GILA RIVER, ARIZONA SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER AND YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO SURVEYS AND NEST MONITORING FOR PROPOSED RESTORATION SITES, 2019

Submitted To:
Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USDA-APHIS-PPQ

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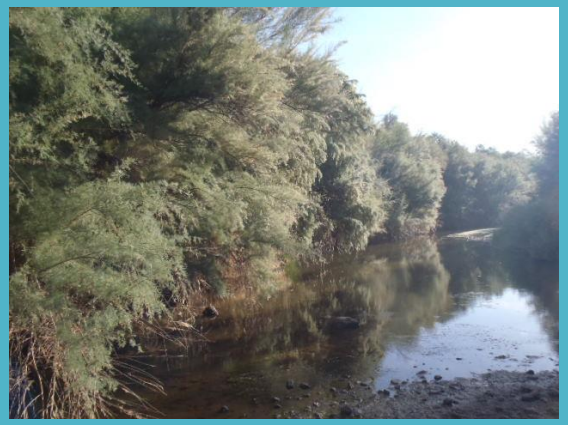
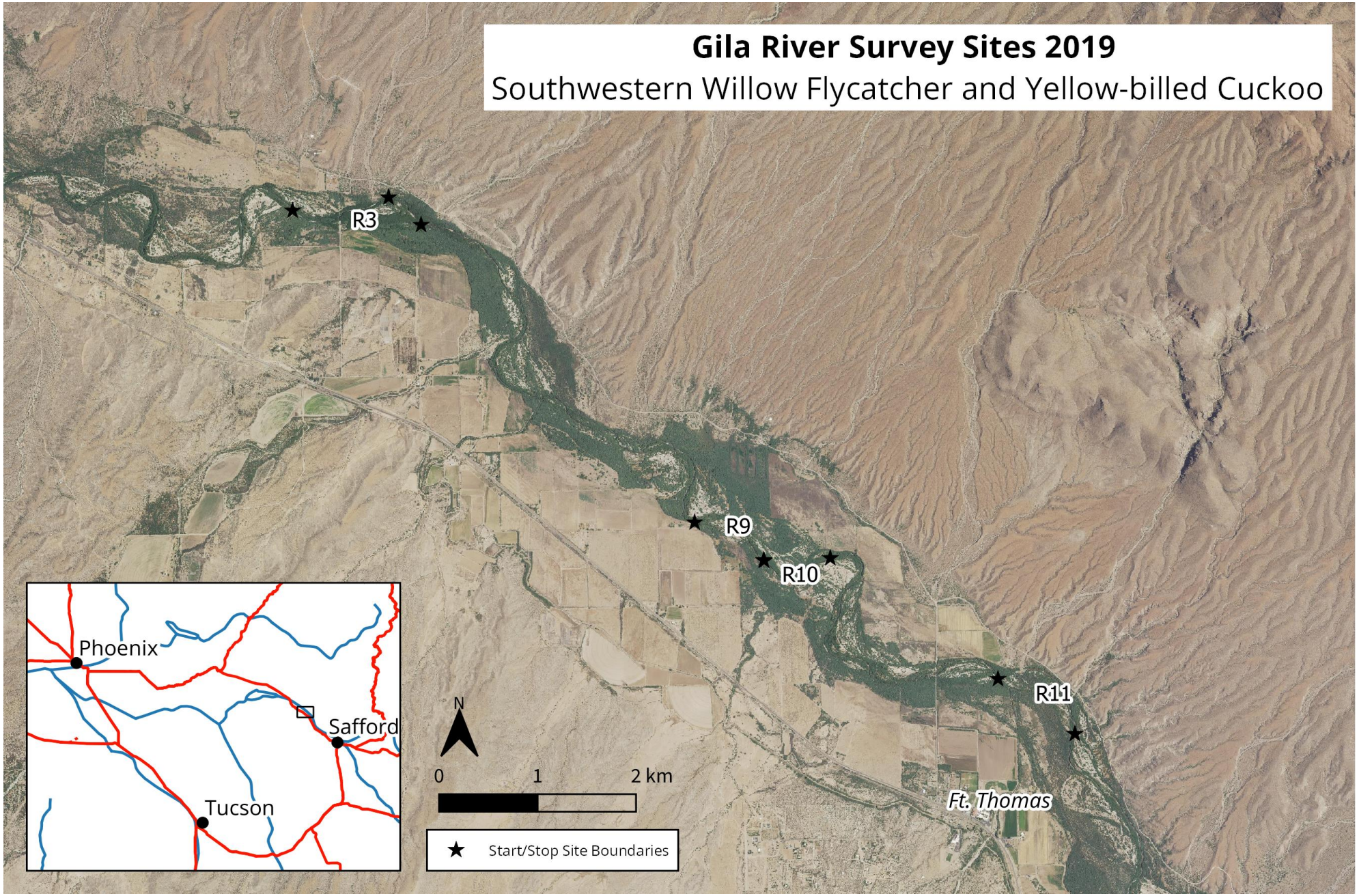



Gila River Survey Sites 2019
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo
R3
R9
R10
R11
Ft. Thomas
Phoenix
Safford
Tucson
N
0
1
2 km
Start/Stop Site Boundaries

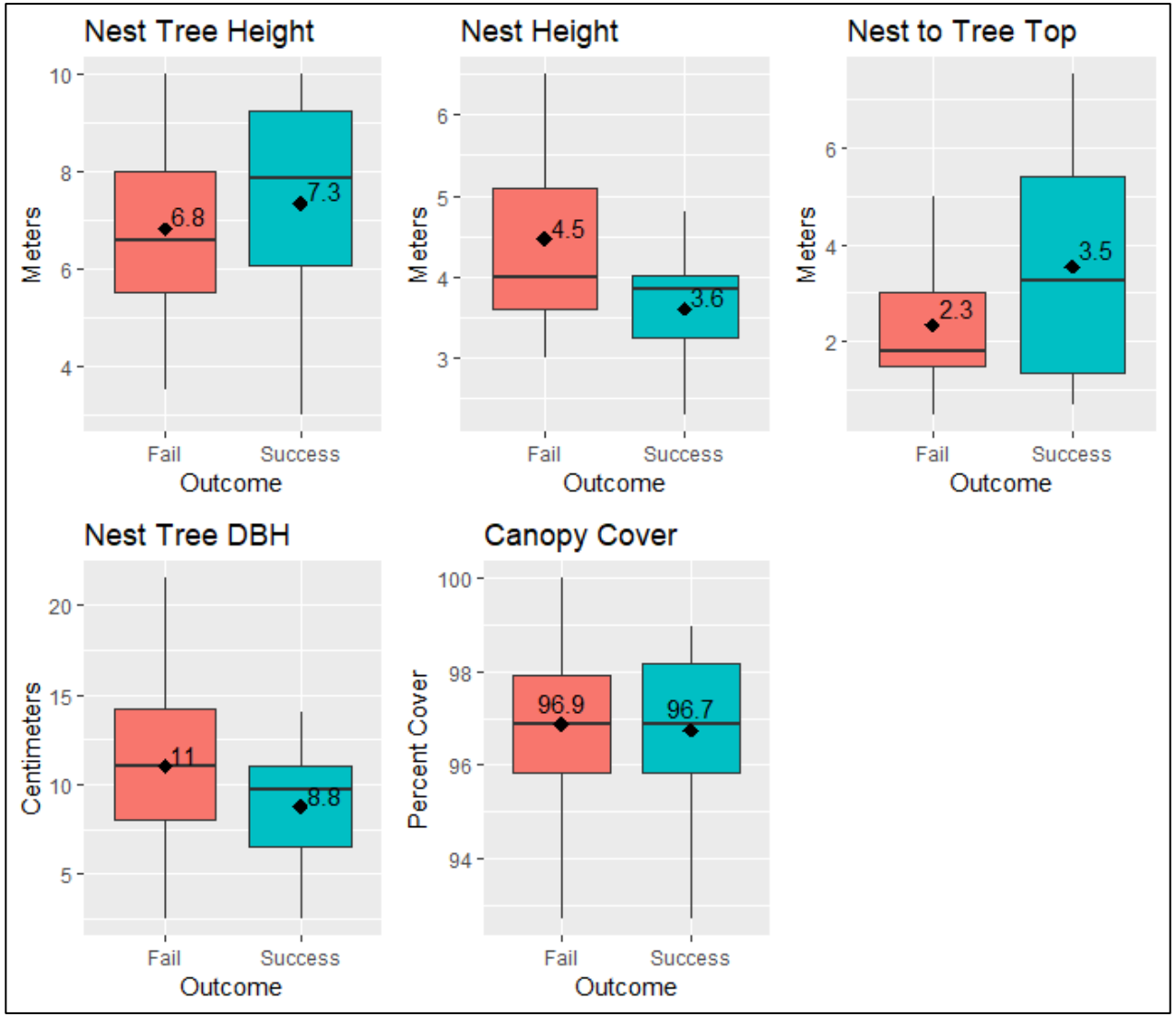
Overall Goal

This proactive project is initiating habitat restoration at sites that currently provide breeding habitat for both endangered and threatened species, but due to the anticipated arrival of the tamarisk leaf beetle (*Diorhabda* spp.), the Gila Watershed of Arizona is taking responsible action now that will restore native habitat, minimize impacts of the beetle, and conserve this vulnerable riparian ecosystem.

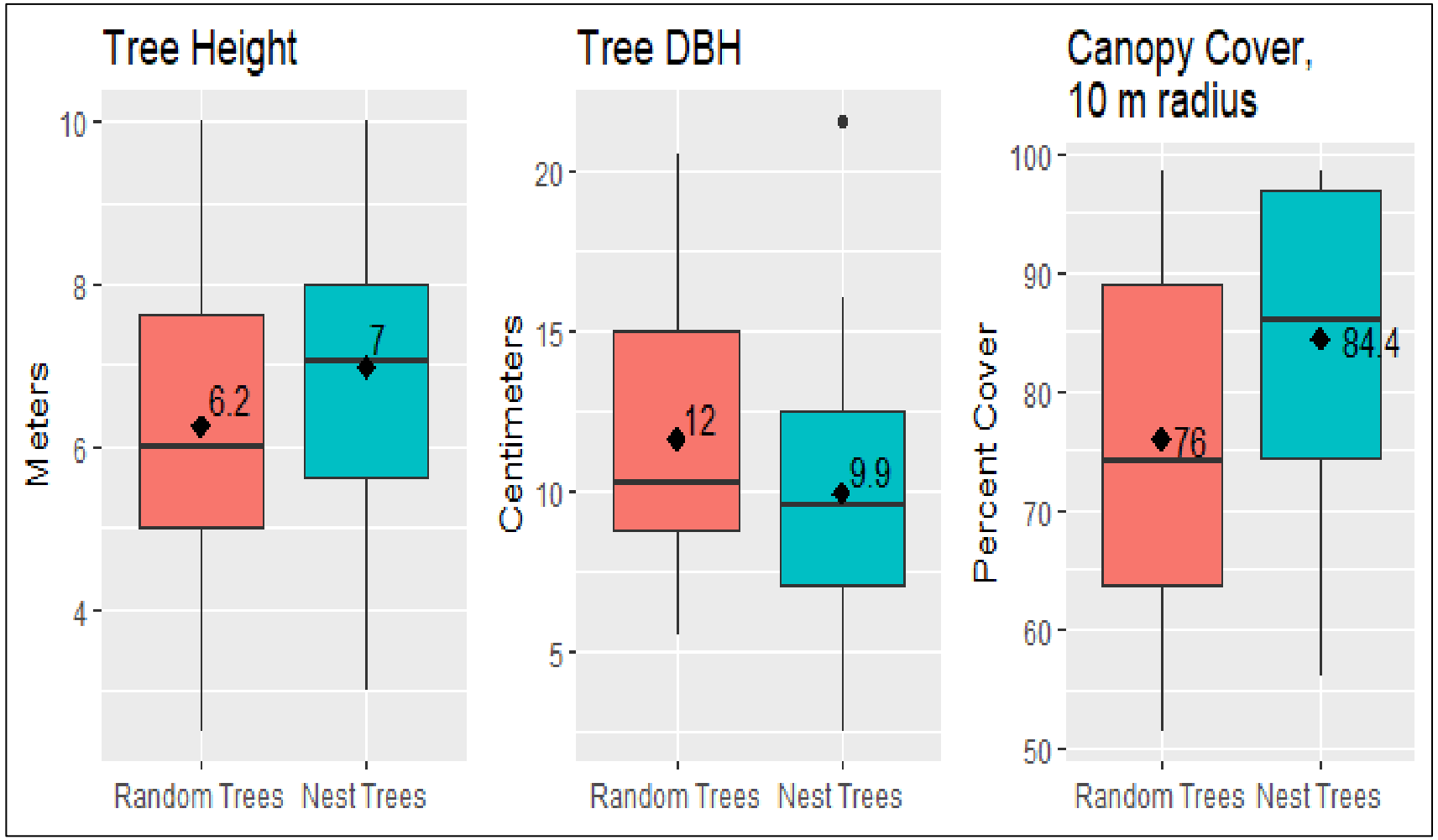
Objectives

The purpose of this study is to conduct Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo surveys and nest monitoring in six suitable and/or historical riparian sites within the Upper Gila River Watershed, Arizona. Specific objectives of this project are as follows: (1) Conduct flycatcher and cuckoo presence/absence surveys and determine breeding status of both species at selected Gila River restoration sites; (2) Provide flycatcher and cuckoo site evaluations and descriptions; (3) Conduct nest searches and nest monitoring at flycatcher and cuckoo breeding sites in order to calculate parasitism and predation rate, and the effects of human disturbance;

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Nest Success vs. Nest Site Characteristics

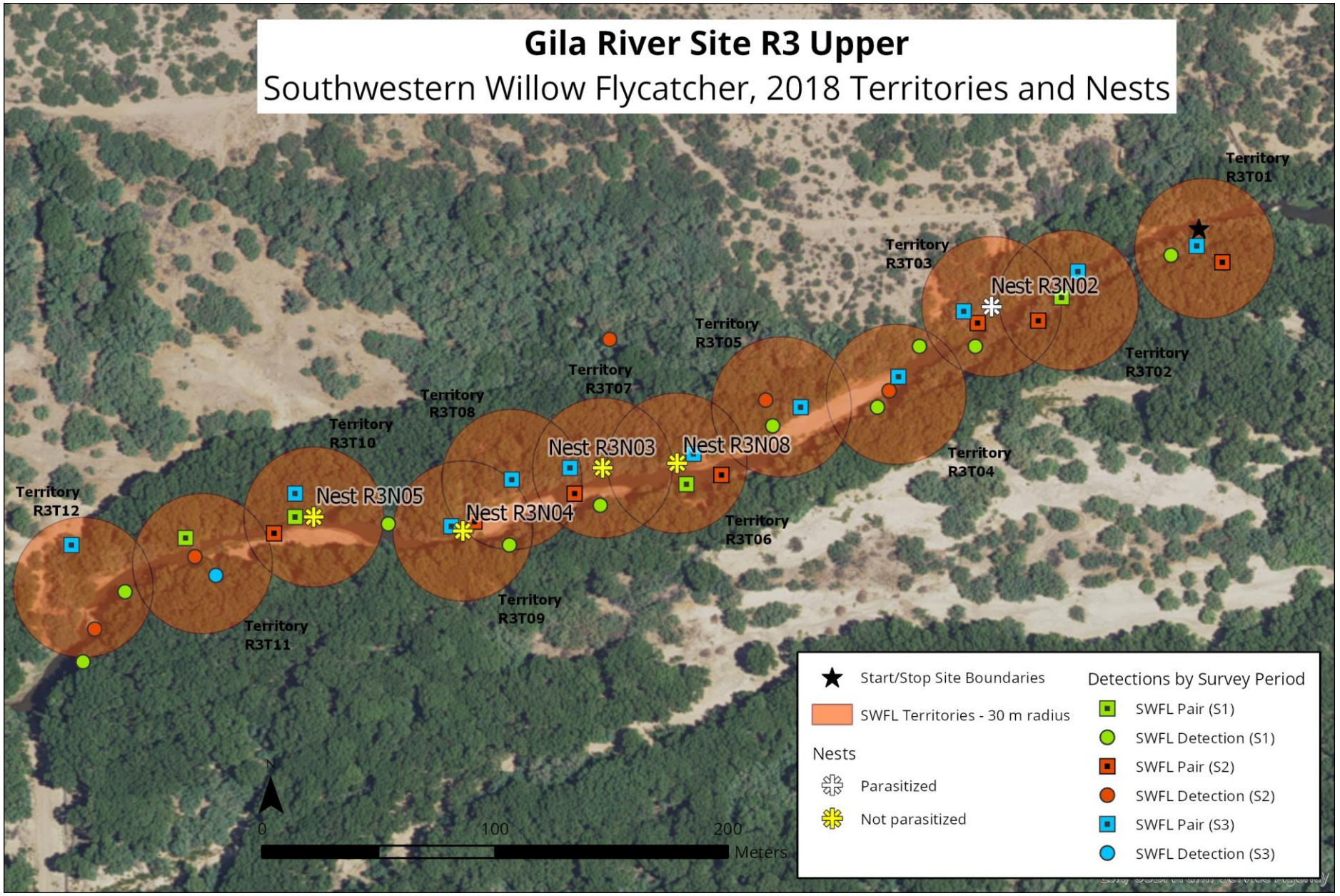


Southwestern Willow Flycatcher vegetation characteristics Surrounding the Area



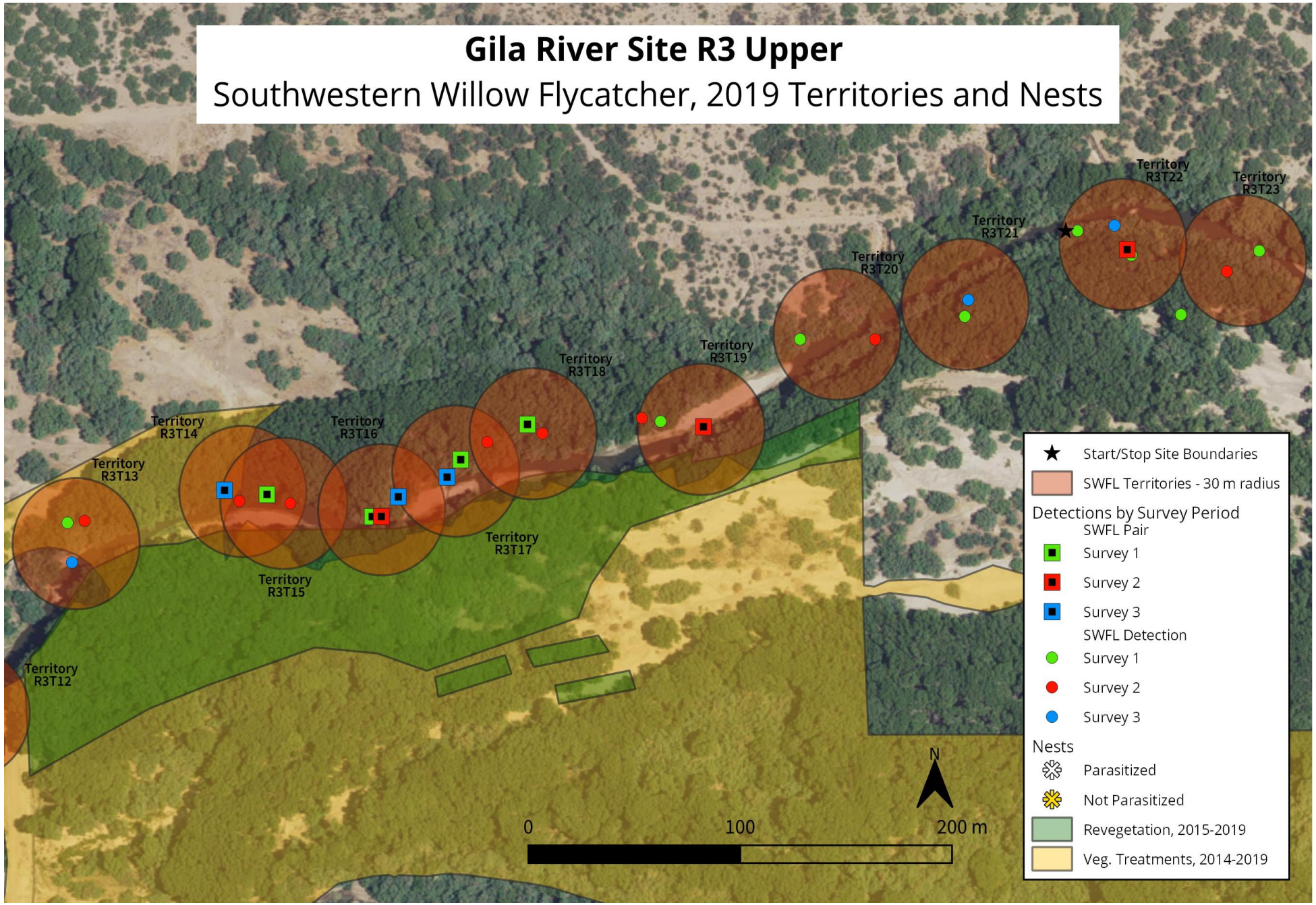
2018 Upper (n = 12 Territories)

2018 Total (n = 26 Territories)



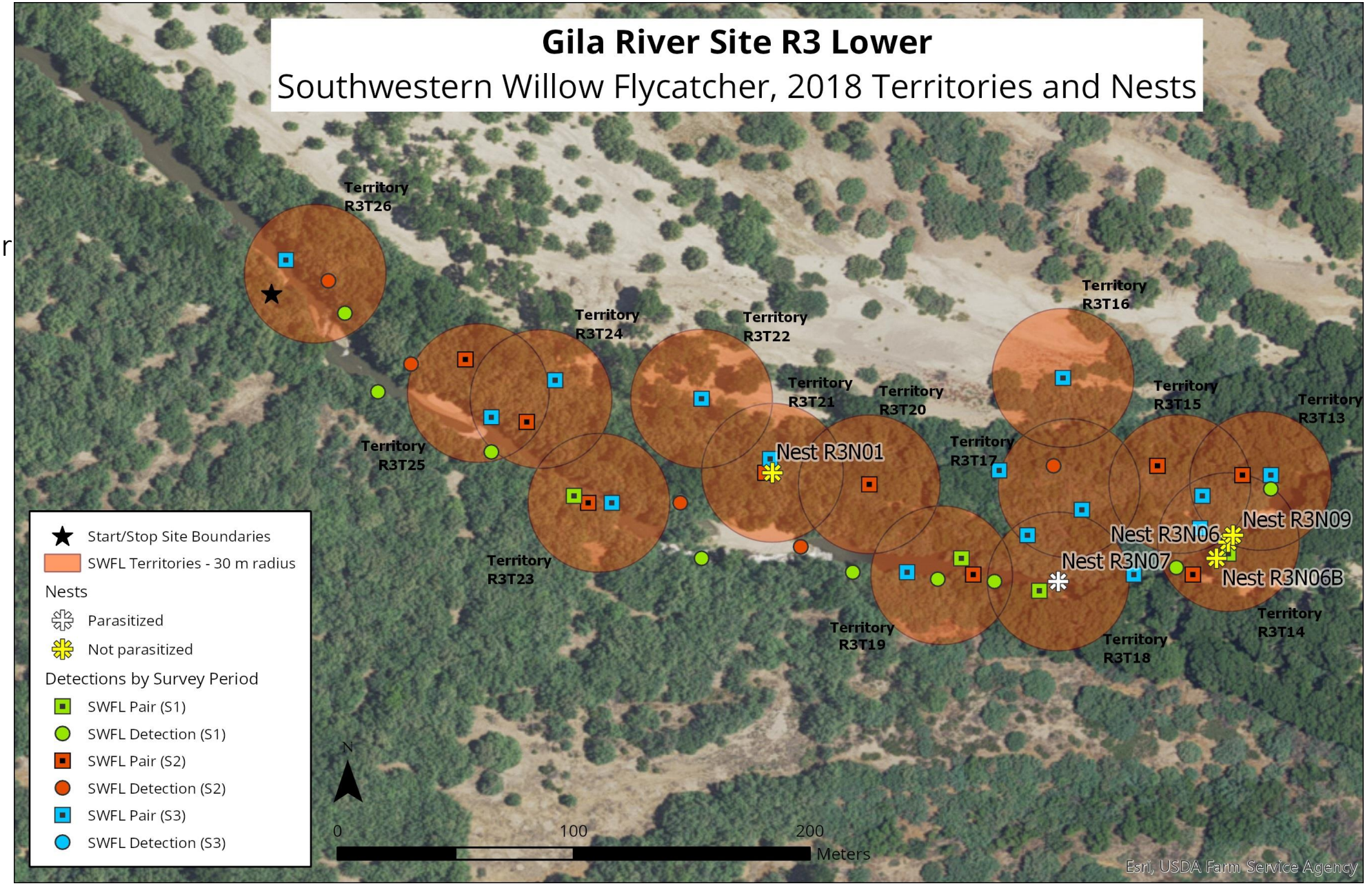
2019 Upper
n = 11
Territories

2019 Total
(n = 24
Territories)



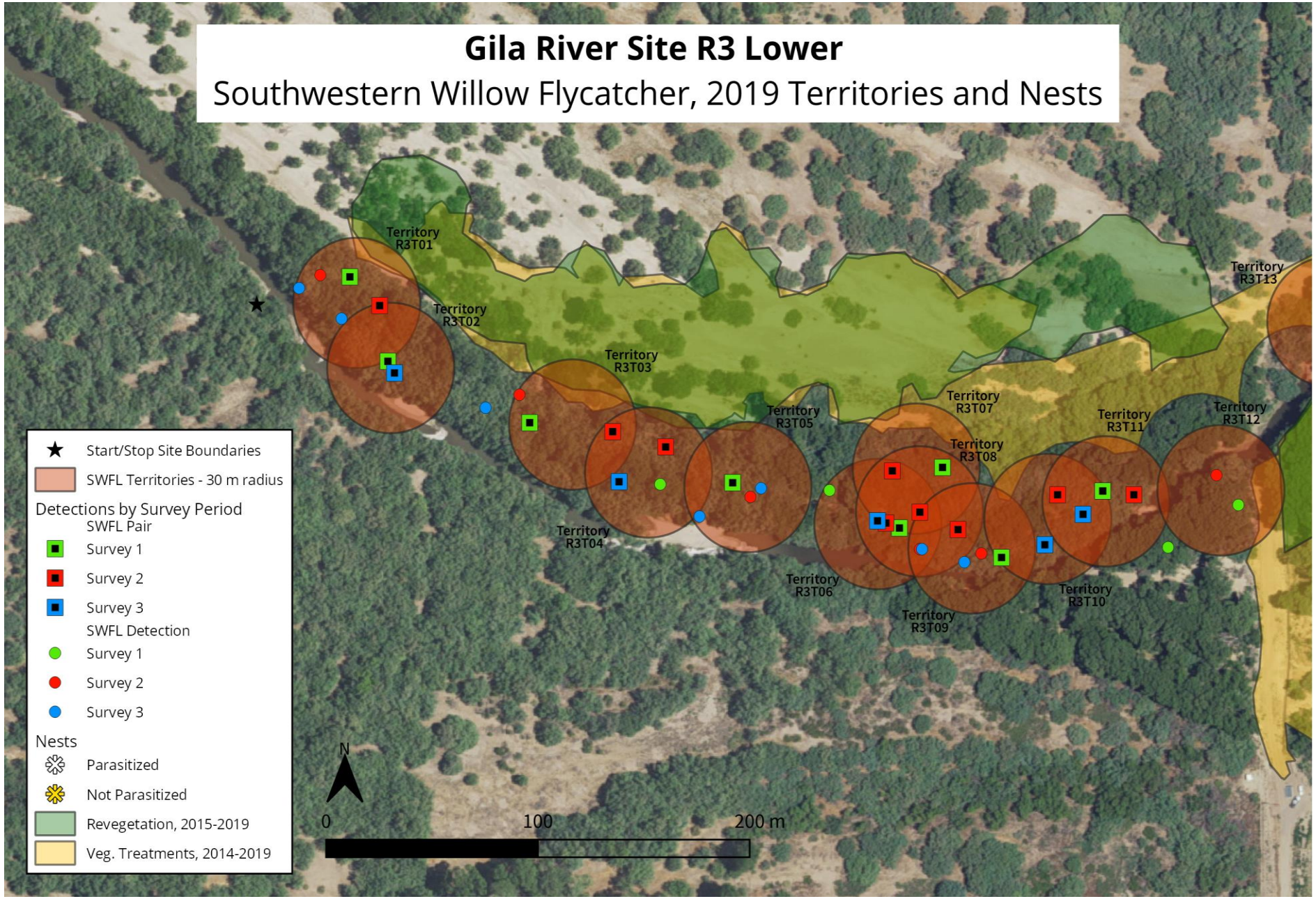
2018 Lower (n = 14 Territories)

2018 Total (n = 26 Territories)

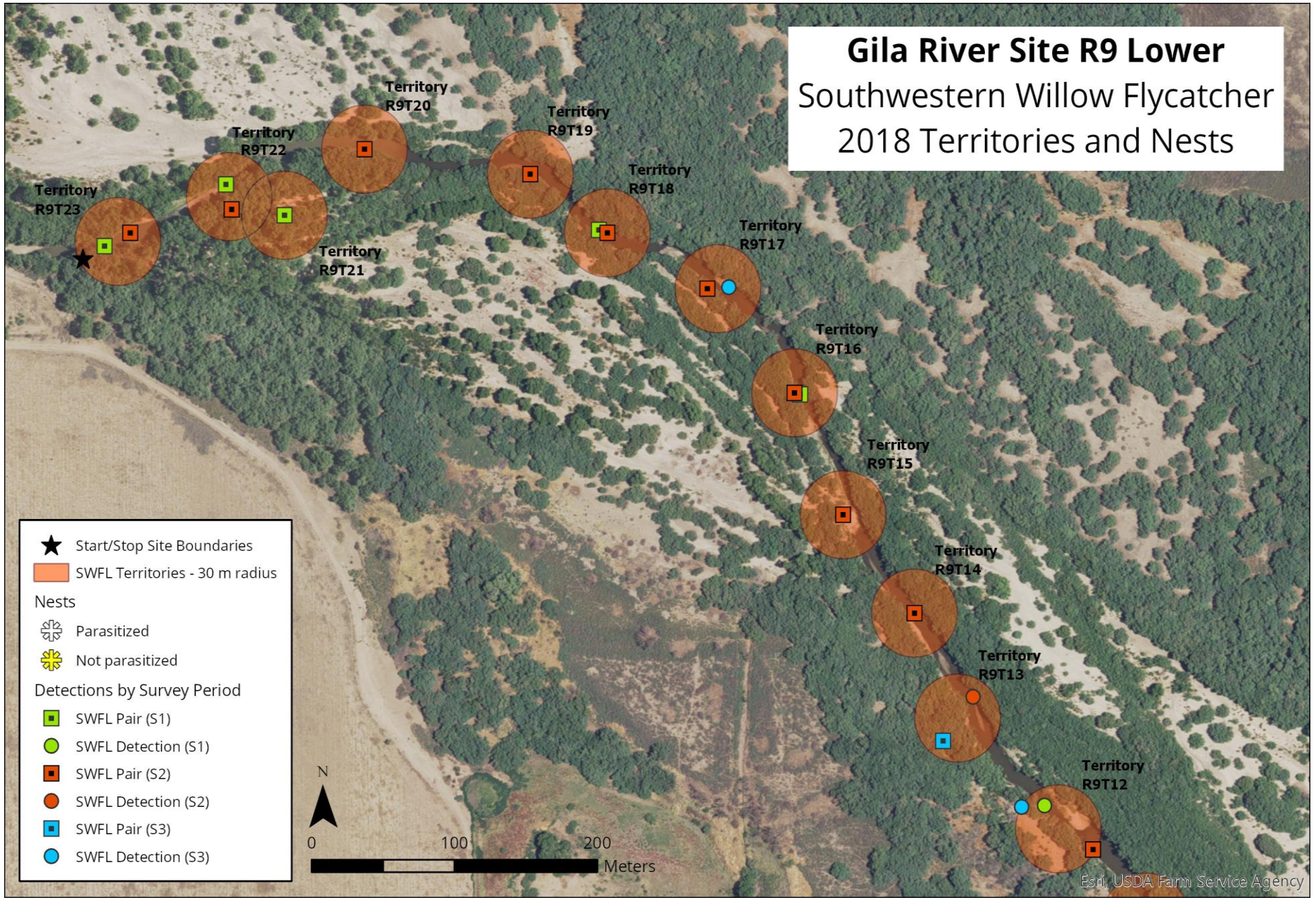


2019 Lower (n = 13 Territories)

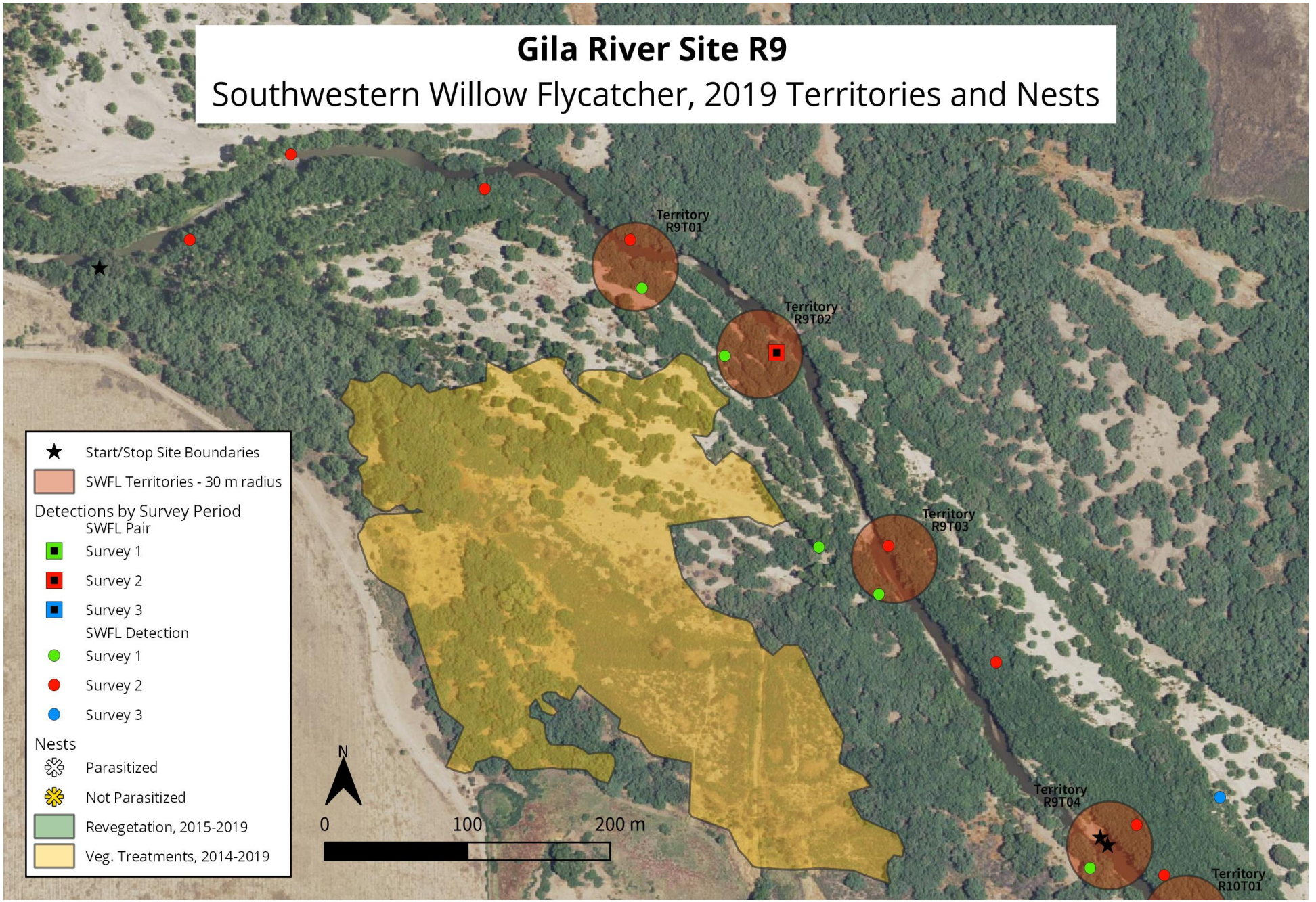
2019 Total (n = 24 Territories)



2018 Total (n = 12 Territories)

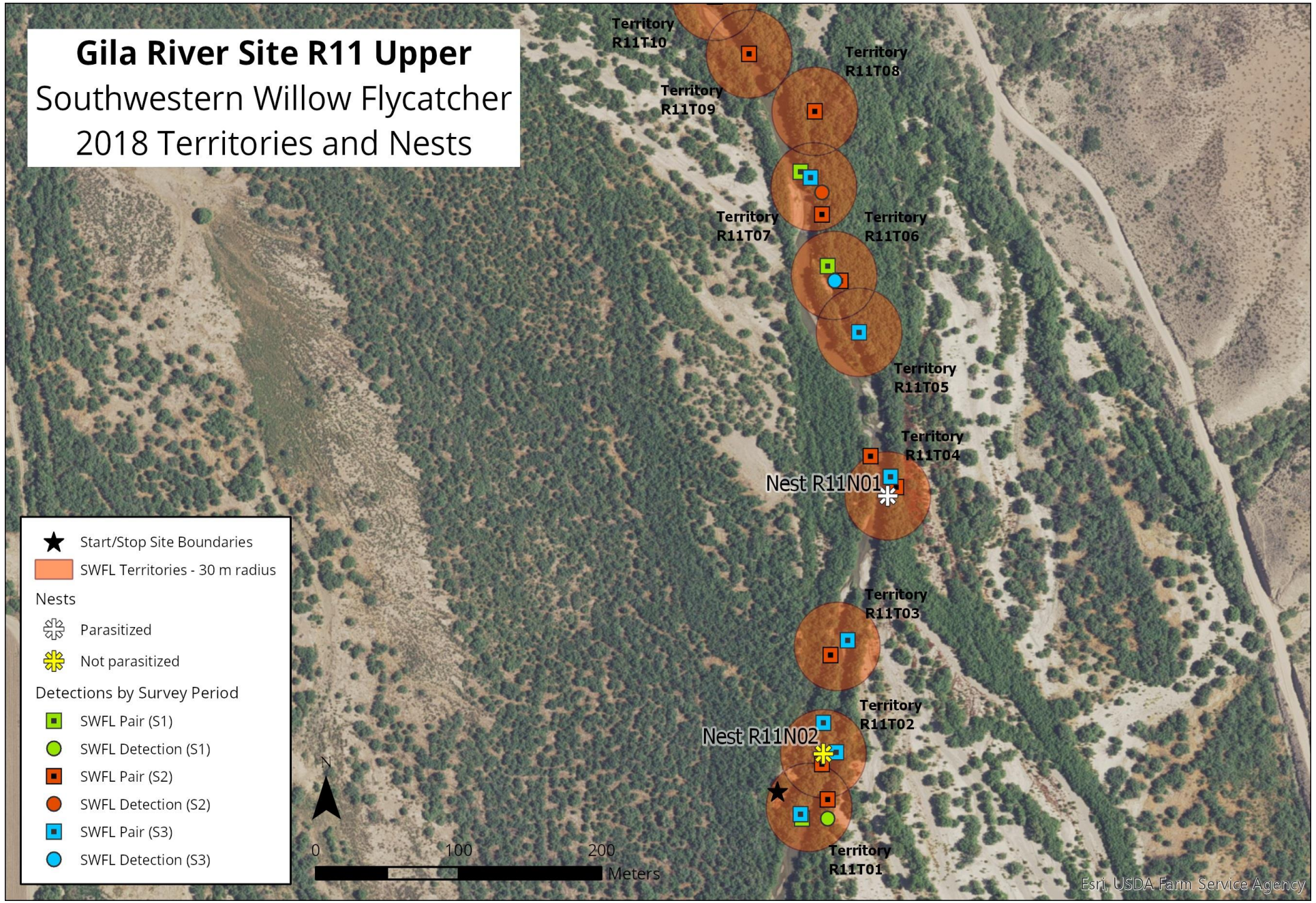


2019 Total (n = 7 Territories)



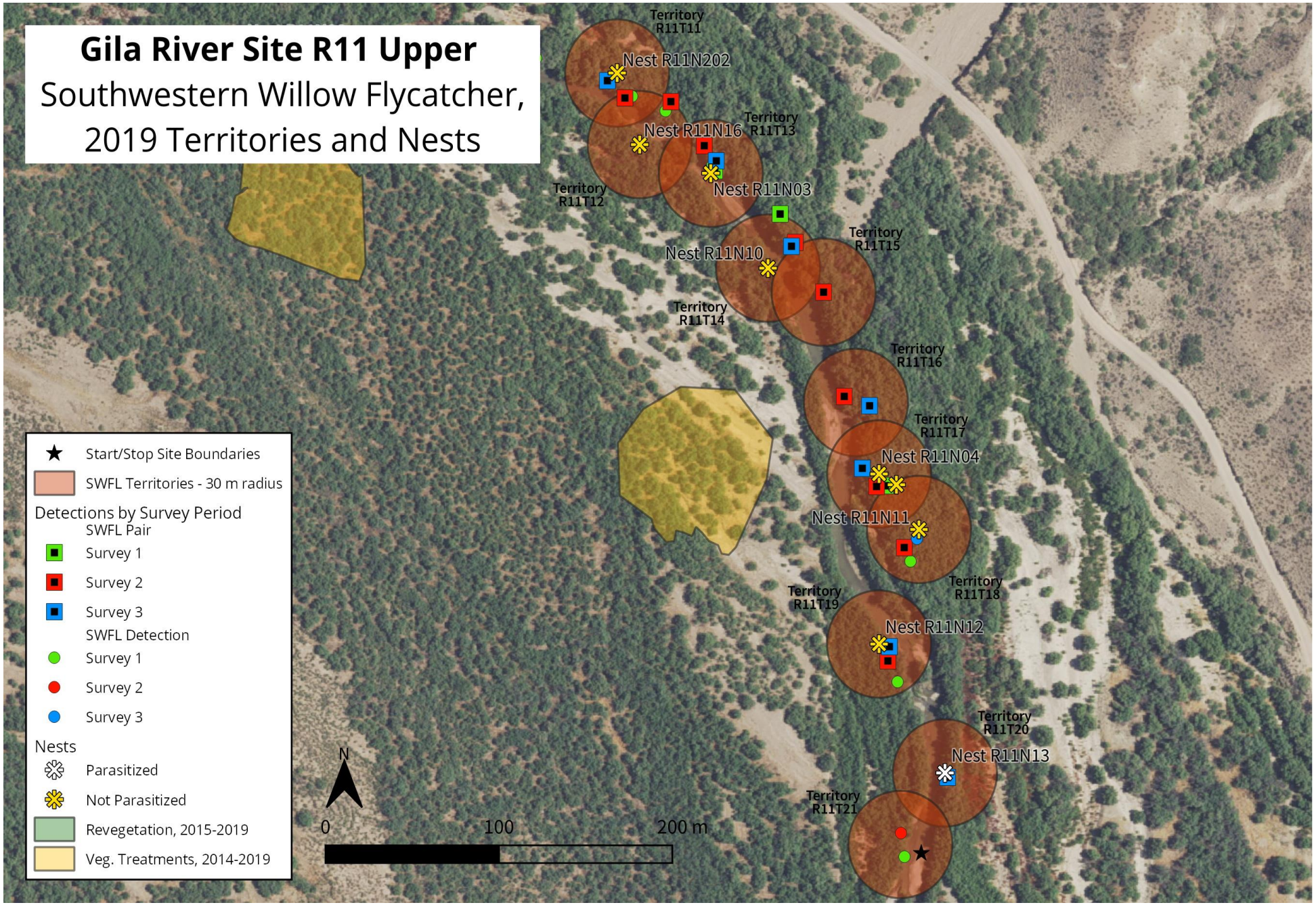
2018 Upper (n = 10 Territories)

2018 Total (n = 23 Territories)



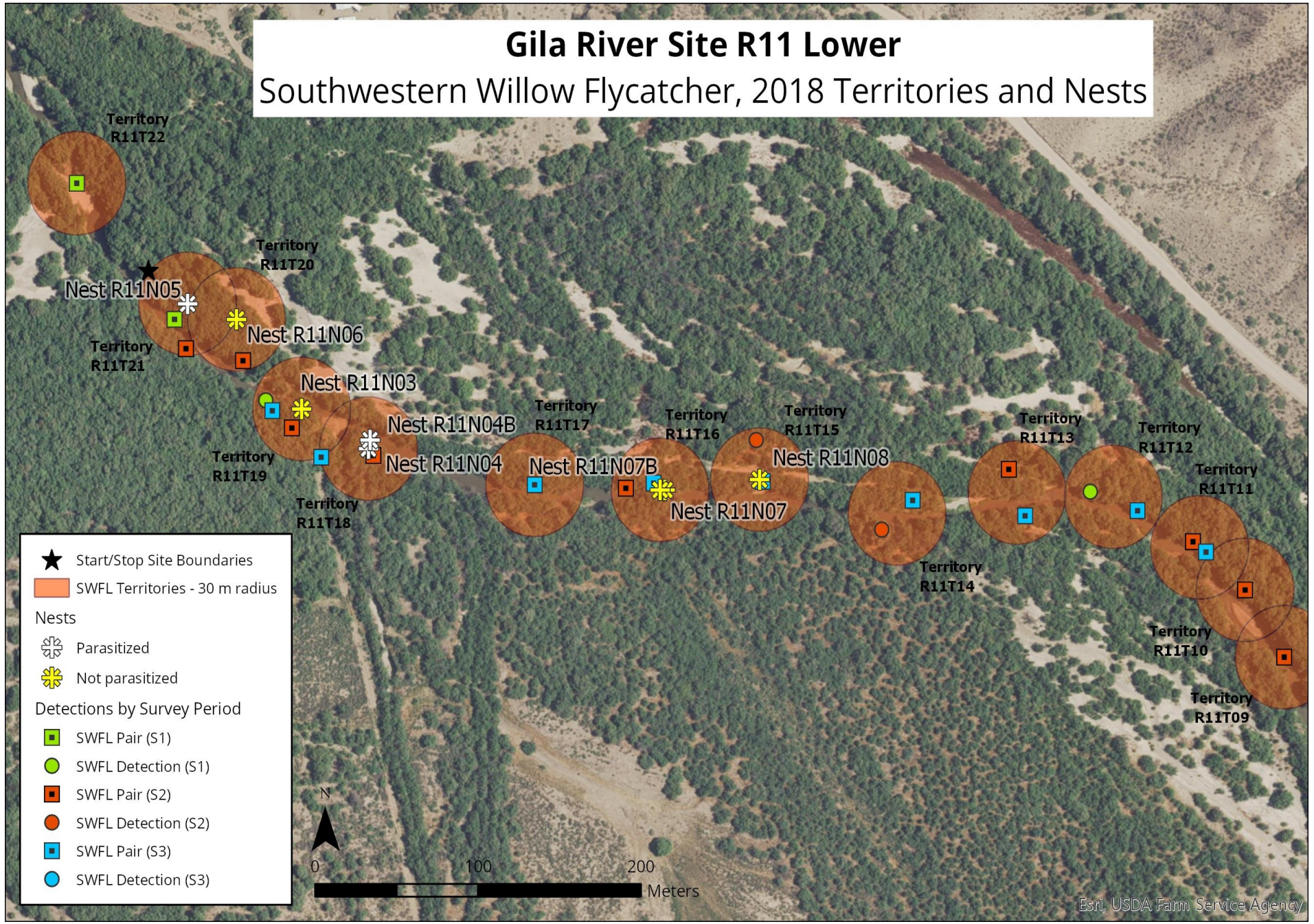
2019 Upper (n = 11 Territories)

2019 Total (n = 22 Territories)



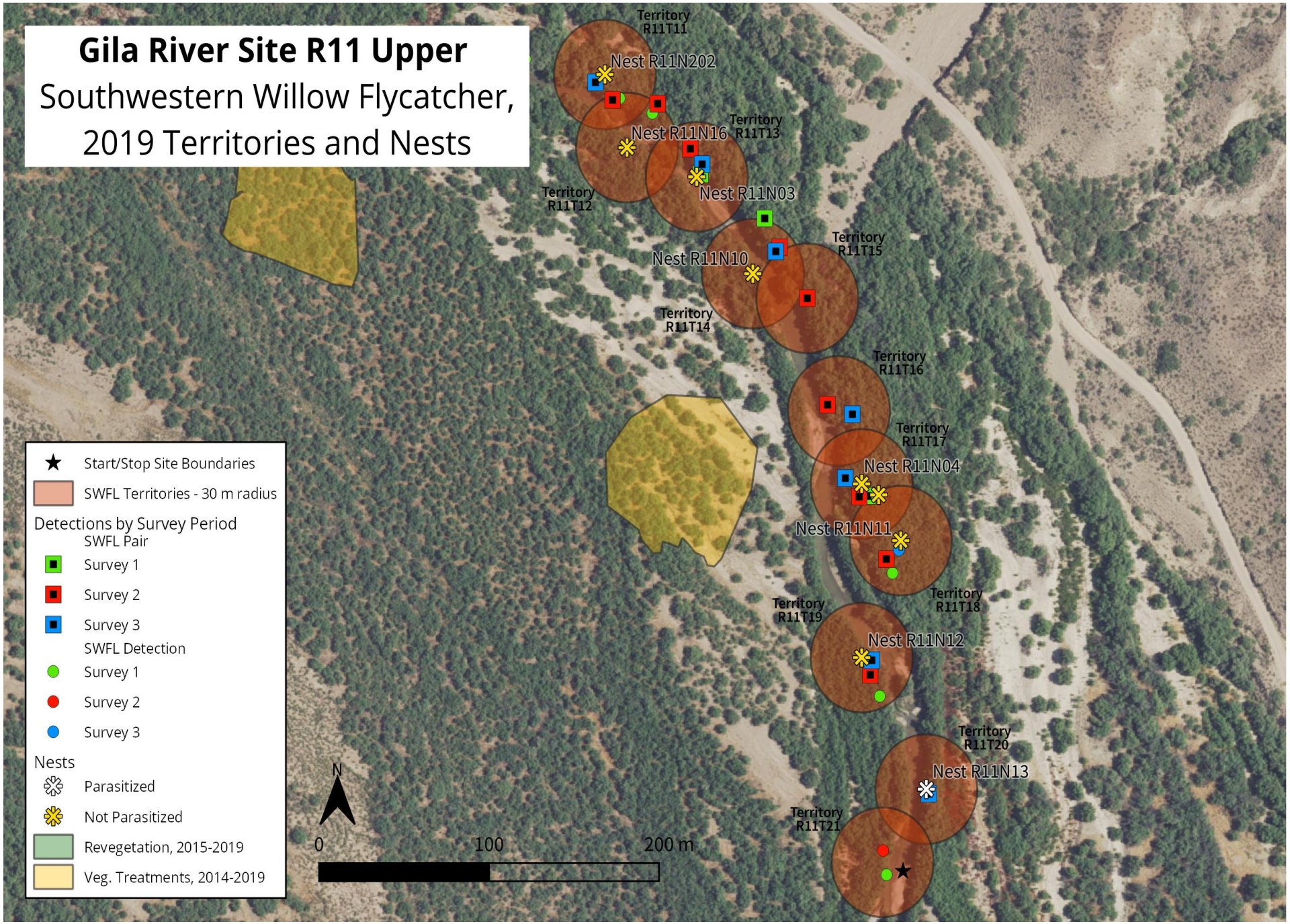
2018 Lower (n = 13 Territories)

2018 Total (n = 23 Territories)



2019 Upper (n = 11 Territories)

2019 Total (n = 22 Territories)



April 2018 photo upstream (river right) of burned area along the upper Gila River, AZ at site R4.

April 2018 photo of tamarisk habitat south side (river right)
burned along the upper Gila River, AZ at site R4