



**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Josh D. Peters, County Administrator

FROM: Michael Dawson, Water Quality Manager, Environmental Public Health
Tami Pokorny, Natural Resources Program Coordinator

DATE: *October 27, 2025*

SUBJECT: Workshop: Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group's Planning and Design Project to Restore the Little Quilcene River Estuary

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Jefferson County Public Health, Environmental Public Health Division, requests time for Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) to present a workshop on its planning and design project to restore the Little Quilcene River estuary.

ANALYSIS:

Gus Johnson, Habitat Program Director for HCSEG, will present information and answer questions about that group's efforts to restore the Little Quilcene River estuary, to potentially include additional activities on County-owned parcels APNs 701183002 and 702133010. HCSEG is currently funded for this planning and design work by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) grants.

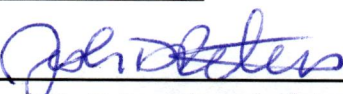
FISCAL IMPACT:

The costs for holding this workshop are negligible.

RECOMMENDATION:

JCPH Management recommends for that the BoCC allow time for Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group to present a workshop on its planning and design project to restore the Little Quilcene River estuary.

REVIEWED BY:



Josh D. Peters, County Administrator

10/22/25

Date



**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA REQUEST**

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Josh D. Peters, County Administrator

FROM: Michael Dawson, Water Quality Manager, Environmental Public Health
Tami Pokorny, Natural Resources Program Coordinator

DATE: October 27, 2025.

SUBJECT: Workshop: Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group's Planning and Design Project to Restore the Little Quilcene River Estuary

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH), Environmental Public Health Division, requests time for Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group to present a workshop on its planning and design project to restore the Little Quilcene River estuary.

ANALYSIS:

Gus Johnson, habitat program director for Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG), will present information and answer questions about that group's efforts to restore the Little Quilcene River estuary, to potentially include additional activities on County-owned parcels APNs 701183002 and 702133010. HCSEG is currently funded for this planning and design work by RCO SRFB and WDFW ESRP grants.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The costs for holding this workshop are negligible.

RECOMMENDATION:

JCPH Management recommends for that the BoCC allow time for Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group to present a workshop on its planning and design project to restore the Little Quilcene River estuary.

REVIEWED BY:

Josh D. Peters, County Administrator

10/22/25

Date

Little Quilcene River Estuary Restoration

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

October 27th 2025

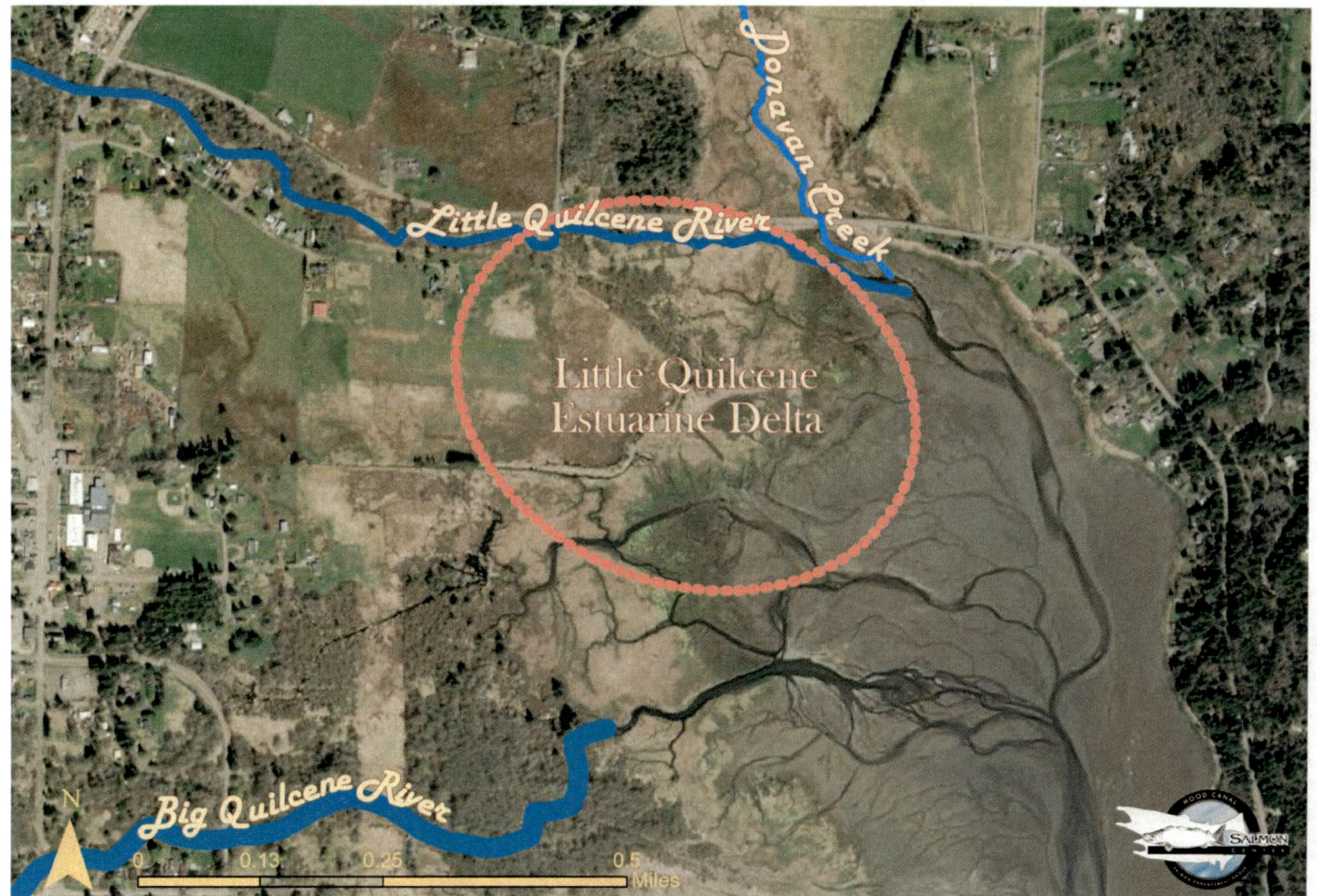
Presentation to Jefferson County BoCC

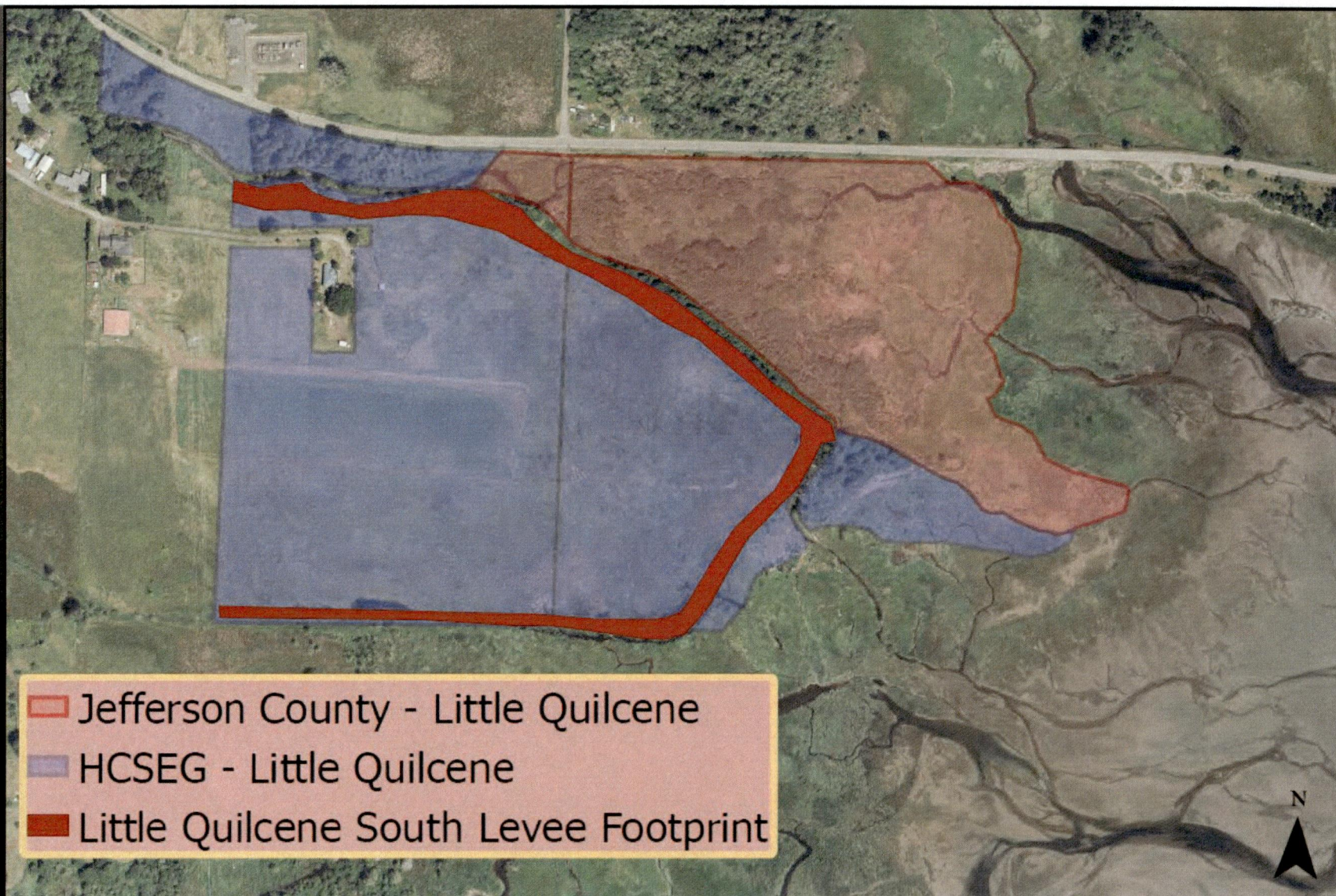


Site Description

- Project reach located between river mile 0-0.7 of the Little Quilcene River
- Historic 83 acre Estuary
- Confined by levees to create pastureland
- Important habitat for ESA listed Hood Canal Summer Chum and Puget Sound Steelhead and Chinook

Little Quilcene Estuarine Delta Location

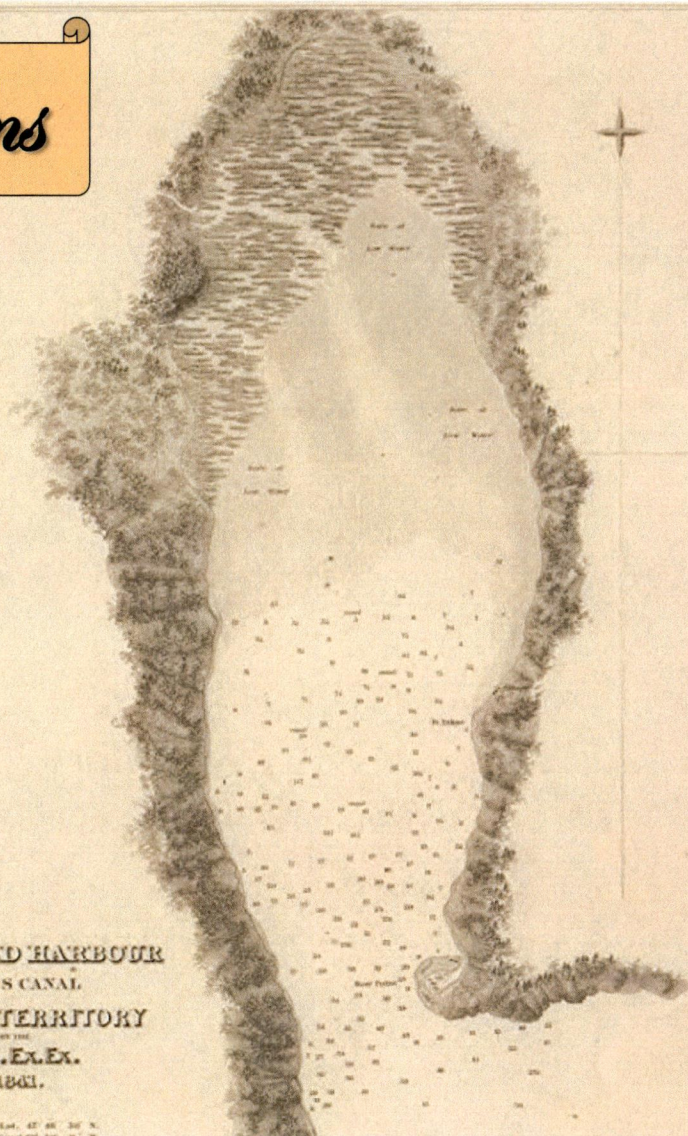


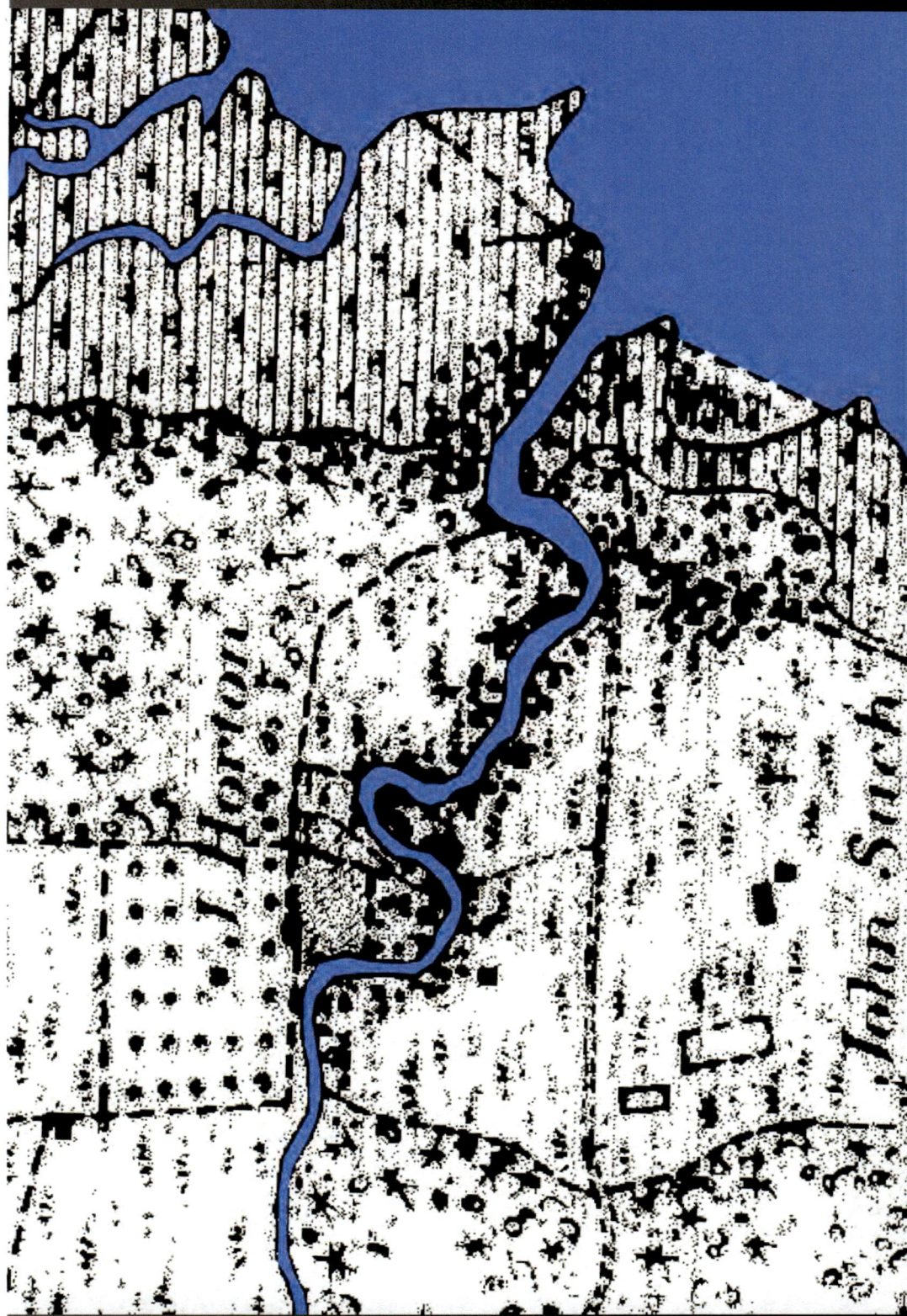


Historic Conditions

COLSETTED HARBOUR
HOODS CANAL
OREGON TERRITORY
BY THE
U.S. EX. EX.
1861.

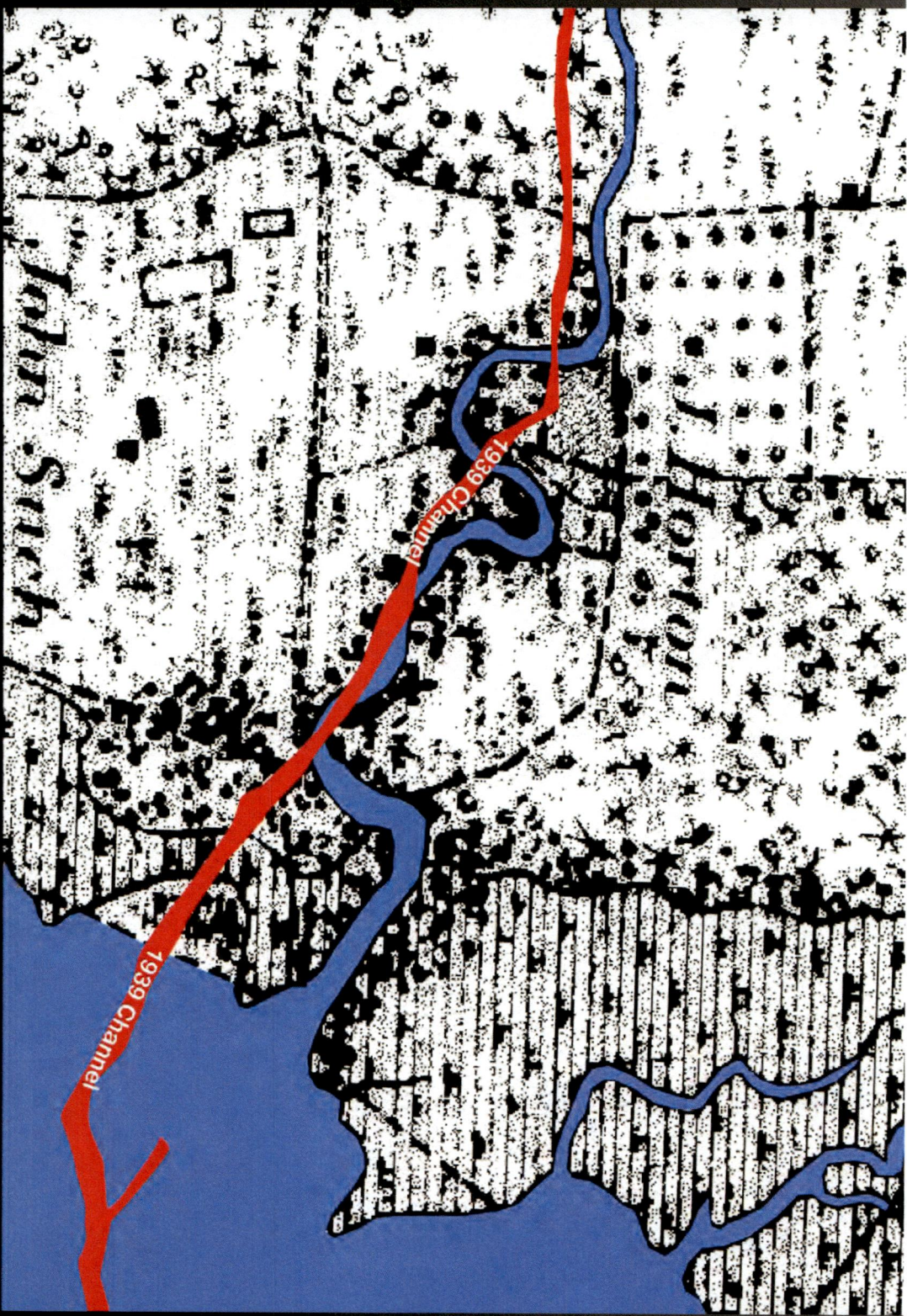
Lat. 47° 45' 30" N.





Little Quilcene River

1883 T-Sheet



Little Quileene River

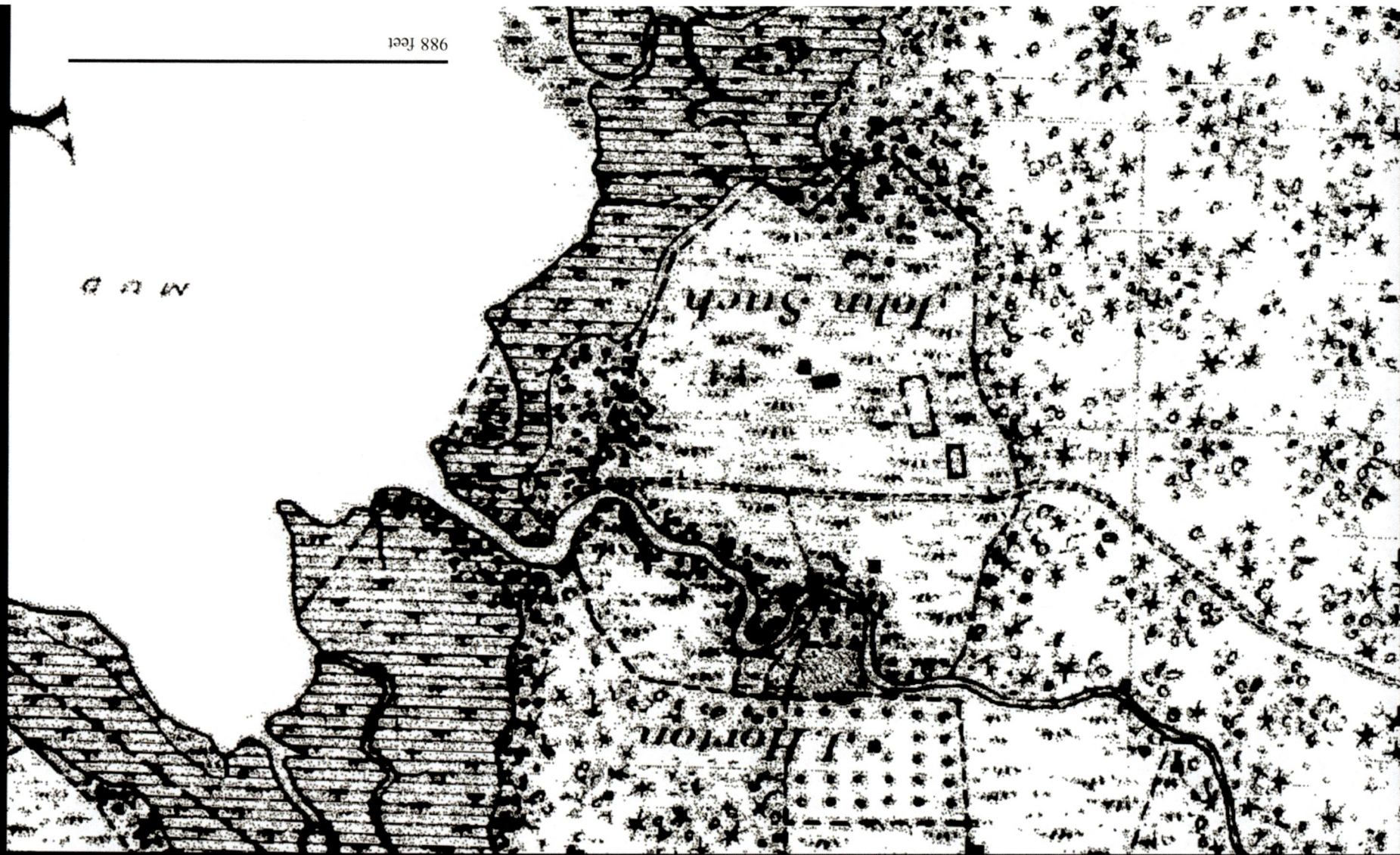
1883 T-Sheet with 1939 Channel



Little Quilcene River

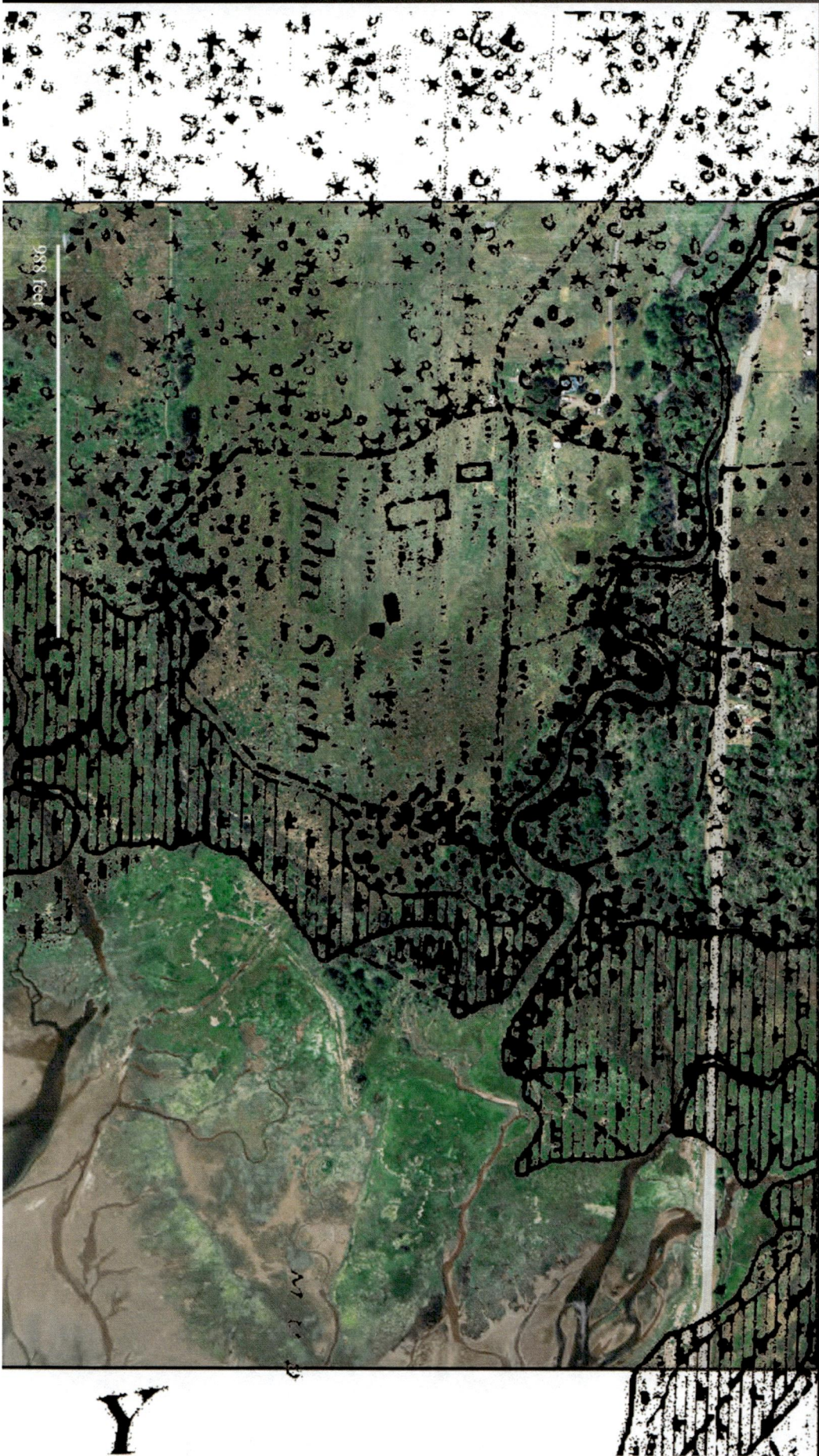
2017 with 1939 Channel

M. D. B.

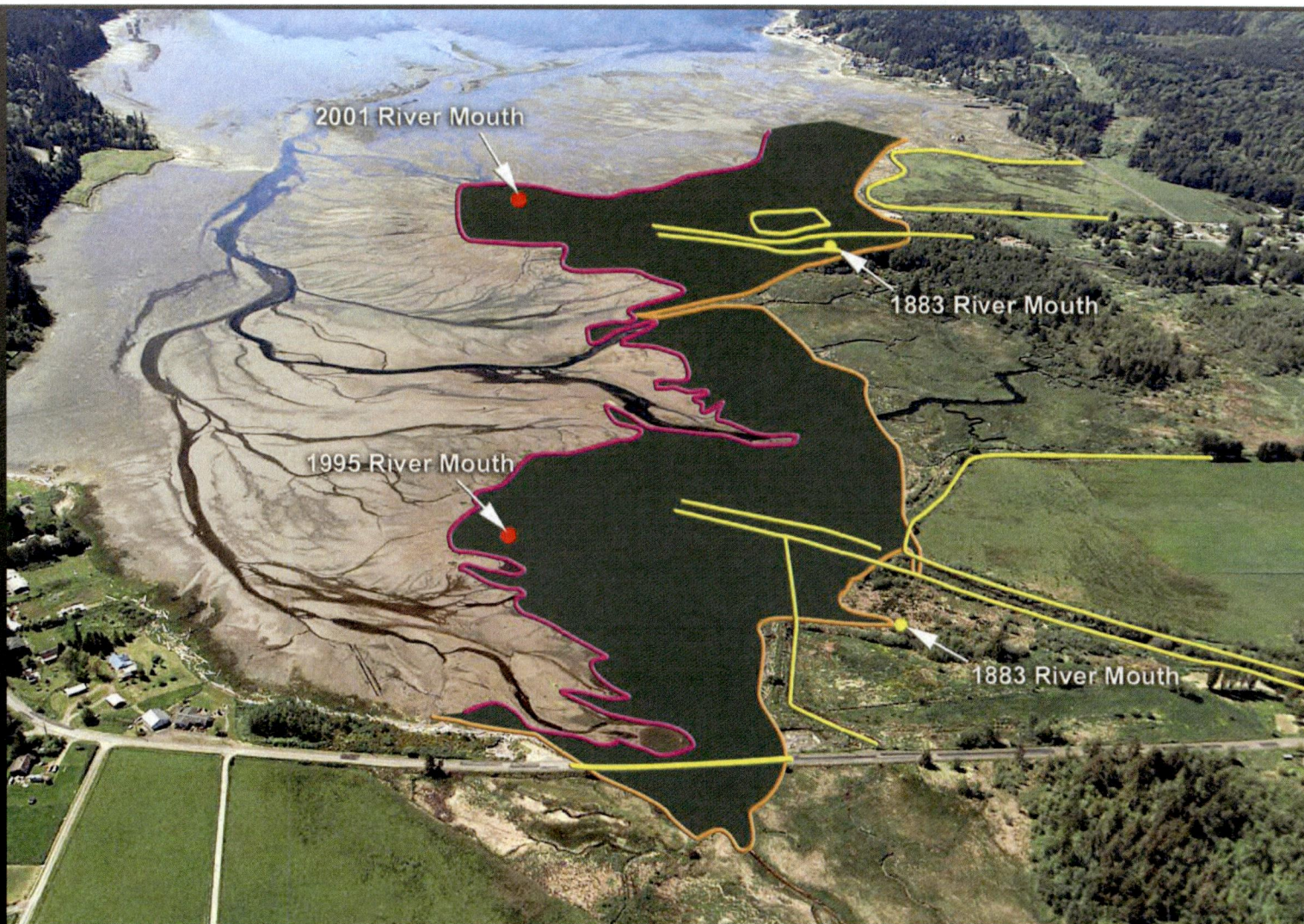


Little Quilcene River

1883 T-sheet, 2022 photo



Y



Quilcene Bay Estuary
1883 & Modern Features

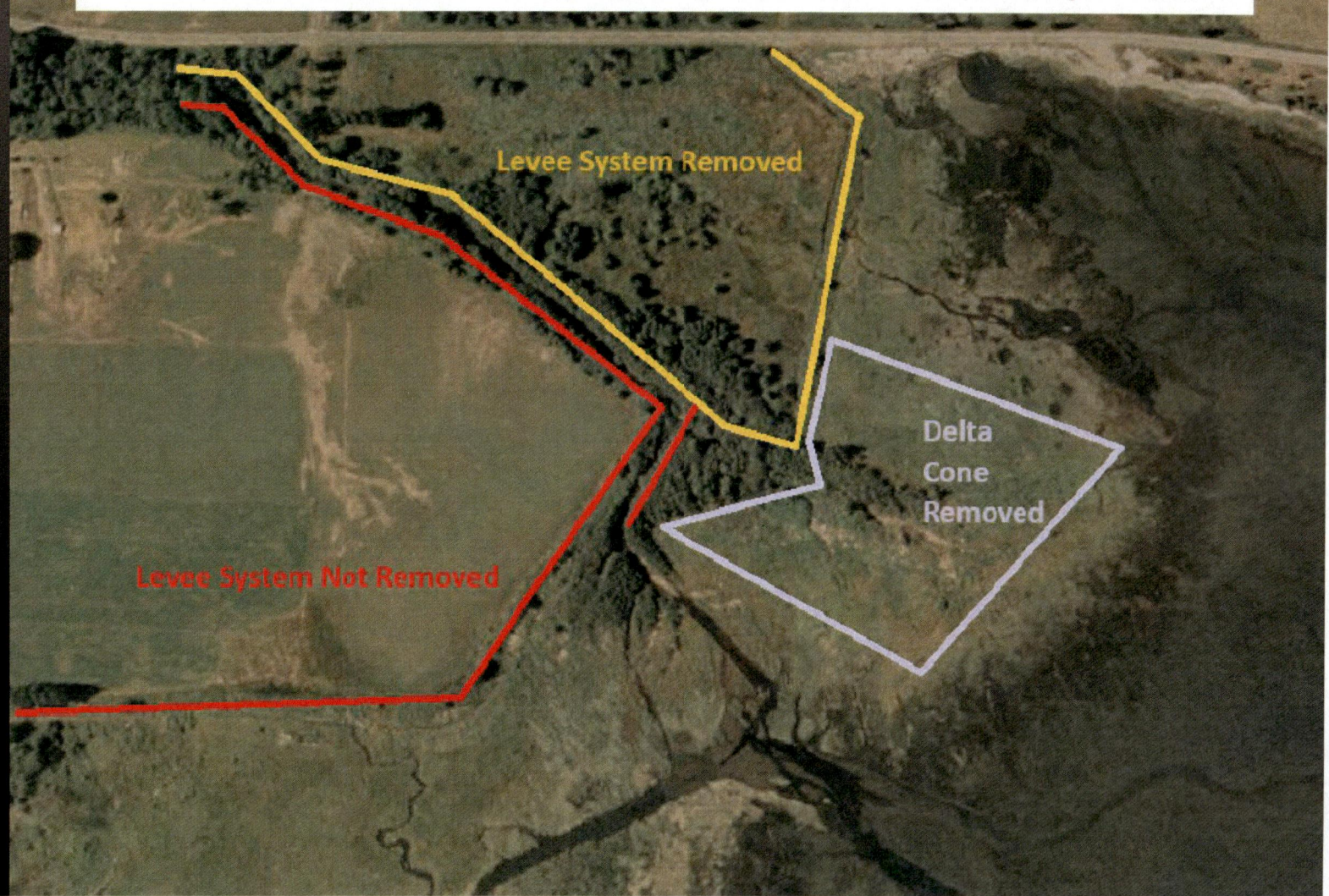
1883 Mudflat Edge

2001 Mudflat Edge

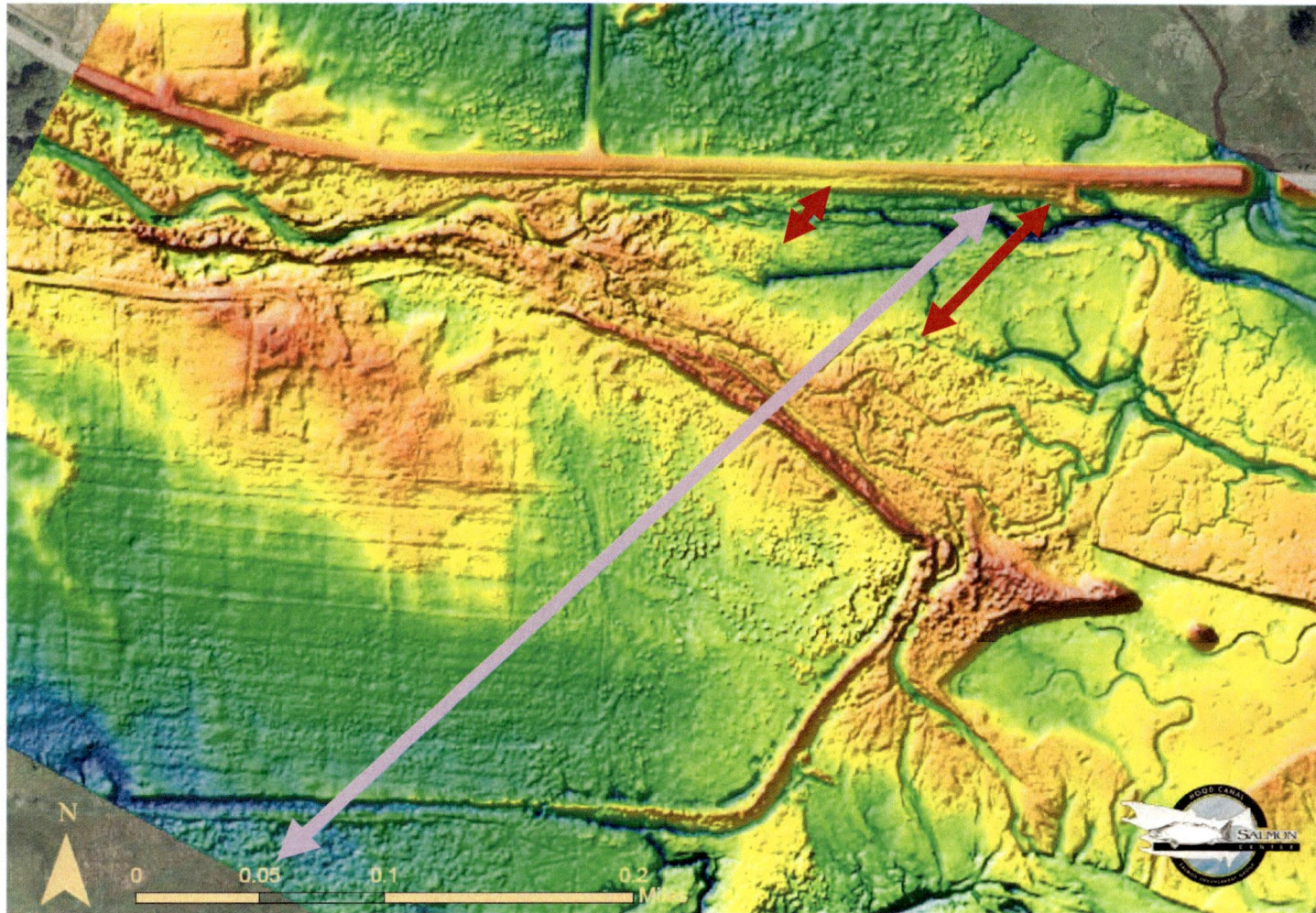


- Extensive levee system has impacted and altered area since early 1900s
- Loss of historic estuarine habitat and floodplain function
- 2009 project restored a portion of the estuary on Jefferson County Property (40 acres)
- 43 acres remain trapped behind existing levee

Previous restoration work completed at Little Quilcene Estuary in 2009

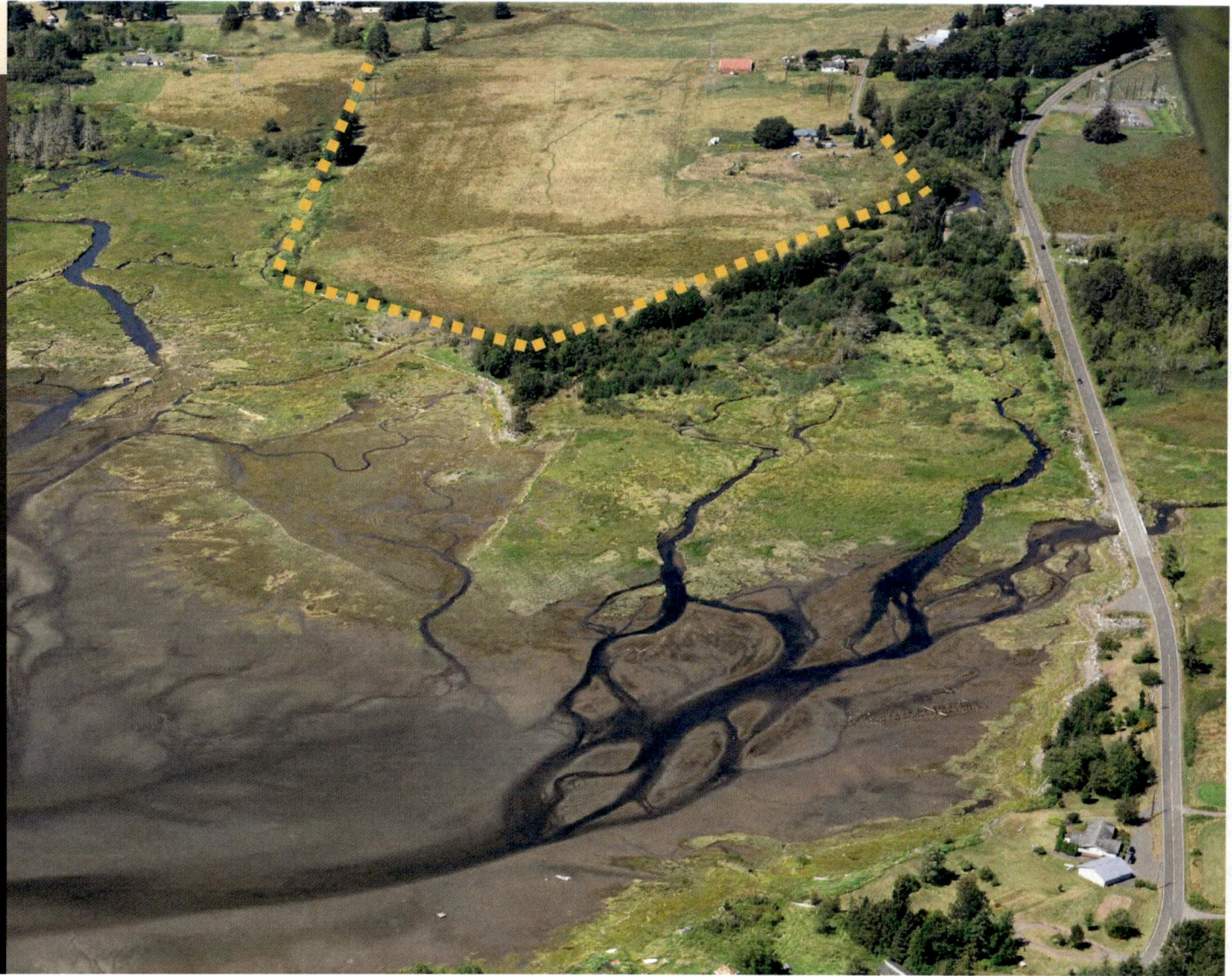


Little Quilcene River Estuary Digital Elevation Model



Existing Site Conditions

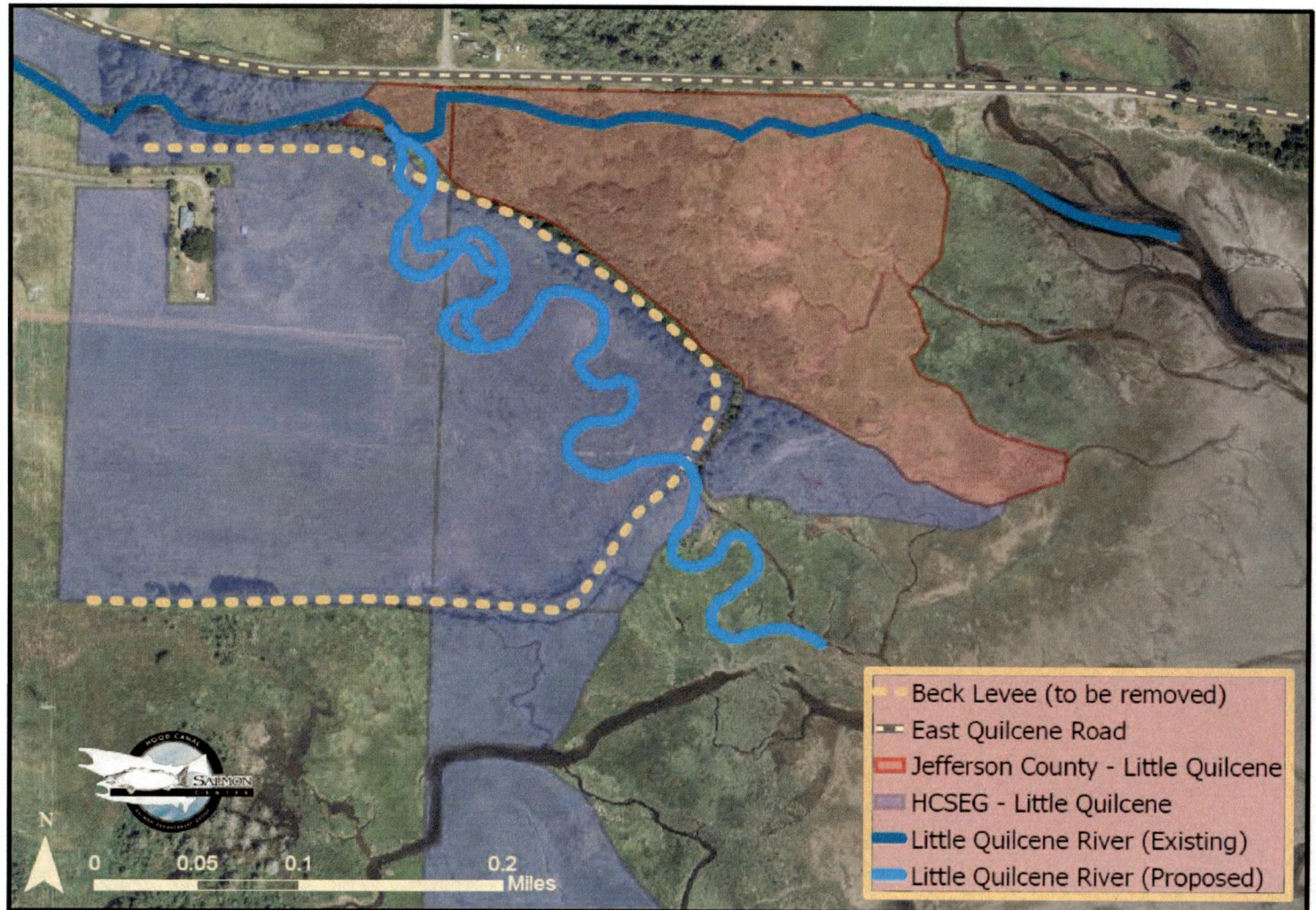
- Extensive levee system has impacted and altered area since early 1900s
- Loss of historic estuarine, in-stream, and floodplain habitat
- 2009 project partially restored a portion of the estuary (40 acres)
- 43 acres remain trapped behind existing levee



Land Ownership

- Project made possible by recent 45 acre property acquisition
- Project footprint could be limited to HCSEG property
- Expanding project footprint to neighboring Jefferson County properties would allow for much more comprehensive restoration

Little Quilcene Estuary Landownership 2024



Benefits to ESA listed Hood Canal Salmon

- Will provide large amount of critical habitat for ESA listed Hood Canal Summer Chum, Puget Sound Steelhead and Puget Sound Chinook
- Creates high quality spawning habitat for Summer Chum
- Restores extensive area of estuarine habitat beneficial to juvenile Chum, Steelhead, and Chinook



Current Project Status

- **Design Funding Awarded** *Grants from SRFB and ESRP totaling \$521,000 have been awarded to develop the conceptual and preliminary designs for the project.*
- **Cultural Resource Surveys Completed** *In August 2025, the County provided HCSEG with a License for Use on the County owned properties so that cultural resource surveys associated with the project could take place on them. The survey has now been completed, and no noteworthy findings were discovered.*
- **Engineering Team Selection** *HCSEG is currently in the process of hiring an engineering team to begin working on the project design.*
- **Design Development** *We plan to begin developing the project design later this year. Preliminary design to be completed by early 2027.*
- **Going Forward - Can HCSEG receive permission to incorporate County property into the project footprint?**

Questions?

