

DRAFT

Wilbur Allen

Conservation Area

Fifteen Year Area Management Plan

FY 2015-2029



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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Wilbur Allen Memorial Conservation Area, # 8112
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1981
- **Acreage:** 380 acres
- **County:** Wright
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry, Design and Development
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Manage for multiple resource uses with an emphasis on forest, associated species, wildlife, watershed protection and compatible recreational opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Wilbur Allen Conservation Area (CA) is a healthy forest/woodland and diverse old field/grassland habitat.
 - 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. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None
 - D. Other:** Gasconade River (1.39 miles)

- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - 2 parking lots
 - Concrete boat ramp (at Gasconade River)
 - Privy
 - 2 campsites (no amenities provided)
 - 2 picnic tables and grills

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** Deer hunting limited to archery methods only. (Other wildlife species may be taken with firearms during the prescribed season).
- 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:** Laclede Electric Cooperative (1957)
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** None observed.
- F. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- G. Boundary Issues:** Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Improving and restoring forest and woodland landscapes.
- 2) Improving habitat for deer and other game species.
- 3) Improving habitat and natural diversity by limiting the spread of invasive plant species.

Management Objective 1: Maintain, enhance and restore forest/woodland natural communities. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 1: Implement management recommendations as outlined in the 2013 forest inventory. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Implement Best Management Practices to prevent erosion when conducting timber harvesting activities according to the guidelines.

Management Objective 2: Maintain and enhance deer and other game habitats. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 1: Implement active field management to reduce woody encroachment and encourage old field structure. (Forestry and Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Improve forest wildlife habitat with forest and openland management practices that might include timber harvesting, timber stand improvement, use of herbicides or prescribed fire . (Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Reduce the impact of invasive plant species on natural communities. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 1: Continue to control invasive species including fescue, sericea lespedeza, Johnson grass and autumn olive with mechanical, prescribed fire and chemical methods. (Forestry, Wildlife).

Strategy 2: Monitor the area for invasive species. Suppress any infestations that may develop using appropriate methods. (Forestry, Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

Managing and protecting karst land features and the Gasconade River Watershed.

Management Objective 1: Protect and enhance the riparian corridor and karst features on the area. (Forestry and Wildlife)

Strategy 1: Minimize sedimentation within the area from land management practices and/or road systems which will affect biodiversity of unique habitats by following the practices recommended in the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines* (2009). (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Maintain a riparian corridor with a minimum of 100 feet from the top of the bank on each side for third-order streams and larger, as recommended in the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009).

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Providing for hunting and viewing opportunities.
- 2) Providing public use access and balancing area use by stakeholders.

Management Objective 1: Provide public hunting and viewing opportunities. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 1: Conduct annual management activities that will provide habitat for a diversity of species. These include prescribed fire, herbicide application, annual green browse and small grain food plots. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Continue to monitor area use and limit special use permits that could impact use by other stakeholders. (Forestry)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Resolving any boundary line disputes with adjoining landowners.
- 2) Acquisition of land.

Management Objective 1: Resolve boundary line disputes if and when they arise.

(Forestry)

Strategy 1: As needed, Forestry Division will request surveys to better determine boundary locations. (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. (Forestry)

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Land Acquisition History: The area was named in honor of Mr. Wilbur Allen, the inventor of the compound bow. To commemorate Mr. Allen's contribution to archery, his family, in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation, established the conservation area in 1981. Its purpose is to promote the sport of bow hunting by providing a place where deer are hunted exclusively by bow. (Other wildlife species may be taken with firearms during the prescribed season.)

The property has a distant history of high-grade timber harvest and wildfire.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Upland Forests/Woodlands	253		66
Old Fields	61		16
Grasslands (non-prairie)	35		10
Crop Lands	10		2
Roads	3		1
Stream Frontage (first-order and above)	18	7,385	5
Total	380		100%

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2009). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and waters managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: County Location Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 4: Aerial Map

Figure 1: Area Map

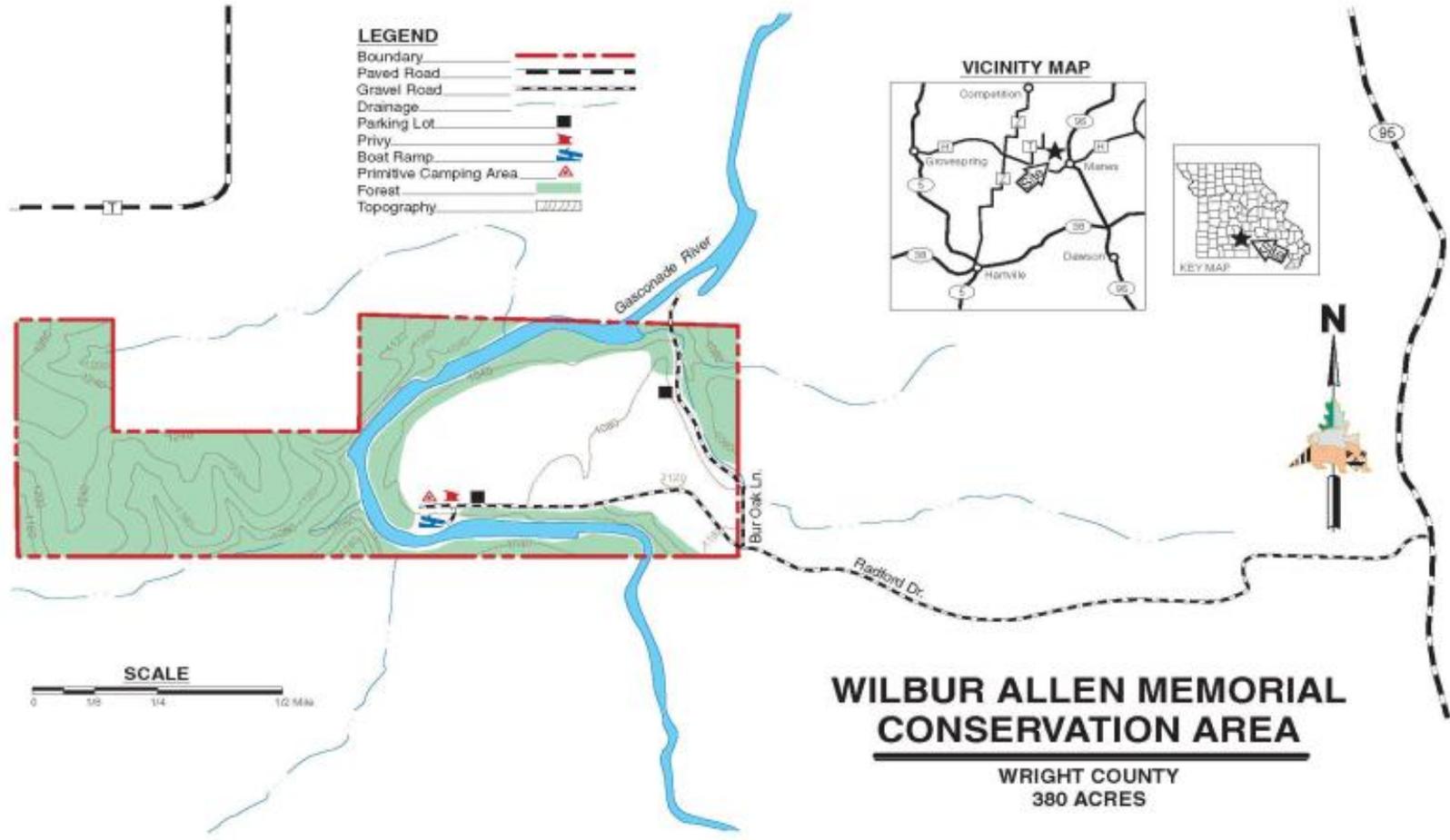


Figure 2: County Location Map

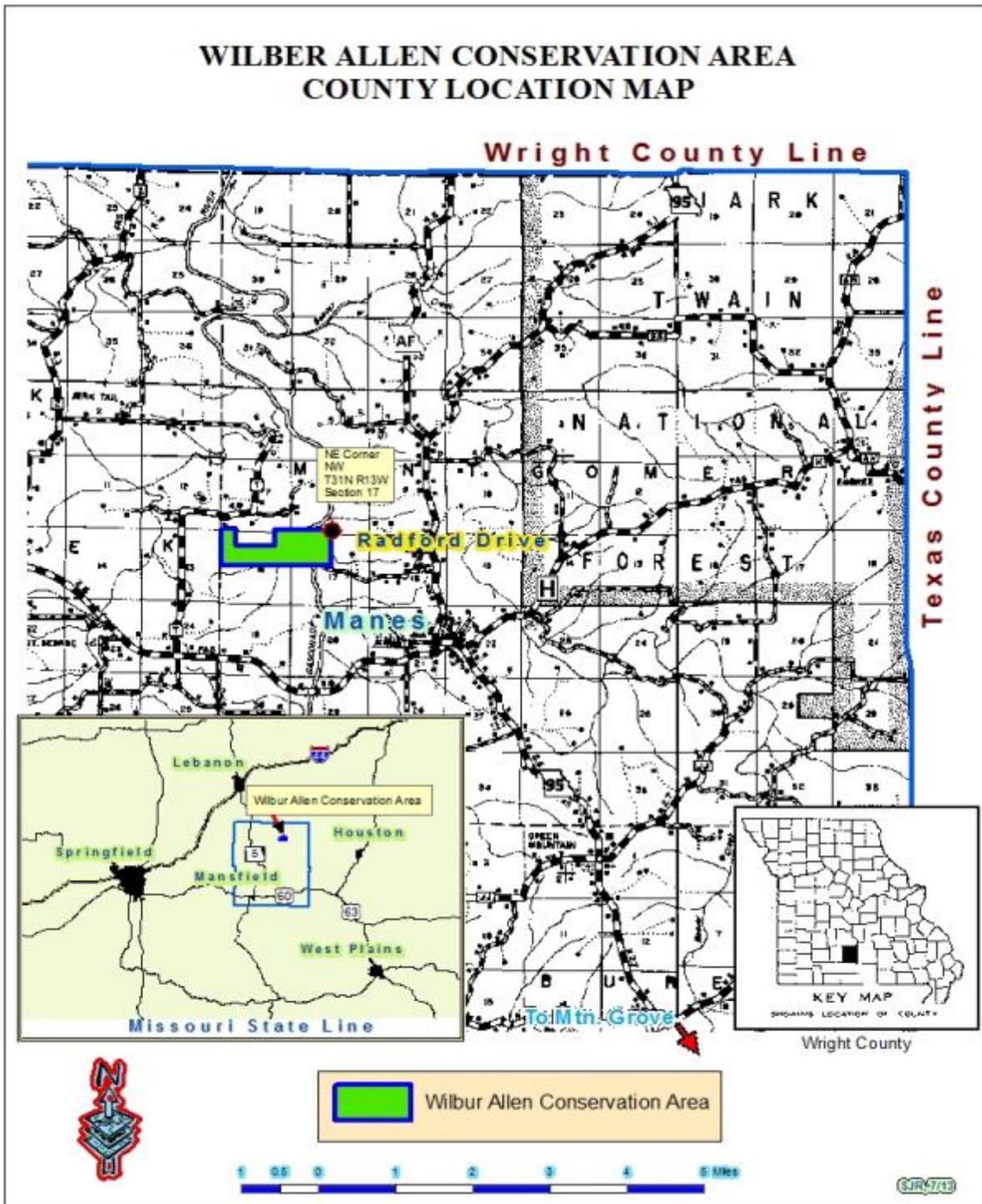
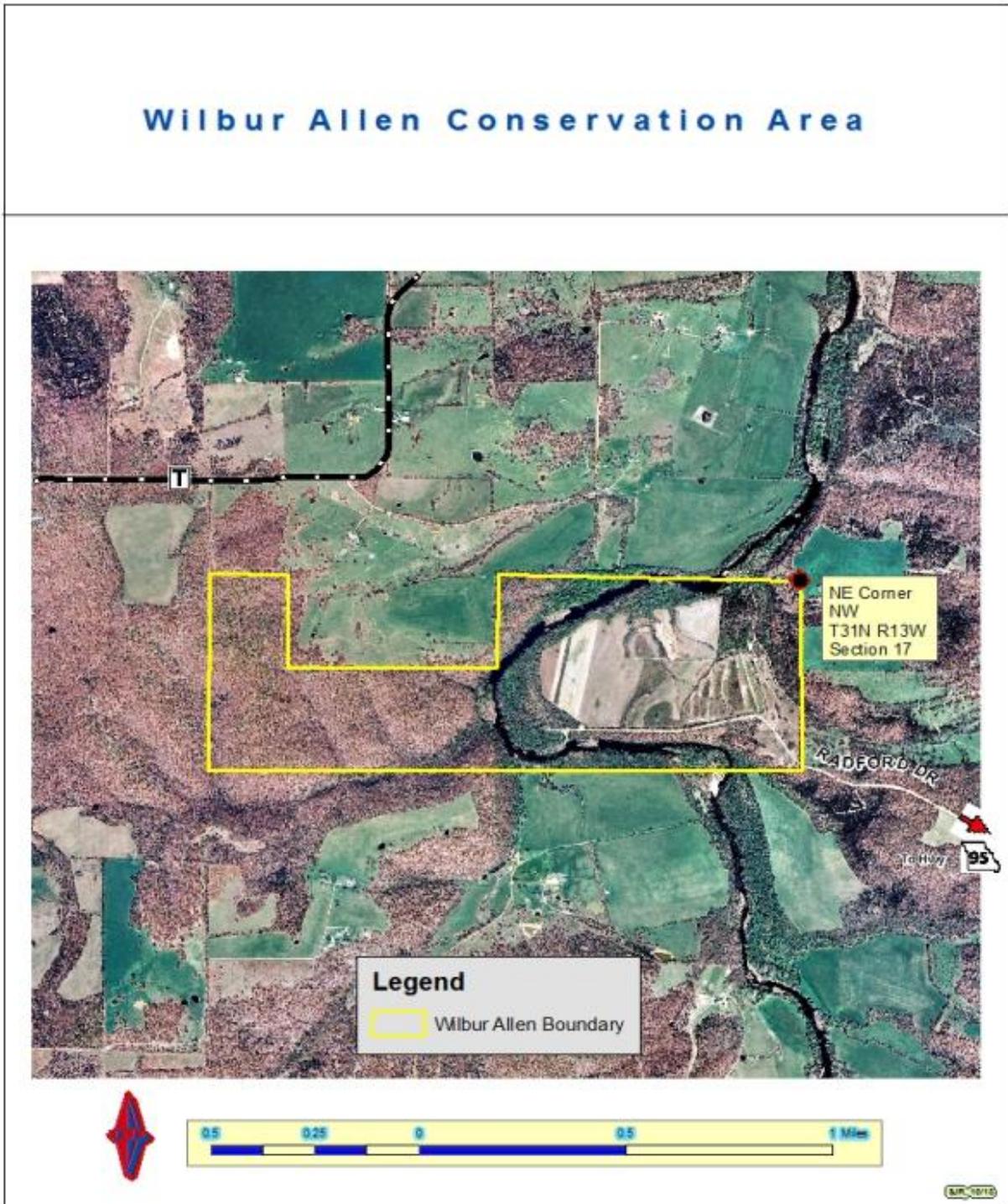


Figure 4: Aerial Map



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