

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 20403-5107

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N SAC-2016-01867-MOD4

October 6, 2021

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

Mr. Doug Hughes
Weyerhaeuser NR Company
211 Armstrong Road
Columbia, Mississippi 39429

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

Savannah Branch

at a location at a location in north central Jasper County, South Carolina with the center of the proposed mitigation site being located at approximately 32.617 and -81.093. The Site is in the Calibogue Sound-Wright River Basin (8-digit HUC 03060110) and the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain Level III Ecoregion, Jasper County, South Carolina (Latitude: 32.617 °, Longitude: -81.093 °) Calpen Bay 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 Calibogue Sound-Wright River Basin watershed (8-digit Hydrologic

Unit Code 03060110) located in the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain Ecoregion. The proposed 2,180-acre mitigation site includes approximately 12,380 linear feet of stream channels and 1,095.6 acres of wetlands.

The proposal is to preserve 360 linear feet of stream. In addition, restoration of 13,467 linear feet of stream will be achieved by restoring a more natural and stable dimension and plan form through the low point of the valley connecting overbank flows to the historic floodplain through grading, installation of wood structures for grade control and habitat improvement, restoration of a natural vegetated riparian buffer, and removal of silvicultural management from the riparian buffer. Additional restoration activities on Calf Pen Bay include restoration plugging the existing channelized ditch and restoring watershed flows into the relic channel until it flows into a culvert at a maintained dirt logging road. Enhancement of 775 ft of stream enhancement will include removal of culverts along an access road. Wetland enhancement of 536 acres will include establishing native vegetation and plugging ditches. Approximately 175 acres of wetlands will be restored by removal of ditches, roads and berms. Native vegetation will be restored by establishing native vegetation. Approximately 473.9 acres of wetlands will be preserved on site. 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 Calibogue-Sound-Wright River and Lower Savannah River 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 impact 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 American Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana*, a Federally *threatened* species, Red Cockated Woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*, a Federally endangered species, Eastern Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis*, a Federally threatened species, Atlantic Sturgeon, *Acipenser oxyrinchus*, a federally endangered species, and Shortnose Sturgeon, *Acipenser brevirostrum*, 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.

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)(I)(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.

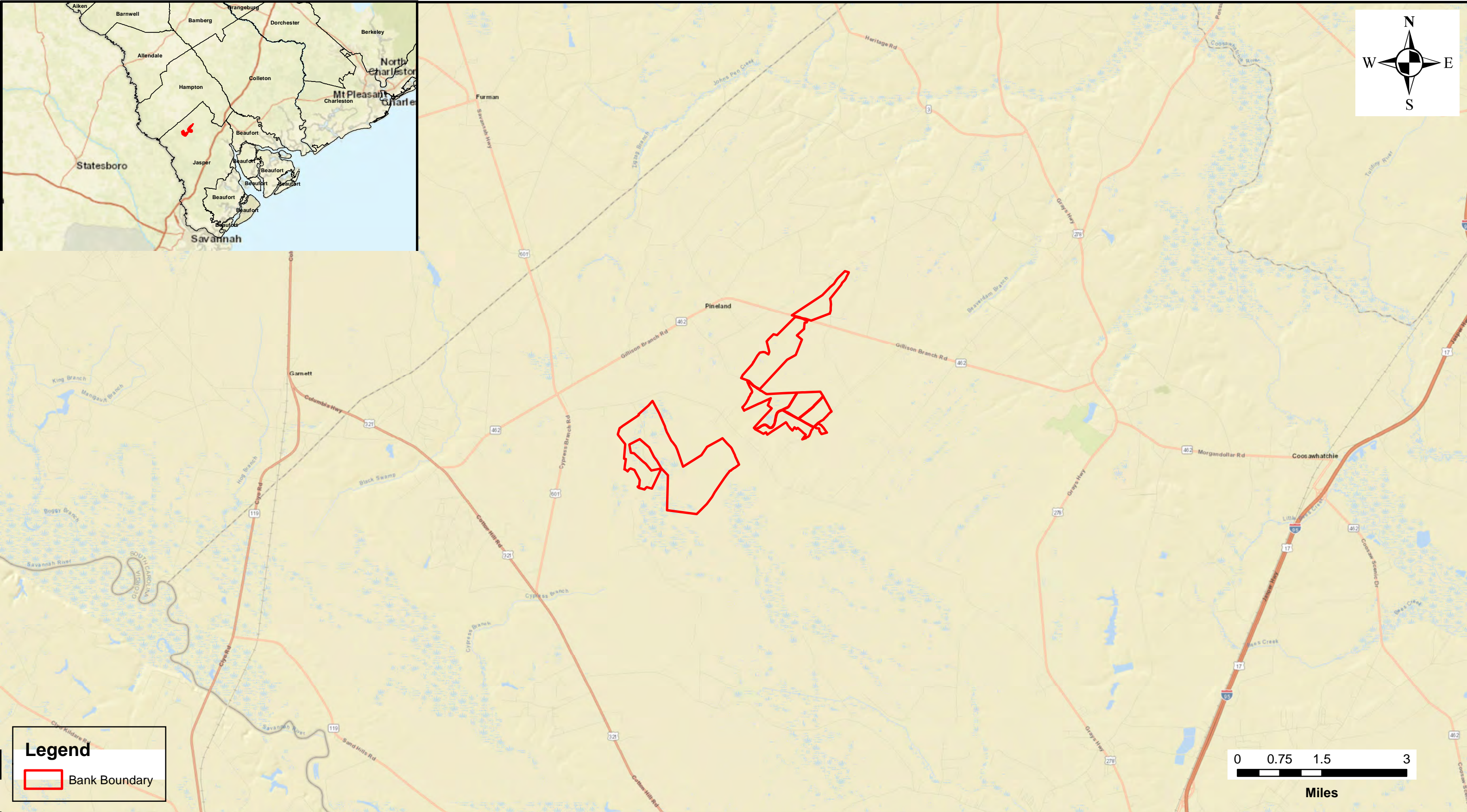
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All 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**

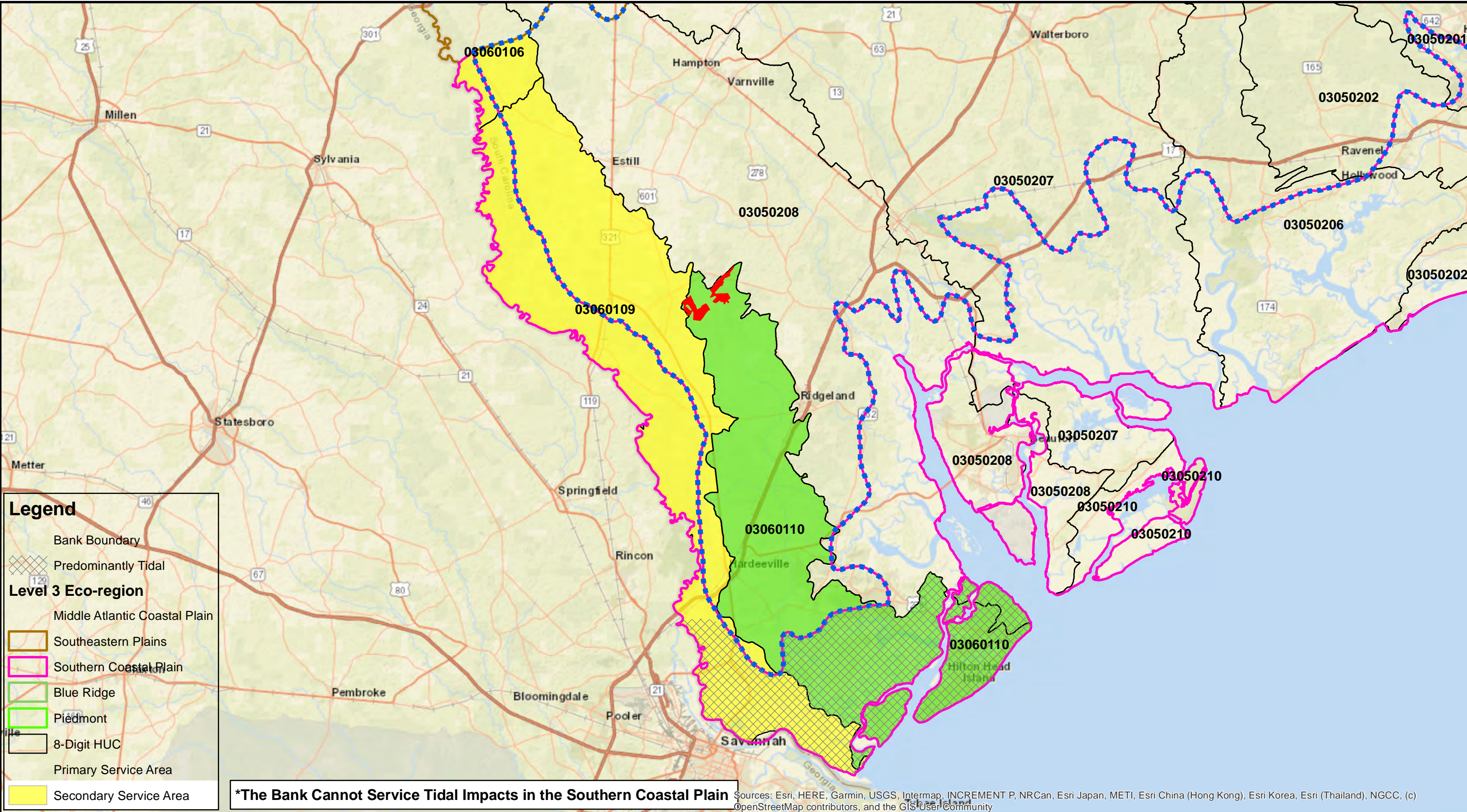
The Prospectus for the proposed mitigation bank is available for review upon request. If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact David B. Wilson at (843) 329-8044 or by email at David.B.Wilson@usace.army.mil

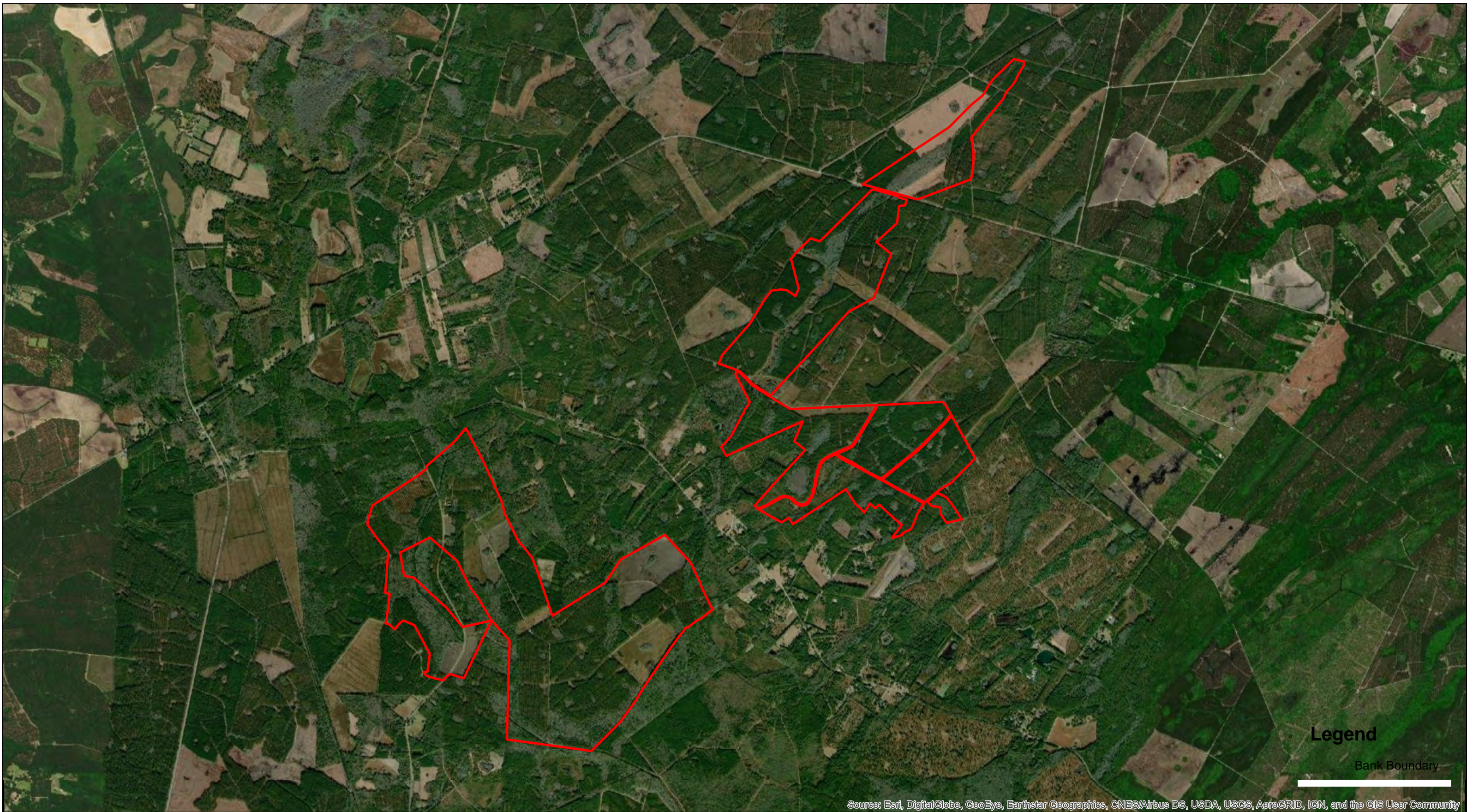


Legend

Bank Boundary

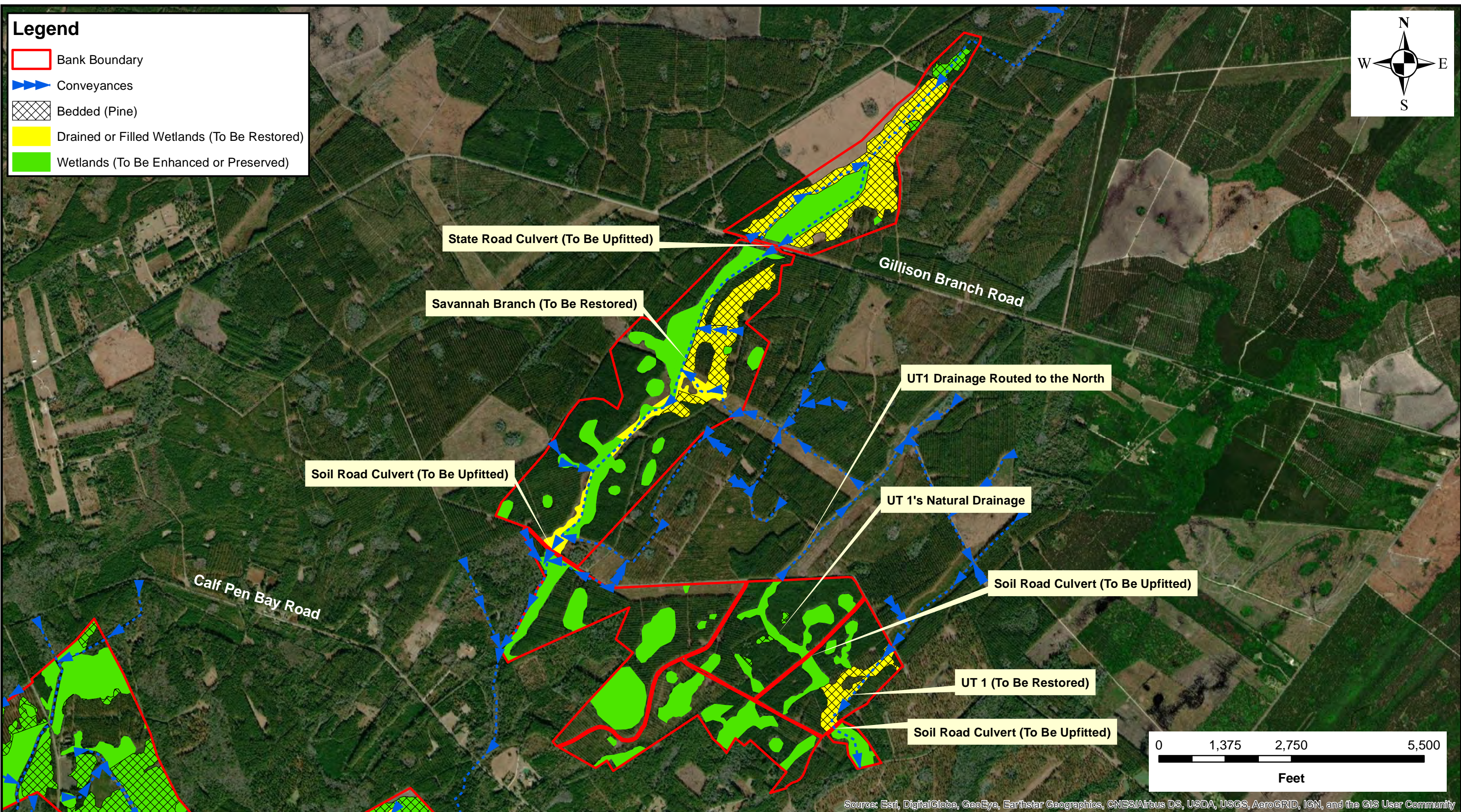
<p>Map Source: ESRI World Imagery</p> <p>Boundaries are approximate and not meant to be absolute.</p>	<p>Prepared By:</p> <p> LMG LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP a DAVEY company 3101 Poplarwood Ct. Suite 120 Raleigh, NC 27604 919-645-4350</p>	<p>Prepared For:</p> <p> Weyerhaeuser</p>	<p>Savannah Branch Mitigation Site Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank Instrument Modification Document Appendix A</p>	<p>Figure 1: Vicinity Map</p> <p>Savannah Branch Site Jasper County, SC</p>
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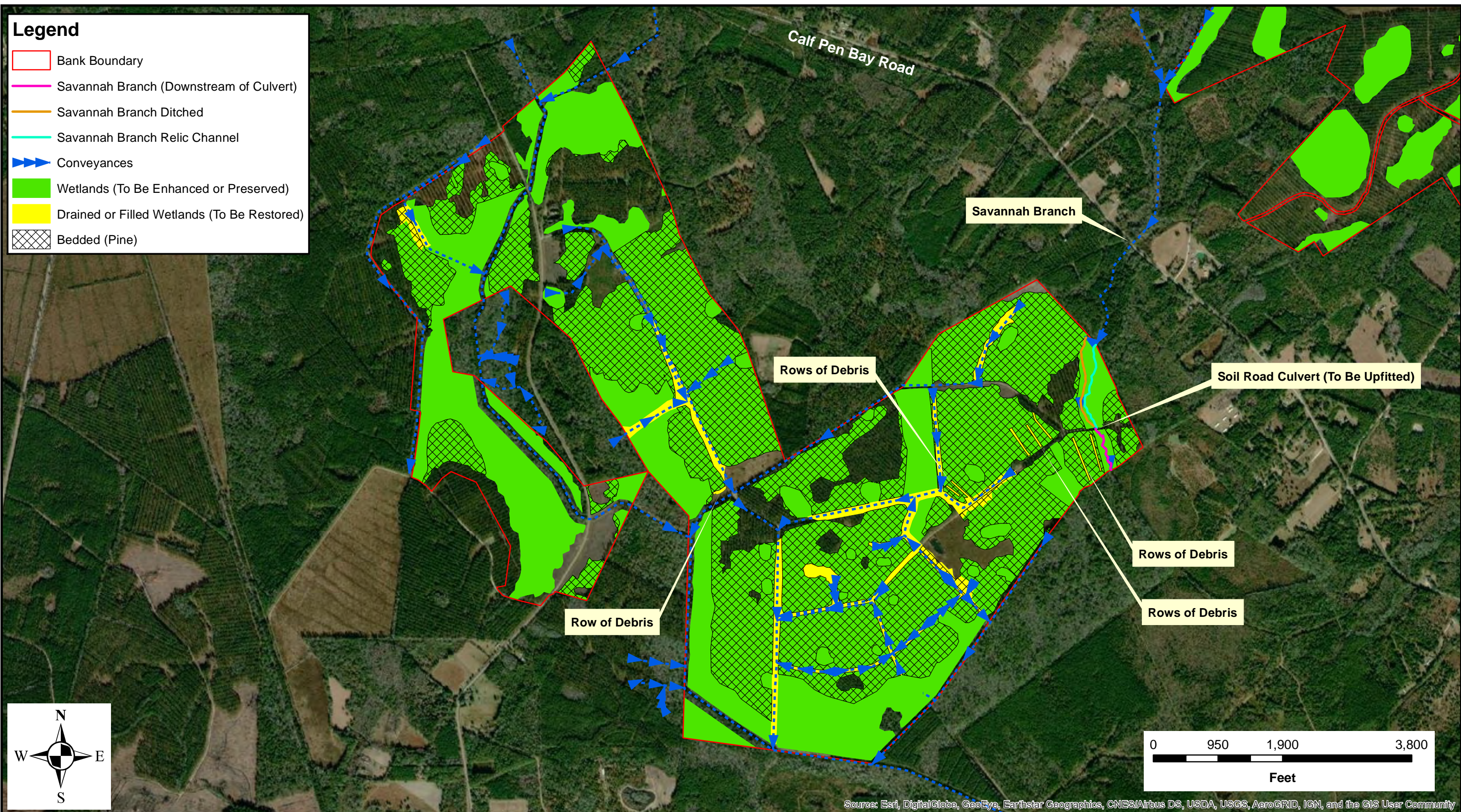


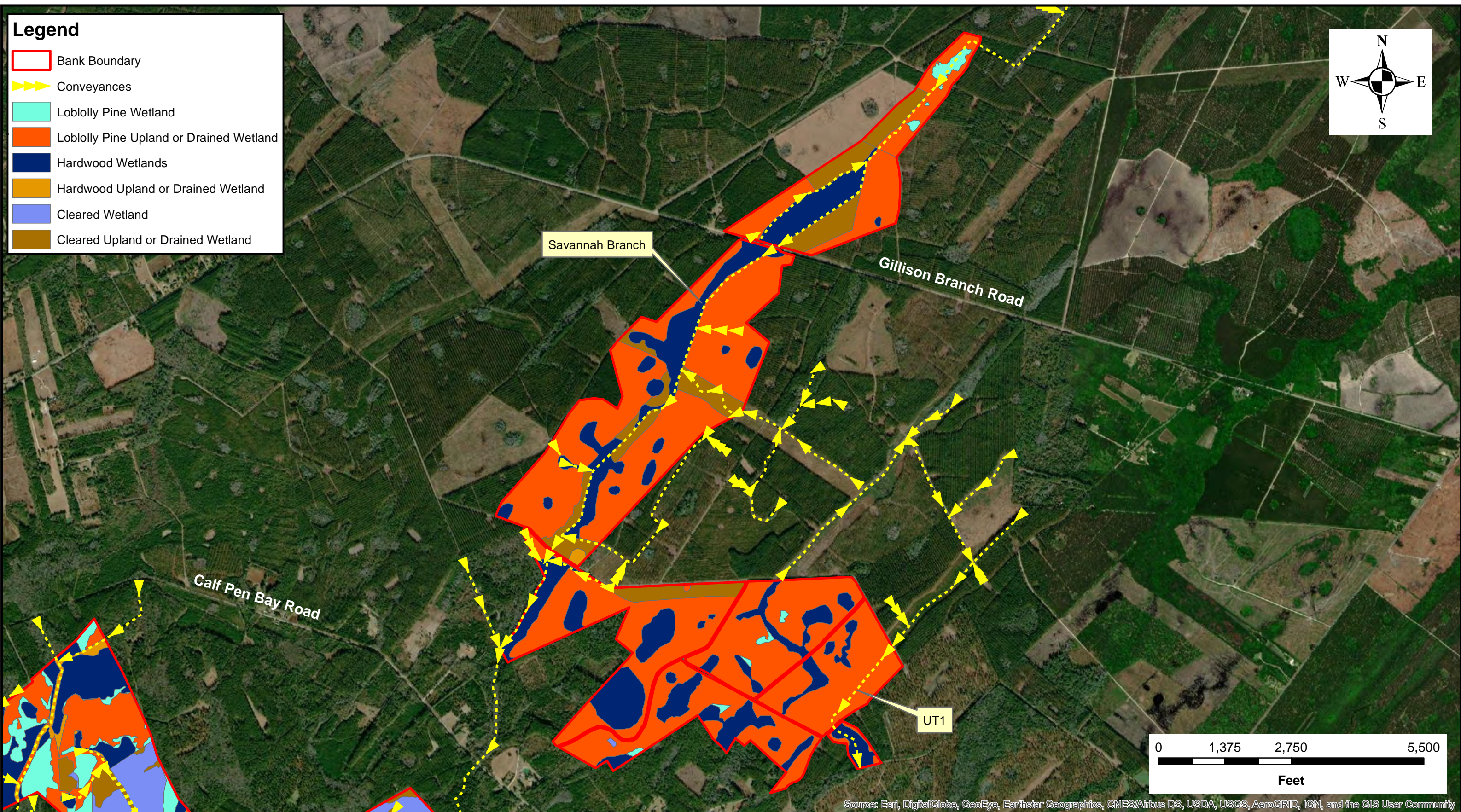


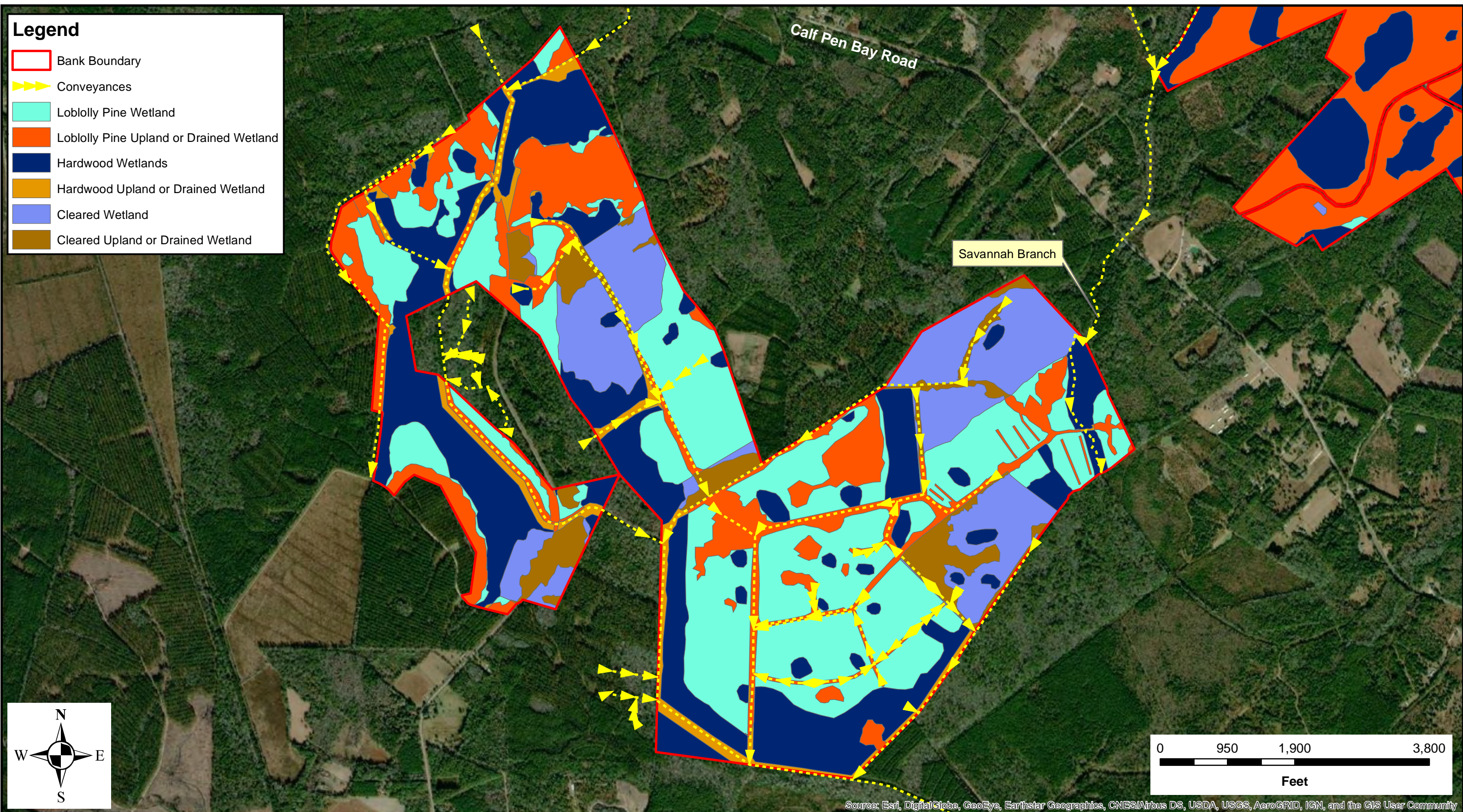
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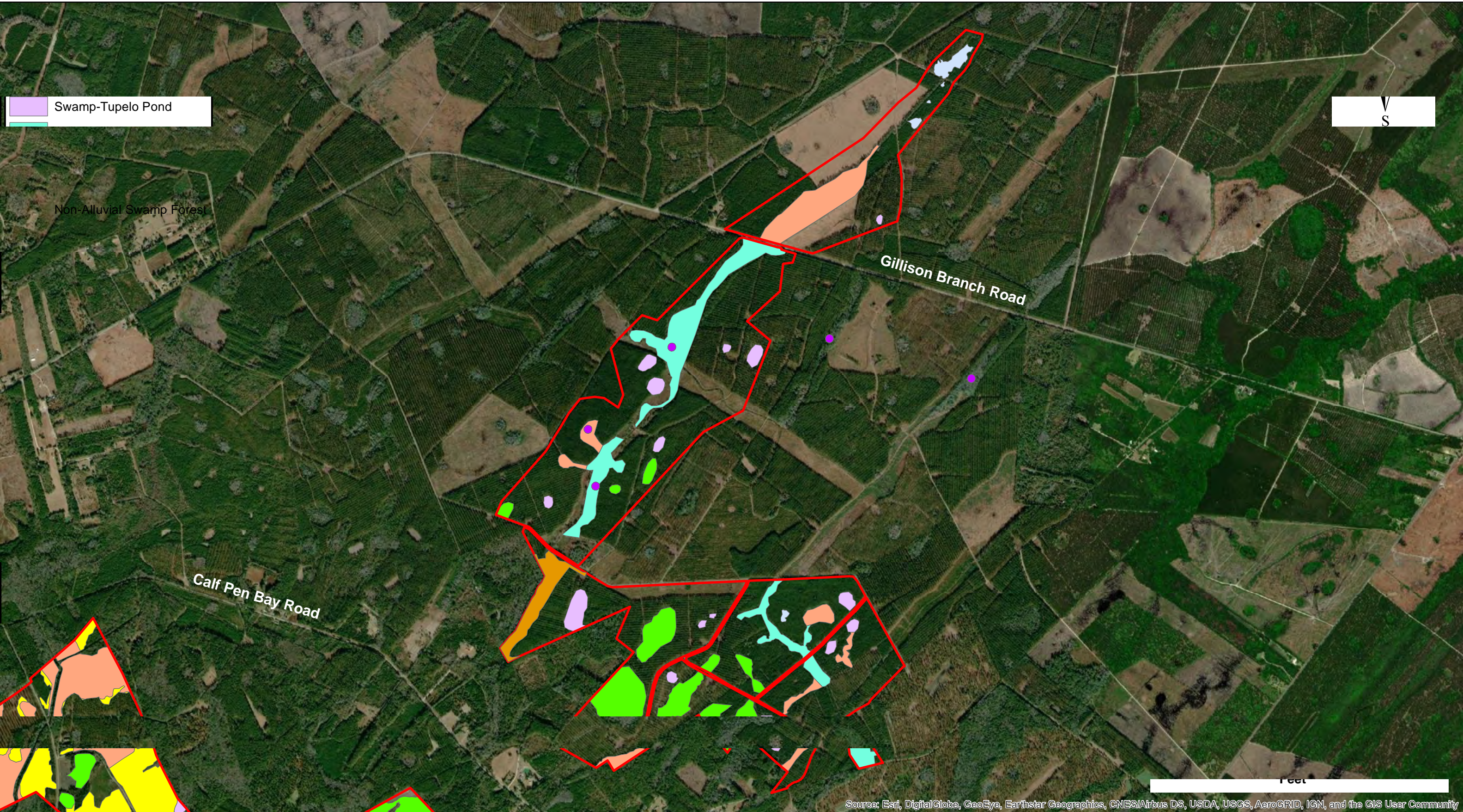
<p>Map Source: ESRI World Imagery</p> <p>Boundaries are approximate and not meant to be absolute.</p>	<p>Prepared By:</p> <div><p>LMG LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP a DAVEY company</p></div> <p>3101 Poplarwood Ct. Suite 120 Raleigh, NC 27604 919-645-4350</p>	<p>Prepared For:</p> <div><p>Weyerhaeuser</p></div>	<p>Savannah Branch Mitigation Site Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank Instrument Modification Document Appendix A</p>	<p>Figure 3D: Aerial Imagey 2019</p> <p>Savannah Branch Site Jasper County, SC</p>
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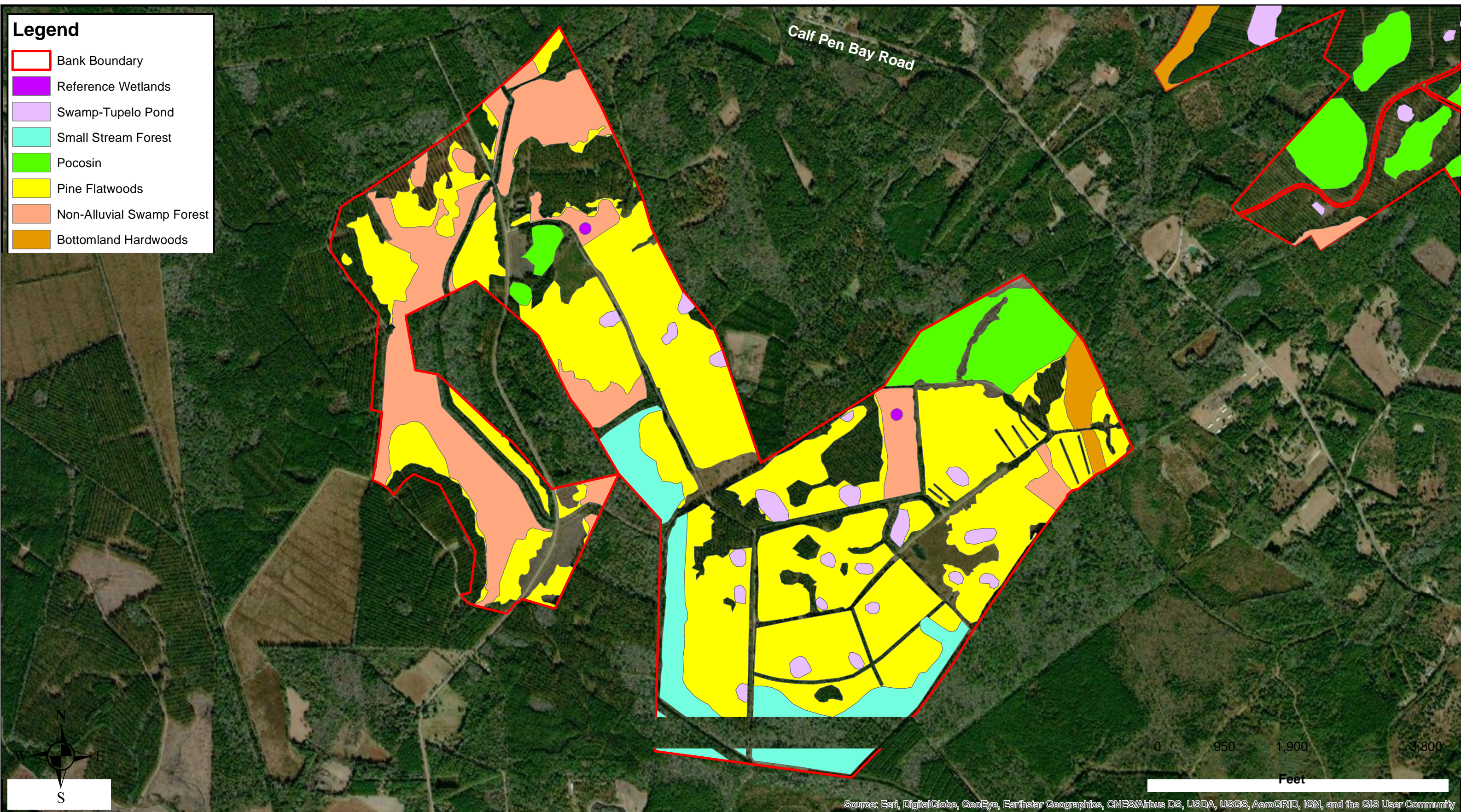








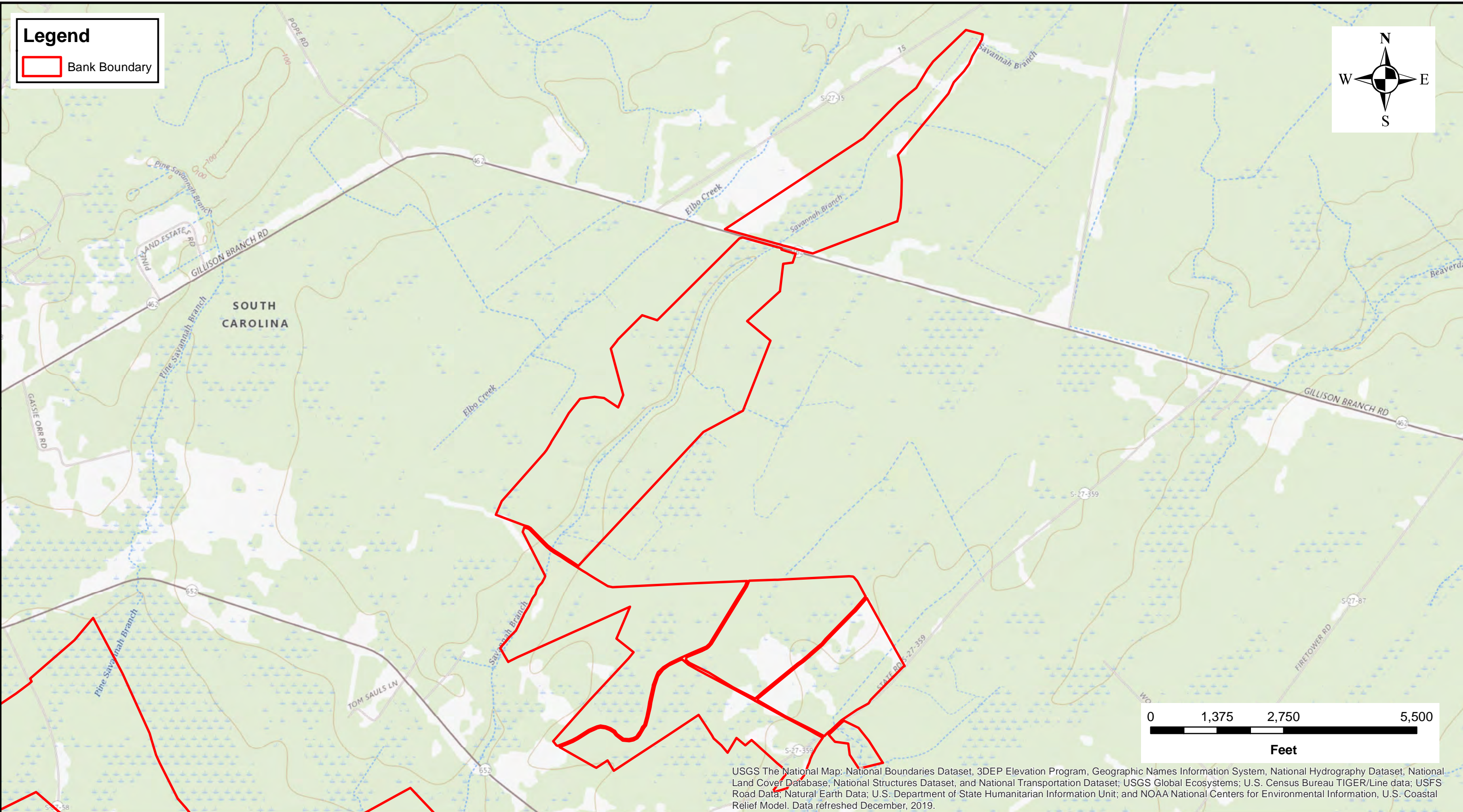
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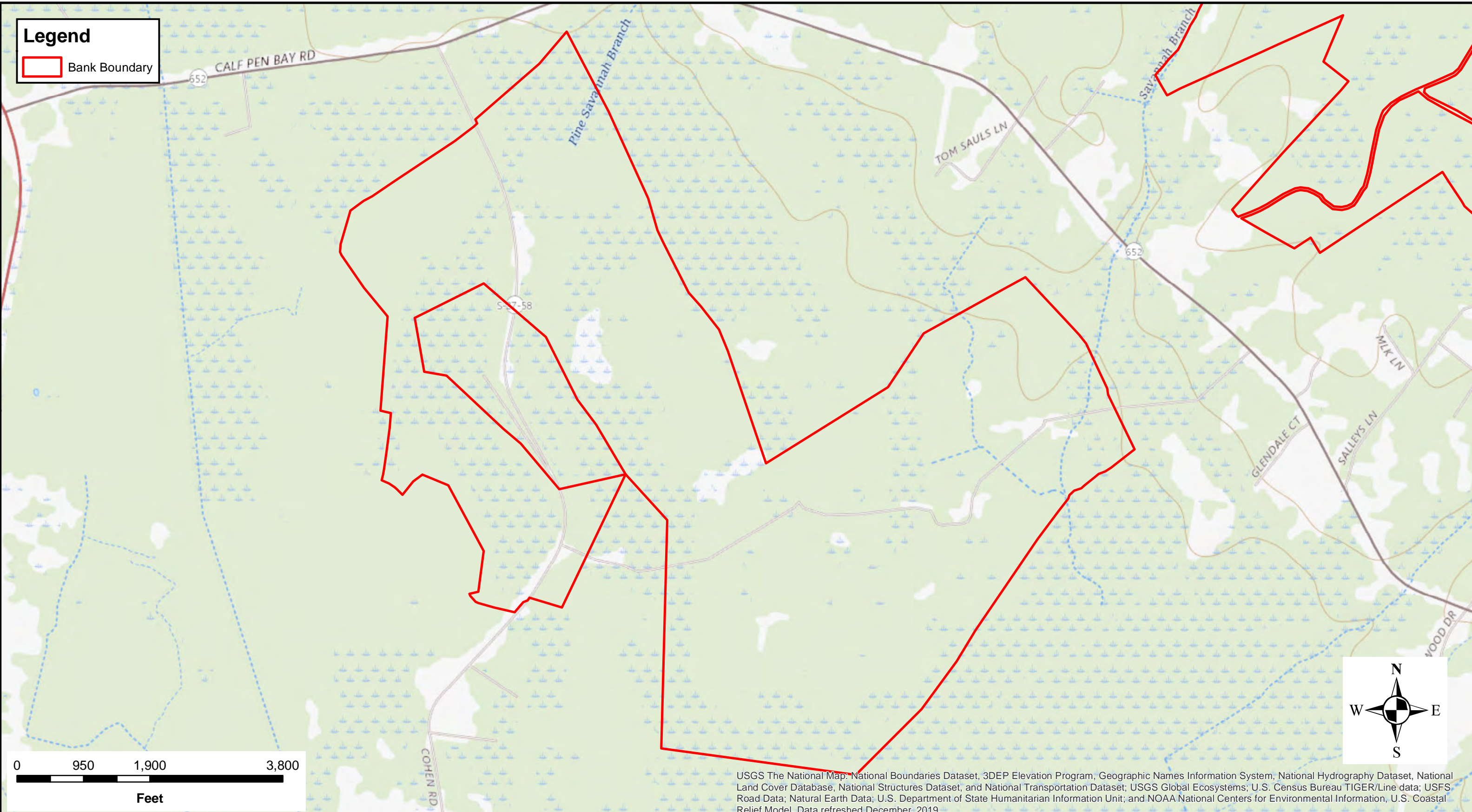
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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

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Map Source: ESRI World Imagery

Boundaries are approximate and not meant to be absolute.

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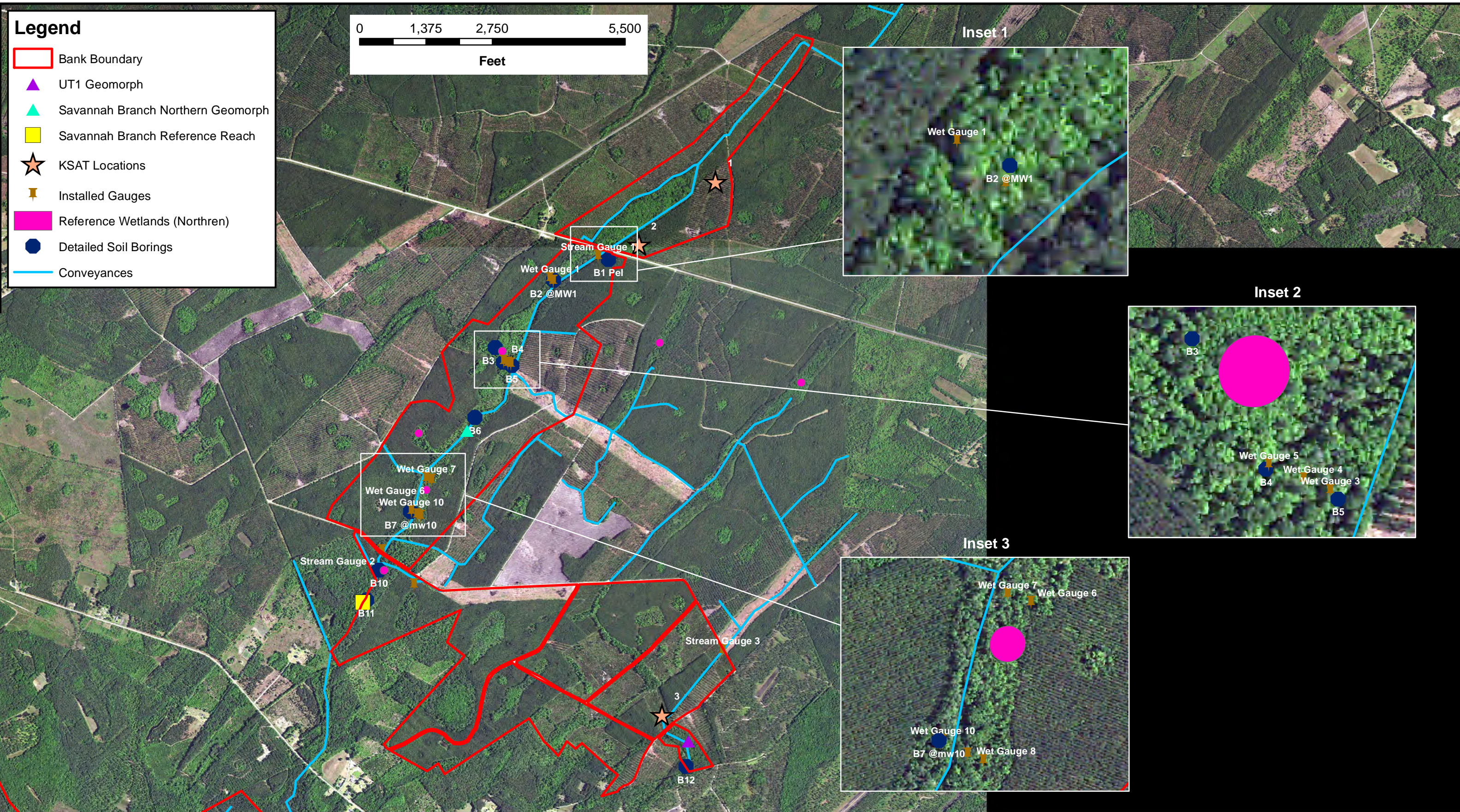
LMG
LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP
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Raleigh, NC 27604
919-645-4350

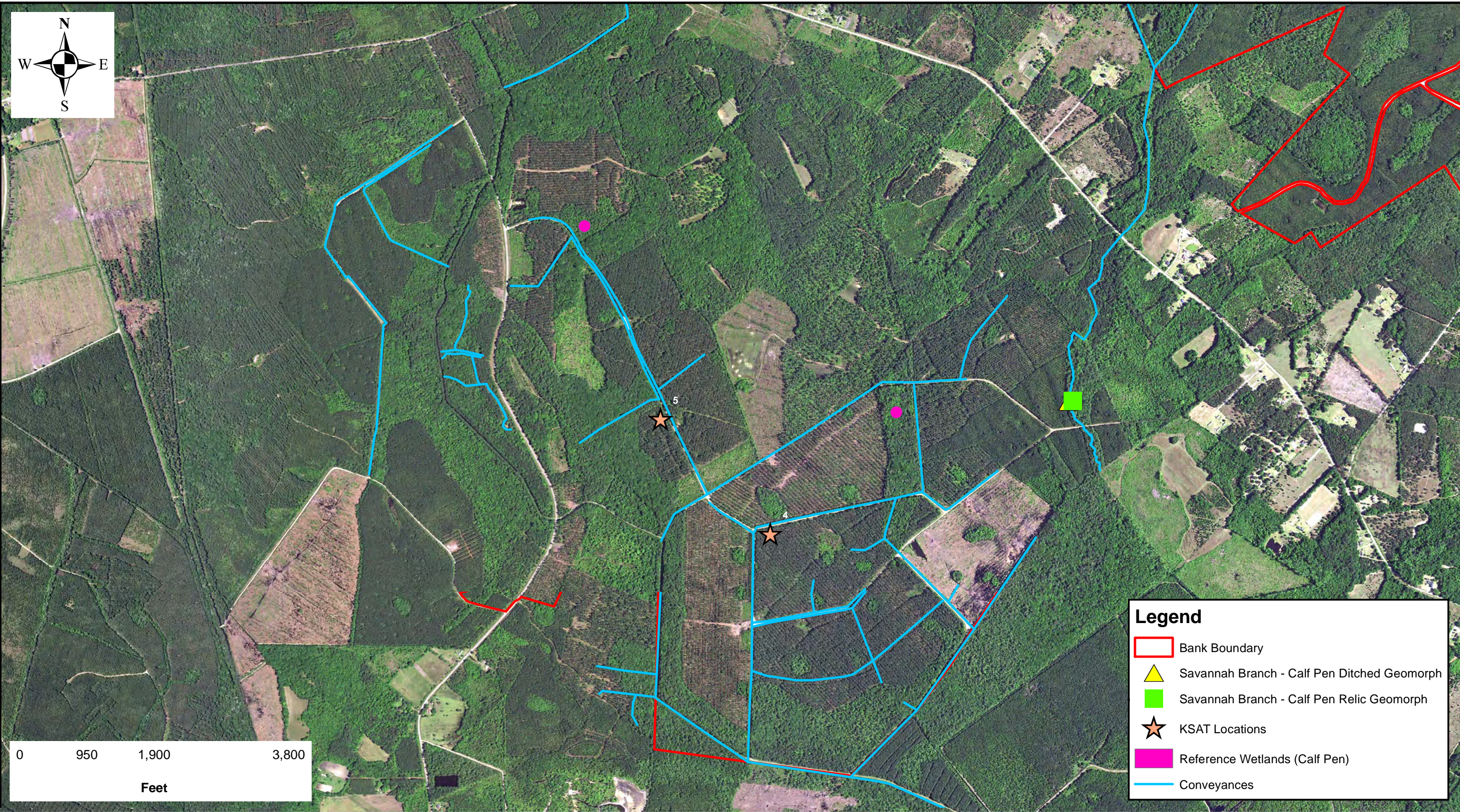
Prepared For:

Weyerhaeuser

**Savannah Branch Mitigation Site
Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank
Instrument Modification Document
Appendix A**

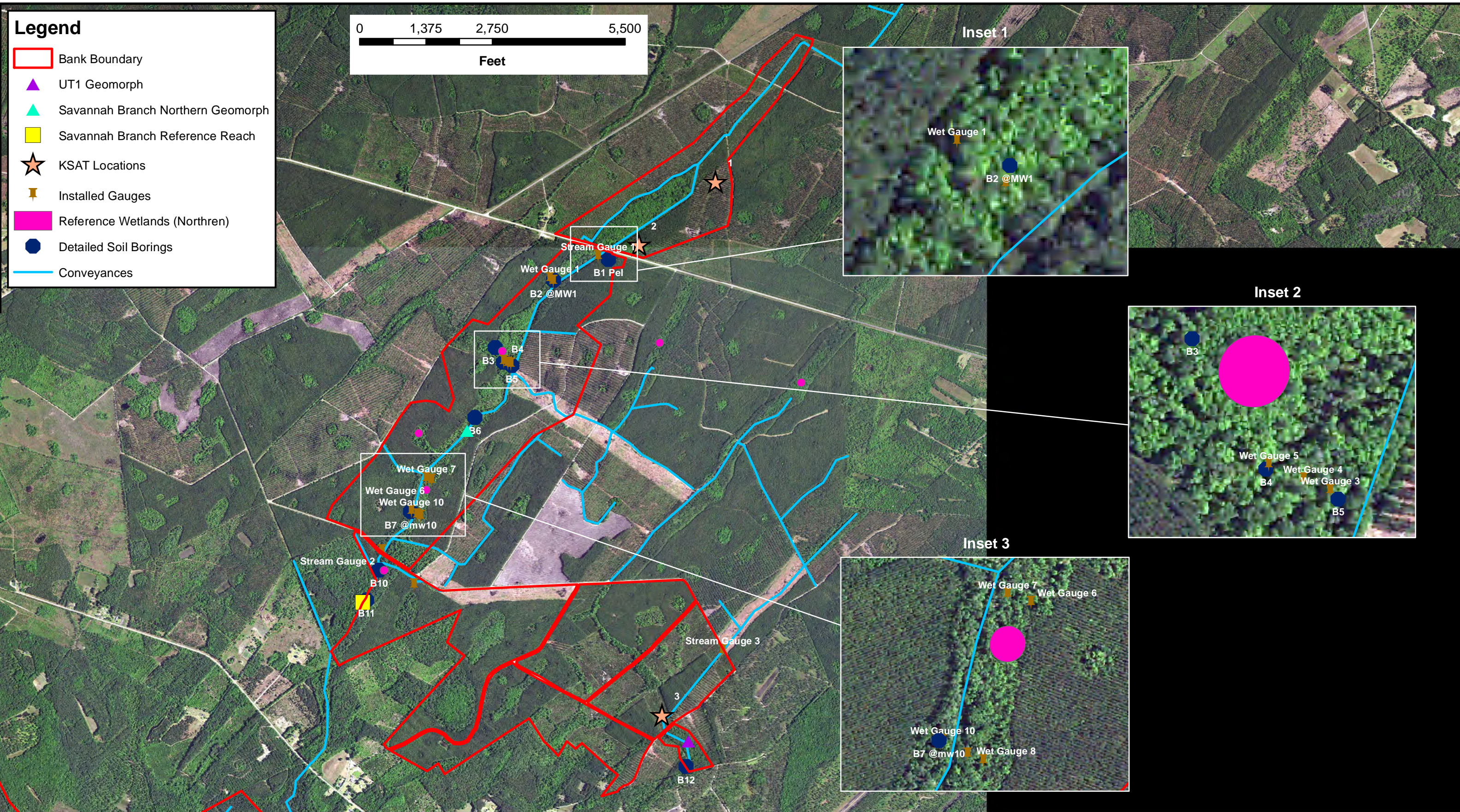
Figure 9B: USGS Topographic Map
**Savannah Branch - Calf Pen
Savannah Branch Site
Jasper County, SC**

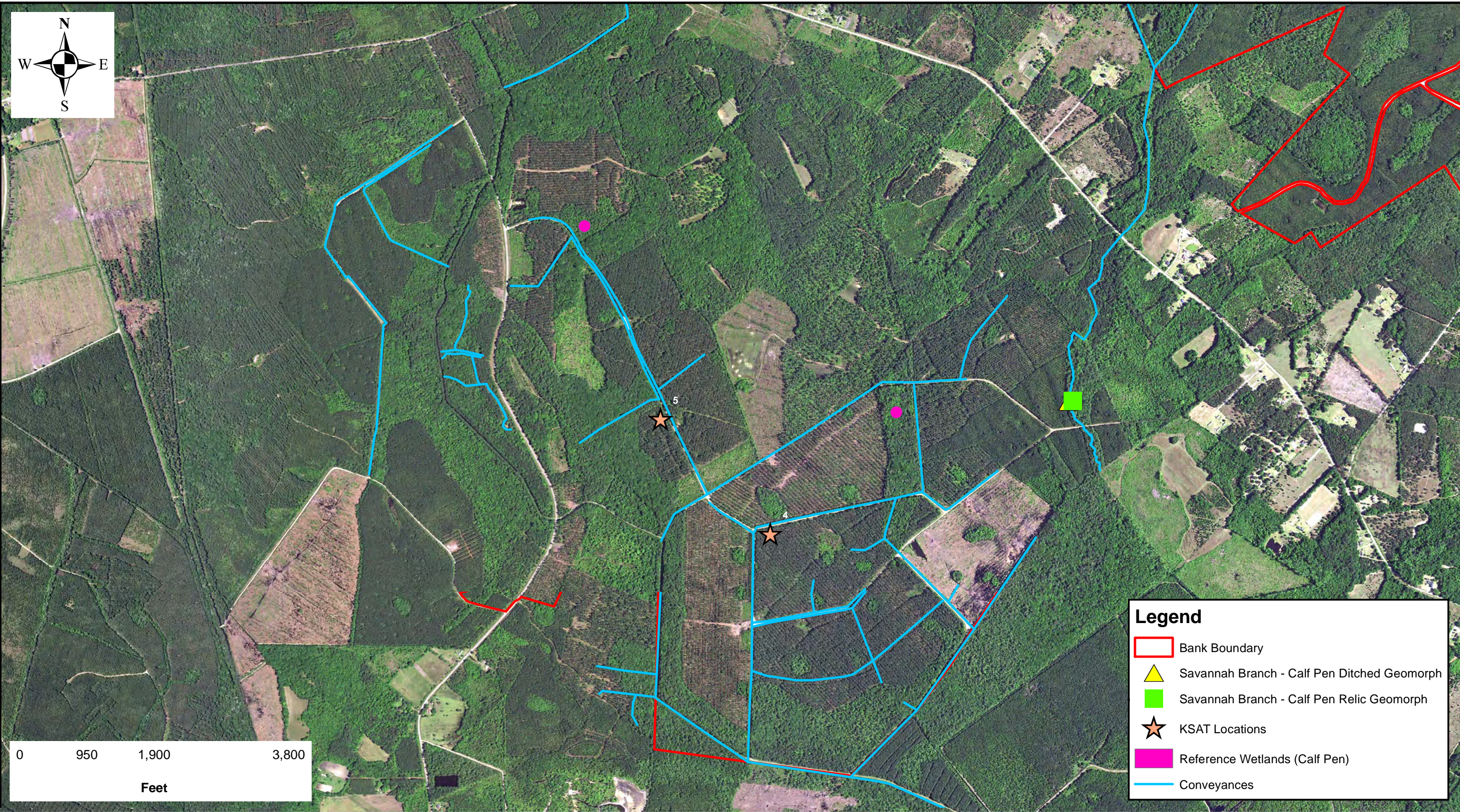




Legend

- Bank Boundary
- ▲ Savannah Branch - Calf Pen Ditched Geomorph
- Savannah Branch - Calf Pen Relic Geomorph
- ★ KSAT Locations
- Reference Wetlands (Calf Pen)
- Conveyances





Legend

- Bank Boundary
- ▲ Savannah Branch - Calf Pen Ditched Geomorph
- Savannah Branch - Calf Pen Relic Geomorph
- ★ KSAT Locations
- Reference Wetlands (Calf Pen)
- Conveyances

Legend

Bank Boundary

Savannah Branch - Restoration

UT1 Restoration

UT 1 - Preservation

Stream Buffer

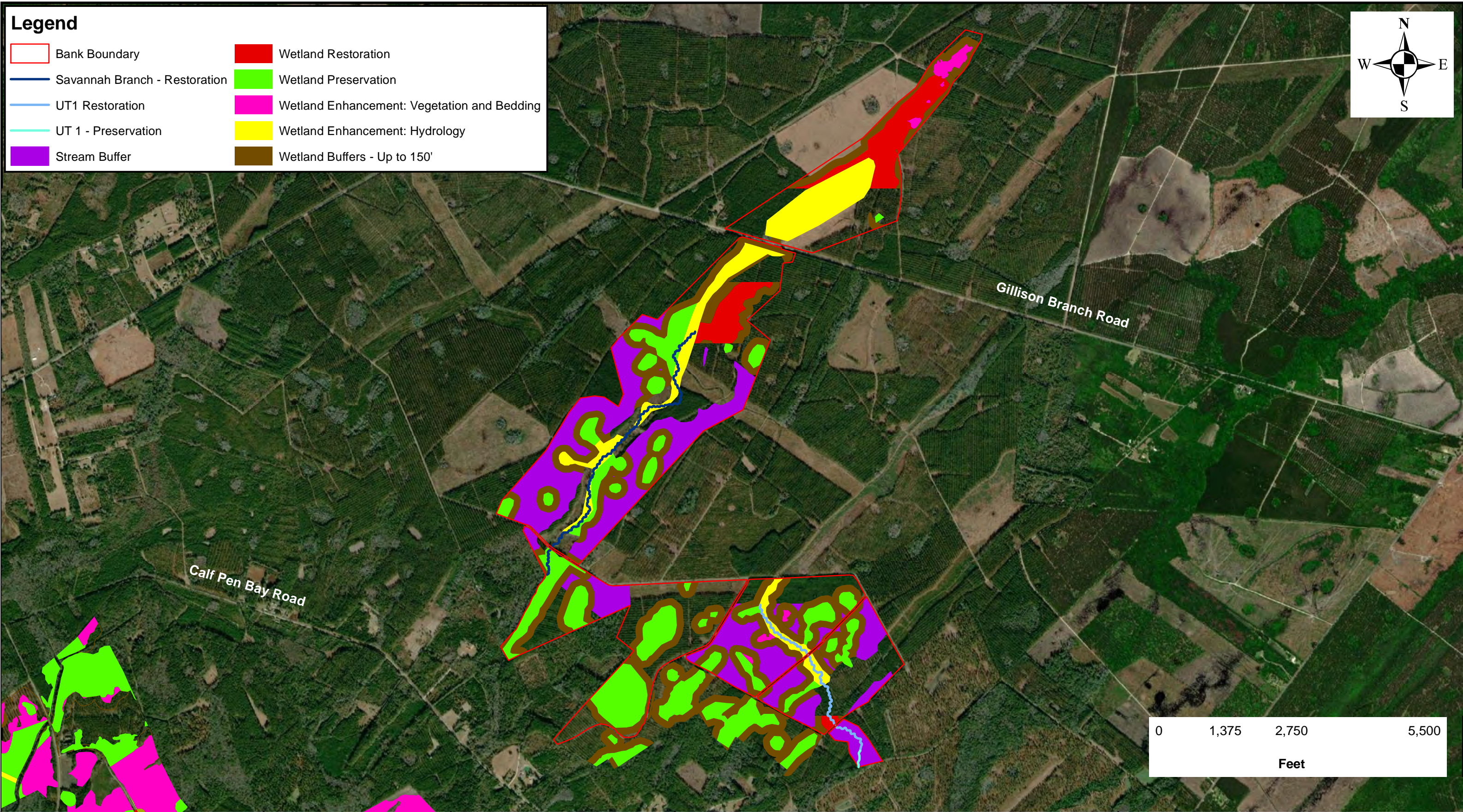
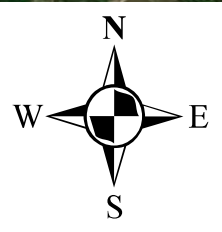
Wetland Restoration

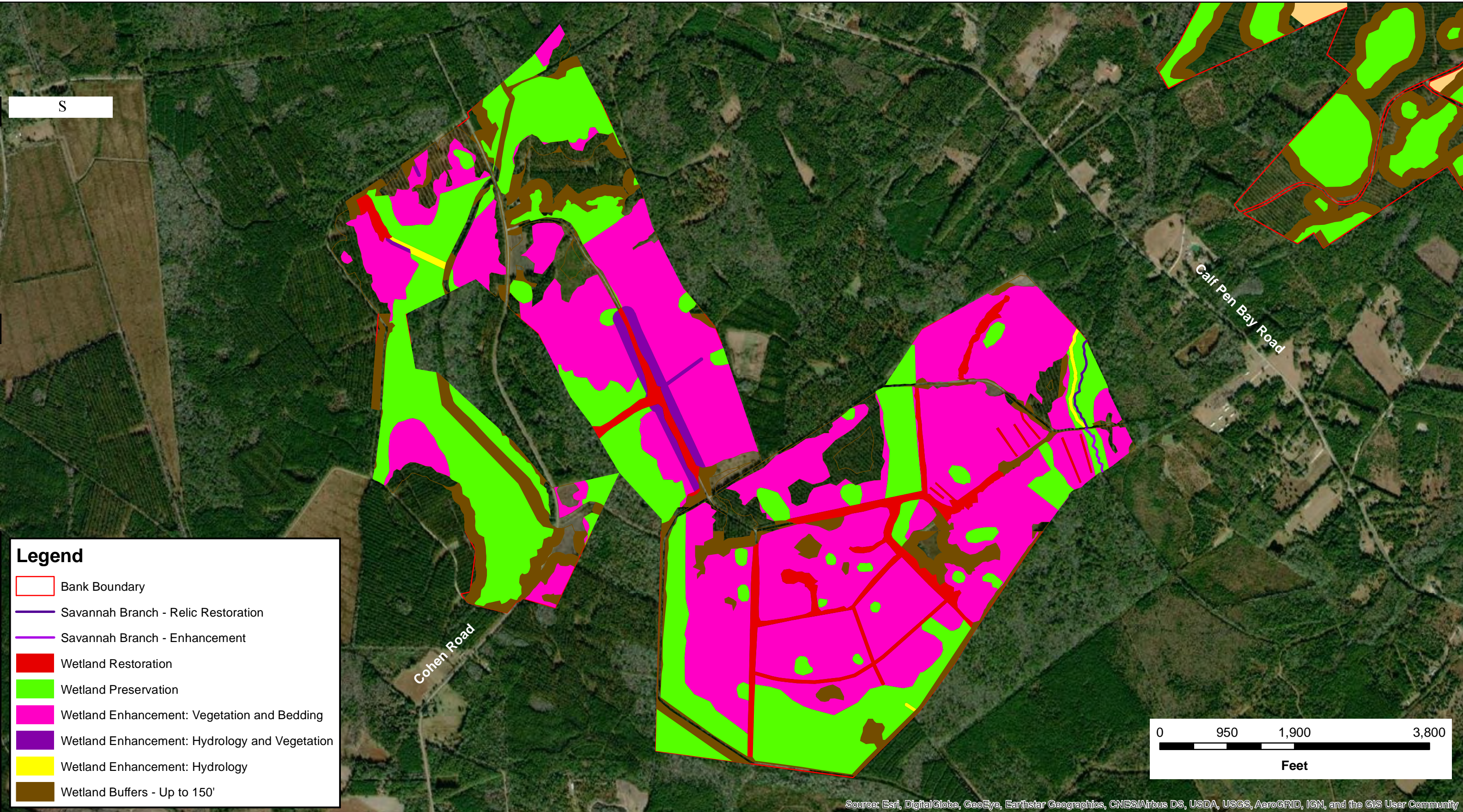
Wetland Preservation

Wetland Enhancement: Vegetation and Bedding

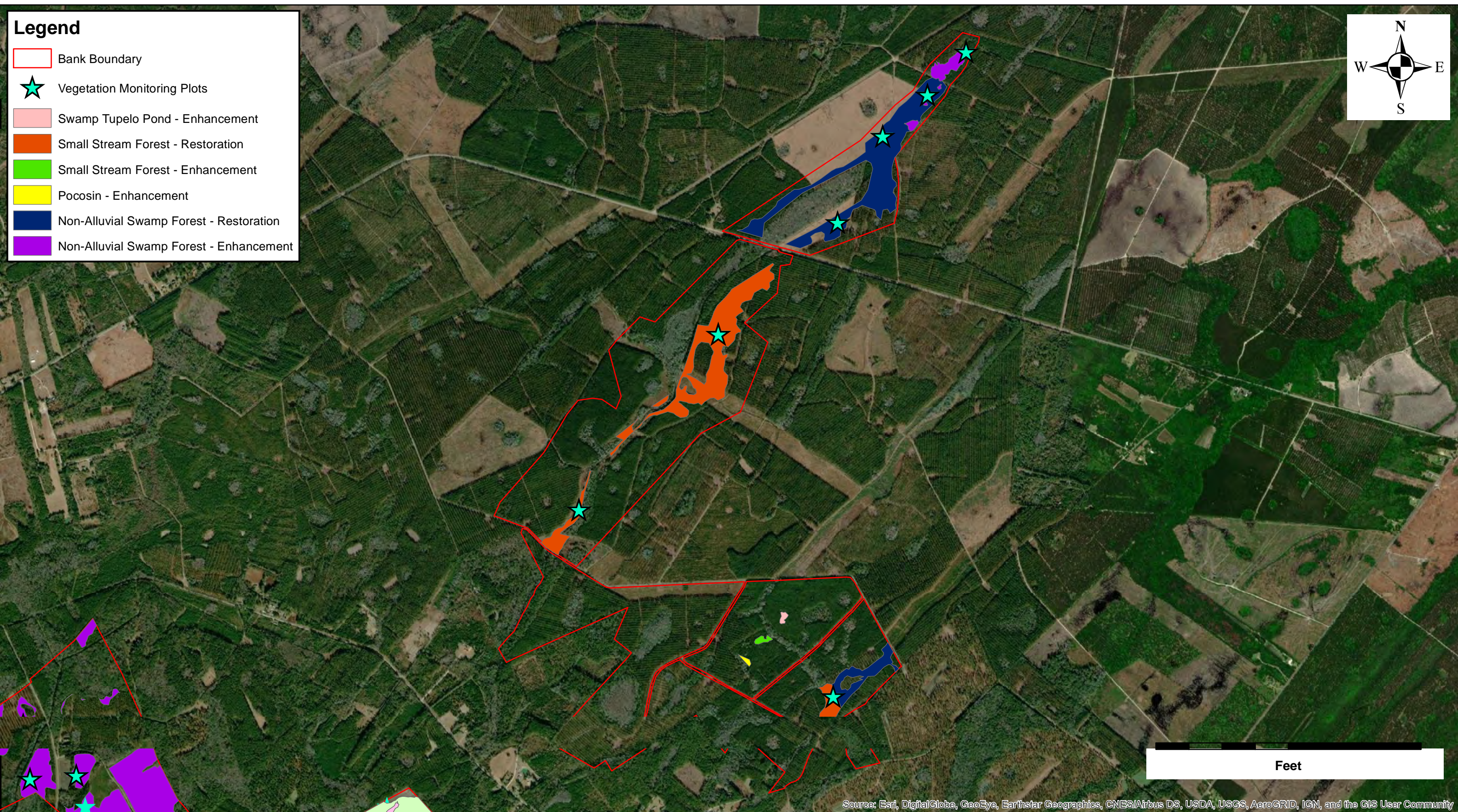
Wetland Enhancement: Hydrology

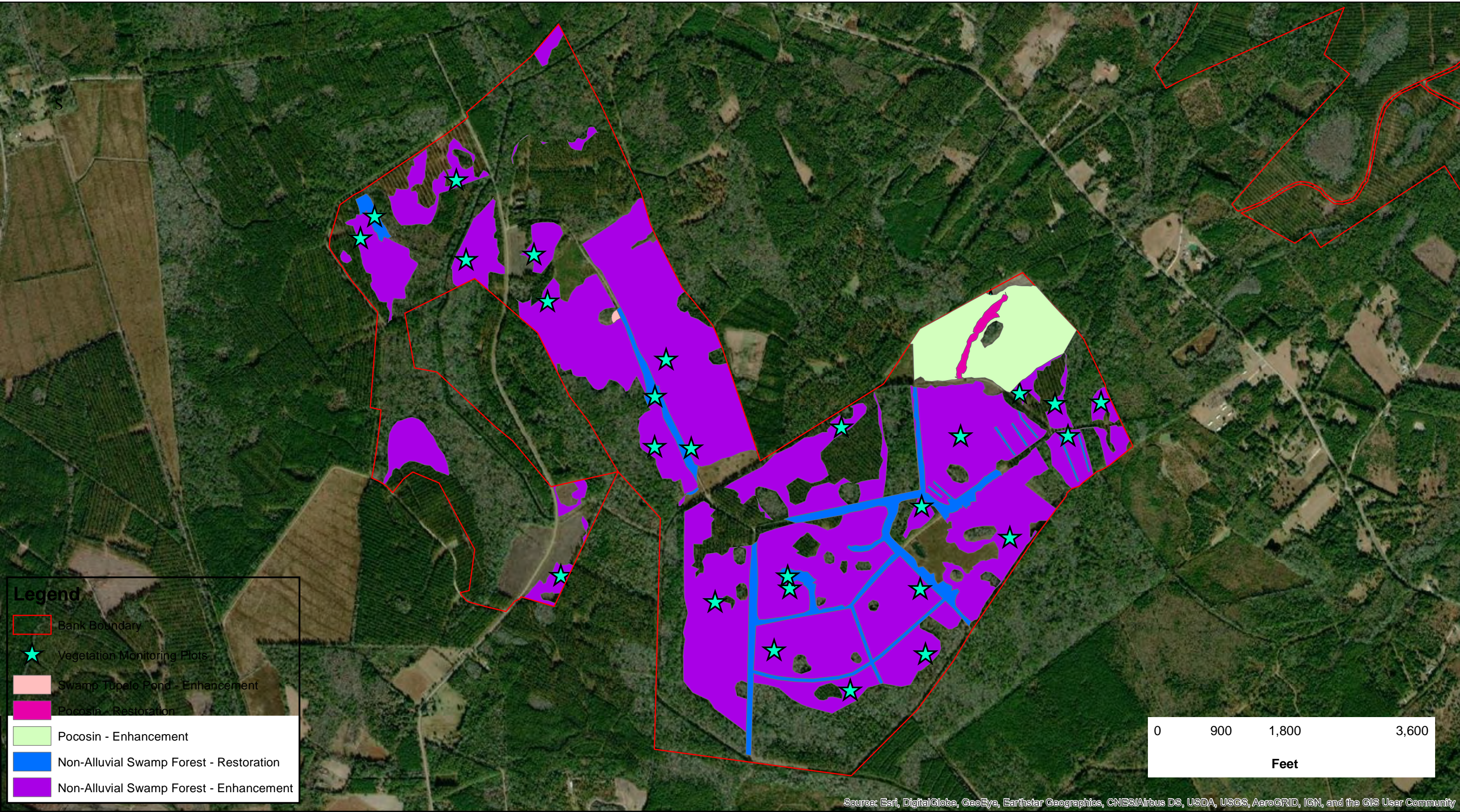
Wetland Buffers - Up to 150'

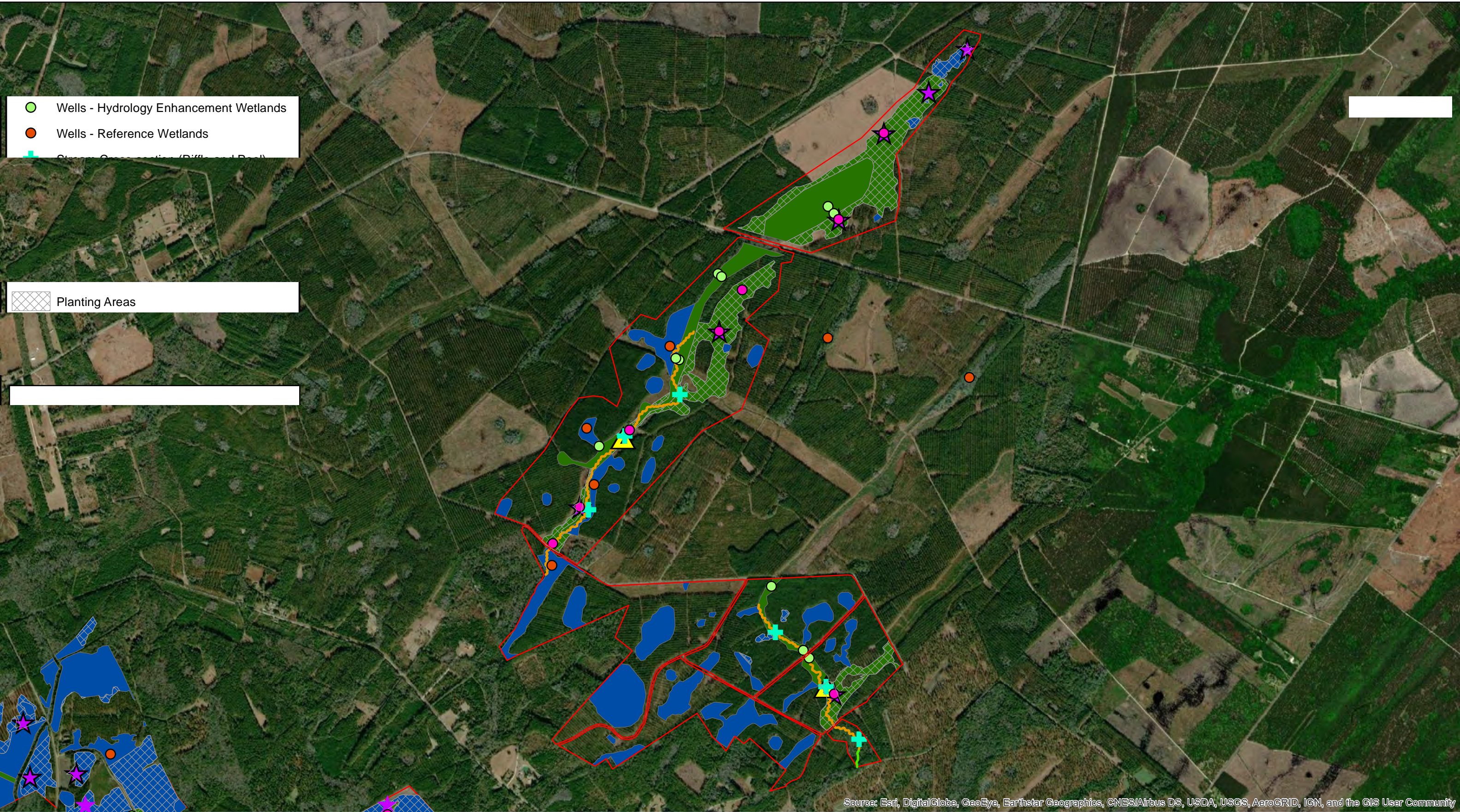


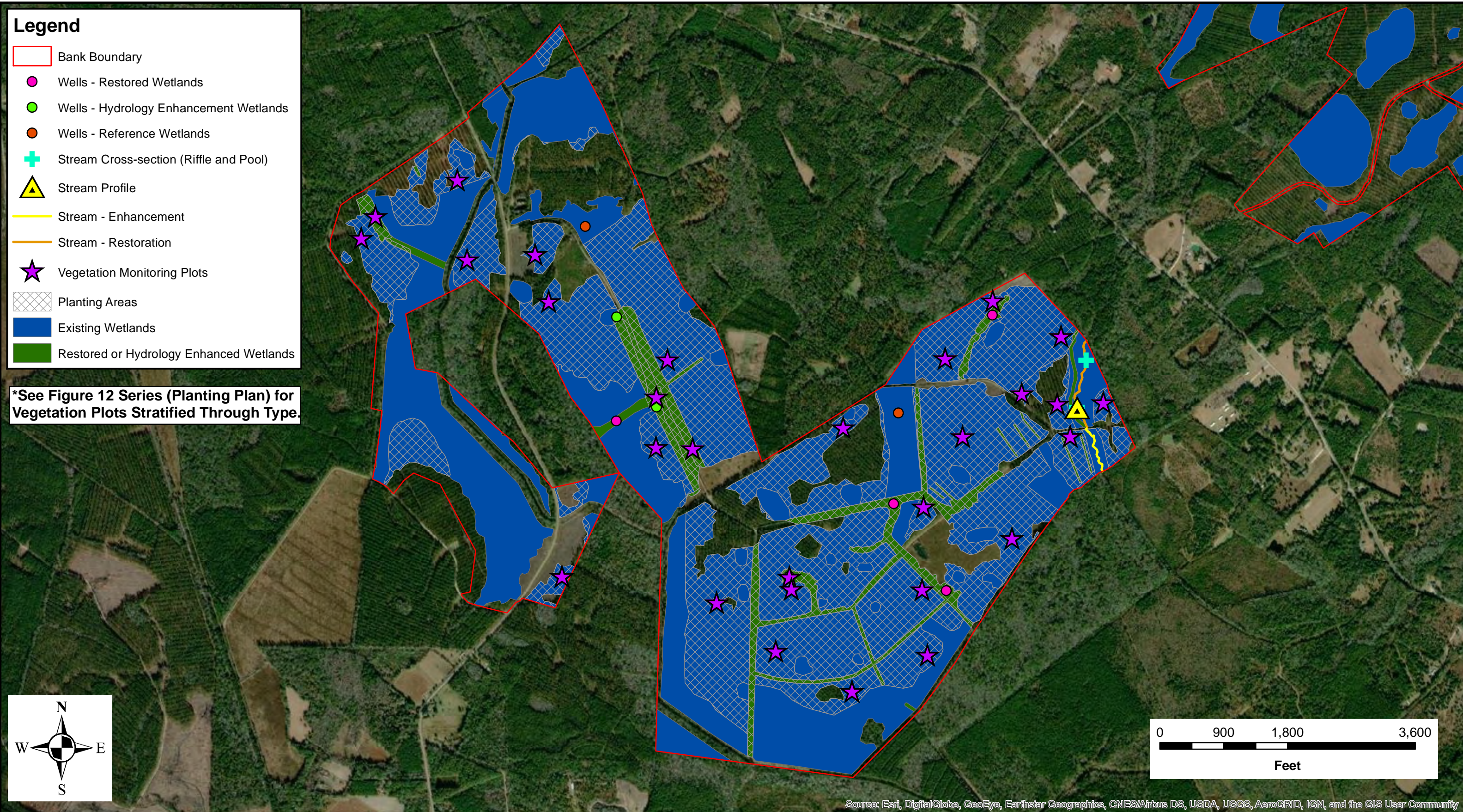


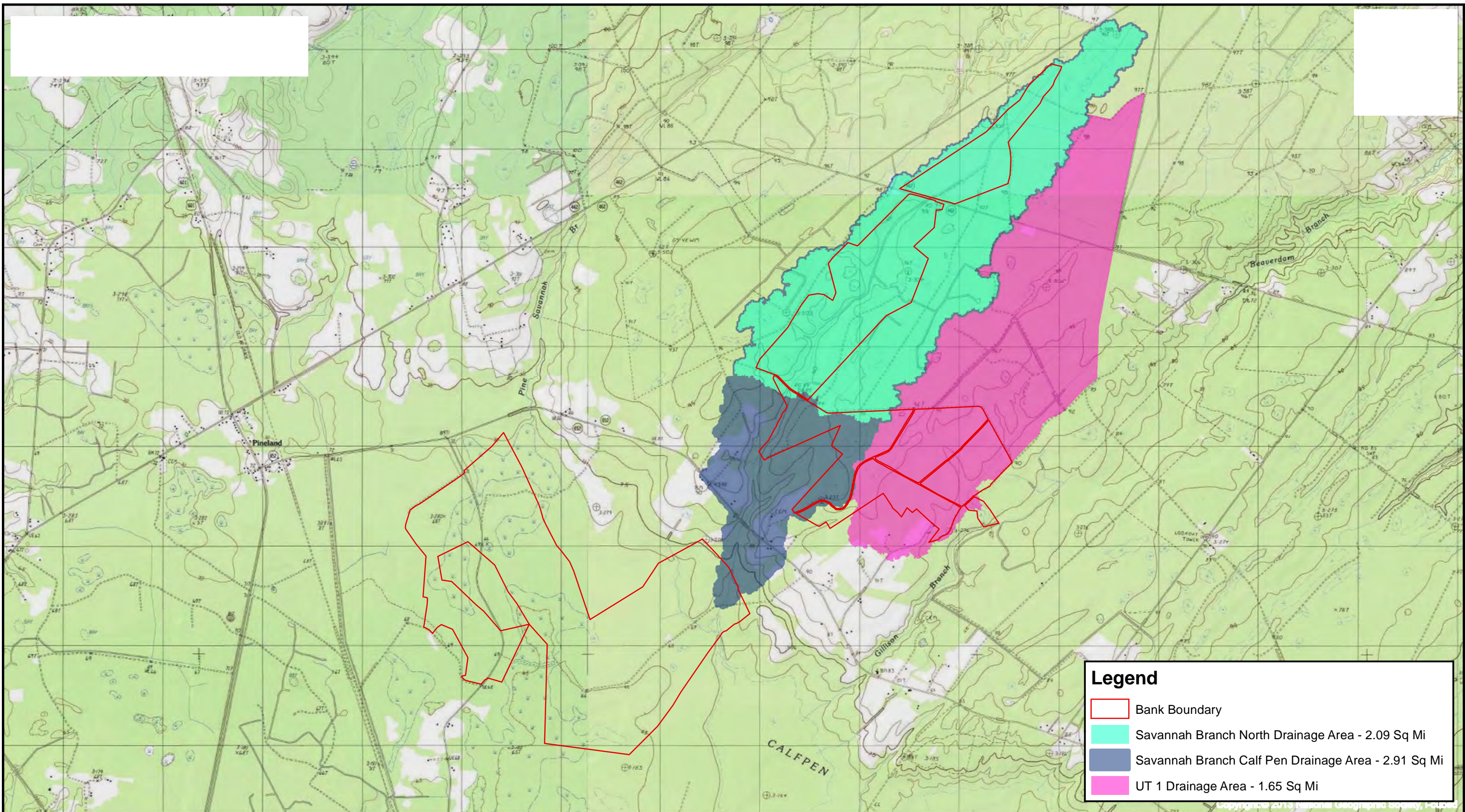
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community











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Appendix A**

Figure 14: Drainage Area Map

**Savannah Branch Site
Jasper County, SC**