



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge *Cooperative Agriculture Program*

Attention Farmers and Growers

Refuge Seeks Agricultural Producers for Cooperative Agriculture Program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking one or two agricultural producers for a Cooperative Agriculture Program at Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge in Vian, Oklahoma. The producer(s) will have use of up to 2330 acres of non-irrigated land on the refuge for a period of up to three years (2021-2023), with an annual work plan review.

Background

Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) was established in 1970 with the authorizing purpose being "... the conservation, maintenance, and management of wildlife resources, thereof, and its habitat thereon." The refuge's Croplands Management Plan (1974) identifies the resource management objectives that cooperative agriculture will assist the refuge in meeting as some of the refuge's resource management objectives. These objectives include, but are not limited to: "crops in wet areas or floodable areas to benefit non-field feeding duck species; habitat variety and edge patterns for upland game, water, prey and song bird species; key areas for wildlife observation; key areas to protect certain species of geese or to hold birds near a hunting unit to provide quality recreation; prevention of crop depredation; and crop variety and distribution for the presence of maximum species [wildlife diversity], preservation of environment, and hunting objectives." The Service has determined that cooperative agriculture is an appropriate, compatible and necessary use of the refuge to meet these objectives.

The Proposed Cooperative Agriculture Agreement

The selected producers will operate under a Cooperative Agriculture Agreement as a "cooperator" with the Service. Under this Agreement, the Service is proposing that the cooperator(s) will be responsible for producing corn, grain sorghum, winter wheat, and other crops as specified by refuge needs on approximately 580 acres in exchange for the exclusive rights to produce and harvest crops within the refuge on the remaining 1750 acres in an approved crop. Examples include, but are not limited to corn and soybeans. The Service is open to counter-proposals. Any counter-proposal must be clearly listed in the application. The refuge's share of crops shall be left un-harvested and equal 25% of the total farm acreage. Twenty percent of the refuge's share must be left in approved standing "high-energy" grains (e.g. grain sorghum, corn), and five percent left in green winter browse (e.g. winter wheat, triticale).

The farmland available at the refuge is considered dryland and irrigation is not available. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service policy prohibits the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and neonicotinoid insecticides on refuge lands. All pesticides must be pre-approved under a Pesticide Use Permit (PUP) for the refuge. Spring tillage may begin on February 15th for corn, and March 15th for milo and soybeans, any exceptions must first be approved by the refuge manager. Post-harvest corn stubble may not be tilled until the following growing season (with the exception of areas where browse is following corn). The refuge's share of wheat should be planted by October 1st. The cooperator will keep the refuge clean and will remove all equipment, materials and trash upon completion of their use.

The producer(s) will be selected through an open, transparent and competitive process where applications will be scored and ranked by the following objective criteria:

- Experience in cultivating the crops listed above, especially personal experience on NWRS lands or comparable land, including intimate knowledge of soil composition, chemistry, moisture, and fertility, water needs, pest problems, and erosion problems.
- Demonstrated ability to successfully cultivate crops under the crop and chemical restrictions listed above (e.g. non-GMO crops, non-neonicotinoid pesticides, restricted timing of harvest).
- Ownership or access to the proper equipment, materials, labor, or other resources to participate in the cooperative agriculture agreement.
- In-kind services to assist the refuge in carrying out a successful cooperative agriculture program (e.g. intercropping millet into moist-soil units, maintaining vegetative buffers surrounding farm fields, mowing vegetation adjacent to roads and other infrastructure used by the cooperator)
- Other objective criteria necessary to ensure the cooperative agriculture meets the resource management objectives of the NWRS lands.

Applications

Applicants must fill out applicable portions of [FWS Form 3-1383-C](#) and must address in their application how applicant will meet these objective criteria. The application form, maps of the proposed cooperative agriculture area, supplemental application instructions, and examples of a finalized Cooperative Agriculture Agreement can be viewed on line at: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sequoyah/> or by hard copy at the refuge. Applications can be submitted via email (darrin_unruh@fws.gov), mail (107993 S. 4520 Road, Vian, OK 74962), or in person at the Refuge Headquarters (107993 S. 4520 Road, Vian, OK 74962).

Site Visits

Site visits to the refuge's agricultural areas are also available upon request.

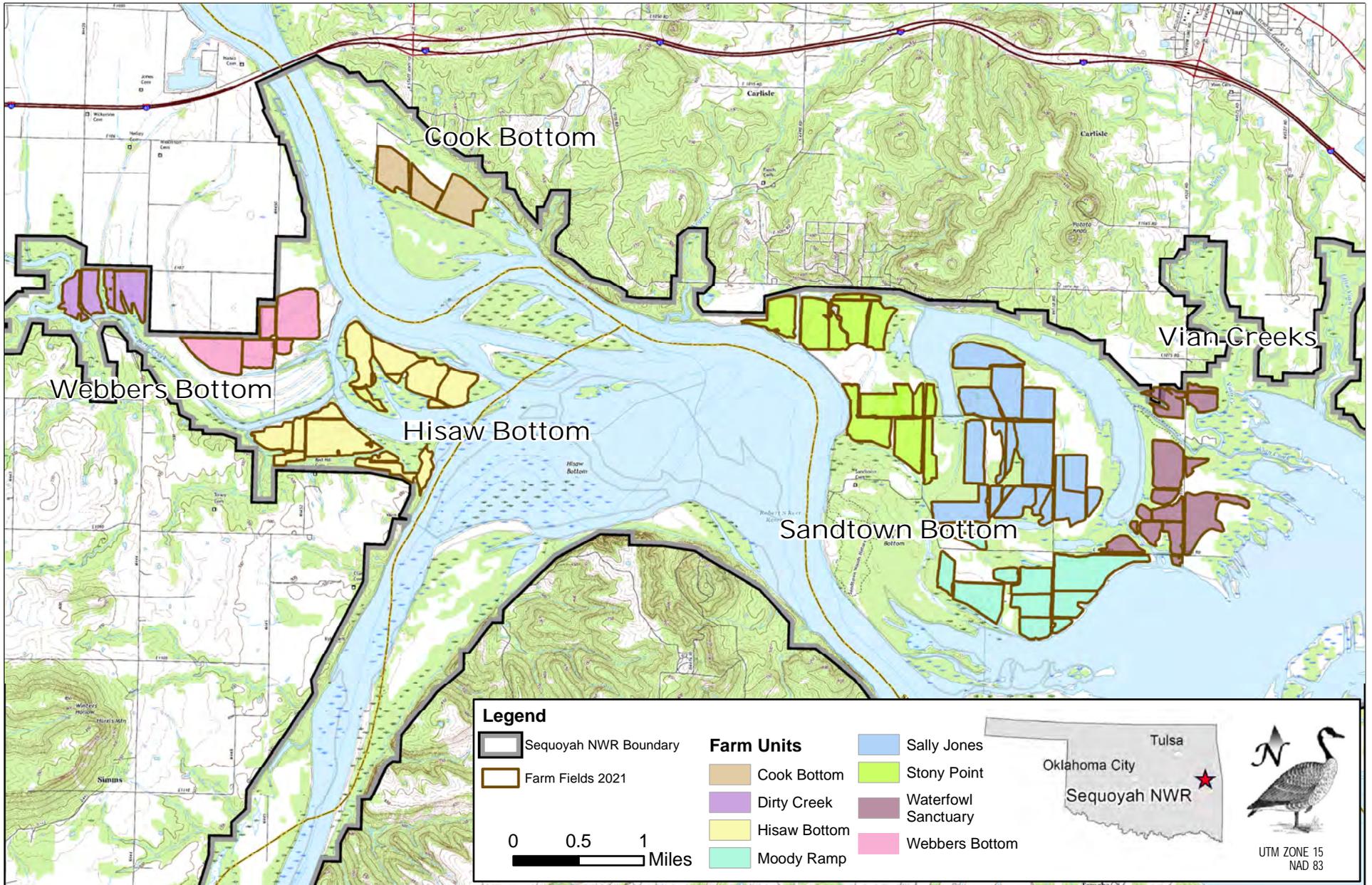
For more information about these meetings, requests for site visits, or for additional information on the Cooperative Agriculture Agreement, please call Darrin Unruh, refuge manager, at (918) 773-5251.

**Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge
2021 Cooperative Agriculture Availability Tables**

Management Unit	Farm Unit	Field Name	Acreage
Cook Bottom			132.0
	Cook Bottom		132.0
		FC03	44.8
		FC04	30.1
		FC05	57.1
Hisaw Bottom			377.9
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		FM09	46.7
		FM10	39.8
		FM11	0.9
		FM12	3.3
		FM13	44.1
		FM14	38.6
		FM15	9.6
		FM16	41.8
		FM17	15.6
		FM18	12.4
		FM19	78.8
		FM20	6.8
		FM21	18.9
		FM22	16.3
		FM23	4.3
Webbers Bottom			309.4
	Dirty Creek		113.8
		FM01	26.1
		FM02	28.6
		FM03	12.6
		FM04	46.5
	Webbers Bottom		195.6
		FM05	33.7
		FM06	18.4
		FM07	73.0
		FM08	8.9
		FM24	61.6
Vian Creeks			53.3
	Waterfowl Sanctuary		53.3
		FS01	5.4
		FS02	18.9
		FS03	29.0

Hisaw and Webbers Bottom Units are both located in Muskogee County. All other Units are located in Sequoyah County. Please see following maps for additional location information.

Management Unit	Farm Unit	Field Name	Acreage
Sandtown Bottom			1456.3
	Moody Ramp		298.4
		FS16	67.0
		FS47	15.9
		FS48	20.3
		FS49	12.5
		FS50	52.0
		FS52	34.6
		FS53	31.3
		FS54	23.9
		FS55	7.6
		FS56	33.2
	Sally Jones		546.3
		FS13	11.4
		FS17	46.0
		FS18	31.5
		FS19	12.1
		FS20	11.2
		FS21	32.2
		FS22	3.5
		FS23	10.9
		FS24	81.8
		FS25	38.2
		FS26	52.9
		FS27	39.2
		FS28	16.3
		FS29	14.1
		FS30	46.2
		FS34	49.4
		FS46	49.4
	Stony Point		394.9
		FS31	11.0
		FS32	23.7
		FS33	10.9
		FS35	50.7
		FS36	51.4
		FS38	33.5
		FS39	42.1
		FS40	3.3
		FS41	5.5
		FS42	20.7
		FS44	51.9
		FS45	41.8
		FS51	48.6
	Waterfowl Sanctuary		216.7
		FS04	7.6
		FS05	51.7
		FS06	11.6
		FS07	18.9
		FS08	64.9
		FS09	17.9
		FS10	14.3
		FS11	7.0
		FS12	2.2
		FS14	3.4
		FS15	17.3



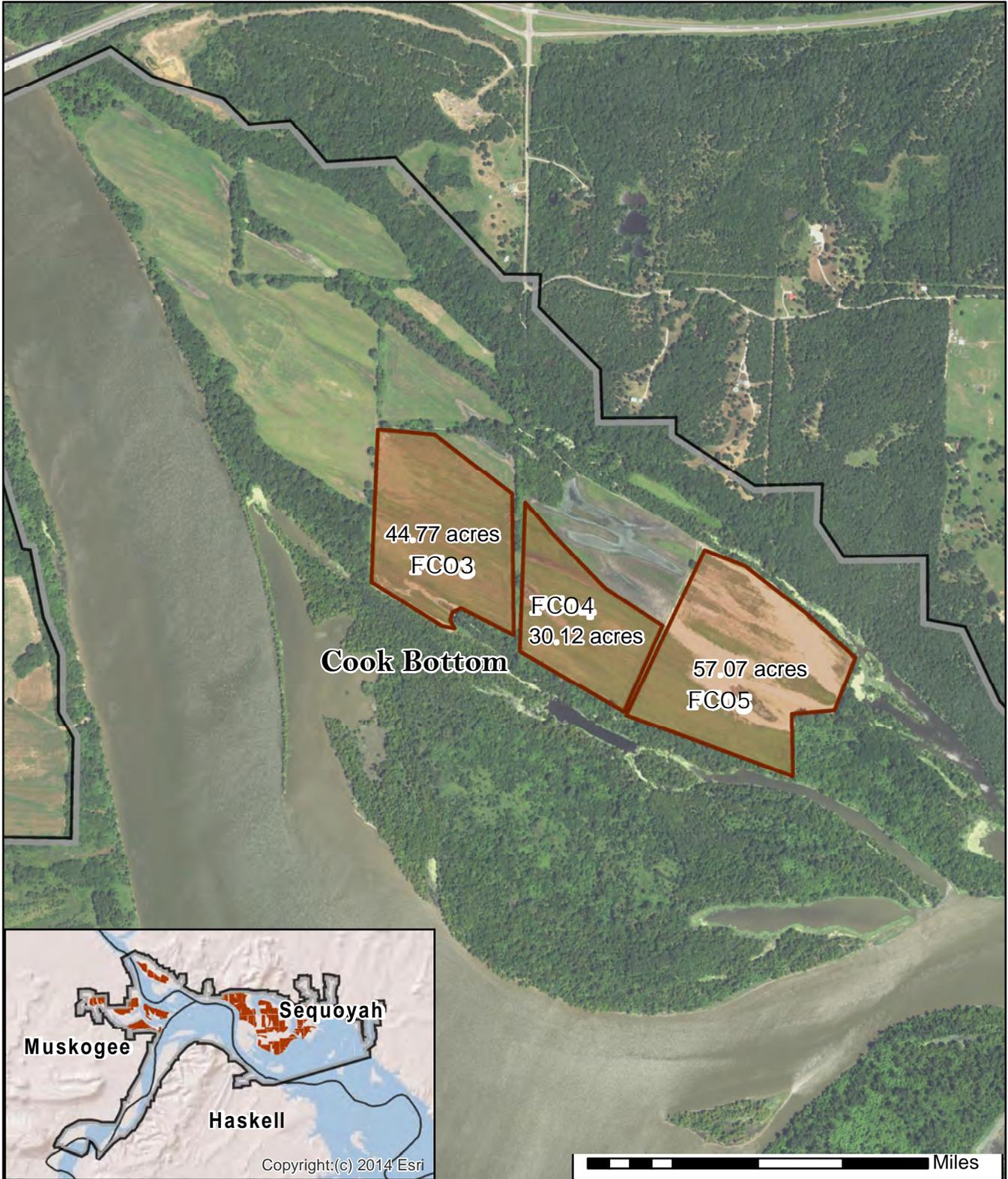


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Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge

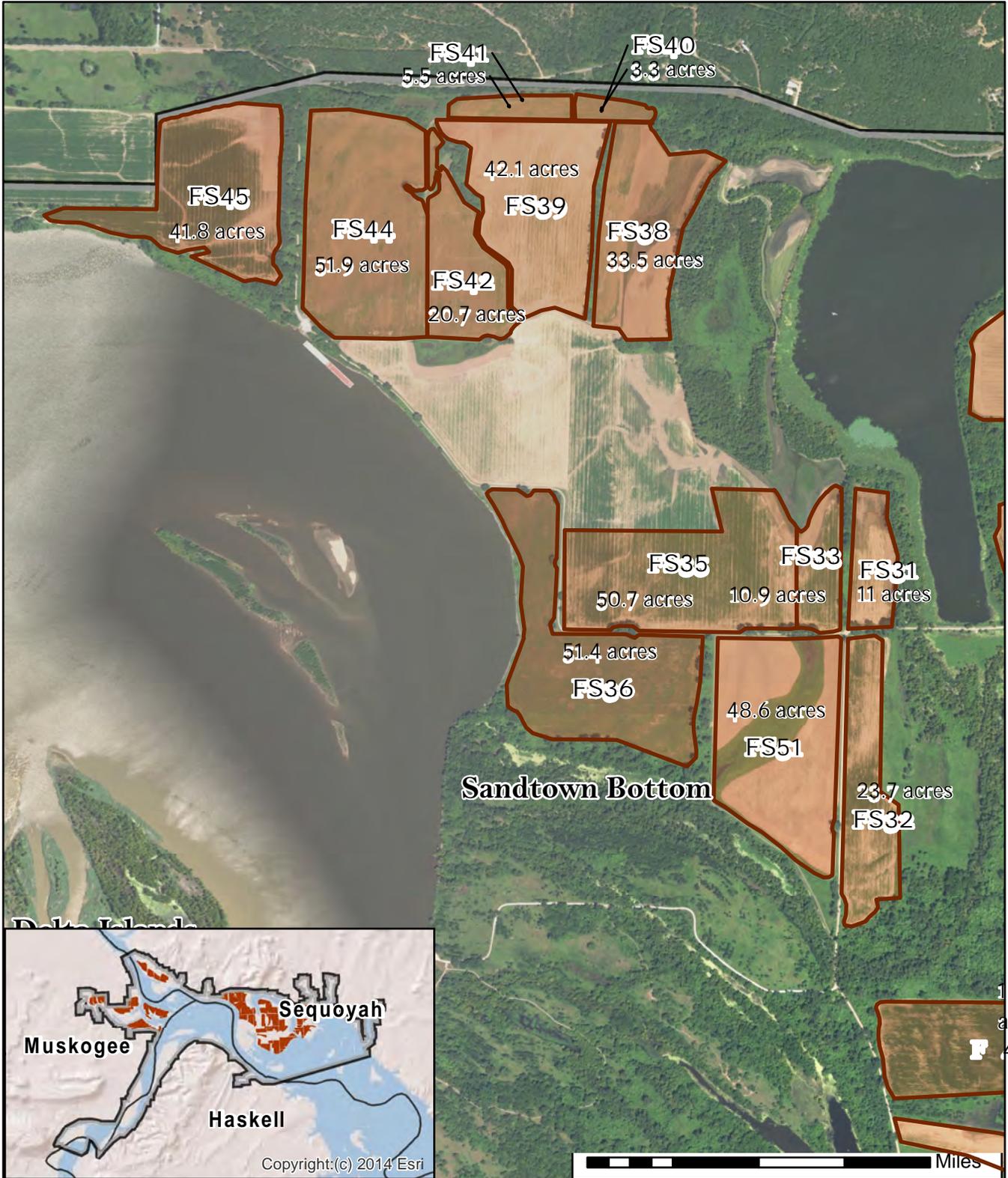
Sequoyah County, Oklahoma

2021 Notice of
Cooperative Agricultural Opportunities
Cook Bottom



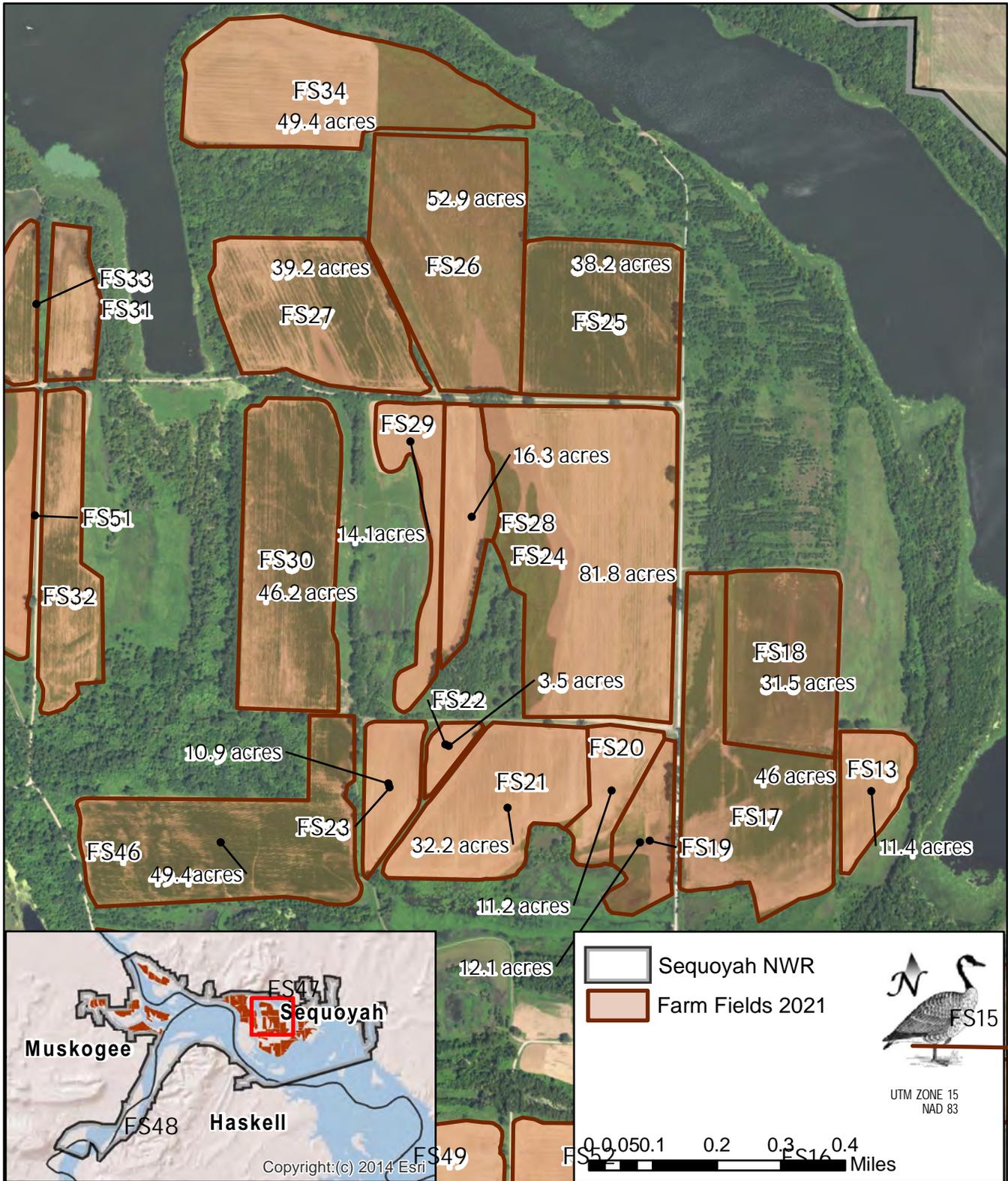
MAP 1 of 8

FS - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Sandtown Bottoms
 FC - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Cook Bottom
 FM - Farm Field in Muskogee County/Webbers and Hisaw Bottoms



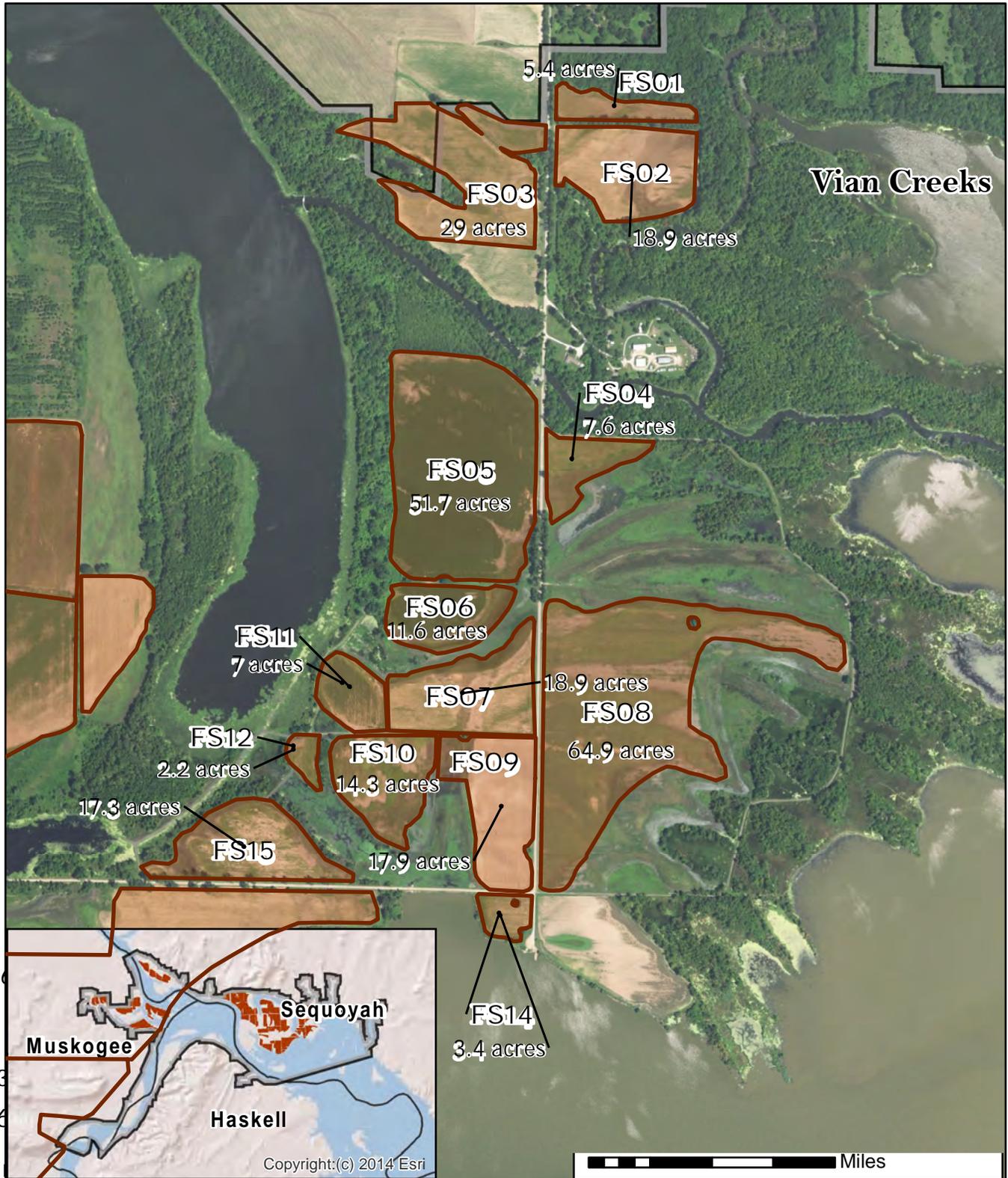
MAP 2 of 8

FS - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Sandtown Bottoms
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MAP 3 of 8

FS - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Sandtown Bottoms
 FC - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Cook Bottom
 FM - Farm Field in Muskogee County/Webbers and Hisaw Bottoms



MAP 4 of 8

FS - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Sandtown Bottoms
 FC - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Cook Bottom
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

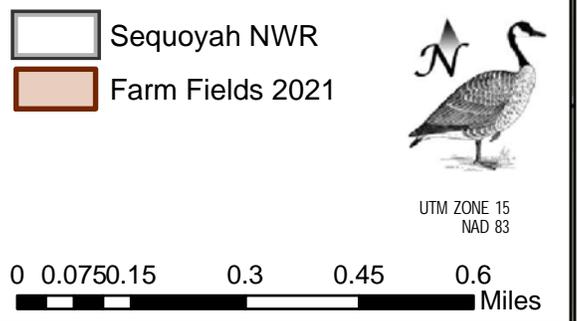
Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge

Sequoyah County, Oklahoma

2021 Notice of
Cooperative Agricultural Opportunities
Sandtown - Moody Ramp



Kerr Islands



MAP 5 of 8

FS - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Sandtown Bottoms
 FC - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Cook Bottom
 FM - Farm Field in Muskogee County/Webbers and Hisaw Bottoms

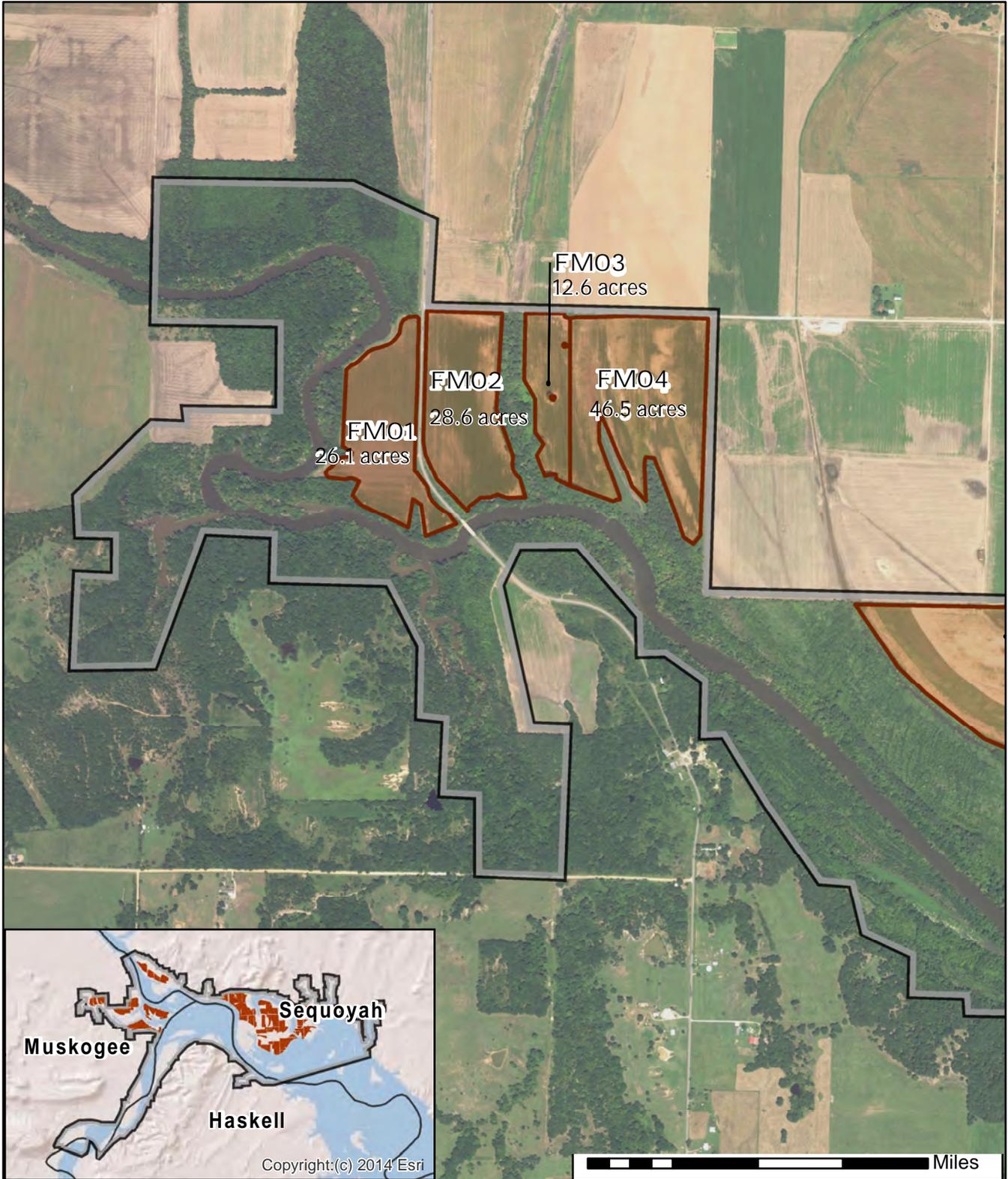


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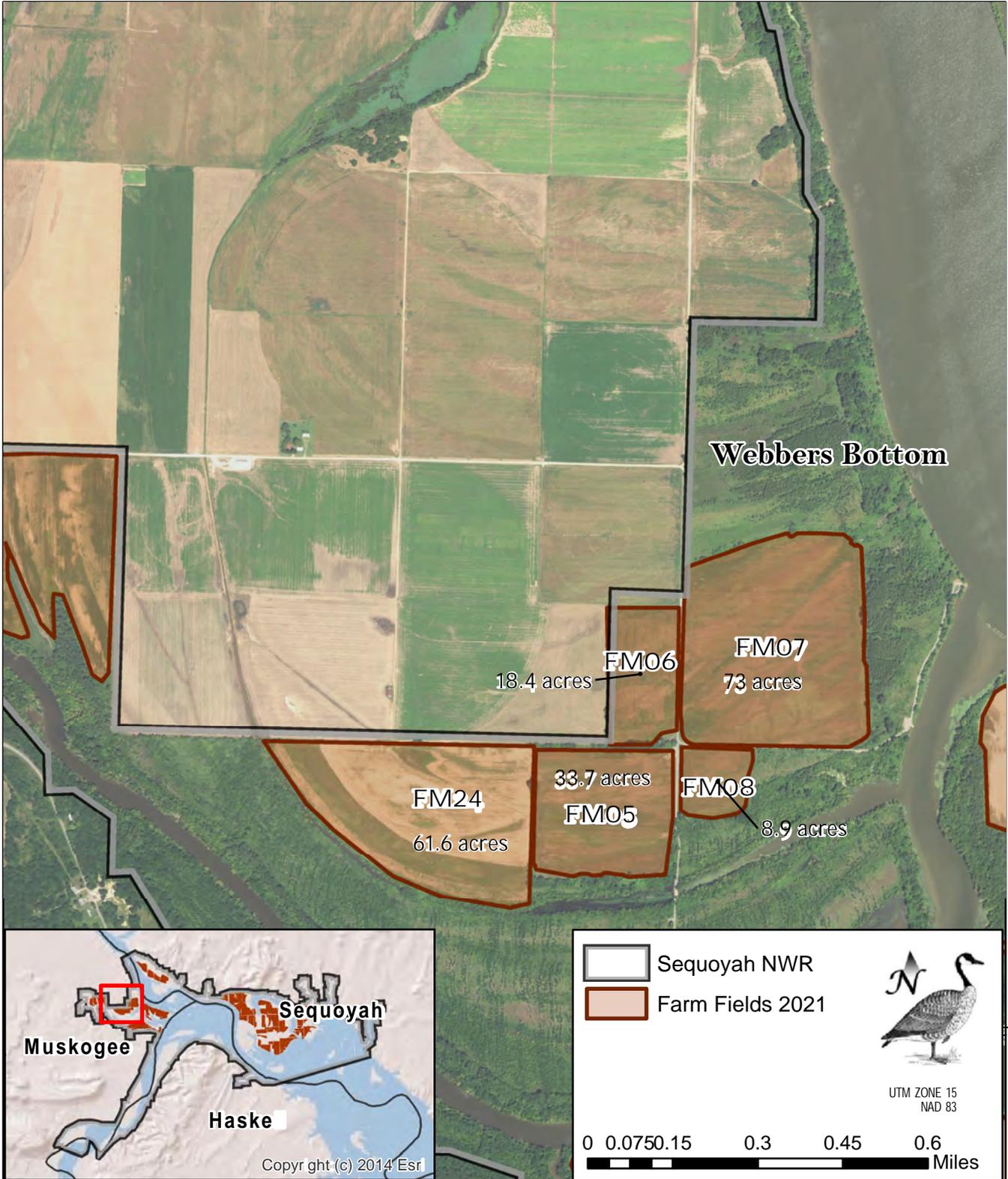
Muskogee County, Oklahoma

2021 Notice of
Cooperative Agricultural Opportunities
Webbers Bottom - Dirty Creek



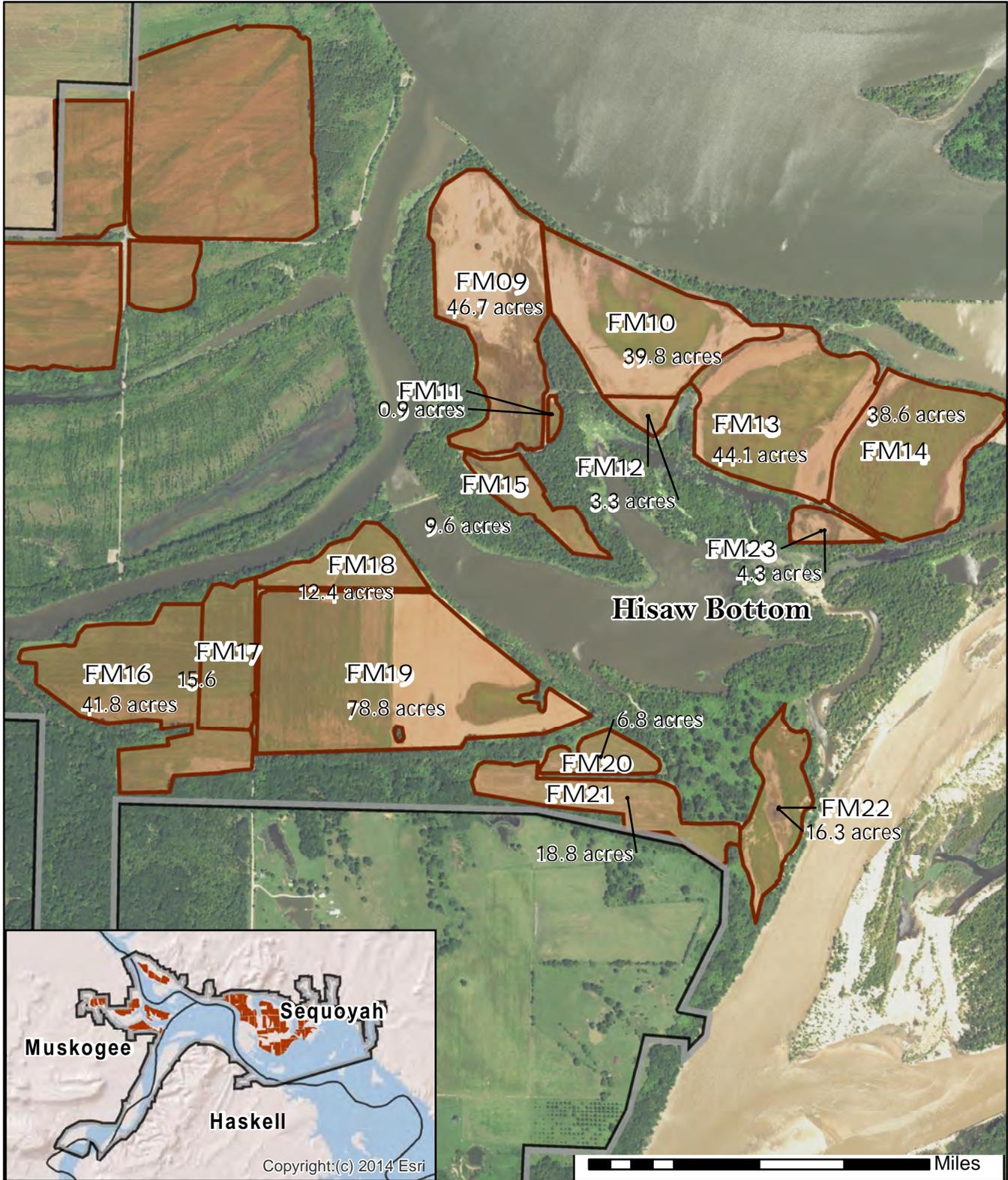
MAP 6 of 8

FS - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Sandtown Bottoms
 FC - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Cook Bottom
 FM - Farm Field in Muskogee County/Webbers and Hisaw Bottoms



MAP 7 of 8

FS - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Sandtown Bottoms
 FC - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Cook Bottom
 FM - Farm Field in Muskogee County/Webbers and Hisaw Bottoms



MAP 8 of 8

FS - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Sandtown Bottoms
 FC - Farm Field in Sequoyah County/Cook Bottom
 FM - Farm Field in Muskogee County/Webbers and Hisaw Bottoms