## Area Description

Bayou Macon WMA is located in East Carroll Parish approximately 5 miles east of Oak Grove, Louisiana. Compartment 13 encompasses approximately 609 acres of bottomland hardwood forest and is located in Sections 2, 3, and 10 of T21N, R11E and Sections 35 and 36 of T22N, R11E. The boundaries of Compartment 13 are Highway 2 to the north, Compartment 12 to the east, the WMA boundary and Compartment 14 to the west, and the WMA boundary to the south.

# **Current Conditions**

Two forest types are represented in Compartment 13 and consist of Nuttall oak/ overcup oak/ bitter pecan (453 acres) and American elm/ green ash/ sugarberry (154 acres). Compartment 13 has a basal area of 84.9 square feet and a stocking of 164 trees per acre. The average tree diameter is 8.6 inches. Total volumes were calculated to be 8.481 cords per acre of pulpwood and 1.335 DMBF per acre of sawtimber.

### Forest Type

The Nuttall oak/ overcup oak/ bitter pecan forest type encompasses 453 acres, represents 75% of the compartment, and is found on some of the lower areas within Compartment 13. The overstory consist of Nuttall oak, overcup oak, bitter pecan, honey locust, American elm, persimmon, red maple, green ash, boxelder, sweetgum, and sugarberry. The midstory is well developed and consisted of younger individuals of the overstory, but smaller patches of deciduous holly, swamp privet and *Crategus* spp. Are also present. The understory plant community is minimal in some areas of this forest type. This is due to lower elevation that facilitates frequent flooding. Dryer sites within this forest type exhibited adequate patches of browse, nest habitat, and escape cover. These areas are mounds and ridges that raise the elevation slightly to reduce flooding intensity. The species observed in the understory are palmetto, *Rubus* spp., greenbrier, cross-vine, poison ivy, Virginia creeper, honeysuckle, rattan, *Vitus* spp., and ladies' eardrops.

The American elm/ green ash/ sugarberry forest type is found on higher sites where flooding is not an issue as mentioned previously. The overstory consists of American elm, green ash, sugarberry, cedar elm, water oak, willow oak, cherrybark oak, cow oak, persimmon, sweet pecan, and sweetgum. This forest type also has a lower basal area which results in greater development of the midstory. Browse and escape cover is uniformly distributed across this forest type due to lack of prolonged flooding. *Rubus* spp., cross-vine, Virginia creeper, honeysuckle, ladies' eardrops, greenbrier, rattan vine, and *Vitus* spp. are all present in adequate abundance throughout this forest type.

### Soil

The primary soil type in Compartment 13 is Sharkey clay, making up 97% of the area. Tunica clay makes up 1.7%, and Tensas silty clay makes up 0.9%. These soils are highly fertile, poorly drained, and have very high potential for shrinking and swelling. With the surface layers and

subsoil being clayed, water movement through the soil profile is very slow. This allows annual flooding to occur after heavy rain events and shapes the current forest types in this compartment.

# Wildlife

Bayou Macon WMA provides habitat for many game and non-game species. White-tailed deer, squirrels, beaver, coyote, fox, wild turkey, resident and migrant birds, and an assortment of herpetofauna species utilize this compartment throughout the year. The rolling topography of Compartment 13 provides adequate browse and escape cover while still meeting timber stand condition objectives with respect to diversity, structure, vigor, and health. Snags, uprooted trees, and downed woody material were all present in Compartment 13, thus providing additional structure and denning opportunity.

### **Objectives**

- Allow compartment to continue to develop
- Allow average tree diameter to increase before additional treatments are proposed

# **Methods**

• No habitat treatment at this time

### **Concerns**

• No concerns

### **Treatment**

• No treatment recommended at this time

### **Additional Entry Requirements**

• Re-evaluate compartment for treatment in 10 years

Attached maps (WMA, Forest Type, and Harvest History)





