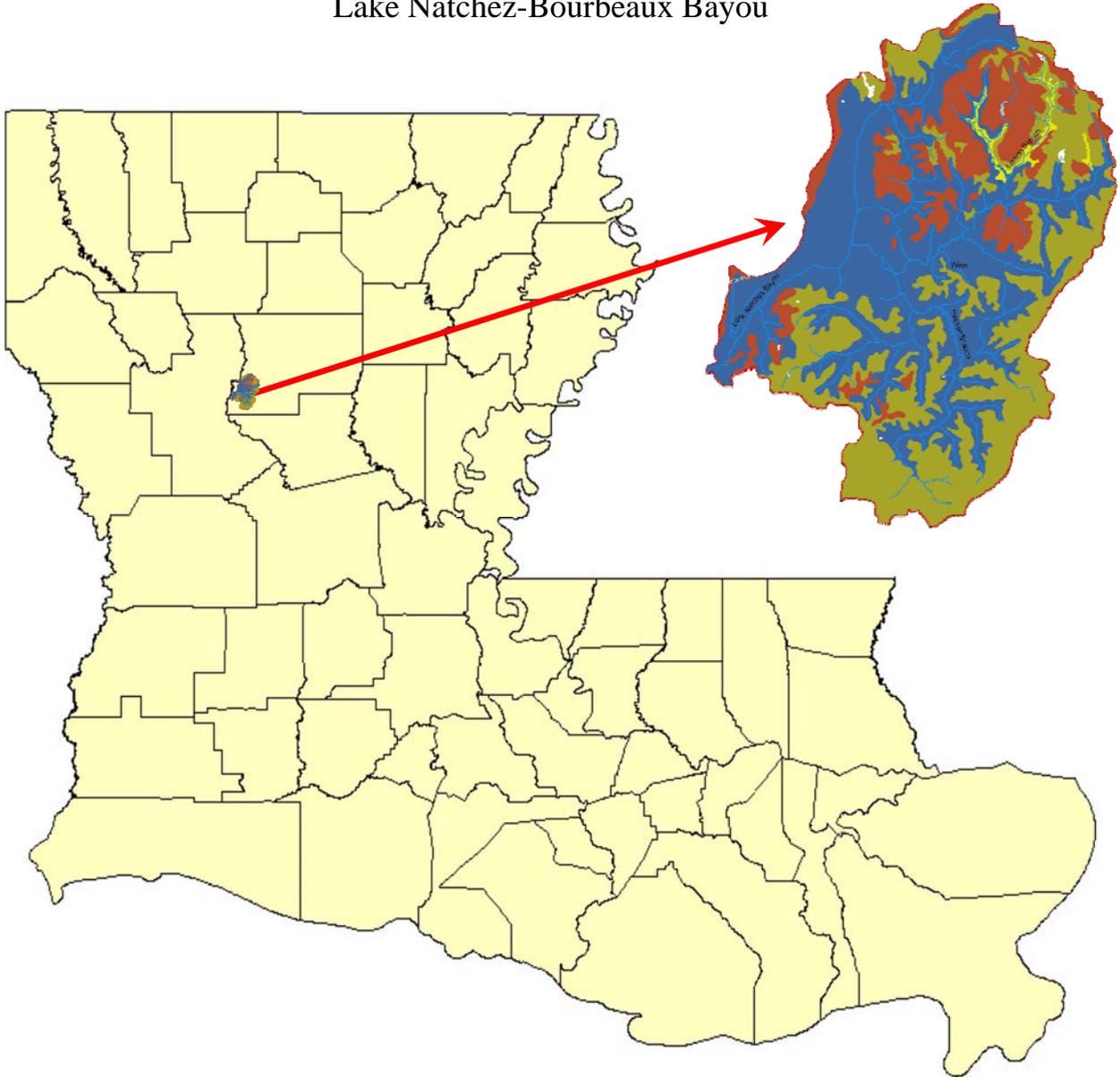




Natural Resources Conservation Service
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302

LAKE NATCHEZ-BOURBEAUX BAYOU WATERSHED
RAPID WATERSHED ASSESSMENT
HUC: 11140208030
LOUISIANA

Rapid Watershed Assessment
Lake Natchez-Bourbeaux Bayou



Rapid watershed assessments provide initial estimates of where conservation investments would best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts, and other community organizations. These assessments help landowners and local leaders set priorities and determine the best actions to achieve their goals.

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Lake Natchez Bayou Watershed – HUC - 11140208030

Purpose

This rapid watershed assessment (RWA) organizes resource information into one document that local conservationists, units of government, and others can use to identify existing resource conditions and conservation opportunities. This will enable the user to direct technical and financial resources to the local needs in the watershed. This RWA provides a brief description of the Lake Natchez Bayou Watershed's natural resources, resource concerns, conservation needs, and ability to resolve natural resource issues and concerns.

Introduction

The Lake Natchez Bayou Watershed 11 Digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) sub-basin is comprised of 16,585 acres. The majority of the land is in the Kisatchie Forest.

Physical Description

The physiographic area that makes up the watershed is the uplands. Elevation in the watershed is around 350 feet above sea level. The watershed contains moderately steep slopes with upland soils that are sandy, loamy, or clayey in nature.

Soils

For the purpose of this assessment the soils will be categorized by series. The Series consist of soils within a family that have horizons similar in color, texture, structure, reaction, consistence, mineral and chemical composition and arrangement in a soil profile. The common soil series found in this watershed are Bellwood, Gore, Kolin, Ruston, and Smithdale.

Biology

This area once consisted entirely of bottom-land hardwood deciduous forest and mixed hardwood and cypress swamps. The major tree species in the native plant communities in the areas of bottom-land hardwoods formerly were and currently are water oak, Nuttall oak, cherrybark oak, native pecan, red maple, sweetgum, eastern cottonwood, and hickory. The major tree species in the native plant communities in the swamps formerly were and currently are cypress, water tupelo, water oak, green ash, red maple, and black willow. The important native understory species are palmetto, greenbrier, wild grape, and poison ivy in the areas of bottom-land hardwoods and buttonbush, lizardtail, waterlily, water hyacinth, sedges, and rushes in the swamps. Some of the major species in this area are white-tailed deer, feral hogs, red fox, coyote, rabbit, gray squirrel, American alligator, water turtles, water snakes, frogs, otters, beavers, armadillo, crawfish, wild turkey, mourning doves, ducks, and geese. Fishing is mainly in oxbow lakes, rivers, and bayous. The species of fish in the area include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, catfish, drum, bluegill, gar, and yellow perch.

Climate

The average annual precipitation in the watershed ranges from 47 to 62 inches. Most of the rainfall occurs as frontal storms during late fall, winter, and early spring, although an appreciable amount of precipitation also occurs as convective thunderstorms during the early part of the growing season. The average annual temperature ranges from 63 to 67 degrees. The freeze-free period averages 280 days.

Land Use

The dominate landuse in the project area include forestland consisting mostly of pine plantations. (Figure 1) For the natural vegetation there is a high diversity of natural communities including upland longleaf pine woodlands (historically dominant), longleaf pine savannas, hardwood slope forests with beach and magnolia; calcareous forests and prairies, bogs, with pitcher plants and orchids, and sandstone glades with pines and drought tolerant oaks.

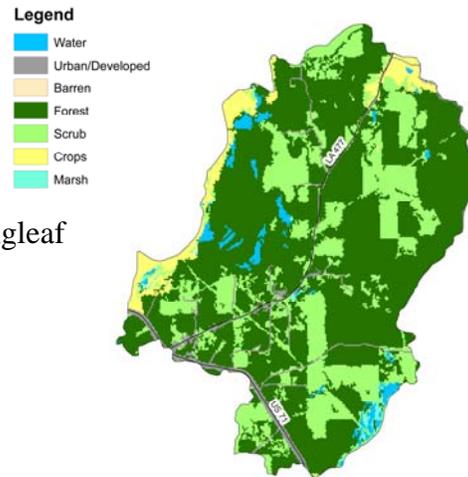


Figure 1: Lake Natchez Land Use

Gas Pipelines

The pipeline industry is a vital part of the oil and gas industry in Louisiana. Louisiana has an extensive pipeline network. Pipelines transport crude oil and natural gas from the wellhead to the processing plants and refineries. Pipelines transport natural gas from producing states such as Louisiana to utility companies, chemical companies and other users throughout the nation. Pipelines are also used to transport chemical products. There is an estimated 25,000 miles of pipe moving natural gas through interstate pipelines. There are 7,600 miles of pipe that carry natural gas through intrastate pipelines to users within the state's Boundaries while another 3,450 miles of pipelines in Louisiana transport crude oil and crude oil products. The pipeline industry employs 4,855 persons in Louisiana with an annual payroll of more than \$250 million.

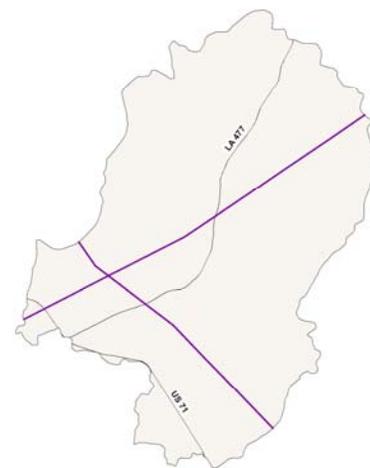


Figure 2: Lake Natchez Gas Pipelines

State Political Area

The Louisiana House of Representatives is the lower chamber in the Louisiana State Legislature. The House is composed of 105 Representatives, each of whom represents approximately 42,500 people. The watershed area is in State District 31.

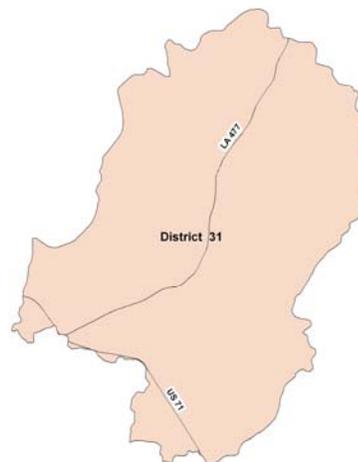


Figure 3. Lake Natchez Political Area

Threatened and Endangered Species Status

The Endangered Species Act provides protection to animals that are experiencing a decline in population, or nearing extinction. Table 1 lists the species of concern and their designation.

Table 1: Threatened and Endangered Species

Species	Status	Critical Habitat
Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>)	Endangered	No

The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW), (*Picoides borealis*) nests in open, park-like stands of mature (i.e., greater than 60 years of age) pine trees containing little hardwood understory or midstory. RCWs can tolerate small numbers of overstory hardwoods or large midstory hardwoods at low densities found naturally in many southern pine forests, but they are not tolerant of dense hardwood midstories resulting from fire suppression. RCWs excavate roost and nest cavities in large living pines (i.e., 10 inches or greater in diameter at breast height). The cavity trees and the foraging area within 200 feet of those trees are known as a cluster. Foraging habitat is defined as pine and pine-hardwood (i.e., 50 percent or more of the dominant trees are pines) stands over 30 years of age that are located contiguous to and within one-half mile of the cluster.

Water Quality Conditions

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is responsible for monitoring water quality conditions in the state of Louisiana. LDEQ data shows that about 77 percent of the water bodies in the state fail to meet at least one, and sometimes more, of their intended uses. As of 2004, 318 water body sub-segments did not meet the state's "fishable" use and 111 subsegments did not meet the state's "swimmable" use. The subsegment for Lake Natchez is listed as 100803 (Table 2).

Table 2: Lake Natchez Watershed Water Quality Conditions

		PCR	SCR	FWP	DWS	ONR	OYS	AGR	LAL	Impaired Use for Suspected Cause	Suspected Causes of Impairment	IR Category for Suspected Causes	TMDL Due Date	TMDL Priority
Lake Natchez-Bayou Bourbeaux RWA														
100803	Saline Bayou	F	F	N				F		FWP	Mercury	IRC5	2007	H
		F	F	N				F		FWP	Mercury	IRC5	2007	H

Lake Natchez empties into Saline Bayou west of St. Maurice. The water quality monitoring for this watershed is done on Saline Bayou. Saline Bayou flows southward for 54 miles from its origin near the Town of Arcadia in Bienville Parish. It defines the border of Natchitoches and Winn Parishes ending at Louisiana Highway 156. There is a water quality monitoring station on Saline Bayou East of Bienville, Louisiana. According to LDEQ, the designated uses for streams and rivers in this watershed include: Primary Contact Recreation (PCR) - Swimming, Secondary Contact Recreation (SCR), Fish and Wildlife Propagation (FWP) – Fishing, Drinking Water Supply (DWS), Outstanding Natural Resource (ONR), Oyster Propagation (OYS), Agricultural Use (AGR), and Limited Aquatic and Wildlife (LAL). Table 2 lists the stream subsegment 100803 within the watershed. The suspected cause of impairment in this stream subsegment is mercury.

Resource Concerns

Resource concerns are issues related to the natural environment. Natural resources include soil, water, air, plants, animals, and humans. A joint public meeting for Lower Saline Bayou Watershed, Cane Bayou Watershed, and Lake Natchez Bayou Watershed was held in Natchitoches, Louisiana to obtain input on the resource concerns from the general public. Some of the resource concerns are found below. The remainder of the concerns can be found in Appendix A.

Water

- Surface Water – There is a need to look at surface water sources from public and private usage if it is safe and available.

Animals

- Hunting, Fishing – There is a need to maintain and improve wildlife habitat for recreational purposes. Meeting participant feels that there are no incentives for maintaining/improving habitats.
- Cattle overgrazing was a concern for a meeting resident.

Plants

- More conservation dollars need to be targeted for forestry practices.

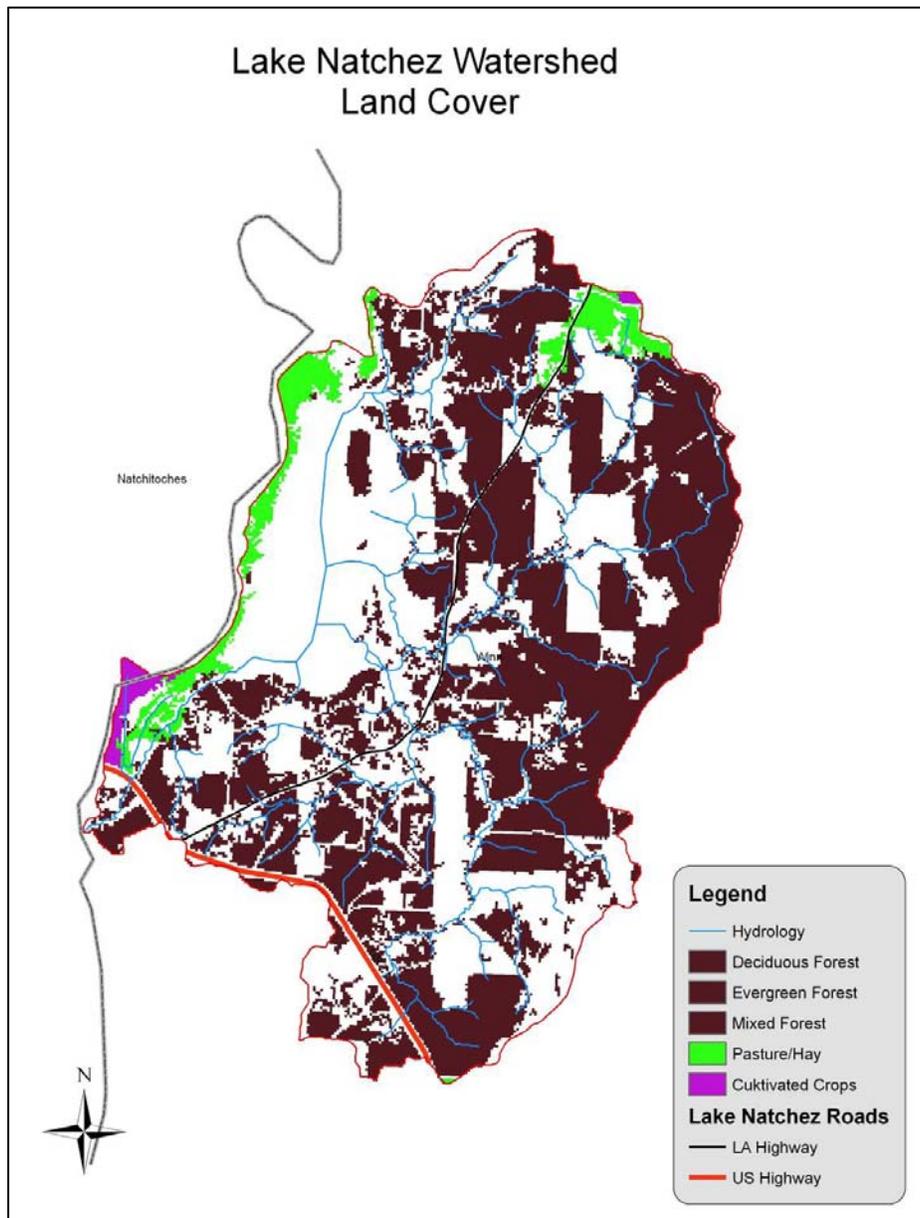
Humans

- Recreation – There is a need for improved recreation. Additionally, waste from private camps is a problem.
- Utilization of Wastewater Treatment - The septic systems on many of the camps have inadequate sewer facilities. Additionally some of the wastewater treatment from some of the smaller municipalities needs to be looked at as well.

One of the resource concerns identified by stakeholders was sediment loading of streams from forest related activities. One of the goals of this effort was to identify areas of high risk related to erosion. The cultural and resource characteristics identified by NRCS planning specialists to be considered during the risk assessment included: land use, stream proximity, soil hydrologic group, and land slopes.

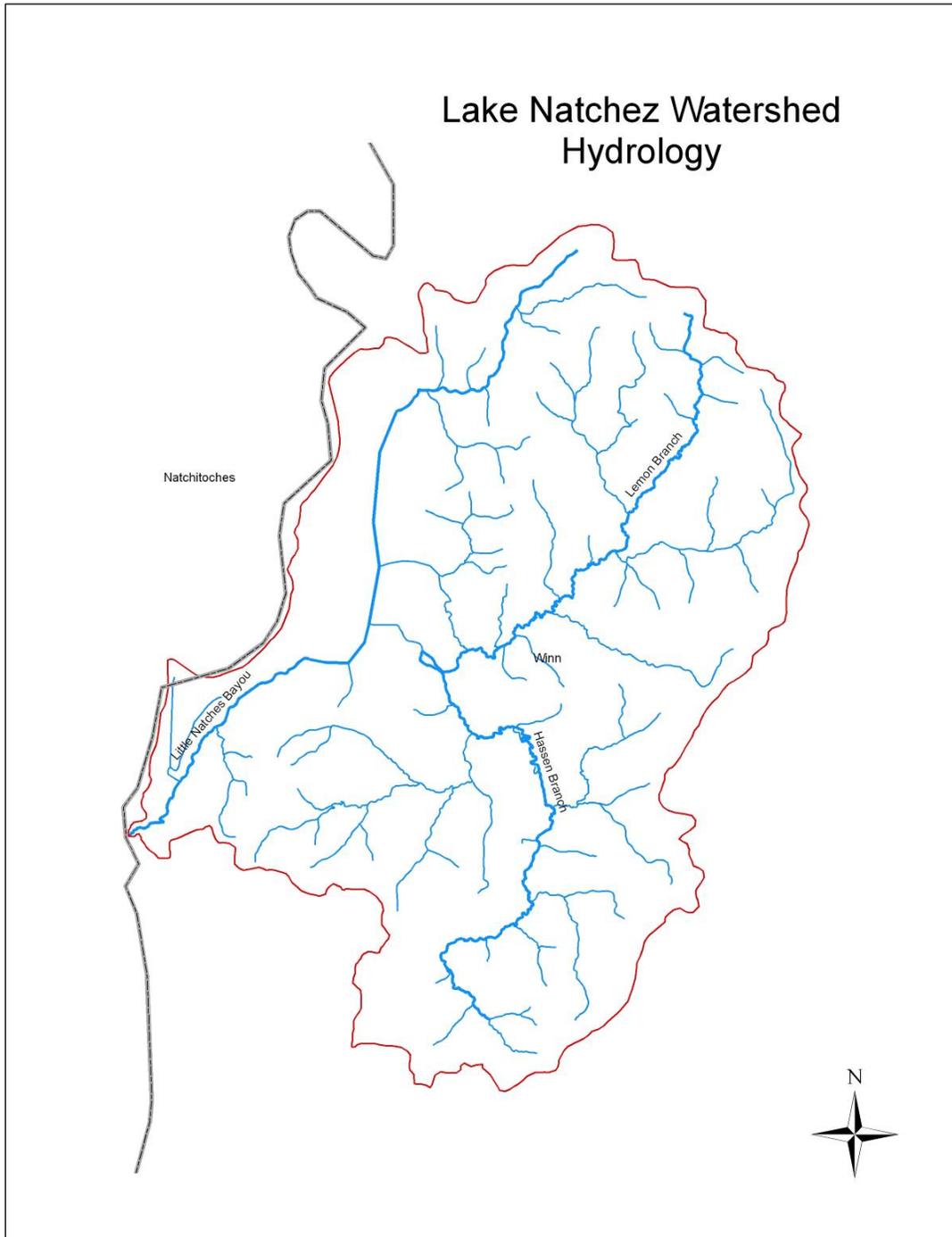
The land use distribution is depicted in Figure 4. It becomes quite obvious from the map that the majority of the area is forested.

Figure 4: Lake Natchez Watershed Land Cover



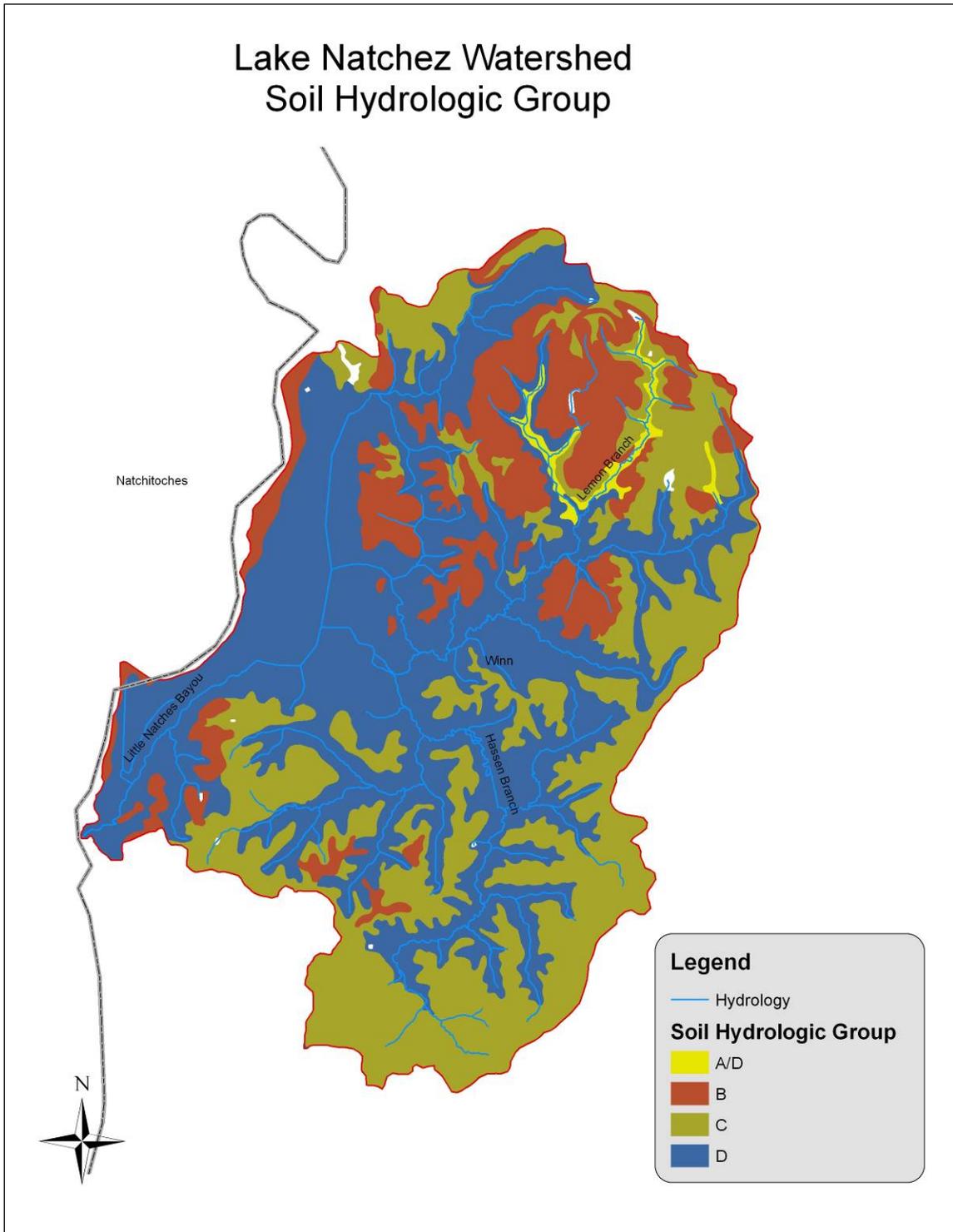
The stream system which is the receiving body of the generated sediment is shown in Figure 5. The closer a potential contributing area is to a stream the higher the risk for sediment and other pollutant loading. This was the rationale for the proximity factor in the risk matrix.

Figure 5: Lake Natchez Hydrology



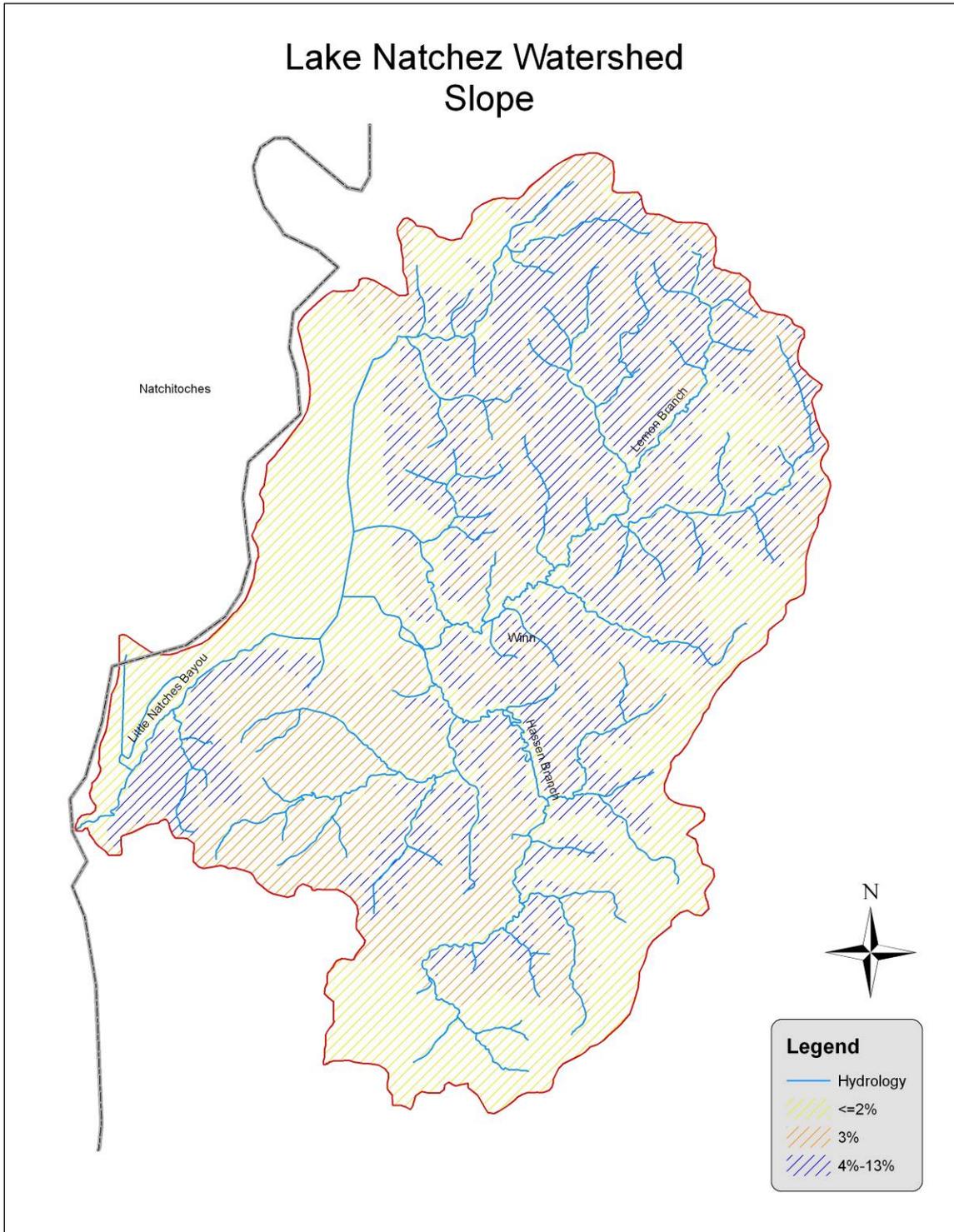
The soils hydrologic functions significantly affect runoff. Those soils in the “C and D” groups have a high degree of runoff. They indicate high risk areas.

Figure 6: Lake Natchez Soil Hydrologic Group



The landscape slope affects the velocity of runoff therefore the erosion rates which are likely to occur. A high percentage of the steeper slopes are adjacent to streams (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Lake Natchez Slope



These risk factors were rated individually and cumulatively to define the overall risk of erosion and sediment loading to streams (Table 3).

Table 3: Lake Natchez Risk Matrix

RISK	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
Land Use	Pasture – 1	Cropland - 2	Forest - 3
Stream Proximity	300 ft.	200 ft.	100 ft.
Soil Hydrologic Group	Low – A(1)	Medium – B(2)	High – C&D(3)
Slope	<=2%	>2% - 3%	>3 - 13%

When this matrix was applied using GIS technology varying levels of risk become apparent. The following maps were created by combining these high risk indicators.

The first map displays areas which are very sensitive to human activities. These areas are crosshatched on the map. The crosshatched effect is created by plotting “C” and “D” hydrologic groups which create a high risk due to their runoff potential, and areas with steep land slopes (greater than 3%) over the existing land uses.

Figure 8: Lake Natchez Slope, Soil Hydrologic Group, and Land Cover

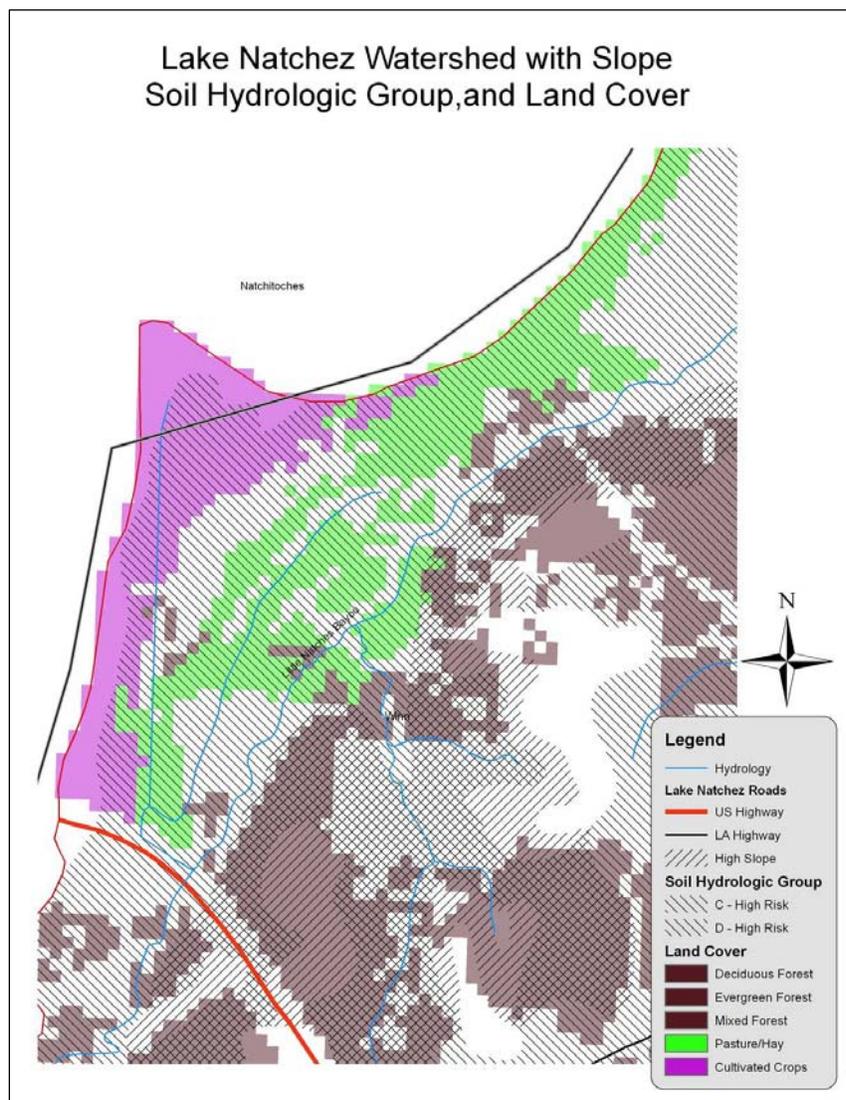
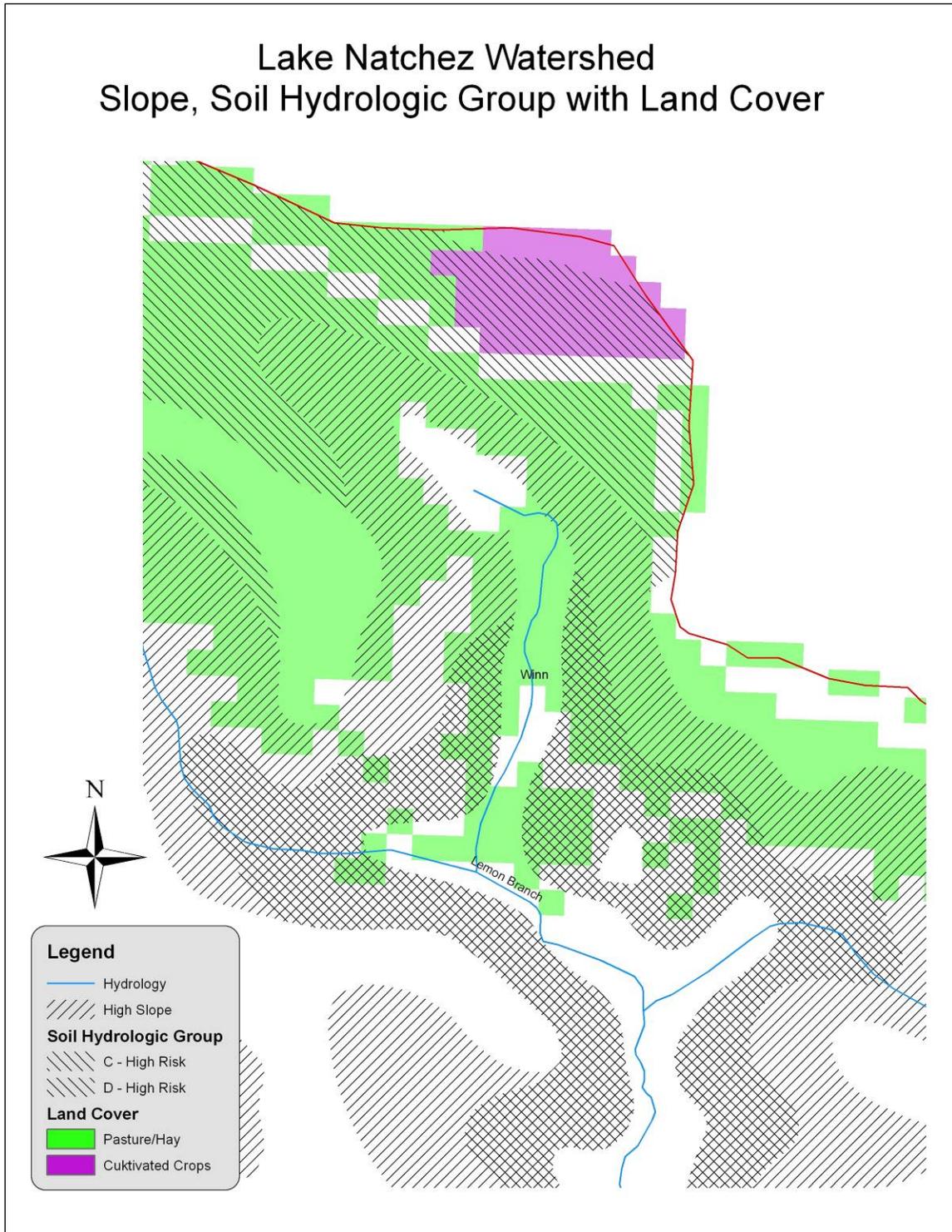


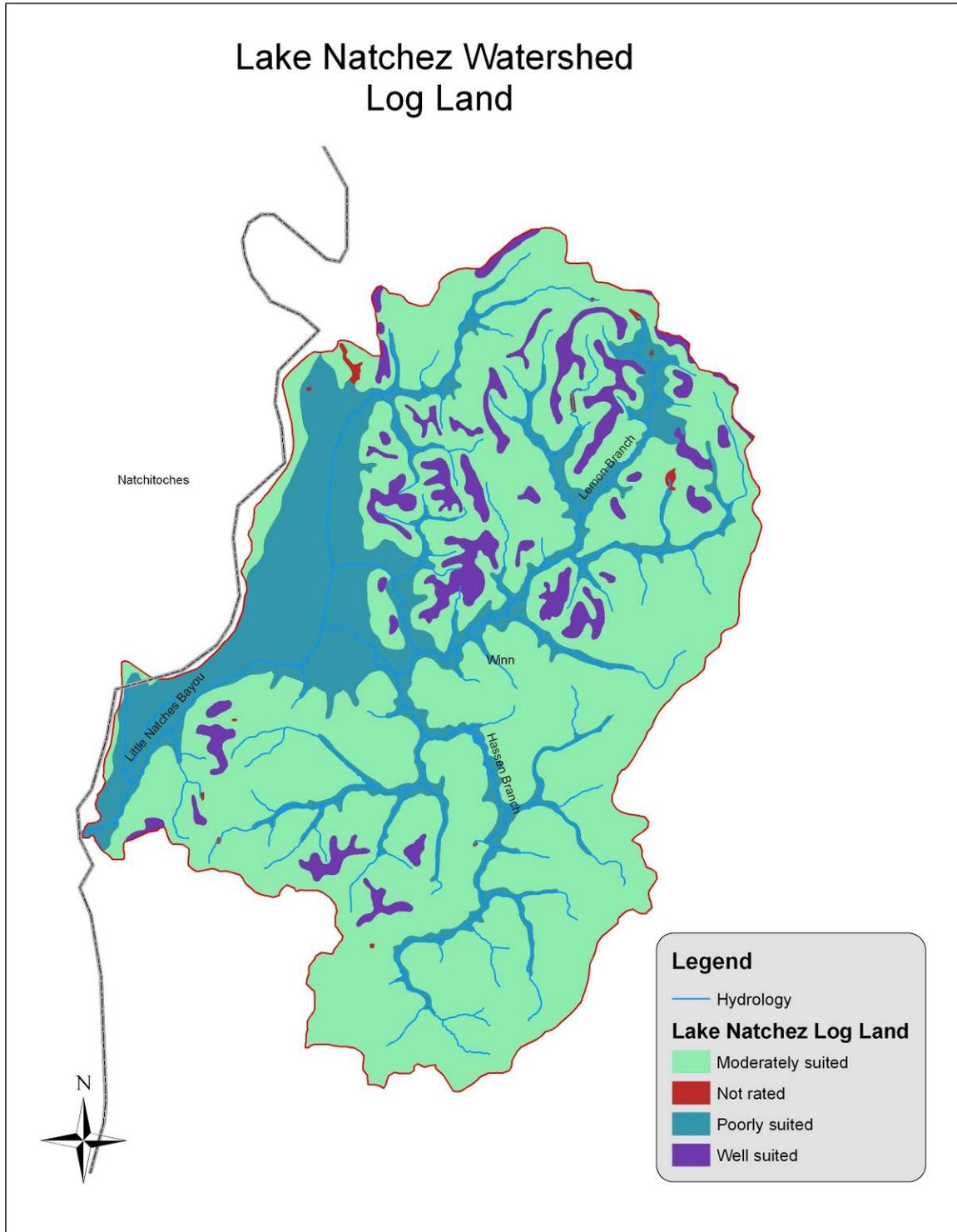
Figure 9 depicts areas of pasture which are of high risk especially if converted to cropland. It also shows the location of cropland which has a high runoff potential and therefore erosion potential. Good management practices are very important on these sites.

Figure 9: Lake Natchez High Risk Pasture Areas



Log landings often are considered significant sources of sediment loading to streams. The map below depicts log landing suitability for the area.

Figure 10: Lake Natchez Log Land



In general it can be seen that areas adjacent to streams are not suited for log landings.

The following maps bring the land use factor into the risk analysis and identify the areas which are poorly suited for log landings.

Figure 11: Lake Natchez Forest Areas Poorly Suited for Log Landings

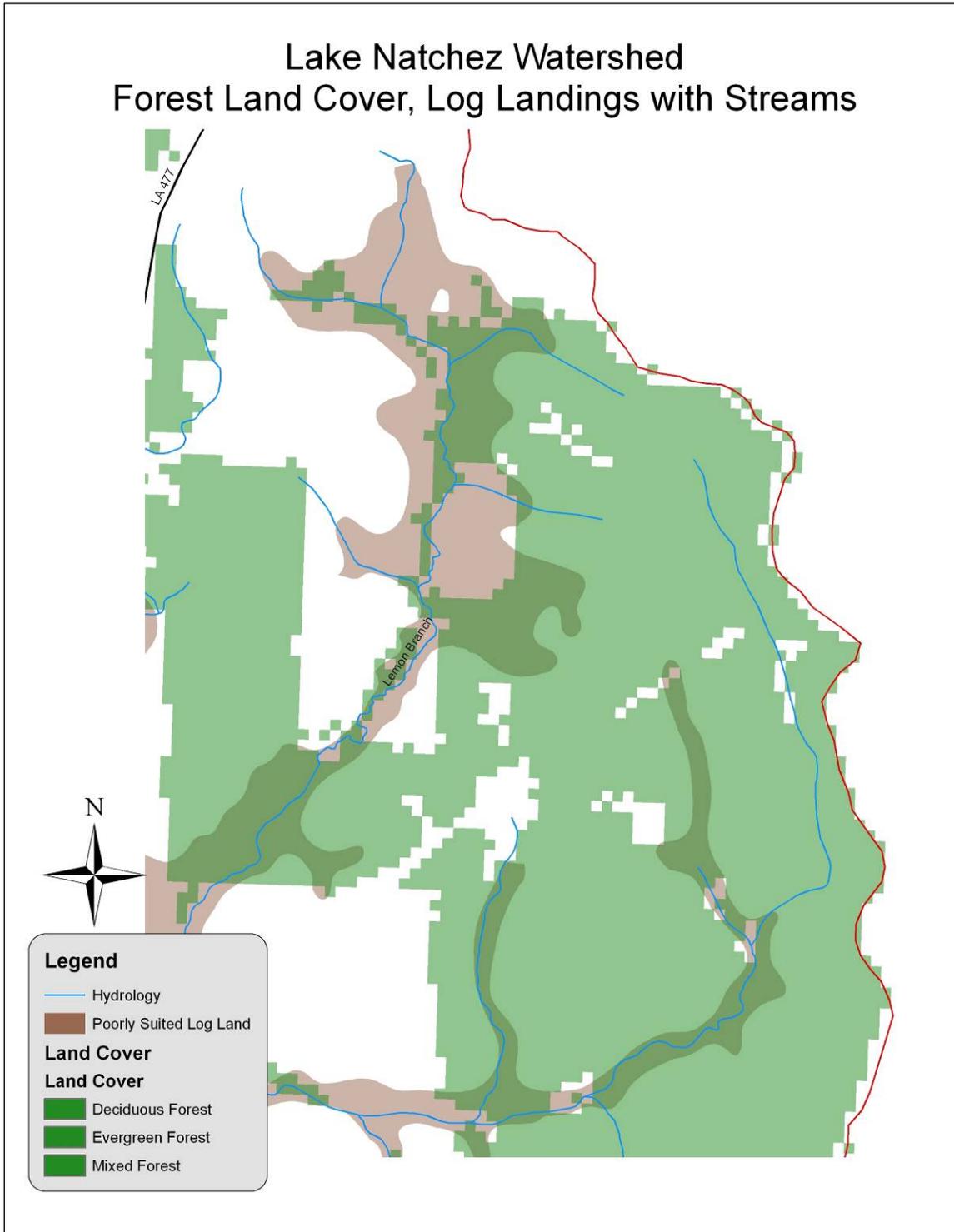


Figure 12: Lake Natchez #2 Area Poorly Suited for Log Landings

Lake Natchez Watershed Forest Land Cover, Log Landings with Streams

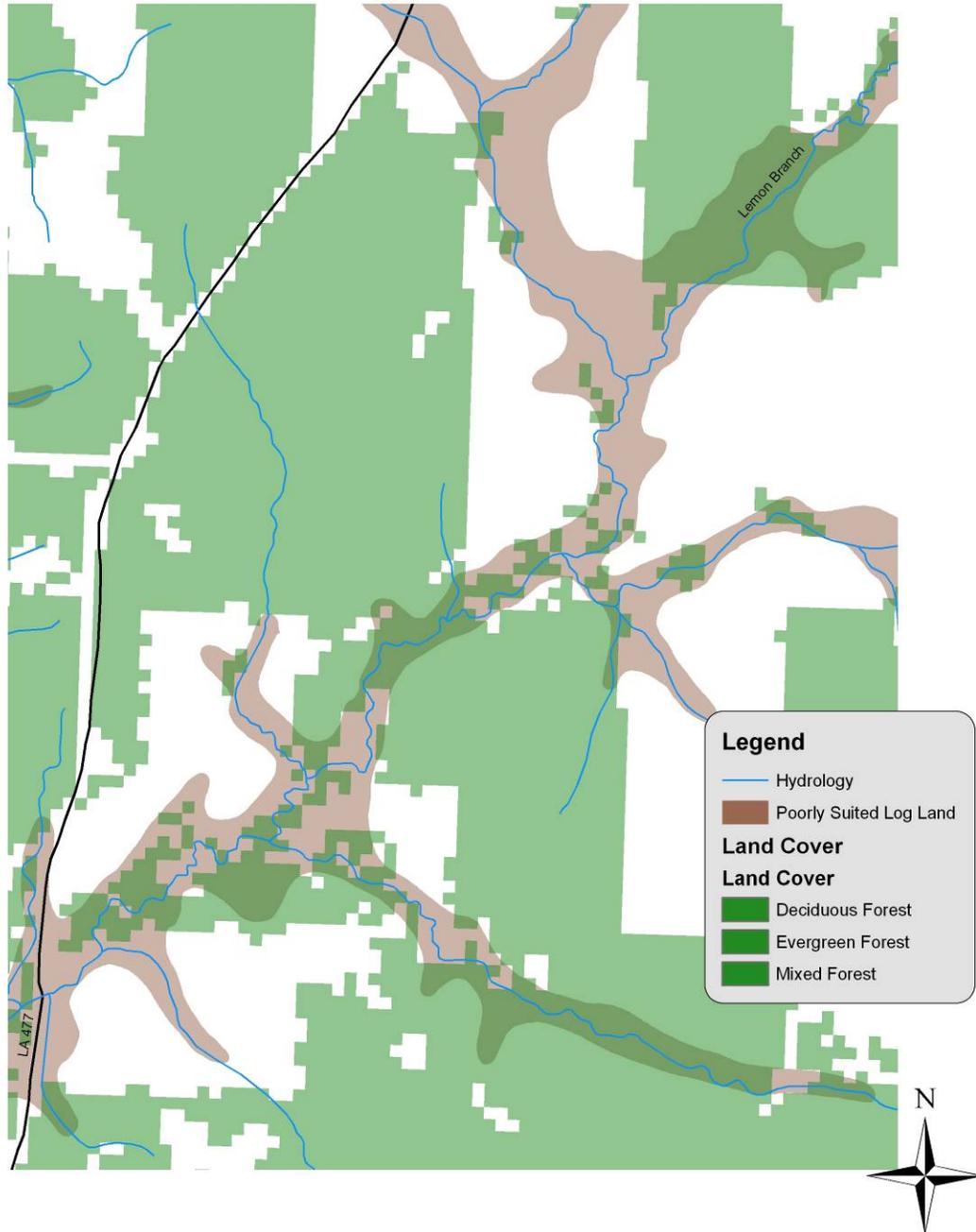


Figure 13: Lake Natchez Area Best Suited for Log Landings

Lake Natchez Watershed Forest Land Cover, Log Landings with Streams

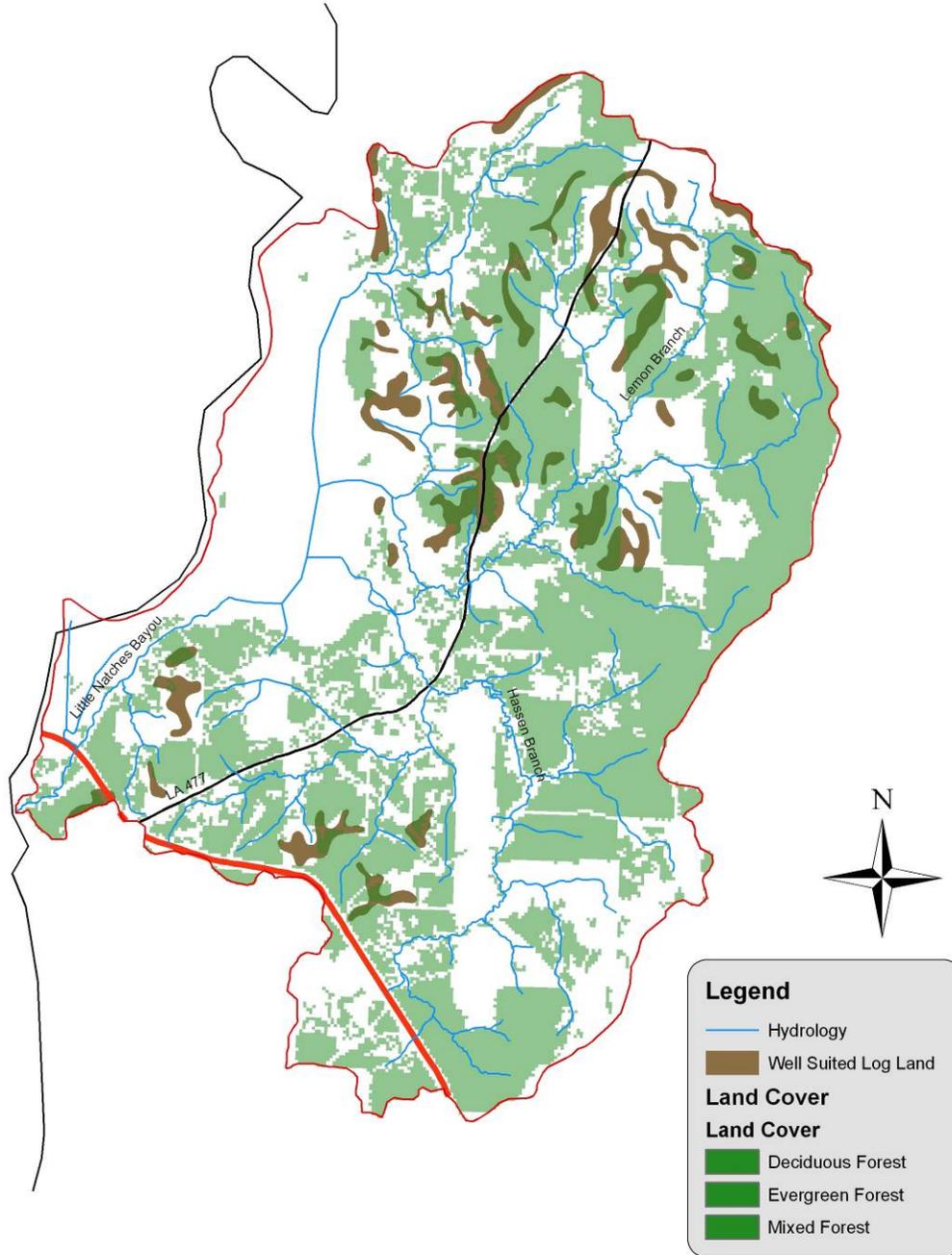
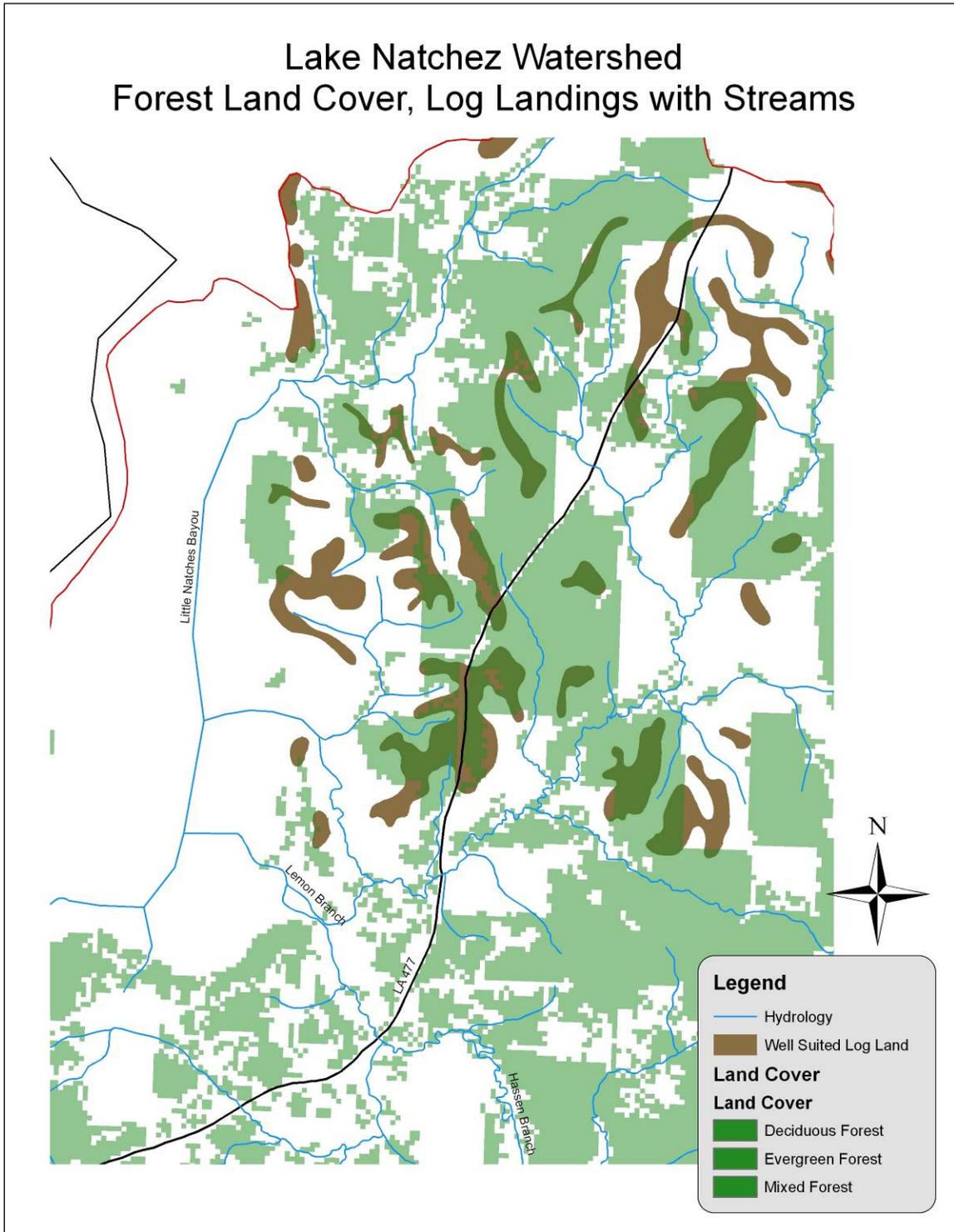


Figure 14: Closer View of Lake Natchez Suitable Areas for Log Landings



One way to reduce sediment loading of streams is to capture or trap the sediment before it reaches the stream. One method of doing this is through the creation of vegetative buffers adjacent to receiving water bodies. The need for this treatment increases as a high or moderate risk land use penetrates the proximity risk zones created by the proximity risk factor. Figure 15 shows a network of stream buffers for the entire area.

Figure 15: Lake Natchez Land Cover with Stream Buffers

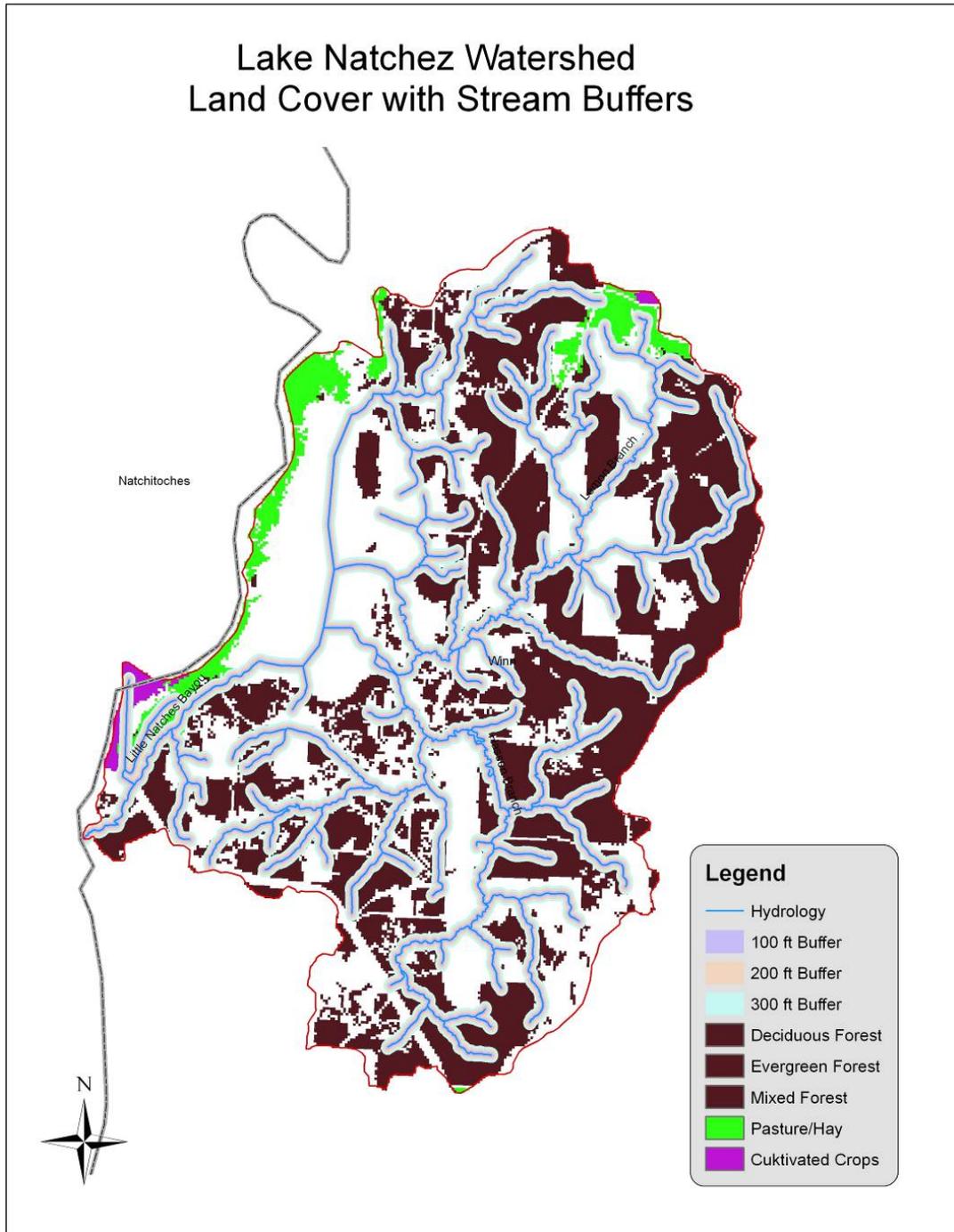
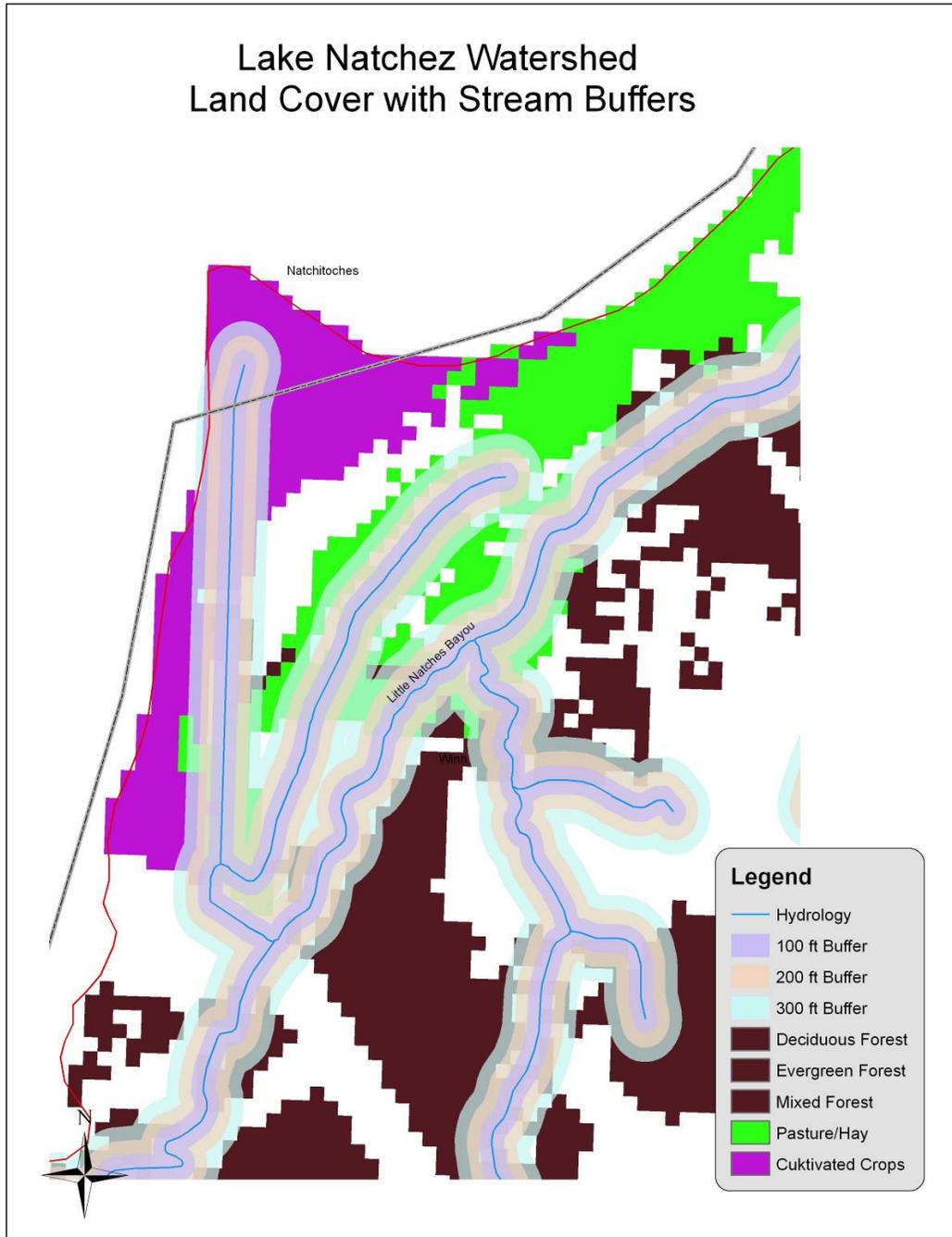


Figure 16 provides a closer look at how the various land uses penetrate the buffer risk zones created by the proximity risk factor.

Figure 16: Closer View of Lake Natchez Land Cover with Stream Buffers



Human related activities within the inner zones can be extremely harmful to the environment. They also could be extremely beneficial to wildlife depending on what is carried out. Vegetative buffer establishment would have positive benefits.

The other risk factors further define the risk level associated with the landscape condition.

Lake Natchez Watershed HUC – 11140208030 - Assessment

Description

This assessment matrix has been developed to provide an estimate of conservation systems which may be needed to address resource concerns identified in the RWA Resource Profile. This can also be described as likely future conditions within the watershed.

Conservation systems have been described in this assessment as systems of conservation practices developed to address resource concerns on various land uses. Systems include benchmark and resource management systems. Benchmarks (BM) systems are best described as land units that have had no treatment or one or more resource concerns treated with conservation practices. Resource management systems (RMS) are described as land units which have all known resource concerns treated with conservation practices. The level of treatment to an individual resource concern is credited when the practice(s) used meet or exceed a predetermined level of treatment, known as quality criteria.

Resource concerns have been described in this RWA. These concerns were identified at a public meeting that was held. Other resource concerns likely exist within the watershed but only make up a small percentage of what needs to be treated. Further investigation and analysis will need to be completed in order to better define all resource concerns.

Resource professionals provided an estimate by percent of conservation systems that will likely be applied to BM systems and untreated land units to address resource concerns identified in the resource profile. These systems are not meant to be comprehensive or address all concerns for each land unit in the watershed; rather, only the typical system of conservation practice that could be applied. Numerous alternatives and combinations of practices exist that should be made available to landowners and producers in order to meet their desired level of treatment.

Federal programs identified to implement conservation systems include, but are not limited to, Environmental Quality Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Other funding available for implementation includes various private, local, and state program funds.

This assessment provides estimates only that have been developed using local conservationist, input from the public, and Performance Results Measurement System (PRMS) data to identify resource concerns, participation rates, and conservation systems likely to be applied. This information was merged with state average cost lists and estimated operation and maintenance costs to generate a cost estimate by individual practice for each conservation system projected to be applied. Due to inflation and increased production cost, NRCS updates its cost list on an annual basis.

Table 4: Lake Natchez Crop Assessment

Rapid Watershed Assessment For:								Future Conditions For:							
NAME: <u>Lake Natchez/Bourbeaux Bayou Watershed HUC 11140208030</u>															
Management Systems		Quantity		Effects*				Implementation							
	Practices	Unit	Quantity	Soil Erosion	Water Quan	Water Qual	Plant Cond	CTA	EQIP	WRP	WHIP	CSP	CRP	CREP	Other
Baseline		AC/NO.													
	No conservation practices being applied at this level														
Progressive															
	No conservation practices being applied at this level														
RMS				(+3)	(+4)	(+3)	(+4)								
	Grade Stab. Struct. 410	nos.	19												
	Irrigat. Land Level. 464	acres	748												
	Nutrient Manage. 590	acres	748												
Notes:								Estimated Time Frame = 5 Years							
<p>Note: See attachments for economic analysis</p> <p>*Note: Effects are numerical values placed on benchmark conditions and degree of change in conditions by conservation system (s) application. Scale ranges from (-) most damaging to resources to (+) best protection offered by treatment.</p>															

Table 5: Lake Natchez Crop Variables

Enter Watershed Variables Below													
Watershed Name			Lake Natchez/Bourbeaux Bay. W/S			Watershed Code			11140208030		Help		
Landuse Type			Crop			Landuse Acres			1,100		Interest Rate	5%	
Typical Unit Size (ac)			40			Percent TA of FA			20%		Cost-Share Rate	50%	
Estimated Time Frame = 5 years		Participation Rate			60%		COMPARE		60%		Calculated Participation Rate		Next
		(Based on Watershed Profile)									(Based on Projected Future Conditions)		
Current Conditions			Projected Change			Projected Future Condition							
System	Percent	Acres	System	Percent	Acres	System	Percent	Acres					
								Total	Static	Treated			
Baseline	40%	440	Baseline	40%	176	Baseline	16%	176	176	0			
			Progressive	0%	0								
			RMS	60%	264								
			Must Total 100%		100%								
Current Conditions			Projected Change			Projected Future Condition							
System	Percent	Acres	System	Percent	Acres	System	Percent	Acres					
								Total	Static	Treated			
Progressive	40%	440	Progressive	40%	176	Progressive	16%	176	176	0			
			RMS	60%	264								
											Must Total 100%		100%
Current Conditions			Projected Change			Projected Future Condition							
System	Percent	Acres	System	Percent	Acres	System	Percent	Acres					
								Total	Static	Treated			
RMS	20%	220	RMS	100%	220	RMS	68%	748	220	528			
Grand Totals		100%	1,100			100%	1,100	572	528				

Table 6: Lake Natchez Crop Assessment Information

WATERSHED NAME & CODE		LAKE NATCHEZ/BOURBEAUX BAY. W/S - 11140208030			LANDUSE ACRES		1,100	
LANDUSE TYPE		CROP			TYPICAL UNIT SIZE ACRES		40	
ASSESSMENT INFORMATION					CALCULATED PARTICIPATION		60%	
Conservation Systems by Treatment Level	Benchmark Conditions	Future Conditions			RESOURCE CONCERNS			
	Total Units	Existing Unchanged Units	New Treatment Units	Total Units	Soil Erosion – Irrigation induced	Water Quantity – Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land	Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water	Plant Condition – Productivity, Health and Vigor
Baseline					System Rating ->			
No Conservation Practices being applied at this level	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acreage at Baseline	440	176	0	176				
Progressive					System Rating ->			
No Conservation Practices being applied at this level	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acreage at Progressive Level	440	176	0	176				
RMS					System Rating ->			
Grade Stabilization Structure (no.) 410	6	6	13	19	4	4	2	2
Irrigation Land Leveling (ac.) 464	220	220	528	748	4	5	3	4
Nutrient Management (ac.) 590	220	220	528	748	2	2	4	5
Total Acreage at RMS Level	220	220	528	748				

Table 10: Lake Natchez Livestock Variables

Enter Watershed Variables Below										
Watershed Name	Lake Natchez/Bourbeaux Bay. W/S			Watershed Code	11140208030			Help		
Landuse Type	Livestock			Landuse Acres	3,300			Interest Rate	5%	
Typical Unit Size (ac)	90			Percent TA of FA	20%			Cost-Share Rate	50%	
Estimated Time Frame = 5 years	Participation Rate <i>(Based on Watershed Profile)</i>			COMPARE		Calculated Participation Rate <i>(Based on Projected Future Conditions)</i>			Next	
	60%					60%				
Current Conditions			Projected Change			Projected Future Condition				
System	Percent	Acres	System	Percent	Acres	System	Percent	Acres		
Baseline	40%	1,320	Baseline	40%	528	Baseline	16%	Total	Static	Treated
			Progressive	0%	0			528	528	0
			RMS	60%	792					
<i>Must Total 100%</i>			<i>100%</i>							
Current Conditions			Projected Change			Projected Future Condition				
System	Percent	Acres	System	Percent	Acres	System	Percent	Acres		
Progressive	40%	1,320	Progressive	40%	528	Progressive	16%	Total	Static	Treated
			RMS	60%	792			528	528	0
<i>Must Total 100%</i>			<i>100%</i>							
Current Conditions			Projected Change			Projected Future Condition				
System	Percent	Acres	System	Percent	Acres	System	Percent	Acres		
RMS	20%	660	RMS	100%	660	RMS	68%	Total	Static	Treated
								2,244	660	1,584
<i>Must Total 100%</i>			<i>100%</i>							
Grand Totals	100%	3,300					100%	3,300	1,716	1,584

Table 11: Lake Natchez Livestock Assessment Information

WATERSHED NAME & CODE		LAKE NATCHEZ/BOURBEAUX BAY, W/S - 11140208030			LANDUSE ACRES		3,300	
LANDUSE TYPE		LIVESTOCK			TYPICAL UNIT SIZE ACRES		90	
ASSESSMENT INFORMATION					CALCULATED PARTICIPATION		60%	
Conservation Systems by Treatment Level	Benchmark Conditions	Future Conditions			RESOURCE CONCERNS			
	Total Units	Existing Unchanged Units	New Treatment Units	Total Units	Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water	Water Quality – Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water	Plant Condition – Productivity, Health and Vigor	Domestic Animals – Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage
Baseline					System Rating ->			
No Conservation Practices being applied at this level	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acreage at Baseline	1,320	528	0	528				
Progressive					System Rating ->			
No Conservation Practices being applied at this level	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acreage at Progressive Level	1,320	528	0	528				
RMS					System Rating ->			
No Conservation Practices being applied at this level	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fence (ft.) 382	58,667	58,667	140,800	199,467	4	4	4	4
Grade Stabilization Structure (no.) 410	15	15	35	50	3	3	2	2
Nutrient Management (ac.) 590	660	660	1,584	2,244	3	3	4	4
Prescribed Grazing (ac.) 528	660	660	1,584	2,244	4	4	5	5
Total Acreage at RMS Level	660	660	1,584	2,244				

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APPENDIX A

Rapid Watershed Assessment Public Meeting

Cane Bayou, Lake Natchez and Lower Saline Bayou Watersheds
Rapid Watershed Assessment Public Meeting
Natchitoches Events Center
Natchitoches, LA
August 29, 2007
9:30 AM

Attendees

Benny Dobson
James W. Scarborough
James Killing
Harry Hawthorne
Glenn Austin
Mimi Stoker
Dexter Sapp
Mike Burns
Nancy McDowell
Gordon Newton
Marty Floyd

Facilitator Benny Dobson
Recorder Nancy McDowell

Opening comments were given by NRCS, District Conservationist, Glenn Austin. Handouts including Rapid Watershed Assessment Fact Sheets, Watershed and Sparta Aquifer Maps, and a questionnaire were made available for each meeting participant. After the opening comments Glenn turned the meeting over to Dexter Sapp. Dexter gave a PowerPoint presentation concerning the overview of the Rapid watershed Assessment process.

Twin Valley RC&D Coordinator, Benny Dobson stated to the group that the next agenda item entailed obtaining input from the public on resource concerns within the watersheds. Benny asked each person in attendance to introduce themselves. Benny gave the ground rules for the portion of this portion of the agenda and then he proceeded to ask for input.

- Water Quality
There were some discussion as to whether there were any water quality baseline data in place and whether there were any stream segments in the watersheds where water samples have been or are presently being taken from
- Nearest Drinking Water Source to the Three Watershed Areas
- Overgrowth of Vegetation in the Waterbodies
Participant stated that there is a problem with hydrilla, and Giant Salvinia in some of the waterbodies. There needs to be a more managed approach to control the problem. More integrated management is needed

- Social Issues
Education of the public is needed. There is a need in the lake areas to identify and control invasive plant species
- More Farm Bill Dollars for Conservation is Needed for Conservation in the Upper Saline Area.
The public is asking for more aquatic weed control. Participant stated that 85 – 90% of the Upper Saline area is forested, but yet more Farm Bill Dollars are targeted for commodity crops other than for forestry practices
- Education - Need More Commitment to Education/Stewardship for our Land and Water
The public needs to be educated on being better stewards of our resources such as forestland, pastureland, croplands, and water bodies
- Need Local Commitment for Cost Share Funding
- Flooding is not a Reported Issue
- Is There a Sufficient Quantity of Groundwater in Our Wells for Public Usage
Since wells are the source of drinking water, what is the quantity of water in the wells
- Supplemental Water Source
When the water goes down in the local water systems, can water from another system be redirected to the impacted system. It was stated that water from other systems could not be mixed, there is a concern with the chemicals from two different systems. Can't link and switch one system to the other. However one participant did state that there was an incident when the water system in Hagewood, Louisiana stopped working and the City of Natchitoches turned a valve and sent water to Hagewood
- Surface Water
Need to look at surface water sources for public and private usage if it is safe and available
- Water Levels Going Down in Streams
Resident lives in Cooley Creek area. The Creek almost totally goes dry now. Participant stated that he would like to see the creek restored back. Another participant stated that the watershed can be impacted by what humans do. Participated stated that you got to get out in the hills in order to get good drinking water. Water levels are on the decline because of Ag or industrial uses
- Cattle Operation – Is Overgrazing a Problem
- Lack of Forestland Practices Not Cost Shared
Participant stated that everyone that signs up for EQIP get into the program, however conservation dollars are not available for forestland producers
- Buffer on Scenic Streams
NRCS is trying to insert practices into the Farm Bill to address this issue. The goal is to provide forest landowners with streams traversing their land, an incentive that would allow them to leave the buffer area intact

- **Logger Operations**
Participant stated that there are already guidelines in place for buffer zones. Participant referred to guidelines contained in the Master Logger Program
- **Recreation – Hunting, Camping, Fishing**
There is a need for improved recreation. Need to maintain and improve wildlife habitat for recreational purposes. There are no incentives for maintaining/improving habitats. Most timber companies have biologist on staff to do wildlife management. Small landowners don't have this. There needs to be incentives for private landowners. Participant also stated that waste from private camps is a problem
- **Control Burns – Fuel Reduction**
There is a practice in place for fuel reduction
- **Utilization of Waste water Treatment**
The septic on many of the camps near some popular waterbodies in the watershed areas have inadequate sewer facilities. Additionally some of the wastewater treatment of some of the smaller municipalities needs to be looked at as well

Closing comments were given by Glenn Austin. Dexter Sapp stated that the final product will be completed in June 2008. Hardcopies will be available and the document will be posted on NRCS's website. The public will be notified about the final document.