

Area Description

Russell Sage WMA is located east of Monroe, Louisiana in Ouachita Parish. Compartment 3 consists of 1,686 acres located within Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, and 36 of T18N, R5E. The boundaries of Compartment 3 are Compartment 2 to the north, Bayou Lafourche Diversion Canal to the south and east, and a pipeline to the west.

Current Conditions

Three forest types are represented in Compartment 3 and consist of Overcup oak/ bitter pecan (1,121 acres), American elm/ green ash/ sugarberry (269 acres), and willow oak/ cedar elm (240 acres). Compartment 3 has a basal area of 113.3 ft² and a stocking of 141 trees per acre. The average tree diameter is 10.4 inches. There are approximately 10.5 cords/ac of pulpwood and 3.698 DMBF/ac of sawtimber in the compartment.

Forest Types

The overcup oak/ bitter pecan forest type encompasses 1,121 acres, represents 66% of the compartment, and is found on lower areas that are prone to flooding from rain water and back water from the diversion canal. The main component of the overstory is overcup oak, bitter pecan, and Nuttall oak. Other species found within this forest type include sugarberry, persimmon, American elm, red maple, green ash, sweetgum, and bald cypress. Bald cypress presence is extremely low within this forest type and is found primarily along a small drain that is located in the northeast corner of the compartment. The midstory is composed of deciduous holly, swamp dogwood, *Crataegus* spp., sugarberry, American elm, and green ash. Overcup oak and Nuttall oak advanced regeneration is found in limited amounts within this forest type. The overall condition of the midstory is poor due to a reduction in sunlight inhibited by the overstory canopy as well as the flood regime of the area. The understory is composed of rattan, *Rubus* spp., lady's eardrop, poison ivy, greenbrier, Virginia creeper, and trumpet creeper. Oak germinates are present but in minor abundance. The overall condition of the understory is poor due to lack of sunlight and flooding.

The American elm/ green ash/ sugarberry forest type consists of 269 acres, is located along the spoil bank of the diversion canal and Little Boeuf Bayou, and represents 16% of the compartment. The overstory consist of American elm, winged elm, sugarberry, green ash, persimmon, boxelder, red maple, Nuttall oak, overcup oak, and black locust. The midstory is comprised of American elm, sugarberry, green ash, deciduous holly, and *Crataegus* spp. The understory is sparse due to limited sunlight and prolonged flooding and consists of lady's eardrop, *Rubus* spp., rattan, poison ivy, trumpet creeper, and greenbrier.

The willow oak/ cedar elm forest type consists of 240 acres, represents 14% of the compartment, and is located on the western side of the compartment on higher elevations, thus receiving less flooding. The overstory consisted of willow oak, cedar elm, sugarberry, overcup oak, persimmon, cherrybark oak, American elm, red maple, and sweetgum. The midstory consist of deciduous holly, *Crataegus* spp., American elm, sugarberry, cedar elm, and green ash. The midstory is well established throughout most of the forest type and shades out vegetative growth

underneath. The limited understory consists of *Rubus* spp., greenbrier, Virginia creeper, lady's eardrop, trumpet creeper, and poison ivy.

Soil

Perry Clay is the dominant soil type in Compartment 3, occurring on 99.8% of the area. Portland clay occupies the remaining 0.2%. 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.

Wildlife

Compartment 3 provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. White-tail deer, Louisiana black bear, rabbits, squirrels, resident birds, and neotropical migrant birds utilize this compartment throughout the year. During the winter, waterfowl exploit the area for foraging and loafing habitat after rain events inundate the area. With the closed canopy of the overstory, reduction in foraging habitat and escape cover has become an issue due to limited light availability. The proposed treatment will allow light to reach the forest floor and stimulate growth of browse and escape cover, which will improve the structural diversity of the compartment. Large cavity trees consisting of bald cypress provide den sites for the Louisiana black bear.

Objectives

- Increase species diversity
- Improve stand health and vigor
- Release advanced regeneration
- Improve vertical structure
- Retention of large cavity trees for Louisiana black bear

Methods

Individual Selection (511 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

An individual selection harvest of 511 acres will be used to meet all habitat objectives within Compartment 3. Marked trees 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. Large willow oak and all bald cypress will be preserved due to low abundance to ensure diversity is maintained. As mentioned earlier, browse is a

limiting factor in the area and this treatment will alleviate this problem by allowing much needed light to reach the forest floor. In areas where oak regeneration is observed, marking will be heavier to release regeneration. Trees of high quality and favorable crown position will be retained to increase overall timber quality. Due to waterfowl use of the area, good quality red oaks will be retained to increase foraging opportunity.

Logging Requirements

- No harvest during wet periods
- No harvesting during the firearm seasons for white-tailed deer or wild turkey
- All logging slash at each loading set will be redistributed throughout harvest area during harvesting operations
- 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.

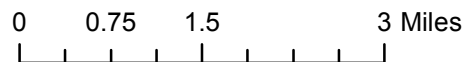
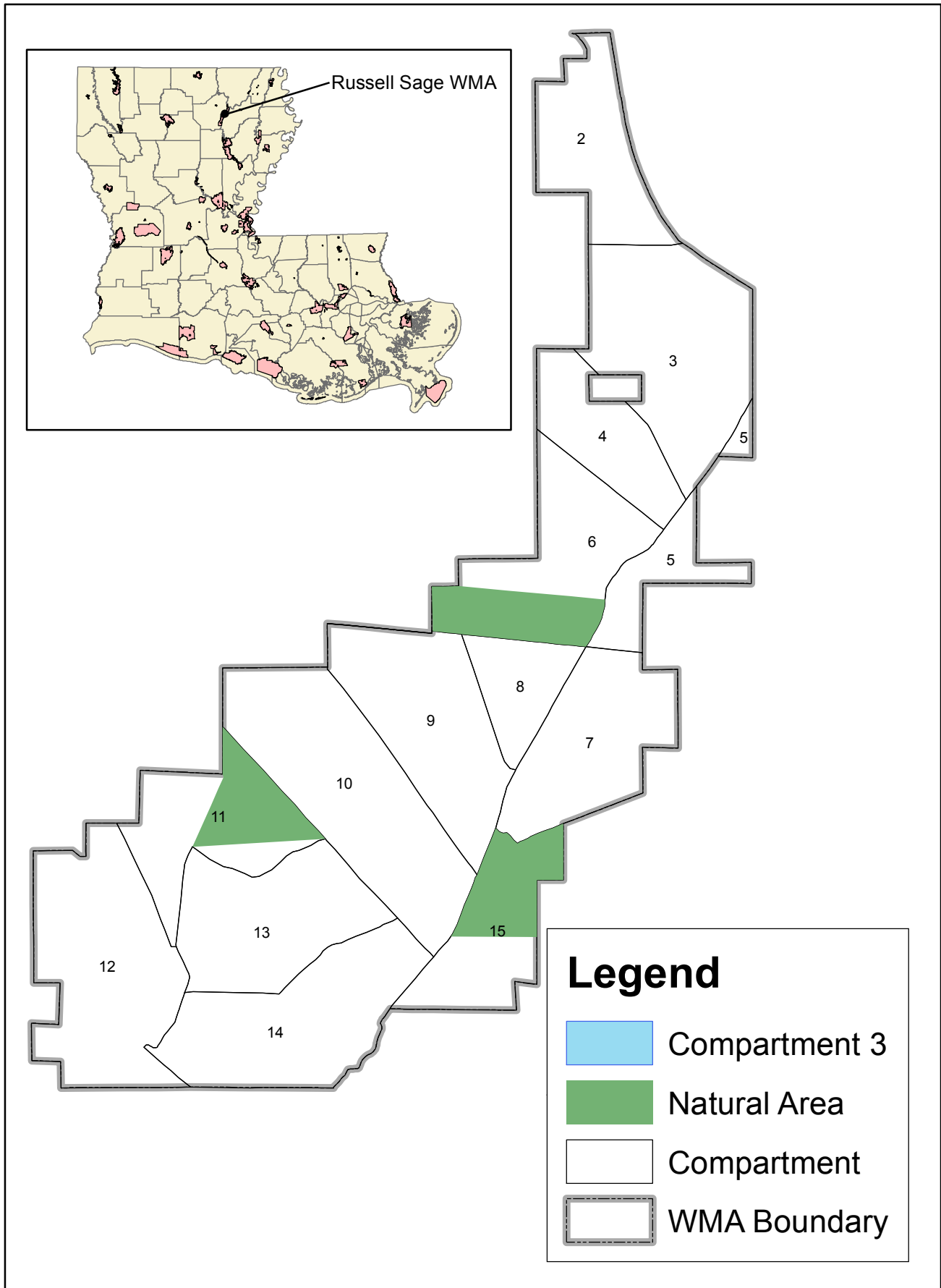
Additional Entry Requirements

- Monitor establishment of regeneration and development of released stems

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

Russell Sage WMA

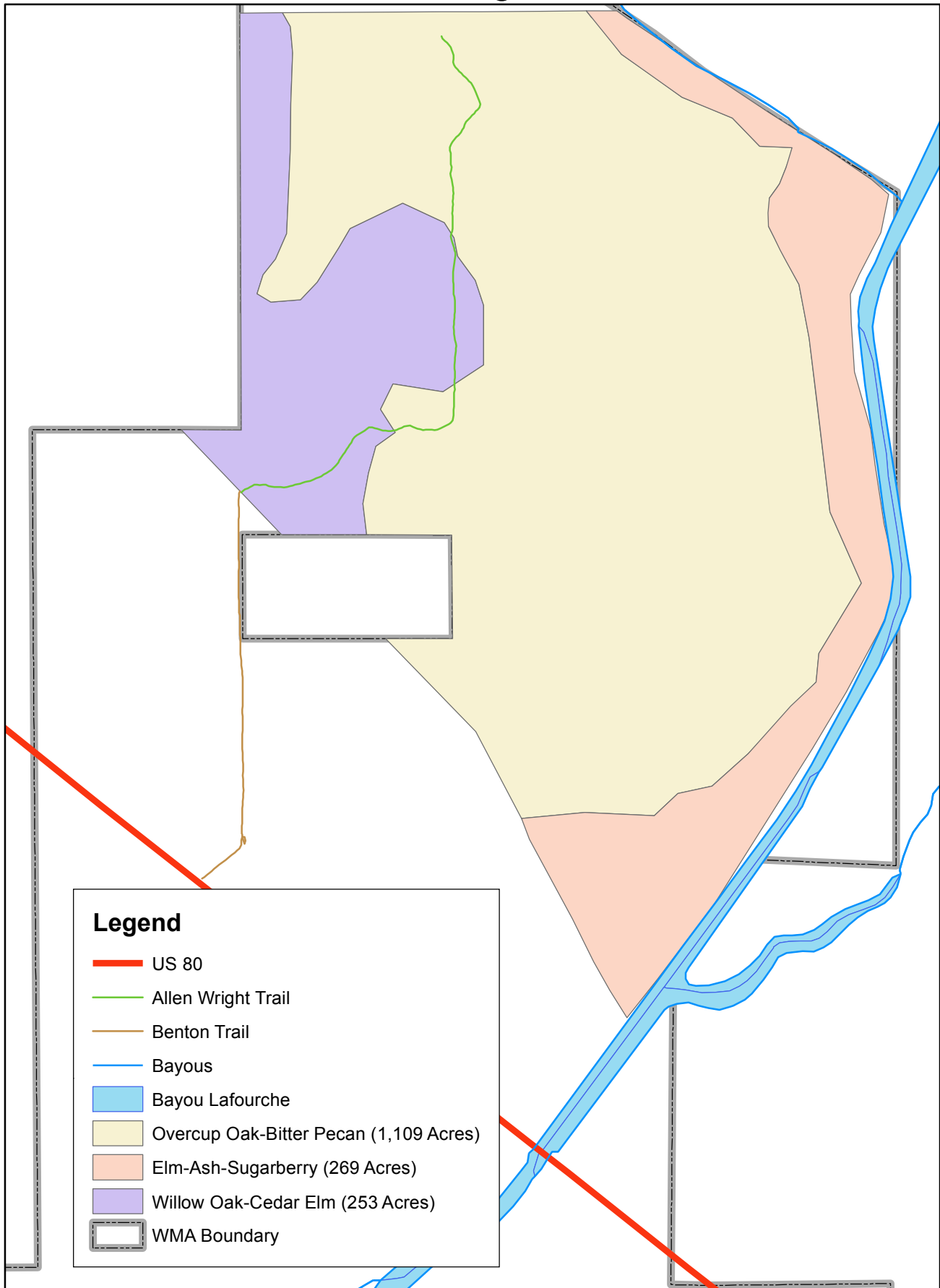
Map 1



Forest Type

Russell Sage WMA

Map 2



Legend

- US 80
- Allen Wright Trail
- Benton Trail
- Bayous
- Bayou Lafourche
- Overcup Oak-Bitter Pecan (1,109 Acres)
- Elm-Ash-Sugarberry (269 Acres)
- Willow Oak-Cedar Elm (253 Acres)
- WMA Boundary

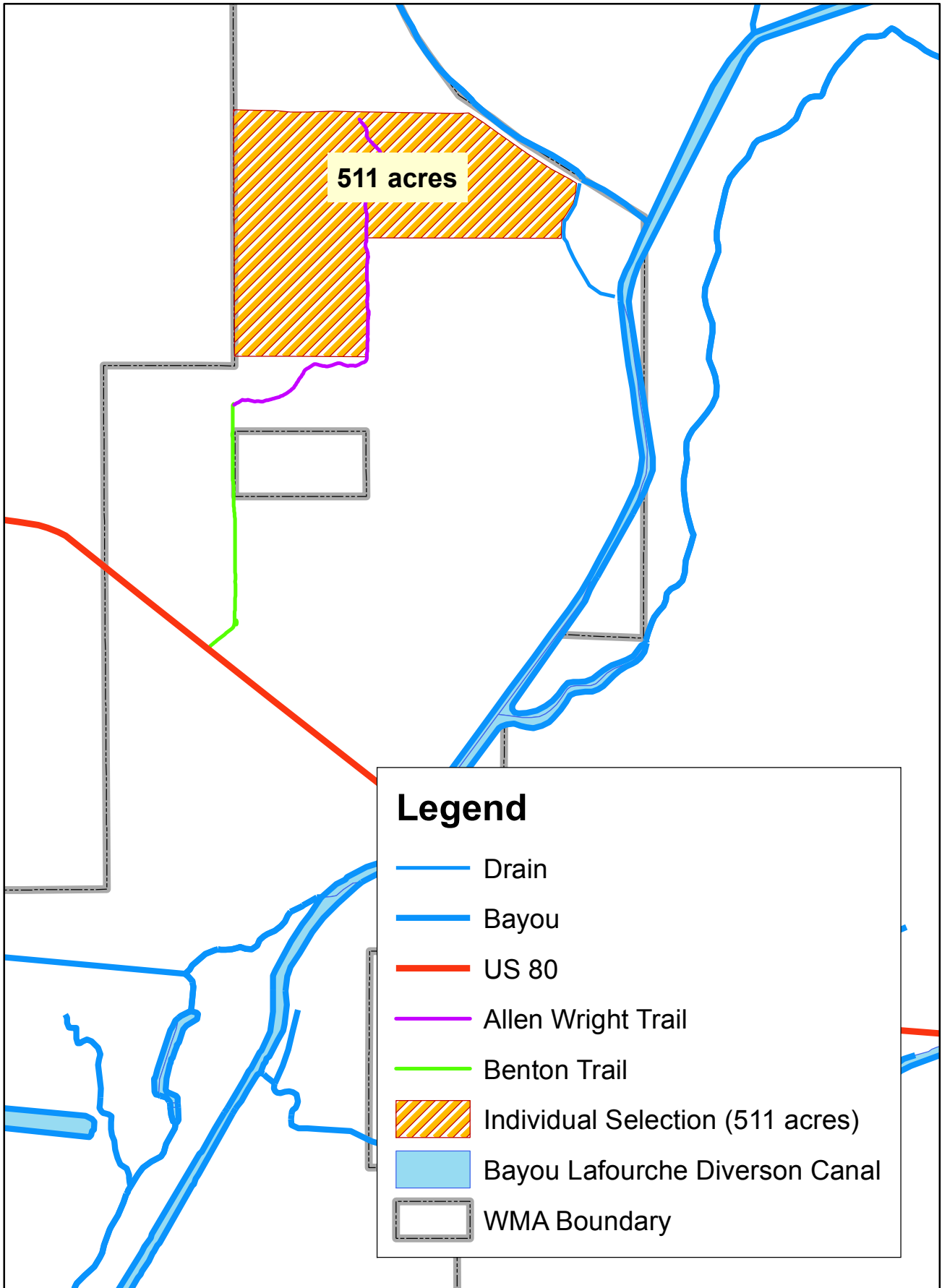


0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles



Proposed Treatment Russell Sage WMA

Map 3

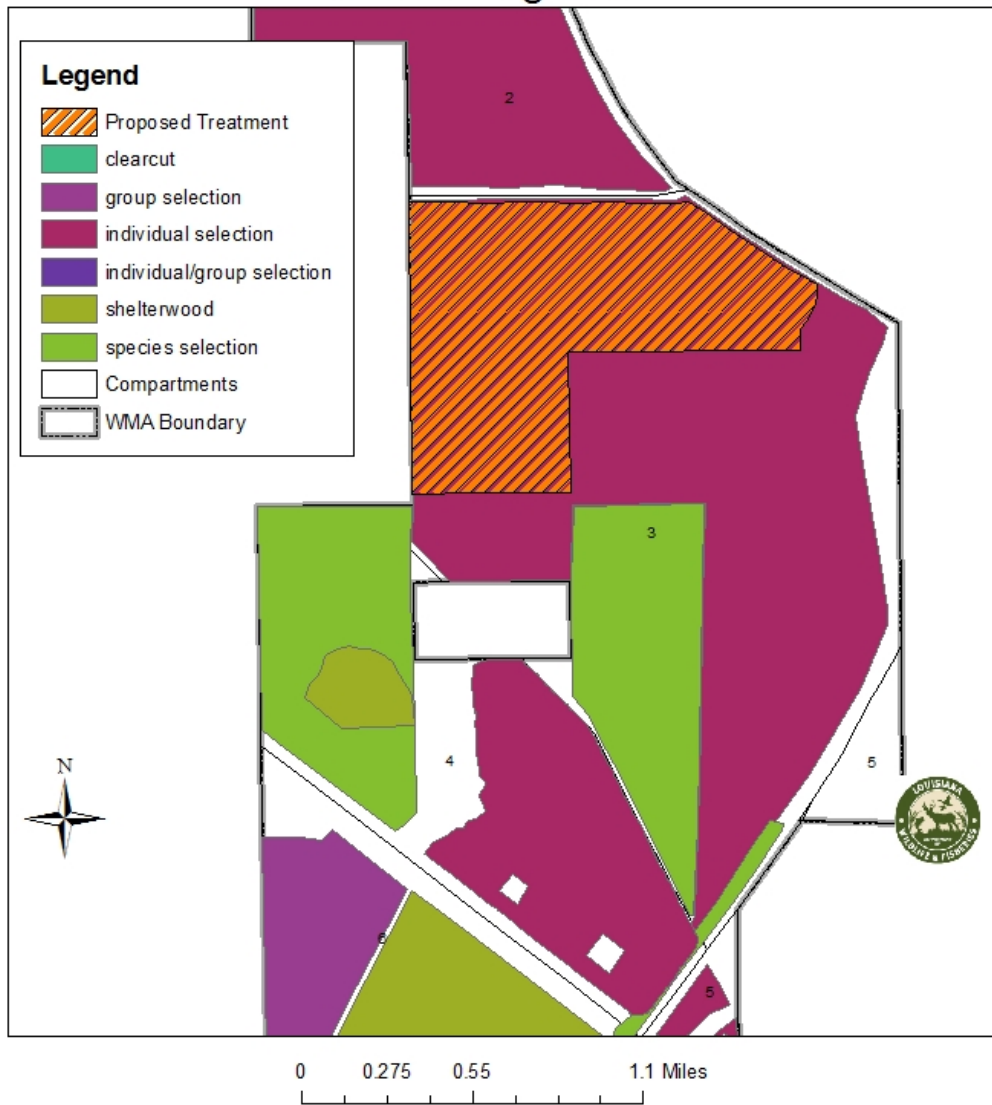


0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles



Adjacent Treatments Russell Sage WMA

Map 4



Sale Number	Treatment	Acres	Date	Comments	Compartment
22-26-108	individual selection	507	2009	<Null>	2
22-2-86	species selection	200	1986	thinned heavier on eastern side (Nuttall Oak)	2
22-16-189	group selection	180	1989		6
22-17-192	individual selection	1343	1992		3
22-22-101	individual selection	268	2002	thinning unit (200ac)	5
22-22-201	clearcut	268	6/2002-8/2002	clearcut unit (68ac)	5
180-6-64	species selection	310	1967-68	one of three units in same sale	4
180-9-46	species selection	210	1980	pulpwood cut	3
180-4-09	species selection	400	1985	Lafourche spoil bank	3,4,6,8,9,10,14
22-23-103	individual selection	315	7/2005-9/2005		4
22-23-103	shelterwood	44	7/2005-9/2005		4
22-28-112	shelterwood	248	<Null>	one of two units in timber sale	6
22-28-112	individual selection	213	<Null>	one of two units in timber sale	6