



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

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

MARCH 12 2014

Regulatory Division
SAS-2012-00938

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District**

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

Application Number: SAS-2012-00938

Applicant: Mr. Larry Jordan
Mapache, LLC
108 Five Points Road
Lyons, Georgia 30436

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 1,720 acres; however the mitigation boundary area is approximately 207.5 acres. The site is a barrier island surrounded by Dover Creek to the west, Umbrella Creek to the north, Saint Andrews Sound to the east, and the Satilla River to the south, in Camden County, Georgia (Latitude 31.0064, Longitude -81.4626). The bank site is located in the Cumberland-Saint Simons Watershed in Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 03070203. See the enclosed Vicinity Map and USGS Topographic Map.

Background: Around July 14, 2008, it was made aware to the Corps that there was a potential unauthorized activity on the island. By letter dated August 25, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) accepted the unauthorized activity case. The applicant is working with EPA and Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal

Resource Division (Georgia CRD) to resolve the unauthorized activity. The area that was deemed as the unauthorized activity has been removed from the current mitigation bank proposal.

By letter dated December 3, 2013, the Corps provided the following statement to the applicant in regards to property ownership of the mitigation bank, "It is our understanding that you do not own the property. By letter dated January 3, 2013, Georgia CRD states that portions of the bank may be owned by the State. Please be aware that should the proposal move forward, you must be able to prove ownership of the property prior to final authorization."

Description of Mitigation Bank: The bank sponsor proposes to restore, enhance, and preserve approximately 207.5 acres of tidal waters and salt marsh to facilitate the development of a commercial mitigation bank. Mitigation activities would include approximately 77.1 acres of salt marsh restoration, 15.4 acres of salt marsh enhancement, 54.0 acres of salt marsh preservation, and 15.1 acres of upland preservation. Specific activities would include breaching approximately 11.6 acres of the approximate 26.7 acres of the existing exterior and interior dikes.

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 all or portions of the following watersheds: Altamaha, Cumberland-Saint Simons, Satilla, Little Satilla, Saint Marys, Lower Savannah, Lower Ogeechee, Canoochee, and Ogeechee Coastal. The Primary Service Area would include all or portions of HUCs 03070106, 03070203, 03070201, 03070202, and 03070204. The Secondary Service Area would include portions or all of HUCs 03060109, 03060202, 03060203, and 03060204. Coastal service areas have been previously coordinated with Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resource Division. 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, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resource 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 would 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 would 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 would be negatively affected; and, 3) No cultural or historical resources considered eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places would be affected according to a website review of known listed properties. Additional information may change any of these preliminary findings. A site visit on December 19, 2013, confirmed the request for an expanded preliminary jurisdictional determination. The site includes approximately 111.4 acres of Palustrine, emergent wetlands and 1604.4 acres of Estuarine, intertidal wetlands that may be waters of the United States within the jurisdiction of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors 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: Ms. Sherelle Reinhardt, 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 (Isla de Mapache Mitigation Bank) and the Regulatory Division file number (SAS-2012-00938) in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Sherelle D. Reinhardt, Regulatory Specialist, Coastal Branch at 912-652-5964.

5 Encls

1. Figure 1, Vicinity Map
2. Figure 4, USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map
3. Figure 12, Mitigation Activities Map
4. Figure 8, HUC-8/Service Area Map
5. Figure 7, NWI Map



FIGURE 1, VICINITY MAP; GEORGIA ATLAS AND GAZETTEER

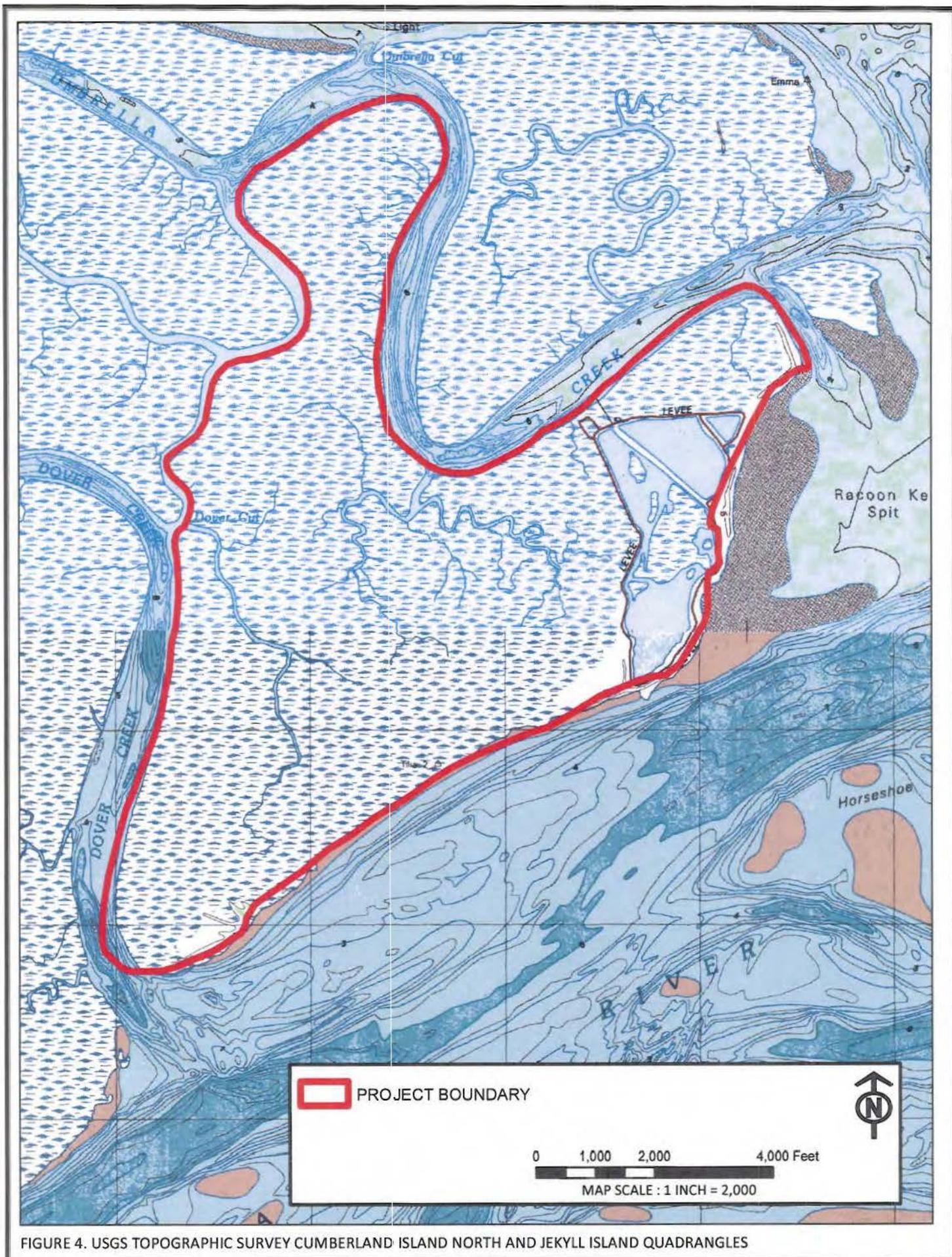
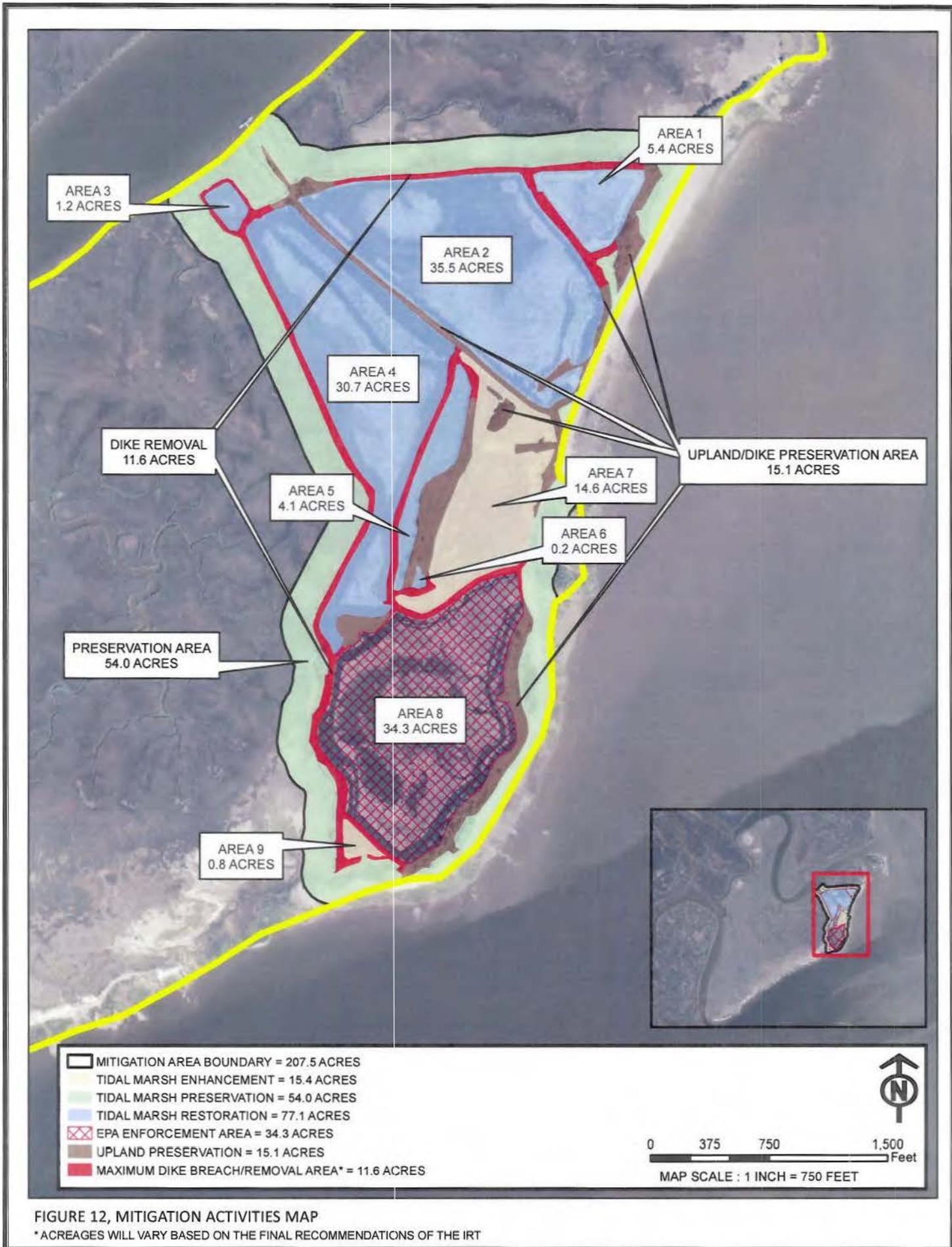


FIGURE 4. USGS TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY CUMBERLAND ISLAND NORTH AND JEKYL ISLAND QUADRANGLES



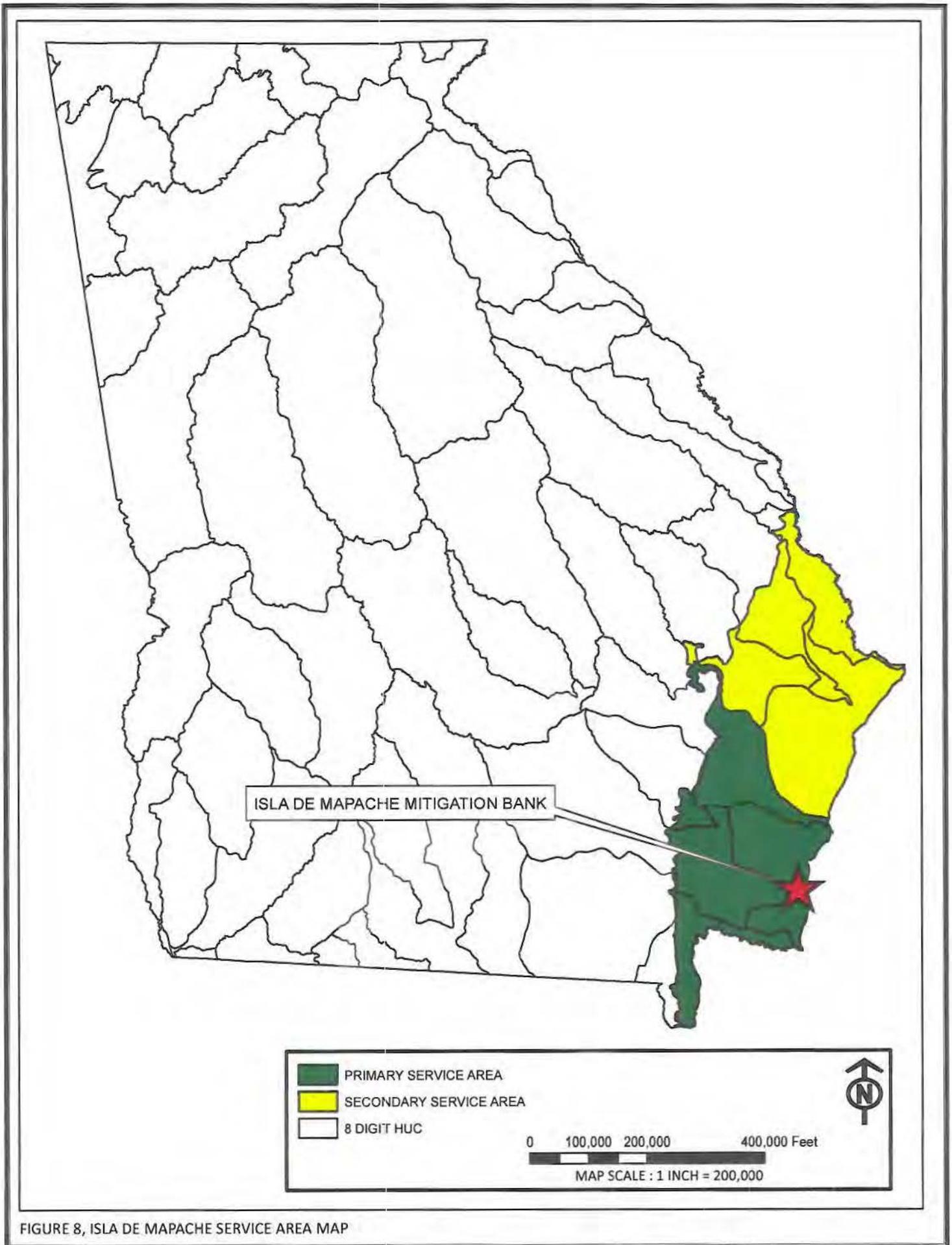


FIGURE 8, ISLA DE MAPACHE SERVICE AREA MAP

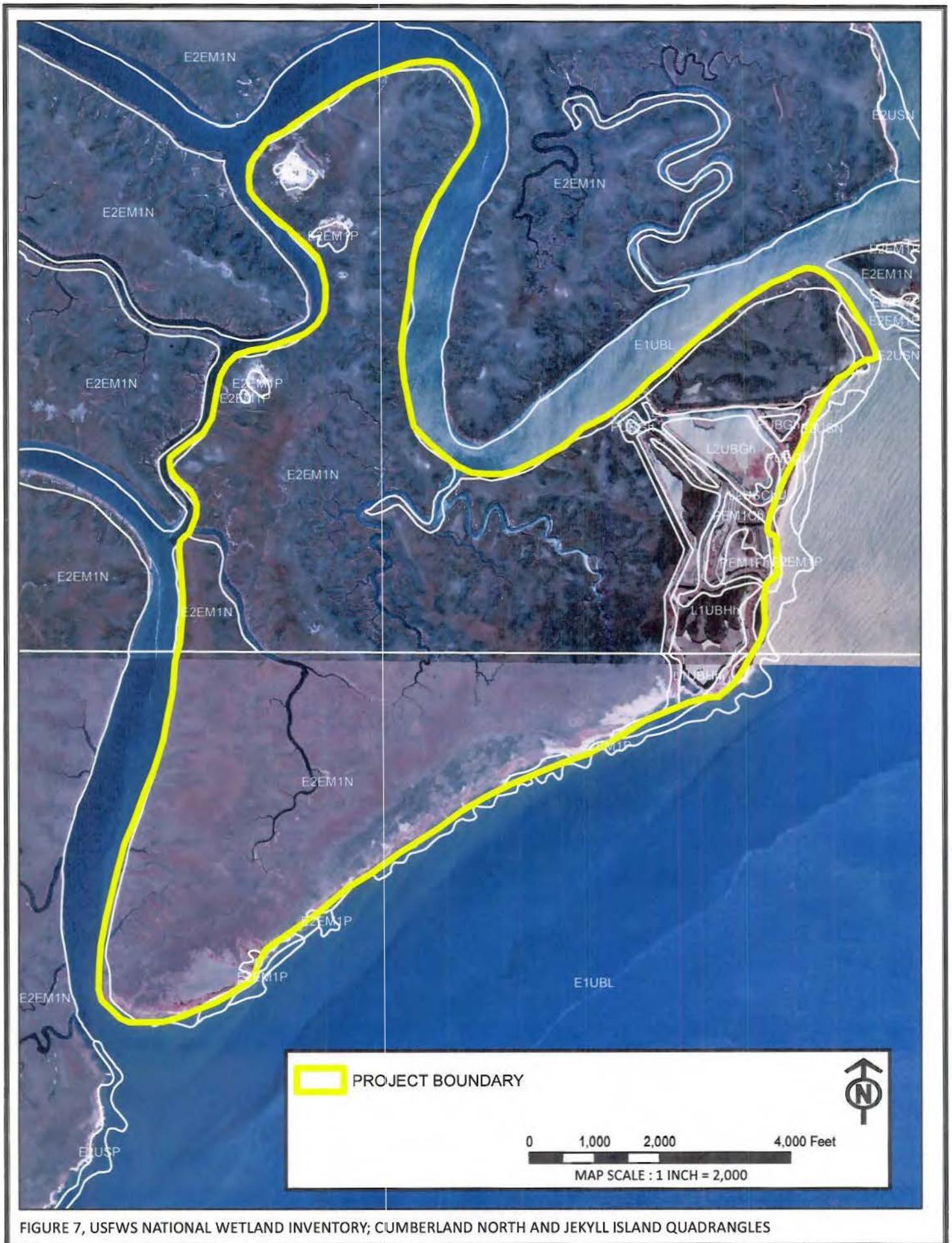


FIGURE 7, USFWS NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY; CUMBERLAND NORTH AND JEKYLL ISLAND QUADRANGLES