



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	<u>MVK-2013-178</u>
EVALUATOR:	<u>Ms. Samantha Thompson</u>
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DATE:	<u>August 8, 2018</u>
EXPIRATION DATE:	<u>September 6, 2018</u>

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish the Bayou Pierre Mitigation Bank Phase II (BPMB). A prospectus has been received describing the proposed bank from Wildlife Mississippi, the bank Sponsor. The proposed site is located in Sections 10, 15, 23, 26, & 35, Township 10 North, Range 7 East, Copiah County, Mississippi (enclosure 1).

Description: The BPMB is being proposed by the bank Sponsor as a means to meet the requirements for compensatory mitigation for future and as yet unknown wetland and stream 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 mitigation bank by restoring/enhancing wetland and stream functions. The proposed work would increase the wetland/stream function, provide species diversity, and increase the width of a wildlife corridor within the Bayou Pierre Watershed (HUC 08060203).

Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions:

The proposed site is located near Bayou Pierre, just north of Wesson, Copiah County, Mississippi. The property is traversed by reaches of Bayou Pierre which flows north through portions of the property before converging with the Mississippi River approximately 40 miles northwest of the Bank Property. The area primarily consists of 1,655 acres in two geographically separate tracts of land that directly abut Bayou Pierre and are located within portions of the Bayou Pierre floodplain. The vast majority of the Bank property is utilized for silvicultural purposes. Changes to the historic landscape would include interior roadways, rutting, and drainage improvements in support of the silviculture activities.

Currently, the site is comprised of mature bottomland hardwood forested wetlands and degraded forested wetlands, scrub-shrub wetlands, along with wet pine plantation, emergent wetlands and forested uplands. The current hydrology has been altered from the historical hydrologic regime through property alterations associated with timber production and forestry techniques. The primary alterations within the Bank include culverts, road crossings, silviculture ditches and rutting. Each of these alterations increase surface water runoff away from the planted pine stands into nearby streams. Additionally, beaver activity located along the southern boundary of the site has impeded normal flow patterns.

The objective of the proposed mitigation action is the preservation of 211.28 acres, restoration of 220.38 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands and the enhancement of 297.78 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands. As a component of the Bank, the project would also include in-stream and stream riparian buffer mitigation consisting of approximately 605.46 acres of riparian buffer enhancement and 68.02 acres of riparian buffer restoration.

Hydric Soils found within the site include: Oaklimer silt loam, Gillsburg silt loam, and Guyton silt loam soils.

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 code 08060203 and 08060202 (primary service areas). 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.

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. The prospectus, which outlines the conceptual plan for the bank, is available at the following website:

<http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>

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. Please provide comments to:

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

Thomas A. McCabe
**Thomas A. McCabe
Chief, Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch**