



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

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

AUGUST 08 2013

Regulatory Division
SAS-2011-00430

PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District

The District Engineer has received a Prospectus describing the establishment and operation of a wetland compensatory mitigation bank (Elbow Swamp Mitigation Bank) for Federal and State permits as described below:

Application Number: SAS-2011-00430

Applicant: Mr. Justin Park
Georgia Land Trust
428 Bull Street, Suite 201
Savannah, Georgia 31401

Agent: Mr. Alton Brown, Jr.
Resource & Land Consultants
41 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 303
Savannah, Georgia 31405

This public notice does not imply, on the parts of the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or other agencies, either a favorable or an 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 approximately 1,127 acres and is located in waters and wetlands adjacent to the Ogeechee River, in the city of Richmond Hill, approximately one mile northwest of the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and Interstate 95, Bryan County, Georgia (Latitude 31.9265, Longitude -81.3595). The bank site is located in the Ogeechee River Basin in Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 03060204. See the enclosed Vicinity Map and USGS Topographic Map.

Description of Mitigation Bank: The bank sponsor proposes to establish, design, construct, and operate an approximately 1,127 acre wetland compensatory mitigation bank. Mitigation activities would include approximately 434 acres of wetland enhancement, primarily through vegetation enhancement, 289 acres of wetland preservation, and 141 acres of 100-foot upland buffer, as well as non credit producing

upland inclusions. Specific activities would include planting of natural wetland hardwood species (emphasis on mast producing species), plugging of drainage ditches and removal of road crossings. The bank sponsor seeks to establish highly functioning wetlands to provide mitigation credits to replace the functions and services of wetlands anticipated to be adversely affected by development and other projects occurring within the primary and secondary geographic service areas. The bank is proposed as a single user bank for Fort Stewart, Georgia, and would also support Fort Stewart's Army Compatible Use Buffer program. The wetlands within the bank have been impacted by forestry operations. Current and past land use has been primarily silviculture.

Geographic Service Area: The Geographic Service Area (GSA) is the defined area within which this bank can reasonably be expected to provide appropriate compensation for impacts to aquatic resources. The GSA for this bank would include the Upper and Lower Ogeechee River Watersheds, the Canoochee River Watershed, the Ohoopsee River Watershed, and the Middle and Lower Savannah River Watersheds. The Primary Service Area would include HUCs 03060201, 03070107, 03060203, 03060202, and 03060204. The Secondary Service Area would include HUCs 03060108, 03070102, 03070106, and 03070109. See the enclosed service area map.

Oversight: This mitigation bank, if approved, may be considered one of a number of practicable alternatives available to applicants to compensate for unavoidable impacts associated with permits issued under the authority of Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for projects located within the prescribed GSA.

Oversight of this compensatory mitigation bank would be by a group of Federal and State agency representatives collectively referred to as the Interagency Review Team (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.

The actual approval of the use of this mitigation bank for a specific project is the decision of the Corps pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps provides no guarantee that any particular individual or general permit will be granted authorization to use this compensatory mitigation bank to compensate for unavoidable impacts associated with a proposed permit, even though mitigation from this bank may be available.

Authority: A public notice regarding the proposed mitigation bank is required pursuant to Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 325 and 332 and Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 230, entitled "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 other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate this proposed mitigation bank. The Prospectus can be seen at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Division, 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640. Written comments received will be considered by the Corps in evaluating this proposal. Comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards and flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the public.

A preliminary review, provided by the bank's sponsor, indicates that: 1) An environmental impact statement will not be required; 2) No species of fish, wildlife, or plant (or their critical habitat) listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 will be affected; and, 3) No cultural or historical resources considered eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places will be affected according to a website review of known listed properties. Additional information may change any of these preliminary findings. A request for an expanded preliminary jurisdictional determination was processed by the Corps on September 21, 2012. The site includes approximately 724 acres of wetlands that may be waters of the U.S. within the jurisdiction of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

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, Regulatory Division, Attention: Mr. William M. Rutlin, 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640 no later than 30-days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the mitigation bank name (Elbow Swamp Mitigation Bank) and the Regulatory Division file number (SAS-2011-00430) in your comments.

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

4 Encls

1. Vicinity Map
2. USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map
3. Treatment Map
4. HUC-8/Service Area Map
5. LIDAR Map
6. NWI Map



FIGURE 2, COUNTY ROAD MAP

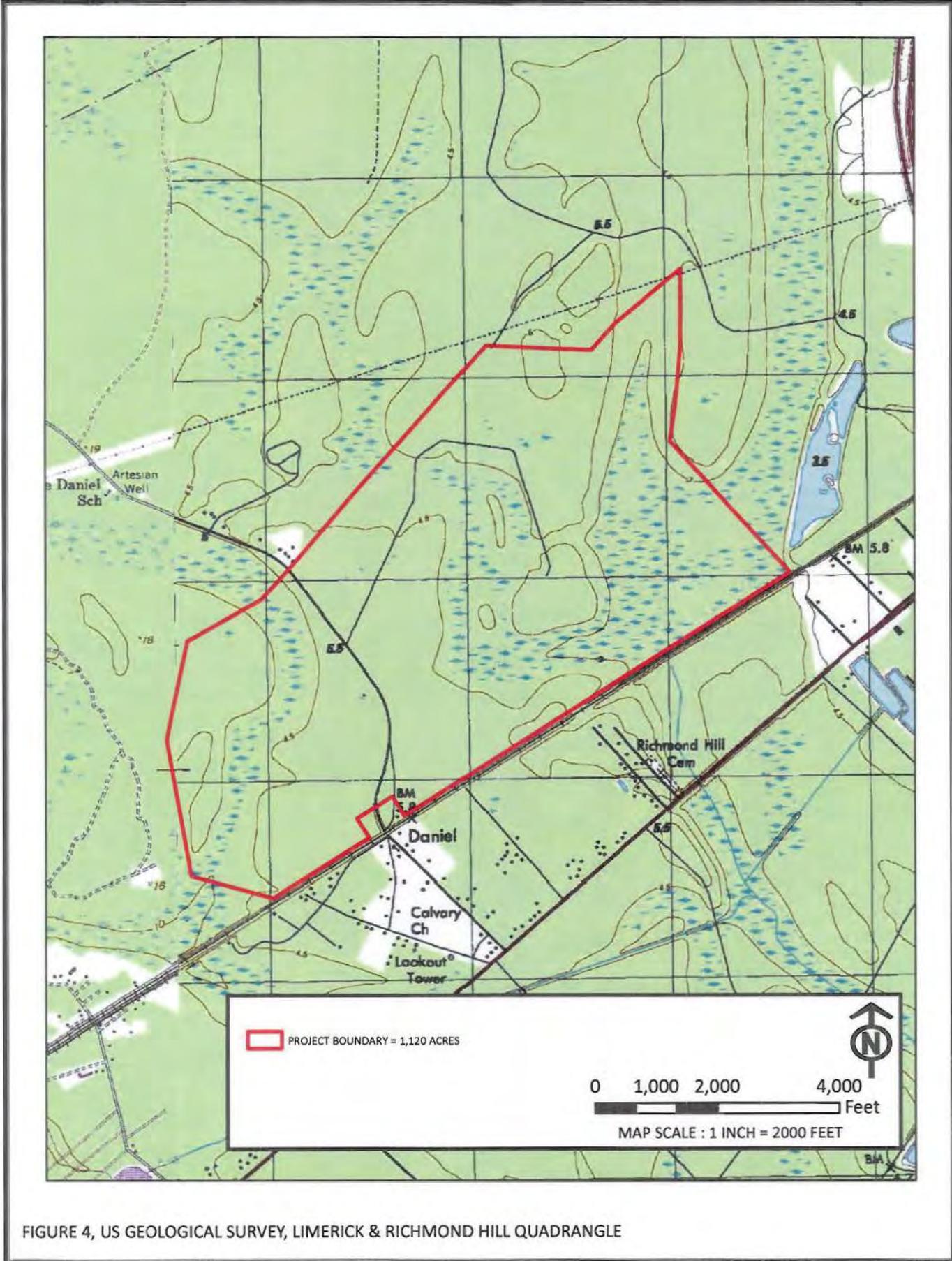
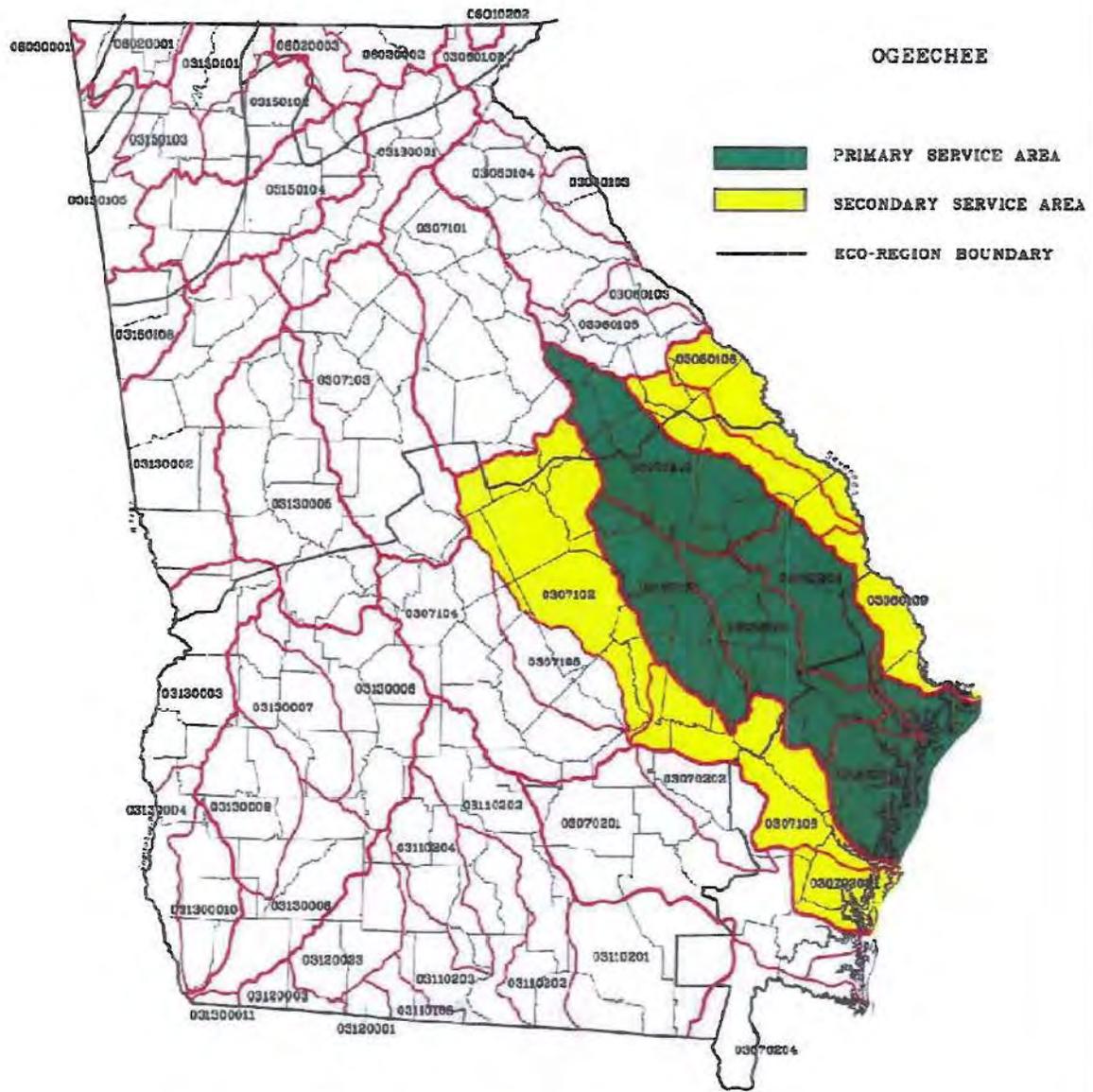


FIGURE 4, US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LIMERICK & RICHMOND HILL QUADRANGLE



SERVICE AREA MAP
 ELBOW SWAMP MITIGATION BANK

FIGURE 8, SERVICE AREA MAP

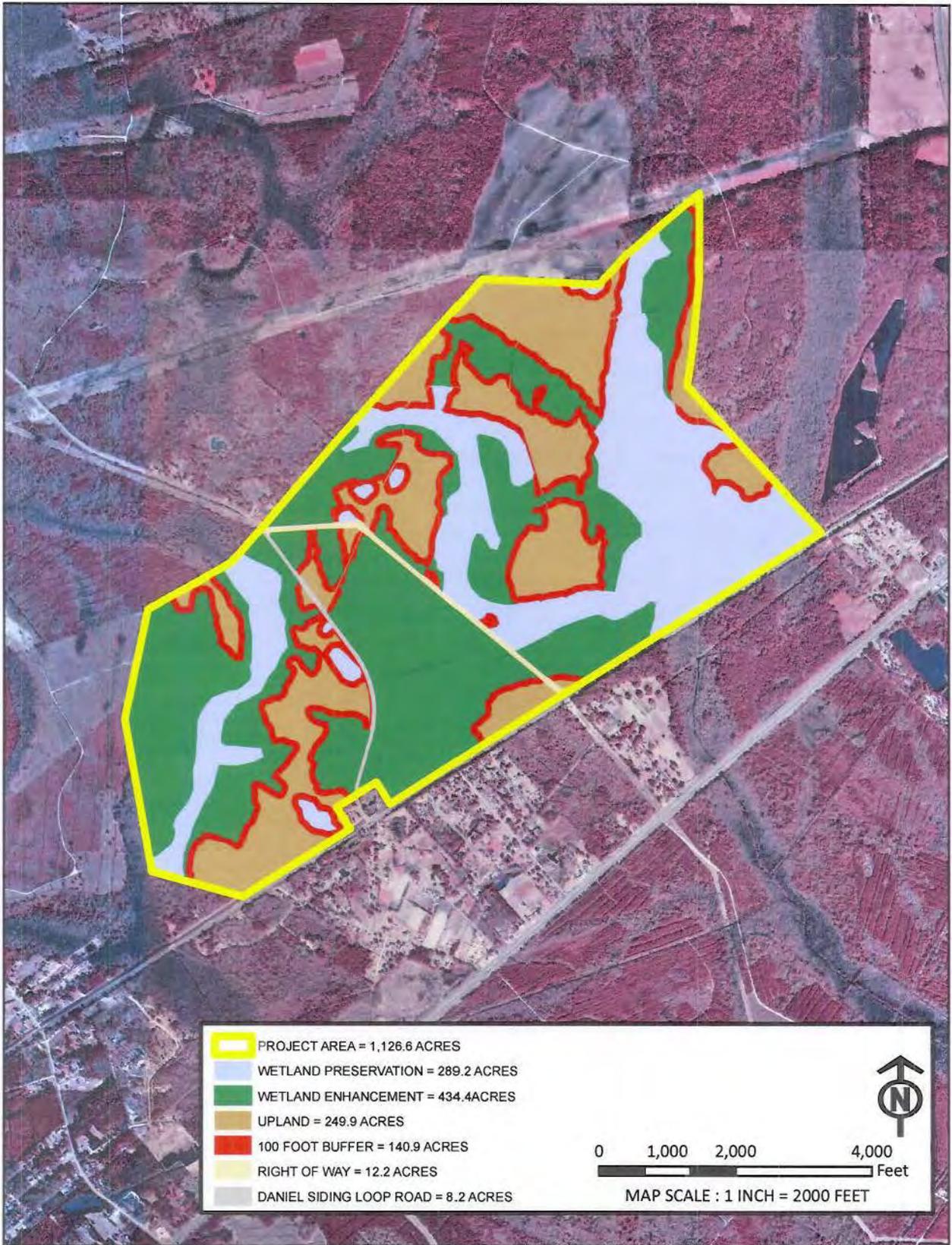
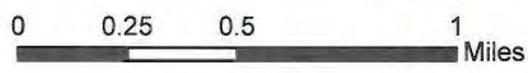
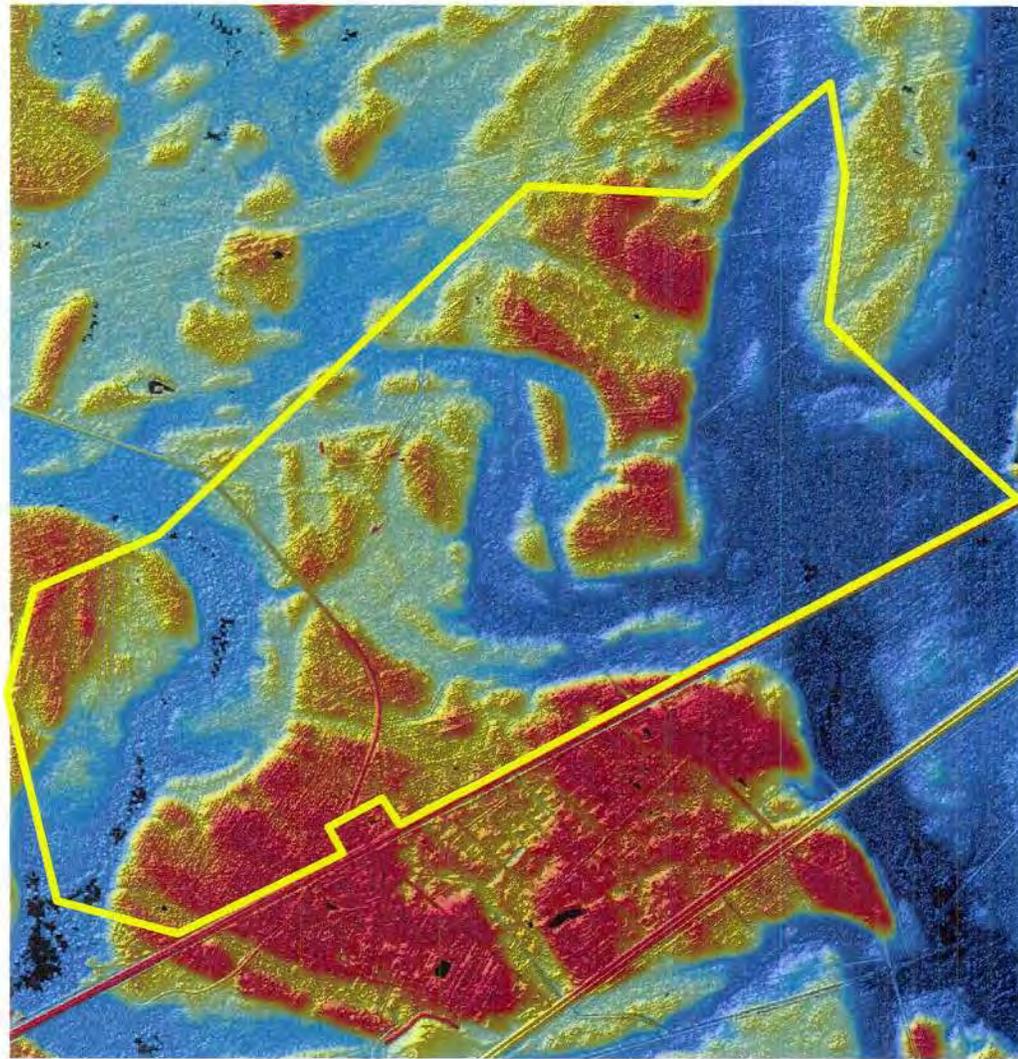


FIGURE 10, MITIGATION ACTIVITIES MAP, 1999 CIR PHOTOGRAPH, LIMERICK & RICHMOND HILL QUADRANGLE

Elbow Swamp LIDAR Map



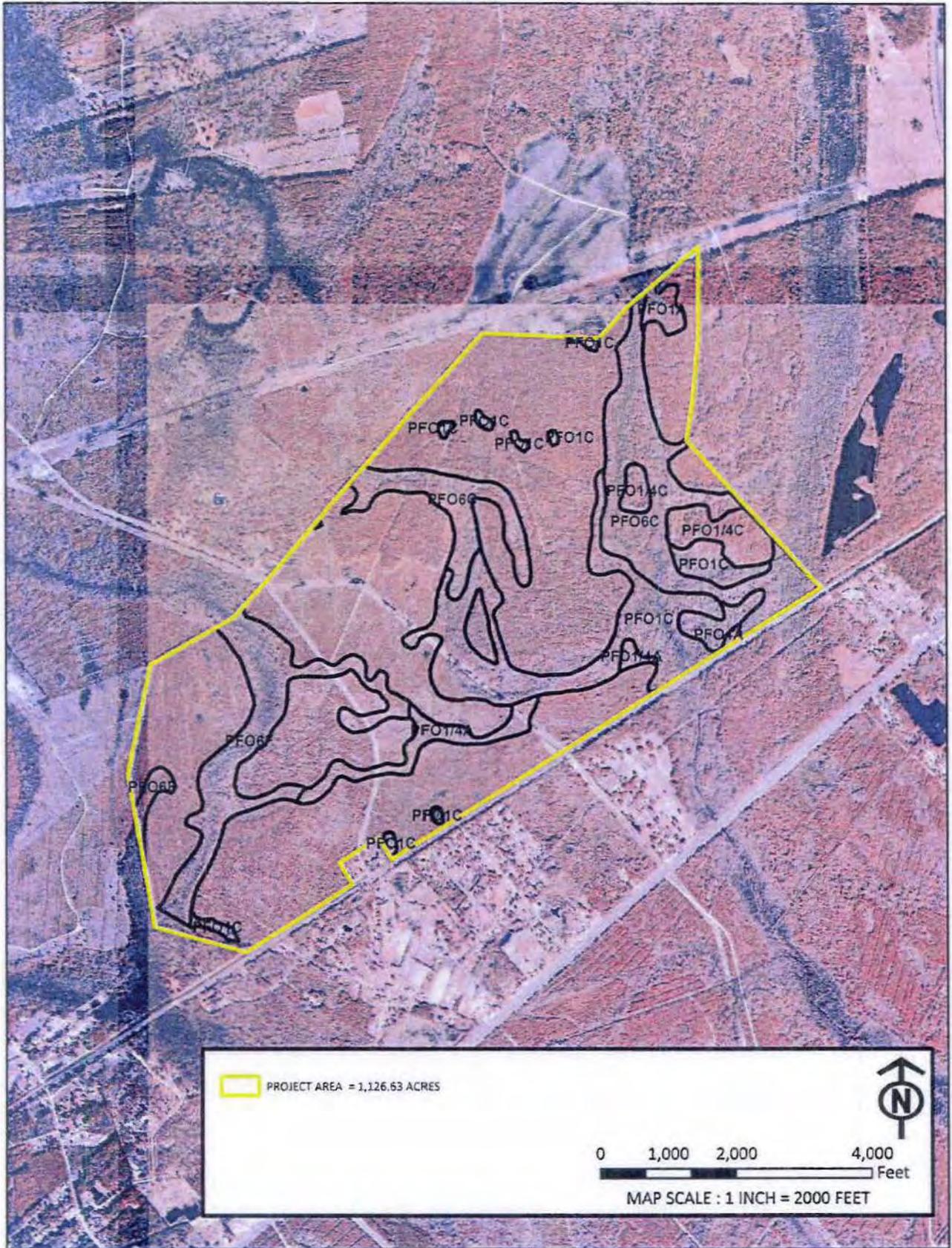


FIGURE 2, NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY, LIMERICK & RICHMOND HILL QUADRANGLE