



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

November 30, 2023

Regulatory Division
SAS-2023-00046

PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District

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

The comment period for the proposal will close 30 days from the date of this public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, 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 this proposed mitigation bank and Department of the Army Permit Application must reference the Sponsor's name and the Permit Application Number and be forwarded to the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at the above address, or via the email listed at the end of this notice.

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.

Application Number: SAS-2023-00046

Bank Sponsor: Mr. John Wigginton
Westervelt Ecological Service
2128 Moores Mill Road, Suite B
Auburn, Alabama 36830

Bank Agent: Mr. Eddie Zedaker
Westervelt Ecological Service
2128 Moores Mill Road, Suite B
Auburn, Alabama 36830

Location of Proposed Work: The proposed Ogeechee Creek Mitigation Bank consists of 604.2-acre parcel, located north of Georgia Highway 17 and east of Orchard Road, approximately one mile northwest of the City of Oliver, in Screven County, Georgia (Latitude 32.5410, Longitude -81.5399). The project area is within the Lower Ogeechee Watershed (8-Digit Hydrologic Unit Code 03060202). Please refer to the enclosed 8-Digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) Map (Figure 2), Location Map (Figure 3), Service

Area Map (Figure 4), and Parcel Boundary Map (Figure 35) for more detailed information concerning the location of the proposed bank.

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).

The proposed primary service area (Lower Ogeechee River Basin) would serve the following 8-digit HUCs and portions of the listed counties:

- *Upper Ogeechee (03060201):* Burke, Emanuel, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Taliaferro, Warren, and Washington Counties;
- *Lower Ogeechee (03060202):* Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, Emanuel, Bulloch, Screven, and Jenkins Counties;
- *Canoochee (03060203):* Bryan, Bulloch, Candler, Emanuel, Evans, Liberty, Long, and Tattnall Counties; and
- *Newport River (03060204):* Bryan, Chatham, Liberty, Long, and McIntosh Counties.

The proposed secondary service areas (Lower Savannah River Basin and portions of the Altamaha River Basin) would serve the following 8-digit HUCs and portions of the listed counties:

- *Middle Savannah (03060106):* Burke, Columbia, McDuffie, Richmond, and Screven Counties;
- *Brier Creek (03060108):* Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, and Warren Counties;
- *Lower Savannah (03060109):* Chatham, Effingham, and Screven Counties;
- *Oconee River (03070102):* Baldwin, Hancock, Jones, Washington, Wilkinson, Johnson, Bleckley, Laurens, Treutlen, Wheeler, and Montgomery Counties;
- *Altamaha (03070106):* Appling, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Tattnall, Toombs, and Wayne Counties;
- *Ohoopee River (03070107):* Candler, Emmanuel, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Truetlen, Toombs, Tattnall, and Washington Counties; and
- *Turtle River (03070203):* Brantley, Camden, Glynn and Wayne Counties.

Description of Mitigation Bank: The Sponsor has requested authorization to develop a new wetland and stream mitigation bank. The proposed conceptual mitigation plan for the project consists of the following actions (also see the attached Stream Exhibit (Figure 30) and Wetland Restoration/Enhancement Exhibit (Figure 32)):

Proposed Action	Acreage
Wetland Restoration	41.9 acres
Wetland Enhancement	253.3 acres
Wetland Preservation	119.1 acres
Upland Buffer	182.5 acres
Stream Restoration	1,267 LF

Wetland restoration activities include pine plantation removal, ditch plugging and/or filling, remnant bed removal, and planting hardwood species. Wetland enhancement include pine plantation removal, bed removal, and planting hardwood species. Wetland preservation includes permanently protecting the existing, fully functioning slope and riverine wetlands, along with the entire site, with restrictive covenants and a conservation easement. Upland buffers will also surround the site where feasible. Stream restoration activities include ditch filling, installation of grade control structures, construction of natural channel morphology (i.e., dimension, pattern, and profile) based upon reference reaches, and riparian restoration and enhancement.

The Sponsor has provided a list of project objectives for the Ogeechee Creek Mitigation Bank, including restoring floodplain connectivity, improving bed form diversity, and incorporating large woody debris for habitat and stability for streams. For wetlands, the project objectives include a focus on addressing aquatic function impairments with the goal of increasing functional capacity in wetlands.

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 and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors 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 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and/or 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 Ogeechee Creek 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 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=107:0:25457922351418:APPLICATION_PROCESS=AP_DB_DOC::AI_STRING,AI_ID:inline,131349. If you are unable to view or download the prospectus, please contact Ms. Amy Flowers, Project Manager, at amy.m.flowers@usace.army.mil or by phone at 912-652-5048. 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 of the Prospectus 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 amy.m.flowers@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: Ms. Amy Flowers, 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 (Ogeechee Creek Mitigation Bank) and the Regulatory Division file number (SAS-2023-00046) in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Amy Flowers, at 912-652-5048, or via e-mail at amy.m.flowers@usace.army.mil.

Enclosures

1. 8-Digit HUC Map (Figure 2)
2. Location Map (Figure 3)
3. Service Area Map (Figure 4)
4. Stream Exhibit (Figure 30)
5. Wetland Restoration/Enhancement Exhibit (Figure 32)
6. Parcel Boundary Map (Figure 35)

FIGURES

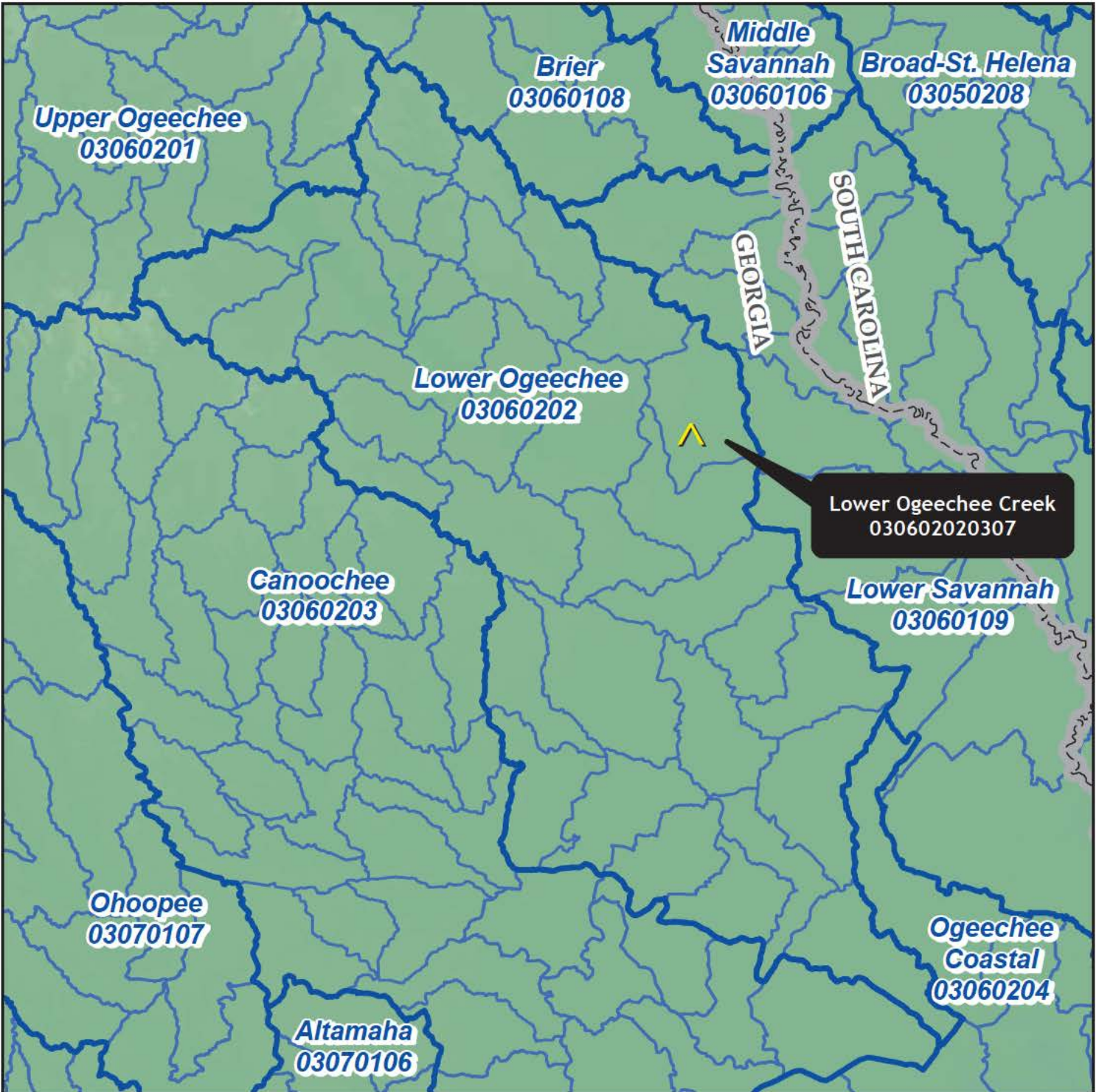
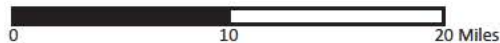


Figure 2.
Hydrologic Unit Code

-  OCEMB Proposed Site Location
-  8-Digit Watersheds
-  12-Digit Watersheds
-  States



FIGURES

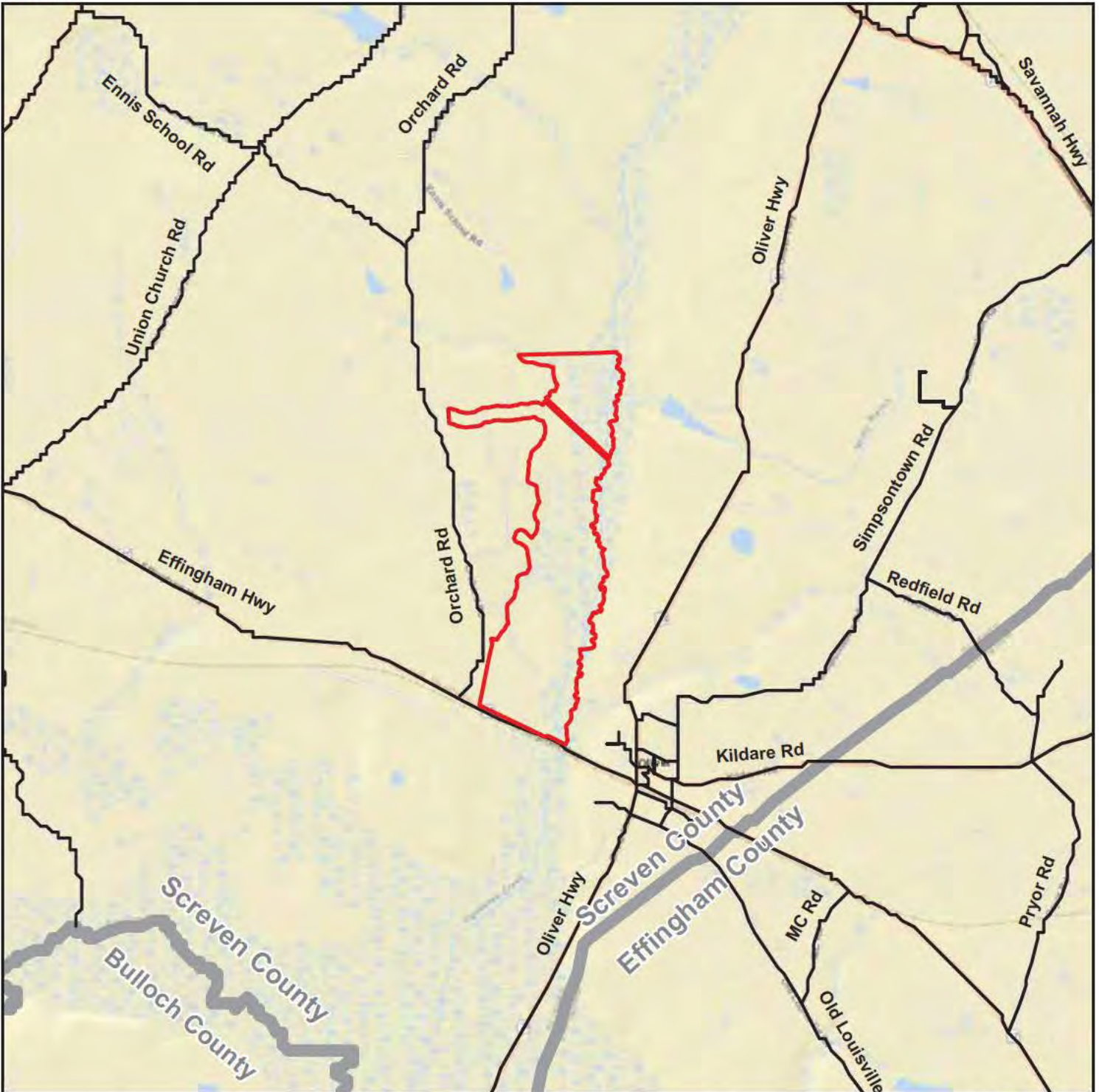



Figure 3.
County Roads

-  OCMB Proposed Boundary
-  Counties



FIGURES

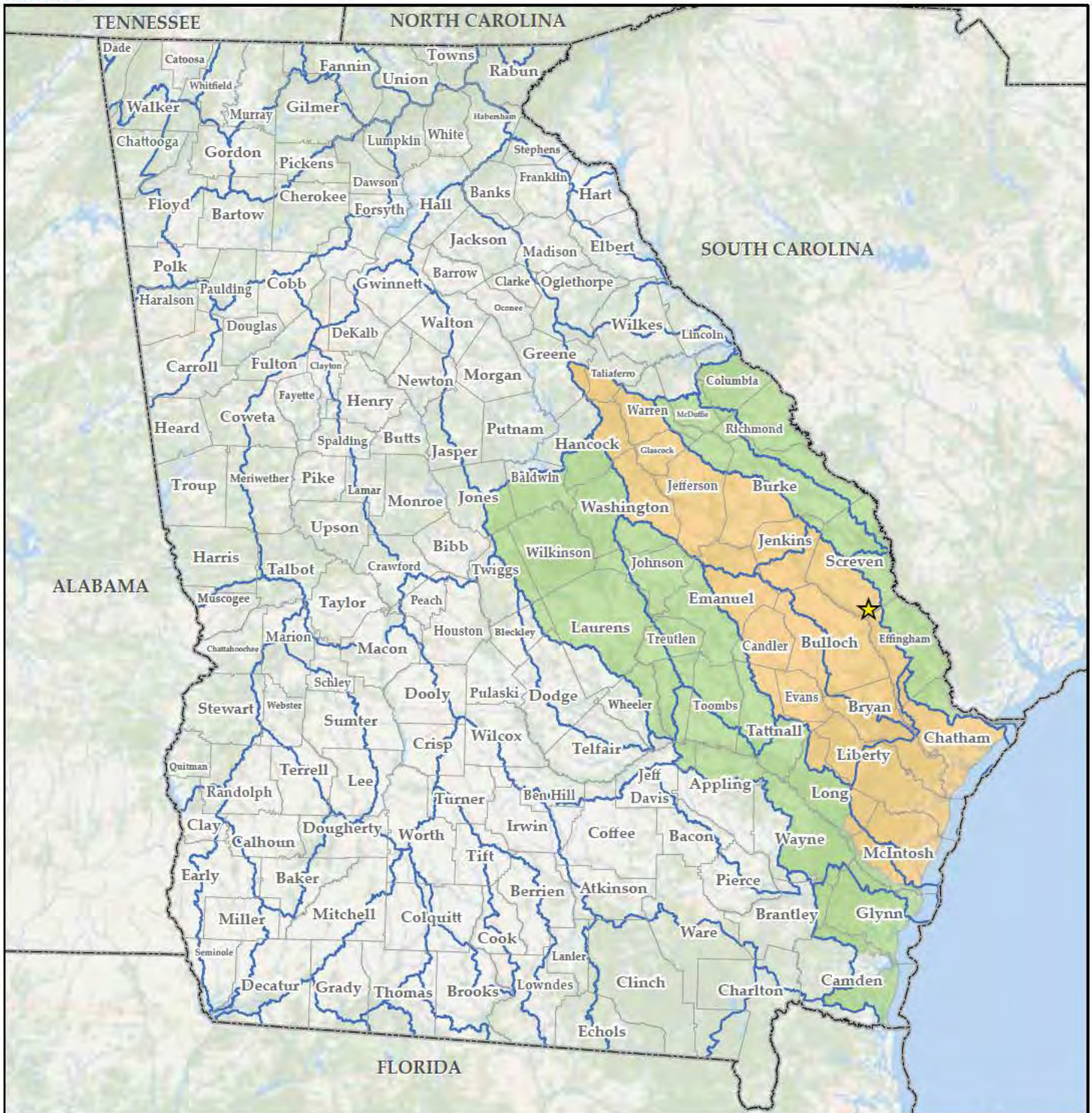
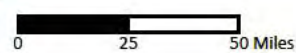
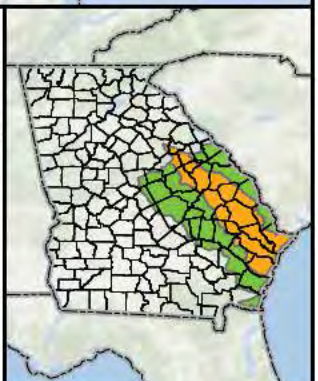


Figure 4.
Service Area

- ★ OCMB Proposed Site Location
- ▭ States
- ▭ Counties
- Primary Service Area
- Secondary Service Area
- 8-Digit Watersheds



FIGURES

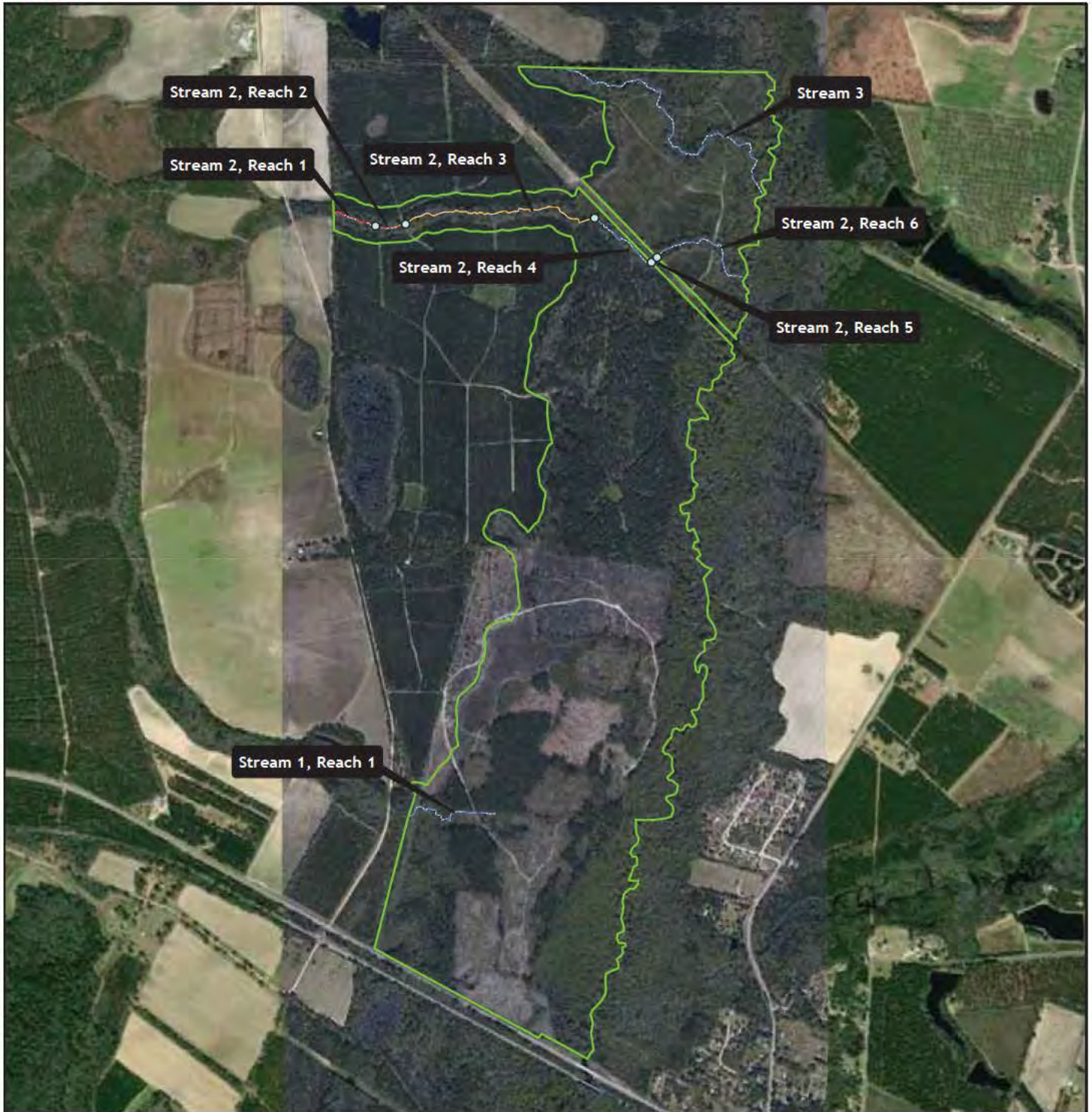

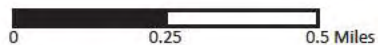


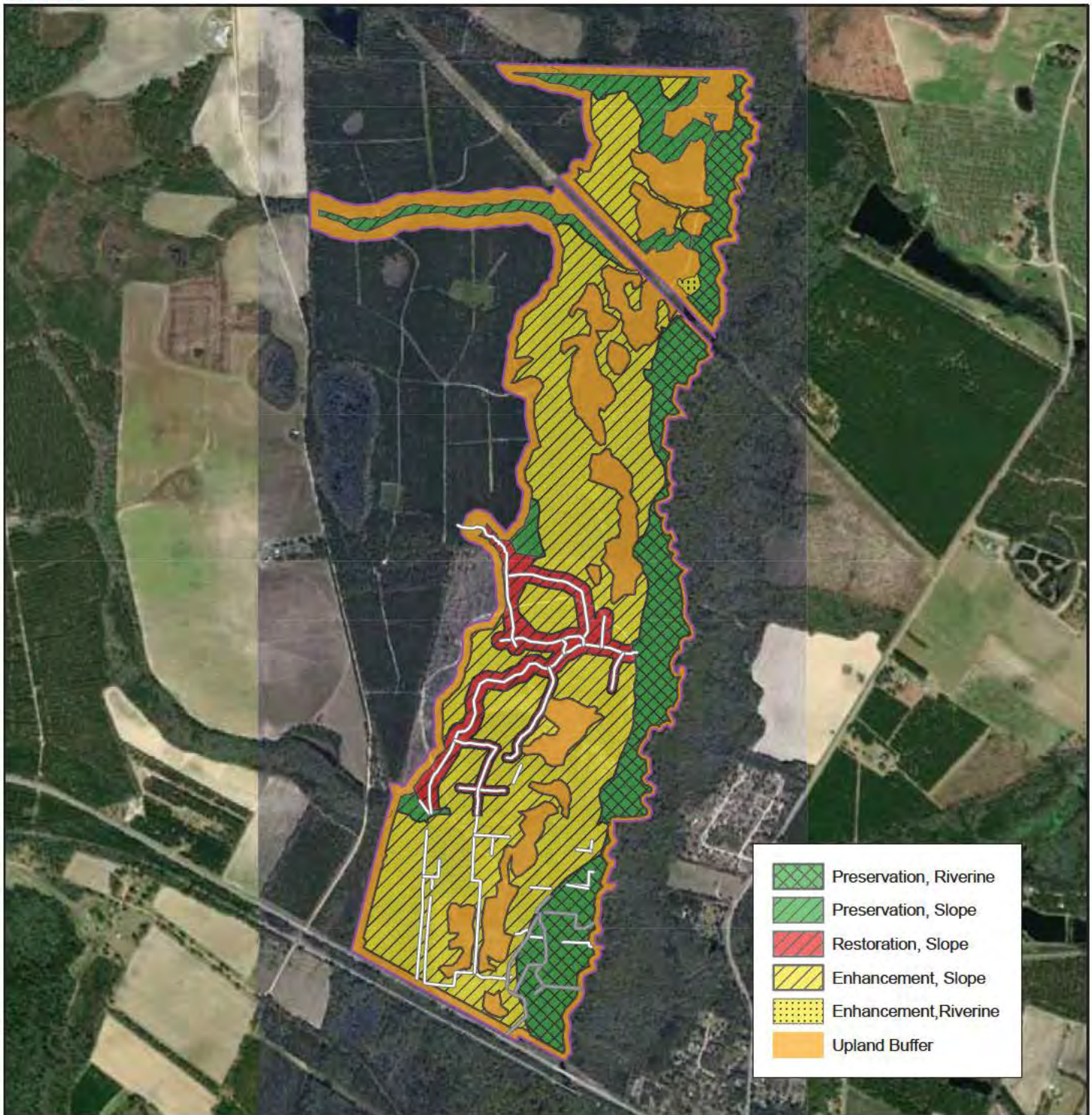
Figure 30.
Stream Compensation
Type

*** Stream 2, Reach 5 is out of project.

-  OCMB Proposed Boundary
-  Reach Breaks
-  Stream Restoration
-  Stream Preservation
-  Stream Enhancement



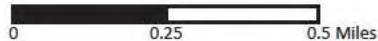
FIGURES



	Preservation, Riverine
	Preservation, Slope
	Restoration, Slope
	Enhancement, Slope
	Enhancement, Riverine
	Upland Buffer

Figure 32.
Wetland Compensation
Type



- OCMB Proposed Boundary
- Ditch
- Historic Ditch Spoil (Berm)



FIGURES



Figure 35.
Parcel
Identification

-  OCMB Proposed Boundary
-  Parcel Boundaries

