

**WERT YEAGER  
LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ECOLOGICAL SITE ASSESSMENT**



ENVIRONMENTAL  
PLANNING  
DESIGN &  
PERMITTING

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**WERT YEAGER  
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ECOLOGICAL SITE ASSESSMENT**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Modica & Associates conducted an ecological site assessment on the 16± acre Wert Yeager property (“Property”) on May 8, 2020. The site is located south of the Florida Turnpike, north of Sullivan Road and east of Scrub Jay Lane in Minneola, Florida. The Property is located in Section 32, Township 21S, Range 26E and Section 5, Township 22 S, Range 26E (Figures 1 and 2).

The purpose of this assessment was to evaluate the on-site habitats and vegetative communities, to identify and document the presence of any state or federally protected wildlife species, and to outline agency permitting requirements associated with the development of the Property. Our findings reflect on-site conditions at the time of the investigation and do not preclude the possibility that conditions may change.

## **2.0 PROJECT SITE CONDITIONS**

Prior to inspecting the Property, published literature and publicly available ArcView™ GIS data layers were reviewed in an effort to obtain an understanding of site topography, soils, vegetation, and anticipated / documented wildlife use in the vicinity of the Property. The following resources were accessed as part of the subject assessment:

- 2019 Aerial Photographic Imagery, ESRI Online Basemap;
- Current and historical Google Earth Imagery;
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) *Soil Survey of Lake County Florida*;
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) – Species Occurrence Tracking List, Lake County;
- *Florida’s Endangered and Threatened Species*, December 2018, FWC;
- *Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System (FLUCFCS) Handbook*, U.S. Department of Transportation;
- ArcView™ shapefiles containing the following wildlife occurrence records:
  - FWS 2016 bald eagle survey results (eaglenest16.shp)
  - FWS wildlife observation database (Wildobs2006.shp)
- Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists. 2000. *Hydric Soils of Florida Handbook*, Third Edition;
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Eagle Nest Locator (<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=253604118279431984e8bc3ebf1cc8e9>);

The Property was traversed via pedestrian transects for the purpose of identifying any listed wildlife species and to map the onsite land uses and vegetative communities. The findings of the survey are discussed in greater detail below.

## 2.1 Soils

According to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) *Soil Survey of Lake County, Florida*, the Property is underlain by three (3) soil types. (**Figure 3**). These soil types are listed and described below in more detail; the soil descriptions are excerpts from the Soil Survey.

### **Candler Sand, 5 to 12 percent slopes (#9)**

This is a sloping to strongly sloping, excessively drained soil found on the uplands. The surface layer of this soil type generally consists of dark grayish brown fine sand about 4 inches thick. The seasonal high water table for this soil type is at a depth of more than 80 inches. Permeability of this soil type is rapid in the surface and subsurface layers and is rapid to moderately rapid in the subsoil.

**Candler sand, 12 to 40 percent slopes (15)** is a very steep, excessively drained sandy soil found on rolling uplands of the central ridge. Typically the surface layer consists of dark gray sand about 3 inches thick. The water table is at a depth of more than 120 inches. Permeability is very rapid throughout the profile of this soil type.

### **Lake Sand, 5 to 12 percent slopes (#22)**

This is a sloping to strongly sloping, well drained to excessively drained soil. Typically, the surface layer of this soil type consists of dark brown sand about 7 inches thick. The water table for this soil type is at a depth of more than 120 inches. Permeability is very rapid throughout the profile of this soil type.

## 2.2 Land Use Types & Vegetative Communities

On-site land use and vegetative communities were classified in accordance with the Florida Land Use Cover & Forms Classification System (FLUCFCS) and are described in more detail below (**Figure 4**).

The Property consists solely of uplands; there are no jurisdictional wetlands or surface waters on the project site. Review of historic aerial imagery suggests that the Property was historically used for citrus, but the trees were removed in the late 1980's.

### 149- Commercial and Services Under Construction

There is an improved limerock road that provides access from the southern property boundary to a fenced area in the center of the project site that is used for storage of shipping containers, 18-wheelers, and other equipment. Land outside of the access road and parking areas are vegetated with bahia grass (*Paspalum notatum*).

## 190 – Open Land

The majority of the Property consists of open land. Herbaceous vegetation is dominant and consists primarily of bahia grass with beggar ticks (*Bidens alba*), grapevine (*Vitis rotundifolia*). Scattered trees and shrubs include citrus (*Citrus* sp.), slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), bottle brush (*Callistemon viminalis*) and a few Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*) specimens in the southern portion of the property.

### **2.3 Wildlife**

A qualitative review of the Property was conducted to determine if any wildlife species using the site are listed as protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). To assist in documenting the potential for protected species on the Property, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Tracking List for Lake County was obtained and reviewed (**Exhibit A**). Several wildlife species were observed on the Property. The following is a list of those species identified during the evaluations as well as any direct observations of evidence of a particular species presence (i.e. tracks, burrows, scat etc.).

#### Birds

Red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)

#### Mammals

Pocket gopher (*Geomys pinetis*)

#### Reptiles

Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*)

An approximate 75% survey was conducted to determine the presence or absence of the gopher tortoise, which is state-listed as a Threatened species. A total of twenty-three (23) gopher tortoise burrows were documented during the site inspection.

### **2.4 Listed Flora**

A survey was conducted to document the presence of any protected plant species within the Property. This floral species survey was conducted in conjunction with the assessment on May 8, 2020.

No plant species listed by either the Florida Department of Agriculture (FDA) or USFWS were observed on the site during the survey.

### **3.0 REGULATORY AGENCY PERMITTING**

The Property lies within the jurisdiction of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the City of Minneola.

#### **3.1 St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)**

The SJRWMD administers regulatory authority for proposed developments through the Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) program. Development of the Wert Yeager property will require an ERP application to be submitted to the SJRWMD for stormwater management and environmental regulatory review. The SJRWMD exerts regulatory jurisdiction over wetland and surface water areas. The Wert Yeager project site does not contain jurisdictional wetlands or surface waters. This subject report will be sufficient to facilitate the environmental review component of the ERP process.

#### **3.2 City of Minneola**

Chapter 114 of the City of Minneola's Code of Ordinances requires submittal of an environmental assessment and wildlife survey, conducted by a qualified biologist or environmental scientist, for projects which are more than five acres in size or exceed one acre of impervious surface. The subject report is sufficient to meet this requirement.

##### **3.2.1 Wetland Protection**

Section 114-32, *Wetlands Protection*, of the City of Minneola's Code of Ordinances prohibits any activity which will remove, fill, drain, dredge, clear, destroy, or alter any wetland, surface water or buffer without obtaining a wetlands alteration permit from the appropriate jurisdictional agencies.

No state or federal jurisdictional wetlands were identified on the property at the time of the May 8, 2020 site inspection and therefore no development constraints associated with Section 114-32 are anticipated for this project.

##### **3.2.2 Native Vegetation Protection**

Section 114-102, *Preservation of Upland Communities*, of the City of Minneola's Code of Ordinances requires a minimum of ten percent of the total commutative acreage of natural upland communities which occur on-site to be preserved.

No native or natural upland communities were identified on the Wert Yeager project site at the time of the May 8, 2020 site inspection; therefore, no development constraints associated with Section 114-102 are anticipated.

### **3.2.3 Listed Species Protection**

Section 114-105, *Relocation*, of the City of Minneola's Code of Ordinances allows for relocation of listed and non-listed species utilizing the standards and criteria developed by FGFWFC and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A copy of the relocation permit must be forwarded to the city prior to initiation of the relocation effort.

As indicated above, a population of the State-Threatened gopher tortoise was identified on the Wert Yeager Property. Additional details are provided in Section 3.3 below.

### **3.2.4 Tree Protection**

Section 110-10 of the City of Minneola's Code of Ordinances sets forth restrictions to protect native, healthy specimen trees that are greater than or equal to 6-inches in Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). Tree replacement requirements also apply. Several live oak specimens were identified onsite during the ecological assessment; however, a formal tree survey was not included within our scope of services. If tree removal is required to facilitate site design, it may be necessary to conduct a tree survey and provide appropriate replacement, as necessary.

## **4.0 PROTECTED SPECIES REGULATIONS AND PERMITTING**

A qualitative review of the Property was conducted to determine if any wildlife species using the property are listed as protected by the USFWS or the FWC. Surveys were performed by conducting pedestrian transects across the site.

It should be noted that these findings reflect the site conditions at the time of the investigation and do not preclude listed species from inhabiting the project site in the future.

### **4.1 Gopher Tortoise**

The gopher tortoise is listed by the FWC as a "threatened" species. Gopher tortoises are commonly found in areas occurring on well-drained sandy soils associated with xeric pine-oak hammock, scrub, pine flatwoods, pastures and citrus groves.

Twenty-three (23) "potentially occupied" gopher tortoise burrows were identified during the May 8, 2020 survey conducted on the Property (**Figure 6**). The survey covered approximately 75% of the property.

FWC regulations prohibit development within a 25-foot radius of any potentially occupied gopher tortoise burrow. A permit is required from the FWC authorizing the relocation of any gopher tortoises within 25-feet of the footprint of development prior to the initiation of any land clearing or construction activities.

### Conservation Permit

Because there are more than 10 tortoise burrows that will be impacted by development, a “Conservation Permit” must be obtained from the FWC. A Conservation Permit authorizes the relocation of captured tortoises to a permitted off-site recipient area.

An application to the FWC must be submitted by a state-licensed Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent. The Applicant may choose to obtain separate Conservation Permits for each individual phase of the development, or obtain a Conservation Permit for the entire property, but conduct the relocation in phases. The Conservation Permit only requires a 15% gopher tortoise survey to obtain the permit, but a 100% survey must be conducted no more than 90 days prior to relocation activities (only for the phase proposed for development). If the relocation effort does not occur within 90-days of the survey date, it will be necessary to repeat the survey prior to conducting the relocation effort. The survey conducted on May 8, 2020 will expire on August 6, 2020.

Permit issuance typically occurs within 45 to 60 days following a complete application submittal. Local government approval authorizing land clearing or site construction is required before relocation can commence. Once issued, the permit will be valid for a period of one year, after which time the applicant may apply for extensions. Note that the relocation can be conducted in phases.

#### **4.2 American Bald Eagle**

In addition to the on-site evaluation for wildlife, the FWC’s Eagle Nest Locator website (<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=253604118279431984e8bc3ebf1cc8e9>) was used to see if any documented eagle nests are located within or near the Property. The closest documented eagle nests, Nest ID# LA-154 and LA-200, lie 3.3 miles east and 3.5 miles northeast of the Property, respectively (**Figure 5**). Eagle Nests LA-154 and LA-200 were both last documented as active in 2014 by the FWC. The management zones associated with these eagle nests do not extend onto or near the Property. Therefore, project development should not have any adverse impact on eagle breeding or nesting activities. No coordination with FWC or USFWS is anticipated for the presence of this species.

#### **4.3 Florida Scrub- jay**

The Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) is listed as “Threatened” by the FWC and the USFWS. Optimal habitat for this species consists of oak-dominated xeric scrub habitat, with well-drained sandy soils characterized by patches of loose, open or sparsely vegetated sand. However, this species has been documented to occupy suboptimal habitat throughout Central Florida, including abandoned citrus



groves that exhibit shrubby vegetation, as well as residential areas with remnant scrub habitat components.

A County-wide survey of this species commissioned by Lake County in 2003 documented several scrub-jays using suboptimal habitat types (abandoned citrus groves) within the Grassy Lake area. During the 2003 survey, it was observed that the abandoned citrus groves being inhabited by scrub-jays were characterized by the presence of scrubby, often vine-covered, mature citrus specimens and patches of loose, bare sandy soils.

The Florida scrub-jay was not observed on the Wert Yeager property during the May 8, 2020 site inspection. Furthermore, existing site conditions are not conducive to suboptimal habitat use, based on the absence of loose sandy soils and lack of shrubby remnant citrus specimens. Vegetative characteristics of the Wert Yeager property are not consistent with the abandoned groves which were documented to support a scrub jay population during the 2003 County-wide survey.

It should be noted that the subject assessment did not include a comprehensive scrub-jay survey, conducted in accordance with the USFWS Scrub-jay Survey Guidelines (August 2007). Given the documentation of this protected wildlife species within such close proximity to the Wert Yeager project site, the absence of this species at the time of our May 8, 2020 site inspection does not preclude the possibility that this species may inhabit the site in the future, if site conditions become favorable. However, given the altered condition of the site and lack of suitable habitat for the scrub-jay, it is highly unlikely that this species will be found on the Property in the future.

#### **4.4 Sand Skink**

The sand skink (*Neoseps reynoldsi*) is listed as threatened by the USFWS and FWC. The sand skink is a fossorial lizard endemic to the central ridge of peninsular Florida, and spends its lifecycle just beneath the surface of the sandy soils that are characteristic of Central Florida's ridges. Because this lizard lives beneath the surface of the sand, its presence is generally detected by the presence of sinusoidal tracks left in the sand due to the unique manner in which this species moves through the sand.

In February 2012, the USFWS revised their *Sand Skinks and Blue-tailed Mole Skinks Survey Protocol, Peninsular Florida* (Protocol) for the federally protected sand skink. According to the Protocol, if a property lies within the Sand Skink Consultation Area, has an elevation of 82 feet above sea level, and contains suitable soils, the USFWS assumes presence of sand skinks. The burden is on the landowner to document the absence of skinks. Pedestrian surveys can be conducted during anytime of the year, although the recommended timeframes are spring (March-May) and fall (October-November). Pedestrian surveys can only document presence, not absence. To prove absence, a formal coverboard survey must be conducted between March 1 and May 15 of any given year.

The Property lies within the Sand Skink Consultation Area, contains suitable soils and also has an elevation of 82 feet or greater above sea level. Candler sand and Lake sand are suitable sand skink soils that are found on the Property. However, the Property has been altered from its original condition. Present conditions consist of paved areas and densely-rooted vegetation. Technical assistance with the USFWS was initiated for this property in 2016 to request an exemption from formal survey requirements. The USFWS concurred that the Property is not suitable for the presence of sand skinks and a formal survey would not be required (**Exhibit B**). No further coordination with USFWS will be required.

## **5.0 SUMMARY**

The 16± acre Wert Yeager property was evaluated for the purpose of assessing on-site habitats and vegetative communities and to identify and document the presence of any state or federally protected wildlife species occurring on-site. The property has been altered from its original condition and consists of open land with a fenced area that contains shipping containers, paved areas, and other equipment along with dense vegetation outside of the fenced areas and along the driveway.

Twenty-three gopher tortoise burrows documented during a partial survey conducted on May 8, 2020. Prior to site construction, a permit from FWC will be required to authorize relocation of gopher tortoises to an approved off-site recipient area.

Florida scrub-jays have historically been documented in areas near the project site. Scrub-jays were not observed on the Property during the May 8, 2020 site inspection. Given the altered condition of the site and lack of suitable habitat for the scrub-jay, it is highly unlikely that this species will be found on the Property in the future. The Property also falls within the Sand Skink Consultation area and contains suitable soils and elevation. Modica & Associates requested “technical assistance” with USFWS and obtained concurrence from the agency that the Property is exempt from a formal sand skink coverboard survey.

The project site does not contain any wetlands. The subject report will be sufficient to facilitate the environmental review component of the ERP process.

No other environmental concerns were identified or are expected for the Subject Parcel. This ecological assessment does not constitute a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and this report makes no representation as to the presence or absence of hazardous materials. These results reflect on-site conditions at the time of the investigation and do not preclude the possibility of listed species utilizing or inhabiting the site in the future.

## **6.0 REFERENCES**

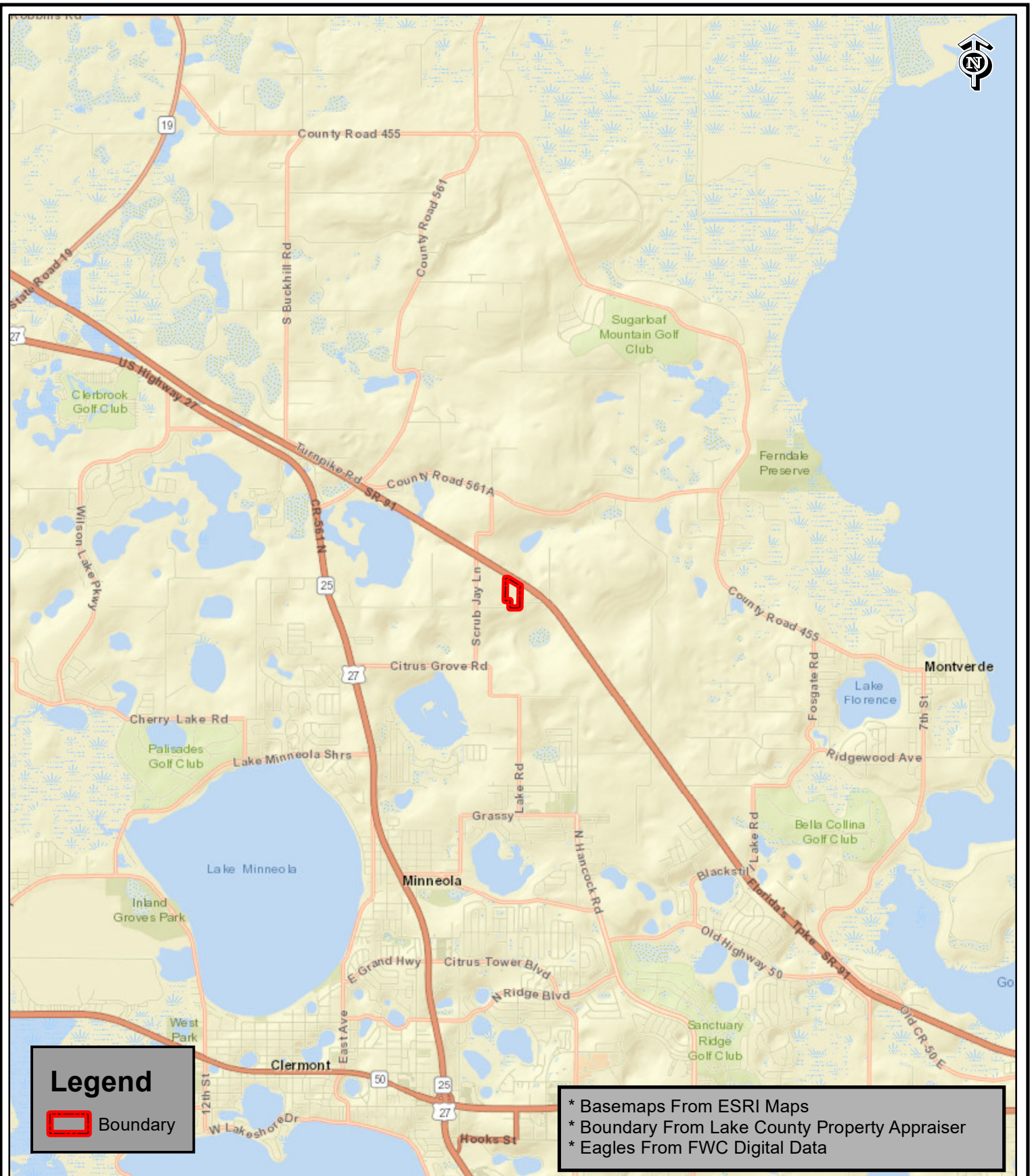
Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists. 2000. Hydric Soils of Florida Handbook, Third Edition.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Eagle Nest Locator (<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=253604118279431984e8bc3ebf1cc8e9>)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 2018. Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species.

United States Department of Agriculture: Soil Conservation Service. 1990. Soil Survey of Lake County, Florida.

# FIGURES



## Wert Yeager

Figure 1 - Location Map  
 S32, T21S, R26E & S5, T22S, R26E  
 Lake County, Florida

2 1 0 2 Miles



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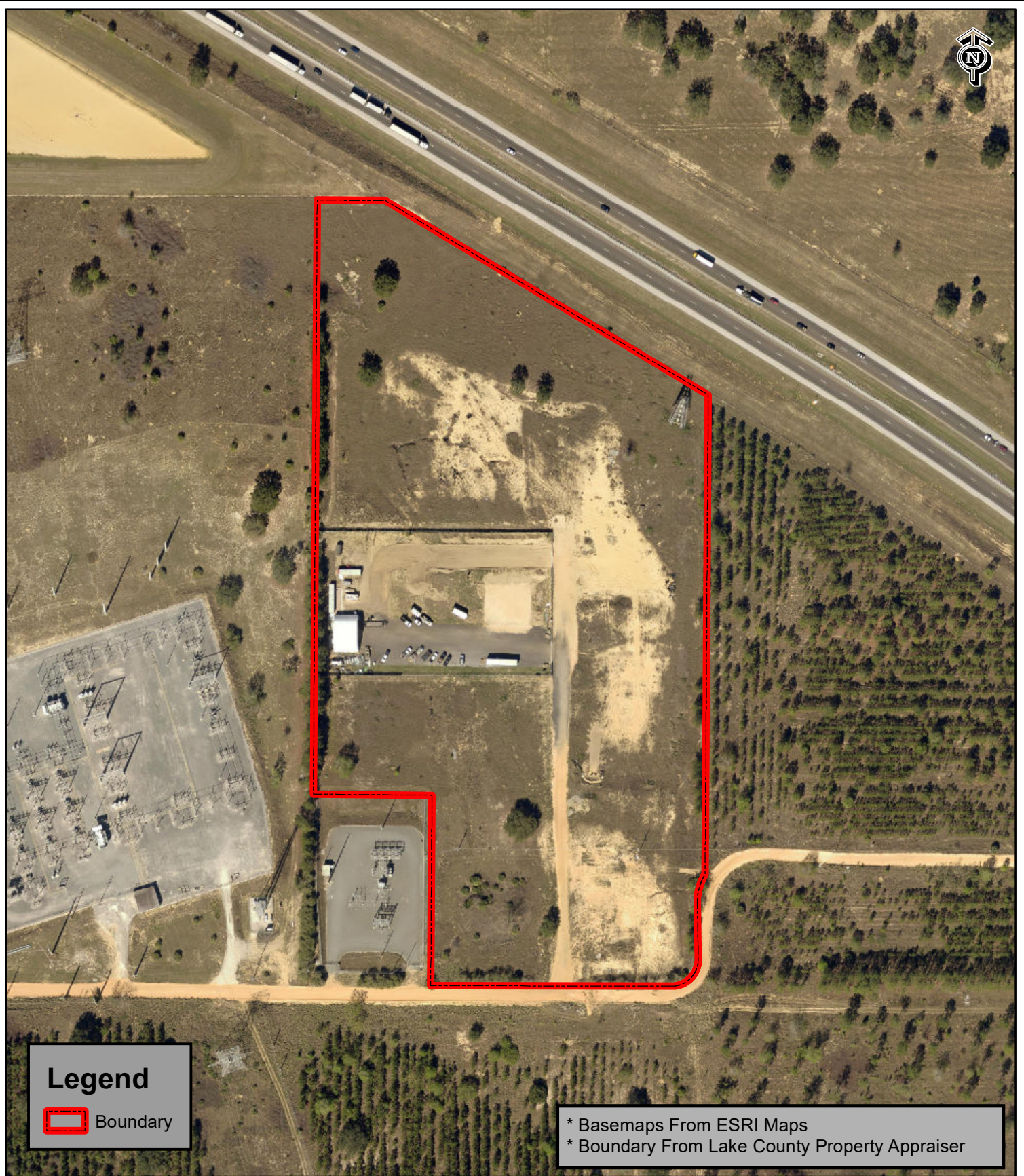
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## Wert Yeager

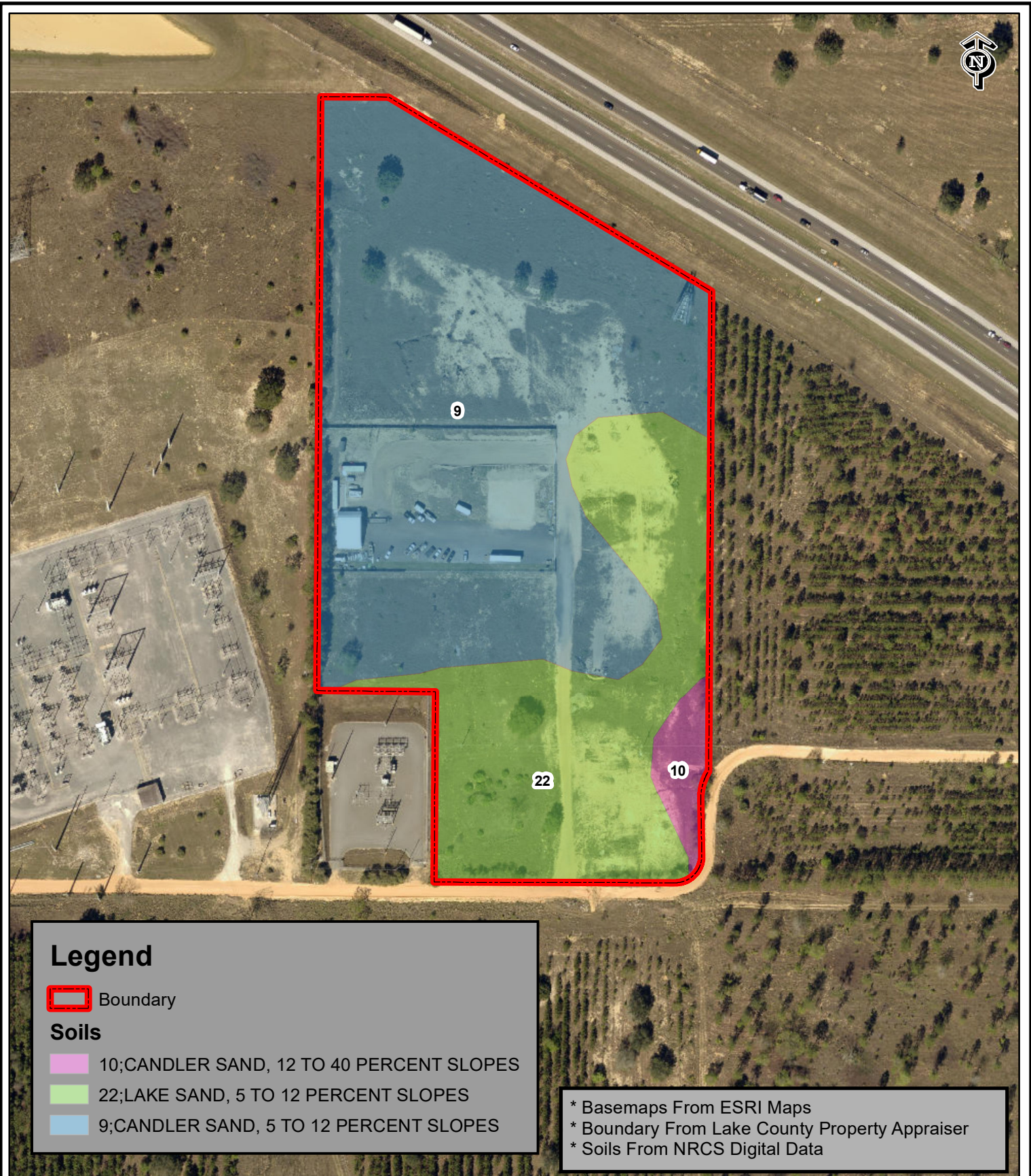
Figure 2 - Aerial Map  
S32, T21S, R26E & S5, T22S, R26E  
Lake County, Florida

200 100 0 200 Feet




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## Legend

 Boundary


### Soils

-  10;CANDLER SAND, 12 TO 40 PERCENT SLOPES
-  22;LAKE SAND, 5 TO 12 PERCENT SLOPES
-  9;CANDLER SAND, 5 TO 12 PERCENT SLOPES

\* Basemaps From ESRI Maps  
\* Boundary From Lake County Property Appraiser  
\* Soils From NRCS Digital Data

## Wert Yeager

Figure 3 - Soils Map  
S32, T21S, R26E & S5, T22S, R26E  
Lake County, Florida

 Feet  
200 100 0 200



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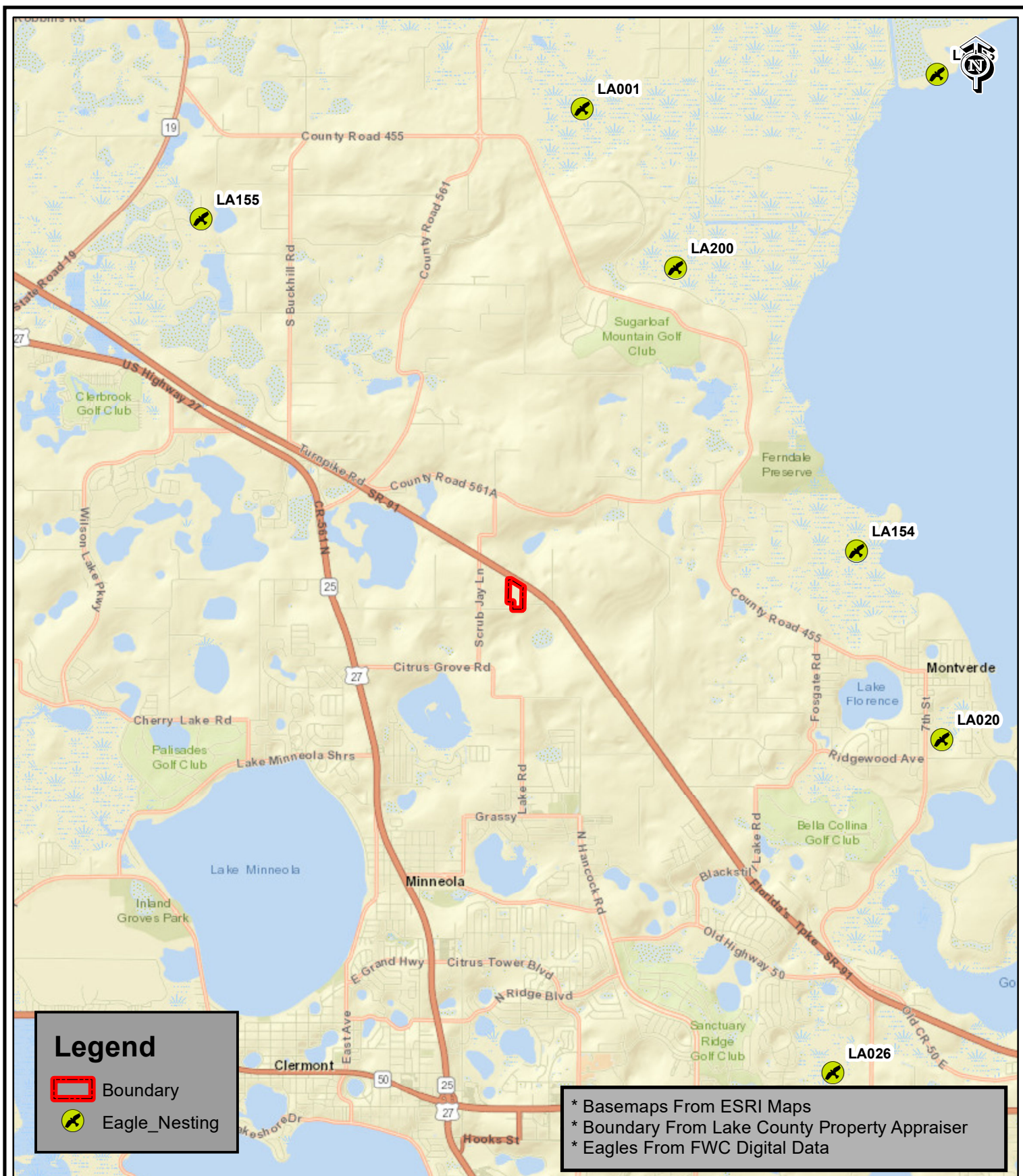
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## Wert Yeager

Figure 5 - Eagle Nesting Map  
 S32, T21S, R26E & S5, T22S, R26E  
 Lake County, Florida

2 1 0 2 Miles



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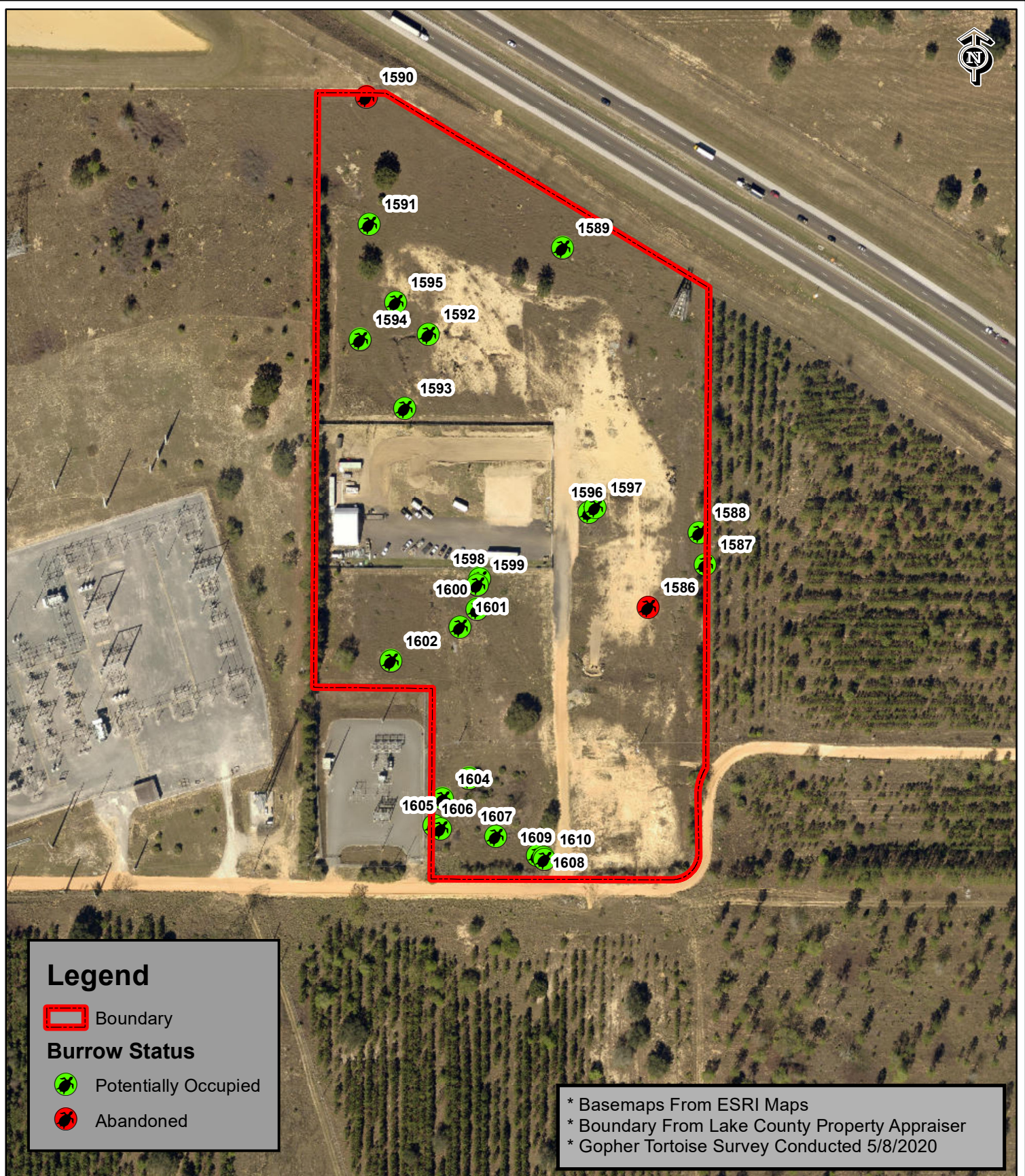
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## Wert Yeager

Figure 6 - Gopher Tortoise Burrow Location Map  
 S32, T21S, R26E & S5, T22S, R26E  
 Lake County, Florida

200 100 0 200 Feet



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# EXHIBIT A



## FNAI tracking list

### LAKE COUNTY

55 Vertebrates Found

Last Updated: June 2014

#### Key

**Scientific Name** is linked to the FNAI Online Field Guides when available.

 - links to [NatureServe Explorer](#), an online encyclopedia of more than 55,000 plants, animals, and natural communities in North America, compiled by the [NatureServe](#) network of natural heritage programs, of which the Florida Natural Areas Inventory is a member.

 - links to a species distribution map ([Adobe SVG viewer](#) required). If your browser does not support Adobe SVG, try this [link](#)

New Search

### SEARCH RESULTS

NOTE: This is not a comprehensive list of all species and natural communities occurring in the location searched. Only elements documented in the FNAI database are included.

#### Fishes

#### EXPLANATION

Scientific Name		Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status
<i>Amelurus brunneus</i>	 	Snail Bullhead	G4	S3	N	N
<a href="#">Cyprinodon variegatus hubbsi</a>	 	Lake Eustis Pupfish	G5T2Q	S2	N	SSC
<i>Enneacanthus chaetodon</i>	 	Blackbanded Sunfish	G3G4	S3	N	N
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	 	Sea Lamprey	G5	SNA	N	N
<a href="#">Pteronotropsis welaka</a>	 	Bluenose Shiner	G3G4	S3S4	N	SSC














#### Amphibians

#### EXPLANATION

Scientific Name		Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	 	Carolina Gopher Frog	G3	S3	N	SSC
<a href="#">Notophthalmus perstriatus</a>	 	Striped Newt	G2G3	S2S3	C	N

## Reptiles





































### EXPLANATION

Scientific Name		Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status
<a href="#"><i>Alligator mississippiensis</i></a>		American Alligator	G5	S4	SAT	FT(S/A)
<a href="#"><i>Clemmys guttata</i></a>		Spotted Turtle	G5	S3?	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Crotalus adamanteus</i></a>		Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4	S3	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Drymarchon couperi</i></a>		Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S3	LT	FT
<a href="#"><i>Gopherus polyphemus</i></a>		Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
<a href="#"><i>Heterodon simus</i></a>		Southern Hognose Snake	G2	S2	N	N
<i>Lampropeltis calligaster</i>		Mole Snake	G5	S2S3	N	N
<i>Lampropeltis extenuata</i>		Short-tailed Snake	G3	S3	N	ST
<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>		Common Kingsnake	G5	S2S3	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i></a>		Florida Pine Snake	G4T3	S3	N	SSC
<i>Plestiodon reynoldsi</i>		Sand Skink	G2	S2	LT	FT
<a href="#"><i>Pseudemys concinna suwanniensis</i></a>		Suwannee Cooter	G5T3	S3	N	SSC
<a href="#"><i>Sceloporus woodi</i></a>		Florida Scrub Lizard	G3	S3	N	N

## Birds













### EXPLANATION




Scientific Name		Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status
<a href="#"><i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i></a>		Florida Scrub-Jay	G2	S2	LT	FT
<a href="#"><i>Aramus quarauna</i></a>		Limpkin	G5	S3	N	SSC
<i>Ardea alba</i>		Great Egret	G5	S4	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i></a>		Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	SSC
<a href="#"><i>Buteo brachyurus</i></a>		Short-tailed Hawk	G4G5	S1	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Egretta caerulea</i></a>		Little Blue Heron	G5	S4	N	SSC
<a href="#"><i>Egretta thula</i></a>		Snowy Egret	G5	S3	N	SSC
<a href="#"><i>Egretta tricolor</i></a>		Tricolored Heron	G5	S4	N	SSC

<a href="#"><i>Elanoides forficatus</i></a>	 	Swallow-tailed Kite	G5	S2	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Eudocimus albus</i></a>	 	White Ibis	G5	S4	N	SSC
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	 	Merlin	G5	S2	N	N
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	 	Peregrine Falcon	G4	S2	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Falco sparverius paulus</i></a>	 	Southeastern American Kestrel	G5T4	S3	N	ST
<a href="#"><i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i></a>	 	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3	S2S3	N	ST
<a href="#"><i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i></a>	 	Bald Eagle	G5	S3	N	N
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	 	Least Bittern	G5	S4	N	N
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	 	Black Rail	G3G4	S2	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Mycteria americana</i></a>	 	Wood Stork	G4	S2	LE	FE
<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	 	Yellow-crowned Night-heron	G5	S3	N	N
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	 	Black-crowned Night-heron	G5	S3	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Pandion haliaetus</i></a>	 	Osprey	G5	S3S4	N	SSC*
<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	 	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Picoides borealis</i></a>	 	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	LE	FE
<i>Picoides villosus</i>	 	Hairy Woodpecker	G5	S3	N	N
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	 	Glossy Ibis	G5	S3	N	N
<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	 	Least Tern	G4	S3	N	ST

## Mammals

### EXPLANATION

Scientific Name		Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status
<a href="#"><i>Corvinorhinus rafinesquii</i></a>	 	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	G3G4	S2	N	N
<i>Mustela frenata olivacea</i>	 	Southeastern Weasel	G5T4	S3?	N	N
<i>Mustela frenata peninsulae</i>	 	Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3	S3	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Myotis austroriparius</i></a>	 	Southeastern Bat	G3G4	S3	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Neofiber alleni</i></a>	 	Round-tailed Muskrat	G3	S3	N	N
<a href="#"><i>Podomys floridanus</i></a>	 	Florida Mouse	G3	S3	N	SSC

<a href="#"><i>Sciurus niger shermani</i></a>		Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3	S3	N	SSC
<a href="#"><i>Trichechus manatus</i></a>		Manatee	G2	S2	LE	FE
<a href="#"><i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i></a>		Florida Black Bear	G5T2	S2	N	ST*

New Search

# EXHIBIT B



## Elaine A. Imbruglia

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**From:** Gawera, Erin <erin\_gawera@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 10:35 AM  
**To:** Ashley Miller Argitis  
**Subject:** Fw: Sand Skink Exemption Request

Hi Ashley,

I think this is what you're searching for?

Erin

\*\*\*\*\*

**Erin M. Gawera, Fish and Wildlife Biologist**  
**US Fish and Wildlife Service**

Email: [erin\\_gawera@fws.gov](mailto:erin_gawera@fws.gov)  
<http://www.fws.gov/northflorida>

7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200  
Jacksonville, FL 32256-7517  
904/731-3121 (direct)  
904/731-3336 (main)  
Fax: 904/731-3045 or 3048

---

**From:** Gawera, Erin <erin\_gawera@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 3:46 PM  
**To:** Ashley Miller <ashleym@modica.cc>  
**Cc:** Elaine A. Imbruglia <eca@modica.cc>  
**Subject:** RE: Sand Skink Exemption Request

Hi Ashley,

Based on your report, this property was historically vegetated with dense pasture grasses from 1994 to 2011, no native vegetative communities are located immediately adjacent to or near the property, the topography has been altered from its original state, and the surrounding land uses also contain altered communities. The Service therefor concludes that sand skinks are not likely to inhabit this property and a sand skink survey will not be required.

Thank you for coordinating with us.

Erin

\*\*\*\*\*

**Erin M. Gawera, Fish and Wildlife Biologist**  
**US Fish and Wildlife Service**

Email: [erin\\_gawera@fws.gov](mailto:erin_gawera@fws.gov)  
<http://www.fws.gov/northflorida>

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Jacksonville, FL 32256-7517  
904/731-3121 (direct)  
904/731-3336 (main)  
Fax: 904/731-3045 or 3048

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**From:** Ashley Miller [mailto:[ashleym@modica.cc](mailto:ashleym@modica.cc)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 3:06 PM  
**To:** [Erin\\_Gawera@fws.gov](mailto:Erin_Gawera@fws.gov)  
**Cc:** 'Elaine A. Imbruglia'  
**Subject:** Sand Skink Exemption Request

Hi Erin,

Please see the attachment requesting technical assistance regarding a sand skink coverboard survey on the Wert Yeager project site in Lake County, Florida.

Let me know if any additional information is needed.

Thank you,

Ashley



**Ashley Miller**

*MODICA & ASSOCIATES, INC.*

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