

DATE: 3-2-2023 FILE REF: NA

TO: Sarah Luck, Limit Calculator; Caitlin Oconnell, Compliance Engineer

FROM: Camille Bruhn, Stream Biologist; Kristi Minahan, Water Quality Standards; Diane Figiel, Limit Calculator Coordinator; Sally Jarosz and Liam Kolb, Wetlands program

SUBJECT: Potosi-Tennyson WWTF receiving water classification—side area of Mississippi River; Grant County

Overview of issue

Potosi-Tennyson WWTF has a discharge pipe behind a jetty along the east bank of the Mississippi River in Grant Co. The facility has been receiving LAL-Wetland-based limits, though it is not specifically listed in ch. NR 104 as LAL-Wetland. In aerial photos over time (attached), the area of the discharge appears to sometimes be open water and sometimes vegetated. Camille Bruhn did a site visit on June 21, 2022 to determine whether the location should be appropriately classified as wetland (LAL) or whether it is likely to support fish and should have a full aquatic life classification. At the time of Camille's visit, the discharge pipe was in a large area of open water (see photos) and was not appropriate for a fish or habitat survey, which are not designed for these conditions.

Based review of available maps and discussion with Sally Jarosz and Liam Kolb from the DNR's wetlands program, it was determined that the area where the outfall is located is likely to have sufficient connectivity with the Mississippi main channel to support fish at least part of the time. During wet years, the area appears to have open water, and during dryer years it is likely that fish would have access at least during the spring. Therefore a fish and aquatic life use of Warmwater should apply to the area where the outfall is located to protect the fish community while present. Sally and Liam noted that the area of the outfall is not what would typically be considered a "backwater", which would be more disconnected from the main channel, like an oxbow lake.

Summary of recommendations

- **Segment 1: Area of outfall behind jetty on Mississippi River**
 - *Codified designated use:* Not listed in ch. NR 104; defaults to Warmwater
 - *Classification used for previous permit issuance:* LAL-Wetland
 - *Previous stream class recommendations:* 2003 proposal recommended listing this site as "wetland" (i.e. LAL)
 - *Modeled Natural Community:* NA (Mississippi River is Warmwater)
 - *New recommended Natural Community and Designated Use:* Warmwater

Site overview map

Overview map from DNR's Water Condition Viewer.



Photos 1 & 2. Photos from June 21, 2022 of discharge pipe (view from standing on the jetty). At the time of this visit, there was open water preventing a standard fish or habitat survey.



Imagery date: April 27, 1995



4/1994

Whispering Bluffs Winery

Great River Rd

133

Potosi Point Recreational Area

Osceola Cemetery

Mississippi River

Image U.S. Geological Survey

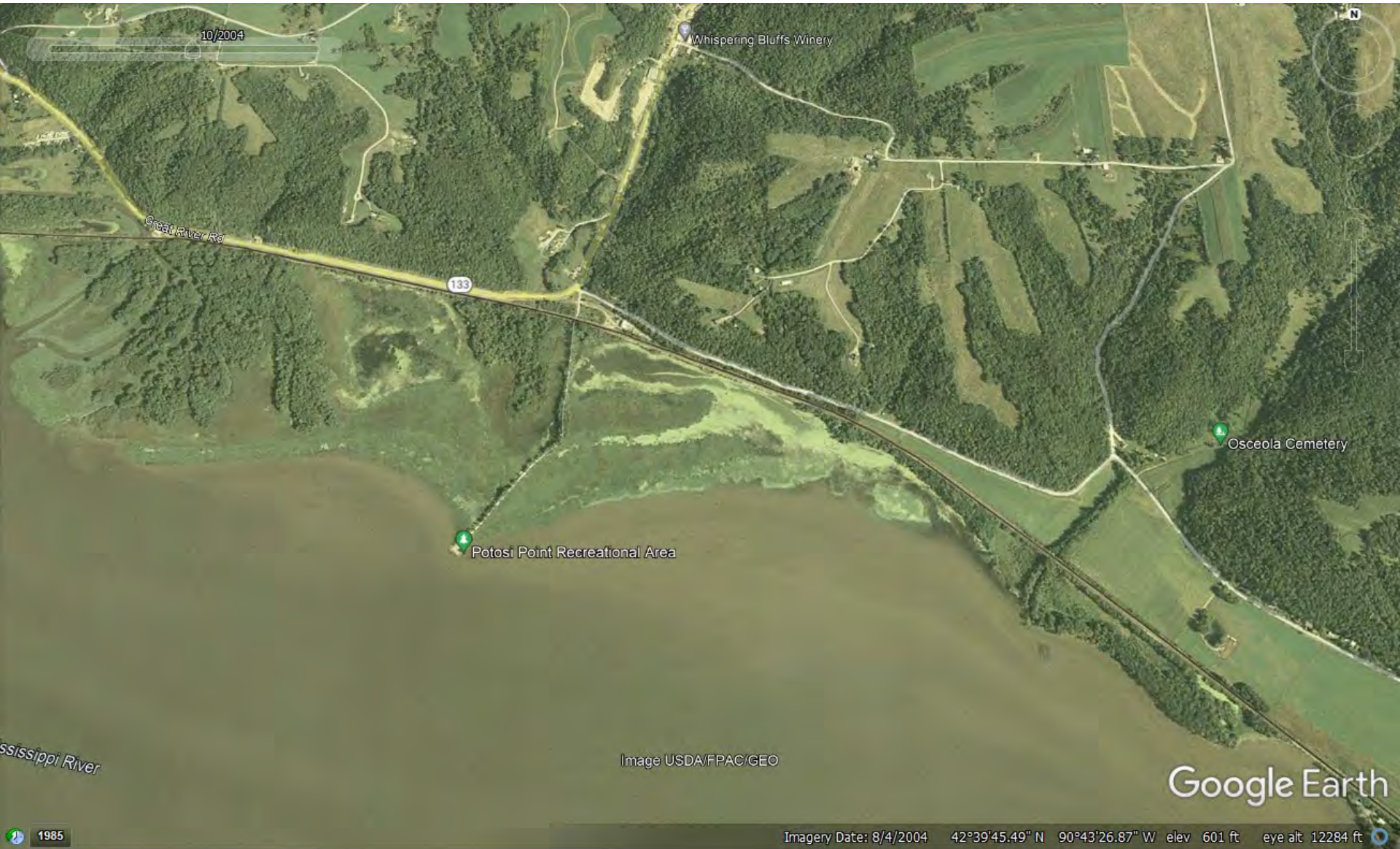
Imagery date: 4-27-1995

Google Earth

1985

42°40'27.15" N 90°45'12.77" W elev 711 ft eye alt 12284 ft

Imagery date: August 4, 2004



Mississippi River

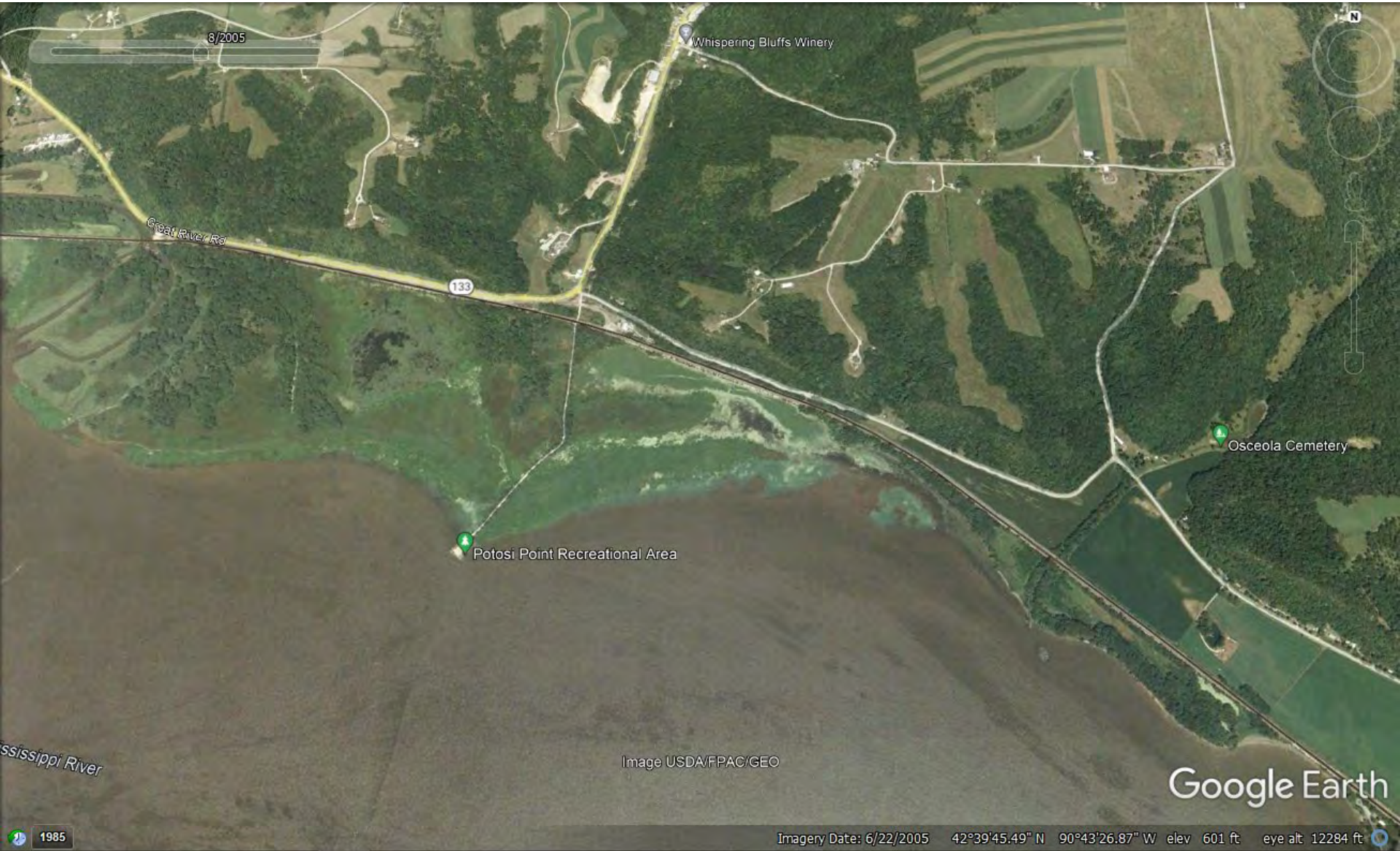
Image USDA/FPAC/GEO

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 8/4/2004 42°39'45.49" N 90°43'26.87" W elev 601 ft eye alt 12284 ft

Imagery date: June 22, 2005



8/2005

Whispering Bluffs Winery

Great River Rd

133

Potosi Point Recreational Area

Osceola Cemetery

Mississippi River

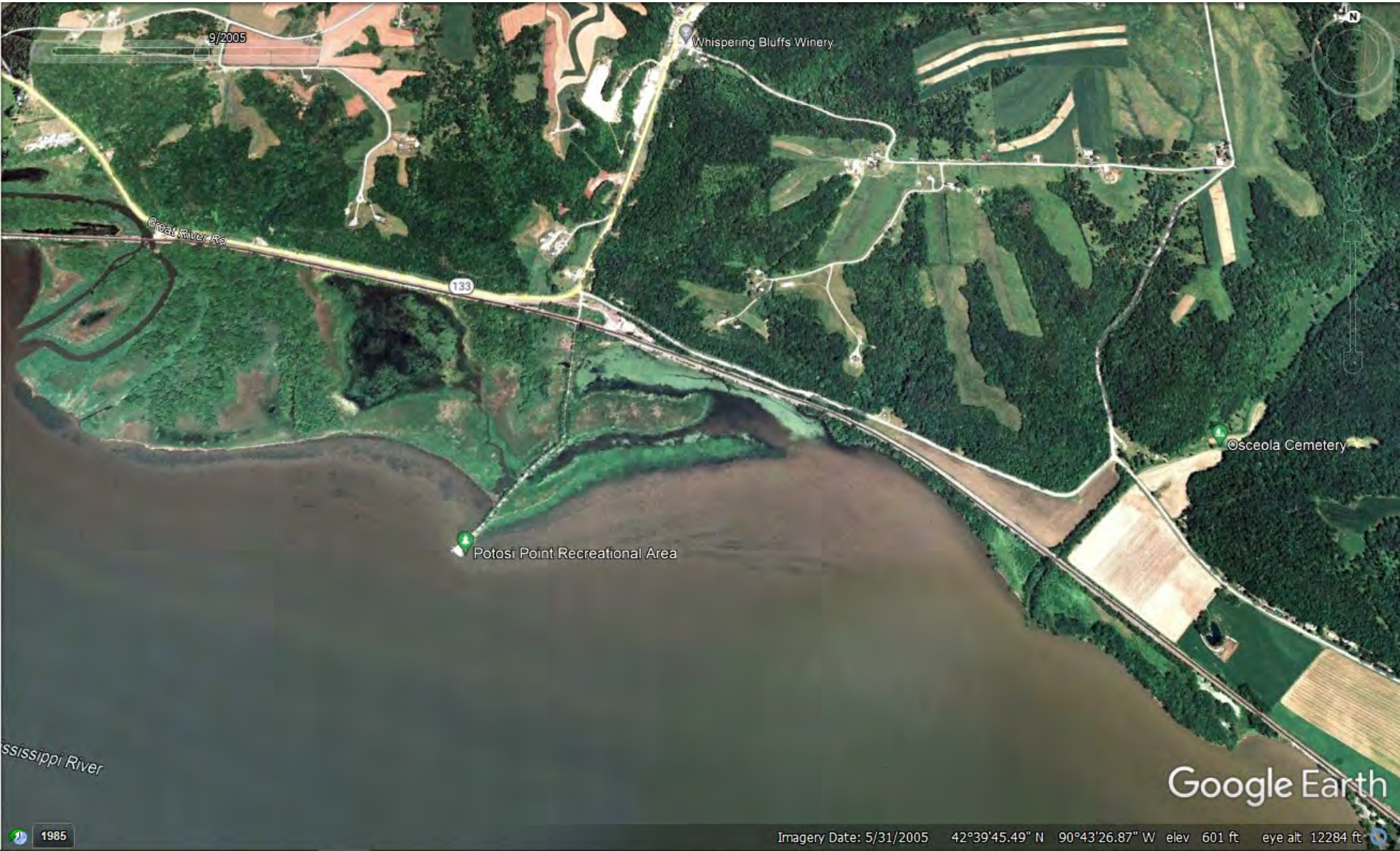
Image USDA/FPAC/GEO

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 6/22/2005 42°39'45.49" N 90°43'26.87" W elev 601 ft eye alt 12284 ft

Imagery date: May 31, 2005



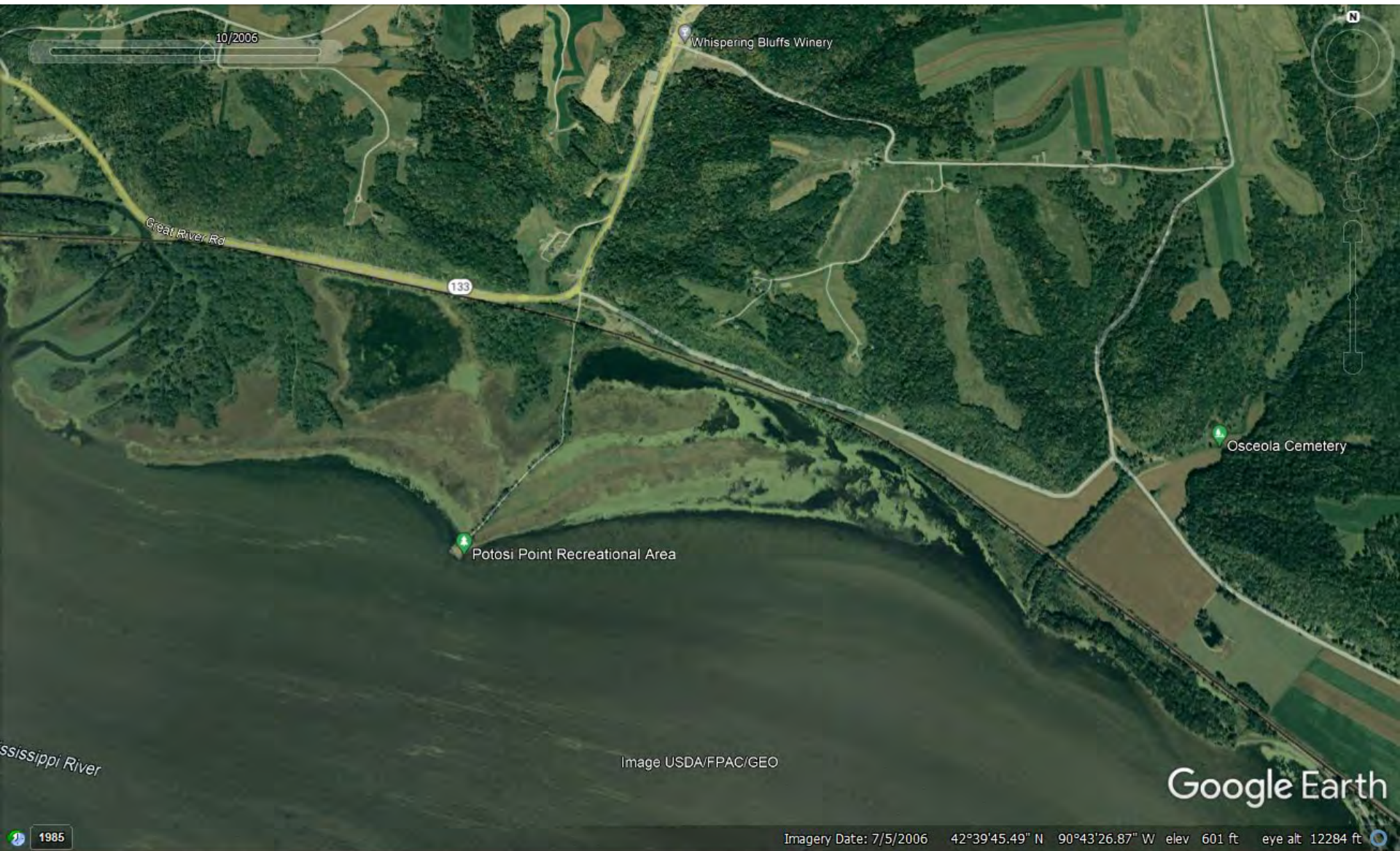
Mississippi River

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 5/31/2005 42°39'45.49" N 90°43'26.87" W elev 601 ft eye alt 12284 ft

Imagery date: July 5, 2006



10/2006

Whispering Bluffs Winery

Great River Rd

133

Potosi Point Recreational Area

Osceola Cemetery

Mississippi River

Image USDA/FPAC/GEO

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 7/5/2006 42°39'45.49" N 90°43'26.87" W elev 601 ft eye alt 12284 ft

Imagery date: June 19, 2009

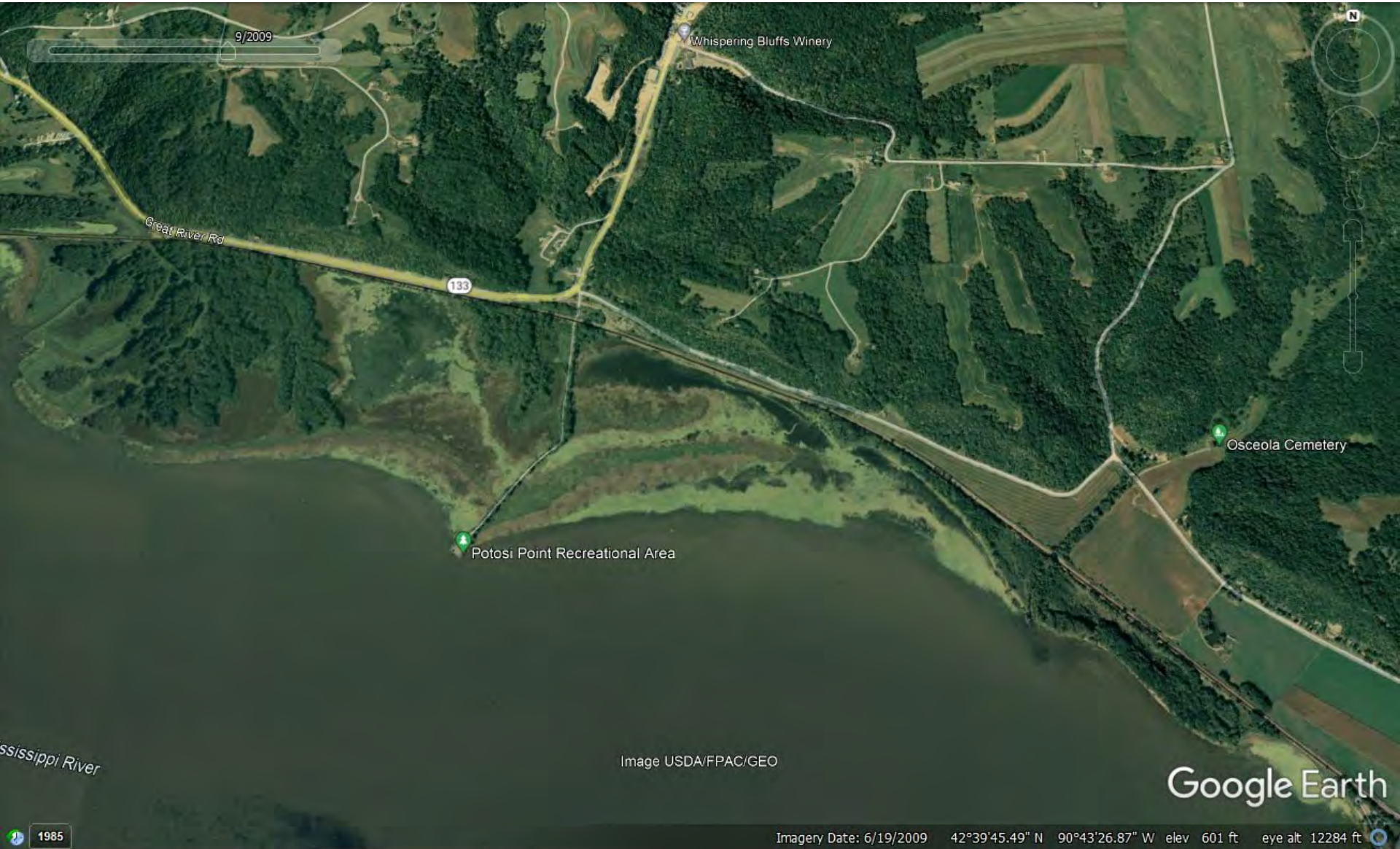


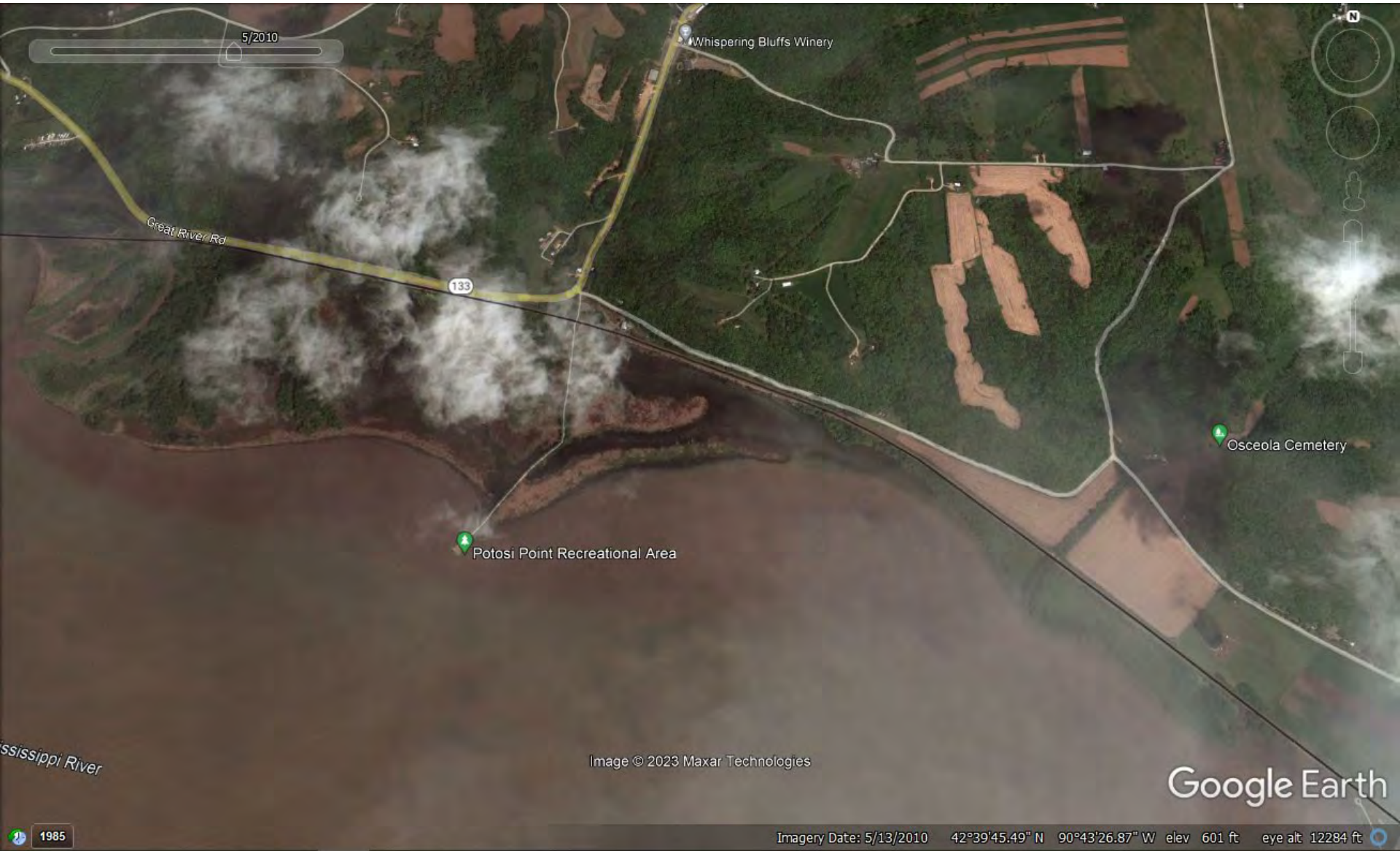
Image USDA/FPAC/GEO

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 6/19/2009 42°39'45.49" N 90°43'26.87" W elev 601 ft eye alt 12284 ft

Imagery date: May 13, 2010



5/2010

Whispering Bluffs Winery

Great River Rd

133

Potosi Point Recreational Area

Osceola Cemetery

Mississippi River

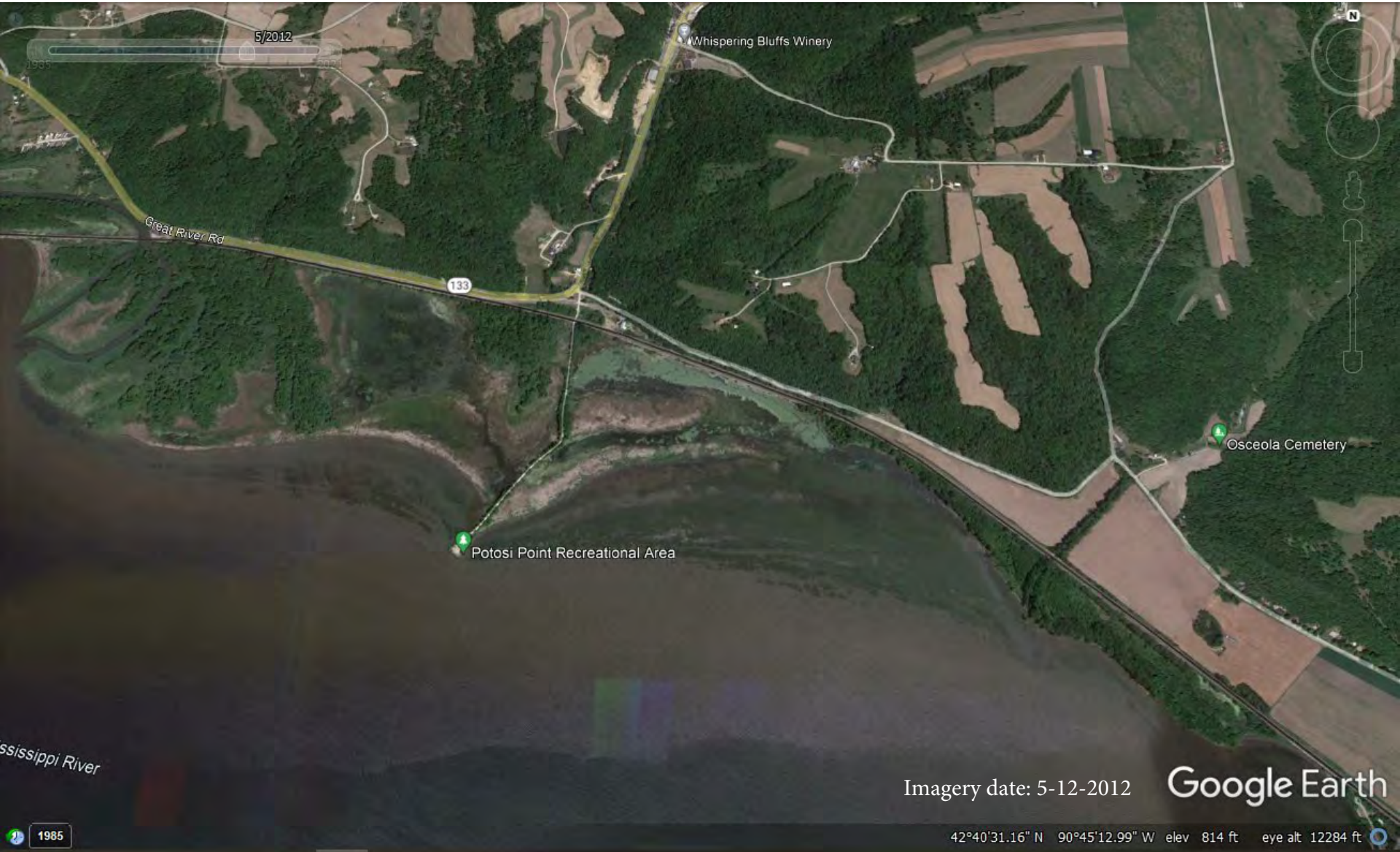
Image © 2023 Maxar Technologies

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 5/13/2010 42°39'45.49" N 90°43'26.87" W elev 601 ft eye alt 12284 ft

Imagery date: May 12, 2012

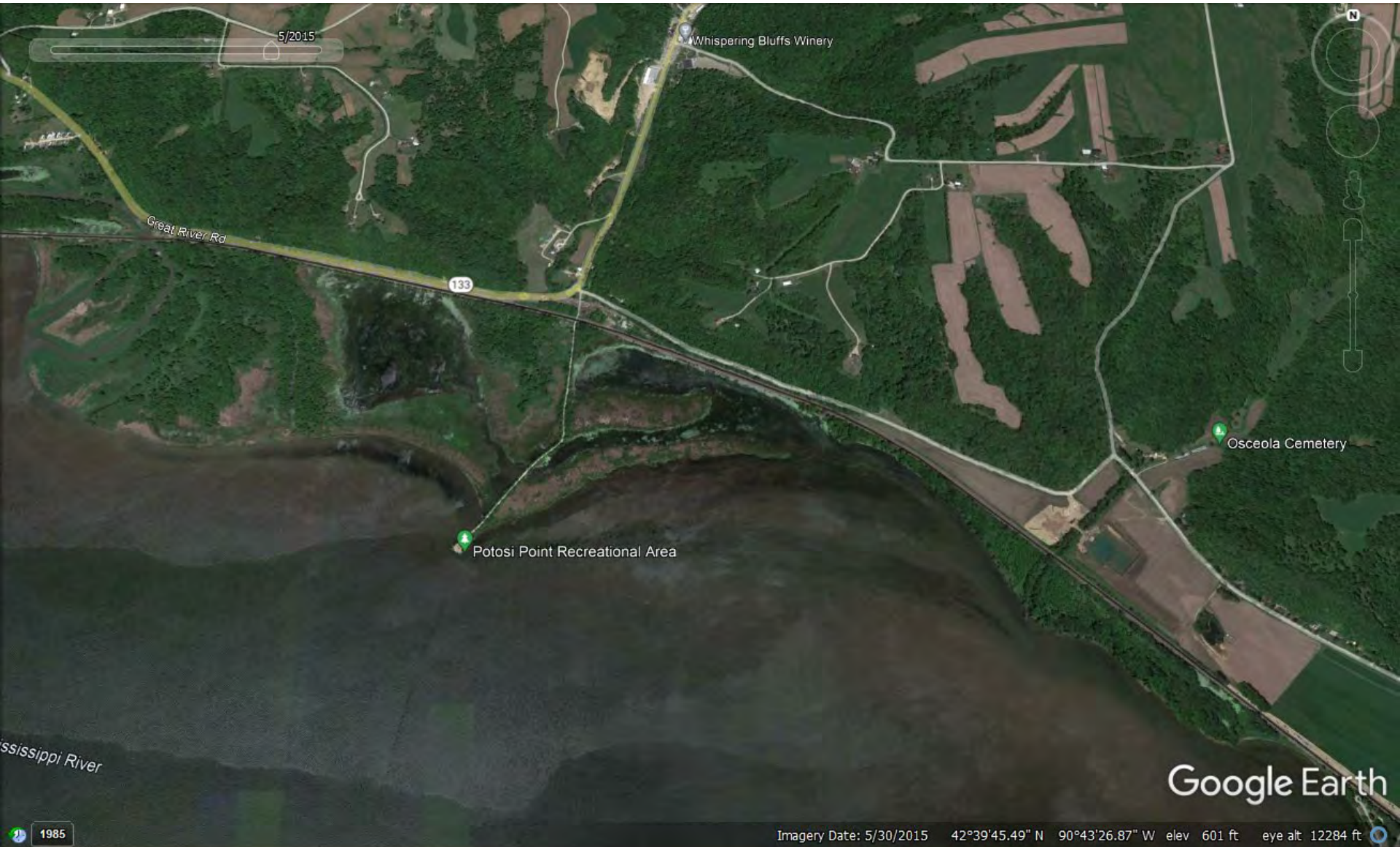


Imagery date: 5-12-2012

Google Earth

42°40'31.16" N 90°45'12.99" W elev 814 ft eye alt 12284 ft

Imagery date: May 30, 2015



5/2015

Whispering Bluffs Winery

Great River Rd

133

Potosi Point Recreational Area

Osceola Cemetery

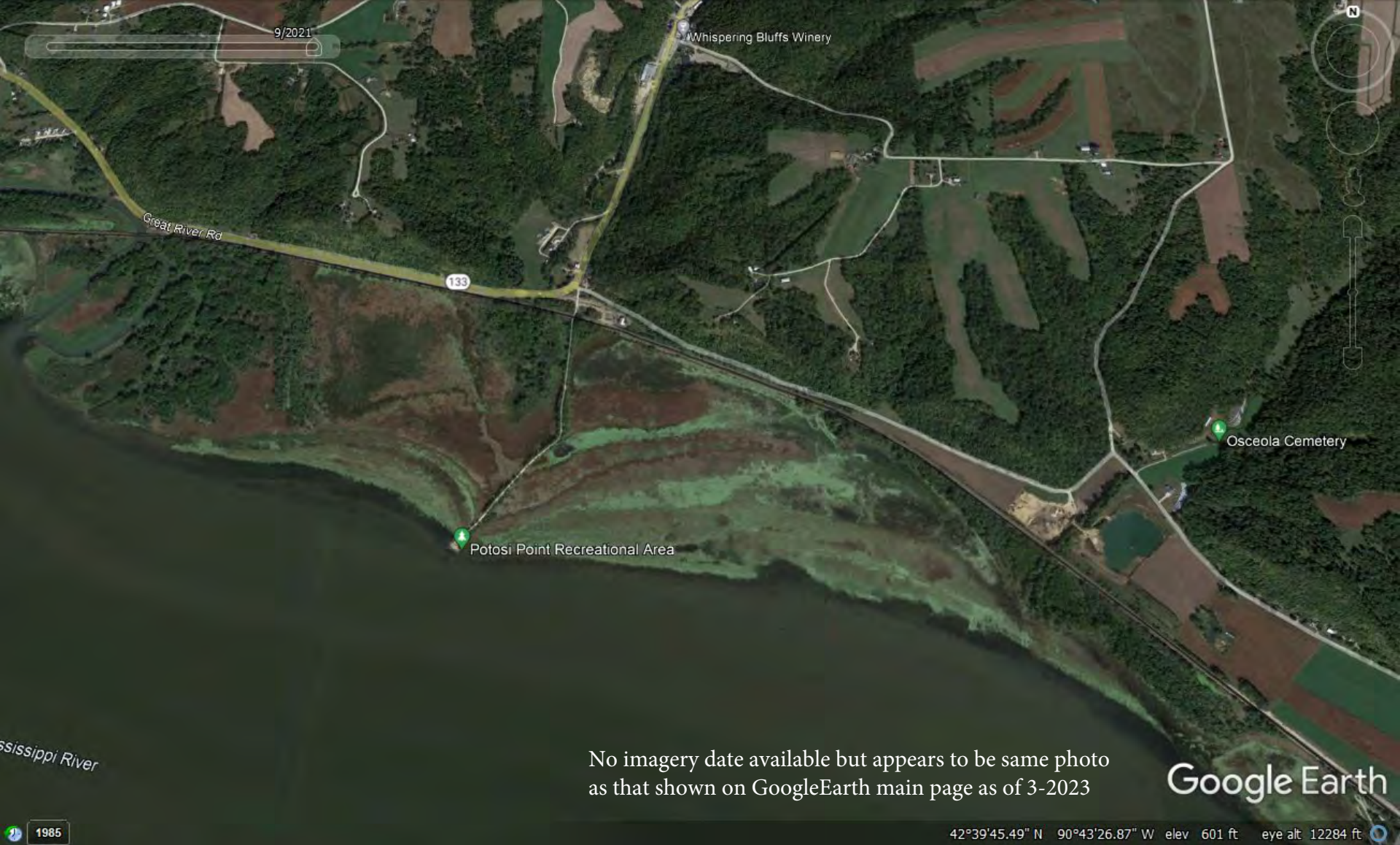
Mississippi River

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 5/30/2015 42°39'45.49" N 90°43'26.87" W elev 601 ft eye alt 12284 ft

Imagery date: ~2023?



No imagery date available but appears to be same photo as that shown on GoogleEarth main page as of 3-2023

Google Earth

42°39'45.49" N 90°43'26.87" W elev 601 ft eye alt 12284 ft