

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TULSA DISTRICT 2488 EAST 81ST STREET TULSA. OKLAHOMA 74137-4290

## PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF TERRA FOUNDATION IN-LIEU FEE STREAM AND WETLAND MITIGATION PROGRAM INSTRUMENT

**AUTHORITY:** Pursuant to the Final Rule for the Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources, referred to as the Mitigation Rule (33 CFR Parts 325 and 332, and 40 CFR Part 230), dated April 10, 2008; this notice announces a proposed modification of the Terra Foundation In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program Instrument (August 2015) to add the Wewoka Creek ILF project site within the North Canadian D Service Area.

**ILF (SPONSOR)**: Mr. Craig Gump (Sponsor)

Terra Foundation

7633 East 63rd Place, Suite 300

Tulsa, OK 74133

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The proposed mitigation site is approximately 137.03 acres located along Wewoka Creek in Section 35 of Township 9 North, Range 10 East, Southeast of Wetumka, in Hughes County, Oklahoma. This proposed site is within the Canadian River Watershed (HUC 1110). The project site is located at North Latitude 35.213050 and West Longitude 96.216014.

PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE: The Sponsor is proposing modification of its program instrument to include the new ILF project site. The purpose for the protection of the wetland functions and values contained at project site would be to fulfill obligations for past sales of advanced compensation mitigation credits used in the Beaver North Canadian D Service Area and to generate 'released credits' once past obligations have been fulfilled. The ILF project site was selected based on watershed needs, existing threats, as well as proximity to historic and ongoing urban development. Impacts and degradation of aquatic resources in the Canadian River Watershed include, among others, cadmium, enterococcus bacteria, total dissolved solids, oil and grease, and turbidity. Identified watershed needs are:

- a. Increasing wetland acreage and riparian acreage,
- b. Acquiring, restoring, enhancing, and preserving important aquatic resources,
- c. Improving wildlife habitat,
- d. Enhancing floodplain connectivity,
- e. Addressing in-stream habitat impairments including stream channelization, and
- f. Enhancing ecologically impaired riparian corridors.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES**: The Corps will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR Part 800 in evaluating this proposal. As specific project sites are identified and brought forward under this program instrument, the Corps would evaluate information provided by this public notice. The Corps will require a survey of specific project areas, if deemed necessary.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES**: The Corps will comply with the Endangered Species Act. Modification of the program instrument to include the project site would be coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service has a representative on the IRT.

**FLOODPLAIN**: This activity is being reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management, which discourages direct or indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative. By this public notice, comments are requested from individuals and agencies that believe the described work would adversely impact the floodplain.

**PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW:** The purpose of this public notice is to advise all interested parties of the proposed project site and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact on the public interest. The decision to allow or deny the Sponsor to move forward and develop the project site would be based on an evaluation of all relevant factors that reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal would be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The evaluation of the impact of the proposed activity on the public interest would include application of the 404 (b)(1) Guidelines promulgated by the EPA under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344).

**COMMENTS**: The Corps 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 the above-described activity. This notice is also provided to outline details of the above-described activity so Tulsa District may consider all pertinent comments prior to determining acceptance of the proposed ILF instrument amendment, such that, the Sponsor may move forward in modifying the ILF program instrument to include the project site. Any interested party is invited to submit to this office written facts or objections relative to the activity on or before the public notice expiration date. Comments both favorable and unfavorable will be accepted and made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in determining whether this ILF project site plan document would be in the public interest. Copies of all comments,

including names and addresses of commenters will be provided to the Sponsor. All comments should be titled "SWT-2011-860 - Wewoka Creek ILF Site" and mailed to Mr. Michael A. Ware at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2488 East 81st Street, Tulsa, OK 74137; telephone No. 918-669-7400; or email to michael.a.ware@usace.army.mil.

**PUBLIC HEARING**: Any person may request, in writing, prior to the expiration date of this public notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Such requests shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

**NOTE**: This public notice and proposed ILF amendment is posted for review on the Tulsa District's Regulatory web page: https://www.swt.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/.

26 South Community Cem D Barnett Cem Approximate Site Boundary E 125 RD

Figure 3. 2018 U.S. Geological Survey Topographic Map

SWT-2011-860 Terra Foundation Inc. Wewoka Creek ILF Project Site Wewoka Creek and its tributaries Hughes County, Oklahoma Enclosure 1 of 6

Ephemeral # 4 Wetland # 4 Ephemeral # 3 Perennial #1 (Wewoka Creek) Intermittent #1 Perennial #2 (Fish Creek) Pond#1 Wetland # 2 Wetland # 1 Ephemeral # 2 Ephemeral # 1 Pond#2 Wetland # 3

Figure 4. Baseline Conditions Surface Water Flow Paths

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Table 6. Proposed Wetland Credit Amounts

Restoration Activity	Area (Acres)	Cedit Ratio (Credits: Acres)	Resulting Credits
Emergent Wetland Restoration	3.21	1:1	3.21
Emergent Wetland Rehabilitation	0.56	1:1	0.56
Forested Wetland Rehabilitation	4.80	1:1	4.80
Upland buffer	20.34	1:4	5.09

TOTAL WETLAND CREDITS: 13.66

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Table 8. Proposed Stream Credit Amounts

Stream ID	Net Benefit	Restoration Type	Credit Factor	Stream Length	Credits Generated
Wewoka Creek	1	Riparian	0.5	5,198	2,599
Wewoka Creek	2	In-Stream	2.5	657	1,642.5
Wewoka Creek	3	In-Stream	2.5	1,300	3,250
Fish Creek	4	Riparian	0.5	871	435.5
Fish Creek	5	Riparian	0.25	272	68
Fish Creek	6	Riparian	0.5	1,738	869
Fish Creek	7	In-Stream	2.0	3.327	6,654
Intermittent #1	8	Riparian	1.0	1,603	1,603
Intermittent #1	9	In-Stream	3.5	772	2,702
Intermittent #1	10	In-Stream	2.0	1,574	3,148
Ephemeral #1	11	In-Stream	2.0	265	530
Ephemeral #2	12	Riparian	0.25	69	17.25
Ephemeral #4	13	Riparian	0.5	335	167.5
TOTAL PERENNIAL CREDITS:					9,384*

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TOTAL INTERMITTENT CREDITS:	13,587*
TOTAL EPHEMERAL CREDITS:	715

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Approximate Site Boundary American Elm-Sugarberry Scrub-shrub Wetland -Geen Ash Forest Old Field/Pasture Ponds Forested Wetland Streams Emergent Wetland

Figure 9. Existing Plant Communities

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dn-Stream) Moderate Enhancen Bank Stobilization) Wowoku Creek Net Benefit 13 (Ripurturi) Ephemeral #4 Net Benefit G (Riparian) Fish Creek Net Benefit 2 ğn-Steam Hiror Enhancement Net Benefit 1 (Riparian) Wewoka Creek Net Benefit 10 Woody Riffles) Fish Creek (In-Stream Minor Enhancement Net Benefit 5 Waady Riffles) Internitient #1 (Riperion) Freb Creek Net Benefit 4 (Riparian) Fish Creek Net Benett 9 Net Benefit 2 In-Steam Net Benefit 9 (Figurian) Internition: #1 (in-stream) Substantial Moderate Enhancem Bonk Stabilization) Stream Restoration Internitient &1 Weweka Creek Net Benefit 12 (Riparian) Ephomeral #2 Net Benefit 11 (in-Stream Minor Enhancement Grade Control) Ephemeral #1

Figure 11. Net Benefit Areas

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