

# Ripley & Oregon County River Accesses

Greenville Ford Access  
Myrtle Access  
George and Vida Martin Access

## Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan FY 2018-2032



Lisa W. Allen  
Forestry Division Chief

4-9-18  
Date

## Ripley & Oregon County River Accesses Management Plan Approval Page

### PLANNING TEAM

Steve Paes, Resource Forester

Marcus Asher, Private Lands Conservationist

Devin Wood, Private Land Conservationist

Darren Killian, Conservation Agent

Paul Veatch, Conservation Agent

Blake Stephens, Fisheries Management Biologist

John Ackerson, Fisheries Management Biologist

### OZARK REGION

RCT Chair

*Brad McKee*

Signature

03/30/2018

Date

### FORESTRY DIVISION

Forest Management Chief

*John Tuttle*

Signature

4/4/18

Date

## OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Greenville Ford Access	7012	1970	3	Ripley	Forestry	Forestry
Myrtle Access	8434	1984	29	Oregon	Forestry	Forestry
George and Vida Martin Access	9804	1998	8	Oregon	Forestry	Forestry

### Statements of Purpose:

#### A. Strategic Direction

The Greenville Ford Access, Myrtle Access, and the George and Vida Martin Access provide fishing access and recreational opportunities on the Little Black River, Eleven Point River, and Warm Fork Spring River.

#### B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future landscape conditions of Greenville Ford Access, Myrtle Access, and George and Vida Martin Access are developed landscapes that promote recreation.

#### C. Federal Aid Statement

- Greenville Ford Access and Myrtle Access: These areas or portions thereof, were 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.
- George and Vida Martin Access: N/A

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

### I. Special Considerations

Area Name	Priority Areas	Natural Areas
Greenville Ford Access	Yes <sup>1</sup>	None
Myrtle Access	Yes <sup>2</sup>	None
George and Vida Martin Access	None	None

<sup>1</sup>Little Black Forest and Woodland Conservation Opportunity Area, Little Black River Stream Reach Conservation Opportunity Area, Upper Little Black Priority Forest Landscape, Upper Little Black Fisheries Priority Watershed

<sup>2</sup>Eleven Point River Stream Reach Conservation Opportunity Area, Priority Forest Landscape, Eleven Point River Stream Black Bass Special Management Area

**II. Important Natural Features and Resources**

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Greenville Ford Access	Yes <sup>1</sup>	None	None
Myrtle Access	Yes <sup>1</sup>	None	None
George and Vida Martin Access	Yes <sup>1</sup>	None	None

<sup>1</sup>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.

**III. Existing Infrastructure**

Area Name	Concrete Ramp	Boat Slide	Parking Area #	Privy	Other
Greenville Ford Access	None	None	1	None	1 picnic table
Myrtle Access	1	None	1 <sup>1</sup>	1 <sup>1</sup>	5 camping areas, 6 picnic tables
George and Vida Martin Access	None	None	1	None	N/A

<sup>1</sup>Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible

**IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**

Area Name	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Ease-ments	Cultural Resources	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Greenville Ford Access	None	Yes <sup>1</sup>	None	None known	None observed	None
Myrtle Access	None	Yes <sup>1</sup>	None	None known	Yes <sup>3</sup>	None
George and Vida Martin Access	None	Yes <sup>2</sup>	None	None known	None observed	None

<sup>1</sup>Uses of land acquired with federal funds may not interfere with the purpose for which it was acquired. Closures to sport fishing must be based on the recommendations of the state fish and wildlife agency for fish and wildlife management purposes. 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.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

#### *Greenville Ford Access*

Management centers on providing bank access to the Little Black River and preventing activities from compromising stream bank integrity. There are few wildlife or forestry resources on this small 3-acre area.

#### *Myrtle Access*

This area consists of approximately 10 acres of bottomland forest and 19 acres of upland forest. Most of the uplands are white oak and shortleaf pine stands that were planted in the 1990s.

#### *George and Vida Martin Access*

Management centers on providing bank access to the Warm Fork Spring River and preventing activities from compromising stream bank integrity. There are few wildlife or forestry resources on this small 8-acre area.

#### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Protect and maintain natural vegetation within the flood plain.
- 2) Protect water quality and habitats for species of conservation concern and endangered species.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain a healthy forested riparian corridor.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain appropriate tree stocking levels as recommended 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). (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Manage forested acreage in the flood plain as old growth. (Forestry)

### VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

#### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Protect water quality and associated habitat for species of conservation concern and endangered species.

**Management Objective 1:** Protect water quality.

**Strategy 1:** Minimize sedimentation to streams and tributaries from land management practices, roads, or parking lots, as recommended in the Department's *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and*

*Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation (2009) and the Department's Missouri Watershed Protection Practice Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests: 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams (2014). (Forestry, Design and Development)*

**Strategy 2:** Continue regular area cleanup and monitor for disturbances. (Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Minimize equipment use and management activities within the flood plains. (Forestry, Design and Development)

## **VII. Public Use Management Considerations**

### ***Greenville Ford***

Public use facilities consist of a parking lot and a picnic table. There is not a boat ramp, but the area is used by canoeists. Most visitors use the area for bank fishing and river access.

### ***Myrtle Access***

Area facilities include a concrete boat ramp, ADA-accessible parking lot, ADA-accessible privy, six picnic tables, and five camping sites. Two of the camp sites provide tent-only primitive camping; three of the camp sites provide gravel pads with fire rings and picnic tables. Primary public use of the area is launching boats from the boat ramp.

### ***George and Vida Martin Access***

Area facilities include a small parking lot. Most visitors use the area for bank fishing and river access.

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Provide for quality river access and recreational opportunities.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain suitable public access at each area.

**Strategy 1:** Conduct annual area maintenance activities on the facilities that will provide for a clean and safe user experience. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Continue the area maintenance contract for mowing and trash pickup at Greenville Ford Access. (Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Continue regular patrols of the areas, especially during periods of heavy use. (Protection)

**Strategy 4:** Continue to maintain signage. (Forestry)

## VIII. Administrative Considerations

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 2) Consider land acquisition, when available.

### **Management Objective 1:** Maintain area infrastructure and boundary lines.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain area boundary lines every 10 years, or as needed. (Forestry)

### **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.

**MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE**

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32
<b>Administrative Considerations</b>															
<i>Objective 1</i>															
Strategy 2									X						



## APPENDICES

### **Public Input Summary:**

The draft Ripley & Oregon County Accesses Management Plan was available for a public comment period January 1 – February 28, 2017. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from four respondents (Appendix A). The Ripley & Oregon County Accesses 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 Ripley & Oregon County Accesses Management Plan public comment period.

### **Suggests allowing horseback riding.**

The Planning Team did not consider development of equestrian trails due to the small acreage of the properties. There are currently multiple equestrian trails in the vicinity maintained by the U.S. Forest Service, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, and the Missouri Department of Conservation on areas more suitable for this activity.

### **Opposes additional land acquisition adjacent to Myrtle Access.**

No properties adjacent to these areas are being considered for acquisition at this time. The Planning Team wants to retain the wording in the plan so that future opportunities, through donation or sale from willing sellers, can be considered.

### **Appreciates the efforts made by the Department to conserve natural spaces.**

Thank you for your support of the Department, the planning process, and the management of our natural resources.

### **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 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.

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1. Vicinity Map for George and Vida Martin and Myrtle Accesses

Appendix 2. Vicinity Map for Greenville Ford Access

Appendix 3. Greenville Ford Access Area Background

Appendix 4. Map of Greenville Ford Access

Appendix 5. Myrtle Access Area Background

Appendix 6. Map of Myrtle Access

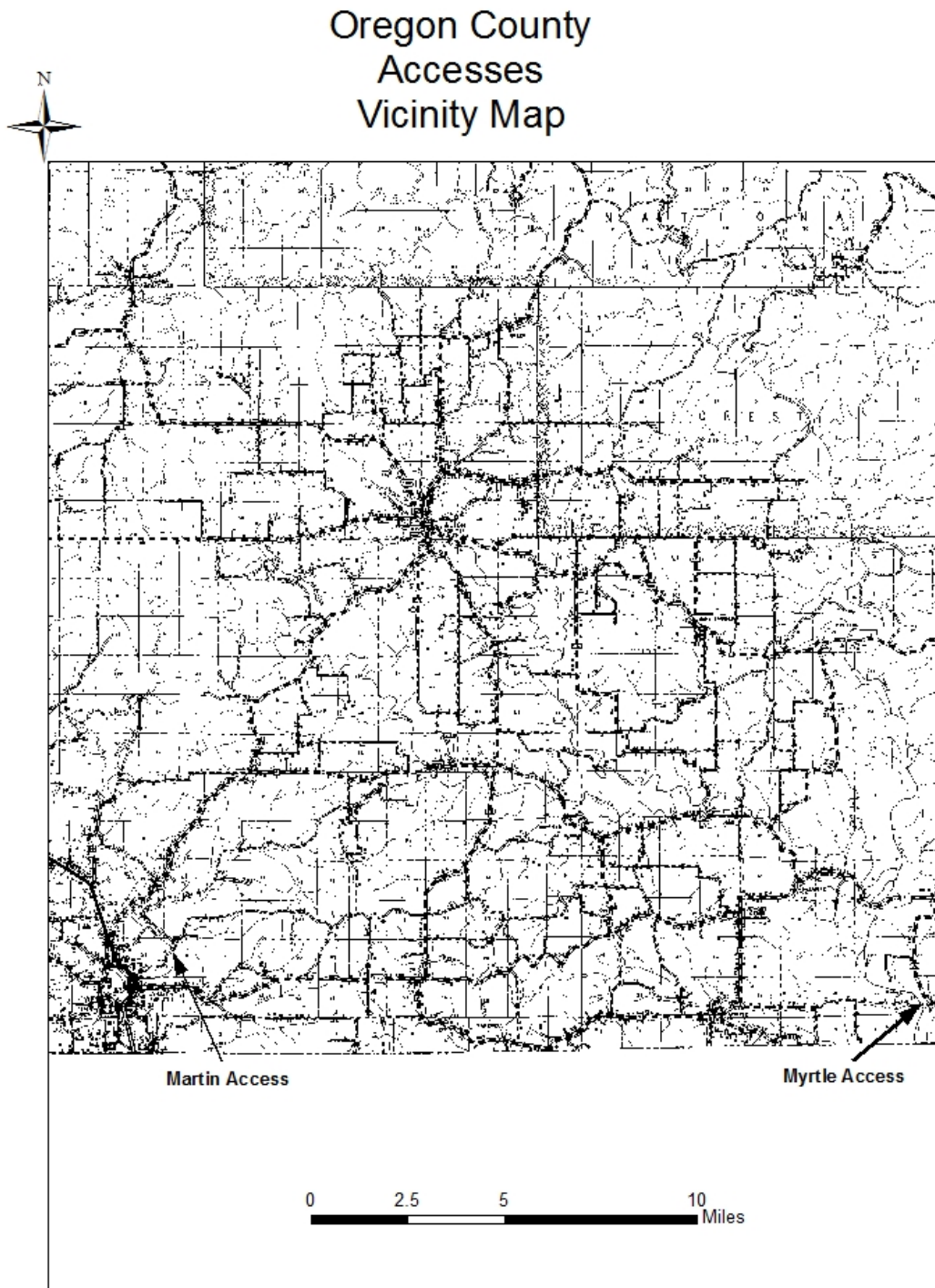
Appendix 7. George and Vida Martin Access Area Background

Appendix 8. Map of George and Vida Martin Access

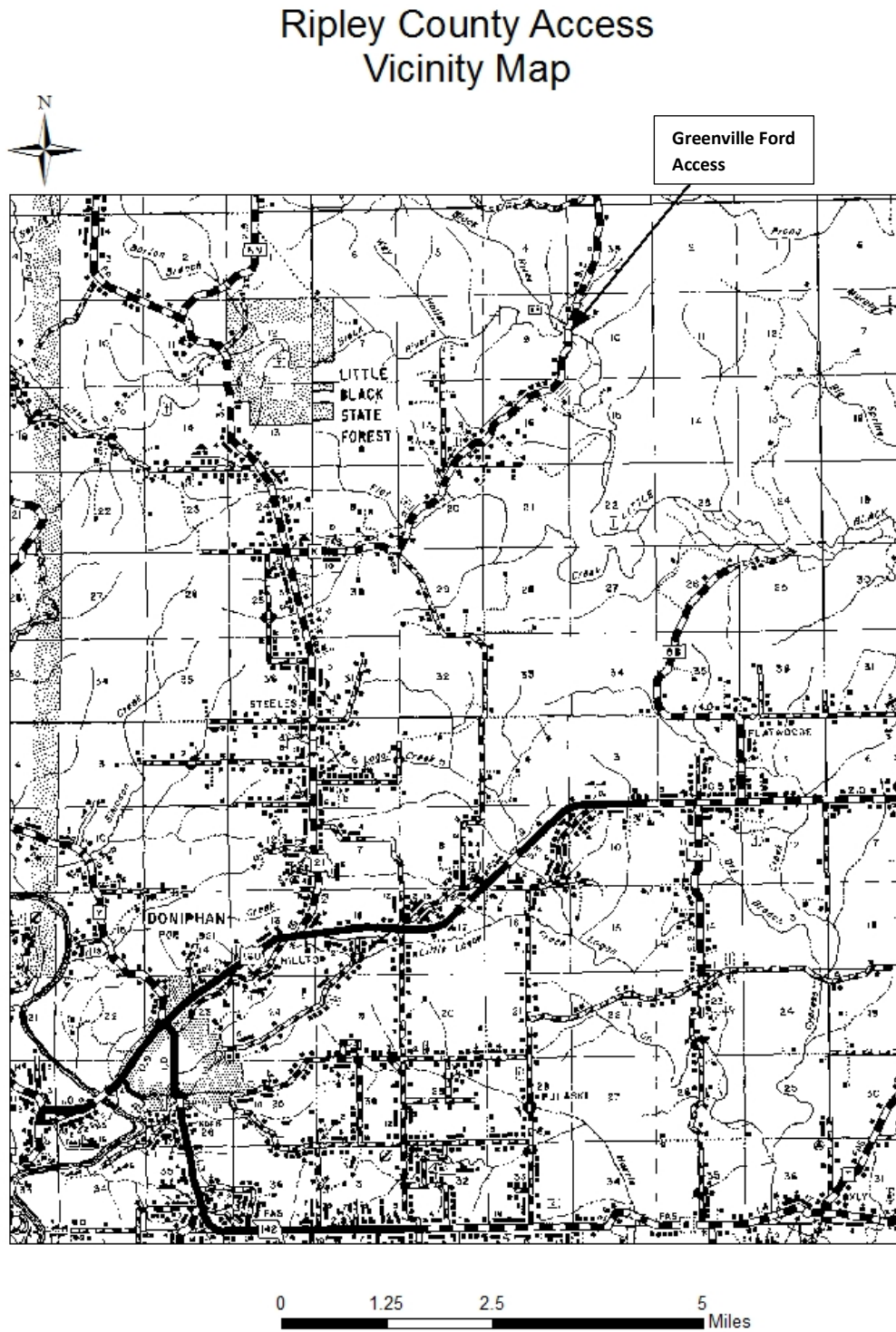
**Additional Appendices**

Appendix A. Ripley & Oregon County Accesses Management Plan Public Comments

**Appendix 1. Vicinity Map for George and Vida Martin and Myrtle Accesses**



Appendix 2. Vicinity Map for Greenville Ford Access



**Appendix 3. Greenville Ford Access Area Background**

Greenville Ford Access is located where Highway K crosses the Little Black River in northeast Ripley County. A small gravel bar under the bridge is used for accessing the river and bank fishing. There is light use of the area for launching canoes.

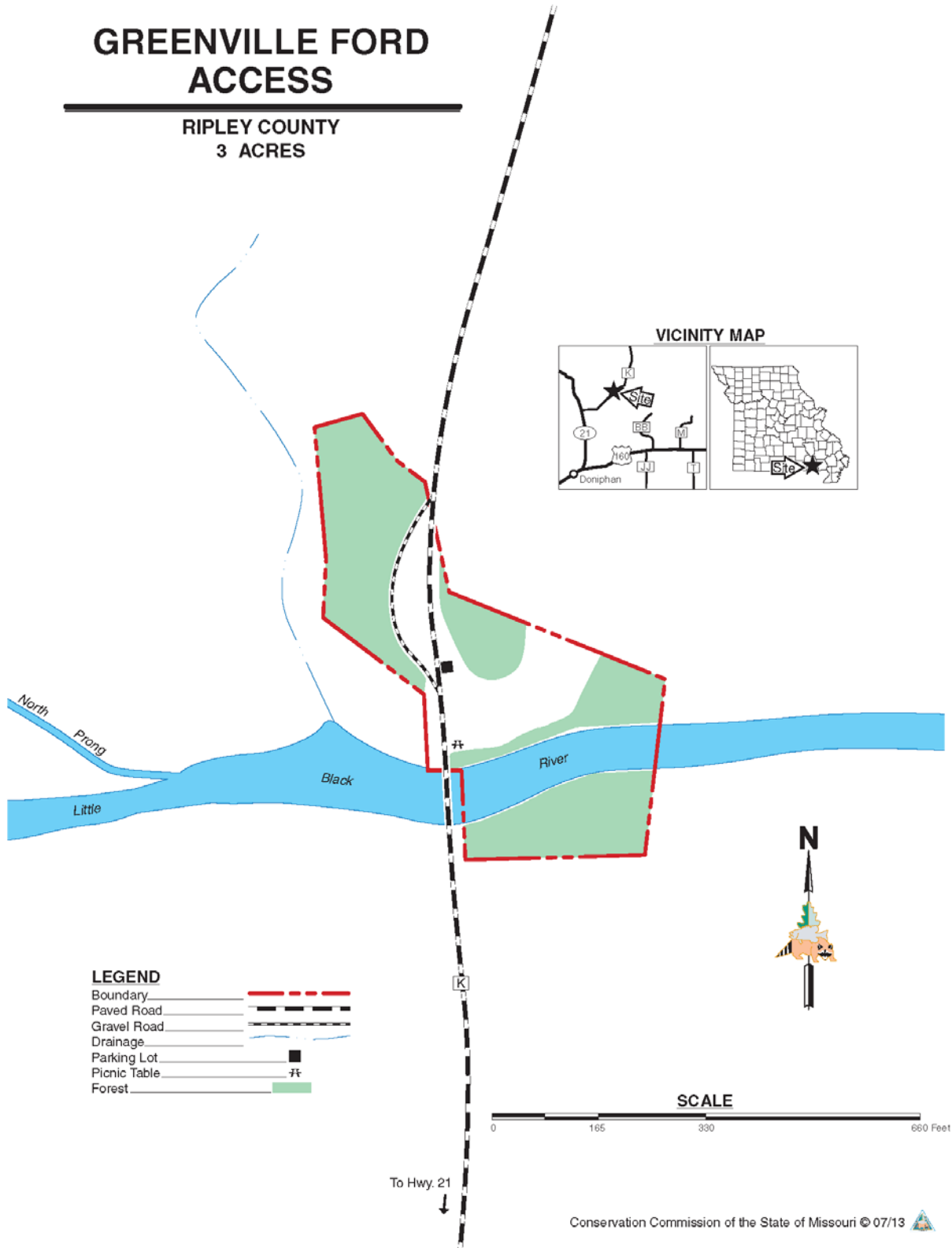
Legal Description: Sections 9 and 10, Township 24 North, Range 3 East, Ripley County

Area Location: On Highway K, approximately 4 miles east of Highway 21, northeast of Doniphan, Missouri.

**Current Land and Water Types:**

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	2		67
Open Land	1		33
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>100</b>
Stream Frontage – Little Black River		0.1	

Appendix 4. Map of Greenville Ford Access



**Appendix 5. Myrtle Access Area Background**

Myrtle Access is located on the Eleven Point River in southeast Oregon County. Launching boats at the concrete boat ramp is the main use of the area. The area is also used by campers and picnickers. There is some bank fishing adjacent to the ramp; densely vegetated banks make bank fishing difficult on the rest of the area.

Legal Description: Section 34, Township 22 North, Range 2 West, Oregon County

Area Location: On County Road H-278, approximately 5 miles east of Myrtle, Missouri

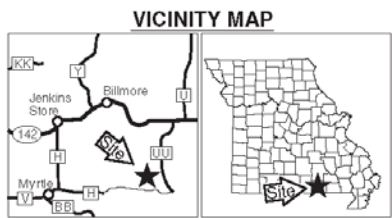
**Current Land and Water Types:**

<b>Land/Water Type</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>% of Area</b>
Forest	29		100
Stream Frontage – Eleven Point River		0.25	

Appendix 6. Map of Myrtle Access

# MYRTLE ACCESS

OREGON COUNTY  
29 ACRES



**LEGEND**

- Boundary
- Gravel Road
- Unimproved Road
- Parking Lot
- Privy
- Boat Ramp
- Disabled Accessible
- Picnic Area
- Primitive Camping Area
- Designated Camping
- Forest
- Topography



### Appendix 7. George and Vida Martin Access Area Background

The George and Vida Martin Access were donated to the Missouri Department of Conservation by Dan and Maureen Cover of Thayer in honor of her parents. The main use of the area is accessing the river near gravel bar near the county road. Most of the forested bank is not easily accessible.

Legal Description: Section 28, Township 22 North, Range 5 West, Oregon County

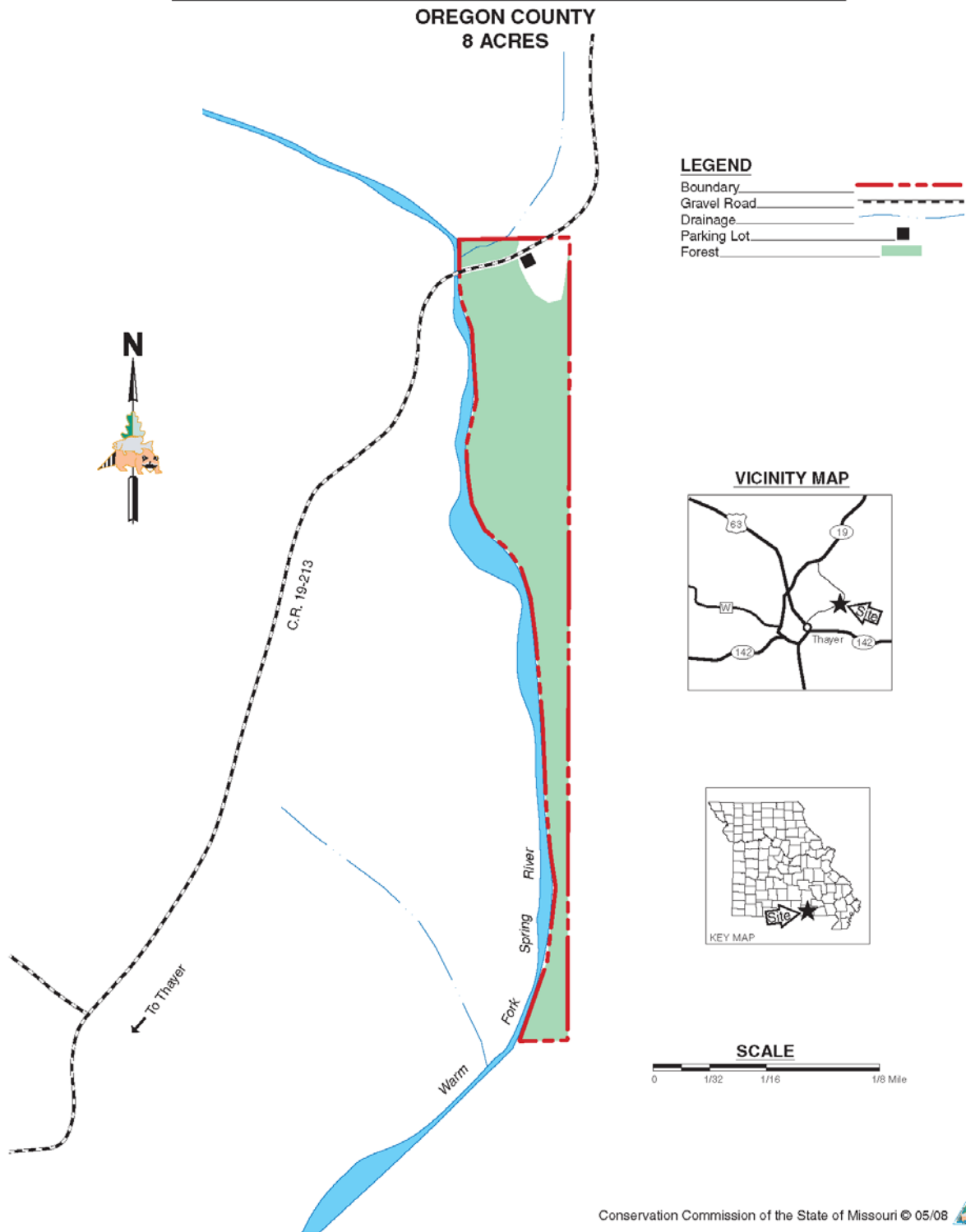
Area Location: On County Road 19-213, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Thayer, Missouri

#### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	8		100
Stream Frontage – Warm Fork Spring River		0.5	

Appendix 8. Map of George and Vida Martin Access

# GEORGE AND VIDA MARTIN ACCESS



## Appendix A. Ripley & Oregon County Accesses Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (January 1 – February 28, 2017):

I would like to see trails for horses developed in this area. Riding horses is a recreation activity that allows me to see the beautiful scenery in Missouri.

After reading through this plan, I am wondering the logic behind the "consider more land when available" clause in regards to the Myrtle Access. The private and adjacent to the Myrtle Access area is currently being maintained and conservation practices are being utilized by the current land owners. The Eleven Point River is enjoyed in a different manner from other small Missouri Rivers, such as the Current River. This section of the Eleven Point is currently not in danger of being over used or misused. Private land owners adjacent to the Myrtle Access area are striving to create a beautiful setting in which to best utilize the river for fishing and small water craft. The State does not need to intervene and attempt to purchase additional land near the Myrtle Access. The State should focus efforts and funds in areas that are in danger of becoming over used and/or in areas where private land owners are mismanaging the land. Thank you for your consideration.

We own property adjacent to the MDC Myrtle Access acreage. We only received notice of this Plan via a phone call from an individual who owns the property next to ours. His property is also adjacent to the MDC acreage. He called after receiving a letter from MDC that advised him of the Plan and that he could comment by Jan 31st. We did not receive such a letter, and would like to know why we were not sent one. In general, after reading the Plan online, most of the Considerations seem appropriate, especially those strategies dealing with maintenance of the facilities and signage, patrolling the area, providing a clean and safe user experience, etc. We do have one area of concern and disagreement, that being Section VIII 2) "Consider land acquisition, when available." From our observations, the Myrtle Access is primarily used by local citizens to launch small water craft for fishing and recreational boating, and to recover some floaters and canoe enthusiasts. We have rarely seen anyone using the camping facilities. We note that just last year the MO Dept of Natural Resources purchased 4000+ acres (the Pigman Ranch/Frederick Creek Ranch properties), approximately 6 miles up river from the Myrtle Access, for a proposed State Park. It seems that acquiring additional property for expansion of the Myrtle Access would place it in unneeded competition with the proposed State Park. Since MDC already manages nearly 1 million acres of Missouri land, it would seem prudent to use taxpayers funds to better care for existing property, rather than acquire more.

This is great, as a lifelong Missouri resident I've always appreciated the care and planning that goes in to making our natural spaces last forever. Thank you for continuing your efforts on behalf of mine and future generations. Cheers.