



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-RD-I
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2008-992-DMY

September 17, 2008

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

PROPOSED IMPACTS TO WATERS OF THE U.S.
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A
MODIFIED RECORD FIRE RANGE
FIRING RANGE 47 - CAMP SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Mississippi Army National Guard
Attention: Major Robert Lemire
Post Office Box 5027
Jackson, Mississippi 39296-5027

WATERWAY: An un-named tributary of Poplar Creek and Chaney Creek. Located in multiple Sections, Township 2 North, Range 12 West, Joint Forces Training Base – Camp Shelby, Firing Range 47; Perry County, Mississippi. Vicinity Latitude North 31.1029 and Longitude West - 89.1572.

WORK: The applicant proposes permanent and temporary construction impacts to approximately 5.44 acres of jurisdictional wetlands at Firing Range 47 for the construction of a Modified Record Firing (MRF) Range in support of on-going troop training activities. The applicant proposes approximately 2.5 acres of permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetland habitat associated with filling activities. Construction impacts are proposed to be restored to pre-construction conditions. Additionally the applicant proposes the re-alignment of approximately 320 linear feet of intermittent stream habitat and piping / armoring impacts at various locations to approximately 166 linear feet of intermittent stream habitat. The applicant proposes the MRF Range would be small

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arms known distance range with targets from 50 to 400 meters. Proposed project is a 16-lane MRF Range with remote electronic target system and computerized scoring. The proposed support facilities include a target storage/repair building, ammunition breakdown building, male/female latrine, mess shelter, bleacher enclosure, parking areas, roads and utilities. This proposed range supports individual weapons familiarization and qualification requirements for the units that train at Camp Shelby. If approved, this project would be located on National Forest lands in the De Soto National Forrest.

Specifics of the proposed range is to train and test individual soldiers on the skills necessary to identify, engage, and defeat stationary infantry targets for day/night qualification requirements with the M16 & M4 rifles. The proposed range would combine the capabilities of Automated Field Fire, Automated Record Fire, and the Automated Night Fire to reduce land and maintenance requirements and increase efficiencies. The estimated area needed for the facility would be 35 acres. A preliminary estimate of the earthwork required for the modified record fire range is 18,000 cubic yards. Primary features proposed would include 144 Stationary infantry targets and 16 Foxholes. All targets with the proposed facility would be fully automated and the event specific target scenario would be computer driven and scored from the range operations center. The range operating system would be fully capable of providing immediate performance feedback to the using participants.

Currently, the Mississippi Army National Guard (MSARNG) has conducted a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) dated August 2007, for the renewal of the current Special Use Permit (SUP) that authorizes military training activities at Camp Shelby Joint Force Training Center (Camp Shelby), Mississippi. The purpose of the EIS was to address the continued military training at Camp Shelby, which included the two-fold purpose to address renewal of the SUP and to address other mission support activities, including some new construction projects. The MRF Range was included in the EIS which included alternatives to the proposed project. Alternatives considered for the proposed project have shown the potential for additional impacts to “waters of the U.S.” and / or threatened and endangered species.

The majority of the proposed impacts to the jurisdictional wetlands would be located to the east side of the proposed project site. One perennial stream is located within the vicinity of the proposed development. There are no proposed impacts to the stream. The wetland habitat ranges from medium to high in quality according to a Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure (WRAP) provided on behalf of the applicant. The applicant proposes compensation for permanent impacts via continuation of on-post enhancement and preservation along Cypress Creek. Temporary impacts during construction are proposed to be restored to pre-construction quality.

The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Mississippi in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, and upon completion of the required advertising, a determination relative to certification will be made.

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This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) can be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may be reasonably expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In response to a Final Environmental Impact Statement, **the National Register of Historic Places and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History has been consulted** for properties listed in or eligible for the National Register that are known to exist which would be affected by the proposed work. **Further coordination was performed with Camp Shelby Archeology and the U.S. Forrest Service. A survey was conducted and no properties were located or determined to be affected by the proposed project.** This review will constitute the full extent of the cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that

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significant sites or properties exist that may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Archeological Services for additional consultation to the specific proposed project.

Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate that the proposed activity will not affect listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. **A Final Environmental Impact Statement has been utilized to identify any immediate proposed project concerns. A Biological Opinion has been provided in conjunction with the EIS. However additional consultation will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.**

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to **Public Notice Number SAM-2008-992-DMY** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: Inland Branch, with a copies to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 10385, Jackson, Mississippi 39289, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530. Comments should be received no later than **30 days from the date of this Public Notice.**

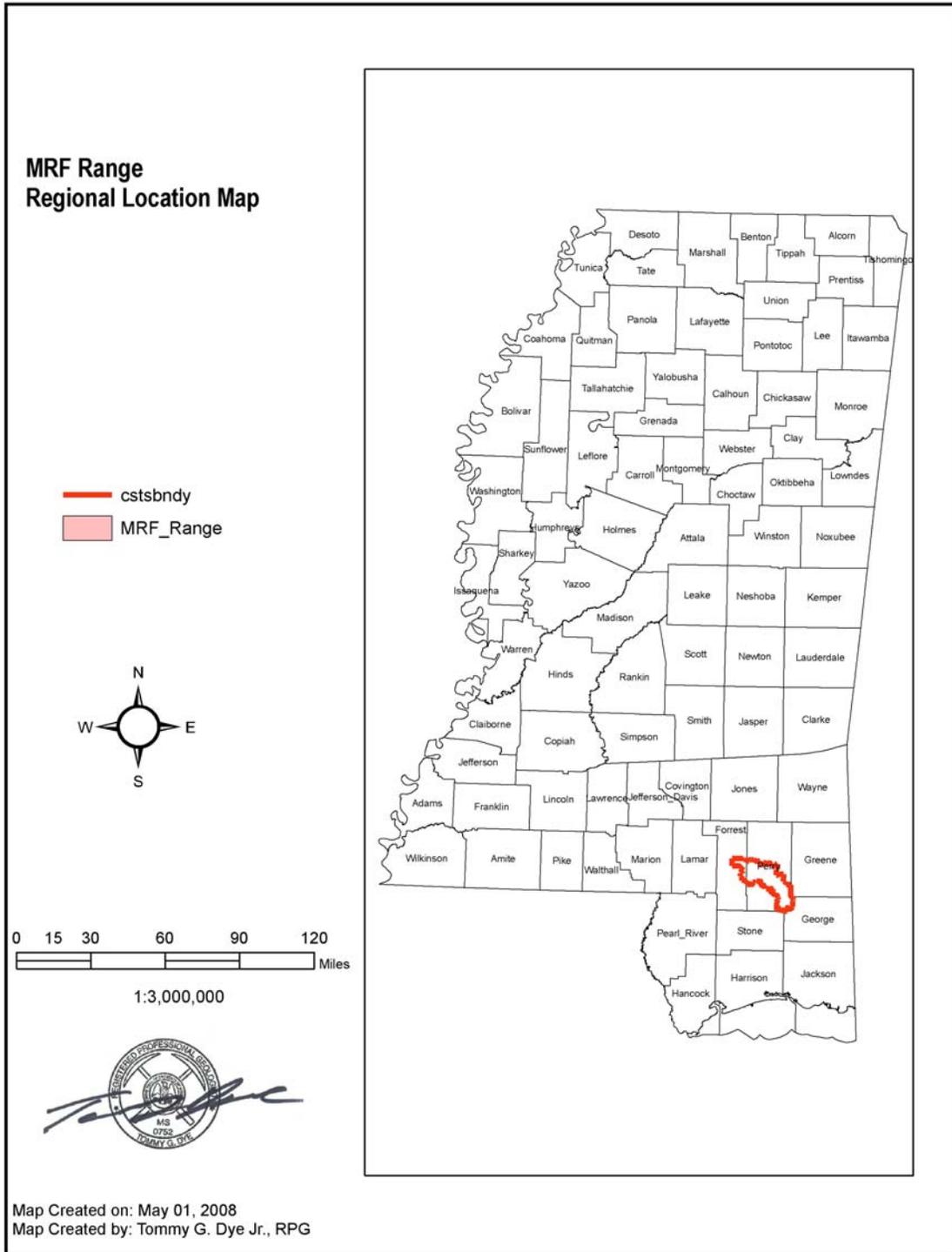
If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the Project Manager Mr. Damon M. Young, P.G. via email at damon.m.young@sam.usace.army.mil or telephone number (251) 690-2658. Please refer to the Public Notice SAM-2008-992-DMY.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/RD/reg, and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

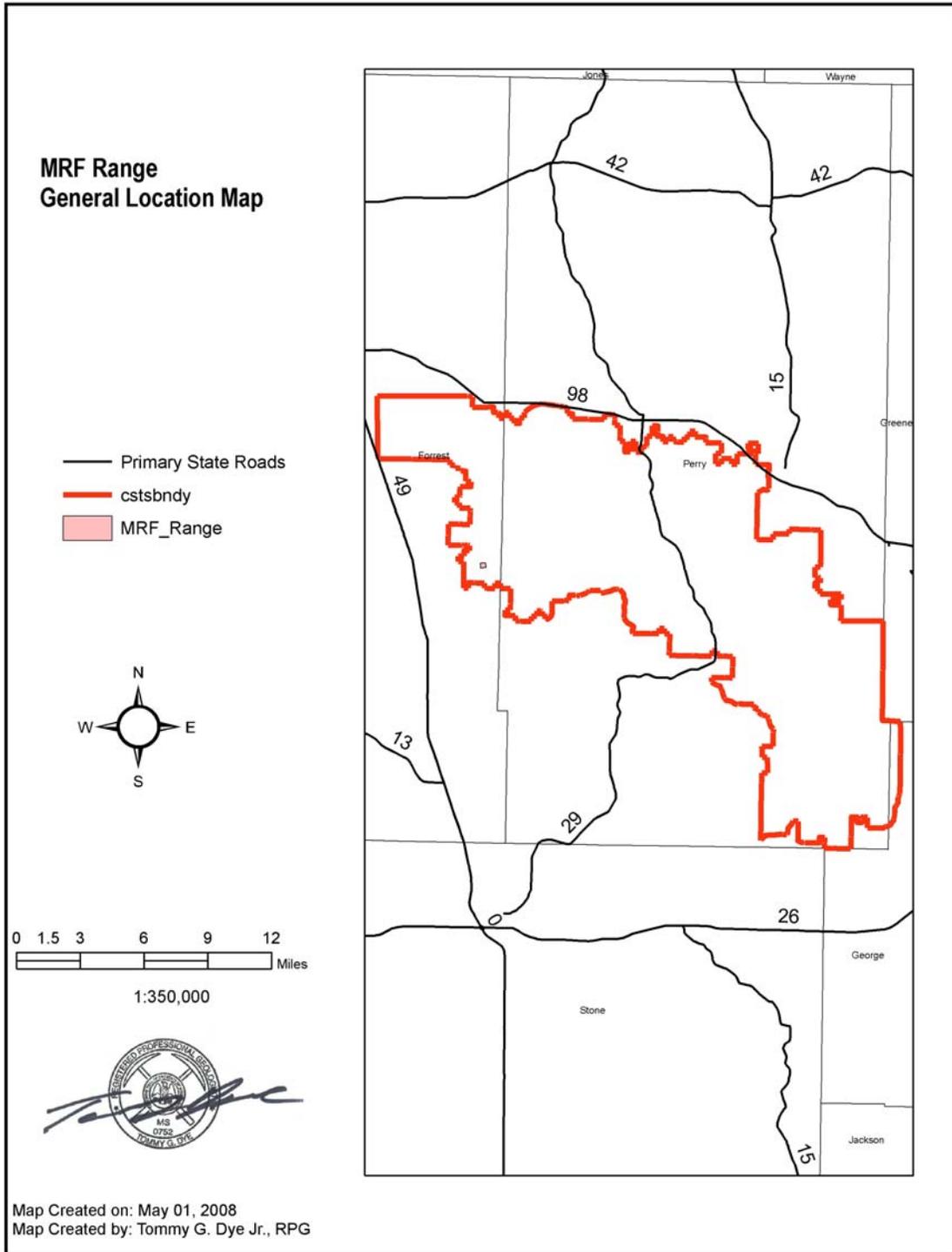
MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

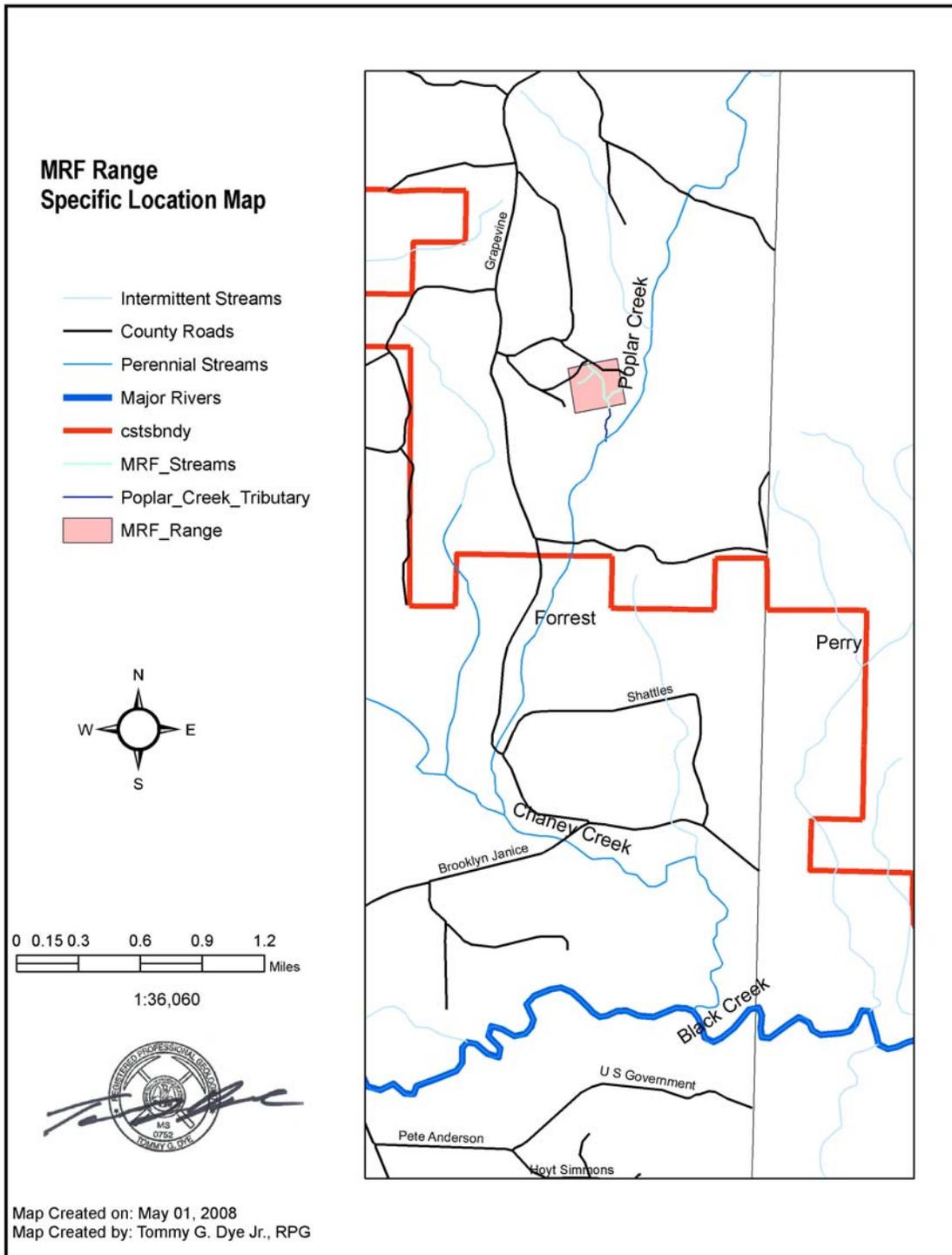
Map1: Regional Location



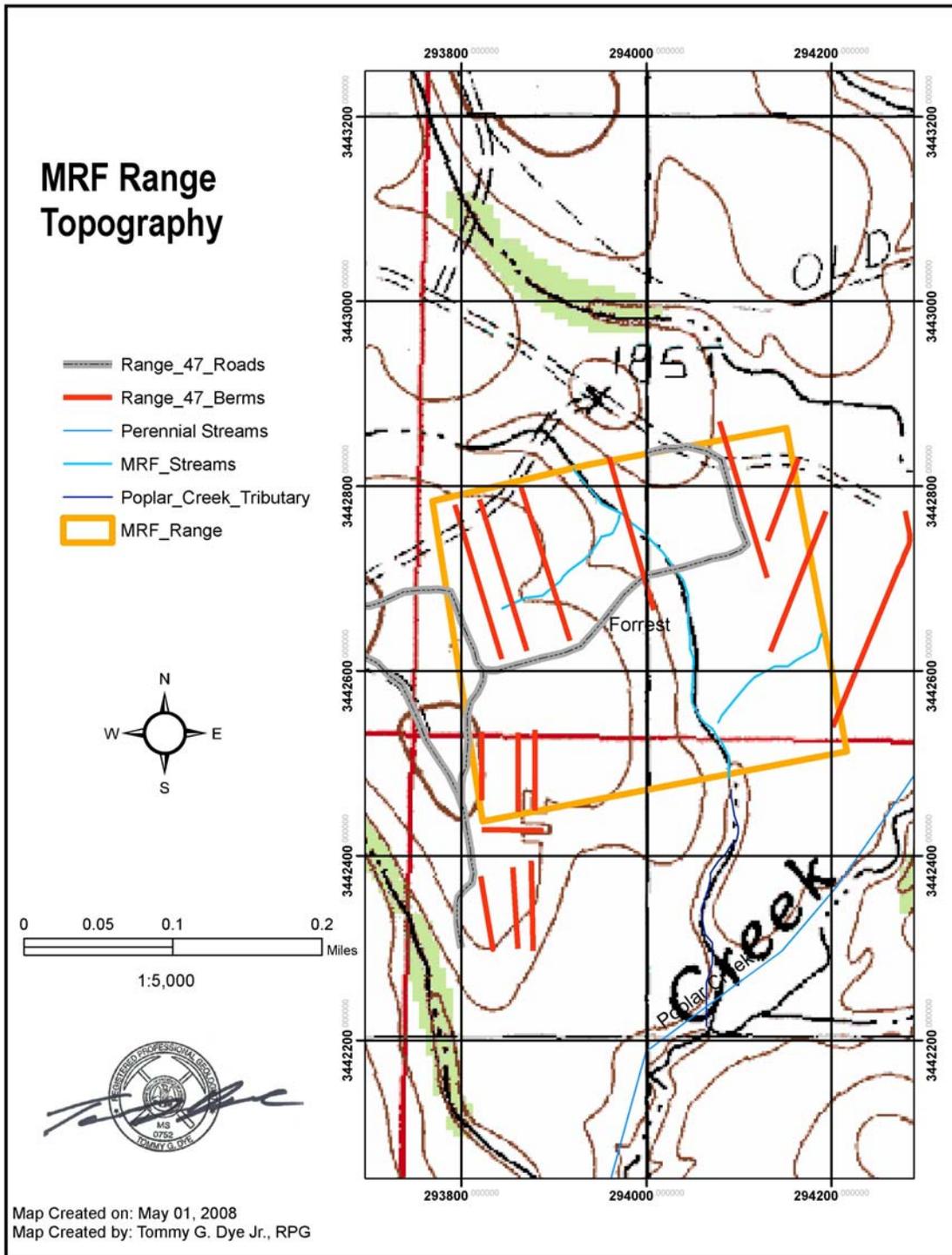
Map 2: General Location



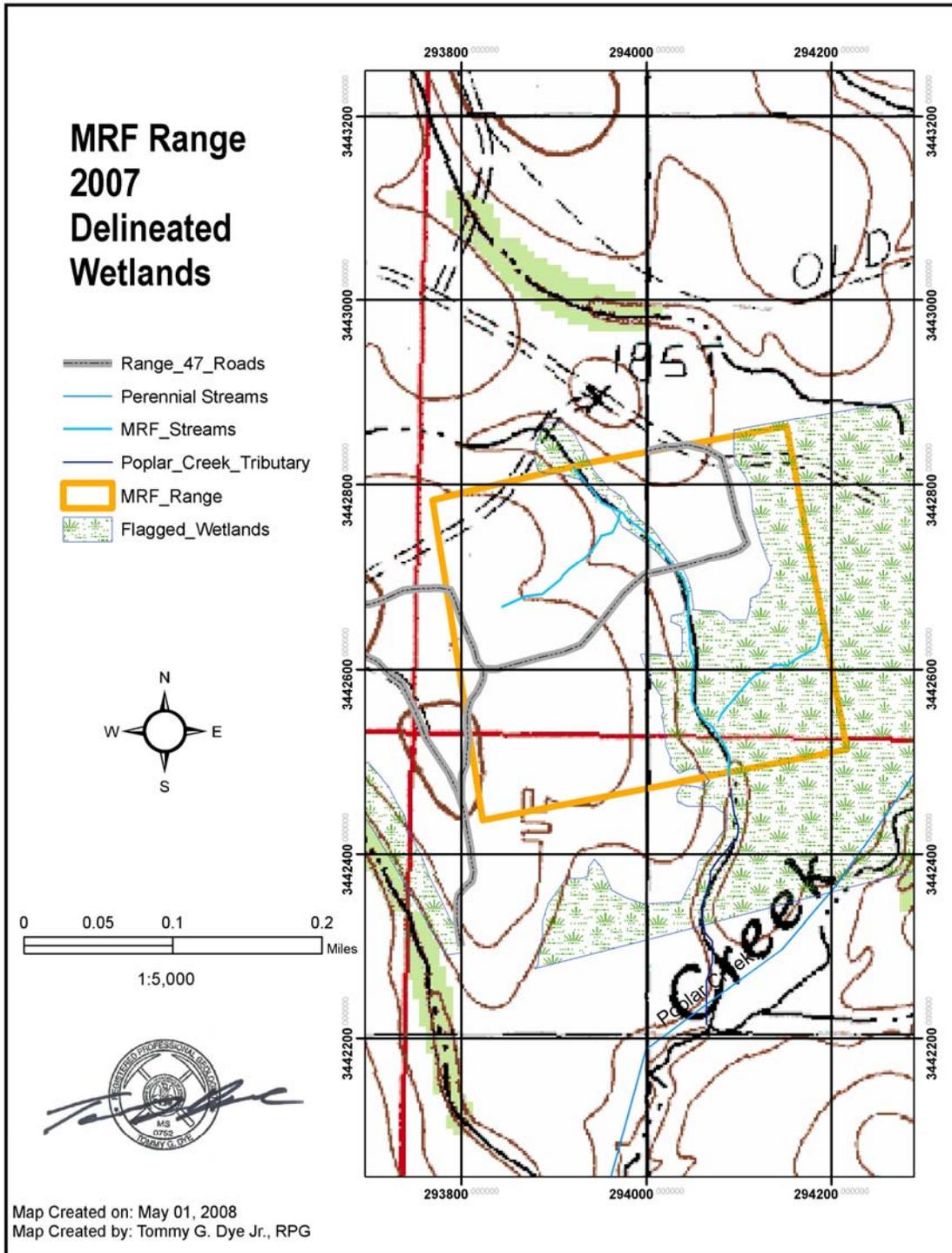
Map 3: Specific Location



Map 4: MRF Project Site Topography



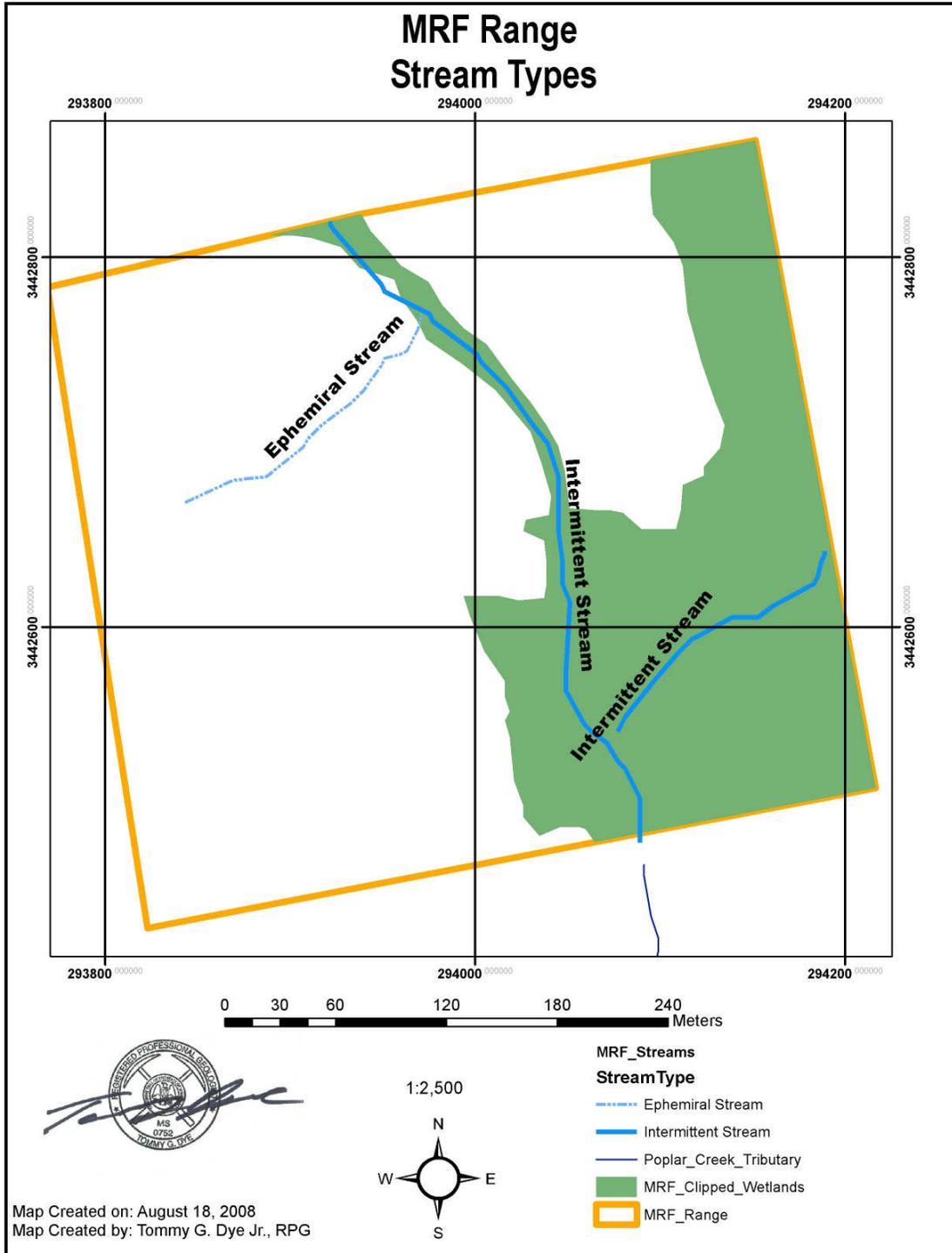
Map 6: MRF Wetlands Topography

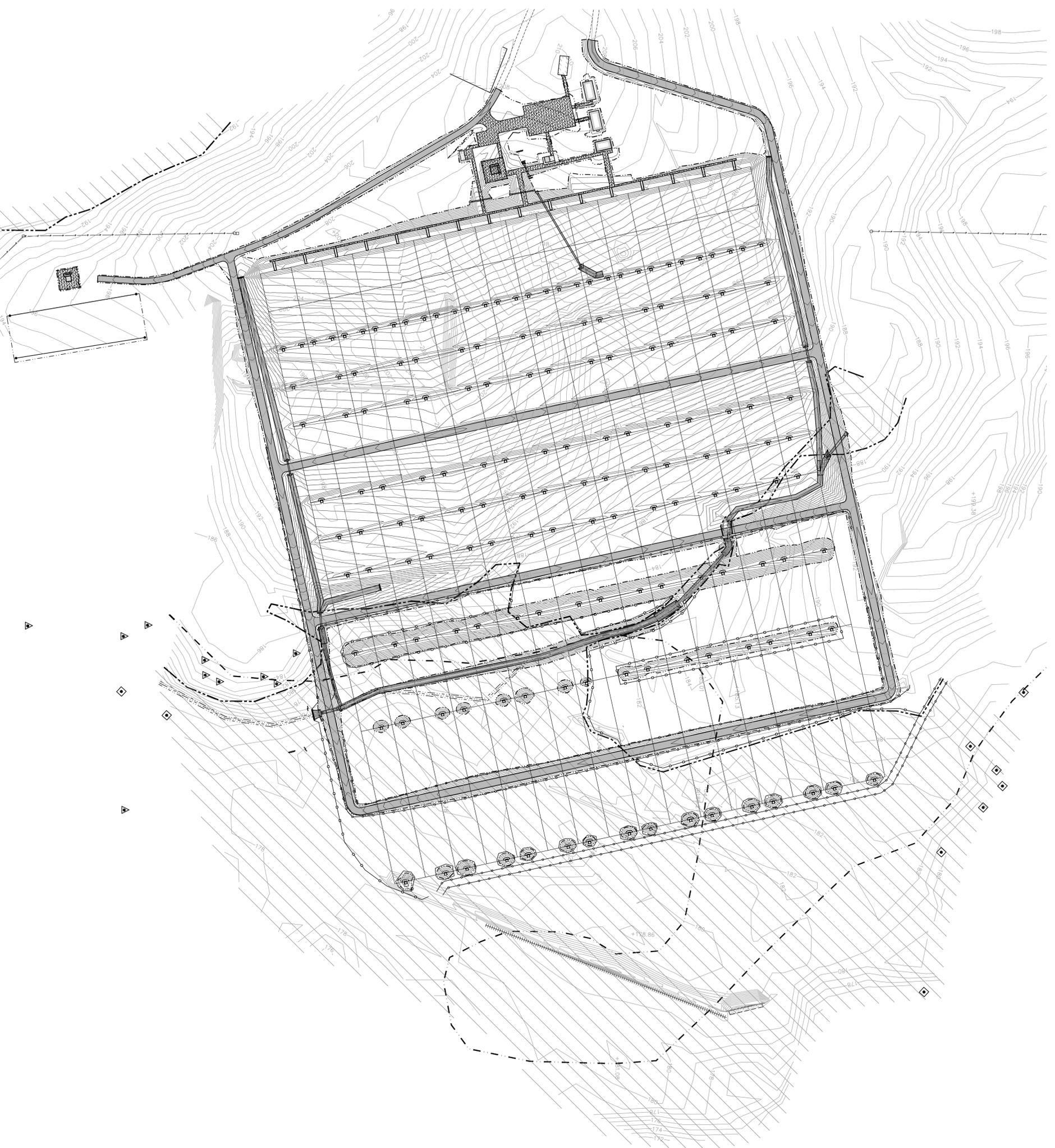


DRAFT

Stream Impacts Update

Map 1: Location of Intermittent and Ephemeral Streams on Site





LEGEND

- 200 --- CONTOUR (EXIST.) (1' INTERVALS)
- 200 --- CONTOUR (PROPOSED) (1' INTERVALS)
- EXIST.
- ▲ GOPHER TORTOISE BORROW
- ← GUY WIRE
- FLOW DIRECTION
- POWER LINE (OVERHEAD)
- +200.15 SPOT ELEVATION
- STREAM, CREEK OR DITCH
- TELEPHONE PEDESTAL
- UTILITY POLE
- SILT FENCE
- EROSION CHECK DAM



GRADING PLAN

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

MODIFIED RECORD FIRE RANGE
 CAMP SHELBY TRAINING SITE
 FOREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

SDP
SHROUS, DEARMAN & WAITS, INC.
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Drawn by: RES
 Date: 12-12-07
 Drawing No.: 1522

Checked by: EFL
 Scale: 1" = 100'
 Sheet No.: 08

REVIEW DRAFT

Map 15: Wetlands in or near the construction Zone Approx 5.44 Acres that may be damaged directly or indirectly.

