



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Wilmington District

## Hofmann State Forest Unauthorized Ditching Activity Jacksonville, Onslow County, NC (Regulatory)

- **Regulatory Action: Potential unauthorized excavation of ditches in jurisdictional wetlands.**
- **Determination that the ditches exceed the forestry exemption for minor drainage allowed for in the Corps regulations.**
- **The determination affects over 6,700 acres of wetlands in Onslow County and has policy repercussions for eastern NC and throughout the Corps.**



---

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC-03

DATE: 26 February 2014

### 1. PURPOSE:

To provide information regarding the regulatory status for possible unauthorized ditch work (potentially impacting over 6,700 acres of jurisdictional wetlands) occurring on The Hofmann State Forest and conducted by the NC Forestry Foundation (a component of NC State University) north of Jacksonville, Onslow County, NC. Action ID: SAW-2013-02352.

### 2. BACKGROUND:

a. Upon receiving a FOIA request concerning information circulating from a potential buyer, the Corps discovered that recent ditch work within the approximate 80,000-acre State Forest appeared to not meet the minor drainage exemption pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Based on this discovery, the Corps met with several personnel from the Foundation on January 7, 2014. It was confirmed that ditches were excavated in jurisdictional wetlands and that they did not appear to meet the exemption due to the excavated depth and their connection to

PROJECT INFORMATION – Hofmann State Forest Unauthorized Ditching Activity, Jacksonville, Onslow County, N.C. (Regulatory) – Continued

an outside drainage system. A letter dated February 3, 2014 was sent to the Foundation requesting additional information regarding the history of subject ditches.

b. The Corps has been in contact with representatives of the US EPA, Region IV on January 13 and February 19, 2014 to discuss our findings and the Corps' belief that the work was not conducted in accordance with the Corps' regulations.

3. **CURRENT STATUS:**

a. To date, the requested information has not been submitted. The Foundation was provided a 30-day timeframe upon receipt of the Corps' letter to send the requested information.

b. Based on conversations with US EPA, it is anticipated that their agency will conduct an onsite inspection in the near future.

c. The Corps is preparing a referral package of this case to US EPA.