



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District

**4155 Clay Street**

**Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435**

**www.mvk.usace.army.mil**



# Public Notice

<b>APPLICATION NO.:</b>	<b>RVH-MVK-2014-453</b>
<b>EVALUATOR:</b>	<b>Mr. Randy Holder</b>
<b>PHONE NO.:</b>	<b>(601) 631-7928</b>
<b>FAX NO.:</b>	<b>(601) 631-5459</b>
<b>E-MAIL:</b>	<b>Randy.V.Holder@usace.army.mil</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>June 10, 2014</b>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<b>June 30, 2014</b>

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish the Turtleskin Creek Mitigation Bank (TCMB). A prospectus has been received describing the proposed bank from Soterra LLC, the bank sponsor. The proposed site is located in sections 31 and 32, Township 6 South, Range 16 West and sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, Township 7 South, Range 16 West, Hancock 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 2,744.5-acre wetland mitigation bank by restoring 2,702 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands, 41.7 acres of adjacent uplands and restoring and enhancing 49,465.87 linear feet of relatively permanent waters (RPW's) and 7,158 linear feet of non-RPW's. 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 proposed bank is located in the Pearl River Basin. The site is currently composed of 2,702 acres of wetlands and 41.7 acres of non-wetlands. The entire site is currently managed for pine silviculture. No management for wetland ecosystem services is taking place or is planned for the site under its current management regime.



The hydric soils mapped within the project area are listed as Atmore silt loam, Smithton Association FF, Smithton fine sandy loam and Smithton fine sandy loam FF. The partially hydric soils within the project area are listed as Escambia loam 0-2%, Escambia loam 2-5%, Harleston fine sandy loam 0-2%, Poarch fine sandy loam 0-2%, and Saucier fine sandy loam 0-2%. The non hydric soils listed within the project area are listed as Beauregard silt loam, Malbis fine sandy loam 2-5%, and Poarch fine sandy loam 2-5%.

The surface hydrology in the wetland areas has been altered by silviculture bedding. Bedding varies across the site according to the age of the individual timber stand. Beds in freshly planted areas are approximately 24 inches from crest to trough while beds in areas with pines that are 10 to 20 years old are approximately 14 inches. Ditches up to 48 inches in depth and 60 inches in width occur along roads onsite. No other significant impacts to hydrology were observed in the wetland areas.

Wetland areas within the TCMB site have been impacted by silviculture operations and associated ditching, culverts, and road placement. Wetland restoration would include mechanical methods, prescribed burning, planting, and exotic species removal. Wet palustrine forest areas would be restored by correction of forest structure problems (high pine density) by direct mechanical removal of excess woody biomass. In areas with microtopography disturbances, mechanical means would be used to remove bedding and restore natural landform and sheet flow hydrology. Prescribed fire would be implemented as soon as herbaceous fuel loads are high enough to permit effective burning. Depending on penetration of fire into wet areas and surface hydrology after restoration of landform, areas more suited to forested bayhead or Grady Pond habitats may also be planted with deep-rooted species suited to those habitats to accelerate the natural regeneration. Sufficient native seed source is anticipated for regeneration of the herbaceous layer, but seeding or plug installation of target native species may be used to increase the speed of recovery or improve species diversity. Exotic species would be controlled using fire, herbicide or mechanical removal, as needed, depending on location and conditions. Bottomland hardwood forest areas would be preserved or enhanced, as appropriate. They would be monitored and treated to control any exotic species. Bottomland enhancement areas may include control and removal of invasive exotic species or planting of cypress or hardwood trees to increase biodiversity. For stream restoration, ditches in the floodplain would be filled in or cut off to re-establish normal microtopography and hydrology. Culverts and road would be evaluated for removal, resizing, or conversion to low water crossings as applicable.

**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



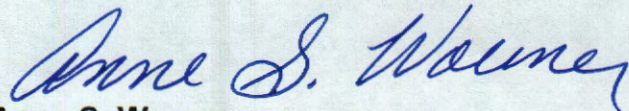
the United States Geologic Survey as hydrologic unit codes 03180004 and 03180005. Decisions authorizing the use of credits from the Mitigation Bank would be made by the appropriate authority on a case by case basis in accordance with all applicable requirements.

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.

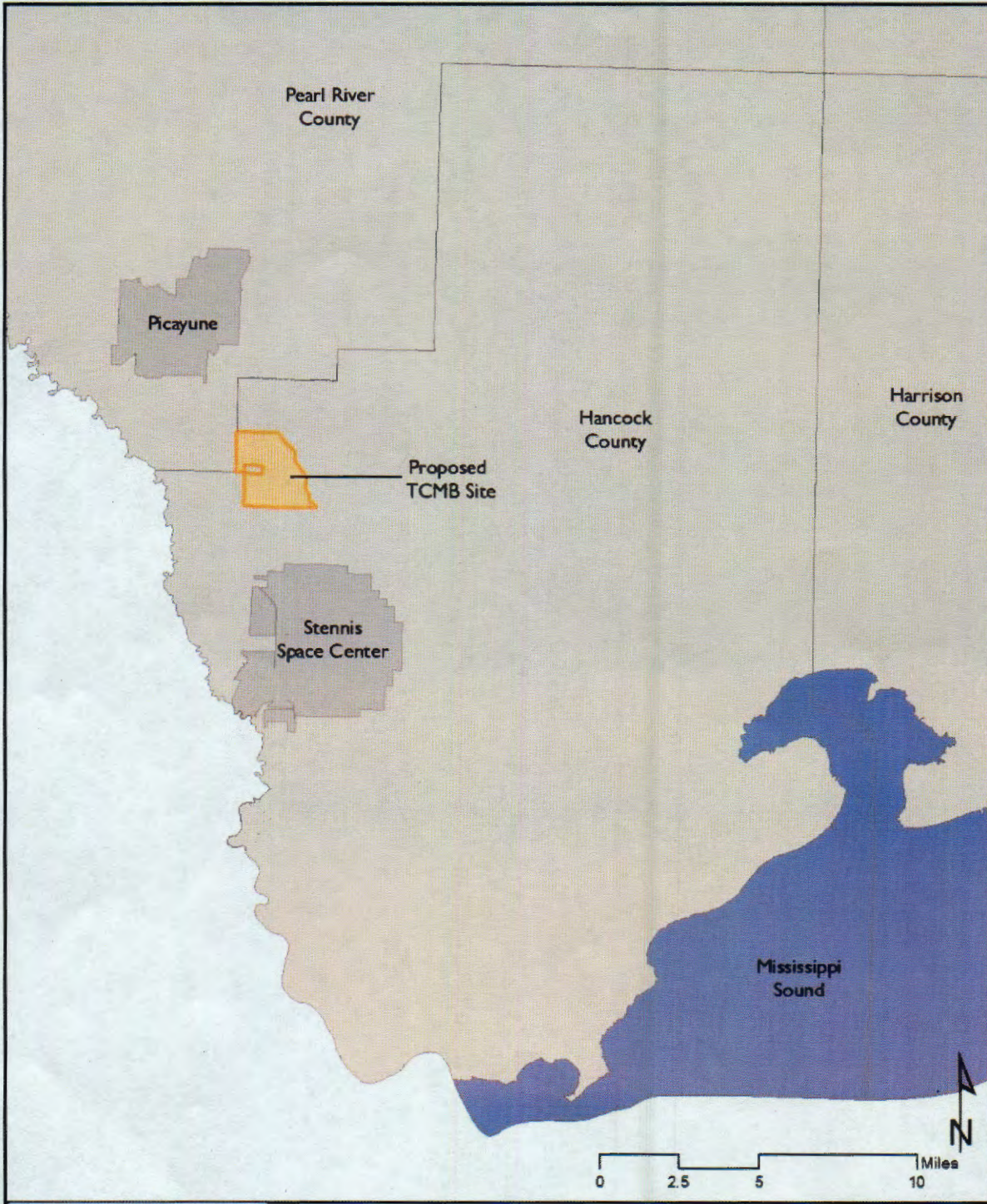
Please provide comments to:

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





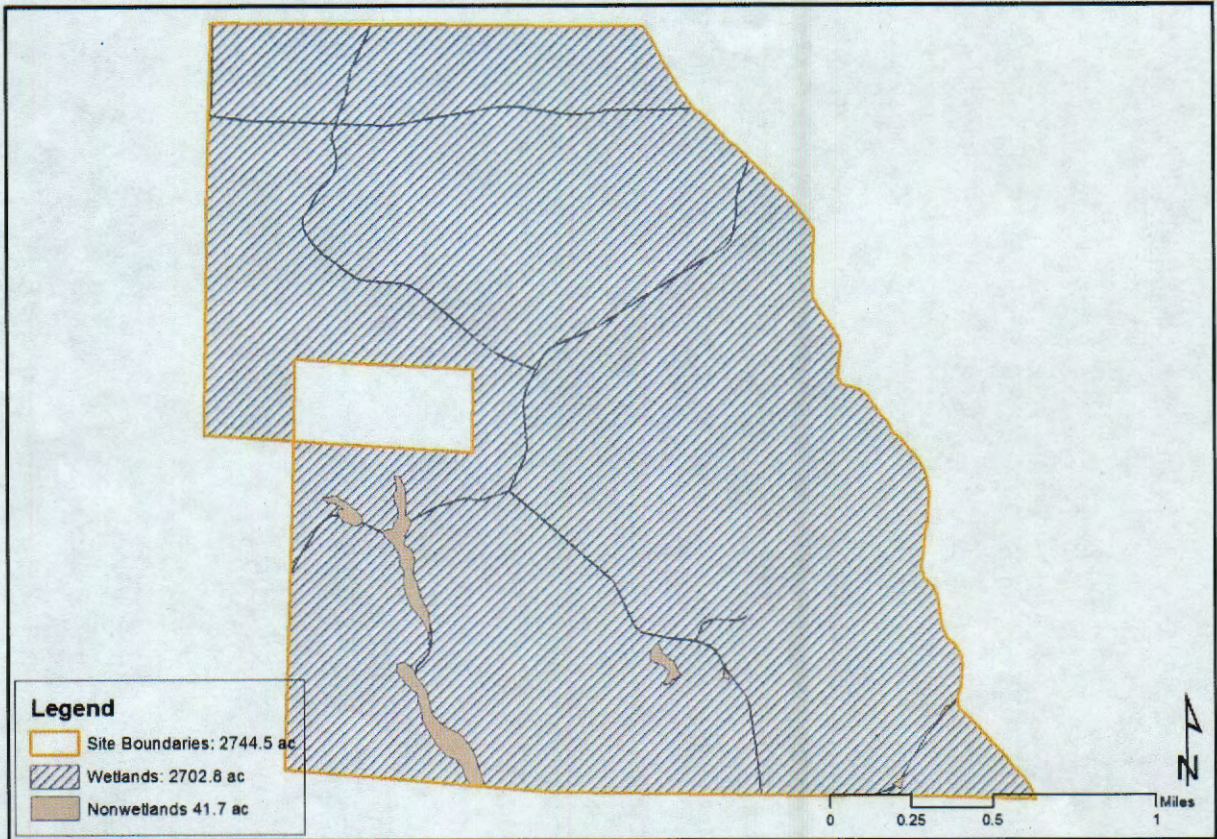
**CYPRESS**  
Environmental Science & Engineering

**Site Vicinity**  
**Proposed Turtleskin Creek Mitigation Bank**

**CEMVK-OD-FE RVH-MVK-2014-453**

**MR. MATT BONHAM**  
**SOTERRA LLC**





**CYPRESS**  
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**Wetland Boundaries**  
**Proposed Turtleskin Creek Mitigation Bank**

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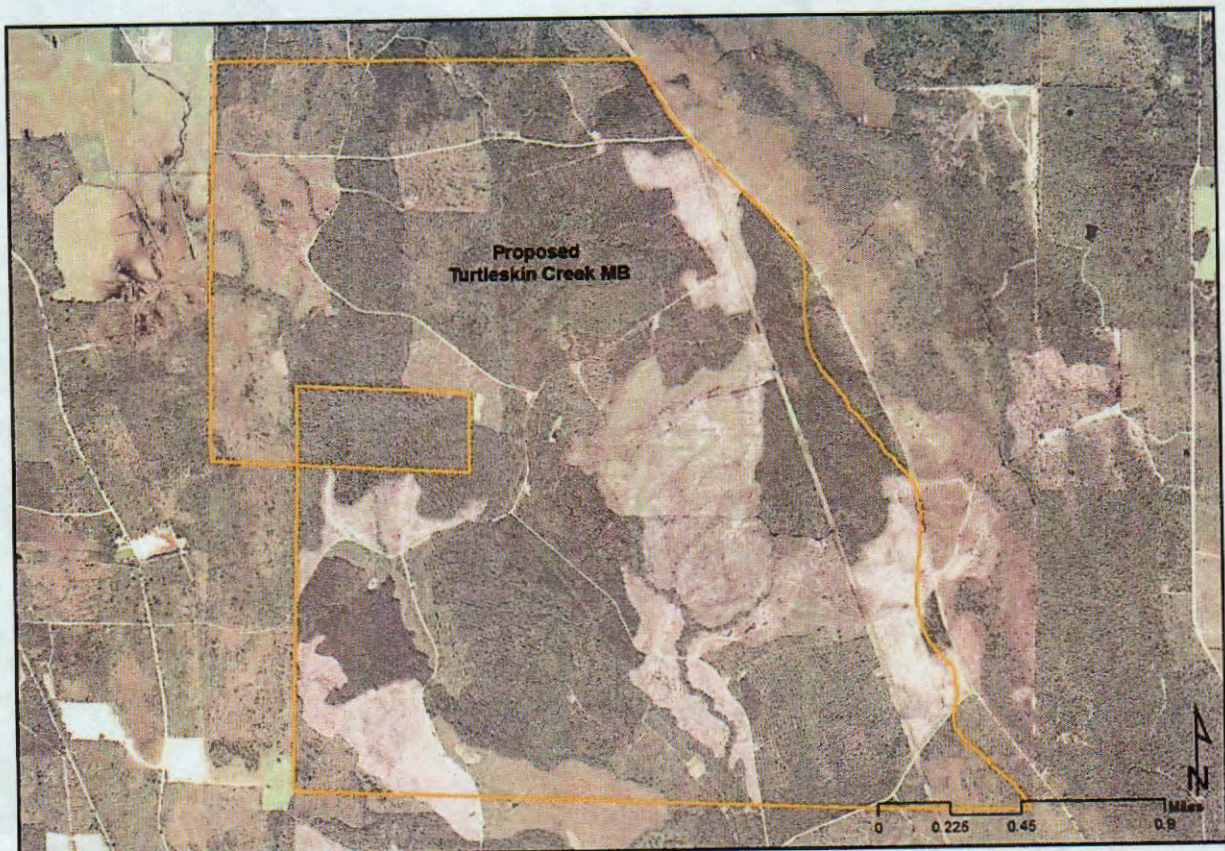
**CYPRESS**  
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**USGS Topography Map**  
**Proposed Turtleskin Creek Mitigation Bank**

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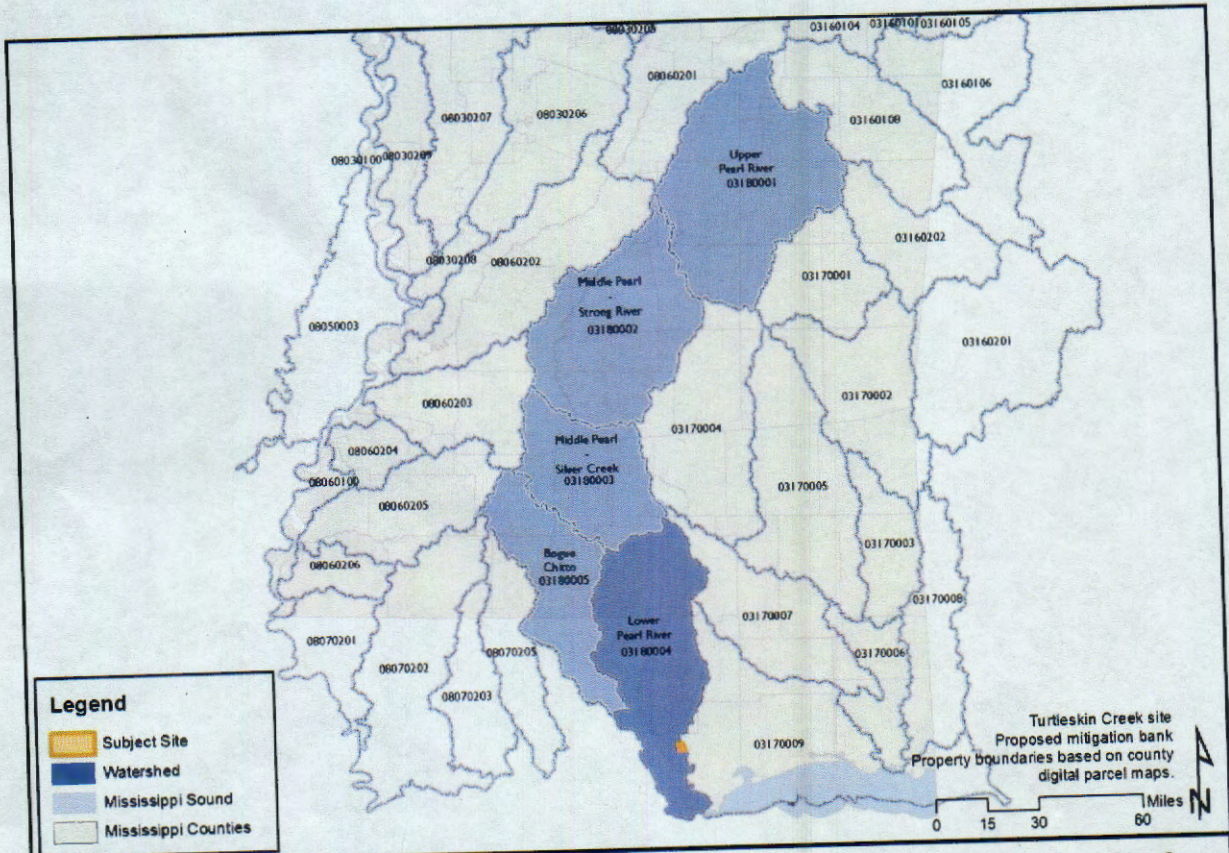
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**2012 Aerial Photography  
Proposed Turtleskin Creek Mitigation Bank**

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**CYPRESS**  
Environmental Services & Engineering

**Service Area**  
**Proposed Turtleskin Creek Mitigation Bank**

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