



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St Paul District

**SPONSOR:** Alan Stevensen

**REFER TO:** 2016-00059-PRH

# Public Notice

**ISSUED:** February 8, 2016

**EXPIRES:** March 9, 2016

**SECTION:** 404 - Clean Water Act

1. WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL
2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION

**SPONSOR'S ADDRESS:** Alan Stevensen  
2830 Northridge Lane NE  
Owatonna, Minnesota 55560

**SPONSOR'S AGENT:** Bolton & Menk, Inc.  
c/o Mr. Dan Donayre  
1960 Premier Drive  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project site is located Section 34, Township 109N, Range, 28W, in Nicollet County, Minnesota. Latitude 44.20848, Longitude -94.17752, as shown on the attached figures labeled MVP-2016-00059-PRH Page 1 of 7 through Page 7 of 7.

**BANK SERVICE AREA:** The proposed bank service area is the Lower Minnesota River (Bank Service Area 9).

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:** The sponsor is proposing to develop the Stevensen Wetland Bank. The proposed bank site is approximately 46.25 acres in size, including upland buffer areas.

### Current land use, including adjacent properties:

Areas adjacent to the site can be characterized as low density residential areas intermixed with agricultural fields. The Minnesota River is the prominent local water feature and is roughly one half mile to the south, separated by an agricultural parcel, SH 41, and a gently sloping wooded hillside.

Two ditches flow on either side of the property, which ultimately flow to the Minnesota River. The west ditch is on the opposite side of CR 161 as the property. This ditch is approximately 3 feet deep and is surrounded by a grassy buffer strip that is between 10 and 15 feet wide. The east ditch is a shallow ditch between 1 and 2 feet deep. The buffer surrounding the ditch is between 10 and 20 feet wide. The buffer is vegetated with quaking aspen, box elder, red osier dogwood, smooth brome and reed canary grass within the ditch. Surface flow generally moves to the southeast corner of the property into the east ditch. The property has been extensively tiled. The tiling has effectively drained two wetland areas, one area delineated as Wetland 1 and the southern portion of the property. Branch F of the tiles has effectively drained the hydric soils on the south side of the property.

The portion of the Stevensen Property proposed for the wetland restoration, as well as the surrounding fields, have been in crop rotation for over 75 years. Crops on the Stevensen property have included cucumbers, corn and most recently soy beans. The property includes a homestead in the northeast portion, two wells, and overhead utility lines feeding the house. Over the years, the tiles

have broken or clogged. These tiles have controlled the seeping nature of the soils to allow the field to be viable for agriculture. The primary soil type for the bank site is Tilfer silty clay loam, and secondarily, Terril loam.

**Modifications proposed to restore, establish, enhance and/or preserve wetlands on the bank site:** The overall project goal is to restore the site to a highly functional, diverse wetland ecosystem. The process to restore hydrology is already underway in terms of removing the function of the old drainage infrastructure in that over the years the tiles have broken or clogged. The sponsor further plans to break and remove more tile to further restore hydrology to the site. No structures or berms are being constructed as part of this project. Plant diversity is a critical driver for wetland function and value and the sponsor intends on managing the site to enhance plant diversity to the best of their ability utilizing seeding, herbicide, and periodic mowing and burning. Detailed construction plans will be submitted with the Draft Mitigation Banking Instrument (DMBI). The Hughes Property on the south side of the Minnesota River has been restored to pre-settlement conditions. This property will serve as a reference community during the restoration and monitoring process to ensure that the restoration goals are met.

**Long-term management of the site:** The established bank site would be managed by the sponsor or their successors in property ownership. The site would be adaptively managed for development of herbaceous communities dominated by native species common to the bank area. Credit sales would be tracked by the sponsor and reported to the state as required by state law. The reported credit releases and sales would be tracked on both Corps and state databases using ledger data supplied by the state. By state law, long-term management of the property would be the responsibility of the landowner and the sponsor until all released credits have been debited. After all credits are debited, long-term management obligations would fall to the landowner under state law. Additional protections and management limitations would be spelled out in both a conservation easement and in an approved bank plan.

The project would restore approximately 29.05 acres of wetlands with an additional 17.2 acres of restored upland buffer. The proposed wetland types would consist of 29.05 acres of fresh (wet) meadow (Type 2).

**Coordination with Resource Agencies:** This project has been coordinated with the following members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and other resource agencies: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nicollet County Soil and Water Conservation District, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

### 3. REPLIES/COMMENTS

Interested parties are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections within 30 days of the date of this notice. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. Comments received may be forwarded to the applicant. A copy of the full prospectus submitted by the Sponsor is available to the public for review upon request.

Replies may be addressed to Regulatory Branch, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700, Saint Paul, MN 55101-1678.

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call or email Paul Hauser at the St. Paul office of the Corps, at (651) 290-5357 or at Paul.R.Hauser@usace.army.mil.

To receive Public Notices by e-mail, go to: [http://mvp-extstp/list\\_server/](http://mvp-extstp/list_server/) and add your information in the New Registration Box.

#### 4. FEDERALLY-LISTED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE OR PLANTS OR THEIR CRITICAL HABITAT.

None were identified by the bank sponsor or are known to exist in the action area. However, Nicollet County is within the known historic range for the following Federally-listed species:

Northern Long-Eared Bat	Hibernates in caves and mines – swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during spring and summer.
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This notice is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

#### 5. JURISDICTION

The aquatic resources, if any, within the boundaries of the proposed mitigation bank are being reviewed in accordance with current practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources within the boundaries of the proposed mitigation bank are subject to Corps of Engineers jurisdiction under Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. If an approved jurisdictional determination is completed for this mitigation bank, a copy will be posted on the St. Paul District web page at the following link: <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

#### 6. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL

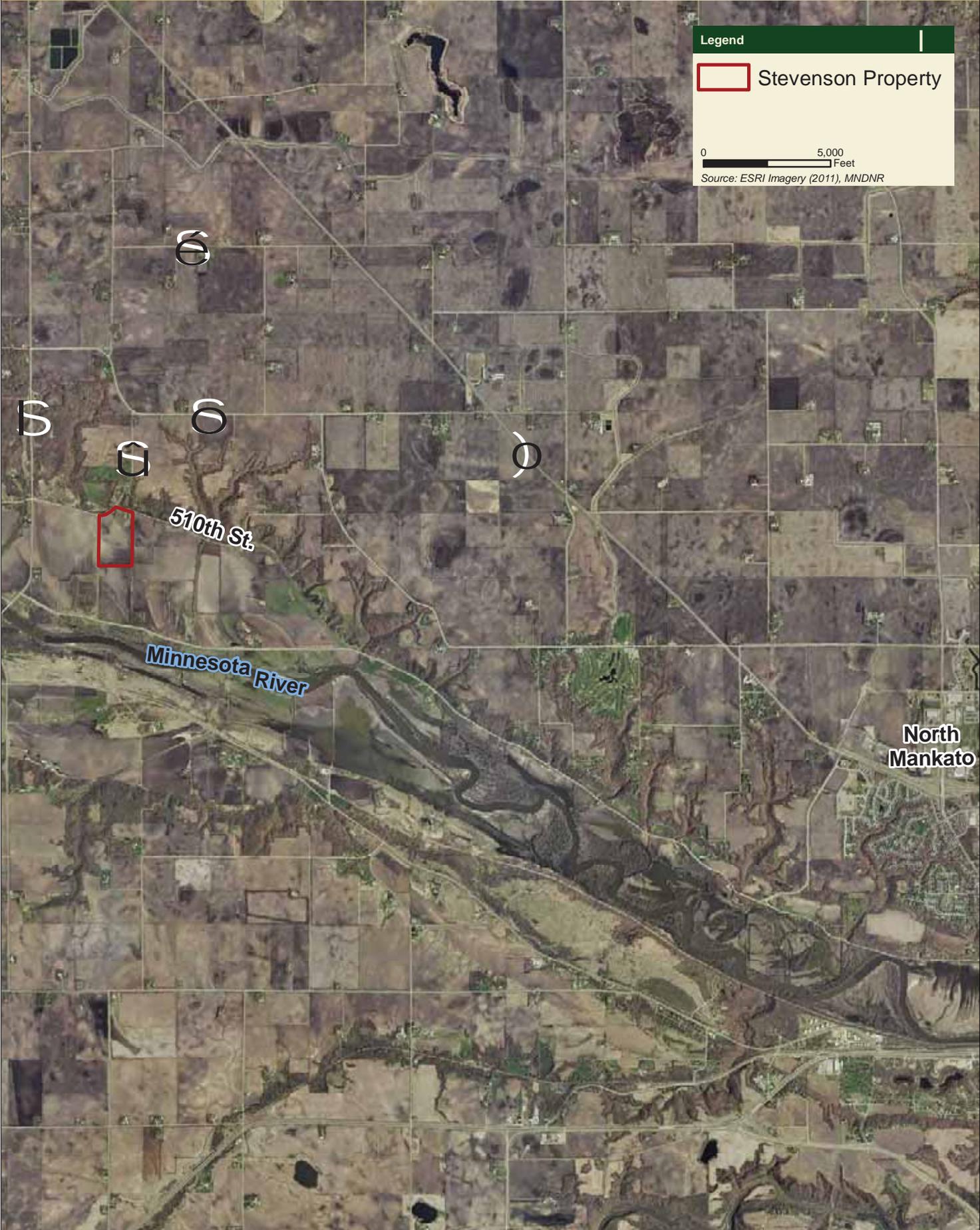
The Corps will review information on known cultural resources and/or historic properties within and adjacent to the project area. The Corps will also consider the potential effects of the project on any properties that have yet to be identified. The results of this review and the Corps' determination of effect will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer independent of this public notice. Any adverse effects on historic properties will be resolved prior to the Corps authorization, or approval, of the work in connection with this project.

## 7. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS

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, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

Ryan Malterud,  
Senior Project Manager

Enclosures



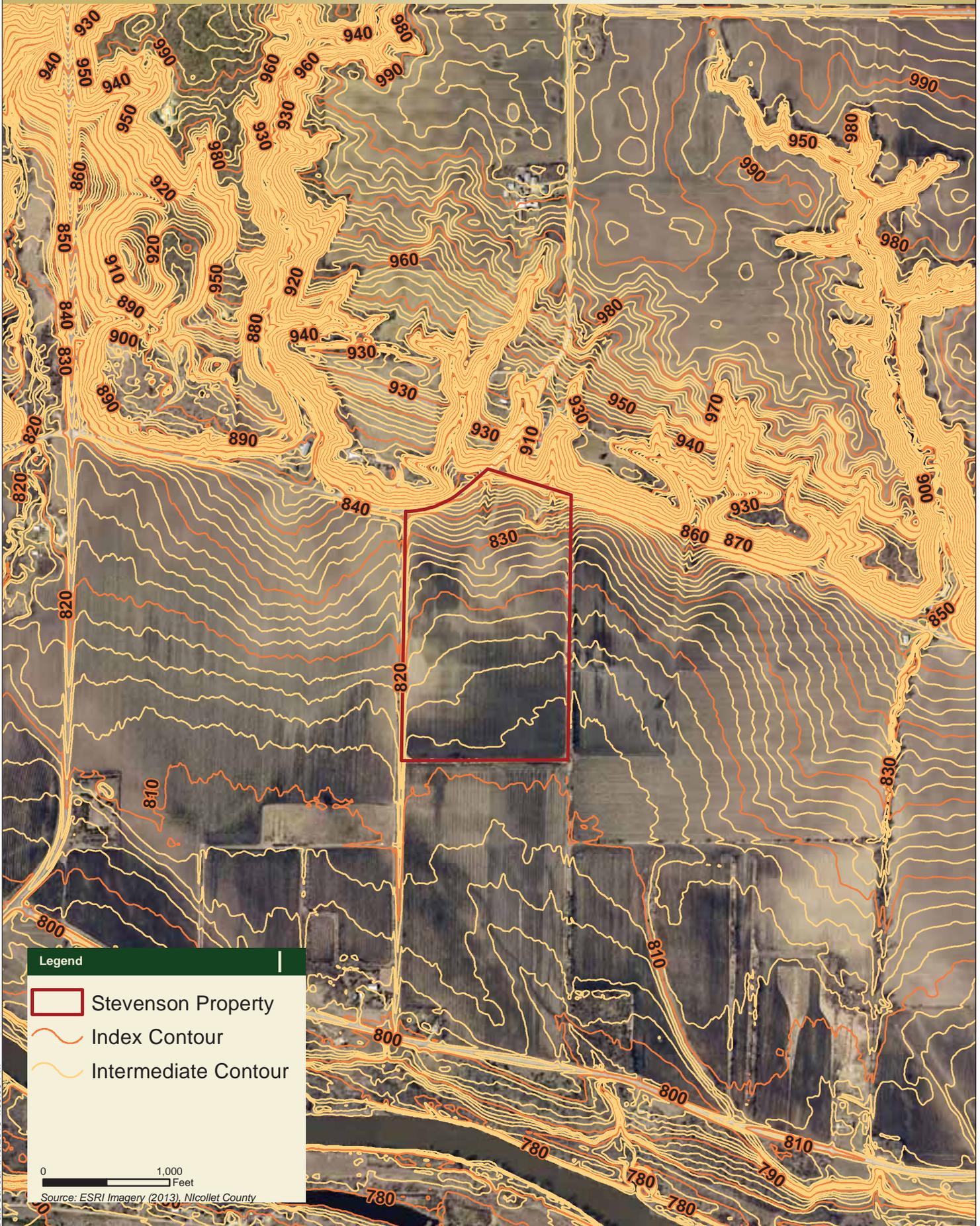


Legend

- |  |                             |  |                           |  |                              |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|
|  | Stevenson Property          |  | Developed, High Intensity |  | Herbaceous                   |
|  | Unclassified                |  | Barren Land               |  | Hay/Pasture                  |
|  | Open Water                  |  | Deciduous Forest          |  | Cultivated Crops             |
|  | Developed, Open Space       |  | Evergreen Forest          |  | Woody Wetlands               |
|  | Developed, Low Intensity    |  | Mixed Forest              |  | Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands |
|  | Developed, Medium Intensity |  | Shrub/Scrub               |  |                              |

0 2,000 Feet

Source: ESRI Imagery (2013), MNDNR



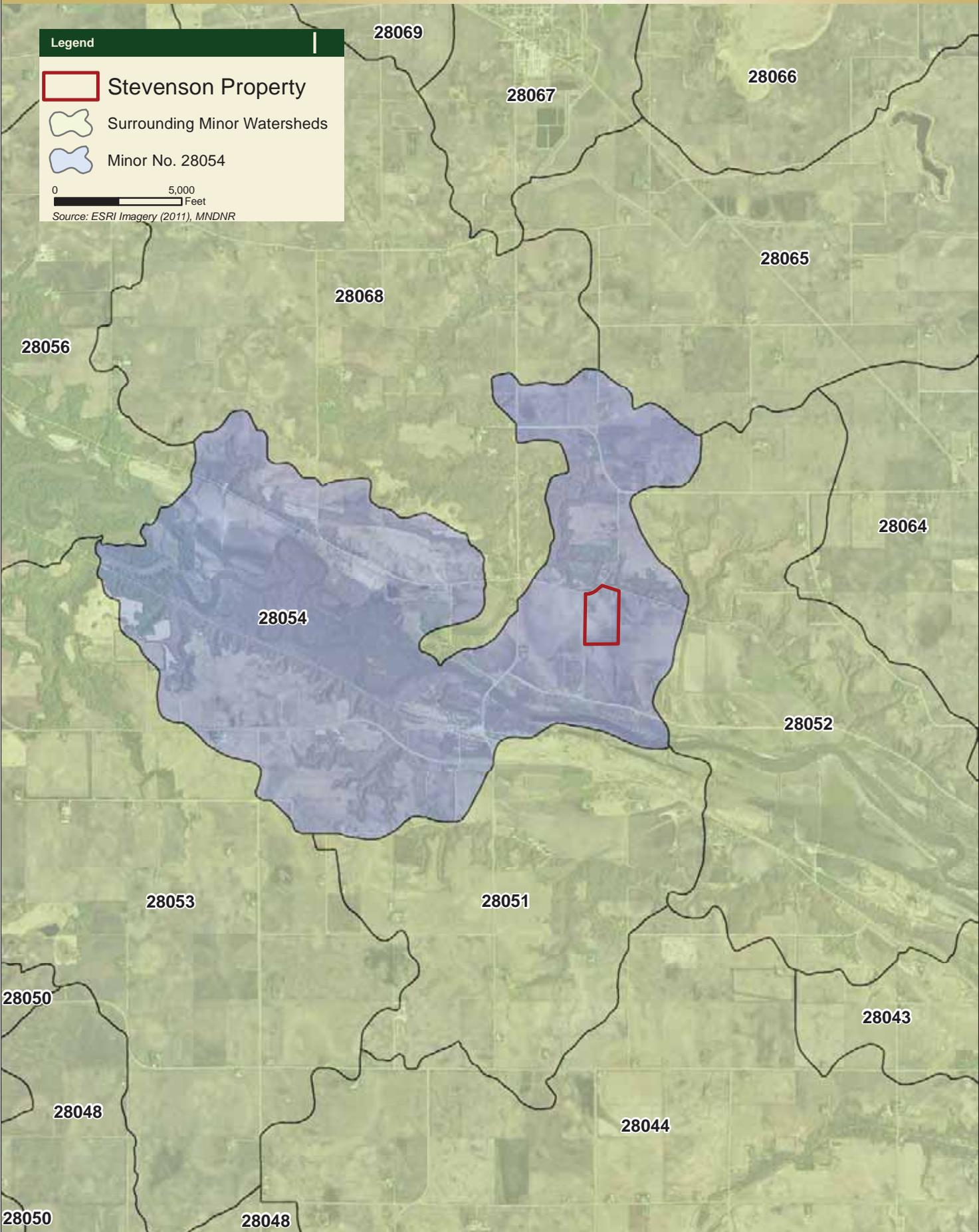


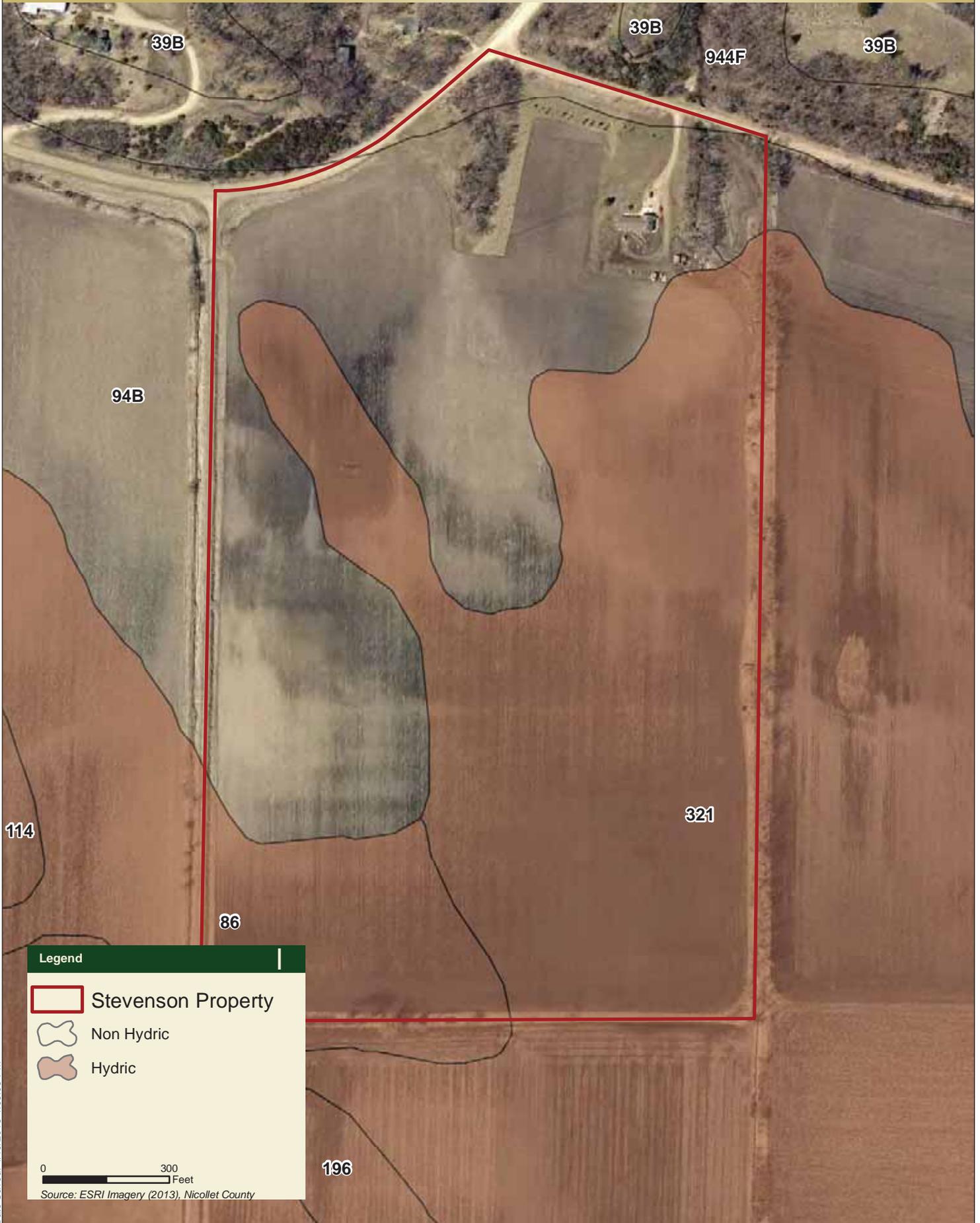
**Legend**

-  Stevenson Property
-  Surrounding Minor Watersheds
-  Minor No. 28054

0 5,000 Feet

Source: ESRI Imagery (2011), MNDNR







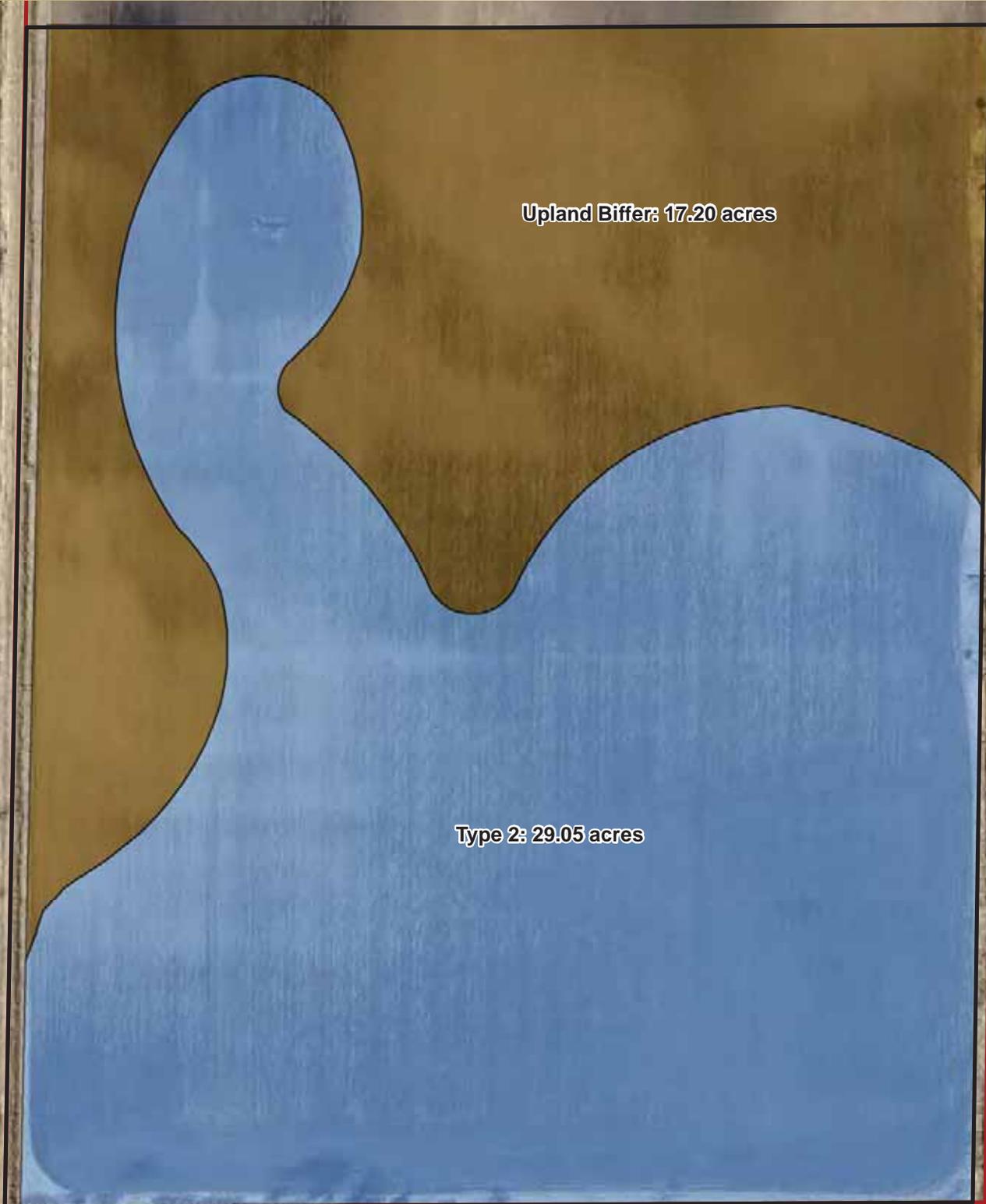
Legend

-  Stevenson Property
-  Delineated Wetland

0 300 Feet

Source: ESRI Imagery (2013)

W1 - Type 2  
Fresh (wet) Meadow  
0.14 acres



**Legend**

	Proposed Easement		Partially Drained Wetland @ 100% = 29.05 credits
	Stevenson Property		Upland Buffer @ 25% = 4.30 credits

0 200 Feet  
Source: ESRI Imagery (2013)