

6.0 MITIGATION PLAN

Mitigation for temporary impacts will consist of returning the site to approximate preconstruction contours and elevations, replacement of the stockpiled topsoil and revegetation. The details of this process are described below:

- Prior to mining the top 6 inches of topsoil will be removed and stockpiled nearby.
- The mined material will be returned to the mined area and restored to approximate preconstruction contours and elevations.
- The stockpiled topsoil will be replaced.
- The area will be revegetated with longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) in upland areas and slash pine (*Pinus ellioti*) in the wetlands.

Mitigation for all impacts will be provided through the purchase of wetland and stream credits from an approved commercial mitigation bank. The Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Guidelines to Evaluation Proposed Mitigation Bank Credit Purchases in the State of Georgia was utilized when identifying the appropriate mitigation bank. This analysis is provided below. Using the 2018 Department of the Army Savannah District Corps of Engineers Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the Qualitative Resource Assessments for Adverse Impact were utilized. SOP worksheets are included in Appendix C. The Qualitative Worksheets for Wetland Adverse Impacts were utilized to determine the total quantity of wetland and stream credits to be purchased as summarized below. The wetland and stream credits required for the impacts will be purchased prior to the initiation of the associated activities.

The project would need to obtain 192.72 riverine wetland grandfathered credits and 1105.76 depressional wetland grandfathered credits for a total of 1,298.48 wetland credits. The project would need to obtain 23,282 stream credits to mitigate for the permanent impacts. The project is located in the St. Mary's Primary Service Area (PSA) and in the 03070204 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (Figure 5). There are three banks located in the PSA with non-tidal wetland credits. Each bank does not have sufficient credits on its own. Therefore, wetland credits will be purchased from a combination of banks that have credits available. There is also one bank, the Satilla River Mitigation Bank that is within the tertiary service area. There are no banks with stream credits that services the 03070204 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code. Therefore, stream credits will be purchased from the Georgia Alabama Land Trust In-Lieu Fee Program. Additional information and analyses are provided in the following matrix.