



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

CESAM-RD
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2012-00141-MBM

August 27, 2013

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

PROPOSED PASCAGOULA RIVER MITIGATION BANK, JACKSON COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received a complete mitigation banking prospectus for the proposed establishment of a mitigation bank referred to as the **Pascagoula River Mitigation Bank**. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

BANK SPONSOR: Pascagoula River Mitigation Bank
The Natural Resource Investment Group, L.L.C.
Attention: Mr. Brad Humber
3801 Woodland Heights Road, Suite 110
Little Rock, Arkansas 72212

The Natural Resource Investment Group, L.L.C. proposes to establish a 1,278-acre commercial mitigation bank in Jackson County, Mississippi, to generate both wetland and stream mitigation credits for purchase by interested Department of Army (DOA) permit applicants in order to fulfill compensatory mitigation requirements for various project-related impacts subject to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulatory authority pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The mitigation bank site is located along Soley Road and the east shoreline of the Pascagoula River, north of Wade, Mississippi. More specifically, the parcel is located in Sections 18, 38, and 39 of Township 4 South, Range 6 West, and within Sections 39 and 40 of Township 4 South, Range 7 West, with a central point of 30.6929277 North, -88.6266305 West, in Jackson County, Mississippi. The proposed service area for the mitigation bank

is the Lower Pascagoula watershed HUC 03170006, Jackson, Harrison, Hancock, Pearl River, Stone and George Counties. Use of bank outside of designated service would require the use of the Mobile District Proximity Factor Method.

To generate wetland mitigation credits within the Pascagoula River mitigation bank, the sponsors propose to enhance 955 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands. The site has historically been used and managed for timber production and was recently clear-cut by the previous owner. The proposed bottomland hardwood enhancement activities include tree planting of bottomland hardwood wetland species to achieve the appropriate composition, density and diversity of the native bottomland hardwood wetland system, and exotic species control. The site is adjacent to high-quality unimpacted hardwood systems that can be used as reference sites for determining appropriate wetland species. All wetland credit calculations will be determined using the Ratio Method and/or the Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure (WRAP). The site also contains 54 acres of uplands, 14 acres of roads, 4 acres of open waters, and 154 acres of high quality bottomland hardwood wetlands that will not be used to generate wetland credits.

To generate stream mitigation credits, the applicant proposes to enhance and preserve 1,390 linear feet of bottomland hardwood wetlands serving as riparian buffer along the left bank of the Pascagoula River, enhance and preserve 14,916 linear feet of buffer along Cedar Creek, enhance 2,661 linear feet of buffer along intermittent stream one, enhance 2,392 linear feet of buffer along intermittent stream two, and enhance 660 linear feet of buffer along ephemeral stream one. No instream mitigation is proposed. All stream credits would be determined using the 2012 Mobile District Compensatory Stream Mitigation Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines.

On 10 April 2008 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued new regulations, in the Federal Register, Vol. 73, No. 70, governing compensatory mitigation for losses of aquatic resources. The new regulation, 33 CFR 332 – Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources, establishes performance standards and criteria for mitigation projects including mitigation banks. Part 33 CFR 332.8 addresses requirements for establishing, operating, and maintaining mitigation banks that provide credits to satisfy mitigation requirements of the Clean Water Act, Section 404 permit program. Recognizing the potential benefits mitigation banking offers for streamlining the permit evaluation process and providing more effective mitigation for authorized impacts to wetlands, the agencies encourage the establishment and appropriate use of mitigation banks in the Section 404 program. This guidance became effective 9 June 2008.

**CESAM-RD
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2012-00141-MBM**

August 27, 2013

An interagency group of Federal and State regulatory and resource agency representatives, as appropriate given the projected use for the bank, referred to as the Mitigation Banking Interagency Review Team (IRT), is signatory to a banking instrument and oversees the establishment, use and operation of a mitigation bank. Information provided in the prospectus will serve as the basis for establishing a banking instrument which will describe in detail the physical and legal characteristics of the bank and how the bank will be established and operated.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties for consideration while evaluating this proposed activity. Copies of all comments received will be distributed to the other members of the IRT and the bank sponsor for full consideration in the development of the mitigation bank.

Comments concerning this Public Notice should be received within 30 days of the date of this public notice and should refer to number **SAM-2012-00141-MBM** and direct your correspondence to the District Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: Regulatory Division; with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2261, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530. If you have any questions concerning this publication, please contact Mr. Michael Moxey, IRT Chair, at michael.b.moxey@usace.army.mil or telephone number (251) 690-2658.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

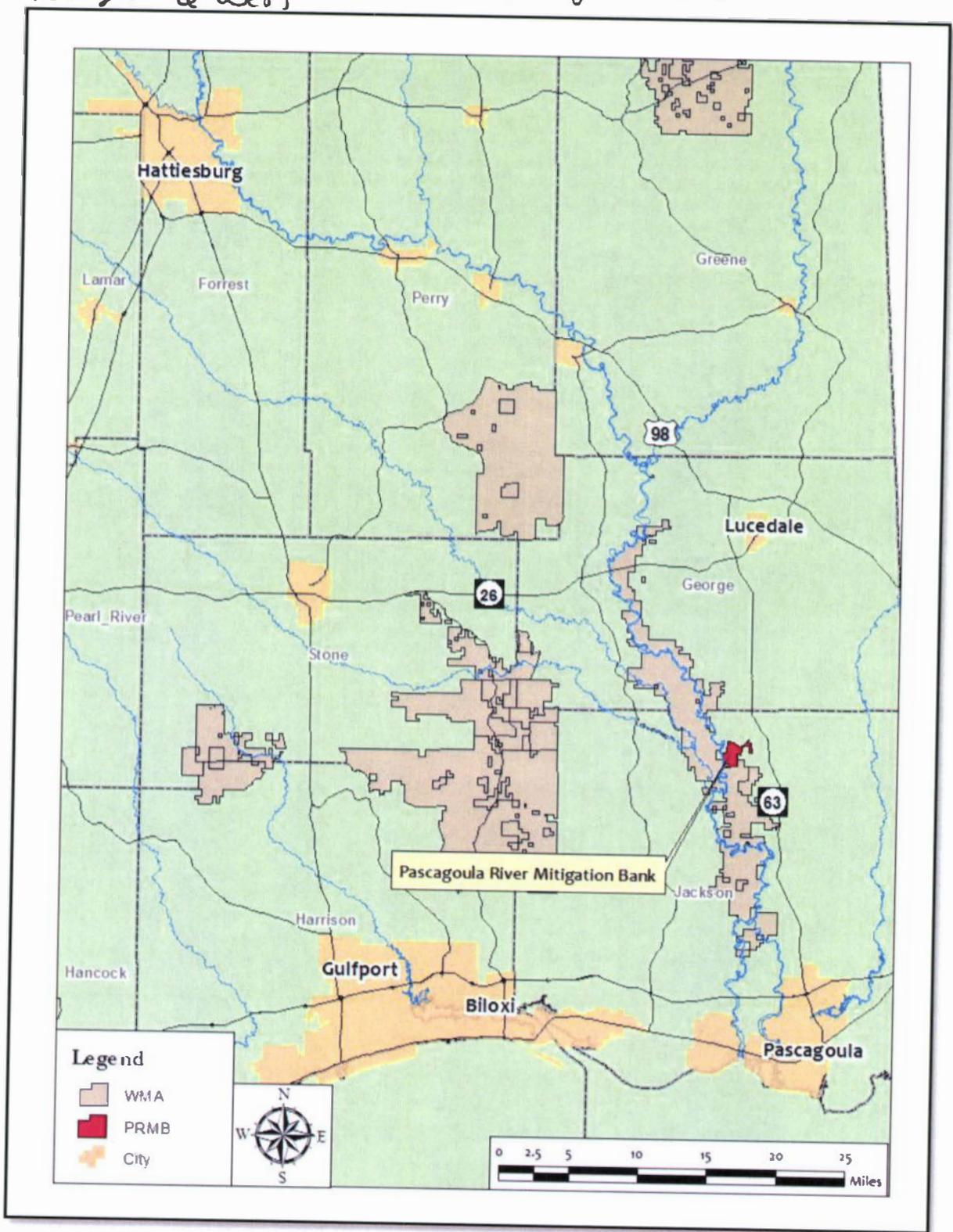
Enclosures

Sections 18, 38, 39
Township 4 South
Range 6 West

1,278 ACRES

Section 39, 40
Township 4 South
Range 6 West

30.6929277 N
-88.6266305 W



North of
WADE, MS.

Figure 1. General Vicinity Map of Proposed Pascagoula River Mitigation Bank.

Pascagoula River Mitigation Bank Roads and Streams

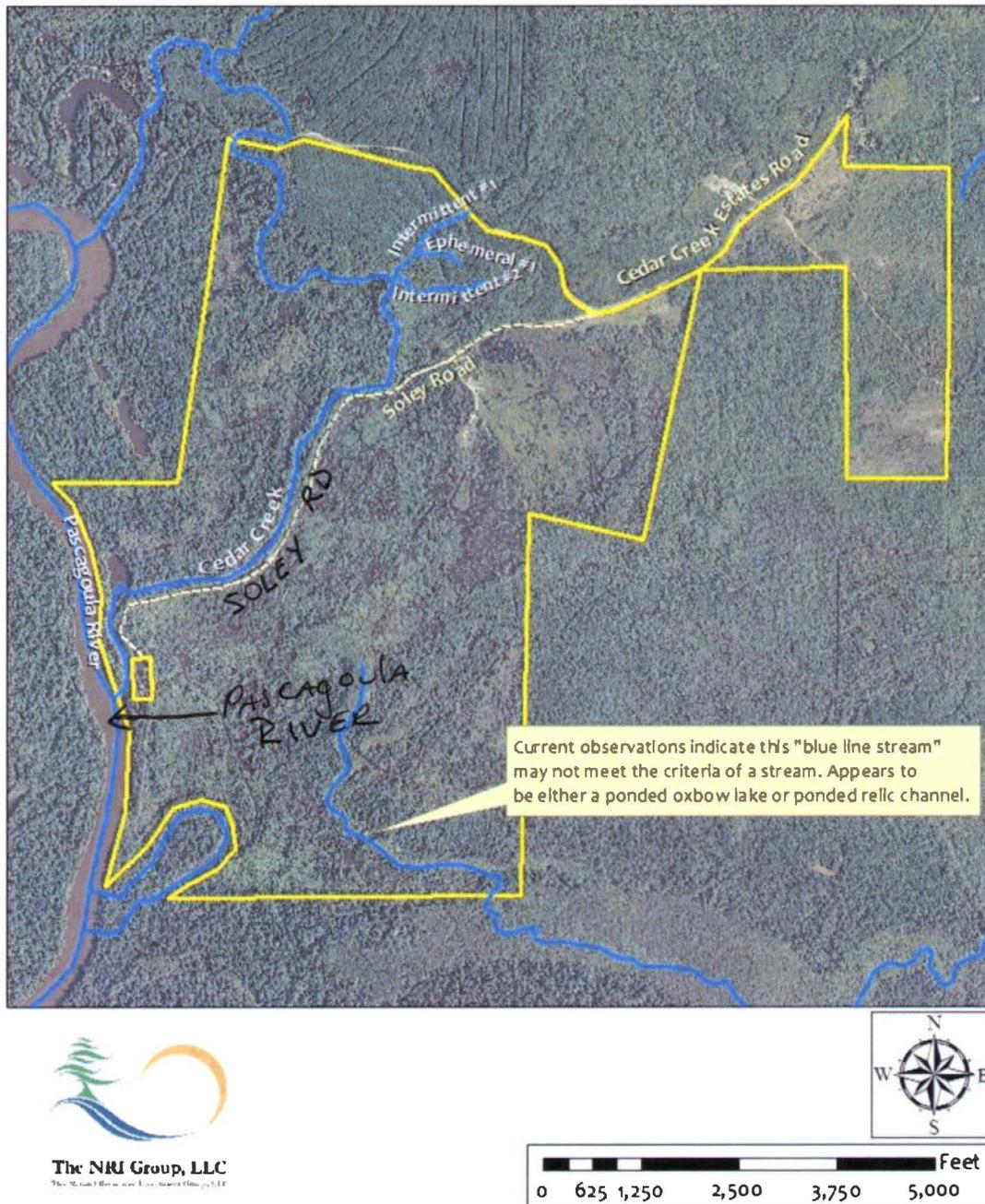
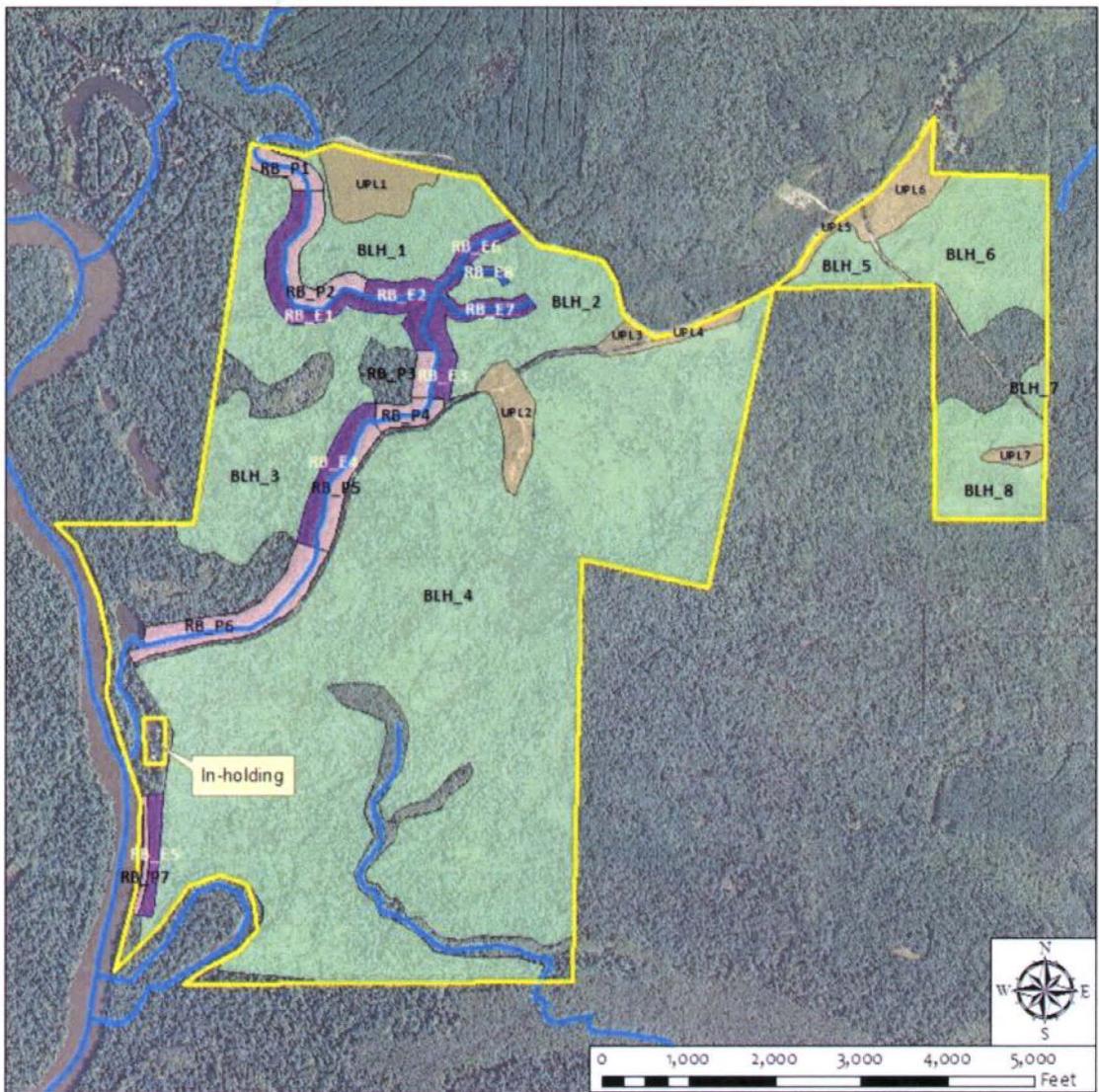


Figure 2. Aerial Photograph of Proposed Pascagoula River Mitigation Bank.

Pascagoula River Mitigation Bank Habitat Management Polygons



Legend

EPR Property	Riparian Buffer Enhancement
Streams	Riparian Buffer Preservation
Uplands	BLH Enhancement



Figure 3. Existing Stream Channels and Wetland Enhancement Boundaries.

Pascagoula River Mitigation Bank Cross Section Locations

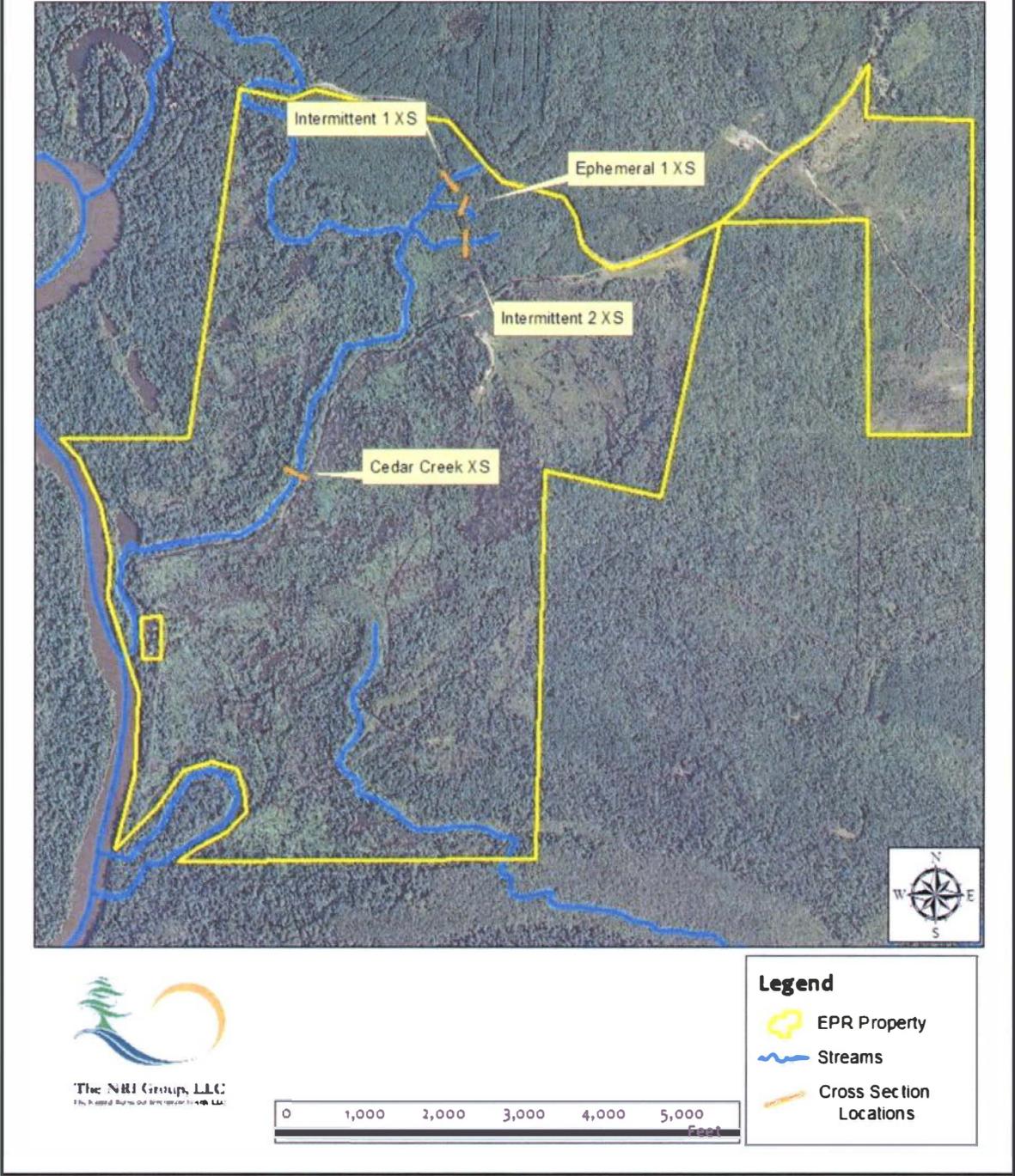


Figure 4. Stream Cross Sections of Cedar Creek and Tributaries.