



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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

Regulatory Division
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2017-00526-MBM

February 3, 2020

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

PROPOSED BUTTAHATCHIE RIVER MITIGATION BANK, MISSISSIPPI PHASE II
LOWNDES AND MONROE COUNTIES, 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 **Buttahatchie River Mitigation Bank, Mississippi Phase II (BRMB II)**. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

BANK SPONSOR: Buttahatchie River Mitigation Bank
Mississippi Phase II
Wildlife Mississippi
P.O. Box 187
Amory, Mississippi 38821

CONSULTANT: Headwaters, Inc.
Attention: Mr. Josh Brown
P.O. Box 2836
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39158

The mitigation bank sponsor is proposing to establish a 779.32-acre commercial wetland and stream mitigation bank in Lowndes and Monroe Counties, Mississippi. The mitigation bank would generate wetland and stream 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 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 comprised of bottomland hardwood wetlands, upland hardwood forests, perennial streams, and intermittent streams. The proposed service area for the mitigation bank would be the HUC 03160103, Buttahatchie River Watershed. Use of bank outside of designated service would require the use of the Mobile District Proximity Factor Method. All wetland credit calculations would be determined using the Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure (WRAP). All stream credits would be determined using the

2012 Mobile District Compensatory Stream Mitigation Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines.

The proposed mitigation bank would be comprised of 4 separate tracts along the Buttahatchie River. Tract 1 and 2 are located contiguous to the existing approved Buttahatchie River Mitigation Bank (BRMB). Tract 1 is an 81.59-acre tract located within Section 29 of Township 13 South, Range 16 West, in Monroe County, Mississippi. The center Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for Tract 1 are Latitude 33.899911 North and Longitude -88.236494 West. Tract 2 is 23.88 acres that is located adjacent to the southeast corner of the BRMB. Tract 2 is located in Section 33 of Township 13 South, Range 16 West, Monroe County, Mississippi. The center GPS coordinates for Tract 2 are Latitude 33.892547 North and Longitude -88.230920 West. Tract 3 is 174.56 acres that is located within Section 14 of Township 14 South, Range 17 West, Monroe County, Mississippi. The center GPS coordinates for Tract 3 are Latitude 33.852085 North and Longitude -88.296710 West. Tract 4 is 499.29 acres that is located within Sections 28, 32, and 33 of Township 15 South, Range 17 West, and Section 5 of Township 16 South, Range 17 West, Lowndes County, Mississippi. The center GPS coordinates for Tract 4 are Latitude 33.723204 North and Longitude -88.325986 West.

The sponsor proposes to enhance and preserve bottomland hardwood wetlands to generate wetland credits. The sponsor proposes to enhance and preserve wetland and upland hardwood forests within riparian buffers along perennial and intermittent streams, and restore one reach of intermittent stream channel to generate stream mitigation credits. Cumulatively, the mitigation bank project would enhance 394.98 acres of wetlands, enhance 68.11 acres of uplands located in riparian buffers, and preserve 227.16 acres of wetlands and 51.28 acres of uplands. The riparian buffer work would occur along 55,797.6 linear feet of perennial streams and 14,376.86 linear feet of intermittent streams. The project proposes to restore a 2,470.19 linear-foot reach of intermittent stream. The wetlands and uplands proposed for enhancement have been impacted by silviculture and timber harvesting activities. The proposed enhancement activities would include pine tree removal, exotic species removal, and the planting of target bottomland hardwood tree species to restore the composition, density and diversity of the native bottomland hardwood ecosystems. The site contains high-quality unimpacted hardwood systems in the preservation areas that will be used as reference sites for determining appropriate species to plant.

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.

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. A copy of the prospectus is available upon request.

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-2017-00526-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. 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.

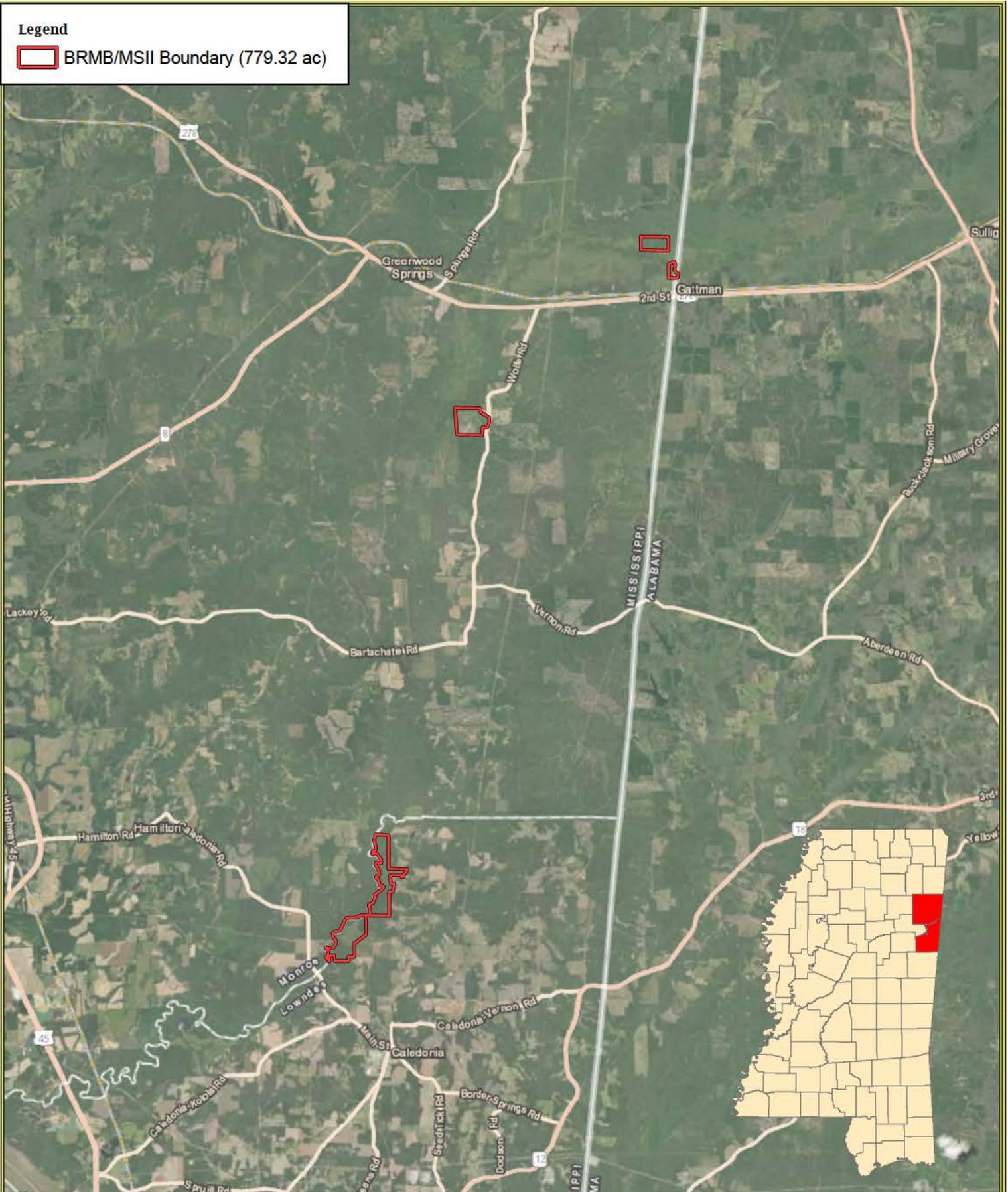
For additional information about the Regulatory Program, please visit our website at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attachments

Legend

 BRMB/MSII Boundary (779.32 ac)



HEADWATERS INC.
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSULTING
WWW.HEADWATERS-INC.COM

Date Created 1/14/2020 Created by JDL

Wildlife Mississippi
BRMB/MSII
Lowndes and Monroe Counties, Mississippi
Figure 1 - General Location Map

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Feet

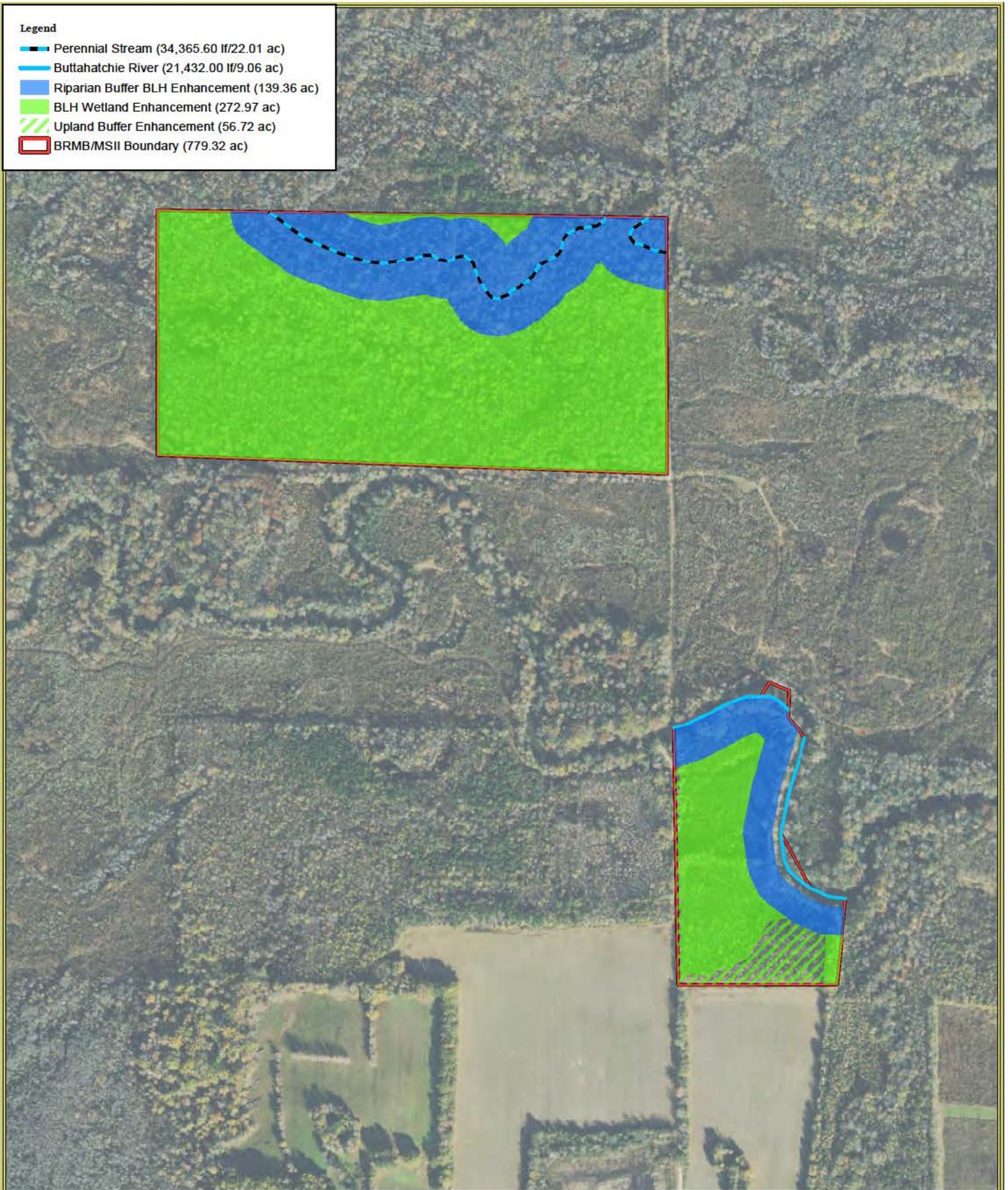
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NAD 1983 StatePlane Mississippi East FIPS 2301 Feet
ESRI World Imagery Basemap

Legend

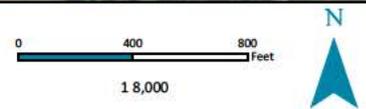
-  Perennial Stream (34,365.60 lf/22.01 ac)
-  Buttahatchie River (21,432.00 lf/9.06 ac)
-  Riparian Buffer BLH Enhancement (139.36 ac)
-  BLH Wetland Enhancement (272.97 ac)
-  Upland Buffer Enhancement (56.72 ac)
-  BRMB/MSII Boundary (779.32 ac)



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Lowndes and Monroe Counties, Mississippi

Figure 10A - Proposed Mitigation Bank Map Tracts 1 & 2



NAD 1983 StatePlane Mississippi East FIPS 2301 Feet

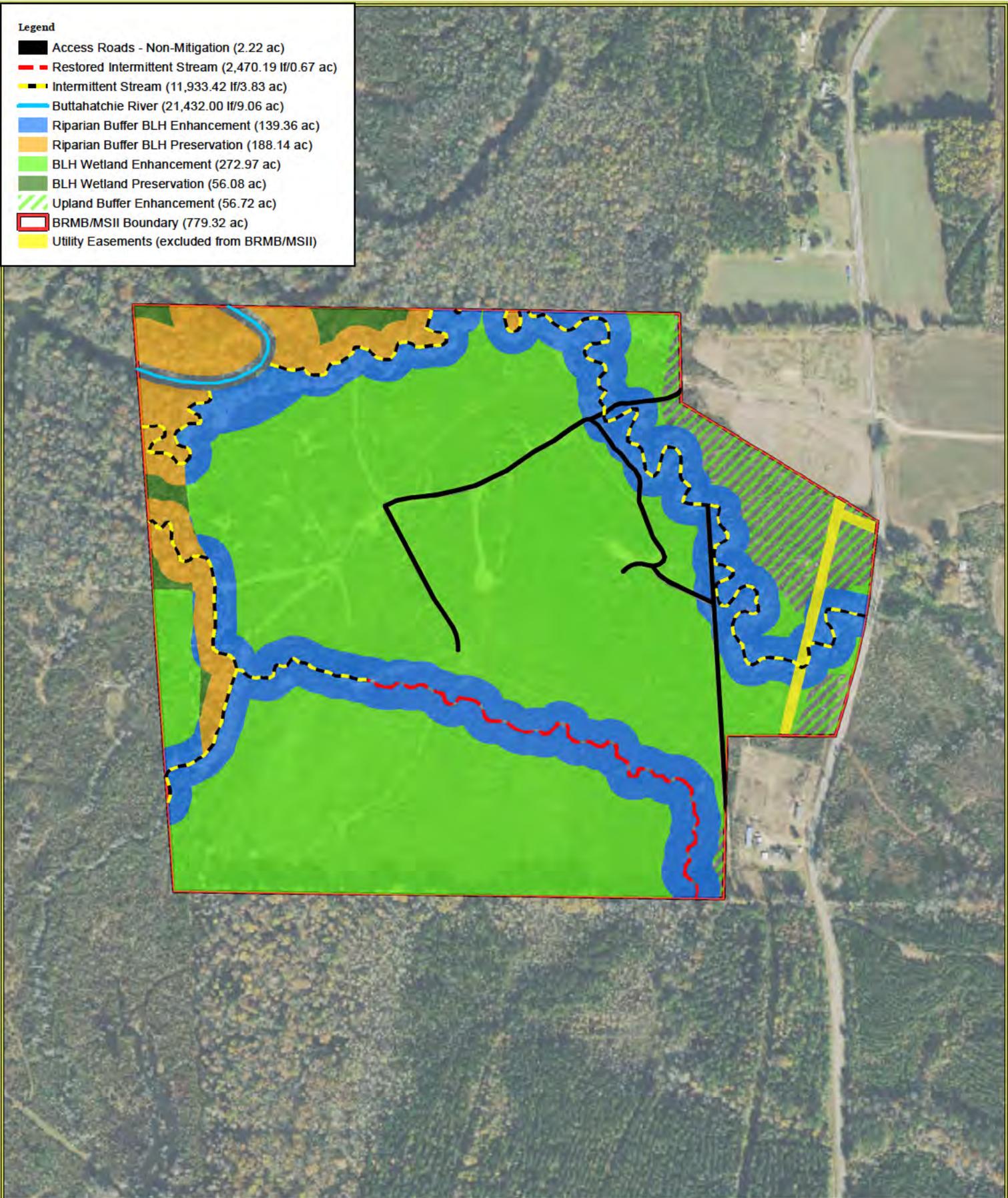
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USDA NAIP 2018 Imagery Basemap

Legend

-  Access Roads - Non-Mitigation (2.22 ac)
-  Restored Intermittent Stream (2,470.19 lf/0.67 ac)
-  Intermittent Stream (11,933.42 lf/3.83 ac)
-  Buttahatchie River (21,432.00 lf/9.06 ac)
-  Riparian Buffer BLH Enhancement (139.36 ac)
-  Riparian Buffer BLH Preservation (188.14 ac)
-  BLH Wetland Enhancement (272.97 ac)
-  BLH Wetland Preservation (56.08 ac)
-  Upland Buffer Enhancement (56.72 ac)
-  BRMB/MSII Boundary (779.32 ac)
-  Utility Easements (excluded from BRMB/MSII)



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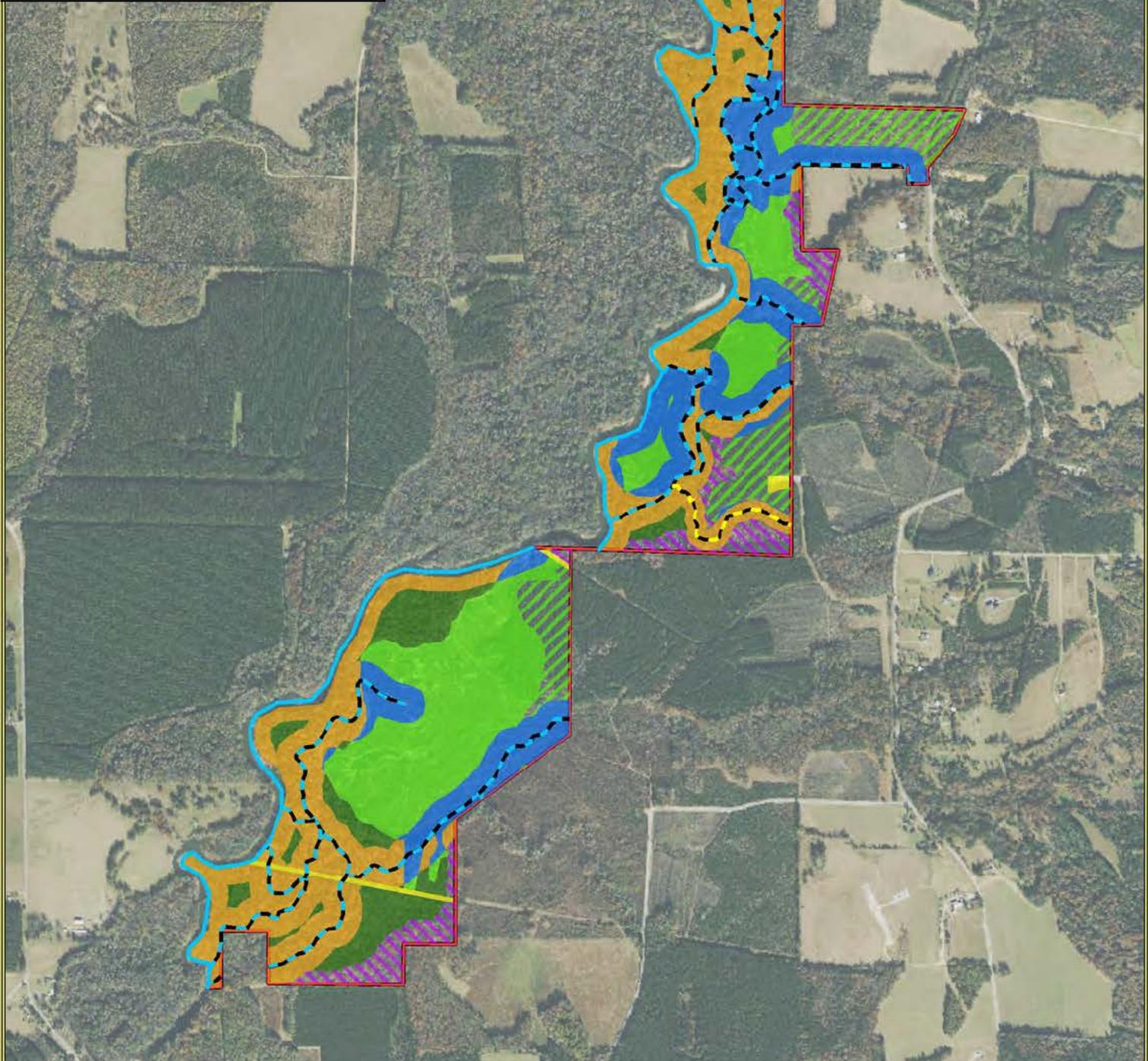
Lowndes and Monroe Counties, Mississippi

Figure 10B - Proposed Mitigation Bank Map Tract 3

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<small>NAD 1983 StatePlane Mississippi East FIPS 2301 Feet</small>	
<small>USDA NAIP 2018 Imagery Basemap</small>	

Legend

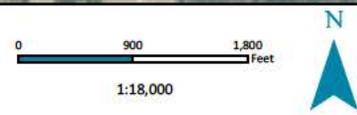
-  Intermittent Stream (11,933.42 lf/3.83 ac)
-  Perennial Stream (34,365.60 lf/22.01 ac)
-  Buttahatchie River (21,432.00 lf/9.06 ac)
-  Riparian Buffer BLH Enhancement (139.36 ac)
-  Riparian Buffer BLH Preservation (188.14 ac)
-  BLH Wetland Enhancement (272.97 ac)
-  BLH Wetland Preservation (56.08 ac)
-  Upland Buffer Enhancement (56.72 ac)
-  Upland Buffer Preservation (28.26 ac)
-  BRMB/MSII Boundary (779.32 ac)
-  Utility Easements (excluded from BRMB/MSII)



**Wildlife Mississippi
BRMB/MSII**

Lowndes and Monroe Counties, Mississippi

Figure 10C - Proposed Mitigation Bank Map Tract 4



NAD 1983 StatePlane Mississippi East FIPS 2301 Feet

Date Created 1/21/2020

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USDA NAIP 2018 Imagery Basemap