



August 13, 2020

Santa Rosa County School District  
Joseph B. Harrel  
Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services  
6544 Firehouse Road  
Milton, FL 32570  
(850) 983-5123  
[HarrelJ@santarosa.k12.fl.us](mailto:HarrelJ@santarosa.k12.fl.us)

**RE: Jurisdictional Wetland Assessment – Wallace Lake., +/- 32.78 acres**  
**Santa Rosa County Parcel: 18-2N-29-0000-00402-0000 & 18-2N-29-0000-00400-0000**

Dear Mr. Harrel:

Biome Consulting Group, LLC (Biome) has completed a jurisdictional wetlands and waters assessment of the above referenced property. Our assessment included an analysis of vegetative cover and composition, wetland hydrology indicators and hydric soil indicators in accordance with state and federal procedural guidelines. The following is meant to be used as a brief summary of site results and the regulatory agencies' potential involvement with this property.

Biome conducted a jurisdictional wetland assessment of the subject parcel on August 10, 2020. The results of the site visit indicate that the entirety of the 32.78-acre property appears to be comprised of uplands. We note that these calculations are based on an inspection boundary approximated from the county property appraiser's depiction of the property boundary. An actual boundary survey may result in slightly different calculations. The following is a brief, technical summary of our findings relative to the regulatory agencies' potential involvement with this property:

1. **General Observations:** The site is comprised of two parcels and has been utilized for monoculture, specifically for planted soybeans. An absence/presence species survey was conducted to determine the presence of protected species. Due to the historic and current agricultural activity, no species nor suitable habitats were located within this site;
2. **Vegetation:** The entirety of the site was dominated by the monotypic plant community of soybeans;
3. **Soils:** The NRCS soil survey indicates that the property is underlain by Bonifay (non-hydric), Troup (non-hydric), Orangeburg (non-hydric), and Lucy (non-hydric), which was confirmed by on-site soil pit excavation. No hydric soil indicators observed;

4. **Hydrology:** No surface indicators, plant adaptations and no soil profile indicators of wetland hydrology was observed on the property.

### **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

The Federal agency responsible for regulating wetlands is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Technical guidelines outlined in the US Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (1987) were applied in the field for determining the presence and location of jurisdictional wetlands on the target property.

**Results:** None of the wetland parameters needed for the ACOE to exert jurisdiction are present on this site.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) requires authorization from the Secretary of the Army, acting through the ACOE, for the discharge of dredged or fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. Discharges of fill material generally include, without limitation: placement of fill that is necessary for the construction of any structure, or impoundment requiring rock, sand, dirt, or other material for its construction; site-development fills for recreational, industrial, commercial, residential, and other uses; causeways or road fills; dams and dikes; artificial islands; property protection or reclamation devices such as riprap, groins, seawalls, breakwaters, and revetments; beach nourishment; levees; fill for intake and outfall pipes and sub-aqueous utility lines; fill associated with the creation of ponds; and any other work involving the discharge of fill or dredged material. An ACOE permit is required whether the work is permanent or temporary.

The basic premise of the dredge and fill program is that no discharge of dredged or fill material may be permitted if: (1) a practicable alternative exists that is less damaging to the aquatic environment or (2) the nation's waters would be significantly degraded. What this means is when you apply for a permit, you must show that you have, to the extent practicable:

- Reasonably avoided all wetland impacts;
- Minimized potential impacts on wetlands; and
- Provide compensation for any remaining unavoidable impacts.

### **STATE OF FLORIDA**

The state agencies responsible for regulating wetlands are the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Northwest Florida Water Management District (WMD).

**Results:** None of the wetland parameters necessary for the FDEP/WMD to exert jurisdiction are present on the site.

### **CONCLUSION**


Based on our thorough assessment, we have determined that neither the ACOE nor the State (FDEP/WMD) criteria for regulatory jurisdiction exists over any portion of the above referenced lot. As such, development of this site should not require permits from the ACOE, FDEP, or WMD's wetland programs.

A wetland delineation performed by an ecological consultant represents the professional opinion of the scientist that performed the work. Only the regulatory agencies can establish a legal and binding jurisdictional boundary. Such can be obtained by submitting a permit application and waiting several months for processing. For the purposes of local government permitting (e.g. building permit) this letter should suffice.

This report is intended for the sole use by the above listed addressee. Its contents may not be relied upon by other parties without the written consent of Biome Consulting Group.

This concludes our assessment of the target property. If you require additional information, assistance, or clarification, please give us a call at 850.435.9367 or visit <http://www.biome.co/> . We look forward to being of assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely,  
Biome Consulting Group





Sean O'Toole  
Partner

2521.005 – Wallace Lake – Santa Rosa County School District

Attachment: Upland Map



APPROXIMATE ACREAGES  
 UPLANDS : 32.78-ACRES  
 WETLANDS : 0.00-ACRES

WETLAND JURISDICTION MAP SANTA ROSA COUNTY WALLACE LAKE MULTIPLE PARCELS SANTA ROSA COUNTY SCHOOLS	LEGEND <div><div></div> INSPECTION BOUNDARY</div> <div><div></div> UPLANDS</div>	2521.005 CBO		 1300 West Government St. Pensacola, FL 32502 850.435.9367 www.biome.co
		8/13/2020		
		<div>0100200</div> <div><div></div> Feet</div>		THIS IS NOT A SURVEY