



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

July 12, 2023

Regulatory Division
SAS-2021-00914

PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District

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

Application Number: SAS-2021-00914

Bank Sponsor: Mr. Ryan Beasley
Burton Pond MD, LLC.
225 East 50th Street
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Bank Agent: Mr. Joel Price
Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc. (SECI)
31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 20B
Savannah, Georgia 31405

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 proposed Burton Pond Mitigation Bank (BPMB) consists of a 272-acre site, located east of U.S. Highway 301, adjacent to Truckstop Road, in Screven County, Georgia (Latitude 32.8891, Longitude -81.5724). The project area is within the Lower Savannah River Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 03060108). Please refer to the enclosed Tax Parcel Map (Figure 3), 8-Digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) Map (Figure 4), and Service Area Map (Figure 13) for more detailed information concerning the location of the proposed bank.

Objective: Per the bank sponsor, the goal of the BPMB is "to restore/enhance a Carolina Bay that was impacted by historic silvicultural activities. This goal will be achieved through wetland vegetative restoration, hydrology restoration / enhancement, wetland preservation, and upland buffer preservation". Further, the bank sponsor proposes the BPMB to serve as compensatory mitigation for unavailable impacts to

wetland resources associated with permits issued under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Geographic Service Area: The 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 (see attached Service Area Map (Figure 13)).

The proposed primary service areas would serve all portions of the following watersheds (and 8-digit HUC) and listed counties:

- *Brier (03060108):* Screven, Jenkins, Burke, Jefferson, Richmond, Columbia, Glascock, Warren, and McDuffie Counties
- *Middle Savannah (03060106):* Screven, Burke, Richmond, Columbia, and McDuffie Counties
- *Lower Savannah (03060109):* Chatham, Effingham, and Screven Counties

The site's secondary service areas would serve all portions of the following watersheds (and 8-digit HUC) and listed counties:

- *Upper Ogeechee (03060201):* Jenkins, Emmanuel, Burke, Jefferson, Washington, Glascock, Warren, Hancock, Taliaferro, and Greene Counties
- *Lower Ogeechee (03060202):* Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, Emmanuel, Bulloch, Screven, and Jenkins Counties

Description of Mitigation Bank: SECI has proposed the following mitigation plan / onsite prescriptions for the proposed BPMB in the table below (also see attached Wetland Restoration / Enhancement Exhibit (Figure 18)).

Proposed Action	Habitat Type	Acreage
Hydrology & Vegetative Enhancement	Hardwood Wetland	164.5
Vegetative & Hydrology Restoration & Enhancement	Pine Plantation / Natural Pine Removal & Ditch Plugs	48.5
Vegetative and Hydrology Restoration & Enhancement	Herbaceous Emergent Area	17.4
Preservation	Upland Buffer	41.6

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 Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for projects located within the prescribed GSA.

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 is chaired by the Corps and is typically 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 and Coastal Resources 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 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 development of the proposed BPMB 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 mitigation bank. The complete prospectus can be viewed and downloaded online from our Regulatory Information Banking and In-Lieu Fee Tracking System (RIBITS) website at https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:10911357090398::RP,278:P278_BA_NK_ID:6657. If you are unable to view or download the prospectus, please contact Mr. Tyler J. Brock, Project Manager, at tyler.j.brock@usace.army.mil or by phone at 912-652-5139. 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 by email to tyler.j.brock@usace.army.mil. Alternatively, you can submit comments in writing by mail to: Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Mr. Tyler J. Brock, 100 W. Oglethorpe Ave, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640, no later than 30-days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the Project Name (Burton Pond Mitigation Bank) and the Regulatory Division file number (SAS-2021-00914) in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Tyler J. Brock, at 912-652-5139, or via e-mail at tyler.j.brock@usace.army.mil.

Enclosures

1. Tax Parcel Map (Figure 3)
2. 8-Digit HUC Map (Figure 4)
3. Service Area Map (Figure 13)
4. Wetland Restoration / Enhancement Exhibit (Figure 18)



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Tax Map Parcels
 Project Boundary

Prepared By:
sligh environmental consultants, inc.
 31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 2006
 Savannah, Georgia 31405
 phone (912) 232-0451
 fax (912) 232-0453

Figure 3 - Tax Parcel Map
 Burton Pond Mitigation Bank
 Screven County, Georgia

0 1,000 2,000
 Feet
 Scale: 1 inch = 2,000 feet


Job Number: 01-21-076

Drawn By: DJP

Reviewed By: SFS

Exhibit Date: September 13, 2021



 Project Boundary

Prepared By:
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Figure 4 - 8-Digit HUC Map
 Burton Pond Mitigation Bank
 Screven County, Georgia

0 10,000 20,000
 Feet
 Scale: 1 inch = 20,000 feet

Job Number: 01-21-076

Drawn By: DJP

Reviewed By: SFS

Exhibit Date: March 13, 2023

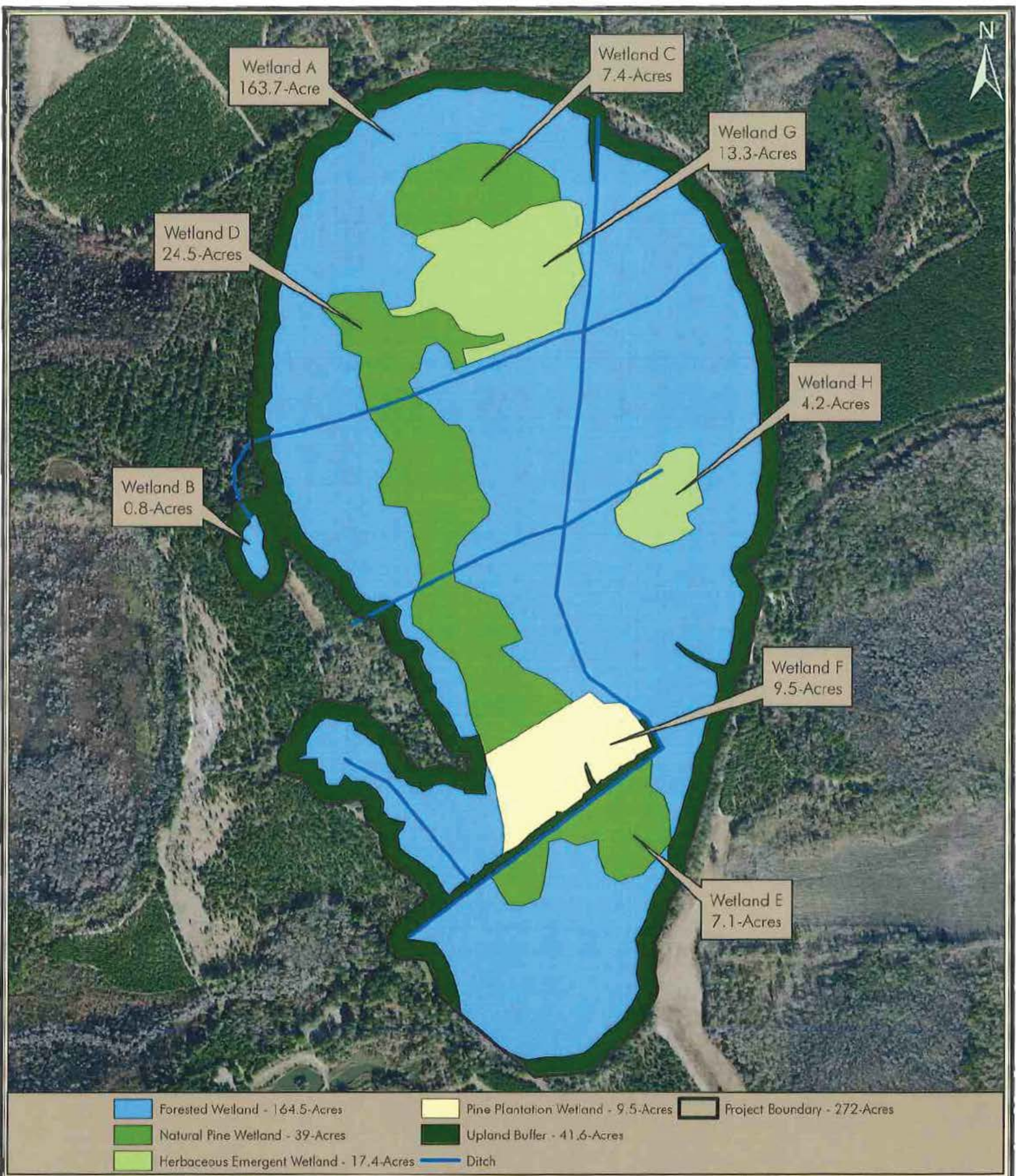


Figure 18
Wetland Restoration/Enhancement Exhibit
Burton Pond Mitigation Bank
Screven County, Georgia

Prepared By:
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0 350 700
Feet
Scale: 1 inch = 700 feet

Job Number: 01-21-076
Drawn By: DJP
Reviewed By: SFS
Exhibit Date: April 20, 2023