



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	TVG-MVK-2014-640
EVALUATOR:	Ms. Tarmiko Graham
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FAX NO.:	(601) 631-5459
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DATE:	March 24, 2016
EXPIRATION DATE:	April 22, 2016

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish the Pearl River Mitigation Bank Phase III (PRMB). A prospectus has been received describing the proposed bank from Berg Mitigation Banks, LLC, the bank Sponsor. The proposed site is located in Section 24, Township 11 North, Range 9 East, Leake County, Mississippi (enclosure 1).

Description: The PRMB 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 Upper Pearl River Watershed (HUC 03180001).

Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions:

The proposed site is located near the Pearl River in the town of Edinburgh in Leake County, Mississippi. The property is located within the 100-year floodplain of the Pearl River in an area labeled as Palmetto on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps (enclosure 2). The area is primarily utilized for planted pines with a row crop field in the northwest corner and hardwood slough in the center of the property. Two perennial streams transect the site flowing to the Pearl River. The riparian buffers of these streams have been significantly impacted by current land uses. A small ridge topped with a food plot is found near the western edge of the property. With planted pines as the dominant land use, these stands tend to be deprived of high quality food and cover resource for wildlife.

Historically, the entire site would have been comprised of bottomland hardwood species. Various oaks and soft mast would have dominated the less frequently flooded areas and cypress gum would dominate the frequently flooded and inundated areas. The less frequently flooded areas (approximately 120.25 acres) have been mostly converted to pine plantation and agriculture. The frequently flooded and inundated areas (92 acres) have been impacted by invasive species, beaver activity, and loss of protective buffers.

The objective of the proposed mitigation action is the restoration/enhancement of a 270.8-acre parcel. Approximately 225.5 acres of this parcel is comprised of jurisdictional wetlands and streams. Approximately 45.3 acres of non-wetland is intermingled within this parcel. Two perennial streams transect the proposed bank site totaling 7,927 linear feet. The wetland area is comprised of areas planted in loblolly pine and bottomland hardwood (enclosure 3).

The proposed mitigation action include the conversion from the current land use of primarily siculture and restoring bottomland hardwood functions. Specific mitigation would include the removal of planted pine, site preparation and invasive species control, removing impediments to hydrology, restoring riparian buffers, and restoring upland buffers. Native bottomland hardwood species would be planted to restore the historic vegetative community within the site (enclosure 4).

Hydric Soils found within the site include: Jena-Kirkville complex, undulating, frequently flooded (JKB), Rosebloom silt loam (Rb), and Rosebloom and Arkabutla soils, frequently flooded.

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 03180001 and 03180002 (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:

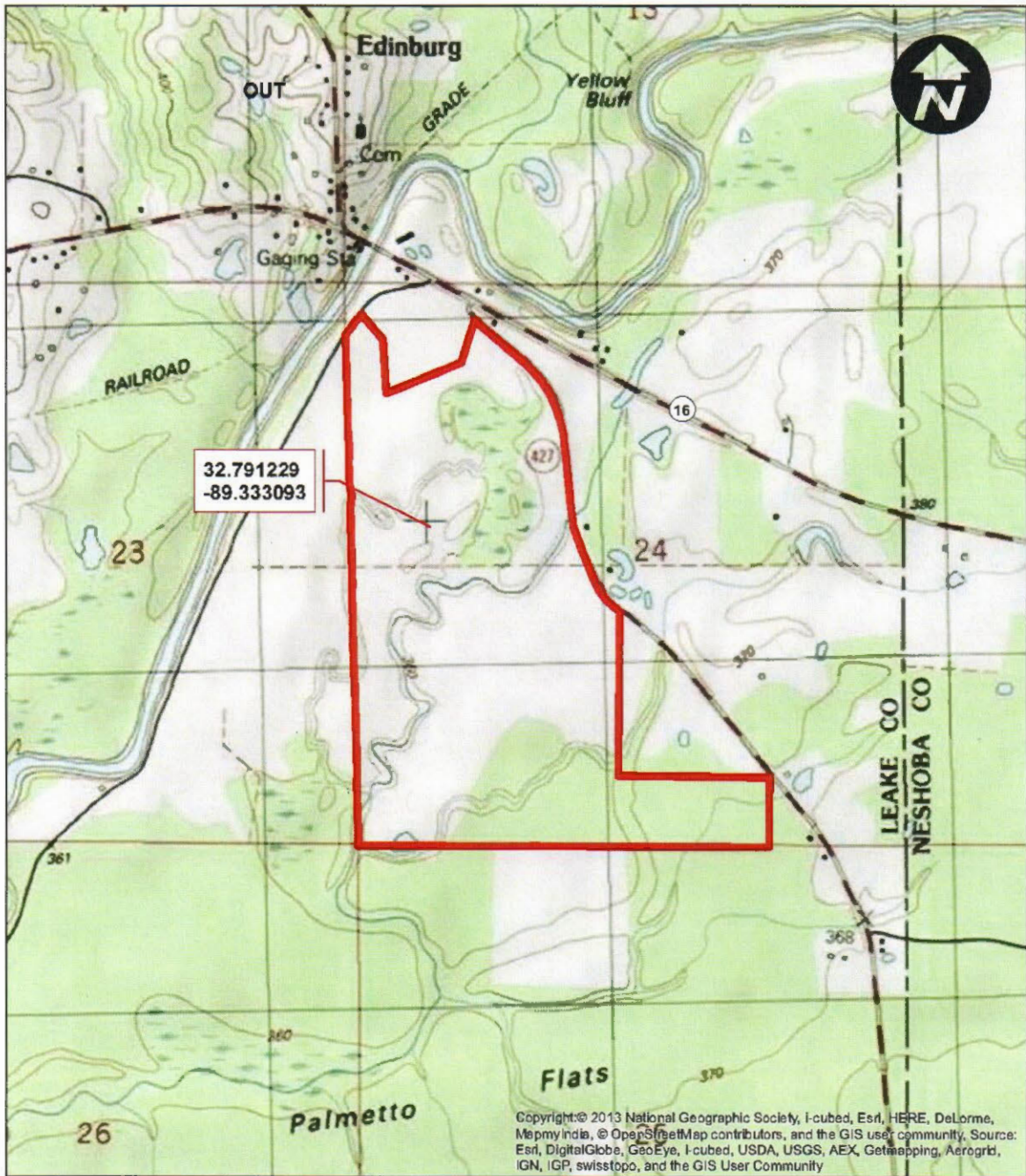
<http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>

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**

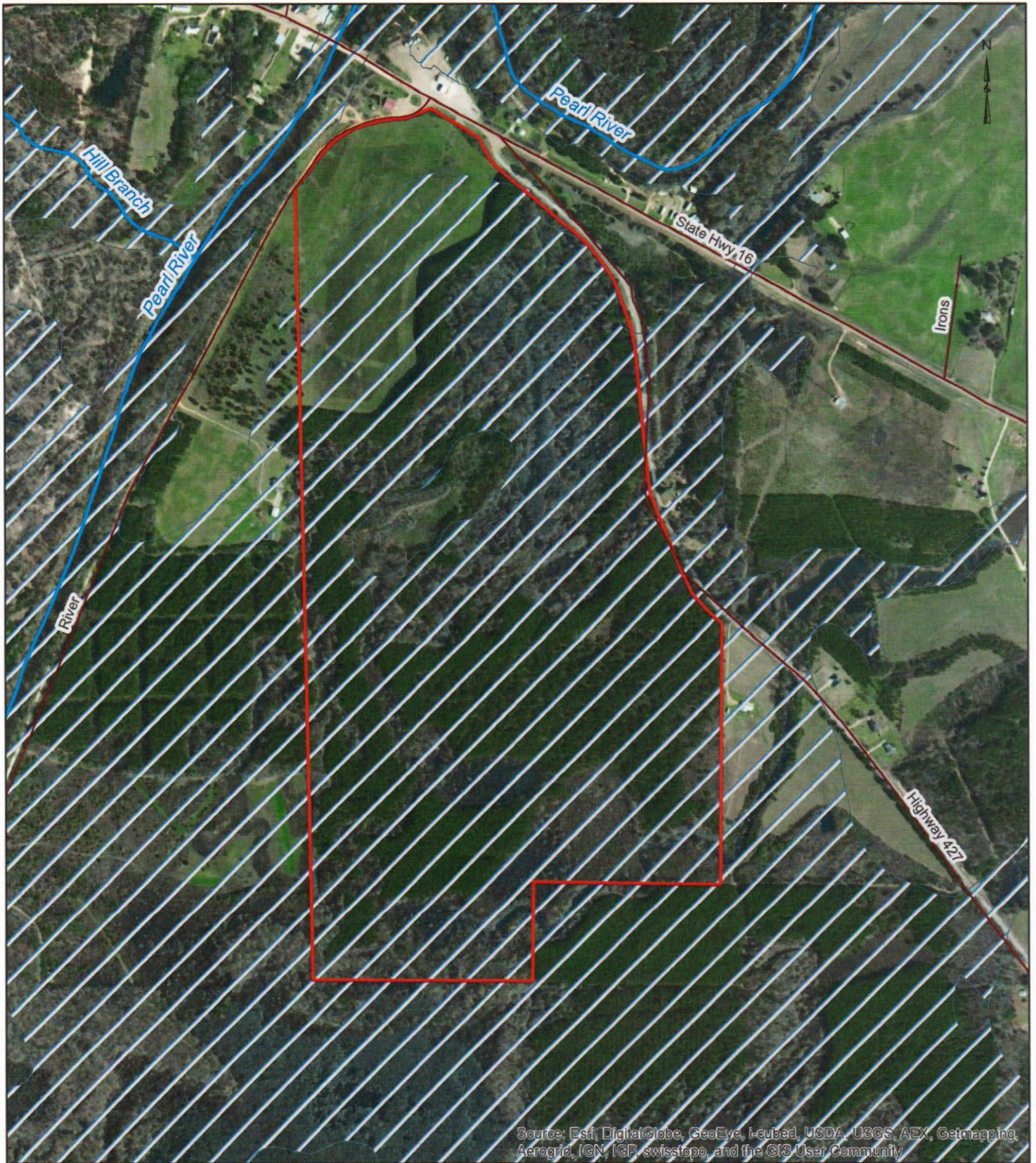
FIGURE 4, USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



Legend

 PRMB Phase III, 270.8 Acres

PEARL RIVER MITIGATION BANK, PHASE III
LEAKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PROPOSED MITIGATION ACTIONS



0 0.045 0.09 0.18 0.27 0.36 Miles

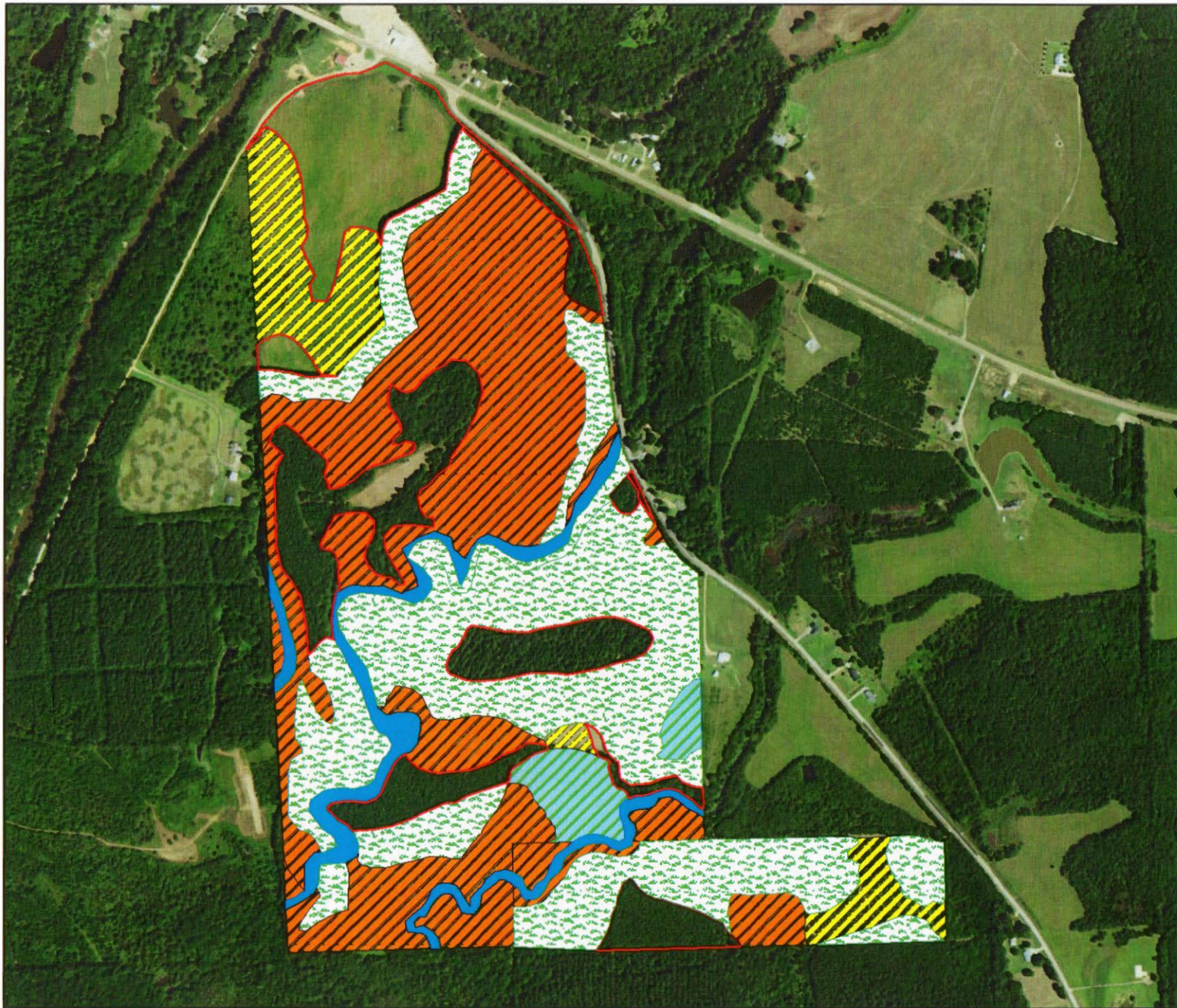
Legend

- Bank Site
- 100 year Floodzone
- Named Streams (nhd)







Floodplain Map

Pearl River Mitigation Bank, Phase III
Leake County, Mississippi

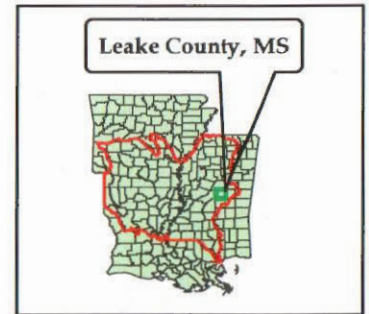
enclosure 2



Pearl River Mitigation Bank Phase III

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
|  Emergent Wetlands (20.57 Acres) |  Pine Plantation Wetlands (91.88 Acres) |  Perennial Other Waters (13.57 Acres) |
|  Bottomland Hardwood Wetlands (88.07 Acres) |  Scrub-Shrub Wetlands (8.1 Acres) |  Upland (61.67 Acres) |

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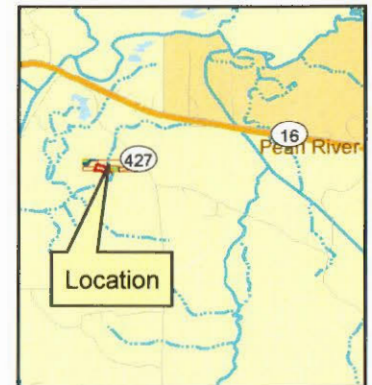




24 March 2016

MVK-2014-640
MVK-2016-20

Proposed Phase III
Pearl River Mitigation Bank
Berg Mitigation Banks, LLC
Pittman Environmental Services Inc.
Leake County, MS

**Preliminary
Jurisdictional Determination**
Jeremy Stokes

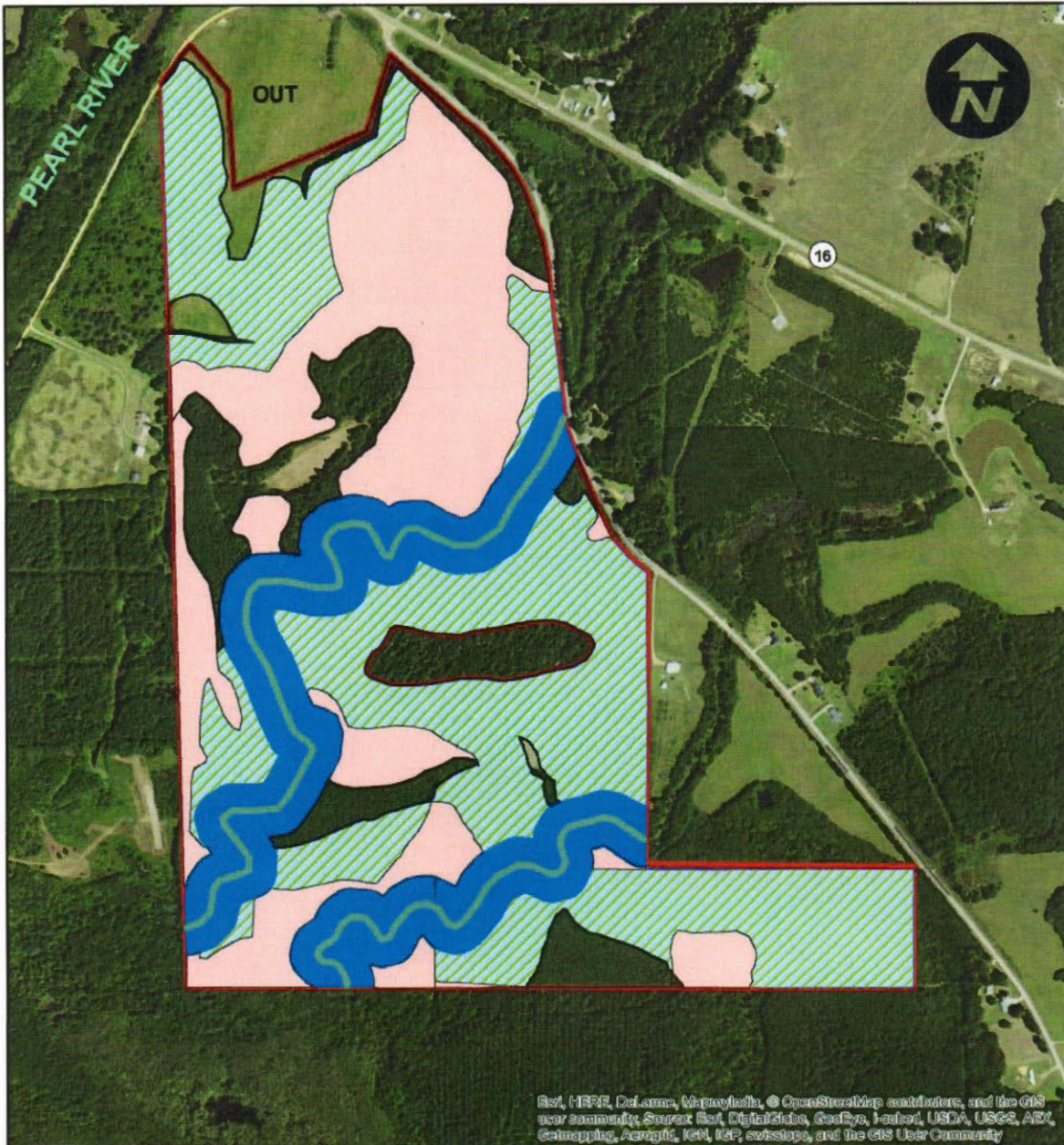
**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Regulatory Branch
Enforcement Section






0 500 1,000
Feet

enclosure 3

Figure 6. PROPOSED MITIGATION ACTIONS



Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Mapbox, and the GIS user community. Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, USDA, USGS, Aero, GeoMapping, AeroGRID, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Legend	
	PRMB Phase III 270.8 Acres
	BLH Restoration 103 Acres
	BLH Enhancement 73.5 Acres
	Stream-Riparian Buffer 7,927 LF, 53 Acres (300' Wide Riparian Corridor)
	Upland 41.3 Acres

**PEARL RIVER MITIGATION BANK
PHASE III
LEAKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PROPOSED MITIGATION ACTIONS**

enclosure 4