

LADD MARSH WILDLIFE AREA ADDITIONS

2010 – 2012 ONGOING PROJECT PROPOSAL
PROJECT # 200002100

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

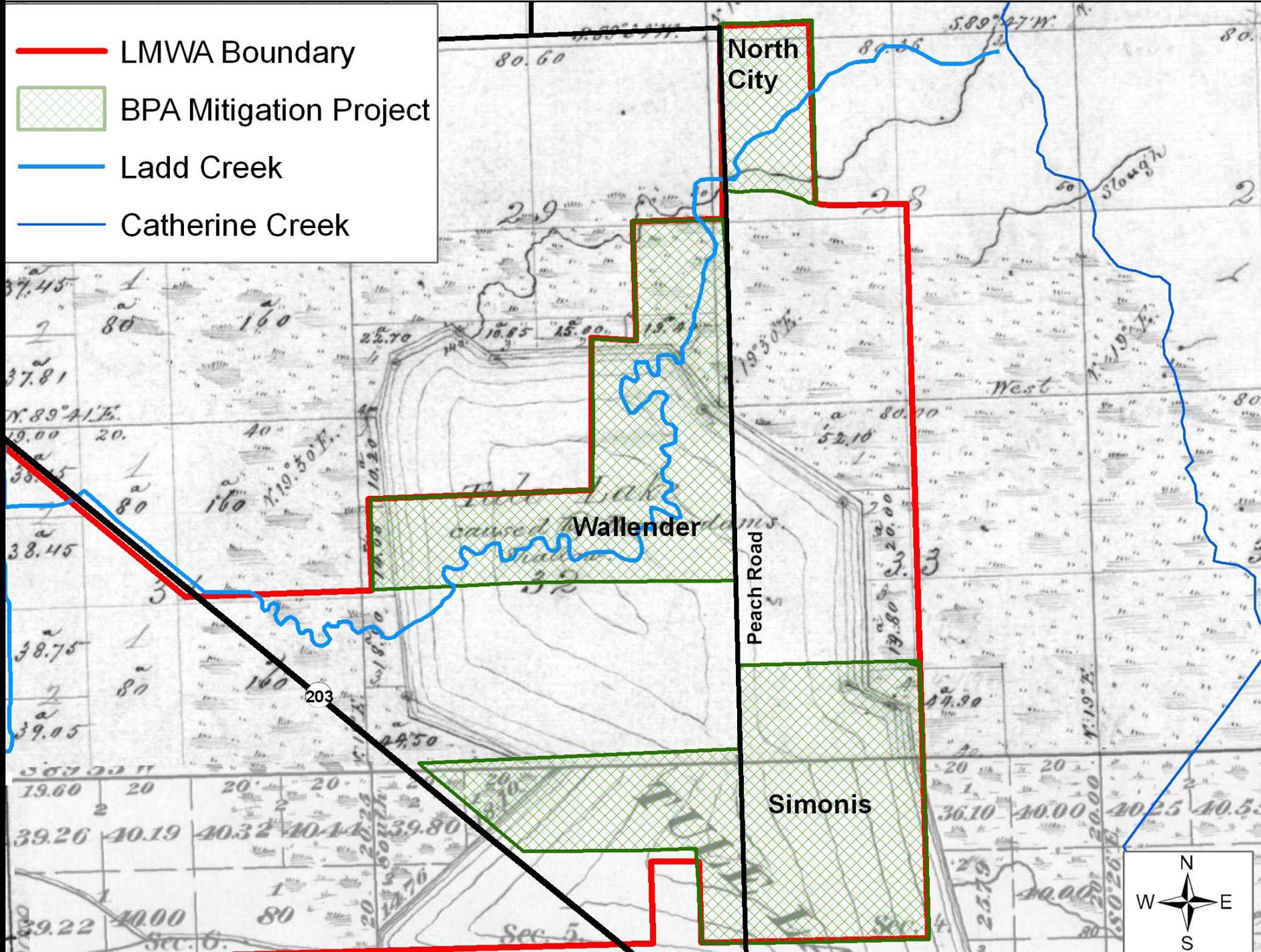


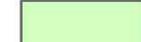


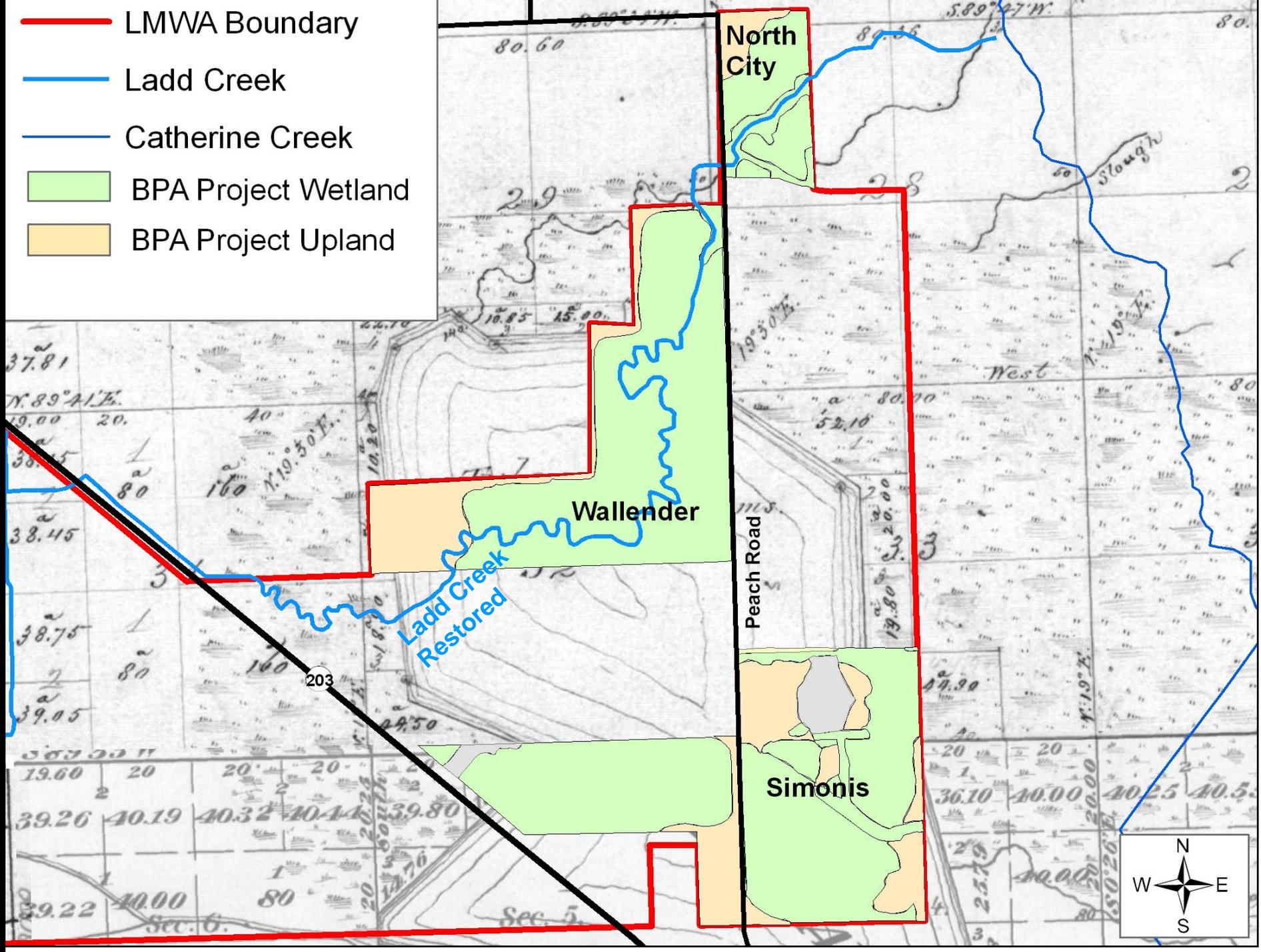
Project Background

- The Grande Ronde Valley once held expansive areas of seasonal wetland; some reports suggest as much as 70,000 acres of the valley was seasonally inundated.
- Most of those wetlands were drained to facilitate agricultural development; as little as 1% remained by 1949.
- Protection and restoration of wetland habitat is a priority in the NWPCC Fish and Wildlife Program, the Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan, the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Ladd Marsh Management Plan.
- The Ladd Marsh Additions Project addresses those priorities as well as BPA's wildlife mitigation goals.

- LMWA Boundary
- ▨ BPA Mitigation Project
- Ladd Creek
- Catherine Creek



-  LMWA Boundary
-  Ladd Creek
-  Catherine Creek
-  BPA Project Wetland
-  BPA Project Upland



Limiting Factors

- **Habitat Conversion/Draining**
 - **Habitat Alteration from Water Diversions**
 - **Habitat Alteration from Changes in Fire Regime**
 - **Habitat Degradation from Livestock Grazing**
 - **Habitat Degradation from Invasive Species**
-
- **Hostile Landscapes (nest parasites, competition, domestic predators, human disturbance)**
 - **Human Disturbance During Critical Periods**
 - **Nest Predation &/or Parasitism**
 - **Water Quality**

Project History

- **1949 – First land purchase by ODFW created the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area.**
- **1998 – 2000: Acquisition and restoration project approved by NWPPC; Land purchased by TNC**
- **2001: Ownership transferred to ODFW; Baseline HEP completed**

Project History

- **2002: Dike and stream channel construction, fish ladder & water control installation; tree, shrub & sedge plantings; water transfer to new channel; wildlife surveys.**
- **2003: Upland & riparian planting; O&M; monitoring.**
- **2004 – 2009: O&M; Monitoring; follow-up HEP; groundwater complaint on adjacent property.**

2010 – 2012 Objectives

- Protect and enhance 630 acres (418 HUs) of wetland
- Protect and enhance 223 acres (228 HUs) of upland
- Maintain & manage wetlands
- Maintain & manage uplands
- Investigate acquisition/easement potential on 3 properties near or adjacent to LMWA

Project Parcels and Restored Ladd Creek Channel on 2005 Aerial Image

— LMWA Boundary

BPA Mitigation Project

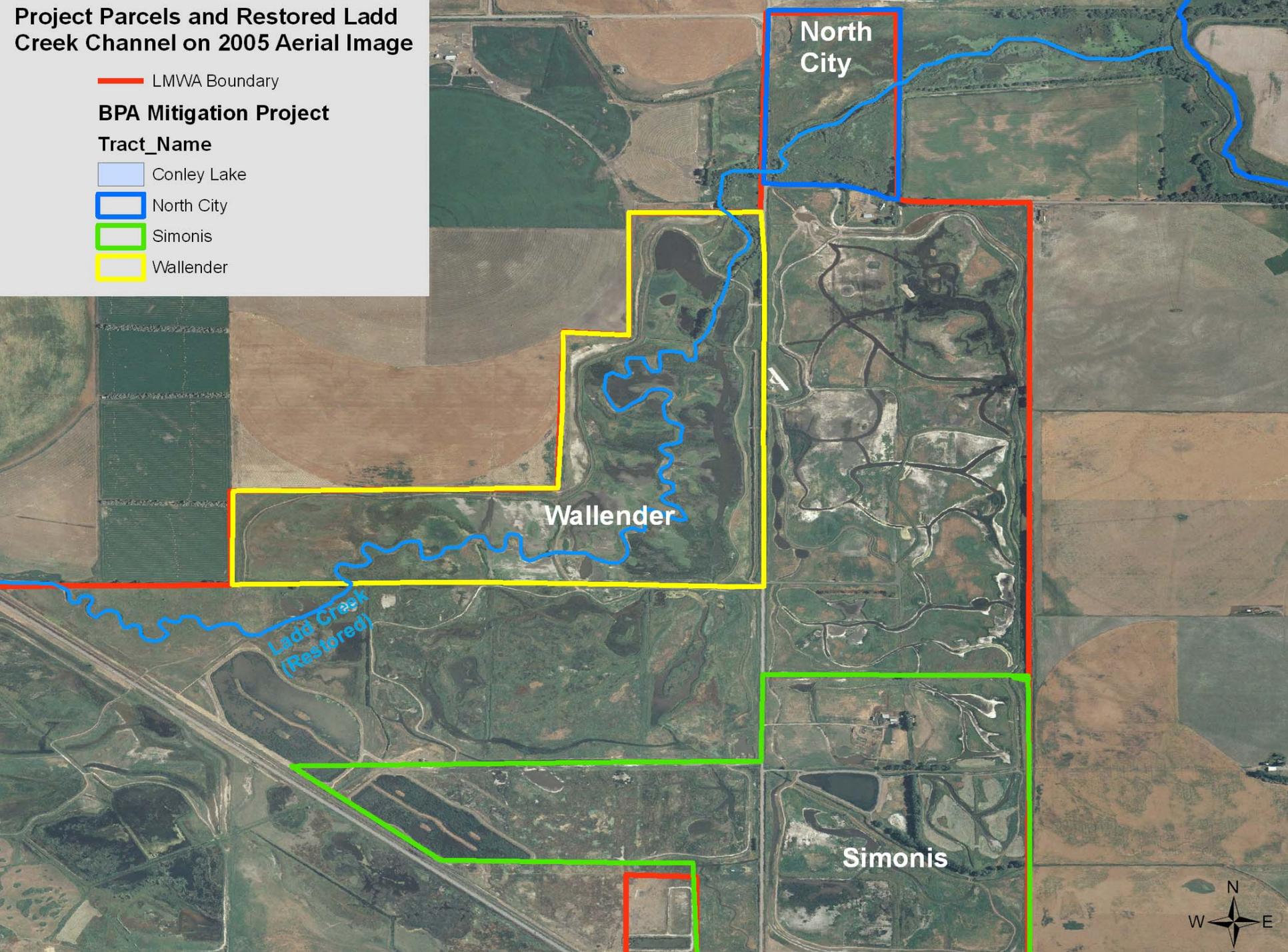
Tract_Name

Conley Lake

North City

Simonis

Wallender



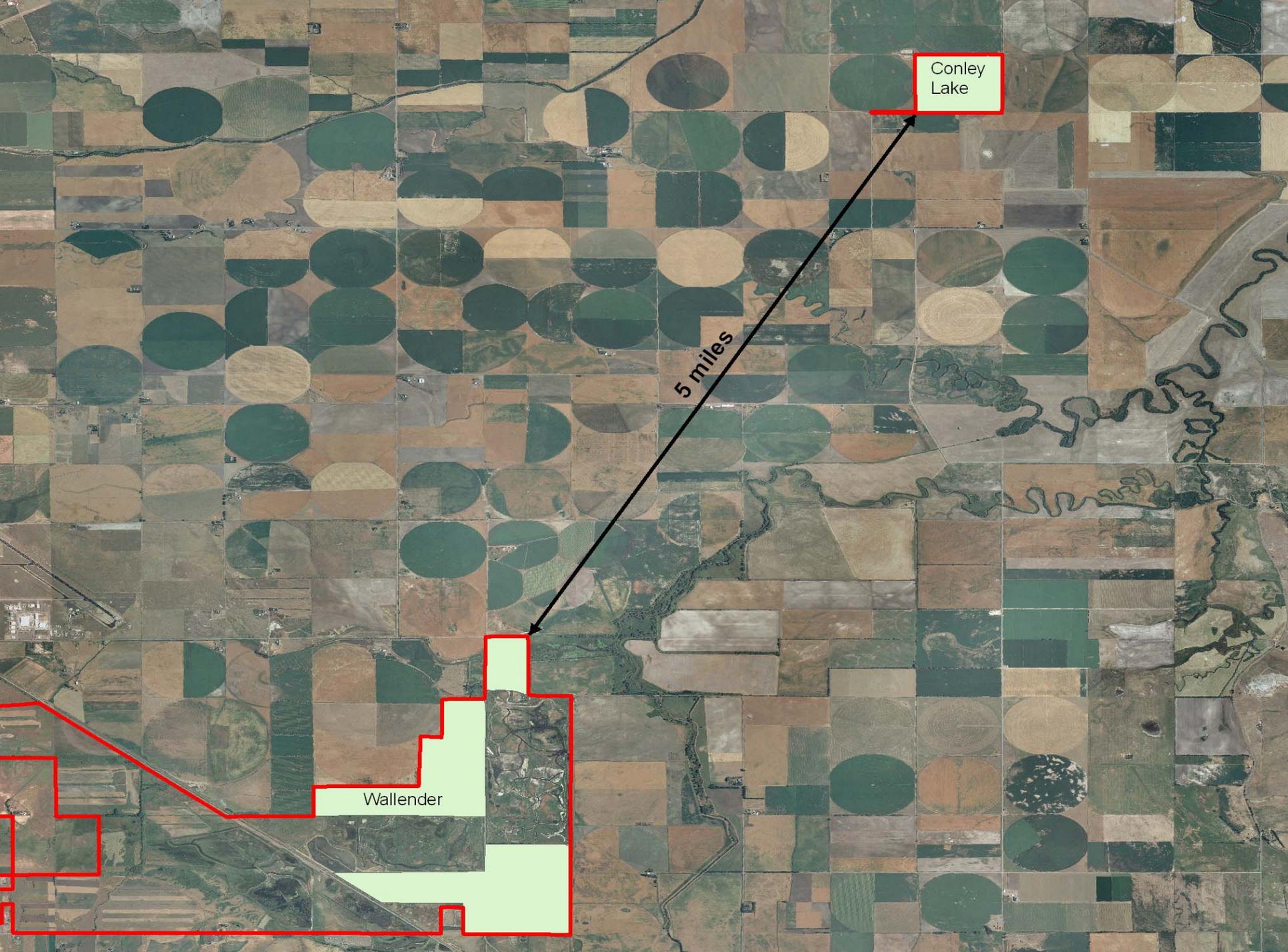
North
City

Wallender

Ladd Creek
(Restored)

Simonis





Conley
Lake

5 miles

Wallender



Objective 1 - Protect and enhance 630 acres (418 HUs) of wetland

- **Maintain Vegetation** (water mgmt, herbicide, mechanical, biological control)
 - **Outreach and Education**
 - **Pre-Acquisition Activities**
 - **Terrestrial Habitat Features** (nest structures)
- 
- A photograph of a wetland landscape. In the foreground, there is a body of water with green vegetation growing in it. The middle ground shows a flat, open area with more vegetation. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky.

Objective 2 - Protect and enhance 223 acres (228 HUs) of upland

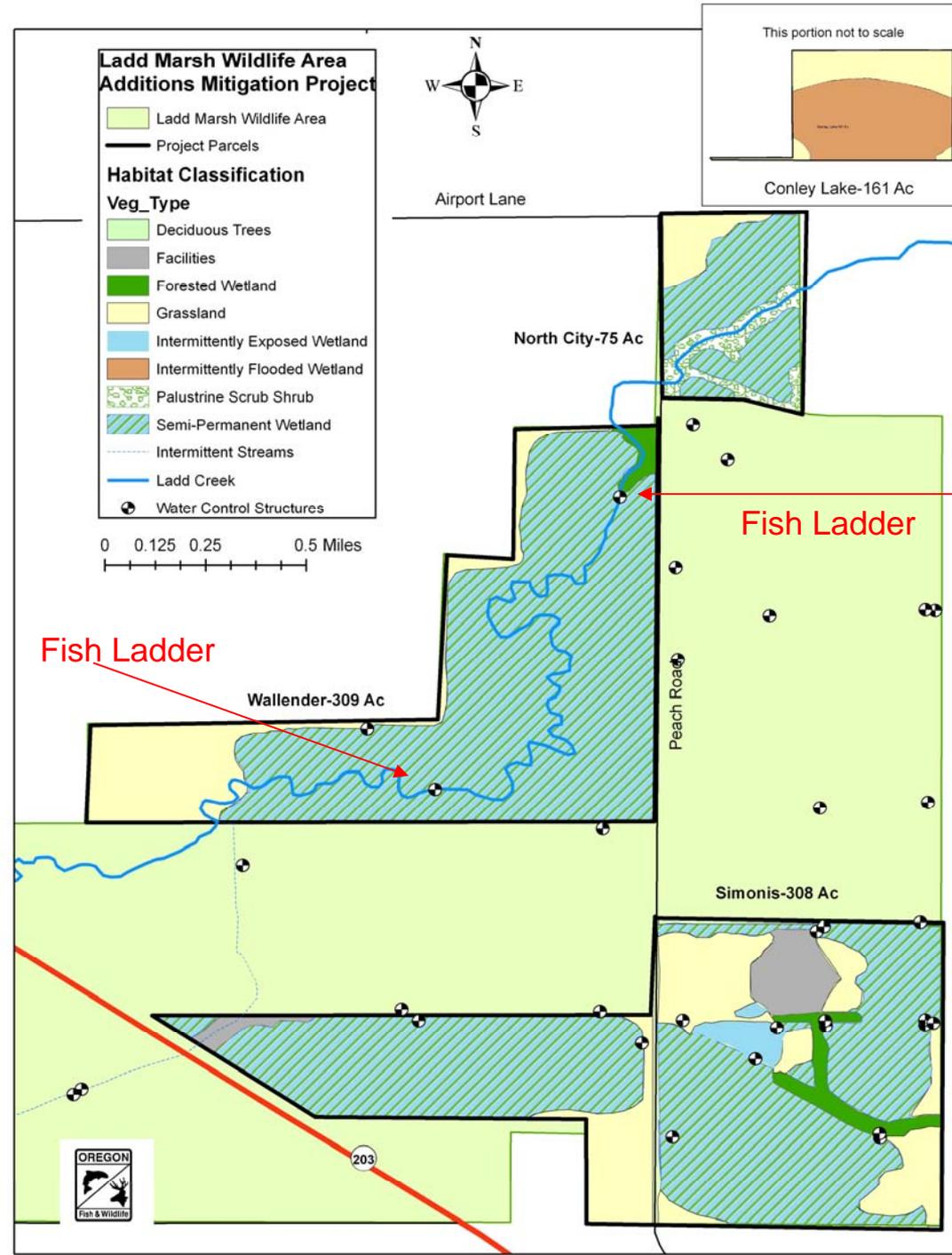
- **Maintain Vegetation** (herbicide, mechanical, biological control, irrigation)
- **Outreach and Education**
- **Pre-Acquisition Activities**
- **Plant Vegetation**

Objectives 3 & 4 – Maintain and Manage Wetland and Upland Habitats

- **Maintain Vegetation** (water mgmt, herbicide, mechanical, biological control, irrigation)
- **Remove Debris**
- **Wildlife & Vegetation Surveys**
- **Provide Access and Public Information**

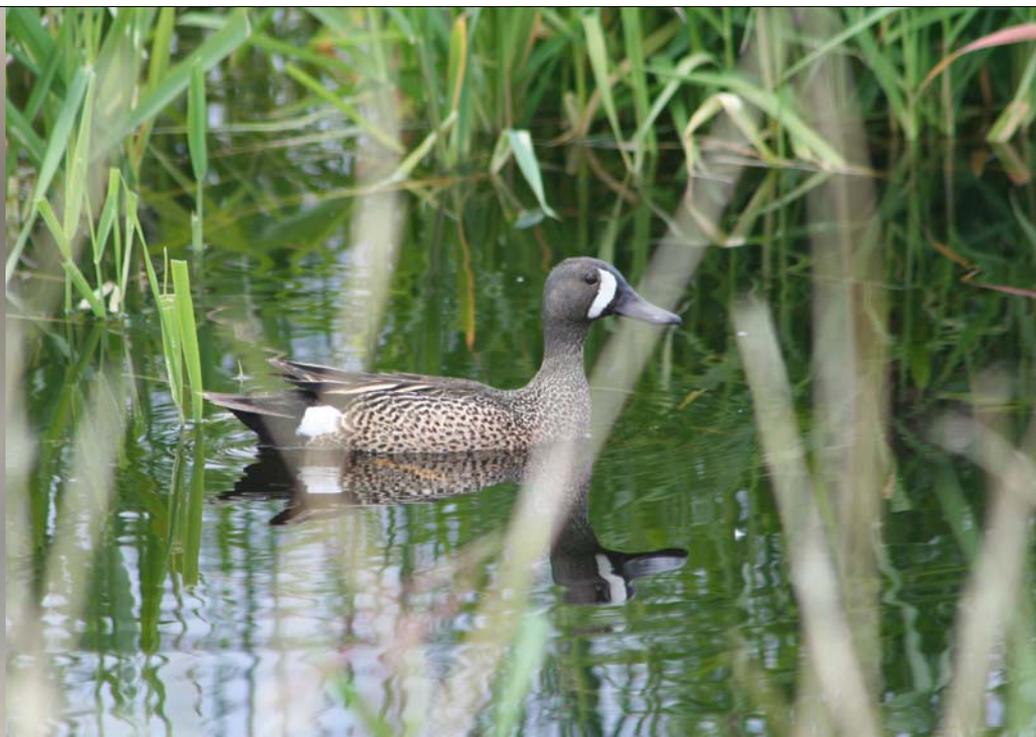
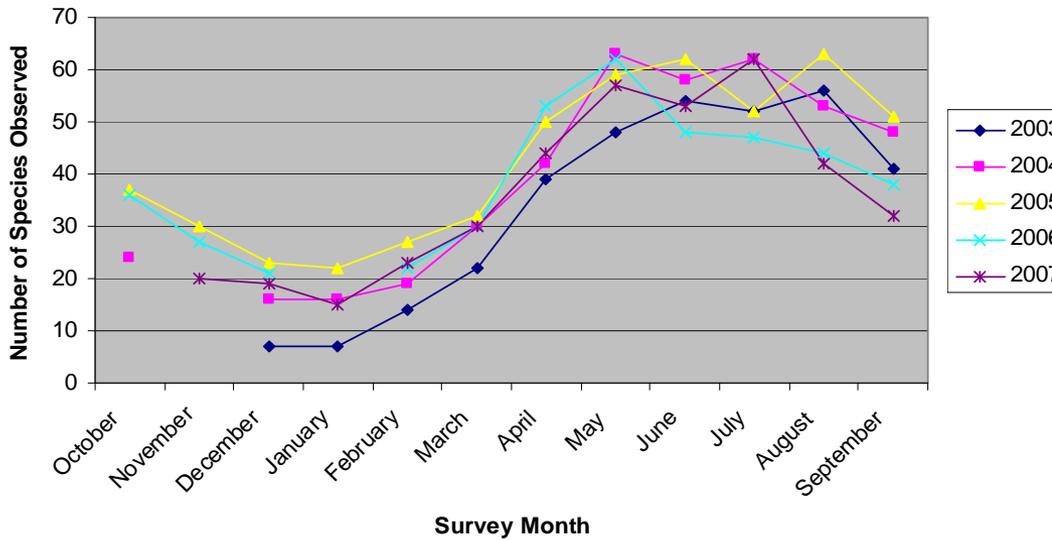
Maintain Vegetation –
Water Level Management

23 Water Control Structures –
2 With Fish Ladders





**Number of Species Observed During Monthly Bird Surveys
Fiscal Years 2003 - 2007**



2002

2003

2004

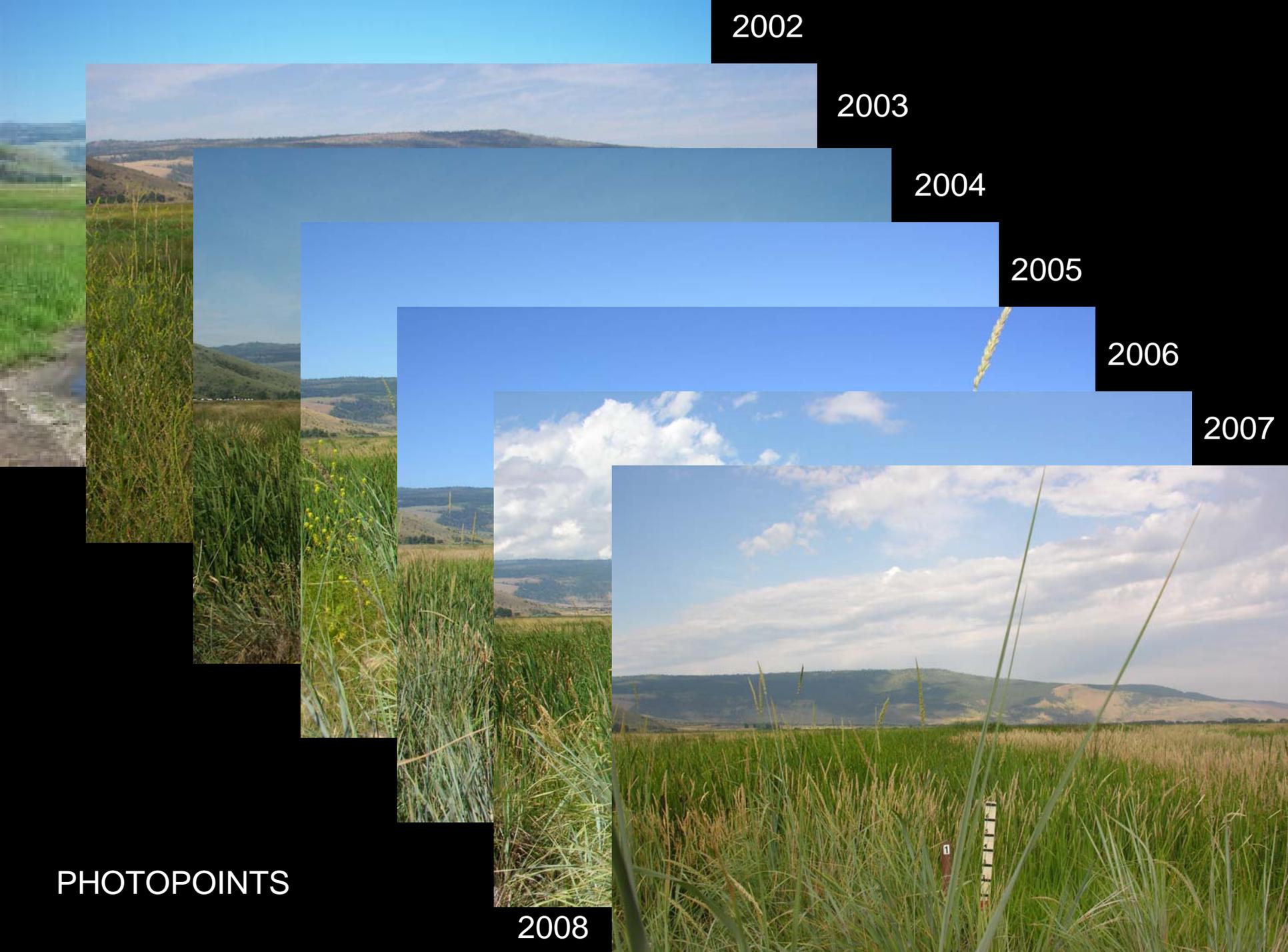
2005

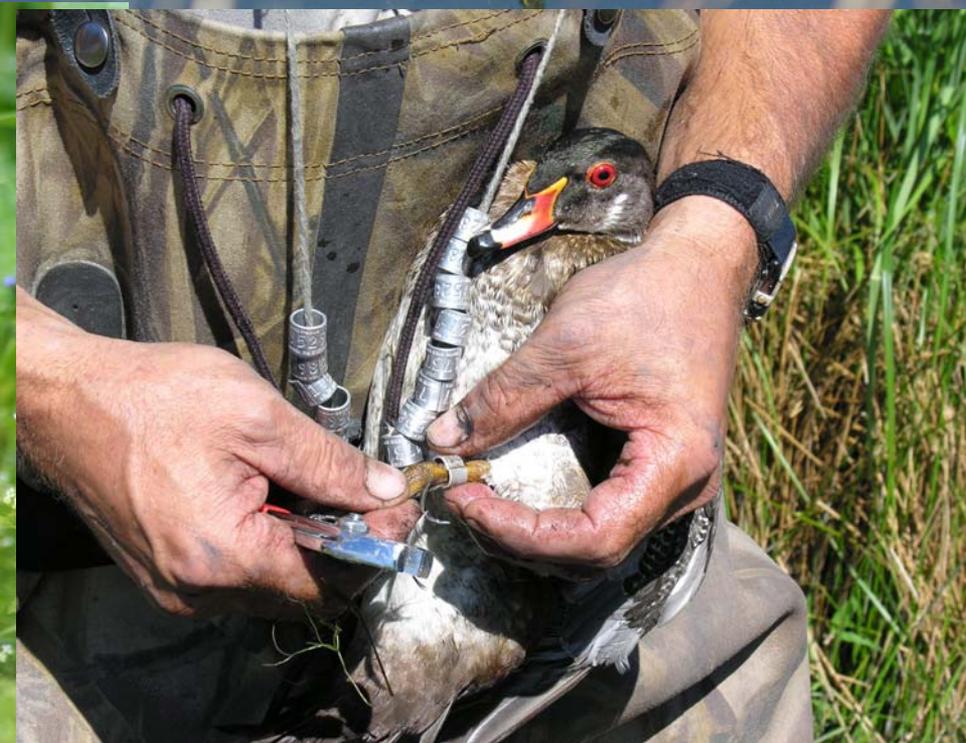
2006

2007

2008

PHOTOPOINTS





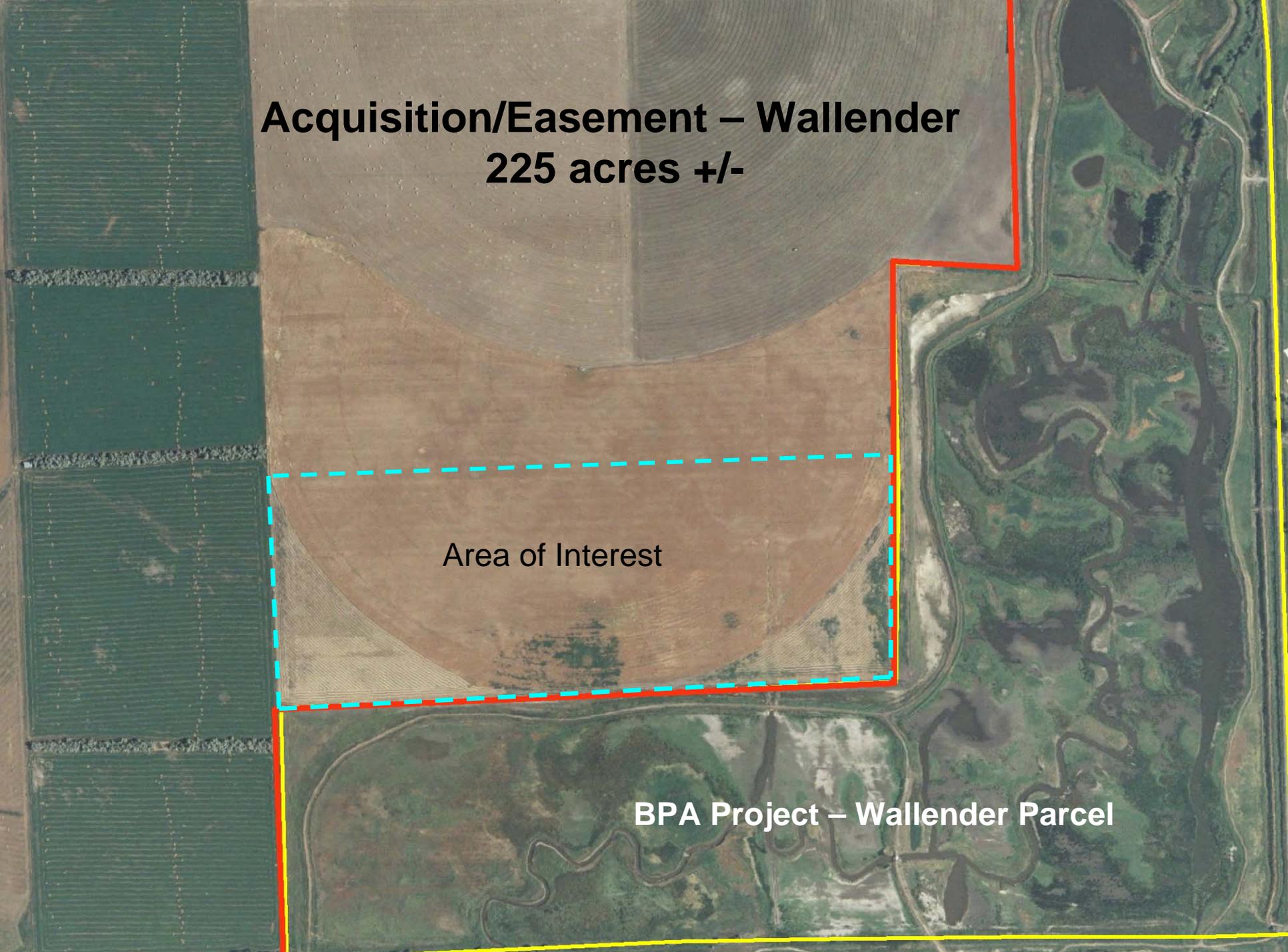
Conley Lake

- **Historically a spring migration stop**
- **Virtually dry since 1999**
- **Drought = Limited success with upland planting**
- **Recent strong interest from neighbor and Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program in aquifer recharge project involving pumping water from Catherine Creek during winter and early spring high flows**

**Acquisition/Easement – Wallender
225 acres +/-**

Area of Interest

BPA Project – Wallender Parcel



Acquisition/Easement – West Coast Trust
100 acres +/-

Heron Rookery

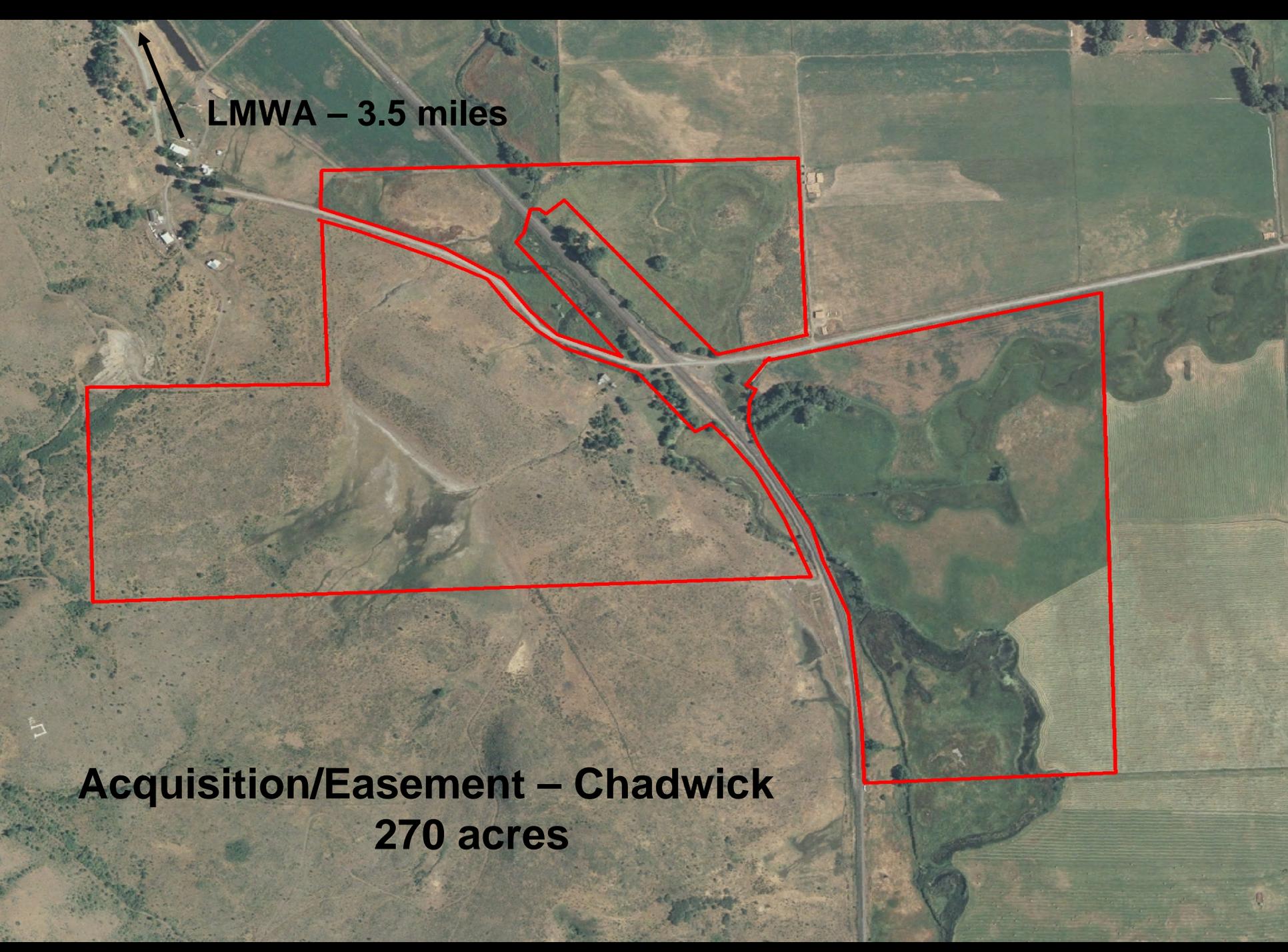


Ladd Creek

Catherine Creek

Existing Ladd Marsh Boundary





LMWA – 3.5 miles

**Acquisition/Easement – Chadwick
270 acres**



RELATIONSHIPS & SYNERGY

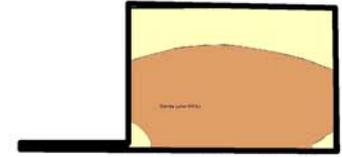
Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area Additions Mitigation Project - Overview



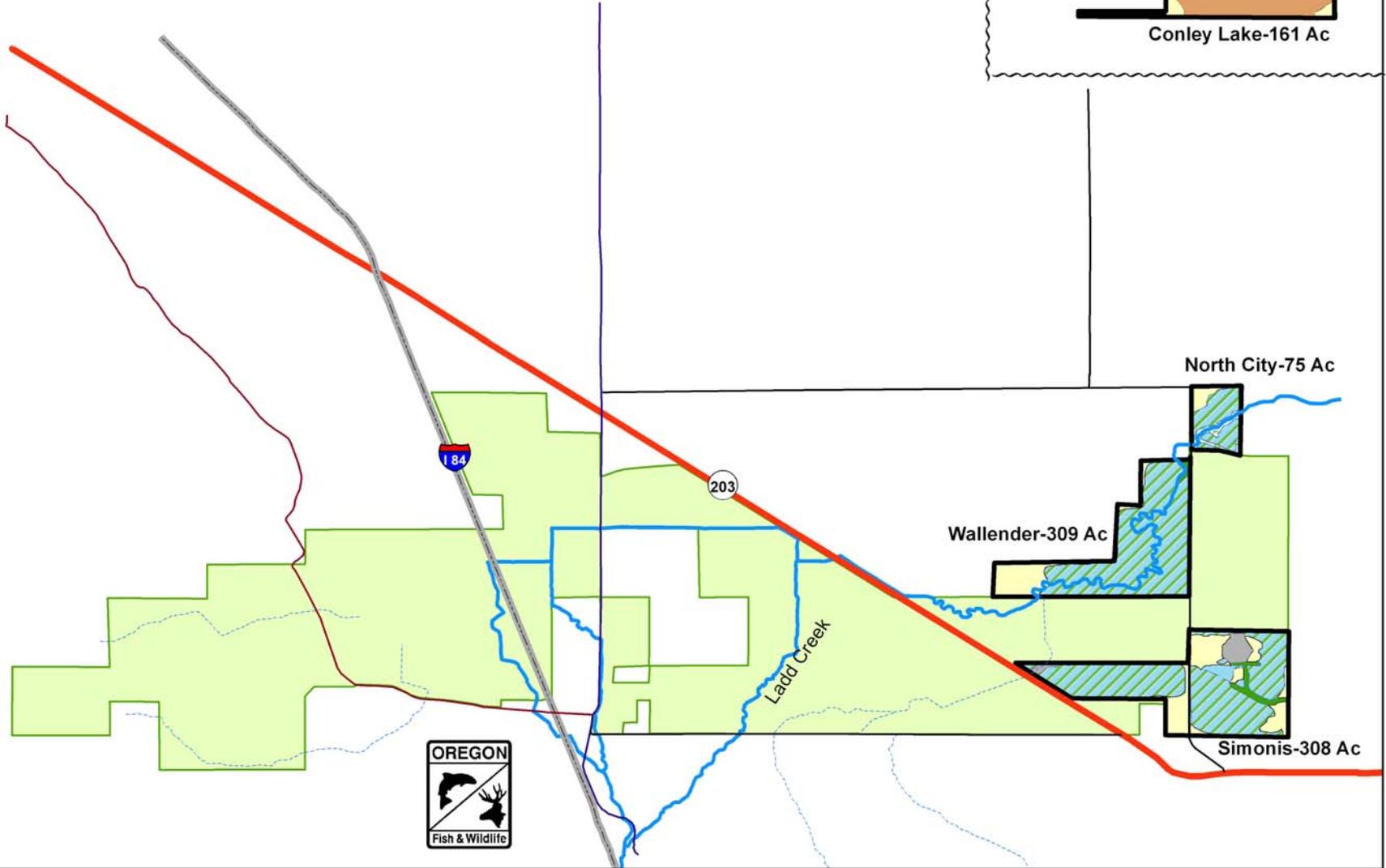
- Intermittent Streams
- Ladd Creek
- Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area
- Project Parcels

0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles

This portion not to scale



Conley Lake-161 Ac



Benefits of Connection to Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area . . .

- Increased Habitat/Patch size
- Enhanced Native Seed Source
- Existing Infrastructure & Equipment
- Biological Controls in Place
- Existing Water Rights
- Management/Administration in Place



Synergy with Regional Projects

- **Ladd Creek Restoration – NE Oregon Habitat Projects (BPA); ODOT I-84 Fish Passage**
- **Grande Ronde Model Watershed – Complementary projects throughout the subbasin**
- **Partnerships – Landowners, Ducks Unlimited, OWEB, NRCS, USFWS, City of La Grande**



The Future

- Continued O&M and Monitoring
 - Emphasis on upland habitat enhancement
 - Wetland habitat management – successional setbacks
 - Easement/Acquisition Opportunities
- 
- A Red-necked Avocet is shown standing in shallow, rippling water. The bird has a long, thin, downward-curved bill, a reddish-brown neck and head, and a white body with a prominent black wing band. Its reflection is visible in the water below it.

QUESTIONS?

