



**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-2016-364</u>
EVALUATOR:	<u>Ms. Samantha Thompson</u>
PHONE NO.:	<u>(601) 631-5478</u>
E-MAIL:	<u>Samantha.H.Thompson@usace.army.mil</u>
DATE:	<u>October 17, 2019</u>
EXPIRATION DATE:	<u>November 17, 2019</u>

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish the Tensas River Mitigation Bank (TRMB). A prospectus has been received describing the proposed bank from Triple S Farms, Incorporated, the Bank sponsor. The proposed site is located in Section 24, T11N-R9E and Section 19, T11N-R10E, Tensas Parish, Louisiana (USGS HUC 08050003).

Description: The TRMB is being proposed by the bank sponsor as a means to meet the requirements for compensatory mitigation for future and yet unknown wetland losses which may be permitted by the Corps under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The proposed bank site is approximately 10 miles northeast of Sicily Island, Louisiana, 15 miles west of St. Joseph, and 37 miles south of Tallulah, Louisiana. The site is centered on the point 31.919183° N, -91.496405° E. The site is currently managed for agricultural fields.

Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions:

The property consists of approximately 292.60 acres, currently 258.95 acres of wetlands are found on-site. The proposed TRMB site has been historically, and is currently used for agricultural land. There is no dominant vegetation on the Bank property as the property has been converted to cropland. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has designated the property as prior converted cropland habitat and mapped the soils in the proposed mitigation bank as Sharkey Clay, Tensas Clay, and Dundee silty clay loam. Hydrology has been altered from the historical hydrologic regime through property improvements that have been completed over time in association with agricultural land use.

Agricultural drains were constructed to convey surface water across the property during rain events. The excavated drains were designed and constructed to connect to larger conveyances within and along the perimeter of the Bank property.

The proposed TRMB site is located in the Tensas watershed, within the United State Geological Survey (USGS) Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 08050003. The present habitat type of TRMB is a combination of prior converted cropland, bottomland hardwood, and Section 404 waters. The vast majority of TRMB is utilized for agricultural row crop production purposes.

The Bank restoration plan includes 246.84 acres of bottomland hardwood restoration (re-establishment) and 12.11 acres of bottomland hardwood preservation. Additionally, the Sponsor proposes 12.21 acres of stream riparian buffer restoration (re-establishment) and 5.15 acres of stream riparian preservation along 7,310.27 linear feet of an unnamed stream within the boundary of the Bank property. The proposed work plan involves restoring historic bottomland hardwood habitat along with a riparian buffer zone along a direct tributary of Big Choctaw Bayou.

Service Area: This Mitigation Bank would be established to provide mitigation to compensate for impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands and stream, within the Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District Regulatory Boundary in the state of Louisiana. The proposed service area for this mitigation bank is demarcated by the United States Geologic Survey as hydrologic unit codes 08050003 and 08050001. 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 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
Chief, Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch**