



Date: November 29, 2011

To: Ms. Rebecca H Harrod  
Harrod and Harrod  
1401 Hudson Lane, Suite 300  
Monroe, LA 71207

Re: Wetland Determination for approximately 232 Acre Tract Southwest of the Intersection of Interstate 20 and State Highway 594, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana

Dear Ms. Harrod:

A preliminary wetlands investigation was conducted for an approximately 232 acre tract of farmland located southwest of intersection of I-20 Highway 594 , with an additional approximately six acres located east of Highway 594 (Exhibits 1, 2 and 3). The purpose of the investigation was to *determine* if wetlands and/or *Other Waters of the U.S.* were present on the subject property; a formal delineation was not completed. In summary there were approximately 36.2 acres of uplands identified in three separate locations within the entire tract. The remainder of the site was forested bottomland hardwood wetlands or other waters of the U.S.

## BACKGROUND

The subject property is almost 100% bottomland hardwood forest. Bennett Bayou crosses through the property along the southwest corner and then through the entire tract as it heads north under I-20. Bennett Bayou has been channelized and straightened along most of its length through the subject property with spoil located on both sides of the channel (Exhibit 4). According to the USDA Quadrangle mapping there is a remnant of Gourd Bayou along a small section of the very southern section of the subject property. This remnant channel was most likely significantly impacted by the activities on the adjacent landfill which borders the subject property to the south. There are two ponds located on the north portion of the property that were created from borrow areas during the construction of I-20 (Exhibits 5 and 6).

Improvements on the subject property include a gravel road that leads from Highway 594 to the larger easternmost pond. Adjacent to the larger pond, at the end of the gravel road, there is a historic fill area that may have been associated with a former oil or gas well facility (Exhibit 7). There was gas pipeline row and an overhead electric transmission line row located along the far west side of the property (Exhibit 8 and 9). Both of these utilities run north and south across the entire site. There are abandoned dirt roads throughout the subject property that were apparently used as hunting access roads; most of which are not passable by anything other than an ATV.

The forest was fairly homogeneous due to the relatively level topography (Exhibits 10). The dominant canopy species were water oak (*Quercus nigra*), willow oak (*Q. phellos*), delta post oak (*Q. stellata*), cherry bark oak (*Q. pagoda*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), water hickory (*Carya aquatica*), and cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*) and winged elm (*Ulmus alata*). Midstory and herbaceous species were minimal due to the dense canopy. A notable exception was the abundance in some areas of dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*).

The Ouachita Soil Survey indicates that the soils on the site were 92% Perry Clay, occasionally flooded (Exhibit 11). The Perry Clay, occasionally flooded soils are considered a hydric soil.

A review of the USFWS National Wetland Inventory mapping did not show any wetlands on the subject property (Exhibit 12).

#### FINDINGS

Based on the site reconnaissance, and a review of CIR photography, historical aerial photography, USFWS National Wetland Inventory mapping, the USDA Soil Survey for Ouachita Parish, and 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle maps, most of the subject property is forested wetlands. However there were three separate areas of the site that were noted as uplands.

The three upland locations are shown on Exhibit 13 and are specifically along both sides of Bennett Bayou and tying in with the eastern edge of the site along the utility ROWs (Area #1, ~28.7 acres), a small area north of the larger pond (Area #2, ~2.2 acres), and a small area just east and north of the former Gourd Bayou (Area #3, ~5.3 acres). Total upland estimate was 36.2 acres. While these identified upland locations do meet positive wetland vegetation and soil criteria, positive wetland hydrological indicators were not noted. However, a much more extensive field investigation will be required to positively delineate the exact upland and wetland boundaries.

If you have any additional questions please contact me any time.

Sincerely,



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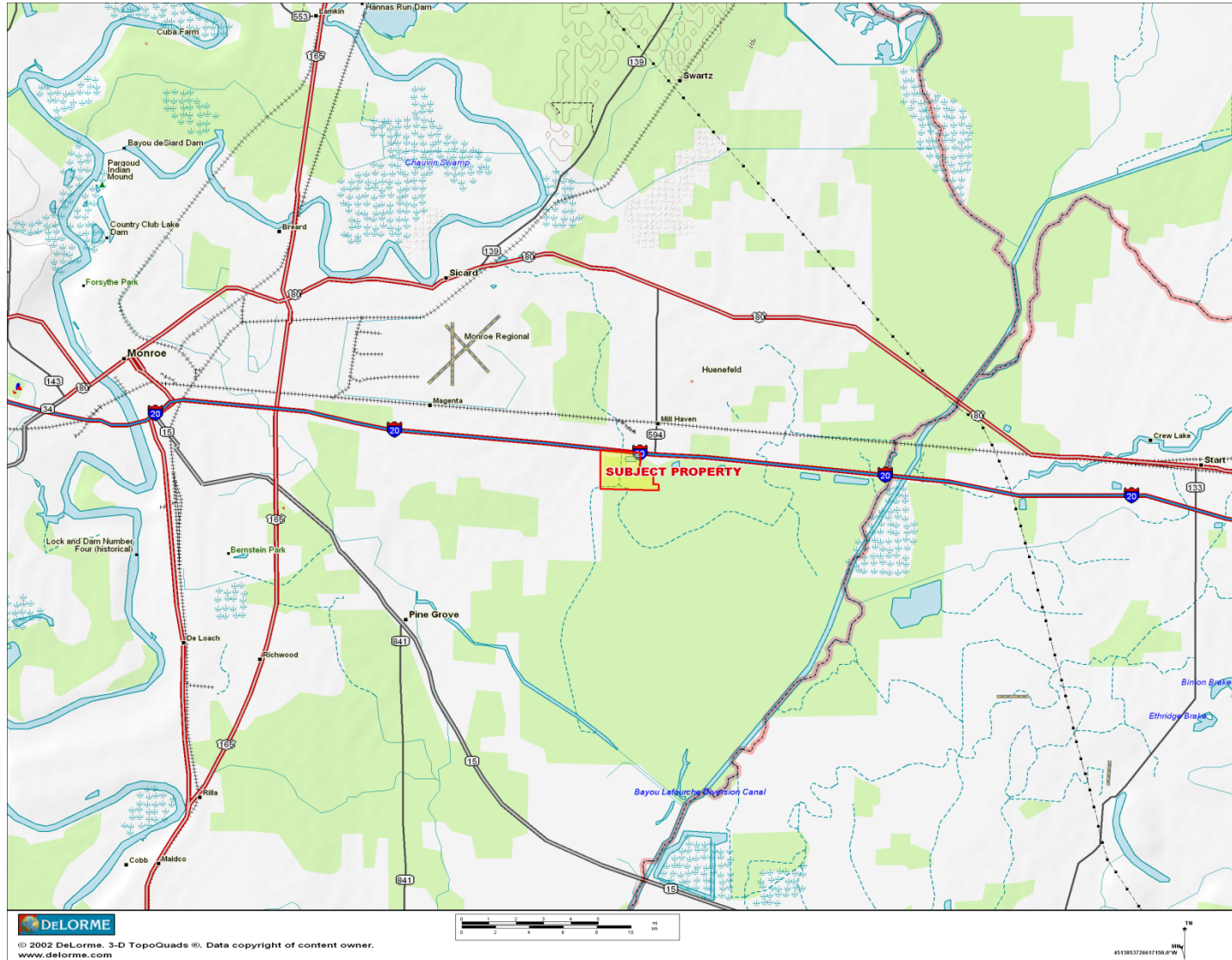


EXHIBIT 1. GENERAL LOCATION MAP

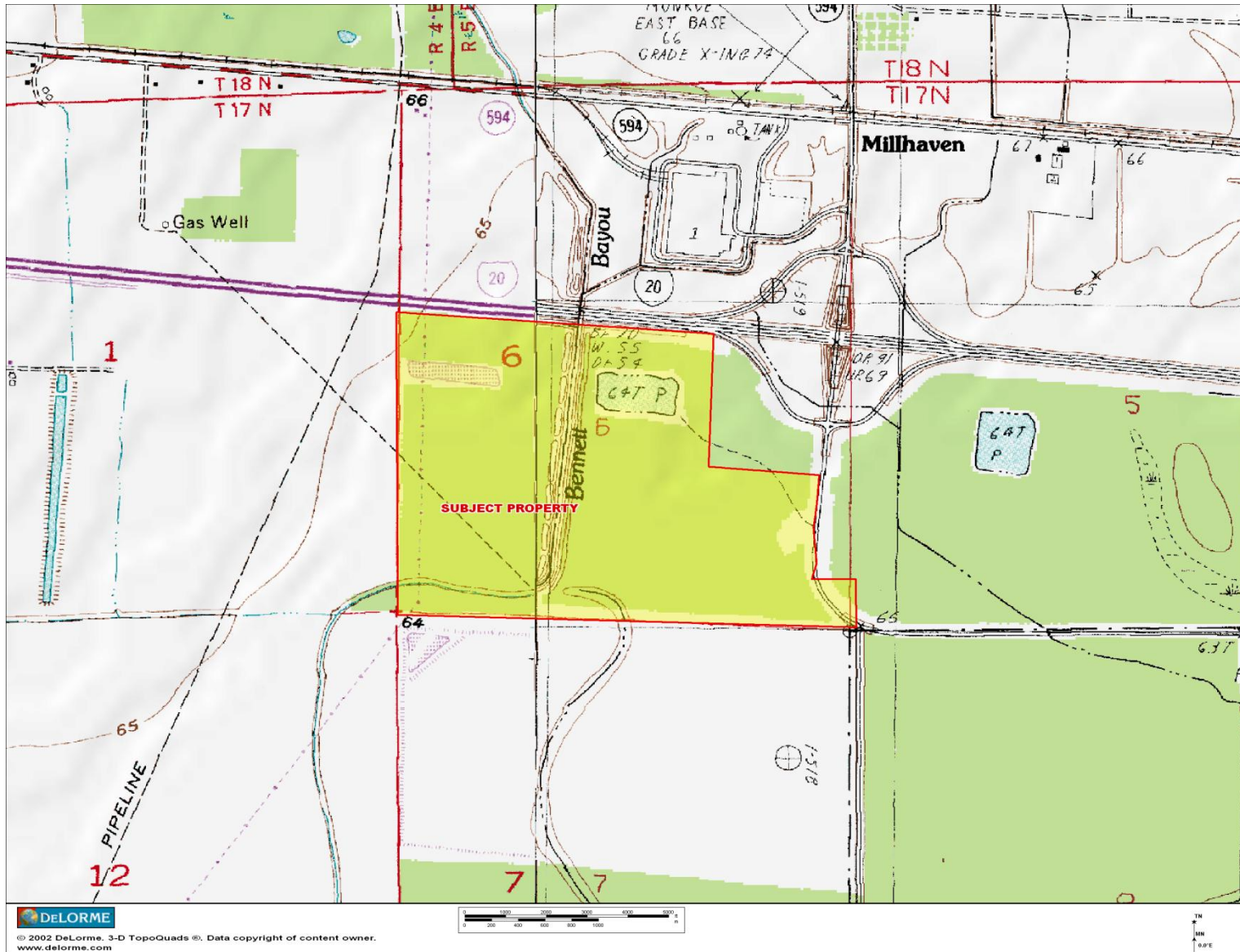


EXHIBIT 2. SITE LOCATION MAP

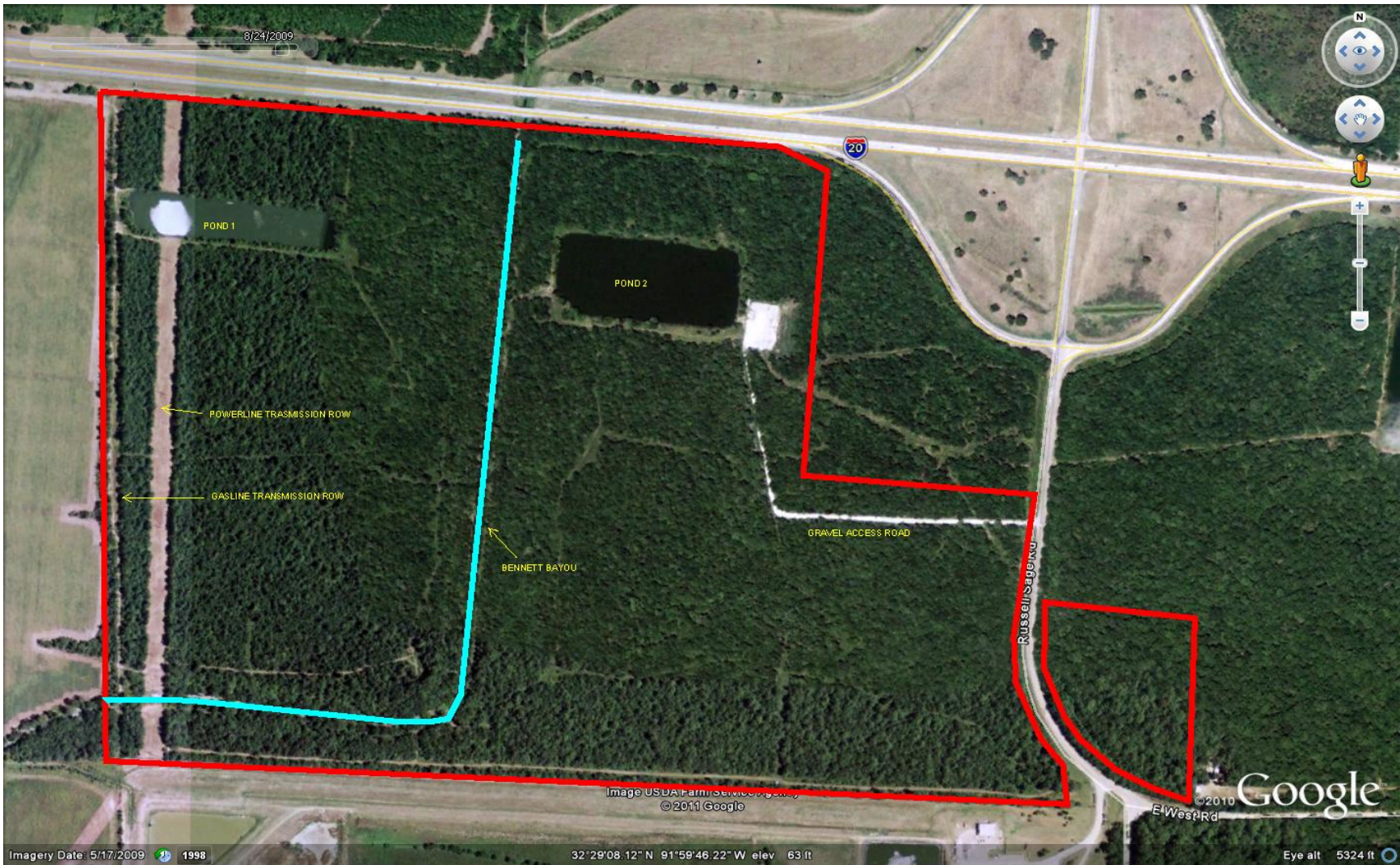


EXHIBIT 3. SUBJECT PROPERTY ON GOOGLE EARTH (2009 IMAGERY)



EXHIBIT 4. BENNETT BAYOU



EXHIBIT 5. EASTERN POND



EXHIBIT 6. WESTERN POND.





EXHIBIT 7. OLD GAS/OIL WELL SITE



EXHIBIT 8. POWERLINE TRANSMISSION ROW.



EXHIBIT 9. NATURAL GAS PIPELINE ROW



EXHIBIT 10. BOTTOMLAND HARWOOD FOREST

Soil Map—Ouachita Parish, Louisiana

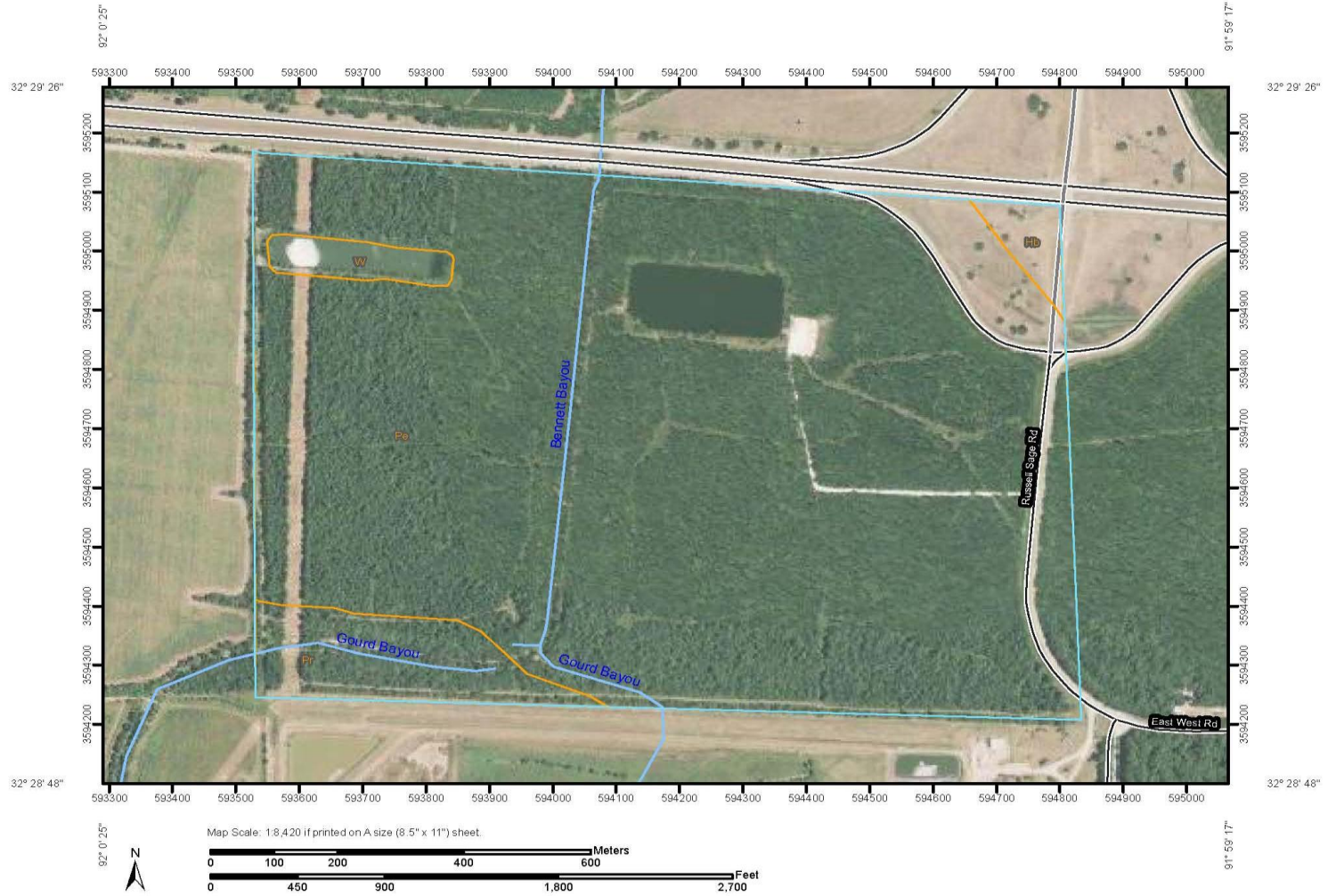


EXHIBIT 11. 1 SOIL SURVEY MAP

### Map Unit Legend

Ouachita Parish, Louisiana (LA073)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Hb	Hebert silt loam	3.4	1.2%
Pe	Perry clay, occasionally flooded	261.3	91.8%
Pr	Portland clay	15.4	5.4%
W	Water	4.4	1.5%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>284.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## EXHIBIT 11. 2 SOIL SURVEY MAP



EXHIBIT 12. USFWS NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY MAP



EXHIBIT 13. UPALNDS LOCATED ON CIR PHOTOGRAPHY