



1 **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- 2 Commissioner Christopher M. Blankenship, Chairman
- 3 Mr. David Wright
- 4 Mr. Raymond B. Jones, Jr.
- 5 Mr. William "Bill" Satterfield
- 6 Mr. Russ A. Runyan
- 7 Dr. Patricia Sims
- 8 Dr. Lori Tolley-Jordan
- 9 Dr. Salem Saloom
- 10 Dr. James B. McClintock
- 11 Dr. Sean P. Powers
- 12 Mr. Jack Darnall
- 13 Dr. John Valentine
- 14 Mr. Reginald N. Holloway

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14 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Welcome to the November

15 5th meeting of the Forever Wild Board.

16 As I call the roll, please indicate your

17 presence to make sure we have a quorum.

18 Chris Blankenship is here.

19 Jack Darnall?

20 MR. DARNALL: Here.

21 CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP: Mr. Holloway?

22 MR. HOLLOWAY: Here.

23 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.)



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           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. WILLIS: 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 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

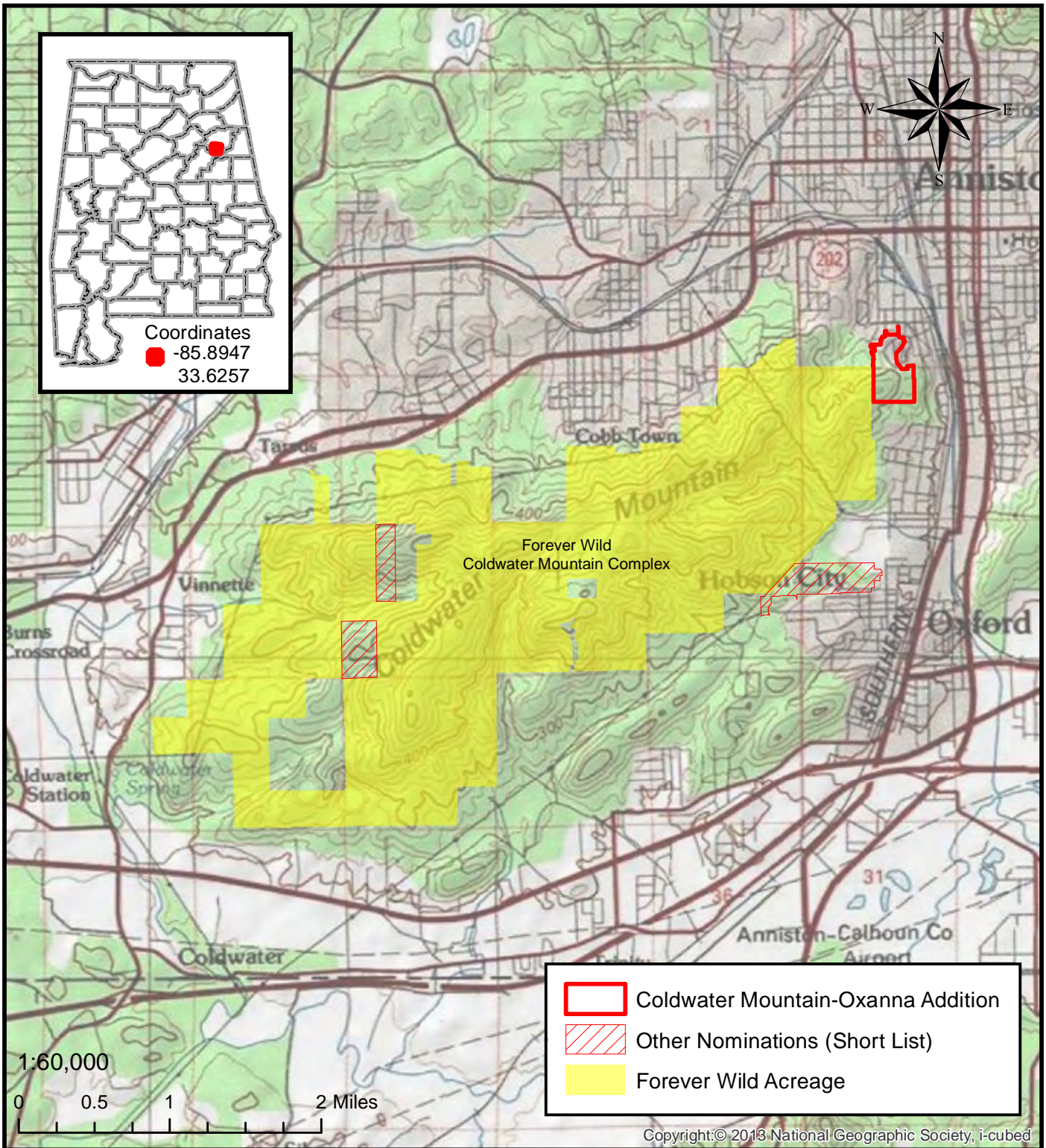
23

## 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

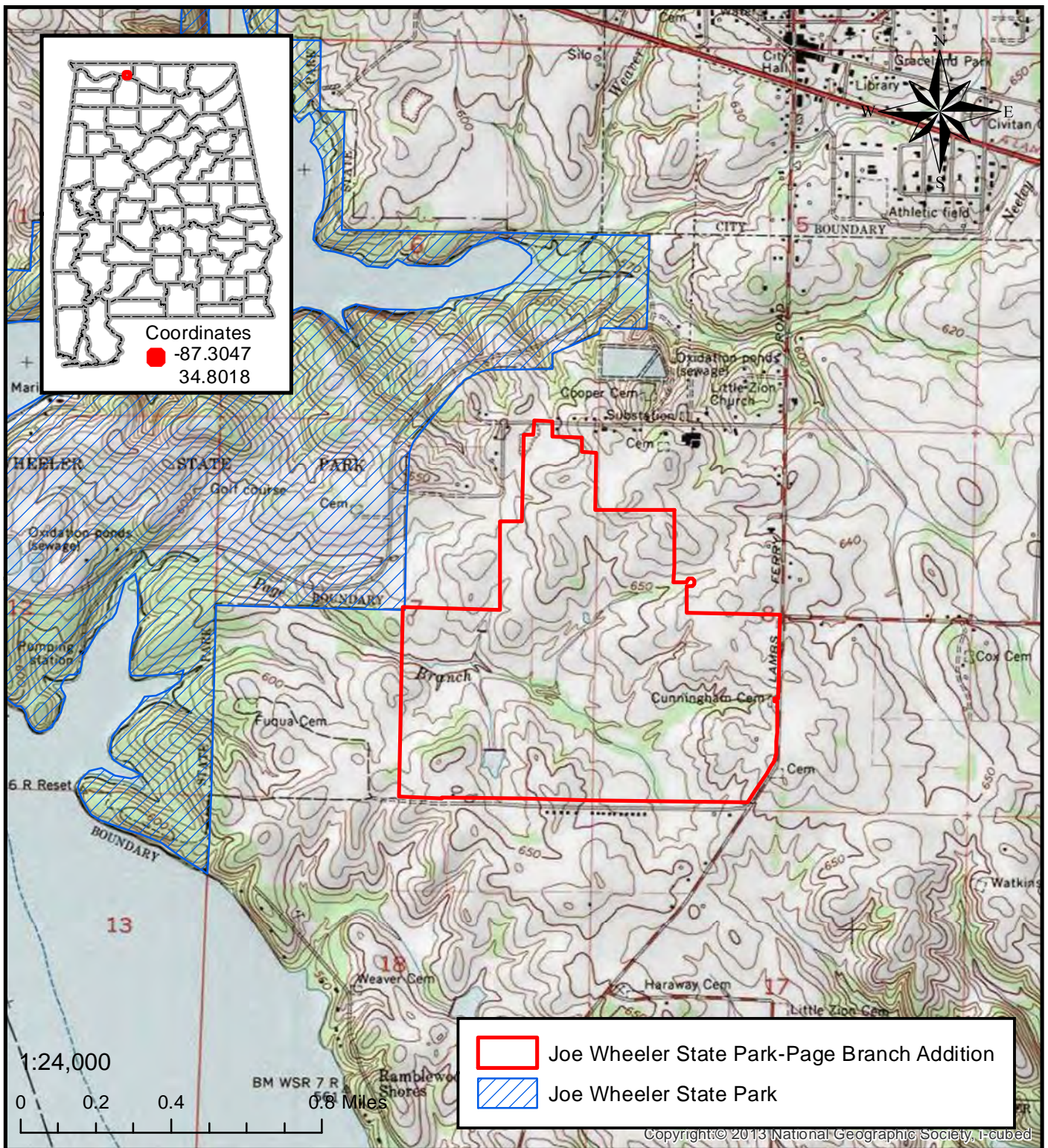


Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
 Forever Wild Nomination  
**COLDWATER MOUNTAIN-OXANNA ADDITION**  
 approximately 62 acres  
 Calhoun County T16S R08E  
 Anniston USGS Quad



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Date: 10/16/2020



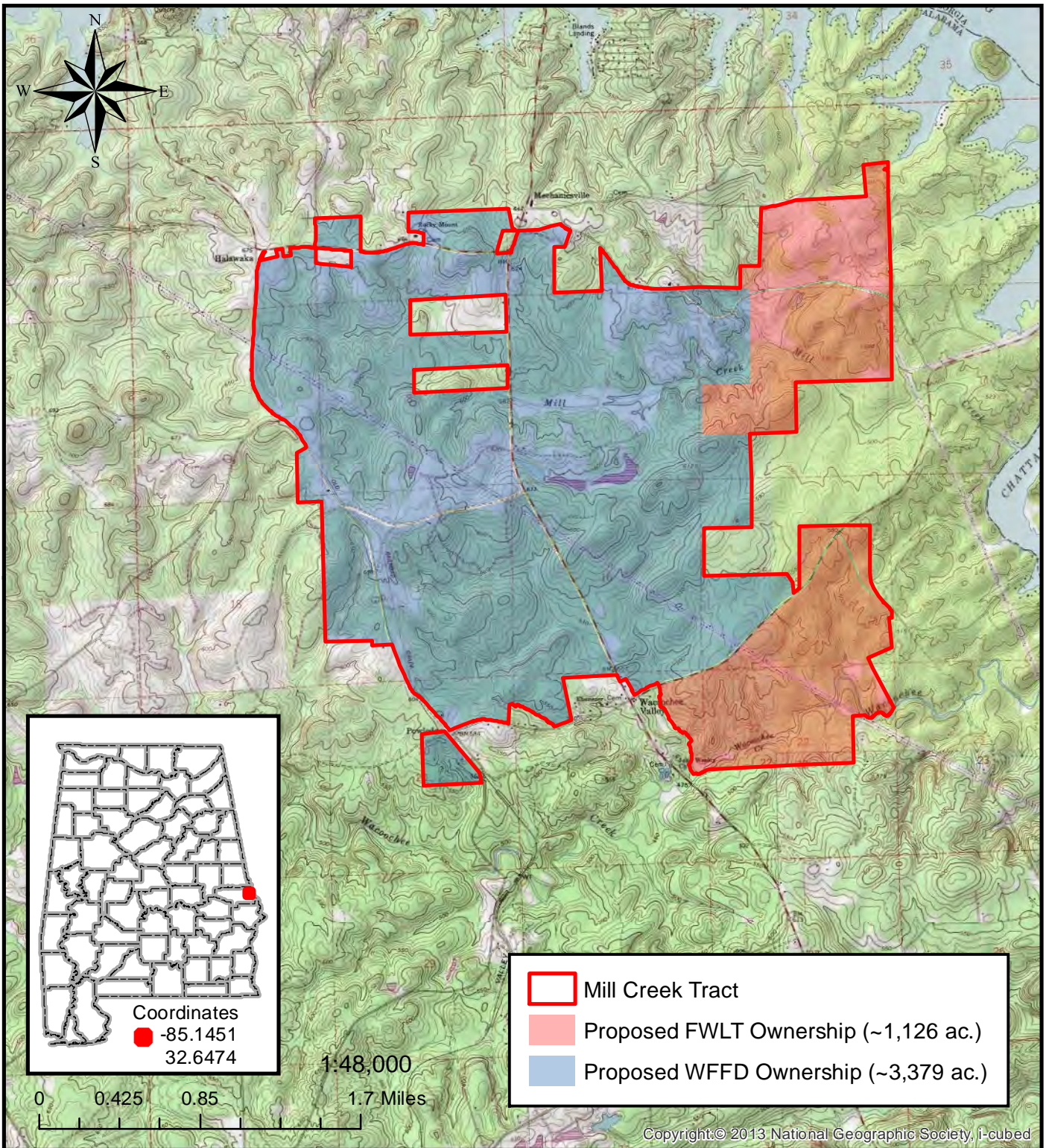
**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**JOE WHEELER SP-PAGE BRANCH ADDITION**  
 approximately 423 acres

**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**

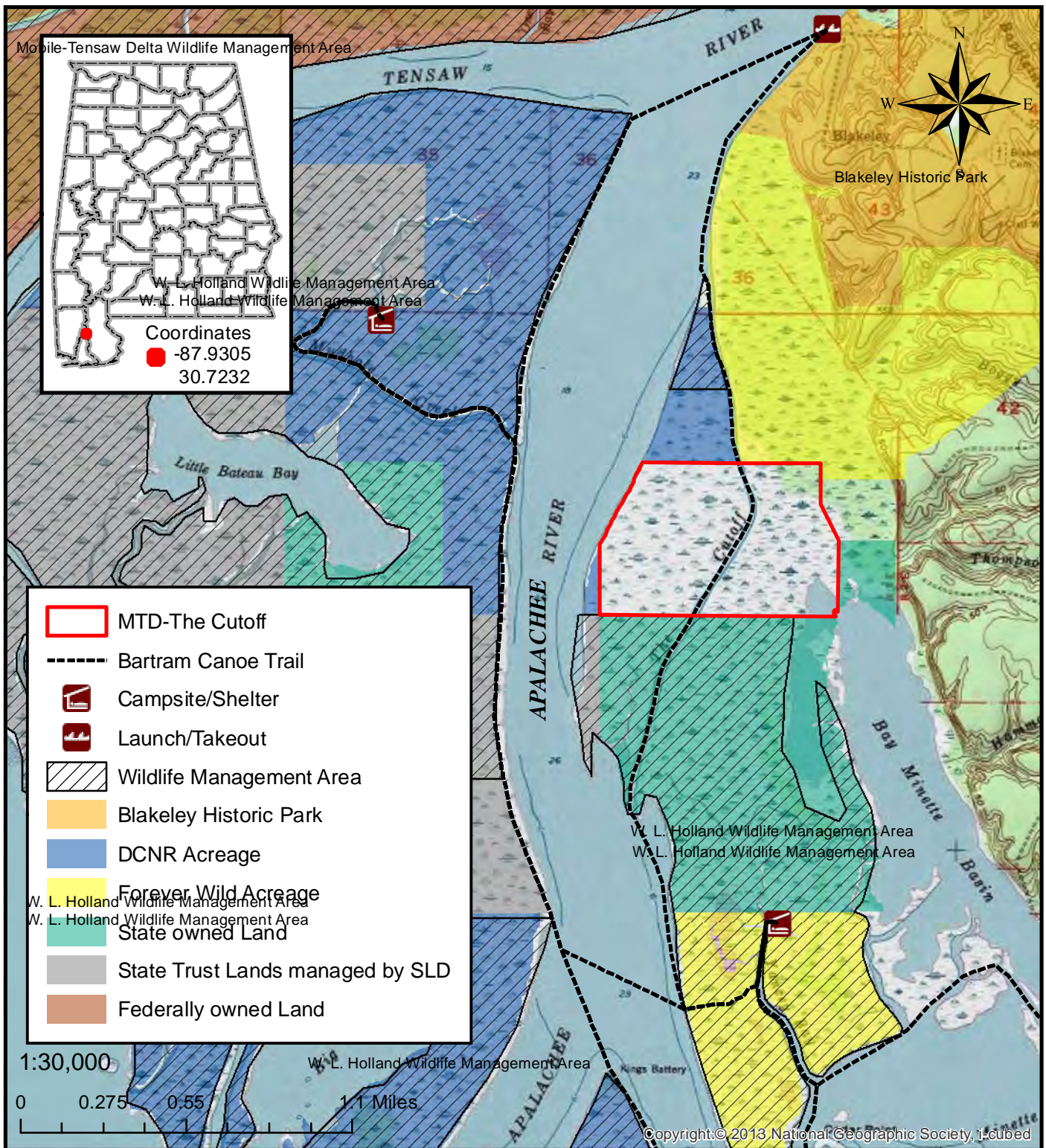
**Lee County T19N R29E**

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



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Date: 10/2/2020

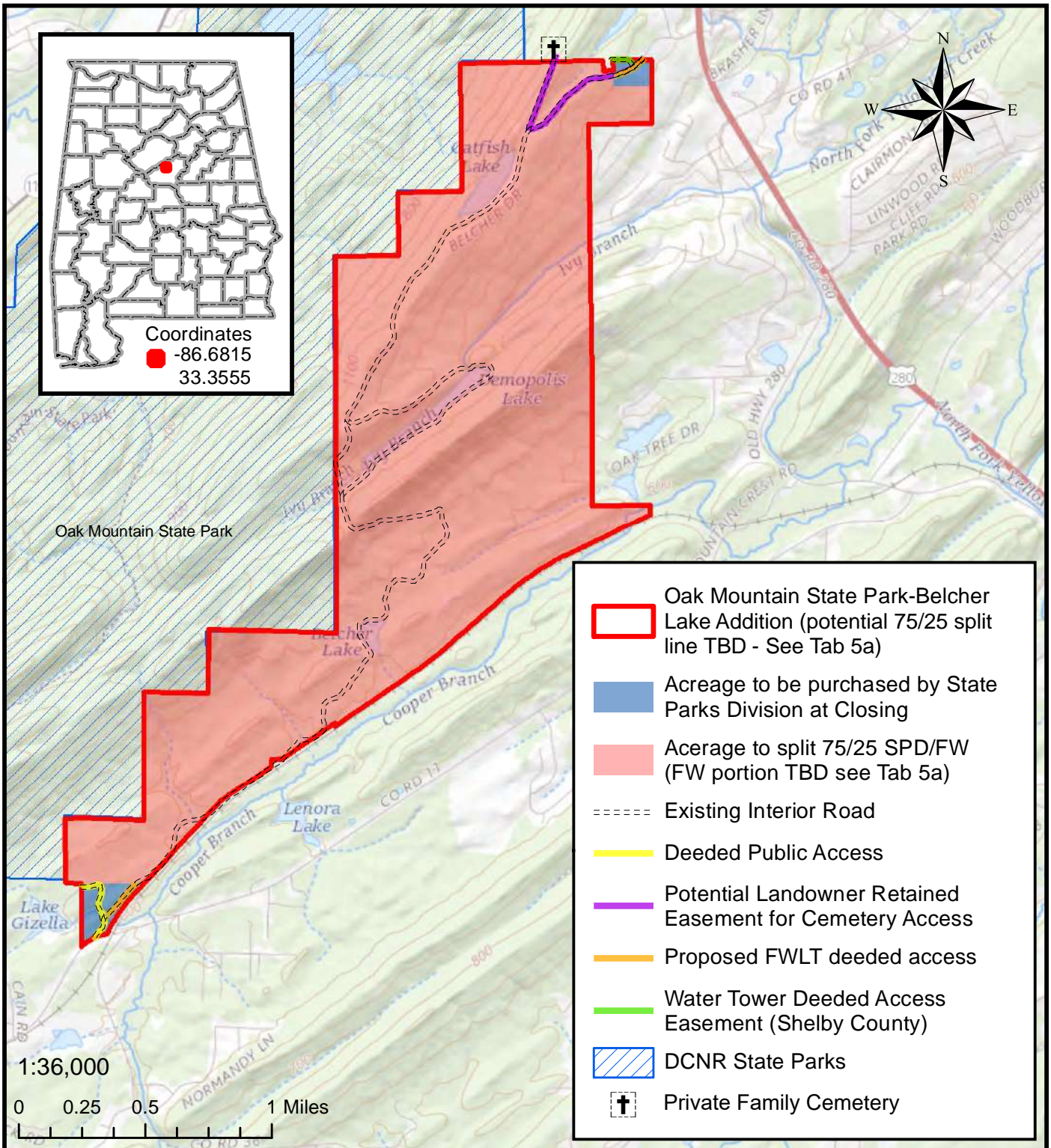


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**MTD-THE CUTOFF TRACT**  
**approximately 223 acres**  
**Baldwin County**      **Bridgehead USGS Quad**      **T04S R01E**



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Date: 10/2/2020



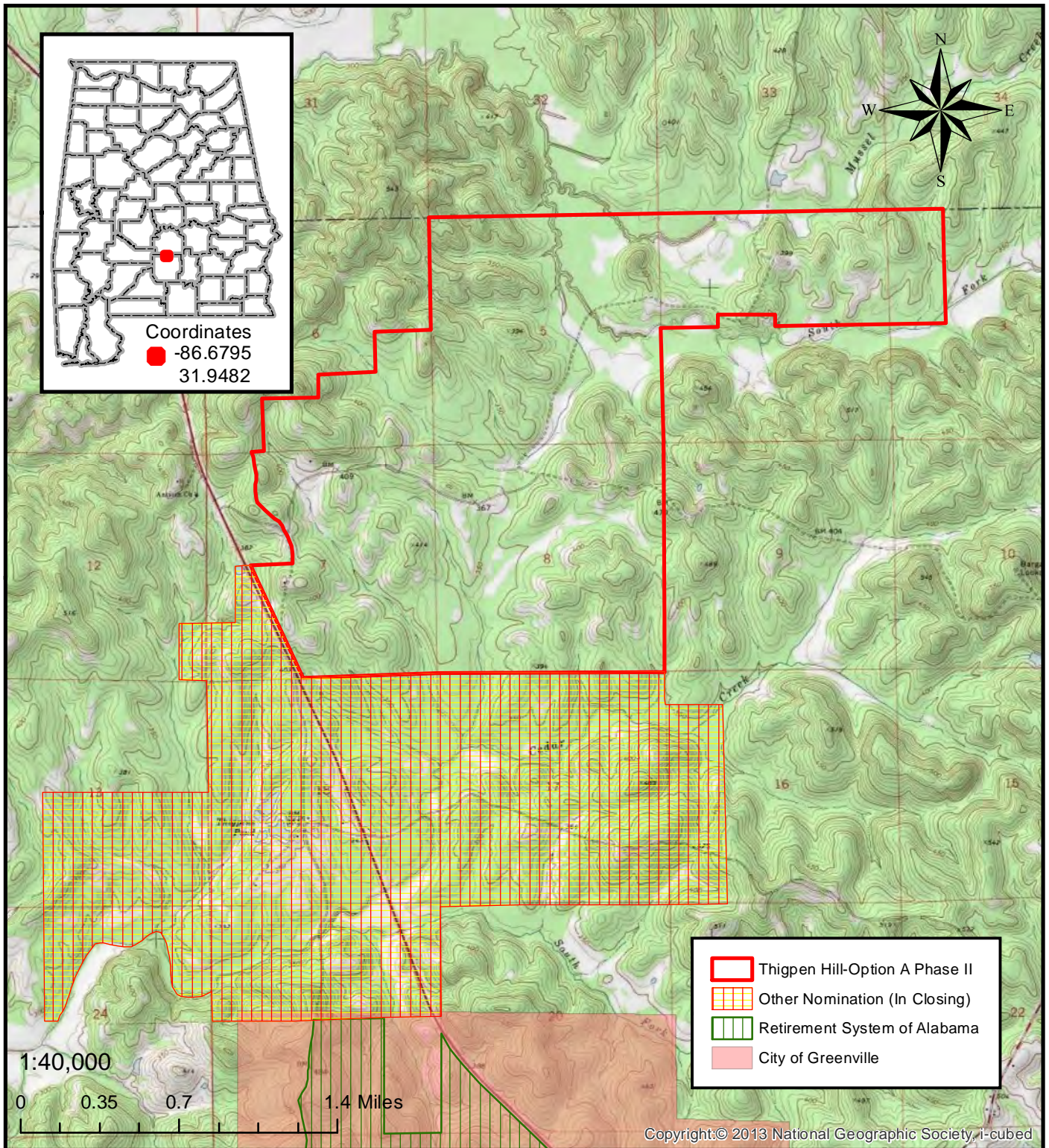
**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK-BELCHER LAKE ADDITION**  
 approximately 1,644 acres  
**Shelby County Cahaba Heights & Chelsea USGS Quads**  
**T19S R01W & 02W, T20S R02W**



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Date: 10/19/2020



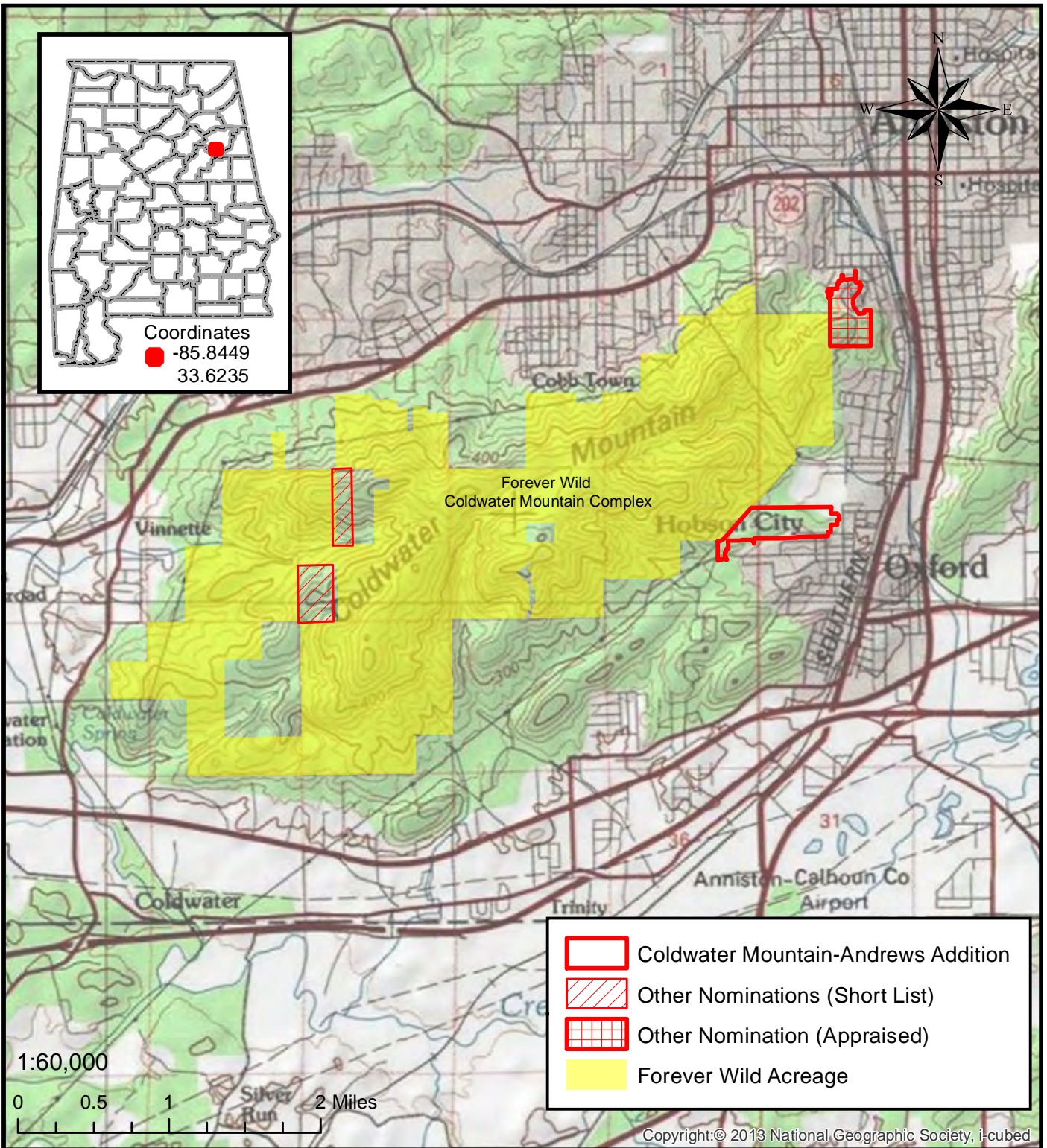
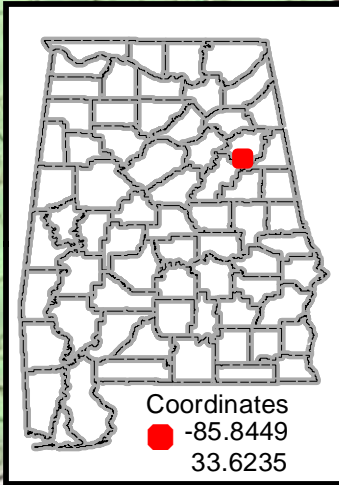




**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**THIGPEN HILL-OPTION A PHASE II**  
**approximately 2,290 acres**  
**Butler County Fort Dale USGS Quad T11N R14E**



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Date: 7/24/2020



-  Coldwater Mountain-Andrews Addition
-  Other Nominations (Short List)
-  Other Nomination (Appraised)
-  Forever Wild Acreage

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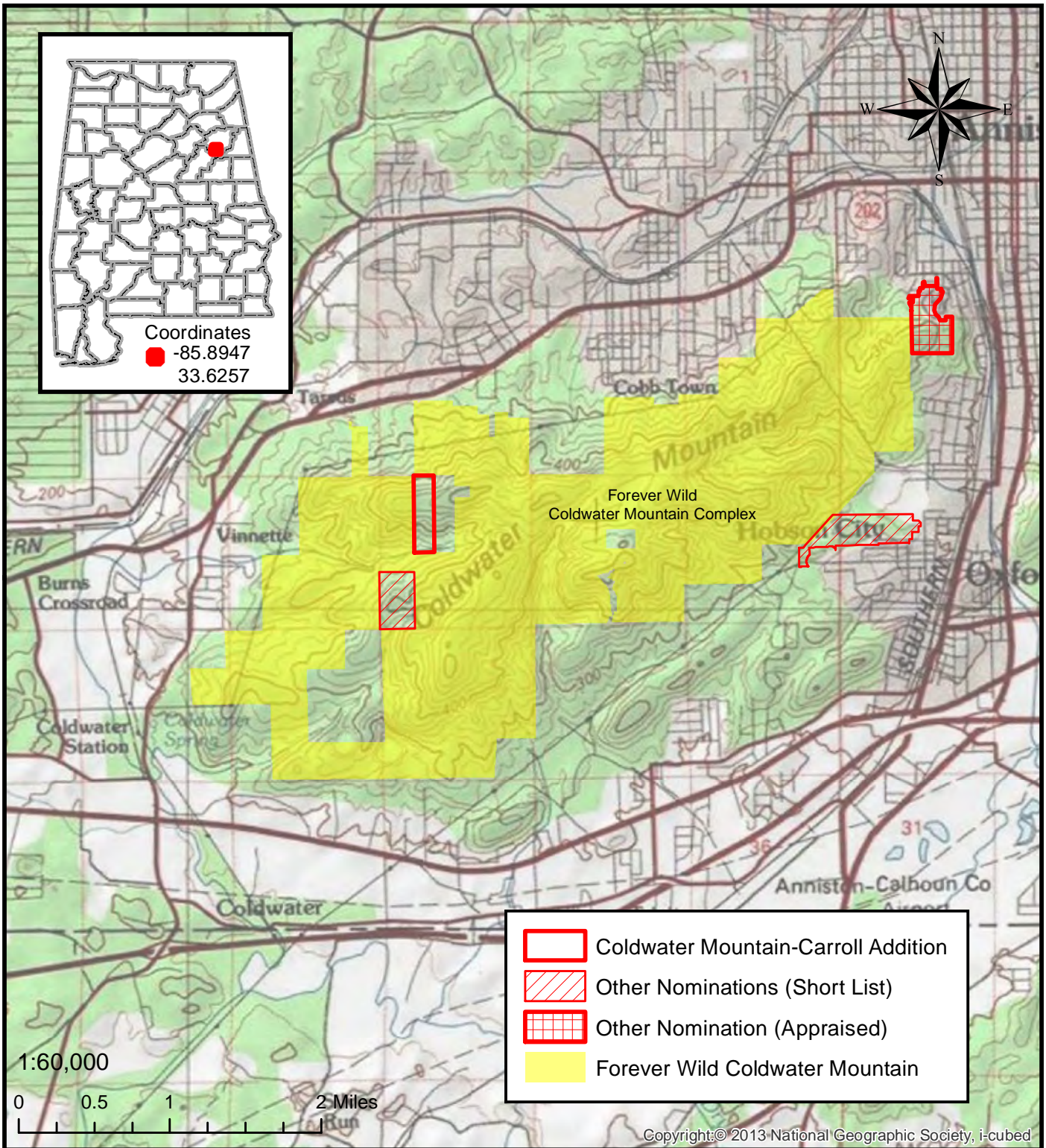
**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**COLDWATER MOUNTAIN-ANDREWS ADDITION**  
**approximately 86 acres**







**Calhoun County      Oxford USGS Quad    T16S R07E and T16S R08E**

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Date: 10/15/2020



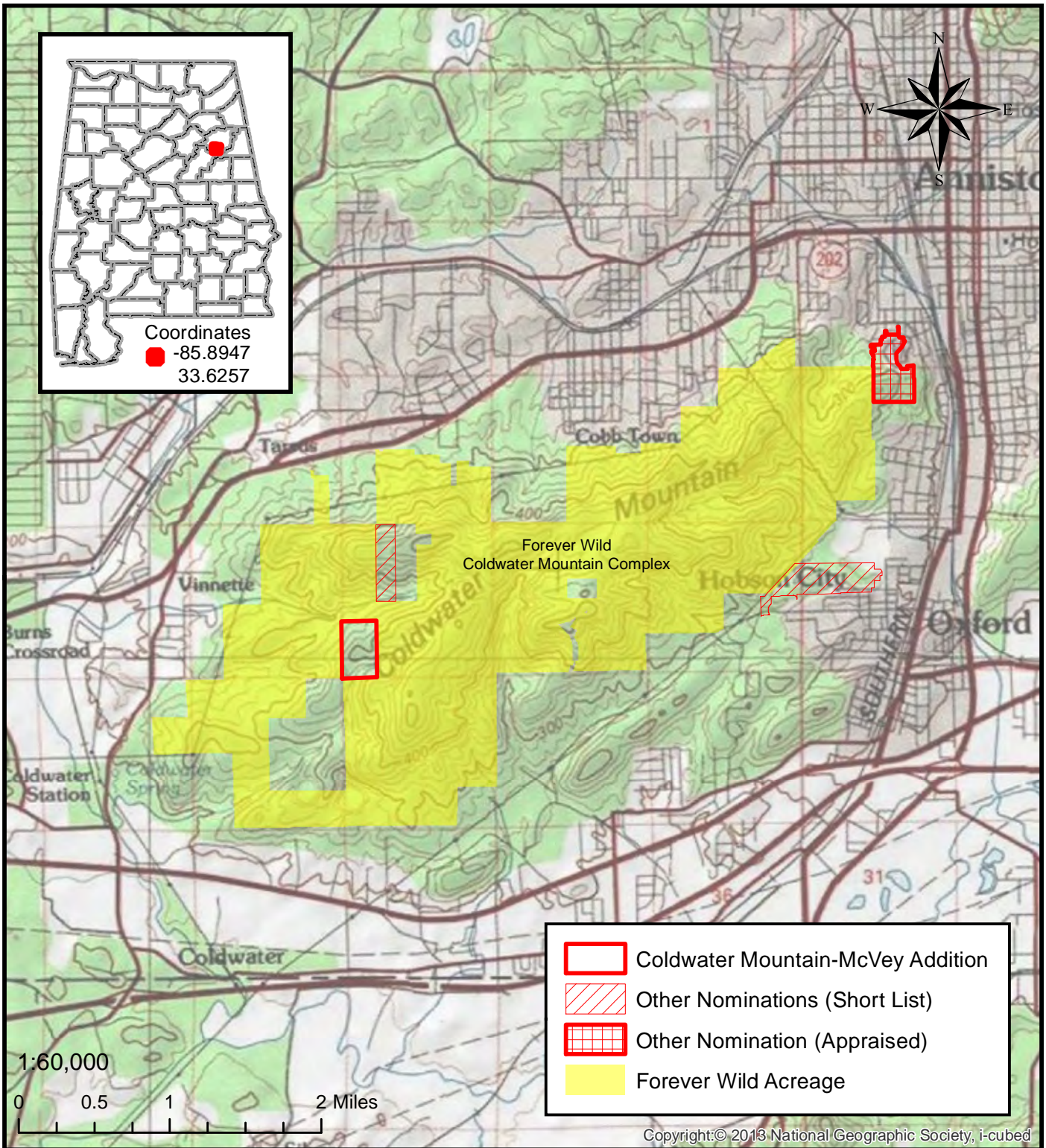
-  Coldwater Mountain-Carroll Addition
-  Other Nominations (Short List)
-  Other Nomination (Appraised)
-  Forever Wild Coldwater Mountain

**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**COLDWATER MOUNTAIN-CARROLL ADDITION**  
**approximately 43 acres**  
**Calhoun County                      T16S R07E**  
**Eulaton and Munford USGS Quads**



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Date: 10/15/2020

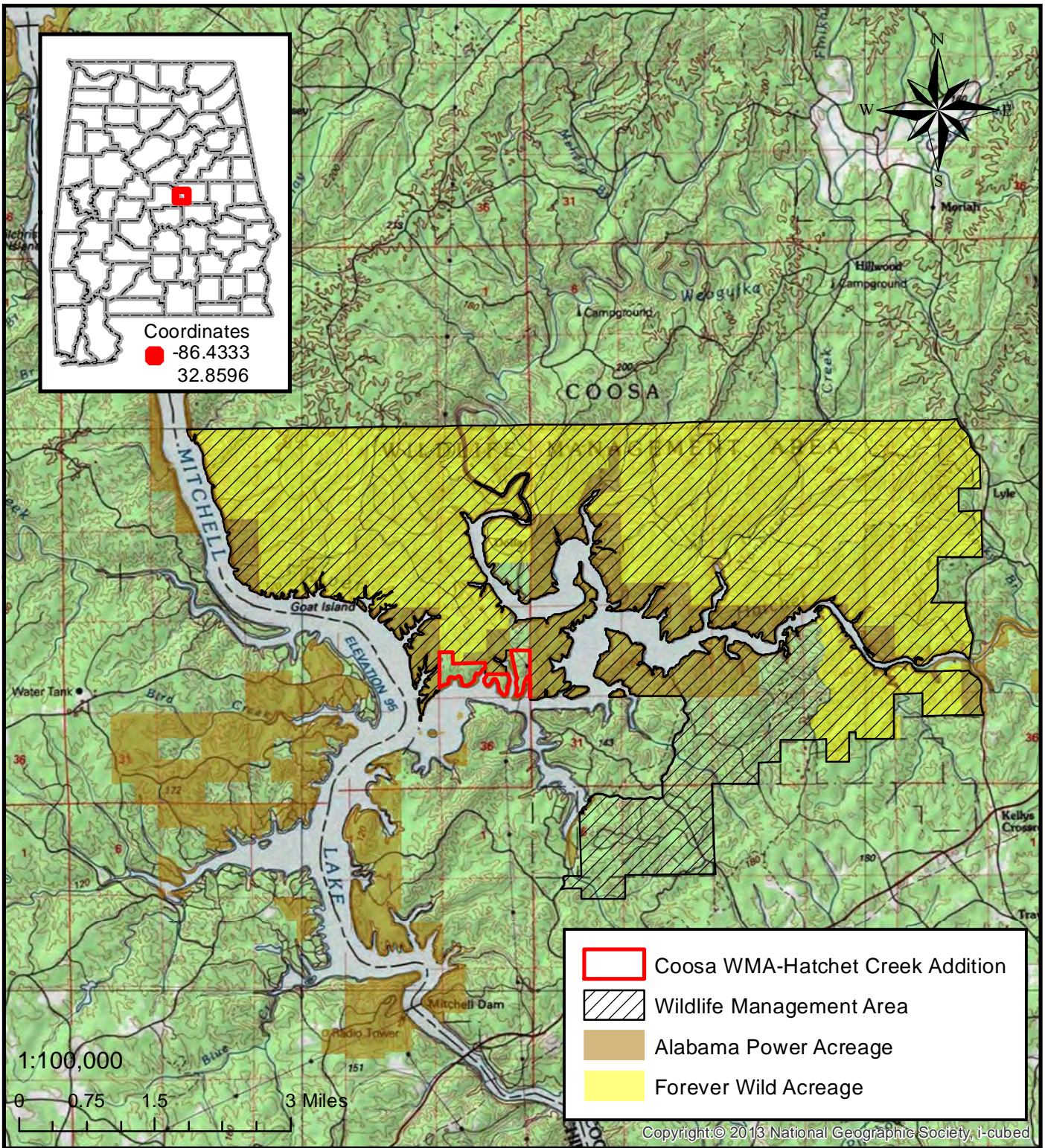


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**COLDWATER MOUNTAIN-McVEY ADDITION**  
**approximately 56 acres**  
**Calhoun County T16S R07E**  
**Munford USGS Quad**



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Date: 10/15/2020

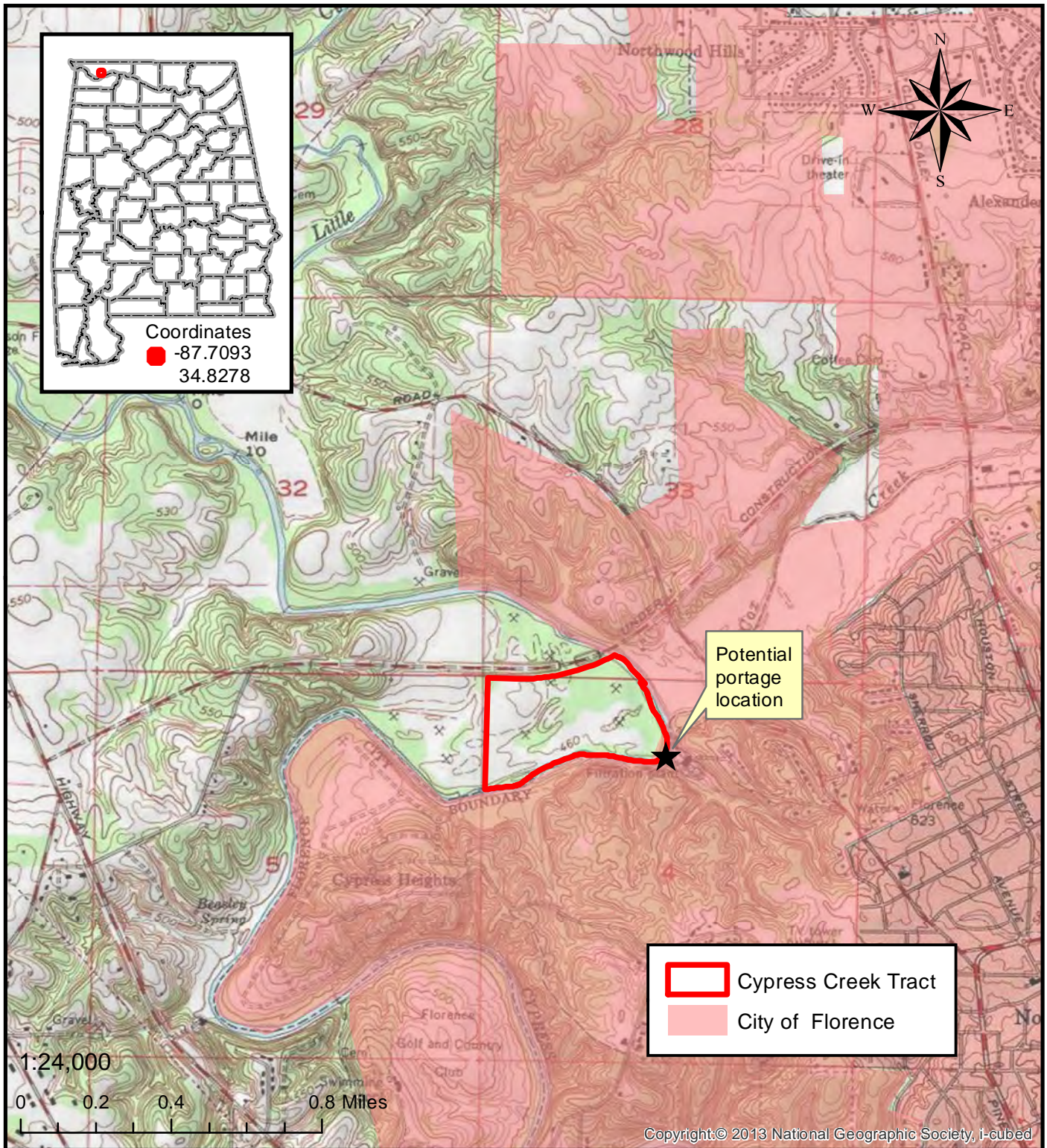


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**COOSA WMA-HATCHET CREEK ADDITION**  
 approximately 151 acres  
**Coosa County Mitchell Dam USGS Quad T22N R16E**



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Date: 1/16/2020



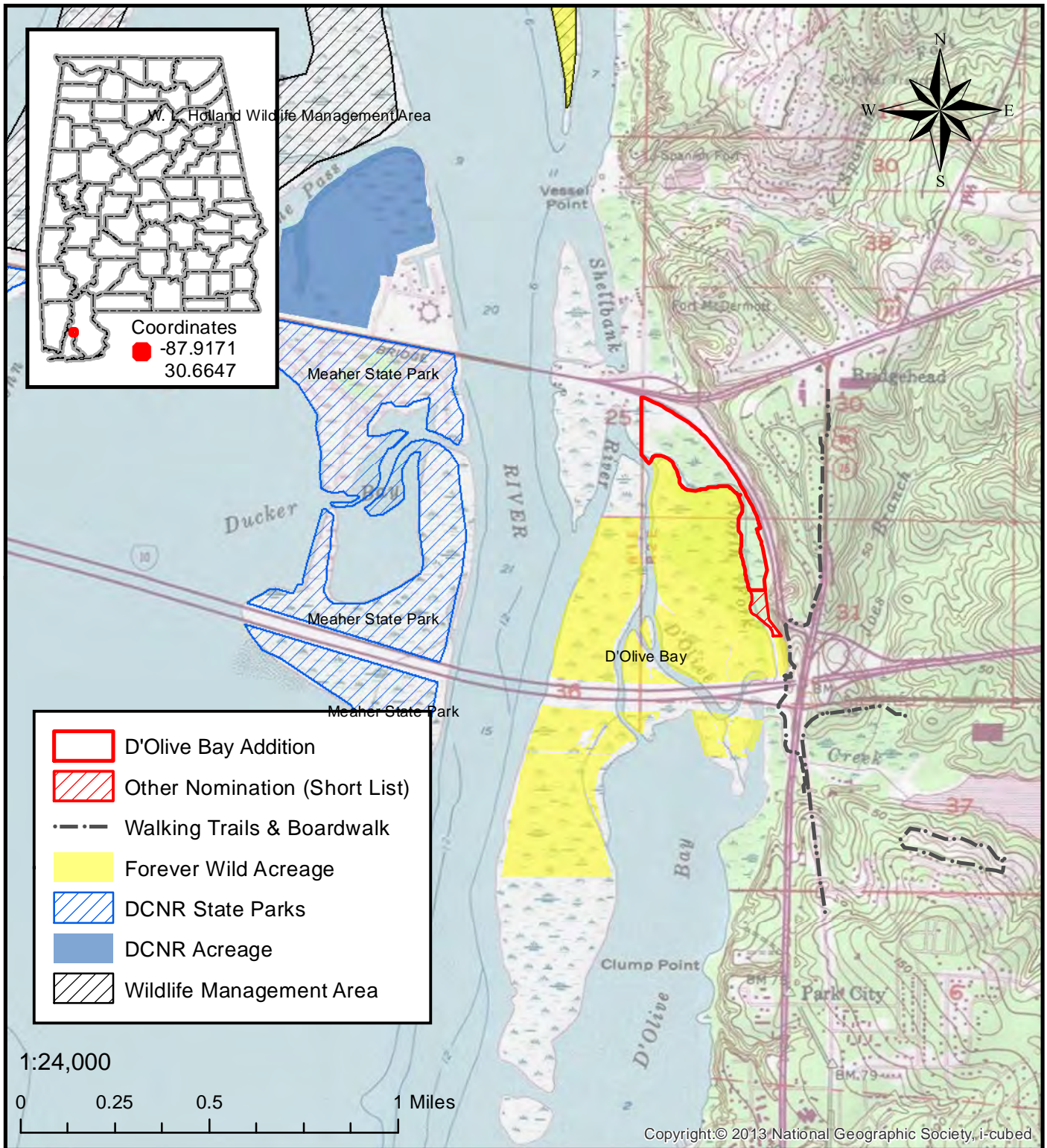
**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
 Forever Wild Nomination  
 CYPRESS CREEK TRACT  
 approximately 74 acres**



**Lauderdale County Florence USGS Quad T02S R11W and T03S R11W**

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Date: 7/22/2020

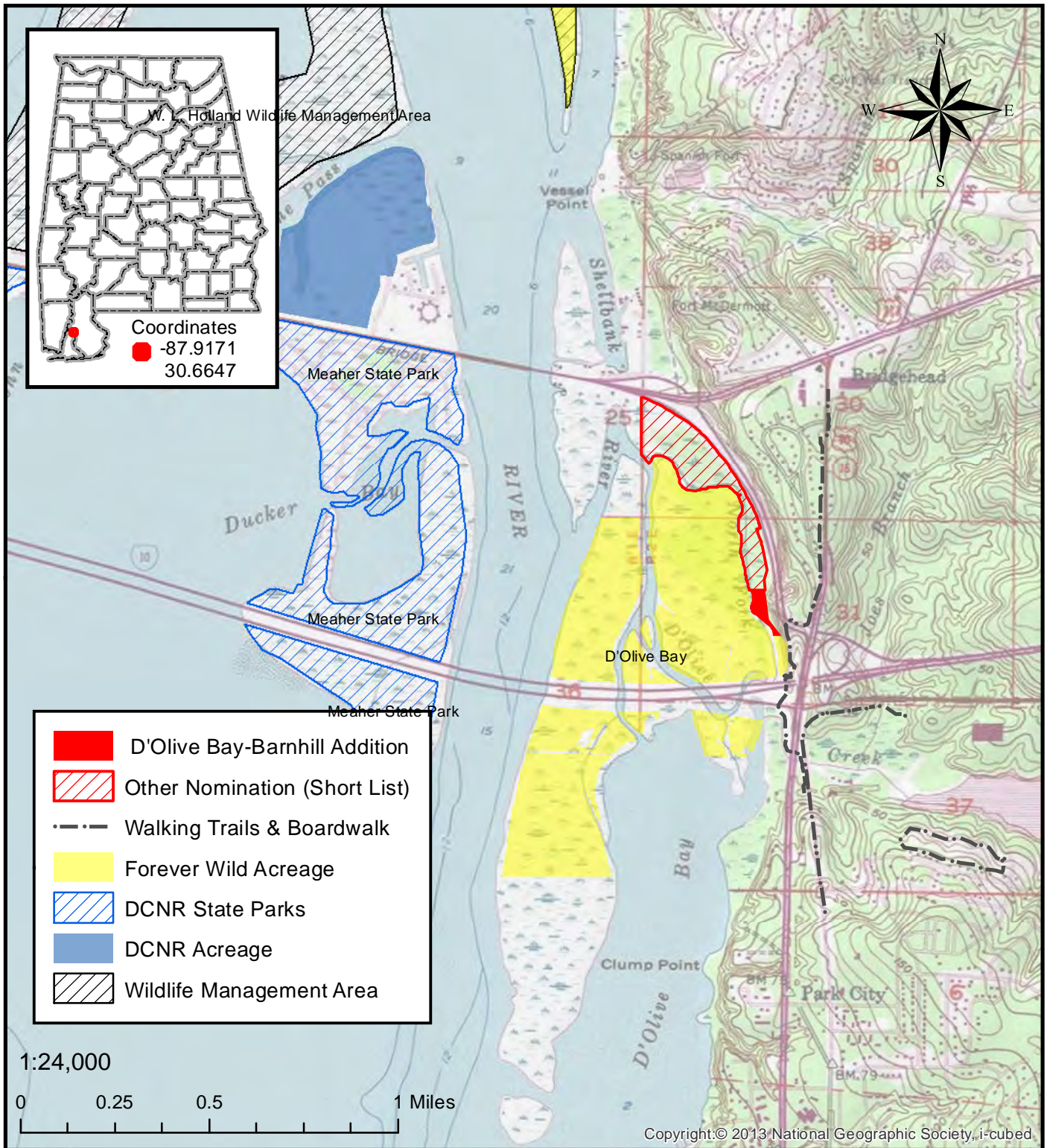


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**D'OLIVE BAY ADDITION**  
 approximately 29 acres  
**Baldwin County      Bridgehead USGS Quad      T04S R02E**



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Date: 9/29/2020

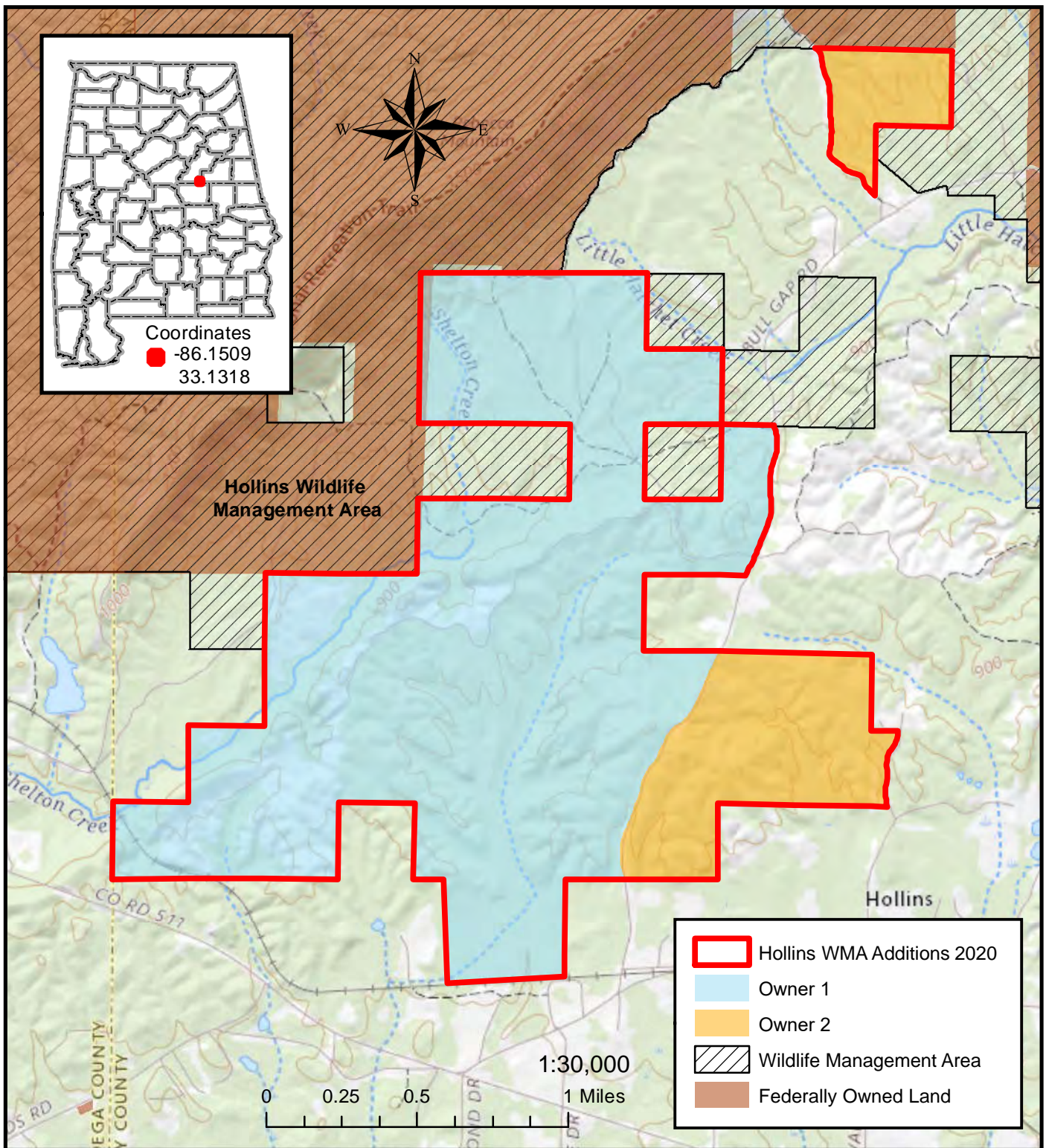


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**D'OLIVE BAY-BARNHILL ADDITION**  
 approximately 2.5 acres  
**Baldwin County      Bridgehead USGS Quad      T04S R02E**



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Date: 9/29/2020

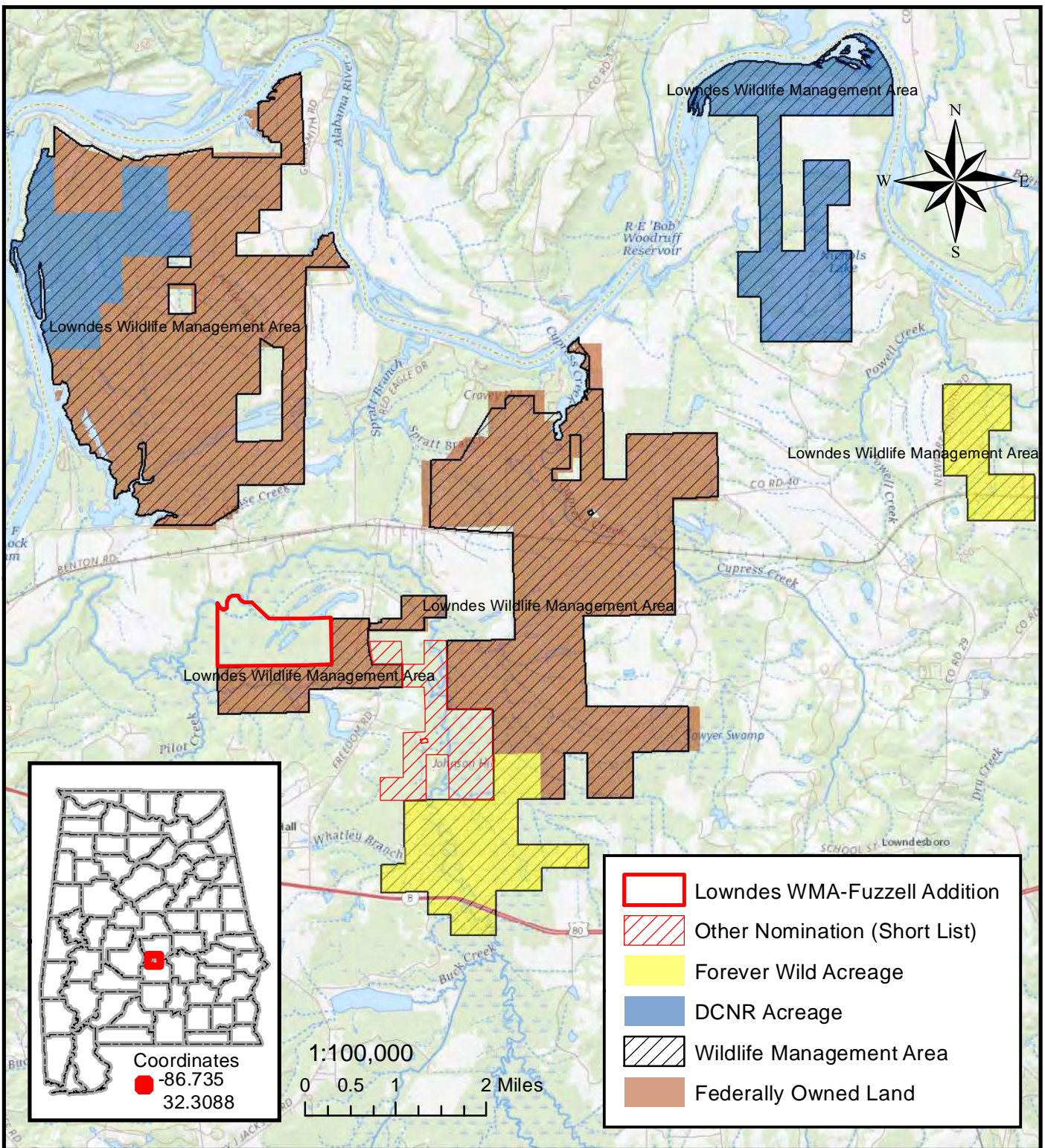


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**HOLLINS WMA ADDITIONS 2020**  
 approximately 1,780 acres  
**Clay County T21S R05E & T22S R05E**  
**Goodwater NW and Hollins USGS Quad**



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Date: 8/17/2020

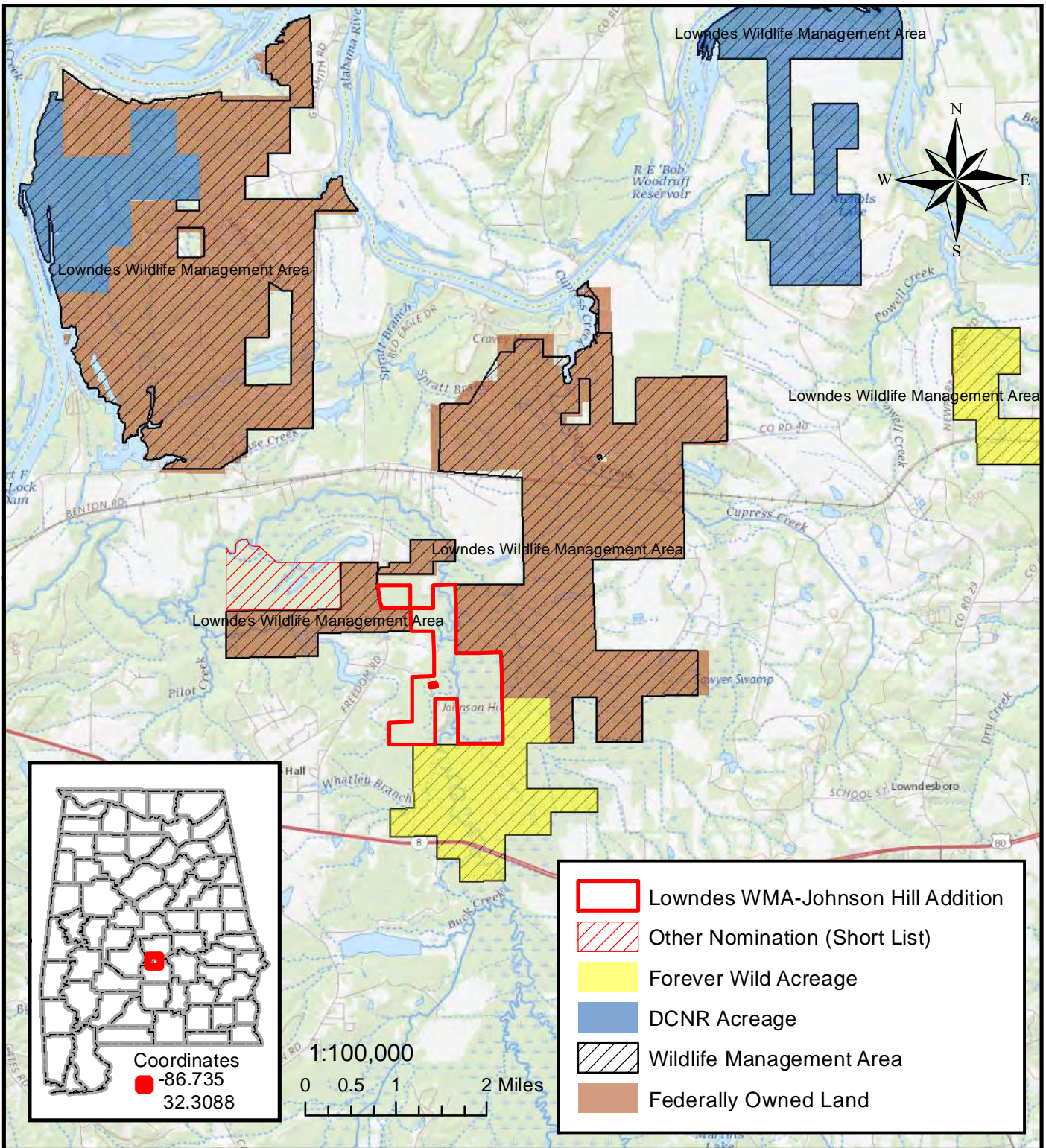


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**LOWNDES WMA-FUZZELL ADDITION**  
**approximately 471 acres**  
**Lowndes County T15N R13E & T16N R13E**  
**White Hall USGS Quad**



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Date: 10/7/2020

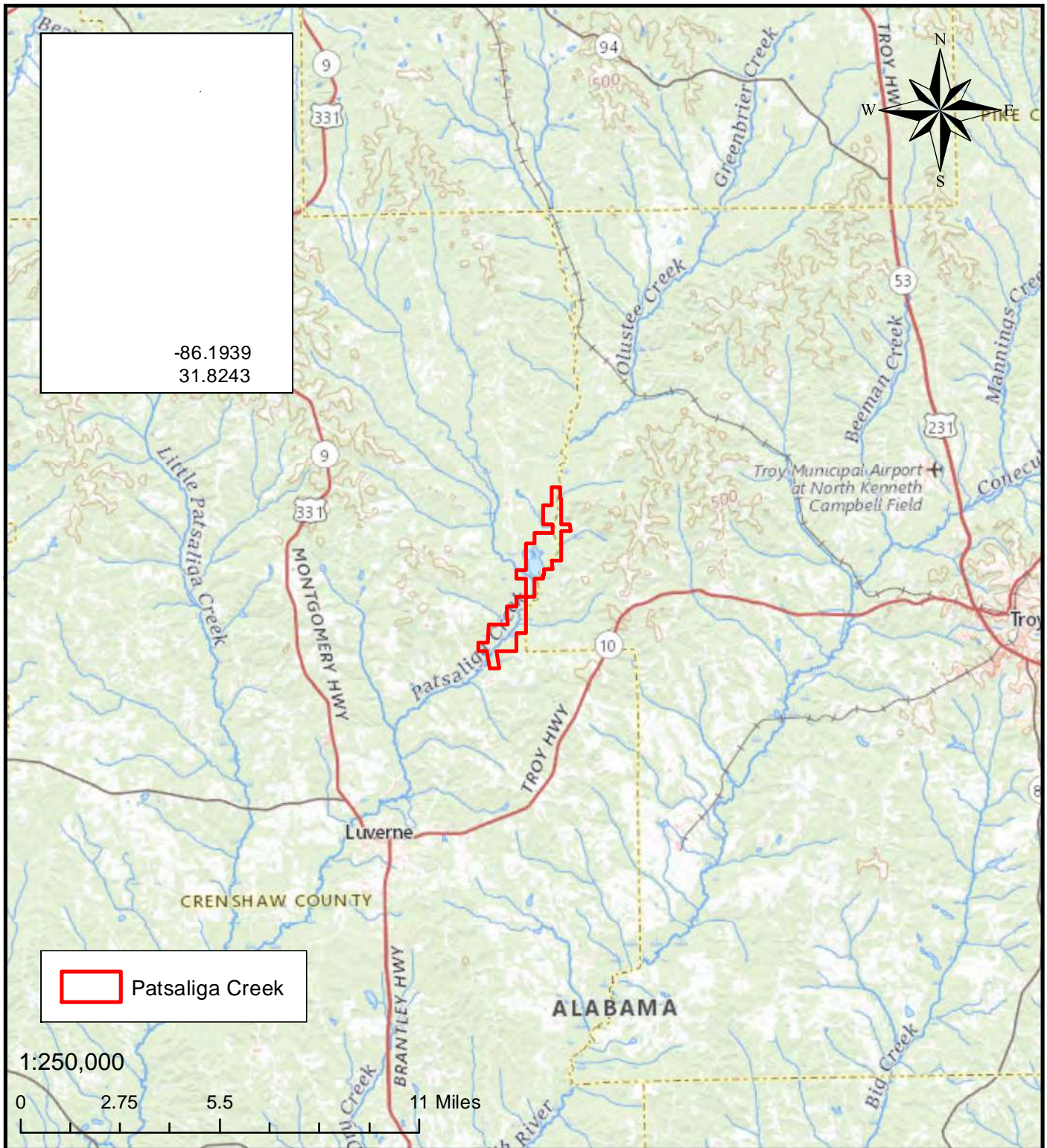


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**LOWNDES WMA-JOHNSON HILL ADDITION**  
 approximately 783 acres  
**Lowndes County T15N R13E & T15N R14E**  
**White Hall USGS Quad**



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Date: 10/7/2020

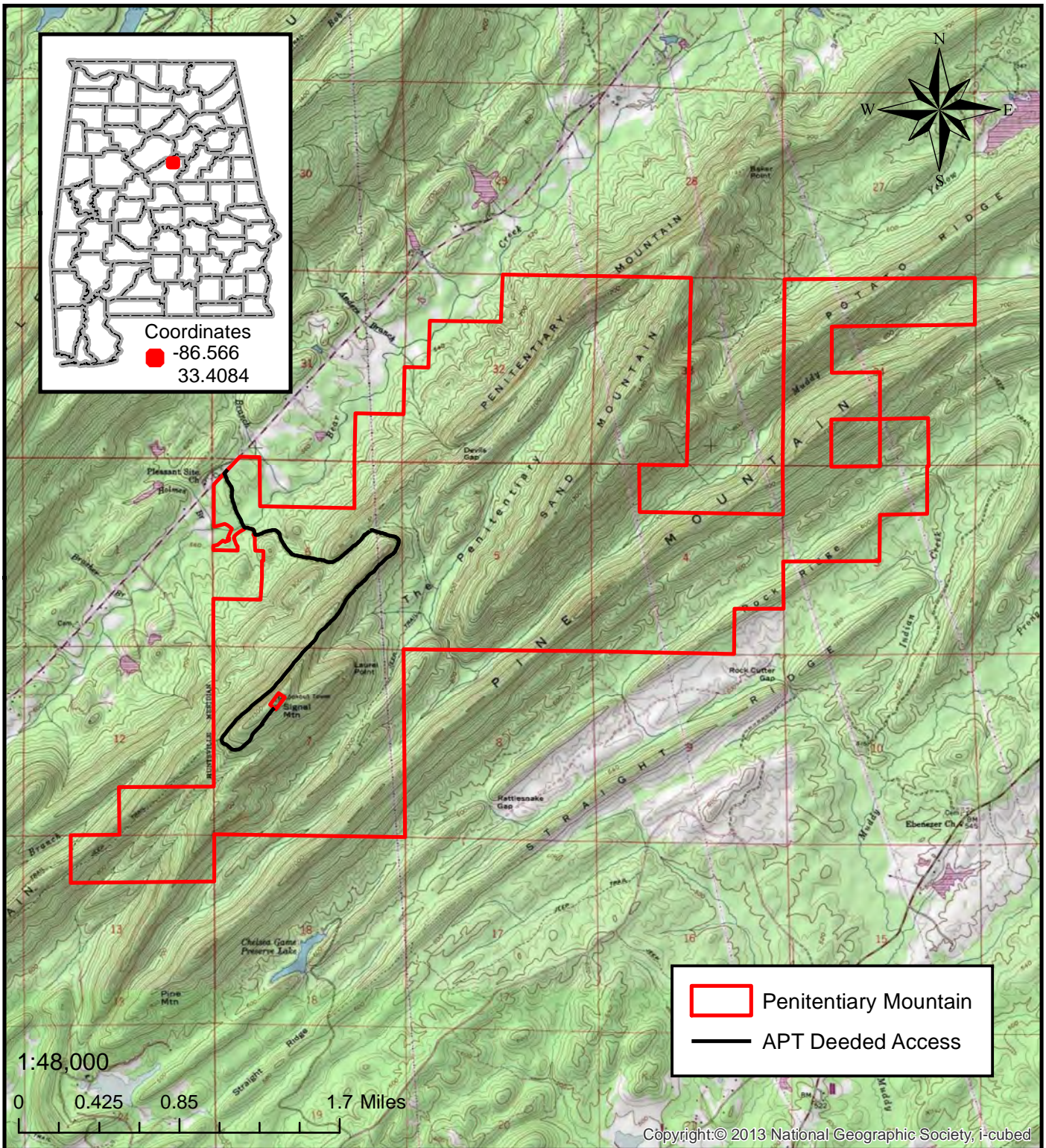


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**PATSALIGA CREEK**  
**approximately 1,800 acres**  
**Crenshaw & Pike Counties      Petrey USGS Quad**  
**T9N R18E, T10N R18E, T10N R19E**



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Date: 7/22/2020

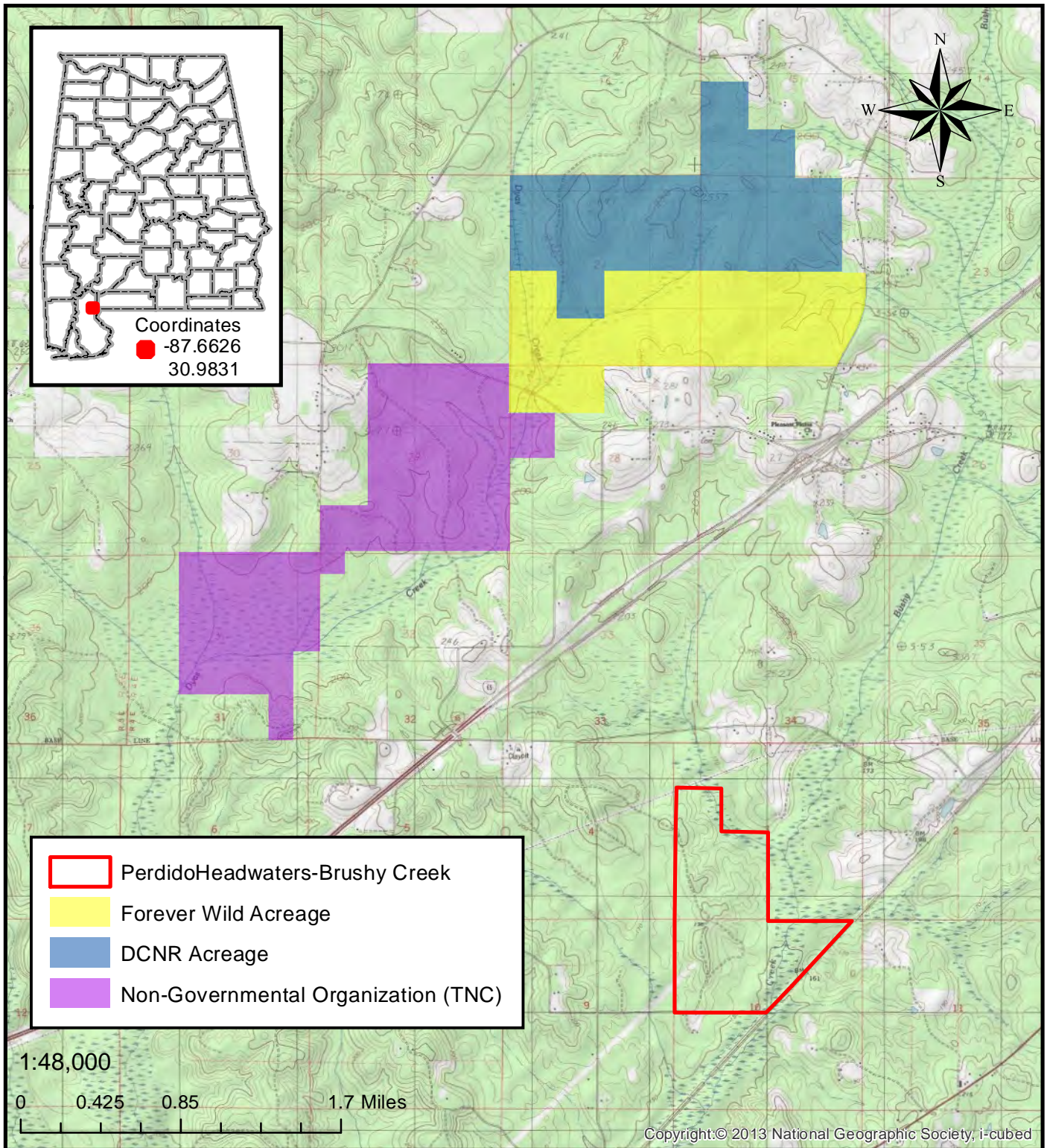


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**PENITENTIARY MOUNTAIN**  
**approximately 3,928 acres**  
**Shelby County Vandiver USGS Quad**  
**T18S R01E, T19S R01E, and T19S R01W**



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Date: 7/24/2019



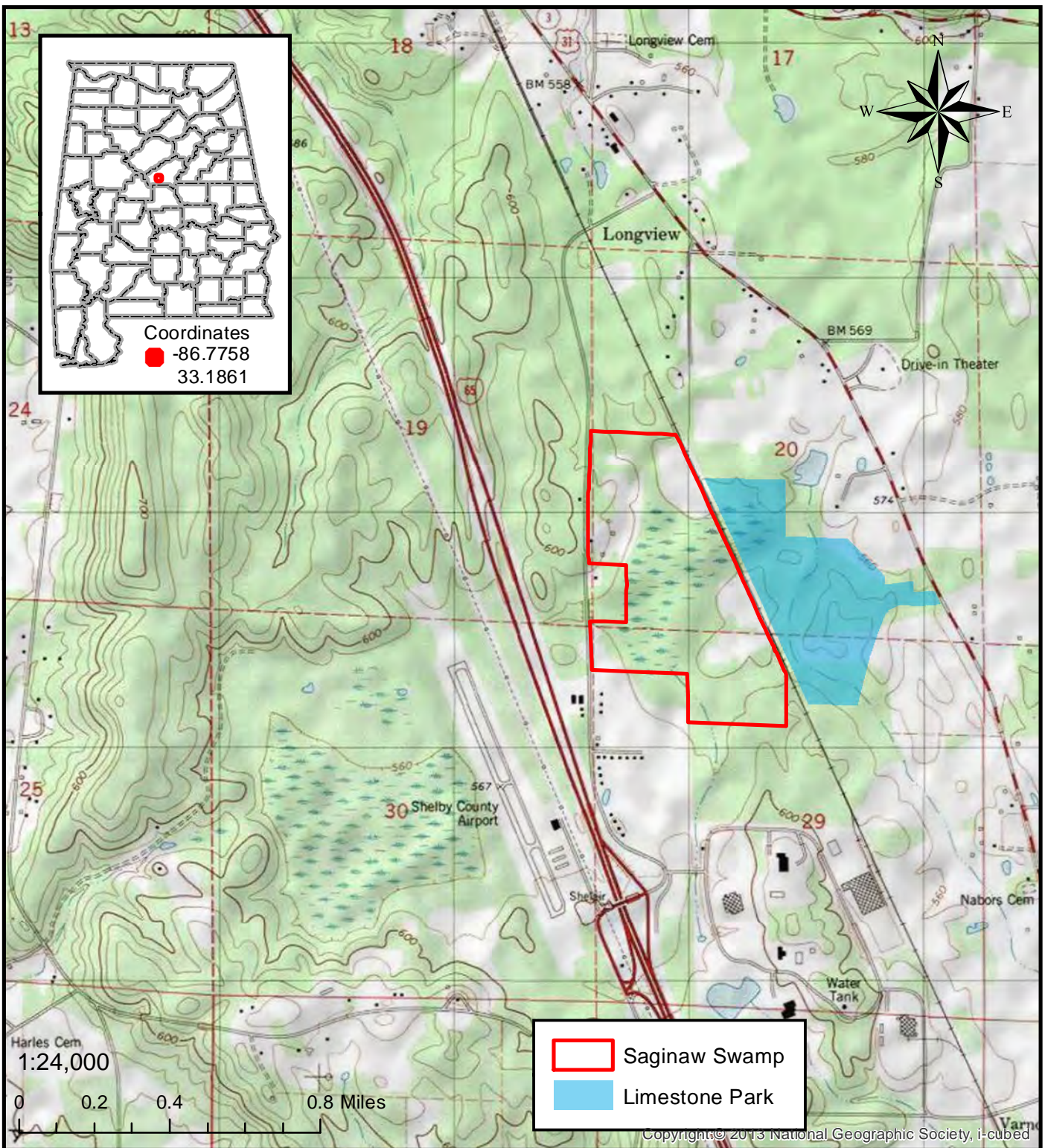
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**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**PERDIDO HEADWATER-BRUSHY CREEK**  
**approximately 408 acres**  
**Baldwin County      Dyas USGS Quad      T01S R04E**



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Date: 7/28/2020

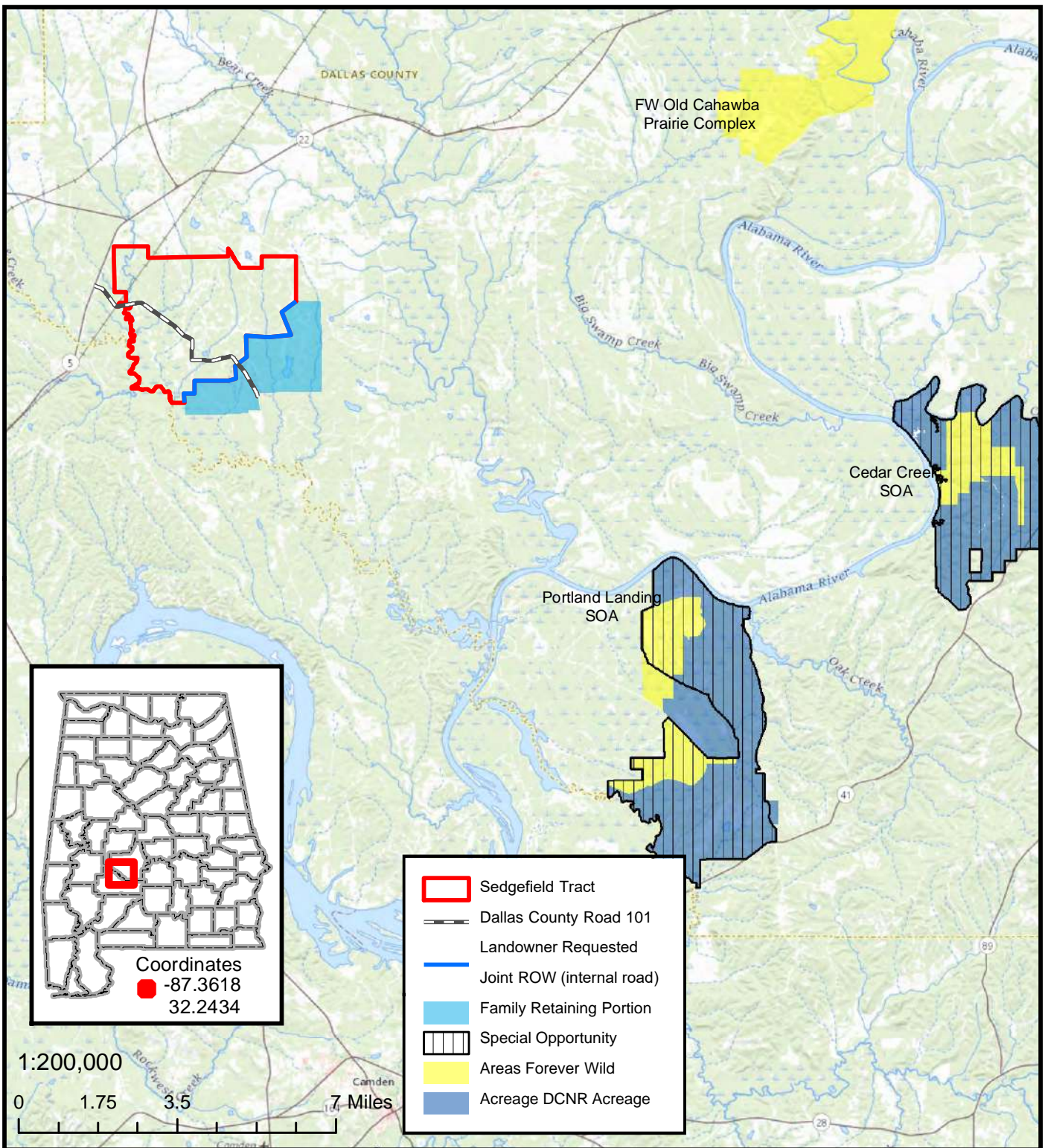


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**SAGINAW SWAMP**  
 approximately 160 acres  
**Shelby County      Alabaster USGS Quad      T21S R02W**



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Date: 7/22/2020

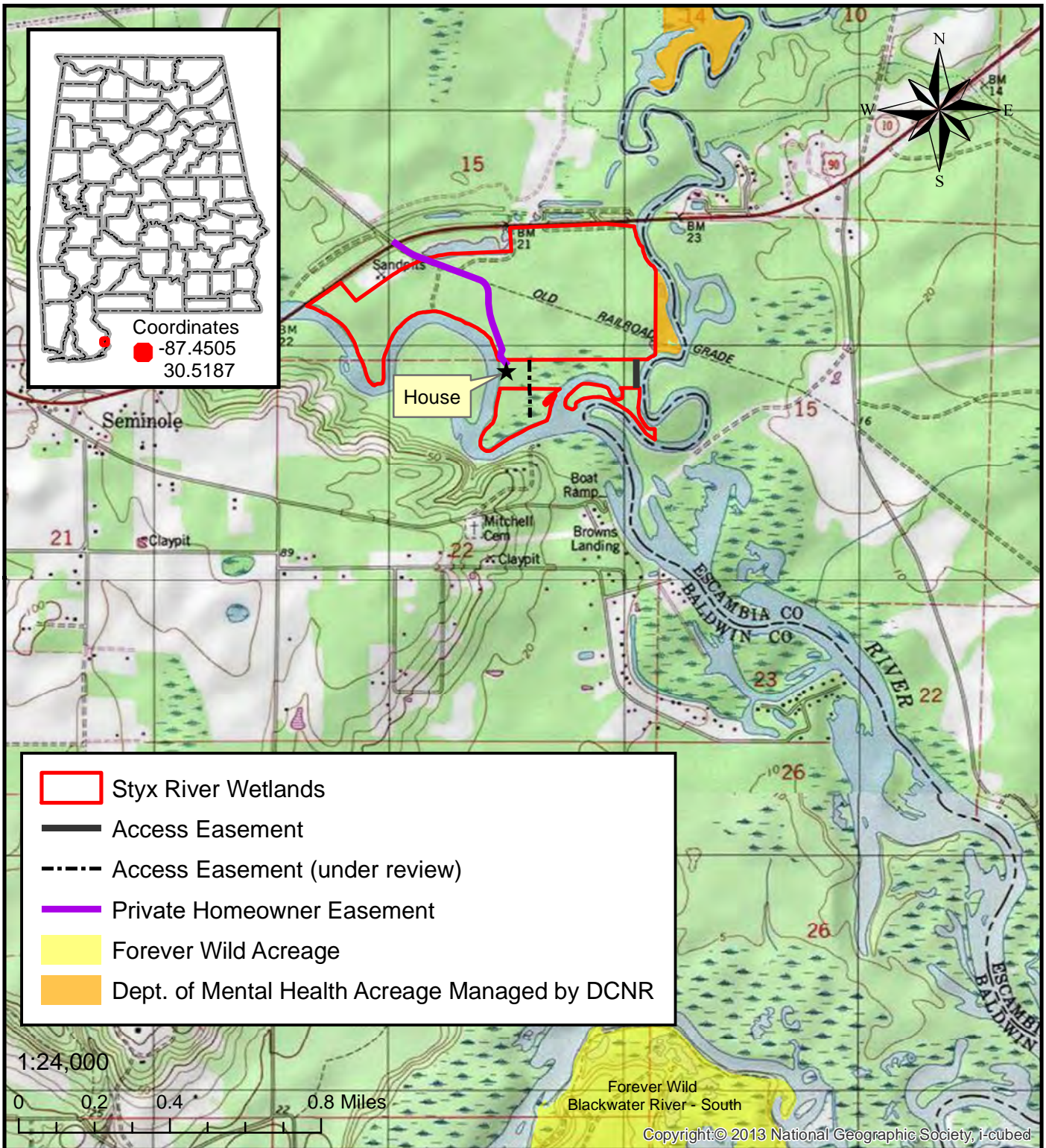


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**SEDFIELD TRACT**  
**approximately 6,000 acres**  
**Dallas County T15N R07E & T14N R07E**  
**Catherine, Central Mills, Crumptonia, & Safford USGS Quads**



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Date: 10/15/2020



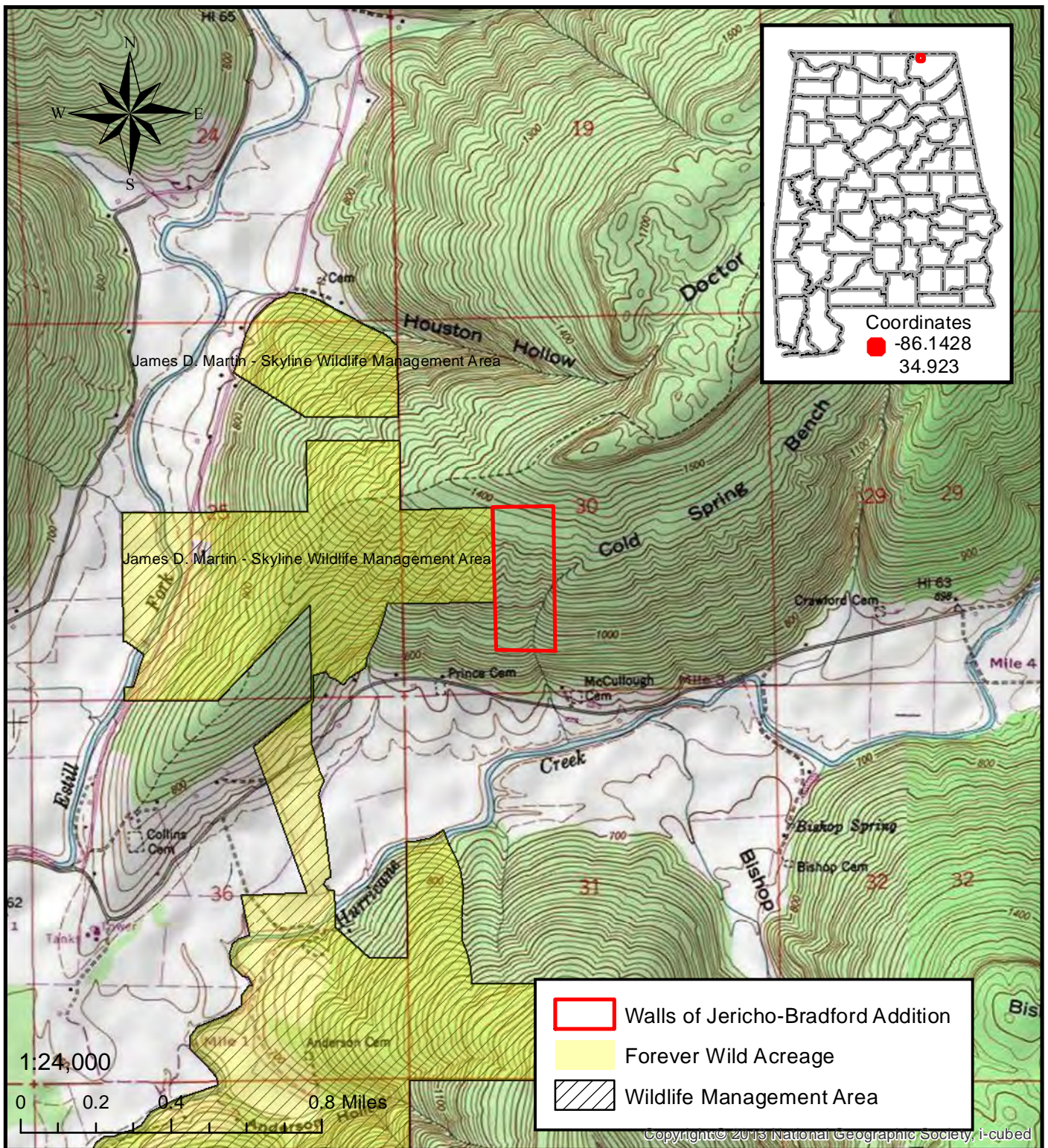
- Styx River Wetlands
- Access Easement
- Access Easement (under review)
- Private Homeowner Easement
- Forever Wild Acreage
- Dept. of Mental Health Acreage Managed by DCNR

**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

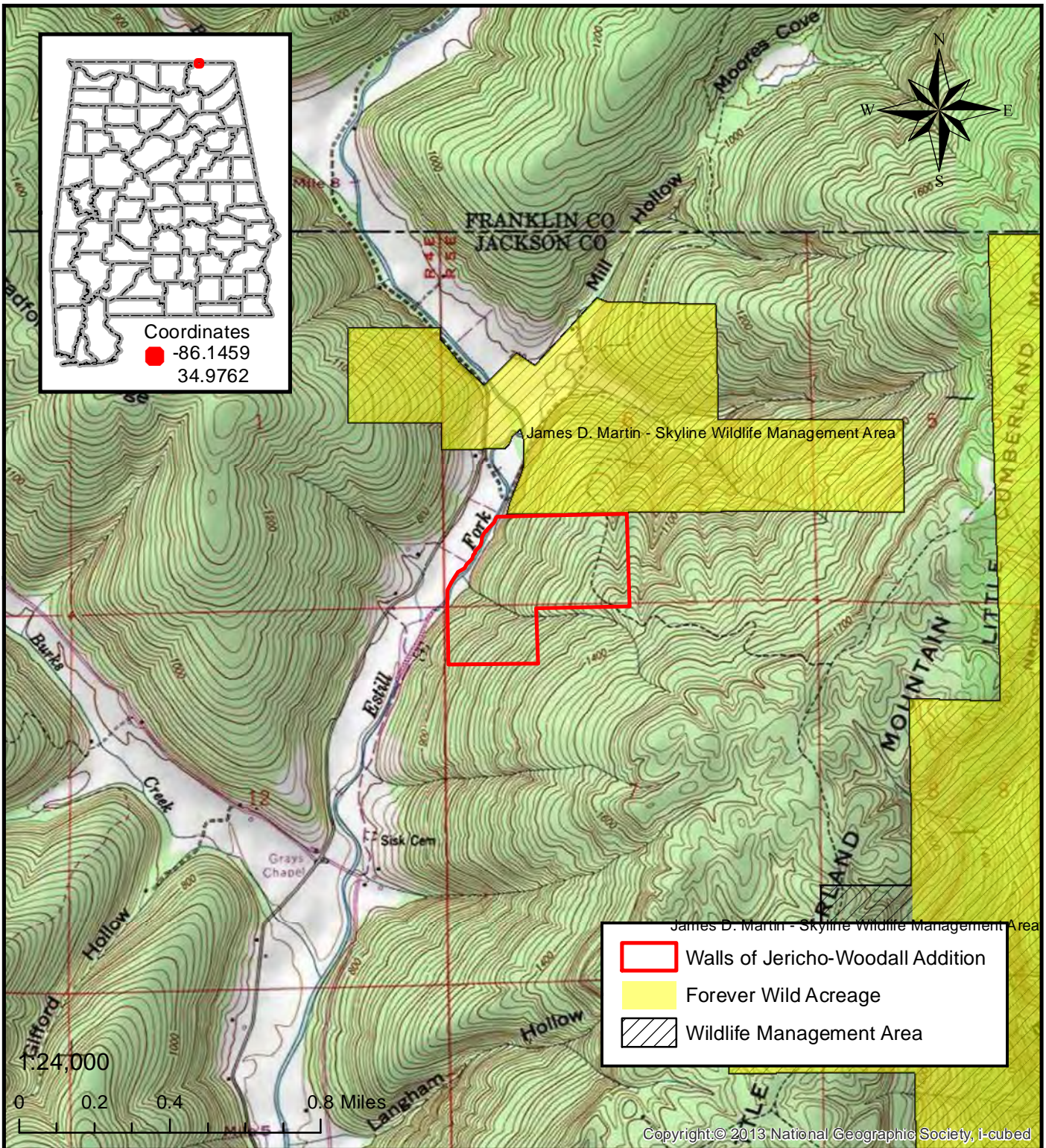


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**WALLS OF JERICHO-BRADFORD ADDITION**  
**approximately 40 acres**

**Jackson County      Hytop USGS Quad      T01S R05E**



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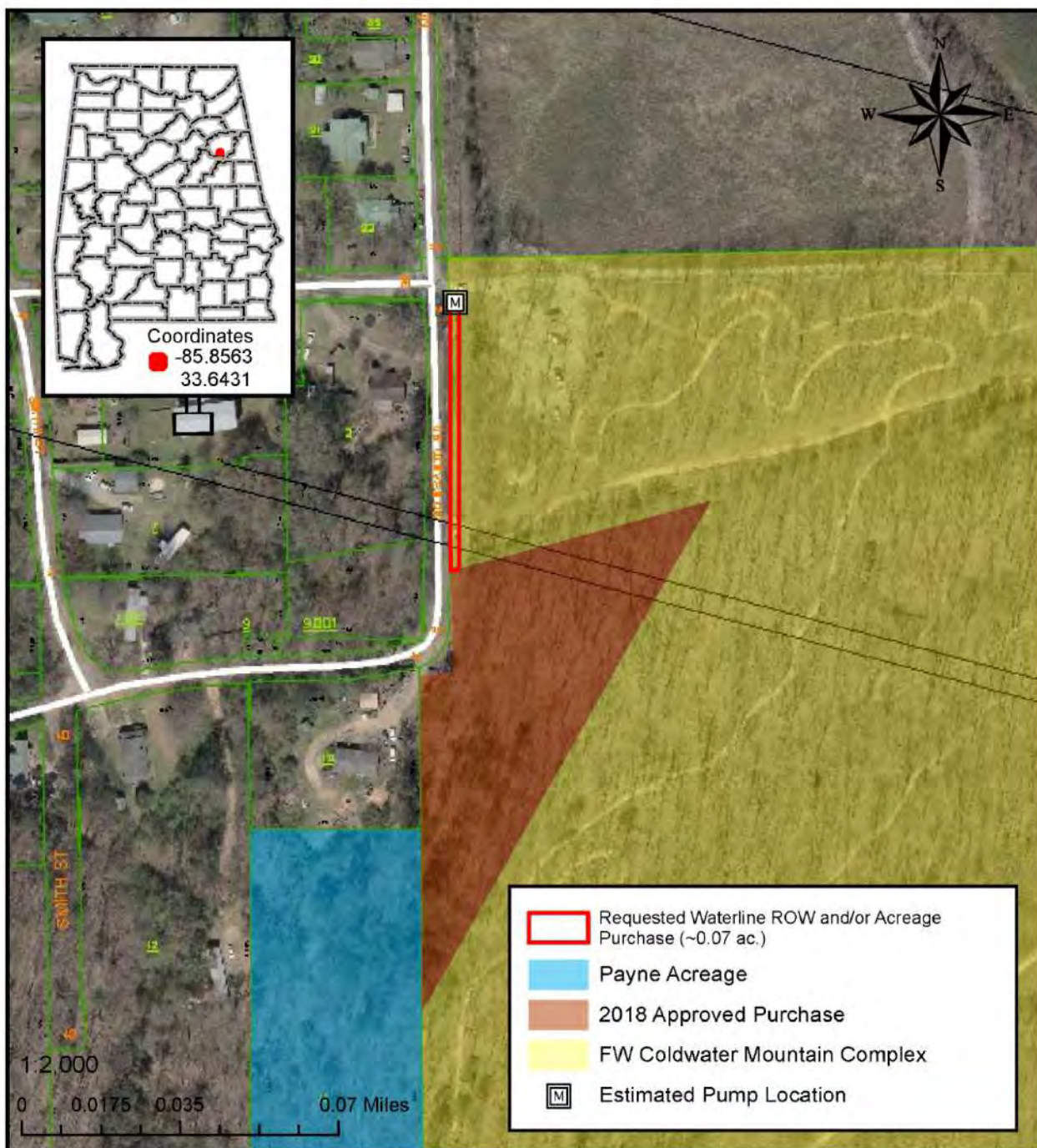


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild Nomination**  
**WALLS OF JERICHO-WOODALL ADDITION**  
 approximately 91 acres  
 Jackson County T01S R05E  
 Estill Fork USGS Quad



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Date: 8/26/2020

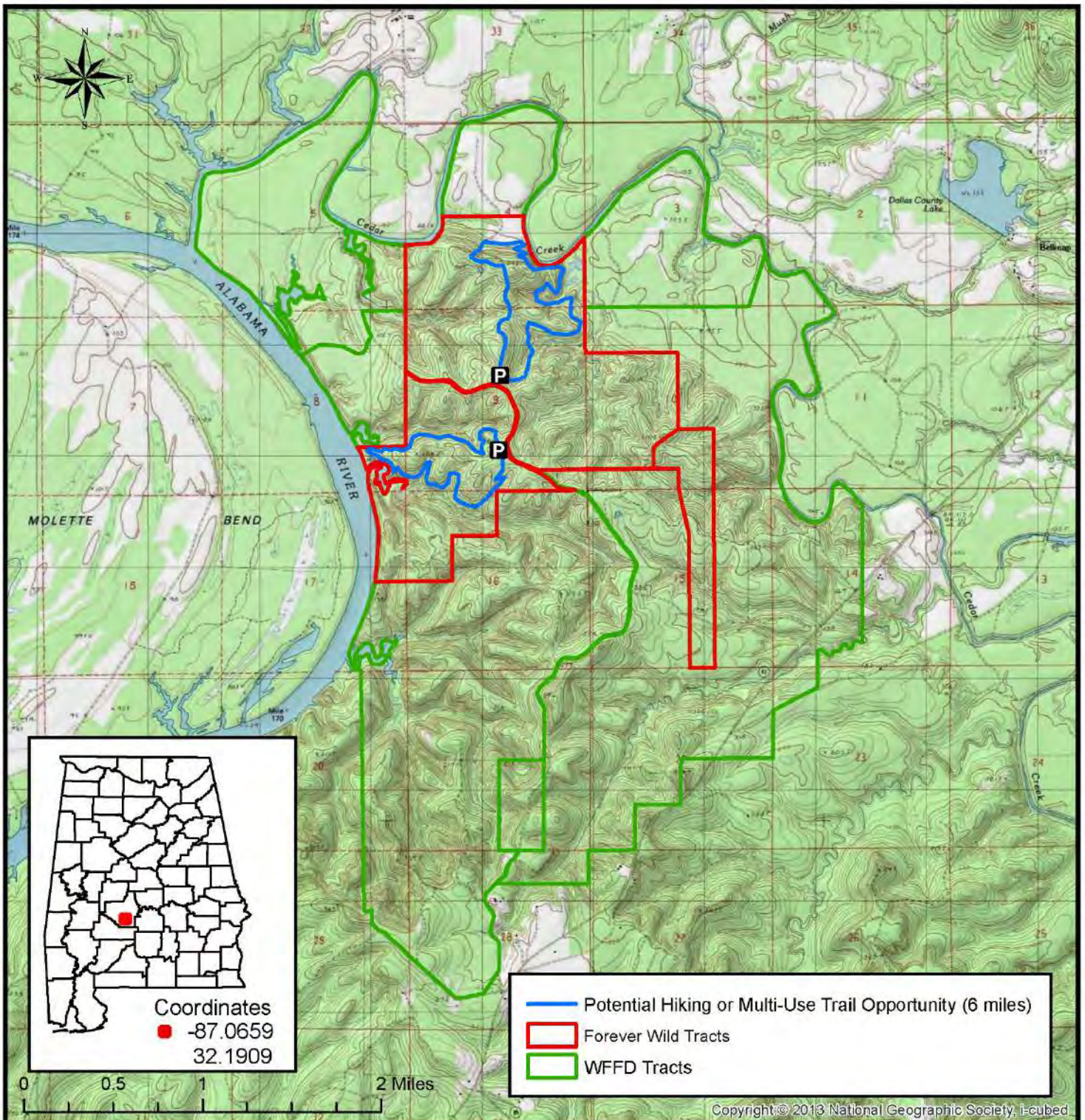


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
 Forever Wild Land Purchase Request  
 Coldwater Mountain Payne Waterline Request  
 approximately 0.07 acres  
 Calhoun County T16S R07E  
 Anniston USGS Quad**



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Date: 10/21/2020

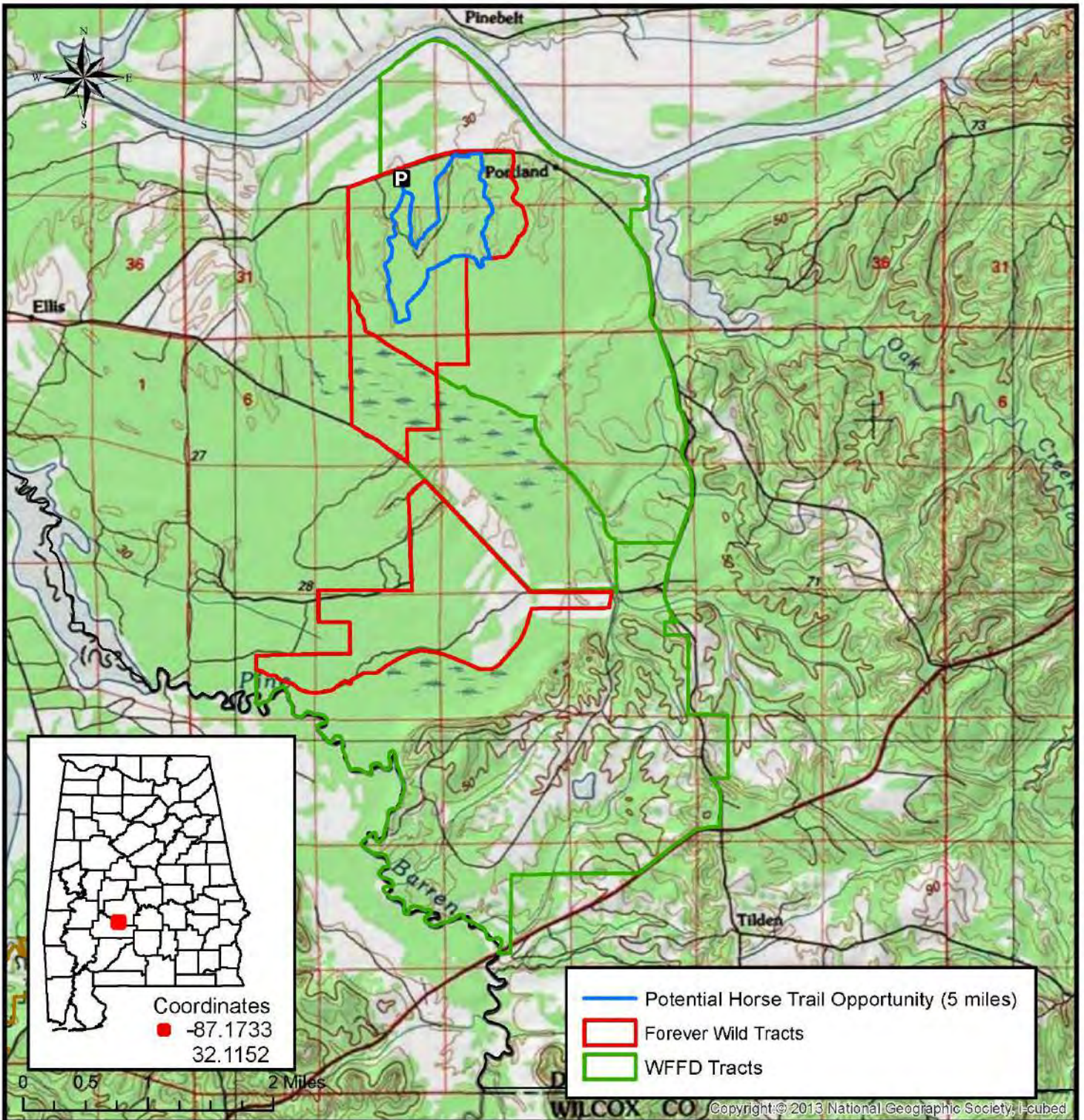


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild**  
**CEDAR CREEK TRACT**  
**Proposed Recreational Trail Opportunities**  
**6,013 Acres Dallas County**

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Date: 11/5/2020

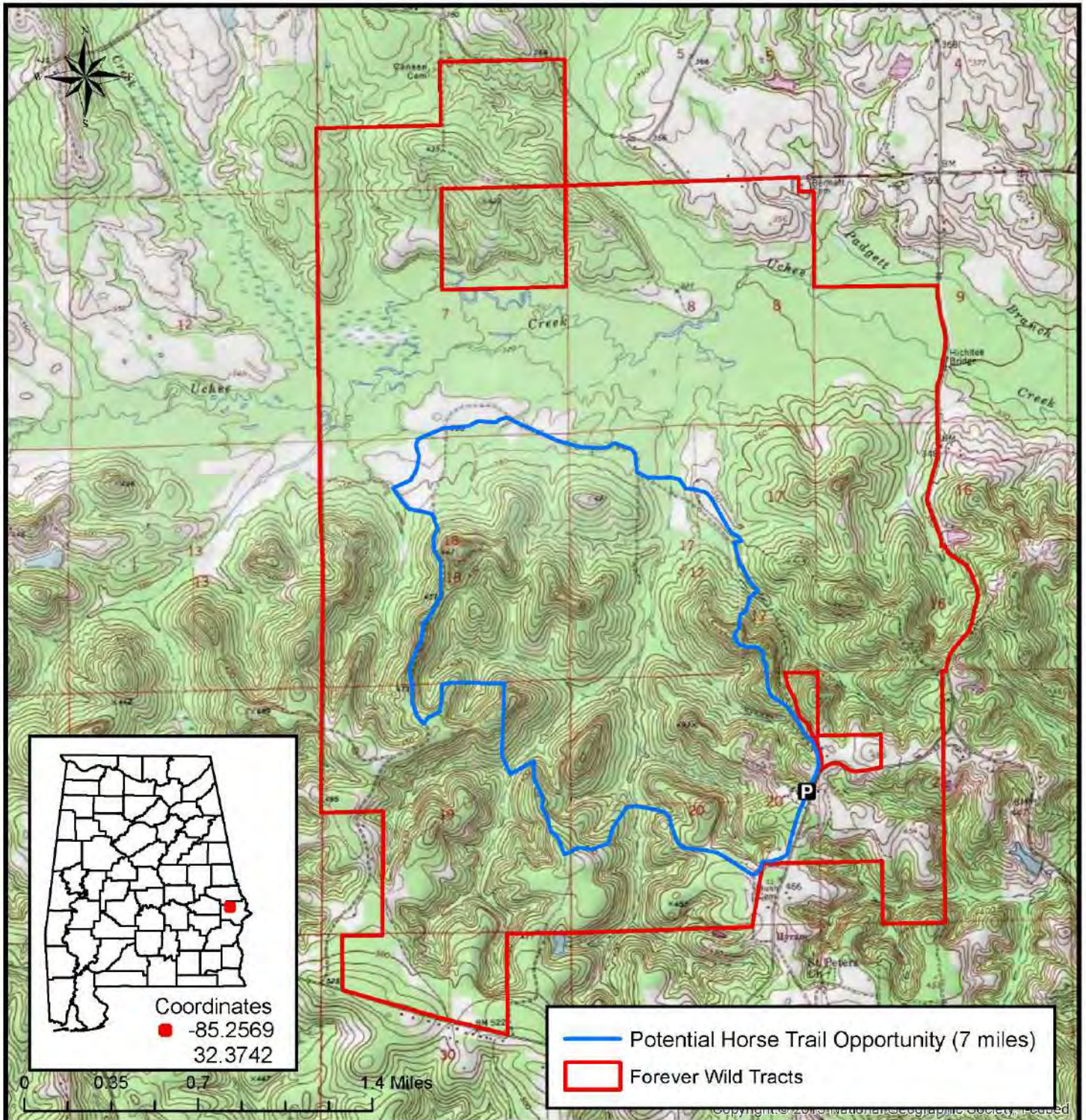
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**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild**  
**PORTLAND LANDING TRACT**  
**Proposed Recreational Trail Opportunities**  
**9,745 Acres Dallas County**

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Date: 11/5/2020

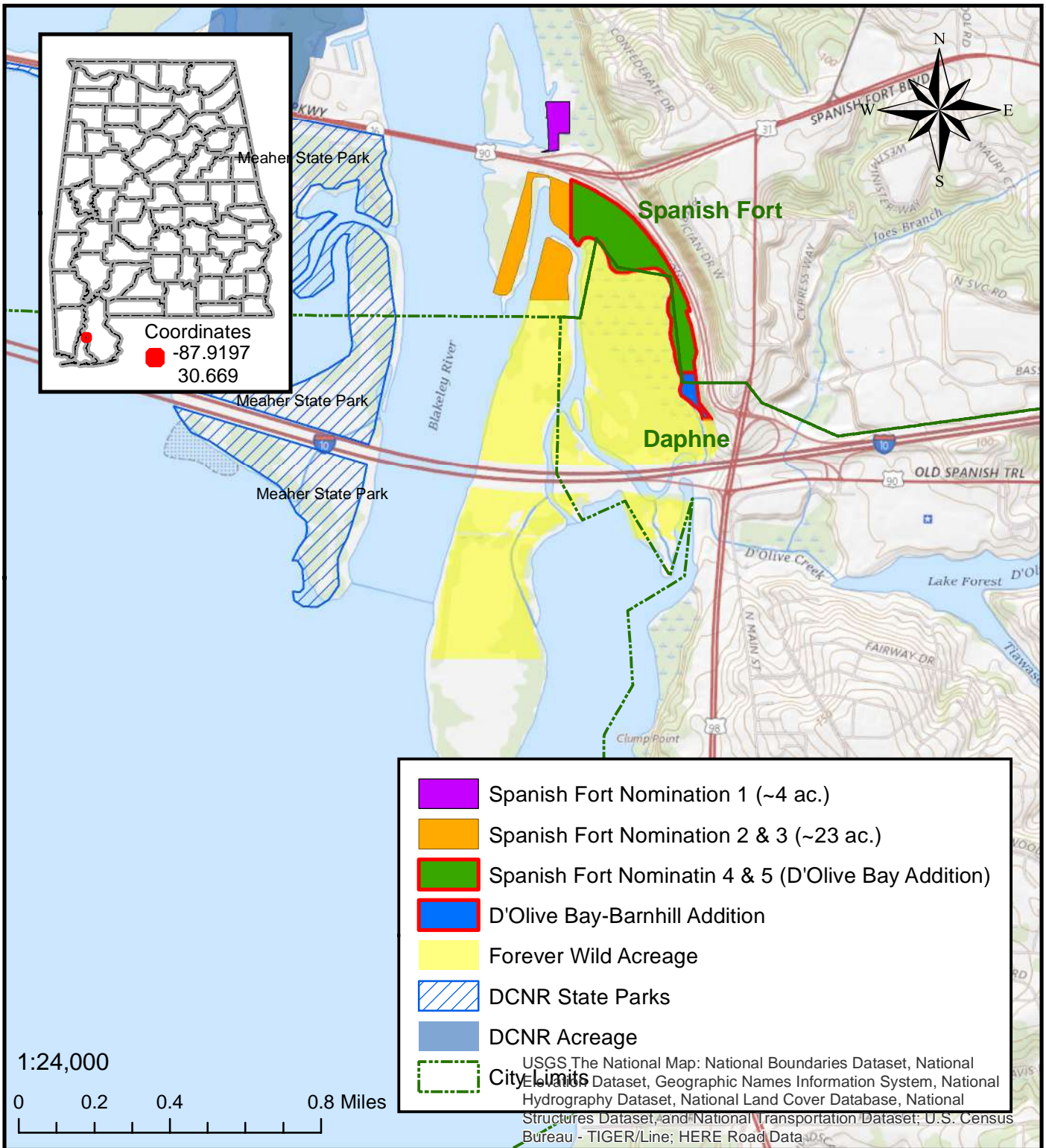


**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**  
**Forever Wild**  
**UTCHEE CREEK TRACT**  
**Proposed Recreational Trail Opportunities**  
**4,735 Acres Russell County**

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Date: 11/5/2020

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**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