



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

August 4, 2023

Regulatory Division
SAS-2023-00373

PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District

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

Application Number: SAS-2023-00373

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

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

Bank Agent: Daniel Coggin
Coggin Asset Management, LLC
P.O. Box 476
Armory, 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.

1. Location of Proposed Work: The proposed Tusculum Mitigation Bank (TMB) consists of 734-acres, located approximately 6 miles west of Springfield Georgia, east of Highway 17, Effingham County, Georgia (Latitude 32.39128, Longitude -81.3995). The project area is within the Lower Savannah Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 03060109). Please refer to the enclosed Location Map, Aerial Imagery, Service Area Map (HUC 8), and Wetland Treatment Exhibit for more detailed information concerning the location of the proposed bank.

Objective: Per the applicant, the wetland objectives include promoting the restoration of historical water table conditions which have been modified due to vegetative conversion and hydraulic manipulation, to restore natural vegetative communities, to enhance landscape connectivity which has been fragmented, and to increase nutrient retention of both surface and groundwater within the wetland system.

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 would serve all portions of the following watersheds and listed counties:

Brier 03060108: Screven, Jenkins, Burke, Jefferson, Richmond, Columbia, Glascock, Warren, and McDuffie

Middle Savannah 03060106: Screven, Burke, Richmond, Columbia, and McDuffie

Lower Savannah 03060109: Chatham, Effingham, and Screven

The site's secondary service areas would serve all portions of the following watersheds and listed counties:

Upper Ogeechee 03060201: Jenkins, Emmanuel, Burke, Jefferson, Washington, Glascock, Warren, Hancock, Taliaferro, and Greene

Lower Ogeechee 03060202: Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, Emmanuel, Bulloch, Screven, and Jenkins

Description of Mitigation Bank: The sponsor has proposed the following mitigation plan / onsite prescriptions for the proposed TMB: (See attached Wetland Treatment Exhibit Exhibit)

Proposed Action	Acreage
Wetland Preservation	99.5
Wetland Enhancement	405.7
Wetland Restoration	6.7
Upland Buffer	123.0

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 Tusculum 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,125470

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 (Tusculum Mitigation Bank) and the Regulatory Division file number (SAS-2023-00373) 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

2. Location Map (Figure 2)
3. Aerial Imagery (Figure 1)
4. Service Area Map (Figure 3)
5. Wetland Treatment Exhibit (Figure 6)

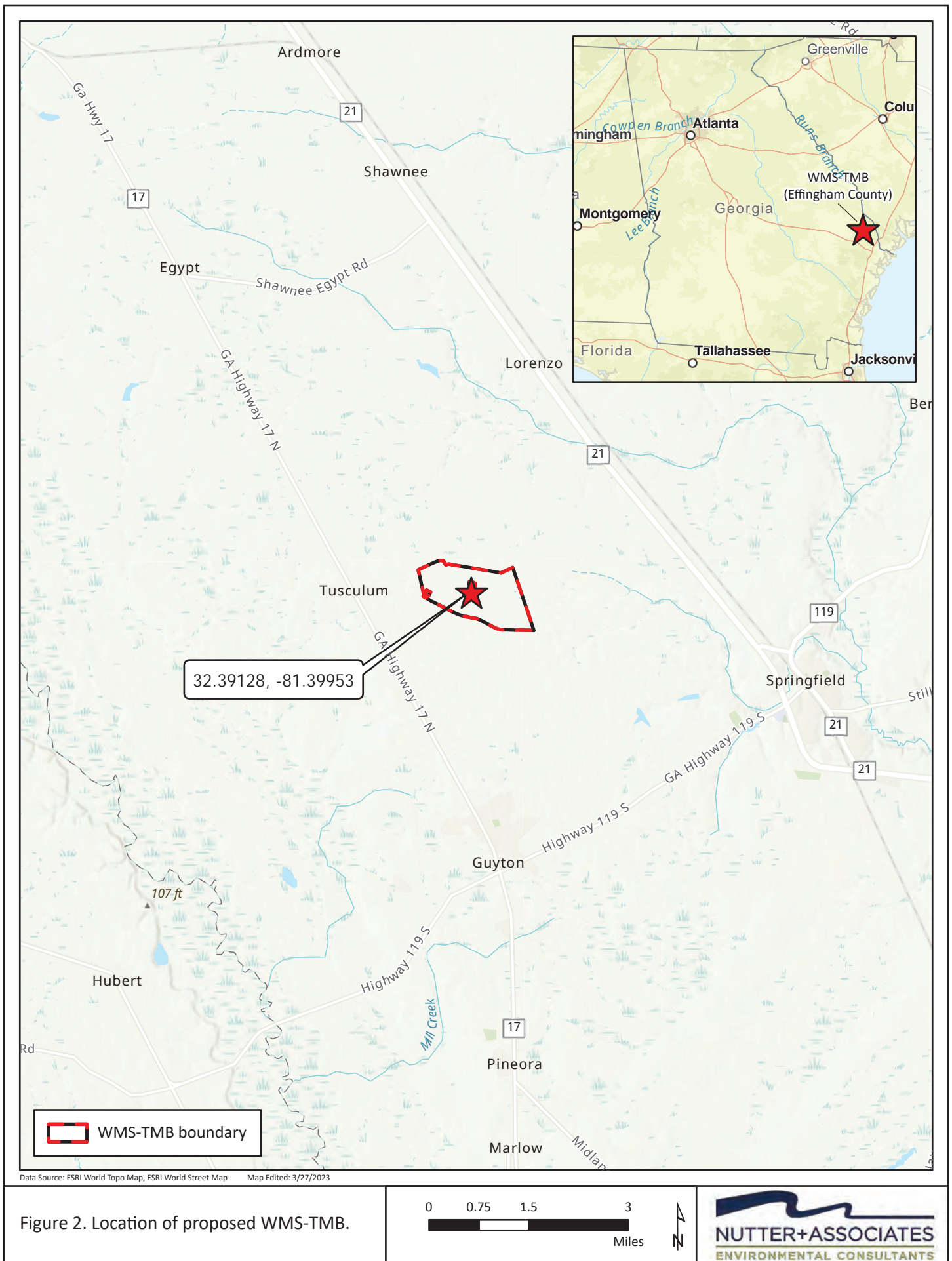
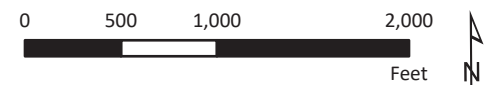


Figure 2. Location of proposed WMS-TMB.



Data Source: NAIP Aerial Imagery (Captured 1/30/2022) Map Edited: 3/27/2023

Figure 1. Proposed Weyerhaeuser Mitigation Service – Tusculum MB (WMS-TMB) with 2022 NAIP aerial imagery.



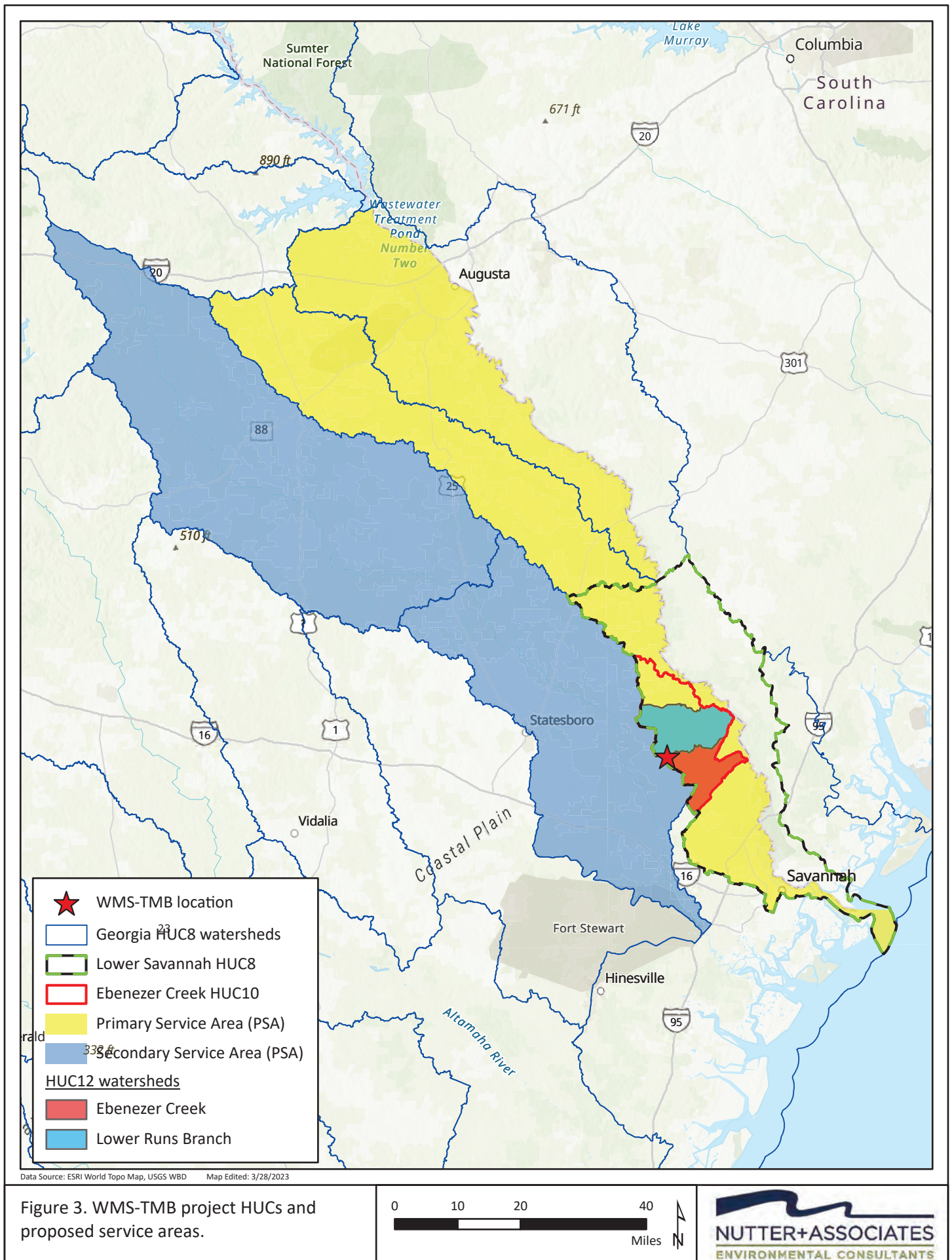
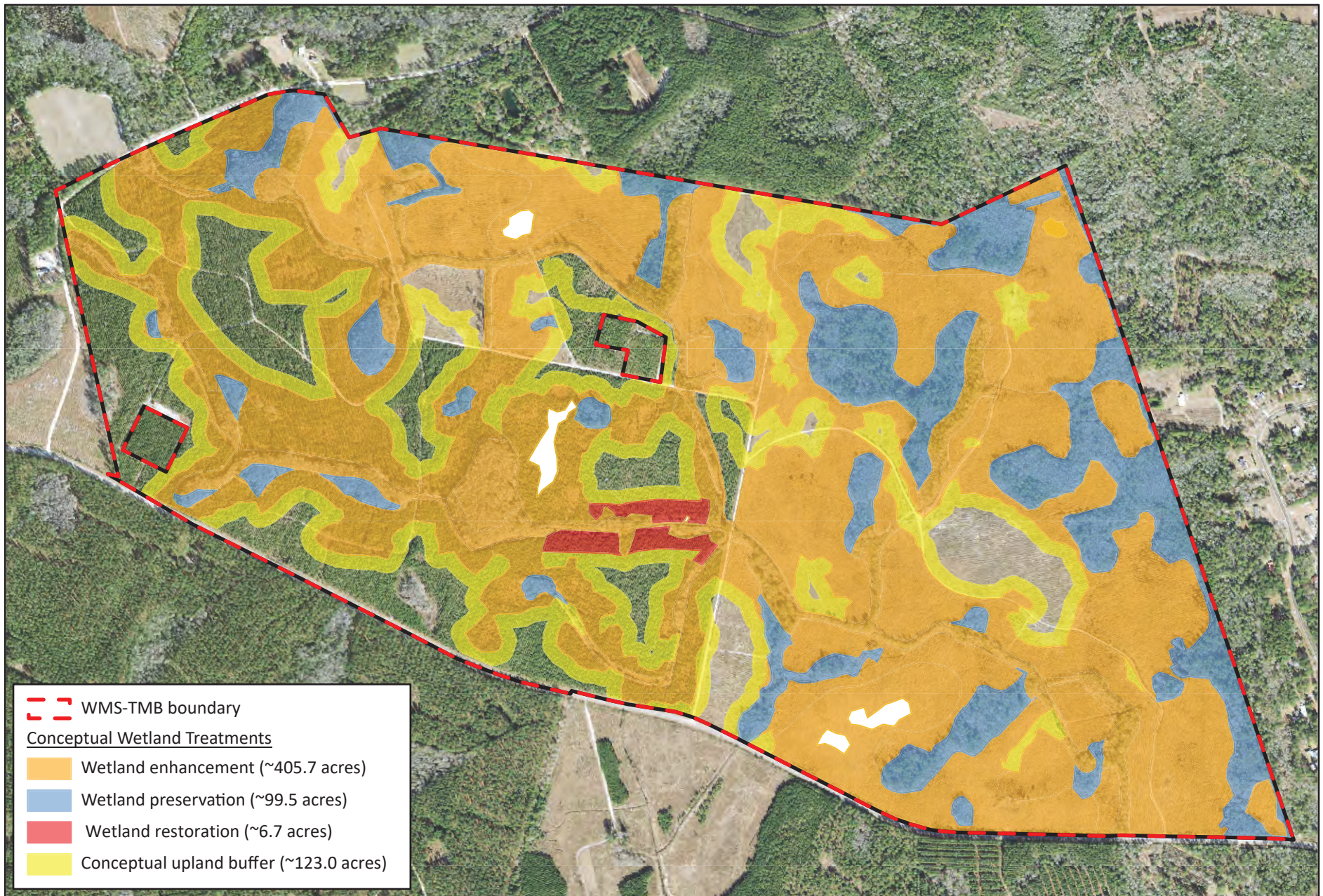


Figure 3. WMS-TMB project HUCs and proposed service areas.



Data Source: NAIP Aerial Imagery (Captured 1/30/2022) Map Edited: 3/28/2023

Figure 6. Proposed WMS-TMB wetland treatment areas.

