

FDOT DISTRICT-3 REVIEW TEAM MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017

[FDOT District-3 Maintenance Office – Midway, FL]

Attendees	
Randy Turner – USACE (Jacksonville)	Bryan Phillips – FWC (Panama City)
Joy Swanson Pleas – FDOT (Chipley)	Nick Wooten – NFWWMD (Midway)
Colby Cleveland – FDOT (Chipley)	Paul Thorpe – NFWWMD (Midway)
Erica Brookman – FDOT (Chipley)	David Clayton – NFWWMD (Midway)
Mary Mittiga – USFWS (Panama City)	Robert Lide – NFWWMD (Midway)
David Rydene – NMFS (St. Petersburg)	Janet Strutzel – NFWWMD (Tallahassee)
Terry Gilbert – FWC (Tallahassee; via telephone)	

The Review Team (RT) meeting was held Tuesday, January 24, 2017, (9:30 AM – 12:00 PM EST) at the FDOT District-3 Midway Operations Office (17 Commerce Blvd. at the US 90 / I-10 interchange west of Tallahassee).

Agenda

Escambia River Watershed

- Hanks Road Breastworks Branch Bridge
- CR 99 Pine Barren Creek Bridge

Blackwater River Watershed

- SR 4 Blackwater River Bridge
- SR 87 (from CR 178 to SR 4)
- SR 87 (from end of 4-lane to Coldwater Creek)

St. Andrew Bay / St. Joseph Bay Watershed

- Gulf to Bay, Segment 2

Choctawhatchee River Watershed

- SR 77 (from 1mi north of Wausau to CR 276)

Ochlockonee River Watershed

- CR 159 Attapulugus Creek Bridge

Open discussion / other business

Hanks Road Breastworks Branch Bridge (FPID 432286-1)

Impact: Replacement of the Hanks Road Breastworks Branch Bridge (Escambia River Watershed; Escambia County) will result in an estimated 0.26-acre / 0.16 UMAM impact to palustrine forested wetlands. FDOT contract letting is scheduled for 10/31/2018. No private mitigation bank or ILF site is available to offset this impact.

Proposed Mitigation: Hydrologic enhancement of a forested wetland slough (palustrine forested wetlands) on NFWFMD-owned lands at a site adjacent to Salters Lake, a natural oxbow lake in the Escambia River floodplain. This mitigation project (to be known as Salters Lake Hydrologic Enhancement) will consist of construction of one low-water-crossing to remove an impediment (a relict logging road) to surface flows within the slough. Mitigation will be “type-for-type” (i.e., palustrine forested wetlands) and within the same watershed as the impact.

Consensus: The consensus of the mitigation Review Team is that implementation of the Salters Lake Hydrologic Enhancement mitigation project would appropriately offset the Hanks Road impact. Therefore, the NFWFMD will proceed with development of a detailed mitigation plan for Salters Lake and provide it to FDOT for submittal to the USACE (no mitigation for the Hanks Road impact is being required by state permitting authorities).

CR 99 Pine Barren Creek Bridge (FPID 430466-1)

This 1.21-acre impact (functional loss is estimated at 0.82 UMAM) in the upper Escambia River basin of the Pensacola Bay System watershed has been permitted (federal and state) with mitigation directed to the Mystic Springs mitigation area. No private mitigation bank or ILF site was available to provide offsetting mitigation. The Mystic Springs project will entail establishment of bottomland hardwood forest on NFWFMD lands in a former sand mine adjacent to the Escambia River. NFWFMD received mitigation funds (\$137,910) from FDOT in September 2016. In December 2016, a competitive bid process awarded the restoration contract to EarthBalance, Inc. Restoration will proceed when weather and site conditions are suitable for the planting of bottomland tree species (as of mid-January the site is flooded; water levels will drop as the Escambia River ebbs). Project status and monitoring reports will be posted at www.NFWFMDwetlands.com.

SR 87 (from CR 178 to SR 4; FPID 416748-6; 2.71-acre Impact)

SR 87 (from Four-Lane section to Cold Water Creek; FPID 416748-2; 10.89-acre Impact)

SR 4 Blackwater River Bridge (FPID 432828-1; 2.05-acre Impact)

In the absence of a private mitigation bank option, and to realize some economy of scale, mitigation for these three impacts in the Blackwater River watershed would ideally be combined into one project.

Portions of the SR 87 FPID 416748-2 impacts occur within the Pensacola Bay Mitigation Bank (PBMB) service area, and are expected to be mitigated by FDOT purchase of private credits.

Impacts associated with SR 87 FPID 416748-2 outside the PBMB service area are anticipated to require mitigation through the NFWFMD mitigation program established under section 373.4137, Florida Statutes.

The letting date for the SR 4 Blackwater River Bridge is 12/5/2018; letting dates have not been set for the SR 87 projects.

Some members of the Review Team expressed a preference for prioritizing acquisitions, if possible, in Cooper Basin and downstream reaches of the Blackwater River. Larger holdings adjacent to the Blackwater River occur upstream of Cooper Basin and potentially would be easier to acquire. The Review Team consensus was that the NFWFMD should explore whether there are potential willing sellers of suitable mitigation lands along the Blackwater River. No other mitigation options were identified.

Gulf to Bay, Segment 2 (FPID 410911-2)

Currently estimated at 118.04 acres of direct impact, mitigation remains TBD. Ideally, mitigation would be implemented at the proposed Horseshoe Creek Mitigation Bank (located nearby and within the same 8-digit HUC basin).

SR 77 (Segment 7, from 1 mile north of Wausau to CR 276; FPID 217909-7)

Approximately a 14.10-acre impact, this road project occurs within the service area of the privately-owned Nokuse Plantation Mitigation Bank (NPMB). In December 2016, FDOT purchased 11.65 federal / 10.20 state forested palustrine credits from NPMB to partially comply with state and federal permit conditions. However, NPMB is unable to provide 2.28 palustrine emergent credits required by FDEP permittees to offset impacts to FLUCCS 641 and 644 non-forested wetlands. Proposals that the impacts to non-forested palustrine emergent wetlands be mitigated “out-of-kind” with palustrine forested credits at NPMB were not accepted by state permittees. To avoid project delay, authorized representatives (Dentzau & Associates, Inc.) for NPMB proposed that FDOT purchase 2.28 palustrine emergent credits from the NFWFMD-owned Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (SHLMB). The SHLMB has a current balance of 5.67 palustrine emergent credits available for use. NFWFMD staff will evaluate pursuing approvals for the palustrine emergent impacts to be mitigated by FDOT through purchase of palustrine emergent credits from the SHLMB. Only if approvals are granted by the NFWFMD Governing Board or its designee, and FDEP, will the purchase of credits from SHLMB move forward. If purchase of credits from SHLMB is approved, the purchase price will be determined in accordance with section 373.4137, F.S. NFWFMD will invoice for mitigation funds when requested to do so by FDOT; debiting of credits per permit requirements will occur at the appropriate time after mitigation funds are received. The NFWFMD mitigation program does not compete with private mitigation banks. NFWFMD provides mitigation options to FDOT only when use of a private mitigation bank is not feasible.

CR 159 Attapulgis Creek Bridge (FPID 428624-1)

Located in the upper Ochlockonee River watershed, mitigation for this 0.82-acre impact is expected to consist of credits from the Shuler ILF Mitigation Area (27.90 credits are available). The impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. The anticipated letting date is 6/20/2018. The Review Team consensus is that the use of Shuler would appropriately offset the anticipated CR 159 impact.

Live Oak Peninsula

The Review Team briefly discussed additional restoration possibilities at Live Oak Peninsula, located in Choctawhatchee Bay. Although this area is covered by several private mitigation banks, none have estuarine credits available. The consensus of the Review Team is that Live Oak Peninsula should be investigated for additional restoration potential such as oyster shell breakwaters and planting of marsh vegetation. No existing or proposed bank in the area is anticipated to develop estuarine credits. Generating additional estuarine credits at Live Oak Peninsula would facilitate future FDOT road projects in the Choctawhatchee Bay area.

NFWMD Mitigation Project Updates

Recent land management activities at several NFWMD mitigation sites were briefly discussed.

Meeting Agenda and PowerPoint Attached

Additional Information Available at www.NFWMDwetlands.com

FDOT District-3 Mitigation Review Team Meeting

24 January 2017

(FDOT Midway Operations Center)



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Items

Escambia River Watershed

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Blackwater River Watershed

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Items for Today's Agenda (1/24/2017)

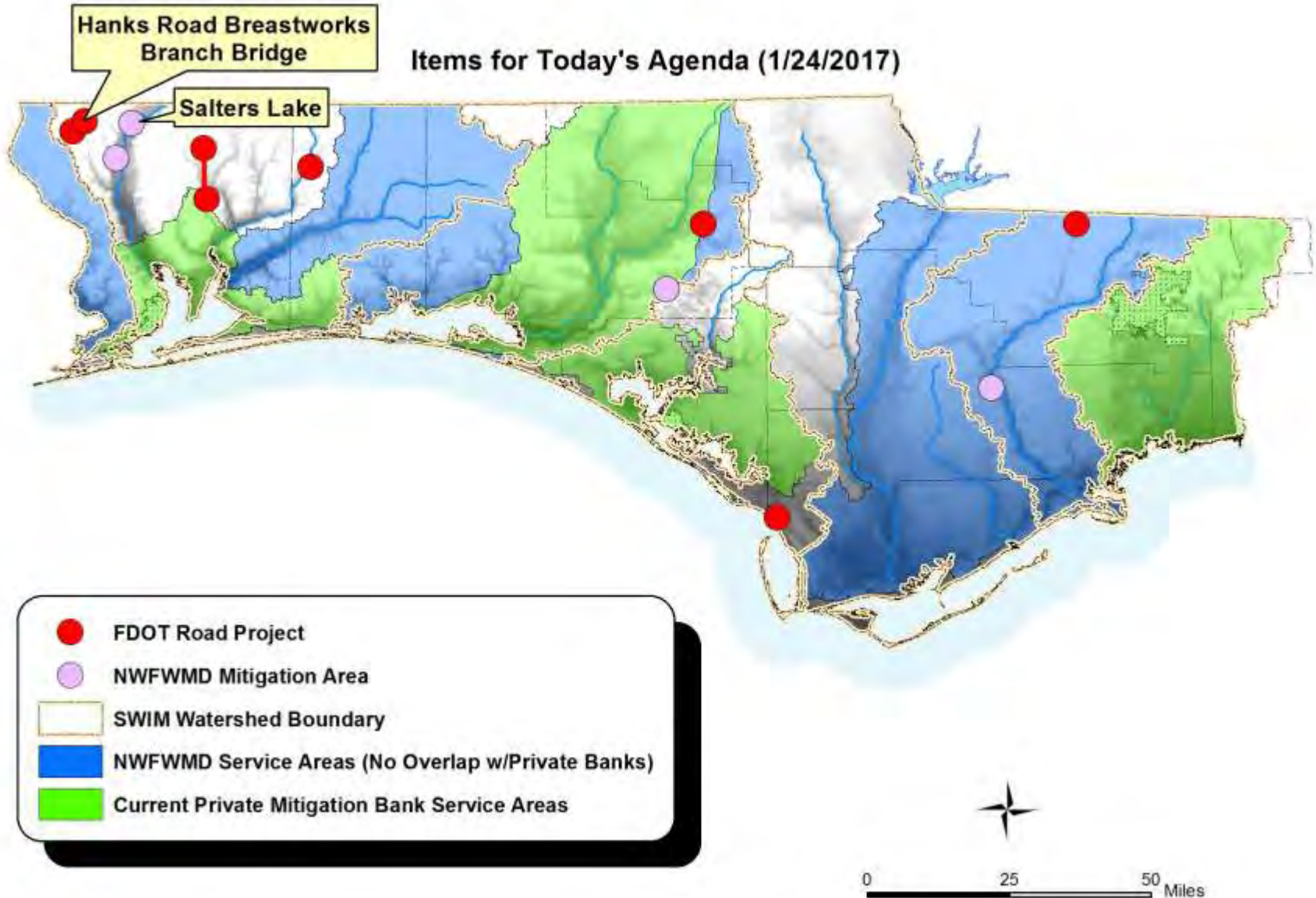


- FDOT Road Project
- NFWMD Mitigation Area
- SWIM Watershed Boundary
- NFWMD Service Areas (No Overlap w/Private Banks)
- Current Private Mitigation Bank Service Areas

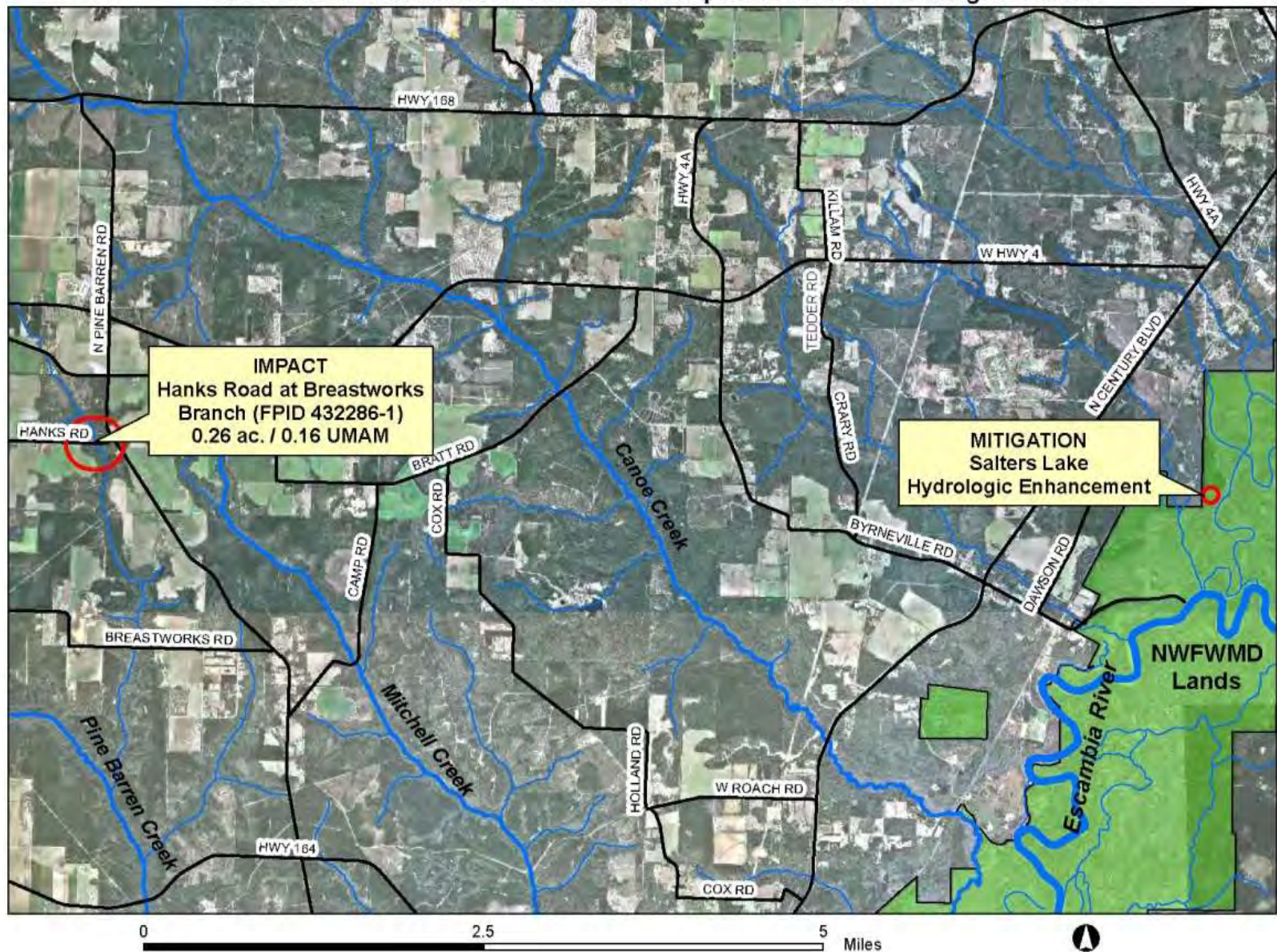


0 25 50 Miles

Items for Today's Agenda (1/24/2017)



Hanks Road at Breastworks Branch and Proposed Salters Lake Mitigation Area



Salters Lake Hydrologic Enhancement - LiDAR





Salters Lake – Proposed LWC Site (10/28/2016)

CR 99 Pine Barren
Creek Bridge

Items for Today's Agenda (1/24/2017)

Mystic Springs

- FDOT Road Project
- NWFWM D Mitigation Area
- SWIM Watershed Boundary
- NWFWM D Service Areas (No Overlap w/Private Banks)
- Current Private Mitigation Bank Service Areas



0 25 50 Miles

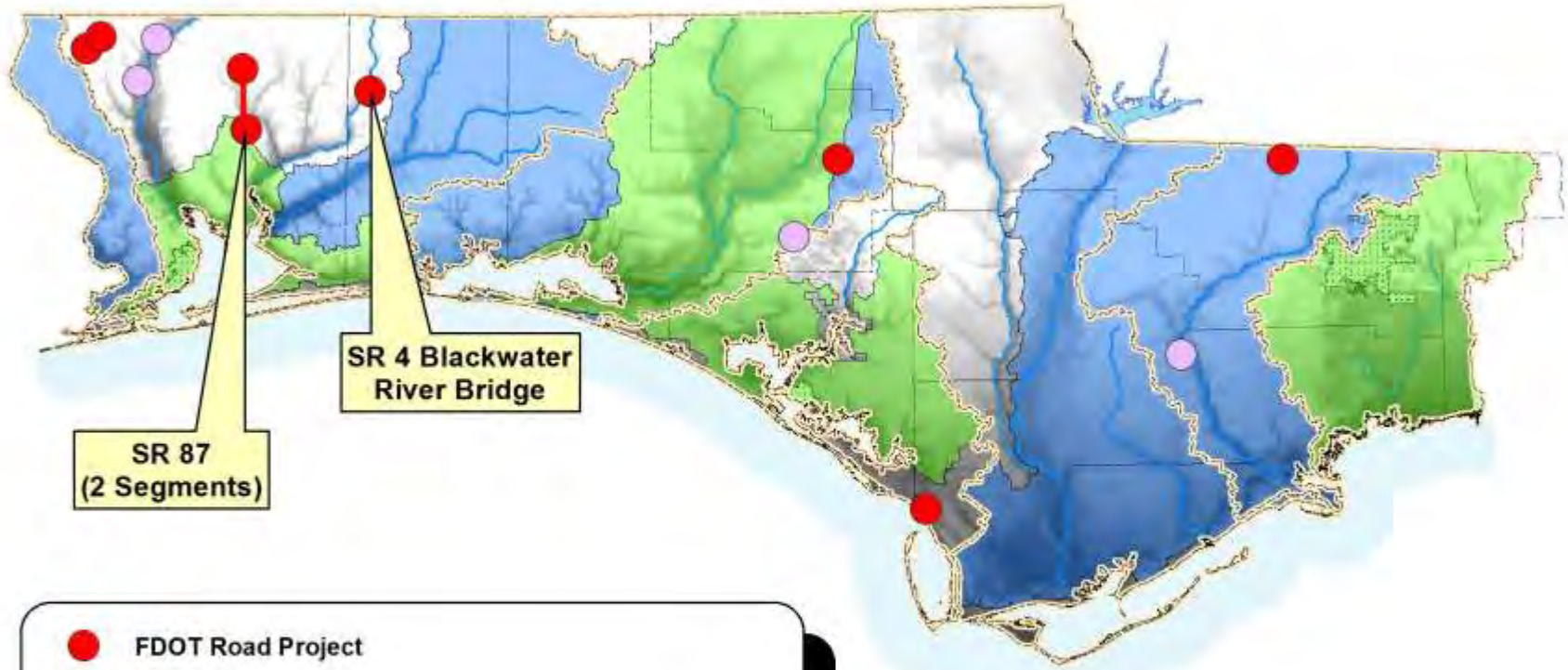
Mystic Springs Restoration Area - 2013 DOQ





Mystic Springs Restoration Site – 6/2/2016

Items for Today's Agenda (1/24/2017)

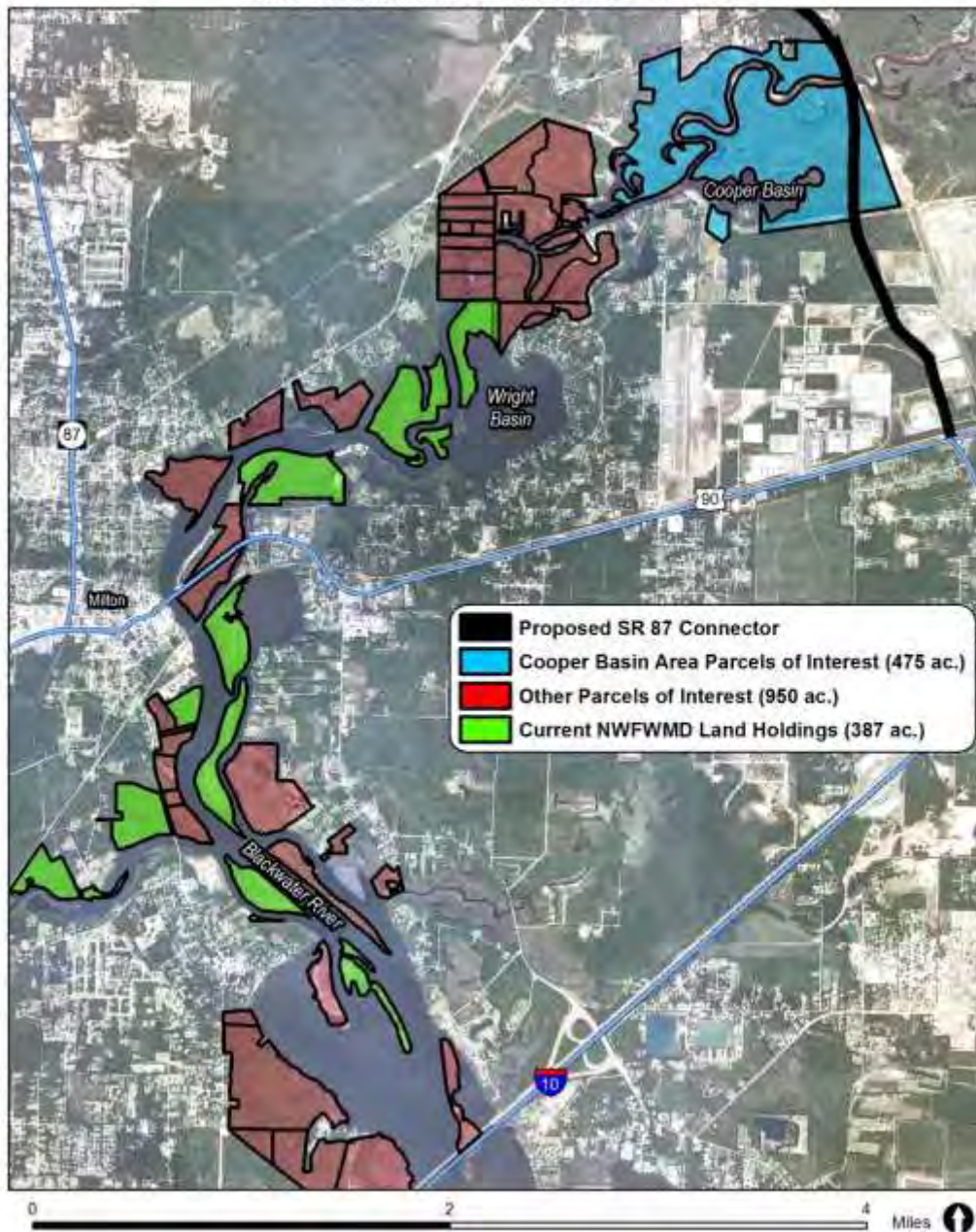


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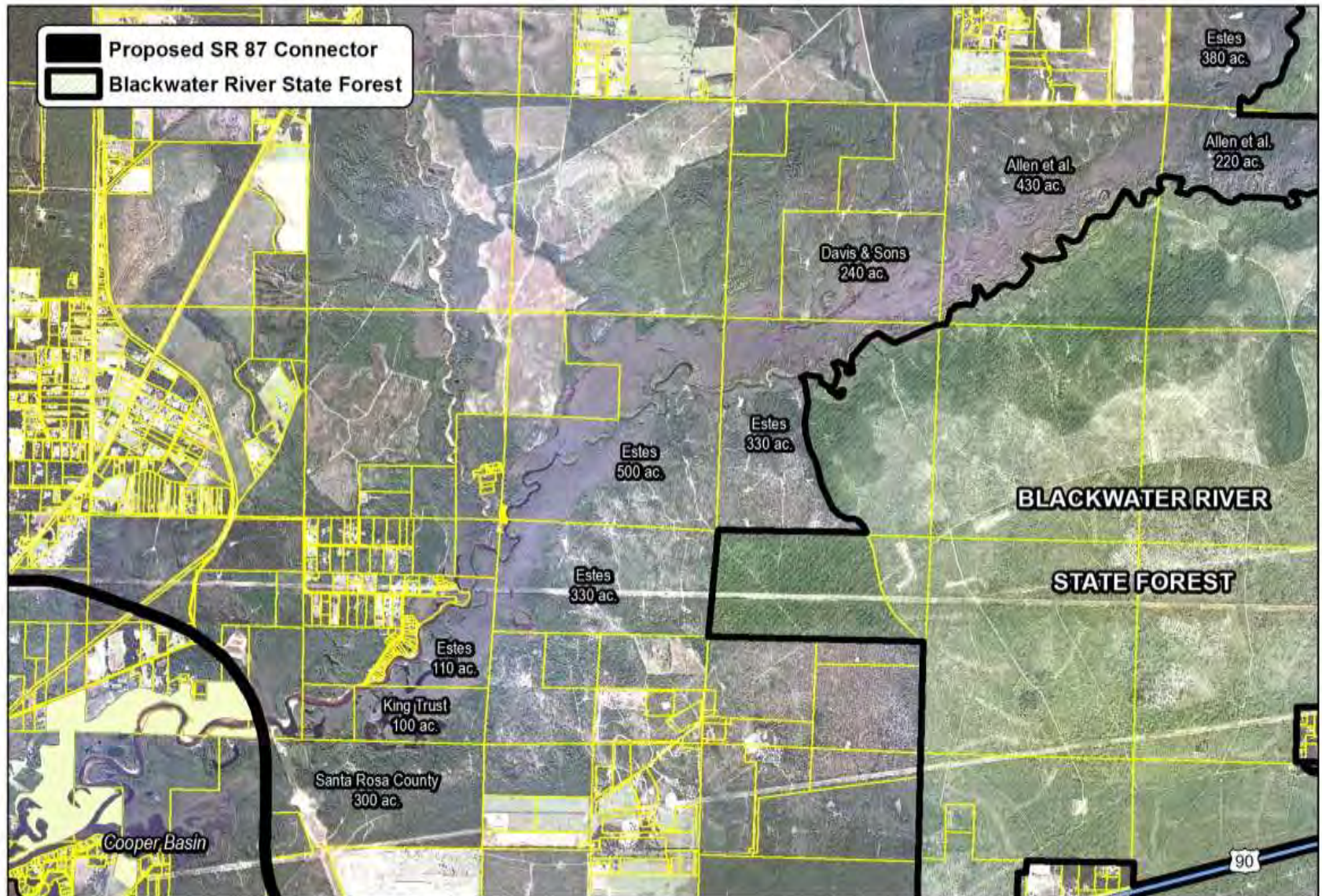


0 25 50 Miles

Lower Blackwater River Watershed - 2013 DOQ

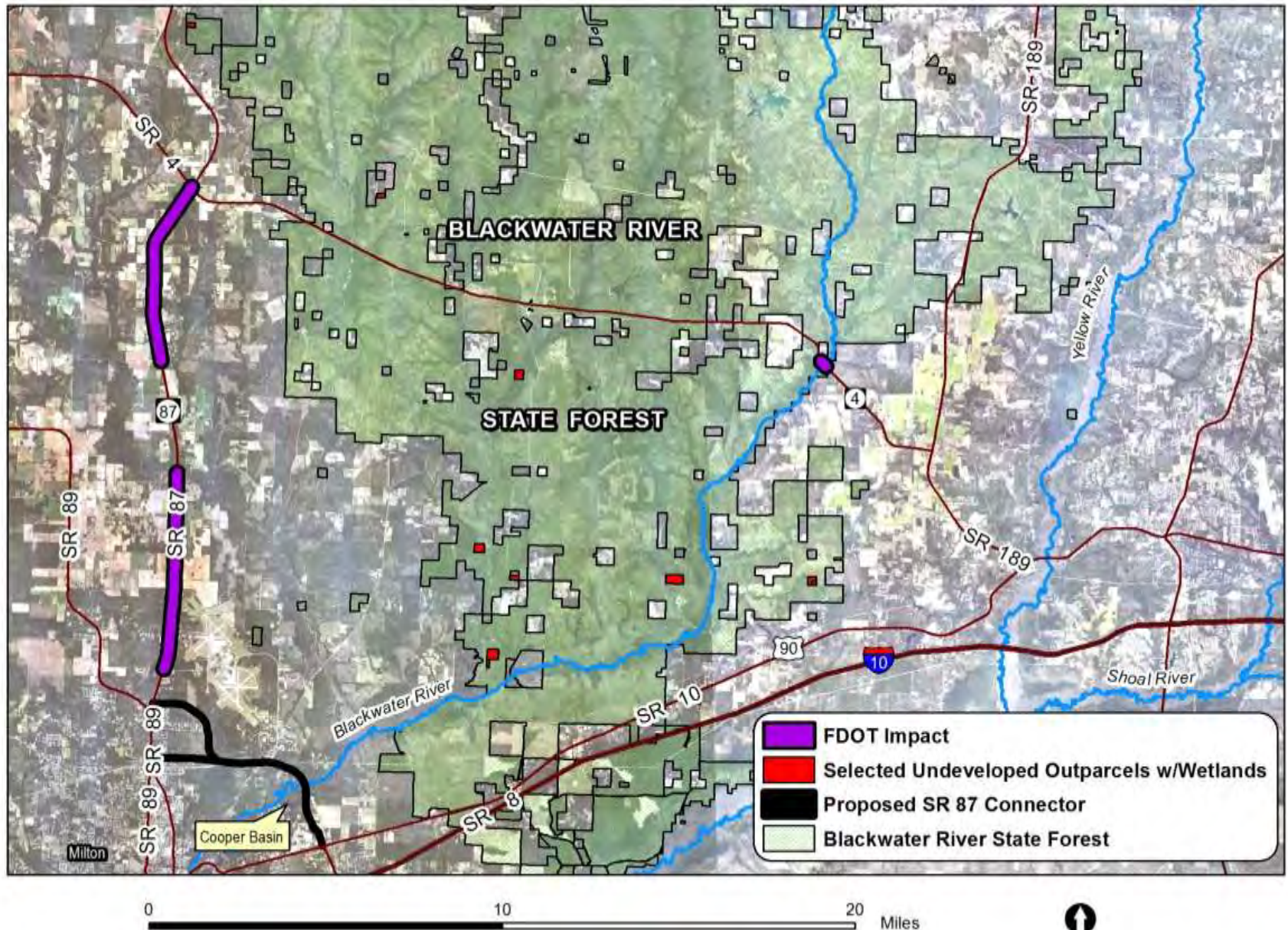


Lower Blackwater River Watershed (NE of Cooper Basin) - 2013 DOQ



0 2 4 Miles

Blackwater River State Forest and Selected Outparcels



Blackwater River State Forest Outparcel - Finlay (20 Acres)



0 0.1 0.2 Miles



Blackwater River State Forest Outparcel - Foscue (40 Acres)



NWI Wetlands GIS Layer

0 0.1 0.2 Miles



Blackwater River State Forest Outparcel - Kelly (78 Acres)



0 0.2 0.4 Miles



Blackwater River State Forest Outparcel - Peaden (40 Acres)



NWI Wetlands GIS Layer

0 0.1 0.2 Miles



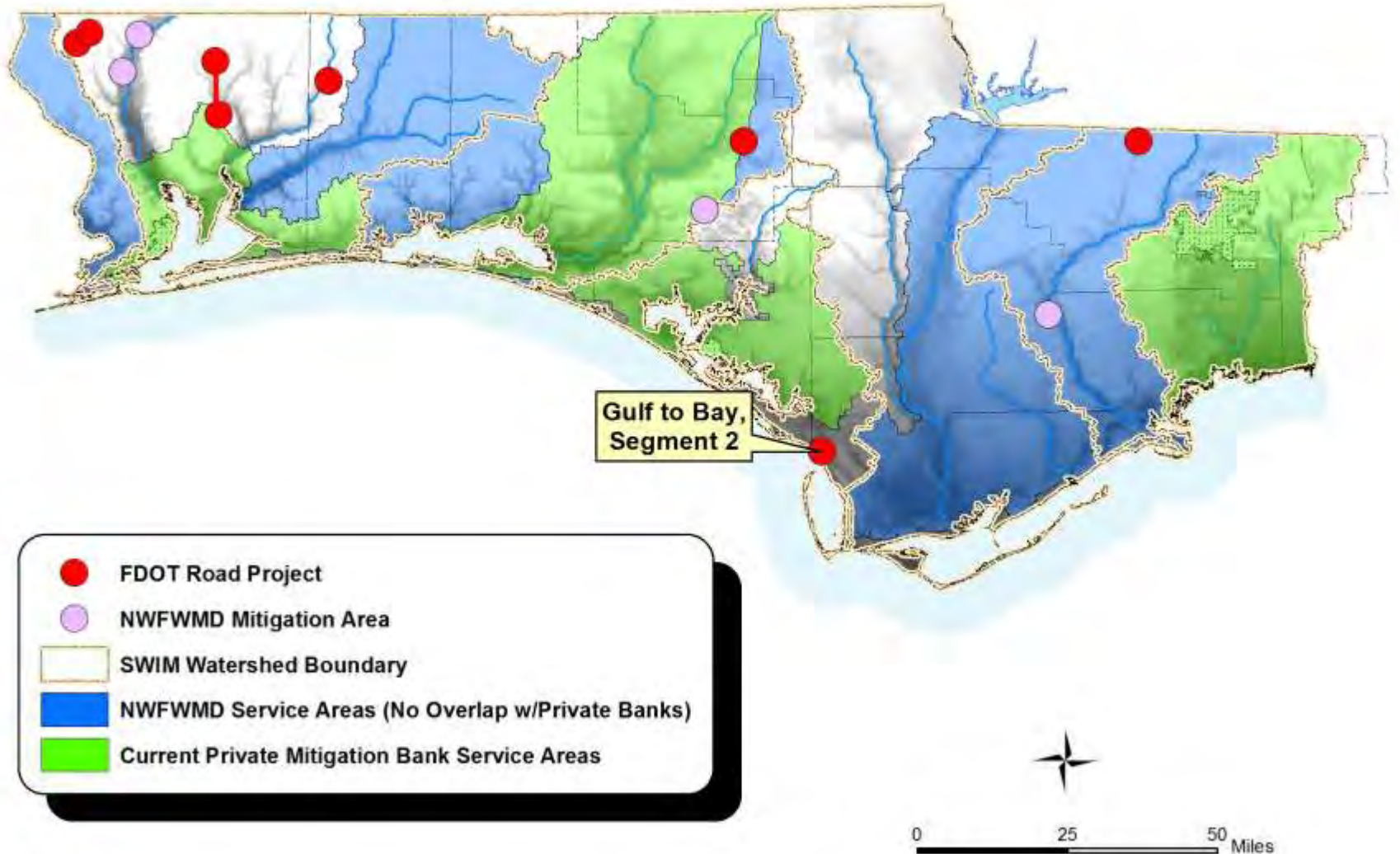
Blackwater River State Forest Outparcel - Reed & Tyree (40 Acres)



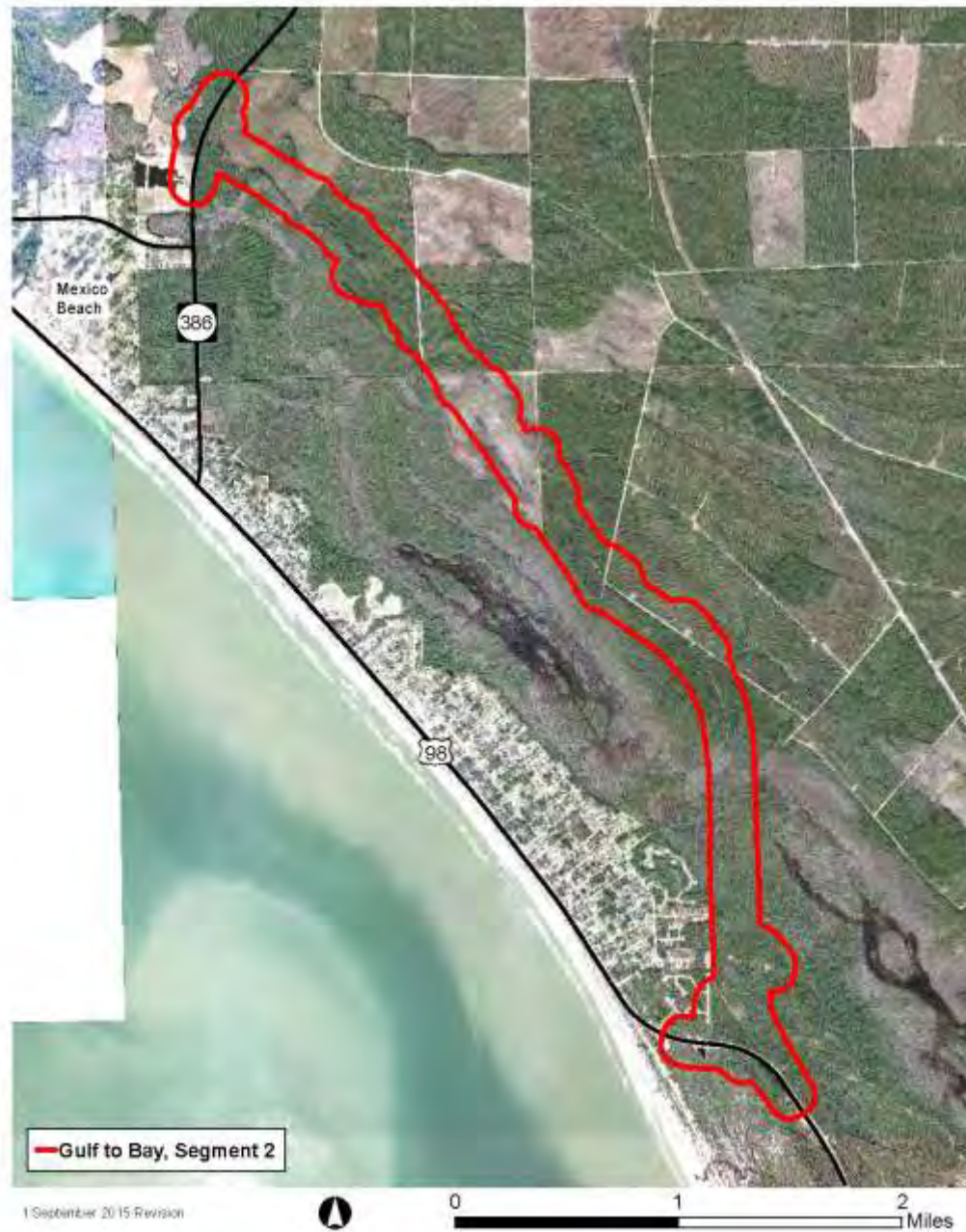
0 0.1 0.2 Miles



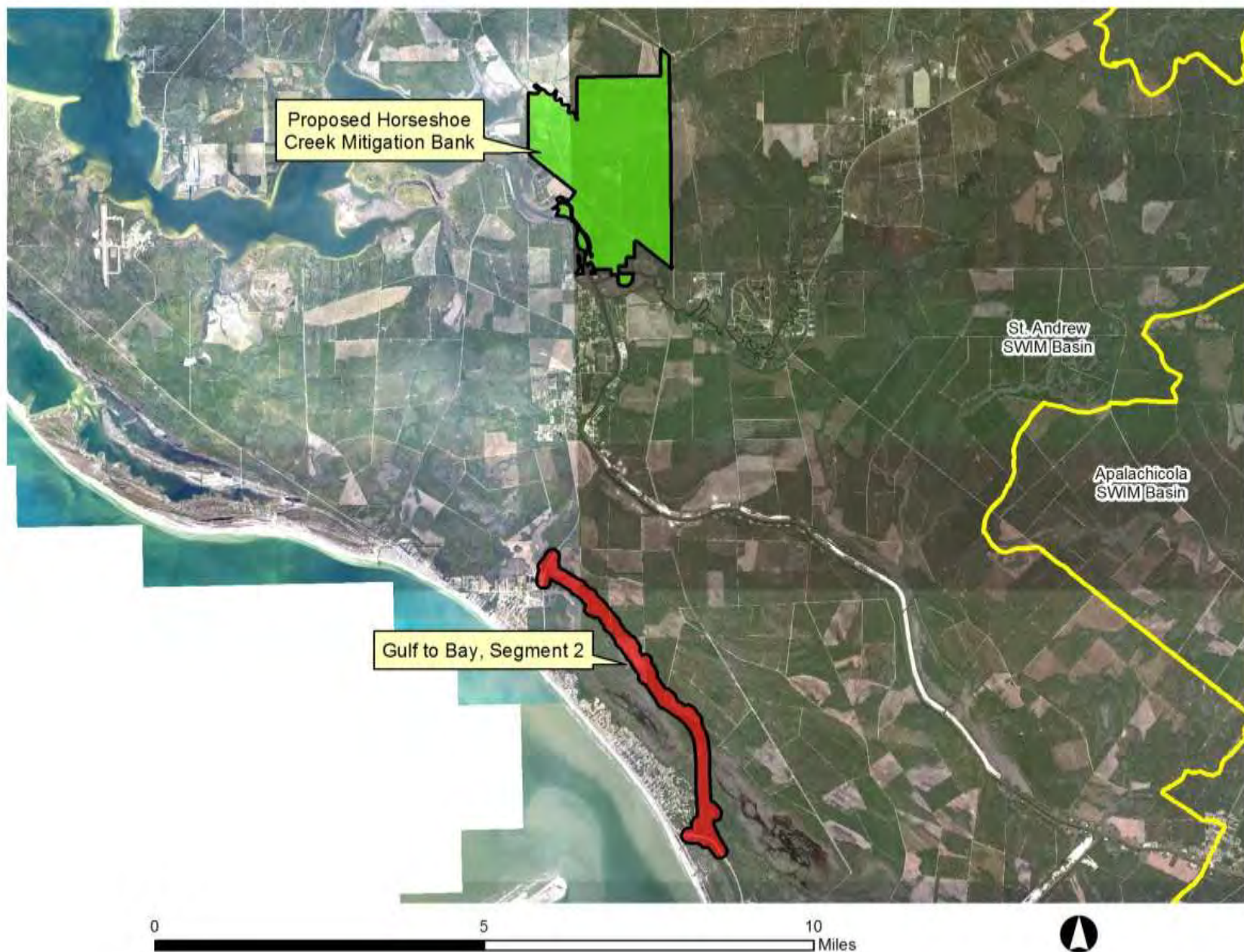
Items for Today's Agenda (1/24/2017)



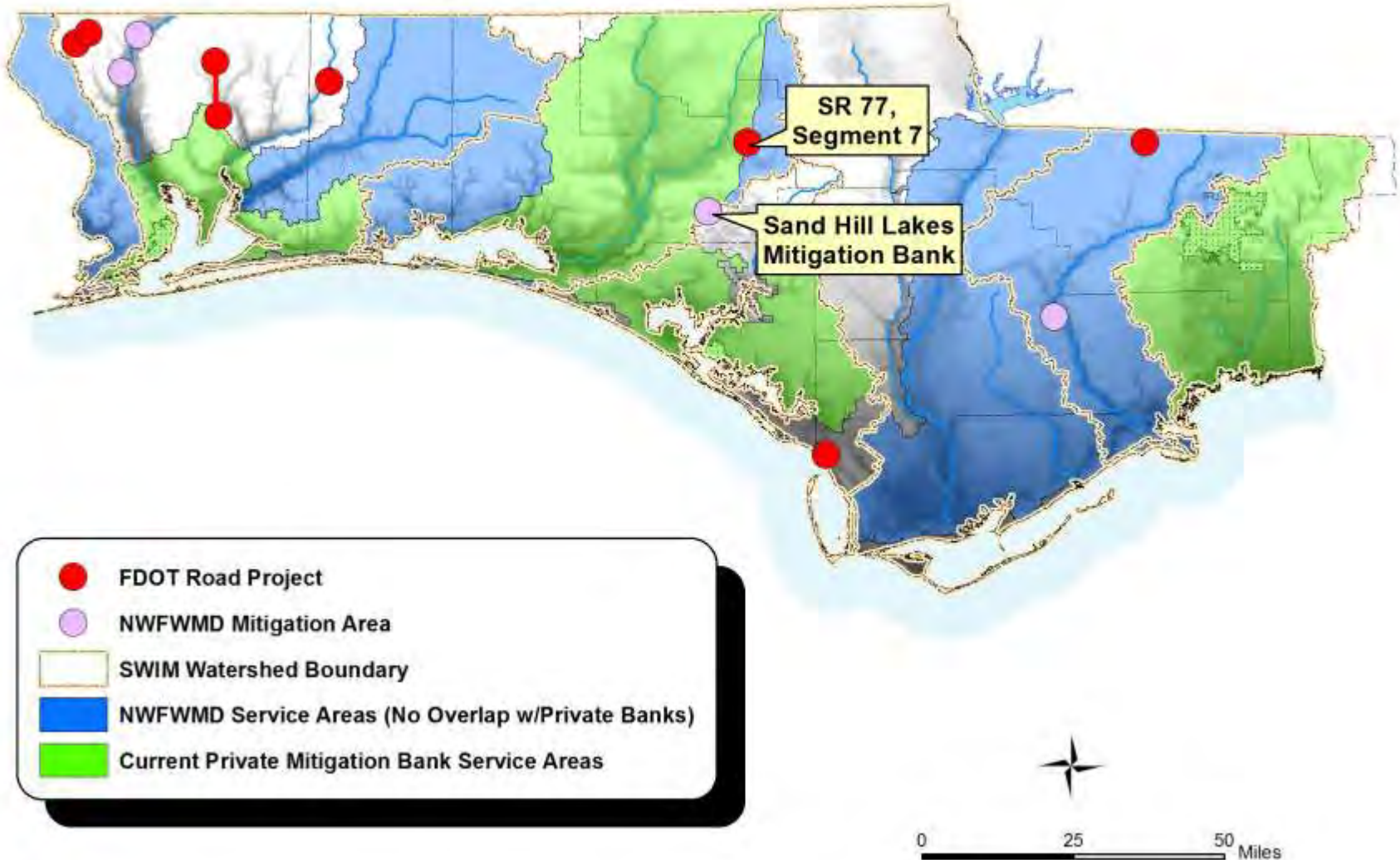
Gulf to Bay, Segment 2



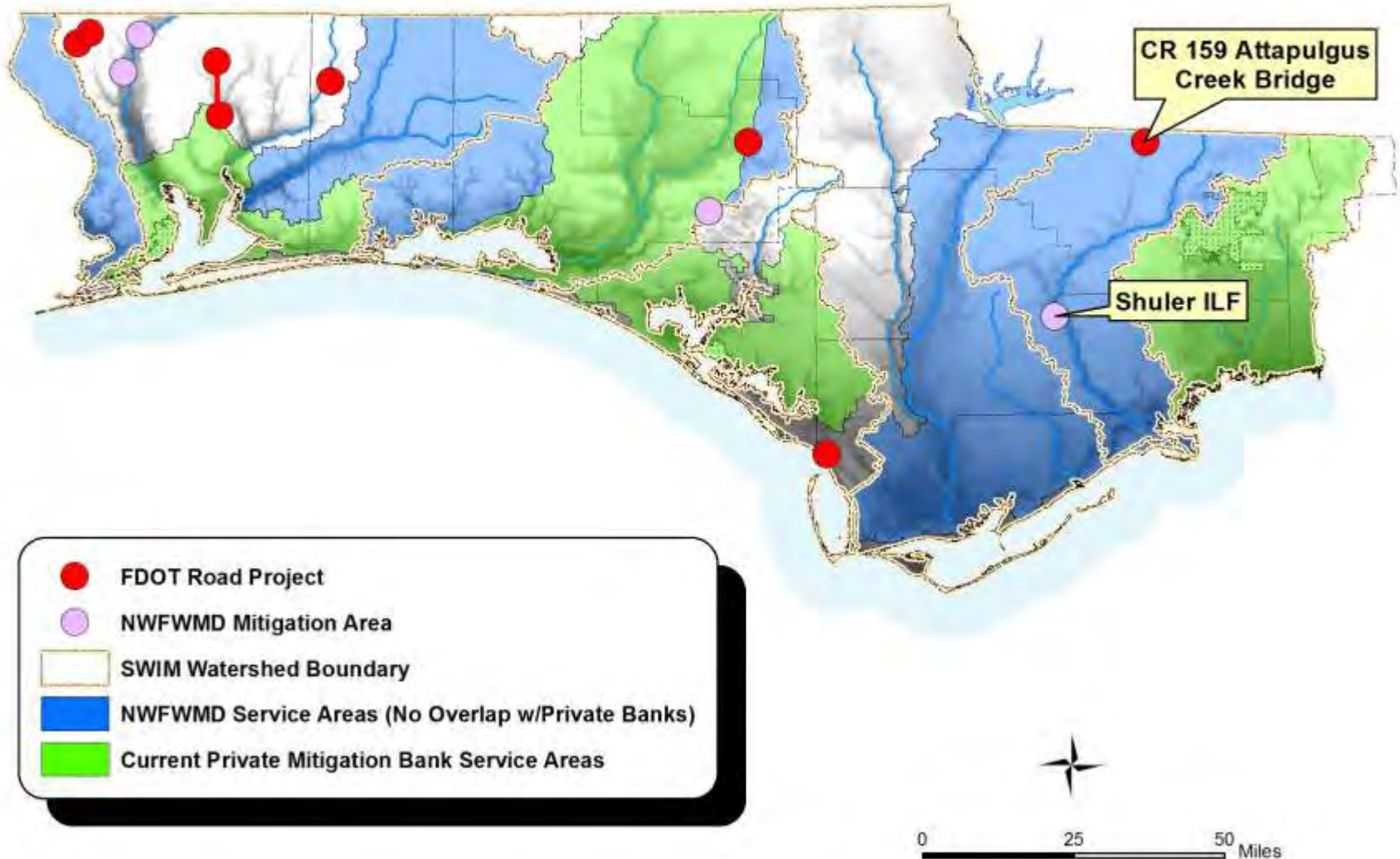
1 September 2015 Revision



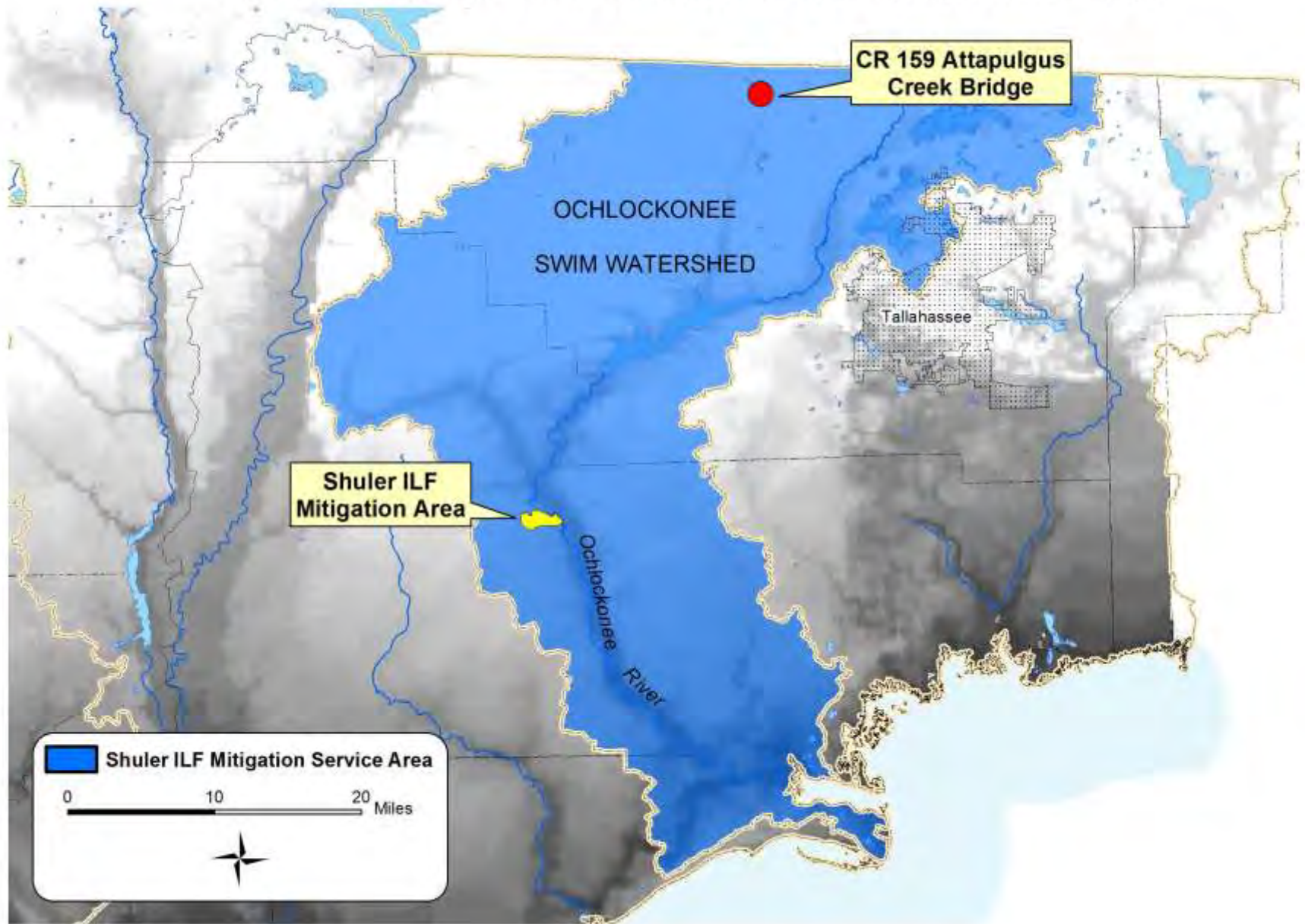
Items for Today's Agenda (1/24/2017)



Items for Today's Agenda (1/24/2017)



Shuler ILF Mitigation Area in Relation to CR 159 Attapulugus Creek Bridge



Other Business or Concerns



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Wrap Up



Appendix Maps

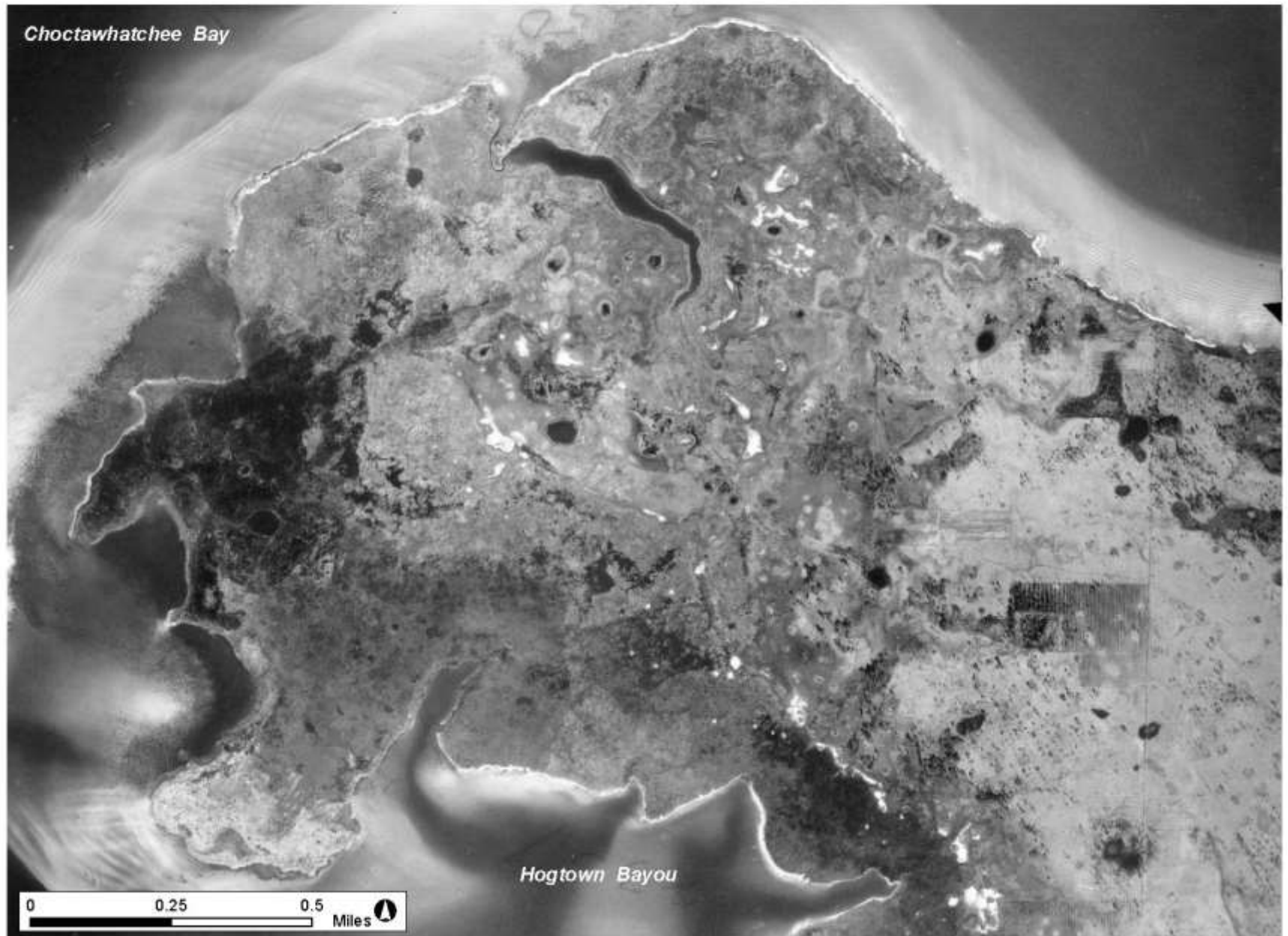
Location of Live Oak Peninsula



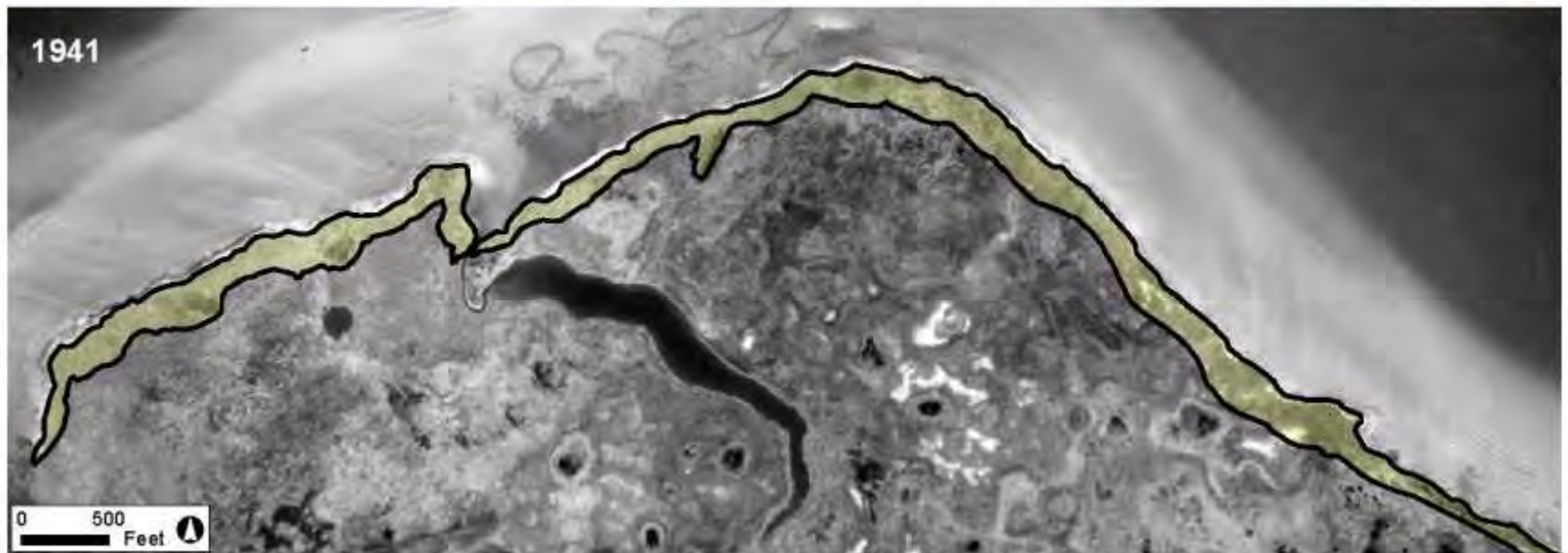
Live Oak Peninsula - 2007 DOQ



Live Oak Peninsula - 1941 B&W Aerial



Live Oak Peninsula - Northern Shoreline Erosion (1941 - 2007)



Live Oak Peninsula - Oyster Shell Breakwaters





Live Oak Peninsula – 11/8/2011

Private Mitigation Bank Service Areas in Northwest Florida

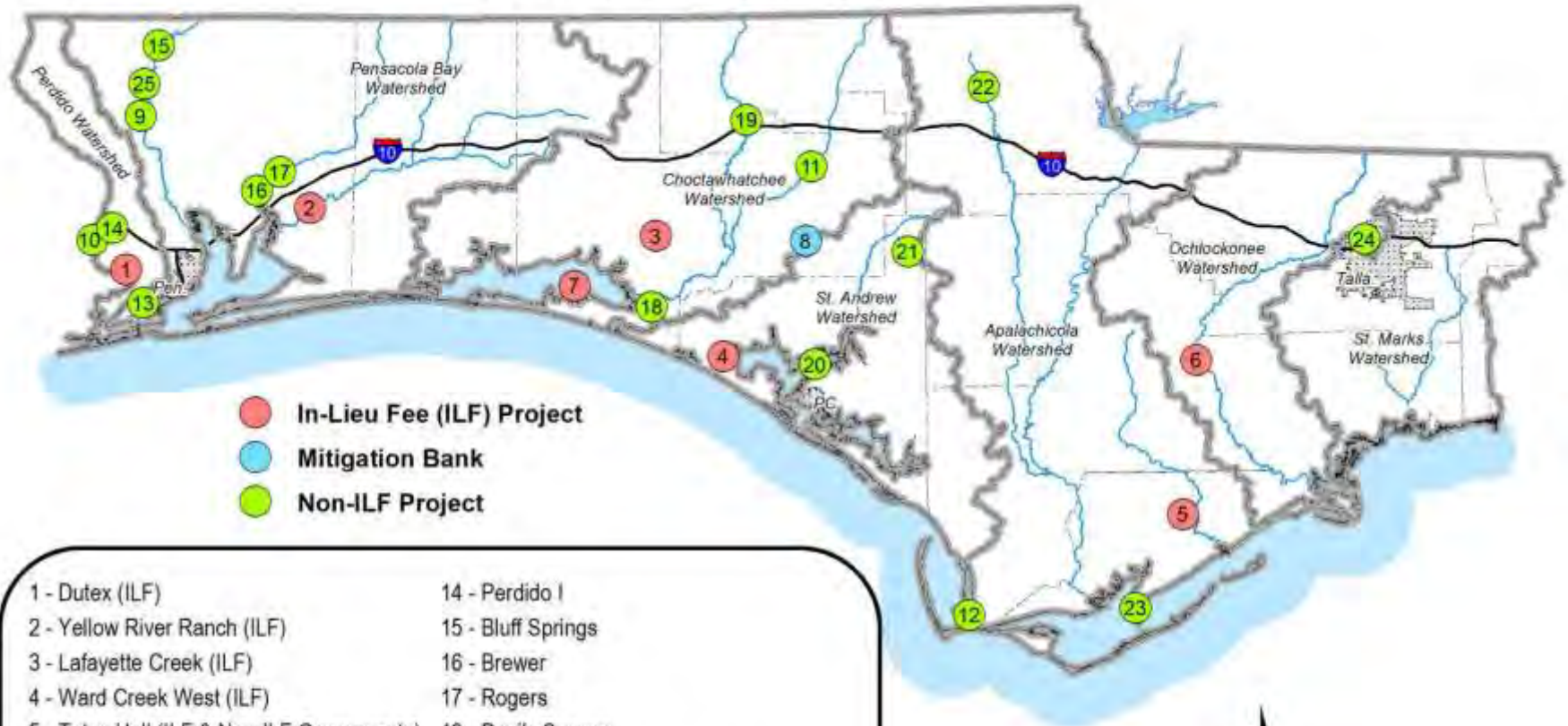


Mitigation Bank / Year Permitted

- 1 - Pensacola Bay Mitigation Bank, 2009
- 2 - Garcon Peninsula Mitigation Bank, 2001
- 3 - Nokuse Plantation Mitigation Bank, 2011
- 4 - Devils Swamp Mitigation Bank, 2010 (Mod)
- 5 - Breakfast Point Mitigation Bank, 2011 (Mod)
- 6 - Sweetwater Mitigation Bank, 2009
- 7 - St. Marks Mitigation Bank, 2011
- 8 - Bear Creek Mitigation Bank (Proposed; MSA Not Shown)
- 9 - Horseshoe Creek Mitigation Bank (Under Development; MSA Not Shown)
- 10 - Gin Hole Mitigation Bank (Proposed; MSA Not Shown)



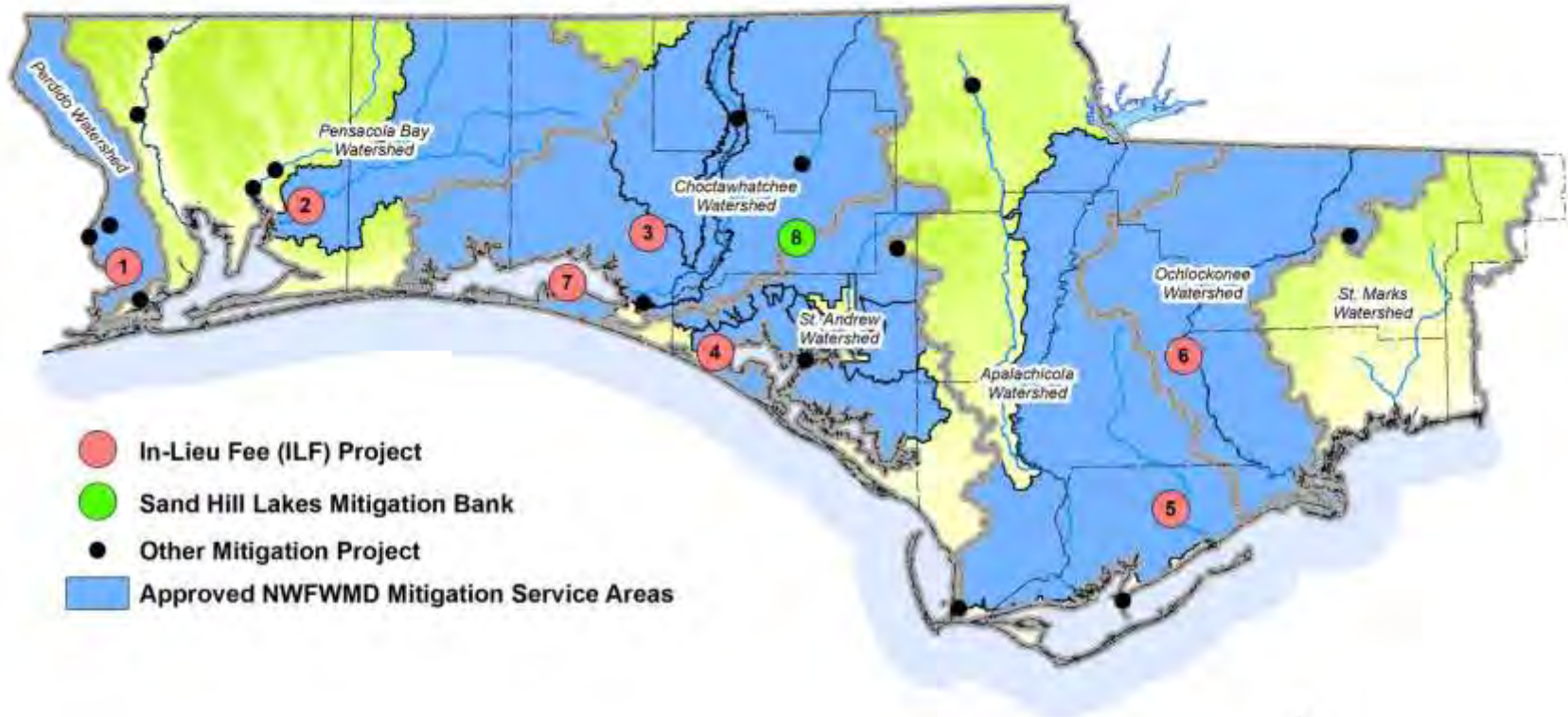
NWFWMD Mitigation Program



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 - Dutex (ILF) | 14 - Perdido I |
| 2 - Yellow River Ranch (ILF) | 15 - Bluff Springs |
| 3 - Lafayette Creek (ILF) | 16 - Brewer |
| 4 - Ward Creek West (ILF) | 17 - Rogers |
| 5 - Tates Hell (ILF & Non-ILF Components) | 18 - Devils Swamp |
| 6 - Shuler (ILF) | 19 - Choctawhatchee-Caryville |
| 7 - Live Oak (ILF & Non-ILF Components) | 20 - Lynn Haven Breakwater |
| 8 - Sand Hill Lakes (Mitigation Bank) | 21 - Juniper Creek Headwaters Preserve |
| 9 - Cotton Creek | 22 - Bellamy (Calhoun Co. Airport Mitigation) |
| 10 - Perdido II | 23 - Cat Point Breakwater |
| 11 - Plum Creek | 24 - Meginniss Arm |
| 12 - St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve | 25 - Mystic Springs |
| 13 - Jones Swamp (Schluter Parcel) | |



NFWWMD Mitigation Program



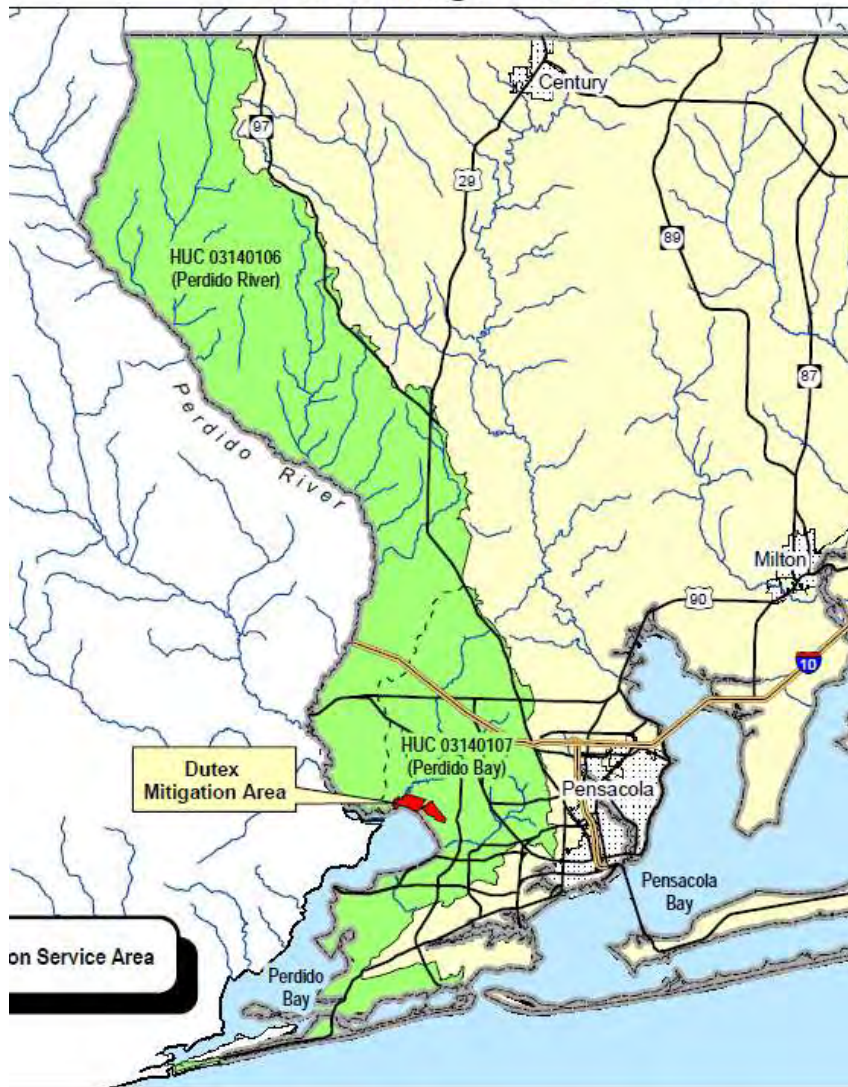
- In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Project
- Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank
- Other Mitigation Project
- Approved NFWWMD Mitigation Service Areas

1 - Dutex (ILF)	21.79 Credits Used	41.51 Credits Available
2 - Yellow River Ranch (ILF)	21.41 Credits Used	1.29 Credits Available
3 - Lafayette Creek (ILF)	15.67 Credits Used	13.80 Credits Available
4 - Ward Creek West (ILF)	44.68 Credits Used	58.09 Credits Available
5 - Tates Hell (ILF)	0.81 Credits Used	35.35 Credits Available
6 - Shuler (ILF)	6.05 Credits Used	27.90 Credits Available
7 - Live Oak Peninsula (ILF)	3.98 Credits Used	0.00 Credits Available
8 - Sand Hill Lakes (Bank)	111.25 Credits Used	73.38 Credits Available



Dutex ILF Mitigation Area

Dutex Mitigation Service Area

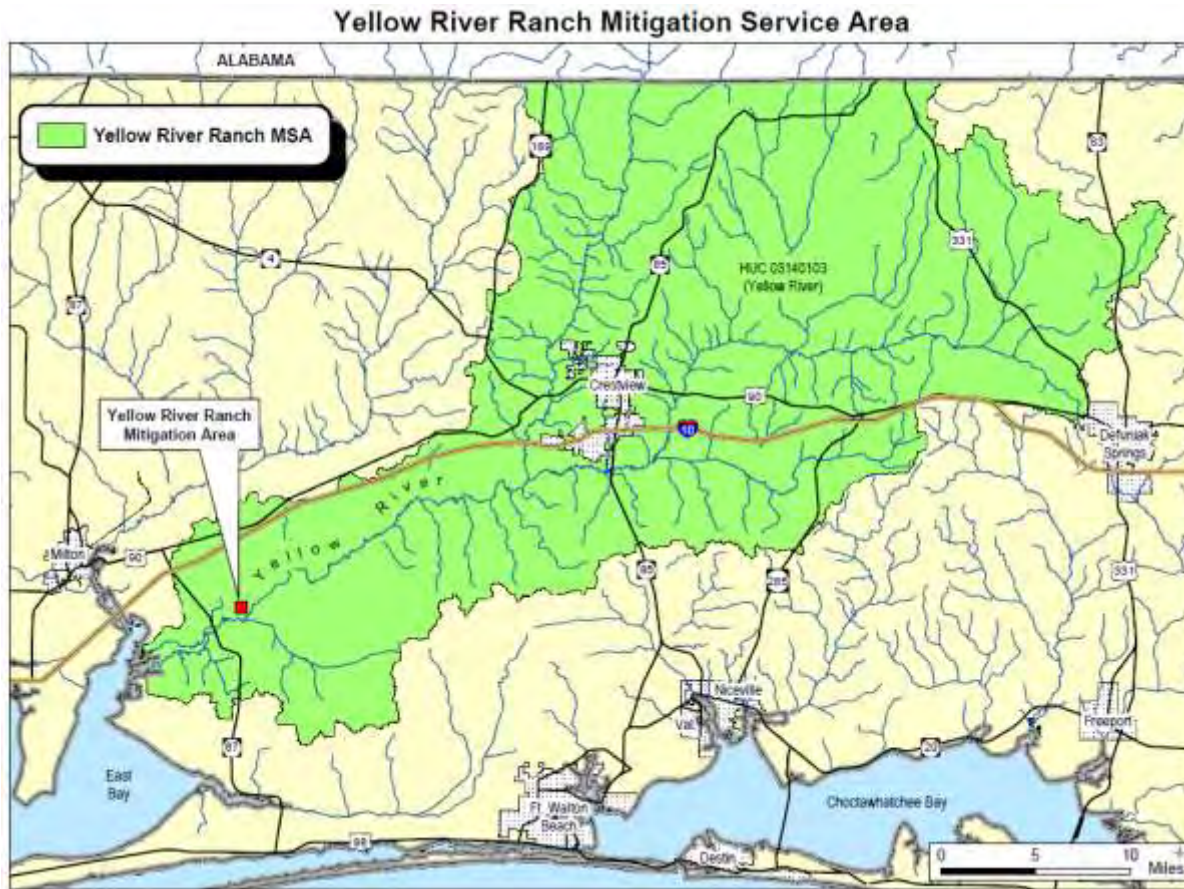


Total Potential Credits = 107.16

- Estuarine Emergent
 - 10.15 (Potential)
 - 6.00 (Released)
 - 0.00 (Debited)
 - 6.00 (Balance)
- Palustrine Emergent
 - 7.58 (Potential)
 - 4.48 (Released)
 - 0.00 (Debited)
 - 4.48 (Balance)
- Palustrine Scrub/Shrub
 - 0.52 (Potential)
 - 0.31 (Released)
 - 0.00 (Debited)
 - 0.31 (Balance)
- Palustrine Forested
 - 88.90 (Potential)
 - 52.51 (Released)
 - 22.21 (Debited)
 - 30.30 (Balance)

Note--these credits totals are subject to minimal adjustment resulting from use of an updated project boundary. Current total available credit balance is 41.09. No private banks exist or are known to be under development in the Perdido watershed.

Yellow River Ranch ILF Mitigation Area



Total Potential Credits = 33.88

- Palustrine Emergent
 - 11.89 (Potential)
 - 7.96 (Released)
 - 7.96 (Debited)
 - 0.00 (Balance)
- Palustrine Forested
 - 21.99 (Potential)
 - 14.74 (Released)
 - 5.47 (Debited)
 - 9.27 (1.29 State Balance)

No additional credit releases anticipated for 5+ years. Federal/State credit balance difference results from a federal requirement of 11.03 credits and a state requirement of 19.01 credits for SR 87 at Yellow River Bridge. No private mitigation bank options in this area.

Lafayette Creek ILF Mitigation Area

Lafayette Creek Mitigation Service Area



Total Potential Credits =
50.30

Palustrine Forested

- 50.30 (Potential)
- 29.47 (Released)
- 15.67 (Debited)
- 13.80 (Balance)

Majority of service
area is covered by
private mitigation
banks.

Live Oak ILF Mitigation Area



Total Potential Credits = 3.98

Palustrine Forested

- 2.66 (Potential)
- 2.66 (Released)
- 2.66 (Debited)
- 0.00 (Balance)

Estuarine Emergent

- 2.66 (Potential)
- 2.66 (Released)
- 2.66 (Debited)
- 0.00 (Balance)

No private banks in this area have estuarine credits. Consideration of expansion of Live Oak project to generate additional estuarine credits?

Ward Creek West ILF Mitigation Area

Ward Creek West Mitigation Service Area



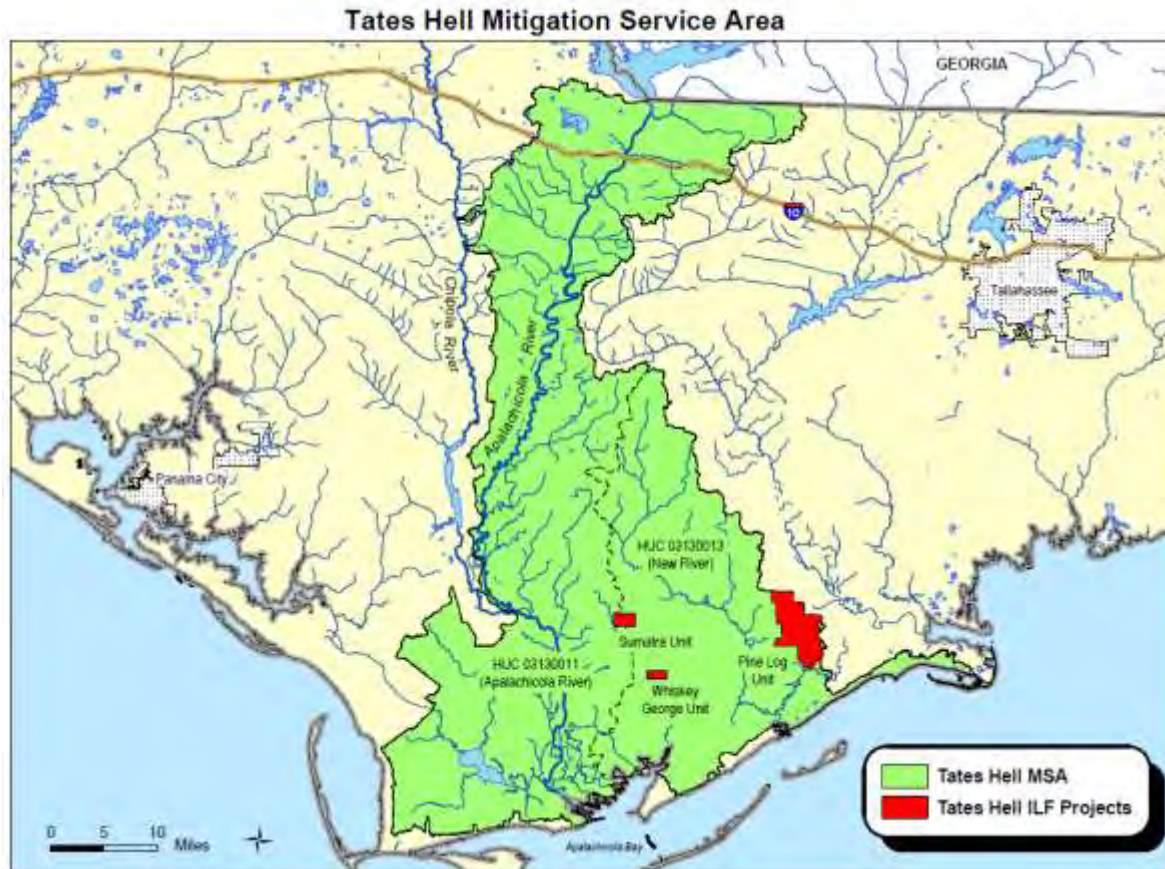
Total Potential Credits = 173.76

Palustrine Forested

- 173.76 (Potential)
- 102.77 (Released)
- 67.06 (Debited)
- 35.71 (Balance)

Multiple private mitigation banks in area. NFWFMD does not compete with private banks.

Tates Hell ILF Mitigation Area



Total Potential Credits =
50.30

Palustrine Emergent

- 8.12 (Potential)
- 8.12 (Released)
- 0.00 (Debited)
- 8.12 (Balance)

Palustrine Forested

- 30.40 (Potential)
- 28.04 (Released)
- 0.95 (Debited)
- 27.09 (Balance)

No private bank options
available in this area.

Shuler ILF Mitigation Area



Total Potential Credits =
50.30

Palustrine Forested

- 33.95 (Potential)
- 33.95 (Released)
- 6.05 (Debited)
- 27.90 (Balance)

No private mitigation bank
options available in this
area.