

Louisiana National Estuarine Research Reserve (LaNERR) Site Designation Process

PONTCHARTRAIN LaNERR PROPOSED SITE

Hosted on February 1, 2022 by:
Southeastern Louisiana University
Student Union Annex – Theater
500 Western Ave. Hammond LA 70402



Agenda

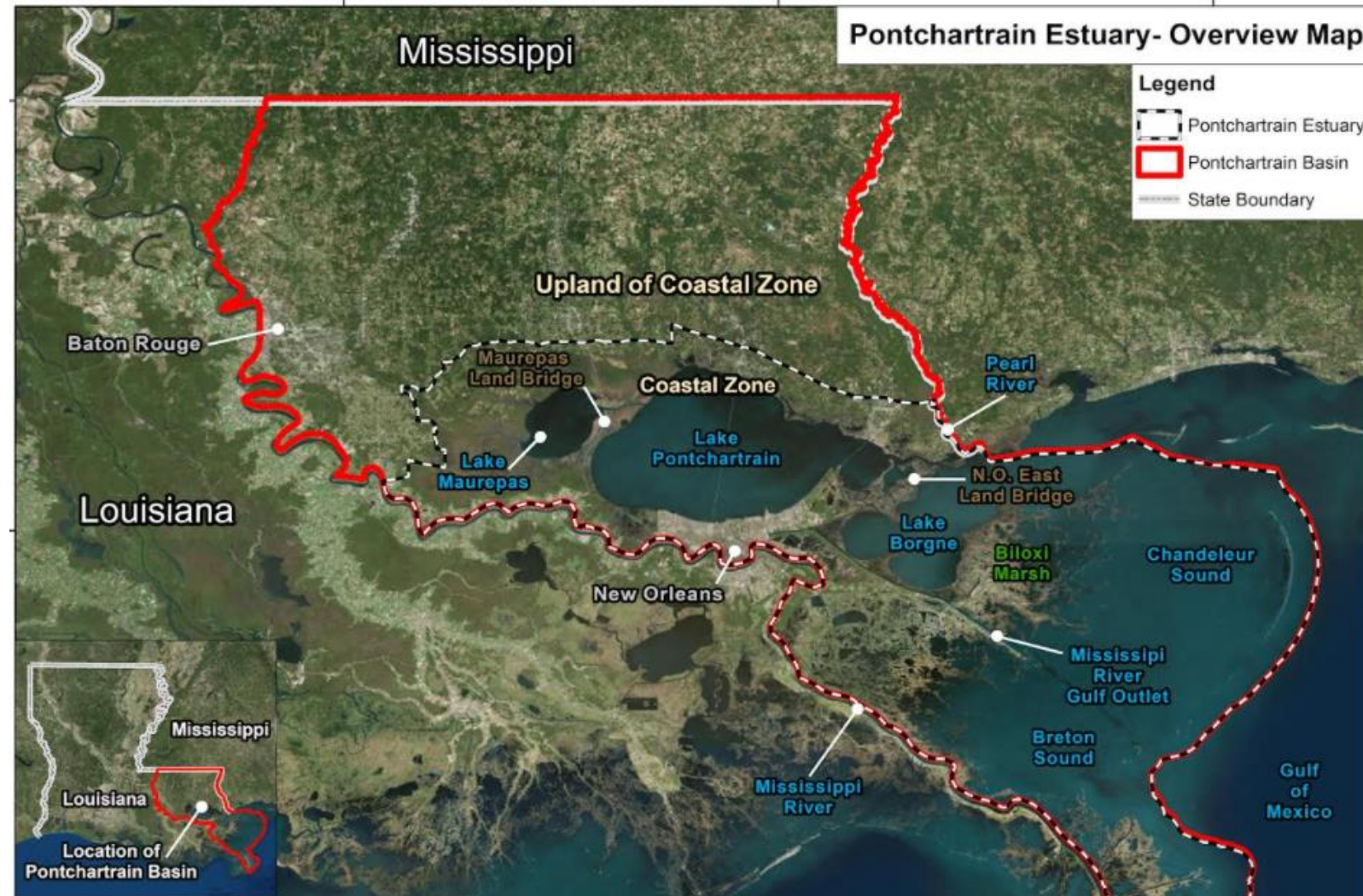
1. Welcoming Remarks - Robert Moreau, Manager of Southeastern's Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station
2. What is a National Estuarine Research Reserve System (video #1) – Kristin Ransom, Regional Coastal Management Specialist, NOAA Office for Coastal Management
3. Introduction to LaNERR Process (video #2) – Robert Twilley, Professor, LSU, and Lead for LaNERR Designation Leadership Team (DLT)
4. Presentation by the Pontchartrain Proposal Leadership Team - Kristi Trail (Lead), Executive Director, Pontchartrain Conservancy
5. Public Q&A; Also Questionnaire for public to provide feedback
6. Adjourn



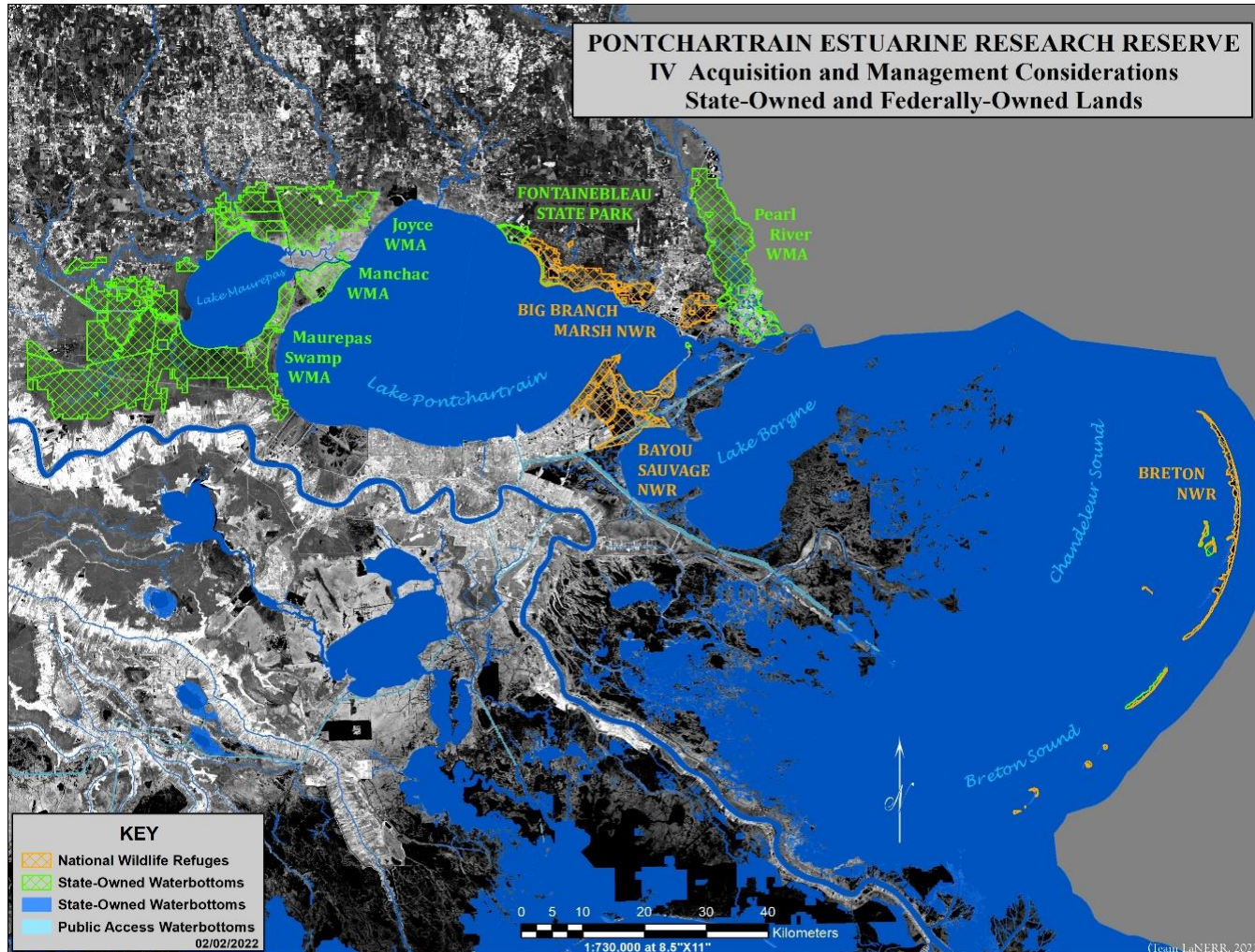
PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN

Boundary overview map :

- Pontchartrain basin (red)
- Estuary (black and white)



PONTCHARTRAIN LaNERR OUTER BOUNDARY STATE WATER BOTTOMS of PROPOSED SITE

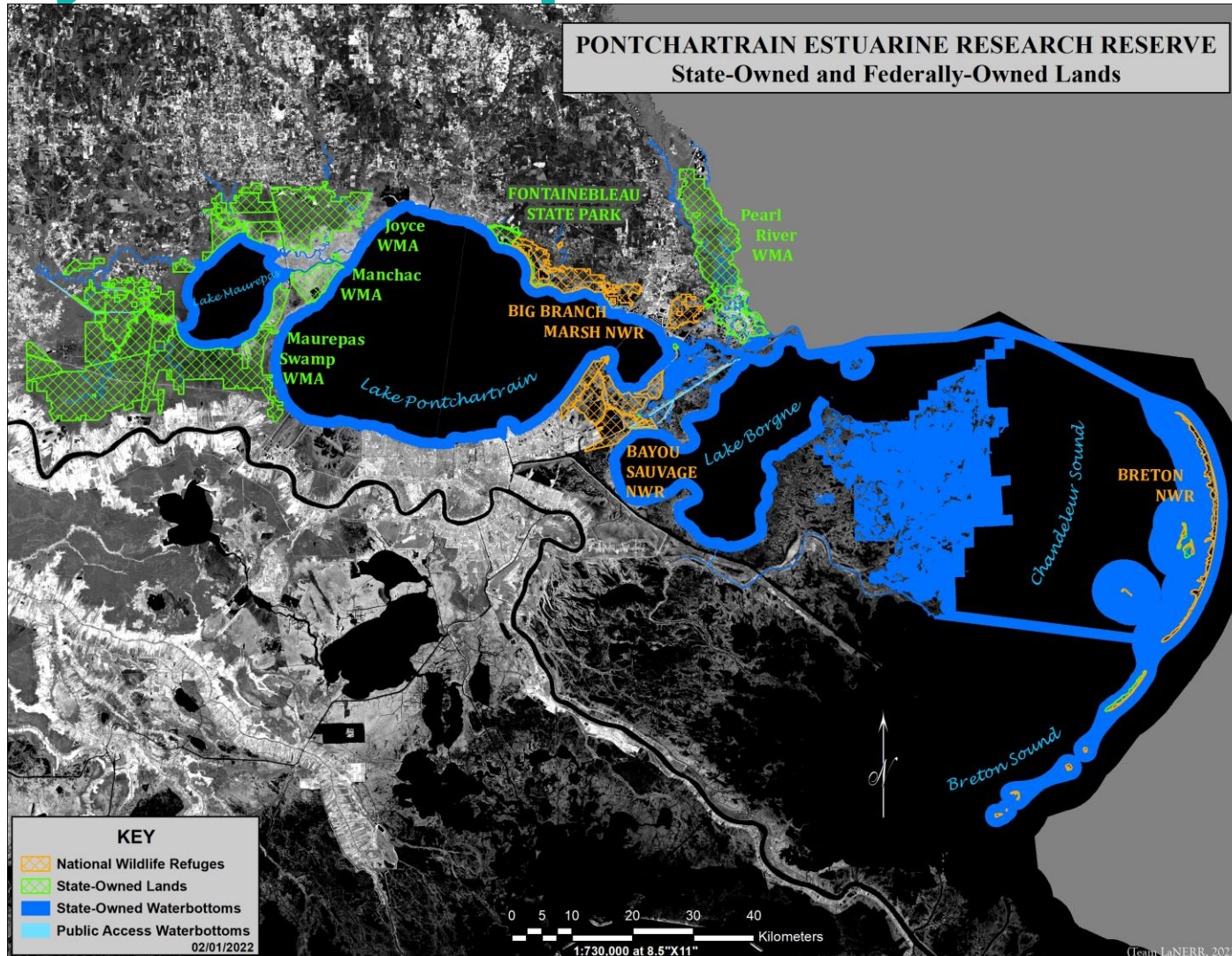


- State (**green**) and Federal (**orange**) lands are easy to identify for the proposed site
- State-Owned Water Bottoms (**blue**) will likely be trimmed in final proposal.



PONTCHARTRAIN LaNERR PROPOSED SITE:

Physical Description



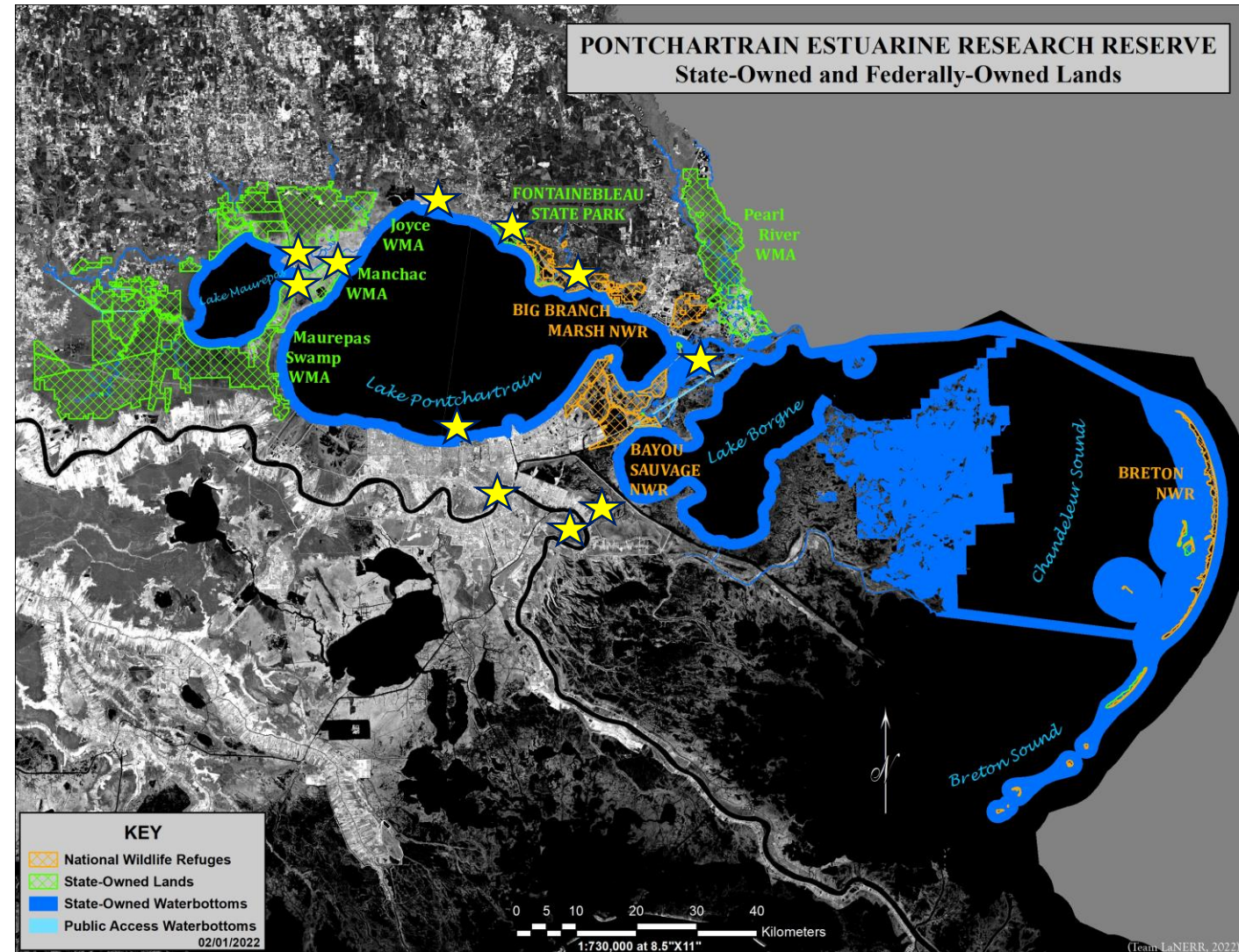
- Multi-component site stratified across the estuarine gradient, from freshwater Maurepas Swamp (northwest) to the marine waters off the Chandeleur Islands (southeast).
- The estuary is water-dominated - includes Lakes' Maurepas, Pontchartrain, Borgne, and Chandeleur Sound.



PONTCHARTRAIN LaNERR PROPOSED SITE- Preliminary Map

The Pontchartrain Basin, with its history of ecological research activity and environmental education, is the perfect candidate for the LaNERR site.

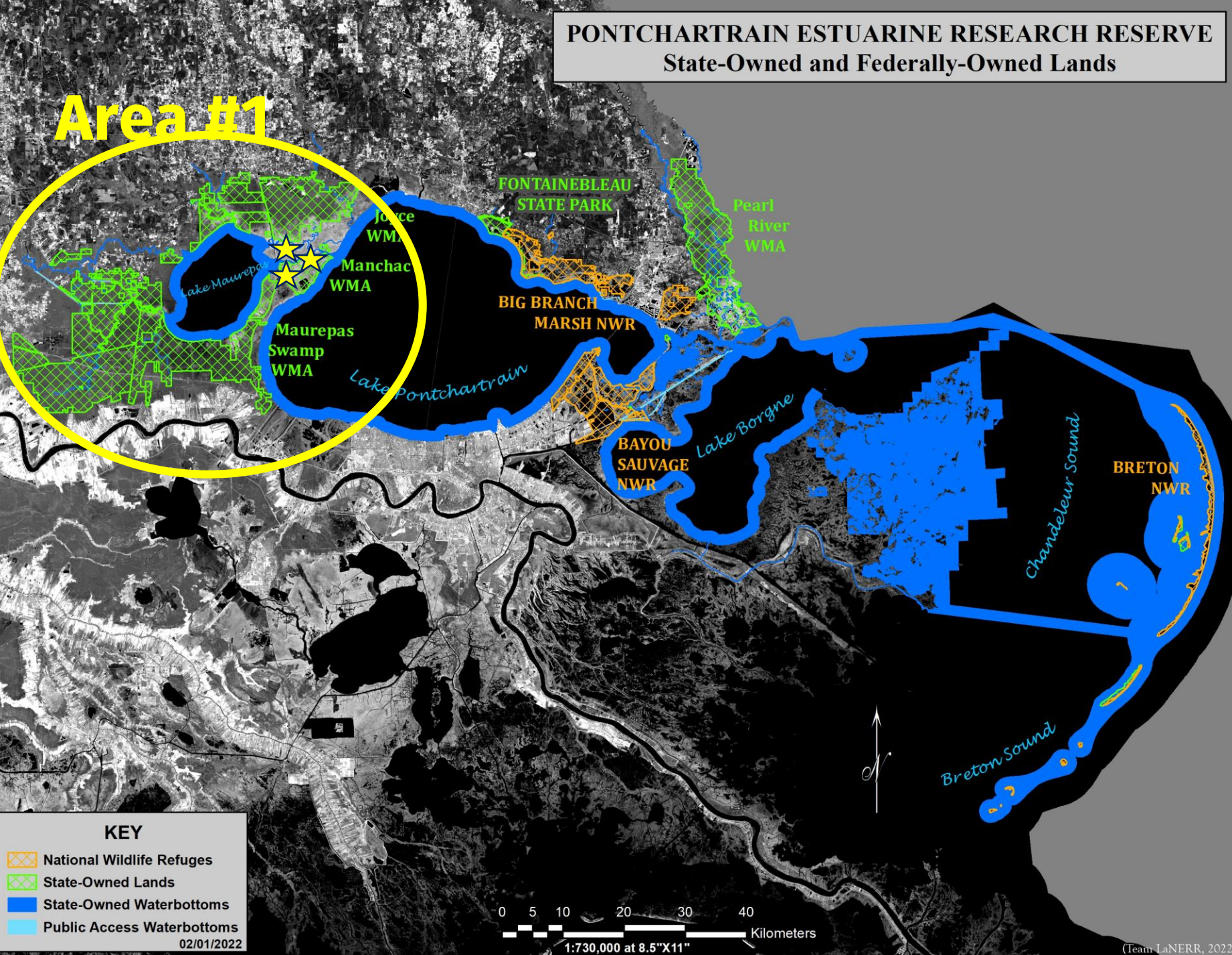
An important asset are the many environmental/research focused facilities (★) and the large, concentrated human population (about 1.2 million metro-area; about 2.1 million in 16-parish boundary area).



PONTCHARTRAIN ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE
State-Owned and Federally-Owned Lands

Pontchartrain LaNERR Proposed Site

Area #1



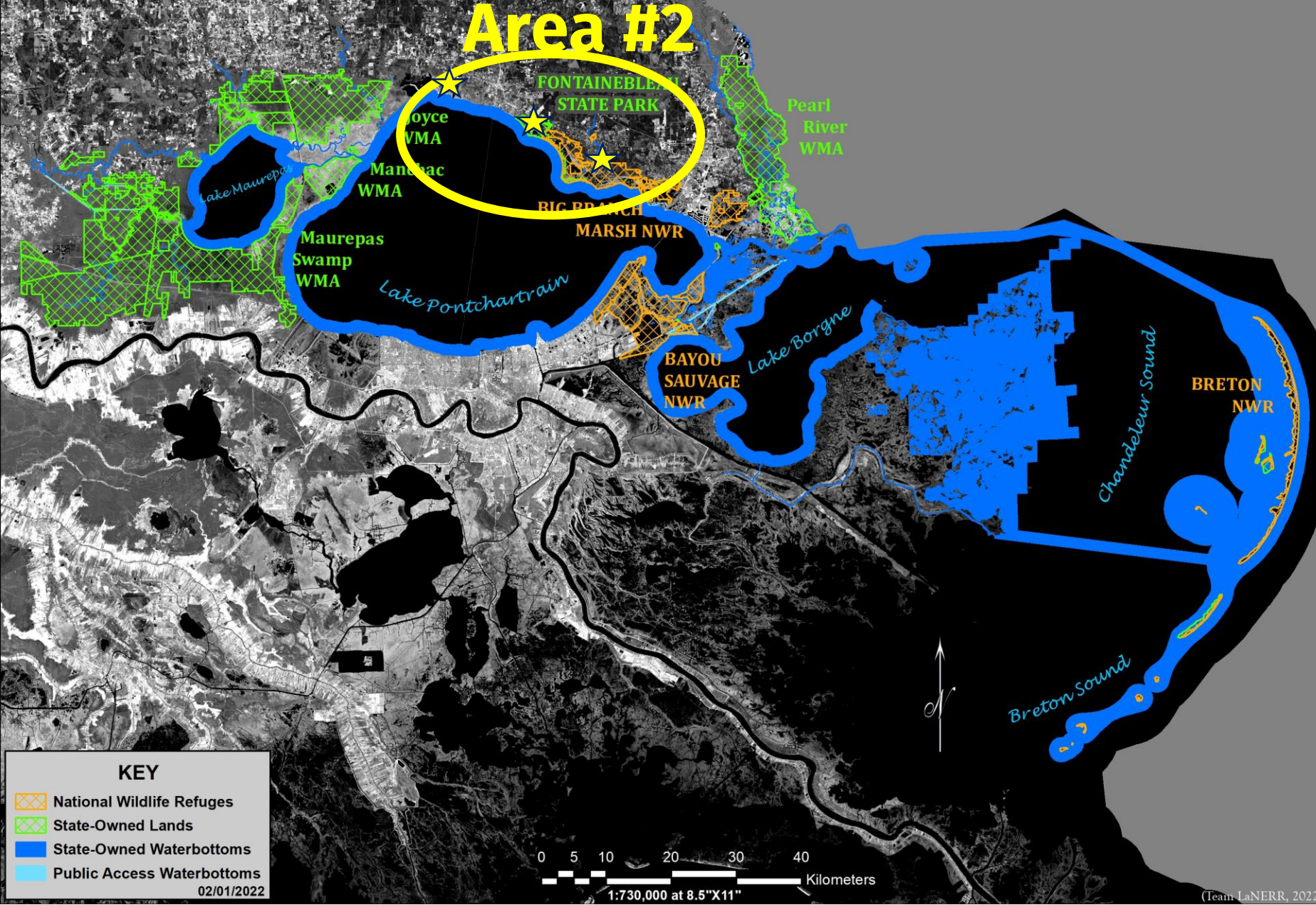
PONTCHARTRAIN LaNERR PROPOSED SITE

AREA #1: Maurepas and Manchac Swamps surround Lake Maurepas. Habitat consist of Uplands (Alluvial Forested Wetlands), Intertidal Areas (Coastal Forested Wetlands, Coastal Freshwater and Intermediate Marshes), and Subtidal and Submerged Bottoms (subtidal soft bottoms and SAV).



PONTCHARTRAIN ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE
State-Owned and Federally-Owned Lands

Area #2



Pontchartrain LaNERR Proposed Site

Area #2

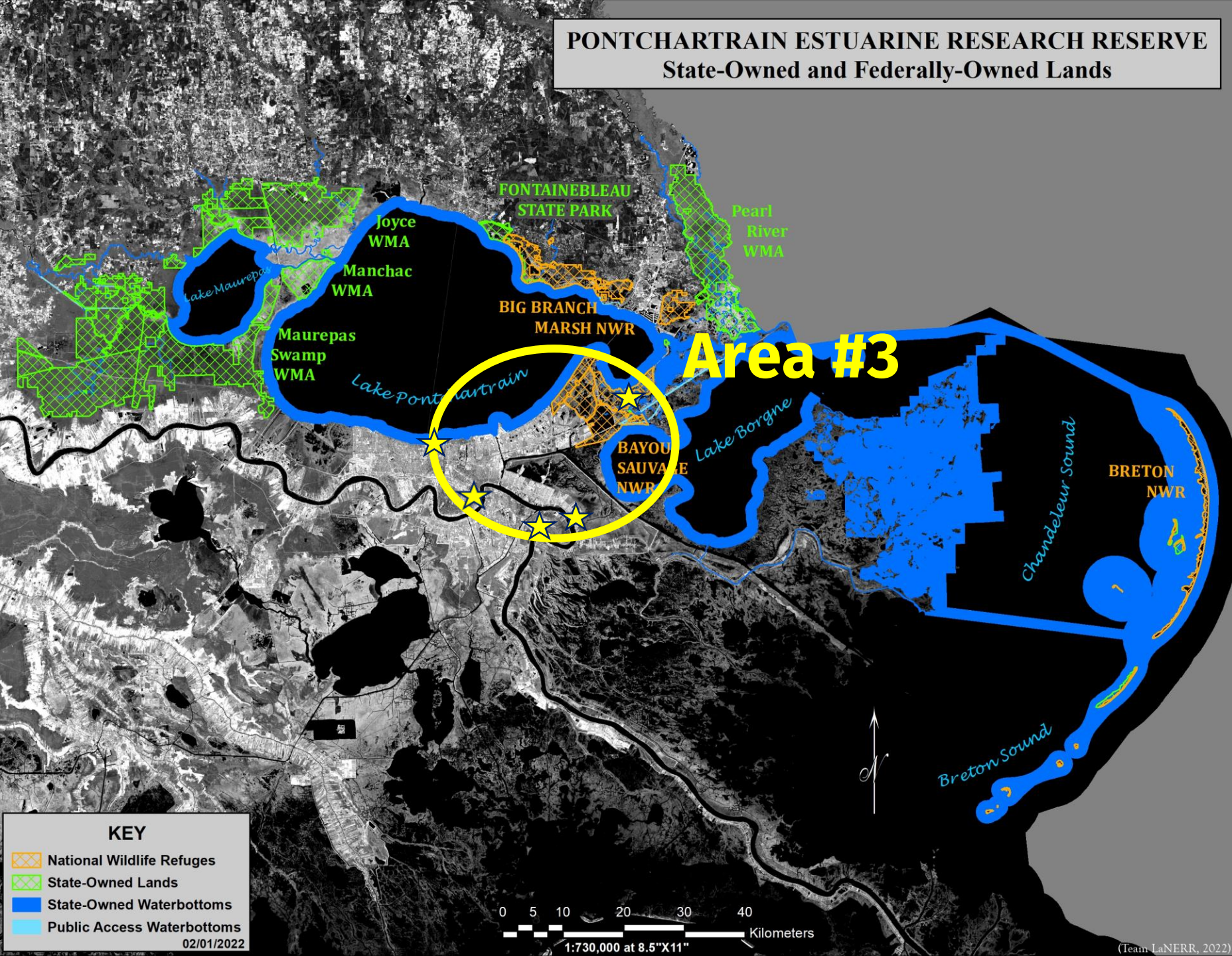


PONTCHARTRAIN LaNERR PROPOSED SITE

AREA #2: Big Branch NWR/Fontainebleau State Park is located on the northeastern edge of Lake Pontchartrain. The majority of Habitat is federally owned, and consists of Uplands (Longleaf Pine Savanna and Maritime Forest), Intertidal Areas (Coastal Intermediate and Brackish Marshes), and Subtidal and Submerged Bottoms (subtidal soft bottoms and SAV).

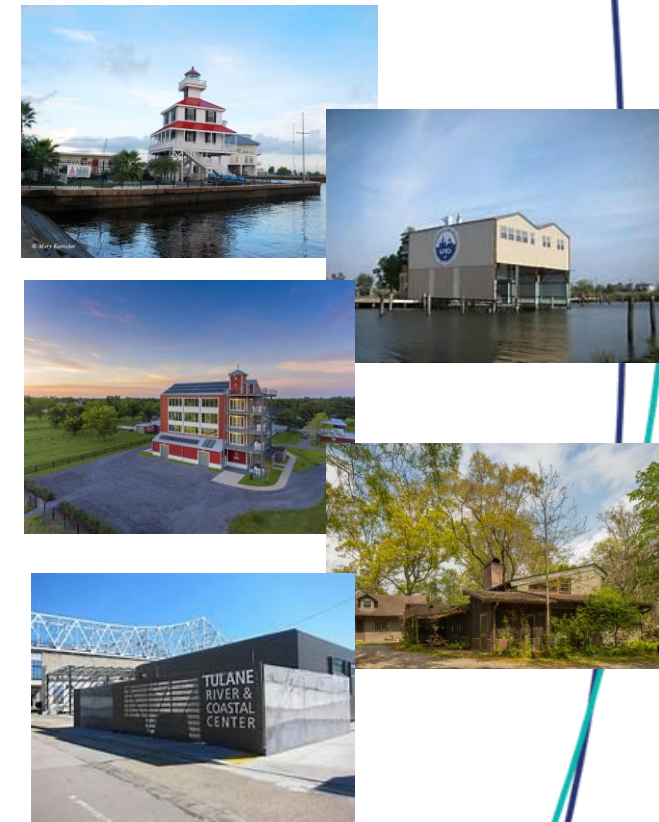


PONTCHARTRAIN ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE
State-Owned and Federally-Owned Lands



Pontchartrain LaNERR Proposed Site

Area #3

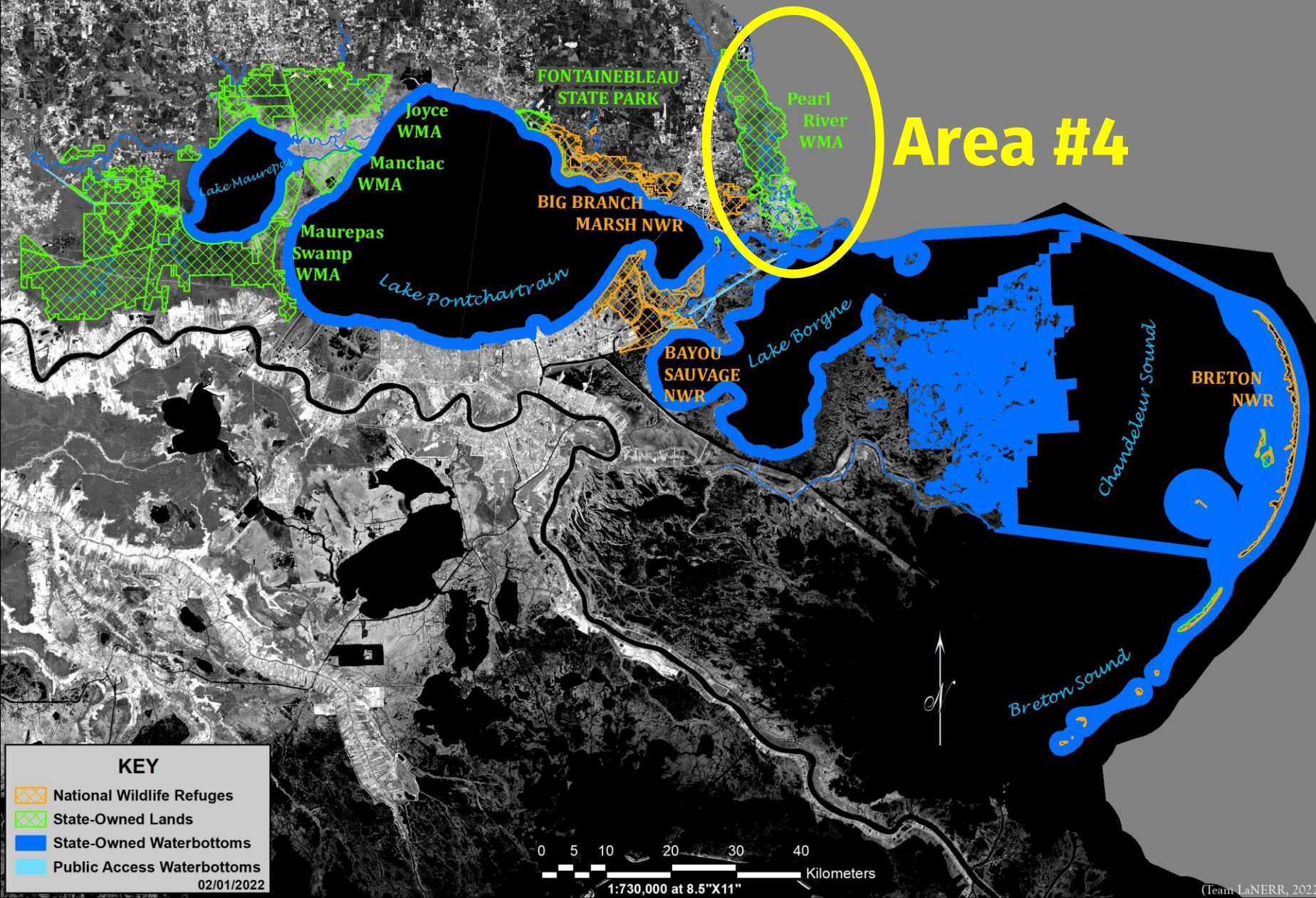


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AREA #3: Orleans Land Bridge is located between Lakes' Pontchartrain and Borne, and contains Lake St. Catherine. Habitat consists of Uplands (Maritime Forest), Intertidal Areas (Coastal Intermediate, Brackish and Saline Marshes), and Subtidal and Submerged Bottoms (subtidal soft bottoms, and SAV).



PONTCHARTRAIN ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE
State-Owned and Federally-Owned Lands



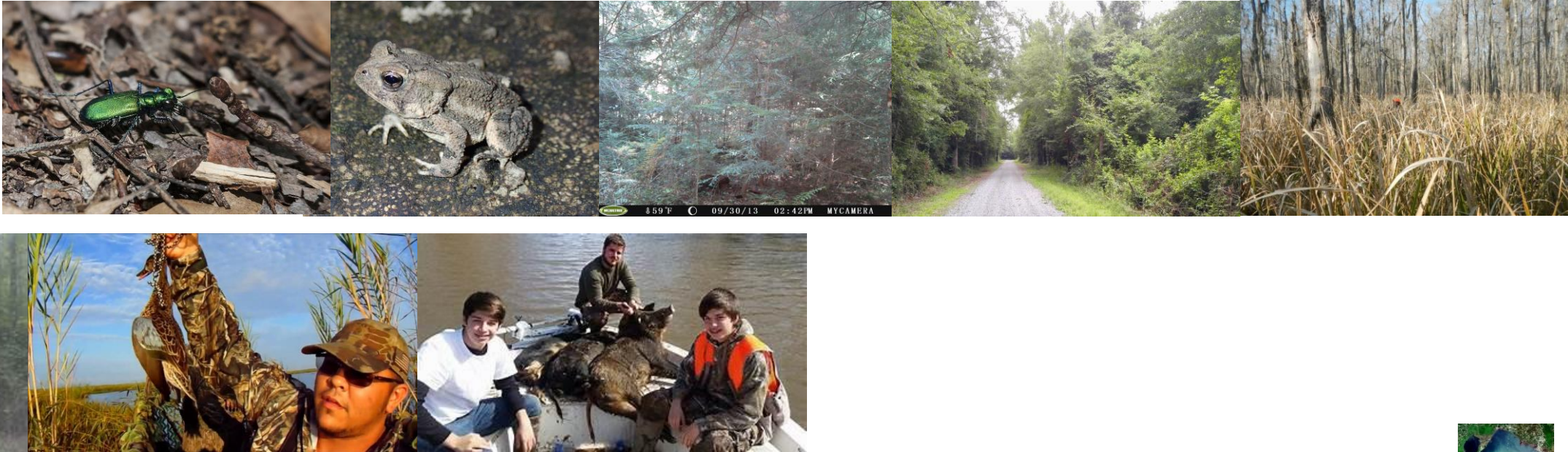
Pontchartrain LaNERR Proposed Site

Area #4:



PONTCHARTRAIN LaNERR PROPOSED SITE

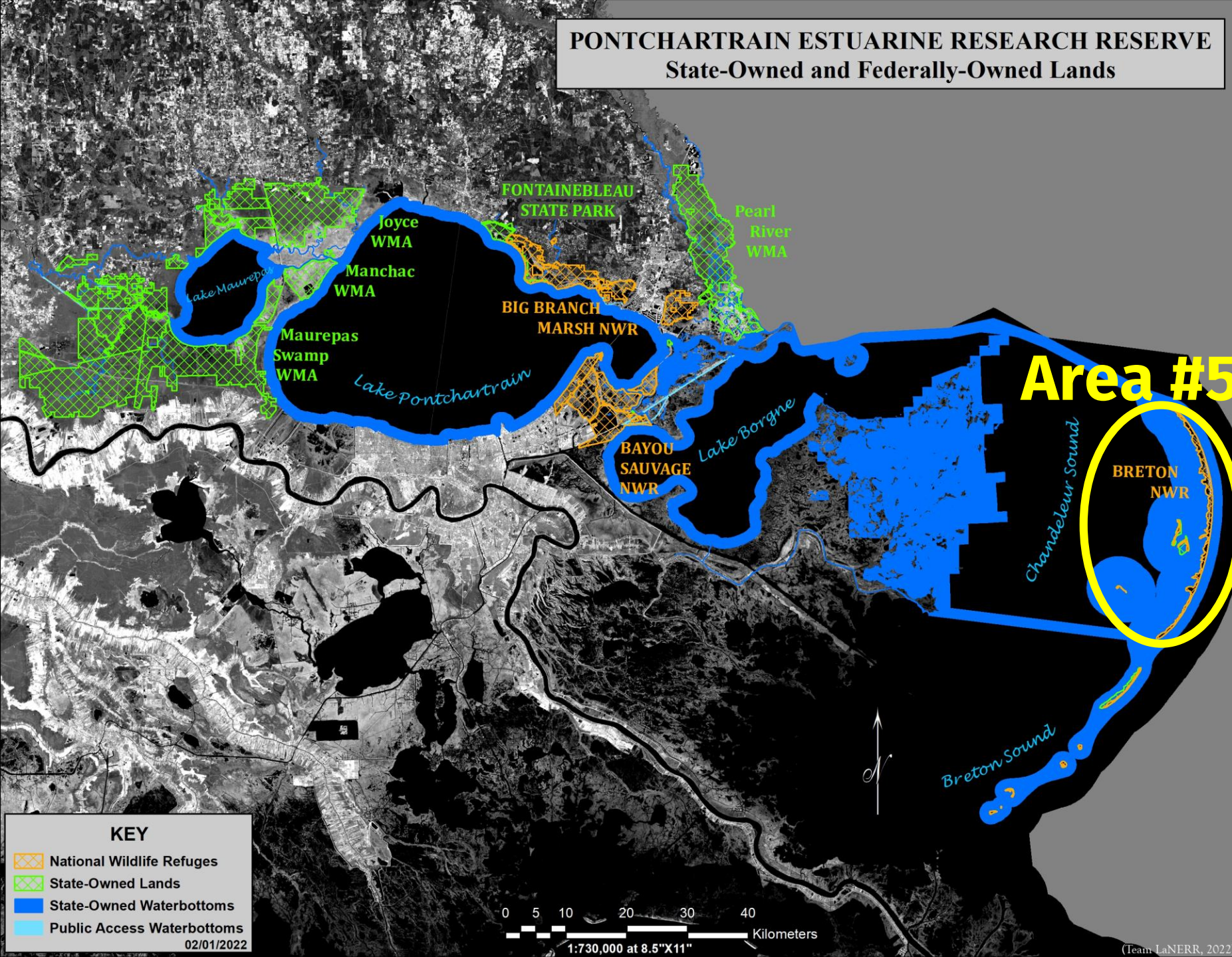
AREA #4: Pearl River WMA is located 6 miles east of the town of Slidell and contains hardwood forest (45%), cypress-tupelo swamp (35%) and intermediate marsh (20%). Activities include hunting , trapping, camping, fishing, boating, hiking, photography and birding.



PONTCHARTRAIN ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE
State-Owned and Federally-Owned Lands

Pontchartrain LaNERR Proposed Site

Area #5



PONTCHARTRAIN LaNERR PROPOSED SITE

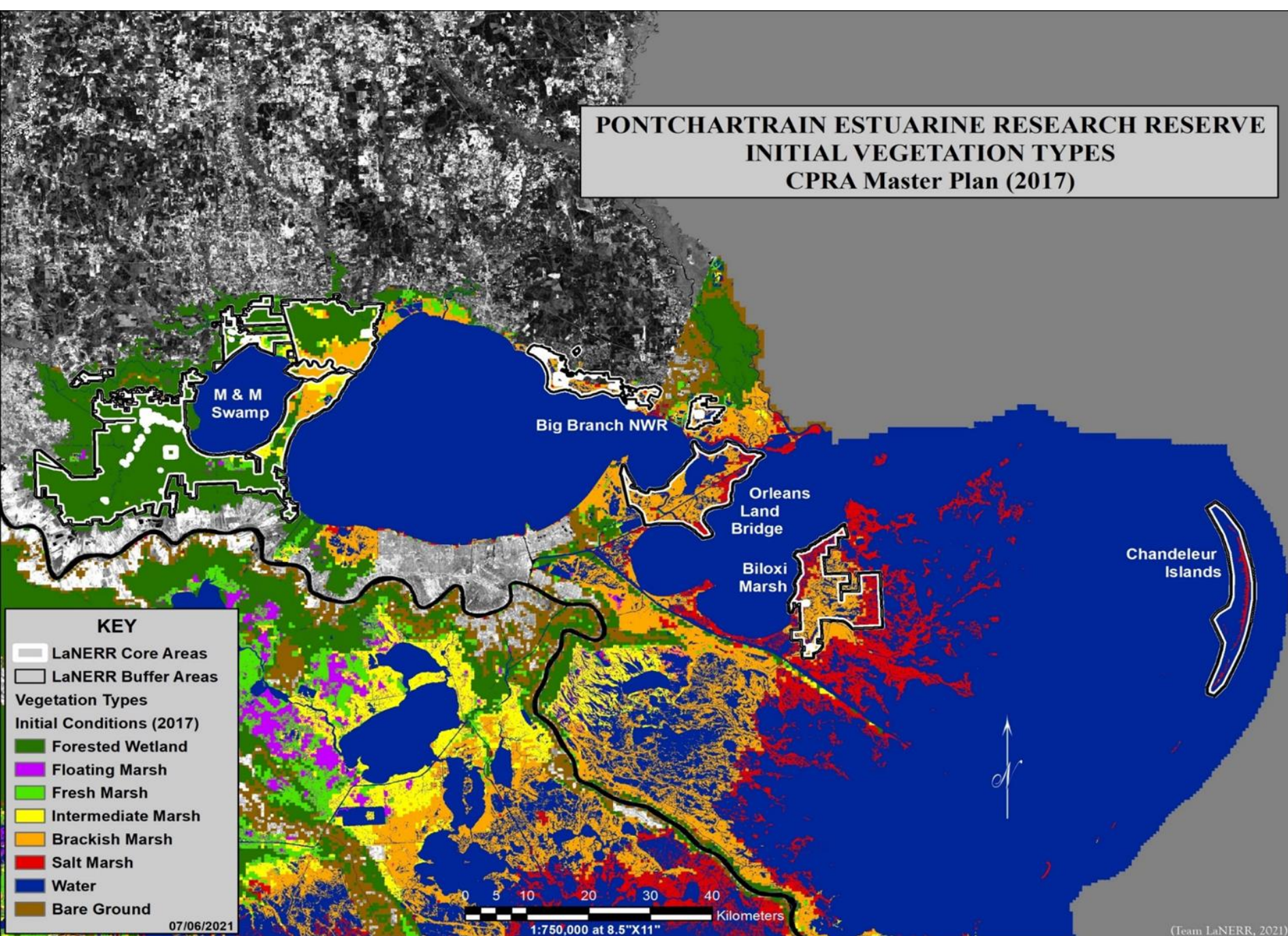
AREA #5: Chandeleur Islands are located between Chandeleur Sound to the west and the Gulf of Mexico to the east. Habitat consist of Intertidal Areas (Coastal Saline Marshes, Coastal Mangroves, Intertidal Beaches and Dunes), and Subtidal and Submerged Bottoms (subtidal soft bottoms, hard bottoms, SAV), including the only location in Louisiana with true seagrasses.



Pontchartrain LaNERR Proposed Site

Initial Vegetation Types

- Forested
- Floating
- Fresh
- Intermediate
- Brackish
- Saline
- Bare ground



PONTCHARTRAIN LaNERR PROPOSED SITE

A few interesting facts about our site (also see 2-Page Fact Sheet Provided):

Size of Proposed Site

State lands: 207,453 acres

Federal lands: 52,360 acres

State-Owned Water Bottoms: TBD



Human Inhabitants and Access

of Residents in 16-parish Boundary: 2.1 mill

of Car-Free Bike Lanes: 130+ (plus additional 15+ of urban bike-assisted lanes)

Many developing green ways



PONTCHARTRAIN LaNERR PROPOSED SITE

Interesting facts (cont):



Higher Education Institutions and Research/Education/Outreach Centers

1-hour drive of 17 universities and/or colleges // 118,672 students

9 major research/education enhancement centers plus a multitude of parks and other environmental program areas

Fun Facts

Fisheries-over 100 species; Wetland Plants-over 100 species; Mammals-approx. 40 species

Migratory Birds – over 270 species move through the Basin every year

Reptiles and Amphibians – approx. 120 species

All Plants and Animals (incl. invertebrates): rare to endangered-690 species;

Invasive-60 species

of Permitted State WMA Hunting/Fishing Users (yr 2021): 24,246

#K-12 Schools (16 parish area, not including Charter Schools): 511 schools // 289,494 students

BROAD RANGE OF SUPPORT FROM ACROSS THE ESTUARY!!!



PONTCHARTRAIN LaNERR PROPOSED SITE

What does a potential NERR in the Pontchartrain Basin mean for our communities?

Stewardship



**Education
and
Training**



**Research
and
Monitoring**



**Eco-
Tourism**



Thank you



Questions