



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
4751 BEST ROAD, SUITE 140
COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA 30337

SAS-2023-00034

March 31, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime
Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. 651, 143 S.
Ct. 1322 (2023), SAS-2023-00034

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.¹ AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.² For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),³ the Clean Water Act (CWA) implementing regulations published by the Department of the Army in 1986 and amended in 1993 (references 2.a. and 2.b. respectively), the 2008 *Rapanos-Carabell* guidance (reference 2.c.), and other applicable guidance, relevant case law and longstanding practice, (collectively the pre-2015 regulatory regime), and the *Sackett* decision (reference 2.d.) in evaluating jurisdiction.

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. The features addressed in this AJD were evaluated consistent with the definition of "waters of the United States" found in the pre-2015 regulatory regime and consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. This AJD did not rely on the 2023 "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" as amended on 8 September 2023 (Amended 2023 Rule) because, as of the date of this decision, the Amended 2023 Rule is not applicable in Georgia due to litigation.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

¹ 33 CFR 331.2.

² Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

³ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

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- a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).

| Name of Aquatic Resource | JD or Non-JD | Section 404/Section 10 |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Wetland D | Non-JD | N/A |

2. REFERENCES.

- a. Final Rule for Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, 51 FR 41206 (November 13, 1986).
- b. Clean Water Act Regulatory Programs, 58 FR 45008 (August 25, 1993).
- c. U.S. EPA & U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in *Rapanos v. United States & Carabell v. United States* (December 2, 2008)
- d. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

3. REVIEW AREA.

- a. ~2.0 acres
- b. Latitude: 33.4920, Longitude: -82.2198
- c. Nearest City or Town: Grovetown
- d. County: Columbia
- e. State: Georgia

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED.

- a. The Savannah River, located approximately 61,000 linear feet (18.5 linear kilometers) east of the subject review, is the nearest TNW.
- b. Determination based on: This determination was made based on a review of desktop data resources listed in Section 9 of this memorandum and a review of the SAS Section 10 list (for a water body that is navigable-in-fact under federal law for any purpose (such as Section 10, RHA)), that water body categorically qualifies as a Section 404 "traditional navigable water" subject to CWA jurisdiction under 33 CFR 328.3(a)(1)), and documented occurrences of boating traffic on the identified water.

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS

N/A. The subject wetland is understood to be self-contained and does not have a flow path to any downstream waters.

6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁴: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10. N/A
7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the pre-2015 regulatory regime and consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the pre-2015 regulatory regime. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.
- a. TNWs (a)(1): N/A
 - b. Interstate Waters (a)(2): N/A
 - c. Other Waters (a)(3): N/A
 - d. Impoundments (a)(4): N/A
 - e. Tributaries (a)(5): N/A
 - f. The territorial seas (a)(6): N/A
 - g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7): N/A

⁴ 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

- a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified as “generally non-jurisdictional” in the preamble to the 1986 regulations (referred to as “preamble waters”).⁵ Include size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be non-jurisdictional under the CWA as a preamble water. N/A
- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area identified as “generally not jurisdictional” in the *Rapanos* guidance. Include size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be non-jurisdictional under the CWA based on the criteria listed in the guidance. N/A
- c. Describe aquatic resources and features identified within the review area as waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA. Include the size of the waste treatment system within the review area and describe how it was determined to be a waste treatment system. N/A
- d. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area determined to be prior converted cropland in accordance with the 1993 regulations (reference 2.b.). Include the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be prior converted cropland. N/A
- e. Describe aquatic resources (i.e. lakes and ponds) within the review area, which do not have a nexus to interstate or foreign commerce, and prior to the January 2001 Supreme Court decision in “*SWANCC*,” would have been jurisdictional based solely on the “Migratory Bird Rule.” Include the size of the aquatic resource or feature, and how it was determined to be an “isolated water” in accordance with *SWANCC*. N/A
- f. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the pre-2015 regulatory regime consistent with the Supreme Court’s decision in *Sackett* (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water).

⁵ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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| Name of excluded feature | Size (in acres) | Type of resource generally not jurisdictional |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Wetland D | 0.19 | Wetland lacks a continuous surface connection to a water of the US |

Wetland D: The subject wetland is depressed within the landscape. It is located between higher elevated areas that characterize the eastern portion of the property, and a ridge immediately west of it, that traverses north to south in the center of the property. The ridge inhibits connectivity of Wetland D to other onsite waters located within the floodplain of Uchee Creek. There are no other waters located on the eastern side of the ridge. Additionally, no discrete features were observed that would serve as a continuous surface connection between the subject wetland and a potential (a)(1) through (a)(6) water. Therefore, Wetland D does not meet the definition of an (a)(7) water.

9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.

- a. Office (desktop) determination: March 2025 (CESAS-RDP)
- b. Field determination(s): December 27, 2022 (Agent)
- c. Data sources used to support this determination (included in the administrative record).
 - ☒ Aquatic Resources delineation submitted by, or on behalf of, the requestor: Figure No. 8: *Aquatic Resource Delineation Exhibit*, as prepared by the Agent and dated 12/28/2022.
 - ☐ Aquatic Resources delineation prepared by the USACE: Title and Date
 - ☒ Wetland field data sheets
 - ☐ OHWM data sheets prepared by the USACE: Title and Date
 - ☐ Previous JDs (AJD or PJD) addressing the same (or portions of the same) review area: ORM Numbers and Dates
 - ☐ Photographs:
 - ☒ Aerial Imagery: Figure No. 5: *Ortho Imagery*, as prepared by the Agent and dated 12/28/2022.
 - ☒ LIDAR: Figure No. 7: *NOAA Topographical Lidar*, as prepared by the Agent and dated 12/28/2022; LIDAR (3DEP DEM and 3DEP Hillshade) and 2-foot contour imagery, retrieved from the National Regulatory Viewer (NRV) by CESAS-RDP in 3/2025.
 - ☒ USDA NRCS Soil Survey: Figure No. 3: *NRCS Soil Survey*, as prepared by the Agent and dated 12/28/2022; and Hydric Rating by Map Unit, retrieved by CESAS-RDP in 3/2025.

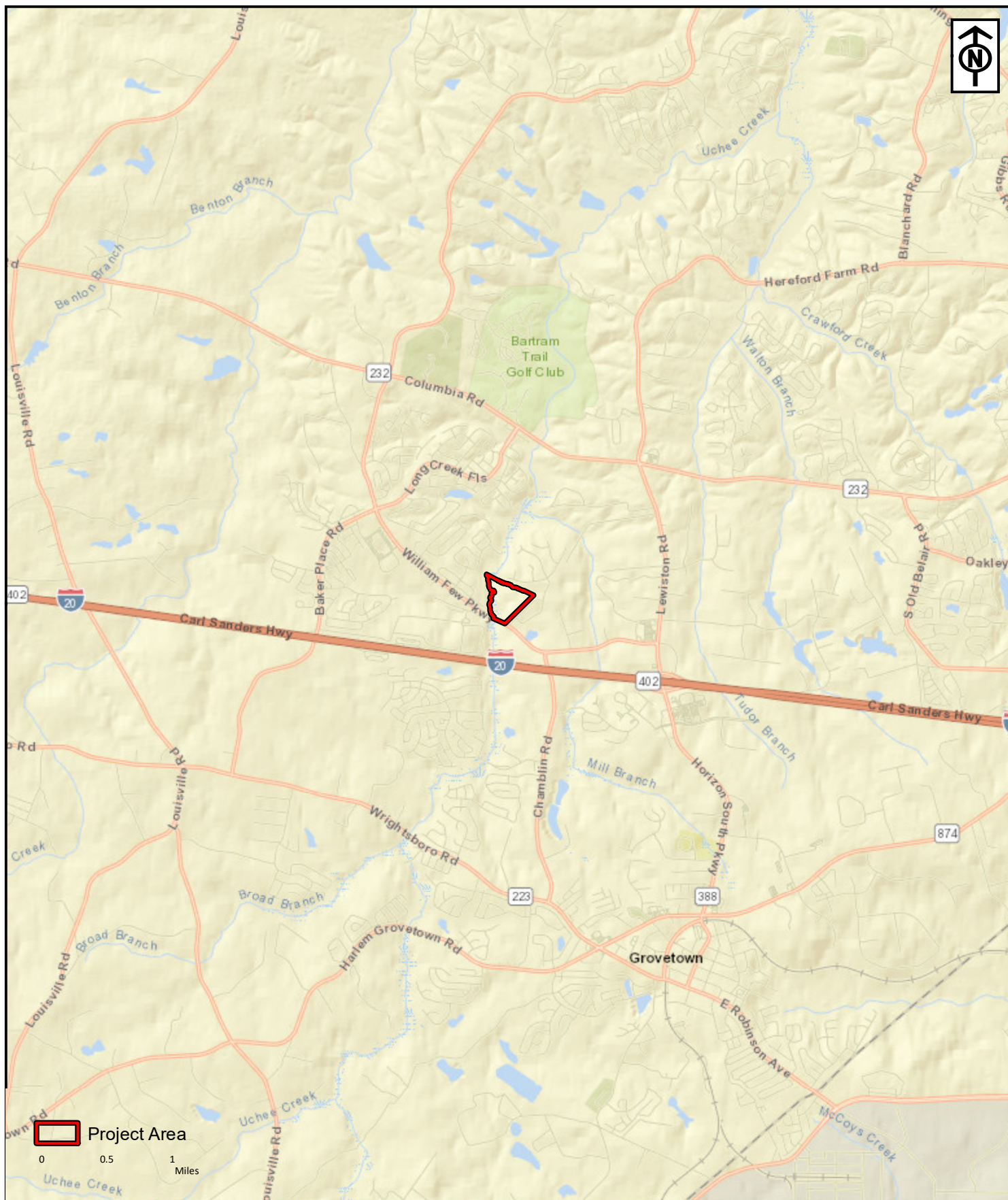
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- ☒ USFWS NWI maps: Figure No. 4: *National Wetland Inventory*, as prepared by the Agent and dated 12/28/2022.
- ☒ USGS topographic maps: Historic topographic maps, retrieved by CESAS-RDP in 3/2025.
- ☒ USGS NHD data/maps: NHD data retrieved from the NRV by CESAS-RDP in 3/2025.
- ☐ Section 10 resources used: Title and Dates
- ☐ NC DWQ stream identification forms
- ☐ Antecedent Precipitation Tool Analysis (List Date(s)):
- ☒ Other sources of Information: StreamStats data, retrieved by CESAS-RDP in 3/2025; USDM (Georgia) for 3/19/2024; FEMA flood hazard data retrieved from the NRV by CESAS-RDP in 3/2025; US Drought Monitor data (for 12/27/2022) retrieved by CESAS-RDP in 3/2025.

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A

11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.



| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| RLC Project No.: | 22-477 |
| Figure No.: | 1 |
| Prepared By: | RL |
| Sketch Date: | 12/28/2022 |
| Map Scale : | 1 inch = 1 miles |

William Few Parkway Tract

Columbia County, Georgia

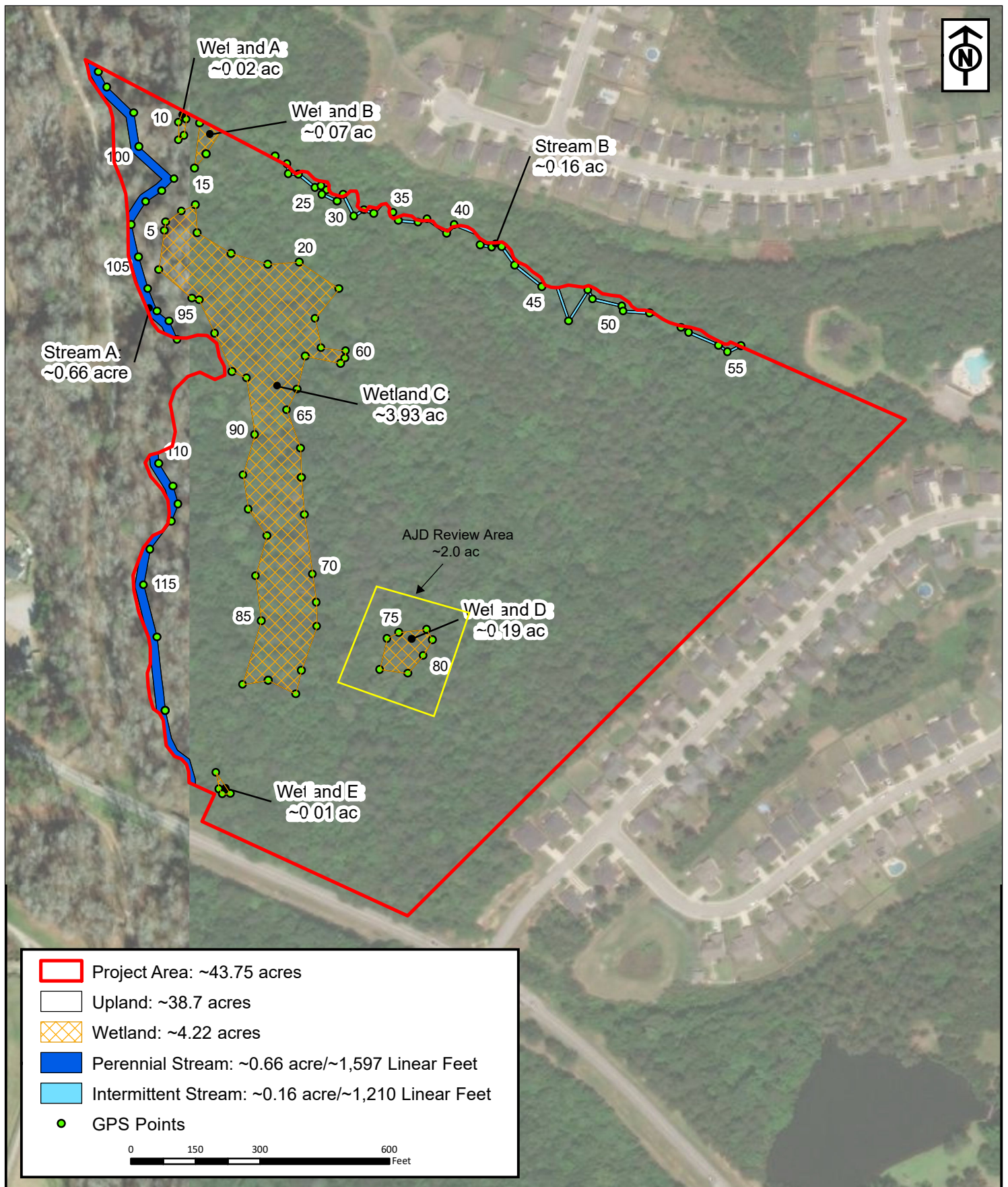
Project Location

Prepared For: RGG LLC



**RESOURCE+LAND
CONSULTANTS**

41 Park of Commerce Way, Ste. 101
Savannah, Georgia 31405
912.443.5596 www.rlc.com



| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| RLC Project No.: | 22-477 |
| Figure No.: | 8 |
| Prepared By: | MW |
| Sketch Date: | 12/28/2022 |
| Map Scale : | 1 inch = 300 feet |

William Few Parkway Tract

Columbia County, Georgia

Aquatic Resource Delineation Exhibit

Prepared For: RGG LLC

RLC

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