

La Due Bottoms Conservation Area

Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan

FY 2018-2032





Wildlife Division Chief

21 MARCH 2018

Date

La Due Bottoms Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** La Due Bottoms Conservation Area, #9020
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1990
- **Acreage:** 361 acres
- **County:** Henry
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

The management emphasis of La Due Bottoms Conservation Area (CA) is to maintain forest and open land habitats for wildlife diversity.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of La Due Bottoms CA is a complex of forest, wetland, aquatic, and grassland communities.
 - 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:** None observed.
 - B. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None

- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - Two parking lots

- 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:** None
 - D. Cultural Resources Findings:** No known cultural resources.

E. Endangered Species: None observed.

F. Boundary Issues: Establishing and maintaining accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

La Due Bottoms CA includes 361 acres within three tracts of land. The area contains approximately 115 acres of old fields that were cropped prior to purchase. Several acres of warm-season grass and wet-prairie grass were restored on portions of the area. The area also contains approximately 29 acres of forest that consists primarily of hardwoods.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Early successional fields provide habitat for various wildlife species, including bobwhite quail, white-tailed deer, turkey, rabbits, and grassland birds. La Due Bottoms CA has several open fields that were planted to native grasses and converted to other early successional vegetation types. The fields become less desirable to wildlife as plant composition changes with time.
- 2) Deepwater Creek and highwater elevations from Truman Reservoir cause the crop fields on La Due Bottoms to flood for long durations.
- 3) Invasive plants continue to be a threat. *Sericea lespedeza*, Japanese honeysuckle, and tall fescue are well established. These species will continue to be a problem into the future.

Management Objective 1: Maintain early successional habitat and provide cover and food for wildlife.

Strategy 1: Manage old fields and wet prairie using methods that provide early successional habitat and cover. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Treat invasive vegetation infestations as they develop. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Use a variety of management tools including but not limited to prescribed fire, chemical and mechanical control to provide vegetative and structural diversity while providing woody control. (Wildlife)

Strategy 4: Provide crop rotations that will benefit a variety of waterfowl and upland wildlife species. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Promote healthy forest communities with an emphasis on providing wildlife habitat.

Strategy 1: Monitor forests for invasive vegetation, diseases, and insects. Suppress any infestations that may develop. (Wildlife, Forestry)

Strategy 2: Retain and protect existing snag and den trees to benefit a variety of wildlife species. (Wildlife, Forestry)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Deepwater Creek runs along the southern border of the eastern-most tract. It also cuts through the southwest corner of the western-most tract. Truman Reservoir periodically floods the area, providing seasonal fish and wildlife habitat.

Management Objective 1: Maintain and protect healthy watersheds by implementing best management practices.

Strategy 1: Follow the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009) and the Department's Resource Policy Manual to ensure that management activities adhere to best management practices. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Inspect the stream corridor to assess buffer widths and composition. Maintain a 100-foot forested corridor along the north side of Deepwater Creek. Expand corridors as necessary. (Fisheries, Wildlife)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Management opportunities exist on the eastern-most tract to develop wetlands and offer more dependable waterfowl use that meets the needs of a larger variety of wetland species.
- 2) Provide access to Deepwater Creek for hunting and fishing activities. Access to Deepwater Creek is 0.6 miles from the parking lot across area crop fields.

Management Objective 1: Provide public hunting and viewing opportunities.

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

Strategy 2: Allow trapping on the area, as appropriate, through the special use permitting guidelines. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Maintain parking lots, trails, and roads to aid area users in accessing various portions of the area. (Wildlife)

Strategy 4: Assess wetland potential for a minimalist management approach. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Improve educational and interpretive opportunities on La Due Bottoms CA.

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

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

Management Objective 3: Facilitate a good working relationship with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Establish regular communication with neighbors through periodic visits or phone calls to minimize any boundary, trespass, or any other issues affecting La Due Bottoms CA or private property. (Wildlife)

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

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Truman Reservoir periodically floods portions of the area for extended periods of time.
- 2) Area is divided into three separate tracts. One tract is separated from the other two by 0.75 miles.
- 3) Consider land acquisition, when available.

Management Objective 1: Maintain and improve area infrastructure.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with the Department guidelines and at currently identified maintenance level. (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.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32
Terrestrial Resource Management															
<i>Objective 2</i>															
Strategy 1			X												
Aquatic Resource Management															
<i>Objective 1</i>															
Strategy 2				X										X	
Public Use Management															
<i>Objective 1</i>															
Strategy 4			X												
<i>Objective 2</i>															
Strategy 2					X					X					X

APPENDICES

Area Background:

La Due Bottoms Conservation Area is in Henry County, 0.25 miles south of La Due. The Missouri Department of Conservation acquired this area in 1990 and manages it to preserve forest and upland habitat. The area is also managed to provide the public with opportunities for hunting, viewing, studying, and photographing forest and upland plants and animals.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Open Land	132		36
Old Field	115		32
Grassland	85		24
Forest	29		8
Total	361		100
Stream Frontage		3,960	

Public Input Summary:

The draft La Due Bottoms Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period June 1–30, 2017. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from one respondent (Appendix A). The La Due Bottoms 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 La Due Bottoms Conservation Area Management Plan public comment period.

Supports the La Due Bottoms CA management plan.

The area planning team appreciates this comment. We recognize the value that strong partnerships play in delivering conservation management and look forward to building on these relationships in the future.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (n.d.). *Missouri Natural Heritage database [Arc Geographic Information System datafiles]*. Retrieved from Missouri Department of Conservation shape files.

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. (2013). *Resource policy manual*. Missouri Department of Conservation intranet.

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

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A: La Due Bottoms Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Area Map

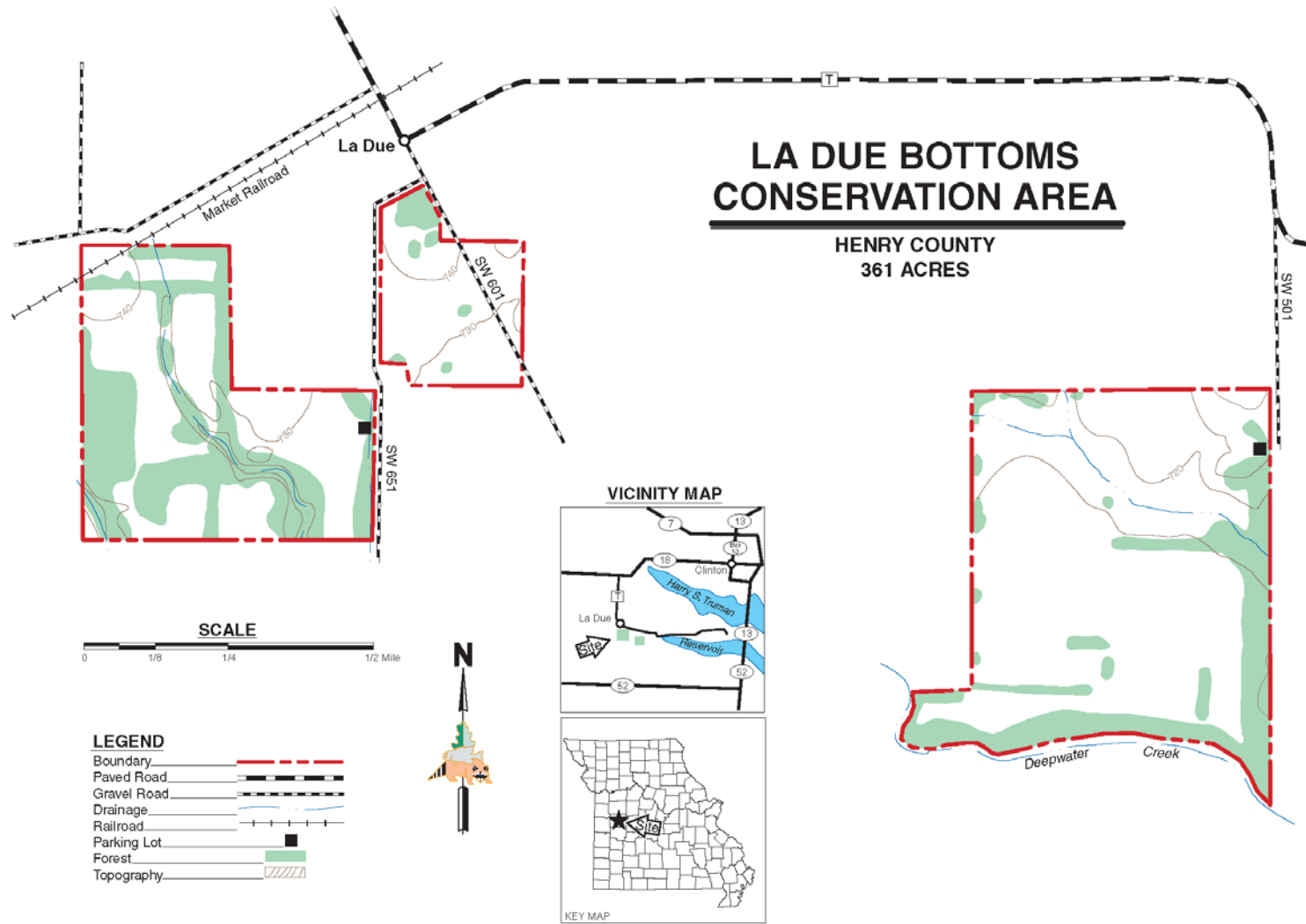


Figure 2: Aerial Map

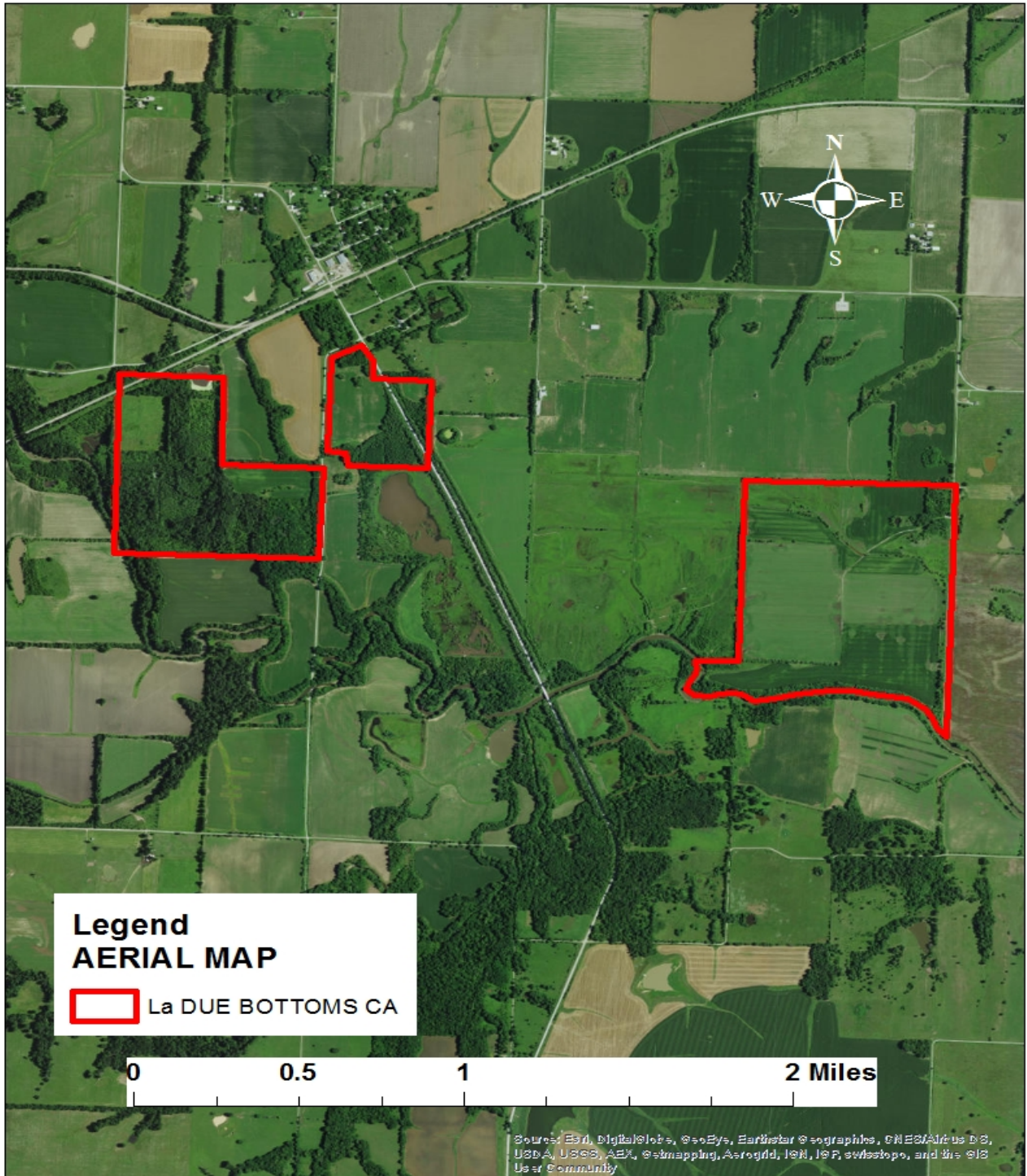


Figure 3: Topographic Map

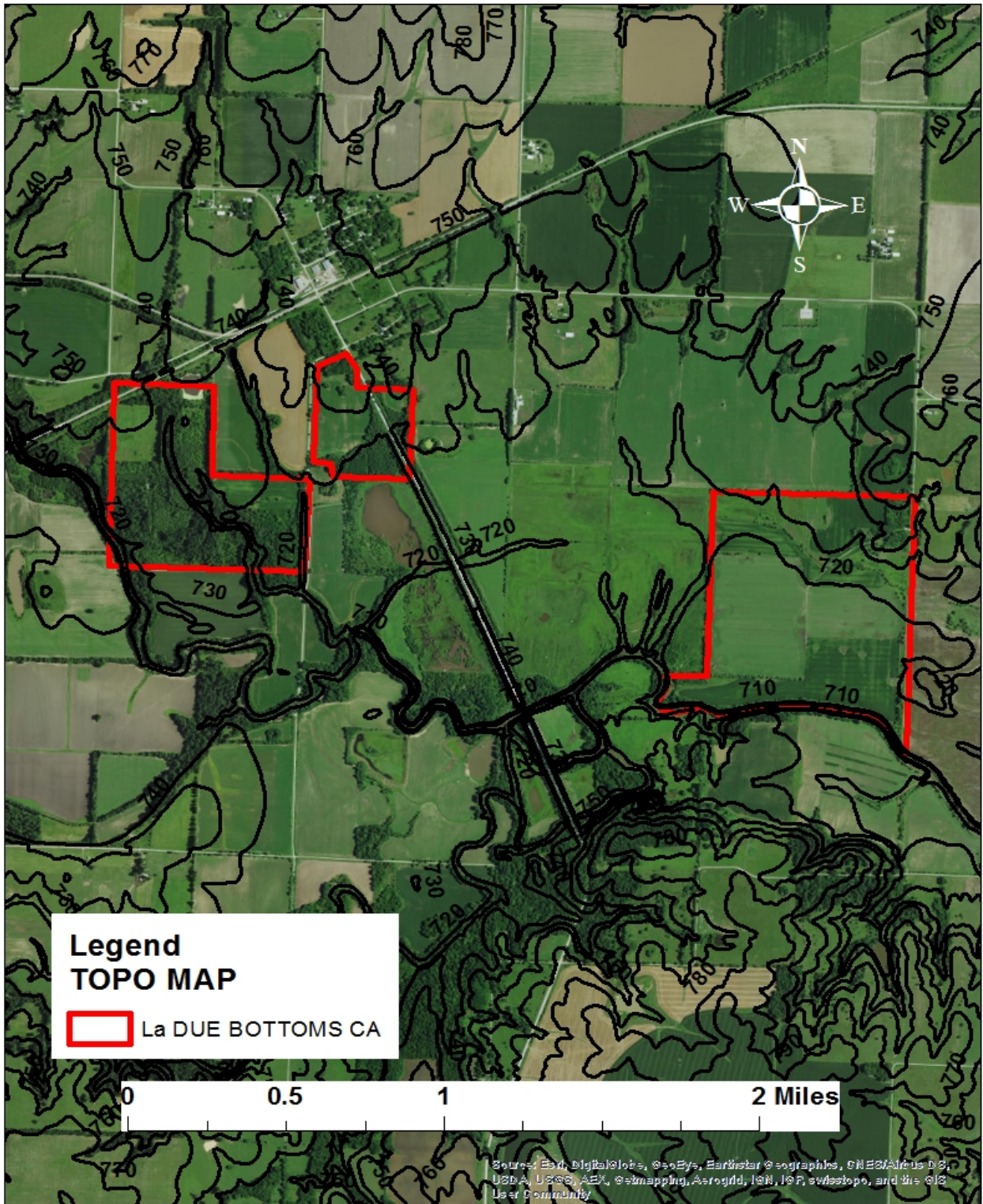
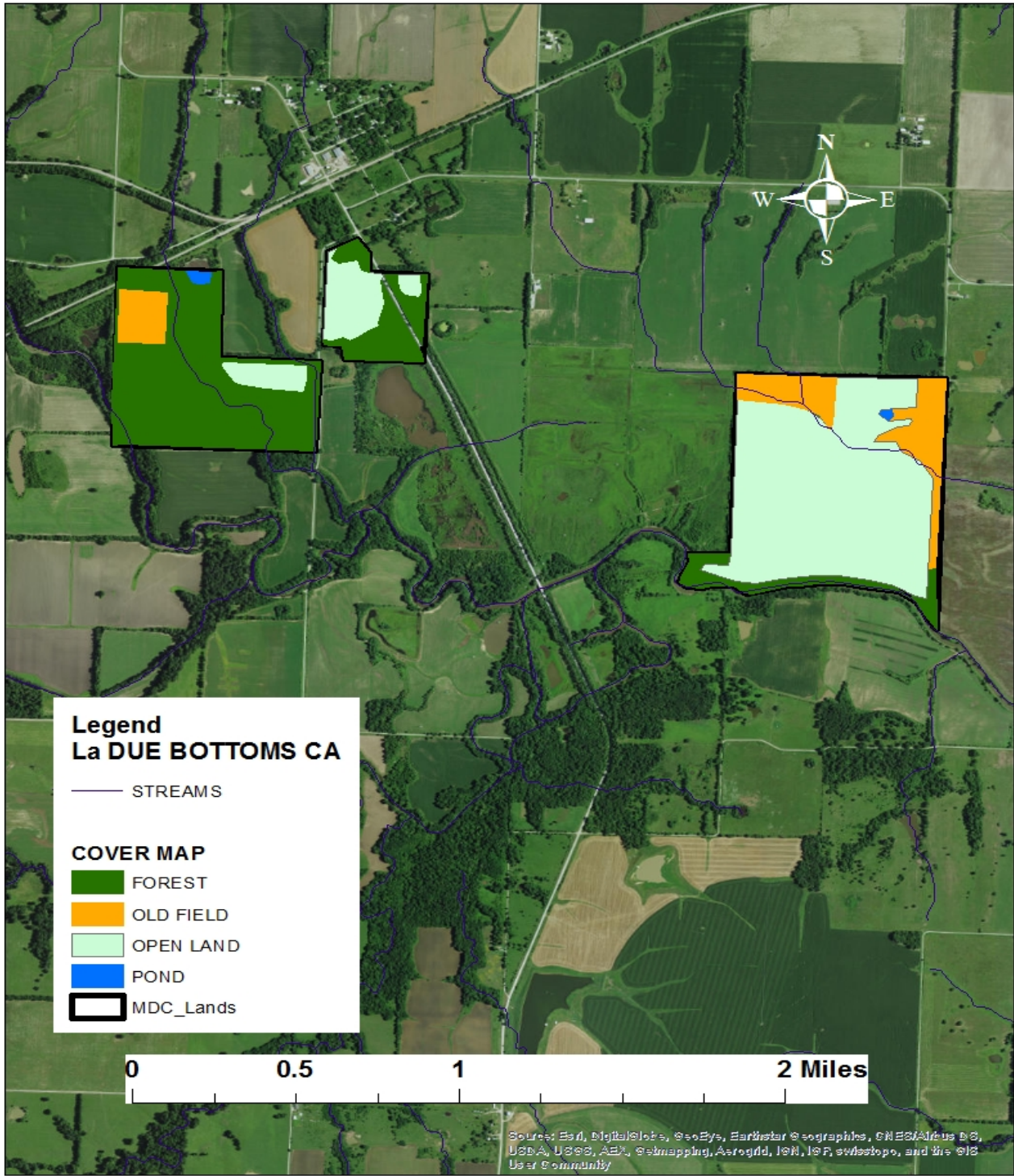


Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map



Appendix A: La Due Bottoms Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (June 1–30, 2017):

I think the plan is well thought out. I would be more than happy to volunteer my lodge and grounds as a rest spot, staging area or whatever you might need for any educational opportunities that might arise as outlined in the plan. If I can be of assistance in other ways just let me know. Obviously the biggest problem in developing habitat for the area is the flooding but then that also allows other types of wildlife to thrive.