camping and picnic areas.

Strategy 1: Maintain aesthetically pleasing parking lots and access points around the lake. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Maintain camping sites suitable for tent or recreational vehicle camping. No electric, water, or sewer hook-ups are provided. Campground C is used as overflow camping and is only maintained for use during peak times to reduce maintenance. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Maintain a source of potable water available for area users and MDC use. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Maintain the multi-use trail.

Strategy 1: Maintain trail and horse parking/camping area, according to MDC guidelines and at currently identified maintenance levels. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Look for opportunities to form partnerships with area users, such as the Pioneer Rangers Saddle Club and Backcountry Horsemen of Missouri to assist with trail maintenance. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Explore the possibility of re-routing the multi-use trail to keep it on the conservation area and off the county gravel road. This would require construction of a footbridge across the channel on the north end of the lake. This would offer a safer and more enjoyable experience as the trail would skirt the edges of two prairie remnants and would avoid dusty gravel road traffic. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 4: Maintain boat ramp, ADA-accessible fishing dock, and courtesy dock.

Strategy 1: Submit proposal to replace courtesy dock with updated, all-weather materials. (Wildlife, Design and Development)

Management Objective 5: Cooperatively patrol the area and report unauthorized activities.

Strategy 1: Regularly patrol and enforce the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, with emphasis on off-trail abuse, vandalism, littering, and response to public complaints. (Protection, Wildlife, Forestry)

Management Objective 6: Inform public about area regulations.

Strategy 1: Maintain signs according to MDC policy. (Wildlife, Forestry)

Strategy 2: Maintain accurate and timely information on MDC's website. Review information annually. (Wildlife)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) The entrance road and parking lot at the boat ramp was originally a hard-surfaced road. Through time, the road deteriorated and the asphalt was removed creating a dusty gravel road. Concerns by the local community and area users were addressed with the assurance that MDC would replace the asphalt when a sufficient rock base was established. At this time, the gravel road remains and the asphalt parking lot at the ramp is degrading and needs to be resurfaced.
- 2) The recently acquired Higgins Tract has an old house, out buildings, and two cisterns/wells that need to be removed. This tract also has 84.6 acres that are enrolled in the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program.

Management Objective 1: Upgrade the entrance road and parking lot.

Strategy 1: Explore feasibility to upgrade road to hard surface and repair or replace the parking lot at the boat ramp and the road through campground A to reduce dust. (Wildlife, Design and Development)

Management Objective 2: Follow the necessary management requirements of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program contract on the Higgins Tract until its expiration.

Strategy 1: Use management tools, such as prescribed fire, food plot planting, edge feathering, and mechanical woody removal, in accordance with USDA requirements and approved practices for the Conservation Reserve Program to enhance these acres for wildlife and water quality. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with MDC guidelines and at currently identified maintenance level (2). (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Replace older, block-style privies with modern privy style, for ease of maintenance and safeguarding of water quality. (Design and Development, Wildlife)

Management Objective 4: Maintain clearly identified property lines.

Strategy 1: Inspect and maintain boundaries annually, or as needed. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Resolve boundary issues with adjoining landowners as they arise. (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.

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Henry Edwin Sever, who grew up near Hurdland in Knox County, Missouri, went on to teach school and then progressed to the position of book publisher in Chicago, Illinois. One of the more famous series he published was the Encyclopedia Britannica. Henry Sever never lost sight of his love of nature, as he had known it as a youth in rural Knox County. Upon his death on April 8, 1941, a will leaving \$100,000 to trustees in his home county was found, providing for “the preservation of the natural flora and fauna” of the county. Mr. Sever went into considerable detail as to his meaning of “flora and fauna.”

After the will was probated in Illinois courts, the 160-acre “home place” and remaining funds were transferred to the Knox County trustees. After considerable discussion about how to execute Henry Sever’s desires, it was concluded that an impartial court needed to clarify the possibilities available to the trustees. Circuit Court Judge Gutting of Clark County made an interpretation of the will. Following this action, the trustees then bought two acreages and then approached the Conservation Commission about taking a part of the funds, adding their own funding, plus equipment, and creating a new wildlife conservation area with a community fishing lake.

The Conservation Commission agreed to use their equipment and additional funds. According to Director William E. Towell, MDC spent \$150,000 to construct the 158-acre lake, boat ramp, parking lots, privies, and concession stand. The lake was originally stocked with largemouth bass and channel catfish June 10, 1961, and then bluegill and redear sunfish September 14, 1961. Walleye and blue catfish were stocked in 1962.

Henry Sever Lake CA was dedicated and officially opened to the public for fishing at noon July 4, 1963. The keynote speaker at the ceremony was Frank P. Briggs of Macon, then Assistant Secretary of the Interior, accompanied by MDC Director William Towell, and a crowd of 250 local residents and dignitaries. A Hannibal Courier-Post newspaper article featuring the event stated, “the lake will, without question, be a popular Northeast Missouri fishing spot.”

Historical land use patterns in northeast Missouri, including the area that is now Henry Sever Lake CA, were of intense land use, with little regard for conservation. The rich soils that lay in Knox County were heavily exploited near the end of the 1800s and early 1900s, laying waste to expanses of forest, prairies, and many riparian areas. Many cleared acres were converted to crop and intensively farmed. Most of those productive prairie acres are considered the most valuable land in the county and are still in row crop production. The post-settlement land use of the Henry Sever Lake CA has been mixture of hay and pasture management with some row cropping of corn and soybeans.

Since the early acquisitions to create the area and build the lake, two additional tracts were purchased. One tract was purchased in the early 1990s and another tract was purchased in 2016, bringing the area to its current size of 1,248 acres.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Woodland	349	28
Old Field	335	27
Grassland	199	16
Open Land	198	16
Lakes/Ponds	160	13
Infrastructure and mowed areas	7	<1
Total	1,248	100

Public Input Summary:

The draft Henry Sever Lake Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period Dec. 1–31, 2018. MDC received comments from 10 respondents (Appendix A). The Henry Sever Lake 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 Henry Sever Lake Conservation Area Management Plan public comment period.

Terrestrial Resource Considerations

Suggests adding milo and proso millet to food plots to provide winter feed and cover for the quail, and food and forage for deer.

We agree that this would be a nice addition to the area, and in some years, we do plant milo. However, we do not reliably have farming equipment on the area and our ability to install and maintain food plots is not consistent from year to year. MDC uses private farmers through mutually agreed upon agricultural crop permits to plant row crops and accomplish some food plot installation on Henry Sever Lake CA. The current farmer is not equipped to plant milo or millet. All food plots and a portion of the row crops planted by permittee farmers are left standing for wildlife. Native vegetation that exists on the conservation area also provides food and cover for wildlife throughout the year.

Suggests making the reduction of Canada thistle, musk thistle, and teasel more of a priority to reduce the spread of these species on adjacent properties.

We do invasive species control on the area including: fescue, sericea lespedeza, autumn olive, thistle, and bush honeysuckle. Sericea lespedeza is firmly established on the area and on private lands in the surrounding landscape. We are very vigilant and control all musk thistle, when found. At this time, we have not found teasel on the conservation area. We will continue to make efforts to keep invasive species contained.

When conducting prescribed burns, please remember that local volunteer firefighters are limited and may not be able to assist on short notice.

We follow internal policies and guidelines to safely conduct prescribed fires on the conservation area. This includes following an approved burn plan that outlines weather parameters, minimum staffing needed, and contingency plans among other things. Other than a required notification of the planned prescribed fire, a local fire department is not called to assist. A fire department would only be called for assistance under an escape situation that cannot be contained by MDC personnel.

Supports continued development of habitat for quail, turkey, and doves at the area.

Henry Sever Lake CA has been a longtime quail priority area and has continued to support sustainable numbers of quail. With good quail management, an array of other species benefit, including deer, turkey, rabbits, and non-game species. We have planted sunflowers for dove management the last several years and will continue to plant sunflowers, as budget and management priorities allow.

Aquatic Resource Considerations

Supports reducing vegetation in the lake.

We assess and monitor the aquatic vegetation growth in the lake annually. Herbicides are used to help keep the vegetation at desirable levels. Having some vegetation is necessary for the lake to support the fish population present.

Suggests locating the drain valve at the lake. Thinks that there is a drain valve in the dam since the lake has been lowered in the past.

This drain has been intentionally plugged and is no longer in use.

Public Use Considerations

Supports keeping the campsites primitive (without amenities).

MDC plans to maintain primitive camping at the current level.

Appreciates how the equestrian trails are maintained. Looks forward to using the equestrian trails this coming year.

Thank you for your support, and we hope you enjoy Missouri's natural resources on horseback at Henry Sever Lake CA in the future.

Appreciates the opportunities to hunt, fish, and camp at Henry Sever Lake CA. Particularly appreciates the opportunity to fish for muskellunge.

Providing places for Missourians to hunt, fish, and enjoy the outdoors is part of MDC's mission. We are glad that you are enjoying these opportunities at Henry Sever Lake CA. Muskie stocking is included in the management objectives in this plan.

Suggests adding a non-slip surface to the dock near the boat ramp. The ramp becomes very slick in colder weather.

We plan to make renovations or replace this dock, as budget allows. In the meantime, staff will inspect the ramp and make improvements as needed.

Suggests providing better lighting at the boat ramp. Wonders whether a light was out at the ramp.

We will check and ensure that all lights are working.

Suggests adding a privy to the west parking lot near the jetty.

To reduce the cost of maintenance, the old privy that was underutilized at that location was removed when it became dilapidated. Currently, we do not plan to replace that privy.

Offers to assist with the costs of providing a new dock or improving habitat/water quality at the area.

Thank you! Please contact the area manager.

Suggests providing more directions for parking. People park haphazardly near the boat ramp.

We will investigate the feasibility of painting parking stripes on the lot.

Suggests developing Henry Sever Lake as a top-rated fishing lake in Missouri. Suggests increasing stocking of fish at the lake, as much as the lake will support.

Channel catfish, blue catfish, and muskie are stocked according to the management objectives in this plan. Other species naturally reproduce in the lake.

Suggests promoting fishing for children and families at area ponds and hosting a children's fishing outing once a year.

Thank you for the suggestion. These opportunities are also available at several locations in MDC's Northeast Region that maximize staff time and resources.

Henry Sever Lake CA is a favorite spot. Have made lots of memories at this area fishing with children and swimming (until the area was no longer maintained for swimming). Suggests providing a concession stand for supplies at the area.

The area does not get enough public use to generate sufficient business to support a concessionaire. In years past, Henry Sever Lake CA had a concessionaire and was not able to generate enough profit to make the concession a viable business.

Administrative Considerations

Appreciates how this area is maintained and supports the management plan.

Thank you!

Would like to be informed about projects that could use public assistance (e.g., by a Boy Scout Troup).

Please contact the area manager.

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: Missouri Department of Conservation.

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.

Woods, D., Anderson, M., Burdick, D., Civiello, J., Dames, R., Fuller, C., ... Zimmerschied, M. (2017). *Missouri's muskie management plan*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Landcover Map

Figure 3: Prairie Map

Figure 4: Easement Map

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A: Henry Sever Lake Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Area Map

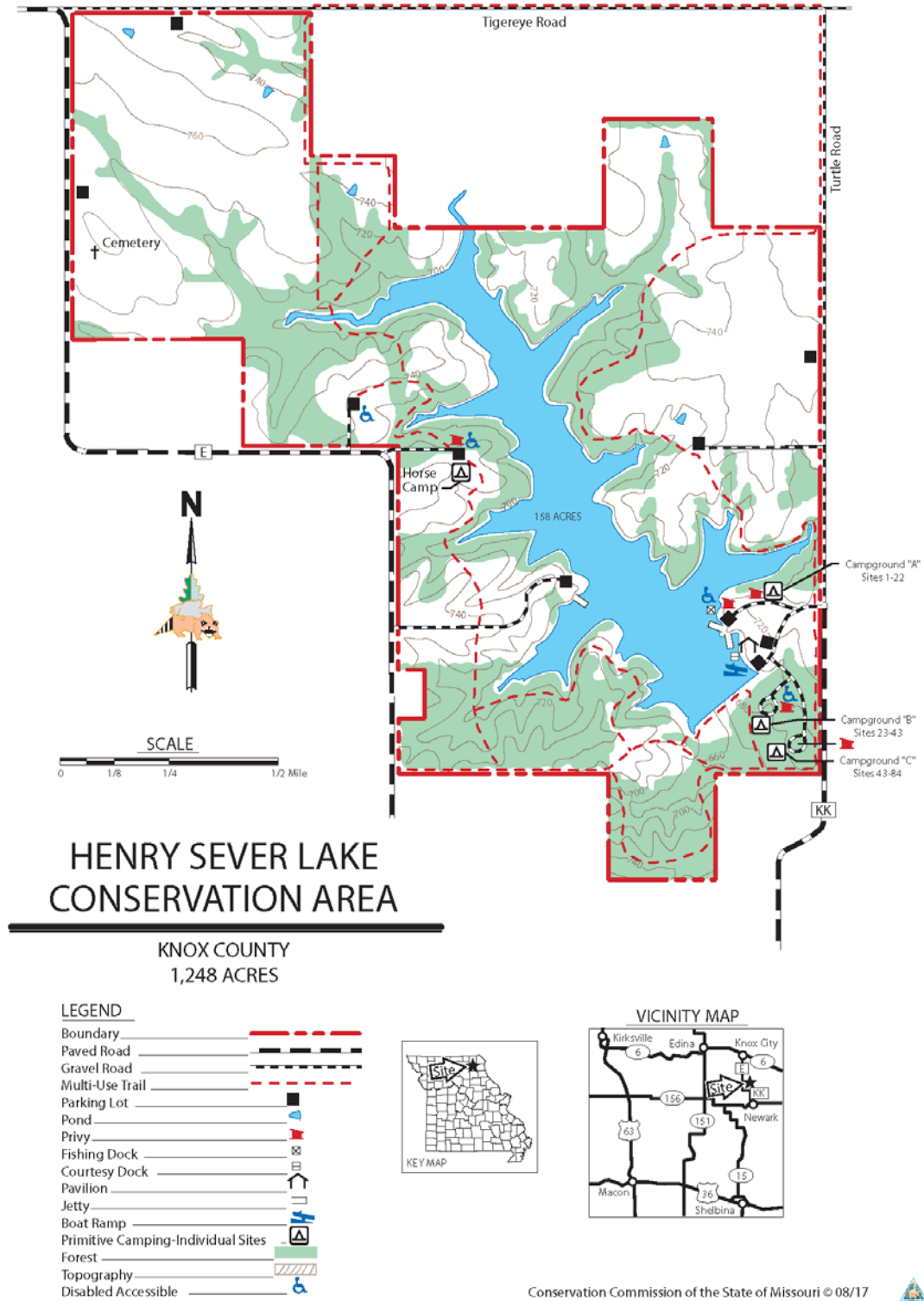


Figure 2: Land Cover Map

Henry Sever Landcover

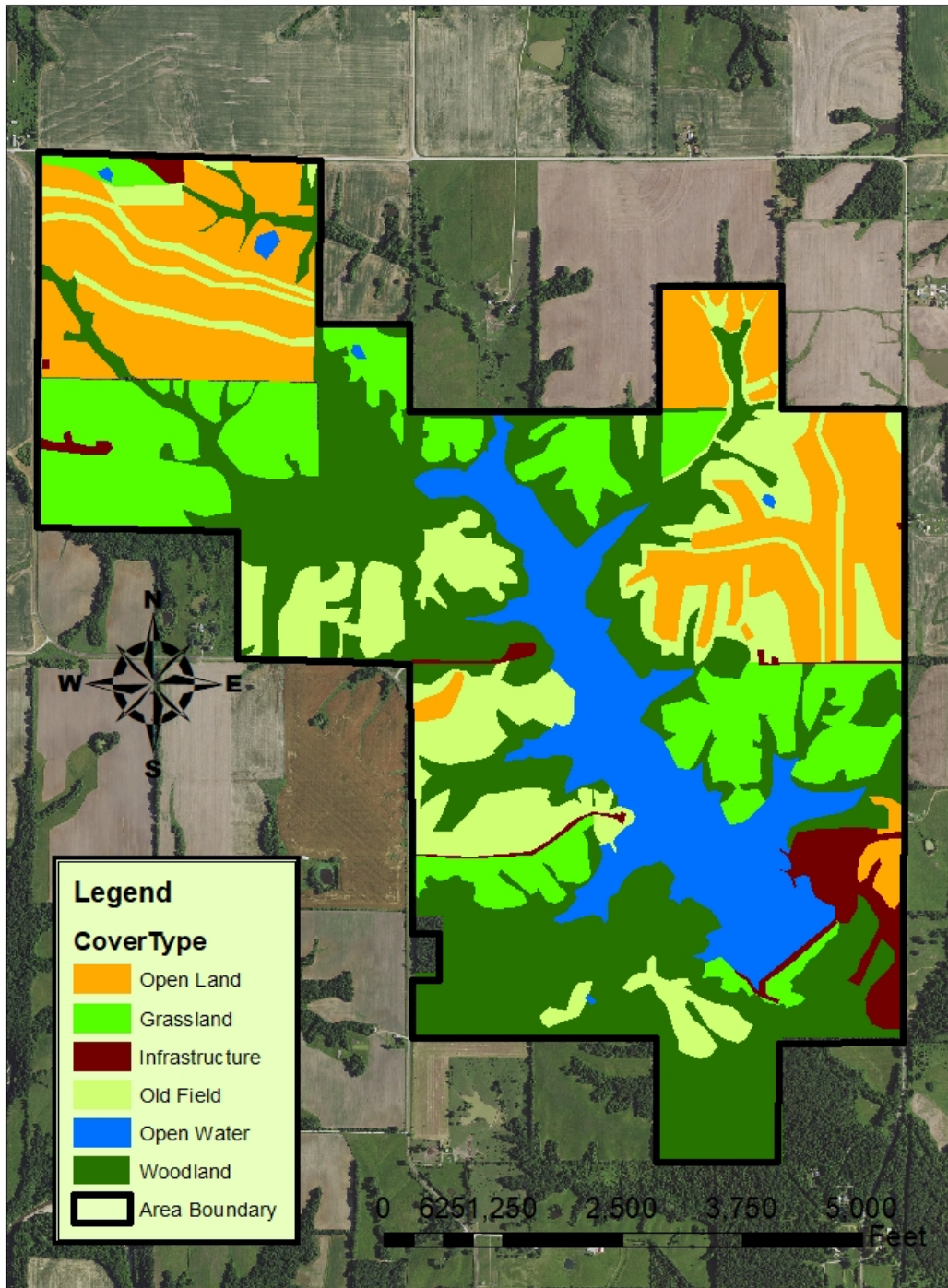


Figure 3: Prairie Map

Henry Sever Prairie

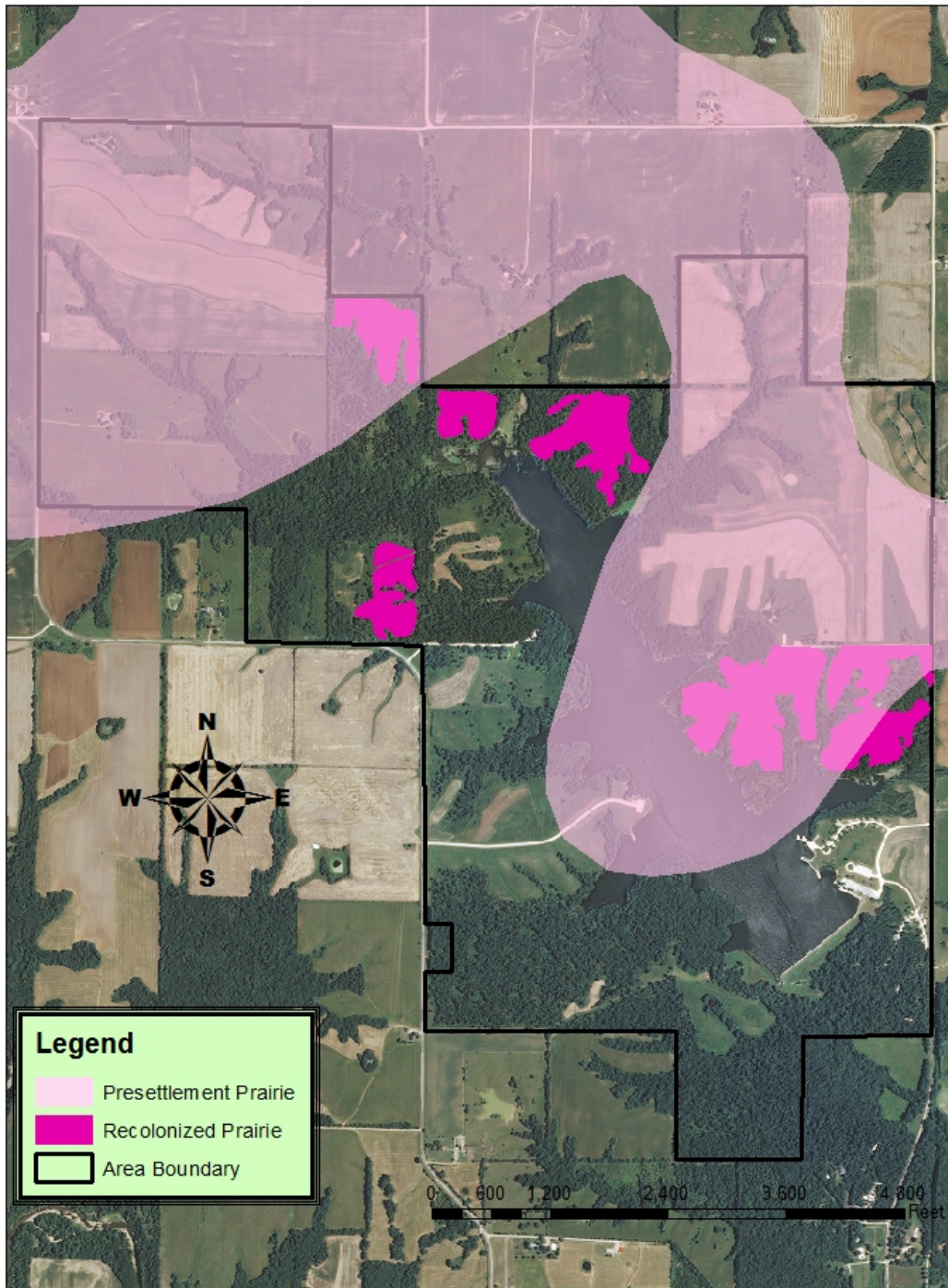


Figure 4: Easement Map

Henry Sever Easements and Higgins Tract Map



Appendix A: Henry Sever Lake Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (Dec. 1–31, 2018):

<p>I like the plans outlined. If there are projects that the public may help with, please contact me. The outdoors and conservation are very important to our Troop members, and we stress using Conservation Areas in the Northeast Region for our programs. Thank You for the excellent opportunities you provide us.</p>
<p>My wife, daughter, grand children and I have had the great privilege to camp, fish and hunt at Henry Sever since 2008. After reading the plans u have I am in agreement with said plans.I feel the major repair needed is to reduce the vegetation in the lake. It is becoming difficult to fish from the bank.</p> <p>I strongly feel there should not be any changes to the camp grounds (no electricity and water needed). Thank u for the MDC work.</p>
<p>I appreciate the upkeep on the equine trails, hope to ride there more next year, thanks for all your good work</p>
<p>I would recommend an additional privy be added at the west parking lot near the jetty. Otherwise, I support the proposed management plan.</p>
<p>A very great place keep up well MDC is doing a great job please keep it up and going thank you for everything you do</p>
<p>The Henry Sever Lake Area is one the finest area in all the surrounding states. We are thankful for Mr. Sever ‘thought and his resources that made his dream into a reality. A Big Thank You to MDC for implementing Mr. Sever’s dream in an excellent fashion. Keep up the great work. The Pomme De Terre Chapter of Muskies Inc. really appreciate the opportunity to fish for the elusive Muskie. This include fisherman from MO, Illinois ,Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin,and Kansas. The Pomme Chapter has offered to help financially with a new dock and other ideas that would enhance water quality, habitat preservation, and water management policies. Thanks again for excellent job in the past. Best wishes for MDC future endeavors. ***** Vice Pres of Pomme Chapter.</p>
<p>Sever is a great lake an I’ve fished there for years. Keep up the good work.</p> <p>A few things I’ve noticed: the dock next to the boat ramp becomes very slick in colder weather. A non slip surface would help. 2nd the ramp has been poorly lit. Could be the single light was burned out.</p> <p>Provide some directions on parking. People park in every directon in the ramp lot.</p> <p>Thanks.</p>
<p>In the Management Considerations</p> <p>Under Management Objective 1, you might also consider the use of milo and proso millet in your food plots. It provides winter feed and cover for the quail, and food and forage for deer.</p>

Under Management Objective 2: working on the spread of Canadian and Musk Thistle and Teasel should be given a priority, as areas of the lake would be hard to monitor and might provide an incubation site for the spread of these weeds to adjacent properties.

Under Management Objective 3, Strategy 3, Keep in mind that the volunteers of the local Fire departments are limited and might not be able to assist on short notice.

In the Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Under Management Objective 6, I seem to remember that there is a drain valve in the dam, as the lake has been lowered at a point in the past. I have no idea where the valve is located, or whether it is functional at this time. But it might be worth looking for.

Hard copy comment received: We would like to see Henry Sever Lake to be developed as a top-rated lake in MO. See the lake stocking program increased to the degree that the lake will support it. Perhaps two of the five ponds could be maintained for fishing, geared to young families with children as a way of introducing children to fishing. Perhaps this Missouri DNR could sponsor a fishing outing for children once a year. I like the idea of continuing to develop the areas specified for wildlife, especially, for quail, turkey, and doves. I like the plans you have proposed and look forward to seeing them develop. Although I live out of state, we do make frequent trips to main our farm and spend time in the area. Henry Sever Lake has always been one of my favorite spots. Have lots of memories fishing there and my kids enjoyed swimming until it became unsuitable to do so because it was no longer maintained. The concession stand store was also helpful for supplies. Best Wishes, *****

Hard copy comment received: Clean up where TSI had been implemented and remove all the locust and invasive trees that are now taking over those areas. Go thru and remove other invasive shrubs from the area. As a landowner to the south on the west side, I have severe invasive shrubs and grasses in and along my hay fields that have blown in and been carried in from the conservation area. I remove the shrubs and grasses yearly to keep getting more the next year. I would love to see more grasslands for quail and pheasants. We used to see several of each 20 years ago but now you see 1 or 2 quail, no pheasant, and 1 or 2 turkey. We see several coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, and skunks, all of which will kill the adults as well as eat the eggs. Any idea or help controlling there numbers would be appreciated. Please continue to update me with your plans. Thank you, *****