



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

April 25, 2022

Regulatory Division
SAS-2011-00779

PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District

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

Application Number: SAS-2011-00779

ILF Program Sponsor: Mr. Mike Heneghen
Georgia-Alabama Land Trust
226 Old Ladiga Road
Piedmont, Alabama 36272

ILF Project Sponsor: Mr. Tory Grayson
Palustrine Group, LLC
9 Avondale Ave
Charleston, SC 29407

This public notice does not imply, on the parts of the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (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 Proposed Work: The Lamar Mounds Mitigation Site (as known as the Upper Ocmulgee Service Area Wetland ILF Site) is a proposed ILF mitigation project situated on a 50-acre parcel within a larger collection of parcels referred to as the Lamar Mounds Tract. The project site is located ¼ mile northeast of the confluence of the Ocmulgee River and Boggy Branch, approximately 2.5 southeast of downtown Macon, in Bibb County, Georgia (latitude: 32.8280, longitude: -83.5971). The project site is also located in the northern-most extent of the Stone Creek – Ocmulgee River 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code ((HUC) 030701031605), which is within the Upper Ocmulgee watershed (8-digit HUC 03070103). Please refer to the enclosed Mitigation Site, Vicinity, and Location Maps (Figures 1 through 3) for more detailed information on the location of the project.

Description of Requested Modification: The Georgia-Alabama Land Trust has requested authorization to incorporate the proposed Lamar Mounds Mitigation Site, through a major modification, into the ILF Program Instrument to serve as compensatory mitigation for 4.84 advance 2018 wetland credits (38.74 legacy wetland credits) previously sold within the Upper Ocmulgee Primary Service Area (HUC 03070103). The proposed mitigation plan for the Lamar Mounds Mitigation Site consists of the following onsite mitigation prescriptions: (1) 5.89 acres of wetland hydrologic and large woody debris enhancement; (2) 35.39 acres of wetland hydrologic, vegetative, and large woody debris enhancement; (3) 0.70 acres of stream preservation of Boggy Branch, and (4) 6.51 acres of upland buffer preservation. The project proposes backfilling 2,422 linear feet (3.65 acres) of three excavated ditches onsite to support the aforementioned wetland hydrologic enhancement. Further, the proposed vegetative enhancement activities will be comprised of the following activities: strategic thinning of smaller diameter woody stems, which are comprised of early successional species such as sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and red maple (*Acer rubrum*); managing of exotic invasive species, such as Chinese tallow tree (*Triadica sebifera*), via herbicidal and/or mechanical applications; and underplanting of 1-gallon containerized seedlings comprised of bottomland hardwood riverine wetland vegetative species (e.g., swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), etc.). Please refer to the enclosed Delineation and Mitigation Unit Maps (Figures 4 and 11), and the Wetland Mitigation Plan (Sheets 1 through 4) for more information regarding the existing and proposed conditions of the Lamar Mounds Mitigation Site.

Oversight: This ILF Program may be considered as one of a number of practicable alternatives available to applicants to compensate for unavoidable impacts associated with permits issued under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for projects located within the prescribed service areas.

Oversight of this ILF program will be by a group of Federal and State agency representatives collectively referred to as the Interagency Review Team (IRT). The IRT is chaired by the Corps and further comprised of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division.

Authority: A public notice regarding the major modification of the approved ILF Program Instrument 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 to consider and evaluate this proposed modification of the approved ILF Program Instrument. The modification can be seen at the Savannah

District Regulatory Field Office , 1025 Buford Dam Road, Buford Georgia, 30518; or, via our Regulatory Information Banking and In-Lieu Fee Tracking System (RIBITS) website (https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:378:14627640156331::NO::P378_PROG_RAM_ID:1501). 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.

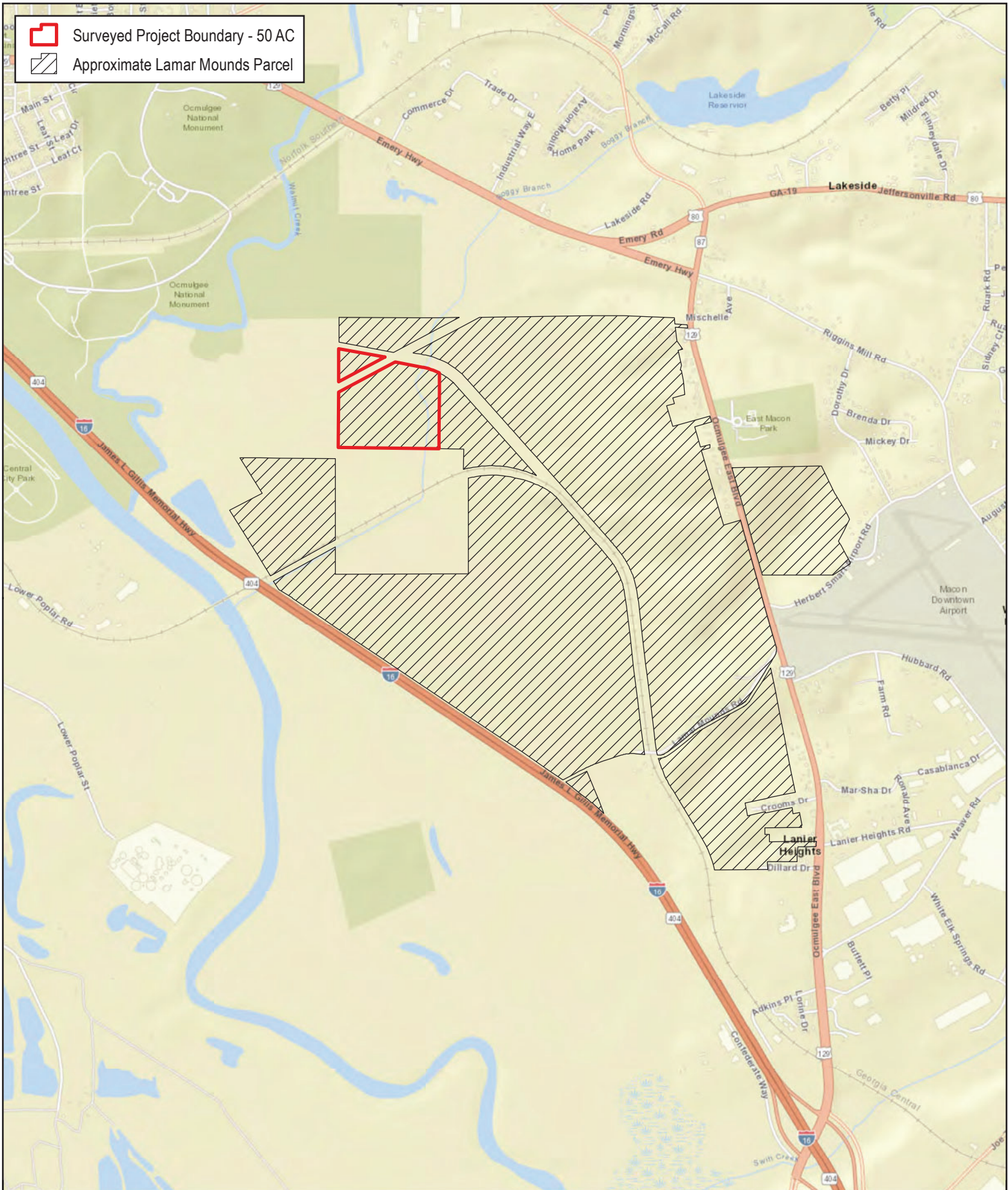
Preliminary review indicates that: 1) An environmental impact statement will not be required; and 2) No species of fish, wildlife, or plant (or their critical habitat) listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL 93-205) will be affected. A cultural resource survey of the undertaking has not yet been conducted to determine if the project will affect any cultural or historical resources considered eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. 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 ILF Program and Project Names (Georgia-Alabama Land Trust's In-Lieu-Fee Program – Lamar Mounds Mitigation Site) 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 via electronic mail (e-mail) at justin.a.hammonds@usace.army.mil.

Enclosures

1. Mitigation Site Map (Figure 1)
2. Vicinity Map (Figure 2)
3. Location Map (Figure 3)
4. Delineation Map (Figure 4)
5. Mitigation Units Map (Figure 11)
6. Mitigation Plan – Sheet 1 (Mitigation Location and Overview)
7. Mitigation Plan – Sheet 2 (Grading Plan and Typical Section)
8. Mitigation Plan – Sheet 3 (Thinning and Underplanting Plan)
9. Mitigation Plan – Sheet 4 (Invasive Species Management Plan)





 Surveyed Project Boundary - 50 AC
 Approximate Lamar Mounds Parcel



Figure 1: Mitigation Site Map

Upper Ocmulgee Mitigation Site
 Bibb County, GA
 Projection: NAD83 Stateplane GA West
 Source: ESRI
 Date: December 2021

Notes:

1 in = 2,000 feet






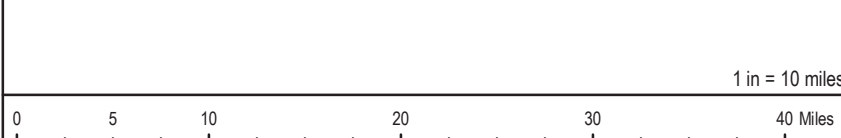
 Mitigation Site Location
 8-Digit HUC



Figure 2: Vicinity Map
 Upper Ocmulgee Mitigation Site
 Bibb County, GA
 Projection: NAD83 Stateplane GA West
 Source: ESRI, USGS
 Date: December 2021

Notes:



1 in = 10 miles



 Surveyed Project Boundary - 50 AC

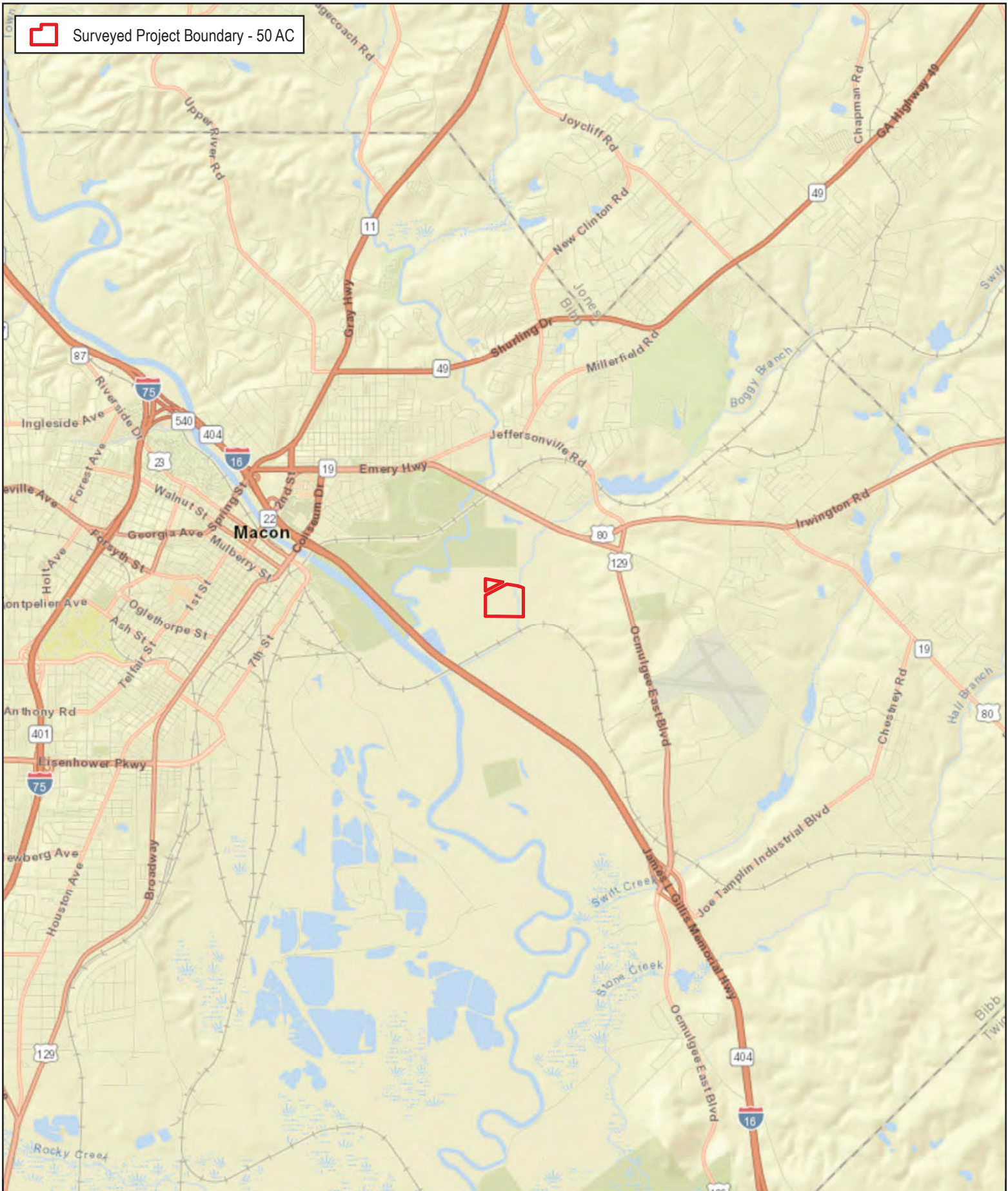
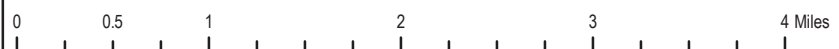


Figure 3: Location Map
Upper Ocmulgee Mitigation Site
Bibb County, GA
Projection: NAD83 Stateplane GA West
Source: ESRI
Date: December 2021

Notes:



1 in = 1 miles





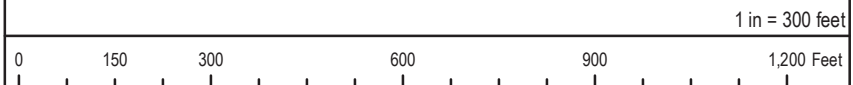
-  Surveyed Project Boundary - 50 AC
-  Delineated Wetland - 41.28 AC
-  Boggy Branch - 1,361 LF (0.7 AC)
-  Excavated Ditch to be Filled



Figure 4: Wetland
Delineation Map
Upper Ocmulgee Mitigation Site
Bibb County, GA
Projection: NAD83 Stateplane GA West
Source: ESRI
Date: December 2021

Notes:









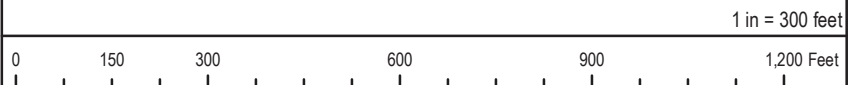
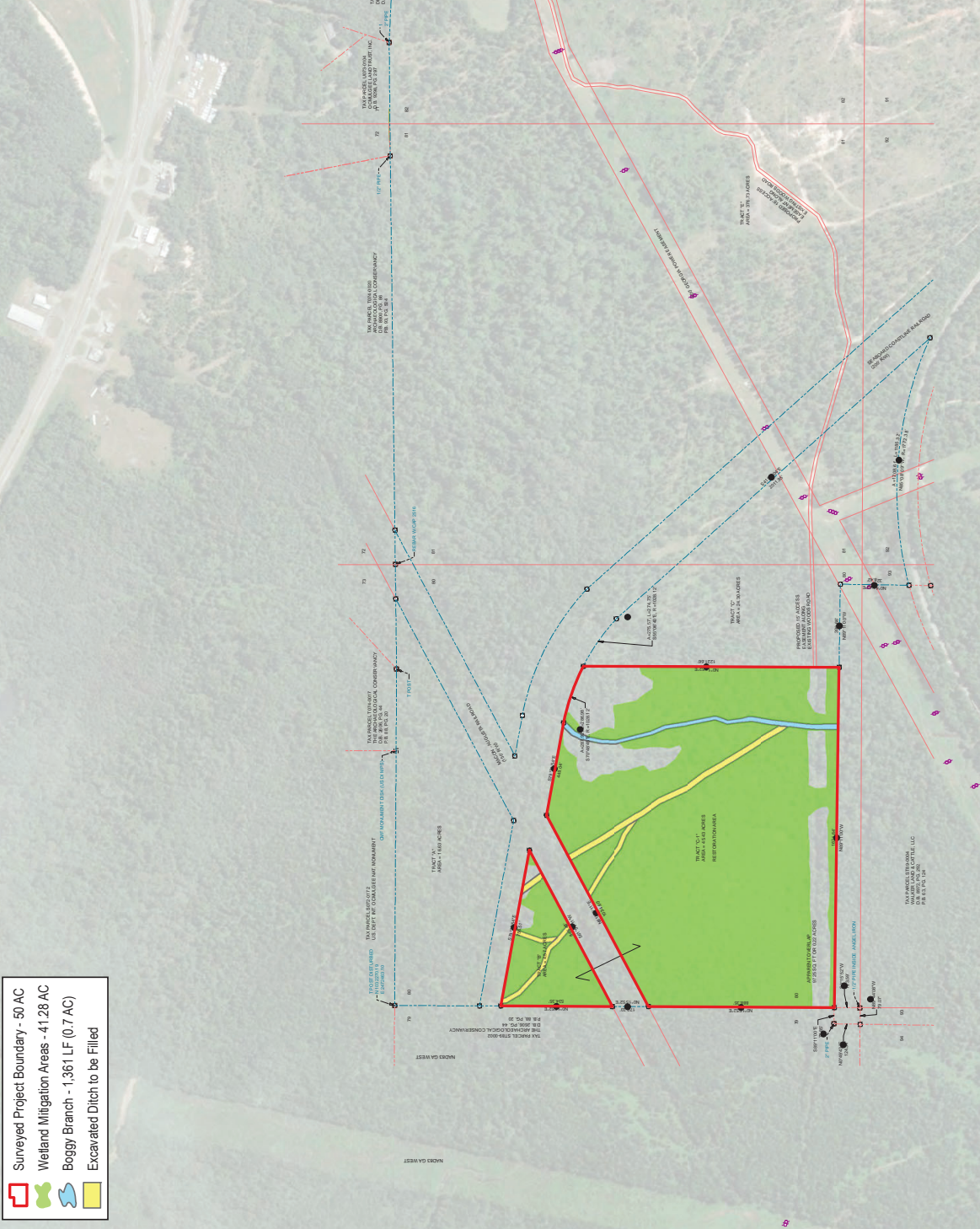
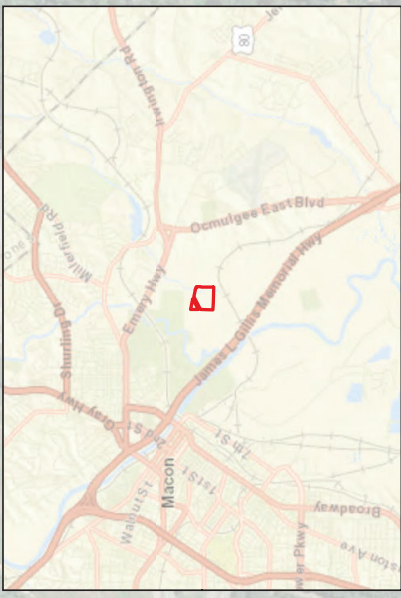
-  Surveyed Project Boundary - 50 AC
-  Wetland Vegetation Preservation ± 5.89 AC
-  Wetland Vegetation Enhancement ± 35.39 AC
-  Boggy Branch - 1,361 LF (0.7 AC)
-  Upland Buffer ± 6.51 AC
-  Excavated Ditch to be Filled



Figure 11: Mitigation Unit Map
 Upper Ocmulgee Mitigation Site
 Bibb County, GA
 Projection: NAD83 Stateplane GA West
 Source: ESRI
 Date: December 2021

Notes:

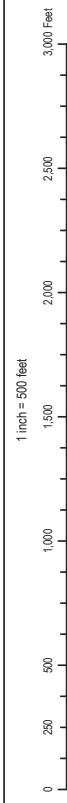




- Surveyed Project Boundary - 50 AC
- Wetland Mitigation Areas - 41.28 AC
- Boggy Branch - 1.361 LF (0.7 AC)
- Excavated Ditch to be Filled



Sheet 1 - Mitigation Plan Location and Overview

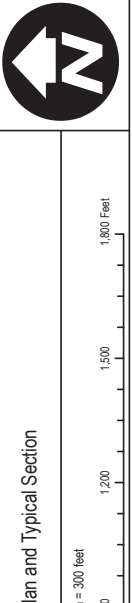
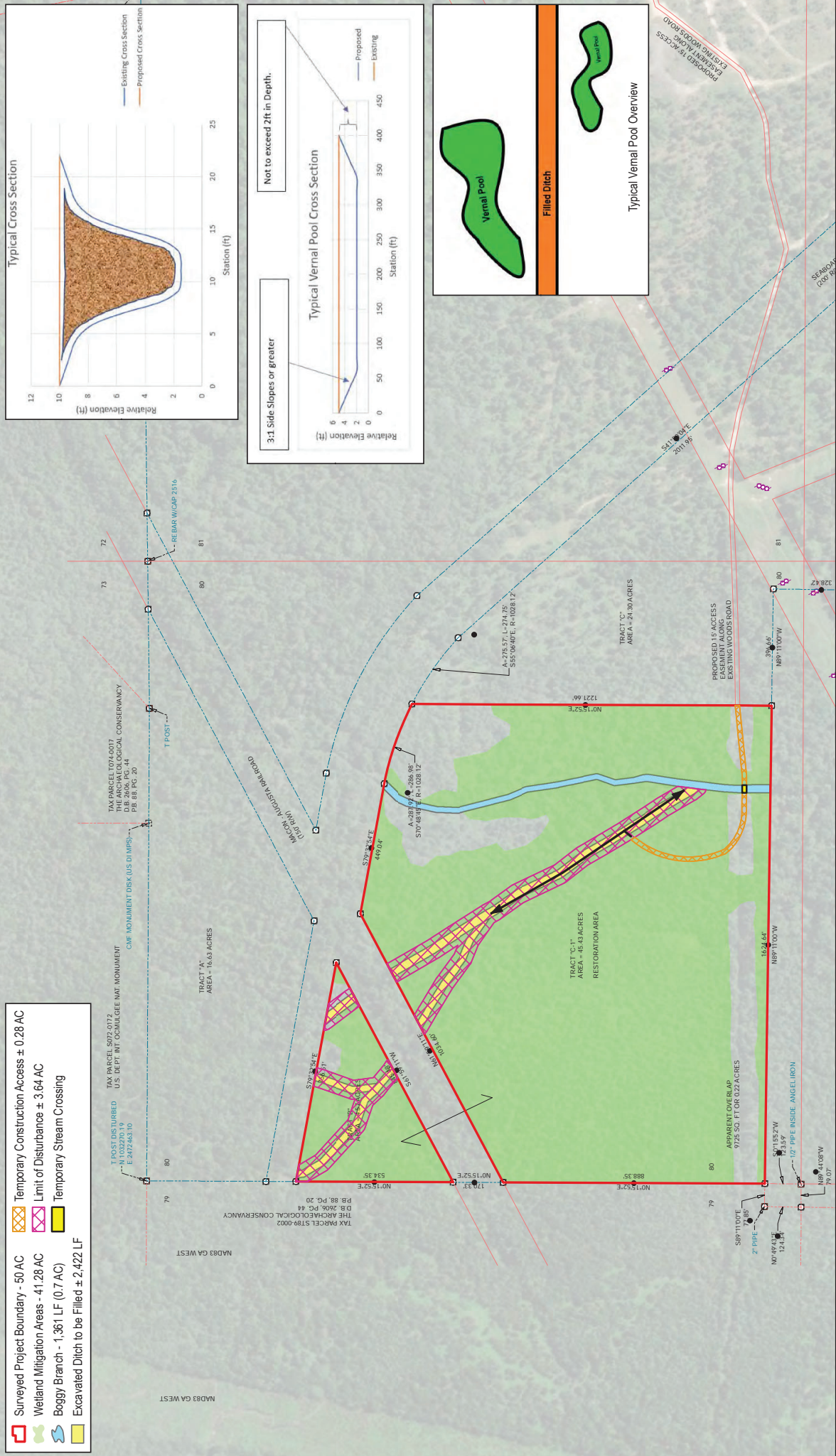
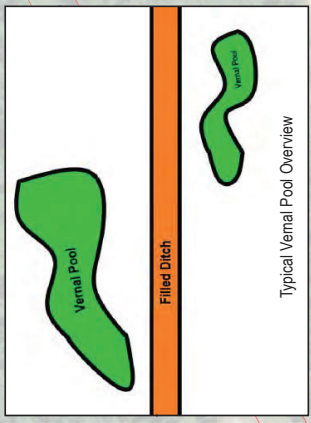
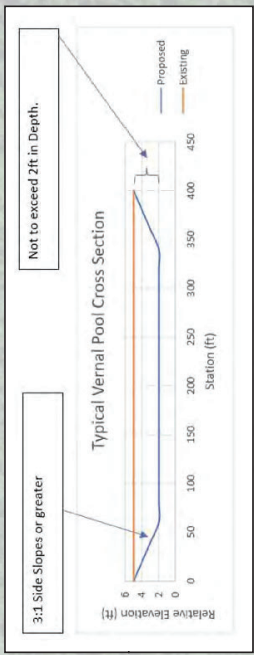
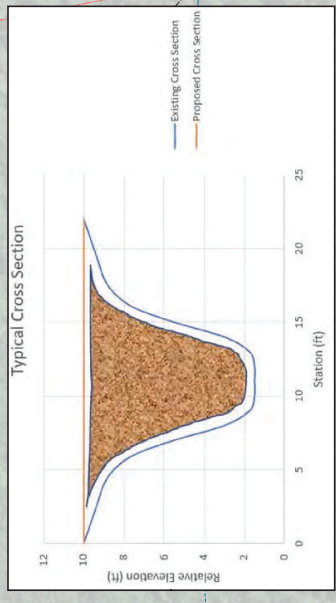


Description: Wetland Mitigation Areas are targeted for functional improvement. Wetland functional improvement will occur as a result of filling onsite excavated ditches, removal of invasive exotic species, thinning of group 2, dominate canopy trees, optimization of large woody debris volume, and planting of group one native tree species.

Wetland Mitigation Plan
 Upper Ocmulgee Mitigation Site
 Bibb County, GA
 Projection: NAD83 StatePlane GA West
 Source: ESRI
 Date: November 2021



- Surveyed Project Boundary - 50 AC
- Wetland Mitigation Areas - 41.28 AC
- Boggy Branch - 1,361 LF (0.7 AC)
- Excavated Ditch to be Filled ± 2,422 LF
- Temporary Construction Access ± 0.28 AC
- Limit of Disturbance ± 3.64 AC
- Temporary Stream Crossing



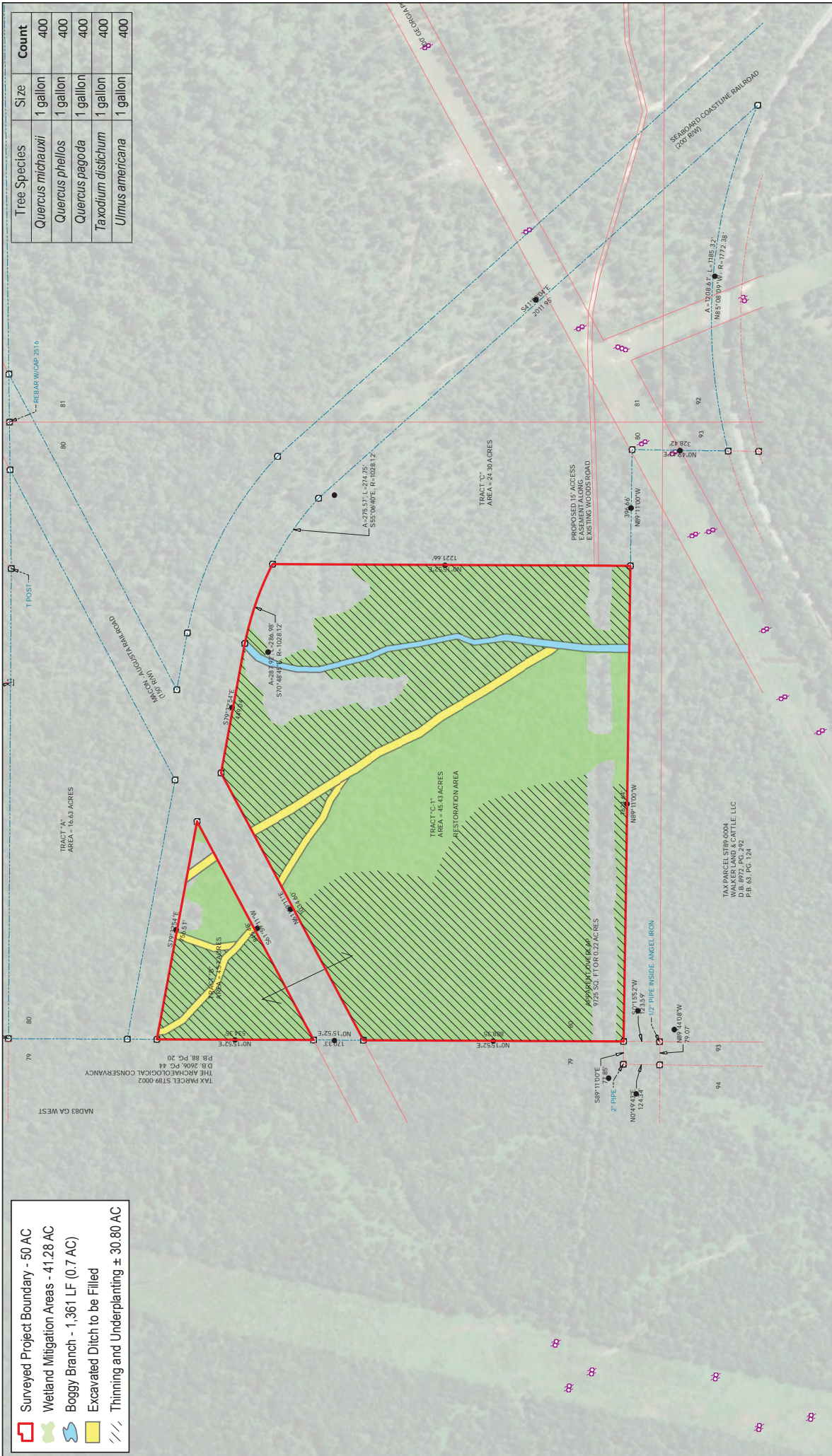
Sheet 2 - Grading Plan and Typical Section

Wetland Mitigation Plan
 Upper Ocmulgee Mitigation Site
 Bibb County, GA
 Projection: NAD83 Stateplane GA West
 Source: ESRI
 Date: November 2021

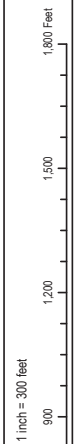
Grading Description:
 Excavated ditch to be filled with adjacent spoil material. Additional fill material, if needed, will be made from adjacent wetland area within limit of disturbance, creating vernal pools. Vernal pools will be limited to a depth not to exceed 2 feet from existing surface and side slopes will be a minimum of 3:1. Mature canopy trees will be avoided. Filled ditch will be stabilized with Coir matting and seeded with a riparian seed mix. Temporary access road will be returned to previous grade, as needed, seeded and strawed.

- Surveyed Project Boundary - 50 AC
- Wetland Mitigation Areas - 41.28 AC
- Boggy Branch - 1,361 LF (0.7 AC)
- Excavated Ditch to be Filled
- Thinning and Underplanting ± 30.80 AC

Tree Species	Size	Count
<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	1 gallon	400
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	1 gallon	400
<i>Quercus pagoda</i>	1 gallon	400
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	1 gallon	400
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	1 gallon	400









Sheet 3 - Thinning and Underplanting Plan

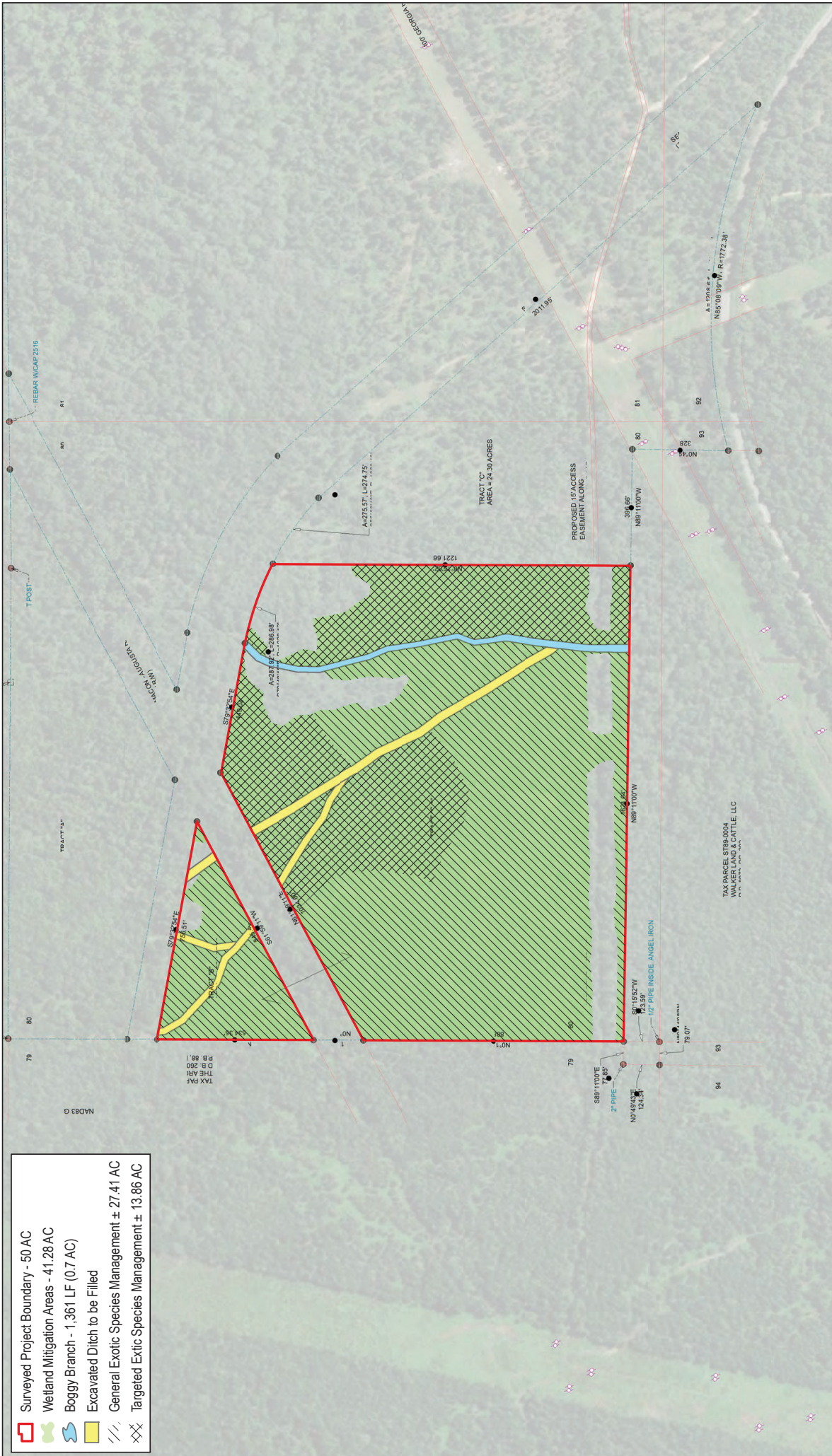


Work Description: WAAs 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, & 9 will be strategically thinned. Sweetgum below 30 cm DBH within WAAs 2, 4, & 7 will cut. Red maple below 20 cm DBH within WAAs 6 & 9 will be cut. Black willow below 20 cm DBH within WAA 8 will be cut. In all thinned WAAs native logs will be left in place to a density of approximately 40 m³/ha. Excess logs will be chipped, burned or used to stabilize ditch fill material. Thinned area will be underplanted with tree species in list shown at a density of 66 1-gallon containerized trees per acre.

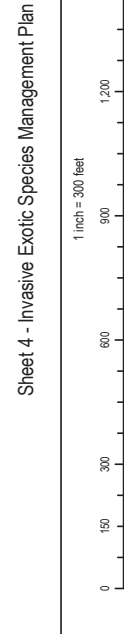
Wetland Mitigation Plan
 Upper Ocmulgee Mitigation Site
 Bibb County, GA
 Projection: NAD83 Stateplane GA West
 Source: ESRI
 Date: November 2021



-  Surveyed Project Boundary - 50 AC
-  Wetland Mitigation Areas - 41.28 AC
-  Boggy Branch - 1,361 LF (0.7 AC)
-  Excavated Ditch to be Filled
-  General Exotic Species Management ± 27.41 AC
-  Targeted Exotic Species Management ± 13.86 AC



1 inch = 300 feet



Sheet 4 - Invasive Exotic Species Management Plan

Chinese tallow will be physically removed as part of the construction plan. Stumps will be treated with a 20% or greater active ingredient herbicide, such as glyphosate. Other invasive species, such as Chinese privet, will be physically removed, as practicable. Targeted exotic species removal will occur where invasive species are dominant in the canopy. General exotic species management will occur throughout the rest of the wetlands present in the mitigation site. Management of invasive exotic species will continue throughout the monitoring period.

Work Description:

Wetland Mitigation Plan
 Upper Ocmulgee Mitigation Site
 Bibb County, GA
 Projection: NAD83 Stateplane GA West
 Source: ESRI
 Date: November 2021

