

FOR 30 YEARS - THE MOST TRUSTED NAME IN RECREATIONAL PROPERTIES!

- Fine Hunting Clubs
- Ozark Caves & Hideouts
- Specializing in Fine Riverfront Properties throughout Arkansas

Wildlife Properties
Miller Realty

JAMES H. MILLER

<http://www.wildlifeproperties.com>

The Raft Creek-White River Duck and Deer Club (2350 acres)

The most documented ducks on any privately owned land in the U.S.A.

Brief history of the tract: The White River Basin in Eastern Arkansas has been recognized for ages as the main wintering area for waterfowl in the Mississippi Flyway, which is America's most-used flyway... what is not widely known is that the Raft Creek Basin within the White River Basin consistently holds a tremendous number of these waterfowl-on average 232,000 per day (20% of all ducks in Arkansas), according to a study done by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. This 2,350 tract for sale was the south part of a 7,000 acre tract that was cleared in the early 60s and was known as the Morrison Farm. A few years ago, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission acquired the balance of this 7,000 acres tract after Mr. Bob Miller had acquired the 2,350 acres that were by far the best for waterfowl and farming. They named their tract the Steve Wilson Raft Creek Wildlife Management Area and developed it for quality duck hunting. They report that the hunter success ratio on this tract is their best in the state, including Bayou Meto, Black Swamp, Black River, etc. Mr. Miller's tract (2,350 acres) normally holds ten times more ducks than the adjoining Raft Creek W.M.A. It has richer ground and a lower elevation, meaning it floods first as the White River comes up and fills the Raft Creek Basin from south the north.

When Mr. Miller bought it, twelve years ago, the Morrisons had just entered the tract in the very popular Wetland Reserve Program. The Wetland Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The U.S.O.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial support with their wetland restoration efforts. The NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland function and values, along with optimum wildlife habitation on every acre enrolled in the program. Mr. Miller was fortunate not only in acquiring the most heavily used waterfowl tract, but also in acquiring the services of the late Phil Covington, a noted expert biologist for Ducks Unlimited in moist soil unit development, and Jody Pagan, a former waterfowl biologist for the NCRS who was instrumental in acquiring and developing over 100,000 acres of WRP ground in Arkansas. He



P. O. BOX 74 • BALD KNOB, ARKANSAS 72010 • (501) 724-8837 • (501) 278-1865 (Mobile & Voice Mail)



FOR 30 YEARS - THE MOST TRUSTED NAME IN RECREATIONAL PROPERTIES!

- Fine Hunting Clubs
- Ozark Caves & Hideouts
- Specializing in Fine Riverfront Properties throughout Arkansas

Wildlife Properties Miller Realty

JAMES H. MILLER

<http://www.wildlifeproperties.com>

is now chief biologist for 5 Oaks Wildlife Services. Mr. Covington and Mr. Pagan were instrumental in developing this tract for Mr. Miller. That they have been extremely successful can be verified by numerous individuals familiar with the tract and by the weekly waterfowl counts conducted by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. This tract is only 7 miles south of the Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge (14,000 acres that hold more ducks by far than any other place in Arkansas) and the Bayou Meto-Stuttgart area to the south.

Besides more waterfowl, this tract has produced one of the top five whitetail deer for two of the last five years, which is pretty amazing for a tract that is ninety-five percent underwater during winter and early spring. The state-of-the-art diversion dam and water control structures make flooding this tract for waterfowl hunting easy and nearly always free. Only once in the last twelve years has Mr. Miller had to pump water.

A large part of these 2,350 acres was replanted nine years ago in hardwoods (oak, pecan, and ash). According to the Arkansas Forestry Commission, this timber will grow 600 board feet per acre per year (about \$200 per acre per year).

This tract also features 1.5 miles frontage on White River and 3 miles frontage on Raft Creek. It adjoins the Steve Wilson Raft Creek Wildlife Management Area to the north and several duck clubs on the south and west, including one owned by World Champion Duck Caller Rick Dunn, who makes Echo Duck Calls and DVDs.

While providing good habitat, food, water, and a large rest area within this tract are all important factors in holding such a large population of waterfowl...the most important factor is "imprinting." For literally hundreds of generations, these ducks have come back to this tract every year, bringing their offspring. Tens of thousands, sometimes hundreds of thousands of ducks from many different species, including mallards, canvasbacks, redheads, pintail, teal, and widgeon, migrate to and through this tract all season long.



P. O. BOX 74 • BALD KNOB, ARKANSAS 72010 • (501) 724-8837 • (501) 278-1865 (Mobile & Voice Mail)



**RAFT
CREEK
BOTTOMS**

**20%
OF ALL
THE
DUCKS
IN ARKANSAS**

TABLE 16

**WATERFOWL SURVEY
RAFT CREEK BOTTOMS, 1984-1989**

Winter	Date	Total Ducks		Mallards		Pintails		Canvasbacks	
		Number	% ¹	Number	% ¹	Number	% ¹	Number	% ¹
1988-89	12/13	221,425	20	168,500	20	21,200	46	11,000	83
1987-88	1/04	229,025	15	157,500	14	19,000	28	6,300	74
1986-87	AREA DRY ALL WINTER : NO DUCKS								
1985-86	12/09	180,385	20	106,650	15	1,625	16	12,6300	78
1984-85	1/07	296,820	18	144,555	13	32,647	28	13,095	35

¹ Percent of state total observed at the time of survey.

The 232,000 average represented 18% of all ducks counted in Arkansas during those surveys. In addition, the area has become a significant wintering concentration area for canvasbacks. The canvasback population has been so small in Arkansas that there has not been a hunting season for them in several years. Thus Raft Creek Bottoms is without question one of the most important wintering areas for waterfowl along the Mississippi.

Raft Creek Control Structure

The construction of a water control structure on Raft Creek in conjunction with 2-3 miles of levees between areas of high ground will provide sufficient water control capability for the 8,265 acre area. During the period between 1 December and 1 March (tentative dates), the structure gates will remain closed so as to capture Raft Creek headwater if the White River is low. If the White River is high enough, the gates will be opened to create backwater flooding.

During the crop season, 2 March - 30 November (tentative dates) the gates will be closed to prevent White River backwater flooding of cropland. Whenever the White River is down, the gates may be opened to allow interior drainage when needed.

Borrow areas

Appropriately designed borrow areas that capture precipitation and winter flood water will also benefit waterfowl, fish, shorebirds, furbearers, and other wetland inhabitants. Areas designed with shallow portions will exhibit "mud flats" during dry periods that will support extensive growth of waterfowl foods such as smartweed and millet that will greatly increase the quantity, quality, and diversity of available foods in the area. These excavated areas logically must be located near the levees for which they are providing material. However, the shape, depth, and size can vary for each borrow area so as to provide good habitat for fish and wildlife. As previously mentioned, planted cypress, oaks, and other hardwoods around the edges will not only provide food, nesting and roosting sites, but will provide shade for a better fishery.

RAFT CREEK PROJECTS & SURROUNDING PUBLIC LAND

BALD KNOB

HURRICANE WMA

*Nahcany
Wetland
Refuge*

PROJECTS

Raft Creek WMA

Mellen

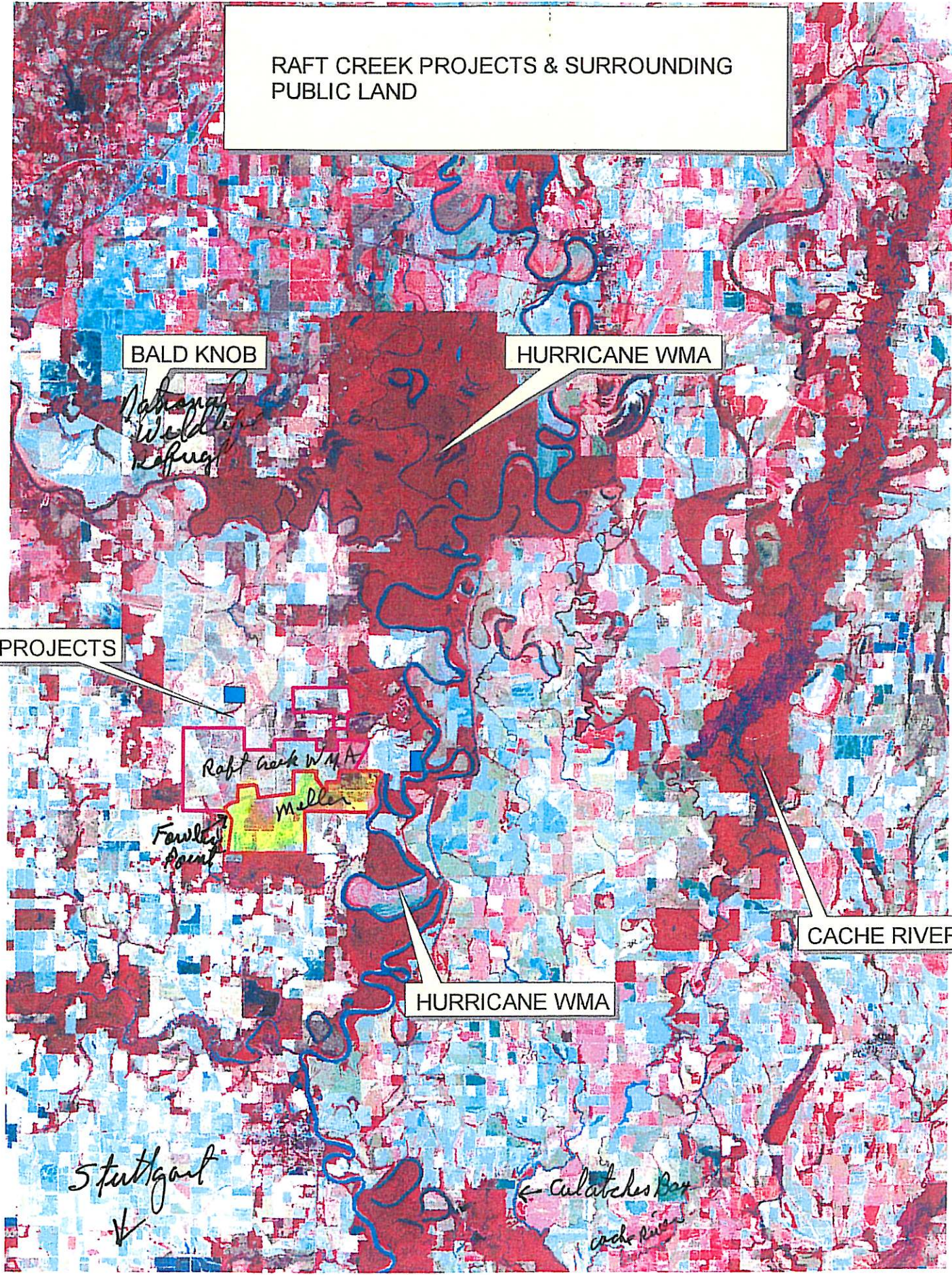
*Fowler
Point*

CACHE RIVER

HURRICANE WMA

Stuttgart
↓

*← Culatches Bay
Cache River*



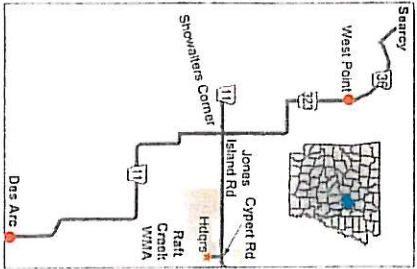


Steve N. Wilson/ Raft Creek WMA

White County, Arkansas

- Paved Ramp
- Parking Area
- Headquarters
- Wooded Areas

- Improved Road
- Boat Lane
- Levee
- Hurricane Lake WMA Boundary



From Searcy:
Take HWY 36 to West Point, at West Point, take HWY 323 south approximately 8 miles to Showallers Corner. At Showallers Corner turn east onto Jones Island Road. Go approximately 5 3/4 miles to the second Raft Creek WMA project sign. Turn south on Cypert Road, go 1/2 mile to WMA Headquarters.

From DesArc:
Take HWY 11 North approximately 14 miles to Showallers Corner. At Showallers Corner turn east onto Jones Island Road. Go approximately 5 3/4 miles to the second Raft Creek WMA project sign. Turn south on Cypert Road, go 1/2 mile to WMA Headquarters.

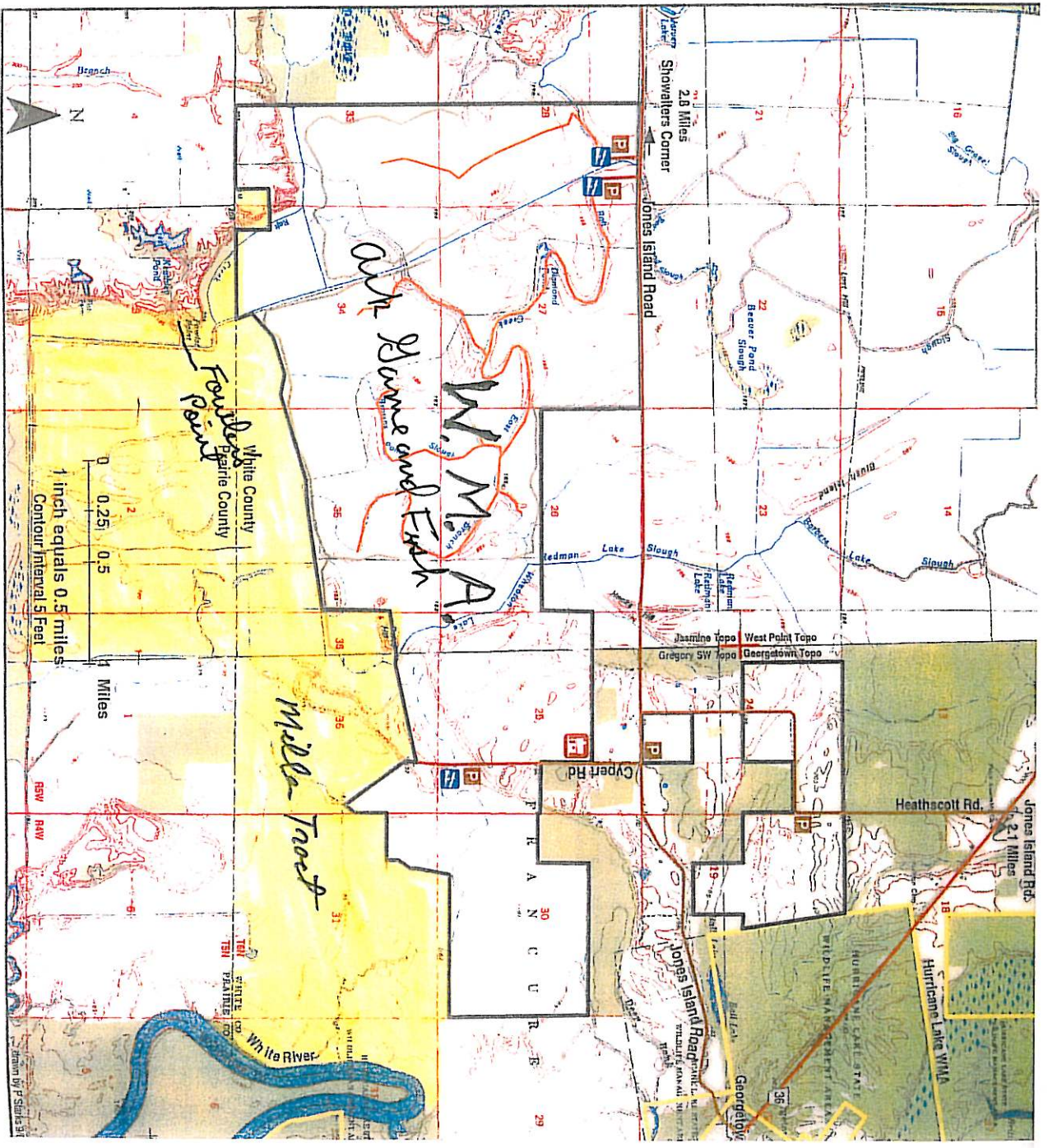
The management area was named for the creek and tributaries that dominated the property prior to the 1980's and for Steve N. Wilson, former director of the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. Raft Creek was a natural overflow hardwood bottomland and backwater area until the late 1960's and early 1970's when it was cleared for soybean farming.

In 2000, Morrison Farms enrolled the area in the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) a voluntary program offering landowners a chance to receive payments for restoring and protecting wetlands on their property. The AGFC acquired the 4053-acre property later that same year.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service and the AGFC are in the process of restoring the area's hydrology and native vegetation. This includes creating approximately 1400 acres of shallow water areas and about 11 miles of restored channels (Raft Creek and tributaries), which can be utilized as local farms. Restored channels, sloughs and bays are fringed with Cypress/Overscup plantings. The remainder of the site (above flood pool) is planted in Nuttall Oak, Cherrybark Oak, Willow and Water Oak, Sweet Pecan and Green Ash. The escarpment to the south, as well as the area around the headquarters will be seeded to native prairie plants.

Raft Creek has played an important role in providing wetland habitat for thousands of wintering migratory birds. Placing this gem under public ownership has secured a perpetual guarantee in providing this unique wildlife management complex for generations to enjoy.

This project was completed by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission using USGS Topo Maps and Geocod Generation Aerial Photos. Icons are available from the Arkansas Geological Commission at (501) 296-1877. For additional information contact the AGFC East Central Office, full time at 14877-714-4501 or the Central Office at 4800-24-4261. Stop checking the Line 1480-482-9292. Visit our Web Site: www.agfc.com



NAPP

1592-180

3-31-91

Jones Dr. Rd

Bloch Mill Pond
ask: Name and Fish

Fauler's Point

Miller

Rock
Dunn





Game & Fish

← Faulstich Point

Miller



Jones-Island Rd

Watkins Rd

Water Pond Rd

Black Mallard Duck Club

Vickers Rd

Apple Lane and Fish

Faulkner Point

937.85

Miller will sell to the right Buyer his waterfowl rest area outlined in light blue 937 acres

Rich Dennis

Fine Hunting Clubs
Ozark Caves & Hideouts

Specializing in White
and Cache River Farms
and Timbered Tracts



Wildlife Properties
Miller Realty

<http://www.wildlifeproperties.com>

Leasing Mineral Rights
in Arkansas



Box 74
Bald Knob, AR 72010
(501) 724-8837

Mobile And Voice Mail (501) 278-1865

JAMES H. MILLER

Nice to know big deer still roaming

If the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission ever need ambassadors for hunting in Arkansas, the names Bill Dooley, Reagan Wynu and John Yount pop to mind.

I'm sure there are others, but those three have been the latest and most memorable when it comes to explaining the type of hunting any Arkansan can enjoy.

All three have killed Boone and Crockett record-book bucks: Dooley and Yount have won the Arkansas Big Buck Classic, and Wynu, of Bald Knob, killed the largest nontypical in 1998.

Other than record-book status, the three also share a bond in that they killed their huge deer on public lands.

Dooley and Wynu's deer came from the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, where the two largest nontypicals in as many years have roamed. Yount's typical



Steve Bowman
Arkansas Sportsman

buck was killed at Bayou Meto.

Put simply, those deer could have been killed by anyone. You don't have to be a member of a high-dollar lease or travel hundreds of miles to get to prime deer hunting. It might be right under your nose for free.

* * *

If you missed the story, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is studying the possibility of buying about 4,200 acres of the Raft Creek Bottoms.

From a duck-hunting standpoint, it would be wonderful news to see a big portion of those bot-

tomms added to the inventory of public land. There are few places in this state that have the duck-holding potential of Raft Creek, certainly none the G&FC could afford or has the opportunity to buy. Of course, that's not counting the land it already owns.

Back when the G&FC was buying large wildlife management areas such as Bayou Meto, Black River and Hurricane, this was one of those sought-after tracts it could never quite get the deal done on. Since then, the land has been cleared, transformed into soybean and rice fields and has started to revert back into wild land.

It still holds an amazing amount of ducks, as many as 250,000 for the average year. Those numbers come from a survey taken in the late 1980s. A few years ago, that number may have doubled. It's the type of place you would-

not want in anybody else's hands for obvious reasons. Any other way and it would be posted and enjoyed by a few, or part of a national wildlife refuge, put into a rest area and enjoyed by no one except during deer season.

* * *

The G&FC has completed an entirely unscientific and unofficial deer hunting survey, but the results may be interesting to some all the same.

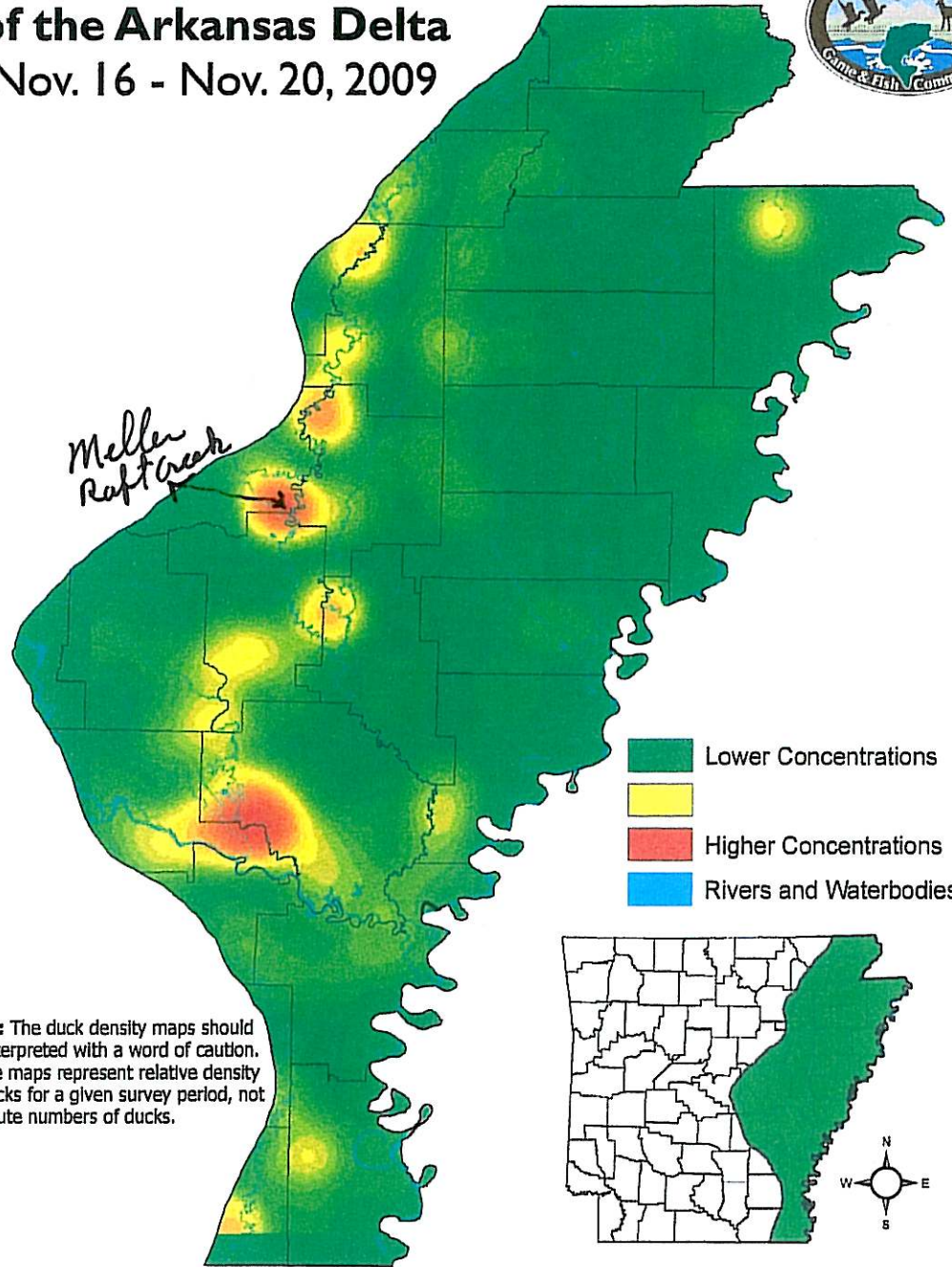
If you attended the Arkansas Big Buck Classic and walked past the G&FC's booth, you may have been asked these questions:

- How do you feel about the three-point rule? 153
 Hate it
 Like it 1,493
 No opinion 88
 What is your opinion of either-sex hunting? 52
 Hate it
 Like it
 No opinion

Like it
 Limited either-sex (hunting) is O.K.
 No opinion
 What is your preference for with dogs?
 Dogs allowed all gun sea
 No dogs allowed
 Still hunting period follo
 by a dog hunting period
 Is the gun deer season:
 About right
 Too long
 Too short
 How do you feel about the Chi
 hunt?
 Hate it
 Like it
 No opinion

While the survey could be used in an official, some of the responses are interesting.
 For instance, the last

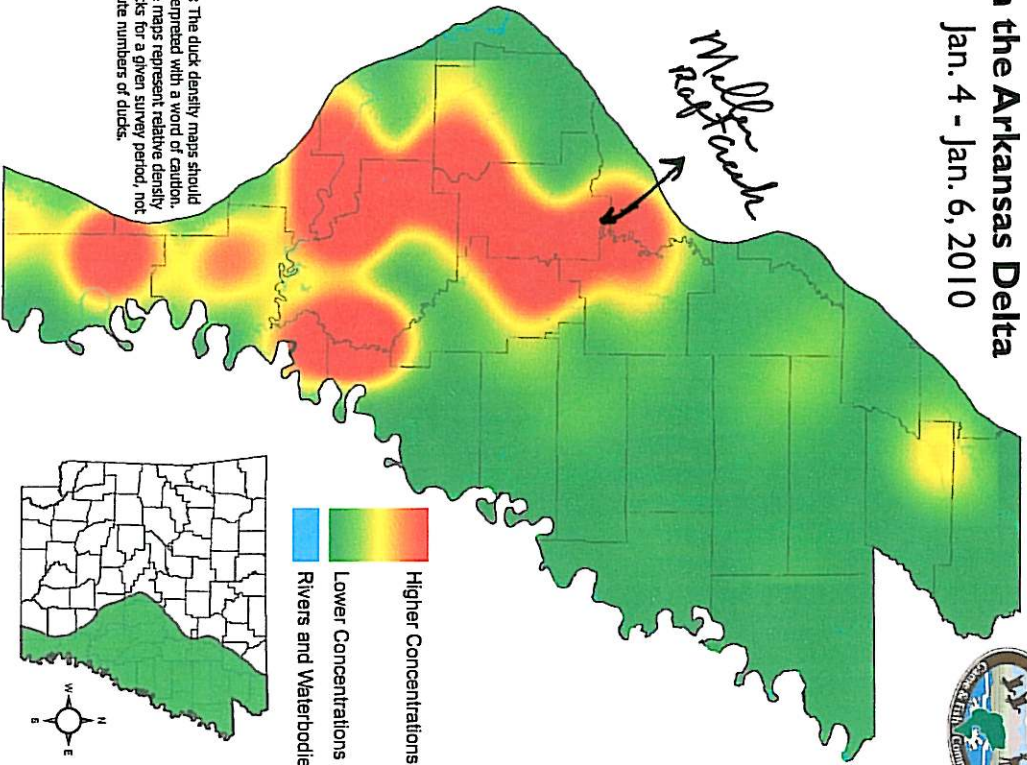
Duck Concentrations of the Arkansas Delta Nov. 16 - Nov. 20, 2009



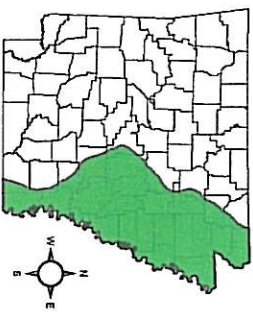
Note: The duck density maps should be interpreted with a word of caution. These maps represent relative density of ducks for a given survey period, not absolute numbers of ducks.

Duck Observations in the Arkansas Delta

Jan. 4 - Jan. 6, 2010



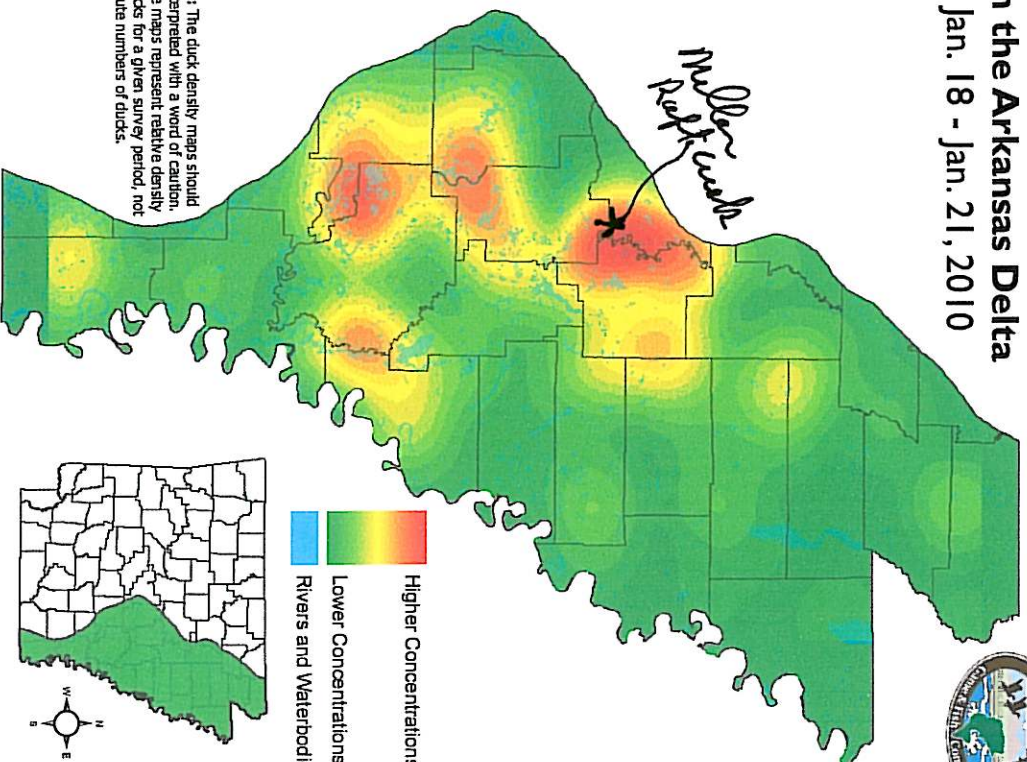
Note: The duck density maps should be interpreted with a word of caution. These maps represent relative density of ducks for a given survey period, not absolute numbers of ducks.



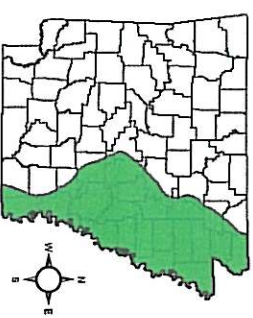
Higher Concentrations
Lower Concentrations
Rivers and Waterbodies

Duck Observations in the Arkansas Delta

Jan. 18 - Jan. 21, 2010



Note: The duck density maps should be interpreted with a word of caution. These maps represent relative density of ducks for a given survey period, not absolute numbers of ducks.



Higher Concentrations
Lower Concentrations
Rivers and Waterbodies



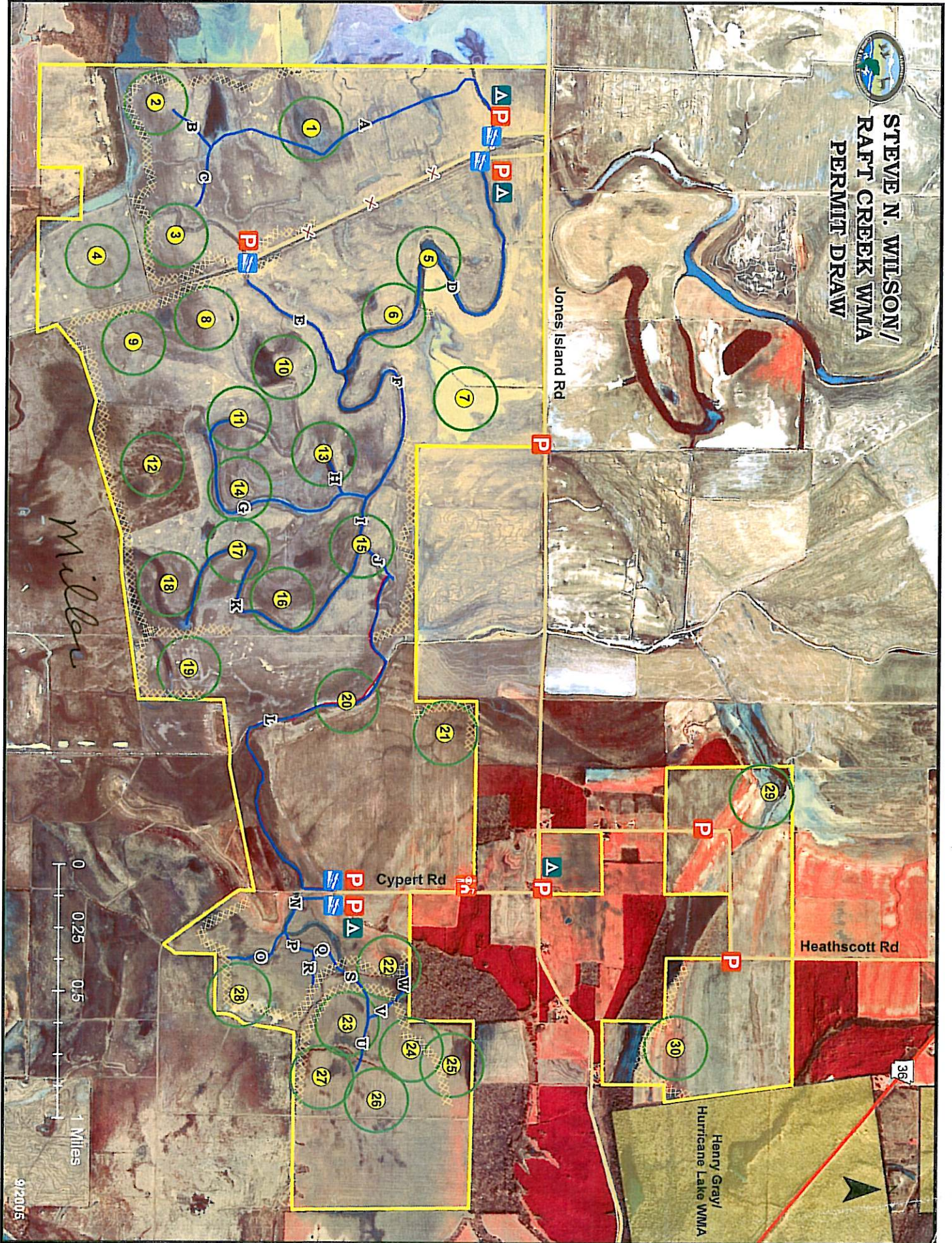
**STEVE N. WILSON/
RAFT CREEK WMA
PERMIT DRAW**

Jones Island Rd

Heathscott Rd

Henry Gray/
Hurricane Lake WMA

36



Faulstich's Permit

Miller



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

C

•• FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2000

Copyright © 2000, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.

Land buy on agenda for G&FC

BY STEVE BOWMAN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission studied the possibility of making another big land purchase during its monthly meeting Thursday in Little Rock.

Approximately 5,000 acres of east Arkansas bottomland could soon enter the G&FC's inventory, depending on how funding for the purchases can be worked out.

The acreage includes about 4,166 acres of the Raft Creek Bottoms and 900 acres in the St. Francis Sunken Lands Wildlife Management Area.

Scott Yaich, assistant director and former waterfowl biologist for the G&FC, believes the Raft Creek Bottoms could be one of the most significant purchases the agency could make in terms of waterfowl habitat. The land is listed as one of the top areas on the G&FC's land acquisition wish list.

The land within the acreage was cleared in the 1960s for rice and soybean production.

"Like much of the land that was cleared during that era, it was not premier farm ground and is subject to flooding from the Raft Creek/White River system," said Steve Frick of Ducks Unlimited.

Frick presented the purchase proposal to the commission. He called it "one of the most critical wintering areas in the Mississippi River Flyway for mallards."

Although the land is cleared, Yaich said in a five-year period in the late 1980s, the Raft Creek Bottoms consistently held 250,000 ducks.

The 900 acres within the St.

See G&FC, Page 7C

G&FC

• Continued from Page 1C

Francis Sunken Lands WMA is primarily a mature bottomland hardwood ecosystem. It currently has a huntable population of deer, turkey and upland game. Frick said when flood conditions exist, there is excellent waterfowl habitat available.

The purchase price for the two tracts of land would be approximately \$4.5 million. But with contributions from Ducks Unlimited and residuals from the Wetlands Reserve Program, the G&FC's total cost would be from

\$1 million to \$1.5 million.

Plans for the Raft Creek Bottoms would be to restore the hydrology of the land to ensure it floods consistently, and to plant hardwoods throughout.

"I'll never see flooded timber hunting in Raft Creek," Frick said. "But in 20 years it will be phenomenal."

The G&FC, which is in the process of setting its 2000 budget, asked Frick to negotiate with Ducks Unlimited to make the initial purchase from their Wetlands America Trust, and finance the cost to the G&FC. The commission did not indicate when they would make a decision.

They fought it!
J.M.
7-14-2000

*Ten years have ~~to~~
now passed*



Both animals killed

8-12-06



MILLER MOIST SOIL UNITS



Ark Landed Fish

LATERAL DITCH

RAFT CREEK DITCH

Miller Rest area

Delivery Channel

weir

Fauler's Point

Rest area

Rest area

Unit 3

Unit 2

Unit 1

Spillway

WCS

WCS

WCS

WCS

WCS

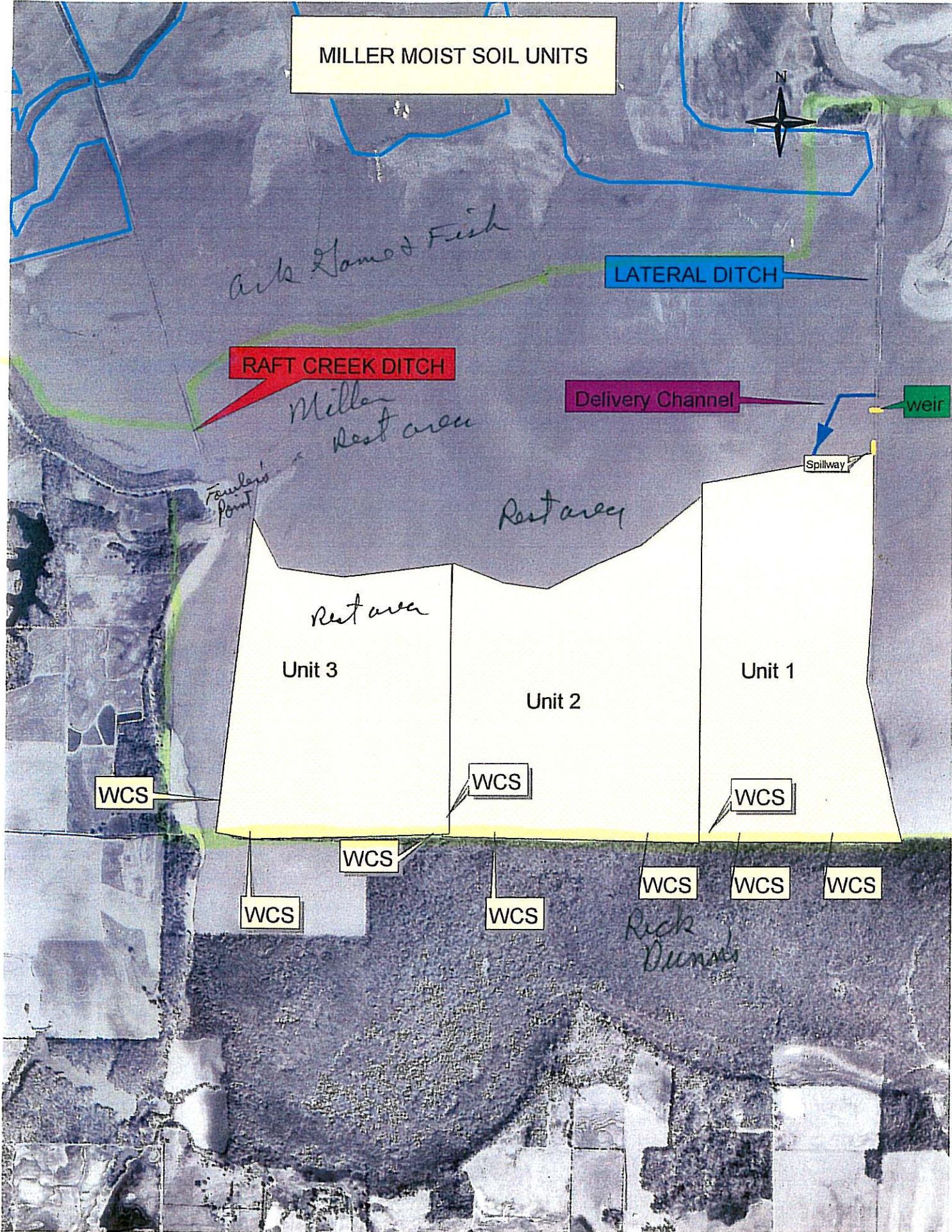
WCS

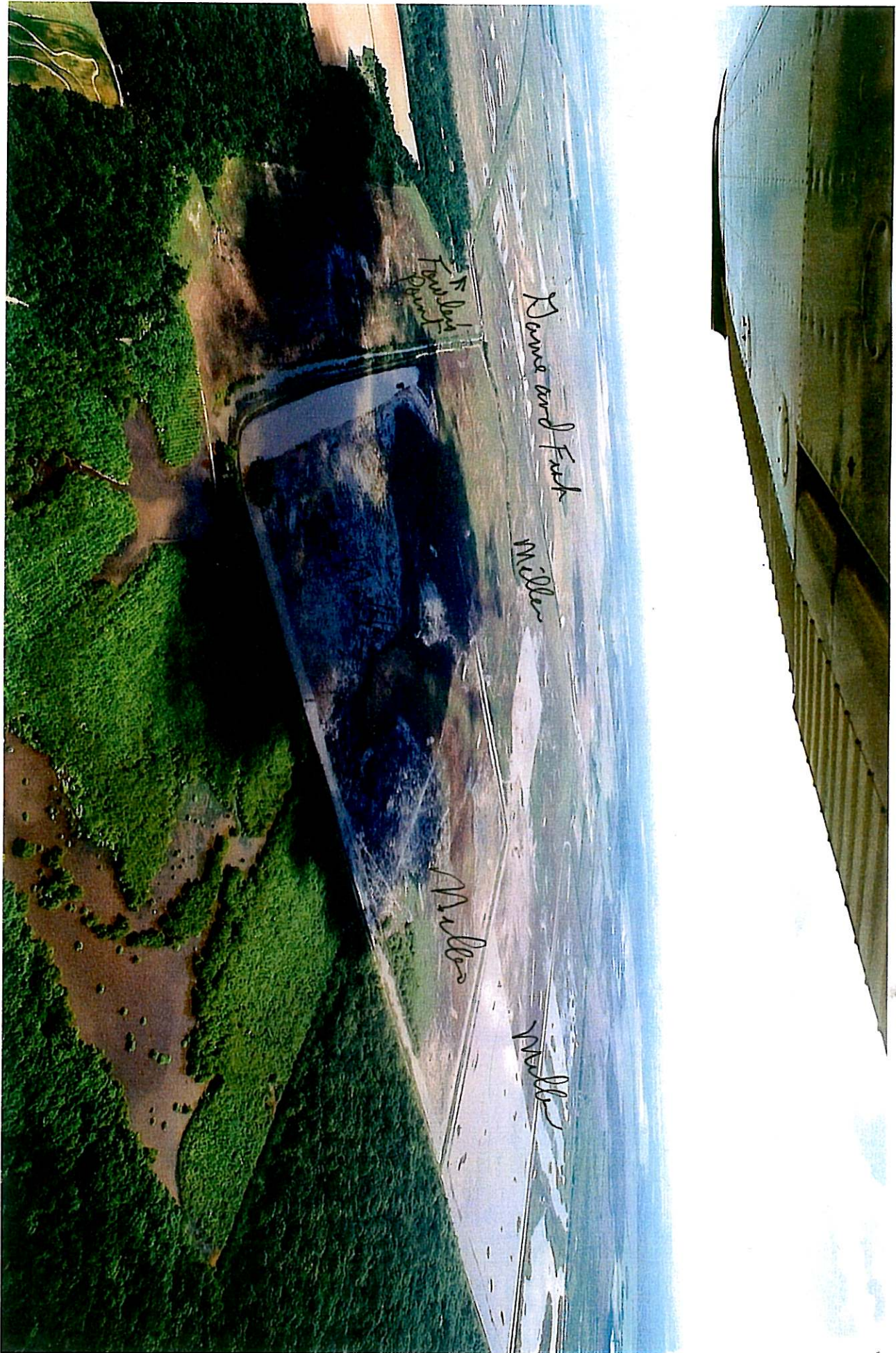
WCS

WCS

WCS

Rich Dennis





Fork

Dance and Fork

Miller

Miller

Miller

Bob Miller
1943
B+C



11/20/2008



Home & Farm

Mellen

Fossil Fuel

Jim - thanks for your generosity to my wounded Rakkasans. I am
breedings honored to know you. With greatest regard, your friend.

Jim -
Thanks for your
Help with these
Great RAKKASANS
JIM DANIEL

Thank you
For all you
have done
in the OIC
Make this a
Great hunt
Season
Sandy Dredan



Thank You Jim
For your help on
our hunt! You
Truly are a
Professional! Luke Murphy

JIM MILLER
2008 Rakkasan WIA Hunt-Arkansas
Thank you for your tremendous support
of our veterans and your commitment
to freedom.

B-co 3-187 and 4-133

Jim - Nice getting to know
you. Warm wishes from
Du and Drake!
Wade Bourne
AKKASAN!
STEEL
COZMKE

↑
We were honored to be able to
take Col. Mike Steele (who led
the ground troops in Mogadishu
Somalia) to capture Adu and
his sides... the movie "Black
hawk Down" was based on
this story and some of his wounds
wars along with them. Jim
Daniels and Al's wife became
on a great lunch hunt on this
Raff could properly
AM