



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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

Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	MVK-2011-430
EVALUATOR:	Mr. Dale Whittington
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DATE:	October 10, 2024
EXPIRATION DATE:	October 31, 2024

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish a mitigation bank in Saline County, Arkansas. A prospectus describing the proposed bank has been received from Hutcheson Farms LLC. The Addendum Mitigation Bank site is located in Sections 33 and 4, Township 1 and 2 South, Range 15 West, Saline County, Arkansas.

Description: This wetland addendum 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 functional losses that would be permitted by the Corps under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The Bank Sponsor proposes to develop an addendum mitigation bank that would encompass 125.78 acres of land in which restoration and enhancement activities are proposed. The Sponsor of the Upper Saline Mitigation Bank Addendum (USMBA) is Hutcheson Farms LLC (Hutcheson). The goal of Hutcheson would be to conduct bottomland hardwood restoration and enhancement activities on the USMBA (Tract of Site). The restoration and enhancement of wetlands would increase wetland function, provide species diversity, and increase the width of a wildlife corridor along the Saline River and its major tributaries.

Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions: The 125.78-acre tract of the proposed USMBA currently contains approximately 115.3 acres of forested wetland (pine plantation), 0.9 acres of herbaceous wetland, 2.0 acres of scrub-shrub wetland and 7.58 acres of forested upland (pine plantation). This existing land use is primarily pine plantation and historically agricultural use.

Dominant habitat types associated with the jurisdictional wetlands on the tract consist of forested wetlands, shrub-scrub wetlands, and herbaceous wetlands. Dominant species identified in these habitats include: loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*),

Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), blackberry (*Rubus argutus*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), and wild rice (*Echinochloa colona*).

The property contains the following soil types: Amy silt loam and Ouachita silt loam. Amy is listed as a hydric soil.

The Sponsor proposes to conduct bottomland hardwood wetland activities on the USMBA. Bottomland hardwood wetland activities would consist of 116.2 acres of bottomland hardwood restoration, 2.0 acres of bottomland hardwood enhancement and 7.58 acres of upland reforestation.

Service Area: This Mitigation Bank will be established to provide mitigation to compensate for impacts to wetlands within the State Arkansas. This area is demarcated by the United States Geological Survey as hydrologic unit code 08040203 and 08040204 within the Saline River Basin. 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 at the following website:

<http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/pnmain.htm>.

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
Attention: CEMVK-RD
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3485

Andy Sanderson
Chief, Louisiana/Arkansas Branch
Regulatory Division

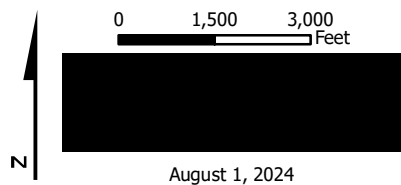
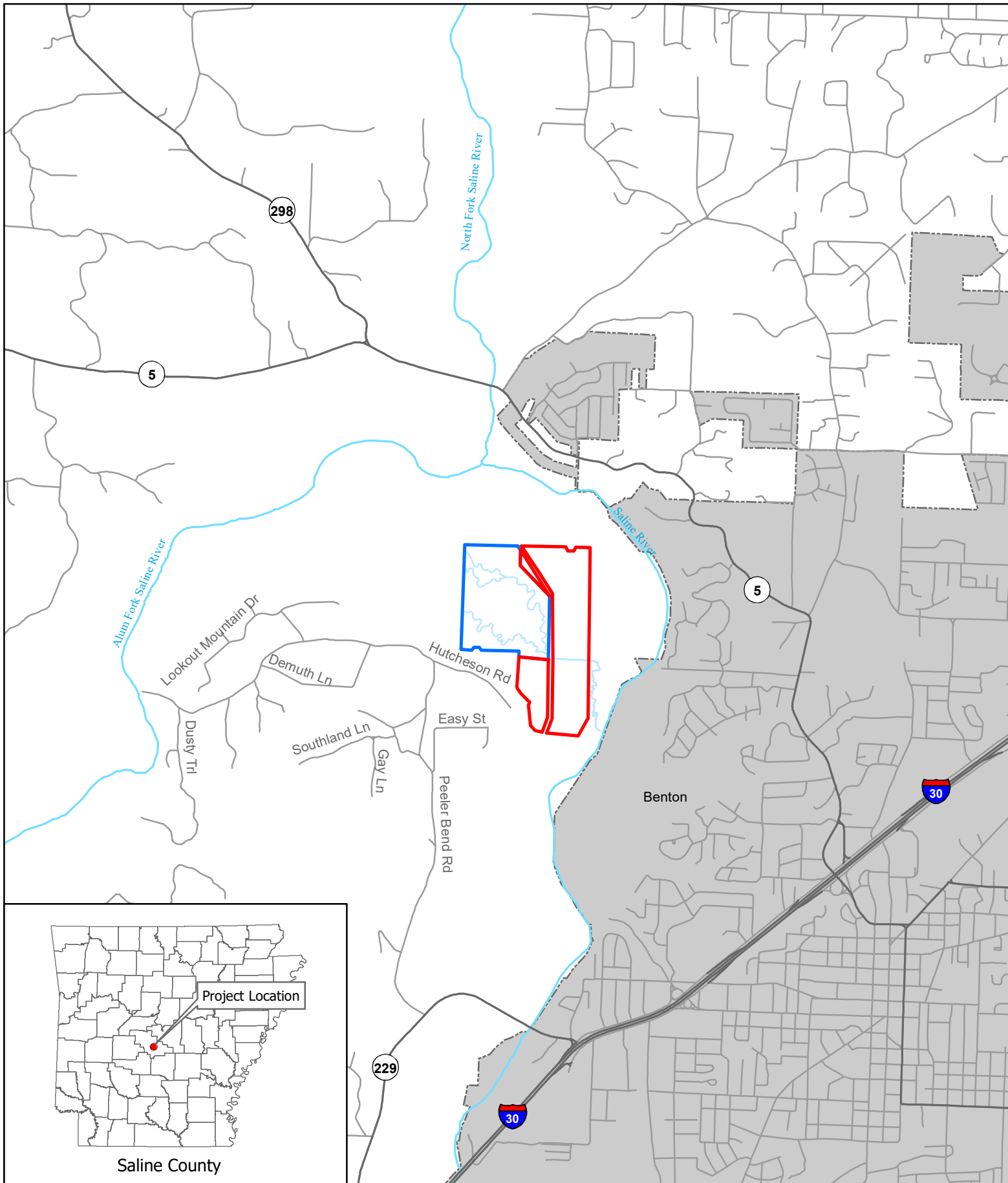
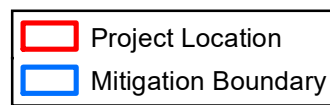
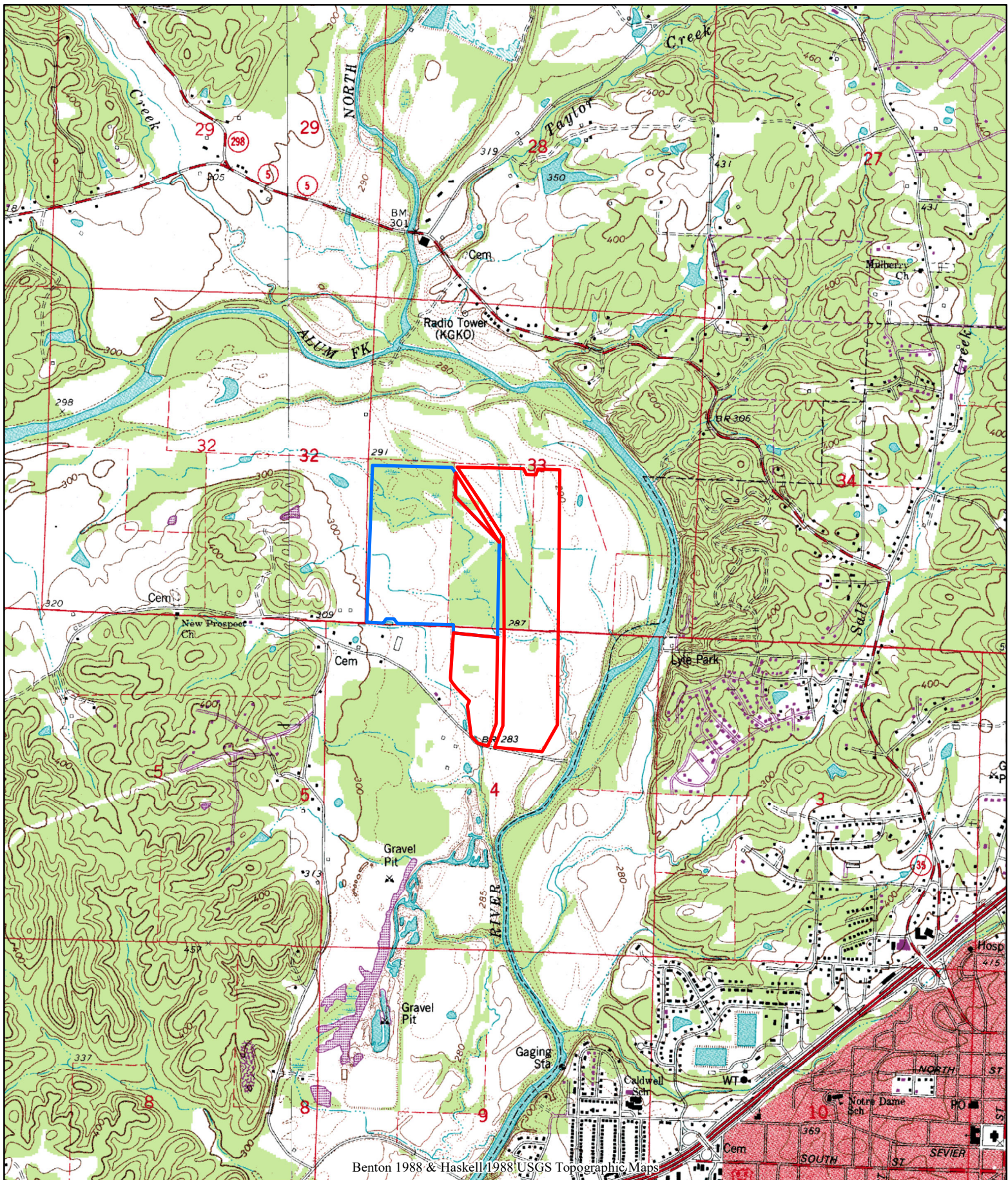


FIGURE 1
PROJECT LOCATION MAP
UPPER SALINE MITIGATION BANK ADDENDUM





Scale - 1:24,000

- Proposed Expansion
- Mitigation Boundary

T1S - R15W - S33
T2S - R15W - S4

FIGURE 2
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
UPPER SALINE MITIGATION BANK ADDENDUM

 **Wetland Consultants
Unlimited**

August 1, 2024



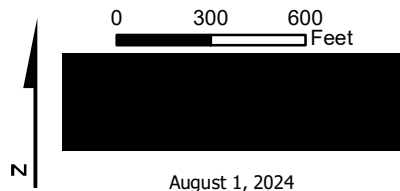
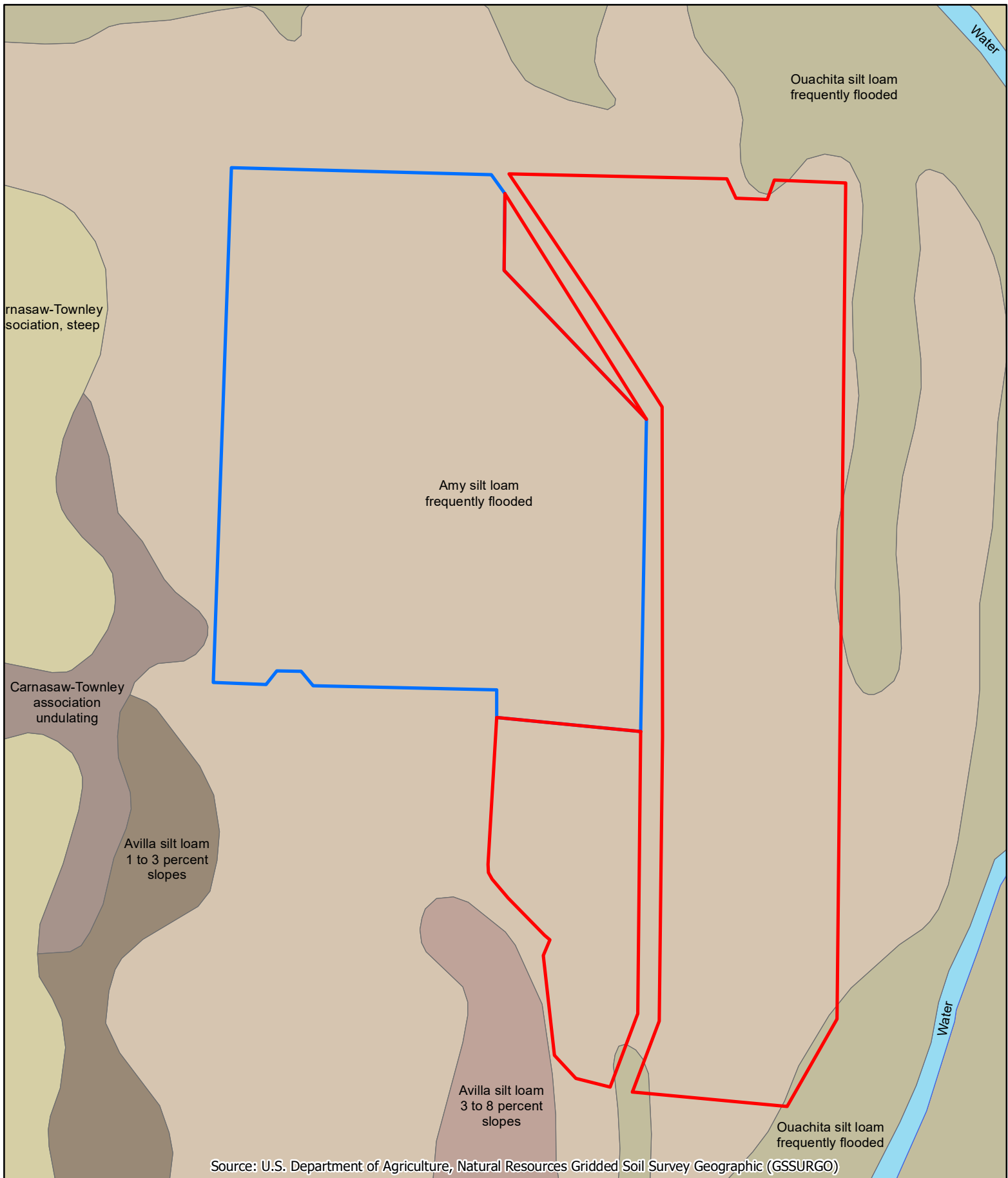
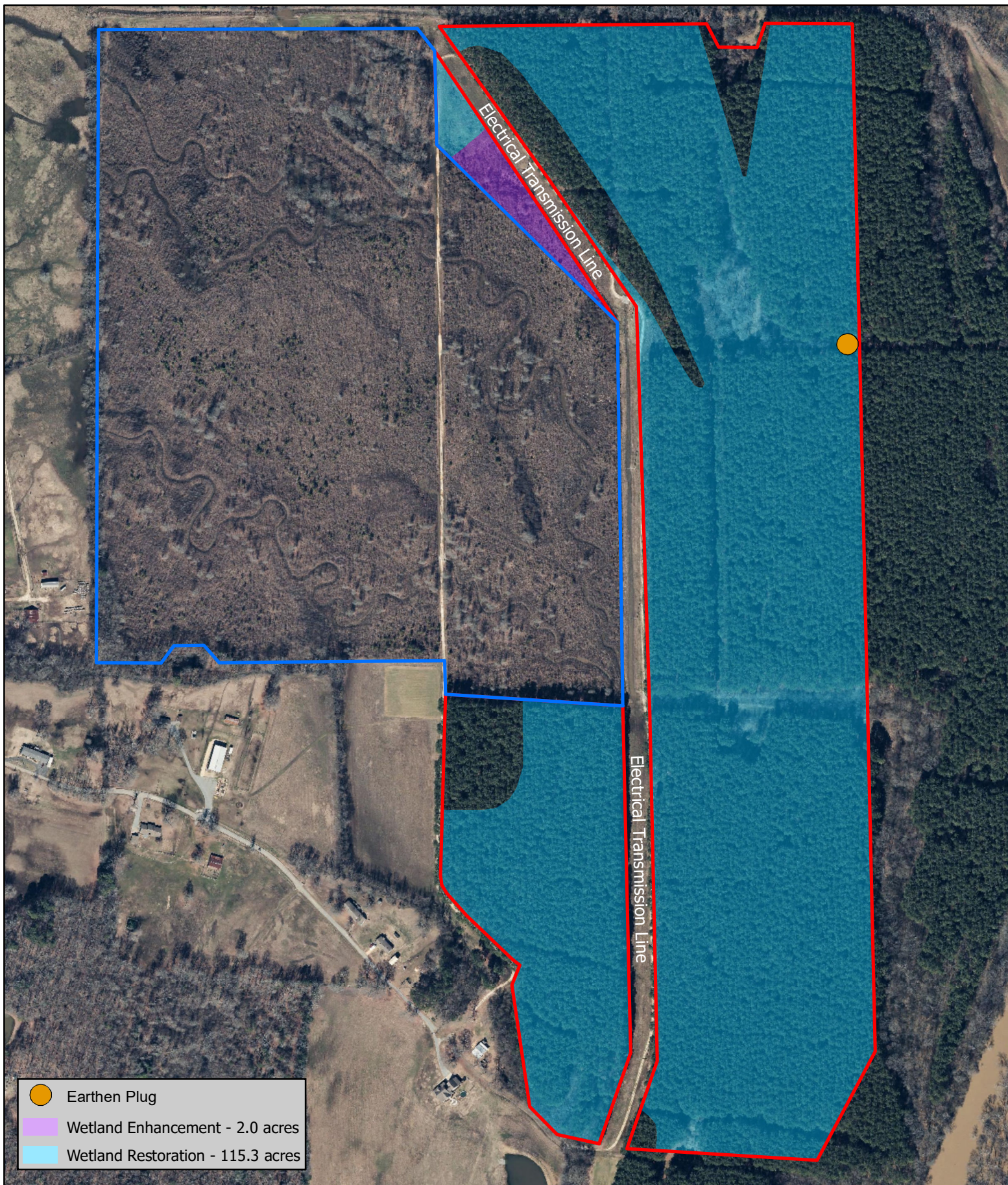


FIGURE 3
SOILS MAP
UPPER SALINE MITIGATION BANK ADDENDUM

- Proposed Expansion
- Mitigation Boundary

August 1, 2024



Upper Saline Mitigation Bank Addendum

Prospectus

Hutcheson Farms LLC proposes the establishment of a wetland mitigation bank addendum to the existing Upper Saline Mitigation Bank in Saline County, Arkansas. The mitigation property is located west of the city of Benton approximately 1 mile north of Interstate 30 (Figure 1). The proposed Upper Saline Mitigation Bank Addendum (USMBA) is located within the Upper Saline Watershed. The 125.78-acre tract includes portions of Sections 33 and 4, Township 1S and 2S, Range 15W (Figure 2).

- A. Manage Goal and Objective:** The management goal for the mitigation bank is the restoration and enhancement of wetlands. Objectives include the restoration of bottomland forested wetlands through the reforestation of an existing pine plantation and a herbaceous wetland, along with the enhancement of an existing scrub-shrub wetland. Hydrology will be restored by installing an earthen plug in an existing ditch, which drains a large portion of the site. There are 114.4 acres of forested wetland (pine plantation), 0.9 acres of herbaceous wetland, 2.0 acres of scrub-shrub wetland and 8.48 acres of forested upland (pine plantation).
- B. Establishment and Operation:** An Interagency Review Team (IRT) will facilitate the establishment of the mitigation bank addendum. The IRT will review and seek consensus from Federal, state and public entities on the Mitigation Banking Addendum. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District will serve as Chair of the IRT and will make final decisions regarding the terms and conditions of the Addendum. Clint Hutcheson will be the sponsor of the bank and Hutcheson Farms LLC will be the owner of the mitigation property and will be responsible for all mitigation and monitoring actions. Agencies invited to participate on the IRT include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI (EPA); the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region IV (FWS); Arkansas Division of Energy and Environment (ADEE); the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC), Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC); and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC).
- C. Proposed Service Area:** The geographic service areas would include two sub-basins (8-digit HUCs). This includes the Upper Saline (08040203), and Lower Saline (08040204). These sub-basins all are in within the Ouachita River Basin.

Table 1
USGS Hydrologic Unit Codes
For Sub-Basins
In the Geographic Service Area

HUC	Sub-basin	Service Area
08040203	Upper Saline	Primary
08040204	Lower Saline	Secondary

- D. General Need and Feasibility:** The establishment of this addendum is precipitated by the increase in commercial and residential development within the Saline Watershed, and the limited mitigation

options available. Potential clients of the proposed mitigation addendum include Saline County, Grant County, the City of Benton, the City of Sheridan, and several residential and commercial developments.

- E. Ownership and Long-term Management:** Hutcheson Farms LLC is the owner of the property free and clear and will record a restriction on the Warranty Deed to the property. The restriction will require that any activity on the property complies with the terms of the existing USMB mitigation banking instrument. The long-term ownership arrangements for this property will include retention of the property by Hutcheson Farms LLC and utilization of the property by Hutcheson Farms LLC as an outdoor recreational property, not to be further developed. To ensure long-term protection of all lands included in the mitigation addendum, the Sponsor, its heirs, assigns or successors, will be responsible for maintaining and protecting lands contained within the restored portions of the USMBA in perpetuity.
- F. Qualifications of the sponsor:** Clint Hutcheson is the Sponsor of the existing Upper Saline Mitigation Bank and co-owner of Wetland Consultants Unlimited, which has established three existing mitigation banks. Two operating within the Little Rock District and one operating within the Vicksburg District. Clint Hutcheson is also currently the Lead Water Resource Specialist at the Arkansas Department of Transportation where he oversees the establishment, maintenance and construction of the departments approximately 9,000 acres of mitigation tracts, which include 10 mitigation banks and several mitigation sites across the state of Arkansas.
- G. Ecological Suitability:** The primary considerations for the site selection were watershed needs, baseline conditions, and habitat connectivity. The proposed wetland mitigation bank addendum is located on the southern border of the Ouachita Mountains: Central Hills, Ridges and Valleys ecoregion of Arkansas (Level IV). However, it exhibits more of the features of the adjacent South-Central Plains: Floodplains and Low Terraces ecoregion. The Floodplains and Low Terraces ecoregion is nearly level, veneered by Holocene alluvium, and contains natural levees, swales, oxbow lakes, and meandering scars. Longitudinal channel gradients are low and are less than in the Ouachita Mountains. Large parts of this ecoregion are frequently flooded. Forested wetlands are characteristic, but pastureland also occurs. Potential natural vegetation in southern floodplain forest as in the Mississippi Alluvial Plain. Soils on the proposed site are mapped into two soil units by the USDA (Figure 3).
- Amy silt loam is listed as hydric, on 0 to 3 percent slopes. This series consists of very deep, poorly drained, slowly permeable soils that formed in alluvium high in silt. These soils are on Pleistocene terraces in the Western and Southern Coastal Plains.
- Ouachita silt loam is not hydric, on 0 to 3 percent slopes. This series consists of deep, well drained, moderately slowly permeable soils that formed in loamy alluvium. These level to nearly level soils are on flood plains and natural levees along streams in the Western Coastal Plains.