



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant:
Naturion West, LLC

Published: February 3, 2026
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St. Louis District
Permit Application No. MVS-2025-319

STREAM COMPENSATORY MITIGATION SITE PROPOSAL **Public Notice: St. Louis District**

Interested parties are hereby notified that Naturion West, LLC (Sponsor) has requested under their approved Umbrella Mitigation Banking Program Instrument (File Number: MVS-2022-728); 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). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District (the District) has the Cuivre-Salt Ecological Drainage Unit Service Area for this bank site proposal and therefore will be requesting comments from this area of responsibility. This service area will provide mitigation options for applicants in the District.

APPLICANT: Naturion West, LLC
POC: Mr. Linden Graber
248 Southwoods Center
Columbia, Illinois 65261

PROJECT LOCATION: Pursuant to its Umbrella Mitigation Banking Instrument (UMBI), The Sponsor aims to establish mitigation bank sites in multiple watersheds throughout the District in Missouri. The proposed Saddleback Stream Mitigation Site (SSMB) is in Northeast Missouri and is approximately 17.6 acres, that includes active pastureland, cropland, the West Fork Cuivre River, an unnamed intermittent tributary, and narrow wooded riparian corridors. This land is in part of Section 1, Township 50 North, Range 8 W, Audrain County, Missouri. The approximate center of the bank site is Latitude 39.1354°, Longitude -91.7451°. (See attached location maps).

AUTHORITY: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) and in compliance with requirements outlined in the April 10, 2008, Final Compensatory Mitigation Rule.

SECTION 408: Section 408 authorization is not required because there are no federal projects in or near the vicinity of the proposal.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Sponsor seeks approval from the District and the Interagency Review Team (IRT); which is comprised of representatives from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Missouri Department of Conservation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; to establish

the SSMB, which is proposed in accordance with the approved UMBI. If approved, the Sponsor would make the stream mitigation credit available to Department of the Army permittees seeking to fulfill permit requirements to purchase compensatory mitigation credit to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. The SSMB proposes to generate 26,278 stream credits. The mitigation bank site includes the restoration, enhancement and preservation of stream habitat within the floodplain.

SSMB encompasses approximately 1,900 linear feet of the West Fork Cuivre River, approximately 1,350 linear feet of an unnamed intermittent tributary. The plan will include in-stream habitat additions and in-stream improvements through stone-toe protection, rock-riffle structures, and the restoration of sinuosity. There are four significant meander bends in the West Fork Cuivre River that are actively eroding and in need of stabilization to reduce sediment generation and allow for the vertical banks to stabilize and protect the riparian corridor. The Sponsor is proposing the installation of 640ft of Stone Toe Protection on these bends to accomplish this stabilization. Additionally, the Sponsor is proposing to install two rock riffle grade control structures in the stream to create riffle pool complexes to reduce velocity and further help in stabilizing the eroding meander bends. The Sponsor is also proposing to increase the capacity of the tributary to the West Fork Cuivre River and restore the stream through re-meandering the channel.

The plan also includes the area to be utilized as riparian buffer. This buffer varies in width based upon the changes associated with in-stream improvements and the change in vegetative communities. This area will generally follow recommendations outlined in section 4.6.3 of the UMBI. The restoration area will be planted and seeded. Forested and shrub planting equates to twenty-foot by twenty foot (20ft x 20ft) spacing equaling 109/acre. The herbaceous understory will be seeded to a custom mix of native sedges and rushes.

A copy of the complete Site Mitigation Plan is available upon request from our office.

SERVICE AREA: The proposed bank site service area will be the Cuivre-Salt Ecological Drainage Unit, which includes the St. Louis District.

BANK SITE NEED/TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY/ECOLOGICAL SUITABILITY: The Sponsor selected the site for its potential to improve water quality and wildlife habitat in the watershed. Its landscape position, stream conditions, hydrology, and soil types make it ecologically suitable for mitigation. Active erosion on the West Fork Cuivre River and the historical channelization of the unnamed tributary make the project attractive for stream restoration. Widening the wooded riparian buffers will increase opportunities to filter agricultural runoffs before it enters downstream systems, providing meaningful benefits for the broader ecological drainage unit.

Flooding within the site's stream will be driven by precipitation, with seasonal drying cycles promoting nutrient recycling and ecological productivity. The proposed restoration will establish a resilient, connected stream-riparian system that supports

regional watershed health. By improving aquatic habitat diversity and connectivity, the SSMB will contribute to broader landscape-scale functions, including support for species impacted by prior habitat.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See attached. In addition, the project plans may be viewed in color and in more detail by visiting the Public Notice section of our website at: <https://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/> . Please select Public Notice number MVS-2025-319.

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT OF AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION FOR UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS TO AQUATIC RESOURCES:

The mitigation proposal is considered a restoration activity with no anticipated adverse impacts to aquatic resources. 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 the District's 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.

STATE SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: If the Banking IRT approves the proposed SSMB, the proposed restoration, enhancement and preservation activities associated with the site will comply with and will be authorized through the issuance Nationwide Permit 27 (Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Establishment Activities). Therefore, Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) is granted, subject to compliance with General Conditions and WQC Special Conditions established specifically for Nationwide Permit 27.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: A review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation website has been completed and the following species were identified to potentially be present in the project vicinity: The endangered Gray Bat (***Myotis grisescens***), Indiana Bat (***Myotis sodalis***), and candidate species Monarch Butterfly (***Danaus plexippus***). In compliance with the Endangered Species Act, a preliminary determination has been made that the described work will have no effect on all three (3) listed species or adversely affect critical habitat. The Corps is coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the applicant is taking measures to minimize any 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 & TRIBAL TRUST: The District requested that the applicant provide a reconnaissance survey of the project area to investigate the permit area and inform analysis of potential affects. A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey was completed by Trileaf Corporation archaeologists on behalf of the Sponsor. The survey was recently

submitted to Missouri State Historic Preservation office. They surveyed a 17-acre area and identified no significant cultural findings within the survey area. The District concurred with Trileaf Corporation's report and found "No Historic Properties Affected" for the project. The survey report was coordinated with the Tribes on January 29, 2026.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to approve the Sponsor to proceed with the mitigation site 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, but not limited to conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, the general needs and welfare of the people and compliance with the Mitigation Rule.

PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's 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. A request may be denied in writing by the Corps if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of a Memorandum for Record associated with Nationwide Permit 27. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Additional information may be obtained by contacting David P. Meyer, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at 314-331-8810 or by e-mail to David.P.Meyer@usace.army.mil.

To join our public notice mailing list and receive all of our Public Notices electronically, please email your request to: MVS-Regulatory@usace.army.mil and include your name, email, and phone number with your statement of request to be added to the Public Notice mailing list.

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 30 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.

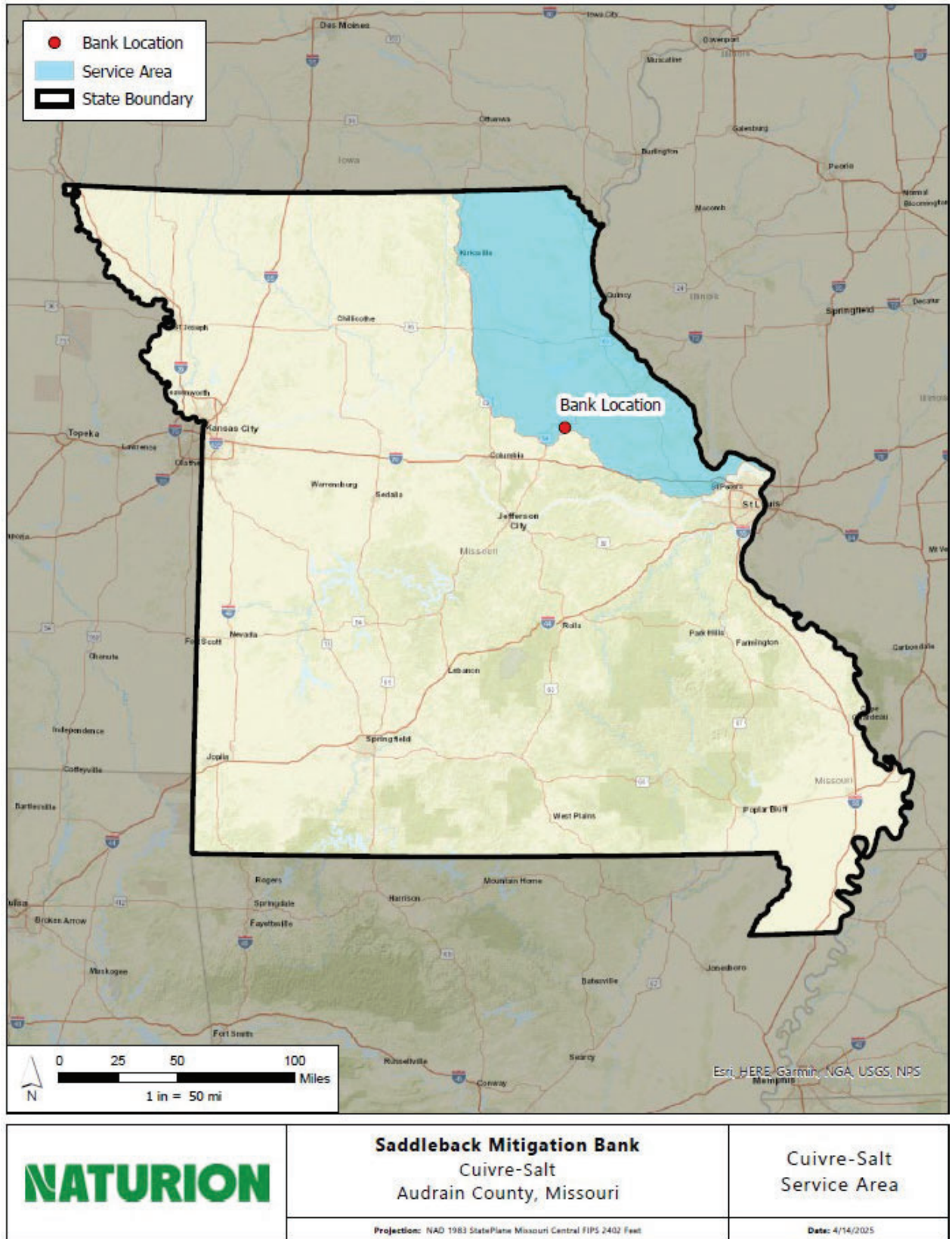


Figure 2: Service Area Map

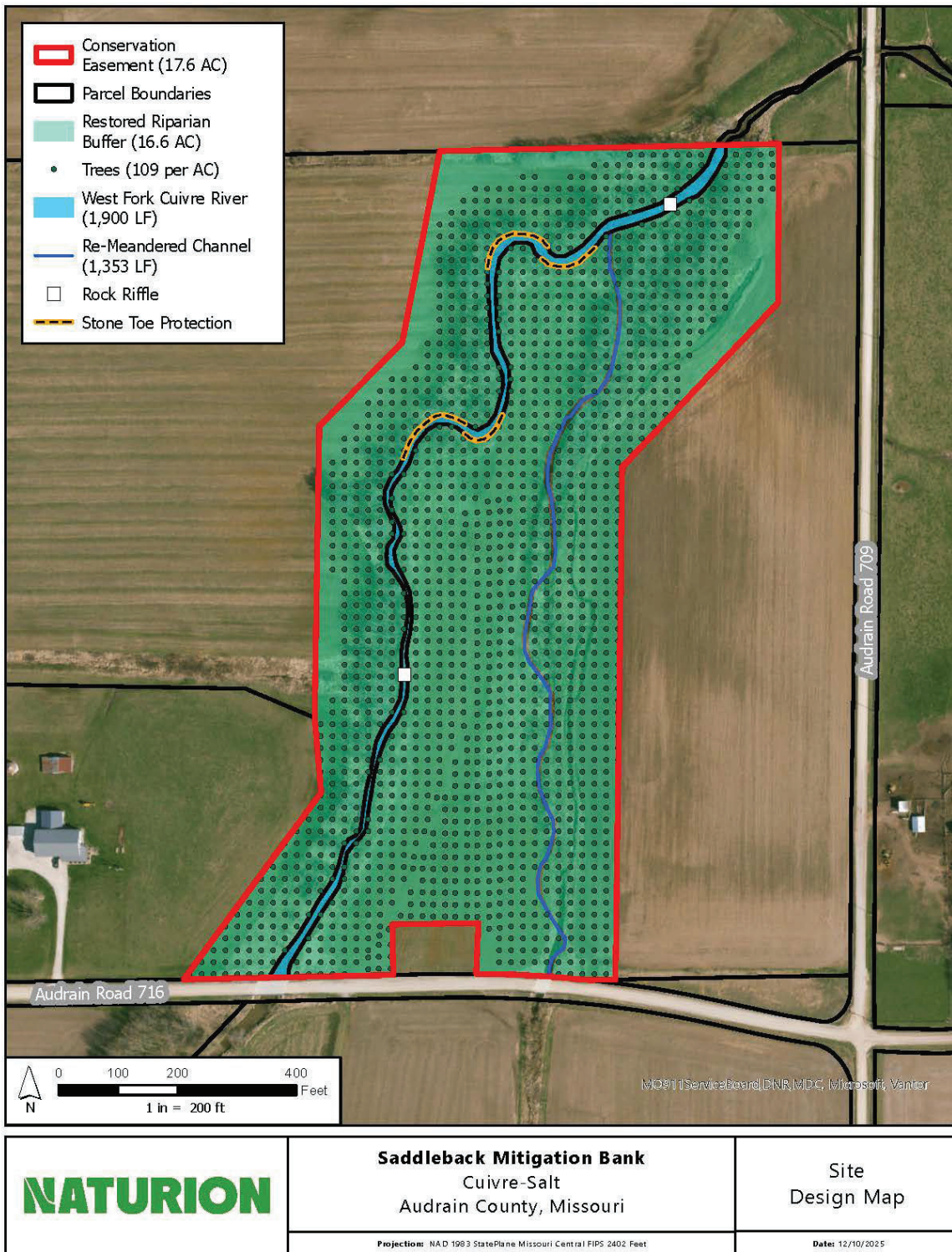


Figure 12: Mitigation Plan Overview