

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N SAC-2018-00950

June 14, 2018

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), the proposed Great Pee Dee Mitigation Bank Prospectus has been submitted to the Department of the Army (Corps) and the South Carolina Interagency Review Team (IRT) by

**PALUSTRINE GROUP, LLC.
ATTENTION: MR. CHRIS CARTER
P.O. BOX 71795
NORTH CHARLESTON, SC 29415**

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

MILLS CREEK

at a location approximately 0.5 miles North of Vaughanville, SC. The property is located along Popular Spring Road, in Laurens and Newberry Counties, South Carolina (Latitude: N 34.259631°, Longitude: W -81.906127°), Bush, Chappells, Cross Hill, and Dyson 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 wetland and stream mitigation bank in the Saluda River watershed (8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code 03050109) located in the Level III Piedmont Ecoregion. The proposed 3,446-acre mitigation site includes approximately 75,879 linear feet of nontidal stream and approximately 4.38 acres of freshwater wetlands.

According to the prospectus, the proposal is to preserve 54,095 linear feet of stream; enhance 1,726 linear feet of stream by replacing degraded culverts, removing debris, and minor stabilization of stream dimension; and restore 20,057 linear feet of stream by restoring appropriate and stable stream pattern, profile, and dimension. In addition, the proposal is to enhance or preserve 4.38 acres of headwater wetlands. 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 Piedmont 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 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 will 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 mitigation bank actions would not have a substantial 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 the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has made no determination of effect on any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any Federally listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity.

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)(1)(1)), and has initially determined that there are historic properties present, but they will not be affected; 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 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. All factors that 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. **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 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 David B. Wilson by e-mail at david.b.wilson@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 843-329-8044.

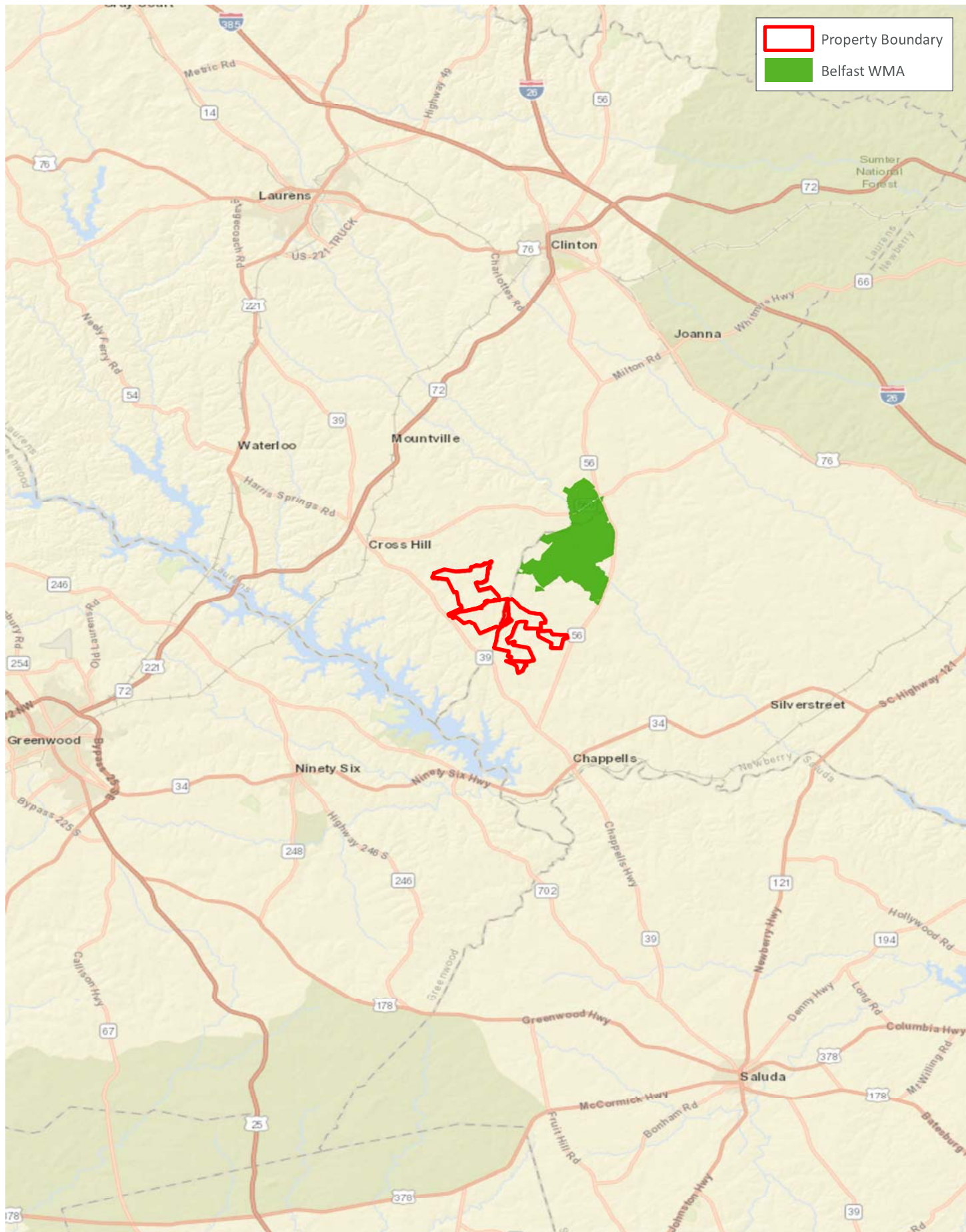
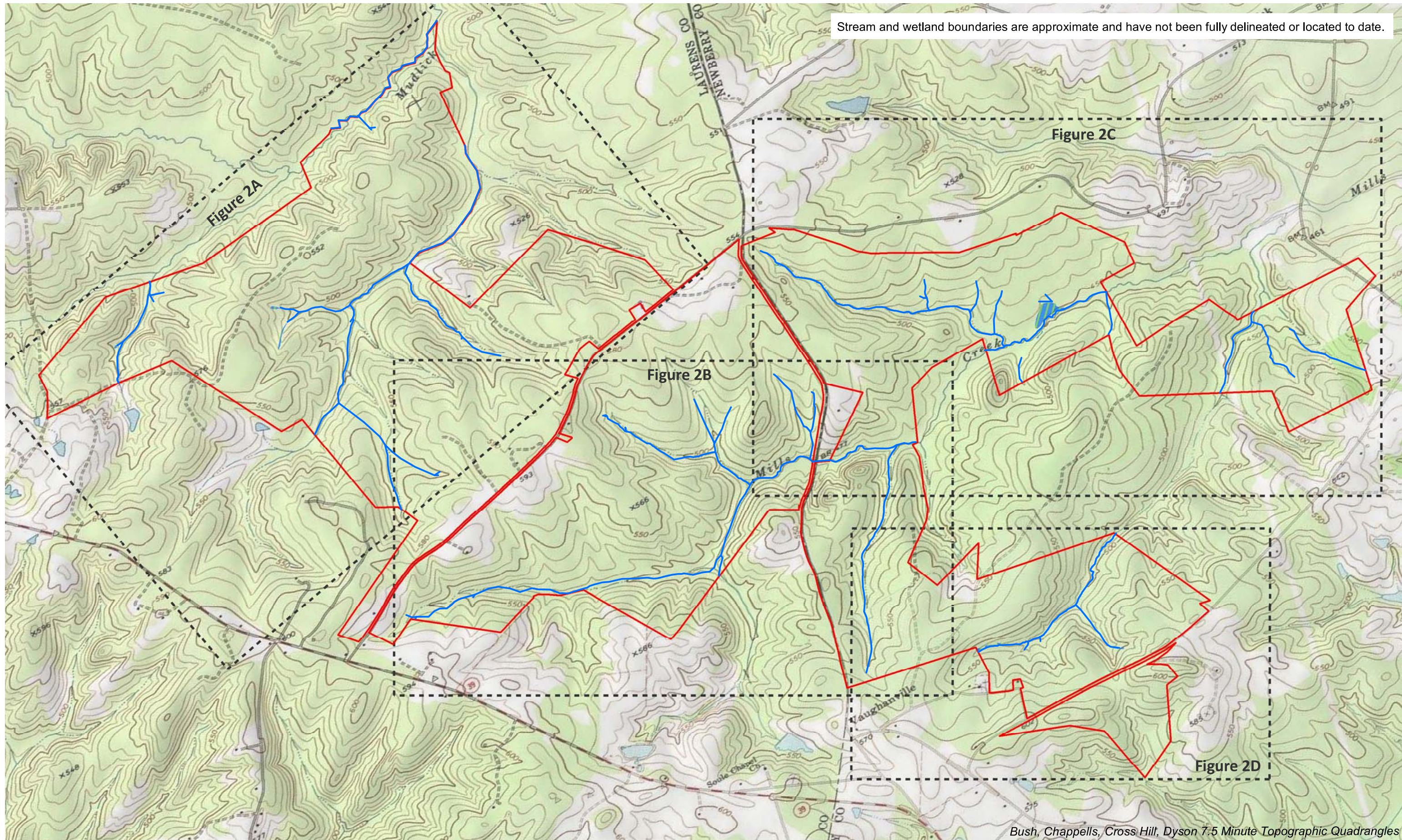


FIGURE 1 LOCATION MAP

THE SALUDA BANK

LAURENS AND NEWBERRY COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA

Stream and wetland boundaries are approximate and have not been fully delineated or located to date.



Bush, Chappells, Cross Hill, Dyson 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangles

FIGURE 2 USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

THE SALUDA BANK

LAURENS AND NEWBERRY COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA

PROSPECTUS

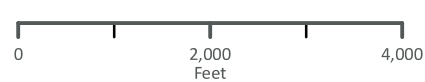
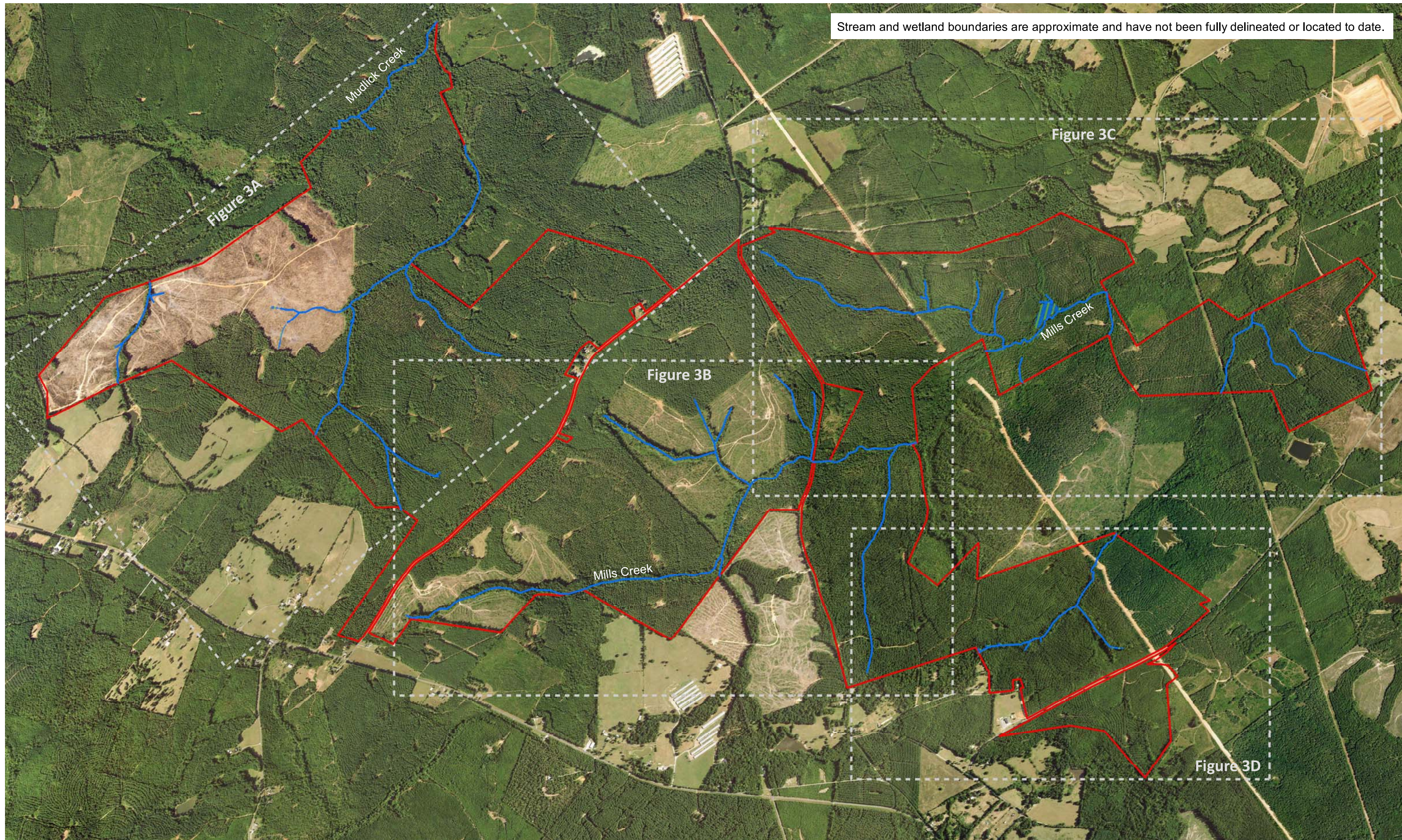


Property Boundary

Project Wetlands

Project Streams

Stream and wetland boundaries are approximate and have not been fully delineated or located to date.



Property Boundary



Project Wetlands



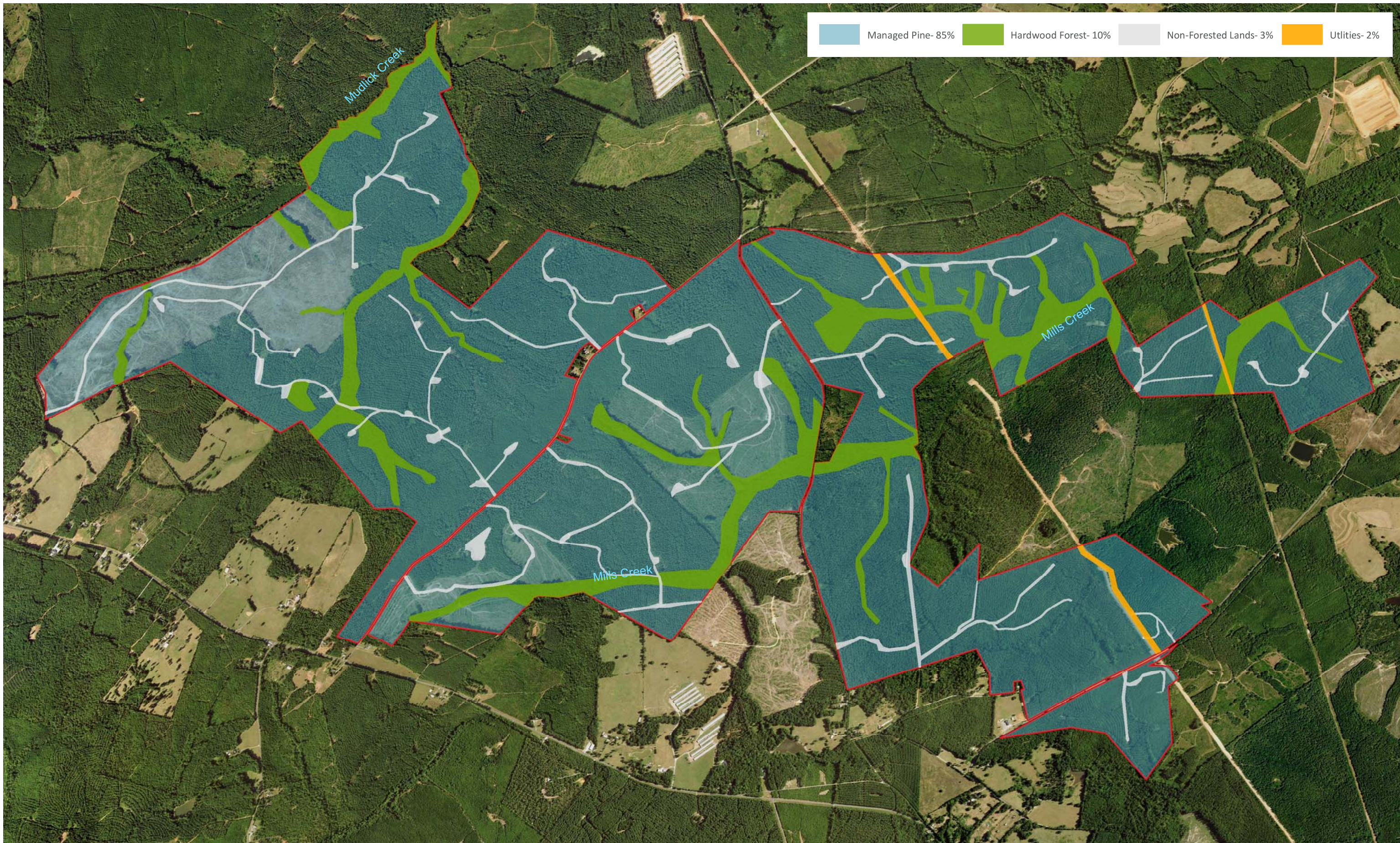
Project Streams

FIGURE 3 PROJECT STREAMS AND WETLANDS

THE SALUDA BANK

LAURENS AND NEWBERRY COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA

PROSPECTUS



Managed Pine- 85%
 Hardwood Forest- 10%
 Non-Forested Lands- 3%
 Utilities- 2%



Property Boundary

FIGURE 4 LAND USE MAP

THE SALUDA BANK

LAURENS AND NEWBERRY COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA

PROSPECTUS

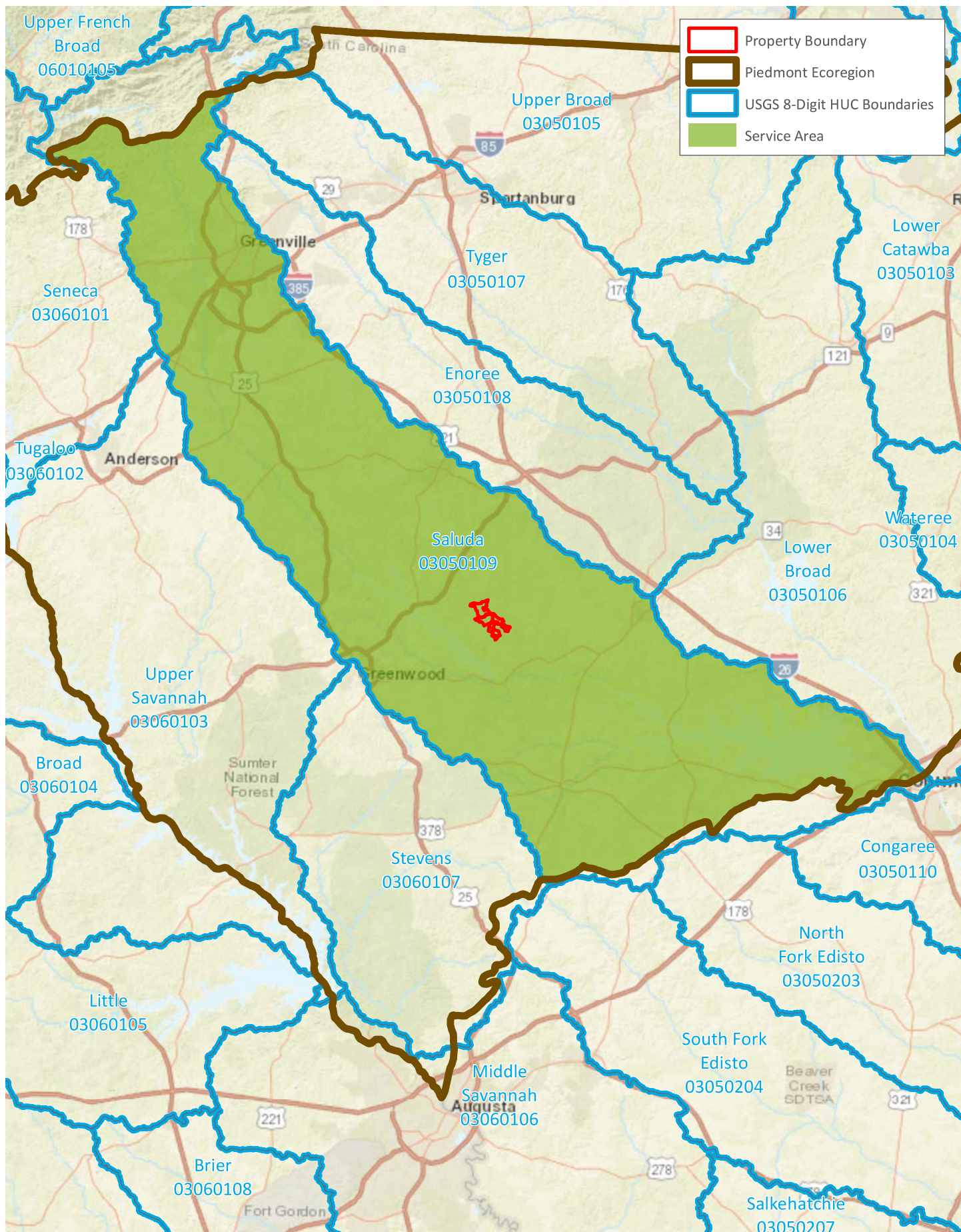
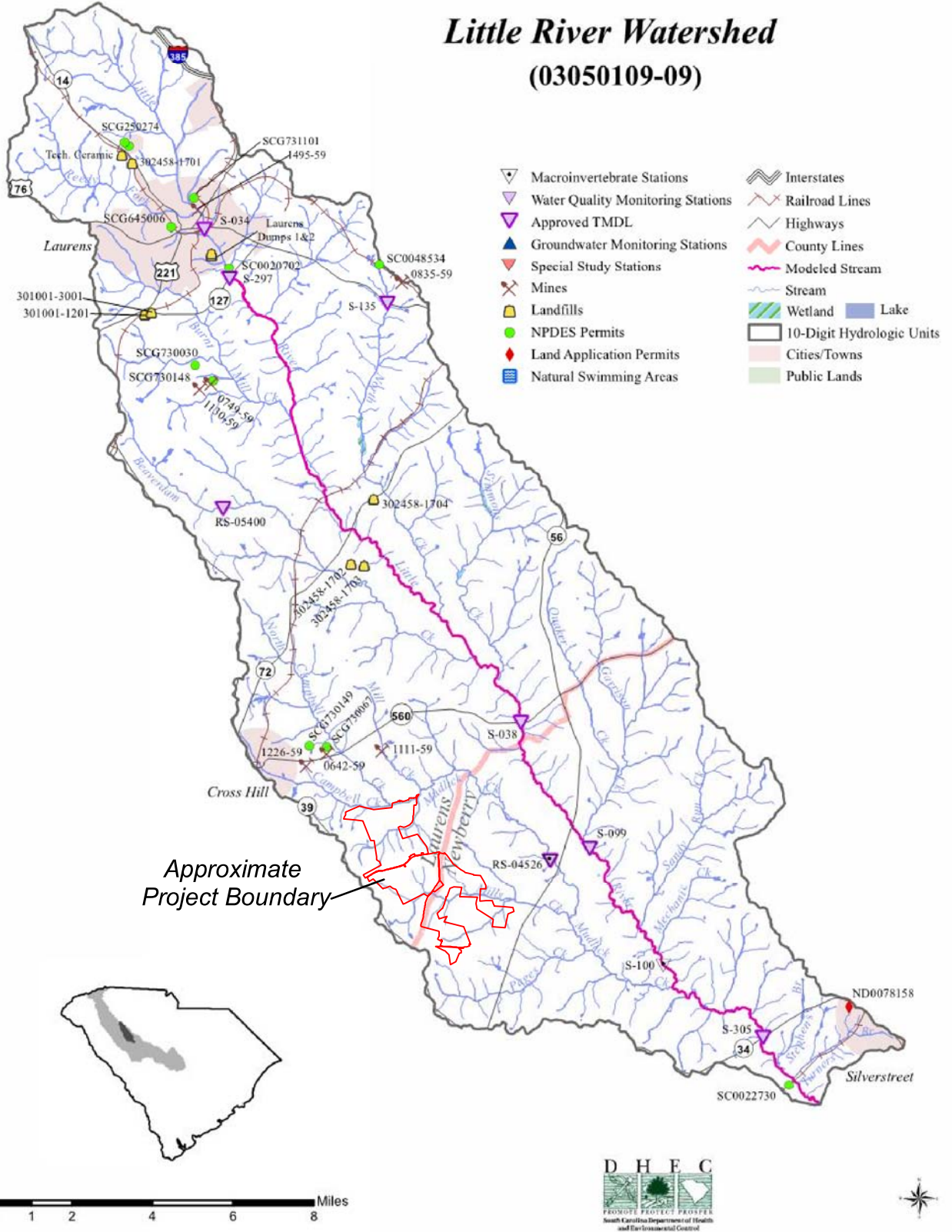


FIGURE 5 WATERSHED AND SERVICE AREA MAP

THE SALUDA BANK

LAURENS AND NEWBERRY COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA

Little River Watershed (03050109-09)



Approximate Project Boundary

FIGURE 6 WATER QUALITY MAP

THE SALUDA BANK

LAURENS AND NEWBERRY COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA

