



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

August 11, 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 Heneghan
Georgia-Alabama Land Trust
226 Old Ladiga Road
Piedmont, Alabama 36272

ILF Project Sponsor: Mr. Daniel Johnson
Wildlands Engineer, Inc.
497 Bramson Court, Suite 104
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

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 28.20-acre Firecracker Creek Stream Mitigation Site (FCSMS) is a proposed ILF mitigation project, located directly east of Lee Road, approximately two miles southwest of the City of Arabi, in Turner County, Georgia (Latitude 31.7989 and Longitude -83.774). The project is situated within the Upper Swift Creek Hydrologic Unit Code-12 (HUC) Watershed (031300060608), which is a sub-basin of the Middle Flint River HUC-8 Watershed (03130006). Please refer to the enclosed Vicinity and Existing Conditions Maps (Figures 1 and 2) for more detailed information on the location of the FCSMS.

Description of Requested Modification: The Georgia-Alabama Land Trust (GALT) has requested authorization to incorporate the proposed FCSMS, through a major modification, into the ILF Program Instrument as compensatory mitigation for 995 advance 2018 stream credits (11,940 legacy stream credits) previously sold within the Lower Flint Primary Service Area (HUC 0313006). The proposed mitigation plan for the

FCSMS consists of the following onsite mitigation prescriptions: (1) 900 linear feet of priority 1 stream restoration on Reach 2 of Firecracker Creek; (2) 855 linear feet of stream habitat enhancement on Reach 1 of Firecracker Creek; and (3) 28.20 acres of riparian buffer restoration and preservation along Firecracker Creek. The above-described work will also include the decommissioning of an existing pond onsite. Please refer to the enclosed Soils and Mitigation Concept Map (Figures 3 and 4), for more information regarding the existing and proposed conditions of the FCSMS.

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, National Marine Fisheries 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 Corps, Regulatory Division, 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=107:278:11213137710704::::P278_BANK_ID:6347). 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

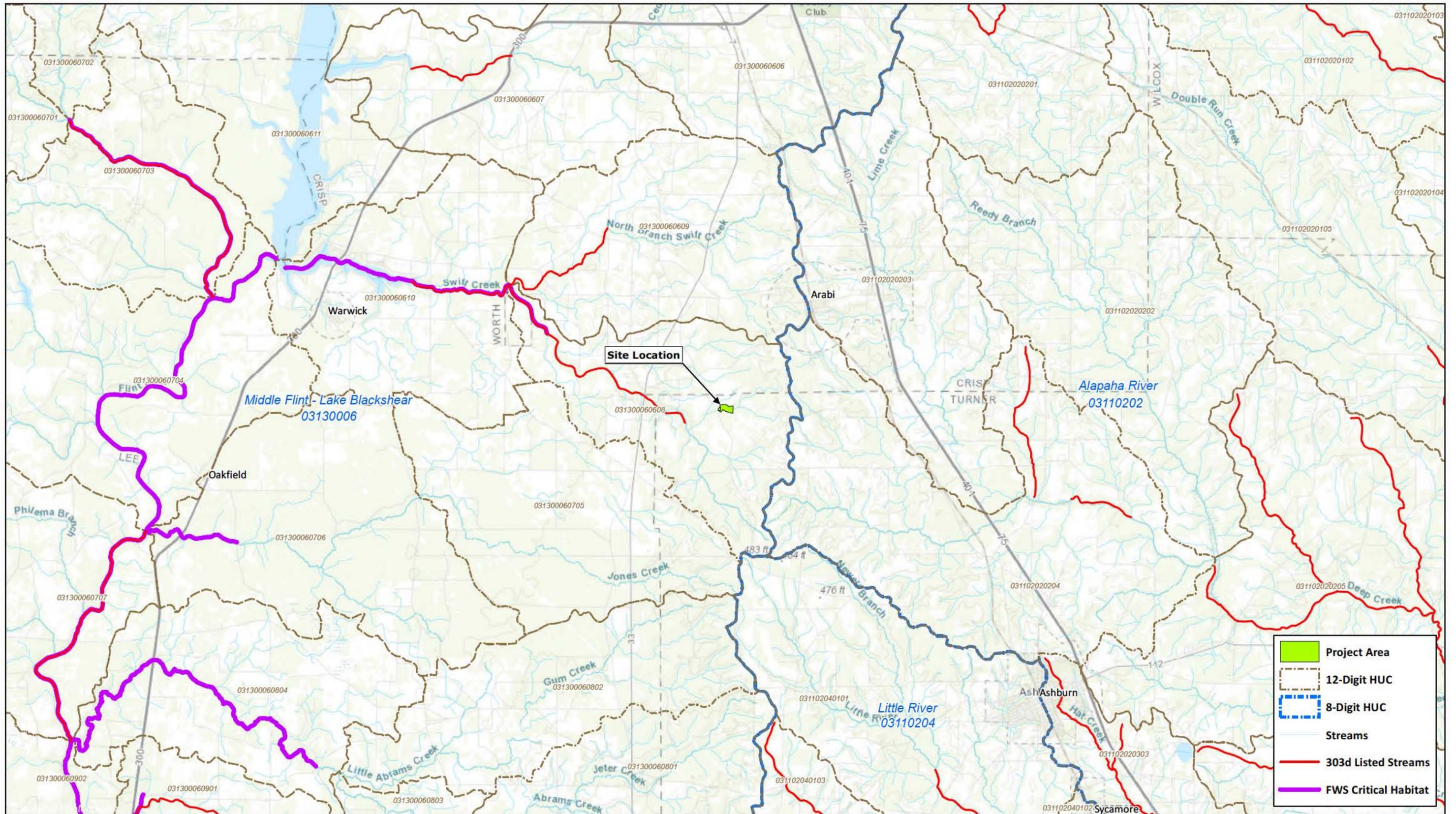
endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL 93-205) will be affected; and, 3) No cultural or historical resources considered eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places will be affected according to a website review of known listed 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 ILF Program and Project Names (Georgia-Alabama Land Trust's In-Lieu-Fee Program – Firecracker Creek Stream 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. Vicinity Map (Figure 1)
2. Location Map (Figure 1b)
3. Existing Conditions Map (Figure 2)
4. Soils Map (Figure 3)
5. Mitigation Concept Map (Figure 4)



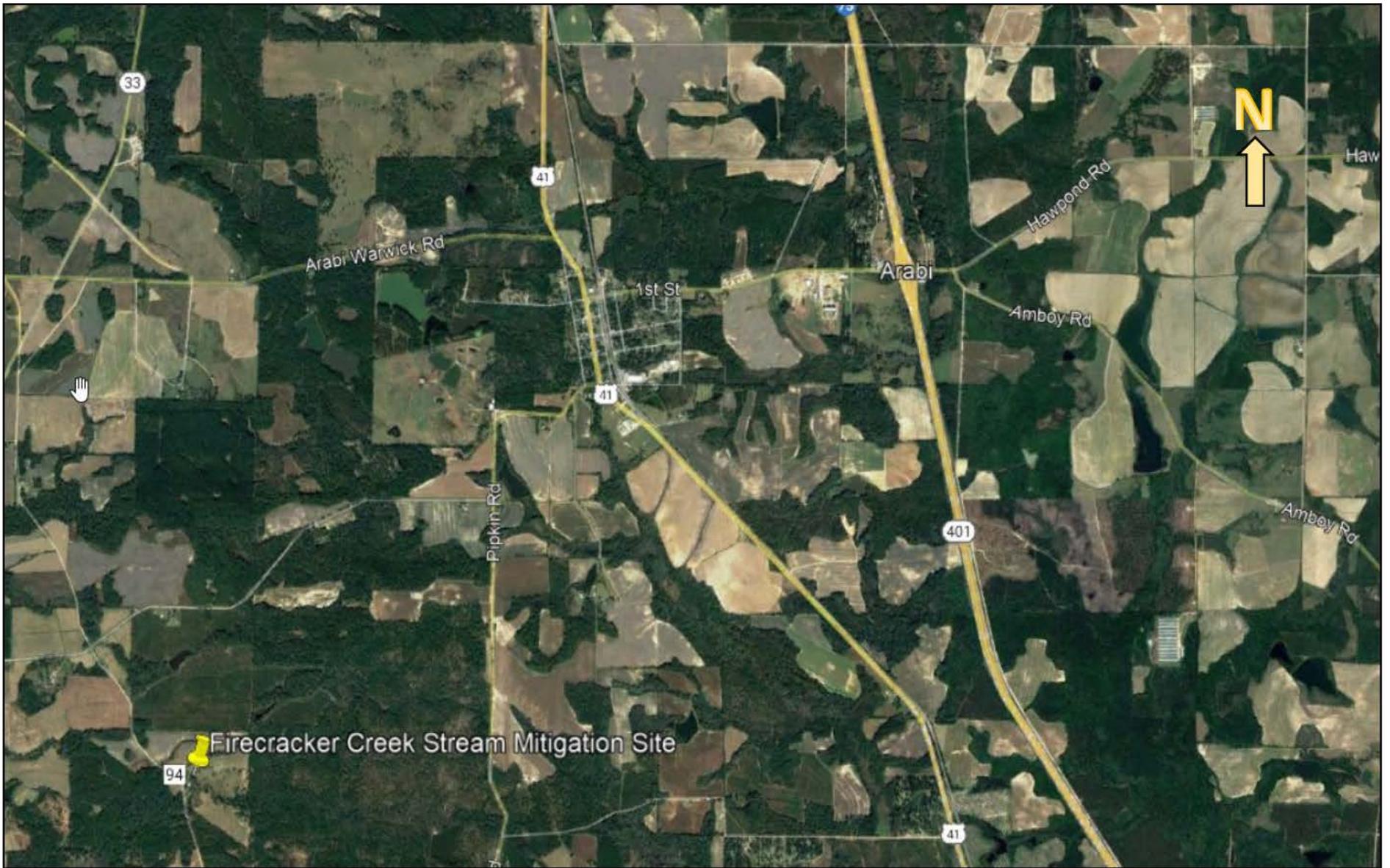
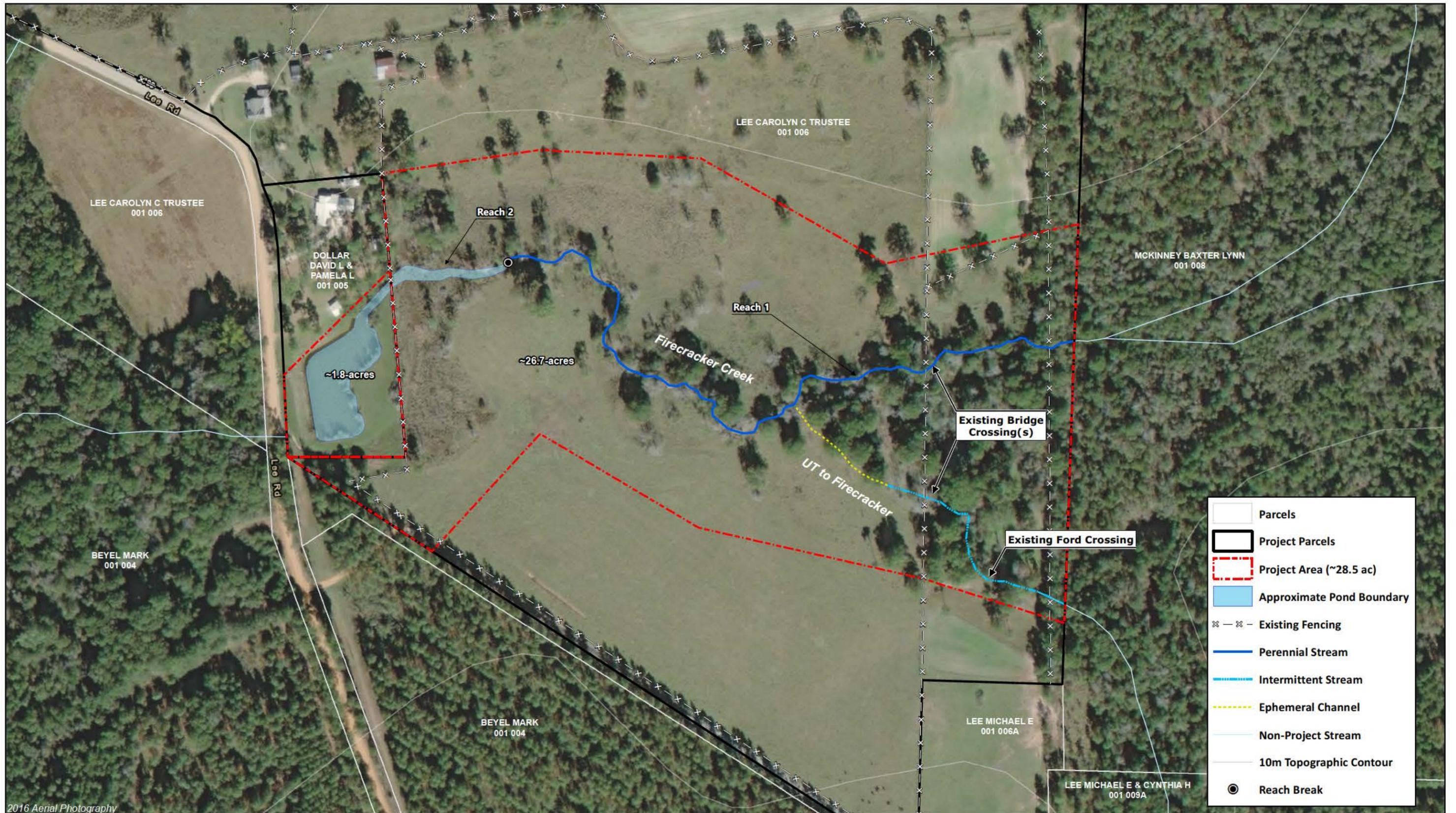
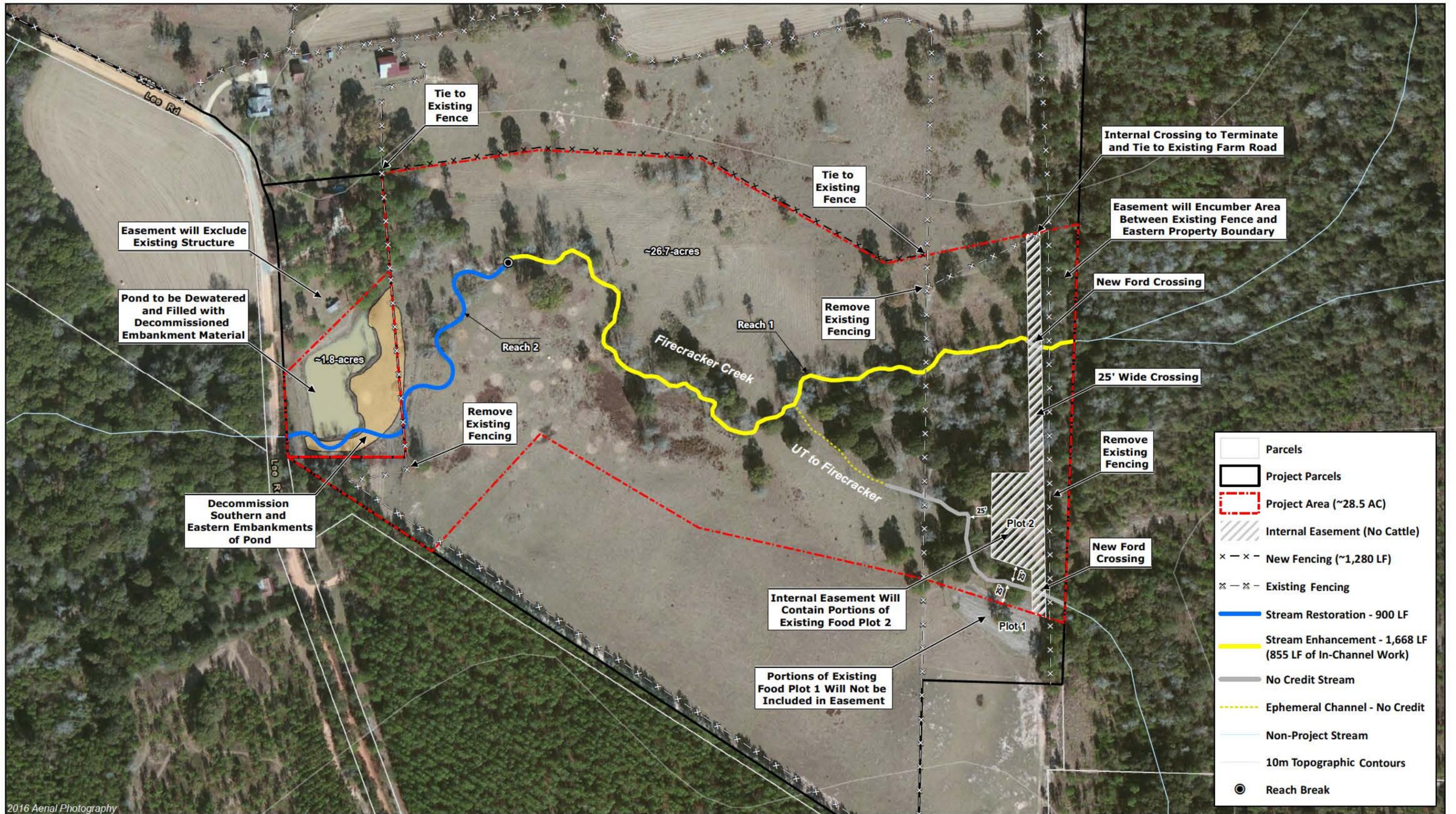


Figure 1b. Location Map for the Firecracker Creek Stream Mitigation Site





2016 Aerial Photography

Figure 4: Mitigation Concept Map
Firecracker Creek Site
Middle Flint - Lake Blackshear Watershed (03130006)