

MINUTES OF THE
FOREVER WILD BOARD MEETING
PELHAM CIVIC COMPLEX
Pelham, Alabama
November 5, 2020

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Proceedings taken before Tracye
Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR
No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama
at Large, at the Pelham Civic Complex, 500
Amphitheater Road, Pelham, Alabama, on Thursday,
November 5, 2020, commencing at approximately
10:04 a.m.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Christopher M. Blankenship, Chairman
Mr. David Wright
Mr. Raymond B. Jones, Jr.
Mr. William "Bill" Satterfield
Mr. Russ A. Runyan
Dr. Patricia Sims
Dr. Lori Tolley-Jordan
Dr. Salem Saloom
Dr. James B. McClintock
Dr. Sean P. Powers
Mr. Jack Darnall
Dr. John Valentine
Mr. Reginald N. Holloway

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CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Welcome to the November
5th meeting of the Forever Wild Board.
As I call the roll, please indicate your
presence to make sure we have a quorum.

Chris Blankenship is here.

Jack Darnall?

MR. DARNALL: Here.

CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Holloway?

MR. HOLLOWAY: Here.

CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Jones?

1 MR. JONES: Here.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Powers?

3 DR. POWERS: Here.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Saloom?

5 DR. SALOOM: Here.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Satterfield?

7 MR. SATTERFIELD: Here.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Sims?

9 DR. SIMS: Here.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Tolley-Jordan?

11 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Here.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Valentine?

13 DR. VALENTINE: Here.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright?

15 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Horace Horn?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. McClintock?

19 DR. McCLINTOCK: Here.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Russ Runyan?

21 MR. RUNYAN: Here.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: And Rick Oates?

23 (No response.)

So we do have a quorum. Appreciate everybody being here this morning. Appreciate Shelby -- I'm sorry -- City of Pelham for allowing us to use this facility. I think it's large enough that we can still social-distance and with a good sound system that maybe will make it easier for everybody to hear. So maybe we found a sweet spot today, a large enough location with a good sound system, so that we can conduct business and everybody can hear well.

I don't believe we have any particular special guests, but I would like to recognize our new board member, Mr. Jack Darnall, who is the executive vice president with Brasfield & Gorrie here in Birmingham.

Welcome to the board and thank you
for agreeing to serve on what I consider
is a very important position for the
people of the state of Alabama on the

1 Forever Wild Board. So we're very glad
2 to have you.

3 Are there any other opening
4 announcements or anything?

5 We've got one more ...

6 So we'll now move into our public
7 comment period. I have several cards of
8 people here that have requested to speak
9 today. Just a reminder that we'll try
10 and limit those comments to three
11 minutes so that everybody has ample
12 opportunity to speak and so that we can
13 continue with the business of the board.

14 When I call you, please come to the
15 podium. And I think Evan or somebody
16 will start the time for you.

17 For Jack, as we call people to
18 speak, I'll give you the tab and page
19 number for the property that they plan
20 to speak on and give all the board
21 members a chance to find that before the
22 person speaks so that you'll have -- you
23 can visually see what they're speaking

1 on.

2 So the first speaker is Brooks Wall
3 speaking on the Hollins WMA Addition.

4 That's 4-B, page 17. 4-B, page 17.

5 Give us just a minute, please, sir,
6 for everybody to find it.

7 All right, Brooks. Go ahead.

8 MR. WALL: All right. Thank you so much.

9 As most of you know, in the last 20
10 years, Coosa and Clay County have lost
11 quite a few acres of public hunting land
12 in the Clay and Coosa County areas in
13 the wildlife management areas. And part
14 of this was in 2019 where they lost
15 around 3100 acres out of the Hollins
16 Wildlife Management Area. And so we
17 have an opportunity here to put around
18 17-, 1800 acres of that back into public
19 use.

20 One unique thing about this is that
21 it's already been in a WMA. So the
22 biologists and the staff, they know the
23 land. They know the road systems. They

1 created the food plots. They marked the
2 boundaries. They know all of the
3 adjoining landowners. You don't have to
4 worry about nominating a property and
5 getting a property that might in the
6 future have landowners that adjoin it
7 that are problems. We already know the
8 landowners. So that's a good part of
9 this if you decide to nominate this and
10 go forward with it.

11 Also, a lot of the public around
12 there know the land already. They know
13 the boundaries for hunting this
14 property. So there won't be any issues
15 with them going over on other people's
16 properties.

17 Also, there's a lot of landowners --
18 now that a lot of this land has come out
19 of the management area, they're
20 discussing pulling all their land out of
21 the management area because their land
22 no longer adjoins the management area.
23 There's no reason to have it in the

1 management area anymore. And when you
2 look at the prices you can get for
3 leasing it out compared to the like-kind
4 services, a lot of those are probably
5 going to do that.

6 The property itself is very unique
7 in the fact that there's over 12
8 different stand types and age classes.
9 There's natural old-growth longleaf out
10 there. There's 21-year-old longleaf
11 planted and thinned. There's
12 11-year-old longleaf plantation. And
13 there's also three-year-old longleaf
14 plantation. So you've got a lot of
15 things that the state and organizations
16 like to see from a biodiversity
17 standpoint in this tract.

18 Another thing to think about, this
19 property is appraised every year. So we
20 have really good numbers to give you.
21 This may save some money in the future
22 when it goes to appraisals. The
23 appraiser should be certified with you

1 guys, and we might be willing to talk to
2 you about sharing some information to
3 help in the cost moving forward.

4 And then, you know, one other thing
5 is that this particular block, we are
6 trying to sell it to the public. So
7 it's not something that could be around
8 forever. You know, so if you keep
9 passing it up, then it's something that
10 could go away as I am marketing it, you
11 know, pretty much every other week to
12 someone. And so just something to think
13 about when you move forward.

14 And then one last thing is it's a
15 lot of acres, 17- to 1800 acres, but the
16 landowners are willing to divide that
17 up. So you don't have to buy the entire
18 1800 acres if the budget doesn't work
19 for you that quarter. We can always
20 divide it up into different quarters.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir. Any
23 questions?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No questions. Thank
3 you, sir.

4 MR. WALL: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Our next speaker is
6 Mr. Patrick Cagle. He's going to speak
7 on the Mulberry Fork WMA. That's not a
8 current nomination, so there's no page
9 to find in the packet.

10 Mr. Cagle.

11 MR. CAGLE: Thank you. Thank you for allowing
12 me to speak today.

13 I'm Patrick Cagle. I'm president of
14 the Alabama Coal Association and just
15 want to speak briefly about what I see
16 as a need that our state could address
17 and a possible opportunity to do so.

18 I really commend this board for what
19 y'all have done on the special
20 opportunity areas. I think that's a
21 very successful model. It allows, you
22 know, more of the public to, you know,
23 enjoy hunting opportunities that they

1 wouldn't. I'm fond of public land. I
2 would have never had the opportunity to
3 start hunting if it wasn't for the
4 wildlife management area in Lowndes
5 County. My dad said if I found a place
6 to go, he'd take me, and I took him up
7 on it.

8 You know, I'm fortunate now to be
9 able to lease a piece of property to
10 deer hunt, but when it comes to small
11 game, quail, rabbit, you know, other
12 small game, it's -- you know, it's hard
13 to find those opportunities. You know,
14 on the leased piece of property I can't
15 do the kind of habitat improvements that
16 would be necessary.

17 One of the things that some of my
18 members in the coal-producing areas have
19 found -- and I've heard from even
20 inspectors that inspect active mines --
21 they're hearing a lot of quail. That
22 really intrigued me when I heard that a
23 few years ago, you know, and continue to

1 talk to people that are hearing and
2 seeing wild quail in that area -- in the
3 Walker area/Tuscaloosa County area.

4 I've actually got a member that is
5 working -- that is doing some habitat
6 restoration on some areas where they
7 have wild quail and, you know, were
8 really hoping to build it up to a
9 huntable population. I mean, just
10 something really special. I was out
11 there back in the spring, and we, you
12 know, saw a couple of wild quail. And
13 there's something really special about
14 seeing something that, you know, for the
15 most part doesn't exist anymore.

16 There is a pot of money that could
17 be used to create quail habitat if
18 there's land that's in public -- that's
19 in the state's hands that could be used
20 for that. It's the Abandoned Mine Land
21 Pilot money.

22 Abandoned Mine Land is -- after the
23 Surface Mining Act was passed, current

1 operators pay to take care of legacy
2 issues, land before reclamation was
3 required. This money actually comes out
4 of the Treasury, but Alabama is eligible
5 for \$10 million a year.

6 There's a site currently in the
7 Mulberry Fork WMA that I've identified
8 and went out with some staff from the
9 Department and looked at. It would be
10 perfect. It's about a
11 half-a-million-dollars' worth of
12 highwall -- reclaiming highwall. And
13 essentially a grant could be made, you
14 know, for several million more that
15 would cover habitat improvements that
16 would allow that area to become, you
17 know, prime quail habitat and, you know,
18 rabbit habitat that could be hunted with
19 dogs.

20 I just want to encourage this board
21 to consider those opportunities. If
22 there's a piece of property that has an
23 AML feature in this area where there are

1 some -- a few natural wild quail, you
2 know, if y'all could find a tract to
3 purchase, the Alabama Coal Association
4 would be willing to help apply for a
5 grant and go through that process.

6 Thanks for letting me speak to y'all
7 today.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions for
9 Mr. Cagle?

10 Raymond.

11 MR. JONES: Can this grant be done with land
12 we already own?

13 MR. CAGLE: Yes.

14 MR. JONES: Okay.

15 MR. CAGLE: You know, it really can be
16 anywhere. There's actually a way to use
17 the grant to purchase land. I don't
18 know how that would fit with Forever
19 Wild, but yes. The requirement is that
20 there's an AML feature and that it's
21 reclaimed, and then everything else
22 needs to be -- the rest of the grant can
23 be used as long as it promotes economic

1 development and bringing people, you
2 know, in to hunt.

3 MR. JONES: So, Patti -- I'm looking at Patti.
4 Do we have any land that we own that has
5 those features?

6 MS. McCURDY: I'm not aware of the particular
7 area that Mr. Cagle is speaking of, so
8 I'm not sure. I would say on Mulberry
9 Fork, that is one of the tracts that at
10 least some of the acreage is part of the
11 long-term recreational lease, the
12 90-year recreational lease. So I don't
13 know from a grant perspective if that's
14 a distinction as to fee simple
15 ownership, so -- but, I mean, it's
16 certainly something we can explore. And
17 any areas Mr. Cagle is aware of that he
18 would like for us to go and look at,
19 that would certainly be our first place
20 to go.

21 MR. JONES: It's just another pot of money
22 that we don't have access to.

23 MS. McCURDY: Yeah, absolutely.

1 MR. JONES: Yeah. So thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, sir.

3 MR. CAGLE: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Our next speaker is
5 Mr. Tim Reddock on the Natural Bridge.

6 This is not a current nomination, so
7 it's not in the packet either.

8 MR. REDDOCK: All right. Hi. Thanks for
9 letting me speak. Tim Reddock with
10 Southeast Commercial Real Estate in
11 Birmingham.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: You have something to
13 give to the board?

14 All right. Give us just a second
15 for everybody to get that, and then we
16 won't start your time until ...

17 MS. McCURDY: And just be sure to speak into
18 the microphone if you could. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right, sir. Go
20 ahead.

21 MR. REDDOCK: And, also, this is Reba Hicks,
22 who is a broker with my office. She's
23 the one who listed Natural Bridge. We

1 currently have it for sale and wanted to
2 bring it before you to nominate for
3 consideration.

4 As you know, it's a historical
5 treasure in Alabama. I never knew it
6 wasn't part of a state park or state
7 entity until she listed it. You know,
8 it's a great gem. Like I said, we're
9 hired to sell it to anybody, best user,
10 any user to get the value for our
11 clients, but we really think it needs to
12 be part of the state use so it stays
13 natural and public -- public facilities
14 for everybody.

15 Reba, do you want to add anything?

16 And, also, if you have any other
17 questions, Tracy Estes is here also.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So this has not been --
19 as far as -- it has not been nominated
20 for a Forever Wild tract?

21 MR. REDDOCK: No.

22 MS. HICKS: It has -- I did make the
23 nomination, but I don't think it has

1 gone through the process. It was a
2 fairly recent --

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Okay.

4 MR. REDDOCK: But while we had the
5 opportunity, we wanted to mention it.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sure. I think -- I
7 just want to make sure that they have
8 received the nomination so that they can
9 score it.

10 MS. McCURDY: And I know -- Ms. Hicks and I
11 did talk. And I know you were going to
12 email me. I was in the field yesterday.
13 But have you emailed it?

14 MS. HICKS: I have.

15 MS. McCURDY: Okay. Okay. It would have been
16 yesterday?

17 MS. HICKS: It was yesterday.

18 MS. McCURDY: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. That's
20 good. So we'll have some more
21 information on that before the next
22 meeting.

23 Any other -- anything else to --

1 MR. REDDOCK: No. All the information is
2 here. And if there are any other
3 questions, we're happy to field them.
4 But I think it's a great opportunity.

5 MR. ESTES: May I speak real quickly.

6 My name is Tracy Estes. I'm state
7 representative for House District 17.
8 This property is in my district up in
9 the Natural Bridge area, and it's just
10 something that we have an interest in.
11 I've had numerous constituents in recent
12 weeks who have reached out to me
13 expressing an interest in preserving
14 this property because, as he said, it is
15 a natural treasure. It's the longest
16 natural bridge east of the Rocky
17 Mountains. There's 149 acres included
18 in this property. Most of it is
19 undeveloped, and we really believe there
20 is great potential for this land.

21 So that is our purpose in being here
22 today is just to lay the original
23 groundwork before the nomination

1 actually comes before the board for
2 review. And so we appreciate any
3 consideration you could give in
4 reviewing those documents.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir. Thank you,
6 Representative. Appreciate you being
7 here today.

8 MR. ESTES: Yes, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you.

12 The next speaker is Mr. Chandler
13 Graham on the Thigpen Hill-Phase II,
14 Tab 3-B, page 8. Tab 3-B, page 8.

15 MR. GRAHAM: Good morning. Thank you for
16 having me here. I wanted to first just
17 thank y'all on behalf of our seller here
18 for moving forward with the purchase of
19 the Phase I of this project which we
20 anticipate being closed by the end of
21 the year.

22 So today I just wanted to kind of
23 tee y'all up again and let y'all know

1 that we're still here.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Can you just speak in
3 the microphone a little bit closer?

4 I'm sorry, Chandlar. I just want to
5 make sure everybody can hear.

6 MR. GRAHAM: All right. Sorry.

7 Anyway, I'm here today just to kind
8 of remind you again that we're here.
9 We're excited to be working with y'all.
10 I understand that, you know, the
11 Phase II, I think, is an additional
12 2200 acres, 2300 acres, so a large
13 purchase. And our seller is willing to
14 work with y'all as best she can and any
15 way she can to, you know, finalize this
16 project. So if there's any questions,
17 I'm here to answer and I'm happy to do
18 so.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Questions?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Chandlar.

22 MS. McCURDY: Commissioner?

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. McCURDY: I hate to interrupt the flow,
2 but we were trying to see if we could
3 turn up the sound any. And so this mic
4 is up more than it was. Is that better
5 for y'all?

6 And if you don't mind, I wanted to
7 test -- I guess all your mics are the
8 same.

9 (Brief interruption for sound
10 check.)

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The next speaker will
12 be Mr. Clint Payne. Mr. Payne is going
13 to speak on purchasing property for
14 water service access at the Coldwater
15 Mountain Tract. It's a memo in Tab 5-B.
16 We'll give everybody a chance to find
17 that.

18 MS. McCURDY: It's 5-D.

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: 5-D. I'm sorry.

20 All right, Mr. Payne.

21 MR. PAYNE: Thank y'all for giving me the
22 opportunity to speak. I am in the
23 beginning stages of building a

1 campground to serve the mountain bikers
2 that visit the Coldwater Mountain Bike
3 Trail. There currently are no
4 campgrounds, and there is a shortage of
5 places to stay when people come from a
6 distance to ride the mountain bike
7 trails.

8 I noticed this when I was -- I'm a
9 mountain biker, and I noticed this when
10 I would go ride the trails. There would
11 be vehicles from all over the Southeast,
12 and in talking to those people that rode
13 the trails, they would always ask, you
14 know, is there somewhere to stay around
15 here, can we camp here, can we -- you
16 know, and you can't.

17 So over the past few years I've
18 acquired property along the trail, and I
19 have access -- road access to the
20 property. And with talking to the city,
21 I had an understanding that I would have
22 access to water, but as it got closer to
23 finalizing this, they hadn't looked up

1 any of my elevations on my campground.
2 And so they could not set the meter at
3 the elevation that I own property.

4 And so what I need to do is purchase
5 a strip of property from Forever Wild
6 that would connect me at the correct
7 elevation to a water meter to my
8 property. If I could purchase that
9 strip of land, I would give up any
10 surface rights to the land. I just need
11 a water meter and to be able to install
12 an underground pump that would pump the
13 water to the correct elevation to my
14 property.

15 And so that has kind of brought my
16 progress to a stop because I don't want
17 to start building things without, you
18 know, access to water. So I would just
19 ask y'all to consider that. And I'm
20 just here to answer any kind of
21 questions you guys have to the land use
22 or anything else you would like to know.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions?

1 MR. RUNYAN: Where is the planned campsite?

2 MR. PAYNE: The planned campsite?

3 It should be -- or it's --

4 MS. McCURDY: If y'all will give me one

5 second, I'll get Evan to work off --

6 I'll ask Evan to work off one of the

7 Coldwater maps and help y'all.

8 MR. PAYNE: The property that I have --

9 MS. McCURDY: Well, hold on one second. Let's

10 tell them -- Evan, speak up as to what

11 map you're on.

12 MR. LAWRENCE: Yes. On page --

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Is it the map on the

14 5-D memo?

15 MS. McCURDY: Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah, it is

16 attached.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right.

18 MR. LAWRENCE: And if you look there, the blue

19 would be where Mr. Payne's campsites

20 would be at.

21 MR. PAYNE: Yes. My campsites would be in the

22 blue. And what you're looking at, the

23 strip that I would need is in the red,

1 the two lines that go down beside the
2 road there. And that is the bottom of
3 the hill that is at the correct
4 elevation, and as you move south, the
5 elevation rises up.

6 And you can barely see this, but in
7 the yellow there, those are the mountain
8 bike trails. And they come directly by
9 the property that I own. So this would
10 be an opportunity for me to build some
11 cabins that actually would have a view
12 of the trail and so people that were
13 camping there and staying there could
14 sit on the porch of their cabin and
15 watch people come down the trails, which
16 I think would be pretty cool.

17 MS. McCURDY: And to update the board just a
18 little bit, you know, we have had
19 discussions with the local water
20 authorities, and there is a chance that
21 right where the meter and the pump needs
22 to be would be the only acreage that
23 would have to be fee simple ownership

1 with the right of way provided for an
2 additional stretch.

3 We were going to cover this later,
4 but just to update the board, we are
5 supposed to go up, meet with the local
6 authorities and Mr. Payne, and try to
7 decipher exactly what our recommendation
8 would be to the board potentially at the
9 next meeting.

10 Currently we don't -- you know, we
11 always check for habitat impacts and we
12 check for access impacts, recreational
13 impacts. We don't see any immediate
14 adverse impacts, but I want to be able
15 to present to you a more specific
16 recommendation of where fee simple
17 ownership would have to be, show you
18 that on a map, and then we can discuss
19 if you prefer -- if you are interested,
20 if you would prefer fee simple ownership
21 for the strip or just where necessary
22 with the right of way for the remainder.

23 So I think Mr. Payne just wanted to

1 present to you his situation today. And
2 we are working with him to bring forth
3 more information and a recommendation
4 for the next meeting.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you,
6 sir.

7 MR. PAYNE: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: The next speaker is
9 Ms. Maggie Johnston with Wild Alabama.
10 We'll come back to her.

11 The next speakers will be on the
12 Saginaw Swamp property. That is 4-B,
13 page 29. The first speaker will be
14 Mr. Chris Oberholster. Tab 4-B, page
15 29.

16 MS. McCURDY: And, also, for the board, you
17 will find in your green folder some
18 correspondence that we received and were
19 asked to pass along to the board. It
20 would be Tab 8 in your green folder.

21 MR. OBERHOLSTER: Good morning. Can y'all
22 hear me through the mask?

23 My name is Chris Oberholster. I

1 work for Alabama Audubon, which is a
2 nonprofit that is dedicated to
3 protecting -- protection and
4 appreciation of our bird life and bird
5 habitat around the state. I just have a
6 few comments about Saginaw Swamp.

7 There's relatively few places in
8 Alabama that have high concentrations of
9 large water birds like this particular
10 property. And those are the kind of
11 places that we found have economic
12 development potential through the bird
13 and wildlife-watching type of tourism.
14 So the Alabama Birding Trails that the
15 University of Alabama Center For
16 Economic Development runs, for example,
17 has identified these kind of places as
18 ones that we need to get better public
19 access to and better protection for.

20 So this is why -- what motivated us
21 to really support and endorse this
22 particular project. It's right near --
23 it's just 15 minutes south of us. It's

1 less than five minutes off the Shelby
2 County Airport exit off the interstate
3 right by the biggest concentration --
4 biggest population center in the state.
5 So it's really ideally suited for better
6 access to birdwatching and other
7 wildlife-watching opportunities.

8 So my request is that y'all would
9 consider -- the board would consider
10 moving this towards at least getting an
11 appraisal -- a first appraisal so that
12 we can just pursue the possibility of
13 protecting this permanently but, also,
14 providing better public access to a
15 place that's already become popular
16 amongst bird-watchers and wildlife
17 observation experts.

18 Thank you. Any questions? I'll be
19 happy to answer.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions for
21 Chris?

22 MR. SATTERFIELD: Mr. Chairman?

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir,

1 Mr. Satterfield.

2 MR. SATTERFIELD: This property has been
3 before us two or three times before. So
4 I'm hearkening back to some of the same
5 questions that have come up in the
6 previous meetings. And, that is, I see
7 these letters of support from folks
8 other than the City of Alabaster. Do
9 you have any formal letters of support
10 from the city, what they're willing to
11 do to help manage the property if it was
12 acquired and how we should deal with
13 that?

14 Secondly, because it is separated
15 from Limestone Park by an active
16 railroad, how do you -- how would you
17 propose to try to tie those two projects
18 together without having access across
19 that railroad right of way, which could
20 create all kinds of liability problems?

21 MR. OBERHOLSTER: Those are really good
22 questions. So my first insight I'll
23 share on the first question about

1 jurisdiction.

2 This property is actually in
3 unincorporated Shelby County. So it's
4 not within the jurisdiction for the City
5 of Alabaster to commit city resources to
6 maintenance to assist Forever Wild.

7 And, yes, they do -- we have a
8 partnership and have had a lot of
9 interest and engagement from City of
10 Alabaster on their piece of this swamp
11 on the other side of the railroad tracks
12 from this tract that is being considered
13 now. But the bulk of the swamp,
14 including the breeding -- the
15 concentrations of the breeding rookeries
16 and so on of all the birds that use all
17 the wetlands in this part of central
18 Alabama, is on this property that's
19 under consideration now.

20 So unincorporated Shelby County is
21 actually the jurisdiction for this. And
22 in my discussions in the past, the
23 Shelby County officials -- and this is a

1 bit dated because I wasn't able to
2 attend the last couple of Forever Wild
3 Board meetings -- but their comment on
4 this particular project was let's hold
5 off until the Cahaba River project is
6 completed, which is now completed -- the
7 Cahaba River Park -- until that's done
8 by the Forever Wild program before we'll
9 make any commitments or consider
10 anything like Saginaw Swamp.

11 MR. SATTERFIELD: The follow-up question --

12 MR. OBERHOLSTER: I'm sorry. The question of
13 access, there's no question the railroad
14 is -- there's no need for -- it's not
15 going to be possible or feasible to link
16 and have pedestrian access across the
17 railroad track. That's not feasible.
18 But there's great paved road access all
19 the way up and down this property under
20 consideration including existing
21 pedestrian access with some mowed paths
22 and so on that the landowner and their
23 agents have used for a little bit of

1 access for recreation.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

3 MR. SATTERFIELD: Follow-up question: Have
4 you had any recent conversations with
5 Shelby County in terms of their priority
6 list? Because it's my understanding
7 that they may have some other properties
8 higher on their list at the current time
9 than this property. And have you
10 updated that with the Shelby County
11 Commission?

12 MR. OBERHOLSTER: Yeah. I'd say I have not
13 had conversations most recently with
14 Mr. Scroggins, for example, but would be
15 happy to follow up with him just to hear
16 what their project priorities are.

17 In this case, the timing -- these
18 are in different phases. Shelby
19 Crossroads, for example, is another
20 priority that's gone to the next step.
21 We're hoping that there would be at
22 least an initial appraisal on this one.
23 And the Oak Mountain State Park and

1 several other projects in central
2 Alabama are at a further advanced stage.
3 So perhaps, hopefully, it would be
4 possible to get this one to the first
5 stage.

6 MR. SATTERFIELD: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Chris.

8 Our next speaker on the same
9 property, I think, is going to be
10 Ms. Rusha Smith.

11 Good to see you again, Ms. Smith.

12 MS. SMITH: You, too, Commissioner
13 Blankenship. Thank you.

14 And, Board Members, thank you and
15 good morning. My name is Rusha Smith,
16 and I'm the Executive Director of
17 Freshwater Land Trust. I'm here also
18 speaking about the nomination of the
19 Saginaw Swamp property, and certainly we
20 favor that nomination as well.

21 Our organization certainly
22 recognizes the importance of this tract
23 and believes that it would provide not

1 only great recreational opportunities,
2 but also protect unique habitats
3 associated with the freshwater marsh and
4 the tupelo swamp. And, again, as was
5 mentioned earlier, its proximity to
6 Limestone Park and the existing
7 relationship with the City of Alabaster
8 and Birmingham Audubon is a great
9 example of a public-private partnership.

10 As many of you know, our
11 organization supports water quality and
12 preservation and public access, and so
13 therefore we strongly encourage Forever
14 Wild to support the acquisition of
15 Saginaw Swamp. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any additional
17 questions?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, ma'am.

20 Let's see if Maggie Johnston is
21 back. She's with Wild Alabama.

22 I think I was reading an article
23 this morning about your organization.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: Good morning.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: It was in the news
3 today.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: Yeah. I'm Maggie Johnston. I
5 see some familiar faces in this group.
6 And can y'all hear me okay?

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: A little closer if you
8 can.

9 MS. JOHNSTON: A little closer?

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: I wanted to introduce our
12 rebirth of Wild Alabama. Some of you
13 may know a little bit about the
14 organization and its history. Right now
15 you may know it as Wild South, and it's
16 a regional southeastern region
17 organization. But Wild South is
18 restructuring, and each state is
19 autonomous. So now we're Wild Alabama,
20 and I'm Maggie Johnston, the executive
21 director. And I'm proud to be a part of
22 it.

23 I wanted to introduce myself just a

1 little bit too. My background is in
2 education. I was a teacher for long
3 enough to retire at the Alabama School
4 for the Deaf -- I always feel like I
5 should sign when I say that -- and
6 taught science. I then became the
7 director of the educational programs at
8 Camp McDowell, so around the
9 environmental center there, the farm
10 school, and started the first
11 nature-based preschool in Alabama, which
12 is Magnolia Nature School -- I'm kind of
13 proud of all those things -- and then a
14 few months ago was approached about this
15 job and the possibility of having Wild
16 Alabama rooted back in this state.

17 Some of the things that we do at
18 Wild Alabama are training volunteers.
19 We have about 90 volunteers around the
20 state who do trail maintenance, even
21 have trainings that we do for wilderness
22 rangers. That means that we train
23 people to do crosscut sawing so that

1 they can go into the wilderness areas.

2 We partner with the U.S. Forest
3 Service on a lot of these projects and
4 also partner with organizations like
5 Alabama Rivers Alliance, Cahaba River
6 Society, all the other organizations
7 around the state who are doing
8 environmental work. We've
9 partnered with national groups as
10 well -- Leave No Trace, National Forest
11 Foundation, the Wilderness Society --
12 Wilderness Stewardship Alliance -- lots
13 of organizations around the country.

14 And we are very excited about moving
15 the headquarters back to Alabama and
16 working with the U.S. Forest Service on
17 our national forests and our three
18 wilderness areas. In Alabama we have a
19 treasure, and I know that you know that.
20 Because I want to thank you for serving
21 on this board and being a part of an
22 organization that is protecting and
23 preserving our treasures in Alabama.

1 You're doing it and we are too.

2 So I just wanted you to know that
3 we're here. And although primarily we
4 work in the national forests and Sipsey,
5 Cheaha, and Dugger Mountain, we are
6 doing a lot of educational
7 opportunities. We're speaking to groups
8 and trying to get the word out about all
9 of the different public lands and
10 treasures that are right in people's
11 back yards. Sometimes the general
12 public just doesn't know about them.

13 So thank you. And I've got my cards
14 here. I'm just going to pass them out
15 right quick if I may do that.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sure. Thank you for --

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Any questions?

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions for
19 Ms. Johnston?

20 Thank you for coming today and thank
21 you for your work at the School of the
22 Deaf and Blind because it is very -- I'm
23 sure teaching science --

1 MS. JOHNSTON: It was fun.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: -- was very
3 challenging.

4 MS. JOHNSTON: Challenging and fun.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am.

6 Challenging and very appreciated, I'm
7 sure. Thank you.

8 Our next speaker will be Ken Wills
9 also on the Saginaw Swamp Tract and the
10 Oak Mountain Addition, Tab 3-B, page 6.
11 Tab 3-B, page 6.

12 Just a second, Mr. Wills.

13 All right, sir.

14 MR. WILLS: Hello. My name is Ken Wills. I
15 am a volunteer with work days of various
16 groups including the Friends of Moss
17 Rock Preserve, Alabama Audubon. I'm
18 also co-author of the book *Exploring*
19 *Wild Alabama*, which is a University of
20 Alabama Press book that features all the
21 publicly accessible natural areas in the
22 state including the Forever Wild Tracts.

23 I'm here to talk about two tracts.

1 The 160-acre Saginaw Tract, you've heard
2 a little bit about it. I would stress
3 that it's very important to protect the
4 hydrology on this tract, protect the
5 hydrology for the whole Saginaw Swamp,
6 which includes Limestone Park. I've
7 volunteered out there a lot. I've
8 probably been out there more than
9 anybody in this room, so I know that
10 area very well.

11 The rookery that's in the Saginaw
12 Tract, those are the birds that come
13 over to Limestone Park that people see.
14 So the two are very interconnected and
15 important.

16 I can tell you at Limestone Park
17 we've removed a lot of exotic plants.
18 We've planted a lot of native grasses
19 and wildflowers. And we have put out a
20 lot of birdhouses and putting them out
21 by canoe. Some of that's a little
22 tricky.

23 But, anyway, if the state acquires

1 this tract, I know a lot of Alabama
2 Audubon volunteers and others -- we're
3 going to be happy to come help you guys
4 do some of the same stuff, like remove
5 exotic plants. There's peninsulas
6 through this property that would make
7 great areas for trails where people
8 could see the wetlands without getting
9 their feet wet, and we can help you put
10 those in and maintain them.

11 And I guess, just briefly, to talk
12 about Oak Mountain -- I don't need to
13 say much about that. I mean, it's a
14 great proposal you guys are going to
15 have in front of you. But I'll mention
16 this to you: Back in 1992, I was a
17 college volunteer trying to get people
18 to vote for Forever Wild and get it
19 passed. I worked on the renewal as
20 well. So I love Forever Wild.

21 But we used to go around and do
22 speeches, and we'd tell people, hey, one
23 of the things Forever Wild can do is it

1 can buy buffer lands around our state
2 parks, like Oak Mountain where you've
3 got all this urbanization. And so I
4 would say 30 years later you guys are
5 getting a chance to make a buffer around
6 Oak Mountain or part of Oak Mountain a
7 reality. So thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir. Thank you.

9 Any questions?

10 MR. SATTERFIELD: Mr. Chairman?

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Satterfield.

12 MR. SATTERFIELD: Thank you for your comments
13 and thank you for being here to promote
14 those two properties.

15 Recognizing that we don't have an
16 unlimited amount of money and we have to
17 be judicious in making decisions on how
18 we spend this money for the most benefit
19 of the public and Forever Wild, how
20 would you rank these two proposals in
21 priority? Which would be number one and
22 which would be number two?

23 MR. WILLS: I thought y'all would ask me that.

1 All I'm going to say is y'all are the
2 Forever Wild Board and y'all are going
3 to have to make that decision. I'm not
4 going to touch it.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you,
6 sir.

7 The last speaker that I have a card
8 for is Selena Vaughn to speak on the
9 Barnhill property or the D'Olive Bay,
10 page 4-B -- Tab 4-B, page 15.

11 As she's coming up, is there anybody
12 that wanted to speak that has not had
13 the opportunity to fill out one of the
14 green slips?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I see no hands. So
17 this should be our last speaker,
18 Ms. Vaughn.

19 Give me just a second while they're
20 passing this out so we can --

21 MS. VAUGHN: Yes. I tried to do a little map
22 that will kind of summarize what I'm
23 going to talk about today.

1 First of all, I want to say thank
2 you so much. It's so nice to come out
3 of the crazy world to a room of people
4 doing things that I approve of and I can
5 champion. And I also want to encourage
6 everybody here standing behind me and in
7 front of me that -- I first came to this
8 body five years ago talking about this
9 D'Olive Bay project, and we just had the
10 deed signed. And we got the grant
11 money, and it's such a thrilling
12 project. And this is a marathon, not a
13 sprint. So I encourage everybody to
14 never give up hope and keep coming, keep
15 coming here.

16 So the property you see in yellow,
17 that is what Forever Wild has just
18 purchased with grant money that we were
19 really glad to work with you on to
20 purchase this. The mint green property
21 to the left is what Village Point
22 Foundation donated in kind to match, and
23 the pink is what the City of Daphne

1 donated in kind to match.

2 And, real quickly, you see a blue
3 oval kind of at the top and to the right
4 of the yellow property. That is some
5 property that the City of Spanish Fort
6 is going to be nominating, if they
7 haven't already, to continue on with
8 this. What we would like to do is go
9 beyond the Causeway. And eventually our
10 master plan is for Spanish Fort and
11 Daphne to work together -- we want to
12 connect -- we want to go west and
13 connect over to Five Rivers and Meaher
14 Park which will allow people to walk and
15 bike through these wetlands to the head
16 of our Gator Alley Boardwalk, which is
17 also the head of the Eastern Shore
18 Trail, where you can continue on all the
19 way south to Point Clear.

20 So this is very important
21 ecologically, of course, as you know --
22 you've already purchased the property --
23 because of the stormwater and runoff and

1 just a vulnerability of our D'Olive Bay
2 which has just come off the list of
3 concern. And we want to keep that off
4 the list of concern for the State of
5 Alabama now that we have some property
6 to make sure we make that happen.

7 So what I'm here today to point out
8 is an additional nomination that we
9 recently made that is in that red
10 circle. Because with the grant money
11 that we received for this yellow piece
12 of property, the 97 acres you just
13 purchased, we think we still have enough
14 money in that grant to get this last
15 little wedge which is between the
16 property you've just purchased and the
17 very top of our Gator Boardwalk Park.
18 There's a little wedge there that would
19 still be private property if we do not
20 purchase this.

21 And, also, the D'Olive Creek runs
22 right along that property, and we would
23 really like to be able to maintain that,

1 have control of that. Because what
2 could happen in that little wedge right
3 there on 98, if somebody was to put in a
4 gas station or something -- you can't
5 tell from this, but the property is
6 incredibly steep. And it would cause us
7 a lot of issues on that creek and into
8 our bay. So there are just several
9 reasons that we want to get that last
10 little wedge since we have the funding
11 to do it.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any questions?

13 Mr. Satterfield.

14 MR. SATTERFIELD: Mr. Chairman, let me
15 clarify -- we have two of these D'Olive
16 project tracts on the short list today.

17 And, Patti, maybe you can help us
18 with this.

19 It looks like from this map you
20 presented to us you are addressing the
21 two and a half acre property.

22 MS. VAUGHN: Right.

23 MR. SATTERFIELD: What about the other

1 29 acres that are also on the short list
2 for today? Where does that stand with
3 you, and what you are advocating?

4 MS. VAUGHN: Good question. I'm --

5 MS. McCURDY: Could I suggest, too, for the
6 board -- it may help some -- also you
7 have a map attached to 8-A that was in
8 your green folder. We had it in there
9 based on different correspondence, but I
10 think it would be helpful in identifying
11 holistically the tracts that are
12 nominated.

13 MR. SATTERFIELD: Yeah. That's why I was
14 asking my question. I wanted to clarify
15 what it is you're advocating --

16 MS. VAUGHN: It's a good question because
17 I meant to address that and I forgot.
18 I'm glad you asked.

19 You know, all between -- all along
20 I-10 there is a zigzag border between
21 Daphne city limits and Spanish Fort city
22 limits. And that is Spanish Fort, the
23 property you're talking about north of

1 the two and a half acres that I'm
2 talking about, and I am representing
3 Village Point Foundation and the City of
4 Daphne.

5 So Spanish Fort is making their own
6 separate nomination, I believe, for
7 these properties because -- and so we'll
8 be able to work in partnership over
9 time, but that purchase would be -- it's
10 a separate nomination.

11 MS. McCURDY: I believe the one that you are
12 speaking on is the D'Olive Bay-Barnhill
13 Addition.

14 MS. VAUGHN: It's the one in the circle.

15 MS. McCURDY: But help them with my map.

16 MS. VAUGHN: Yes.

17 MS. McCURDY: Okay. The D'Olive-Barnhill is
18 what's in your red circle, what you're
19 first speaking on.

20 MS. VAUGHN: Right.

21 MS. McCURDY: And then for the board, above
22 that --

23 MS. VAUGHN: The property that's north of that

1 would be Spanish Fort city limits.

2 MS. McCURDY: And currently that is the other
3 short-list nomination, D'Olive Bay
4 Addition, which the reason it's in your
5 green folder is there's some
6 correspondence from the City of Spanish
7 Fort expressing their support for that
8 and nominating some additional tracts
9 further north, if that helps.

10 MS. VAUGHN: So because we are in separate
11 city limits, we did have to do separate
12 nominations because they had to -- they
13 had to commit themselves for their
14 property in their city limits. But we
15 plan to work in tandem and together.
16 Matter of fact, we've been talking to
17 them a long time about nominating this.
18 We're glad they finally did it.

19 MR. RUNYAN: Now, did I understand correct
20 that on the Barnhill Addition that you
21 said there's enough grant money
22 available to make that purchase?

23 MS. VAUGHN: Exactly.

1 MS. McCURDY: And that's correct. That's
2 discussed in Tab 5-A -- I-believe it's
3 5-A -- in the grant status, which we'll
4 cover in a little bit.

5 Yeah, 5-A.

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Any
7 additional questions?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you ma'am.
10 So that's the end of our public
11 comment period. We'll now move into
12 the -- to recess for an Executive
13 Session.

14 By regulation, appraisal values are
15 confidential during periods of
16 negotiation. Accordingly, in order to
17 discuss tract appraisal values, the
18 board will need to go into recess for an
19 Executive Session.

20 Is there a motion for the board to
21 now recess into an Executive Session?

22 MR. JONES: So moved.

23 MR. DARNALL: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So moved by Mr. Jones,
2 seconded by Mr. Darnall.

3 As I call your name, please state
4 your position on this motion to recess.
5 If you're favor, say "aye." If you're
6 not in favor, please say "nay."

7 Chris Blankenship, aye.

8 Jack Darnall?

9 MR. DARNALL: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Holloway?

11 MR. HOLLOWAY: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Jones?

13 MR. JONES: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Powers?

15 DR. POWERS: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Saloom?

17 DR. SALOOM: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Satterfield?

19 MR. SATTERFIELD: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Sims?

21 DR. SIMS: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Tolley-Jordan?

23 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Valentine?

2 DR. VALENTINE: Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright?

4 MR. WRIGHT: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. McClintock?

6 DR. McCLINTOCK: Aye.

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Runyan?

8 MR. RUNYAN: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. All are in
10 favor. It was unanimous.

11 We will now recess for Executive
12 Session. It's 10:51. We hope to be
13 back in 20 minutes.

14 **(Recess for Executive Session was**
15 **taken at approximately 10:51 a.m.**
16 **and the meeting was called back to**
17 **order at approximately 11:08 a.m.)**

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. For the
19 record, we're returning from Executive
20 Session. It is 11:08, and we'll
21 commence with the rest of our meeting.
22 We'll be in Tab 5 or Section 5.

23 MS. McCURDY: We'll start at Tab 2 and then

1 quickly be ready to flip to 5.

2 And for the audience and everyone, I
3 am Patti McCurdy. I am Director of the
4 State Lands Division for the Department
5 of Conservation. And I'm going to go
6 through some program reports initially.
7 And I will also tell everybody, I had
8 cataract surgery recently. So if you
9 see me leaning down, right now I don't
10 see really well at any particular level.
11 So I will -- and if I trail off, I will
12 rely on the board to let me know you
13 can't hear me anymore; okay?

14 All right. So, Board Members, if
15 you will turn to Tab 2-A. This is the
16 portion of every meeting where I run
17 through, for the benefit of the board
18 but also the public, the tracts that we
19 currently have in some stage of the
20 closing process. These are tracts that
21 the board has instructed -- has made a
22 motion to proceed with purchase and
23 instructed the board -- I mean,

1 instructed staff to close on these
2 tracts, unless we hit a glitch, a
3 question, something unexpected.

4 Because of that, this is also the
5 point at every meeting where I remind
6 you how much all that equals, because
7 those are checks that you've written
8 that maybe haven't been cashed but will
9 be. And so that helps me tell you the
10 amount of money that you have available
11 for considering additional acquisitions.

12 So I will start with running through
13 the tracts that, again, are in some
14 stage of final negotiation or closing.

15 We have the Little River State
16 Forest Addition, Escambia County;
17 Perdido WMA-McNeill Addition, Baldwin
18 County; Red Hills-Parris Trust Addition,
19 Monroe; and Thigpen Hill-Option A
20 Phase I, Butler County; Cedar Creek SOA
21 Addition, Dallas County; and Cedar Creek
22 SOA-Elm Bluff Edition in Dallas County.

23 If I take all of those tracts that

1 we're trying to get closed, your
2 available balance is just under
3 \$15 million. And at this time you are
4 within your spending authority for the
5 amount that you have available. So I
6 can skip my spending authority
7 discussion that I normally have to go
8 through.

9 Any questions from the board as to
10 those tracts that are in closing?

11 (No response.)

12 MS. McCURDY: All right. We have, also, as a
13 reminder to everyone, just moved into a
14 new fiscal year with the state. It
15 began October 1. And so some of your
16 information is straddling two fiscal
17 years right now.

18 But we've included for the board a
19 summary of what closed in the prior
20 fiscal year and then, also, the tract
21 that has closed so far this year. This
22 is where we go through each meeting the
23 tracts that have closed as well as

1 offers that may have been declined that
2 obviously are now off of the first list
3 of tracts I went through.

4 So I want to run through the prior
5 fiscal year on what closed: Beaverdam
6 Swamp; Blakeley Land Swap; Blackwater
7 River South Tract; Cahaba River-Mohon
8 Tract; Cahaba River-Savage Creek Tract;
9 Monte Sano State Park-McComb Addition;
10 Portland Landing SOA-Gilmore Addition;
11 Red Hills-Baucom Addition; Red
12 Hills-Brown Schutt Additions; Red
13 Hills-Flat Creek Phases I, II, and III;
14 and Red Hills-Section 2; Skyline
15 WMA-Crow Mountain Addition.

16 And then we had one tract declined
17 in the last fiscal year, and that was
18 Weeks Bay Reserve-Snook Addition. The
19 landowner simply decided ultimately they
20 wanted to hold off on letting go of that
21 acreage.

22 In the current fiscal year, we've
23 had one landowner decline an offer.

1 That was for Cold Mountain-Young
2 Addition. And we have closed the
3 D'Olive Bay Tract. That was the first
4 tract that began the grant acquisition
5 that we talked about a little bit
6 earlier and due to the land donations
7 resulted in some remaining funds.

8 So those are the tracts that have
9 closed or offers have been declined, one
10 or the other. Any questions on those?

11 (No response.)

12 MS. McCURDY: All right. We'll move into the
13 stewardship fund.

14 As I believe most know, but, again,
15 for the benefit of the public, each time
16 the board acquires a tract, in addition
17 to the acquisition cost of that tract,
18 the board is required by law to move 15
19 percent of appraised value into the
20 stewardship fund, the fund designed for
21 the long-term maintenance and care and
22 land management needs of these tracts.
23 Even if a tract is donated to the

1 program, like zero acquisition expense,
2 we still move 15 percent of appraised
3 value -- goes with that tract's closing
4 or acquisition into the stewardship
5 fund.

6 So I've included both a status as to
7 the last fiscal year stewardship fund
8 and the brand new fiscal year. We are
9 still in our accounting closeout period.
10 So this number for the stewardship fund,
11 our final expenditures for the prior
12 fiscal year that ran the last October 1
13 to September 30, we're still working on.

14 But we had -- the board granted us
15 authority up to \$1.5 million. We ended
16 up having about -- and as we stand --
17 again, I expect this will go down some
18 more in closeout -- but about \$450,000
19 left. Although we do like to have a
20 little cushion, that's more than usual.
21 There were some projects that did not --
22 and a couple of burns that did not go
23 forward, both during the COVID time

1 period and also due to some tract
2 conditions. So there was some money
3 that remained from this fiscal year.

4 In the new fiscal year, as you will
5 see, we have -- of the 1.5 that the
6 board, again, authorized for
7 expenditure, we currently have spent
8 only about \$46,000, again, not too much
9 into this fiscal year.

10 The net assets of the stewardship
11 fund as of September 30, 2020, was over
12 \$42 million. And the prior fiscal
13 year -- you've got the numbers from the
14 prior fiscal year. Let me go back.
15 Sorry.

16 The prior fiscal year was -- at the
17 end, September 30, 2019, was just over
18 \$36 million. So, again, we continue to
19 see an improvement in that value.

20 Any questions regarding the
21 stewardship fund, either expenditures or
22 balance?

23 I'm sorry. You will also see

1 Tab 2-C is what we are now having each
2 time prepared by the Treasurer's office.
3 And so there's some additional
4 information on that. But any questions
5 related to the stewardship fund
6 expenditures or value?

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Satterfield.

8 MR. SATTERFIELD: Mr. Chairman, I know I've
9 said this before, but I want to commend
10 you for working with the Treasury
11 Department to provide us this investment
12 report, which is very, very helpful for
13 us to understand how the return on
14 investment is being managed for the
15 Forever Wild because that enables us to
16 know how much more additional funds not
17 only for acquisition but for stewardship
18 that we have each year. And we didn't
19 have that until a year or so ago, and I
20 know it's because you've made the effort
21 to initiate that with the Treasury
22 Department. And I want to again commend
23 you and let you know how much I

1 personally appreciate you providing that
2 information to us.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. Thank you.

4 MS. McCURDY: Any additional questions,
5 comments?

6 (No response.)

7 MS. McCURDY: All right. We'll now move to
8 your Tab 3-A. I want to review the
9 status of appraisals that this board has
10 previously motioned for staff to acquire
11 first appraisals.

12 The appraisals that have been
13 returned to us and we have in hand and
14 are all on track: Coldwater
15 Mountain-Oxanna Addition; MTD --
16 Mobile-Tensaw Delta -- the Cutoff Tract;
17 Shelby Crossroads; Thigpen Hill-Option A
18 Phase II.

19 In broad numbers, those tracts alone
20 that we have appraisals in hand for
21 exceed roughly \$7 million. So let me
22 tell you the ones that we're in the
23 process of obtaining.

1 The following appraisals have been
2 initiated but are not yet back in our
3 hand. We expect all of them to be back
4 before the -- in time for the February
5 meeting, in time for staff to review to
6 present to you in February. Those
7 tracts are Joe Wheeler State Park-Page
8 Branch Addition. That's Lauderdale
9 County. Mill Creek in Lee County. And
10 Oak Mountain State Park-Belcher Lake
11 Addition, Shelby County.

12 I do want to update the board. One
13 motion for appraisal that had been
14 previously made was on the Perdido
15 WMA-Nellums Addition in Baldwin County.
16 While we did initiate that appraisal,
17 the landowner called us and had decided
18 he wanted to keep the tract. And so it
19 is not available, and we cancelled that
20 work as soon as we received that call so
21 that -- I wanted to update the board on
22 that.

23 Any question on appraised

1 nominations status?

2 (No response.)

3 MS. McCURDY: All right. What I would move
4 now to is sort of out of the financial
5 reporting and into the grants status
6 report. And you will find that in
7 Tab 5, as Commissioner indicated. It's
8 time to roll to Tab 5. And that's
9 Tab 5-A.

10 And I'm going to run through -- some
11 of these -- some of the tracts are
12 moving along. There's not any new
13 significant different news, but I did
14 just want to provide a general update on
15 the various tracts.

16 Long ago the Forever Wild Board
17 instructed staff to continue to pursue
18 grant opportunities as we saw them
19 potentially available in association
20 with nominations that the program had or
21 tracts that we knew were available to
22 see if we could bring to the board
23 potential opportunities to leverage your

1 money. It never means you have to. It
2 simply means that we have identified
3 tracts and grant money to leverage your
4 money if you're interested in doing so.
5 So let me run through those tracts.

6 An update on tract nominations that
7 we're working on closing: The Little
8 River State Forest Addition, that was a
9 tract that the Alabama Forestry
10 Commission and Board Member Rick Oates,
11 who wasn't able to be with us today --
12 we worked in partnership to acquire some
13 U.S. Forest Service funding for that
14 tract. And that ended up being a --
15 that particular program requires not
16 less than a 25 percent state match. The
17 Forever Wild acquisition serves as a
18 state match. Our funds for our portion
19 of the acquisition provided the
20 necessary state match.

21 And we were able to receive a grant
22 extension on that deadline. So we are
23 fine. It's now been extended to

1 December 31st, 2020. We are still on
2 track, we believe, to be able to close
3 that in November. So we're doing fine
4 on that one.

5 Any questions?

6 (No response.)

7 MS. McCURDY: Another leveraging opportunity
8 that we worked with Chuck Sykes,
9 Director of our Wildlife and Freshwater
10 Fisheries Division, in identifying his
11 Pittman-Robertson funds as a potential
12 match on a 75/25 basis. You heard about
13 this tract last time, and you had asked
14 staff to vote to proceed with an
15 appraisal. We've engaged that work, as
16 I mentioned earlier, and that is
17 proceeding.

18 Same with Oak Mountain State
19 Park-Belcher Addition. When we last
20 met, we were still trying to sort of
21 blend together and marry the U.S. --
22 that's another U.S. Forest Service
23 Forest Legacy Program grant. Similar to

1 Little River, we were trying to merge
2 the requirements of our program and that
3 program and most specifically the grant
4 requirements so that the appraisal that
5 was obtained could also meet the grant
6 requirements. And we were able to work
7 that out. That's moving. And no
8 significant issues or anything there.
9 We'll continue to work on getting those
10 appraisals done and have them for you at
11 the next meeting.

12 In 5-A, the next category --

13 MR. SATTERFIELD: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

15 MR. SATTERFIELD: Sorry, Patti. I wasn't
16 quick enough in looking at my notes.

17 MS. McCURDY: That's fine.

18 MR. SATTERFIELD: Back on the Little River

19 State Forest Addition, I see we have
20 here in the memo that there's a new --
21 that the deadline now for closing on
22 that tract is December 31 of this year.
23 Since Rick is not here, is there -- are

1 we in danger of not meeting that
2 deadline, or are we going to be able to
3 accomplish that?

4 MS. McCURDY: No, sir. We believe we'll be
5 done in November is our current belief,
6 which is why it was extended -- we went
7 ahead and -- Rick's staff helped us. We
8 all worked together on that. But it's
9 been extended to the end of the year.
10 We should be able to meet that. We're
11 not aware of a glitch at this time
12 anyway.

13 MR. SATTERFIELD: Great. Thank you.

14 MS. McCURDY: You're welcome.

15 Again, if you'll move to section III
16 of the memo, this section covers the
17 various short-list nominations that
18 would be eligible for some type of grant
19 funding at some amount. So I wanted to
20 run through those. And we do have some
21 maps attached.

22 If you will -- the first category is
23 the -- I'm sorry. Hold on one second.

1 If you could also turn to -- pull
2 out Tab 8-A, this is what you were
3 looking at earlier. And I'm going to
4 make Jo Lewis watch me closely, and if I
5 go off the map, so to speak, she will
6 correct me.

7 But if you have the map in 8-A,
8 those are the D'Olive nominations that
9 we mentioned. That may be a good map to
10 have out.

11 So the D'Olive Bay nominations, the
12 initial acquisition of the first tract
13 was under the National Coastal Wetlands
14 Conservation Grant Program. Due to a
15 very gracious donation of acreage,
16 that's what prompted the availability to
17 have additional funds at our disposal.
18 The funding associated potentially with
19 these D'Olive short-list additions would
20 be both the D'Olive Bay Addition and the
21 D'Olive Bay-Barnhill Addition on your
22 map. We would have grant money in the
23 amount equal to 52 percent, we believe,

1 of the acquisition price.

2 So those two tracts, which on your
3 8-A map you will see in green and in
4 blue, those are two on your short list
5 that do have, if you would like them,
6 grant money that could be applied.

7 Also, the MTD-Cutoff Tract that is
8 an appraised nomination -- let's see --

9 MS. LEWIS: That's eligible for the grant.

10 MS. McCURDY: The same percentage. It gets a
11 little complicated. That one is also
12 available within that program with that
13 52 percent.

14 We currently believe that we would
15 have enough, Jo, for all three at the
16 52 percent -- all three of those tracts
17 at the 52 percent under that grant
18 program if the board would like to
19 proceed. That's our best estimate on
20 that at this time.

21 Finally, we have the same grant
22 program but a different cycle --

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Let me see if -- does

1 anybody have any questions about that
2 Mobile-Tensaw Delta?

3 That's a little complicated since
4 it's multiple tracts and the D'Olive
5 Bay. Any questions on that before we
6 move to the next property?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Sorry.

9 Didn't mean to --

10 MS. McCURDY: No. I'm glad you did. I didn't
11 mean to go too fast there.

12 The final nomination that we have
13 referenced in the short list is the Styx
14 River Wetlands. Again, same grant
15 program, but this is simply a new cycle
16 of that funding as opposed to D'Olive
17 absorbing -- and the MTD-Cutoff -- the
18 prior grant extra funds. So it's the
19 same program; however, there is a little
20 bit of a difference. We believe that
21 this grant could provide 68 percent of
22 the Styx River.

23 So Styx River is Tab 4-B, and then

1 the map is page 34. So let me give
2 everybody, including myself, a chance to
3 get to that map.

4 And I see Mr. Satterfield -- I think
5 you had your hand up, a question -- a
6 question on the Styx River?

7 I saw your hand a second ago. Did
8 you --

9 MR. SATTERFIELD: No.

10 MS. McCURDY: Oh, okay.

11 So I want to give everybody a chance
12 to get to that map, again, Tab B, page
13 33, 34 -- 34 being the map. And if
14 there are no questions, we'll move on to
15 the next agenda item.

16 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: May I ask for
17 clarification. I think I just -- I may
18 have misunderstood. But Styx River
19 Wetlands is also still a part of the
20 same grant program that D'Olive Bay --

21 MS. McCURDY: No. It's the same grant
22 program -- and I'm sorry. We haven't --
23 I shouldn't get ahead of myself. We

1 have encouraging words on that one, but
2 that grant -- we're not going to
3 formally hear of an award until January
4 on Styx. It's just a -- it's a new
5 cycle. I got ahead of myself. I'm
6 sorry.

7 We've been working in conjunction
8 with our federal partners on that one,
9 but technically we don't have -- we
10 don't have that award in hand.

11 Any questions?

12 (No response.)

13 MS. McCURDY: If none, we'll move to the
14 short-list presentation. And I will
15 apologize to the board. You know, we
16 used to try to do this always with a
17 screen that both helps the board see and
18 the audience. Due to spacing and
19 worrying about getting chairs in, we
20 have not done that lately. But I will
21 move through those for you. And as
22 usual, we will cover those pretty
23 quickly and fairly generally.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So for the help of our
2 new board member, what she'll do is in
3 lieu of having the PowerPoint
4 presentation, go to Tab 4-B in your
5 packet, and then she'll go property by
6 property through Tab 4-B describing
7 those.

8 MS. McCURDY: And that is also for the benefit
9 of the public. Again, these are tracts
10 that have been nominated that we have
11 received a "willing seller" letter from
12 the seller, which does not create an
13 obligation but does say that the seller
14 is comfortable with the property being
15 evaluated and being talked about here as
16 part of our program and may potentially
17 result in acquisition.

18 And so each tract is scored by
19 staff. Each nomination, once we have
20 the "willing seller" letter, is scored
21 in the four categories of nature
22 preserve, recreation, wildlife
23 management areas or additions to those

1 areas -- and they've also been used for
2 SOAs -- and then state park additions or
3 could be new state parks, but those four
4 categories. They then compete in the
5 north, central, and southern district.
6 They have to receive at least a
7 top-three score in a category in that
8 district to appear on the list.

9 What I'm running through today is
10 the simplified version of what ended up
11 short-listing in at least one category.
12 There are many tracts that have
13 attributes that score in the top three
14 in their district maybe in nature
15 preserve as well as recreation as well
16 as state parks.

17 But I will run through the tracts,
18 and I will -- if a board member wants to
19 stop me at any point, please speak up.
20 It's a little hard to see all 15 six
21 feet apart.

22 So Coldwater Mountain-Andrews
23 Addition. That's 86 acres in Calhoun

1 County. We have Coldwater
2 Mountain-Carroll Addition, 43 acres,
3 Calhoun County. Coldwater
4 Mountain-McVey Addition, 56 acres,
5 Calhoun County. Coosa WMA, Hatchet
6 Creek Addition, 151 acres in Coosa
7 County. Cypress Creek Tract, 74 acres,
8 Lauderdale. D'Olive Bay Addition,
9 29 acres, Baldwin County. D'Olive
10 Bay-Barnhill Addition, Baldwin County.
11 Hollins WMA Additions 2020, 1,780 acres,
12 Clay County. Lowndes WMA-Fuzzell
13 Addition, 471 acres, Lowndes County.
14 Lowndes WMA-Johnson Hill Addition,
15 783 acres in Lowndes County. Patsaliga
16 Creek, 1800 acres, Crenshaw and Pike
17 Counties. Penitentiary Mountain, 3,928
18 acres, Shelby County. Perdido
19 Headwaters-Brushy Creek, 408 acres,
20 Baldwin County. Saginaw Swamp,
21 160 acres in Shelby County. Sedgefield
22 Tract, approximately 6,000 acres in
23 Dallas County. Styx River Wetlands,

1 157 acres in Baldwin County. Walls of
2 Jericho-Bradford Addition, 40 acres in
3 Jackson County. And Walls of
4 Jericho-Woodall Addition, 91 acres in
5 Jackson County.

6 So that rounds out the currently
7 available short-list nominations. Any
8 questions on those?

9 (No response.)

10 MS. McCURDY: All right. I'll turn it back to
11 you, Commissioner.

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you.

13 If there are no questions, we'll move
14 into the general discussion portion of
15 the meeting.

16 For Jack, this is the portion of the
17 meeting where there are usually some
18 nominations made and recommendations of
19 motions made for particular tracts. And
20 I will try and make sure everybody has
21 the opportunity to find those before we
22 vote on them to make sure everybody
23 knows what we're looking at.

1 Are there any motions or discussions
2 from the board?

3 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman?

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright.

5 MR. WRIGHT: It is time to nominate; correct?

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

7 MR. WRIGHT: I would like to nominate --

8 MR. SATTERFIELD: David, you need to speak
9 into your mic.

10 MR. WRIGHT: I would like to nominate for
11 first appraisal the Coldwater
12 Mountain-Carroll Addition, 43 acres,
13 simply because it is an inholding within
14 a large Forever Wild purchase.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. So is there
16 a second?

17 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by
19 Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

20 So the motion was made by Mr. Wright
21 and seconded by Dr. Tolley-Jordan for a
22 first appraisal on the Coldwater
23 Mountain-Carroll Addition.

1 Any questions or discussion on that?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say

4 "aye."

5 (All board members present respond

6 "aye.")

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
10 carries.

11 Dr. Powers.

12 DR. POWERS: I'd like to move for a first
13 appraisal for the D'Olive Bay Addition,
14 the 29-acre one for this motion.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Is there a second?

16 MR. JONES: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by Mr. Jones,
18 motioned by Dr. Powers for a first
19 appraisal on the D'Olive Bay Addition,
20 29 acres.

21 Everybody know which one we're
22 talking about? Any questions or
23 discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
3 "aye."

4 (All board members present respond
5 "aye.")

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. The
9 motion carries.

10 DR. POWERS: And, Commissioner, I would like
11 to make a motion for the D'Olive
12 Bay-Barnhill Addition for the first
13 appraisal, the 2.5 acres.

14 DR. McCLINTOCK: I'll second that.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Who was the second?

16 DR. McCLINTOCK: McClintock.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. McClintock.

18 All right. So the motion was made
19 by Dr. Powers, seconded by
20 Dr. McClintock for the first appraisal
21 on the D'Olive Bay-Barnhill Addition,
22 2.5 acres.

23 Any discussion on that? Any

1 questions?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say

4 "aye."

5 (All board members present respond

6 "aye.")

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. The

10 motion carries.

11 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman?

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright.

13 MR. WRIGHT: I would like to nominate for

14 first appraisal the Coldwater

15 Mountain-McVey Addition, 56 acres,

16 simply because it is an inholding within

17 a large Forever Wild area.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Is there a second?

19 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by

21 Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

22 So the motion made by Mr. Wright,

23 seconded by Dr. Tolley-Jordan for a

1 first appraisal on the Coldwater
2 Mountain-McVey Addition, which is one of
3 the inholdings in the Coldwater Mountain
4 property.

5 Any questions or discussion on that
6 motion?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
9 "aye."

10 (All board members present respond
11 "aye.")

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
15 carries.

16 DR. VALENTINE: Commissioner?

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Valentine.

18 DR. VALENTINE: I would like to move for
19 second appraisal and purchase of the
20 Mobile-Tensaw Delta-Cutoff Tract, which
21 is a relatively modest-size piece of
22 property that's rated high for nature
23 preserve and high for WMA.

1 DR. McCLINTOCK: I'll second that.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by
3 Dr. McClintock.

4 So the motion was made
5 Dr. Valentine, seconded by
6 Dr. McClintock for a second appraisal
7 and move to purchase the Mobile-Tensaw
8 Delta-Cutoff Tract.

9 Any questions or discussion on that?

10 MR. SATTERFIELD: I have a question. It's on
11 Tab 3-A, also, and we've already got an
12 appraisal apparently that's initiated
13 but not yet received for the first
14 appraisal on that.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So we received the
16 appraisal --

17 MR. SATTERFIELD: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: That was a last-minute
19 addition.

20 MR. SATTERFIELD: I'm sorry. Thank you. I'll
21 withdraw my question.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any other questions or
23 discussion on that?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
3 "aye."

4 (All board members present respond
5 "aye.")

6 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
9 carries.

10 Anything else? Any other
11 discussion?

12 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Mr. Chairman?

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, ma'am,
14 Dr. Tolley-Jordan.

15 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: I'd like to make a
16 nomination for first appraisal of the
17 Saginaw Swamp in Shelby County.

18 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Is there a second?

19 DR. McCLINTOCK: I'll second that.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by
21 Dr. McClintock.

22 All right. So this is for a first
23 appraisal on the Saginaw Swamp property

1 in Shelby County motioned by
2 Dr. Tolley-Jordan and seconded by
3 Dr. McClintock.

4 Any discussion or questions?

5 Mr. Jones.

6 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I just
7 feel like this tract is off by itself
8 and is not really connected and will be
9 hard for us to manage even though we
10 know we have some people say they'll
11 volunteer to manage that. And it's a
12 swamp that's probably not going to go
13 anywhere because it's a swamp. It's
14 going to be -- so I just feel like -- I
15 just feel like that's not a wise
16 expenditure of our funds.

17 MR. SATTERFIELD: Mr. Chairman, I would
18 reiterate what Raymond has said. Based
19 on the questions I asked earlier in the
20 meeting today, I don't think it's
21 appropriate at this point to put that on
22 a high priority to acquire in Shelby
23 County. I think we've got other better

1 opportunities, higher priority
2 opportunities for the board to acquire
3 in Shelby County that will provide a
4 broader use, multiuse of that property
5 for the citizens of the Shelby
6 County-Birmingham area. So I would say
7 we should probably hold off on making --
8 on moving on this property today.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright.

10 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman --

11 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright and then
12 we'll come to you, Dr. Saloom.

13 MR. WRIGHT: Yes. I would like to reiterate
14 the same that Raymond and Bill said
15 there. I have visited Limestone Park
16 which is across the railroad tracks
17 that's owned by the City of Alabaster.
18 When I was there, undoubtedly I was
19 there the day before they did any kind
20 of maintenance because it was in pretty
21 foul shape.

22 And this swamp is on the other side
23 of the railroad tracks. I'm with Bill.

1 It's going to stay a swamp. Not to say
2 that it's not a bad purchase, but it is
3 a standalone. I don't like standalones.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Saloom.

5 DR. SALOOM: At this meeting, speaking to some
6 other people involved, especially
7 Audubon, I think it might be good
8 consideration to understand that the
9 northern part of the Saginaw that is not
10 in this proposal has been filled in.
11 And I'm not 100 percent sure. I have
12 not been on that property to look at it.
13 But it's filled in for some of the
14 wetlands to be used as industrial. So
15 we very well might want to at some point
16 in time investigate those possibilities
17 of that happening for the rest of
18 that -- the eastern part of that --
19 yeah, the eastern part of that swamp.

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Powers.

21 DR. POWERS: So I guess this is more of a
22 question for Patti.

23 So if the area is primarily swamp,

1 that shouldn't be -- couldn't be
2 developed easier -- easily. That would
3 be reflected in the appraisal price
4 probably; right?

5 MS. McCURDY: Yes. So you would be looking at
6 the highest and best use. If they could
7 determine -- I can't tell you if
8 there's -- you know, what their
9 determination would be on that. But,
10 yes, every tract is the highest and best
11 use, and their belief of what it would
12 cost to develop would be part of --
13 I would imagine would also impact that.

14 DR. POWERS: Yeah. Because I was concerned on
15 this plot about the railroad going
16 through it, but then, you know, the
17 comment was made the birds and waterfall
18 obviously don't care that there's a
19 railroad there. So I would be
20 supportive of seeing at least what the
21 investment would cost us.

22 DR. TOLLEY-JORDAN: Also, I would just like to
23 state for those of you that aren't

1 birders, birders travel everywhere to go
2 to good tracts. If there is good
3 migratory waterfowl on this spot and
4 they have a boardwalk to walk out onto
5 it, they will go there. And so even
6 though it may be a smaller tract, the
7 ease that it has to road access may be
8 very well important.

9 One thing that could be helpful in
10 understanding is that it was mentioned
11 how hydrology here as far as perhaps
12 recharge into the overall watershed
13 could be important, and if that's the
14 case, that is certainly something to
15 bring up.

16 And, further, if there is
17 opportunity to fill in a wetland, I
18 think it would be filled in pretty
19 easily. So if their surrounding region
20 wants to acquire this for any reason, if
21 it has other value, I can't imagine why
22 they wouldn't want it.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I think we've had good

1 discussion on this. I think that this
2 may be one where we'll do a vote by a
3 show of hands. I think that would be
4 more appropriate here to make sure that
5 we get a good count.

6 All of those --

7 MR. WRIGHT: One thing.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir, Mr. Wright.

9 MR. WRIGHT: Patti, correct me if I'm wrong
10 too. Did Shelby County -- somewhere in
11 this folder they came back to rank
12 their -- and I believe that Belcher has
13 taken over number one, Shelby Crossroads
14 is number two, and Saginaw Swamp is
15 number three.

16 MS. McCURDY: I don't have anything official
17 from the county. So I don't want to
18 speak on behalf of the county on that.
19 We had correspondence related to Shelby
20 Crossroads, but that was all.

21 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. So the
23 motion is for a first appraisal on

1 the --

2 MR. HOLLOWAY: Mr. Chairman?

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Holloway.

4 MR. HOLLOWAY: Yes. I think that the county's
5 priority right now is the Belcher Tract;
6 okay? While we are supportive of the
7 Saginaw Swamp, the priority is really
8 right at this point the Belcher Tract.
9 I would like to -- if I could, I would
10 like to sort of delay the vote, if
11 that's possible, on the Saginaw Swamp
12 and allow us to take care of the
13 priority and then we come back to what
14 are the priorities after the Belcher
15 Tract, if that's possible.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Well, we have a motion
17 on the floor. If the motion is passed,
18 obviously we'd get a first appraisal.
19 If it's not passed, then the property
20 could still stay on the -- would still
21 stay on the list of --

22 MS. McCURDY: It would stay available. It's
23 not a procedural shutting of the door.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: It doesn't remove it.

2 It doesn't remove it if there's not --

3 if it doesn't pass.

4 MR. HOLLOWAY: Okay.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. At this

6 time I'd like to take a vote on the

7 first appraisal for the Saginaw Swamp.

8 All those in favor, please raise your

9 hand.

10 (Six board members raise hands.)

11 MS. McCURDY: And could you call that out for

12 the record? Do you mind?

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I think we'll just do a

14 show of hands. There's six that are

15 "yes."

16 All those that are opposed, please

17 raise your hand.

18 One, two, three, four, five, six.

19 (Six board members raise hands.)

20 MS. McCURDY: And we have to --

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I have not voted. So I

22 will vote "yes" for the appraisal. So

23 the motion passes seven to six.

1 Any other discussion?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Thank you.

4 We'll move into section 7, the
5 miscellaneous reports.

6 MS. McCURDY: Commissioner, could Legal
7 section have a moment?

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Sure.

9 MS. McCURDY: That will give me time to get
10 organized.

11 And I will tell the board we're
12 going to be looking at some items in
13 Tab 5 and so be sure you're at Tab 5.

14 Maybe we can move on and --

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Go ahead. And if we
16 need to revisit --

17 MS. McCURDY: And just for the record, we're
18 not really closing out of general
19 discussion. I'm just previewing ahead
20 into miscellaneous reports. How about
21 that?

22 If the board will look at Tab 5-B,
23 each -- at this point in the meeting we

1 review for the board which nominations
2 both on the appraised nominations list
3 and on the short list -- if any of them
4 are due to roll off of those listings
5 based upon the number of meetings
6 without any board action. If the board
7 would like for any of the following to
8 stay on the list, all that they need to
9 do is tell me that. And we don't really
10 require a vote on that. That is just a
11 member opportunity to keep the tract
12 active and on the list.

13 At this time we are just looking on
14 the short list. There are three
15 nominations that would roll off of there
16 and that's the Coldwater
17 Mountain-Andrews Addition, Calhoun
18 County; Lowndes WMA-Johnson Hill
19 Addition, Lowndes County; Penitentiary
20 Mountain, Shelby County.

21 Absent directive otherwise from the
22 board, you will not see those tracts on
23 the list at the next meeting.

1 Mr. Wright?

2 MR. WRIGHT: I would like to see Coldwater

3 Mountain-Andrews Addition just stay on.

4 MS. McCURDY: That's fine. We will do that.

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Anything else from
6 anyone?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. McCURDY: All right. Thank you.

9 Continuing to just go over a few
10 items, if you'll look at Tab 5-C, for
11 every acquisition that the board makes,
12 by law staff is required to present an
13 initial management plan within one year
14 of acquisition. We try to come to you
15 actually two meetings -- or a meeting
16 extra in advance. In case there are
17 questions or any issues, we bring it
18 forward a little early.

19 But the two tracts that it's time
20 for us to at least have an initial
21 management plan on are reflected in
22 Tab 5-C, your memo there.

23 Those two tracts are the Cahaba

1 River WMA-Mohon Addition in Bibb County.
2 Based on it being adjacent to acreage
3 currently within the Cahaba River WMA
4 Complex Management Plan, we are
5 suggesting simply adding this tract to
6 that plan for the cohesive management of
7 that acreage.

8 The second tract that it's time to
9 adopt a management plan is the
10 Blackwater River South Tract in Baldwin
11 County. For a couple of reasons we are
12 suggesting that that tract actually have
13 its own management plan initiated. We
14 are at this time -- in working with the
15 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
16 Division, it is anticipated that that
17 tract for the time being would be an
18 SOA -- managed as an SOA. We are
19 currently working through other funding
20 to acquire additional acreage in the
21 area. So you might see this management
22 plan shift in the future. But that
23 Blackwater River South Tract, which was

1 actually acquired in part with NFWF
2 funding, is the tract that we're
3 referring to.

4 I will need a motion if the board
5 agrees with those actions, but before
6 that, let me ask if there are any
7 questions as to either tract or either
8 management plan.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. McCURDY: If no questions and the board is
11 comfortable with the management plans as
12 reviewed and attached to memo 5-C, we
13 would need a motion. And we tried to
14 provide one for you on the memo.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Saloom.

16 DR. SALOOM: I move that we accept the two
17 management plans for the Cahaba River
18 WMA-Mohon Addition into the existing
19 management plan and development of a new
20 management plan for the Blackwater River
21 South Tract set forth in this memorandum
22 dated November 5, 2020.

23 MR. HOLLOWAY: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by

2 Dr. McClintock again.

3 DR. McCLINTOCK: No.

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: No?

5 Mr. Holloway. All right. Thank
6 you. It's hard to see with the masks.

7 MS. McCURDY: It's hard to hear and the sound
8 goes different directions.

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So the motion was made
10 by Dr. Saloom and Mr. Holloway that the
11 board approves the State Lands Division
12 proceeding with the inclusion of the
13 Cahaba River WMA-Mohon Addition into an
14 existing management plan and development
15 of a new management plan for the
16 Blackwater River South Tract as set
17 forth in this memorandum.

18 Any questions or discussion on that?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All those in favor say
21 "aye."

22 (All board members present respond
23 "aye.")

1 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. The
4 motion carries.

5 MS. McCURDY: All right. And I think we've
6 covered a few items. So let's go to
7 Tab 5-E in your packet.

8 I wanted to just update the board
9 that we did receive -- or I received
10 some correspondence from Shelby County
11 that they asked me to share, and it was
12 expressing an offer of support with
13 maintenance and management of the Shelby
14 Crossroads Tract in the event the board
15 would acquire and be in agreement with
16 the development and utilization as an
17 off-highway vehicle trail riding area.
18 And so under that scenario, Shelby
19 County would -- is also volunteering to
20 seek grant funding through our
21 Department of Economic and Community
22 Affairs, ADECA, here in Alabama, their
23 Recreational Trails Program, for trail

1 improvements.

2 So I wanted to include the
3 correspondence for the board so you
4 would know that was received and so the
5 public would also be aware of that offer
6 from Shelby County.

7 Any questions?

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Satterfield.

9 MR. SATTERFIELD: Patti, I noticed in the
10 letter and the comment that they would
11 try to -- they would propose to approve
12 this property for trails for motorized
13 vehicles, ATVs and UTVs and other
14 motorized vehicles. Is there a
15 precedent for doing that on Forever Wild
16 land in other previous purchases? Do we
17 build trails to provide access for that
18 kind of use on our property?

19 MS. McCURDY: That has not been done to date.

20 There's really -- there's not a
21 precedent on another Forever Wild tract
22 right now.

23 MR. SATTERFIELD: Well, Mr. Chairman, it seems

1 like they're going to apply to seek
2 grant funding from ADECA on that to
3 develop that kind of a proposal, and I
4 don't know if they need some guidance
5 from this board or not before they go to
6 all that trouble as to whether or not
7 Forever Wild would be willing to agree
8 to that kind of use of our property.

9 And the reason I raise this question
10 is I have a little -- I have a concern
11 about that and wonder if that really is
12 consistent with what we've done in the
13 past in acquiring and developing
14 management use plans for Forever Wild
15 property. I don't know if they need any
16 guidance from this board or not before
17 they go to all that trouble to apply for
18 grant funding. That's the reason I ask
19 that question.

20 MS. McCURDY: And my understanding is that I
21 don't believe they would pursue that
22 absent and in conjunction with Forever
23 Wild's decision to acquire the tract.

1 So I don't think they're going to expend
2 time and energy prior to this board
3 indicating a desire to acquire the tract
4 and allow that type of usage.

5 MR. SATTERFIELD: And one reason I raise that
6 question is because as an attorney, I'm
7 aware of a number of huge potential
8 liability problems utilizing motorized
9 vehicles with ATVs and four-wheelers and
10 that kind of thing that are prone to
11 accidents and in a number of cases
12 around the state death. And I don't
13 know if we have even considered doing
14 something like that that might
15 potentially subject Forever Wild and
16 DCNR to those kind of potential
17 problems.

18 So I think that's a big policy issue
19 that needs to be addressed perhaps with
20 a recommendation to this board from DCNR
21 with some input from Department
22 attorneys about the potential -- that
23 kind of potential use of Forever Wild

1 property.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I guess I would say
3 really they've just provided their --
4 what they would like to do with the
5 property. If the board was to acquire
6 it -- I don't think that they have
7 applied for the grant and would not
8 apply for the grant unless the board
9 would acquire the property.

10 And since there's no motion for us
11 for a first -- for a second appraisal
12 and to acquire the property, I just
13 think -- and you can correct me if I'm
14 wrong -- but on any of the management
15 plans that we have -- have been produced
16 to date, we don't have any of those type
17 trails in any of the management plans
18 that this board has approved.

19 MS. McCURDY: And the board to date has not
20 really wanted to pursue that in any
21 other properties to date.

22 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So I guess I would
23 recommend that we just move on at this

1 time unless -- and that the board --
2 that the staff -- if there ever was a
3 change in any one of the management
4 plans to have that type of trail, that
5 would be something we would bring back
6 to the board for sure.

7 MS. McCURDY: Yes, absolutely.

8 MR. SATTERFIELD: And I wasn't asking for a
9 formal motion one way or the other. I
10 just wanted to bring that to the
11 attention of the board. And hopefully
12 it won't come up in the near future, but
13 if it does, it's -- it's a big policy
14 issue.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

16 MR. RUNYAN: Is there a way we could get a
17 recommendation from the Department so if
18 this issue comes up again we'll know the
19 answer?

20 MS. McCURDY: We can certainly look into that.
21 I think the obvious is there is --
22 there's not just a liability question,
23 but there's also maintenance. You know,

1 we spend a lot of money maintaining
2 roads just from normal traffic. So
3 those are questions that, you know, are
4 going to be there.

5 And Commissioner may have his own
6 thoughts. But from a staff standpoint,
7 I mean, obviously, in addition to the
8 potential liability, you know, for us,
9 too, is the maintenance issue of
10 maintaining that. But, again, if this
11 board ever has a desire to pursue such
12 activity, we would make a more detailed
13 analysis of that.

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Saloom.

15 DR. SALOOM: That was one of my questions as
16 well in terms of the liability. But
17 overall for Forever Wild lands, do we
18 have a structure of liability in place,
19 or how does that work?

20 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: A liability policy or
21 some --

22 DR. SALOOM: Yeah. A liability policy or how
23 do we react --

1 MS. McCURDY: I would certainly let -- I'm not
2 a lawyer. I would certainly give our
3 Legal section an opportunity to respond.

4 I mean, I think the question is --
5 there is certain recreational -- there
6 are certain potential immunities that
7 the state may have from a recreational
8 standpoint as other governments.

9 Although we have in the past -- we had a
10 small claim --

11 It's been -- I lose track of time,
12 but I bet it's been at least six or
13 seven years ago.

14 -- a small claim due to an injury
15 due to a, frankly, fairly simple foot
16 bridge that had washed out. I mean, it
17 in high rains had washed out. Some
18 individuals who did admit seeing that
19 and knowing that it may not have been in
20 the best shape but then were awarded a
21 small amount through our State Board of
22 Adjustments.

23 So we can have claims. So we don't

1 ever want to dismiss the possibility of,
2 you know, potential liability. But that
3 potential is there with everything that
4 we -- everything we and everybody else
5 does every day, so ...

6 MR. HOLLOWAY: Mr. Chairman, could we ask that
7 the staff provide us some guidance or
8 some direction on how -- or if ATVs were
9 to be utilized on Forever Wild property,
10 how that would work or if it could work?
11 Could we find some -- get some
12 information on that?

13 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: I mean, I think we
14 could provide some information.
15 However, I mean, it's just not something
16 that's allowed now by our regulations,
17 and it's is not included in any of our
18 management plans. So I don't see this
19 as a pertinent issue for now. Like I
20 don't know that we would want to have
21 the staff expend a lot of time on that
22 for something that's not really before
23 the board as a potential action. It was

1 really just a --

2 MR. HOLLOWAY: But the question is at some
3 point it could be asked for a second
4 appraisal; correct? At some point we
5 could ask for a second appraisal. At
6 that time what would take place?

7 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: We can have our staff
8 provide a quick -- maybe preliminary
9 information on that at --

10 MR. HOLLOWAY: I think the point is if the
11 board is not going to approve any type
12 of motorized ATV action, why would you
13 even bring it up for a second appraisal,
14 then, if the board is not going to allow
15 that. It's a dead issue.

16 MS. McCURDY: But it could be -- I mean, I'm
17 not -- the board could acquire it but
18 not for that purpose, you know, but it
19 would not be with assistance from the
20 county.

21 So you could acquire it as you would
22 acquire any other piece of property.
23 This was really just an expression of an

1 offering of support for certain things,
2 for certain activities, and for
3 maintenance on the property by Shelby
4 County.

5 You could still acquire it for any
6 purpose that you would acquire any other
7 parcel for but not seek the assistance
8 of the county for this type of activity.
9 It would be like any other tract you
10 acquire. But I don't think we have --
11 we have not had today any motion -- and
12 I don't know if I sense that -- but I
13 don't think we're there yet. But there
14 could be a motion that is totally
15 unrelated to the county's offer. So do
16 you see what I'm saying?

17 So you asked what would happen if
18 there was a motion for acquisition. I
19 think it would clarify whether that
20 motion included the potential for that
21 type of activity and the acceptance of
22 the offer of assistance or not. A
23 motion for a second appraisal and

1 acquisition could very much be
2 conditioned upon the usage of the tract.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: What I would offer is
4 that one thing the staff can do, I
5 think, pretty easily is to look at some
6 other public properties in Alabama and
7 see what -- if ATVs or OHV trails are
8 allowed on those properties, which would
9 include the national forest or some
10 other areas, and then -- just to give
11 the board some information on what other
12 entities are allowing it either in large
13 or limited use on the properties.

14 MR. HOLLOWAY: That would be appreciated.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

16 MR. DARNALL: Commissioner, this is a
17 conditional endorsement. They're
18 interested in -- they're interested
19 in -- or they're endorsing it provided
20 it can be used for trail riding, which
21 is not currently allowed if I heard
22 correctly. So this isn't even really
23 an endorsement under the current rules;

1 correct?

2 MS. McCURDY: I had a little trouble
3 understanding. You said it's a
4 conditioned endorsement -- I think is
5 how you described it.

6 MR. DARNALL: Yeah, a conditional endorsement.
7 And it's not allowed, so therefore it's
8 not really an endorsement based on the
9 way I read it.

10 MS. McCURDY: Yeah. I think simply what it
11 is -- and for the -- in the past we've
12 had -- tracts have been considered more
13 attractive to the board when there has
14 been offers from local government to
15 assist. It helps with anything -- it
16 helps with our management of the tract.
17 We have a wonderful relationship with
18 Shelby County on many tracts.

19 I think this was a clarification by
20 the county that they would once again be
21 willing to partner and assist on the
22 condition that it was used for this
23 purpose if acquired. But, one, you can

1 acquire it without using it for that
2 purpose. It's just there won't be
3 assistance from the county, which is
4 also okay.

5 But you're right. It's just a
6 conditioned -- it's an offer to help if
7 the property produced a certain type of
8 attribute for their community.

9 But I'll be happy to, Commissioner,
10 work with you and gather whatever
11 information that you might think would
12 be helpful to the board if that's
13 something a board member wants
14 additional information on, that activity
15 or the cost of that activity or where it
16 currently exists.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. So before
18 we move to the next Tab 5-G, I need to
19 revisit the first appraisal on the
20 Saginaw Swamp.

21 Board action does require more than
22 just a simple majority under the
23 constitutional amendment that set up the

1 Forever Wild Board. So with the vote
2 being seven to six, that does not meet
3 the constitutional voting requirement.
4 So the motion for the first appraisal on
5 Saginaw Swamp does not pass. Does not
6 pass.

7 So are there any questions on that?

8 I don't want there to -- I wanted to
9 talk about it now before we got any
10 further so in the minutes for the next
11 meeting it would be closer together.

12 Yes, sir, Dr. Powers.

13 DR. POWERS: What is the requirement?

14 MS. McCURDY: It would be nine members. And
15 it's really not tied to if you have 15
16 here or 10 here. I believe the number
17 by law for acquiring property is nine.
18 And that's a step in the process.

19 MS. SKAGGS: Any board action.

20 MS. McCURDY: Any board action. Excuse me.
21 That's how it's defined, any board
22 action.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: So that's -- everybody

1 clear on that?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right.

4 MR. HOLLOWAY: Mr. Chairman?

5 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir, Mr. Holloway.

6 MR. HOLLOWAY: I'm clear on this. However,
7 that does not drop it off the list and
8 it can come back up; correct?

9 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir, that's
10 correct.

11 MR. HOLLOWAY: All right.

12 MS. McCURDY: So it was retained already in a
13 prior meeting, so it will be on the list
14 for a while now.

15 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Go ahead.

16 MS. McCURDY: I wanted to give the board a
17 brief update. We had discussed at the
18 last meeting in connection with the
19 Coosa WMA-Hatchet Creek Addition -- we
20 had a question come up regarding the --
21 if we received any feedback or we would
22 try to receive feedback from the Coosa
23 County Commission as to their attitude

1 toward that nomination. And it is
2 currently on the short list.

3 After the meeting, Board Member Rick
4 Oates offered the assistance of one of
5 his staff, John Goff, who is actually
6 the nominator for that tract, to reach
7 out to the commission. I also reached
8 out to the chairman of the commission,
9 Todd Adams, and forwarded to the
10 commission maps showing where the
11 Hatchet Creek Addition was located --

12 It is also in Chairman Adams'
13 district. So in addition to being
14 chair, it would be in his district.

15 -- and offered any additional
16 information provided and asked for an
17 opportunity to discuss further. I have
18 not yet directly heard back from
19 Commissioner Adams.

20 But John Goff had also talked to
21 some commission members, and they have
22 invited -- or asked if John would attend
23 their commission meeting on November

1 11th. And John is intending to do that.
2 It is my understanding that the
3 commission -- I'm not sure they're going
4 to take any particular action on it --
5 but were going to discuss the tract at
6 their November 11th meeting.

7 I know I had a couple of board
8 members mention potentially reaching out
9 themselves. I don't know if anyone did
10 or had any additional feedback that
11 anyone else wanted to provide. But
12 that's about all I can tell you right
13 now is simply that they are aware and
14 appreciative of the information. But I
15 was not given any feedback on behalf of
16 the commissioner.

17 So that's my update. I'm sure -- I
18 guess we'll have another update by the
19 time of the next meeting after the
20 November 11th commission meeting.

21 Any questions on that?

22 (No response.)

23 MS. McCURDY: All right. Also, at our last

1 meeting, based upon a question that we
2 received during public comment, the
3 board had asked staff just to look into
4 the opportunities for specifically
5 incorporating types of recreation in
6 addition to hunting that are provided on
7 the various SOA tracts. And so included
8 in your packet -- and I'm not going to
9 spend a lot of time on it because I
10 think that the board will want an
11 opportunity to look at the information,
12 which just basically runs through some
13 of the costs that we encounter in
14 implementing rec -- the opportunities to
15 do so on the SOA tracts.

16 Some examples of that -- I think I
17 will just offer to answer any questions
18 that the board has, and we can go into
19 deeper discussion or discuss it at the
20 next meeting, whatever the board would
21 like to do.

22 But other than just presenting how
23 we look at recreation, when we look at a

1 tract, we're looking at terrain. We're
2 looking at tract attributes. If you
3 have a longer tract, you may have the
4 opportunity for horseback riding,
5 whereas if you have a shorter tract, you
6 may not. You may have an option for
7 hiking but there are not many what I
8 would call visual amenities that might
9 attract hikers. We look at demand. We
10 look at many different things. But I
11 think it serves as an example of how
12 general recreation can be incorporated
13 and how we do so on some other tracts.

14 But if there are any questions, I'll
15 spend more time on that, but I didn't
16 want to take up more time today.

17 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Wright.

18 MS. McCURDY: Yes, sir. Try to speak into the
19 microphone.

20 MR. WRIGHT: I have one or two questions
21 particularly for Forever Wild land
22 that's within the SOA areas.

23 Is it permitted for an individual to

1 just visit this land and walk into this
2 land, I mean, whether it be a road there
3 or just walking through the woods? Is
4 there anything that says an individual
5 cannot do that?

6 MS. McCURDY: There are certain -- for each
7 tract there is produced, you know, a
8 posted map of that tract and certain --
9 you know, it would be limited right now,
10 I believe, to non-hunting seasons.
11 There are certain tracts that when the
12 gates are open and when that's allowed,
13 it would vary. I don't know that we
14 could say blanketly, you know, every day
15 anybody that wanted to just walk in, you
16 know, could on each tract.

17 So, I mean, I can get you the
18 information as to each tract. But I
19 don't think the general information
20 would be you can come on anywhere at any
21 point and go on at any time. It's going
22 to be based on the usage of the tract
23 and the rec that's currently in place.

1 Some tracts take a while, for example,
2 too, for us to be able to incorporate,
3 you know, the structure for that access,
4 you know, somewhere to park, somewhere
5 to get on, something to do.

6 MR. WRIGHT: And I would like to talk to you
7 more about it after the meeting.

8 MS. McCURDY: Sure.

9 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

10 MS. McCURDY: And that would be great. And I
11 would encourage the board in general --
12 I think if we had -- it's not that I
13 don't want to -- if we had some general
14 discussion, whether it's tract specific
15 or recreational, incorporating -- a lot
16 of what we are diving into right now has
17 been on some specific tracts that have
18 been a combination of Pittman-Robertson
19 and special opportunity area tracts.
20 And so there may also be a little bit of
21 a distinction there. But I'm happy if
22 the board -- feel free to contact me.
23 We'll incorporate whatever is of

1 interest for the next meeting.

2 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. Is that all
3 of the miscellaneous reports?

4 MS. McCURDY: I think we have covered -- in
5 one way or another, I believe that we
6 have covered everything else unless
7 there's a board member -- this is also
8 the time if you have anything you would
9 like for the board to look into or check
10 into or do for you, you can mention now.
11 Or, obviously, you can always call me or
12 any of the staff, and we'll provide the
13 information to you and the rest of the
14 board members.

15 That's all I've got, Commissioner.

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. The next
17 order of business is approval of the
18 minutes from the August the 6th meeting.
19 Those are in your folder, Tab 6.

20 Is there a motion to approve the
21 minutes?

22 DR. SIMS: I move to approve them.

23 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Dr. Sims moves to

1 approve the minutes. Is there a second?

2 MR. SATTERFIELD: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seconded by

4 Mr. Satterfield.

5 Any corrections or changes to the
6 minutes?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: All right. All those
9 in favor of approving the minutes from
10 the August 6th meeting, please say
11 "aye."

12 (All board members present respond
13 "aye.")

14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Any opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. Motion
17 carries. The minutes are approved.

18 The next meeting date will be
19 February the 4th, and that is at -- that
20 will be in Montgomery somewhere. We'll
21 provide some information on where we'll
22 do that in Montgomery between now and
23 then.

1 I also would like to just for the
2 board's information -- as you've seen
3 from the closed properties, the board
4 has been very active in the Red Hills
5 area in acquiring property for the Red
6 Hills Salamander in conjunction with the
7 Department of Conservation and other
8 entities in that area. We hope to have
9 a press event with the U.S. Fish and
10 Wildlife Service and others on December
11 the 10th -- December the 10th --
12 somewhere in that area in Monroe County.

13 So I wanted to just -- that's a
14 tentative thing we're setting up. We're
15 setting all that up now. But while
16 I had the whole board together, I wanted
17 to give you that date. So I think it
18 would be great if any of the board
19 members could attend. I would really
20 appreciate that because y'all have been
21 so instrumental in the work in that Red
22 Hills area.

23 So with that, we do have -- the last

1 order of business, we do have some of
2 our board members that are rotating off
3 the board after this meeting. And I
4 wanted to tell you how much I have
5 appreciated working with Horace Horn,
6 Russ Runyan, and Mr. Holloway. It's
7 been very great having you on the board
8 and serving with you for the last
9 several years.

10 I look forward to continuing to get
11 to know you and see you in daily
12 activity around the state. And I would
13 like to present you with a certificate
14 of appreciation for the work that you've
15 done for the people of Alabama on the
16 Forever Wild Board.

17 So if I could get you to come up,
18 Russ and Mr. Holloway. Come on and
19 let's take pictures. If you'll come up
20 with your masks, and we'll get a picture
21 of the three of us. Somebody's got to
22 have a camera.

23 Thank you so much for your service.

1 So is there any other business for
2 the board?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Seeing none, I will
5 entertain a motion to adjourn.

6 MR. SATTERFIELD: So move.

7 MR. RUNYAN: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Motion to adjourn and
9 seconded. All those in favor say "aye."

10 (All board members present respond
11 "aye.")

12 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: None opposed. We are
13 adjourned.

14

15

16 (Meeting adjourned at approximately
17 12:19 p.m.)

18

19

20

21

22

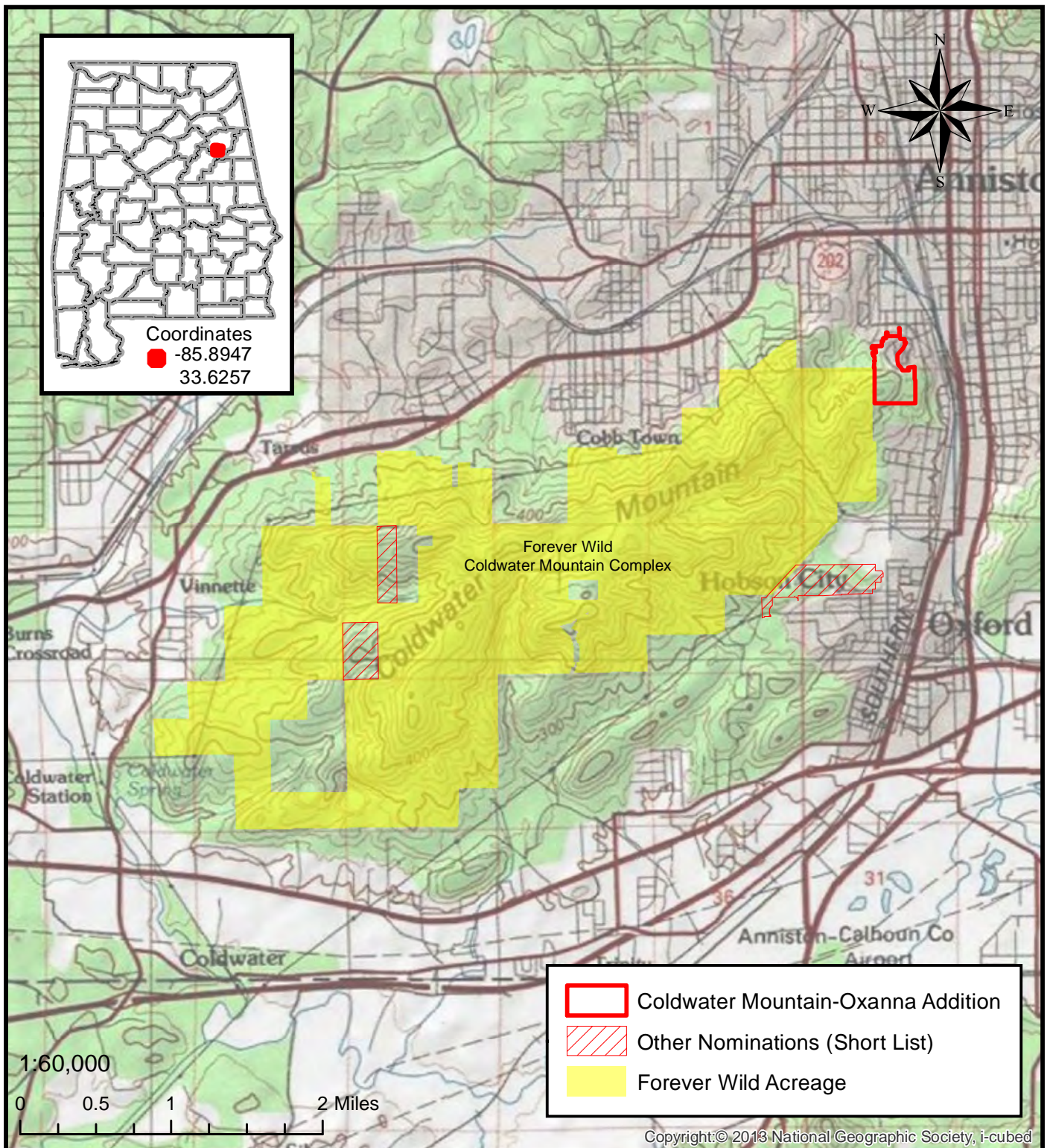
23

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 STATE OF ALABAMA:

4 MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

5
6 I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified
7 Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of
8 Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported
9 the foregoing proceedings of the Forever Wild Board
10 Meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2020.11 The foregoing 127 computer-printed pages
12 contain a true and correct transcript of the
13 proceedings held.14 I further certify that I am neither of
15 kin nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor
16 in any manner interested in the results thereof.17 This 20th day of January 2021.
18
1920 _____
21 Tracye Sadler Blackwell
22 ACCR No. 294
23 Expiration date: 9-30-2021
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large

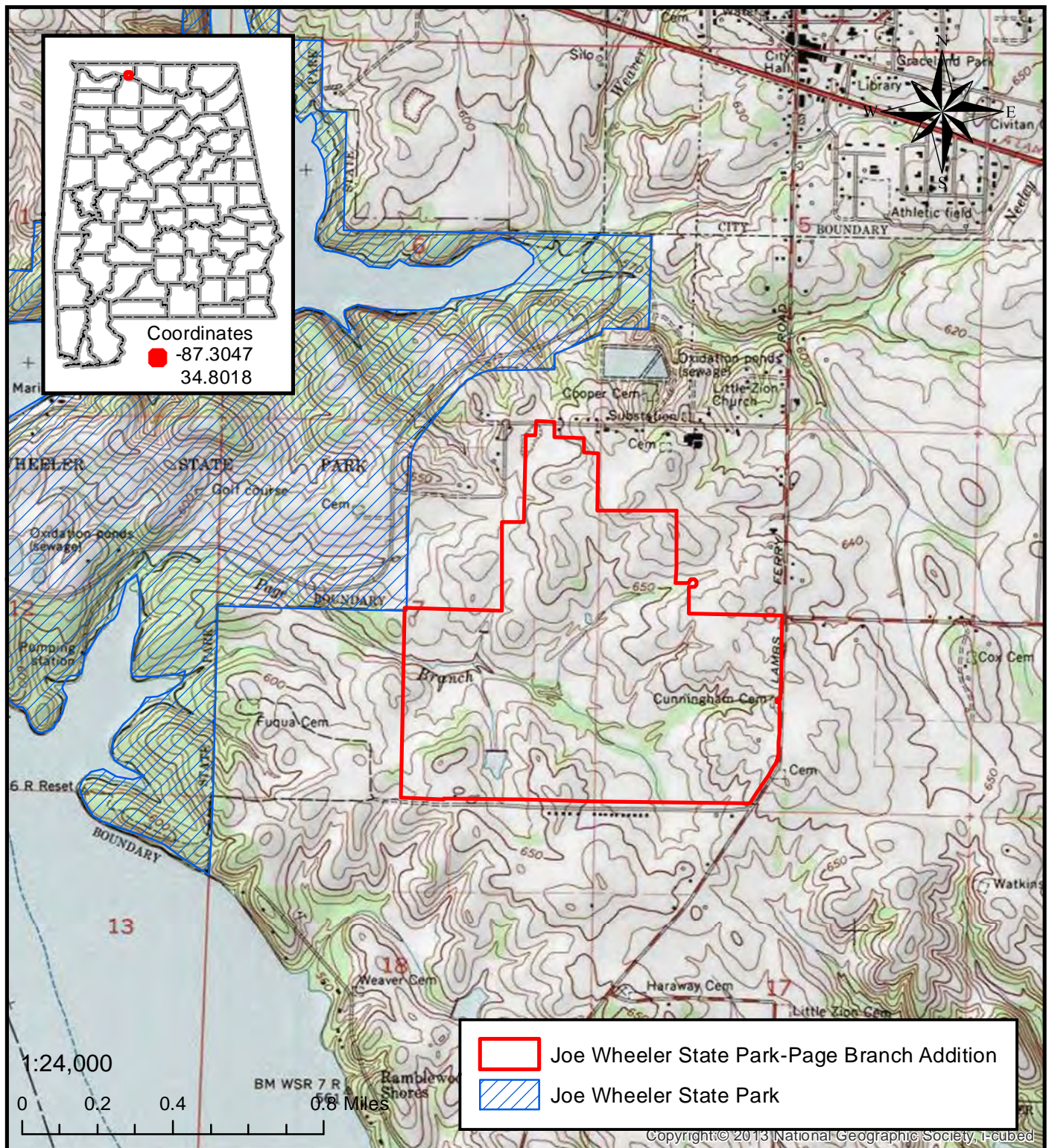


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 Forever Wild Nomination
COLDWATER MOUNTAIN-OXANNA ADDITION
 approximately 62 acres
 Calhoun County T16S R08E
 Anniston USGS Quad



This map is for general overview information purposes only and, accordingly, should not be utilized or otherwise relied upon for any purpose. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and its affiliates assume no responsibility for any inaccuracies as to boundary lines, parcel ownership or other information contained within or depicted on the map.

Date: 10/16/2020

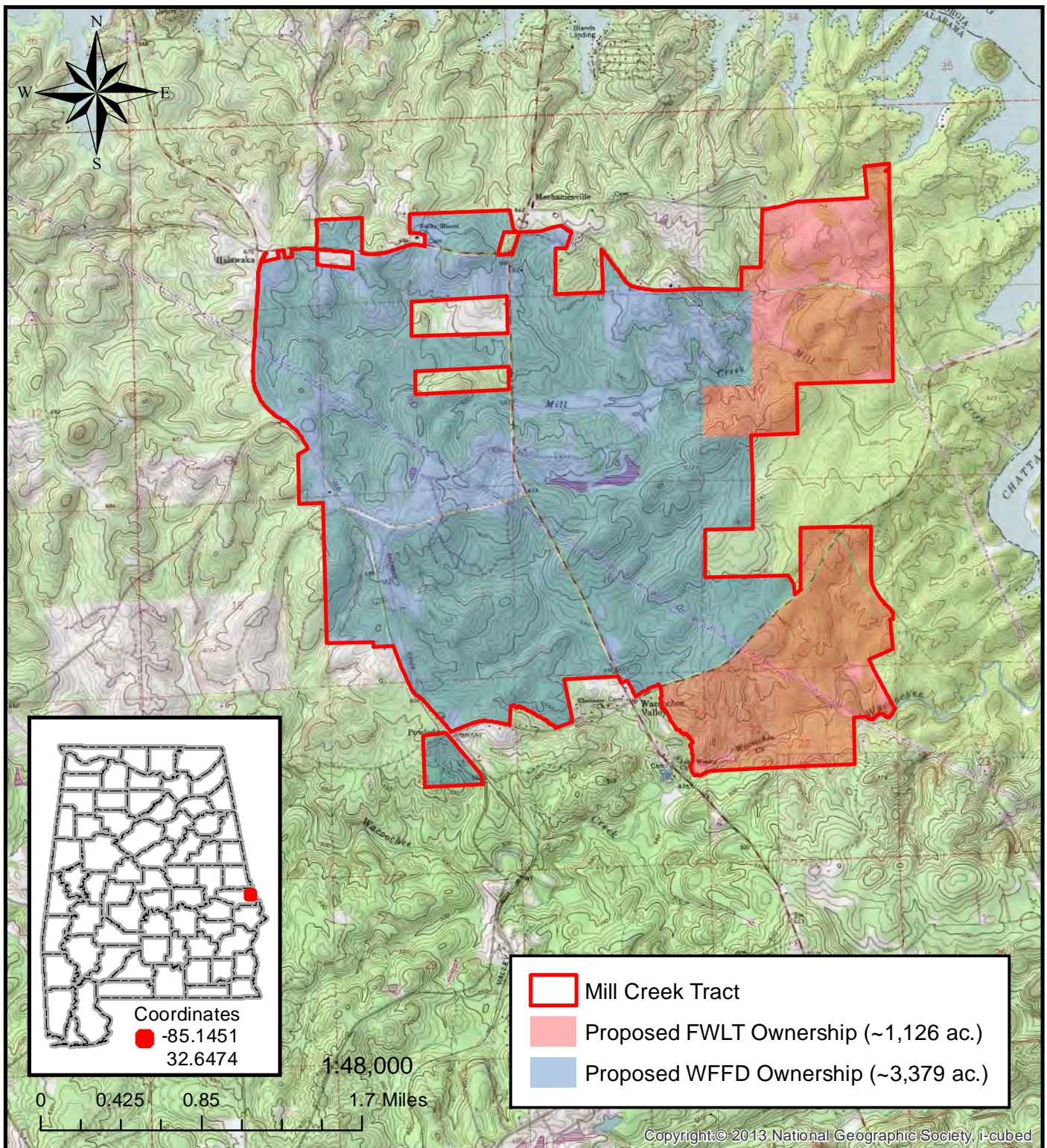


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
JOE WHEELER SP-PAGE BRANCH ADDITION
approximately 423 acres
Lauderdale County Rogersville USGS Quad T03S R07W



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Date: 10/2/2020



**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 Forever Wild Nomination
 MILL CREEK TRACT**

approximately 4,505 acres

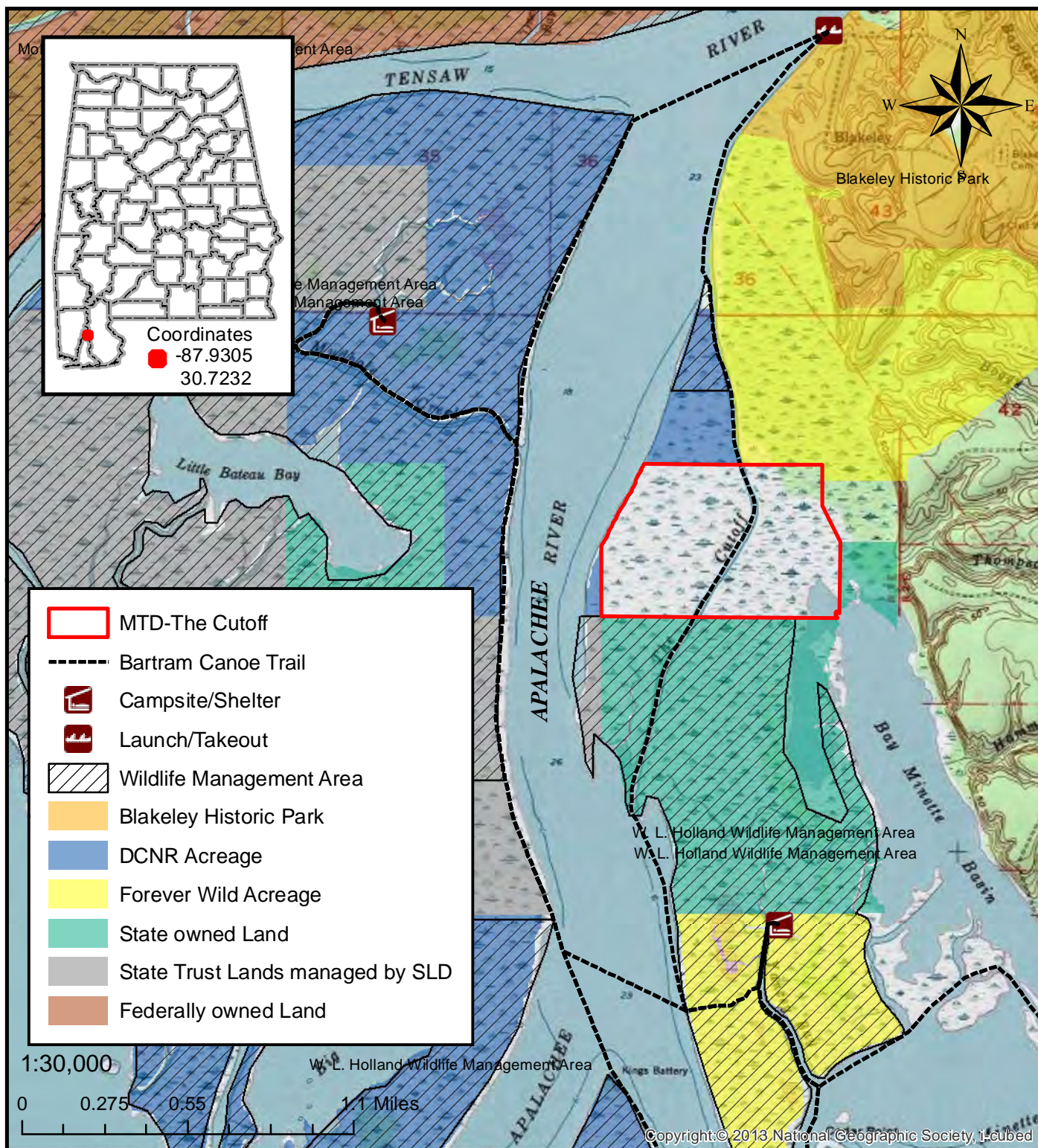
Lee County T19N R29E

Beulah, Bleeker, Smith Station and Bartletts Ferry Dam USGS Quads



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Date: 10/2/2020

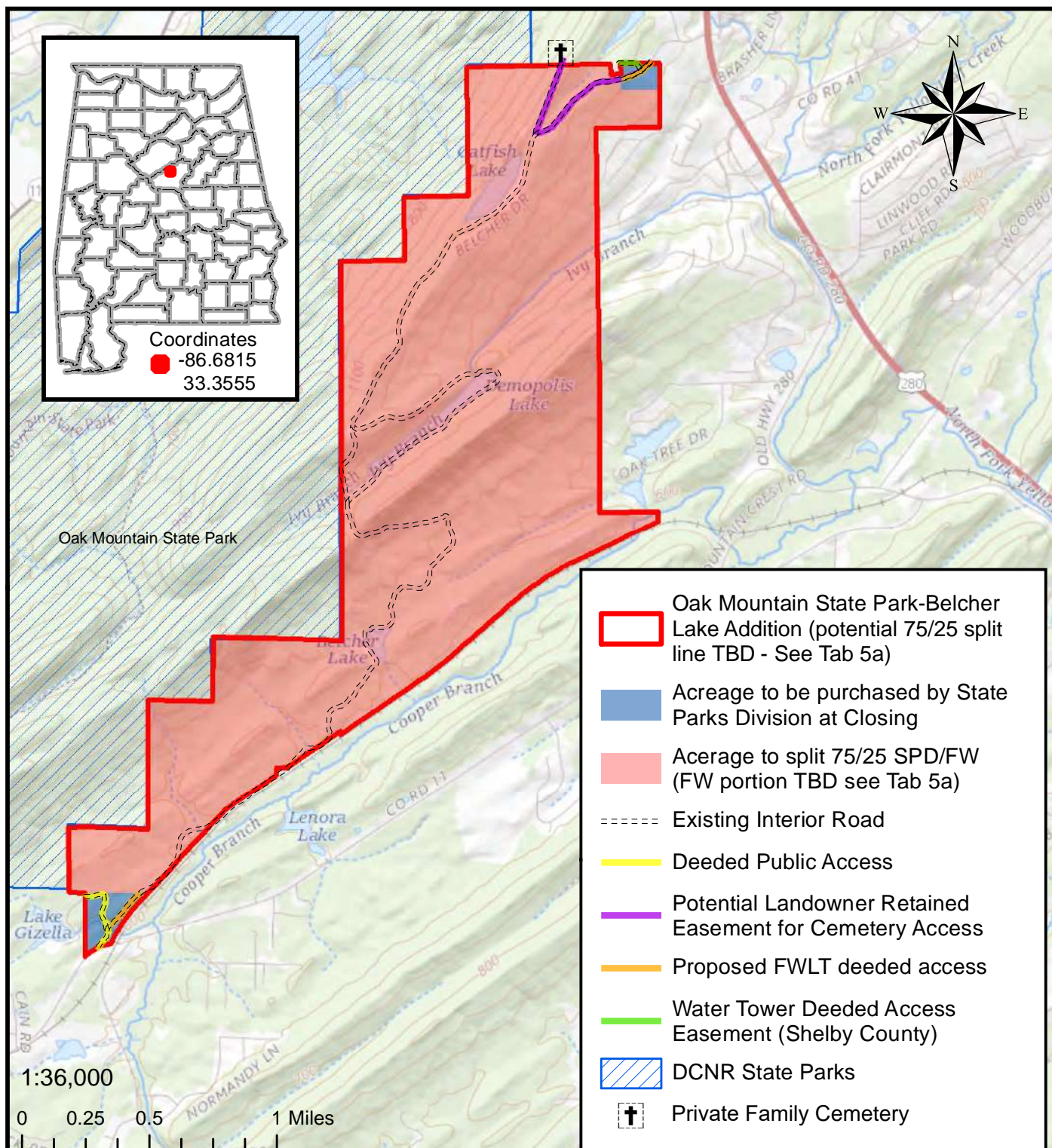


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
MTD-THE CUTOFF TRACT
approximately 223 acres
Baldwin County **Bridgehead USGS Quad** **T04S R01E**



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Date: 10/2/2020

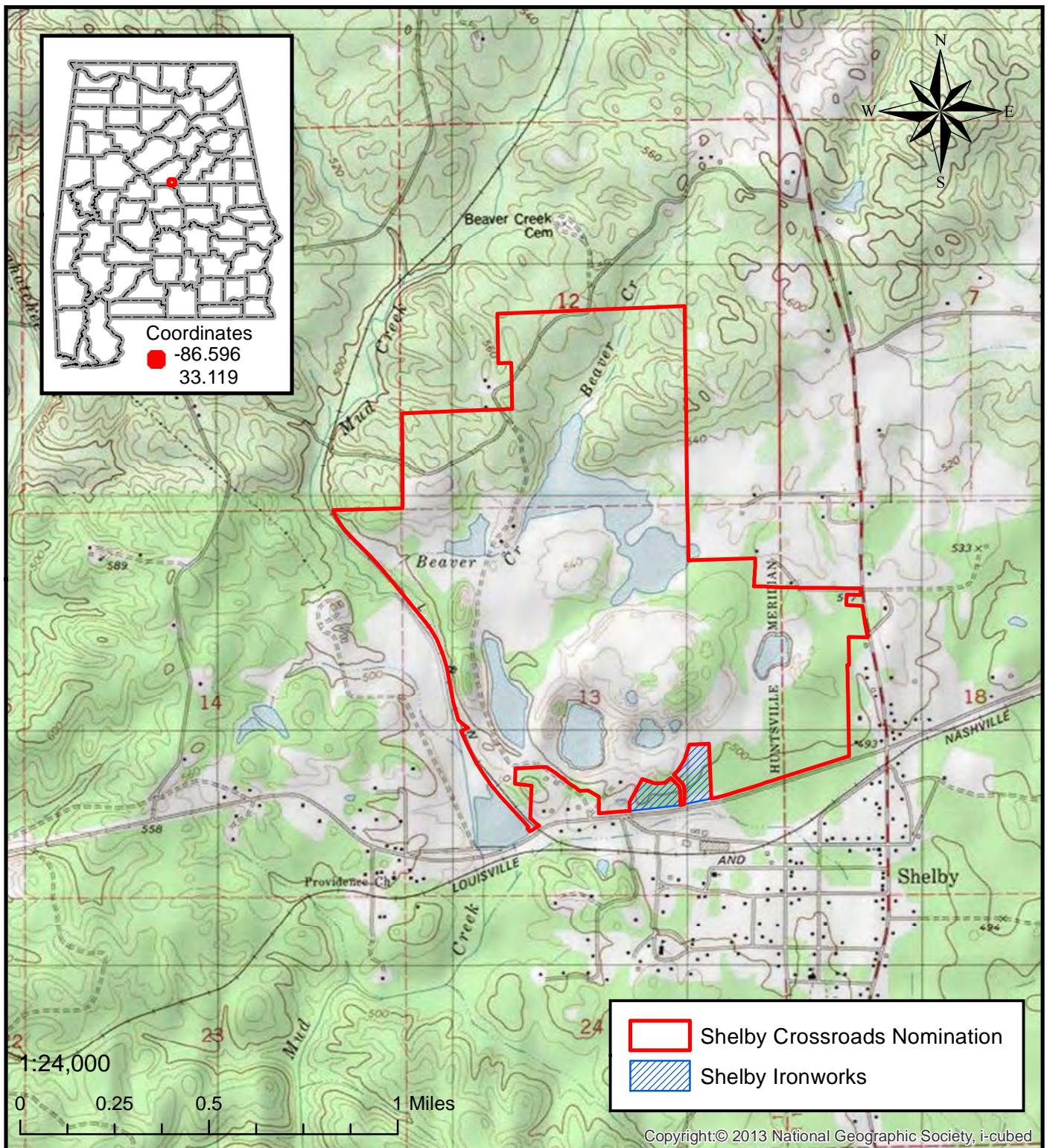


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK-BELCHER LAKE ADDITION
approximately 1,644 acres
Shelby County Cahaba Heights & Chelsea USGS Quads
T19S R01W & 02W, T20S R02W



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Date: 10/19/2020

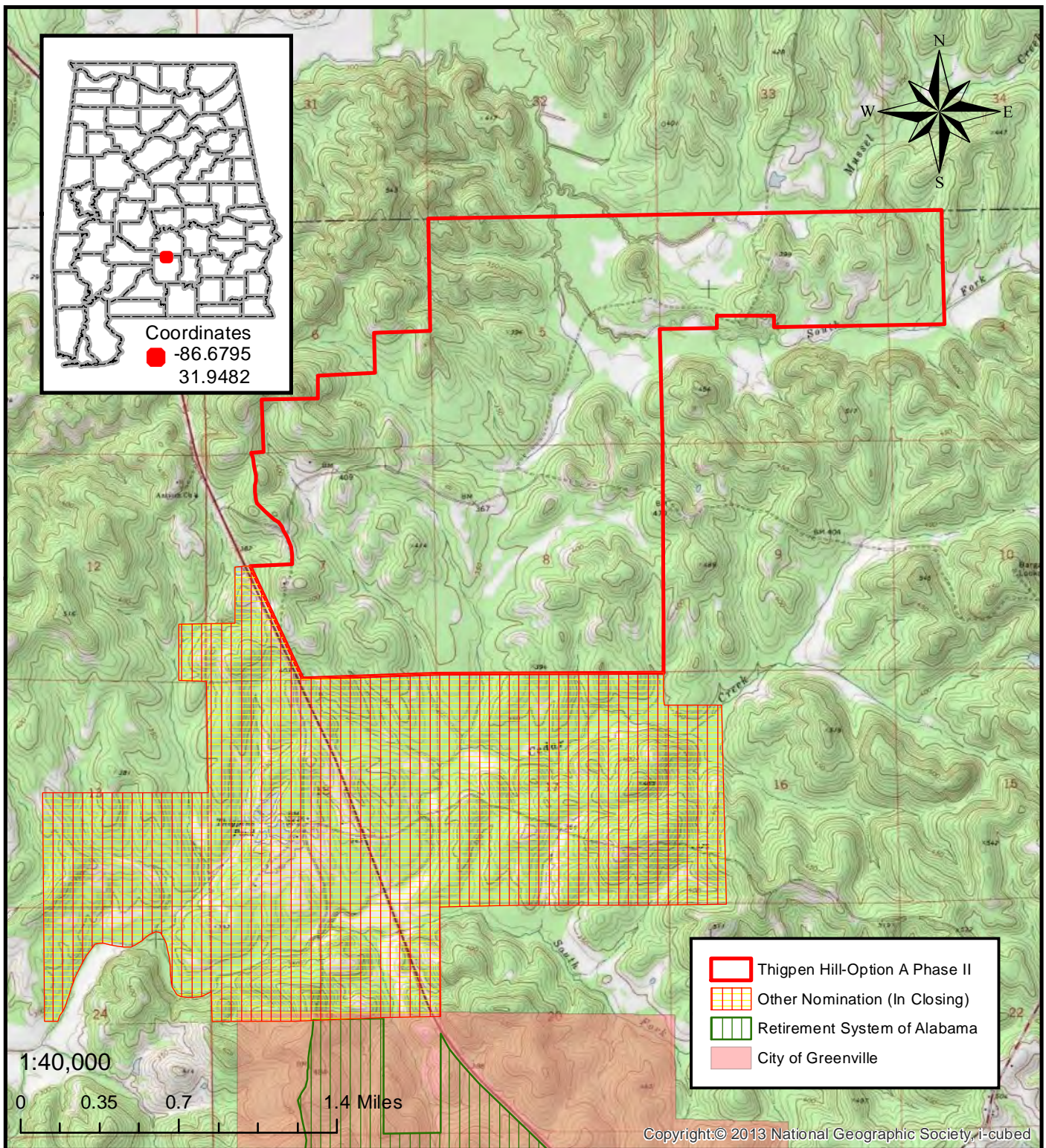


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 Forever Wild Nomination
SHELBY CROSSROADS
 approximately 684 acres
 Shelby County Columbiana & Shelby USGS Quads T22S
 R01E & 01W



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Date: 7/8/2019

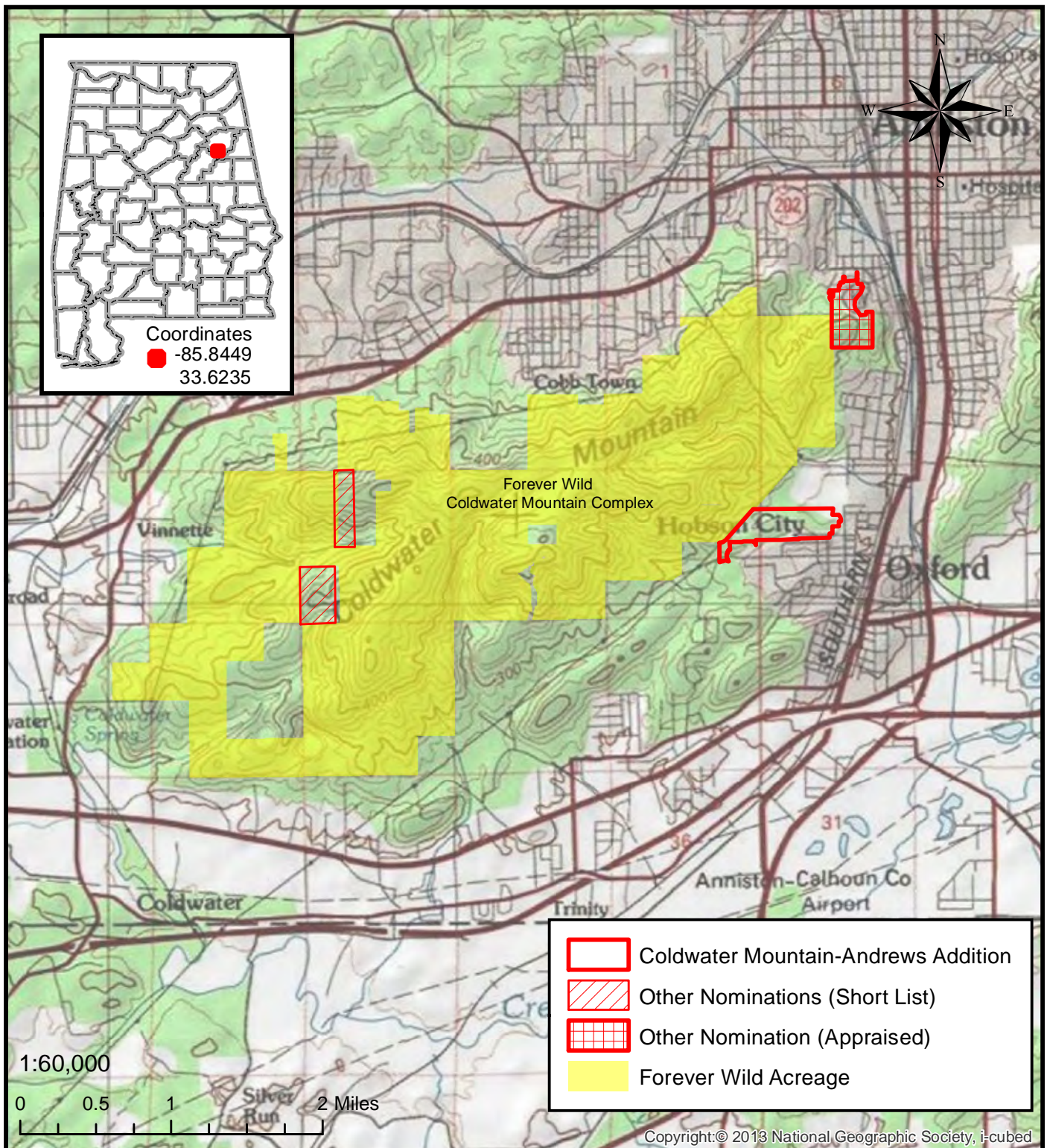


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
THIGPEN HILL-OPTION A PHASE II
approximately 2,290 acres
Butler County Fort Dale USGS Quad T11N R14E



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Date: 7/24/2020



Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Forever Wild Nomination

COLDWATER MOUNTAIN-ANDREWS ADDITION

approximately 86 acres

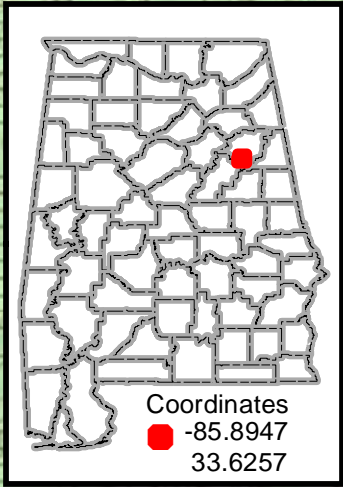
Calhoun County

Oxford USGS Quad T16S R07E and T16S R08E

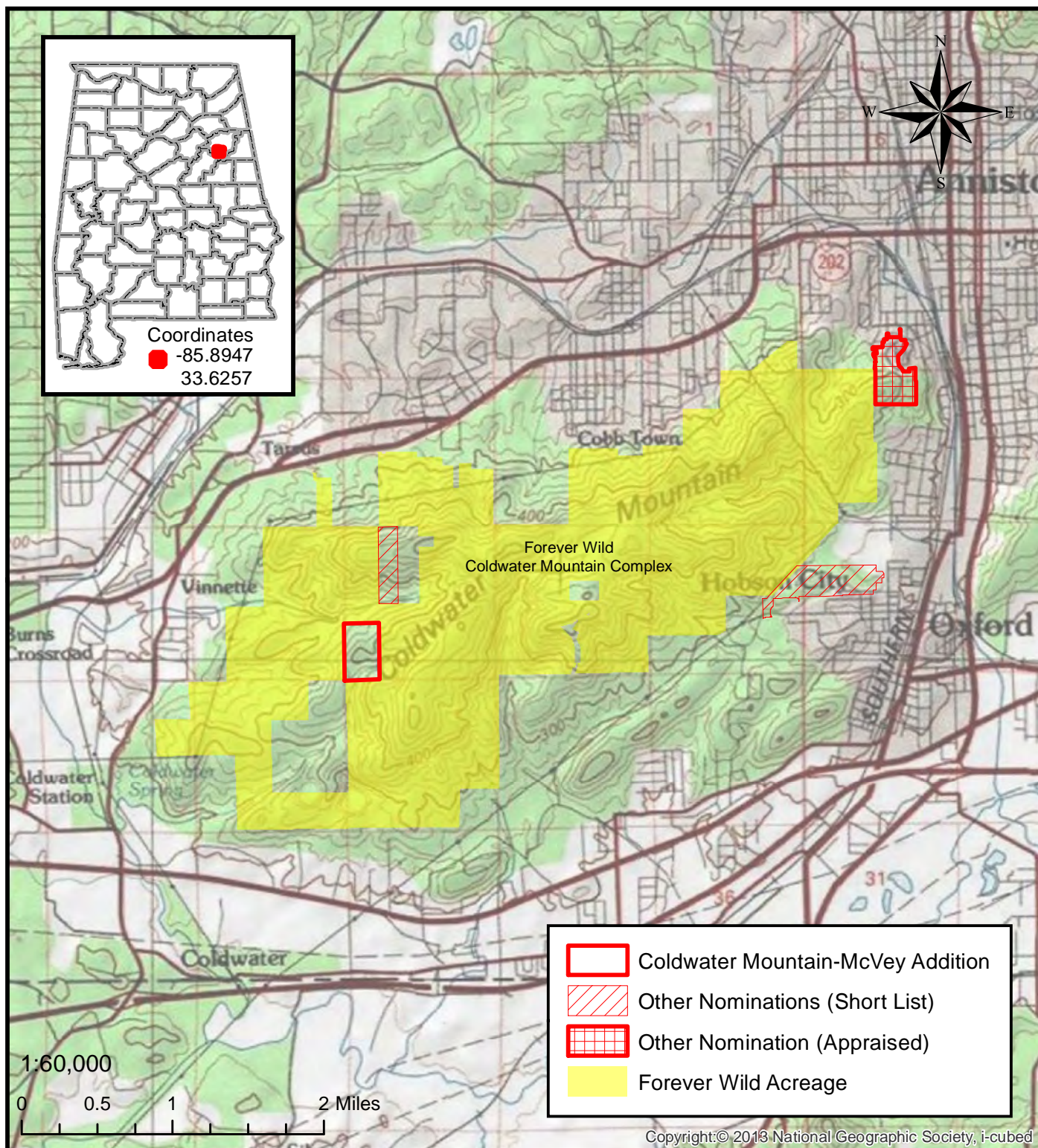


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Date: 10/15/2020



Date: 10/15/2020

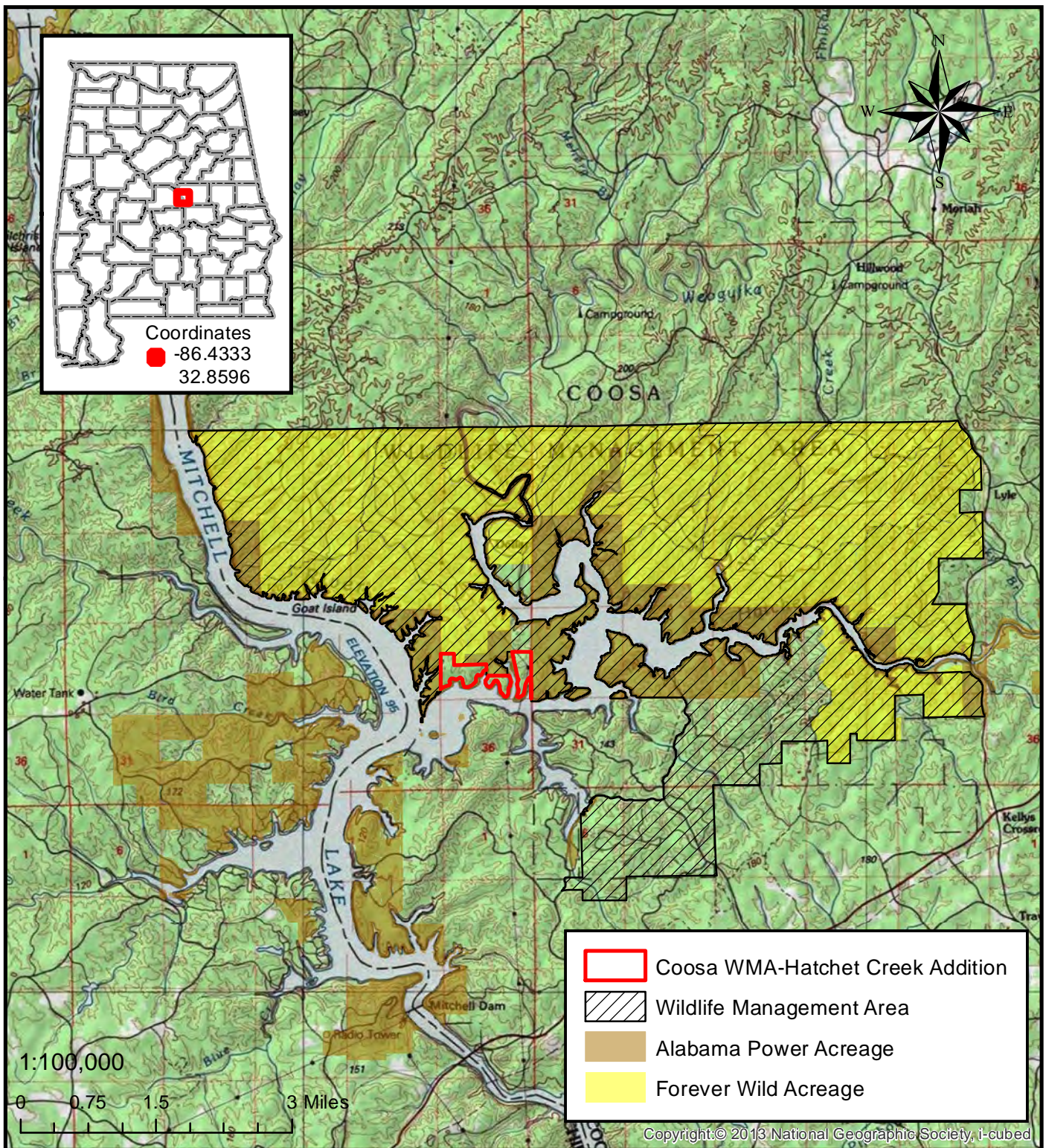


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
COLDWATER MOUNTAIN-McVEY ADDITION
approximately 56 acres
Calhoun County T16S R07E
Munford USGS Quad



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Date: 10/15/2020

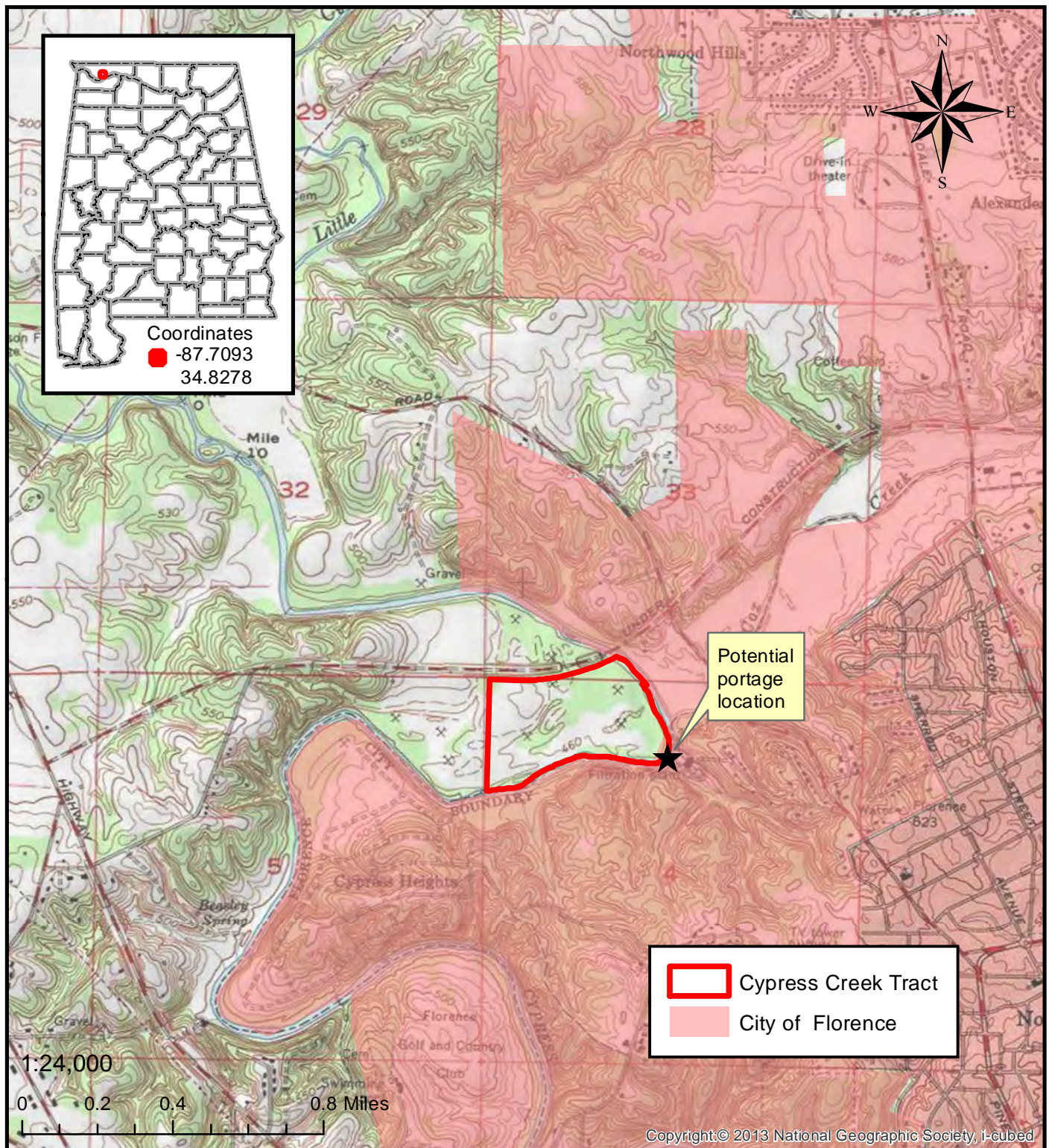


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
COOSA WMA-HATCHET CREEK ADDITION
approximately 151 acres
Coosa County Mitchell Dam USGS Quad T22N R16E



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Date: 1/16/2020



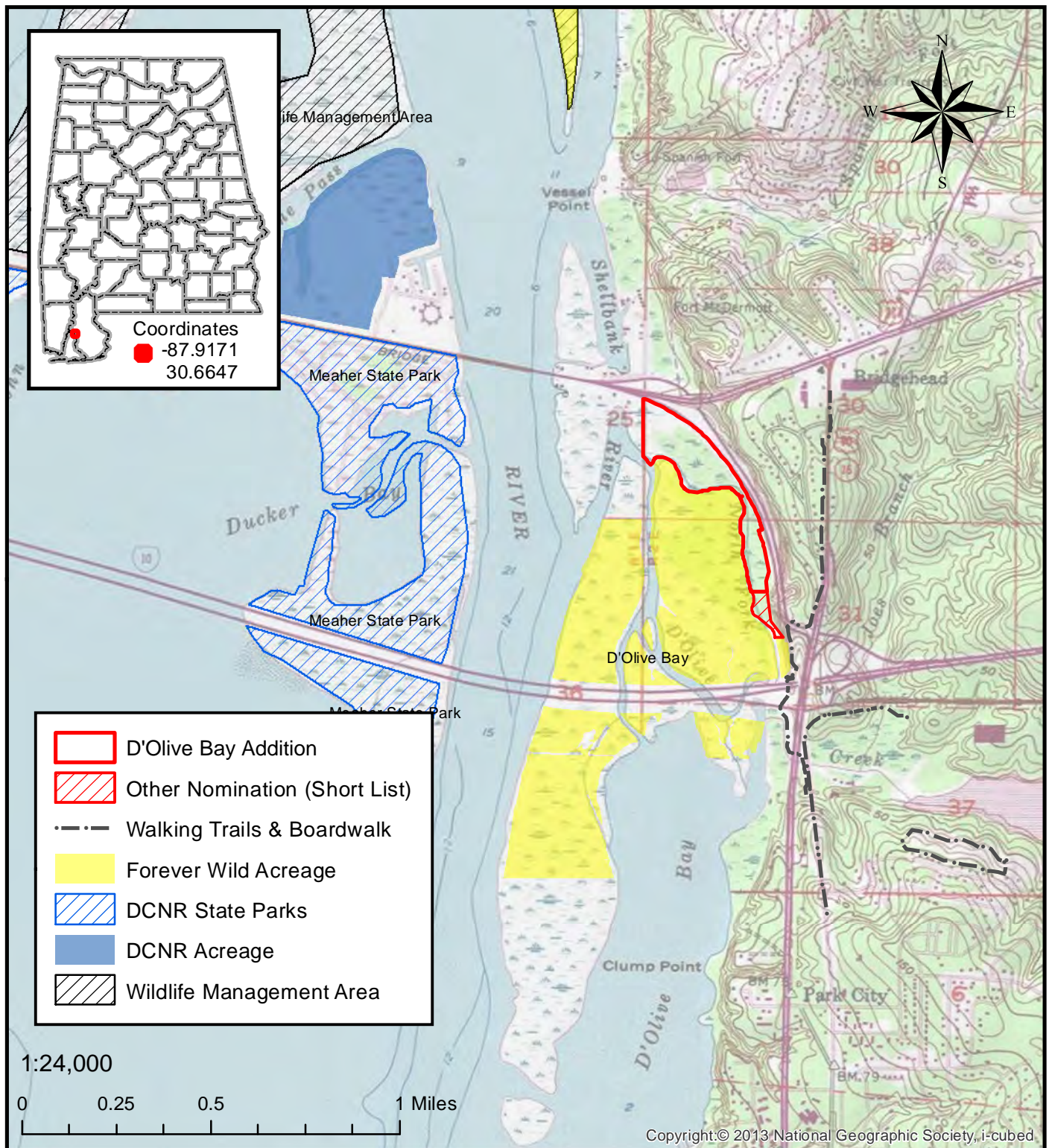
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
CYPRESS CREEK TRACT
approximately 74 acres

Lauderdale County Florence USGS Quad T02S R11W and T03S R11W



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Date: 7/22/2020

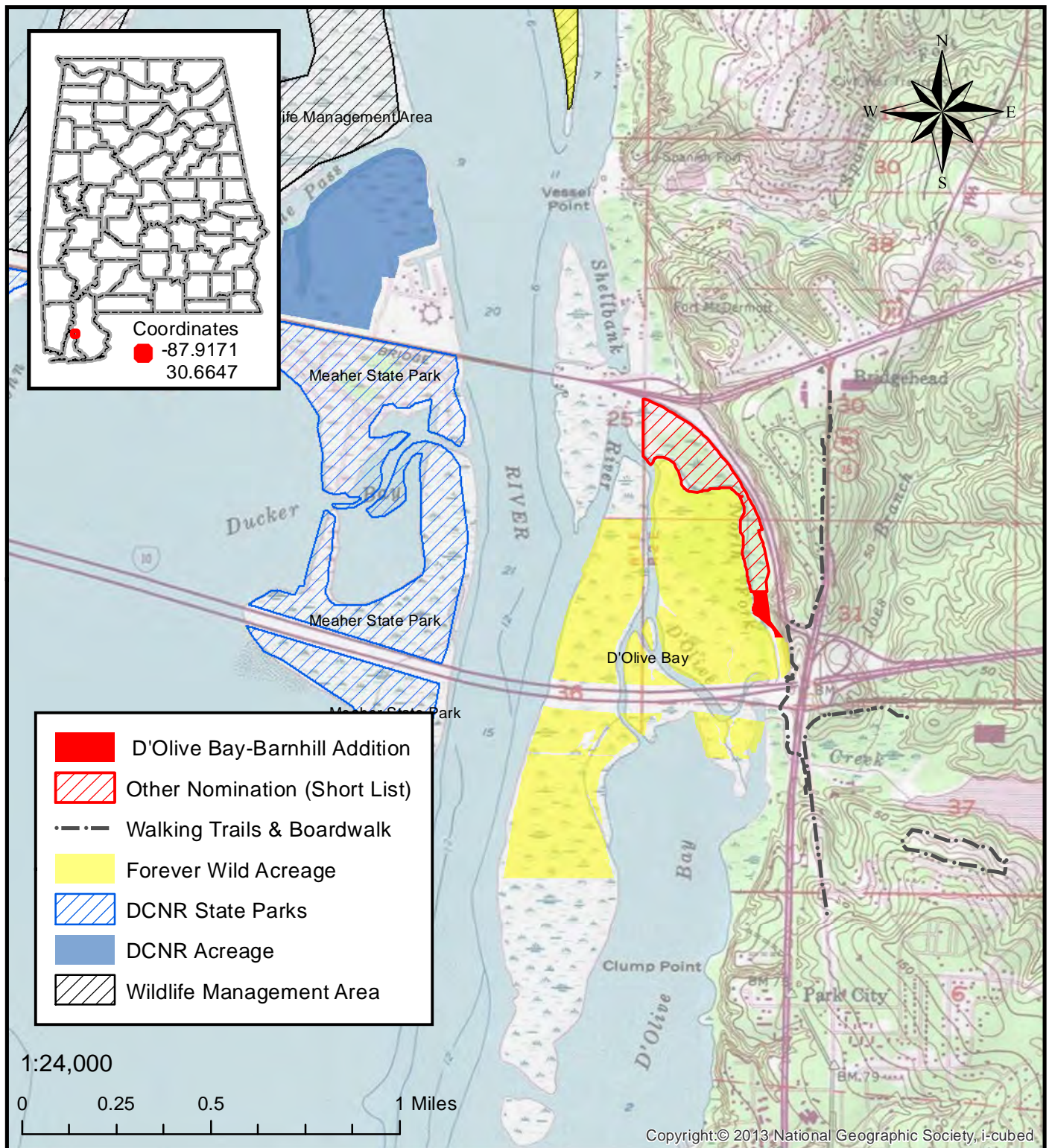


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
D'OLIVE BAY ADDITION
approximately 29 acres
Baldwin County Bridgehead USGS Quad T04S R02E



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Date: 9/29/2020

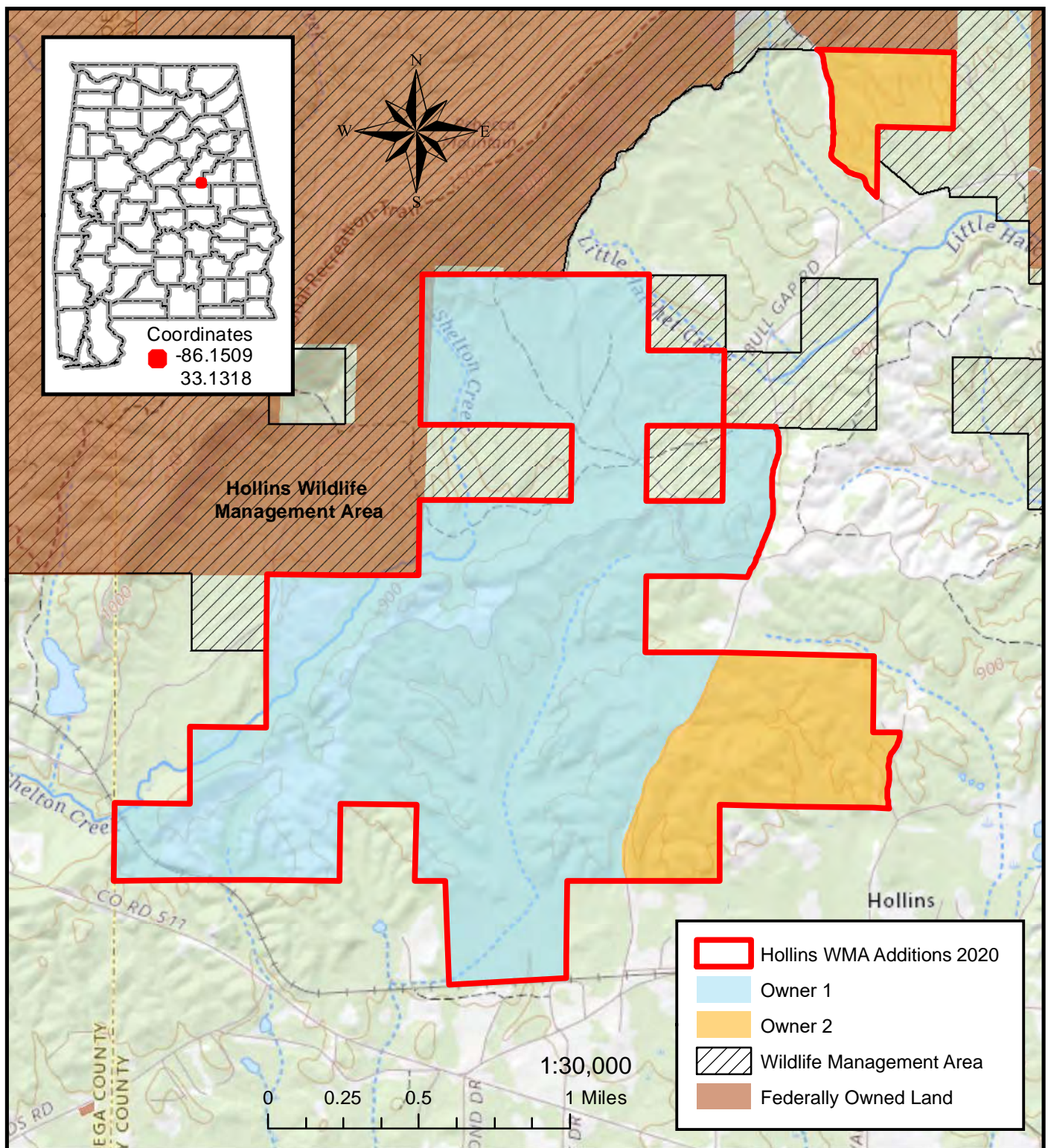


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
D'OLIVE BAY-BARNHILL ADDITION
approximately 2.5 acres
Baldwin County Bridgehead USGS Quad T04S R02E



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Date: 9/29/2020

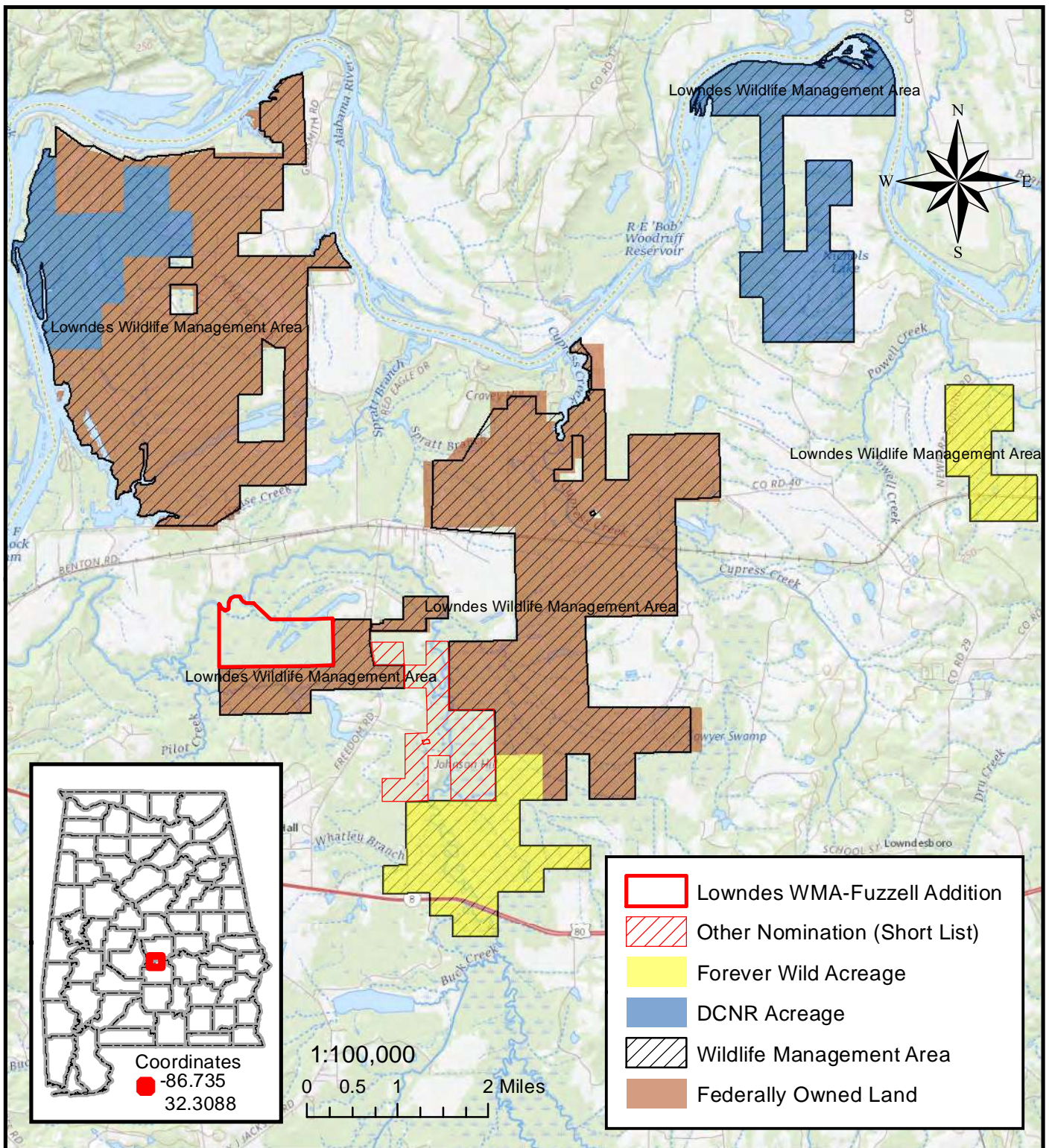


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
HOLLINS WMA ADDITIONS 2020
approximately 1,780 acres
Clay County T21S R05E & T22S R05E
Goodwater NW and Hollins USGS Quad



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Date: 8/17/2020

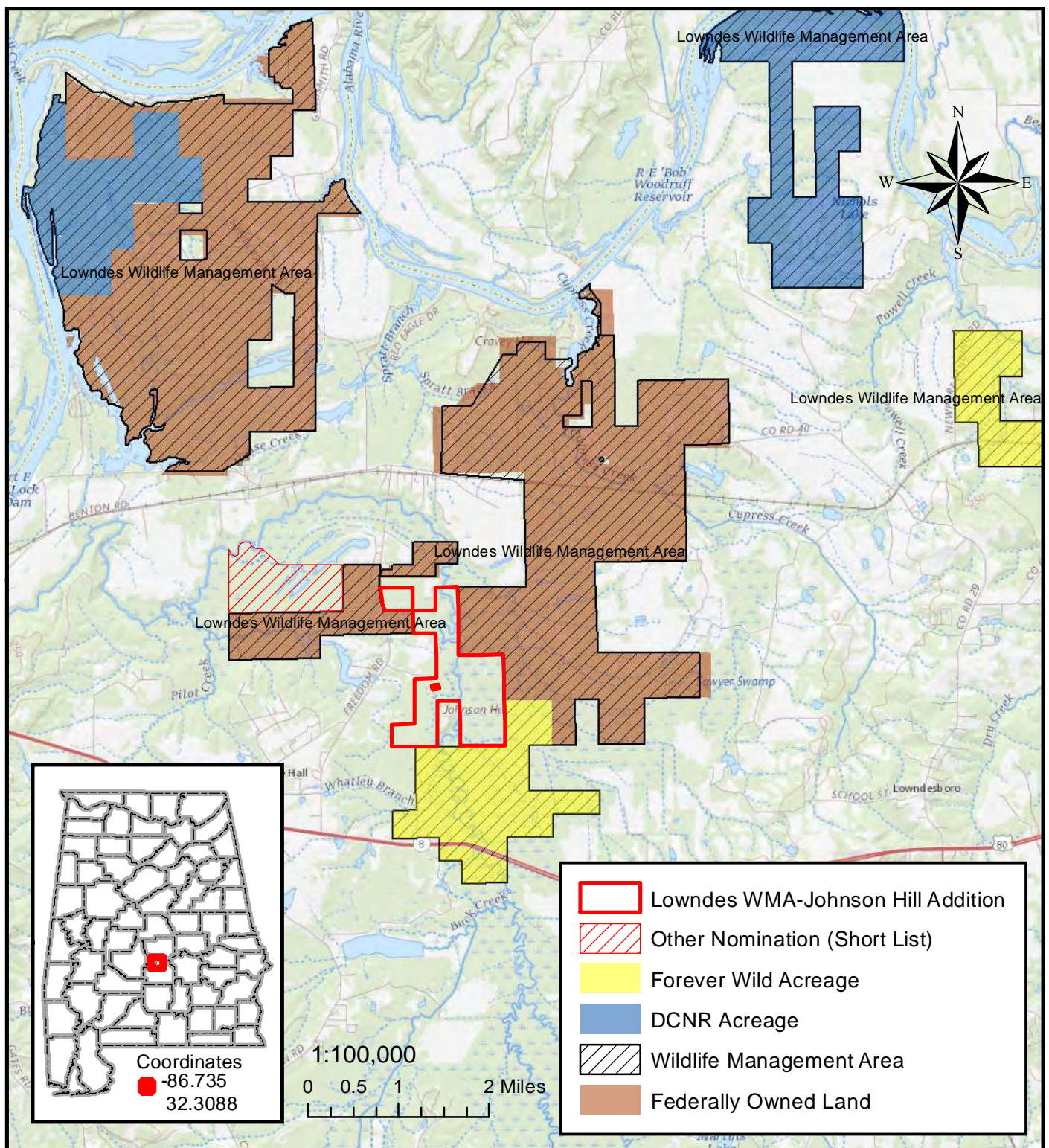


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
LOWNDES WMA-FUZZELL ADDITION
approximately 471 acres
Lowndes County T15N R13E & T16N R13E
White Hall USGS Quad



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Date: 10/7/2020

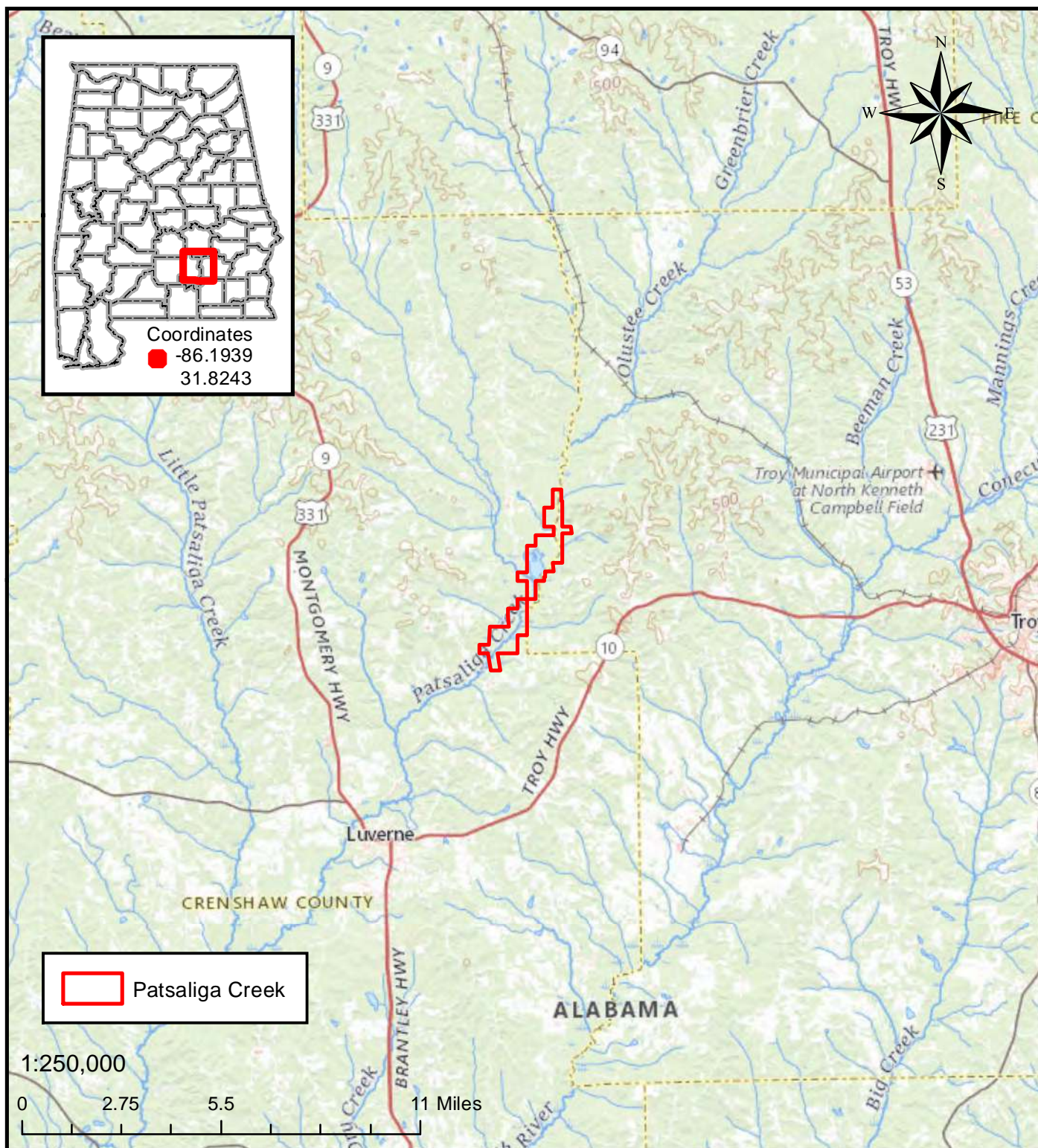


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
LOWNDES WMA-JOHNSON HILL ADDITION
approximately 783 acres
Lowndes County T15N R13E & T15N R14E
White Hall USGS Quad



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Date: 10/7/2020

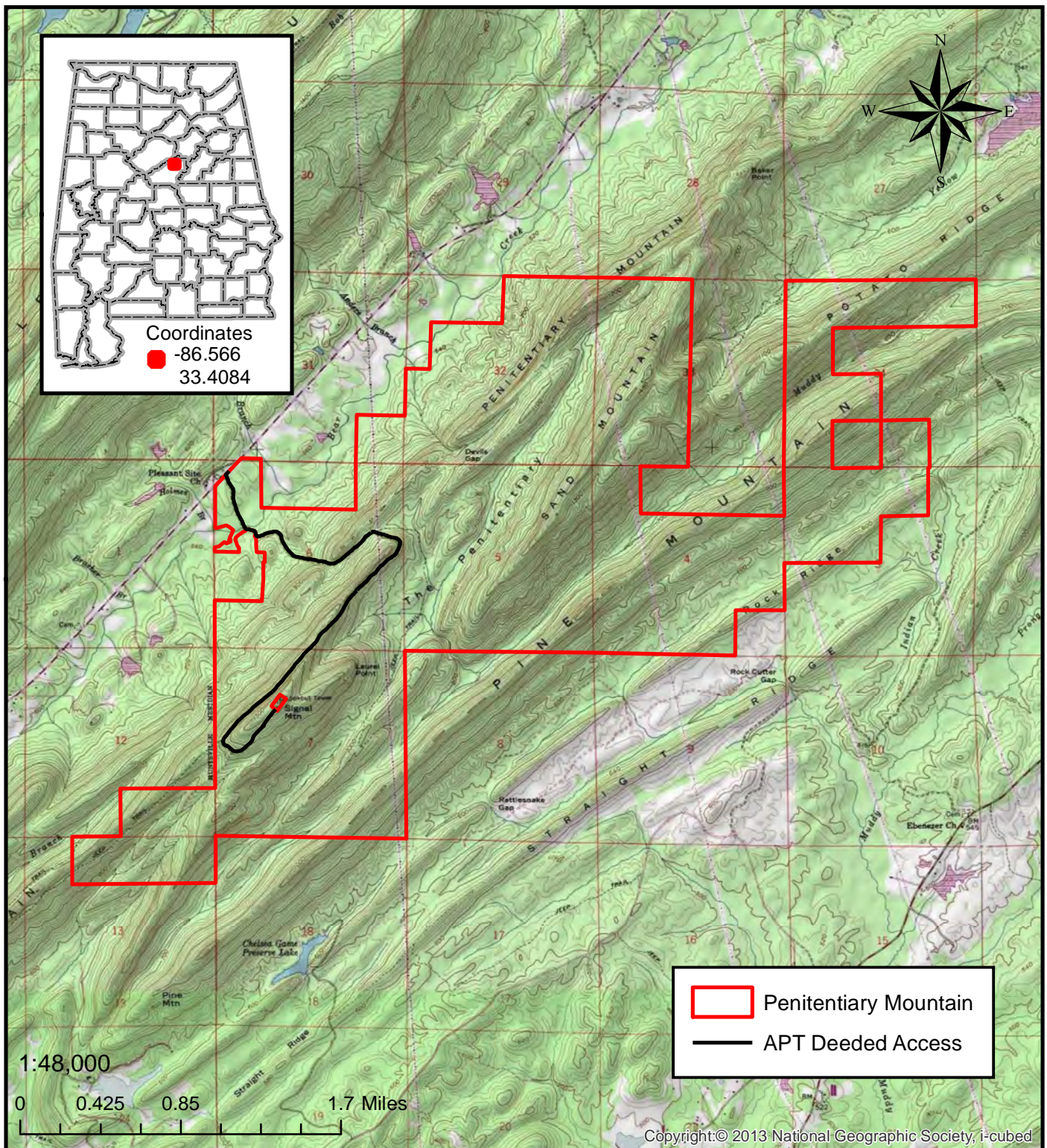


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
PATSALIGA CREEK
approximately 1,800 acres
Crenshaw & Pike Counties Petrey USGS Quad
T9N R18E, T10N R18E, T10N R19E



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Date: 7/22/2020

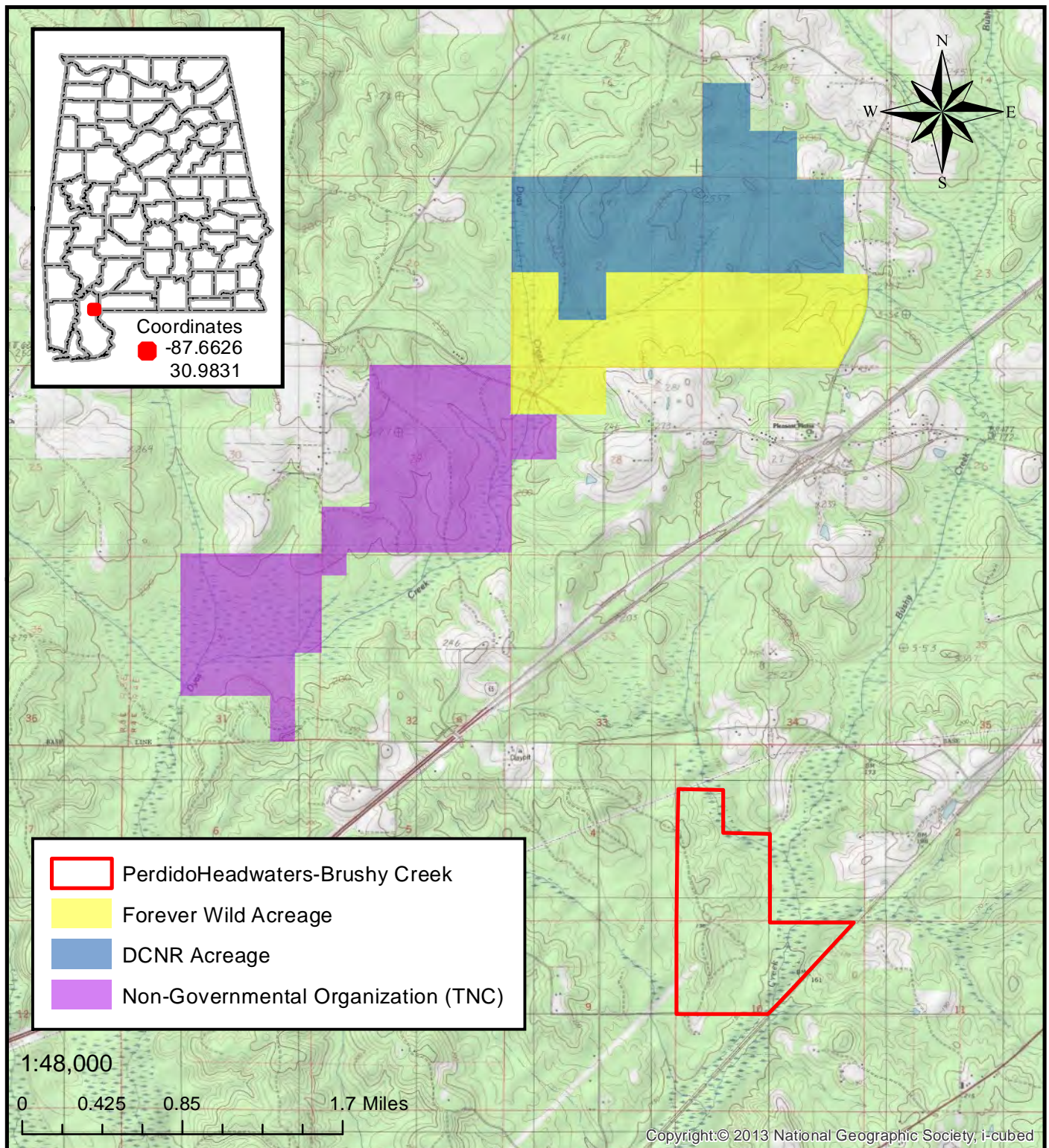


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
PENITENTIARY MOUNTAIN
approximately 3,928 acres
Shelby County Vandiver USGS Quad
T18S R01E, T19S R01E, and T19S R01W



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Date: 7/24/2019

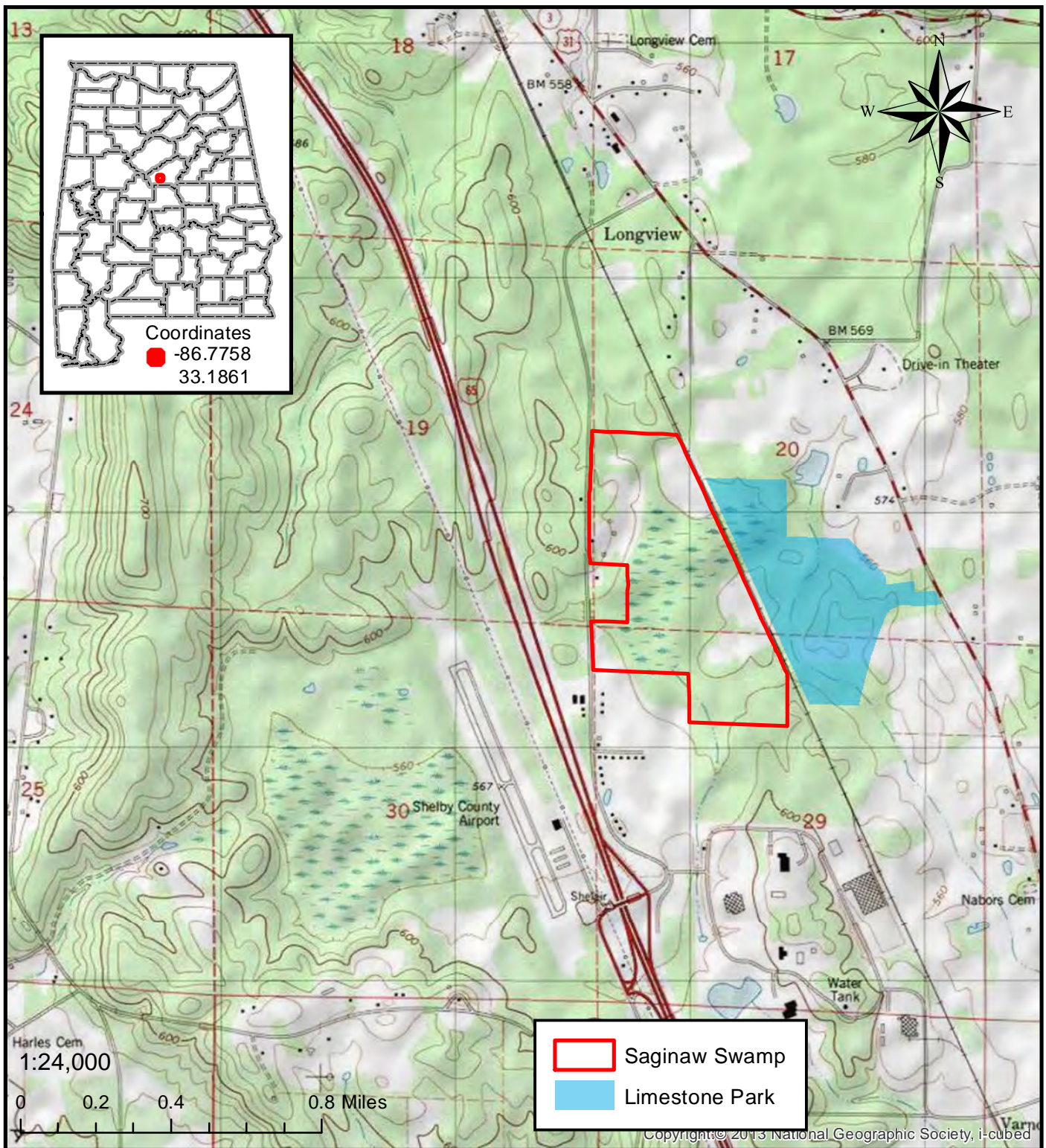


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
PERDIDO HEADWATER-BRUSHY CREEK
approximately 408 acres
Baldwin County Dyas USGS Quad T01S R04E



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Date: 7/28/2020

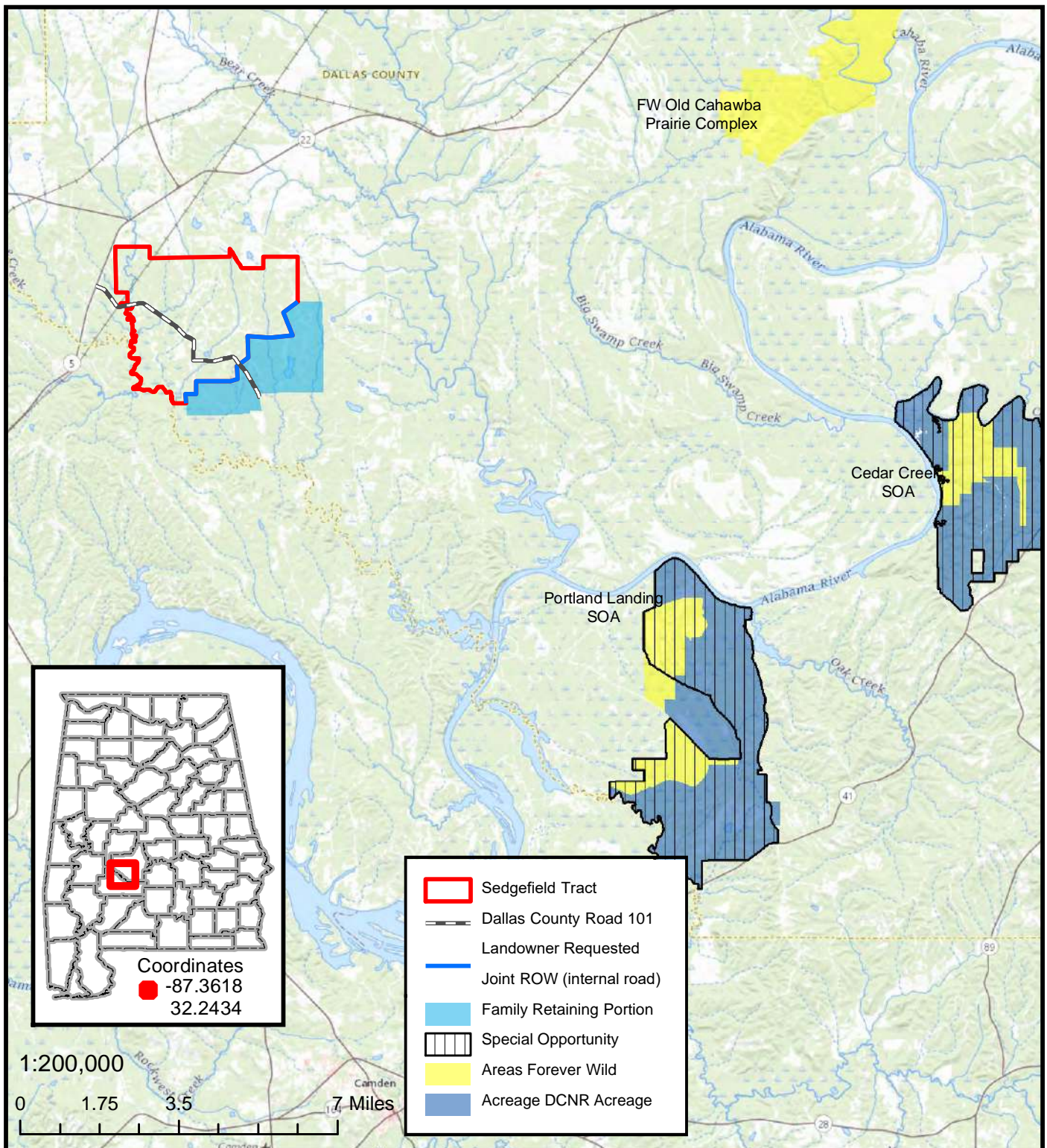


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
SAGINAW SWAMP
 approximately 160 acres
Shelby County Alabaster USGS Quad T21S R02W



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Date: 7/22/2020

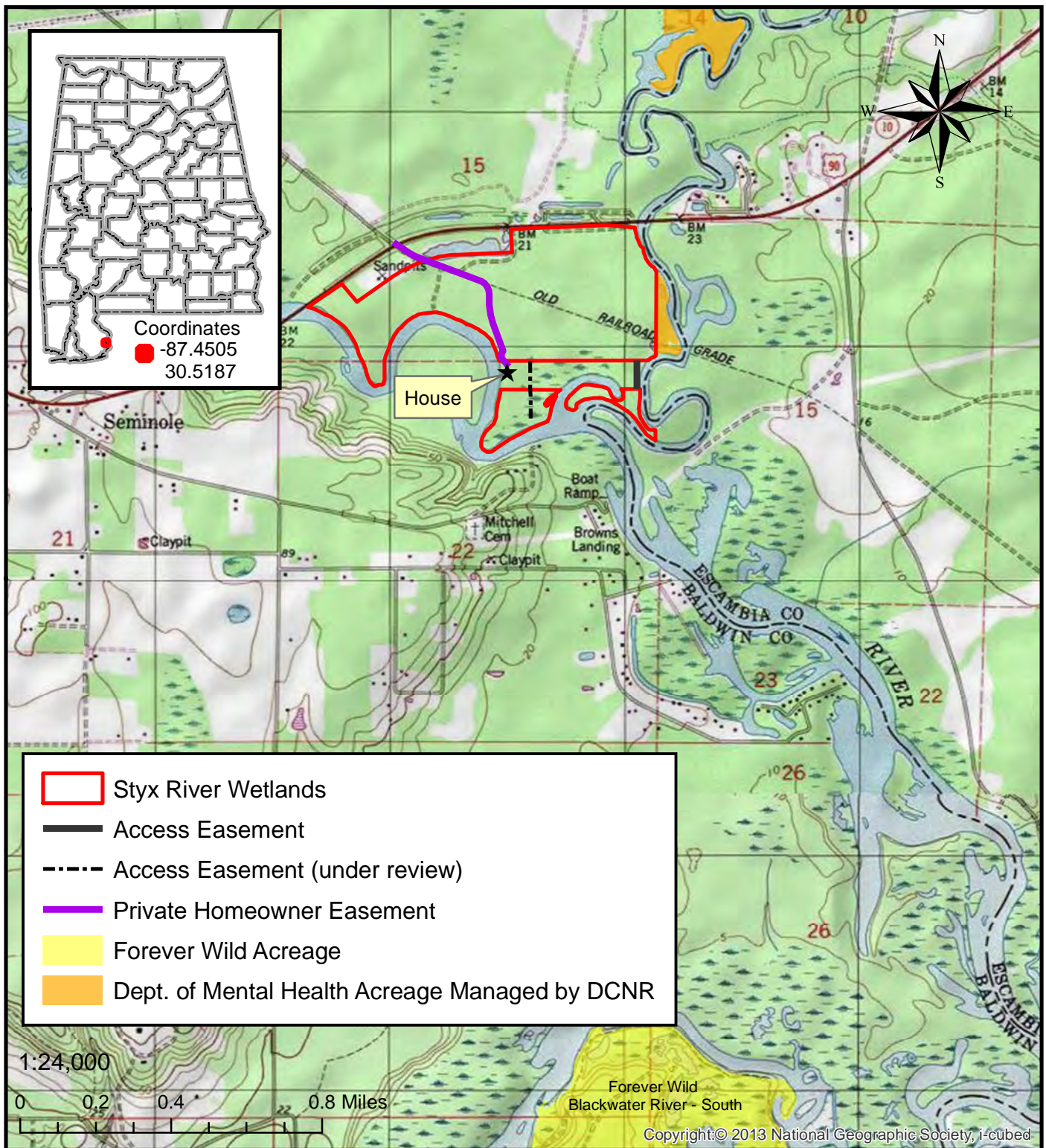


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
SEDGEFIELD TRACT
approximately 6,000 acres
Dallas County T15N R07E & T14N R07E
Catherine, Central Mills, Crumptonia, & Safford USGS Quads



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Date: 10/15/2020

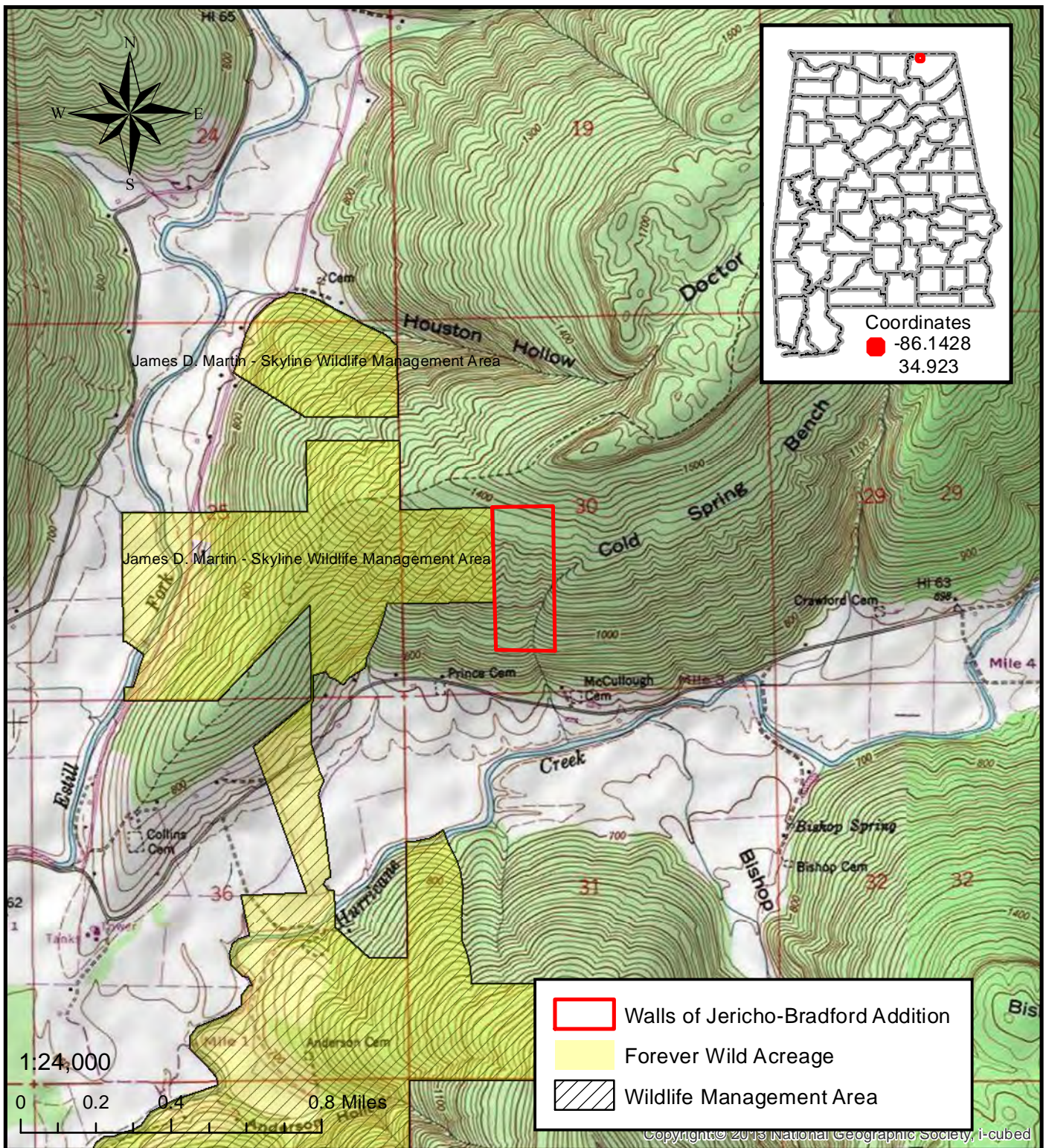


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
STYX RIVER WETLANDS
approximately 157 acres
Baldwin County T06S R06E
Seminole USGS Quad



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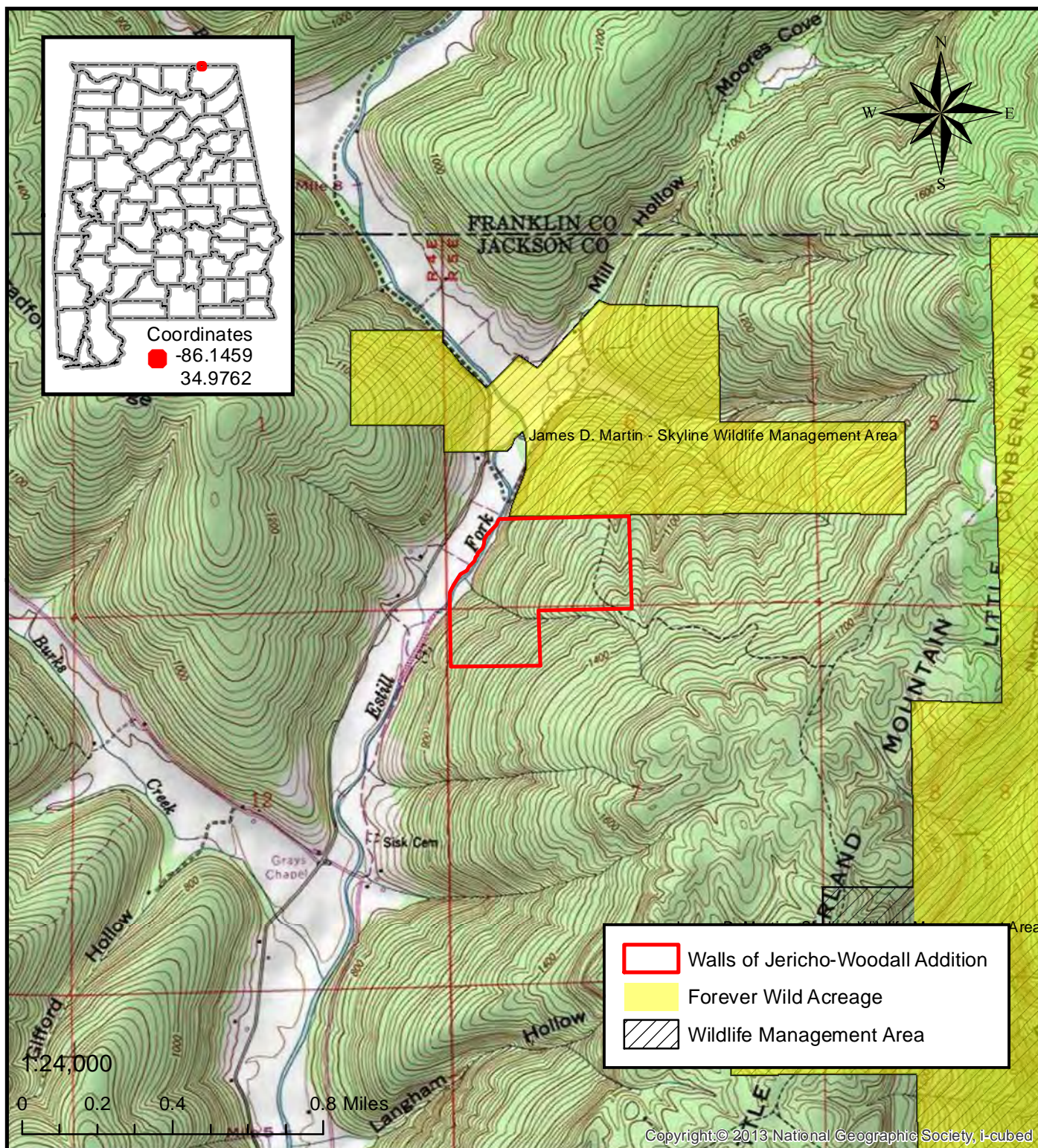
Date: 10/21/2020



Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
WALLS OF JERICHO-BRADFORD ADDITION
approximately 40 acres
Jackson County Hytop USGS Quad T01S R05E



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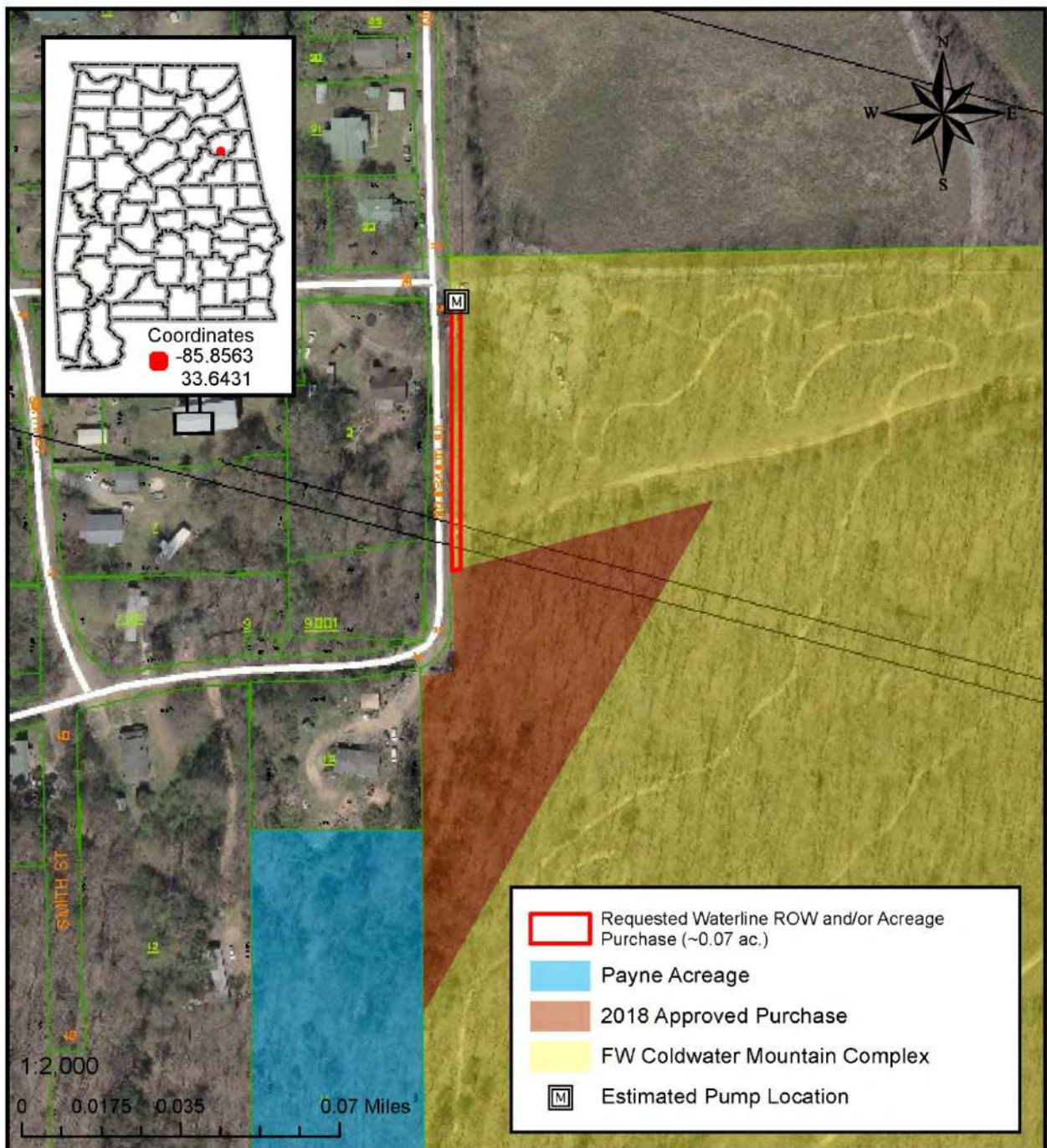


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Nomination
WALLS OF JERICHO-WOODALL ADDITION
 approximately 91 acres
 Jackson County T01S R05E
 Estill Fork USGS Quad



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Date: 8/26/2020

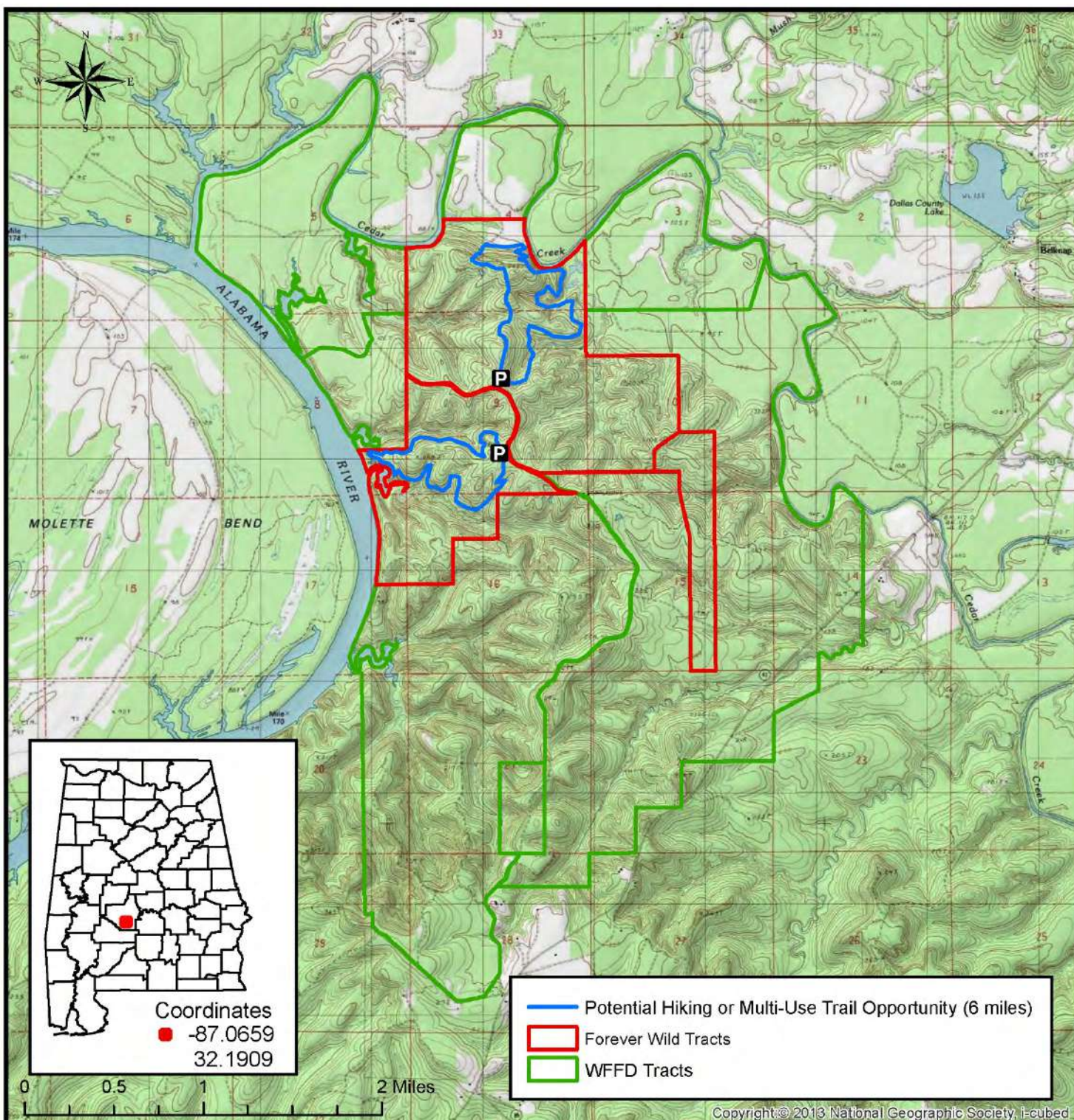


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Land Purchase Request
Coldwater Mountain Payne Waterline Request
approximately 0.07 acres
Calhoun County T16S R07E
Anniston USGS Quad



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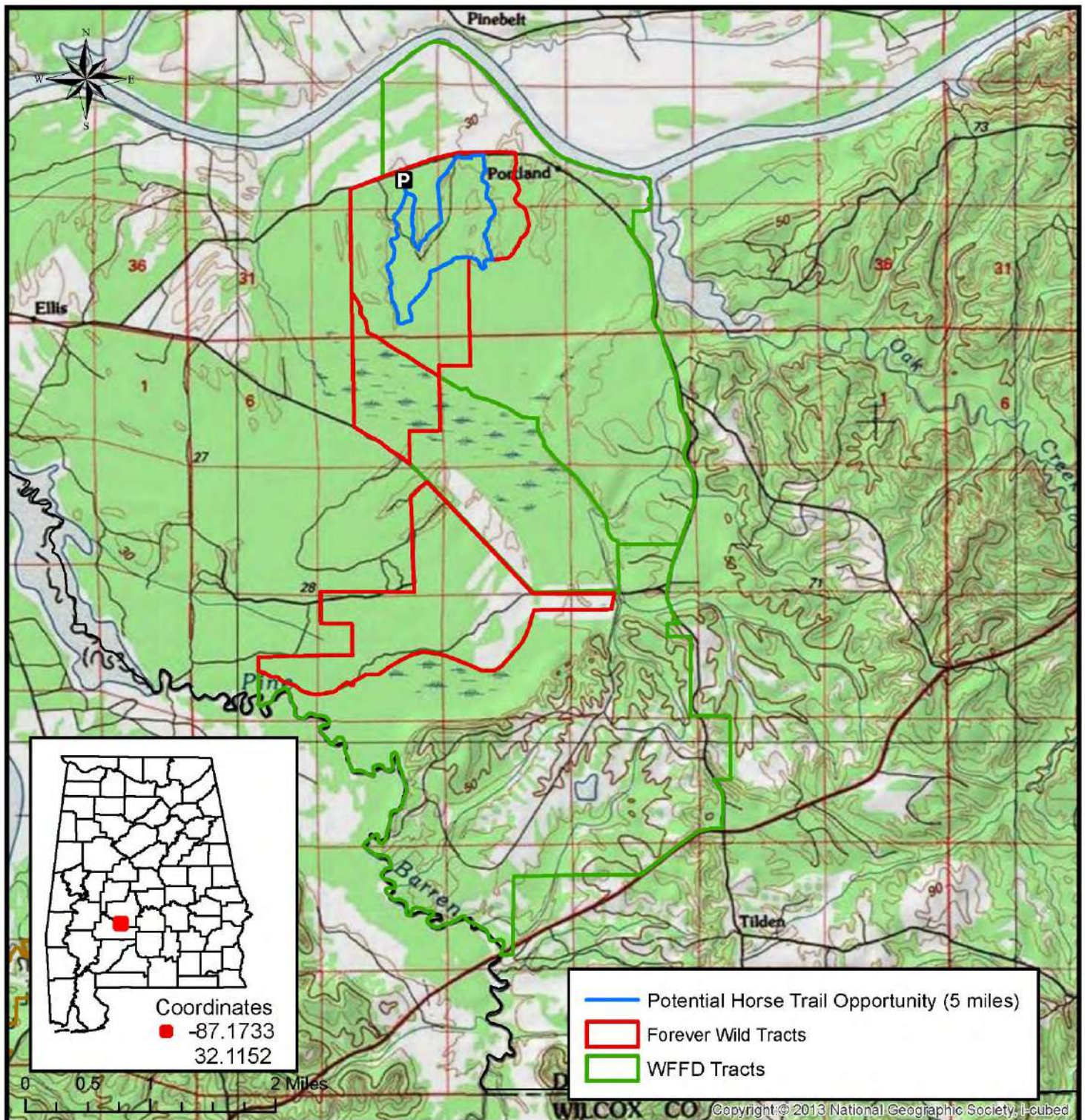
Date: 10/21/2020



Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild
CEDAR CREEK TRACT
Proposed Recreational Trail Opportunities
6,013 Acres Dallas County

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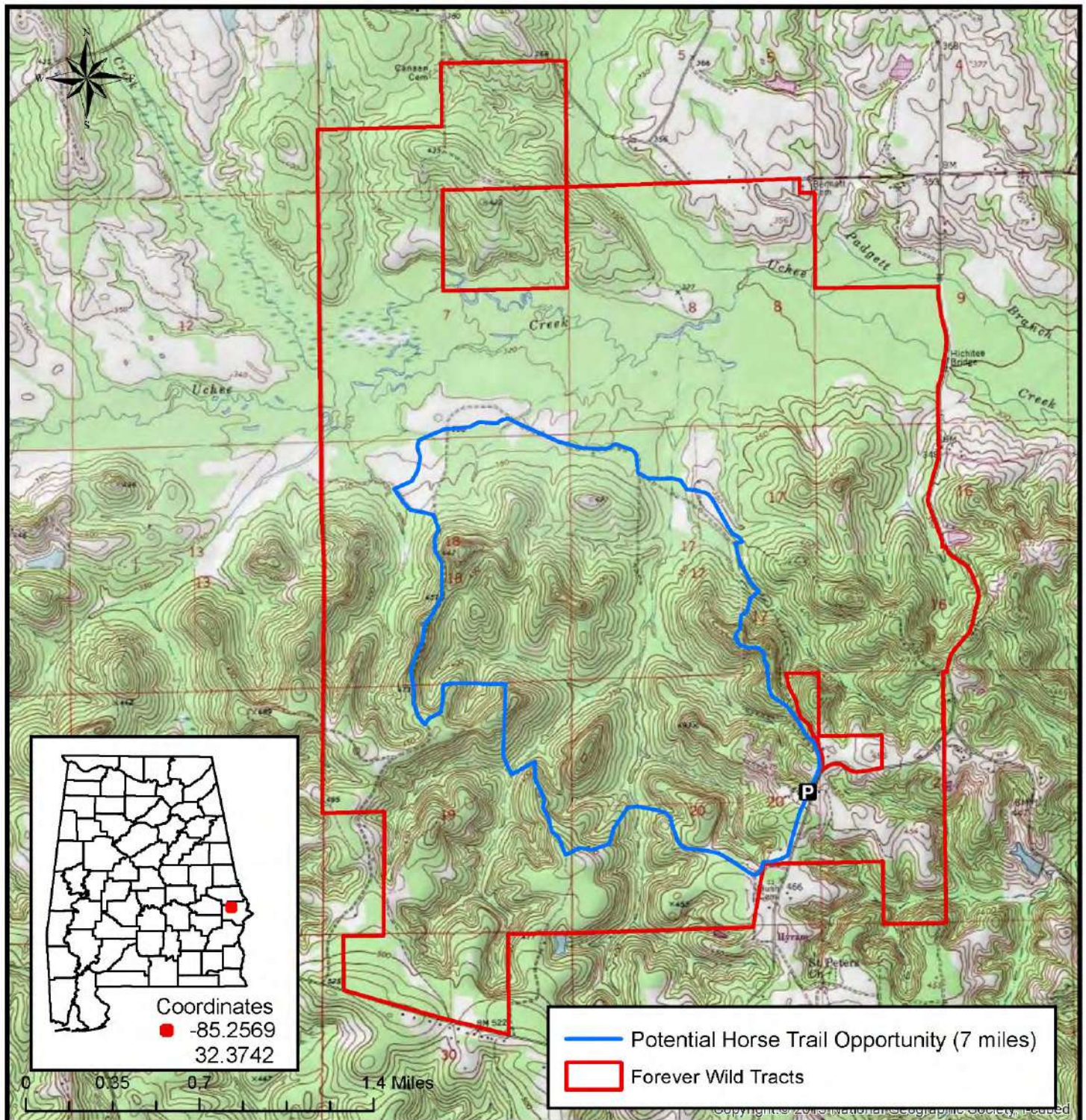
Date: 11/5/2020



Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild
PORTLAND LANDING TRACT
Proposed Recreational Trail Opportunities
9,745 Acres Dallas County

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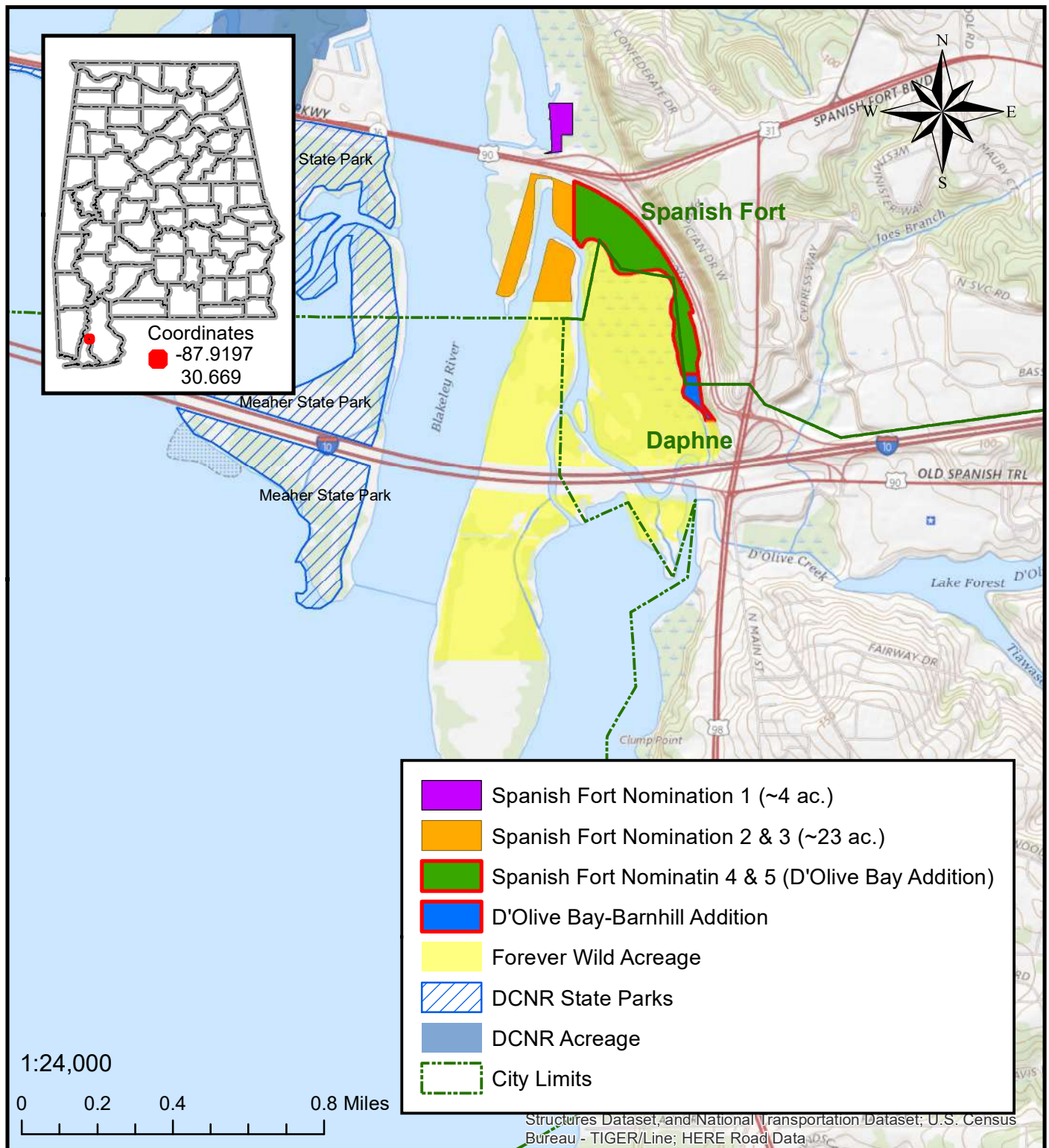
Date: 11/5/2020



Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild
UTCHEE CREEK TRACT
Proposed Recreational Trail Opportunities
4,735 Acres Russell County

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Date: 11/5/2020



Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Forever Wild Land Trust
D'OLIVE BAY COMPLEX
Baldwin County T04S R02E
Bridgehead USGS Quad



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Date: 11/3/2020