



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200
MORROW, GEORGIA 30260-1777

APRIL 17 2013

Regulatory Division
SAS-2011-00754

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as follows:

Application Number: SAS-2011-00754

Applicant/Agent: Glenn Bowman
Georgia Department of Transportation
Office of Environmental Services
One Georgia Center, 16th Floor
600 W. Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-3607

Location of Proposed Work: The project site encompasses sections of I-75 and I-575. On I-75, the proposed project would begin at Akers Mill Road, south of the I-75/I-285 interchange in Cobb County and extend to just north of Hickory Grove Road. On I-575, the project would begin at the I-75 interchange and extend north to Sixes Road. The proposed project would affect a total of 29.7 miles in portions of Cobb and Cherokee Counties, in Georgia (latitude 33.9349, longitude -84.4945).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers: Georgia Department of Transportation Project Identification Number 0008256. The applicant is proposing to improve transportation effectiveness of I-75 and I-575 by providing regionally managed traffic congestion through the use of tolling with dynamic pricing based on congestion in managed lanes. The proposed managed lanes would extend from the current end of the high-occupancy vehicle lanes on I-75 at Akers Mill Road, south of I-285. Two new reversible managed lanes would be constructed on I-75, between I-285 and I-575. A single reversible lane would be constructed on I-75 from the I-75/I-575 Interchange to just north of Hickory Grove Road. Additionally, a single reversible lane would be constructed on I-575 between the I-75/I-575 Interchange and Sixes Road. The proposed managed-lane facility would include improvements of approximately 16.8 miles on I-75, 11.3 miles on I-575, and 1.6 miles on I-285.

Within the proposed project corridor, a total of 62 streams, 9 wetlands, and 3 open waters were identified. The applicant is proposing to impact a total of 3,309 linear feet of streams for completion of the proposed project (3,225 linear feet in HUC 03130001; 84 linear feet in HUC

03150104). As mitigation for unavoidable impacts, the applicant is proposing to purchase 9,573.8 stream credits from mitigation banks that service HUC 03130001; and 371.1 stream credits from mitigation banks that service HUC 03150104).

BACKGROUND

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required for a Federal Permit to conduct activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Water Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can be reviewed in the Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200 Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777.

State-owned Property and Resources: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia, which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit or other appropriate instrument.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: The applicant conducted a survey for historic and archaeological resources for their preferred alternative. The applicant states that within the Area of Potential Effect (APE), there are no National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed properties, proposed NRHP nominations, National Historic Landmarks, or bridges determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. A field survey for historic resources was conducted in 2003, and was updated in 2004, 2006, 2009, and 2011. Thirty one properties 50 years of age or older were identified within the APE; these properties were determined to be no eligible for listing in the NRHP. The applicant also states that a 2003 field survey by RS Webb & Associates, Inc. documented that no archaeological sites were located in the project area. An additional survey was completed in 2007 to address the expansion of the APE; again, no resources were identified.

By letters dated October 22 and December 8, 2003, and April 26, 2007, the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with these findings.

Endangered Species: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we request information from the US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the US Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Marine Fisheries Service; or, any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area. The applicant has stated that the following are federally protected species with known occurrences in Cobb and Cherokee Counties: Tennessee yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris tenneseensis*), Little amphianthus (*Amphianthus pusillus*), Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Cherokee Darter (*Etheostoma scotti*), Etowah Darter (*Etheostoma etowahae*), Amber Darter (*Percina antesella*), Gulf moccasinshell (*Medionidus penicillatus*), Finelined pocketbook (*Lampsilis altilis*), Southern clubshell (*Pleurobema decisum*), and Cylindrical lioplax (*Lioplax cyclostomaformis*). Potential summer roosting habitat and foraging habitat is present for the Indiana bat. Potential foraging habitat is present for the Gray bat. Additionally, a Cherokee darter specimen was found in Stream 29 during a November 2012 aquatic survey. As a result, on January 19, 2013, the applicant initiated informal Section 7 consultation with the USFWS for the Indiana bat and the Gray bat, and re-initiated consultation for the Cherokee darter.

Public Interest Review: 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.

Consideration of Public Comments: The US Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American 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 US Army 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.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Kathrine M. Freas, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Kathrine Freas, Project Manager, Piedmont Branch at 678-804-5226.

Encls

1. Figure 1: Project Location Map (1 page)
2. Figures 2a-2h: Water Resources (8 pages)
3. Table 1: Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters of the US (4 pages)

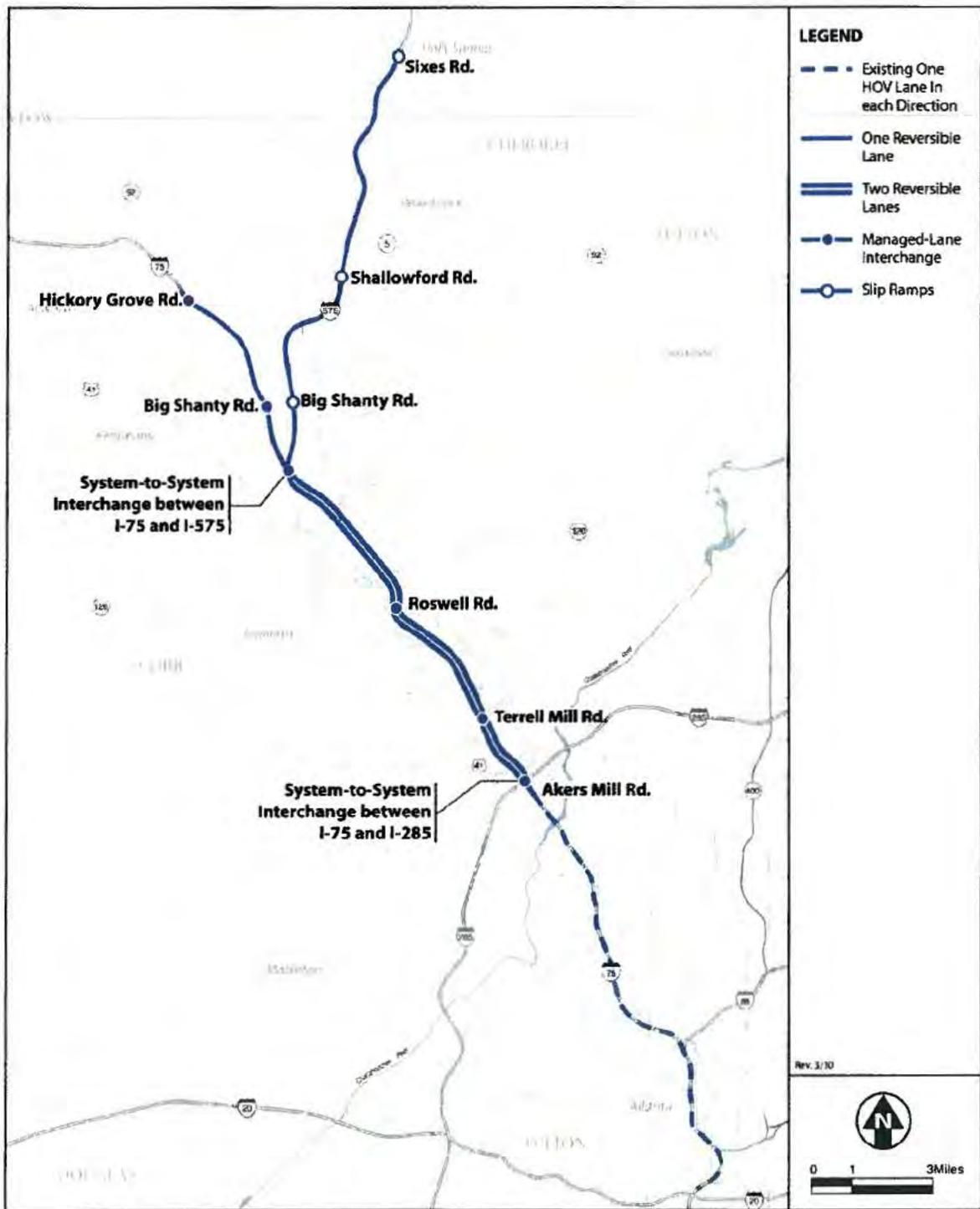


Figure 1: Project Location Map

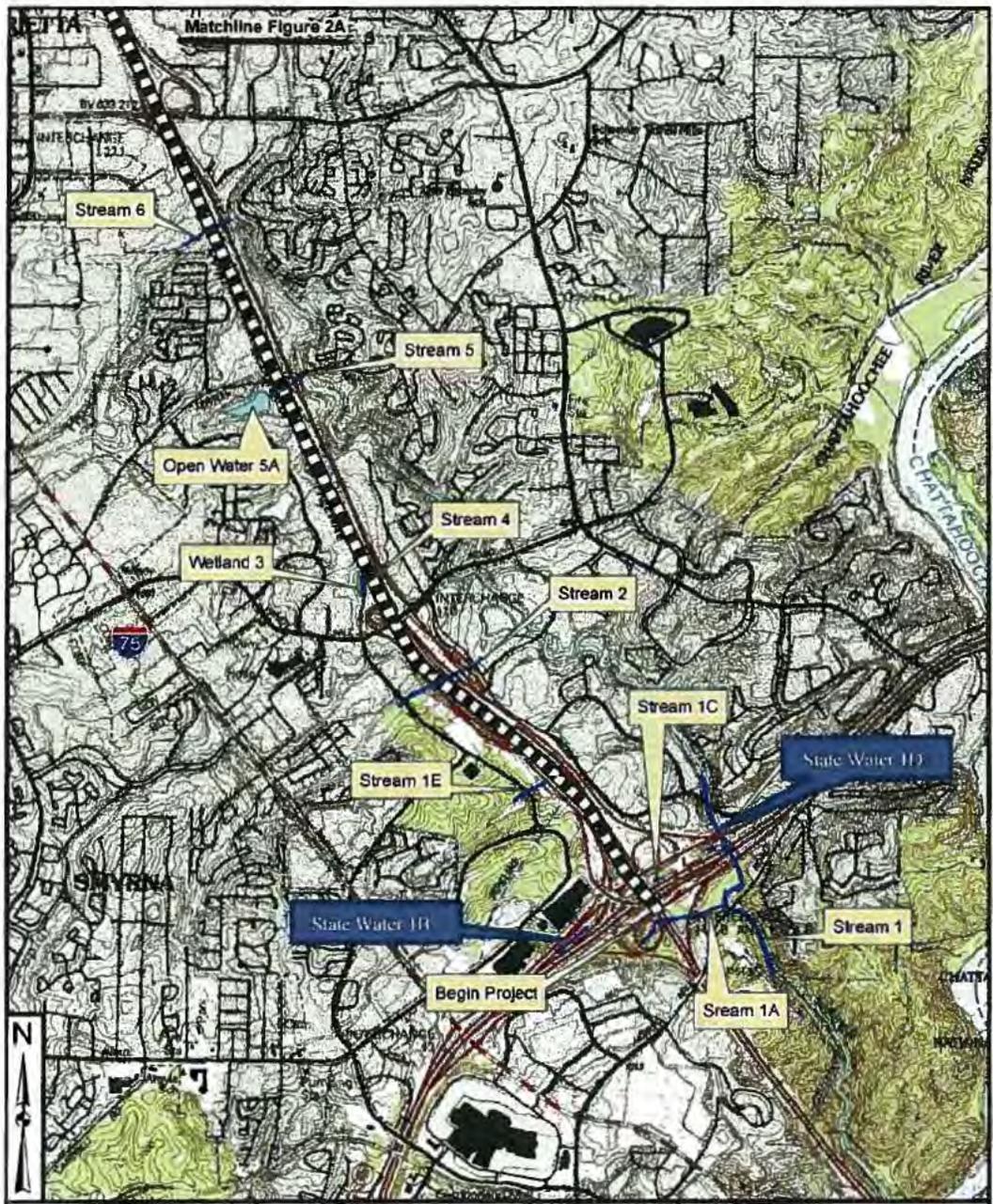
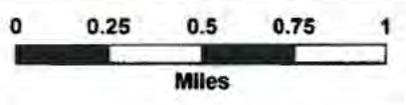


Figure 2A: Water Resources



Northwest I-75/I-575 Corridor
 Project #: CSNHS-0008-00(256)
 P.I. #: 0008256
 Cherokee and Cobb Counties

Source: USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Map, Sandy Springs, GA Quadrangle

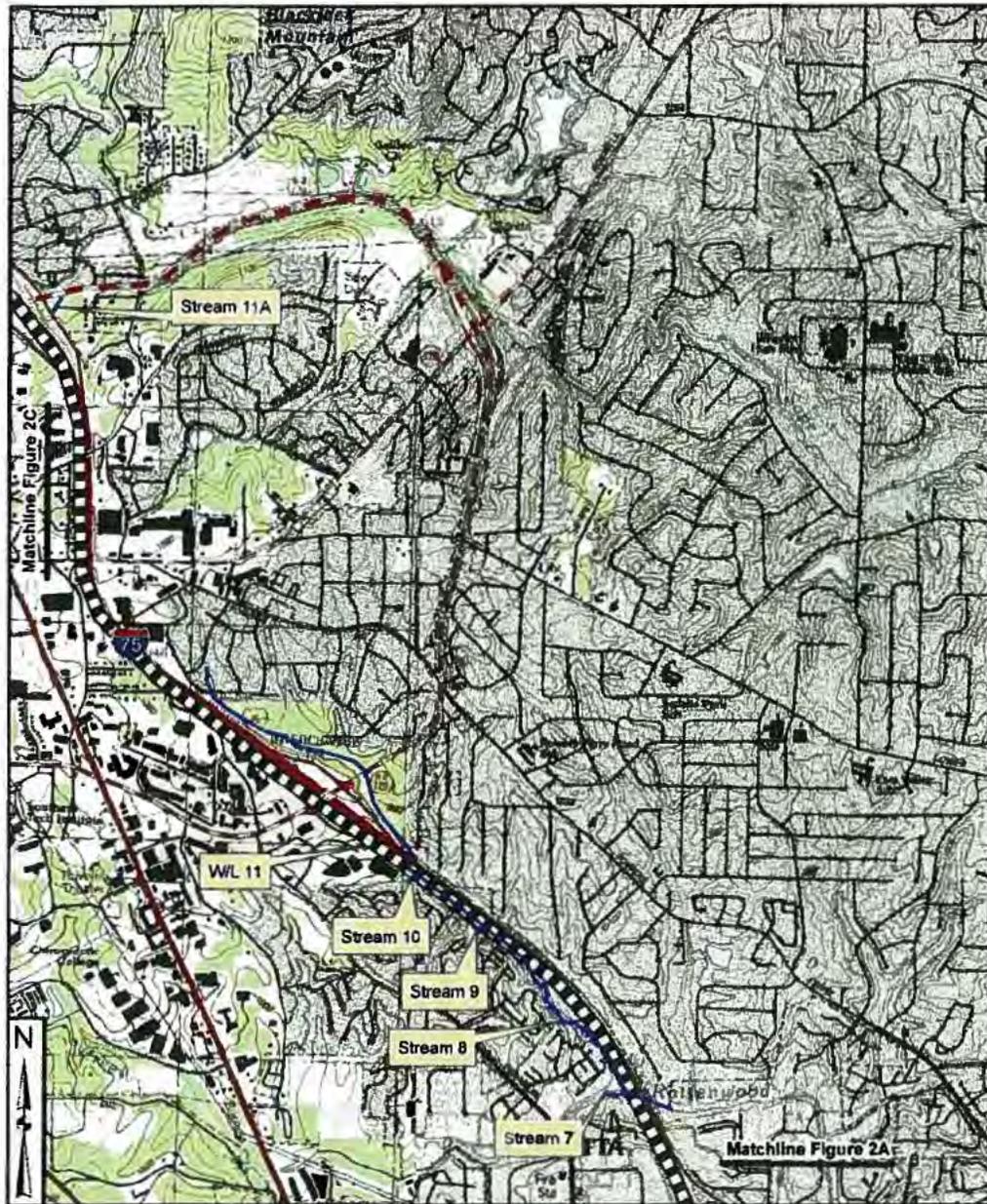


Figure 2B: Water Resources



Northwest I-75/I-575 Corridor
 Project #: CSNHS-0008-00(256)
 P.I. #: 0008256
 Cherokee and Cobb Counties

Source: USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Map, Sandy Springs, GA Quadrangle



Figure 2C: Water Resources



Northwest I-75/I-575 Corridor
 Project #: CSNHS-0008-00(256)
 P.I. #: 0008256
 Cherokee and Cobb Counties

Source: USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Map, Marietta, GA Quadrangle

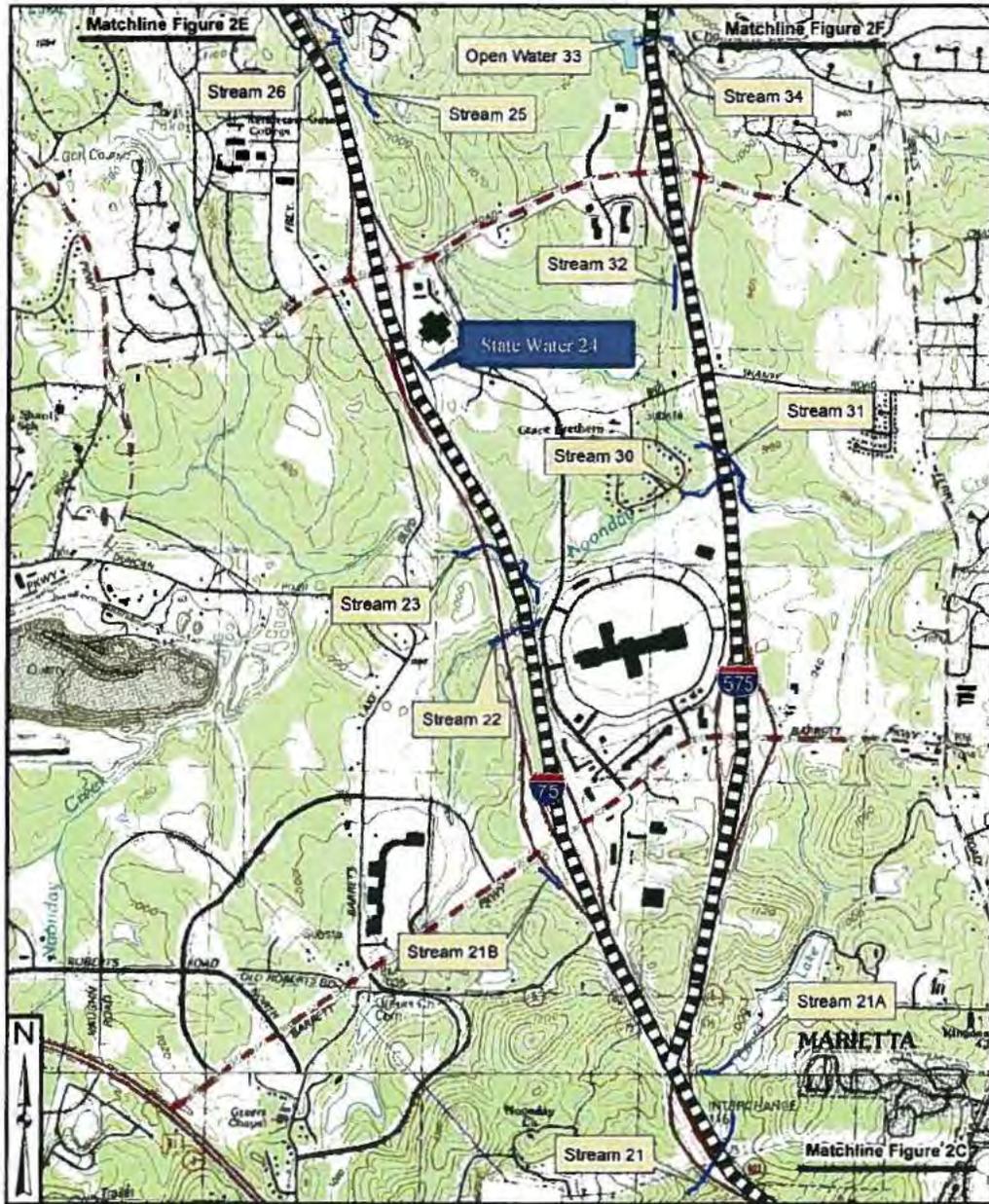
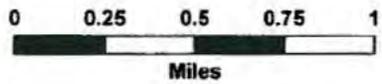
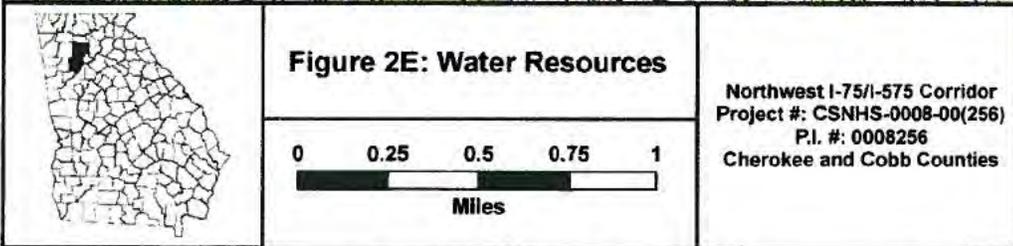


Figure 2D: Water Resources



Northwest I-75/I-575 Corridor
 Project #: CSNHS-0008-00(256)
 P.I. #: 0008256
 Cherokee and Cobb Counties

Source: USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Map, Kennesaw, GA Quadrangle



Source: USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Map, Kennesaw, GA Quadrangle

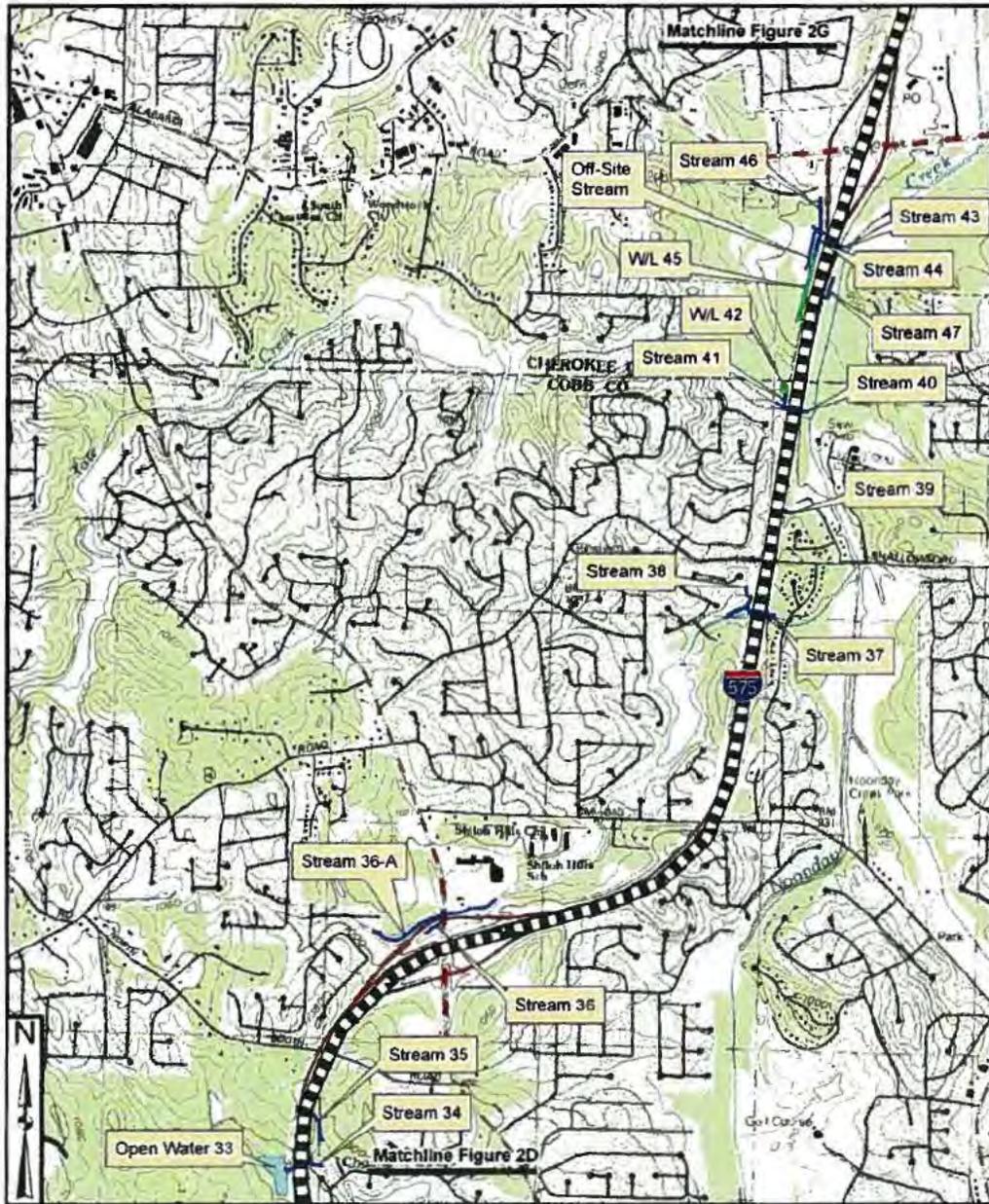
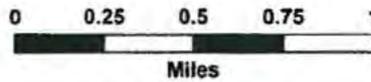


Figure 2F: Water Resources



Northwest I-75/I-575 Corridor
 Project #: CSNHS-0008-00(256)
 P.I. #: 0008256
 Cherokee and Cobb Counties

Source: USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Map, Kennesaw, GA Quadrangle

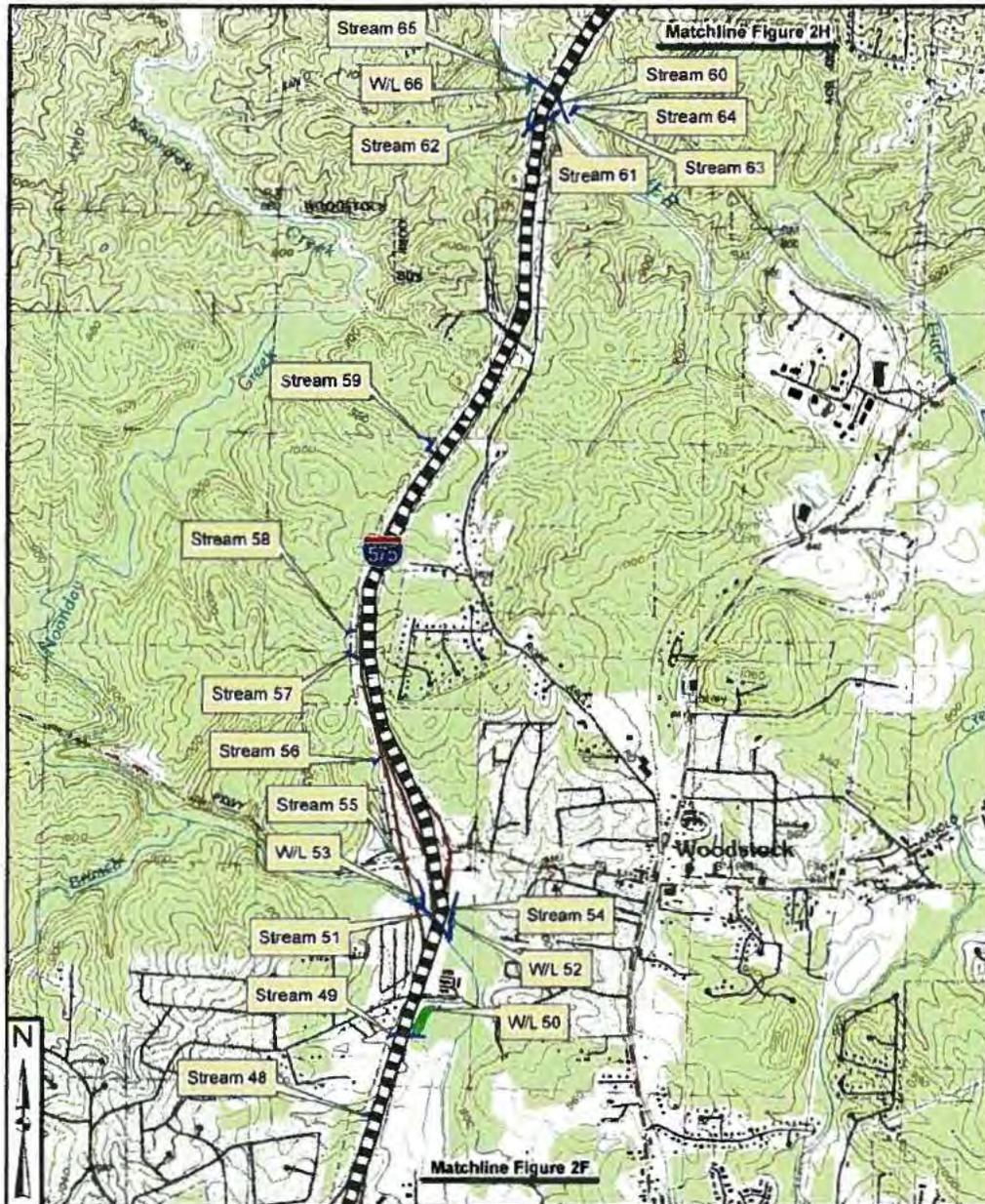
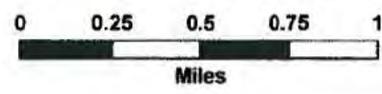


Figure 2G: Water Resources



Northwest I-75/I-575 Corridor
 Project #: CSNHS-0008-00(256)
 P.I. #: 0008256
 Cherokee and Cobb Counties

Source: USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Map, Kennesaw, GA Quadrangle

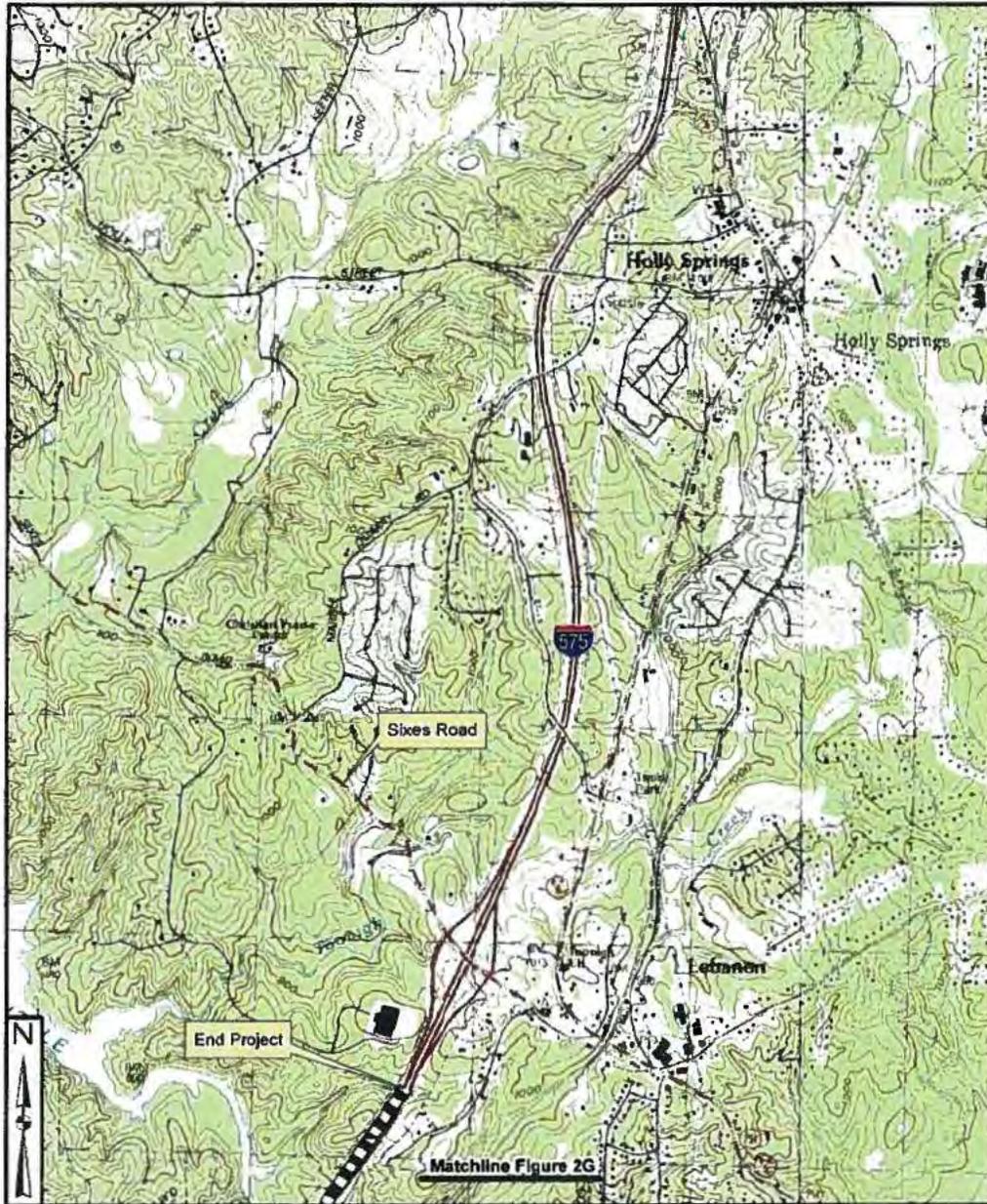
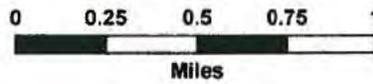


Figure 2H: Water Resources



Northwest I-75/I-575 Corridor
 Project #: CSNHS-0008-00(256)
 P.I. #: 0008256
 Cherokee and Cobb Counties

Source: USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Map, Kennesaw, GA Quadrangle

Table 1: Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters of the US

Resource	Resource Type ¹	Coordinates (Lat., Long.)	Length and/or Area of Resource within Study Area	Permanent Impact	Impact Type	Structure Dimensions
<i>HUC 03130001 (Upper Chattahoochee Watershed)</i>						
Stream 1 (Rottenwood Creek)	P	33°53'33.24"N, 84°27'25.08" W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 1A	P	33°53'22.667"N 84°27'27.852"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 1C	P	33°53'26.947"N 84°27'38.286"W	547 feet	----	None	Replacing 20-foot long concrete lined channel with 20-foot long, 18-inch RCP ²
Stream 1E	P	33°53'41.537"N, 84°27'58.707"W	109 feet	25 feet (0.009 ac)	Culvert Extension	36" RCP ²
Stream 2 (Poplar Creek)	P	33°53'56.57"N, 84°28'19.16" W	114 feet	----	----	----
Wetland 3	PFO	33° 54'10.33"N, 84° 28'30.63"W	0.22 acre	----	----	----
Stream 4	I	33°54'13.40"N, 84°28'31.11"W	279 feet	----	----	----
Stream 5	P	33°54'40.78"N, 84°28'46.80"W	120 feet	100 feet (0.02 ac)	Culvert Extension	6' x6' box culvert
Open Water 5A	LOW	33°54'39.259"N 84°28'50.173"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 6 (House Creek)	P	33°55'5.53"N, 84°29'1.67"W	199 feet	----	----	----
Stream 7 (Rottenwood Creek)	P	33°55'43.73"N, 84°29' 22.44"W	159 feet	----	----	----
Stream 8 (Hope Creek)	P	33°56'5.88"N, 84°29'44.42"W	4,671 feet	1,450 Feet (0.92 ac)	Channel Relocation	N/A
Stream 9	I	33°56'16.27"N, 84°30'01.06"W	160 feet	----	----	----
Stream 10	I	33°55'51.10"N, 84°29'21.79"W	384 feet	----	----	----

Resource	Resource Type ¹	Coordinates (Lat., Long.)	Length and/or Area of Resource within Study Area	Permanent Impact	Impact Type	Structure Dimensions
HUC 03130001 (Upper Chattahoochee Watershed)						
Wetland 11	PEM	33°56'20.64"N, 84°30'9.45"W	0.12 acre	----	----	----
Stream 11A	P	33°57'41.448"N 84°31'3.654"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 12	I	33°57'39.83"N, 84°31'15.87"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Wetland 13	PFO	33°58'2.13"N, 84°31'35.56"W	0.69 acre	----	----	----
Stream 14 (Sope Creek)	P	33°58'3.67"N, 84°31'35.76"W	324 feet	----	----	The end of the existing 5'x7' box culvert would be replaced within the existing footprint. No new impacts would occur.
Stream 15	I	33°58'2.95"N, 84°31'34.69"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 16	I	33°58'5.75"N, 84°31'37.18"W	260	250 feet (0.03 ac)	Channel Relocation	N/A
Open Water 17	LOW	33°58'24.34"N, 84°31'57.77"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 18	I	33°58'24.57"N, 84°31'55.48"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 18A	P	33°58'33.567"N, 84°32'3.654"W	1,500 feet	1,400 feet (0.10 ac)	Channel Relocation	Move from the existing concrete flume to new concrete flume
HUC 03150104 (Etowah watershed)						
Stream 19	P	33°59'19.62"N, 84°32'54.10"W	187 feet	----	----	----
Stream 20	P	33°59'18.45"N, 84°32'58.01"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 21	P	33°59'50.65"N, 84°33'0.27"W	183 feet	----	----	----
Stream 21A	I	34°0'1.694"N, 84°33'39.05"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 21B	I	34°0'31.103"N, 84°34'7.246"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 22	P	34°1'7.07"N, 84°34'12.35"W	80 feet	50 feet (0.01 ac)	Culvert extension	(2) 7'x7' box culvert
Stream 23 (Noonday Creek)	P	34°1'17.25"N, 84°34'15.29"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 25	P	34°2'26.55"N, 84°34'41.90"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----

Resource	Resource Type ¹	Coordinates (Lat., Long.)	Length and/or Area of Resource within Study Area	Permanent Impact	Impact Type	Structure Dimensions
<i>HUC 03150104 (Etowah watershed)</i>						
Stream 26	I	34°2'0.828"N, 84°34'7.325"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 27	I	34°3'7.81"N, 84°35'22.47"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 28	I	34°3'6.56"N, 84°35'18.31"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 29	P	34°4'15.59"N, 84°36'53.96"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 30 (Noonday Creek)	P	34°1'29.88"N, 84°33' 5.73"W	150 feet	10 feet (0.0011 ac)	Fill	(2) 4'6"-diameter concrete piers placed in the stream channel
Stream 31	P	34°1'33.78"N, 84°33'37.93"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 32	I	34°2'0.84"N, 84°33'44.26"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Open Water 33	LOW	34°2'33.47"N, 84°33'52.34"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 34 (Chastain Branch)	P	34°2'34.45"N, 84°33'50.60"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 35	I	34°2'43.15"N, 84°33'46.20"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 36	I	34°3'11.10"N, 84°33'24.23"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 36A	I	34°3'8.995"N, 84°33'30.935"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 37	P	34°3'58.23"N, 84°32'29.40"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 38	I	34°4'0.19"N, 84°32'28.77"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 39	I	34°4'13.74"N, 84°32'21.81"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 40	P	34°4'28.48"N, 84°32'22.18"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 41	I	34°4'29.39"N, 84°32'22.00"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Wetland 42	PFO	34° 4'30.07"N, 84° 32'22.01"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 43	P	34°4'53.18"N, 84°32'11.52"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 44	I	34°4'52.67"N, 84°32'16.40"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Wetland 45	PFO	34°4'50.35"N, 84° 32'16.90"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 46	I	34°4'57.37"N, 84°32'15.44"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 47	P	34°4'44.98"N, 84°32'14.74"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----

Resource	Resource Type ¹	Coordinates (Lat., Long.)	Length and/or Area of Resource within Study Area	Permanent Impact	Impact Type	Structure Dimensions
HUC 03150104 (Etowah watershed)						
Stream 48	P	34°5'30.10"N, 84°32'1.80"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 49	I	34°5'41.75"N, 84°31'53.03"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Wetland 50	PSS	34°5'44.38"N, 84°31'50.48"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 51 (Noonday Creek)	P	34°6'0.34"N, 84°31'51.29"W	60 feet	10 feet (0.0011 ac)	Fill	(2) 4'6"- diameter concrete piers placed in the stream channel
Wetland 52	PFO	34°5'58.01"N, 84°31'46.62"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Wetland 53	PFO	34°6' 2.05"N, 84°31'51.61"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 54	I	34°5'58.67"N, 84°31'47.49"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 55	P	34°6'2.27"N, 84°31'51.61"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 56	P	34°6'20.75"N, 84°31'58.72"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 57	P	34°6'39.91"N, 84°32'4.20"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 58	P	34°6'43.66"N, 84°32'4.56"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 59	P	34°7'2.34"N, 84°31'56.39"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 60 (Little River)	P	34°8'3.24"N, 84°31'29.04"W	100 feet	14 feet (0.0013 ac)	Fill	(2) 6'6"- diameter concrete piers placed in the stream channel
Stream 61	I	34°7'58.70"N, 84°31'29.34"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 62	I	34°8'1.70"N, 84°31'30.96"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 63	I	34°8'2.35"N, 84°31'27.12"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 64	I	34°8'3.03"N, 84°31'26.11"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Stream 65	P	33°8'3.11"N, 84°31'34.00"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Wetland 66	PEM	34°8'3.88"N, 84° 31'33.36"W	Outside of project area	----	----	----
Total Impacts in HUC 03130001				3,225 feet (1.08 ac)		
Total Impacts in HUC 03150104				84 feet (0.14 ac)		
Total Impacts for the Project				3,309 feet (1.09 ac)		

¹ I = intermittent stream; P = perennial stream; LOW = lacustrine open water; PFO = palustrine forested wetland; PEM = palustrine emergent wetland; PSS = palustrine scrub-shrub wetland