

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N SAC-2016-01867-MOD

January 9, 2020

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), a proposed modification to the Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank has been submitted to the Department of the Army (Corps) and the South Carolina Interagency Review Team (IRT) by

**WEYERHAEUSER NR COMPANY
ATTENTION: DOUG HUGHES
406 COLE ROAD
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39402**

for a proposal to add a stream and wetland mitigation site called Great Swamp Mitigation Site to Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank that is adjacent to the

Ashepool River

at a location in west central Colleton County, South Carolina (Latitude: 32.8050 °, Longitude: - 80.6931 °), Hendersonville U.S. Geological Service Quadrangle sheet.

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 site in the Salkehatchie watershed (8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code 03050210) located in the Coastal Plain Ecoregion. The proposed 3,067-acre mitigation site includes approximately 53,570 linear feet of stream channels and 1,411.5 acres of wetlands.

The proposal is to preserve 7,035 linear feet of stream. In addition, 1,283 feet of streams will be enhanced by stabilizing stream channels and reconnecting natural hydrology upstream. Restoration of 38,152 linear feet of stream will be achieved by removing spoil piles, utilizing available relic channels, and adding appropriate in stream structures to maintain dimension, pattern, and profile. New stream channels may be constructed where relic channels could not

be located or were manipulated. Channels will be constructed using Natural channel design approaches to stabilize stream beds and banks, and improve stream channel geometry. In-stream structures will be used to provide grade control and improve habitat. Wetland enhancement will include establishing native vegetation where commercial pine plantations have encroached or where vegetation has been disturbed. Ditches and berms will be removed to provide hydrologic uplift. Approximately 848.4 acres of wetlands will be preserved on site. Much of these wetlands are located in abandoned rice fields. 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 Salkehatchie, Broad-St. Helana, and St. Helana Island watersheds 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.

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 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 *American Wood Stork*, *Mycteria americana*, a Federally *threatened* species is present in the vicinity of the project. However, it has been determined that the project will have not likely to adversely affect this species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat.

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 there are historic properties present, but they will not be affected; 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 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.

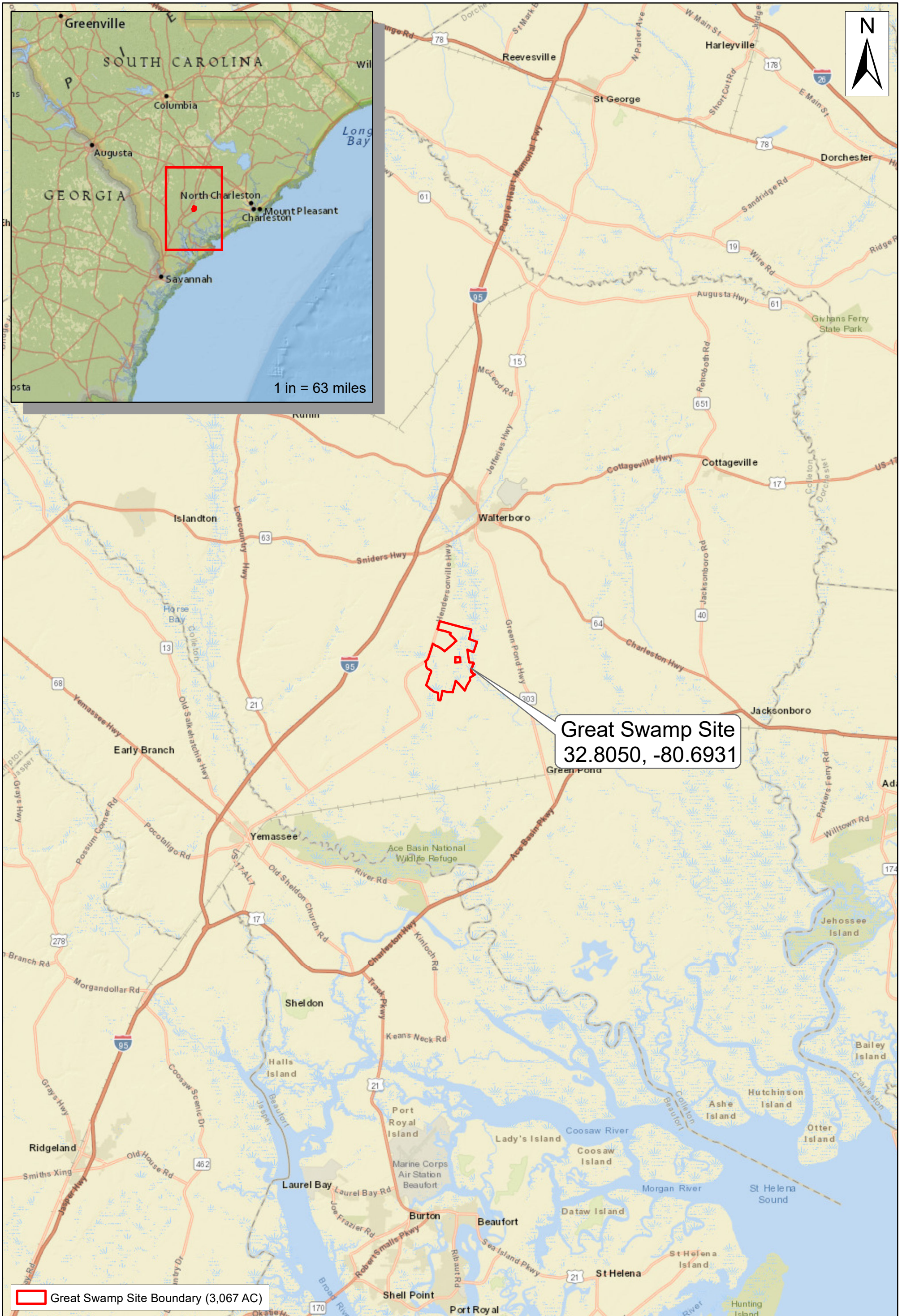
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to approve or deny the proposed mitigation bank site will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. 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. 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:**

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

The Modification to 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.



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Figure 1: Site Location
 Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank
 Instrument Modification Document
 Appendix C. Great Swamp Site
 Colleton County, SC



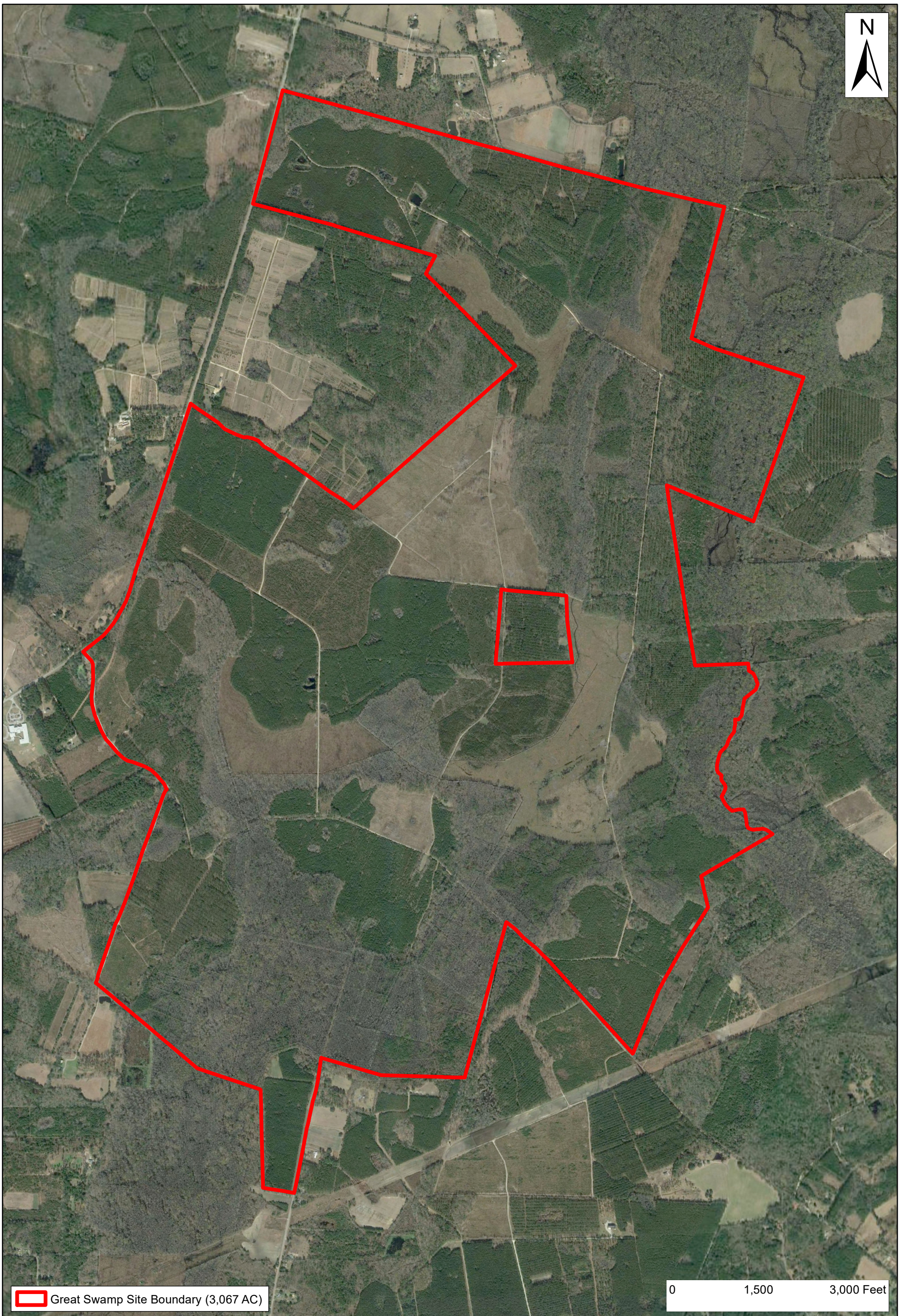
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Figure 2: Service Area
 Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank
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 Great Swamp Site Boundary (3,067 AC)

0 1,500 3,000 Feet

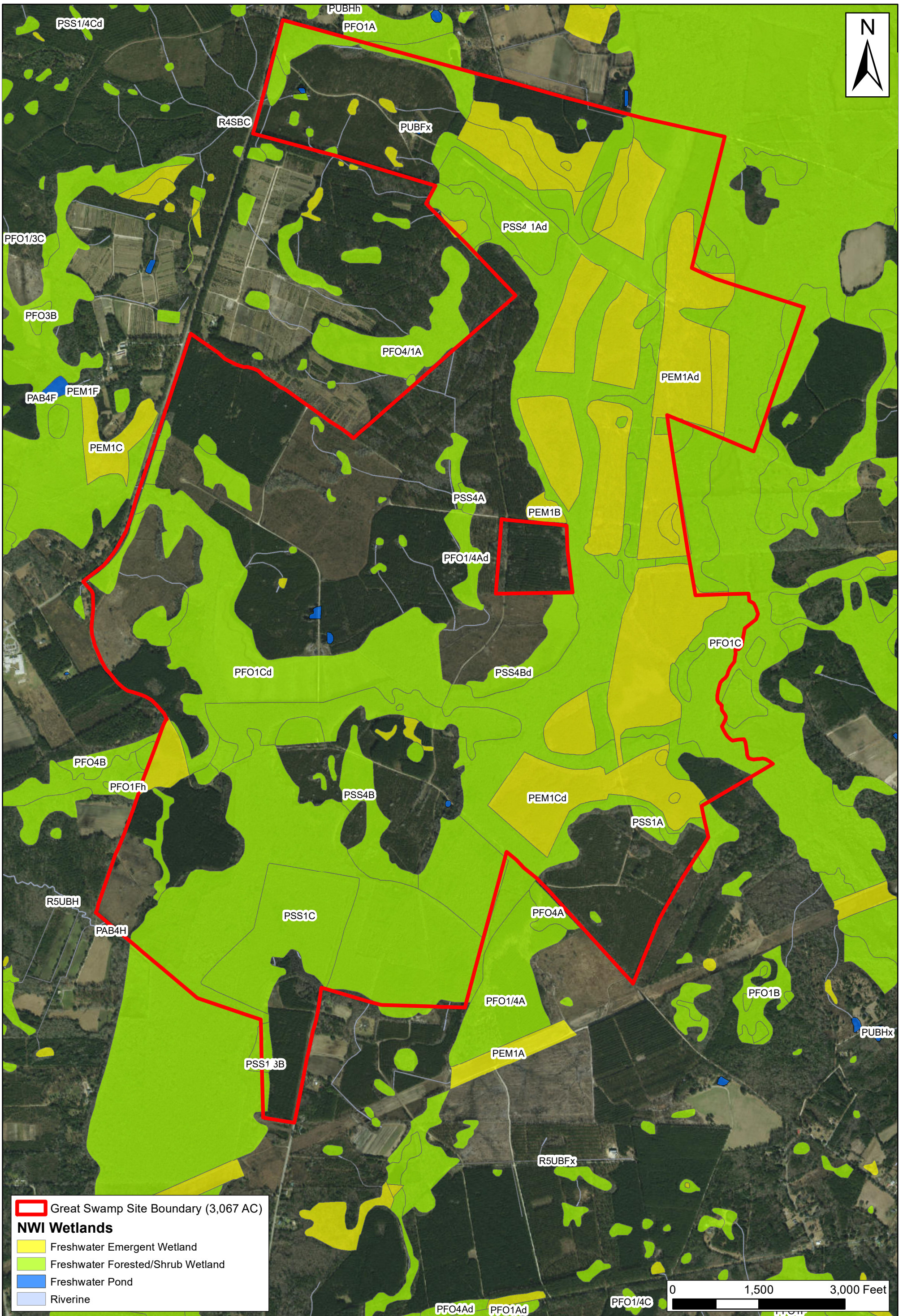
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Figure 3: 2019 Aerial Imagery
Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank
Instrument Modification Document
Appendix C. Great Swamp Site
Colleton County, SC



Great Swamp Site Boundary (3,067 AC)

NWI Wetlands

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

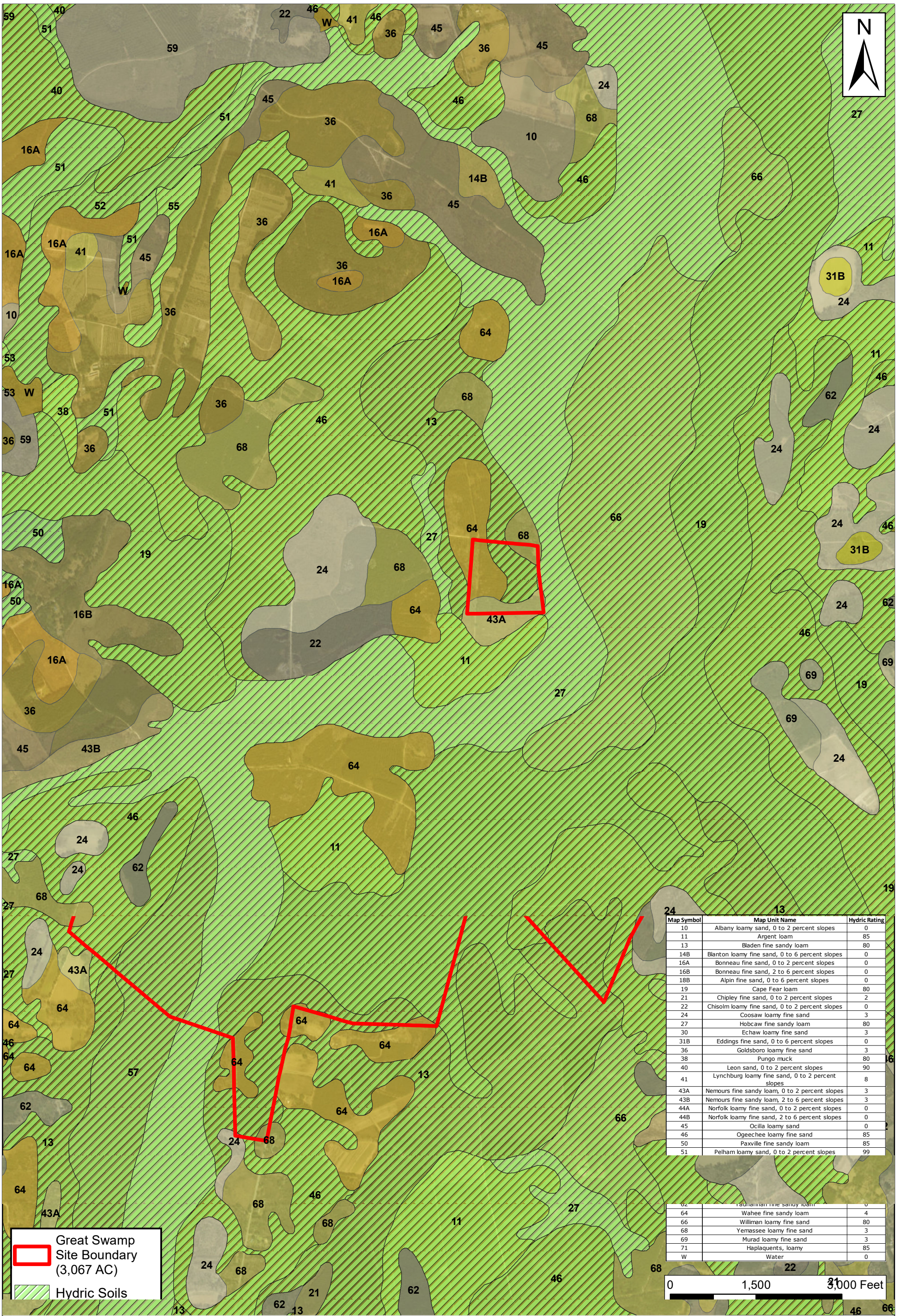
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Figure 4: National Wetland Inventory
 Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank
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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Hydric Rating
10	Albany loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	0
11	Argent loam	85
13	Bladen fine sandy loam	80
14B	Blanton loamy fine sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	0
16A	Bonneau fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	0
16B	Bonneau fine sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	0
18B	Alpin fine sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	0
19	Cape Fear loam	80
21	Chipley fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	2
22	Chisolm loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	0
24	Coosaw loamy fine sand	3
27	Hobcaw fine sandy loam	80
30	Echaw loamy fine sand	3
31B	Eddings fine sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	0
36	Goldsboro loamy fine sand	3
38	Pungo muck	80
40	Leon sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	90
41	Lynchburg loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	8
43A	Nemours fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	3
43B	Nemours fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	3
44A	Norfolk loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	0
44B	Norfolk loamy fine sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	0
45	Ocilla loamy sand	0
46	Ogeechee loamy fine sand	85
50	Paxville fine sandy loam	85
51	Pelham loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	99

62	Wadhaman fine sandy loam	0
64	Wahee fine sandy loam	4
66	Williman loamy fine sand	80
68	Yemassee loamy fine sand	3
69	Murad loamy fine sand	3
71	Haplaquents, loamy	85
W	Water	0

Great Swamp Site Boundary (3,067 AC)

Hydric Soils

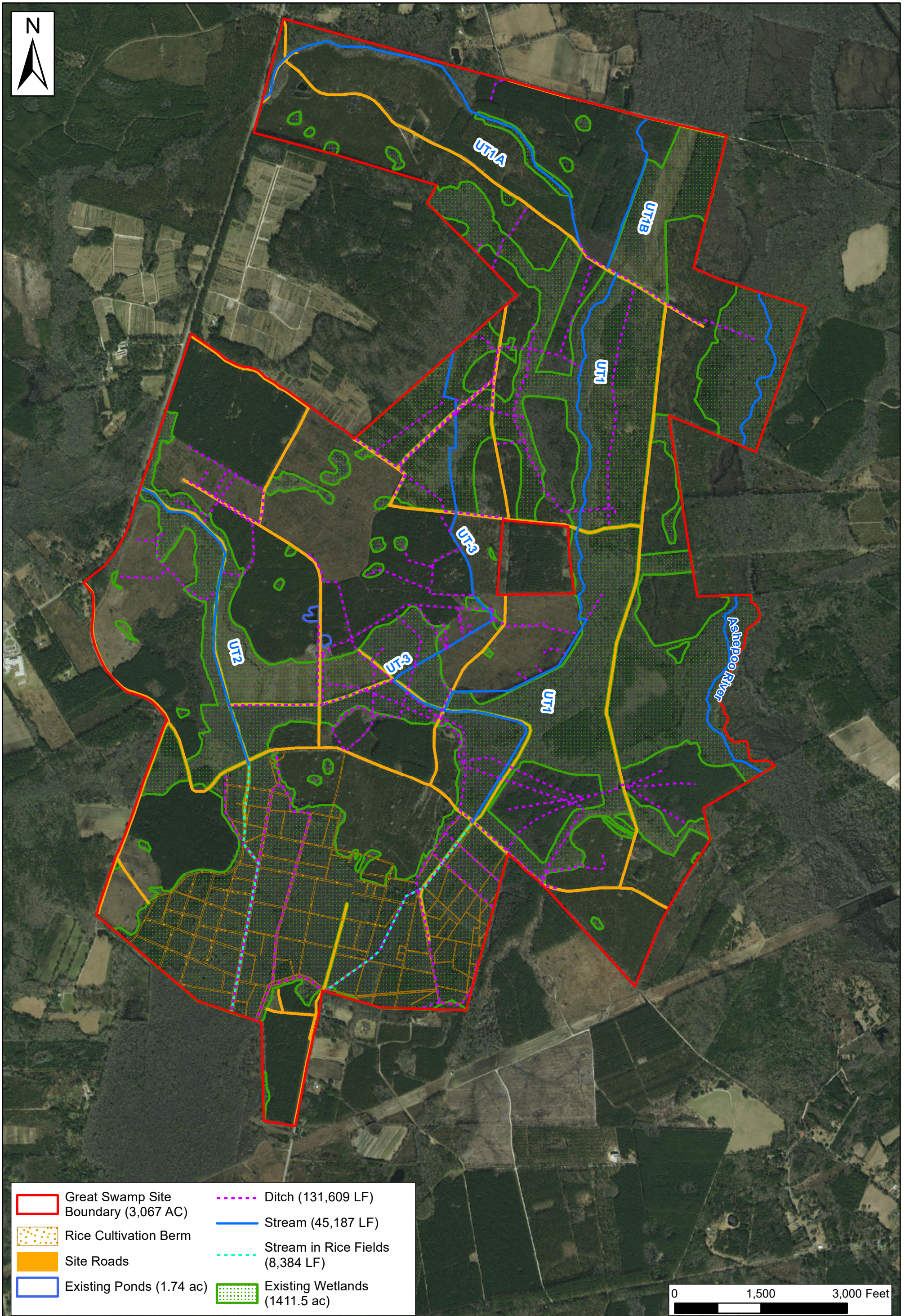
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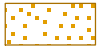







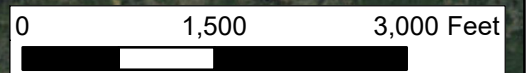
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Figure 6: NRCS Soil Survey
 Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank
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	Great Swamp Site Boundary (3,067 AC)		Ditch (131,609 LF)
	Rice Cultivation Berm		Stream (45,187 LF)
	Site Roads		Stream in Rice Fields (8,384 LF)
	Existing Ponds (1.74 ac)		Existing Wetlands (1411.5 ac)



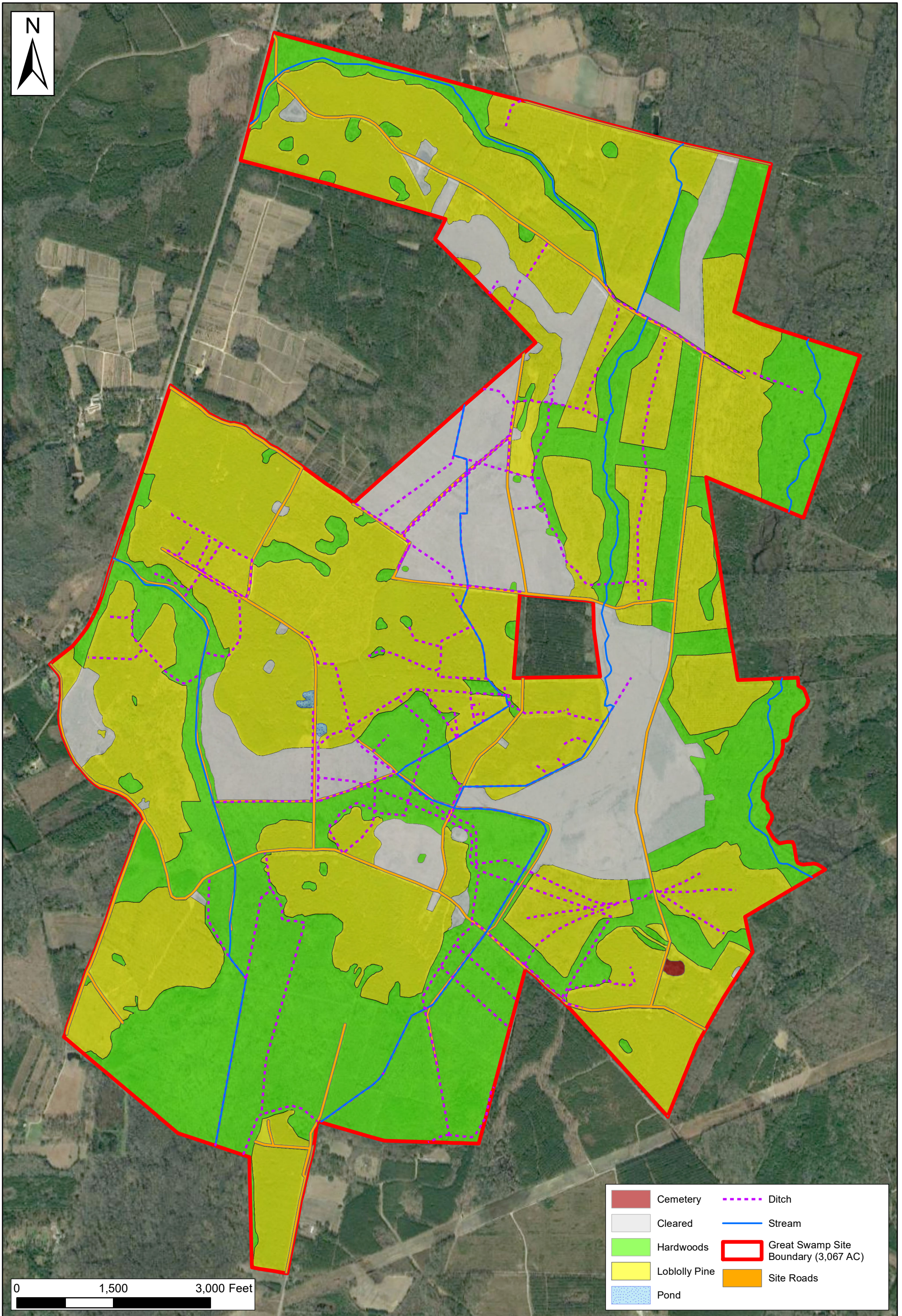
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Figure 7A: Existing Conditions
Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank
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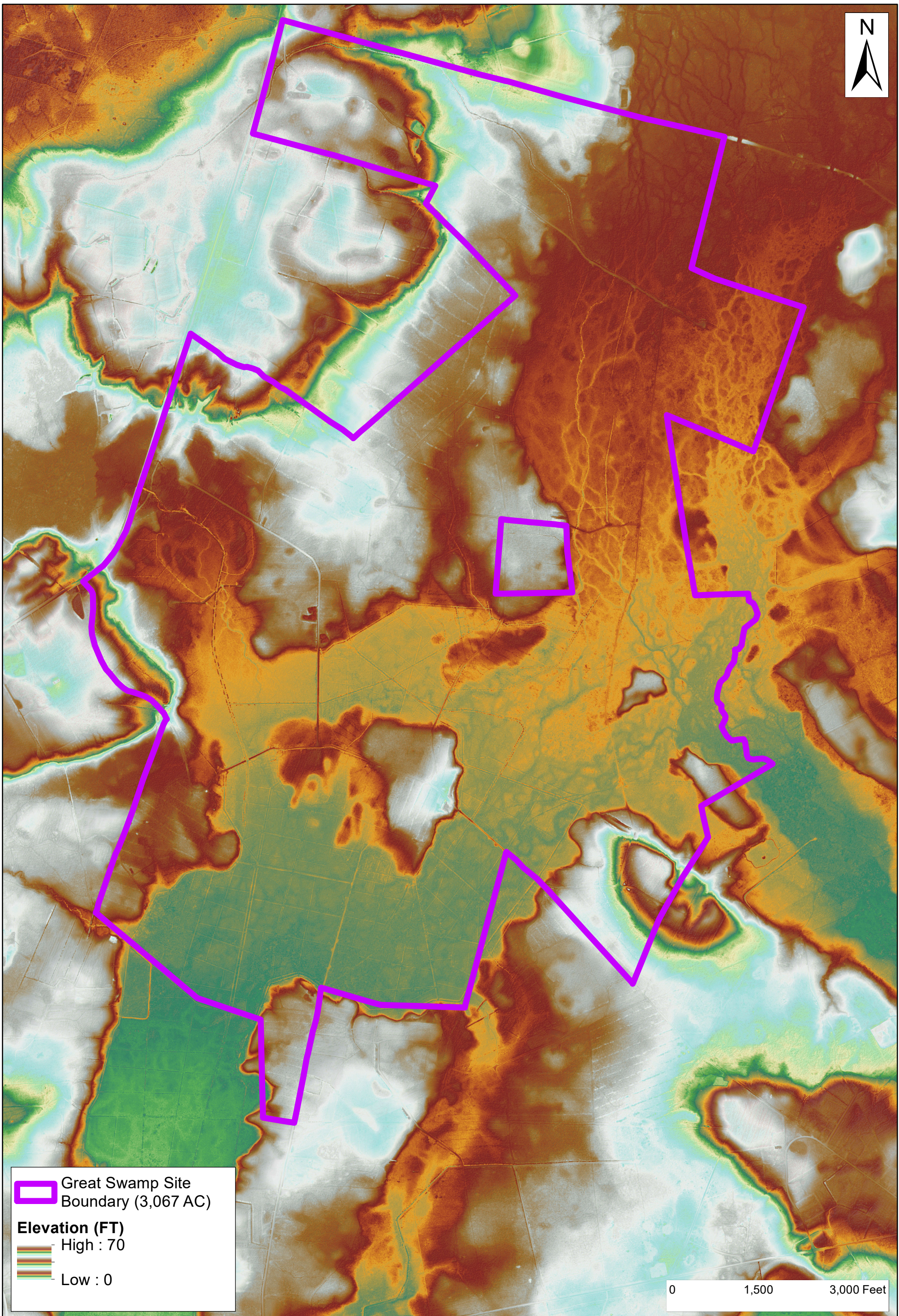
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Figure 7B: Existing Vegetation
Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank
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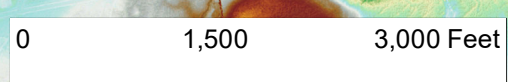


 Great Swamp Site Boundary (3,067 AC)

Elevation (FT)

 High : 70

 Low : 0



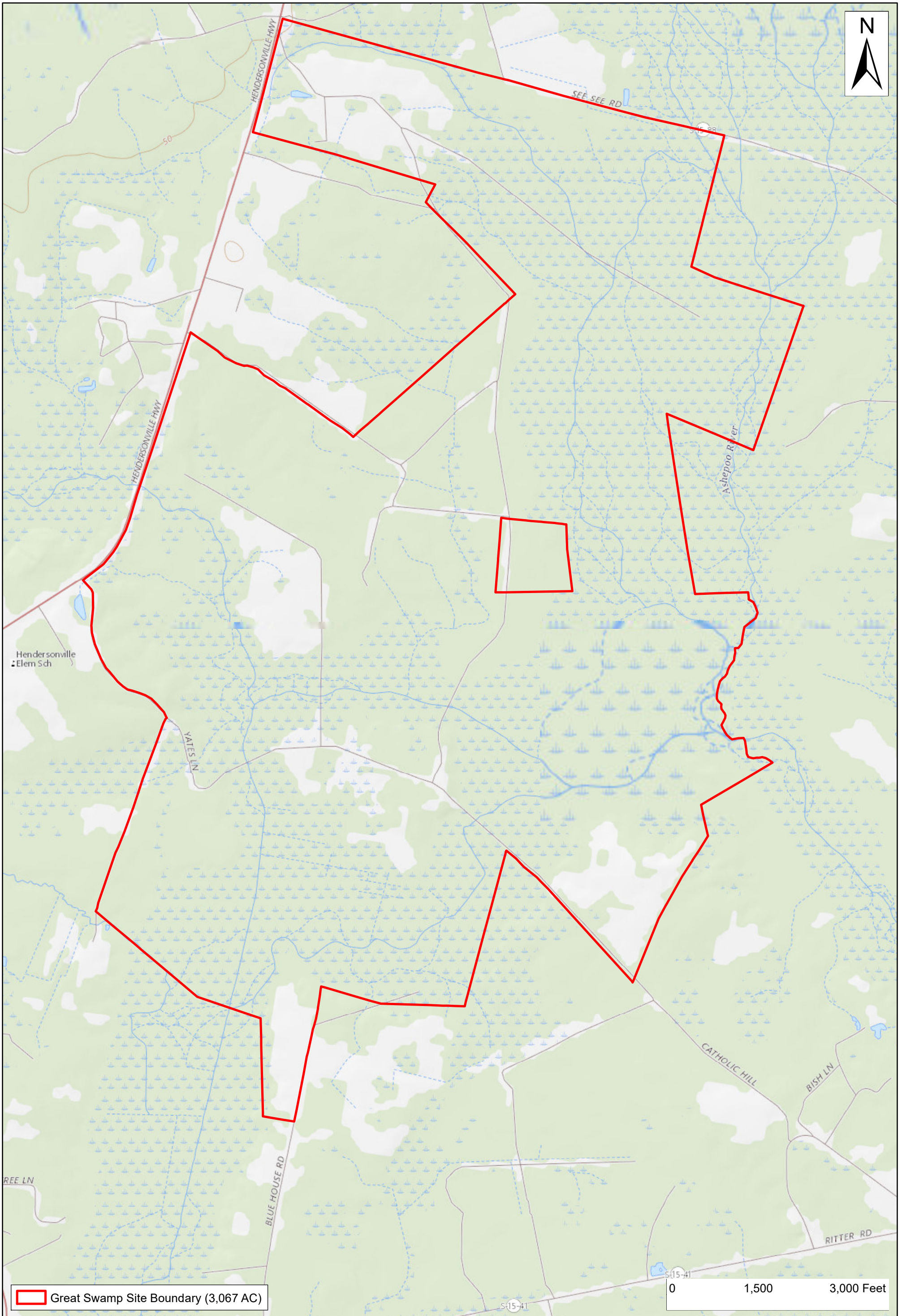
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Figure 8: LiDAR Imagery
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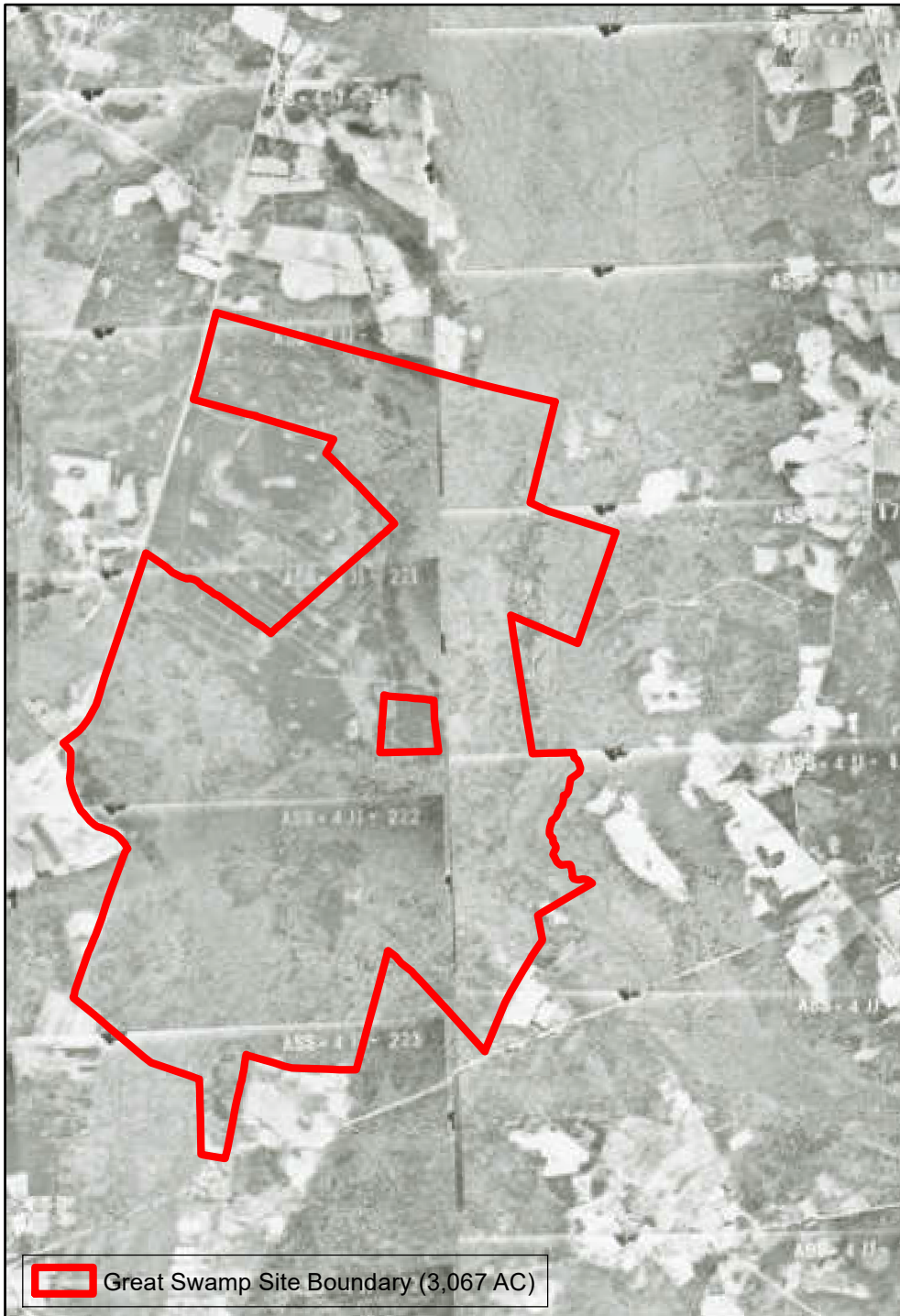
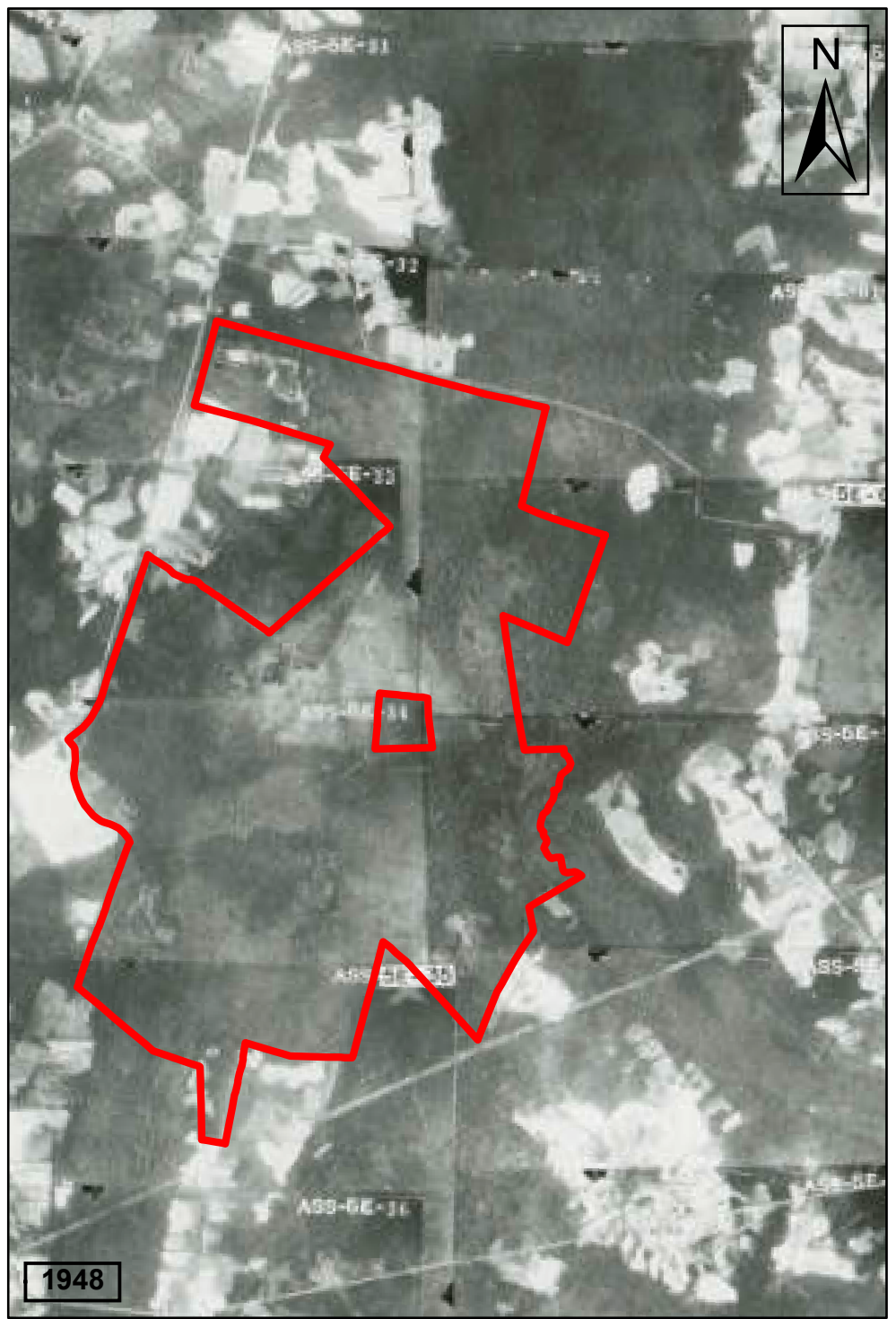
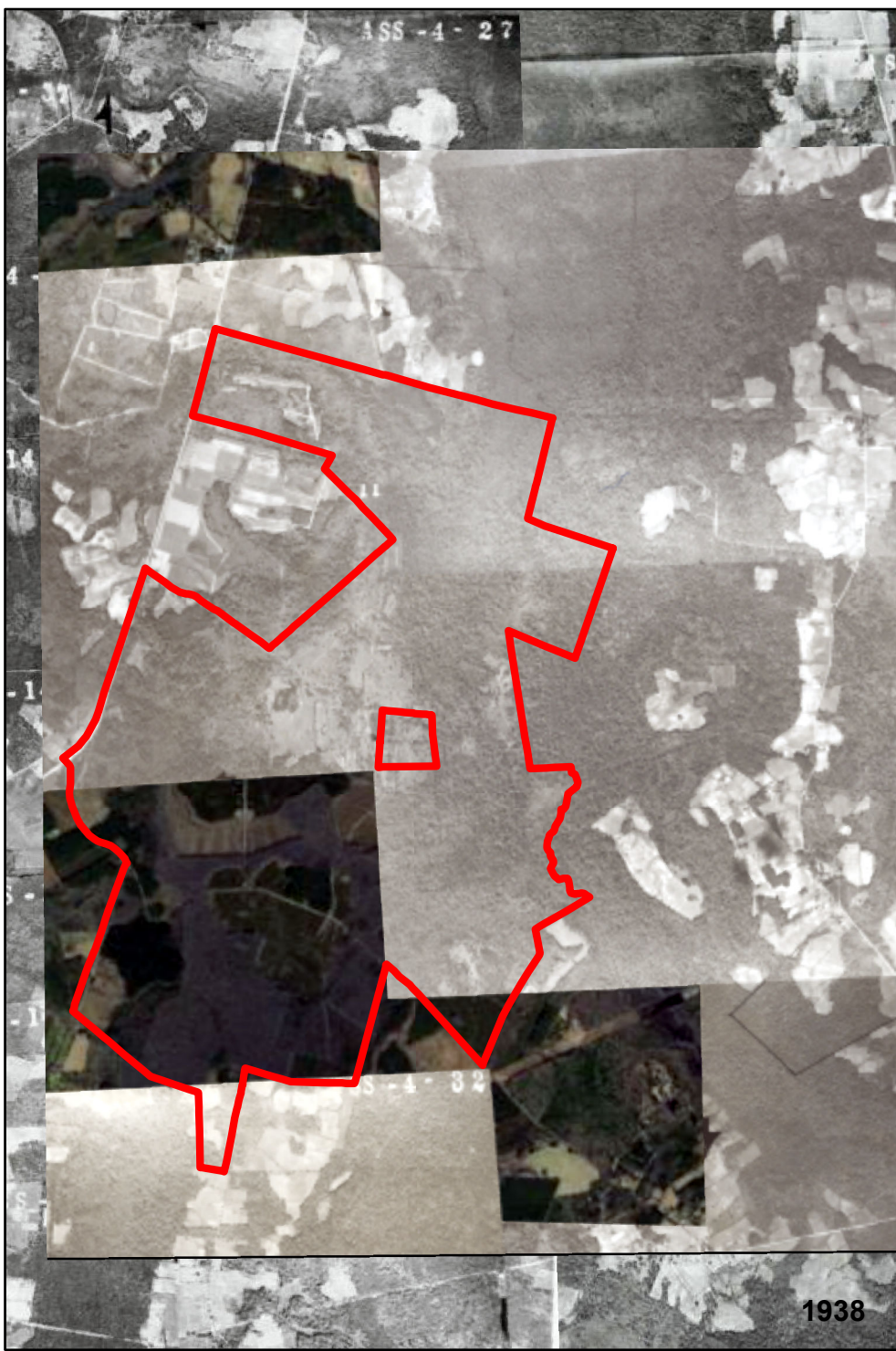
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Figure 9: USGS Topographic
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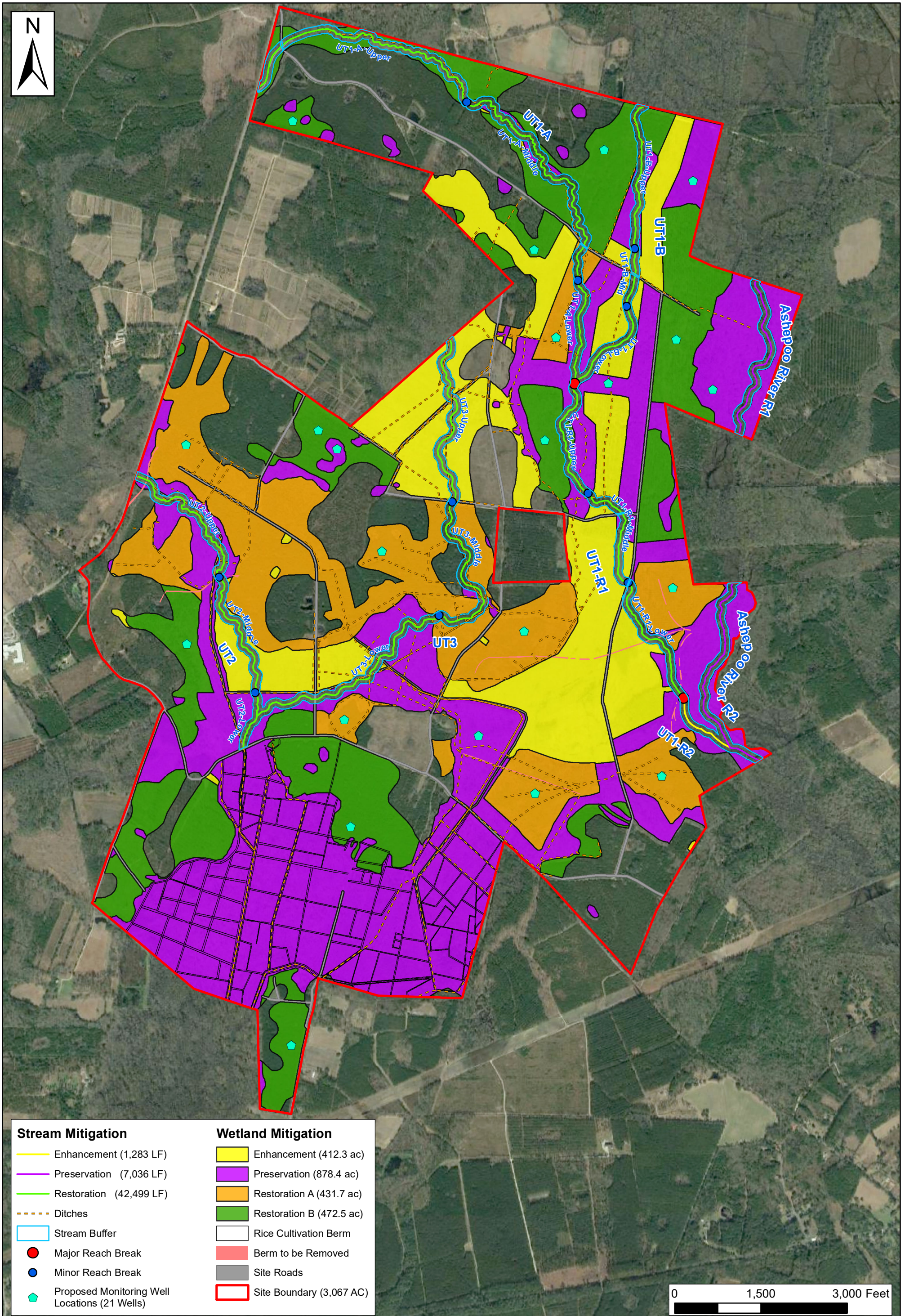
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Figure 10. Historical Aerial Imagery
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Stream Mitigation	Wetland Mitigation
— Enhancement (1,283 LF)	— Enhancement (412.3 ac)
— Preservation (7,036 LF)	— Preservation (878.4 ac)
— Restoration (42,499 LF)	— Restoration A (431.7 ac)
- - - Ditches	— Restoration B (472.5 ac)
— Stream Buffer	— Rice Cultivation Berm
● Major Reach Break	— Berm to be Removed
● Minor Reach Break	— Site Roads
◆ Proposed Monitoring Well Locations (21 Wells)	— Site Boundary (3,067 AC)

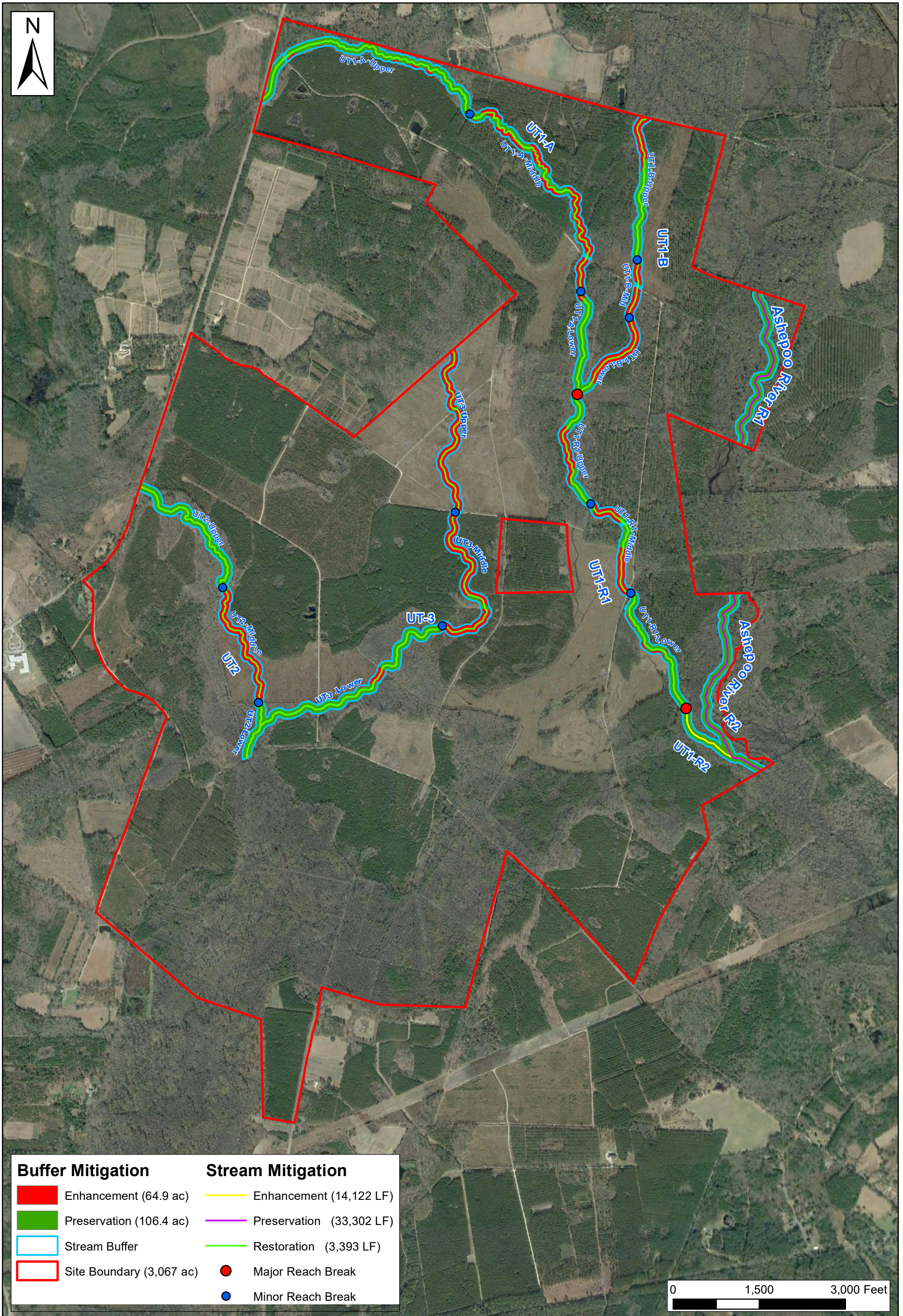
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Figure 11. Proposed Mitigation
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Buffer Mitigation

- Enhancement (64.9 ac)
- Preservation (106.4 ac)
- Stream Buffer
- Site Boundary (3,067 ac)

Stream Mitigation

- Enhancement (14,122 LF)
- Preservation (33,302 LF)
- Restoration (3,393 LF)
- Major Reach Break
- Minor Reach Break

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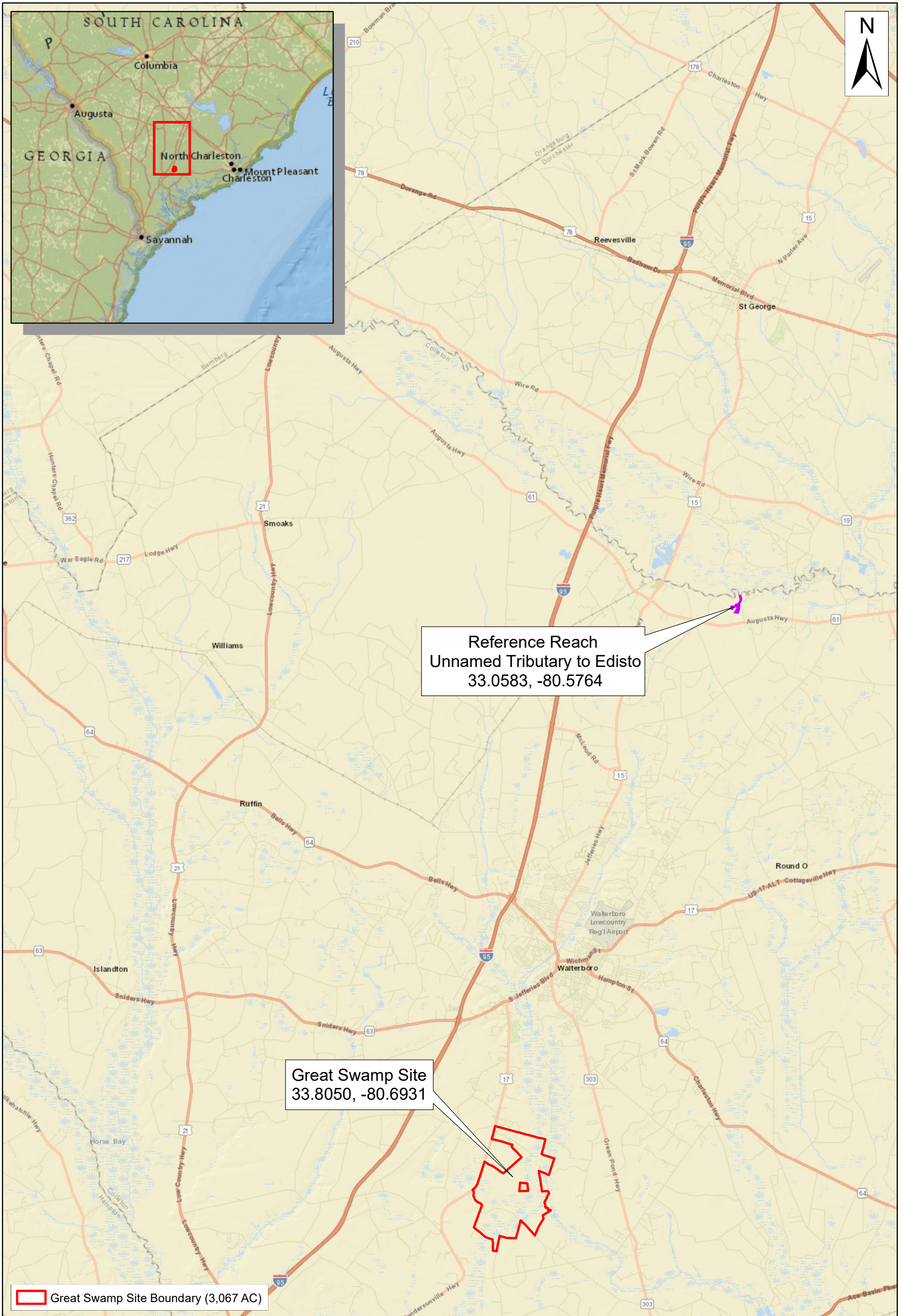


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0 1,500 3,000 Feet

Figure 12: Buffer Enhancement
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Figure 13: Reference Reach Vicinity
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