



February 24, 2024

Matthew Norris
129 Morgan Drive
McDonough, GA 30253

Re: *Flagged Wetland Assessment*
 Lot 45 Division 1 Gulf Woods, State Highway 180, Baldwin County, AL
 WSI Reference #2023-763

Dear Mr. Norris,

As requested, Wetland Sciences, Inc. has completed a field wetland assessment of the above-mentioned property located on Lot 45 Division 1 Gulf Woods, State Highway 180 in Section 18, Township 9 South, Range 4 East in Gulf Shores, Baldwin County, Alabama. The Baldwin County Property Appraiser identifies the subject property by the following property identification numbers: 13487. This assessment included an analysis of plant communities, soils, and indirect hydrologic indicators. During this determination, Wetland Sciences, identified a wetland complex within the subject property subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and Baldwin County (See attached wetland sketch – **Exhibit A**). The following is a summary of our findings.

The purpose of performing the wetland assessment was to assess if wetlands or Waters of the United States (WOTUS) are present and, if so, to identify the boundaries. The wetland delineation was performed in accordance with the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, the 2012 Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Atlantic & Gulf Coast Supplement (2010).

During inspection of the property I used technical criteria, field indicators, historic aerial photographs, and other sources of information to assess the site. Wetlands generally have three essential characteristics: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. The techniques for evaluating the plant community, soils, and hydrology are described in the following sections.

Hydric Soils Assessment

Several soil test holes were evaluated to identify field indications of hydric soils. WSI utilized the hydric soil definition provided by the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils and criteria to determine whether soils within the site are considered hydric. During our field inspection of the property, WSI verified the presence of hydric soils within the subject property.

Wetland Hydrology Assessment

Visual indicators of wetland hydrology were evaluated. Examples of primary wetland hydrology indicators include, but are not limited to, surface water, high water table, soil saturation, water marks, sediment deposits, drift deposits, iron deposits, inundation visible on aerial imagery, sparsely vegetated concave surface, and water-stained leaves. If at least one primary or two secondary indicators are observed, the wetland location was considered to support wetland hydrology. Both primary and secondary indicators were noted within a wetland complex located within the subject property.

Plant Community Structure

WSI characterized two distinct wetland communities within the subject property: baygall swamp forest and emergent marsh.

Baygall Swamp Forest

The baygall swamp community is dominated by a canopy of slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) subtended by sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), black gum (*Nyssa biflora*). Shrubs include large gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*) and fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*). Groundcover consists of switch grass (*Arundinaria tecta*), cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), lizard tail (*Saururus cernuus*), saw grass (*Cladium jamaicense*), and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*).

Emergent Marsh

Emergent marsh is dominated by a monoculture of sawgrass (*Cladium jamaicense*).

Field Identification of Wetlands

The assessment was completed by a thorough pedestrian survey covering 100% of the subject property. I personally inspected the property on April 24, 2024. The wetland boundaries shown on the attached sketch were delineated in accordance with the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region (Federal – Corps). The wetland boundary was identified in the field by progressively locating points along the upland/wetland boundary at 15-20-ft. intervals or corresponding with directional changes with the boundary. Each point was identified and located by an experienced wetland scientist. Pink flags were placed at each point clearly marked “Wetland Delineation”. Each flagged point also contains specific alpha numeric designator for later tracking of its location. Wetland Sciences, Inc. used a Trimble Geo7x GNSS system to locate each point. Data was collected using Trimble’s TerraSync Professional Software with further data refinement using Trimble’s Pathfinder Professional Software. Please keep in mind that there are many variables that affect the accuracy of the GPS data used to generate the attached sketch. This sketch should be considered approximate unless verified by a survey or other appropriate means.

The wetlands identified within the subject property will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and Baldwin County. The boundary of jurisdictional wetland as depicted in the exhibits of this report are not final or “binding” until such time as they are confirmed by the Corps through field inspection. As such, the depicted wetland boundary may be subject to minor changes upon such inspection/approval.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 453-4700.

Respectfully,

WETLAND SCIENCES, INC.



Craig D. Martin
Senior Scientist

SUBJECT PROPERTY
0.740± AC (GIS CALCULATED)

CORPS OF ENGINEERS/ADEM/COUNTY WETLANDS
IDENTIFIED BY WSI
0.707± AC

UPLANDS
0.033± AC

