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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

NOVEMBER 2 3 2011

Regulatory Division
SAS-2007-01410

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-2007-01410

Applicant: Paulding County Board of Commissioners
Attention: Mr. David Austin, Chairman
240 Constitution Boulevard
Dallas, Georgia 30132

Agent: RLH Group, LLC
Attention: Mr. Ron Harris
2785 Lower Bethany Road
Ball Ground, Georgia 30107

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located on Richland Creek, approximately 0.4 miles upstream from the Paulding County/Bartow County line (Latitude 34.0797, Longitude -84.8567).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers: The Paulding County Board of Commissioners proposes to construct a pumped storage water supply reservoir on Richland Creek, in Paulding County, Georgia. The project design proposes a 1,360 foot long dam that would create a 305-acre reservoir pool with a maximum depth of 120 feet. The design calls for a daily intake of up to 40.4 million gallons of water per day of supplemental raw water to be pumped to the reservoir from the Etowah River. The project is projected to supply an average annual safe yield of approximately 35 million gallons of water per day to Paulding County. The water intake structure for the proposed reservoir would be located on the south side of the Etowah River, approximately 8 river miles downstream of the Allatoona Lake dam (Latitude 34.127506, Longitude -84.844069).

Field investigations identified 15 wetland areas and 69 stream segments, totaling 1.96 acres of wetland and 50,473 linear feet of stream (36,876 linear feet of perennial stream and 13,597 linear feet of intermittent stream) within the proposed reservoir site and the proposed pipeline corridor. Richland Creek is described as a third order perennial stream at the proposed location of the dam. Richland Creek and its 7 second order tributaries are described as ranging from seven to thirty feet in width, with depths ranging from one to five feet, and substrates consisting of gravel

and cobble. The perennial streams identified consisted of first order to third order channels with sand, gravel, and small cobble substrate. Intermittent streams included the transitional channel segments between ephemeral soil swales and gullies and the perennial waters below.

The wetlands identified primarily consisted of small, riparian forested systems located on the narrow flood plains along the stream channels. Vegetation generally consisted of red maple (*Acer rubrum*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), alder (*Alnus serrulata*), Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrical*), cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and Nepalese browntop (*Microstegium vimineum*).

As proposed, the Richland Creek Water Supply Reservoir and pipeline would impact 50,201.28 linear feet of perennial and intermittent streams, and 1.341-acres of wetland. To compensate for these impacts, the applicant is proposing to purchase mitigation credits in accordance with the Savannah District's Standard Operating Procedure for Calculating Compensatory Mitigation Requirements for Adverse Impacts to Wetlands, Open Waters and/or Streams (SOP). Based on the SOP calculations made by the applicant's agent, the proposed reservoir and pipeline would require 292,065.4 stream credits and 9.435 wetland credits in order to provide adequate mitigation for impacts. The applicant proposes to purchase these credits from the Applewood, Bannister Creek, Cochran's Creek and/or Etowah River Preserve Mitigation Banks, all of which are USACE-approved mitigation banks servicing the project area and are located within the same primary service area (PSA) of the proposed impacts (HUC 03150104). Should other banks become approved and/or have credits available at the time they are needed for any permit issued, the applicant may propose the use of those banks as well, provided they are also located within the PSA. Should sufficient mitigation credits not be available from commercial mitigation banks at the time they are needed for this project, the applicant proposes to utilize the In-Lieu Fee program, and/or provide permittee-responsible mitigation, in accordance with the preference hierarchy identified in the new mitigation rule.

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 office of the Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, Piedmont Branch, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia.

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: Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, we request the Georgia Historical Preservation Division (GAHPD) or any other interested party review the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) to determine if the property has or has not any registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion 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 propose work.

The applicant has completed a Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for this project. The USACE is currently reviewing the survey report and will make a determination if the project is in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The USACE will forward comments, along with a copy of the Cultural Resources Report, to GAHPD for review and comment.

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,

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.

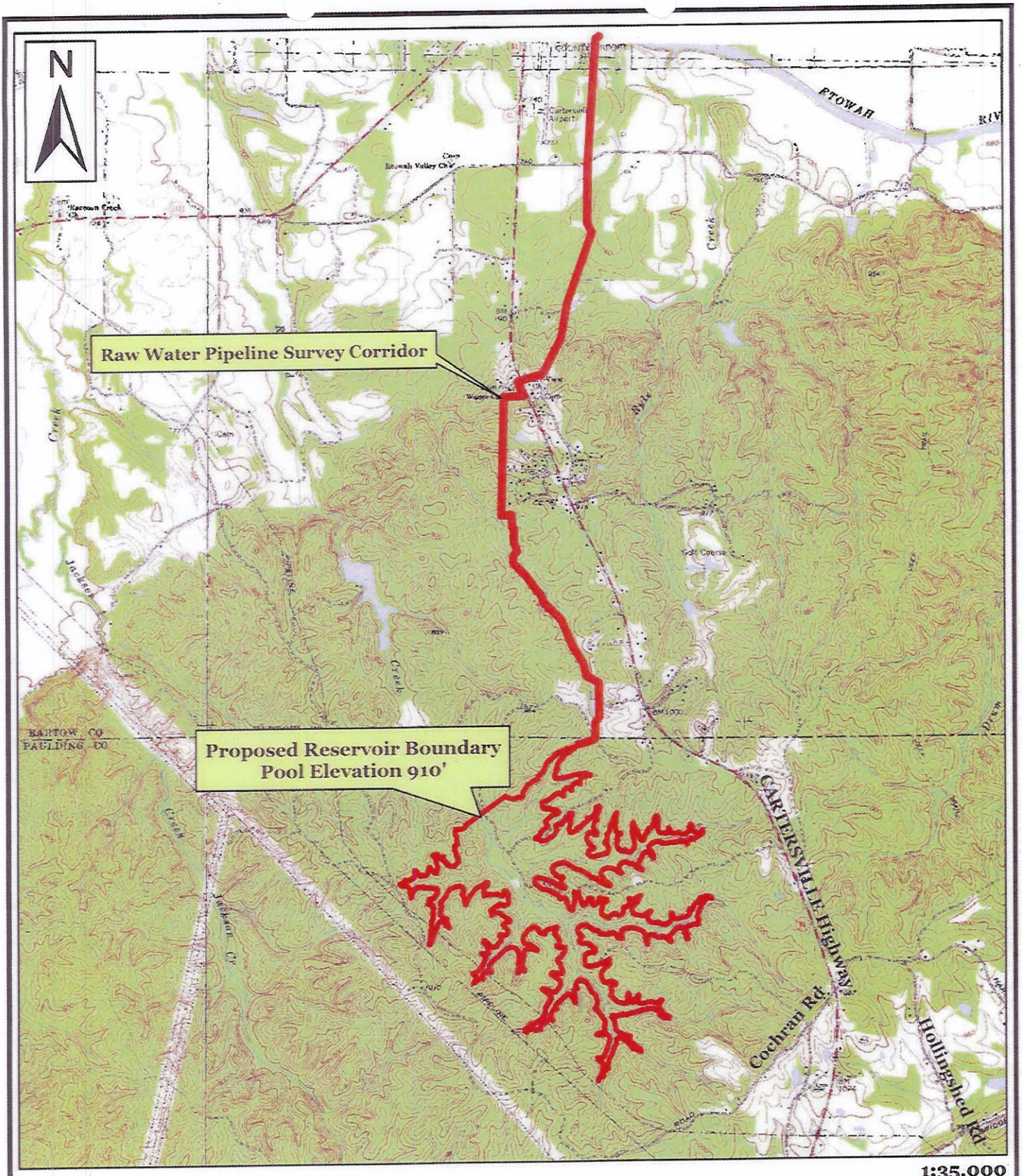
Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by 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 US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Piedmont Branch, Attention: Ms. Kathrine M. Freas, 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 (Paulding County Board of Commissioners) and the application number (SAS-2007-01410) in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Kathrine M. Freas, Project Manager, Special Projects Section, Piedmont Branch at 770-904-6570.

4 Encls
1. Figure 1: Site Location (1 page)
2. Preliminary Dam Design: Plan and Profile (1 page)



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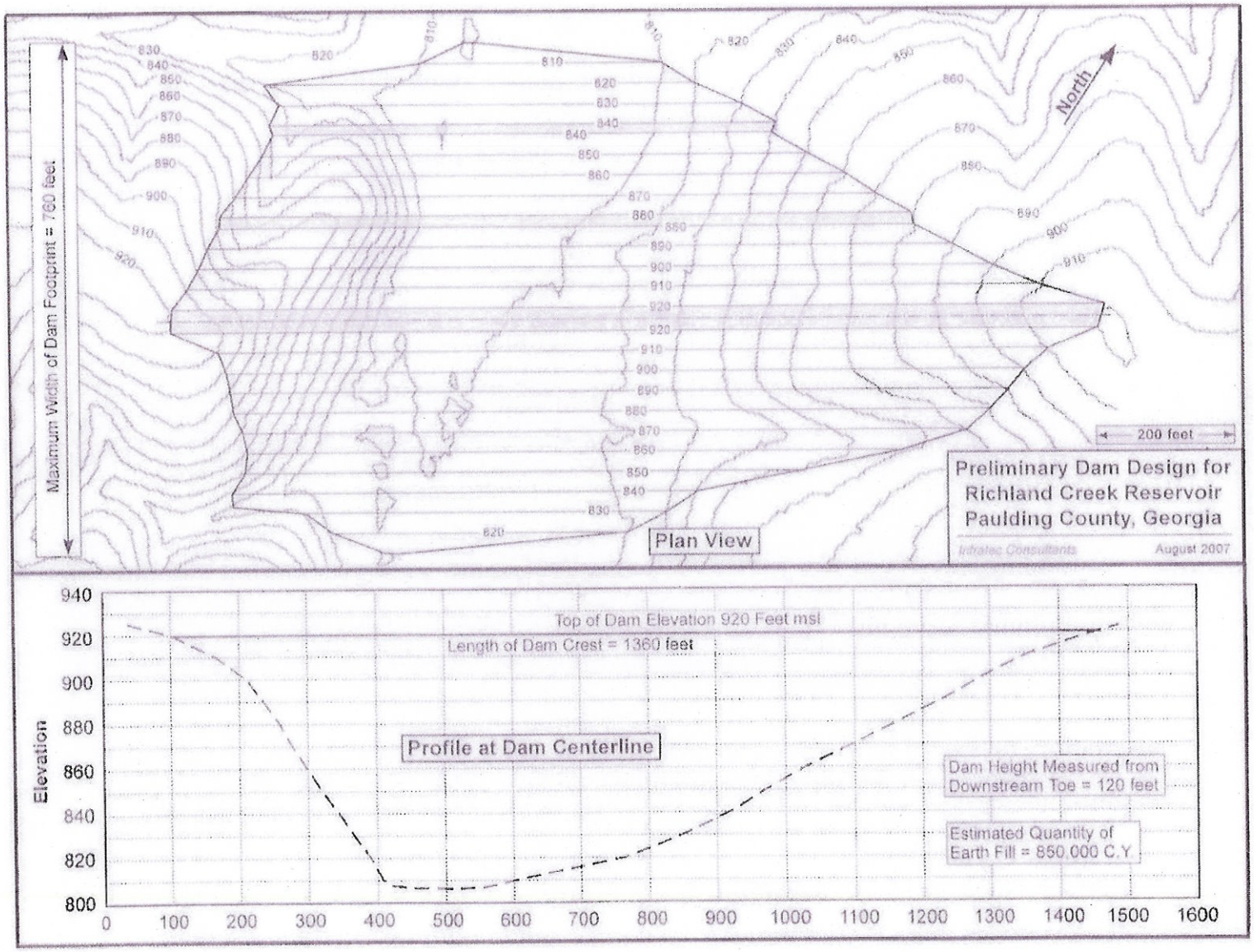
Base Map Source: USGS 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangles: Burnt Hickory Ridge & Taylorsville, Georgia.

Richland Creek Reservoir Site Paulding County, Georgia	WETLAND & ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS, LLC Woodstock, Georgia	Figure 1 Site Location WEC Project No. 02-052710


Maximum Width of Dam Footprint = 760 feet
North
200 feet
Plan View
Preliminary Dam Design for
Richland Creek Reservoir
Paulding County, Georgia
Intratec Consultants
August 2007
Top of Dam Elevation 920 Feet msl
Length of Dam Crest = 1360 feet
Profile at Dam Centerline
Dam Height Measured from
Downstream Toe = 120 feet
Estimated Quantity of
Earth Fill = 850,000 C.Y.
Elevation
940
920
900
880
860
840
820
800
0
100
200
300
400
500
600
700
800
900
1000
1100
1200
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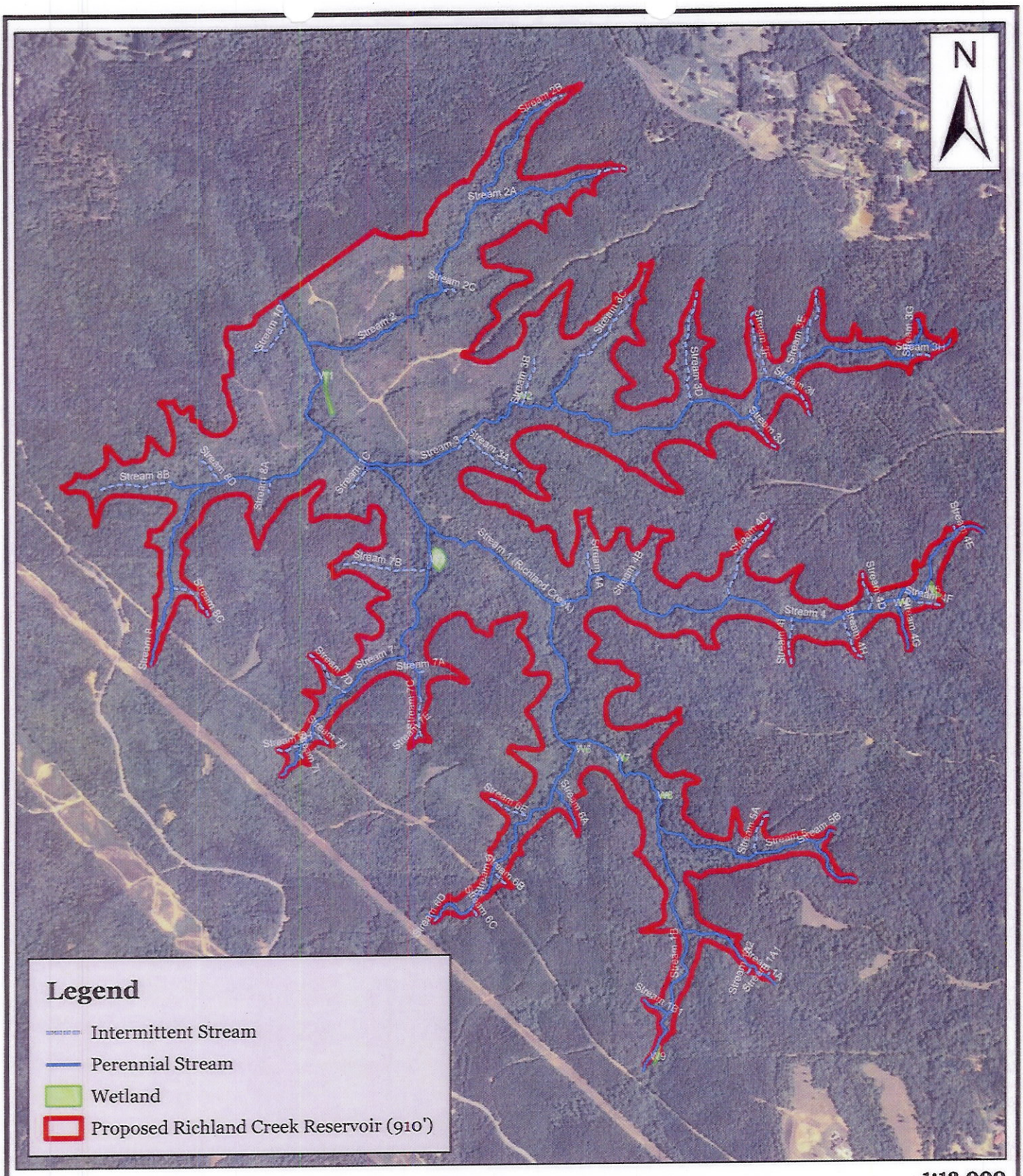

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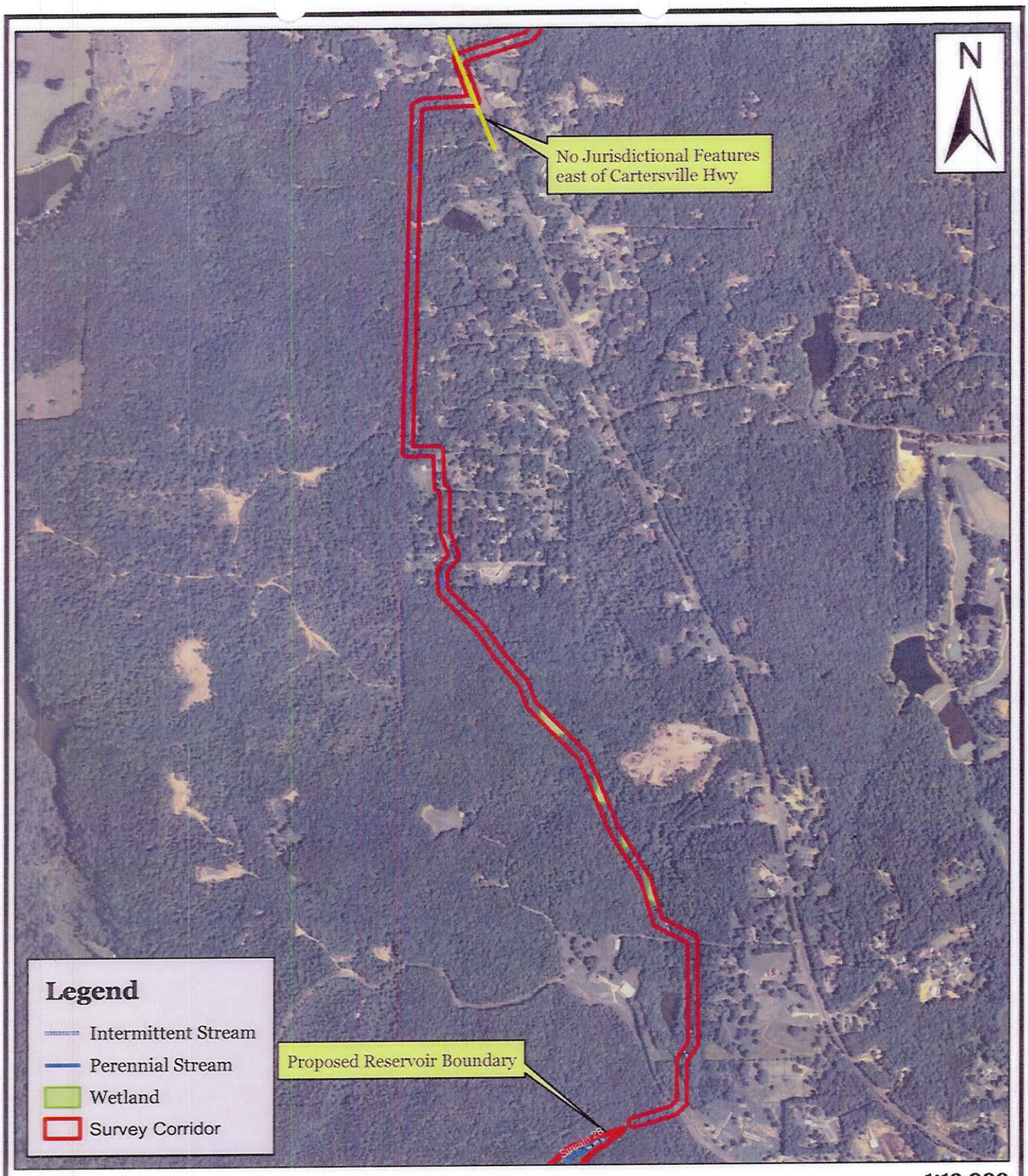
Base Map Source: USDA National Agriculture Imagery Program: Paulding County, Georgia 2009.

Richland Creek Reservoir Site **Paulding County, Georgia**	**WETLAND & ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS, LLC** **Woodstock, Georgia**	**Figure 3** **Jurisdictional Waters (Reservoir)** **WEC Project No. 02-052710**



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Base Map Source: USDA National Agriculture Imagery Program: Paulding County, Georgia 2009.

Richland Creek Reservoir Site Paulding County, Georgia	WETLAND & ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS, LLC Woodstock, Georgia	Figure 4 Jurisdictional Waters (Pipeline) WEC Project No. 02-052710