



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3640

OCTOBER 04 2013

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Regulatory Division
SAS-2012-00413

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-2012-00413

Applicant: Mr. Keith Carter, Executive Director
Joint Development Authority of Jeff Davis County, Hazlehurst and
Denton, Georgia
95 East Jarmon Street
Hazelhurst, Georgia 31539

Agent: Mr. Jesse Bearden
Carter and Sloope Consulting Engineers
6310 Peake Road
Macon, Georgia 31210

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located south of U.S. Highway 341, on both sides of Hulett Wooten Farms Road, southeast of the City of Hazelhurst, in Jeff Davis County, Georgia (Latitude 31.8537, Longitude -82.5762).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:
The applicant proposes to fill 4.38 acres of jurisdictional waters on a 169.644 acre project site to develop the municipal infrastructure necessary to construct a Wood Pellet Fuel Manufacturing Plant. This infrastructure would include roadway, rail, sanitary sewer and water system development, and improvements.

As compensatory mitigation for the project related jurisdictional waters impacts, the applicant is proposing to purchase 36.77 wetland mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank that services the Altamaha River Watershed.

BACKGROUND

A pre-application meeting was held on June 28, 2013, with the agent for the proposed project. This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the U.S. 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, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640.

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.

U.S. 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: Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, we request the Georgia Historical Preservation Division (HPD) or any other interested party review the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) to determine if the property has or has not any registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion located at the site or in the area affected by the proposed work. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work.

The project was surveyed by Southeastern Archeological Services, Inc., for archaeological and historic resources in compliance with Section 106 of the National

Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and amendments thereto that are in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The above mentioned survey was forwarded to our archaeologist for review and comment on October 3, 2013, once the comments are received, they will be forwarded to Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Historic Preservation Division for review and comments.

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 U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. 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 provided a threatened and endangered species investigation report prepared by Geotechnical and Environmental Consultants, Inc. (GEC), dated July 13, 2012. A GEC team of three individuals walked transects and conducted visual searches throughout the forest, field, and wetland areas. No federally listed threatened or endangered species nor habitats typically associated with these species were observed during the survey.

After review of the application and supporting information, the Savannah District has determined that the proposed project would not affect any Federally listed threatened or endangered species that are under the purview of U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we request concurrence with this effects determination.

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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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.

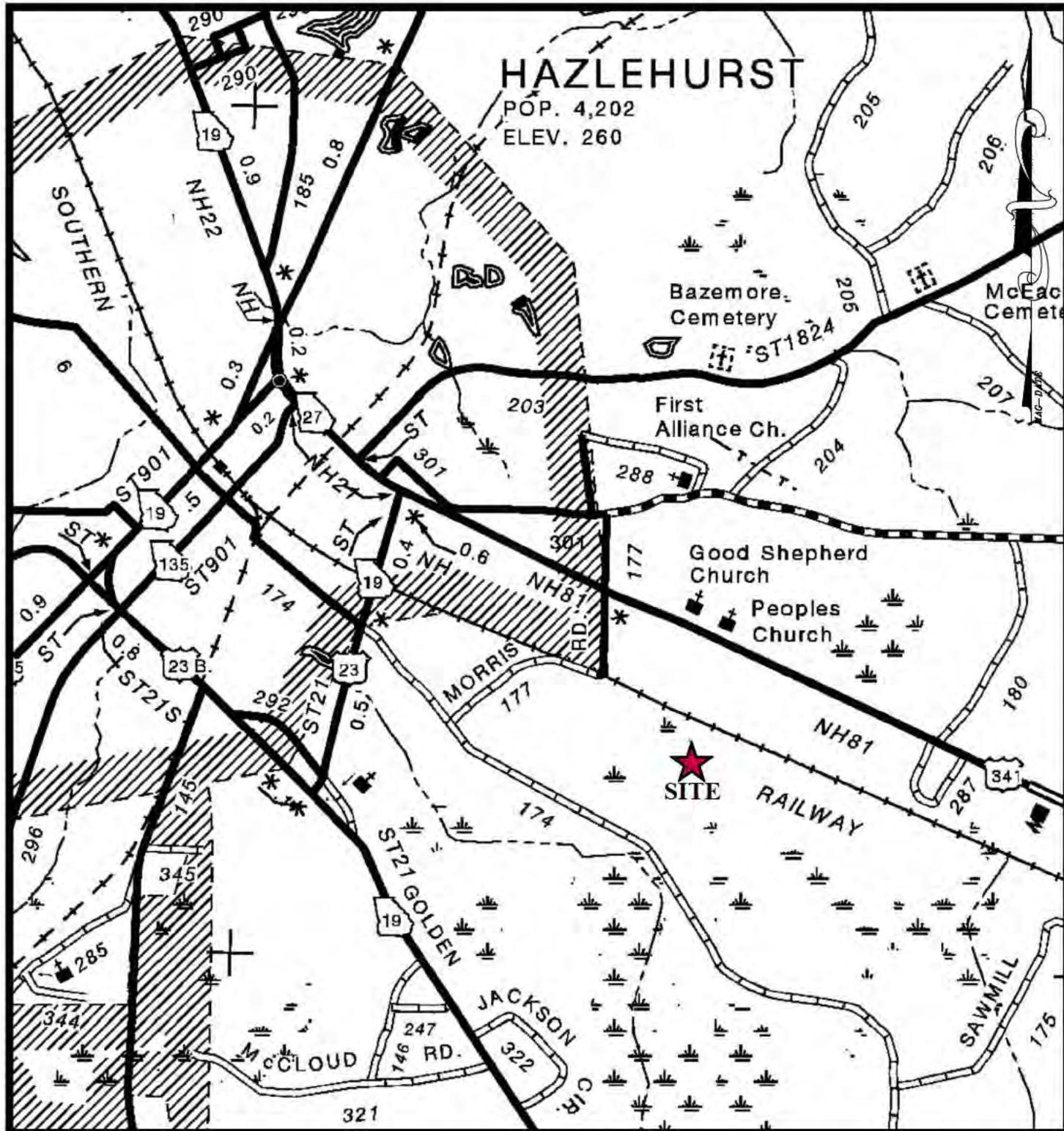
Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. 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, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Mr. Shaun Blocker, 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640, 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 Mr. Shaun Blocker, Project Manager, Coastal Branch at 912-652-5086.

8 Encls

1. Location Map
2. Wetland Location Map
3. USDA Farm Service Agency 2009 Aerial Map
4. USGS Topographic Map
5. National Wetland Inventory Map
6. USDA Infrared 1999 Aerial Map
7. USDA Soil Survey Map
8. Wetland Impact Map



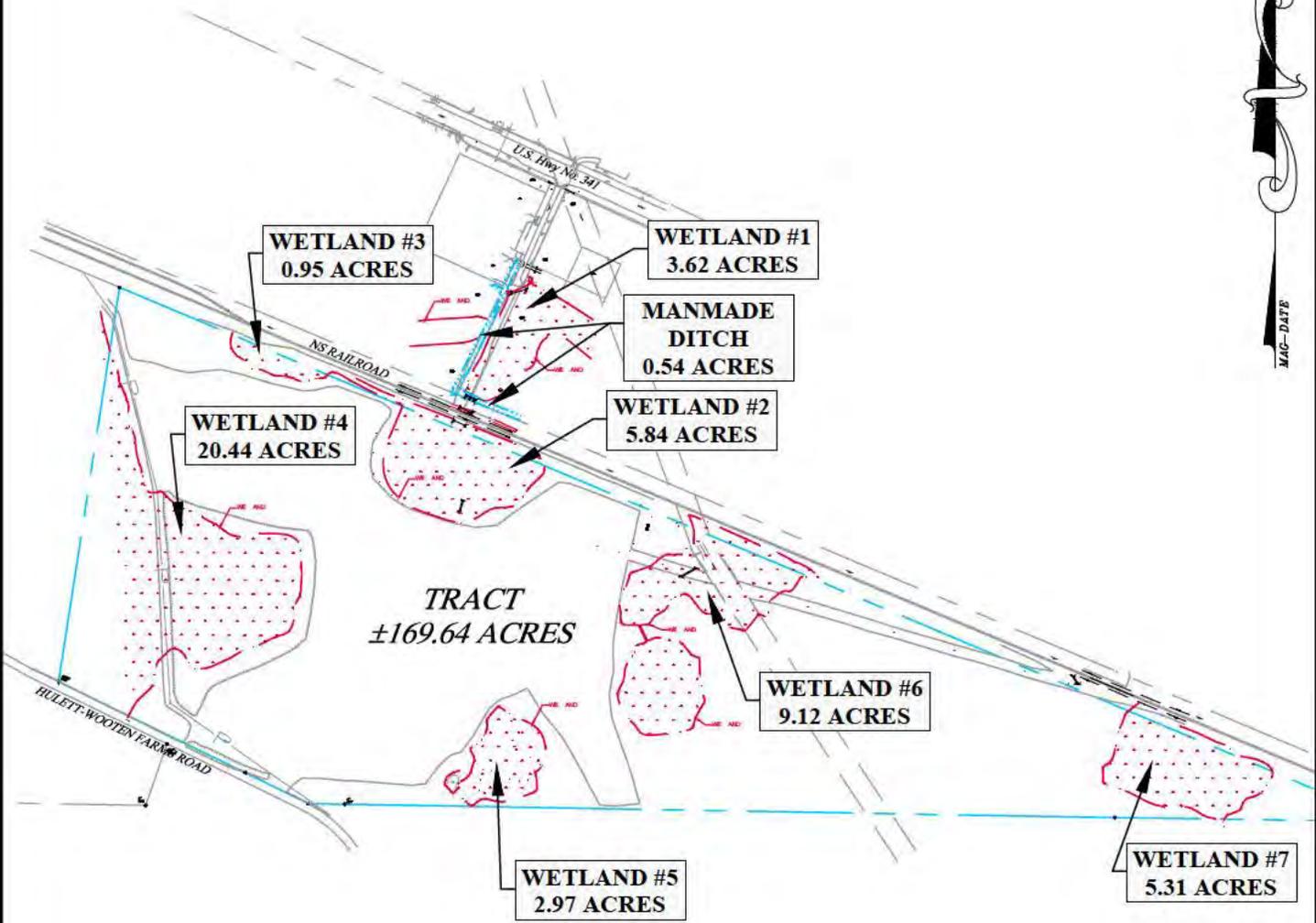
LOCATION MAP



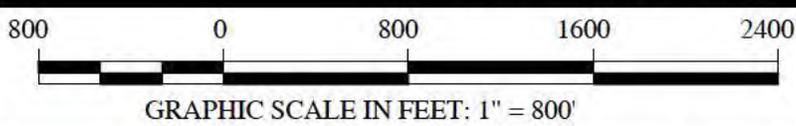
Carter & Sloop
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS
 MACON ALBANY ATHENS CANTON

6310 PEAKE ROAD . MACON, GA 31210 . 478.477.3923 TEL . 478.477.4691 FAX

SITE 1
 JEFF DAVIS COUNTY



TRACT ACRES: 169.64
WETLAND ACRES: 48.79



WETLAND LOCATION
MAP



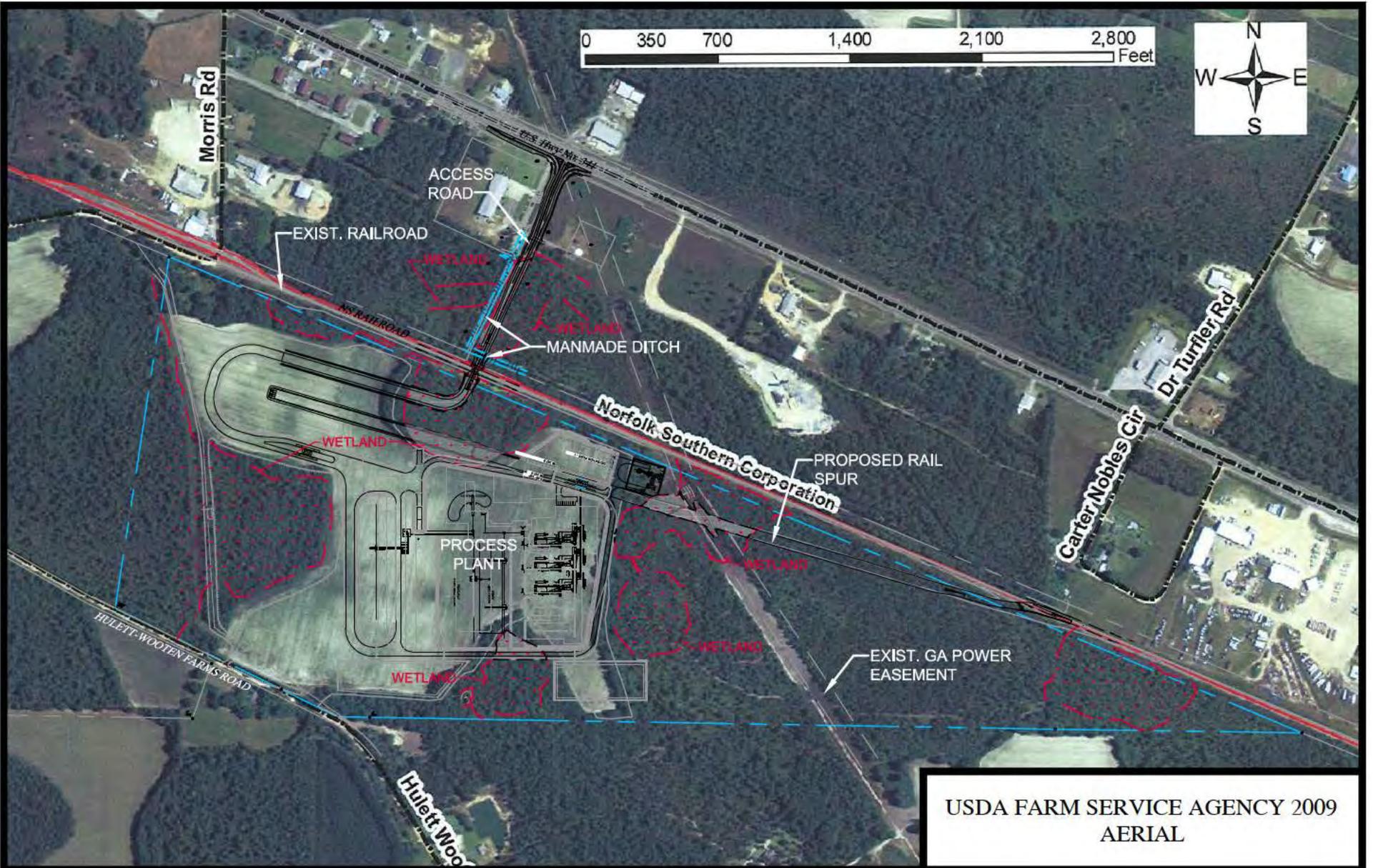
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USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY 2009
AERIAL



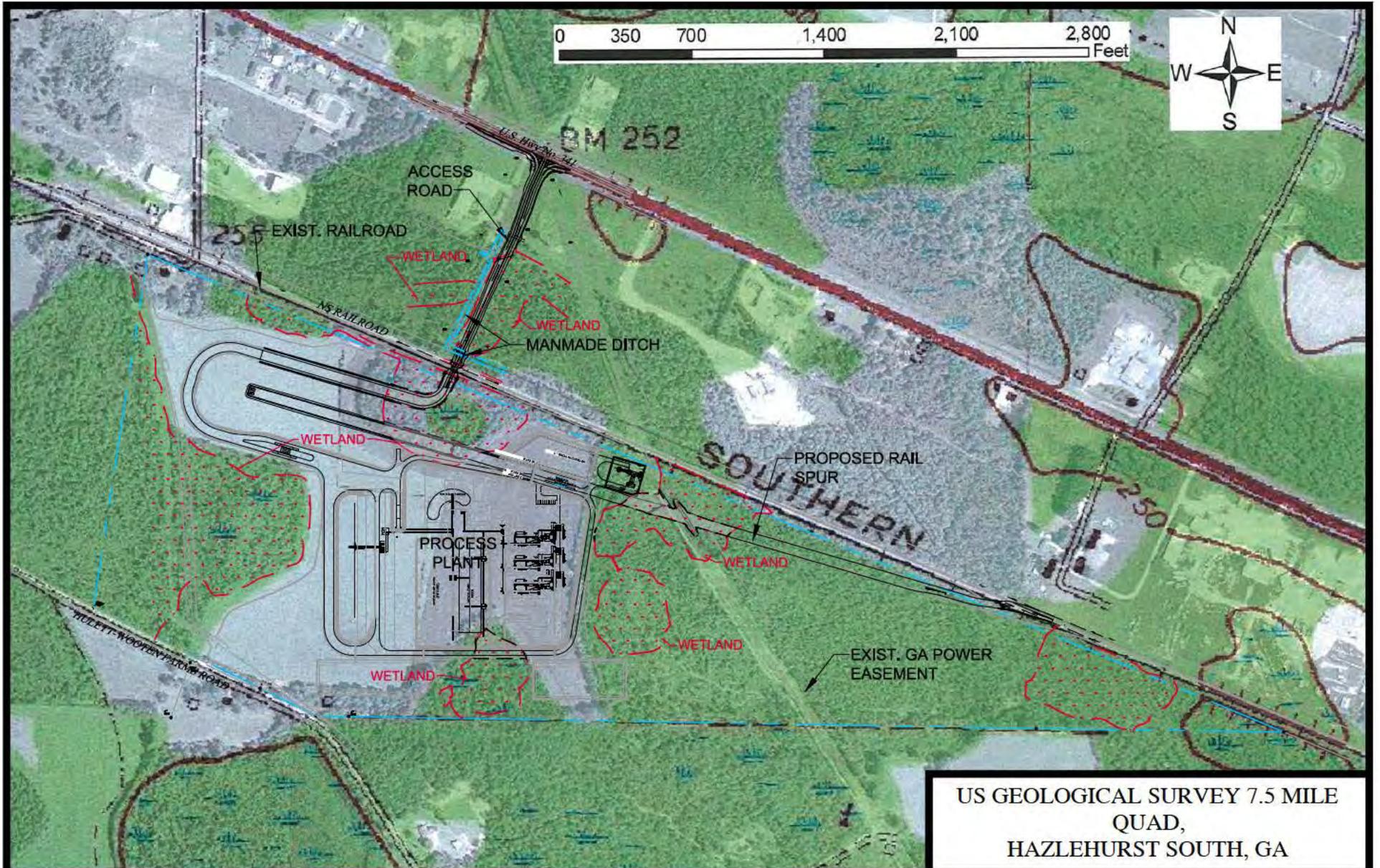
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US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 7.5 MILE
 QUAD,
 HAZLEHURST SOUTH, GA



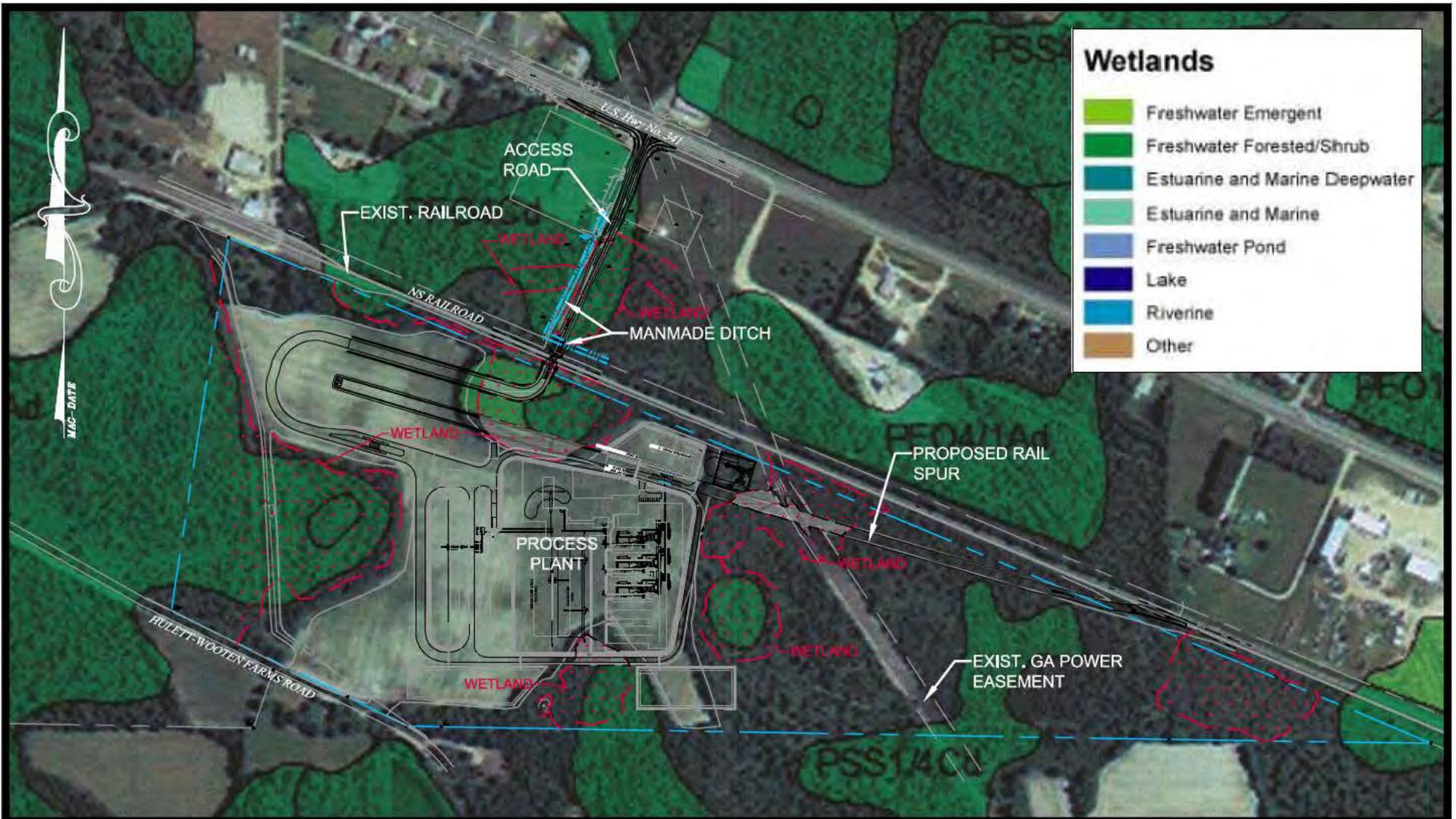
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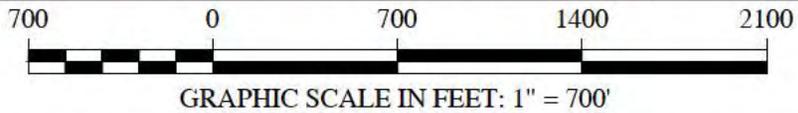
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Wetlands

- Freshwater Emergent
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine
- Other



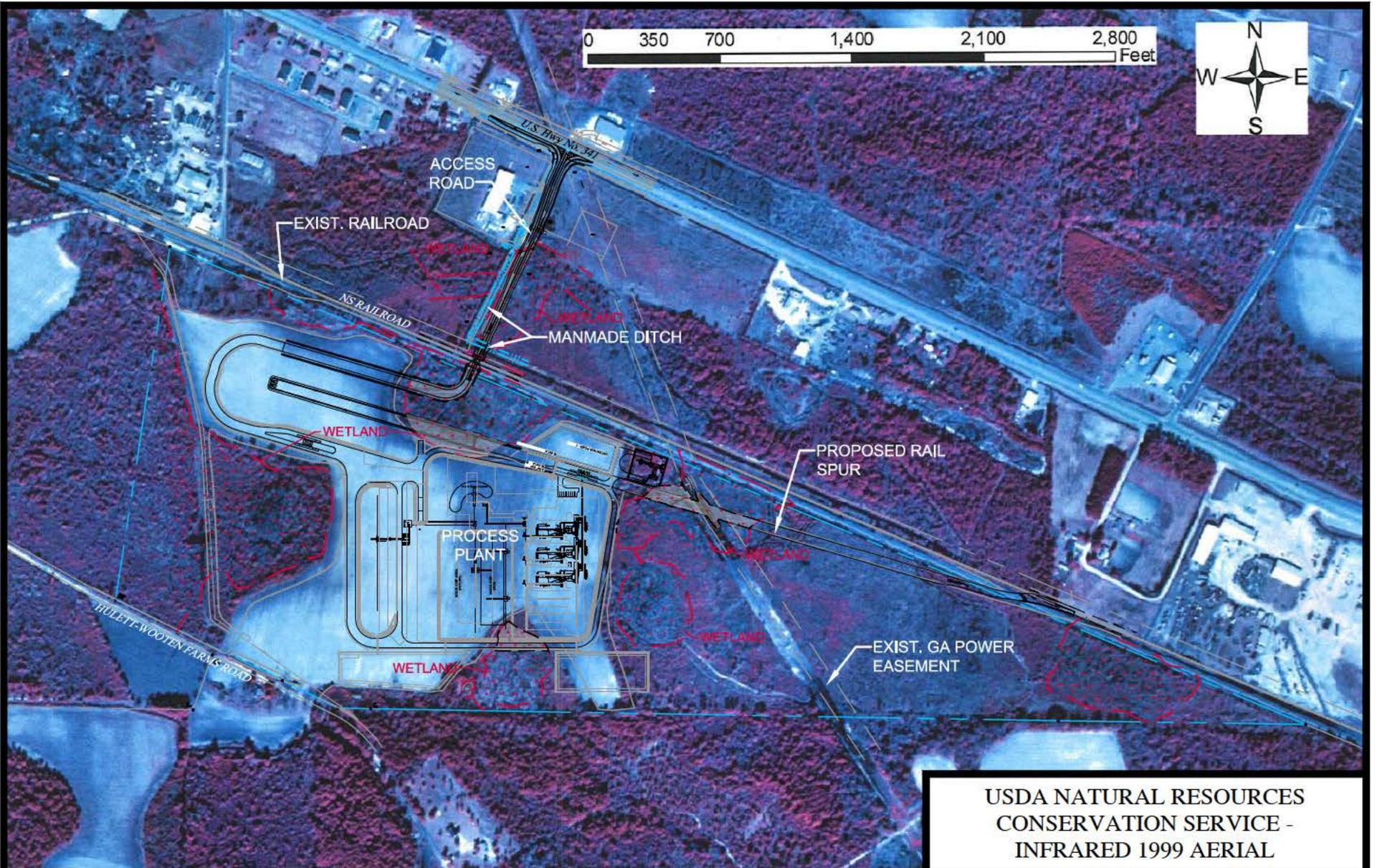
US FISH AND WILDLIFE NATIONAL
WETLANDS INVENTORY



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USDA NATURAL RESOURCES
 CONSERVATION SERVICE -
 INFRARED 1999 AERIAL



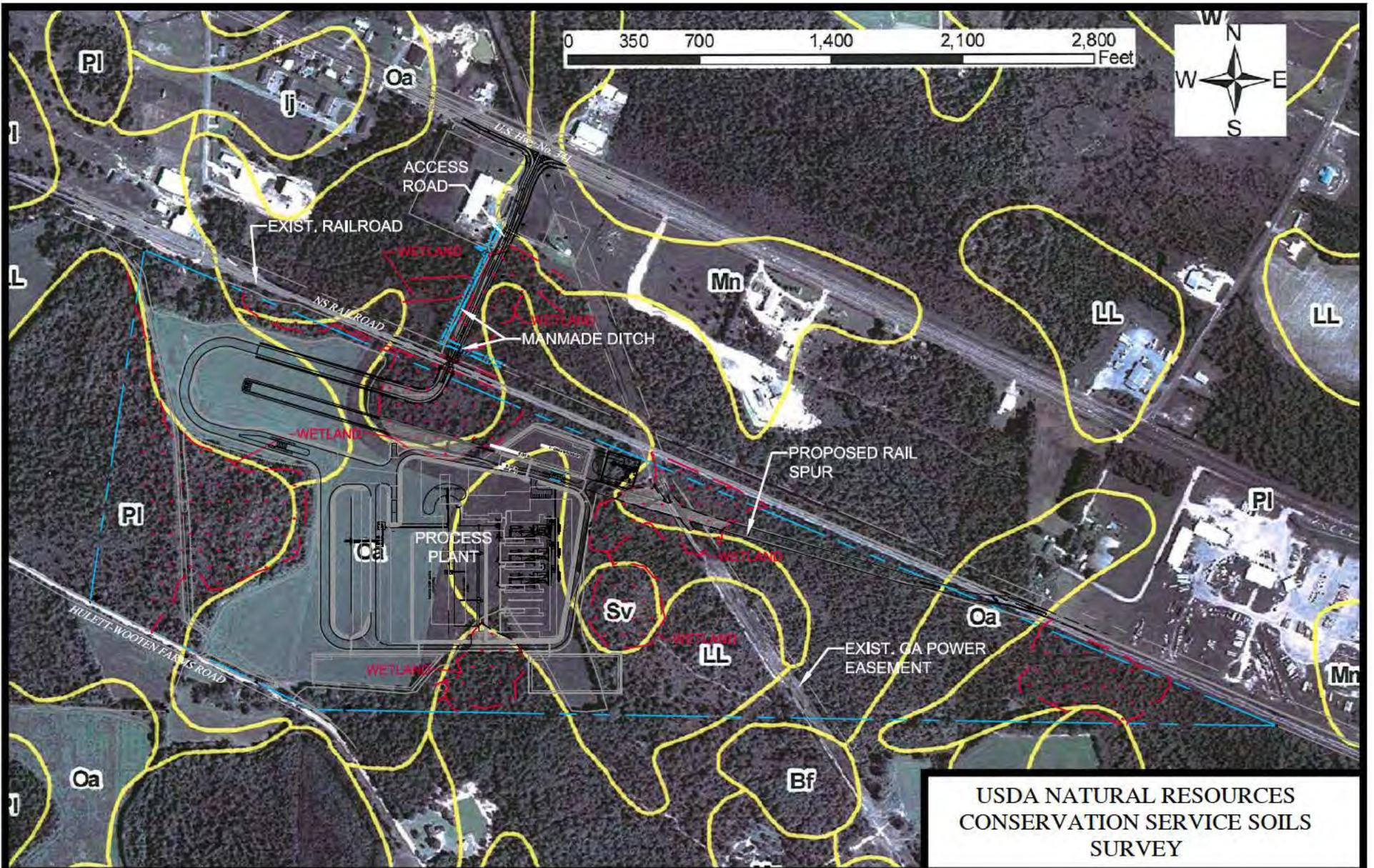
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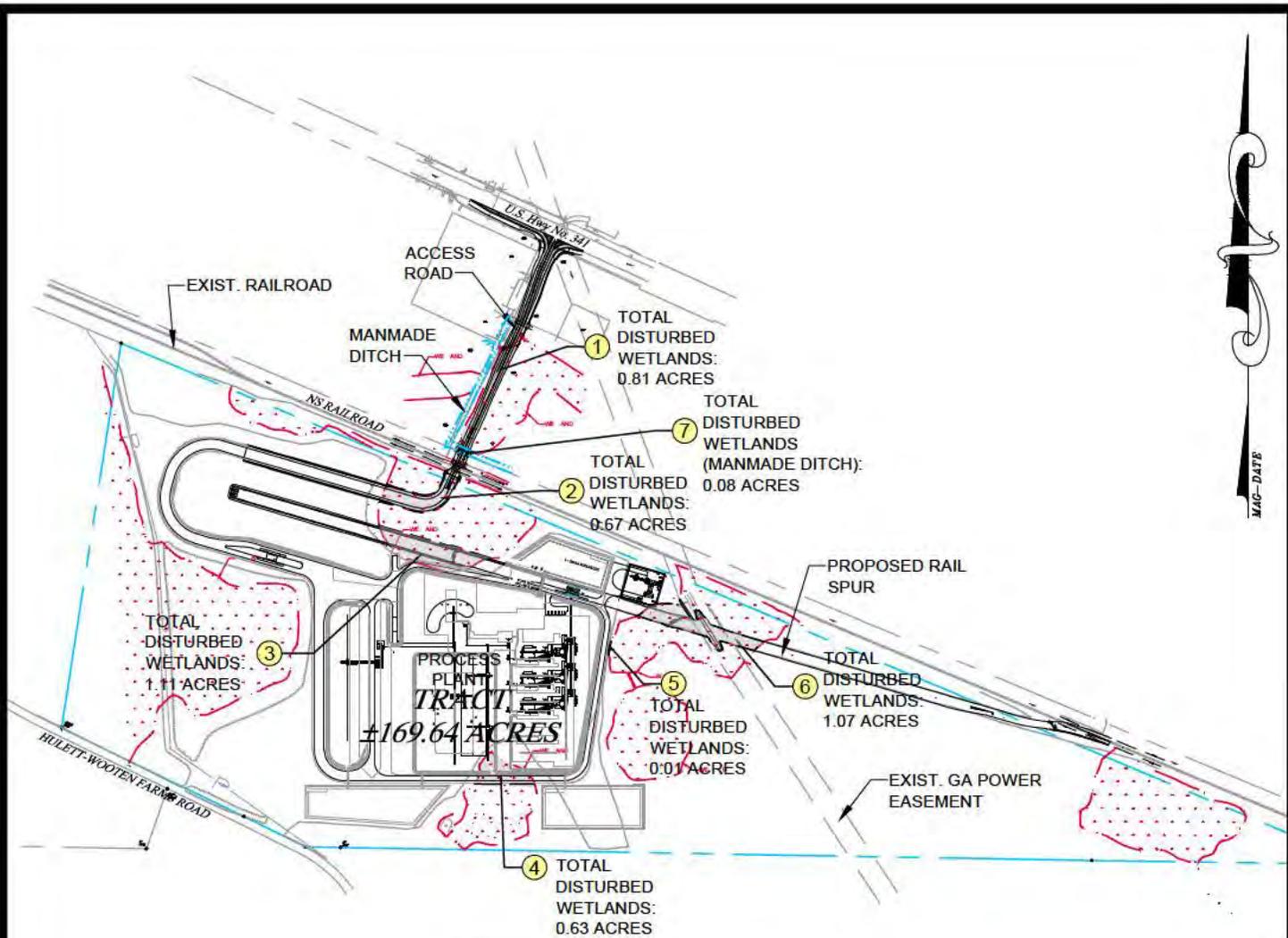
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SITE 1
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WETLAND IMPACT AREAS:	
①	0.81 ACRES
②	0.67 ACRES
③	1.11 ACRES
④	0.63 ACRES
⑤	0.01 ACRES
⑥	1.07 ACRES
MANMADE DITCH IMPACT AREA:	
⑦	0.08 ACRES
TOTAL WETLAND IMPACT:	4.38 ACRES

ALTERNATIVE SITE
DESIGN 2



SITE 1
JEFF DAVIS COUNTY