



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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

Regulatory Division
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2008-1176-MBM

August 25, 2008

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
AND
STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

BIG SANDY MITIGATION BANK, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received a complete mitigation banking instrument for the establishment of a mitigation bank referred to as the **Big Sandy Mitigation Bank**. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**BANK SPONSOR: Big Sandy Mitigation Bank
C/o Westervelt Ecological Services
Attention: Mr. Sean McGary
2128 Moores Mill Road, Suite B
Auburn, Alabama 36830**

Westervelt Ecological Services is proposing to establish 1,032-acre commercial wetland and stream mitigation bank to generate mitigation credits for purchase by interested Department of Army (DOA) permit applicants in order to fulfill compensatory wetland and stream mitigation requirements for various project-related stream impacts subject to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulatory authority pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Approval for DOA permittees to use bank mitigation credits would be determined on a case-by-case basis at the time of permit evaluation. The mitigation bank site is located 10 miles south of Tuscaloosa near Duncanville, 33°1'54.419"N, 87°30'44.8020"W, Sections 19, 20, and 30 of Township 24 North, Range 6 East, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. The mitigation bank is sited adjacent to Big Sandy Creek and South Sandy Creek, which are tributaries to the Black Warrior River. The bank's service area will include all portions of the lower Black Warrior Watershed (USGS Hydrologic Unit Code 03160113) as well as remaining watersheds within the Black Warrior-Tombigbee Basin (USGS Hydrologic Unit Code 031601) using the Mobile District Proximity Factor Method. Use of bank outside of designated service area may be authorized on a case-by-case basis by the Corps. The Big Sandy Mitigation Bank contains 34,524 linear feet of stream on 15 stream reaches and will restore 15,653 linear feet, enhance 18,332 linear feet, and preserve 27,381 linear feet of riparian buffer, and perform 1,624 linear feet of in-stream

restoration work. All stream credit calculations will be determined using the Mobile District's March 2005 Standard Operating Procedures Compensatory Stream Mitigation Guidelines. The proposed mitigation bank will restore/enhance a total of 403 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands. All wetland credit calculations will be determined using the Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure (WRAP).

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, for 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.

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 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-2008-1176-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; and a copy to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, 1400 Coliseum Drive, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463. If you have any questions concerning this publication, please contact Mr. Michael Moxey, Project Manager, via e-mail at michael.b.moxey@usace.army.mil or telephone number (251) 690-2658.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

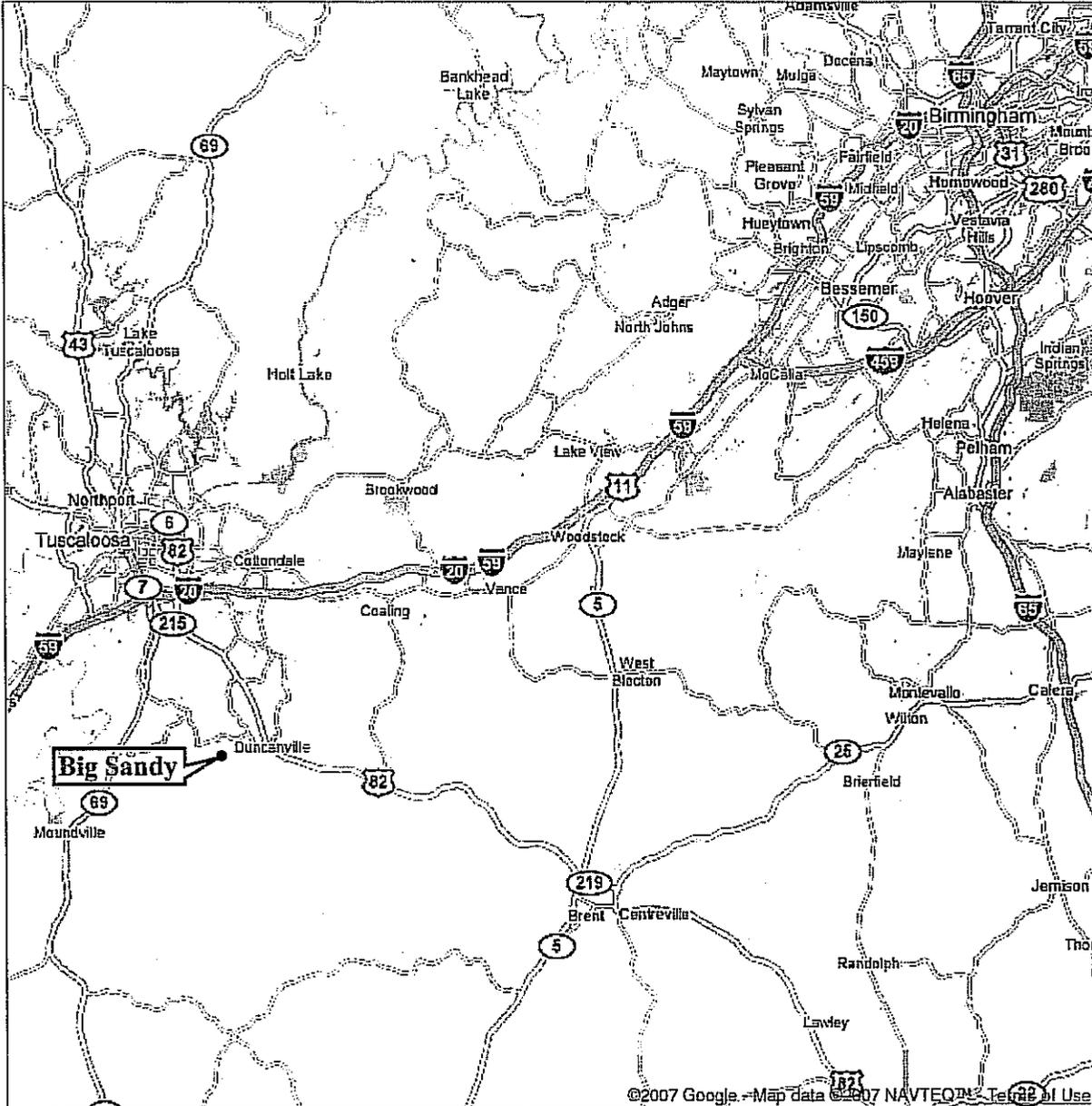
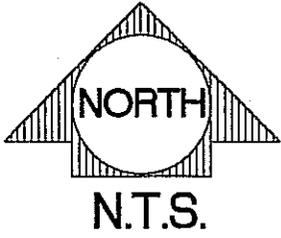
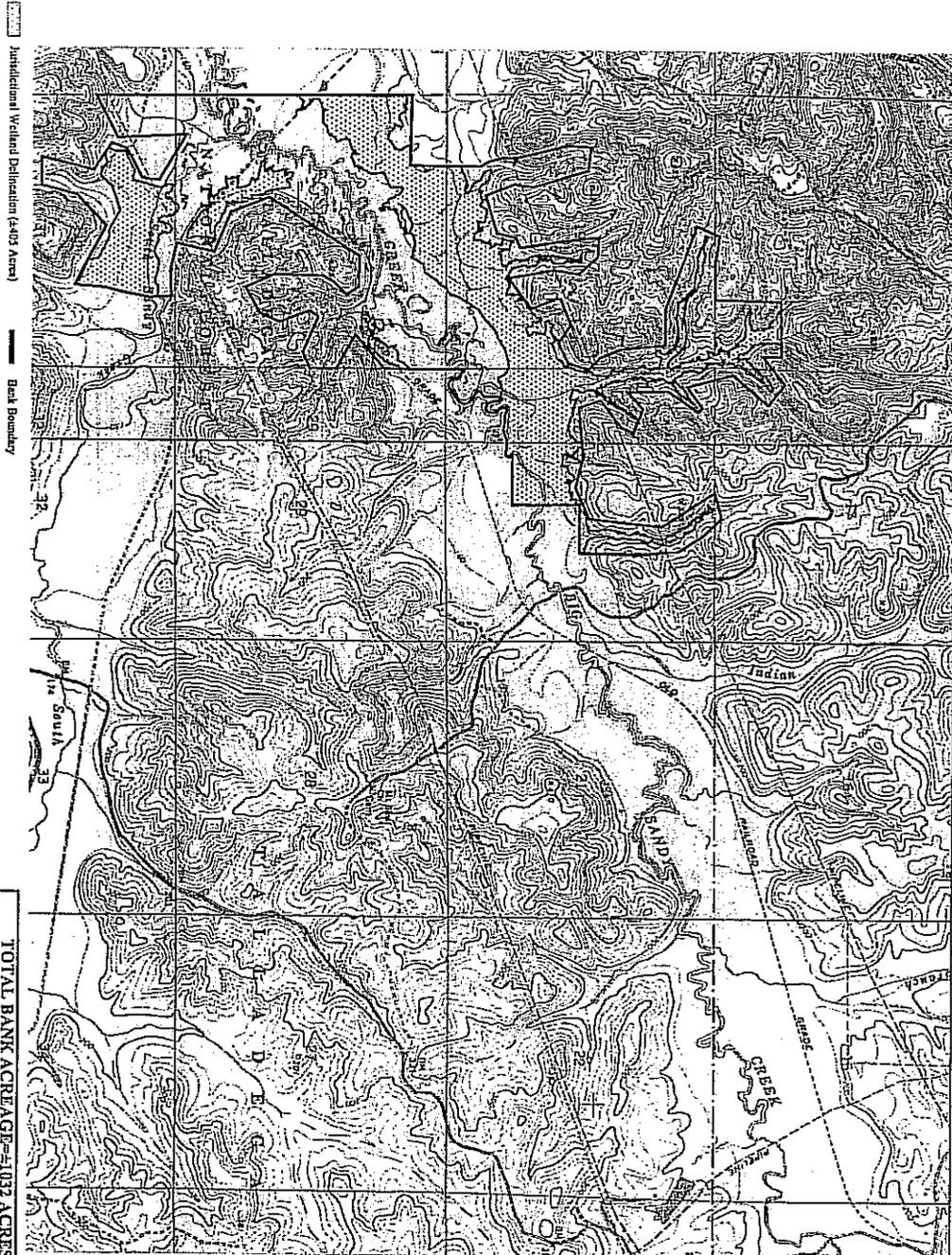
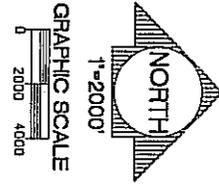


Figure 1
Big Sandy Mitigation Bank
Project Location

Date:	05/21/08	
Drawn by:	MBF	
Checked by:	SPM	Scale: Not to Scale



2128 Moores Mill Road Suite B
Auburn, Alabama 36830



Big Sandy Mitigation Bank (formerly) Big Sandy Swamp, located in the U.S.G.S. Duncanville/Englewood Quadrangle Map. Prepared by Westervelt Ecological Services, Inc. on 07/27/2009.

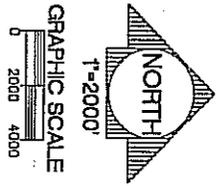
TOTAL BANK ACREAGE=4032 ACRES

Figure 4
Big Sandy Mitigation Bank
U.S.G.S. Duncanville/Englewood
Quadrangle Map

Date:	06/25/09
Drawn by:	MBF
Checked by:	SPM
Scale:	1"=2,000'



2128 Moores Mill Road Suite B
Auburn, AL 36830



Item	Color Code	Length	Quantity	Area
Bank Boundary	[Symbol]			±56 AC
Wetland Restoration (Pine Plantation) (Polygon 18, 22)	[Symbol]			±85 AC
Wetland Restoration (Clear Cut) (Polygons 16, 19)	[Symbol]			±4.3 AC
Wetlands Delineated Within Upland Mixed Hardwoods (Polygon 23)	[Symbol]			±103 AC
Mixed Hardwood, Natural Levee Restoration (Upland) (Polygon 23)	[Symbol]			±171 AC
Wetland Preservation/Enhancement (Polygon 17)	[Symbol]			±62 AC
Mixed Bottomland Hardwoods (Upland and Wetland) Preservation/Enhancement (Polygons 20, 21)	[Symbol]			±10,150 L.F. ±6.3 AC
Big Sandy Stream Buffer Enhancement (Polygon 25)	[Symbol]			±12,260 L.F. ±70 AC
Big Sandy Stream Buffer Preservation (2 Sided) (Polygon 25)	[Symbol]			±3,596 L.F. ±6.8 AC
Big Sandy Stream Buffer Preservation (1 Sided) (Polygon 25)	[Symbol]			See Below
Triinary Stream Buffer Eshing	[Symbol]			See Below
Triinary Stream Buffer Restoration	[Symbol]			See Below
Triinary Stream Line (GPS Located)	[Symbol]			±1,624 L.F.
In-Channel Stream Restoration (Polygon 24)	[Symbol]			±381 L.F.
Drainage Ditch (GPS Located)	[Symbol]			
Triinary Stream Buffer		Quantity	Buffer Restoration	Total
Stream #1	±3,582 L.F.	1.93 AC	18.21 AC	20.15 AC
Stream #2	±1,759 L.F.	8.03 AC	3.87 AC	13.90 AC
Stream #3	± 804 L.F.	4.04 AC	3.54 AC	7.58 AC
Stream #4	±2,787 L.F.	12.69 AC	13.44 AC	26.13 AC
Stream #5	±4,787 L.F.	25.72 AC	16.21 AC	41.93 AC
Stream #6	±5,016 L.F.	3.39 AC	5.33 AC	8.72 AC
Stream #7	±1,409 L.F.	2.82 AC	2.57 AC	5.39 AC
Stream #8	± 603 L.F.	6.14 AC	19.01 AC	25.15 AC
Stream #9	±3,475 L.F.	11.80 AC	0.00 AC	11.80 AC
Stream #10	±1,566 L.F.	8.29 AC	11.76 AC	20.05 AC
Stream #11	±2,233 L.F.	12.37 AC	5.72 AC	18.09 AC
Stream #12	±2,201 L.F.	28.26 AC	2.83 AC	31.10 AC
Stream #13	±5,435 L.F.	7.45 AC	9.61 AC	17.06 AC
Stream #14	±1,882 L.F.	8.02 AC	12.88 AC	20.90 AC
Stream #15	±2,501 L.F.			
GRAND TOTAL	±54,524 L.F.	158.92 AC	110.62 AC	269.55 AC
TOTAL BANK ACREAGE=±103 ACRES				

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Figure 2
Big Sandy Mitigation Bank
U.S.G.S. Quad With Stream and Wetland
Polygons and Management Plan

Date:	02/26/08
Drawn by:	MDP
Checked by:	BPM

Scale: 1"=2,000'

WESTERVELT
 ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

2128 Moores Mill Road Suite B
Auburn, AL 36830