

ERBSHA Turtle Sampling:

Twenty turtle sampling sites were identified and 20 nets, 19 salamander traps, and 5 siren traps deployed over a 4 day sampling period.

Method: A Turtle trapping protocol Bob Bluett borrowed from Chris Phillips in 2006 was followed:

- Conduct surveys during April through September when water temps are >40 but <90 degrees F
- Minimum effort is 8 traps set for 3 days (set traps on day 1; check day 2; check and pull day 3)
- Sample different habitats that occur on the site (e.g., ponds, wetlands, streams)
- Traps:
 - Check trap to make sure it's functioning properly:
 - The one-way doors that allow turtles to enter the holding pen should swing freely and return to the closed position; possible adjustments include sliding the door one way or the other through the metal ferrules that attach the door to the top of the trap, rotating the metal ferrules, and bending the door slightly inward toward the holding pen.
 - Locations:
 - Set trap or hoop net with throat (entrance) underwater and top of the rear of the trap far enough above water to allow captured turtles to breath.
 - The best locations are near basking sites (low banks, logs, or other objects protruding from the water where turtles climb out to sun themselves).
 - In flowing water, set traps with entrance facing downstream.
 - Bait:
 - Bait with at least ½ pound of fresh/frozen fish (e.g., carp, shad, bluegill) or chicken (e.g., hearts/gizzards); replace as needed.
 - Wrap bait in a piece of metal window screen or hardware cloth (or place in a tupperware container with holes drilled in it) to keep turtles, crayfish, etc. from reaching it.
 - Bait should be hung from a string attached to the top of the holding pen located in rear of trap (bait should be underwater).
 - Seine:
 - Placing a seine from the center of throat outward will help direct turtles into the trap (optional; if you do this, note it on the data sheet near “type of device” along with the length of the seine)
- Data Collection:
 - Check traps daily. Complete a data sheet for each trap on each day. If no turtles are captured in a trap, write “none” under species encountered.
 - Photograph each species of turtle the first time you encounter it at a site (i.e., not each time you encounter it).
 - Record the type and number of each species captured each day.

- Photograph and record incidental observations of frogs, toads, lizards, salamanders, and turtles you aren't likely to capture in traps (e.g., box, map turtles) on data sheet labeled *incidental observations*.

ERBSHA Sampling Details:

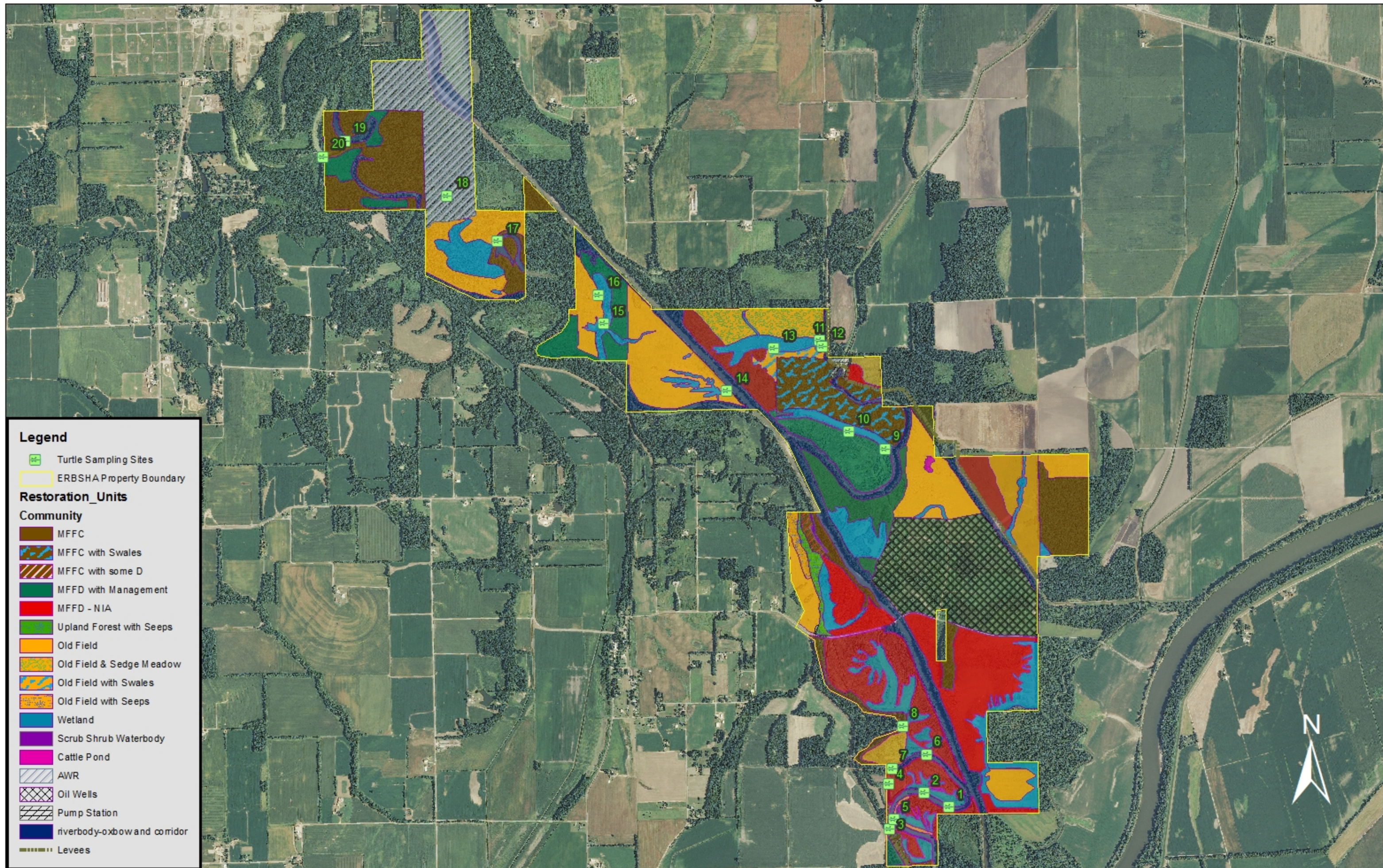
- Timeframe: Late August
- Number of Traps: ~20
- Other Data Collected:
 - o GPS point of trap locations
 - o Photos:
 - cardinal directions
 - trapped turtles (a specimen of each species found)

Overall Summary of Results:

Over 400 individuals were trapped (see attached data sheets for additional detail).

The turtle species sampled include: red-eared sliders, common snapping turtles, painted turtles and spiny softshell turtles.

ERBSHA 2013 Turtle Monitoring Sites



Legend

- Turtle Sampling Sites
- ERBSHA Property Boundary

Restoration_Units

Community

- MFFC
- MFFC with Swales
- MFFC with some D
- MFFD with Management
- MFFD - NIA
- Upland Forest with Seeps
- Old Field
- Old Field & Sedge Meadow
- Old Field with Swales
- Old Field with Seeps
- Wetland
- Scrub Shrub Waterbody
- Cattle Pond
- AWR
- Oil Wells
- Pump Station
- riverbody-oxbow and corridor
- Levees



ERBSHA Turtle Sampling August 2013	Species	Number
Turtles	Red Eared Slider	324
	Common snapper	48
	Spiny softshell	5
	Painted turtle	38
	Subtotal	415
Frogs	Leopard frog	2
	Subtotal	2
Fish	Green sunfish	3
	Sunfish	33
	Bowfin	1
	White crappie	3
	Crappie	5
	Yellow bullhead	3
	Darter	1
	Pirate perch	3
	Emerald shiner	1
	KY Spotted Bass	5
	Carp Sucker	1
	Killi fish	1
	Grass pickrel	2
	Gambusia	4
	Subtotal	66
Insects	Predacious diving beetle	2
	Subtotal	2
Mammals	Raccoon	1
	Subtotal	1
Grand Total		486











