RUSSELL SAGE WMA ***COMPARTMENT 14 Rx***
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Area Description

Russell Sage WMA is located east of Monroe, Louisiana in Ouachita Parish. Compartment 14 consists of 1,519 acres located within Sections 20, 21, 28, 29, and 30 of T17N, R5E. The boundaries of Compartment 14 are Compartment 13 to the north, private land to the south, Bayou Lafourche Diversion Canal to the east, and Main Road to the west.

Current Conditions

Two forest types are represented in Compartment 14 and consist of overcup oak/ Nuttall oak (1,035 acres) and Nuttall oak/ American elm/ sugarberry (458 acres). The majority of the compartment is in good condition with ample escape cover and foraging habitat. The midstory is well developed which provides sufficient structural diversity, while still allowing light to reach the forest floor. Two areas were found within this compartment that warrant treatment with respect to browse availability and escape cover. These areas have a basal area of 99.7 square feet per acre and a stocking of 95.2 trees per acre. The average tree diameter is 13.5 inches. There are approximately 14.6 cords per ac of pulpwood and 2.75 DMBF per acre of sawtimber in the compartment.

A greentree reservoir located in the northern portion of the compartment also affects understory development within the compartment. This area holds water during the winter months to provide waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunity. In February, all the water is released to reduce stress on the timber during the growing season. This allows water to flow into the remainder of the compartment, sometimes for extended periods, hindering growth and establishment of desired understory vegetative structure.

Forest Types

The overcup oak/ Nuttall oak forest type encompasses 1,035 acres, representing 69% of the compartment, and is located in an area prone to flooding from rain water and overflow from the Bayou Lafourche Diversion Canal. The main component of the overstory is overcup oak and Nuttall oak with American elm, sugarberry, cedar elm, bald cypress, persimmon, and green ash found in association. The midstory is composed of deciduous holly, swamp dogwood, *Crategus* spp., sugarberry, green ash, and cedar elm. The understory is composed of ladies' eardrops, rattan vine, *Rubus* spp., *Smilax* spp., trumpet creeper, poison ivy, and peppervine. The overall condition of the understory is poor due to flooding and lack of sunlight.

The Nuttall oak/ American elm/ sugarberry forest type consists of 458 acres, represents 31% of the compartment, and is found on higher sites within the compartment that receive less flooding throughout the year. The overstory consist of Nuttall oak, American elm, sugarberry, willow oak, cedar elm, blackgum, black locust, overcup oak, and bitter pecan. The midstory is comprised of willow oak, overcup oak, American elm, cedar elm, deciduous holly, and *Crategus* spp. The understory is sparse due to limited sunlight and consists of *Rubus* spp., rattan, poison ivy, trumpet creeper, *Smilax* spp., and ladies' eardrops.

Soil
Perry clay is the dominant soil type in Compartment 14, occurring on 96% of the area. Water and dredge material occupies the remaining 4%. These soils are moderately low in fertility and poorly drained. During the winter and spring months the soil is usually wet with annual flood events occurring. Draining of the greentree reservoir adds additional water in late winter to early spring.

Wildlife
Compartment 14 provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. White-tail deer, resident birds, Neotropical migrant birds, squirrels, and rabbits utilize this compartment at some time during the year. Louisiana black bear population continue to increase and are frequent users of the area. Wildlife habitat within the majority of the compartment is in good condition and flooding is the only issue influencing availability of browse, escape cover, and nesting habitat. In two areas, however, the development of the overstory has reduced the development of these essential habitats types by reducing available sunlight. The proposed treatment will stimulate the growth and development of browse and escape cover, while improving structural diversity within the compartment. Large cavity trees will be retained to provide den sites for Louisiana black bear.

Objectives
- Develop a more diverse and complex forest structure
- Improve stand health and vigor
- Release advanced regeneration

Methods
Individual Selection (270 acres)
- Cut trees marked with two slashes of blue paint, one at eye level and one on the stump
- Boundaries marked with orange paint with paint facing treatment area
- Trees of higher quality and favorable crown condition will be retained
- Species diversity will be promoted by retaining species present in limited abundance

Concerns
- Limit soil compaction and rutting
- Protect regeneration from logging damage
- Leave active cavities and large diameter hollow trees, protected, for cavity dwellers and Louisiana black bear

Treatment
Individual selection of 270 acres will be used to meet all habitat objectives within Compartment 14. Trees marked for removal will vary in diameter and species to enhance structural complexity and species diversity. Suitable cavity trees, as well as adjacent trees, will be retained for den sites for Louisiana black bear. Browse is a limiting factor in the treatment area and this treatment will aid in alleviating this problem by allowing much needed light to reach the forest floor. Areas where oak regeneration is observed will be marked heavier to promote advancement of regeneration. Trees with high quality and favorable crown position will be retained.

Logging Requirements

- No harvest during wet periods
- No harvesting during the firearm seasons for white-tailed deer
- All logging slash at each loading set will be redistributed throughout harvest area
- Follow Louisiana BMP guidelines at all times
- Loggers should be informed of the presence of Louisiana black bear; if operating between January and April and if a bear is seen within treatment area, the logger should leave *immediate* vicinity and contact LDWF Forester. Harvesting may continue in *immediate* vicinity of sighting only after approval from LDWF Forester.

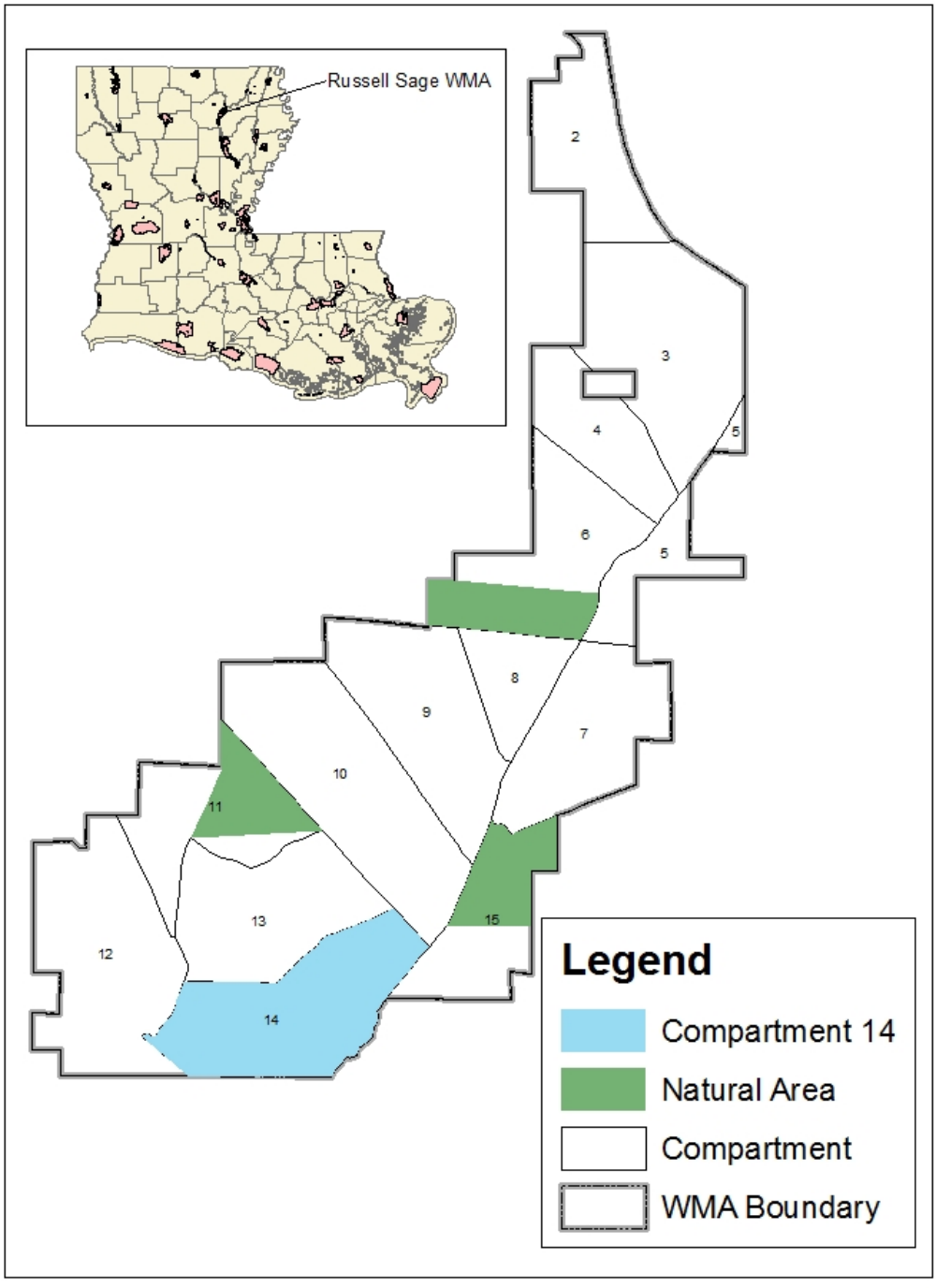
Additional Entry Requirements

Monitor establishment of regeneration and development of released stems

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

Russell Sage WMA

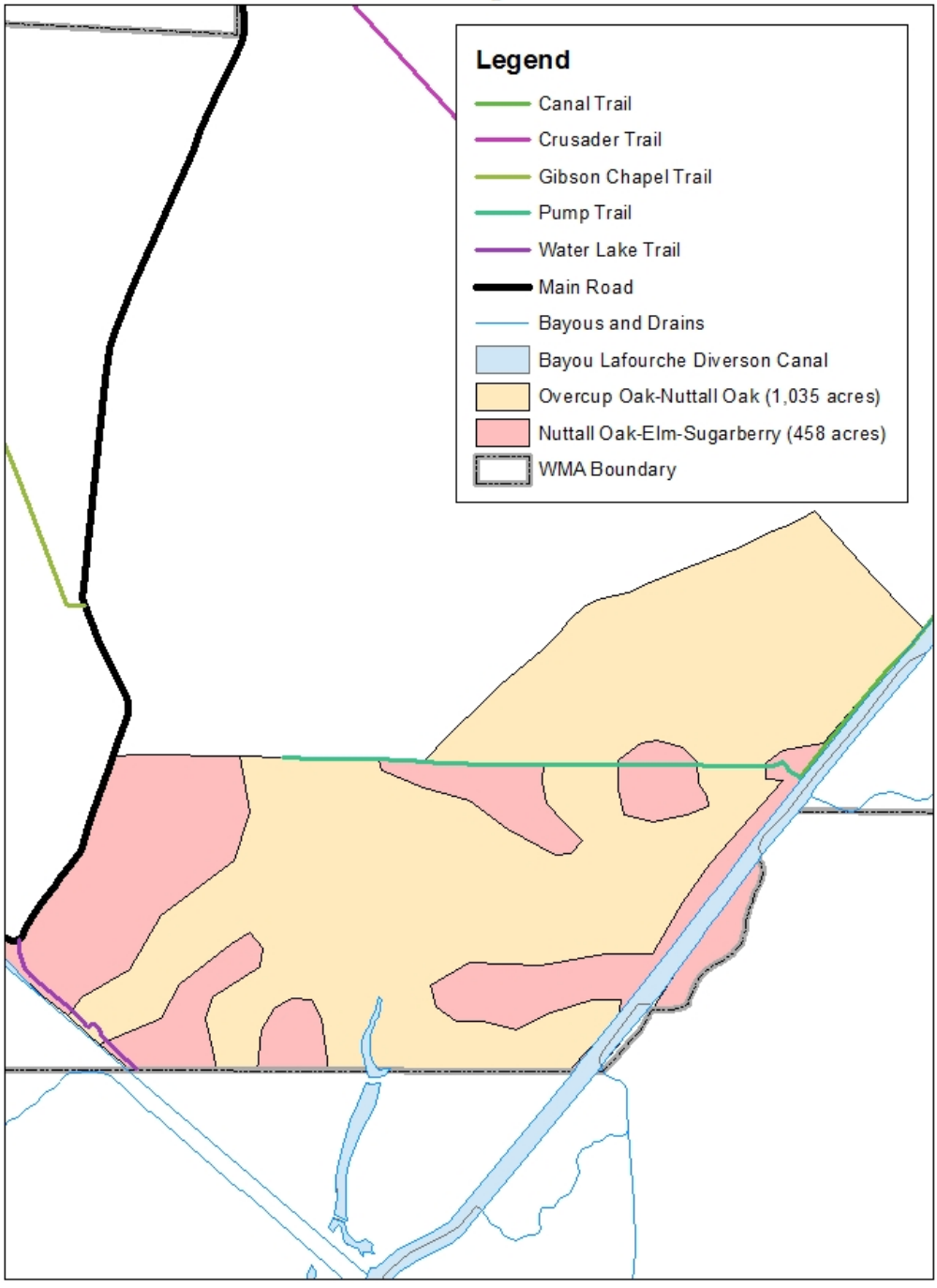
Map 1



Forest Type

Russell Sage WMA

Map 2



Proposed Treatment

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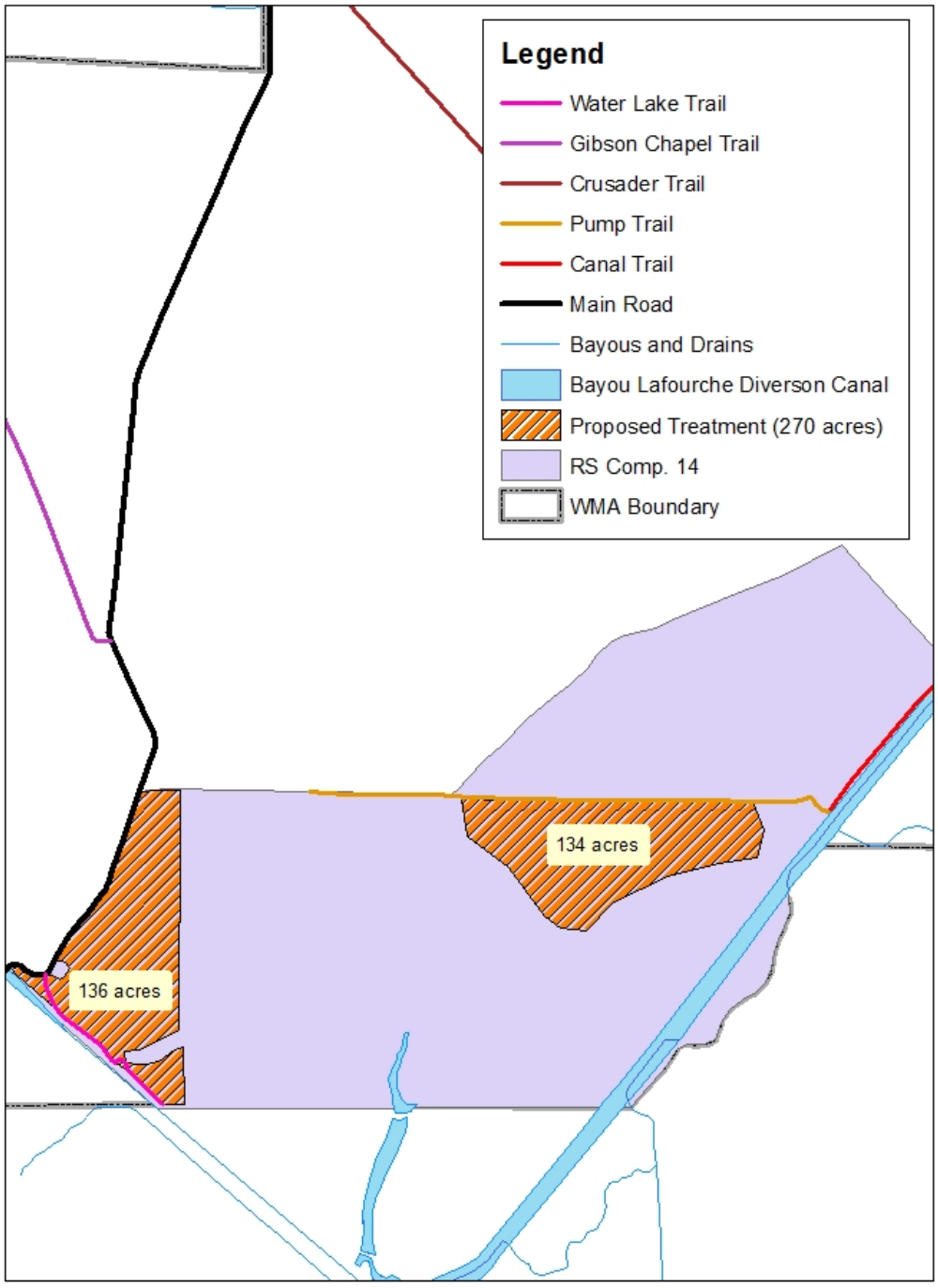
Map 3



Adjacent Treatments

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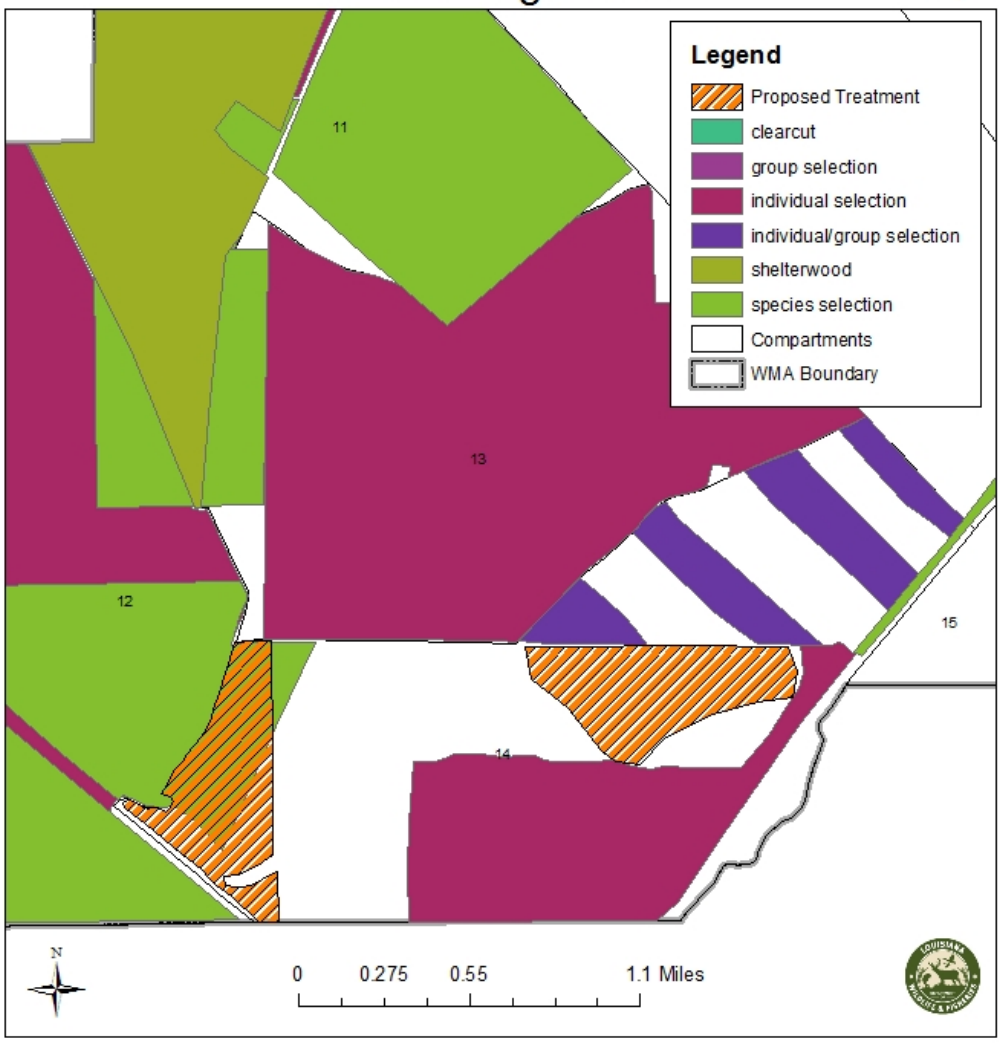
Map 4



Sale Number	Treatment	Acres	Date	Comments	Compartment
22-2-87	individual selection	340	1987		14
22-1-87	individual selection	160	1987		11
22-15-188	individual/group selection	166	1988	four units	14
22-19-196	individual selection	1495	1996		12
22-21-199	individual selection	1200	8/2000-10/2003		13
180-6-64	species selection	360	1967	one of three units in same sale	12,14
180-6-64	species selection	480	1968	one of three units in same sale	12
180-7-166	species selection	300	1970		11,12,13
180-4-49	species selection	500	1975		11
180-8-2	species selection	225	1978-79		11
180-4-09	species selection	400	1985	Lafourche spoil bank	3,4,6,8,9,10,14
22-24-104	shelterwood	415	2005		11