



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

August 3, 2023

Regulatory Division
SAS-2023-00115

PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District

The District Engineer has received a Prospectus describing the establishment and operation of a wetland compensatory mitigation bank (WMS Brady Branch Mitigation Bank; previously referred to as WMS Ogeechee River Mitigation Bank) with the requirement for Federal and State permits as described below:

Application Number: SAS-2023-00115

Bank Sponsor: Mr. Doug Hughes
Weyerhaeuser NR Company
406 Cole Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

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

Bank Agent: Mr. Daniel Coggin
Coggin Asset Management, LLC
P.O. Box 476
Amory, MS 38821

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 Brady Branch Mitigation Bank (BBMB) consists of 3,698-acres, located adjacent to the Ogeechee River in Screven County, approximately four (4) miles northwest of Oliver, Georgia (Latitude 32.5316, Longitude -81.6191). The project area is within the Brady Branch-Ogeechee River Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 030602020306) and the Walden Branch-Ogeechee River Watershed (030602020307). Please refer to the enclosed Location Map and

Service Area Map for more detailed information concerning the location of the proposed bank.

Objective: Per the applicant, the sponsor has both wetland and stream goals. Wetland goals include, “promote the restoration of historical water table conditions which have been modified due to vegetative conversion and hydrologic manipulation, to restore natural vegetative communities which have been modified through vegetative conversion practices, to enhance landscape connectivity which has been fragmented due to hydrologic and vegetative manipulation within the project area, and to increase nutrient retention.” Stream goals include “restoring floodplain connectivity, enhancing sediment transport, and to enhance habitat diversity, abundance, and connectivity.”

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 areas will serve all portions of the following watersheds located in the State of Georgia: Upper Ogeechee 03060201, Lower Ogeechee 03060202, Ohoopsee 03070107, Canoochee 03060203, and Ogeechee Coastal 03060204 watersheds. These watersheds include all or portions of the following counties: Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Emanuel, Glascock, Green, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Taliaferro, Warren, and Washington.

The site’s secondary service areas will serve all portions of the following watersheds located in the State of Georgia: Brier 03060108, Middle Savannah 03060106, Lower Savannah 03060109, Lower Oconee 03070102, Altamaha 03070106, and Cumberland St. Simons 03070203 watersheds. These watersheds include all or portions of the following counties: Burke, Chatham, Columbia, Effingham, Jefferson, Jenkins, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Warren, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Emanuel, Glascock, Green, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Taliaferro, Warren, and Washington (see attached Service Area map).

Description of Mitigation Bank: The applicant has proposed the following mitigation plan / onsite prescriptions for the proposed BBMB: (See attached Exhibits)

Proposed Action	Acreage
Riverine Wetland Preservation	1,270.1
Riverine Wetland Enhancement	290.5
Riverine Wetland Restoration	30.6
Slope Wetland Preservation	18.4
Slope Wetland Enhancement	742.0

Slope Wetland Restoration	227.7
Upland Buffer	488.1
Stream Buffer Enhancement	69.0

Oversight: BBMB 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 WMS Brady Branch 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=107:0:6139637716323:APPLICATION_PROC ESS=AP_DB_DOC:::AI_STRING,AI_ID:inline,125471

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 (WMS Brady Branch Mitigation Bank) and the Regulatory Division file number (SAS-2023-00115) 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. Location Map (Figure 2)
2. Service Area Map (Figure 3)
3. Mitigation Bank Exhibit (Figure 6)

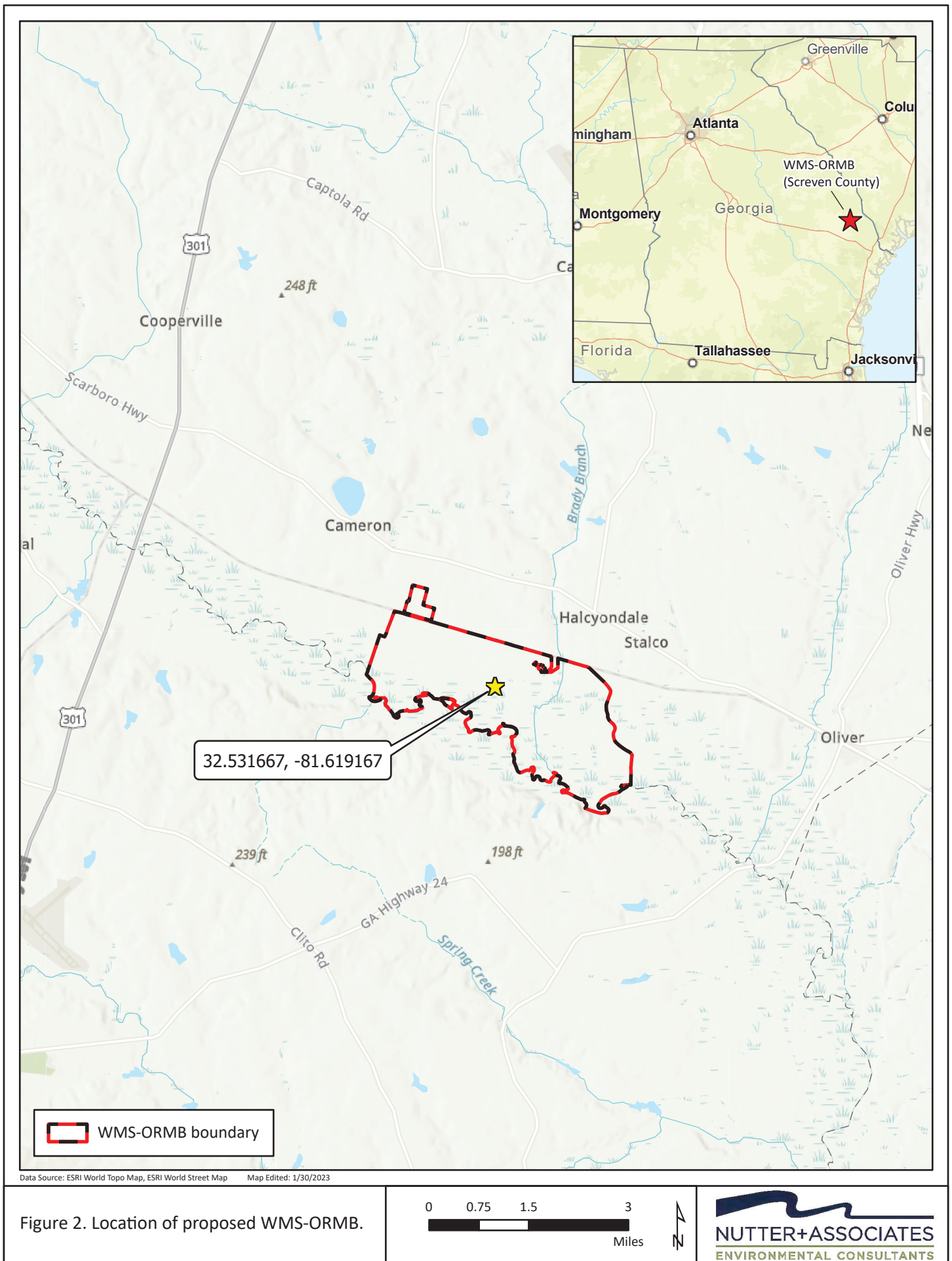


Figure 2. Location of proposed WMS-ORMB.

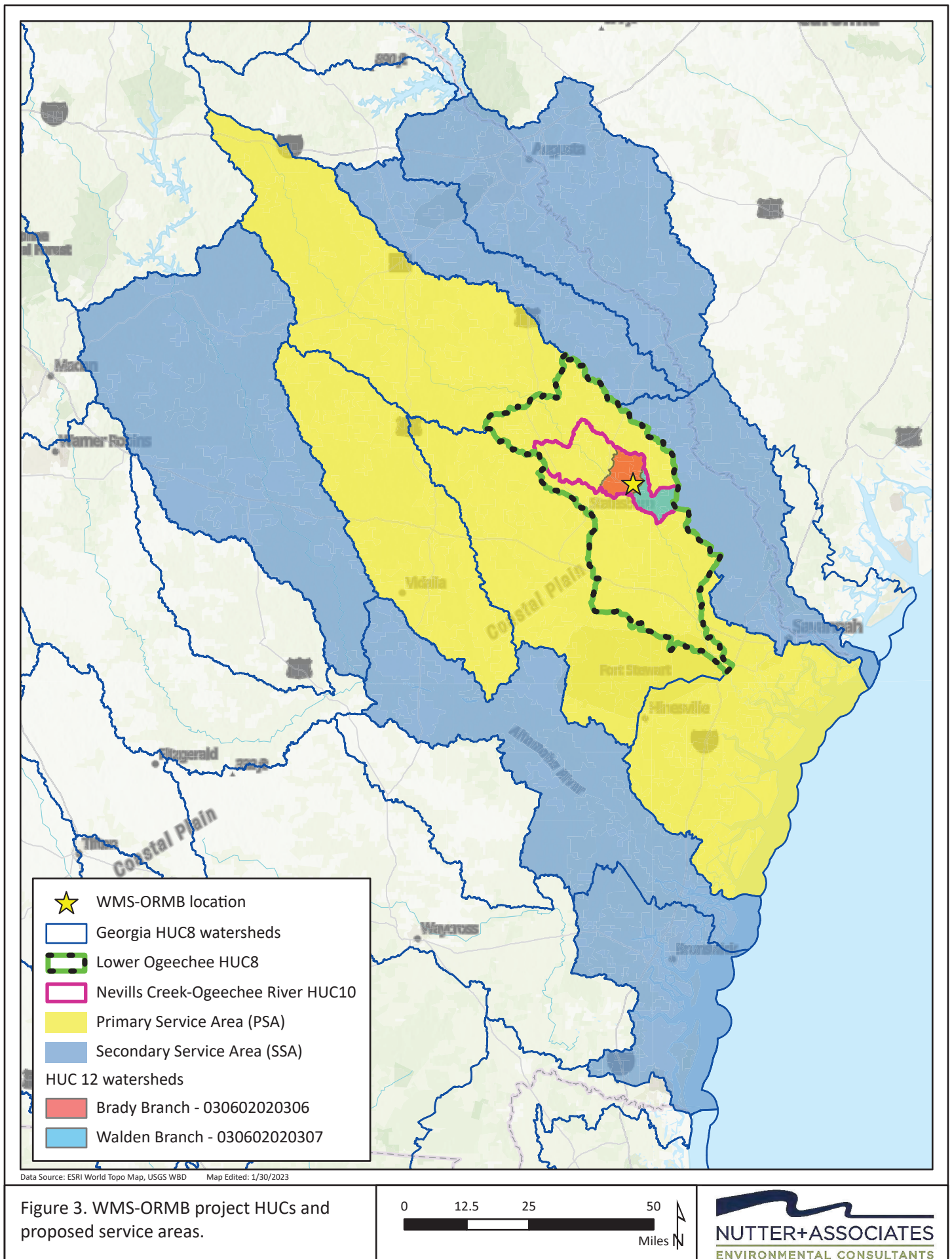
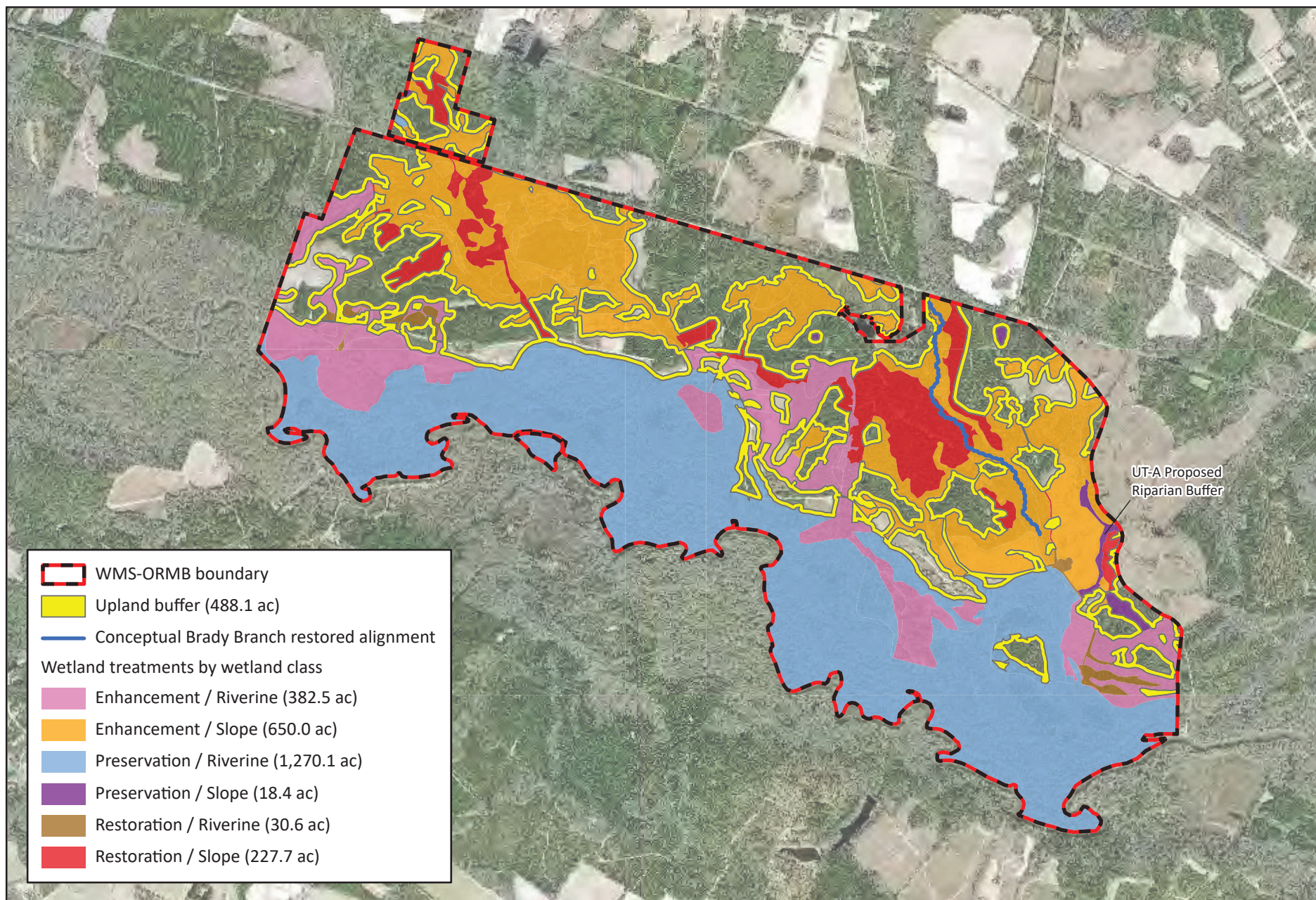


Figure 3. WMS-ORMB project HUCs and proposed service areas.



Data Source: NAIP Aerial Imagery (Captured 1/30/2022) Map Edited: 1/30/2023

Figure 6. Proposed WMS-ORMB wetland and stream treatment areas.

