

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

April 4, 2022

United States Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Regulatory Division, RGE
Room 280
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

(504) 862-1564

Stephanie.L.Castaing@usace.army.mil

Project Manager
Stephanie Castaing
Permit Application Number
MVN-2021-1324-EPP

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
ATTN: Water Quality Certifications

Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(225) 219-3225

Project Manager
Elizabeth Hill
WQC Application Number
WQC 220329-03

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Certifications, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS30:2047 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

VEGETATION REMOVAL ALONG RUNWAY 4, AT NAVAL AIR STATION, JRB IN PLAQUEMINES PARISH.

NAME OF APPLICANT: Naval Air Station, JRB, c/o Coastal Permitting, LLC, Attention: Julie Hebert, 14433 River Road, Hahnville, Louisiana 70057.

LOCATION OF WORK: Project site is located south of Runway 4, within the Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, at 400 Russell Avenue, in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, in Plaquemines Parish, as shown on the attached drawings.

Latitude: 29.819003 Longitude: -90.041625

Hydrologic Unit Codes: 08090301, East Central Louisiana Coastal

CHARACTER OF WORK: Clear, grade, and fill of approximately 7.85 acres, south of Runway 4, for the safety/visibility of pilots and crew. The project as proposed would directly impact 4.0 acres of jurisdictional wetlands. The applicant proposed to contract with an approved mitigation bank in order to offset the adverse impact to jurisdictional wetlands.

The comment period on the requested Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **20 days** from the date of this public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit request, and must be submitted to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters and/or comments concerning the subject permit application must reference the Applicant's Name and the Permit Application Number and can be preferably emailed to the Corps of Engineers project manager listed above or forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY DIVISION**. Similar letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing or e-mailing the Corps of Engineers Project Manager listed above. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Section Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The New Orleans District is unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Issuance of this public notice solicits input from the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

The New Orleans District has determined that the activity will have no effect on any listed species based on the Information & Planning Consultation for Endangered Species in Louisiana (IPaC), dated January 27, 2020, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any species, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of such species, listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of 4.0 acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Certifications, before a permit is issued.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Michael V. Farabee
Chief, Eastern Evaluation Branch

Enclosure

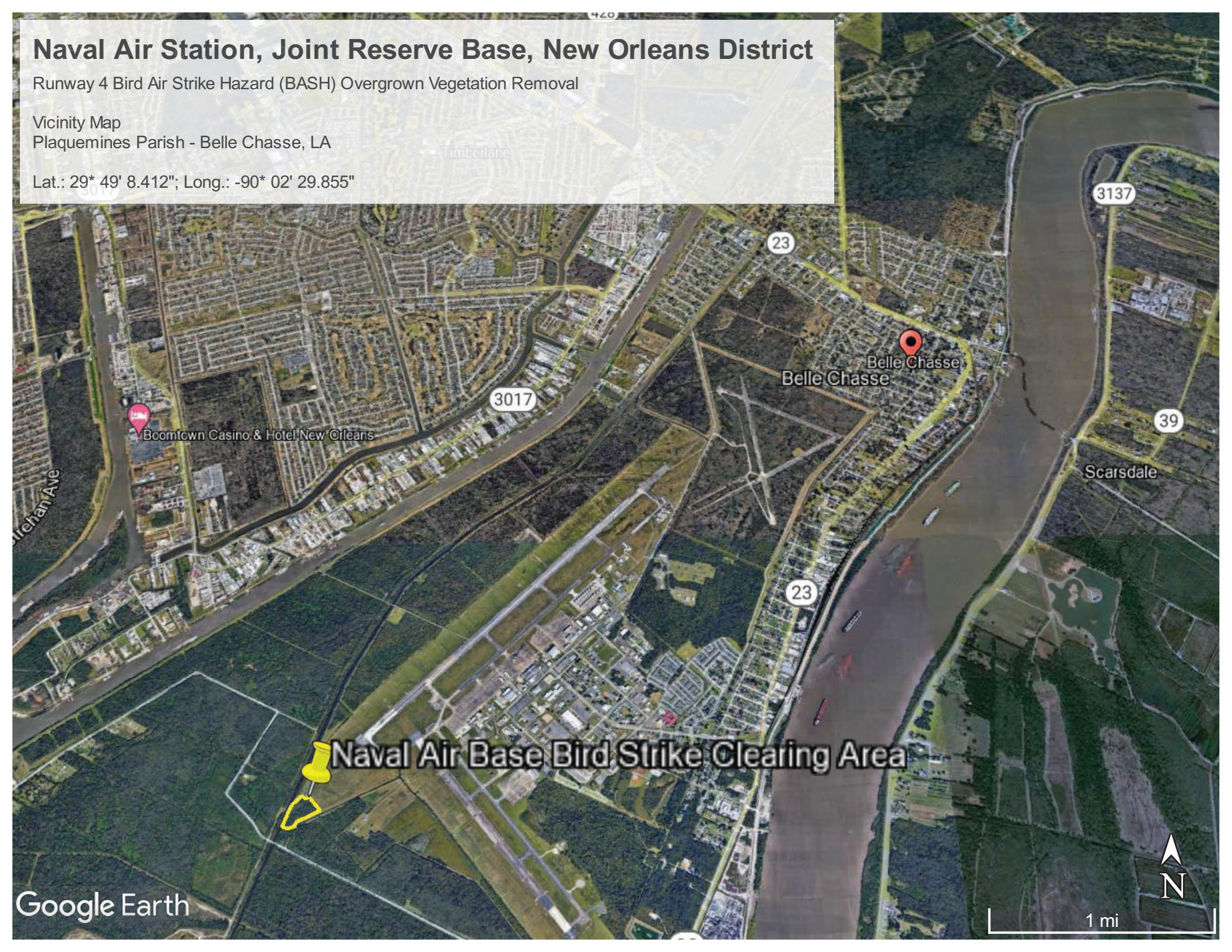
Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans District

Runway 4 Bird Air Strike Hazard (BASH) Overgrown Vegetation Removal

Vicinity Map

Plaquemines Parish - Belle Chasse, LA

Lat.: 29° 49' 8.412"; Long.: -90° 02' 29.855"



Naval Air Base Bird Strike Clearing Area



Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans District

Runway 4 Bird Air Strike Hazard (BASH) Overgrown Vegetation Removal

Vicinity Map

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Lat.: 29° 49' 8.412"; Long.: -90° 02' 29.855"

Naval Air Base Bird Strike Clearing Area

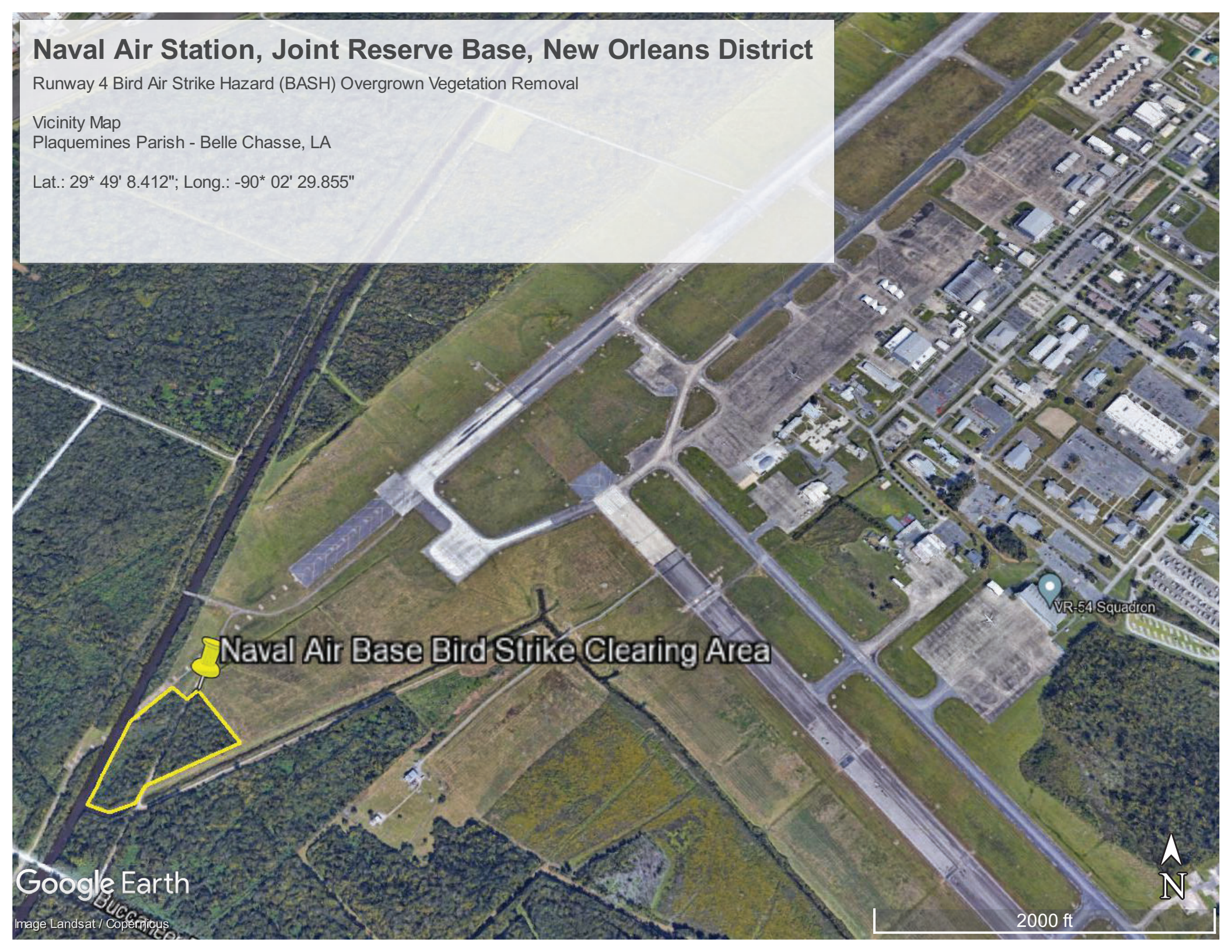
VR-54 Squadron

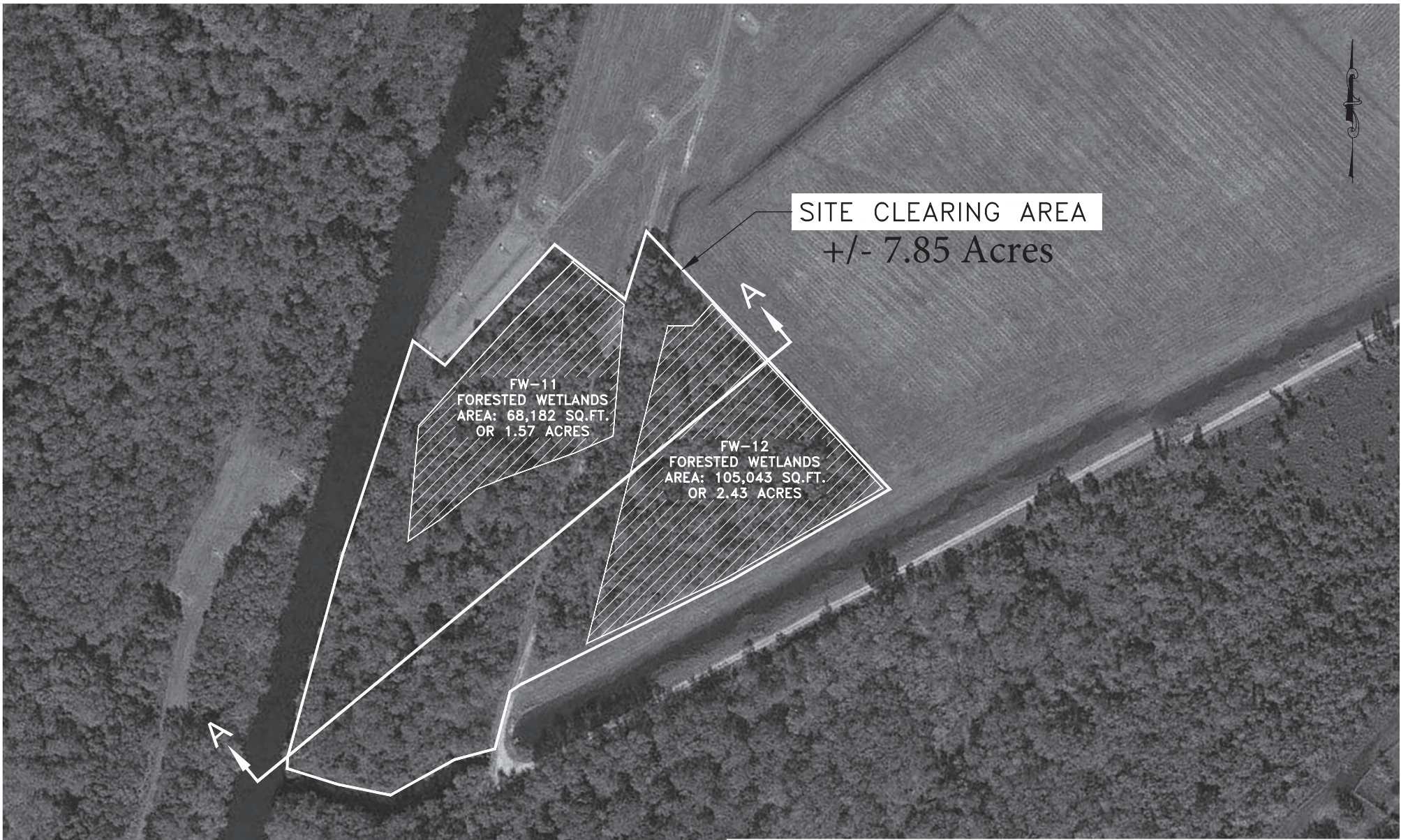


2000 ft

Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus





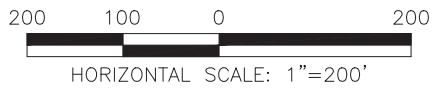
SITE CLEARING AREA
+/- 7.85 Acres

FW-11
FORESTED WETLANDS
AREA: 68,182 SQ.FT.
OR 1.57 ACRES

FW-12
FORESTED WETLANDS
AREA: 105,043 SQ.FT.
OR 2.43 ACRES



Note: "Prior to construction, the contractor will verify all utilities." If a conflict exist, notify the project engineer/architect.



**NAVAL AIR BASE BIRD AIR
STRIKE HAZARD CLEARING**
BELLE CHASSE PARISH, LOUISIANA

PLAN VIEW OF AREA

NOTE: PERMIT DRAWING ONLY. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR:
ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, AND/ OR CONSTRUCTION DESIGN

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NO.

DATE: 10/27/2021	PLOT SCALE: 1"=200'	DRAWING NO. 1 OF 2
DESIGNED BY:	DRAWN BY: I.S.B.	
CHECKED BY:	CHECKED BY: J.M.H.	APPROVED BY: J.M.H.

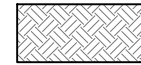
LEGEND:



3500 CY SAND

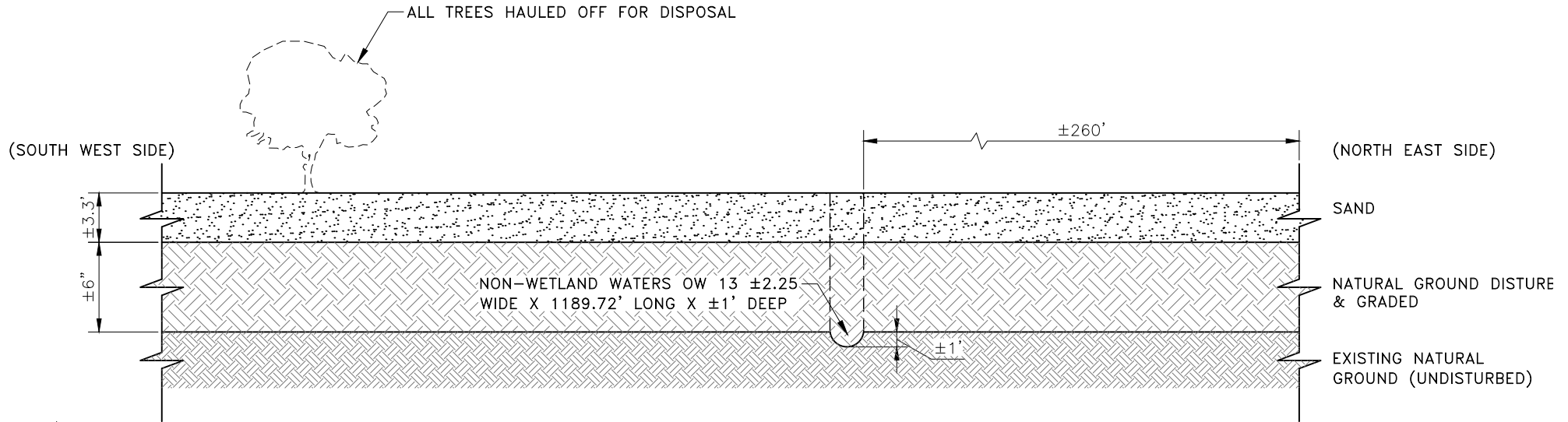


NATURAL GROUND
DISTURBED & GRADED

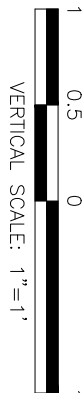


UNDISTURBED
NATURAL GROUND

REMOVAL OF ALL EXISTING TREES &
VEGETATION DUE TO BIRD STRIKE RISK W/
AIRCRAFT ±342,000 SQ. FT.



TYPICAL CROSS SECTION A-A



Note: "Prior to construction, the contractor will verify all utilities." If a conflict exist, notify the project engineer/architect.



DATE	DESCRIPTION	NO.
3/22/22	REVISED TO ADD DITCH	1
REVISIONS		

NAVAL AIR BASE BIRD AIR STRIKE HAZARD CLEARING BELLE CHASSE PARISH, LOUISIANA		
TYPICAL CROSS SECTION		
NOTE: PERMIT DRAWING ONLY. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR: ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, AND/ OR CONSTRUCTION DESIGN		
DATE: 10/27/2021	PLOT SCALE: 1"=1'	DRAWING NO. 2 OF 2
DESIGNED BY:	DRAWN BY: I.S.B.	
CHECKED BY:	CHECKED BY: J.M.H.	APPROVED BY: J.M.H.

