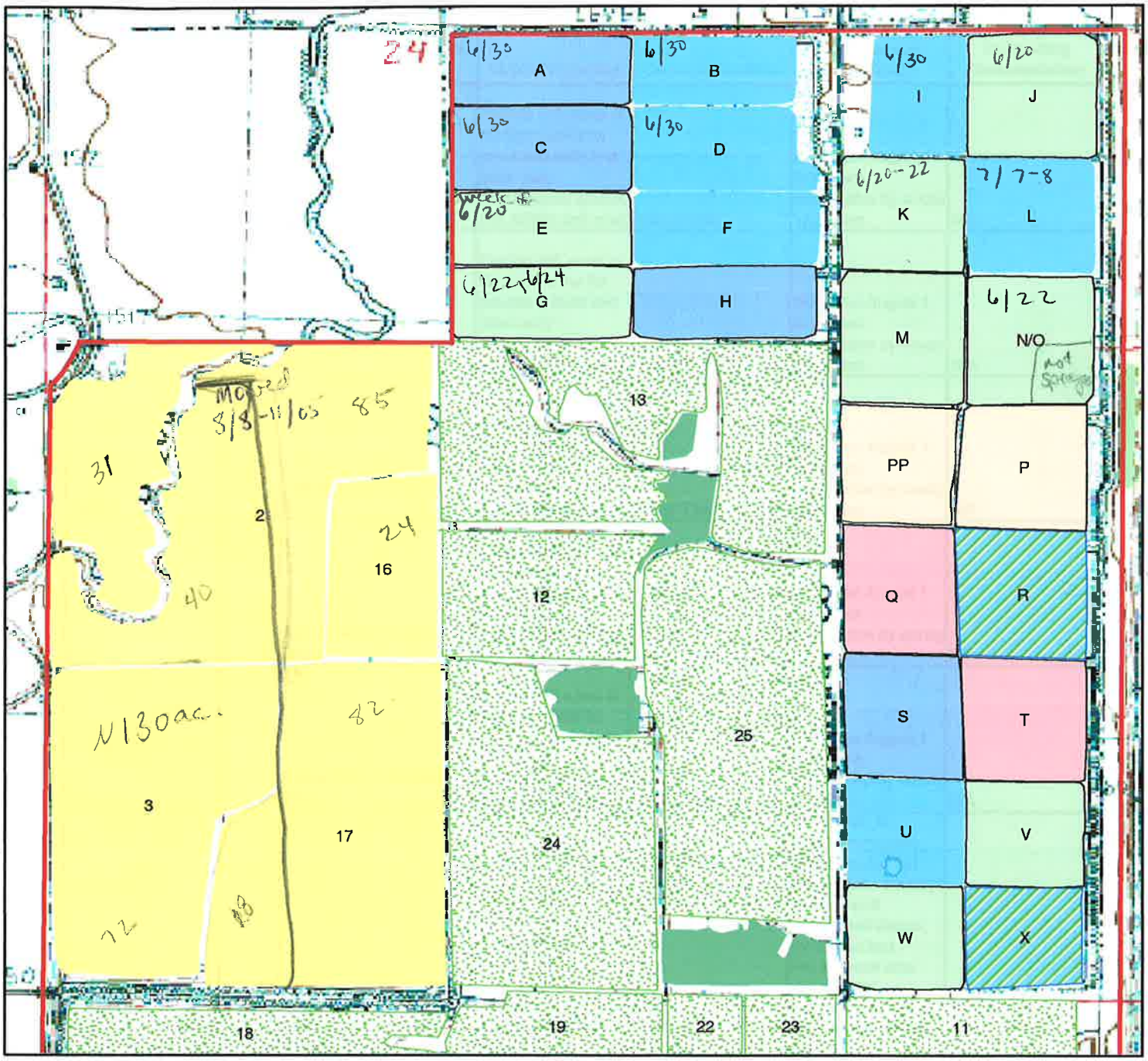
Annual Habitat Work Plan 2005
Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge



Legend

- Refuge boundary
- early drawdown, reflood
- early drawdown
- fallow field - mow
- keep flooded
- mid-season drawdown
- August drawdown
- marshbirds
- saplings
- willows

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

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North Mississippi Refuges Complex
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R.L. Rosamond 12/29/04

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Management Unit	Acres	Conservation Target(s) (Habitat/Wildlife)	Habitat Objective	Current Condition	Management Prescription	Supporting Documentation
Field 1	31	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A
Field 2	85	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A
Field 3	72	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A
Field 16	24	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A
Field 17	82	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A
Catfish Ponds	420	Specific targets below	Specific objectives below	See below	See below. In general spot spray willows as needed with Rodeo. If heavy infestation of coffeeweed occurs, try to flood and overtop soon after germination. Otherwise, try to cut (high blade) prior to seed set.	N/A
Pond A	16	Wintering diving ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Hold water through spring, summer, and fall. Spot spray willows with Rodeo. Herbicide	PUP
Pond B	14	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A

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Pond C	20	Wintering diving ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Hold water to promote growth of Sagittaria. Spray ludwigia with "AIM" if approved	N/A
Pond D	18	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A
Pond E	16	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed	N/A
Pond F	17	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A
Pond G	16	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed	PUP
Pond H	17	Wintering diving ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Hold water through spring, summer, and fall. Spray ludwigia with "AIM" if approved.	PUP
Pond I	14	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A
Pond J	20	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed	PUP

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Pond K	18	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed	PUP
Pond L	18	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A
Pond M	21	Wintering dabbling ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Thick growth of willows (mostly less that 2 inches dbh)	Early drawdown followed by mechanical removal of willows (bulldozer or excavator) and spraying if necessary.	PUP
Pond N/O	20	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Levee separating into 2 smaller units removed. Extra dirt deposited within pond covering 2004 moist soil vegetation. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom.	N/A
Pond PP	17	Wintering dabbling ducks, invasive control	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Control willow (Salix nigra)	Northern levee cut down and reworked in Fall 2004. Extra dirt deposited within pond covering 2004 moist soil vegetation. Pond invaded by willows. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Mid-season draw down (start draw down at least 3 weeks after willow seed out), smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed. Evaluate potential as habitat for secretive marshbirds.	PUP
Pond P	20	Wintering dabbling ducks, invasive control	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Control willow (Salix nigra)	Northern levee cut down and reworked in Fall 2004. Extra dirt deposited within pond covering 2004 moist soil vegetation. Pond invaded by willow. Has established stand of older willows and button bush. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Mid-season draw down (start draw down at least 3 weeks after willow seed out), smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed to prevent additional germination	PUP

Pond Q	18	Fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Dominated by sedge and fall panicum in 2004. Some willows beginning to encroach.	Hold water through summer. Begin slow drawdown in August. Assess willow stand and spot spray edges if necessary to prevent further colonization.	PUP
Pond R	21	Secretive Marshbirds	Emergent marsh	Diverse assemblage of emergent vegetation	Hold water throughout to promote growth of rushes and cattails and restrict growth of woody vegetation. Spot spray willows as necessary	PUP
Pond S	18	Wintering diving ducks, invasive species control	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Control willow (Salix nigra)	Patch of willows in nw portion of pond. Willows moving into other areas as well. Late drawdown in 2004 produced dense stand of sedge.	Hold water through spring, summer, and fall. Spot spray willows with Rodeo.	PUP
Pond T	19	Fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Central portion of unit with declining buttonbush stand.	Hold water through summer. Begin slow drawdown in August	N/A
Pond U	16	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Mid-season drying in 2004 produced diverse stand of moist soil vegetation.	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A
Pond V	16	Wintering dabbling ducks, invasive species control	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Control Lotus (Nelumbo lutea)	Healthy stand of lotus established in middle of unit. Has potential to spread throughout.	Early drawdown. Reflood with winter rain (i.e. leave dry as long as possible).	N/A
Pond W	15	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migration shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Open water with little vegetation except along shoreline.	Early drawdown. Spot spray willows as needed.	PUP
Pond X	15	Secretive Marsh birds	Emergent marsh	Diverse assemblage of emergent vegetation	Hold water throughout to promote growth of rushes and cattails and restrict growth of woody vegetation. Spot spray willows as necessary	PUP
Throughout	2374	Invasive control	No measurable objective developed. Need to control nutria	Nutria causing extensive damage to levee system. Seen frequently, particularly in spring and fall	Remove nutria through trapping and shooting, particularly during drawdowns.	N/A
Throughout	2374	Nesting structures	No measurable objective developed. Maintain and monitor wood duck nest structures.	Six wood duck nest boxes present	Remove/board up boxes from ponds and relocate to borrow pits	N/A

Management Unit	Acres	Conservation Target(s) (Habitat/Wildlife)	Habitat Objective	Current Condition	Management Prescription	Supporting Documentation	Habitat Response	Wildlife Response	Unmet Habitat Needs	Strategies to Achieve Unmet Habitat Needs
Field 1	31	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A	Mowed August 8 - 11. Did not evaluate habitat response	Did not evaluate		
Field 2	85	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A	Mowed approximately 40 acres August 8 - 11. Did not evaluate habitat response	Did not evaluate		
Field 3	72	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A	Mowed August 8 - 11. Did not evaluate habitat response	Did not evaluate		
Field 16	24	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A	Did not mow	Did not evaluate		
Field 17	82	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A	Mowed approximately 18 acres August 8 - 11. Did not evaluate habitat response	Did not evaluate		
Catfish Ponds	420	Specific targets below	Specific objectives below	See below	See below. In general spot spray willows as needed with Rodeo. If heavy infestation of coffeeweed occurs, try to flood and overtop soon after germination. Otherwise, try to cut (high blade) prior to seed set.	N/A	Most units dried purposely or on own by Sept. Units A - L fully boarded by Oct. 1 to catch fall rains. Drought conditions through fall. Reflooded Units A - L by mid-Dec. Partially reflooded units S - V by mid-Dec.	Due to drought conditions, any unit with water supported a large number of ducks and geese during Dec.		
Pond A	16	Wintering diving ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Hold water through spring, summer, and fall. Spot spray willows with Rodeo.	PUP	Willows sprayed 6/30. Held water through summer. Reflooded 12/12/05.	Trapped wood ducks on pond in July. Use by waterfowl and waders throughout summer and fall--never huge numbers. Used by large numbers of white-fronted geese and some ring-billed gulls until brought to full pool in mid-Dec.	Need to burn slash piles from levee work. Standing willows in unit appear dead--burn in place? Nutria issue	Dry at least to piles by September 1. Burn slash piles and reflood.

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Pond B	14	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Willows sprayed 6/30. Dried on own by 8/1/05. Tried pumping water 8/17, but pump shutdown within 24 hrs--mechanical problems. Reflooded Dec. '05	Good use by waders as pond dried. When initially started pumping, got immediate shorebird response. Quickly left as pond dried completely. Once reflooded in Dec., good duck response.	Need to smooth bottom and prevent willow colonization.	Dry by June. Use breaking plough then disk to smooth bottom and dry willows. Reflood and hold water rest of year.
Pond C	20	Wintering diving ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Hold water to promote growth of Sagittaria. Spray ludwigia with "AIM" if approved	PUP	Spot sprayed willows 6/30. Dried to about 1/4 pool by mid-Aug. Reflooded in Dec. '05	Heavy use by waders (including roseate spoonbills) while drying. Once reflooded, used by snow geese and ducks.	nutria issue	
Pond D	18	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Spot sprayed willows 6/30. Dried on own by mid-August. Reflooded in Dec. '05	Good use by waders as dried (500+ egrets, 50 white ibis, mostly immature). Heavy use by ducks once reflooded.	Need to smooth bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond E	16	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed	N/A	Began drawdown 3/28. Mostly dry by 6/9. Willows sprayed week of 6/20. Vegetation evaluated 7/6. Greater than 10% coverage of millet (22.5%), coffeeweed (14.1%), cocklebur (11.7%), and sedge (10.8%). Reboarded 9/29--drought. Pond reflooded beginning 11/18. No signif. water until 12/7.	Black-necked stilts attempted nesting--found 4 eggs (being incubated) on 6/9. Abandoned during the next week, probably due to pond drying. Waterfowl responded well once reflooded.	Did not smooth bottoms. Mounded vegetation results in uneven drying. Some debris mounds present.	
Pond F	17	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Dried on own by mid-August. Reflooded in Dec. '05	Heavy use by ducks once reflooded.	Need to smooth bottom and prevent willow colonization.	

Pond G	16	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed	PUP	Began drawdown 3/28. Held some water through mid-June. Willows sprayed 6/22-24. Vegetation evaluated 7/6. Greater than 10% coverage of millet (13.8%) and coffeeweed (11.3%). Reboarded 9/29--drought. Pond reflooded beginning 11/18. No signif. water until 12/7.	Heavy use by ducks once reflooded.	Even with spraying, still heavy concentration of willows. Did not smooth bottoms. Mounded vegetation causes uneven drying--pockets of high quality habitat surrounded by coffeeweed.	
Pond H	17	Wintering diving ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Hold water through spring, summer, and fall. Spray ludwigia with "AIM" if approved.	PUP	Held water through most of summer. Reflooded 12/12/05.	Use by white-fronted geese and ducks once reflooded	nutria issue, slash piles	
Pond I	14	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Willows sprayed 6/30. Held some water through summer. Partial drawdown for shorebirds beginning 7/25. Reflooded 12/7/05.	Stronger response by waders than shorebird during drawdown. Good duck once reflooded	Mounded vegetation causes uneven drying--made drying for shorebirds difficult. Nutria issue.	
Pond J	20	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed	PUP	Began drawdown 3/28. Dry by 5/23. Willows sprayed 6/20. Vegetation evaluated 7/20. Greater than 10% coverage of smartweed (46.4%), millet (27.9%), and spike rush (15%). Reboarded 9/29--drought. Pond reflooded beginning 11/9.	Killdeer nesting in unit in May. Fair duck response once reflooded. Vegetation may be too thick for easy landing. Better response once flooded about 1 month.	Mounded vegetation causes uneven drying. Need to smooth bottom and prevent willow colonization.	

Pond K	18	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed	PUP	Began drawdown 3/28. Dry by mid-June. Willows sprayed 6/20-22. Vegetation evaluated 8/5. Greater than 10% coverage of coffeeweed (23.3%), sprangletop (12.5%), millet (12.1%), and smartweed (11.7%). Reboarded 9/29--drought. Pond reflooded beginning 11/10.	Heavy use by ducks as soon as reflooded (1000+ ducks on 11/17). Coffeeweed overstory appears to provide good cover, but is sparse enough that ducks can get in fairly easily. Sprayed areas provide landing areas.	Even with spraying, still heavy willow concentration. Need to smooth bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond L	18	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Began drawdown 6/9. Had already begun to dry (down about 2 feet). Sprayed willows 7/7-8. Vegetation evaluated 8/5. Greater than 10% coverage of sedge (40%), sprangletop (27.5%), and coffeeweed (21.3%). Reboarded 9/29--drought. Pond reflooded beginning 11/14.	Killdeer nesting in unit in May. Good duck response once reflooded. Excellent duck response by December.	Even with spraying, still heavy willow concentration. Need to smooth bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond M	21	Wintering dabbling ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Thick growth of willows (mostly less that 2 inches dbh)	Early drawdown followed by mechanical removal of willows (bulldozer or excavator) and spraying if necessary.	PUP	Began drawdown 3/28. Bulldozed willows in late June. Left where they lay.	Still no water as of December 19.	Need pumping capability and to remove downed willows and smooth pond bottom.	Push willows into slash piles and burn. May try breaking plow and see if able to break up willows.
Pond N/O	20	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Levee separating into 2 smaller units removed. Extra dirt deposited within pond covering 2004 moist soil vegetation. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom.	N/A	Began drawdown 4/1. Most of unit dry by mid-June. Sprayed willows 6/20 (except SE 1/4--this area never dried completely). Vegetation evaluated 8/8 in northern 1/2. Greater than 10% coverage of sedge (15%), smartweed (10.8%), and sprangletop (10%). Reboarded 9/29--drought. No significant water as of Dec. 19.	Little to no wildlife use--no pumping capability	Need pumping capability and smooth pond bottom. Wcs at NE corner--higher than SE corner--need to move or install additional wcs.	

Pond PP	17	Wintering dabbling ducks, invasive control	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Control willow (Salix nigra)	Northern levee cut down and reworked in Fall 2004. Extra dirt deposited within pond covering 2004 moist soil vegetation. Pond invaded by willows. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Mid-season draw down (start draw down at least 3 weeks after willow seed out), smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed. Evaluate potential as habitat for secretive marshbirds.	PUP	Began draining 3/10 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6.		Need pumping capability and to remove slash piles and smooth pond bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond P	20	Wintering dabbling ducks, invasive control	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Control willow (Salix nigra)	Northern levee cut down and reworked in Fall 2004. Extra dirt deposited within pond covering 2004 moist soil vegetation. Pond invaded by willow. Has established stand of older willows and button bush. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Mid-season draw down (start draw down at least 3 weeks after willow seed out), smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed to prevent additional germination	PUP	Began draining 3/10 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6.		Need pumping capability and to remove slash piles and smooth pond bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond Q	18	Fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Dominated by sedge and fall panicum in 2004. Some willows beginning to encroach.	Hold water through summer. Begin slow drawdown in August. Assess willow stand and spot spray edges if necessary to prevent further colonization.	PUP	Began draining 3/15 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in November. Vegetation evaluated 8/8. Greater than 10% coverage for smartweed (34.6%), spike rush (20%), and sedge (11.7%). Levee construction in Oct./Nov. buried much of vegetation. Reboarded 12/6.	No water as of 12/19.	Need pumping capability and to remove slash piles and smooth pond bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond R	21	Secretive Marshbirds	Emergent marsh	Diverse assemblage of emergent vegetation. Approximately 50% of area covered by willow (*Salix nigra*) and groundsel-tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*)	Hold water throughout to promote growth of rushes and cattails and restrict growth of woody vegetation. Cut and spot spray willows and groundsel-tree as necessary	PUP	Began draining 3/15 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6.	No water as of 12/19.	Need pumping capability and to remove slash piles and smooth pond bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond S	18	Wintering diving ducks, invasive species control	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Control willow (Salix nigra)	Patch of willows in nw portion of pond. Willows moving into other areas as well. Late drawdown in 2004 produced dense stand of sedge.	Hold water through spring, summer, and fall. Spot spray willows with Rodeo.	PUP	Began draining 3/15 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in November. Structures reboarded 12/6. Began pumping 12/12	Unit flooded to about 1/2 pool and fair use by ducks with initial flooding.	Need to smooth bottom, remove slash piles, and prevent willow colonization.	

Pond T	19	Fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Central portion of unit with declining buttonbush stand.	Hold water through summer. Begin slow drawdown in August	N/A	Began draining 3/10 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6. Began pumping 12/14	Unit flooded to about 1/2 pool and fair use by ducks with initial flooding.	Need to smooth bottom, remove slash piles, and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond U	16	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Mid-season drying in 2004 produced diverse stand of moist soil vegetation.	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Began draining 3/15 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in November. Structures reboarded 12/6. Began pumping 12/6.	Unit flooded to about 1/2 pool and fair use by ducks with initial flooding.	Need to smooth bottom, remove slash piles, and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond V	16	Wintering dabbling ducks, invasive species control	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Control Lotus (Nelumbo lutea)	Healthy stand of lotus established in middle of unit. Has potential to spread throughout.	Early drawdown. Reflood with winter rain (i.e. leave dry as long as possible).	N/A	Began draining 3/10 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6. Began pumping 12/6.	Unit flooded to about 1/2 pool and fair use by ducks with initial flooding.	Need to smooth bottom, remove slash piles, and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond W	15	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migration shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Open water with little vegetation except along shoreline.	Early drawdown. Spot spray willows as needed.	PUP	Began draining 3/15 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6.	No water as of 12/19.	Need pumping capability and to remove slash piles and smooth pond bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond X	15	Secretive Marsh birds	Emergent marsh	Diverse assemblage of emergent vegetation	Hold water throughout to promote growth of rushes and cattails and restrict growth of woody vegetation. Spot spray willows as necessary	PUP	Began draining 3/15 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6.	No water as of 12/19.	Need pumping capability and to remove slash piles and smooth pond bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Throughout	2374	Invasive control	No measurable objective developed. Need to control nutria	Nutria causing extensive damage to levee system. Seen frequently, particularly in spring and fall	Remove nutria through trapping and shooting, particularly during drawdowns.	N/A	Developed cooperative agreement with Wildlife Services for beaver and nutria removal, primarily for purpose of keeping ditches open. Staff shot 7 nutria		Continue current nutria control efforts, focusing on springtime removal and removal as ponds dry.	
Throughout	2374	Nesting structures	No measurable objective developed. Maintain and monitor wood duck nest structures.	Six wood duck nest boxes present	Remove/board up boxes from ponds and relocate to borrow pits	N/A	Boxes removed after breeding season from all ponds except pond U.		Need to erect new boxes along borrow pits and remove last box on Pond U.	

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Management Unit	Acres	Conservation Target(s) (Habitat/Wildlife)	Habitat Objective	Current Condition	Management Prescription	Supporting Documentation	Habitat Response	Wildlife Response	Unmet Habitat Needs	Strategies to Achieve Unmet Habitat Needs
Field 1	31	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A	Mowed August 8 - 11. Did not evaluate habitat response	Did not evaluate	N/A	
Field 2	85	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A	Mowed approximately 40 acres August 8 - 11. Did not evaluate habitat response	Did not evaluate		
Field 3	72	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A	Mowed August 8 - 11. Did not evaluate habitat response	Did not evaluate	N/A	
Field 16	24	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A	Did not mow	Did not evaluate	Did not mow--insufficient staff	Mow or burn 2006
Field 17	82	Fallow Fields/ Grassland Birds	Provide 295 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail)	Fallow Field	Mow after August 1 to prevent colonization by woody vegetation	N/A	Mowed approximately 18 acres August 8 - 11. Did not evaluate habitat response	Did not evaluate		
Catfish Ponds	420	Specific targets below	Specific objectives below	See below	See below. In general spot spray willows as needed with Rodeo. If heavy infestation of coffeeweed occurs, try to flood and overtop soon after germination. Otherwise, try to cut (high blade) prior to seed set.	N/A	Most units dried purposely or on own by Sept. Units A - L fully boarded by Oct. 1 to catch fall rains. Drought conditions through fall. Reflooded Units A - L by mid-Dec. Partially reflooded units S - V by mid-Dec.	Due to drought conditions, any unit with water supported a large number of ducks and geese during Dec.		
Pond A	16	Wintering diving ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Hold water through spring, summer, and fall. Spot spray willows with Rodeo.	PUP	Willows sprayed 6/30. Held water through summer. Reflooded 12/12/05	Trapped wood ducks on pond in July. Use by waterfowl and waders throughout summer and fall--never huge numbers. Used by large numbers of white-fronted geese and some ring-billed gulls until brought to full pool in mid-Dec.	Need to burn slash piles from levee work. Standing willows in unit appear dead--burn in place? Nutria issue	Dry at least to piles by September 1. Burn slash piles and reflood.

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Pond B	14	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Willows sprayed 6/30. Dried on own by 8/1/05. Tried pumping water 8/17, but pump shutdown within 24 hrs--mechanical problems. Reflooded Dec. '05	Good use by waders as pond dried. When initially started pumping, got immediate shorebird response. Quickly left as pond dried completely. Once reflooded in Dec., good duck response.	Need to smooth bottom and prevent willow colonization.	Dry by June. Use breaking plough then disk to smooth bottom and dry willows. Reflood and hold water rest of year.
Pond C	20	Wintering diving ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Hold water to promote growth of Sagittaria. Spray ludwigia with "AIM" if approved	PUP	Spot sprayed willows 6/30. Dried to about 1/4 pool by mid-Aug. Reflooded in Dec. '05	Heavy use by waders (including roseate spoonbills) while drying. Once reflooded, used by snow geese and ducks.	nutria issue	
Pond D	18	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Spot sprayed willows 6/30. Dried on own by mid-August. Reflooded in Dec. '05	Good use by waders as dried (500+ egrets, 50 white ibis, mostly immature). Heavy use by ducks once reflooded.	Need to smooth bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond E	16	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed	N/A	Began drawdown 3/28. Mostly dry by 6/9. Willows sprayed week of 6/20. Vegetation evaluated 7/6. Greater than 10% coverage of millet (22.5%), coffeeweed (14.1%), cocklebur (11.7%), and sedge (10.8%). Reboarded 9/29--drought. Pond reflooded beginning 11/18. No signif. water until 12/7.	Black-necked stilts attempted nesting--found 4 eggs (being incubated) on 6/9. Abandoned during the next week, probably due to pond drying. Waterfowl responded well once reflooded.	Did not smooth bottoms. Mounded vegetation results in uneven drying. Some debris mounds present.	
Pond F	17	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Dried on own by mid-August. Reflooded in Dec. '05	Heavy use by ducks once reflooded.	Need to smooth bottom and prevent willow colonization.	

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Pond G	16	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed	PUP	Began drawdown 3/28. Held some water through mid-June. Willows sprayed 6/22-24. Vegetation evaluated 7/6. Greater than 10% coverage of millet (13.8%) and coffeeweed (11.3%). Reboarded 9/29--drought. Pond reflooded beginning 11/18. No signif. water until 12/7.	Heavy use by ducks once reflooded.	Even with spraying, still heavy concentration of willows. Did not smooth bottoms. Mounded vegetation causes uneven drying--pockets of high quality habitat surrounded by coffeeweed.	
Pond H	17	Wintering diving ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Hold water through spring, summer, and fall. Spray ludwigia with "AIM" if approved.	PUP	Held water through most of summer. Reflooded 12/12/05.	Use by white-fronted geese and ducks once reflooded	nutria issue, slash piles	
Pond I	14	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Willows sprayed 6/30. Held some water through summer. Partial drawdown for shorebirds beginning 7/25. Reflooded 12/7/05.	Stronger response by waders than shorebird during drawdown. Good duck once reflooded	Mounded vegetation causes uneven drying--made drying for shorebirds difficult. Nutria issue.	
Pond J	20	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed	PUP	Began drawdown 3/28. Dry by 5/23. Willows sprayed 6/20. Vegetation evaluated 7/20. Greater than 10% coverage of smartweed (46.4%), millet (27.9%), and spike rush (15%). Reboarded 9/29--drought. Pond reflooded beginning 11/9.	Killdeer nesting in unit in May. Fair duck response once reflooded. Vegetation may be too thick for easy landing. Better response once flooded about 1 month.	Mounded vegetation causes uneven drying. Need to smooth bottom and prevent willow colonization.	

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Pond K	18	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed	PUP	Began drawdown 3/28. Dry by mid-June. Willows sprayed 6/20-22. Vegetation evaluated 8/5. Greater than 10% coverage of coffeeweed (23.3%), sprangletop (12.5%), millet (12.1%), and smartweed (11.7%). Reboarded 9/29--drought. Pond reflooded beginning 11/10.	Heavy use by ducks as soon as reflooded (1000+ ducks on 11/17). Coffeeweed overstory appears to provide good cover, but is sparse enough that ducks can get in fairly easily. Sprayed areas provide landing areas.	Even with spraying, still heavy willow concentration. Need to smooth bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond L	18	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Extra dirt deposited within pond. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Began drawdown 6/9. Had already begun to dry (down about 2 feet). Sprayed willows 7/7-8. Vegetation evaluated 8/5. Greater than 10% coverage of sedge (40%), sprangletop (27.5%), and coffeeweed (21.3%). Reboarded 9/29--drought. Pond reflooded beginning 11/14.	Killdeer nesting in unit in May. Good duck response once reflooded. Excellent duck response by December.	Even with spraying, still heavy willow concentration. Need to smooth bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond M	21	Wintering dabbling ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Thick growth of willows (mostly less that 2 inches dbh)	Early drawdown followed by mechanical removal of willows (bulldozer or excavator) and spraying if necessary.	PUP	Began drawdown 3/28. Bulldozed willows in late June. Left where they lay.	Still no water as of December 19.	Need pumping capability and to remove downed willows and smooth pond bottom.	Push willows into slash piles and burn. May try breaking plow and see if able to break up willows.
Pond N/O	20	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Levees cut down and reworked in Fall 2004, new pipes installed. Levee separating into 2 smaller units removed. Extra dirt deposited within pond covering 2004 moist soil vegetation. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Early drawdown, smooth impoundment bottom.	N/A	Began drawdown 4/1. Most of unit dry by mid-June. Sprayed willows 6/20 (except SE 1/4--this area never dried completely). Vegetation evaluated 8/8 in northern 1/2. Greater than 10% coverage of sedge (15%), smartweed (10.8%), and sprangletop (10%). Reboarded 9/29--drought. No significant water as of Dec. 19.	Little to no wildlife use--no pumping capability	Need pumping capability and smooth pond bottom. Wcs at NE corner--higher than SE corner--need to move or install additional wcs.	

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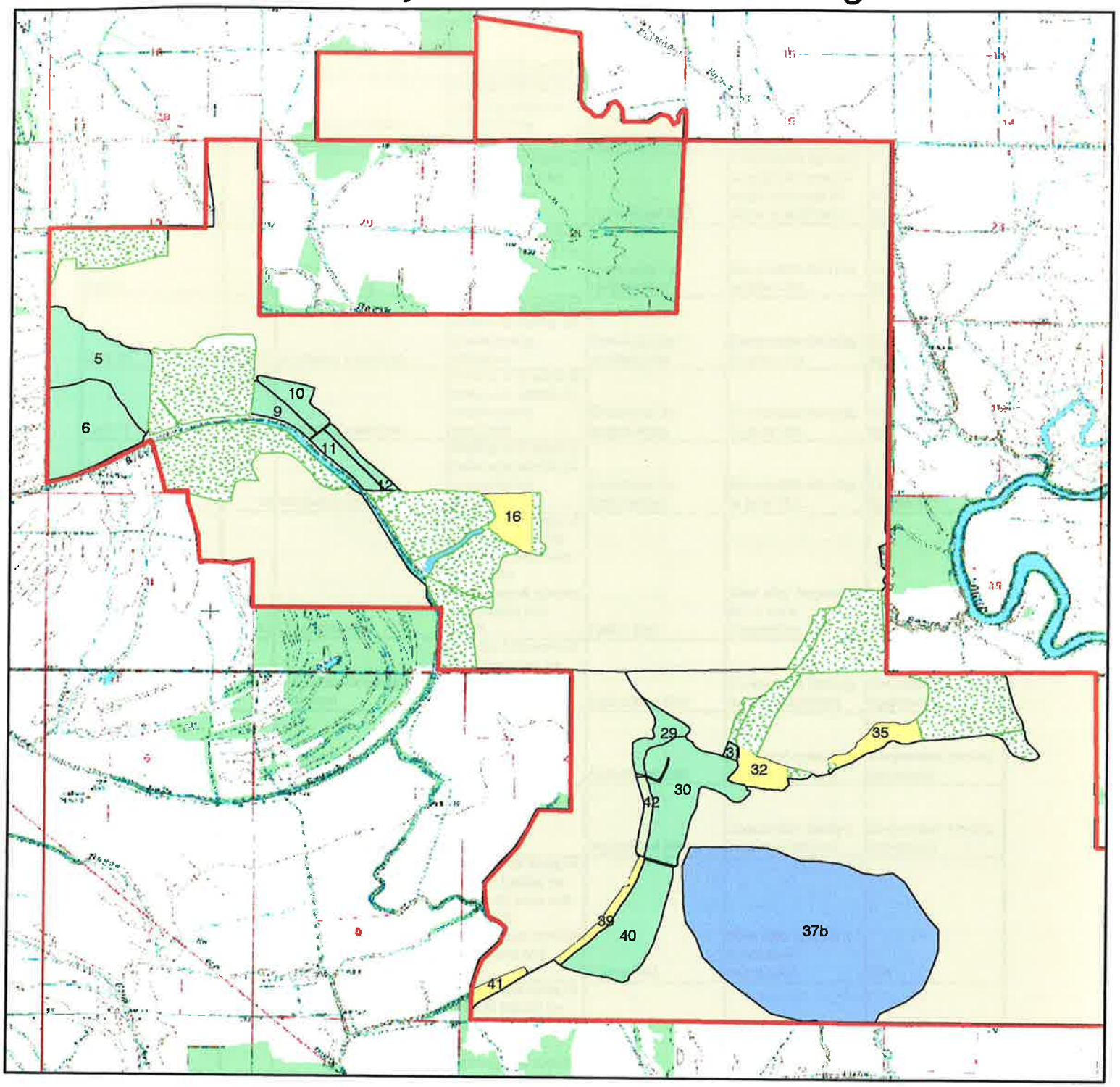
Pond PP	17	Wintering dabbling ducks, invasive control	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Control willow (Salix nigra)	Northern levee cut down and reworked in Fall 2004. Extra dirt deposited within pond covering 2004 moist soil vegetation. Pond invaded by willows. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Mid-season draw down (start draw down at least 3 weeks after willow seed out), smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed. Evaluate potential as habitat for secretive marshbirds.	PUP	Began draining 3/10 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6.		Need pumping capability and to remove slash piles and smooth pond bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond P	20	Wintering dabbling ducks, invasive control	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Control willow (Salix nigra)	Northern levee cut down and reworked in Fall 2004. Extra dirt deposited within pond covering 2004 moist soil vegetation. Pond invaded by willow. Has established stand of older willows and button bush. Bottoms of ponds need to be smoothed ASAP	Mid-season draw down (start draw down at least 3 weeks after willow seed out), smooth impoundment bottom. Spot spray willows as needed to prevent additional germination	PUP	Began draining 3/10 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6.		Need pumping capability and to remove slash piles and smooth pond bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond Q	18	Fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Dominated by sedge and fall panicum in 2004. Some willows beginning to encroach.	Hold water through summer. Begin slow drawdown in August. Assess willow stand and spot spray edges if necessary to prevent further colonization.	PUP	Began draining 3/15 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in November. Vegetation evaluated 8/8. Greater than 10% coverage for smartweed (34.6%), spike rush (20%), and sedge (11.7%). Levee construction in Oct./Nov. buried much of vegetation. Reboarded 12/6.	No water as of 12/19.	Need pumping capability and to remove slash piles and smooth pond bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond R	21	Secretive Marshbirds	Emergent marsh	Diverse assemblage of emergent vegetation. Approximately 50% of area covered by willow (*Salix nigra*) and groundsel-tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*)	Hold water throughout to promote growth of rushes and cattails and restrict growth of woody vegetation. Cut and spot spray willows and groundsel-tree as necessary	PUP	Began draining 3/15 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6.	No water as of 12/19.	Need pumping capability and to remove slash piles and smooth pond bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond S	18	Wintering diving ducks, invasive species control	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Control willow (Salix nigra)	Patch of willows in nw portion of pond. Willows moving into other areas as well. Late drawdown in 2004 produced dense stand of sedge.	Hold water through spring, summer, and fall. Spot spray willows with Rodeo.	PUP	Began draining 3/15 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in November. Structures reboarded 12/6. Began pumping 12/12	Unit flooded to about 1/2 pool and fair use by ducks with initial flooding.	Need to smooth bottom, remove slash piles, and prevent willow colonization.	

Pond T	19	Fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Central portion of unit with declining buttonbush stand.	Hold water through summer. Begin slow drawdown in August	N/A	Began draining 3/10 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6. Began pumping 12/14	Unit flooded to about 1/2 pool and fair use by ducks with initial flooding.	Need to smooth bottom, remove slash piles, and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond U	16	Spring and fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Mid-season drying in 2004 produced diverse stand of moist soil vegetation.	Early drawdown, disk, smooth bottom, and reflood. Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Began draining 3/15 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in November. Structures reboarded 12/6. Began pumping 12/6.	Unit flooded to about 1/2 pool and fair use by ducks with initial flooding.	Need to smooth bottom, remove slash piles, and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond V	16	Wintering dabbling ducks, invasive species control	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Control Lotus (Nelumbo lutea)	Healthy stand of lotus established in middle of unit. Has potential to spread throughout.	Early drawdown. Reflood with winter rain (i.e. leave dry as long as possible).	N/A	Began draining 3/10 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6. Began pumping 12/6.	Unit flooded to about 1/2 pool and fair use by ducks with initial flooding.	Need to smooth bottom, remove slash piles, and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond W	15	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migration shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Open water with little vegetation except along shoreline.	Early drawdown. Spot spray willows as needed.	PUP	Began draining 3/15 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6.	No water as of 12/19.	Need pumping capability and to remove slash piles and smooth pond bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Pond X	15	Secretive Marsh birds	Emergent marsh	Diverse assemblage of emergent vegetation	Hold water throughout to promote growth of rushes and cattails and restrict growth of woody vegetation. Spot spray willows as necessary	PUP	Began draining 3/15 to prepare for levee work. Work completed in December. Structures reboarded 12/6.	No water as of 12/19.	Need pumping capability and to remove slash piles and smooth pond bottom and prevent willow colonization.	
Throughout	2374	Invasive control	No measurable objective developed. Need to control nutria	Nutria causing extensive damage to levee system. Seen frequently, particularly in spring and fall	Remove nutria through trapping and shooting, particularly during drawdowns.	N/A		Staff shot 7 nutria	Continue current nutria control efforts, focusing on springtime removal and removal as ponds dry.	Developed cooperative agreement with Wildlife Services for beaver and nutria removal, primarily for purpose of keeping ditches open.
Throughout	2374	Nesting structures	No measurable objective developed. Maintain and monitor wood duck nest structures.	Six wood duck nest boxes present	Remove/board up boxes from ponds and relocate to borrow pits	N/A	Boxes removed after breeding season from all ponds except pond U.		Need to erect new boxes along borrow pits and remove last box on Pond U.	

Annual Habitat Work Plan 2005
Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge



Legend

- Refuge boundary
- cane establishment
- crop
- fallow field - mow
- flooded '04 - '05
- forest
- full pool
- saplings

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Dahomey NWR
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Management Unit	Acres	Conservation Target(s) (Habitat/Wildlife)	Habitat Objective	Current Condition	Management Prescription	Supporting Documentation
Unit 5	117	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement
Unit 6	121	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow 60 acres of sunflowers and 60 acres of soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement
Unit 9	23	Wintering waterfowl/dove field for hunting	Provide 318 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Dominated by undesirables	Cooperative farming to grow rice.	Cooperative farming agreement
Unit 10	27	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 318 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Dominated by undesirables	Cooperative farming to grow rice.	Cooperative farming agreement
Unit 11	22	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 318 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Dominated by undesirables	Cooperative farming to grow rice.	Cooperative farming agreement
Unit 12	14	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 318 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Dominated by undesirables	Cooperative farming to grow rice.	Cooperative farming agreement
Unit 16	37	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A
Unit 29	25	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement
Unit 30	119	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement
Unit 31	3	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement
Unit 32	28	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A
Unit 35	27	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A
Unit 37b	596	Greentree Reservoir	Flood greentree reservoir at least once every 3 - 5 years between December 1 and March 15 to mimic natural hydrology	Greentree Reservoir	Place boards in structure December of 2004 and allow to fill naturally. Pull boards no later than March 15, 2005	N/A

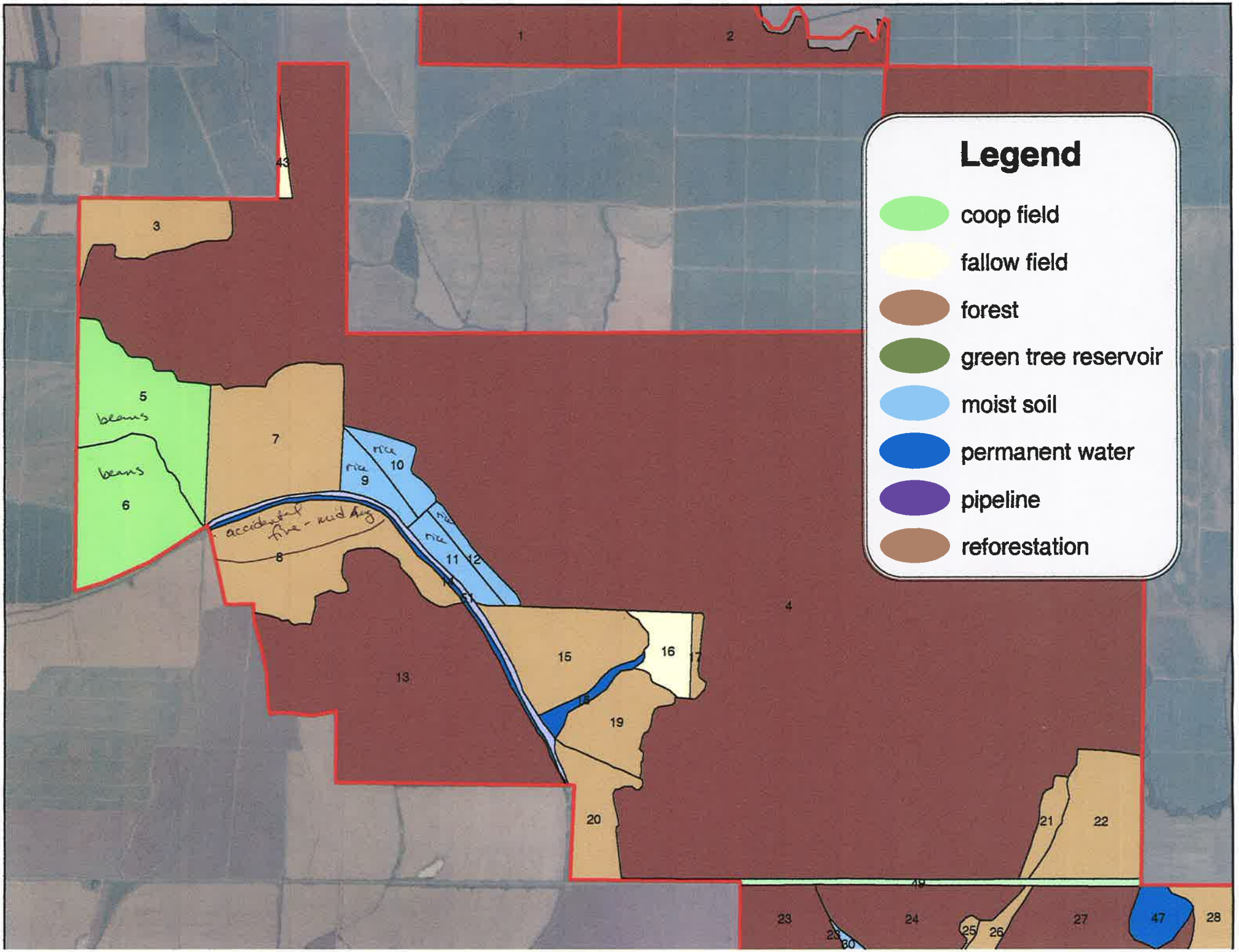
Unit 39	18	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A
Unit 40	104	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement
Unit 41	13	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A
Unit 42	13	Canebrake reestablishment	No measurable objectives developed. Continue to work with University of Memphis to develop methods of promoting the establishment and expansion of canebrakes.	Fallow field	Plant cane rhizomes in 4 x 4 grids throughout area to test the impact of competition on cane plantings. Mow around existing plantings to differentiate plantings.	SUP
Throughout	9691	Nesting structures	No measurable objective developed. Maintain and monitor wood duck nest structures.	Thirty-five wood duck nest boxes present, though some need replacement and relocation.	Rotate approximately 1/2 of the boxes to face away from the water to attempt to decrease dump nesting	N/A
Throughout	9691	Invasive Control	No measurable objective developed. Begin removal of feral hogs.	Feral hogs are rapidly increasing in number on Dahomey and damaging trails and roads	Use bait to attract hogs and dispatch with firearms. Investigate an agreement with Delta State to incorporate parasitology or other research aspect.	SUP

Management Unit	Acres	Conservation Target(s) (Habitat/Wildlife)	Habitat Objective	Current Condition	Management Prescription	Supporting Documentation	Habitat Response	Wildlife Response	Unmet Habitat Needs	Strategies to Achieve Unmet Habitat Needs
Unit 5	117	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 6	121	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow 60 acres of sunflowers and 60 acres of soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 9	23	Wintering waterfowl/dove field for hunting	Provide 318 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Dominated by undesirables	Cooperative farming to grow rice.	Cooperative farming agreement	Rice crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 10	27	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 318 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Dominated by undesirables	Cooperative farming to grow rice.	Cooperative farming agreement	Rice crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 11	22	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 318 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Dominated by undesirables	Cooperative farming to grow rice.	Cooperative farming agreement	Rice crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 12	14	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 318 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Dominated by undesirables	Cooperative farming to grow rice.	Cooperative farming agreement	Rice crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 16	37	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed-insufficient staff			
Unit 29	25	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced. (Now combined with unit 30)	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 30	119	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 31	3	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 32	28	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed-insufficient staff	Not evaluated		

Unit 35	27	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed-insufficient staff	Not evaluated		
Unit 37b	596	Greentree Reservoir	Flood greentree reservoir at least once every 3 - 5 years between December 1 and March 15 to mimic natural hydrology	Greentree Reservoir	Place boards in structure December of 2004 and allow to fill naturally. Pull boards no later than March 15, 2005	N/A	Boards removed in March.	Beaver continue to try to dam pipe/bayou	Ongoing beaver/nutria issues on Stillwater Bayou	
Unit 39	18	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Mowed first week of August	Not evaluated		
Unit 40	104	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 41	13	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	SE 1/2 mowed first week of August	Not evaluated		
Unit 42	13	Canebrake reestablishment	No measurable objectives developed. Continue to work with University of Memphis to develop methods of promoting the establishment and expansion of canebrakes.	Fallow field	Plant cane rhizomes in 4 x 4 grids throughout area to test the impact of competition on cane plantings. Mow around existing plantings to differentiate plantings.	SUP	No additional research plots planted.			
Throughout	9691	Nesting structures	No measurable objective developed. Maintain and monitor wood duck nest structures.	Thirty-five wood duck nest boxes present, though some need replacement and relocation.	Rotate approximately 1/2 of the boxes to face away from the water to attempt to decrease dump nesting	N/A	No action taken--insufficient staff	N/A		

Not flooded 11/7

Throughout	9691	Invasive Control	No measurable objective developed. Begin removal of feral hogs.	Feral hogs are rapidly increasing in number on Dahomey and damaging trails and roads	Use bait to attract hogs and dispatch with firearms. Investigate an agreement with Delta State to incorporate parasitology or other research aspect.	SUP		Baiting/trapping attempted with little success.		Continue baiting and trapping/shooting, particularly during winter months. Encourage hunters to take hogs. Work on developing a special hog hunt for the '06-'07 hunting season.


Legend
coop field
fallow field
forest
green tree reservoir
moist soil
permanent water
pipeline
reforestation
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2
43
3
5
beans
beans
6
7
rice
9
rice
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rice
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12
accidental fire - mid Aug
8
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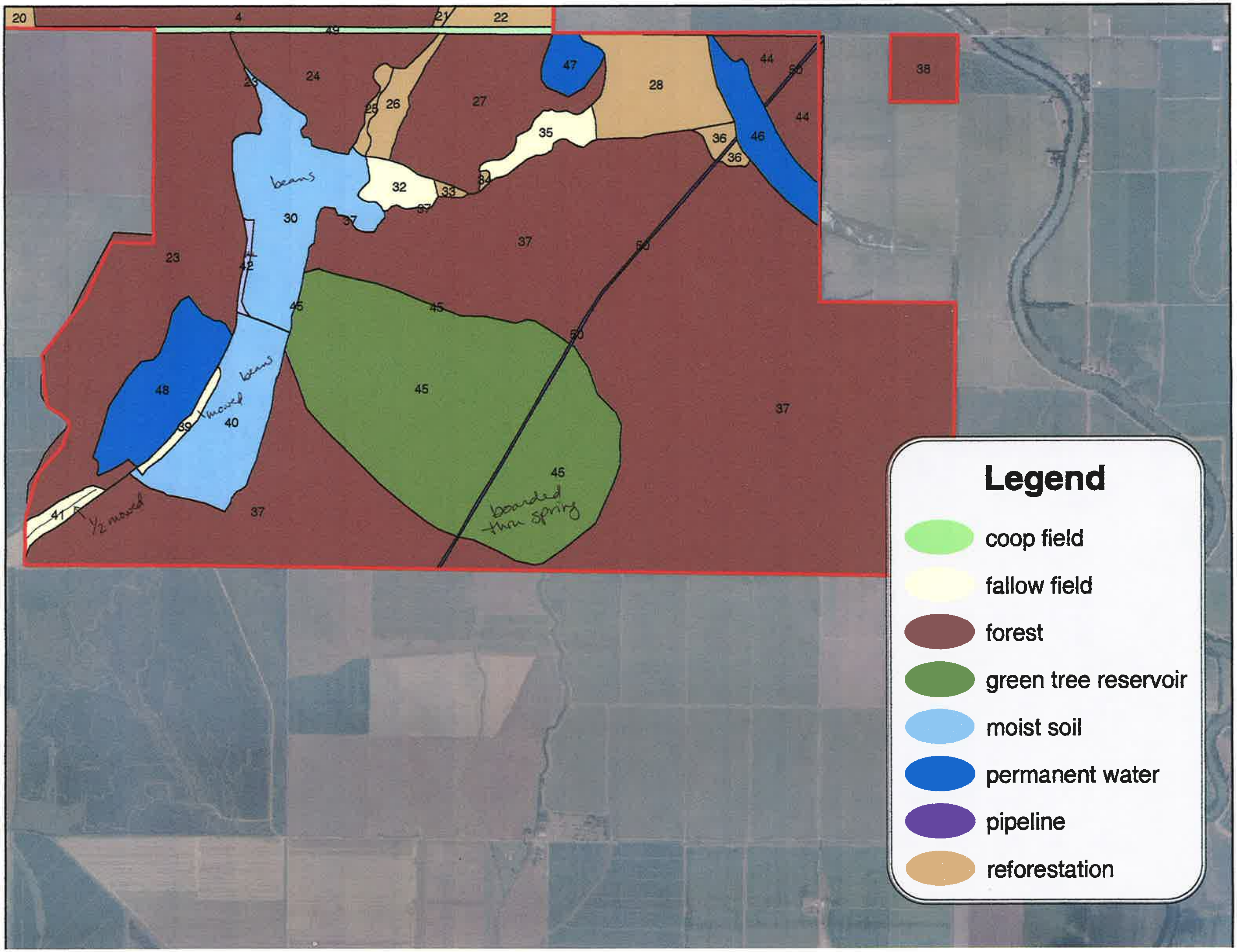
Legend
coop field
fallow field
forest
green tree reservoir
moist soil
permanent water
pipeline
reforestation
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4
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47
48
50
beans
mowed
½ mowed
boarded thru spring

Dahomey NWR
AHWP - 2005 - Evaluation

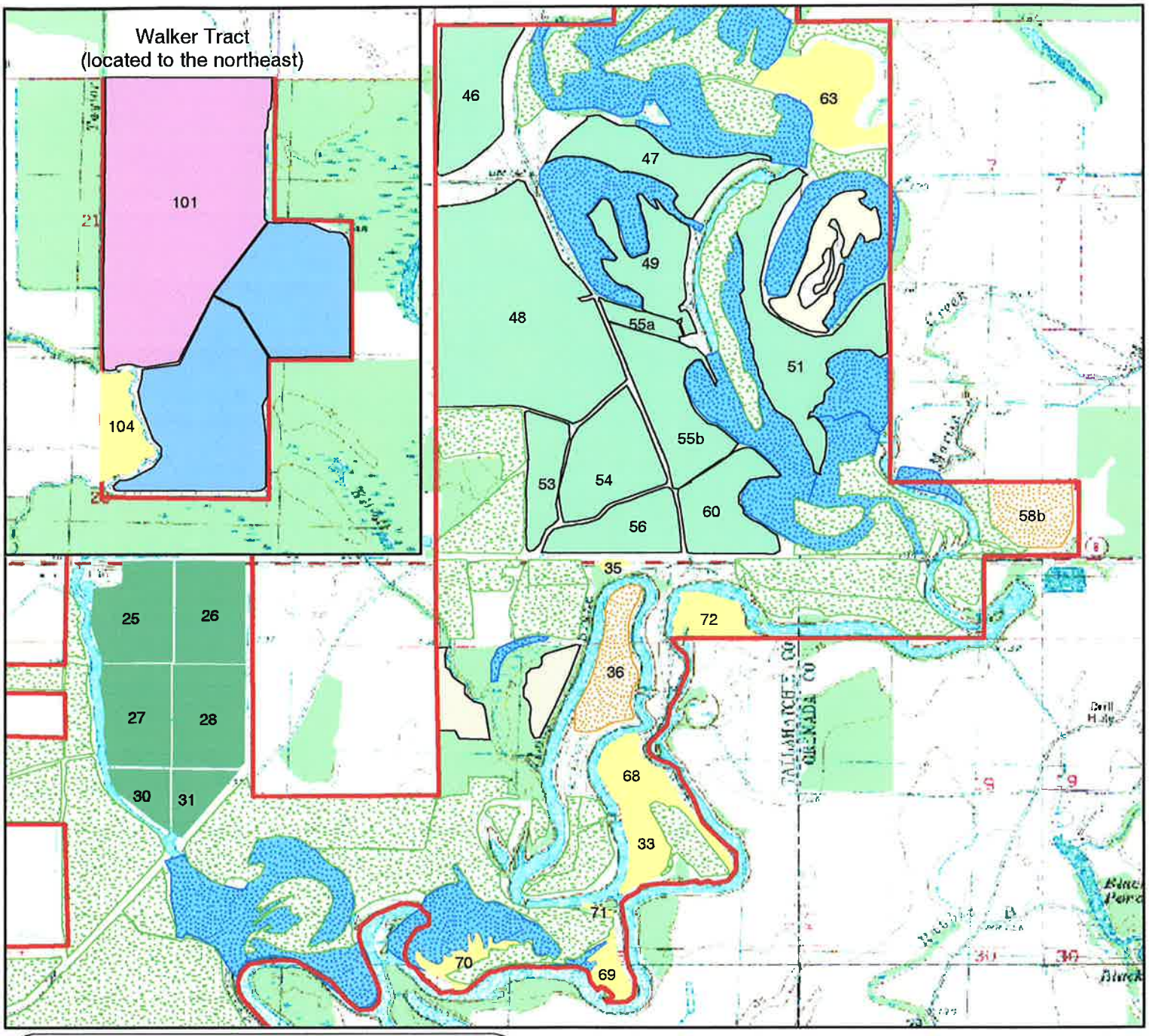
Management Unit	Acres	Conservation Target(s) (Habitat/Wildlife)	Habitat Objective	Current Condition	Management Prescription	Supporting Documentation	Habitat Response	Wildlife Response	Unmet Habitat Needs	Strategies to Achieve Unmet Habitat Needs
Unit 5	117	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 6	121	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow 60 acres of sunflowers and 60 acres of soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 9	23	Wintering waterfowl/dove field for hunting	Provide 318 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Dominated by undesirables	Cooperative farming to grow rice.	Cooperative farming agreement	Rice crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 10	27	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 318 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Dominated by undesirables	Cooperative farming to grow rice.	Cooperative farming agreement	Rice crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 11	22	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 318 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Dominated by undesirables	Cooperative farming to grow rice.	Cooperative farming agreement	Rice crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 12	14	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 318 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Dominated by undesirables	Cooperative farming to grow rice.	Cooperative farming agreement	Rice crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 16	37	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed-insufficient staff	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	Mow or burn in 2006
Unit 29	25	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced. (Now combined with unit 30)	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 30	119	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 31	3	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 32	28	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed-insufficient staff	Not evaluated	Not mowed--insufficient staff	Mow or burn in 2006

Dahomey NWR
AHWP - 2005 - Evaluation

Unit 35	27	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed-insufficient staff	Not evaluated	Not mowed--insufficient staff	Mow or burn in 2006
Unit 37b	596	Greentree Reservoir	Flood greentree reservoir at least once every 3 - 5 years between December 1 and March 15 to mimic natural hydrology	Greentree Reservoir	Place boards in structure December of 2004 and allow to fill naturally. Pull boards no later than March 15, 2005	N/A	Boards removed in March.	Beaver continue to try to dam pipe/bayou	Ongoing beaver/nutria issues on Stillwater Bayou	Developed cooperative agreement with Wildlife Services for beaver and nutria removal, primarily for purpose of keeping ditches open. Continue opportunistic shooting.
Unit 39	18	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Mowed first week of August	Not evaluated	None	None
Unit 40	104	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 218 acres of standing crops for overwintering waterfowl	Agricultural field	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 41	13	Grassland birds	Provide 104 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species (i.e. rabbits and quail).	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	SE 1/2 mowed first week of August	Not evaluated	Not completely mowed--insufficient staff	Mow or burn in 2006
Unit 42	13	Canebrake reestablishment	No measurable objectives developed. Continue to work with University of Memphis to develop methods of promoting the establishment and expansion of canebrakes.	Fallow field	Plant cane rhizomes in 4 x 4 grids throughout area to test the impact of competition on cane plantings. Mow around existing plantings to differentiate plantings.	SUP	No additional research plots planted.	Not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Throughout	9691	Nesting structures	No measurable objective developed. Maintain and monitor wood duck nest structures.	Thirty-five wood duck nest boxes present, though some need replacement and relocation.	Rotate approximately 1/2 of the boxes to face away from the water to attempt to decrease dump nesting	N/A	No action taken--insufficient staff	N/A	Still large degree of dump nesting.	Hire intern/STEP student to maintain throughout the spring.

Throughout	9691	Invasive Control	No measurable objective developed. Begin removal of feral hogs.	Feral hogs are rapidly increasing in number on Dahomey and damaging trails and roads	Use bait to attract hogs and dispatch with firearms. Investigate an agreement with Delta State to incorporate parasitology or other research aspect.	SUP	Increased amount of disturbance to habitat by hogs.	Baiting/trapping attempted with little success.	Hog population appears to be increase. Habitat destruction more obvious.	Continue baiting and trapping/shooting, particularly during winter months. Encourage hunters to take hogs. Work on developing a special hog hunt for the '06-'07 hunting season.

Annual Habitat Work Plan - 2005
Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge



Legend

- Refuge boundary
- moist soil
- crop
- millet
- fallow field - mow
- invasive control
- hold water
- forest
- fallow field
- saplings
- oxbow

North Mississippi Refuges Complex
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R.L. Rosamond 12/29/04

Management Unit	Acres	Conservation Target(s) (Habitat/Wildlife)	Habitat Objective	Current Condition	Management Prescription	Supporting Documentation	Habitat Response	Wildlife Response	Unmet Habitat Needs	Strategies to Achieve Unmet Habitat Needs
Unit 25	41	Shorebirds	Complex goal of 653 acres of fall shorebird habitat by 2014	Farmed in 2004 in soybeans	Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Let dry naturally. Mowed NE quarter, targeting coffeeweed 7/29. Veg response over entire unit - fall aster (14.7%), smartweed (12.1%) and water primrose (10%)	not evaluated	Need to evaluate vegetation earlier--may have missed some moist soil veg production. Units dry too quickly.	Need pumping capability to manage sesbania. Need to drawdown gradually in early spring and keep moist
Unit 26	41	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 852 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Farmed 2003 in milo	Draw down in March. Reflood as needed to control sesbania	N/A	Began drawdown 4/7. Unit dry by 4/21. Fairly heavy cattails in unit. Mowed low 6/14-15. Tried reflooding beginning 6/20--problems with pump. Response was coffeeweed. Mowed northern 1/2 of unit 7/28 (densest coffeeweed). Veg response throughout unit: smartweed - 18.8% cover, coffeeweed - 14.25 cover. Drought in fall so no water until mid-Dec.	not evaluated	Cattails effectively controlled but need pumping capability to control sesbania. May need to consider willow control, though not a problem yet.	Need pumping capability to manage sesbania. Need to drawdown gradually in early spring and keep moist
Unit 27	39	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 852 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Farmed in 2004 in soybeans	Draw down in May/June.	N/A	Let dry naturally. Strip mowed (1:4) 8/2. Coffeeweed with understory of millet.	not evaluated	Units dry too quickly	Need pumping capability to manage sesbania. Need to drawdown gradually in early spring and keep moist
Unit 28	42	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 852 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Farmed in 2003 in milo	Draw down in May/June.	N/A	Treated cattails and willows with Habitat 6/14. Not very effective on cattails. Mowed entire unit 7/27-28. Veg response--poor in terms of moist soil plants--unit too dry.	not evaluated	Units dry too quickly	Need pumping capability to manage sesbania. Need to drawdown gradually in early spring and keep moist

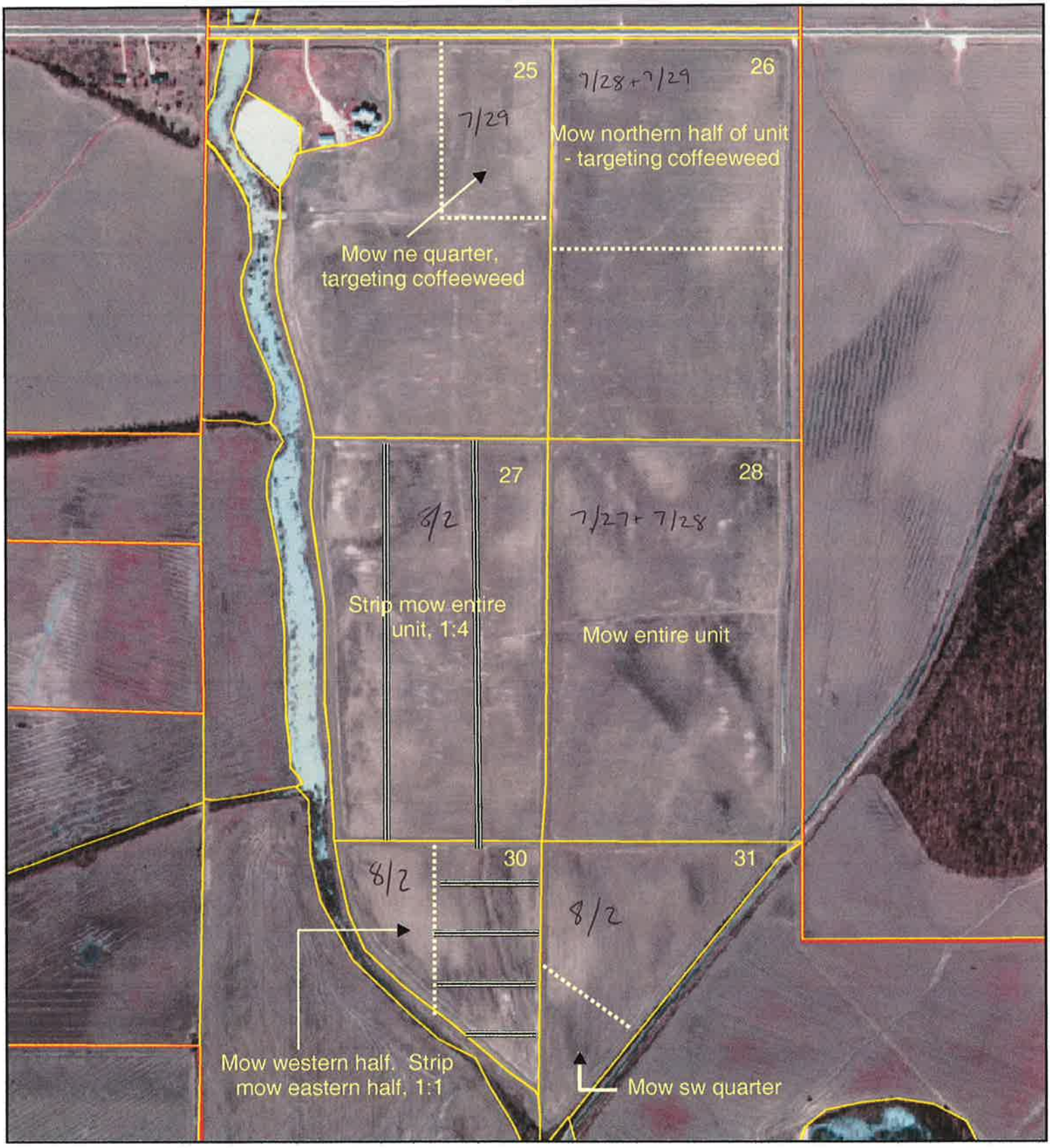
Unit 30	14	Shorebirds	Complex goal of 653 acres of fall shorebird habitat by 2014	Farmed in 2004 in soybeans and millet	Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Lowered water level beginning in April (was flooding levee). Did not remove boards, just beaver debris. Let dry naturally. 8/2 - mowed western half (heavy coffeeweed) and strip mowed eastern half	not evaluated	Units dry too quickly	Need pumping capability to manage sesbania. Need to drawdown gradually in early spring and keep moist
Unit 31	14	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 852 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Farmed in 2004 in soybeans and millet	Draw down in March. Reflood as needed to control sesbania	N/A	Began drawdown in April. Mowed sw quarter (heavy coffeeweed) 8/2	not evaluated	Units dry too quickly	Need pumping capability to manage sesbania. Need to drawdown gradually in early spring and keep moist
Unit 36	30	Dove hunting	Provide increased hunting opportunities to the public	Fallow field	Cooperative farmer to grow corn and leave entire crop.	Cooperative farming agreement	Not farmed in 2005--insufficient staff to run a dove hunt.	not evaluated	Not farmed in 2005--insufficient staff to run a dove hunt.	mow or burn in 2006
Unit 46	51	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow corn.	Cooperative farming agreement	Corn crop produced	High duck use once rain water flooded area	N/A	N/A
Unit 47	42	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow corn.	Cooperative farming agreement	Corn crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 48	183	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	High duck use once rain water flooded area	N/A	N/A
Unit 49	39	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow corn.	Cooperative farming agreement	Corn crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 51	76	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 53	24	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 54	50	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 55	60	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 56	33	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A

Unit 58 b	29	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 852 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Rank vegetation, millet from last year, but mostly cocklebur, trumpet creeper, redvine, and other undesirables	Plant millet and leave for wintering waterfowl.	Cooperative farming agreement	Began drawdown 6/15. Millet planted but no rain for about a month. Produced sparse crop. Unit partially flooded in early Dec. by rain.	Little duck response to initial flooding	Need to increase moist soil/millet production in unit and reduce competition by vines and cockleburr	Try burning in 2006. Also, try earlier drawdown to see if can get good moist soil response.
Unit 60	40	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 63	43	Grassland birds	Provide 207 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species.	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A
Unit 72	15	Grassland birds	Provide 207 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species.	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A
Unit 101	273	Invasive control	No measurable objective developed. Need to control Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) in unit	Open water with extensive area of lotus.	Early draw down. Keep dry throughout summer. Spray lotus aerially if necessary	PUP	Drawdown attempted with little success during summer, boards left out through winter in hopes of freezing roots and killing plants	not evaluated	Revisit in spring '06. Determine if drought/freezing had any impact.	If necessary, try to aerially spray.
Unit 104	27	Grassland birds	Provide 207 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species.	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A	N/A	N/A
Walker Tract ditches	?	Invasive control	No measurable objective developed. Need to control parrotfeather on the Walker Tract	Parrotfeather colonizing ditches and beginning to spread into impoundments	**To be determined**	PUP	Treated with Aquathol Super K (granular) with limited success. Received money to retreat in March '06	not evaluated	Levee work in this area may have reduced growth or caused to spread. Need to evaluate in spring.	Treat impacted areas with Aquathol K (liquid).
Walker Tract	557	Invasive control	No measurable objective developed. Need to control nutria on Walker tract	Nutria causing extensive damage to levee system. Seen frequently, particularly in spring and fall	Remove nutria through trapping and shooting	N/A	not evaluated	Shot/trapped 17 nutria on ponds	Still sizeable population on property.	Developed cooperative agreement with Wildlife Services for beaver and nutria removal, primarily for purpose of keeping ditches open. Continue opportunistic shooting.

Throughout	4199	Nesting structures	No measurable objective developed. Maintain and monitor wood duck nest structures.	Twenty-nine wood duck nest boxes present	Monitor and maintain existing nest boxes. If time permits, rotate 1/2 of boxes to face away from the water to determine if that will reduce dump nesting.	N/A	Boxes prepped in Feb./Mar but not monitored regularly due to insufficient staff	3 boxes colonized by honeybees. At least 75% of remaining boxes used by wood ducks with variable success. Use by screech owls and wrens as well.	Still a large degree of dump nesting and unexplained abandonment. Need to monitor more intensively.	Hire intern/STEP student to maintain throughout the spring.

Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge
Mowing - 2005

Mowed 7/27 - 8/2



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N W E S

North Mississippi Refuges Complex
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R.L. Rosamond 07/28/2005

Tallahatchie NWR
AHWP - 2005 - Evaluation

Management Unit	Acres	Conservation Target(s) (Habitat/Wildlife)	Habitat Objective	Current Condition	Management Prescription	Supporting Documentation	Habitat Response	Wildlife Response	Unmet Habitat Needs	Strategies to Achieve Unmet Habitat Needs
Unit 25	41	Shorebirds	Complex goal of 653 acres of fall shorebird habitat by 2014	Farmed in 2004 in soybeans	Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Let dry naturally. Mowed NE quarter, targeting coffeeweed 7/29. Veg response over entire unit - fall aster (14.7%), smartweed (12.1%) and water primrose (10%)	not evaluated	Need to evaluate vegetation earlier--may have missed some moist soil veg production. Units dry too quickly.	Need pumping capability to manage sesbania. Need to drawdown gradually in early spring and keep moist
Unit 26	41	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 852 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Farmed 2003 in milo	Draw down in March. Reflood as needed to control sesbania	N/A	Began drawdown 4/7. Unit dry by 4/21. Fairly heavy cattails in unit. Mowed low 6/14-15. Tried reflooding beginning 6/20--problems with pump. Response was coffeeweed. Mowed northern 1/2 of unit 7/28 (densest coffeeweed). Veg response throughout unit: smartweed - 18.8% cover, coffeeweed - 14.25 cover. Drought in fall so no water until mid-Dec.	not evaluated	Cattails effectively controlled but need pumping capability to control sesbania. May need to consider willow control, though not a problem yet.	Need pumping capability to manage sesbania. Need to drawdown gradually in early spring and keep moist
Unit 27	39	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 852 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Farmed in 2004 in soybeans	Draw down in May/June.	N/A	Let dry naturally. Strip mowed (1:4) 8/2. Coffeeweed with understory of millet.	not evaluated	Units dry too quickly	Need pumping capability to manage sesbania. Need to drawdown gradually in early spring and keep moist
Unit 28	42	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 852 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Farmed in 2003 in milo	Draw down in May/June.	N/A	Treated cattails and willows with Habitat 6/14. Not very effective on cattails. Mowed entire unit 7/27-28. Veg response--poor in terms of moist soil plants--unit too dry.	not evaluated	Units dry too quickly	Need pumping capability to manage sesbania. Need to drawdown gradually in early spring and keep moist

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Unit 30	14	Shorebirds	Complex goal of 653 acres of fall shorebird habitat by 2014	Farmed in 2004 in soybeans and millet	Draw down in August for shorebirds.	N/A	Lowered water level beginning in April (was flooding levee). Did not remove boards, just beaver debris. Let dry naturally. 8/2 - mowed western half (heavy coffeeweed) and strip mowed eastern half	not evaluated	Units dry too quickly	Need pumping capability to manage sesbania. Need to drawdown gradually in early spring and keep moist
Unit 31	14	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 852 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Farmed in 2004 in soybeans and millet	Draw down in March. Reflood as needed to control sesbania	N/A	Began drawdown in April. Mowed sw quarter (heavy coffeeweed) 8/2	not evaluated	Units dry too quickly	Need pumping capability to manage sesbania. Need to drawdown gradually in early spring and keep moist
Unit 36	30	Dove hunting	Provide increased hunting opportunities to the public	Fallow field	Cooperative farmer to grow corn and leave entire crop.	Cooperative farming agreement	Not farmed in 2005--insufficient staff to run a dove hunt.	not evaluated	Not farmed in 2005--insufficient staff to run a dove hunt.	mow or burn in 2006
Unit 46	51	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow corn.	Cooperative farming agreement	Corn crop produced	High duck use once rain water flooded area	N/A	N/A
Unit 47	42	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow corn.	Cooperative farming agreement	Corn crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 48	183	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	High duck use once rain water flooded area	N/A	N/A
Unit 49	39	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow corn.	Cooperative farming agreement	Corn crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 51	76	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 53	24	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 54	50	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 55	60	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 56	33	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A

Tallahatchie NWR
AHWP - 2005 - Evaluation

Unit 58 b	29	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 852 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Rank vegetation, millet from last year, but mostly cocklebur, trumpet creeper, redvine, and other undesirables	Plant millet and leave for wintering waterfowl.	Cooperative farming agreement	Began drawdown 6/15. Millet planted but no rain for about a month. Produced sparse crop. Unit partially flooded in early Dec. by rain.	Little duck response to initial flooding	Need to increase moist soil/millet production in unit and reduce competition by vines and cockleburr	Try burning in 2006. Also, try earlier drawdown to see if can get good moist soil response.
Unit 60	40	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 63	43	Grassland birds	Provide 207 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species.	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A
Unit 72	15	Grassland birds	Provide 207 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species.	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A
Unit 101	273	Invasive control	No measurable objective developed. Need to control Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) in unit	Open water with extensive area of lotus.	Early draw down. Keep dry throughout summer. Spray lotus aerially if necessary	PUP	Drawdown attempted with little success during summer, boards left out through winter in hopes of freezing roots and killing plants	not evaluated	Revisit in spring '06. Determine if drought/freezing had any impact.	If necessary, try to aerially spray.
Unit 104	27	Grassland birds	Provide 207 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species.	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A	N/A	N/A
Walker Tract ditches	?	Invasive control	No measurable objective developed. Need to control parrotfeather on the Walker Tract	Parrotfeather colonizing ditches and beginning to spread into impoundments	**To be determined**	PUP	Treated with Aquathol Super K (granular) with limited success. Received money to retreat in March '06	not evaluated	Levee work in this area may have reduced growth or caused to spread. Need to evaluate in spring.	Treat impacted areas with Aquathol K (liquid).
Walker Tract	557	Invasive control	No measurable objective developed. Need to control nutria on Walker tract	Nutria causing extensive damage to levee system. Seen frequently, particularly in spring and fall	Remove nutria through trapping and shooting	N/A	not evaluated	Shot/trapped 17 nutria on ponds	Still sizeable population on property.	Developed cooperative agreement with Wildlife Services for beaver and nutria removal, primarily for purpose of keeping ditches open. Continue opportunistic shooting.

Tallahatchie NWR
AHWP - 2005 - Evaluation

Unit 58 b	29	Wintering waterfowl	Provide 852 acres of moist-soil habitat for overwintering waterfowl	Rank vegetation, millet from last year, but mostly cocklebur, trumpet creeper, redvine, and other undesirables	Plant millet and leave for wintering waterfowl.	Cooperative farming agreement	Began drawdown 6/15. Millet planted but no rain for about a month. Produced sparse crop. Unit partially flooded in early Dec. by rain.	Little duck response to initial flooding	Need to increase moist soil/millet production in unit and reduce competition by vines and cockleburr	Try burning in 2006. Also, try earlier drawdown to see if can get good moist soil response.
Unit 60	40	Croplands for wintering waterfowl	Provide 212 acres of standing crops for over wintering waterfowl	Agricultural fields	Cooperative farming to grow soybeans.	Cooperative farming agreement	Soybean crop produced	not evaluated	N/A	N/A
Unit 63	43	Grassland birds	Provide 207 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species.	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A
Unit 72	15	Grassland birds	Provide 207 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species.	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A
Unit 101	273	Invasive control	No measurable objective developed. Need to control Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) in unit	Open water with extensive area of lotus.	Early draw down. Keep dry throughout summer. Spray lotus aerially if necessary	PUP	Drawdown attempted with little success during summer, boards left out through winter in hopes of freezing roots and killing plants	not evaluated	Revisit in spring '06. Determine if drought/freezing had any impact.	If necessary, try to aerially spray.
Unit 104	27	Grassland birds	Provide 207 acres of old field habitat for grassland birds and other early successional species.	Fallow field	Mow after August 1 to set back succession	N/A	Not mowed--insufficient staff	N/A	N/A	N/A
Walker Tract ditches	?	Invasive control	No measurable objective developed. Need to control parrotfeather on the Walker Tract	Parrotfeather colonizing ditches and beginning to spread into impoundments	**To be determined**	PUP	Treated with Aquathol Super K (granular) with limited success. Received money to retreat in March '06	not evaluated	Levee work in this area may have reduced growth or caused to spread. Need to evaluate in spring.	Treat impacted areas with Aquathol K (liquid).
Walker Tract	557	Invasive control	No measurable objective developed. Need to control nutria on Walker tract	Nutria causing extensive damage to levee system. Seen frequently, particularly in spring and fall	Remove nutria through trapping and shooting	N/A	not evaluated	Shot/trapped 17 nutria on ponds	Still sizeable population on property.	Developed cooperative agreement with Wildlife Services for beaver and nutria removal, primarily for purpose of keeping ditches open. Continue opportunistic shooting.

Throughout	4199	Nesting structures	No measurable objective developed. Maintain and monitor wood duck nest structures.	Twenty-nine wood duck nest boxes present	Monitor and maintain existing nest boxes. If time permits, rotate 1/2 of boxes to face away from the water to determine if that will reduce dump nesting.	N/A	Boxes prepped in Feb./Mar but not monitored regularly due to insufficient staff	3 boxes colonized by honeybees. At least 75% of remaining boxes used by wood ducks with variable success. Use by screech owls and wrens as well.	Still a large degree of dump nesting and unexplained abandonment. Need to monitor more intensively.	Hire intern/STEP student to maintain throughout the spring.

U.S. Government
MEMORANDUM

Date: January 12, 2005

From: Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Migratory Bird Office, FWS, Jackson, MS

Subject: Comments on 2004 AHWP-Evaluation and 2005 AHWP for Coldwater, Dahomey, and Tallahatchie NWRs

To: Refuge Biologist, North MS Refuge Complex, FWS, Grenada, MS

I have reviewed the subject documents and want to give you a loud "ata girl" for your work. As far as I can tell, both documents meet the intended purpose in providing brief plans for managing the refuges to meet refuge purposes and the use of evaluation and adaptive management to improve habitat and wildlife response to management actions. As you mention, the plans might be a bit ambitious, but what the heck – maybe some cadre of volunteers with tractors, mowers, disks, matches, etc. etc. might show up. If you do not put it down it sure is not going to happen.

I am particularly impressed with your efforts to integrate management activities to address the needs of a variety of grassland and wetland-dependent migratory birds: migrating, wintering, and resident waterfowl; shorebirds; and secretive marsh birds. You will also be providing foraging habitat for wading birds (whether you maintain flooded conditions or have early or late drawdowns) and you might consider making some reference to them in your moist-soil units. The key is to have slow drawdowns if possible to maintain moist-soil conditions, keep nutrients in the units, and concentrate food resources for wading birds.

The following comments are offered to clarify or suggest alternate management strategies and stimulate some additional thought regarding some activities. Several general comments followed by refuge-specific comments:

1.) You have a good variety of habitat treatments to meet the many management needs on the refuge. It is critical that you continue keeping records of management actions and responses as a means to continue improving desired habitat conditions with the greatest efficiency.

2.) Shorebirds migrate through Mississippi in both spring and fall, with fall habitat conditions generally thought to be the most critical. Fall migration begins in August and extends through October. During this period shorebirds are searching for an invertebrate food base that is available to them in mud flats and shallowly flooded (<6" deep) areas virtually devoid of vegetation. It typically takes 10 to 14 days of flooding before an invertebrate food base can be established on a site. Therefore, if the site is allowed to dry, it will need to be flooded for a minimum of 2 weeks before it will support a food base that is desirable for shorebirds. It is often easier to hold water on the units designated for fall shorebird migration until mid-July to mid-August before initiating a drawdown to make habitat available. But other management scenarios (e.g., early drawdown to smooth pond bottoms, then reflood for shorebirds) may offer a preferred alternative. With relatively high evaporation rates, shallowly flooded sites dry quickly, making reflooding a management option to extend the period of desirable habitat. Shorebirds will forage in and around fairly small pools but respond best if at least 40 to 100 acres are available at any one time. This may require similar concurrent management actions in two or more units in close proximity. Also, because of the tendency for seeds to germinate once a unit is drawndown it is unlikely that one unit will remain desirable habitat throughout the fall migration period regardless of your management efforts. Therefore, you may need to stagger drawdown dates between a number of units to maintain good shorebird habitat through out the 3 month migration period. To get 100 acres of preferred shorebird habitat throughout the fall migration

period may require dedication of 200 acres of ponds with staggered drawdown dates.

3.) A minor detail perhaps, but I think you will get the best results from mowing coffeebean (Sesbania) after it begins to flower.

4.) Maintenance of desirable grassland habitat may be best accomplished by growing season burns and/or herbicides. I recognize that burning may not be an option; I am just mentioning it. If possible, I would encourage you to stagger years for mowing such that the entire area (i.e., Fields 1, 2, 3, 16, and 17 at Coldwater) is not all burned or mowed in the same year. I also recognize that when you get the mower there you might have to mow it all because it may not show back up for 3 years. Nevertheless, from a management standpoint, it would be best to stagger that management action to provide a diversity of habitat conditions through the years. Evaluation should be conducted in the winter for priority species including Henslow's sparrow, LeConte Sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, sedge wren, northern harrier, and short-eared owl, and early summer for dickcissel, bobwhite (if it does not flood frequently), loggerhead shrike, and field sparrow.

5.) Several units were designated for growing sunflowers or millet for dove hunting. No problem there, just be sure that steel shot is required, particularly in areas potentially used by waterfowl. (This may be some regional or national policy.) I would issue a caution regarding using this management practice within large blocks of forest land where such land usemight attract cowbirds. I do not think that is the case in any of the areas that you have designated for this activity.

6.) Smooth pond bottoms will facilitate management. Where acceptable, some micro topographic variation will provide shallow ponding and desirable heterogeneity in habitat conditions.

7.) In your evaluation, especially at Coldwater, you give an interesting account of waterfowl use relative to area (e.g., 5% of area, 4% of waterfowl use). Be cautious of how you use the information because the habitat use by ducks may change significantly from day to night and from early winter to late winter and warm days to cold days. From late January through March, waterfowl will have an increasing demand for invertebrates to meet changing physiological conditions. Consider beginning early drawdowns, if possible, as early as late January.

8.) I wish that I had a solution to address woodpecker predation on wood duck nests. Fortunately, it is not a real common problem across the landscape. But, where it is a problem, it can be devastating. My greatest experience with woodpecker predation was in an old beaver pond where woodpecker habitat was deteriorating, and they predated almost every wood duck nest.

9.) Continue with the evaluation of habitat and wildlife responses to habitat objectives and management strategies. Recognize that maintaining early successional habitats requires significant manpower and effort that is in diminishing supply in refuges. At some point you will need to prioritize and recognize that management for some species will need to be forgotten, at least at some sites. What is going on at Dahomey and Tallahatchie? No mowing, no pumping, what does happen there?

<u>Coldwater</u>

1.) Ponds A, C, H, and S are to be kept flooded and will more likely produce Sagittaria and submerged aquatics than moist-soil plants – nothing wrong with that, only a little different than the expressed habitat objective for moist-soil. Also, I realize that this may be part of your moist-soil rotation and you are getting the 190 acres from other ponds this year. A secondary management objective here would be for wading birds and herps.

2.) Ponds B, D, F, I, L, and U are to be drawn down early, then reflood for shorebirds. If they are not reflooded soon after the dirt work is completed, they will likely grow up in vegetation that will need to be eliminated mechanically or rot before the shorebirds are likely to use the ponds.

3.) Ponds E, G, J, K, M, N/O, V, and W are scheduled for early drawdown. As suggested above, I would encourage slow drawdown if possible. Once the soil cracks and adequate germination has occurred, I would encourage you to flush the fields with a shallow flood to reduce competition from less desirable plants. Watch for coffeebean and cocklebur and reflood as necessary.

Dahomey

1.) You have an objective of 218 acres of standing crops, is that unharvested or a combination of harvested and unharvested crops? The 218 figure is considerably more than the 84-acre capability of unharvested crops shown in the draft CCP, page 22.

2.) In Units 10-12, you have a habitat objective for moist-soil, but a management prescription to cooperatively farm rice. I realize that farming can be part of the rotation for moist-soil and perhaps I am missing something with the snapshot provided in the AHMP.

3.) Unit 37b, greentree reservoir, could be flooded more than once every 3 to 5 years as indicated. More important than flood frequency for the health of the trees and the system as a whole is flood duration. Consider no boards 1 year out of 4. In the remaining years vary the number of boards and the duration such that the boards should be installed most years around December 1 and wait for rainfall to begin filling the GTR. If it is stream fed, vary the flood date from December 1 to December 30. Vary drawdown dates from February 15 to May 1 depending of forest type and historic flood frequency. Never pull all boards at once, pull one board a week to extend the drawdown period over the course of a month.

4.) Feral hogs directly compete withdeer and will negatively affect management efforts by eating seed, rooting up planted seedlings, and destroying levees. They need to be controlled by whatever means available. Make harvest legal whenever another hunting season is open.

Tallahatchie

1.) I do not know a whole lot about Tallahatchie but the moist soil habitat goal of 852 acres seems a little (maybe a lot) overstated if you are counting acres actually managed.

2.) Last time I saw the DU unit it looked like decent secretive marsh bird habitat. I doubt that it would make them happy to hear that but I do not even see it designated as a management unit on your map. Am I overlooking something?

3.) Do not know what to suggest for getting more ducks to use Fields 25-31. Disturbance may be a factor but you see ducks right up on the road shoulder after the duck season closes. You could try a screen, but I would make sure there is agood food resource there first.

4.) As I read the map, it appears that you are holding water on a significant part of the Walker Tract that is not designated as a management unit. What is the deal? Why are we holding water there?

Hope this helps some.

Bob Strader

Becky Rosamond /R4/FWS/DOI
04/08/2005 01:27 PM

To Stephen Gard/R4/FWS/DOI
cc
bcc
Subject updates

Steve-

This is an update for the last several months with some of ideas of future projects. Hopefully future updates will be a bit shorter. I've highlighted questions I had for you.

CWR. Drainage at CWR is going well. Of the 10 ponds slated for reworking this year, I've removed all boards from 7 and at last check, we needed some nice sunny weather to allow for evaporation to finish the job. One of the ponds has a beaver dam in the ditch downstream from it which needs to be removed and the remaining 2 have beaver lodges covering the wcs. I've talked to Hal about cleaning those areas, so it's on his list. Of the ponds fixed last year, I've begun slow drawdowns on6--I'm hoping to reproduce some of the millet growth we had last year. So far, the beavers are not causing the extent of problems they did last year, though the nutria are (unfortunately) enjoying the brush piles the contractors left in the units.

anything but actually farm

TAL. Began draining msu's behind grain bins. Will we be able to disk, mow, and/or pump as needed to promote desirable plants? We'll need to clean out the big structure before I can do much else.

Wood duck boxes . I've prepped all boxes except about 10 at Dahomey, which I hope to get to next week. I'm opportunistically banding hens and will try to visit the boxes on the 3 traditional refuges with some regularity, but it's really going to come down to, if I'm near a box doing something else, I'll probably check it while I'm there and band the hen if she's in there. I'm not going to worry about replacing boxes that have fallen down or doing any repairs this year. Once Hal Mitchell comes on board, I may put him to work on some of the repairs, as time permits.

Frog surveys . I dont' know if I told you or not, but I decided to forgo frog surveys this year. I'm still coordinating the state-wide surveys for NAAMP (North American Amphibian Monitoring Program), but not running any routes myself. I'm going to revisit it next year. However, though we didn't get any funding for the malformed frog surveys, we were asked to participate in a follow up study. Basically, I'm going to be collecting tadpoles and ship some live, some preserved to a couple folks to look for developmental problems at the tadpole level. The folks doing the study provided all the materials, so we just have to provide the time.

Burning . I really appreciate being able to go to Noxubee this week to help with the burn They were really appreciative and I learned a lot. I would like to eventually burn here and I'm going to work on getting Dusty to agree to assist us (I'm keeping my fingers crossed.) I'm going to work on getting burn plans together on anything we might want to burn in2006 and submitting them this winter. Then, when the opportunity arises, we'll be able to do it. In addition to fallow fields on all three refuges, I'm thinking about the brush piles at CWR (I don't know what we'd have to file for those) and possibly the buffer strip between Christmas Lake Road and Christmas Branch at Dahomey. I'd like to see that as a cane brake and, if we can do it, fire should be the way to encourage that The U of Memphis folks would be interested in looking at the before and after on that, if we did it. Any thoughts?

Bird surveys . In addition to planning to go to the id workshop, I've also got contact information for several birders from Jandro. I'm hoping to meet with them next week sometime and we can move forward on the point counts at Dahomey.

Interns . Hal Mitchell is very excited about the whole STEP position. He's supposed to give me his paperwork within the next week or so, so we can put together a package to send to personnel He said his parents were fine with him staying here. I'm planning on calling them this weekend, just to make sure

5/10/wk
Call him

they understand the situation and are ok with it. I'll also put together a form for them to sign saying that they understand he will be unsupervised during his off time. Are there any issues I need to know about regarding him operating equipment/vehicles? (He will be 18 this month.) I spoke with Hal and he agreed to check him out on tractors with implements when he comes on board. I saw the info you forwarded to me regarding another potential intern. I thought I'd call him and find out his interest--my impression is he wants to work at Cahaba NWR, so I don't know how flexible he is. However, in talking to David Viker, I found out we could recruit STEP students like I have recruited interns in the past. If we have the money, I'd like to rerun the intern advertisement, but actually offer real money, instead of just a stipend. Any problems?

Invasives. I treated the parrotfeather at Walker with endothal with little effect. (I need to give you the PUP to sign--it can be approved at the station level.) David Richardson at Noxubee suggested using Habitat on it. Once the PUP's come through, I'd like to go ahead and try it. The recent excavator work out there has spread a few patches out, so I'm now seeing more inside the levee. I'm concerned about the rate of spread, and would really like to combat it now, rather than in 5 years when it's covering the entire pond. I'd still like to try hog trapping/shooting at Dahomey this summer if I'm able. I have plans for a "repeater" trap which has been fairly successful at Lower Suwanee so I may be talking to you about constructing a couple later in the year. I'm still shooting nutria when I get a chance, but not spending too much time on it--just when the opportunity presents itself.

Research. As I mentioned, Ed Keiser would like to continue working on the Smith, Whaley, and Starr Properties on his own time, once he finishes with the contract. I may mention the Fooshee properties as well, since they aren't much further than Whaley and see if he wants to check them out on his own time. He'll return the equipment he has from us once the contract is completed. Once his special use permit expires (9-30-05), I'll go ahead and reissue it, with the same conditions (i.e. allowed to carry a handgun with rat shot, allowed to collect a limited number of speciments, has to submit regular updates, etc.). Also, he's sending us the original unbound report for the Starr properties and I'll take it to Zip Print or somewhere local to get copies made.
The U of Memphis folks (Scott Franklin) asked us to treat that experimental plot again--apparently we were not effective in girdling the trees. (It's apparently harder than I realized.) In any case, I'm going to go out there and try again, using Garlon this time. (Is it ok for me to order some? It's also on the manager's approval list.)

Miscellaneous. Myself and several other staff need 4-wheeler training (Noxubee wouldn't let Philip or me run the 4-wheelers on the fire). Hal's checking into that.

Upcoming travel:

May 2 - 5 - bird id workshop, Vicksburg

May 27 - dragonfly workshop, Yazoo City

May 31 - June 3 - intermediate fire behavior, Russellville, AR

Aug - 2 - 5 - MOCC training, Catahoula NWR, LA

Well, that's what I've been working on. I apologize for the length, but it should be shorter next time.

Becky Rosamond
Wildlife Biologist

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