



January 17, 2014

Re: Report of Preliminary Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation
McLendon Young Industrial Site
Timmons ville, Florence County, South Carolina
ECS Project No. 38-1169

ECS Carolinas, LLP (ECS) is pleased to provide the results of the Preliminary Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation conducted for the McLendon Young Industrial Site. Our services are provided in accordance with ECS Proposal Number 38-202-P and signed task order 13140-0021 dated November 22, 2013.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The site is located southwest of the intersection of Interstate 95 and Center Road in Timmons ville, Florence County, South Carolina (Figures 1 and 2). The site is identified by the Florence County GIS as TMS #s 0056-04-022, 0035-04-043, 0035-04-011, 00036-04-001, 00036-04-003 and 00056-04-129. The parcels contains approximately 303.58 acres. The site is currently owned by members of the McLendon family. The site is used for timber land and farm land and is being evaluated for site certification.

FIELD RECONNAISSANCE

ECS personnel conducted the site reconnaissance on December 16 and December 23, 2013. The site contains farm fields, pine plantations, forested wetlands, pine-mixed hardwood uplands, ditches and ponds (Figure 3). The site is bound by Interstate 95, Center Road, wooded land, agricultural land, residences and commercial land.

Agricultural Farm Fields (Photographs 1 and 2):

The majority of the site is used for agricultural row crops. At the time of the site visit, the row crops had been harvested and a cover crop was not present.

Pine Plantations (Photographs 3, 4, and 5)

Several areas of planted loblolly pines (*Pinus taeda*) were noted on the site. These stands were estimated to be 15 to 25 years-old. The more mature stands, located at the northeastern and southwestern portions of the site, have a canopy of approximately 60 feet in height and a previously cleared understory. A sapling understory consisting of sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and water oak (*Quercus nigra*) was observed within the mature stands. The pine stands in the central portion of the site are immature and unmanaged.

An understory of sweet gum, water oak, American holly (*Ilex opaca*), Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinsense*) and herbaceous vines was noted in these areas.

Forested Wetlands (Photographs 6 and 7):

A wetland delineation has been completed and submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as a separate report. During the delineation several areas of isolated and jurisdictional forested wetlands were identified and flagged on the site. The forested wetlands have a canopy dominated by mature loblolly pine, tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and sweetgum. A sparse mid-story includes saplings of the canopy species in addition to red maple and Chinese privet. A substantial understory was not observed. Dark soils, saturated conditions and small areas of standing water were observed during the site visits.

Pine-Mixed Hardwood Uplands (Photographs 8 and 9):

Portions of the site consist of pine-mixed hardwood uplands. The majority of this habitat type contains mature canopy trees at least 50 years old. Canopy species include loblolly pine, water oak and southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*). A mid-story (and some cutover areas) contains saplings of the canopy species in addition to red maple and sweet gum. Other species observed include round-leaf greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*), poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) and ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*).

Man-made Hydrologic Features (Photographs 11, 12, 13, and 14):

Two man-made ponds and several ditches were noted throughout the site. Most of the features contained standing water and appear to be relatively shallow.

Four distinct areas of the ditches (totaling approximately 2,500 linear feet) appear to be periodically maintained. These ditches are located on the southern-central portion of the site within the agricultural fields. Species observed include dog fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*), blackberry (*Rubus* spp.) Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) and seedlings of smooth sumac (*Rhus glaba*) and black willow (*Salix nigra*).

The remaining on-site ditches and the two man-made ponds are surrounded by mature upland species. The species composition is similar to that of the pine-mixed hardwood habitat type with the addition of laurel-leaf greenbrier (*Smilax laurifolia*) and wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*).

PRELIMINARY THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES EVALUATION

Congress passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973. The purpose of the ESA is to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. It is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The USFWS has primary responsibility for terrestrial and freshwater organisms, while the responsibilities of NMFS are mainly marine wildlife.

Under the ESA, species may be listed as either endangered or threatened. "Endangered" means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. "Threatened" means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. All species of plants and animals, except pest insects, are eligible for listing as endangered or threatened. For the purposes of the ESA, Congress defined species to include subspecies,

varieties, and, for vertebrates, distinct population segments. ECS reviewed information from the FWS Endangered Species Database and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) in order to identify federally protected threatened and endangered species in Florence County, South Carolina. In addition, ECS searched the Natural Heritage Program database which is organized by USGS quadrangle. No known accounts were listed on or adjacent to the site for the Sardis, SC quadrangle.

Common Name	Scientific name	Federal Status
Vertebrate:		
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA
Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	E
Atlantic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>	E
Plant:		
Canby's dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	E
American chaffseed	<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	E

E = Endangered T = Threatened BGEPA = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

SPECIES/ HABITAT DESCRIPTIONS

Red-cockaded Woodpecker

Description: The red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) is a small bird measuring about seven inches in length. Identifiable by its white cheek patch and black and white barred back, the males have a few red feathers, or "cockade." These red feathers usually remain hidden underneath black feathers between the black crown and white cheek patch unless the male is disturbed or excited. Female RCWs lack the red cockade. Juvenile males have a red patch in the center of their black crown. This patch disappears during the fall of their first year at which time their red-cockades appear.

Habitat: Red-cockaded woodpecker habitat includes forests with trees old enough for roosting, generally at least 60-120 years old, depending on the species of pine. The most prominent adaptation of RCWs is their use of living pines for cavity excavation.

For nesting and roosting habitat, red-cockaded woodpeckers need open stands of pine containing trees 60 years old and older. RCWs need live, large older pines in which to excavate their cavities. Longleaf pines (*Pinus palustris*) are preferred, but other species of southern pine are also acceptable. Dense stands (stands that are primarily hardwoods, or that have a dense hardwood under story) are avoided. Foraging habitat is provided in pine and pine

hardwood stands 30 years old or older with foraging preference for pine trees 10 inches or larger in diameter. In good, moderately-stocked, pine habitat, sufficient foraging substrate can be provided on 80 to 125 acres. Prescribed burning is the most efficient and ecologically beneficial method to accomplish hardwood mid-story control.

Conclusion: The site does not contain pine stands with trees of sufficient age (or size) to be considered suitable habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker. The planted pine areas of the site have a tall mid-story or are not of sufficient size to support this species. Therefore, suitable habitat for this species is not present on the site.

Bald Eagle

Description: Although the bald eagle was removed from the federally threatened list in 2007, this species still has protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The bald eagle is a large bird of prey, distinguished by its heavy body, large head, and hooked bill. Immature birds have mostly dark heads and tails; their brown wings and bodies are mottled with white in varying amounts. Young birds attain adult plumage in about five years. Adult bald eagles have white heads and tails with dark brown bodies and wings. Their legs and bills are bright yellow. Adults average about three feet from head to tail, weigh approximately 10 to 12 pounds and have a wingspread that can reach seven feet. Generally, female bald eagles are somewhat larger than the males.

Habitat: Bald Eagles typically nest in forested areas adjacent to large bodies of water (such as rivers, lakes, and marshes), staying away from heavily developed areas when possible. They live where they can find fish, their primary food source, but will also feed on waterfowl, turtles, rabbits, snakes, and other small animals. For perching, bald eagles prefer tall, mature coniferous or deciduous trees that afford a wide view of the surroundings. They often nest in mature or old-growth trees; snags; cliffs; rock promontories; and, with increasing frequency on human-made structures such as power poles and communication towers. In forested areas, bald eagles often select the tallest trees with limbs strong enough to support a nest that can weigh more than 1,000 pounds. The typical nest is constructed of large sticks and is lined with soft materials such as pine needles and grasses.

Conclusion: There are no large lakes or rivers on or adjacent to the site. ECS did not observe bald eagle nests in the confined areas of mature trees. The distance to feeding grounds and the proximity to developed areas (Interstate 95) make the site unsuitable for bald eagles. Therefore, suitable habitat for the bald eagle does not appear to be located on the site.

Atlantic Sturgeon and Shortnose Sturgeon

Description: The Atlantic sturgeon and shortnosed sturgeon are anadromous fish species that can grow to nine feet long and four feet long respectively. Both species exhibit five rows of plates along the body, with olive to black coloring along the back, and yellow to white coloring on the belly. Four barbels are located in front of the mouth are used to locate food along the river bottom.

The Atlantic sturgeon is generally larger than the shortnose sturgeon and has additional bony plates along its back. The two can further be distinguished based on the longer and more

pointed snout of the Atlantic sturgeon and proportionately larger mouth of the shortnose sturgeon. The shortnose sturgeon migrates from salt water to fresh water to spawn from April to May.

Habitat: The habitat for the two fish consists of tidal river systems along the Atlantic coast of North America. These species require fresh water habitat for spawning, as well as access to open ocean and estuarine environments. They spawn in moderately flowing water in deep parts of large rivers and feed in shallow areas at night. Sturgeon eggs are highly adhesive and are deposited on bottom substrate, usually on hard surfaces

Conclusion: ECS did not observe rivers or large streams on the site. The on-site ditches are not of adequate size to support these species. Therefore, suitable habitat for the Atlantic sturgeon and the shortnose sturgeon does not appear to be located on the site.

Canby's Dropwort

Description: Canby's dropwort is a perennial herb with quill-like leaves, and slender, hollow stems. It can reach heights of four feet and smells like dill. This species reproduces by fleshy rhizomes and is strongly clonal with most populations maintained by asexual reproduction. Canby's dropwort forms compound clusters of small white flowers from August through September. The mature fruits (seeds) have corky, thickened ribs or wings.

Habitat:

Canby's dropwort has been found in many different coastal plain habitats, including pond cypress ponds, wet pine savannas, grass-sedge Carolina bays, shallow pineland ponds, cypress-pine swamps, and depression meadows in clay-based Carolina Bays. The largest and most vigorous populations are found on sites that are flooded for most of the year and have little if any canopy cover. Soil types that support vigorous populations have medium to high organic content, high water table, are poorly drained and are acidic.

Some of the species associated with Canby's dropwort include *Ilex myrtifolia*, *Nyssa biflora*, *Taxodium ascendens*, *Pinus serotina*, *Stillingia aquatica*, *Rhynchospora tracyi*, *R. inundata*, *Manisuris rugosa*, *Rhexia aristosa*, *Polygala cymosa*, *Pluchea rosea*, *Lobelia boykinii* and *Hypericum denticulataum* (NatureServe 2001).

Conclusion: None of the distinct habitat types preferred by Canby's dropwort were observed on the site. The forested wetlands and the pond margins do not offer the high-light conditions required by this species. The only areas which can be considered even marginally suitable for this species are the maintained ditches found on the southern-central portions of the site. The dense vegetation in these areas is dominated by upland ruderal species and not the hydrophytic vegetation known to be associated with Canby's dropwort. In addition, these ditches appear to be seasonally mowed and are subject to the farming practices implemented on the surrounding fields. Therefore, suitable habitat for Canby's dropwort does not appear to be located on the site.

American Chaffseed

Description: American chaffseed is a perennial herb with an erect, unbranched stem that grows to a height of 1- 2 feet. The leaves are alternate, sessile, elliptic, and entire and range from 2.5 to 5.0 cm in length. The flowers are yellow or purplish, tubular, and measure 3.0 to 3.5 cm in length. The flowers emerge from April to June and grow on short stalks from the axils of the uppermost leaves.

Habitat:

American chaffseed typically grows in sandy (sandy peat, sandy loam), acidic, seasonally moist to dry soils. It is generally found in habitats described as open, moist pine flatwoods, pine/wiregrass savannas, and ecotonal areas between peaty wetlands and xeric sandy soils. This species is root hemiparasitic (partially dependant on its host) though not specific about the species of host. American chaffseed species requires a high frequency of fire, especially in the growing season. This species is shade intolerant and is usually found in open or partially open areas.

Conclusion: None of the distinct habitat types preferred by American chaffseed were observed on the site. Although one of the preferred soil types (Norfolk loamy sand) is found on portions of the site, these areas are actively used for row crops and are not the open pine savannas necessary to support this species. The planted pine habitats on the site are densely planted and have a relatively thick mid stories and understories. These areas do not have enough light to allow for the shade-intolerant American chaffseed. Finally if this species is indeed fire dependant, no evidence was observed that indicates a consistent burning regime necessary for this species. Therefore, suitable habitat for American chaffseed does not appear to be located on the site.

CONCLUSIONS

We have conducted a preliminary threatened and endangered species evaluation for the site. Please note that our services did not include systematic inventory studies for threatened and endangered species. However, based on our knowledge of the site, the database review, it is our opinion that the project will not adversely affect threatened and endangered species.

LIMITATIONS

Observations, conclusions, and recommendations pertaining to the federally threatened and endangered species and their habitats within the subject site are necessarily limited to the conditions observed and materials reviewed at the time the study was conducted.

CLOSING

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our services to you. Please contact us at (803) 250-3377 if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

ECS Carolinas, LLP



Amanda D. Harris
Environmental Project Manager



Michael T. Brame, PWS
Environmental Principal

Attachments Site Figures
 Photographs
 Species Lists for Florence County

REFERENCES

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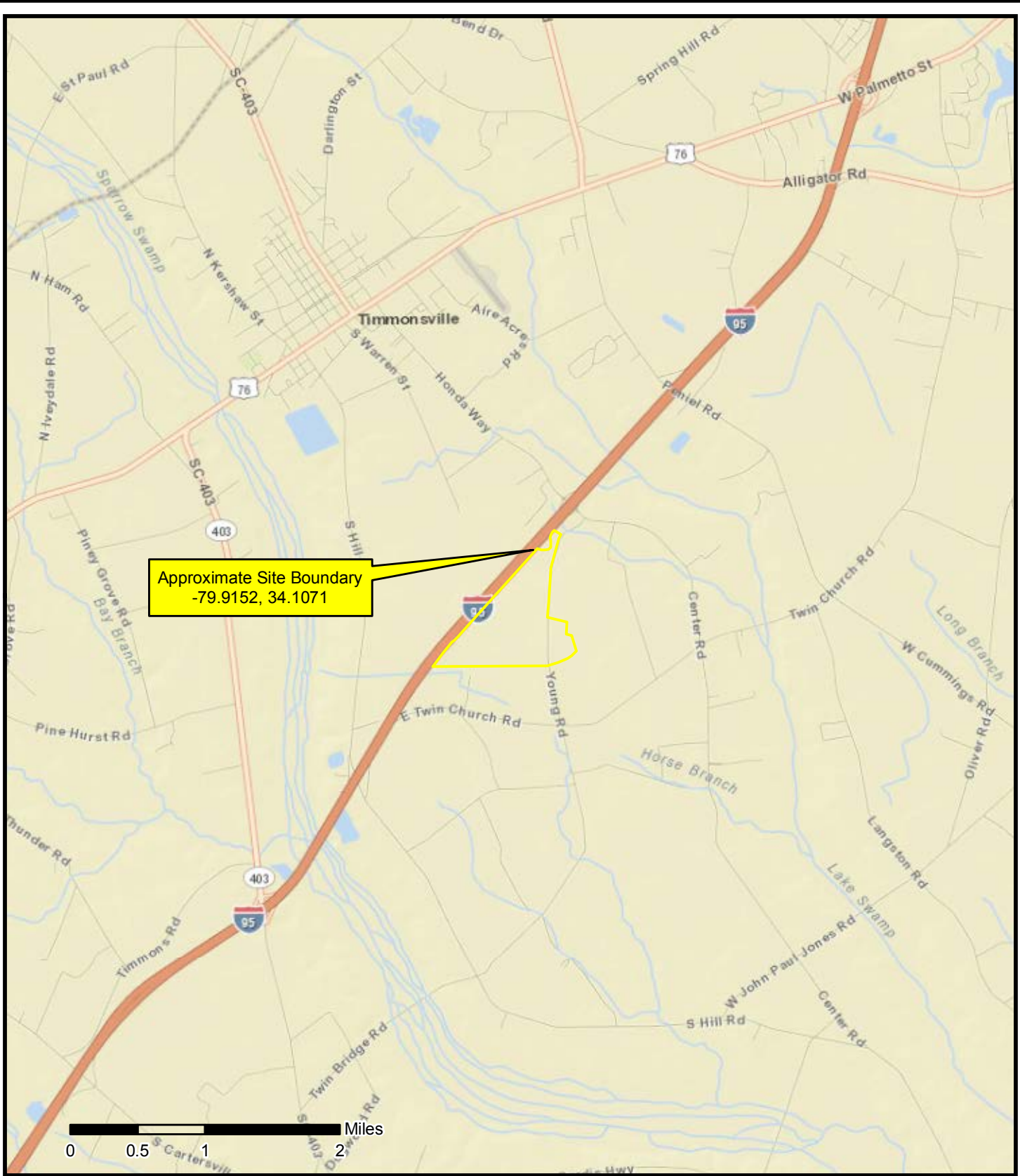
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U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service. Web Soil Survey.
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

QUALIFICATIONS

The field survey was conducted by Ms. Amanda Harris (former Amanda White) of ECS. Ms. Harris is a natural resources project manager with over six years experience conducting site assessments for both the private and the public sector. Ms. Harris has conducted hundreds of wetland delineations, protected species evaluations, and environmental compliance activities, throughout North and South Carolina. She holds a B.S. degree in Natural Resources Management from NC State University and has completed Masters level coursework and research at West Virginia University.



Approximate Site Boundary
 -79.9152, 34.1071

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

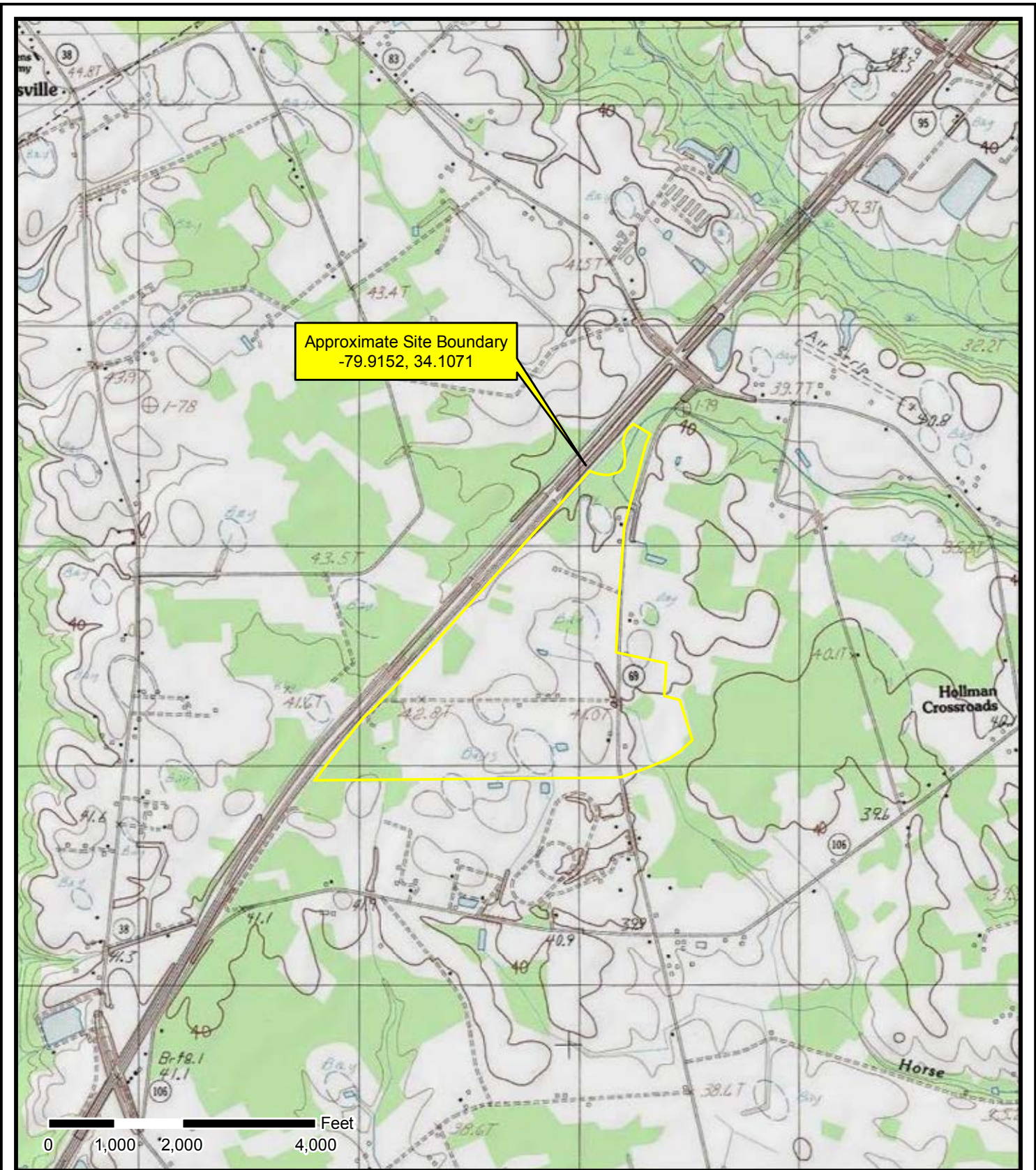
SOURCE:
 ESRI RESOURCE CENTER:
 FLORENCE COUNTY
 SCDOT
 SCALE AS SHOWN



**FIGURE 1
 LOCATION MAP**

MCLENDON YOUNG INDUSTRIAL SITE
 I-95 AND YOUNG ROAD ~ 305 ACRES
 TIMMONSVILLE, FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

ECS PROJECT NUMBER 38-1169



SOURCE:

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP:
SARDIS - 1986

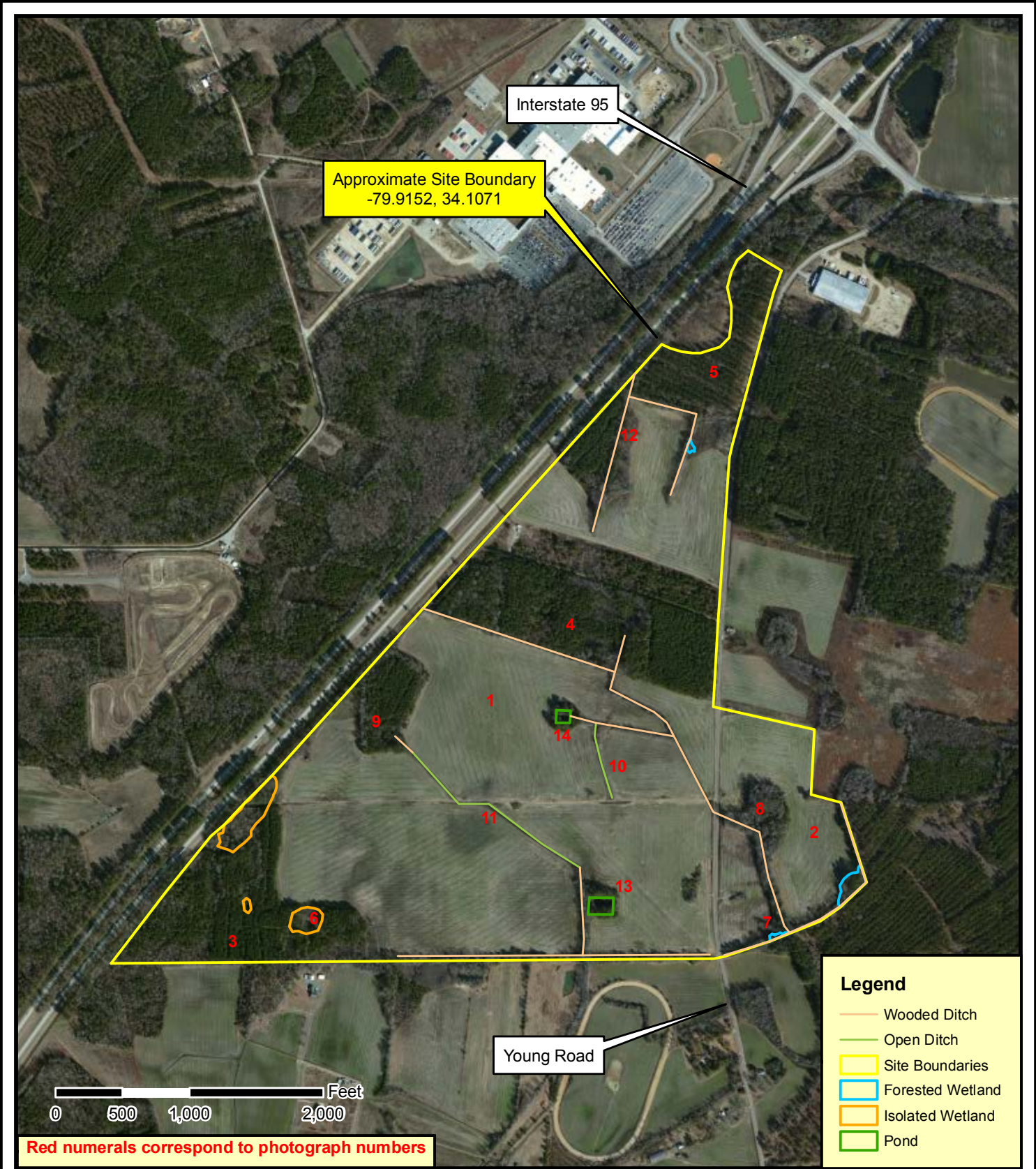
SCALE AS SHOWN



**FIGURE 2
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**

MCLENDON YOUNG INDUSTRIAL SITE
I-95 AND YOUNG ROAD ~ 305 ACRES
TIMMONSVILLE, FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

ECS PROJECT NUMBER 38-1169



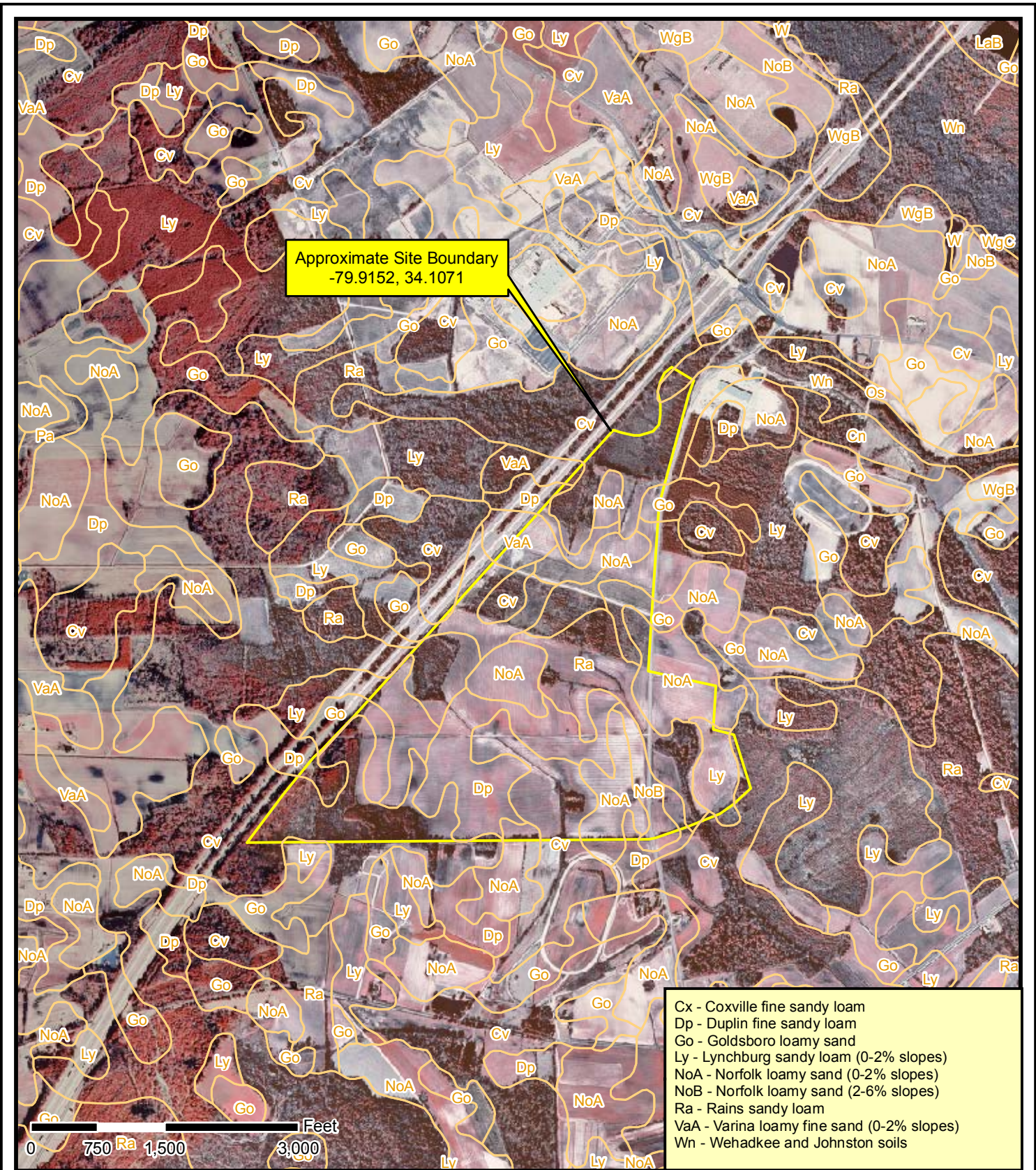
SOURCE:
 ESRI RESOURCE CENTER
 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY - 2012
 SCALE AS SHOWN



**FIGURE 3
 FEATURES MAP**

MCLENDON YOUNG INDUSTRIAL SITE
 I-95 AND YOUNG ROAD ~ 305 ACRES
 TIMMONSVILLE, FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

ECS PROJECT NUMBER 38-1169



SOURCE:

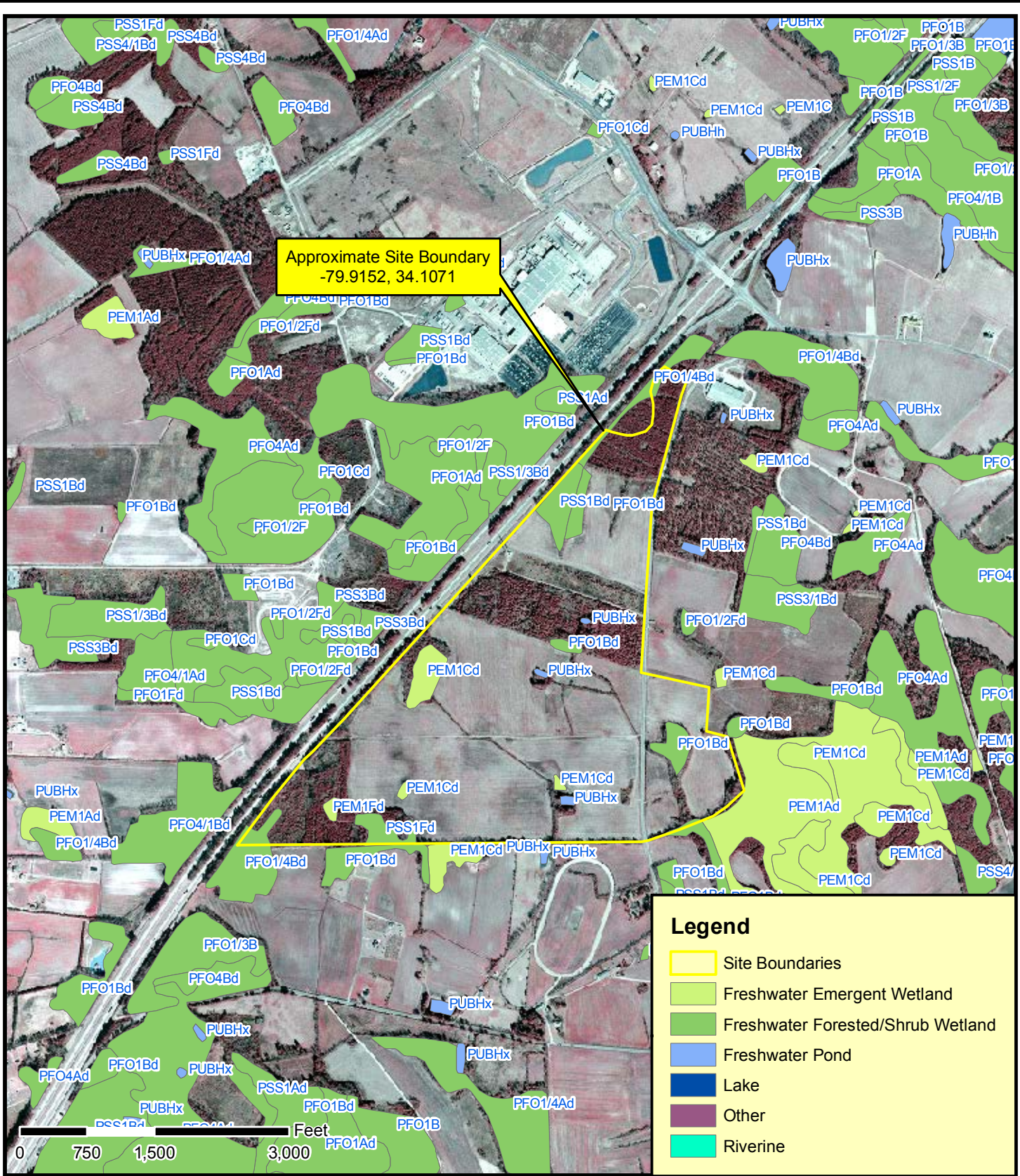
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY - 1999
 USDA NRCS FLORENCE COUNTY
 SOILS DATA - 1968
 SCALE AS SHOWN



**FIGURE 3
 SOILS MAP**

MCLENDON YOUNG INDUSTRIAL SITE
 I-95 AND YOUNG ROAD ~ 305 ACRES
 TIMMONSVILLE, FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

ECS PROJECT NUMBER 38-1169



SOURCE:

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY - 2006
USFWS NWI DATA - 2010
SCALE AS SHOWN



**FIGURE 4
NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP**

MCLENDON YOUNG INDUSTRIAL SITE
I-95 AND YOUNG ROAD ~ 305 ACRES
TIMMONSVILLE, FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

ECS PROJECT NUMBER 38-1169

Site Photographs
Collected on December 9 and 23, 2013



Photograph 1. The majority of the site consists of agricultural fields.



Photograph 2. Cover crops were not observed in the agricultural fields.



Photograph 3. Immature pine plantations were observed on the site.



Photograph 4. A pine stand on the central portion of the site has a clear understory with a hardwood mid-story.



Photograph 5. A mature pine stand on the northern portion of the site with an understory.



Photograph 6. Forested wetlands are located on the southern portion of the site.



Photograph 7. Areas of standing water were observed within the eastern forested wetlands.



Photograph 8. A dry ditch was observed within the pine-mixed hardwood uplands.



Photograph 9. Pine-mixed hardwood uplands are located on the central portion of the site.



Photograph 10. A maintained agricultural ditch flows into a wooded ditch on the central portion of the site.



Photograph 11. An open maintained agricultural ditch was observed on the southern-central portion of the site.



Photograph 12. The majority of the on-site ditches have a closed-canopy wooded buffer.



Photograph 13. A man-made pond was observed on the central portion of the site.



Photograph 14. A man-made pond was observed on the southern portion of the site.

South Carolina List of At-Risk, Candidate, Endangered, and Threatened Species - Florence County

- * Contact National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for more information on this species
- ** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and NMFS share jurisdiction of this species
- ARS At-Risk Species - Species that the FWS has been petitioned to list and for which a positive 90-day finding has been issued (listing may be warranted); information is provided only for conservation actions as no Federal protections currently exist.
- BGEPA Federally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- C FWS or NMFS has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support proposals to list these species
- CH Critical Habitat
- E Federally Endangered
- P or P - CH Proposed for listing or critical habitat in the Federal Register
- S/A Federally protected due to similarity of appearance to a listed species
- T Federally Threatened

COUNTY	CATEGORY	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS
Florence	Amphibian	None Found		
	Bird	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA
	Bird	Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E
	Crustacean	None Found		
	Fish	American eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	ARS
	Fish	Atlantic Sturgeon*	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus*</i>	E
	Fish	Blueback herring	<i>Alosa aestivalis</i>	ARS
	Fish	Robust redhorse	<i>Moxostoma robustum</i>	ARS
	Fish	Shortnose sturgeon*	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum*</i>	E
	Insect	None Found		
	Mammal	None Found		
	Mollusk	None Found		
	Plant	American chaffseed	<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	E
	Plant	Canby's dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	E
	Plant	Bay boneset	<i>Eupatorium paludicola</i>	ARS
	Plant	Boykin's lobelia	<i>Lobelia boykinii</i>	ARS
	Plant	Carolina-birds-in-a-nest	<i>Macbridea caroliniana</i>	ARS
	Plant	Georgia leadplant	<i>Amorpha georgiana var. georgiana</i>	ARS
Reptile	None Found			

These lists should be used only as a guideline, not as the final authority. The lists include known occurrences and areas where the species has a high possibility of occurring. Records are updated as deemed necessary and may differ from earlier lists.

For a list of State endangered, threatened, and species of concern, please visit <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/species/index.html>.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species and Communities Known to Occur in Florence County
January 18, 2012

Scientific Name	Common Name	USESA Designation	State Protection	Global Rank	State Rank
<u>Vertebrate Animals</u>					
<i>Condylura cristata</i>	Star-nosed Mole			G5	S3?
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle		SE-Endangered	G5	S2
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike			G4	S3
<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	LE: Listed endangered	SE-Endangered	G3	S2
<i>Rana palustris</i>	Pickerel Frog			G5	SNR
<u>Invertebrate Animal</u>					
<i>Elimia catenaria</i>	Gravel Elimia			G4	SNR
<i>Lampsilis cariosa</i>	Yellow Lampmussel			G3G4	S2
<u>Animal Assemblage</u>					
Waterbird Colony				GNR	SNR
<u>Vascular Plants</u>					
<i>Amorpha georgiana</i> var. <i>georgiana</i>	Georgia Leadplant			G3T2	S1
<i>Amphicarpum muehlenbergianum</i>	Blue Maiden-cane			G4	S2S3
<i>Asplenium resiliens</i>	Black-stem Spleenwort			G5	S1
<i>Carex amphibola</i>	Narrowleaf Sedge			G5	SNR
<i>Carex basiantha</i>	Widow Sedge			G5	S2
<i>Carex granularis</i>	Meadow Sedge			G5	S2
<i>Cayaponia quinqueloba</i>	Cayaponia			G4	S1?
<i>Coreopsis gladiata</i>	Southeastern Tickseed			G4G5	SNR
<i>Lobelia boykinii</i>	Boykin's Lobelia			G2G3	S3
<i>Lygodium palmatum</i>	Climbing Fern			G4	S3
<i>Macbridea caroliniana</i>	Carolina Bird-in-a-nest			G2G3	S3
<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	Canby's Dropwort	LE: Endangered		G2	S2
<i>Rhexia aristosa</i>	Awed Meadowbeauty			G3	S3
<i>Rhododendron eastmanii</i>	May White			G2	S2
<i>Rhynchospora careyana</i>	Horned Beakrush			G4?Q	S3
<i>Rhynchospora tracyi</i>	Tracy Beakrush			G4	S3
<i>Rorippa sessiliflora</i>	Stalkless Yellowcress			G5	SNR
<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	Chaffseed	LE: Endangered		G2G3	S3

Scientific Name	Common Name	USESA Designation	State Protection	Global Rank	State Rank
<i>Silene ovata</i>	Ovate Catchfly			G3	S1
<i>Stachys latidens</i>	Broad-toothed Hedge-nettle			G4G5	S2
<i>Thelypteris ovata</i> var. <i>ovata</i>	Ovate Marsh Fern			G3G5T3T4	S1
<i>Urtica chamaedryoides</i>	Weak Nettle			G4G5	S2
<u>Communities</u>					
Bald cypress - tupelo gum swamp				G5	S4
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> - <i>quercus alba</i> - (<i>acer barbatum</i>) / mixed herbs forest	Atlantic Coastal Plain Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest			G4	SNR