

PUBLIC NOTICE

**CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107**

REGULATORY DIVISION
Refer to: P/N # SAC-2012-00680

April 1, 2014

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341) and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.) a Prospectus has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the South Carolina Interagency Review Team by

**RIVERFIELD PLANTATION, LLC
ATTN: MR. GREGG MALPHRUS
1353 GLENHEATHER DRIVE
WINDERMERE, FLORIDA 34786**

for a proposal to establish and operate a wetland mitigation bank that is adjacent to

COMBAHEE RIVER

at a location adjacent to and west of the intersection of US Highway 17 and US Highway 21 and in Colleton County, South Carolina. (Latitude 32.720319, Longitude -80.821472).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the Corps of Engineers until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2014

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed project consists of establishing a commercial wetlands mitigation bank within the Salkehatchie/Combahee watershed (USGS 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code 03050207) and Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain ecoregion of South Carolina. The 828.95-acre project site is a portion of a 929.39-acre parent tract that is already protected by a conservation easement held by the Wetlands America Trust, Inc. The proposed mitigation bank site includes 258.38 acres of planted pine wetlands (<2 years old), 35.76 acres of naturally regenerating hardwood wetlands (15+ years old), 471.09 acres of naturally regenerating hardwood wetlands (<3 years old), and 9.42 acres of upland buffers. Please note the mitigation bank site also includes 49.58 acres of overhead power line easement that will not generate any mitigation credits.

According to the bank sponsor, the mitigation work plan will include the removal of planted pine and the restoration of native vegetation within 258.38 acres of existing wetlands. In addition, monitoring wells will be installed on the project site to document hydrology conditions throughout the baseline assessment and the monitoring phase of the proposed mitigation bank. Although mitigation activities, such as the plugging of ditches or the removal of roadways are not proposed at this time, they may be considered in the future if the baseline data determines that the hydrology on the project site is impaired.

In order to document the existing condition of the project site and the potential functional lift associated with the proposed mitigation actions, the bank sponsor has proposed to use the "Regional Guidebook for Applying the Hydrogeomorphic Approach to Assessing Wetland Functions of Forested Wetlands in Alluvial Valleys of the Coastal Plain of the Southeastern United States." The Functional Capacity Index score for the project site and the proposed reference site will be used to establish the net improvement factor that will be used to calculate the maximum number of mitigation credits generated by the proposed mitigation bank.

The bank sponsor will be responsible for conducting the proposed mitigation activities and monitoring hydrology (the degree, duration, and periodicity of saturation and inundation) and the restoration of native vegetation on the project site to document whether or not they are comparable with the reference site and achieve the necessary performance standards. The proposed mitigation bank will provide in-kind compensatory mitigation for authorized impacts to aquatic resources associated with future development activities within the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain and Southeastern Plains ecoregions within the Salkehatchie River major drainage basin, as shown on the attached Service Area Map.

The work required to complete the restoration and enhancement of aquatic resources on the mitigation site may be authorized under Nationwide Permit #27 after review by the Corps, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the Interagency Review Team. As described above, the mitigation bank site is already protected by a conservation easement held by the Wetlands America Trust, Inc. The existing easement will need to be amended or modified to provide the additional protections and third party-right-rights of enforcement required for this site to be used as compensatory mitigation.

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the bank sponsor, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown in this Prospectus must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (15 CFR 930). The bank sponsor is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Overall, the proposed project is expected to restore 258.38 acres of forested wetlands upstream of estuarine waters. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that wood storks (*Mycteria americana*) are known to occur in the vicinity of the project site. However, it has been determined that the proposed project will have no effect on this species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request for written concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on this determination.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with the NHPA, the District Engineer has also consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. Based on the available information, it has been determined that the proposed project will have no effect on properties that are listed or considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This public notice also serves as a request for written concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office on this determination.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to approve or deny the proposed mitigation bank will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to approve or deny the proposed mitigation bank. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

The Prospectus for the proposed mitigation bank is available for review by appointment between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday at the address listed above. Please note if information about the location of Federally listed Threatened or Endangered species or the location of cultural resources is included in this Prospectus, this portion of the document may be withheld in accordance with the appropriate statutes for the protection of this information. If there any questions concerning the proposed mitigation bank or the information included in this public notice please contact Mr. Nat Ball by e-mail at nathaniel.i.ball@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.

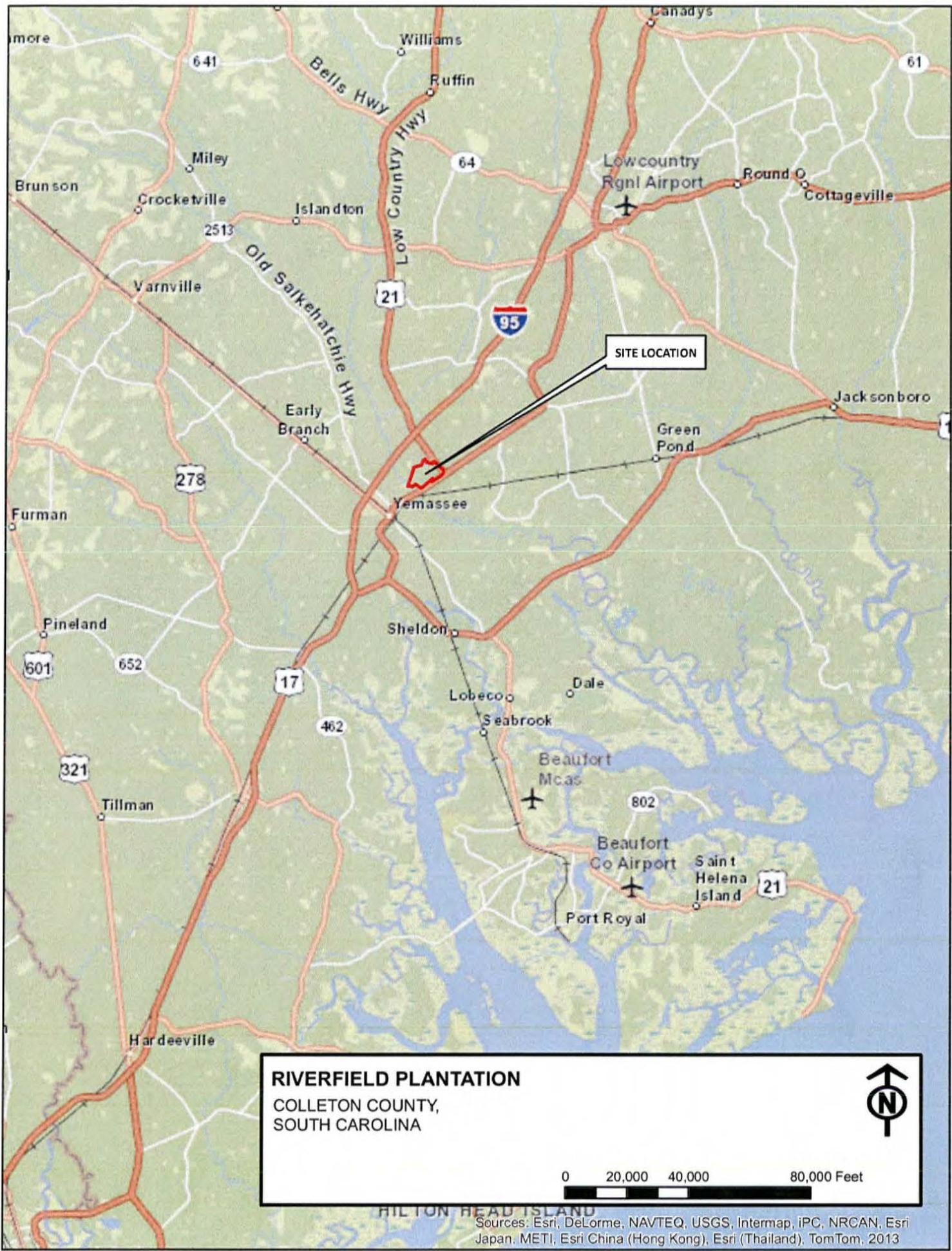
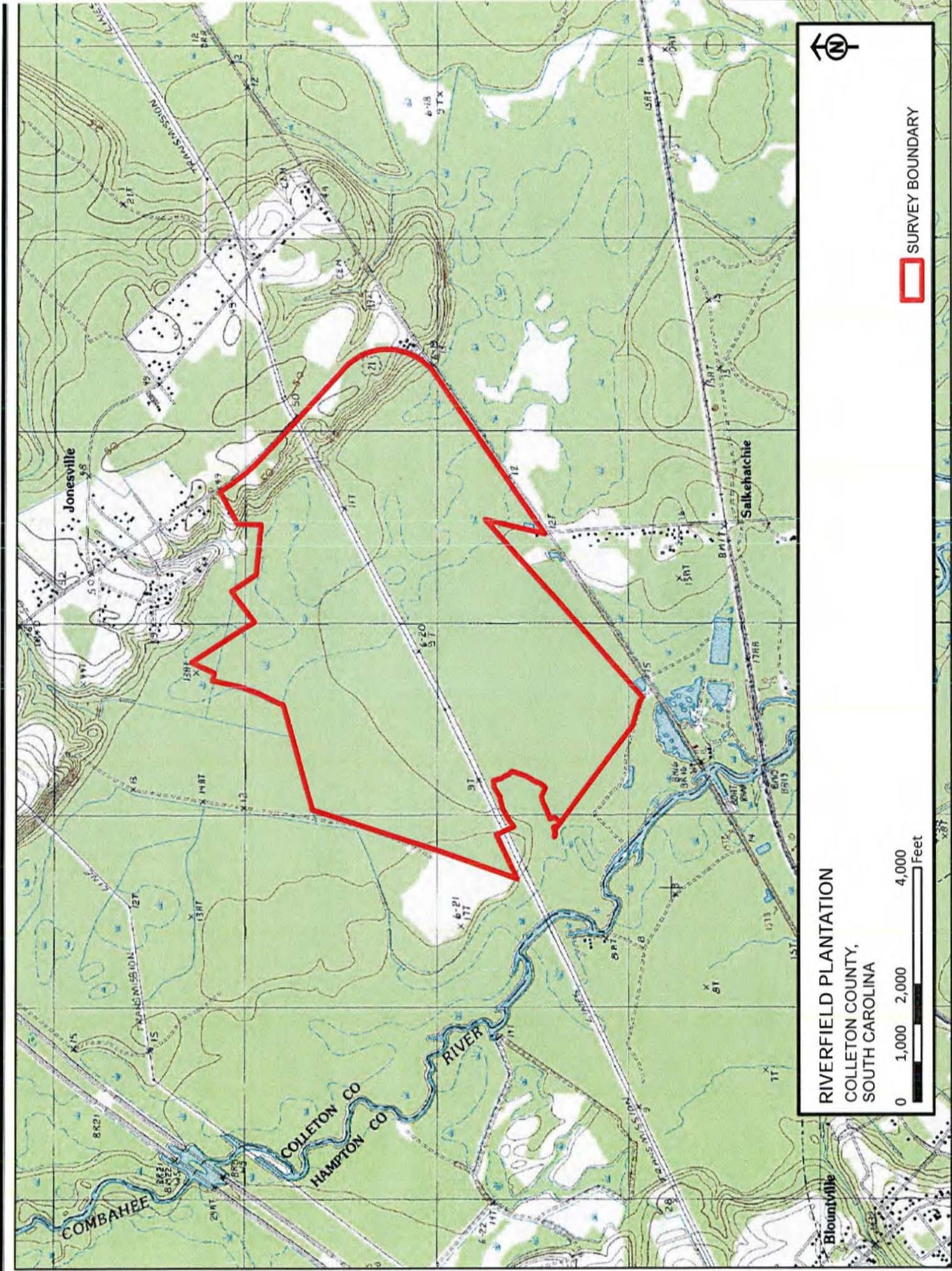


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION EXHIBIT; ESRI ROAD MAPS



RIVERFIELD PLANTATION
 COLLETON COUNTY,
 SOUTH CAROLINA



 SURVEY BOUNDARY

FIGURE 2. US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY; COLLETON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

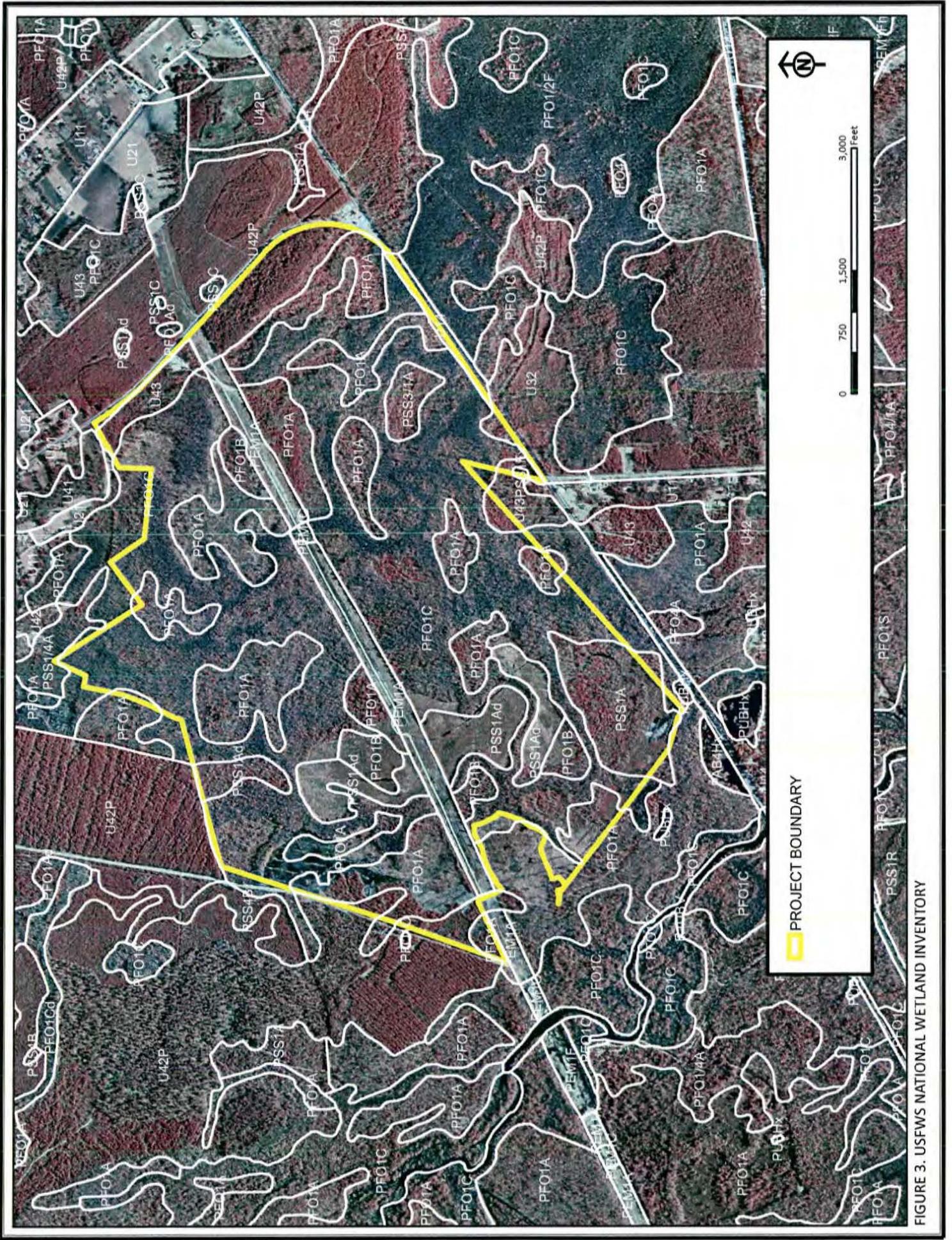
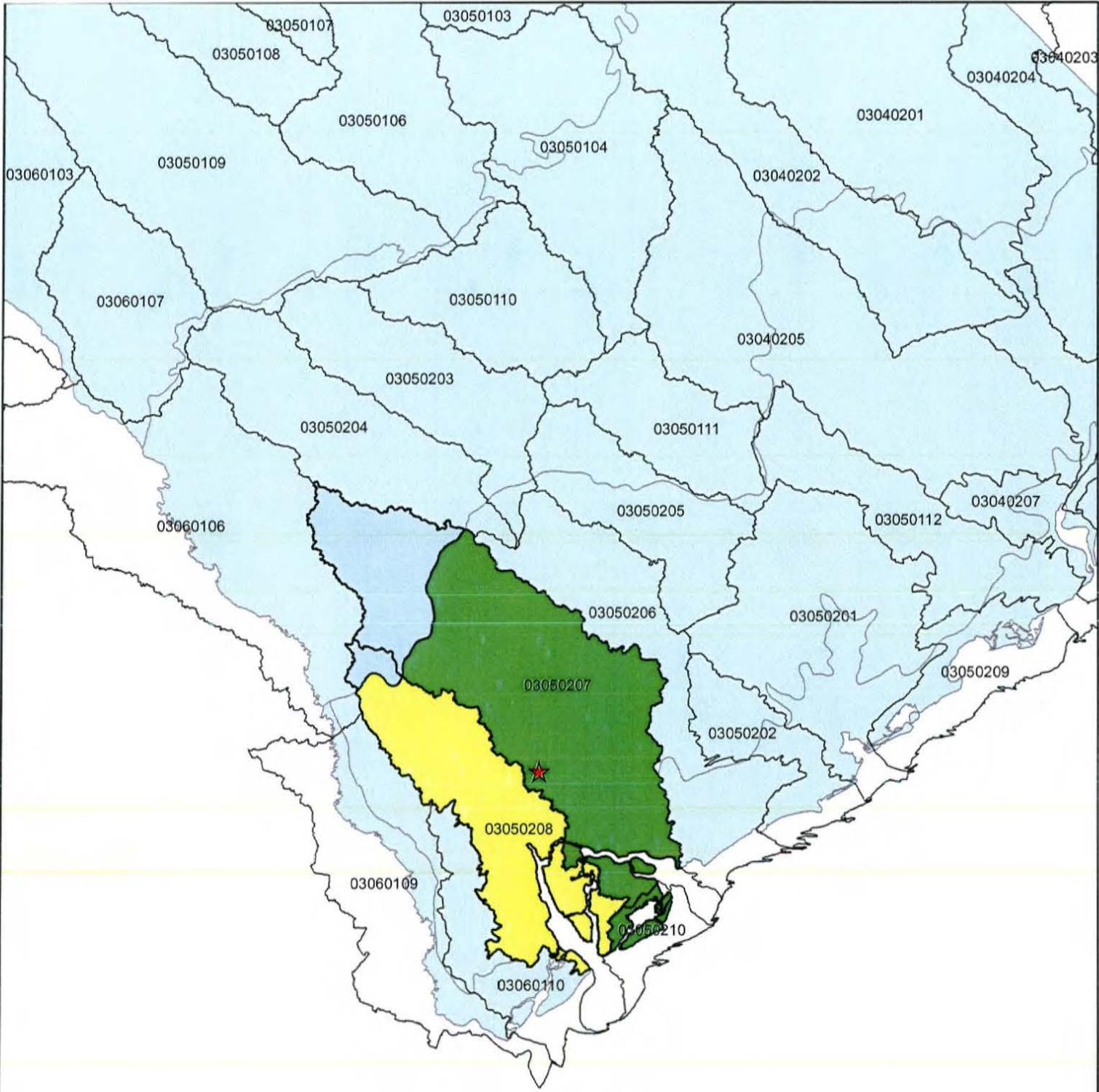


FIGURE 3. USFWS NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY



	PRIMARY SERVICE AREA
	SECONDARY SERVICE AREA
	TERTIARY SERVICE AREA


MAP SCALE : 1 INCH = 125,000 FEET

FIGURE 7. 8-DIGIT HUC CODE & SERVICE AREA MAP

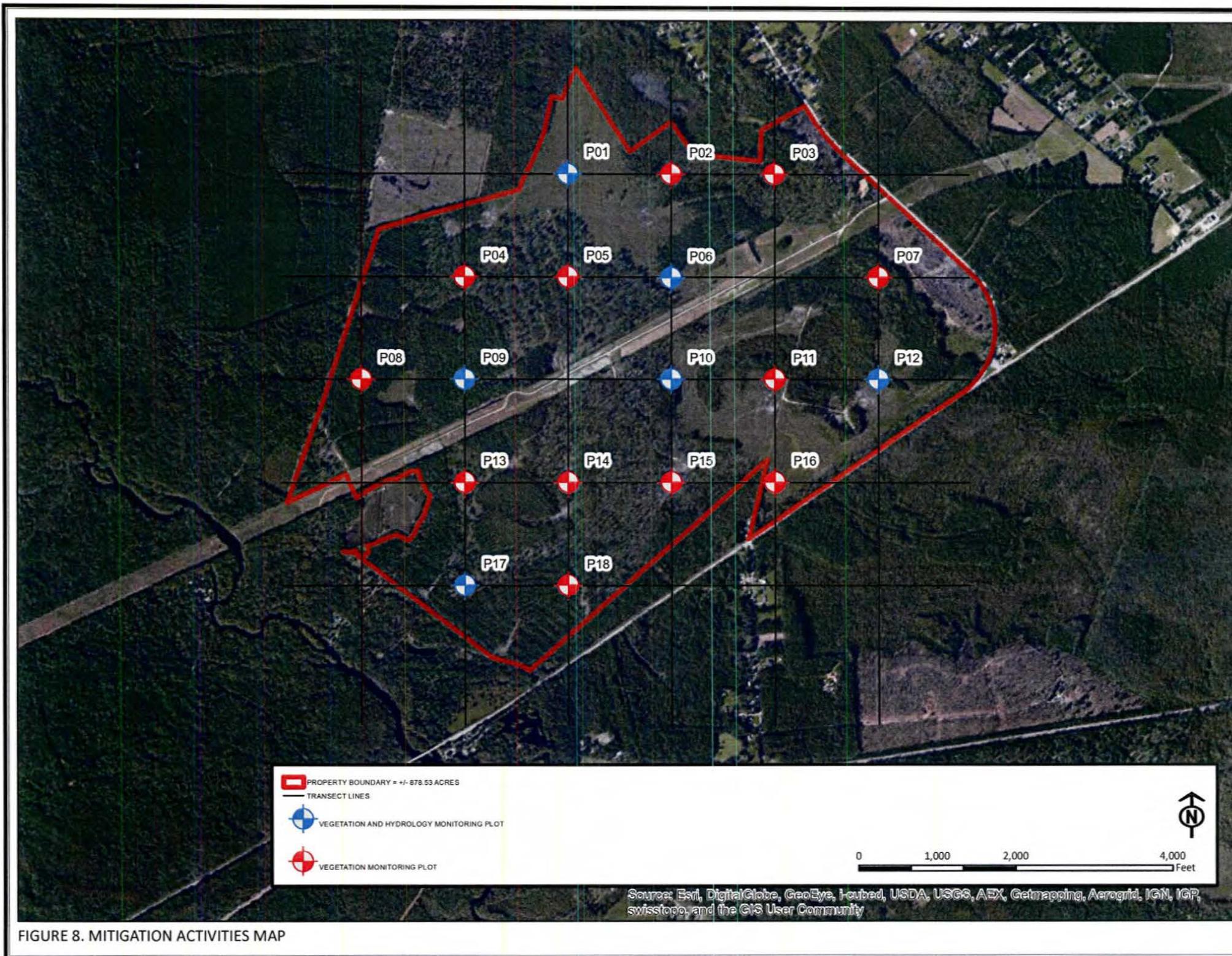


FIGURE 8. MITIGATION ACTIVITIES MAP

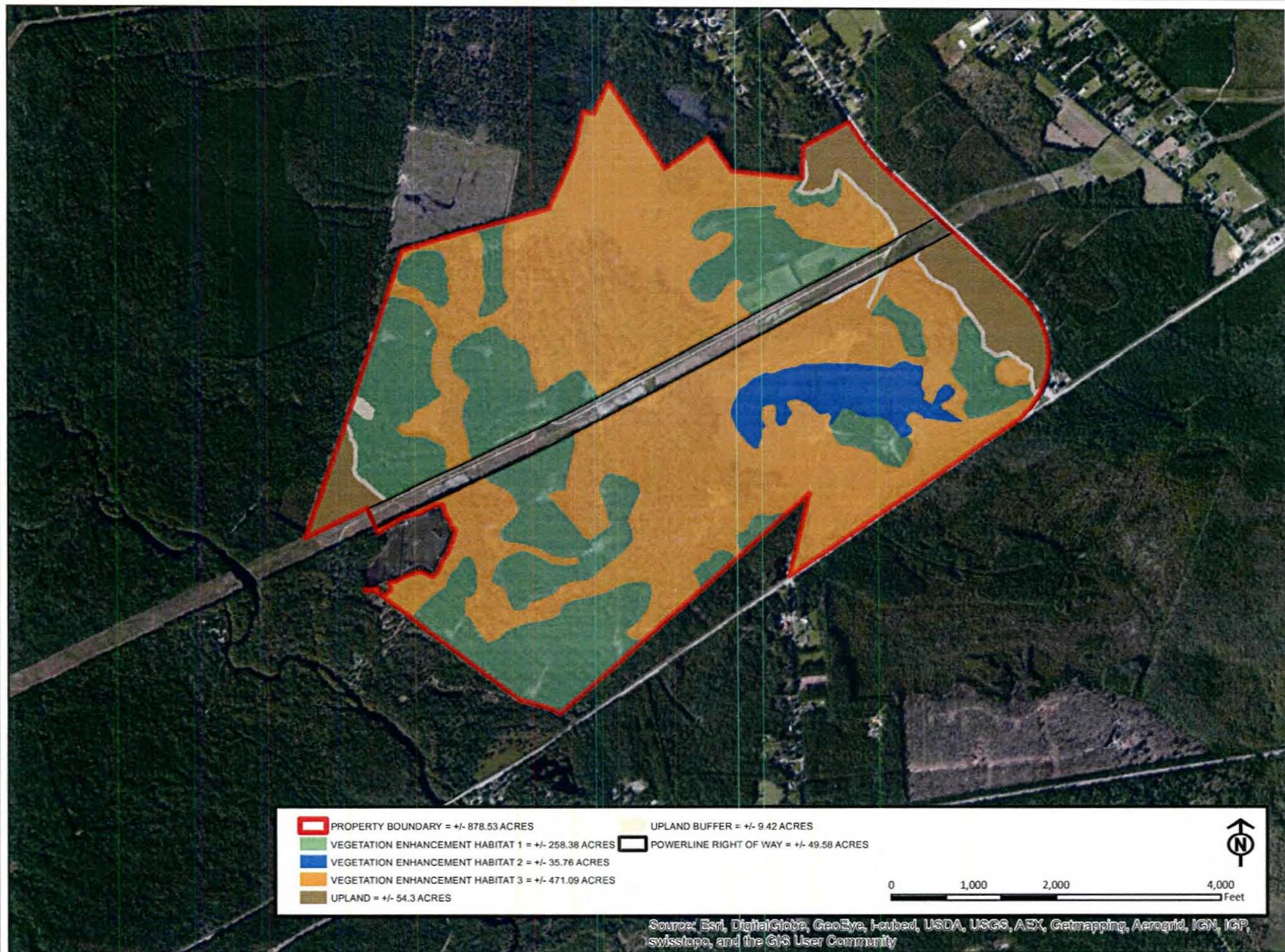


FIGURE 9. RESTORATION PLAN