



**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-2018-653</u>
EVALUATOR:	<u>Ms. Tarmiko Graham</u>
PHONE NO.:	<u>(601) 631-5540</u>
E-MAIL:	<u>Tarmiko.V.Graham@usace.army.mil</u>
DATE:	<u>January 11, 2022</u>
EXPIRATION DATE:	<u>January 31, 2022</u>

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality are considering an application for a Department of the Army Permit and State Water Quality Certification for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-RD, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality at Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2261, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:
Mr. Charles Caswell
Wet Mine Assets Holding, LLC
600 Jefferson Street, Suite 508
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501

Name of Agent:
Mr. Clay Cromwell
Headwaters, Incorporated
Post Office 2836
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39158

Location of Work: Sections 7, 14, 15 and 23, T7S- R17W, Latitude 30.438616, Longitude -89.673825, within the Pearl River Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC 08060202), Hancock County, Mississippi.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for an after-the-fact and proposed Department of the Army permit in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to conduct regulated activities in jurisdictional wetlands for the proposed surface mine expansion located in Hancock County, Mississippi.

The proposed surface mine expansion includes an approximate 246-acre parcel abutting the existing Middle Pit and South Pit sites. The expansion activities would include the dredging, separating, and storage of fine and course materials through the utilization of the current surface mine infrastructure and facilities. To facilitate construction of the proposed expansion, the proposed activities would include clearing, grubbing, and dredging in jurisdictional areas. The expansion of the existing surface mine would allow Wet Mine Assets Holding, LLC to maintain demands and market trends over an approximate 10-year period of time.

The proposed project would include the dredging of materials to a depth of approximately 65 feet. Approximately 25,000,000.00 cubic yards of sand and gravel would be dredged on-site. The dredged materials (sand/gravel) would be processed through on-site equipment utilized to separate the surface mined materials. The excavated material would be stockpiled on-site and surrounded by earthen berms.

Approximately 16.77 acres of emergent wetlands, 28.11 acres of pine plantation wetlands, 23.81 acres of mixed pine hardwood wetlands, and 890.09 linear feet of other waters were impacted by the development. The surface mine expansion would include the gradual use of the project site incrementally impacting wetland habitats. Approximately 196.27 acres of wetlands would be impacted by the planned project over the course of the 10-year phased expansion plan.

The applicant proposes to purchase compensatory mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank for the impacts which have already occurred and for future impacts (prior to the impacts occurring in phases). Proof of mitigation purchase must be satisfied prior to commencing work for all phases.

The dominant vegetation within the project consists of slash pine, loblolly pine, water oak, willow oak, sweetbay, Chinese tallow, red maple, swamp titi, Tulip tree, diamond leaf oak, black gum, sweetbay magnolia and southern magnolia. Soil within the project area consists predominantly of Arkabutla-Rosebloom.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the proposed undertaking upon these properties. A historic properties investigation has been conducted within the permit area. No sites determined eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places are within the permit area or affected area.

Endangered Species: Threatened and Endangered Species for this area include the West Indian Manatee, Eastern Black Rail, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Wood Stork, Black Pine Snake, Gopher Tortoise, Ringed Map Turtle, Dusky Gopher Frog, Gulf Sturgeon and Inflated Heelsplitter. Utilizing the Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species (SLOPES) as signed on June 28, 2017, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Corps has determined that the proposed activity would have no effect on these species or their habitats.

Floodplain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required. Floodplain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements. The project is not located within the 100-year floodplain.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this

project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

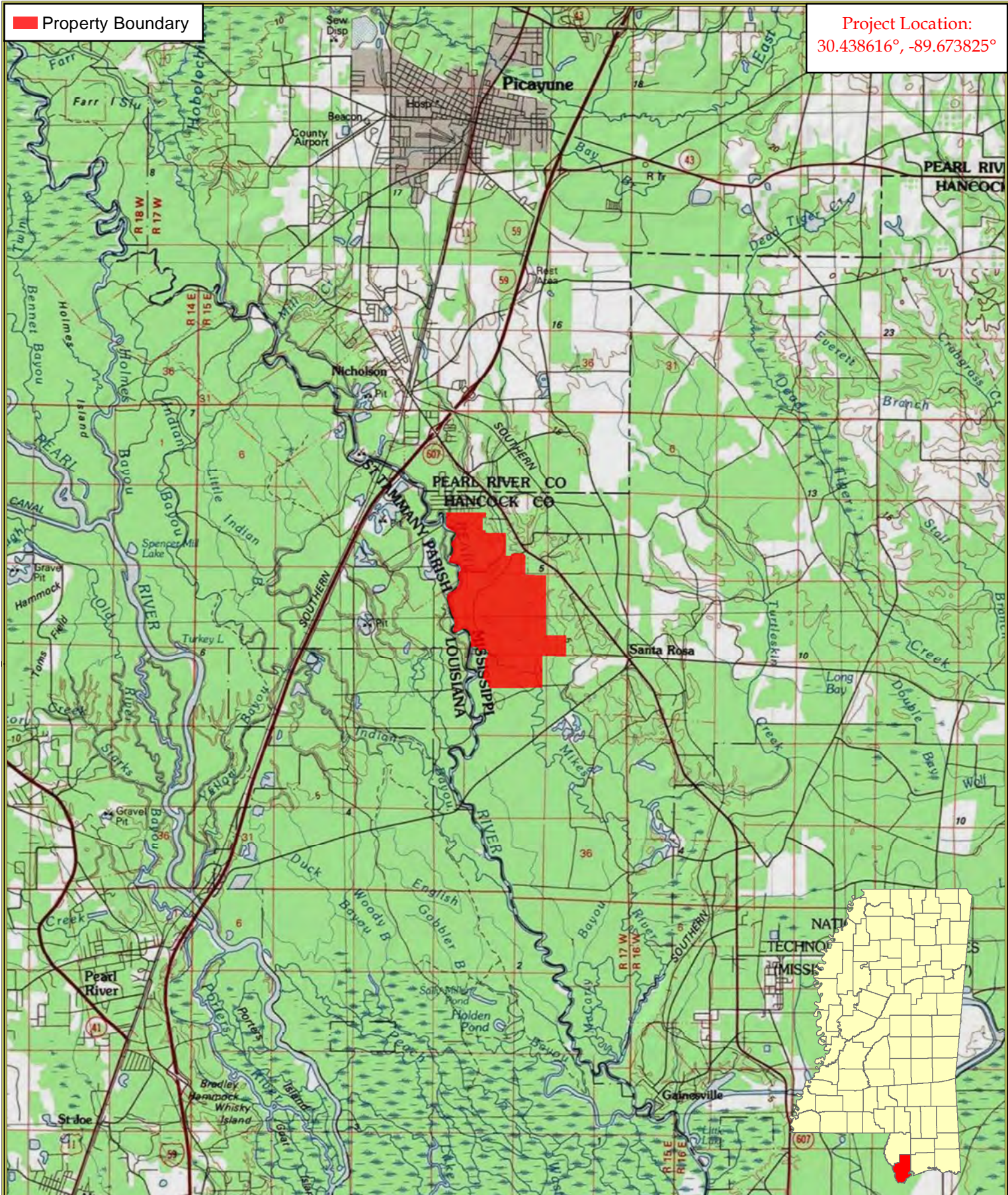
Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.



Jennifer G. Brown
Team Lead, Permit and Evaluation Branch
Regulatory Division

Property Boundary

Project Location:
30.438616°, -89.673825°



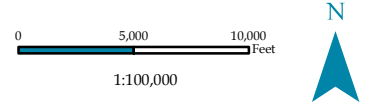
HEADWATERS
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSULTING
WWW.HEADWATERS-INC.COM

Date Created: 8/13/2021 Created by: JDL

Wet Mine Assets Holding, LLC




Hancock County, Mississippi

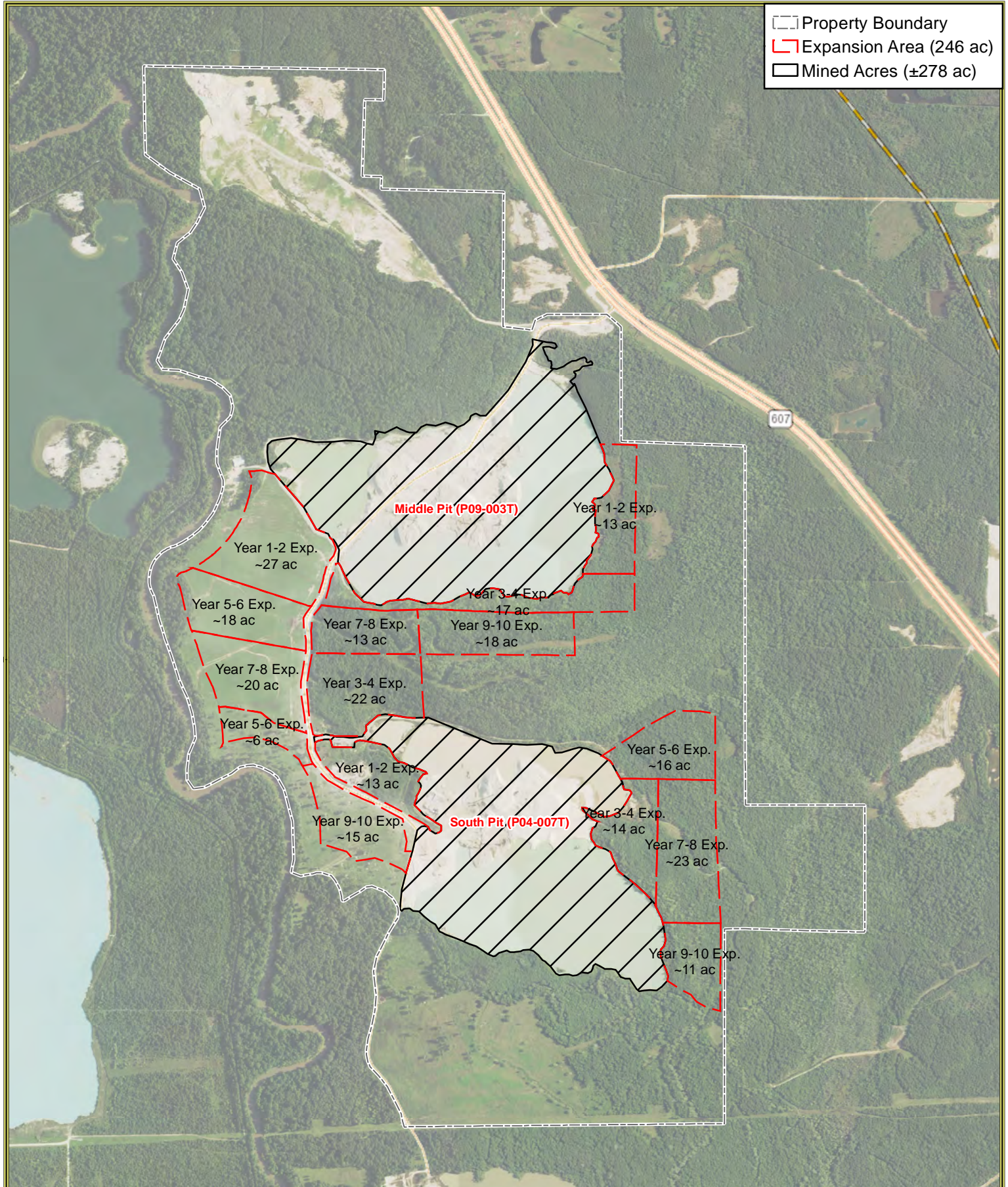
[General Location Map](#)



NAD 1983 StatePlane Mississippi East FIPS 2301 Feet

ESRI USA Topographic Basemap

-  Property Boundary
-  Expansion Area (246 ac)
-  Mined Acres (±278 ac)




Wet Mine Assets Holding, LLC

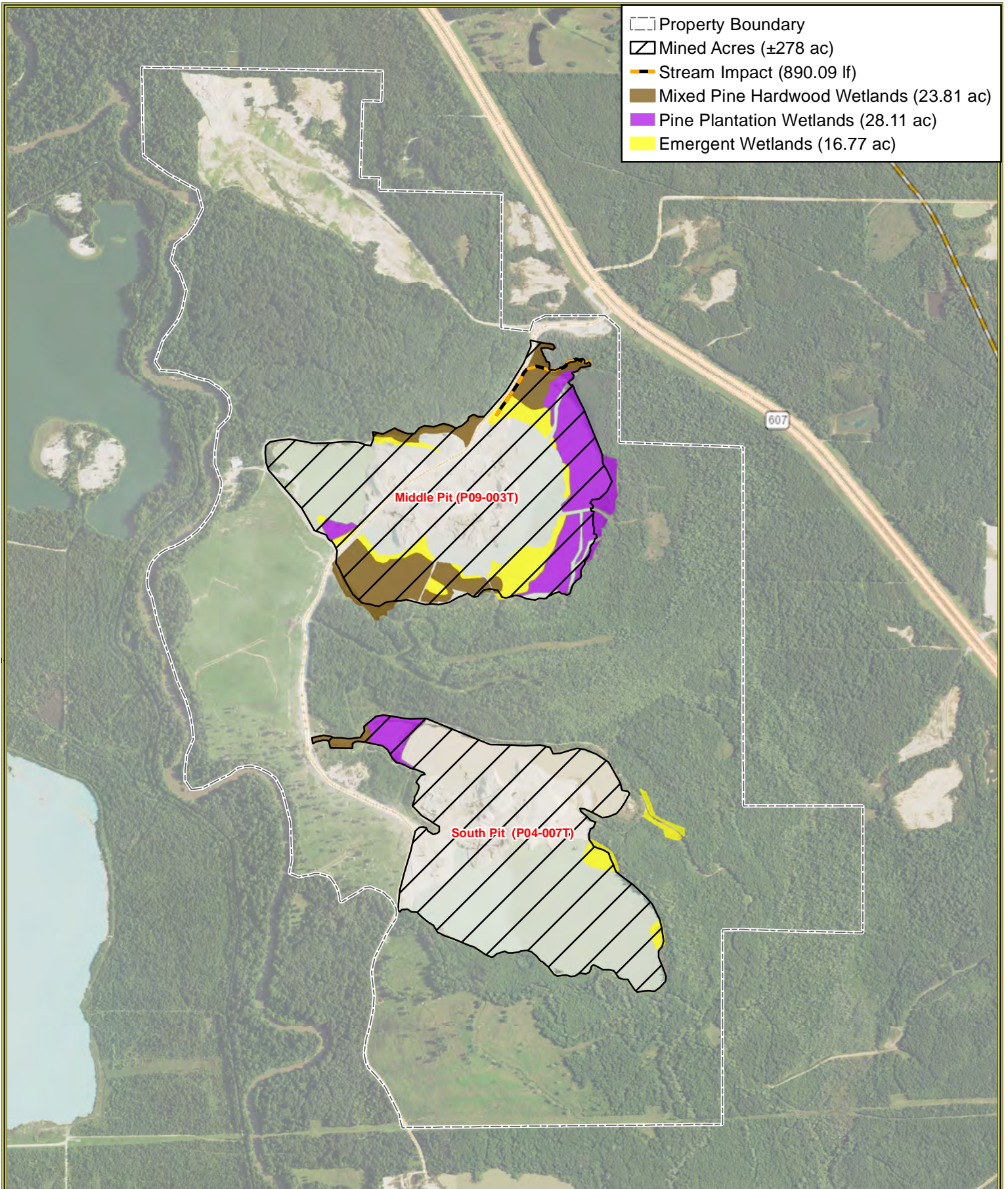
Hancock County, Mississippi
[Surface Mine Expansion Map](#)

0 800 1,600 Feet
 1:16,500

NAD 1983 StatePlane Mississippi East FIPS 2301 Feet

USDA NAIP 2020 Imagery Basemap





HEADWATERS INC.
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSULTING
WWW.HEADWATERS-INC.COM

Date Created: 8/13/2021 Created by: JDL

Wet Mine Assets Holding, LLC

Hancock County, Mississippi

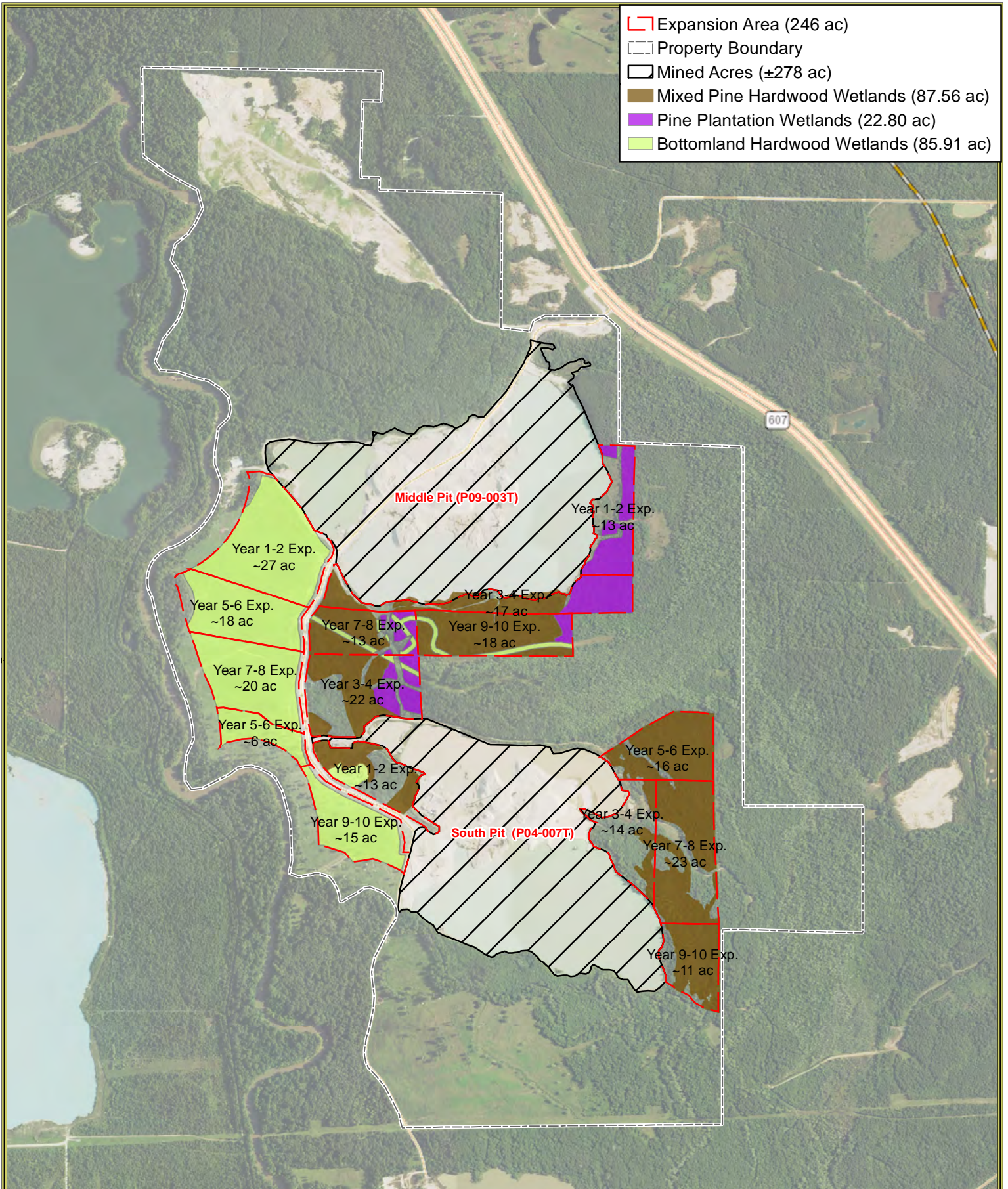
ATF Impact Location Map

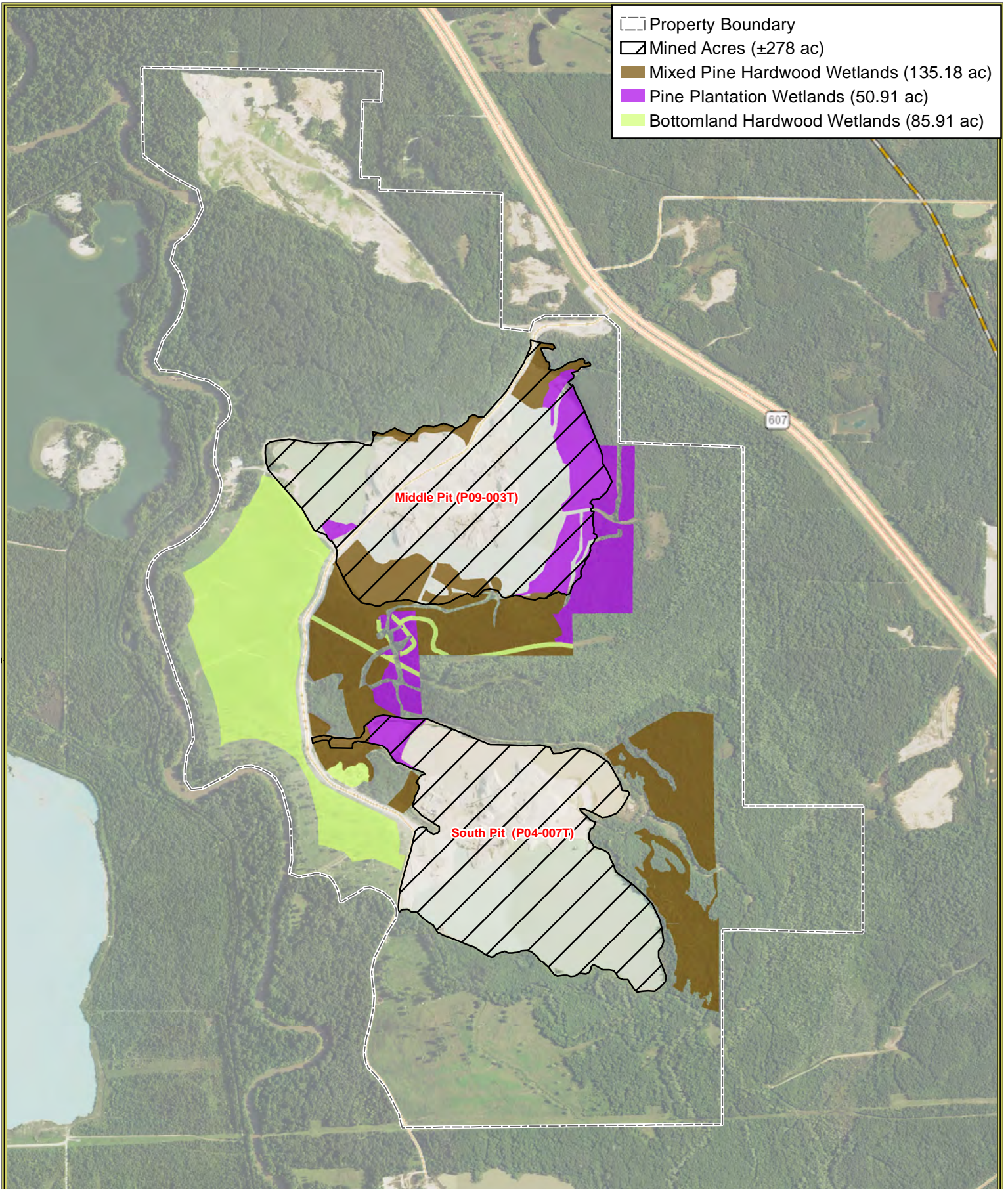
0 800 1,600
Feet

1:16,500

NAD 1983 StatePlane Mississippi East FIPS 2301 Feet

USDA NAIP 2020 Imagery Basemap

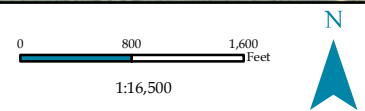




Wet Mine Assets Holding, LLC

Hancock County, Mississippi

Overall Wetland Location Map



NAD 1983 StatePlane Mississippi East FIPS 2301 Feet

USDA NAIP 2020 Imagery Basemap