



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
100 WEST OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

June 06, 2018

Regulatory Branch  
SAS-2011-00779

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Savannah District**

The District Engineer has received a request to modify the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust's (GALT) In-Lieu-Fee (ILF) Instrument as compensatory mitigation for Federal and State permits as described below:

Application Number: SAS-2011-00779

Applicant: Mr. Alex Robertson  
Georgia-Alabama Land Trust  
226 Old Ladiga Road  
Piedmont, Alabama 36272

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

Description of Requested Modification: The GALT proposes to modify the approved ILF instrument to establish saltwater tidal wetland credits and a saltwater tidal wetlands service area to provide in-kind compensatory mitigation to offset environmental losses resulting from unavoidable impacts to saltwater tidal wetlands located in Bryan, Camden, Chatham, Glynn, Liberty, and McIntosh Counties, Georgia.

The proposed initial advance of ILF credit allocation (25 saltwater tidal wetland credits) is based upon the estimated two-year credit demand for the State of Georgia, as determined by the Corps and GALT based upon previous impacts to saltwater tidal wetlands in Georgia.

With respect to offsetting permitted impacts associated with saltwater tidal wetland credit sales, GALT would first seek to implement a mitigation project(s) designed to restore, enhance, establish and/or preserve saltwater tidal wetlands in Georgia in accordance with the Savannah District's 2018 Standard Operating Procedure for Compensatory Mitigation. If the implementation of an ILF mitigation project to offset saltwater tidal wetland impacts is determined to be infeasible, GALT would seek to purchase in-kind mitigation credits from a mitigation bank or other credit source approved by the Corps. If the acquisition of in-kind mitigation credits is determined to be infeasible due to a lack of credit availability or otherwise, GALT would seek to, with

the written authorization of the Corps, acquire out-of-kind mitigation credits based upon the compensation ratio set forth in the Savannah District's 2018 Standard Operating Procedure for Compensatory Mitigation (1.25:1 ratio).

Oversight: This ILF 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 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for projects located within the prescribed general service area.

Oversight of this ILF will 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 (Savannah District) 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 ILF for a specific project is the decision of the Corps pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and 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 ILF to compensate for unavoidable impacts associated with a proposed permit, even though mitigation from the ILF program may be available.

Authority: A public notice regarding the modification of the approved ILF 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 modification of the approved ILF. The modification can be seen at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Branch, 1025 Buford Dam Road, Buford, Georgia 30518. 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.

Preliminary review 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 (PL 93-205) 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.

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 Branch, Attention: Mr. Justin Hammonds, 1025 Buford Dam Road, Buford, Georgia 30518, no later than 30-days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the ILF name (Georgia-Alabama Land Trust's In-Lieu-Fee Program) and the Regulatory Division file number (SAS-2011-00779) in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Justin Hammonds, at 678-804-5227 or [justin.a.hammonds@usace.army.mil](mailto:justin.a.hammonds@usace.army.mil).