



US Army Corps  
Of Engineers  
Wilmington District

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: 22 August 2008  
Comment Deadline: 22 September 2008  
Corps Action ID #: SAW-2008-02293

The Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received a prospectus describing the establishment of a stream and wetland compensatory mitigation bank, known as Ratcliffe Cove Mitigation Bank for Federal and State permits as described below:

Bank Sponsor  
Restoration Systems, LLC

This public notice does not imply, on the part of the Corps of Engineers or other agencies, either favorable or unfavorable opinion of the work to be performed, but is issued to solicit comments regarding the factors on which final decisions will be based. Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at [www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands). The complete prospectus and mitigation plans are also available at the Asheville Regulatory Field Office.

WATERWAYS AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: The proposed bank site is located approximately 0.5 mile northeast of Waynesville in central Haywood County and encompasses approximately 24 acres of land that is currently utilized for livestock grazing. Coordinates for the site are 35.5061 north and 82.9549 west. The main hydrologic features of the proposed bank include Ratcliffe Cove Branch, four unnamed tributaries to Ratcliffe Cove Branch, and associated floodplains. The proposed bank is located in the Broad Basins portion of the Blue Ridge Ecoregion of North Carolina within United States Geological Survey (USGS) Cataloging Unit 06010106 (North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) subbasin number 04-03-05) of the French Broad River Basin.

PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE: The bank sponsor proposes to establish, design, construct, and operate a stream and wetland compensatory mitigation bank in central Haywood County, North Carolina.

As stated by the sponsor, the primary goals and objectives of this proposed mitigation bank are to improve water quality, enhance flood attenuation and restore aquatic and riparian habitat. Specifically, the sponsor proposes to restore 5,660 linear feet of stream channel, enhance 296 linear feet of stream channel, restore 0.9 acre of riverine wetlands, enhance 0.8 acre of riverine wetlands, plant a native woody riparian buffer, and protect the proposed bank site in perpetuity with a conservation easement. The sponsor states that the goals and objectives would be accomplished by: 1) removing non-point sources of pollution associated with agricultural

activities, 2) reducing sedimentation within onsite and downstream receiving waters, 3) reestablishing stream stability and the capacity to transport watershed flows and sediment loads by restoring stable dimension, pattern and profile, 4) promoting floodwater attenuation by reconnecting bankfull flows to abandoned floodplains, restoring entrenched tributaries, restoring depressional floodplain wetlands, and revegetating floodplains, 5) improving aquatic habitat by enhancing stream bed variability and the use of in-stream structures, 6) providing wildlife habitat. The sponsor states that the proposed bank will be protected in perpetuity by a conservation easement. The applicant states that upon completion the proposed bank would offer 5,778 Stream Mitigation Units and 1.3 Riverine Wetland Mitigation Units.

The proposed 24-acre bank site is currently utilized as pasture land for livestock grazing. Cattle have indiscriminate access to onsite streams and wetlands, resulting in degradation of stream banks through vegetative cropping and hoof shear. Riparian vegetation adjacent to restoration /enhancement reaches of onsite streams is sparse and disturbed due to livestock grazing, bush hogging, and regular maintenance activities. The proposed bank site encompasses 5,590 linear feet of stream channels including Ratcliffe Cove Branch and four (4) unnamed tributaries.

Approximately 1.7 acres of the proposed bank site are underlain by hydric soils. Hydric soils are located within floodplains adjacent to onsite streams. Extensive floodplain manipulations associated with stream ditching and straightening, deforestation, floodplain drain tile, and compaction due to livestock trampling have effectively removed groundwater hydrology from some of these areas impacted by stream channel entrenchment, ditching, excavation and removal of vegetation. The enclosed map shows the approximate location of proposed restoration and enhancement activities.

The proposed primary geographic service area is the French Broad River Basin 8-digit HUC, 06010106.

This mitigation bank may be considered one of a number of practicable alternatives available to applicants to compensate for unavoidable stream and wetland impacts associated with permits issued under the authority of Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act for projects located within the prescribed geographic service area.

Oversight of this wetland and stream compensatory mitigation bank will be by a group of Federal and State agency representatives collectively referred to as the Interagency Review Team (IRT). The IRT shall be chaired by the Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, N.C. Division of Water Quality, and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

The actual approval of the use of this mitigation bank for a specific project is the decision of the Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps provides no guarantee that any particular individual or general permit will be granted authorization to use this wetland compensatory mitigation bank to compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts associated with a proposed permit, even though mitigation from this bank may be available.

AUTHORITY: A Public Notice regarding proposed mitigation banks is required pursuant to the rules published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources (33 CFR 332.8(d)(4)).

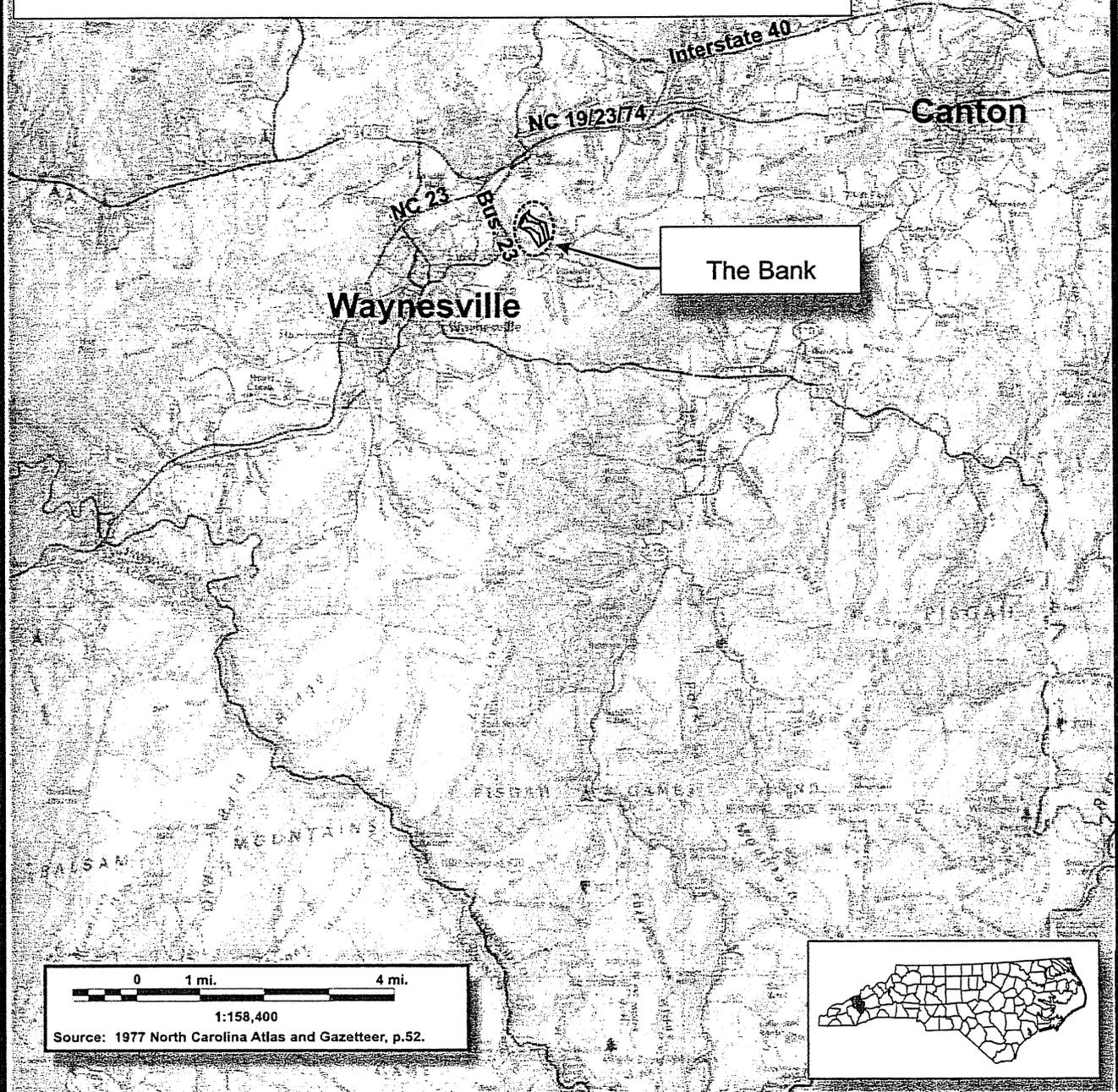
FEDERAL EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate this proposed mitigation bank. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps in evaluating this proposal. Comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards and flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Preliminary review indicates that: 1) An environmental impact statement will not be required; 2) No species of fish, wildlife, or plant (or their critical habitat) listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL 93-205) will be affected; and 3) No cultural or historic resources considered eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places will be affected. Additional information may change any of these preliminary findings.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received in this office, Attention: Lori Beckwith, Asheville Regulatory Field Office, 151 Patton Avenue, Room 208, Asheville, North Carolina 28801-5006, until 5:00 p.m., September 22, 2008.

Directions to the Bank:

Take exit 27 off Interstate 40 just north of Clyde  
Travel on US 74W/23S/19S for ~ 3 miles  
Take exit 104 for Lake Junaluska towards Waynesville and travel ~ 1 mile  
Turn left on Francis Farm Road (just after Junaluska School)  
The Bank is on the right after a sharp bend in the road  
Point in center Site  
Latitude: 35.5061 °N, Longitude: 82.9549 °W



2126 Rowland Pond Drive  
Willow Spring, NC 27592  
(919) 215-1693  
(919) 341-3839 fax

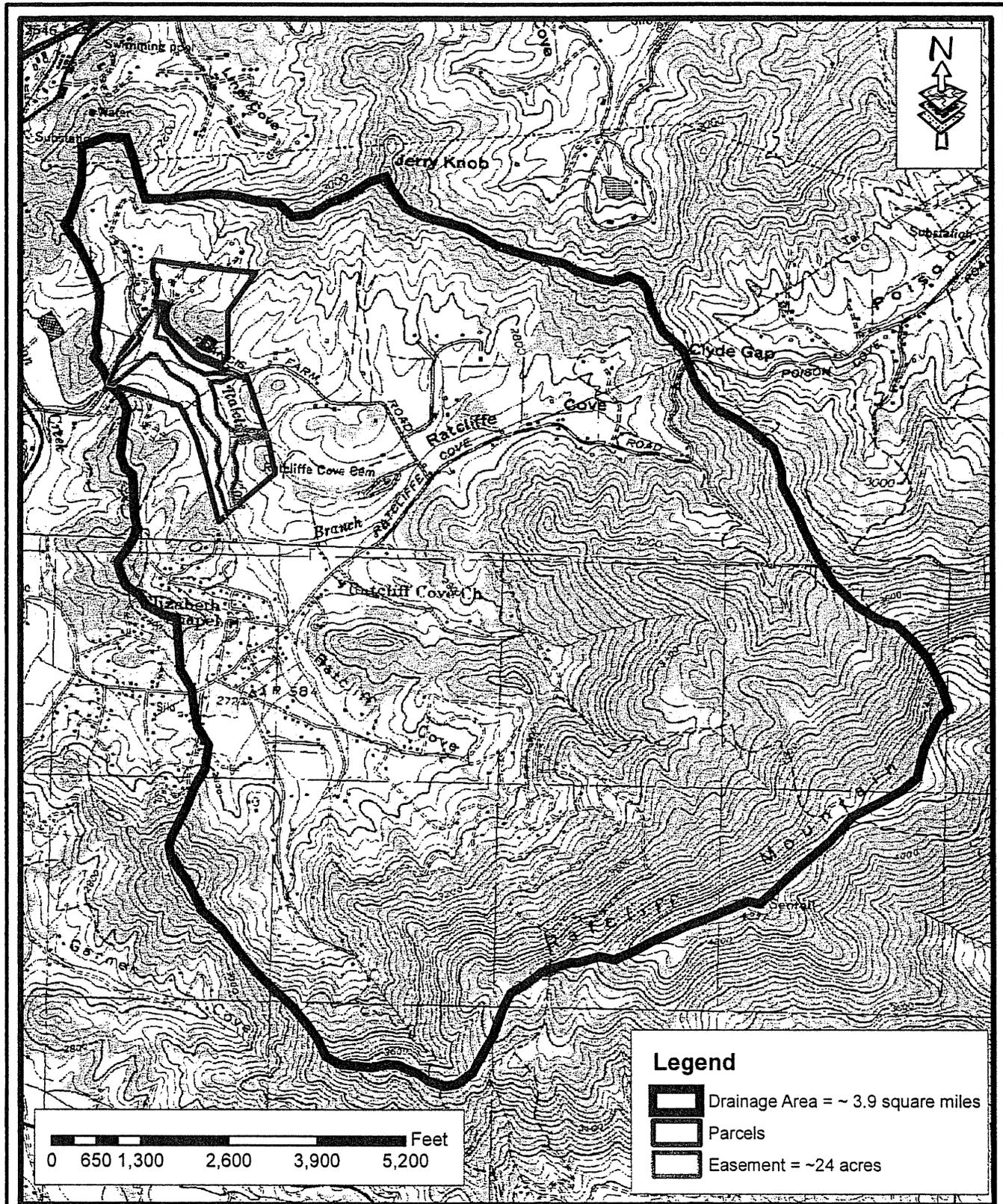
Avdon Environmental, Inc.

THE BANK LOCATION  
RATCLIFFE COVE MITIGATION BANK  
Haywood County, North Carolina

Dwn. by:	CLF
Ckd by:	WGL
Date:	January 2008
Project:	05-002.45

FIGURE  
**1**

Enclosure 1 of 4

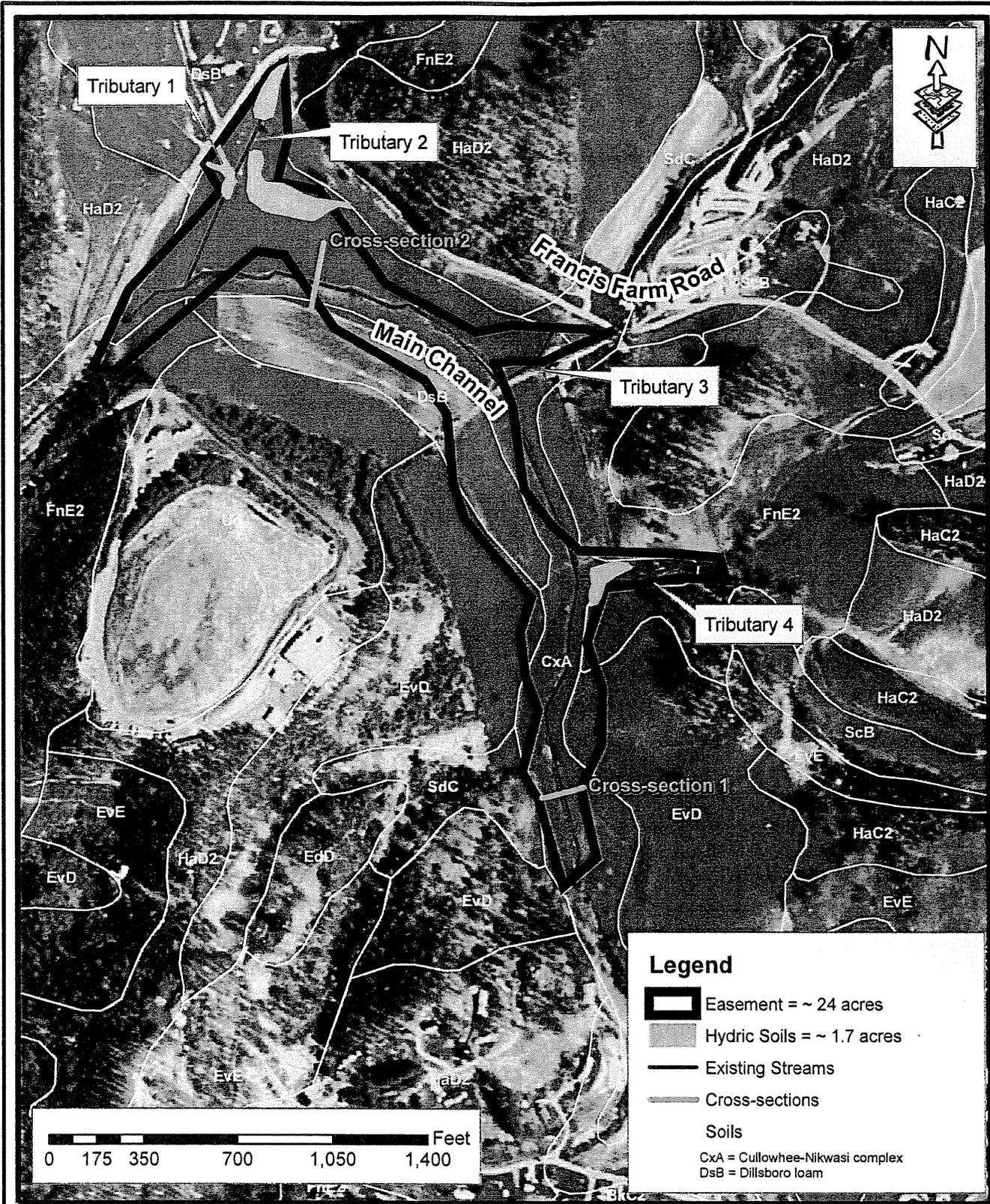


  
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**TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE AREA  
 RATCLIFFE COVE MITIGATION BANK  
 Haywood County, North Carolina**

Dwn. By: CLF	<b>FIGURE 3</b>
Date: WGL	
Project: 05-022.45	

*Enclosure 2 of 4*

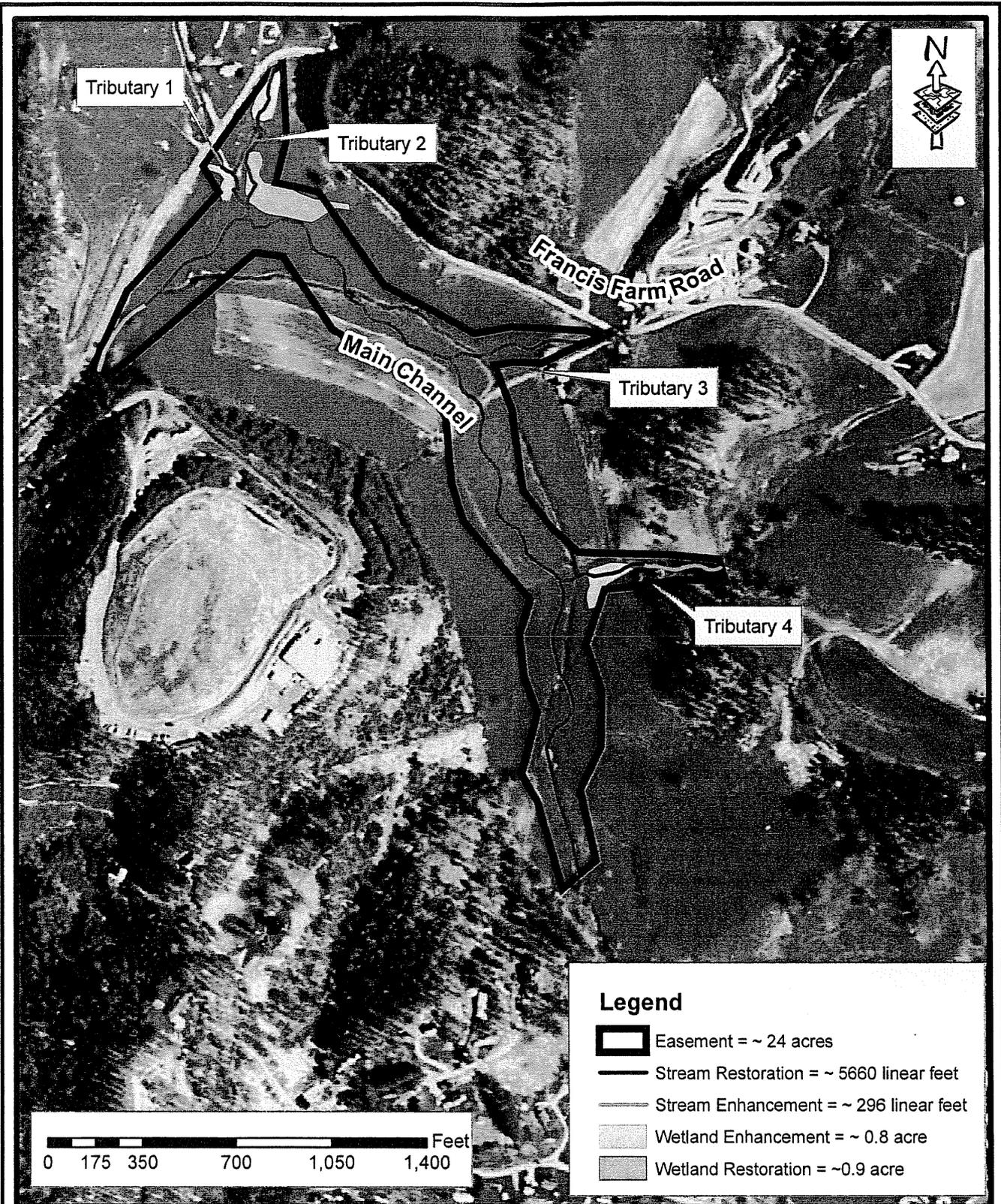



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**EXISTING CONDITIONS AND SOILS  
RATCLIFFE COVE STREAM RESTORATION SITE  
Haywood County, North Carolina**

Dwn. By: CLF	<b>FIGURE 4</b>
Date: WGL	
Project: 05-022.45	

*Enclosure 3 of 4*




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**PROPOSED CONDITIONS  
RATCLIFFE COVE MITIGATION BANK  
Haywood County, North Carolina**

Dwn. By: CLF  
Date: WGL  
Project: 05-022.45

FIGURE  
**6**

*Enclosure 4 of 4*