



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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

CESAM-RD
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2016-00079-MBM

July 14, 2021

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

**WETLAND AND STREAM RIPARIAN BUFFER ENHANCEMENT AND PRESERVATION
FOR A PROPOSED BUTTAHATCHIE RIVER MITIGATION BANK – ALABAMA PHASE I,
LAMAR 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 **Buttahatchie River Mitigation Bank – Alabama Phase I**. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

BANK SPONSOR: Wildlife Mississippi
Attention: Mr. Steven Gruchy
Post Office Box 187
Amory, Mississippi 38821

In 2005, Wildlife Mississippi started an initiative to restore and protect the Buttahatchie River Watershed. Wildlife Mississippi is proposing to establish a 502.65-acre commercial wetland and stream mitigation bank along the Buttahatchie River in Lamar County, Alabama. The proposed mitigation bank would generate compensatory mitigation credits for purchase by interested Department of Army (DOA) permit applicants in order to fulfill compensatory mitigation requirements for various project-related wetland and 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 proposed mitigation bank would be comprised of three tracts adjacent to the Buttahatchie River. Tract 1 consists of approximately 79.48 acres and is located within portions of Sections 28 and 33 of Township 13 South, Range 16 West, with central GPS

coordinates of N33.896498° and W88.224508°. Tract 2 is comprised of approximately 342.99 acres and is located within portions of Sections 26, 34, and 35 of Township 13 South, Range 16 West, with central GPS coordinates of N33.8966680° and W88.194581°. Tract 3 is comprised of approximately 80.18 acres and is located within portions of Section 25 of Township 13 South, Range 16 West, with central GPS coordinates of N33.905789° and W88.174900°. The proposed mitigation bank is located within the Buttahatchie River Watershed, USGS Hydrologic Unit Code 03160103, and the primary service area will include all portions of Marion, Lamar, Winston, and Fayette Counties within this watershed, and use of the Mobile District Proximity Factor Method for projects outside the watershed. Use of bank outside of designated service area may be authorized on a case-by-case basis by the Corps.

The mitigation bank proposes to accomplish mixed enhancement and preservation of wetland and upland hardwood forested habitats. The mitigation bank would enhance and preserve bottomland hardwood wetlands to generate wetland credits. The mitigation bank would enhance and preserve wetland and upland bottomland hardwood habitats within 200-foot riparian buffers along 20,882.03 linear feet of perennial streams and 100-foot riparian buffers along 6,626.67 linear feet of intermittent streams to generate stream mitigation credits. Cumulatively, the three tracts contain 45.34 acres of existing hardwood forested wetlands, 266.14 acres of clear-cut wetlands that were planted with target tree species in 2013, 79.02 acres of clear-cut shrub scrub wetlands, and 17.93 acres of cypress dominated wetlands. The tracts contain 21.20 acres of forested uplands, 11.66 acres of clear-cut uplands that were planted with target tree species in 2013, and 3.83 acres of clear-cut shrub-scrub uplands. The site contains 7.80 acres of ponds and 4.24 acres of interior roads. The sites have been impacted by pine silviculture and clear-cutting activities. The areas proposed for preservation were avoided as streamside management zones in accordance with the Alabama Forestry Best Management Practices. Proposed land management include cessation of commercial forestry operations, exotic species control, tree removal as needed, and hand-planting trees to establish a target forested bottomland hardwood ecosystem along the Buttahatchie River and its tributaries. Wetland credits would be determined using the Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure (WRAP). Stream credits would be determined using the 2012 USACE Mobile District Compensatory Stream Mitigation Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines. A copy of the Prospectus is available upon request.

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

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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.

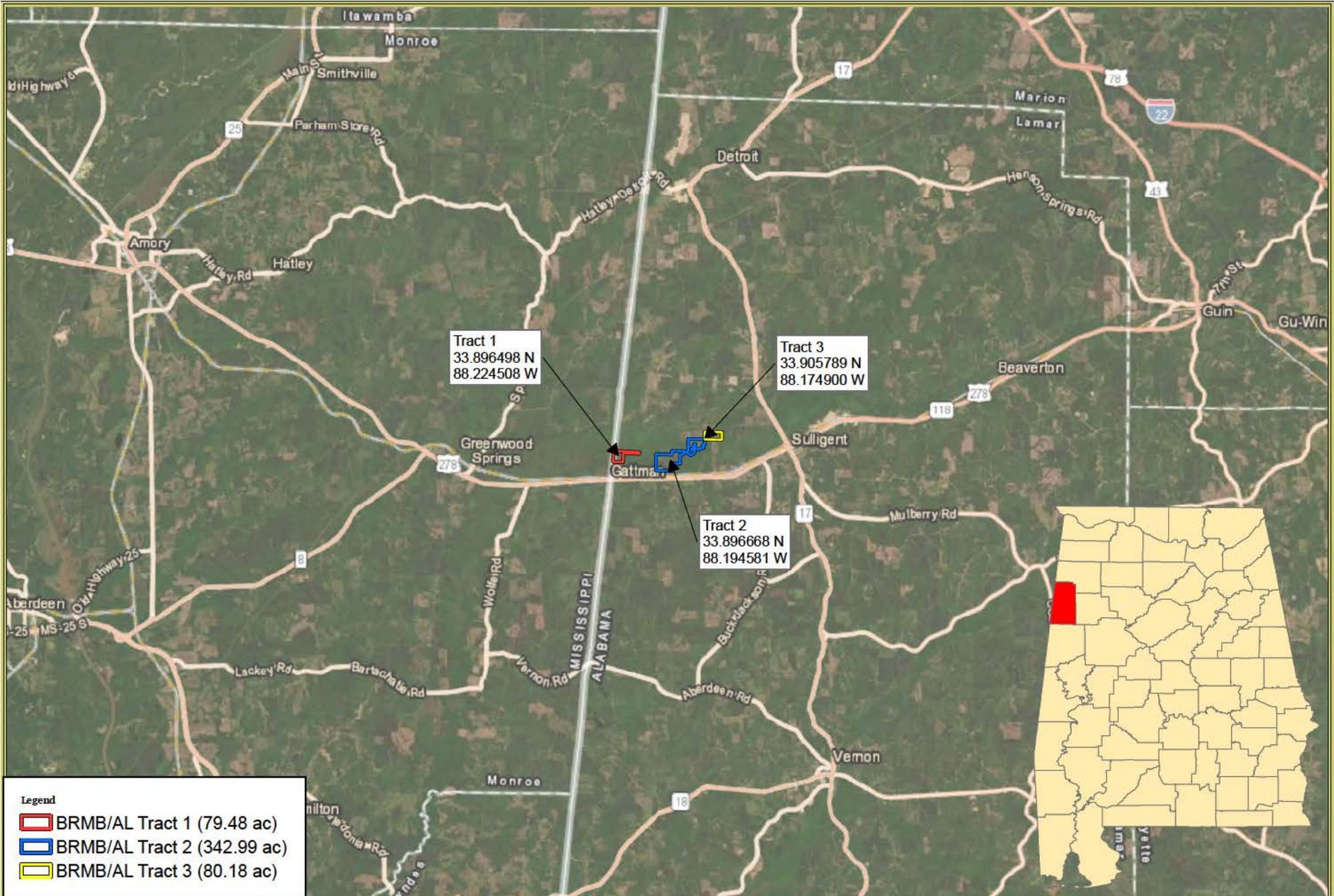
The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties for consideration while evaluating this proposed activity. Copies of all comments received will be distributed to the other members of the IRT and the bank sponsor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

All 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 at (251) 694-3771 or by email at michael.b.moxey@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the above Public Notice number SAM-2016-00079-MBM.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our website at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



Tract 1
33.896498 N
88.224508 W

Tract 3
33.905789 N
88.174900 W

Tract 2
33.896668 N
88.194581 W

Legend

- BRMB/AL Tract 1 (79.48 ac)
- BRMB/AL Tract 2 (342.99 ac)
- BRMB/AL Tract 3 (80.18 ac)

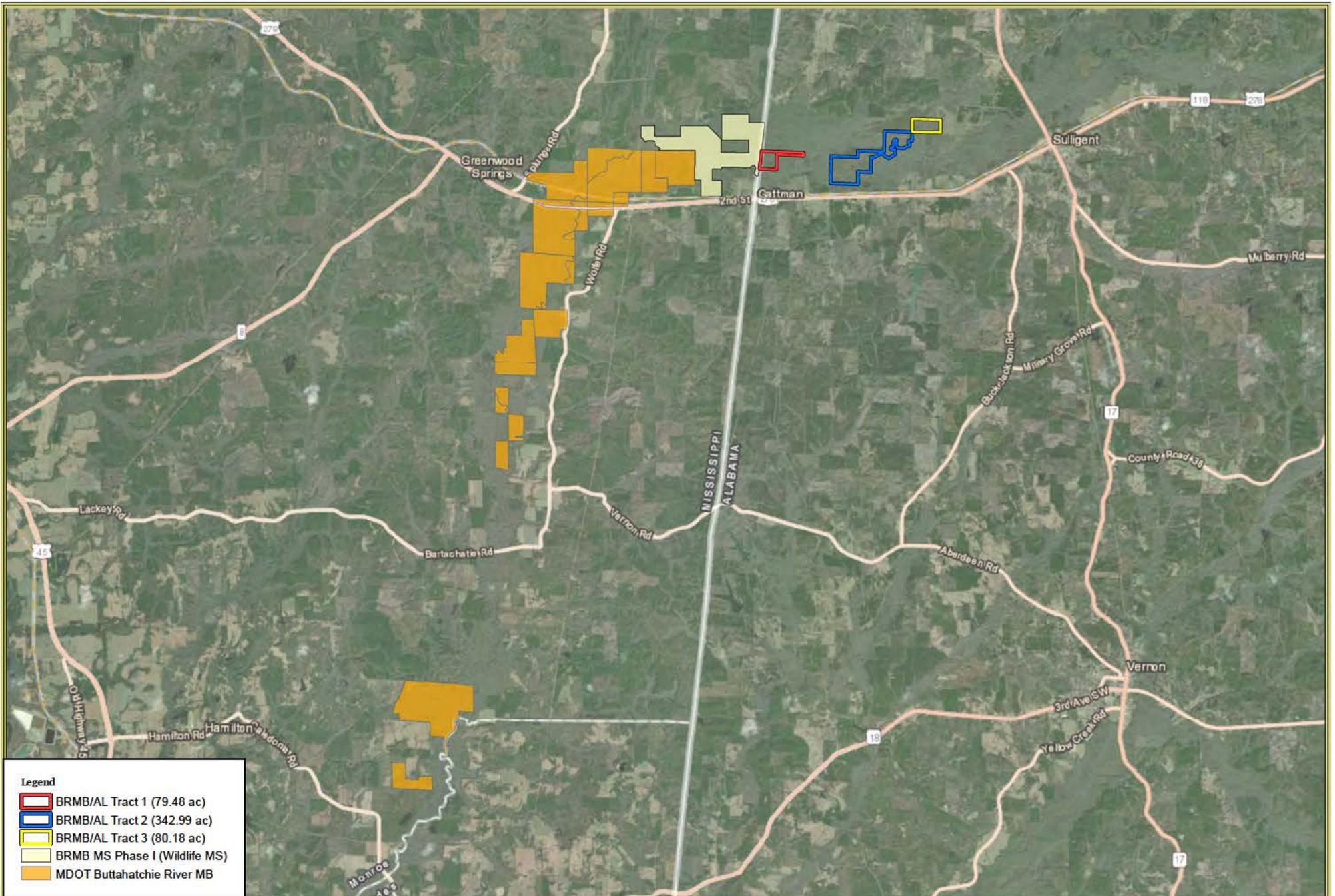
Wildlife Mississippi
BRMB/AL
Sec. 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35 - T 13 S - R 16 W
Lamar County, Alabama

Figure 1 - General Location Map

0 12,500 25,000 Feet
1:250,000

NAD 1983 StatePlane Alabama West FIPS 0102 Feet
ESRI World Imagery Basemap

Date Created 12/8/2020 Created by JDL



- Legend**
- BRMB/AL Tract 1 (79.48 ac)
 - BRMB/AL Tract 2 (342.99 ac)
 - BRMB/AL Tract 3 (80.18 ac)
 - BRMB MS Phase I (Wildlife MS)
 - MDOT Buttahatchie River MB

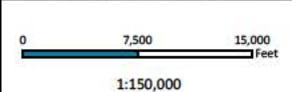


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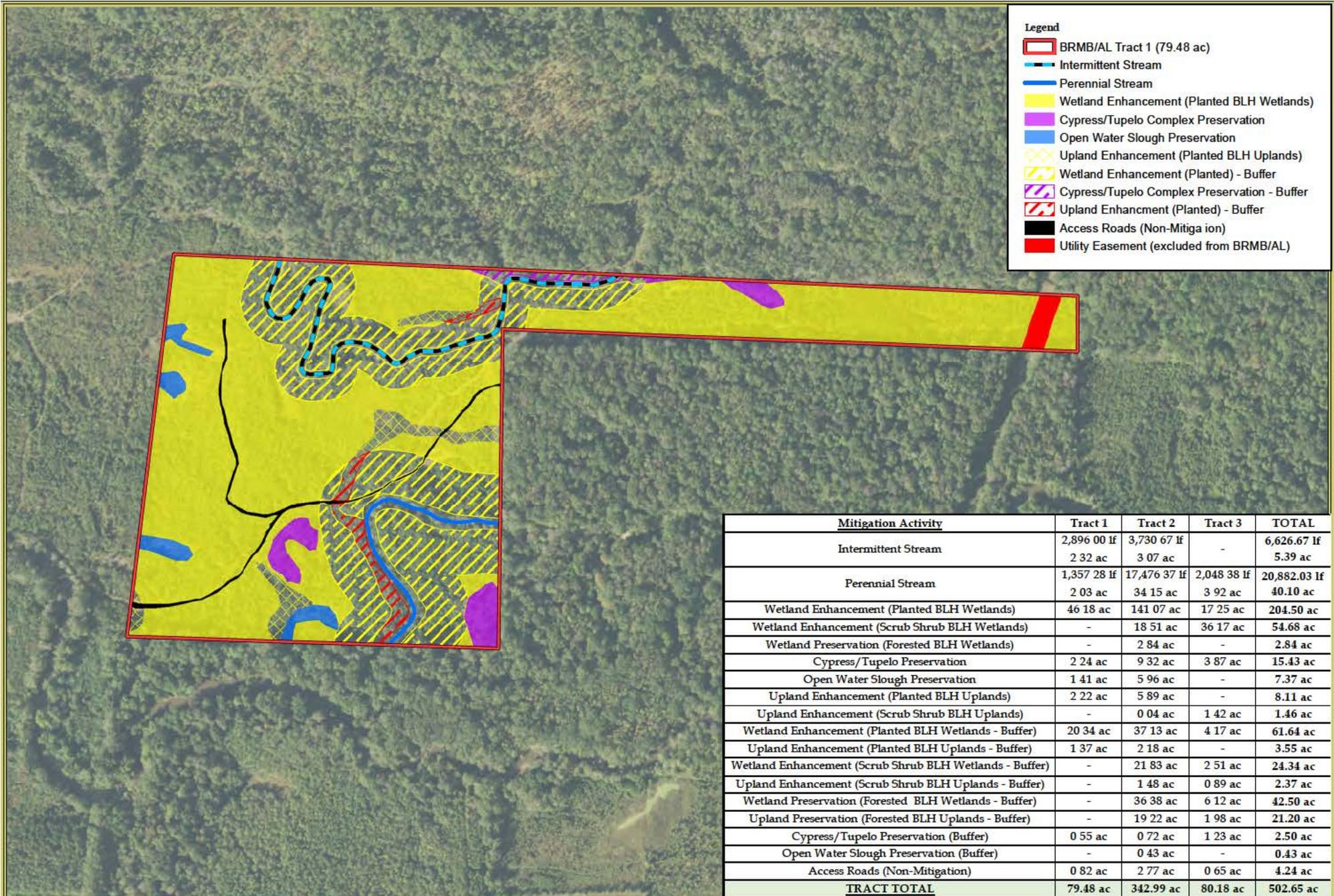
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Lamar County, Alabama

Figure 10 - Area Mitigation Banks Map



NAD 1983 StatePlane Alabama West FIPS 0102 Feet

ESRI World Imagery Basemap



Legend

- BRMB/AL Tract 1 (79.48 ac)
- Intermittent Stream
- Perennial Stream
- Wetland Enhancement (Planted BLH Wetlands)
- Cypress/Tupelo Complex Preservation
- Open Water Slough Preservation
- Upland Enhancement (Planted BLH Uplands)
- Wetland Enhancement (Planted) - Buffer
- Cypress/Tupelo Complex Preservation - Buffer
- Upland Enhancement (Planted) - Buffer
- Access Roads (Non-Mitigation)
- Utility Easement (excluded from BRMB/AL)

Mitigation Activity	Tract 1	Tract 2	Tract 3	TOTAL
Intermittent Stream	2,896 00 If 2 32 ac	3,730 67 If 3 07 ac	-	6,626.67 If 5.39 ac
Perennial Stream	1,357 28 If 2 03 ac	17,476 37 If 34 15 ac	2,048 38 If 3 92 ac	20,882.03 If 40.10 ac
Wetland Enhancement (Planted BLH Wetlands)	46 18 ac	141 07 ac	17 25 ac	204.50 ac
Wetland Enhancement (Scrub Shrub BLH Wetlands)	-	18 51 ac	36 17 ac	54.68 ac
Wetland Preservation (Forested BLH Wetlands)	-	2 84 ac	-	2.84 ac
Cypress/Tupelo Preservation	2 24 ac	9 32 ac	3 87 ac	15.43 ac
Open Water Slough Preservation	1 41 ac	5 96 ac	-	7.37 ac
Upland Enhancement (Planted BLH Uplands)	2 22 ac	5 89 ac	-	8.11 ac
Upland Enhancement (Scrub Shrub BLH Uplands)	-	0 04 ac	1 42 ac	1.46 ac
Wetland Enhancement (Planted BLH Wetlands - Buffer)	20 34 ac	37 13 ac	4 17 ac	61.64 ac
Upland Enhancement (Planted BLH Uplands - Buffer)	1 37 ac	2 18 ac	-	3.55 ac
Wetland Enhancement (Scrub Shrub BLH Wetlands - Buffer)	-	21 83 ac	2 51 ac	24.34 ac
Upland Enhancement (Scrub Shrub BLH Uplands - Buffer)	-	1 48 ac	0 89 ac	2.37 ac
Wetland Preservation (Forested BLH Wetlands - Buffer)	-	36 38 ac	6 12 ac	42.50 ac
Upland Preservation (Forested BLH Uplands - Buffer)	-	19 22 ac	1 98 ac	21.20 ac
Cypress/Tupelo Preservation (Buffer)	0 55 ac	0 72 ac	1 23 ac	2.50 ac
Open Water Slough Preservation (Buffer)	-	0 43 ac	-	0.43 ac
Access Roads (Non-Mitigation)	0 82 ac	2 77 ac	0 65 ac	4.24 ac
TRACT TOTAL	79.48 ac	342.99 ac	80.18 ac	502.65 ac

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Figure 8A - Overall Mitigation Bank Tract 1

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 Feet

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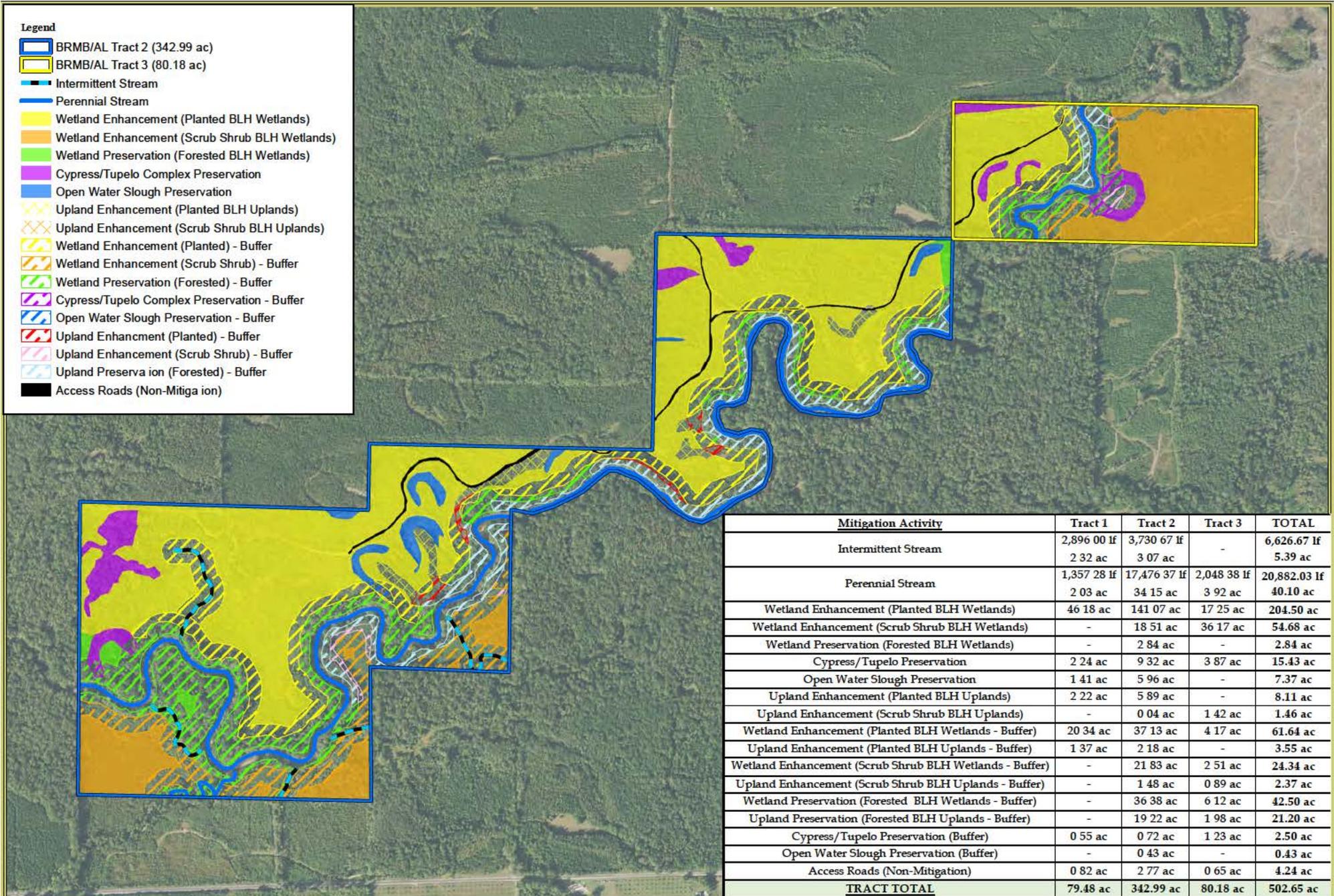
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NAD 1983 StatePlane Alabama West FIPS 0102 Feet

USDA NAIP 2019 Imagery Basemap

Legend

- BRMB/AL Tract 2 (342.99 ac)
- BRMB/AL Tract 3 (80.18 ac)
- Intermittent Stream
- Perennial Stream
- Wetland Enhancement (Planted BLH Wetlands)
- Wetland Enhancement (Scrub Shrub BLH Wetlands)
- Wetland Preservation (Forested BLH Wetlands)
- Cypress/Tupelo Complex Preservation
- Open Water Slough Preservation
- Upland Enhancement (Planted BLH Uplands)
- Upland Enhancement (Scrub Shrub BLH Uplands)
- Wetland Enhancement (Planted) - Buffer
- Wetland Enhancement (Scrub Shrub) - Buffer
- Wetland Preservation (Forested) - Buffer
- Cypress/Tupelo Complex Preservation - Buffer
- Open Water Slough Preservation - Buffer
- Upland Enhancement (Planted) - Buffer
- Upland Enhancement (Scrub Shrub) - Buffer
- Upland Preservation (Forested) - Buffer
- Access Roads (Non-Mitigation)



Mitigation Activity	Tract 1	Tract 2	Tract 3	TOTAL
Intermittent Stream	2,896.00 If 2.32 ac	3,730.67 If 3.07 ac	-	6,626.67 If 5.39 ac
Perennial Stream	1,357.28 If 2.03 ac	17,476.37 If 34.15 ac	2,048.38 If 3.92 ac	20,882.03 If 40.10 ac
Wetland Enhancement (Planted BLH Wetlands)	46.18 ac	141.07 ac	17.25 ac	204.50 ac
Wetland Enhancement (Scrub Shrub BLH Wetlands)	-	18.51 ac	36.17 ac	54.68 ac
Wetland Preservation (Forested BLH Wetlands)	-	2.84 ac	-	2.84 ac
Cypress/Tupelo Preservation	2.24 ac	9.32 ac	3.87 ac	15.43 ac
Open Water Slough Preservation	1.41 ac	5.96 ac	-	7.37 ac
Upland Enhancement (Planted BLH Uplands)	2.22 ac	5.89 ac	-	8.11 ac
Upland Enhancement (Scrub Shrub BLH Uplands)	-	0.04 ac	1.42 ac	1.46 ac
Wetland Enhancement (Planted BLH Wetlands - Buffer)	20.34 ac	37.13 ac	4.17 ac	61.64 ac
Upland Enhancement (Planted BLH Uplands - Buffer)	1.37 ac	2.18 ac	-	3.55 ac
Wetland Enhancement (Scrub Shrub BLH Wetlands - Buffer)	-	21.83 ac	2.51 ac	24.34 ac
Upland Enhancement (Scrub Shrub BLH Uplands - Buffer)	-	1.48 ac	0.89 ac	2.37 ac
Wetland Preservation (Forested BLH Wetlands - Buffer)	-	36.38 ac	6.12 ac	42.50 ac
Upland Preservation (Forested BLH Uplands - Buffer)	-	19.22 ac	1.98 ac	21.20 ac
Cypress/Tupelo Preservation (Buffer)	0.55 ac	0.72 ac	1.23 ac	2.50 ac
Open Water Slough Preservation (Buffer)	-	0.43 ac	-	0.43 ac
Access Roads (Non-Mitigation)	0.82 ac	2.77 ac	0.65 ac	4.24 ac
TRACT TOTAL	79.48 ac	342.99 ac	80.18 ac	502.65 ac



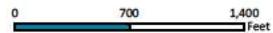
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Lamar County, Alabama

Figure 8B - Overall Mitigation Bank Tracts 2 & 3

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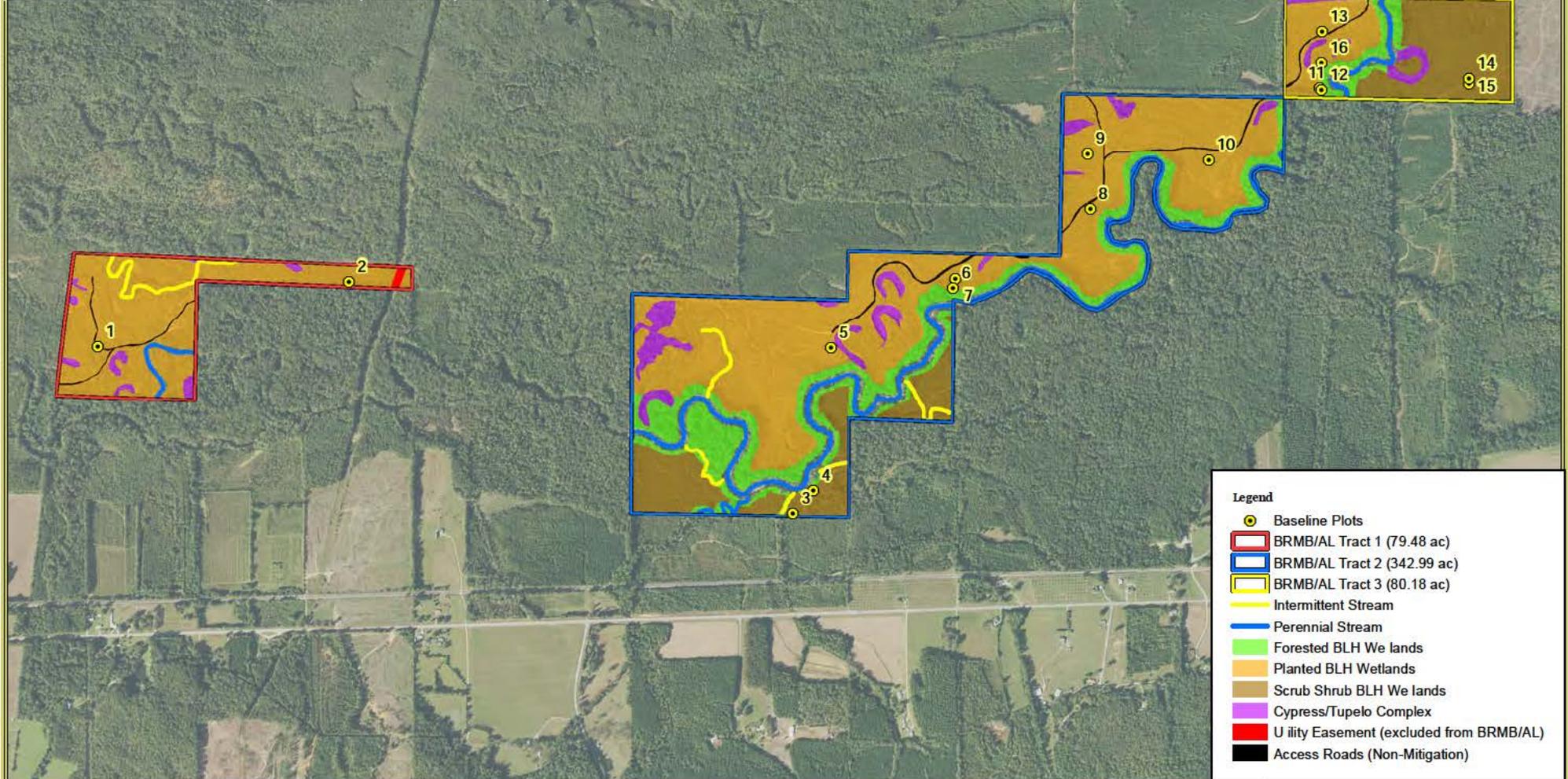


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NAD 1983 StatePlane Alabama West FIPS 0102 Feet

USDA NAIP 2019 Imagery Basemap

Habitat Type	Tract 1	Tract 2	Tract 3	TOTAL
Intermittent Stream	2,896.00 lf 2.32 ac	3,730.67 lf 3.07 ac	-	6,626.67 lf 5.39 ac
Perennial Stream	1,357.28 lf 2.03 ac	17,476.37 lf 34.15 ac	2,048.38 lf 3.92 ac	20,882.03 lf 40.10 ac
Forested BLH Wetlands	-	58.47 ac	8.10 ac	66.57 ac
Planted BLH Wetlands	70.10 ac	186.26 ac	21.41 ac	277.77 ac
Scrub Shrub BLH Wetlands	-	41.84 ac	40.99 ac	82.83 ac
Cypress/Tupelo Complex	4.21 ac	16.43 ac	5.11 ac	25.75 ac
Access Roads	0.82 ac	2.77 ac	0.65 ac	4.24 ac
TRACT TOTAL	79.48 ac	342.99 ac	80.18 ac	502.65 ac



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Date Created 12/9/2020 Created by JDJ

**Wildlife Mississippi
BRMB/AL**

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Lamar County, Alabama

Figure 9 - Baseline Data Plot Map

Legend

- Baseline Plots
- ▭ BRMB/AL Tract 1 (79.48 ac)
- ▭ BRMB/AL Tract 2 (342.99 ac)
- ▭ BRMB/AL Tract 3 (80.18 ac)
- Intermittent Stream
- Perennial Stream
- Forested BLH We lands
- Planted BLH Wetlands
- Scrub Shrub BLH We lands
- Cypress/Tupelo Complex
- Utility Easement (excluded from BRMB/AL)
- Access Roads (Non-Mitigation)

0 1,100 2,200 Feet
1:22,000

NAD 1983 StatePlane Alabama West FIPS 0102 Feet
USDA NAIP 2019 Imagery Basemap