



PAT MCCRORY

Governor

DONALD R. VAN DER VAART

Secretary

S. JAY ZIMMERMAN

Director

September 28, 2016

TO: DENR-DWR-Wetlands-Public Listserv

FROM: Karen Higgins, 401 & Buffer Permitting Branch 

RE: MBI for Riparian Buffer Mitigation & Nutrient Offset Credits in the Neuse River Basin – Wildlands Holdings II, LLC; Proposed Riparian Buffer Mitigation and Nutrient Offset BPDP in the Neuse Basin – Wildlands Holdings II, LLC;

The purpose of this Public Notice is outlined below. This notice is available electronically at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/401-wetlands-buffer-permits/401-public-notices>.

I. MBI for Riparian Buffer Mitigation & Nutrient Offset Credits in the Neuse River Basin

A Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI) has been prepared by Wildlands Holdings II, LLC (WHII) for review and approval by the Division of Water Resources under the Buffer Mitigation Rule 15A NCAC 02B .0295 and the Nutrient Offset Rule 15A NCAC 02B .0240. This MBI, if approved, will allow WHII to sell riparian buffer mitigation and nutrient offset credits within the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 03020201 of the Neuse River Basin, excluding the Falls Lake Watershed. A site-specific Bank Parcel Development Package has been submitted for review and approval (see Item II below).

The proposed MBI can be found online at <http://edocs.deq.nc.gov/WaterResources/0/doc/405300/Page1.aspx>. Persons wishing to comment are invited to submit their comments in writing to Katie Merritt at (katie.merritt@ncdenr.gov or 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617). All comments received by DWR by close of business (5:00 p.m.) on October 13, 2016 will be considered during preparation and approval of the final MBI. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Merritt at 919-807-6371.

II. Proposed Riparian Buffer Mitigation and Nutrient Offset Bank Parcel Development Package in the Neuse River Basin

A Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI) for the Old Savannah Riparian Buffer and Nutrient Offset Mitigation Bank for Wildlands Holdings II, LLC (WHII) has been submitted for review and approval (see Item I above).

WHII has submitted a proposed Bank Parcel Development Package (BPDP) for the Old Savannah Nutrient Offset and Buffer Mitigation Bank Parcel, which is located in the Neuse River Basin (8-digit USGS HUC 03020201) in Johnston County. Stormwater runoff from this Bank Parcel drains into unnamed tributaries of Mill Creek.

The proposed bank parcel will be used to generate approximately 27.4 acres of Neuse riparian buffer and/or nutrient offset mitigation. Restoration and preservation of Neuse riparian buffers will provide approximately 14.4 acres (615,284 ft²) of Neuse riparian buffer credits. Restoration of other riparian areas will generate approximately 13 acres of nutrient offset credits which yields 29,549.26 pounds of nitrogen.

Nutrient offset credits generated at this proposed site can be used to satisfy nutrient offset requirements for development projects pursuant to 15A NCAC 02B .0240 and located within the 8-digit USGS HUC 03020201, excluding the Falls Lake Watershed. Neuse riparian buffer credits generated at this proposed bank site can be used to satisfy buffer mitigation requirements for impacts pursuant to 15A NCAC 02B .0295 within the Neuse River Basin, primarily within the USGS HUC 03020201 and excluding the Falls Lake Watershed.

The proposed Old Savannah Nutrient Offset and Buffer Mitigation Bank Parcel BPDP can be found online at: <http://edocs.deq.nc.gov/WaterResources/0/doc/405292/Page1.aspx>. Persons wishing to comment are invited to submit their comments in writing to Katie Merritt at (katie.merritt@ncdenr.gov or 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617). All comments received by DWR by close of business (5:00 p.m.) on October 13, 2016 will be considered during preparation and approval of the final BPDP. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Merritt at 919-807-6371.