

Area Description

Buckhorn WMA is located approximately 15 miles west of St. Joseph, LA in Tensas Parish and is comprised of 11,121 acres of bottomland hardwood forest. Compartment 8 consist of 1,005 acres located within Sections 35 and 36 of T13N R10E, Sections 1, 2, and 12 of T12N R10E, and Sections 6, 7, and 17 of T12N R11E. The boundaries of the compartment are Mound Bayou to the north, Cow Slough to the east, WMA boundary to the west, and Hwy 128 and private property to the south.

Current Conditions

In May of 2019 Compartment 8 was hit by a severe storm which destroyed a significant amount of timber. The majority of the wind damage occurred in the older age classes of timber and released regeneration which has resulted in a well-developed midstory and understory.

Compartment 8 had a basal area of 52.3 ft² and a stocking of 59 trees per acre prior to the storm damage. The average tree diameter was 10.9. Calculated timber volumes for compartment 8 were 5.7 cords per acre of pulpwood and 2.14 DMBF per acre of sawtimber. Approximately half of this volume was damaged or destroyed as a result of storm related wind. The three forest types found within the compartment are the willow oak/ water oak/ sweetgum forest type, the overcup oak/ bitter pecan/ locust forest type, and the cypress forest type.

Forest Types

The willow oak/ water oak/ sweetgum forest type encompasses 683 acres, representing 68% of the compartment, and is found on higher sites with better drainage. The main components of the overstory are willow oak, water oak, sweetgum, and Nuttall oak. Other species found in association include American elm, cedar elm, sugarberry, overcup oak, green ash, persimmon, American sycamore, bitter pecan, sassafras, sweet pecan, and southern magnolia. The midstory is composed of sweetgum, American elm, cedar elm, sugarberry, green ash, trifoliate orange, *Crataegus* spp., water elm, and deciduous holly. The midstory is well developed within portions of this forest type due to storm related events occurring in the area. The understory is predominately composed of palmetto in some areas, but *Smilax* spp., *Rubus* spp., poison ivy, Virginia creeper, rattan vine, ladies' eardrops, and honeysuckle are all present in abundance where storm damage has allowed sunlight to reach the forest floor.

The overcup oak/ bitter pecan/ locust forest type, representing 22% of the compartment, consisting of 221 acres found along the borders of cypress sloughs. The main species present in these areas are overcup oak, bitter pecan, and honey locust. Red maple, Nuttall oak, sweetgum, green ash, sugarberry, and American elm are also represented. Red maple, sugarberry, American elm, overcup oak, bitter pecan, honey locust, water elm, and deciduous holly are all found in the midstory. The understory is more developed in this forest type due to a storm salvage treatment conducted in the area in 2000 (See Map 3). *Rubus* spp., *Smilax* spp., poison ivy, Virginia creeper, rattan vine, and ladies' eardrops are all present in the understory, however palmetto continues to be a dominant cover type.

The cypress forest type, restricted to sloughs throughout the compartment, encompasses 99 acres and represents 10% of the compartment. It is comprised mainly of bald cypress, black willow, and honey locust. Water oak, sweet gum, overcup, and Nuttall oak are located along the banks of these sloughs. The midstory of the actual sloughs are younger individuals of the overstory. The understory is extremely sparse due to water depth with only palmetto occurring along the banks of the sloughs.

Soils

Three soil types are found within Compartment 8 which consist of Tensas clay, Tensas-Sharkey clay, and Dowling clay. All three soils are poorly drained which allows seasonal flooding to occur within the compartment. Tensas clay comprises 119 acres of the compartment and is the highest soil type with respect to elevation. Tensas-Sharkey clay encompasses 818 acres of Compartment 8 and is located on the east side of the compartment. These soil types are highly fertile due to sedimentation during flood events. Dowling clay is associated with the cypress sloughs and consists of 69 acres. This area has the lowest elevation which causes prolonged inundation through most of the year.

Wildlife

Compartment 8 currently provides habitat for a variety of non-game and game species. These species include migrant and resident birds, rabbits, squirrels, white-tailed deer, waterfowl, and Louisiana black bear. Fur-bearers including opossum, beaver, bobcat, raccoons, and gray fox also frequent the area. The compartment provides ample nesting and escape cover for all species of concern. Although overabundance of palmetto has reduced browse availability in some areas, browse availability within the compartment remains higher than adjacent compartments. Abundant stags and downed wood resulting from the storm damage provides habitat for small mammals, cavity dwellers, and various species of herpetofauna.

Objectives

- Allow compartment to continue to respond to light availability resulting from storm damage

Methods

- No treatment needed at this time

Concerns

- Control of invasive species

Treatment

- No treatment recommended at this time

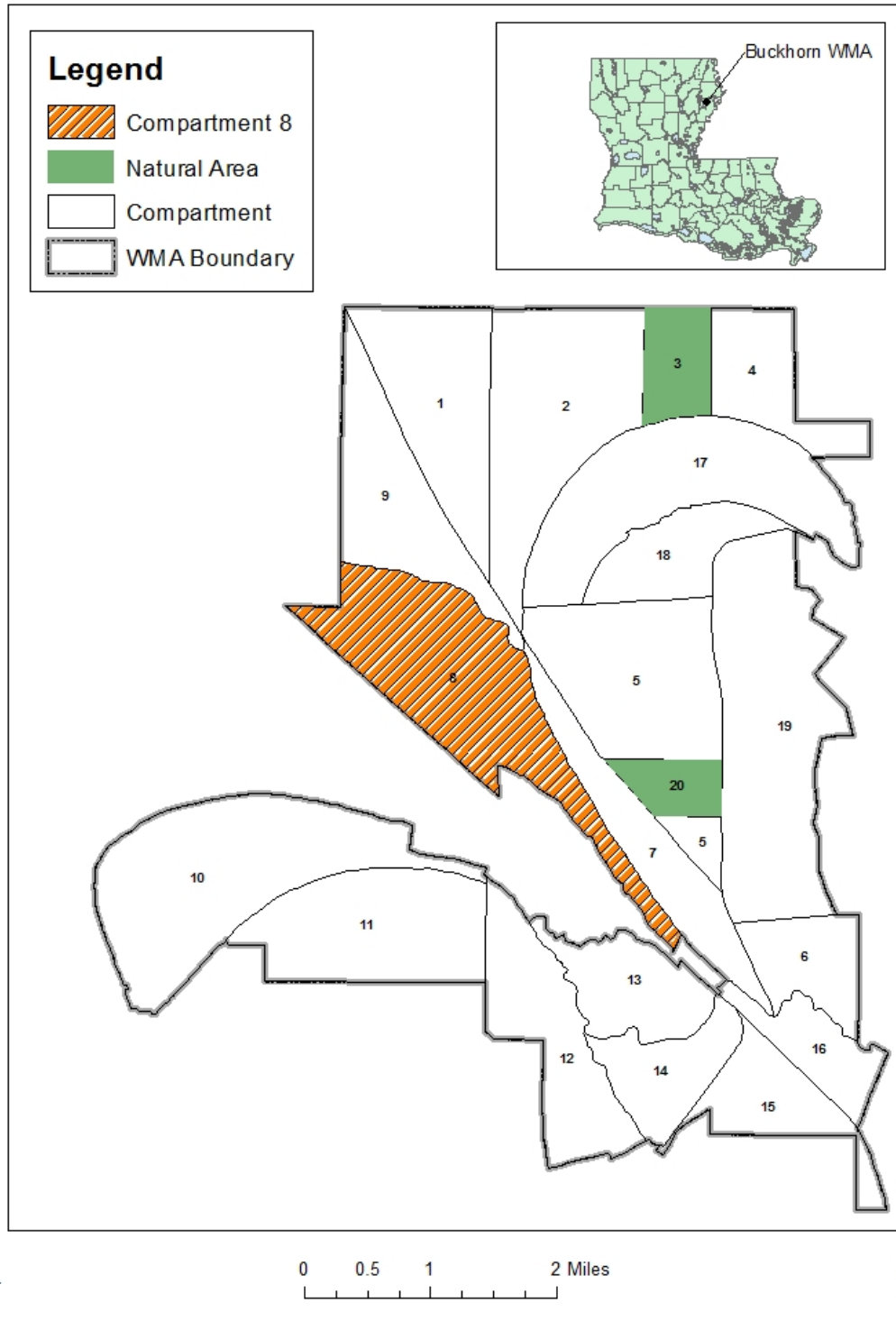
Additional Entry Requirements

- Re-evaluate stand for treatment in 10 years
- Monitor and control establishment of invasive species

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

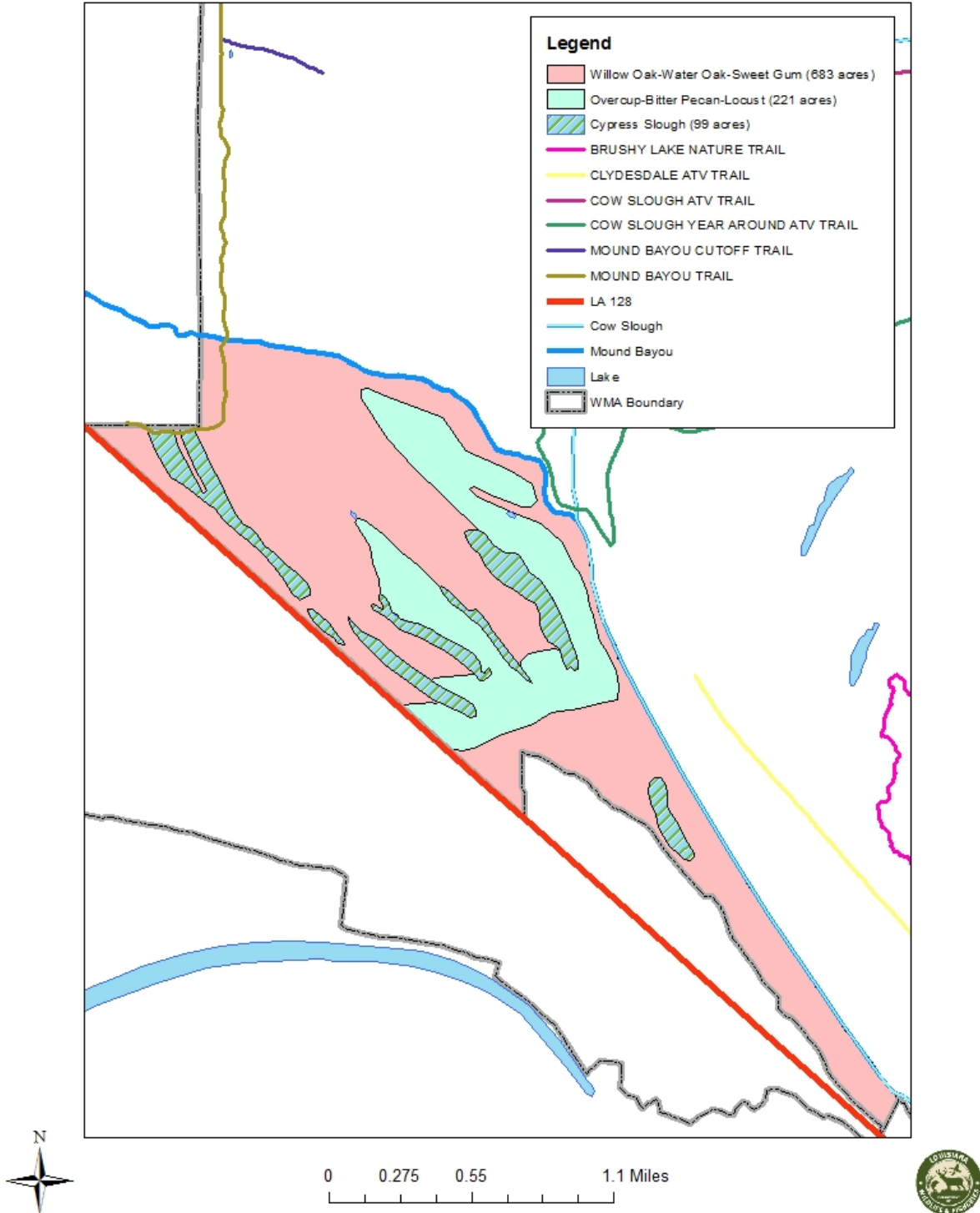
Buckhorn WMA

Map 1



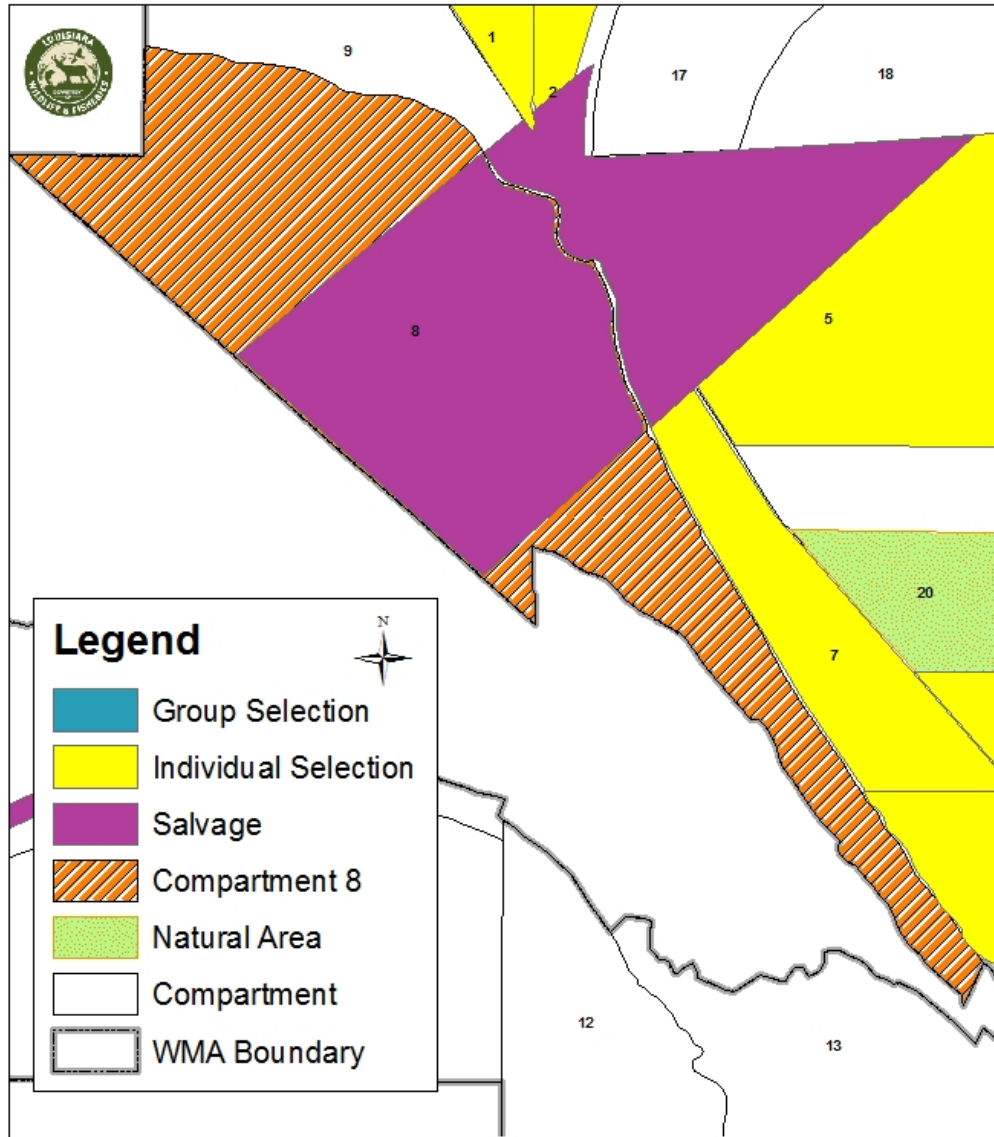
Forest Type Buckhorn WMA

Map 2



Adjacent Treatments Buckhorn WMA

Map 3



Sale Number	Treatment	Acres	Date	Comments	Compartment
47-1a-196	individual selection	245	1997		5,7
47-2-295	individual selection	610	1996		5
47-3-395	individual selection	275	1996		6
47-4-198	individual selection	650	1998		2
47-5-298	individual selection	245	1998		7
47-ss1-100	salvage	400	2000-01	storm damage salvage	8
47-ss2-200	salvage	250	2000-01	storm damage salvage	5,7,9
47-6-199	group selection	230	2000-01	previous individual selection thin in 1996	6
47-8-103	individual selection	554	2005-2006		1