



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District  
4155 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435  
[www.mvk.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil)



# Public Notice

<b>APPLICATION NO.:</b>	<u>MVK-2021-00867</u>
<b>EVALUATOR:</b>	<u>Mr. Anthony R. Lobred</u>
<b>PHONE NO.:</b>	<u>(601) 631-5470</u>
<b>E-MAIL:</b>	<u>Anthony.R.Lobred@usace.army.mil</u>
<b>DATE:</b>	<u>March 21, 2022</u>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<u>April 20, 2022</u>

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District (Corps), is considering a proposal to establish the Upper Pearl River Mitigation Bank. A prospectus has been received describing the proposed bank from Wildlife Mississippi, the bank Sponsor. Comments are due by the expiration date cited above. Please send all comments via email to Mr. Anthony Lobred at address: [Anthony.R.Lobred@usace.army.mil](mailto:Anthony.R.Lobred@usace.army.mil) or via hard copy to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, ATTN: CEMVK-RD, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3485.

**Location:** The proposed site is located in Sections 1, 9 and 17, Township 10 North, Range 8 East, Sections 29, 30, and 31, Township 10 North, Range 8 East, and Section 36, Township 11 North, Range 8 East, Leake County, Mississippi (enclosure 1).

**Description:** The Upper Pearl River Mitigation Bank (UPMB) is being proposed by the bank Sponsor as a means to meet the requirements for compensatory mitigation for future and 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 wetlands and restoring streams within the Pearl River basin. The proposed work would increase the wetland function, provide species diversity, and provide a wildlife corridor within both the upper and middle portions of the Pearl River Watershed (HUC: 03180001 and 03180002).

**Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions:** The property consists of approximately 696.4 acres in one contiguous tract of land that is positioned along both banks of the Pearl River and is located within the Pearl River floodplain within portions of Leake County, Mississippi. The proposed

PCMB would be located 6 miles east of Carthage, Mississippi. The Leake County landscape is comprised primarily of farming areas with livestock and silvicultural crop production. Portions of the PCMB lands are currently, and have been historically, used for silviculture purposes consistent with the county's referenced land uses.

The design of the UPMB would promote the rehabilitation and preservation of bottomland hardwood forest and riparian buffers along Pearl River within Leake County, Mississippi and within the middle and lower reaches of the Pearl River basin. Major components of the plan would include the removal of impediments and restoration of drainage within the Bank Property. The project would reduce fragmentation of forestland within this region and protect it in perpetuity. The UPMB project would remove the ongoing silviculture activities within the Bank Property and restore the Bank Property to a higher quality historic bottomland hardwood wetland ecosystem within the Pearl River watershed. The Bank Property would also enhance riparian buffer zones and ensure that the floodplain of the Pearl River is maintained and protected from a future change in use.

The goal of the UPMB is to provide the opportunity to rehabilitate and preserve 53.59 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands, stream complexes, and other forested wetland habitat. The PCMB would also provide the opportunity to restore natural hydrological processes across the site through the removal of impediments created by land improvements overtime. The planned hydrologic restoration activities would be conducted concurrent with the wetland rehabilitation work plan.

#### Proposed Mitigation Bank Establishment

<b>Current Habitat Type</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation Bank Habitat Type</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Degraded BLH Wetlands	BLH Enhancement	<b>274.05</b>	39.35%
BLH Preservation	Preservation	<b>91.77</b>	13.17%
BLH Forested Riparian Wetlands	Riparian Buffer Restoration/Enhancement	<b>146.04</b>	20.97%
BLH Forested Riparian Preservation	Riparian Buffer Preservation	<b>12.29</b>	1.7%
Upland Enhancement	Enhancement	<b>113.46</b>	16.29%
In-Stream Work	Stream Restoration	<b>0.06</b>	
Non-Mitigation (Roads, Utility Lines, etc)		<b>58.73</b>	8.43%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>696.40</b>	
			<b>100%</b>

The soils on the subject property primarily consist of Jena-Kirkville-Kinston complex, Rosebloom and Arkabutla silt loam. Additional soils include Ora fine sandy loam and Smithdale fine sandy loam.

**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 located within the State of Mississippi. The service areas are demarcated by the United States Geologic Survey as hydrologic unit code 03180003 and 03180004 (primary service areas). 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.

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> and is also available for review at the Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division.



**Jennifer Brown  
Team Lead, Permit & Evaluation Branch  
Regulatory Division**

**Enclosures**