



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Rock Island District

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Sponsor:** Honest Assets, LLC.  
1070 285<sup>th</sup> Street, Donahue, IA 52746

Issued: June 10, 2020

Expires: July 09, 2020

**Corps Project Number:** CEMVR-OD-P-2019-1198  
**Proposed Project:** Barber Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank

---

## WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL

This notice is issued in accordance with the Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule (the Mitigation Rule) described in the Federal Register dated April 10, 2008, (33 CFR Parts 325 and 332).

1. **Project Location:** The proposed site is located within: Section 34, Township 81 North, Range 3 West, Clinton County, Iowa. Latitude: 41.780363, Longitude: -90.602378, (location maps enclosed.)

2. **Bank Objectives:** The fundamental objective of compensatory mitigation is to offset environmental losses resulting from unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States authorized by Department of Army Permits. Other Objectives include: Provide economical mitigation options, support no net-loss of wetlands, restore/enhance low quality farmed wetlands to their natural state, provide flood retention for the watershed and provide natural areas for the watershed.

3. **Project Description/Bank Establishment:** The bank sponsor proposes to complete activities on 102 acres of privately owned property that would result in the establishment of both forested and emergent wetland mitigation credits. The goal of the bank is to enhance/create wetlands to generate between 45 to 60 wetland credits. Wetland enhancement/creation construction would include minor grading, disabling subsurface tile, small berms and wetland seeding to introduce and enhance species diversity. A wetland delineation will be completed to help determine current conditions and the determination of credits. Success criteria would be developed and required to be met in order to generate credit for the proposed activities. Please see the detailed project description and drawings located within the bank Prospectus on RIBITS (link in #14, below).

4. **Service Area:** The proposed primary bank service area will be the Mississippi Service Area.

5. **Bank Need/Technical Feasibility/Ecological Suitability:** The sponsor has considered future Iowa DOT projects and development in surrounding municipalities to determine the need for wetland mitigation. Much of the soils within the site are mapped hydric which should easily retain wetland hydrology. Topography will play a role in directing surface runoff and will provide

conditions conducive to wetland enhancement/creation. The proposed bank location fits into the natural connectivity of Barber Creek and the Wapsipinicon River corridor and the larger ecosystems function of the emergent wetlands and floodplain forests that existed prior to conversion for agricultural land uses. This proposal would restore the ecological value that was lost due to the previous impacts to this riparian area.

**6. Long Term Management:** Post bank closure management would include ongoing plant management which may require herbicide and fire treatment additional seeding, as well as, general site maintenance. The responsibility for long term management is held by the bank sponsor/landowner. A conservation easement will be required in perpetuity and will be held by a third party grantee to ensure the conservation value of the property is protected. A long term management fund will be established, and available to the grantee, to ensure funds are available should the sponsor fail to properly maintain the site.

**7. Sponsor Qualifications:** The Bank Sponsor has completed multiple environmental projects on his properties, including wetland restoration projects with Ducks Unlimited and oak forest plantings on nearby lands within the Wapsipinicon River corridor. The Sponsor has also hired a professional consultant familiar with mitigation bank approval, development and monitoring. This consultant has worked on many successful mitigation banks in the upper Midwest and applies his knowledge of engineering, hydrology modeling, restoration, sustainability and ecology to each project.

**8. Water Rights:** Honor Assets, LLC., currently own the property associated with the bank proposal. The sponsor would not have complete control of upstream practices that may alter flows to the project area.

**9. Agency Review:** Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineer is participating in this matter as the chair of an Interagency Review Team. The Interagency Review Team consists of the Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The project would require Section 404, Clean Water Act authorization prior to the proposed construction. If approved, the proposed bank could provide stream and wetland credit for future, Section 404, authorized projects that require compensatory mitigation. Formal authorization of the bank proposal occurs through Corps approval of a Mitigation Banking Instrument.

**10. Historical/Archaeological:** The District consulted with the Iowa online geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases and determined that portions of the permit area have not been previously surveyed. Based on the location of the project on the landscape (crossing multiple topographic landforms between two streams), it is the opinion of the District Archaeologist the permit area has the potential to contain historic properties that may be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The District will require the applicant to submit two (2) copies of a Phase I archaeological survey and geomorphological evaluation report covering the permit area. Geomorphological investigation must extend at least 50 centimeters below the proposed depths of soil disturbance or to a depth below which no possibility of historic properties exists. The applicant, in addition to this Phase I report, may be required to conduct additional Phase II test excavations to evaluate sites for eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP as well as other studies, site avoidance, or data recovery as may be the case.

11. **Endangered Species:** This proposal is being reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (USFWS). Any comments USFWS may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work. Any adverse effects on endangered species will be resolved prior to the Corps authorization, or approval, of the proposed work.

12. **Who Should Reply:** The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to approve the proposed bank. Any comments received will be distributed to the members of the Interagency Review Team. Comments should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. Comments should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable. Any person may also request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the designated comment period of the notice and must state the specific reasons for requesting the public hearing.

13. **Reply to the Corps of Engineers:** Comments or questions concerning this notice may be directed to Abby Steele (309/794-5377) or email [Abigail.A.Steele@usace.army.mil](mailto:Abigail.A.Steele@usace.army.mil), US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-P (Abby Steele), Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004.

14. **Complete Prospectus:** The complete prospectus can be found on our public website at: [https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:17562720002523::NO:RP,278:P278\\_BANK\\_ID:5742](https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:17562720002523::NO:RP,278:P278_BANK_ID:5742).

*matthew a zehr*

Attach  
Plan

Mr. Matthew A. Zehr  
Chief, Iowa Permit Section  
Regulatory Branch

---

**REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS:** Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page 1.

**NOTICE TO EDITORS:** This notice is provided as background information for your use in formatting news stories. This notice is not a contract for classified display advertising

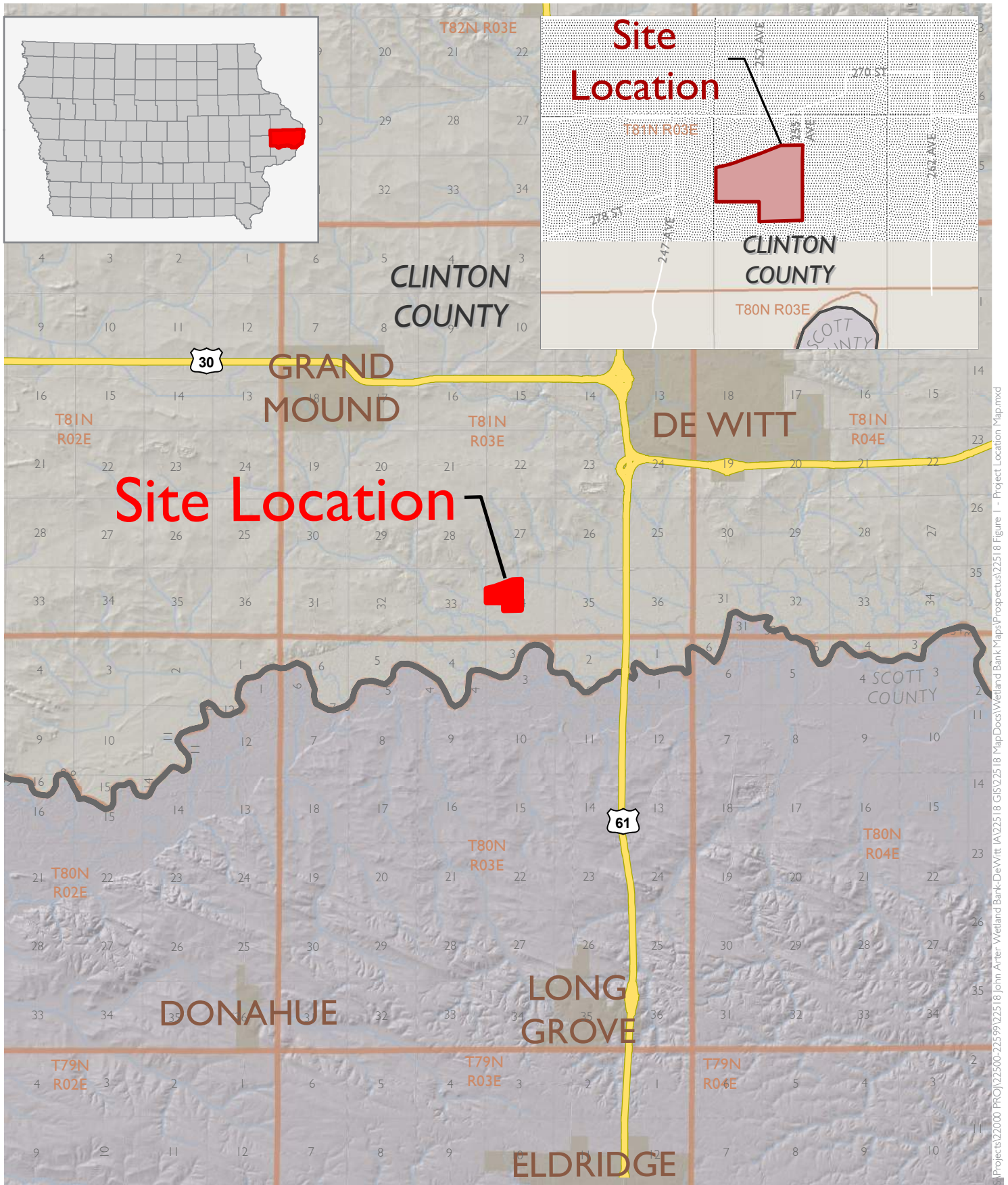
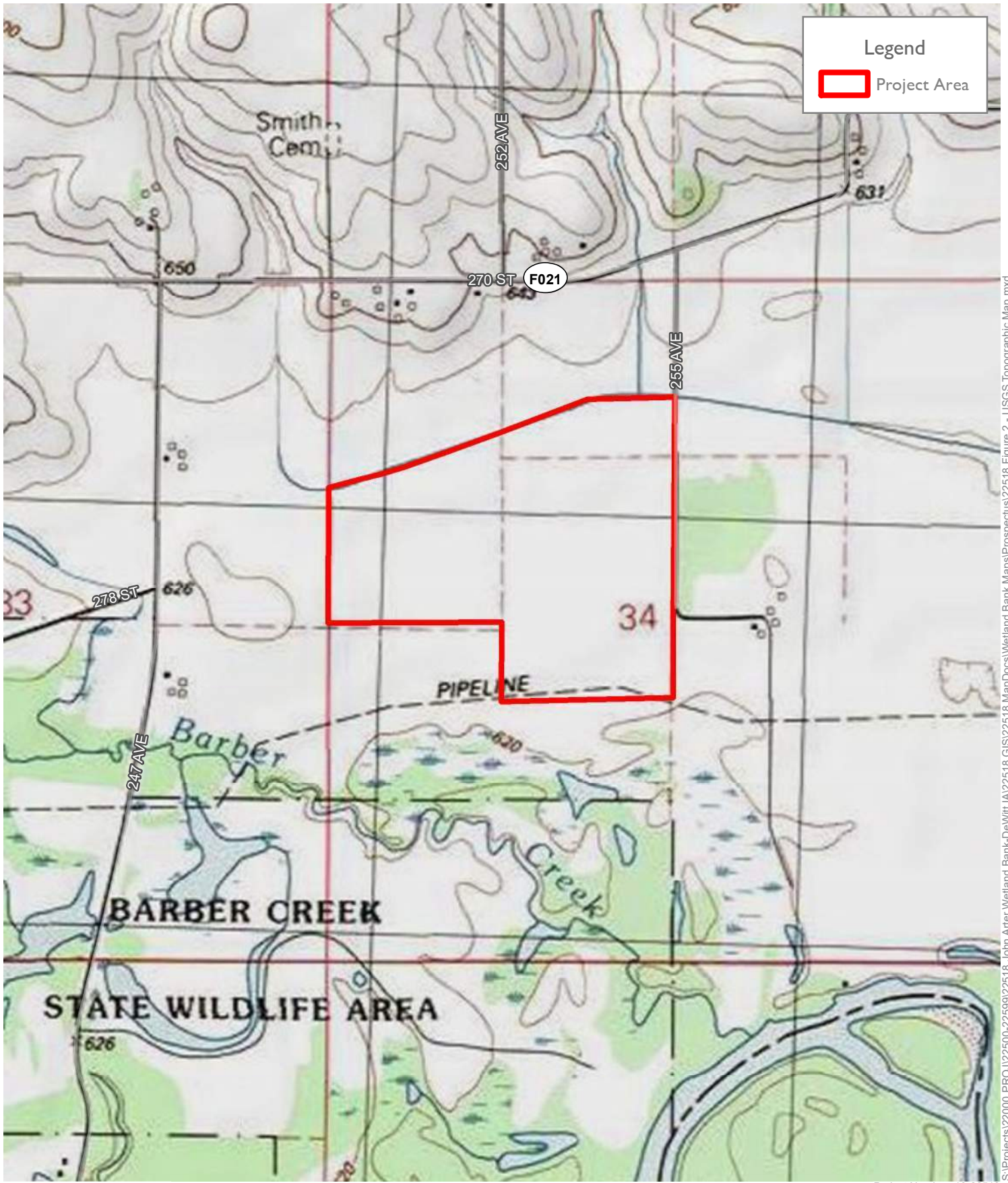


Figure 1  
 Project Location Map  
 Barber Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank  
 Orange Twp, Clinton County, Iowa

Source(s):  
 Roads (IA DOT, 2014)  
 Municipalities (IA DOT, 2016)





Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Project Number 18-22518

Figure 2

USGS Topographic Map  
 Barber Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank  
 Orange Twp, Clinton County, Iowa

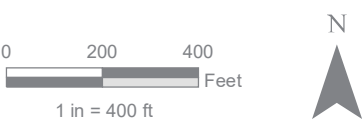
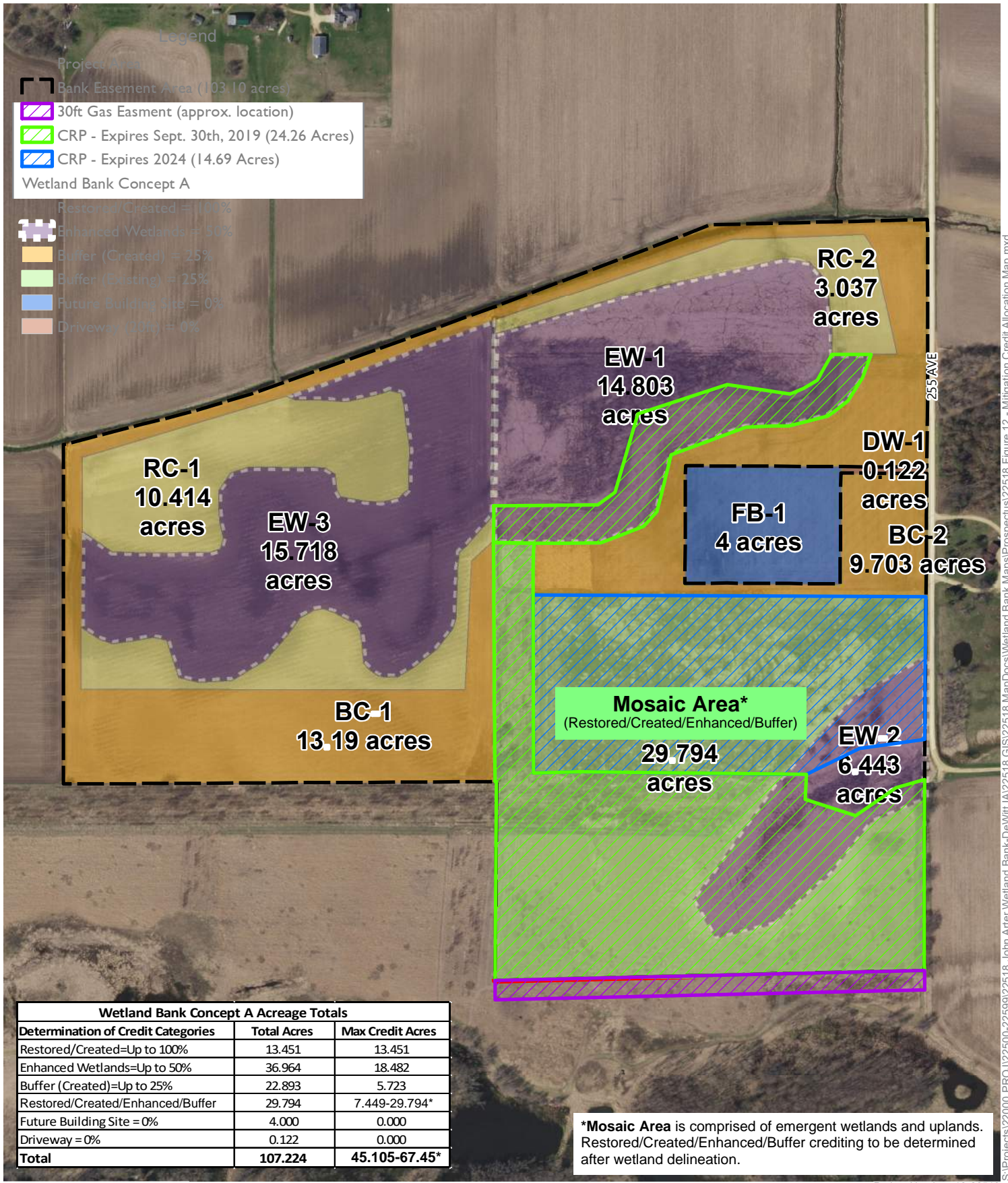
Source(s):  
 USGS Topo (USGS, 1965)

**CEMVR-OD-P-2019-1198**  
**Sheet 2 of 4**  
**Topo Map**

0 500 1,000  
 Feet  
 1 in = 1,000 ft







**Figure 12**  
 Mitigation Credit Allocation Map  
 Barber Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank  
 Orange Twp, Clinton County, Iowa

S:\Projects\22000 - PROJ\22500-22599\22518 - John After Wetland Bank-DeWitt - IA\22518 MapDocs\Wetland Bank Maps\Prospectus\22518 Figure 12 - Mitigation Credit Allocation Map.mxd

# Mitigation Bank Service Areas in Iowa

