

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

May 1, 2017

United States Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Attn: Regulatory Branch
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-3651

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Water Quality Certifications
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

Project Manager:
Amy Oestringer
(504) 862-2272
Amy.l.oestringer@usace.army.mil
Application #: MVN-2014-00305 WQQ

Project Manager:
Elizabeth Hill
(225) 219-3225
WQC Application Number:
WQC # 170427-01

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

The application has also been mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in Louisiana Revised Statute 30:2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-17).

CLEARING FOR CATTLE PASTURE IN VERMILION PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Brennan Billeaud, 503 Kensington Drive, Lafayette, Louisiana 70508.

LOCATION OF WORK: Located in Vermilion Parish, Section 6, Township 16S and Range 1E, in Kaplan, Louisiana, (lat. 29.648472, Long -92.410667), as shown within the attached drawings. (Hydrologic Unit Code 08080202, Mermentau Basin)

The work described below was partially completed prior to obtaining a Department of the Army permit and was in violation of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. All legal issues concerning the unauthorized work have since been deferred.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Unauthorized clearing of the scrub shrub wetlands on site to return the area to cattle pasture. Future clearing by bushhog to maintain cattle pasture is proposed, as shown on the attached drawings. Approximately 2.6 acres of jurisdictional wetlands will be impacted as a result of this project. No fill is proposed and no hydrologic changes are proposed. Compensatory mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts may be required through purchasing credits at an approved mitigation bank.

The applicant may be required to fully or partially restore the site to pre-project conditions if issuance of a permit is determined to be contrary to the public interest.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **20 days** from the date of this joint public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit and/or this WQC request and must be submitted so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH.** **Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing, faxing, or e-mailing the Corps of Engineers Project Manager listed above. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension, and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Section Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and, inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days.** Letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit 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 will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, 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, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army 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 the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

No properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species. Based on the South Louisiana **Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species (SLOPES)**, as signed on October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it has been determined that the project would have no effect to any listed species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, before a Department of the Army permit is issued.

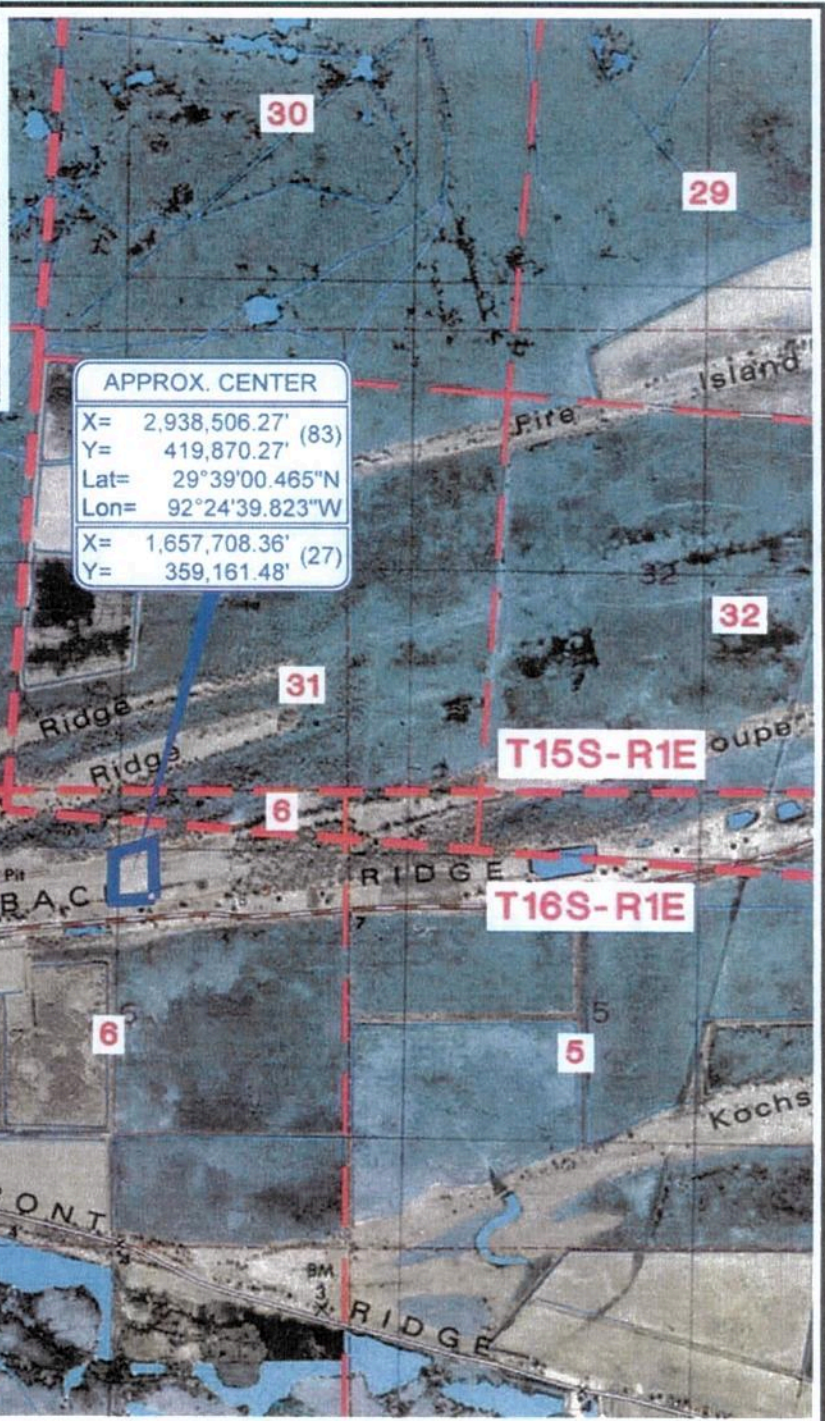
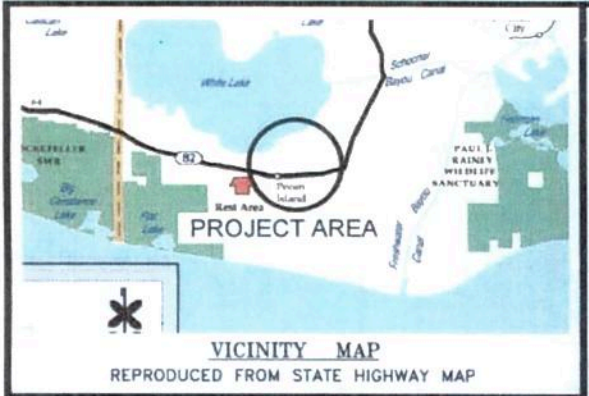
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

You are invited to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

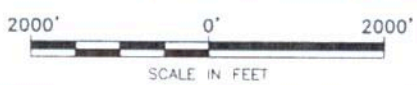
Darrell S. Barbara
Chief, Western Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure



APPROX. CENTER
 X= 2,938,506.27' (83)
 Y= 419,870.27' (83)
 Lat= 29°39'00.465"N
 Lon= 92°24'39.823"W
 X= 1,657,708.36' (27)
 Y= 359,161.48'

LAMBERT GRID NORTH
NAD 1927 L.A. S.Z.



REFERENCE: BASE MAP FROM U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE MAP
"PECAN ISLAND, LA" 1979, AT A SCALE OF 1:24000.

PREPARED BY:



TIM MORTON & ASSOCIATES, INC.
REGULATORY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

FIGURE 1


JOB NO. 15-042

BRENNAN BILLEAUD
PECAN ISLAND, LOUISIANA



VICINITY PLAT
UNAUTHORIZED CLEARING
VERMILION PARISH, LOUISIANA

SCALE: 1" = 2000' APRIL 6, 2015

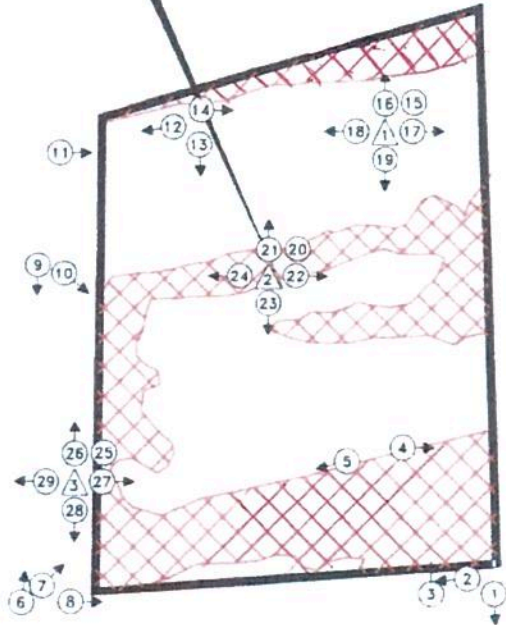
4/19/17

 Herbaceous wetlands to be impacted to be cleared by bush hog

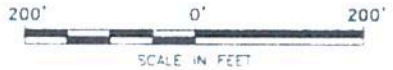
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X= 1,657,708.36' (27)
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 DENOTES LOCATION OF SOIL PIT
 DENOTES LOCATION OF PHOTOGRAPH AND DIRECTION OF VIEW

NOTE APPROXIMATELY 2.59 ACRES OF HERBACEOUS WETLANDS to be impacted to be cleared by Bush Hog



↑
LAMBERT GRID NORTH
NAD 1927 LA S.Z.



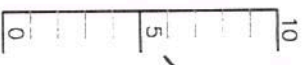
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JOB NO. 15-042

FIGURE 2

BRENNAN BILLEAUD
PECAN ISLAND, LOUISIANA
Herbaceous Wetlands to be Impacted to be Cleared by Bush Hog
SEC 31, T15S-R1E & SEC 6, T16S-R1E
VERMILION PARISH, LOUISIANA
SCALE: 1" = 100' APRIL 6, 2015

4/19/17

LA HWY. 82



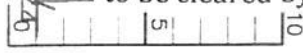
Herbaceous wetlands to be impacted to be cleared by bush hog



Ridge

Herbaceous wetlands to be impacted to be cleared by bush hog

Herbaceous wetlands to be impacted to be cleared by bush hog



TYPICAL SECTION



NOTE: Bush hogging/mowing wetland areas indicated in project drawings will only be conducted when these areas are dry enough for a tractor to access without rutting up the wetlands.

**BRENNAN BILLEAUD
PECAN ISLAND, LA**

Herbaceous Wetlands to be Impacted to be Cleared
by Bush Hog

**SECTION 31, T 15 S - R 1 E
&
SECTION 6, T 16 S - R 1 E
VERMILION PARISH, LOUISIANA**

13-138

4/19/17

