



US ARMY Corps
Of Engineers®
Little Rock District

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS – STATE OF MISSOURI

Application Number: 2014-00102

Date: August 20, 2014

Comments Due: September 10, 2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Comments are invited on the work described below. Please see the Public Involvement section for details on submitting comments.

Point of Contact. If additional information is desired, please contact the project manager, Louis Clarke, telephone number: (870) 886-3610, mailing address: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, Walnut Ridge Regulatory Field Office, PO Box 865, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas 72476-0865; email address: Louis.E.Clarke@usace.army.mil.

Project Information. Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1344), notice is hereby given that

**Mr. Jordan R. Thomas
JRT Farms LLC
10493 Highway 142
Neelyville, Missouri 63954**

has requested authorization for the placement of dredged and fill material in waters of the United States associated with conversion of 1.6 acres of wooded and herbaceous wetlands to agricultural lands. The proposed project is located in an old channel of an unnamed tributary to Cane Creek Ditch, in the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of section 12, T. 22 N., R. 5 E., east of Neelyville, Butler County, Missouri.

The basic purpose of the project is to develop level farm land. The overall purpose of the project is to make this agricultural field easier to irrigate and cultivate. The project is not a water dependent activity.

This project involves the clearing and leveling of 1.6 acres of wooded and herbaceous wetlands that are located in a low area within a tract that is farmed. The applicant has proposed to mitigate for the wetland impacts using a combination of on-site preservation and restoration (see Sheet 4 of 4).

The location and general plan for the proposed work are shown on the enclosed sheets.

Water Quality Certification. By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting certification from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources that the operation of the proposed facility will apparently not violate the existing water quality criteria of the State of Missouri. The Commission hereby gives notice of its intent to certify this construction. A Corps of Engineers permit will not be issued until such certification has been granted. Commenters are requested to furnish a copy of their comments to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Cultural Resources. A Corps staff archeologist will review topographic maps, the National Register of Historic Places, and other data on reported sites in the area. The District Engineer invites responses to this public notice from Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

Endangered Species. Our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity will not affect listed Endangered Species or their critical habitat. A copy of this notice is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies and constitutes a request to those agencies for information on whether any listed or proposed-to-be-listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

Flood Plain. We are providing copies of this notice to appropriate flood plain officials in accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use) and Executive Order 11988 on Flood Plain Management.

Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. The evaluation of activities to be authorized under this permit which involves the discharge of dredged or fill material will include application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines are contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 230.

Public Involvement. Any interested party is invited to submit to the above-listed POC written comments or objections relative to the proposed work on or before **September 10, 2014.** Substantive comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted and made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in determining whether this work would be in the public interest. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact 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, flood plain 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 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 Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, 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 the 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.

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 District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision.

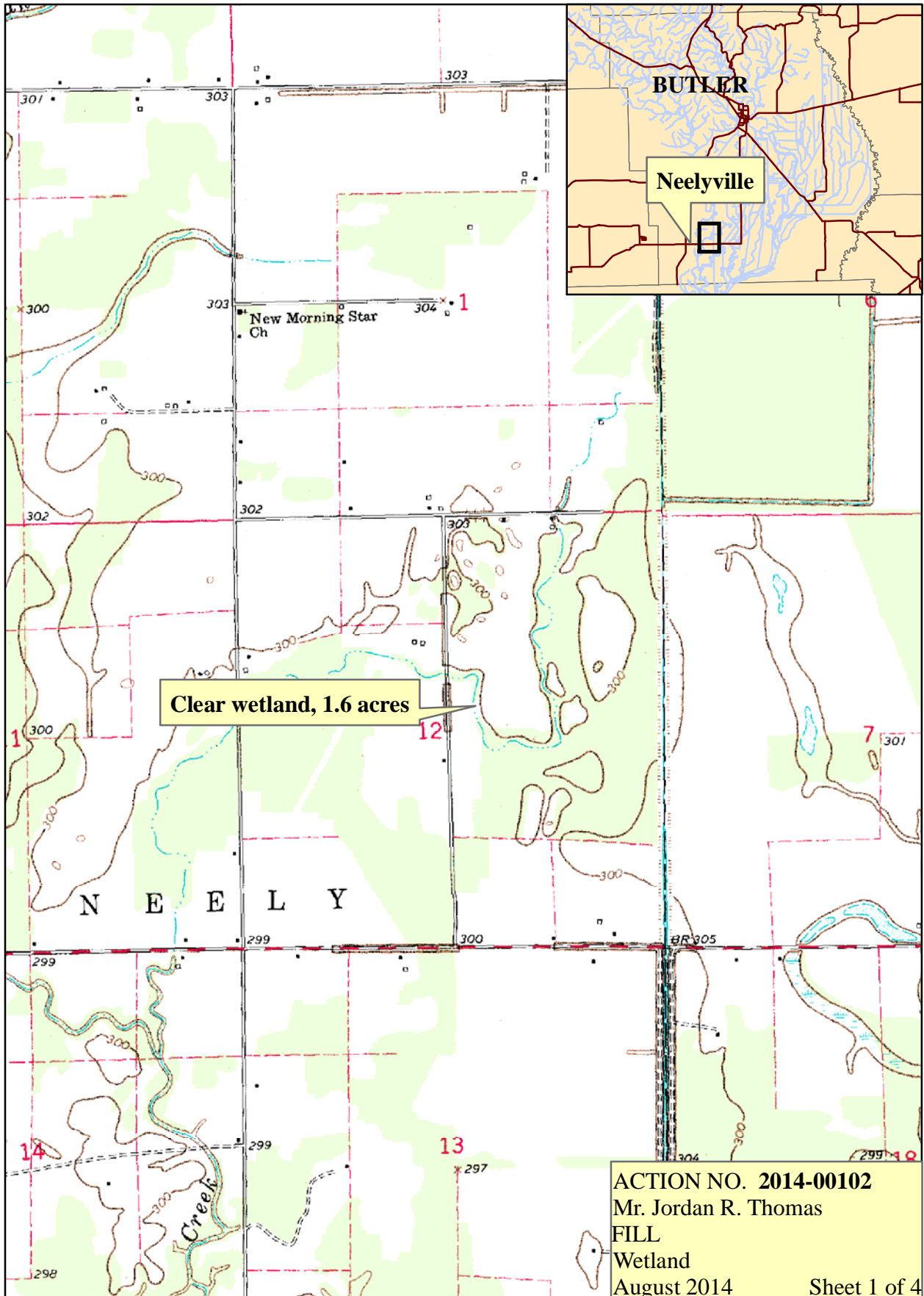
NOTE: The mailing list for this Public Notice is arranged by state and county(s) where the project is located, and also includes any addressees who have asked to receive copies of all public notices. Please discard notices that are not of interest to you. If you have no need for any of these notices, please advise us so that your name can be removed from the mailing list.

Enclosure

Approximate Coordinates of Project Center

Latitude: **36.56942** Longitude: **-90.47436**

UTM Zone: **15** North: **4050077** East: **726004**



Clear wetland, 1.6 acres

BUTLER

Neelyville

New Morning Star
Ch

N E E L Y

ACTION NO. 2014-00102
 Mr. Jordan R. Thomas
 FILL
 Wetland
 August 2014

Sheet 1 of 4

4,700

Feet



Clear wetland, 1.6 acres

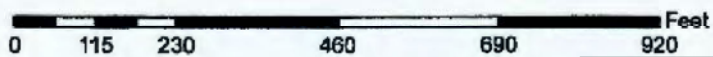
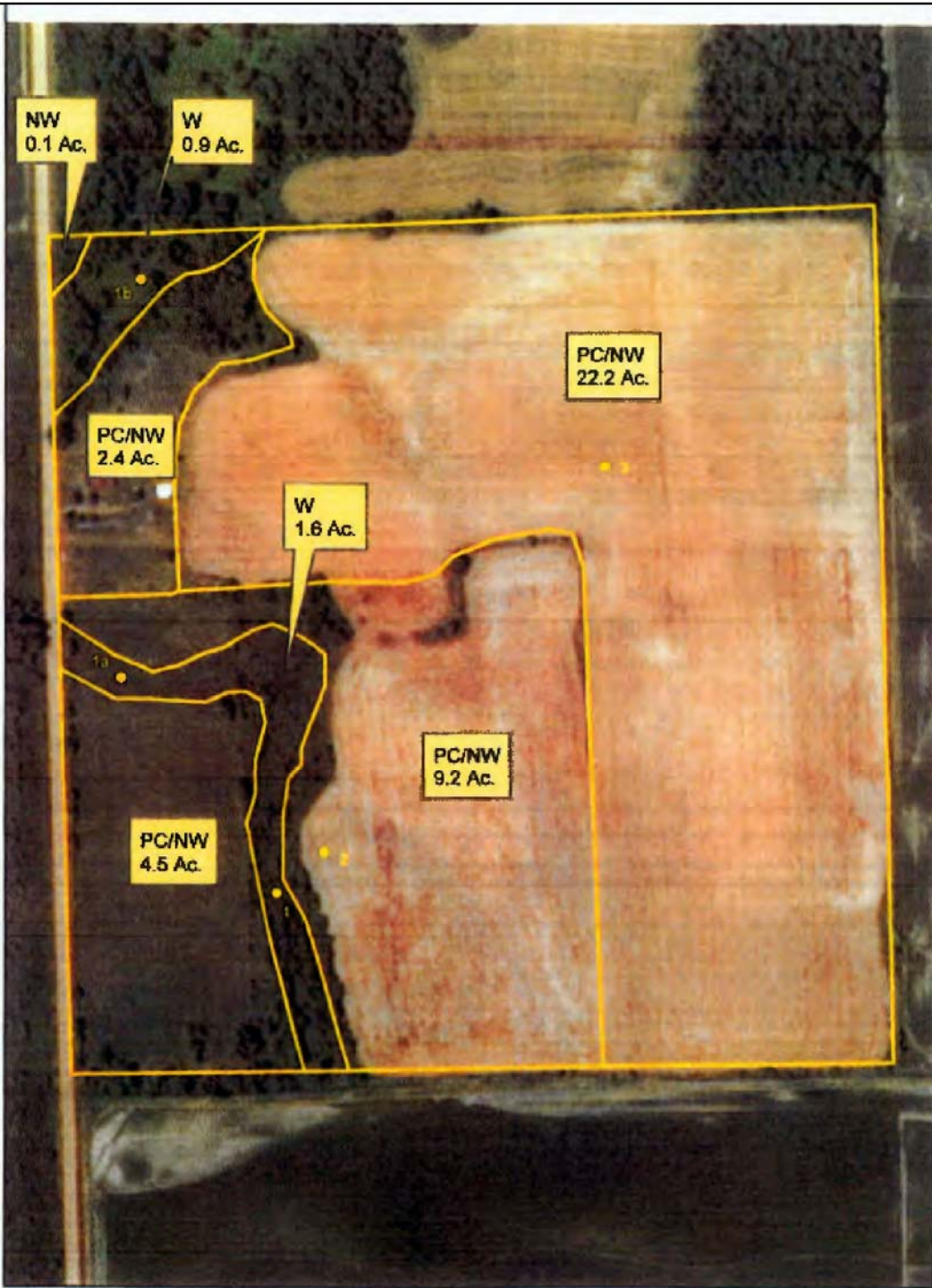
ACTION NO. 2014-00102
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FILL
Wetland
August 2014

Sheet 2 of 4

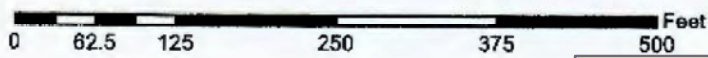
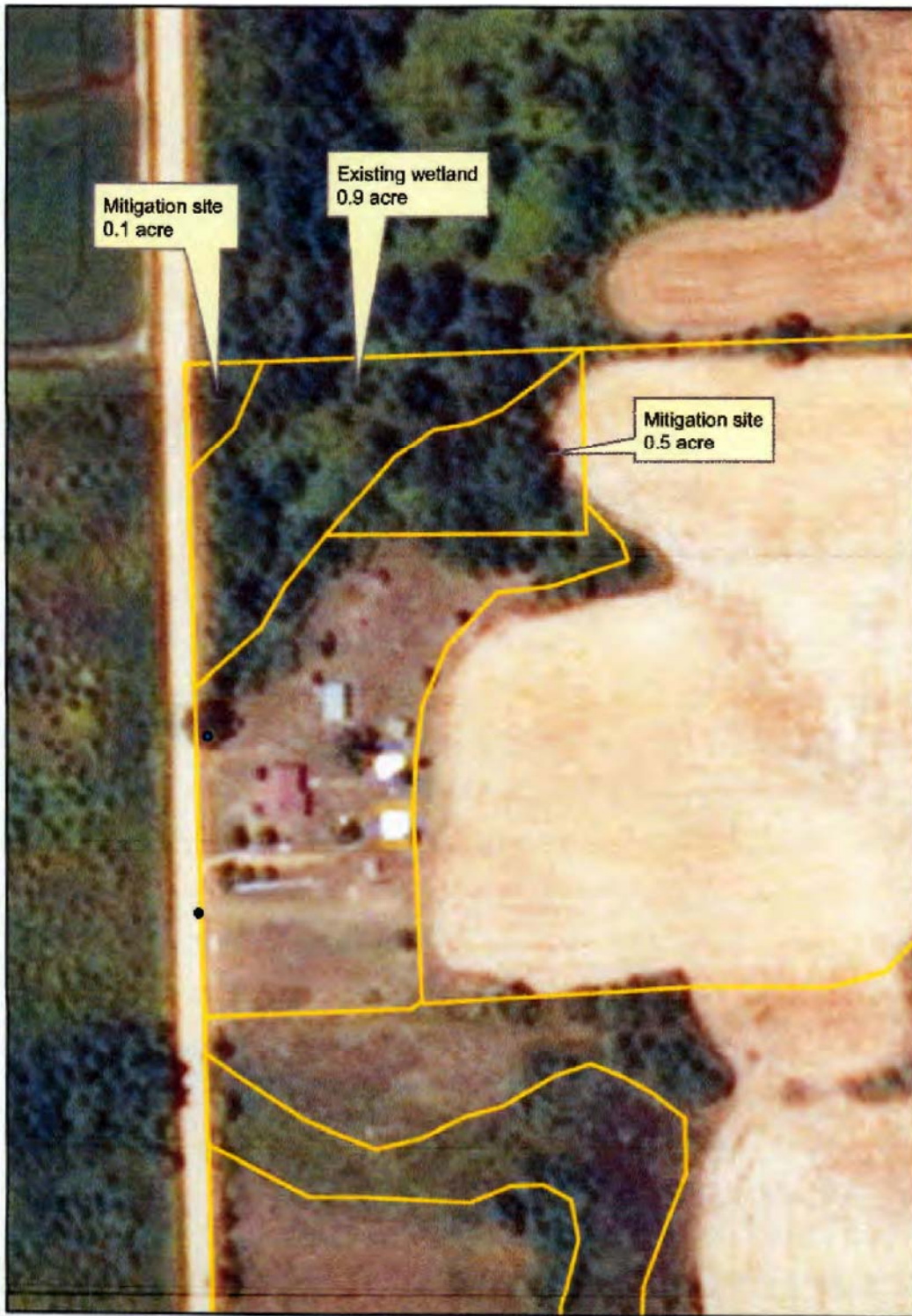
890

Feet

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ACTION NO. 2014-00102
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