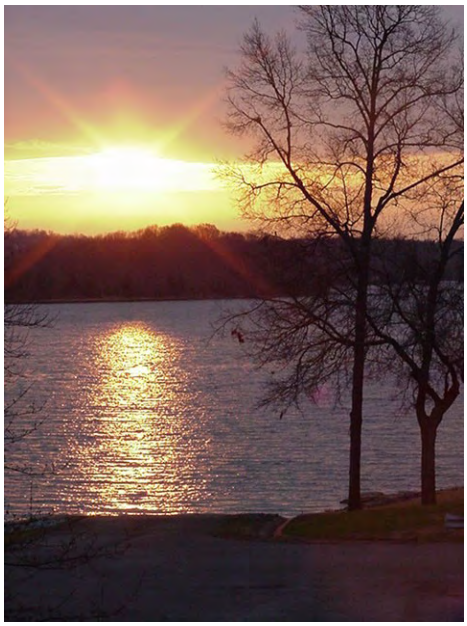
US Army Corps of Engineers®

J. Percy Priest Master Plan Update 2007



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2.01 – Introduction

J. Percy Priest Reservoir is located in northern central Tennessee on the Stones River, a tributary of the Cumberland River. At full recreation pool the lake covers 14,200 acres and has 213 miles of shoreline. The lake offers a variety of recreational opportunities including fishing, swimming, camping, boating and hunting. The recreation areas vary from highly developed commercial operations to unimproved camping areas in response to the diverse demands of the lake's broad market area.

2.02 – Project Authorization and Purposes

Stewarts Ferry Reservoir was authorized under the authority of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1946 and Public Law 85-496 authorized the name change to J. Percy Priest in honor of the late Congressman from Tennessee. Land acquisition at J. Percy Priest was accomplished under the 1962 Army/Interior Joint Acquisition Policy (300 foot policy), resulting in significant perimeter lands in public ownership. Containing approximately 19,460 acres, these lands enhance the natural appearance of the lake and prevent encroachments on the shoreline. These land areas are especially critical at J. Percy Priest since the lake is set in the midst of a highly developed, rapidly growing urban area. Most visitors to the lake come from nearby Nashville and the surrounding counties of Rutherford, Wilson, and Williamson. The lake is easily accessible by Interstates 40, 24, and 65, as well as State Route 840, to several major cities such as Nashville, Murfreesboro, Smyrna, LaVergne, and Mt. Juliet and draws visitors from outside as well as within the state. In 2006, approximately 32 million visitor-hours were recorded at J. Percy Priest Lake.

J. Percy Priest was authorized for the purposes of recreation, flood control and hydroelectric power production. Additional demands placed on project resources, such as providing municipal water supplies to Smyrna, Lavergne, and Murfreesboro, also place a heavy demand on water resources of the project and further the importance of wise stewardship of project resources. Some public lands at J. Percy Priest have been outgranted to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to promote wildlife and fisheries management objectives. Some public lands have also been made available to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect unique and rare cedar glade habitat and to promote biological diversity.

2.03 - References

This report has been prepared in accordance with guidance contained within the following references:

ER 1130-2-540, Environmental Stewardship Operations and Maintenance Policies (1996).

EP 1130-2-540, Environmental Stewardship Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures (1996).

ER 1130-2-550, Recreation Operations and Maintenance Policies (1996).

EP 1130-2-550, Recreation Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures (1996).

ER 405-1-12, Real Estate Handbook (1985).

Standing Operating Procedures (SOP), Processing Major Outgrants, 23 November 1998.

Policy Memorandum - Recreation Outgrant Development Policy, 9 February 2005.

ER 200-1-5, Environmental Quality - Policy for Implementation and Integrated Application of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Environmental Operating Principles (EOP) and Doctrine, 30 October 2003.

LRN Standing Operating Procedures, Mitigation Policy for Issuing Real Estate Outgrants, 13 August 2002.

Nashville District Guidelines Policy for the Review of Cut and Fill Proposals Below Maximum Flood Pool Elevations on Corps of Engineers Lakes and Interests in Lands, December, 2002

Consideration of Cumulative Impacts in EPA Review of NEPA Documents, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Federal Activities, May 1999.

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Management Gateway; http://www.usace.army.mil/recreation/

It is also important to acknowledge the following resources used during development of the J. Percy Priest Master Plan:

Grapevine Lake Master Plan Supplement No. 2, Design Memorandum No. 1C, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, January, 2001.

Wappapello Lake Master Plan Update, St. Louis District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, December 1988.

2.04 - Purpose of the Master Plan Update

The original Master Plan and subsequent update in 1986 served as a guide for the coordination of project development and management of all land and water resources. This updated Master Plan presents an inventory and assessment of the land and water resources and related physical improvements, an analysis of resource use, and an evaluation of existing and future needs required to protect and improve the value of project resources. The Chief of Engineers Environmental Operating Principles were used to improve the environmental posture of the project and provided the means to establish known Environmentally Sensitive Areas as well as designating specified use corridors throughout the project.

Another goal of this updated Master Plan is to "promote recreation suitable to the varying, and distinct characteristics of the lake." The lake has been divided into two sections in response to the natural characteristics of each. The lower lake extends from the damsite up the lake to the Hobson Pike Bridge. Here, the lake is wider, deeper, with a strong lake atmosphere, and is more suitable to intensive recreational development. The lower lake is also closer to the urban center of Nashville and the major transportation routes.

The upper lake, extending from the Hobson Pike Bridge up to Walter Hill Dam on the East Fork and Nice Mill on the West Fork, is narrower and shallower, with strong riverine characteristics. This portion of the lake is more suited to less intensive recreational development, and more natural resource-oriented activities.

2.05 – Prior Master Plan and Supplements

The original Master Plan for J. Percy Priest Lake was approved in 1966. Since that time, public use patterns have developed differently than anticipated, leaving some sites underused and others used beyond capacity. The Master Plan was updated in 1986, and redefined some of the original objectives of the project, while expounding on others to describe the impacts overuse was creating at some of the more heavily used recreation areas. One of the objectives of the 2007 Master Plan Update is to "modify, close or consolidate facilities ...to provide more highly developed, convenient, and efficient recreation areas." The Nashville District Recreation Excellence at Army Lakes (REAL) Program, which was enacted in 2003, is an attempt to achieve more efficient use of more highly used recreation areas while providing improved facilities and services to our customers.

In order to achieve the stated goals and objectives of the REAL Program, public use and activity patterns were analyzed and current and future trends assessed. With this data, a plan was developed which addresses both the increasing demand for recreational facilities and the need for more efficient and

cost-effective management. One recreation area is closed, and another is to be reduced to boat launching only. In other recreation areas, facilities are proposed for relocation or construction to accommodate current and future demand. For information pertaining to Master Plan Supplements, refer to Section 5 – Master Plan Supplements.

2.06 - Application of Public Laws

Numerous Federal laws apply to the management of Federal lands administered by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The majority of these laws are listed in a Corps of Engineers publication, EP 1130-2-540, Environmental Stewardship Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures, and in EP 1130-2-550, Recreation Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures.

These publications are available for review at any Corps of Engineers lake office or on the internet at the Corps of Engineers national website at http://usace.army.mil.

2.07 – Master Plan Proposals and Mission Statement

The proposals and recommendations contained in this plan have been fully coordinated with all interested Federal, state, and local governmental agencies, as well as with interested individuals and groups. This level of coordination is vital for successful implementation of the plan.

Programs and activities related to outdoor recreation have as their design base the following mission statement:

"The Army Corps of Engineers is the steward of lands and waters at Corps water resources projects. Its Natural Resources Management Mission is to manage and conserve those natural resources, consistent with ecosystem management principles, while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences to serve the needs of present and future generations.

In all aspects of natural and cultural resources management, the Corps promotes awareness of environmental values and adheres to sound environmental stewardship, protection, compliance and restoration practices.

The Corps manages for long-term public access to, and use of, the natural resources in cooperation with other federal, state, and local agencies as well as the private sector.

The Corps integrates the management of diverse natural resource components such as fish, wildlife, forest, wetlands, grasslands, soils, air and water with the provision of public recreation opportunities. The Corps conserves natural resources and provides public recreation opportunities that contribute to

the quality of American life." Referenced from ER 200-1-5, Environmental Quality - Policy for Implementation and Integrated Application of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Environmental Operating Principles (EOP) and Doctrine, 30 October 2003.

Once the recommendations of the Master Plan are implemented, the public will be able to enjoy all aspects of J. Percy Priest Lake to the fullest extent possible - the water, wildlife, camping, sightseeing and all the other recreational activities.

2.08 – Outgrant Management

An outgrant is generally defined as a written document setting the terms and conditions of non-Army use of real property. An outgrant conveys or grants the right to use Army-controlled real property. Generally, outgrants include such activities as recreation leases, commercial leases, fish and wildlife licenses, agricultural leases, easements for communication uses, powerlines, pipelines for water withdrawal and leases for quasi-public uses such as group camps.

Administration of outgrant requests will be considered based on Nashville District Mitigation Plan objectives to avoid, minimize, or mitigate for impacts such outgrants placed on the natural resources of the project. Determinations regarding the presence of environmentally sensitive areas, along with the objective to require outgrantees to use pre-determined outgrant corridors, will assist in protection of project resources. ER 405-1-12, Real Estate Handbook (1985), Standing Operating Procedures, Mitigation Policy for Issuing Real Estate Outgrants, as well as a J. Percy Priest Outgrant Request checklist, described in Section 6, will be used to address requests for outgrants on public property.

2.09 – Scope of the Report

This is the second update of the J. Percy Priest Master Plan since project inception. The Master Plan reflects current conditions, a reclassification of project lands, as well as formulation of resource use objectives. It also provides for rehabilitation and relocation of existing facilities and proposed facilities and actions, and also existing outgrant requests for use of public lands. The Master Plan Update was accomplished for the purposes of revising outdated information, reflect current conditions of use at J. Percy Priest, outlining future uses and demands, revising land use classifications, and designating established and future outgrant corridors on the project.

J. PERCY PRIEST – MASTER PLAN UPDATE
SECTION 3 – J. Percy Priest Statistics

3.01 - Location Mile 6.8, Stones River. The project is located in Davidson (57%), Rutherford (42%), and Wilson (1%) counties.

3.02 - Construction
Began - June 1963
Completed - December 1967
Cost - $ 56.9 million

3.03 - Project Purpose
Recreation (56% of benefits)
Flood Control (30%)
Hydropower Production (14%)

- J. Percy Priest was the first Corps project in the Nation created with recreation as one of its project authorized purpose.
- J. Percy Priest Power Plant has one generator rated at 28,000 kW.

3.04 - Water/Land Acreages

Pool Elev	Water Acres	Land Acres	Shoreline Miles
480 Minimum	10,750	22,641	172
483 Winter	11,630	21,581	187
490 Summer	**14,200**	**19,011**	**213**
504.5 Flood	22,720	10,491	265

- J. Percy Priest Lake is 42 miles long at summer pool (32 miles to forks, 10 miles East Fork, 6 miles West Fork).
- Normal seasonal pool fluctuation is 483 - 490’.
- Flood of record stands at 506.5 on 7 May 1984.
- Average depth of the lake is 28.7 feet, while the deepest location is 130 feet.

Stones River Mile 6.8 to Cumberland River

397.5	Consent to Easement elevation – Stones River
385.0	Ordinary High Water for Regulatory Requests (CHE/R Pool)

3.05 - Land Acreage

	Fee	Easement
Acquired	33,210.7	597.65
Currently	*33,052.2	537.30

* Difference in acreage results from approximately 158.5 acres transferred to the Tennessee Army National Guard under the auspices of Mobile District, as well as small tracts transferred to GSA for disposal during the 1980’s

3.06 - Boundary Line Miles 159 25

3.07 - Acquisition Policy 1962 Joint (Army/Interior) Land Acquisition Policy. The 508.0 elevation at the dam was the guideline for minimum acquisition or a line measured 300' horizontally from elevation 504.5, whichever is greater. Additional lands were acquired for recreation areas, loss of access, etc.

3.08 - Visitation and Economic Benefits

	Visitor Hours	Persons	Economic Benefit
2006	31,101,384	7,052,712	$ 61.0 million
2005	31,569,815	6,978,214	$ 61.9 million
2004	29,518,526	7,166,405	$ 57.8 million
2003	34,452,730	6,321,602	$ 67.5 million
2002	32,382,586	5,940,811	$ 63.5 million

3.09 - Corps Recreation Areas – 6,806 acres

Campgrounds (5)	# Sites	Picnic Areas (9)	Access Areas(7)
Seven Points	60	Smith Springs	Vivrette Creek
Cook *	57	Suggs Creek **	Hurricane Creek
Anderson Road	37	Four Corners *	Stewart Creek
Poole Knobs	87	Fate Sanders	Lamar Hill
Fall Creek *	40	Jefferson Spgs.	West Fork
		East Fork	Mona
		Dam Overlook	Nices Mill
		Tailwater LB	
		Tailwater RB	

* Closed ** Future

3.10 – Project Facilities

	Corps	Other
Picnic Sites	301	205
Camp Sites	244	167
Launching Lanes	44	20

3.11 - Areas Managed by Other Agencies

Site	Managing Agency	Acres
Long Hunter State Park	TDEC	2,230.0
Hamilton Creek Park	Metro Parks	790.0
Smyrna Parks and Rec.	City of Smyrna	403.0
Wildlife Management	TWRA	10,768.0
Stones River Greenway	Metro Parks	8.3

3.12 - Commercial Concessions

Elm Hill Marina	205.0 acres	646 slips
Nashville Shores	376.6 acres	323 slips
Fate Sanders Marina	357.6 acres	298 slips
Four Corners Marina	144.0 acres	373 slips
Hamilton Creek Marina	790.0 acres	283 slips

3.13 - Other Major Lease Areas

TN Dept. of Education	34.4 acres
* Calumet Development	10.4 acres
MDHA - YMCA	323.0 acres
TN National Guard	780.6 acres
TWRA-Hunter Ed Center	128.0 acres

* United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

4.01 - Chief of Engineers, Environmental Operating Principles

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reaffirmed its commitment to the environment by formalizing a set of "Environmental Operating Principles" applicable to all its decision-making and programs.

These principles foster unity of purpose on environmental issues, reflect a new tone and direction for dialogue on environmental matters, and ensure that employees consider conservation, environmental preservation and restoration in all Corps activities.

Environmental sustainability can only be achieved by the combined efforts of federal agencies, tribal, state and local governments, and the private sector, each doing their part, backed by the citizens of the world. These principles help the Corps define its role in that endeavor.

By implementing these principles, the Corps will continue its efforts to develop the scientific, economic and sociological measures to judge the effects of its projects on the environment and to seek better ways of achieving environmentally sustainable solutions.

The principles are consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Army's Environmental Strategy with its four pillars of prevention, compliance, restoration and conservation, and other environmental statutes and Water Resources Development Acts that govern Corps activities. They will be integrated into all project management processes.

On the local level, environmental initiatives such as the Cumberland River Clean Marina Partnership Program is an example of an improved sense of environmental awareness that incorporates partnership opportunities with the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and local marinas to foster environmental stewardship.

4.02 - Environmental Operating Principles

- Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.

- Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.

- Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.

- Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.

- Seeks ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.

- Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.

- Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities, listen to them actively, and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.

4.03 - Environmentally Sensitive Areas

In keeping with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chief of Engineers Environmental Operating Principles, designation of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA’s) at J. Percy Priest are based on protection and preservation of important ecological, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic resources. ESA’s also provide important water quality and developmental buffer zones. Ranking criteria for ESA’s are as follows:

Rank Criteria for ESA's

1. Federally listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species

2. Rich species diversity; large mature native species; unique or ecologically sensitive plant/animal species

3. High value as nesting, resting, feeding, roosting areas – sensitive neotropical songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl, small mammals

4. Visual buffer to adjacent private development, wildflower/wildlife viewing areas, natural landscape appeal

5. Important water quality function – serves to buffer runoff for streams, wetlands, and erosionally sensitive areas

6. Presence or high probability for presence of archeological, historical, or geological significance

Recreational lands at J. Percy Priest designated as ESA's include:

- Elsie Quarterman State Natural Heritage Area
- Fate Sanders Barrens Natural Heritage Area
- Couchville Cedar Glade (Long Hunter State Park)
- East Fork Recreation Area – Warm Season Grasses re-establishment
- Stones River Bladderpod – sites monitored within wildlife compartments – MOA with USFWS
- Tennessee Native Plant Species – remove non-native plants and exotic species around JPP/R Resource Office
- Patton Cave – protects important Gray Bat habitat
- Existing known cultural/historic sites – such as Nices Mill, Old Jefferson, pre-historical cultural sites (reference Duval, 1986)

4.04 - Land and Water Use Classifications

a. General

Project zoning provides guidance for the orderly development, use and management of the lake's resources. Resource planning recognizes the authorized project purposes and the opportunities and constraints that influence development and management. All development will be screened to determine compatibility with the lake's natural and cultural resources. Primary planning and zoning considerations include seasonal flooding, soils, ecological conditions, existing and projected recreation demands, state and local participation and interests, and applicable laws, regulations and policies. It also considers effects on adjacent commercial, private and public properties.

Project land area allocations are depicted on 13.02, Plate 2, Land Allocation Maps. Land Allocations such as public use areas and designated wildlife management areas are shown.

Project land area classifications are depicted on 13.03, Plate 3, Land Classification Maps. Land Classifications depicted include project operational lands, recreational lands, environmentally sensitive areas, and multiple resource management lands are shown.

An analysis of the resources and use classifications of all lake lands and waters has been made. The objective of classifying lands is to integrate appropriate land and water uses into a balanced plan in the public interest. A description of the applicable land and water use categories follow.

b. Project Land Use Classification

The project-acquired public lands and water at J. Percy Priest total approximately 33,211 acres. These lands were allocated according to the authorized purpose for which they were acquired. Land use classifications have been determined through the guidance contained in ER 1130-2-550 and EP 1130-2-550; both dated 15 November 1996, as referenced in Section 2.03. Land Use Allocation categories for J. Percy Priest include:

(1) Project Operational Lands (Administrative Areas). All administrative facilities at J. Percy Priest are located on lands at the damsite. These facilities include offices, maintenance and service areas, and visitor information facilities. Project lands are also allocated to

purposes such as forests, fish and wildlife management, recreation, environmentally sensitive areas, and outgrant utility corridors, which are compatible with the need for flood control. In addition, the surrounding project lands provide vital visual, environmental, watershed protection, and developmental buffer zones.

(2) Recreational Lands. These park and recreation lands are developed to provide for the recreational activities of the visiting public. No agricultural uses are permitted on these lands, with the exception of a portion of the Tailwater Left Bank Area where the terrain is adaptable for maintenance of open space and/or scenic values. Factors such as road access, natural resources, recreational facility design and management practices make these lands conducive to accommodating major use by the visiting public. Lands in this classification include areas for concessions and quasi-public and group use development. Recreational lands also serve to provide important aesthetic and aquatic buffers and help to insulate the project from adjacent private development.

(3) Environmentally Sensitive Areas. In this classification, areas are identified for the preservation of scientific, ecological, historical, archeological, and aesthetic/developmental buffers. A general description of the Ecological Areas and Cultural Areas classification are described in 13.04, Plate 4 – Environmentally Sensitive Areas.

1. Ecological Areas. Included in this category are areas providing habitats for rare, threatened, or endangered species. Limited agricultural practices may be permitted in certain portions of these areas if compatible with the purposes for which the land was set aside. Normally, development for public use is prohibited or limited on land in this classification.

2. Cultural Areas. Included in this category are areas that have historical and archeological significance. Management practices are followed to ensure protection of these resources.

3. **Scientific Areas of Interest**. Areas of scientific interest include such areas as Patton Cave, Elsie Quarterman State Natural Heritage Area, and where

educational opportunities exist for local or national organizations to provide research opportunities.

4. **Aesthetic Areas.** Public property considered for designation as ESA for aesthetic benefits include areas such as East Fork warm season grasses demonstration areas.

(4) Multiple Resource Management Lands. This classification includes three categories that further define lands based on their location and natural resources: (a) Recreation-Low Density, (b) Wildlife Management, and (c) Vegetative Management. These include lands that may be managed for one or more activities to the extent that they are compatible with the primary allocation(s).

1. **Recreation - Low Density**. Lands zoned in this category offer recreation to the public in an unstructured natural setting as an alternative to the experience generally associated with intensively developed recreation areas. These areas also serve as a buffer between other land uses. Uses for these areas include hiking, walk-in hunting and fishing, and nature study. Agricultural use is not permitted except on an interim basis to maintain open space, provide a supplemental food source, or for scenic values. Examples of these type areas would be the TWRA licensed lands maintained for fish and wildlife management objectives.

2. **Wildlife Management**. Wildlife management lands include lands being managed for fish and wildlife habitats. These lands are continuously available for low-density recreational activities. Agricultural leases are allowed to the extent practicable and compatible with other uses of the project. These activities maintain important habitat conditions beneficial to wildlife. The Operational Management Plan (OMP) describes the general practices and techniques employed to implement a viable program for fish and wildlife management at J. Percy Priest Lake. Examples of these areas would be the established Wildlife Management Area compartments designated at J. Percy Priest.

3. **Vegetative Management**. Management activities for these lands include protection and development of forest and vegetative cover and wetland restoration. Use for these lands also includes hiking, walk-in hunting, fishing and nature study. All lands in government fee ownership are being managed to maintain forest resources for recreation,

wildlife and scenic values. Forest management is a secondary purpose for area zoned for recreation or low-density recreation. Specific resource use objectives and management practices are described in the OMP on an area-by-area basis.

4.05 – Implementation of Recreation Area Development

a. Introduction

The means of accomplishing a recreational area development program is equally as important as the plan itself. Current national priorities limit development and renovation options more than in the past. Recreation visitation to J. Percy Priest continues to increase, but operational budgets cannot keep existing facilities at conditions previously maintained in the past. Changing priorities could drastically affect the manner and schedule for Master Plan implementation. This plan will have continuing utility despite any changing priorities that may affect its implementation.

b. Implementation Methods for Development

There are five basic implementation methods and an ad-hoc method currently available for recreational and resource development at J. Percy Priest Lake:

(1) Cost Sharing. Requirements for cost sharing recreational development with non-federal public interests will be considered when the need for such facilities can be sufficiently demonstrated. Although this Master Plan does not contain any cost-sharing proposals, it may in the future serve as a basis for initiating such actions.

The current Corps regulation, ER 1165-2-400, requires that all recreational developments be cost shared 50 percent by non-federal public agencies. The non-federal sponsor is required to enter into a cost-sharing contract with the Corps prior to construction and agree to assume operation and maintenance responsibilities for the completed recreation facility. There are exceptions to this policy. Exceptions permit the construction, operation and maintenance of new facilities without cost sharing.

One example is the authority for upgrading sanitary facilities in existing Corps-managed recreation areas to

meet urgent sanitation needs in accordance with provisions of applicable state and federal laws.

(2) Development Solely by Local Interests under an Outgrant. As in the past, local governmental entities with all or part of a project in their jurisdiction, may obtain use, under a lease or license. All costs are the sole responsibility of the local sponsor.

(3) Regular Operation & Management (O&M) General Funds. The use of O&M funds is restricted to normal O&M activities and to where facilities are in need of total renovation, reconstruction, or replacement. Changes or upgrades to facilities are restricted to current O&M funding levels for replacement or rebuilding of existing facilities.

(4) Development by Concessionaire. The fourth development method that could be used at J. Percy Priest Lake involves the implementation of some of the plans proposed in this Master Plan by a concessionaire such as facilities constructed at the YMCA Camp. Only activities for which there is a viable commercial market are eligible. For developments undertaken in this manner, operation, maintenance, and major replacements are also provided by the concessionaire.

(5) Challenge Cost-Share. The challenge cost-sharing program provides opportunities for public and non-federal groups and individuals to contribute to and participate in the operation and/or management of recreation facilities and natural resources at Corps water resource development projects. Partnering with others provides a way to stretch the Corps budget by sharing the cost of operating and managing recreation facilities and natural resources.

(6) Congressional Mandate. A member of Congress or the Senate could sponsor a bill authorizing funds for specific facilities that cannot be obtained by conventional means.

J. PERCY PRIEST – MASTER PLAN UPDATE
SECTION 5 – Guidelines for Issuance of Real Estate Outgrants

5.01 – Purpose

The purpose of this portion of the J. Percy Priest Master Plan is to establish the policies, procedures and objectives of outgrant management. A Real Estate outgrant is generally defined as a written document setting the terms and conditions of non-Army use of public property, and conveys or grants the right to use Army-controlled real property. Outgrant uses include such activities as recreation leases, commercial leases, fish and wildlife licenses, agricultural leases, easements for communication uses, power lines, pipelines for water withdrawal and leases for quasi-public uses such as group camps. Each outgrant proposal will be reviewed for compatibility with all project purposes, environmental impacts and concerns, cultural resources effects and compliance, fish and wildlife, endangered species, public sentiment and the overall public interest.

The procedures for processing outgrant applications involve multiple district elements. The process begins at the Resource Manager’s office. Upon receipt of an outgrant application the Resource Manager’s office will evaluate the proposal and provide comments and recommendations to the Natural Resources Management Branch. The proposal is then forwarded to the Real Estate Division and other District elements that may have an interest in the proposed outgrant. Other District elements involved in the outgrant process may include Operations, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, Engineering and Construction Division, Regulatory Branch, Office of Counsel, and Public Affairs Office. Information contained in Standing Operating Procedures (SOP), Processing Major Outgrants, is used as guidance in processing outgrant requests.

All federal actions are subject to NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) coordination and compliance reviews. Every request may not require an EA (Environmental Assessment) or EIS (Environmental Impact Study). Assessments must be done concerning cultural and historic resources, water quality, threatened and endangered species, and hazardous substances. Coordination also occurs with corresponding Federal and state agencies with respect to requested activities.

Items that should be contained in a request include:

1. A request letter (on letterhead) from the entity responsible for the ongoing maintenance and operation of the outgrant requested.

2. A letter or letters of “no objection” from other outgrant holder(s) within the impacted area.

3. Two sets of detailed drawings showing dimensions, acreage, materials, plans and elevations, bearings and distances, and location of the request as it relates to the government boundary.

4. If the work involves discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States, or any of the work is done on, over, or in navigable waters of the United States, then it is likely that the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Office will need to be involved.

5. If the work involves earth disturbance, coordination with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) may be required.

6. If a threatened or endangered plant or animal species is potentially impacted by outgrant request, coordination with the Tennessee Division of Environment and Conservation is necessary.

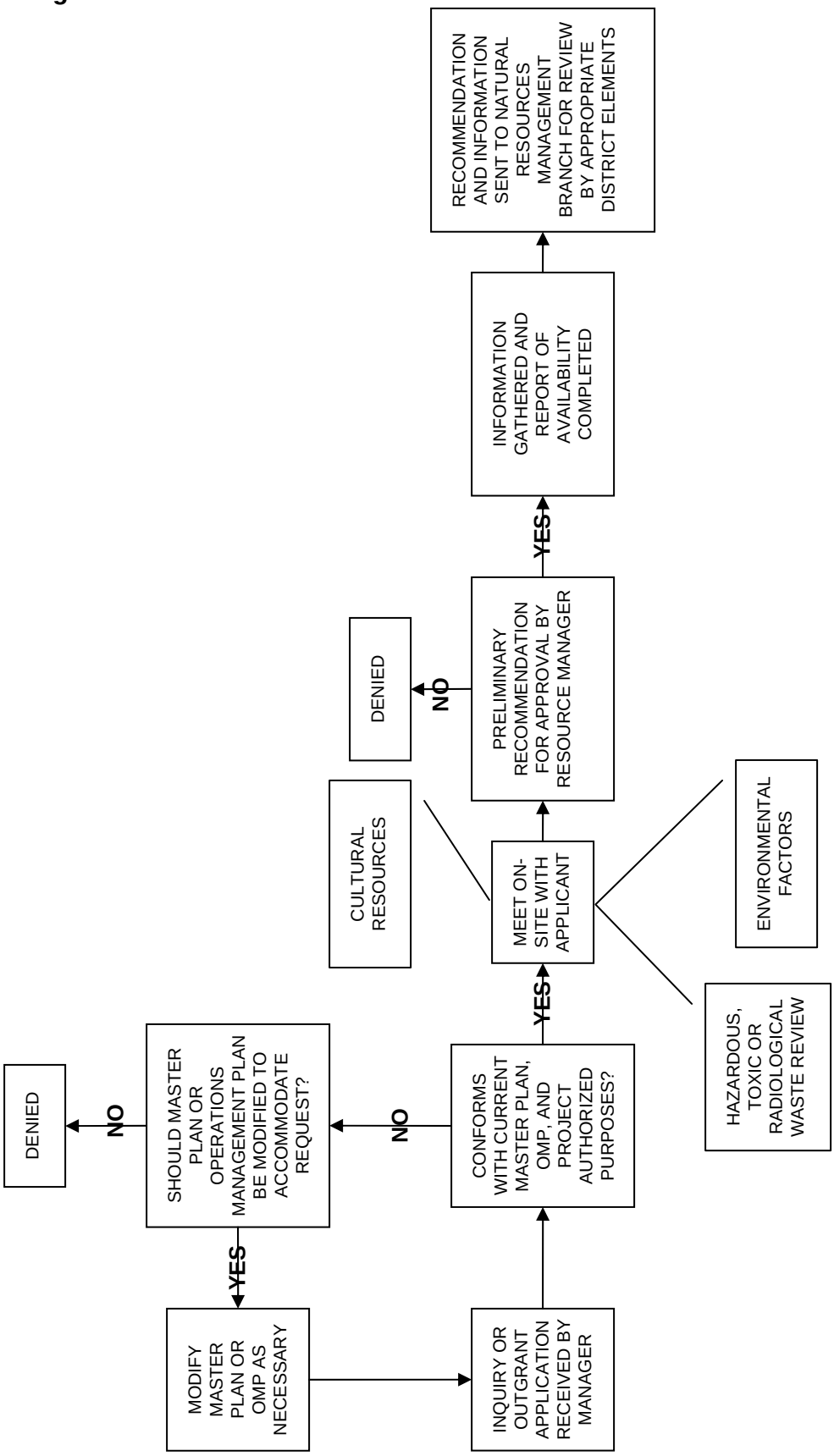
7. If the outgrant request involves cut or fill proposals on fee or flowage easement land below normal ordinary high water level of 504.5 feet above mean sea level, guidance provided in the Nashville District Guidelines and Policy for the Review of Cut and Fill Proposals Below Maximum Flood Pool Elevations on Corps of Engineers Lake will be followed, and will likely require a cut/fill offset plan to address a no net impact on flood storage capacity at J. Percy Priest.

8. Determine if a temporary construction easement is necessary for the outgrant request. Requestee will need to provide information pertaining to size, location, and length of time temporary easement is required.

9. In addition to the aforementioned information and due to the nature of the request, it may also be necessary for an Aquatic Resources Alteration Permit (ARAP) and/or a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit be issued by the Tennessee Division of Environment and Conservation.

5.02 – Outgrant Issuance Flow Chart

The following flow chart outlines the outgrant application process as it relates to project activities:


INQUIRY OR OUTGRANT APPLICATION RECEIVED BY MANAGER
MODIFY MASTER PLAN OR OMP AS NECESSARY
YES
CONFORMS WITH CURRENT MASTER PLAN, OMP, AND PROJECT AUTHORIZED PURPOSES?
NO
SHOULD MASTER PLAN OR OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT PLAN BE MODIFIED TO ACCOMMODATE REQUEST?
NO
DENIED
YES
MEET ON-SITE WITH APPLICANT
CULTURAL RESOURCES
HAZARDOUS, TOXIC OR RADIOLOGICAL WASTE REVIEW
ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL BY RESOURCE MANAGER
NO
DENIED
YES
INFORMATION GATHERED AND REPORT OF AVAILABILITY COMPLETED
RECOMMENDATION AND INFORMATION SENT TO NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BRANCH FOR REVIEW BY APPROPRIATE DISTRICT ELEMENTS

5.03 – Definitions

a. Outgrant. An outgrant is generally defined as a written document setting the terms and conditions of non-Army use of real property. An outgrant conveys, or grants, the right to use Army-controlled real property. Generally, outgrants include such activities as recreation leases, commercial leases, fish and wildlife licenses, agricultural leases, easements for communication uses, power lines, pipelines for water withdrawal and leases for quasi-public uses such as group camps.

b. Lease. A lease is a contract which grants the right of possession and exclusive use or occupation of real property to the lessee for a specified period of time for all purposes not prohibited by its terms, in consideration of monetary rental or other recompense. All Department of Army leases are revocable at will or as otherwise provided in the contract.

c. Easement. An easement is a grant of an estate in real property for the purpose or purposes specified in the grant (e.g. roads, utility lines, pipelines, railroad rights-of-way, flumes, ditches, canals, tunnels, etc.) thereby transferring the interest specified in the instrument. An easement may be granted for a specified term or in perpetuity. The purposes and conditions upon which the Army may grant easements affecting its real property generally are limited by statutes authorizing said easements.

d. License. A license is a bare authority to perform a specified act or series of acts upon the land of the licensor without acquiring any real estate interest therein. A license, by definition, is revocable at will by the licensor and nontransferable or assignable.

e. Permit. A permit is the temporary authority conferred on one Government agency to use property under the jurisdiction of another Government agency and is revocable at will by the agency conferring the authority. A permit may be relinquished by the permittee at any time by giving a written notice of relinquishment.

f. Right-of-Entry. A right-of-entry is a grant of permission prior to the final execution of a formal instrument (e.g., lease, easement, license) thereby

authorizing the grantee to enter upon the real property described in said right-of-way.

g. Consent to Easement Structures. A consent to easement structures is an agreement in which the Government, as owner of less than the fee simple interest in the lands upon which the structure will be located, consents to the granting of an easement by the owner of the underlying fee, subject to whatever conditions are required to protect the Government's interest.

NOTE: Structures include any appurtenance or improvements in, under, above, upon, or across the land.

5.04 – Responsibilities

a. Natural Resources Project Office. The Resource Manager, along with the Area Operations Manager is responsible for the management of civil works projects within the geographic boundaries of his/her respective Area or Project. Responsibilities include:

(1) Management and development of lake projects excluding operation of project structures and power plants, and is accomplished pursuant to regulatory permits, Project Master Plan and Operational Management Plans.

(2) Development of the Operational Management Plans.

(3) Receives request for use of lands and/or facilities and recommends availability for outgranting.

(4) Conducts routine inspections on outgranted lands for compliance and participates in annual Real Estate compliance inspections as necessary.

(5) Development of land use regulations for agricultural leases.

b. Real Estate Division. The Real Estate Division is charged with the administration of all outgrants on civil works projects. It is this Division's function and responsibility to: maintain records; submit periodic reports; inspect to insure compliance with terms and conditions and proper utilization and/or development of the outgranted premises; collect payments; and complete

termination or revocation actions. Outgrant administration by Real Estate Division will conform to management policies and procedures detailed in the PMP and OMP.

c. Operations Division. Operations Division performs the corresponding management responsibilities as the Project Offices, but at the District level. Specific responsibilities include:

(1) Provides guidance and assistance to the Project Offices on development of the OMP and agricultural lease land use regulations.

(2) Reviews and evaluates the project's management program pursuant to the PMP and OMP.

(3) Coordinates development of OMP’s and agricultural leasing program with other District elements.

(4) Determines availability of all project lands and/or facilities for outgrants.

(5) Reviews and approves land use regulations.

(6) Conducts inspections of project lands to assess implementation of PMP and OMP.

(7) Makes recommendations as to conditions of proposed outgrants and agrees to those conditions prior to start of negotiation.

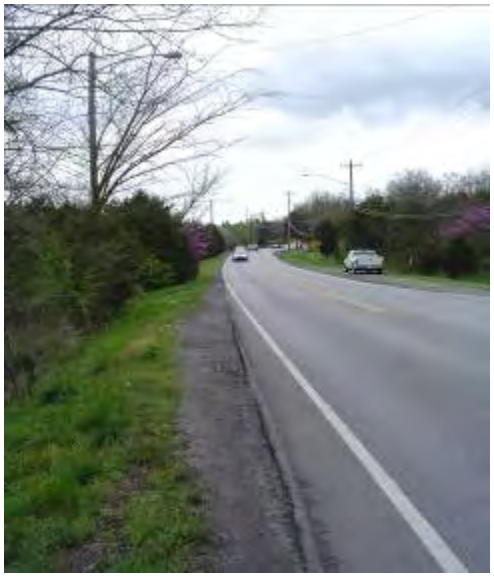
e. Planning, Programs and Project Management Division (PPPMD). PPPMD provides their expertise as required. They are responsible for reviewing outgrants for NEPA documentation and compliance, coordination of environmental, historical and archeological concerns as well as compliance with recreational and land use development.

f. Engineering and Construction Division (EC). EC will be called upon as required to review outgrants for feasibility of design and will comment on impacts a proposal may have regarding the operation and maintenance of mechanical, structural, and physical aspects of the project.

g. Regulatory Branch (OP-F). Elements within OP-F are responsible for reviewing outgrant requests to determine if there is a need for a Regulatory permit. Outgrant requests can typically involve Section 10, Section 404, flood storage cut and fill issues, and other Regulatory matters that need to be addressed.

5.05 – Designation of Outgrant Utility Corridors (OUC)

Due to the ever increasing demand for the use of public lands on J. Percy Priest Lake, the Resource Manager has designated outgrant utility corridors to serve as the Government's preferred routing for future utility proposals. The purpose of outgrant utility corridors is to reduce environmental and aesthetic impacts to the natural resources of J. Percy Priest Lake. The designation of outgrant utility corridors will aid land use planning efforts of cities, utility interests, and real estate developers. The placement of any future utilities within an existing easement may require the consent of the owner of the existing easement. Use of corridors within areas leased by the Corps to others would also require consent of the lessee. Any loss of natural resources that could not be avoided within a designated outgrant utility corridor would be mitigated as specified in the Nashville District Mitigation Policy issued by the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Management Branch.



Smith Springs Road –
Level I Utility Corridor

Outgrant Utility Corridors – outgrant utility corridors are designated by type and are considered due to the impacts placed upon natural resources of the project. The following outgrant utility corridor levels are included:

Category I – involves establishment of outgrant utility corridors where currently there are four or more existing outgrants within the corridor which impact project resources

Category II - involves establishment of outgrant utility corridors where currently there are 2-3 existing outgrants within the corridor which impact project resources

Category III - involves establishment of outgrant utility corridors where currently there is one existing outgrant within the corridor which impacts project resources

The intent of the Master Plan with respect to developing project outgrant utility corridors is to identify and establish corridors and use them to route existing as well as future requests through such corridors, and to provide the means for expansion of existing outgrant utility corridors to minimize impacts to public lands and waters. A complete listing of established Outgrant Utility Corridors on J. Percy Priest is listed in Section 13.07, Plate 7 – Outgrant Utility Corridors which describes each corridor.

5.06 – Mitigation

a. Mitigation. For purposes of the major environmental statutes, mitigation is defined as an action that avoids, reduces the severity or intensity of adverse impacts of other actions and/or to make the Corps project whole, which includes:

(1) Avoiding the impact by not taking a certain action or parts of an action or by moving the project location. Action proponents are to consider avoidance as the preferred mitigation measure and provide reasons and justification when avoidance is not possible.

(2) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or

magnitude of the action and its implementation, for example, by adjusting site layout.

(3) Address impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.

(4) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by monitoring, maintaining, and/or replacing equipment or structures to prevent future environmental degradation from equipment or structural failure over the life of the action.

(5) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Smith Springs Road – Guardrail Mitigation
for ORV Impacts – Smith Springs Road

b. Objectives. The Nashville District Mitigation Policy is designed to develop, initiate, maintain, protect, and improve the environmental qualities, cultural resources, aesthetic values, ecological relationships, and recreation facilities at Nashville District Civil Works projects by:

(1) Protection of real estate investment from depreciation.

(2) Compliance with environmental protection and enhancement statutes, regulations, policies and procedures.

(3) Protection of environmentally sensitive areas such as: wetlands, creeks, steep slopes, aquifer recharge zones, riparian zones, wildlife habitat, water quality, and natural resources.

(4) Prevention of damage and destruction of natural and cultural resources from the development of the property.

(5) Protection and improvement of the natural beauty of the landscape.

(6) Ensuring the project impacted is returned to a “whole” condition.

(7) Preventing authorization of activities contrary to the project’s Master Plan land use designations.

(8) Preventing damage and destruction of facilities.

6.01 - Wildlife Management

J. Percy Priest was authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1938 and the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1964, with the original intent to provide flood control protection and hydroelectric power production. An additional authorized purpose – recreation – was added in 1964 as a benefit based on revised standards for recreation. J. Percy Priest boasts approximately 33,200 acres of land and water that provides a wide array of recreational opportunities to the visiting public, and two of the most important recreational activities are hunting and fishing. Numerous public recreation areas around J. Percy Priest provide access to public lands and waters.

Public lands around J. Percy Priest are provided a land use designation, with the vast majority of public lands designated for wildlife management and enhancement purposes. TWRA promotes public hunting on lands licensed from the Corps of Engineers, and has developed project lands to provide recreational hunting, hunter education, and other outdoor recreational aims. Presidential Executive Order: Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation dated August 16, 2007, directs Federal agencies to consider the economic and recreational values that public hunting provides, manage wildlife habitat on public lands to promote public hunting, and to collaborate with State Wildlife agencies to provide public hunting opportunities. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has leased approximately 10,896 acres of public land on J. Percy Priest to benefit wildlife and promote environmental education aims and has been issued long-term outgrants to provide additional recreational experiences for visitors.

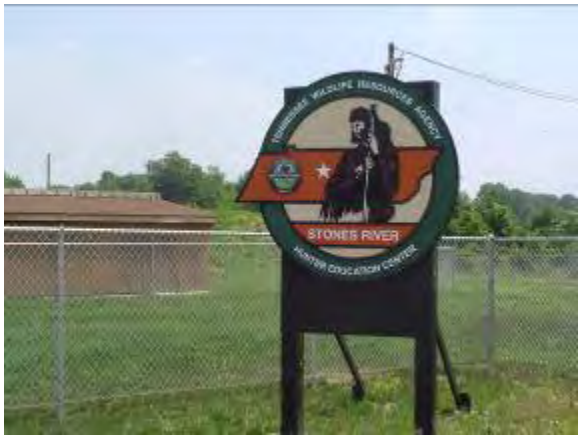
Public recreation lands outgranted to TWRA within Regions I and II include the following:

Unit I – Unit I is comprised of approximately 1,408 acres near LaVergne and is primarily used for dog training, field trials, and small game hunting. Deer and fall turkey hunting is permitted with archery equipment only. A wildlife management area permit is required in addition to a hunting license for small game hunting and dog training.

It is suggested to review current hunting regulations relating to J. Percy Priest Unit I for any changes.

Unit II – Unit II encompasses approximately 9,360 non-contiguous acres, and includes 24 islands of varying sizes. The area is managed primarily for small game, but deer and turkey hunting is allowed. Muzzleloader, shotgun, and archery equipment are permitted for deer and turkey hunting. Center fire rifles and handguns and shotgun slugs are prohibited in these areas. Rim fire ammunition only is permitted for use within Unit II. Waterfowl seasons are the same as statewide seasons and temporary blinds and decoys must be removed each day after use. No waterfowl hunting is permitted within Poole Knobs Waterfowl Resting Area. A wildlife management area permit is required in addition to the regular hunting license. It is suggested to review current hunting regulations relating to J. Percy Priest Unit II for any changes.

Stones River Hunter Education Center – The Stones River Hunter Education Center was constructed in 1999 by TWRA to provide hunting and shooting enthusiasts a safe and monitored shooting range. Approximately 128 acres were leased to TWRA to construct a facility that provides for furthering hunter education, instruction, and wildlife ethic to area hunters and provide for safe and structured use. Range Safety Officers are available to assist with use of the facilities, with range facilities typically available Fridays-Sundays.



Stones River Hunter Education Center

Open Land Habitat Improvement

The TWRA administers an agricultural cooperative crop lease program with area farmers. This practice maintains reclaimed creek and river bottoms by sowing grains such as wheat, corn, soybeans, and milo. The tracts where public access is available will be advertised for four-year agricultural cooperative crop leases to keep them in conditions conducive to multiple wildlife uses. Continual leasing provides more stable food production for wildlife than letting the land lay idle for a year or two between leasing.

J. Percy Priest Hunting Information Guide

Due to the great number of inquires regarding hunting opportunities at J. Percy Priest, a hunting guide on J. Percy Priest was developed that describes hunting activities. This information along with a TWRA J. Percy Priest Wildlife Management Area map is available to visitors at the project Visitor Center, or can be accessed at the J. Percy Priest project website at http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/op/jpp/rec/. Additional information pertaining to hunting on J. Percy Priest can be found at http://www.state.tn.us/twra/.

6.02 - Fisheries Management

J. Percy Priest provides area anglers with a wide variety of fishing opportunities and experiences, and is considered one of the most popular recreational activities at J. Percy Priest. J. Percy Priest provides approximately 14,200 water surface acres at normal summer pool elevation 490.0. The responsibility for fishery management at J. Percy Priest Lake rests with the state of Tennessee. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) administers fisheries management plans and activities for the lake. The Resource Manager at J. Percy Priest coordinates with the TWRA in the implementation of fisheries management objectives at J. Percy Priest Lake.

Management of Important Species

Fisheries management at J. Percy Priest Lake involves careful planning and coordination to provide maximum benefit to the project fishery. Native fish species such as crappie, black bass, catfish, and bluegill are typically

the most sought-after fish by area anglers. Natural reproduction, along with intermittent stocking, is required to maintain acceptable levels for each fish. Non-native species such as rockfish, white and yellow bass, and Cherokee bass require periodic stocking to provide fishing opportunities for these species.

Fish Attractors

Fish attractors are an important resource for area anglers to concentrate game fish. As the lake becomes older and original stumps and trees rot away, fish attractors serve to enhance the environment for fish. The cover left has since deteriorated, resulting in a generally unproductive bottom without good structure. An artificial fish attractor program replenishes the structure, or supplements existing structures. Fish attractors have proven to concentrate fish and increase angler success. TWRA has 21 established fish attractor sites that are replenished on a routine basis and are marked with buoys to identify location to anglers. There are also a large number of stake beds and other attractor sites that have been installed by TWRA personnel.

Fish attractors include the use of the following type of materials: brush attractors, spawning benches, stake beds, pvc fish attractors, and cypress tree plantings. In addition, members of the public are permitted to replenish lake structure through the issuance of permits from the Resource Manager’s office. Anglers are encouraged to contact the Resource Managers Office to obtain a permit for such activities. TWRA personnel also use shallow-water fish attractors to identify potentially hazardous boating areas around the lake, yet still provide potential fish structure for anglers.

Lake Level Fluctuations

J. Percy Priest Lake is managed as a component of an overall larger water management system for the Cumberland River system. Flood control management and hydropower production are important components in the overall management of water resources at J. Percy Priest. J. Percy Priest Lake relies on rainfall and inflows for the Stones River watershed to provide additional water to the project.

The Nashville District Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch and the J. Percy Priest Resource staff coordinate lake levels with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to stabilize lake levels during favorable spawning conditions for optimum spawning conditions. Park rangers monitor and report water temperatures at five-foot intervals up to 20 feet during this period and report the findings to Hydrology and Hydraulics so that lake elevations can be manipulated to improve survivability of spawning fish.

Other Management Techniques

Other fisheries management techniques include the use of existing structures to prevent the migration of rough fish such as carp and drum into upper reaches of feeder streams. Walter Hill dam, Nice Mill dam, and Gregory Mill dam are examples of existing structures used to improve upstream fisheries management within tributary streams.

The TWRA is very active in the management and improvement of fisheries at J. Percy Priest. Management activities to monitor fisheries health include electro-fishing, gill nets, creel surveys, and water quality profiles. These activities provide critical information relating to the overall fisheries well-being, and allow for informed decisions regarding improvements to project fishery populations.

Bank Fishing Opportunities

One aspect of fishing that is often overlooked is that many anglers do not have access to a boat. A conscious effort has been made by J. Percy Priest Natural Resources Management staff to provide and enhance bank fishing opportunities. Challenge Cost-Share agreements have been entered into with TWRA to provide safe and accessible bank angling facilities at various public recreation area. Public recreation areas such as Stewart Creek, Vivrett Creek, and Cook Recreation Area have provided excellent opportunities to work with the TWRA to provide such facilities and also to serve as areas to host youth fishing tournaments, project fishing rodeos, and other such activities to promote sport fishing.

J. Percy Priest Fishing Information Line and Website

Fishing and lake level information is provided by the Corps of Engineers on the J. Percy Priest Fishing Information Line at (615) 883-2351. Current water elevation, temperature, and generation schedule are provided Monday-Friday. Daily lake information can also be obtained by visiting the J. Percy Priest Lake website at http://www/lrn.usace.army.mil/op/jpp/rec/.

Additional water release information can be obtained by contacting the TVA Lake Information Line at (865) 632-6065, or visit the TVA Lake Information website as http://lakeinfo.tva.gov/.

For current fishing tips at J. Percy Priest Lake, visit the TWRA Region 2 Fishing Report at http://www.state.tn.us/twra/reg2fish.html

Conclusions

Hunting and fishing opportunities are an important aspect in the use of public lands and water of J. Percy Priest. Natural Resources Management staff aims are to provide safe and quality recreational experiences to the public while protecting and improving the natural resources benefits the project provides.

7.01 - Cultural/Historic Preservation

J. Percy Priest has several significant archeological, historical and cultural sites and every attempt is being made to protect these sites. They range from ancient Native American sites to settlement sites abandoned as the lake was constructed and flooded.

A major and recurring problem is the illegal taking of artifacts from project lands, specifically Native American relics. Occurrences range from removal of arrowheads in fields to illegal excavation of artifacts during winter pool conditions. Continual monitoring of known cultural sites is necessary to protect these resources.

Long Hunter State Park – State Archeologist Unearths Old Gravesite

Corrective measures to be implemented include more frequent and unannounced patrols and support from local citizens and law enforcement agencies. Locations of archeological sites will not be publicly disseminated. A GIS overlay describing known locations of project cultural resources is available to provide Natural Resources Management personnel a new tool to identify and protect these resources. These write-protected GIS overlay locations will not be made available to the general public. Inventories are scheduled in areas where new construction and management activities are planned.

7.02 – Off-Road Vehicles

Off-road vehicle (ORV) activity has the potential to severely damage project resources and every effort has been placed to prevent this from occurring. Educational efforts in the form of news articles, Lake Casts, and other forms of media coverage have been used to inform the public of the damage such actions create.

Physical barriers have been placed in high use areas where potential for damage is highest, or sensitive areas are involved. In instances where ORV activity occurs, additional concerns are created because of open dumping, household garbage, and potential for disposal of hazardous substances on public lands.

ORV Damage – Hurricane Creek

The Nashville District Mitigation Plan has been used in instances where existing or proposed outgrant placement has caused or furthered potential for ORV vehicle activity. Guardrail, bollard, fencing, and earthen berms are typically used to protect project resources from such intrusions. Signage is also used to inform the public where ORV activity is noted or prevalent.

Enforcement actions in the form of verbal or written warnings and in some instances written citations, are necessary to prevent further actions of this nature from occurring.

7.03 - Encroachments and Destruction of Public Property

The property boundary surrounding J. Percy Priest has been surveyed and marked on the ground to identify the location of public property. Boundary activities include survey

certification and establishment, inspection and maintenance of certified lines, boundary line agreements, fencing agreements and encroachment resolution.

J. Percy Priest – Property Boundary

Although not a significant problem, encroachment resolution has been necessary to correct issues pertaining to public property. In instances where encroachment of public property has occurred, Title 36, Rules and Regulations have been applied to such cases. The Nashville District Tree Vandalism and Valuation policy is also considered when encroachments have resulted in damage or unlawful removal of forestry resources. With over 150 miles of boundary line to maintain, it is expected that approximately 30 mile of boundary line be remarked each season, and a rotation around the project to require five years to complete. An aggressive boundary maintenance and monitoring program is necessary to enforce established boundary lines and prevent future encroachments.

The goal of the J. Percy Priest Project staff is to prevent encroachments on project lands through aggressive public education and continued monitoring to prevent future encroachments.

7.04 – Lake Level Fluctuations

J. Percy Priest Lake has a lake level fluctuation of approximately eight feet from normal summer pool elevation 490.0 to 482.0 feet above mean sea level. The lake level

fluctuates throughout the year, depending on rainfall, runoff and water control operations. Because of the nature and topography of the area, the lake has been known to rise more than 15-20 feet during a heavy storm event. Many of the lake's recreation areas were developed based on use at the area with considerations of flooding and periodic inundation. As the level of the lake rises, portions of the areas are inundated, thereby restricting their use. The degree and length of restriction depends upon the severity of the flood. Annual flooding has at least some detrimental effects on recreation and area businesses at the lake. Adverse side effects also include damage to roads, turf, trees along the shoreline, accumulation of driftwood, reduction of visitation and loss of income to area businesses. The fish populations could be adversely affected if spawning coincides with receding high water. The inundated areas are unsightly once the water recedes, leaving behind debris and driftwood. Flooding results in increased maintenance cost for repair and flood cleanup. Management practices which are planned to reduce the effects of flood on recreation activities include planting of water-tolerant grasses in low lying areas, planting bottomland hardwoods in flood prone fields, raising low portions of access roads, and design of facilities to withstand flooding with minimal cleanup. Future construction activities will be at the highest possible elevation that is practicable.

7.05 - Adjacent Private Development

Adjacent private development continues to increase around J. Percy Priest, and places further demands on project resources. Private development in the form of adjacent private homes often creates the potential for concerns such as encroachments, ORV use, tree vandalism, water quality issues, and other adverse impacts to the project. Commercial developments, such as convenience stores and other commercial ventures adjacent to or in close proximity to the lake have the potential to create opportunities for adverse impacts to the project.

Overuse of project recreational resources is also experienced due to immediate impacts of continued growth surrounding the lake. Project recreation areas typically are full on weekends and in some instances require closure of the recreation area due to overuse of project

facilities, health and safety concerns, and user conflicts created by exceeding the carrying capacity of the area.

7.06 - Water Quality Concerns

Maintaining and improving water quality at J. Percy Priest is important to the overall health of the project. Project personnel will seek new ways to improve water quality and overall condition of the project by continuing to address water quality problems as they arise, maintain vigilance with respect to requests from outside sources that may have a detrimental effect on water quality, and use sound judgment when considering proposals that could affect overall water quality improvement objectives. Assistance is also garnered from agencies such as the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

7.07 - Vandalism

Vandalism issues arise frequently at J. Percy Priest due to the proximity to a major metropolitan area. These cause a detriment to public resources because of the need to replace costly facilities, inconvenience the public, and creating a sense that facilities are unsafe for use. Increased law enforcement and ranger patrols are essential in curtailing instances of vandalism and destruction of public property.

Highly visited areas are monitored more closely, have developed park attendant/volunteer park host sites within each area, and have established regular closure hours and season to protect project resources.

Cook Campground – Vandalism

The CorpsWatch Program was instituted in 2006 to help provide information to assist in the prosecution of anyone

committing crimes against U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property. The CorpsWatch Program was established to help curtail instances of vandalism and assist in apprehending and prosecuting violators. Additional information pertaining to the CorpsWatch Program can be found by calling 1-866-413-7970, or visiting the website at http://englink.usace.army.mil. Continued vigilance is necessary to maintain facilities at J. Percy Priest in an acceptable condition.

7.08 - Land Fragmentation

Permitted outgrants have often in the past fragmented large tracts of public lands around J. Percy Priest, causing a loss of important developmental buffer zones, impacting wildlife management objectives, and creating unforeseen environmental concerns such as ORV use, unauthorized dumping, and other adverse environmental impacts. Utility outgrants affect wildlife management objectives of the project by reducing the amount of habitat available and disrupts movement and location of wildlife within available habitat. Ultimately these impacts diminish recreational hunting opportunities on lands designated for such use. The Nashville District Mitigation Plan, which strives to avoid, minimize, and mitigate for adverse environmental impacts, will be applied to minimize or eliminate potential impacts created by outgrants. Land fragmentation also affects important water quality buffers and every effort shall be given to reducing impacts such activities can have on public lands at J. Percy Priest.

7.09 – Storm Water Management Issues

Storm water management issues have the potential to adversely affect public property at J. Percy Priest. Collection and deposition of storm water from adjacent developed private property tends to increase both amount and intensity of water deposited on public lands, and it is important to weigh decisions regarding adjacent private development carefully. Metro Nashville Public Works storm water management requirements include off-project retention of gathered storm waters. Pre- and post-development storm water runoff quantities are considered to determine potential impacts to project resources. Storm water retention structures allow collected storm water to deposit sediments and slow the erosional effects that unchecked storm waters can create. “Best Management Practices” are

also encouraged at locations where storm water impacts can adversely impact project resources. It is also standard practice to require off-site developments to obtain a real estate easement through local governments for storm water outfalls to account for any adverse impacts caused by such developments.

Smith Springs Road – Storm Water Culvert

7.10 - Water Withdrawal Requests

J. Percy Priest continues to provide reliable water resources to a number of local utilities. Recent requests to increase water usage by local utilities have created a need to carefully weigh requests for water withdrawal with current withdrawal rates considered to be at the limit of what project resources can provide. Rainfall that falls within the Stones River watershed helps to recharge lake levels, and with no new inflow sources within the Stones River watershed identified, it will require future water withdrawal requests to consider other sources of water. Adverse impacts to original authorized project purposes, such as recreation, would be affected by lower summer pool levels during drought years. Any future water withdrawal requests considered would require a reallocation study to determine impacts to authorized project purposes. Natural Resources Management project personnel would have significant input on any water reallocation studies that

would have potentially adverse affects to project operations. Recent water quality improvements to the Stones River downstream from J. Percy Priest have also required an adjustment to summer pool levels to hold back additional water in the summer to allow for minimal controlled releases throughout the summer months.

7.11 - Hazard Tree Removal

The project maintains a hazard tree removal policy that addresses dead, diseased, or hazardous trees on public property. Efforts by the Natural Resources Management staff to identify and remove such hazards improve visitor safety within established recreation areas. An assessment of potential hazards allow for informed management decisions regarding removal of hazard trees, with priority given to such recreation areas as campgrounds, day use facilities, project buildings and structures, and adjacent project roadways.

Hazard Tree Removal – Visitor Center

It is also project policy to address hazard tree removal adjacent to private developed land by assessing the hazard

and approving the removal of such hazards by the adjacent landowner. Information regarding hazard tree removal is located in the project Operational Management Plan. Prior approval must be obtained before removing any trees, and efforts to leave the main trunk of hazard trees shall be made to provide wildlife habitat.

There are also a number of Real Estate outgrants that require the periodic removal of vegetation along their established right-of-way. Efforts are made by Natural Resources Management staff to coordinate such activities to minimize impacts to public lands, address issues with respect to ingress along public corridors to public lands, and where feasible, allow outgranted utilities to relocate utilities that improve access to their facilities while minimizing impacts to public lands.

8.01 - Project Recreation Areas

Provided is a synopsis that describes the status of project recreation areas since the last J. Percy Priest Master Plan update in December, 1986. A number of improvements have been made to project facilities to improve use, address multi-group and multi-cultural use, and improve safety and security of the areas.

Site 99 - J. Percy Priest Damsite – The J. Percy Priest Project Operations Area has seen a number of changes, including the construction of a field office for EC-H Water Quality lab in 1996. In addition, Building 3 within the Operations Area was renovated to accommodate the Nashville District Regulatory Branch offices which moved to J. Percy Priest in 2001. The J. Percy Priest Visitor Center was renovated to provide needed improvements for access to information about the project, as well as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to access the building. A comprehensive review of project security was performed in 2002 under the Risk Assessment Methodology for Dams by the Infrastructure Security Assessment Team to assess project vulnerabilities along with needed security improvements. Improvements such as guardrail, fencing, lighting, remotely operated camera and other essential items were installed.

Site 100 – Seven Points Recreation Area – Seven Points Recreation Area has undergone a number of changes and improvements since 1986. The day-use area was at one time included in the Recreation Use Fee Program to collect day-use fees, but this was discontinued due to costs of collection versus return for investment. Seven Points Campground continues to be one of the most popular campgrounds in the Nashville District and has been operated under the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS) since 1999. Electrical upgrades to the campground were performed by the Nashville Electric Service (NES). Infrastructure repairs to campsite electrical facilities and addition of 50 amp pedestals have been completed. Shelter reservations located within the day-use area are also administered through the NRRS. Due to high costs of operation and needed infrastructure repairs, other facilities within Seven Points Day-use Area were closed under the Recreation Excellence at Army Lakes (REAL) Program in 2004. The facilities closed included the swim beach along with five adjacent picnic sites and

accompanying facilities. Future plans are to redevelop old swim area into an accessible bank fishing areas.

Seven Points Day Use – Picnic Shelter

Site 10 - Long Hunter State Park – Long Hunter State Park (LHSP), operated by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, has made a number of improvements to the area. Improvements include establishing an accessible paved foot path around Couchville Lake, re-opening and improvements to Bryant Grove Recreation Area, and the addition of a new Visitor Center located within Couchville Recreation Area. All the new improvements made within Long Hunter State Park, such as the courtesy float at Bryant Grove have been designed to be barrier-free. Plans are also underway, in association with the International Mountain Bike Trail Association, to develop a mountain bike trail from Bryant Grove Recreation Area to Jones Mill Recreation Area, and to re-open Jones Mill Recreation Area for lake access by the boating public.

Site 103 - Hamilton Creek Park – Hamilton Creek Park is operated by the Metropolitan Nashville Parks and Recreation Department and provides project visitors unique recreational opportunities. The 790-acre site was bisected by the extension of Bell Road in 1992, which created two distinct land base locations for active and passive recreational opportunities within the area. Hamilton Creek Park maintains a BMX track that is one of the most popular in the country and also maintains an extensive system of mountain bike trails that are considered to be very challenging to riders. Hamilton Creek Marina, which currently maintains 283 wet/dry slips, is considering an expansion based on its Master Plan (MP) update from 2002. Infrastructure improvements relating to the marina include extensive ADA improvements, addition of a courtesy float at the launch ramp, relocation of power lines to permit launch

access by sail boaters currently unable to do so during lake drawdown conditions, and construction of an enclosed facility to store skull/rowing boats and equipment. Consideration is also being given to re-opening the formerly-designated swim beach area, addition of a playground facility, upgrade of existing mountain bike trail and also for improvements or expansion of the picnic area adjacent to the swim beach. These improvements would provide much-needed services to the public of additional day-use and swimming opportunities.

Site 104 – Cook Recreation Area – Cook Recreation Area has experienced a number of changes in development and operation. The day-use portion of Cook Recreation Area was established as a fee area in 1994 and shelter facilities were placed on NRRS in 1997. Infrastructure improvements have been made to the day-use area including providing utilities to shelters 1 and 2, construction of a new playground complex near shelter 2, and construction of a park attendant site for hired day-use attendants/off season volunteer park hosts. Due to the high instances of vandalism within the area, gates were established at the campground entrance and also day-use entrance from Old Hickory Boulevard, and park hours were established and enforced. Additional improvements recently in place include a traffic turn-around at the day use entrance to be used during peak visitation periods, and also a gravel trail from the boat ramp parking area through the woods to the swim beach. Park hours of 6 am – 8 pm are maintained during the recreation season. The lower day-use launching area experiences high boating traffic, so a no-wake zone—was designated within the cove to provide a safe transition for boaters. A bank fishing area that provides accessible facilities has been expanded and enhanced to provide additional bank fishing opportunities within the day-use area, and now remains open to the public year-round. Due to high cost of operation and needed infrastructure repairs, facilities within Cook Campground were closed under the Recreation Excellence at Army Lakes (REAL) Program in 2004. The facilities closed included the 57-site campground along with comfort station, washhouse, wastewater treatment plant, and accompanying facilities. Consideration is being given to expansion of Cook Recreation Area to include additional areas within Day Use Fee Program. Cook Campground would be redesigned to accommodate additional day use facilities, and entire area would become day use fee area.

Site 105 – Anderson Road Recreation Area – Anderson Road Recreation Area includes a day use area and campground, and also provides a 1.2 mile paved fitness trail within the day-use area. Anderson Road Day Use Area is considered the most popular day use area at J. Percy Priest. When all available parking spaces are full, it is necessary to close the park to additional users until additional spaces open up. This understandably results in user dissatisfaction, particularly if some members of a group are already in the park and other members are denied access due to lack of parking spaces. The day use area received a major facelift in 1994 that included major infrastructure upgrades and installation of a new comfort station, expansion of the swim beach, additional picnic facilities and play areas, and expansion of parking facilities.

Anderson Road Day Use Beach

Anderson Road Campground has changed little since the last Master Plan update, and without utility service to individual campsites, one can reasonably expect little increase in usage of the area. Facilities within Anderson Road Recreation Area have been operated under the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS) since 1999, and include a 37-site campground and shelter complex located within the day-use area. Park attendant/volunteer park host sites were constructed within the campground and day-use area to provide location for contract park attendants/off-season park hosts. Control gates were added at the entrance and within the day-use area to control vehicular access and provide means to close the area during the off-season. Due to the high volume of traffic along with increasing demand for use, a new comfort station was constructed in 2006 to provide for visitors to the beach area. Park hours of 6 am – 8 pm are maintained during the recreation season. Due to high launch traffic volume during the recreation season, a

request was granted to designate a “No Wake” zone adjacent to Anderson Road Day Use Area launch ramp.

Site 107 – Smith Springs Recreation Area – Smith Springs Recreation Area receives a tremendous amount of boat launch traffic due to proximity to large numbers of visitors who live near the area. The area often exceeds available parking facilities for boat launch users, which necessitates parking along the road shoulder of the entrance roadway. Efforts were made through enforcement action to address vehicle operating off project roadways or in violation of posted parking requirements. Recent infrastructure improvements include repairs and renovations to the comfort station, water and electrical utilities located at picnic shelter, and construction of a volunteer park host campsite to oversee the area. Reservations for picnic shelter facilities area available through the NRRS.

Site 108 – Suggs Creek Camping Area – Suggs Creek Camping Area has seen no development since the last Master Plan update. Consideration has been given to incorporating the area into Long Hunter State Park to operate as a primitive group camping area.

Site 109 - Four Corners Recreation Area – Four Corners Recreation Area received some additional facilities in the form of a comfort station and additional day use facilities in the early 1990’s. The majority of day use area is currently leased to Four Corners Marina, but with the stipulation that until plans are undertaken to add additional facilities within the area, the Corps of Engineers would continue to operate the day use area. Due to low usage and needed infrastructure repairs, the area was closed under the Recreation Excellence at Army Lakes (REAL) Program in 2004. Facilities affected by closure include 30 picnic sites, comfort station, 55 vehicle parking spaces, and picnic shelter.

Site 109 – Four Corners Marina – Four Corners Marina has seen expansion of facilities within the last five years, and currently maintains 373 wet slips within the marina. Expansion of parking facilities was also undertaken to provide additional parking for marina customers.

Site 113 – Poole Knobs Recreation Area – Poole Knobs Recreation Area includes a day-use launch ramp and an 87-site campground. A number of campsite renovations were made

to improve services within the campground during the 1990's, and a comprehensive campsite rehabilitation program was undertaken in 2001 under the auspices of the Recreation Area Modernization Program. This included renovation of existing water and lower-loop campsites, relocation and construction of new entrance station and park attendant campsites, campsite utility hookups, and needed repairs to existing comfort stations and washhouses. Due to the lack of demand, the back portion of Poole Knobs Campground totaling 30 campsites was closed. Renovations and repairs to the wastewater treatment plant were also made to maintain optimum operation of the facility.

Site 116 – Fate Sanders Recreation Area – Fate Sanders Recreation Area has experienced little change since the last update. A comfort station is maintained within the area. Due to the low usage and "no-flow" history of the facility, a request was made to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Water Pollution Control to terminate the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit previously required for this facility. The request was granted. Due to high cost of operation and needed infrastructure repairs, facilities within Fate Sanders Recreation Area were closed under the Recreation Excellence at Army Lakes (REAL) Program in 2004. The facilities closed included a portion of the day-use area involving 15 picnic sites.

Site 116 – Fate Sanders Marina – Fate Sanders Marina has seen a number of expansions and improvements. During a request for an expansion in 1999, it was discovered that the marina did not have an established water surface lease area. This oversight was corrected and marina currently maintains 298 wet slips. A number of older facilities were removed or reconfigured within the marina lease area as well. A fire ravaged the motel in 2003, and the marina management decided not to rebuild the structure.

Site 117 – Jefferson Springs Recreation Area – Jefferson Springs Recreation Area has seen no additional facilities or services added since the last update. TWRA authorized the establishment of a No Wake zone adjacent to the launching area to accommodate the increased boating traffic and to account for the narrow navigational channel in proximity to the launch ramp. A comfort station is maintained at Jefferson Springs Recreation Area, but due to the low usage and no-flow history of the facility, a

request was made to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Water Pollution Control to terminate the permit. The request was granted, and it no longer became necessary to maintain an NPDES permit at this location.

Jefferson Springs Recreation Area

Site 120 – Fall Creek Camping Area – Fall Creek Camping Area has remained closed since 1986, but was briefly considered for leasing to outside interests when construction of the Nashville International Speedway was completed nearby. The upper parking area that has been a problem with respect to open dumping was closed to the public in 2001.

Site 121 - East Fork Recreation Area – East Fork Recreation Area has undergone a number of improvements to accommodate public use of the area. The area formerly used by the Tennessee Long Hunters was redesignated and established as a warm season grasses demonstration area. Extensive redesign and improvements to the Twin Forks Equestrian Trail were performed. The East Fork Recreation Area serves as the mid-way point for the 21-mile equestrian trail, and provides facilities for trail riders wishing to travel from East Fork in either direction. The area also contains a picnic shelter for visitor use, and has provided area scouts groups and other interests' use of the area under the auspices of a Special Event permit.

Site 123 – Gregory Mill Recreation Area – Gregory Mill Recreation Area encompasses a 45-acre site which is not contiguous with project operational lands. It was acquired to permit maintenance and operation of an old mill dam to serve as a rough fish migration barrier. A formal agreement

was established with TWRA in 1991 for the maintenance of the mill dam. Due to interests shown by the Town of Smyrna for operation of the area, the recreation area underwent a change in management under the Recreation Excellence at Army Lakes Program in 2003 whereby the Town of Smyrna assumed formal management responsibilities from TWRA. Additional facilities constructed by the Town of Smyrna include realignment of park entrance along Enon Springs Road, establishment of bank fishing areas, additional picnic and day-use facilities, new picnic shelter, comfort station, networking existing greenway trail systems through the area, and establishment of overnight facilities within the park. Another very popular facility installed was a water splash park that has been well-received by the public.

Gregory Mill Recreation Area – Splash Park

Site 126 – Elm Hill Recreation Area – Elm Hill Recreation Area has experienced a number of changes since 1986, including impacting of existing picnic sites, renovation of existing comfort station, and installation of a floating courtesy dock for boaters. Due to the need for extensive infrastructure repairs and because the area is contiguous with existing facilities at Elm Hill Marina, it was determined to include Elm Hill Recreation Area in the Recreation Excellence at Army Lakes Program. Under this program, Elm Hill Marina assumed control for operating and maintaining the area in 2004. In addition to operating existing facilities for public access, marina management also has proposed a number of additions, including rental cabins and a restaurant/ conference center to meet public demand. Launching fees were instituted and entry controls were established. These changes have led to a more family-friendly atmosphere and have been well accepted by the visiting public.

Site 126 - Elm Hill Marina – Elm Hill Marina has experienced a number of changes and improvements to provide additional services to visitors. A change in ownership of the facility in 1997 occurred, which provided an impetus to improve existing facilities. Added facilities include more parking, a ship store and restaurant, and infrastructure improvements. A comprehensive plan to replace existing floating structures including covered and uncovered wet slips was initiated, and each section of slips was replaced with new slips. Additional large wet slips were added to accommodate larger vessels. Elm Hill Marina currently maintains 646 wet slips. Additional REAL Program impacts included adding an additional 70 acres of land and water surface acreage within Elm Hill Marina lease area.

Site 201 – Tailwater Left Bank Access Area – a number of changes and improvements have been undertaken within the Tailwater Left Bank Access Area. Due to security concerns created by terrorist actions against American interests in the United States in September, 2001, an Infrastructure Security Assessment Team was formed to determine what security improvements should be considered for sensitive areas at Nashville District projects. Both tailwater recreation areas were closed to the public in October 2001. The Tailwater Left Bank was closed to the public until Spring 2004. A Risk Assessment Methodology for project dams was developed that provided needed security and infrastructure improvements to the area such as additional fencing, guardrail, signage, and gates. A remote camera was also installed to observe activity in and around the facility, and additional patrols and surveillance has been performed.

Infrastructure improvements within the Tailwater Left Bank Access Area included replacement of guardrail along Bell Road and replacement of T-1 communications line to serve the power plant and operations area. Due to the need for extensive rehabilitation and proximity of existing comfort station to sensitive facilities, the Tailwater Left Bank comfort station is slated for removal from the area. Facilities planned at the Stones River Greenway will provide these services when complete.

In Spring, 2003, Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation was granted a long-term lease on approximately 8.3 acres formally located within existing agricultural hay lease for

development of the Stones River Greenway trailhead. The trailhead would serve as the starting point for trail users along an 11-mile stretch of trail that will eventually link up with the Shelby Bottoms Trail located above Nashville along the Cumberland River. The facility will include a parking lot, picnic shelter and concessions area, comfort station, and other amenities. Plans are also for construction of a pedestrian bridge above the Interstate 40 bridge to serve trail users and link up with facilities along the Tailwater Right Bank. The Stones River Greenway trailhead below J. Percy Priest opened in Spring, 2005.

Tailwater Left Bank – Stones River Greenway under construction

Site 202 – Tailwater Right Bank Access Area – the Tailwater Right Bank also underwent changes similar to the Tailwater Left Bank with respect to security improvements and infrastructure enhancements. The area was closed to the public in October, 2001, and remained closed until May 2003. A high demand for tailwater fishing access along with completion of necessary security improvements allowed the area to be re-opened to the public in May, 2003. Improvements to the area include installation of additional fencing, access gate at park entrance, and additional signage within the area. High water levels experienced in winter 2003 due to heavy rainfall caused considerable damage to parking facilities and a portion of riprapped area along the Tailwater Right Bank. Facilities were repaired and placed back in operation. Approximately 1.3 acres below the existing parking lot was leased to Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation for a pedestrian bridge planned along the Stones River Greenway above the Interstate 40. The pedestrian bridge will link both sides

of the river and will likely create an additional demand within the Tailwater Right Bank Area for access through the area and across the Stones River.

Site 203 – J. Percy Priest Lake Overlook – the J. Percy Priest Overlook received a facelift in Fall, 2004 as a result of redirection of project resources from lesser used recreation areas to more highly used areas. J. Percy Priest Overlook was in need of renovation due to high amount of use, security concerns, and a number of management concerns with respect to use of the area. A redesign of the recreation area reduced car parking spaces within the area from 168 to 45, and created a one-way loop through the area to improve traffic flow and reduce potential user conflicts. Additional improvements to the area include vegetative clearing along Bell Road, placement of ADA-compliant ramps and parking spaces, placement of lighting within the area, additional signage, and installation of shade trees and benches for passive park use. In addition, a gate is planned along both ends of Bell Road to provide for immediate road closure and to facilitate needed periodic road closure for routine maintenance of the dam and roadway. Additional recreational facilities include installation of a number of fish attractor structures along the shoreline below the Overlook to provide bank fishing recreational opportunities.

J. Percy Priest Overlook

Site 206 – Vivrett Creek Launching Area – Vivrett Creek Launching Area has experienced considerable increase in use and provides much-needed lake access to the public in lieu of using more heavily-used areas such as Seven Points or Cook Recreation Areas. A formal cost-sharing agreement with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency allowed for additional

facilities to be added to the area to accommodate bank anglers and those with disabilities to access the lake. Facilities added within the area include a paved walking path around the established bank fishing area, construction of several bank fishing platforms, construction of a 200 foot riprapped jetty to improve access and create fish structure, and construction of an accessible floating fishing platform. Numerous fish structures and improvements have been added within the cove to improve anglers' success.

Site 211 – Hurricane Creek Launching Area – Hurricane Creek Launching Area has experienced a tremendous increase in use due to the dramatic development of adjacent residential subdivisions within the Lavergne and Smyrna areas. Existing launching facilities were deemed inadequate and 30 additional car/trailer spaces were added to accommodate public demand.

Site 215 – Stewart Creek Launching Area – Stewart Creek Launching Area has seen some dramatic improvements. A formal cost-sharing agreement with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency allowed for additional facilities to be added to the area to accommodate bank anglers and those with disabilities to access lake assets. Facilities added within the area include a 1.2 mile paved walking path around the entire embayment, construction of several bank fishing platforms, establishment of artificial underwater berms to form fish structure, and construction of an accessible floating fishing platform to improve access to the lake. Numerous fish structures and improvements have been added within the cove to improve angler's success, and a 20-car parking lot was constructed to provide parking and access to the new improvements. The Town of Smyrna requested, and was granted approval for the construction of a paved greenway trail that leads from Smyrna's Sharp Springs Park to the Stewart Creek Launching Area.

Site 218 – Lamar Hill Launching Area – Lamar Hill Launching Area has changed little since the last Master Plan update. The area receives little visitation other than the occasional bank angler or fishing boat. The area was considered for closure under the REAL Plan, but due to its proximity to the adjacent Fate Sanders Recreation Area, which is typically closed during the winter months, it was determined that leaving the area open would be the best

option to provide year-round lake access around the confluence of Spring and Fall Creeks.

Site 219 – West Fork Launching Area - West Fork Launching Area has undergone a number of changes to improve access and safety of visitors. Prior to 1997, West Fork Launching Area was accessible from either end of Florence Road. Due to safety concerns and occasional flooding of the roadway, it became necessary to close a portion of Florence Road and permit a portion of the roadway to be relocated away from flood-prone areas. As a result of the relocation, it became necessary to rededicate a portion of old Florence Road as an access to the launching area. The area received much needed repaving along with guardrail along the entire length of roadway adjacent to the river to improve safety of visitors using the area. Access to the West Fork Wildlife Management Area Compartment 6 is also maintained within the area.

Site 222 – Mona Launching Area – Mona Launching Area remains much the same as during the last Master Plan update, and is considered an important lake access for spring anglers wanting to get in on early fishing successes along the upper end of J. Percy Priest Lake. Access to the Mona Wildlife Management Area Compartment 8B is accessed from Mona Launching Area.

Site 224 – Nices Mill Access Area – Nices Mill Recreation Area has seen little change in operation since 1986. The area still serves as the northernmost terminus of the Twin Forks Equestrian Trail and has been designated as a put-and-take rainbow trout fishery by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to provide important winter trout fishing opportunities.

Site 302 – Nashville Shores Water Park, Marina, and Yacht Club - Nashville Shores is located on a 385-acre site designated for a multitude of recreational uses by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Nashville Shores is situated on the lower part of the lake, which is deemed more suitable to intensive recreational development in the 1986 Master Plan. Currently, Nashville Shores consists of:

- A 323-slip marina with restaurant, chandlery shop and fuel station
- A water park that has eight waterslides, a miniature golf course, boat cruises, an “Aqua Park” on the lake,

multiple music stages, amphitheater as well as a number of other activities and attractions

- More than 15 group event areas that held more than 600 different group events in 2006
- Boat and jet ski rentals
- A recreational vehicle (RV) campground (not being currently rented to the public)
- Lakeside cabins (not being currently rented to the public)

In 2005, Nashville Shores adopted a new mission, which is essentially the same as the recreational philosophy outlined by the Corps:

"The Corps philosophy is to provide public outdoor recreation opportunities that support our project purposes and meet the recreation needs created by the lake itself, i.e., traditional outdoor recreation facilities and comprehensive resort developments."

Future development at Nashville Shores will focus attention on more traditional water-related activities as described in the Recreational Development Policy for Outgranted Corps Land dated 6 December 2005.

Other water-related recreational opportunities at Nashville Shores include pontoon boat rentals, ski shows, lake tours, paddleboats and other water-related activities to the public. Festivals and special events at Nashville Shores include boat shows, fishing tournaments, triathlons, jet ski events and a myriad of other opportunities.

9.01 – Master Plan Supplements

The original J. Percy Priest Master Plan was approved in 1966 and was last updated on December, 1986. Since the last update, there have been a number of supplements as described below:

Supplement No. 1 – J. Percy Priest – Master Plan Supplement covering revised Development Plan for Site 103 – Hamilton Creek Park, dated May 1990. Supplement proposal involved the development of a portion of Hamilton Creek Park as new location for Nashville Zoo. Zoological Society of Middle Tennessee proposed the portion of Hamilton Creek Park severed by relocation of Bell Road. This proposal was not pursued due to funding issues and opposition from adjacent landowners.

Supplement No 2 – J. Percy Priest – Master Plan Supplement covering Cook Recreation Area, dated July 1990. Supplement proposal involved redesign and reallocation of improvements within Cook Recreation Area to maximize improvements, lessen user conflicts, and improve safety.

Supplement No. 3 – J. Percy Priest – Master Plan Supplement covering revised development Plan for Site 109 - Four Corners, dated Jan 1991. Supplement involved proposed additional day-use and overnight accommodations, an 18-hole golf course, and other additional enhancements to existing marina facilities at Four Corners.

Supplement No. 4 – J. Percy Priest - Master Plan Supplement covering Land-Use Allocation and Master Plan for the City of Smyrna, Parks and Recreation Department – Gregory Mill Mini-Park, West Fork Neighborhood Park, Sharp Springs Community Park, Stewart Creek Mini-Park, dated May 1996. Supplement proposal involved the City of Smyrna leasing Gregory Mill, West Fork, Sharp Springs, and Stewart Creek for additional recreational development.

Supplement No. 5 – J. Percy Priest Lake Natural Areas – Hurricane Creek, Fate Sanders, and Suggs Creek, September, 1999. Three areas were considered for designation as Tennessee State Natural Heritage Areas. Elsie Quarterman SNHA (Hurricane Creek) and Fate Sanders Barrens (Fate Sanders) were officially designated Tennessee State Natural Heritage Areas, while Suggs Creek was later added based on native warm season grasses present within the area.

Supplement No. 6 – J. Percy Priest – Master Plan Supplement covering the Left Bank Tailwater Area (Site 201) and Right Bank Tailwater Area (Site 202) for Development Plans and Proposed Lease to the Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation Department as Part of Metro Stones River Greenway Project, dated May 2002. Proposal involved the lease of approximately 10 acres from Left and Right Bank Recreation Areas for the construction and maintenance of the Stones River Greenway trailhead and bridge.

Supplement No. 7 – J. Percy Priest – Master Plan Supplement for the Proposed Lease of portions of Tracts 1507, 1509, 1704-1, 1704-2, 1706, 1713, and A to the City of Smyrna, Parks and recreation Department for Greenway Trail Construction, dated August 2003. Supplement involved lease of approximately nine acres along said tracts to link existing greenway trail Sharp Springs Park to Stewart Creek Recreation Area.

Supplement No. 8 – J. Percy Priest – Master Plan Supplement for the Proposed Lease of Gregory Mill Recreation Area to the City of Smyrna, Parks and recreation Department, dated February 2004. Proposal involved the lease of approximately 48 acres within Gregory Mill Park to construct and maintain additional facilities such as picnic areas, picnic shelters, new comfort station, playground additions, historical interpretation displays, greenway trail links, and other additional facilities.

Supplement No. 9 – J. Percy Priest – Master Plan Supplement for the Proposed Expansion of Leased Area at Elm Hill Marina to include the adjacent Elm Hill Recreation Area, dated March 2004. Proposal involved lease of additional 85.5 acres (64.5 land, 21.0 water) to existing 78.5 acre lease at Elm Hill Marina to provide additional water-based and land-based supported recreational opportunities at Elm Hill. Additional facilities included picnic shelters, rental cabins, RV park, convention lodge, walking/biking trails, and marina to day use connector road.

Operational Management Plan (OMP) – J. Percy Priest Lake, Part Two – Park Management, Chapter 36 – Restricted Areas for Hazardous Waters. Additional guidance created within OMP Part Two regarding establishment of upstream and downstream hazard areas during generation and spilling operations at J. Percy Priest Dam.

Operational Management Plan – J. Percy Priest Lake, Parts One and Two – Recreation and Park Management. Update of Parts One and Two of OMP to support update of project Master Plan have been drafted and are currently under review for approval.

9.02 – Proposals for Future Consideration

The following proposals are currently being evaluated and are included for consideration in this document. These proposals are included because of their impact on project resources, need for required mitigation, and/or potential for using established utility corridors at the locations requested.

Smyrna Greenway – proposal has been made to tie into Twin Forks Equestrian Trail and designate trail from Nices Mill to include West Fork, Jefferson Springs, and Stewart Creek Recreation Areas

Parthenon Blvd – Parthenon Blvd is a proposed roadway which will link Murfreesboro Road (US Hwy 41A) to Stones River Road. Due to the explosion in growth and development to the surrounding communities, the City of Smyrna requested to construct a connector road from Stones River Road that will help alleviate traffic and congestion.

LaVergne Greenway – develop greenway system through Corps property to link Corps facilities to City of LaVergne Parks. Consideration is being given for linking a portion of existing Lavergne Greenway along Parthenon Boulevard extension as well as a portion of abandoned section of Stones River Road to tie into Hurricane Creek Recreation Area.

Wilson County Water and Sewer – proposal has been presented to create a utility corridor across Vivrett Creek to provide access across public lands for proposed development near Vivrett Creek Recreation Area. The proposed corridor would also serve as preferred greenway trail corridor to link trail system across Vivrett Creek to points downstream.

10.01 - Selection Criteria for Development of Project Stakeholder Team

Public lands currently classified at J. Percy Priest were considered for inclusion as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA's) and Utility Corridors (UC's) by an interdisciplinary team represented by both Corps Operations Division Specialists as well as other state, local, shareholder, and private concerns. ESA's are defined in EP 1130-2-550 as follows: areas where scientific, ecological, cultural, or aesthetic features have been identified, and includes developmental buffer zones.

J. Percy Priest Master Plan Meeting

10.02 - ER 1130-2-550 and EP 1130-2-550

a. ER 1130-2-550, Chapter 3 – Project Master Plans and Operational Management Plans

Master Plans (MP) and Operational Management Plans (OMP) are developed and implemented for each USACE civil works project and are intended to work in tandem. Interdisciplinary master plan teams, appointed by district team leaders, shall identify information needs and means for obtaining resources, study costs, schedules, tasks, and responsibilities. The interdisciplinary team shall include Corps district and project representatives of various disciplines, depending upon the resources involved. Master Plans shall focus on three primary components:

(1) regional and ecosystem needs,
(2) project resource capabilities and suitabilities, and
(3) expressed public interests and desires.

b. EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 3 - Project Master Plans and Operational Management Plans

Purpose. This chapter establishes guidance for the preparation of Master Plans and operational Management Plans for USACE Civil Works projects.

Background.

The Master Plan (MP) is an essential element in fostering an efficient and cost-effective project for natural resources, recreational, and cultural management programs. The MP provides direction for project development and use and as such is a vital tool for the responsible stewardship of project resources for the benefit of present and future generations; and, the MP promotes the protection, conservation and enhancement of natural, cultural, and man-made resources. In addition, other project authorized purposes, including hydropower production and flood control and minimization, are important consideration in the overall management objectives at J. Percy Priest.

The MP is the basic document guiding Corps of Engineers responsibilities pursuant to Federal laws to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop the project lands, waters, and associated resources. The MP is a continuing and dynamic document, unlike the feasibility study and the general design memorandum which also plan for the initial development of resources. The MP is a planning document anticipating what could and should happen and is flexible based upon changing conditions. Design functions are handled in the feature design memorandums and in contract plans and specifications. The MP deals in concepts, not in details of design or administration. Detailed management and administration functions are handled in the OMP, which translates the concepts of the MP into operational terms.

Master Plans are required for civil works projects and other fee-owned lands for which the Corps of Engineers has administrative responsibility for management of natural and manmade resources. Lands may be exempted from this requirement where there is no demonstrated need or opportunity to manage them. Master Plans may be prepared for projects not managed by the Corps of Engineers, such as

local protection projects, at the discretion of the District Commander.

The primary goals of the MP are to prescribe an overall land and water management plan, resource objectives, and associated design and management concepts, which:

(1) Provide the best possible combination of responses to regional needs, resource capabilities and suitabilities, and expressed public interests and desires consistent with authorized project purposes;

(2) Contribute towards providing a high degree of recreation diversity within the region;

(3) Emphasize the particular qualities, characteristics, and potentials of the project;

(4) Exhibit consistency and compatibility with national objectives and other state and regional goals and programs.

10.03 - J. Percy Priest Master Plan Interdisciplinary Team

Corps of Engineers Participants

Maurice Simpson, OP-R, Land and Water Conservation Section
Dena Williams, OP-R, Land and Water Conservation Section
Todd Yann, Resource Manager, J. Percy Priest Lake
Mark Vaughan, J. Percy Priest Lake
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Mark Flick, EC-H, GIS Technical Expert
Allison Ross, GIS OP-R Support
Kim Franklin, PM-P
Chip Hall, PM-P
Jeff Gregory, EC-H
Richard Graham, OP-F
Chief, Real Estate Management and Disposal Branch

Public Agency Shareholders

Billy Davis, Metro Public Works
Anita McCaig, Metro Nashville – Planning Division
Mike Moss, Smyrna Parks and Recreation
Joe Mankin, Mid TN Membership Electrical Cooperative
Vivian Wilhoite, Metro Nashville Council, District 29
Sgt. Todd Leach, Metro Police - Hermitage Sector
Matt Blakeney, Tennessee Department of Environment and

Conservation, Long Hunter State Park
Brian James, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Jim Short, Elm Hill Marina
Dr. John L. Link, Private Citizen
Margo Farnsworth, Cumberland River Compact
Chad Whittenburg, Tennessee Wildlife Federation
Jim Schroeder, Tennessee Trails Association

10.04 – Stakeholder Meetings

Stakeholder meetings were held in March, 2005 and March, 2006 to address progress made towards MP update. Additional work was necessary to gather field information pertaining to Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Outgrant Utility Corridors, and also to complete update of J. Percy Priest OMP I and II to use as supporting documentation for MP update. Periodic contact with various stakeholders was also necessary to keep them abreast of progress towards completion of MP update.

10.05 - Groove Workspace

In addition to Microsoft Word documents, a Groove workspace was developed to update information to those individuals who possessed Groove licenses within the Nashville District. Once the document is complete, information will be posted on Groove workspace for future use and review.

10.06 – J. Percy Priest Website

A complete version of the J. Percy Priest Project Master Plan is located on the J. Percy Priest Website, and can be found at http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/op/jpp/rec/.

10.07 – Partnering Efforts.

Partnering efforts are essential in providing quality recreational opportunities that co-exist with project purposes and objectives. The Natural Resources Management Staff at J. Percy Priest has maintained a long-standing and vibrant relationship with a number of Federal, State, local, and community organizations that further the aims and benefit the public use and enjoyment at J. Percy Priest. Provided is a brief description of project efforts with respect to partnering opportunities along with a number of examples where successful relationships have been

maintained. Annual shareholder summit meetings also provide opportunities to foster these relationships and provide new opportunities at J. Percy Priest.

10.08 - Long Hunter State Park.

Partnering efforts with Long Hunter State Park have evolved to provide quality recreational opportunities to visitors consistent with facilities development plans. A recently renewed fifty-year lease with Tennessee Division of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) will assure this area provides recreational opportunities well into the 21st century. Partnering opportunities such as development of a designated mountain bike trail from Bryant Grove to Jones Mill Recreation Area, environmental education camps, and reciprocal agreements for the management of important cedar glades located around J. Percy Priest has strengthened the relationship with TDEC.

Stones River Bladderpod

10.09 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

An important component in providing protection for federally listed endangered and threatened species located on J. Percy Priest has been to foster our partnering opportunities with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Corps of Engineers entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with USFWS that allows for periodic monitoring of the Stones River Bladderpod (*Lesquerella stonensis*), a globally-endangered plant species found only in the Stones River Basin. The Corps of Engineers, in close coordination with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, has adjusted wildlife management area work schedules to provide maximum benefit to promote the Stones River Bladderpod.

10.10 - Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), long considered one of our most valuable partners, continues to provide invaluable water safety and boating enforcement services at J. Percy Priest. The Corps of Engineers has had the opportunity to enter into a number of agreements with TWRA, such as enhanced bank fishing areas at Vivrett Creek and Stewart Creek, assisting with project Environmental Awareness Day, and other outdoor recreational endeavors. In addition to lands licensed to TWRA for wildlife management, the Corps also maintains a long-term outgrant with TWRA to manage 13 wildlife management compartments located on J. Percy Priest that encompass over 10,896 acres of public lands for wildlife management purposes. Public lands maintained by TWRA within Unit I and II at J. Percy Priest provides quality public hunting opportunities for large and small game species as well as waterfowl hunting. The TWRA Fisheries Division also maintains facilities at J. Percy Priest and has been very active in providing quality fisheries improvements at the lake.

J. Percy Priest – Tailwater Left Bank – TWRA Trout Stocking Program

10.11 - Girl Scouts of America

Partnering opportunities with local Girl Scouts has help to foster the importance of taking care of the environment and has allowed for a number of hand-on activities. Local Girl Scout troops have participated in annual shoreline cleanups, primitive campsite cleanups, and other activities involving use of public lands at J. Percy Priest. Project rangers have also been involved with local troop activities

by attending local environmental education camps and providing water safety presentations and information.

10.12 - Boy Scouts of America

Natural Resources management personnel have assisted local Boy Scout troops in a number of activities at J. Percy Priest Lake. Various Boy Scout and Cub Scout groups participate in annual Shoreline Cleanup activities. The project has also benefited greatly from a number of Eagle Scout projects around J. Percy Priest. Project rangers have also been involved with local troop activities by attending local environmental education camps, and providing water safety presentations and information. Various maintenance projects have also been performed by local Boy Scout troops. They have been provided camping opportunities at selected recreation areas for their services.

Bulletin Board Installation
Eagle Scout Project

10.13 - International Mountain Bike Association

The International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) has been helpful in assisting with various projects at J. Percy Priest. A redesign of existing mountain bike trails at Hamilton Creek will provide a top-rated mountain bike experience for mountain biking enthusiasts. Long Hunter State Park has recently constructed a new mountain bike trail at Bryant Grove that will link with Jones Mill Recreation Area. Elements of the IMBA were instrumental in assisting with design and construction of the 18-mile trail.

10.14 - Tennessee Equestrian Association

The Tennessee Equestrian Association (TEA) has a long-standing relationship with the Corps of Engineers at J. Percy Priest. The TEA was helpful in assisting with design and construction of the Twin Forks Equestrian Trail on J. Percy Priest, and provides over 20 miles of riding trails along the East and West Forks of the Stones River. Mitigation requested for recent roadway and bridge work activities around U.S. Highway 231 allowed for improvements to trail access at Walter Hill Dam.

10.15 - Necedah Bow Hunters

The Necedah Bow Hunters is an organization that supports archery hunting and the sport of archery. Facilities at Poole Knobs Recreation Area support archery targets, an archery range, and picnic shelter for their activities. The Necedah Bow Hunters support hunter education activities for members to further education aims of TWRA.

10.16 - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

The U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA), Flotilla 11-04 is of great assistance with respect to boating activities on J. Percy Priest Lake. USCGA members perform courtesy vessel inspections, provide water safety demonstrations and literature, and serve as the eyes and ears of the boating public to improve water safety objectives at J. Percy Priest.

National Wild Turkey Federation – Wild Turkey Release at J. Percy Priest

10.17 – The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been active recently in providing protection for important cave habitat in Tennessee to support threatened and endangered species. A recent discovery of a cave system along Spring Creek has provided important research potential for endangered Indiana Bats (*Myotis sodalis)* which roost in the cave. Assistance from TNC has been provided to monitor the Indiana bat populations that use Patton cave. Additional information regarding TNC can be obtained at http://www.nature.org/.

10.18 - Tennessee Wildlife Federation

The Tennessee Wildlife Federation (TWF - previously called Tennessee Conservation League) has a primary mission to champion the conservation and sound management of Tennessee's wildlife and natural resources for current and future generations through stewardship, advocacy, and education. TWF assistance has been provided by representatives of TWF by providing representation on the Master Plan Interdisciplinary Review Team, and also serving as advocates for hunting and fishing interests at J. Percy Priest. Additional information regarding TWF can be found at http://www.tnwf.org.

10.19 - Tennessee Trails Association

The Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) has been active for a number of years at J. Percy Priest, and has provided trail planning assistance for such endeavors as the Twin Forks Equestrian Trail, Long Hunter State Park trails, and other existing project trails. Recent efforts have been made to gain assistance from TTA during the planning phases of Master Plan Update, and they have provided valuable assistance in planning greenway trail corridors and describing and establishing various greenway trail levels at J. Percy Priest. Additional information regarding the TTA can be found at http://www.tennesseetrails.org/.

10.20 - Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

The Natural Resources Management staff at J. Percy Priest maintains a healthy relationship with the Tennessee

Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Frequent contacts with elements within TDEC such as Division of Solid Waste, Water Pollution Control, Underground Storage Tanks, Air Pollution Control, Solid and Hazardous Waste Management, and others help to improve overall environmental quality at the project. TDEC maintains a Nashville Field Office, and additional information can be found at http://www.state.tn.us/environment/efo/nashville.shtml.

10.21 - Fishing Organizations and Clubs

There are a number of active fishing clubs and organizations that participate in education of the public to further water safety and environmental education aims. Such national organizations as B.A.S.S., Bassin' Gals, and others provide for quality recreational experiences. Local fishing clubs and organizations such as The Percy Priest Sport Fishing Club and the Percy Priest Striper Club provide their members with an opportunity to participate in educating the public in safe and responsible use of natural resources at J. Percy Priest Lake. An excellent working relationship has also been forged with Bass Pro Shops to further outdoor education at events such as annual Environmental Education Day, and also to participate in BPS events such as Spring Fishing and Outdoor Classic Days.

10.22 - Hunting Organizations and Clubs

The Corps of Engineers Natural Resources staff has also worked closely with various hunting organizations to improve the quality of outdoor experiences for hunters by providing facilities and support to enhance hunting opportunities. Such organizations as Quail Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, and the National Wild Turkey Federation have assisted in education and improving hunting opportunities for their respective sports.

11.01 – Project Trails and Impact Levels

A number of existing trails are currently located on public lands at J. Percy Priest and provide a wide array of recreational opportunities for visitors.

An evaluation of existing and proposed project trails have been provided that describes the level of impacts considered for project greenway trails. There are three established impact levels for project trails as follows:

Level I Trail –
High impact
Hard-surfaced (such as asphalt)
Links to other trails
Multi-use trail
Trail width >=10’
Heavy use

Level II Trail –
Moderate impact
Modified-surfaced (such as gravel)
Links to other trails
Multi-use trail
Trail width 6-10’
Significant use

Level III Trail –
Low impact
Natural-surfaced
Links to other trails
Specific trail user(s)
Trail width < 6’
Light use

Associated clearing of vegetation necessary for trail construction will also be considered, and is addressed in Section 11.06, Criteria for Greenway Trail Construction.

General impact levels are provided to rate existing and proposed trails at J. Percy Priest and are noted after each trail described. Future trails or greenway requests that are considered will be given similar impact level classification. Anomalies within an established or proposed trail (such as a narrow boardwalk within a Level I trail) will be considered to be within the higher trail level classification. When trail requests do not fit clearly

within one of the described classifications, the Resource Manager will determine the appropriate impact level classification.

11.02 - Trails Managed by the Corps of Engineers

- Twin Forks Equestrian Trail (II) – in addition to equestrian users, hikers use the 18 mile trail that runs between the West and East Forks of the Stones River along the shoreline from Walter Hill Dam to Nices Mill Access Area.

- Three Hickories Trail (III) – 1.6 mile nature trail is located in a wooded area at Cook Recreation Area, and provides opportunities for visitors to enjoy nature studies and features an accompanying amphitheater for group outings and interpretive uses.

- Anderson Road Fitness Trail (I) – fitness trail is a paved 1.2 mile trail and winds through a cedar glade area beside the lake. Lake vistas and numerous lake access points make this a popular trail with local residents.

11.03 - Trails Managed by Other Agencies

- Long Hunter State Park – there are several existing trails within Long Hunter State Park that serve various uses. The Lake Trail (I) around Couchville Lake is hard surfaced, barrier free, and is a self-guided nature trail. The Nature Loop Trail (II) and Inland Trail (III) located at the Couchville Area, and the Point Trail (II) at Bryant Grove, are popular short walks. The four-mile long Bryant Grove Trail (II) connects Bryant Grove to Couchville. The Deer Trail (II) is one mile long and is located behind the Visitor Center. At the Bakers Grove Primitive Area, there is a four mile Day Loop Trail (III) and the six mile one-way Volunteer Trail (III).

- Hamilton Creek Mountain Bike Trail - mountain bikers have 8.5 miles of trail to ride in this area managed and maintained by Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation. The six mile Pinnacle Trail (II) is rated “hard-intermediate to expert rider”, and the 2.5 mile Lakeside Trail (II) is rated “hard-beginner to intermediate rider”.

- Poole Knobs Archery Trail (II) – archery trail managed by Necedah Bow Hunters is 0.3 mile long and is designed with targets in the woods for archery practice. There is a small shelter and some archery targets at the entrance to the trail.

- Stones River Greenway (I) – Stones River Greenway trailhead is located below J. Percy Priest Dam within the Tailwater Left Bank Recreation Area, and provides for a wide variety of uses. The trail currently extends to Lebanon Road for approximately three miles, with plans to eventually link with other completed sections. Efforts are underway to link Stones River Greenway trail with Shelby Bottom Greenway trail that will provide access to downtown Nashville. The Stones River Greenway trail is managed and maintained by Metropolitan Nashville Parks and Recreation.

- Smyrna Greenway (I) – the Smyrna Greenway trailhead is located within Sharp Springs Park, and traverses approximately four miles along Weakley Road to Stewart Creek Recreation Area. The Smyrna Greenway is managed and maintained by Smyrna Parks and Recreation.

11.04 – Project Greenways

Greenways are defined as linear parks that may or may not include trails which connect neighborhoods to shopping areas, offices, recreation facilities and other points of interest. They are an important quality of life asset for any community. Greenway trails offer natural open space for retreat and renewal as well as barrier-free access to recreational opportunities for all citizens.

In the same respect, greenway trails can adversely impact project lands. Trails can fragment large parcels of public land, negatively affect other project authorized uses, reduce available wildlife habitat and interrupt natural wildlife migration and feeding patterns, and create potential for erosion and unintentional negative cumulative impacts to public property.

A number of greenway trails have been constructed or are being considered for construction around J. Percy Priest. It is important that careful consideration be given to the placement and level of impact of greenway trails in order

to minimize impacts to other existing recreational opportunities and to natural resources and the environment.

Existing project greenways are described below. The concept of establishing a greenway trail corridor through J. Percy Priest is provided to provide a continuous route through the project. Establishment of a greenway trail corridor will take advantage of existing and proposed trails, and link individual trail sections to provide one continuous trail. Trail impact levels will vary within trail corridor from Level I at highly used sections to Level III at more remote areas. Existing greenway trails on J. Percy Priest that will be considered for greenway corridors are as follows:

- Stones River Greenway Trail (I) – Tailwater Left Bank trailhead to Lebanon Road (3 miles)

- Alta Lake Greenway Connector Trail (I) – Bell Road/Dodson Chapel Road (1.2 miles)

- Smyrna Greenway Trail (I) – Sam Ridley Parkway to Stewart Creek (4 miles)

- Long Hunter State Park – Couchville Trail (Level I), Bryant Grove Trail (Level II), Volunteer Trail (Level II), Jones Mill Trail (Level II)

Stones River Greenway Trail –
Boardwalk below River Chase Subdivision

11.05 - Proposed Greenway Trails

- LaVergne Greenway Trail – The LaVergne Greenway Trail would link with an existing portion of a Phase I trail off project lands along Parthenon Blvd and run along Parthenon Blvd extension to Stones River Road, using an existing portion of abandoned Stones River Road to Hurricane Creek Recreation area (would tie into area along entrance roadway with trailhead and parking area) – considered Level I

- North Murfreesboro Greenway Trail – Phase I to link Walter Hill Recreation Area to Coleman Farm (approximately 3 miles, run along/below Twin Forks Horse Trail) – considered Level I

- Smyrna Greenway Trail – link existing greenway at Stewart Creek across Weakley Road bridge and link up with Long Hunter State Park at Jones Mill Recreation Area (necessary to cross at Fate Sanders Barrens State Natural Heritage Area)- considered Level II

- Long Hunter State Park – (existing and proposed) use portions of existing trails such as Bakers Grove, Bryant Grove, and Couchville to access – Levels I and II, use portion of proposed Jones Mill trail – Level II

11.06 - Criteria for Greenway Trail Evaluation

The following information is required for proper evaluation and consideration for current and future greenway trail proposals at J. Percy Priest:

- Development Plan – five-year all-inclusive plan (need to evaluate entire plan, not individual sections)
- Consider existing uses within the proposed area such as hiking, biking, equestrian use, hunting, fishing, etc. – separate trail uses?
- Determine who will operate and maintain, provide security
- Consider accompanying support facilities be placed **off** project lands/waters
- Apply LRN Mitigation Policy – look first to avoid, then to minimize, and then to mitigate impacts
- Plans – provide CADD drawings (2 sets), GIS mapping information

- Relate property boundary line to proposed greenway trail location
- Trail Specifications – trail width, dimensions, elevations, materials, acreage involved, ancillary features
- Trail clearing limits – clearly defined limits of vegetative clearing necessary, appropriate clearing for various trail uses (such as equestrian trail requiring more overhead clearance)
- Cut/Fill Issues – no net loss in project flood storage capacity
- Letter of No Objection (LNO) – provide LNO from all other existing outgrantees
- Environmental Assessment (EA) – determine level of assessment required, Corps or requestee provides EA if required, address cumulative impacts, land fragmentation, impacts on existing authorized uses, impacts to special or sensitive resources such as cedar glades, wetlands, threatened/endangered species
- Regulatory Issues – wetlands, stream crossings, cut/fill below maximum pool elevation, water diversion
- Cultural/Historic Issues – consider known C/H locations, proposal to address unintentional discovery of C/H features
- Signage – describe signage, kiosks, etc. used along proposed trail
- Liability Insurance – require to post $1 M
- Greenway location – trailhead locations, flood potential, emergency contacts
- Links to existing trails – routing around or thru sensitive areas, consider portions of proposed trails off project lands to minimize impacts, and to improve access, safety, develop spurs from main trails for view shed, overlooks, etc.

11.07 - Impacts to Established Recreational Opportunities

The influx of requests for greenway trails has the potential to adversely impact long-established recreational opportunities at J. Percy Priest. Loss of public hunting lands within lands licensed to TWRA has far-reaching impacts to project uses. Other impacts include adverse impacts to equestrian trail use, and also providing potential access points along public property to ORV activity.

Efforts to address loss of available hunting lands on J. Percy Priest impacted by greenway trail requests will be made by offsetting loss by placing portions of established public recreation areas such as Fall Creek into TWRA wildlife management areas. A request to supplement the Master Plan will be made based on the impacts determined from each approved request. Recreation areas such as Fate Sanders, Lamar Hill, Stewart Creek, and Poole Knobs will also be considered.

11.08 – Project Greenway Trail Corridors

Established greenway trail corridors will enable user to traverse across J. Percy Priest project to link up with other existing and proposed trails. Efforts were made to dedicate a greenway corridor thru project lands that uses established trails, roadway corridors, utility corridors, and other means to minimize impacts to public lands. A map showing preferred greenway corridor routing as well as potential alternative routes is provided in Section 13.08, Plate 6, Project Greenway Corridors.

12.01 – Conclusions and Recommendations.

The current update of the J. Percy Priest Master Plan is provided as a snapshot in time regarding the progress of development of J. Percy Priest Reservoir since it was completed in 1967. This document is meant to update and augment the current Master Plan that was completed in 1986 and also to provide current Geographic Information System technologies with respect to future development of the project.

12.02 - Project Demands.

Developmental pressures and urbanization will continue around J. Percy Priest. As developmental pressures continue, so will be the demands placed on recreational facilities at J. Percy Priest. It is important for Resource Management staff and project shareholders at J. Percy Priest to manage and conserve those natural resources that are provided while providing excellent outdoor recreational opportunities for present and future generations.

The presence of State Route 840 provides easy access to a number of areas around J. Percy Priest, and will likely cause increased pressures as development continues around this major transportation corridor.

12.03 - Land Use Policies.

The Corps of Engineers Environmental Operating Principles is an integral part of current J. Percy Priest Master Plan update and provides impetus with regards to providing additional protective layers regarding development of public lands. Careful consideration shall be given to future requests for use of public lands that follow the guidelines set forth in the Recreation Development Outgrant Policy as well as the Nashville District Mitigation Policy. It will be through efforts by the Resource Management staff at J. Percy Priest to look for ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate for resource impacts created or caused on public property at J. Percy Priest.

12.04 - Shareholder Coordination.

Due to the nature of the wide array of requests received for development adjacent to and along public property, it is necessary to keep close contact with project shareholder

with respect to decisions made regarding use of public lands and waters. Close coordination with Federal, State, and local agencies is important in the decision-making processes. A continued effort will be made to solicit input from project shareholders with respect to future development and use of public lands and waters of J. Percy Priest.

12.05 – Cumulative Impacts.

Cumulative impacts result when the effects of an action are added to, or interact with, other effects in a particular place and within a particular time. Direct impacts, by themselves, may not be individually significant, but when magnified by time and number of impacts, can pose a serious environmental hazard. Cumulative impacts to project resources will be considered when evaluating proposed used of public lands and waters at J. Percy Priest, and shall be an important measuring tool when weighing proposed impacts to project resources.

12.06 – Periodic Update of Project Master Plan.

It is imperative that the Master Plan at J. Percy Priest be reviewed and updated to provide the most current information available to Natural Resource Management personnel. Master Plan updates will allow an opportunity to address any changes in development patterns around the project, improve information provided to project shareholders and the public, and incorporate new technology in the plan.

J. PERCY PRIEST – MASTER PLAN UPDATE
Section 13 – Master Plan Maps

13.01 – Plate 1 - Project Map
- **13.01.1 – Project Lake Map**

13.02 - Plate 2 - Land Allocation Map
- **13.02.1 – Public Use Areas – Lower**
- **13.02.2 – Public Use Areas – Upper**

13.03 - Plate 3 – Land Classification Categories
- **13.03.1 - Project Operational Lands**
- **13.03.2 - Recreational Lands**
- **13.03.3 - Multiple Resource Management Lands (Recreation Low Density, Wildlife Management, Vegetative Mgmt)**
- **TWRA Wildlife Management Area Maps – North, Middle and South**

13.04 - Plate 4 – Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- **13.04.1 - Elsie Quarterman State Natural Heritage Area**
- **13.04.2 - Fate Sanders Barrens State NHA**
- **13.04.3 – Suggs Creek Cedar Glade (Future)**
- **13.04.4 - East Fork Recreation Area – WSG Demo Area**
- **13.04.5 – Stones River Bladderpod – Monitored by USFWS**
- **13.04.6 – Patton Cave – Indiana Gray Bat habitat**
- **13.04.7 – Project Historical Sites**
- **13.04.8 – *Project Cultural Sites***

*** RESTRICTED * Cultural Sites – Not for Public Release**

13.05 - Plate 5 - Roadway Corridors
- **13.05.1 - Project Roadway Corridors – Lower**
- **13.05.2 – Project Roadway Corridors – Middle**
- **13.05.3 – Project Roadway Corridors - Upper**

13.06 - Plate 6 – Project Greenway Corridors
- **13.06.1 – JPP Dam to LHSP**
- **13.06.2 – LHSP to Bryant Grove**
- **13.06.3 – Bryant Grove to Sharp Springs Park**
- **13.06.4 – Sharp Springs Park to SR 840**
- **13.06.5 – SR 840 to Walter Hill Park**
- **13.06.6 – Existing Project Trails – Lower**
- **13.06.7 – Existing Project Trails – Middle**
- **13.06.8 – Existing Project Trails - Upper**

J. PERCY PRIEST – MASTER PLAN UPDATE
Section 13 – Master Plan Maps

<u>13.07 – Plate 7 – Outgrant Utility Corridors *</u>

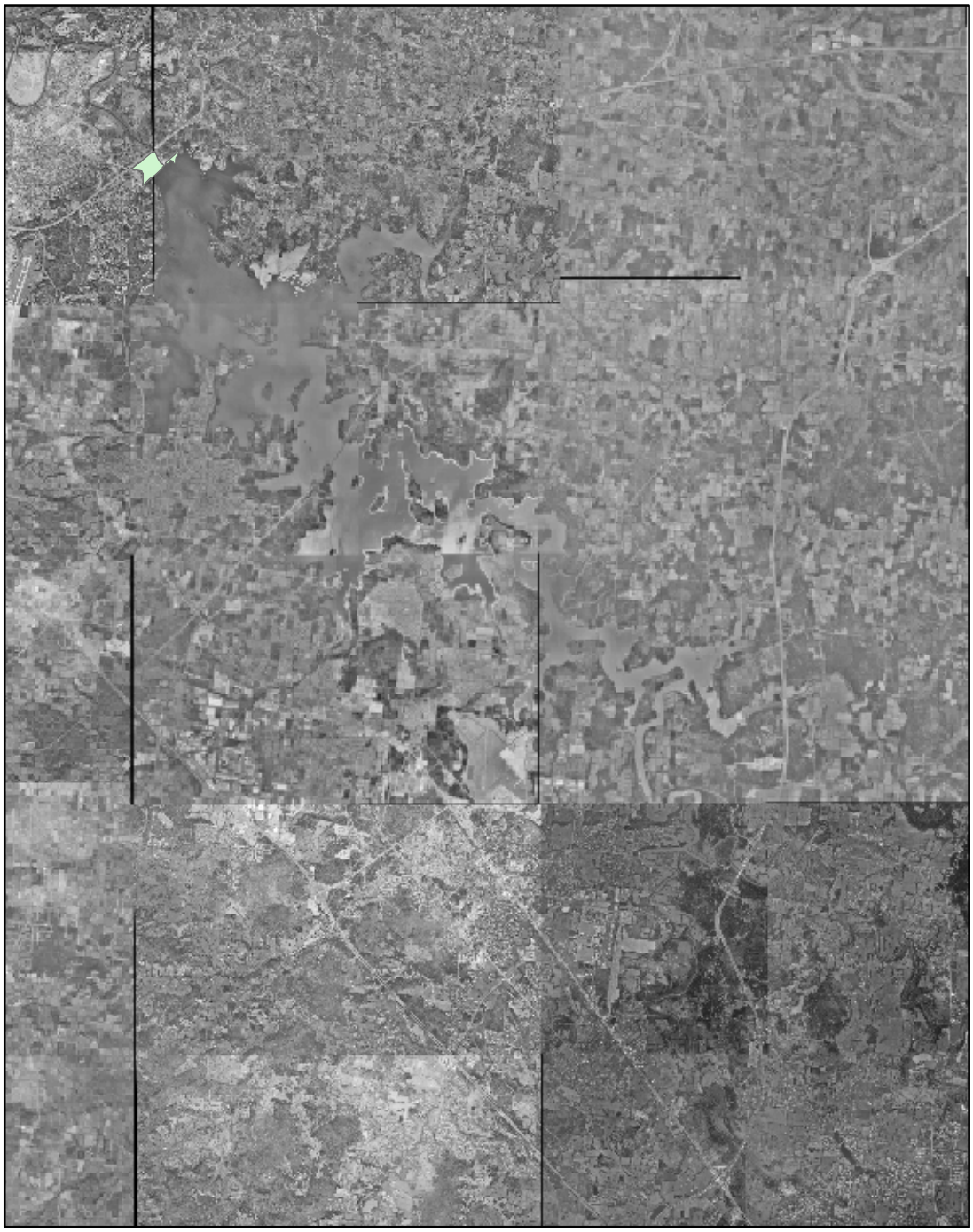
- **13.07.1 - Outgrant Utility Corridors – Lower**
- **13.07.2 – Outgrant Utility Corridors – Middle**
- **13.07.3 – Outgrant Utility Corridors – Upper**

*** All Outgrant Utility Corridors shown with associated buffer areas**

<u>13.08 – Plate 8 – Real Estate Outgrant Request Form</u>

- **Application Requirements for Real Estate Outgrants**

J. Percy Priest Lake
13.01.1 - Project Map



0 2.5 5 10 Miles

J. Percy Priest - Public Use Areas

Public Use Areas

Property Boundary Line

13.02.2 - Public Use Areas
Upper End of Lake

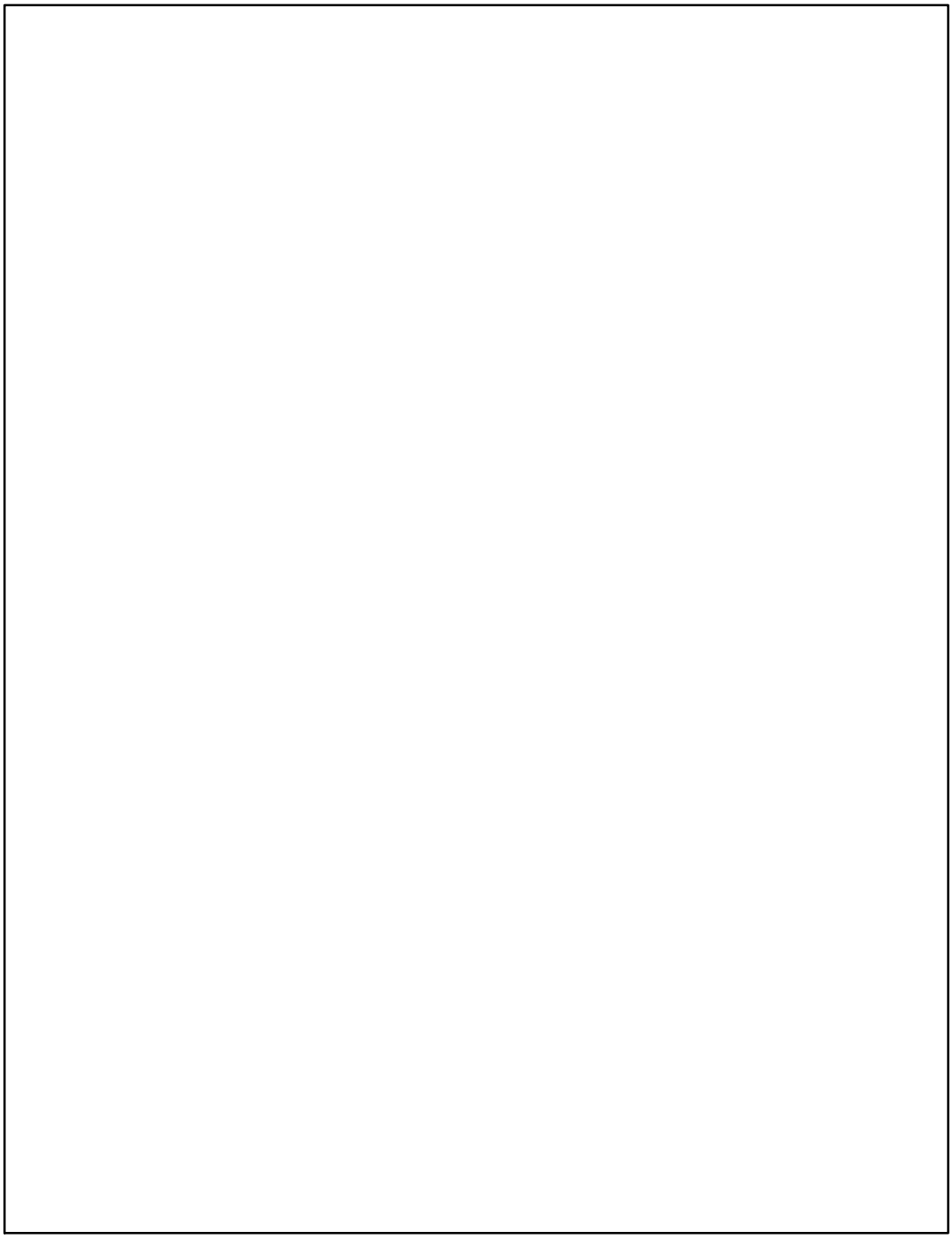
0 1.5 3 6 Miles

J. Percy Priest - Public Use Areas

Public Use Areas

Property Boundary Line

13.02.1 - Public Use Areas
Lower End of Lake



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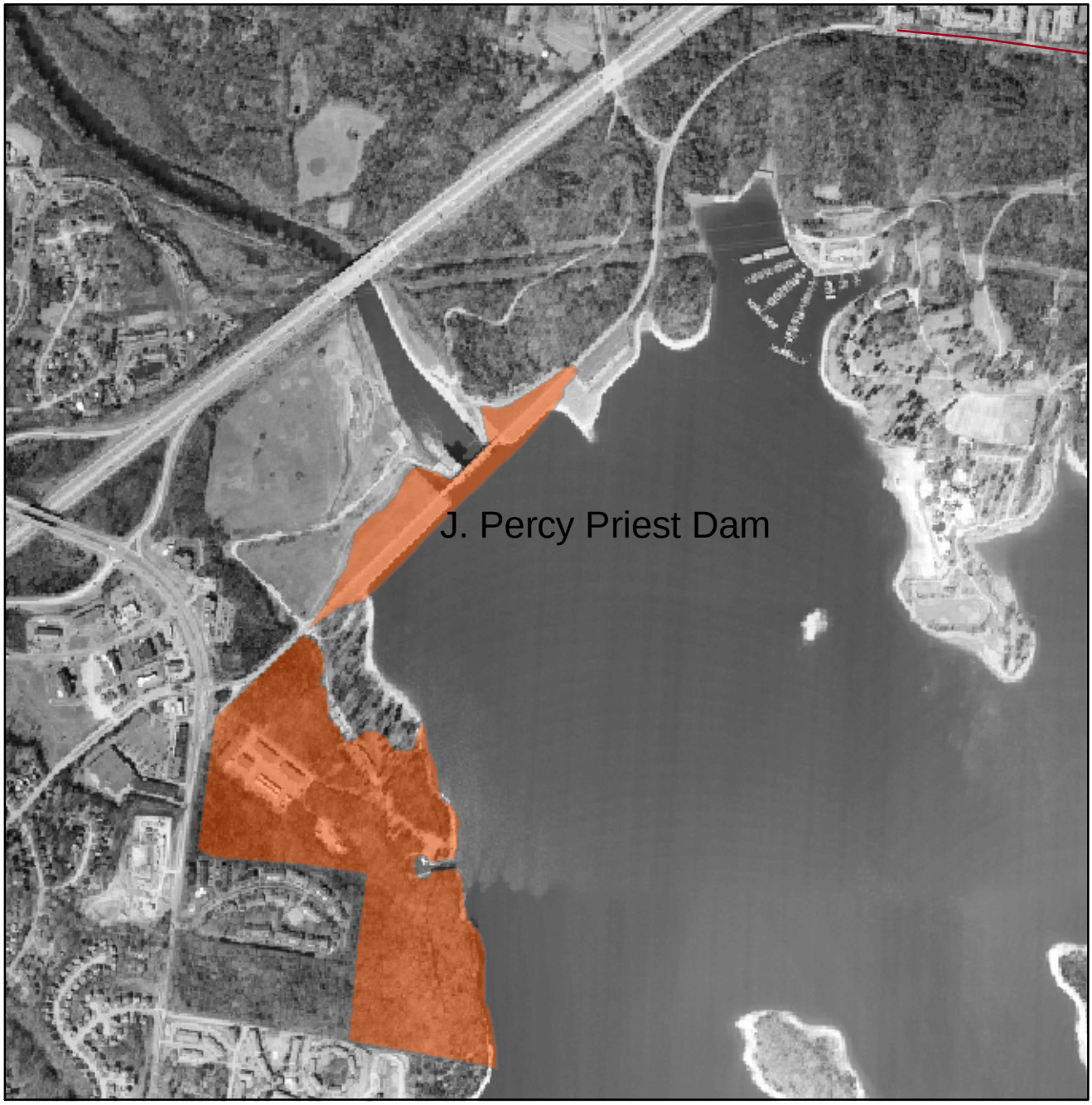
J. Percy Priest - Public Use Areas

Public Use Areas

Property Boundary Line

J. Percy Priest

13.03.1 - Project Operational Lands



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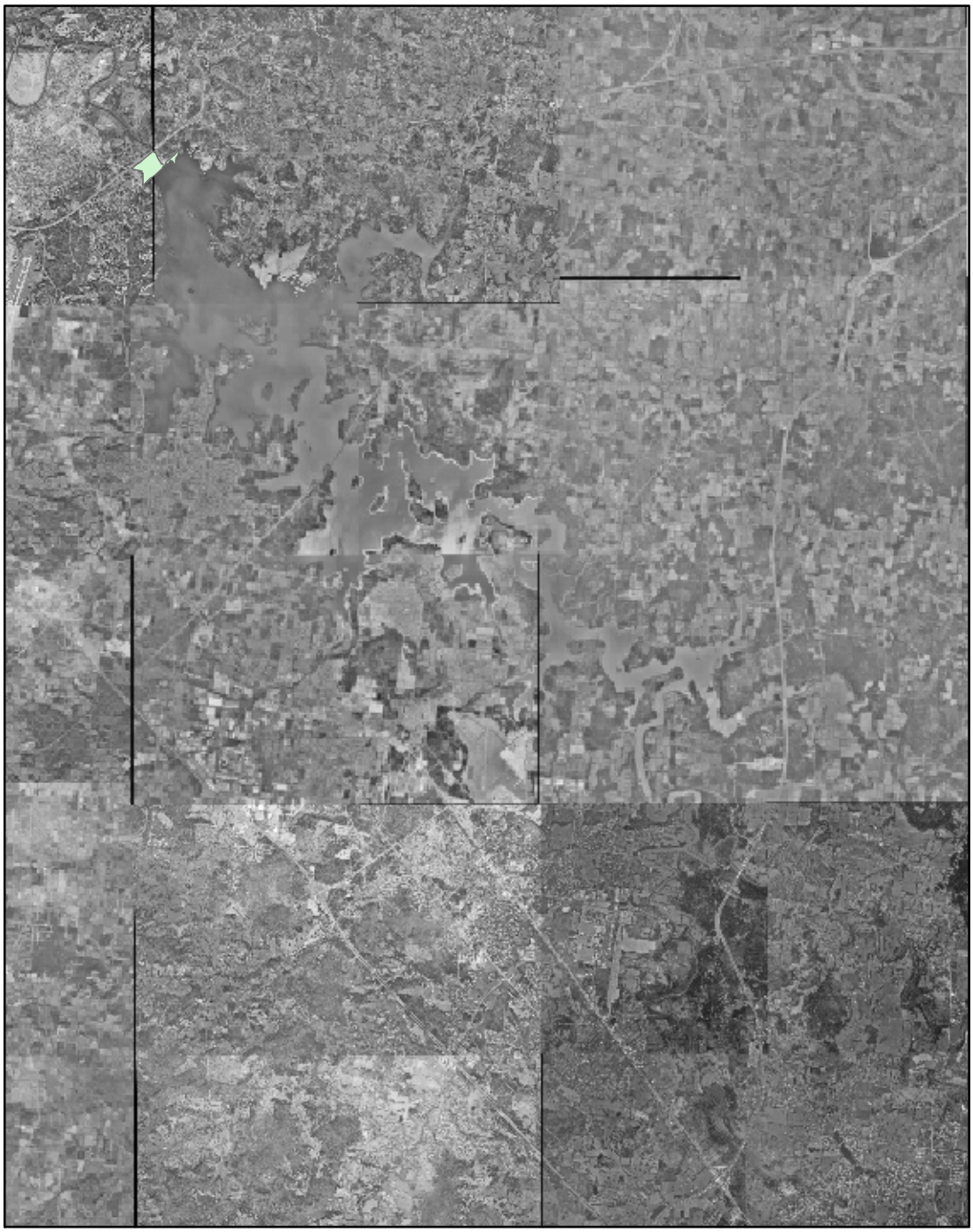
Project Operational Lands - Exclusion Areas

Property Boundary Line

Project Operational Lands - Exclusion Area

Land Classification Categories
13.03.2 - Recreational Lands



0 2.5 5 10 Miles

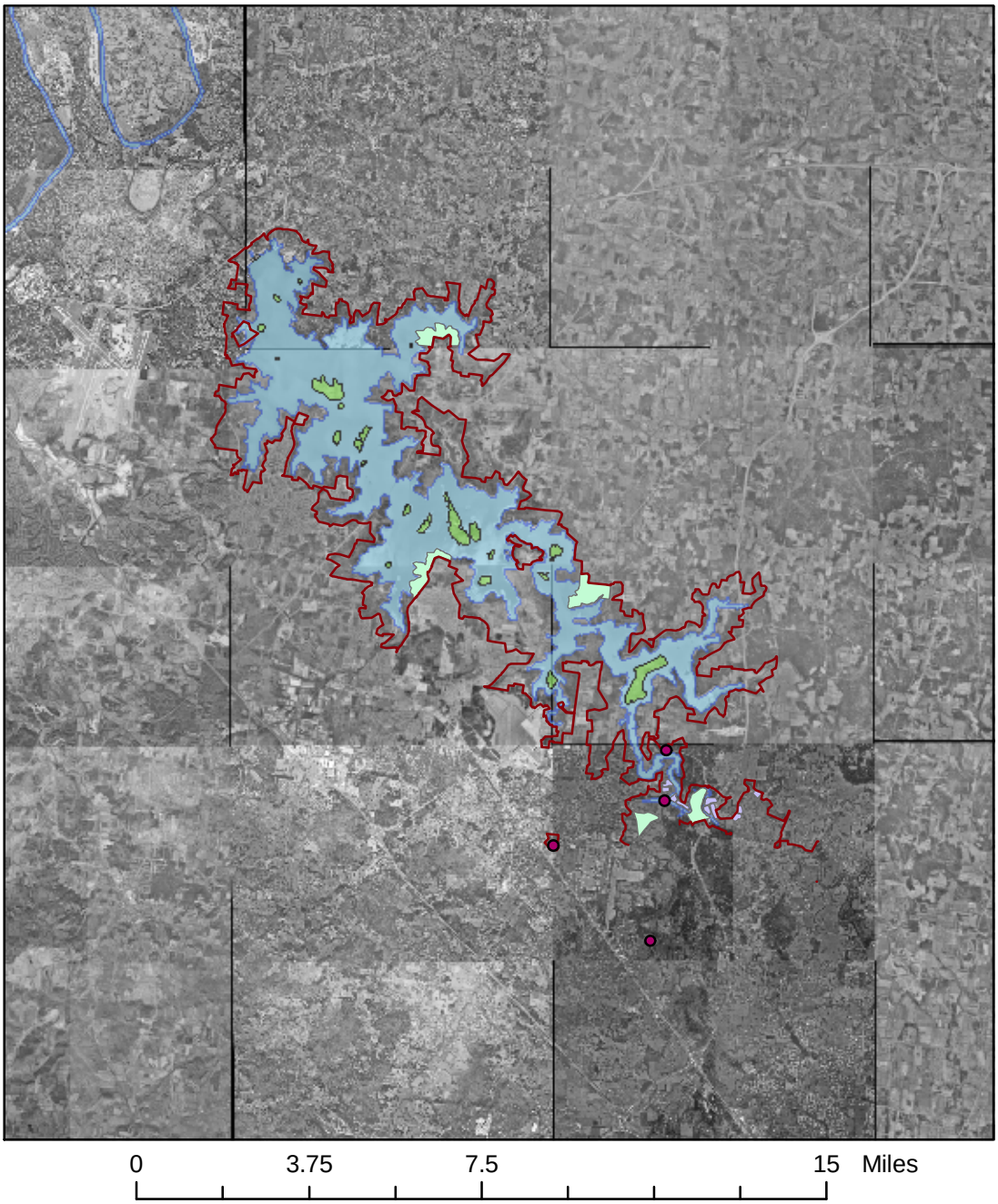
J. Percy Priest - Recreational Lands

Public Use Areas

Property Boundary Line

J. Percy Priest Lake

13.03.3 - Environmentally Sensitive Areas



Historic Sites

Property Boundary Line

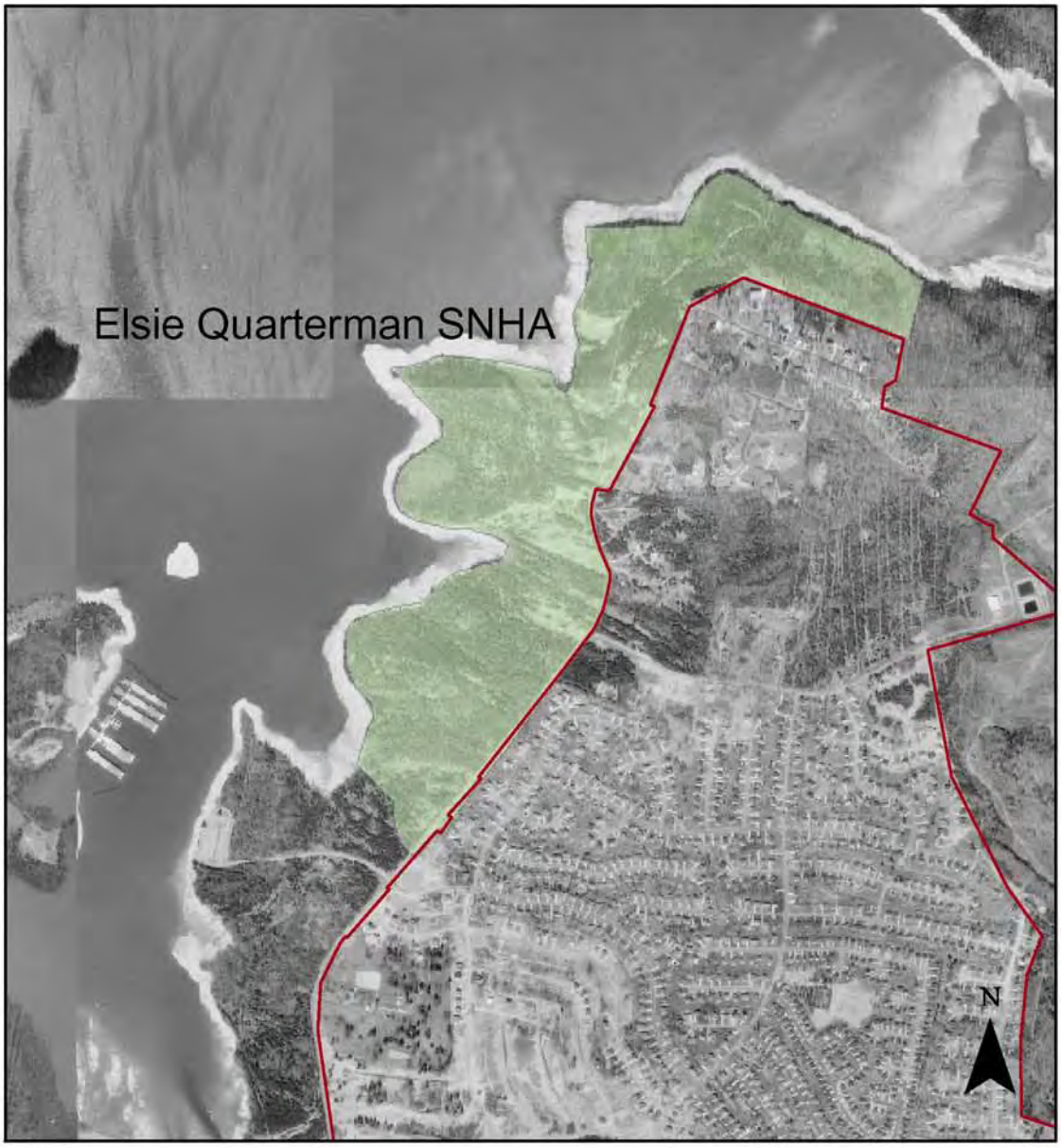
Miscellaneous Features

Stones River Bladderpod

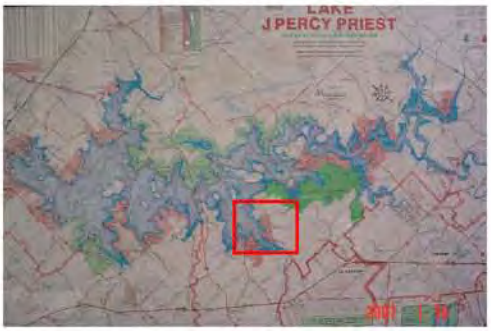
State Natural Heritage Areas

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

13.04.1 - Elsie Quarterman State Natural Heritage Areas



0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles

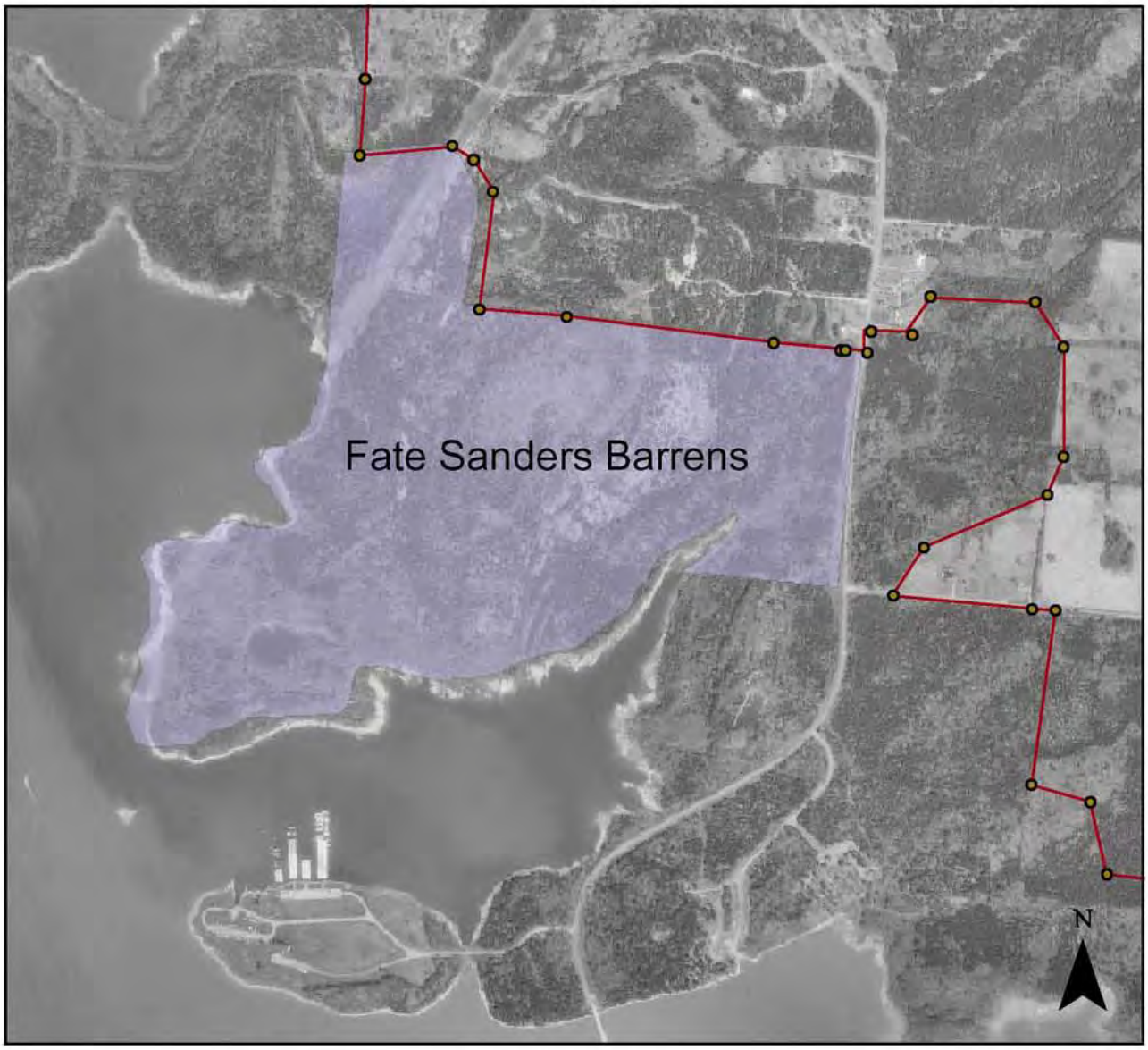


Elsie Quarterman State Natural Heritage Area

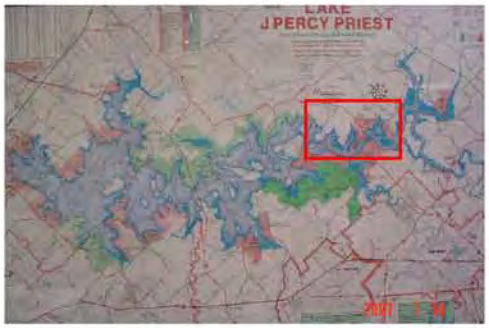
State Natural Heritage Areas

Property Boundary Line

Environmentally Sensitive Areas
13.04.2 - Fate Sanders Barrens State Natural Heritage Area



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

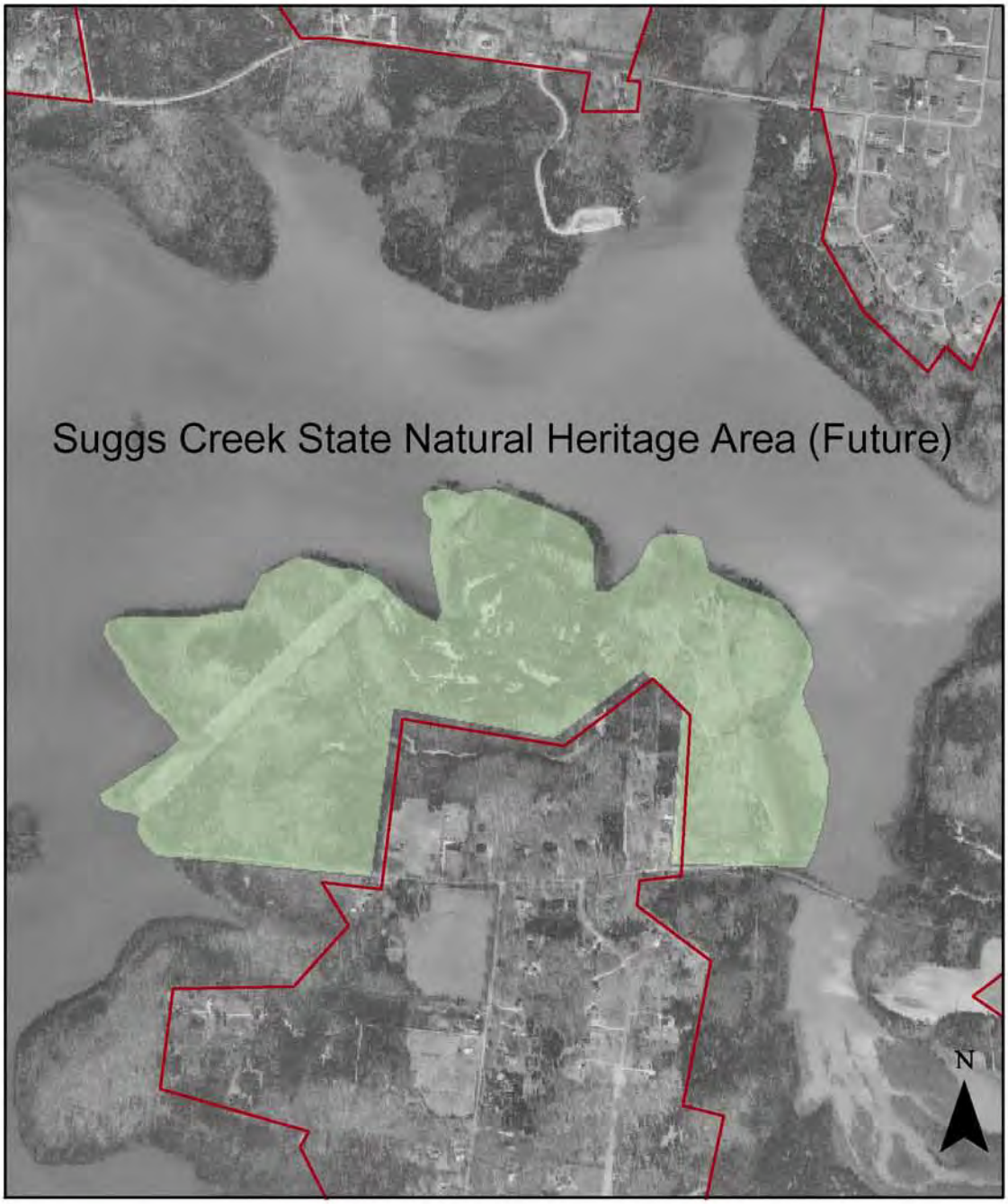


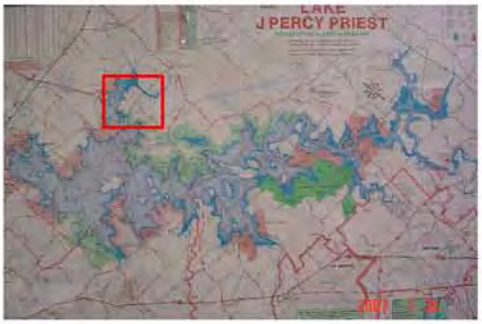
Fate Sanders Barrens

State Natural Heritage Areas

Property Boundary Line

Environmentally Sensitive Areas
13.04.3 - Suggs Creek
State Natural Heritage Area (Future)





0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles

Suggs Creek State Natural Heritage Area (Future)

State Natural Heritage Areas

Property Boundary Line

Environmentally Sensitive Areas 13.04.4 - East Fork Warm Season Grasses Demo Area

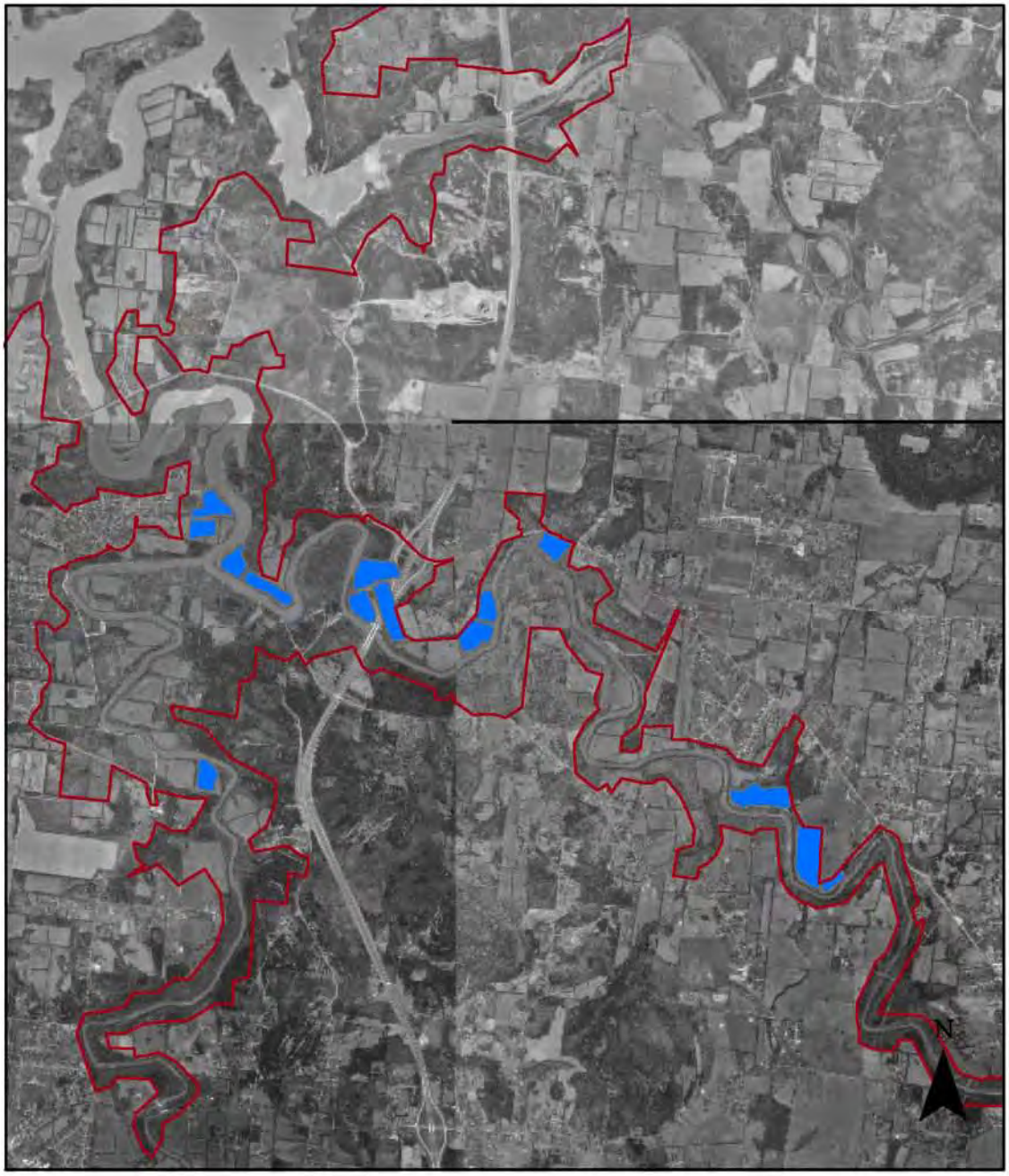
0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Miles

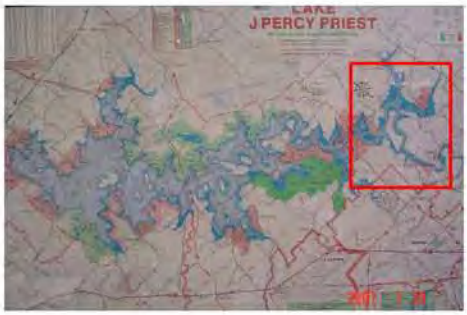
East Fork Recreation Area
Warm Season Grasses - Demo Area

State Natural Heritage Areas

Property Boundary Line

Environmentally Sensitive Areas
13.04.5 - Stones River Bladderpod
Sites Monitored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service





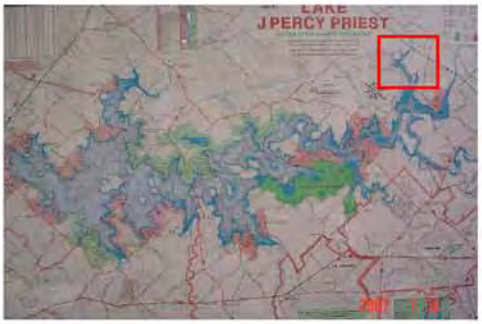
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Stones River Bladderpod Locations Monitored by USFWS

Stones River Bladderpod

Property Boundary Line

Environmentally Sensitive Areas
13.04.6 - Patton Cave
The Nature Conservancy



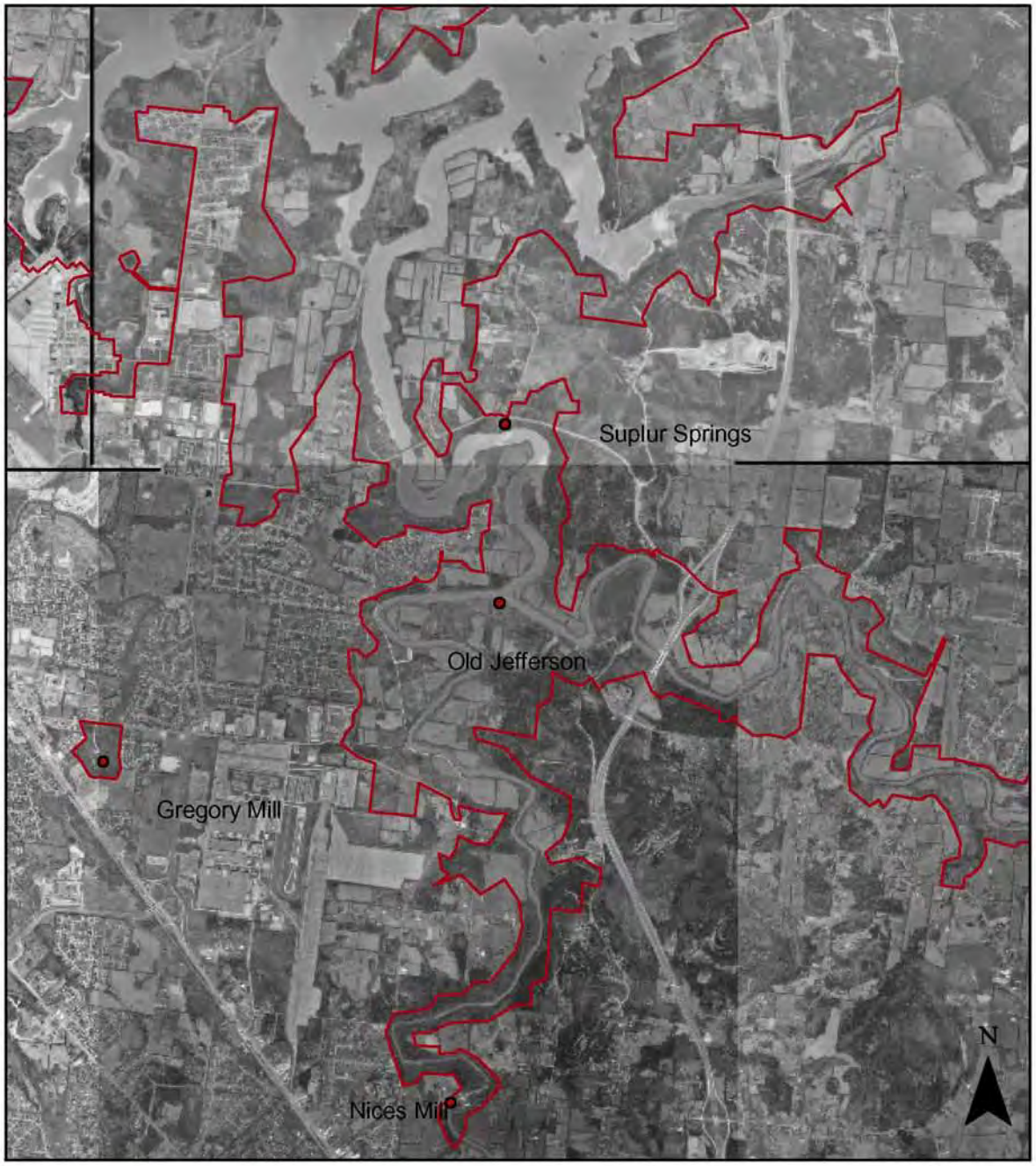
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

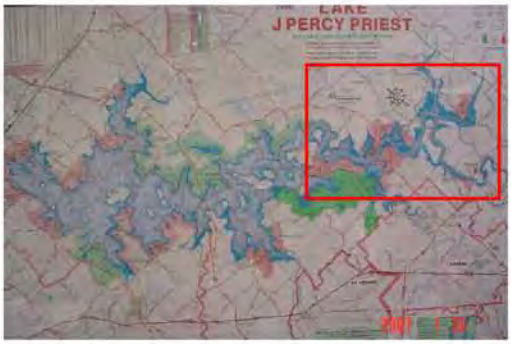
Patton Cave

ESA - Miscellaneous

Property Boundary Line

Environmentally Sensitive Areas
13.04.7 - Project Historical Sites



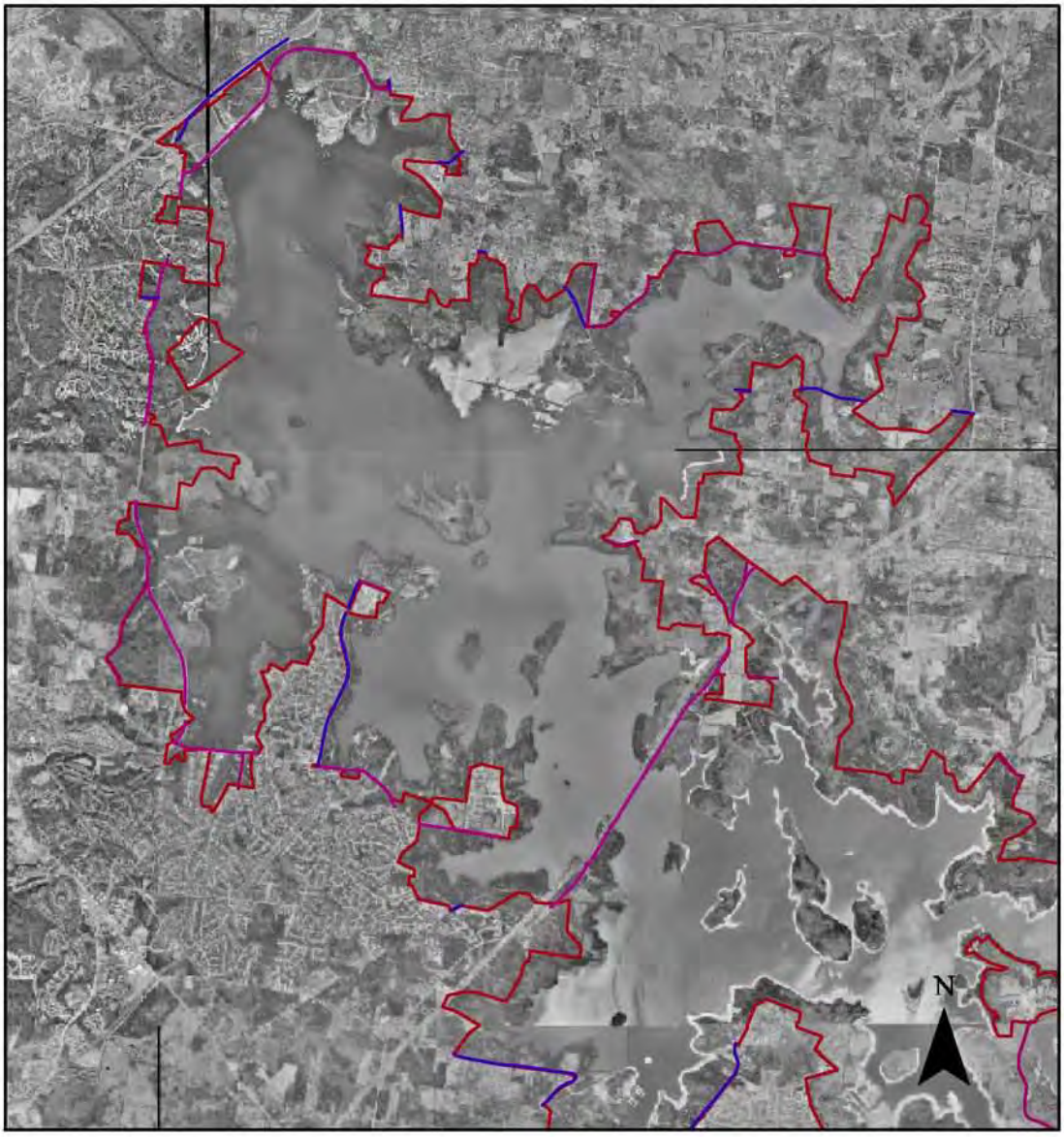


0 0.5 1 2 Miles

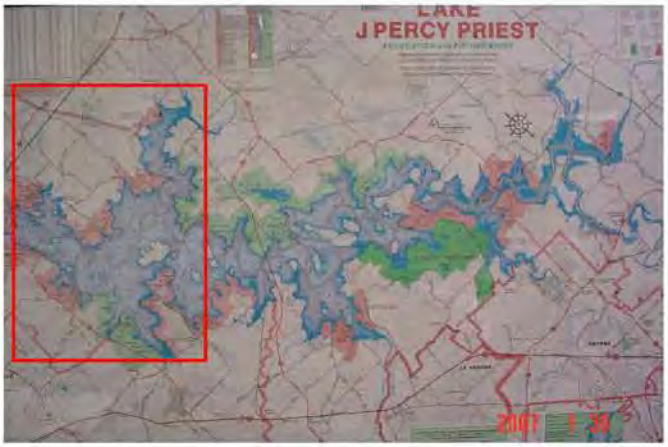
J. Percy Priest Project Historic Sites

- Project Historical Sites
- Property Boundary Line

Project Roadway Corridors
13.05.1 - Project Roadway Corridors - Lower



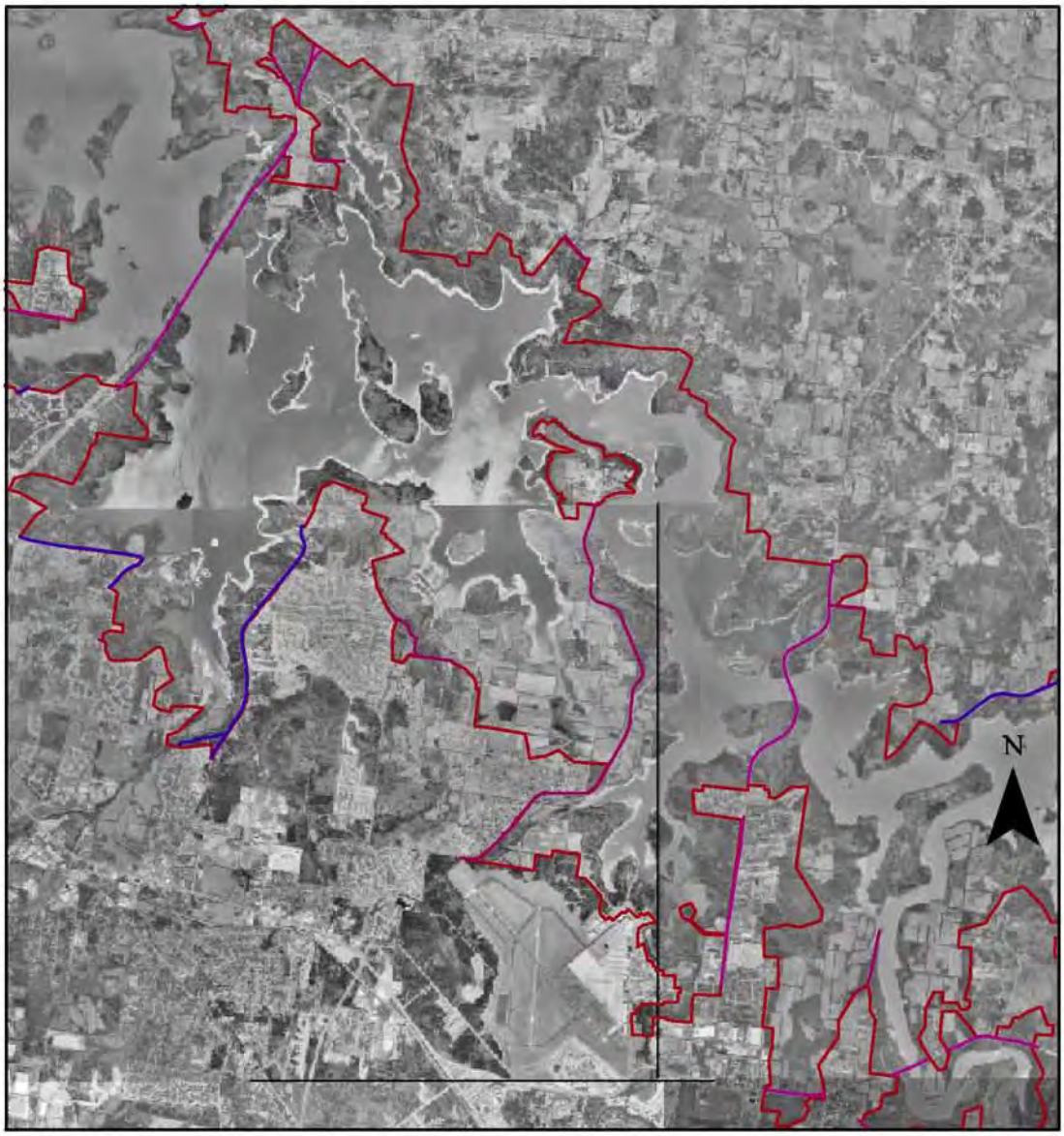
0 1 2 4 Miles



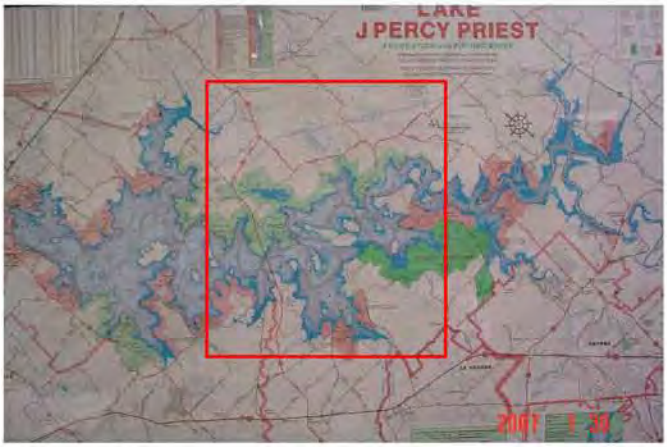
Project Roadway Corridors Lower Project

- Property Boundary Line
- Buffer_of_Utility_Level_I
- Buffer_of_Utility_Level_II
- Buffer_of_Utility_Level_III
- Utility Level I
- Utility Level II
- Utility Level III

Project Roadway Corridors 13.05.2 - Project Roadway Corridors - Middle



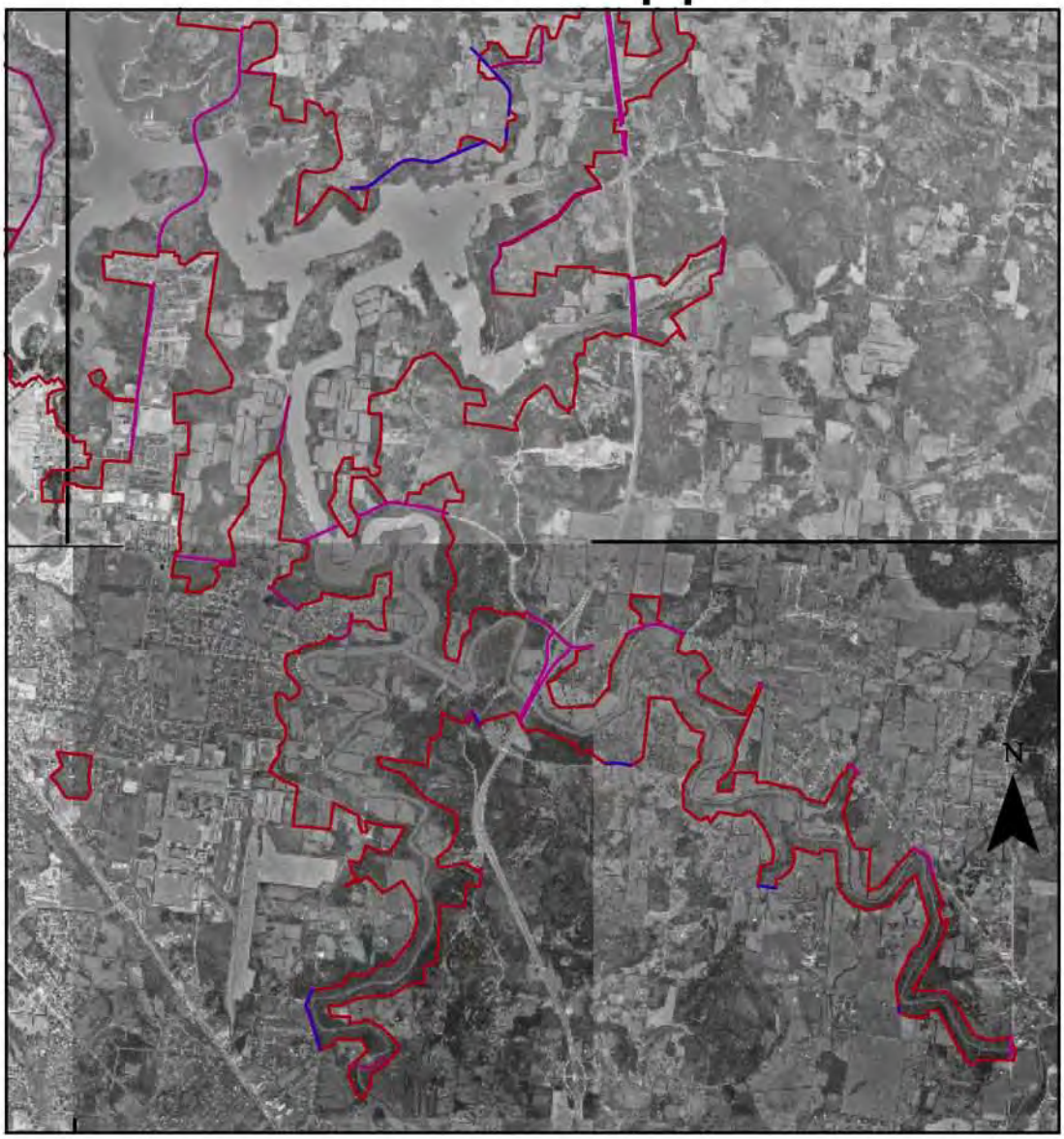
0 1 2 4 Miles



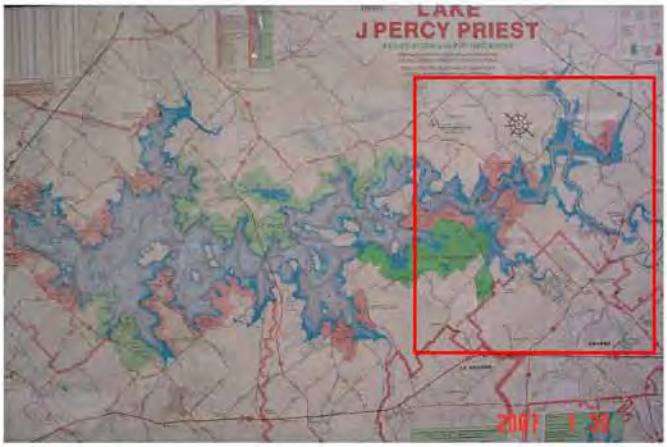
Project Roadway Corridors Middle Project

- Property Boundary Line
- Buffer_of_Utility_Level_I
- Buffer_of_Utility_Level_II
- Buffer_of_Utility_Level_III
- Utility Level I
- Utility Level II
- Utility Level III

Project Roadway Corridors
13.05.3 - Project Roadway Corridors - Upper



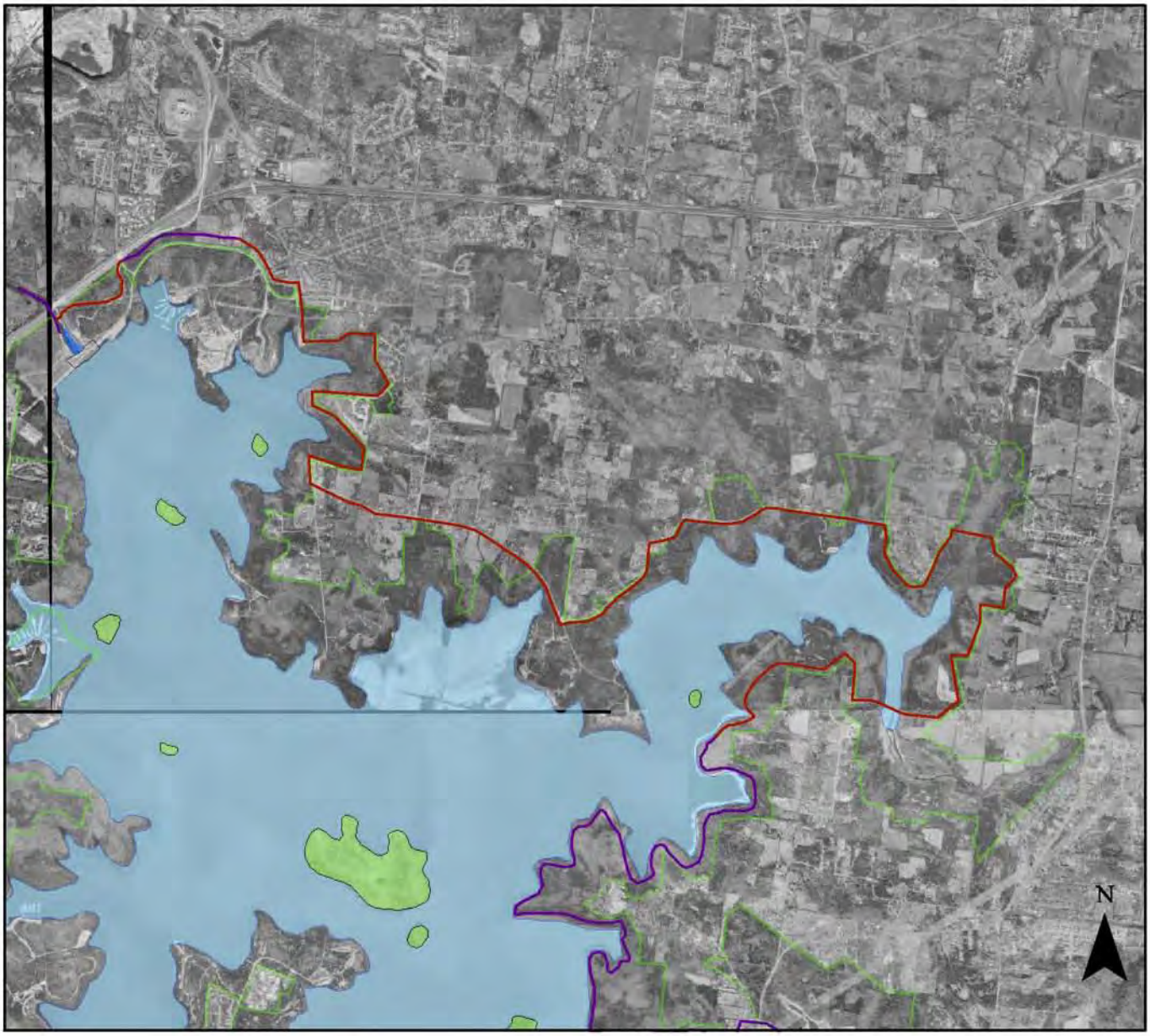
0 1 2 4 Miles



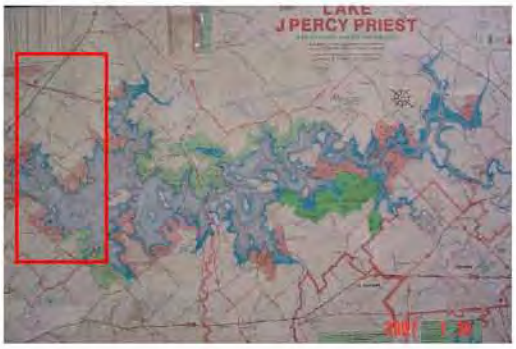
Project Roadway Corridors Upper Project

- Property Boundary Line
- Buffer_of_Utility_Level_I
- Buffer_of_Utility_Level_II
- Buffer_of_Utility_Level_III
- Utility Level I
- Utility Level II
- Utility Level III

Project Greenway Corridors
13.06.1 - JPP/R Dam to Long Hunter SP



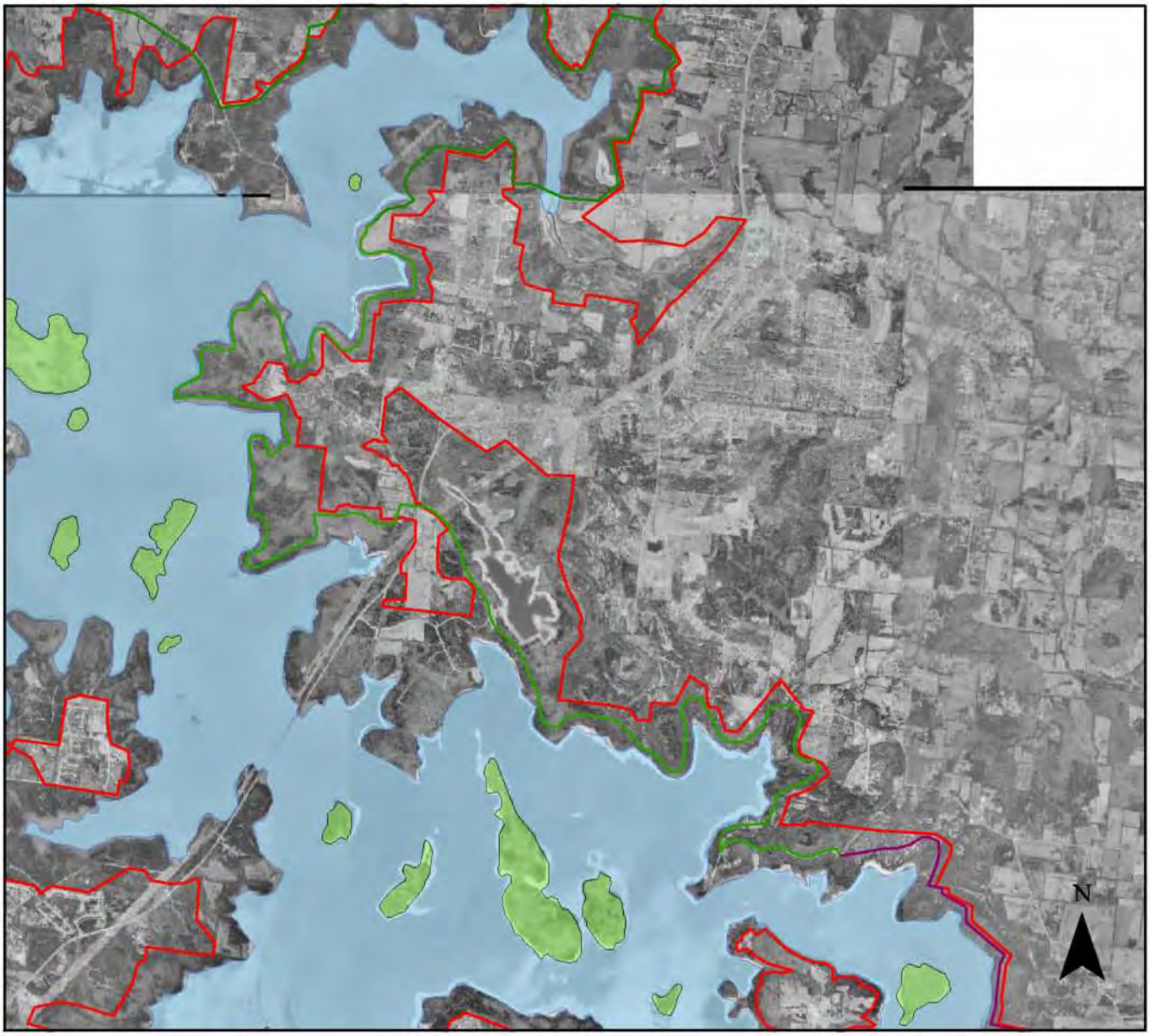
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



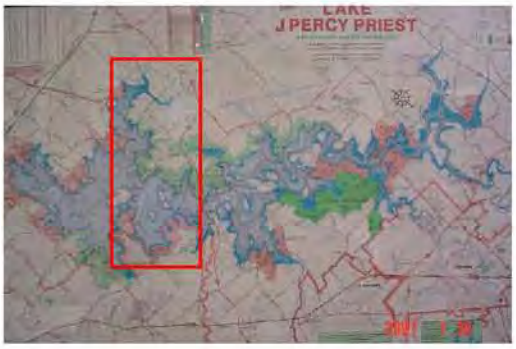
Project Greenway Corridor
JPP/R Dam to Long Hunter SP

- Property Boundary Line
- Existing Greenway Trails
- Future Greenway Trails
- Proposed Greenway Trails

Project Greenway Corridors 13.06.2 - Long Hunter SP to Bryant Grove (LHSP)



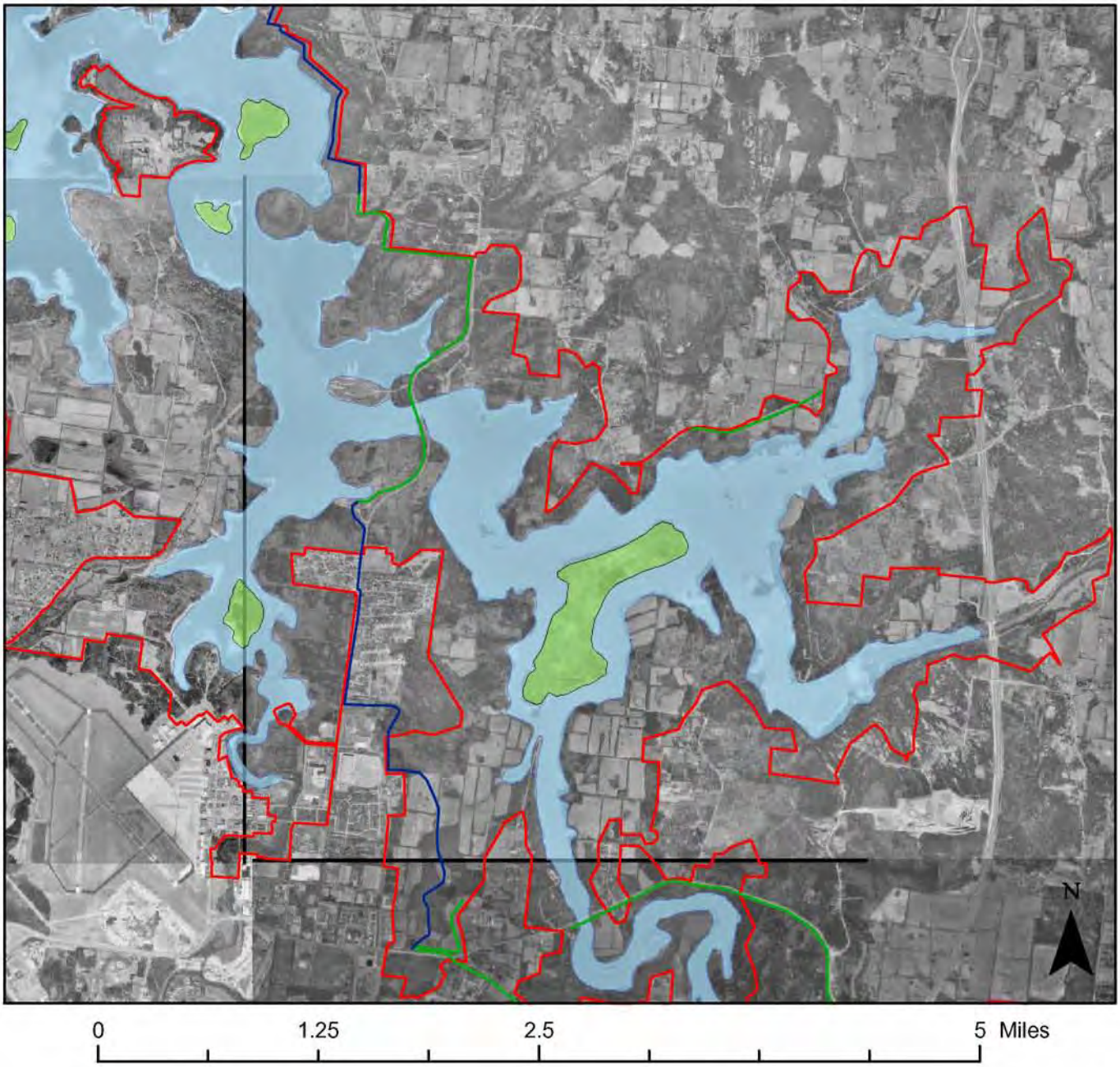
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

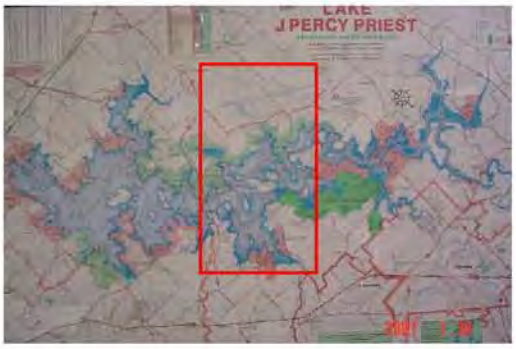


Project Greenway Corridor
Long Hunter SP to Bryant Grove

- Property Boundary Line
- Existing_Trails
- Future_Trails
- Proposed_Trails

Project Greenway Corridors 13.06.3 - Bryant Grove (LHSP) to Sharp Springs Park

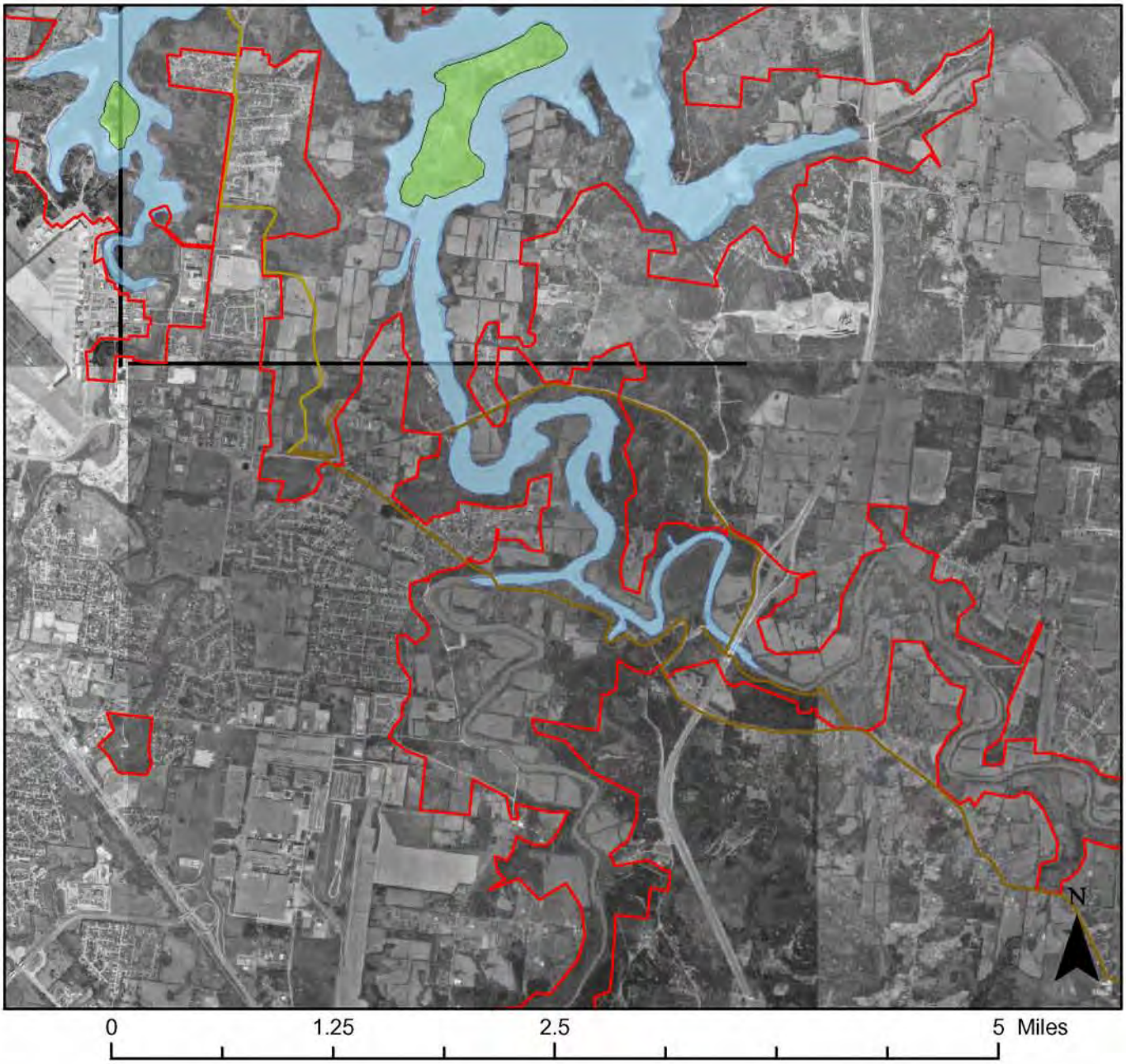


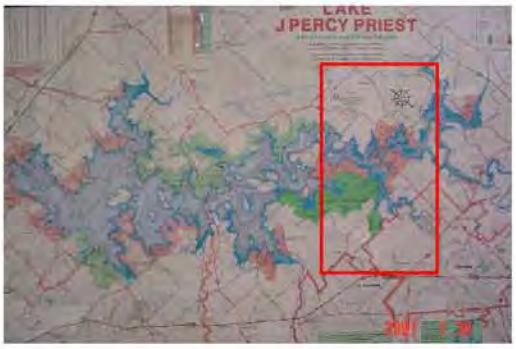


Project Greenway Corridors Bryant Grove (LHSP) to Sharp Springs Park

- Property Boundary Line
- Existing_Trails
- Future_Trails
- Proposed_Trails

Project Greenway Corridors 13.06.4 - Sharp Springs Park to State Route 840

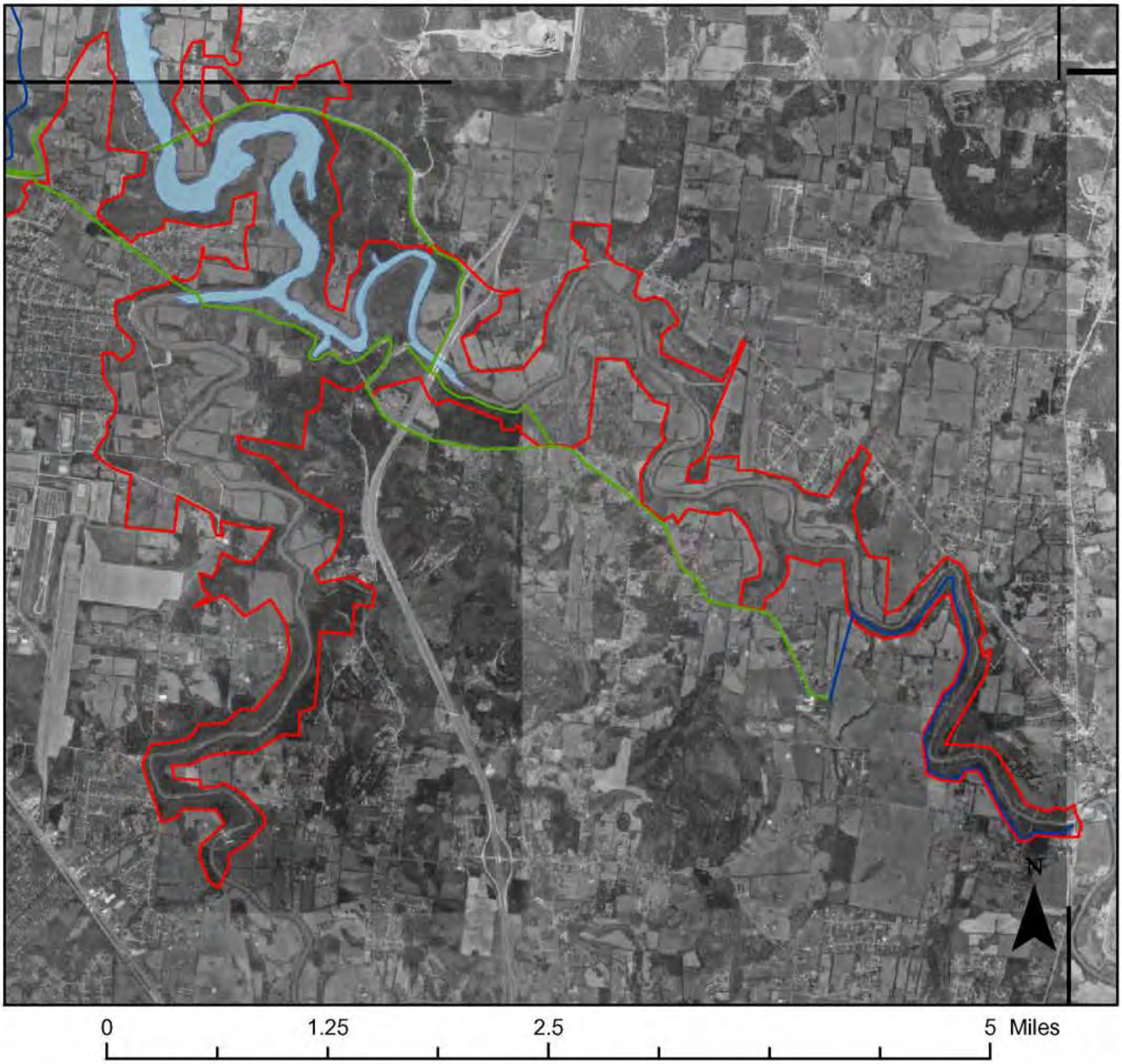


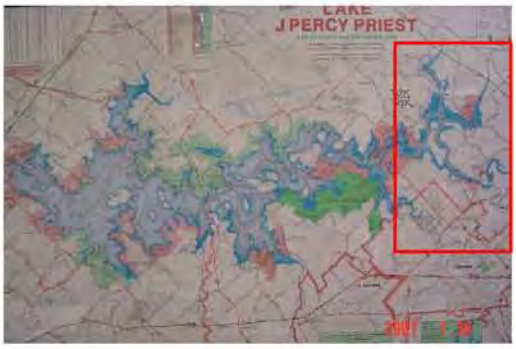


Project Greenway Corridors Sharp Springs Park to State Route 840

- Property Boundary Line
- Existing_Trails
- Future_Trails
- Proposed_Trails

Project Greenway Corridors 13.06.5 - State Route 840 to Walter Hill Park

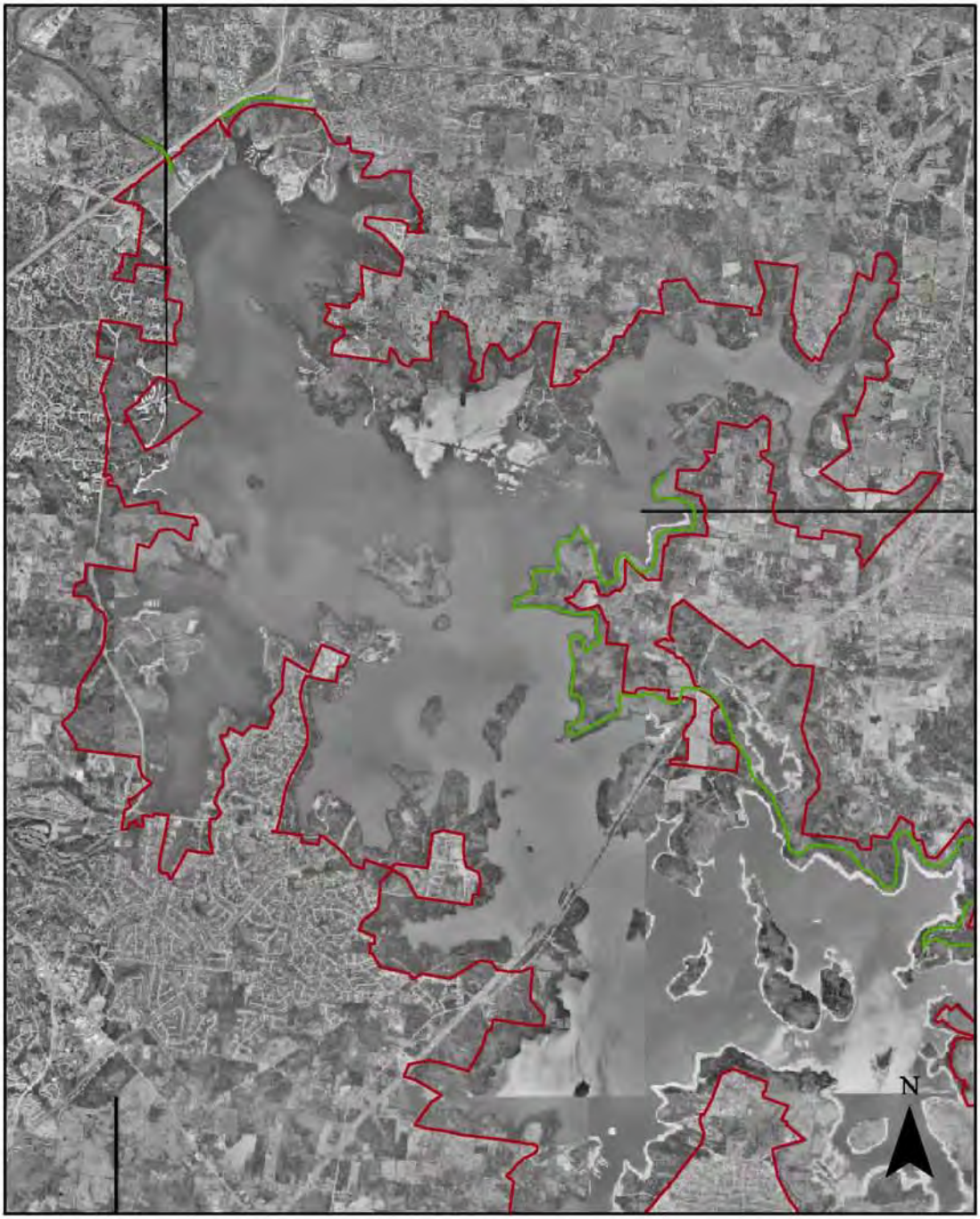




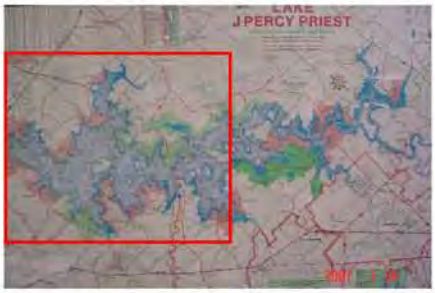
Project Greenway Corridors
State Route 840 to Walter Hill Park

- Property Boundary Line
- Existing_Trails
- Future_Trails
- Proposed_Trails

Project Greenway Corridors
13.06.6 - Existing Project Trails - Lower



0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

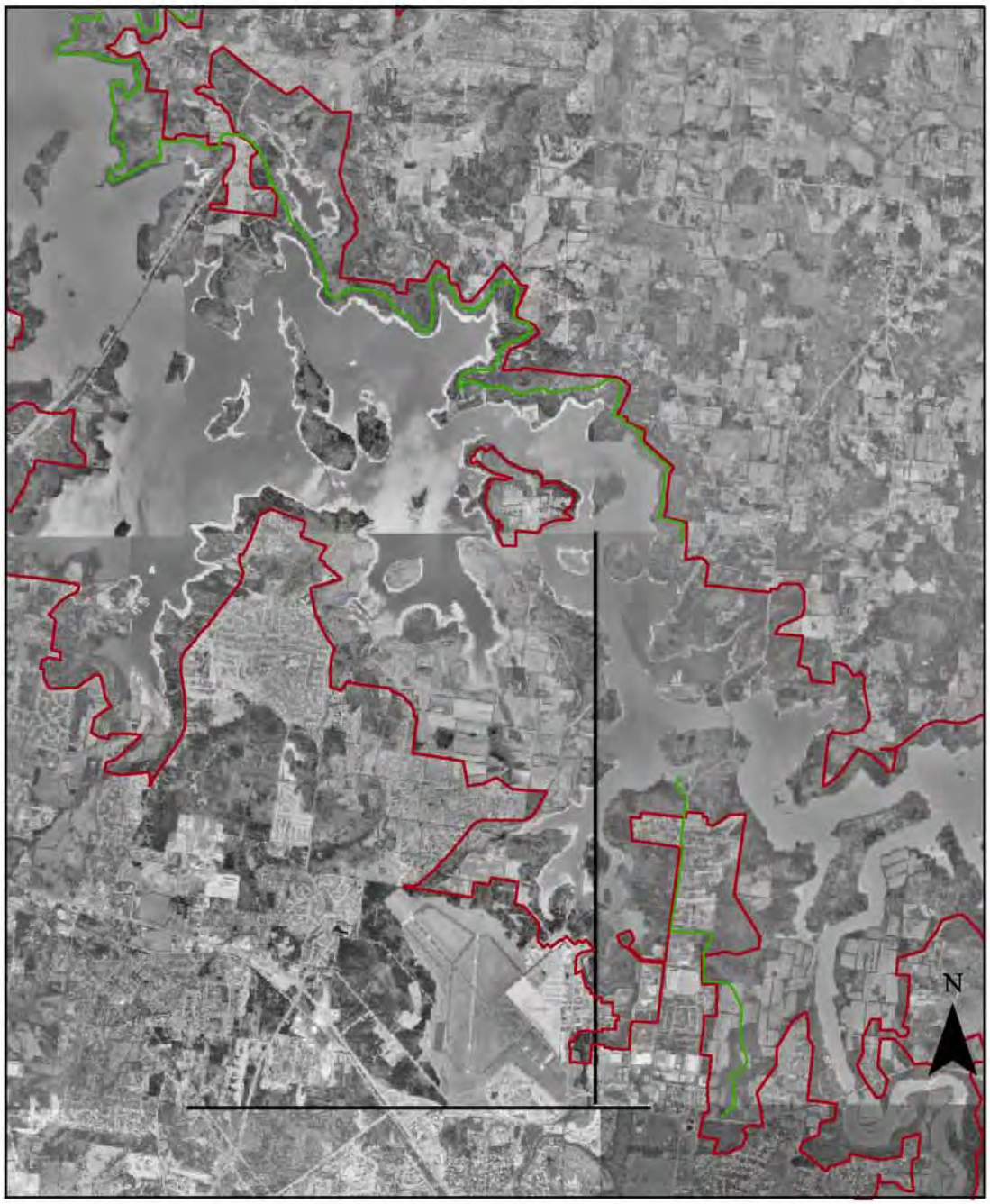


J. Percy Priest
Existing Project Trails - Lower

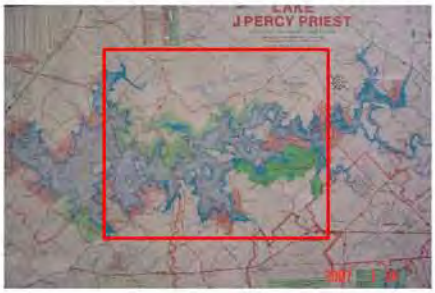
Property Boundary Line

Existing Trails

Project Greenway Corridors
13.06.7 - Existing Project Trails - Middle



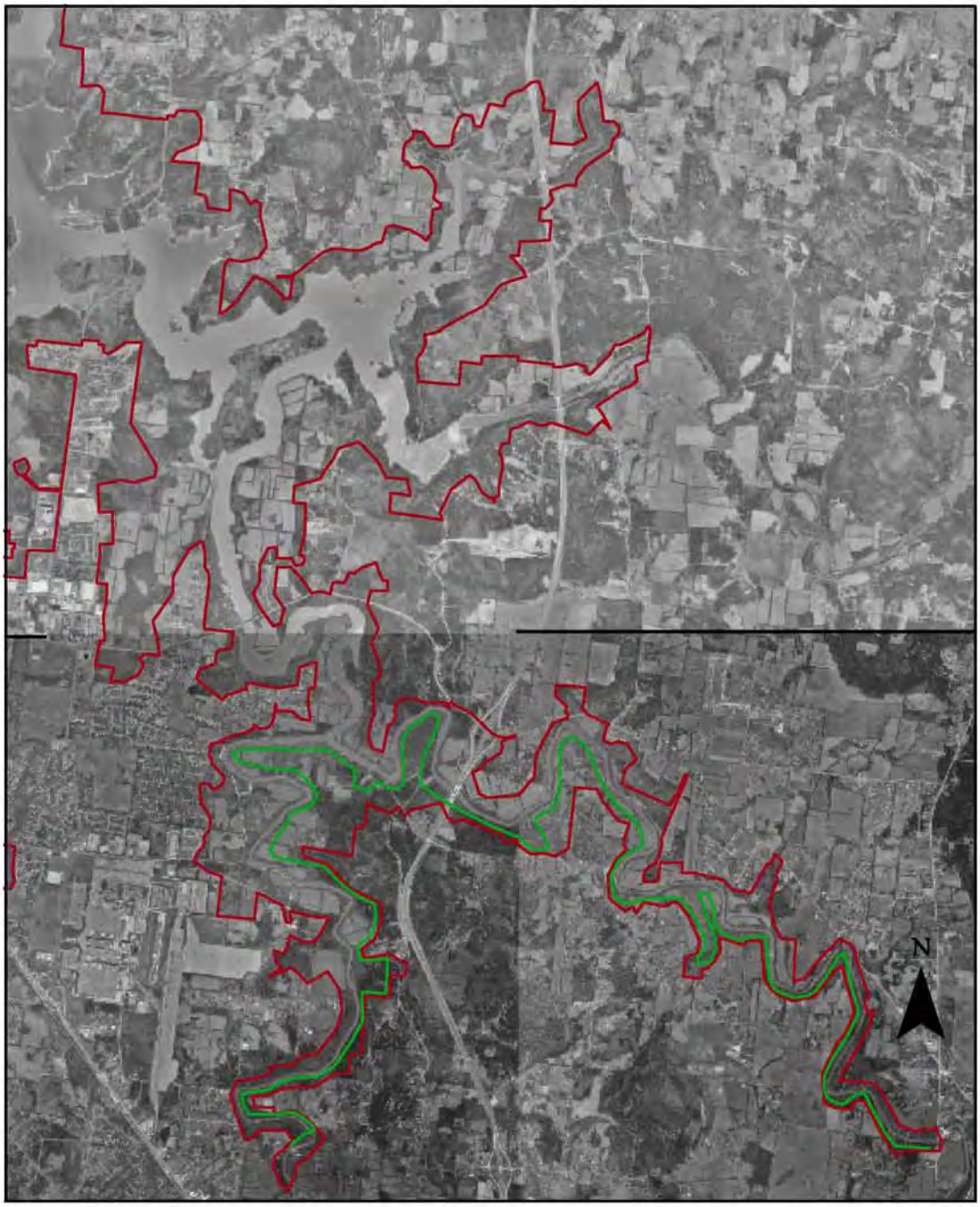
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



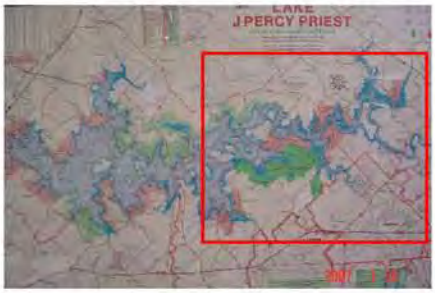
J. Percy Priest
Existing Project Trails - Middle

- Property Boundary Line
- Existing Project Trails
- Existing Project Trails

Project Greenway Corridors
13.06.8 - Existing Project Trails - Upper



0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

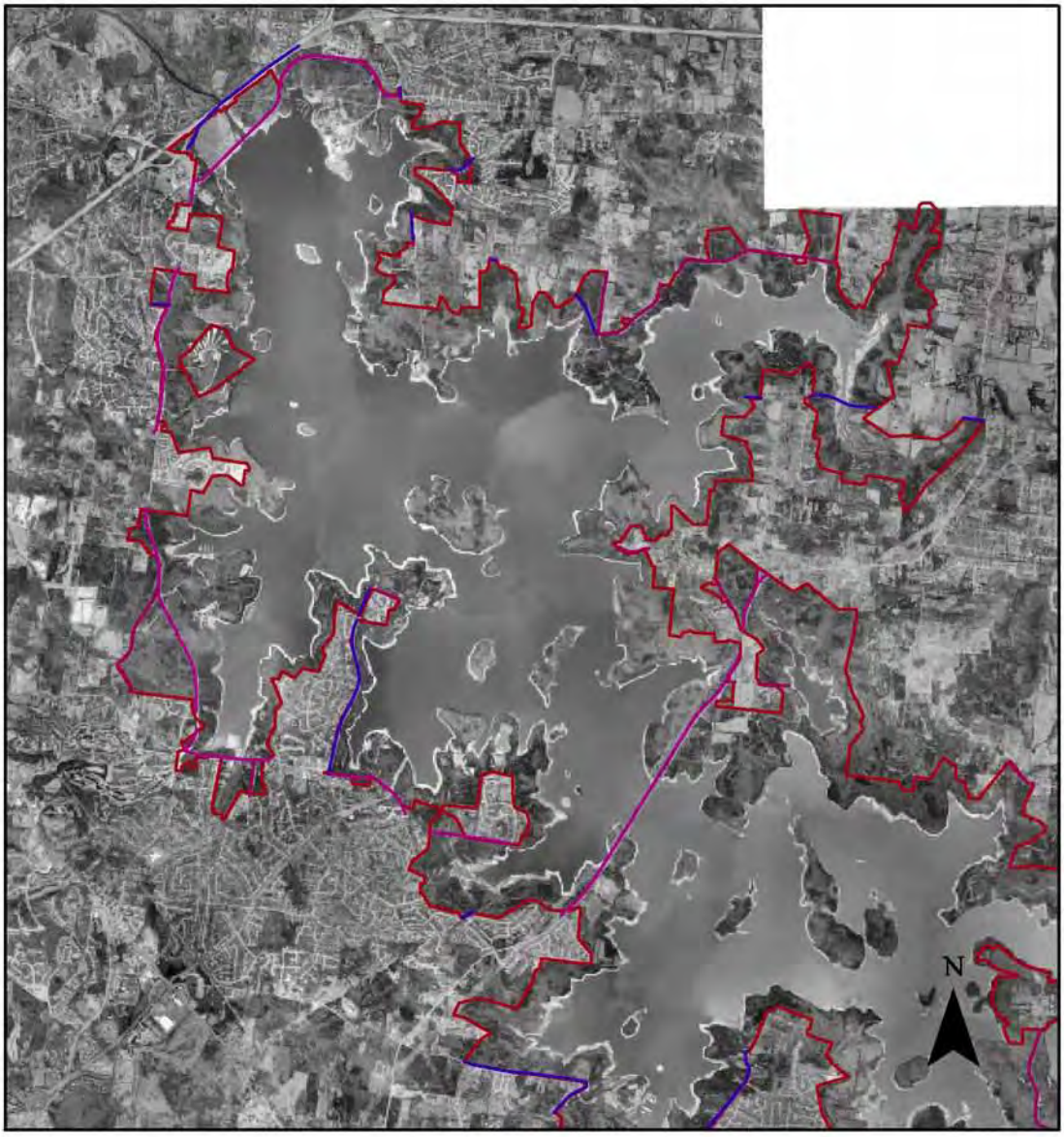


J. Percy Priest
Existing Project Trails - Upper

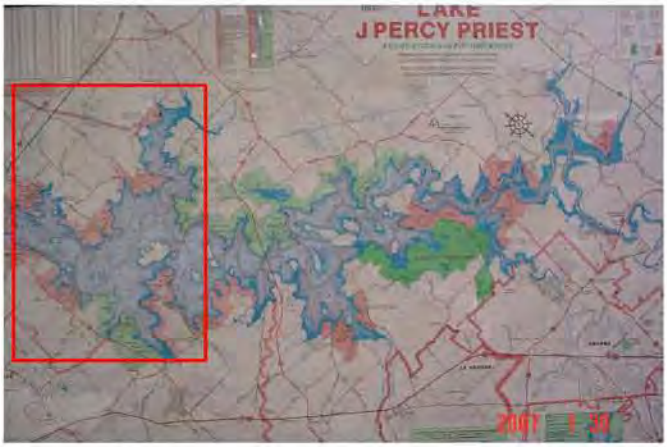
Property Boundary Line

Twin Forks Horse Trail

Outgrant Utility Corridors
13.07.1 - Outgrant Utility Corridors - Lower



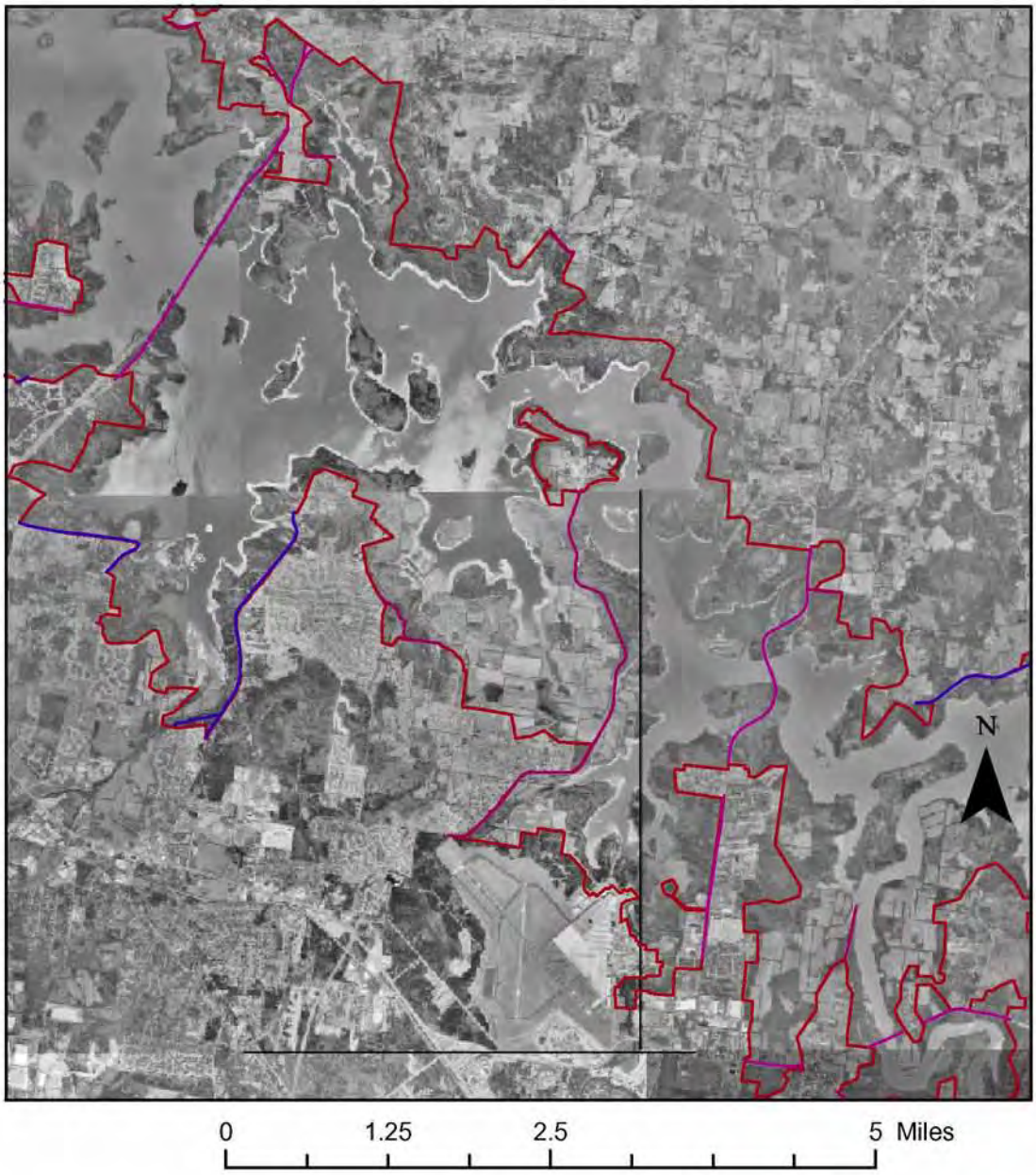
0 1 2 4 Miles

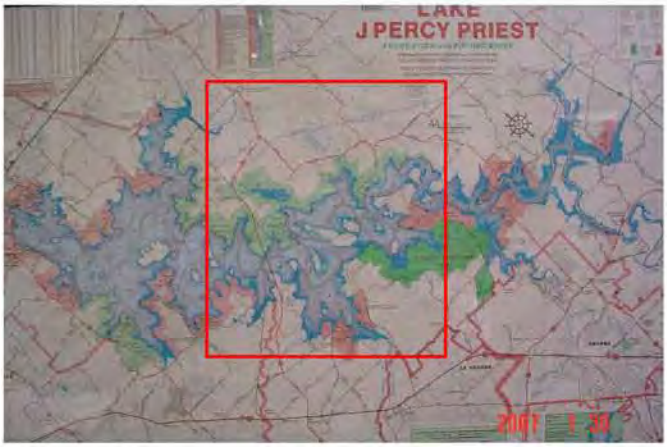


Outgrant Utility Corridors
Lower Project

- Property Boundary Line
- Utility Level I
- Utility Level II
- Utility Level III

Outgrant Utility Corridors 13.07.2 - Outgrant Utility Corridors - Middle

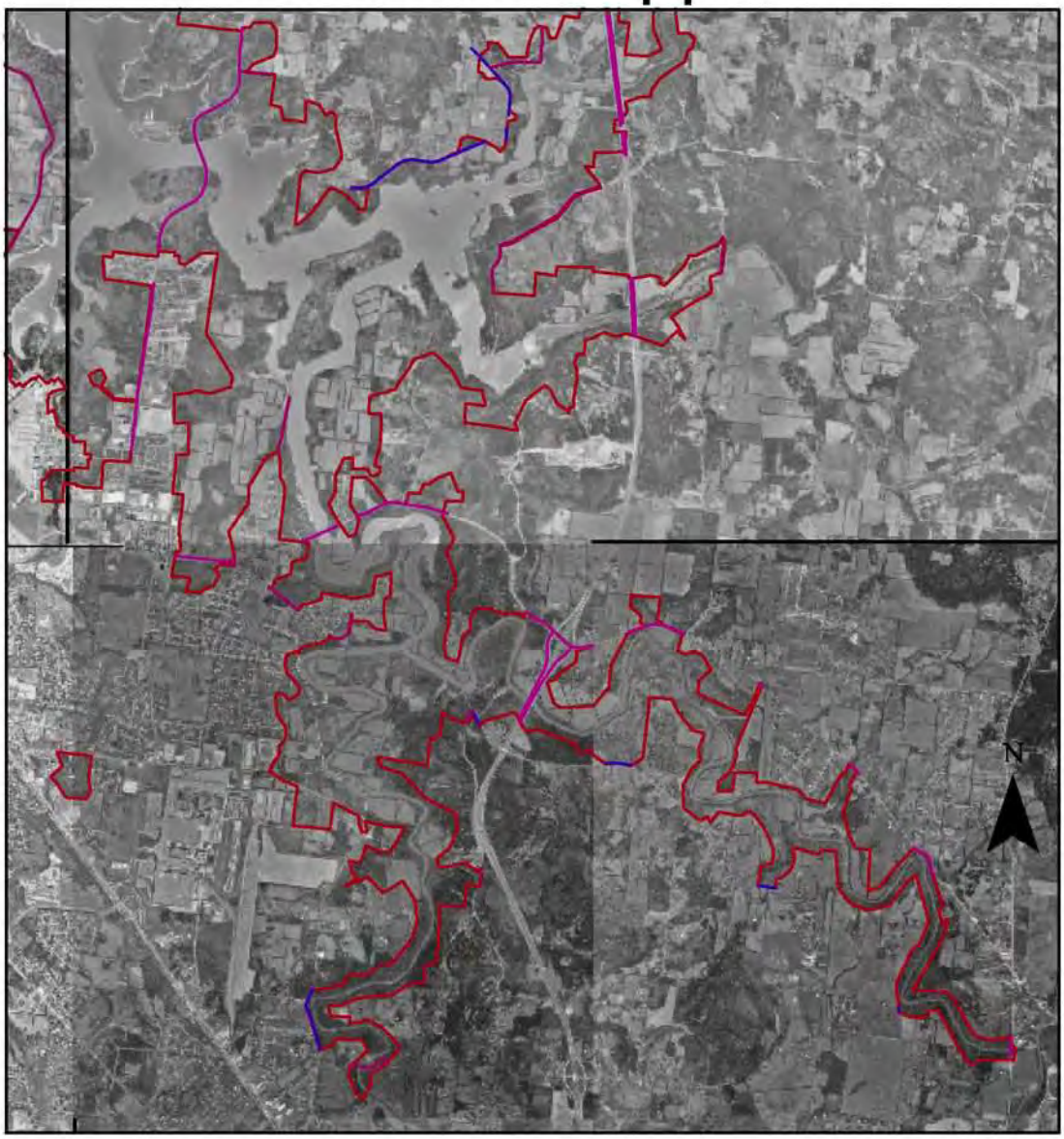




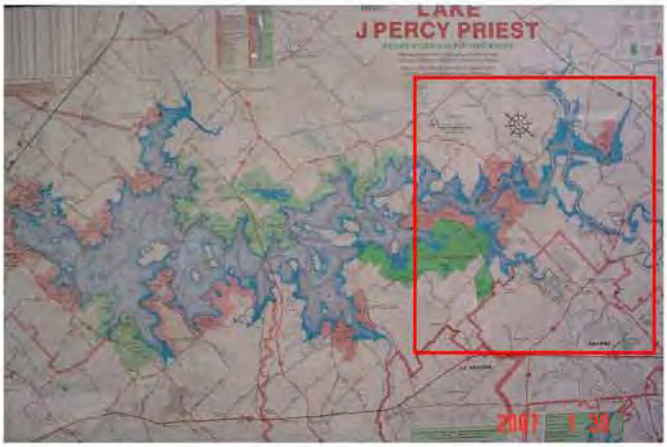
Outgrant Utility Corridors Middle Project

- Property Boundary Line
- Utility Level I
- Utility Level II
- Utility Level III

Outgrant Utility Corridors
13.07.3 - Outgrant Utility Corridors - Upper



0 1 2 4 Miles

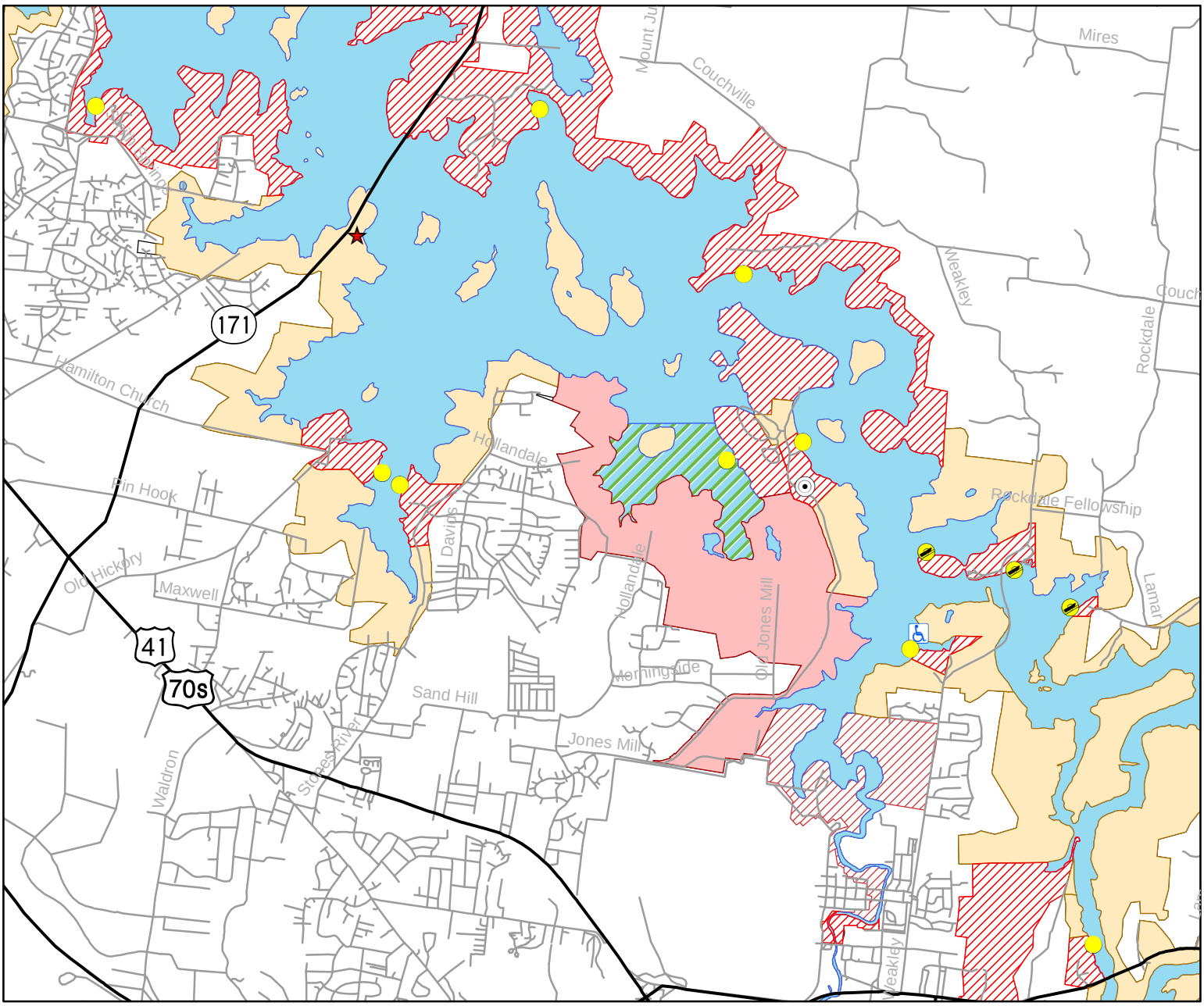


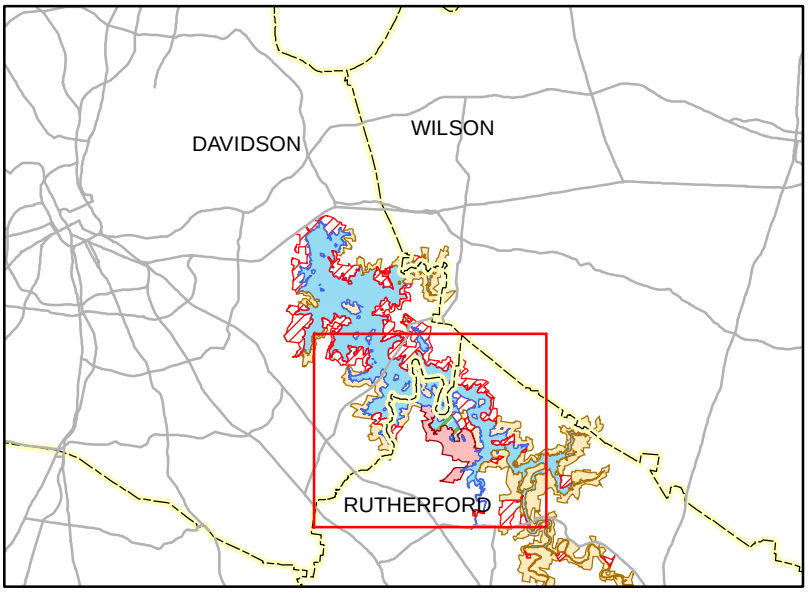
Outgrant Utility Corridors
Upper Project

- Property Boundary Line
- Utility Level I
- Utility Level II
- Utility Level III

Middle Percy Priest WMA

Davidson and Rutherford Counties, Tennessee





0 0.5 1 2 Miles

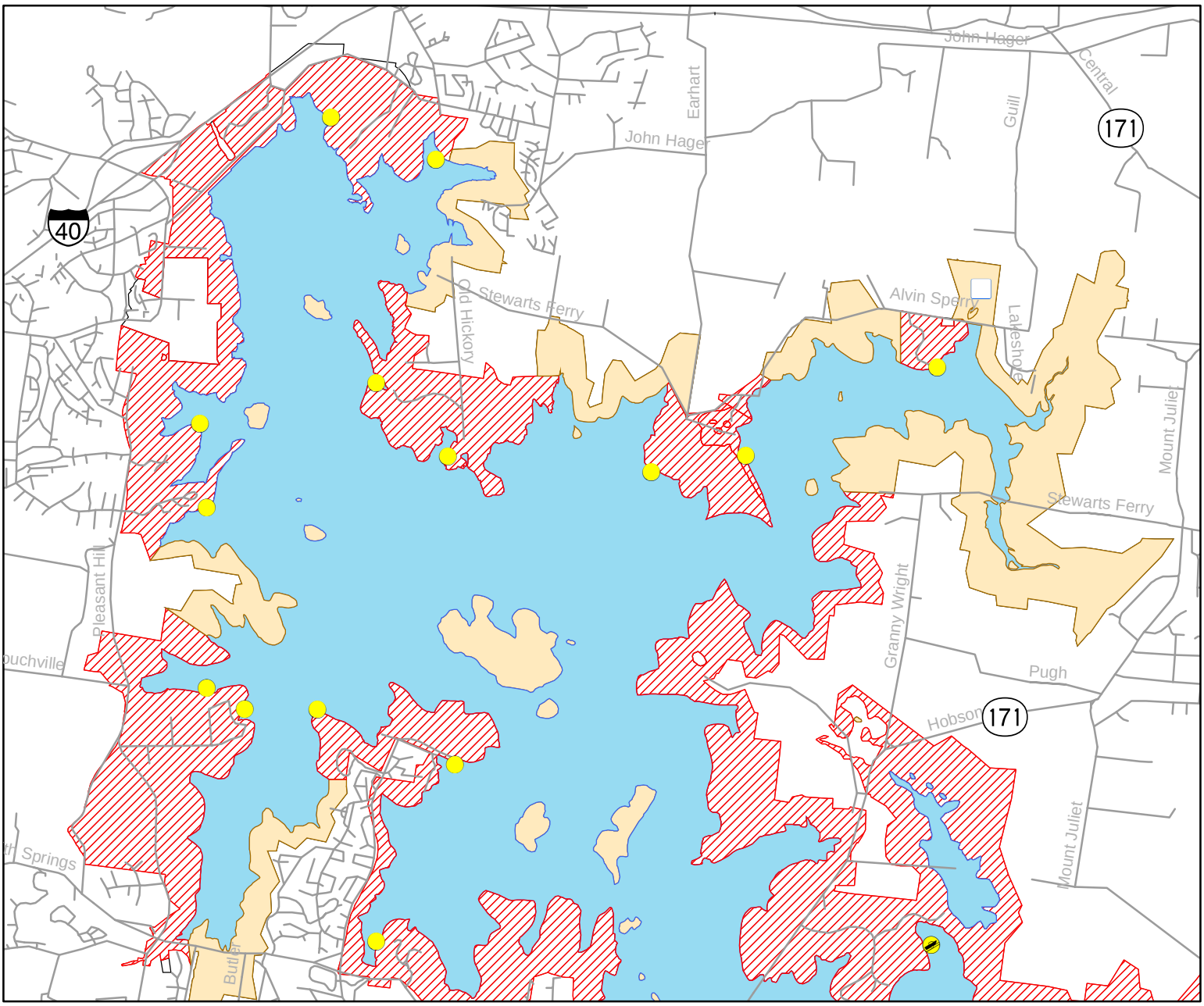
- WMA unit 1
- WMA unit 2
- safety zones
- water
- Waterfowl Rest Area
- Archery Range
- Handicap Accessible
- Stones River Hunter Ed. Ctr
- Boat Ramp

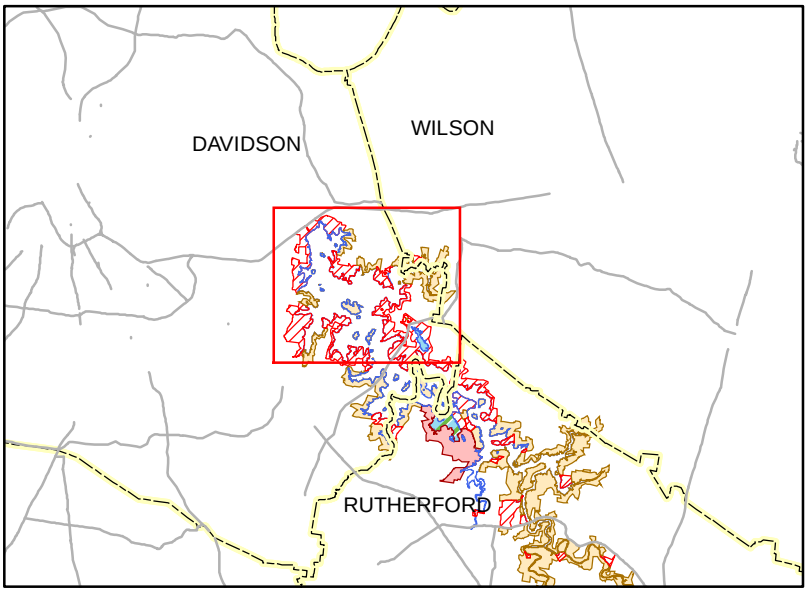
N W E S

produced by TWRA GIS (1/12/06 DR)

North Percy Priest WMA

Davidson and Wilson Counties, Tennessee





0 0.5 1 2 Miles

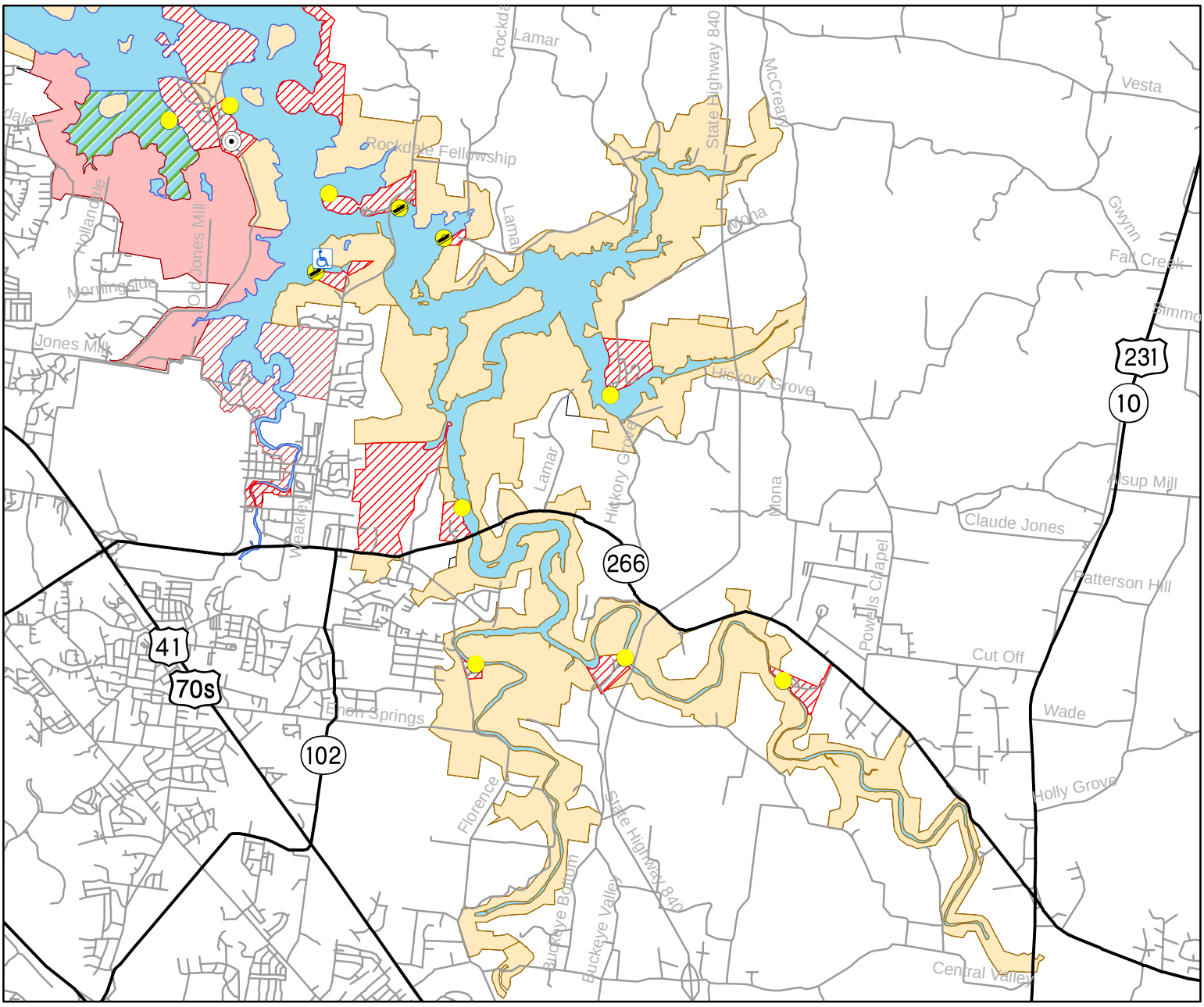
- WMA unit 1
- WMA unit 2
- safety zones
- water
- Waterfowl Rest Area
- Archery Range
- Handicap Accessible
- Stones River Hunter Ed. Ctr
- Boat Ramp

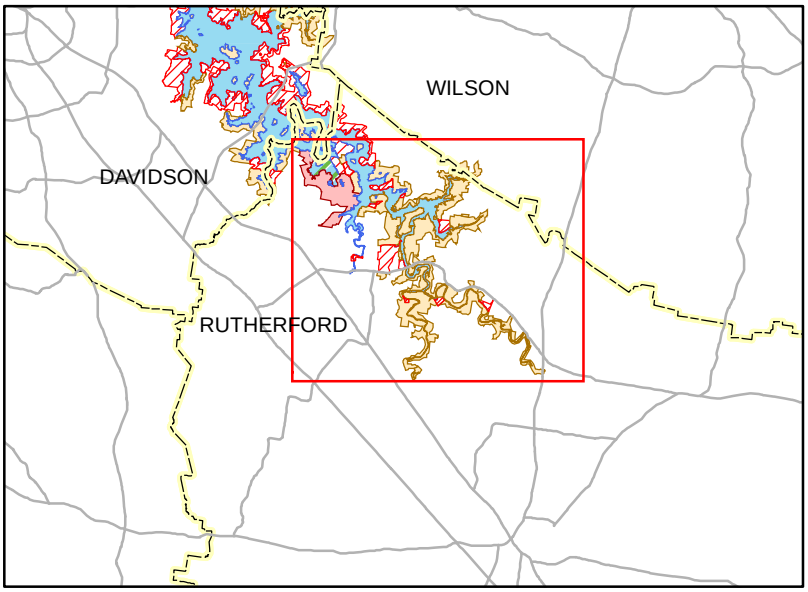
N W E S

produced by TWRA GIS (1/12/06 DR)

South Percy Priest WMA

Rutherford and Wilson Counties, Tennessee





0 0.5 1 2 Miles

- WMA unit 1
- WMA unit 2
- safety zones
- water
- Waterfowl Rest Area
- Archery Range
- Handicap Accessible
- Stones River Hunter Ed. Ctr
- Boat Ramp

N W E S

produced by TWRA GIS (1/12/06 DR)

Application Requirements for Real Estate Outgrants
J. Percy Priest Lake

1. Complete all information requested. **ANY INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED AND MAY BE RETURNED TO THE APPLICANT.**

2. It is the goal of the Nashville District to process all outgrants applications within a range of 60 to 120 days depending on the complexity and coordination requirements.

3. All federal properties are subject to NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), although every request may not require a complete EA (Environmental Assessment) or EIS (Environmental Impact Study), there are assessments that must be done concerning cultural and historic resources, threatened and endangered species and hazardous substances.

4. **Return the application to the address below:**

Resource Manager
J. Percy Priest Lake
3737 Bell Road
Nashville, TN 37214

5. **Do not perform any work until approval is received in writing.**

6. **Please do not send payment until it is requested.**

7. Information required for application for Real Estate Outgrants:

- A Letter of Request, on official letter head, from the entity responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the item requested
- Two sets of detailed drawings, along with a digital (CAD) copy, showing dimensions, acreage, materials, plans and elevations, bearings and distances, and location of the request as it relates to the government boundary
- A letter(s) of "no objection" from other outgrant holder(s) within the impacted area

8. **Regulatory Requirements:**

Work on, over or in navigable waters of the U.S. requires a Section 10 permit

Discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the U.S. requires a Section 404 permit

If a proposal involves cut and/or fill below the maximum flood pool (504.5 feet above msl) a number of engineering certifications must be submitted and an offset is generally required

9. **State Requirements:**

Ground disturbance over 1 acres requires an NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System)

Work or alterations of waters of the state require an ARAP (Aquatic Resources Alteration Permit)

10. If you have any questions, please contact the J. Percy Priest Lake Resource Manager's Office at (615) 889-1975

_____ _____
Date Ranger