Draft Environmental Assessment

New Ocmulgee River Boat Ramp
Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
Macon-Bibb County

Prepared By:

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division
2067 U.S. Hwy 278 SE
Social Circle, Ga. 30025
Fisheries Staff

15 April 2025

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to evaluate the effects associated with the proposed action and complies with the National Environmental ervice Act (NEPA) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1509) and Department of the Interior (43 CFR 46; 516 DM 8) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (550 FW 3) regulations and policies. The National Environmental Policy Act requires examination of the effects of proposed actions on the natural and human environment.

The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is also prepared with potential effects associated with the proposed action on the Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA) and is expected to comply with the provisions of same (OCGA 12-16-1). The Georgia Environmental Policy Act requires examination of proposed actions on the health of natural and human environments and principally provides for the disclosure of the environmental effects of proposed state projects.

2. PROPOSED ACTION

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) is proposing to construct a new boating access facility in Macon-Bibb County Georgia. The location is 1900 Bonds View Road within the Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. WRD is planning to disturb 0.9 acres of riverine land with mechanized equipment to construct a concrete boat ramp and gravel parking area. Project will be complete with concrete ADA parking space(s) and standard departmental signage. On completion, this facility will be continuously open to boaters for the primary purpose of supporting fishing access along this portion of the Ocmulgee River.

3. BACKGROUND

The choice of this location originated through consideration of need relative to other access points providing a similar experience. It is positioned in such way that it fills a gap between existing river access locations upstream and downstream. Additionally, this location enjoys features common to both lower Piedmont and Upper Coastal Plain which should provide for a unique fishing experience. Species commonly encountered by anglers along this reach of the Ocmulgee include Black Crappie, Largemouth and Shoal Bass, Catfish, Redear & Redbreast Sunfish. Public desire for more quality fishing access in this reach of the Ocmulgee has been gaged to be strong coupled with a greater need for professional and emergency access. The proposed project is located along the east bank of the Ocmulgee River within +/- 675 acres of the Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Plans to establish a National Park in the same area also has increased interest in nearby boating access facilities.

4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION

The purpose of installing this particular boating access facility is in keeping with agency goals fulfilled by providing quality river fishing access distributed evenly around the state. Freshwater sportfishing is a popular recreational activity in Georgia which contributes heavily to local economies across the State. WRD operates and maintains approximately 175 access facilities for the angling needs of the general public. The need for this particular action is to provide greater access along this major waterway, namely the Ocmulgee River, especially within the transition of Lower Piedmont to Upper Coastal Plain physiographic area. This endeavor is consistent with the overall objective of the WRD to build and maintain recreational boating access for increasing sportfishing opportunities.

5. PUBLIC OUTREACH

To this point, interested members of the public have had opportunity to comment on the proposed project through the application process to GA EPD for granting of a stream buffer variance. It is expected that this Draft EA will be available for public review and comment for 30

calendar days beginning (April 15, 2025) on the WRD website at: https://www.georgiawildlife.com/. A Paper copy will be available at 2065 U.S. Hwy 278 SE, Social Circle Ga. 30025.

6. ALTERNATIVES

6.1. Alternative A – No Action

Under this alternative, the Bonds Swamp NWR boating access facility would not be constructed, and the area would remain undeveloped. A "No Action Alternative" has been considered but deemed unsuitable. Without the proposed boat ramp and parking facility, Ga DNR's Wildlife Resources Division's recreational fishing access mission would be greatly hindered.

6.2. Alternative B – Bonds Swamp NWR Boating Access Facility

As part of the Ga. DNR Wildlife Resources Division's ongoing efforts to improve access to outdoor recreational opportunities, the Division is proposing to construct a boat ramp and parking area on the Ocmulgee River. This new boat ramp if installed, will provide enhanced access to the Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge by area anglers and other boaters. Plans are for the construction of a single lane, 20' wide concrete boat ramp with graveled parking lot to accommodate at least 6 trailered vehicles, 3 single car spaces and 1 ADA van accessible space. Approved design calls for disturbed area impact to be 0.90 acres. Entrance to proposed project location is at coordinates: 32.773020 N, -83.586084 W accessible at 1900 Bondsview Road. The location was chosen generally for reasons of public benefit and because of suitability of soils and topography while minimizing environmental impact considering the presence of jurisdictional wetlands in the vicinity.

6.3. Additional Alternatives

Another location within the same general area was considered as the initial choice. This location was farther away from the access road (Bondsview) than the present site, would have required longer entrance road incurring greater costs to build and potential impact on jurisdictional wetlands. These issues would provide challenges for design and permitting. No other possible site provided the ease of access from a major road as did the one selected. Alternative B is the only location which can be easily reached from major area roads.

7.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENTS AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

This section addresses the affected environment and the potential impacts caused by the construction of the proposed boat ramp.

7.1. Physical Environment: The proposed boat ramp and parking area will be located adjacent to the Ocmulgee River. It is estimated that the total area of impact will be less than 0.90 acres. The majority of the project is located within a riverine hardwood area with a very small amount of wetland impact. The project site has been impacted in the past by agricultural and timber harvesting practices.

7.1.1. Land Use and Zoning

7.1.1.1. **Affected Environment** - Subject parcel is a portion of the larger tract of land known as the Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) owned by the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service. Zoning classification and Use retains Municipal designation "A" Agricultural. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates the property within the NWR system for the purpose of general public recreation and wildlife conservation. Designated activities include among others hunting, fishing, camping and wildlife viewing.

7.1.1.2. Enivronmental Consequences:

Alternative A – No Action

The No Action Alternative would have no impact on land use and zoning. The proposed project area would remain as undeveloped land.

Alternative B – Bonds Swamp Boating Access Facility

The Bond Swamp Boat Ramp Alternative would alter the land use slightly. The proposed project converts 0.90 acres from undeveloped land to recreational use with the construction of a concrete boat ramp and associated parking area. There would be no changes to zoning classification.

7.1.2. Geology, Soils and Landcover

7.1.2.1. **Affected Environment** - The Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, is located in Macon-Bibb County, central Georgia. Both the refuge and proposed boating access facility are located within the southeastern floodplains and low terraces of the lower piedmont physiographic area which is characterized by large sluggish rivers and backwaters with ponds, swamps and oxbow lakes. Specifically, the project area as proposed is situated at the northern edge of the Fall Line Hills District of the Coastal Plain physiographic province. It is a short distance south of the Fall Line, which marks the northern boundary of the district as well as the contact between crystalline rocks of the Piedmont and the Cretaceous and younger Coastal Plain sediments (Clark and Zisa 1976). As the Ocmulgee River descends below the Fall Line it takes a meandering course through a broad expanse of floodplain known locally as Bonds Swamp. Soils within the project tract are mapped as Congaree silt loam (Webb Soil Survey 2022), which are moderately well-drained soils that formed in loamy alluvium and prone to periods of flooding during winter and spring. Subject area has at times been the site of timber harvesting and in the early twentieth century unregulated whiskey stills. Older deposits of defined sherds of Late Mississippian ceramics have been found in small amounts indicating some presence of Native American culture extending back several centuries.

7.1.2.2. **Environmental Consequences:**

Alternative A – No Action; The No Action Alternative would have no impact on geology, soils or landcover. The proposed project area would remain as undeveloped land.

Alternative B – Build Bonds Swamp Boating Access Facility; The Bond Swamp Boat Ramp Alternative would alter the geology, soils or landcover on 0.90 acres. The impacts would be from the construction of the concrete features and associated semi-pervious parking area as described in section 6.2.

7.1.3 Water Resources

7.1.3.1 Affected Environment – The Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is located within the drainage of the Ocmulgee River basin consisting of associated wetlands and related tributary streams. The proposed project site is located within the Fall Line transition zone of the Lower Piedmont to Upper Coastal Plain. This region is characterized by unique plant and animal life, soils and relative weather patterns. Low gradient valleys are present which are filled with loamy, alluvial deposits. Most streams in this area are slow moving, meandering aquatic environments that have been heavily impacted by agriculture and more recently some commercial development. Resulting siltation from these impacts has greatly impacted native aquatic ecosystems, chiefly anadramous fish populations which depend on the sandy rocky bottom substrates for egg deposits during their spawning cycle. From a point just upstream of the proposed project site, the Ocmulgee River flows unhindered to the Atlantic Ocean.

Wetlands – All wetlands on site are jurisdictional per guidance and requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Majority of jurisdictional wetlands are adjacent to the project site and have been delineated by Resource & Land Consultants LLC of Savannah Georgia on 6/17/2021. An area of jurisdictional wetlands (1.137) exists north of the project site. Soils in this area are consistent with remainder of site and are described as Congaree Silt Loam "Co" and fall within Hydrologic Soil Group "C". No wetland impacts are proposed for this project. Sheet 8 of attached, approved plans detail limits of disturbance which exclude jurisdictional wetlands associated with the proposed project site.

7.1.3.2 Environmental Consequences:

Alternative A – No Action; The No Action Alternative would have no impact on the aquatic environment. The proposed project area would remain as undeveloped land.

Alternative B – Build Bonds Swamp Boating Access Facility; The Bonds Swamp Boat Ramp Alternative would have impacts to the Ocmulgee River within the immediate vicinity of the project zone. These impacts would be relatively minor and are expected to moderate within the near time frame. Best Management Practices (bmps) would be installed to protect or improve existing water quality within the vicinity of the construction project. Measures planned to mitigate adverse impacts are outlined in the approved engineering plan under Erosion and Sedimentation Control measures. Subject plans and best management practices outlined are based on current engineering practices and described in the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia 6th Edition. Structural site controls in the form of silt fencing, turbidity curtains, graveled construction exits will be utilized during operations to prevent sediment from moving beyond the area of disturbance and into the Ocmulgee River. On completion, all disturbed areas within the project zone will be stabilized with permanent vegetation of a suitable type. Subject project involves pouring concrete and inserting a segment of same into the Ocmulgee River. This represents adding an unnatural element to the aquatic environment with subsequent related impacts. These impacts are thought to be relatively minimal and will likely ameliorate over time.

7.1.4 Air Quality:

7.1.4.1 Affected Environment – The surrounding environs of the proposed boating access Facility.

7.1.4.2 Environmental Consequences:

Alternative A – No Action: The "no action" alternative would have no adverse impacts for existing air quality.

Alternative B – Build Bonds Swamp Boat Ramp: The project will have minimal short-term impact to air quality caused by dust and exhaust from motorized construction equipment. The proposed project involves the construction of a single lane (20' wide) concrete boat ramp with ADA complaint parking and semi pervious parking spaces for approximately 6 trailered vehicles and 2 car spaces. Due to the small disturbed area (0.9 acres), the proposed project will have no permanent impact on air quality and will not impact the status of Macon-Bibb County attainment goals. No long term impacts are anticipated from the proposed project.

7.1.5 Noise:

7.1.5.1 Affected Environment - The location of the proposed project site is within the National Wildlife Refuge known as Bonds Swamp. The NWR is quite large, approximately 675 acres and is completely undeveloped existing in a natural wooded state. Surrounding areas are moderately to mostly developed but should be buffered from noise pollution by the heavy tree canopy/cover which separates the planned construction site from outlying commercial or residential areas. Current ambient sound is natural and is generated by existing recreational uses within the Refuge.

7.1.5.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative A – No Action: The "No Action" alternative would have no impacts for ambient noise quality.

Alternative B – Bonds Swamp NWR Boat Ramp Facility: Project as proposed will mechanically disturb 0.9 acres. Through the use of heavy equipment, there will be minimal short term impacts to noise levels during construction of planned project. These impacts will be short term and temporary. Once completed, the facility will accommodate trailered vehicle traffic and boating activities for perhaps 10 units which will generate a moderate level of intermittent noise from expected recreational activity. It is expected that once completed there will be no adverse noise effects to area residents.

7.2 Biological Resources:

7.2.1 Fish Resources

7.2.1.1 Affected Environment - The Middle Ocmulgee River which flows through Upper Coastal Plain of Central Georgia flows relatively slowly with minimal drop in elevation over a long distance. It tends to meander widely within a well-developed flood plain. Channel characteristics include among other things high banks with deep pools, sediment deposition creating sandbars and mudflats, and supports aquatic life adapted to slower moving water. Fish species encountered within this environment are several species of catfish, black crappie, red-breasted and redear sunfish, bluegill, longnose gar and members of the black bass family including largemouth, spotted and shoal bass. All of the aforementioned species are popular among anglers and highly sought after.

7.2.2.2 Environmental Consequences

Alternative A – No Action: The "No Action" alternative would have no direct impact on fish resources.

Alternative B – Build Bonds Swamp NWR boat ramp facility: Project as proposed could have a short term impact on fish resources from sediment release into the waterway because of construction activities. Erosion control measures will be deployed on site during construction and for a time afterward while the disturbed area is stabilizing. These are expected to minimize sedimentation during the life of the project. Upon project completion, the increase in vehicular and human traffic may adversely impact fish populations in the immediate vicinity of the boat ramp. These are expected to be minimal and not significant. Conversely, promotion of angling activities through motorized boating access aids the flow of sport fish much of which is used to enhance aquatic habitat. Overall, the building of the planned boat ramp and parking area represents a net gain in the achievement of conservation goals.

7.2.2 Endangered Species

7.2.2.1 Affected Environment - The proposed project has been coordinated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Georgia Field Office (see Appendix B). The following federally listed species were addressed:

Mammals:		
Tricolored Bat	*Perimyotis subflavis*	Endangered
Birds:		
Whooping Crane	*Grus americana*	Experimental Population
Blad Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Bird of Conservation Concern
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*	Bird of Conservation Concern
American Kestrel	*Falco sparverius paulus*	Bird of Conservation Concern
Brown-headed Nuthatch	*Sitta pusilla*	Bird of Conservation Concern
Chimney Swift	*Chaetura pelagica*	Bird of Conservation Concern
Coastal (waynes) Black-throated Green Warbler	*Setophaga virens waynei*	Bird of Conservation Concern
Kentucky Warbler	*Oporornis formosus*	Bird of Conservation Concern
Prairie Warbler	*Dendroica discolor*	Bird of Conservation Concern
Prothonotary Warbler	*Protonotaria citrea*	Bird of Conservation Concern
Red-headed Woodpecker	*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*	Bird of Conservation Concern
Rusty Blackbird	*Euphagus carolinus*	Bird of Conservation Concern
Wood Thrush	*Hylocichla mustelina*	Bird of Conservation Concern
Insects:		
Monarch Butterfly	*Danaus Plexippus*	Candidate
Flowering Plants:		
Fringed Campion	*Silene polypetala*	Endangered
Ocmulgee Skullcap	*Scutellaria Ocmulgee*	Proposed Threatened
Relict Trillium	*Trillium reliquum*	Endangered

7.2.2.2 Environmental Consequences:

Alternative A – No Action: The "No Action" Alternative would have no impacts on endangered species.

Alternative B – Build Bonds Swamp NWR Boating Access Facility: The proposed project is small; 0.9 acres in size. Soils disturbed with subsequent erosive potential will be minimal with temporary effects. It is expected that Endagered or At Risk species will be at most only minimally impacted temporarily.

7.3 Cultural and Historic Resources

7.3.1 Affected Environment – The Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division contracted with Apalachee Research Archaeological Consultants Inc. for the completion of a Phase I Intensive Archaeology Survey for the Area of Potential Effect and other critical environs.related to the proposed boat ramp facility. The Phase I Survey Report was completed on May 18, 2023 through the use of searches of existing historical records, nine shovel test excavations, and visual inspection of the Area of Potential Effect along pre-determined transects. Background research revealed no previously recorded sites within or near the project's APE. No significant artifacts of historical or cultural importance were uncovered. Determination was made that the project as proposed would have no adverse effect(s) on historic properties and therefore no further work was recommended.

7.3.2 Environmental Consequences:

Alternative A – No Action: Within this alternative, the site would remain unimpacted by the proposed project and recreation opportunities would remain undeveloped.

Alternative B – Build Bonds Swamp Boat Ramp: The project as proposed consists of constructing a new concrete boat ramp and supporting parking area with standard Departmental Signage. Opportunities for recreational sportfishing along this segment of the Ocmulgee River would be greatly enhanced. Additionally this new access would be valuable for research needs and emergency situations which may arise. It is expected that construction of the new Bonds Swamp Boat Ramp will not have a negative impact on public safety and likely would be a benefit to the public safety and the general welfare of area residents.

7.4 Recreation

7.4.1 Affected Environment

- Stream and River fishing/angling is a very popular recreational activity in Georgia. Currently Ga. DNR offers two river ramps on the Ocmulgee within reasonable proximity to the proposed location and each is about 50 river miles from the Bonds Swamp site. Public demand suggests that additional access point(s) are needed. Partnership efforts like the one recently enacted between U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Georgia Department of Natural Resources provide an opportunity to provide the increased access desired by the angling public. The proposed project will provide additional access to recreational opportunities that currently are not available within this reach of the Ocmulgee River.

7.4.2 Environmental Consequences:

Alternative A – No Action: The "No Action" alternative would have a negative impact on recreational use and needs by not providing a much needed boating access facility within an underserved area.

Alternative B – Bonds Swamp NWR Boating Access Facility: Construction of the proposed boating access facility would slightly alter the land use though such usage would remain within the category of outdoor recreation envisioned for the refuge. The change would be in the form of permanent, hard impacts due to the introduction of concrete and gravel following the clearing of trees and understory. A section of riverbank would be cut and graded to achieve desired slopes. Overall, disturbed area would not exceed 0.9 acres. The local community will benefit from the accomplishment of this project through additional recreational opportunities that currently do not exist. It is expected that an overall boost to the local economy from use of the proposed facility would also be enjoyed by the same local community.

7.5 Public Health and Safety

7.5.1 Affected Environment

- Aside from the normal risk of the natural environment, existing conditions on site pose no impact to Public Health and Safety. Existing parcel is currently unimproved and is already available to the recreating public.

7.5.2 Environmental Consequences:

Alternative A: No Action – The environmental consequences of no action are that the parcel continues remains unimproved and that ongoing normal threats to human health and safety remain unchanged.

Alternative B: Build Bonds Swamp NWR Boating Access Facility – If constructed, the new boating access facility will provide an improved recreational experience to anglers by including improved parking areas (both pervious and impervious) including spaces for persons with disabilities. A concrete boat ramp built to current high standards will be installed allowing motorized users efficient and relatively safe entry into the waters of the Ocmulgee River. It is expected that the new facility will be cooperatively managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the management of the Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. This joint effort will include things like grass maintenance and trash pickup. Macon-Bibb County will provide improvements and ongoing maintenance to Bondsview Road which

provides access to the parcel. Local law enforcement will provide as needed patrols to the area and feedback to Ga DNR law enforcement. Other Emergency related needs which may arise will be provided for through the use of this new river access location.

7.6 Socioeconomic Resources

7.6.1 Affected Environment - The proposed project is located in a populated urban area within eastern Macon-Bibb County, just east of the City of Macon, Georgia. Although in a developed and populated area, the project site is a very rural site with no development being within the Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Within a one mile radius, northwest of the site is a commercial district and a segment of Interstate 16. Additionally, there is an established residential area within the vicinity representing different economic levels. With the exception of additional economic activity from users, it is unlikely that the planned project will have substantial impact on existing socioeconomic factors.

7.6.2 Environmental Consequences:

Alternative A: No Action – If the selected site remains undeveloped and proposed project is not built, then there is likely to be very little if any negative financial impact in the area. It is expected that all socioeconomic levels will be equally impacted. Existing growth and development patterns will continue on current trajectory, not being impacted by the proposed project.

Alternative B: Build Bonds Swamp NWR Boating Access Facility – Proposed project will benefit the local population by providing motorized boaters/anglers with another access point that reaches a river segment that is currently not as accessible. The local economy will benefit from the expected increased recreational traffic with subsequent demand for fuel, bait and tackle and other items normally in use during planned river fishing trips. It is anticipated that this alternative does provide for a slightly better overall economic outcome for area residents. Furthermore, on installation first responders will have another point for accessing the Ocmulgee River during emergency situations should they arise.

8.0 SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

The purpose of this EA is to provide enough evidence for analyzing the potential need of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Alternative A: No Action - As stated in the foregoing, under the No Action alternative the selected site would remain unchanged from its current state as a forested, riverine mixed canopy of the lower Piedmont. The site would remain undeveloped and boating access along this segment of the Ocmulgee River would remain unimproved. The Wildlife Resources Division would not be able to utilize this opportunity to create additional river fishing access which is a priority for the Fisheries Section. Natural processes would remain as presently exist. Local fauna and habitat for wildlife would continue undisturbed, and hydrologic conditions would be undiminished by new impervious infrastructure.

Alternative B: Build Bonds Swamp NWR Boating Access Facility – Upon installation, the new boating access facility described above would have only minimal impact on the natural environment with perhaps a modest impact on underserved citizens in the area. Greatest impact would be felt by established anglers who regularly seek motorized access to the state's waterways.

9.0 LIST OF SOURCES, AGENCIES, AND PERSONS CONSULTED

9.1 United States Army Corps of Engineers

9.2 United Staes Department of the Interior; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

9.3 United States Department of Agriculture; Natural Resources Conservation Service

9.4 United Staes Department of Homeland Security; Federal Emergency Management Agency

9.5 Apalachee Research Archaeological Consultants Inc. George Price, Principal

10.0 LIST OF PREPARERS: Jeff Bishop, Clint Peacock

11.0 LITERATURE CITED

11.1 States Organization for Boating Access, Design Manual

11.2 Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia (6th Edition)

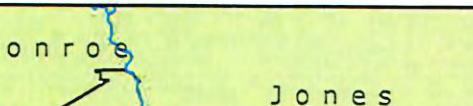
Appendix A

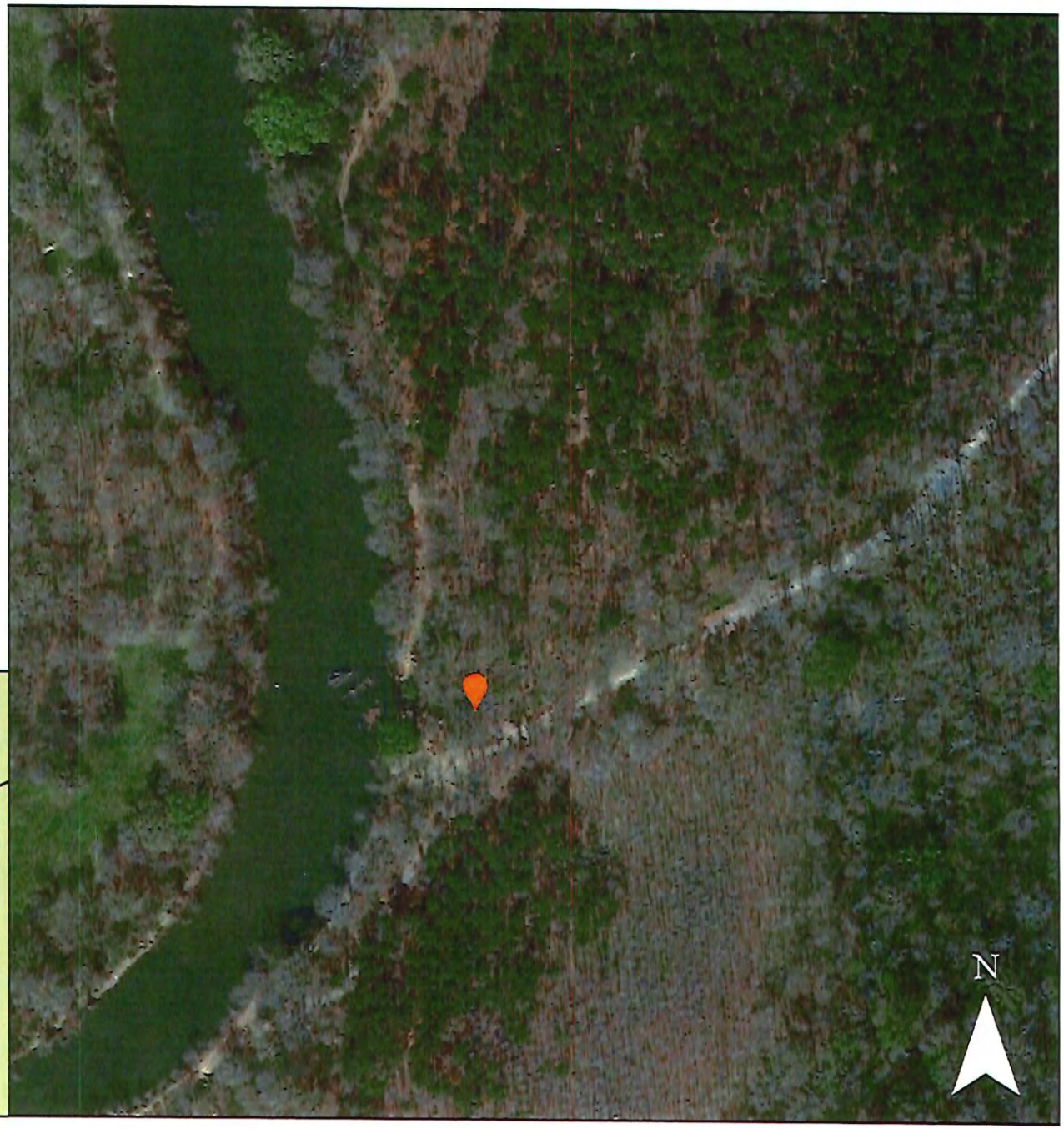
Supplemental Maps and Photos

Bonds Swamp NWR
Locator Map

Ocmulgee River
Bibb County, GA

32.773020, -83.586084





Bonds Swamp NWR
Photo Locator

Ocmulgee River
Bibb County, GA

32.773020, -83.586084

Ramp
Road
Photo Direction

0 20 40 80
Feet

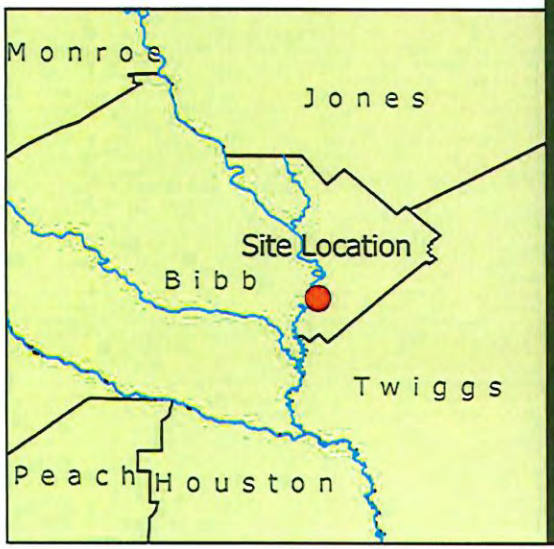


Photo 9 – View North; Entrance

Photo 10 – View South; Entrance

Bonds Swamp NWR New Boat Ramp

Photo 1 – View West; Lower Ramp

Photo 2 – View North; Lower Ramp

Photo 3 – View East; Lower Ramp

Photo 4 – View South; Lower Ramp

Photo 5 – View West; Upper Ramp

Photo 6 – View North; Upper Ramp

Photo 7 – View East; Upper Ramp

Photo 8 – View South; Upper Ramp

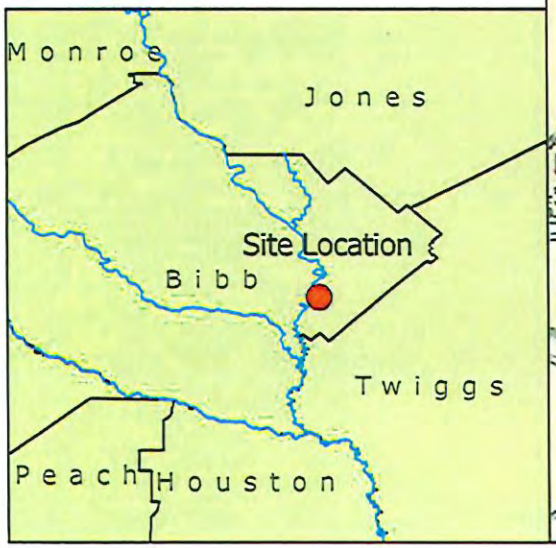
Bonds Swamp NWR
7.5 Topo

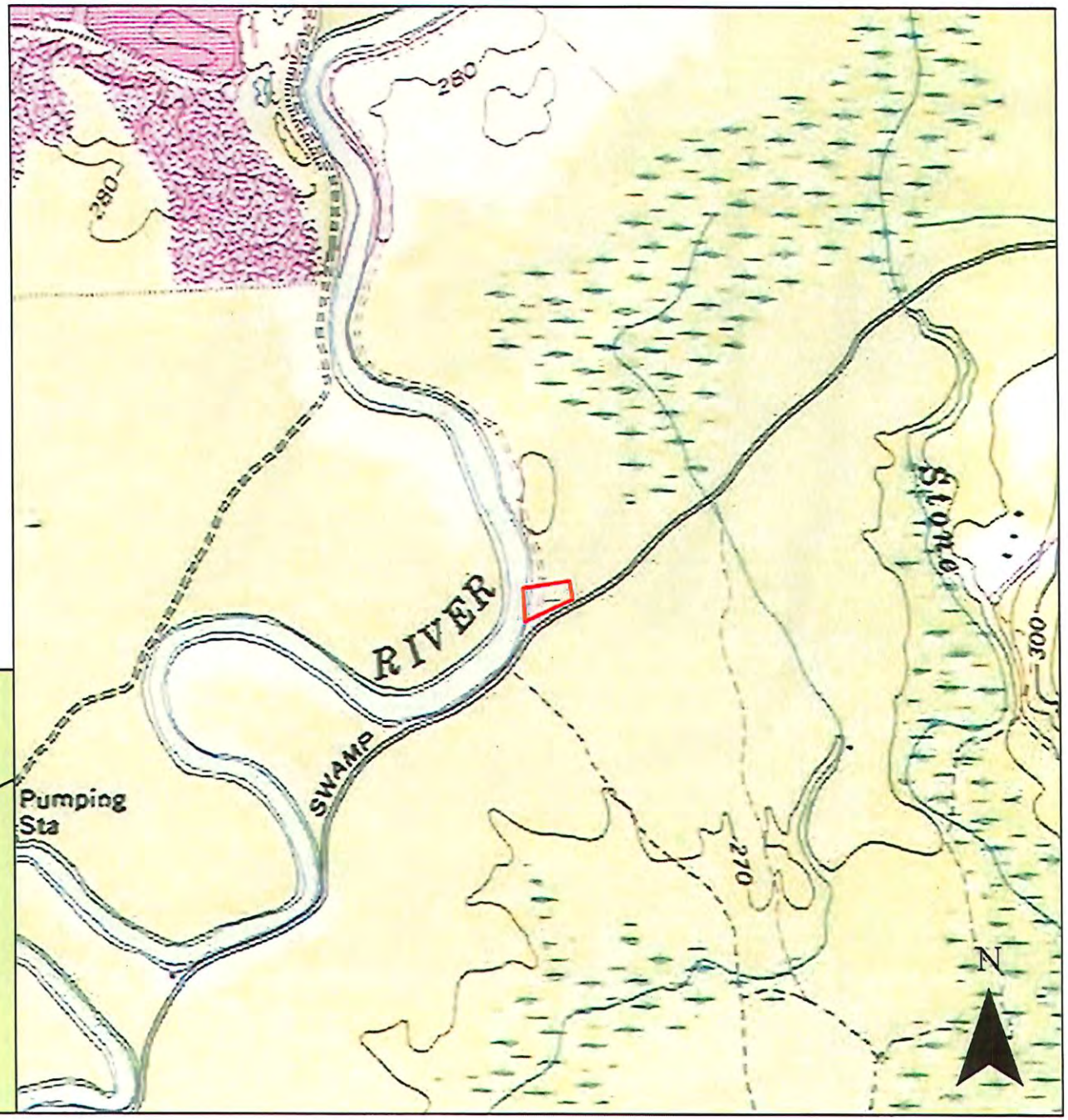
Ocmulgee River
Bibb County, GA

32.773020, -83.586084

Property

0 500 1,000 2,000
Feet





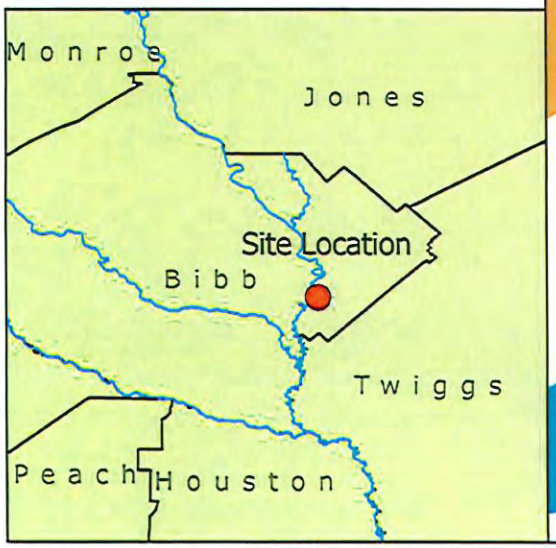
Bonds Swamp NWR
Waters of the U.S. Map

Ocmulgee River
Bibb County, GA

32.773020, -83.586084

Property
Palustrine
Riverine

0 205 410 820
Feet



Ocmulgee River

N

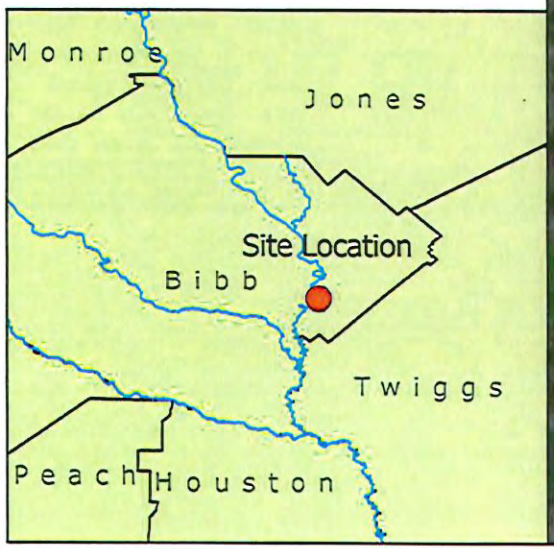
Bonds Swamp NWR
Aerial Map

Ocmulgee River
Bibb County, GA

32.773020, -83.586084

Property

0 205 410 820
Feet



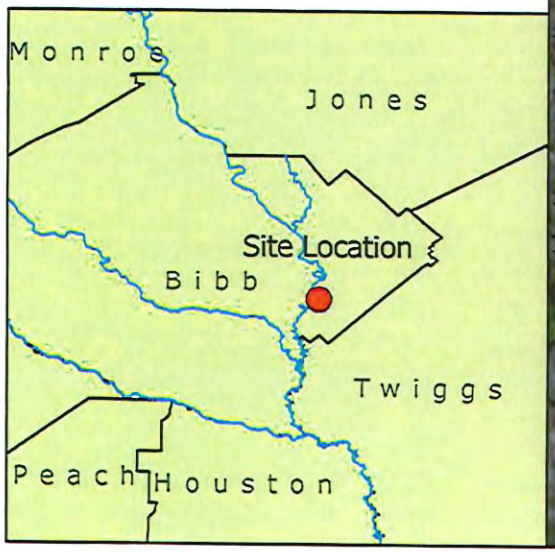
Bonds Swamp NWR
Area of Potential Effect

Ocmulgee River
Bibb County, GA

32.773020, -83.586084

Ramp
APE
Road

0 60 120 240
Feet



Appendix B

Section 7 Coordination; Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

TED WILL
DIRECTOR

April 10, 2023

Jeffrey Bishop
Boating Access Coordinator
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2065 US Highway 278 SE
Social Circle, GA 30025

Subject: Known occurrences of natural communities, plants, and animals of highest priority conservation status on or near Bonds Swamp NWR New Boat Ramp in Bibb County, GA

Dear Jeff Bishop:

This is in response to your request on March 6, 2023. The following Georgia natural heritage database element occurrences (EOs) were selected for the current site using the local Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 10 watershed for elements whose range distribution is limited by aquatic systems (AQ) and within 3 miles for all other EOs (TR).

Bondsview Rd / Ocmulgee River - Bonds Swamp NWR New Boat Ramp (-83.586179, 32.773027, WGS84)

US *Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus* (Atlantic Sturgeon) in Altamaha River (AQ), approx. 9.6 mi NW of site

US *Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus* (Atlantic Sturgeon) in Ocmulgee River (AQ), on or within immediate vicinity of site

Cayaponia quinqueloba (Fivelobe Melonleaf) (TR), approx. 2.7 mi N of site

GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) in Ocmulgee River (AQ), approx. 16.2 mi NW of site

Desmognathus auriculatus (Southern Dusky Salamander) (TR), approx. 2.8 mi N of site

GA *Etheostoma parvipinne* (Goldstripe Darter) in Rock Creek (AQ), approx. 10.9 mi N of site

GA *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Bald Eagle) (TR), approx. 3.0 mi SE of site

***Lysimachia loomisii* (Loomis' Loosestrife) [Historic] (TR), on or within immediate vicinity of site**

Micropterus cataractae (Shoal Bass) in Ocmulgee River (AQ), approx. 1.4 mi N of site

Micropterus cataractae (Shoal Bass) in Ocmulgee River (AQ), approx. 16.2 mi NW of site

Micropterus sp. 2 (Altamaha) (Altamaha Bass) in Walnut Creek (AQ), approx. 5.3 mi N of site

Micropterus sp. 2 (Altamaha) (Altamaha Bass) in Ocmulgee River (AQ), approx. 6.5 mi S of site

GA *Moxostoma robustum* (Robust Redhorse) in Ocmulgee River (AQ), approx. 8.0 mi S of site

GA *Moxostoma robustum* (Robust Redhorse) in Ocmulgee River (AQ), approx. 16.9 mi NW of site
Moxostoma sp. 4 (Brassy Jumprock) in Walnut Creek (AQ), approx. 5.3 mi N of site
***Necturus punctatus* (Dwarf Waterdog) (AQ) [Historic], on or within immediate vicinity of site**
Passerina ciris (Painted Bunting) (TR), approx. 0.9 mi N of site
GA *Sarracenia flava* (Yellow Flytrap) (TR) [Historic], in an uncertain location near site
GA *Sarracenia rubra ssp. gulfensis* (Gulf Sweet Pitcherplant) (TR) [Extirpated], in an uncertain location near site
Wading Bird Colony (Wading Bird Colony) (TR), approx. 1.4 mi NW of site
Bond Swamp NWR [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service] (TR), approx. 0.3 mi SE of site
Bond Swamp NWR [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service] (TR), approx. 0.5 mi E of site
Bond Swamp NWR [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service] (TR), approx. 2.8 mi SW of site
OCMULGEE RIVER GREENWAY [Georgia Department of Natural Resources] (TR), approx. 0.5 mi E of site
OCMULGEE RIVER GREENWAY [Georgia Department of Natural Resources] (TR), approx. 1.9 mi SW of site
Ocmulgee National Monument [National Park Service] (TR), approx. 2.6 mi N of site
Walker [Oconee River Land Trust] (TR), on or immediate vicinity of site
Restrictive covenant [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers] (TR), approx. 1.3 mi W of site
Restrictive covenant [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers] (TR), approx. 1.8 mi N of site
Restrictive covenant [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers] (TR), approx. 1.8 mi SW of site
Restrictive covenant [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers] (TR), approx. 1.9 mi NW of site
Ocmulgee River Upper 1 (0307010316) [SWAP High Priority Watershed] (TR), on or within immediate vicinity of site

Recommendations:

Federally listed species have been documented within three miles or within the watershed(s) of the proposed project. To minimize potential impacts to federally listed species, we recommend consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Please email GAES_Assistance@fws.gov for project consultation and survey recommendations.

Please be aware that state protected species have been documented at or near the proposed project. We do have For information about these species, including survey recommendations, please visit our webpage at http://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern#rare-locations.

The following biologists can provide additional recommendations and assistance regarding the following groups:

Plants: Lisa Kruse (Lisa.Kruse@dnr.ga.gov)
Fishes: Paula Marcinek (Paula.Marcinek@dnr.ga.gov)
Crayfish: Brett Albanese (Brett.Albanese@dnr.ga.gov)
Mussels: Matt Rowe (Matt.Rowe@dnr.ga.gov)
Reptiles & Amphibians: Daniel Sollenberger (Daniel.Sollenberger@dnr.ga.gov)

Mammals: Trina Morris (Katrina.Morris@dnr.ga.gov)
Birds: Nathan Klaus (Nathan.Klaus@dnr.ga.gov) or Tim Keyes (Tim.Keyes@dnr.ga.gov)

Species listed above that have no "GA" or "US" status are considered Georgia species of concern. Locations of these species are tracked until enough information is gathered to determine if they should be added to the state list or if their populations do not warrant tracking. It is important to consider these species when planning projects. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding Georgia species of concern.

There are recent records of Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) upstream and downstream of the proposed project site, which is located on a known migration corridor for this species. Please assume presence and implement provisions to protect this species, which may include seasonal in-water work restrictions to protect potential spawning habitat or behavior. Please contact Paula Marcinek (Paula.Marcinek@dnr.ga.gov) to determine specific provisions and whether surveys are recommended for this species.

There is a record of a nesting bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) within three miles of the proposed project site. Although bald eagles are no longer listed as federally endangered, this species is still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Georgia Endangered Species Act. This legislation continues to protect bald eagles from potentially harmful human activities. For more information on how to prevent impacts to bald eagles, please review the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines and other information located at: https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/eagle-management.php.

We are glad to see boat ramp and access area construction, which will provide additional recreation opportunities for the surrounding communities. Please keep erosion to a minimum during construction and leave as much vegetation intact as possible. Where feasible, undisturbed buffers of at least 100 feet should be left surrounding any streams or wetlands at the site. If the access area is paved, we strongly recommend using a porous pavement that allows for stormwater infiltration rather than impervious materials that significantly increase runoff into the watershed. Please plan the ramp carefully and provide for adequate parking and access areas. These measures will help protect water quality, protect sensitive habitats and native species, and provide for a more enjoyable recreational experience for the users.

This project occurs within a high priority watershed(s). As part of Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), high priority watersheds were identified to protect populations of high priority aquatic species, important coastal habitats, and migratory corridors for anadromous species. Please refer to Appendix F of Georgia's SWAP to find out more specific information about the listed high priority watershed(s) (https://georgiawildlife.com/wildlifeactionplan).

Disclaimer:

Please keep in mind the limitations of our database. The data collected by the Wildlife Conservation Section comes from a variety of sources, including museum and herbarium records, literature, and reports from individuals and organizations, as well as field surveys by our

staff biologists. In most cases the information is not the result of a recent on-site survey by our staff. Many areas of Georgia have never been surveyed thoroughly. Therefore, the Wildlife Conservation Section can only occasionally provide definitive information on the presence or absence of rare species on a given site. Our files are updated constantly as new information is received. **Thus, information provided by our program represents the existing data in our files at the time of the request and should not be considered a final statement on the species or area under consideration.**

If you know of populations of highest priority species that are not in our database, please fill out the appropriate data collection form and send it to our office. Forms can be obtained through our web site (http://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern#rare-locations) or by contacting our office. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Maggie Aduddell Hunt, Wildlife Biologist
maggie.hunt@dnr.ga.gov, (706) 557-3228

Data Available on the Wildlife Conservation Section Website

- Georgia protected plant and animal species profiles are available on our website. These profiles cover basics such as species physical descriptions, preferred habitat, and life history, as well as threats, management recommendations, and conservation status. To view these profiles, visit: http://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern#rare-locations
- Rare species and natural community information can be viewed by Quarter Quad, County, and HUC 8 Watershed. To access this information, please visit our GA Rare Species and Natural Community Information page at: http://georgiabiodiversity.org/
- Downloadable files of rare species and natural community data by Quarter Quad and County are also available. These can be downloaded at: http://georgiabiodiversity.org/natels/natural-element-locations.html

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Georgia Ecological Services Field Office
355 East Hancock Avenue
Room 320
Athens, GA 30601-2523
Phone: (706) 460-7161 Fax: (706) 613-6059

In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2024-0048567
Project Name: Bonds Swamp Boat Ramp

February 13, 2024

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for requesting information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) as amended (16 USC 701-715), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) as amended (16 USC 668-668c). We provide the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may occur within your project area and to recommend conservation measures to consider in your project design if you determine those species or designated critical habitats may be affected by your proposed project.

FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES AND DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT

Attached is a list of endangered, threatened, and proposed species that may occur in your project area. Your project area may not necessarily include all or any of these species. Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency, project proponent, or their designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make “no effect” determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have “no effect” on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit. If you need additional guidance to inform your effect determination, please contact the Service.

If you determine that your proposed action may affect federally listed species, please consult with the Service. Through the consultation process, we will analyze information contained in a biological assessment or equivalent document that you provide. If your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a Habitat Conservation Plan) may be necessary to exempt harm or harass federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species. For more information regarding formal consultation and HCPs, please see the Service's Section 7 Consultation Library and Habitat Conservation Plans Library Collections.

Action Area. The scope of federally listed species compliance not only includes direct effects, but also any indirect effects of project activities (e.g., equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations). The action area is the spatial extent of an action's direct and indirect modifications or impacts to the land, water, or air (50 CFR 402.02). Large projects may have effects to land, water, or air outside the immediate footprint of the project, and these areas should be included as part of the action area. Effects to land, water, or air outside of a project footprint could include things like lighting, dust, smoke, and noise. To obtain a complete list of species, the action area should be uploaded or drawn in IPaC rather than just the project footprint.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally. An updated list may be requested through IPaC.

ESA Section 7 consultation (and related tools such as the EDGES and/or Determination Keys) apply to projects being permitted or funded by a Federal agency. However, please note that a lead federal agency may consider an action area that excludes portions of the project footprint. In these cases, further coordination with our office may be required to ensure compliance with the ESA. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to coordinate with the lead federal agency to understand the action and action area being reviewed as part of ESA Section 7 consultation.

How to Submit a Project Review Package. If your action may affect any federally listed species and you would like technical assistance from our office, please send us a complete project review package. A step-by-step guide is available below and supplemental guidance is available at the Georgia Ecological Services Project Planning and Review page (https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services/project-planning-review).

Requests for threatened and endangered species project reviews must be submitted to our office using the process described below. (If you are not emailing us to submit a project for review, your email will be forwarded to the appropriate staff.) This is a three-step process. All steps must be completed to ensure your project is reviewed by a biologist in our office and you receive a timely response. In brief the steps are:

Step 1. Request an official species list for your project through IPaC (Done!)
Step 2. Complete applicable Determination Keys
Step 3. Send your complete project project review package to **GAES_Assistance@FWS.gov** for review if no DKey is applicable or all aspects of the project are not addressed by DKeys, i.e. a species returned by IPaC does not have a DKey to address impacts to it. A complete project review package should include:

1. A description of the proposed action, including any measures intended to avoid, minimize, or offset effects of the action. The description shall provide sufficient detail to assess the effects of the action on listed species and critical habitat, such as the purpose of the action; duration and timing of the action; location (latitude and longitude); specific activities involving disturbance to land, water, and air, and how they will be carried out; current description of areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action; and maps, drawings, or similar schematics of the action. Include ALL project areas as one single submission and do not separate into smaller components/submissions.
2. An updated Official Species List and Determination Key (DKey) results
3. Biological Assessments (may include habitat assessments and information on the presence of listed species in the action area);
4. Description of effects of the action on species in the action area and, if relevant, effect determinations for species and critical habitat;
5. Conservation measures and any other available information related to the nature and scope of the proposed action relevant to its effects on listed species or designated critical habitat (e.g., management plans related to stormwater, vegetation, erosion and sediment plans). Visit the Georgia Conservation Planning Toolbox (https://www.fws.gov/story/conservation-tools-georgia) for information about conservation measures.
6. In the email subject line, use the following format to include the Project Code from your IPaC species list and the county in which the project is located (Example: Project Code: 2023-0049730 Gwinnett Co.). For Georgia Department of Transportation related projects, please work with the Office of Environmental Services ecologist to determine the appropriate USFWS transportation liaison.

The Georgia Ecological Services Field Office will send a response email within approximately 30 days of receipt with technical assistance or further recommendations for specific species.

WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value. We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's NWI program website (https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory) integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for

permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The MBTA prohibits the taking of migratory birds, nests, and eggs, except as permitted by the Service's Migratory Birds Program (https://fws.gov/program/migratory-birds). To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory birds, we recommend construction activities occur outside the general bird nesting season from March through August, or that areas proposed for construction during the nesting season be surveyed, and when occupied, avoided until the young have fledged.

We recommend review of Birds of Conservation Concern to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies birds that are potentially threatened by disturbance and construction. It can be found at the Service's Migratory Birds Conservation Library Collection (https://fws.gov/library/collections/migratory-bird-conservation-documents).

Information related to best practices and migratory birds can be found at the Service's Avoiding and Minimizing Incidental Take of Migratory Birds Library Collection (https://fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds).

BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was delisted under the ESA on August 9, 2007. Both the bald eagle and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are still protected under the MBTA and BGEPA. The BGEPA affords both eagles protection in addition to that provided by the MBTA, in particular, by making it unlawful to "disturb" eagles. Under the BGEPA, the Service may issue limited permits to incidentally "take" eagles (e.g., injury, interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior nest abandonment). For information on bald and golden eagle management guidelines, we recommend you review information provided at the Service's Bald and Golden Eagle Management Library Collection (https://fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management).

NATIVE BATS

If your species list includes Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) or northern long-eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*) and the project is expected to impact forested habitat that is appropriate for maternity colonies of these species, forest clearing should occur outside of the period when bats may be present. Federally listed bats could be actively present in forested landscapes from April 1 to October 15 of any year and have non-volant pups from May 15 to July 31 in any year. Non-volant pups are incapable of flight and are vulnerable to disturbance during that time.

Indiana, northern long-eared, and gray (*M. grisescens*) bats are all known to utilize bridges and culverts in Georgia. If your project includes maintenance, construction, or any other modification or demolition to transportation structures, a qualified individual should complete a survey of these structures for bats and submit your findings via the Georgia Bats in Bridges cell phone application, free on Apple and Android devices. Please include these findings in any biological

assessment(s) or other documentation that is submitted to our office for technical assistance or consultation.

Additional information can be found at Georgia Ecological Services' Conservation Planning Toolbox and Bat Conservation in Georgia pages.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY

On December 20, 2020, the Service determined that listing the Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) under the Endangered Species Act is warranted but precluded at this time by higher priority listing actions. With this finding, the monarch butterfly becomes a candidate for listing. The Service will review its status each year until we are able to begin developing a proposal to list the monarch.

As it is a candidate for listing, the Service welcomes conservation measures for this species. Recommended, and voluntary, conservation measures for projects in Georgia can be found at our Monarch Conservation in Georgia (https://www.fws.gov/project/monarch-conservation-georgia) page.

EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE

Our office has published guidance documents to assist project proponents in avoiding and minimizing potential impact to the eastern indigo snake. The Visual Encounter Survey Protocol for the Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) in Georgia is recommended for project proponents or their designees to evaluate the possible presence of the Eastern indigo snake at a proposed project site. The Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) include educational materials and training that can help protect the species by making staff working on a project site aware of their presence and traits. In Georgia, indigo snakes are closely associated with the state-listed gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), a reptile that excavates extensive underground burrows that provide the snake shelter from winter cold and summer desiccation.

SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

The Recommended Practices for the Responsible Siting and Design of Solar Development in Georgia were published in September 2023 and are intended to provide voluntary guidance to support consideration of natural resources during the development of photovoltaic solar in Georgia. Furthermore, the Georgia Low Impact Solar Siting Tool (LISST) is available as a web application and as a map layer in IPaC (Find it in the “Layers” Box > “Environmental Data”) to provide project managers with the data to identify areas that may be preferred for low-impact development. The tool seeks to support the acceleration of large-scale solar development in areas with less impact to the environment.

STATE AGENCY COORDINATION

Additional information that addresses at-risk or high priority natural resources can be found in the State Wildlife Action Plan (https://georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeActionPlan), at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division Biodiversity Portal (https://

georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern), Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS portal (https://www.gnahrgis.org/gnahrgis/index.do) pages.

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species. We appreciate your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area. For further consultation on your proposed activity, please email gaes_assistance@fws.gov and reference the project county and your Service Project Tracking Number.

This letter constitutes Georgia Ecological Services' general comments under the authority of the Endangered Species Act.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Georgia Ecological Services Field Office
355 East Hancock Avenue
Room 320
Athens, GA 30601-2523
(706) 460-7161

IPaC **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

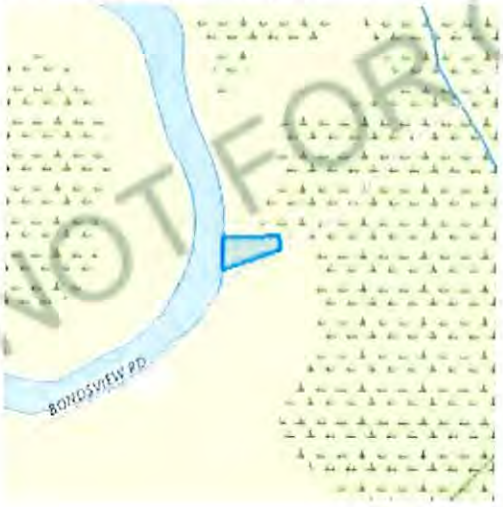
IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Bibb County, Georgia



Local office

Georgia Ecological Services Field Office

(706) 460-7161
(706) 613-6059

355 East Hancock Avenue

Room 320
Athens, GA 30601-2523

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Tricolored Bat Perimyotis subflavus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane Grus americana No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	EXPN

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Wherever found There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Fringed Campion Silene polypetala Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3738	Endangered
Ocmulgee Skullcap Scutellaria ocmulgee Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6796	Endangered

Relict Trillium Trillium reliquum Endangered
Wherever found
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8489

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act [2] and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) [1]. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your project area.

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts
For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please

review the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines. You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/ activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity.

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional Migratory Bird Office or Ecological Services Field Office.

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an incidental take permit may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the Do I Need A Permit Tool. For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional Migratory Bird Office or Ecological Services Field Office.

Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete
If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles, to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

Review the FAQs
The FAQs below provide important additional information and resources.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to

interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (▤)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season ( )
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

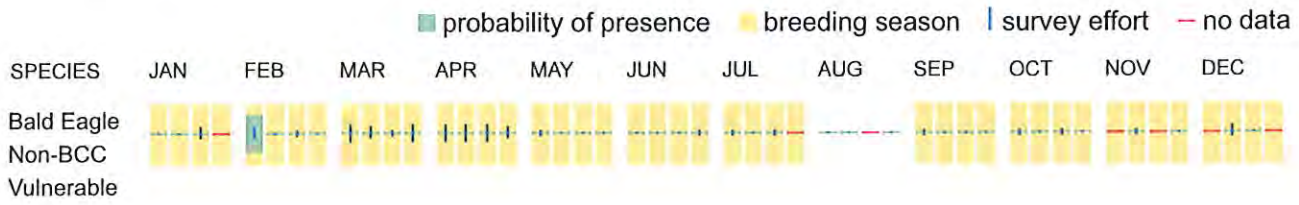
Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based

on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are an eagle (Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act requirements may apply).

Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report

On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort line or no data line (red horizontal) means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide you in knowing when to implement avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities or get the appropriate permits should presence be confirmed.

How do I know if eagles are breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If an eagle on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where

the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data ()
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Migratory birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) [1] prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The incidental take of migratory birds is the injury or death of birds that results from, but is not the purpose, of an activity. The Service interprets the MBTA to prohibit incidental take.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds

- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Migratory Bird Impacts

Your IPaC Migratory Bird list showcases birds of concern, including Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC), in your project location. This is not a comprehensive list of all birds found in your project area. However, you can help proactively minimize significant impacts to all birds at your project location by implementing the measures in the Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds document, and any other project-specific avoidance and minimization measures suggested at the link Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds for the birds of concern on your list below.

Ensure Your Migratory Bird List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document, to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

Review the FAQs

The FAQs below provide important additional information and resources.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Kestrel Falco sparverius paulus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

Brown-headed Nuthatch Sitta pusilla This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Coastal (waynes) Black-throated Green Warbler Setophaga virens waynei This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds May 1 to Aug 15
Kentucky Warbler Geothlypis formosa This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 20
Prairie Warbler Setophaga discolor This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Prothonotary Warbler Protonotaria citrea This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker Melanerpes erythrocephalus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Rusty Blackbird Euphagus carolinus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds elsewhere
Wood Thrush Hylocichla mustelina This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your

project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (▪)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (▪)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

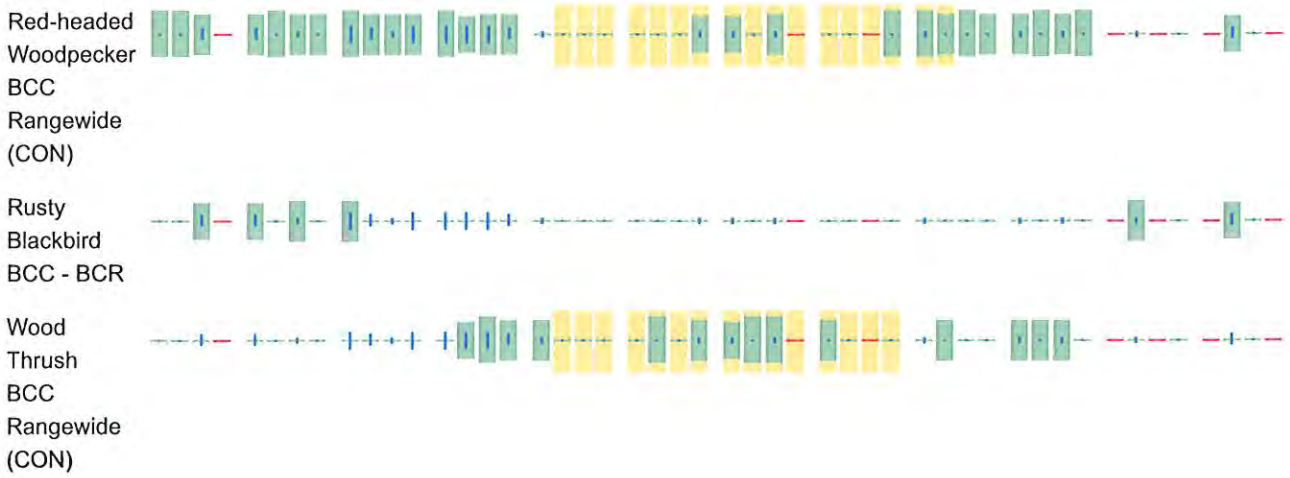
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Migratory Bird FAQs

Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year-round. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is one of the most effective ways to minimize impacts. To see when birds are most likely to occur and breed in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location, such as those listed under the Endangered Species Act or the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and those species marked as "Vulnerable". See the FAQ "What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?" for more information on the levels of concern covered in the IPaC migratory bird species list.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) with which your project intersects. These species have been identified as warranting special attention because they are BCC species in that area, an eagle (Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, and to verify survey effort when no results present, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

Why are subspecies showing up on my list?

Subspecies profiles are included on the list of species present in your project area because observations in the AKN for **the species** are being detected. If the species are present, that means that the subspecies may also be present. If a subspecies shows up on your list, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if that subspecies may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go to the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your "IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY" at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially BCC species. For more information on avoidance and minimization measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts, please see the FAQ "Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups

of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list does not represent all birds present in your project area. It is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide implementation of avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about avoidance and minimization measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs
Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:
The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data ()
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

This location overlaps the following National Wildlife Refuge lands:

LAND	ACRES
BOND SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	7,668.76 acres

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND
PFO1A

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the National Wetlands Inventory website

NOTE: This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should

seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

April 23, 2004x

REGION 4
INTRA-SERVICE SECTION 7 BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION FORM

[Note: This form provides the outline of information needed for intra-Service consultation. If additional space is needed, attach additional sheets, or set up this for to accommodate your response.]

Originating Person: Clint Peacock
Telephone Number: 706-557-3304 **E-Mail:** clint.peacock@dnr.ga.gov
Date: 4/11/2025

PROJECT NAME (Grant Title/Number): GA – Boating Access Bonds Swamp Boat Ramp

I. Service Program: Federal Assistance

- ___ **Ecological Services**
- ___ **Federal Aid**
  - ___ **Big P**
  - ___ **Clean Vessel Act**
  - ___ **Coastal Wetlands**
  - ___ **Endangered Species Section 6**
  - ___ **Farm Bill Section 390**
  - ___ **Landowner Incentive Program**
  - _x_ **Sport Fish Restoration**
  - ___ **State Wildlife Grant**
  - ___ **Wildlife Restoration**

II. State/Agency: Georgia / DNR, Wildlife Resources Division

III. Station Name: Fisheries Section (Statewide)

IV. Description of Proposed Action (attach additional pages as needed):

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) is proposing to construct a new boating access facility in Macon-Bibb County Georgia. The location is 1900 Bonds View Road within the Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. WRD is planning to disturb 0.9 acres of riverine land with mechanized equipment to construct a concrete boat ramp and gravel parking area. Project will be complete with concrete ADA parking space(s) and standard departmental signage. On completion, this facility will be continuously open to boaters for the primary purpose of supporting fishing access along this portion of the Ocmulgee River.

V. Pertinent Species and Habitat:

A. Include species/habitat occurrence map:

B. Complete the following table:

SPECIES/CRITICAL HABITAT	STATUS[1]
Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflazus*	Proposed Endangered
Whooping Crane *Grus americana*	EXPN

SPECIES/ CRITICAL HABITAT	ACTIONS TO MITIGATE/MINIMIZE IMPACTS
Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflazus*	Land and tree disturbance beyond what is required will be minimized and construction BMPs will be followed to reduce erosion, runoff, and disturbance of areas outside the project area.
Whooping Crane *Grus americana*	Land and tree disturbance beyond what is required will be minimized and construction BMPs will be followed to reduce erosion, runoff, and disturbance of areas outside the project area.
Eastern Indigo Snake *Drymarchon couperi*	Land and tree disturbance beyond what is required will be minimized and construction BMPs will be followed to reduce erosion, runoff, and disturbance of areas outside the project area.
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus Plexippus*	Land and tree disturbance beyond what is required will be minimized and construction BMPs will be followed to reduce erosion, runoff, and disturbance of areas outside the project area.
Fringed Campion *Silene polypetala*	Land and tree disturbance beyond what is required will be minimized and construction BMPs will be followed to reduce erosion, runoff, and disturbance of areas outside the project area.
Ocmulgee Skullcap *Scutellaria Ocmulgee*	Land and tree disturbance beyond what is required will be minimized and construction BMPs will be followed to reduce erosion, runoff, and disturbance of areas outside the project area.
Relict Trillium *trillium reliquum*	Land and tree disturbance beyond what is required will be minimized and construction BMPs will be followed to reduce erosion, runoff, and disturbance of areas outside the project area.

VIII. Effect Determination and Response Requested:

SPECIES/ CRITICAL HABITAT	DETERMINATION[1]			RESPONSE[1] REQUESTED
	NE	NA	AA	
No listed species in the project area	X			Concurrence

[1]DETERMINATION/ RESPONSE REQUESTED:

NE = no effect. This determination is appropriate when the proposed action will not directly, indirectly, or cumulatively impact, either positively or negatively, any listed, proposed, candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat. Response Requested is optional but a "Concurrence" is recommended for a complete Administrative Record.

NA = not likely to adversely affect. This determination is appropriate when the proposed action is not likely to adversely impact any listed, proposed, candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat or there may be beneficial effects to these resources. Response Requested is a "Concurrence".

AA = likely to adversely affect. This determination is appropriate when the proposed action is likely to adversely impact any listed, proposed, candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat. Response Requested for listed species is "Formal Consultation". Response requested for proposed and candidate species is "Conference".

signature (State Representative) 4/11/25 date

Assistant Chief of Fisheries
title

IX. Reviewing Division of Federal Assistance Staff Evaluation:

A. Concurrence_____ Nonconcurrence _____

B. ESA Section 7 Coordinator Consulted _____

C. Remarks (attach additional pages as needed):

_____ _____
signature date

_____ _____
title office

X. Reviewing Ecological Services Office Evaluation:

A. Concurrence X **Nonconcurrence _____**

B. Formal consultation required _____

C. Conference required _____

D. Informal conference required _____

E. Remarks (attach additional pages as needed):

PETER MAHOLLAND Digitally signed by PETER MAHOLLAND Date: 2025.04.24 07:40:08 -04'00'
signature date

Field Supervisor Georgia Ecological Services Field Office
title office

XI. Programmatic Assistant Regional Director - - Division of Federal Assistanec:

A. Concurrence_____ Nonconcurrence _____

signature	**date**

Appendix C

Section 106 Coordination; Georgia State Historic Preservation Office – Phase I Archaeological Survey

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Georgia® Department of Community Affairs
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

Christopher Nunn
Commissioner

July 5, 2023

Jeff E. Bishop
Statewide Boating Access Coordinator
Department of Natural Resources
2067 U.S. Highway 278, SE
Social Circle, Georgia 30025-4711

RE: Construct Boat Ramp, Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge,
1900 Bondsview Road, Macon
Bibb County, Georgia
HP-230306-005

Dear Mr. Bishop:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has received the information submitted concerning the above referenced project. Our comments are offered to assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and its applicants in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

The subject project originally consisted of clearing and grading land and constructing a boat ramp and associated paved parking area and utility and/or drainage infrastructure on the vacant Bibb County parcel TU100002, located at 1900 Bondsview Road in Macon, as noted in our letter dated April 11, 2023.

The current submitted information includes an archaeological survey entitled, *Phase 1 Intensive Archaeological Survey for a Proposed Boat Ramp, Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Bibb County, Georgia* prepared by Jeffery E. Bishop of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division dated May 18, 2023. Based on the submitted information and desktop research, HPD concurs that no historic properties that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be affected by this undertaking, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1).

This letter evidences consultation with our office for compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. Please note that historic resources may be located within the project's area of potential effect (APE). However, at this time it appears that they will not be impacted by the above-referenced project, due to the scope and location of work and previous ground disturbance. It is important to remember that any changes to this project as it is currently proposed will require additional consultation. HPD encourages federal agencies and project applicants to discuss such changes with our office to ensure that potential effects to historic resources are adequately considered in project planning.

Please refer to project number **HP-230306-005** in any future correspondence regarding this project. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Olivia Kendrick, Environmental

Review Historian, at Olivia.Kendrick@dca.ga.gov or (404) 486-6425, or Elijah Huszagh, Compliance Review Archaeologist, by email at Elijah.Huszagh@dca.ga.gov or by phone at (470) 757-3129.

Sincerely,

Stacy Rieke, MHP
Program Manager
Environmental Review & Preservation Planning

SMR/olk

cc: Greg Boike, Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Tonya Mole, DCA Regional Services, Region 6

Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey for a Proposed Boat Ramp, Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Bibb County, Georgia

SHPO Project HP-230306-005

Prepared for:

Jeffrey E. Bishop
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division

George D. Price
Principal Investigator and Author

Apalachee Research Report No. 2023-03
May 18, 2023

Apalachee Research Archaeological Consultants, Inc.
P.O. Box 161 Athens, Georgia 30601 (706) 316-0245

Introduction

Apalachee Research Archaeological Consultants, Inc. contracted with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division to complete a Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its implementing regulations 36CFR800. The purpose of this investigation is to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on historic properties, which are defined as any site, district, structure, or object that is listed, or may be eligible for inclusion the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The proposed development includes constructing a boat ramp, parking area and associated infrastructure on the east bank of the Ocmulgee River, roughly three miles southeast of Macon (Figures 1 and 2). The Area of Potential Effects is a roughly 1.7 acre tract that is accessible from Bondsview Road, which defines the southern boundary of the APE. The western boundary is defined by the Ocmulgee River.

The project was initiated May 9, 2023 with a review of the Georgia Archaeological Site File, which revealed there were no previously recorded sites within the APE and no previous surveys intersected the current project area. The ensuing fieldwork was completed April 12, 2023 by George Price. Nine shovel tests were excavated. No artifacts were recovered or observed. Therefore, we conclude the project as planned will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

Physical Setting

The project area is situated at the northern edge of the Fall Line Hills District of the Coastal Plain physiographic province. It is a short distance south of the Fall Line, which marks the northern boundary of the district as well as the contact between crystalline rocks of the Piedmont and the Cretaceous and younger Coastal Plain sediments (Clark and Zisa 1976). As the Ocmulgee River descends below the Fall Line it takes a meandering course through a broad expanse of floodplain known locally as Bonds Swamp. Soils within the project tract are mapped as Congaree silt loam (Webb Soil Survey 2022), which are moderately well-drained soils that formed in loamy alluvium and prone to periods of flooding during winter and spring.

Elevations within the project area range from around 275-270 feet with higher elevations corresponding to the southern terminus of narrow levee along the Ocmulgee River channel (Figure 3). The levee expands and rises north of the APE though it is much less pronounced in the project area and is not present south of Bondsview Road. A shovel test on the levee produced a piece of plastic container roughly 45 centimeters below the surface indicating significant twentieth century deposition of the portion of the levee within the APE. East of the levee the terrain descends to a low-lying area of poorly drained soils with drainage sloughs and areas of standing water (Figure 4).

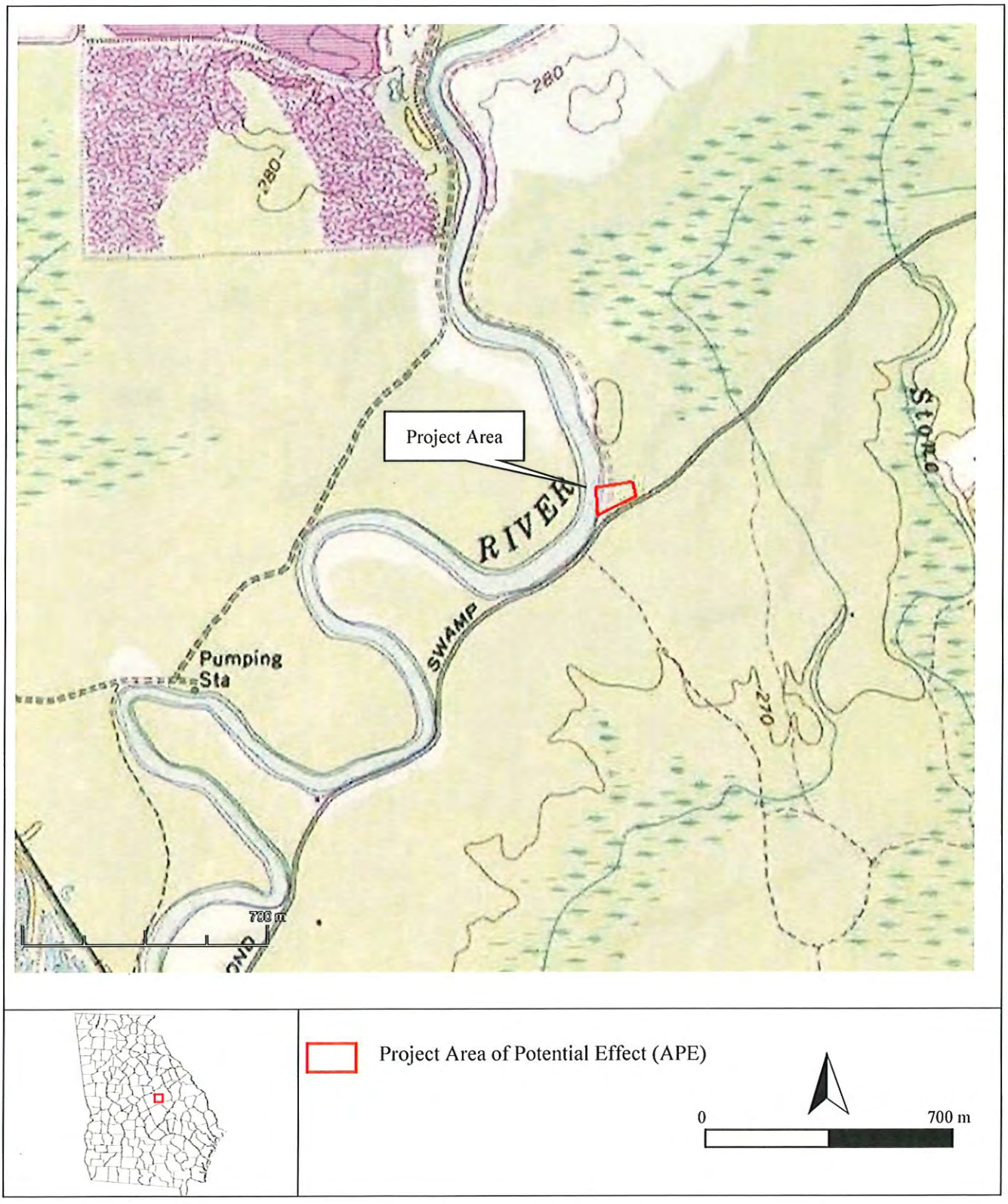


Figure 1. Topographic map depicting project area (USGS Macon East 7.5 quadrangle)

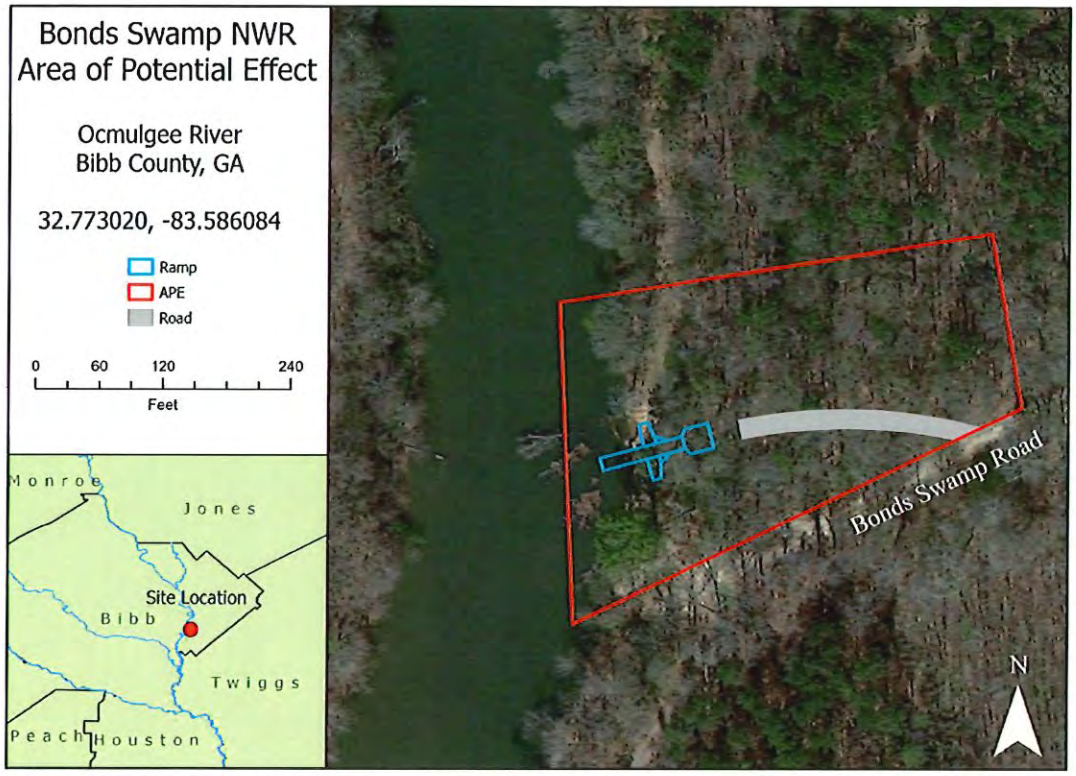


Figure 2 Project's Area of Potential Effect (APE)

Figure 3 APE, View facing north depicting levee and overgrown jeep trail

There is an overgrown jeep trail extending north from Bondsview Road, which runs along the eastern slope of the levee (Figure 3). Current vegetation in the project area consists of mature bottomland hardwoods with an understory of hardwood saplings and a fairly open forest floor.

The project area is within the Bonds Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and is accessible from Bondsview Road, which marks the southern edge of the APE. Bondsview Road is a gravel road that is constructed on a raised causeway (Figure 5) in the project area vicinity and over much of its course through the refuge. It is depicted as Bonds Swamp Road on older maps and originates from Highway GA Highway 129 near Brown's Mount and extends southwest providing access to the east bank of the Ocmulgee River at the project area with additional river access points downstream. The 1922 Bibb County Soil Map is the earliest map that we found depicting structures and secondary roads and roads in the vicinity. This map (not shown) depicts Bonds Swamp Road in its current configuration with no buildings or other cultural features in the area. A series of aerial images (Google Earth 1985-2022) document more recent land use, revealing the project area vicinity has consisted of woodlands with no cultivated fields or residences.

Literature Review Methods and Results

The project was initiated with a background literature review, which included a review of the Georgia Archaeological Site File (GASF) to identify previously surveyed areas and recorded sites in the project area vicinity. We also consulted both the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) online listings and Georgia's Natural Archaeological and Historic Resources Geographic Information System (GNAHRGIS), to determine if historic buildings, districts, or other above-ground cultural resources have been previously recorded in the project area vicinity. County tax-assessor records superseded topographic maps, aerial images, historic county maps, and other cartographic sources were examined for indications of buildings and other historic cultural features (e.g. cemeteries, bridges, former roads, earthworks) that have not been formally documented. Additional sources were examined to discern patterns of prior land use and to assess project area's potential to contain archaeological sites including county soil surveys and reports resulting from prior cultural resource investigations on file at the University of Georgia Laboratory of Archaeology and in the Apalachee Research library.

The Georgia Archaeological Site File includes 14 previously recorded sites within a one mile radius of the project area (Table 1). None are within or adjacent to the APE. Information on the site forms documents significant prehistoric populations in the vicinity, particularly during the Middle Woodland (Swift Creek) and Late Mississippian (Lamar) periods. Notable sites include the Brown's Mount Site (9BI5) and the Mossy Oak Type Site (9BI11), which were first investigated during the 1930s as part of the Works Progress Administration. Previous investigations have also shown that sites with prehistoric components were found mainly along the higher ground bordering the floodplain. Most of the sites within the floodplain are early twentieth century whiskey stills.

Figure 4. APE, view facing southeast depicting wetland conditions east of the levee

. Figure 5 APE, view facing southwest depicting Bondsview Road

Most (n=8) of the previously recorded sites were recorded during a 470 acre survey of a proposed Brick Company Mine in the floodplain on the west side of the Ocmulgee River (Crook 1980). The 1980 survey recorded two prehistoric sites, a twentieth century road maintenance feature, and five twentieth century whiskey stills. Both prehistoric sites contained Late Mississippian ceramics from redeposited or disturbed contexts. These include 9BI145, which was defined by sherds redeposited on a sand bar and 9BI46, which was defined by sherds eroding from a levee constructed by the Burns Brick Mine.

Table 1 Previously recorded sites within one mile radius of the survey tract

Site #	Description	Reference	NRHP Recommendation
9BI5	Woodland, Mississippian	Kelly 1938	Eligible or Listed
9BI11	Woodland, Mississippian	Kelly 1938	No data
9BI20	Woodland, Mississippian	Walker 1971	No data
9BI39	20th cent whiskey still	Crook 1980	Not Eligible
9BI40	20th cent whiskey still	Crook 1980	Not Eligible
9BI41	20th cent whiskey still	Crook 1980	Not Eligible
9BI42	20th cent whiskey still	Crook 1980	Not Eligible
9BI43	20th cent whiskey still	Crook 1980	Not Eligible
9BI44	20th century road maintenance feature	Crook 1980	Not Eligible
9BI45	Mississippian	Crook 1980	Not Eligible
9BI46	Mississippian	Crook 1980	Not Eligible
9BI49	Late Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian	Walker 1971	No data
9BI78	Woodland	Flowers 1995	No data
9BI128	Mississippian	Bland 2000	Eligible

Fieldwork Methods and Results

Archaeological fieldwork for this project was completed April 12, 2023, by George Price. Methods followed the procedures outlined for intensive surveys in the *Georgia Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Surveys* by the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists (GCPA 2019).

Fieldwork included nine shovel tests and visual inspection of the APE along transects spaced at 30 meter intervals. There was virtually no surface exposure due to heavy ground cover and high water limited access to cut bank exposure (Figure 3).

Four shovel tests were excavated along the levee at intervals ranging from 15 to 30 meters. The levee profiles consisted of lenses of light brown and darker reddish brown loamy sand extending 90 centimeters or more below the surface. A shovel test on the levee produced a piece of plastic container roughly 45 centimeters below the surface indicating significant twentieth century deposition of the portion of the levee within the APE. Five judgmentally placed shovel tests were excavated in non-inundated areas over the remainder of the APE. Most of these encountered saturated dark grey loam near the surface. None produced artifacts.

Summary and Recommendations

Apalachee Research Archaeological Consultants, Inc. completed a Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey for the proposed Bonds Swamp Boat Ramp on behalf of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Background research for this project revealed there were no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE).

Fieldwork included nine shovel tests within and visual inspection of the entire APE. No artifacts were recovered or observed as a result of the fieldwork. Therefore, we conclude the project as currently proposed will have no adverse effect on historic properties and recommend no further work.

References Cited

Clark, William Z and Arnold C. Zisa
1976 *Physiographic Map of Georgia.* Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Crook, Morgan R. Jr
1980 *Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Location of the Burns Brick Company Mine No. 2. Bibb County, Georgia.* Prepared for the Burns Brick Company. UGA Laboratory Report No. 279

Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists
2019 *Georgia Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Surveys.*

Hodler, Thomas W., and Howard A. Schretter
1986 *The Atlas of Georgia.* The Institute of Community and Area Development, University of Georgia, Athens.

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (USDA)
2023 Webb *Soil Survey, Bibb County, Georgia*

United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Soils
1922 Soil Map Bibb County Sheet

Appendix D

Soil Resource Report

United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

A product of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local participants

Custom Soil Resource Report for Bibb County, Georgia

1900 Bondsview Rd

February 26, 2024

Preface

Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in survey areas. They highlight soil limitations that affect various land uses and provide information about the properties of the soils in the survey areas. Soil surveys are designed for many different users, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, agronomists, urban planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers. Also, conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the surveys to help them understand, protect, or enhance the environment.

Various land use regulations of Federal, State, and local governments may impose special restrictions on land use or land treatment. Soil surveys identify soil properties that are used in making various land use or land treatment decisions. The information is intended to help the land users identify and reduce the effects of soil limitations on various land uses. The landowner or user is responsible for identifying and complying with existing laws and regulations.

Although soil survey information can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning, onsite investigation is needed to supplement this information in some cases. Examples include soil quality assessments (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/) and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center (https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2_053951).

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

Information about soils is updated periodically. Updated information is available through the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the site for official soil survey information.

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Contents

How Soil Surveys Are Made

Soil surveys are made to provide information about the soils and miscellaneous areas in a specific area. They include a description of the soils and miscellaneous areas and their location on the landscape and tables that show soil properties and limitations affecting various uses. Soil scientists observed the steepness, length, and shape of the slopes; the general pattern of drainage; the kinds of crops and native plants; and the kinds of bedrock. They observed and described many soil profiles. A soil profile is the sequence of natural layers, or horizons, in a soil. The profile extends from the surface down into the unconsolidated material in which the soil formed or from the surface down to bedrock. The unconsolidated material is devoid of roots and other living organisms and has not been changed by other biological activity.

Currently, soils are mapped according to the boundaries of major land resource areas (MLRAs). MLRAs are geographically associated land resource units that share common characteristics related to physiography, geology, climate, water resources, soils, biological resources, and land uses (USDA, 2006). Soil survey areas typically consist of parts of one or more MLRA.

The soils and miscellaneous areas in a survey area occur in an orderly pattern that is related to the geology, landforms, relief, climate, and natural vegetation of the area. Each kind of soil and miscellaneous area is associated with a particular kind of landform or with a segment of the landform. By observing the soils and miscellaneous areas in the survey area and relating their position to specific segments of the landform, a soil scientist develops a concept, or model, of how they were formed. Thus, during mapping, this model enables the soil scientist to predict with a considerable degree of accuracy the kind of soil or miscellaneous area at a specific location on the landscape.

Commonly, individual soils on the landscape merge into one another as their characteristics gradually change. To construct an accurate soil map, however, soil scientists must determine the boundaries between the soils. They can observe only a limited number of soil profiles. Nevertheless, these observations, supplemented by an understanding of the soil-vegetation-landscape relationship, are sufficient to verify predictions of the kinds of soil in an area and to determine the boundaries.

Soil scientists recorded the characteristics of the soil profiles that they studied. They noted soil color, texture, size and shape of soil aggregates, kind and amount of rock fragments, distribution of plant roots, reaction, and other features that enable them to identify soils. After describing the soils in the survey area and determining their properties, the soil scientists assigned the soils to taxonomic classes (units). Taxonomic classes are concepts. Each taxonomic class has a set of soil characteristics with precisely defined limits. The classes are used as a basis for comparison to classify soils systematically. Soil taxonomy, the system of taxonomic classification used in the United States, is based mainly on the kind and character of soil properties and the arrangement of horizons within the profile. After the soil

scientists classified and named the soils in the survey area, they compared the individual soils with similar soils in the same taxonomic class in other areas so that they could confirm data and assemble additional data based on experience and research.

The objective of soil mapping is not to delineate pure map unit components; the objective is to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. Each map unit is defined by a unique combination of soil components and/or miscellaneous areas in predictable proportions. Some components may be highly contrasting to the other components of the map unit. The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The delineation of such landforms and landform segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

Soil scientists make many field observations in the process of producing a soil map. The frequency of observation is dependent upon several factors, including scale of mapping, intensity of mapping, design of map units, complexity of the landscape, and experience of the soil scientist. Observations are made to test and refine the soil-landscape model and predictions and to verify the classification of the soils at specific locations. Once the soil-landscape model is refined, a significantly smaller number of measurements of individual soil properties are made and recorded. These measurements may include field measurements, such as those for color, depth to bedrock, and texture, and laboratory measurements, such as those for content of sand, silt, clay, salt, and other components. Properties of each soil typically vary from one point to another across the landscape.

Observations for map unit components are aggregated to develop ranges of characteristics for the components. The aggregated values are presented. Direct measurements do not exist for every property presented for every map unit component. Values for some properties are estimated from combinations of other properties.

While a soil survey is in progress, samples of some of the soils in the area generally are collected for laboratory analyses and for engineering tests. Soil scientists interpret the data from these analyses and tests as well as the field-observed characteristics and the soil properties to determine the expected behavior of the soils under different uses. Interpretations for all of the soils are field tested through observation of the soils in different uses and under different levels of management. Some interpretations are modified to fit local conditions, and some new interpretations are developed to meet local needs. Data are assembled from other sources, such as research information, production records, and field experience of specialists. For example, data on crop yields under defined levels of management are assembled from farm records and from field or plot experiments on the same kinds of soil.

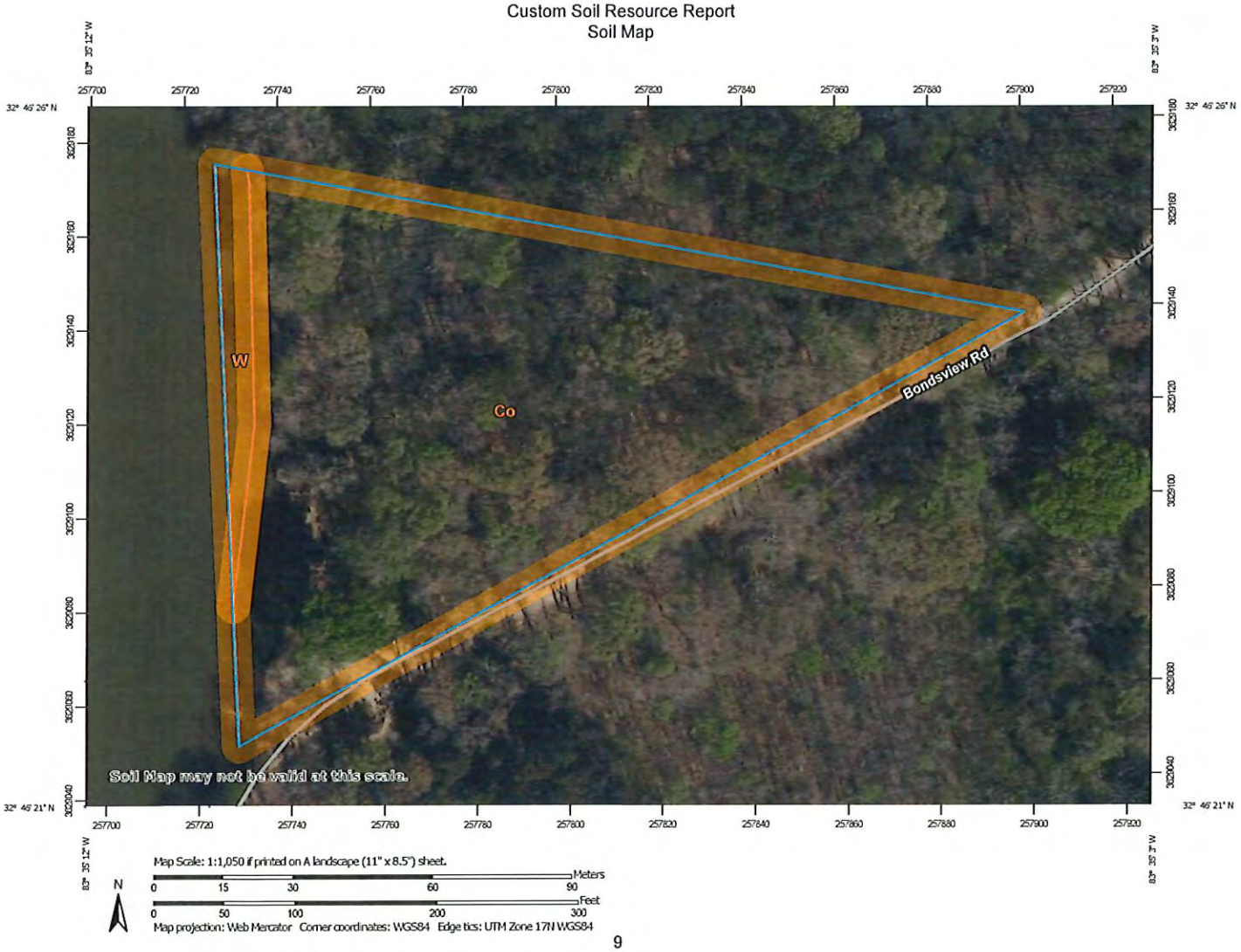
Predictions about soil behavior are based not only on soil properties but also on such variables as climate and biological activity. Soil conditions are predictable over long periods of time, but they are not predictable from year to year. For example, soil scientists can predict with a fairly high degree of accuracy that a given soil will have a high water table within certain depths in most years, but they cannot predict that a high water table will always be at a specific level in the soil on a specific date.

After soil scientists located and identified the significant natural bodies of soil in the survey area, they drew the boundaries of these bodies on aerial photographs and

identified each as a specific map unit. Aerial photographs show trees, buildings, fields, roads, and rivers, all of which help in locating boundaries accurately.

Soil Map

The soil map section includes the soil map for the defined area of interest, a list of soil map units on the map and extent of each map unit, and cartographic symbols displayed on the map. Also presented are various metadata about data used to produce the map, and a description of each soil map unit.



Map Scale: 1:1,050 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.

N

Meters: 0 15 30 60 90

Feet: 0 50 100 200 300

Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 17N WGS84

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features
- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other
- Special Line Features

Water Features
- Streams and Canals

Transportation
- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background
- Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:20,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Bibb County, Georgia
Survey Area Data: Version 20, Aug 30, 2023

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Feb 14, 2023—Mar 15, 2023

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Co	Congaree silt loam	2.5	95.4%
W	Water	0.1	4.6%
Totals for Area of Interest		**2.7**	**100.0%**

Map Unit Descriptions

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, however,

onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

Bibb County, Georgia

Co—Congaree silt loam

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: 455j
Elevation: 100 to 500 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 44 to 60 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 59 to 64 degrees F
Frost-free period: 190 to 230 days
Farmland classification: All areas are prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Congaree and similar soils: 100 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Congaree

Setting

Landform: Flood plains
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 18 inches: silt loam
H2 - 18 to 25 inches: silt loam
H3 - 25 to 65 inches: loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 2 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Well drained
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high to high (0.57 to 1.98 in/hr)
Depth to water table: About 30 to 48 inches
Frequency of flooding: Frequent
Frequency of ponding: None
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: High (about 9.6 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3w
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: F133AY003NC - Atlantic Coastal Plain Small Brownwater River Floodplain - PROVISIONAL, F136XY620GA - Flood plain forest, moist
Hydric soil rating: No

W—Water

Map Unit Composition

Water: 100 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Soil Information for All Uses

Soil Reports

The Soil Reports section includes various formatted tabular and narrative reports (tables) containing data for each selected soil map unit and each component of each unit. No aggregation of data has occurred as is done in reports in the Soil Properties and Qualities and Suitabilities and Limitations sections.

The reports contain soil interpretive information as well as basic soil properties and qualities. A description of each report (table) is included.

AOI Inventory

This folder contains a collection of tabular reports that present a variety of soil information. Included are various map unit description reports, special soil interpretation reports, and data summary reports.

Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated) (1900 Bondsview Rd Soil Report)

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions in this report, along with the maps, provide information on the composition of map units and properties of their components.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

The Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated) report displays a generated description of the major soils that occur in a map unit. Descriptions of non-soil (miscellaneous

areas) and minor map unit components are not included. This description is generated from the underlying soil attribute data.

Additional information about the map units described in this report is available in other Soil Data Mart reports, which give properties of the soils and the limitations, capabilities, and potentials for many uses. Also, the narratives that accompany the Soil Data Mart reports define some of the properties included in the map unit descriptions.

Report—Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated) (1900 Bondsview Rd Soil Report)

Bibb County, Georgia

Map Unit: Co—Congaree silt loam

Component: Congaree (100%)

The Congaree component makes up 100 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flood plains, coastal plains, piedmonts. The parent material consists of alluvium. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is high. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is frequently flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 39 inches during January, February, March, April, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 percent. This component is in the F136XY620GA Atlantic Coastal Plain Small Brownwater River Floodplain - PROVISIONAL, Flood plain forest, moist ecological site. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Map Unit: W—Water

Component: Water (100%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Water is a miscellaneous area.

References

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Appendix E

Georgia EPD Stream Buffer Variance Approval

Macon Water Authority

May 17, 2023

Mr. Jeffery Bishop
Boating Access Coordinator, Fisheries
Wildlife Resources Division, GA DNR
2067 U.S. Hwy 278, SE
Social Circle, GA 30025

Re: **Buffer Variance Applications for Construction of Bonds Swamp NWR- Ocmulgee River Boat Ramp**
Property Address: 1900 Bondsview Road Macon, GA 31217

790 Second Street
P.O.Box 108
Macon, GA 31202
(478) 464-5600
Fax: (478) 750-2007
MaconWater.org

Pursuant to Georgia Code O.C.G.A 12-7-6(b)(15) and Rule 391-3-7-.05 Buffer Variance Procedures and Criteria, the Macon Water Authority as the Local Issuing Authority of Macon-Bibb County has visited the referenced property address and associated project area and has determined the presence of state waters known as the Ocmulgee River with an established 25-foot buffer. It is our opinion that a variance by the director of the Environmental Protection Division would be required should non-exempt buffer impact activities occur as a result of the project. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sarah Martin

Sarah Martin

Macon Water Authority
A Culture of Commitment

Sarah Martin
Plan Review

Email: shayes@maconwater.org
Tel: (478) 464-5697
Fax: (478)738-3864

537 Hemlock St. Macon, GA 31201
MaconWater.org

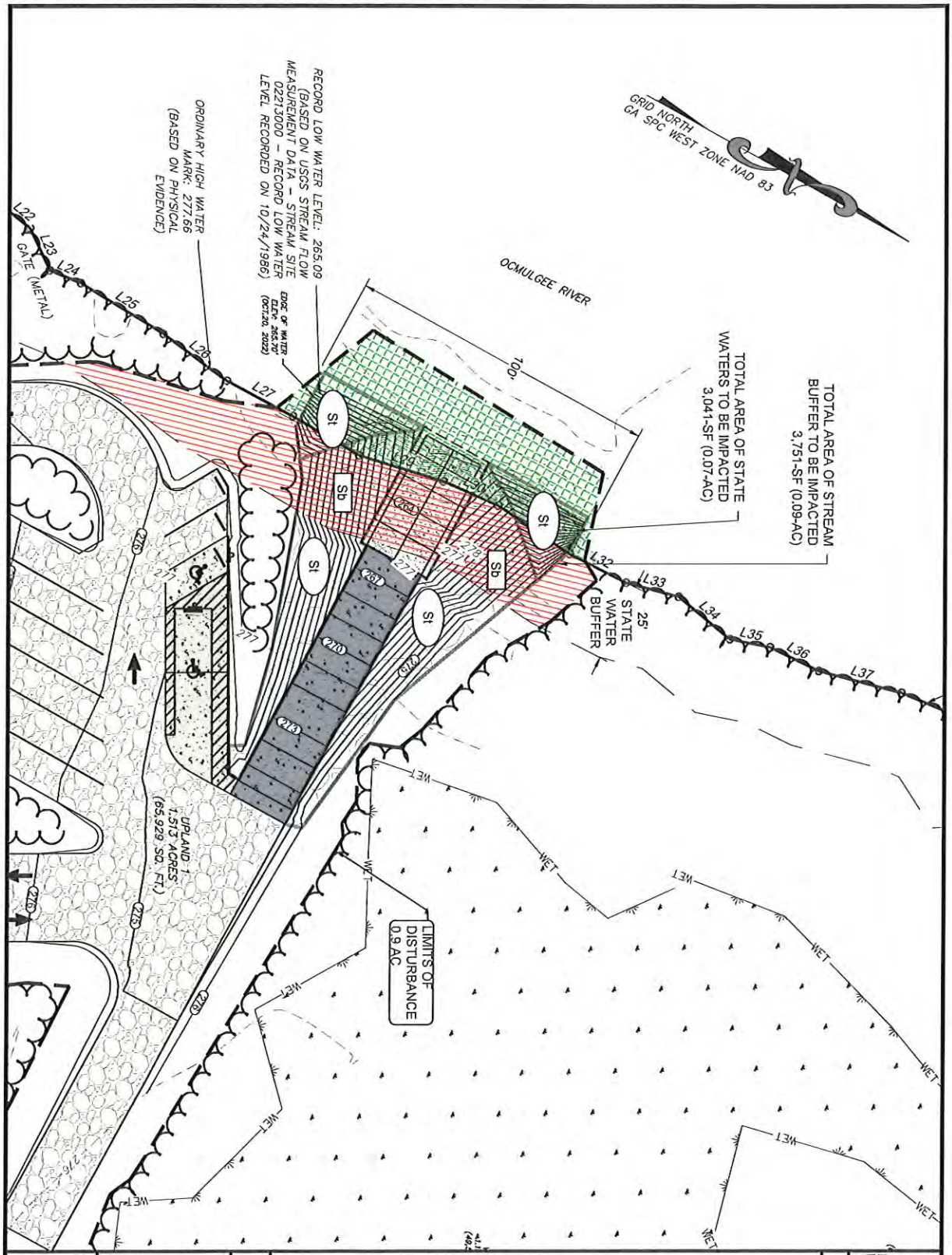
New Boating Access Project
Lee County – Kinchafoonee Creek
Stream Buffer Variance Application
Project Narrative

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division Fisheries Section proposes to construct a new boating access project (boat ramp with parking area) on land owned by the Lee County Board of Commissioners. This property is located at 231 State Route 3 at coordinates – (31.726493, -84.187029); Leesburg Georgia. Subject area is mostly undeveloped and exists for public wildlife recreation and river access. The subject property is bordered to the south by the Kinchafoonee Creek. Wetland areas border the site to the east and west. Project site is of variable rolling, terraced terrain suggesting agricultural use in the past. Vegetation on the site consists of multi-storied riparian species typically found in the Mid Coastal plain of Georgia. **Soil types found on site are delineated on the ES&PC Plan (sheet 8) include Congaree Silt Loam "Co".** State waters within the project vicinity include the Kinchafoonee Creek. Agreements in the form of a 25 year Integrated Property Lease are in place between the Department of Natural Resources and the Lee County Board of Commissioners for access and maintenance. **Engineer for project has informed our Section that this project site does not discharge into nor is located within 1 linear mile of an impaired stream segment. Consequently, checklist items which address TMDL and related plans are marked as N/A. It is our opinion that construction of this boating access facility according to the approved ES&PC plan will not contribute harmful loadings of any pollutant to the Ocmulgee River nor will its designated use of "fishing" be impaired.**

Macon Bibb County is a certified local issuing authority (LIA) and has advised our Section of the presence of buffered state waters (namely the Ocmulgee River) within the vicinity of the project site and accordingly that a stream buffer variance from Ga EPD is required (please see attached letter from LIA). At present the project site is undeveloped. Upon clearing/grubbing of the proposed disturbed area (depicted within limits of disturbance - 0.9 acres) grading will occur consisting of creation of a parking area, path of travel and maneuver area with cuts along the riverbank in preparation for the installation of a concrete boat ramp. Disturbance within the stream buffer is necessary for a project of this type which involves the excavation of the riverbank for the ramp, adjacent side slopes and those fronting the river. The amount of land disturbed **(0.90 acres total project – 0.09 acres within stream buffer or 3751 SF and extending 100 LF)** will not exceed that which is necessary for project completion. Heavy, earth-moving equipment will be utilized during the construction process. Impervious surfaces impacting the stream buffer will be a portion of the new ramp structure measuring **(25' x 24.4'- 609 SF).** Hard armoring of the stream bank and cut slopes within the buffer will flank both sides of the structure **(25'x61' both sides of ramp for total of 1526 SF).** According to Georgia's Erosion and Sedimentation Control Rule 391-3-7-.01, the proposed activity represents a "Major Buffer Impact" and requires mitigation. It is expected that no significant stream buffer function loss as described in Georgia's Erosion and Sedimentation Control Regulations Subsection 391-3-7-.05(7)(c) will occur. To mitigate for these impacts, our Division proposes to live stake (black willow "Silax Nigra") the rip rap flanking either side of the new ramp, for a total length within the buffer of approximately 40 LF. The ES&PC plan describes this in a detail on Sheet 13. The documents, Stream Buffer Mitigation Guidance and Streambank and Shoreline Stabilization Guidance will be utilized during this process. Other disturbed areas will be stabilized with temporary and permanent grasses throughout the life of the project, being completely stabilized at the end with perennial species per the ES&PC plan. The path of travel and general parking will consist of compacted soils covered with crushed stone. Concrete ADA (handicap) parking spaces will be provided at the top of the boat ramp. It is anticipated that project duration will be approximately 6-8 weeks and will occur during the normal late summer, early fall drop in river levels of the scheduled project season.

Enclosed with this correspondence is an application for a stream buffer variance citing criteria (2) (a) under O.C.G.A. 391-3-7.05 "Buffer Variance Procedures and Criteria". Additional materials as required are also included.

G:\21\21-2047 BONDS SWAMP NWR OCMULGEE BOAT RAMP\DWG\21-2047C_B01.DWG 7/6/2023 3:23 PM



BUFFER IMPACT

BONDS SWAMP NWR - OCMULGEE RIVER BOAT RAMP

1900 BONDSVIEW ROAD

BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

Prepared for:

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EMC ENGINEERING SERVICES, INC.
PO Box 2086
1211 Merchant Way, Suite 201
Statesboro, GA 30458
Ph: (912) 764-0200
Fax: (912) 764-4222
statesboro@emc-eng.com
www.emc-eng.com
CIVIL MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL
ALBANY • ATLANTA • AUGUSTA • BRUNSWICK
CLARKSVILLE • COLUMBUS • SAVANNAH • STATESBORO
THOMASTON • VALDOSTA • WARNER ROBINS

PROJECT NO.:	21-2047
DRAWN BY:	MLM
DESIGNED BY:	JRH
SURVEYED BY:	JDB
SURVEY DATE:	06/17/21
CHECKED BY:	JRH
SCALE:	1" = 30'
DATE:	07/06/2023

GRAPHIC SCALE: 1" = 30'
30' 15' 0' 30'

SHEET 01 OF 01

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

David B. Dove, Interim Director

Watershed Protection Branch
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1470A, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-463-1511

July 12, 2023

Mr. Jeff E. Bishop
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2067 U.S. HWY 278 SE
Social Circle, GA 30025

RE: Request for Variance under the Provisions of O.C.G.A. § 12-7-6(b)(15)
Bonds Swamp NWR Boat Ramp
Macon, Bibb County
File: BV-011-23-01

Dear Mr. Bishop:

Attached is a copy of the Environmental Protection Division's public notice for the subject project. The purpose of this public advisory is to provide interested parties with the opportunity to submit comments about the proposed stream buffer variance. The public shall have 30 days from the date of publication of the public notice to comment on the proposed buffer variance.

In accordance with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Rules for Erosion and Sedimentation Control effective April 20, 2016, the applicant is no longer required to publish a public notice in the legal organ of the county/counties where the buffer disturbance will occur.

If additional information is required, please do not hesitate to contact me at (470) 604-9419.

Sincerely,

Brian Kent, CPESC
Environmental Engineer
Erosion and Sedimentation Control Unit

BK:te
Attachment

cc: Lester Miller, Mayor of Macon-Bibb County
Dr. Keith Moffett, County Manager
Sarah Martin, Macon Water Authority
Steve Schleiger, Wildlife Resources Division, Region 3 Fisheries Management
Robert Amos, Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Tilden Bembry, West Central District

File: BV-011-23-01

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

EPD Director's Office
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1456, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-656-4713

Aug 21, 2023

Mr. Jeff E. Bishop
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2067 U.S. HWY 278 SE
Social Circle, GA 30025

RE: Request for Variance under the Provisions of O.C.G.A. § 12-7-6(b)(15)
Bonds Swamp NWR Boat Ramp
Macon, Bibb County
BV-011-23-01

Dear Mr. Bishop:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has reviewed your stream buffer variance application for the above-referenced project. The review was conducted to consider the potential impacts of the proposed project's encroachment on buffers to State waters within the context of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act and the potential impact to State waters within the context of Georgia's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permits for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. This review, and the variance granted herein, is limited to only the request(s) in the application that you submitted for permission to conduct land-disturbing activities within 25-foot areas located immediately adjacent to the banks of State waters where vegetation has been wrested by normal stream flow or wave action. To the extent that your buffer variance application includes a request to conduct land-disturbing activities within 25 feet of State waters where there is no vegetation that has been wrested by normal stream flow or wave action, such request has not been considered by EPD, and the related activity is not addressed in the variance granted herein.

Pursuant to Ga. Comp. R. and Regs. 391-3-7-.05(2)(a) and subject to the conditions and contingencies described further below, authorization is hereby granted to encroach within the 25-foot buffer adjacent to State waters as delineated in your application dated June 10, 2023. ***Buffer impacts authorized by this variance must be completed within five years of the date of this approval letter. If the approved buffer impacts cannot be completed prior to the expiration date, a time extension must be requested in writing at least 90 calendar days prior to the expiration date with justifiable cause demonstrated.***

Authorization for the above referenced project is subject to the following conditions and contingencies:

1) All graded slopes 3:1 or greater must be hydroseeded and covered with Georgia DOT approved wood fiber matting or coconut fiber matting. If not hydroseeded, Georgia DOT approved matting that has been incorporated with seed and fertilizer must be used. All slopes must be properly protected until a permanent vegetative stand is established;

2) The amount of land cleared during construction must be kept to a minimum;

3) All disturbed areas must be seeded, fertilized, and mulched as soon as the final grade is achieved. Also, these disturbed areas must be protected until permanent vegetation is established;

4) A double row of Georgia DOT type "C" silt fence or an approved high performance silt fence must be installed between the land disturbing activities and State waters where appropriate;

5) Buffer variance conditions must be incorporated into any Land Disturbing Activity Permit issued by the Macon Water Authority for this project; and

6) This project must be conducted in strict adherence to the approved erosion and sedimentation control plan and any Land Disturbing Activity Permit issued by the Macon Water Authority.

The granting of this approval does not relieve you of any obligation or responsibility for complying with the provisions of any other law or regulations of any federal, local, or additional State authority, nor does it obligate any of the aforementioned to permit this project if they do not concur with its concept of development/control. As a delegated "Issuing Authority," the Macon Water Authority is expected to ensure that the stream buffer variance requirements are met for this project and is empowered to be more restrictive in this regard.

If you have questions concerning this letter, please contact Brian Kent, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Unit, Nonpoint Source Program, at (470) 604-9419.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Cown

Jeffrey W. Cown
Director

JWC:bk

cc: Lester Miller, Mayor of Macon-Bibb County
Dr. Keith Moffett, County Manager
Sarah Martin, Macon Water Authority
Steve Schleiger, Wildlife Resources Division, Region 3 Fisheries Management
Robert Amos, Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Tilden Bembry, West Central District

File: BV-011-23-01

Appendix F

United States Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Approval with Supplementals

New Boating Access Project
Macon-Bibb County – Bonds Swamp NWR
Pre Construction Notification Application
Project Narrative

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division Fisheries Section proposes to construct a new boating access project (boat ramp with parking area) on land owned by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This property is located at 1900 Bondsview Rd. at coordinates: (32.773020, -83.586084); Macon Georgia. Subject area is mostly undeveloped and exists for public wildlife recreation and river access. The subject property is bordered to the west by the Ocmulgee River and to the south by Bondsview Rd. Wetland areas border the site to the north. Project site is mostly flat and frequently flooded. Vegetation on the site consists of multi-storied riparian species typically found in the lower Piedmont of Georgia. **Soil types found on site are delineated on the ES&PC Plan (sheet 8) include Congaree Silt Loam "Co".** State waters within the project vicinity include the Ocmulgee River. Agreements in the form of a 25 year Integrated Property Lease are in place between the Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for access and maintenance. **Engineer for project has informed our Section that this project site does not discharge into nor is located within 1 linear mile of an impaired stream segment. Consequently, checklist items which address TMDL and related plans are marked as N/A. It is our opinion that construction of this boating access facility according to the approved ES&PC plan will not contribute harmful loadings of any pollutant to the Ocmulgee River nor will its designated use of "fishing" be impaired.**

Macon Bibb County is a certified local issuing authority (LIA) and has advised our Section of the presence of buffered state waters (namely the Ocmulgee River) within the vicinity of the project site and accordingly that a stream buffer variance from Ga EPD is required (please see attached letter from LIA). At present the project site is undeveloped. Upon clearing/grubbing of the proposed disturbed area (depicted within limits of disturbance - 0.9 acres) grading will occur consisting of creation of a parking area, path of travel and maneuver area with cuts along the riverbank in preparation for the installation of a concrete boat ramp. Disturbance within the stream buffer is necessary for a project of this type which involves the excavation of the riverbank for the ramp, adjacent side slopes and those fronting the river. The amount of land disturbed **(0.90 acres total project disturbed – 0.09 acres within stream buffer or 3751 SF and extending 100 LF)** will not exceed that which is necessary for project completion. Heavy, earth-moving equipment will be utilized during the construction process. Impervious surfaces impacting the Ocmulgee River below OHWM will be a portion of the push slab (**approximately 200 SF.**) and hard armoring/rip rap of the stream bank and cut slopes flanking both sides of the structure **(12.5'x60' both sides of ramp for total of 750 SF)**. Assuming average depth of 1' for all material placed below the OHWM, this would amount to a volume of approximately 35.2 cu.yds which is within the limits of both NWP 13 and NWP 36.

Block 22
Quantity of Wetlands, Streams, or Other Types of Waters Directly Affected by the Proposed Nationwide Permit Activity

Project Area And Impact Information

	PROJECT AREA		IMPACTS TO U.S. WATERS	
	ACRES	LINEAR FEET	ACRES	LINEAR FEET
Total Project Area	1.513	N/A	0.07	110.0
Upland	1.513	N/A	0.0	0.0
Wetland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Open Water	0.7	110.0	0.07	110.0
Perennial Stream	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Intermittent Stream	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ephemeral Stream	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Man Made Ditches	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

NATIONWIDE PERMIT PRE-CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION (PCN)

For use of this form, see 33 CFR 330; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R.

Form Approved -
OMB No. 0710-0003
Expires: 08-31-2023

DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

Authority	Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Regulatory Program of the Corps of Engineers (Corps); Final Rule 33 CFR 320-332.
Principal Purpose	Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the nationwide permit pre-construction notification.
Routine Uses	This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the public and may be made available as part of the agency coordination process.
Disclosure	Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can a permit be issued.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information, 0710-0003, is estimated to average 11 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE EMAIL.

One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (*see sample drawings and/or instructions*) and be submitted to the district engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned.

(ITEMS 1 THRU 4 TO BE FILLED BY THE CORPS)

1. APPLICATION NO.	2. FIELD OFFICE CODE	3. DATE RECEIVED	4. DATE APPLICATION COMPLETE

(ITEMS BELOW TO BE FILLED BY APPLICANT)

5. APPLICANT'S NAME	8. AUTHORIZED AGENT'S NAME AND TITLE (*agent is not required*)
First - Jeffery Middle - Euger Last - Bishop Company - Georgia Department of Natural Resou Company Title - Wildlife Resources Division - Fisher E-mail Address - jeffery.bishop@dnr.ga.gov	First - Jeffery Middle - Euger Last - Bishop Company - Georgia Department of Natural Resou E-mail Address - Wildlife Resources Division - Fisher
6. APPLICANT'S ADDRESS	**9. AGENT'S ADDRESS**
Address- 2065 U.S. Hwy 278 SE City - Social Circle State - Ga. Zip - 3002 Country - USA	Address- 2065 U.S. Hwy 278 SE City - Social Circle State - Ga. Zip - 3002 Country - USA
7. APPLICANT'S PHONE NOs. with AREA CODE	**10. AGENT'S PHONE NOs. with AREA CODE**
a. Residence b. Business c. Fax d. Mobile Business: 706/557-3235 Mobile: 404/323-7020	a. Residence b. Business c. Fax d. Mobile

STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION

11. I hereby authorize, _____ to act in my behalf as my agent in the processing of this nationwide permit pre-construction notification and to furnish, upon request, supplemental information in support of this nationwide permit pre-construction notification.

Jeffery E. Bishop Digitally signed by Jeffery E. Bishop Date: 2024.02.26 10:19:27 -05'00'

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____ DATE

NAME, LOCATION, AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY

12. PROJECT NAME or TITLE (*see instructions*)

Bonds Swamp NWR New Boat Ramp

NAME, LOCATION, AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY

13. NAME OF WATERBODY, IF KNOWN (*if applicable*)

Ocmulgee

14. PROPOSED ACTIVITY STREET ADDRESS (*if applicable*)

1900 Bondsview Rd.

15. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY (*see instructions*)

Latitude	°N	Longitude	°W
32.773020		-83.586084	

City: Bibb County State: Ga. Zip:

16. OTHER LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS, IF KNOWN (*see instructions*)

State Tax Parcel ID

TU10-0002

Municipality

Macon-Bibb County

Section Township Range

17. DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE

Exiting I-16 at US 23/ SR 129 (Exit 6 from Macon), travelling East for about 2 miles and then right onto Bondsview Road. Travel about 1 mile on dirt road and the site is on the right where the road meets the river.

18. IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC NATIONWIDE PERMIT(S) YOU PROPOSE TO USE

13, 36

19. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NATIONWIDE PERMIT ACTIVITY (*see instructions*)

Project consists of constructing a 20' wide concrete boat ramp extending into the river with ADA compliant parking and other spaces for cars, and truck/trailers. Entrance to the site will be on the east side of property and exit on west - see attached plan, sheet 04. Heavy equipment will be used to excavate the riverbank for the boat ramp and to bring the parking area/path of travel to desired grade. the boat ramp and ADA parking space(s) will be constructed of high strength concrete; area for general parking will consist of crushed stone. Total land disturbed for the project is 0.90 acres. Standard erosion control methods (i.e. silt fence, turbidity curtain, erosion control matting and stone) will be employed for the purpose of preventing sediment from moving beyond the disturbed area and into Waters of the U.S., namely Ocmulgee River. All impacted/disturbed areas will be stabilized as appropriate intervals through approved means as state and local permitting requirements are followed. silt fence at land water interface will be maintained/reinstalled daily. On completion, the facility will be used as a public boating access location offering anglers and other water recreationists access to the middle Ocmulgee River for fishing and other related activities. The facility will be maintained through a partnership between Ga. Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Macon-Bibb County will provide access to the site by maintaining BondsView Rd.

Impacts to Waters of the U.S. are expected to be minimal but will consist of mechanical excavation of the streambank followed by sloping banks fronting the river on both sides of ramp for total of approximately 110'LF. These impacts cannot be avoided. Fill quantities for each NWP are provided below and depicted on plan view Fig.2 which is included in this application packet.
NWP 36 for Boat Ramps: < 50 cu.yds.
NWP 13 for bank Stabilization: Less than 500 LF and no more than and average of 1 cu.yd. per running foot as measured along the length of stream bank.

20. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES (*see instructions*)

"Cut and Fill" type impacts are unavoidable when constructing a boat ramp; impacts will be limited to 110' linear feet. The proposed site was selected due to stream channel stability and desirable bank height allowing for minimal cut and fill operations in Waters of the U.S. while also enabling proper ramp slope of 15% to be achieved. Clearing and grading will be limited to only those areas required to construct the project; while impervious parking is designed to drain away from aquatic resources. Other parking and all areas besides the boat ramp and ADA spaces will be constructed of compacted earth and crushed stone which will be pervious surface on completion. The project will be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with the requirements detailed in the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975. As such, Black Willow "Silax Nigra" will be planted in portions of the stream bank below the Qrdinary High Water Mark as a mitigation measure for the permanent "hard" impacts to this stream bank.

21. PURPOSE OF NATIONWIDE PERMIT ACTIVITY (*Describe the reason or purpose of the project, see instructions*)

Purpose is to construct a new public boating access facility complete with concrete ramp, ADA parking spaces and crushed stone lot for trailered parking. Facility will be designed primarily for river fishing access by anglers using motor boats and secondarily for paddlecraft access. Project type of the one proposed generally begins late summer (August) and will end no later than late fall (End of November), depending on weather and program priorities during an average project season. It is expected that this project will occur calendar year 2025.

22. QUANTITY OF WETLANDS, STREAMS, OR OTHER TYPES OF WATERS DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY PROPOSED NATIONWIDE PERMIT ACTIVITY (*see instructions*)

Acres	Linear Feet	Cubic Yards Dredged or Discharged
0.07	110.0'	50

Each PCN must include a delineation of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters, such as lakes and ponds, and perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, on the project site.

23. List any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity. (*see instructions*)

NWP 36 - Installation of boat launches or ramps; Proposed ramp project does not exceed 50 cu.yds discharge of dredged or fill material consisting of concrete, rock, crushed stone or gravel etc., nor will it exceed 20' in width.

NWP 13 - The proposed activity involving bank stabilization will not exceed 500' L.F. nor will it exceed an average of one cu.yd. per running foot as measured along the length of the treated bank, below the plane of the Ordinary High Water Mark.

See Fill Quantities Chart attached seperately within this packet.

24. If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands and requires pre-construction notification, explain how the compensatory mitigation requirement in paragraph (c) of general condition 23 will be satisfied, or explain why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required for the proposed activity.

It is not anticipated that greater than 1/10 acre of wetlands will be lost because of this project which does require pre-construction notification. Generally, adverse environmental impacts because of this project to surrounding areas are expected to be very minimal which is an additional reason why mitigation should not be required.

25. Is any portion of the nationwide permit activity already complete? [ ] Yes [X] No If Yes, describe the completed work:

26. List the name(s) of any species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act that might be affected by the proposed NWP activity or utilize the designated critical habitat that might be affected by the proposed NWP activity. (*see instructions*)

Tricolored Bat, Whooping Crane, Monarch Butterfly, Fringed Campion, Ocmulgee Skullcap, Relict Trillium, Bald Eagle, Atlantic Sturgeon, Altamaha Shiner

27. List any historic properties that have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property or properties. (*see instructions*)

A vicinity map is included on the cover sheet of the construction drawings and an APE (Area of Potential Effect) map is also included in the packet.

28. For a proposed NWP activity that will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, identify the Wild and Scenic River or the "study river":

The section of the Ocmulgee River delineated for impact by this project is not officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion or is it listed under the category of Wild and Scenic River.

N/A

29. If the proposed NWP activity also requires permission from the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project, have you submitted a written request for section 408 permission from the Corps district having jurisdiction over that project? [ ] Yes [X] No

If "yes", please provide the date your request was submitted to the Corps district:

30. If the terms of the NWP(s) you want to use require additional information to be included in the PCN, please include that information in this space or provide it on an additional sheet of paper marked Block 30. (*see instructions*)

31. Pre-construction notification is hereby made for one or more nationwide permit(s) to authorize the work described in this notification. I certify that the information in this pre-construction notification is complete and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein or am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.

Jeffery E. Bishop Digitally signed by Jeffery E. Bishop Date: 2024.02.26 10:17:29 -05'00'

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT	DATE	SIGNATURE OF AGENT	DATE

The pre-construction notification must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity (applicant) and, if the statement in Block 11 has been filled out and signed, the authorized agent.

18 U.S.C. Section 1001 provides that: Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick, scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
4751 BEST ROAD, SUITE 140
COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA 30337

August 23, 2024

Regulatory Division
SAS-2024-00377

Mr. Jeffery Bishop
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2065 U.S. Hwy 278 Southeast
Social Circle, Georgia 30025

Dear Mr. Bishop:

I refer to the Pre-Construction Notification, received on April 26, 2024, and supplemental information received on June 25, 2024 and July 1, 2024, requesting verification for use of Nationwide Permits 13 and 36 for proposed permanent impacts to 100 linear feet (0.035-acre) of perennial stream in conjunction with the construction of a public boat ramp and bank stabilization on the Ocmulgee River. The approximately 1-acre property is located north of Bondsview Road, west of Ocmulgee East Boulevard, and along the Ocmulgee River in Macon, Bibb County, Georgia (approximately centered at latitude: 32.77302, longitude: -83.586084). This project has been assigned number SAS-2024-00377, and it is important to reference this number in all communication concerning this matter.

The proposed project will involve the construction of one 20-foot wide public boat ramp, a parking lot, roadway, public facilities, and the stabilization of the left back of the Ocmulgee River. We understand that the project will utilize Nationwide Permit 36 for the construction of the public boat ramp. The construction of the boatramp would involve ths discharge of fill into 25 linear feet (0.0069-acre) of perennial stream. We also understand that the project will utilize Nationwide permit 13 for bank stabilization of the Ocmulgee River which will include impacts to 75 linear feet (0.028-acre) of perennial stream. The details of the proposed project are depicted on the enclosed exhibit entitled "Bonds Swamp NWR – Ocmulgee River Boat Ramp" dated July 6, 2023, as prepared by EMC Engineering Services, Inc..

We have completed a preliminary JD for the site. The aquatic resources within the review area may be waters of the United States within the jurisdiction of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 United States Code § 1344) and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403). The placement of dredged or fill material into any waterways and/or their adjacent wetlands or mechanized land clearing of those aquatic resources may require prior Department of the Army authorization pursuant to Section 404.

The attached exhibit entitled "Bonds Swamp NWR Area of Potential Effect – Ocmulgee River, Bibb County, GA", received on April 26, 2024, as prepared by Geoorgia Department of Natural Resources, identifies the delineation limits of all aquatic resources within the project area. The aquatic resources were delineated in accordance with criteria contained in the 1987 "Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual," as amended by the most recent regional supplements to the manual. Please note, should this delineation require reverification, it is subject to change based on site conditions at the time of reevaluation.

The delineation included herein has been conducted to identify the location and extent of the aquatic resource boundaries and/or the jurisdictional status of aquatic resources for purposes of the Clean Water Act for the particular site identified in this request. This delineation and/or jurisdictional determination may not be valid for the Wetland Conservation Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. If you or your tenant are U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should discuss the applicability of a certified wetland determination with the local USDA service center, prior to starting work.

Preliminary JDs are advisory in nature and may not be appealed (see 33 Code of Federal Regulations 331.2). If you are not in agreement with this preliminary JD, then you may request an approved JD for your project site or review area.

If you intend to sell property that is part of a project that requires Department of the Army Authorization, it may be subject to the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act. The Property Report required by Housing and Urban Development Regulation must state whether, or not a permit for the development has been applied for, issued or denied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Part 320.3(h) of Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations).

This communication does not convey any property rights, either in real estate or material, or any exclusive privileges. It does not authorize any injury to property, invasion of rights, or any infringement of federal, state or local laws, or regulations. It does not obviate your requirement to obtain state or local assent required by law for the development of this property. If the information you have submitted, and on which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has based its determination is later found to be in error, this decision may be revoked.

We have completed coordination with other federal and state agencies as described in Part C (32)(d) of our NWP Program, published in the January 13, 2021, Federal Register, Vol. 86, No. 8, Pages 2744-2877 (86 FR) and/or the December 27, 2021, Federal Register, Vol. 86, No. 245, Pages 73522-73583 (86 FR). The NWPs and

Savannah District's Regional Conditions for NWPs can be found on our website at http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/GeneralPermits/NationwidePermits.aspx. During our coordination procedure, no adverse comments regarding the proposed work were received.

As a result of our evaluation of your project, we have determined that the proposed activity is authorized as described in Part B of the NWP Program. Your use of this NWP is valid only if:

a. The activity is conducted in accordance with the information submitted and meets the conditions applicable to the NWP, as described at Part C of the NWP Program and the Savannah District's Regional Conditions for NWPs.

b. You shall notify the Corps, in writing, at least 10 days in advance of commencement of work authorized by this permit.

c. You fill out and sign the enclosed certification and return it to our office within 30 days of completion of the activity authorized by this permit.

This proposal was reviewed in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Based on the information we have available, we have determined that the project will have no effect on any listed species or any critical habitat for listed species. Authorization of an activity by a NWP does not authorize the "take" of threatened or endangered species. In the absence of separate authorization, both lethal and non-lethal "takes" of protected species are in violation of the Endangered Species Act. See Part I of 86 FR for more information.

This verification is valid until the NWP is modified, reissued, or revoked. All of the existing NWPs are scheduled to expire on March 14, 2026. It is incumbent upon you to remain informed of changes to the NWPs. Furthermore, if you commence or are under contract to commence this activity before the date that the relevant NWP is modified or revoked, you will have 12 months from the date of the modification or revocation of the NWP to complete the activity under the present terms and conditions of this NWP.

This authorization should not be construed to mean that any future projects requiring Department of the Army authorization would necessarily be authorized. Any new proposal, whether associated with this project or not, would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Any prior approvals would not be a determining factor in deciding on any future request.

Revisions to your proposal may invalidate this authorization. In the event changes to this project are contemplated, I recommend that you coordinate with us prior to proceeding with the work.

This communication does not relieve you of any obligation or responsibility for complying with the provisions of any other laws or regulations of other federal, state, or local authorities. It does not affect your liability for any damages or claims that may arise as a result of the work. It does not convey any property rights, either in real estate or material, or any exclusive privileges. It also does not affect your liability for any interference with existing or proposed federal projects. If the information you have submitted and on which the Corps bases its determination/decision of authorization under the NWP is later found to be in error, this determination may be subject to modification, suspension, or revocation.

An electronic copy of this letter is being provided to you via email at Jeffery.Bishop@dnr.ga.gov.

Thank you in advance for completing our on-line Customer Survey Form located at https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/. We value your comments and appreciate you taking the time to complete a survey each time you interact with our office

If you have any questions, please contact me at (678) 422-2727 or Nathan.C.Driggers@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Nathan C. Driggers

Digitally signed by Nathan C. Driggers
Date: 2024.08.26 09:03:57 -04'00'

Nathan C Driggers
Regulatory Specialist, Piedmont Branch

Regulatory Division

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NATIONWIDE PERMITS (13 & 36)

PERMIT FILE NUMBER: SAS-2024-00377

PERMITTEE/ADDRESS: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, ATTN: Jeffery Bishop, 2065 U.S. Hwy 278 SE, Social Circle, Georgia, 30025.

LOCATION OF WORK: The approximately 1-acre property is located north of Bondsview Road, west of Ocmulgee East Boulevard, and along the Ocmulgee River in Macon, Bibb County, Georgia (approximately centered at latitude: 32.77302, longitude: -83.586084).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project will involve the construction of a 20' wide boat ramp and bank stabilization along 75 linear feet of the Ocmulgee River.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES IMPACTED: Permanent impacts to 100 linear feet (0.035-acre) of perennial stream (Ocmulgee River).

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION REQUIRED: N/A

DATE MITIGATION COMPLETED OR PURCHASED (include name of source):

_____

DATE WORK IN WATERS OF UNITED STATES COMPLETED: _____

I understand that the permitted activity is subject to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Compliance Inspection. If I fail to comply with the permit conditions at Part C of the Nationwide Permit Program, published in the January 13, 2021, Federal Register, Vol. 86, No. 8, Pages 2744-2877 (86 FR)) and/or the December 27, 2021, Federal Register, Vol. 86, No. 245, Pages 73522-73583 (86 FR), it may be subject to suspension, modification, or revocation.

I hereby certify that the work authorized by the above referenced permit as well as any required mitigation (if applicable) has been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the said permit.

_____ _____

Signature of Permittee Date

PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (PJD) FORM
(RGL 16-01 Appendix 2)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR PJD: 7/9/2024

B. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON REQUESTING PJD: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, ATTN: Jeffery Bishop, 2065 U.S. Hwy 278 SE, Social Circle, Georgia, 30025.

C. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: SAS-2024-00377

D. PROJECT LOCATION(S) AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION: (USE THE TABLE BELOW TO DOCUMENT MULTIPLE AQUATIC RESOURCES AND/OR AQUATIC RESOURCES AT DIFFERENT SITES)

State: Georgia County/parish/borough: Macon-Bibb City: Macon
Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format):
Lat. 32.7730° Long. -83.5861°
Universal Transverse Mercator: 17
Name of nearest waterbody: Ocmulgee River

E. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

☒ Office (Desk) Determination. Date: July 2, 2024 – CESAS – RDP
☒ Field Determination. Date(s): January 31, 2023 – Applicant

TABLE OF AQUATIC RESOURCES IN REVIEW AREA WHICH "MAY BE" SUBJECT TO REGULATORY JURISDICTION.

Site number	Latitude (decimal degrees)	Longitude (decimal degrees)	Estimated amount of aquatic resource in review area (acreage and linear feet, if applicable)	Type of aquatic resource (i.e. wetland vs. non-wetland waters)	Geographic authority to which the aquatic resource "may be" subject (i.e. Section 404 or Section 10/404
Ocmulgee River	32.77296	-83.58651	115 LF	Non-wetland waters	Section 404

1) The Corps of Engineers believes that there may be jurisdictional aquatic resources in the review area, and the requestor of this PJD is hereby advised of his or her option to request and obtain an approved JD (AJD) for that review area based on an informed decision after having discussed the various types of JDs and their characteristics and circumstances when they may be appropriate.

2) In any circumstance where a permit applicant obtains an individual permit, or a Nationwide General Permit (NWP) or other general permit verification requiring "pre-construction notification" (PCN), or requests verification for a non-reporting NWP or other general permit, and the permit applicant has not requested an AJD for the activity, the permit applicant is hereby made aware that: (1) the permit applicant has elected to seek a permit authorization based on a PJD, which does not make an official determination of jurisdictional aquatic resources; (2) that the applicant has the option to request an AJD before accepting the terms and conditions of the permit authorization, and that basing a permit authorization on an AJD could possibly result in less compensatory mitigation being required or different special conditions; (3) the applicant has the right to request an individual permit rather than accepting the terms and conditions of the NWP or other general permit authorization; (4) the applicant can accept a permit authorization and thereby agree to comply with all the terms and conditions of that permit, including whatever mitigation requirements the Corps has determined to be necessary; (5) undertaking any activity in reliance upon the subject permit authorization without requesting an AJD constitutes the applicant's acceptance of the use of the PJD; (6) accepting a permit authorization (e.g., signing a proffered individual permit) or undertaking any activity in reliance on any form of Corps permit authorization based on a PJD constitutes agreement that all aquatic resources in the review area affected in any way by that activity will be treated as jurisdictional, and waives any challenge to such jurisdiction in any administrative or judicial compliance or enforcement action, or in any administrative appeal or in any Federal court; and (7) whether the applicant elects to use either an AJD or a PJD, the JD will be processed as soon as is practicable. Further, an AJD, a proffered individual permit (and all terms and conditions contained therein), or individual permit denial can be administratively appealed pursuant to 33 C.F.R. Part 331. If, during an administrative appeal, it becomes appropriate to make an official determination whether geographic jurisdiction exists over aquatic resources in the review area, or to provide an official delineation of jurisdictional aquatic resources in the review area, the Corps will provide an AJD to accomplish that result, as soon as is practicable. This PJD finds that there *"may be"* waters of the U.S. and/or that there "*may be*" navigable waters of the U.S. on the subject review area, and identifies all aquatic features in the review area that could be affected by the proposed activity, based on the following information:

SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for PJD (check all that apply

Checked items should be included in subject file. Appropriately reference sources below where indicated for all checked items:

☒ Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the PJD requestor:

Map: "Bonds Swamp NWR Aerial Map" – prepared by Applicant Received by CESAS-RD-P on April 26, 2024.

☐ Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the PJD requestor.
  ☐ Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.
  ☐ Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.

☐ Data sheets prepared by the Corps: .

☐ Corps navigable waters' study: .

☐ U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: .
  ☐ USGS NHD data.
  ☐ USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.

☐ U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: .

☒ Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: "USDA NRCS Custom soil resource report For Bibb County, Georgia 1900 Bondsview Rd" – prepared by Applicant Received by CESAS-RD-P on April 26, 2024.

☒ National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: "National Wetlands Inventory – Bonds Swamp Boat Ramp" – prepared by Applicant Received by CESAS-RD-P on April 26, 2024. .

☒ State/Local wetland inventory map(s): "Bonds Swamp NWR Waters of the U.S. Map" – prepared by Applicant received by CESAS-RD-P on April 26, 2024.

☒ FEMA/FIRM maps: .

☐ 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)

☐ Photographs: ☐ Aerial (Name & Date): .

or ☐ Other (Name & Date): .

☐ Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: .

☐ Other information (please specify): .

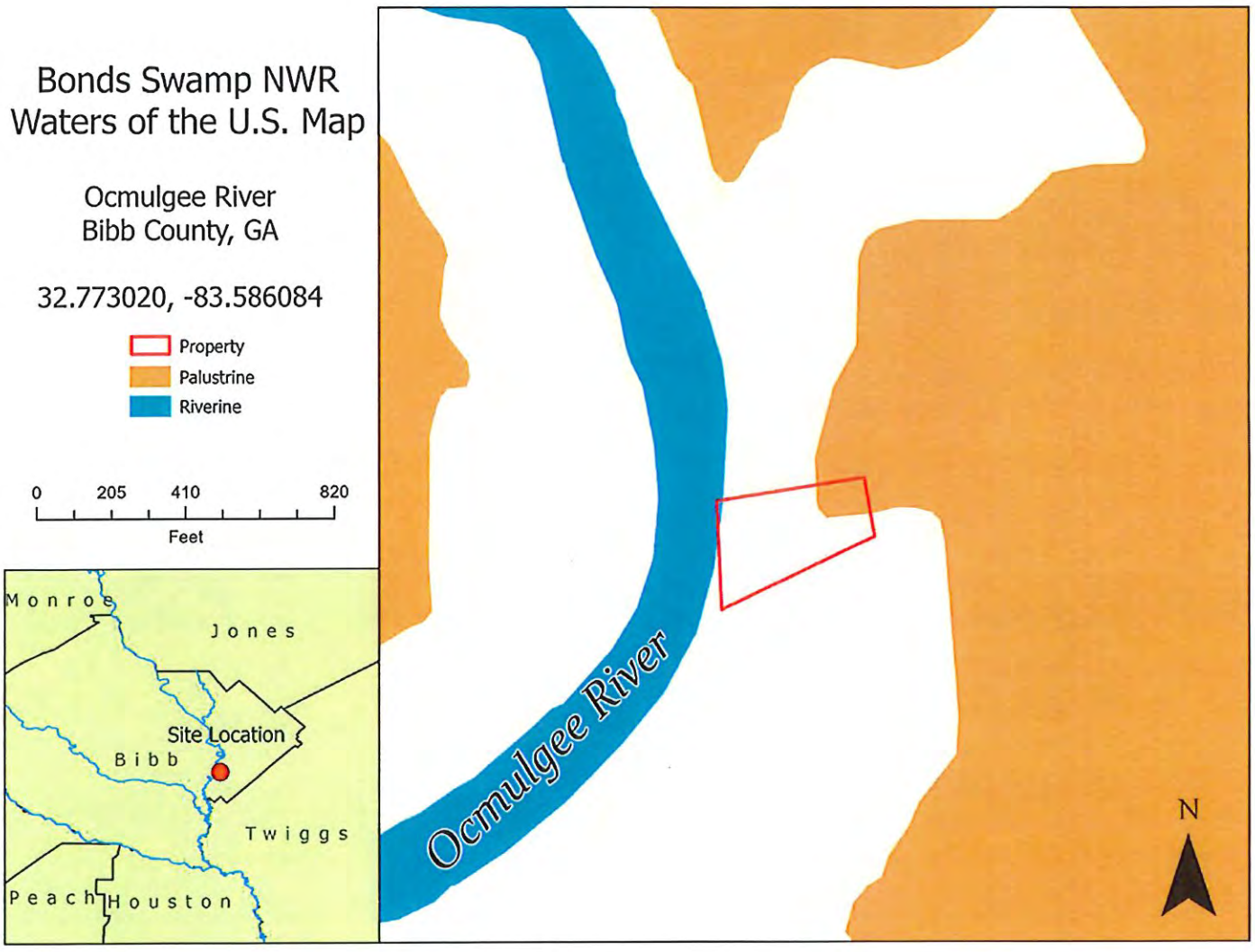
IMPORTANT NOTE: The information recorded on this form has not necessarily been verified by the Corps and should not be relied upon for later jurisdictional determinations.

Nathan C. Driggers

Signature and date of
Regulatory staff member
completing PJD

Signature and date of
person requesting preliminary JD
(REQUIRED, unless obtaining
the signature is impracticable)[1]

[1] Districts may establish timeframes for requestor to return signed PJD forms. If the requestor does not respond within the established time frame, the district may presume concurrence and no additional follow up is necessary prior to finalizing an action.


Bonds Swamp NWR
Waters of the U.S. Map
Ocmulgee River
Bibb County, GA
32.773020, -83.586084
Property
Palustrine
Riverine
0
205
410
820
Feet
Monroe
Jones
Site Location
Bibb
Twiggs
Peach
Houston
Ocmulgee River
N

Bonds Swamp NWR
Aerial Map

Ocmulgee River
Bibb County, GA

32.773020, -83.586084

Property

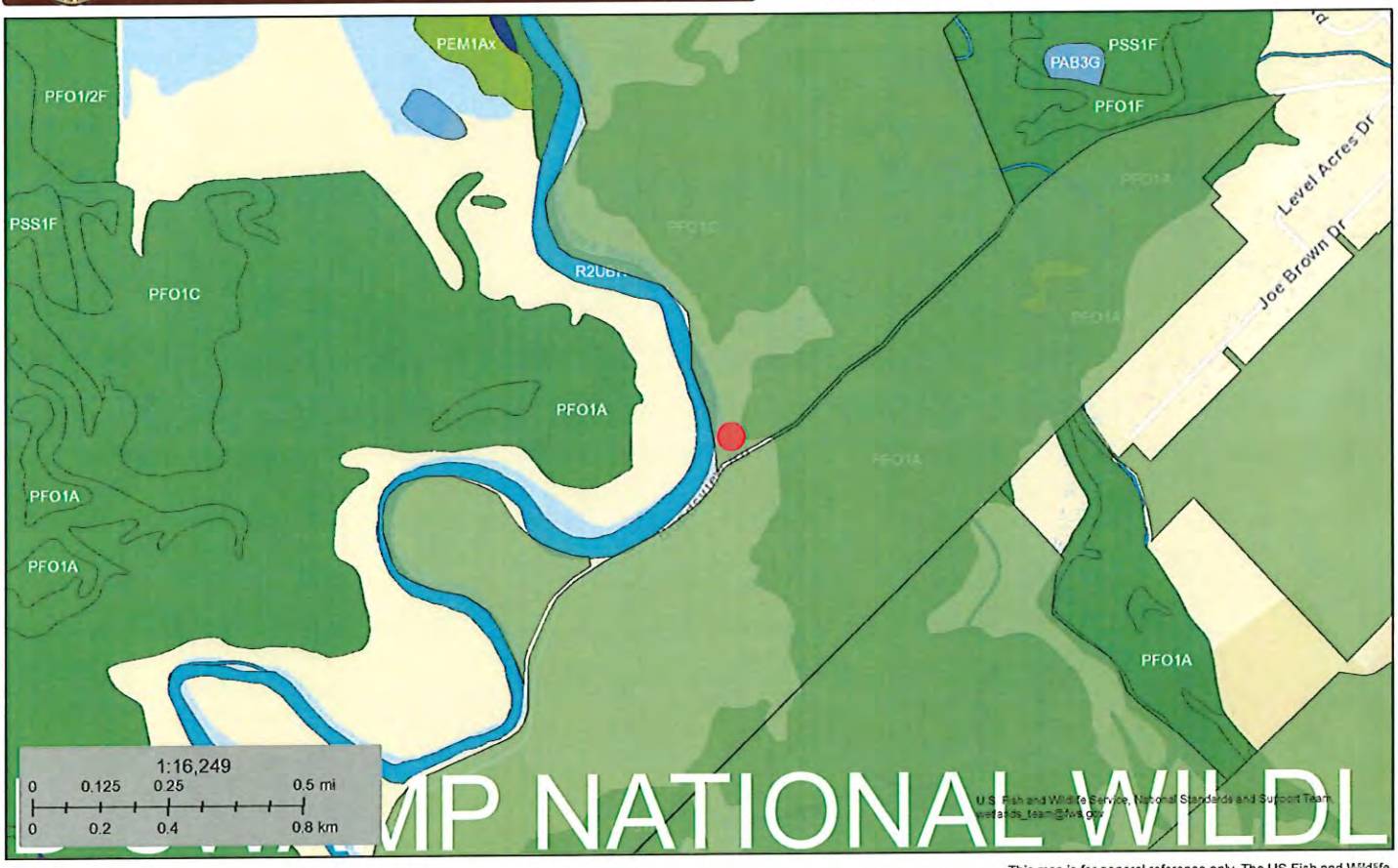
0 205 410 820
Feet

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Wetlands Inventory

Bonds Swamp New Boat Ramp

32.773020, -83.586084



February 13, 2024

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)
This page was produced by the NWI mapper

NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND REQUEST FOR APPEAL		
Applicant: Georgia Department of Natural Resources; Mr. Jeffery Bishop	File Number: SAS-2024-00377	Date: August 23, 2024
Attached is:		See Section below
	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)	A
	PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)	B
	PERMIT DENIAL	C
	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	D
X	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	E

SECTION I - The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision. Additional information may be found at http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/Pages/reg_materials.aspx or Corps regulations at 33 C.F.R. § Part 331.

A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or object to the permit.

ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.

OBJECT: If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Your objections must be received by the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice, or you will forfeit your right to appeal the permit in the future. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns, (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.

B: PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or appeal the permit.

ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.

APPEAL: If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

C: PERMIT DENIAL: You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

D: APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information.

ACCEPT: You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this notice means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.

APPEAL: If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. The division engineer must receive this form within 60 days of the date of this notice.

E: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.

SECTION II - REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT

REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS: (Describe your reasons for appealing the decision or your objections to an initial proffered permit in clear concise statements. You may attach additional information to this form to clarify where your reasons or objections are addressed in the administrative record.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The appeal is limited to a review of the administrative record, the Corps memorandum for the record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supplemental information that the review officer has determined is needed to clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant nor the Corps may add new information or analyses to the record. However, you may provide additional information to clarify the location of information that is already in the administrative record.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION:

If you have questions regarding this decision and/or the appeal process you may contact:	If you only have questions regarding the appeal process you may also contact:
Mr. Nathan Driggers Regulatory Specialist US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District Piedmont Branch 4751 Best Road, Suite 140 College Park, Georgia 30337 Phone: (678) 422-2727 Email: nathan.c.driggers@usace.army.mil	Ms. Krista Sabin Administrative Appeal Review Officer CESAD-PDS-O 60 Forsyth Street, Room 10M15 Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8803 Phone: (904) 314-9631; Fax: (404) 562-5138 Email: Krista.D.Sabin@usace.army.mil

RIGHT OF ENTRY: Your signature below grants the right of entry to Corps of Engineers personnel, and any government consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site during the course of the appeal process. You will be provided a 15-day notice of any site investigation, and will have the opportunity to participate in all site investigations.

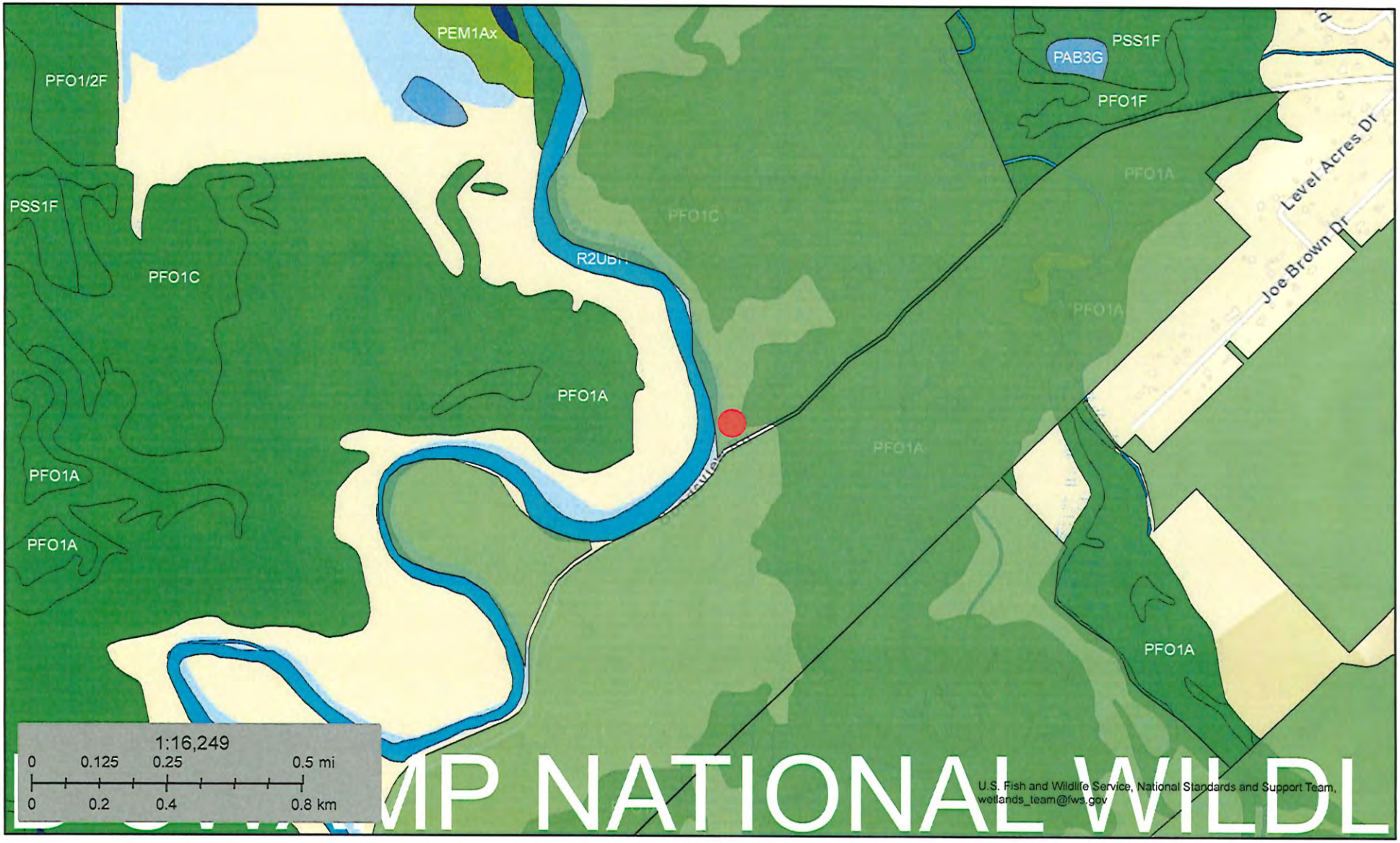
	Date:	Telephone number:
_____ Signature of appellant or agent.		

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Wetlands Inventory

Bonds Swamp New Boat Ramp

32.773020, -83.586084

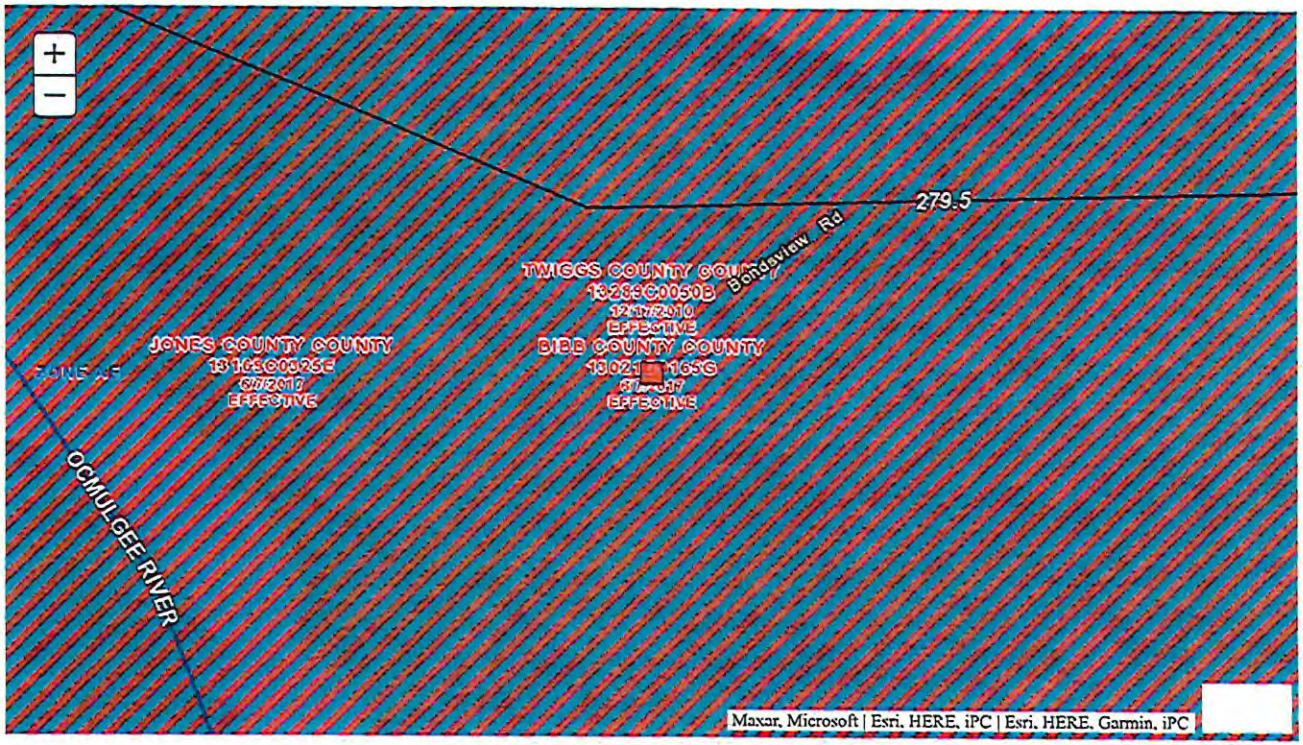


February 13, 2024

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

1900 Bondsview Rd, Macon, Georgia, 31217



GEORGIA FLOOD MAP PROGRAM

High Risk Zone AE

Current Flood Zone:	AE FLOODWAY	
*Probability of Flooding: (30-Year Period)	Not Available	Not Available
Base Flood Elevation:	Not Available	Not Available
Lowest Adj Grade:	Not Available	
Preliminary Flood Zone:	Not Available	Not Available
Flood Zone Change Type:	Not Available	

Location Information

Panel:	13021C0165G
Watershed:	Upper Ocmulgee
County:	BIBB
Community ID:	13021C
Map Status:	EFFECTIVE

* Flood Depths shown on this report are derived from FEMA RiskMAP products and are rounded to the nearest tenth of a foot. These depths are calculated from HEC-RAS modeling and represent the best available data. Only areas within a RiskMAP studied watershed will have this data available. Please check back if your area is not currently available. For more information, please visit the FEMA Map Service Center at https://msc.fema.gov/portal/resources/faq

Nature Doesn't Read Flood Maps

Many people don't understand just how risky the floodplain can be. There is a greater than 26% chance that a non-elevated home in the SFHA will be flooded during a 30-year mortgage period.

The chance that a major fire will occur during the same period is less than 10%!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT, PLEASE VISIT: FloodSmart.gov

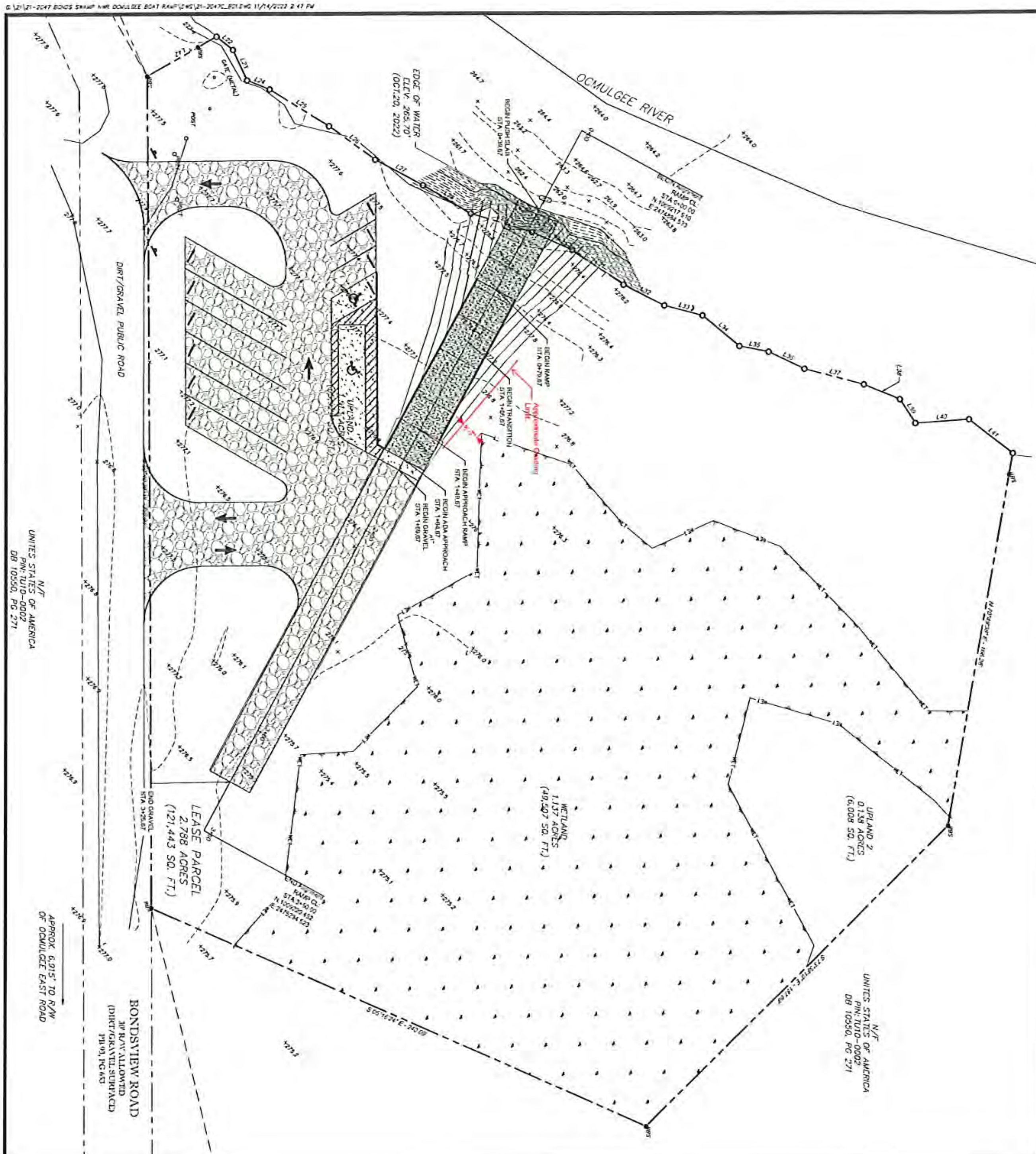
Legend with Flood Zone Designations

- Flood Control Structures
- Base Flood Elevations
- Cross Sections
- Coastal Transects
- FIRM Panel Index
- 1% Flood - Floodway (High Risk)
- 1% Flood - Zone AE (High Risk)
- 1% Flood - Zone A, AH, or AO (HighRisk)
- 0.2% Flood - X-Shaded (Moderate Risk)
- Area of Undertermined Flood Hazard
- 1% Flood - Zone VE (HighRisk)
- Area Not Included
- Letters of Map Revision
- Coastal Barrier Resource Area
- Limit of Moderate Wave Action
- Floodway Decrease
- Floodway Increase
- 100-Year Flood Zone Decrease
- 100-Year Flood Zone Increase
- Zone Change

Disclaimer: This data is not to be used to determine any base flood elevations or flood zone designations for NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) purposes. For NFIP flood insurance and regulation purposes, please refer to the published effective FIRM (Flood Rate Insurance Map) for your area of concern. Values displayed for Current Flood Zone, Preliminary Flood Zone, Flood Zone Change Type, and Probability of Flooding over a 30-year period based on center of dot location, not extent of structure(s).

Appendix G

Construction Drawing Concept



Know what's below. Call before you dig.
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PAVING, GRADING AND DRAINAGE PLAN

BONDS SWAMP NWR - OCMULGEE RIVER BOAT RAMP

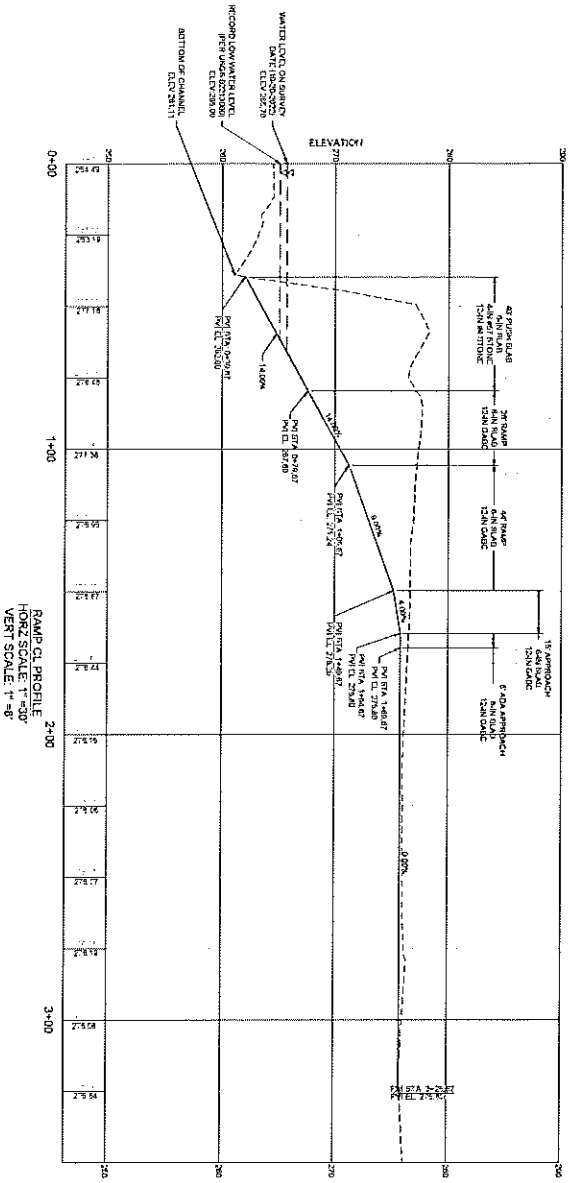
1900 BONDSVIEW ROAD

BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

Prepared for:

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SHEET 05 OF 15



BOAT RAMP PROFILE

BONDS SWAMP NWR - OCMULGEE RIVER BOAT RAMP
1900 BONDSVIEW ROAD
BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA
Prepared for:
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EMC ENGINEERING SERVICES, INC.
PO Box 2066
1213 Hardwick Way, Suite 201
Statesboro, GA 30458
Ph: (912) 764-7222
Fax: (912) 233-6540
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PROJECT MGR. — J.C.GOU
DRAWN BY — M.M.
DESIGNED BY — M.M.
REVIEWED BY — J.B.B.
SURVEYED BY — N/A
CHECKED BY — J.B.B.
SCALE — 1" = 30'
DATE — 11/14/2022

SHEET 06 OF 15