



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Rock Island District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sponsor: Mitchell County Conservation
18793 Highway 9, Osage, Iowa 50461

Issued: April 22, 2021
Expires: May 21, 2021

Corps Project Number: CEMVR-OD-P-2018-1443

Proposed Project: Mitchell County Conservation 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 7, Township 98 North, Range 16 West, Mitchell County, Iowa. See attached location maps. Latitude: 41.314494, Longitude: -92.785133.

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: Reduction of temporal losses of wetland function, support of no net-loss of wetlands; enhancement or creation of additional wildlife habitat; and public education opportunities.

3. **Project Description/Bank Establishment:** The bank sponsor proposes to complete activities within a 74-acre county owned property that would result in the enhancement and creation of wetland mitigation credits. The bank is located east of March Avenue between 370th and 385th Streets. A wetland delineation completed on the site in July of 2019 determined that 4.96 acres of emergent wetland and 0.28 acres of deep-water habitat currently exist on the site. The goal of the bank is to enhance existing wetlands and create additional wetlands on the site to generate approximately 25.62 wetland credits. Construction activities will include grading, excavation, and daylighting three tiles to improve the overland flow of hydrology. The creation of wetlands and vegetation management would be utilized to enhance/increase existing wetland acreage and functionality. Success criteria will be developed and are 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 Cedar Service Area.

5. **Bank Need/Technical Feasibility/Ecological Suitability:** The bank sponsor may utilize the bank to satisfy mitigation requirement within Mitchell County if needed, but credits will primarily be sold to other entities. The bank sponsor has reviewed the Iowa DOT five-year Statewide

Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and capital improvement programs (CIP) for the cities of Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and Cedar Falls and understands the current and future needs for wetland mitigation around the service area.

6. Long Term Management: Post bank closure management would include ongoing plant management which may require herbicide, fire treatment and 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 Sponsor, Mitchell County Conservation, is well versed in maintaining vegetation and are conservation minded. Fulltime staff have extensive wetland restoration knowledge and experience. The County has wetland construction experience as well.

8. Water Rights: The sponsor currently owns 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 the permit area has not been previously surveyed. Based on a review of historic and current aerial photos, topo maps, the HILD database / Culture Map 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: District staff has performed a preliminary review of this bank for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. The threatened Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis serptrionallis*), Indiana

bat (*Myotis sodalist*), Prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) and Western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*) are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as occurring in Mitchell County, Iowa. The project will not affect dry to mesic or wet prairies or sedge meadows so neither of the plant species will be affected. The project will not require the removal of trees exhibiting suitable habitat and therefore has no potential to impact either bat species. Because of this, our preliminary determination is that this project “has no potential to affect Federally endangered, threatened or candidate species, or Critical Habitat.” Accordingly, our preliminary determination is subject to change should further information become available.

12. Who Should Reply: The Corps of Engineers 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 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.

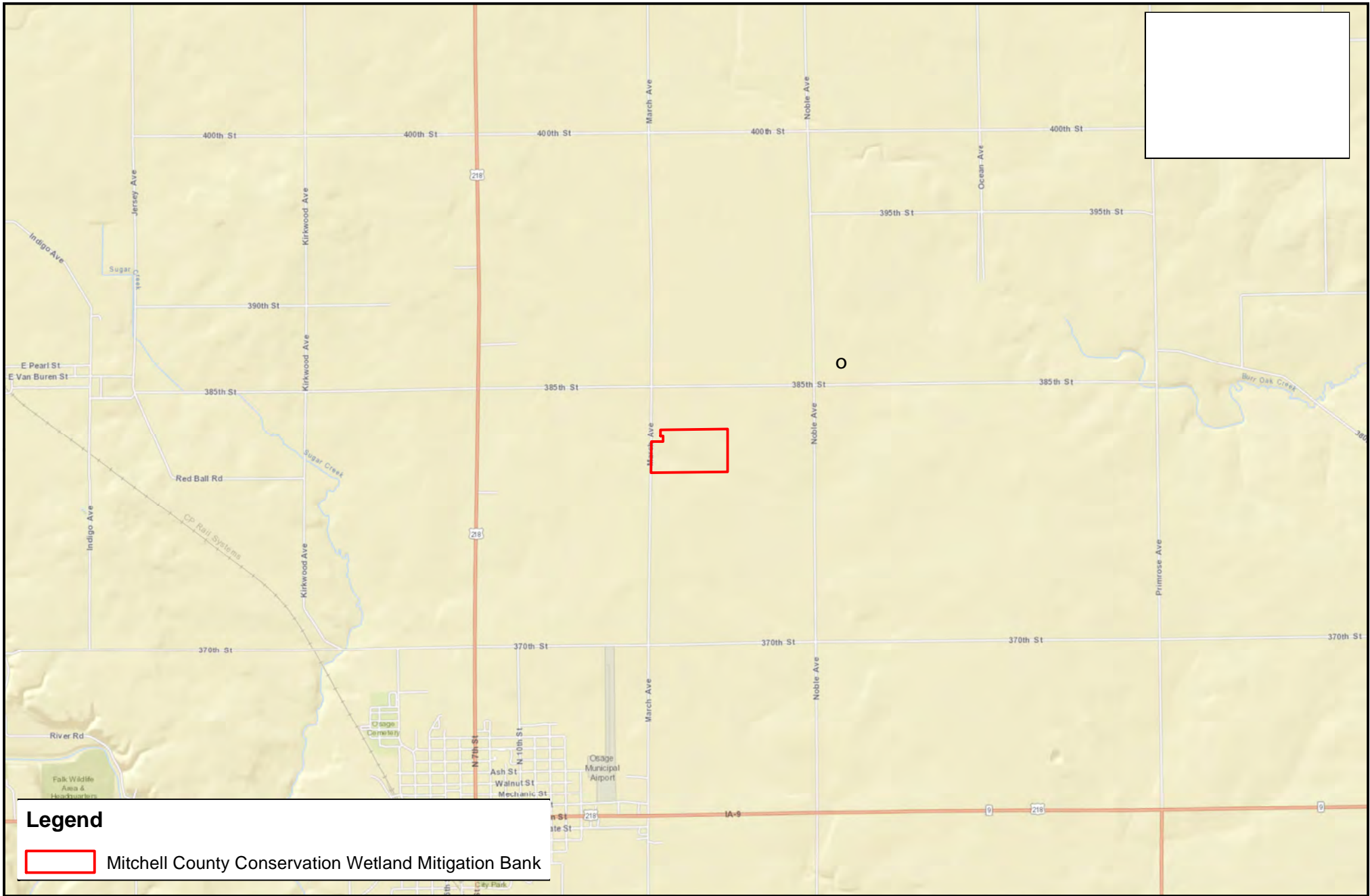
13. Reply to the Corps of Engineers: Comments or questions concerning this notice may be directed to Abby Steele by phone: (309/794-5377), email: Abigail.a.steele@usace.army.mil or Mail: US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: RD (A. Steele), Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004,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

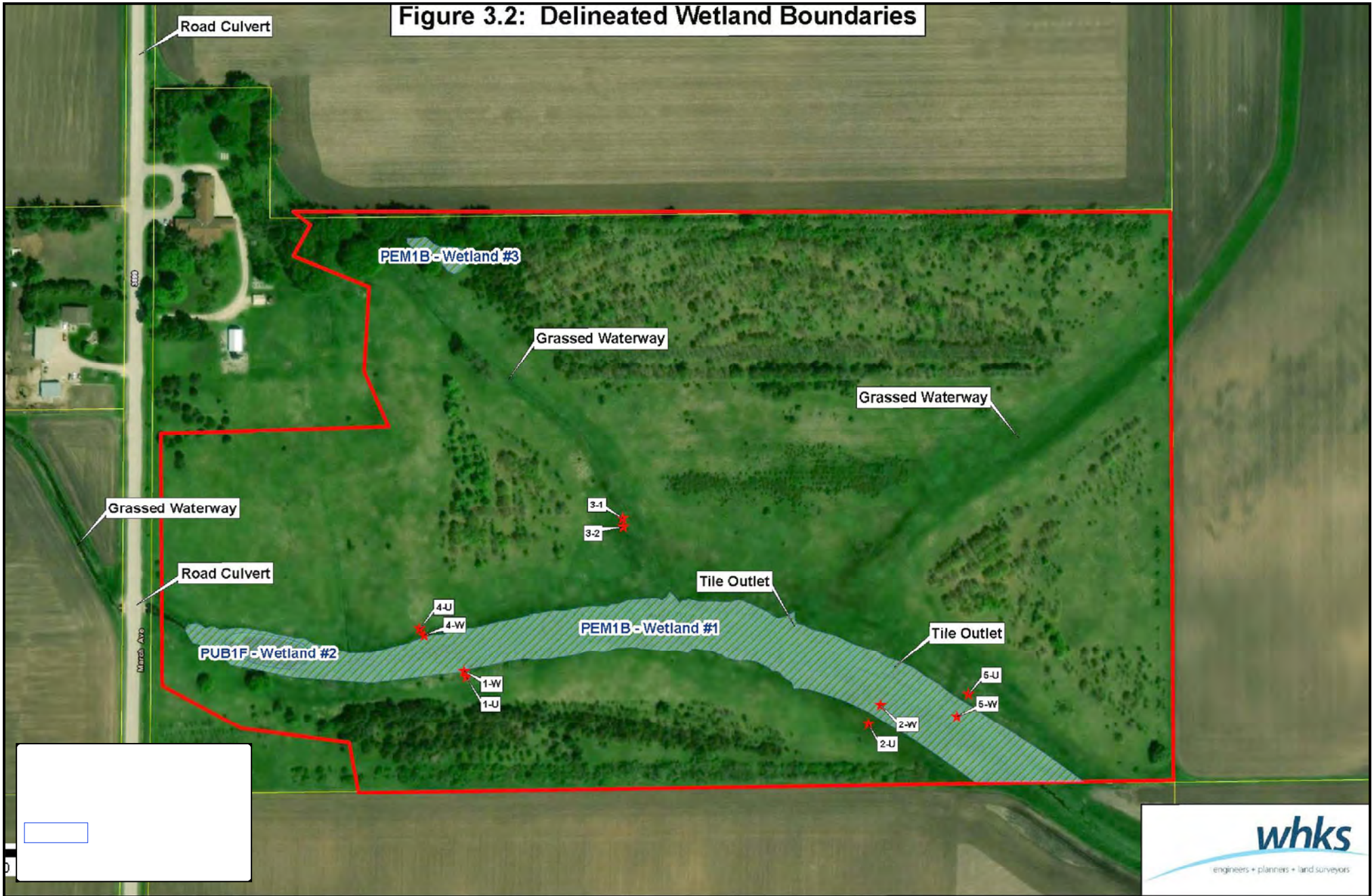
14. Complete Prospectus: The revised prospectus can be found on our public website at: https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:3063657962286::NO:RP,278:P278_BANK_ID:5601

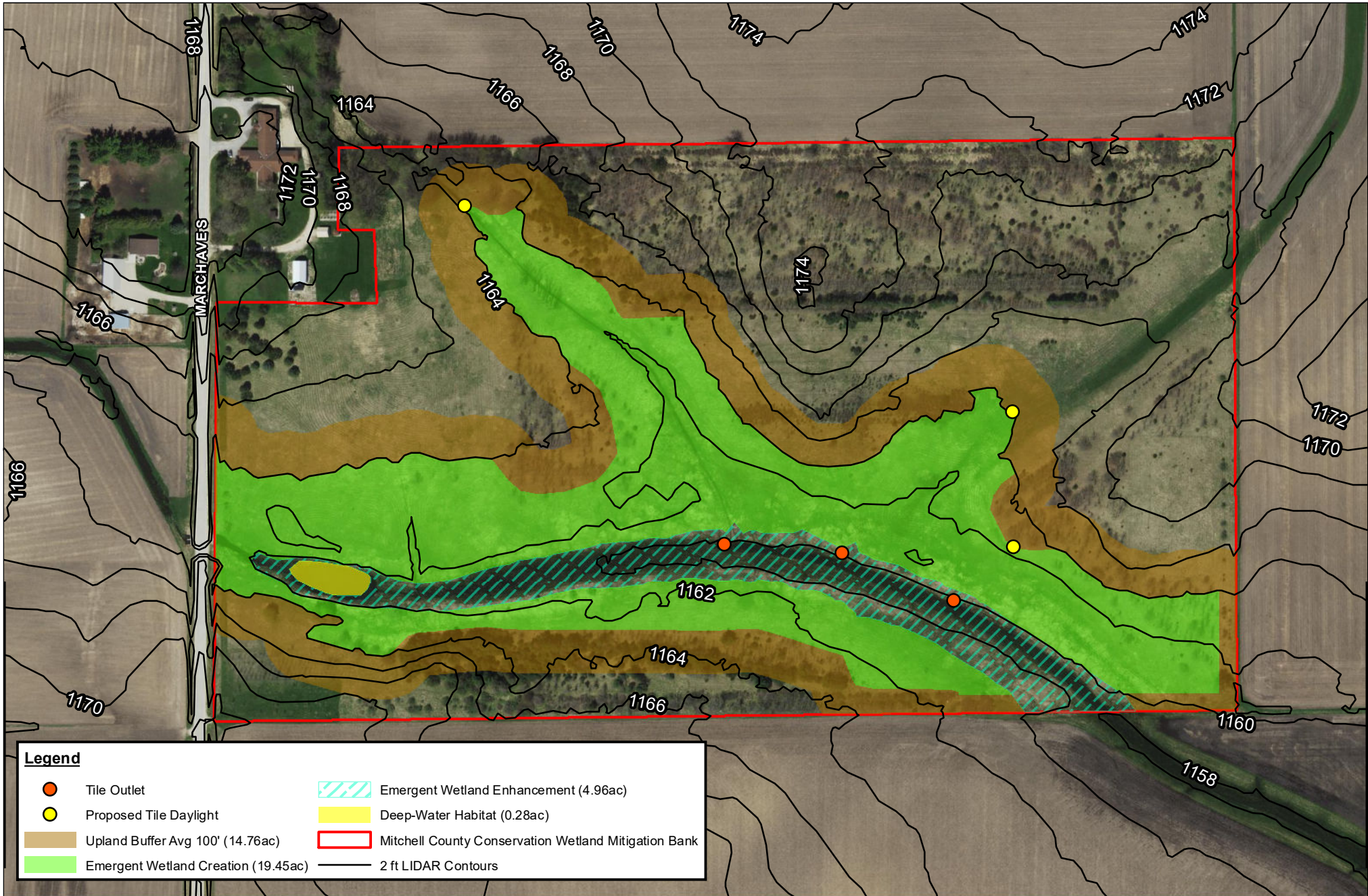
Abigail A. Steele

Attach
Plan

Ms. Abigail A. Steele, PM
Iowa Mitigation Bank Manager
Western Branch
Regulatory Division







Legend	
	Tile Outlet
	Proposed Tile Daylight
	Upland Buffer Avg 100' (14.76ac)
	Emergent Wetland Creation (19.45ac)
	Emergent Wetland Enhancement (4.96ac)
	Deep-Water Habitat (0.28ac)
	Mitchell County Conservation Wetland Mitigation Bank
	2 ft LIDAR Contours

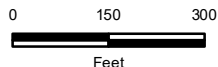


Exhibit 6 - Mitigation Work Plan

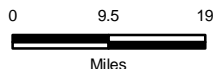
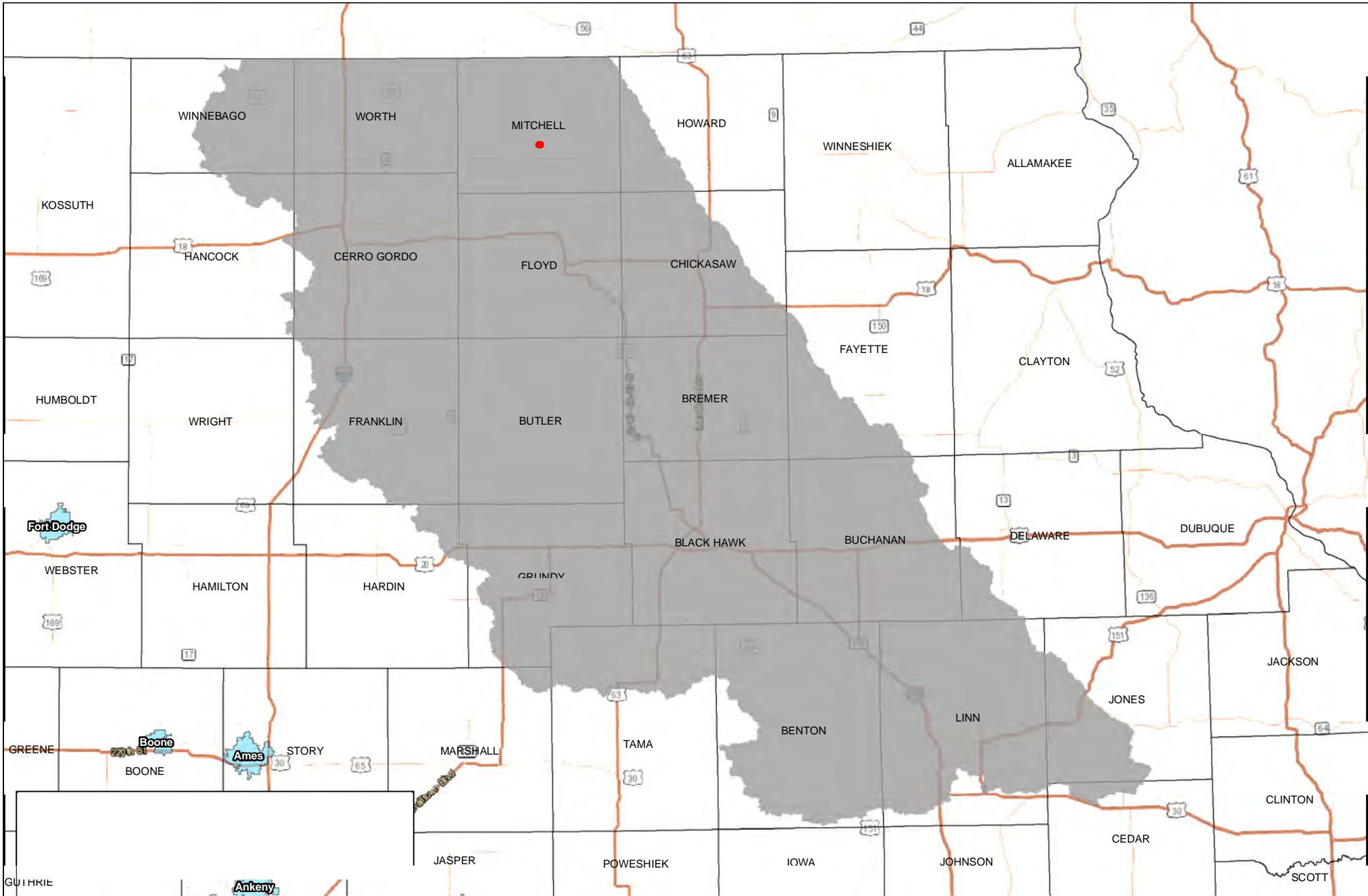


Exhibit 8 - Service Area Map