

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N SAC-2015-01452

February 6, 2020

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 403) and Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341), a prospectus for Catfish Farms Mitigation Bank has been submitted to the Department of the Army (Corps) and the South Carolina Interagency Review Team (IRT) by

**Catfish Farm, LLC  
P.O. Box 3489  
Columbia, SC 29230**

for a proposed stream and wetland mitigation bank that is adjacent to the

**Little Pee Dee River**

at a location approximately nine miles south of Marion and one mile west of the Town of Centenary in Marion County, South Carolina (Latitude: 34.018922 °, Longitude: -79.391304 °), Centenary and Friendship U.S. Geological Service Quadrangle sheets.

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

**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 proposed project consists of establishing a freshwater stream and wetland mitigation bank in the Little Pee Dee and Great Pee Dee watershed (8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code 03040204 and 03040201) located in the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain Ecoregion. The proposed 1,199-acre mitigation bank includes approximately 9,647 linear feet of stream channels and 732 acres of wetlands.

The proposal is to preserve 4,098 linear feet of stream. In addition, 2,418 linear feet of stream will be enhanced by re-routing flow back into relic channels. Approximately 12,807 linear feet of stream will be restored by stabilizing stream channels, reconnecting streams to their floodplain, removal of existing impoundments, and creating new channels where needed. Buffers will be enhanced by planting a mix of native trees to improve vegetative diversity.

Approximately 42.31 acres of wetlands will be enhanced by re-establishment of native hardwood species. 252.48 acres of wetlands will be restored by removing existing pine plantation, restoring hydrology through grading and ditch plugging, and re-establishing forested wetland vegetative communities. Approximately 42.31 acres of wetlands will be preserved on site. Once the mitigation work is complete, the bank sponsor proposes to monitor the mitigation site to ensure that the restoration areas are performing as expected and meeting the necessary performance standards. The bank sponsor, using a conservation easement, will protect the mitigation bank site.

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

Also, according to the Prospectus, the proposed mitigation bank will provide in-kind compensatory mitigation for authorized impacts to aquatic resources located within the Middle Pee Dee, Lower Pee Dee, Waccamaw River, Lynches River, Black River, and Lumber River, 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.

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 not impact 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 Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant, and 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.

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)(1)(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 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.

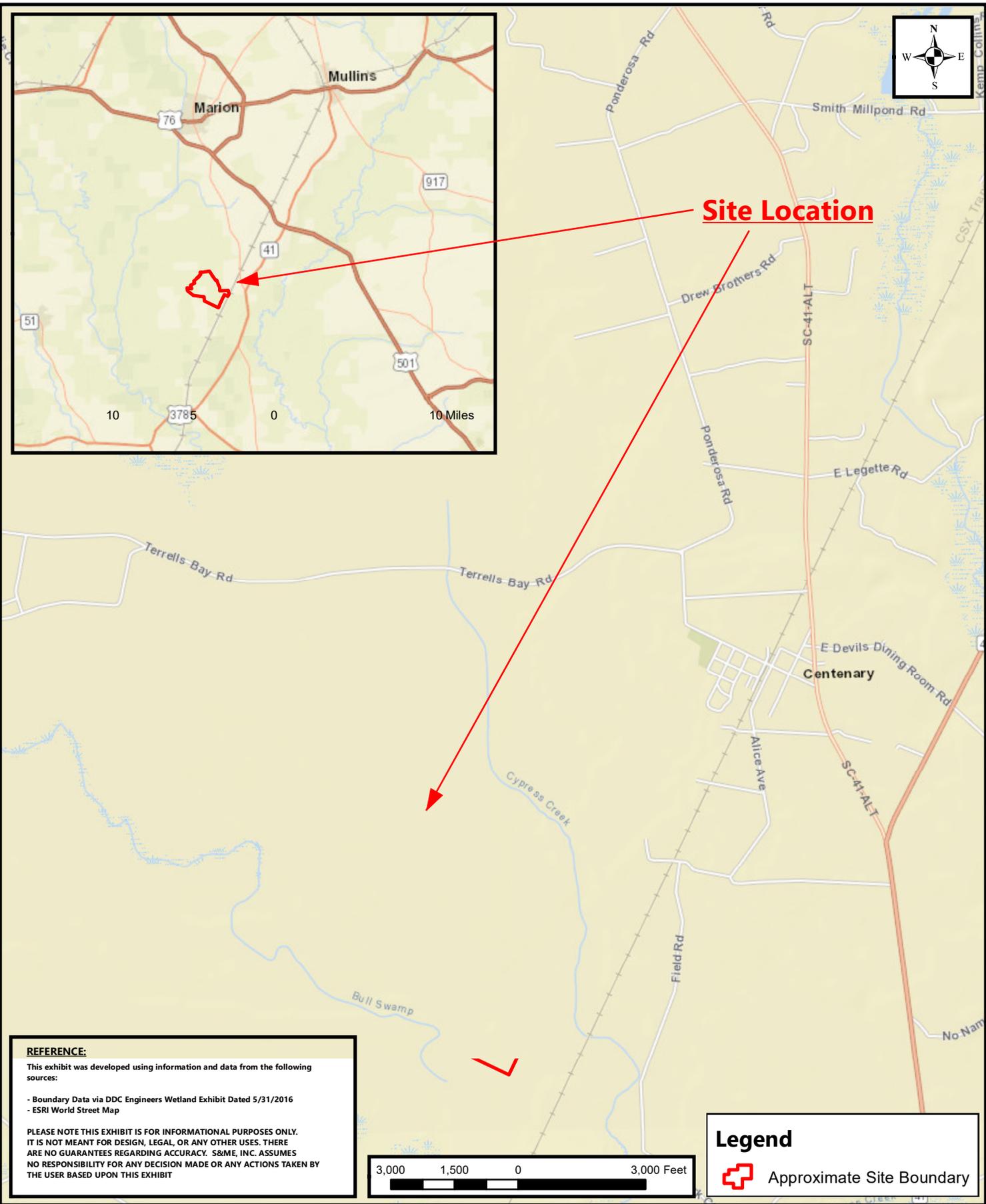
The decision whether to approve or deny the proposed mitigation bank will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably 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. 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:**

**US Army Corps of Engineers  
Attention: Regulatory Division  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, South Carolina 29403**

The Prospectus to 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 David B. Wilson by e-mail at [david.b.wilson@usace.army.mil](mailto:david.b.wilson@usace.army.mil) or by telephone at 843-329-8044.

Drawing Path: F:\GIS Data Drive\GIS - Project Folder\Temp Project Storage\2014\4261-17-176A Richardson Construction Mitigation\Exhibits\Prospectus Figures\Site Location.mxd plotted by jfoose 06-26-2018

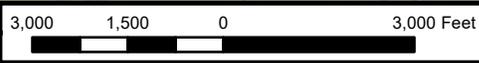


**REFERENCE:**

This exhibit was developed using information and data from the following sources:

- Boundary Data via DDC Engineers Wetland Exhibit Dated 5/31/2016
- ESRI World Street Map

PLEASE NOTE THIS EXHIBIT IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. IT IS NOT MEANT FOR DESIGN, LEGAL, OR ANY OTHER USES. THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES REGARDING ACCURACY. S&ME, INC. ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY DECISION MADE OR ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE USER BASED UPON THIS EXHIBIT

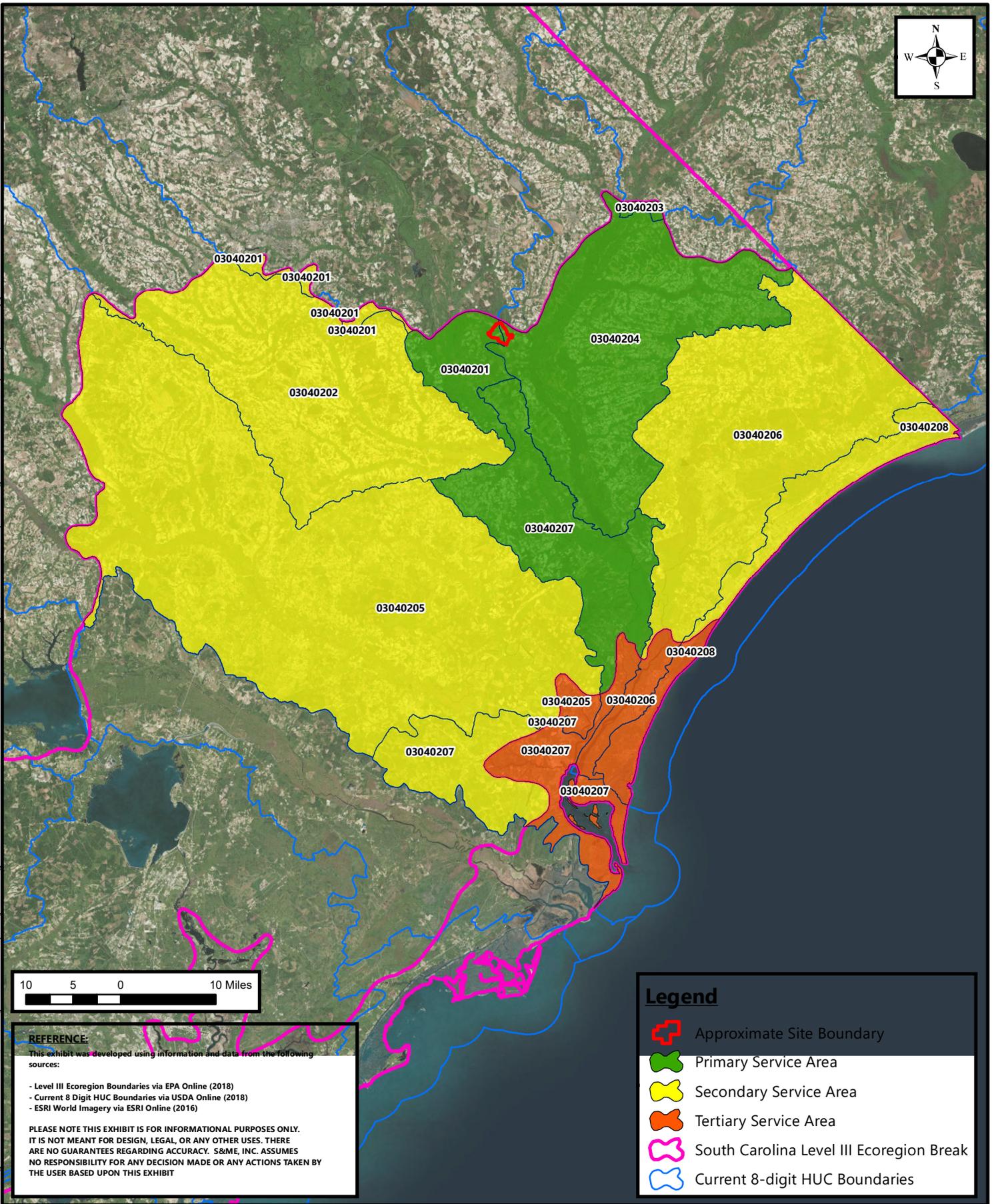


**Legend**

Approximate Site Boundary

	<p><b>Site Location</b></p>	<p>Scale: As Shown</p>	<p>Exhibit No.  <b>1</b></p>
	<p>Catfish Farm Mitigation Bank Prospectus 1199 Terrell's Bay Road Marion, SC 29571</p>	<p>Date: 6-26-18</p>	
		<p>Project Number 4261-17-176A</p>	

Drawing Path: F:\GIS Data Drive\GIS - Project\_Folder\Temp\_Project\_Storage\2014\4261-17-176A\_Richardson\_Construction\_Mitigation\Exhibits\Prospectus\_Figures\Service Area\_Map.mxd plotted by jfoose 06-28-2018



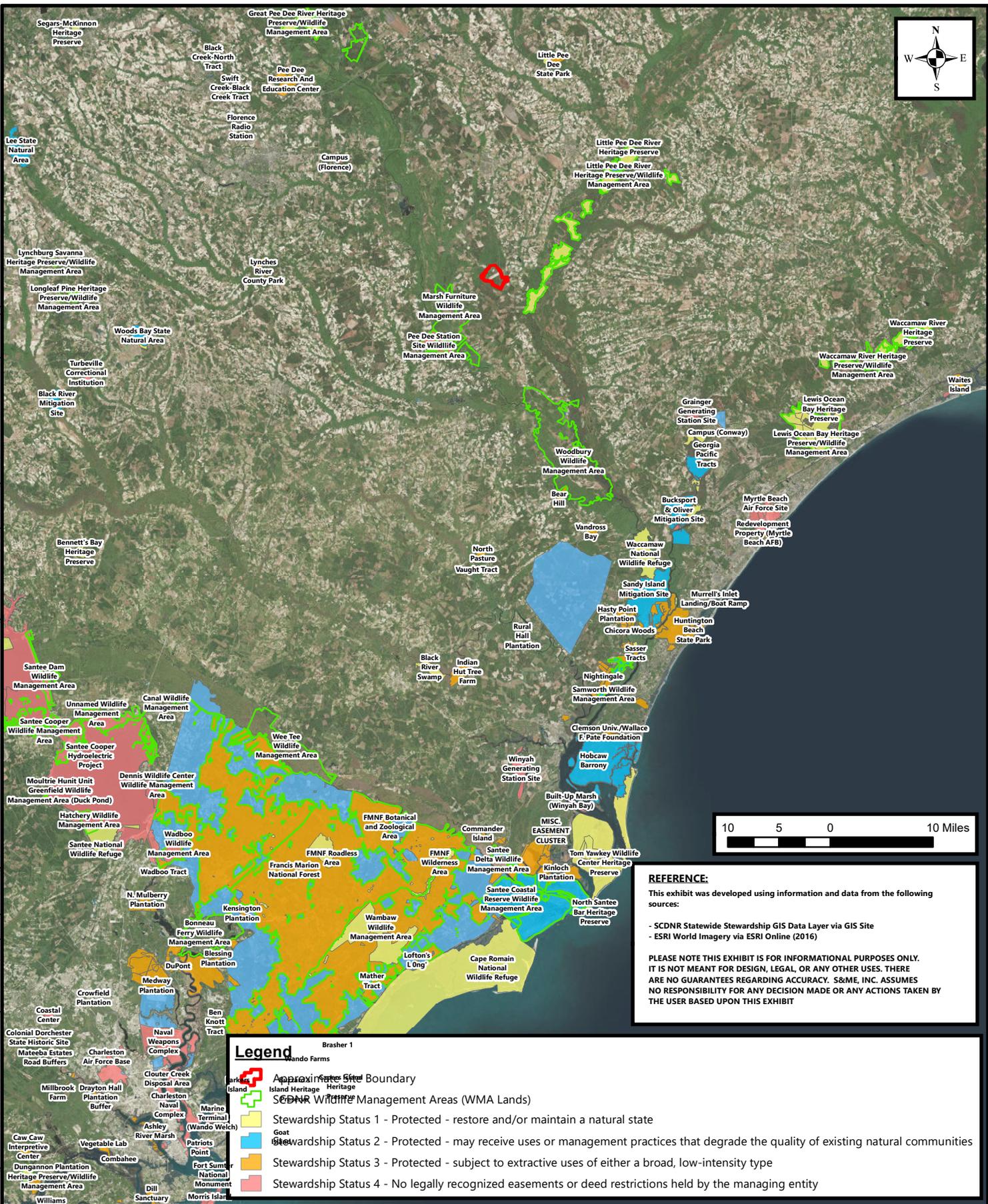
**REFERENCE:**  
 This exhibit was developed using information and data from the following sources:

- Level III Ecoregion Boundaries via EPA Online (2018)
- Current 8 Digit HUC Boundaries via USDA Online (2018)
- ESRI World Imagery via ESRI Online (2016)

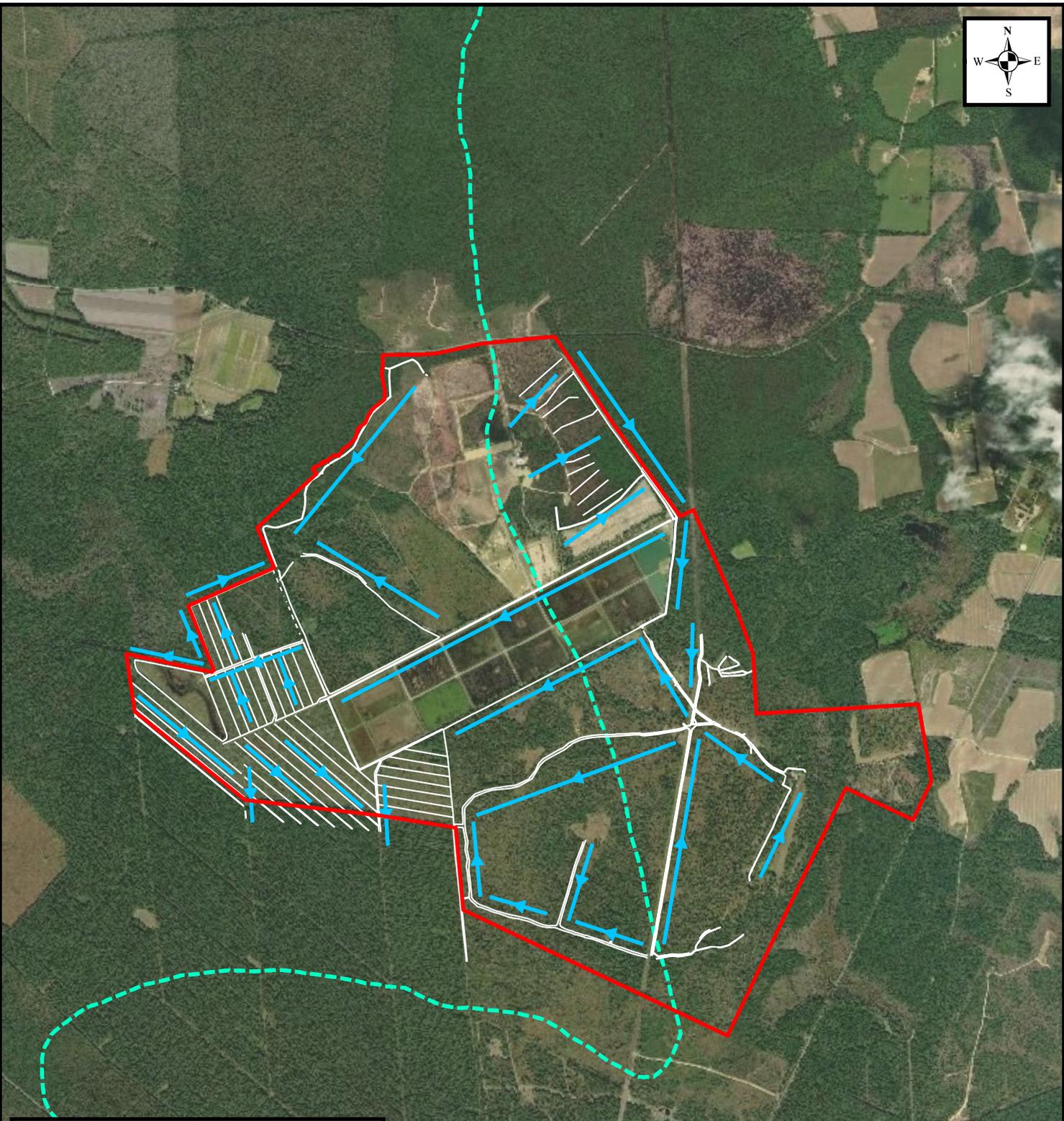
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	<h2>Service Area Map</h2>		Scale: As Shown	Exhibit No.  <h1>2</h1>
	Catfish Farm Mitigation Bank Prospectus 1199 Terrell's Bay Road Marion, SC 29571		Date: 6-28-18	
			Project Number 4261-17-176A	

Drawing Path: F:\GIS Data Drive\GIS - Project Folder\Temp Project Storage\2014\4261-17-176A Richardson Construction Mitigation Exhibits\Prospectus Figures\Protected Areas.mxd plotted by jfoose 12-20-2018



	<b>SC DNR Land Stewardship Data / WMA Lands</b>	Scale: As Shown	Exhibit No.
	Catfish Farm Mitigation Bank Prospectus 1199 Terrell's Bay Road Marion, SC 29571	Date: 12-20-2018	3
		Project Number 4261-17-176A	

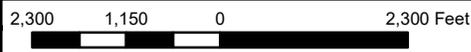


**REFERENCE:**

This exhibit was developed using information and data from the following sources:

- EPA HUC data via WBD National Map - 2017
- ESRI World Imagery via ESRI Online - 2016

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**Legend**

- Approximate Site Boundary
- Existing Observed Ditch Network
- Direction of Ditch Drainage
- EPA Hydrologic Unit Code Boundary



**Ditch Network Drain Direction**

Catfish Farm Mitigation Bank Prospectus  
 1199 Terrell's Bay Road  
 Marion, SC 29571

Scale:  
As Shown

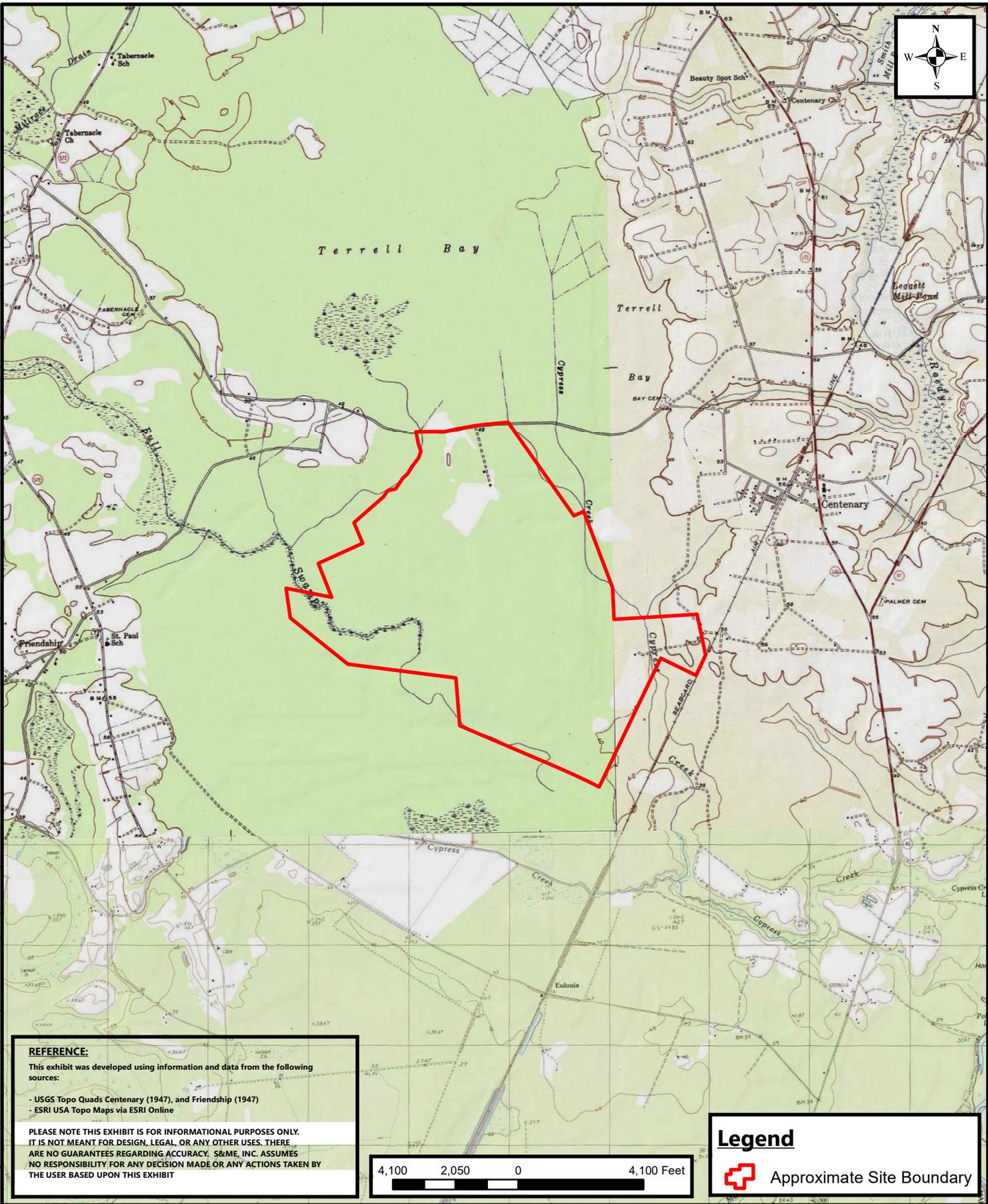
Date:  
4-22-19

Project Number  
4261-17-176A

Exhibit No.

**11**

Drawing Path: F:\GIS Data Drive\GIS - Project Folder\Temp Project Storage\2014\4261-17-176A Richardson Construction Mitigation\Exhibits\Prospectus Figures\Surface Topography.mxd plotted by ifoose 02-18-2019



**REFERENCE:**  
 This exhibit was developed using information and data from the following sources:  
 - USGS Topo Quads Centenary (1947), and Friendship (1947)  
 - ESRI USA Topo Maps via ESRI Online

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**Legend**

 Approximate Site Boundary



**USGS Topographic Surface Features**

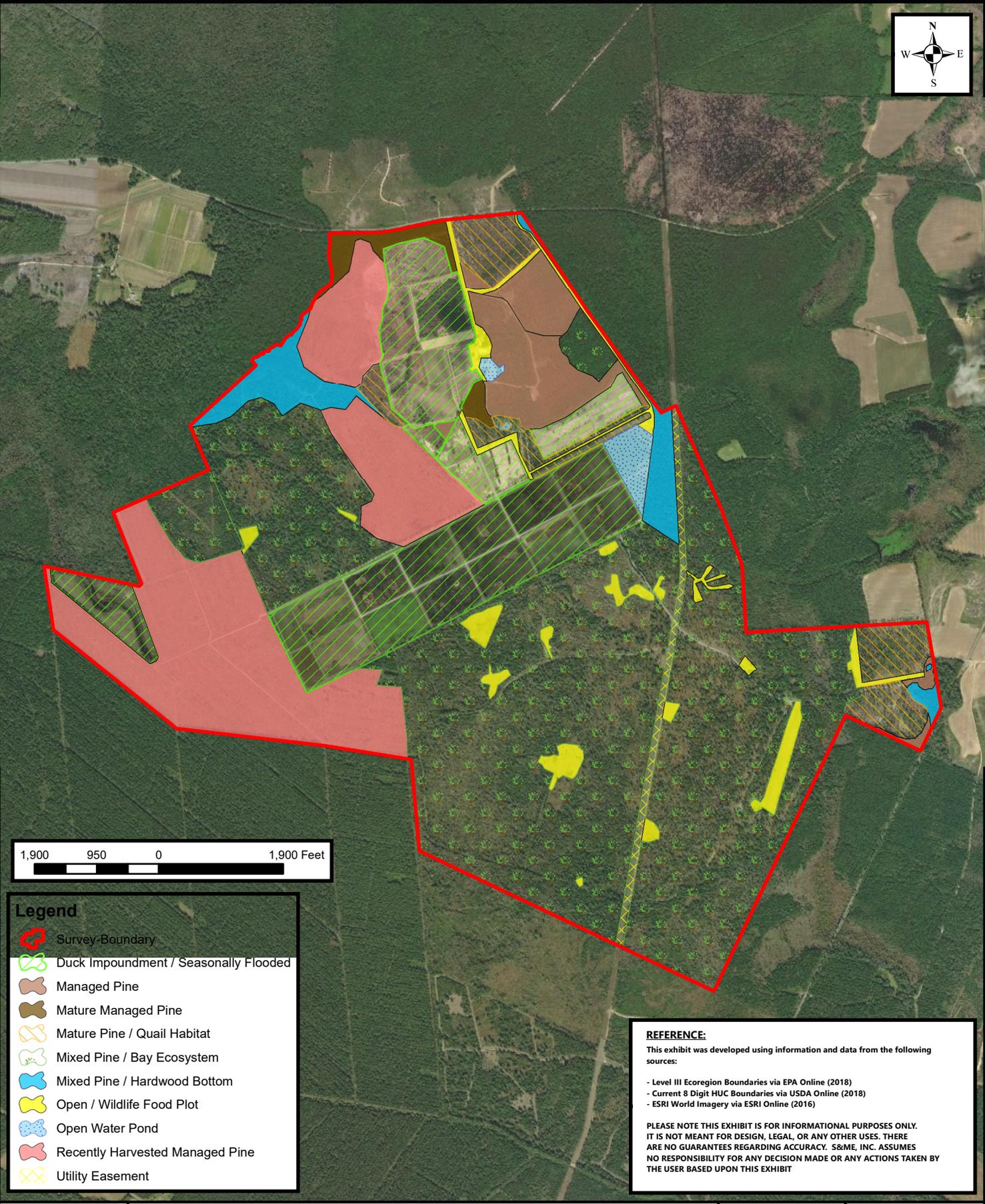
Catfish Farm Mitigation Bank Prospectus  
 1199 Terrell's Bay Road  
 Marion, SC 29571

Scale:  
 As Shown  
 Date:  
 2-18-19  
 Project Number  
 4261-17-176A

Exhibit No.  
**12**



Drawing Path: F:\GIS Data Drive\GIS - Project Folder\Temp Project Storage\2014\4261-17-176A\_Richardson Construction Mitigation\Exhibits\Prospectus Figures\Habitat Types.mxd plotted by jfoose 06-19-2019



- Legend**
- Survey-Boundary
  - Duck Impoundment / Seasonally Flooded
  - Managed Pine
  - Mature Managed Pine
  - Mature Pine / Quail Habitat
  - Mixed Pine / Bay Ecosystem
  - Mixed Pine / Hardwood Bottom
  - Open / Wildlife Food Plot
  - Open Water Pond
  - Recently Harvested Managed Pine
  - Utility Easement

**REFERENCE:**  
 This exhibit was developed using information and data from the following sources:

- Level III Ecoregion Boundaries via EPA Online (2018)
- Current 8 Digit HUC Boundaries via USDA Online (2018)
- ESRI World Imagery via ESRI Online (2016)

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**Habitat Types**

Catfish Farm Mitigation Bank Prospectus  
 1199 Terrell's Bay Road  
 Marion, SC 29571

Scale:  
 As Shown

Date:  
 6-29-18

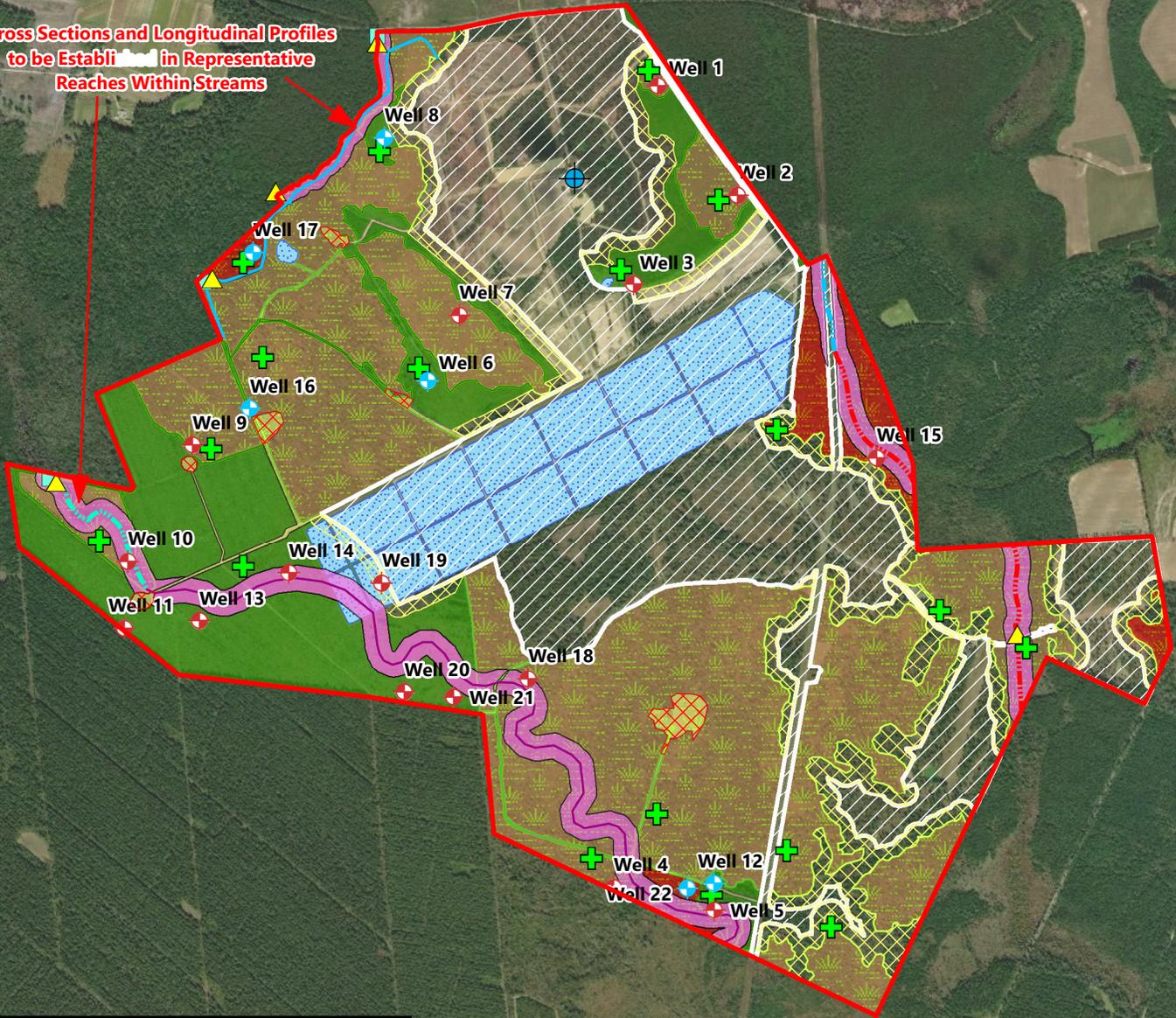
Project Number  
 4261-17-176A

Exhibit No.  
13

**Note: Woody Debris Will be Evaluated Throughout Stream Reaches**



**Cross Sections and Longitudinal Profiles to be Established in Representative Reaches Within Streams**



**REFERENCE:**

This exhibit was developed using information and data from the following sources:

- Well locations from existing GPS field data
- ESRI World Imagery via ESRI Online (2016)

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**Legend**

- Existing Well Location
- Proposed Well Location
- Existing Rain Gauge Station
- Water Quality Testing / Macroinvertebrate Testing
- Proposed Stream Gauge
- Proposed Vegetation Plots

Drawing Path: F:\GIS Data Drive\GIS - Project Folder\Temp Project Storage\2014\4261-17-176A Richardson Construction Mitigation\Exhibits\Prospectus Figures\6-4-2019\Exhibit 15 Monitoring Locations.mxd plotted by jfoose 06-19-2019

	<h2>Proposed Baseline Monitoring Locations</h2>	Scale: As Shown	Exhibit No.  <h1>15</h1>
	Catfish Farm Mitigation Bank Prospectus 1199 Terrell's Bay Road Marion, SC 29571	Date: 6-19-19	
		Project Number 4261-17-176A	