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-2013-1061
EVALUATOR:	Mr. Randy Holder
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DATE:	March 19, 2014
EXPIRATION DATE:	April 17, 2014

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish the Clean Water Mitigation Bank (CWMB). 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 36, Township 15 North, Range 4 East, Holmes 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 120-acre wetland mitigation bank by creating 15.0 acres of bottomland hardwood swamp, restoring 85.0 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands, and re-establishing 20 acres of adjacent uplands. The proposed work would increase the wetland function, provide species diversity, and increase the width of a wildlife corridor within the Big Black River Watershed.

Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions:
The site is currently composed of 35 acres of 26-year old loblolly pine plantation and 85 acres of recently cutover herbaceous wetlands. The entire site has historically been managed for growing loblolly pine and hardwood timber. The timber clearing operations have left the site littered with debris piles and downed trees, which are negatively affecting the hydrology and ecology of the site. The

site also contains several ephemeral drains and intermittent streams which drain in an easterly direction into the Big Black River. Bordering the site is a combination of plantation loblolly pine timber, improved cattle pasture, and mixed pine and hardwood timber stands.

The soils mapped within the project area are listed as Chenneby silt loam, Chenneby-Rosebloom complex, Grenada silt loam, 0 to 2 percent, Oaklimeter silt loam, and Rosebloom silt loam. All of the soils on the site are classified as hydric soils.

The proposed bank is located in the Upper Big Black River Basin, which is part of the larger Big Black River Basin. The unnamed Big Black River tributary streams that run through the property drain in a southeasterly direction to the Big Black River. Hydrology on the site would be provided through rainfall, sheet flow, and overbank flooding of the ephemeral streams and intermittent Big Black tributary streams. The elevation of the site varies from 275 feet on the western end of the site to 250 feet on the eastern 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 pine timber, which are limited due to topographic characteristics, to create wetlands and an upland buffer area. Small emergent wetlands would be constructed in designated areas throughout the upland buffer. The restoration of the upland buffer would consist of the reforestation of native tree and plant species found in upland hardwood forests. The areas that are currently planted in 26-year-old loblolly pines would be harvested and restored back to the native hardwood bottomland and/or upland hardwood forest. Bottomland hardwood swamps would be created on areas consisting of cutover timber and newly planted pines and would be modified to assist in the swamps functionality. 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.

Localized drainage is the primary factor which provides this site with its natural hydrology. Currently, the ephemeral drains and intermittent streams, which drain to the Big Black River, would provide the necessary hydrology to create and maintain the proposed emergent wetlands to the West of the railroad tracks. East of the railroad tracks, the property is located in the Big Black River flood plain and is fed by several drainage areas providing ephemeral drains and intermittent streams in several locations. To restore/create hydrology to a suitable condition, the sponsor would oversee plugging ditches, creating berms/dikes, installing flood structures 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 08060201 and 08060202 and 08060203. 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.

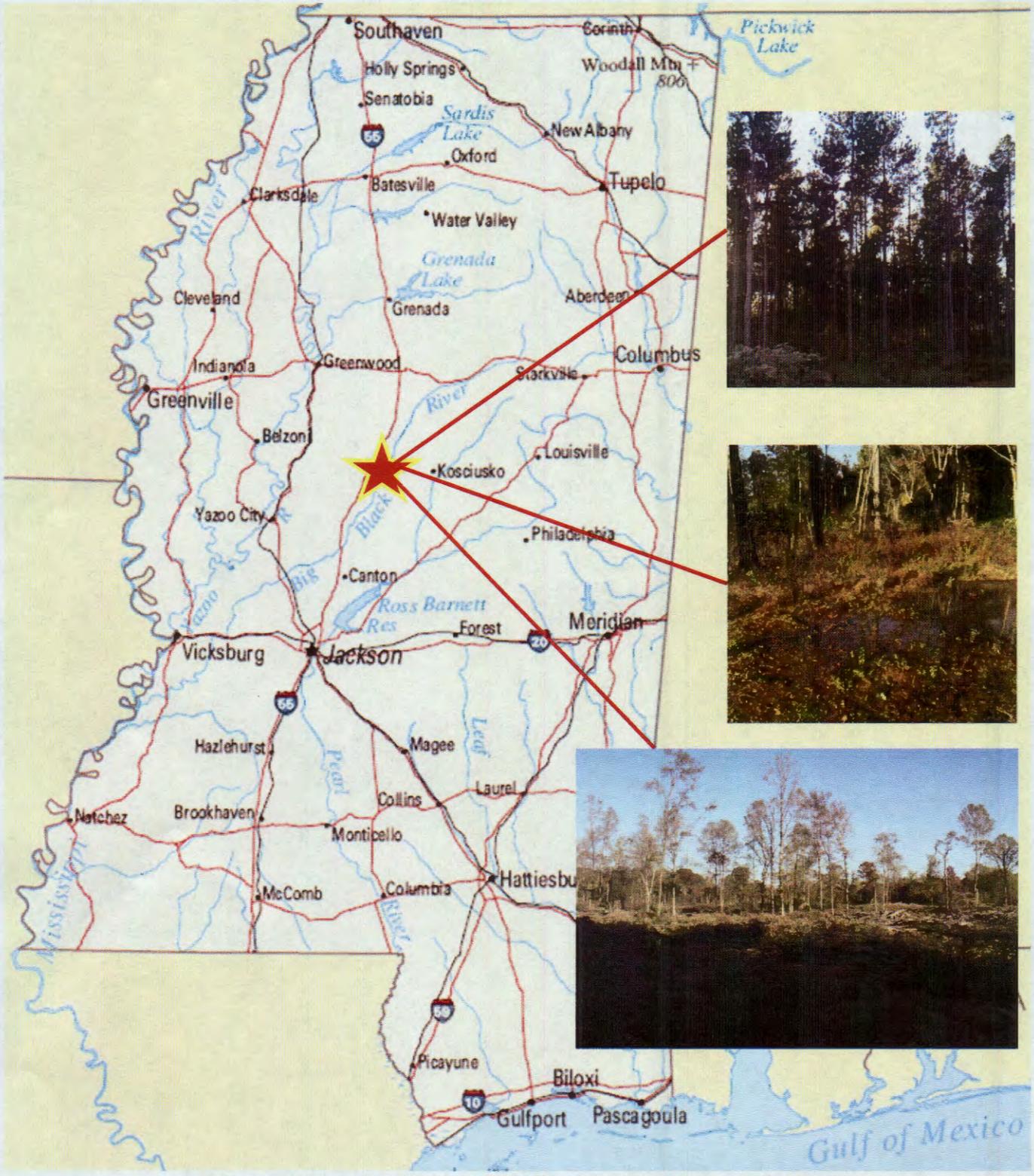
The prospectus, which outlines the conceptual plan for the bank, is available for review at the Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers at the address given below.

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



Clean Water Mitigation Bank – Proposed Site
~ Holmes County, Mississippi ~
Figure 1 – Site Location Map

GRANBERRY-TRAVIS CONSULTING
www.gtconsultingfirm.com

Clean Water Mitigation Bank – Proposed Site
~ Holmes County, Mississippi ~
Figure 2 – Current Aerial

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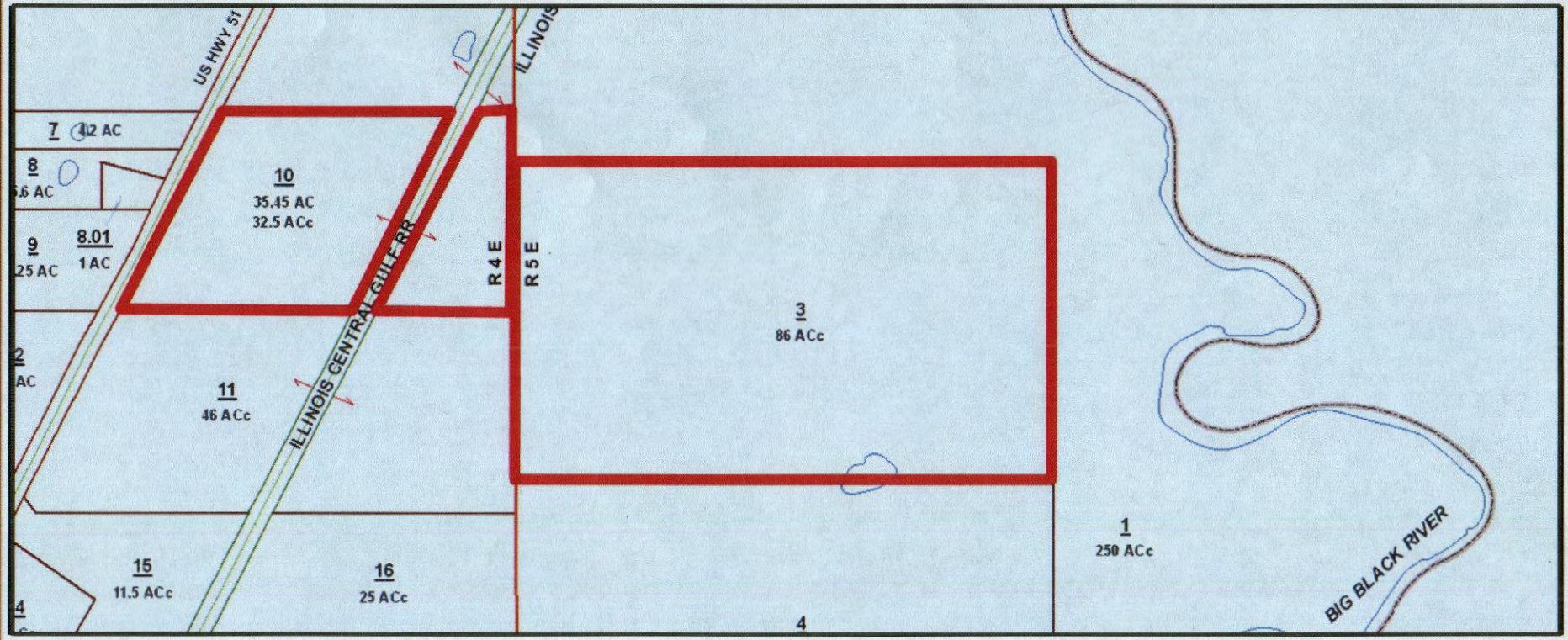

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Figure 3 – Tax Parcel Map

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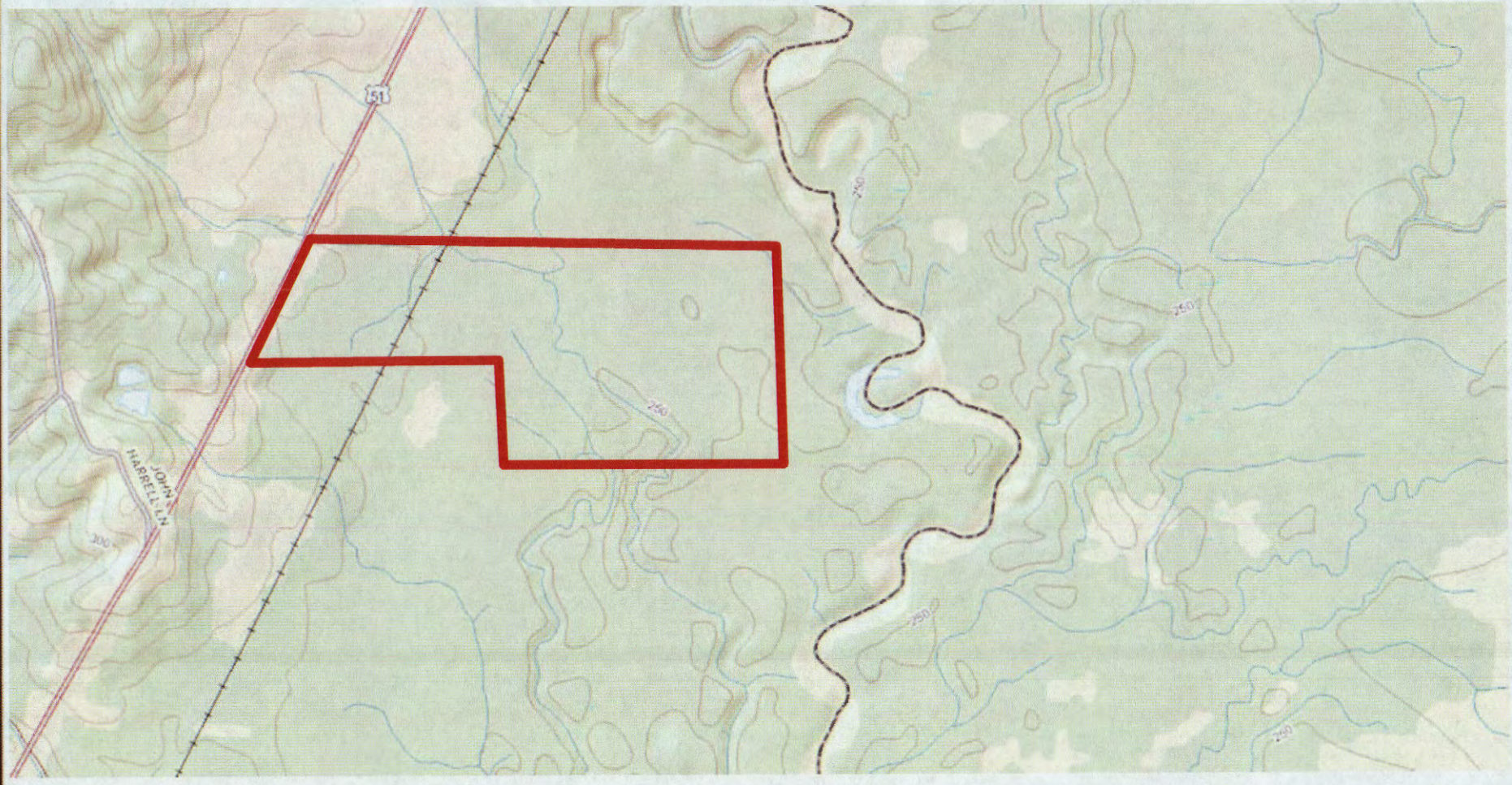

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Figure 4 – Topography Map

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Figure 5 – Soils Map

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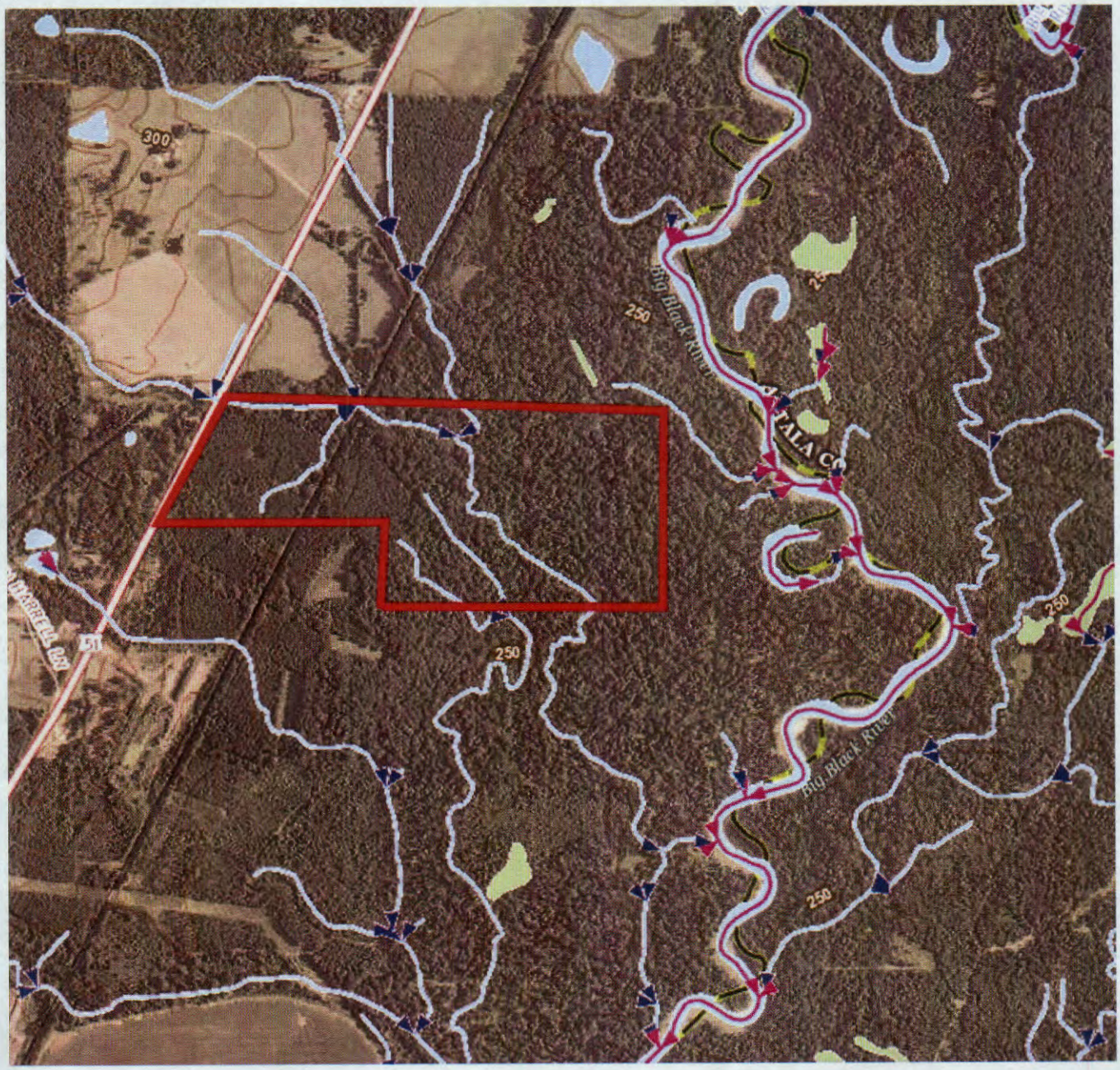

Clean Water Mitigation Bank – Proposed Site
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Figure 6 – Hydrography Map

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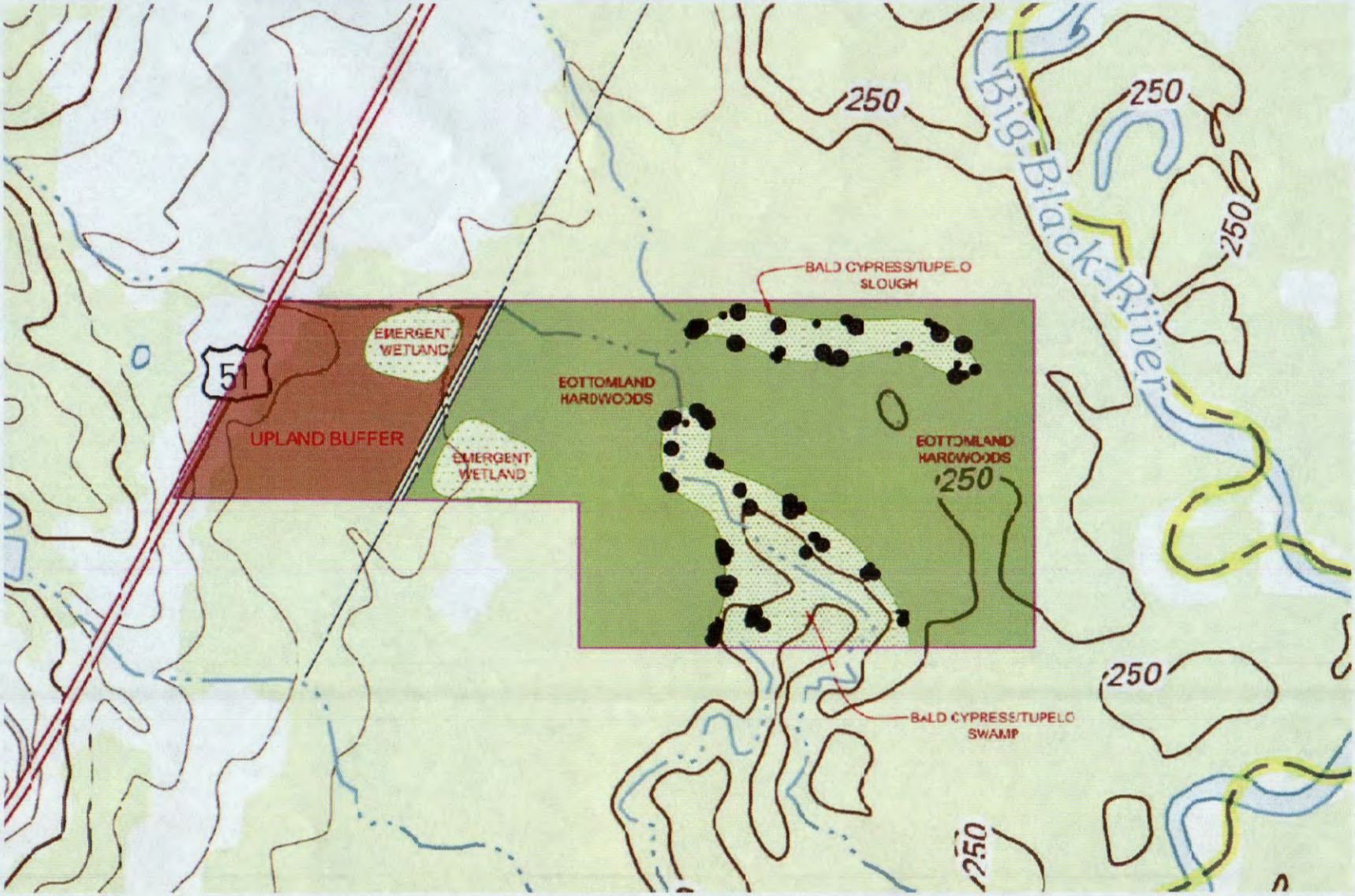

Clean Water Mitigation Bank – Proposed Site
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Figure 7 – Restoration Plan

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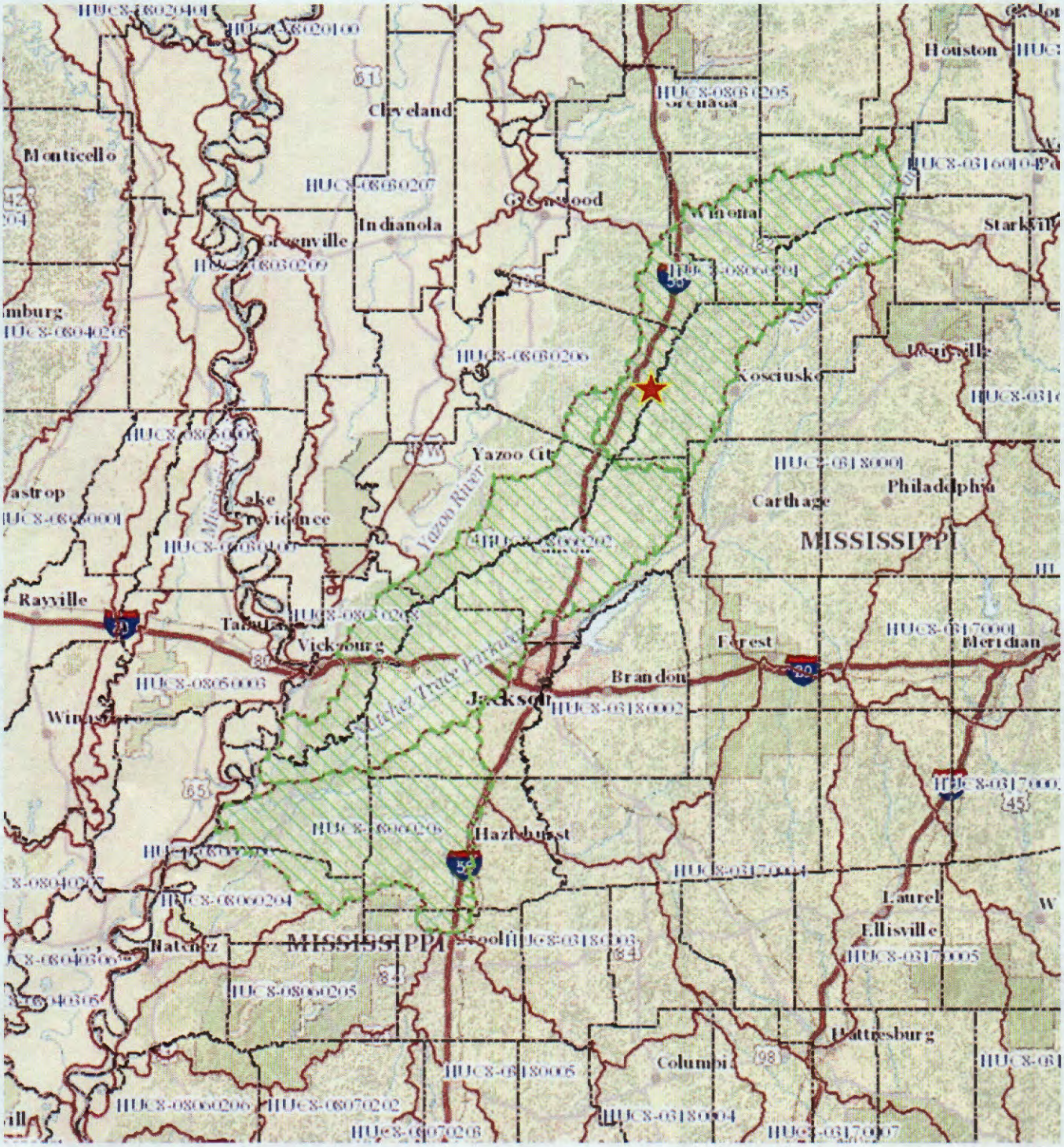

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~ Holmes County, Mississippi ~
Figure 8 – Big Black Basin Service Area

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