



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

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

**CESAM-RD**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2019-01028-MBM**

**April 14, 2022**

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

**WETLAND, STREAM, AND RIPARIAN BUFFER RESTORATION, ENHANCEMENT,**  
**AND PRESERVATION FOR A PROPOSED SIPSEY RIVER MITIGATION BANK,**  
**PICKENS COUNTY, ALABAMA**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received a complete Prospectus for the establishment of a mitigation bank referred to as the **Sipsey River Mitigation Bank**. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**BANK SPONSOR: Sipsey River Mitigation Bank**  
**Westervelt Ecological Services**  
**Attention: Mrs. Lauren Brunson**  
**2128 Moores Mill Road, Suite B**  
**Auburn, Alabama 36830**

Westervelt Ecological Services is proposing to establish an 819.3-acre commercial wetland and stream mitigation bank in Pickens County, Alabama, to 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 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Approval for DOA permittee's to use bank mitigation credits would be determined on a case-by-case basis at the time of permit evaluation. The proposed Sipsey River Mitigation Bank is located adjacent to the Sipsey River in Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Township 22 South, Range 13 West. The centroid coordinates are 33.147112 North and -87.864085 West. The proposed mitigation bank is located within the Sipsey Watershed (USGS Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 03160107). The primary service area will include all portions of Fayette, Greene, Marion, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, Walker and Winston Counties that are located within this HUC. Mitigation outside of the primary service area will be determined on a case-by- case basis and by using the proximity factor method.

The proposed Sipsey River Mitigation Bank would contain approximately 684.9 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands, 24,370 linear feet of perennial streams, 24,101 linear feet of intermittent streams, and 121.3 acres of uplands. To generate stream mitigation credits, the project proposes to restore 8,246 linear feet of intermittent stream channel and enhance and preserve upland and wetland hardwood systems located in 200-foot wide riparian buffers along all perennial streams and 100-foot wide riparian buffers along all intermittent streams. The impacted stream channels are entrenched and incised and have lost connectivity with their floodplains. The stream riparian buffers would be comprised of 118.2 acres of wetland enhancement, 34.6 acres of upland enhancement, 87.2 acres of wetland preservation, and 3.4 acres of upland preservation. To generate wetland mitigation credits, the project proposes to enhance 360.7 acres and preserve 118.8 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands. Land management in both the wetland and upland enhancement areas would include cessation of pine silviculture operations, removal of pine silviculture trees, and planting of target bottomland hardwood species to achieve target density, diversity, and composition. Site management would also include monitoring and control of exotic invasive species for the entire site. The entire site would be protected with a conservation easement. Wetland mitigation credits would be determined using the Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure (WRAP). Stream mitigation and stream credit calculations would be accomplished in accordance with the 2012 USACE Mobile District Compensatory Stream Mitigation Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines. A copy of the full 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 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.

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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 proposed 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](mailto:michael.b.moxey@usace.army.mil). Please refer to the above Public Notice number SAM-2019-01028-MBM.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our website 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

FIGURES

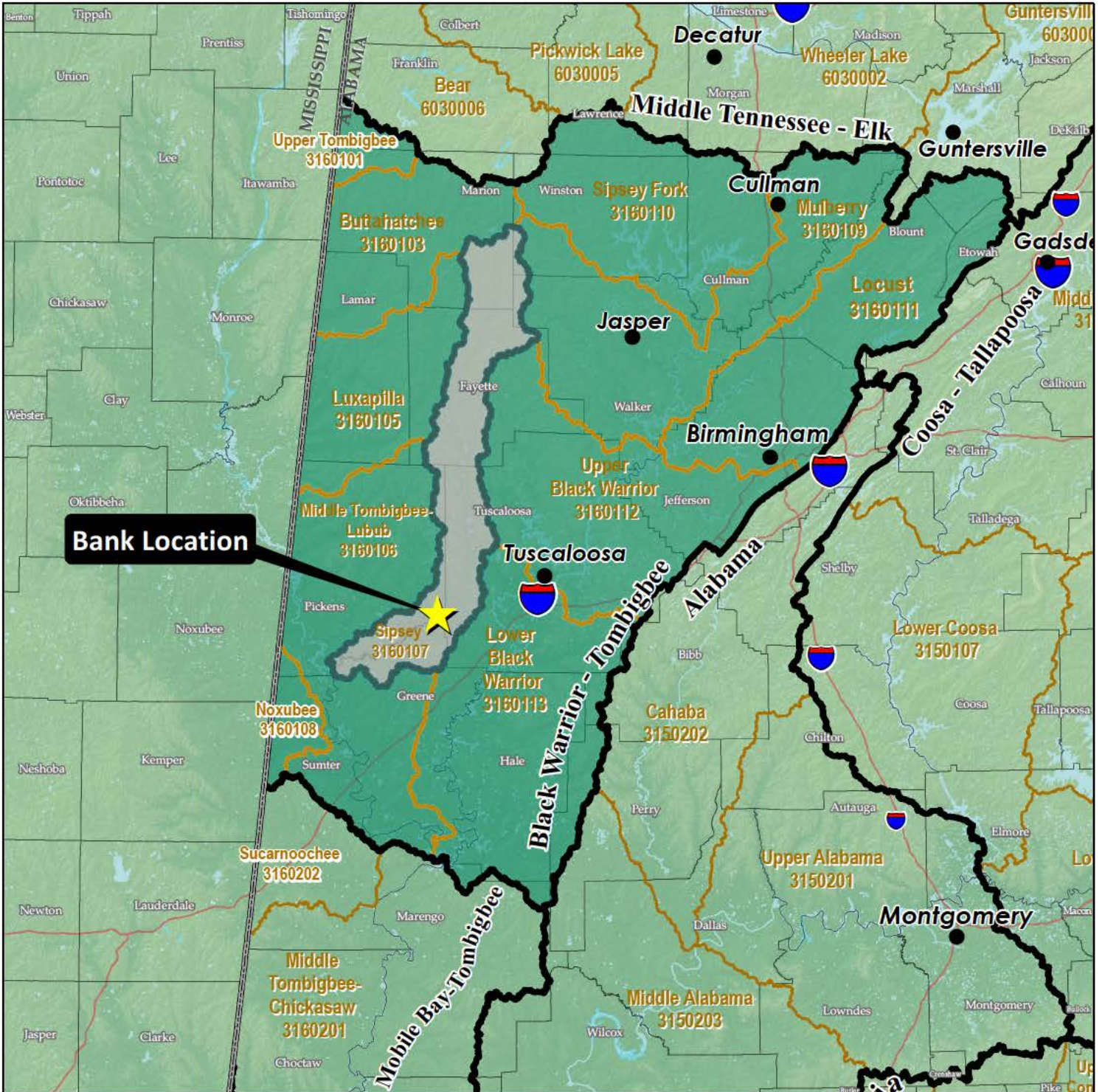
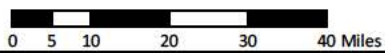
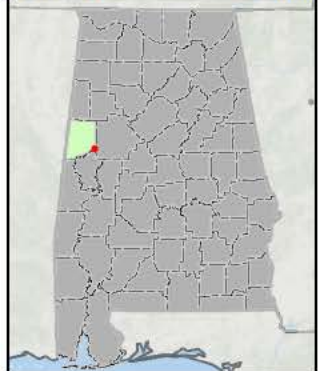
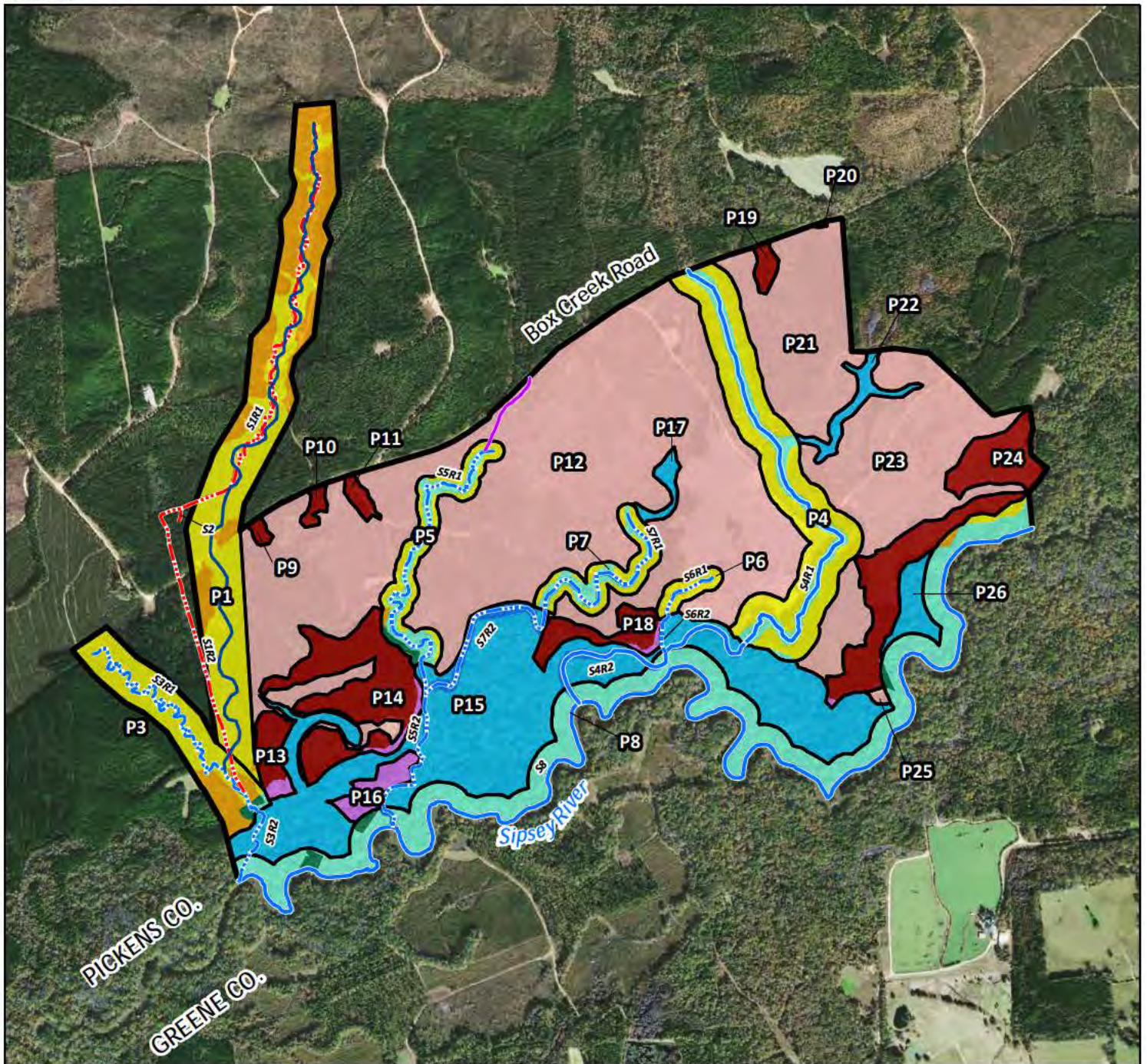


Figure 4. Mitigation Service Area

-  Basins
-  Watersheds
-  Sipsy Watershed
-  Black Warrior-Tombigbee Basin





**Figure 13.**  
**Conceptual Management Plan**

**Stream Management Strategy**

- Intermittent, In-Stream Restoration
- Intermittent, Stream Preservation
- Perennial, Stream Preservation
- Ditch
- Proposed Preliminary Alignment

- Bank Boundary
- Management Strategy**
- Riparian Buffer Upland Enhancement
- Riparian Buffer Upland Preservation
- Riparian Buffer Wetland Enhancement
- Riparian Buffer Wetland Preservation
- Upland Enhancement
- Upland Preservation
- Wetland Enhancement
- Wetland Preservation

