

ITEM 16:

Consider the 10-year McKissack Beach and Marsh Management Plan (Lease No. 4579).

LOCATION:

Franklin County

APPLICANT:

City of Carrabelle

STAFF REMARKS:*Background*

McKissack Beach and Marsh (MBM) consists of 261-acres located east of the City of Carrabelle in Franklin county. MBM can be accessed via the Franklin County maintained Carrabelle Beach Park, which includes restrooms and a paved parking lot. It can also be accessed at the end of Gulf Beach Drive. MBM is comprised of two distinct habitat types. The first is a beach and dune system, with dune scrub uplands that comprise approximately 42 acres. The beach and dune system are adjacent to the Carrabelle River, a major sand source in the area. As a result, this beach is one of the few accretionary areas in the panhandle. Species found throughout include sea oats, cordgrass, railroad vine, beach morning glory, Godfrey's blazing star, palmetto, beach rosemary, sand pine, and others. The remaining approximately 219 acres, consist of wetlands that are comprised primarily of black needle rush. As the Carrabelle River turns south, Postun Bayou forms, making its way south before meeting the Carrabelle River again. This helps to feed Boggy Jordan Bayou. Both bayous have tidal creeks that inundate the marsh at high tide. Off the east point of McKissack beach is an important mudflat. It serves as forage ground for a variety of birds including willet, American oystercatcher, black skimmers, heron, snowy plover, piping plover, red knot, and least tern.

Management Plan Overview

The beach and dune system and salt marsh that comprise the MBM are supportive of a variety of plant and animal species. Three federally listed threatened animal species have been documented at or near the site, including red knot (*Calidrius canutus rufa*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*). State threatened animal species include the snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus*), little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*), American oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*), and least tern (*Sternula antillarum*). Three plants, the state endangered Godfrey's blazing star (*Liatris provincialis*), state threatened Gulf Coast lupine (*Lupinus westianus*), and large-leaved jointweed (*Polygonella macrophylla*) have been documented at or near the site.

There are limited physical improvements currently at the property. The biggest improvement made to the property over the years is the grading of Gulf Beach drive and placement of crushed lime rock road base to form a parking area. This parking area is prone to flooding and standing water pools after it rains. Mono-post structures help prevent driving over the dunes. There is interpretive signage on the seaward side of the dunes that provides an overview of the habitat and some of the species that frequent McKissack Beach. FWC signage is also present to prevent driving through the dune system. There is a wide dune walkthrough at the terminus of Gulf

Beach Drive. Shell middens overlay most of the two major relic sand dune ridges located at the southern part of the preserve.

The Division of Historical Resources observations are broken down into five categories: archeological sites, resource groups, historical structures, historic bridges and historic cemeteries. The Florida Master Site File indicates there are no cultural resources located in the area. The City of Carrabelle will submit subsequently located historic sites for inclusion in the Master Site File.

The Florida Legislature requires that all land management plans include long and short-term goals. These goals must be measurable objectives, and short-term goals must be achievable within a two-year planning period. Pursuant to section 253.034, Florida Statutes, the Division of State Lands began compiling the short-term goals from each land management plan approved since July 1, 2016. The management plan identified objectives under the following short-term goals: sustainable forest management.

Public Involvement

The City of Carrabelle emphasized involvement of numerous stakeholders when drafting the plan. Residents and active members of the community were interviewed in person on December 19, 2019, at the Carrabelle Library. Additionally, the City of Carrabelle held a Steering Committee and public meeting on February 10, 2020, to present the plan and take feedback.

Surplus Lands

The evaluation of this site has determined that no portion of the McKissack Beach and Marsh is to be declared surplus.

State Land Management Review Team

The McKissack Beach and Marsh has not been subject to a review by an inter-agency land management review team.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

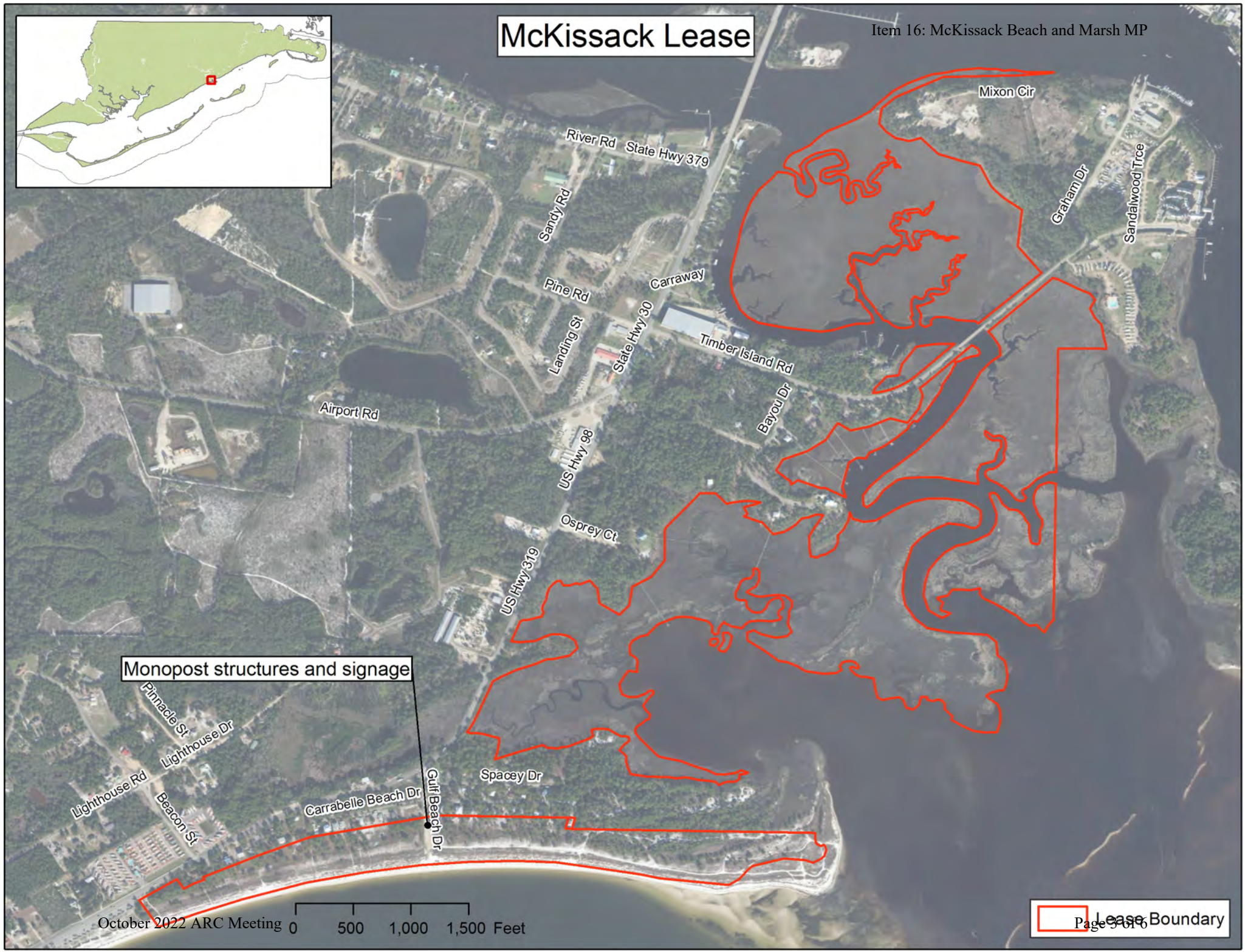
Approve the management plan.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

- APPROVE**
- APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:** _____
- DEFER**
- WITHDRAW**
- NOT APPROVE**
- OTHER:** _____

McKissack Lease

Item 16: McKissack Beach and Marsh MP

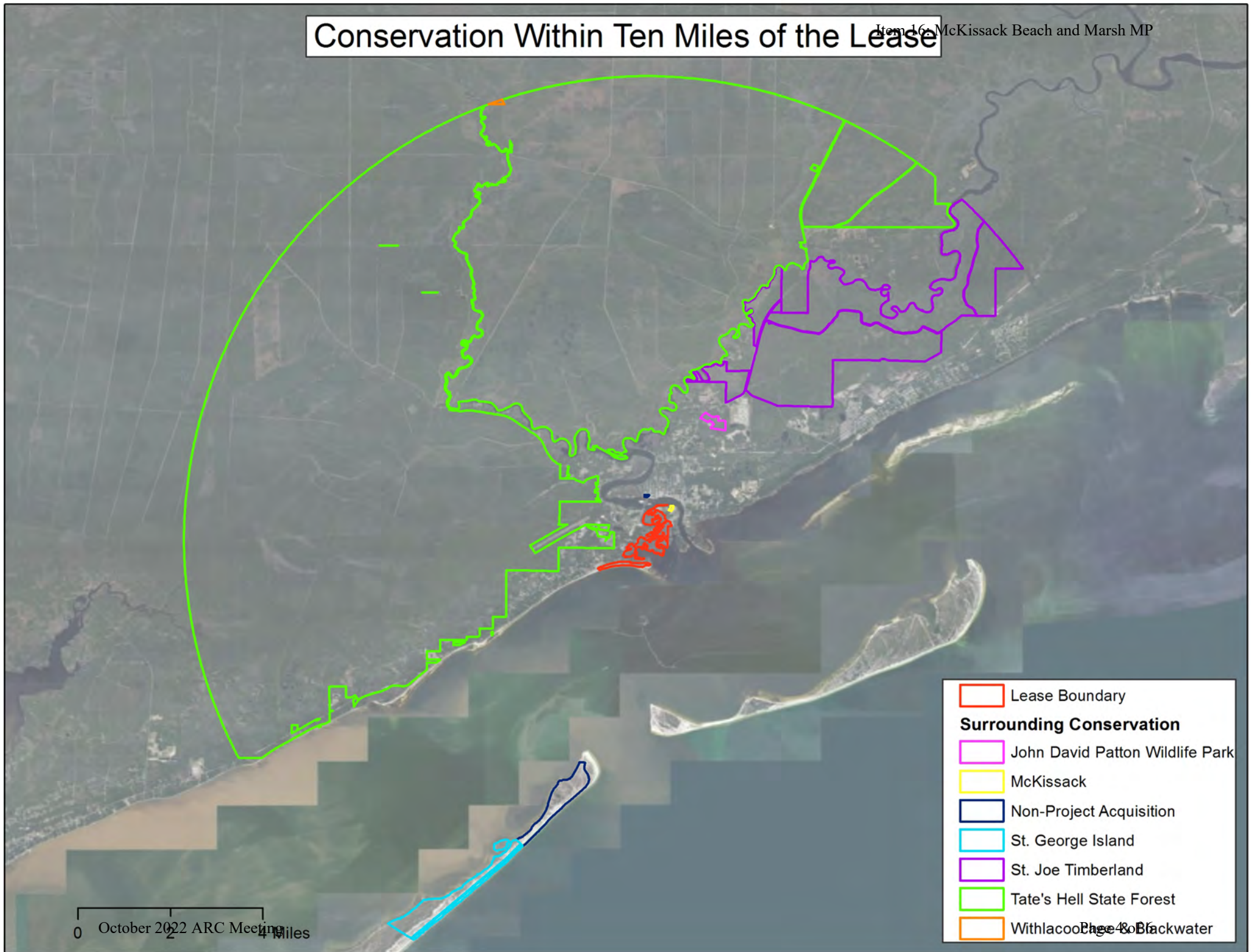


Monopost structures and signage

Lease Boundary

October 2022 ARC Meeting 0 500 1,000 1,500 Feet

Conservation Within Ten Miles of the Lease



0 2 4 Miles
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- Lease Boundary
- Surrounding Conservation**
- John David Patton Wildlife Park
- McKissack
- Non-Project Acquisition
- St. George Island
- St. Joe Timberland
- Tate's Hell State Forest
- Withlacoochee Backwater

Physical Resources



Carrabelle River

Black Needle Rush Marsh

Postun Bayou

Boggy Jordan Bayou

Dune Scrub

Dune System

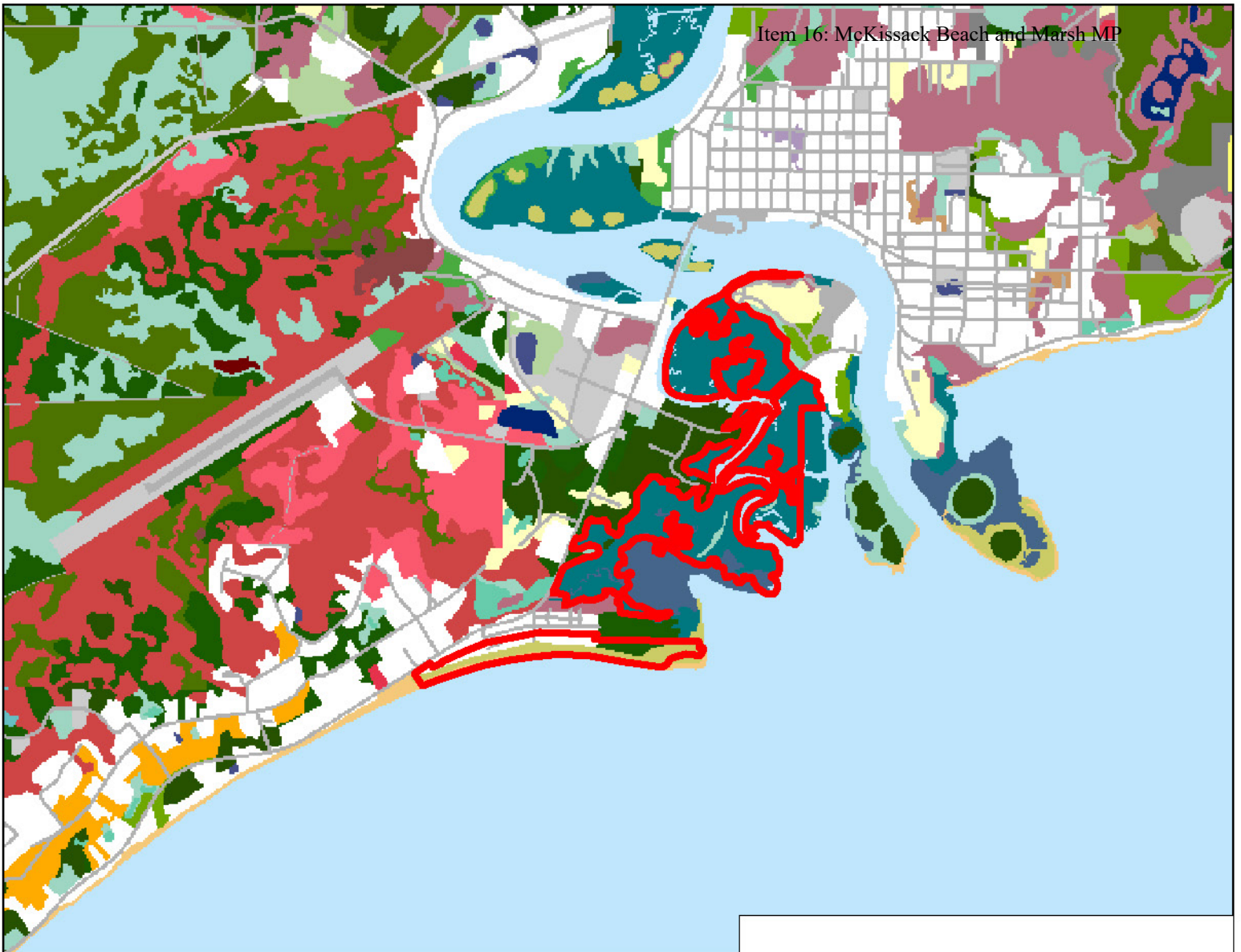
Sandy Beach

Mud Flat

St. George Sound & Gulf of Mexico

0 750 1,500 Feet
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McKissack Beach

Cooperative Land Cover -- State Classes

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Hardwod Forested Uplands | Low Intensity Urban | Isolated Freshwater Marsh |
| Mesic Hammock | High Intensity Urban | Freshwater Forested Wetlands |
| High Pine and Scrub | Rural | Cypress |
| Sand Pine Scrub | Cropland/Pasture | Dome Swamp |
| Coastal Scrub | Tree Plantations | Basin Swamp |
| Mesic Flatwoods | Transportation | Wet Flatwoods |
| Scrubby Flatwoods | Communication | Lacustrine |
| Mixed Hardwood-Coniferous | Utilities | Cultural - Lacustrine |
| Shrub and Brushland | Extractive | Estuarine |
| Coastal Uplands | Freshwater Non-Forested Wetlands | Tidal Flat |
| Sand Beach (Dry) | Prairies and Bogs | Salt Marsh |
| Cultural - Terrestrial | Marshes | |

Approximate site boundary
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