



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	MVK-2018-336
EVALUATOR:	Ms. Tarmiko Graham
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5540
E-MAIL:	Tarmiko.V.Graham@usace.army.mil
DATE:	July 25, 2018
EXPIRATION DATE:	August 23, 2018

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish the Berg Big Black River Mitigation Bank. A prospectus has been received describing the proposed bank from Berg Mitigation Banks, LLC, the bank Sponsor. The proposed site is located in Sections 1, 6, 7, 11, & 12, Township 19 North, Range 11 East, Webster/Choctaw Counties, Mississippi (enclosure 1).

Description: The Berg Big Black River 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 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 enhancing wetlands and riparian buffers within the Big Black basin. The proposed work would increase the wetland/stream function, provide species diversity, and provide a wildlife corridor within the Upper Big Black and Lower Big Black Watershed (HUC: 08060201 and 08060202).

Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions:

The property is comprised of approximately 603 acres located south of State Highway 82 near the town of Eupora. The property is divided into two parcels by the transecting South Sapa Road, approximately 415 acres is located west of South Sapa Road and approximately 188 acres is located east of South Sapa Road. Much of the property within the upper Big Black watershed has been historically impacted by agriculture and conversion of bottomland hardwood wetland loblolly pine plantation.

The property is located within the 100-year floodplain of the Big Black River. One unnamed canal and the Spring Creek Canal transect the proposed site. These features were historically constructed for flood control. The Big Black River transects/borders the site for approximately 13,513 linear feet. The majority of the property (approximately 400 acres) is currently planted in loblolly pine.

Historically, the entire site would have been comprised of bottomland hardwood species. Various oaks and soft mast would have dominated the majority of the property. The few mature oaks found with the property include Willow oak, Water oak and Swamp chestnut oak. Dominant soft mast species currently within the property include Red maple, Sweetgum, Sugar hackberry, American elm and American hornbeam. The wetlands within the site are a combination of precipitation driven flats, areas flooded during storm events, and pockets of prolonged inundation.

The objective of the proposed mitigation action is the enhancement and preservation of approximately 603 acres adjacent to the Big Black River. Approximately 492 acres of this parcel is comprised of jurisdictional wetlands. Approximately 350 acres of wetlands would be enhanced by removal of pine plantation and reforestation with bottomland hardwood species. Approximately 75 acres of the 350 acres of wetlands would require leveling of beds to remove impediments to hydrology. Approximately 141.5 acres of wetlands would require minimum enhancement and/or preservation to control invasive species. Approximately 6,625 linear feet of the original Big Black River channel would be protected by enhancement of 150 feet buffers on each side (43.62 acres). Approximately 70 acres of upland within the site would be enhanced by reforestation and included within the protective instrument of the mitigation site (enclosure 2).

The proposed mitigation actions include the conversion of sylviculture to bottomland vegetative communities within the wetland areas and the riparian buffer of the original Big Black River channel. Specific mitigation actions would include the removal of planted pine, site preparation and invasive species control, removing impediments to hydrology (bedded areas), enhancing riparian buffers, and enhancing upland buffers. Native bottomland hardwood species would be planted to restore the historic vegetative community with the site.

Hydric Soils found within the site include: Chenneby silt loam, Chenneby-Arkabutla association, Guyton silt loam, Oaklimer silt loam, Bonn silt loam, Bude silt loam and Verdun 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 08060201 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:

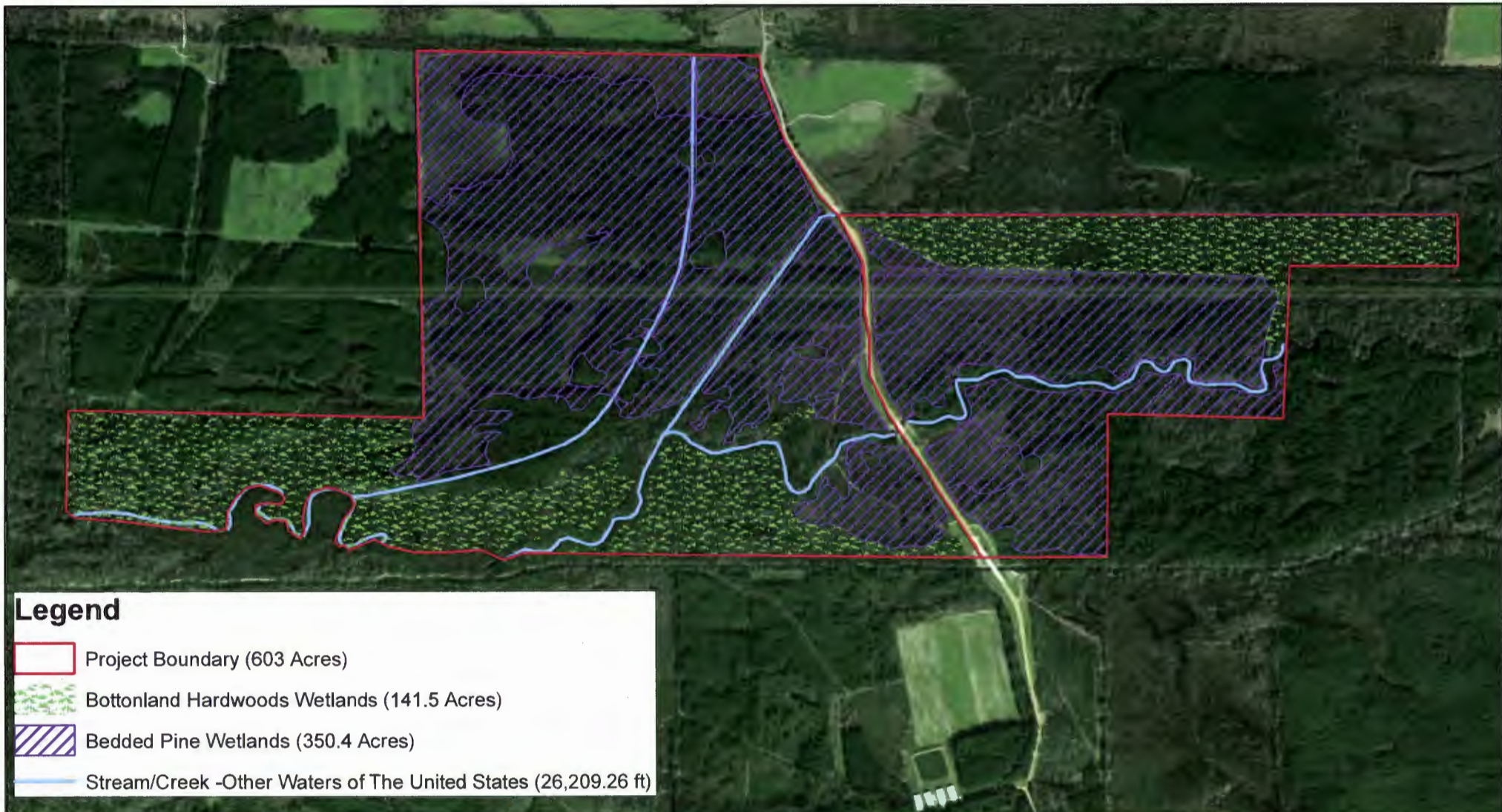
<http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>

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

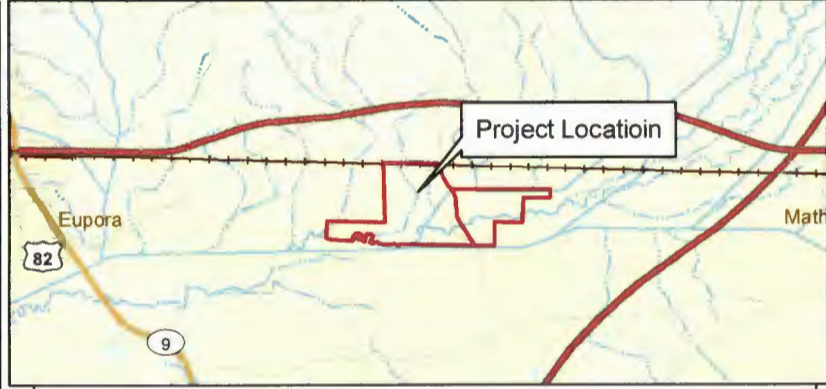
Thomas A. McCabe

Thomas A. McCabe
Chief, Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch



Legend

-  Project Boundary (603 Acres)
-  Bottomland Hardwoods Wetlands (141.5 Acres)
-  Bedded Pine Wetlands (350.4 Acres)
-  Stream/Creek -Other Waters of The United States (26,209.26 ft)



THERE ARE JURISDICTIONAL WATERS OF THE U.S. IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE PROPOSED PROJECT BOUNDARY, THUS A PERMIT MAYBE REQUIRED



July 12, 2018

MVK-2018-336

Berg Big Black River
Mitigation Bank
Webster County, MS

**Preliminary
Jurisdictional Determination**

Aerial Imagery:
ESRI World Imagery

**Regulatory Branch
Enforcement Section**

0 475 950 1,900 Feet

Prepared By: Jay Keen

Enclosure 1

PROPOSED MITIGATION ACTIONS

