

Millsap Bridge Access

Ten Year Area Management Plan FY 2013-2022



Brian Canaday

Fisheries Division Chief

12/23/13

Date

Millsap Bridge Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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ST. LOUIS REGION

Cathy deJong, STL RCT Chair



Signature



Date

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Signature



Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Millsap Bridge Access, # 200623
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 2006
- **Acreage:** 5 acres
- **County:** Lincoln
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Fisheries
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Fisheries/Wildlife
- **Statements of Primary Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Provide basic fishing and recreational access to the West Fork Cuivre River.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Millsap Bridge is a forested river access on the West Fork Cuivre River.
 - C. Federal Aid Purpose**

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** Cuivre River Priority Watershed
 - B. Natural Area:** None

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

- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - 1 parking lot
 - 1 gravel stream access ramp
 - 50 ft. footpath
 - 1 cable gate structure
 - 1 welcome sign

- IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**
 - A. Deed restrictions or ownership considerations:**
 - 1) Deed prohibits hunting on the property.

- 2) Deed requires posting of specific language acknowledging The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Peace Wildlife Sanctuary as contributors to the property acquisition.
- 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: Deed reserves an ingress and egress easement for neighboring property currently owned by KWK Management, L.P.
- D. Cultural resources findings: No known cultural resources.
- E. Hazards and hazardous materials: None observed.
- F. Endangered species: None observed.
- G. Boundary Issues: None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

I. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Millsap Bridge Access is roughly one half bottomland forest; the remaining acreage is within the channel of the West Fork of the Cuivre River (Figure 2). No forest or terrestrial management is planned.

II. Public Use Management Considerations

Public access to the stream channel is provided by a gravel ramp. This ramp was originally an approach to a road crossing which was maintained per an ingress/egress easement. This easement has recently been terminated and a new one granted on a different area of the property (Figure 3). Active bank erosion has made this ramp difficult to maintain. It has been washed out several times and reconstructed by cutting a new ramp into the incised bank. The 3 meter tall eroding bank is now within 20 meters of the parking lot and continued maintenance of the ramp may not be possible in the future. A foot trail to the stream has been developed, which St. Louis (STL) Fisheries has widened and maintained (Figure 4). If bank erosion continues, the parking lot and foot trail may be jeopardized. Illicit ATV use is also a problem.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain fishing and recreational access to the West Fork Cuivre River.
- 2) Deter ATV use on area.
- 3) Continue positive relationships with neighboring land owners.

Management Objective 1: Maintain fishing and recreational access to the West Fork Cuivre River.

Strategy 1: Work with STL Regional Design and Development (D&D) personnel to maintain the gravel access ramp, as possible. Maintenance may be limited to removal of flood debris, fallen trees, etc. Best professional judgment of Fisheries and D&D Divisions will be considered for any major repairs.

Strategy 2: Maintain foot path to provide secondary stream access. Construct a new foot path in a different location if the current path becomes unsafe.

Strategy 3: When available, land downstream 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.

Management Objective 2: Deter ATV use on area.

Strategy 1: Block illicit ATV trails with posts and signage.

Management Objective 3: Continue positive relationships with neighboring land owners.

Strategy 1: Provide technical assistance to KWK management (neighboring landowner) and The Nature Conservancy (easement holder on KWK property) regarding the construction of the new private stream crossing.

Strategy 2: Continue communication between neighboring landowners and Protection Division regarding trespassing and violations of area regulations.

Strategy 3: Protection will conduct enforcement patrols to help ensure the area is safe for public use.

III. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area at Level 1 standards (See Appendix B.)

Management Objective 1: Maintain area at Level 1 standards.

Strategy 1: Perform monthly litter pick-up (wildlife maintenance crew).

Strategy 2: Replace area regulation signage as needed.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Public Use Management										
Objective 3										
Strategy 1	X									

Public Input Summary:

The draft Millsap Bridge Access Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period October 1 - October 31, 2013. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

APPENDIX A

Area Background:

Millsap Bridge Access is in Lincoln County, about 2.5 miles north of Truxton where Beck Road crosses the West Fork of the Cuivre River (Figure 1). The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) acquired this area in 2006 by donation from TNC. It was part of a larger property (835 acres) known as Peace Wildlife Sanctuary. The entire acreage was offered to MDC, but because the property carried deeded restrictions on hunting and cutting trees, MDC declined. MDC did accept an offer of five acres for the purpose of a stream access and the remaining acreage was sold to a private citizen.

MDC constructed a small parking lot, and an existing agricultural low water crossing provided easy access to the stream. This crossing was a deeded easement to private property. Maintaining the crossing soon became problematic. High flow events over several years exacerbated stream bank erosion and the crossing had to be reconstructed or repaired several times. The public found other ways to get to the stream, but the neighbor who held the road easement was, in some years, unable to plant or harvest crops. Seeing no reasonable way to stabilize the erosion problems, MDC and the neighbor agreed to terminate the easement at that location and establish a new easement (Figure 3). This agreement was recorded on November 5, 2012. With the new easement, the neighbor intends to build a road and construct a new crossing on his own property.

The area is open to the public from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Special facilities include a parking lot and a foot path to the stream. Canoes and other small watercraft can be carried from the parking lot to the stream.

Current Land and Water Types (Figure 1):

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Bottomland Forest	2.7		54
Stream Channel/Gravel Bar	2.3		46
Total	5		100
Stream Frontage		670	

APPENDIX B

Area Maintenance

Level 1 is defined as the minimal amount of maintenance necessary to keep an area safe and usable by the public and prevent damage to Department-owned or -managed property. Area Maintenance Level 1 will be applied on areas in remote locations or locations with minimal public use. Maintenance will be appropriate for the timing, amount, and types of use. Cultural resource clearance and environmental compliance permits shall be obtained when necessary for maintenance activities.

The considerations for Area Maintenance Level 1 include:

- Parking lots will be mowed, sprayed or cleared at least twice during the growing season with at least one treatment occurring just prior to anticipated heaviest use times;
- Maintain area signs and an adequate supply of brochures at parking lots, especially during heavy public use (hunting seasons, popular fishing spot, fall hikes for tree color viewing, etc);
- Litter pickup and vandalism repair should occur once per month as a minimum, or after being informed about significant littering or vandalism incidents;
- Boundary signs should be inspected at least one time every two years and repaired or replaced as appropriate;
- Rock or mulch base should be used for roads, trails, and parking lot perimeters when feasible to minimize high maintenance areas needing constant attention, such as highly manicured areas with minimal public use;
- Interior and field roads should be kept open to minimize weed and grass seed from clogging MDC vehicle radiators, to prevent limbs from damaging vehicles, and to provide access for area equipment;
- Roads open to the general public should be maintained to avoid potential site restrictions and to prevent conditions that might otherwise hinder regular maintenance (such as allowing sod/grass to encroach into the normal driving lanes);
- Level 1 areas larger than 500 acres should have a minimum of one location for area visitors to pick up information (e.g., bulletin board);
- Privies should be inspected routinely to ensure they are clean and have an adequate supply of paper, and should be pumped as needed.

APPENDIX C

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Current Vegetative Map

Figure 3: Easement Location Map

Figure 4: Aerial Map

Figure 5: Topographical Map

Figure 1. Area Map

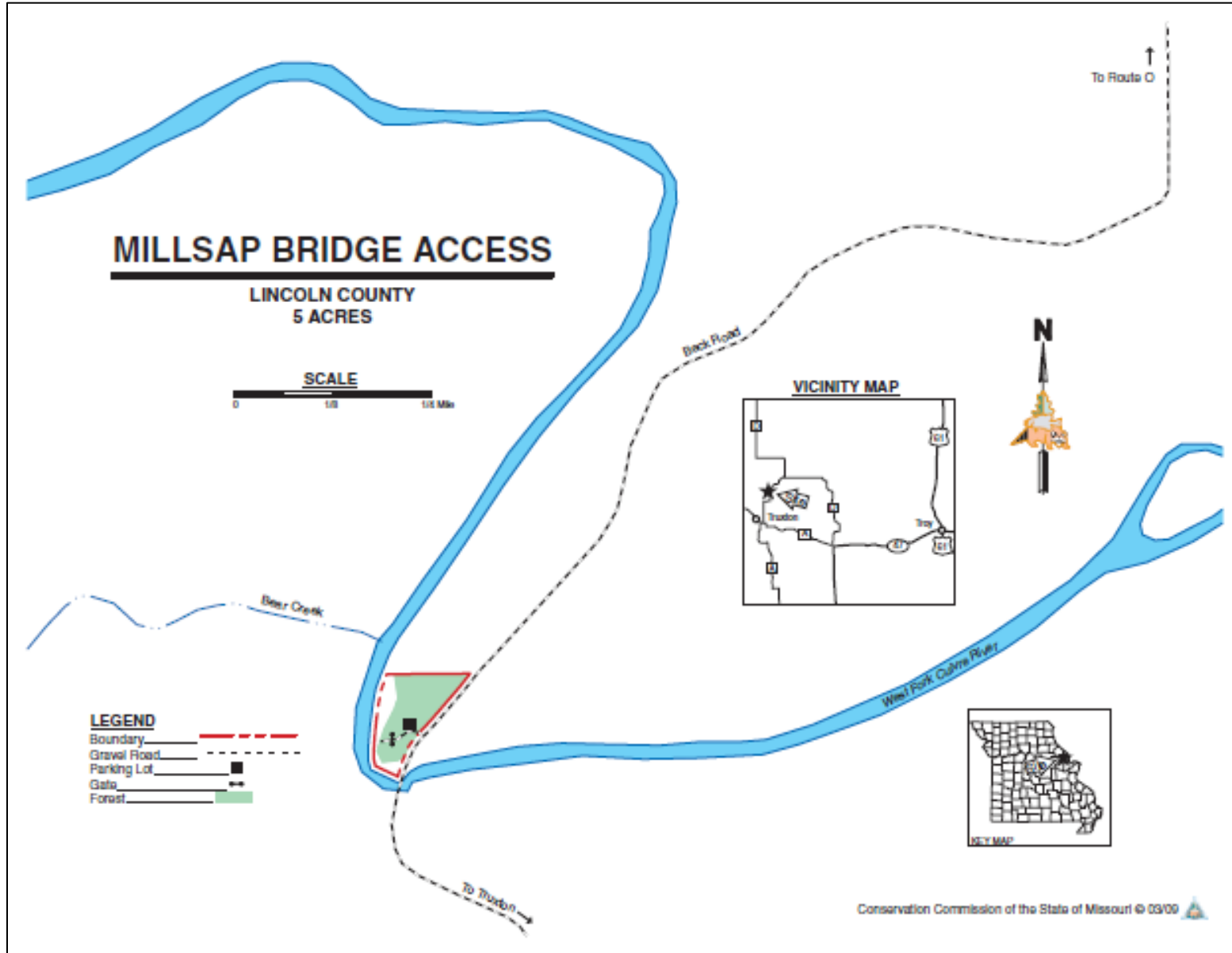


Figure 2. Current Vegetative Map



Figure 3. Easement Location Map (approximate locations)



Figure 4. Aerial Map



Figure 5. Topographical Map

