ITEM 9:

Consider the 10-year Telogia Creek Wildlife Management Area Plan (Lease No. 4875).

LOCATION:

Liberty County

APPLICANT:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

Background

The Telogia Creek Wildlife Management Area (TCWMA) consists of 12,384 acres in Liberty County. Although most of the area's uplands were converted to pine plantation, the TCWMA conserves an abundance of surface water tributaries, which drain into several basins, and provides significant watershed and water quality protection. The TCWMA is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to conserve and restore natural wildlife habitat and to provide high-quality opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, and other fish and wildlife-focused outdoor public recreation In July 2023, the Board of Trustees acquired 12,384 acres from Tupelo AG, LLC through the Florida Forever program. The TCWMA is now under Lease No. 4875 from DEP to FWC.

Management Plan Overview

Through the services of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), FWC has mapped the natural and anthropogenic community types on TCWMA. FNAI has identified and mapped a total of 15 natural and altered community types within the TCWMA. The primary vegetative communities found within the TCWMA are pine plantation and baygall.

FWC has developed the Florida Landscape Assessment Model (FLAM) as a Geographic Information Systems-based assessment tool that incorporates a wide variety of landscape and wildlife species data. The FLAM evaluates the Florida landscape based upon important natural resources and habitat needs of wildlife to identify ecologically significant lands in the state, and to assess the potential impacts of management and land-use changes. The FLAM was developed to provide technical assistance to various local, regional, state and federal agencies and entities interested in wildlife needs and conservation in order to: (1) determine ways to avoid or minimize project impacts by evaluating alternative placements, alignments and transportation corridors during early planning stages, (2) assess direct, secondary and cumulative impacts to habitat and wildlife resources, and (3) identify appropriate parcels for public land acquisition for wetland and upland habitat mitigation purposes. The FLAM ranks habitat from zero to 10; a rank of 10 being of greatest value. The FLAM indicates that the TCWMA has a mean wildlife value of 5.7.

The Division of Historical Resources observations are broken down into five categories: archeological sites, resource groups, historical structures, historic bridges and historic cemeteries. A review of the FMSF indicates that no cultural resources have been recorded on the TCWMA. However, this area has not yet been surveyed, so there is a possibility that some sites could occur. In cooperation with the DHR, the FWC will continue to monitor and report on all

recorded sites annually, if any are found to occur. The FWC will consult with the DHR to determine the procedures necessary to identify, assess, and preserve any unrecorded or unevaluated cultural resources that may be present within the TCWMA.

The Florida Legislature requires that all land management plans include long and short-term goals. These goals must be measurable objectives, and short-term goals must be achievable within a two-year planning period. Pursuant to section 253.034, Florida Statutes(F.S.), the Division of State Lands began compiling the short-term goals from each land management plan approved since July 1, 2016. The management plan identified objectives under the following short-term goals: Other wildlife (game and nongame) habitat maintenance, enhancement, restoration, and population restoration and public access and recreational opportunities.

Public Involvement

The FWC conducted a Management Advisory Group Meeting on January 10, 2024. Results of this meeting were used by FWC to develop management goals and objectives and to identify opportunities and strategies for inclusion in this management plan.

A public hearing, as required by section 259.032(10), F.S., was held on March 5, 2024. Questions and comments made by the public during the testimony period were regarding public access, trails, hunting, and overall public access and use.

Surplus Lands

The evaluation of TCWMA by FWC has determined that all portions of the area are being managed and operated for the original purposes of acquisition and remain integral to the continued conservation of important fish and wildlife resources, and continue to provide good fish and wildlife resource based public outdoor recreational opportunities. Therefore, no portion of the TCWMA is recommended for potential surplus review.

State Land Management Review Team

The TCWMA has not been subject to a review by an inter-agency land management review team.

DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the management plan.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

(X) APPROVE
( ) APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS: _____
( ) DEFER
( ) WITHDRAW
( ) NOT APPROVE
( ) OTHER:_____

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lead Agency: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
Common Name of Property: Telogia Creek Wildlife Management Area (TCWMA)
Location: Liberty County, Florida
Acreage Total: 12,384 acres
Acreage Breakdown:

Land Cover Classification	Acres	Percent of Total Area*
Basin swamp	26	0.21%
Baygall	3,207	25.91%
Clearcut pine plantation	1,283	10.38%
Clearing/regeneration	165	1.33%
Depression marsh	19	0.16%
Dome swamp	22	0.18%
Floodplain swamp	729	5.75%
Pine plantation	4,176	33.76%
Restoration mesic flatwoods	492	3.98%
Restoration sandhill	2,042	16.53%
Restoration wet flatwoods	16	0.13%
Road	18	0.15%
Sandhill	72	0.59%
Successional hardwood forest	27	0.22%
Wet flatwoods	91	0.73%

*GIS-calculated acreage for land cover classification varies slightly from actual total acreage.

Lease/Management Agreement No.: 4875 (Appendix 11.1)
Use: Single ___ Multiple X
Management Agency: FWC
Management Responsibilities: LEAD, LESSEE (Wildlife Management Area, resource protection, law enforcement)
Designated Land Use: Wildlife Management Area
Sublease (s): None
Encumbrances: Two ingress, egress, and utility easements; two utility easements; a deed covering oil, gas, mineral, or other reservations without right of entry
Type Acquisition: Florida Forever Program
Unique Features: Natural communities: Mostly pine plantation and baygall, as well as some clearcut and restoration communities.
Archaeological/Historical: None documented within the TCWMA
Management Needs: Habitat restoration and improvement; public access and recreational opportunities; hydrological preservation and restoration; invasive species maintenance and control; imperiled species habitat maintenance, enhancement, and restoration
Acquisition Needs/Acreage: 74,234 acres; FWC Additions and Inholdings list (Figure 12)
Surplus Lands/Acreage: None
Public Involvement: Management Advisory Group consensus building meeting and Public Hearing (Appendix 11.3-11.4)

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE (FOR DIVISION OF STATE LANDS USE ONLY)

ARC Approval Date _____ BTIITF Approval Date: _____
Comments: _____

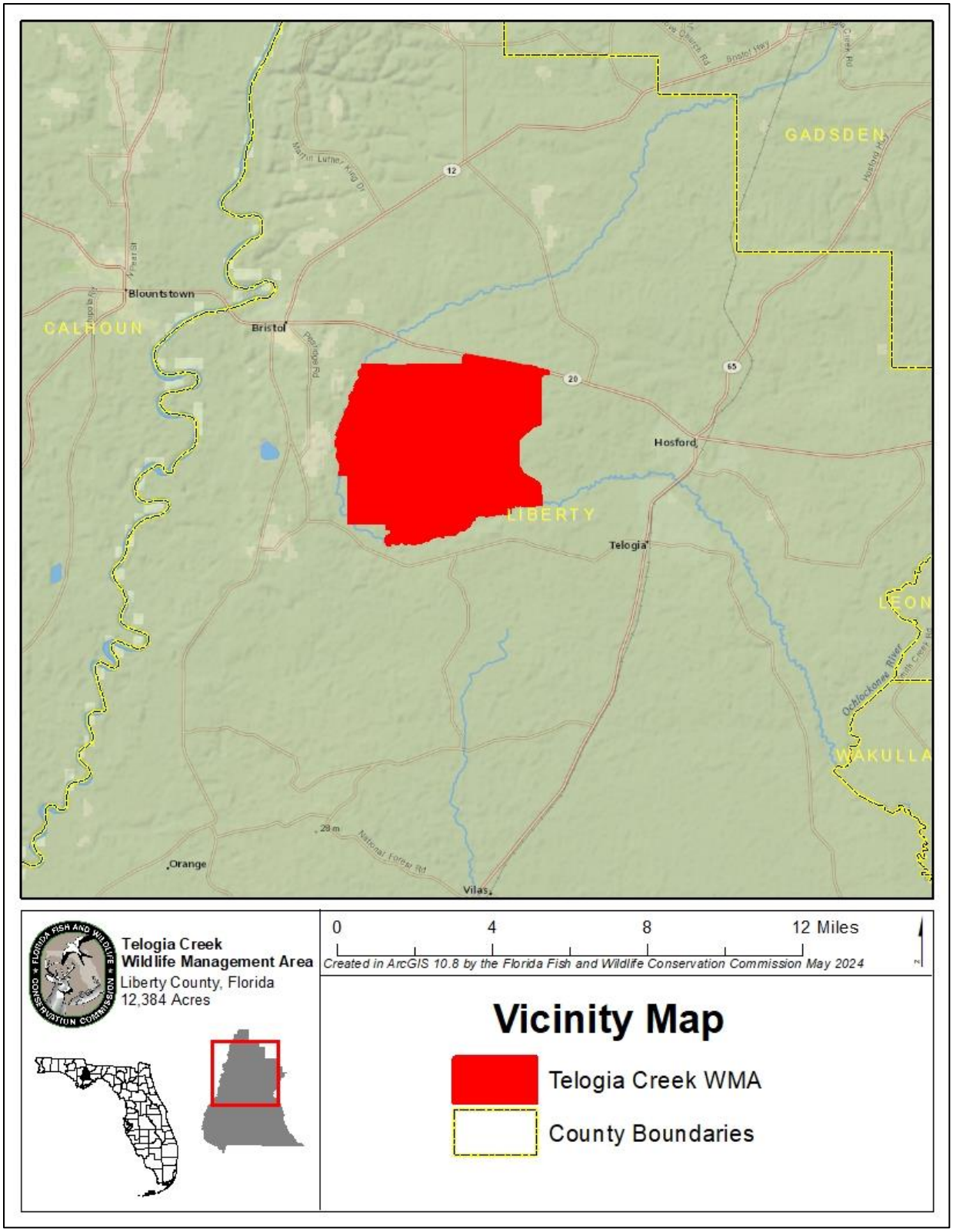


Figure 1. Vicinity Map

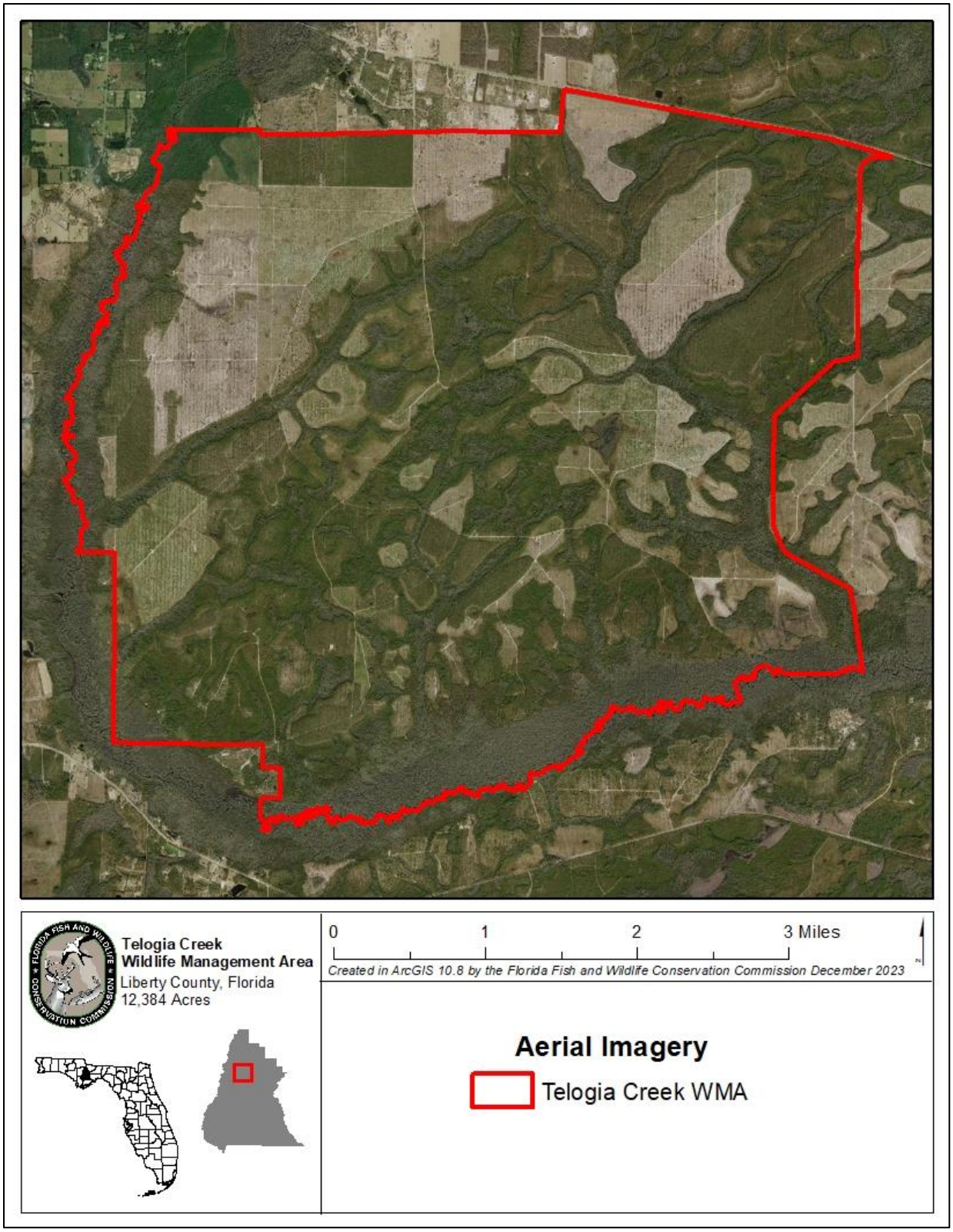


Figure 2. Aerial Imagery

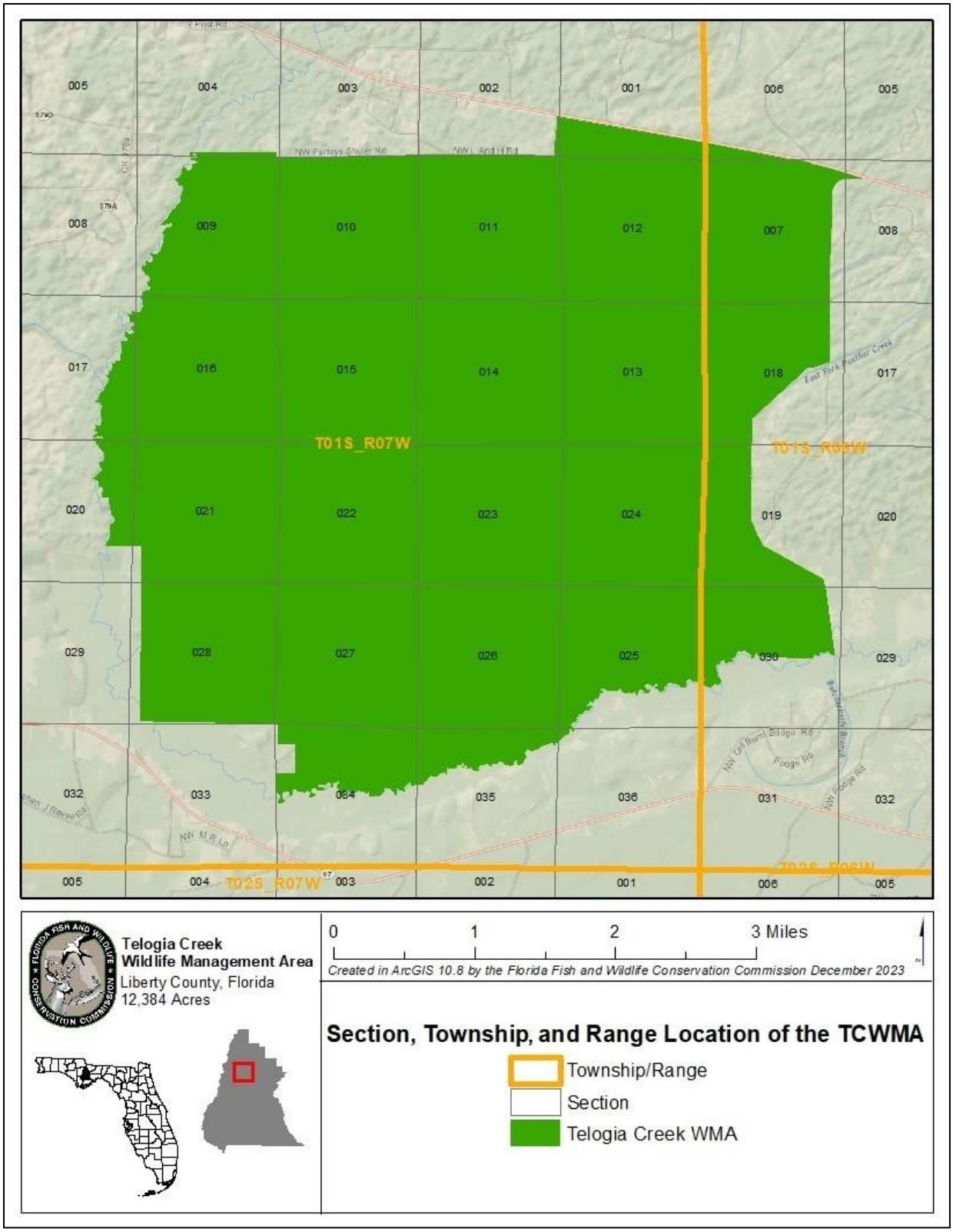
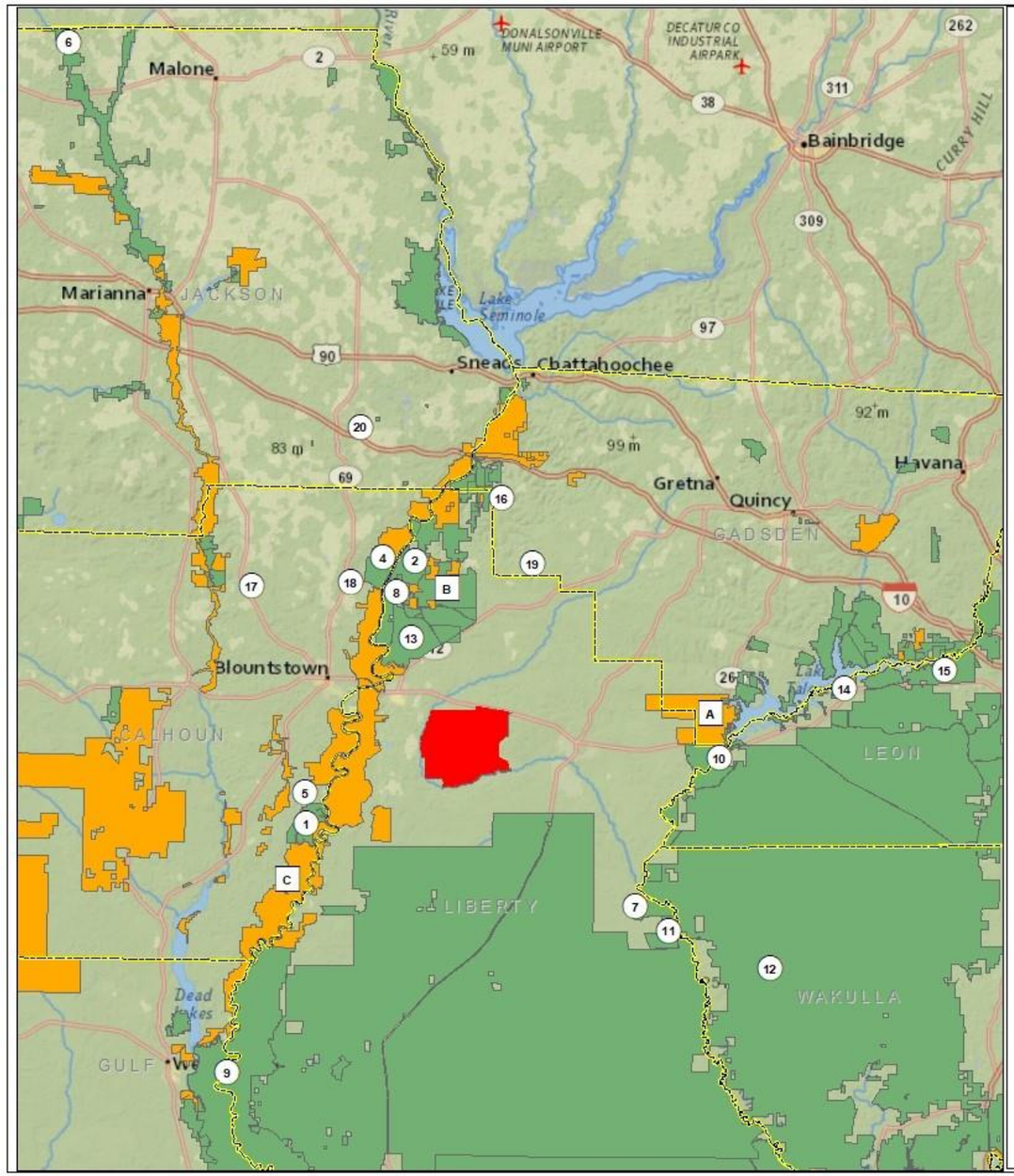


Figure 3. Section, Township, and Range Location



Conservation Lands within 15 miles of TCWMA

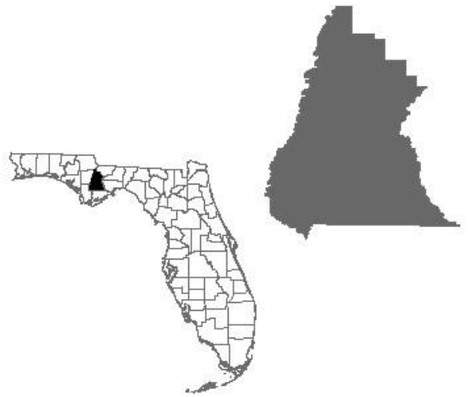
1 Corbin-Tucker Conservation Easement
2 Bristol Conservation Easement
3 Montgomery Conservation Easement
4 Trammell Conservation Easement
5 Hazel and Herselle Wilderness Preserve
6 Upper Chipola River Water Management Area
7 Shuler Conservation Easement
8 Hatcher Family Sweetwater Creek Conservation Easement
9 Apalachicola River Water Management Area
10 Jackson Conservation Easement (NWFWMD)
11 Davidson/Hosford Conservation Easement
12 Apalachicola National Forest
13 Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve
14 Lake Talquin State Park
15 Lake Talquin State Forest
16 Torreya State Park
17 FSA Conservation Easement - Tract 11C
18 FSA Conservation Easement - Tract 10C
19 FSA Conservation Easement - Tract 13C
20 FSA Conservation Easement - Tract 24C

Florida Forever Projects within 15 miles of TCWMA

A Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone
B St. Joe Timberland
C Apalachicola River

Telogia Creek Wildlife Management Area

Liberty County, Florida
12,384 Acres



N

Legend

Telogia Creek WMA
Conservation Lands
Florida Forever Projects
County Boundaries

0 5 10 20 Miles

Created in ArcGIS 10.8 by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission February 2024

Figure 4. Nearby Conservation Lands and Florida Forever Projects

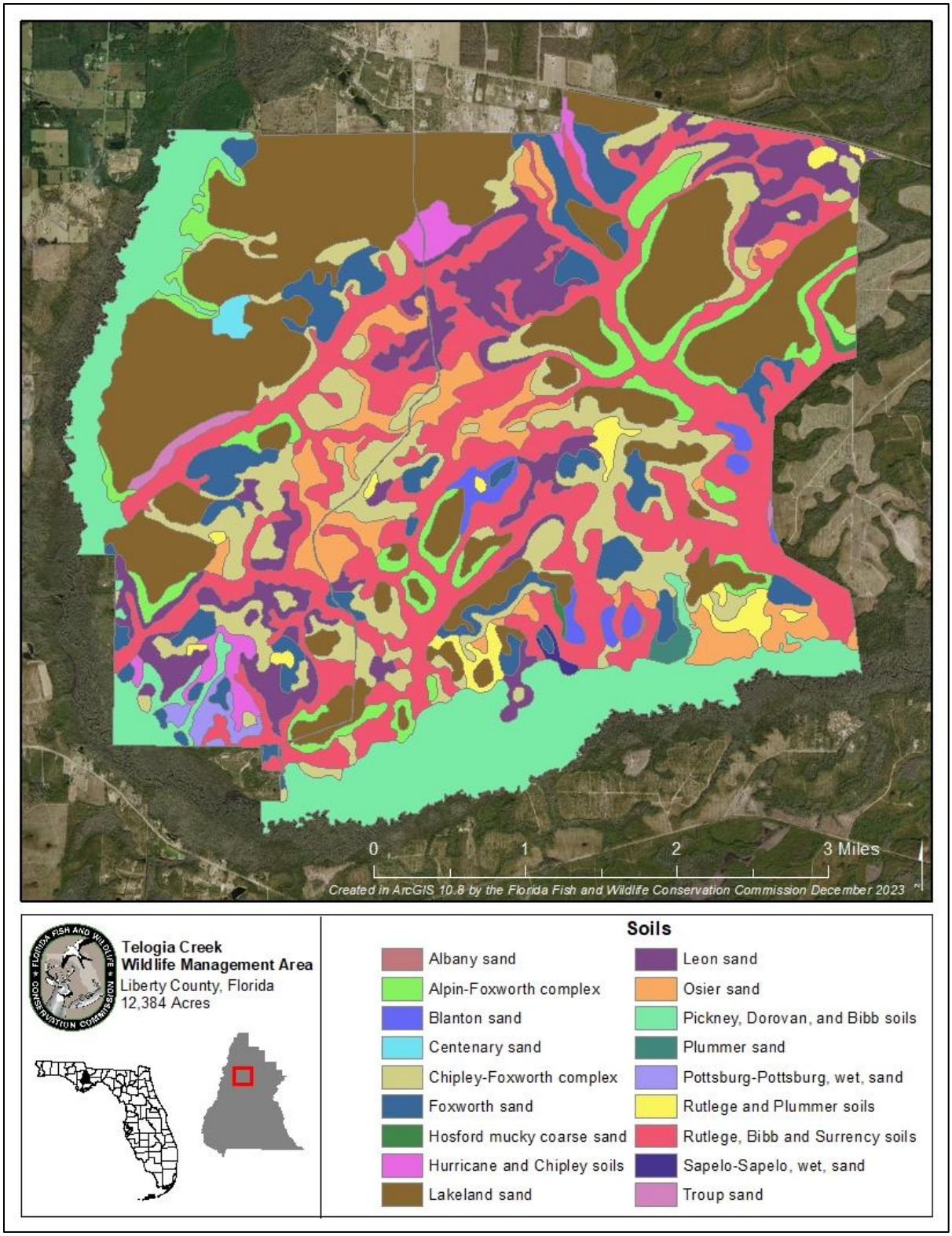


Figure 5. Soil Types

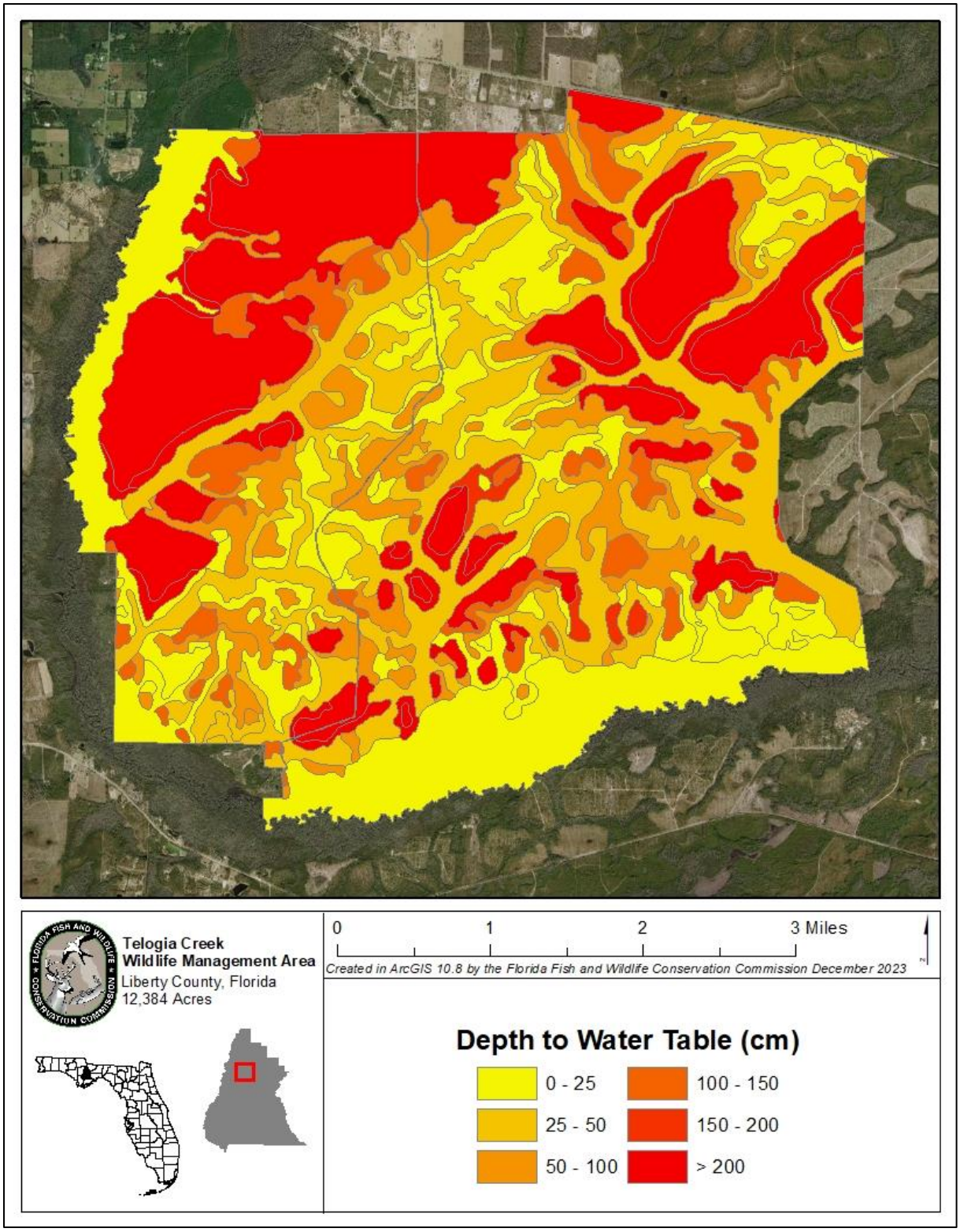


Figure 6. Depth to Water Table (cm)

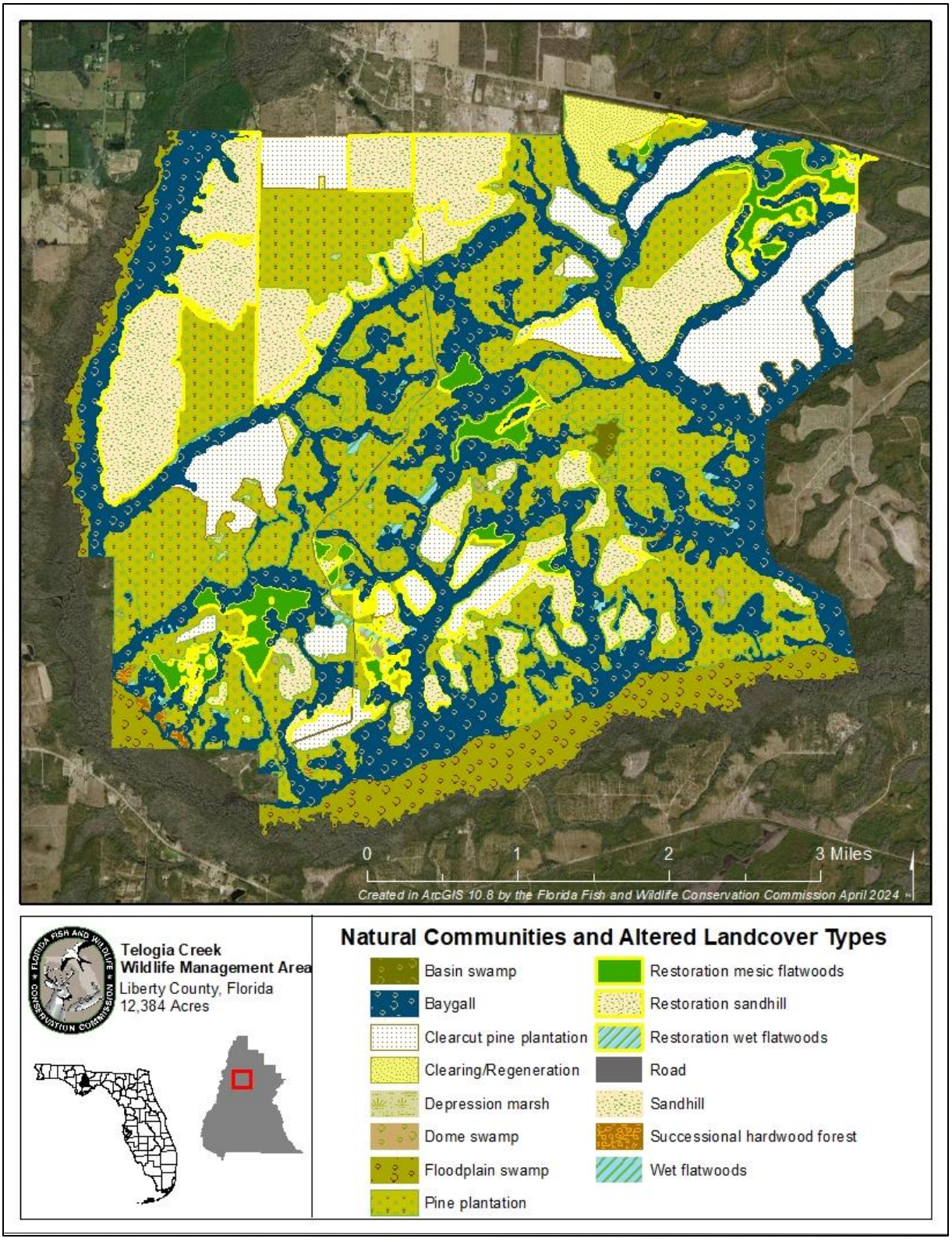


Figure 7. FNAI Natural Communities and Altered Landcover Types

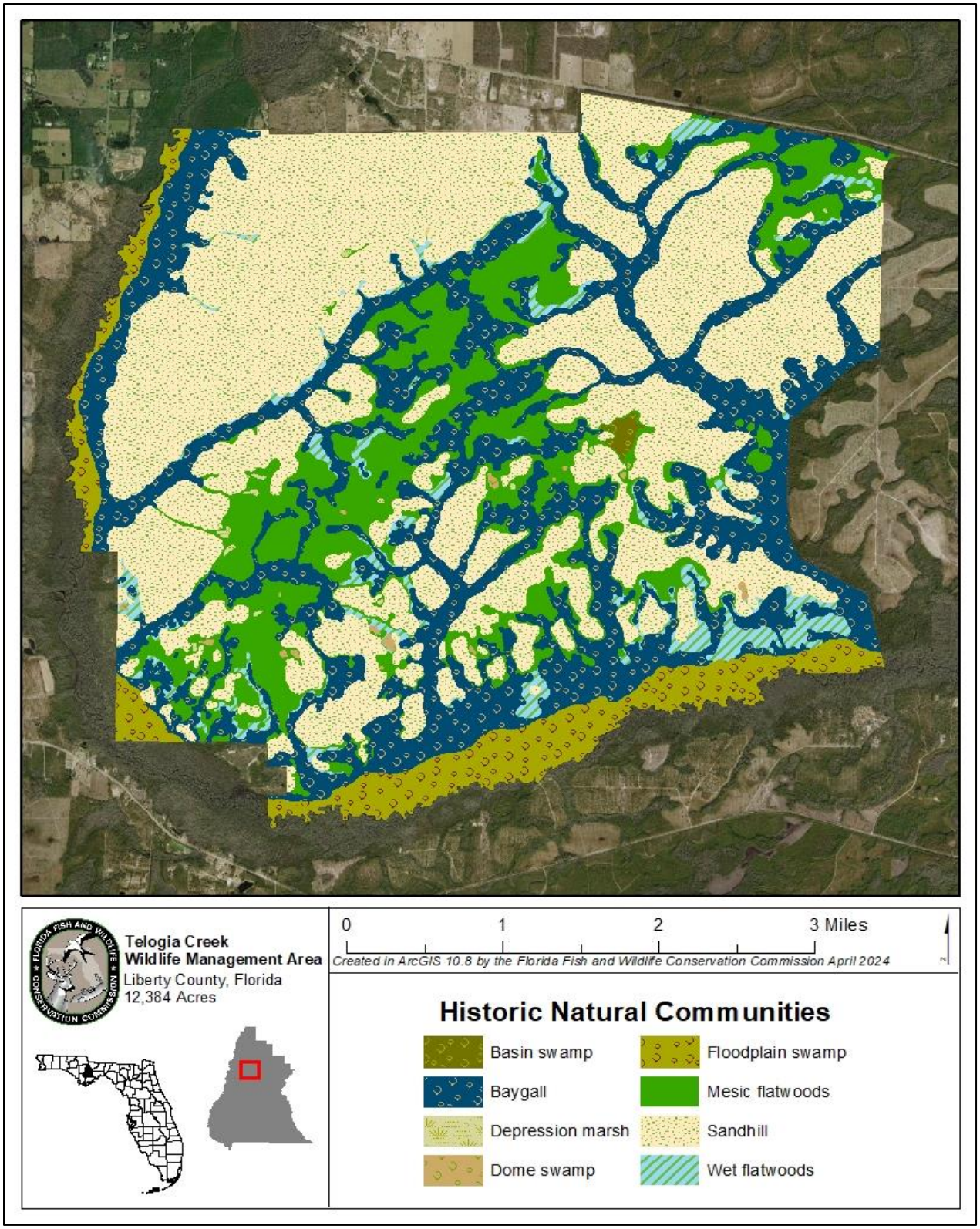


Figure 8. Historic Natural Communities

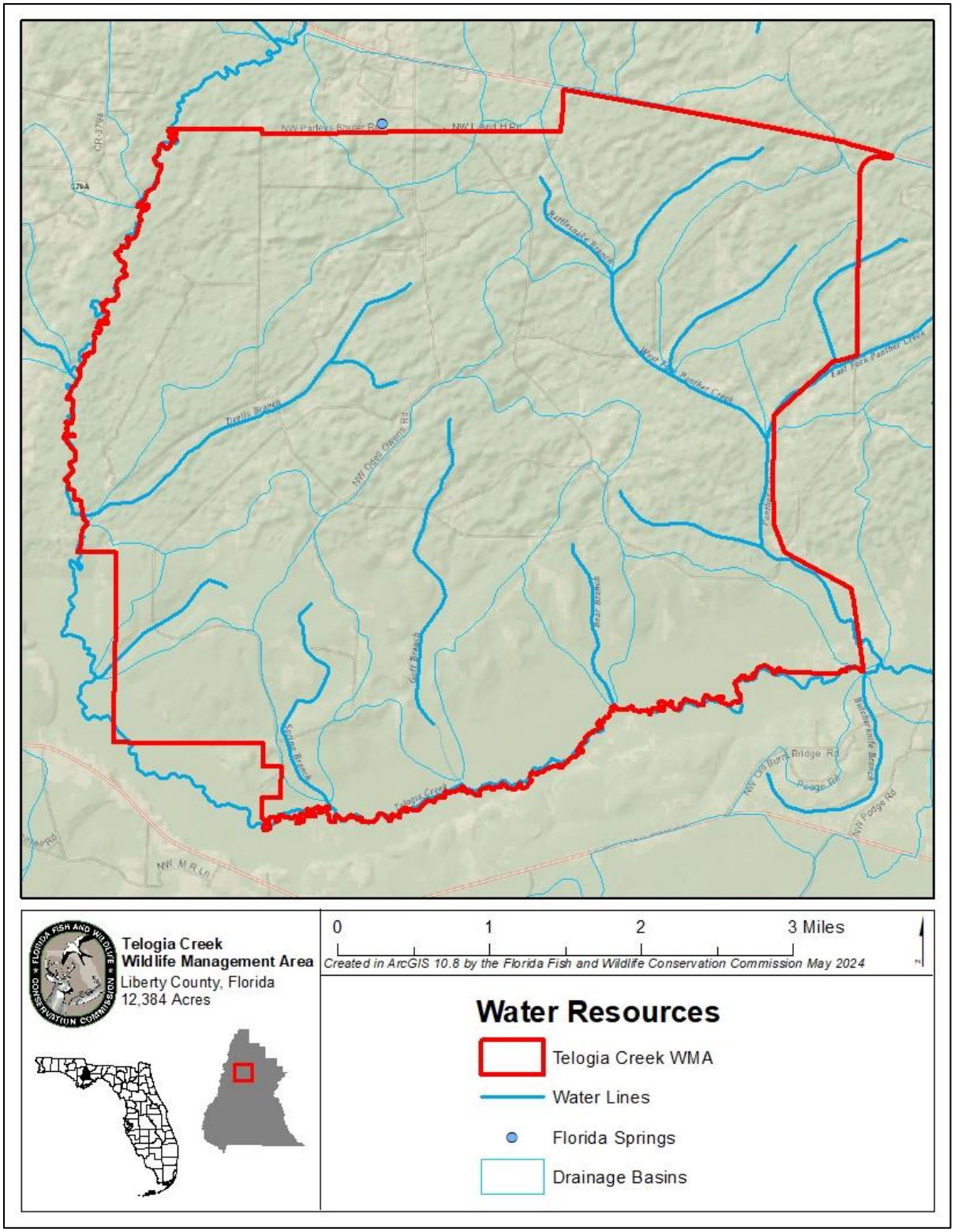


Figure 9. Water Resources

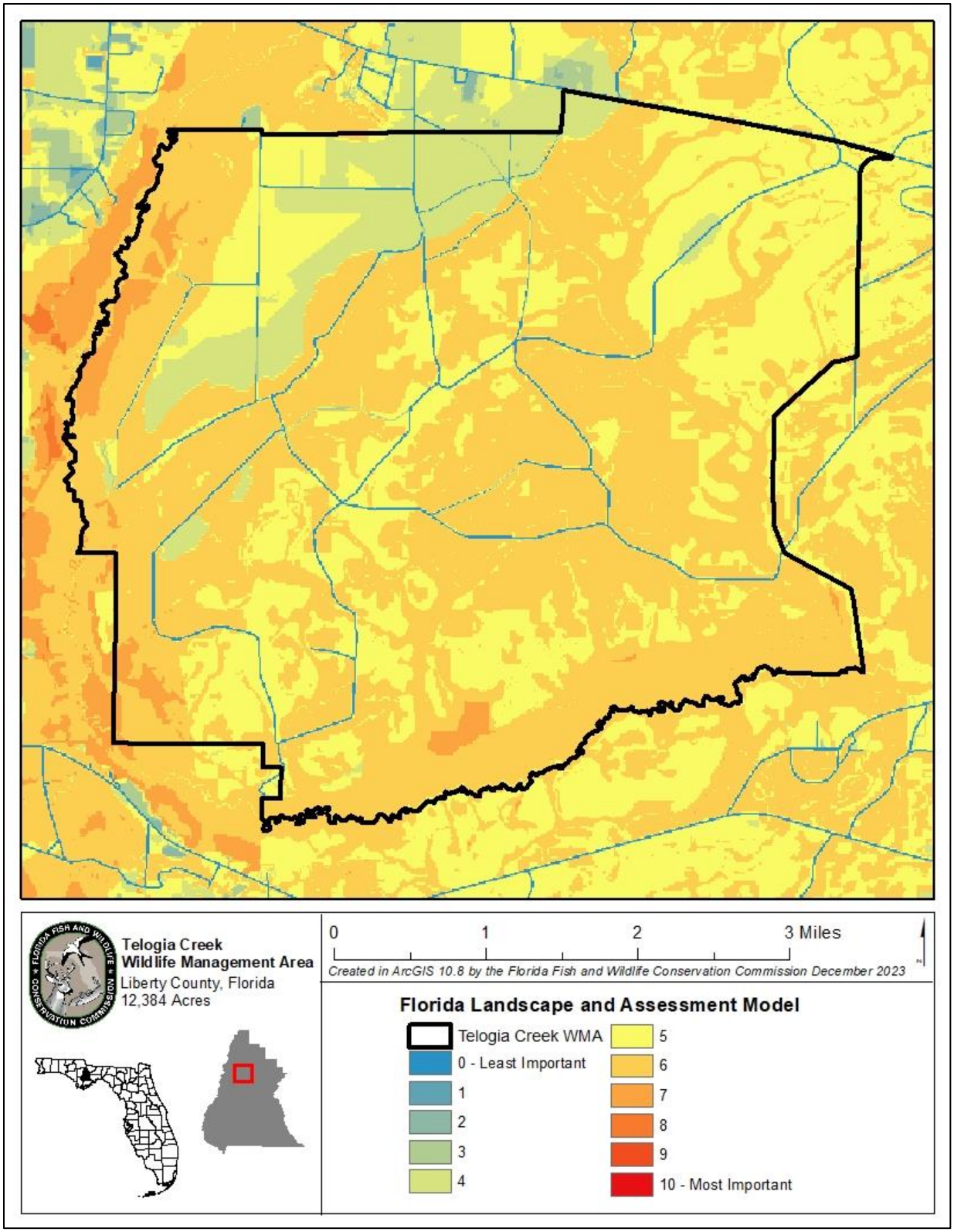


Figure 10. FLAM Map

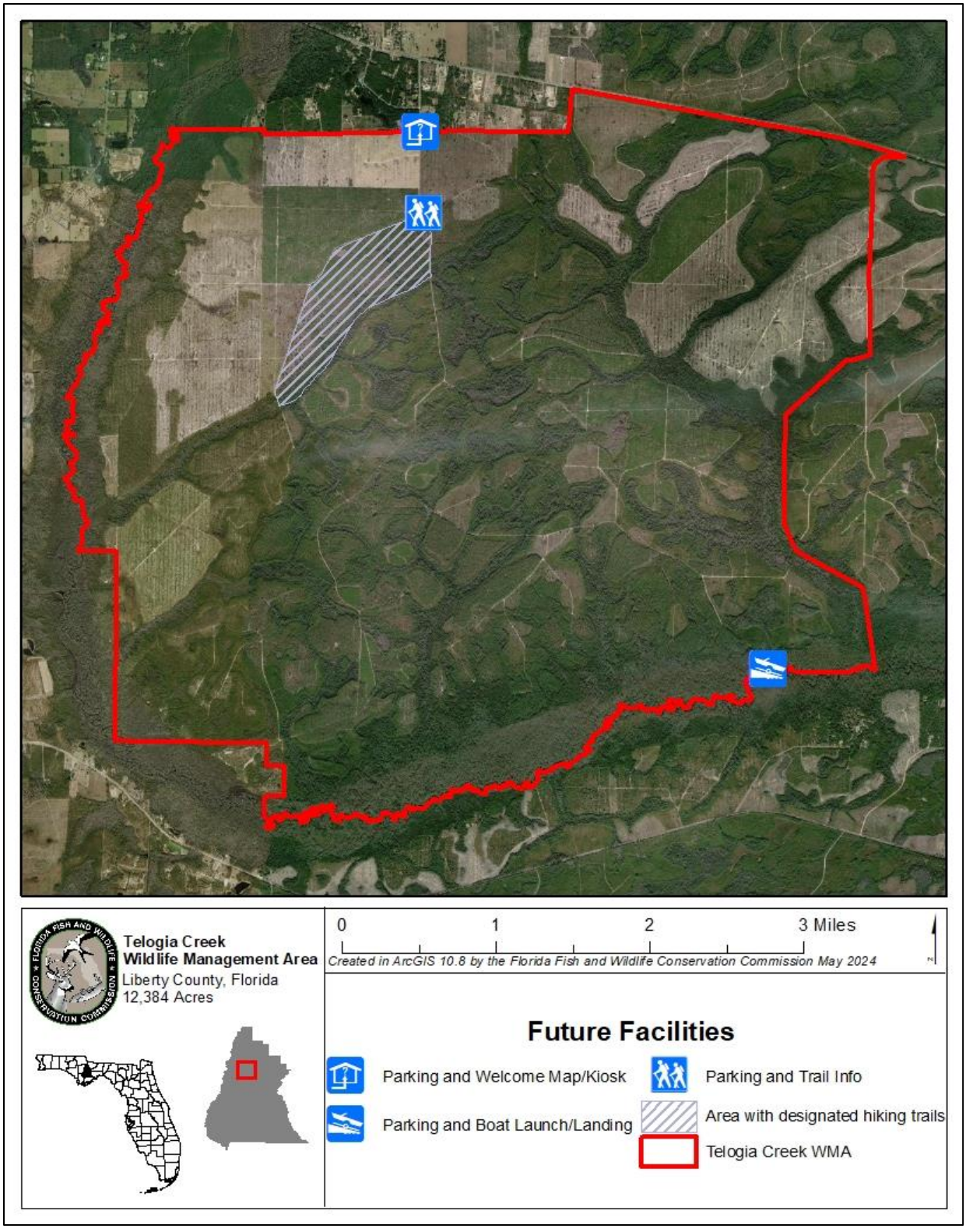


Figure 11. Planned Facilities

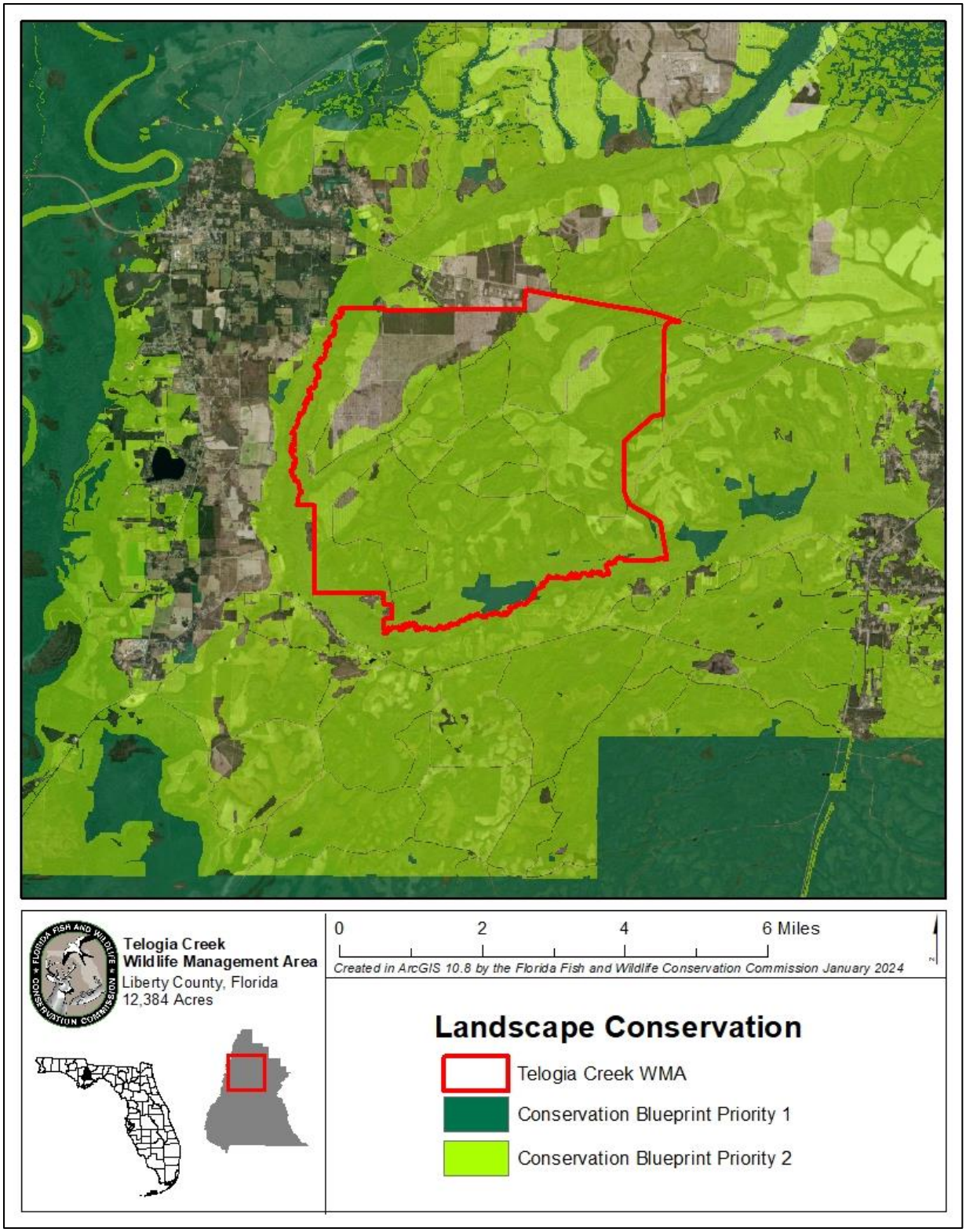


Figure 12. Landscape Conservation Blueprint

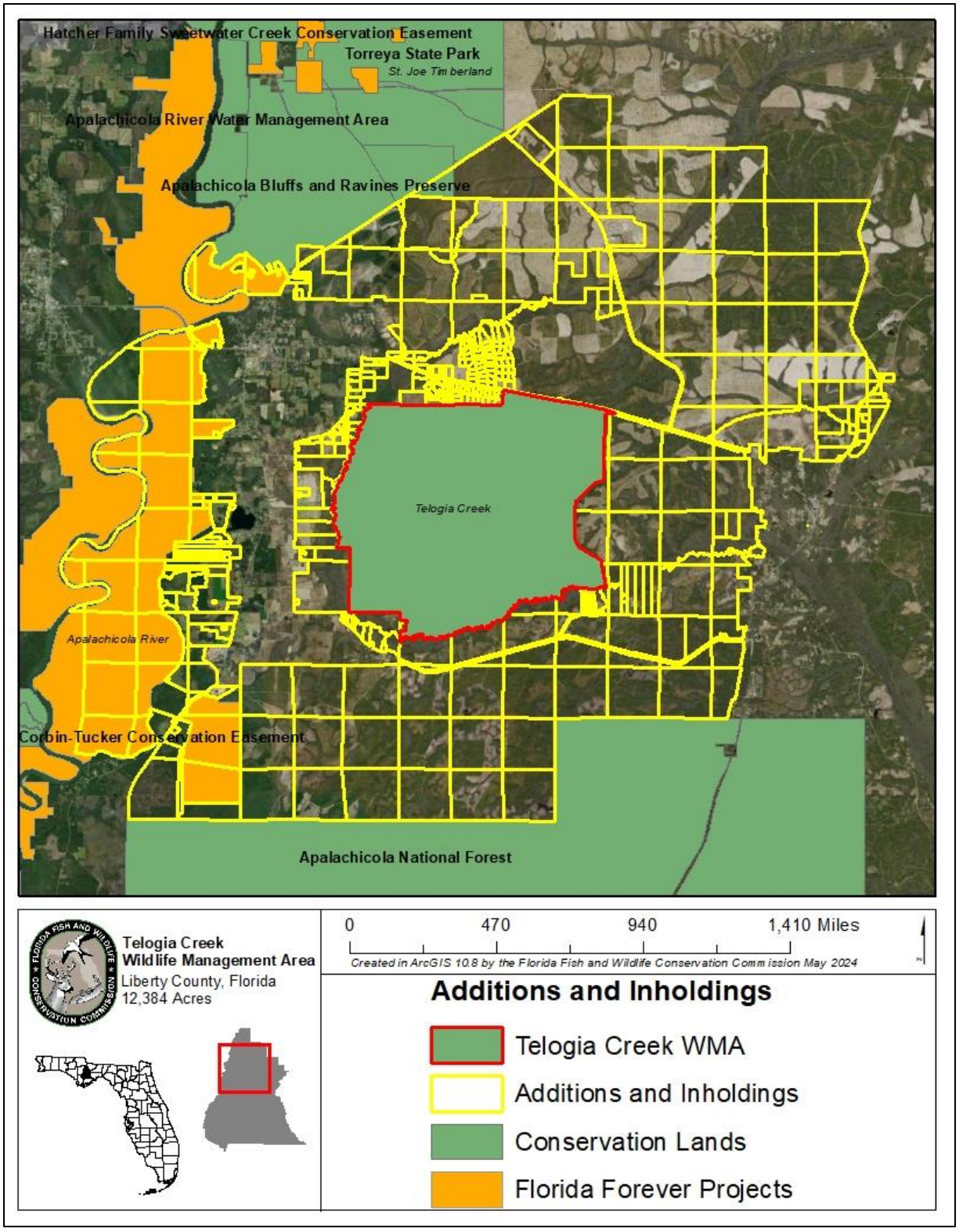


Figure 13. Additions and Inholdings