



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

**CESAM-RD-A**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2018-00773-LET**

**October 23, 2018**

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

**REQUEST TO DISCHARGE FILL MATERIAL TO CONSTRUCT A WOOD PRODUCTS**  
**SAWMILL FACILITY WITH A RAIL SPUR, TRIBUTARY TO BASSETT CREEK,**  
**THOMASVILLE, CLARKE COUNTY, ALABAMA**

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 (33 U.S.C. 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: **The Westervelt Company**  
**Attention: Mr. Lance Stripling**  
**1400 Jack Warner Parkway**  
**Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404**

AGENT: **TTL, Inc.**  
**Attention: Ms. Cindy House-Pearson**  
**3516 Greensboro Avenue**  
**Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401**

**WATERWAY/LOCATION: An unnamed tributary to Bassett Creek and adjacent wetlands located east of U.S. Highway 43 on the south side of North Clarke Industrial Road; Sections 13 and 14, Township 10 North, Range 3 East; Latitude 31.844236° North, Longitude 87.731708° West; Thomasville, Clarke County, Alabama. 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code Watershed: 03160203 (Lower Tombigbee, Alabama). The proposed facility would occupy approximately 187 acres of an overall 343-acre tract of land.**

**PROJECT PURPOSE: Commercial development. Specifically, the development of a new wood products sawmill facility for the production of lumber.**

**PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes the permanent discharge of approximately 660,000 cubic yards of silt and sandy-silt fill material into 27.81 acres of low and medium quality forested wetlands, 2,872 linear feet of intermittent streams and 1,363 linear feet of perennial streams. The applicant proposes these impacts in order to construct an approximately 187-acre wood products sawmill facility featuring a rail spur that would connect the sawmill to the existing Norfolk Southern rail line, located adjacent to the proposed project site. The fill material would consist of soil borrowed from on-site sources. The applicant plans to relocate a perennial stream drainage that is currently located within the footprint of the proposed mill facility. The stream would**

be relocated into an open channel that would flow along the south edge of the graded facility pad. The stream would continue to flow through the site in a new location and would be piped beneath the proposed rail spur. Downstream of the rail spur the realigned channel would be connected back to its natural alignment and would continue to discharge from the project site through the existing culvert location beneath the Norfolk Southern railroad.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The applicant evaluated four alternative sites, including the selected site, for construction of the proposed sawmill facility. The three other sites considered were not available to be purchased and lacked good road access and/or lacked good access to basic utilities required to operate the facility (i.e. water, sewer, electricity, natural gas), and thereby would have likely required greater overall aquatic resource impacts in order to establish a functional sawmill facility. At the selected site, the applicant minimized the project footprint from a potential 343-acre facility to a 187-acre facility, thus avoiding impacts to 10,725 linear feet of ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial streams and 30.49 acres of wetlands. The location and alignment of the existing rail line, grade restrictions on construction of the rail spur (limited to 1.5% change in grade), and factors concerning efficient facility layout limit the ability to further minimize wetland and stream impacts associated with the project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts at this time.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant proposes to provide compensatory mitigation for wetland and stream impacts through the purchase of mitigation credits from USACE-approved wetland and stream mitigation banks. The proposed mitigation plan also includes a provision to mitigate for the loss of wetland habitat functions that would result from the functional isolation of the upper reaches of several small wetland drains (approximately 1.45 acre) caused by the discharge of fill to construct the sawmill.

**WATER QUALITY:** The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to water quality certification will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES:** In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the USACE has determined that the permit area consists of the entire 187-acre project site, which includes the undertaking in waters of the United States as well as the upland portions of the site. The applicant has conducted and submitted a Phase I survey, which is currently under evaluation by the USACE for a federal determination of effects, and will be forwarded to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for review and concurrence. The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties, listed or eligible for listing in the National Register, which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work. We are seeking comment from the SHPO

regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area.

This review constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area. Copies of this notice are being sent to the SHPO and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Archeological Services.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed project would be located in palustrine forested wetland habitat and streams inland of marine and estuarine waterways; therefore, no EFH complexes or areas utilized by life stages of marine species would be affected. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would have “No Effect” on EFH or federally managed fisheries. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigative measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** 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 would have “No Effect” on the following listed endangered or threatened species with the potential to exist within the 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) watershed of the permit area: Wood Stork (Threatened), Southern Clubshell (Endangered), and Gopher Tortoise (Candidate). Based on field evaluation and species survey information provided by the applicant, there is no suitable habitat present within the permit area to support any of these species. There is no designated critical habitat within the permit area. This determination is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) via this Public Notice. Further coordination with the USFWS will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

**COMMENTS:** This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons and serves to solicit comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties, in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) can be based. The USACE 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 USACE 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.

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

Correspondence concerning this notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2018-00773-LET**. Electronic correspondence should be directed to [CESAM-RD@SAM.usace.army.mil](mailto:CESAM-RD@SAM.usace.army.mil), while paper copy correspondence should be directed to the USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Ms. Leslie E. Turney, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001. A copy of correspondence submitted concerning this notice should also be furnished to the ADEM, Field Operations Division, Office of Field Services, Post Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463.

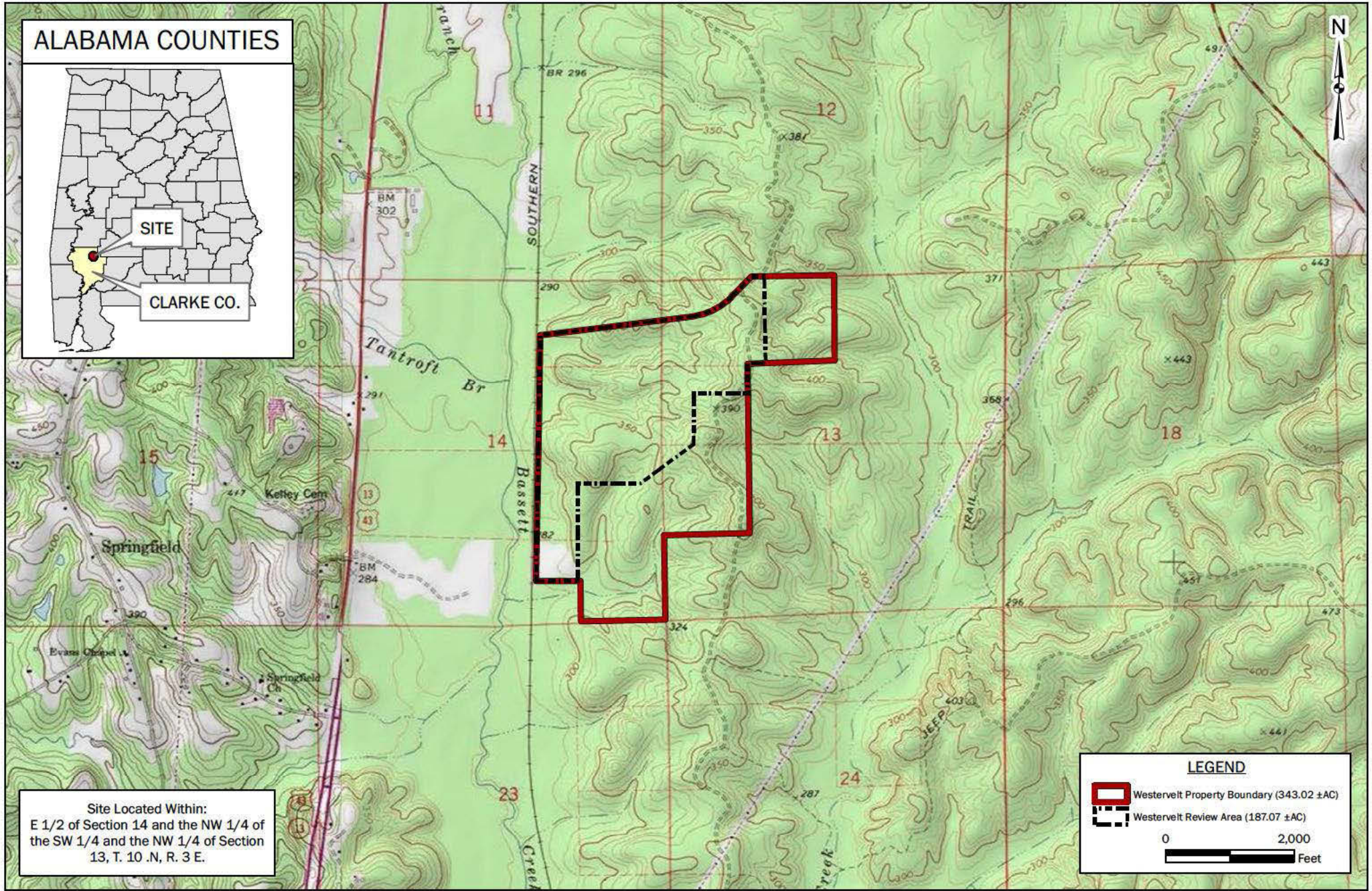
**All Comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice.** If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager, Ms. Leslie Turney at (251) 694-3873 or by e-mail at [leslie.e.turney@usace.army.mil](mailto:leslie.e.turney@usace.army.mil). Please refer to the above Public Notice Number **SAM-2018-00773-LET**.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at [www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx).

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

**ALABAMA COUNTIES**



Site Located Within:  
 E 1/2 of Section 14 and the NW 1/4 of  
 the SW 1/4 and the NW 1/4 of Section  
 13, T. 10 .N, R. 3 E.

**LEGEND**

Westervelt Property Boundary (343.02 ± AC)

Westervelt Review Area (187.07 ± AC)

0 2,000  
 Feet



**FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION & TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**  
 THE WESTERVELT COMPANY, INC.  
 PROPOSED WESTERVELT SAWMILL - USACE INDIVIDUAL PERMIT APPLICATION

BASEMAP: USGS Fulton East, Alabama 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map (1977, photorevised 1981).

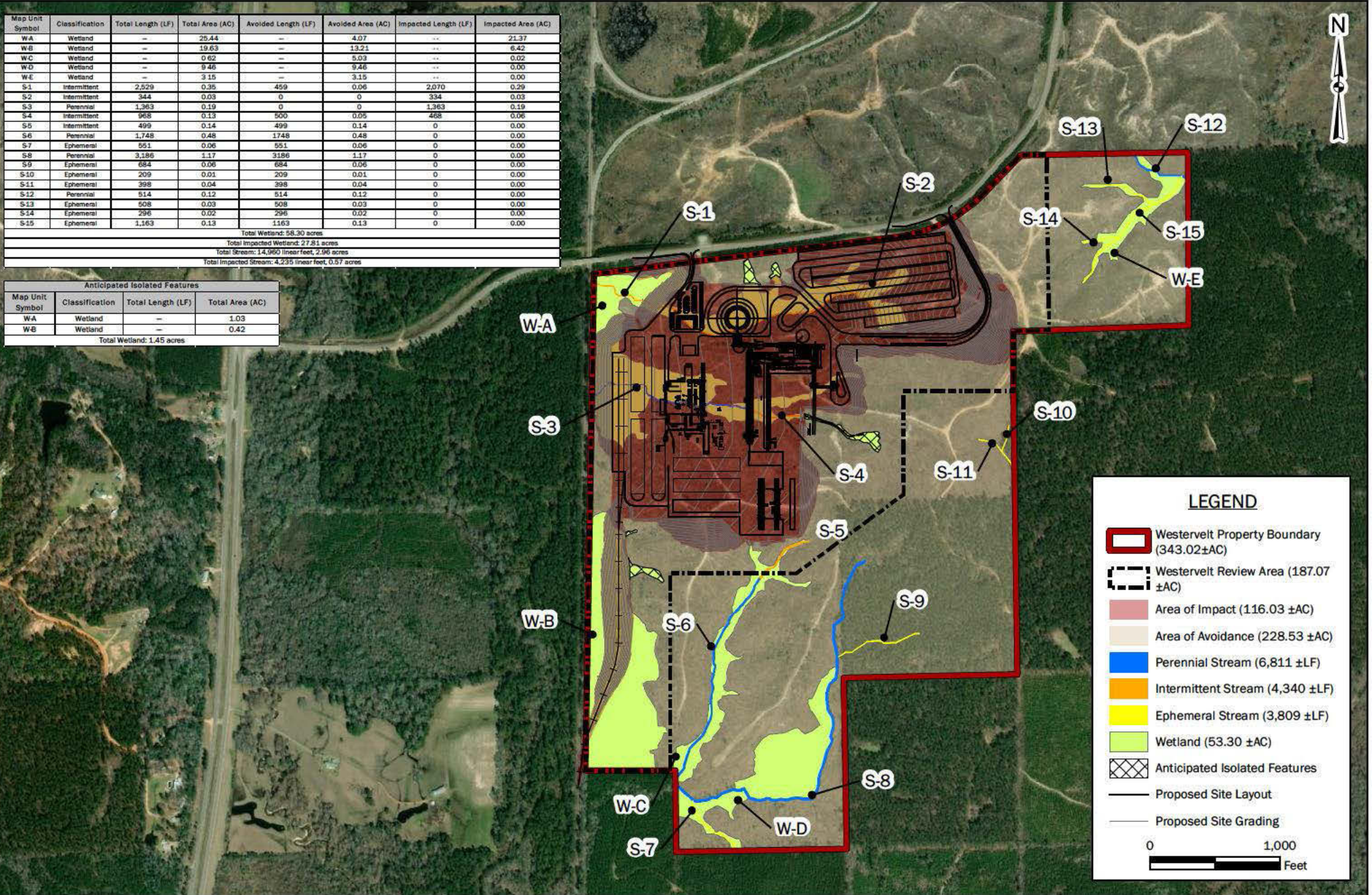
DRAWN BY:AGW
CHECKED BY:RBR
DRAWING DATE: 8/30/2018
REVISION DATE: N/A
TTL JOB NO.: 000180102108.00
APPROXIMATE SCALE: 1" = 2,000'

Map Unit Symbol	Classification	Total Length (LF)	Total Area (AC)	Avoided Length (LF)	Avoided Area (AC)	Impacted Length (LF)	Impacted Area (AC)
W-A	Wetland	--	25.44	--	4.07	--	21.37
W-B	Wetland	--	19.63	--	13.21	--	6.42
W-C	Wetland	--	0.62	--	5.03	--	0.02
W-D	Wetland	--	9.46	--	9.46	--	0.00
W-E	Wetland	--	3.15	--	3.15	--	0.00
S-1	Intermittent	2,529	0.35	459	0.06	2,070	0.29
S-2	Intermittent	344	0.03	0	0	344	0.03
S-3	Perennial	1,363	0.19	0	0	1,363	0.19
S-4	Intermittent	968	0.13	500	0.05	468	0.06
S-5	Intermittent	499	0.14	499	0.14	0	0.00
S-6	Perennial	1,748	0.48	1,748	0.48	0	0.00
S-7	Ephemeral	551	0.06	551	0.06	0	0.00
S-8	Perennial	3,186	1.17	3,186	1.17	0	0.00
S-9	Ephemeral	684	0.06	684	0.06	0	0.00
S-10	Ephemeral	209	0.01	209	0.01	0	0.00
S-11	Ephemeral	398	0.04	398	0.04	0	0.00
S-12	Perennial	514	0.12	514	0.12	0	0.00
S-13	Ephemeral	508	0.03	508	0.03	0	0.00
S-14	Ephemeral	296	0.02	296	0.02	0	0.00
S-15	Ephemeral	1,163	0.13	1,163	0.13	0	0.00

Total Wetland: 38.30 acres  
 Total Impacted Wetland: 27.81 acres  
 Total Stream: 14,960 linear feet, 2.96 acres  
 Total Impacted Stream: 4,235 linear feet, 0.57 acres

Anticipated Isolated Features			
Map Unit Symbol	Classification	Total Length (LF)	Total Area (AC)
W-A	Wetland	--	1.03
W-B	Wetland	--	0.42

Total Wetland: 1.45 acres



**FIGURE 5: IMPACT MAP**  
**THE WESTERVELT COMPANY, INC.**  
**PROPOSED WESTERVELT SAWMILL - USACE INDIVIDUAL PERMIT APPLICATION**

BASEMAP: DigitalGlobe, 2/25/2017

DRAWN BY:AGW
CHECKED BY:RBR
DRAWING DATE: 10/4/2018
REVISION DATE: N/A
TTL JOB NO.: 000180102108.00
APPROXIMATE SCALE: 1" = 1,000'