

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1949 Industrial Park Road, Room 140
Conway, South Carolina 29526

and

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

REGULATORY DIVISION
Refer to: P/N # 2011-00662

AUGUST 17, 2016

Pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

CATFISH FARM, LLC
C/O MATTHEW O'BRIEN
SOUTHERN ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS, LLC
1580 SPRINGVALE ROAD
LUGOFF, SOUTH CAROLINA 29078

for an After-the-Fact permit to authorize the construction of three Greentree Reservoirs in wetlands adjacent to Cypress Creek, which is a tributary of the

LITTLE PEE DEE RIVER

at a location south of Terrells Bay Road, west of SC Highway 41, west of the Town of Centenary, Marion County, South Carolina (Latitude: 34.022727 °N, Longitude: -79.38777 °W; USGS Friendship Quad).

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 until

15 Days from the Date of this Notice,

and SCDHEC will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

30 Days from the Date of this Notice

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

The work consists of the construction of three Greentree Reservoirs. In detail, the work consists of the placement of fill material within 2.49 acres of wetlands for the construction of three berms used to flood 89.5 acres of freshwater wetlands. The applicant provided a management

AUGUST 17, 2016

plan encompassing the siting, construction, and management criteria contained in the "Interagency Guidance Concerning Authorization, Siting, Construction, and Management of Greentree Reservoirs" dated October, 1997. The applicant did not propose mitigation for the project and states, "no mitigation proposed as the greentree reservoirs have demonstrated to be highly functioning and serve as a higher functioning wetland system [than] was there prior to construction". The purpose of the project, as stated by the applicant, is to provide "managed forested wetland systems which promote seasonal flood cycles to enhance feeding and foraging habitat for a wide range of wetland dependent wildlife species. Specifically, these GTRs provide needed rookery, nesting and brooding habitat not found adjacent to large bodies of water."

NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps' website at:
<http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices> .

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. This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S. C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. 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 2.49 acres upstream of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. The District Engineer's 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). The District Engineer's final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the applicant has provided a protected species survey for the property associated with the activity described above. Based upon this report, the District Engineer has determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect 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 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 Section 106 of the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted South Carolina ArchSite (GIS), for the presence or absence of historic properties (as defined in 36 C.F.R. 800.16)(f)(1)), and has initially determined that no historic properties are present; therefore, there will be no effect on historic properties. To ensure that other historic properties

AUGUST 17, 2016

that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office and any other interested parties to provide any information they may have with regard to historic properties. This public notice serves as a request for concurrence within 30 days from the SHPO (and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer).

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

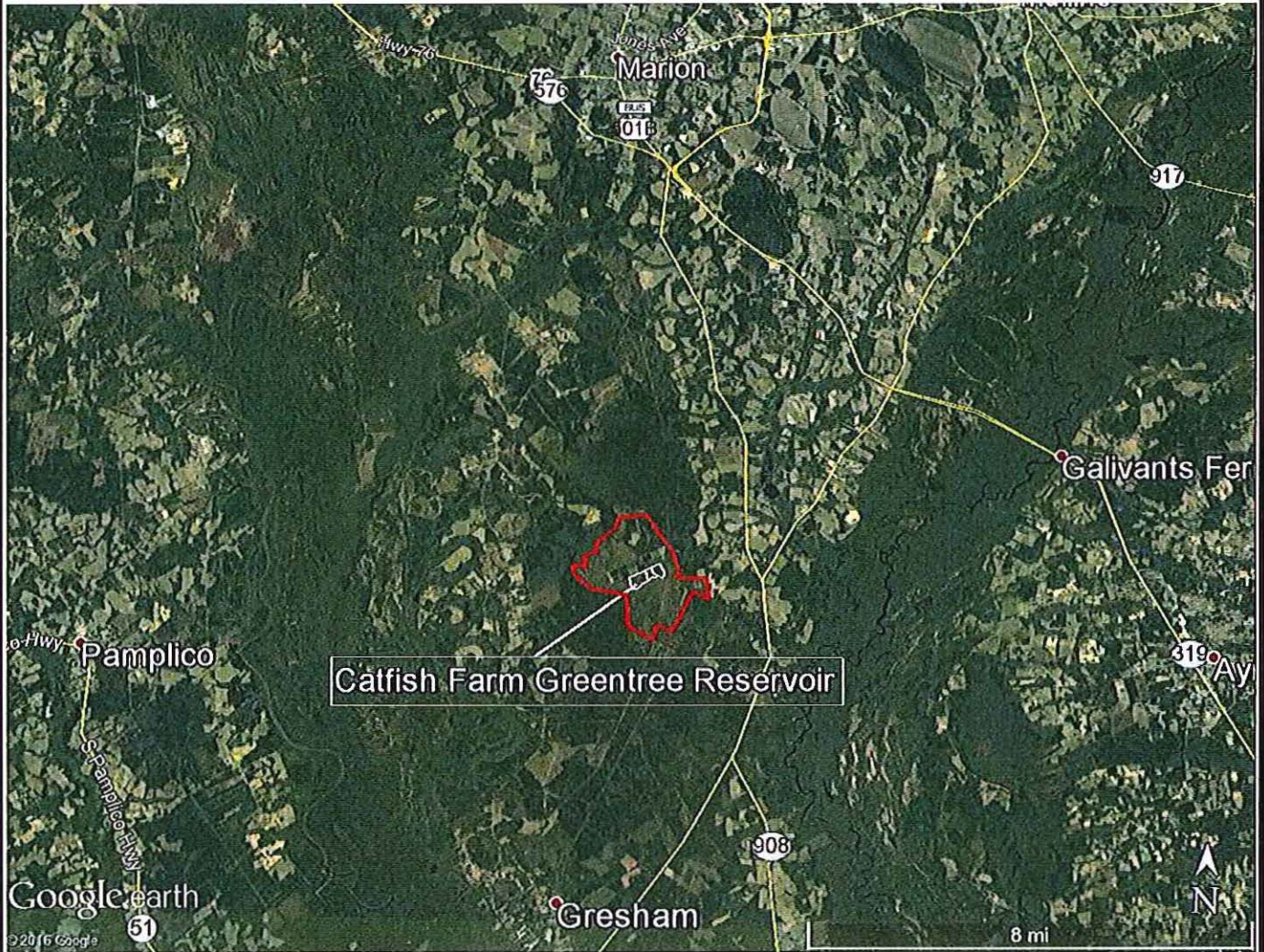
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. 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 project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. 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. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

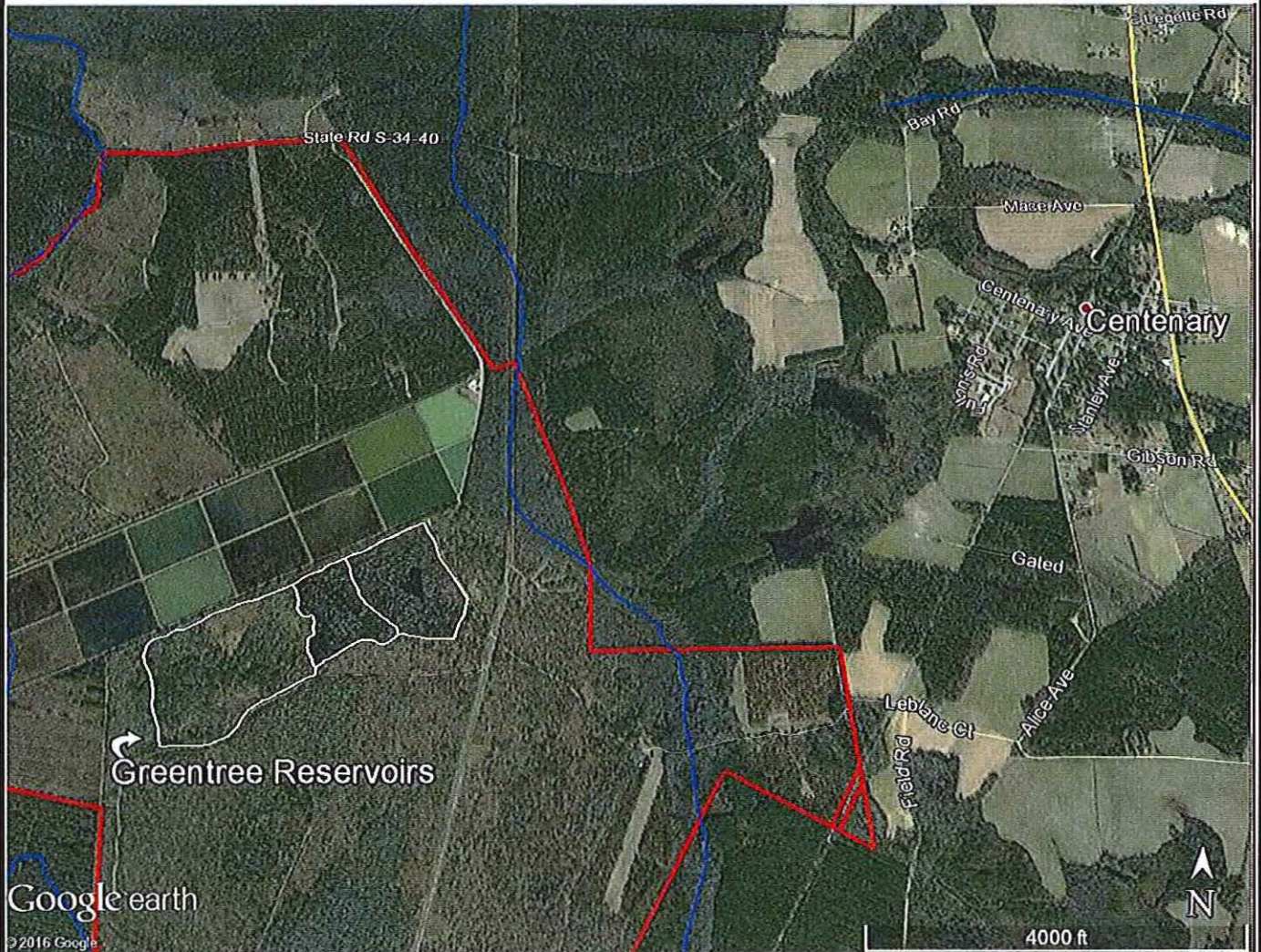
The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. 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. **Please submit comments in writing, identifying the project of interest by public notice number, to the following address:**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
1949 Industrial Park Road, Room 140
Conway, South Carolina 29526**

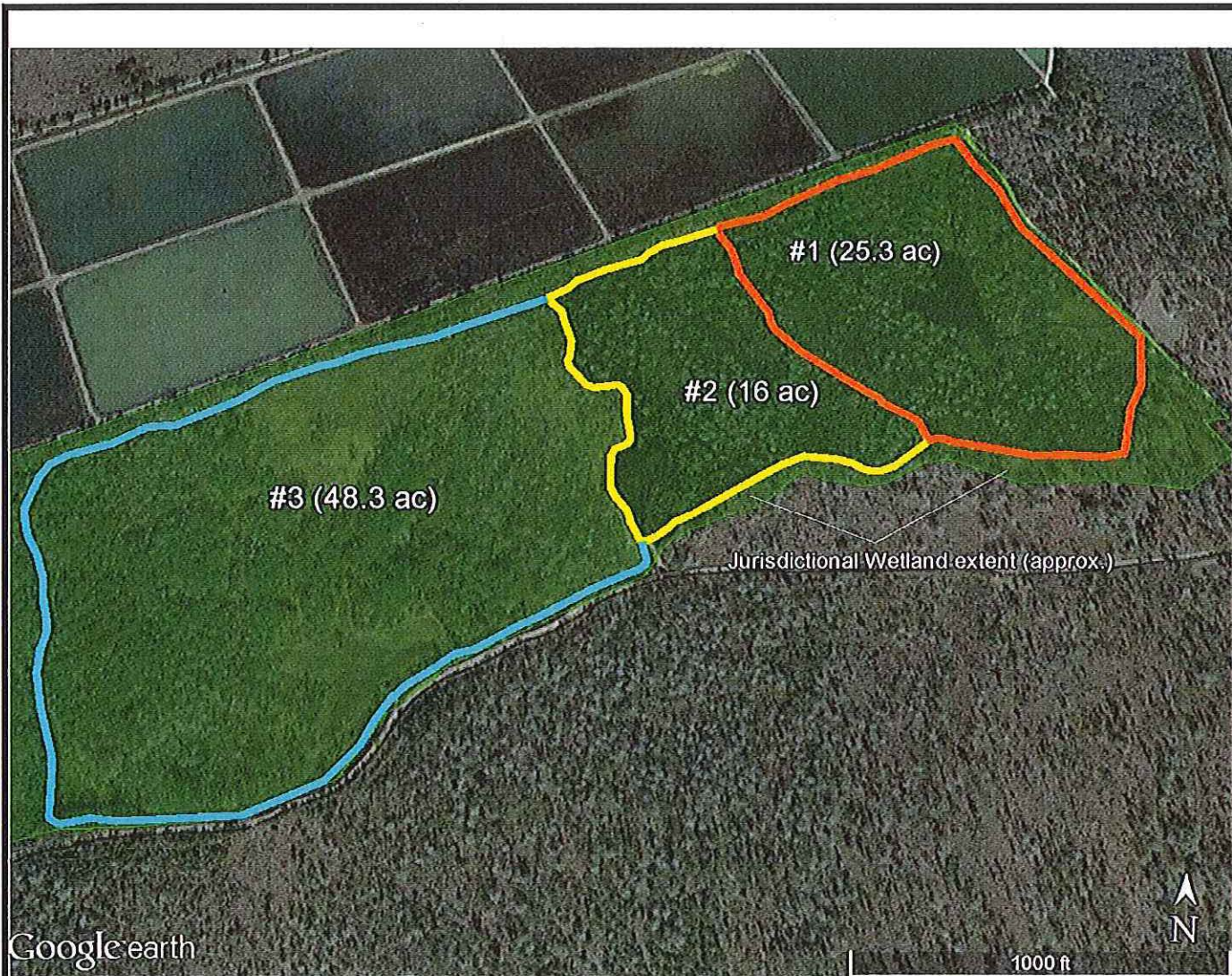
If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Ann Eaddy, Project Manager, at 843-365-1709.



Project Title: Catfish Farm Greentree Reservoir
Applicant: Catfish Farms, LLC
Figure Title: Vicinity Map
Project Location: Marion Co., SC
Lat: N34.02944° Long: W79.39786°
Authorized Agent: Southern Ecological Consultants, LLC
Drawing Scale: As Shown
Application Number: SAC 2011-00662
Sheet 1 of 6 Date: 1 August 2016



Project Title: Catfish Farm Greentree Reservoir
Applicant: Catfish Farms, LLC
Figure Title: Project Location
Project Location: Marion Co., SC
Lat: N34.02944° **Long:** W79.39786°
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Sheet 2 of 6 **Date:** 1 August 2016



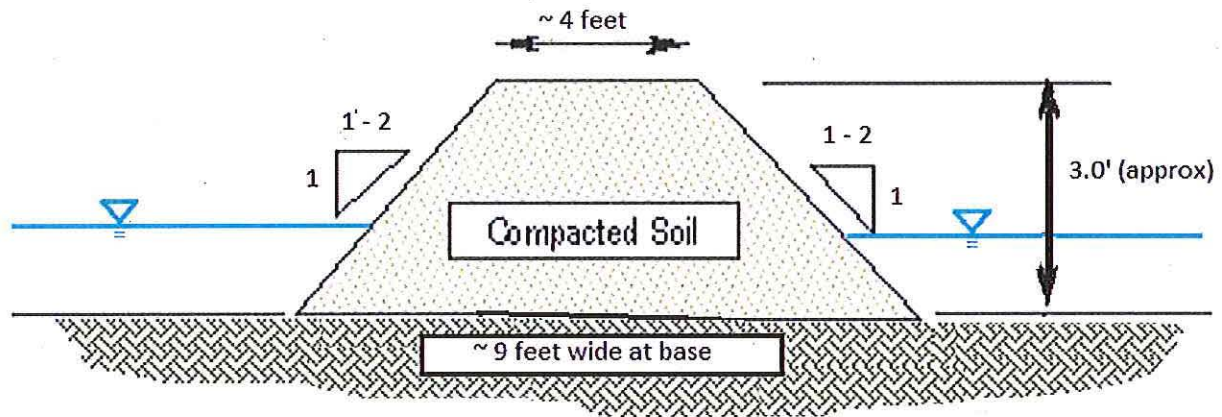
Impact Summary

- GTR #1 25.3 acres of temporary/seasonal flooding 3 out of every 4 years (between Nov and March)
Permanent Fill - 4272 linear feet of berm (0.88 ac.)
- GTR #2 16.0 acres of temporary/seasonal flooding 3 out of every 4 years (between Nov and March)
Permanent Fill - 2,871 linear feet of berm (0.59 ac.)
- GTR #3 48.2 acres of temporary/seasonal flooding 3 out of every 4 years (between Nov and March)
Permanent Fill - 4943 linear feet of berm (1.02 ac.)

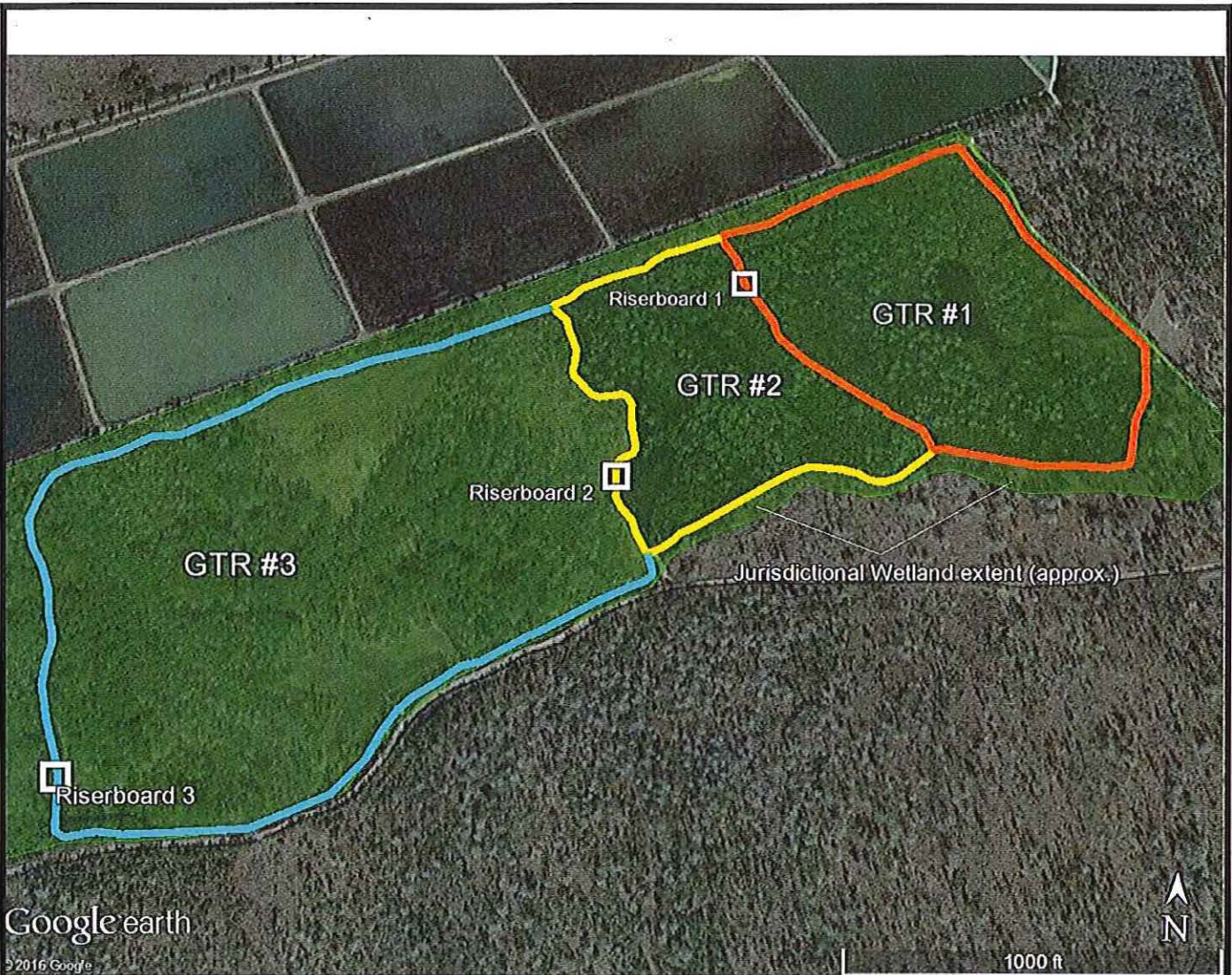
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Typical Cross-Section for Greentree Reservoir Berms

- Approximately 4' wide at crown
- Approximately 9' wide at the base
- Construction of earthen berms from adjacent soils
- Water maintained seasonally at ~18-24" in depth

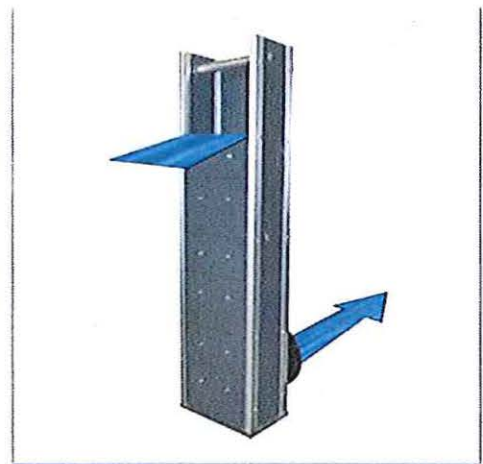
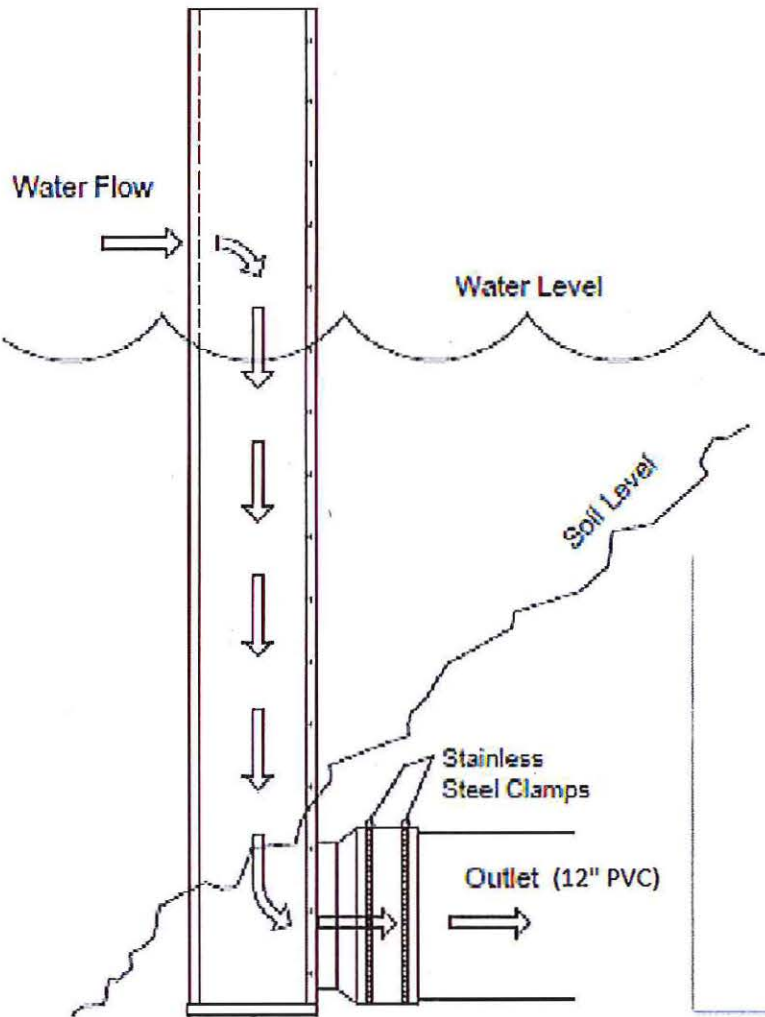


Project Title: Catfish Farm Greentree Reservoir
Applicant: Catfish Farms, LLC
Figure Title: Earthen Berm Cross-section
Project Location: Marion Co., SC
Lat: N34.02944° Long: W79.39786°
Authorized Agent: Southern Ecological Consultants, LLC
Drawing Scale: As Shown
Application Number: SAC 2011-08662
Sheet 4 of 6 Date: 1 August 2016



Seasonal drainage of the greentree waters flow from east to west, or from GTR #1 to GTR #2, then to GTR #3 where it drains into the onsite non-jurisdictional ditch network

Project Title: Catfish Farm Greentree Reservoir
 Applicant: Catfish Farms, LLC
 Figure Title: Riserboard locations
 Project Location: Marion Co., SC
 Lat: N34.02944° Long: W79.39786°
 Authorized Agent: Southern Ecological Consultants, LLC
 Drawing Scale: As Shown
 Application Number: SAC2011-00062
 Sheet 5 of 6 Date: 1 August 2016



Adapted from: www.agridrain.com

Agri-Drain™ Flashboard Riser

12" X 4' using a smooth SCH 40 PVC to drain one pond into the other

Project Title: Catfish Farm Greentree Reservoir

Applicant: Catfish Farms, LLC

Figure Title: Riserboard Detail

Project Location: Marion Co., SC

Lat: N34.02944° **Long:** W79.39786°

Authorized Agent: Southern Ecological Consultants, LLC

Drawing Scale: As Shown

Application Number: SAC 2011-00062

Sheet 6 of 6

Date: 1 August 2016