

the Santee River from the Property, and d) encourage the transition of the dense loblolly stands on the Property to a more open forest condition dominated by older age class timber that will enhance biodiversity values on the Property.

Timber Resource and Management

The forests of Wee Nee reflect the intensive management of the previous industrial owner. Of the 770 acres, 601 are upland pine and 147 are in a bottomland hardwood. The remaining 22 acres are in roads, fields, or logging decks.

The upland pine stands range in age from 12 years to 22 years. The predominant species is loblolly pine, with sweetgum and wax myrtle in the subcanopy and understory. Also found in scattered locations are gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*), broomsedge (*Andropogon sp*) and oaks (*Quercus sp*).

The bottomland hardwood stands contain cypress, tupelo, oaks, maple, gums, sycamore, pine, and hickory. The understory consists of greenbriar (*Smilax sp*), wild grape (*Vitis sp*), river oats (*Uniola latifolia*), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*) and various sedges.

Most of the merchantable upland pine stands have been thinned. The thinning was mechanical, removing rows/corridors with some selection in between resulting in current basal areas ranging from 50 to 70. The thinnings were managed well with minimal damage to residual trees. Many of the thinned stands were burned under prescription post thinning.

The reestablishment of longleaf pine habitat at Wee Nee is one of the key components of the forest management plan. Ecologists have listed longleaf pine as one of the most seriously endangered ecosystems in the country. One of the reasons the ecosystem has become endangered is because longleaf and the species associated with it are dependent on fire. As population growth and expansion occurs, smoke from the required fires becomes a serious liability. Smoke management guidelines allow for fires to occur, but

as urban areas encroach, liability issues increase the potential for lawsuits. The rural location of Wee Nee in an area that is accustomed to the use of prescribed fire means that burning can continue with limited impacts to human population centers.

Fire

As mentioned above, fire is an important component of the timber and wildlife management of Wee Nee. The pine forested areas should be burned on a three-year rotation. Smoke management is a critical issue and fire burn plans should be prepared for each stand that detail the tons of fuel expected to be consumed, the wind directions and other pertinent details required to control the fire and smoke. Spring and summer burns should be initiated in some areas to help control competing vegetation and restore the native grasses and herbs that are dependent on growing season burns.

Optimal burning conditions generally occur during the winter season, December to March, as winds, humidity and temperatures are more predictable and consistent. Spring and summer burns are often used to control more fire resistant vegetation.

Relatively cool fires should be used when possible to provide a mosaic of burned and unburned areas, which is beneficial to wildlife. If hot fires are used, rings should be cleared around blocks of 10 acres or more to protect nesting and brood rearing habitat. Log deck debris and brush piles should not be burned, as they provide excellent cover habitat. Also, snags should be protected from burning whenever possible because of their value to cavity-nesting species.

Wetlands

Two kinds of wetlands were identified. The largest are drains associated and in close proximity to the Santee River. that contain a mix of pond pine, loblolly pine and various species of hardwood. These drains may be considered jurisdictional wetlands by the USACE. There are also a number of gum ponds scattered throughout the upland pine stands. These concave areas tend to hold standing water for longer periods than the

drains, but typically dry down during the summer months. These isolated wetlands are generally considered non-jurisdictional by the USACE.

Protection of jurisdictional wetlands, are under the purview of the federal government. This responsibility falls on the USACE. The non-jurisdictional wetlands are not protected by the federal government, but rather by the state government. Commercial forestry operations are granted special exemptions in the Clean Water Act Section 404, for impacting wetlands as long as the activities conform to the South Carolina Best Management Practices for Forestry. A copy of these regulations and exemptions are found in the Background Section of this timber management plan.

Forested wetlands are important for many species of fauna. They provide water, breeding habitat for herptifauna, and are a key element of diversity in coastal habitats. Additionally, many rare species of flora may be found in forested wetland types.

Endangered Species

Wee Nee is located in a landscape position that is rich in native habitats and species. The close proximity of the Francis Marion National Forest and large contiguous acreages of forested property creates a superior habitat for wildlife including many endangered species.

The location of the endangered species found in this area of Berkeley County are shown in Figure 6 and are more fully discussed in the Protected Species Section of the Background Information. There are no known endangered species on Wee Nee at this time. The desired movement to longer rotation timber management and regular prescribed burning certainly will create conditions that may attract some of these species.

Red-cockaded woodpeckers are currently thriving nearby in the national forest and may be expected to move into the tract when conditions are correct. They nest in living pine trees. Usually these trees are at least 60 to 70 years old. Longleaf pine is the preferred

Therefore, one seventh of the fields set aside for NTMB management should be disked every year.

Background information is provided in the sections of this report following this overview that describes many of the timber and wildlife requirements and techniques for management.

Drainage

The topography is typical of the coastal plain, associated with the Santee River. There is significant (for coastal plain type) topography along the river. Activities on and adjacent to these areas should be undertaken with care to prevent soil erosion. All activities should be conducted with strict adherence to the guidelines of the South Carolina Best Management Practices for Forestry, a copy of which is attached to this management plan.

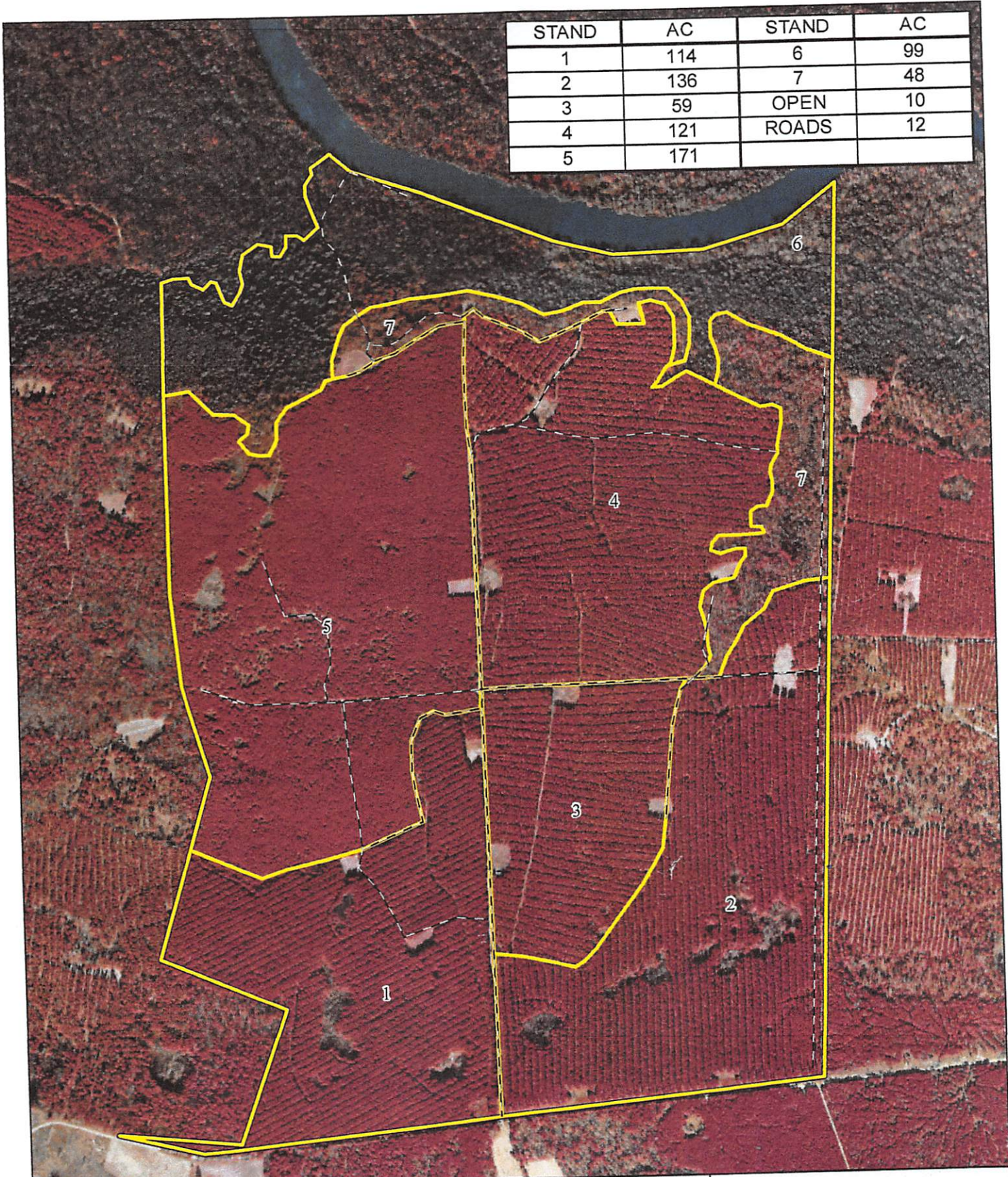
Soils

Twelve soil types are found on Wee Nee. They are mapped and identified in Figure 2. The Bethera, Chastain, Taw Caw and Wahee soils are classified as hydric by the USDA. Approximately 190 acres are included in this classification. Hydric soils are exposed to a high water table during the growing season. The remaining types, are considered non-hydric. Approximately 580 acres is in this type.

The site index, which is a measure of potential productivity for timber averages around 80 for the majority of soils. The site index references how tall the indicator species, in this case loblolly pine, would be at age 50. A site index of 80 is excellent and indicates the area will be a productive timber site.

This timber management plan has been developed to describe the current conditions on Wee Nee as well as present a management vision and set of prescriptions to help achieve the owners' goals. Stand descriptions follow with management recommendations. A

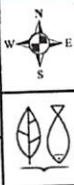
STAND	AC	STAND	AC
1	114	6	99
2	136	7	48
3	59	OPEN	10
4	121	ROADS	12
5	171		



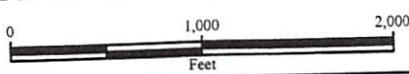
EXTERNAL SOURCES: 2006 SCDNR AERIAL

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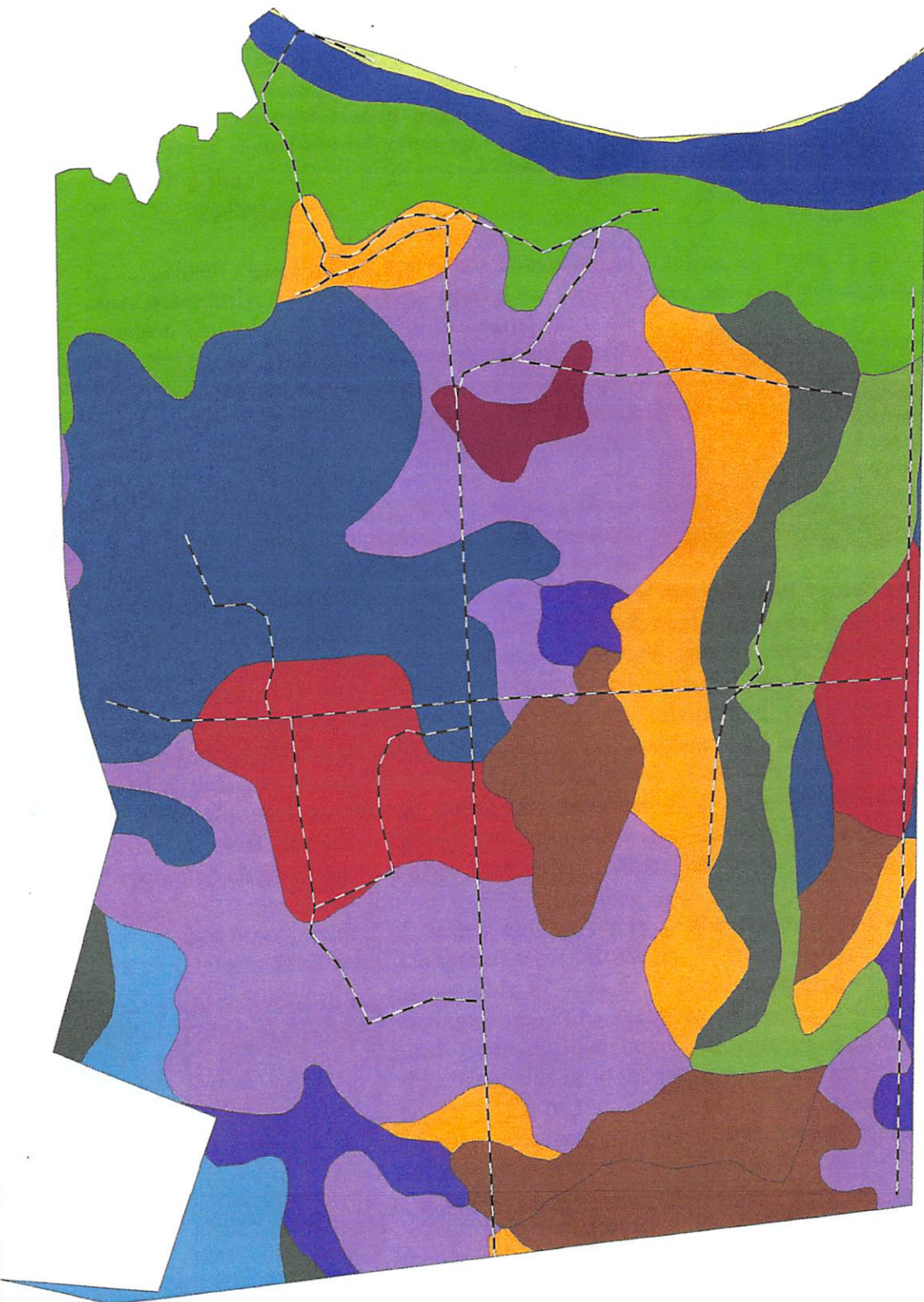


STANDS WEE NEED TRACT BERKELEY COUNTY, SC



LEGEND

- STANDS
- ROADS

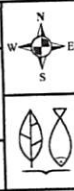


SOIL	%
BAYBORO	5.1%
BETHERA	3.2%
BONNEAU	7.7%
CAINHOY	16.0%
CAROLINE	8.9%
CHASTAIN	12.8%
Craven	2.6%
DUPLIN	24.7%
LENOIR	1.0%
NORFOLK	8.8%
TAWCAW	4.0%
WAHEE	4.8%
WATER	0.4%

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SOILS WEE NEED TRACT BERKELEY COUNTY, SC

- LEGEND**
- ROADS
 - BAYBORO
 - BETHERA
 - BONNEAU
 - CAINHOY
 - CAROLINE
 - CHASTAIN
 - CRAVEN
 - DUPLIN
 - LENOIR
 - NORFOLK
 - TAWCAW
 - WAHEE
 - WATER