



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

SAS-RD-C

18 February 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime  
Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322  
(2023),<sup>1</sup> SAS-2024-00033 (MFR 1 of 1)<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),<sup>5</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> While the Supreme Court’s decision in *Sackett* had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

<sup>2</sup> When documenting aquatic resources within the review area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, interstate water, or territorial seas that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

<sup>3</sup> 33 CFR 331.2.

<sup>4</sup> Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

<sup>5</sup> 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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amended on 8 September 2023 (Amended 2023 Rule) because, as of the date of this decision, the Amended 2023 Rule is not applicable in this state due to litigation.

## 1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

- 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
Borrow Pit 1	Non-JD	N/A
Wetland 1	Non-JD	N/A
Wetland 2	Non-JD	N/A
Wetland 3	Non-JD	N/A
Wetland 4	Non-JD	N/A
Ephemeral Stream B	Non-JD	N/A
Ephemeral Stream C	Non-JD	N/A
Ephemeral Stream D	Non-JD	N/A
Ephemeral Stream E	Non-JD	N/A
Ephemeral Stream F	Non-JD	N/A
Ephemeral Stream G	Non-JD	N/A
Ephemeral Stream H	Non-JD	N/A
Ephemeral Stream I	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. \_\_, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

## 3. REVIEW AREA.

- A. Project Are Size (in acres): 31.89
- B. Center Coordinates of the Project Site (in decimal degrees)  
Latitude: 32.423375 Longitude: -81.80653
- C. Nearest City or Town: Statesboro
- D. County: Bulloch
- E. State: Georgia

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F. Other associated Jurisdictional Determinations. N/A

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A, all aquatic features within the review area are non-jurisdictional
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS. N/A all aquatic features within the review area are non-jurisdictional.
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS<sup>6</sup>: 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.<sup>7</sup> 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

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

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- 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

## 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”).<sup>8</sup> 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

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<sup>8</sup> 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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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).

Name of excluded feature	Size	Type of resource generally not jurisdictional
Borrow Pit 1	2.09 acres	This borrow pit is a man-made feature. According to historic aerals, this feature was constructed prior to 1972. This borrow pit is connected to Ephemeral Stream G. See the flow path of Ephemeral Stream G below. This borrow pit is the lowest elevation wetland within the review area. There are two ephemeral streams that flow into the wetland from the east. There was standing water within the borrow pit during the Corps site visit on May 6, 2024. No flow was detected leaving the borrow pit in Ephemeral Stream G. Additionally, a flow path from the borrow pit to a relatively permanent water could not be determined outside of the review area. As a result, this feature is a non-jurisdictional feature that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.
Wetland 1	0.15 acre	Wetland 1 is a small wetland that is connected Ephemeral Stream E. This stream flows in the direction of Borrow Pit 1. See details about for the flow path for Borrow Pit 1 above. Aside from the stream, Wetland 1 is surrounded by uplands on all sides. As a result of the downstream features within the review area, Wetland 1 is a non-jurisdictional feature that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.
Wetland 2	0.81 acre	Wetland 2 is connected to Borrow Pit 1 through an ephemeral stream. See details about the flow path of Borrow Pit 1 above. Wetland 2 has three ephemeral streams that flow into the wetland but only one stream flows out. These streams experience flow during rain events and do not experience constant flow year around. Aside from the streams, Wetland 2 is surrounded by uplands on all sides. As a result of the downstream features within the review area, Wetland 2 is a non-jurisdictional feature that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.
Wetland 3	0.01 acre	Wetland 3 is a small wetland that is connected to Wetland 2 through an ephemeral stream. This stream experiences flow during rain events and does not experience constant flow year around. Wetland 3 is at a higher elevation and flows into Wetland 2. Aside from the stream, Wetland 3 is surrounded by uplands on all sides. See the flow path for Wetland 2 above. As a result of the downstream features within the review area, Wetland 3 is a non-jurisdictional wetland that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.
Wetland 4	0.03 acre	Wetland 4 is surrounded by uplands on all sides. There are no streams or aquatic features adjacent to the wetland. As a result,

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		Wetland 4 is a non-jurisdictional wetland that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.
Ephemeral Stream B	97.47 linear feet	Ephemeral Stream B connects Wetland 3 to Wetland 2. This stream experiences flow during rain events and does not experience constant flow year around. Due to lack of seasonal flow, Ephemeral Stream B is a non-relatively permanent water. Aside from Wetland 3 and Wetland 2, this stream is surrounded by uplands on all sides. As a result of the downstream features within the review area, Ephemeral Stream B is a non-jurisdictional feature that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.
Ephemeral Stream C	254.13 linear feet	Ephemeral Stream C connects Ephemeral Stream I to Wetland 2. This stream experiences flow during rain events and does not experience constant flow year around. Due to lack of seasonal flow, Ephemeral Stream C is a non-relatively permanent water. Aside from Ephemeral Stream I and Wetland 2, this stream is surrounded by uplands on all sides. As a result of the downstream features within the review area, Ephemeral Stream C is a non-jurisdictional feature that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.
Ephemeral Stream D	107.25 linear feet	Ephemeral Stream D connects to Borrow Pit 1. See details about the flow path of Borrow Pit 1 above. There is a small space between Wetland 2 and the beginning of this stream. This stream experiences flow during rain events and does not experience constant flow year around. Due to lack of seasonal flow, Ephemeral Stream D is a non-relatively permanent water. Aside from Borrow Pit 1, this stream is surrounded by uplands on all sides. As a result of the downstream features within the review area, Ephemeral Stream D is a non-jurisdictional feature that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.
Ephemeral Stream E	219.61 linear feet	Ephemeral Stream E connects to Wetland 1 and flows toward Ephemeral Stream F. There is a small space between this stream and Ephemeral Stream F. This stream experiences flow during rain events and does not experience constant flow year around. Due to lack of seasonal flow, Ephemeral Stream E is a non-relatively permanent water. Aside from Wetland 1, this stream is surrounded by uplands on all sides. Ephemeral Stream E is a non-jurisdictional wetland that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.
Ephemeral Stream F	20.41 linear feet	Ephemeral Stream F flows from a location near the end of Ephemeral Stream E and connects to Borrow Pit 1. There is a small space between this stream and Ephemeral Stream E. This stream experiences flow during rain events and does not experience constant flow year around. Due to lack of seasonal flow, Ephemeral Stream F is a non-relatively permanent water. Aside from Borrow Pit 1, this stream is surrounded by uplands on all sides. As a result of the downstream features within the review area, Ephemeral Stream F is a non-jurisdictional feature that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.
Ephemeral Stream G	156.77 linear feet	Ephemeral Stream G connects the borrow pit to the culvert under Veterans Memorial Parkway. During a Corps site visit on May 6, 2024, this stream had standing water adjacent to the culvert. There was no evidence of flow through the culvert away from the review area. Additionally, a flow path downstream of

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		the review area to a relatively permanent water could not be determined from aerial images, LIDAR, and other desktop resources. Aside from Borrow Pit 1, this stream is surrounded by uplands on all sides. Since there is no evidence of flow from this stream to a downstream relatively permanent water, Ephemeral Stream G is a non-jurisdictional feature that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.
Ephemeral Stream H	39.82 linear feet	Ephemeral Stream H is connected to Wetland 2. This stream experiences flow during rain events and does not experience constant flow year around. Due to lack of seasonal flow, Ephemeral Stream H is a non-relatively permanent water. Aside from Wetland 2, this stream is surrounded by uplands on all sides. As a result of the downstream features within the review area, Ephemeral Stream H is a non-jurisdictional feature that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.
Ephemeral Stream I	31.59 linear feet	Ephemeral Stream I is connected to Ephemeral Stream C. This stream experiences flow during rain events and does not experience constant flow year around. Due to lack of seasonal flow, Ephemeral Stream I is a non-relatively permanent water. Aside from Ephemeral Stream C, this stream is surrounded by uplands on all sides. As a result of the downstream features within the review area, Ephemeral Stream I is a non-jurisdictional feature that lacks a continuous surface connection to a Water of the U.S.

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. Date(s) of Field Review: May 6, 2024

b. Data sources used to support this determination (included in the administrative record).

- ☒ Aquatic Resources delineation submitted by, or on behalf of, the requestor: Titled "Cypress Lake Road Tract" and dated January 31, 2025.
- ☒ Photographs: Source: Environmental Consultant and dated August 27, 2024.
- ☒ Aerial Imagery: Source: Google Earth and dated September 13, 2024
- ☒ LIDAR: Sources, Title, and dated September 13, 2024
- ☒ USDA NRCS Soil Survey: Titled "Custom Soil Resource Report" and dated September 13, 2024
- ☒ USFWS NWI maps: Titled "NWI" and dated September 13, 2024
- ☒ USGS NHD data/maps: Titled "NHD" and dated September 13, 2024

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

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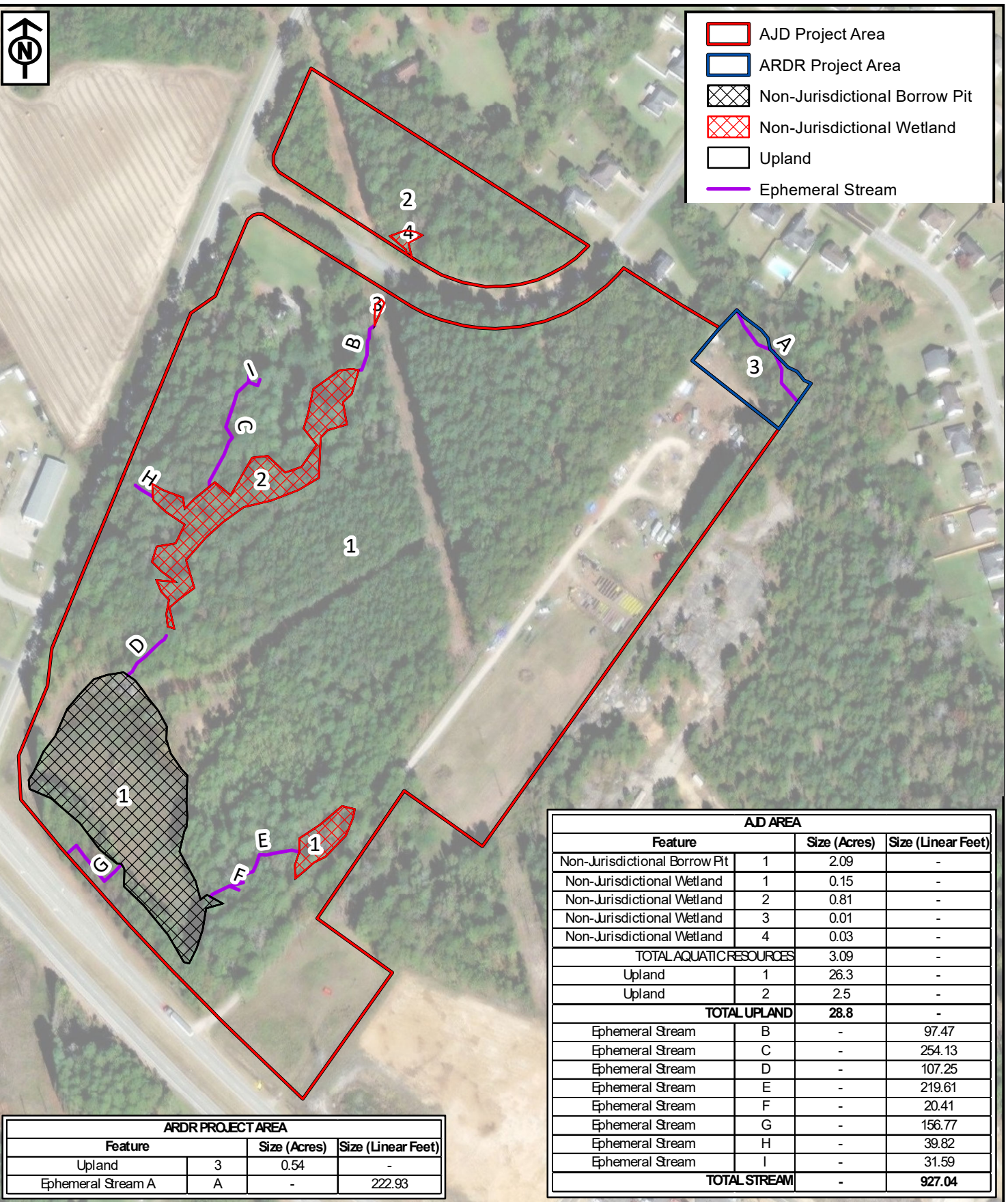
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additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.





- AJD Project Area
- ARDR Project Area
- Non-Jurisdictional Borrow Pit
- Non-Jurisdictional Wetland
- Upland
- Ephemeral Stream



ARDR PROJECT AREA			
Feature		Size (Acres)	Size (Linear Feet)
Upland	3	0.54	-
Ephemeral Stream A	A	-	222.93

AJD AREA			
Feature		Size (Acres)	Size (Linear Feet)
Non-Jurisdictional Borrow Pit	1	2.09	-
Non-Jurisdictional Wetland	1	0.15	-
Non-Jurisdictional Wetland	2	0.81	-
Non-Jurisdictional Wetland	3	0.01	-
Non-Jurisdictional Wetland	4	0.03	-
TOTAL AQUATIC RESOURCES		3.09	-
Upland	1	26.3	-
Upland	2	2.5	-
TOTAL UPLAND		28.8	-
Ephemeral Stream	B	-	97.47
Ephemeral Stream	C	-	254.13
Ephemeral Stream	D	-	107.25
Ephemeral Stream	E	-	219.61
Ephemeral Stream	F	-	20.41
Ephemeral Stream	G	-	156.77
Ephemeral Stream	H	-	39.82
Ephemeral Stream	I	-	31.59
TOTAL STREAM		-	927.04

RLC Project No.:	23-302
Figure No.:	8
Prepared By:	BS
Sketch Date:	1/31/2025
Map Scale :	1 inch = 250 feet

**Cypress Lake  
Road Tract**  
Bulloch County, Georgia

**Aquatic Resource  
Delineation GPS Exhibit**  
Prepared For: Dennis Rhodes

<b>RLC</b>
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