



**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-2013-1060
EVALUATOR:	Mr. Randy Holder
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DATE:	July 29, 2014
EXPIRATION DATE:	August 28, 2014

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish the River Bend Mitigation Bank (RBMB). A prospectus has been received describing the proposed bank from Granberry-Travis Consulting Firm, the bank sponsor. The proposed site is located in section 6, Township 14 North, Range 5 East and section 15, Township 4 North, Range 1 East, Rankin 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 132-acre wetland mitigation bank by restoring 116.38 acres of bottomland hardwood and tupelo swamp wetlands, 1.52 acres of riparian buffer, and 14.10 acres of upland buffer. The proposed work would increase the wetland function, provide species diversity, and increase the width of a wildlife corridor within the Pearl River Watershed.

**Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions:**

The site is currently composed of 96.06 acres of herbaceous, open field and scrub-shrub wetlands, 11.90 acres of forested wetlands, 9.40 acres of cypress slough wetlands, 1.34 acres of perennial stream, 0.18 acre of intermittent streams, and 13.10 acres of upland buffer. The entire site has historically been managed for cattle and hay production ever since the bottomland hardwoods and cypress timber was harvested 30-40 years ago. The site has not been intensely

managed for the past two years and the timber clearing and management for cattle production has left the site with dominant herbaceous, non-native species. Thus, the site does not currently maintain the hydrogeomorphic conditions needed for optimal wetland function and species diversity. The site also contains several ephemeral drains and intermittent streams, which drain in westerly direction directly into the Pearl River. Bordering the site is a combination of improved cattle pasture, 16th section land mature hardwood timber and the Pearl River.

The soils mapped within the project area are listed as Cascilla Arkabutla, Gillsburg silt loam, Leverett silt loam, Tippah silt loam, and Smithdale Providence. All of the soils on the site are classified as hydric soils.

The proposed bank is located in the Pearl River above Strong River Basin, which is part of the larger Pearl River Basin. The unnamed Pearl River tributary streams that run through the property drain in a westerly direction to the Pearl River. Hydrology on the site would be provided through rainfall, sheet flow, and overbank flooding of the ephemeral streams, intermittent Pearl River tributary streams, and the Pearl River. The elevation of the site varies from 270 feet on the northeastern end of the site to 240 feet on the western end of the site above the National Geodetic Vertical Datum for mean sea level.

To accomplish an overall habitat restoration and ecological reconstruction to the bank site, the sponsor is proposing to restore areas of the existing pasture land to its historic bottomland hardwood and tupelo swamp state, to create fully functioning wetlands. The restoration would consist of the reforestation of native tree and plant species found in bottomland hardwood forests, as well as ground contouring and berm installation. The areas that are currently planted in non-native grasses would be roll chopped, burned and reforested with the native hardwood bottomland and/or tupelo swamp areas. The unaltered, 16th section land bordering the bank site will provide a historic bottomland hardwood reference point. The ephemeral streams found throughout the site would be restored and the natural hydrology of the streams would assist in creation of the bottomland hardwood swamp areas. The riparian buffer areas would be modified with minor contouring to encourage dispersed flow and to prevent concentrated flow, which can lead to erosion. The riparian buffer areas would also be restored with beneficial native species to slow stormwater runoff, absorb any pollutants, and benefit the aquatic ecosystems.

Localized drainage is the primary factor which provides this site with its natural hydrology. Currently, the intermittent streams, which drain to the Pearl River, and the Pearl River would provide the necessary hydrology to create and maintain the proposed wetlands throughout the site. The property is located in the Pearl River floodway and flood plain and is fed by several drainage areas providing ephemeral drains and intermittent streams in several locations. To restore

hydrology to a suitable condition, the sponsor would oversee removing beaver dams and the existing corrugated metal pipe culvert to maintain levels of saturation in the soils necessary to create the proposed bottomland hardwood swamp. During the wetland delineation phase of the process, the sponsor would carefully survey the site noting any adverse effect of existing surface features such as roads, berms, softwood fence lines, and drainage ditches. Any of these items which are found on site to be negatively affecting the natural or proposed hydrology of the site would be removed and necessary actions would be taken to correct the hydrological patterns.

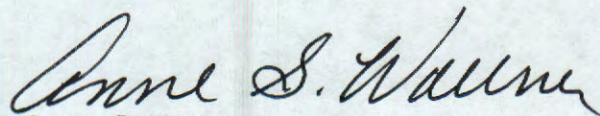
**Service Area:** This mitigation bank would be established to provide mitigation to compensate for impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands, within the Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District. The service areas are demarcated by the United States Geologic Survey as hydrologic unit codes 03180002 and 03180003. Decisions authorizing the use of credits from the mitigation bank would 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.

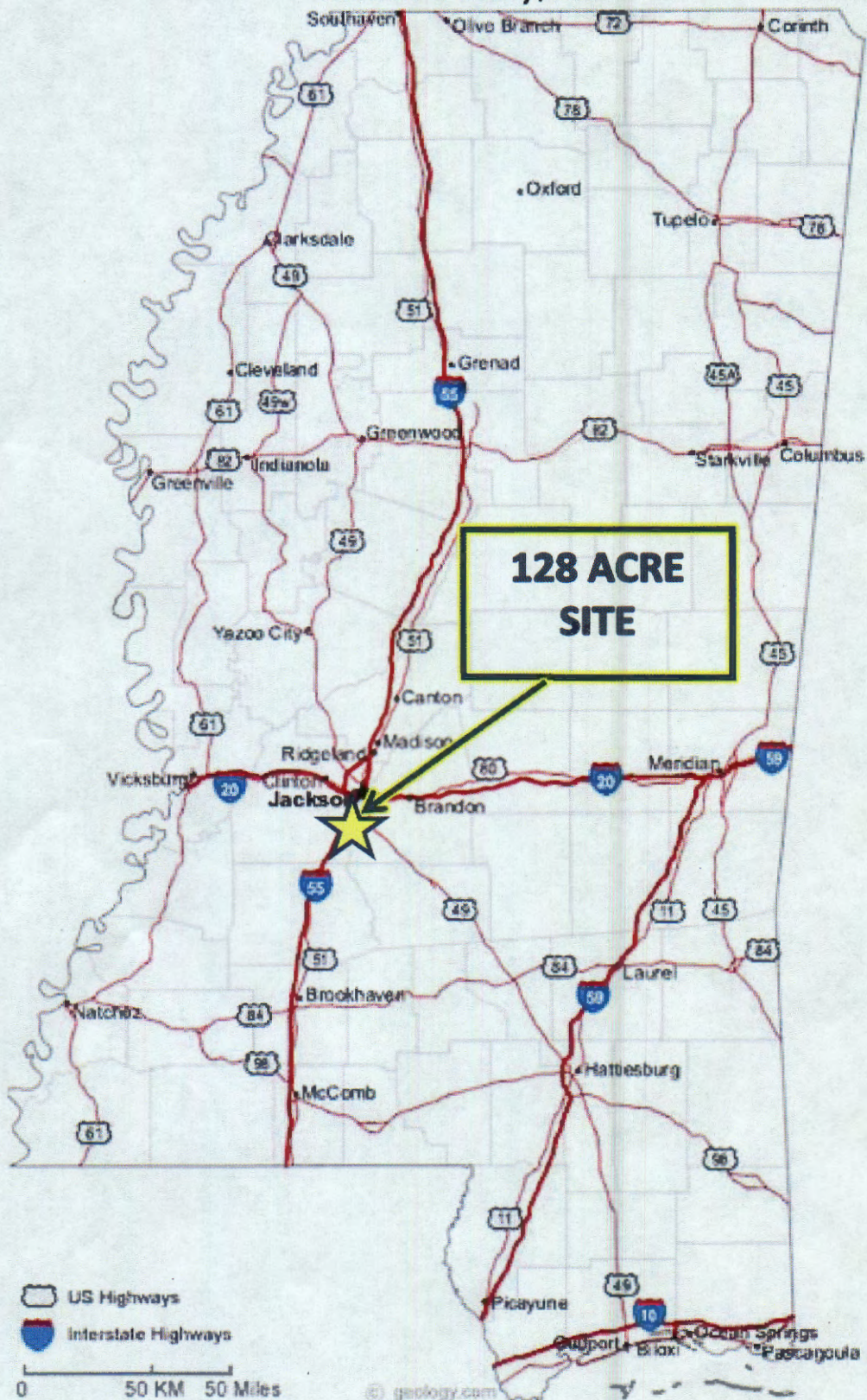
Please provide comments to:

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



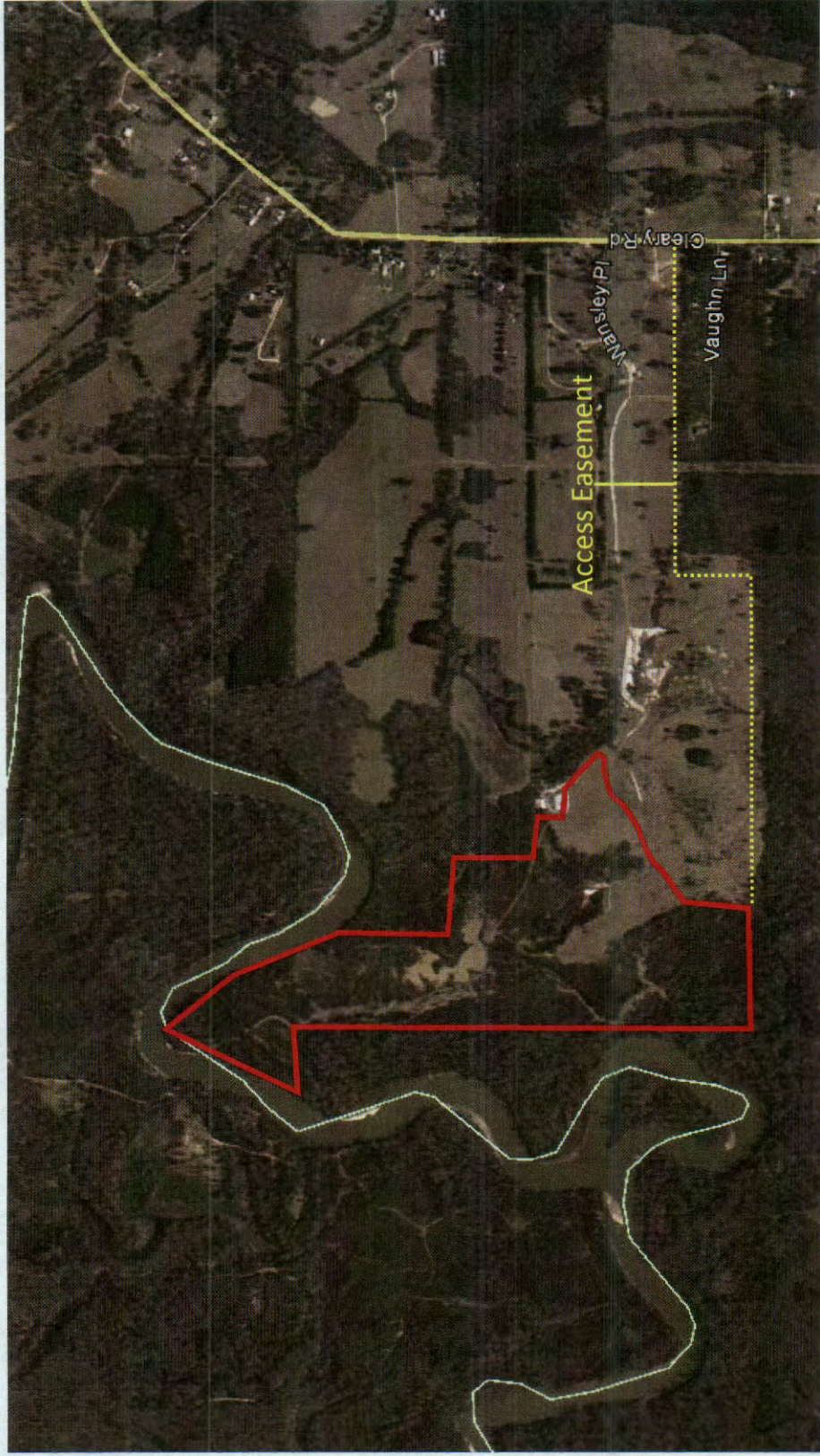
Anne S. Woerner  
Chief, Evaluation Section  
Regulatory Branch

# River Bend Mitigation Bank – Site Location Map Rankin County, MS



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**River Bend Mitigation Bank – Current Aerial**  
**Rankin County, MS**

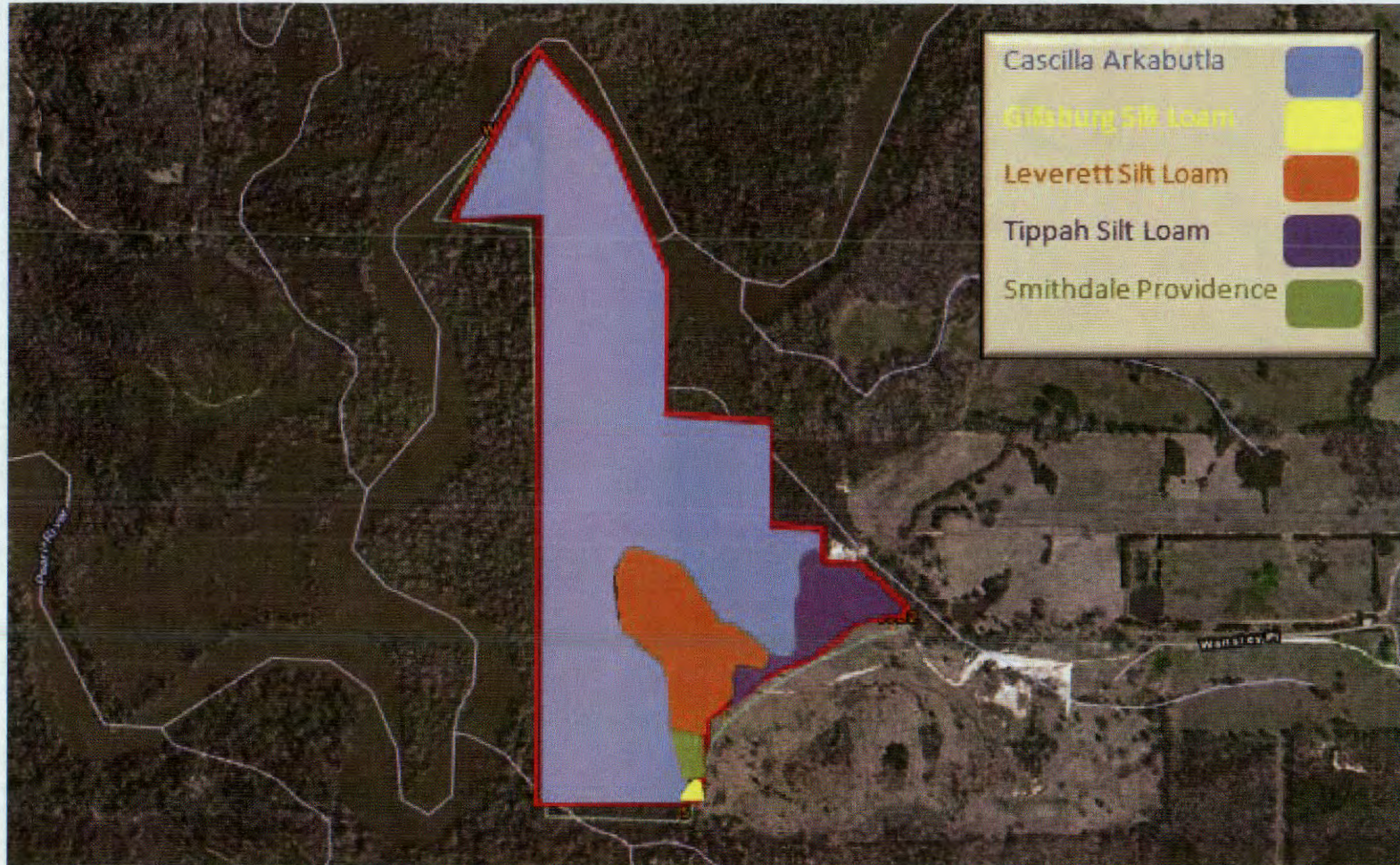


**River Bend Mitigation Bank – Hydrography Map  
Rankin County, MS**



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River Bend Mitigation Bank – Soils Map  
Rankin County, MS



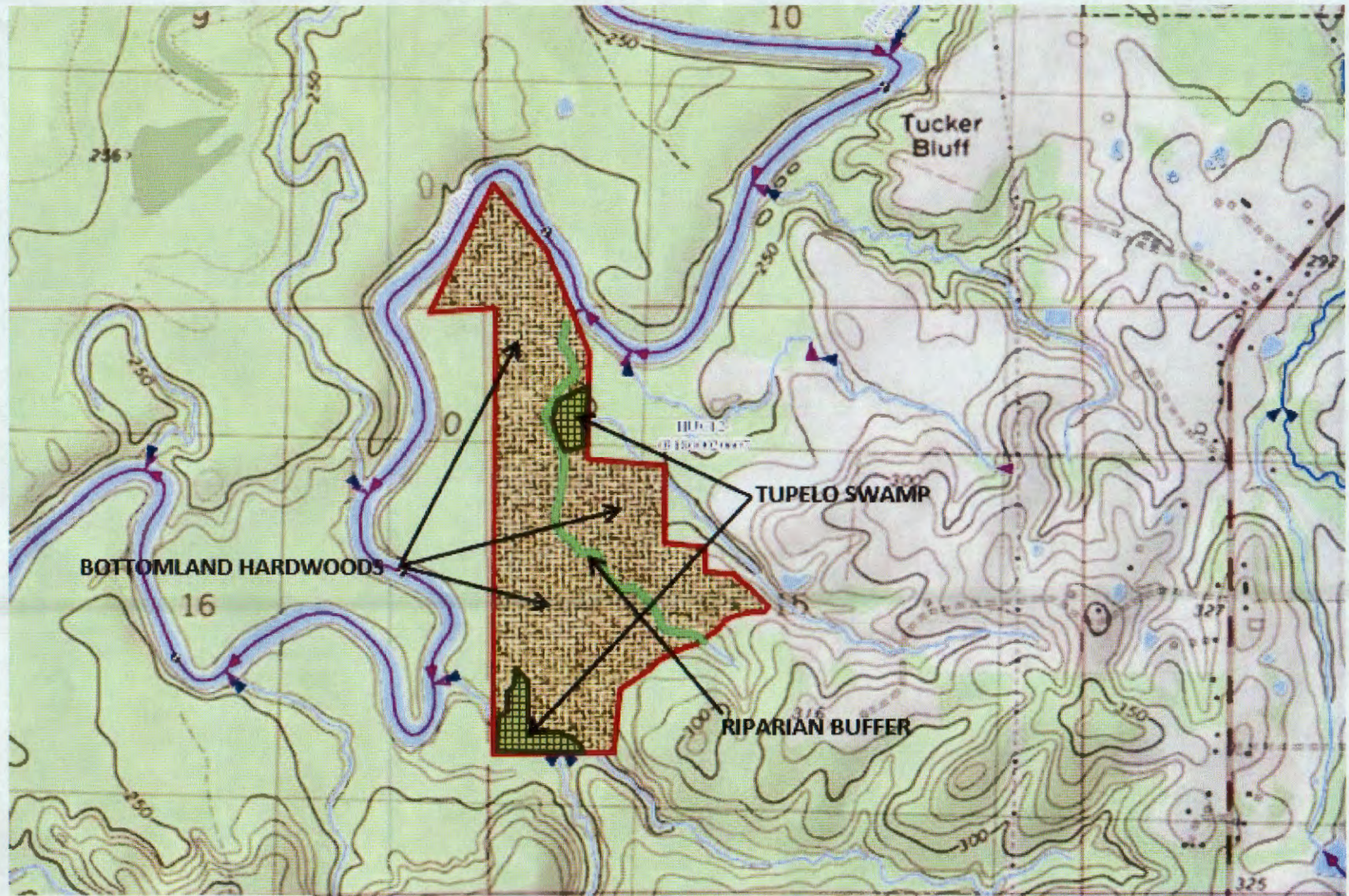
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**River Bend Mitigation Bank – Service Area Map**  
**Rankin County, MS**





River Bend Mitigation Bank – Restoration Plan  
Rankin County, MS



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