

# RED BAYOU WATERSHED PROJECT

Putting Water Back Where It Belongs

Michael D. Nichols

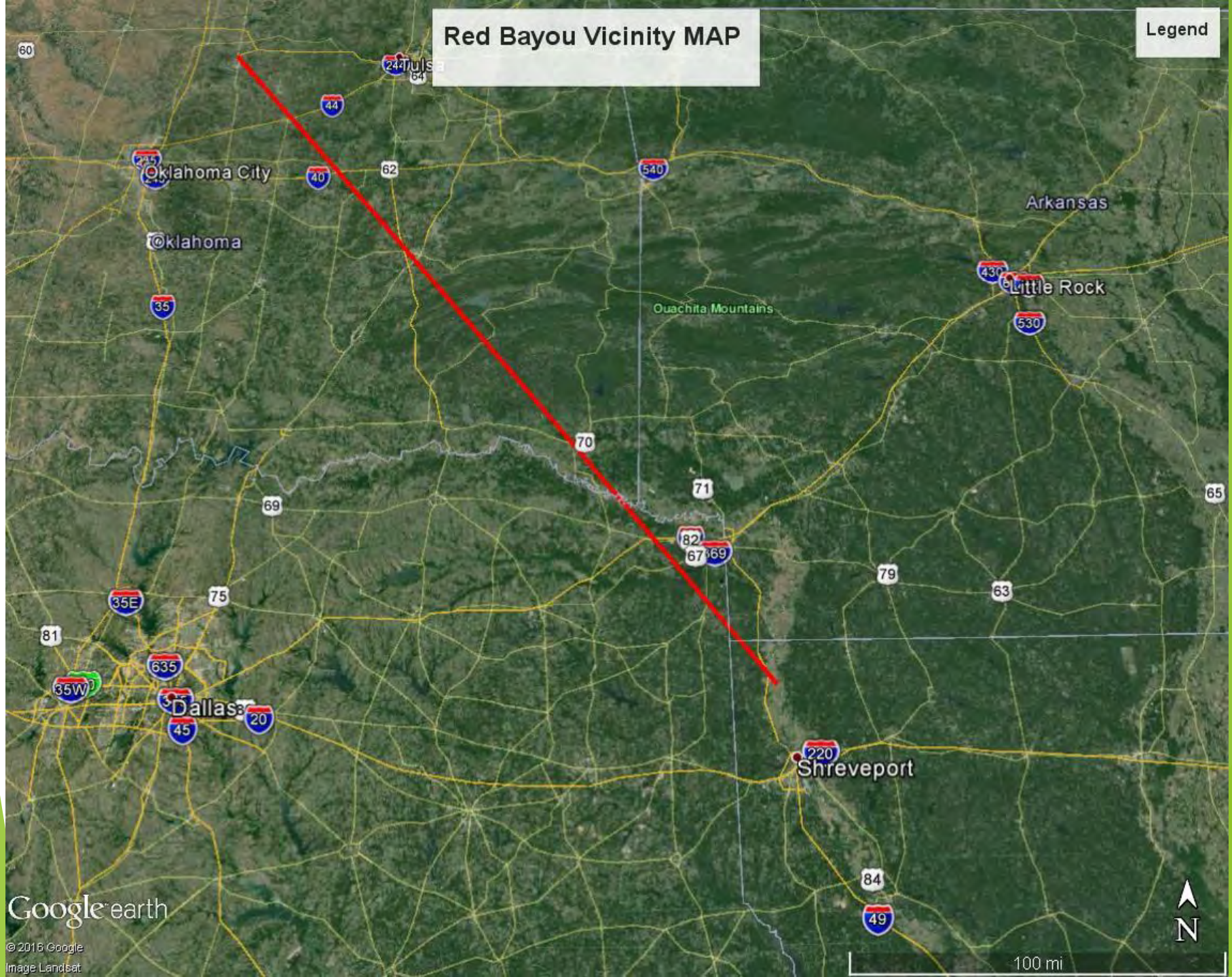
USDA-NRCS

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# Red Bayou Vicinity MAP

Legend



Google earth

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Image Landsat

# Oklahoma Surface Water Resources

## Arkansas and Red River Drainage Basins

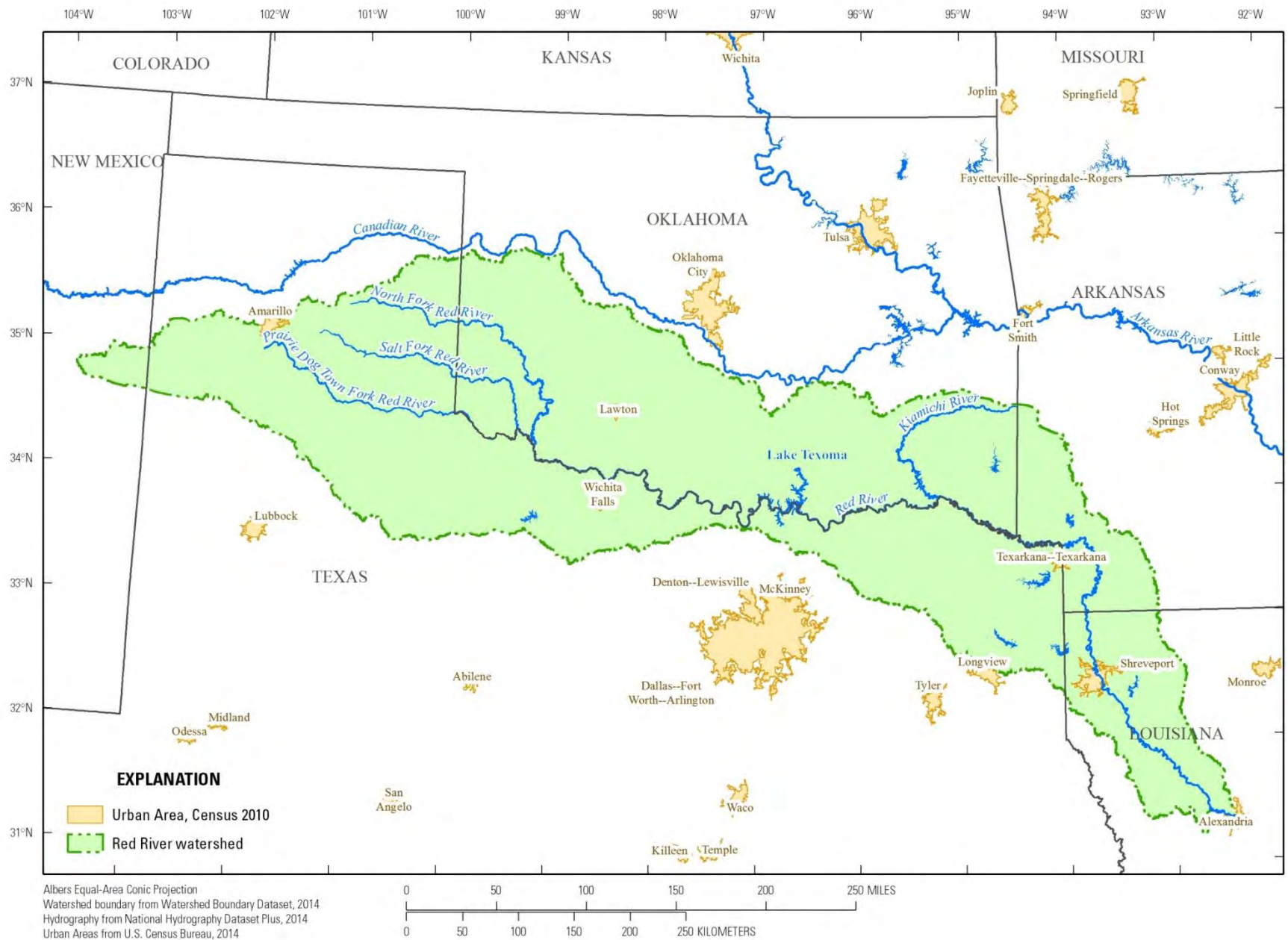


This map shows the drainage basins for the Arkansas and Red Rivers in Oklahoma. The Arkansas River drains 45,095 square-miles (64.5%) of Oklahoma's land surface area, and the Red River drains 34,837 square-miles (35.5%). For more information please visit the OWRB's web site at: (<http://www.owrb.ok.gov>)



State of Oklahoma  
**OWRB**  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
Two Red Rivers Join To Create  
The Water Agency





**Figure 1.** Red River watershed of New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.



# How It All Began

- ▶ In 1997 a small group of landowners approached the Caddo Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
  - ▶ Lack of water
  - ▶ Soil erosion and sedimentation
  - ▶ Inefficient irrigation systems
  - ▶ Poor water quality
  - ▶ Degraded fish and wildlife habitat
- ▶ Caddo SWCD requested assistance from NRCS and we completed a feasibility study in April of 2000.

# Project Partners

Caddo Soil and Water  
Conservation District

USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Louisiana Department of  
Agriculture and Forestry

State of Louisiana-FP&C

North Caddo Irrigation District

Red River Waterway Commission

Red River Valley  
Association

Red River Research Station-  
LSU AgCenter

Caddo Parish Commission

Caddo Levee District

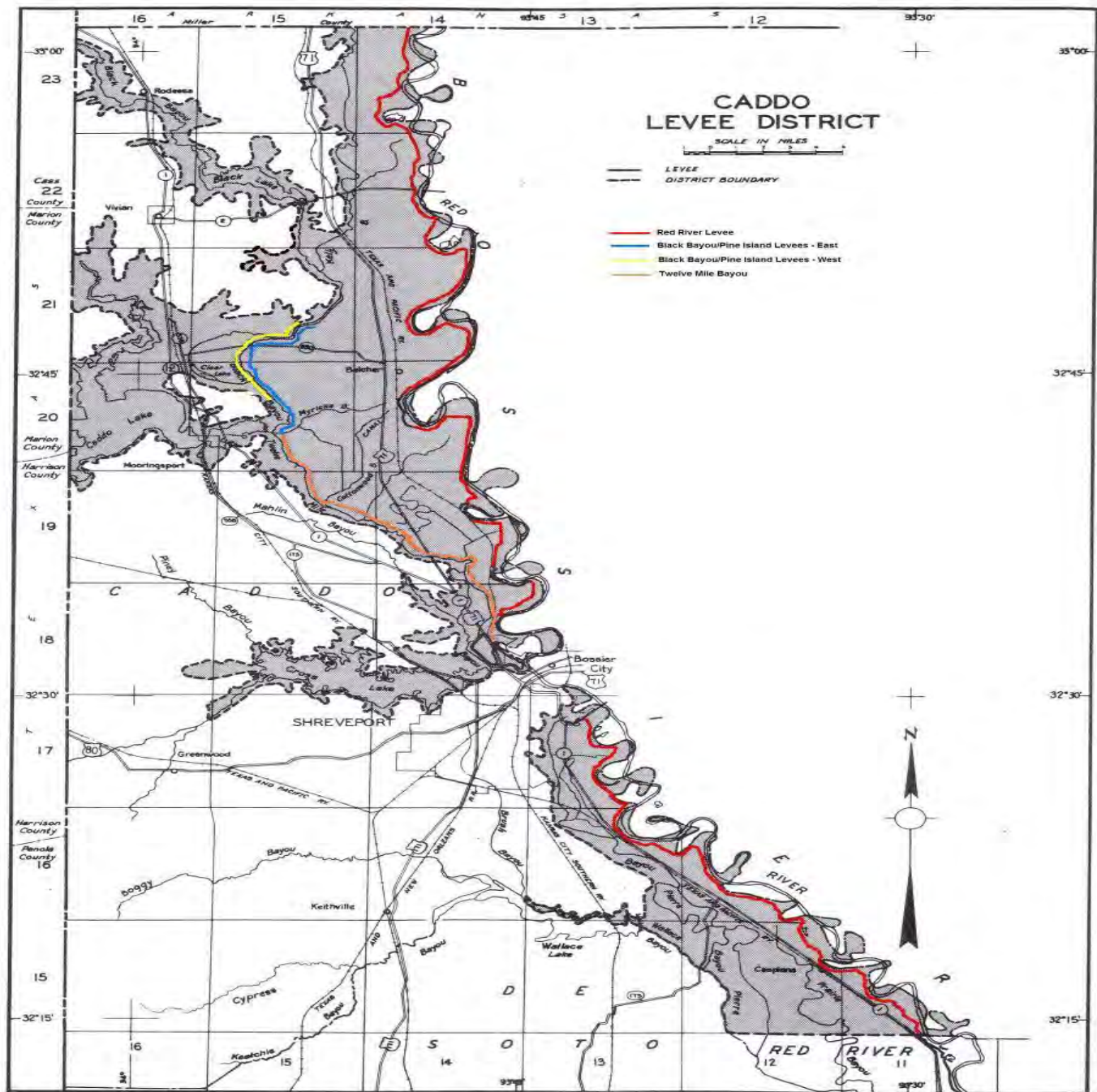
Louisiana Farm Bureau  
Federation

Twin Valley RC&D

# Funding

- ▶ American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- ▶ State Funding







# HISTORIC SITE

Seawell's Canal, 1830-1873

In 1830 Lt. Washington. W. Seawell of the United States Corps of Engineers developed a canal connecting Black Bayou and Red Bayou by cleaning out and improving a natural channel between the two bayous. This canal, later named after Lt. Seawell, enabled small riverboats to navigate around the Upper Red River raft by following Twelve Mile Bayou, Caddo Lake, Black Bayou and Red Bayou. In 1873 the Upper Red River Raft was removed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and riverboats ceased using this route and followed the cleared Red River channel.

DIXIE

CHER

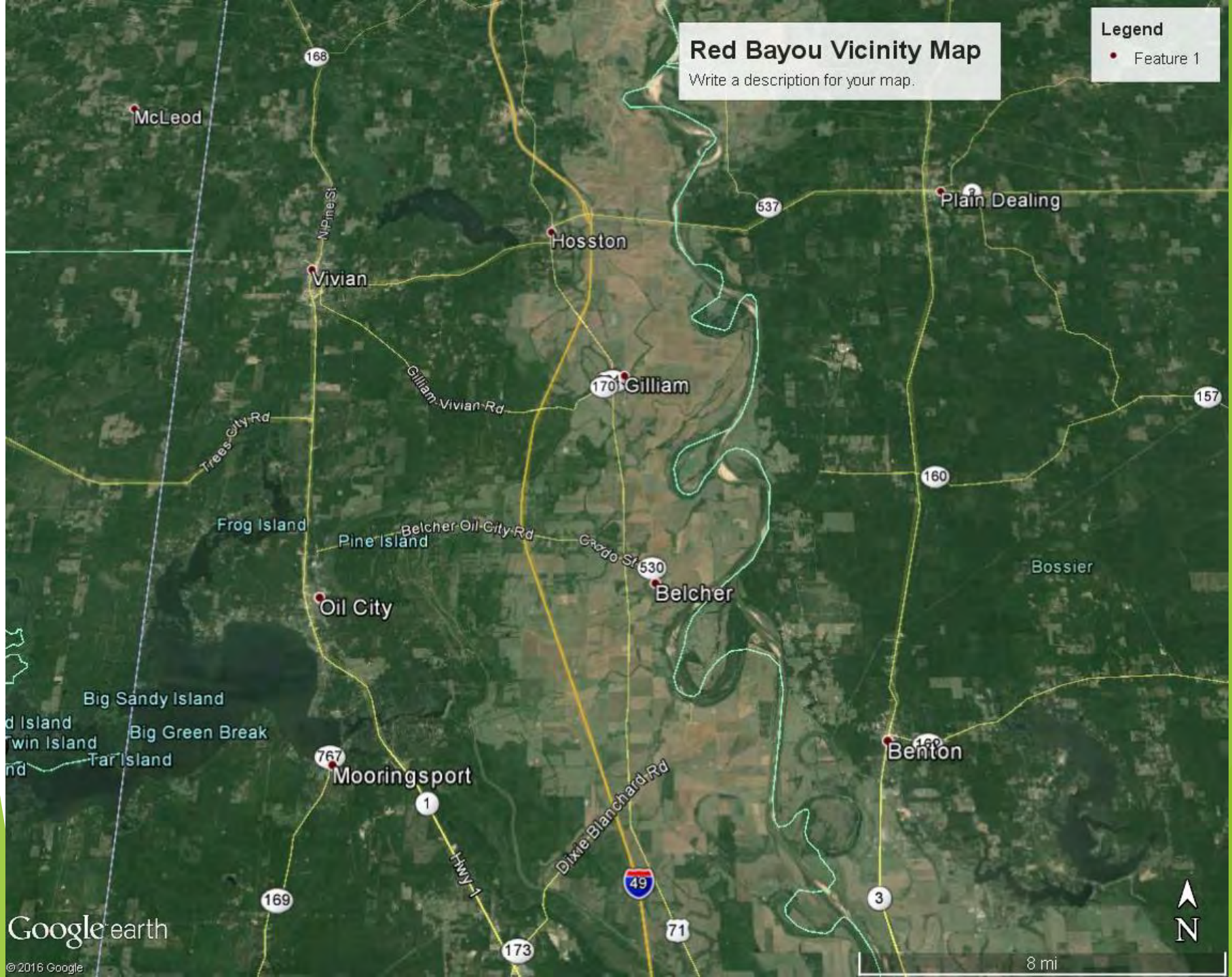


## Red Bayou Vicinity Map

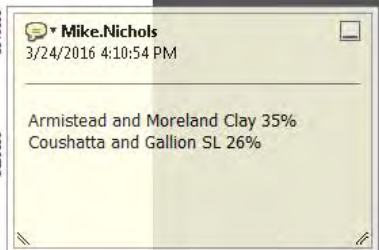
Write a description for your map.

### Legend

- Feature 1









# Red Bayou Project Area

Legend

- Feature 1









120762062



## Environmental Considerations

Wetlands

Interior Least Tern (ILT)

Blocking fisheries movements

# ILT Endangered Species

- ▶ Nesting colony just south of intake
- ▶ USFWS consultation
- ▶ We agreed to a provision to stop pumping if the flow in the Red River drops below 22,000 cfs
- ▶ Peak capacity of pumps is 150 cfs
- ▶ Expect to use 95 cfs or about 42,500 gpm during an average year. That's about 20,000 acre feet per year
- ▶ About 7.5 min to pump 1 acre feet of water
- ▶ 18,200 to 36,400 acre feet
- ▶ During a normal year corn needs about 16 inches of supplemental water and 22 inches during a dry year

























51701395175  
2042 P1  
PIPE

400































































## Northern segment

irrigated cropland draining back into red bayou

### Legend

- 800 feet
- Pipe Outlets

Pipe Outlets

Hosston River Rd

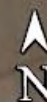
Turnley Rd

Par Rd 22

Google earth

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1000 ft









# Incentive-based conservation since 2011

- Residue Management, Mulch Till: 345 acres
- Residue Management, Strip Till: 709 acres
- Residue Management, Ridge Till: 793.6 acres
- Structure for Water Control: 23
- Grade Stabilization Structure 2
- Irrigation Pipeline: 29,516 feet (5.6 miles)
- Irrigation Land Leveling 174.7 acres
- Irrigation System, center pivot sprinkler: 4 systems, 912 acres
- Irrigation Water Management; 1,083 acres
- Pumping Plant: 6
- Reduce soil erosion by 18,700 TPY and offsite sedimentation by 6,200 TPY.



# Irrigation Numbers

## 2015 season

PHAUCET (NRCS)

Pipe Planner (Delta Plastics)

Low pressure systems

2500 acres

400 acres expected in 2016

15 pumps operating and 1 planned in 2016

25 flow meters

658 million gallons pumped into Red Bayou

416 million gallons used to irrigate crops











































## HISTORIC SITE Fairview Farm

In 1897, James Richard Cavett, an early settler, acquired this 240 acres. Elsie Louella Cavett McClenaghan named it Fairview, honoring their Scots-Irish ancestry. Around 1915, her son, William Cavett McClenaghan, built a farmhouse, commissary, barns, cotton house, etc., for his family, and he was one of the first planters who had a steel wheeled tractor. Farmhands used brozines bearing the family name. Fairview has been in the family over 115 years and six generations.





































# Mitigation Area

Write a description for your map.

Legend

Gilliam

Weir





















