

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107**

REGULATORY DIVISION  
Refer to: P/N # SAC-2014-00160

February 13, 2014

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341) and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.) a Prospectus has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the South Carolina Interagency Review Team by

**SOUTH COAST MITIGATION VENTURE, LLC  
ATTN: MR. MURPHY MCLEAN  
POST OFFICE BOX 1541  
LAKE CITY, FLORIDA 32056**

for a proposal to establish and operate a wetland mitigation bank that is adjacent to

**SAVANNAH RIVER**

at a location approximately one half mile upstream of US Highway 17 in Jasper County, South Carolina. (Latitude 32.123971, Longitude -81.079196).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

**NOTICE**

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the Corps of Engineers until

**12 O'CLOCK NOON, MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2014**

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed project consists of developing a tidal salt marsh mitigation bank in the Lower Savannah River watershed (USGS 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code 3060109) and the Sea Islands/Coastal Marsh ecoregion of South Carolina. The 865.2-acre parent tract includes the proposed mitigation bank (842.6 acres), an existing utility easement (4.3 acres), and a portion of a Freshwater Control System (18.9 acres) that was constructed by the Savannah District, Corps of Engineers in the 1970s to provide fresh water to the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge and several private properties, including the project site. The proposed project is located adjacent to the Clydesdale Mitigation Bank, which was approved by the Charleston District on April 16, 2013.

The mitigation bank site consists of 425.6 acres of existing tidal salt marsh, 27.3 acres of existing tidal creeks, 353.6 acres of impoundments that are managed for recreation (i.e. hunting, fishing, etc), and 36.1 acres of upland hammocks and earthen embankments. According to the bank sponsor, the existing habitat inside the managed impoundment on the project site consists of 211.5 acres of flooded fields, 112.5 acres of mowed fields, 27.3 acres of freshwater canals and ditches, and 2.3 acres of forested freshwater wetlands. The

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proposed mitigation work plan consists of restoring 357.6 acres of tidal salt marsh by removing trees and large shrubs inside the managed impoundment, excavating a portion of the earthen embankments, and removing water control structures to restore natural tidal hydrology.

The earthen embankments will be excavated to the same elevation as the adjacent tidal salt marsh and the excavated material will be placed in the open water canals inside the managed impoundment. Since the embankments were constructed and maintained using material from these open water canals, the excavated material will be used to raise the bottom elevation of the canals and to help restore natural elevations inside the managed impoundment. Small shrubs and herbaceous vegetation inside the impoundment that are unable to tolerate brackish water or tidal inundation will be eliminated once natural tidal flows are restored. According to the mitigation work plan, tidal exchange and the existing salt marsh on the project site will provide the seed source necessary for salt marsh vegetation (*Spartina alterniflora*, *Juncus roemerianus*, *Spartina cynosuroides*, etc) to become established inside the managed impoundment.

The bank sponsor will monitor the mitigation site to confirm that hydrology (salinity and the degree, duration, and periodicity of saturation and inundation) salt marsh vegetation, and fish and macro-invertebrate species composition on the project site are comparable with reference conditions. The proposed mitigation bank will provide in-kind compensatory mitigation for authorized impacts to aquatic resource functions and services associated with future development activities within the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain and Sea Islands Coastal Marsh ecoregions, as shown on the attached Service Area Map. The work required to complete the restoration and enhancement of aquatic resources on the mitigation site may be authorized under Nationwide Permit #27 after review by the Corps, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the Interagency Review Team. The mitigation bank site will be protected by granting and conveying a conservation easement to the Georgia Land Trust, Inc.

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the bank sponsor, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown in this Prospectus must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (15 CFR 930). The bank sponsor is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would temporarily impact approximately 2.4 acres of open water canals which are located inside an existing managed impoundment. Overall, the proposed project is expected to restore 357.6 acres of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands that may be utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*), and wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) are present in the vicinity of the project. However, it has been determined that the proposed project will have no effect on these species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request for written concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on this determination.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with the NHPA, the District Engineer has also consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. In addition, the Prospectus includes a cultural resources survey that was conducted on the project site. Based on the available information, it has been determined that the proposed project will have no effect on properties that are listed or considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This public notice also serves as a request for written concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office on this determination.

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 a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to approve or deny the proposed mitigation bank will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, 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 and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers 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 activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to approve or deny the proposed mitigation bank. 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 activity.

The Prospectus for the proposed mitigation bank is available for review by appointment between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday at the address listed above. Please note if information about the location of Federally listed Threatened or Endangered species or the location of cultural resources is included in this Prospectus, this portion of the document may be withheld in accordance with the appropriate statutes for the protection of this information. If there any questions concerning the proposed mitigation bank or the information included in this public notice please contact Mr. Nat Ball by e-mail at [nathaniel.i.ball@usace.army.mil](mailto:nathaniel.i.ball@usace.army.mil) or by telephone at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.

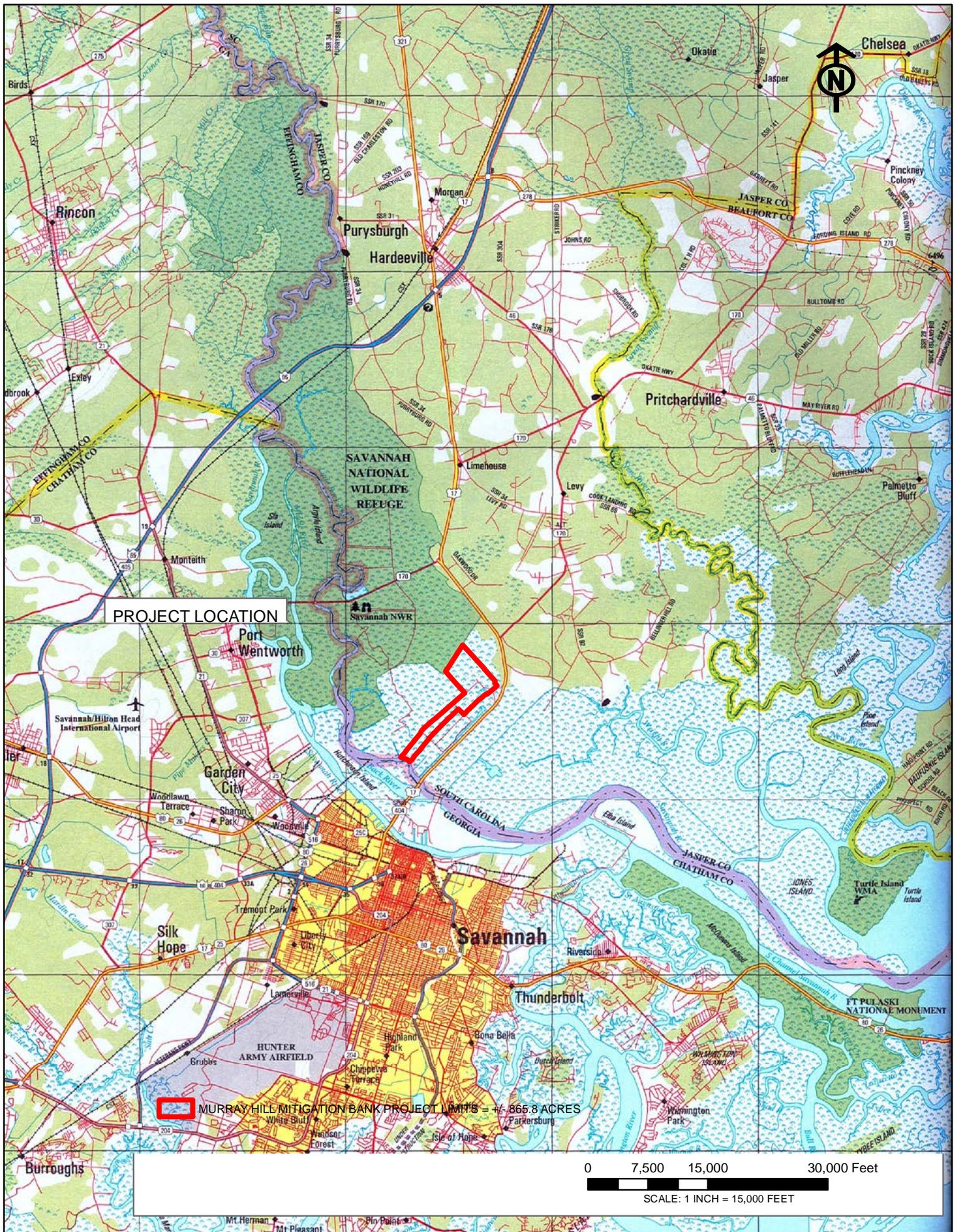


FIGURE 1. SITE LOCATION MAP, SOUTH CAROLINA GAZETTEER

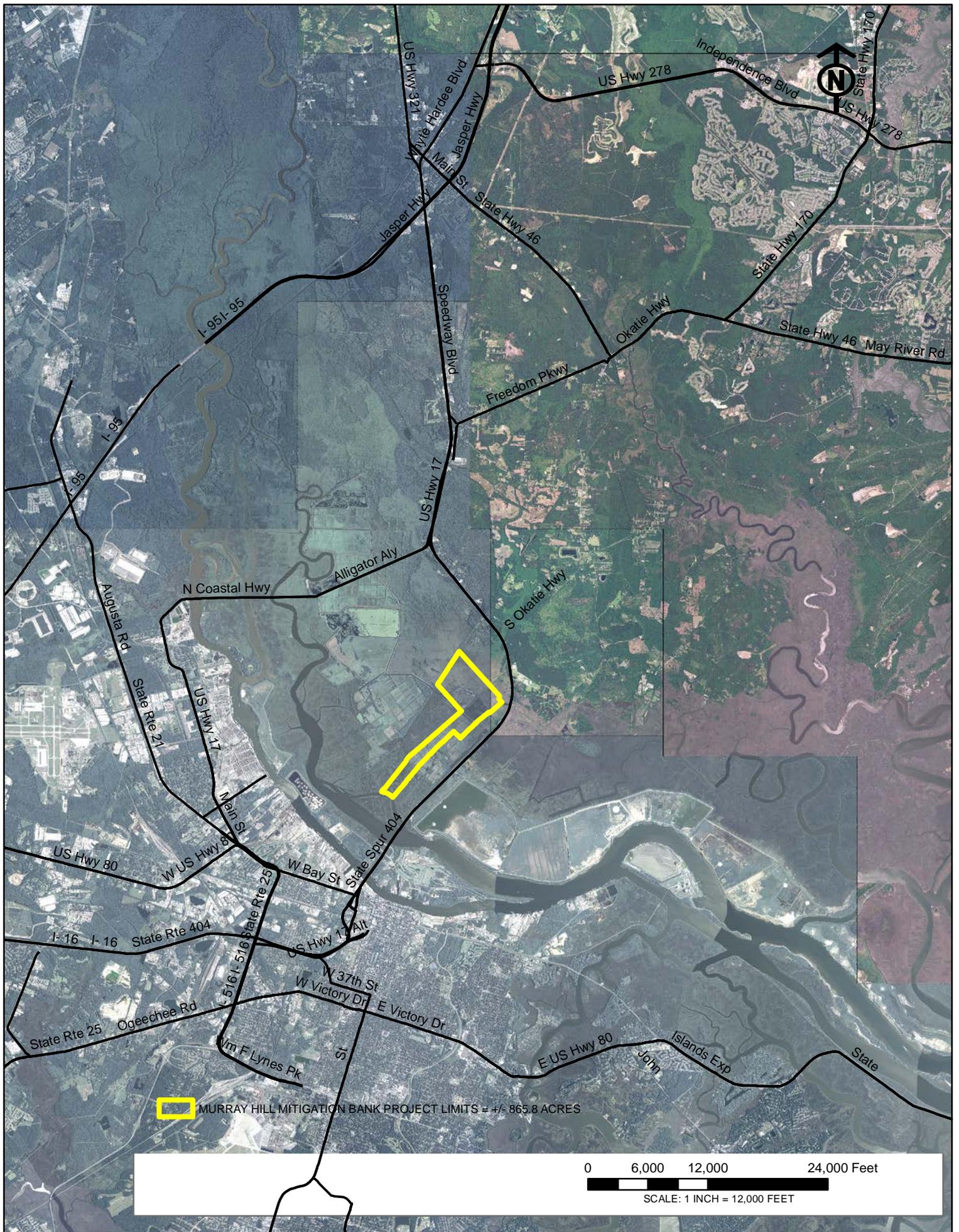


FIGURE 2. LOCATION MAP



FIGURE 4. 2010 COLOR ORTHO-IMAGERY MAP; JASPER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

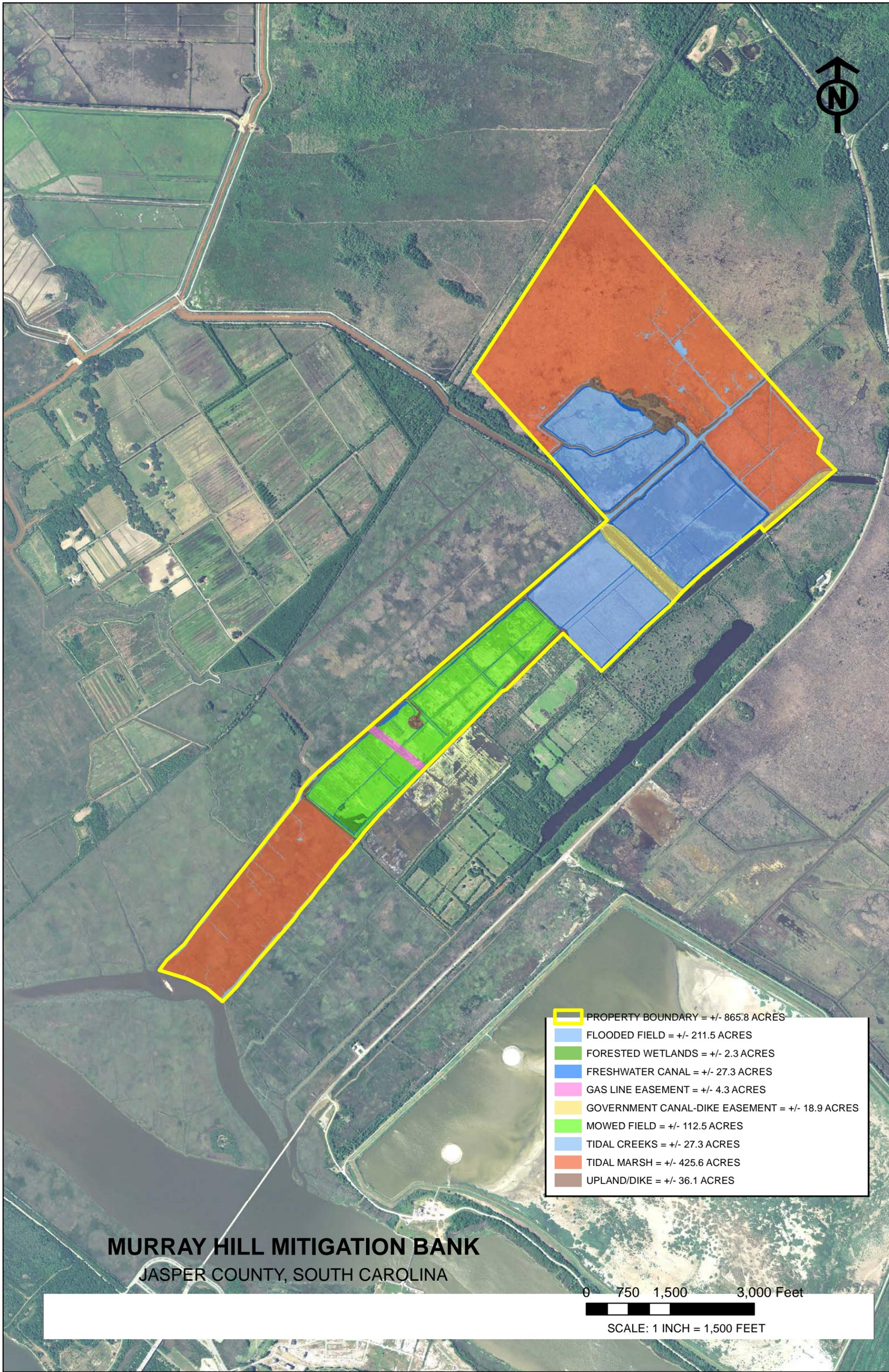
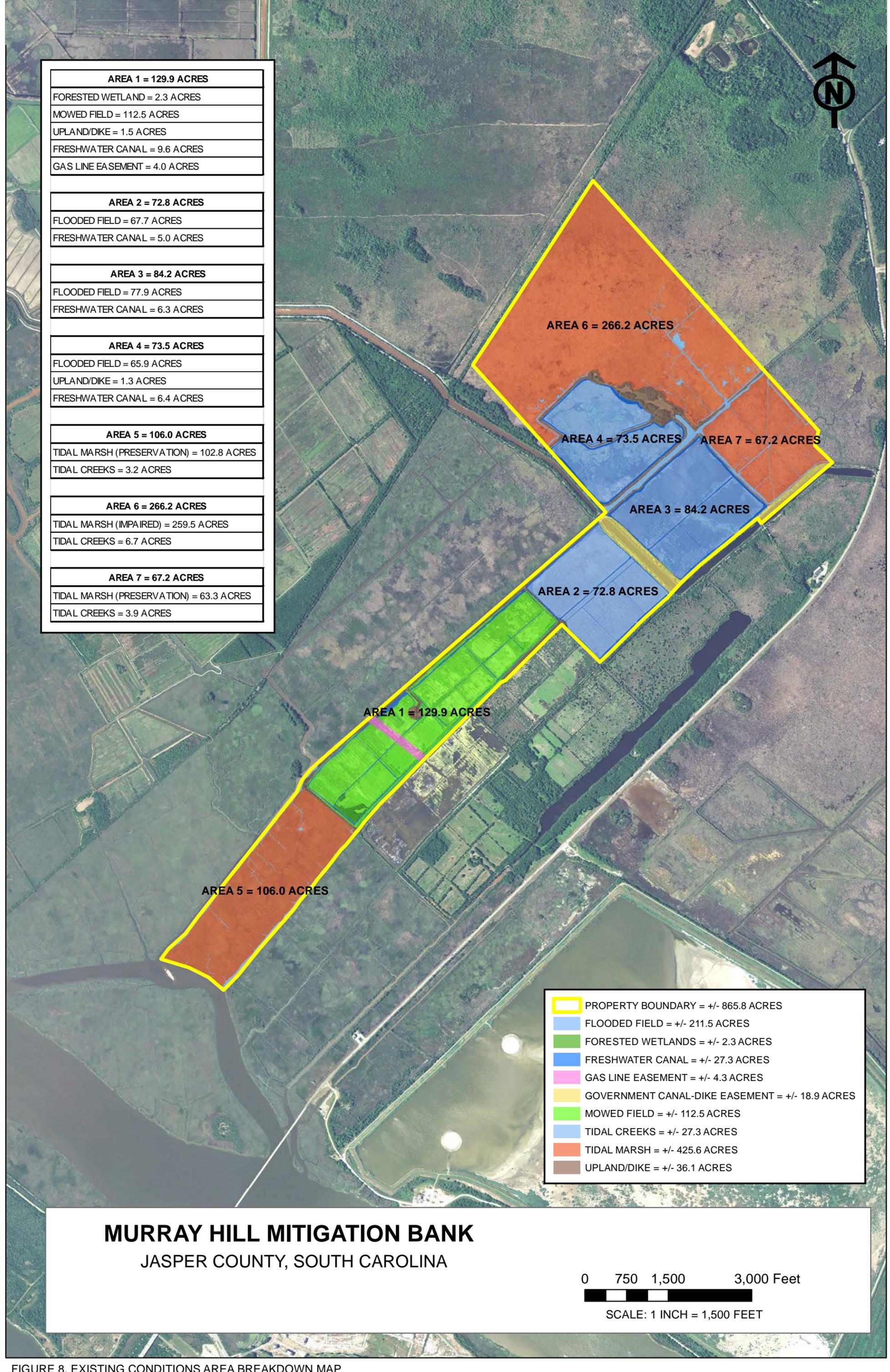


FIGURE 6. EXISTING CONDITIONS MAP



<b>AREA 1 = 129.9 ACRES</b>
FORESTED WETLAND = 2.3 ACRES
MOWED FIELD = 112.5 ACRES
UPLAND/DIKE = 1.5 ACRES
FRESHWATER CANAL = 9.6 ACRES
GAS LINE EASEMENT = 4.0 ACRES
<b>AREA 2 = 72.8 ACRES</b>
FLOODED FIELD = 67.7 ACRES
FRESHWATER CANAL = 5.0 ACRES
<b>AREA 3 = 84.2 ACRES</b>
FLOODED FIELD = 77.9 ACRES
FRESHWATER CANAL = 6.3 ACRES
<b>AREA 4 = 73.5 ACRES</b>
FLOODED FIELD = 65.9 ACRES
UPLAND/DIKE = 1.3 ACRES
FRESHWATER CANAL = 6.4 ACRES
<b>AREA 5 = 106.0 ACRES</b>
TIDAL MARSH (PRESERVATION) = 102.8 ACRES
TIDAL CREEKS = 3.2 ACRES
<b>AREA 6 = 266.2 ACRES</b>
TIDAL MARSH (IMPAIRED) = 259.5 ACRES
TIDAL CREEKS = 6.7 ACRES
<b>AREA 7 = 67.2 ACRES</b>
TIDAL MARSH (PRESERVATION) = 63.3 ACRES
TIDAL CREEKS = 3.9 ACRES

	PROPERTY BOUNDARY = +/- 865.8 ACRES
	FLOODED FIELD = +/- 211.5 ACRES
	FORESTED WETLANDS = +/- 2.3 ACRES
	FRESHWATER CANAL = +/- 27.3 ACRES
	GAS LINE EASEMENT = +/- 4.3 ACRES
	GOVERNMENT CANAL-DIKE EASEMENT = +/- 18.9 ACRES
	MOWED FIELD = +/- 112.5 ACRES
	TIDAL CREEKS = +/- 27.3 ACRES
	TIDAL MARSH = +/- 425.6 ACRES
	UPLAND/DIKE = +/- 36.1 ACRES

**MURRAY HILL MITIGATION BANK**  
 JASPER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet  
  
 SCALE: 1 INCH = 1,500 FEET

FIGURE 8. EXISTING CONDITIONS AREA BREAKDOWN MAP

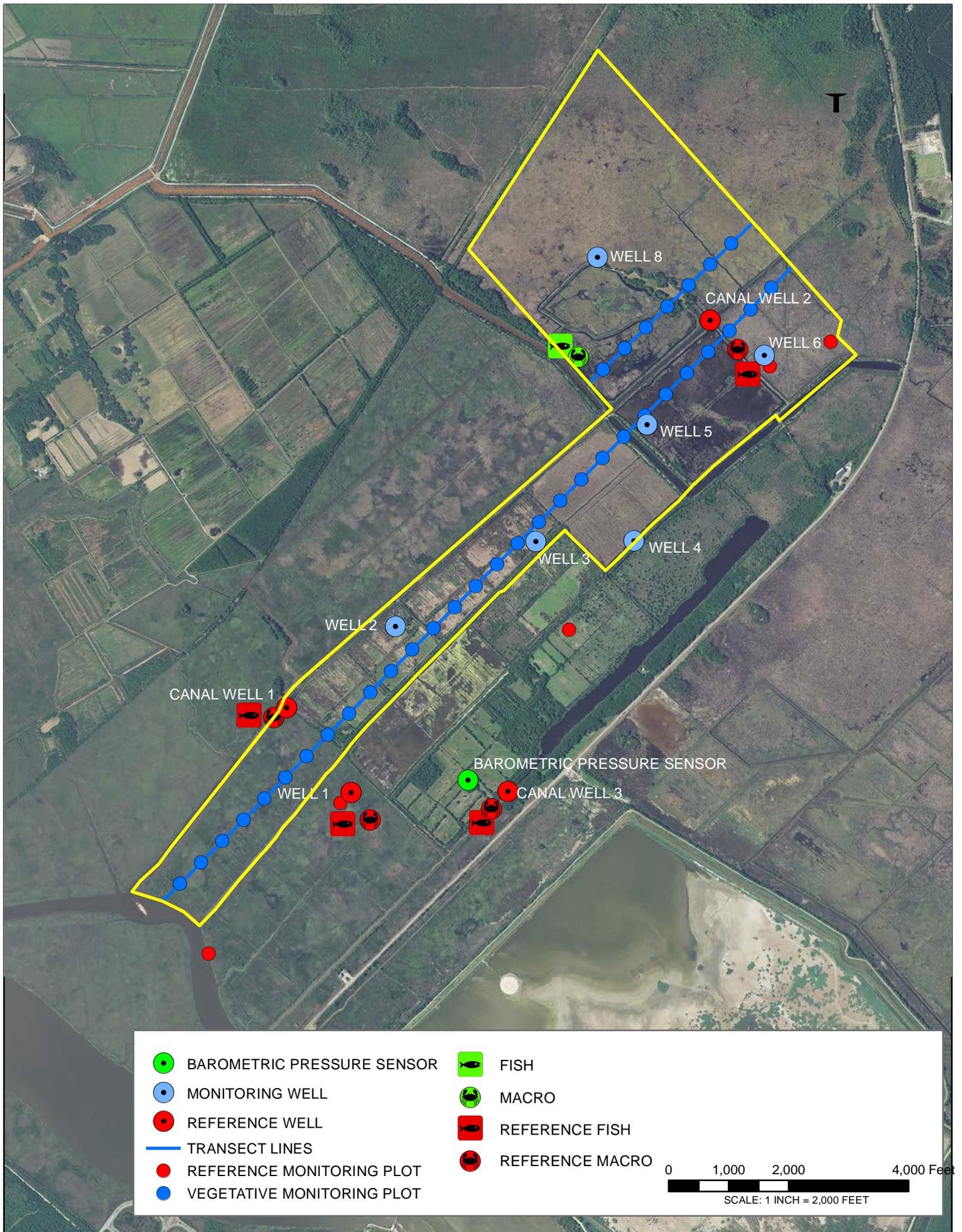


FIGURE 11. MITIGATION MONITORING MAP; 2011 ORTHO PHOTOGRAPH

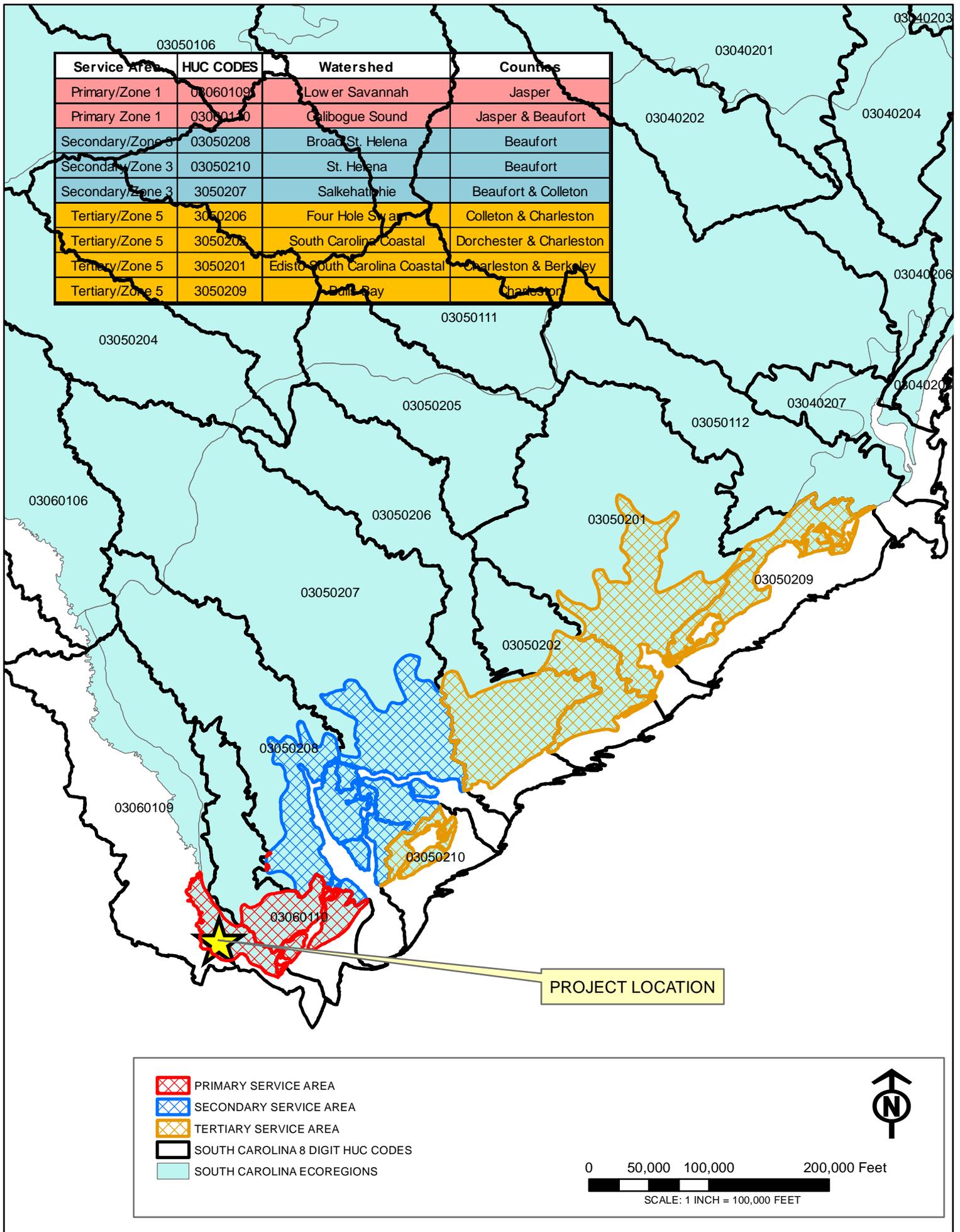
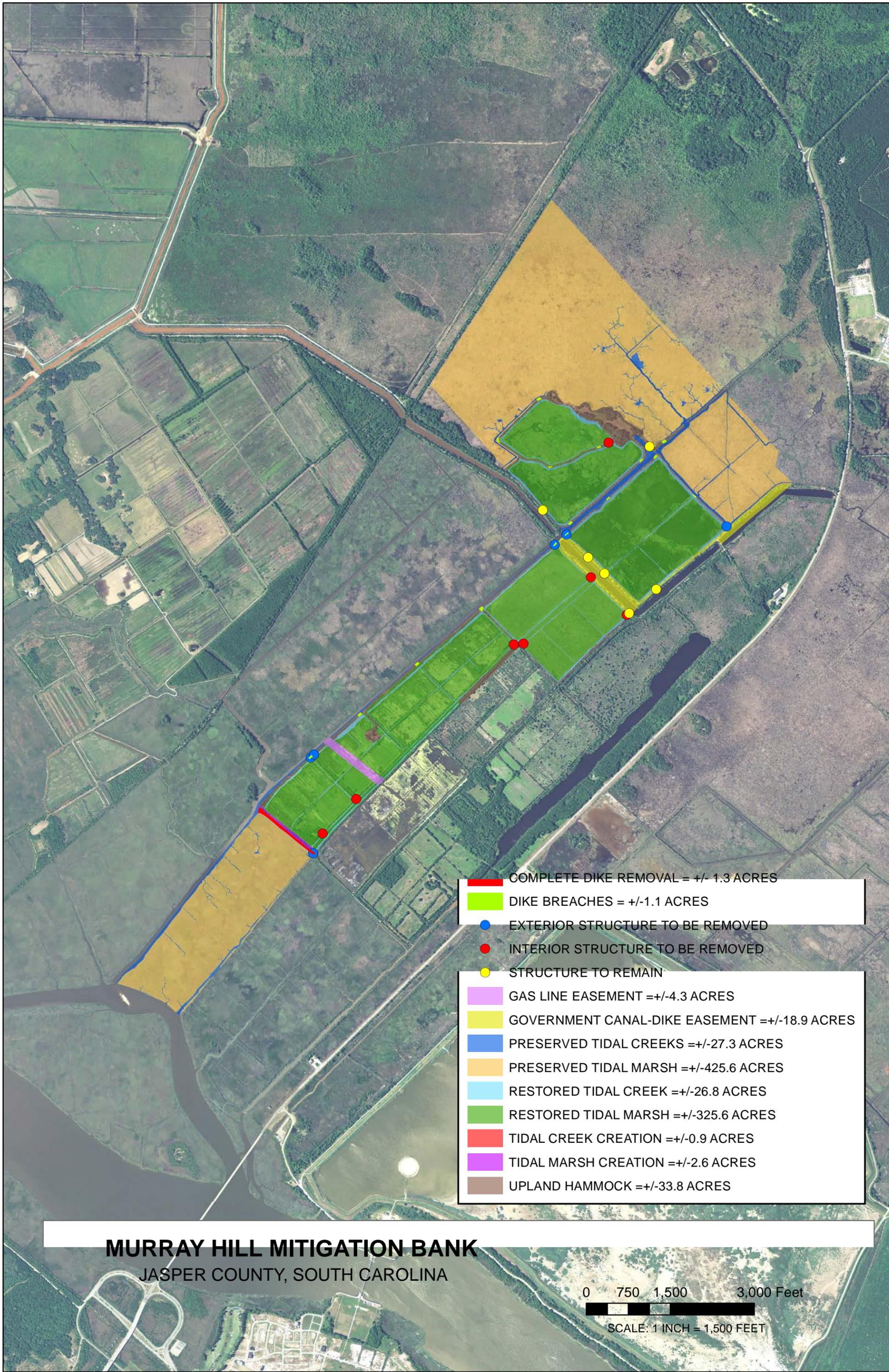


FIGURE 12. PROPOSED SERVICE AREA



- COMPLETE DIKE REMOVAL = +/- 1.3 ACRES
- DIKE BREACHES = +/-1.1 ACRES
- EXTERIOR STRUCTURE TO BE REMOVED
- INTERIOR STRUCTURE TO BE REMOVED
- STRUCTURE TO REMAIN
- GAS LINE EASEMENT +/-4.3 ACRES
- GOVERNMENT CANAL-DIKE EASEMENT +/-18.9 ACRES
- PRESERVED TIDAL CREEKS +/-27.3 ACRES
- PRESERVED TIDAL MARSH +/-425.6 ACRES
- RESTORED TIDAL CREEK +/-26.8 ACRES
- RESTORED TIDAL MARSH +/-325.6 ACRES
- TIDAL CREEK CREATION +/-0.9 ACRES
- TIDAL MARSH CREATION +/-2.6 ACRES
- UPLAND HAMMOCK +/-33.8 ACRES

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FIGURE 13. MITIGATION PLAN FOR CLYDESDALE PHASE II; 2010 COLOR ORTHO PHOTOGRAPH