

PROSPECTUS

**BUNDY
WETLAND MITIGATION BANK
WESTERN SARPY COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

By

**Robert L. Bundy
Family Partnership**

JHC Project No. 673-01

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FINAL DRAFT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Robert L. Bundy Family Partnership (Partnership) is proposing to establish a private-commercial wetland mitigation bank to provide wetland credits for unavoidable wetland impacts in the east-central portion of Nebraska. Historically, wetland impacts in this area occur primarily from residential and commercial growth, and their associated construction and infrastructure activities. The wetland credits available from the proposed wetland bank will provide a new, high quality source of wetlands to replace impacted wetlands from future development within this area. A high quality wetland bank will benefit the surrounding communities by allowing continued growth of the communities, while still providing a high quality replacement wetland in this area.

The proposed wetland bank project will create approximately 105 acres of floodplain depressional, temporarily flooded, seasonally flooded and semi-permanently flooded wetlands. The proposed site is deeded to the Robert L. Bundy Family Partnership. The wetland bank is expected to provide compensatory mitigation for future projects in this area over the next 10 to 20 years.

The nearest town is Ashland, Nebraska. Currently, nearly all of the proposed wetland bank property is, and has been, under row-crop cultivation, except for approximately 8.4 acres of PFOA wetlands and 2.3 acres of PEMA wetlands. Soils mapped on the site include Gibbon silt loam, Gibbon salty clay loam, and Wann fine sandy loam. These soils are listed on the State of Nebraska Hydric Soils List, when ponded or when water is near surface. The contributing watershed is estimated to be 1,600 acres.

The proposed wetland bank is located within the east floodway of the Platte River. Being located in the floodway of the Platte River allows the proposed created wetland bank to interact with the Platte River during flood situations at the project site. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) plans to rebuild an existing dike, which is adjacent, east of the proposed bank wetland site. The elevation of the reconstructed dikes on both sides of the Platte River will be at the 50-year flood elevation. In the case of overtopping or breakage of the dike at or near an upstream location of the proposed bank, the constructed wetland and associated lake(s) will create a flood storage area.

The proposed wetland bank will be constructed utilizing the reclamation process of an existing sand/gravel mining operation on this property. Prior to mining, topsoil will be removed and stored nearby. The mining operations will remove a percentage of sand/gravel from the site. Once cleaned and sorted, a measured quantity of sand will replace a portion of the mined sand/gravel. The stored topsoil will then be placed on the sand to achieve an adequate plant growing media. The resulting mining process of lowering the existing surface elevation closer to the ground water surface will provide adequate hydrology for the proposed wetlands.

Once developed wetlands will be monitored for five years or until performance standards are achieved. The USACE "The Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement" method will be used to assign functions and values to the wetland. The Floristic Quality Index (FQI) will also be calculated.

A contingency plan will be developed for the site to address unforeseen conditions such as, invasive species, inadequate hydrology, vegetation establishment failure or any other problems during establishment. The will also outline steps to be taken if performance standards are not met.

Long-term management will be carried out by the Robert L. Bundy Family Partnership. Maintenance activities carried out will include, but are not limited to controlled burning, weed control, water control structure repair, erosion control, revegetation, and tree removal.