



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Rock Island District

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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Sponsor: WFI Holdings, LLC

Date: July 15, 2021

Expires: August 13, 2021

**CEMVR-RD-2021-0417**

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## **UMBRELLA MITIGATION BANKING PROPOSAL -Central Service Areas-**

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. Sponsor. WFI Holdings-B LLC, 248 Southwoods Center, Columbia, Illinois 62236.
2. Project Location. Potential mitigation banks under this umbrella document would fall within two service areas:
  - Service Area 3 - Lower Fox (07120007), Upper Illinois (0712005), Kankakee (07120001) and Iroquois (07120002).
  - Service Area 4 – Lower Illinois-Senachwine (07130001), Vermilion (07130002), Spoon (07130005), and Lower Illinois-Lake Chautauqua (07130003).

Watershed areas which fall outside Illinois State boundary or Rock Island District boundary will not be included.

3. Objectives: The Umbrella Mitigation Banking Prospectus lists the following objectives:
  - a) Support the national goal of “no net loss” of wetlands by providing wetland mitigation Bank Sites and credit options in Central Illinois.
  - b) To consolidate resources in order to increase the potential for the establishment, permanent protection and long-term management of successful mitigation that maximizes opportunities for contributing to biodiversity and/or watershed function.
  - c) To contribute to watershed function through appropriate determination of the Bank Site geographic service area (generally hydrologically based on watershed basin).
  - d) To reduce permit processing times and provide more cost-effective compensatory mitigation opportunities for those projects which qualify.

- e) To increase review and compliance monitoring efficiency and, thus, improve the reliability of efforts to restore, create, or enhance wetland areas for mitigation purposes.
- f) To identify sites with an aquatic resource base, some significant portion of which is degraded and restorable to a properly functioning condition.
- g) To select and prioritize sites based on review of hydrologic function, water rights, position within the landscape and watershed, and ownership structure.
- h) To establish permanent protection for the created, restored, and enhanced aquatic resources of the Bank Sites.
- i) To establish an appropriate coverage area for the Umbrella Mitigation Banking Instrument (UMBI), as well as appropriate geographic boundaries within which each Bank Site may operate in terms of crediting and debiting; and
- j) The fundamental objective of compensatory mitigation is to offset environmental losses resulting from unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States authorized by DA Permit.

4. Project Description. The applicant proposes to establish an Umbrella Mitigation Banking Instrument that would allow for the future development of both Wetland and Stream Mitigation Banks to generate wetland and stream credits for use by the regulated public to mitigate for unavoidable wetland and stream impacts within the proposed service areas.

A. Project Site. Various project sites will be proposed in the future under each proposed service area.

B. Permit and Action Areas. The Corps will determine the permit and action areas of proposed mitigation banks.

5. Agency Review. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers is participating in this matter as a member of the Interagency Review Team. The Interagency Review Team consists of the Corps of Engineers, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Although a Nationwide Permit #27 authorization is typically required for the development of a mitigation bank, information submitted with the UMBI prospectus was not sufficient to determine whether a Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit #27 authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required at this time. If approved, the proposed UMBI and subsequent mitigation banks would provide stream and wetland credit for future, Section 404, authorized projects which require compensation. Such usage will be in accordance with the UMBI if the sponsor chooses to proceed.

6. Historical/Archaeological. As specific project sites are proposed, Phase I archaeological surveys will be required to determine presence of historic properties. Reports and Corp of Engineers determinations will be coordinated with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office.

7. Endangered Species.

A. District staff will perform a review of proposed banking sites for the potential impact on federally threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. A list of federally listed species will be obtained using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC website. The Corps will make a determination on potential impacts to threatened and endangered species, if required, the Corps will consult with the USFWS.

B. Effective August 9, 2007, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was removed from the List of Threatened and Endangered Species due to successful recovery efforts. However, the bald eagle continues to be protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Project sites will be surveyed for any active eagle nests or winter roosts within the action area.

8. 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 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 the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. These statements should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. These statements should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.

9. 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 this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.

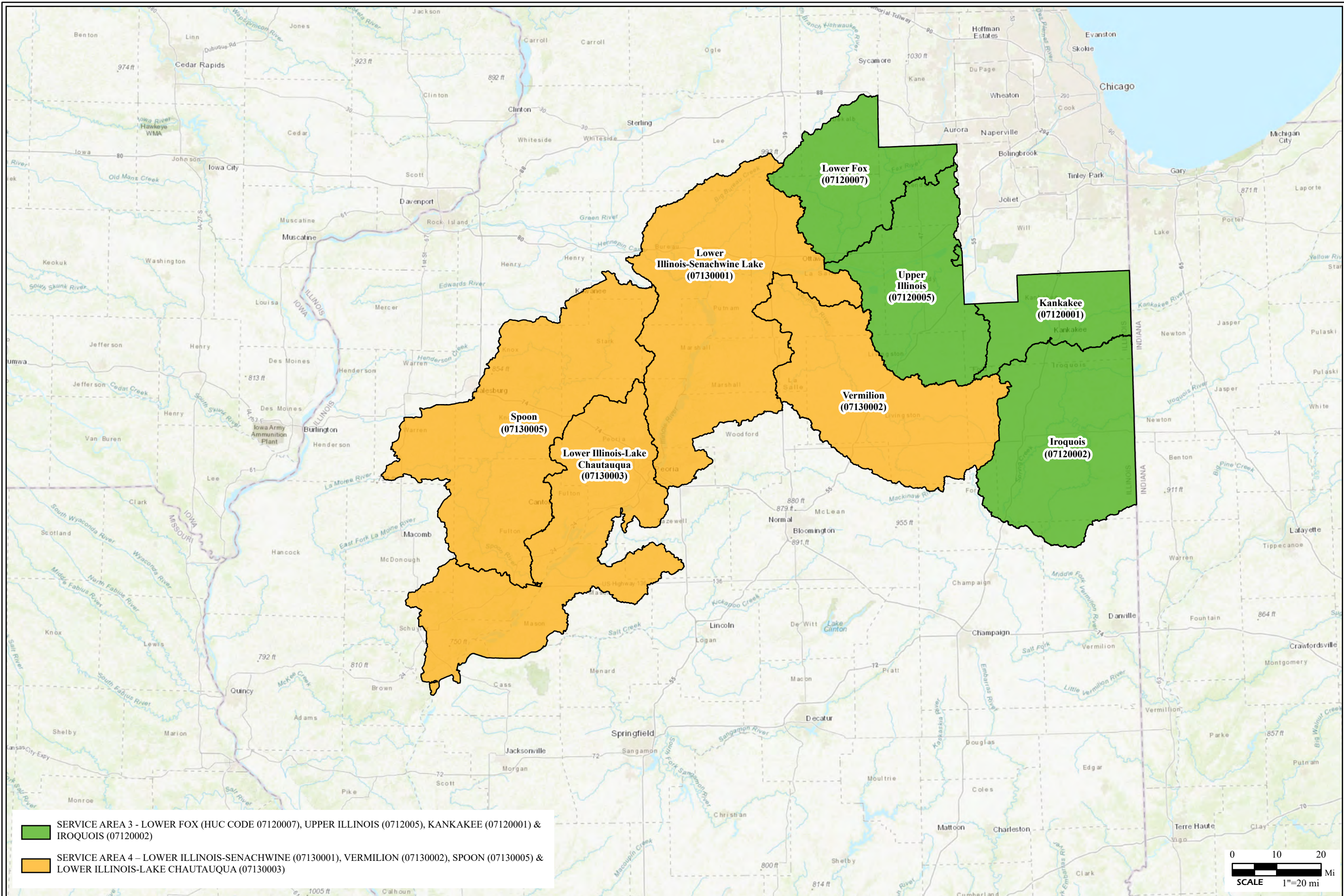
10. Reply to the Corps. Comments should be addressed to the District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: RD-E, Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. Ms. Wendy Frohlich may be contacted for additional information via phone at 309/794-5674 or email: [wendy.m.frohlich@usace.army.mil](mailto:wendy.m.frohlich@usace.army.mil).

11. Complete Umbrella Mitigation Banking Prospectus. The complete umbrella mitigation banking prospectus can be found on our public website at: [https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278::NO:RP,278:P278\\_BANK\\_ID:6073](https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278::NO:RP,278:P278_BANK_ID:6073). Hard copies are also available by request.

Attach

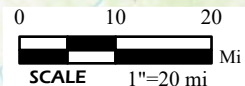
Mr. Trevor E. Popkin  
Chief, Eastern Branch  
Regulatory Division





**SERVICE AREA 3 - LOWER FOX (HUC CODE 07120007), UPPER ILLINOIS (0712005), KANKAKEE (07120001) & IROQUOIS (07120002)**

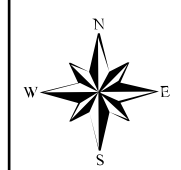
**SERVICE AREA 4 - LOWER ILLINOIS-SENACHWINE (07130001), VERMILION (07130002), SPOON (07130005) & LOWER ILLINOIS-LAKE CHAUTAUQUA (07130003)**



GENERAL NOTES/LEGEND

PROJECT NAME  
ROCK ISLAND UMBI - CENTRAL SERVICE AREAS  
VARIOUS COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

PROPOSED SERVICE AREAS



JOB NUMBER	2020-0733.30
DATE	06/2021
DRAWN BY	RCV
CHECKED BY	RJG
FIGURE	2

DIMENSIONS AND LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE; ACTUAL MAY VARY. DRAWING SHALL NOT BE USED OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF THE REPORT FOR WHICH IT WAS GENERATED.