



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
www.mvk.usace.army.mil



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	RVH-MVK-2012-387
EVALUATOR:	Mr. Randy Holder
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-7928
FAX NO.:	(601) 631-5459
E-MAIL:	regulatory@usace.army.mil
DATE:	February 05, 2013
EXPIRATION DATE:	February 26, 2013

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish the Upper Coldwater Mitigation Bank. A prospectus has been received describing the proposed bank from Ecological Restoration Services, LLC, the bank Sponsor. The proposed site is located in sections 26 and 27, Township 2 South, Range 3 West, Marshall County, Mississippi (enclosure).

Description: This wetland mitigation bank is being proposed by the bank Sponsor as a means to meet the requirements for compensatory mitigation for future and as yet unknown wetland losses, which may be permitted by the Corps under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The bank sponsor proposes to develop a 309-acre wetland mitigation bank by restoring 13 acres of bottomland hardwood forest, enhancing 66 acres of low quality previously clear cut timber, enhancing 26 acres of inundated wetlands, and preserving 153 acres of existing forested habitat. The proposed work would increase the wetland function, provide species diversity, and increase the width of a wildlife corridor within the Coldwater River Watershed.

Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions:

The property is divided into two tracts. Tract 1 (175 acres) is located on the western side of Highway 311, and Tract 2 (134 acres) is located on the eastern side of Highway 311. Most of the wetland portions of the property are located within the 100-year floodplain of the Coldwater River with approximately 80 acres of Tract 2 outside of the 100-year floodplain.

Tract 1: The proposed tract on the western side of State Route 311 is bordered to the north by River Rhoades Drive and to the south by the Coldwater River. The property is predominantly forested floodplain wetlands and inundated areas. Forested floodplains are dominated by river birch (*Betula nigra*) and swamp chestnut oaks (*Quercus michauxii*). Beaver activity has caused impoundments on the central portion of the property and a naturally inundated area south of the Coldwater River was found. Approximately seven acres in the northeast corner were cleared and graded in preparation for a housing development to be accessed along River Rhodes Drive. It appears that this work was performed sometime prior to 2006. A small first order stream, Rhodes Creek, was filled and diverted during this time which has resulted in many small impoundments. Portions of this parcel have been subdivided in preparation for a housing development.

Tract 2: Tract 2 is approximately 134 acres and is located east of State Route 311 and south of Isom Chapel Road, with the Coldwater River running throughout the southern portion of the property. At the southern end of this tract, Dawson Creek converges with the Coldwater River. The majority of this tract has been utilized for timber production with the exception of areas too wet to harvest, which is home to an active heron rookery. Approximately 47 acres of this tract is bottomland hardwoods which have been harvested within the previous four years. Some riparian buffer was left along stream banks; however, much of the buffer has been disturbed and will need to be reestablished. Regenerating vegetation consists primarily of windblown species such as river birch (*Betula nigra*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), and willow (*Salix nigra*). Upland areas are planted pine stands which were clear cut within the previous three years. The clear cutting of these areas has left the site open for invasive species to colonize. In the northwest corner of Tract 2, an intermittent stream, Little Isom Creek, was realigned at some point to accommodate Isom Chapel Road. This small channel has a drainage area of +/- 2,550 acres and has been channelized throughout much of its reach; impoundments caused by debris have caused the channel to fill with sediment. Dawson's and Rookery Creek are found on the south side of the property.

The main soil type on the site is Collins-Arkabutla-Falaya association which is listed as hydric. The remaining soils are listed as partially hydric. The soils mapped within the project area are listed below:

- Cahaba and Lexington, CaE (13 acres) - Partially Hydric
- Cahaba-Providence Complex, CbE3 (0.4 acres) - Partially Hydric
- Collins-Arkabutla-Falaya association, CR (271 acres) - All Hydric
- Gullied Land-Loring Complex, GvE (8 acres) - Partially

Hydric

- Vicksburg and Ochlockonee, Vo (17 acres) - Partially Hydric

The proposed project site lies in the Coldwater River Watershed which is the northeastern most reach of the Yazoo Watershed. The site is located at elevations of 382 feet and 430 feet on upland ridges. Sources of hydrology are groundwater, surface water, and infiltration from upstream portions of the drainage basin. Seeps are found at the base of hills on Tract 2 with clear cold running water feeding into inundated areas. Much of the two tracts lie in an area known as the Coldwater River bottom which is a large expansive wetland complex running along the Coldwater River from its headwaters to near Arkabutla Lake where it has been channelized and lost some of its abutting wetlands. This river is known to get out of its banks regularly and the site is located in wide flat low lands between the bases of hills.

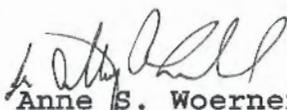
Service Area: This Mitigation Bank would be established to provide mitigation to compensate for impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands, within the Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District. These areas are demarcated by the United States Geologic Survey as hydrologic unit codes 08030204 and 08030201. An additional HUC 08030203 is also being requested for inclusion into the service area. Decisions authorizing the use of credits from the Mitigation Bank will be made by the appropriate authority on a case by case basis in accordance with all applicable requirements.

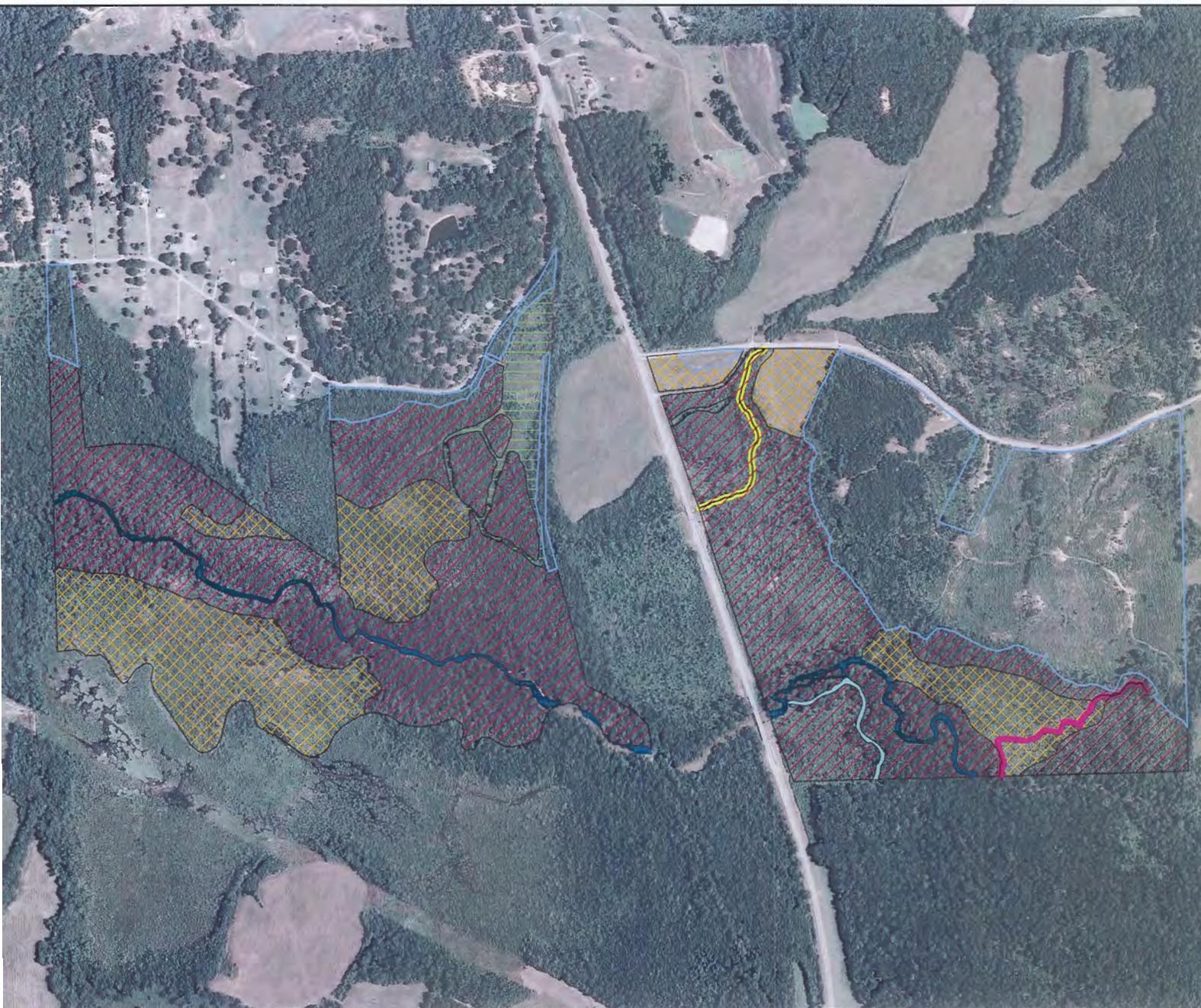
The prospectus, which outlines the conceptual plan for the bank, is available for review at the Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers at the address given below.

Comments on this proposed mitigation bank may be provided to the Corps at the address below. Comments should be received no later than the expiration date of this public notice.

Please provide comments to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3485


Anne S. Woerner
Chief, Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch



Marshall County, MS



17 December 2012
 MVK-2012-387

Upper Coldwater River
 Mitigation Bank
 Ecological Restoration Services, LLC
**Preliminary
 Jurisdictional Determination**
 Jeremy Stokes

Location

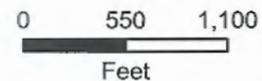


US Army Corps
 of Engineers



Regulatory Branch

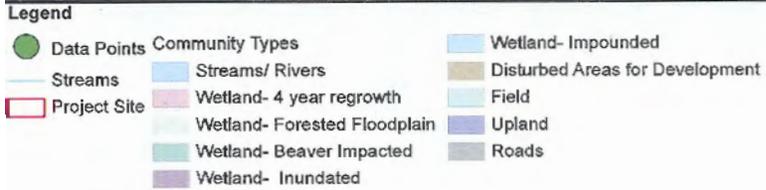
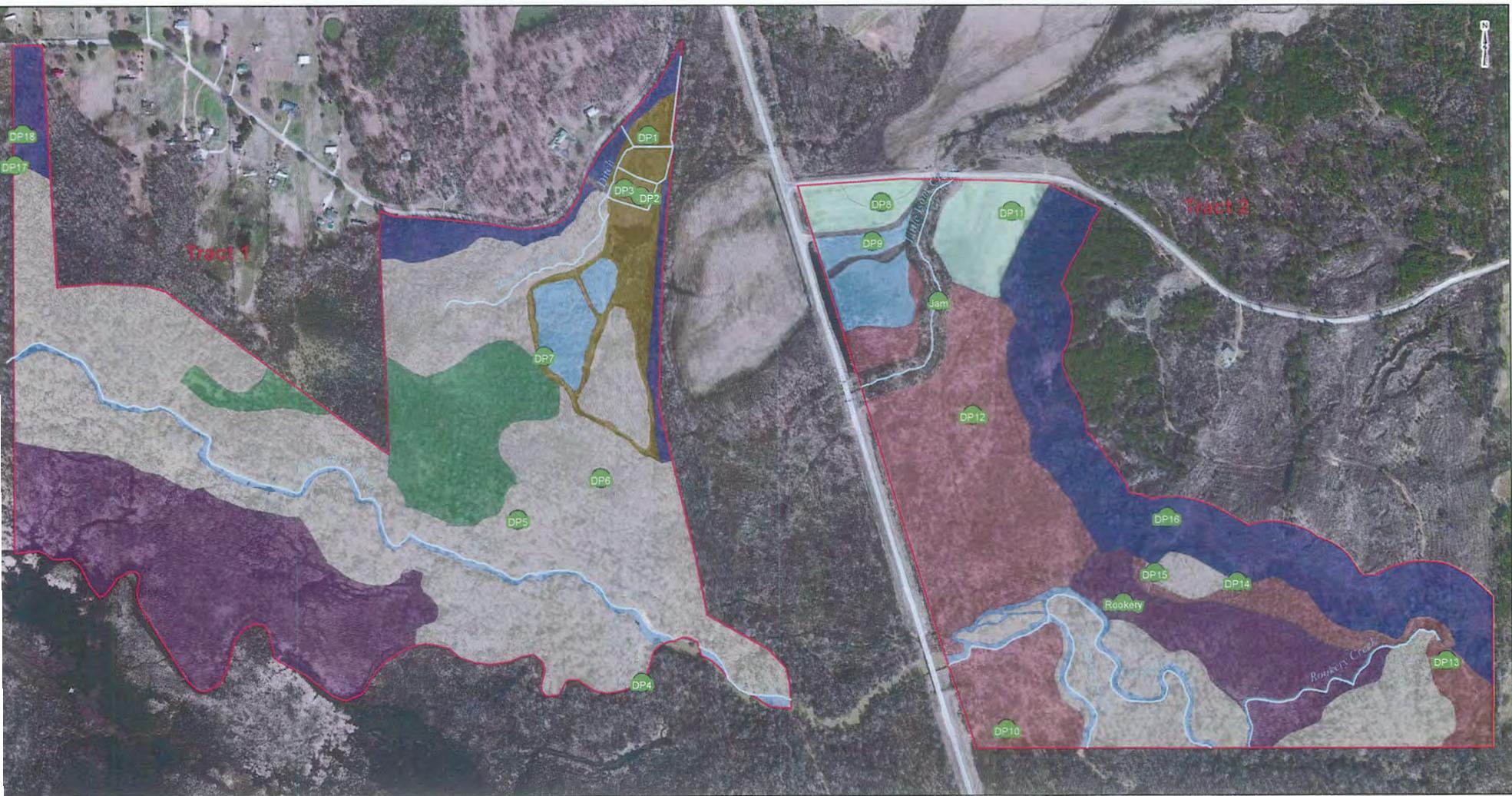
Enforcement Section



Legend

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Upland (104 Acres) | Emergent_Wetlands (77.4 Acres) | Dawsons_Creek (0.91 Acre) |
| Forested_Wetland (176 Acres) | Rookery_Creek (0.45 Acre) | Coldwater_River (5.2 Acres) |
| Scrub_Shrub_Wetland (9.4 Acres) | Little_Isom_Creek (0.13 Acre) | |

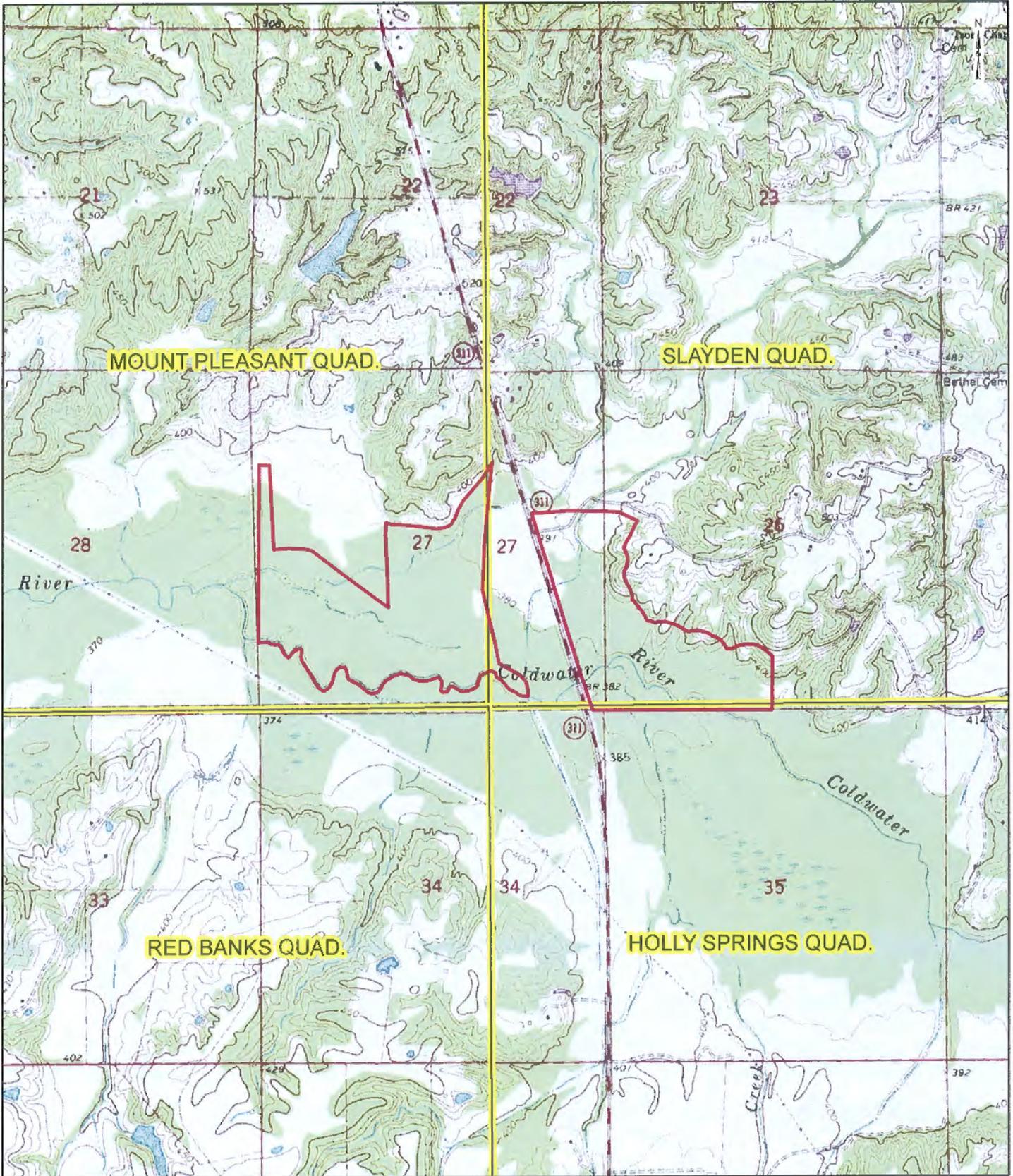
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**Proposed Upper Coldwater River Mitigation Bank
Marshall County, Mississippi**

Habitat types on Project Property
Bing- hybrid photography, Provided by ESRI





Legend

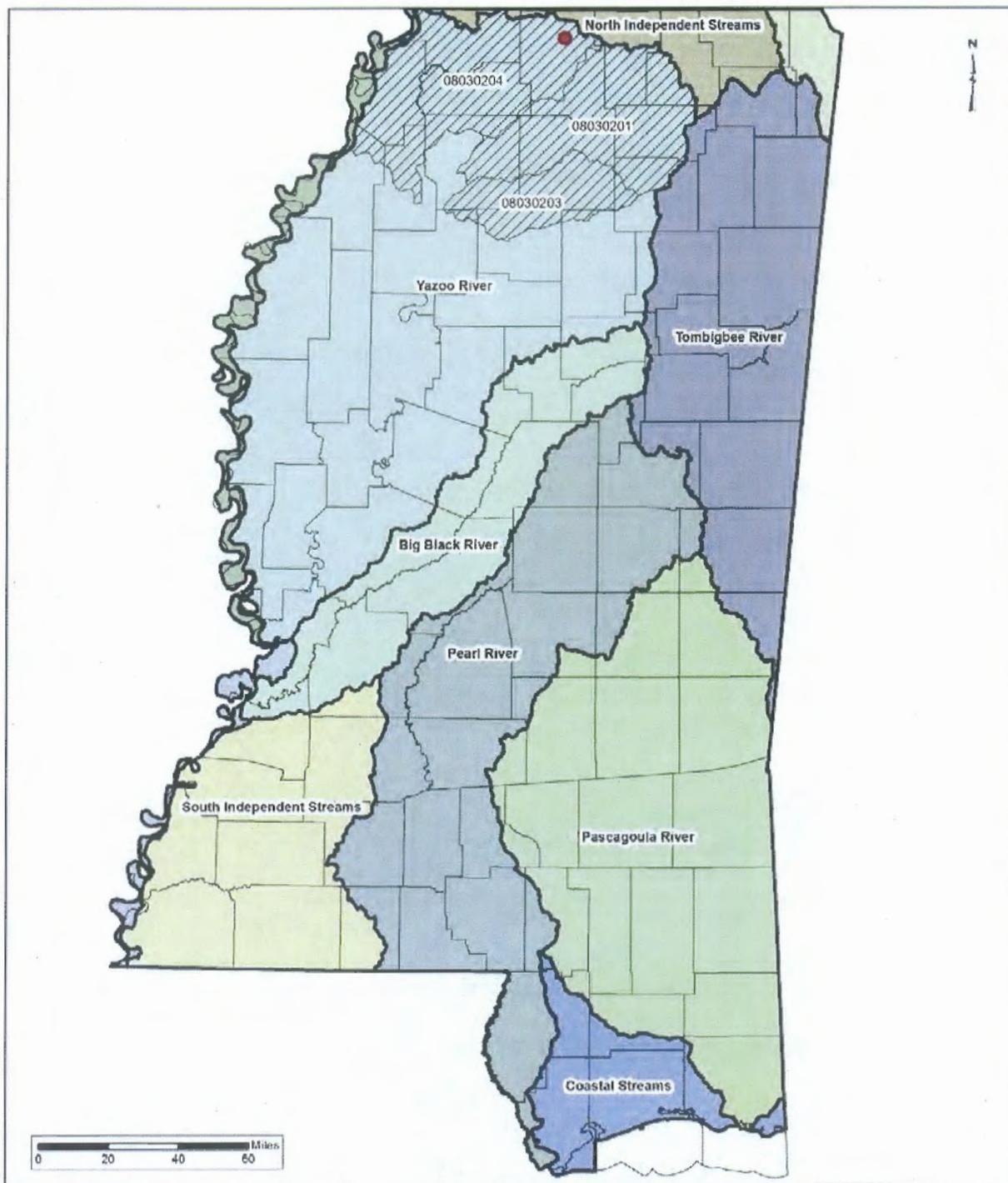
- Project Site
- Quadrangle Grid

Proposed Upper Coldwater River Mitigation Bank

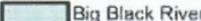
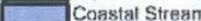
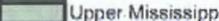
Marshall County, Mississippi

USGS Topographic DRG





Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
|  Project Location |  Major Drainage Basins |  North Independent Streams |  Tennessee River |
|  Counties |  Big Black River |  Pascagoula River |  Tombigbee River |
|  Proposed Service Areas |  Coastal Streams |  Pearl River |  Upper Mississippi River |
| |  Lower Mississippi River |  South Independent Streams |  Yazoo River |