



# R. L. Harris Hydroelectric Project

## FERC No. 2628

### **HAT 4 (Project Lands) Stakeholder Meeting Summary** **September 11, 2019** **12:30 pm to 1:30 pm** **Oxford Civic Center, Oxford, AL**

#### **Participants:**

See Attachment A

#### **Participants by Phone:**

Maria Clark – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Keith Gauldin – Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (ADCNR)

Rachel McNamara – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

Sarah Salazar – FERC

Erwin Thompson – Economic Development Council

Kyrstin Wallach – FERC

#### **Action Items:**

- Alabama Power will post the HAT 4 meeting summary and all meeting materials to the Harris Relicensing website ([www.harrisrelicensing.com](http://www.harrisrelicensing.com))
- Stakeholders should submit their comments to Angie Anderegg at [harrisrelicensing@southernco.com](mailto:harrisrelicensing@southernco.com) on the proposed land use changes on or before October 31, 2019.

#### **Notes:**

The following summarizes the September 11, 2019 Harris Action Team (HAT) 4 (Project Lands) meeting. The meeting presentation and maps are included in Attachment B; therefore, this meeting summary focuses on the overall meeting purpose, highlights of the presentation, and stakeholders' questions/comments and Alabama Power's responses.

#### **Introduction – Angie Anderegg (Alabama Power)**

Angie introduced the HAT 4 meeting purpose and introduced the participants on the phone. The purpose of the HAT 4 meeting is to present Alabama Power's proposed land use changes at the Harris Project, including lands that Alabama Power may propose to be removed or included in the project boundary, or those lands proposed to change land use classification.

#### **Project Lands – Tina Mills (Alabama Power)**

Tina Mills reviewed the FERC approved study plan including the four existing land use classifications and stated that Alabama Power is proposing to add a "commercial recreation" classification to the Harris Project land classifications. Tina reviewed Alabama Power's proposal for Project lands: reclassifications; lands added to the Harris Project Boundary; and lands removed from the Harris Project Boundary. Tina explained that reclassifications do not require a change in the Harris Project Boundary; it may be as simple as reclassifying a parcel of land from "recreation" to "natural/undeveloped". Lands that Alabama Power proposes to add to the Harris Project Boundary require a change in the Harris Project Boundary and would add property above elevation 800 feet mean sea level (msl). Lands proposed for removal would also require a change

in the Harris Project Boundary and would remove property above elevation 800' msl. Property within the 800' msl contour would remain in the Project. Tina reviewed each parcel of property included in Alabama Power's proposal. Maps and the presentation are available on the Harris Relicensing website. Keith Gauldin (ADCNR) asked if a parcel currently classified as "hunting" is leased by a private hunting club. Shelia Smith (Alabama Power) indicated that there is no hunting lease on the particular parcel in question.

Rachel McNamara (FERC) asked how Alabama Power would incorporate the results of other studies, such as the recreation study, into this proposal. She asked if the Project lands proposal reflects any results of ongoing studies. Angie and Tina explained that this is Alabama Power's draft proposal based on previous license compliance, FERC Form 80 data collection, and internal expertise but that the proposal may be modified following the results of other studies, particularly the recreation study.

Barry Morris (Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association-LWPOA) asked that if a parcel is reclassified as part of this relicensing process, how difficult would it be to have the parcel return to its original classification (e.g., a parcel that is currently "recreation" to be reclassified as "natural undeveloped"). Tina noted that Alabama Power would have to get FERC approval to change the land use classification. Sarah Salazar (FERC) reminded stakeholders to review the existing definitions of the land use classifications, because "natural/undeveloped" allows for some recreation activities.

Tina explained Alabama Power's proposal to add "commercial recreation" classification to the Harris Project land classifications. This classification would apply to the property where the Wedowee Marine South is located as well as Alabama Power's shoreline office. Donna Matthews (LWPOA) asked if Alabama Power would develop commercial recreation sites. Tina replied that facilities on those lands would be leased for commercial recreation use and that the areas could remain open to the public for recreation use. Rachel asked if Alabama Power uses the commercial recreation land use classification on any of their other FERC regulated lakes; Tina replied yes.

Stan Nelson (Nelson and Company) asked about the current land use classification for a parcel near the Highway 48 bridge. Tina explained that the parcel in question is currently classified as recreation. Stan explained to HAT 4 that Randolph County Water Authority is interested in locating a proposed raw water intake on a portion of this parcel and that he feels it is compatible with the existing uses of that parcel.

Harry Merrill (LWPOA) asked what it means to "remove" lands from the Project. Tina explained that lands "removed" are those lands no longer within the FERC-regulated Harris Project Boundary. Ken Wills (Alabama Glade Conservation Coalition-AGCC) asked if the lands removed from the Project would be sold. Tina stated that land sales are one option, but Alabama Power could retain lands for other non-project uses.

Tina explained Alabama Power is conducting a study on a 20-acre parcel adjacent to Flat Rock to support the AGCC's request to reclassify that parcel as "natural/undeveloped". Ken asked if Alabama Power wants the botanists surveying that area to also include the portion of property across from the powerlines. Angie noted that Alabama Power will work with the AGCC to determine if that area should be included in the fall 2019 inventory. FERC staff agreed that it would be advantageous to conduct the inventory on all lands proposed for reclassification.

Maria Clark (EPA) asked if Alabama Power was planning to have buffers to avoid potential erosion areas. Tina responded that all Project lands are managed using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address erosion. Angie also stated that any lands classified as “natural/undeveloped” serve as a “buffer” due to the limited activities and development on these lands and that Alabama Power already has a scenic buffer around Lake Harris.

Rachel McNamara explained that all FERC licensees are required to include only those lands within their Project Boundary that are necessary for project purposes. Barry Morris asked if land removed from the Harris Project Boundary would be available for purchase. Tina responded yes, that those lands would no longer be subject to FERC jurisdiction (i.e., no longer Project lands) but reiterated that land sales are one option. Rachel asked if Alabama Power is conducting terrestrial and cultural surveys on lands that are proposed to be removed from the Harris Project Boundary; Tina confirmed that those lands are being surveyed.

Ken Wills asked if FERC provided licensees with guidance on maintaining green space, or percentages of recreation areas, in a project license. Angie noted that FERC has shoreline management guidelines, but there are no specific percentages of land in any given land use classification—it is very project specific.

Stan Nelson reiterated his request that Alabama Power move forward with the water treatment site proposed on land currently classified as “recreation”. He noted that the intake would be located on 0.72 acres and that the raw water lines would parallel the existing electric lines. He noted that the facility must be in deep water that would not be affected by droughts and that the intake could be built to resemble a boat dock or courtesy pier. Angie responded that Alabama Power would add this request to the ongoing list of requests for land use changes. Stan asked what it means for something to be “tied up in relicensing”. Angie noted that for sites that are part of a study or other stakeholder request for a land use classification change (reclassify, remove, or add), Alabama Power will need to review all the requests and determine if any conflicts exist and, if so, would seek to resolve any conflicts with the relicensing stakeholders. Any final decision would be made by FERC at the time it issues its licensing decision for the Harris Project.

Taconya Goar (ADCNR) asked if Alabama Power was looking at areas downstream of the Harris Dam for canoe/kayak put in and take out locations, particularly at Wadley. Angie Anderegg indicated that Alabama Power is studying the demand for additional access points and is reviewing potential areas for public access on the Tallapoosa River.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

ATTACHMENT A  
HARRIS ACTION TEAM 4 MEETING ATTENDEES



# HARRIS PROJECT RELICENSING

## HAT 4 SIGN-IN SHEET

September 11, 2019 9:00 AM

Name/ Affiliation or Organization	Email
1 John Smith/ Stakeholder	jsmith@email.com
2 Brad Mitchell/ stakeholder	
3 David Smith	
4 Glenell Smith	
5 Kristie Coffman	
6 Taconya Gear, ADCWR	
7 Capital Road INC	
8 Kelly Yates, Env. Affairs	kyates@southernco.com
9 Ken Wills - AGCC	ken.wills@jcdh.org
10 Tom Garland	
11 Mark Prestridge / Randolph County Water	mprandolphwater@gmail.com
12 ALBERT EILAND	



# HARRIS PROJECT RELICENSING

## HAT 4 SIGN-IN SHEET

September 11, 2019 9:00 AM

Name/ Affiliation or Organization	Email
13 Dome Matthews	
14 Jennifer Rasbury	
15 Sten Nelson	Stelson@nelsonandco.com
16 Joel Stevens	
17 Trey Stevens	
18 Mike Holley	
19 Nathan Atcock	
20 Stag Thompson APC	
21 Tina Freeman	
22 Sheila Smith	
23 HARRY E. MERRILL	HARRY.MERRILL47@gmail.com
24 Baccy Morris, LWPOA	



# HARRIS PROJECT RELICENSING

## HAT 4 SIGN-IN SHEET

September 11, 2019 9:00 AM

Name/ Affiliation or Organization	Email
25 Josh Verby APC	
26 Jason Cartee APC	
27 Stacey Graham	
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**ATTACHMENT B**  
**SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 HAT 4 PRESENTATION**





# HAT 4

## Project Lands



# PROJECT LANDS EVALUATION



## Goal

Identify lands around Lake Harris and at Skyline that are needed for Harris Project purposes and to classify these lands. Alabama Power will also evaluate the land use classifications for Harris and determine if any changes are needed to conform to Alabama Power's current land classification system and other Alabama Power FERC-approved Shoreline Management Plans. The study will identify lands to be added to, or removed from, the current Harris Project Boundary and/or be reclassified. Alabama Power proposes to use the project lands evaluation information to develop a Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) and a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP).

## Geographic Scope

Harris Project Boundary and the associated Project Area.

## Methods

**Phase 1:** Alabama Power will develop a draft map using GIS to show all proposed changes to Harris Project Lands. A botanical inventory of a 20-acre parcel at Flat Rock Park will be conducted and results will be used in the development of the SMP during Phase 2.

**Phase 2:** Using results of Phase 1, develop a SMP (Phase 2A) and a WMP (Phase 2B).



# CURRENT LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS



- Prohibited Access
- Hunting Lands
- Recreation
- Natural Undeveloped Lands

# PROPOSED LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS

Commercial Recreation



# TYPES OF PROPOSED CHANGES



## Reclassifications

- Do not change the Project Boundary
- Only changes the land classification for existing Project Lands

## Removals

- Changes the Project Boundary
- Removes property above the 800' msl contour
- Property within the 800' msl contour remains in project; reclassified as
  - Flood Storage
  - Scenic Buffer Zone

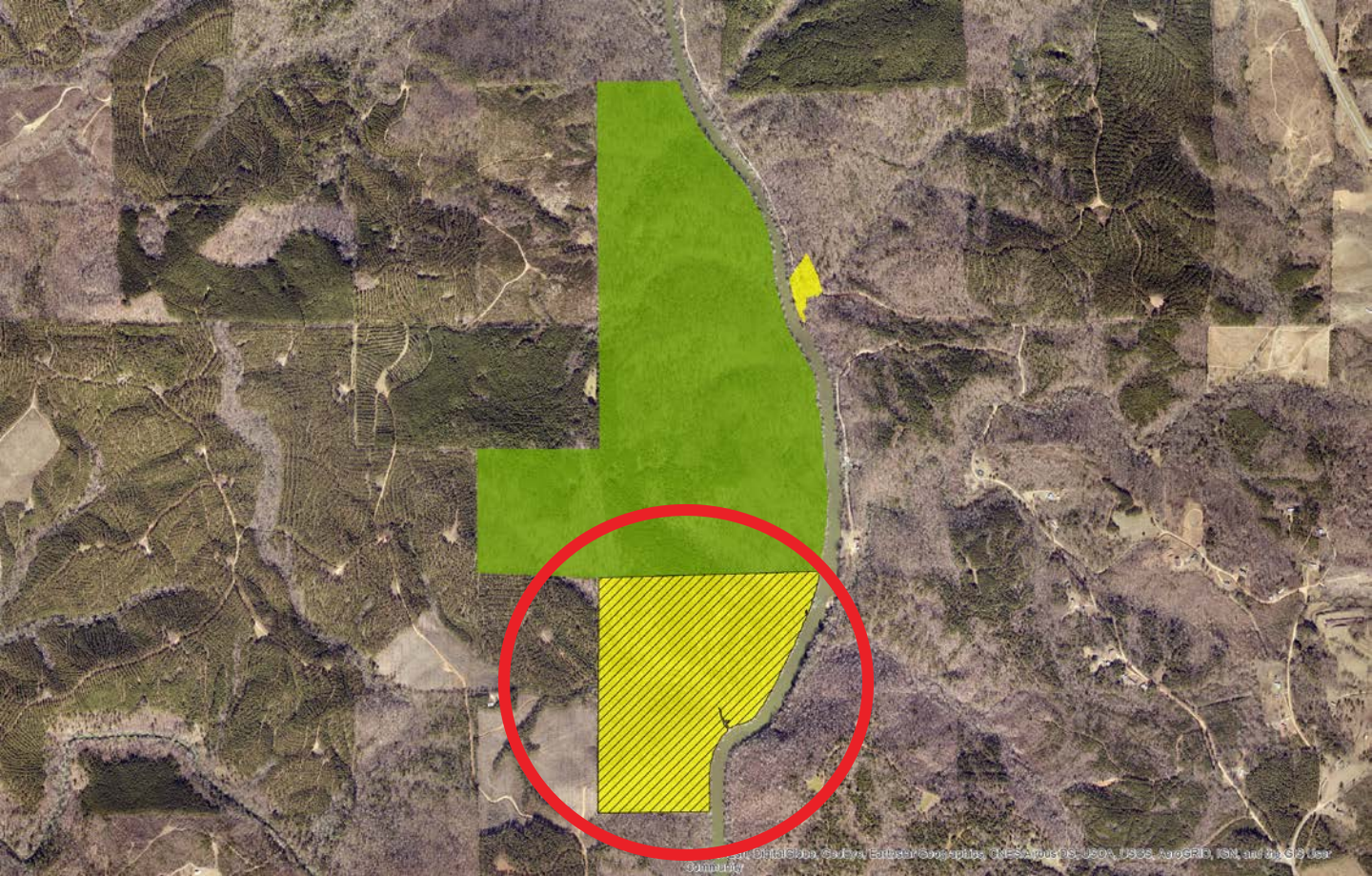
## Additions

- Changes the Project Boundary
- Adds property above the 800' msl contour
- Property within the 800' msl contour is reclassified to match addition



# RECLASSIFICATIONS

RC1 – Reclassify to Natural Undeveloped + /- 105 acres



# RECLASSIFICATIONS

RC2 – Reclassify to Natural Undeveloped +/- 63 acres



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

# RECLASSIFICATIONS

RC3 – Reclassify to Natural Undeveloped +/- 61 acres



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

# RECLASSIFICATIONS

RC4 – Reclassify to Commercial Recreation + /- 148 acres





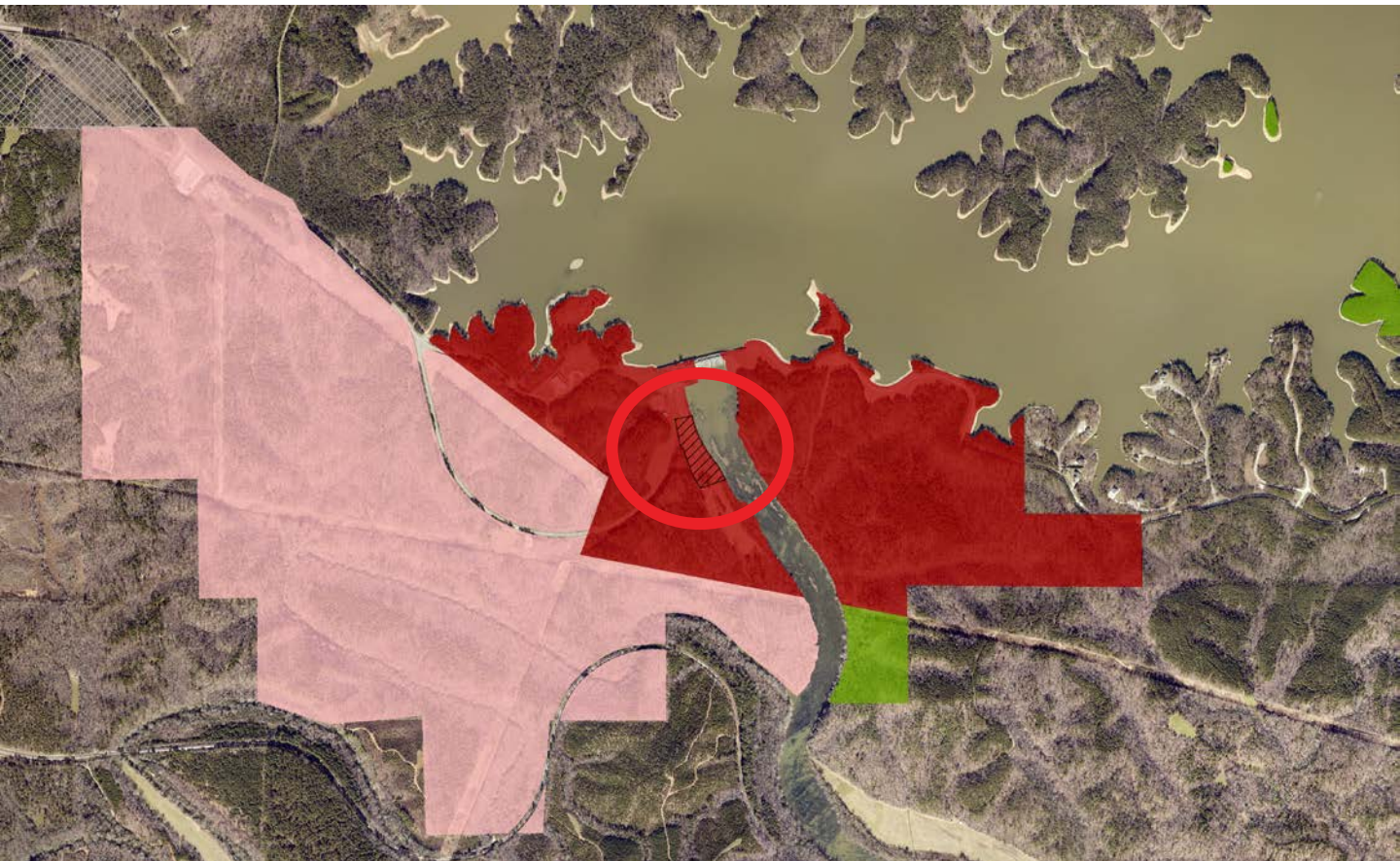
# RECLASSIFICATIONS

RC5 – Reclassify to Natural Undeveloped +/- 69 acres



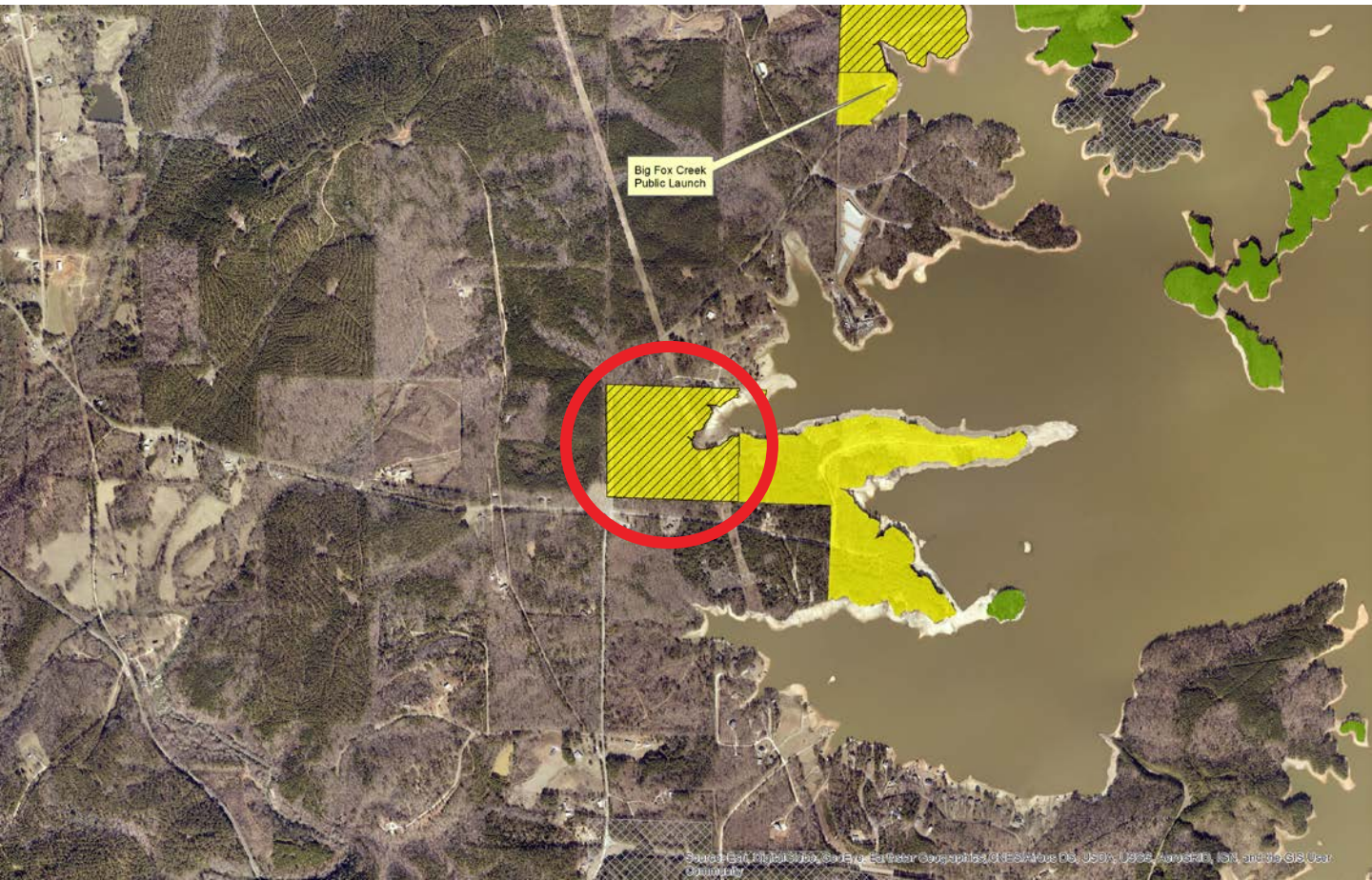
# RECLASSIFICATIONS

RC6 – Reclassify to Recreation + /- 5 acres



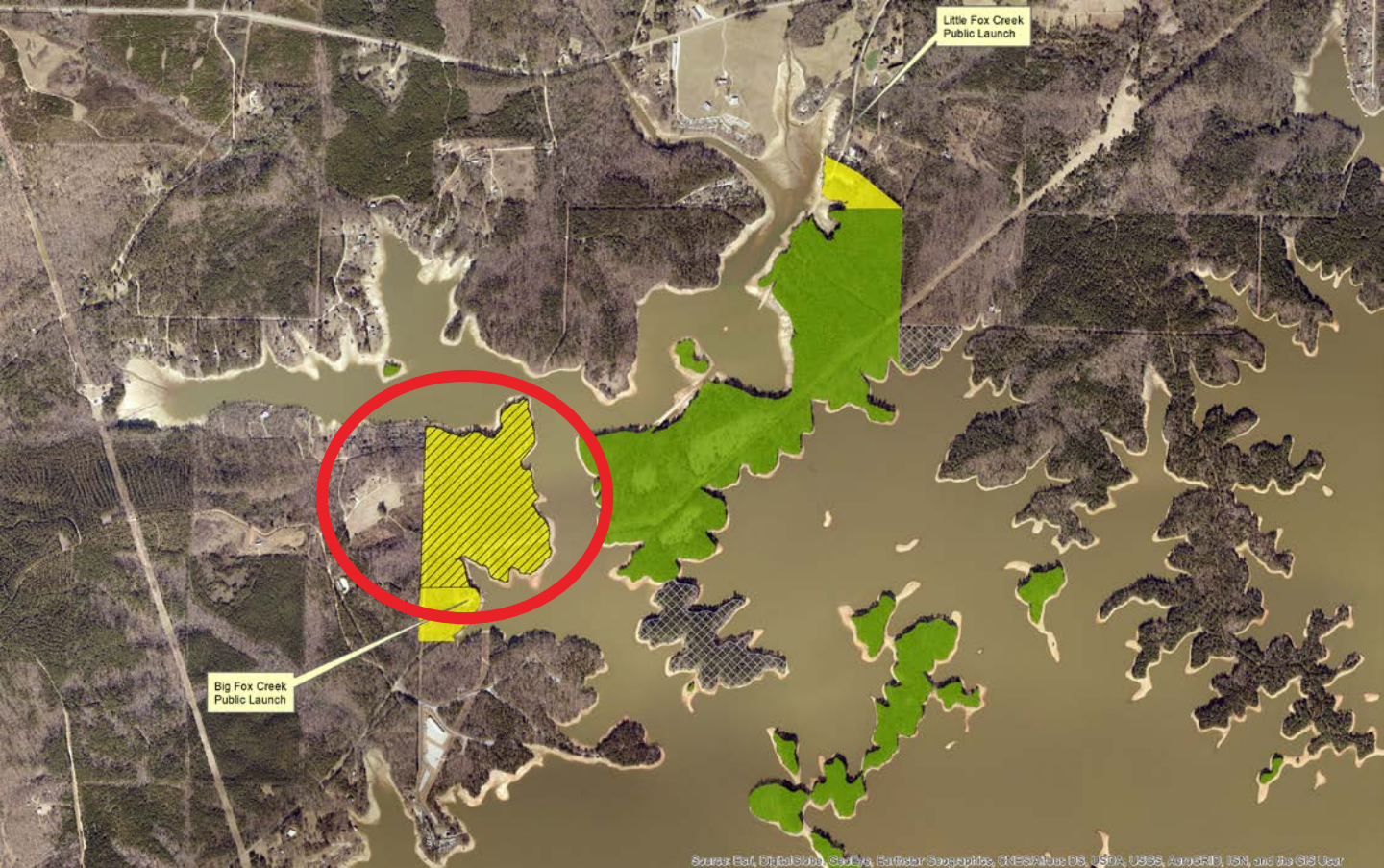
# RECLASSIFICATIONS

RC7 – Reclassify to Natural Undeveloped + /- 40 acres



# RECLASSIFICATIONS

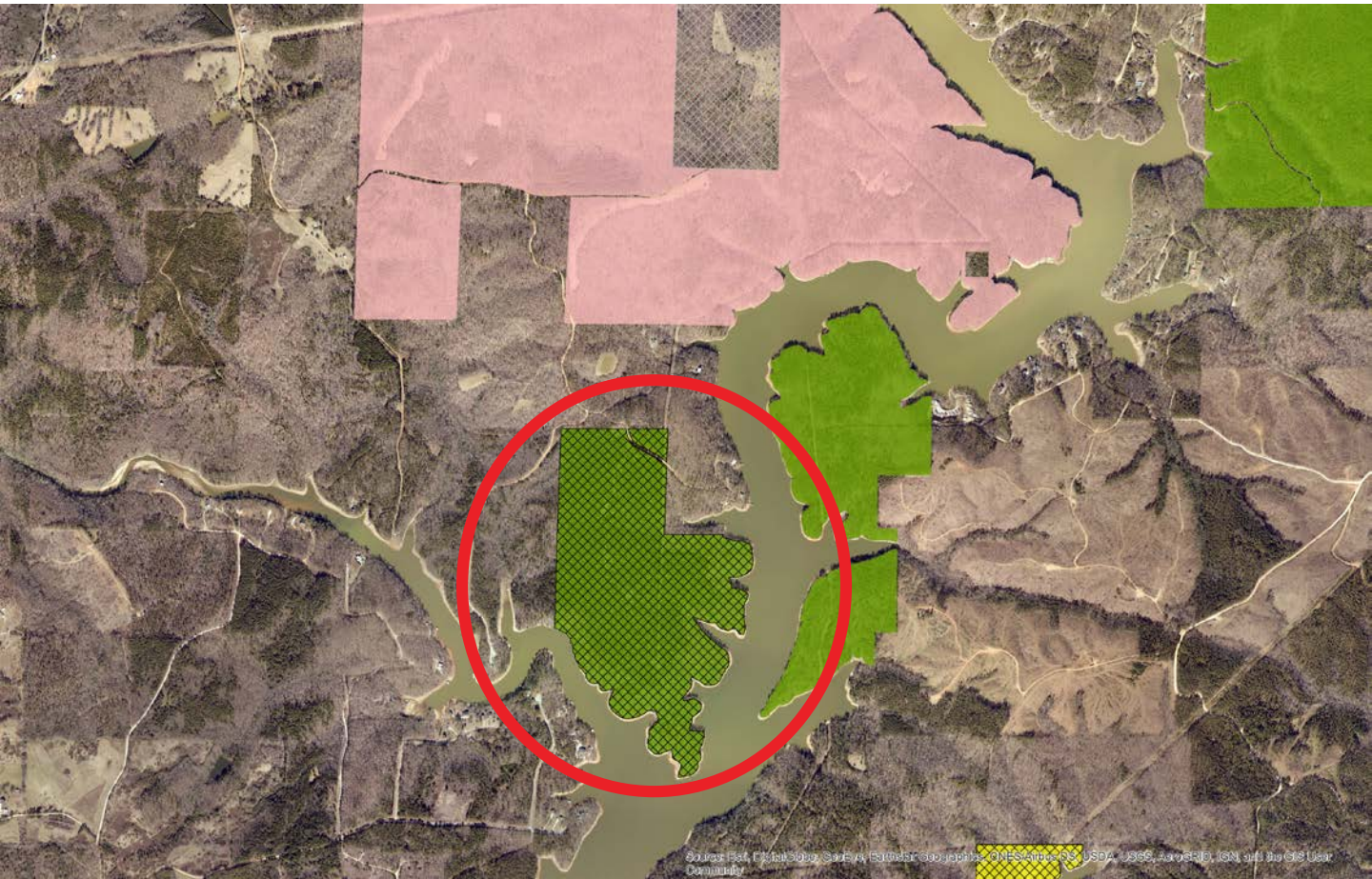
RC8 – Reclassify to Natural Undeveloped + /- 50 acres



# REMOVALS



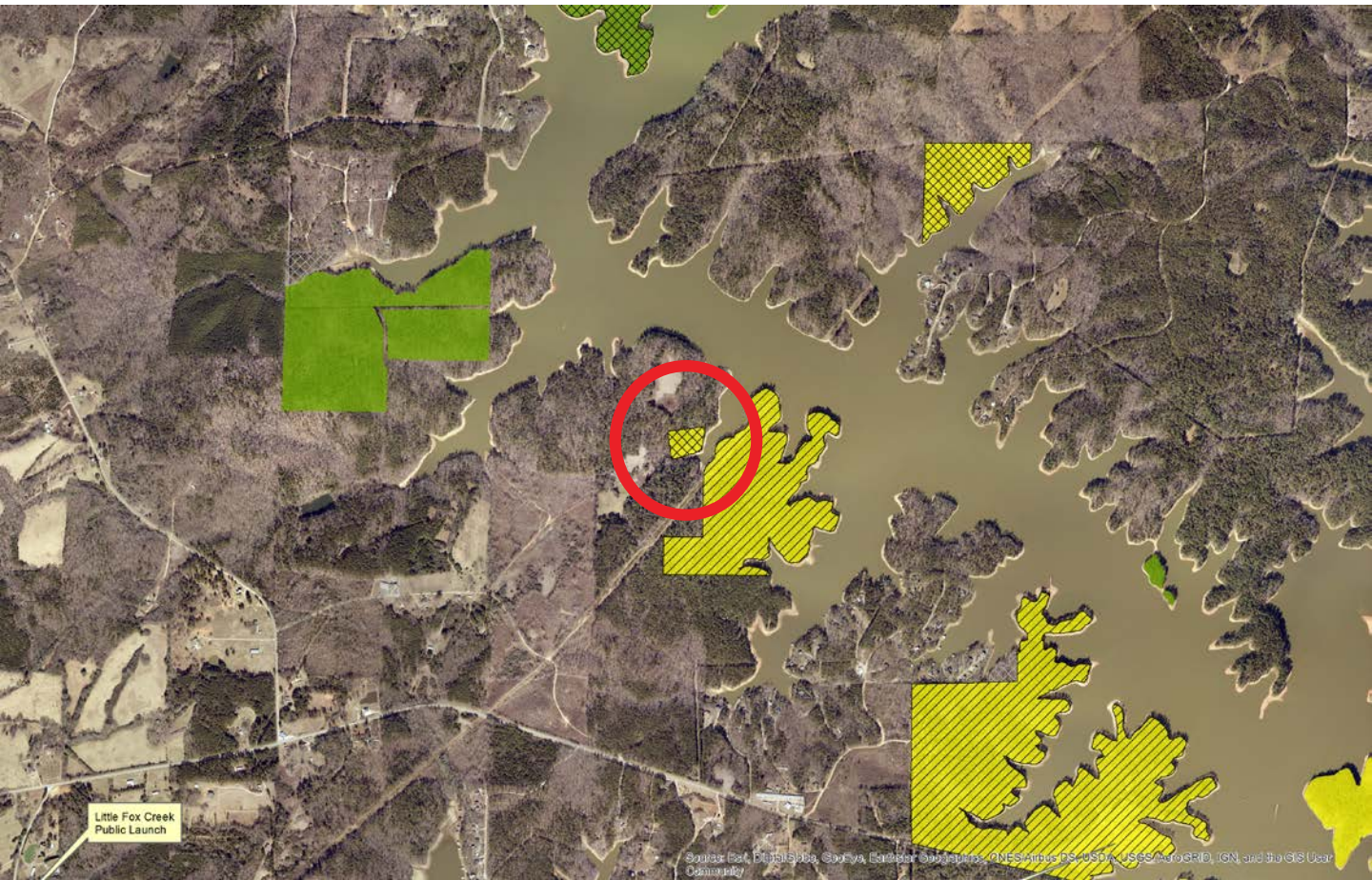
R1 + /- 149 acres of Natural Undeveloped



# REMOVALS



R2 +/- 3 acres of Recreation



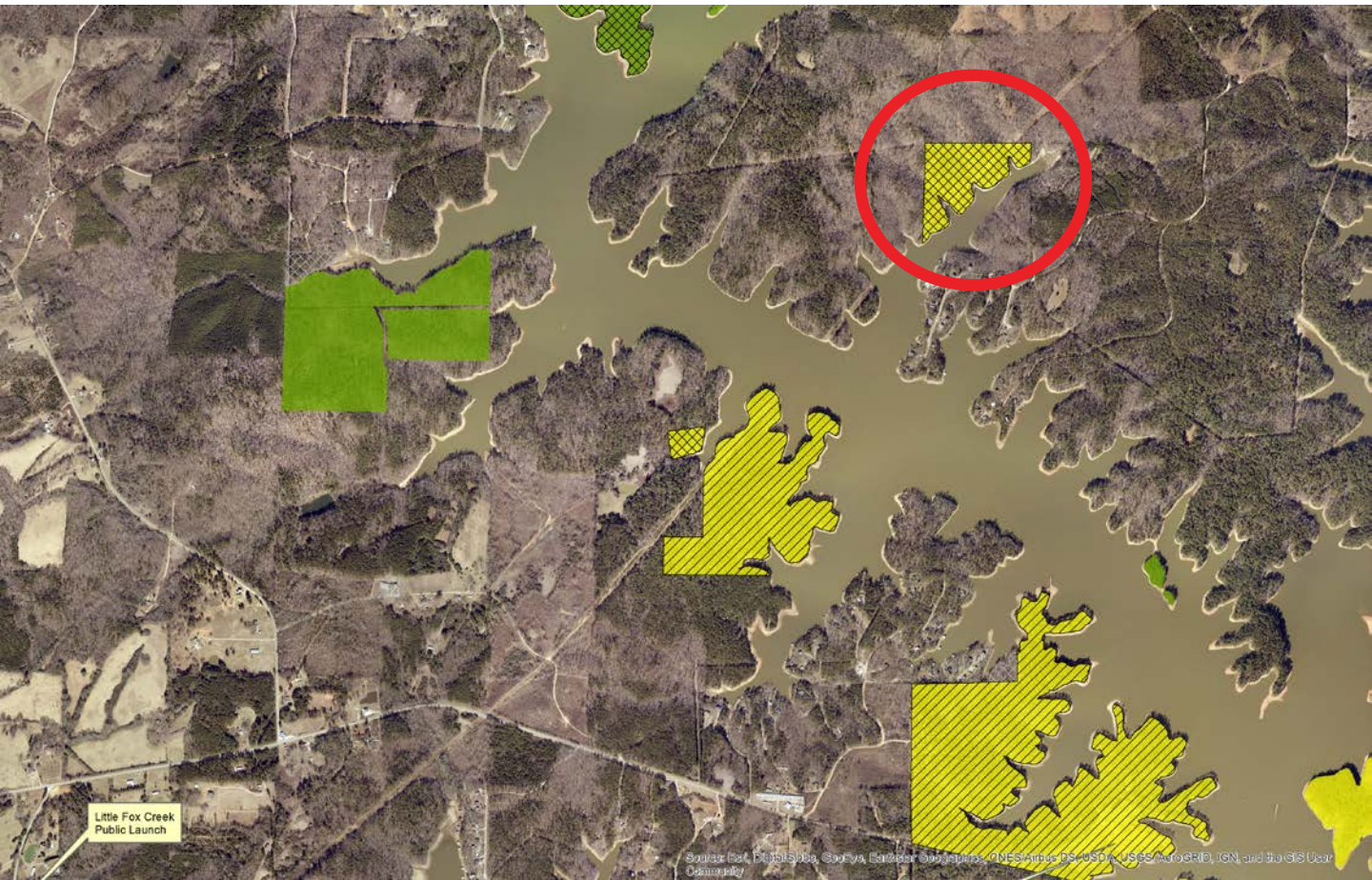
Little Fox Creek  
Public Launch

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar OpenSource, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

# REMOVALS



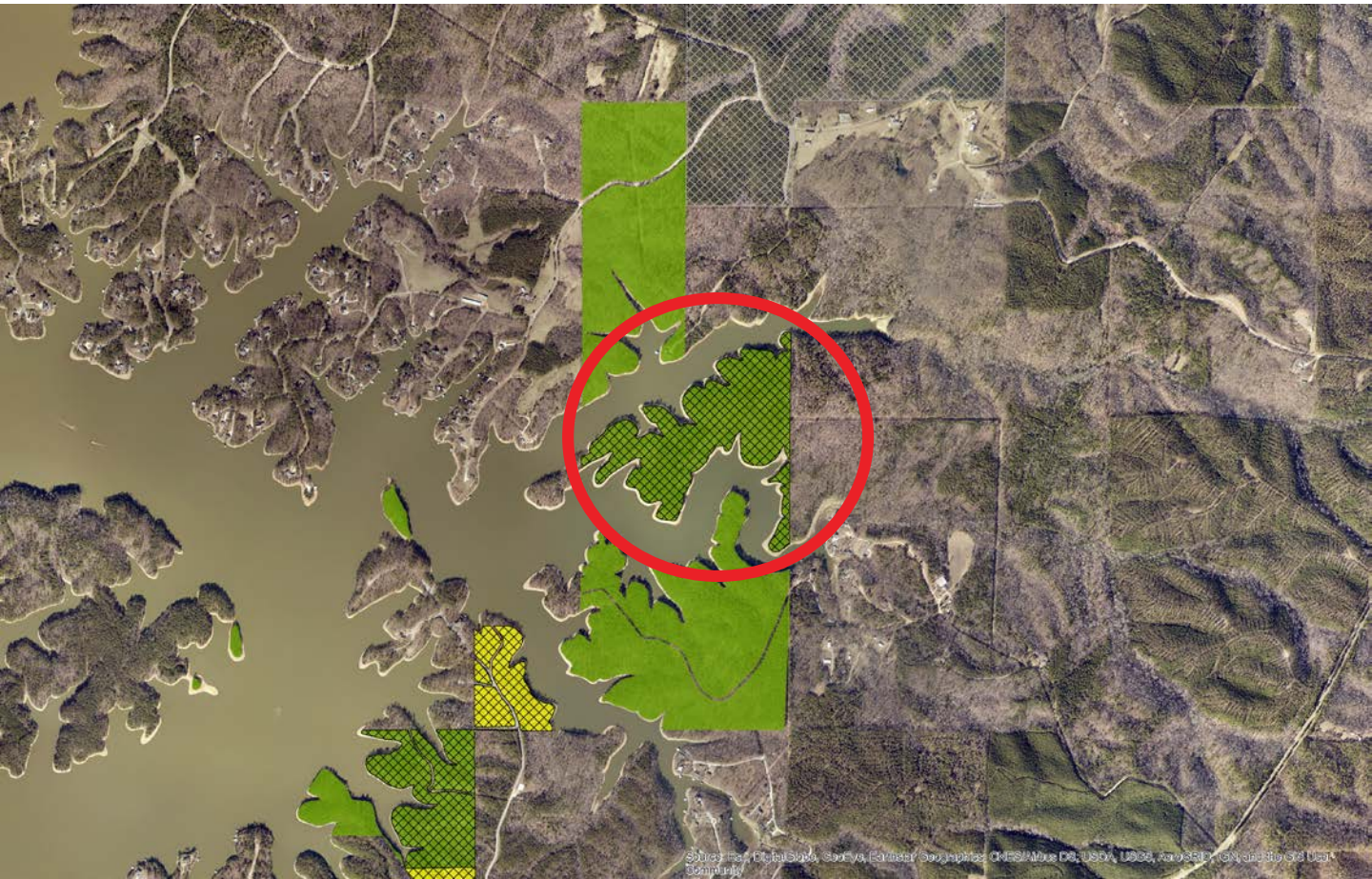
R3 +/- 20 acres of Recreation



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar OpenStreetMap contributors, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

# REMOVALS

R4 +/- 61 acres of Natural Undeveloped





# REMOVALS

R5 +/- 19 acres of Recreation



# REMOVALS

R6 + /- 37 acres of Natural Undeveloped



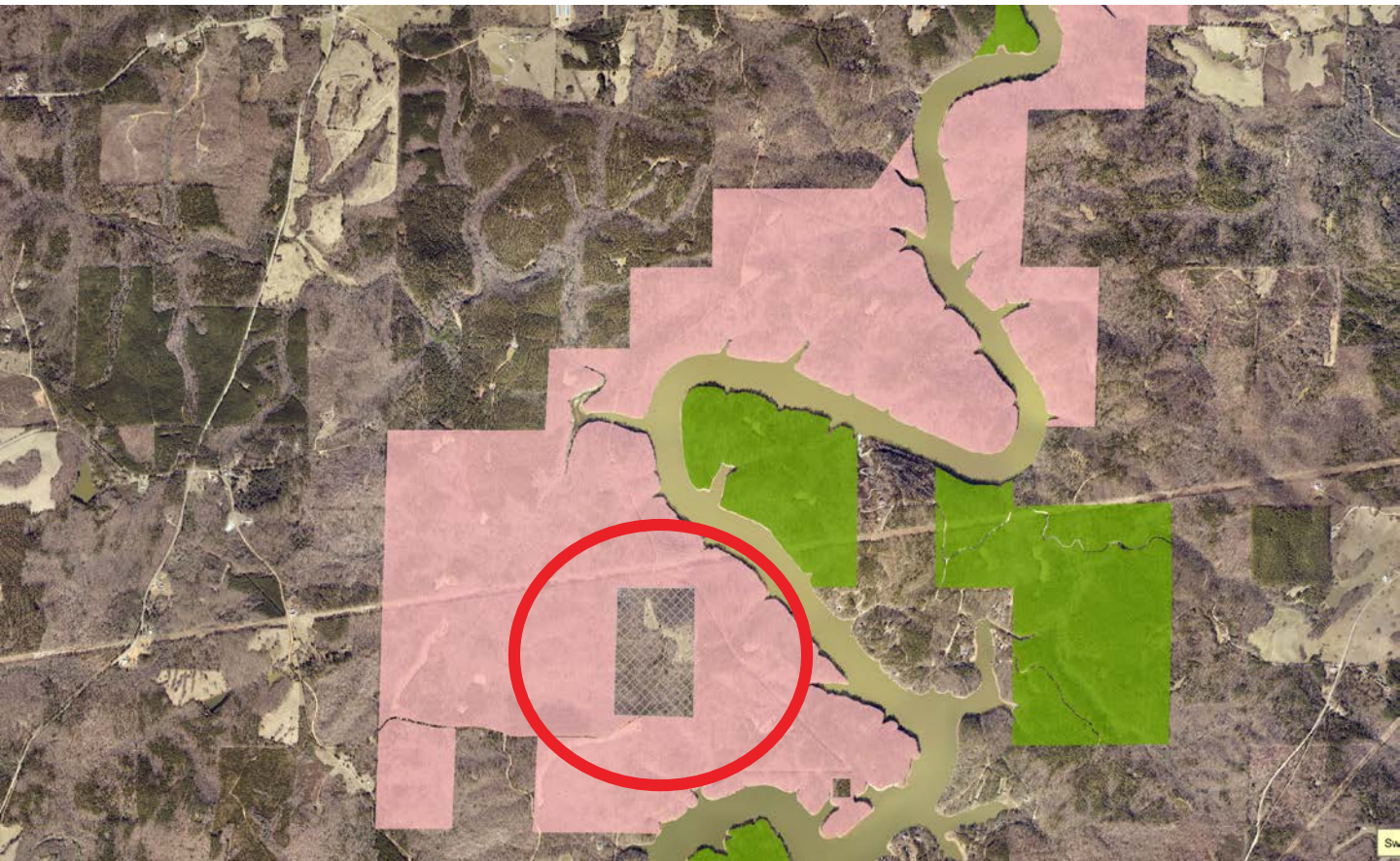
# REMOVALS

R7 +/- 9 acres of Recreation



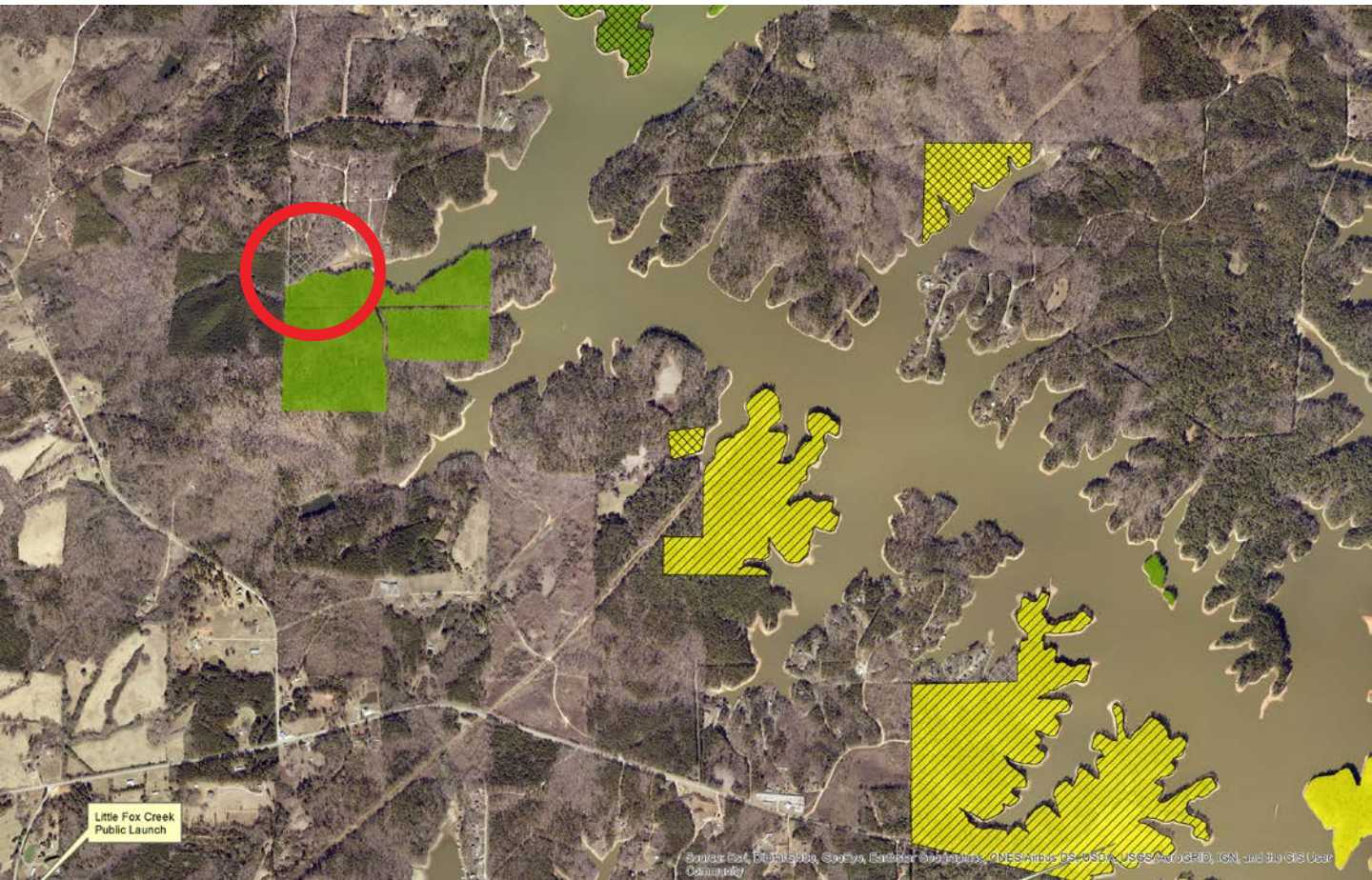
# ADDITIONS

A1 + /- 64 acres as Hunting Lands



# ADDITIONS

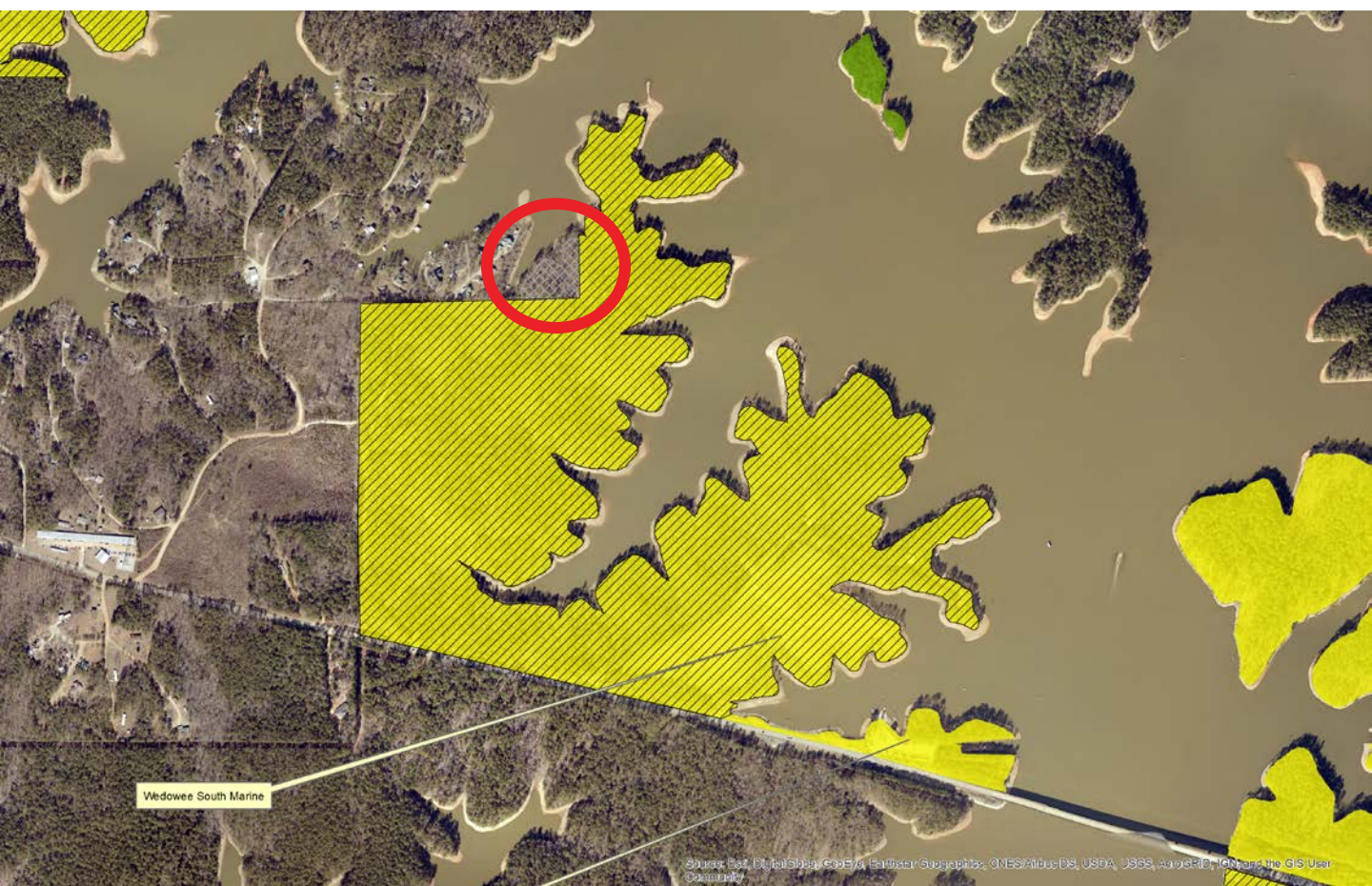
A2 + /- 4 acres as Natural Undeveloped



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

# ADDITIONS

A3 +/- 2 acres as Commercial Recreation



Wedowee South Marine

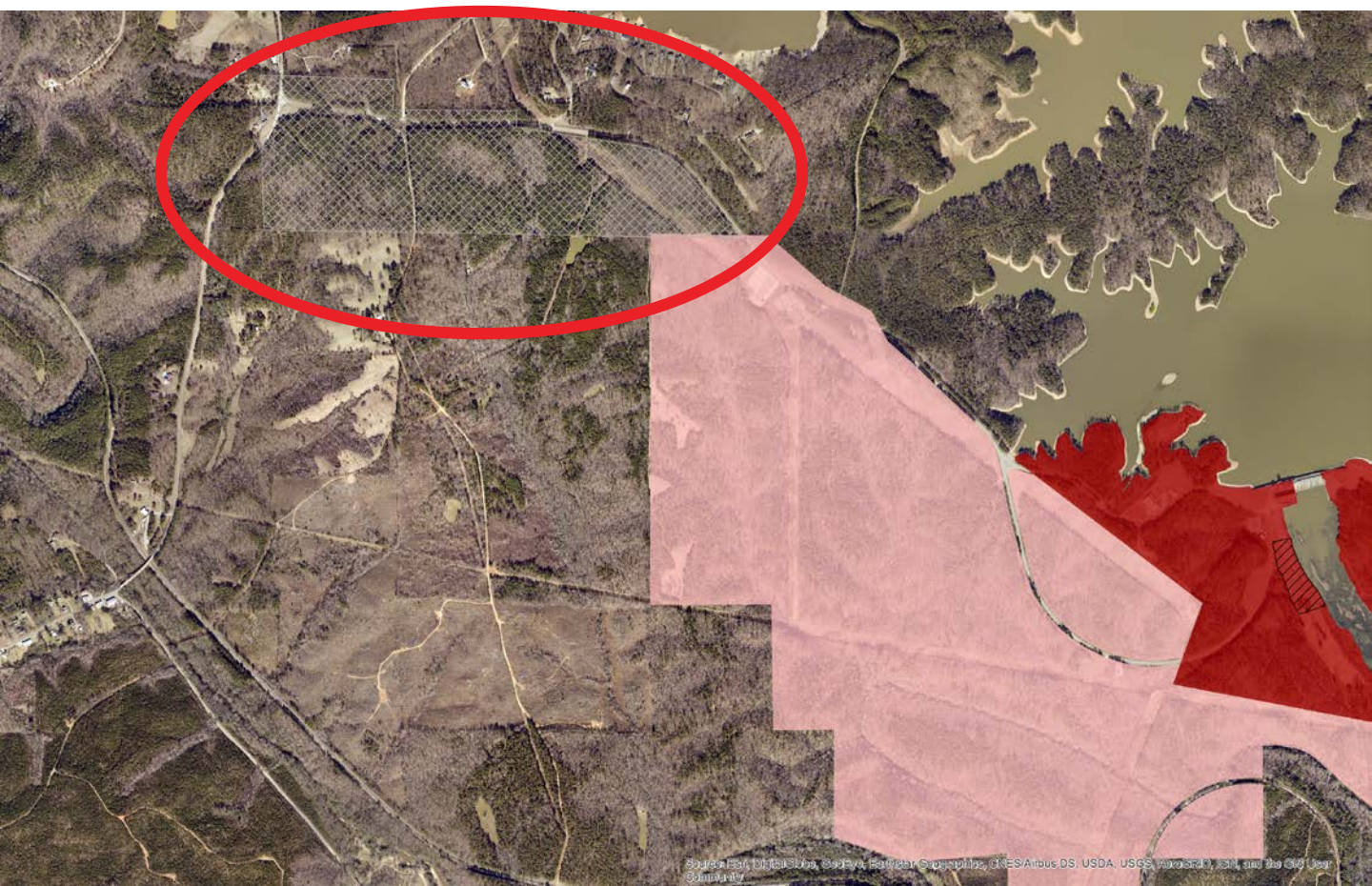
# ADDITIONS

A4 +/- 160 acres as Natural Undeveloped



# ADDITIONS

A5 +/- 157 acres as Hunting Lands

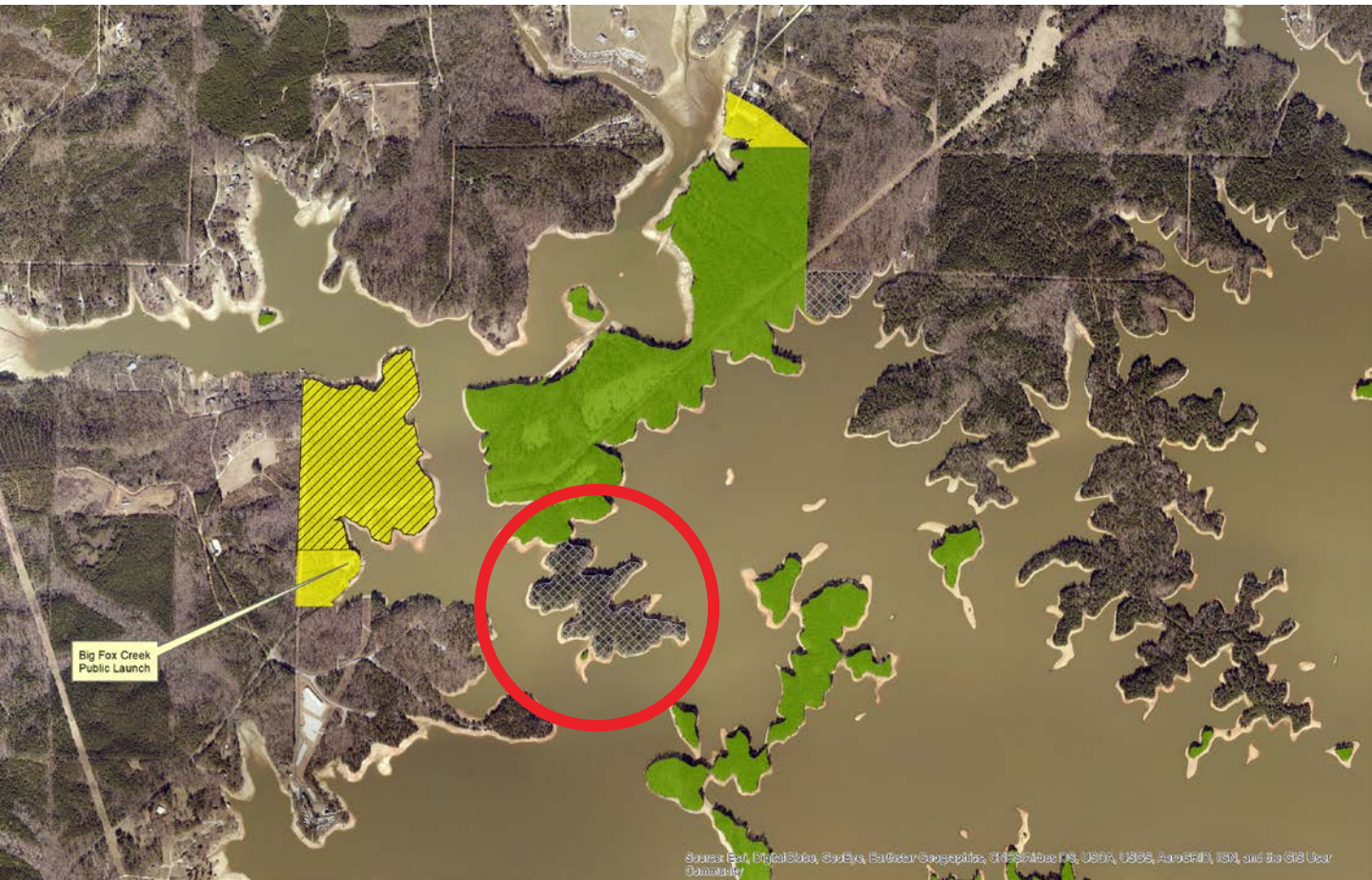




# ADDITIONS



A6 +/- 14 acres as Natural Undeveloped



# ADDITIONS

A7 +/- 6 acres as Natural Undeveloped



# ADDITIONS

A8 + /- 0.25 acres as Natural Undeveloped



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community