



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
1025 BUFORD DAM ROAD  
BUFORD, GEORGIA 30518

March 27, 2023

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2002-09480

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

The District Engineer has received a proposal to modify the geographic service area of the Wilkinson-Oconee Mitigation Bank (WOMB), a commercial stream and wetland mitigation bank, approved on February 2, 2004. The WOMB was established to provide compensation for adverse impacts to aquatic resources resulting from projects authorized by Federal and/or State permits. To date, there have been 8,161.11 legacy wetland credits and 400,929.37 legacy stream credits released for use of the total potential of 10,201.83 legacy wetland credits and 572,788.72 legacy stream for the WOMB. As of the date of this public notice, approximately 4,183.68 legacy wetland credits and 271,990.07 legacy stream credits of these previously released credits remain available on the bank's ledger for future use.

The comment period for the proposed modification will close 30 days from the date of this public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposal, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this proposal, and must be submitted to be received on or before the last day of the comment period. Written comments concerning the modification request must reference the Sponsor's name, the Regulatory File Number and be forwarded to the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at the above address, or via the email listed at the end of this notice.

Authority: A public notice regarding this mitigation bank instrument (BI) modification request is being evaluated under Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 332.8, entitled "Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources, Final Rule", as published in the Federal Register on April 10, 2008.

Regulatory File Number: SAS-2002-09480

Bank Sponsor: Mr. Robert Loudermilk  
Wilkinson-Oconee, LLC  
309 East Paces Ferry Road, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30305-2377

This public notice does not imply, on the parts of the Corps or other agencies, either favorable or 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 Project: The WOMB is located along the Oconee River, approximately 15 miles south of Milledgeville, in Wilkinson County, Georgia (Latitude 32.9153, Longitude -83.0844). The project is approximately 6,361 acres in size. Please refer to Figures 1 and 2 for the General Location and Site Location Maps of the project.

Description of Existing Geographic Service Areas: The approved BI authorized the bank to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to the respective waters of the United States in the following service areas: “The Geographic Service Area of the Bank will service portions of the Altamaha, Oconee, Ocmulgee, Ogeechee, and Satilla drainage basins (Figure 3). The proposed primary service area is comprised of Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) areas 03070102 (Lower Oconee), 03070104 (Lower Ocmulgee), 03070105 (Little Ocmulgee), 03070106 (Altamaha), and 03070203 (Cumberland-St. Simon). The proposed secondary service area includes HUC areas 03070107 (Ohoopsee), 03060203 (Canoossee), 03060204 (Ogeechee Coastal), 03070201 (Satilla), and 03070202 (Little Satilla). An expanded secondary service area, agreed to and approved by the MBRT [Mitigation Bank Review Team], includes the northern portions of Crawford, Bibb, Jones, Baldwin, and Hancock Counties.”

Description of Requested Modification: The geographic service area for the WOMB, outlined in the approved BI, was based upon Savannah District’s 2003 Draft Standard Operating Procedure for Compensatory Mitigation guidance, which utilized the Hydrologic Unit Map – 1974 State of Georgia (U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) 1974) as the basis for the standard primary and secondary service area boundaries. Since the time of BI approval, the USGS has developed the Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD), which is a geospatial dataset of watershed boundaries that is currently considered to be the most accurate watershed delineation available. The WBD is maintained in compliance with federally mandated criteria, a process that is overseen by the USGS, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Although many of the HUCs in the earlier 1974 HUC map have remained the same, the Ogeechee-Coastal watershed (HUC 03060204) boundary is different in the WBD as compared to the historical 1974 HUC map (please refer to Figure 7 (as notated at the top of the page)).

As a result of the change in the watershed boundary for the Ogeechee-Coastal watershed in the most recent WBD, the Bank Sponsor is now requesting a modification to the boundary of the approved secondary service area for the WOMB to include the new area that has been incorporated into the HUC 03060204 (please refer to Figure 8 (as notated the top of the page)).

Oversight: This mitigation bank may be considered one of a number of practicable alternatives available for applicants to compensate for unavoidable impacts associated with permits issued under the authority of Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act for projects located within the prescribed geographic service area.

Oversight of this mitigation bank 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 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 mitigation bank for a specific project is the decision of the Corps pursuant to 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 mitigation bank to compensate for unavoidable impacts associated with a proposed permit, even though mitigation from this option may be available.

Authority: A public notice regarding the major modification of the approved 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. Further, this modification will not require a permit authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

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 mitigation bank. The modification can be seen at the Corps, Regulatory Division, 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 Division, 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 mitigation bank name and modification request (Wilkinson-Oconee Mitigation Bank, Secondary Service Area Modification) and the Regulatory Division file number (SAS-2002-09480) in your comments.

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

#### Enclosures

Figure 1. General Location Map

Figure 2. Site Location Map

Figure 3. Service Area Map (Original)

Figure 7. Comparison of HUC 03060204, WBD & 1974 USGS Boundaries

Figure 8. 2023 Modified Service Area Map



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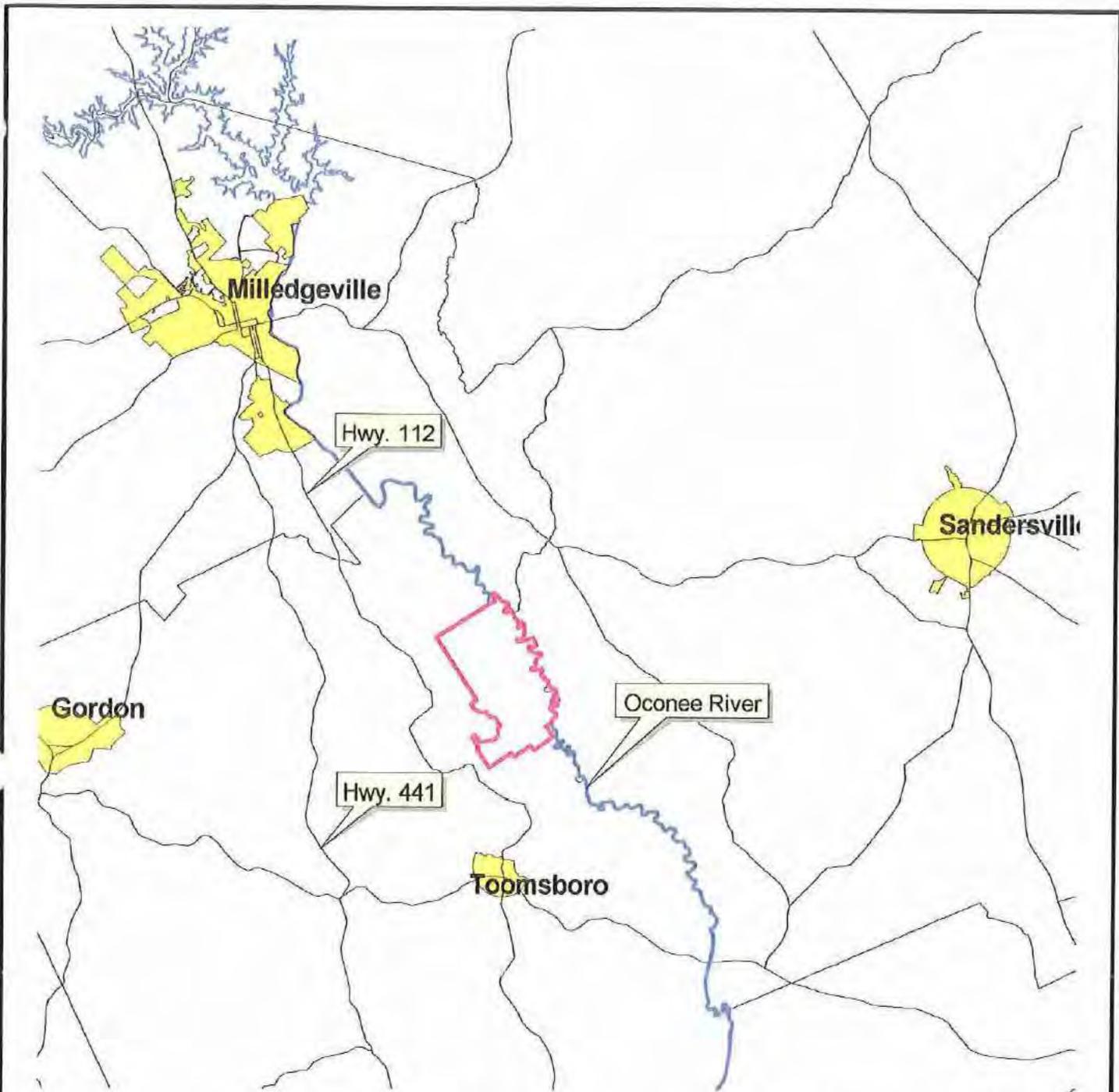
Environmental, Inc.

**WILKINSON-OCONEE MITIGATION BANK  
WILKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

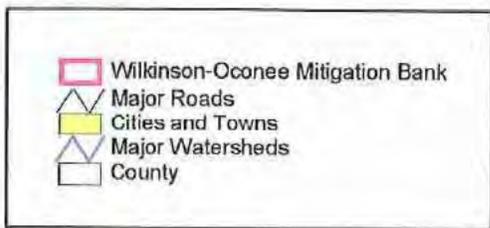
Map Not To Scale



Figure 1  
General Location Map  
Wilkinson-Onconee  
Mitigation Bank  
August 2003  
Acer Job No. 2052-03



Source: Digital Environmental Atlas of Georgia



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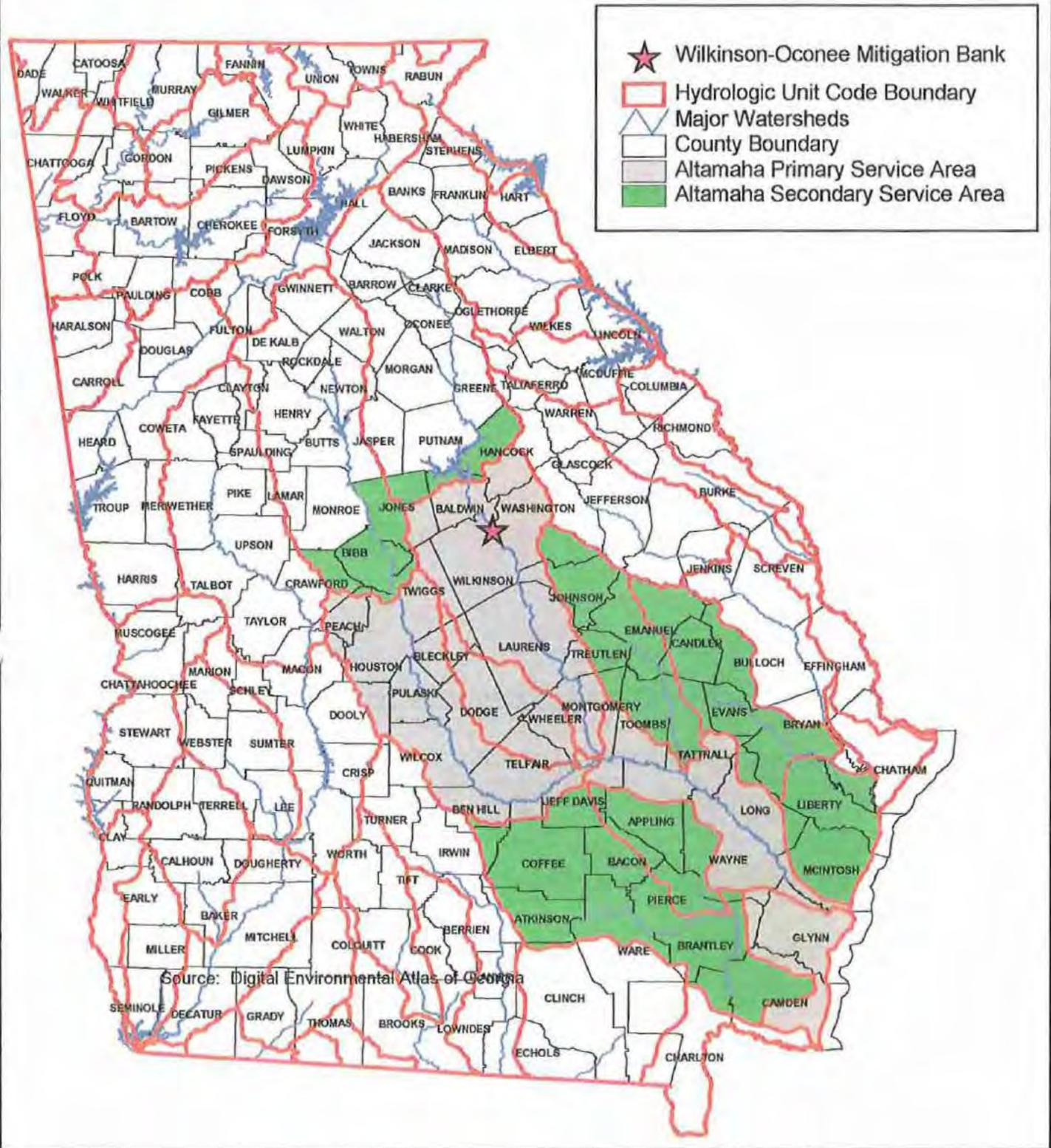
Environmental, Inc.

**WILKINSON-OCONEE MITIGATION BANK  
WILKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

1" = 5 Miles



Figure 2  
Site Location Map  
Wilkinson-Oconee  
Mitigation Bank  
August 2003  
Acer Job No. 2052-03



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**WILKINSON-OCONEE MITIGATION BANK  
WILKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Map Not To Scale



Figure 3  
Service Area Map  
Wilkinson-Oconee  
Mitigation Bank  
August 2003  
Acer Job No. 2052-03

FIGURE 7

Comparison of HUC 03060204, WBD & 1974 USGS Boundaries

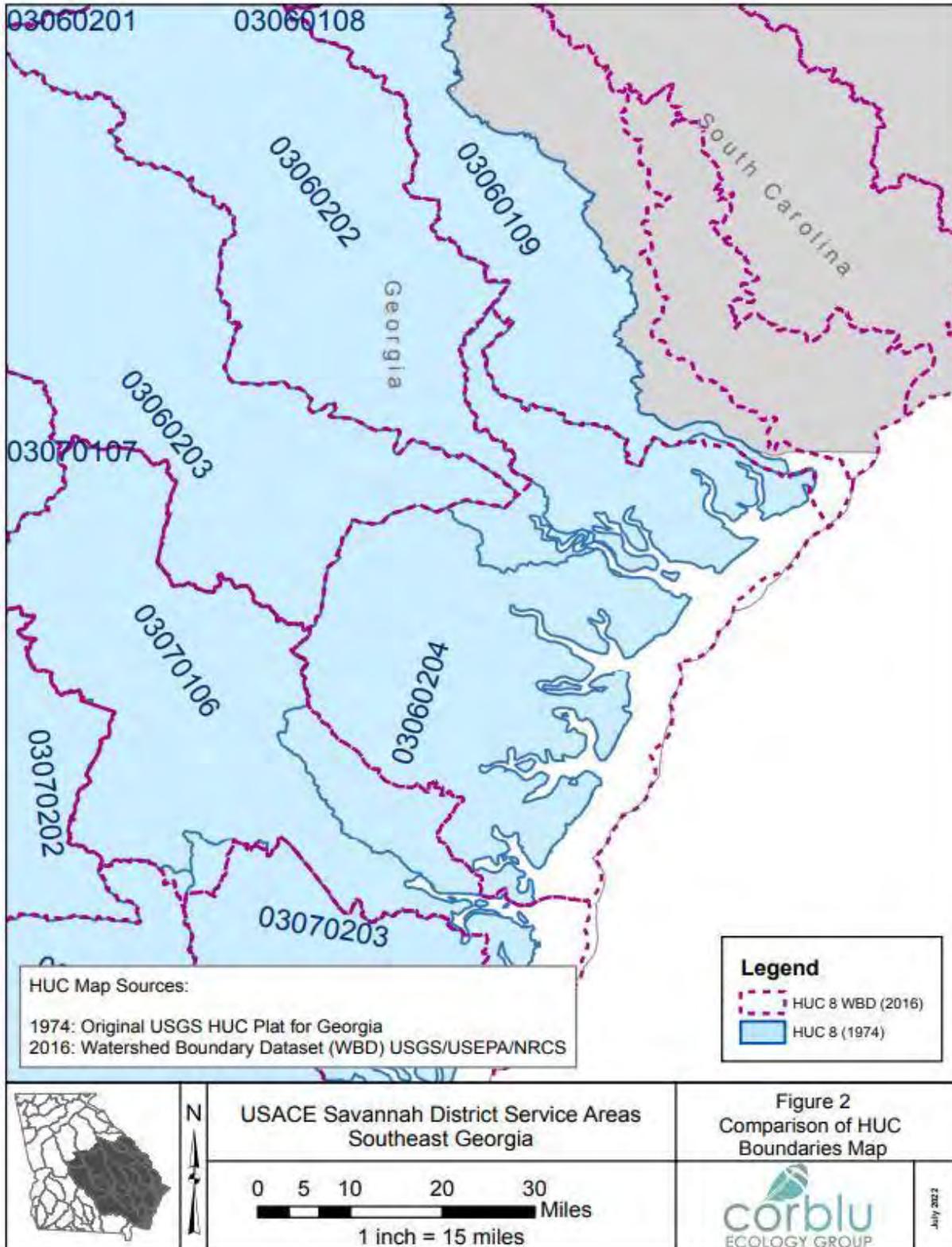


Figure 8. 2023 Modified Service Area Map

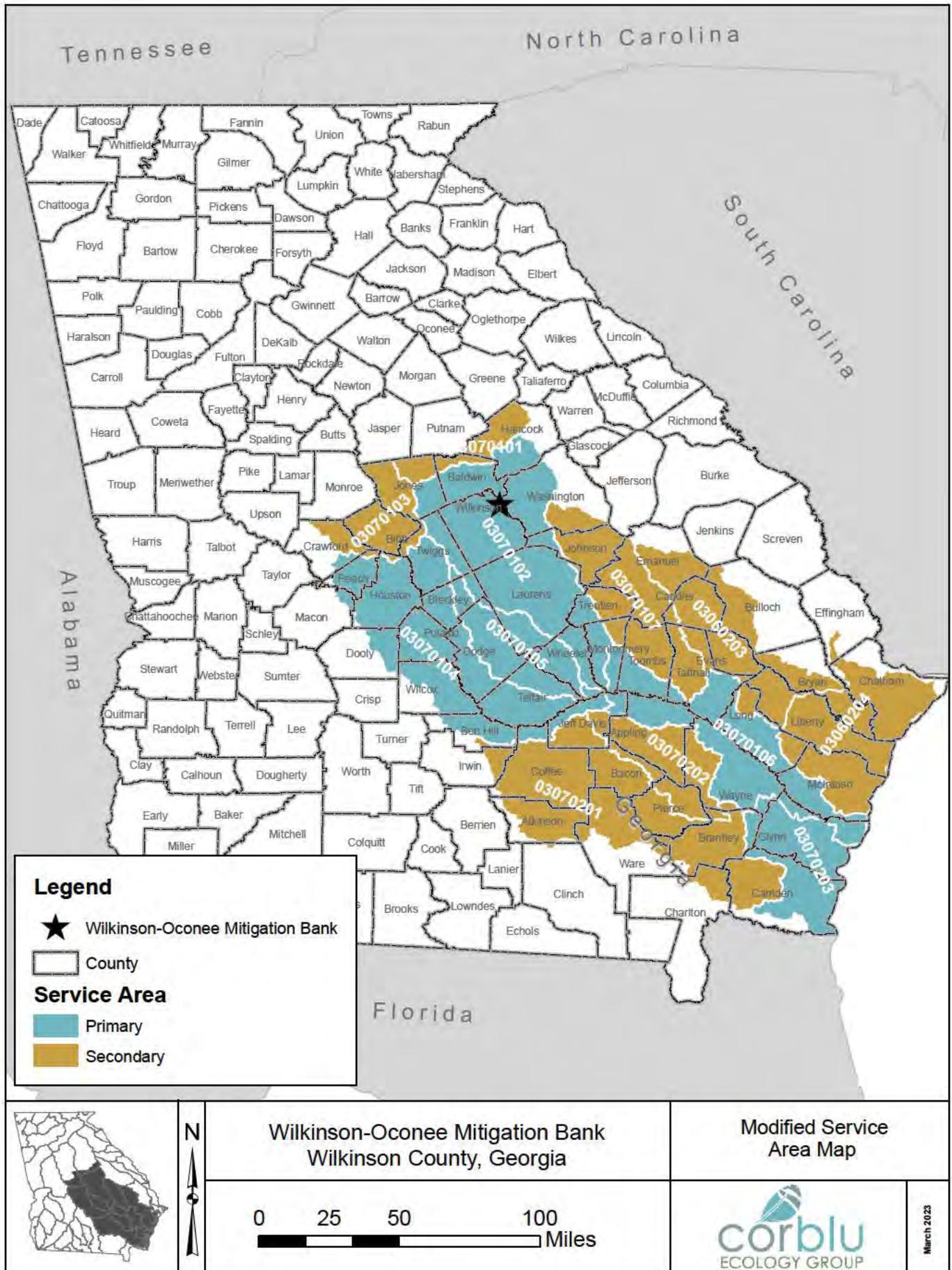


Figure 8. Modified Service Area Map

