

**JOINT**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**69A Hagood Avenue**  
**Charleston, SC 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-2019-00943

July 18, 2019

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

**Mr. David Wise**  
**Ashepoo Combahee, LLC**  
**c/o**  
**Mr. Paul Hinhcliff**  
**Folk Land Management**  
**3515 White Hall Road**  
**Green Pond, South Carolina 29446**

for a permit for the excavation of material from and the discharge of material into freshwater wetlands associated with a historic managed tidal impoundment of the

**Combahee River**

at a 6-acre project area within Hobonny Plantation located at 1121 River Road in Yemassee, Beaufort County, South Carolina (Latitude: 32.663899 °, Longitude: -80.751655 °), Yemassee Quad 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

**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 the discharge of fill material, excavation of material, and installation of a water control structure to restore a former managed impoundment. In detail, the proposed project involves the excavation of 2,700 cubic yards of material from 0.2 acre of freshwater wetlands for the renovation of 1,200 linear feet of remnant canal, the discharge of 2,700 cubic yards of material into 0.5 acre of freshwater wetlands for the renovation of 1,200 linear feet of remnant berm and field-dike, and the installation of a water control structure (Combahee style trunk). The proposed fill would re-establish a perimeter field-dike and berm and a canal located to the interior of the field-dike. The proposed excavation and fill would re-establish a historic embankment that consists of the canal, the berm and the field-dike.

As stated by the applicant, the purpose of the proposed project is to return hydrologic control and habitat management ability to an existing 6-acre portion of a historic managed tidal impoundment at Hobonny Plantation. The proposed project will enable the applicant to re-establish and maintain a high-quality freshwater wetland habitat on the site for the on-going benefit of native and migratory wildlife, including migratory song and shore birds, native mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles.

Avoidance and minimization of project impacts include utilizing the footprint of the remnant embankment features (canal, berm, field-dike) that are present. The excavated material will be used to top the field-dikes and re-establish the berms, which avoids wetland impacts to areas outside of the original embankment footprint. In addition, the proposed work will occur sequentially. The project area will first be drained to bed-level and sealed temporarily by coffer dams in the late winter and early spring to minimize erosion of material into and out of the work area. An excavator will be used to conduct the work and will simultaneously excavate the canal and deposit the excavated material onto the berm and field-dike. Additional avoidance and minimization measures include broadcast seeding of the new field-dike faces with browntop millet (*Panicum ramosum*) to minimize erosion. The applicant states that based on past experiences, the area will quickly re-vegetate from native plant species present in the adjacent areas. Any non-native invasive species found anywhere in the project area, such as tallow tree (*Triadica sebifera*) or Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), will be specifically eliminated and not allowed to re-establish. Siltation fences will also be installed around the existing drainage canal that connects with the field canal on the project's east face during construction.

The applicant is not proposing compensatory mitigation for the proposed project impacts as the project will result in a "substantial net environmental-uplift" to the project site and generally to the overall ACE Basin region. The applicant provided the following reasons that they are not proposing compensatory mitigation: The proposed project will provide improved and diverse wildlife habitats within the project site, will expand the managed-wetland habitat capacity in the ACE Basin by an additional 6 acres, is consistent in practice, scale and effect with traditional maintenance practices commonly conducted within similar impoundments of the ACE Basin, will restore a working managed-impoundment landscape within its proper historic context that is consistent in appearance, function and management within the landscape and cultural traditions of the region, fill and excavation impacts will occur in an area that has previously been disturbed, the project area will be managed in perpetuity for the benefit of native and migratory wildlife in the Combahee River watershed of the ACE Basin, and will provide water quality, sediment control and endangered species management benefits to the citizens of South Carolina.

**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 0.7 acres of freshwater wetland substrates inland and upstream 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.

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

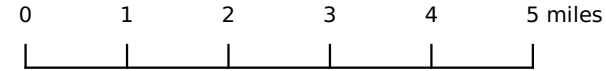
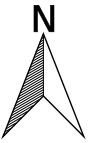
The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, 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, SC 29403-5107**

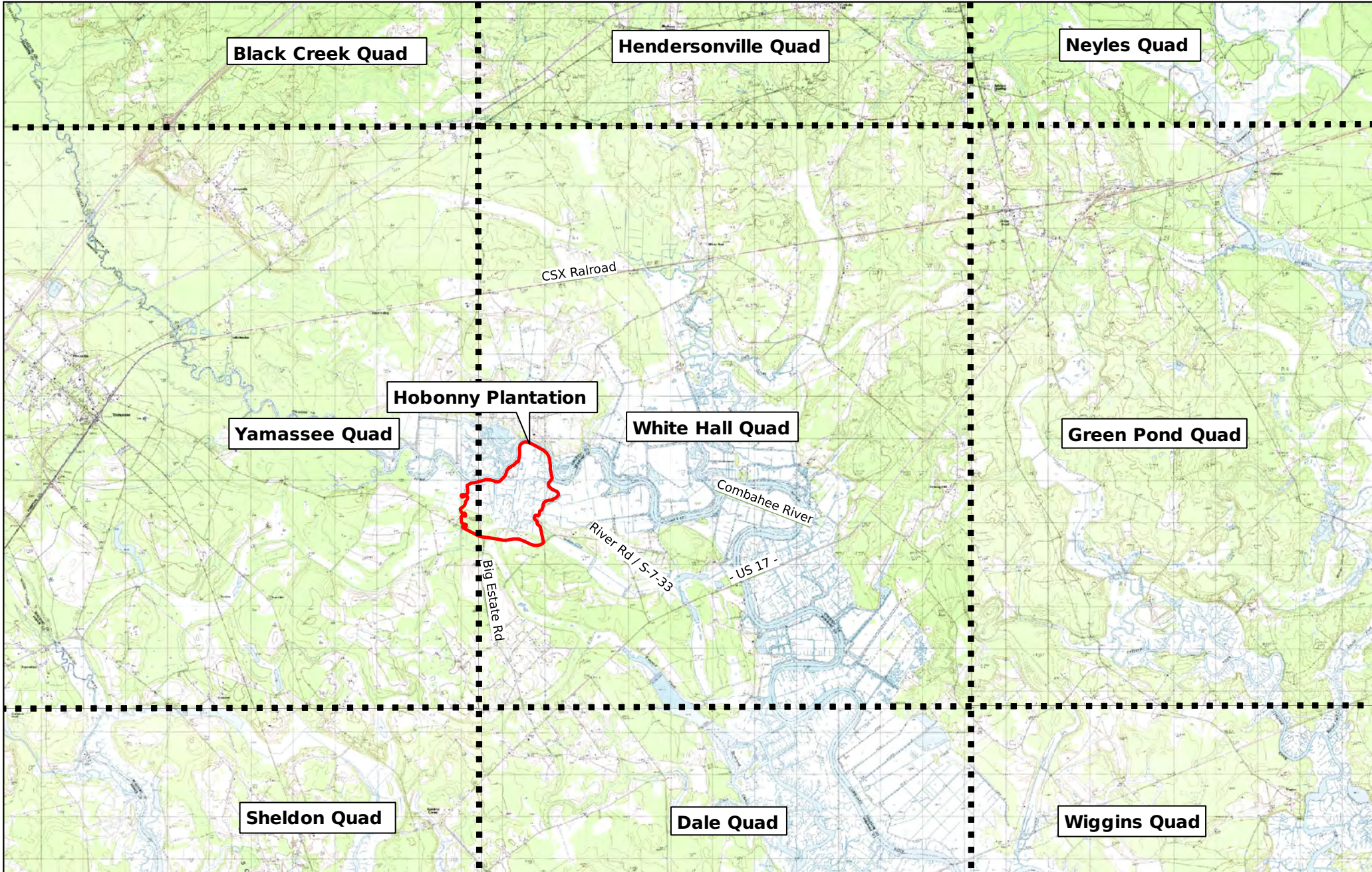
If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Tracy D. Sanders, Project Manager, at (843) 329-8190, toll free at 1-866-329-8187, or by email at [Tracy.D.Sanders@usace.army.mil](mailto:Tracy.D.Sanders@usace.army.mil).

# Att 2. Hobonny Plantation MTI Field Renovation Location of Project in USGS Quads

Project Title: Hobonny Plantation MTI Field	Applicant: David Wise
Project Location: 112 River Road	Agent PF Hinchcliff, Folk Land Management
Bluffton, Beaufort County SC	Date May 13, 2019
32.663899 N x -80.751655 W	Sheet 1 of 8

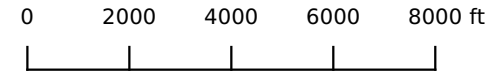
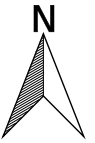


USGS Topographic Quads

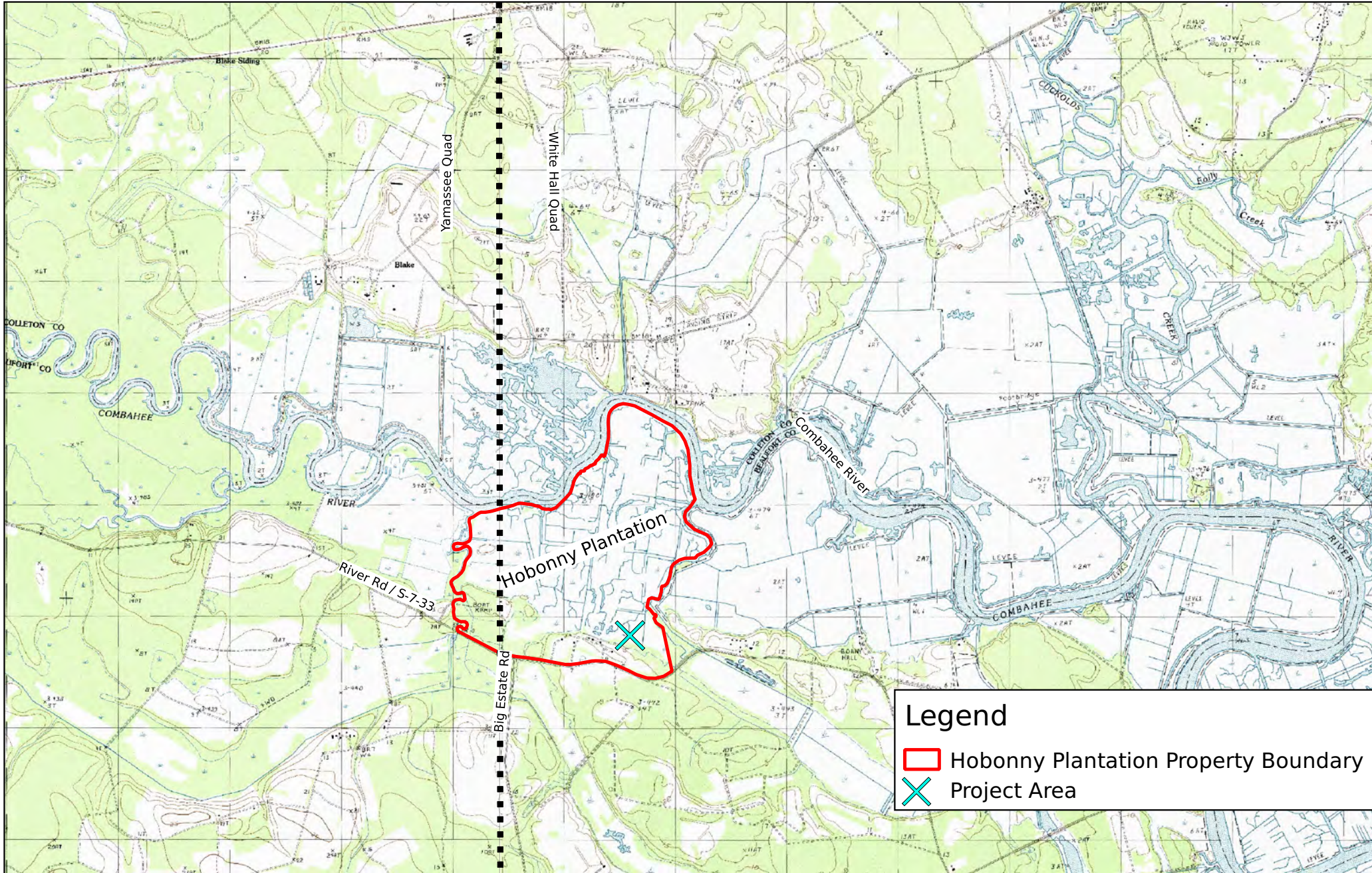


# Att 3. Hobonny Plantation MTI Field Renovation Location of Project in Local USGS Quads

Project Title: Hobonny Plantation MTI Field	Applicant: David Wise
Project Location: 112 River Road	Agent PF Hinchcliff, Folk Land Management
Bluffton, Beaufort County SC	Date May 13, 2019
32.663899 N x -80.751655 W	Sheet 2 of 8

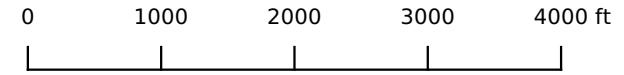
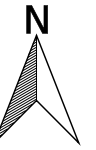


USGS Topographic Quads





# Att 3a. Hobonny Plantation MTI Field Renovation Location of Project Area in Property

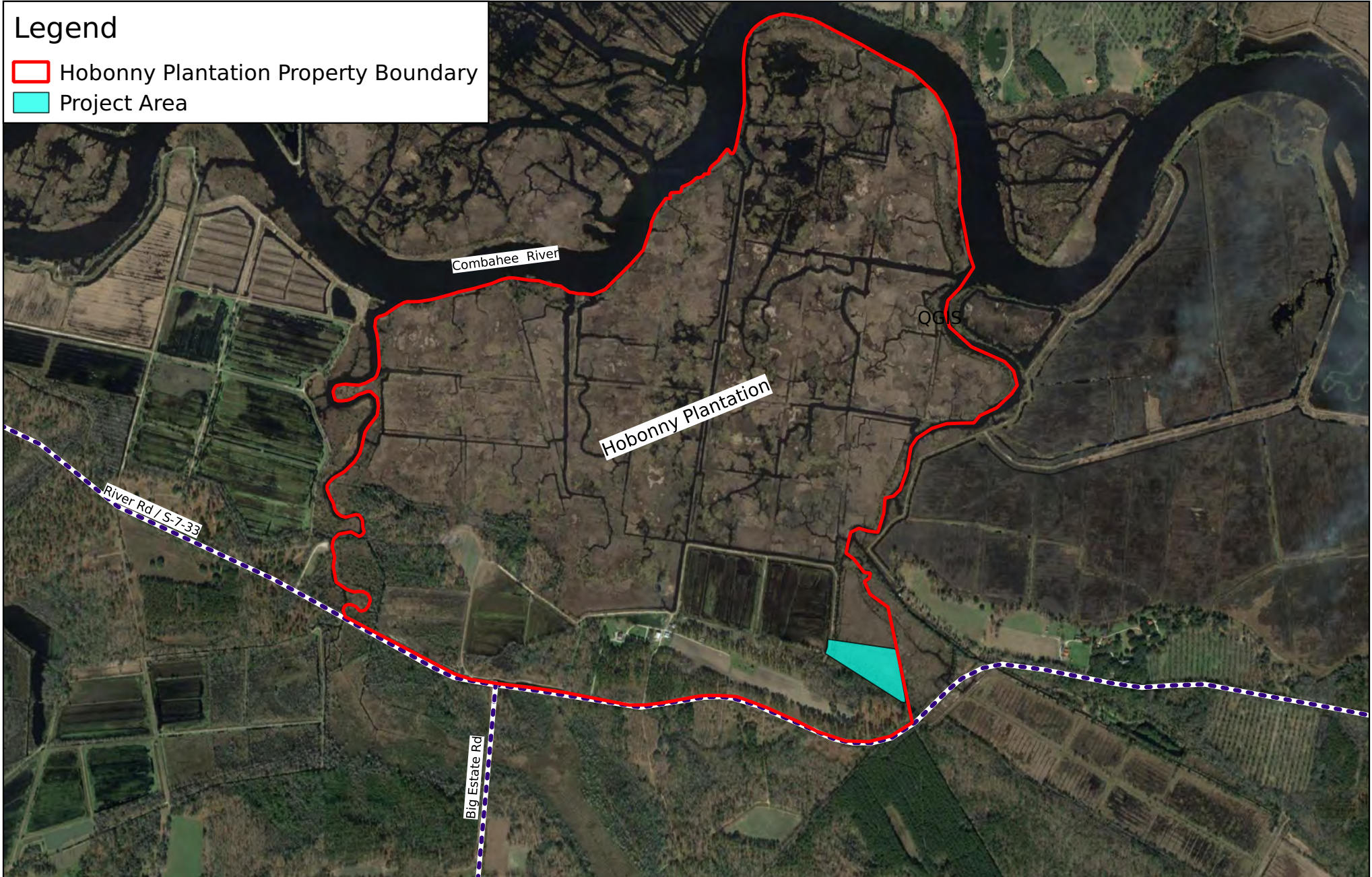
Project Title: Hobonny Plantation MTI Field	Applicant: David Wise
Project Location: 112 River Road	Agent PF Hinchcliff, Folk Land Management
Bluffton, Beaufort County SC	Date May 13, 2019
32.663899 N x -80.751655 W	Sheet 3 of 8



Google 2019 Satellite Imagery

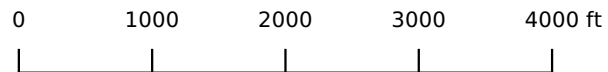
## Legend

-  Hobonny Plantation Property Boundary
-  Project Area



# Att 3b. Hobonny Plantation MTI Field Renovation Location of Project Area in Property

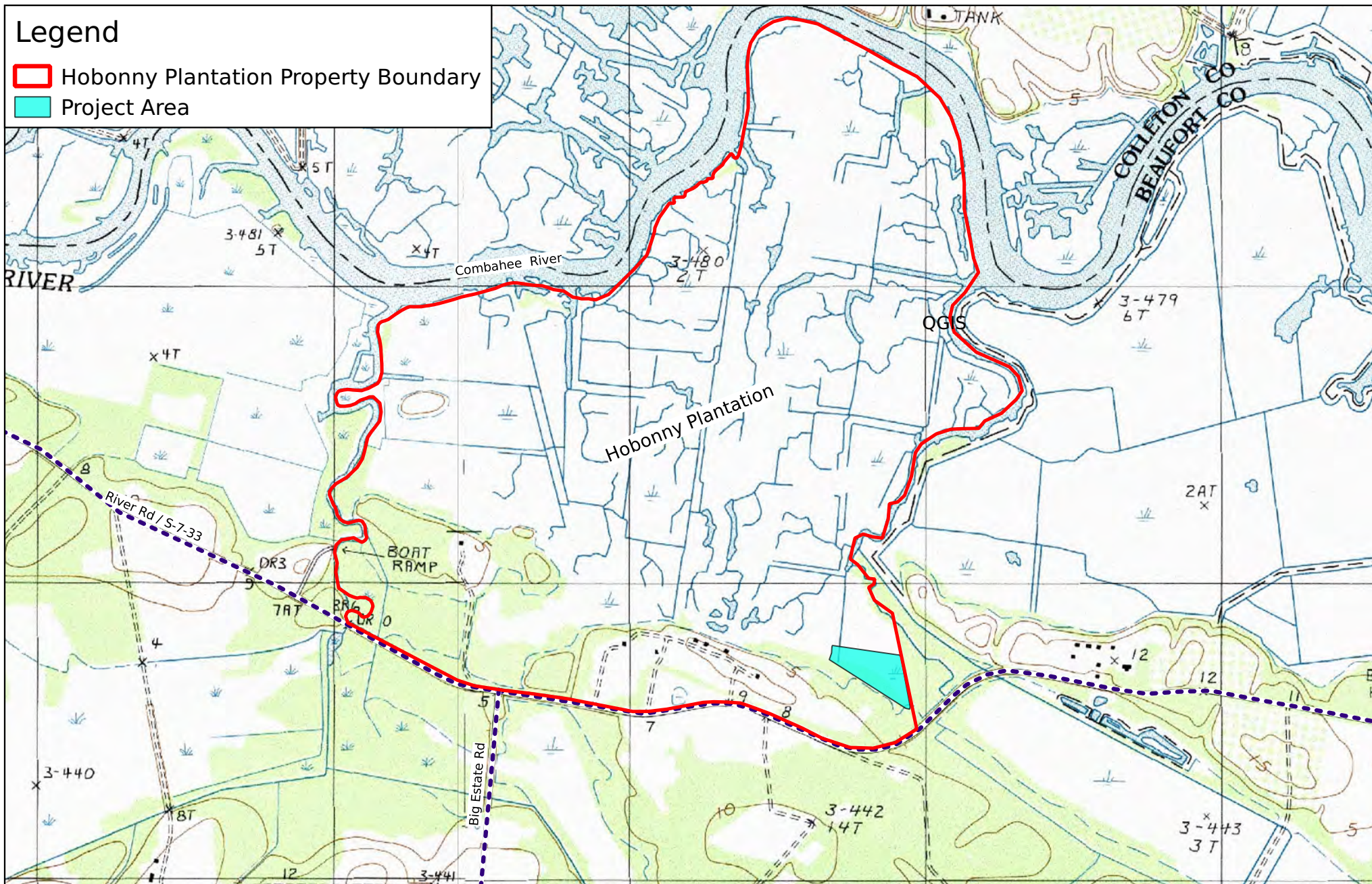
Project Title: Hobonny Plantation MTI Field	Applicant: David Wise
Project Location: 112 River Road	Agent PF Hinchcliff, Folk Land Management
Bluffton, Beaufort County SC	Date May 13, 2019
32.663899 N x -80.751655 W	Sheet 4 of 8



USGS Topography

## Legend

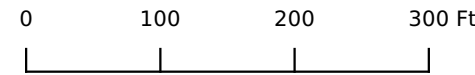
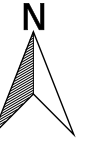
- ▭ Hobonny Plantation Property Boundary
- ▭ Project Area



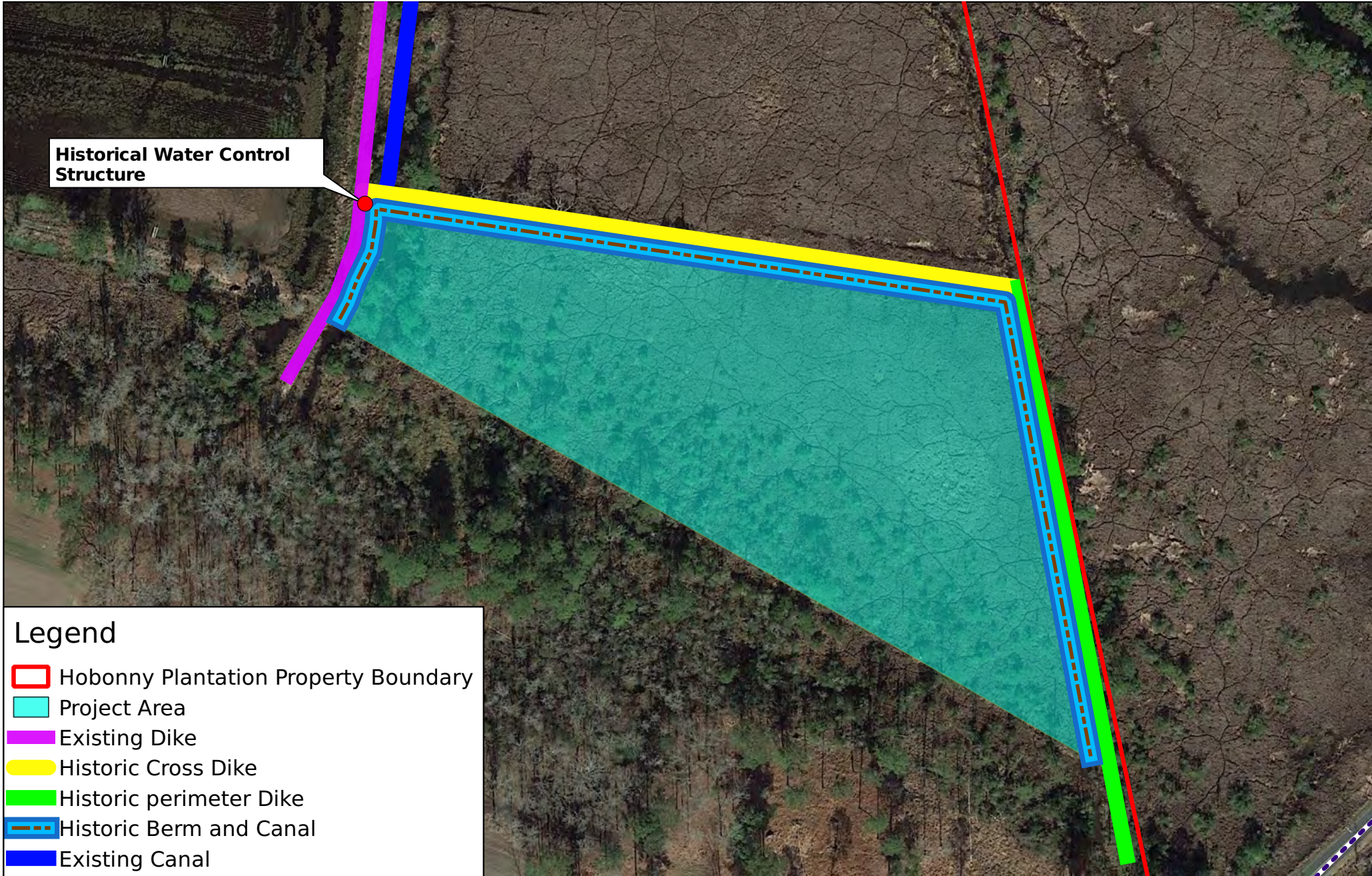


# Att 4. Hobonny Plantation MTI Field Existing Infrastructure

Project Title: Hobonny Plantation MTI Field	Applicant: David Wise
Project Location: 112 River Road	Agent PF Hinchcliff, Folk Land Management
Bluffton, Beaufort County SC	Date May 13, 2019
32.663899 N x -80.751655 W	Sheet 5 of 8



Google 2019 Satellite Imagery



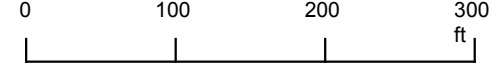
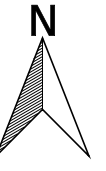
**Historical Water Control Structure**

**Legend**

- Hobonny Plantation Property Boundary
- Project Area
- Existing Dike
- Historic Cross Dike
- Historic perimeter Dike
- Historic Berm and Canal
- Existing Canal

# Att 5. Hobonny Plantation MTI Field Plan View - Aerial

Project Title: Hobonny Plantation MTI Field	Applicant: David Wise
Project Location: 112 River Road	Agent PF Hinchcliff, Folk Land Management
Bluffton, Beaufort County SC	Date May 13, 2019
32.663899 N x -80.751655 W	Sheet 6 of 8



Google Satellite Imagery

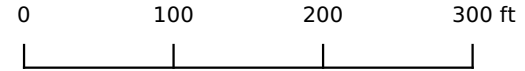
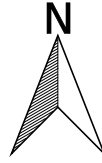


**Legend**

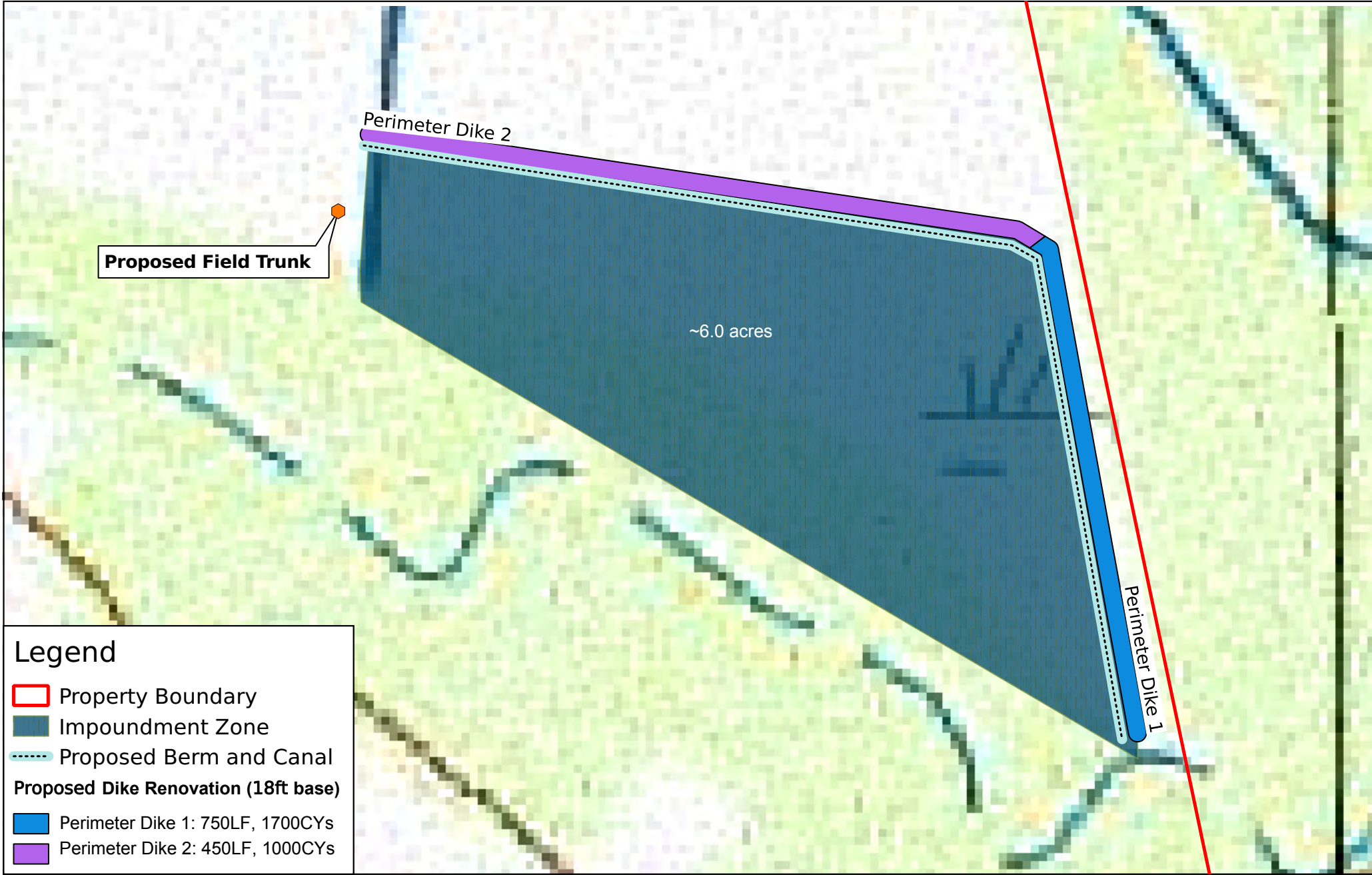
- Property Boundary
- Impoundment Zone (6 ac)
- Proposed Berm and Canal
- Proposed Dike Renovation (18ft base)**
- Perimeter Dike 1: 750LF, 1700CYs
- Perimeter Dike 2: 450LF, 1000CYs

Att 5b. Hobonny Plantation MTI Field  
Plan View - Topo

Project Title: Hobonny Plantation MTI Field	Applicant: David Wise
Project Location: 112 River Road	Agent PF Hinchcliff, Folk Land Management
Bluffton, Beaufort County SC	Date April 23, 2019
32.6621 N x -80.7345 W	Sheet 6 of 7



USGS Topographic



**Proposed Field Trunk**

~6.0 acres

Perimeter Dike 2

Perimeter Dike 1

**Legend**

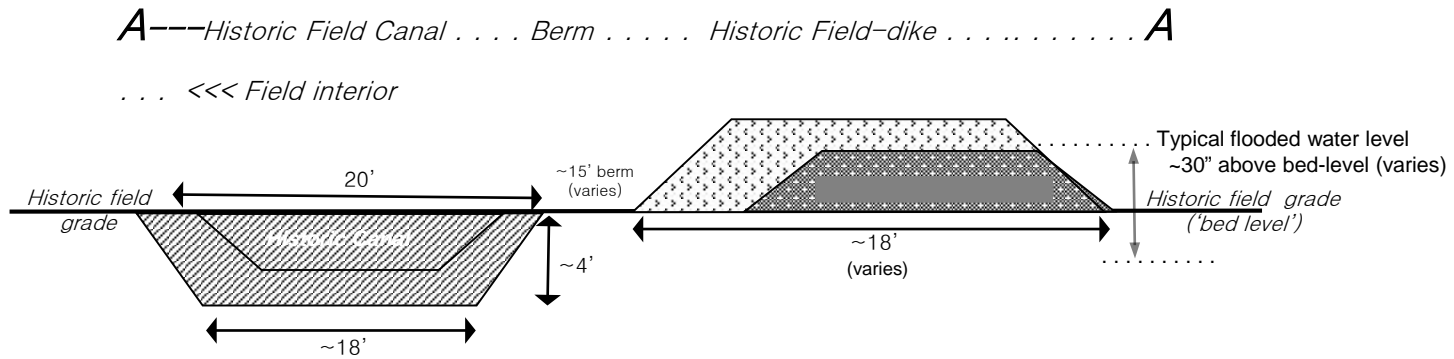
- Property Boundary
- Impoundment Zone
- Proposed Berm and Canal
- Proposed Dike Renovation (18ft base)**
- Perimeter Dike 1: 750LF, 1700CYs
- Perimeter Dike 2: 450LF, 1000CYs

# Attachment 6a. Hobonny Plantation MTI2 Tidal Field Renovation

## - Proposed Cross Section A-A on Dike 1

(note: both Field Dikes, 1 & 2, have identical profiles)

Cross Section AA:



- NTS -

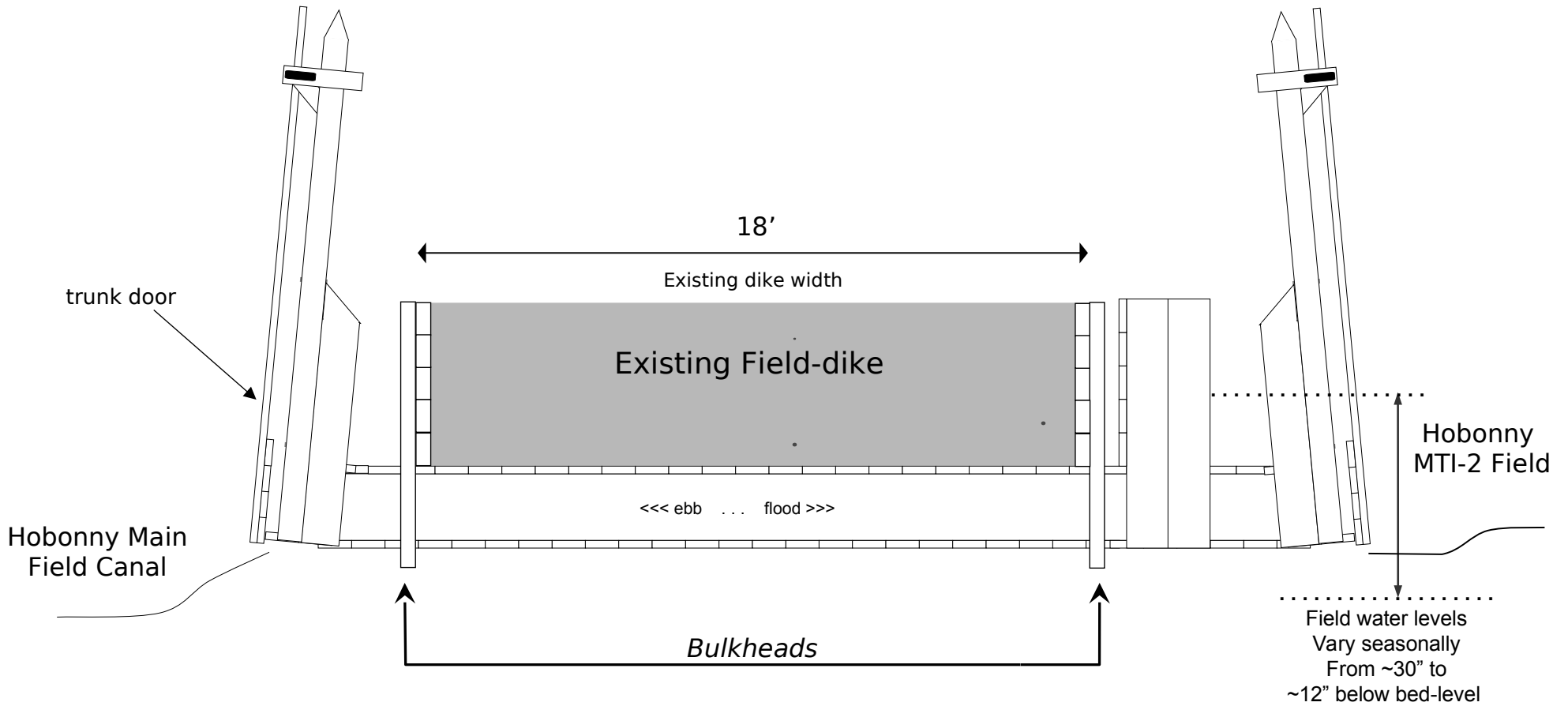
**Legend**

- Historic Fill
- Historic Excavation
- Proposed Fill (none)
- Proposed Excavation

- Not To Scale -

Project Title: Hobonny Plantation MTI Field	Applicant: David Wise
Project Location: 112 River Road	Agent PF Hinchcliff, Folk Land Management
Yemassee, Beaufort County SC	Date May 13, 2019
32.663899 N x -80.751655 W	Sheet 8

# Attachment 6b. Hobonny Plantation MTI2 Tidal Field Renovation - Typical Field Trunk Cross-section



## Dimensions

Width of trunk = 4'  
 Length of trunk = 25', door-to-door  
 Inside height of trunk box = 15"  
 Height of flashboard riser = 5.0'

**Project Title:** Hobonny Plantation MTI2 Tidal Field Renovation

**Project Location:** 112 River Road, SC 29458,  
 Yemassee, Beaufort County SC  
 32.663899 N x -80.751655 W

**Drawing Scale**  
 1" : 4.0'

**Applicant:** David Wise

**Date:** 13 May 19

**Agent:** PF Hinchcliff, Folk Land Mgt.

**Sheet** 9