

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

REGULATORY DIVISION
Refer to: P/N # SAC-2013-00717

January 26, 2015

Pursuant to 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

**S. GROVE, LLC AND MWV-EAST EDISTO CHARLESTON, LLC
ATTENTION: MR. KEN SEEGAR
201 SIGMA DRIVE, SUITE 400
SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29483**

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

CAW CAW SWAMP

at a location near the intersection of S.C. Highway 165 and U.S. Highway 17 in Charleston County, South Carolina (Latitude 33.96249 N, Longitude -78.763608 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, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015

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

The proposal consists of establishing a freshwater wetland mitigation bank in the Stono River watershed (USGS 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code 03050202) and the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain ecoregion of South Carolina. The proposed 4,347-acre mitigation site includes 3,810 acres of freshwater wetlands, 503 acres of uplands, and 34 acres of interior silviculture roads. According to the Prospectus, the mitigation work plan includes the enhancement/restoration of 1,049 acres of palustrine forested wetlands by the removal of pine species and the planting of bottomland hardwood seedlings; and the preservation of 2,761 acres of palustrine forested and scrub shrub wetlands and 503 acres of upland buffers. According to the prospectus, buffers consisting of pine plantation will continue to be managed in accordance with existing timber management plans and harvest rotations until a basal area of 20 square feet per acre is achieved. The final cut of buffer areas will be accomplished when these stands attain an age of 20-25 years. Upon the final cut, the buffer will be preserved with no additional future timber harvesting and allowed to naturally regenerate. Once the mitigation work is completed, the bank sponsor proposes to monitor the survival and growth of planted and volunteer species on the mitigation site to ensure that the restoration areas are developing as expected and meeting the necessary performance standards.

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 located on the mitigation site may be

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authorized under Nationwide Permit #27 after review by the Corps, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the Interagency Review Team. According to the bank sponsor, the mitigation bank site will be protected by granting and conveying a conservation easement to the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission.

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 impact approximately 1,049 acres of freshwater wetlands that are located upstream of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands 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 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 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 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 based on the available information, it has been determined that the proposed project is not likely to have an adverse 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.

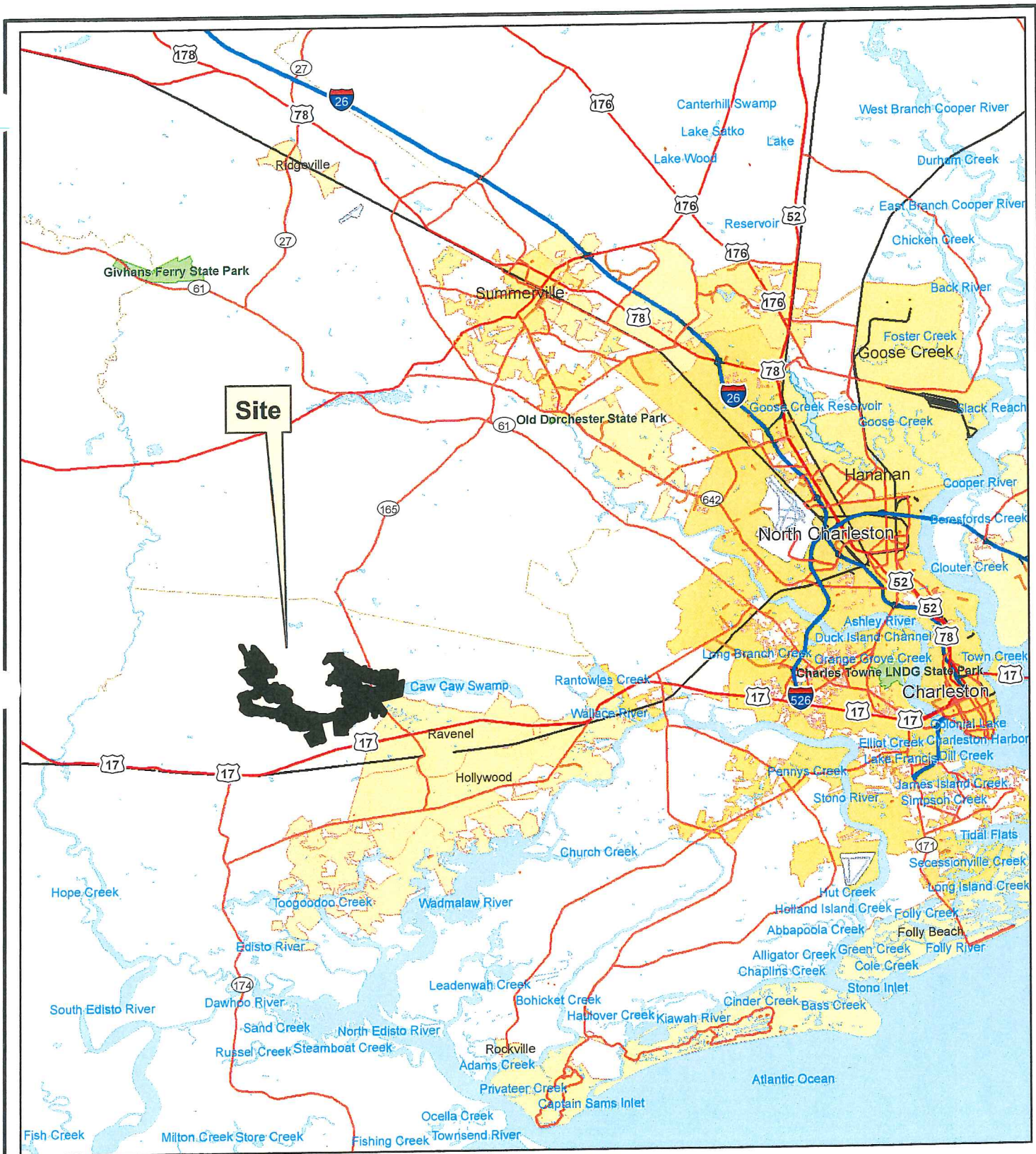
The decision whether to approve or deny the proposed mitigation bank will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation,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

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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.

If there are questions concerning the proposed mitigation bank or the information included in this public notice please contact Ms. Andrea Hughes by e-mail at andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 843-329-8044.



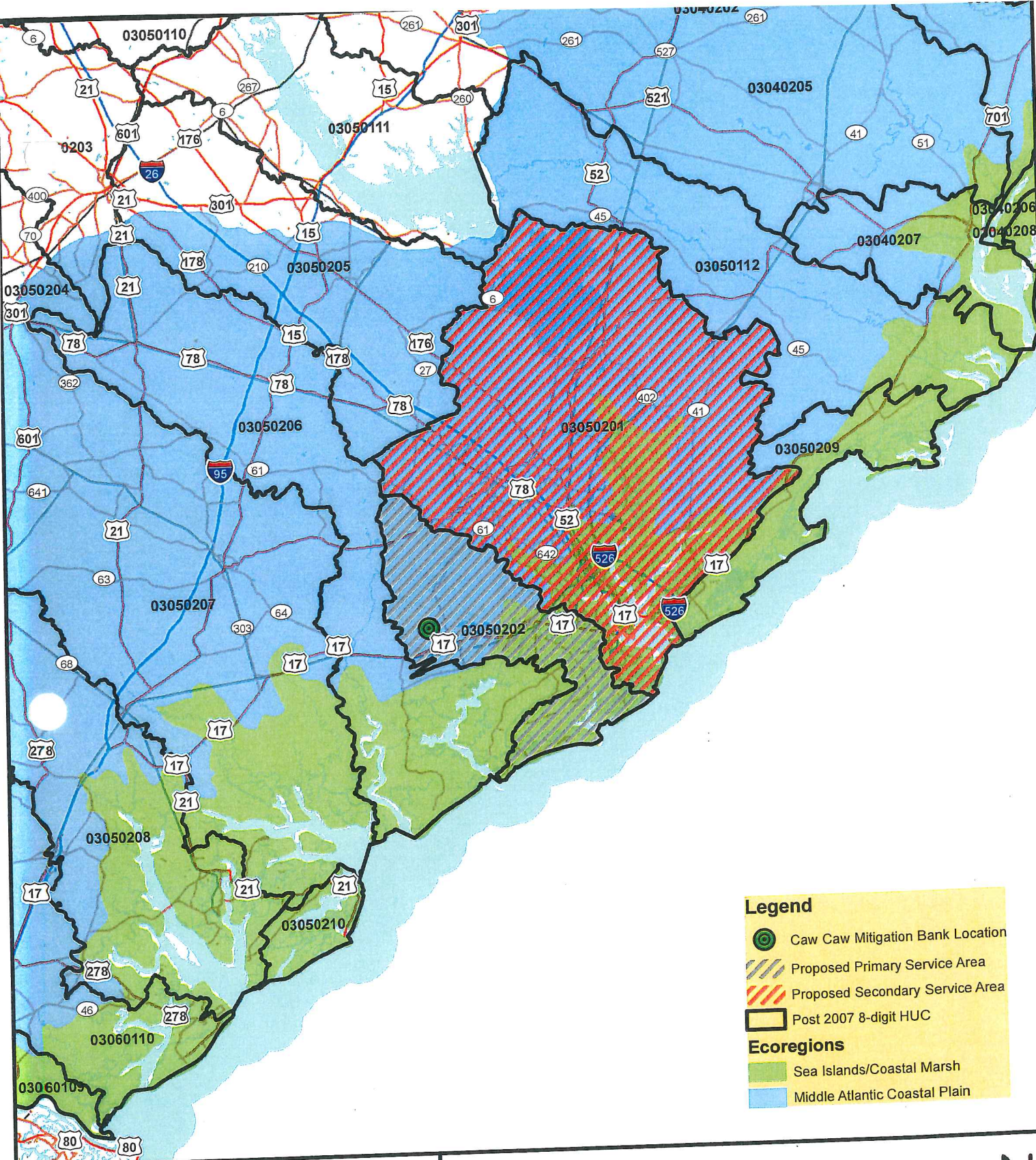
Vicinity Exhibit

Caw Caw Swamp Mitigation Bank Charleston County South Carolina



Revised by	Date

**CAW CAW SWAMP MITIGATION BANK
CHARLESTON COUNTY
APPLICATION BY: S. GROVE, LLC AND
MWV-EAST EDISTO CHARLESTON LLC
SHEET 1 OF 7 DATE: 1/26/2015**



Legend

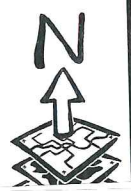
- Caw Caw Mitigation Bank Location
- Proposed Primary Service Area
- Proposed Secondary Service Area
- Post 2007 8-digit HUC

Ecoregions

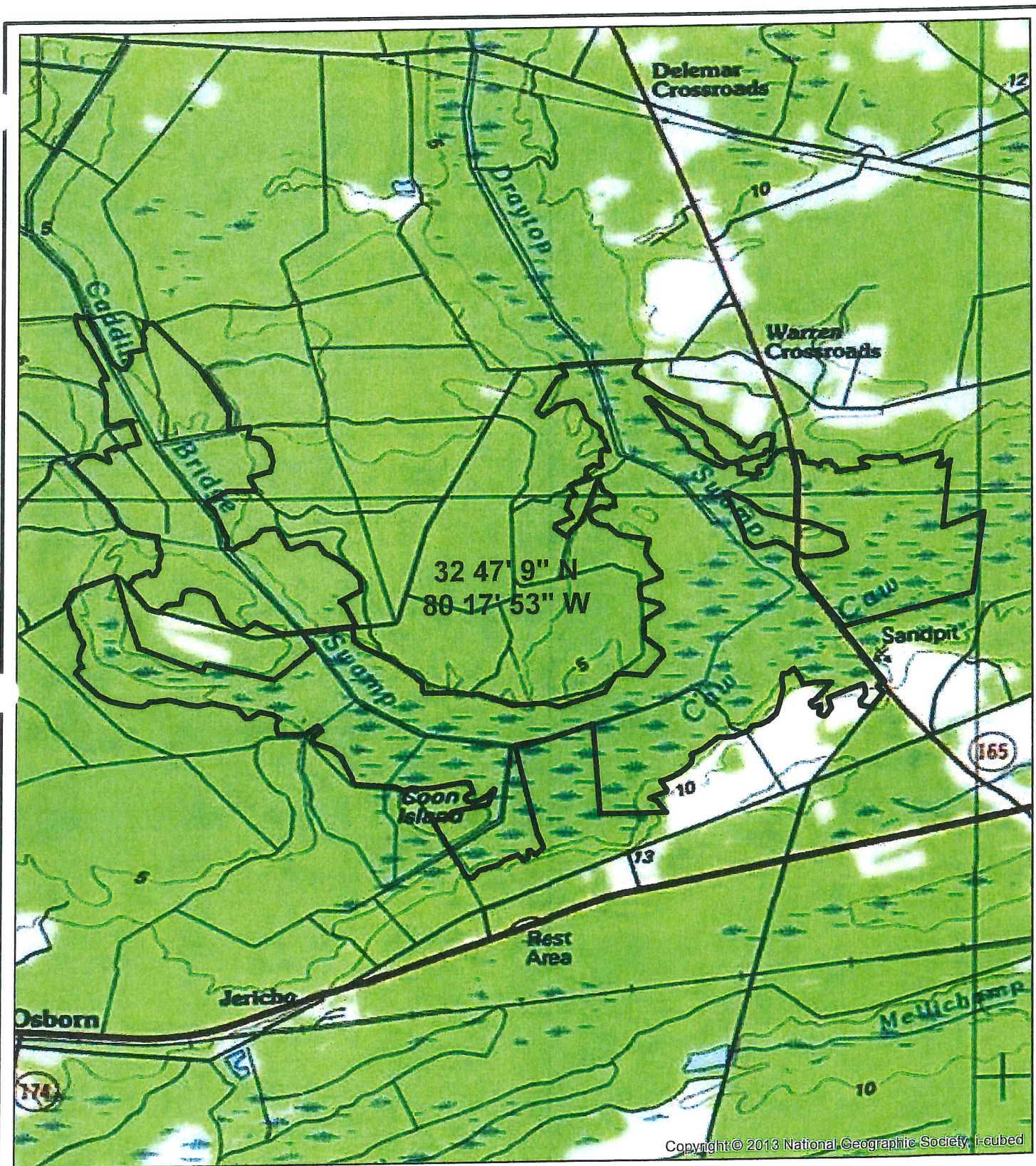
- Sea Islands/Coastal Marsh
- Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain

Exhibit

Caw Caw Swamp Mitigation Bank Proposed Service Area



CAW CAW SWAMP MITIGATION BANK
CHARLESTON COUNTY
APPLICATION BY: S. GROVE, LLC AND
MWV-EAST EDISTO CHARLESTON LLC
SHEET 2 OF 7 DATE: 1/26/2015



USGS Topographical Map

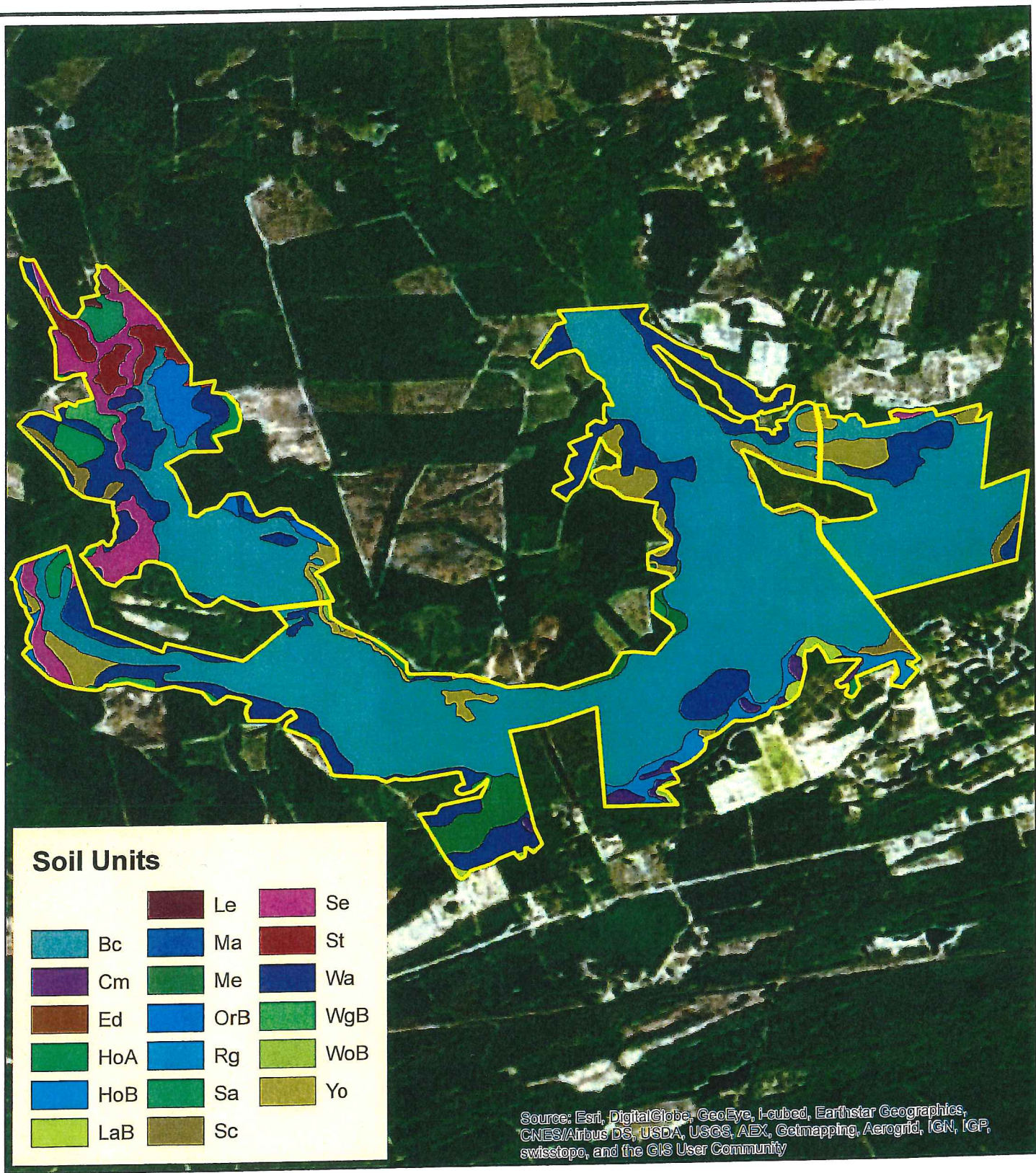
Caw Caw Swamp Mitigation Bank
Charleston County
South Carolina

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by	Date

CAW CAW SWAMP MITIGATION BANK
CHARLESTON COUNTY
APPLICATION BY: S. GROVE, LLC AND
MWV-EAST EDISTO CHARLESTON LLC
SHEET 3 OF 7 DATE: 1/26/2015



Soil Map

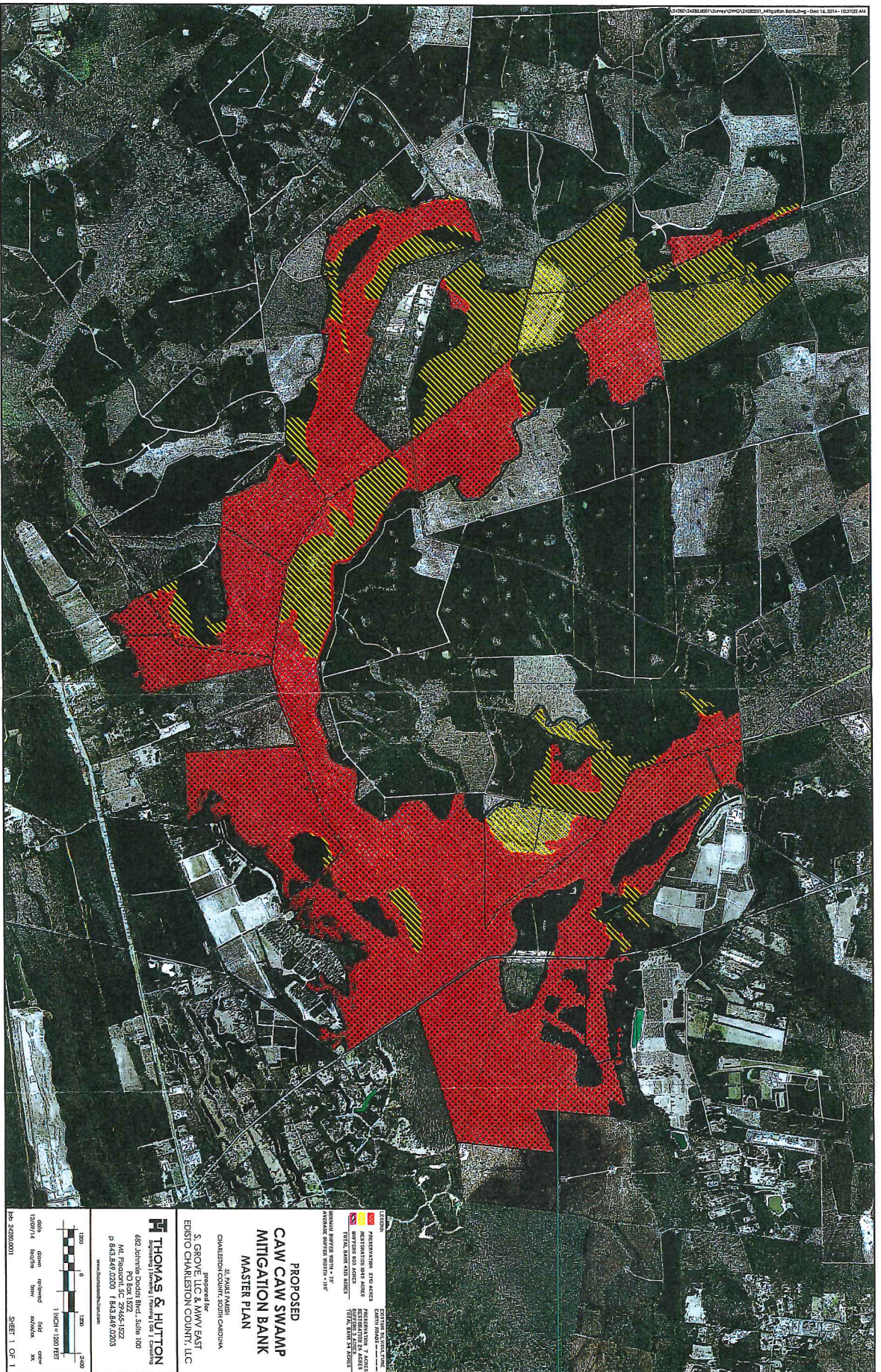
Caw Caw Swamp Mitigation Bank
Charleston County
South Carolina

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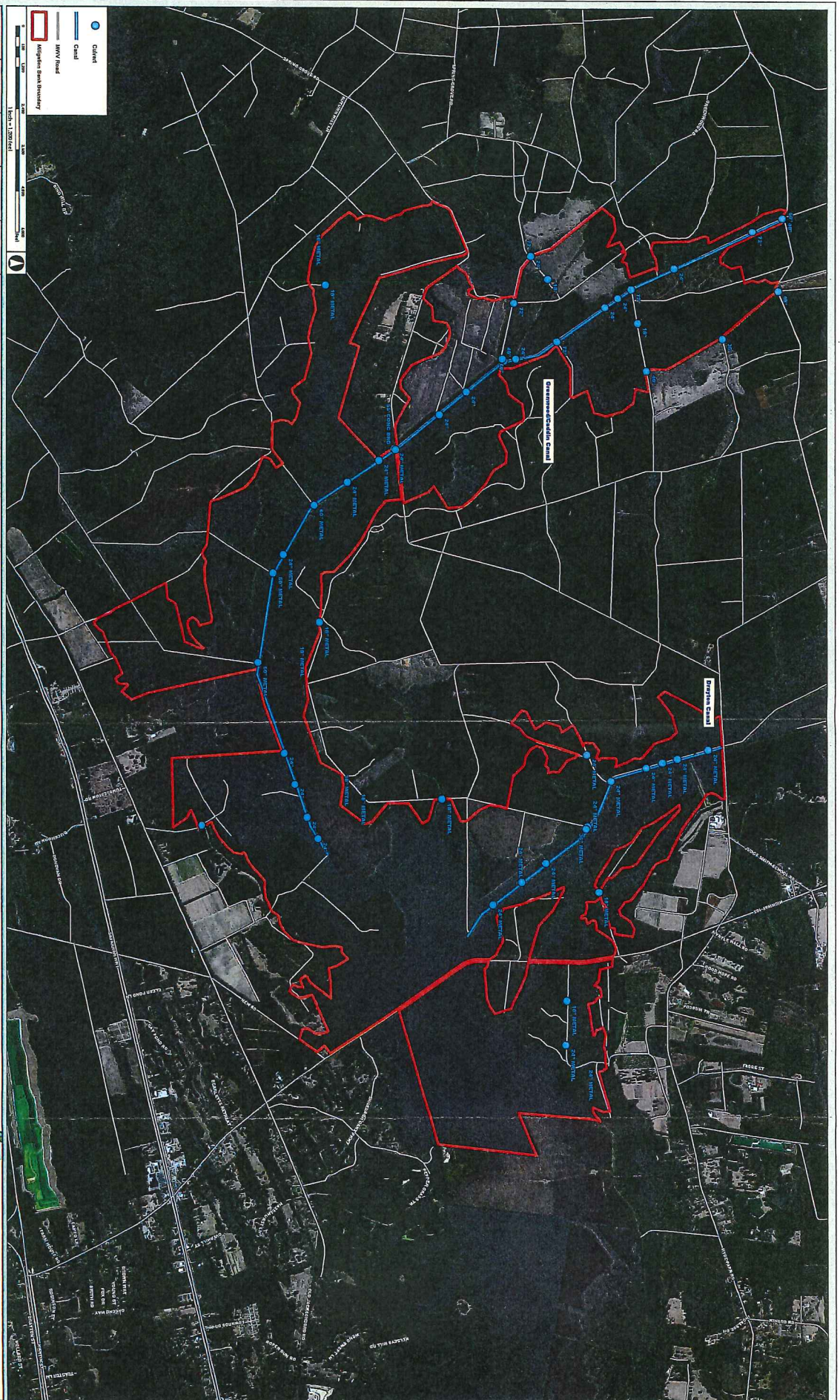


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CHARLESTON COUNTY
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SHEET 5 OF 7 DATE: 1/26/2015**



Caw Caw Swamp Mitigation Bank

Charleston, South Carolina

Road and Culvert Locations

[illegible]

Caw Caw Swamp Mitigation Bank
Charleston, South Carolina
Road and Culvert Locations

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GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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