

**JOINT**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**69A Hagood Avenue**  
**Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107**  
**and**  
**THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**  
**Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Section**  
**2600 Bull Street**  
**Columbia, South Carolina 29201**

REGULATORY DIVISION  
Refer to: P/N SAC-2011-00833

August 11, 2017

Pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

**Ms. Sharon Richardson**  
**National Audubon Society, Inc**  
**336 Sanctuary Road**  
**Harleyville, South Carolina 29448**

for a permit to establish and operate the Francis Beidler Forest Umbrella Mitigation Bank (FBFUMB) which is currently comprised of one site (Spring Branch). The applicant seeks authorization to undergo restoration, enhancement, and preservation activities to generate net increases in aquatic resource functions and services. The FBFUMB proposes to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable, adverse impacts to Waters of the United States. For the purposes of establishing the umbrella bank, an initial project site has been proposed on

Spring Branch

at a location east of the intersection of Interstate 26 and U.S. Highway 15, Dorchester County, South Carolina (Latitude: 33.2853°N, Longitude: 80.4988°W), USGS Wadboo Swamp and Holly Hill topographic maps.

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** until

**15 Days from the Date of this Notice,**

and **SCDHEC** will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

**30 Days from the Date of this Notice**

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

The overall goal of the FBFUMB is to contribute to an existing landscape scale ecosystem conservation effort through the preservation, enhancement, and restoration of aquatic resources in the Four Hole Swamp and Edisto River watersheds. The proposed Spring Branch project site consists of establishing a freshwater wetland and stream mitigation site as part of the overall umbrella bank (FBFUMB). Work consists of ecological preservation of existing natural habitats and enhancement/restoration of Waters of the U.S. through various management techniques such as planting native vegetation, plugging silviculture ditches, and establishing a burn regime within the mitigation site. In detail, according to the prospectus, 6,015 linear feet of stream will be preserved, 73.74 acres of wetland will be preserved, and 222.21 acres of wetland will be enhanced which would provide mitigation for impacts to wetlands or Waters of the United States. Once the mitigation work is completed, the bank sponsor proposes to monitor the mitigation site to ensure that the enhancement/restoration areas are developing as expected and meeting the necessary performance standards.

**NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps' website at:**  
<http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices> .

According to the Prospectus, the proposed FBFUMB will provide in-kind compensatory mitigation for authorized impacts to aquatic resources located within both the Upper and Lower Coastal Plain ecoregions as shown on the attached Service Area Map. The work required to complete the proposed activities on the mitigation site may be authorized under Nationwide Permit #27, after reviews by the Corps, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the Interagency Review Team.

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 applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S. C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant 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. Implementation of the proposed project will not impact estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. The District Engineer's 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). The District Engineer's final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant, and the District Engineer has determined, based on the most recently available information that the project will

have no effect on any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity.

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 Section 106 of the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted South Carolina ArchSite (GIS), for the presence or absence of historic properties (as defined in 36 C.F.R. 800.16)(1)(1)), and has initially determined that no historic properties are present; therefore, there will be no effect on historic properties. To ensure that other historic properties that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office and any other interested parties to provide any information they may have with regard to historic properties. This public notice serves as a request for concurrence within 30 days from the SHPO (and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer).

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

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 issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. 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. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

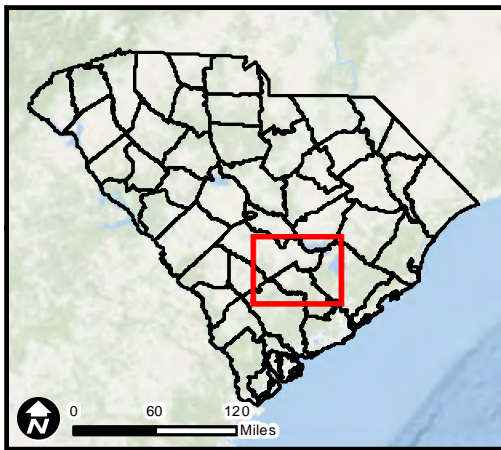
The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to

issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. 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. **Please submit comments in writing, identifying the project of interest by public notice number, to the following address:**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107**

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Shawn Boone, Project Manager, at (843) 329-8158 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.






**Figure 1. Site Location Map**

**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

**Legend**

 Spring Branch Mitigation Property



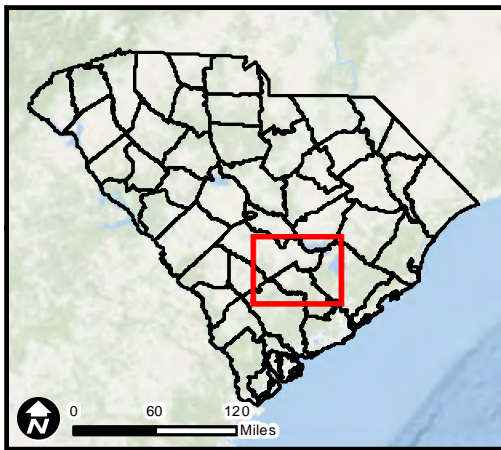
Job No. 6250-16-0120  
 Drawn By: BWS  
 Reviewed By: WAR  
 Date: 10/21/2016

The map shown here has been created with all due and reasonable care and is strictly for use with Amec Foster Wheeler project number 6250160120. Amec Foster Wheeler assumes no liability, direct or indirect, whatsoever for any such third party or unintended use.



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community





**Figure 2. Proximity to Conserved Lands Map**

**Spring Branch Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

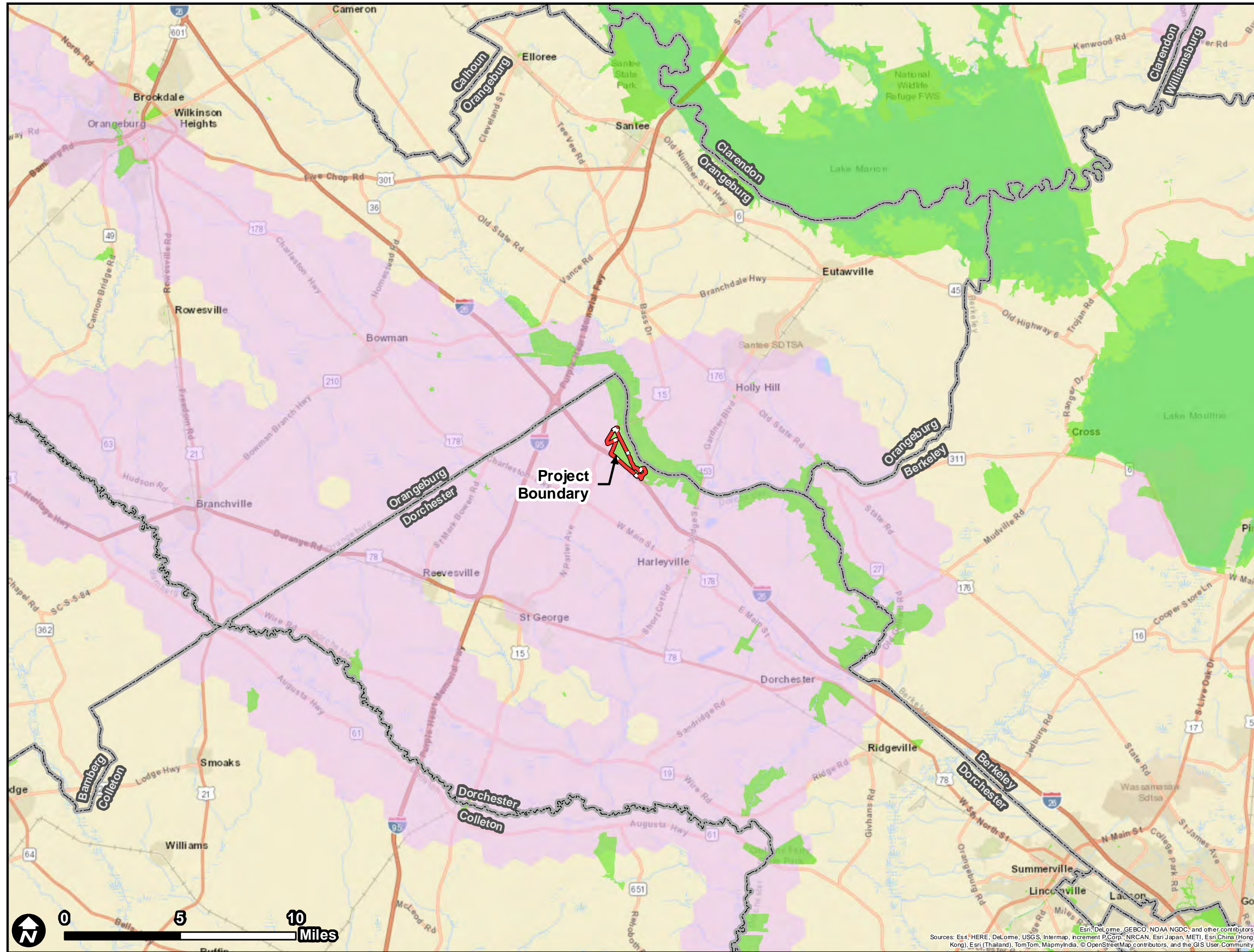
**Legend**

-  Spring Branch Mitigation Property
-  Existing Private, Protected, and Public Lands
-  The Nature Conservancy Priority Areas



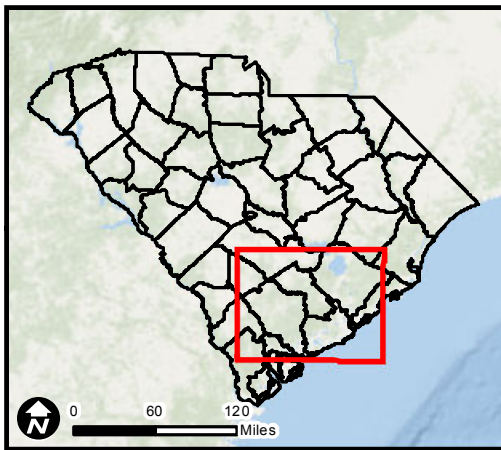
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







**Figure 3. Service Area Map**

**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

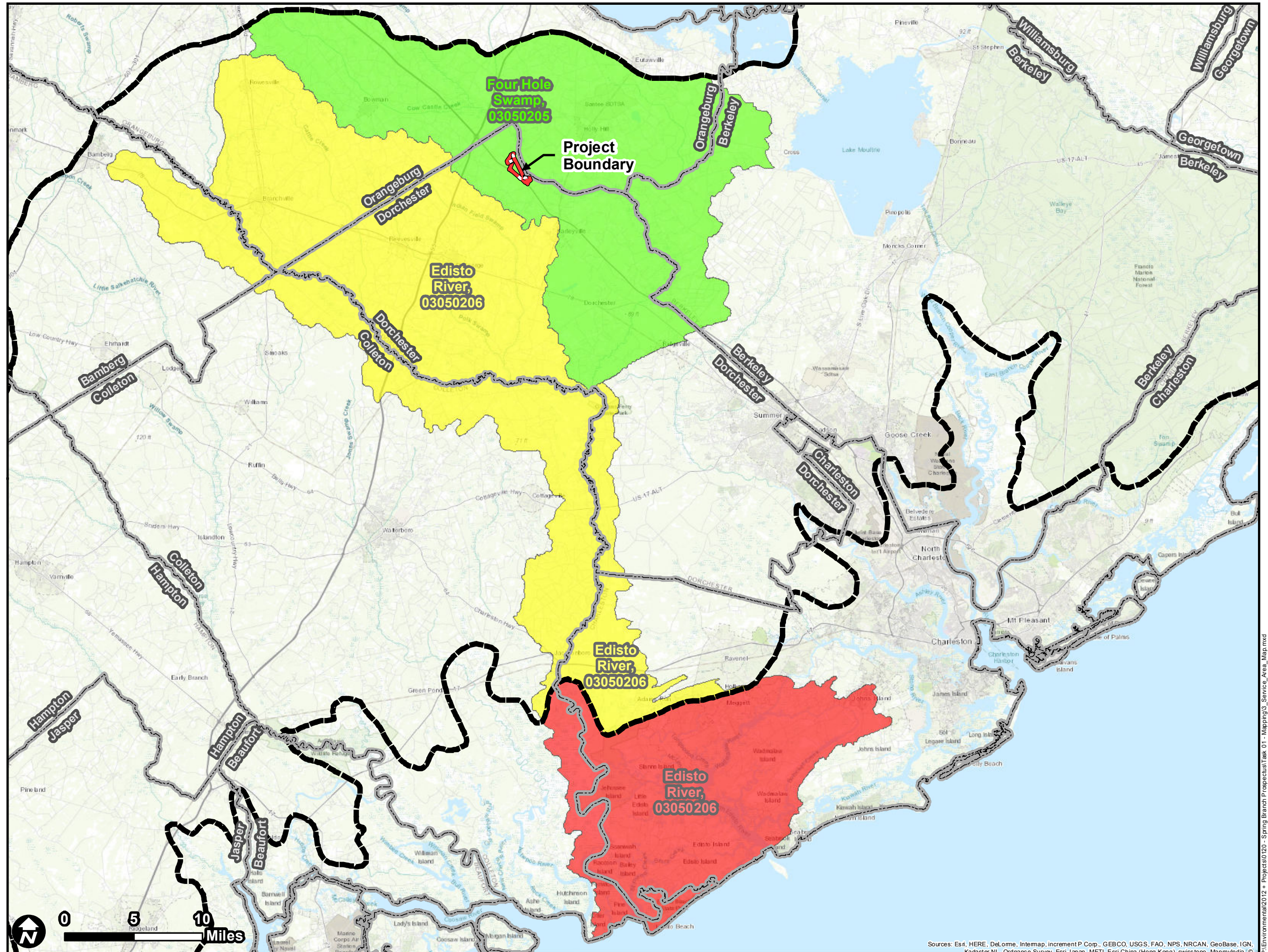
**Legend**

-  Spring Branch Mitigation Property
-  Level III Eco Region (Mitigation Boundary)
- Watershed Service Area**
-  Primary Service
-  Secondary Service
-  Tertiary Service



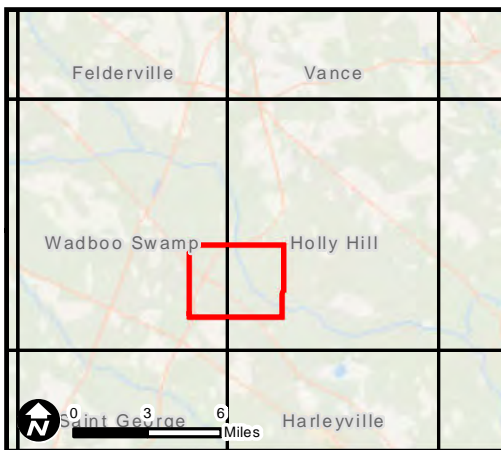
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**Figure 4. USGS Topographic Map**  
**Spring Branch Mitigation Property**  
 Dorchester County, South Carolina

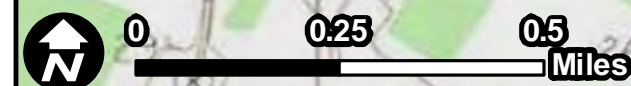
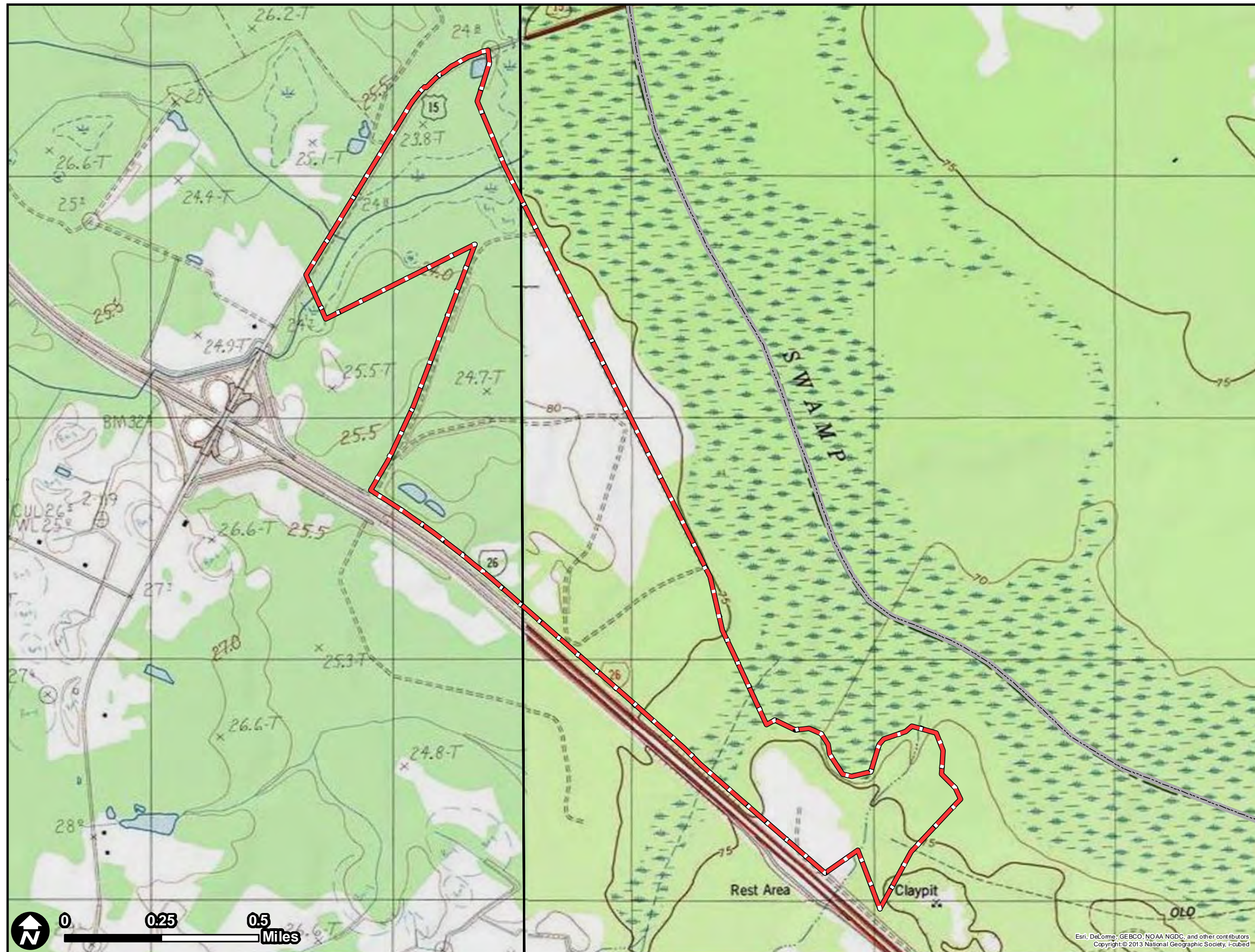
- Legend**
- Spring Branch Mitigation Property
  - County Boundary
  - USGS 24k Topo Map Boundaries

References:  
 USGS Topographic Map, 7.5-minute series, Wadboo Swamp, dated 1982  
 USGS Topographic Map, 7.5-minute series, Holly Hill, dated 1979, photoinspected 1987



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


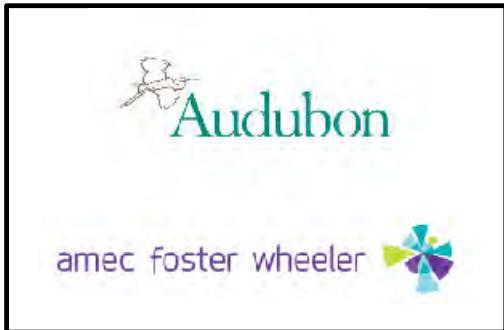




**Figure 5a. Historical 1938  
Aerial Map**  
**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

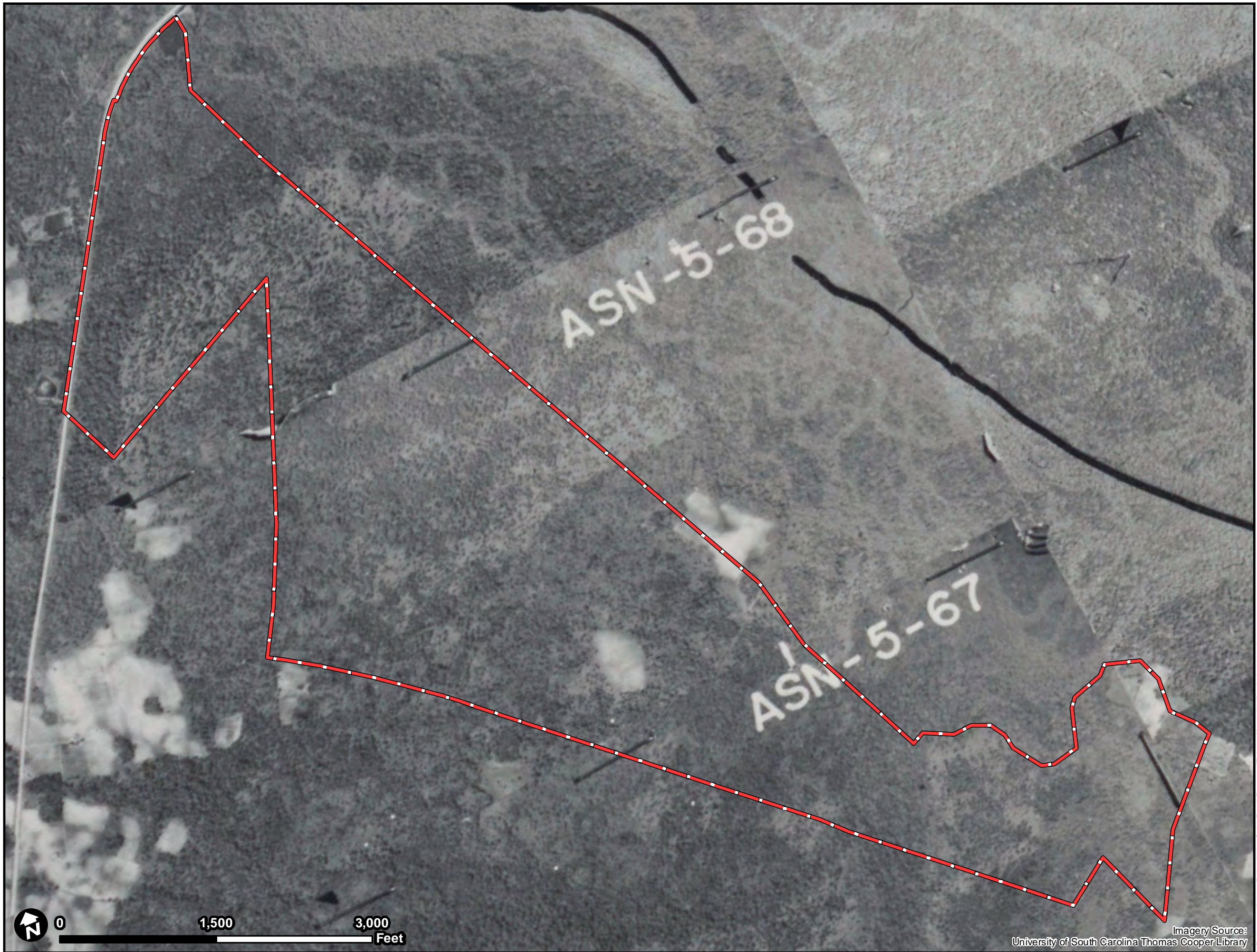
**Legend**

 Spring Branch Mitigation Property



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
Imagery Source:  
University of South Carolina Thomas Cooper Library


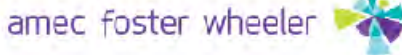




**Figure 5b. Historical 1955  
Aerial Map**  
**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

**Legend**

 Spring Branch Mitigation Property

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
Imagery Source:  
University of South Carolina Thomas Cooper Library


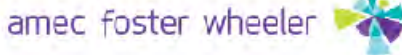




**Figure 5c. Historical 1970  
Aerial Map**  
**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

**Legend**

 Spring Branch Mitigation Property

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Imagery Source:  
University of South Carolina Thomas Cooper Library





**Figure 5d. Historical 1983  
Aerial Map**  
**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

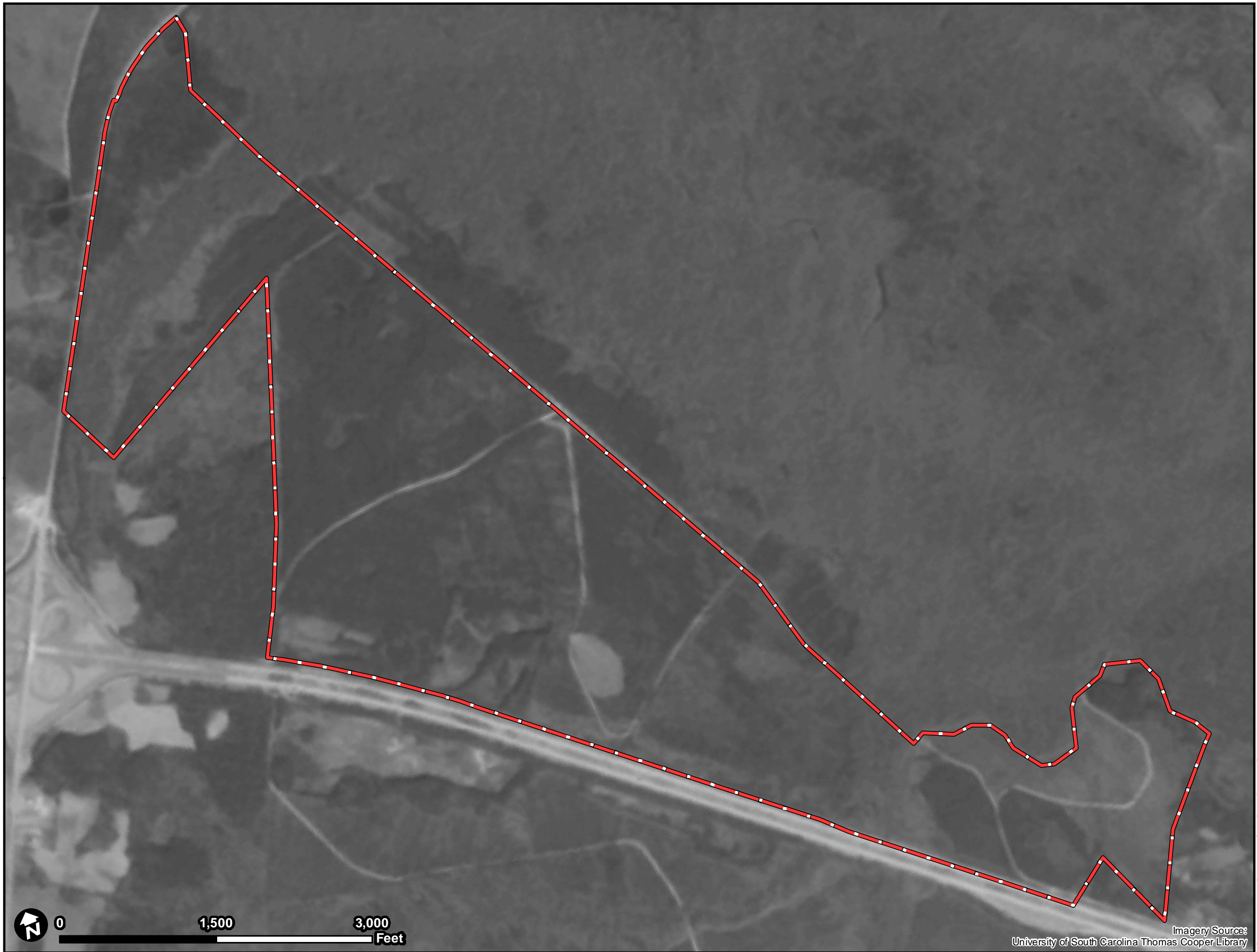
**Legend**

 Spring Branch Mitigation Property



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 0 1,500 3,000 Feet


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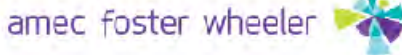




**Figure 5e. Historical 1989  
Aerial Map**  
**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

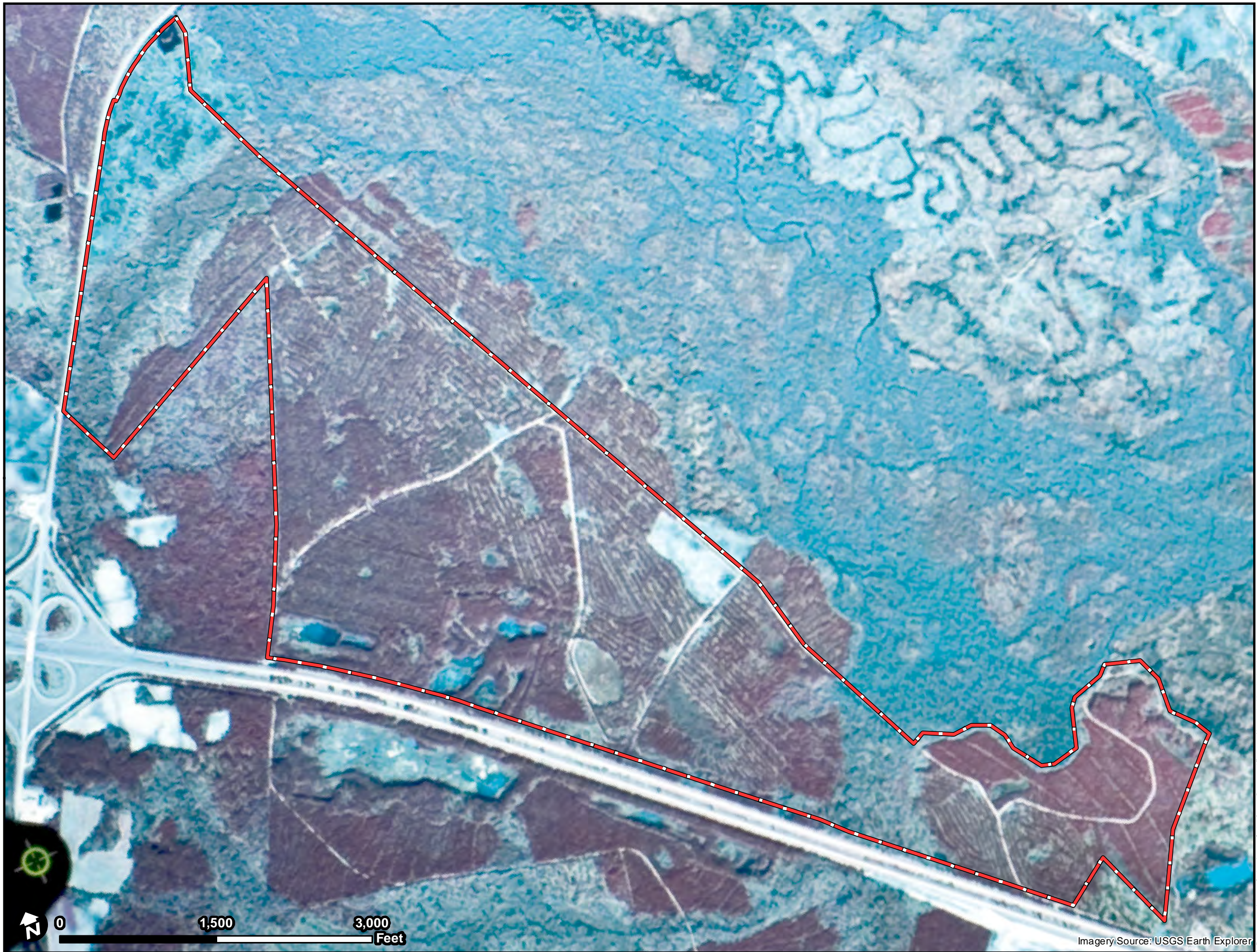
**Legend**

 Spring Branch Mitigation Property

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
Imagery Source: USGS Earth Explorer


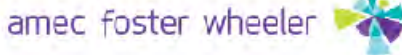




**Figure 5f. Historical 1995  
Aerial Map**  
**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

**Legend**

 Spring Branch Mitigation Property

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 Date: 10/28/2016

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
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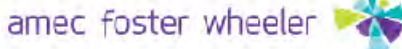




**Figure 5g. Historical 1999  
Aerial Map**  
**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

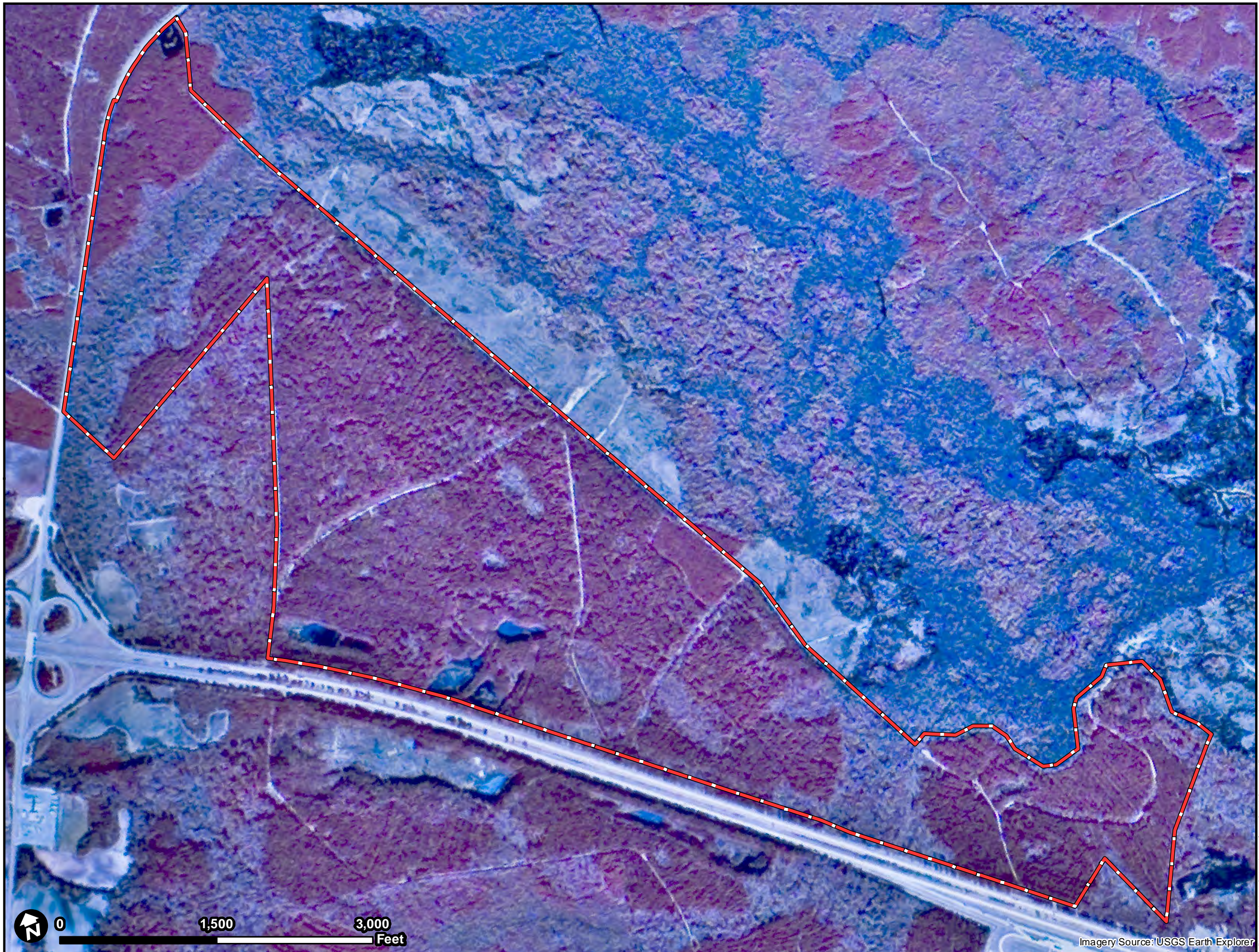
**Legend**

 Spring Branch Mitigation Property

Job No. 6250-16-0120  
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 Date: 10/28/2016

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
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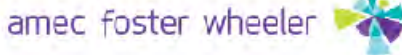




**Figure 5h. Historical 2006  
Aerial Map**  
**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

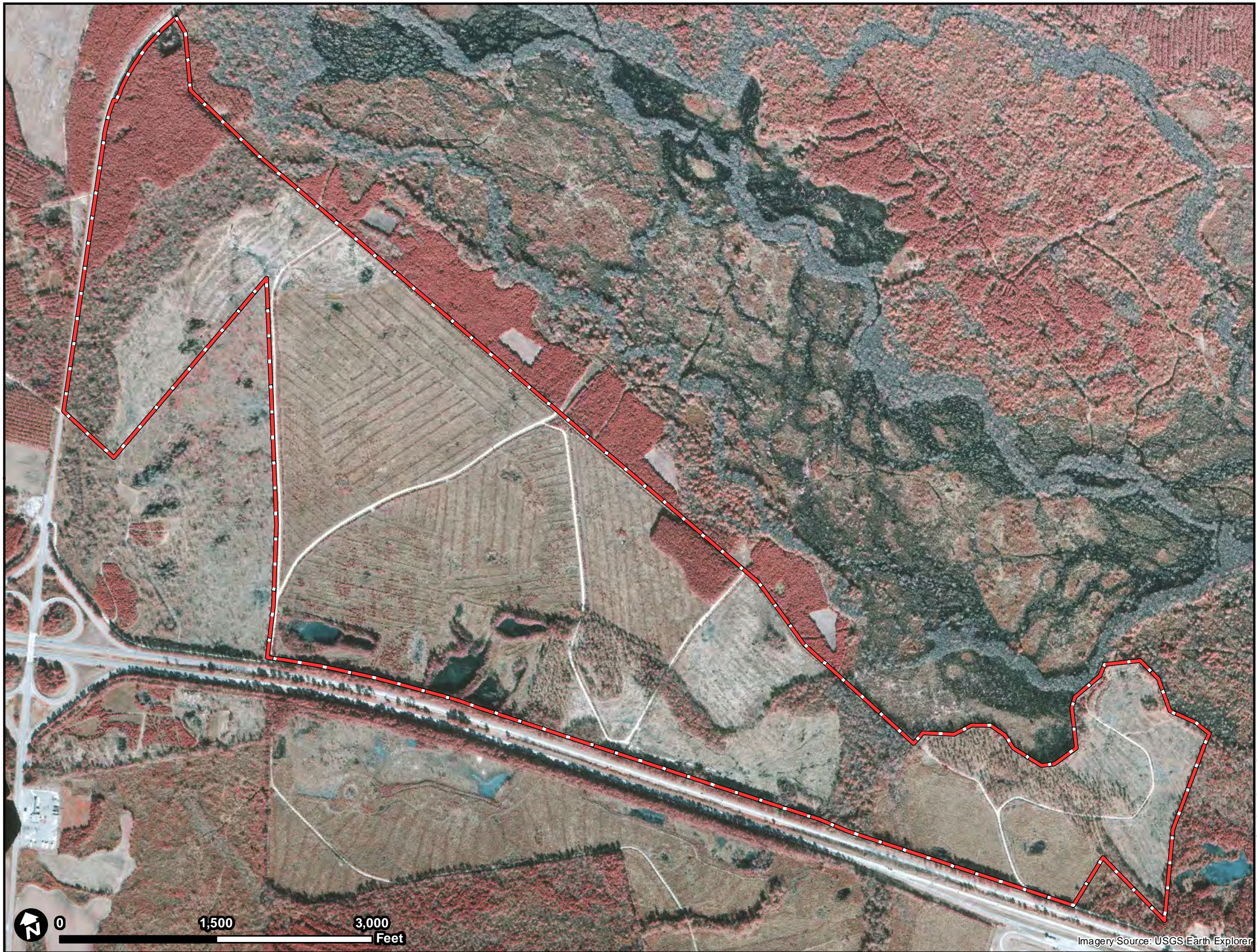
**Legend**

 Spring Branch Mitigation Property

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
Imagery Source: USGS Earth Explorer





**Figure 5i. Historical 2015  
Aerial Map**  
**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

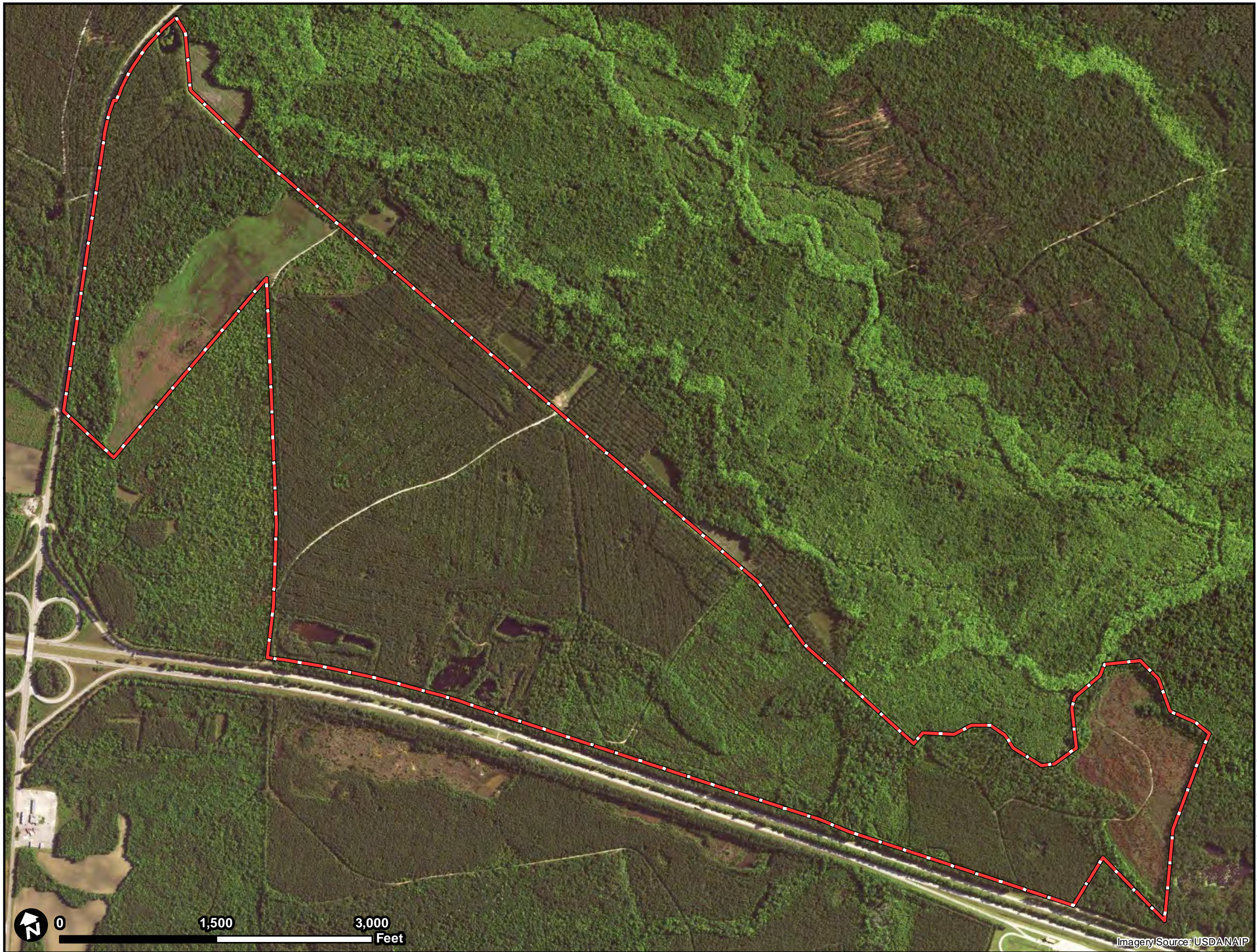
**Legend**

 Spring Branch Mitigation Property




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Imagery Source: USDA NAIP




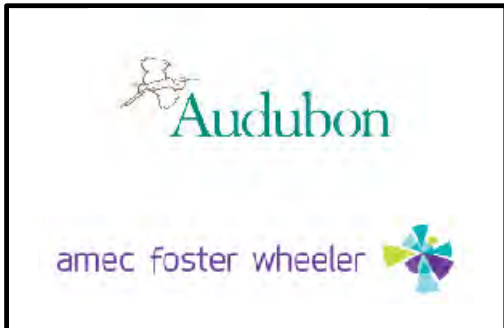


**Figure 6. LiDAR Map**

**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

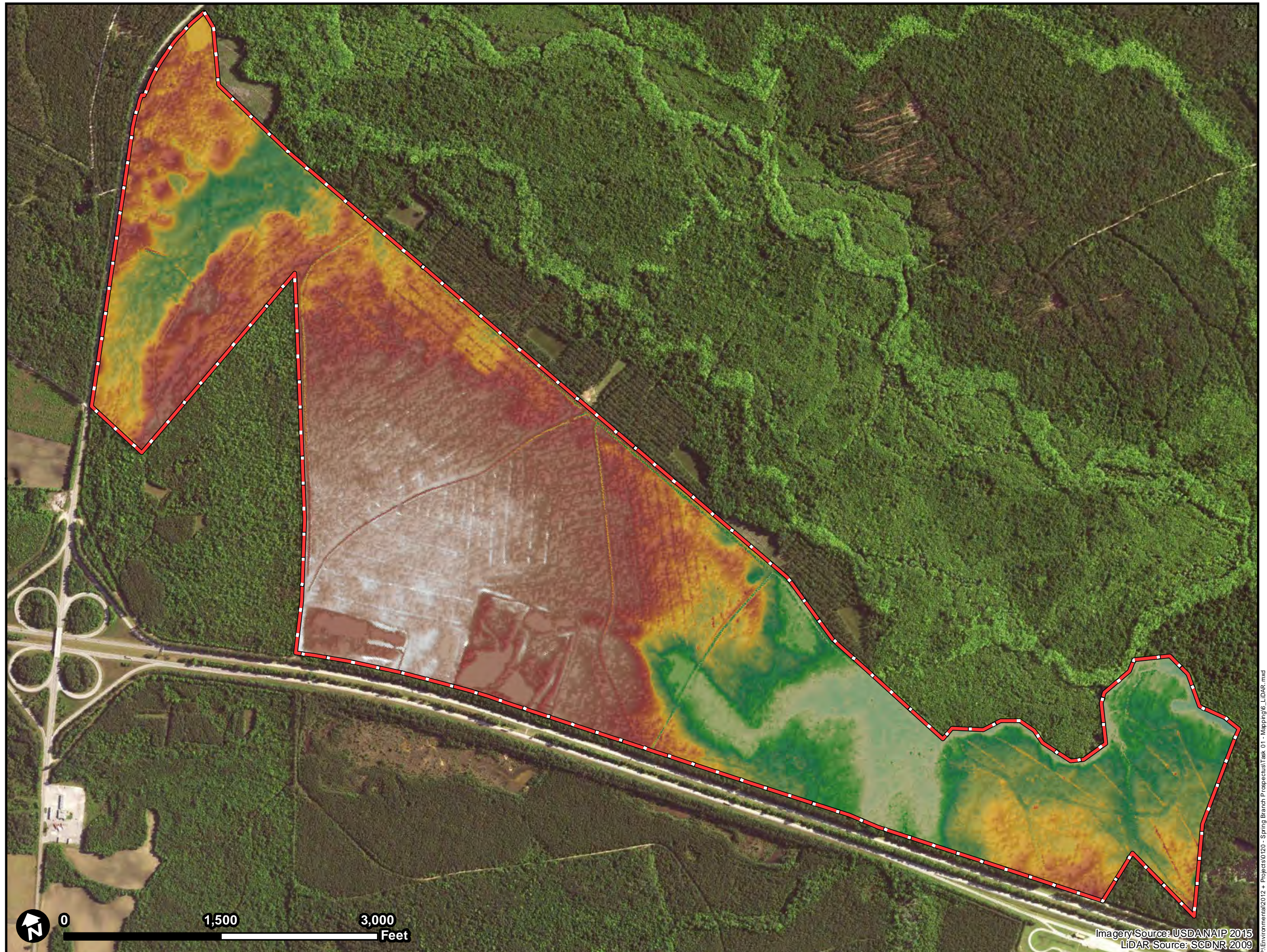
**Legend**

 Spring Branch Mitigation Property



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Imagery Source: USDANAIP 2015  
 LiDAR Source: SCDNR 2009





**Figure 7. NRCS Soils Map**

**Spring Branch  
Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

**Legend**

Spring Branch Mitigation Property

**USGS Streams**

- Unnamed Tributary
- Spring Branch
- Four Hole Swamp

**NRCS Hydric Rating**

- Nonhydic
- Predominantly Nonhydic
- Predominantly Hydic
- Hydic



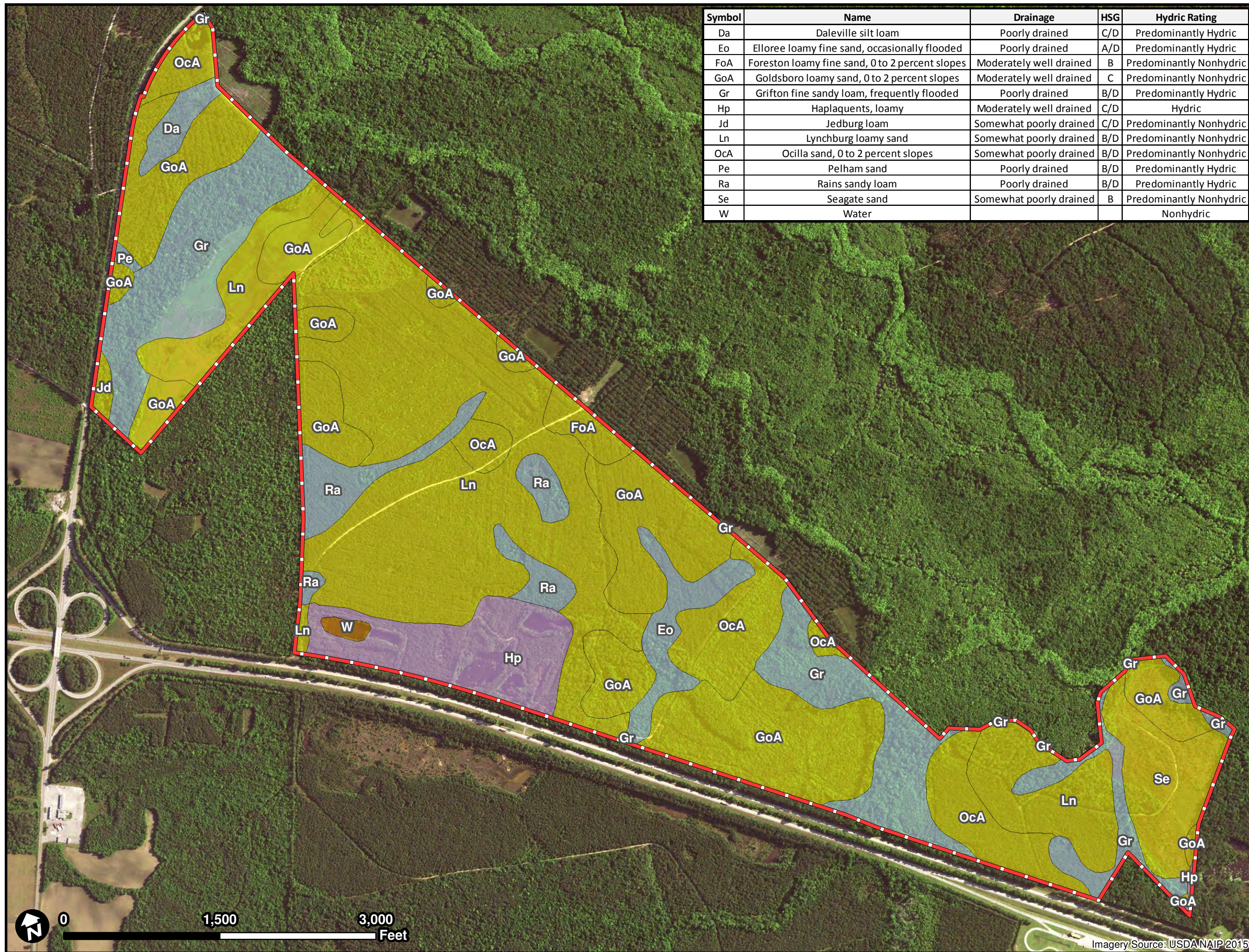
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| Symbol | Name                                            | Drainage                | HSG | Hydic Rating           |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| Da     | Daleville silt loam                             | Poorly drained          | C/D | Predominantly Hydic    |
| Eo     | Ellore loamy fine sand, occasionally flooded    | Poorly drained          | A/D | Predominantly Hydic    |
| FoA    | Foreston loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Moderately well drained | B   | Predominantly Nonhydic |
| GoA    | Goldsboro loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes     | Moderately well drained | C   | Predominantly Nonhydic |
| Gr     | Grifton fine sandy loam, frequently flooded     | Poorly drained          | B/D | Predominantly Hydic    |
| Hp     | Haplaquents, loamy                              | Moderately well drained | C/D | Hydic                  |
| Jd     | Jedburg loam                                    | Somewhat poorly drained | C/D | Predominantly Nonhydic |
| Ln     | Lynchburg loamy sand                            | Somewhat poorly drained | B/D | Predominantly Nonhydic |
| OcA    | Ocilla sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes              | Somewhat poorly drained | B/D | Predominantly Nonhydic |
| Pe     | Pelham sand                                     | Poorly drained          | B/D | Predominantly Hydic    |
| Ra     | Rains sandy loam                                | Poorly drained          | B/D | Predominantly Hydic    |
| Se     | Seagate sand                                    | Somewhat poorly drained | B   | Predominantly Nonhydic |
| W      | Water                                           |                         |     | Nonhydic               |

Imagery Source: USDANAIP 2015





**Figure 8. National Wetland Inventory Map**

**Spring Branch Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

**Legend**

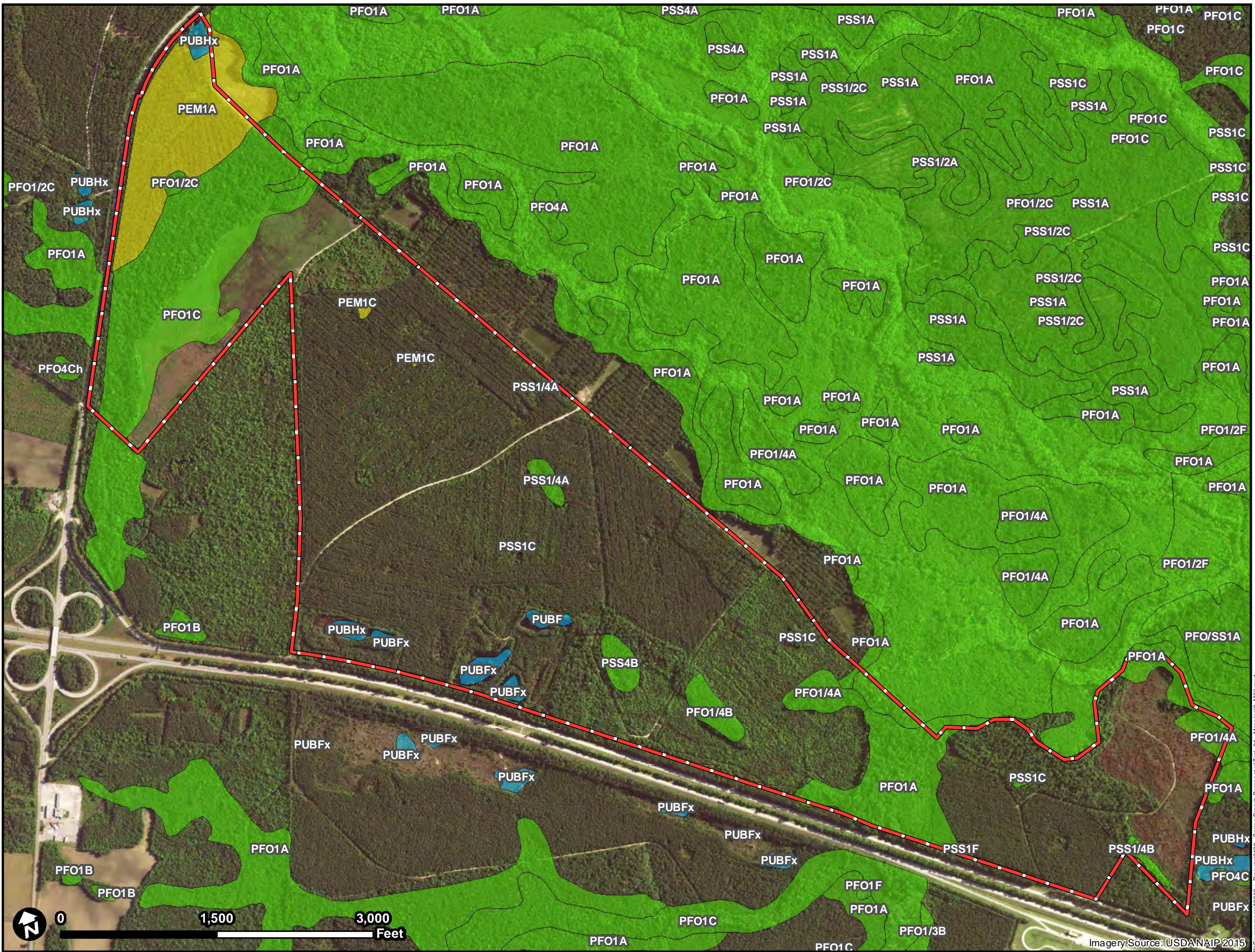
Spring Branch Mitigation Property

**USGS Streams**

- Unnamed Tributary
- Spring Branch
- Four Hole Swamp

**National Wetland Inventory**

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Other



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 Date: 10/28/2016

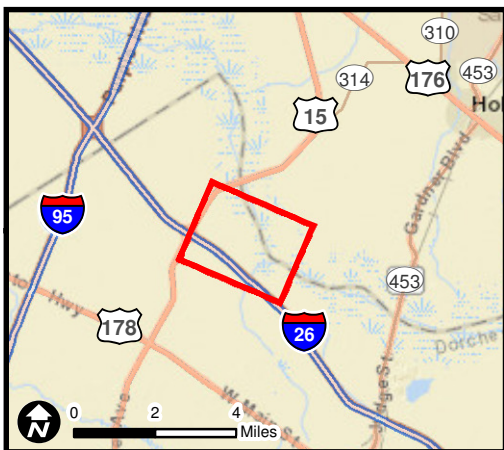
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Imagery/Source: USDANAIP 2015

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**Figure 9. Aquatic Resources Map**

**Spring Branch Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

**Legend**

- Spring Branch Mitigation Property (~ 614 ac)
- Ditch
- Perennial Tributary
- Borrow Pits
- Uplands
- Wetlands

Waters of the U.S. Disclaimer: This drawing represents the jurisdictional waters boundary identified in the field by Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure. All jurisdictional boundaries are subject to verification by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This map should be used for preliminary planning purposes only.



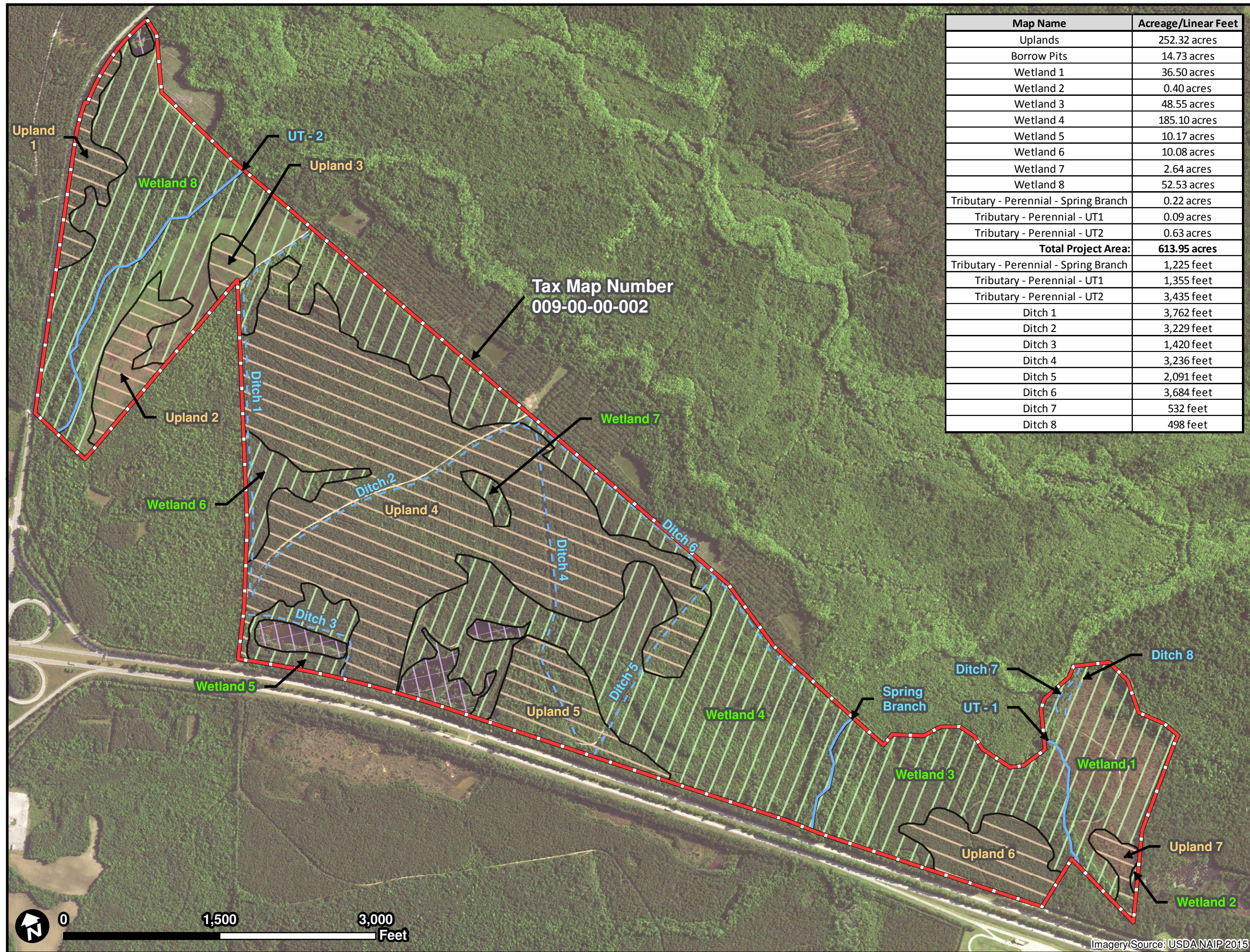
Job No. 6250-16-0120

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| Map Name                              | Acreage/Linear Feet |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Uplands                               | 252.32 acres        |
| Borrow Pits                           | 14.73 acres         |
| Wetland 1                             | 36.50 acres         |
| Wetland 2                             | 0.40 acres          |
| Wetland 3                             | 48.55 acres         |
| Wetland 4                             | 185.10 acres        |
| Wetland 5                             | 10.17 acres         |
| Wetland 6                             | 10.08 acres         |
| Wetland 7                             | 2.64 acres          |
| Wetland 8                             | 52.53 acres         |
| Tributary - Perennial - Spring Branch | 0.22 acres          |
| Tributary - Perennial - UT1           | 0.09 acres          |
| Tributary - Perennial - UT2           | 0.63 acres          |
| <b>Total Project Area:</b>            | <b>613.95 acres</b> |
| Tributary - Perennial - Spring Branch | 1,225 feet          |
| Tributary - Perennial - UT1           | 1,355 feet          |
| Tributary - Perennial - UT2           | 3,435 feet          |
| Ditch 1                               | 3,762 feet          |
| Ditch 2                               | 3,229 feet          |
| Ditch 3                               | 1,420 feet          |
| Ditch 4                               | 3,236 feet          |
| Ditch 5                               | 2,091 feet          |
| Ditch 6                               | 3,684 feet          |
| Ditch 7                               | 532 feet            |
| Ditch 8                               | 498 feet            |



Imagery Source: USDA NAIP 2015

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**Figure 10. Plant Communities Map**  
**Spring Branch Mitigation Property**  
 Dorchester County, South Carolina

**Legend**

Spring Branch Mitigation Property (~ 614 ac)

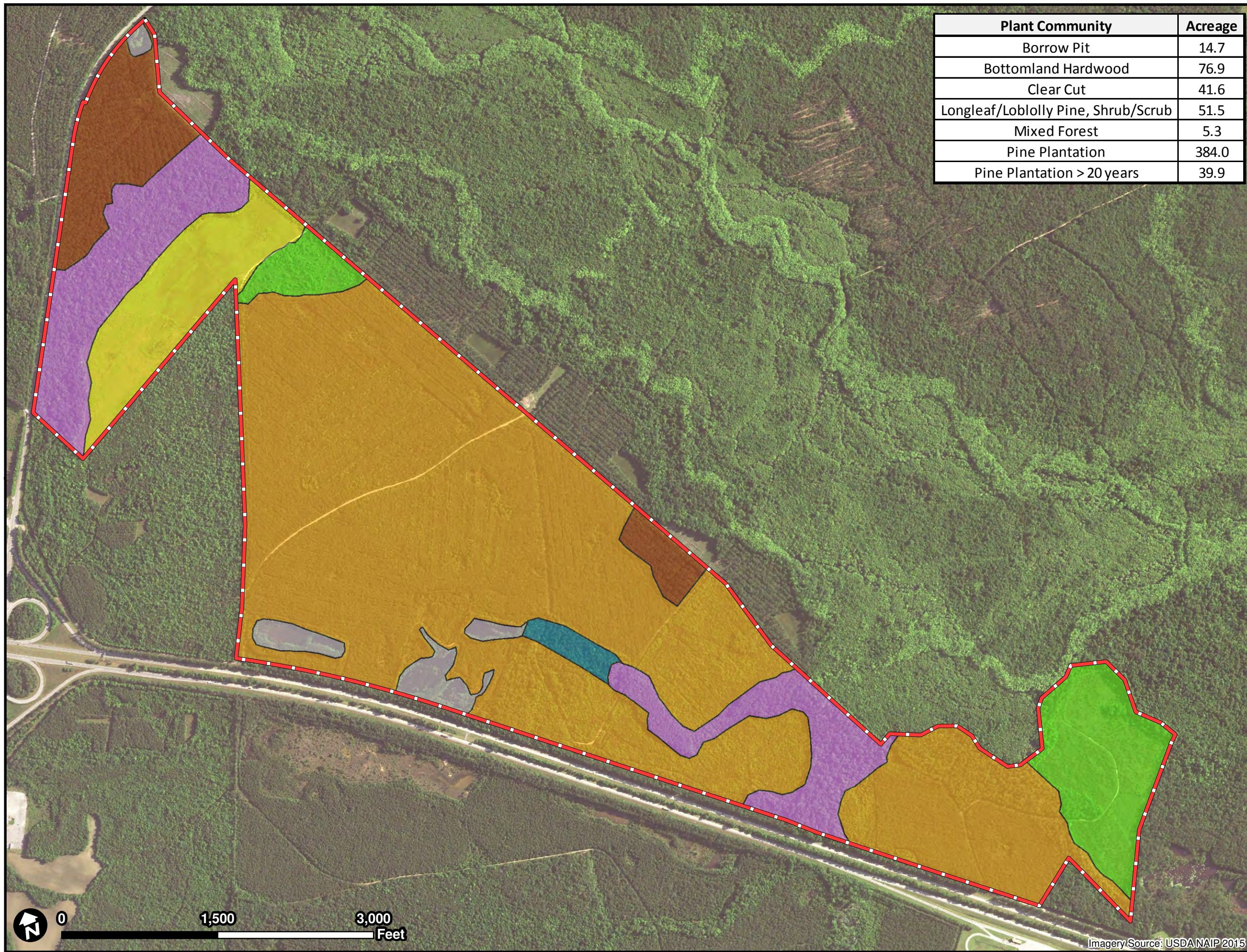
**Plant Community**

- Borrow Pit
- Bottomland Hardwood
- Clear Cut
- Longleaf/Loblolly Pine, Shrub/Scrub
- Mixed Forest
- Pine Plantation
- Pine Plantation > 20 years



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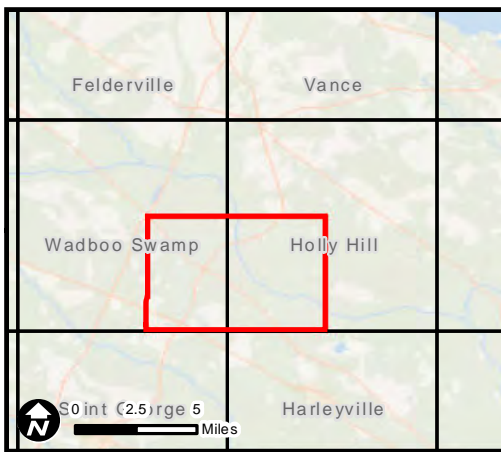
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| Plant Community                     | Acreage |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Borrow Pit                          | 14.7    |
| Bottomland Hardwood                 | 76.9    |
| Clear Cut                           | 41.6    |
| Longleaf/Loblolly Pine, Shrub/Scrub | 51.5    |
| Mixed Forest                        | 5.3     |
| Pine Plantation                     | 384.0   |
| Pine Plantation > 20 years          | 39.9    |

Imagery Source: USDA NAIP 2015





**Figure 12. Cultural Resources Map**  
**Spring Branch Mitigation Property**  
 Dorchester County, South Carolina

**Legend**

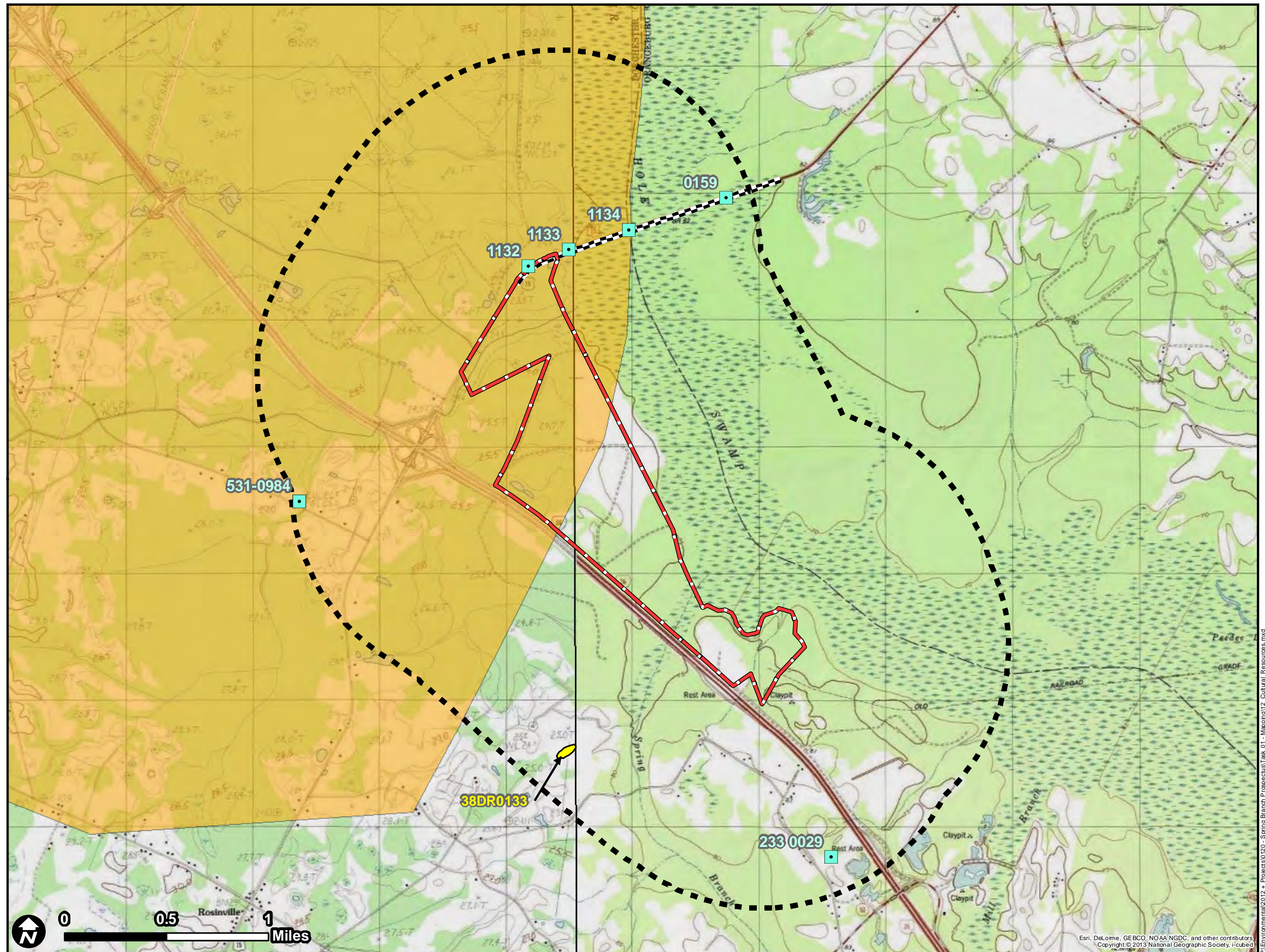
- Spring Branch Mitigation Property
- APE (1-mile)
- Archaeological Sites
- Historic Structures
- Survey Line
- Survey Area
- USGS 24k Topo Map Boundaries

References:  
 USGS Topographic Map, 7.5-minute series, Wadboo Swamp, dated 1982  
 USGS Topographic Map, 7.5-minute series, Holly Hill, dated 1979, photoinspected 1987

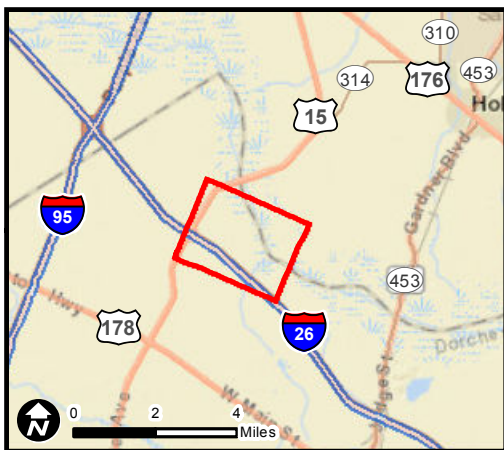


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**Figure 13. Forestry Road Map**  
**Spring Branch Mitigation Property**  
 Dorchester County, South Carolina

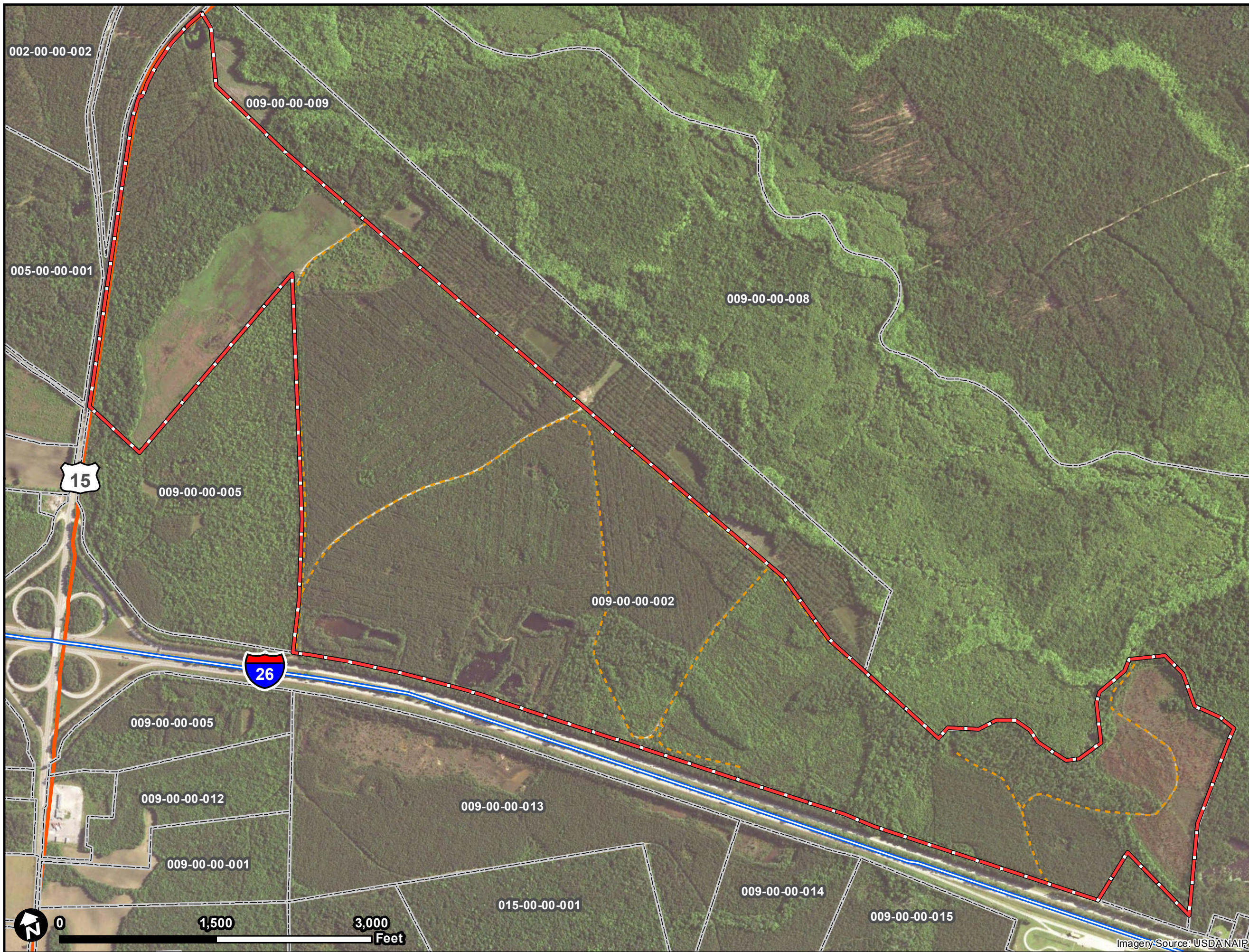
**Legend**

- Spring Branch Mitigation Property
- Parcels
- Forestry Road
- Interstate
- U.S. Highway

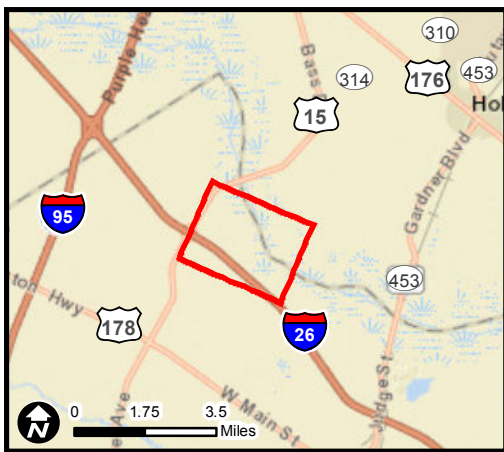


Job No. 6250-16-0120  
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 Reviewed By: WAR  
 Date: 10/28/2016

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**Figure 14. Mitigation Work Plan Map**

**Spring Branch Mitigation Property**  
Dorchester County, South Carolina

**Legend**

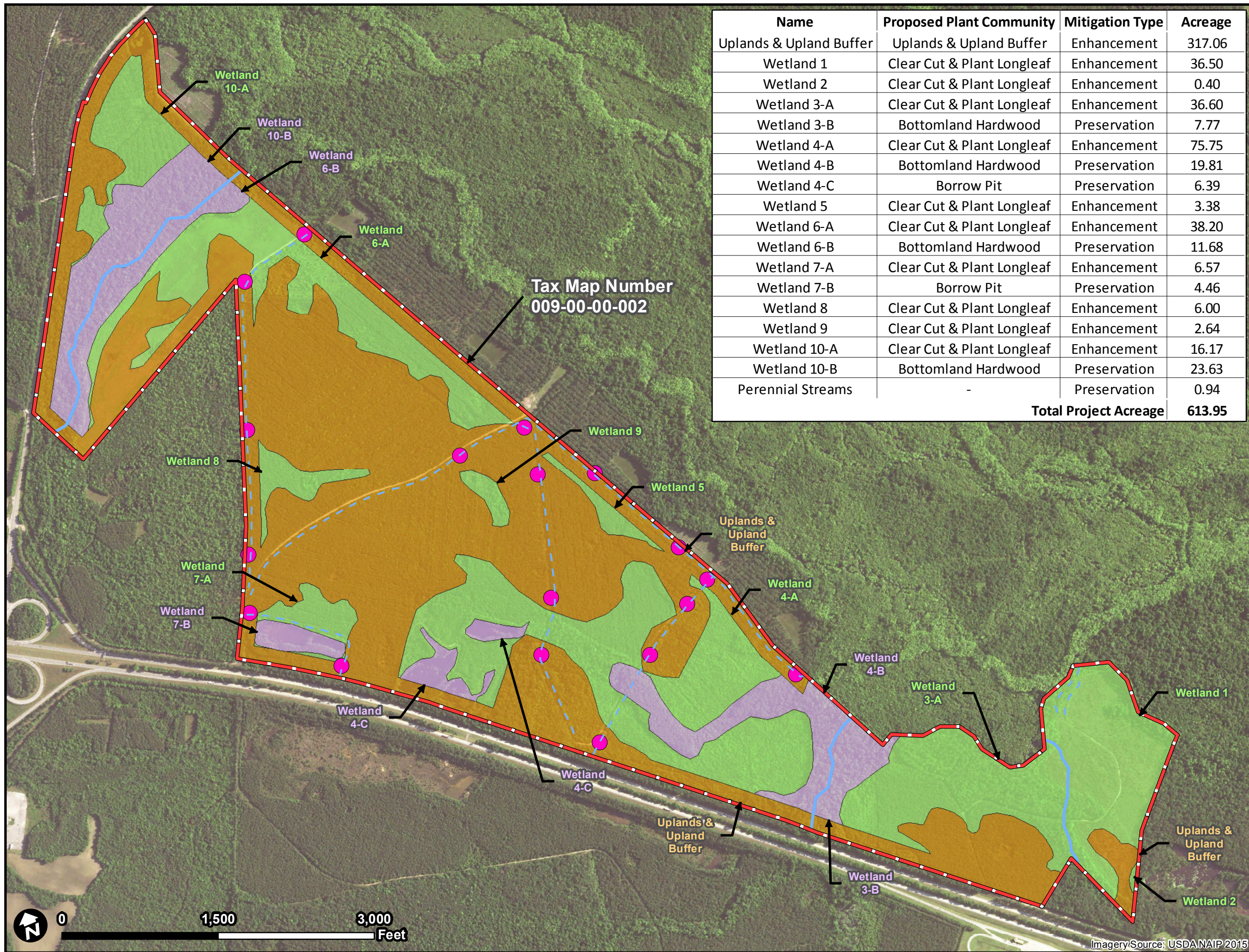
- Spring Branch Mitigation Property (~ 614 ac)
- Ditch
- Perennial Tributary
- Mitigation Work Plan**
- Uplands & Upland Buffer ~ 317 ac
- Wetland Preservation ~ 74 ac
- Wetland Enhancement ~ 222 ac
- Ditch Plug - Approximate Location

Waters of the U.S. Disclaimer: This drawing represents the jurisdictional waters boundary identified in the field by Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure. All jurisdictional boundaries are subject to verification by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This map should be used for preliminary planning



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Reviewed By: WAR  
Date: 6/19/2017

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| Name                         | Proposed Plant Community   | Mitigation Type | Acreage       |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Uplands & Upland Buffer      | Uplands & Upland Buffer    | Enhancement     | 317.06        |
| Wetland 1                    | Clear Cut & Plant Longleaf | Enhancement     | 36.50         |
| Wetland 2                    | Clear Cut & Plant Longleaf | Enhancement     | 0.40          |
| Wetland 3-A                  | Clear Cut & Plant Longleaf | Enhancement     | 36.60         |
| Wetland 3-B                  | Bottomland Hardwood        | Preservation    | 7.77          |
| Wetland 4-A                  | Clear Cut & Plant Longleaf | Enhancement     | 75.75         |
| Wetland 4-B                  | Bottomland Hardwood        | Preservation    | 19.81         |
| Wetland 4-C                  | Borrow Pit                 | Preservation    | 6.39          |
| Wetland 5                    | Clear Cut & Plant Longleaf | Enhancement     | 3.38          |
| Wetland 6-A                  | Clear Cut & Plant Longleaf | Enhancement     | 38.20         |
| Wetland 6-B                  | Bottomland Hardwood        | Preservation    | 11.68         |
| Wetland 7-A                  | Clear Cut & Plant Longleaf | Enhancement     | 6.57          |
| Wetland 7-B                  | Borrow Pit                 | Preservation    | 4.46          |
| Wetland 8                    | Clear Cut & Plant Longleaf | Enhancement     | 6.00          |
| Wetland 9                    | Clear Cut & Plant Longleaf | Enhancement     | 2.64          |
| Wetland 10-A                 | Clear Cut & Plant Longleaf | Enhancement     | 16.17         |
| Wetland 10-B                 | Bottomland Hardwood        | Preservation    | 23.63         |
| Perennial Streams            | -                          | Preservation    | 0.94          |
| <b>Total Project Acreage</b> |                            |                 | <b>613.95</b> |