

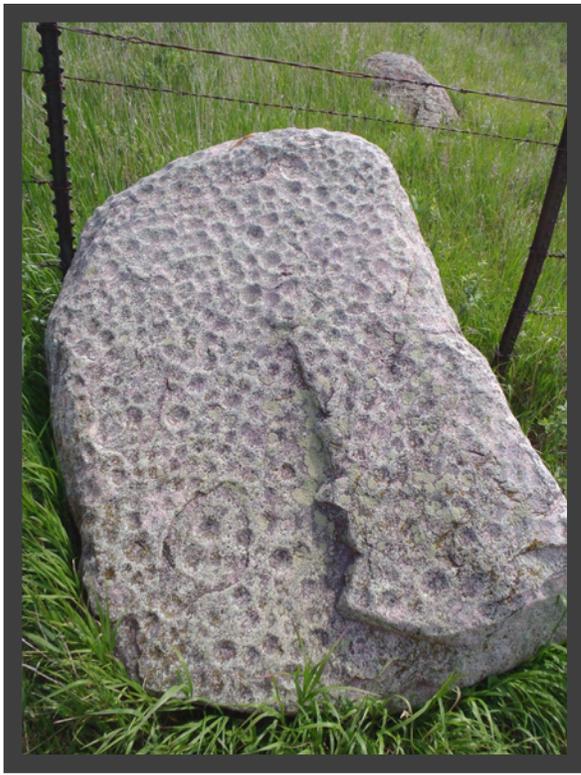
BLOOD RUN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE AND NEEDS | LYON COUNTY, IOWA

MARCH 2013



Sioux quartzite boulder with over 700 pits.
Photo Credit: John Pearson

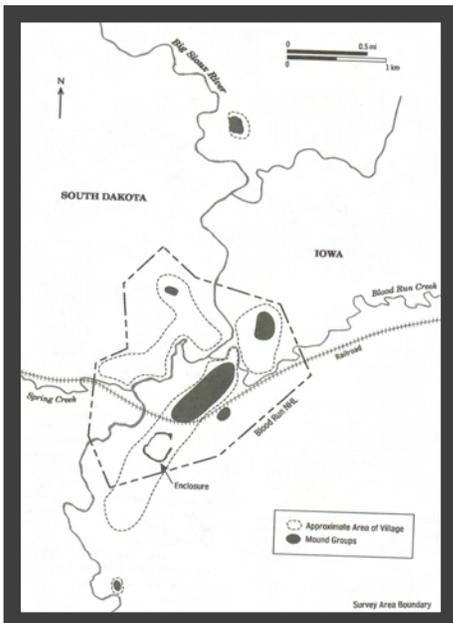
The **Blood Run National Historic Landmark** is a site that bridges many worldviews in time and culture. It is a place of many voices, many histories, and many stories. At its highpoint in the 16th and 17th centuries the site represented the center of a bustling, complex world linked to the quarries at today's Pipestone National Monument in Minnesota, the activities that created the Jeffers petroglyph site in Minnesota, and far beyond through trade. For its time, Blood Run held an important position among societies on the cusp of drastic and inalterable change. Blood Run is a site with many pasts and competing visions for the future. To understand why things happened the way they did at the place known archaeologically as Blood Run is to move through the land, the place, the times.



Pipes and pipestone fragments characteristic of Blood Run.



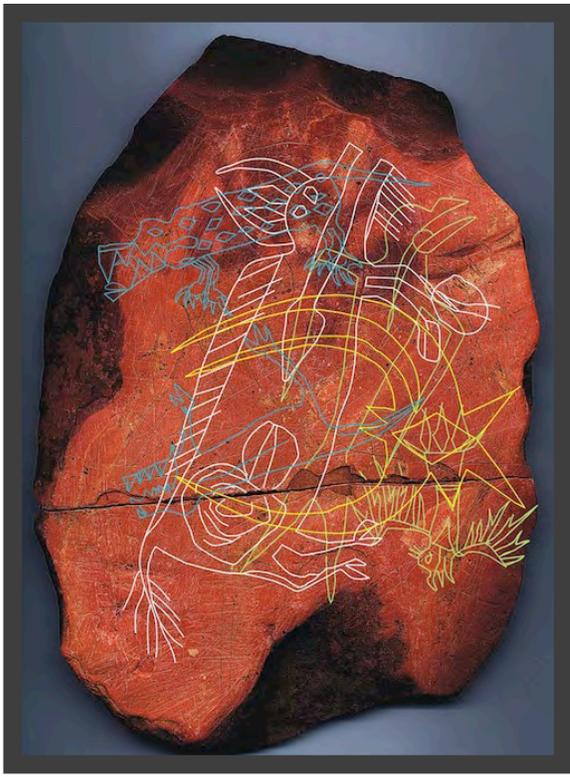
Blood Run encompasses over 1.3 square miles (844 acres) along both sides of the Big Sioux River on the Iowa/South Dakota border. Named for Blood Run Creek, the site was home to numerous prehistoric and protohistoric groups. Most notably, it is the largest known and most complex site of the late prehistoric Oneota tradition. Above the ground, remnants of this community include large and small mounds and enigmatic pitted boulders—large rocks with hundreds of small “cups” covering their surface. Between 68 and 80 mounds are still visible in Iowa today. Historically reported were other pitted boulders, boulder outlines (“stone circles”), a serpent effigy mound, and a 15-acre enclosure (an oval-shaped earthen embankment). Whether all of these features once existed is yet to be confirmed by archaeologists. In South Dakota, at least two mounds are still visible, although early historic accounts document several more.



Map of the Blood Run National Historic Landmark.



Aerial photograph of Blood Run site indicating the presence of many mounds, in an area currently under yearly agricultural cultivation. Photo Credit: Mike Whye



Catlinite Tablet from the Blood Run site, with some incised figures and motifs enhanced.



Blood Run Marine Shell
Runtee.



Man-in-the-Mood bead.

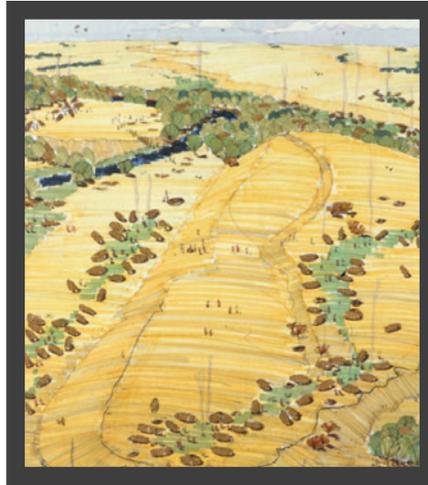
Recognition of Blood Run as a valuable national historical and cultural asset is long-standing. Efforts to map and research its resources began as early as the late 1800s by Pettigrew and others. In 1970, the National Park Service designated Blood Run a National Historic Landmark. In 1987, the Iowa Legislature's Recreation Tourism & Leisure Committee recognized the importance of the site and provided funding for additional archaeological research and acquisition. The State Historical Society, with assistance of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, acquired a key 230 acre tract within the core area of the site on the Iowa side. This property is now managed by the Lyon County Conservation Board. A few years later, the State of South Dakota purchased a similarly-sized part of the site on the west side of the river.

In 2000, a study by the National Park Service suggested that significant cultural resources related to the Blood Run occupation could cover a much larger area. With additional study, the National Historic Landmark may be expanded to include up to 3,000 acres. While easements and county zoning regulations have also contributed to resource protection on surrounding Iowa properties, the bi-state site has consistently been listed as threatened on the National Park Service "Landmarks of Risk". A

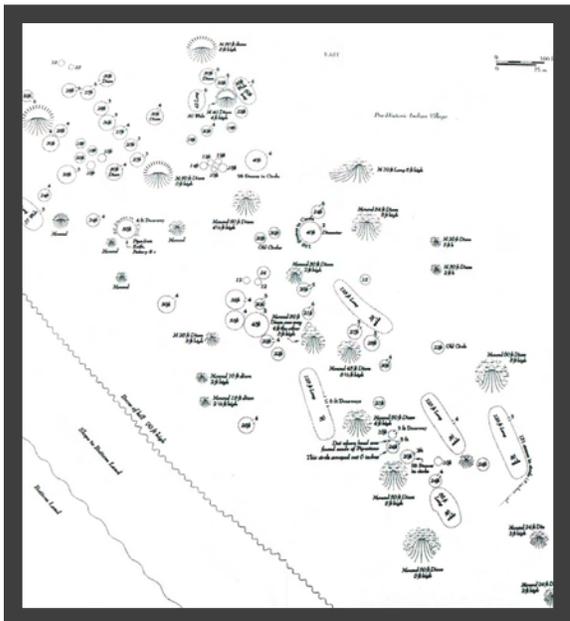
lack of planning and enforceable stabilization activities, coupled with ongoing agricultural cultivation, threatens these national resources.

To alleviate the risk to their Blood Run resources, South Dakota has recently made the protection of Blood Run resources a top priority. The state has acquired additional properties and moved forward with the creation of a Master Plan and legislative actions to designate Blood Run as its next State Park.

In Iowa, critical properties may soon change hands, and it is now urgently necessary to consider ways in which resource protection and interpretation can be enhanced.



Artist's rendition of Native American occupation of the Blood Run site.



Pettigrew Map of Blood Run Archaeological Resources - 1886.



The Blood Run site is also rich in natural and scenic resources. Photo Credit: John Pearson

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION | BLOOD RUN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

The future of the Iowa portion of the Blood Run National Historic Landmark is at a critical crossroads. Opportunities for action are already arising, and it is now necessary to develop more concrete plans with broad-based participation and input as key properties become available. The following summaries of needs, opportunities, and visions have been developed for further discussion by a small group of experts who have a long professional involvement in the Blood Run site. The listing order in each section does not suggest priority or importance. At the bottom of this page, three preliminary site scenarios are presented and summarized. Diagrammatic illustrations of these three scenarios are depicted on the proceeding pages. These scenarios can be used a framework for discussion as the planning process moves forward with the inclusion of additional participants.

What are the unmet needs for the Blood Run National Historic Landmark Iowa site?

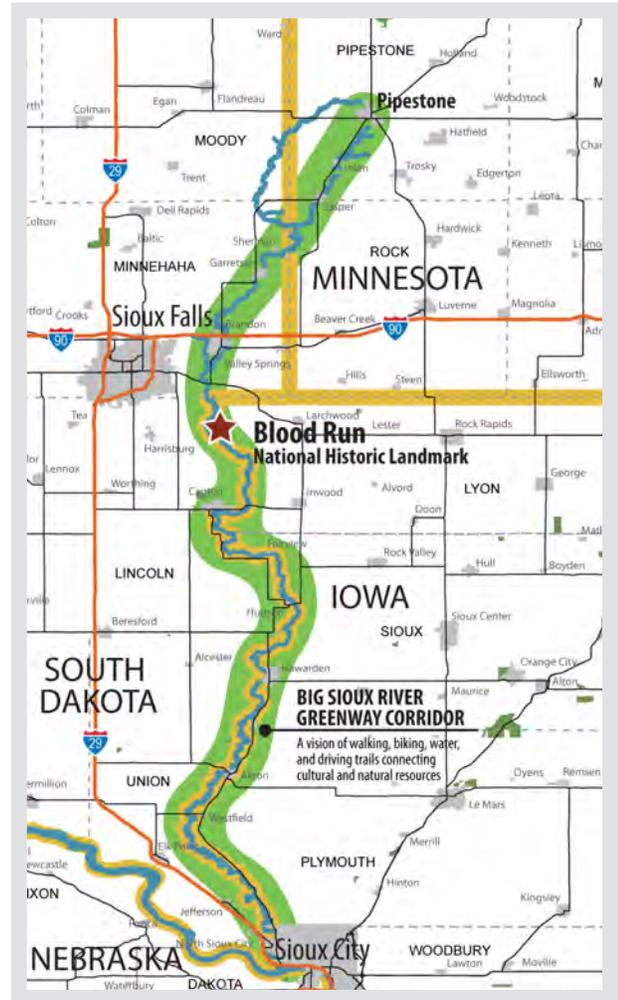
- Land protection
- Protection of cultural + natural resources
- Enhanced interpretation
- Additional research on the resources
- Landscape restoration
- Complete site history - tribal and early American settlement patterns and land use
- Tribal participation + cultural survey
- Cooperation between states and agencies
- Unified vision in a comprehensive master plan
- Financial resources
- Legislative and public awareness
- Land use changes

What are the opportunities possible in moving forward?

- Imminent possibility of property acquisitions
- Preservation of cultural + natural resources and their protection into the future
- Development of a cooperative State Park or Preserve, potential involvement of the National Park Service
- Ability to research and learn from the resources
- Tribal collaboration
- Development of local support with Lyon County
- Enhanced relationship with South Dakota – unique coordination of a bi-state resource
- Public education – understanding and appreciation of past
- Linking to other cultural, historic, and natural resources in the region
- Enduring and productive multi-agency collaborations

What are the overarching and diverse project visions?

- Possibility of the first Iowa State Park or Preserve of the new century
- The nation's first bi-state culturally-based park
- Iowa becomes a showcase for cultural resource management
- Preservation through education
- Long-lasting collaborations with tribal communities
- Further research into the area's cultural, historic, and natural resources
- River-corridor development and site/resource coordination
- An innovative mixture of public and private lands
- Gitche Manitou – opportunity to coordinate site management
- Opportunities for on-site recreation and day use



IOWA NATURAL + CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

- Protection and management of key cultural and natural resource sites
- Resource conservation on adjacent sites
- Limited interpretation dispersed throughout resource area

INTEGRATION + INTERPRETATION

- Protection and management of key cultural and natural resource sites
- Resource conservation on adjacent sites
- Iowa site use reflects integration with South Dakota plans
- More extensive and fully developed system of trails
- Interpretation dispersed throughout resource area and integrated with South Dakota interpretation

INTEGRATION, INTERPRETATION, + EXPANDED FACILITIES

- Protection and management of key cultural and natural resource sites
- Resource conservation on adjacent sites
- Iowa site use reflects integration with South Dakota plans
- More extensive and fully developed system of trails
- Visitor Center or Interpretive Facility on-site or at an off-site location
- Interpretation dispersed throughout resource area and integrated with South Dakota interpretation
- Recreation, Camping and other Day Use Activities on-site or at a nearby off-site location

* The specific placement of trails; potential interpretive elements; visitor center; recreation; camping and other day use activities will be determined through consultation with local Lyon County stakeholders and tribal representatives.

Sioux Falls

County HWY 115

115th St.

Adams Ave

480th Ave.

272nd St.

269th St.

273rd St.

110th St.

125th St.

263rd St.

Apple Ave

Arizona Ave

Granite

Blood Run Creek

Big Sioux River

SOUTH DAKOTA

IOWA

Minnehaha County SOUTH DAKOTA

State of Iowa

State of South Dakota

State of South Dakota

State of South Dakota

State of Iowa / Lyon CCB

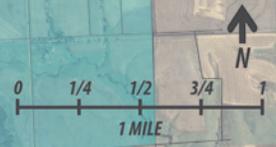
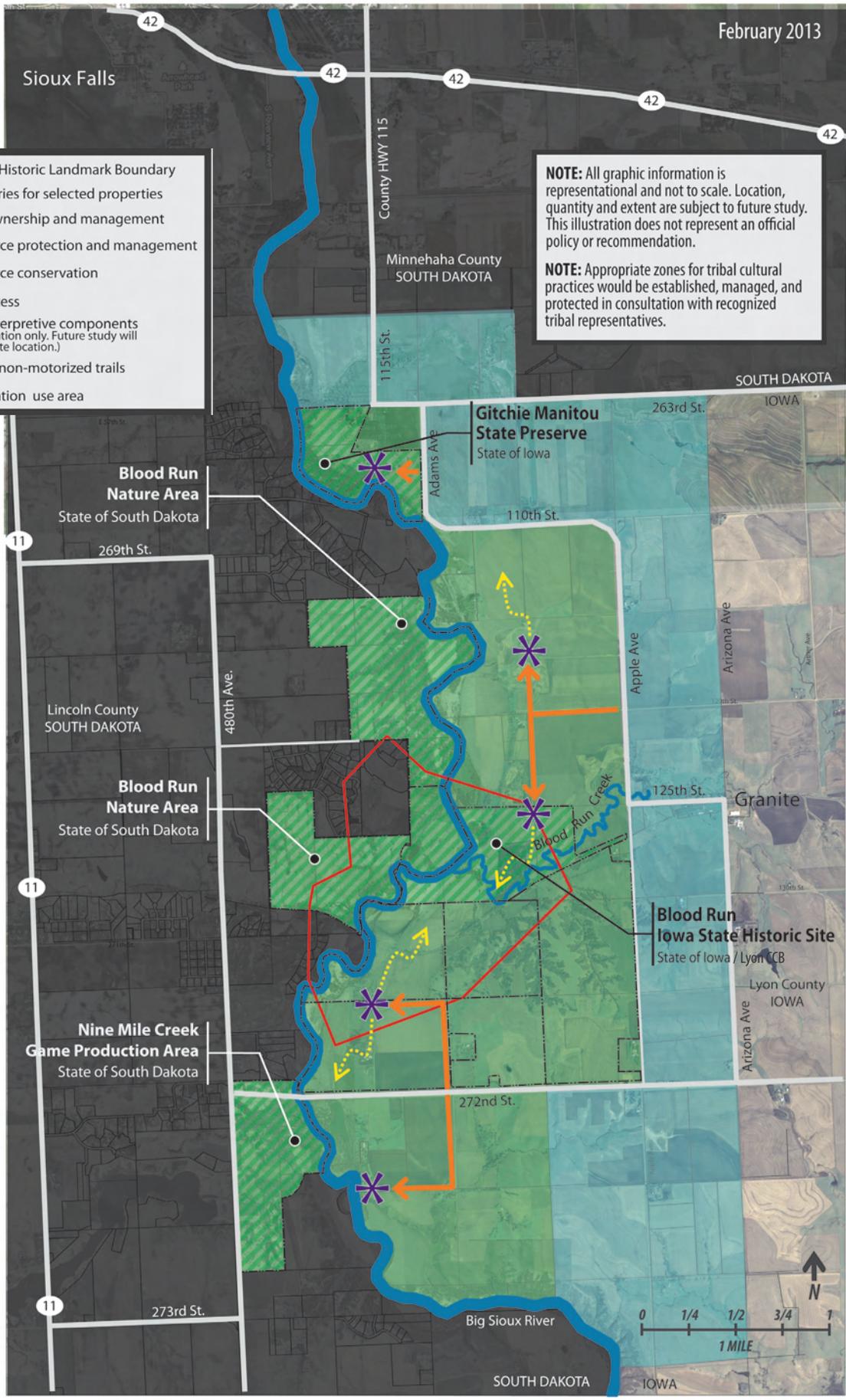
Lyon County IOWA

State of Iowa

NOTE: All graphic information is representational and not to scale. Location, quantity and extent are subject to future study. This illustration does not represent an official policy or recommendation.

NOTE: Appropriate zones for tribal cultural practices would be established, managed, and protected in consultation with recognized tribal representatives.

- Current National Historic Landmark Boundary
- Property boundaries for selected properties
- Current public ownership and management
- Long-term resource protection and management
- Long-term resource conservation
- Public vehicle access
- ✱ Minor + major interpretive components (Symbolic representation only. Future study will determine appropriate location.)
- Minor and major non-motorized trails
- Developed recreation use area



NATURAL + CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

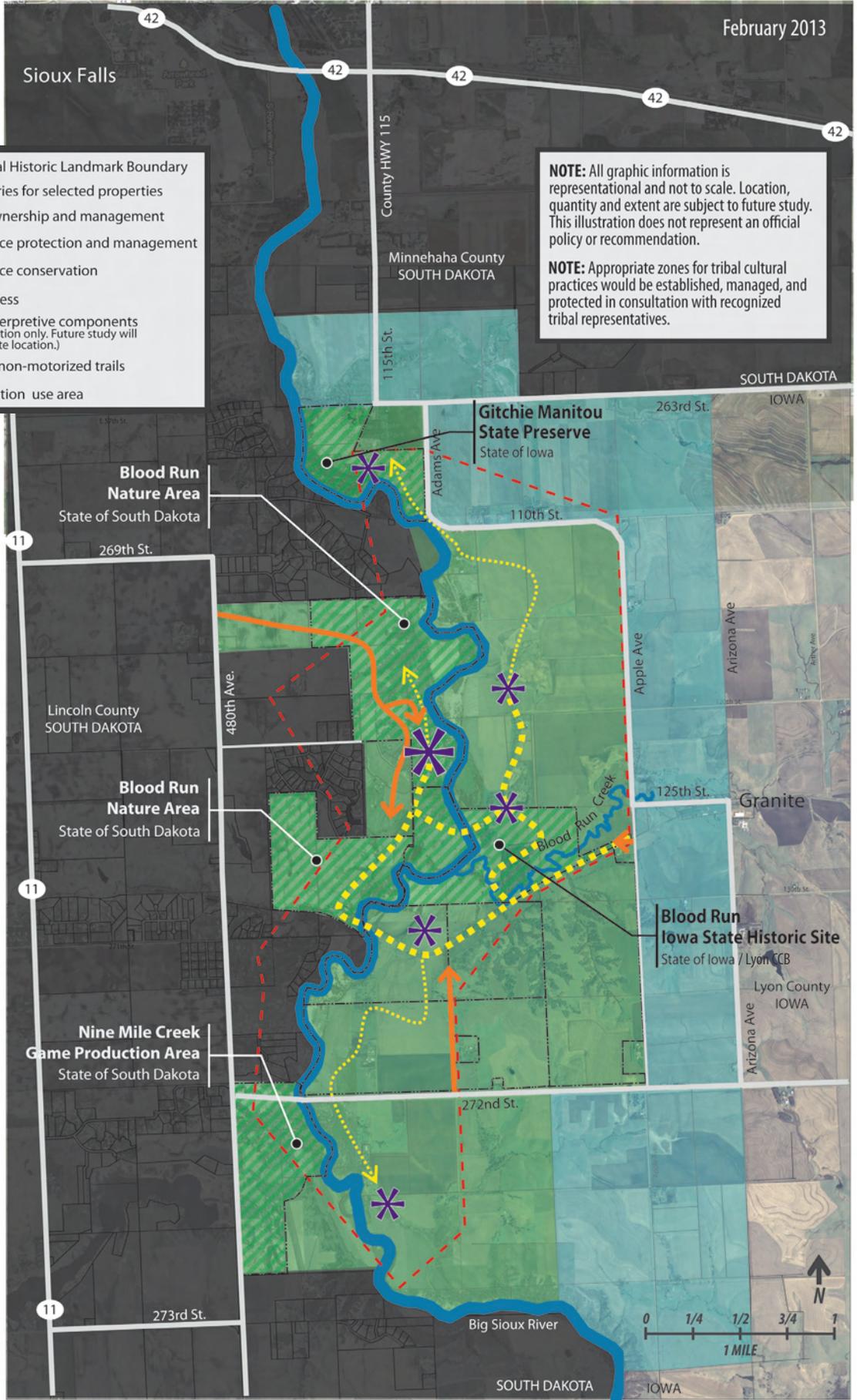
BLOOD RUN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK | IOWA

Sioux Falls

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INTEGRATION + INTERPRETATION

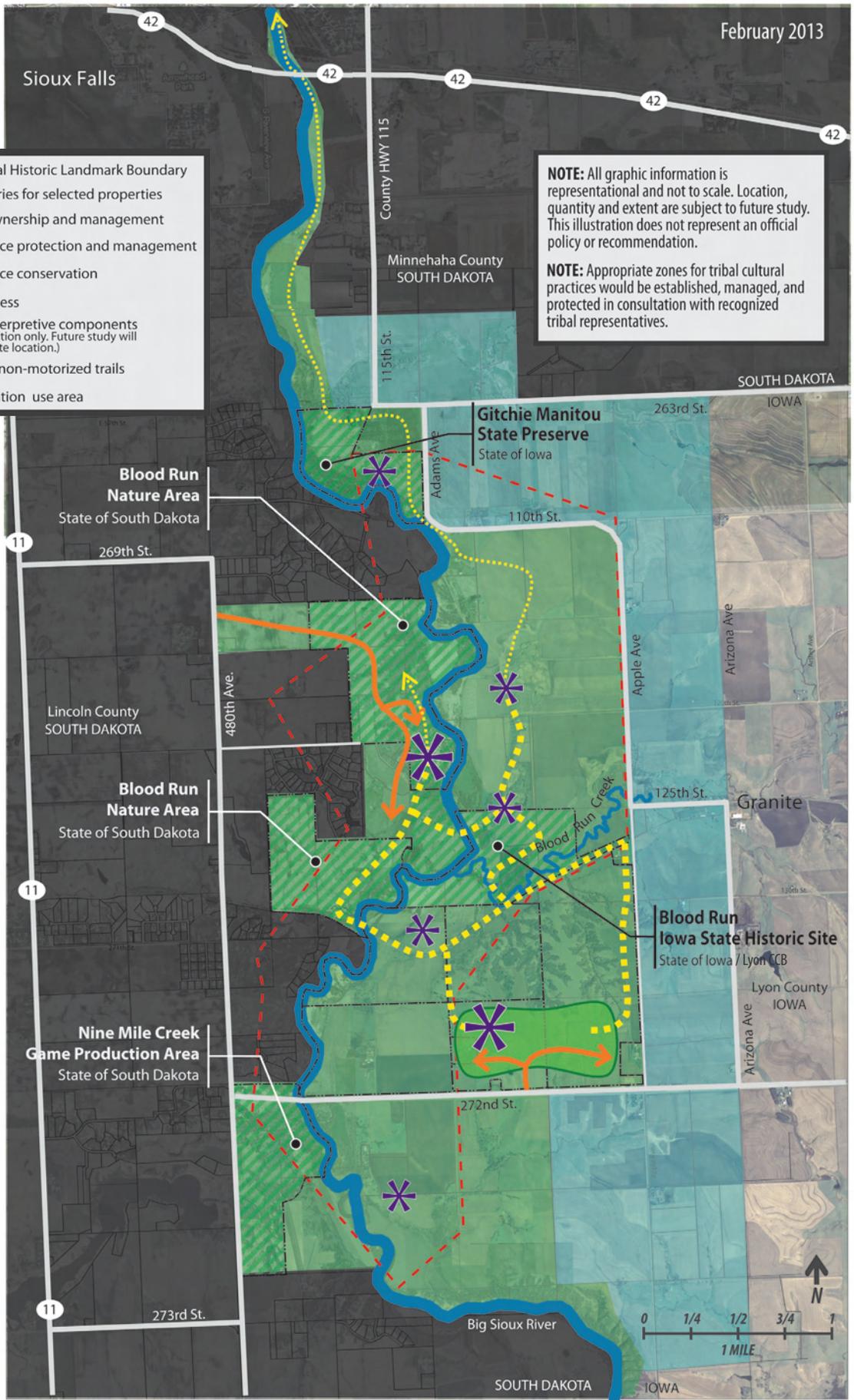
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INTEGRATION, INTERPRETATION, + EXPANDED FACILITIES

BLOOD RUN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK | IOWA

NOTES:

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

State Historical Society of Iowa

<http://www.iowahistory.org/historic-sites/blood-run/>

Office of the State Archaeologist
University of Iowa

<http://bloodrunnhl.com/index.html>

Lyon County Conservation Board

http://www.lyoncountyiowa.com/conservation_department.asp

Travel Iowa

<http://www.traveliowa.com/asp/dest.aspx?id=9310>



Photo Credit: John Pearson



IOWA

NATURAL HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

Please Note: This document is meant for discussion purposes only. It implies no specific policy or committed future action on the part of any organization or agency. Any questions about the project or document should be directed to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation at (515) 288-1846 or info@inhf.org.