



## **Arkansas Game and Fish Commission**

### **EQIP Management Plan –**

*Plan provided by: Jeff Lawson, South Region Private Lands Supervisor*

**Date:** January 19, 2025

**Property Owner(s):** Simp's Son's Farms, LLC

**Property Description:** Monroe County, Farm #3799

**Current Site Conditions:** Agriculture fields and bottomland forest

### **Plan Recommendations:**

#### **Year 1:**

##### **Practice 666 – Forest Stand Improvement – Single Stem Chemical (109 acres)**

This entire property had a forest inventory conducted by Golden Oak Forestry in 2019. The following stand description and recommendations were derived based on the forest management plan created by Tim White (AR Registered Forester #414).

**Current Conditions:** The basal area of this stand is at least 62 sq. ft. per acre and is likely approaching 70-74 sq. ft. per acre since its inventory. Only 25% of this stand is oak species, while the remaining 75% being a combination of cedar elm, green ash, American hornbeam, shagbark hickory, sugarberry, and sweetgum.

**Desired Conditions:** Use the hack and squirt method to remove less desirable tree species so that the basal area is reduced by 20-30%. The residual basal area after treatment should be approximately 52-59 sq. ft. per acre. Target all cedar elm, green ash, silver maple and sugarberry. Target sweetgum 7" in diameter and smaller. This will create some canopy gaps for sunlight penetration and release the retained desirable oaks. This prescription will improve forest composition and enhance the value of this stand for wildlife.

##### **Practice 646 – Shallow Water Development – Low or High Level (95 acres)**

This agriculture field has all the necessary infrastructure to intentionally flood in the fall and winter to create excellent habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. The field is usually planted with rice, with soybeans being rotated as required. The water control structure risers on this field should be installed as soon as harvest and stubble manipulations are complete. Ideally, 1" to 18" of water should be retained until at least mid to late February. If possible, it's best to hold the water into March to provide a beneficial water source for waterfowl during their spring migrations.

## **Year 2:**

### **Practice 464 – Irrigation Land Leveling – Zero Grade (42 acres)**

Three fields that total 42 acres on this property would be better suited for rice production if they were leveled to zero grade. I recommend zero grading these three fields to enhance irrigation efficiency and provide the landowner with an opportunity to cultivate rice on these acres. The slight elevation changes across the fields should minimize the amount of dirt that needs to be moved to achieve the desired objectives. Elevation surveys should be conducted, and pads will be installed around the perimeter of each field. Flashboard risers will also be installed for water capture and release.

### **Practice 587 – Water Control Structures – Flashboard Riser & Pipe (3 total)**

This practice will be partnered with Practice 464. I recommend installing flashboard riser structures in each field designated for zero grade land leveling to facilitate water control. The box height and pipe length will be dependent on survey guidance. To help mitigate beaver issues, I recommend installing pipes with a diameter of at least 18”.

### **Practice 646 – Shallow Water Development – Low or High Level (95 acres)**

This agriculture field has all the necessary infrastructure to intentionally flood in the fall and winter to create excellent habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. The field is usually planted with rice, with soybeans being rotated as required. The water control structure risers on this field should be installed in the fall or as soon as harvest and stubble manipulations are complete. Ideally, 1” to 18” of water should be retained until at least mid to late February. If possible, it’s best to hold the water into March to provide a beneficial water source for waterfowl during their spring migrations.

## **Year 3:**

### **Practice 612 – Tree/Shrub Establishment – Hardwood, Bareroot (1.25 acres)**

There are four small strips of hardwood plantings recommended for this property. The hardwood strips will enclose three agriculture fields and help improve wildlife habitat. Establish native hardwoods on a 12ft X 12ft spacing (302 TPA). Plant bald cypress and water tupelo in the lowest areas. Plant Nuttall oak and pin oak in the poorly drained soils that are adjacent to the wettest areas. As drainage improves, begin mixing in willow oak. In the best drained soils, finish by planting water oak, swamp chestnut oak, and cherrybark oak. Shumard oak and burr oak may be planted on well-drained sites as well.

### **Practice 490 – Tree/Shrub Site Prep – Mechanical, Light Ripping (1.25 acres)**

This practice will be partnered with Practice 612 – Tree/Shrub Establishment. Site preparation in the form of light ripping will be needed to bust through a

hardpan created from years of agricultural compaction. This ensures roots of newly planted trees don't encounter an impenetrable layer during their early years of development, thereby increasing their survival and prosperity rates. Rip five rows, each twelve feet apart, for every reforestation strip. Rips should be at least 24" deep.

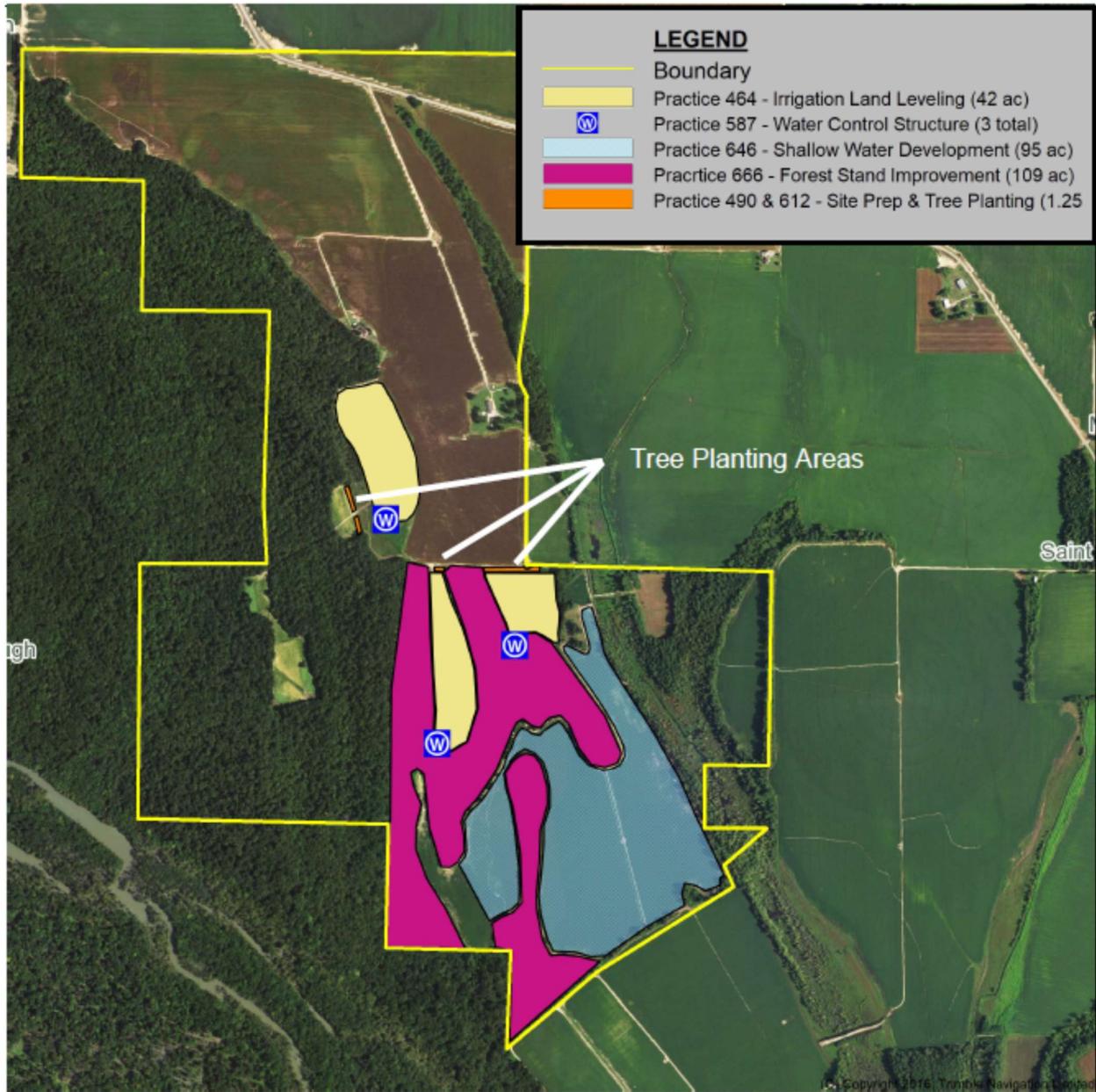
**Practice 646 – Shallow Water Development – Low or High Level (95 acres)**

This agriculture field has all the necessary infrastructure to intentionally flood in the fall and winter to create excellent habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. The field is usually planted with rice, with soybeans being rotated as required. The water control structure risers on this field should be installed as soon as harvest and stubble manipulations are complete. Ideally, 1" to 18" of water should be retained until at least mid to late February. If possible, it's best to hold the water into March to provide a beneficial water source for waterfowl during their spring migrations.

# CONSERVATION PLAN MAP

Date: 01/21/25  
Name: Simp Son's Farm LLC  
County: Monroe  
Program enrolled: EQIP or CSP  
Property Acres: 950  
Project name: Farm # 3799

Location: 034.449321° N, 091.097543° W  
Scale: 1 inch = 1,416 ft.  
Map Type: Aerial Photo  
Agency: AGFC  
Created By: Jeff Lawson  
Title: Regional Field Supervisor



Private Lands

SCALE 1:17000

