



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	MVK-2018-317
EVALUATOR:	Ms. Samantha Thompson
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DATE:	August 14, 2018
EXPIRATION DATE:	September 3, 2018

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish the Lower Big Black Mitigation Bank (LBBMB). A prospectus has been received describing the proposed bank from Wesson Timber, LLC, the bank Sponsor. The proposed site is located in Sections 13, 14 and 24, Township 9 North, Range 7 East, Copiah County, Mississippi (enclosure 1).

Description: The LBBMB 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 Bayou Pierre Watershed (HUC 08060203).

Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions:

The proposed site consists of 279.66 acres and is located within the southern portion of Copiah County just north of the City of Brookhaven, Copiah County, Mississippi. The bank is located within the Big Black River Basin and specifically within the Bayou Pierre watershed.

Currently, the site is utilized for silvicultural purposes. Alterations to the historic landscape include interior roadways, surface borrow, rutting, and drainage improvements in support of the silviculture activities. Beaver activity is also present within the bank property further altering the historic or relic hydrologic regime. The current land use for timber production purposes is similar to the adjacent properties with the exception of the mono cultural pine production.

Currently the site is comprised of pine forested wetlands, scrub-shrub wetlands, bottomland hardwood forested wetlands, and non-wetland and forested uplands. The current hydrology has been altered from the historical hydrologic regime through property alterations associated with the conversion to loblolly pine plantation and general silvicultural activities that have taken place. Historic hydrology occurred from south and southwest across the site via sheet flow and through unnamed tributaries of Bayou Pierre. Sources of hydrology on the bank property include rainfall, sheet flow and overbank flooding of Bayou Pierre and its direct tributaries.

The objective of the proposed mitigation action is the restoration of 114.21 acres and enhancement of 20.47 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands. As a component of the bank, the project would also include the in-stream enhancement of 11,542.91 linear feet of intermittent and perennial stream reaches of Bayou Pierre.

Hydric Soils found within the site include: Oaklimeter silt loam and Gillsburg silt 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. These areas are demarcated by the United States Geologic Survey as hydrologic unit code 08060203 and 08060202 (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**