

Public Notice

**US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
St. Louis District
Gateway to Excellence**

**Reply To:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CEMVS-OD-F
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103**

Public Notice/File No.
MVS-2021-542
Public Notice Date
September 24, 2021

Expiration Date
October 23, 2021

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: MVS-2021-542

Interested parties are hereby notified that the WFI Holdings-B LLC (Sponsor) has requested under their approved WFI-B Umbrella Mitigation Banking Program Instrument (File Number: MVS-2020-652) and corresponding amendment; approval for an Umbrella Mitigation Bank site pursuant to 33 CFR 332 and 40 CFR 230 Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resource; Final Rule (Federal Register / Vol. 73, No. 70 Pages 19594-19705, April 10, 2008).

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: All comments related to this Umbrella mitigation bank project and/or requests for public hearing must reach this office no later than the expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833
ATTN: Mr. Tyson Zobrist

SPONSOR: WFI Holdings-B LLC (WFI-B)
POC: Mr. Linden Graber
248 Southwoods Center
Columbia, Illinois 65261

LOCATION: The Sponsor proposes a mitigation bank site (Silver Banks) within the Lower Kaskaskia Watershed, specifically in the Umbrella Mitigation Banking Program's Shoal Creek/Lower Kaskaskia Service Area. The subject site includes 73.17+/- acres and is located in Northwest ¼ of Section 1, Township 4 north, Range 7 west in Madison County, Illinois. The approximate center of the project site is located at Latitude 38.827756°, Longitude -89.831503°.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Sponsor seeks approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) and the Interagency Review Team (IRT); which is composed of representatives from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; to establish the Silver Banks Wetland and Stream Mitigation Bank (Silver Banks) which is proposed in accordance with the approved WFI-B Umbrella Mitigation Banking Program Instrument (UMBPI). The Silver Banks site is the first bank site proposed under the UMBPI. If

approved, the Sponsor would make the wetland and stream mitigation credits available to Department of the Army permittees seeking to fulfill requirements to purchase compensatory mitigation credit, to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. The mitigation bank site includes the restoration of multiple wetland habitats and the restoration of the riparian corridor along Silver Creek.

The Silver Banks site currently exists and has been historically used for agricultural production. The site consists entirely of hydric soils, as it lies within the floodplain of Silver Creek. Historically, this property was and is hydrologically connected over a wide range of storm events to Silver Creek within the Lower Kaskaskia watershed. Silver Banks will be developed with multiple types of habitat features: forested wetlands, emergent wetland habitat, and hydrologic and water quality wetland functions. The forested wetlands (multiple planting regimes) and stream riparian corridor will consist of a total of 68.69 acres of hard and soft mast trees. Riparian corridor plantings and enhancement will be completed along Silver Creek, which bisects the property. The vegetation types will follow elevational gradients that both exist and are to be created. Root propagation method (RPM) trees will be used to promote a hard-mast producing bottomland hardwood forest. The emergent wetland component will consist of 2.39 acres and will be restored to a very shallow basin in selected low elevation areas along old meander scars that will support a variety of herbaceous vegetation. It is anticipated that the site will support migratory and endemic wetland species along this reach of Silver Creek.

The hydrology of the Silver Banks Site is intended to mirror the existing hydraulic regime along with the manipulation of agricultural drainages. The depth, duration, and extent of flooding in the restored wetlands will primarily be driven by flood pulses from Silver Creek and constructed ephemeral wetlands, increasing the wetland hydroperiod of the area. Flood entry followed by seasonal drying through the summer and fall will sustain productivity by recycling vegetation and nutrients. The current plan will result in the re-establishment of a diverse wooded and emergent wetland adjacent to a stream riparian corridor that should enhance ecological functions and values for Silver Creek. Upon request, a copy of the Silver Banks Mitigation Banking Plan can be provided by our office.

This mitigation banking proposal does not preclude the requirement for any Section 404 permit applicant, who intends or is required to use wetland or stream credits generated by this mitigation project, to comply with Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines; the National Environmental Policy Act; and our evaluation of probable impacts on public interest. Likewise, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to determining compensatory mitigation through the implementation of current Regulatory Guidance and best professional judgment to consider on-site or within the immediate sub-watershed mitigation opportunities first, when impacts to waters of the United States cannot be practicably avoided or further minimized.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See attached.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Tyson Zobrist, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8578. Your inquiries may also be sent by e-mail to tyson.j.zobrist@usace.army.mil.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be processed under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The proposed project is within the range: the federally endangered Indiana bat (***Myotis sodalis***), Least tern (***Sterna antillarum***), Pallid sturgeon (***Scaphirhynchus albus***), Spectaclecase mussel (***Cumberlandia monodonta***), Decurrent false aster (***Boltonia decurrens***), and Eastern prairie fringed orchid (***Platanthera leucophaea***). Also, the Northern Long-

eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is are currently threatened species and are a proposed candidate for endangered status. The Corps is coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the applicant is taking measures to minimize potential effects of the project during construction. In order to further complete our evaluation, written comments are solicited by this public notice from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The umbrella mitigation bank project will be evaluated for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR 800. The St. Louis District will consider information provided by the State Historic Preservation Office, Federally recognized tribes, and the public in response to the proposed mitigation project.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The purpose of this public notice is to advise all interested parties of the proposed umbrella mitigation bank project and to solicit comments. The decision to allow or deny the Sponsor to proceed with the mitigation bank project will be based on an evaluation of all comments received, and all relevant factors to the proposal, including the cumulative effects thereof. These factors include: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, and the general needs and welfare of the people. The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the proposed mitigation project.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, prior to the expiration date of this public notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this umbrella mitigation bank site proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review.

Robert S. Gramke
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

The Corps requests that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 30 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.

Figure 1 – Location in Lower Kaskaskia Watershed

Location in Lower Kaskaskia Watershed

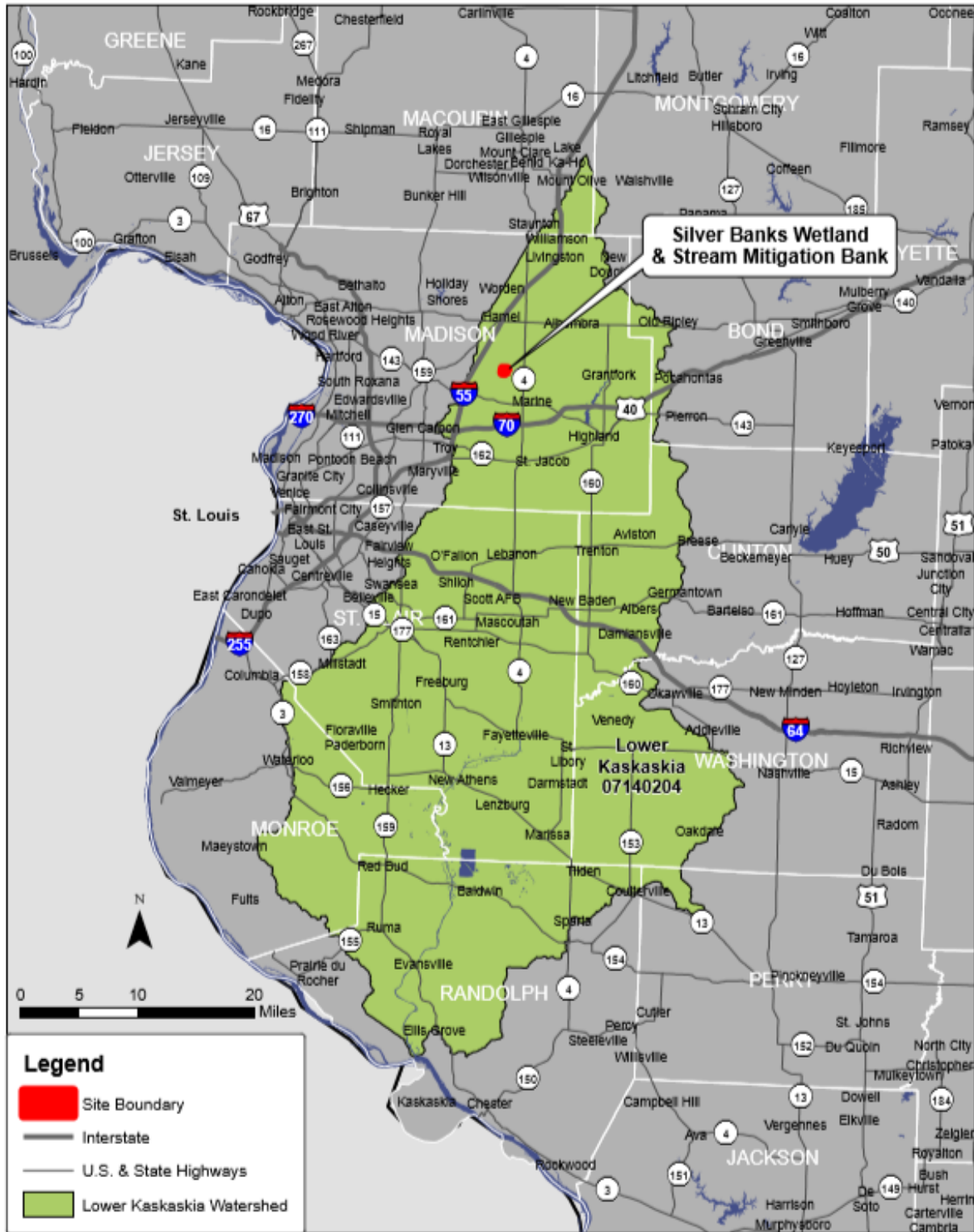


Figure 5 – Aerial of Mitigation Bank Site



Figure 8: Mitigation Plan Map

Silver Banks Habitat Plan

