

Land Management and Massasaugas

Bob Ford

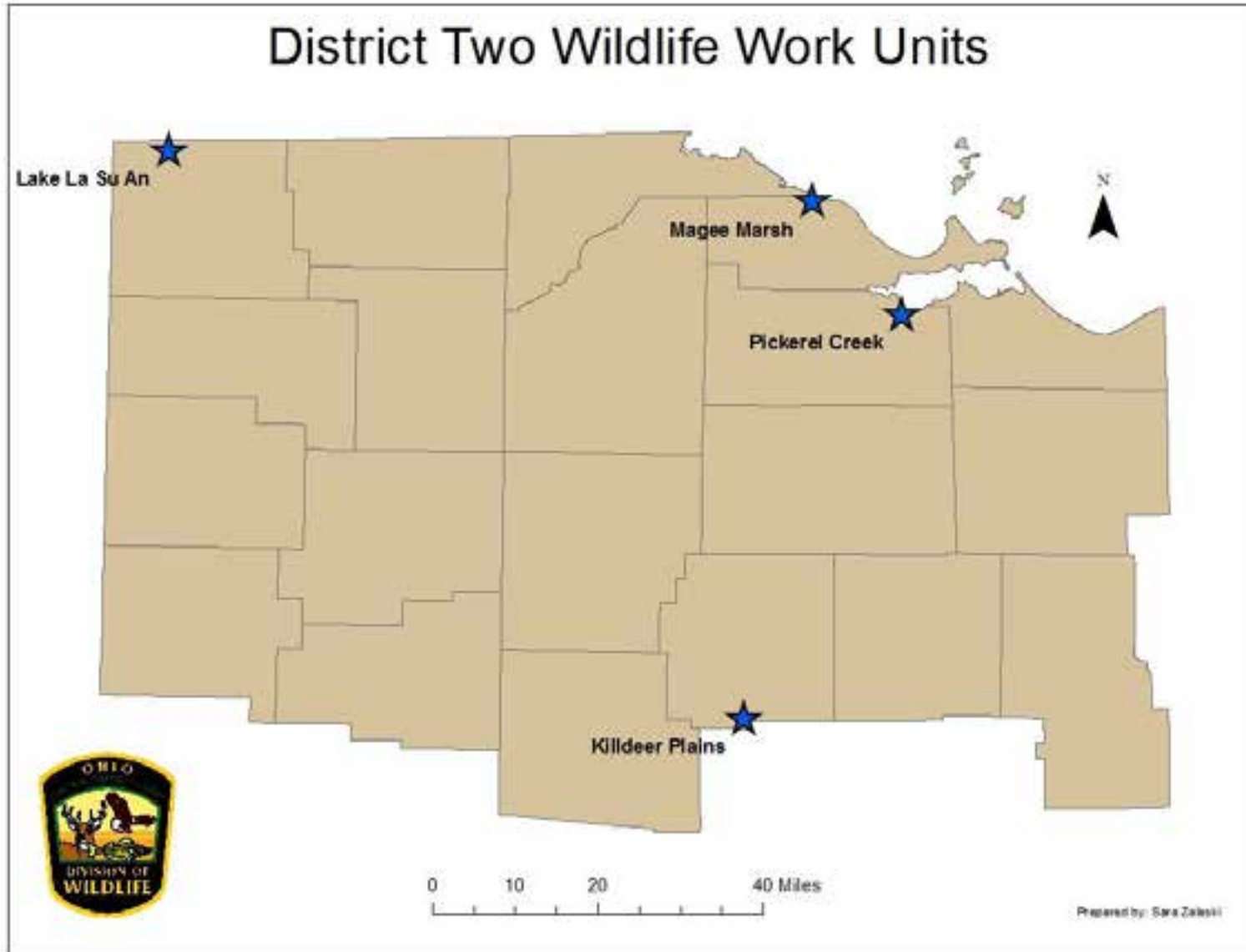
Wildlife Management Supervisor



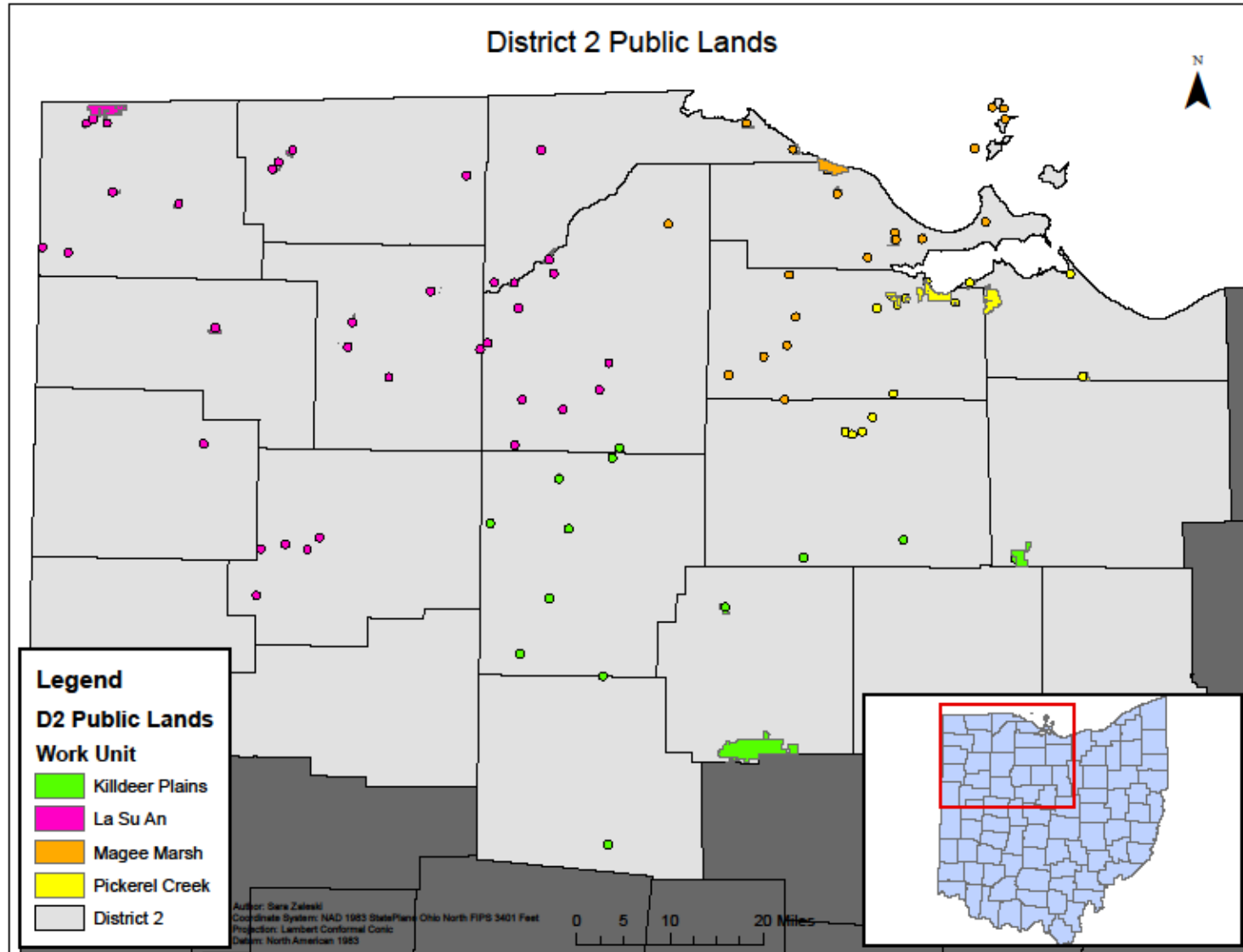
Features of Northwest OH



District Two Public Land Management



District Two Public Land Management



Recreational Opportunities

Provide wildlife recreational opportunities on wildlife areas and agreement properties.

- Multiple wildlife viewing opportunities
- Provide more than 40 controlled hunting and trapping opportunities annually on 15 properties
- Hand trap shooting ranges
- Mobility Impaired Access Areas
- Augment wild populations for hunting opportunities



Public Land Habitat Management



Grassland burn to control woody succession

Wetland dike repair



Wetland pump repair at Pickerel Creek



Aerial spraying to control invasive vegetation



Cormorant culling on Green Island



Massasauga Habitat Management

4 ODNR, Division of Wildlife properties in OH with known Massasauga populations

Populations have been determined to no longer exist on 2 additional properties within the last 5 years.



Willard Marsh

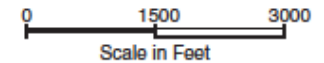
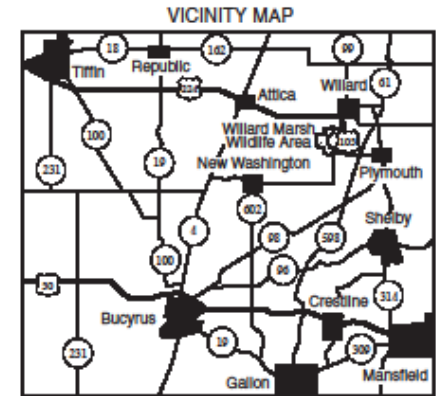
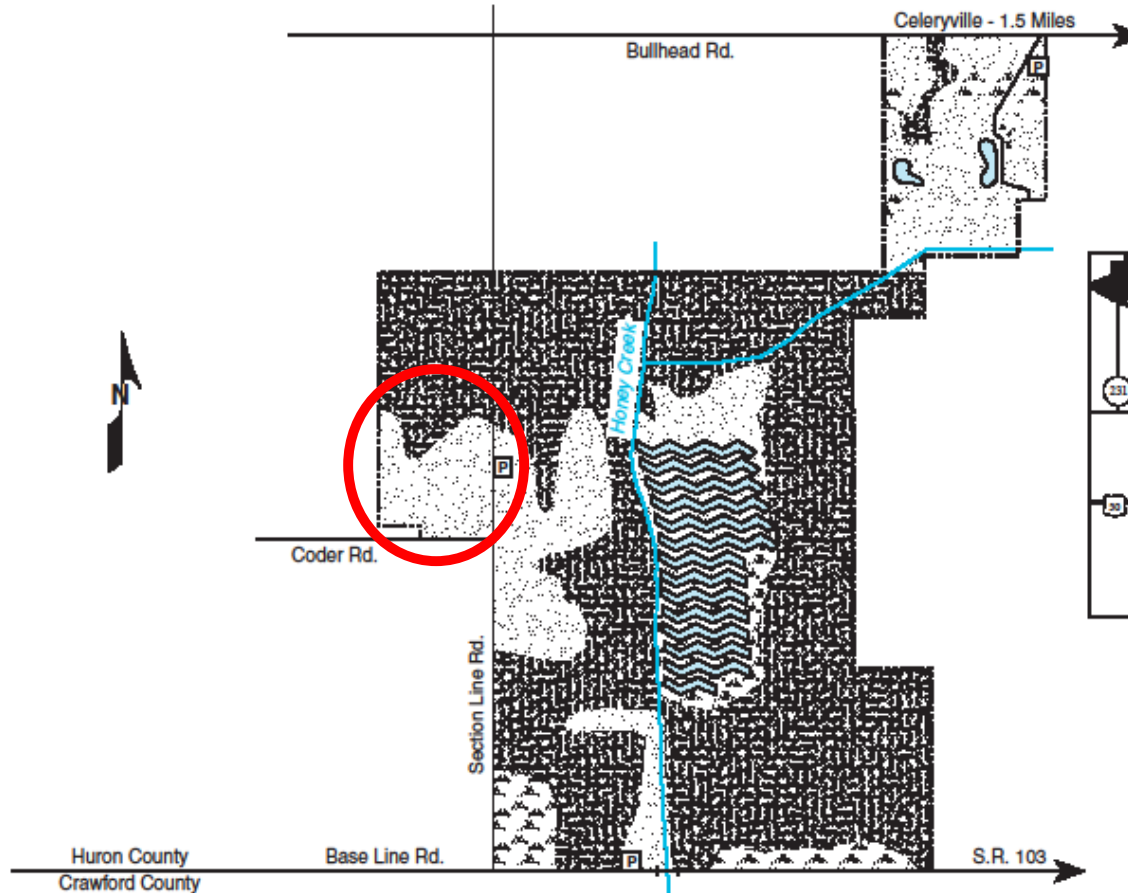
Public Hunting & Fishing
1,676 Acres

Division of Wildlife
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
WILLARD MARSH WILDLIFE AREA
Huron County

Publication 39
(R296)

LEGEND

	Parking
	Brushland
	Woodland
	Grassland
	Level Ditch
	Bridge
	Water



Willard Marsh

Willard Marsh Wildlife Area Massassauga - Cooperative Farming Map



All crop fields have been farmed for at least 20 years.



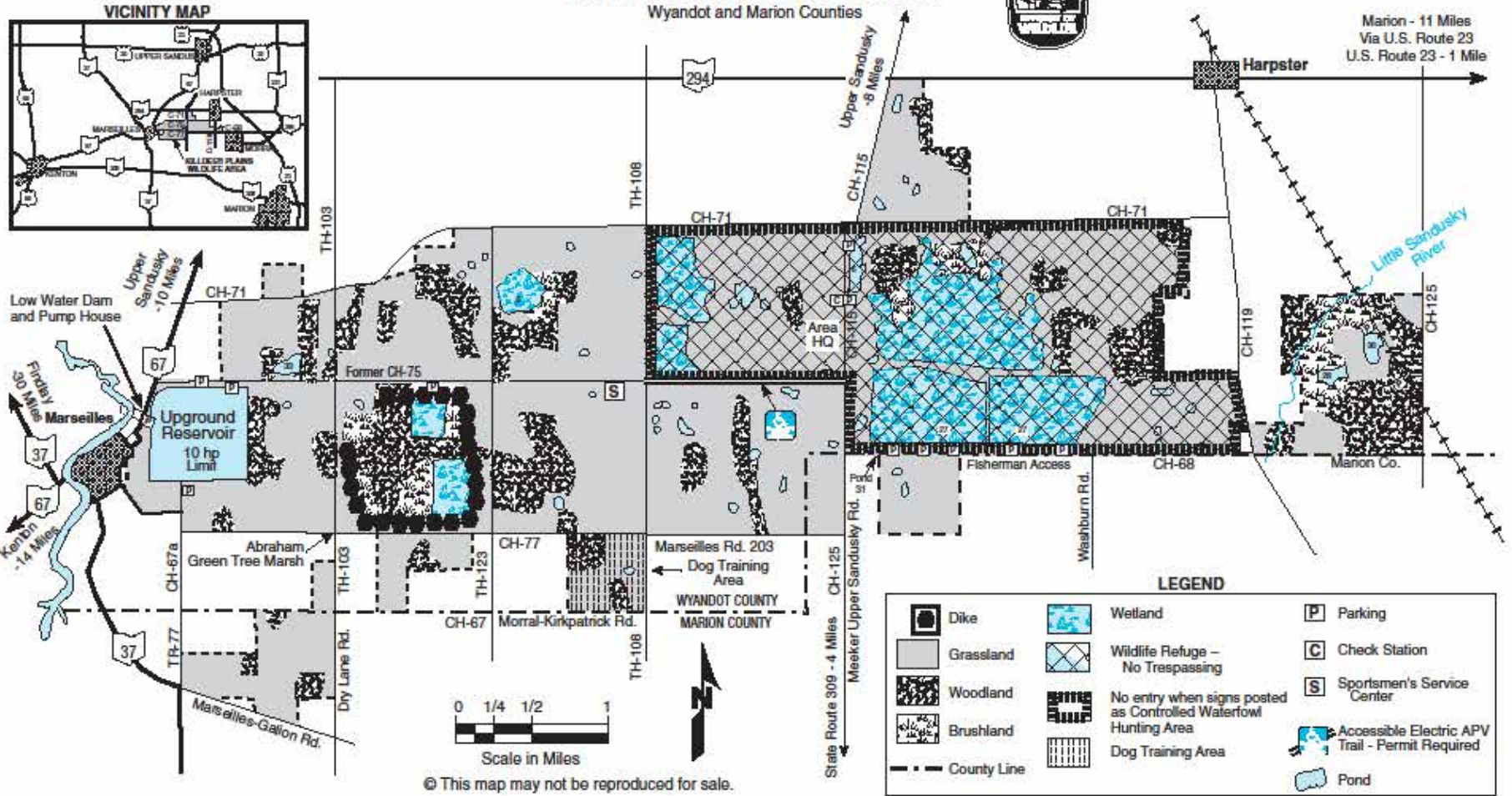
Killdeer Plains

PUBLIC HUNTING, TRAPPING & FISHING
9,230 ACRES

Division of Wildlife
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
KILLDEER PLAINS WILDLIFE AREA
Wyandot and Marion Counties



Publication 23
(R808)



Massasauga Habitat Management



The Challenge:
Woody Succession
Invasive Species
Best Management Practice Restrictions
Species Conflicts

Species Conflicts

Killdeer Plains has confirmed populations of both Indiana and Northern Longeared Bats.

Controlling woody succession is a conflict with enhancing forested bat habitat.

BMP's to control woody succession and avoid negative impacts to bat species narrow the window of opportunity to enhance Massasauga Habitat.



Massasauga Habitat Management Solutions



Aerial Spraying

- Large parcels of property in a quick time-frame
- Reduced staffing resources required
- Reduced risk of mortality from ground equipment

Mulching Head (Fecon)

- Initial treatment of management sites
- Most work is completed during the late fall / winter months during the inactive period for snakes and bats



Massasauga Habitat Management Solutions

- **Prescribed Fire Techniques**
 - Abide by the BMP's in the Biological Opinion
 - Use back fires as primary method



Massasauga Habitat Management Solutions



Massasauga Habitat Management Solutions

- **Most important solutions to habitat management issues for the Massasauga are Partnerships and open communication!**



Massasauga Habitat Management Solutions



Snake Surveys

- Individuals walk fields in a line and collect any snakes observed.
- Excellent way to find a large number of specimens in a short period of time.

As many as 60+ snakes (39 MRS) in a few hours

Excellent way to educate personnel and partners



Massasauga Habitat Management Solutions

Massasauga Rattlesnake Survey Data

- **Crucial to evaluating various aspects of the Species**
- **From a land management perspective, body condition is an important parameter to evaluate.**
- **Snake response to various types of habitat management techniques is key.**



Species Benefits



Questions

