

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

Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400

Charleston, South Carolina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N SAC-2018-00509

February 12, 2019

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), 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. Rheta DiNovo
Environmental Banc & Exchange
c/o Resource Environmental Solutions
701 East Bay Street, Suite 306
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

for a permit to establish and operate the French Quarter Creek Mitigation Bank (FQCMB). The applicant seeks authorization to undergo restoration, enhancement, and preservation activities to generate net increases in aquatic resource functions and services. The FQCMB proposes to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable, adverse impacts to Waters of the United States. The project site has been proposed on

Pinckney Reserve Branch

at a location on SC-41, south of Highpoint Circle, Berkeley County, South Carolina (Latitude: 33.0466 °N, Longitude: 79.8031 °W), Huger USGS quadrangle.

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 proposed work consists of both wetland and stream restoration, enhancement, enhancement by upland buffering, and preservation. In detail, the project proposes to restore

approximately 70.5 acres of bottomland hardwood forest by filling ditches and raising the water table of the affected area; enhance approximately 206 acres of various wetland habitats through planting of native species and land management practices; and approximately 1,200 feet of stream restoration. The project purpose is to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable, adverse impacts to Waters of the United States.

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

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 would impact 0.0 acres of 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)), 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.

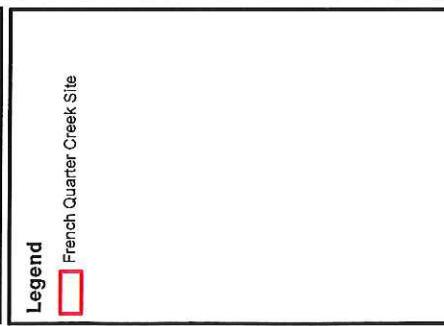
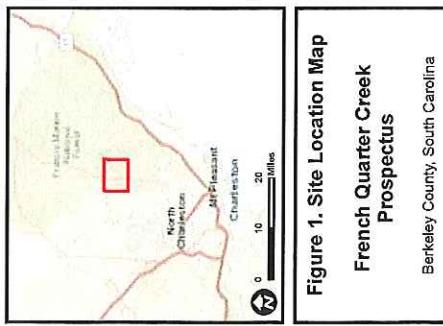
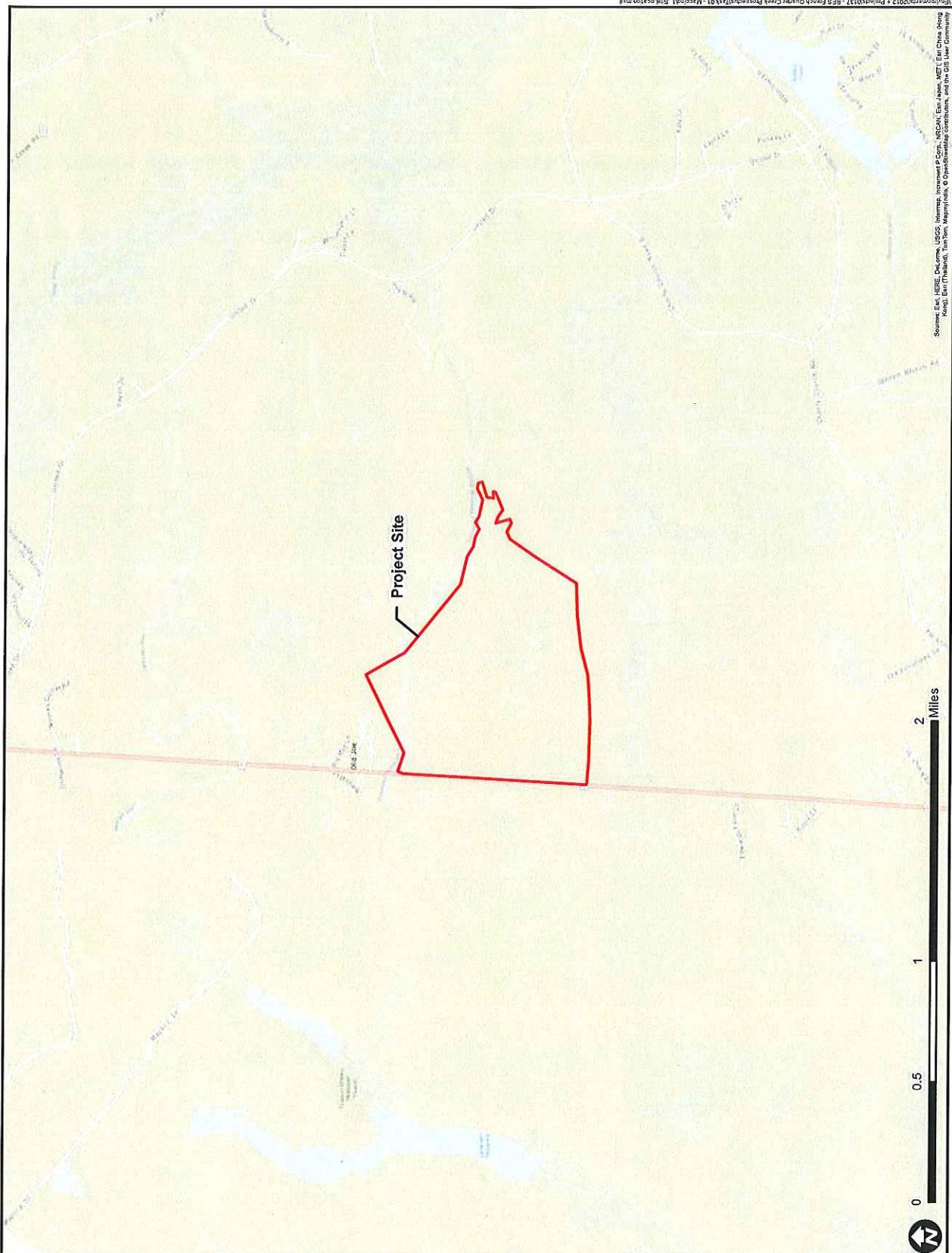
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

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.



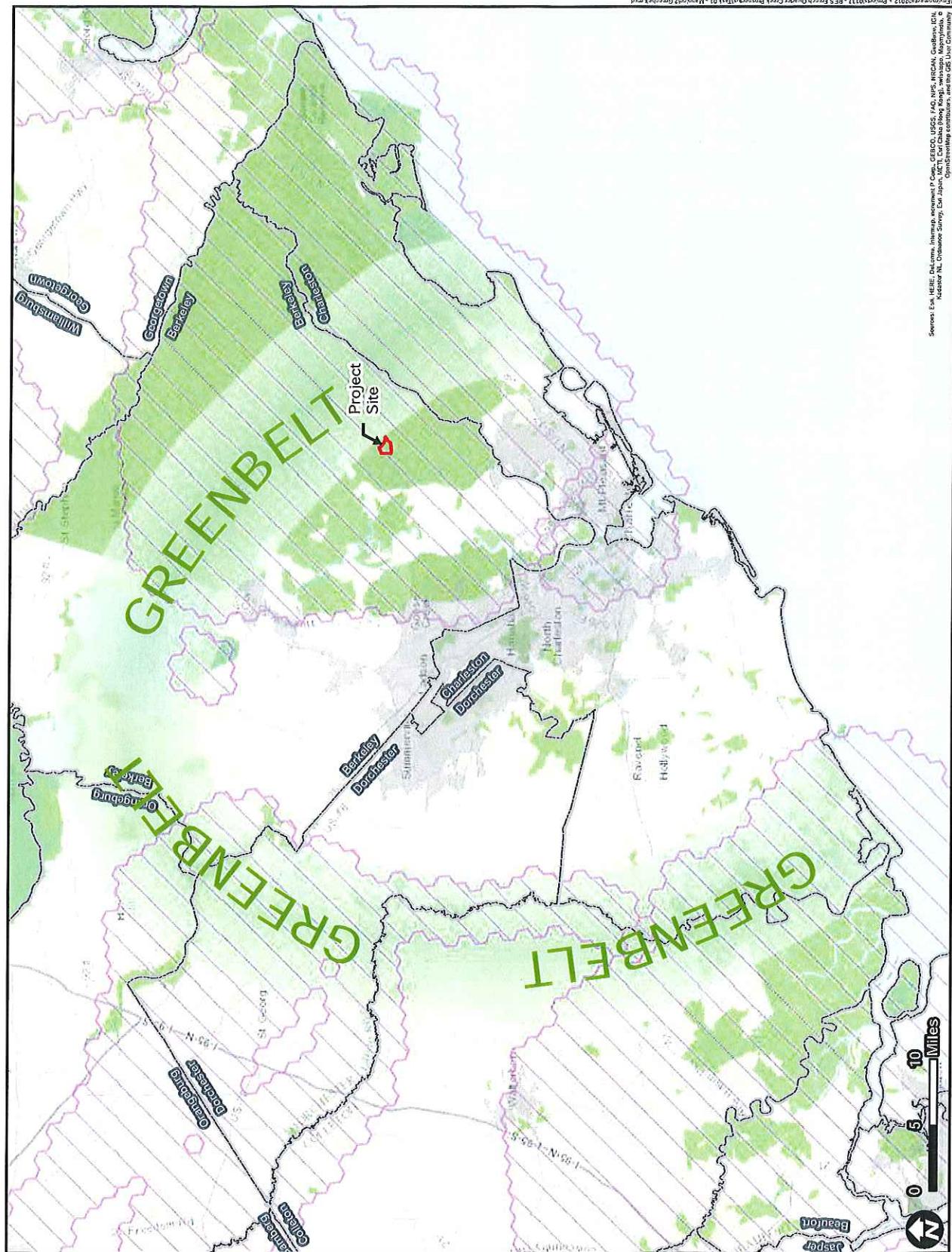
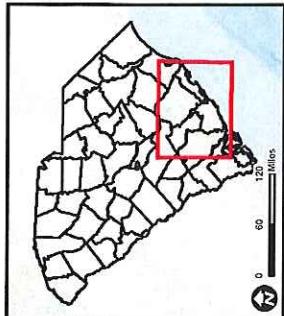


Figure 2. Conservation Lands
& the Greenbelt Map
French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend

- French Quarter Creek Site
- Urbanized Area
- The Nature Conservancy Priority Areas
- **Greenbelt
- Existing Private, Protected, and Public Lands

Regional organizations have endeavored to create a greenbelt of conserved lands around Charleston to protect the scenic environment. French Quarter Creek Mitigation Bank would help expand this vision.



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Job No.:	62501717
Date Rec'd:	BBG
Received By:	BBK
Date:	05/31/2017

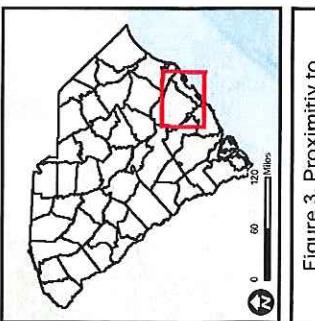
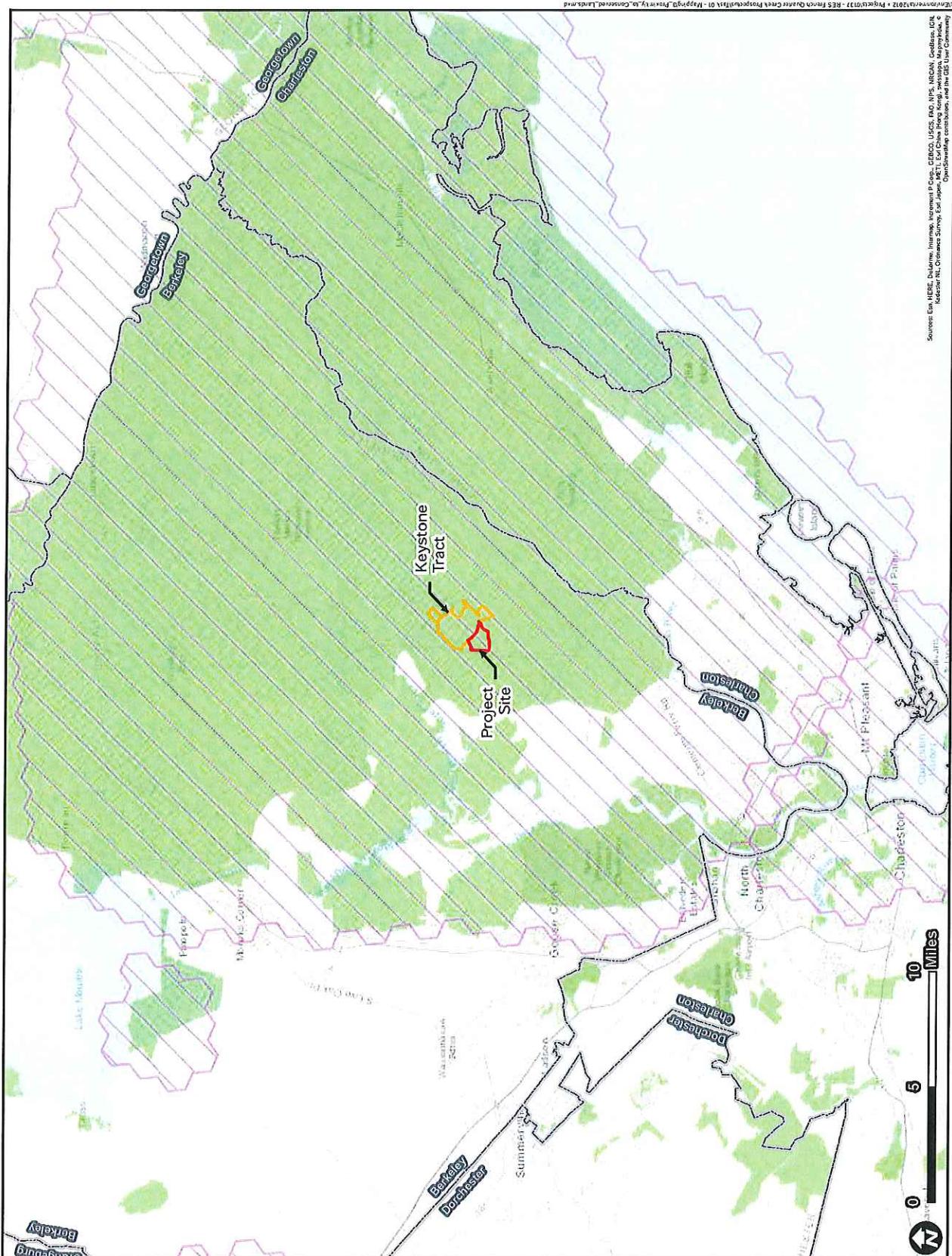


Figure 3. Proximity to Conserved Lands Map
French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend

- French Quarter Creek Site
- Keystone Tract
- The Nature Conservancy Priority Areas
- Existing Private, Protected, and Public Lands



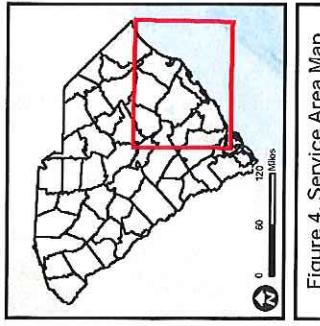
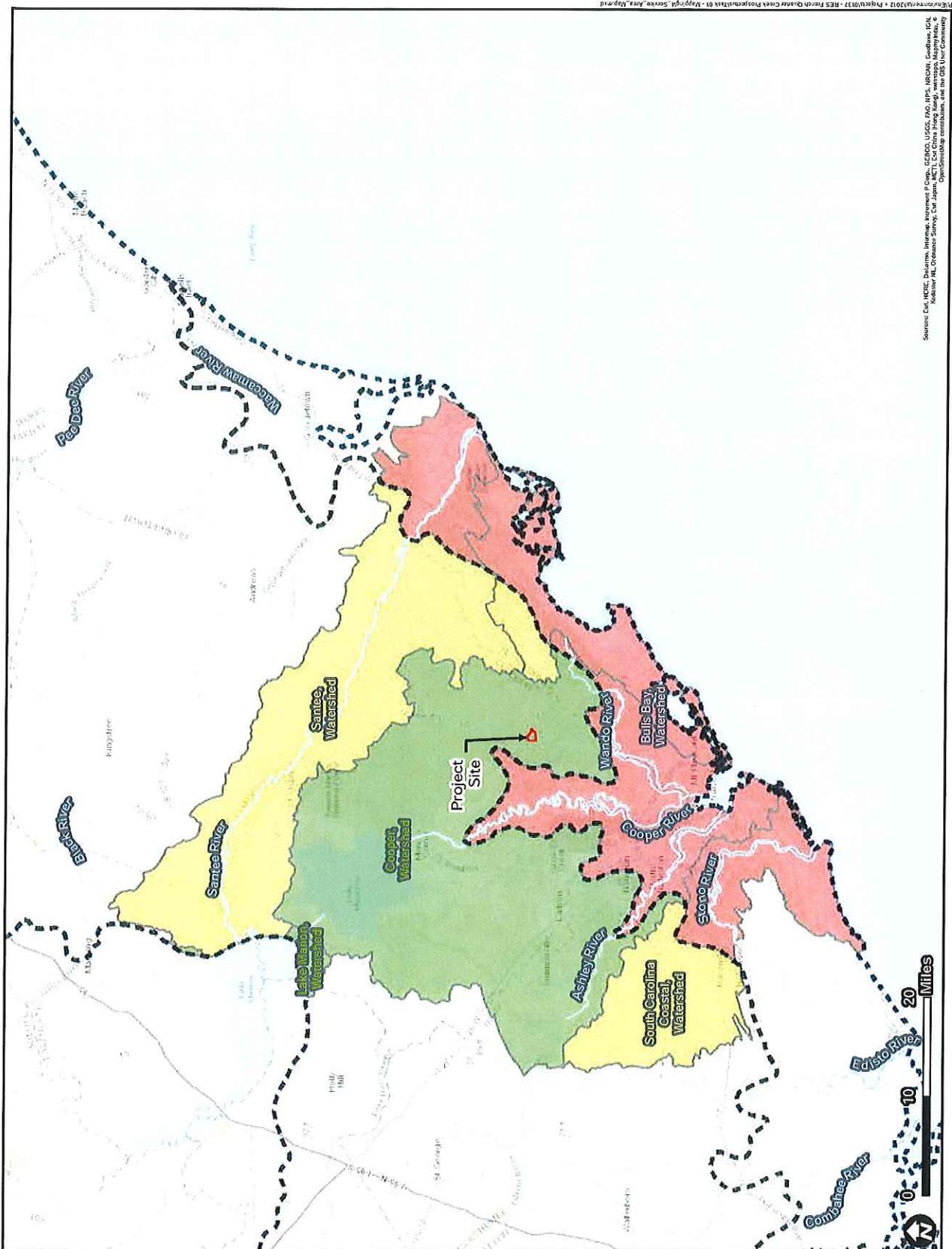


Figure 4. Service Area Map

Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend

- The legend includes:

 - Level III Eco Region (Mitigation Boundary)**: Represented by a blue square.
 - French Quarter Creek Site**: Represented by a red square.
 - Watershed Service**: Represented by a green square.
 - Primary Service**: Represented by a yellow square.
 - Secondary Service**: Represented by a light blue square.
 - Tertiary Service**: Represented by a pink square.



Job No.	6250-70137
Drawn By	BWS
Reviewed By	BPK
Date	05/31/2017

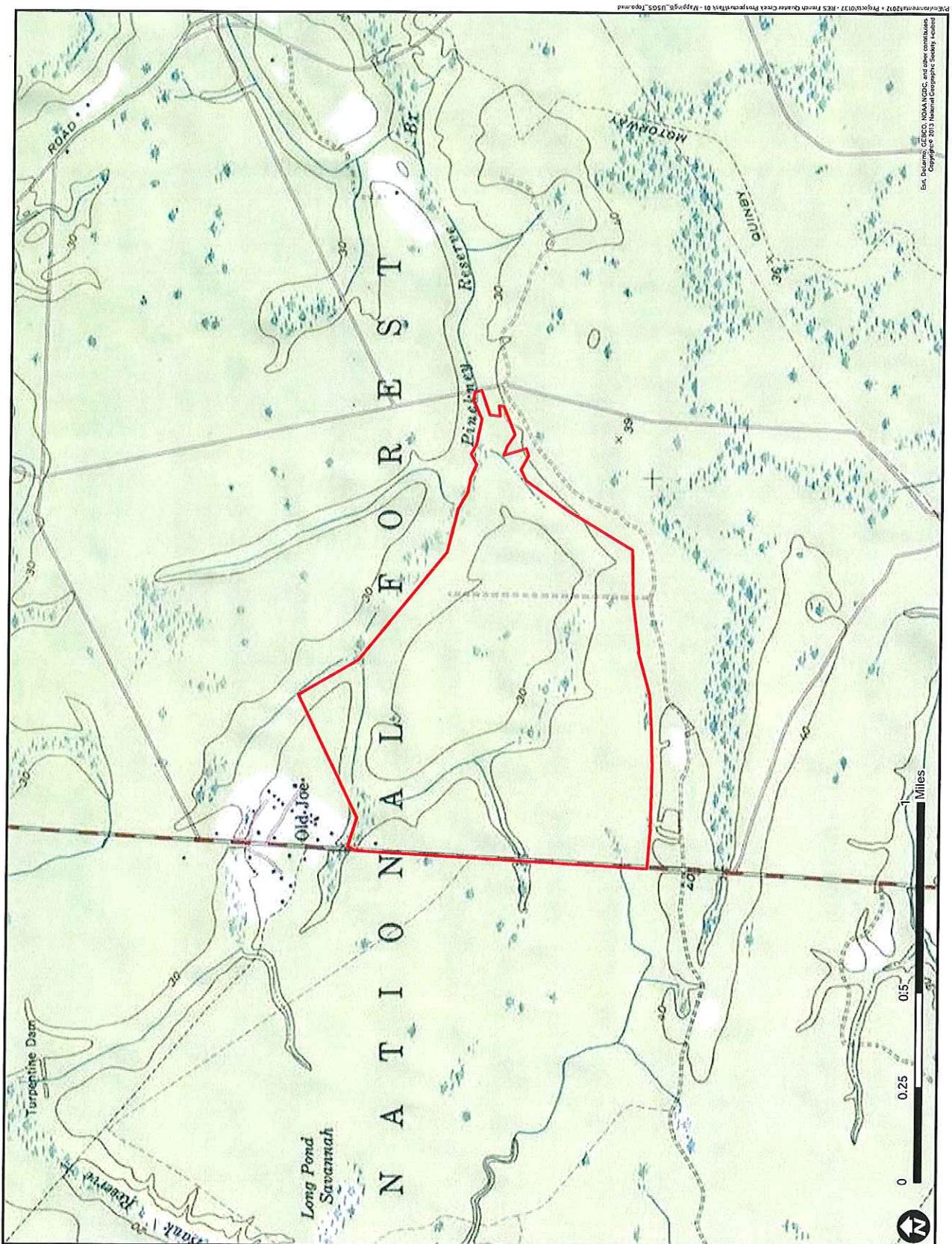


Figure 5. USGS Topographic Map
French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend
■ French Quarter Creek Site
 USGS 24k Topo Map

References:
 USGS Topographic Map, 7.5-minute
 series, Huger, dated 1973



Job No. 625017037
 Owner: SCD
 Evaluator: Br. BDK
 Date: 05/31/2017

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French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend

■ Approximate Project Boundary



Job No.: 625010137
Drawn By: C.R.
Reviewed By: B.W.K.
Date: 05/31/2012

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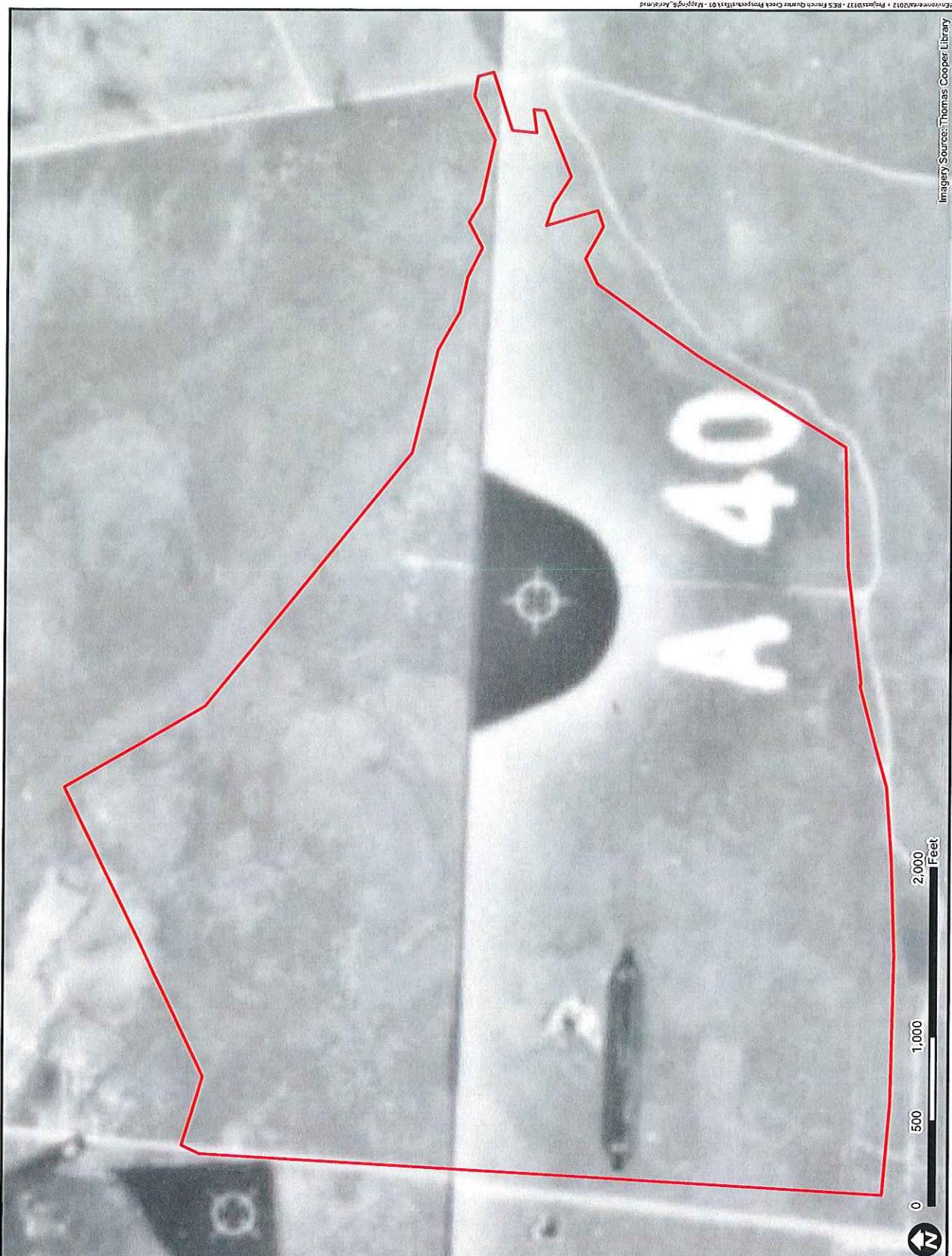


Figure 6b. 1975 Aerial Map

French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend
□ Approximate Project Boundary



Job No. 625010132
Drawn By: CLB
Checked By: BPK
Date: 05/31/2017

Imagery Source: Thomas Cooper Library



Figure 6c. 1989 Aerial Map

French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend
■ Approximate Project Boundary



Job No. 6C000000000000000000000000000000	SEARCHED
Comm. By.	CLB
Received By.	SPK
Date.	05/01/2017

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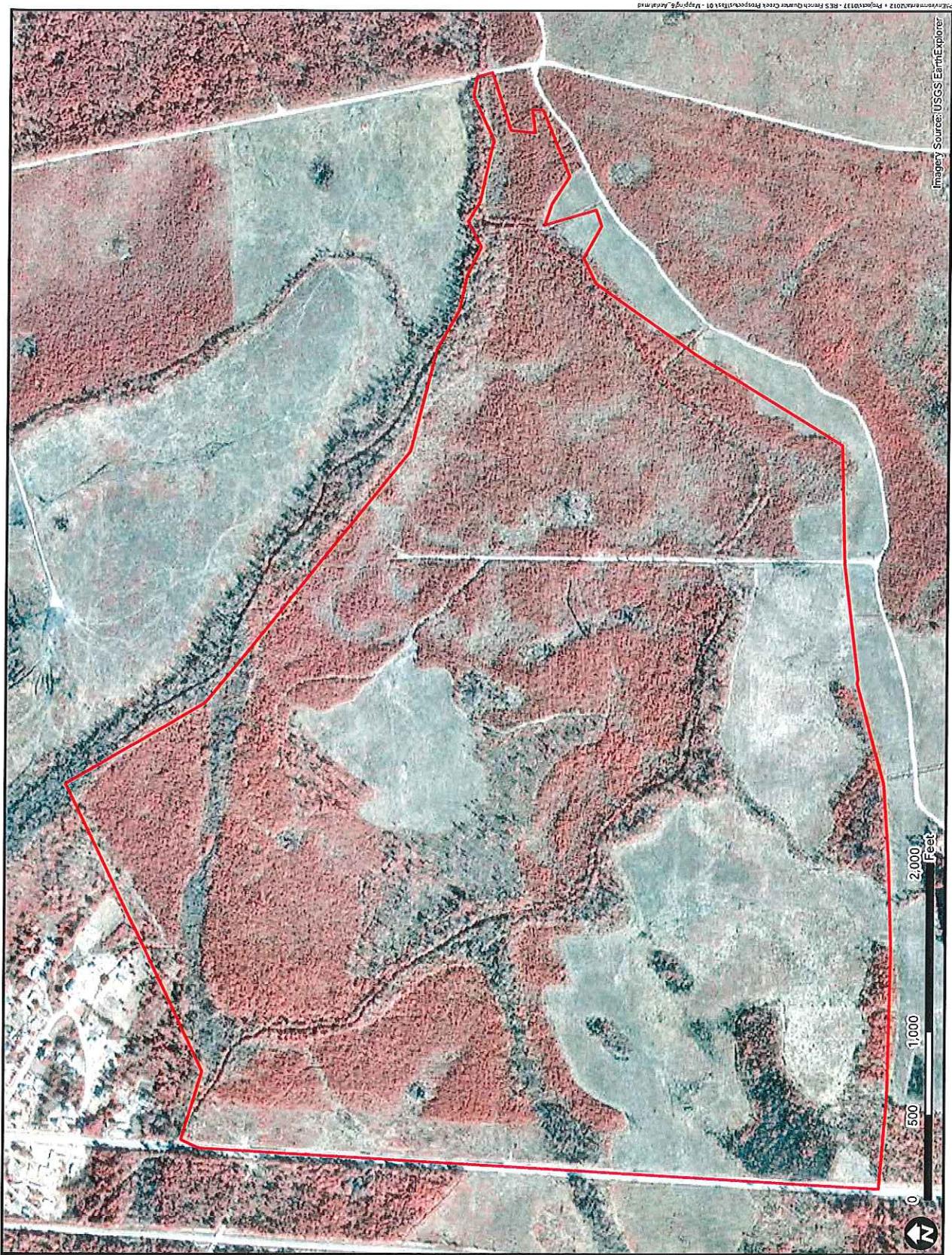


Figure 6d. 1994 Aerial Map

French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend

Approximate Project Boundary



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Job No.:	<u>B25011117</u>
Down Br.	<u>C.L.B</u>
Endround Br.	<u>B2PK</u>
Date:	<u>05/17/2012</u>



Figure 6e. 2000 Aerial Map

French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend
■ Approximate Project Boundary



Job No. 62401032
Drown Br. C.I.B.
Elevated Br. Blk.
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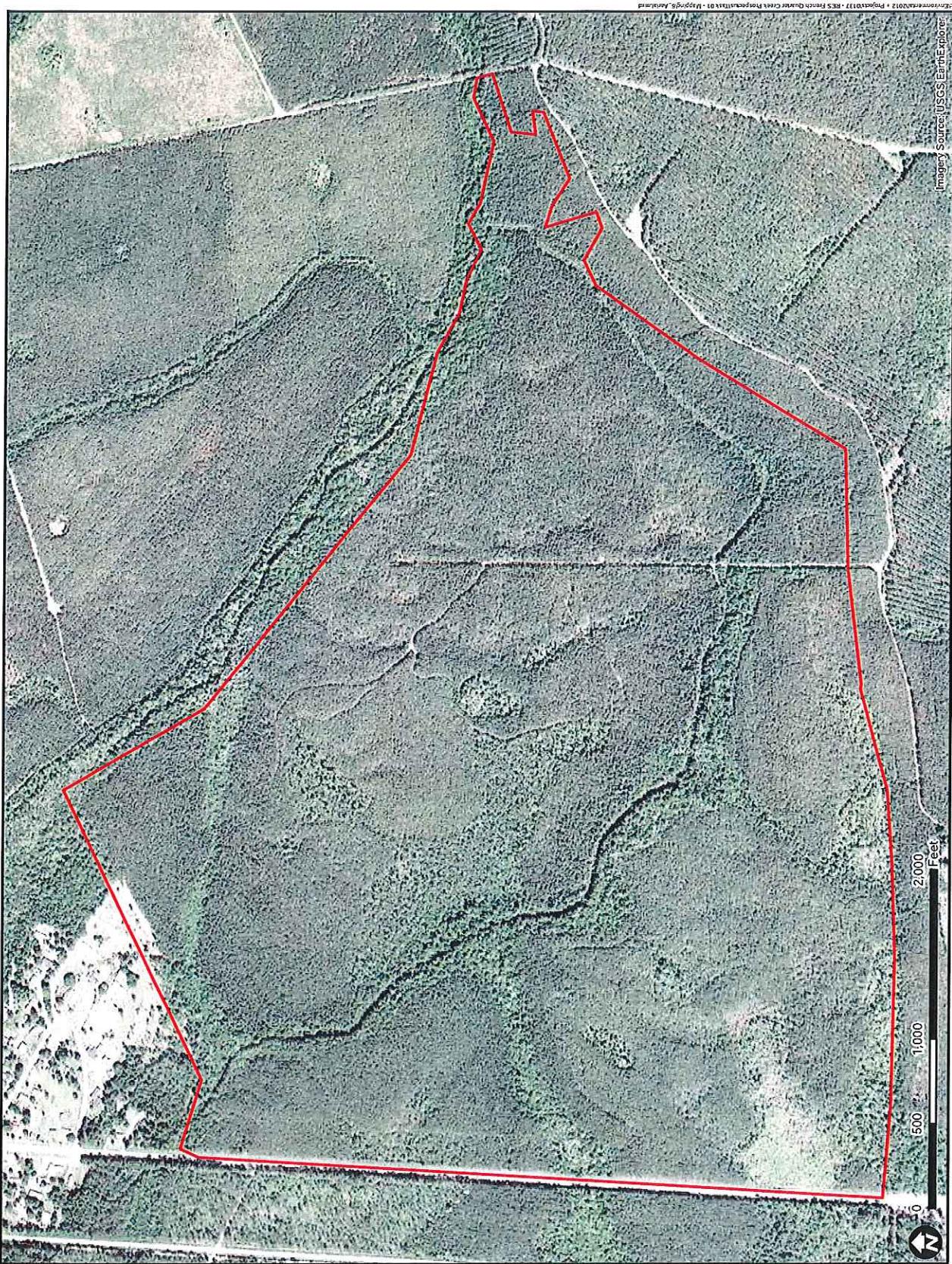


Figure 6f. 2006 Aerial Map

French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend
■ Approximate Project Boundary



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Document No. GJB
Submitted By: SPK
Date: 05/01/2017

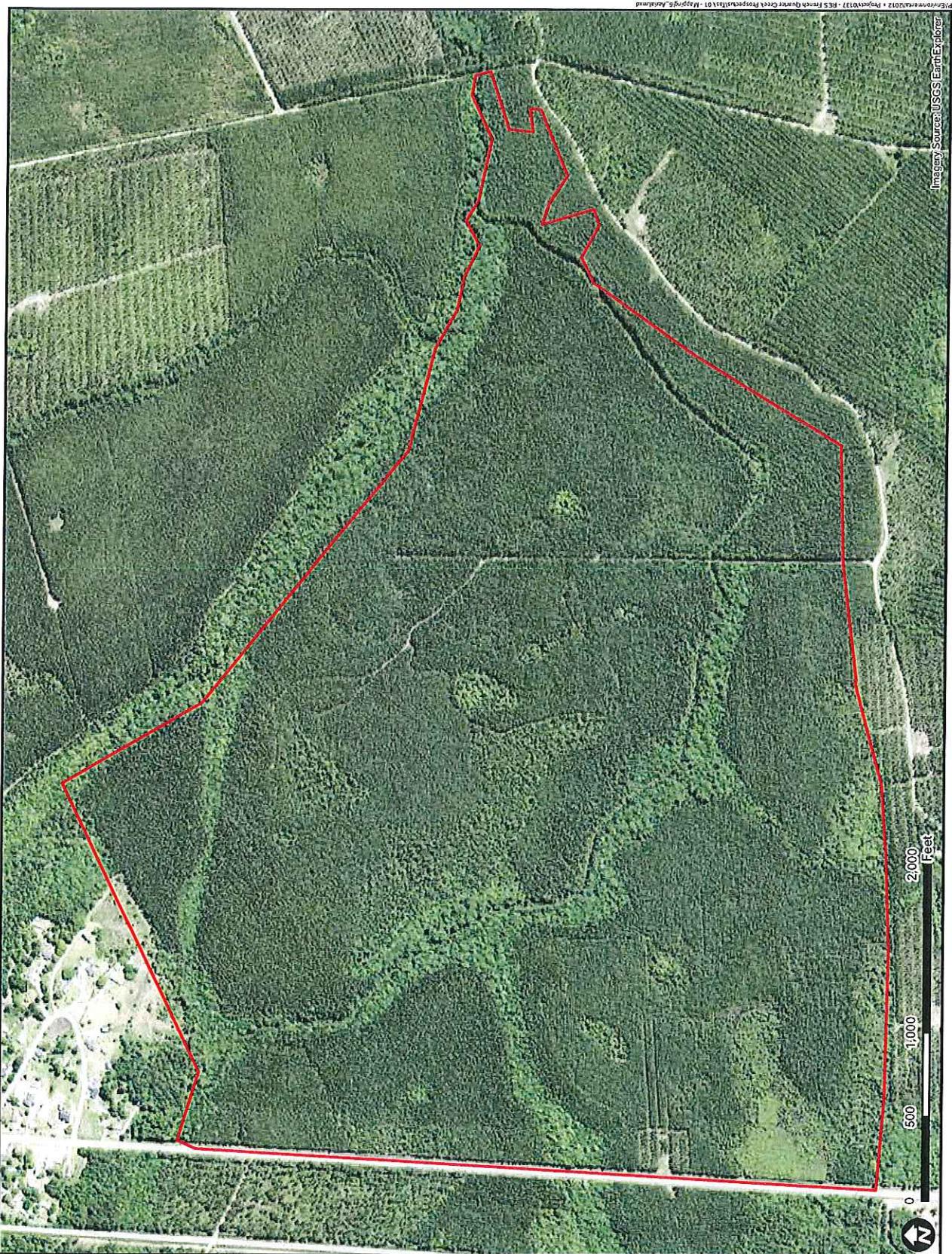


Figure 6g. 2009 Aerial Map

French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend

■ Approximate Project Boundary



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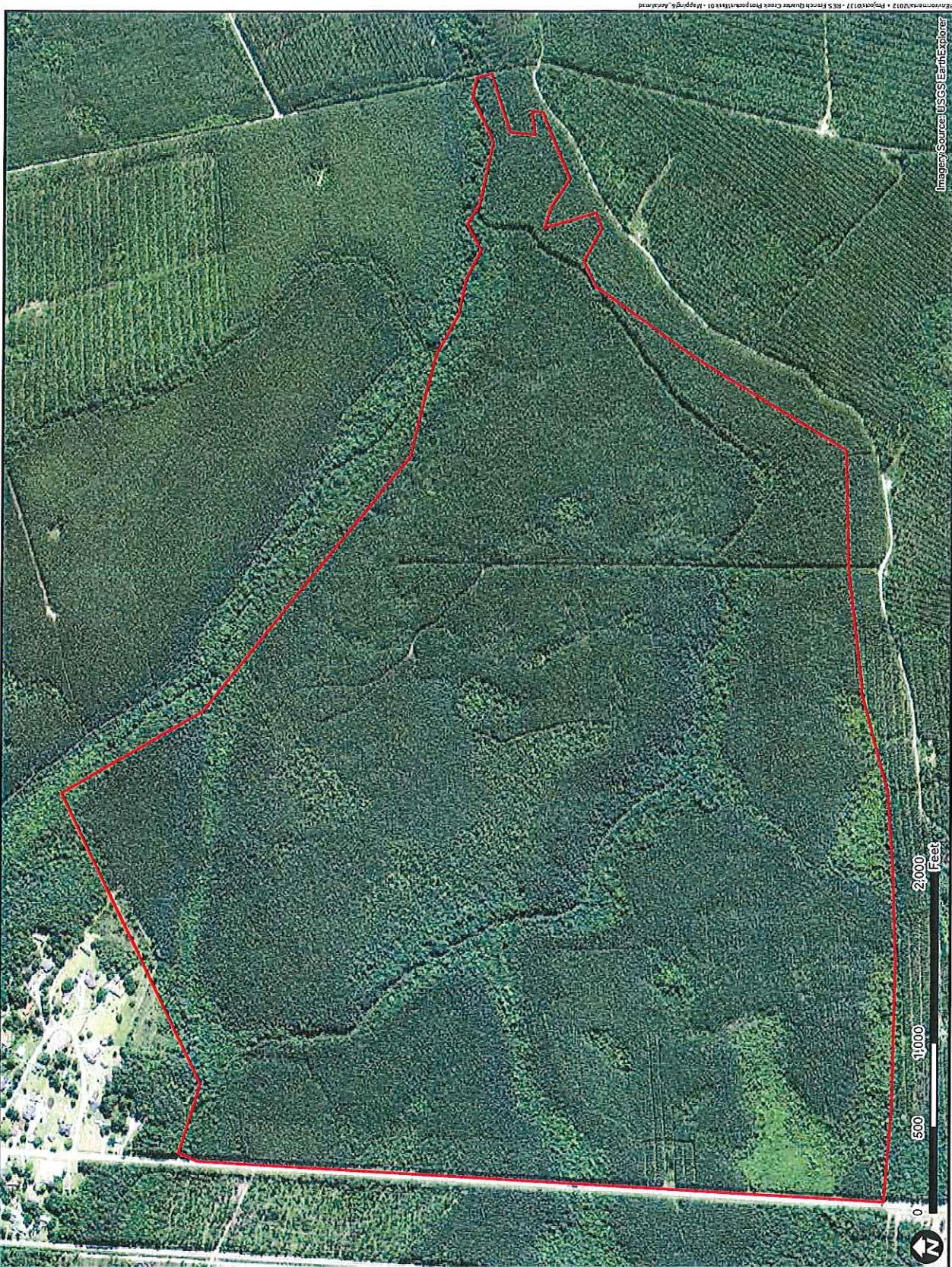


Figure 6h. 2011 Aerial Map

French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend
■ Approximate Project Boundary



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Job No.	65201037
Down Rcv.	CAB
Endorsed By:	SPK
Date:	05/01/2017

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Image Source: USGS Earth Explorer

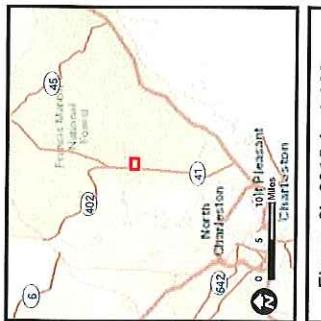
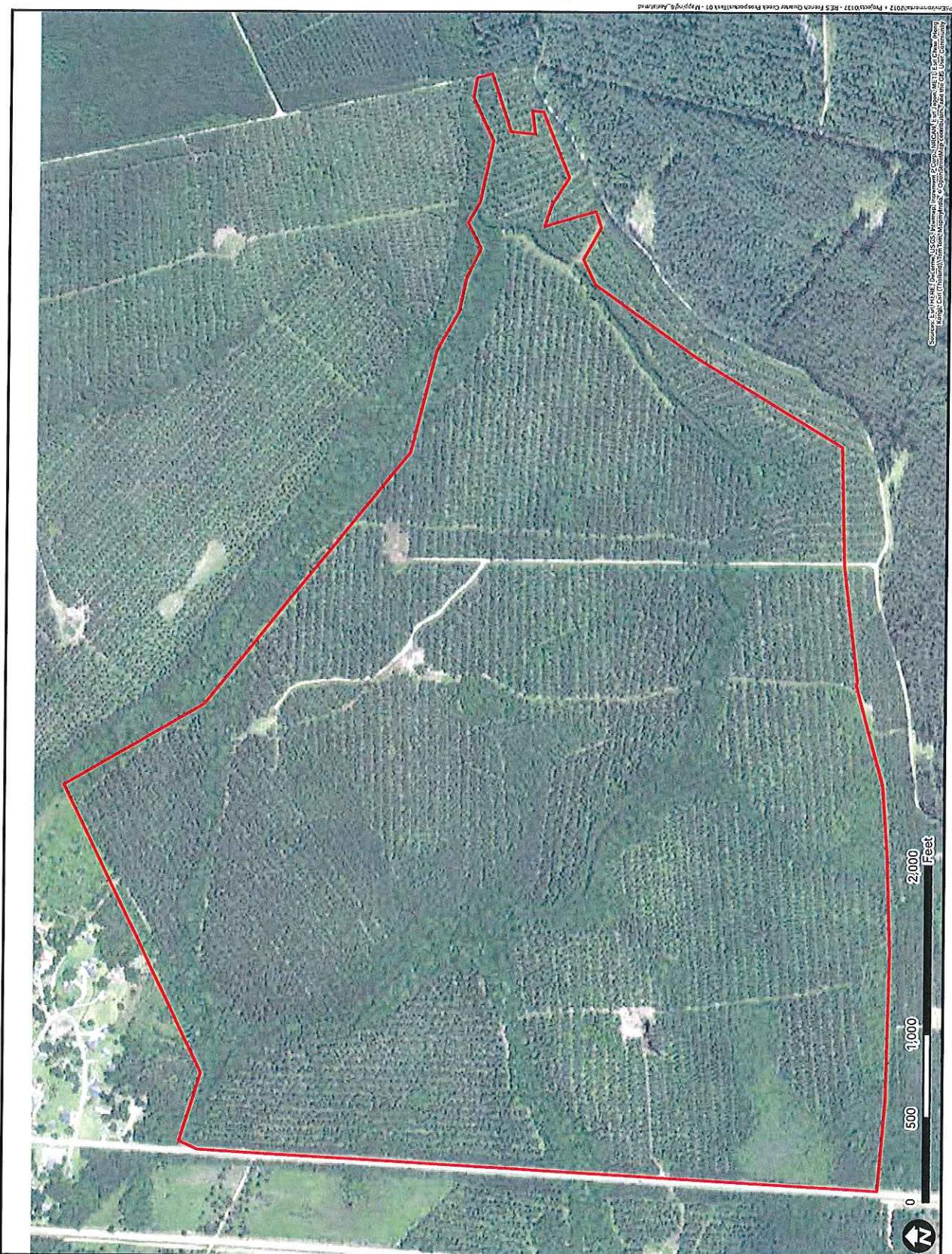


Figure 6i. 2015 Aerial Map

French Quarter Creek
Prospectus

Berkeley County South Carolina

Legend

Approximate Project Boundary



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The much-honored hero has been recruited with all due care and responsibility and is strictly for use with Arctic Farter Whistler project Beta 501970-137. Arctic Farter Whistler insures no liability, direct or indirect, whatsoever in any accident, injury or damage resulting from his use.

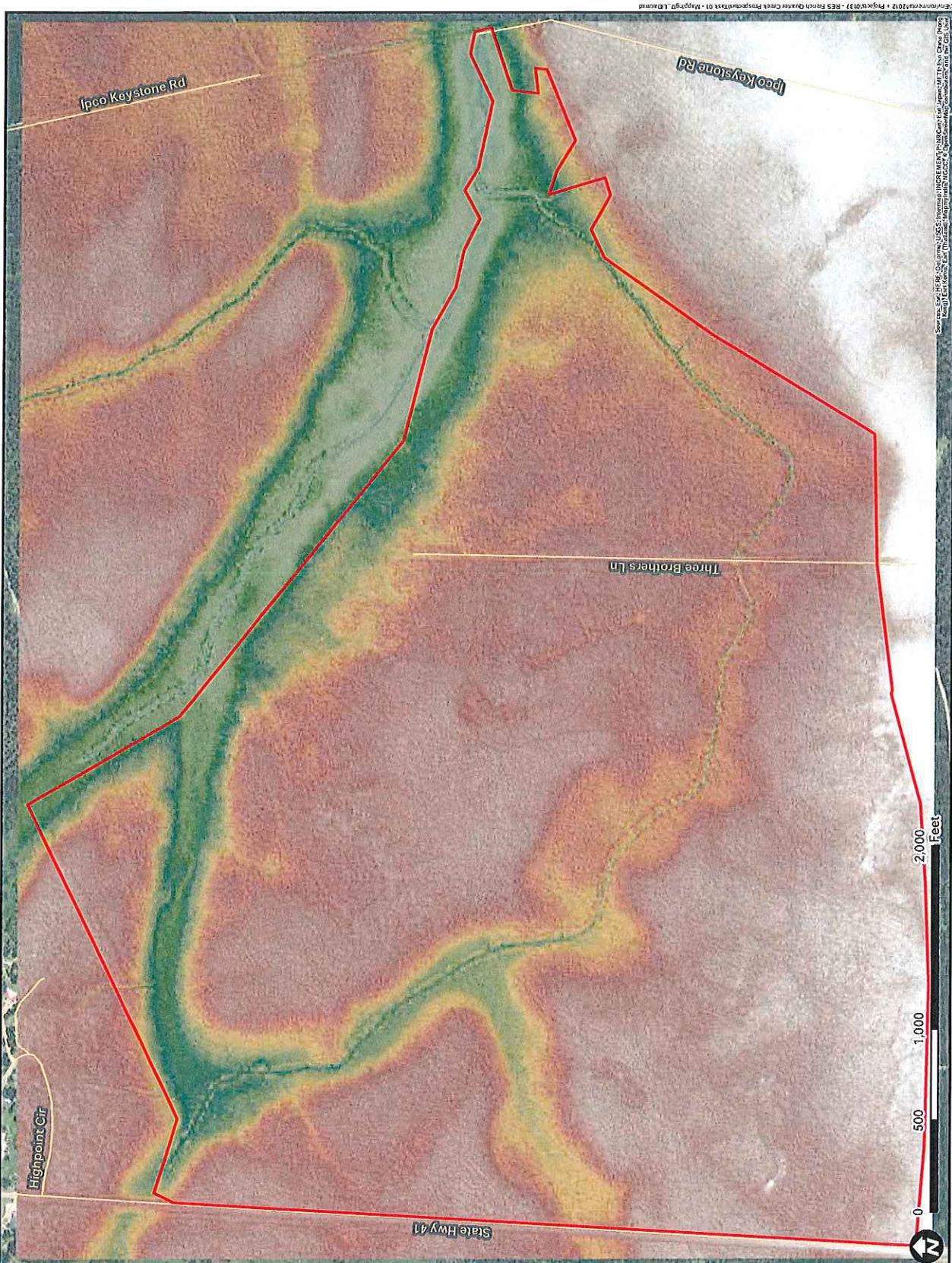


Figure 7. LiDAR Map

French Quarter Creek
Prospectus

Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend

- French Quarter Creek Site
- Named Roads
- Elevation (ft)
- High : 40
- Low : 21

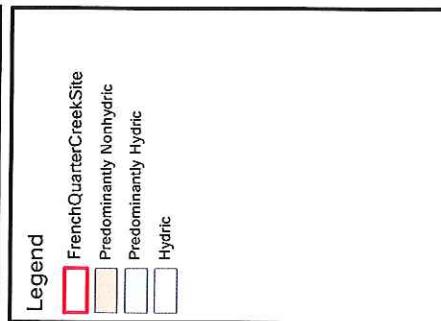
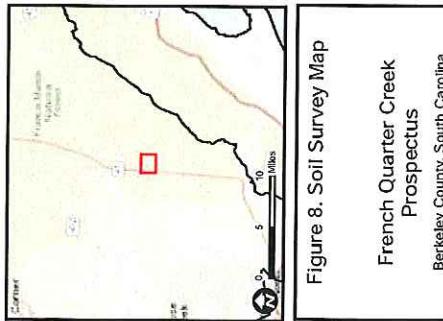
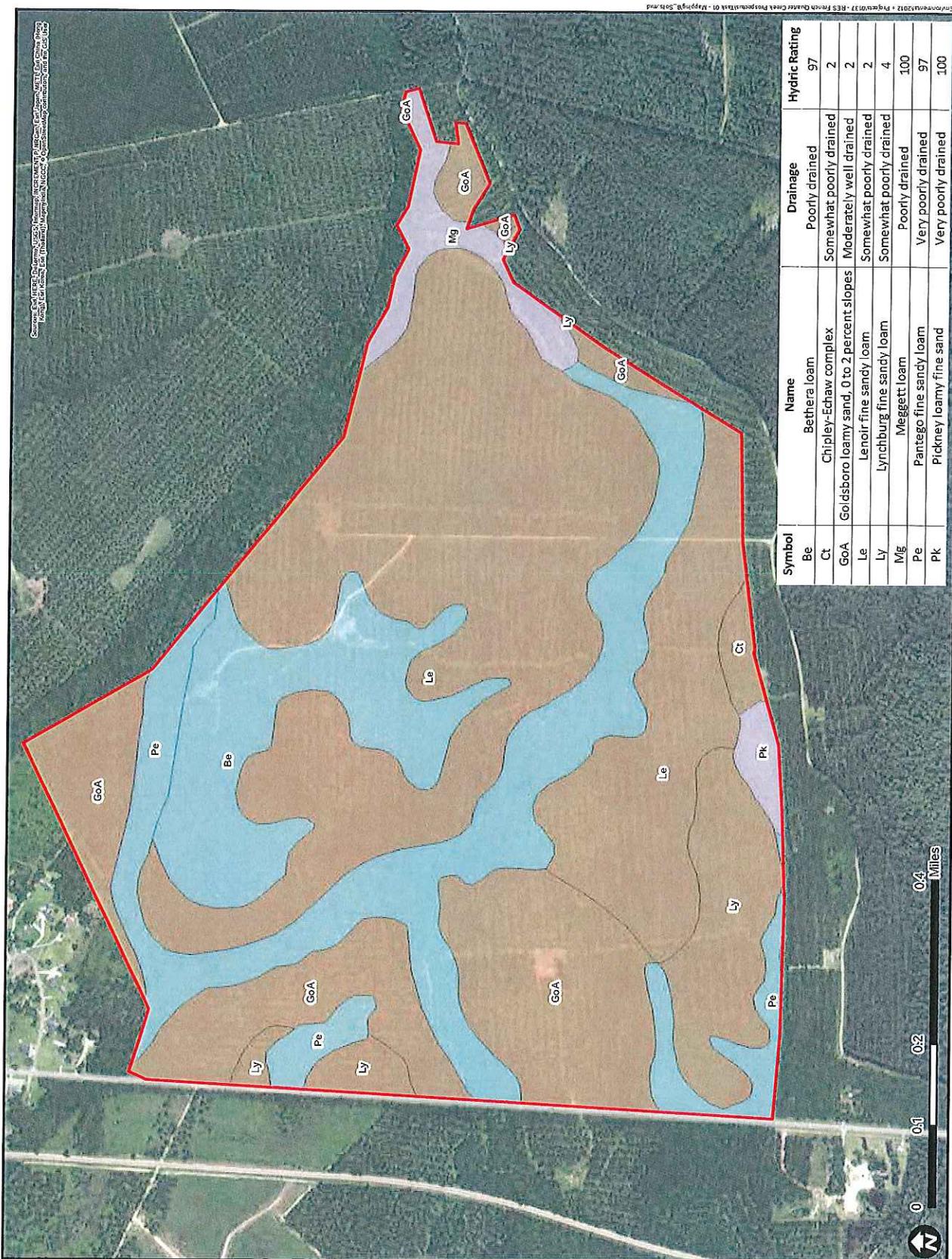
LiDAR Source: SCDNR 2009



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Job No.	62520170137
Dimin. Desc.	SWS
Reviewed By:	BPK
Date:	05/01/2017





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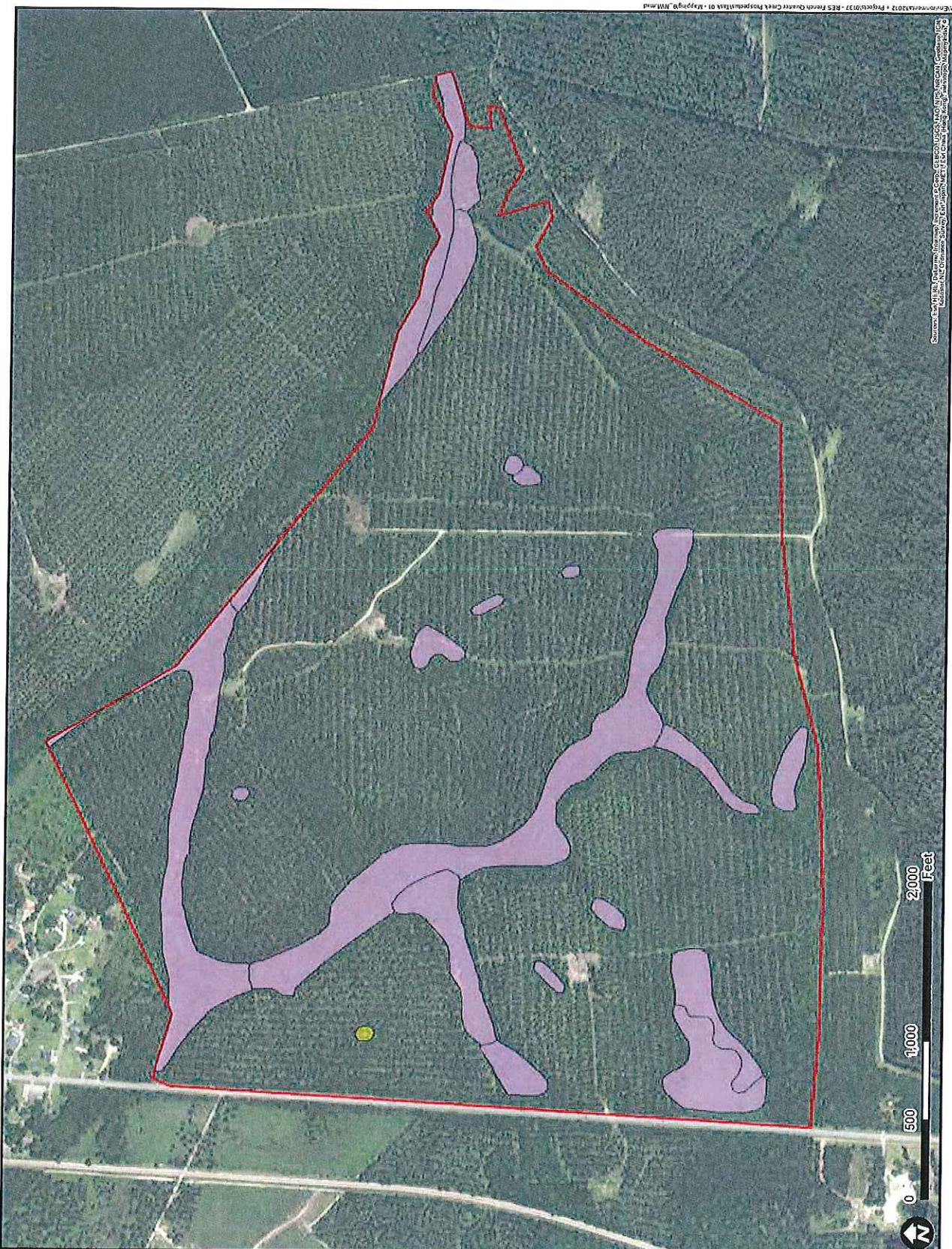


Figure 9. National Wetland Inventory
French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend

- FrenchQuarterCreekSite
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland


rees
amec foster Wheeler

Job No. 62511037
Dtnm Br.
Boulevard, Br.
Date: 05/31/2017

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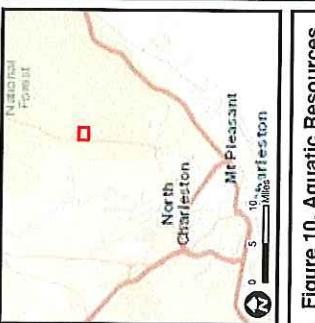
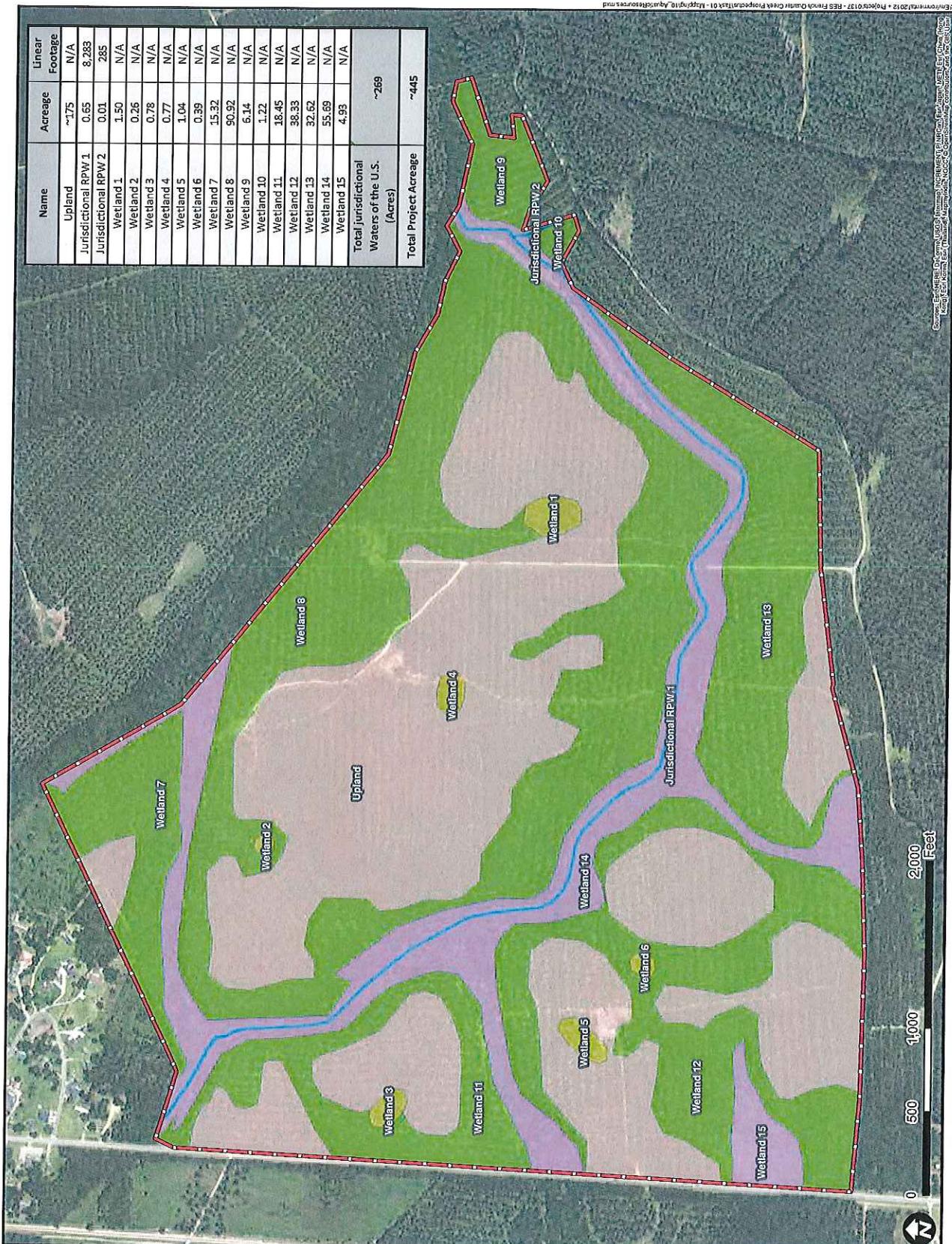


Figure 10. Aquatic Resources Map

French Quarter Creek Prospectus

Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend

- Approximate Project Boundary
- Upland
- Pine Plantation Wetland
- Bottomland Hardwood
- Wetland
- Gum Pond
- Jurisdictional RPW

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.



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Job No. 625017032	CLB
Drawn By: IPK	
Brought In By: JAS	

Date: 6/1/2012

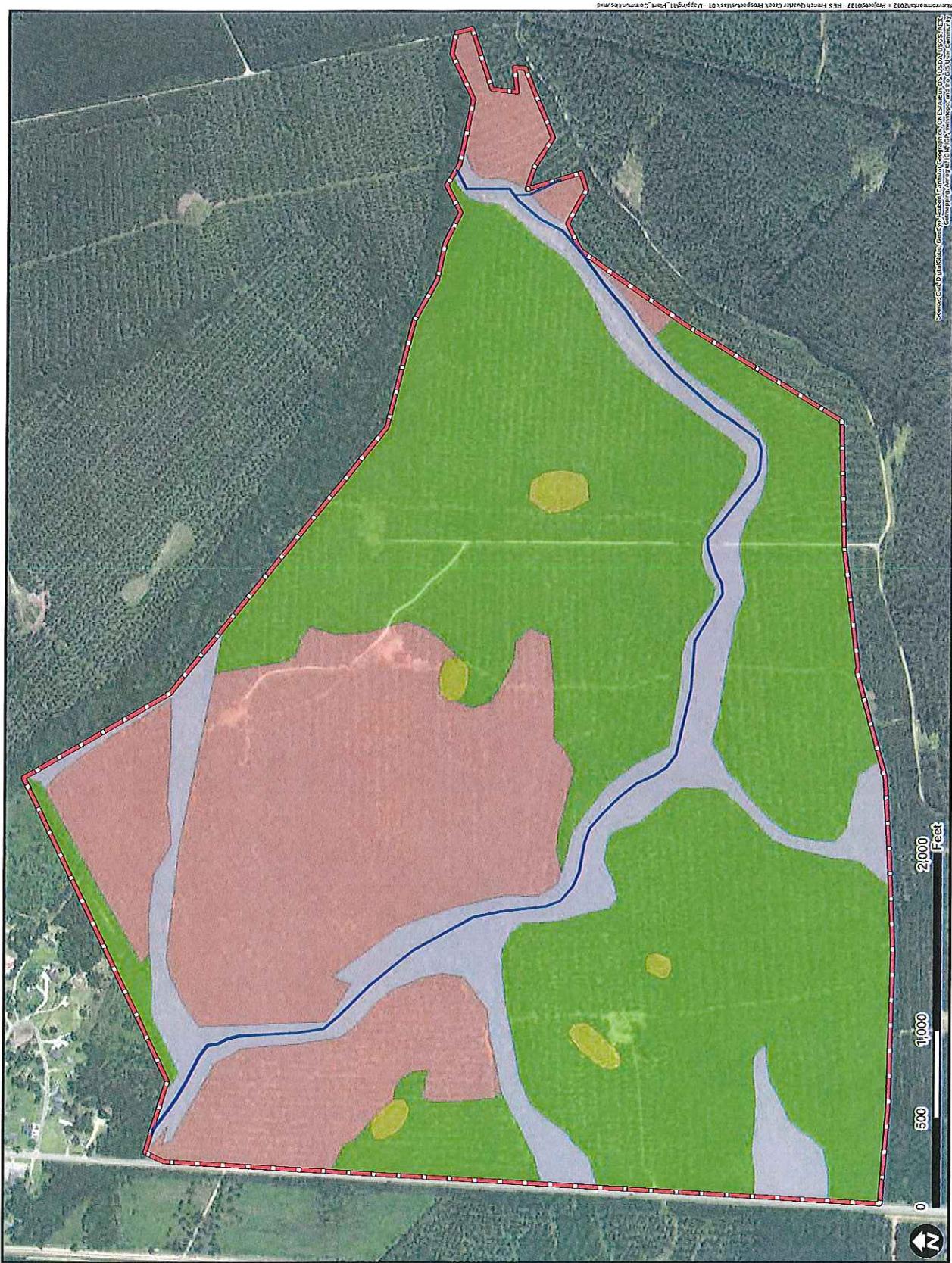


Figure 11. Existing Plant Communities Map
French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend

- Approximate Project Boundary
- Jurisdictional RPWS
- Approximate Existing Plant Communities
- Loblolly Pine Plantation
- Clear Cut
- Bottomland Hardwood
- Gum Pond



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Submitted Br.:	BPK
Date:	05/17/2012

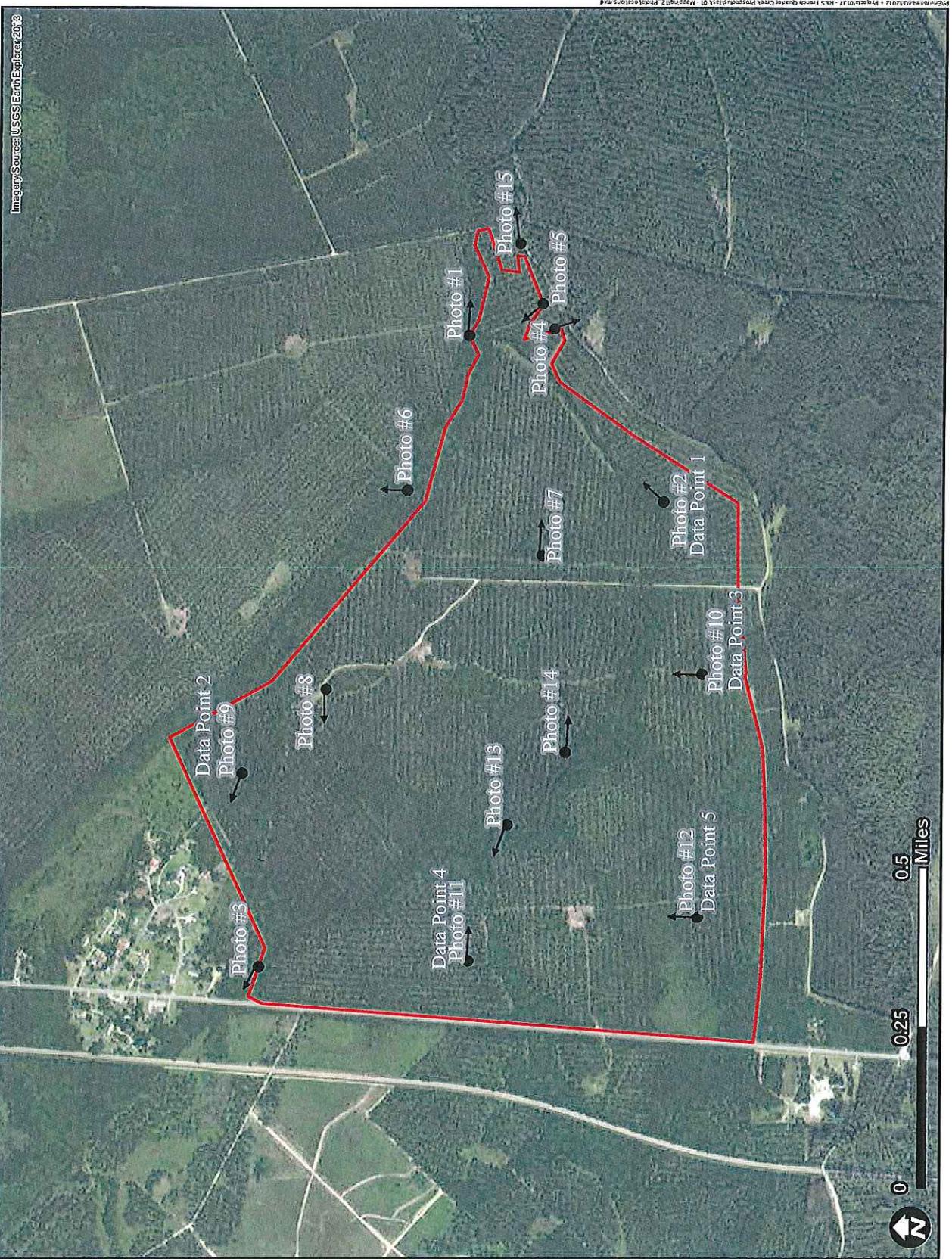


Figure 12. Photograph Locations Map
French Quarter Creek
Prospectus
Berkeley County, South Carolina

Legend
FrenchQuarterCreekSite

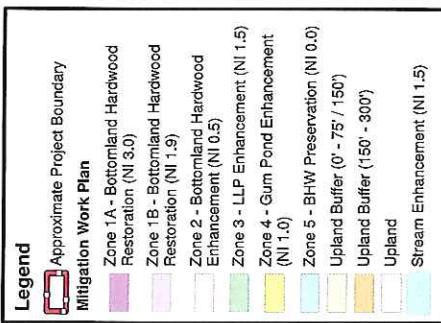
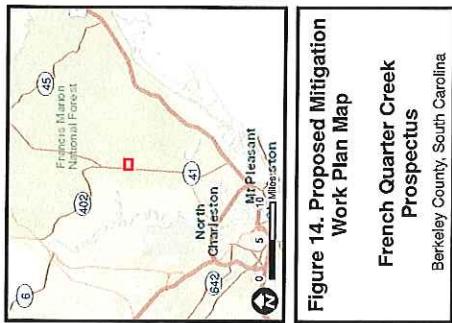
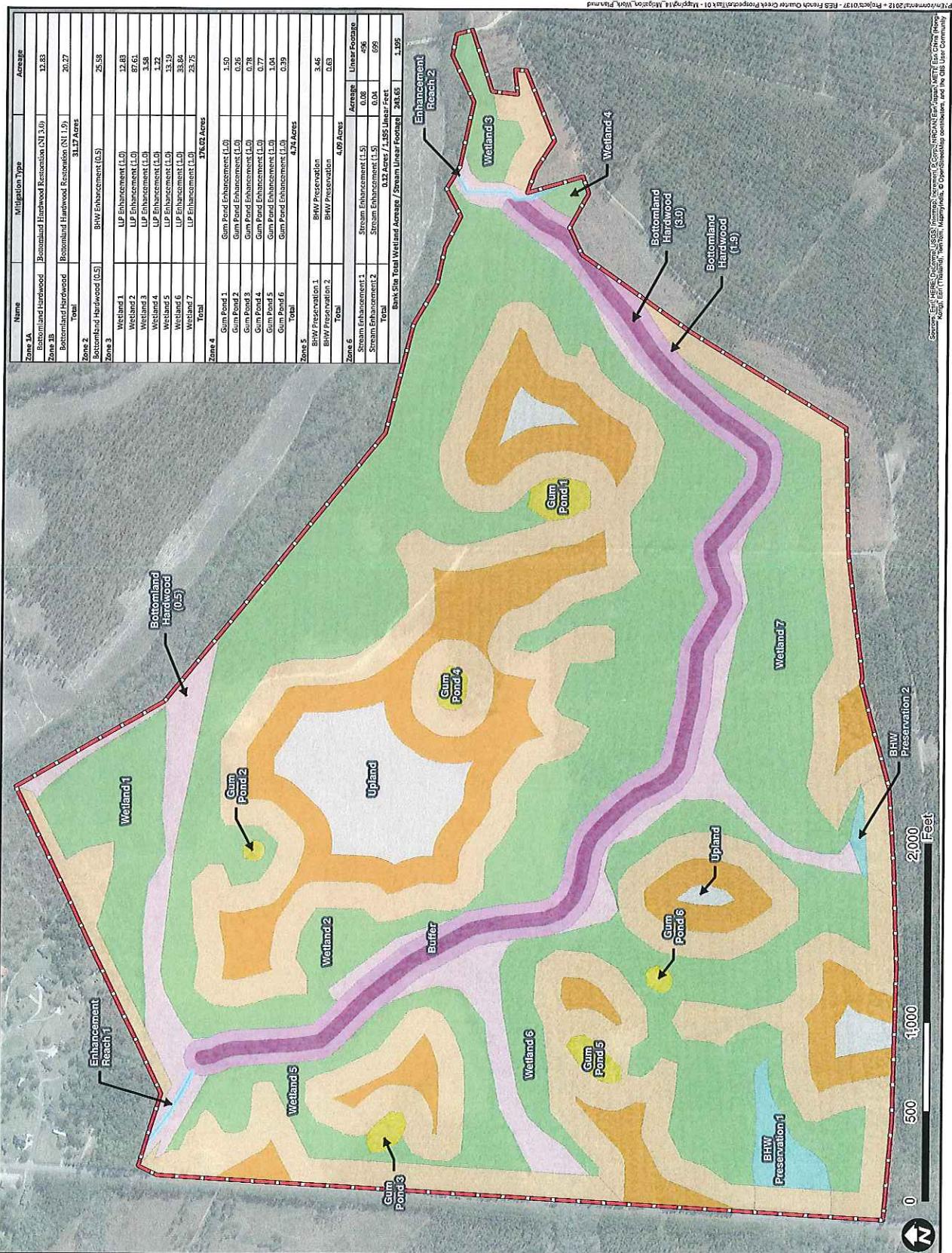


amec foster witteler



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Reviewed By: BPK
Date: 05/01/2017
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Drawn By: BMS
Reviewed By: BBS
Date: 01/18/2018

