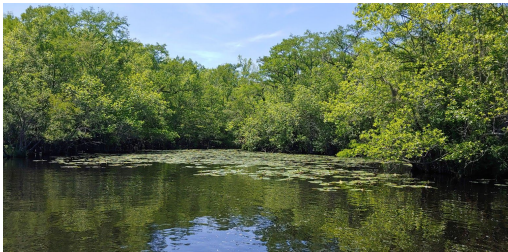




Project Briefing

www.stmarysriverkeeper.org

Wetland Protection and Advocacy



- The 3,000-mile St. Marys River watershed is comprised of over 40% wetlands.
- Mining can potentially cause habitat destruction which can be devastating to wetlands ecosystems.
- The Twin Pines Minerals mining company is moving ahead with the titanium mine planned near the Okefenokee Swamp.
- The US Army Corps has ruled the company will no longer require a federal permit to operate
- We will continue to monitor the nearby waterways for contaminants and work with government and conservation partners to protect the watershed.
- [SMRK comments](#) to the Army Corps regarding the mine
- [Twin Pines - new site Map](#)
- [Army Corps Approved Jurisdictional Determination Form](#)

Summary

The US Army Corps of Engineers announced on October 19 that it will no longer require Twin Pines Mineral company to obtain a 404 Clean Water Act Permit. After Twin Pines reduced the planned mine footprint (see attached maps), all remaining wetlands within the footprint were determined to be non-jurisdictional under newly implemented regulatory rollbacks. These wetlands were previously jurisdictional, meaning they were considered to be Waters of the US subject to federal regulation. With this change, there will no longer be federal regulatory

oversight of the mine. Twin Pines will still be required to submit applications for various permits in the state of Georgia, including a surface mining permit.

In July 2019, a request for approval of a titanium mine outside of St. George in Charlton County Georgia was initiated. Twin Pines Minerals, LLC submitted an individual permit request to the US Army Corps of Engineers to mine for heavy mineral sands for phase one of a plan to ultimately mine approximately 12,000 acres of land along the Trail Ridge. We addressed a letter to USACE requesting more detail in their proposal as well as more environmental impact studies.

Project Updates:

Oct. 2020	Twin Pines is moving ahead with the titanium mine planned near the Okefenokee Swamp after the US Army Corps has ruled the company will no longer require a federal permit to operate. We will continue to monitor the nearby waterways for contaminants.
Sept. 2020	St. Mary's Riverkeeper and other organizations made requests for significant changes and a full Environmental Impact Statement.
Dec. 2019	We initiated a water quality monitoring program of the Boone Creek watershed, a tributary of the St. Marys which begins within the mine site.
July 2019	Twin Pines Minerals, LLC submitted an individual permit request to the US Army Corps of Engineers to mine for heavy mineral sands for phase one of a plan to ultimately mine approximately 12,000 acres of land along the Trail Ridge.

Project Details:

Because of the crucial ecosystem services that wetlands provide to our local communities, advocating for wetland protection is a priority for us. The St. Marys River watershed is comprised of over 40% wetlands which provide services like buffering from floods and storms, reducing runoff and erosion, filtering pollutants, providing habitat for wildlife, and carbon storage which mitigates climate change.

In September 2019, the US Environmental Protection Agency repealed the Waters of the US protections of streams and wetlands amendment to the Clean Water Act passed in 2015. The repeal limits Clean Water Act protections to navigable waterways or waterways connected to navigable waterways, and will leave many of our isolated upstream wetlands unprotected.

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As we stated in our [letter](#) to the Army Corps, we strongly felt a full EIS should be required. The Army Corps of Engineers did not agree.

The SMRK will continue to do testing in the watershed to track changes in water quality. In December 2019, we began water quality monitoring on Boone Creek, a tributary of the St. Mary's River near St. George. Because the headwaters of Boone Creek begin in the mine site, establishing baseline surface water quality will help us recognize any future changes.