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HON. PAUL D. PATE
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HON. ROB SAND
AUDITOR OF STATE

HON. ROBY SMITH
TREASURER OF STATE

HON. MIKE NAIG
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE



Executive Council of Iowa

CAPITOL BUILDING
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319
PHONE: 515 281-5368

September 5, 2023

Accounting Department
Office of the Treasurer
Lucas Building
321 E 12th Street
Des Moines, IA, 50319

The Executive Council, in a meeting held on this date, approved the Department of Natural Resources' request for an emergency allocation in the amount of \$1,814,320.00, subject to the audit of actual invoices. On April 13, 2023, a wildfire took place at Loess Hills State Forest.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF IOWA

Victoria Newton

Victoria Newton
Executive Secretary

cc: Kayla Lyon, Director, Department of Natural Resources
Sherry L. Arntzen, Bureau Chief, State Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau, Department of Natural Resources
Kara Bryant, Budget and Finance, Department of Natural Resources
Joel Lunde, Department of Management

AOS Claim # 3486
TOS Job # _____



OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0004

Telephone (515) 281-5834 Facsimile (515) 281-6518

August 22, 2023

Victoria Newton
Executive Council
L O C A L

Subject: Wildfire at Loess Hills State Forest on April 13, 2023
Department of Natural Resources
Claim Dated July 17, 2023
AOS Claim ID: 3486

In accordance with Executive Council policy, we have examined the claim for 29C.20 funds for the above-mentioned damage. It is our conclusion that the above-mentioned damage incurred by the Department of Natural Resources is covered by Chapter 29C.20 of the Code of Iowa. Therefore, we recommend an Executive Council allocation in the amount of \$1,814,320.00, subject to an audit of actual invoices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernest H. Ruben, Jr.".

Ernest H. Ruben, Jr., CPA
Deputy Auditor of State

cc: Kayla Lyon, Director, Department of Natural Resources
Sherry L. Arntzen, Bureau Chief, State Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau,
Department of Natural Resources
Kara Bryant, Budget and Finance, Department of Natural Resources
Joel Lunde, Department of Management



July 17, 2023

Victoria Newton
Executive Council
State Capitol
LOCAL

Tammy Hollingsworth
Auditor's Office
Lucas Building
LOCAL

RE: Jones Creek Wildfire at Loess Hills State Forest

Dear Victoria and Tammy:

On April 13, 2023, there was a wildfire at Loess Hills State Forest in Harrison County, Iowa. Elizabeth Thacker sent an initial e-mail notification of the damages on April 13, 2023. There was damage to trees, barbed wire fencing, and a trail crossing bridge. The tree damage clean-up is for damaged trees with no marketable/salvage value that should be cleared off the property for safety reasons. A cost estimate of \$1,814,320 is attached.

The supporting documents include:

- E-mail notification to Executive Council and Auditor's Office
- Estimated cost repair due to Jones Creek wildfire
- Location maps showing damages (4 PDFs)
- Photos of damage (10 total)

This information is being submitted to the Executive Council as a request for an allocation of \$1,814,320.

I thank you and the Executive Council members for your time and consideration to review this material. Please let me know if it would be beneficial to attend the Executive Council meeting to be available for questions.

Sincerely,

Sherry L. Arntzen Digitally signed by Sherry L. Arntzen
Date: 2023.07.17 16:42:40 -05'00'

Sherry L. Arntzen
Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau

Cc: Kara Bryant, DNR Budget and Finance

Attachments: 16



Thacker, Elizabeth <elizabeth.thacker@dnr.iowa.gov>

Notification of Damages - Loess Hills Wildfire

1 message

Thacker, Elizabeth <elizabeth.thacker@dnr.iowa.gov>

Fri, Apr 14, 2023 at 11:39 AM

To: "Tammy A. Hollingsworth" <tammy.hollingsworth@aos.iowa.gov>, "ExecutiveCouncil [TOS]" <ExecutiveCouncil@tos.iowa.gov>

Cc: Kim Bohlen <kim.bohlen@dnr.iowa.gov>, Seth Moore <seth.moore@dnr.iowa.gov>, "Arntzen, Sherry" <sherry.arntzen@dnr.iowa.gov>, "Bryant, Kara" <kara.bryant@dnr.iowa.gov>, Jacob Schaben <jacob.schaben@dnr.iowa.gov>

Hi Tammy and Executive Council,

On Thursday April 13, 2023 there was a wildfire at Loess Hills State Forest. The Park is closed and we are working to contain the fire. At this time we do not know the amount of damages.

Once we have more information and are able to evaluate the damage, an allocation request will be submitted.

Thanks and if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask.



www.iowadnr.gov

ELIZABETH THACKER • Guest Service and Reservation System Assistant

Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
c 515-444-9164

502 E 9th St. Des Moines, IA 50319



Estimated Cost for Repair due to the Jones Creek Wildfire

Loess Hills State Forest P.O. Box 158, 206 Polk Street
Pisgah, Iowa 51564

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
348.30	348.3 acres of deciduous and coniferous trees were killed. Estimated cost to remove the damaged trees per acre. These trees have no marketable/salvage value.	\$4,400.00	\$1,532,520.00
14.20	14.2 miles of barbed wire fence had the wooden posts burned off and the wire was heated to the point of destruction where these wooden posts burned. Cost of removing the old fence	\$7,000.00	\$99,400.00
14.20	Installation of new fence	\$12,000.00	\$170,400.00
1	Twin 60' culverts and installation	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
SUBTOTAL			\$1,814,320.00
TAX RATE			0.00%
SALES TAX			
OTHER			
TOTAL			\$1,814,320.00

DATE
8/25/2023

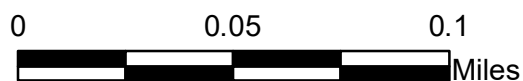
Notes

Estimates consistent with going rates of several contractors working in the area and recent past work done.

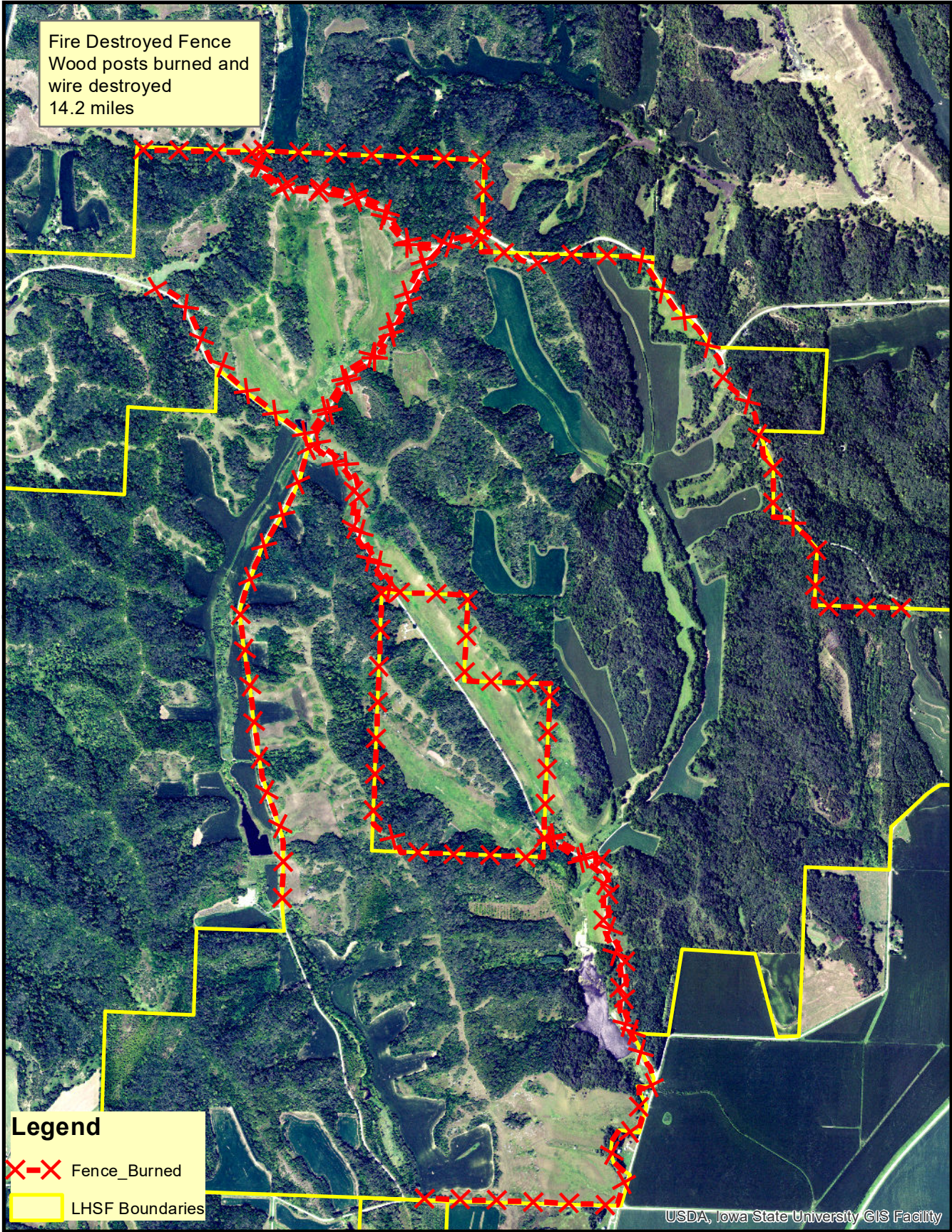
Loess Hills State Forest Jones Creek Wildfire - Pedestrian Bridge Destroyed



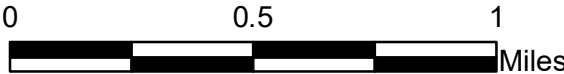
Prepared By:
Jeff Seago
Area Forester



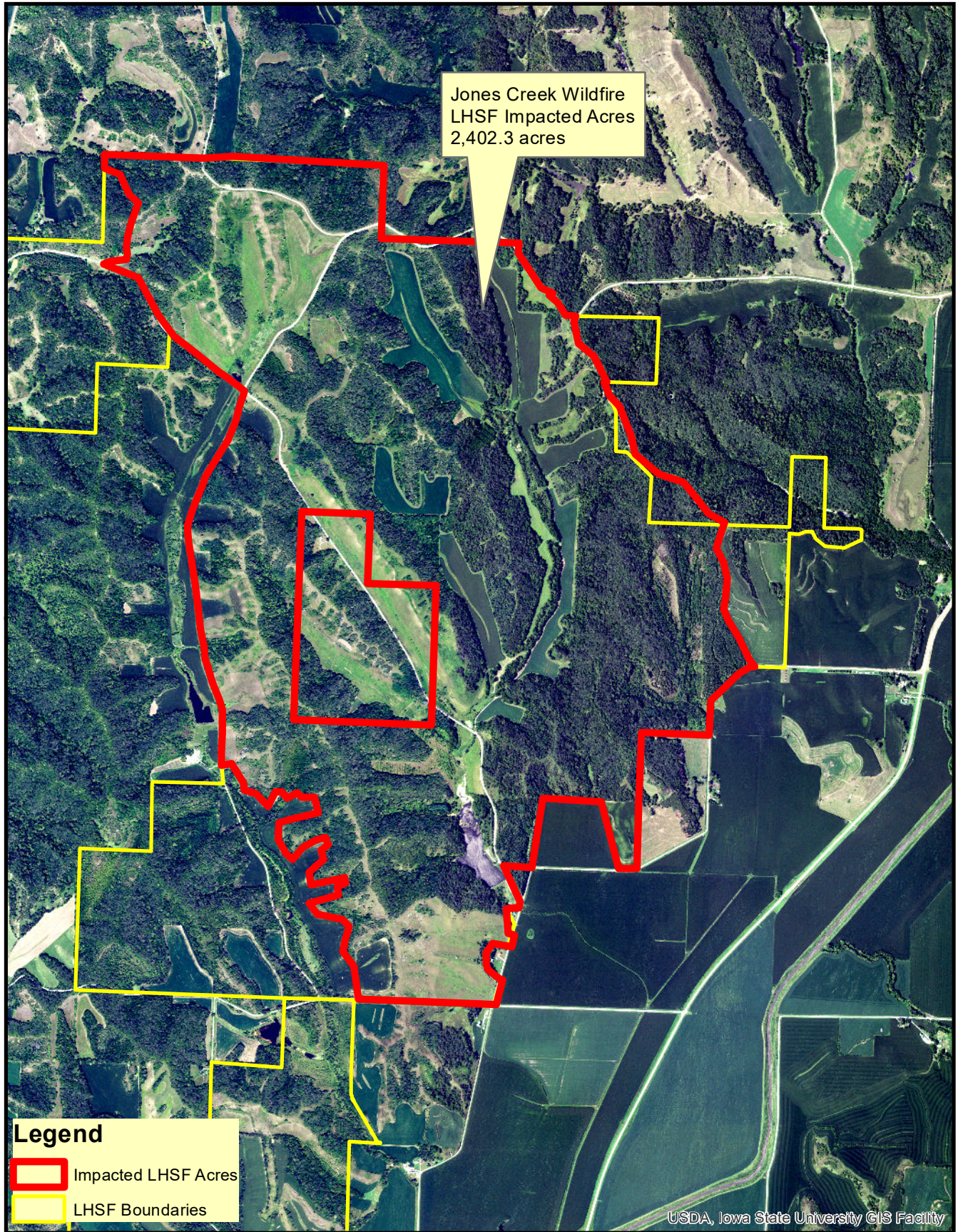
Loess Hills State Forest Jones Creek Wildfire - Destroyed Fence



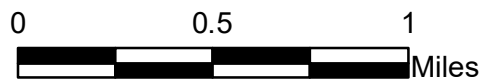
Prepared By:
Jeff Seago
Area Forester



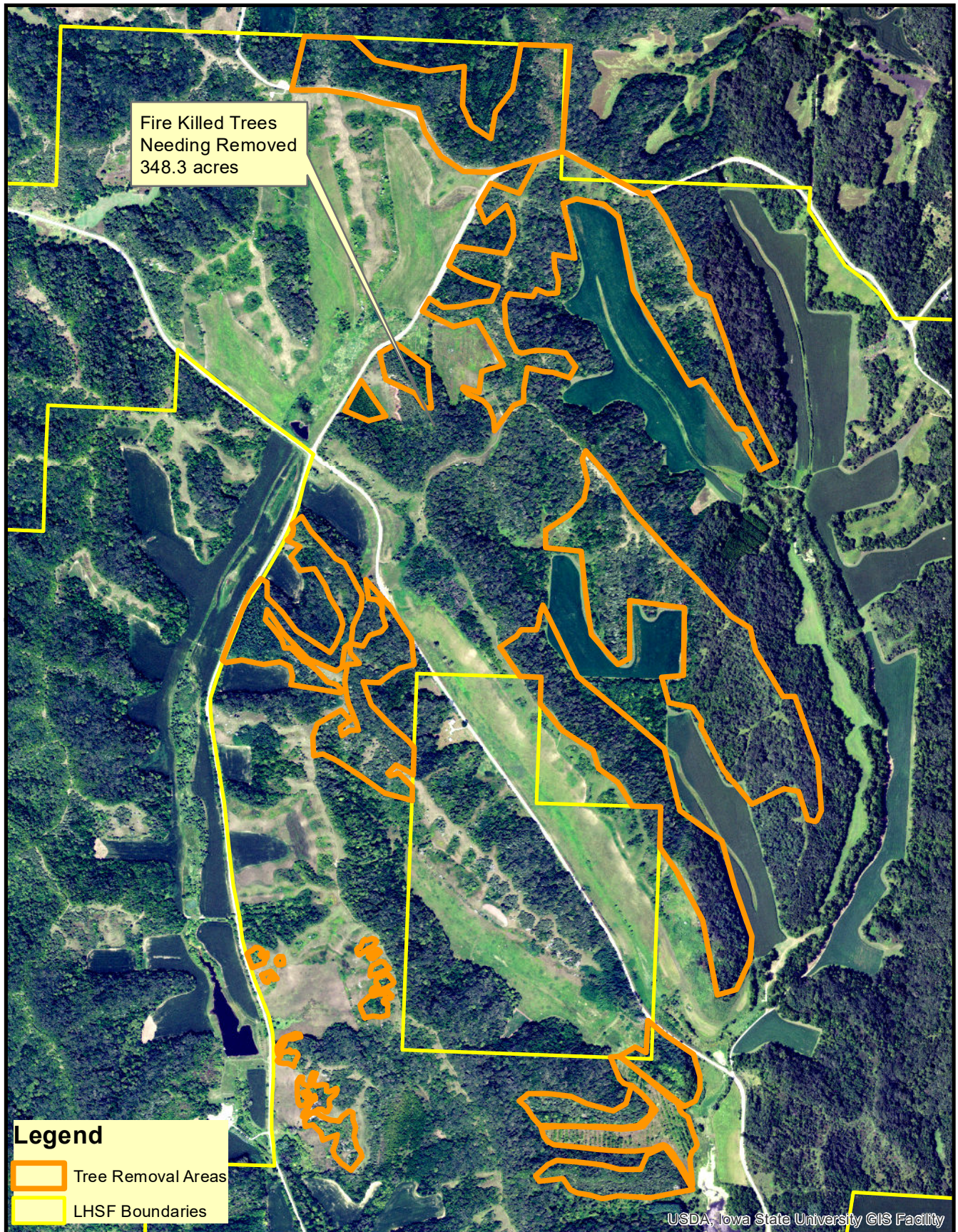
Loess Hills State Forest Jones Creek Wildfire - LHSF Impacted Acres



Prepared By:
Jeff Seago
Area Forester



Loess Hills State Forest Jones Creek Wildfire - Tree Removal Acres



Prepared By:
Jeff Seago
Area Forester

