



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
100 WEST OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3640

APRIL 03 2013

Regulatory Division
SAS-2013-00144

PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District

The Savannah District has received a Mitigation Plan for restoration activities along Sharp Mountain Creek through use of In-Lieu Fee funds from the Georgia Land Conservation Center, as follows:

Application Number: SAS-2013-00144

Applicant: Mr. Hans Neuhauser
Georgia Land Conservation Center
380 Meigs Street
Athens, Georgia 30601

Agent: Mr. Greg Smith
Corblu Ecology Group
1305 Lakes Parkway, Suite 129
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043

This public notice does not imply, on the parts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or other agencies, either a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the work to be performed, but is issued to solicit comments regarding the factors on which final decisions will be based.

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located in wetlands and pastureland adjacent to Sharp Mountain Creek, on a 34 acre tract in Pickens County, Georgia (Latitude 34.3979, Longitude -84.4191). Additionally, the project is located in the Etowah River Watershed, in USGS Hydrologic Unit 03150104.

Description of Mitigation Proposal: Corblu Ecology Group, LLC is proposing 23.6 acres of wetland restoration and 0.1 acre of wetland enhancement along Sharp Mountain Creek. Restoration and enhancement work in waters of the U.S. would be authorized under Nationwide Permit 27. The proposed site has been historically drained by a drainage tile network located approximately 3-4 feet below the ground surface. This drainage tile network was installed to reduce natural hydrology, and the site has historically been used for farming, cattle grazing, and row crop agriculture. The Corps completed a site visit for this project with the Inter-agency Review Team (IRT) on March 11, 2013, and documented the effects of the drainage tile network, to include lowered water tables and extensive sub-surface water flow through the tile network.

Hydrologic restoration and enhancement would include removal of the drainage tile network that has adversely affected hydrology in pastureland adjacent to Sharp Mountain Creek. The effects of the drainage tile removal would be simulated using the DrainMOD computer simulation model (http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/soil_water/drainmod/). Corblu also proposes ditch plugging, surface roughening, and micro-topographic relief to further augment hydrology on the site.

Vegetative restoration and enhancement would include planting native hardwood species adapted to the proposed hydrologic regime at a density of 400 stems per acre. Emphasis would be on hard mast species. An additional 10 acres of upland buffer is proposed as part of the overall restoration project. Buffer areas would be planted as needed with similar hardwood species as the restoration/enhancement areas. The entire 34 acre project area would be protected by restrictive covenant and/or a permanent conservation easement. Corblu proposes to monitor the project for 5 years following full project implementation (construction and planting).

The proposed project site would be evaluated for potential effects to historic resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. We request any information on known historic or archeological resources that may be affected by the proposed project. A Phase I cultural resources survey would be completed for the project area of potential effect.

The project would also be evaluated for potential effects to any Federally listed threatened or endangered species. We request any information on known species occurrences in the project area that may be affected by the proposed project. At this time, due to the nature of the activities proposed, it is anticipated that the proposed project would have no effect on any listed threatened or endangered species.

Geographic Service Area: The restoration would provide mitigation for previously authorized unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States within the Etowah and Coosa River Watersheds under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Oversight: Oversight of this In-Lieu Fee project would be by a group of Federal and State agency representatives collectively referred to as the IRT. The IRT shall be chaired by the Corps and is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division. Corblu has proposed five years of vegetation and hydrology monitoring with a proposed reference wetland site adjacent to the project area.

Authority: A public notice regarding the proposed use of In-Lieu Fee funds for providing compensatory mitigation is required pursuant to 33 CFR parts 325 and 332 and 40 CFR part 230, "Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule" published in the Federal Register on April 10, 2008.

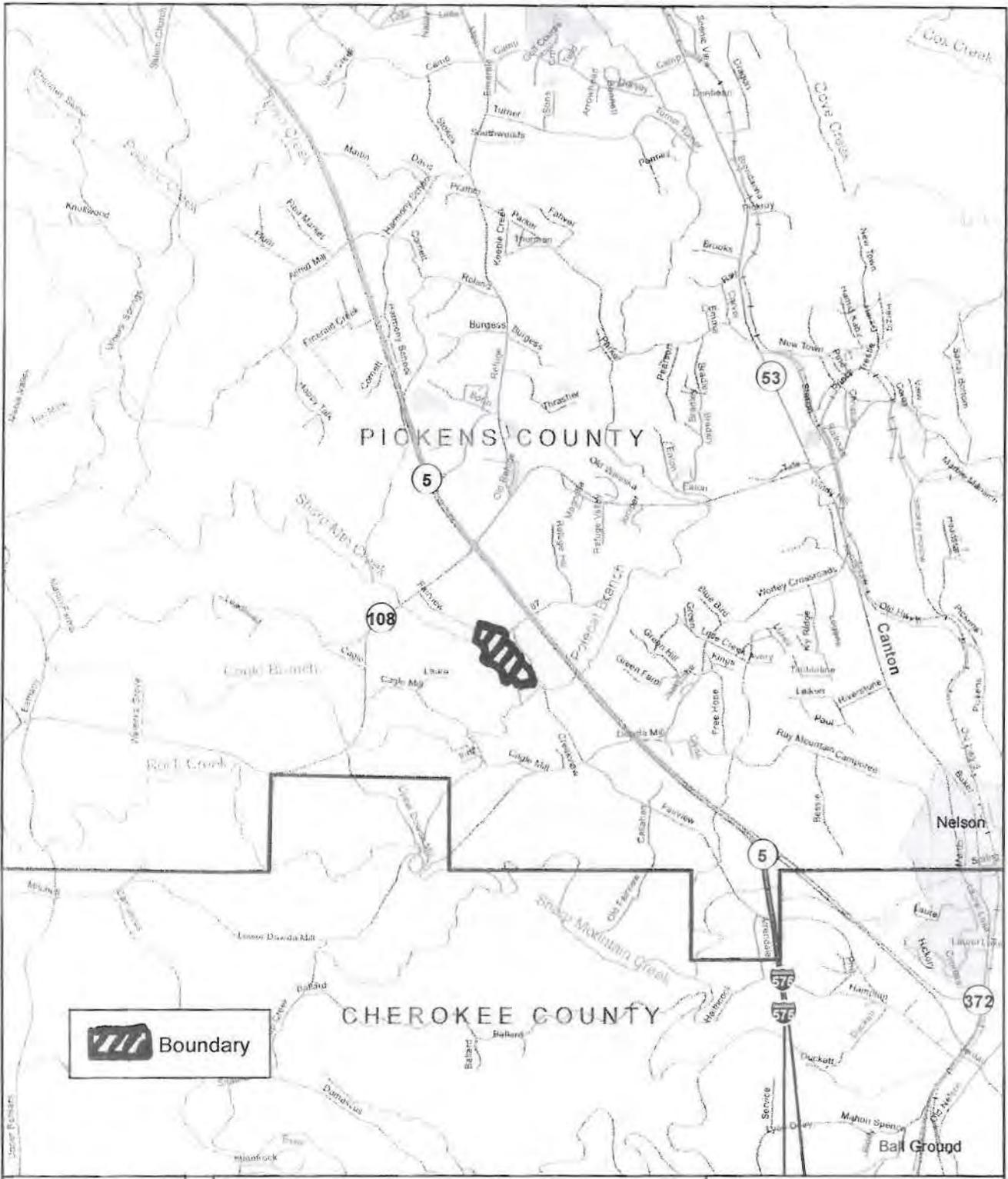
Consideration of Public Comments: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and any other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to approve, modify, condition, or deny this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors. Comments are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this proposal should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Mr. William Rutlin, Regulatory Specialist, Coastal Branch, 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640, 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. The full mitigation plan can be reviewed in the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. William Rutlin, Regulatory Specialist, Coastal Branch at (912) 652-5893.

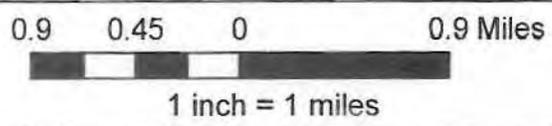
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1. Figure 1: Location Map
2. Figure 2: USACE Service Area Map
3. Figure 5: Topographic Map
4. Figure 12: Mitigation Concept Plan
5. Mitigation Credit Calculation Worksheets

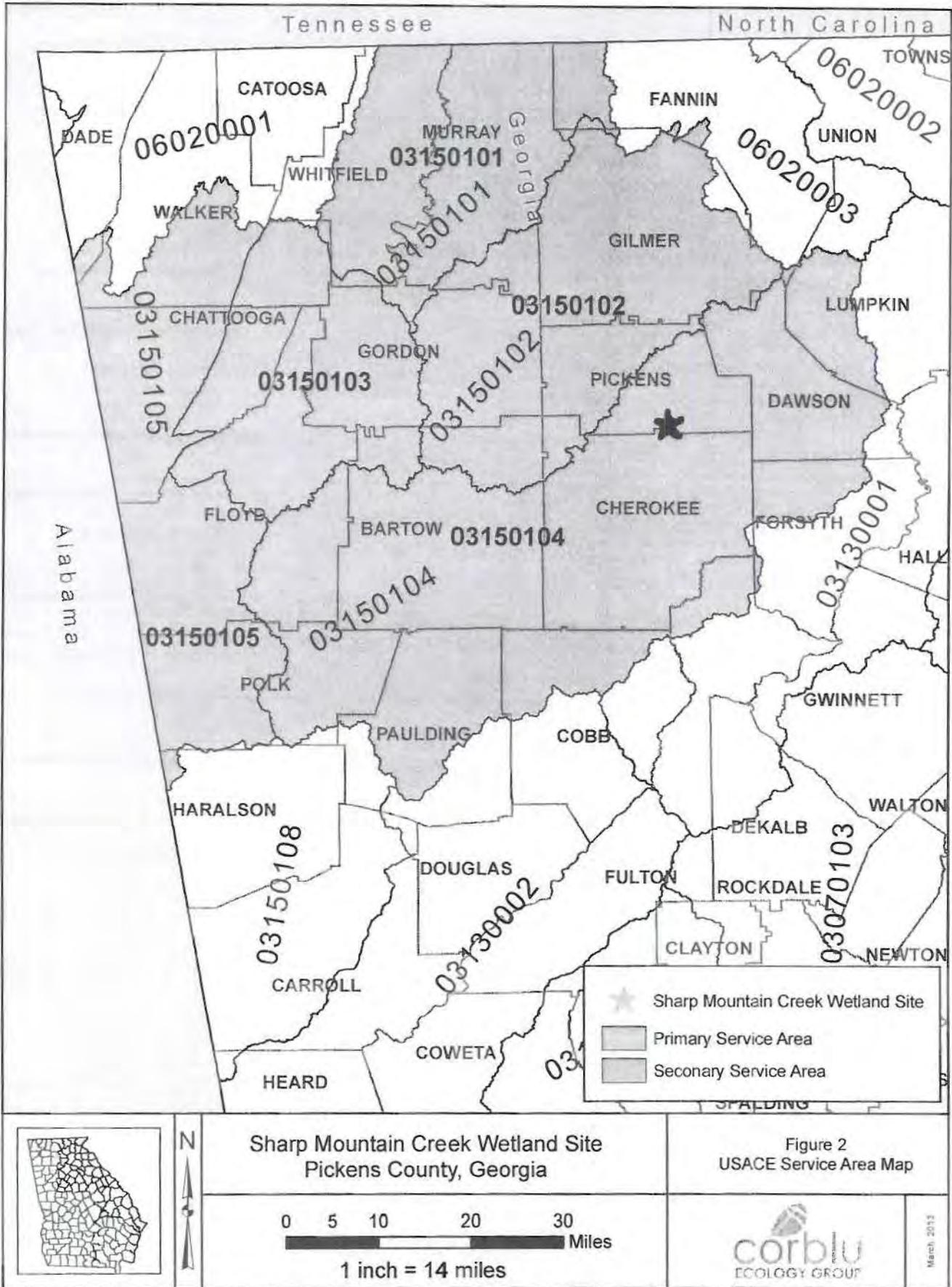


**Sharp Mountain Creek Wetland
Pickens County, Georgia**

**Figure 1
Location Map**



March, 2013



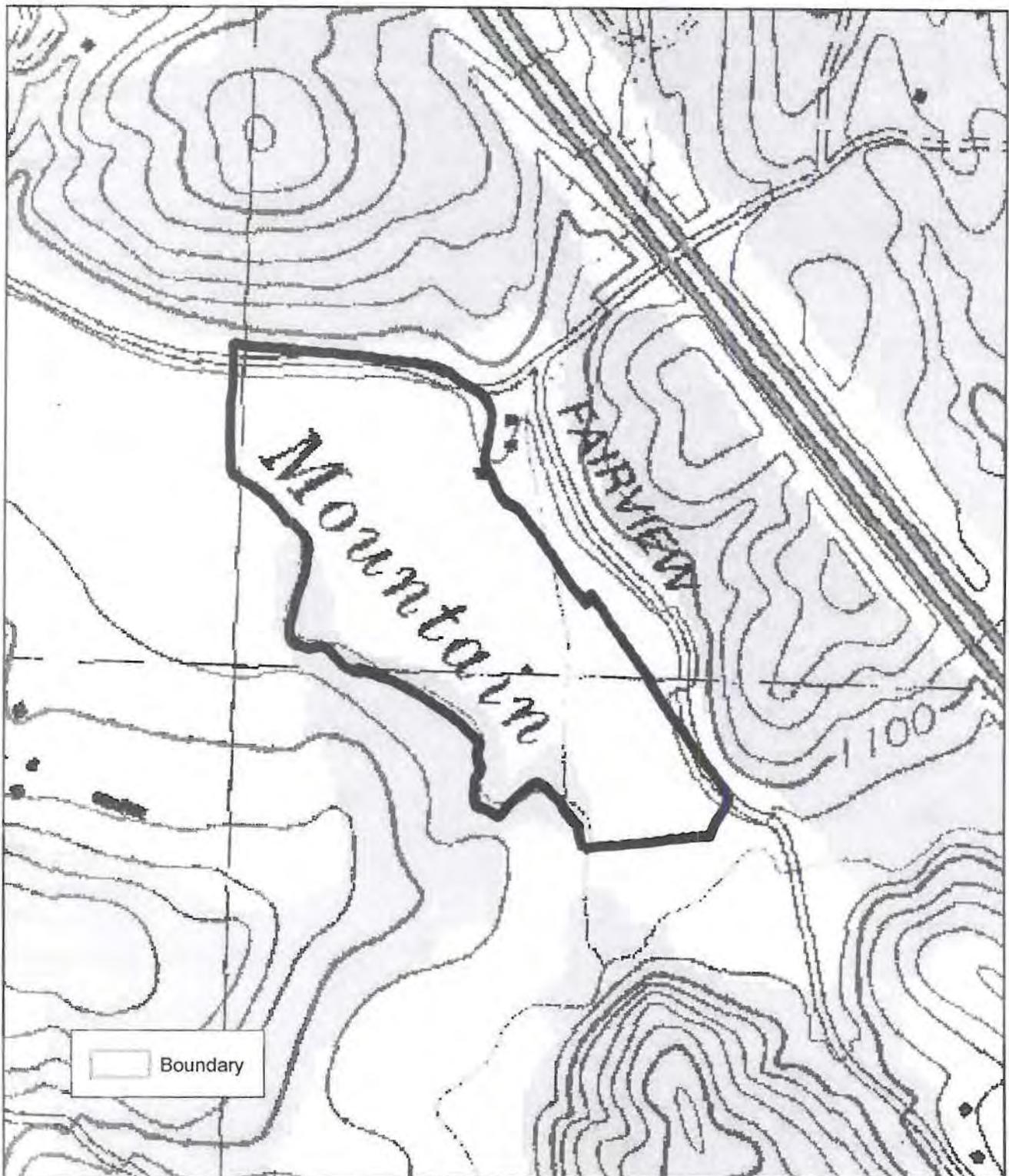
Sharp Mountain Creek Wetland Site
Pickens County, Georgia

Figure 2
USACE Service Area Map

0 5 10 20 30 Miles
1 inch = 14 miles



March, 2013



Sharp Mountain Creek Wetland
Pickens County, Georgia

Figure 5
Topographic Map

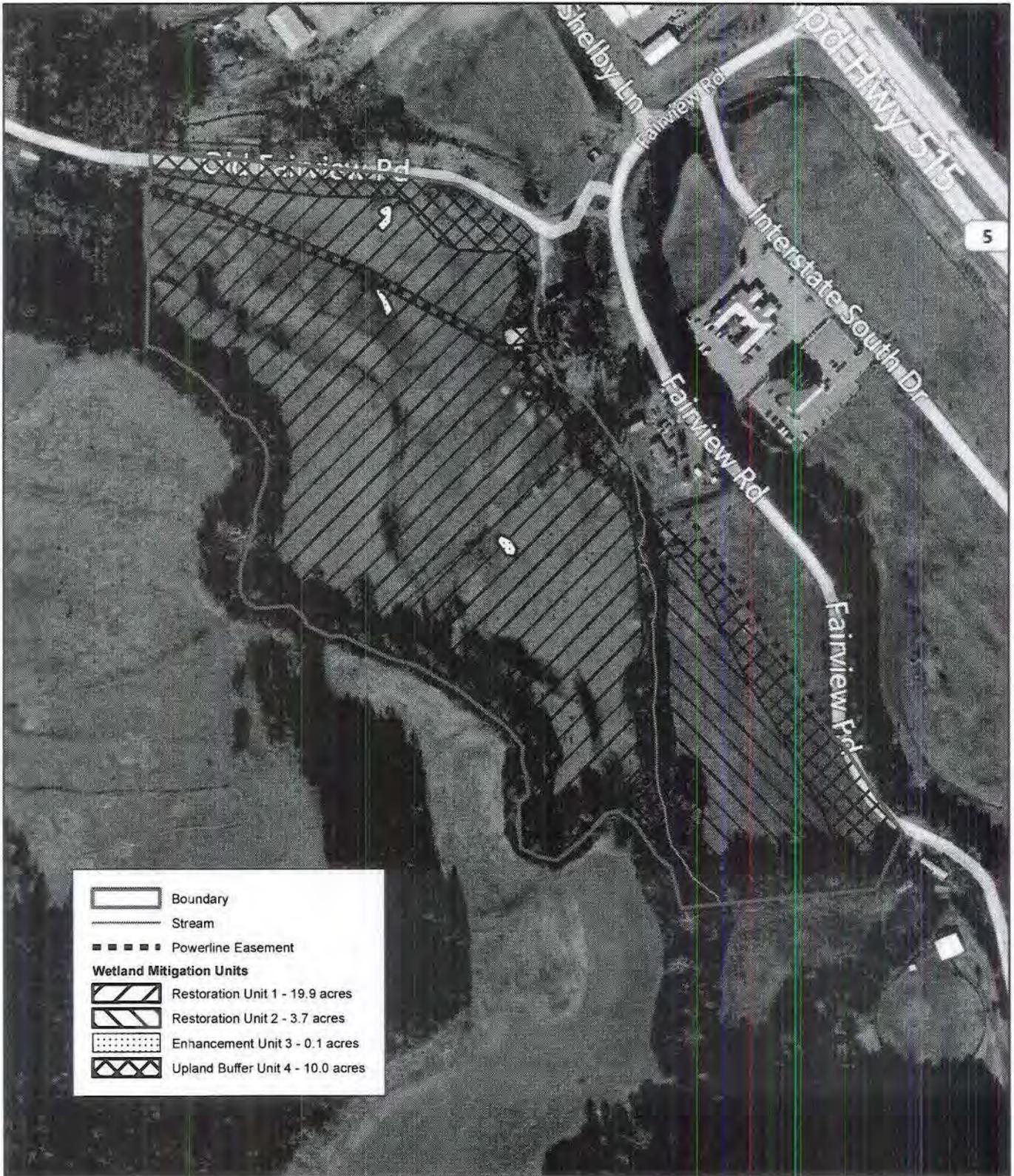
560 280 0 560 Feet



1 inch = 500 feet



March, 2013



	Boundary
	Stream
	Powerline Easement
Wetland Mitigation Units	
	Restoration Unit 1 - 19.9 acres
	Restoration Unit 2 - 3.7 acres
	Enhancement Unit 3 - 0.1 acres
	Upland Buffer Unit 4 - 10.0 acres



Sharp Mountain Creek Wetland
Pickens County, Georgia

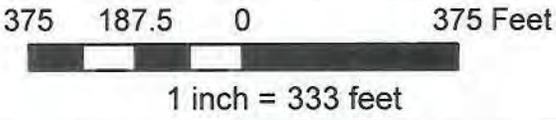


Figure 12
Mitigation Concept Plan



March, 2013

WETLANDS AND OPEN WATERS MITIGATION WORKSHEETS

RESTORATION/ENHANCEMENT MITIGATION FACTORS

Factor	Options				
Net Improvement Vegetation	Minimal Enhancement 0.1 _____ to _____ Complete Restoration 1.4				
Net Improvement Hydrology	Minimal Enhancement 0.1 _____ to _____ Complete Restoration 1.4				
Credit Schedule	Schedule 5 0	Schedule 4 0.1	Schedule 3 0.2	Schedule 2 0.3	Schedule 1 0.4
Kind	Category 2 0.2	Category 1 0.6			
Maintenance	High 0	Moderate 0.1	Low 0.2	None 0.3	
Monitoring and Contingencies Plan	N/A 0	Minimum 0.1	Moderate 0.2	Substantial 0.3	Excellent 0.4
Control	RC 0.1	RC + CE or GPP	RC + CE + GPP		

PROPOSED RESTORATION/ENHANCEMENT MITIGATION WORKSHEET

Factor	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3		
Net Improvement Vegetation	1.3	1.3	1.0		
Net Improvement Hydrology	1.2	1.2	1.0		
Credit Schedule	0.4	0.4	0.4		
Kind	0.6	0.6	0.6		
Maintenance	0.3	0.3	0.3		
Monitoring and Contingencies Plan	0.3	0.3	0.3		
Control	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Sum of m Factors	$M_1 = 4.5$	$M_2 = 4.5$	$M_3 = 3.7$	$M_4 =$	$M_5 =$
Mitigation Area	$A_1 = 19.9$	$A_2 = 3.7$	$A_3 = 0.1$	$A_4 =$	$A_5 =$
$M \times A =$	89.55	16.65	0.37		

Total Restoration/Enhancement Credits = $\Sigma (M \times A) =$ 106.57

WETLANDS AND OPEN WATERS MITIGATION WORKSHEETS

MINIMUM UPLAND BUFFER WIDTHS FOR MITIGATION CREDIT †

Adjacent Land Use Category	Minimum Width
Single Family Residential	50 feet
Multi-Family	75 feet
Commercial	75 feet
Industrial	100 feet
Landfill	100 feet
Other Categories	case-by-case

† widths are based on linear, constant elevation measurement

BUFFER MITIGATION FACTORS

Factors	Options				
Upland Buffer Factor (U1)	>95 % 1.0	68% to 95% 0.8	50% to 67% 0.6	33% to 49% 0.3	<33% 0.1
Buffer Enhancement Factor (U2)	>95 % 0.15	50% to 95% 0.1	<50% 0.05		

UPLAND BUFFER CREDIT WORKSHEET

	Unit 4				
Total Jurisdictional Boundary (B1)*	6,466				
Buffered Jurisdictional Boundary (B2)*	6,150				
(B2 ÷ B1) x 100 = % Buffered	0.95				
Acres of Upland Buffer (A1)	10.0				
Upland Buffer Factor (U1)	1.0				
A1 x U1 = C1	10.0				
Aquatic Mitigation Area Acres (A2)	23.7				
Buffer Enhancement Factor (U2)	0.15				
A2 x U2 = C2	3.56				
C1 + C2 = D	D ₁ = 13.56	D ₂ =	D ₃ =	D ₄ =	D ₅ =

Total Buffer Credit = $\sum D_{1-5}$ = 13.56

* B1 = Total linear feet of jurisdictional boundary of each proposed restoration, enhancement, preservation and/or creation area.

* B2 = Total linear feet of jurisdictional boundary proposed to be buffered for each restoration, enhancement, preservation and/or creation area.