



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200
MORROW, GEORGIA 30260-1777

February 26, 2019

Regulatory Branch
SAS-2018-000186

PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District

The District Engineer has received a Prospectus describing the establishment and operation of a proposed wetland compensatory mitigation bank (Upper Coosa Mitigation Bank) for Federal and State permits as described below:

Application Number: SAS-2018-000186

Sponsor: Mr. Leslie Rush
Dalton Utilities
1200 V.D. Parrott Jr. Pkwy
Dalton, Georgia 30721

Agent: Mr. Tony Greco
Nutter & Associates, Inc.
360 Hawthorne Lane
Athens, Georgia 30606

This public notice does not imply, on the parts of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 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 Proposed Work: The approximately 214-acre project site is composed generally of two non-contiguous tracts, the western of which is approximately 142 acres in size, located north of the Conasauga River and Boyles Mill Road, NE, and southeast of River Road, NE, and the second tract, approximately 72 acres in size, is located approximately 0.25-mile to the east across a broad meander of and to the north of the Conasauga River, and directly south of an existing low-water storage reservoir, both within unincorporated Whitfield County, Georgia (the overall project site is approximately centered at latitude 34.8586, longitude -84.8395). See the enclosed Vicinity Map, USGS Topographic Map, and USDA Aerial Imagery exhibits.

Description of Mitigation Bank: The Sponsor proposes to establish a commercial wetland mitigation bank on the site. The western tract is targeted primarily for restoration and/or enhancement mitigation, and the eastern tract is targeted primarily for

preservation. As currently conceptualized, the eastern tract would include 30 acres of full wetland restoration and 47 acres of wetland hydrologic and vegetative enhancement. An additional 47 acres of non-credit generating Conasauga River non-wetland floodplain, non-wetland riparian buffer, and non-wetland upland buffer around the restored and enhanced wetland areas would be enhanced vegetatively. The remainder of the restoration and enhancement areas would be preserved and include approximately 18 acres of forested non-wetland riparian buffer. The western tract would include preservation of 44 acres of non-wetland mature riparian forest, 19 acres of back-levee mature red maple swamp, and nine acres of relict "river feature" wetlands including oxbow and meander scar depressions. The Sponsor's preliminary application of the Savannah District's 2018 Standard Operating Procedure for Compensatory Mitigation estimates that the project may have the potential to generate approximately 74.14 riverine wetland credits. See the enclosed Monitoring Units exhibit.

Geographic Service Area: The proposed Geographic Service Area (GSA) is the defined area within which this bank can reasonably be expected to provide appropriate compensation for impacts to aquatic resources. The GSA for this bank would include the Upper Coosa River watershed, Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 03150105, the Oostanaula River (HUC 03150103), the Conasauga River (HUC 03150101), and the Coosawattee River (HUC 03150102) as the Primary service area.

Oversight: This mitigation bank 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 and 401 of the Clean Water Act for projects located within the approved GSA.

Oversight of this compensatory mitigation bank would 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 Savannah District, USACE and is comprised of representatives from the US Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife 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 USACE pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The USACE provides no guarantee that any particular individual or general permit would be granted authorization to use this compensatory mitigation bank to compensate for unavoidable impacts associated with a proposed permit, even though mitigation from this bank may be available.

Authority: A public notice regarding the proposed 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.

Consideration of Public Comments: The USACE 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 mitigation bank. The Prospectus can be seen at the US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Branch, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777, and/or via the Savannah District's "Bank & ILF Sites" link on the Regulatory In-lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS) website, within the "Cyber Repository" for the Upper Coosa Mitigation Bank. Written comments received will be considered by the USACE 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.

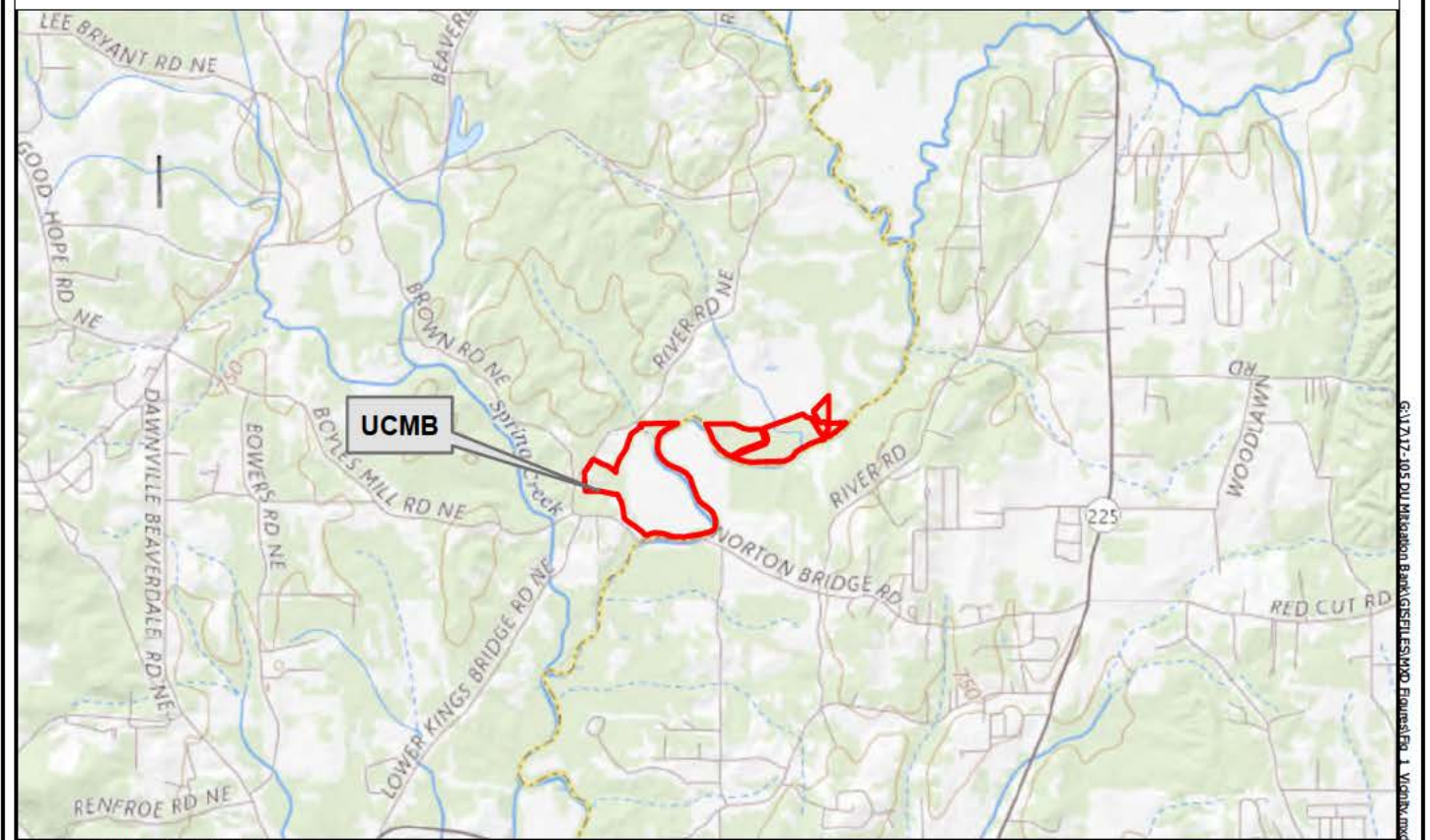
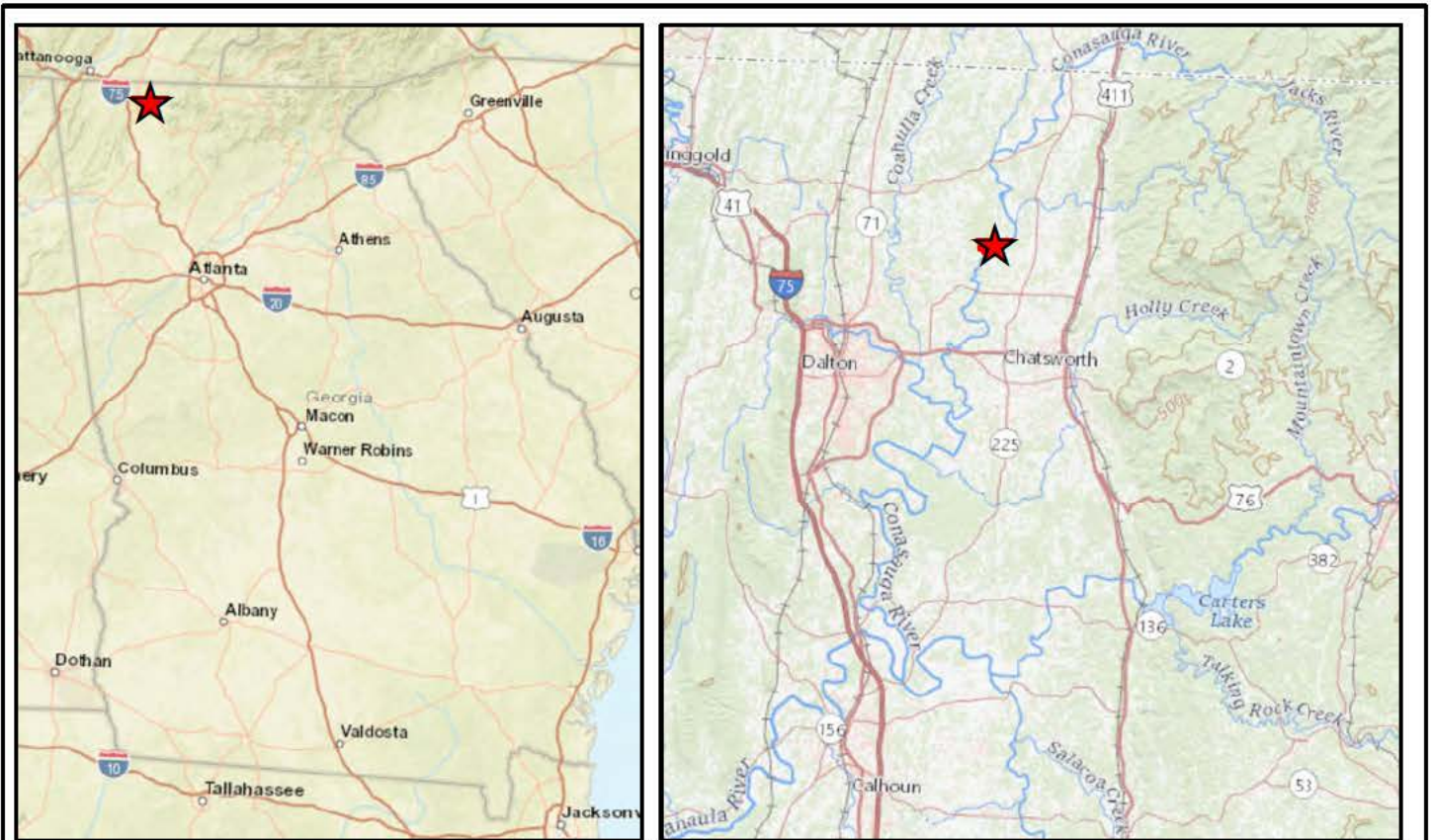
Preliminary review, provided by the bank's Sponsor, indicates that: 1) No species of fish, wildlife, or plant (or their critical habitat) listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL 93-205) would be adversely affected; and 2) No cultural or historical resources considered eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places would 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, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Branch, Attention: Mr. Adam F. White, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the mitigation bank name (Upper Coosa Mitigation Bank) and the Regulatory Branch file number (SAS-2018-00186) in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Adam F. White, Project Manager, Piedmont Branch at 678-422-2730 or adam.f.white@usace.army.mil.

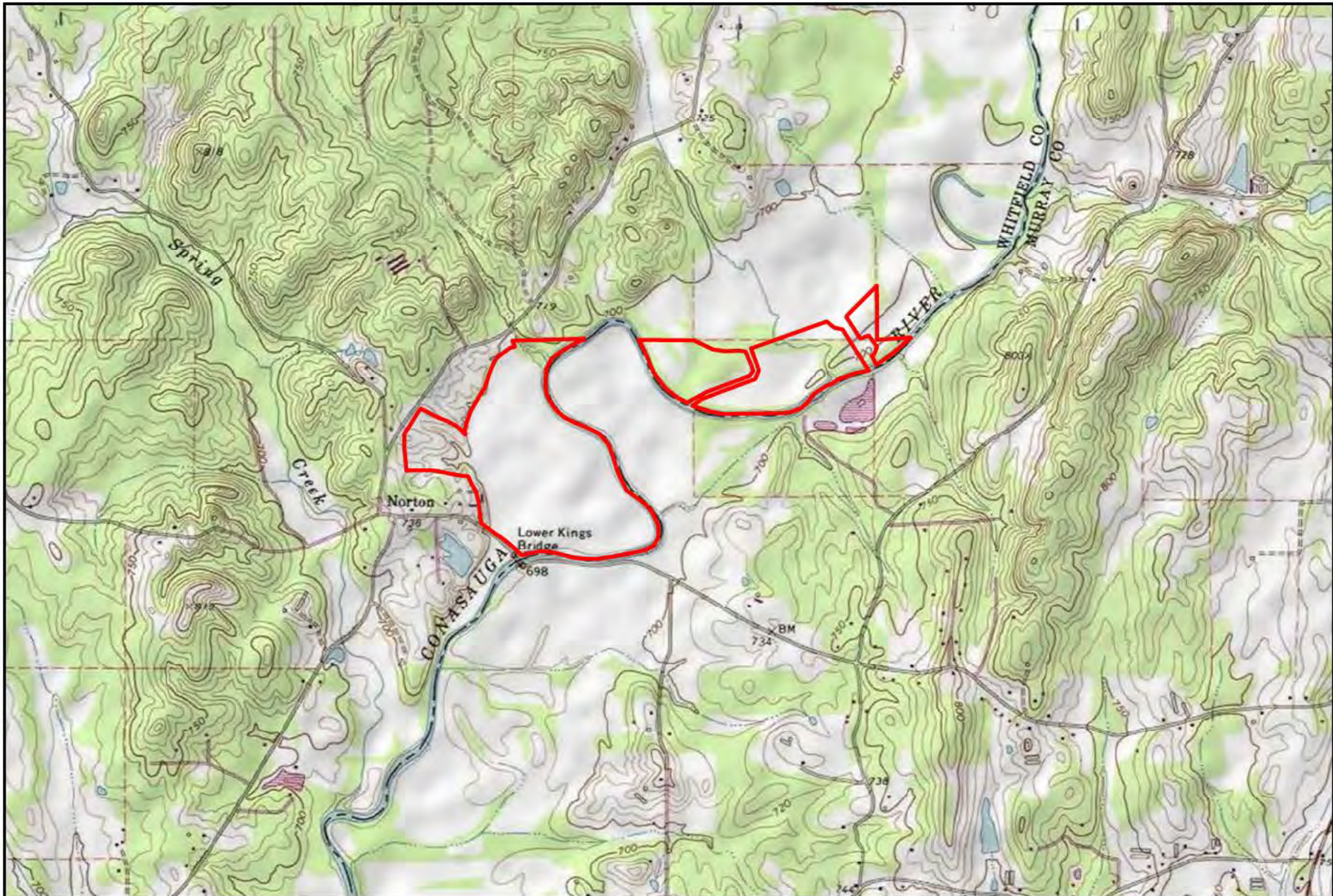
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1. Vicinity Map
2. USGS Topographic Map
3. USDA Aerial Imagery
4. UCMB Monitoring Units



Data Source: ESRI World Street Map and USGS Topo

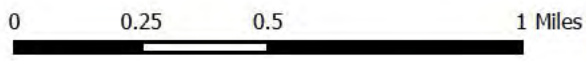
Figure 1. Upper Coosa Mitigation Bank (UCMB) vicinity map, Whitfield County, Georgia.

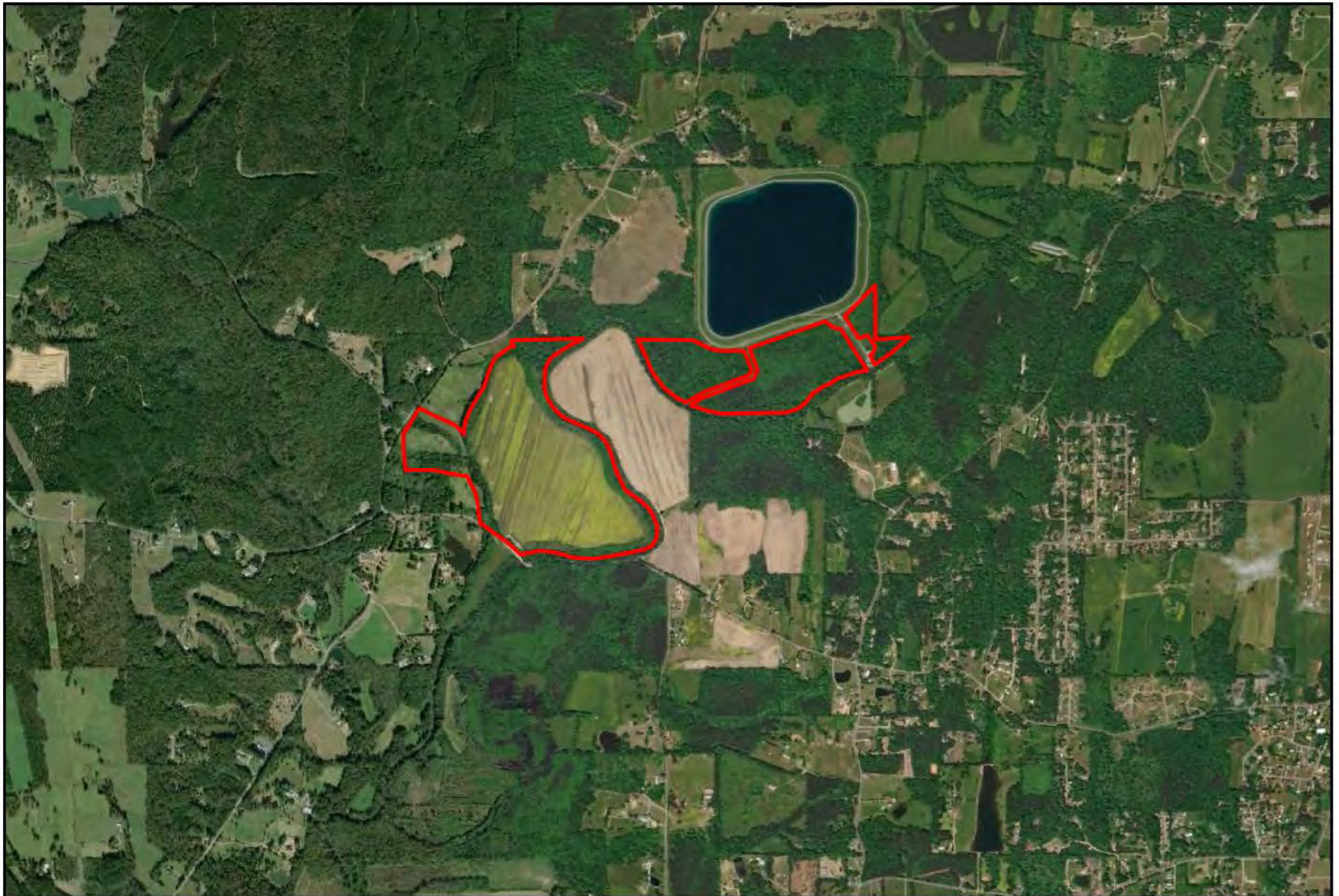


Data Source: ESRI USGS Topo

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Figure 3. USGS topographic quadrangle map of the Upper Coosa Mitigation Bank (UCMB).

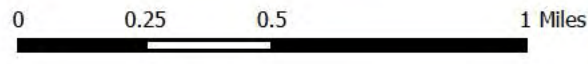


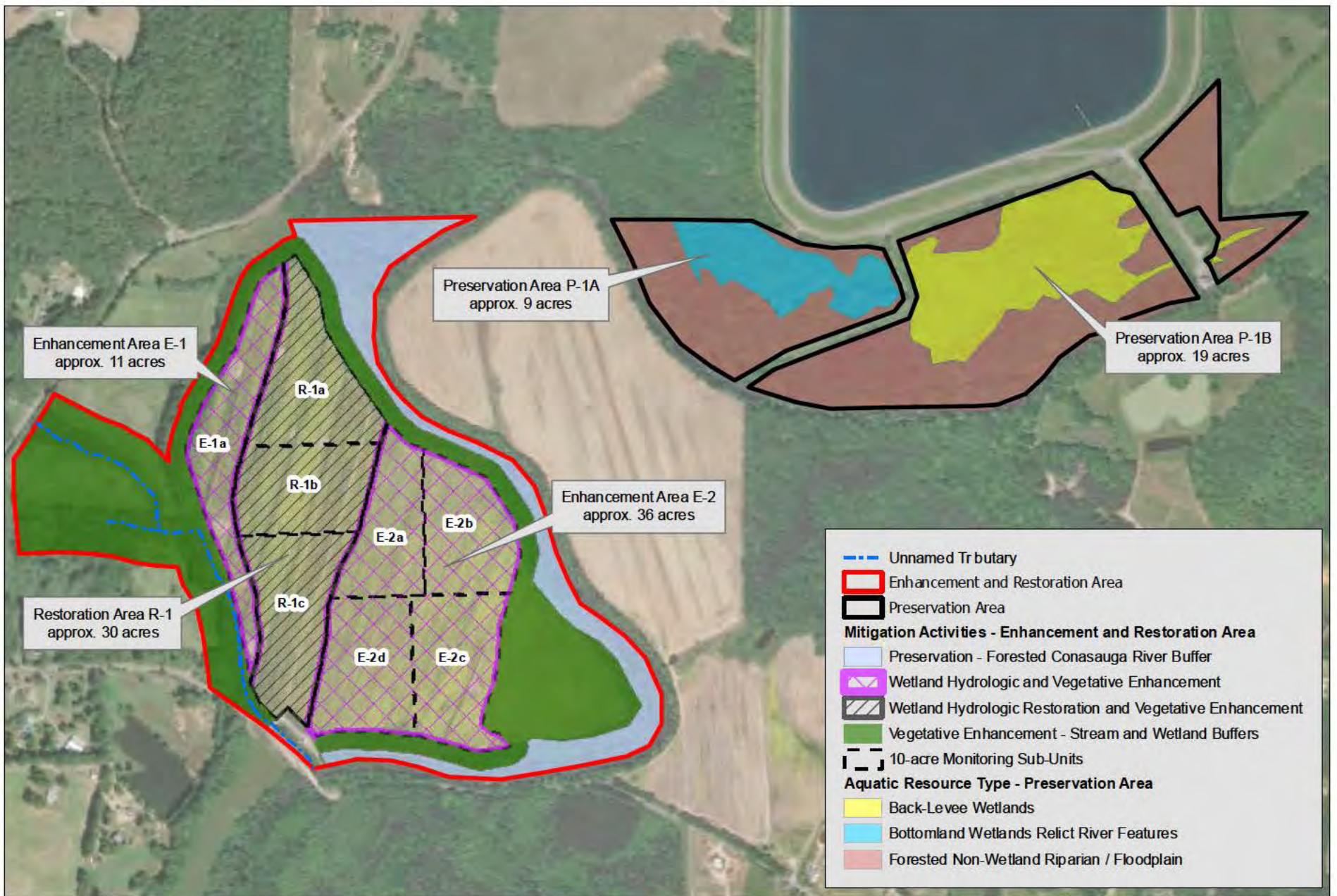


Data Source: ESRI World Imagery

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Figure 4. USDA aerial imagery of the Upper Coosa Mitigation Bank (UCMB).





Data Source: ESRI World Imagery

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Figure 24. UCMB monitoring units.

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

