

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107
and
S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400
Charleston, South Carolina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N # SAC-2014-01105

Pursuant to Section Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341), a Prospectus has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the South Carolina Interagency Review Team by

ICA ENGINEERING INC.
ATTENTION: MR. RYAN V. SMITH
5121 KINGDOM WAY, SUITE 100
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27607

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

CATON CREEK

at a location 11 miles west of Moncks Corner in Berkeley County, 1.5 miles south of the intersection of State Road 176 and Lebanon Road, in Berkeley County, South Carolina. (Latitude 33.195386° N, Longitude 80.205714° W)

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, APRIL 6, 2015

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

The proposed project consists of establishing a freshwater stream mitigation bank in the Cooper/Ashley River watershed (8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code 03050201) in the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain Region. The proposed 479-acre mitigation site includes approximately 24,250 feet of abandoned single thread relic channel of Caton Creek, 16,000 linear feet of Caton Creek, 4,735 linear feet of tributaries to Caton Creek and 124 acres of wetlands. According to the Prospectus, the mitigation work plan includes restoration of a portion of Caton Creek by restoring flows from the current entrenched stream channel to a natural and largely unmodified stream channel (i.e. the relic channel of Caton Creek). Restoration may occur on an 800 linear foot tributary of Caton Creek by restoring flows to its relic channel. The remaining tributaries will be preserved. Additionally, the prospectus includes restoration of wetlands by filling in the channelized Caton Creek and removing a road. Existing bottomland hardwoods will be preserved when feasible. In areas where disturbance is unavoidable, native vegetation will be replanted. Once the mitigation work is completed, the bank sponsor proposes to monitor the mitigation site to ensure that the restoration areas are developing as expected and meeting the necessary performance standards.

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According to the Prospectus, the proposed mitigation bank will provide in-kind compensatory mitigation for authorized impacts to aquatic resources located within the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain ecoregion as shown on the attached Service Area Map. The work required to complete the proposed activities on the mitigation site may be authorized under Nationwide Permit #27 after reviews 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 the bank sponsor using a conservation easement.

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 applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). The applicant 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 impact freshwater habitats located inland of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the 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 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 proposed project will have no effect on any federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or 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 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 has determined that no previously recorded sites are located within the vicinity of the proposed project. Based on the available information, it has been determined that the proposed project will have no effect on properties that may be 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.

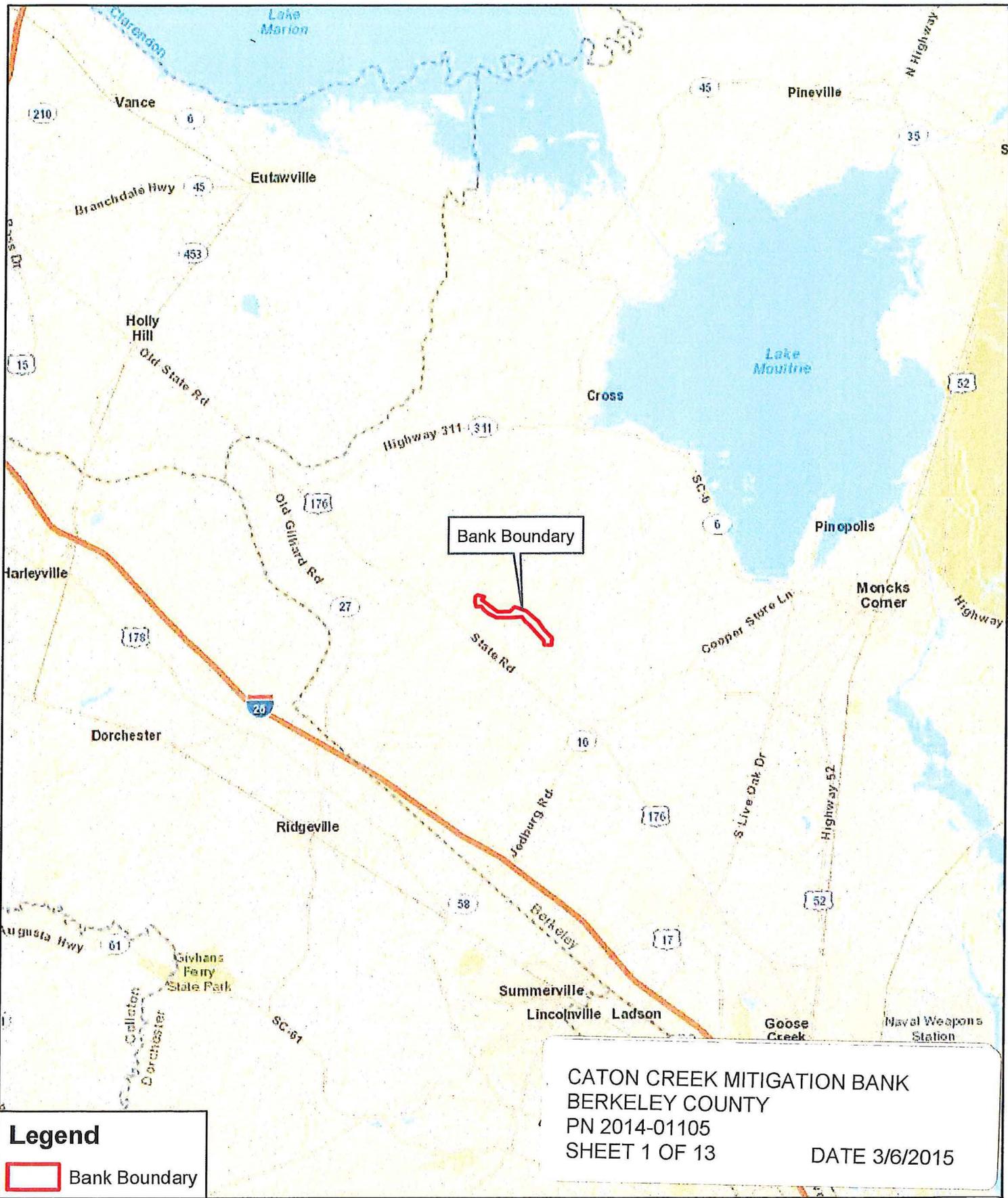
The decision whether to approve or deny the proposed mitigation bank will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, 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.

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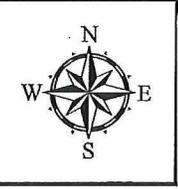
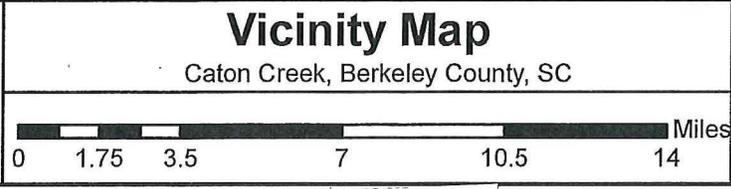
The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine 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.

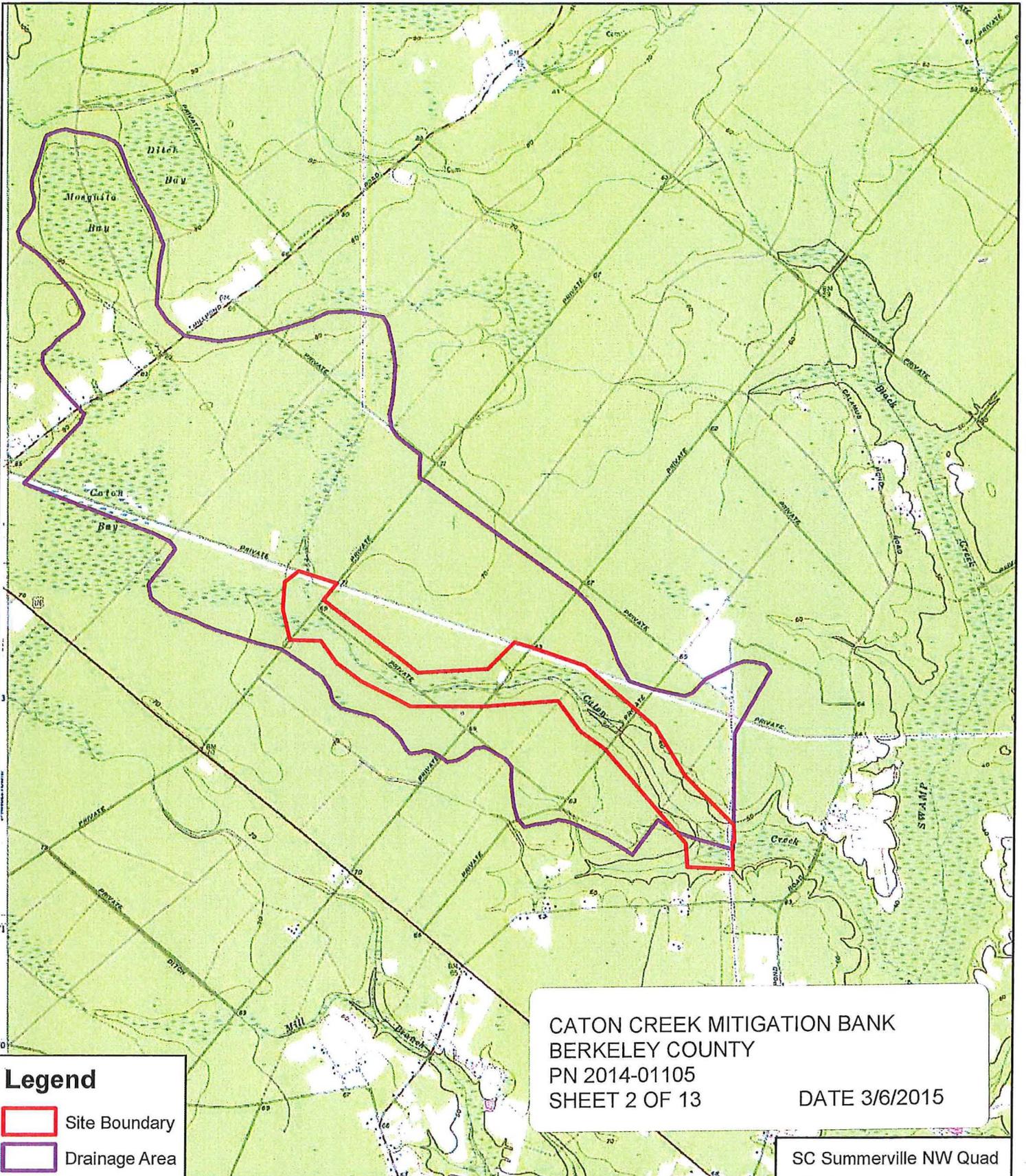
The Prospectus for the proposed mitigation bank is available for review by appointment between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday at the address listed above. If there are any questions concerning the proposed mitigation bank or the information included in this public notice please contact Mr. David B. Wilson by e-mail at david.b.wilson@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 843-329-8044.



Legend
 Bank Boundary

CATON CREEK MITIGATION BANK
 BERKELEY COUNTY
 PN 2014-01105
 SHEET 1 OF 13
 DATE 3/6/2015





CATON CREEK MITIGATION BANK
 BERKELEY COUNTY
 PN 2014-01105
 SHEET 2 OF 13
 DATE 3/6/2015

Legend

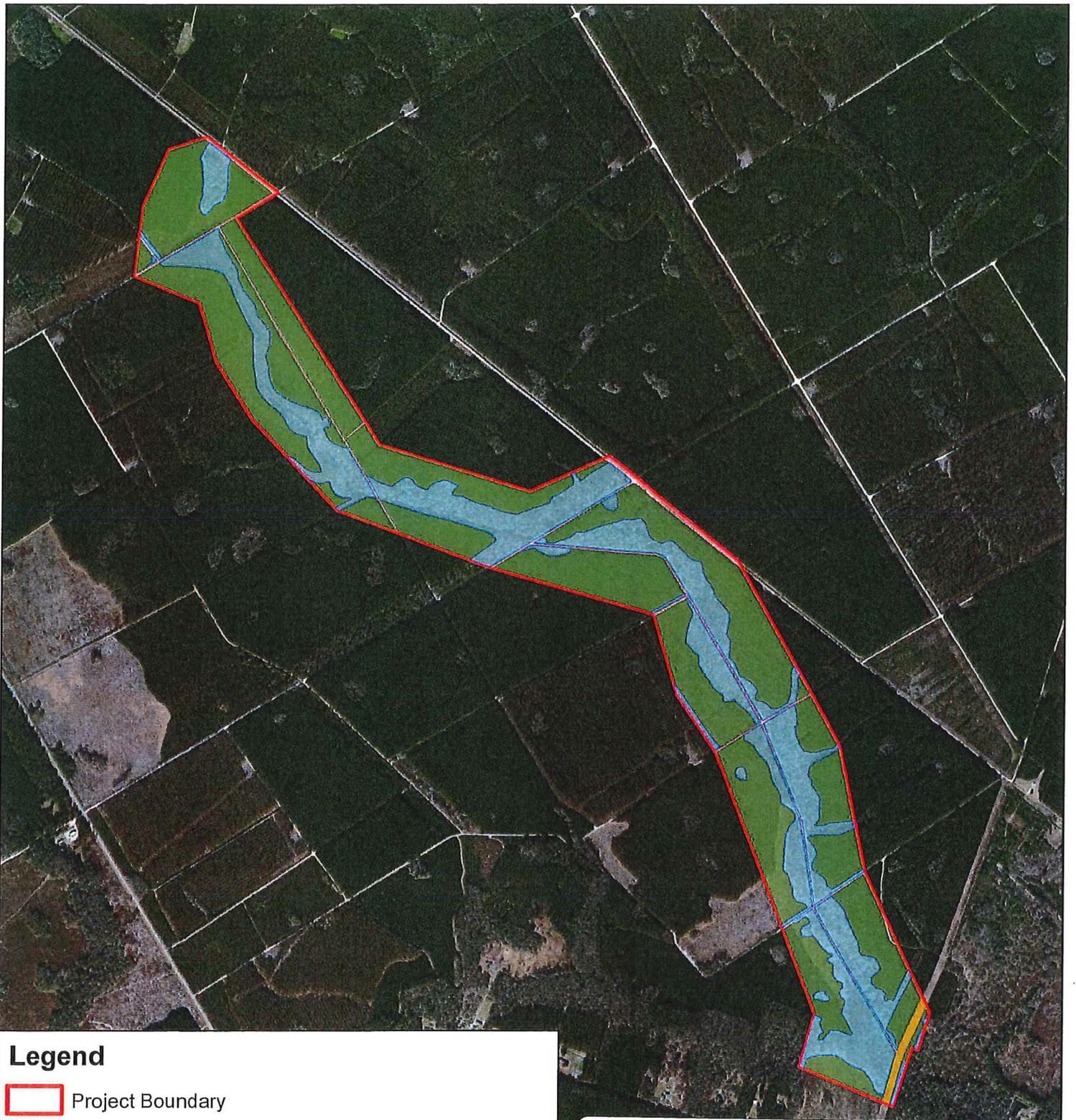
- Site Boundary
- Drainage Area

SC Summerville NW Quad



USGS 1990 Quad & Drainage Area Map
 Caton Creek, Berkeley County, SC

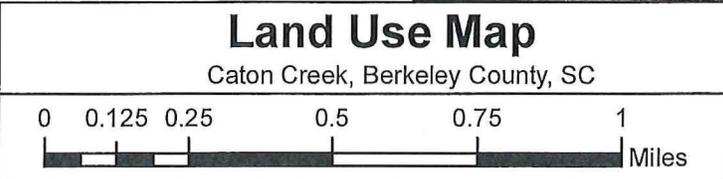




Legend

- Project Boundary
- Managed Pine Plantation (67%)
- Palustrine Forested Hardwoods (24%)
- Non-forested Lands (Dirt Roads/Ditches/Streams) 7%
- Utilities (2%)

CATON CREEK MITIGATION BANK
 BERKELEY COUNTY
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 DATE 3/6/2015





Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Managed Pine Plantation (67%)
-  Palustrine Forested Hardwoods (24%)
-  Non-forested Lands (Dirt Roads/Ditches/Streams) 7%
-  Utilities (2%)

CATON CREEK MITIGATION BANK
 BERKELEY COUNTY
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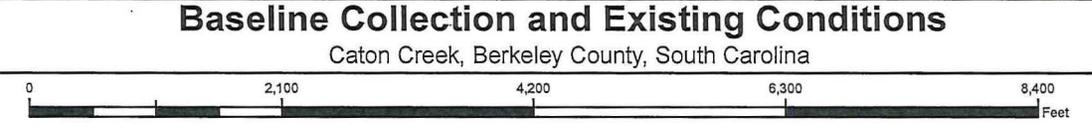
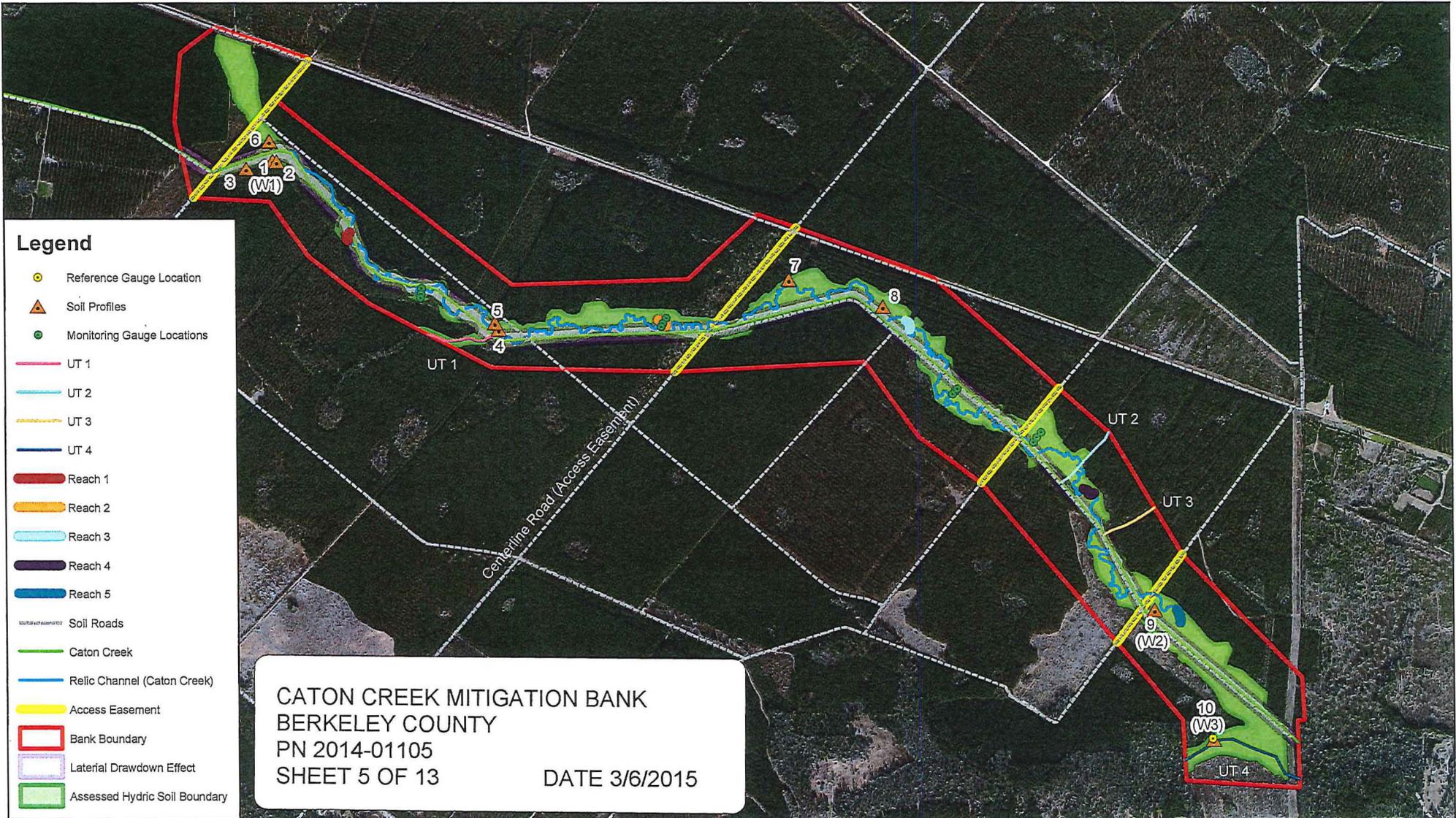
DATE 3/6/2015



Land Use Map

Caton Creek, Berkeley County, SC



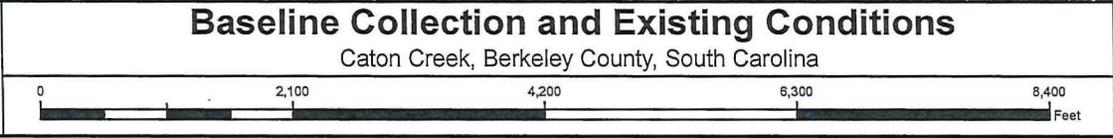
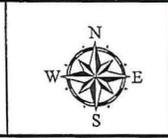


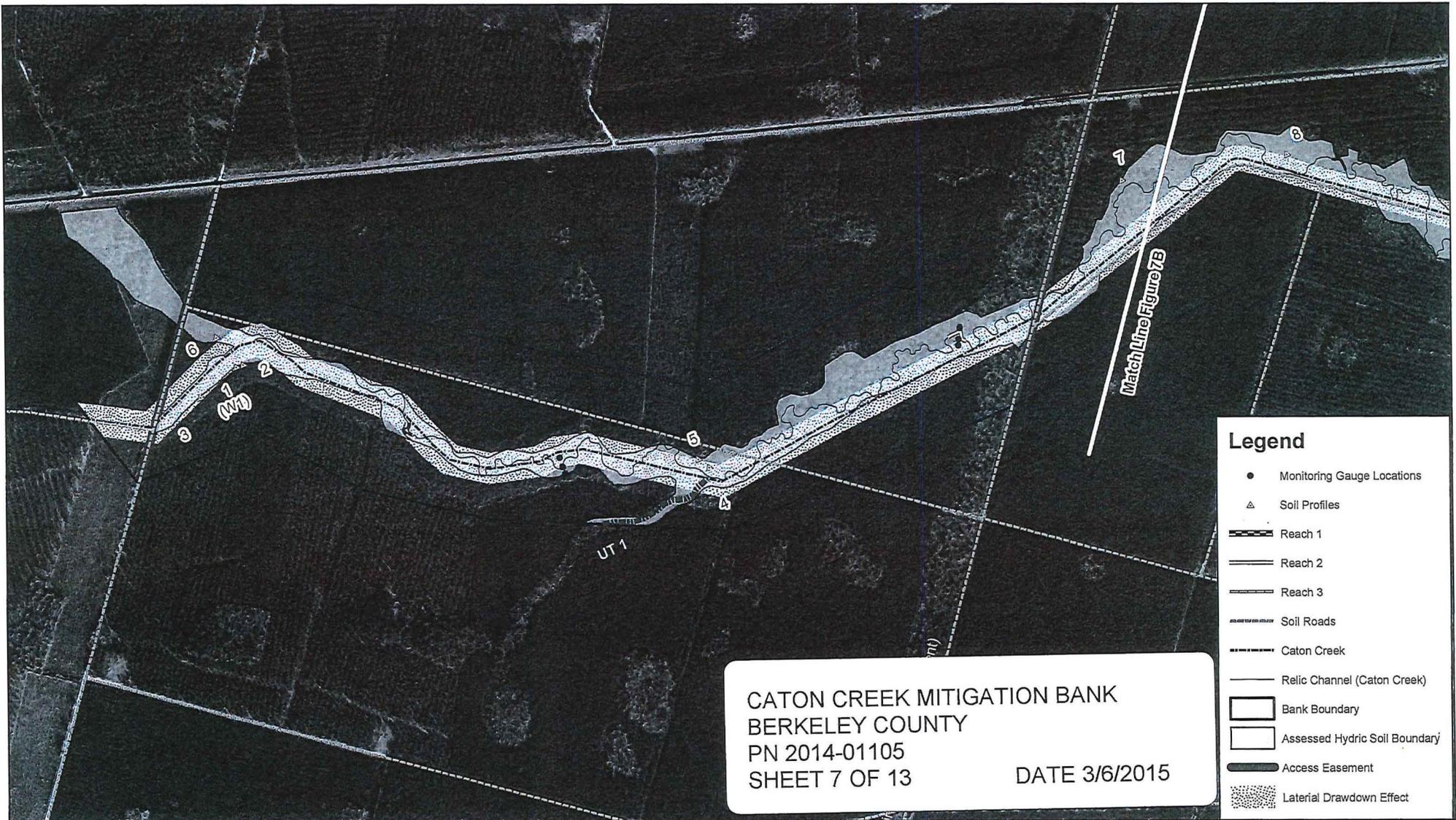


Legend

- Monitoring Gauge Locations
- ▲ Soil Profiles
- ⊕ Reference Gauge Location
- ▬ Reach 1
- ▬ Reach 2
- ▬ Reach 3
- ▬ Reach 4
- ▬ Reach 5
- Soil Roads
- - - Caton Creek
- Relic Channel (Caton Creek)
- Bank Boundary
- Assessed Hydric Soil Boundary
- ▬ Access Easement
- ▨ Lateral Drawdown Effect

CATON CREEK MITIGATION BANK
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- Legend**
- Monitoring Gauge Locations
 - △ Soil Profiles
 - ▬ Reach 1
 - ▬ Reach 2
 - ▬ Reach 3
 - ▬ Soil Roads
 - ▬ Caton Creek
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 - ▭ Bank Boundary
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Baseline Collection and Existing Conditions
 Caton Creek, Berkeley County, South Carolina

0 1,200 2,400 3,600 4,800
 Feet

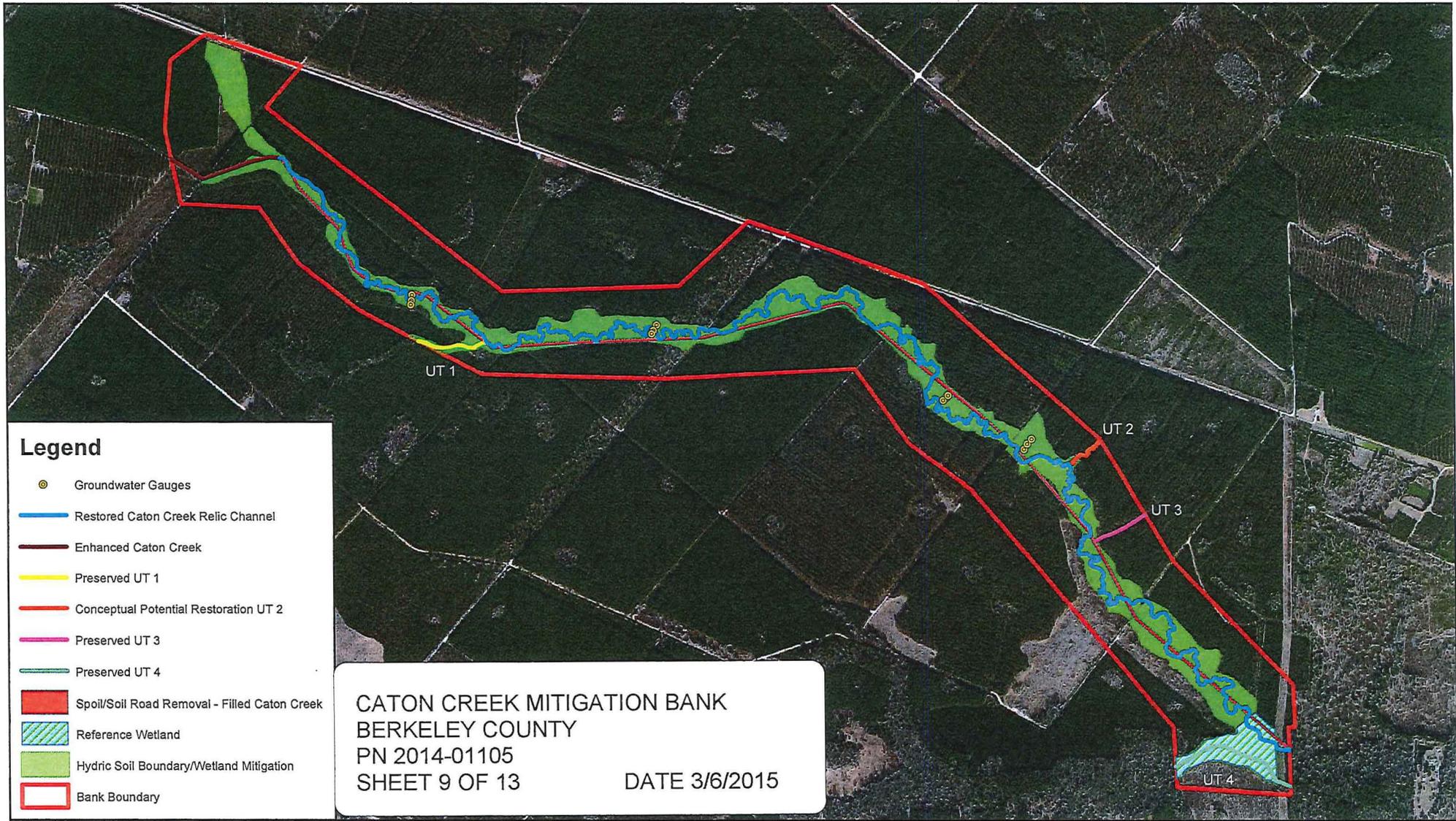




- Legend**
- Monitoring Gauge Locations
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CATON CREEK MITIGATION BANK
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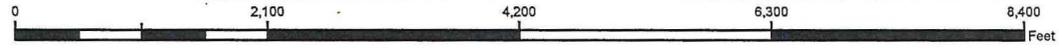
		<p>Baseline Collection and Existing Conditions Caton Creek, Berkeley County, South Carolina</p>	



Legend

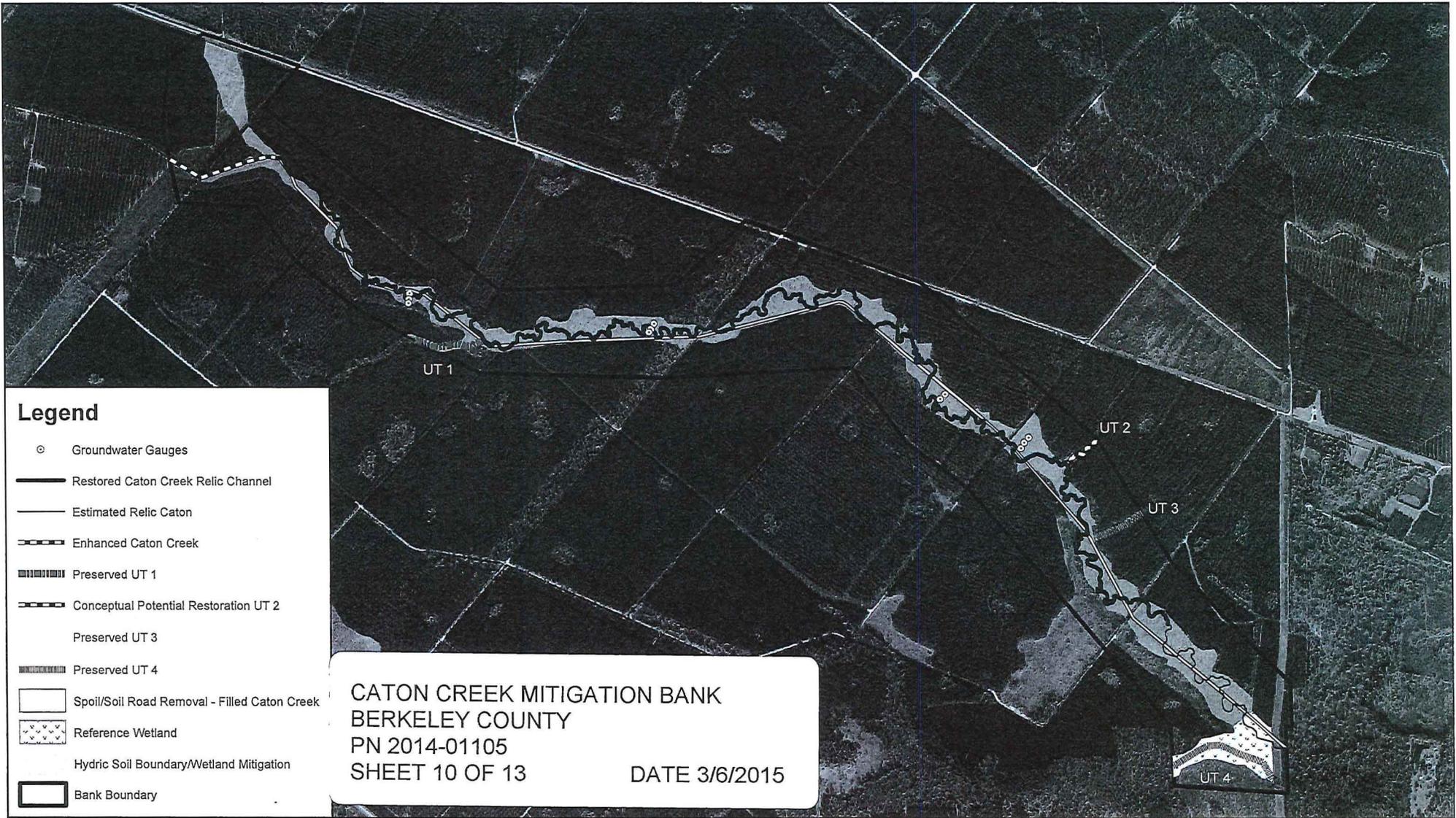
-  Groundwater Gauges
-  Restored Caton Creek Relic Channel
-  Enhanced Caton Creek
-  Preserved UT 1
-  Conceptual Potential Restoration UT 2
-  Preserved UT 3
-  Preserved UT 4
-  Spoil/Soil Road Removal - Filled Caton Creek
-  Reference Wetland
-  Hydric Soil Boundary/Wetland Mitigation
-  Bank Boundary

CATON CREEK MITIGATION BANK
 BERKELEY COUNTY
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Mitigation Components Map
 Caton Creek, Berkeley County, South Carolina





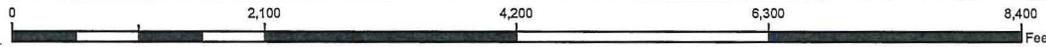
Legend

- ⊙ Groundwater Gauges
- Restored Caton Creek Relic Channel
- Estimated Relic Caton
- - - Enhanced Caton Creek
- ▨ Preserved UT 1
- - - Conceptual Potential Restoration UT 2
- ▨ Preserved UT 3
- ▨ Preserved UT 4
- Spoil/Soil Road Removal - Filled Caton Creek
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CATON CREEK MITIGATION BANK
 BERKELEY COUNTY
 PN 2014-01105
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Mitigation Components Map
 Caton Creek, Berkeley County, South Carolina



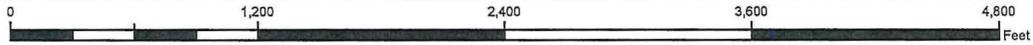


Legend

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CATON CREEK MITIGATION BANK
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Mitigation Components Map
 Caton Creek, Berkeley County, South Carolina

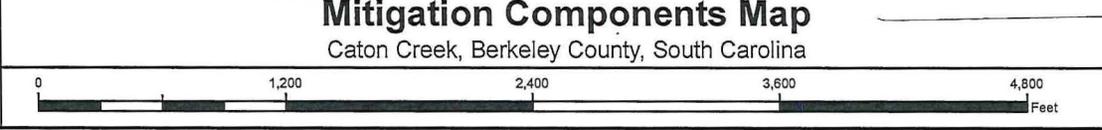




Legend

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- ▭ Bank Boundary

CATON CREEK MITIGATION BANK
 BERKELEY COUNTY
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CATON CREEK MITIGATION BANK
 BERKELEY COUNTY
 PN 2014-01105
 SHEET 13 OF 13

DATE 3/6/2015

Legend

- Project Boundary
- 8 Digit HUC Boundaries
- Primary Service Area
- Secondary Service Areas



Watershed and Service Area Map
 Caton Creek, Berkeley County, SC

