

Sni-A-Bar Conservation Area

Ten Year Area Management Plan FY 2013-2023



Judi B. Allen

Forestry Division Chief

2-18-14

Date

Sni-A-Bar Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

Paul Whitsell, Resource Forester
Blake Stephens, Fisheries Specialist
Cynthia Green, Education Consultant
Steve Hoel, Private Land Conservationist
Lance Moore, Conservation Agent
Steve Cooper, Wildlife Management Biologist

KANSAS CITY REGION

Richard Grishow, KC RCT Chair


Signature

12-12-13
Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

John Tuttle, Unit Chief


Signature

2-12-14
Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Sni-A-Bar Conservation Area (CA), # 9626
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1996
- **Acreage:** 80 acres
- **County:** Lafayette
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- Statements of Purpose:
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Maintain the health of the restored forest natural community and the wooded corridor along Sni-a-bar Creek while increasing white-tailed deer habitat in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Wetland Reserve Program.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Sni-A-Bar CA is a healthy bottomland forest community with an adequate riparian forest corridor along Sni-a-bar Creek and its tributary.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

This area, or a portion thereof, was developed with USDA Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) funds to provide wetland habitat through perpetual easements.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** None
 - B. Natural Area:** None
- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None
 - B. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None
- III. Existing Infrastructure**

The area does not have a parking lot; a pull-off with a pipe gate located on the southwest corner of the area provides access off of Gillespie Road. Limited access is also provided by a mowed service road that is maintained along part of the southern boundary of the area beginning at the pull-off. A culvert tube is located under the pull-off to allow for the intermittent flow of the 1st order stream.

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed restrictions or ownership considerations:** None
- B. Federal Interest:** The wetland conservation easements permanently prohibits use of the affected land as cropland and require permanent maintenance of the wetland conditions, except in the case of natural disaster. After the easement has been perfected, no change will be made in the easement without a written request by the participant and the written consent of the NRCS Chief. 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.
- C. Easements:** None
- 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

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Sni-A-Bar CA is entirely forested. There are two age classes of timber tracts on the area. The first contains 38 acres of bottomland riparian forest along Sni-a-bar Creek. The second age class of timber consists of a 42-acre tree plantation that was planted in 1990 by a private landowner. Trees planted were: pin oak, green ash, pecan, bald cypress, sweet gum, bur oak, dogwood, and persimmon. This plantation and portions of the timber south of the creek totaling 56.8 acres are enrolled in the WRP. A timber stand improvement (cut-stump treatment) was accomplished in 2008 to remove all trees growing in the tree plantation that were not planted.
- 2) The USDA Conservation Plan WRP restrictions for forest management are as follows: “Timber management and harvest activities will be in accordance with a forestry plan developed by local Missouri Department of Conservation forester, prior to management or harvest activities. All timber management and harvest plans must maintain the functions and values of the restored wetland and be approved by the NRCS and FWS before implementation”. WRP restrictions for

exotic invasive species are as follows: “State and locally identified noxious weeds will be controlled as required by state and local ordinances for the duration of the easement. Measures to control noxious weeds will be applied in a manner that will not adversely affect the easement area. Weeds may be controlled mechanically or with herbicides by spot treatment. All pesticides will be applied according to label directions... and applied in a manner that will not adversely affect wildlife or the wetland area.”

Management Objective 1: Maintain a healthy bottomland forest natural community while increasing white-tailed deer habitat.

Strategy 1: Conduct a forest inventory of each stand before performing any forest management work.

Strategy 2: Utilize the forest inventory as guidance to restore the natural communities as needed.

Strategy 3: Monitor invasive species populations and control as needed.

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Over 3,400 feet of Sni-a-bar Creek, a 5th order stream, flows through the area. Also 1,100 feet of a 1st order tributary flows north adjacent to the western area boundary line and into Sni-a-bar Creek. These are the only aquatic features of the property.

Management Objective 1: Maintain healthy aquatic habitats.

Strategy 1: Maintain a riparian buffer of at least 100 feet of trees and/or shrubs along Sni-a-bar Creek and a buffer of at least 50 feet along the 1st order tributary.

Strategy 2: Refer to MDC’s “Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines” before starting forest management activities along this riparian buffer.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities

- 1) Sni-A-Bar CA receives minimal use due to its secluded location and inaccessibility. There are a handful of archery deer hunters who use the area. One Special Use Permit for trapping is typically issued each year. There is a geocache currently on the area. Fishing is listed as an area use, although it is uncertain as to how many people fish at Sni-A-Bar CA. The stream is floatable during high water and a person may be able to float to the MO River, which is at least 15 river

miles, but there currently are several large trees in the creek channel that would impede floating.

- 2) The area is challenging to access for several reasons: there is a 1st order tributary along the entire western area boundary adjacent to the road, portions of the conservation area north of the creek are unreachable unless the creek is crossed and the tree plantation is very thick and difficult to walk through. The area contains no welcome sign or bulletin board. There are signs posted along the boundary.

Management Objective 1: Ensure the area is clean.

Strategy 1: Consider organizing a volunteer group to collect trash out of the creek under the bridge.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) None

Management Objective 1: Acquisition of land

Strategy 1: 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:

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Terrestrial Resources Management										
Objective 1										
Strategy 1		X			X					
Strategy 2			X			X				
Public Use Management										
Objective 1										
Strategy 1	X					X				

APPENDICES

Area Background

Sni-A-Bar CA has had limited public use since it became a conservation area in 1996. The area was purchased for the following potential uses: floating (during high water), bank fishing, bird watching, mushroom hunting, and possibly some upland game hunting. Currently, the area is used for some archery deer hunting and trapping. Fishing is fair for catfish, carp, and gar depending on stream flow. Several years ago, there was concern with single-shot hunting and target practice, and a petition was signed in 1998 for the Department to discontinue single-shot firearm hunting & target shooting. Single-shot hunting is now prohibited on the area, and deer can only be taken by archery methods only.

The forests on the area were under management in the Tree Farm System when the land was in private ownership in the 1990s, and are currently being managed to restore the bottomland forest community. The Tree Farm inspecting forester's notes contain information on tree species composition and the management recommendations at that time. The plantation was planted in 1990. The ground was tillable before the tree planting. The plantation was enrolled in CRP and expired in 2000. It was then enrolled in the WRP. The plantation grew up in vegetation between rows over the years and a contractor was hired to thin out all trees that weren't planted. There was a timber sale on the north side of the creek in 1994 by the private landowner. The timber sale specifics can be found in the Sni-A-Bar CA files.

Current Land and Water Types (See Appendix III)

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Bottomland Forest/ Tree Plantation	42		52.5
Bottomland/Riparian Forest	38		47.5
Total	80		100
Stream Frontage		3400	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Sni-A-Bar Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period October 1 – October 31, 2013. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from two respondents (Appendix A). The Sni-A-Bar 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 Sni-A-Bar public comment period

Support continuing ban on single shot hunting/target practice at Sni-A-Bar CA.

The Area Plan Team agrees that target shooting and firearm deer hunting are not appropriate uses at Sni-A-Bar CA, and those activities will continue to be prohibited. Single shot projectiles are, however, currently allowed at Sni-A-Bar CA to harvest game species other than deer.

Agree with management practices described in area plan.

The Area Plan Team appreciates this comment and will continue to manage the area for Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife, as well as for people to enjoy these natural resources.

References:

Sni-A-Bar Conservation Area Historic Files. 1989-2012. Burr Oak Woods CNC.
USDA Conservation Plan- WRP (TYLER/SNI-A-BAR CA). 1994. Burr Oak Woods CNC Files.
MDC Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines. 2009. MDC Forestry Intranet.

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A: Draft Sni-A-Bar Area Plan Public Comments

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Topographic Map

Figure 3: Current Land and Water Types Map

Figure 4: Soils Map

Appendix A. Draft Sni-A-Bar Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (October 1-31, 2013)

As a land owner in the immediate area of the Sni-a-Bar CA I fully agree with the ten year management plan. Thank you for giving me a chance to give my input.

The draft proposal looks positive to us.

We are adjacent land owners to this area. We strongly feel that single-shot hunting/target practice must continue to be prohibited and that this must be enforced for the safety of surrounding property owners.

Figure 1: Area Map

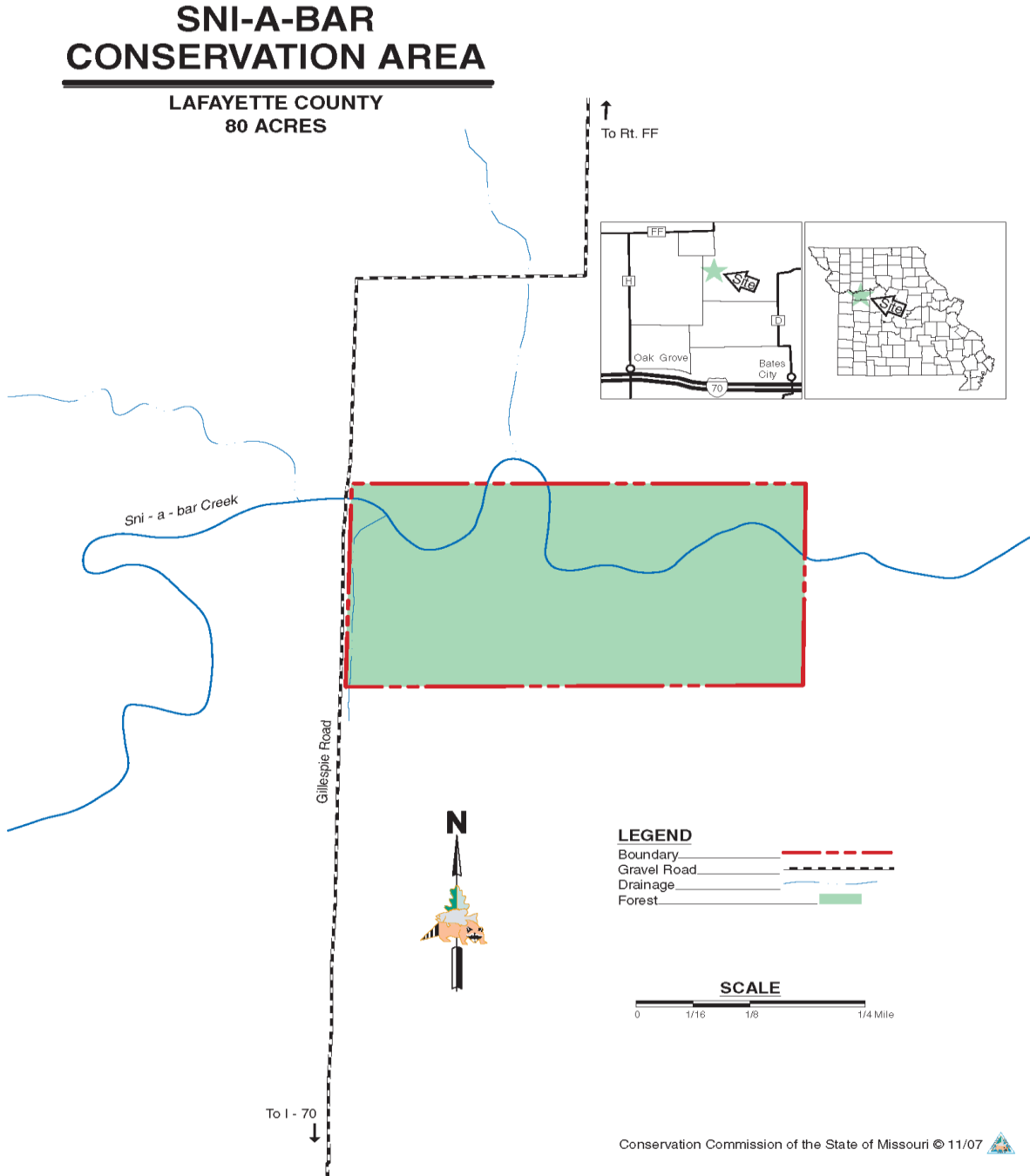


Figure 2: Topographic Map

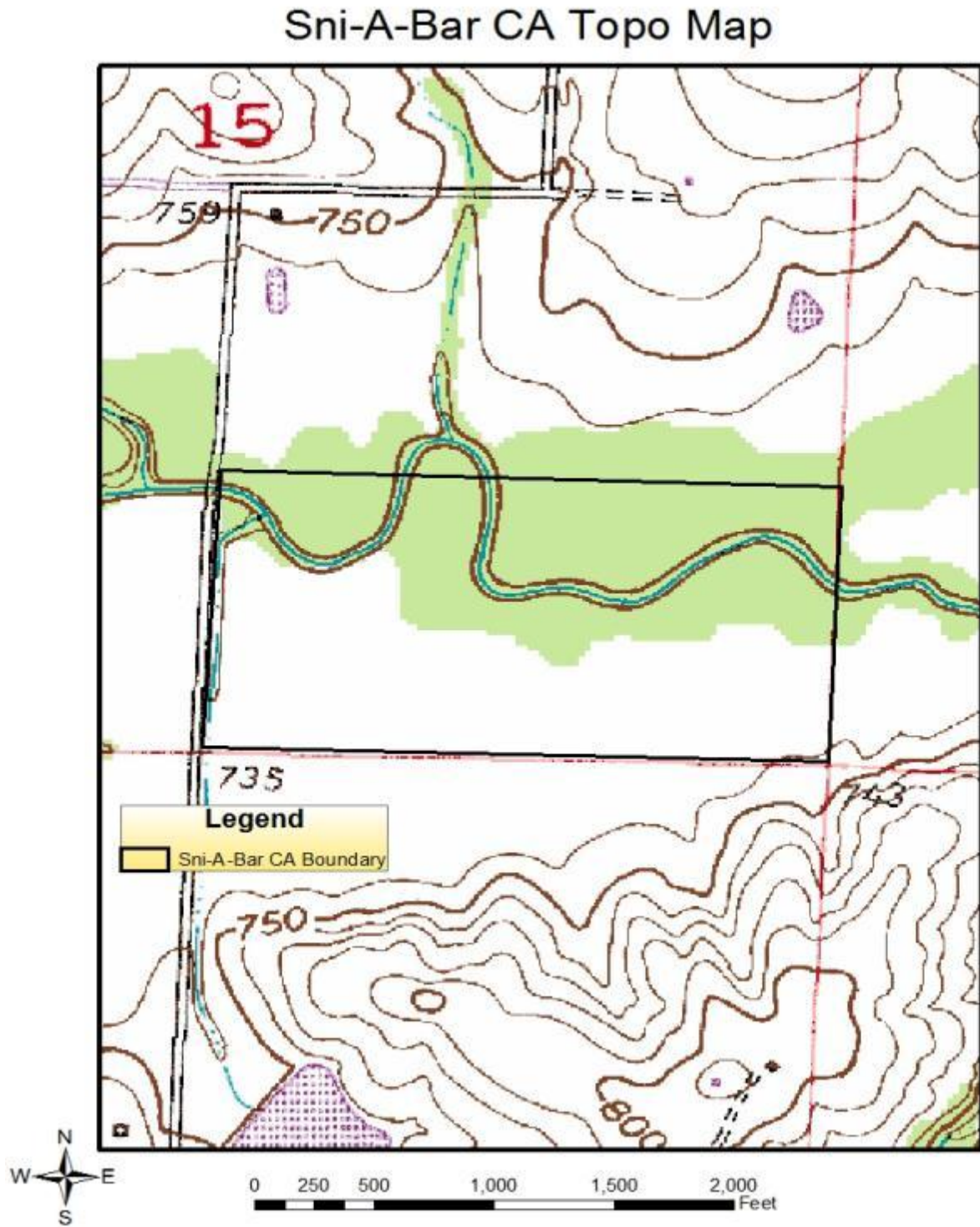


Figure 3: Current Land Type Map

Sni-A-Bar CA Land Type Map

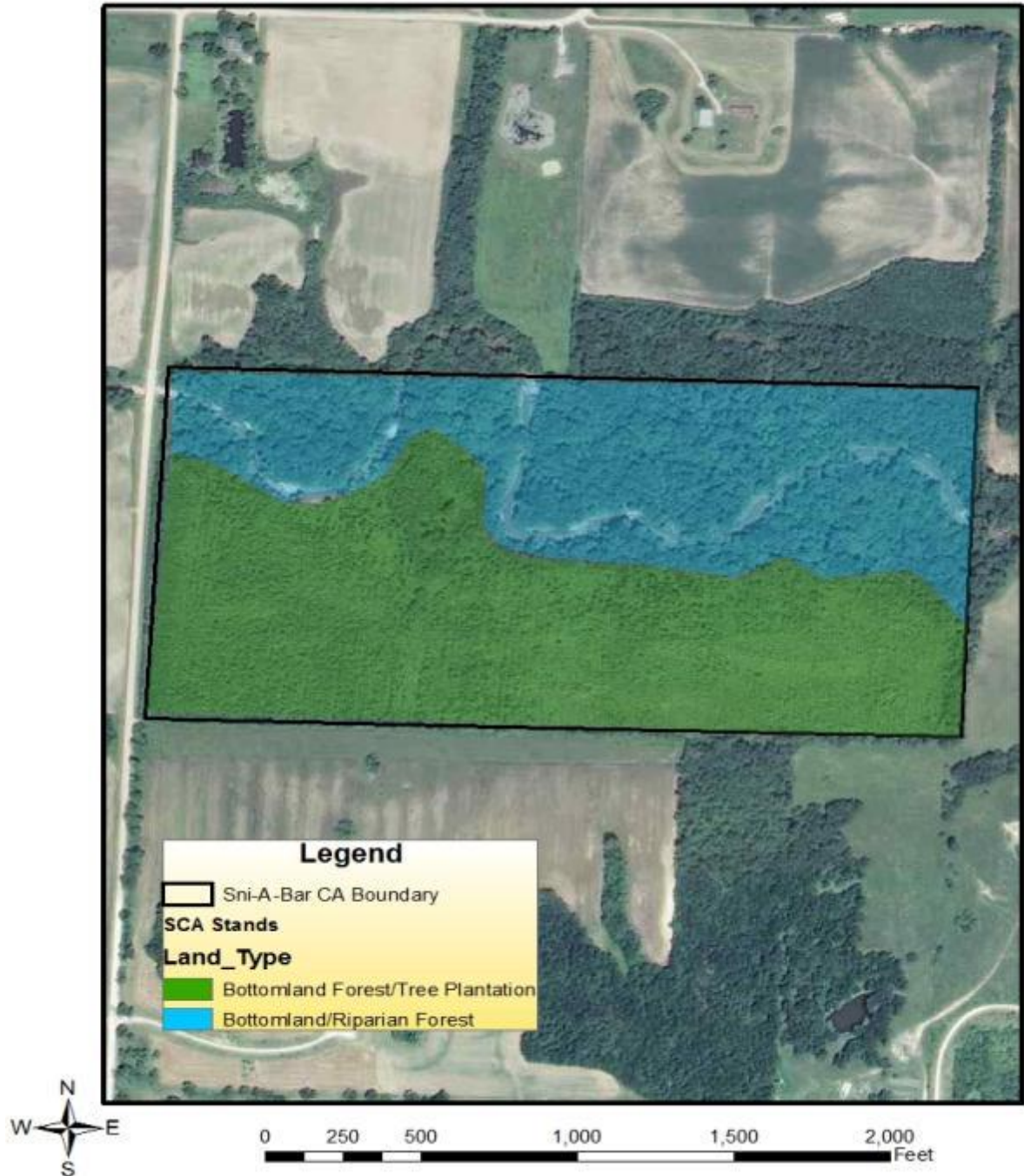


Figure 4: Soils Map

