



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
www.mvk.usace.army.mil

Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	RHW-MVK-2006-1017
EVALUATOR:	Ms. Ramona Warren
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DATE:	September 29, 2008
EXPIRATION DATE:	October 29, 2008

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish a wetland mitigation bank in Webster Parish, Louisiana. A prospectus describing the proposed bank has been received from Dorcheat Land and Timber, the bank sponsor. The mitigation bank site is located in sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13 and 14, Township 20 North, Range 10 West (enclosure 1).

Description: This wetland mitigation bank is being proposed by the bank Sponsor as a means to meet the requirements for compensatory mitigation for future and as yet unknown wetland losses, which may be permitted by the Corps under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The tract contains a total of 1,548 acres which also includes 248 acres mature forested wetlands, 20 acres maintained roads and 53 acres of Dorcheat bayou. The bank sponsor proposes to develop a wetland mitigation bank by preservation of 1,104 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands (248 acres mature forested wetland, 62 acres of regenerating floodplain rises, and 794 acres of regenerating bottomland hardwood wetland), enhancement of 139 acres of bottomland hardwood wetland, and the 20 acres maintained roads. The preservation and enhancement of the 1,263 acre area will increase wetland functions, provide species diversity, and increase the width of a wildlife corridor along the Dorcheat Bayou.

Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions: The proposed mitigation bank is located approximately 8.7 miles northwest of Minden in Webster Parish, Louisiana. The site is located within the United States Geological Survey Cataloging Units 11140202 and 11140203 within the Red, Ouachita and Mississippi River Basin (enclosure 2).

The proposed mitigation bank area lies within the floodplain of

Dorcheat Bayou (3.5 miles; 53 acres), which is listed as a Louisiana Natural and Scenic River. The bayou bisects the proposed mitigation bank site; however, the bayou is not included in the bank acreage.

The proposed mitigation bank site contains clear cut areas on the west and east side of Dorcheat bayou. On the east side of Dorcheat bayou is a small cypress slough bounded by clear cut areas with early successional herbaceous vegetation. Adjacent to the west side of bayou is a mature cypress slough. There is a forested slough that feeds Dorcheat Bayou within non-harvested portions of the proposed mitigation bank site (enclosure 3). Over the past 3 to 4 years logging activities has been conducted on 65 percent of the propose mitigation bank area. The remaining 35 percent is comprised of mature bottomland wetlands, Dorcheat Bayou, small upland islands, and existing logging roads. Currently the proposed mitigation banking site is used for recreational activities including hunting and fishing.

Mapped soil types within the site consist mostly of Guyton-Ouachita silt loam, which is frequently flooded. A few small areas within the floodplain are mapped as Cahaba fine sandy loam with 1 to 3 percent slopes. According to the Nature Resource Conservation Service Guyton and Ouachita soils are listed as hydric for Webster Parish (enclosure 4).

The mitigation bank would consist of a total of 1,263 acres. This would include 1104 acres of preserved bottomland hardwood (248 acres mature forested wetland, 62 acres of regenerating floodplain rises, and 794 acres of regenerating bottomland hardwood wetland) and of 139 acres of enhanced bottomland hardwood wetlands(enclosure 5). Existing dirt logging roads (20 acres/ 143,576 linear feet would be maintained for continued access to the mitigation bank. Hydrology would be restored by removal of timber debris from the small drainages throughout the property. To restore forested wetland areas, seedlings would be planted bare root, at a rate of 300 stems per acre, on 12-foot by 12-foot row spacing.

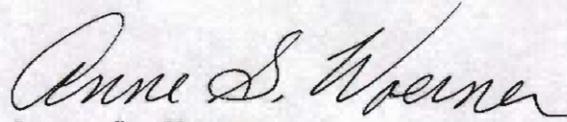
The primary service area would include hydrologic unit codes 11140202 and 111402203. Secondary service area would include hydrologic unit codes 11140206 and 11140204 (enclosure 2).

The Draft Mitigation Bank Agreement, which outlines the conceptual plan for the bank, is available for review at the Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers, at the address given below.

Comments on this proposed mitigation bank may be provided to the Corps at the address below. Comments should be received no later than the expiration date of this public notice.

Please provide comments to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
Attention: CEMVK-OD-F
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3485



Anne S. Woerner
Chief, Evaluation Section

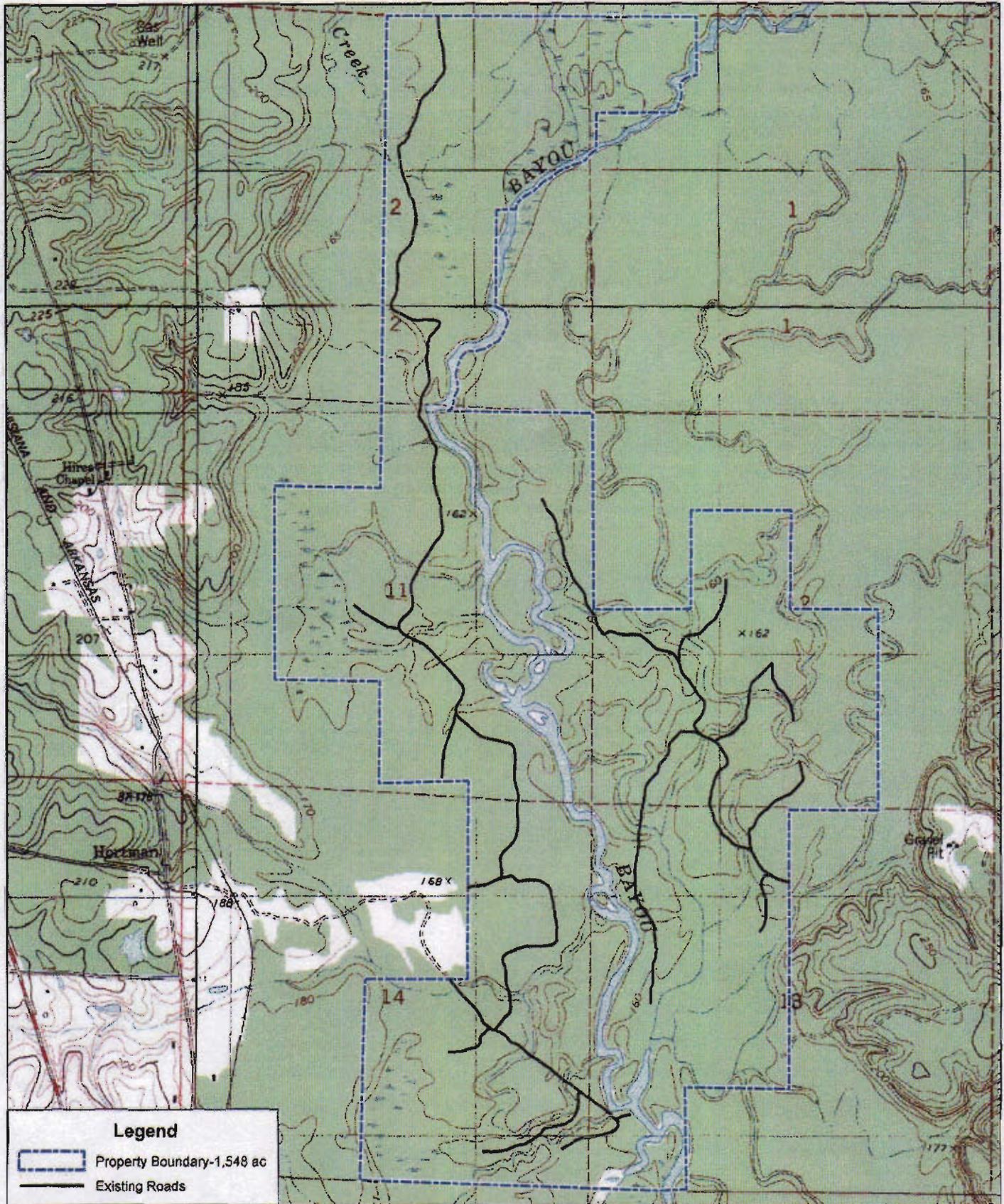


Figure 2. Dorcheat Bayou Mitigation Bank Topographic Map
Webster Parish, LA



1501 Bill Owens Parkway
Longview, TX 75604
Phone: (903) 297-4573
Fax: (903) 297-4575

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USGS 7.5' Quadrangles: Leton, LA (1981);
Minden North, LA (1981)

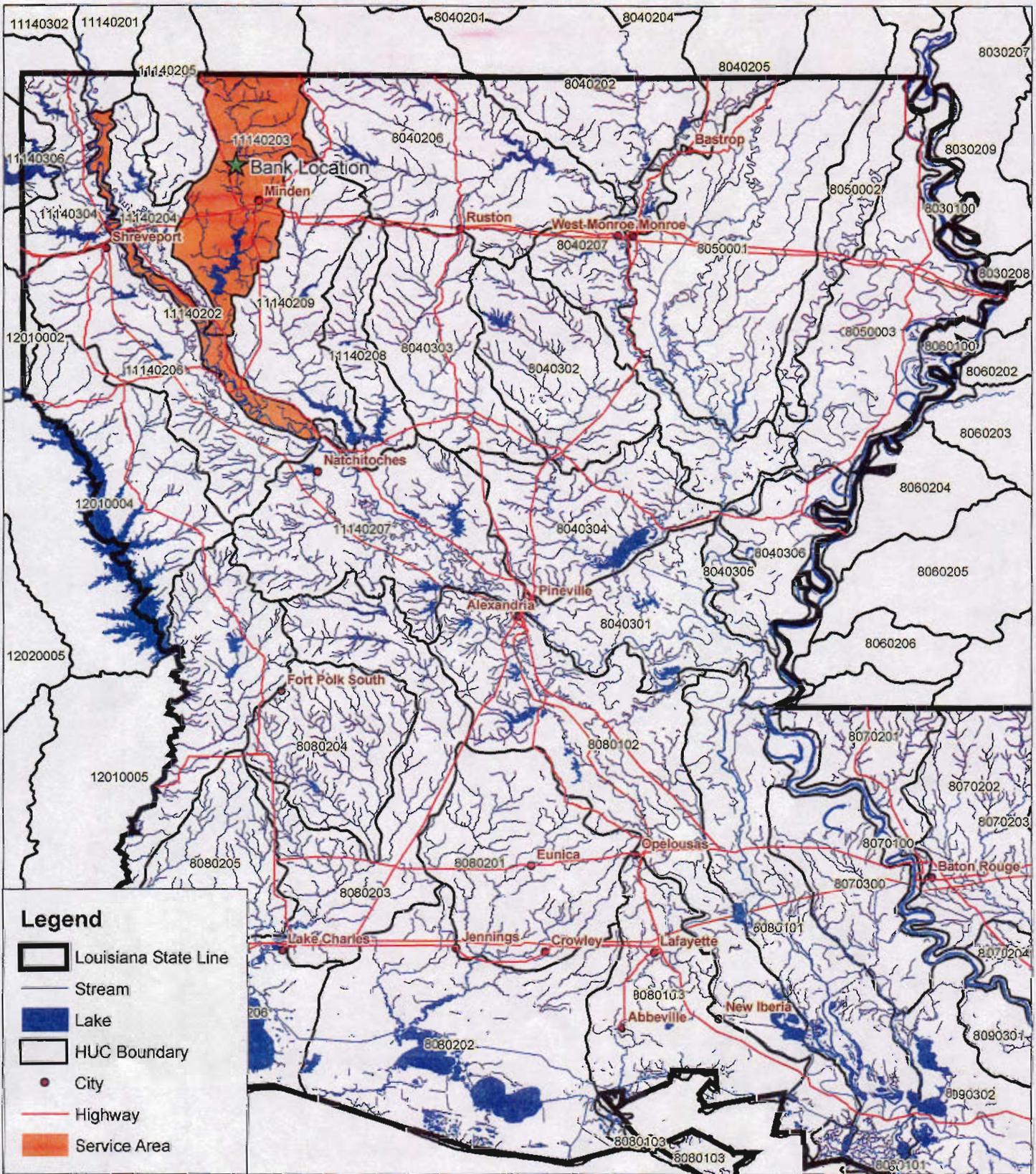


Figure 6. Service Area of the Dorcheat Bayou Mitigation Bank

HUC #'s 11140202 and 11140203

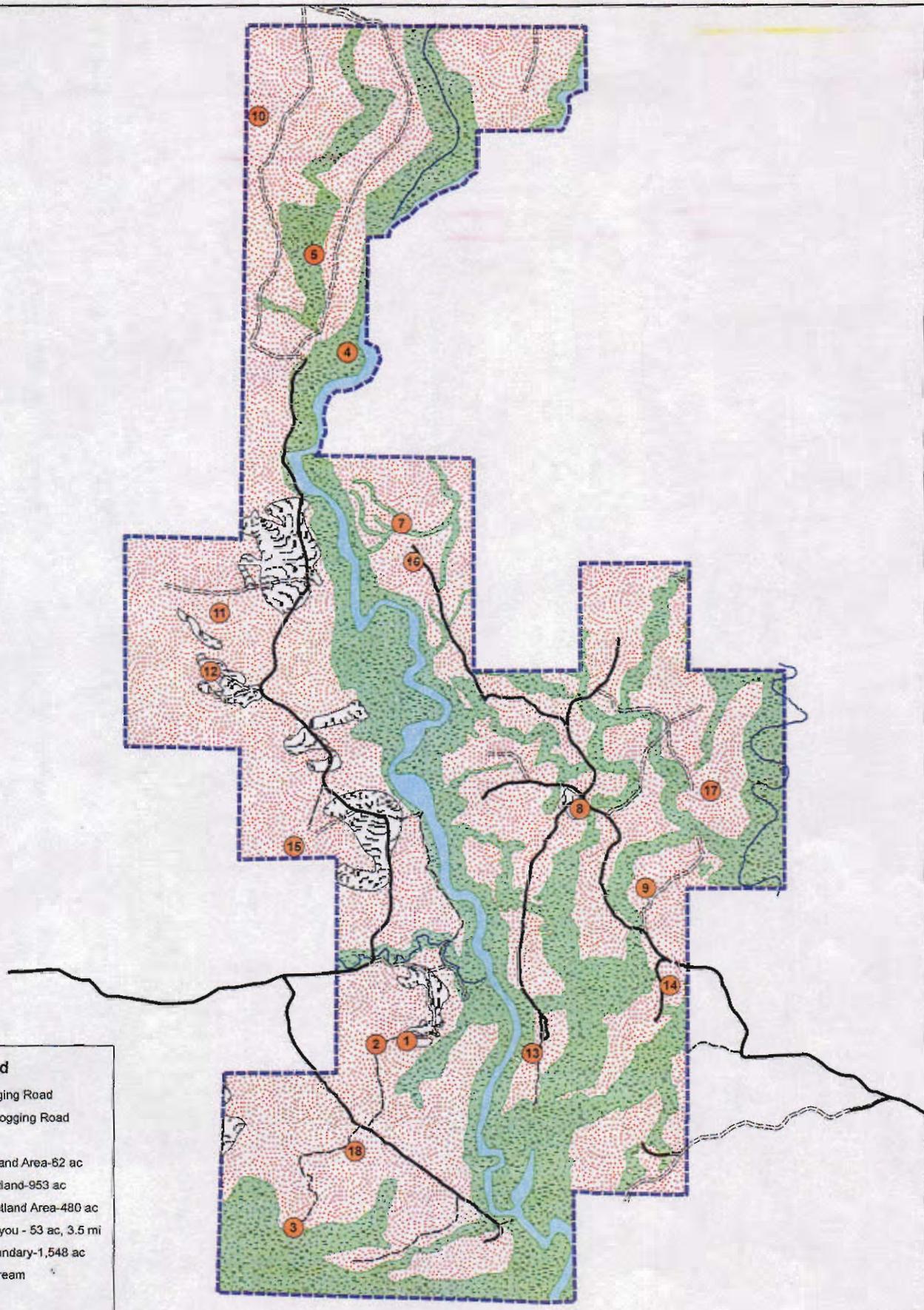


1501 Bill Owens Parkway
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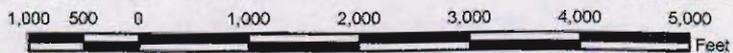
ENCL 2



Legend

- Primary Logging Road
- Secondary Logging Road
- ATV Trail
- Clearcut Upland Area-62 ac
- Clearcut Wetland-953 ac
- Forested Wetland Area-480 ac
- Dorcheat Bayou - 53 ac, 3.5 mi
- Property Boundary-1,548 ac
- Perennial Stream
- Data Points

Figure 5. Existing Conditions of the Dorcheat Bayou Mitigation Bank
Webster Parish, LA



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Coordinate Sys. UTM NAD27 Zone 15
Units: Meters

SPL 3



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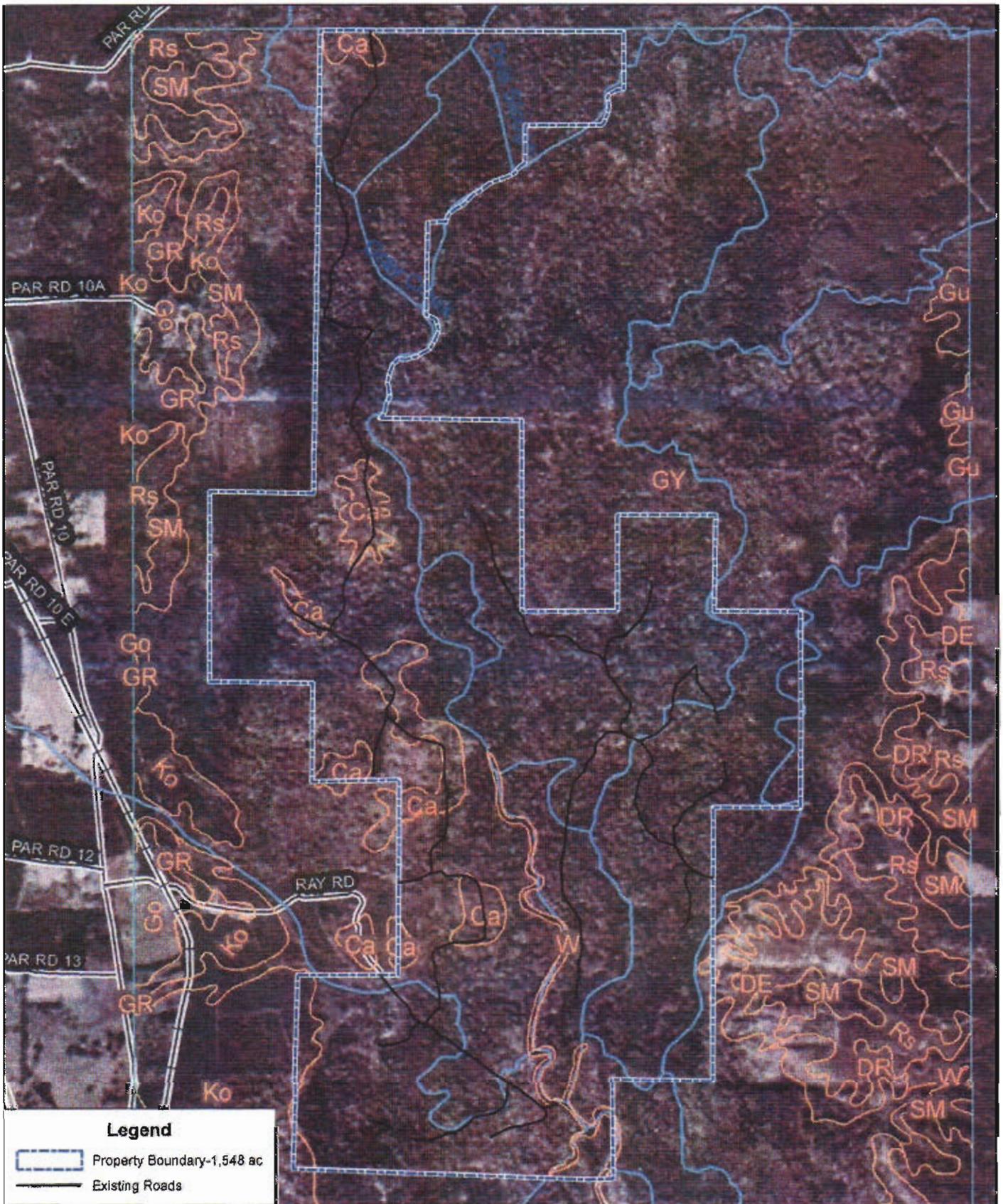


Figure 4. Dorcheat Bayou Mitigation Bank Soils Map
Webster Parish, LA

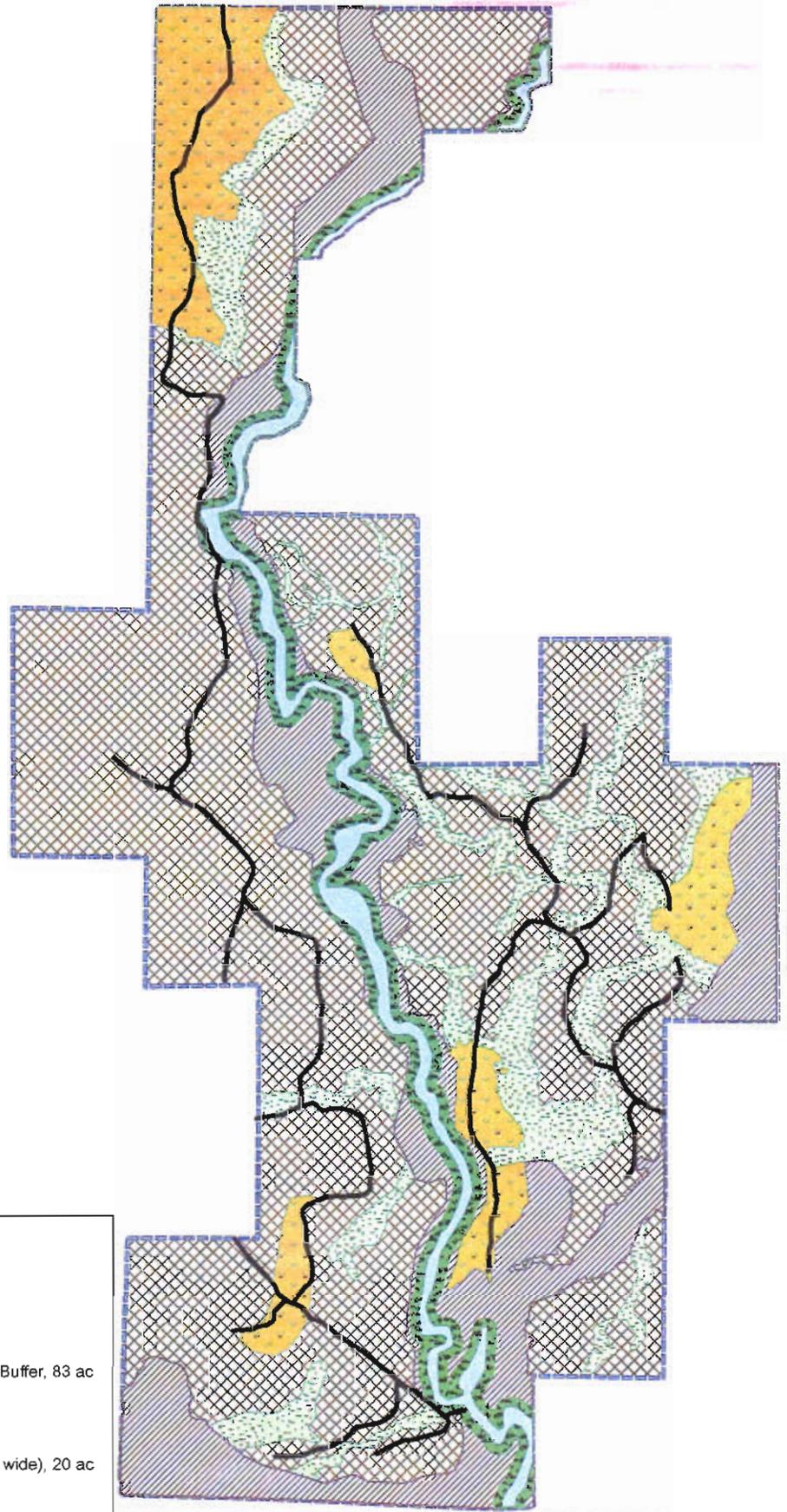


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Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey 2.0 (10/18/2007)



Legend

-  Property Boundary-1,548 ac
-  Preservation- Regenerating Area-856 ac
-  Preservation- Mature Hardwood-165 ac
-  Preservation- Mature Dorcheat Riparian 100-ft Buffer, 83 ac
-  Enhancement- Supplemental Planting, 139 ac
-  No Credits- Mature Hardwood, 232 ac
-  No Credits- Maintained Roads - 43,576 ft (20 ft wide), 20 ac
-  No Credits- Dorcheat Bayou, 53 ac (3.5 mi)

Figure 7. Management Area Map for the Dorcheat Bayou Mitigation Bank
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ENC 5