

**Area Description**

Russell Sage WMA is located in Ouachita, Richland, and Caldwell Parishes, approximately 5 miles southeast of Monroe, LA. Compartment 10 encompasses approximately 343 acres and is located within Sections 27 and 34 of T16N, R4E. The compartment is bounded by Halfway Bayou to the north, the Saline Trail to the east, Section 3 line to the south, and the WMA boundary to the west.

**Current Conditions**

Within the compartment, there are scattered mature trees, with a high number of pulpwood stems. Disperse breaks in the canopy allow for the development of early successional plant communities which provide scattered cover and browse, however these areas are few and are being very heavily browsed. The understory throughout most of the compartment is limited due to a closed overstory canopy. There are 1.2 MBF per acre of sawtimber and 48.5 tons per acre of pulpwood within the compartment. The estimated basal area is 69 square feet per acre and tree density is 84 trees per acre.

***Forest Types***

The two forest types found within this compartment are the willow oak forest type and the Nuttall oak/ overcup oak forest type.

The willow oak forest type, consisting of 177 acres, is found on the higher elevation, higher fertility, and better-drained soils of the compartment. The overstory is moderately stocked, with stems in the 8 to 20-inch diameter range, with the majority of the stems being 10 to 15 inches in diameter. Some larger stems are present, scattered throughout the stand. Other species found within with this forest type include cedar elm, sugarberry, and American elm. The midstory, where present, consists of *Crataegus* spp., deciduous holly, *Vitis* spp., rattan, greenbrier, and a limited amount of willow oak, sugarberry, and elm regeneration. The understory of this forest type is sparse, however consists of grasses, palmetto, rattan vine, greenbrier, and *Rubus* spp.

The Nuttall oak/ overcup oak forest type encompasses 166 acres and is found on the lower areas of Compartment 10. Associated species in this forest type include green ash, persimmon, black locust, black willow, red maple, boxelder, and baldcypress. The midstory is comprised of sugarberry, green ash, deciduous holly, and swamp privet. Understory vegetation is minimal due to low light conditions, as well as extended inundation periods, except in areas where tree fall gaps occur. Where canopy gaps exist, understory species found consist of *Rubus* spp., greenbrier, ladies' eardrops, trumpet creeper, climbing dogbane, Virginia creeper, poison ivy, and rattan vine.

### ***Soil***

The dominant soil type in Compartment 10 is Perry clay series. This soil is poorly drained and occasionally flooded. This is due to the concave down-slope shape and the linear across-slope shape of the soil horizons. There are also small areas of Portland silt loam and Portland clay that account to approximately 5% of the soil type. The Portland areas are higher in fertility as well as having a linear profile, causing water inundation periods to be shorter.

### ***Wildlife***

Russell Sage WMA provides habitat for white-tail deer, migrant and resident birds, small mammals, and an assortment of herpetofauna. Due to the near closed canopy state of the compartment, there is a limited amount of browse and escape cover available for wildlife. The structural diversity of the stand is also limited due to the underdeveloped midstory and understory layers of the stand. These habitat components are essential to wildlife and a silvicultural treatment is needed to enhance these components.

### **Objectives**

- Increase tree species diversity
- Improve forest vigor and health
- Release advanced oak regeneration
- Increase vertical and horizontal structural diversity
- Increase long-term wildlife habitat and mast production

### **Methods**

*Individual Selection with Group Selection (120 acres)*

- Cut trees marked with two slashes of blue paint, one at eye level and one on the stump
- Group harvest .25 to 2 acres in size, scattered throughout treatment area
- Treatment boundaries marked with orange paint

### **Concerns**

- Invasive species
- Maintain access and road conditions on the WMA

### **Treatment**

Habitat objectives will be accomplished in Compartment 10 by treating 120 acres with a combination of individual selection and group selection harvest methods. The marked trees should vary in diameter and condition to promote heterogeneity within the stand. Species selection should also vary to ensure that diversity is promoted. This harvest will allow for much needed light to reach the forest floor resulting in the establishment of escape cover, browse, and nesting habitat for wildlife. The harvest treatment will also promote natural regeneration of desirable species. The group selection harvest areas will be used to create disperse areas of early successional habitat as well as release any advanced regeneration present.

### **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**

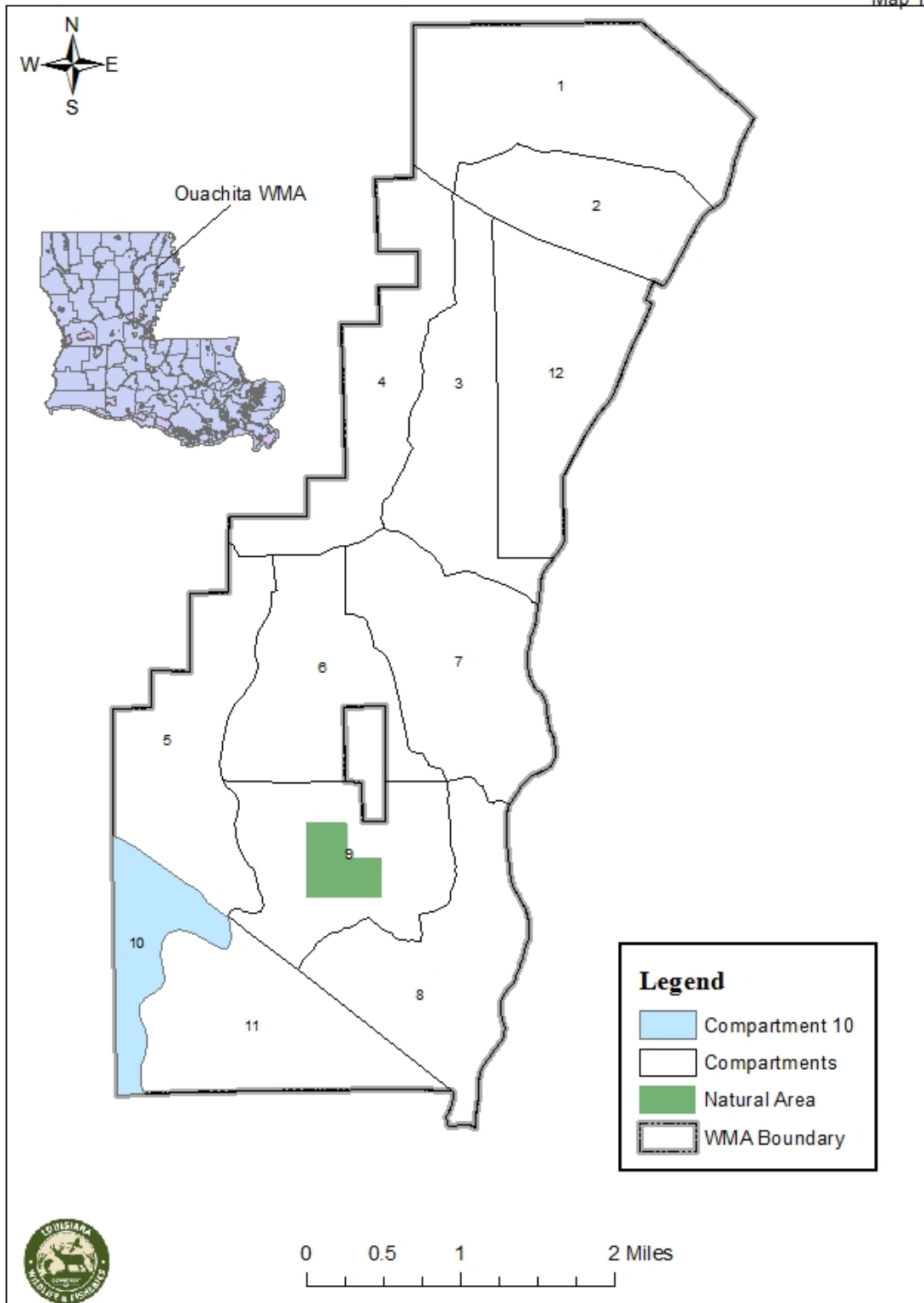
- Re-entry as necessary to monitor stand development

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

# Russell Sage (Ouachita) WMA

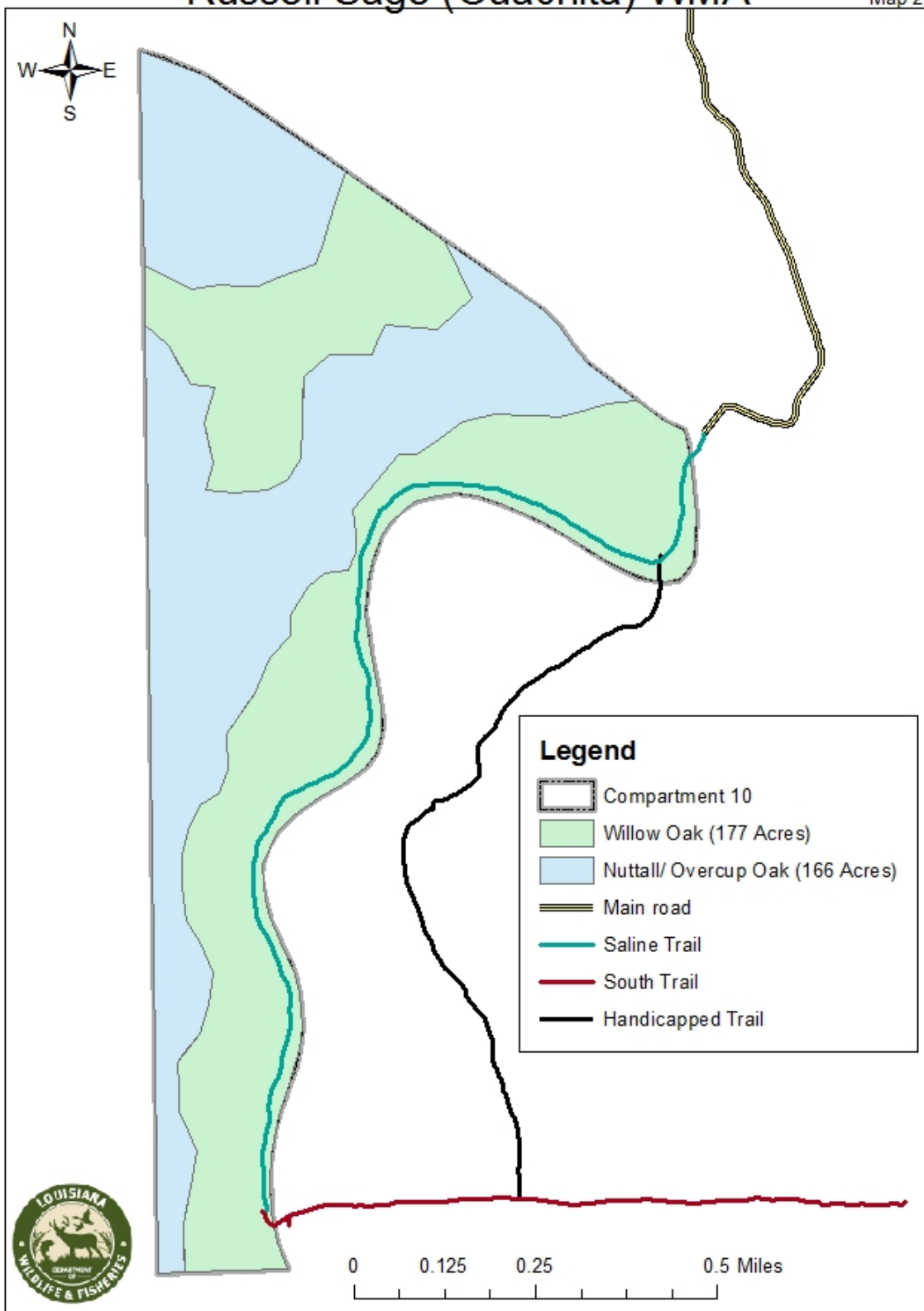
OA Forestry Compartments

Map 1



# Forest Type Russell Sage (Ouachita) WMA

Map 2



# Russell Sage (Ouachita) WMA Compartment OA10 Proposed Treatment

Map 3



# Russell Sage (Ouachita) WMA

Past Treatments

Map 4

