

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N SAC-2019-00076

January 11, 2019

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 403) and Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341), the proposed Brosnan Forest Coldwater Branch Mitigation Bank Prospectus has been submitted to the Department of the Army (Corps) and the South Carolina Interagency Review Team (IRT) by

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
BROSNAN FOREST
ATTENTION: JOSH RAGLIN
125 BROSNAN FOREST ROAD
DORCHESTER, SC 29437**

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

COLDWATER BRANCH

at a location 2.5 miles southwest of the intersection of US Highway 78 and Brosnan Forest Road in Dorchester County, South Carolina (Latitude: N 33.1211°, Longitude: W -80.4500°), Harleeville and Maple Cane Swamp U.S. Geological Service Quadrangle sheets.

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

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 project consists of establishing a freshwater stream and wetland mitigation bank in the Four Hole Swamp watershed (8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code 03050205) located in the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain Ecoregion. The proposed 869-acre mitigation site is part of, and entirely bounded by, a 14,405-acre corporate conference and outdoor recreation facility. The mitigation site includes approximately 27,960 linear feet of stream channels and approximately 405 acres of freshwater wetlands.

The proposal is to restore hydrology to 268.5 acres of historic headwater wetlands by removing loblolly pine and replanting native hardwood wetland species, restore 102.8 acres of impounded or drained floodplains by stream reconstruction and replanting, enhance 33.2 acres of impaired wetlands by increasing hydrology, preserve or enhance 354.3 acres of upland buffer, convert 102.9 acres of upland buffer to longleaf pine, and restore 32,600 linear feet of severely

channelized or impounded stream channel by re-contouring and using natural channel design principles. Once the mitigation work is complete, the bank sponsor proposes to monitor the mitigation site to ensure that the restoration areas are performing as expected and meeting the necessary performance standards. The bank sponsor, using a conservation easement, will protect the mitigation bank site.

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

Also, according to the Prospectus, the proposed mitigation bank will provide in-kind compensatory mitigation for authorized impacts to aquatic resources located within the Southern and Middle Atlantic 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 (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). 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 mitigation bank actions would not have a substantial 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 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 red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) a federally endangered species is present in the vicinity of the project. However, it has been determined that the project will have no effect on this species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. The American Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) a federally threatened species may be present in the vicinity of the project. However, it has been determined that the project will not likely to adversely affect 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 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.

January 11, 2018

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)(f)(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.

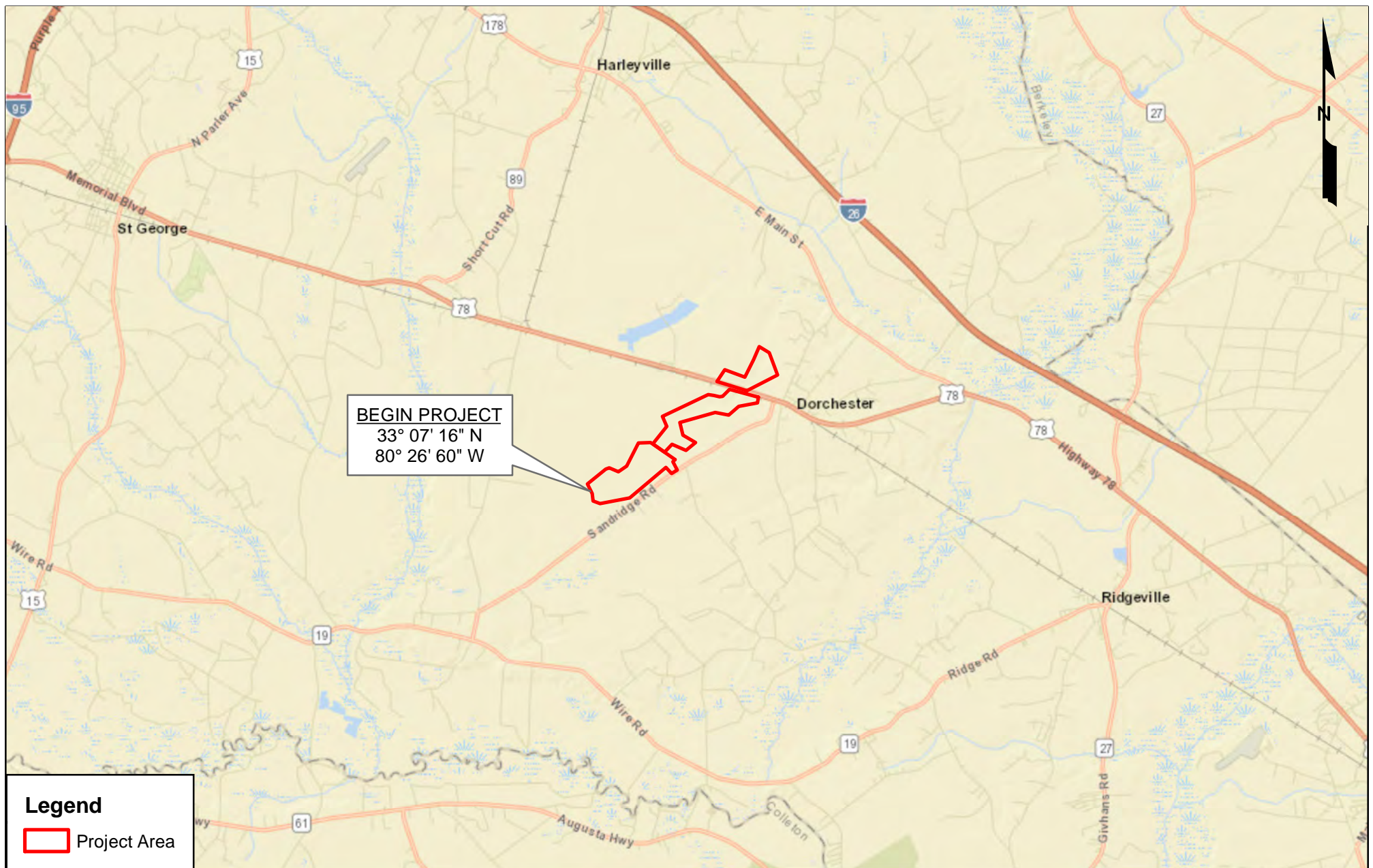
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to 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 that 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. **Please submit comments in writing, identifying the project of interest by public notice number, to the following address:**


**US Army Corps of Engineers
Attention: Regulatory Division
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403**

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. If there are any questions concerning the proposed mitigation bank or the information included in this public notice please contact David B. Wilson by e-mail at david.b.wilson@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 843-329-8044.



Legend

Project Area

0 1 2
 Miles

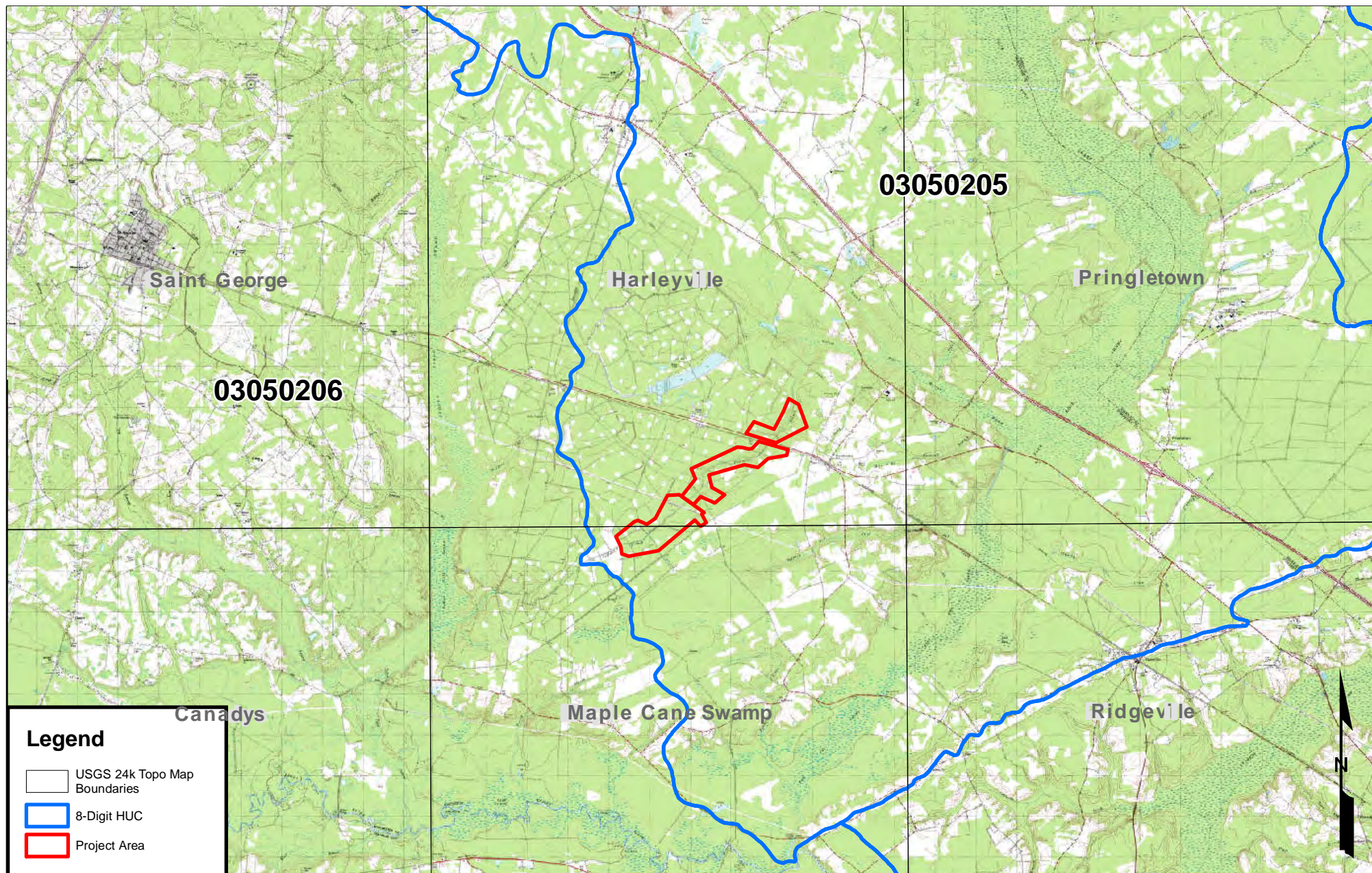
BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH VICINITY MAP






FIGURE 1

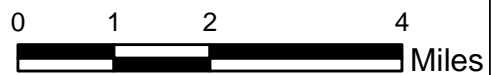
DORCHESTER COUNTY, SC

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 ECOSYSTEM
 PLANNING &
 RESTORATION



Legend

-  USGS 24k Topo Map Boundaries
-  8-Digit HUC
-  Project Area



BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH

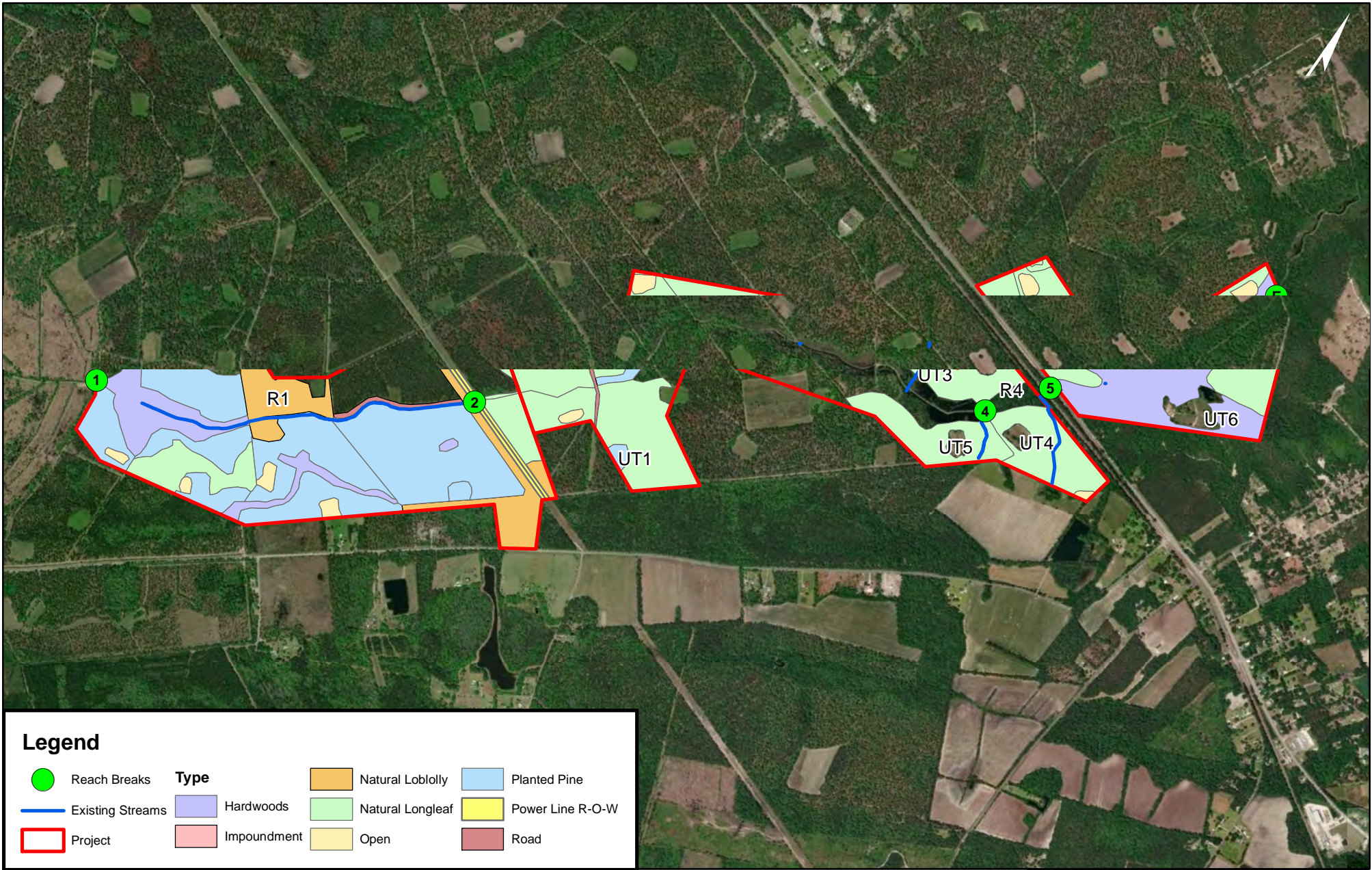
USGS TOPO MAP



FIGURE 2

DORCHESTER COUNTY, SC

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 RESTORATION



0 1,000 2,000 4,000
Feet

BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH

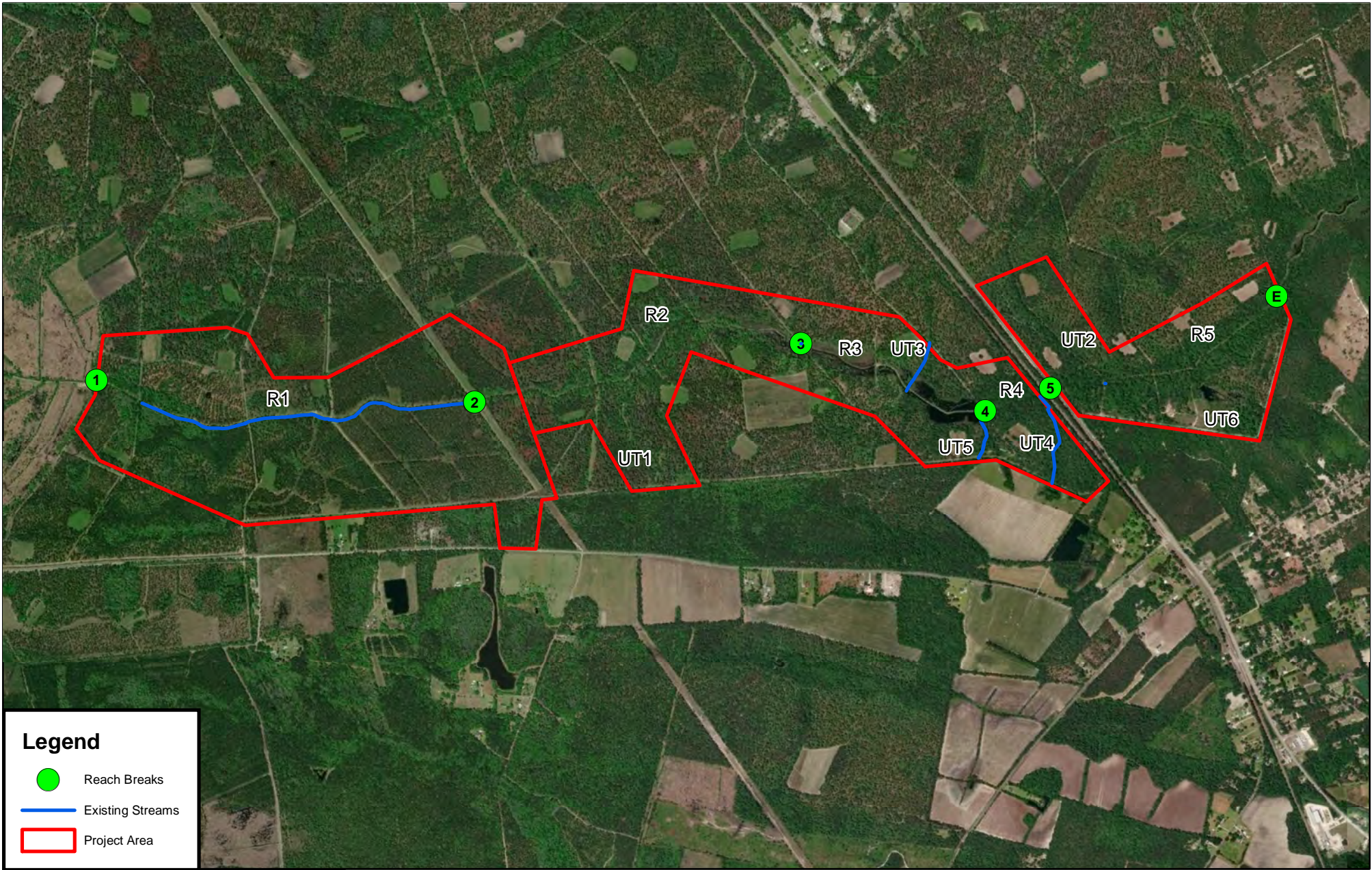
LAND COVER MAP




FIGURE 3

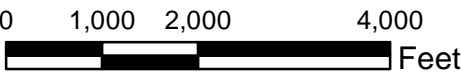
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RESTORATION
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Legend

-  Reach Breaks
-  Existing Streams
-  Project Area



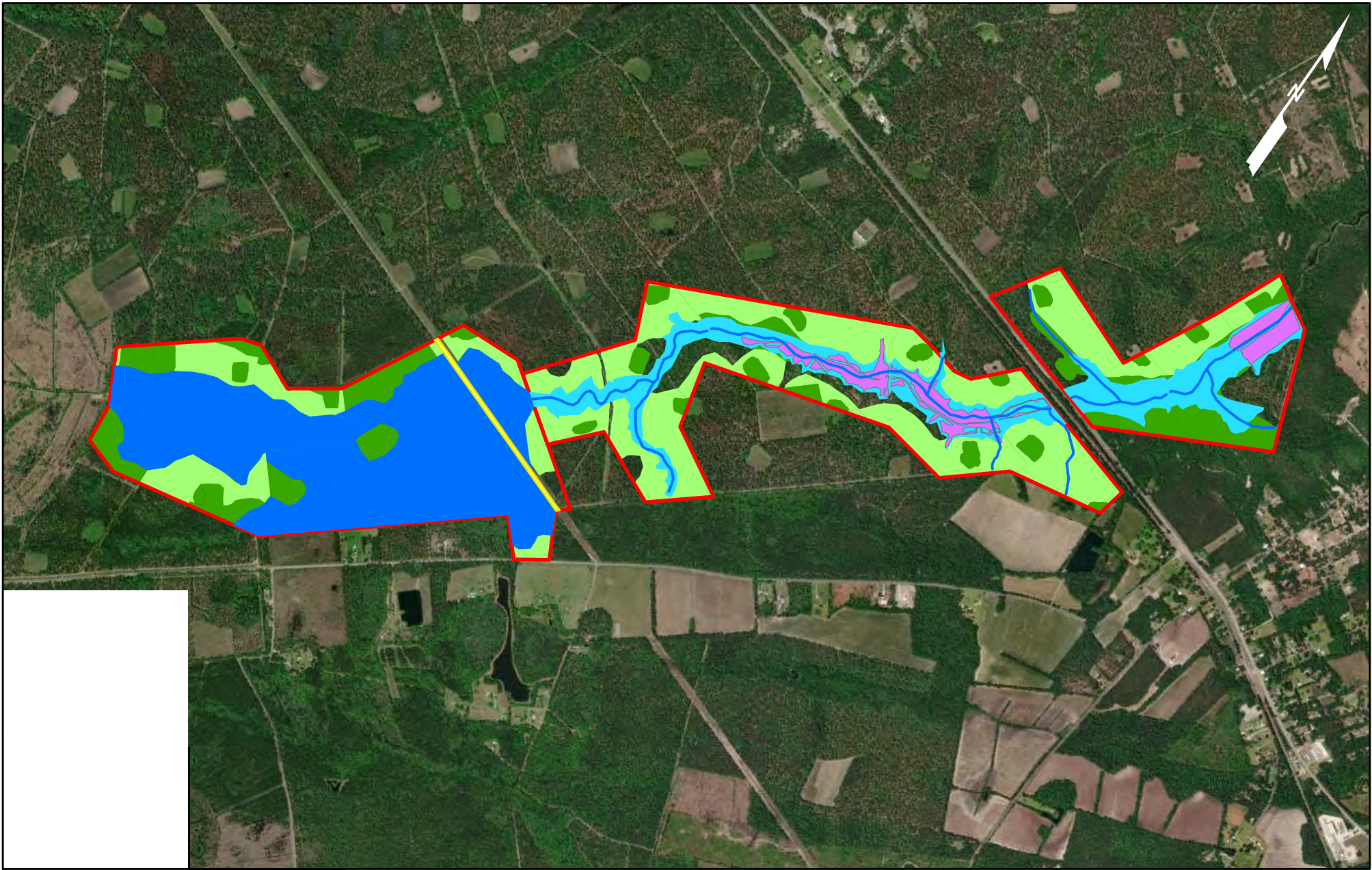
BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH
REACH SEGMENTS



FIGURE 4

DORCHESTER COUNTY, SC

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0 2,000 4,000
Feet

BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH

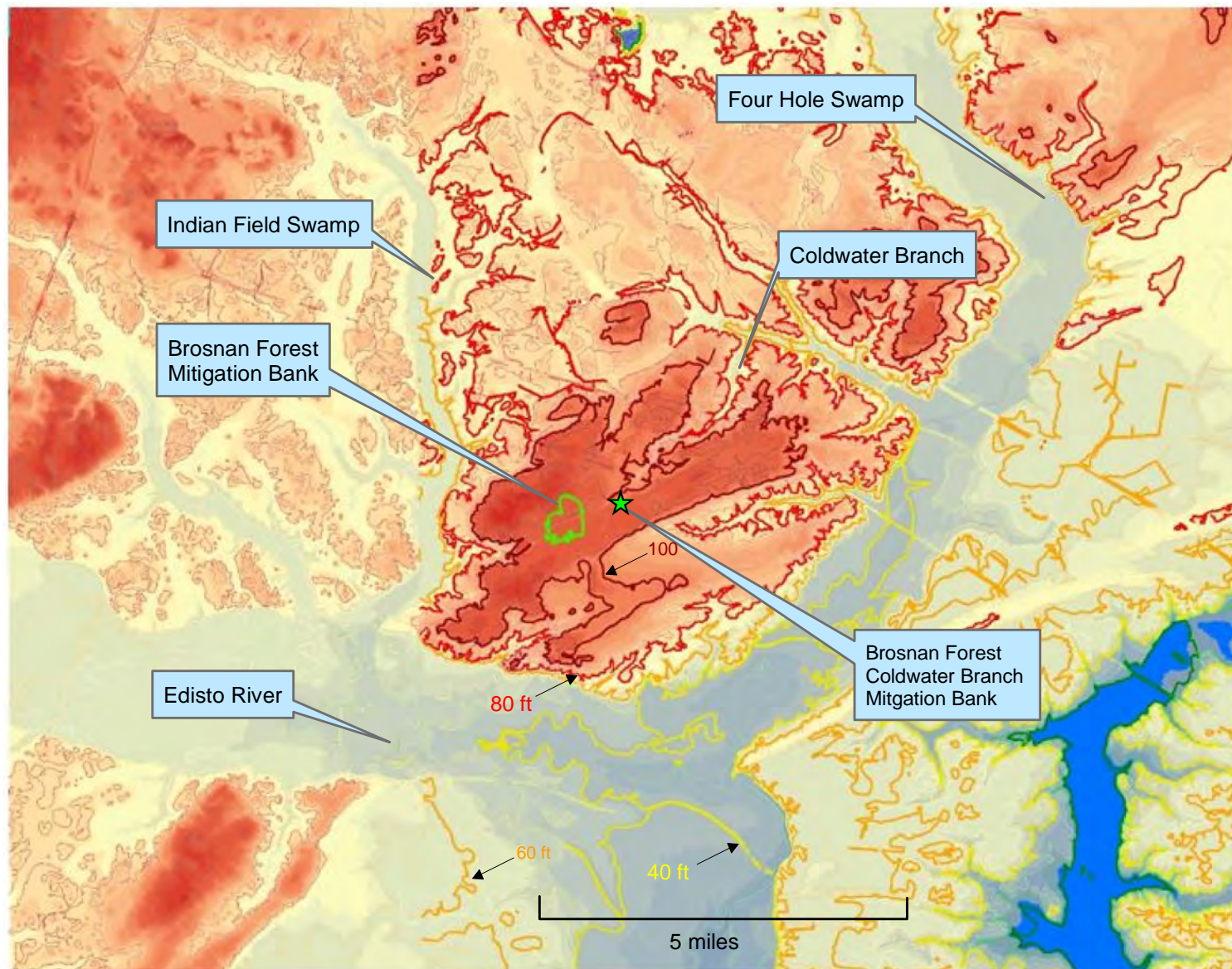
MITIGATION UNITS



FIGURE 5

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0 1 2 3 Miles

BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH GEOLOGIC SETTING



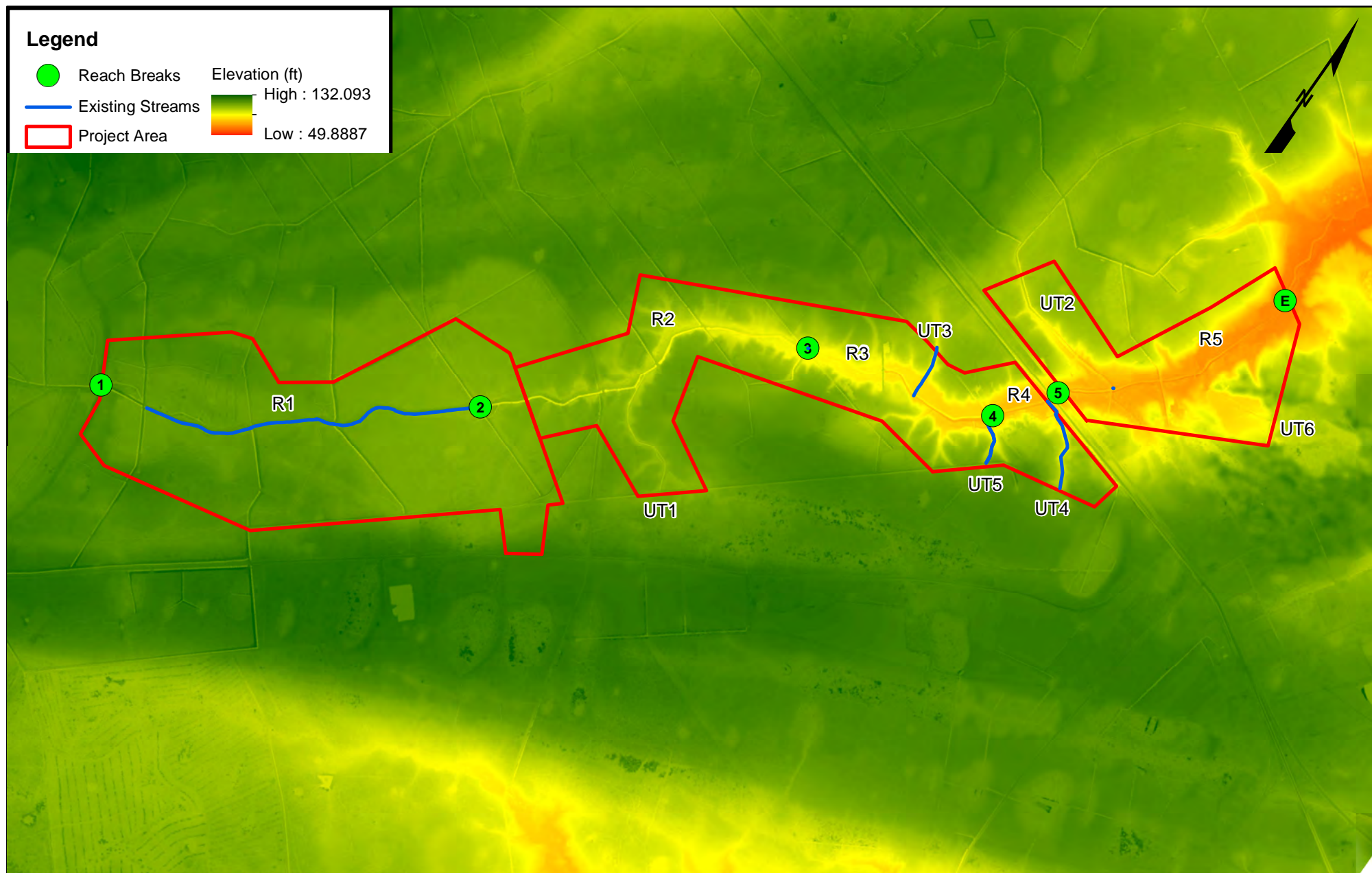
FIGURE 6

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EPR

Legend

- Reach Breaks
 - Existing Streams
 - Project Area
- Elevation (ft)
 High : 132.093
 Low : 49.8887




0 1,000 2,000 4,000
 Feet

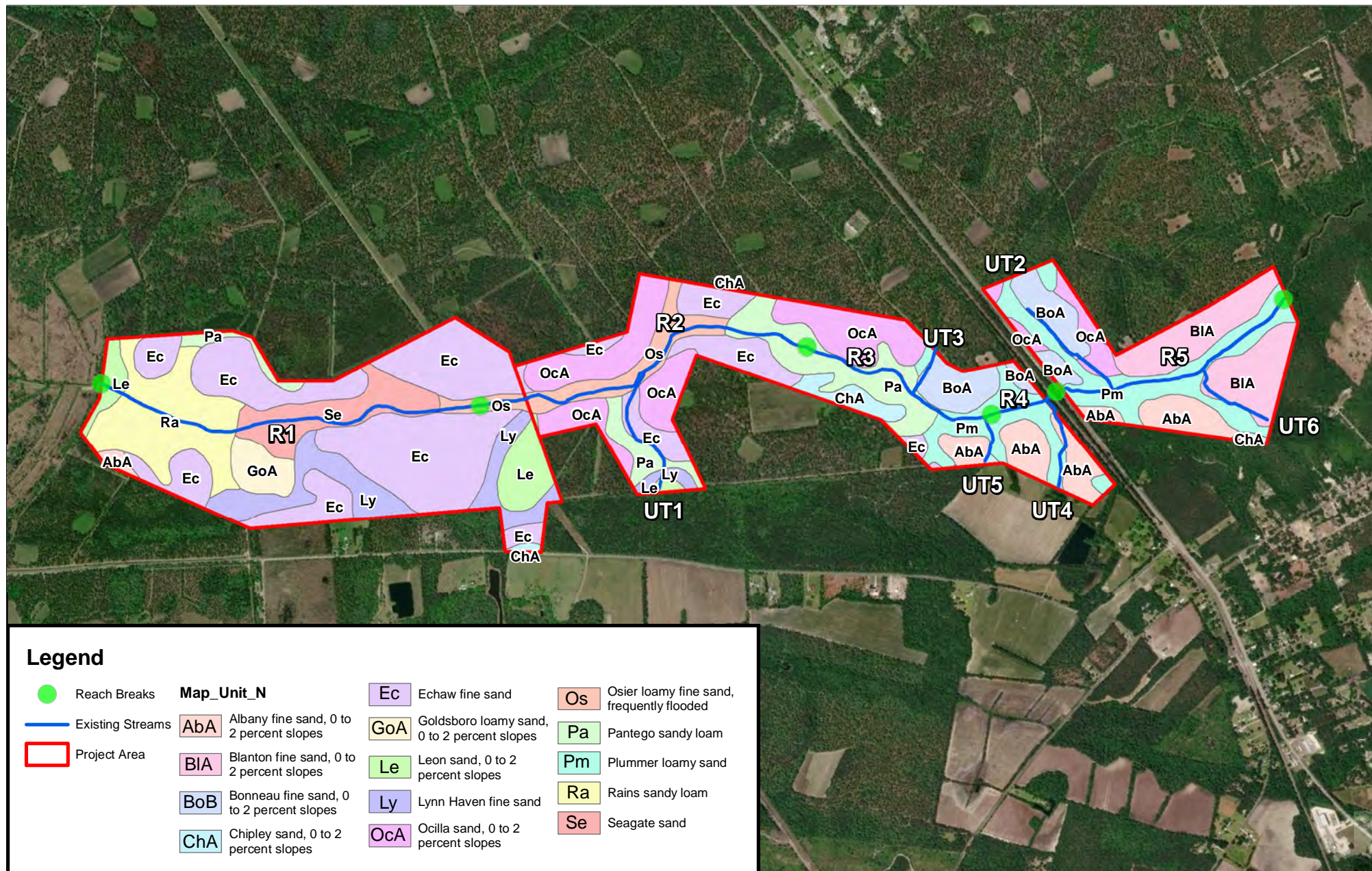
BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH LIDAR MAP



FIGURE 7

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0 1,000 2,000 4,000
Feet

BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH

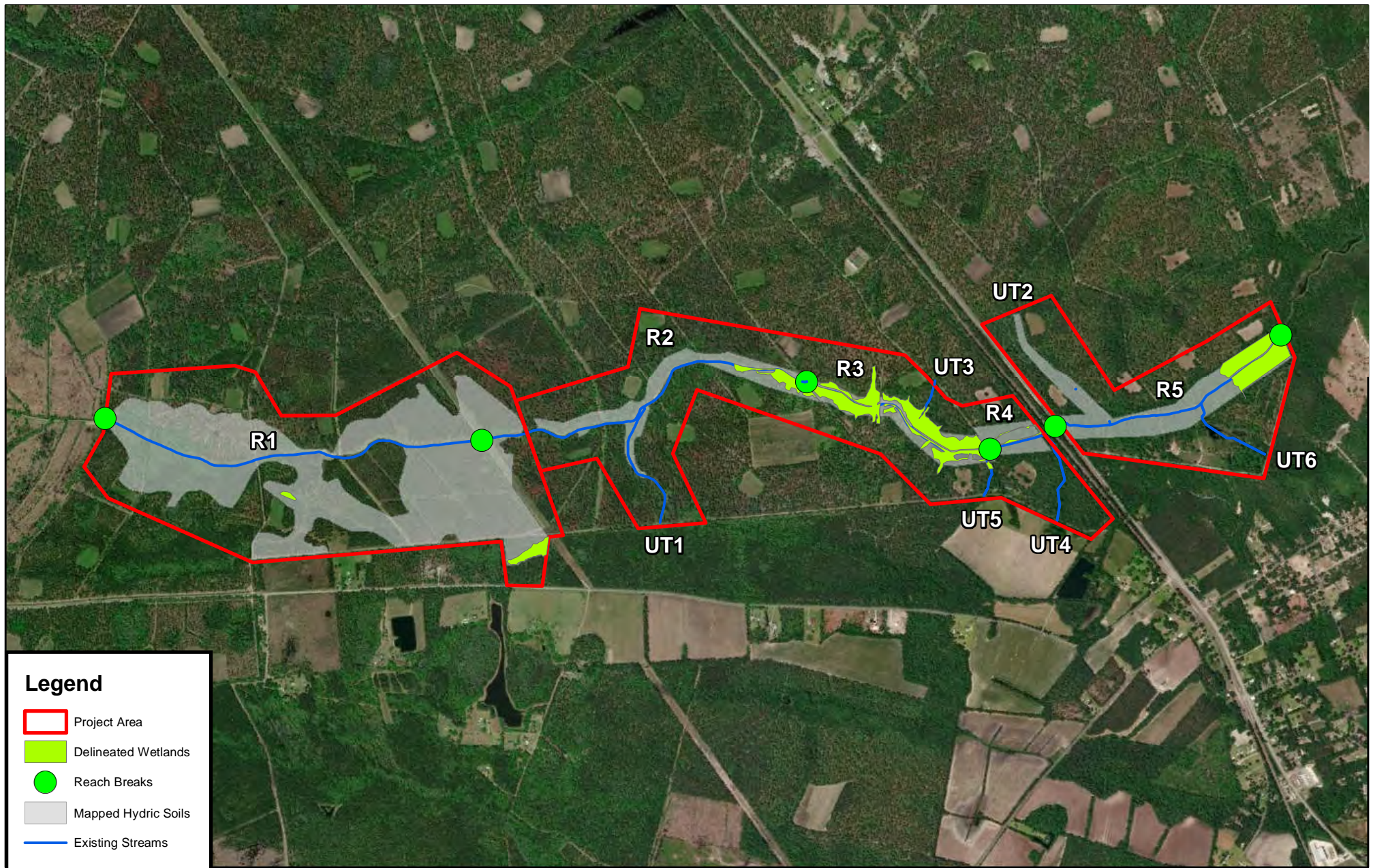
NRCS SOIL MAP UNITS



FIGURE 8

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0 1,000 2,000 4,000
Feet

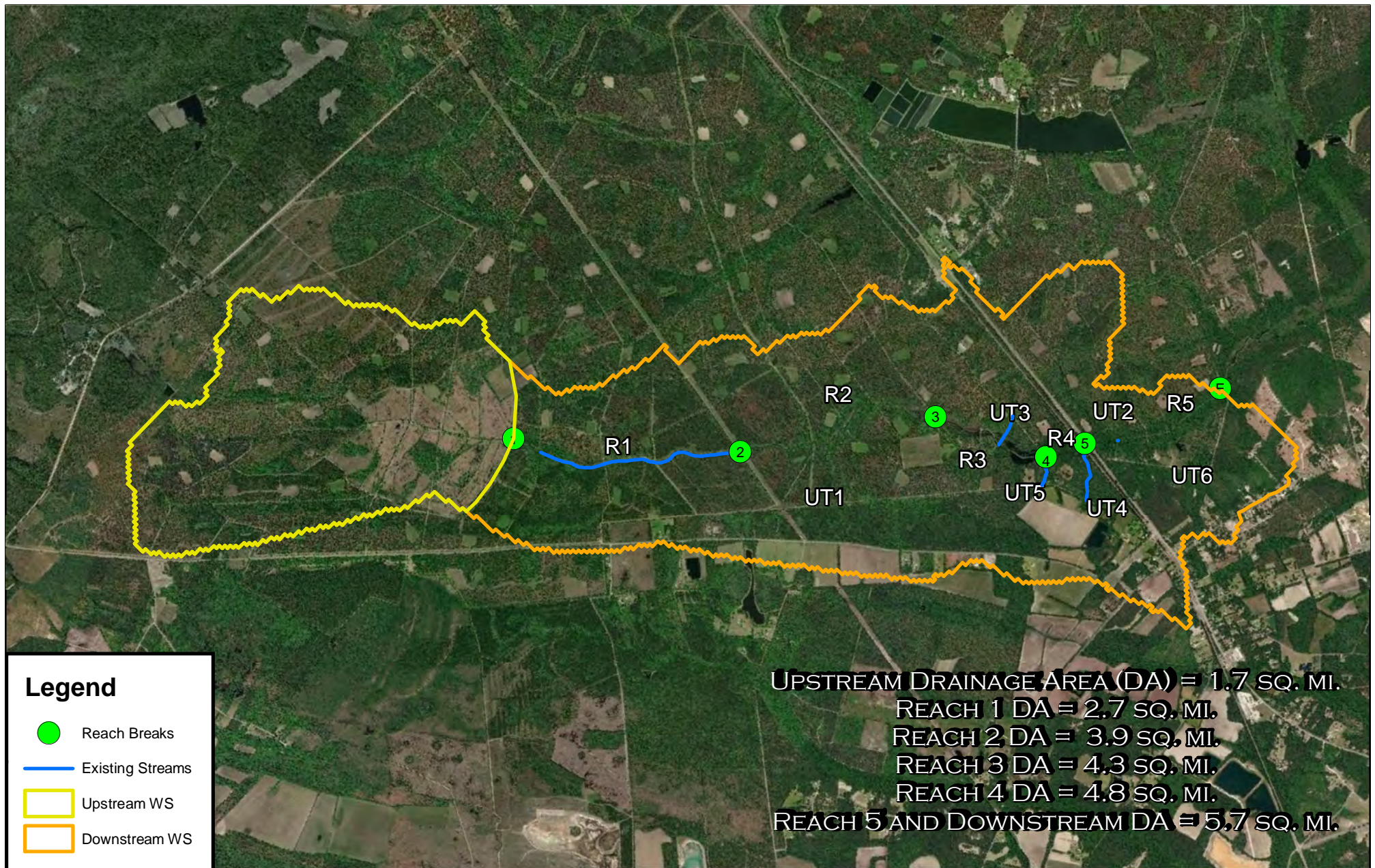
BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH HYDRIC SOILS AND DELINEATED WETLANDS



FIGURE 9

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0 3,375 6,750
 Feet

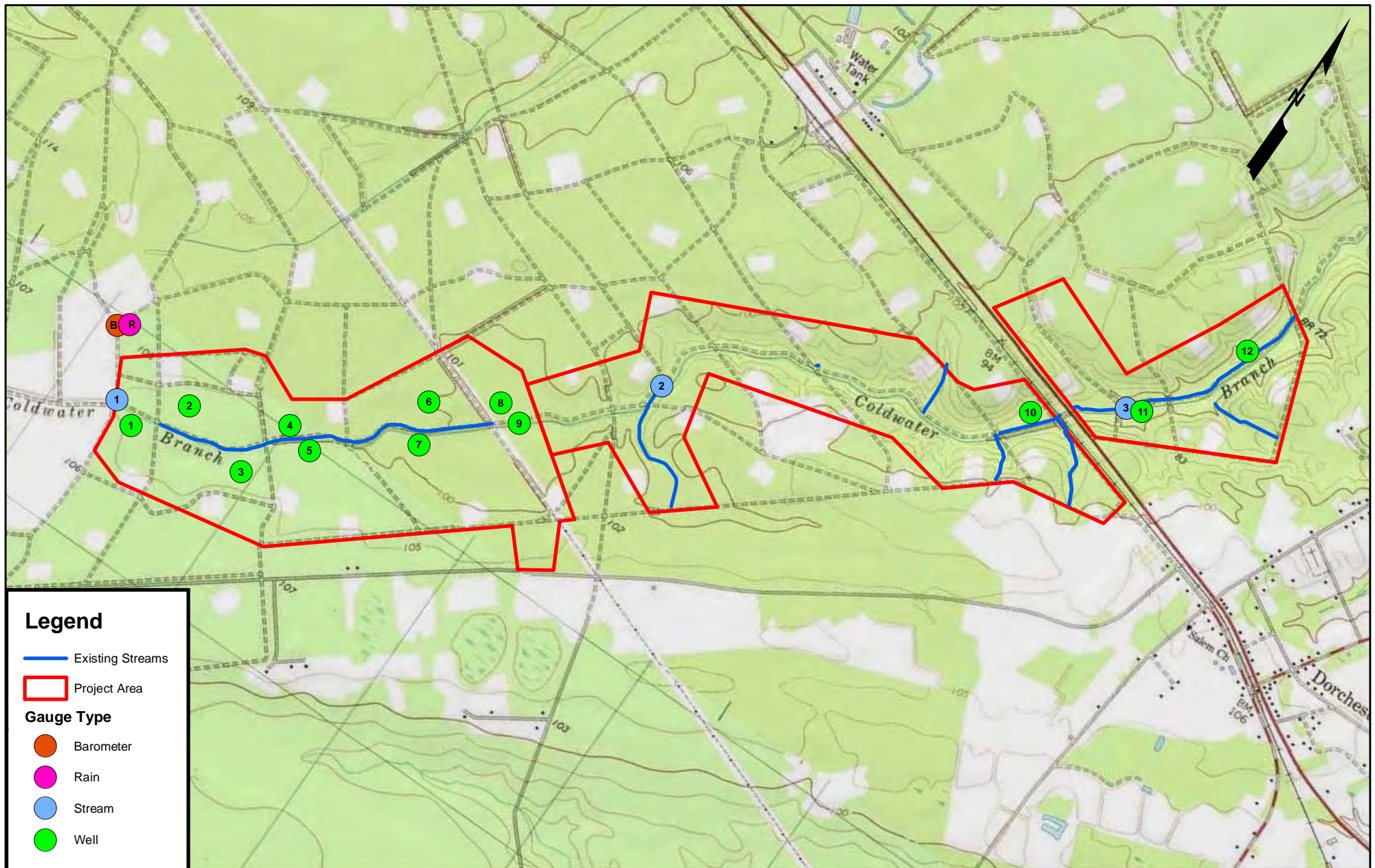
BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH WATERSHED MAP



FIGURE 10

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Legend

— Existing Streams

□ Project Area

Gauge Type

● Barometer

● Rain

● Stream

● Well

0 1,000 2,000 4,000
Feet

BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH

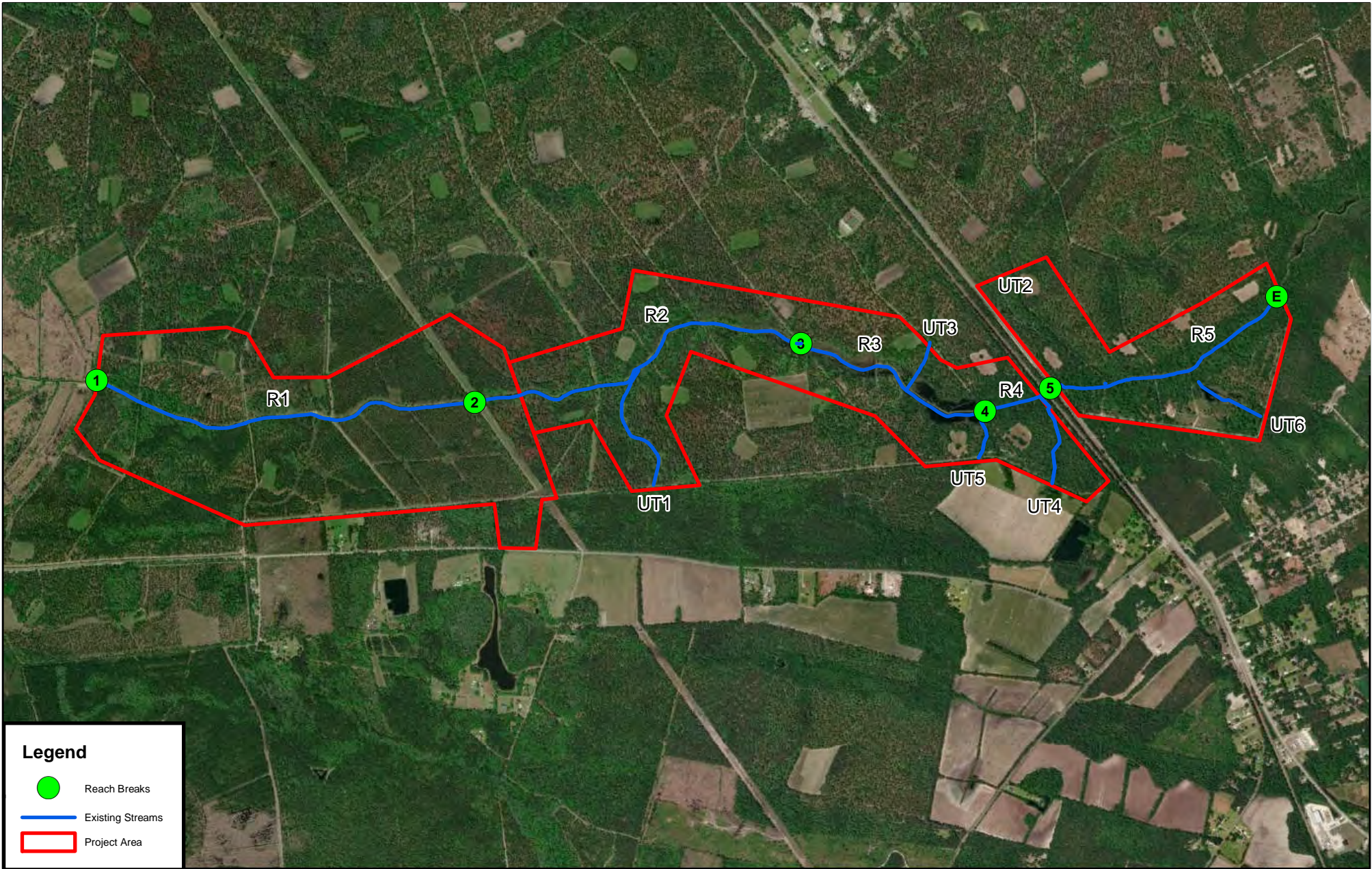
MONITORING NETWORK



FIGURE 1 1

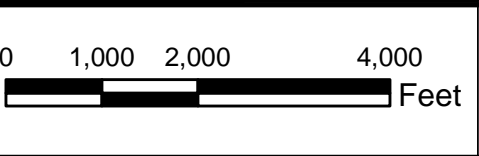
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Legend

- Reach Breaks
- Existing Streams
- Project Area



BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH
2017 AERIAL PHOTO



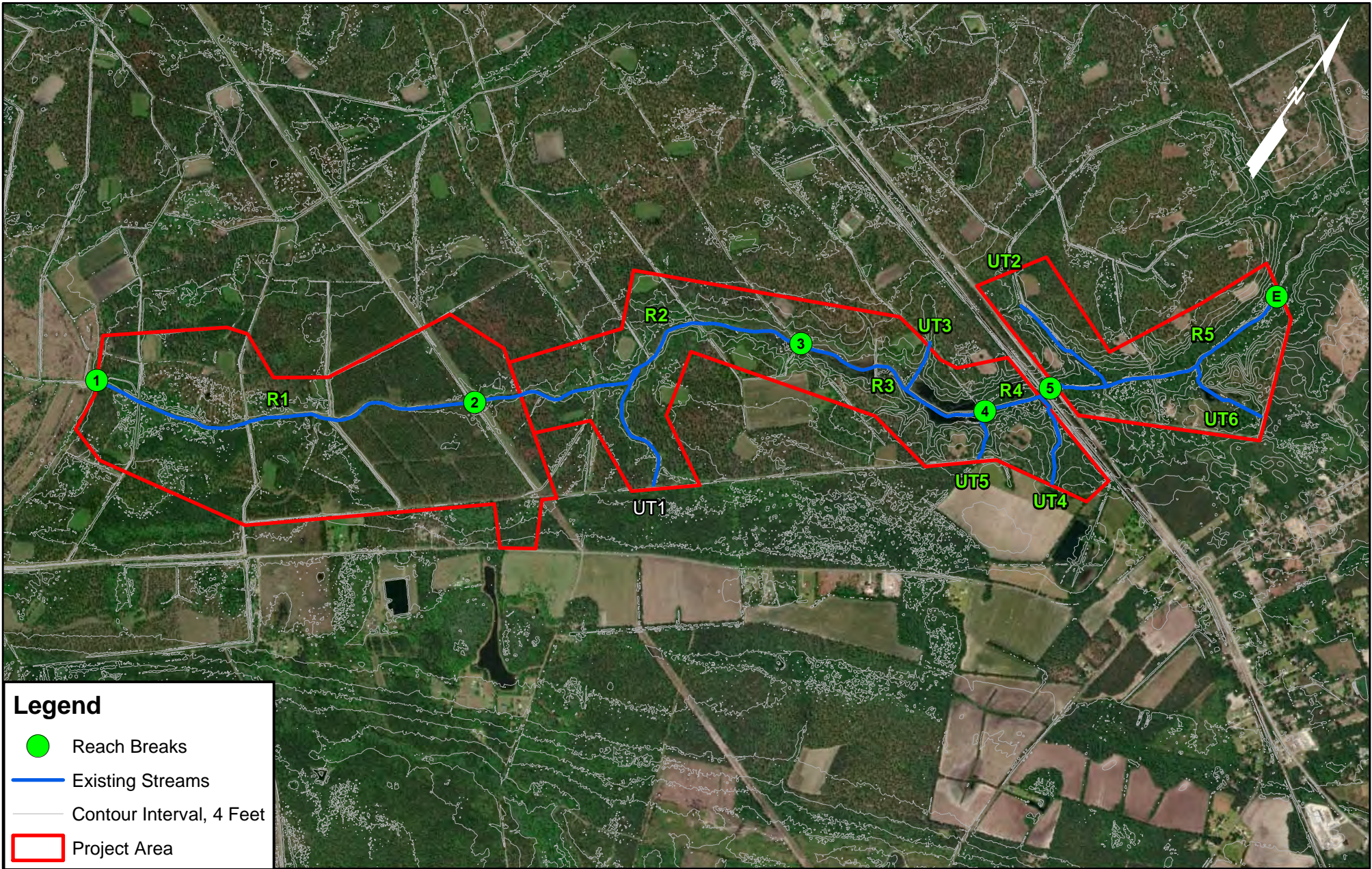
FIGURE 12

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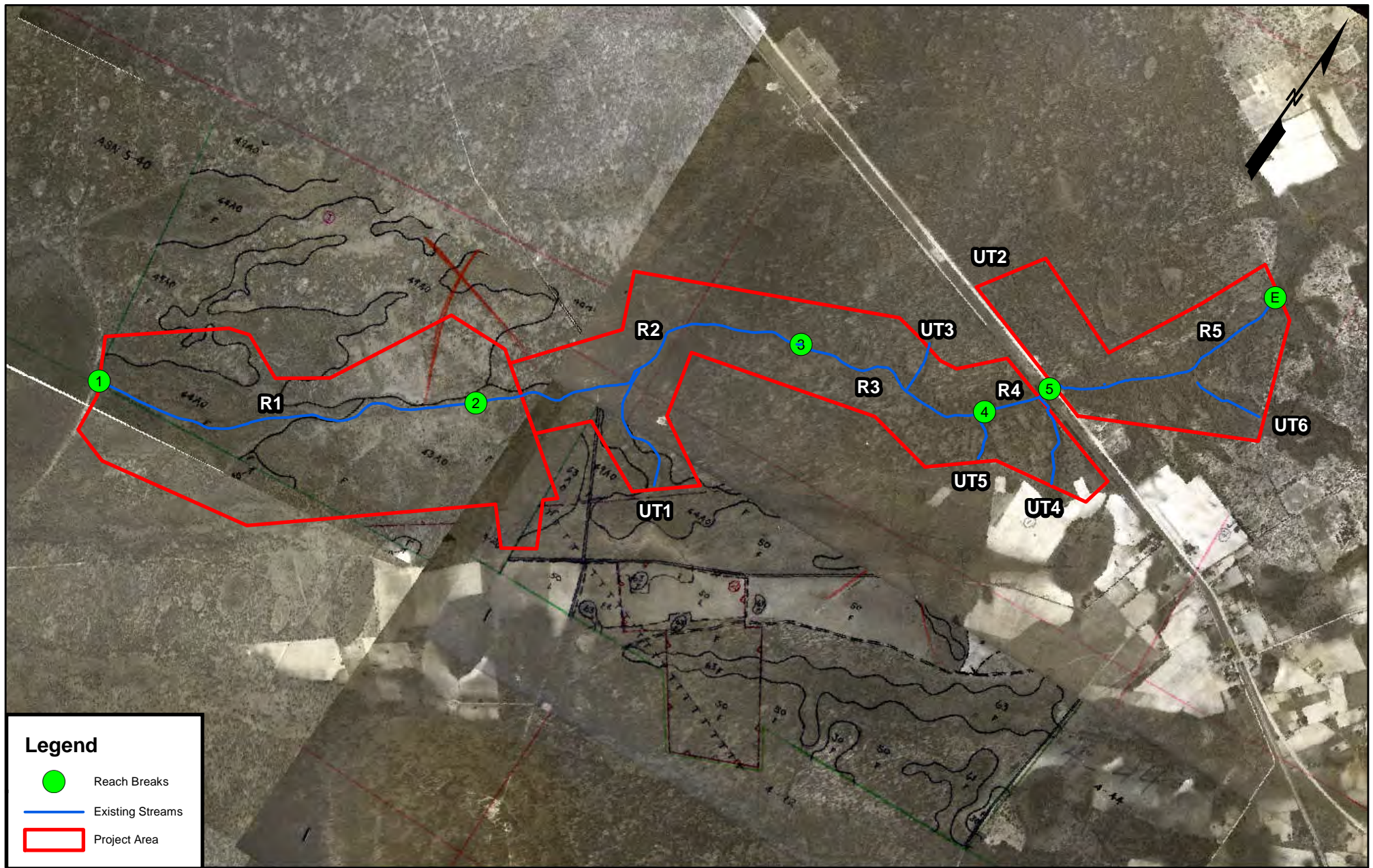




Legend

- Reach Breaks
- Existing Streams
- Contour Interval, 4 Feet
- Project Area

<p>0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet</p>	<p>BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH TOPOGRAPHY MAP</p>	<p> NORFOLK SOUTHERN</p>
<p>FIGURE 14</p>	<p>DORCHESTER COUNTY, SC</p>	<p>PREPARED BY:  ECOSYSTEM PLANNING & RESTORATION</p>



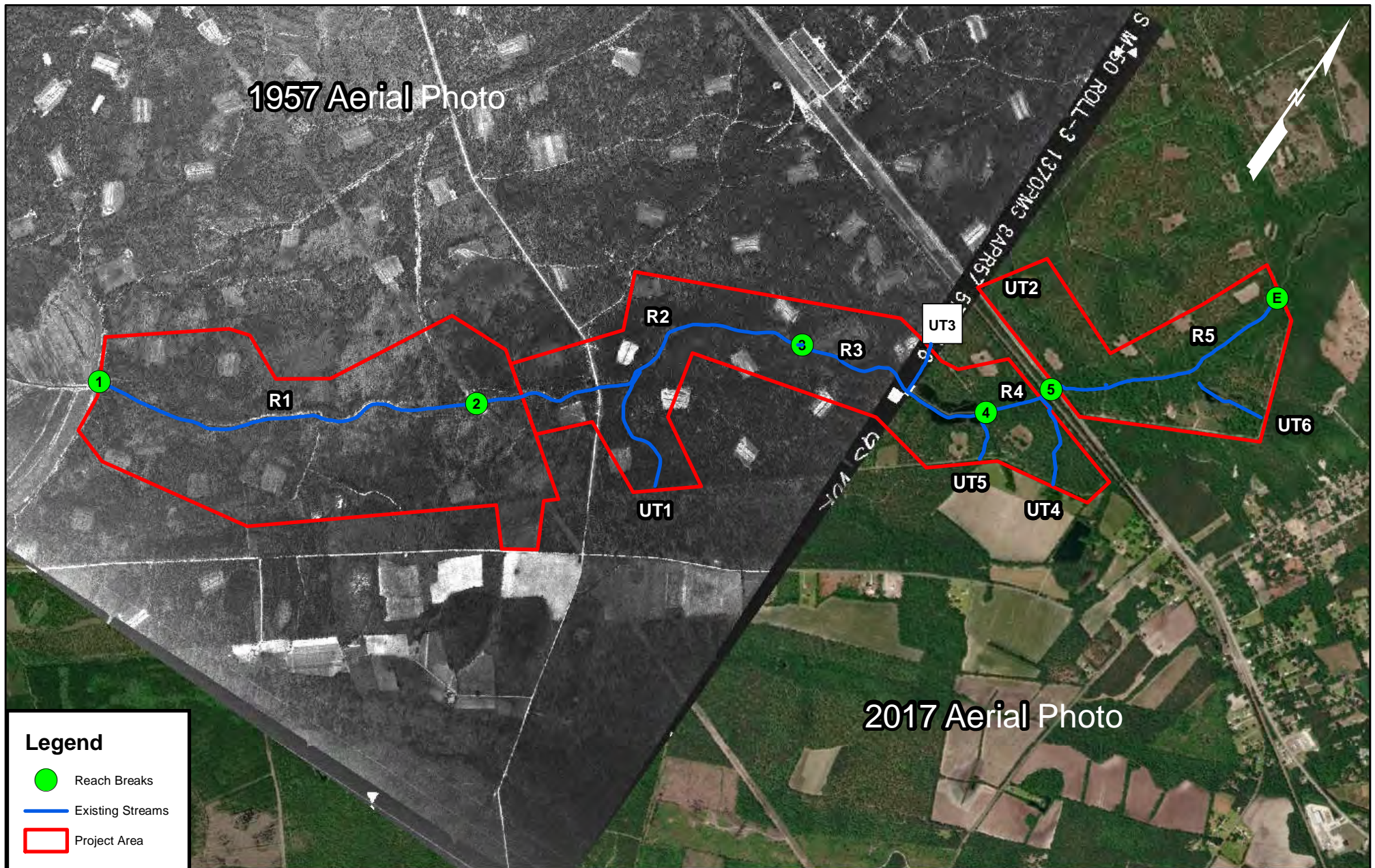
BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH 1938 AERIAL MAP



FIGURE 15

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0 1,000 2,000 4,000
Feet

BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH

1957 AERIAL PHOTO



FIGURE 16

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BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH

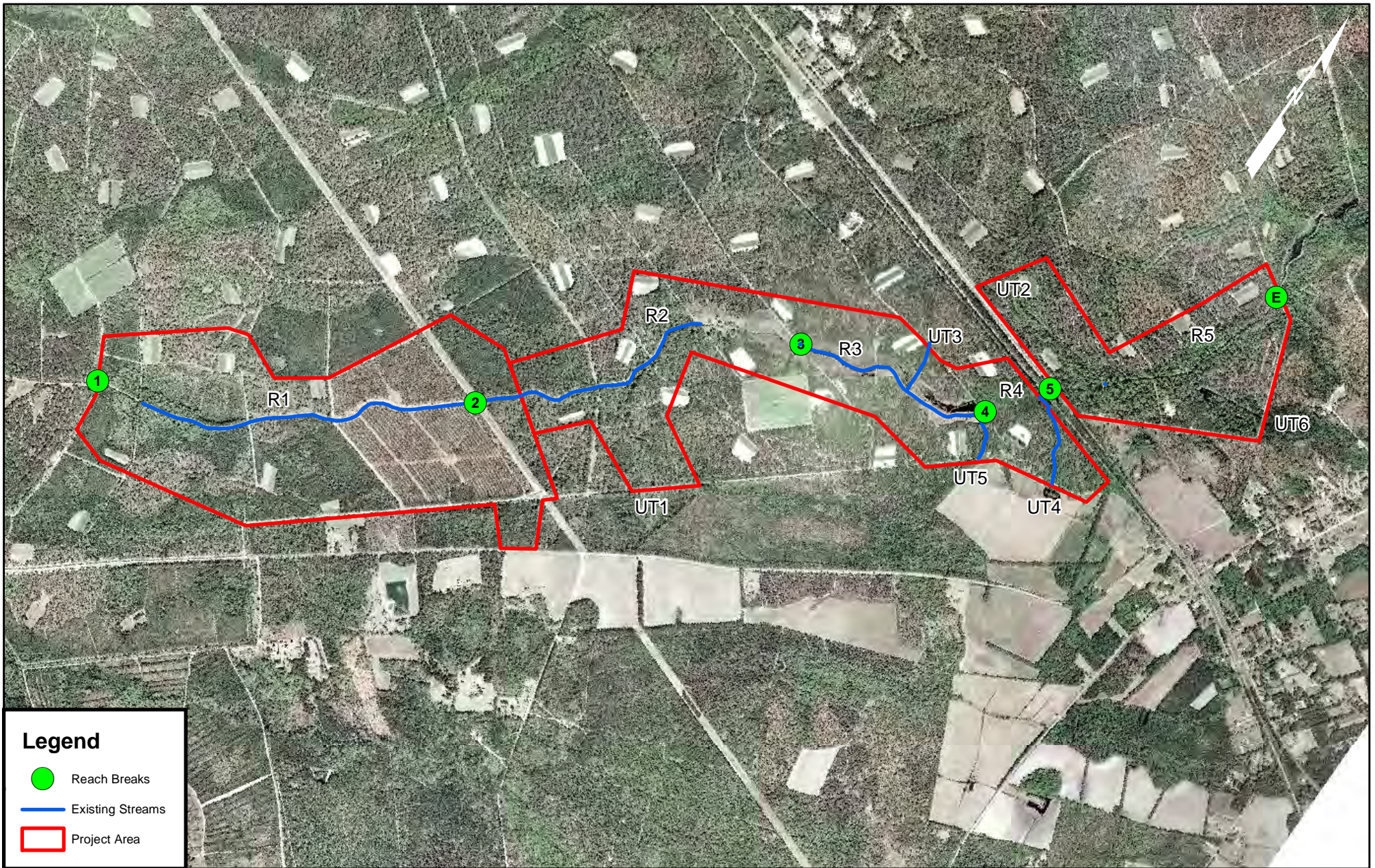
1994 AERIAL PHOTO



FIGURE 17


DORCHESTER COUNTY, SC

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Legend

- Reach Breaks
- Existing Streams
- Project Area

0 1,000 2,000 4,000
 Feet

BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH

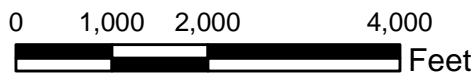
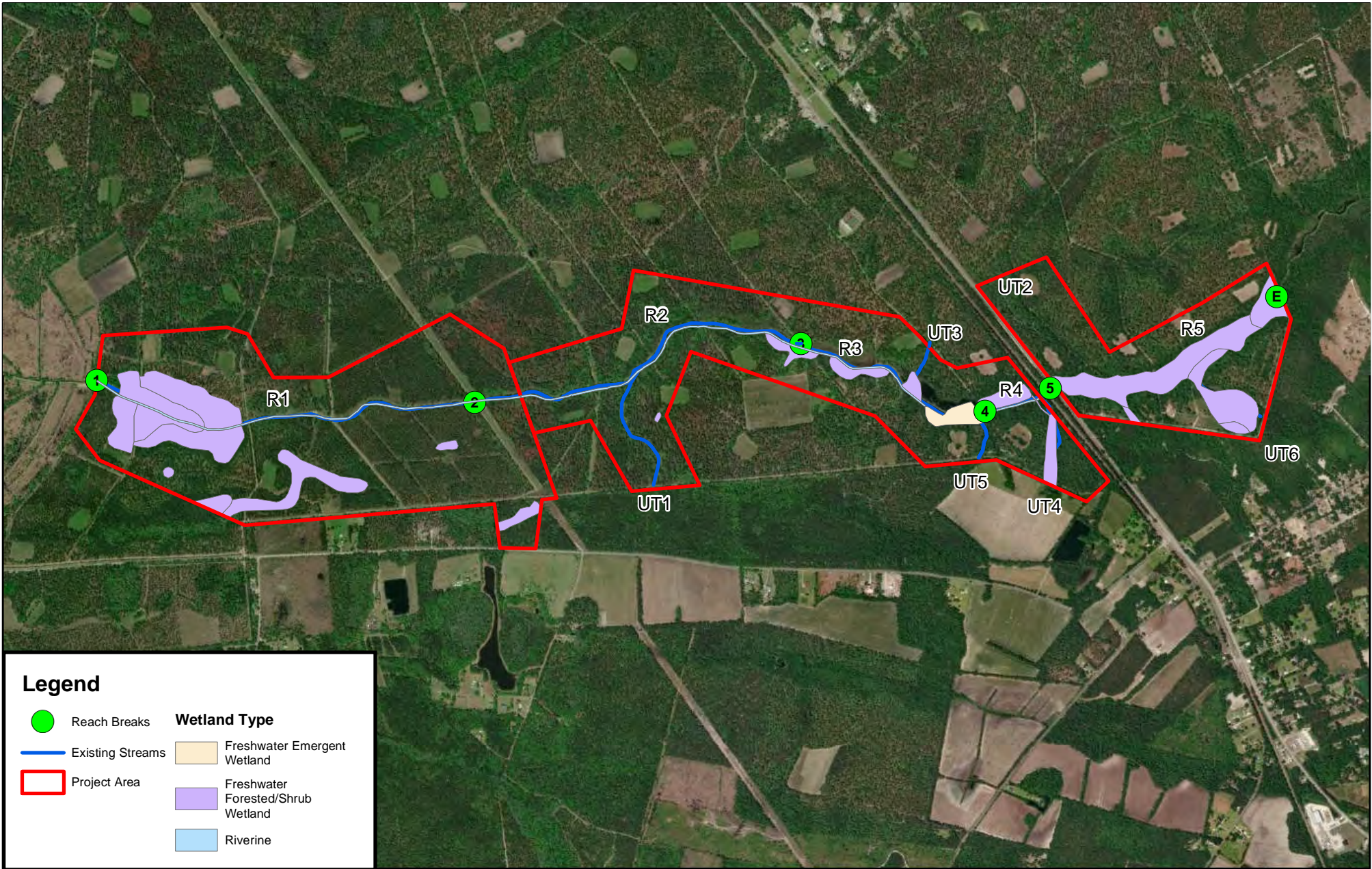
2006 AERIAL PHOTO



FIGURE 18

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BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH

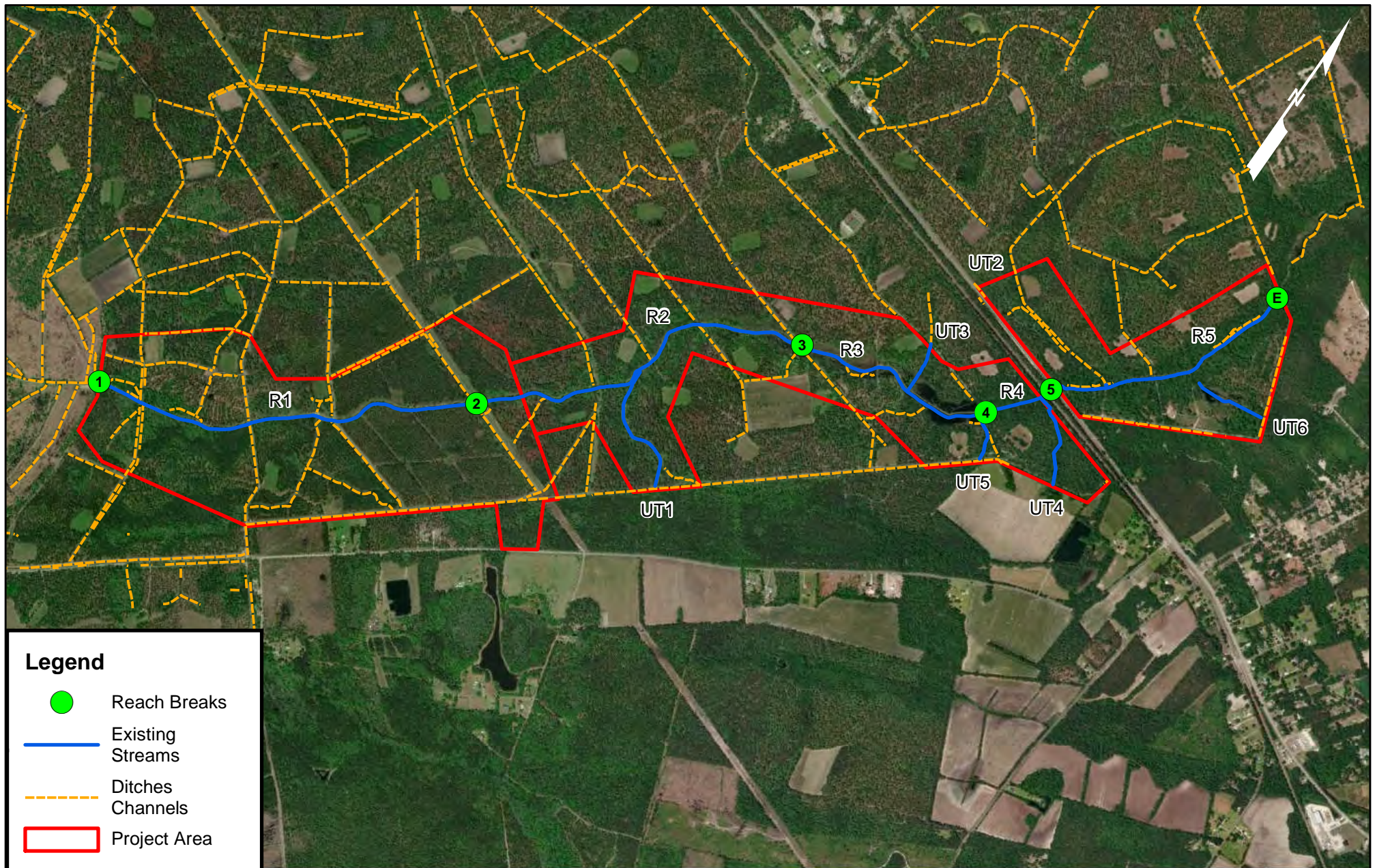
NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP



FIGURE 19

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0 1,000 2,000 4,000
Feet

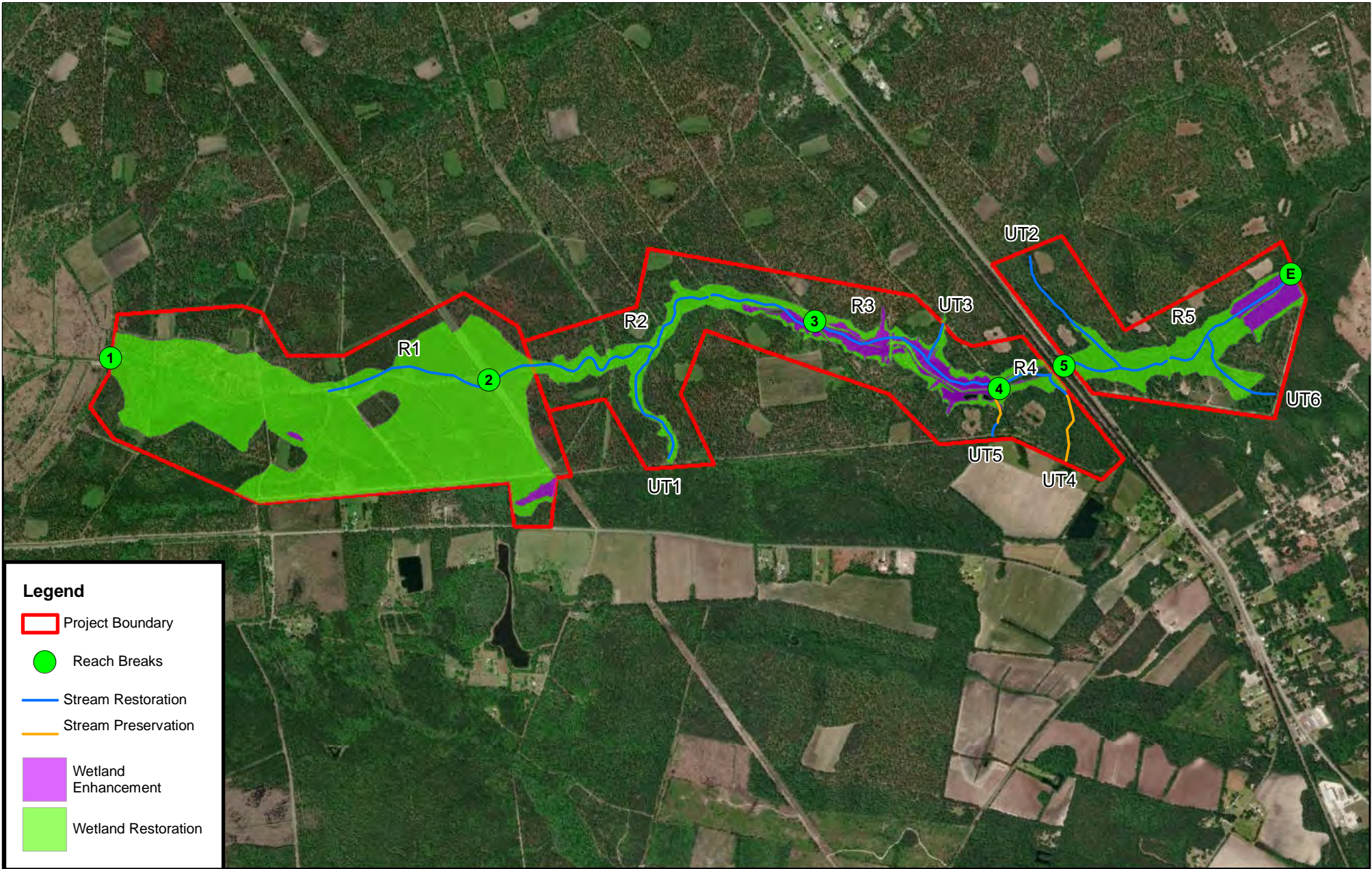
BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH HYDROGRAPHY MAP



FIGURE 20

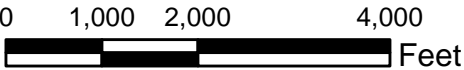
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Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Reach Breaks
-  Stream Restoration
-  Stream Preservation
-  Wetland Enhancement
-  Wetland Restoration



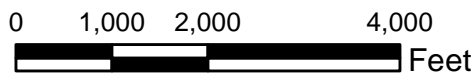
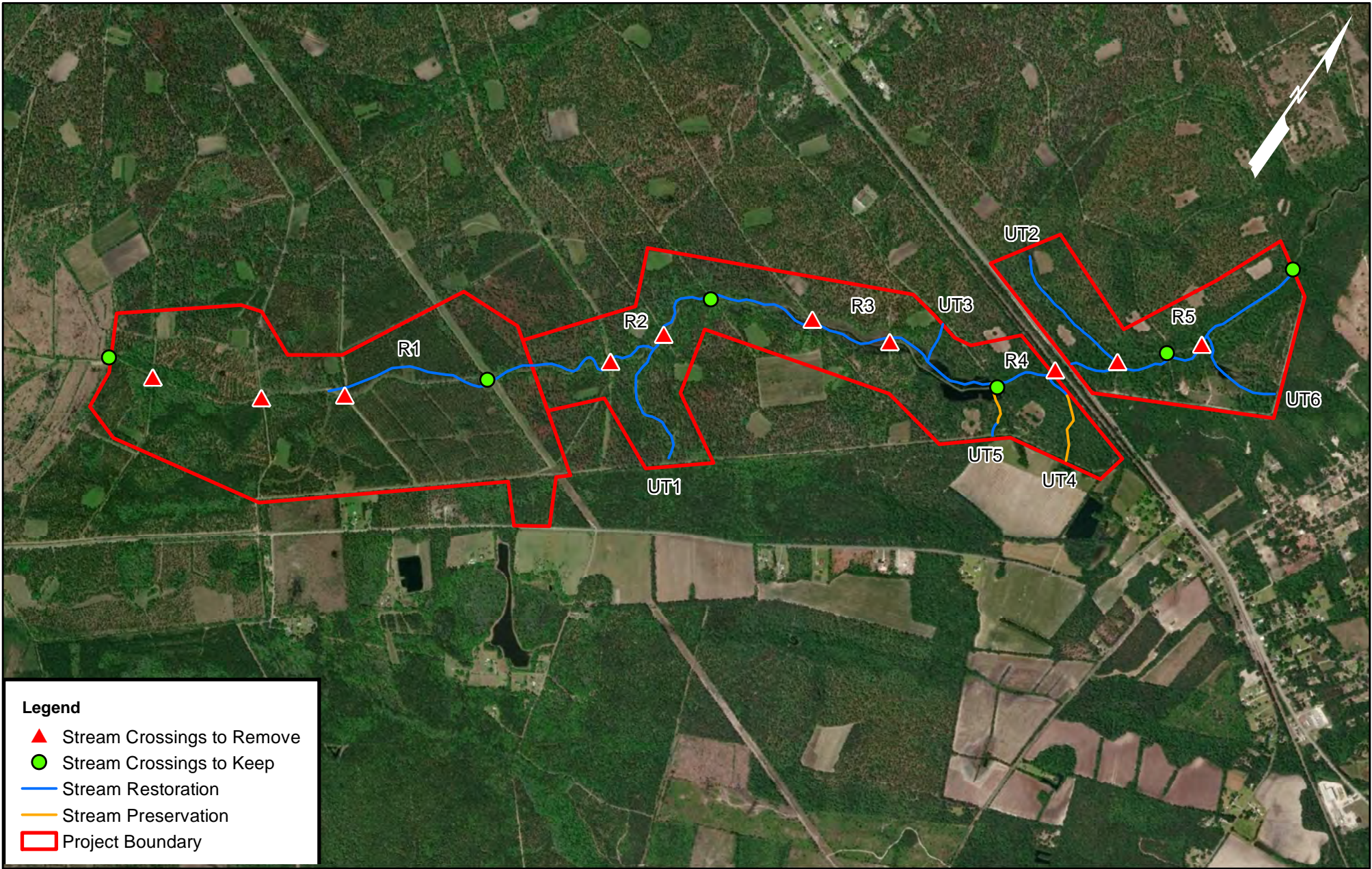
BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH
CONCEPTUAL RESTORATION DESIGN MAP



FIGURE 21

DORCHESTER COUNTY, SC

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BROSNAN FOREST COLDWATER BRANCH STREAM CROSSING MAP



FIGURE 22

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