

December 2022

# West Peach Tract Threatened & Endangered Species Survey

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Prepared For:

**Peach County Development Authority**



**RESOURCE+LAND**  
CONSULTANTS

Resource + Land Consultants  
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Savannah, Georgia 31405  
912.443.5896 | [rlandc.com](http://rlandc.com)  
RLC # 22-363

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## I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

### A. Introduction

A protected species assessment for the ±603.4-acre West Peach Tract was completed by Resource & Land Consultants (RLC) during September 2022. The tract is generally located west of the intersection of Buddy Reddick Memorial Parkway and Highway 341 near Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia (32.576564°, -83.927176°, Figure 1). RLC personnel conducted the assessment to determine the potential for occurrence of animal and plant species currently listed as threatened or endangered by federal regulations located within and surrounding the project area.

### B. Survey Methodology

Prior to conducting the field survey, RLC reviewed available state and federal records to determine if any listed species were known to occur within and/or in the general vicinity of the project area. Available resources such as aerial photographs, U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Maps, and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey were examined to complete a preliminary determination of existing habitats prior to the field visit. A review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (US-FWS) Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC, Appendix B) was also conducted to identify species that are known to occur within and surrounding the project area. Following review of available information, RLC conducted a pedestrian survey of the project site to confirm existing habitats on site and the potential for those habitats to support any federally listed species. Pedestrian surveys were conducted on 7 September 2022. The age and species composition of existing habitats were recorded, and vegetative community and habitat types were identified.

### C. Habitats and Land Use Areas

This site is characterized by three habitat types which include Agricultural Field-Row Crops/Orchards, Mature Mixed Pine and Hardwood Upland, and Road. A brief description of each habitat type is included below.

**Mature Mixed Pine and Hardwood Upland:** Approximately 14.4 acres of Mature Mixed Pine and Hardwood Upland is present within the property. This habitat generally contains an overstory that is 40+ years in age and show no significant signs of recent disturbance. The overstory is comprised of a full canopy of hardwoods and pines and the understory is relatively open due to the heavy canopy coverage.

Overstory:

Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*)  
Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)  
Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)  
Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)  
White Oak (*Quercus alba*)  
Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*)  
American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)  
Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*)

Understory:

American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*)  
Bracken Fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*)  
Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)  
Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*)  
Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*)  
Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*)  
Dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*)  
Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*)

**Agricultural Field-Row Crops/Orchards:** The project area contains a total of 586.7 acres of Agricultural Fields associated with the agricultural operations which continue to occur across the site. The fields are a mixture of peach trees orchards and row crops.

**Roads:** The survey area contains one main dirt road that is located through the center of the property totaling approximately 2.3 acres.

**Table 1. Habitat Summary**

Habitat Type	Area (ac)
Agricultural Field-Row Crops/Orchards	586.7
Mature Mixed Pine and Hardwood Upland	14.4
Road	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>603.4</b>

**II. FEDERALLY PROTECTED RESOURCES**

**Protected Species and Habitats**

In compliance with Section 7 of the ESA, RLC surveyed for the presence of threatened and endangered species and presence of their designated critical habitat. The project area was assessed in consideration of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Only one species was noted as threatened or endangered within the IPaC database query for the survey area. Table 2 represents all federally protected species identified during the IPaC evaluation of the survey area. The following provides a general description of the listed species and likelihood for the species to occur within the survey area.

**Relict Trillium (*Lindera trillium reliquum*):**

Relict Trillium is a perennial shrub that grows up to 7 inches. Leaves are 3 in number with mottled shades of green and a silver streak that runs along the midvein. Habitats include mature hardwood forests in rich ravines and on stream terraces; over calcium-rich bedrock such as amphibolite and limestone.

No individual or population of the Relict Trillium were observed. Because the tract has been managed for agricultural purposes, the project area does not contain habitat required to support this species.

**Table 2- Protected Species**

Type	#	Common Name	Scientific Name	Legal Status		Habitat Present	Species Present	Biological Determination
				Federal	State			
Flowering Plants	1	Relict Trillium	<i>Trillium reliquum</i>	E	E	No	No	No effect/not present
*Sources include the USFWS and GA-DNR websites.								

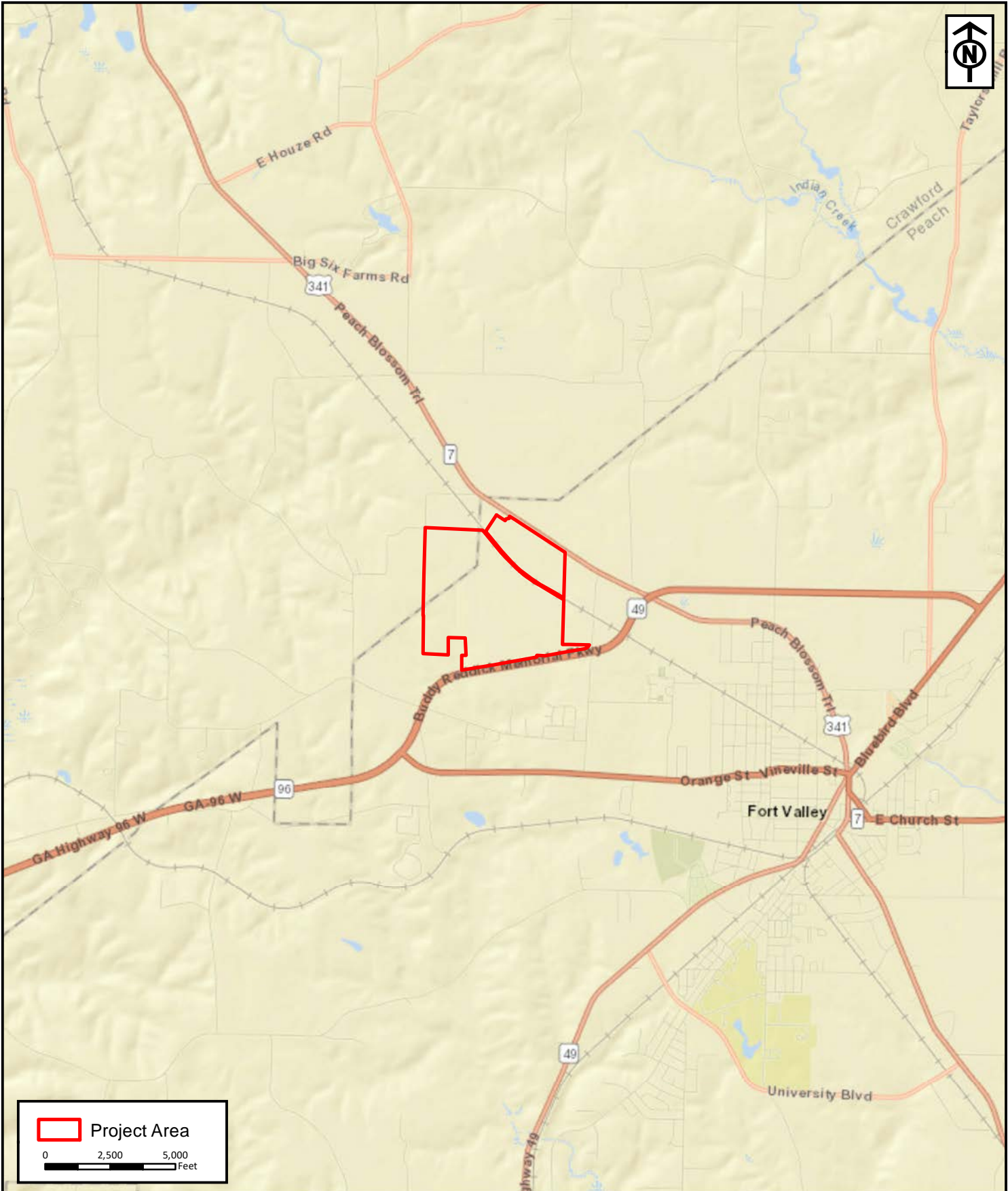
**III. Conclusion**

In September 2022, RLC completed a Threatened and Endangered Species Assessment for the ±603.4-acre West Peach Tract located in Peach County, Georgia. The IPaC database indicates that Relict Trillium is the only federally listed species that may occur within the project area. Based on a review of available information and a pedestrian survey, habitat required to support this species is not present within the project site and no individuals or populations of this species were observed.



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## **APPENDIX A:** Figures/Site Maps

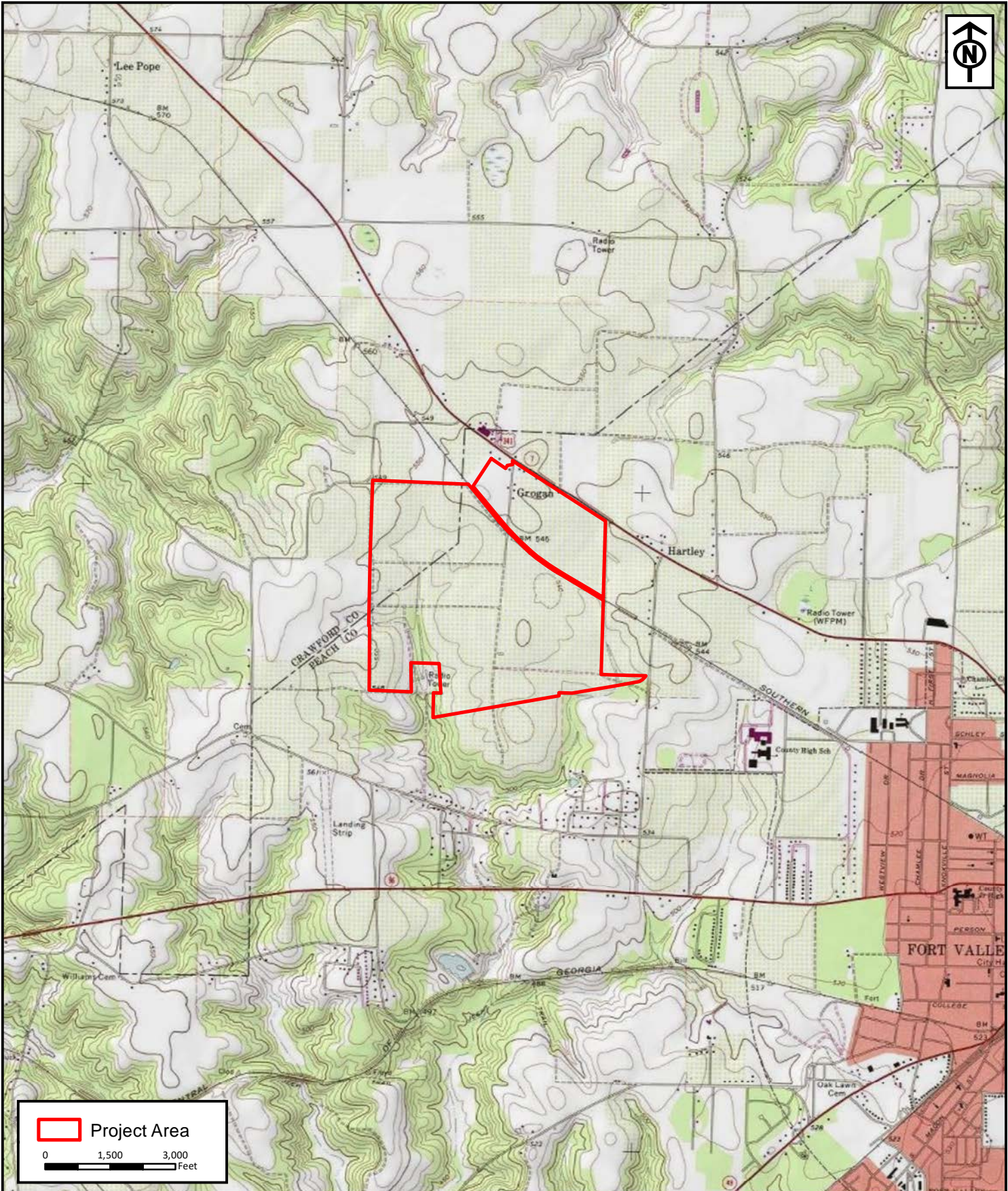


RLC Project No.:	22-363
Figure No.:	1
Prepared By:	MW
Sketch Date:	11/30/2022
Map Scale :	1 inch = 5,000 feet

**West Peach Tract**  
Peach County, Georgia

**Project Location Map**  
Prepared For: Peach County  
Development Authority

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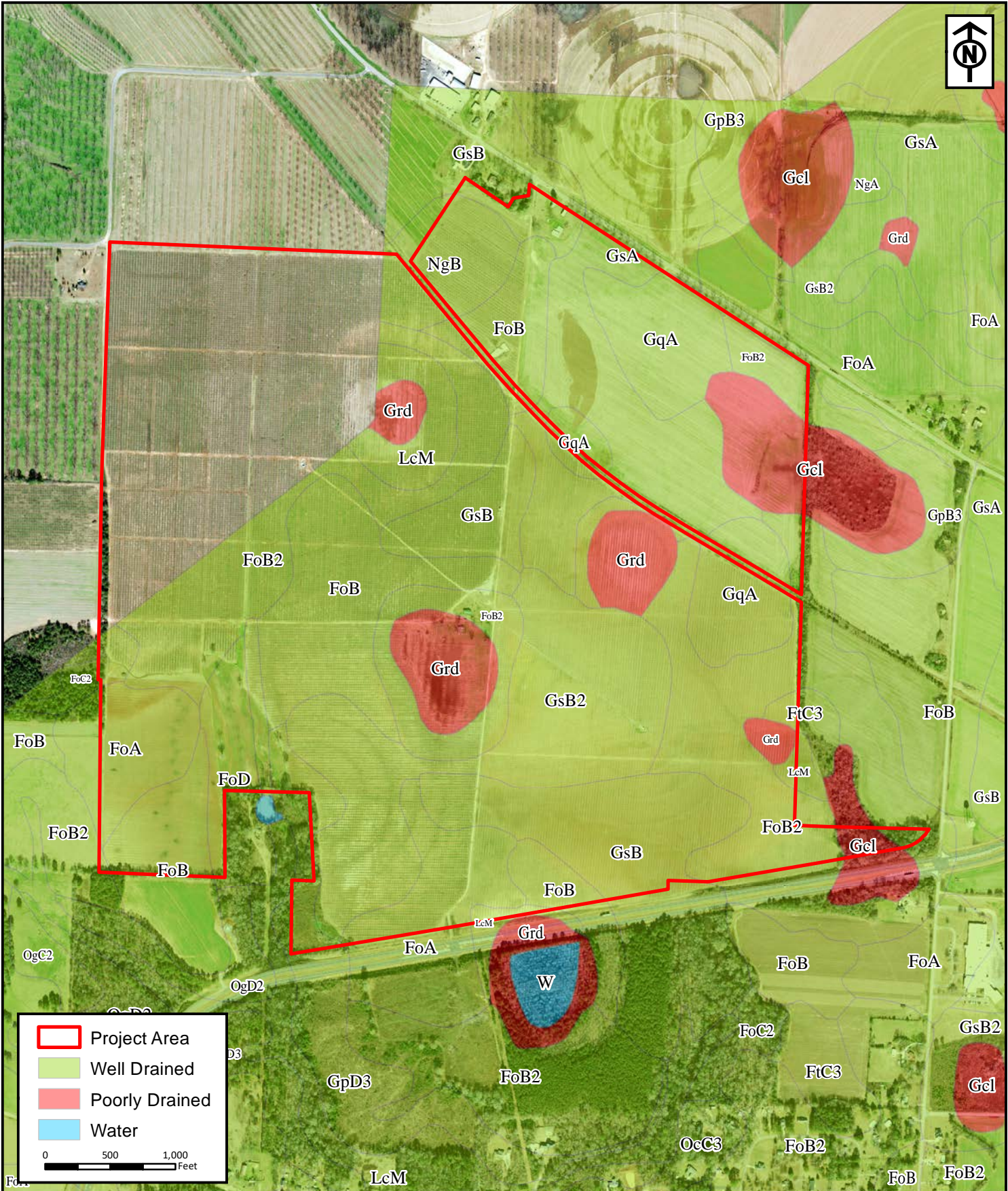


RLC Project No.:	22-363
Figure No.:	2
Prepared By:	MW
Sketch Date:	11/30/2022
Map Scale :	1 inch = 3,000 feet

**West Peach Tract**  
Peach County, Georgia

**USGS Topographic Map**  
Prepared For: Peach County  
Development Authority

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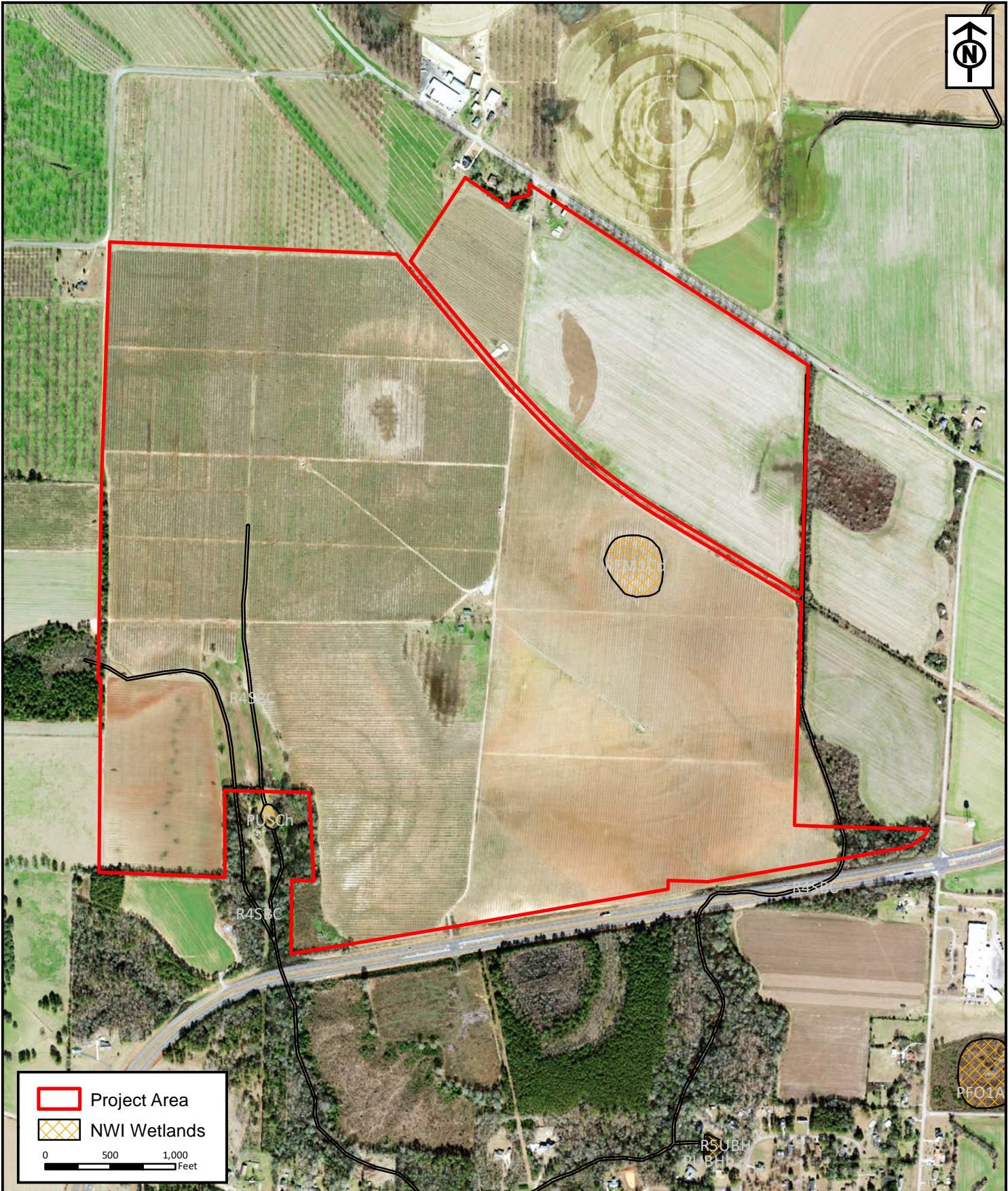
RLC Project No.:	22-363
Figure No.:	3
Prepared By:	MW
Sketch Date:	11/30/2022
Map Scale :	1 inch = 1,000 feet

**West Peach Tract**  
Peach County, Georgia

**NRCS Soil Map**  
Prepared For: Peach County  
Development Authority

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Project Area  
 NWI Wetlands

0      500      1,000  
 Feet

RLC Project No.:	22-363
Figure No.:	4
Prepared By:	MW
Sketch Date:	11/30/2022
Map Scale :	1 inch = 1,000 feet

**West Peach Tract**  
 Peach County, Georgia

**National Wetlands Inventory**  
 Prepared For: Peach County  
 Development Authority

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 Project Area

0 500 1,000  
Feet

RLC Project No.:	22-363
Figure No.:	5
Prepared By:	MW
Sketch Date:	11/30/2022
Map Scale :	1 inch = 1,000 feet

## West Peach Tract

Peach County, Georgia

## Ortho Aerial


Prepared For: Peach County  
Development Authority

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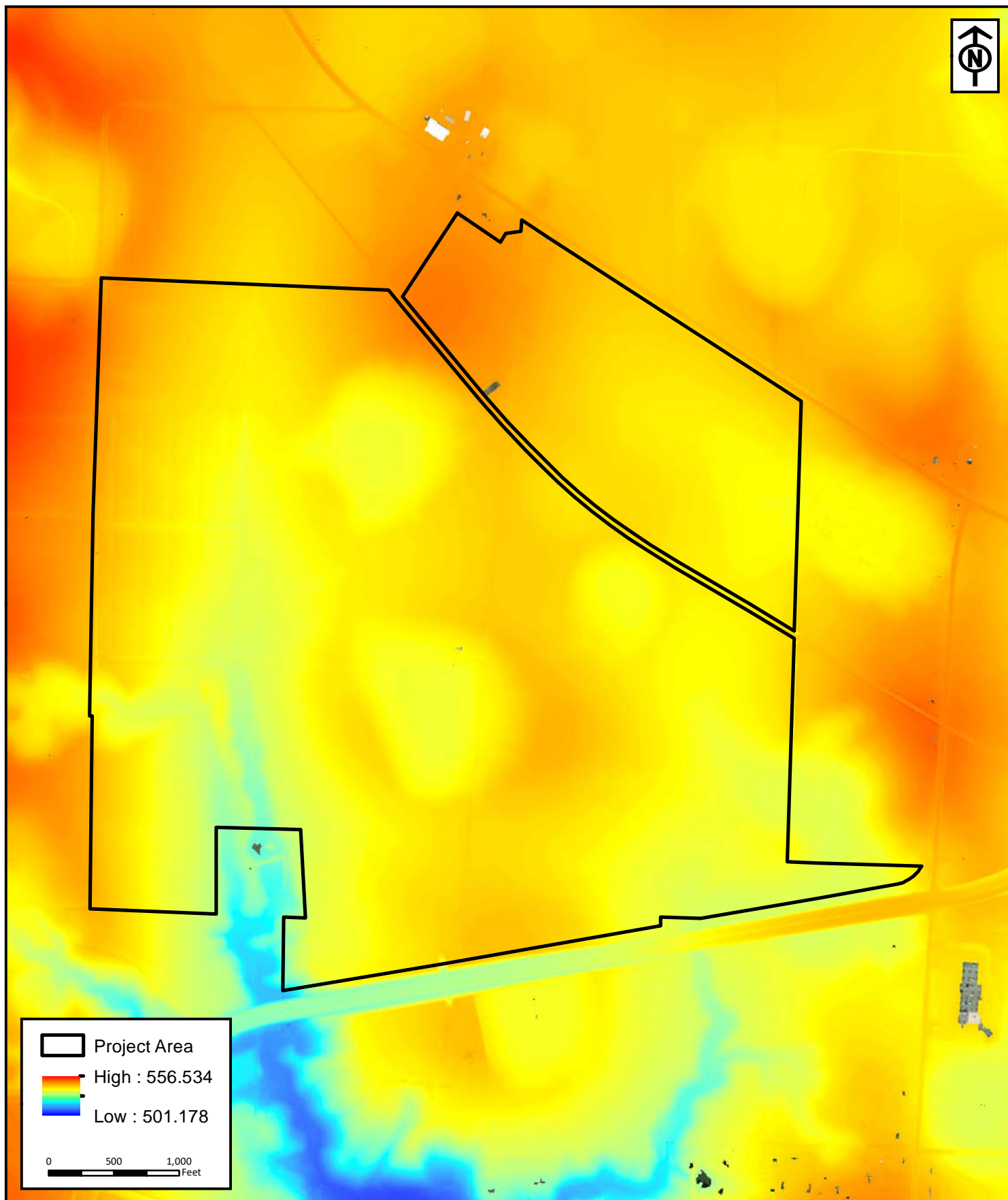
 Project Area  
 0      500      1,000  
 Feet


RLC Project No.:	22-363
Figure No.:	6
Prepared By:	MW
Sketch Date:	11/30/2022
Map Scale :	1 inch = 1,000 feet


**West Peach Tract**  
 Peach County, Georgia

**1999 Color-Infrared Imagery**  
 Prepared For: Peach County  
 Development Authority

  
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 Project Area

 High : 556.534  
Low : 501.178

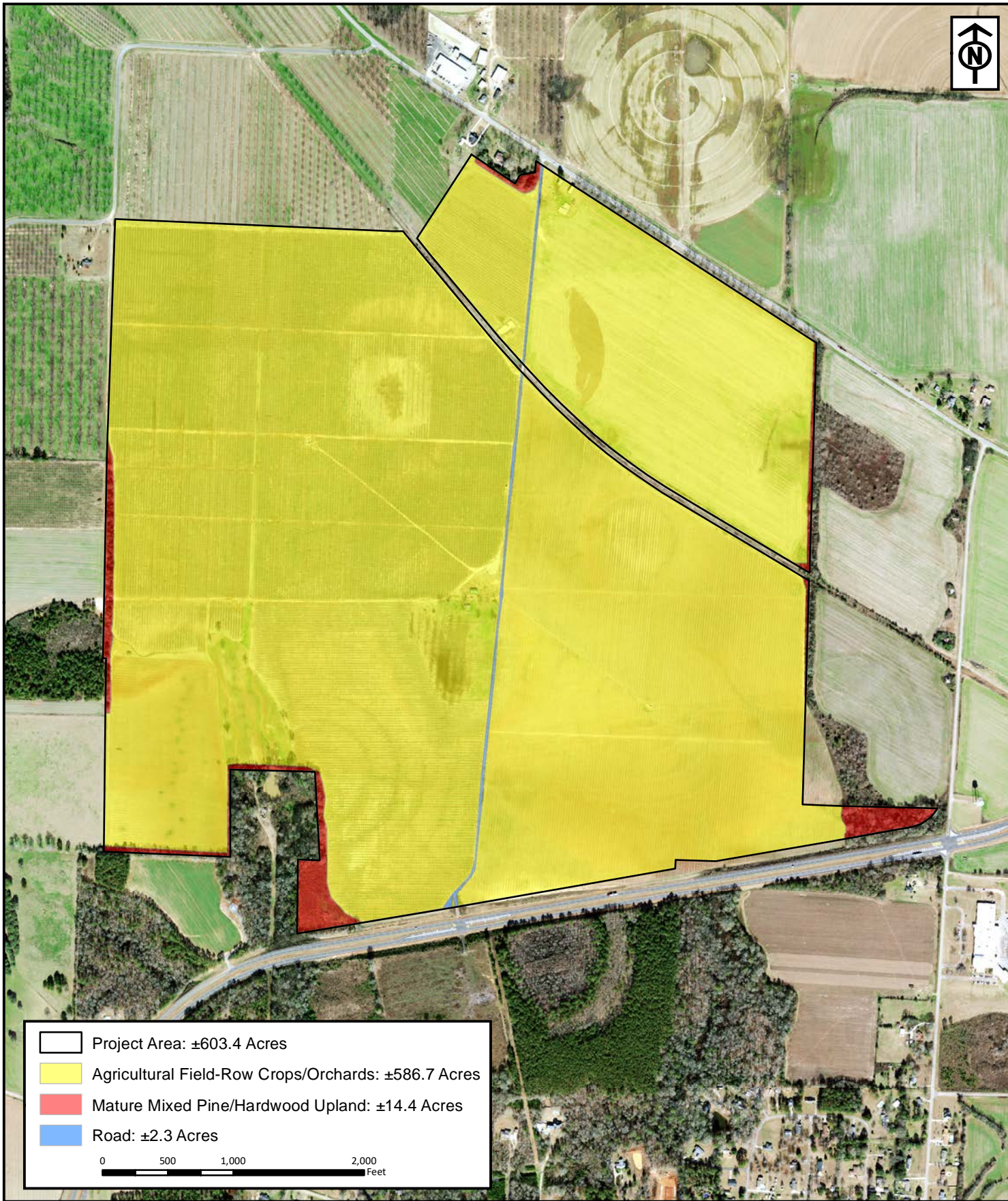
0      500      1,000  
Feet

RLC Project No.:	22-363
Figure No.:	7
Prepared By:	MW
Sketch Date:	11/30/2022
Map Scale :	1 inch = 1,000 feet

**West Peach Tract**  
Peach County, Georgia

**NOAA Topographic Lidar**  
Prepared For: Peach County  
Development Authority

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RLC Project No.:	22-363
Figure No.:	8
Prepared By:	JP
Sketch Date:	11/30/2022
Map Scale :	1 inch = 1,000 feet

## West Peach Tract

Peach County, Georgia

## Habitat Map

Prepared For: Peach County  
Development Authority

**RLC**

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**APPENDIX B:**  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trust Resource List (IPaC)



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Georgia Ecological Services Field Office  
355 East Hancock Avenue  
Room 320  
Athens, GA 30601-2523  
Phone: (706) 613-9493 Fax: (706) 613-6059

In Reply Refer To:  
Project Code: 2023-0020050  
Project Name: West Peach Tract

November 30, 2022

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) as amended (16 USC 701-715), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) as amended (16 USC 668-668c). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design if you determine those species or designated critical habitat may be affected by your proposed project.

### **FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES AND DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT**

Attached is a list of endangered, threatened, and proposed species that may occur in your project area. Your project area may not necessarily include all or any of these species. Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency, project proponent, or their designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have "no effect" on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit. If you need additional information to assist in your effect determination, please contact the Service.

If you determine that your proposed action may affect federally listed species, please consult with the Service. Through the consultation process, we will analyze information contained in a biological assessment or equivalent document that you provide. If your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a Habitat Conservation Plan) may be necessary to exempt harm or harass federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species. For more information regarding formal consultation and HCPs, please see the Service's [Section 7 Consultation Library](#) and [Habitat Conservation Plans Library](#) Collections.

**Action Area.** The scope of federally listed species compliance not only includes direct effects, but also any indirect effects of project activities (e.g., equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations). The action area is the spatial extent of an action's direct and indirect modifications or impacts to the land, water, or air (50 CFR 402.02). Large projects may have effects to land, water, or air outside the immediate footprint of the project, and these areas should be included as part of the action area. Effects to land, water, or air outside of a project footprint could include things like lighting, dust, smoke, and noise. To obtain a complete list of species, the action area should be uploaded or drawn in IPaC rather than just the project footprint.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. An updated list may be requested through IPaC.

If you determine that your action may affect any federally listed species and would like technical assistance from our office, please send us a complete project review package (refer to Georgia Ecological Services' [Project Planning and Review](#) page for more details), including the following information (reference to these items can be found in 50 CFR§402.13 and 402.14):

1. A description of the proposed action, including any measures intended to avoid, minimize, or offset effects of the action. Consistent with the nature and scope of the proposed action, the description shall provide sufficient detail to assess the effects of the action on listed species and critical habitat, including:
    - The purpose of the action;
    - The duration and timing of the action;
    - The location of the action;
    - The specific components of the action and how they will be carried out;
    - Description of areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action;
    - Maps, drawings, blueprints, or similar schematics of the action
  2. An updated Official Species List
-



3. Biological Assessments (may include habitat assessments and information on the presence of listed species in the action area);
4. Description of effects of the action on species in the action area and, if relevant, effect determinations for species and critical habitat;
5. Conservation measures and any other available information related to the nature and scope of the proposed action relevant to its effects on listed species or designated critical habitat (examples include: stormwater plans, management plans, erosion and sediment plans). Please see our [Georgia Planning and Consultation Tools](#) page for recommendations.

**Please submit all consultation documents via email to [gaes\\_assistance@fws.gov](mailto:gaes_assistance@fws.gov) or by using IPaC, uploaded documents, and sharing the project with a specific Georgia Ecological Services staff member. If the project is on-going, documents can also be sent to the Georgia Ecological Services staff member currently working with you on your project. For Georgia Department of Transportation related projects, please work with the Office of Environmental Services ecologist to determine the appropriate USFWS transportation liaison.**

## **WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS**

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value. We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's [NWI program website](#) (<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>) integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

## **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

The MBTA prohibits the taking of migratory birds, nests, and eggs, except as permitted by the Service's [Migratory Birds Program](#) (<https://fws.gov/program/migratory-birds>). To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory birds, we recommend construction activities occur outside the general bird nesting season from March through August, or that areas proposed for construction during the nesting season be surveyed, and when occupied, avoided until the young have fledged.

We recommend review of Birds of Conservation Concern to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies birds that are potentially threatened by disturbance and construction. It can be found at the Service's [Migratory Birds Conservation Library Collection](#) (<https://fws.gov/library/collections/migratory-bird-conservation-documents>).

Information related to best practices and migratory birds can be found at the Service's [Avoiding and Minimizing Incidental Take of Migratory Birds Library Collection](#) (<https://fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>).

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## **BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES**

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was delisted under the ESA on August 9, 2007. Both the bald eagle and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are still protected under the MBTA and BGEPA. The BGEPA affords both eagles protection in addition to that provided by the MBTA, in particular, by making it unlawful to “disturb” eagles. Under the BGEPA, the Service may issue limited permits to incidentally “take” eagles (e.g., injury, interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior nest abandonment). For information on bald and golden eagle management guidelines, we recommend you review information provided at the Service's [Bald and Golden Eagle Management Library Collection](https://fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management) (https://fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management).

## **NATIVE BATS**

If your species list includes Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) or northern long-eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*) and the project is expected to impact forested habitat that is appropriate for maternity colonies of these species, forest clearing should occur outside of the period when bats may be present. Federally listed bats could be actively present in forested landscapes from April 1 to October 15 of any year and have non-volant pups from May 15 to July 31 in any year. Non-volant pups are incapable of flight and are vulnerable to disturbance during that time.

Indiana, northern long-eared, and gray (*M. grisescens*) bats are all known to utilize bridges and culverts in Georgia. If your project includes maintenance, construction, or any other modification or demolition to transportation structures, a qualified individual should complete a survey of these structures for bats and submit your findings via the Georgia Bats in Bridges cell phone application, free on Apple and Android devices. Please include these findings in any biological assessment(s) or other documentation that is submitted to our office for technical assistance or consultation.

Additional information on bat avoidance and minimization can be found at Georgia Ecological Services' [Planning and Consultations Tools](#) and [Bat Conservation in Georgia](#) pages.

## **MONARCH BUTTERFLY**

On December 20, 2020, the Service determined that listing the Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) under the Endangered Species Act is warranted but precluded at this time by higher priority listing actions. With this finding, the monarch butterfly becomes a candidate for listing. The Service will review its status each year until we are able to begin developing a proposal to list the monarch.

As it is a candidate for listing, the Service welcomes conservation measures for this species. Recommended, and voluntary, conservation measures for projects in Georgia can be found at our [Monarch Conservation in Georgia](#) page.

## **STATE AGENCY COORDINATION**

Additional information that addresses at-risk or high priority natural resources can be found in the State Wildlife Action Plan (https://georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeActionPlan), at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division Biodiversity Portal (https://

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georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern), Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS portal (<https://www.gnahrgis.org/gnahrgis/index.do>), and the [Georgia Ecological Services HUC10 Watershed Guidance](#) page.

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species. We appreciate your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area. For further consultation on your proposed activity, please email [gaes\\_assistance@fws.gov](mailto:gaes_assistance@fws.gov) and reference the project county and your Service Project Tracking Number.

This letter constitutes Georgia Ecological Services' general comments under the authority of the Endangered Species Act.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
  - Migratory Birds
  - Wetlands
-

## **Official Species List**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Georgia Ecological Services Field Office**

355 East Hancock Avenue

Room 320

Athens, GA 30601-2523

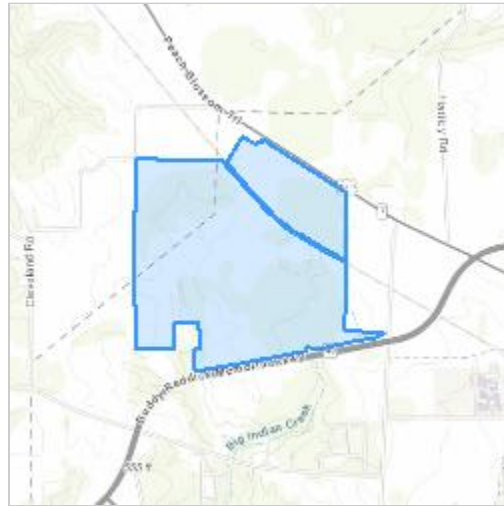
(706) 613-9493

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## Project Summary

Project Code: 2023-0020050  
Project Name: West Peach Tract  
Project Type: New Constr - Above Ground  
Project Description: West Peach Tract  
Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@32.576507050000004,-83.92803127183117,14z>



Counties: Crawford and Peach counties, Georgia

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## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

### Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate

### Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Relict Trillium <i>Trillium reliquum</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8489">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8489</a>	Endangered

### Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

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## Migratory Birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

- 
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
  2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
  3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

**The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the [USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\) list](#) or warrant special attention in your project location.** To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ [below](#). This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the [E-bird data mapping tool](#) (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found [below](#).

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius paulus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587</a>	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
Brown-headed Nuthatch <i>Sitta pusilla</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25

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NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p>Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p>Prairie Warbler <i>Dendroica discolor</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
<p>Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p>	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
<p>Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p><a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere

## Probability Of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is  $0.25/0.25 = 1$ ; at week 20 it is  $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$ .



- The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

**Breeding Season (■)**

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

**Survey Effort (|)**

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

**No Data (-)**

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

**Survey Timeframe**

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



BCC Rangewide  
(CON)

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>

## Migratory Birds FAQ

**Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.**

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

**What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?**

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

**What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?**

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

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Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go to the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

### **How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?**

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

### **What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?**

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

### **Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects**

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the [Diving Bird Study](#) and the [nanotag studies](#) or contact [Caleb Spiegel](#) or [Pam Loring](#).

### **What if I have eagles on my list?**

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If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

### **Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report**

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

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## Wetlands

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

### FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- [PEM1Cd](#)

### RIVERINE

- [R4SBC](#)
-

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## **APPENDIX C:** Site Photographs



Photo 1: Existing Agriculture



Photo 2: Existing Agriculture



Photo 3: Existing Agriculture



Photo 4: Existing Agriculture And Adjacent Upland Forest

RLC Project No.:	22-363
Figure No.:	9
Prepared By:	AB
Photo Date:	09/08/2022
Exhibit Date:	11/30/2022

**West Peach Tract**  
Peach County, Georgia

**Site Photographs**  
Prepared For: Peach County  
Development Authority



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Photo 1: Forested Upland



Photo 2: Fallow Field and Adjacent Forested Upland



Photo 3: Existing Soils



Photo 4: Existing Agriculture And Adjacent Forested

RLC Project No.:	22-363
Figure No.:	10
Prepared By:	AB
Photo Date:	09/08/2022
Exhibit Date:	11/30/2022

**West Peach Tract**  
Peach County, Georgia

**Site Photographs**  
Prepared For: Peach County  
Development Authority



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