



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200
MORROW, GEORGIA 30260-1777

JUNE 20 2012

Regulatory Division
SAS-2011-00292

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as follows:

Application Number: SAS-2011-00292

Applicant: Lewis Canup
Habersham County Airport
555 Monroe Street, Unit 20
Clarkesville, Georgia, 30523

Agent: The LPA Group Incorporated
Attention: Mrs. Renee Flinchum-Bowles
Post Office Box 5805
Columbia, South Carolina 29250

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located in northeastern Georgia, approximately 75 miles northeast of Atlanta. Habersham County Airport (Airport, AJR) is located approximately two miles southwest of the City of Cornelia, Habersham County, Georgia at latitude 34.4998 and longitude -83.5566.

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers: The applicant is proposing a taxiway extension that extension would require impacts (approximately 720 linear feet) to an intermittent stream that flows generally towards the west and parallel to the existing taxiway and runway. In addition to the above stream impacts, the Full Taxiway Extension Alternative would impact South Fork Little Mud Creek and an unnamed intermittent tributary that flows generally toward the east and parallel to the toe-of-fill for the runway. Due to the steep topography in this area, it is unlikely that this section of stream could be relocated, and 1,080 linear feet of it would most likely be piped. The existing culvert that carries South Fork Little Mud Creek under Runway 6 would be extended by approximately 450 linear feet. Both of these streams are part of the previous onsite mitigation and have conservation buffer easements recorded on them. The proposed improvements include the construction of a new 5,500-foot taxiway, with a runway centerline to taxiway centerline separation of 300 feet.

The existing +/- 1,100 linear feet of taxiway would be demolished, as it is only 240 feet from the runway. This would provide Runway 6/24 with a full-length parallel taxiway.

BACKGROUND

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required for a Federal Permit to conduct activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Water Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can be reviewed in the Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200 Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777.

State-owned Property and Resources: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia, which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit or other appropriate instrument.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion are located at the site or in the area affected by the proposed work. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we request information from the US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Marine Fisheries Service; or, any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The US Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the US Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Mrs. Justina O. Hunter, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200 Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Mrs. Justina O. Hunter, Regulatory Specialist, Piedmont Branch at 678-422-2735.

Enclosures

1. Project Location Map
2. Stream Impact Index Sheet

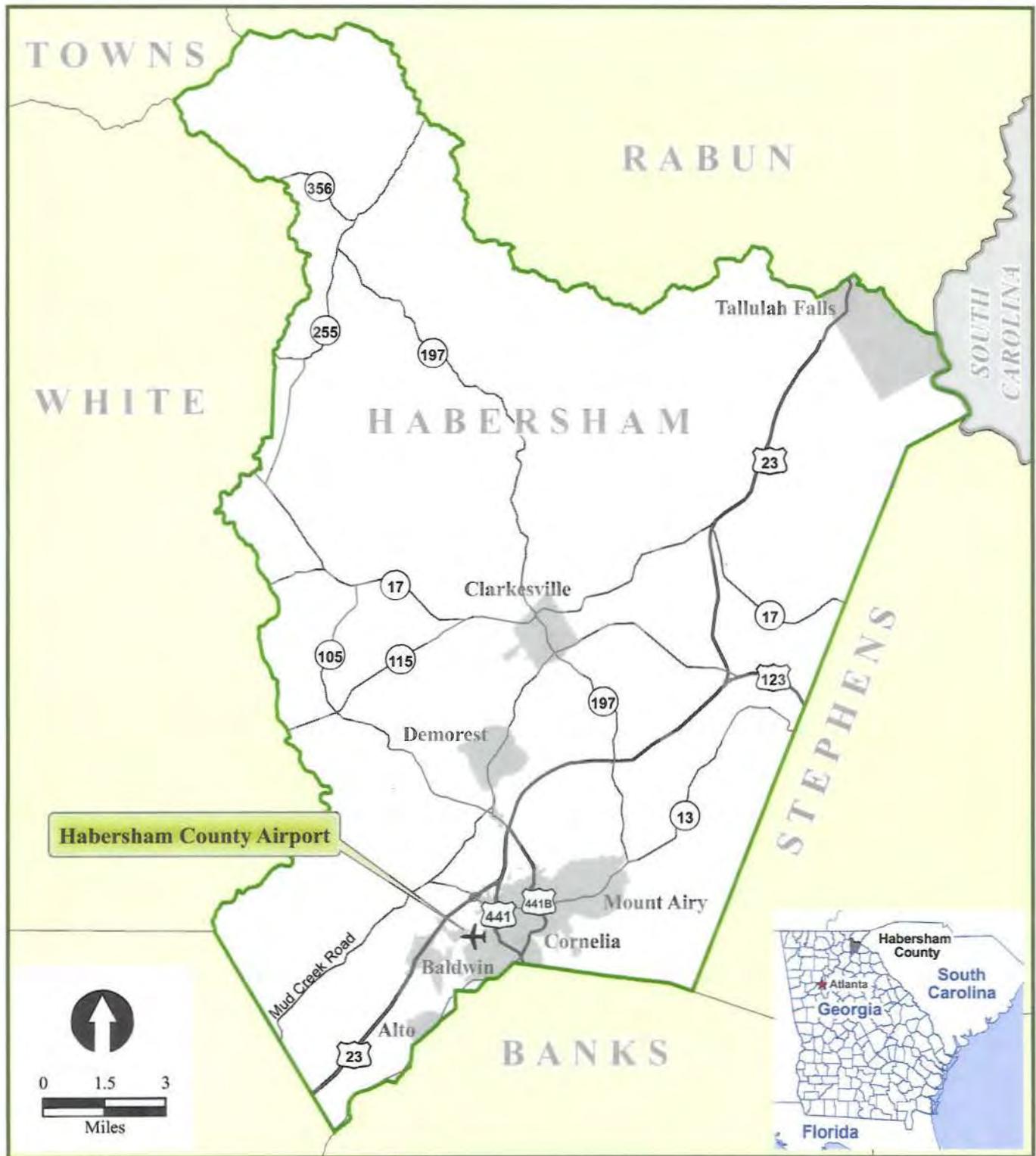


Figure 1-1: Project Location Map

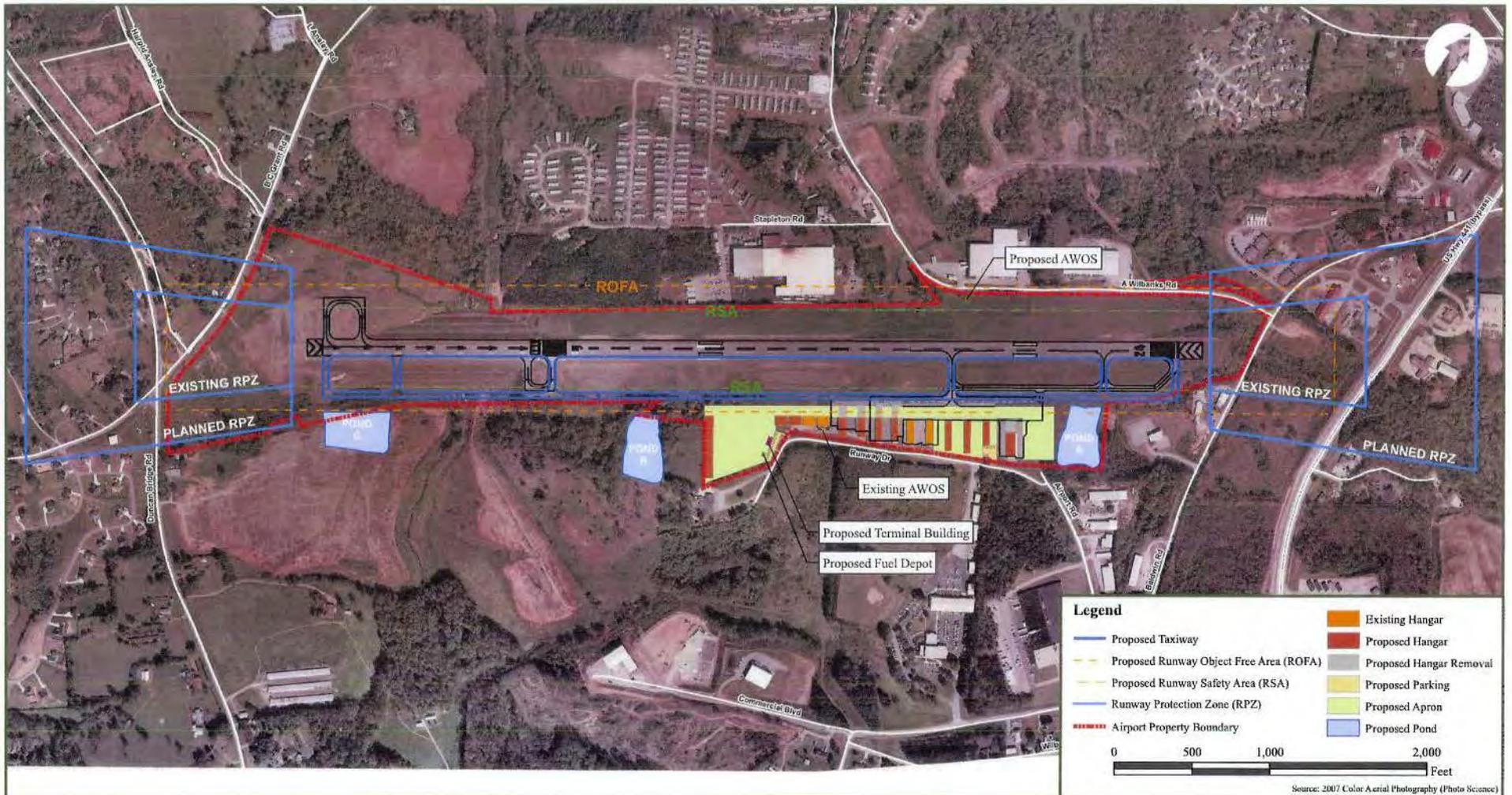


Figure 1-2: Airport Layout Plan