



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Regulatory Division
SAS-2013-00023

APR 18 2014

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-2013-00023

Applicant: Hiral Patel, P.E.
Georgia Department of Transportation
Office of Environmental Services
One Georgia Center, 16th Floor, 600 W. Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia, 30308-3607

Agent: Ecological Solutions, Inc
630 Colonial Park Drive
Roswell, Georgia 30075

Location of Proposed Work: The 9.3 mile project corridor begins at latitude 34.0511 and longitude -83.1847 in Madison and Elbert Counties. The project is located in the Broad River Watershed, in Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 03060104.

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:
The Georgia Department of Transportation Project Identification Numbers are 122100 and 122650. The proposed project begins west of the City of Comer, Georgia. The roadway proceeds in a northeasterly direction on a new location and ties back into State Route (SR) 72 just before the Madison-Elbert County line at the Broad River. The project continues eastward and ends approximately 2,000 feet into Elbert County at County Road (CR) 79/Nickville Road, tying into the existing four-lane section of SR 72. The proposed project would relocate a section of existing SR 72 to bypass the cities of Comer and Carlton. The road widening the project would include a new bridge over the Broad River, bike lanes, and maintenance work on the existing historic bridge. A triple 9 foot by 6 foot concrete bridge culvert would be installed in the Rocky Shoals Creek.

The project's current design would permanently impact 3,043 linear feet of perennial and intermittent streams, and 4.57 acres of wetland. Temporary impacts would include

0.07 acres of wetland. The impacts would require 17,740.05 stream mitigation credits and 24.01 wetland mitigation credits from a US Army Corps of Engineer approved mitigation bank in the project service area.

BACKGROUND

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, 7 Martin Luther King Jr Drive, Suite 450, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334 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, Piedmont Branch, Lanier Field Office, Post Office Box 528, Buford, Georgia 30515.

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 has surveyed the project corridor in respect to historic and archaeological resources. An assessment of effects dated May 7, 2007, was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for review. On May 14, 2007, the SHPO stated that the proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on three sites, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(d)(1).

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.

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, Attention: Natalie Edwards, Piedmont Branch, Lanier Field Office, Post Office Box 528, Buford, Georgia 30515, 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 Natalie Edwards, Project Manager, Piedmont Branch at (678) 804-5228 or Natalie.M.Edwards@usace.army.mil.

Enclosures

- 1) Figure 1: Site Location Map
- 2) Figure 2: Site Topographic Map
- 3) Tables 2-3: Protected Species and Stream Summaries
- 4) Figures 3a-3m: Habitats Map

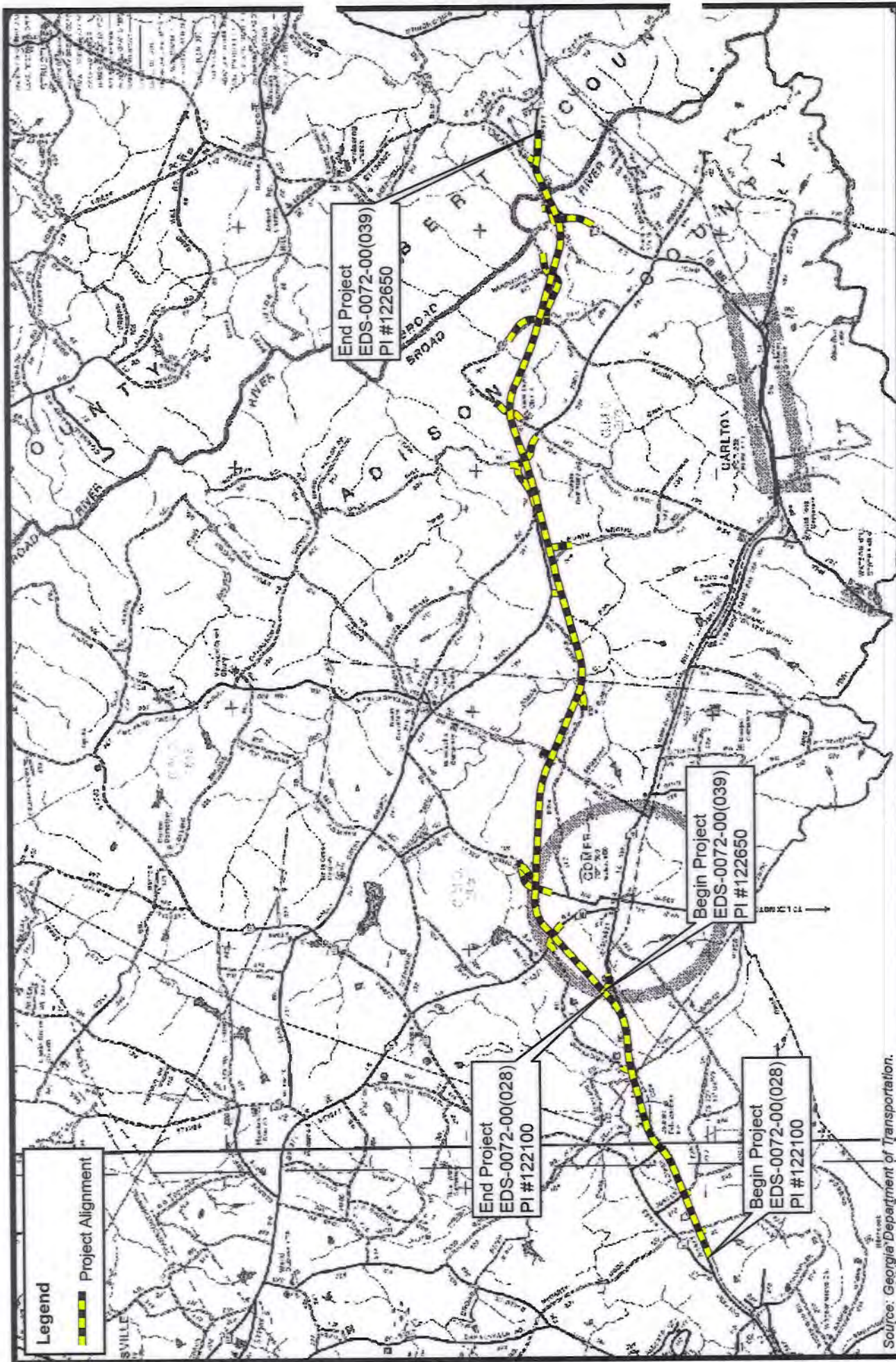


FIGURE 1: Site Location Map



EDS-0072-00(039) P.I. 122650
EDS-0072-00(028) P.I. 122100
Elbert/Madison Counties
SR 72 From West of City Limits of Corbin
to East of Broad River

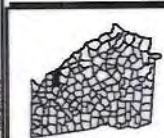
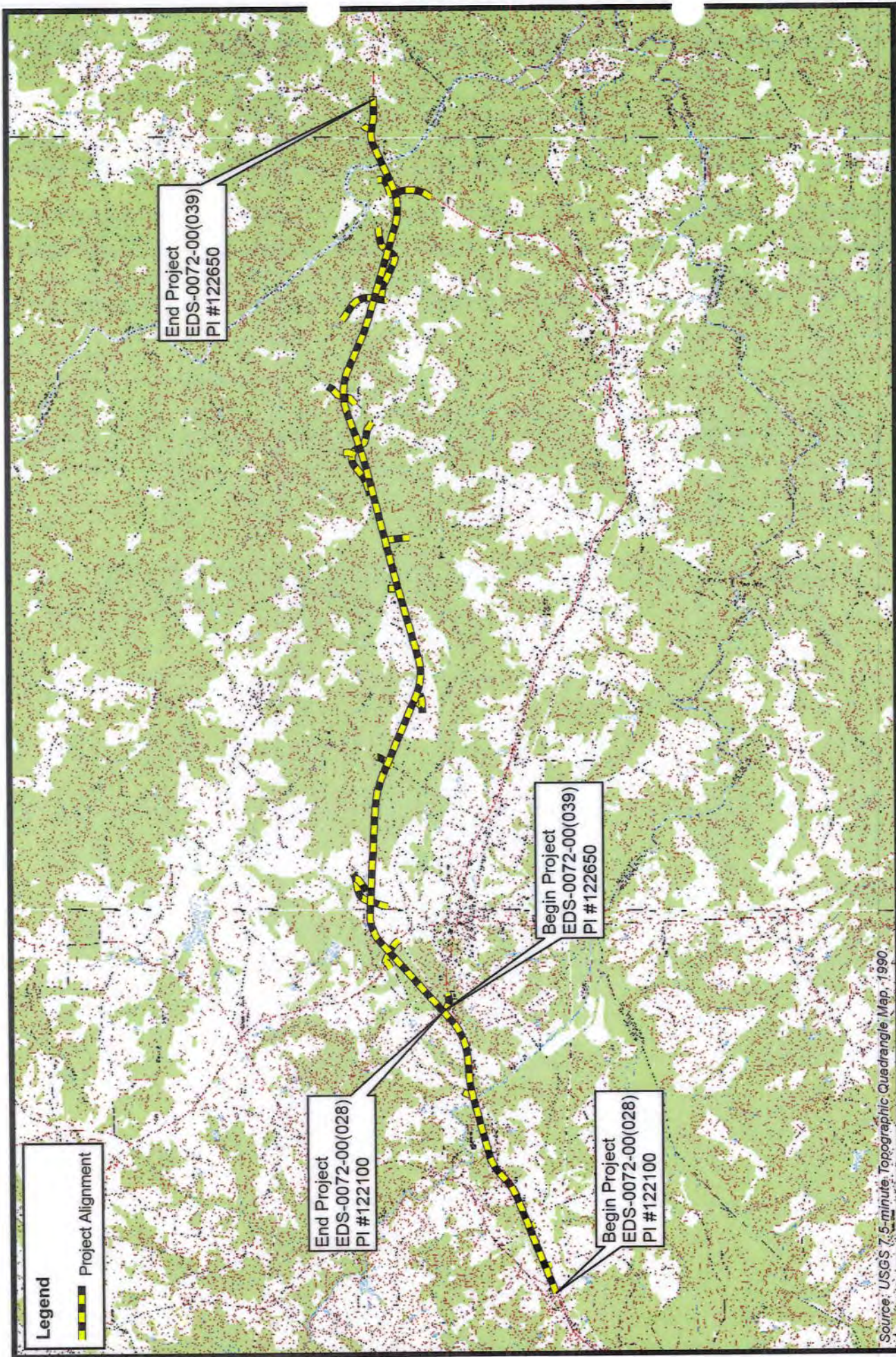


FIGURE 2: Site Topographic Map



EDS-0072-00(039) P.I. 122650
 EDS-0072-00(028) P.I. 122100
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 SR 72 From West of City Limits of Comer
 to East of Broad River

Table 2. Protected Species Summary Table

Scientific Name	Common Name	Survey Season	Survey Date	Individuals Found	Biological Determination	Special Provision 107.23G
<i>Moxostoma robustum</i>	robust redbhorse	4/30 – 10/30	10/20/2010	No	NSAE	Yes
<i>Notropis scepcticus</i>	sandbar shiner	4/30 – 10/30	10/20/2010	No	NSAE	Yes
<i>Rhus michauxii</i>	dwarf sumac	late March – mid-November	July/August 2000; October 2004; October 2013	No	MA, NLAA	No
<i>Symphoricarichum georgianum</i>	Georgia aster	mid Oct-mid Nov	October 2013	No	NSAE	No
<i>Isoetes melanospora</i>	black spored quillwort	May - October	10/20/2010	No	NE	No
<i>Amphianthus pusillus</i>	little amphianthus	April - May	10/20/2010	No	NE	No
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern long-eared bat	May 15 th – August 15 th	Habitat Assessment 12/23/13	No	MA, NLAA	No

MA, NLAA – May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
NSAE – No Significant Adverse Effect
NE – No effect

Table 3. Stream Summary Table

Stream	Drainage Association	HUC #	Lat/Long	Lost Type	Habitat for Protected Species	Subject to State-Mandated Buffer Requirements	Length (feet) Type of Permanent Impact	Area (acres) of Impacts
Stream 0a	South Fork Broad River	03060104	34.055003/-83.175372	Perennial	No	Yes	32.00	0.002
Stream 0c	South Fork Broad River	03060104	34.055679/-83.173763	Intermittent	No	Yes	0.00	0.00
Stream 1	South Fork Broad River	03060104	34.058147/-83.168398	Perennial	No	Yes	224.00 new culvert 30.00 riprap	0.023
Stream 2	South Fork Broad River	03060104	34.060092/-83.161059	Perennial	No	Yes	84.00 new culvert	0.01
Stream 3	South Fork Broad River	03060104	34.061759/-83.156242	Perennial	Yes	Yes	0.00	0.00

Stream	Drainage Association	HUC #	Lat/Long	Lost Type	Habitat for Protected Species	Subject to State-Mandated Buffer Requirements	Length (feet) Type of Permanent Impact	Area (acres) of Impacts
Stream 4	South Fork Broad River	03060104	34.062596/ -83.151089	Intermittent	No	Yes	176.00 new culvert 14.00 riprap	0.044
Stream 5	South Fork Broad River	03060104	34.065105/ -83.142829	Perennial	No	Yes	313.00 new box culvert	0.04
Stream 5a	South Fork Broad River	03060104	34.064871/ -83.142667	Intermittent	No	Yes	198.00 fill	0.02
Stream 10	Broad River	03060104	34.074656/ -83.105303	Perennial	No	Yes	341.00 new culvert 10.00 riprap	0.031
Stream 17	South Fork Broad River	03060104	34.069135/ -83.086980	Perennial	No	Yes	225.00 new culvert 11.00 riprap	0.095
Stream 21	South Fork Broad River	03060104	34.070270/ -83.077025	Perennial	No	Yes	0.0	0.00
Stream 21a	South Fork Broad River	03060104	34.070206/ -83.077416	Intermittent	No	Yes	0.0	0.00
Stream 27	Broad River	03060104	34.077757/ -83.035784	Perennial	No	Yes	0.00	0.00
Stream 28	Broad River	03060104	34.077645/ -83.033521	Perennial	No	Yes	449.00 new culvert 28.00 riprap	0.117
Stream 28a	Broad River	03060104	34.079571/ -83.029775	Perennial	No	Yes	0.00	0.00
Stream 28c	Broad River	03060104	34.073439/ -83.024126	Perennial	No	Yes	0.00	0.00
Stream 29	Broad River	03060104	34.072317/ -83.012332	Perennial	No	Yes	535.00 new culvert 14.00 riprap	0.154

Stream	Drainage Association	HUC #	Lat/Long	Lost Type	Habitat for Protected Species	Subject to State-Mandated Buffer Requirements	Length (feet) Type of Permanent Impact	Area (acres) of Impacts
Stream 31	Broad River	03060104	34.072599/-83.009465	Perennial	No	Yes	319.00 new culvert 20.00 riprap	0.031
Stream 32	Broad River	03060104	34.074277/-83.004031	Perennial	Yes	Yes	20.00	0.003 bridge bents
Stream 32a	Broad River	03060104	34.075155/-83.003267	Perennial	No	Yes	0.00	0.00
Stream 32e	Broad River	03060104	34.075320/-83.002560	Perennial	No	Yes	0.00	0.00
Stream 32f	Broad River	03060104	34.076158/-82.995693	Intermittent	No	Yes	0.00	0.00
Total Impacts							3,043 feet	0.572 acre

Table 4. Wetland/Open Water Summary Table

Wetland	Cowardin Classification	Water Regime	HUC #	Lat/Long	Habitat for Protected Species	Subject to State-Mandated Buffer Requirements	Area and Type of Temporary Impact (acres)	Area and Type of Permanent Impact (acres)
Pond 0b	PUB	Perennially ponded	03060104	34.055705/-83.175373	No	Yes	0.00	0.00
Ephemeral Stream 0c	n/a	Ephemeral	03060104	34.055533/-83.173502	No	No	0.00	0.003 new culvert 0.002 riprap
Wetland 0d	PFO	Seasonally flooded	03060104	34.055654/-83.173926	No	No	0.00	0.00
Wetland 0e	PFO	Seasonally flooded	03060104	34.055688/-83.174112	No	No	0.00	0.00
Wetland 2a	PFO	Permanently flooded (beaver activity)	03060104	34.060995/-83.161289	No	No	0.05 clearing	0.06 fill
Pond 8a	PUB	Intermittently ponded	03060104	34.076322/-83.127395	No	No	0.00	0.00
Pond 9	PUB	Intermittently ponded	03060104	34.075916/-83.119617	No	No	0.00	1.77 fill

Wetland	Cowardin Classification	Water Regime	HUC #	Lat/Long	Habitat for Protected Species	Subject to State-Mandated Buffer Requirements	Area and Type of Temporary Impact (acres)	Area and Type of Permanent Impact (acres)
Pond 14	PUB	Intermittently ponded	03060104	34.070269/-83.091605	No	Yes	0.00	0.64 fill
Pond 15	PUB	Intermittently ponded	03060104	34.069610/-83.090372	No	Yes	0.00	0.80 fill
Pond 16	PUB	Intermittently ponded	03060104	34.068439/-83.089367	No	No	0.00	0.00
Pond 17f	PUB	Intermittently ponded	03060104	34.067799/-83.085927	No	No	0.00	0.00
Pond 19a	PUB	Intermittently ponded	03060104	34.068728/-83.080711	No	Yes	0.00	0.00
Ephemeral Stream 21	n/a	Ephemeral	03060104	34.070921/-83.076584	No	No	0.00	0.01 new culvert 0.002 riprap
Pond 22	PUB	Perennially ponded	03060104	34.071529/-83.076305	No	Yes	0.00	0.91 fill
Pond 25	PUB	Intermittently ponded	03060104	34.077937/-83.046849	No	No	0.00	0.32 fill
Wetland 26	PFO	Seasonally flooded	03060104	34.078098/-83.037290	No	No	0.02 clearing	0.007 fill
Pond 28b	PUB	Perennially ponded	03060104	34.077100/-83.029481	No	Yes	0.00	0.00
Wetland 28d	PFO	Seasonally flooded	03060104	34.073608/-83.024512	No	No	0.00	0.00
Ephemeral Stream 29a	n/a	Ephemeral	03060104	34.072333/-83.012086	No	No	0.00	0.007 fill
Wetland 32b	PEM	Seasonally flooded	03060104	34.073840/-83.003315	No	No	0.00	0.00
Wetland 32c	PEM/PSS	Seasonally flooded	03060104	34.075566/-83.003200	No	No	0.00	0.03 fill



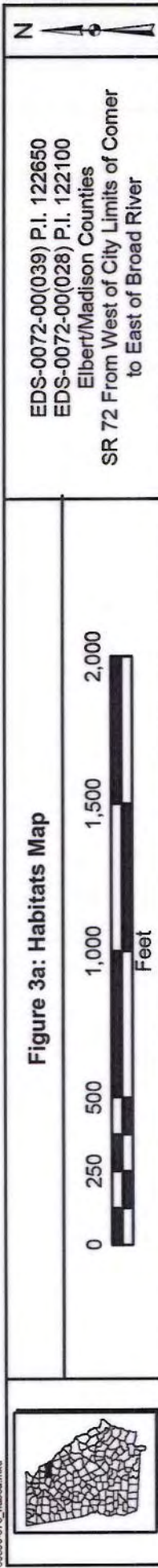
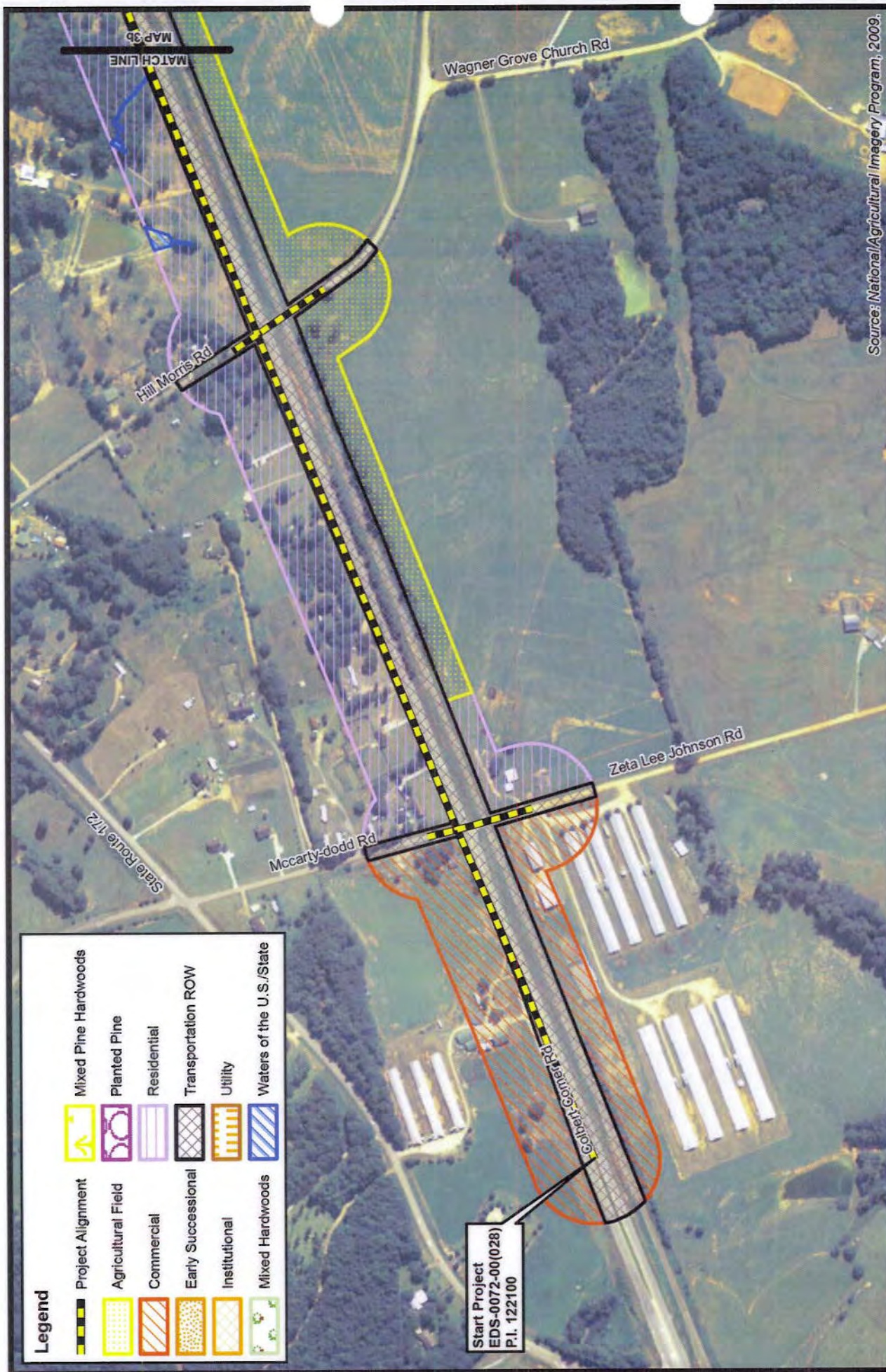
Figure 3: Habitats Map - Index

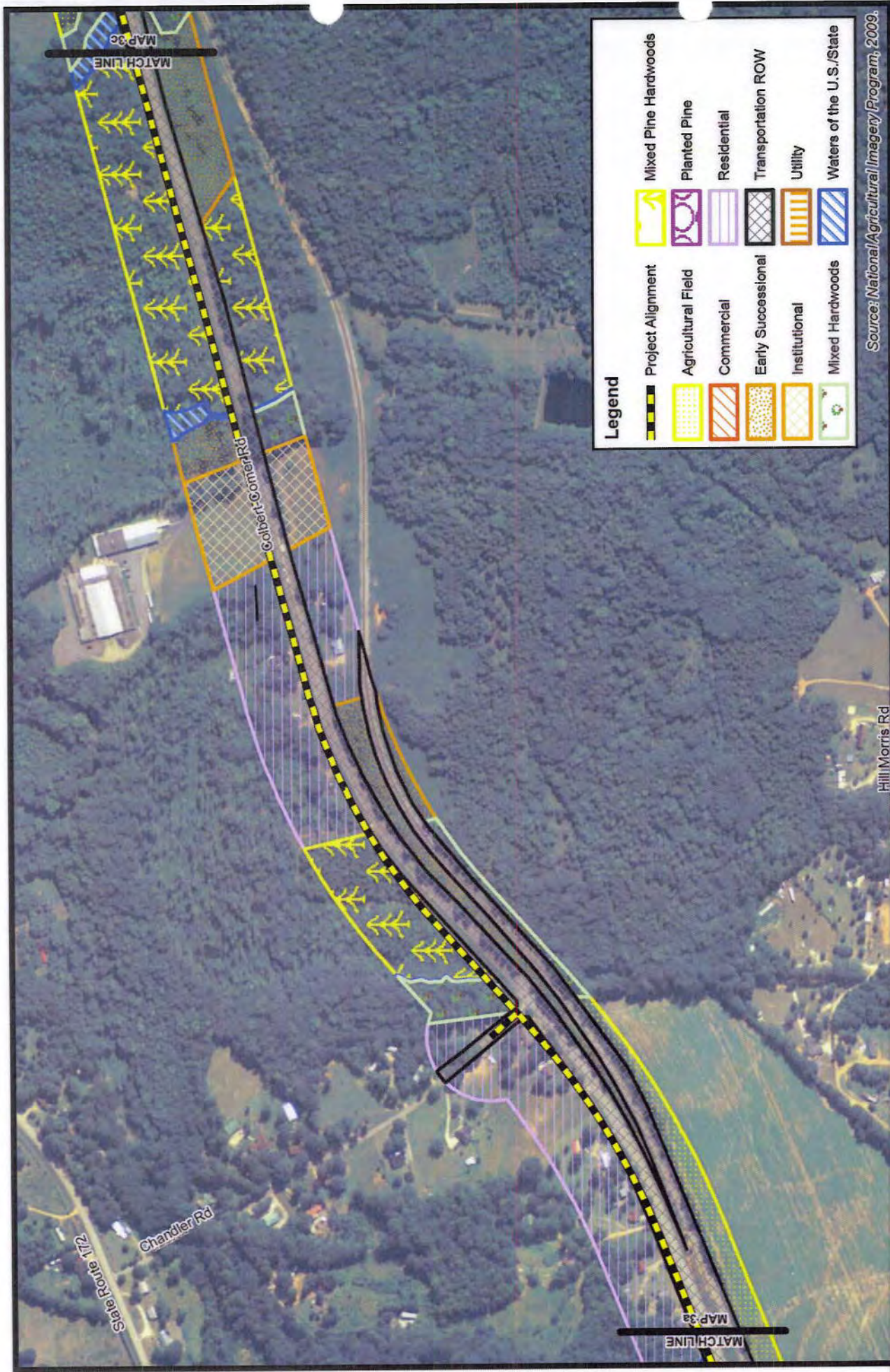
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 Elbert/Madison Counties
 SR 72 From West of City Limits of Comer
 to East of Broad River

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Source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, 2009.

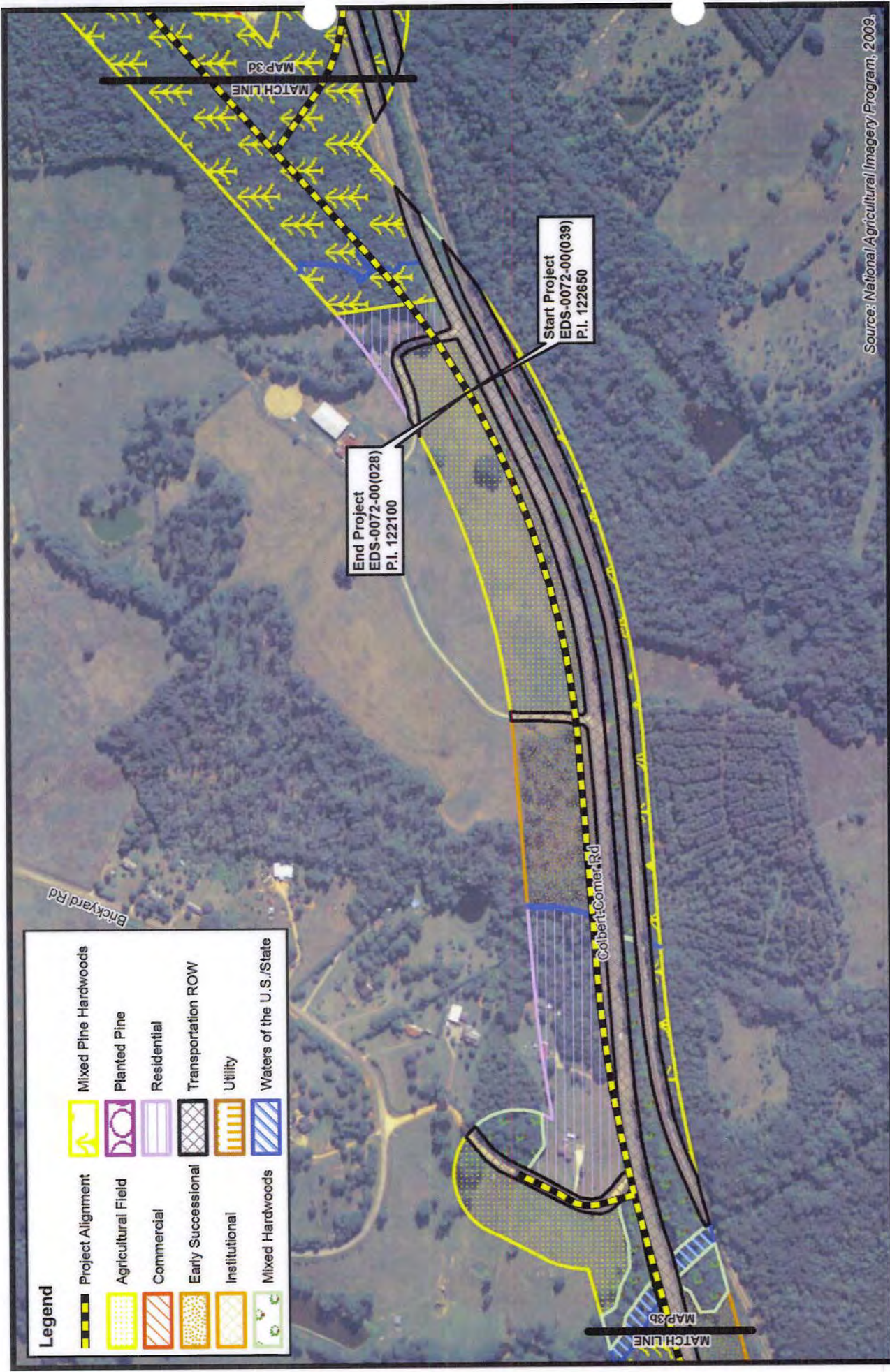
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Figure 3b: Habitats Map



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Elbert/Madison Counties
SR 72 From West of City Limits of Comer
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Source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, 2009.

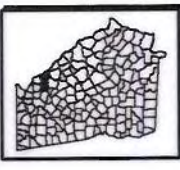


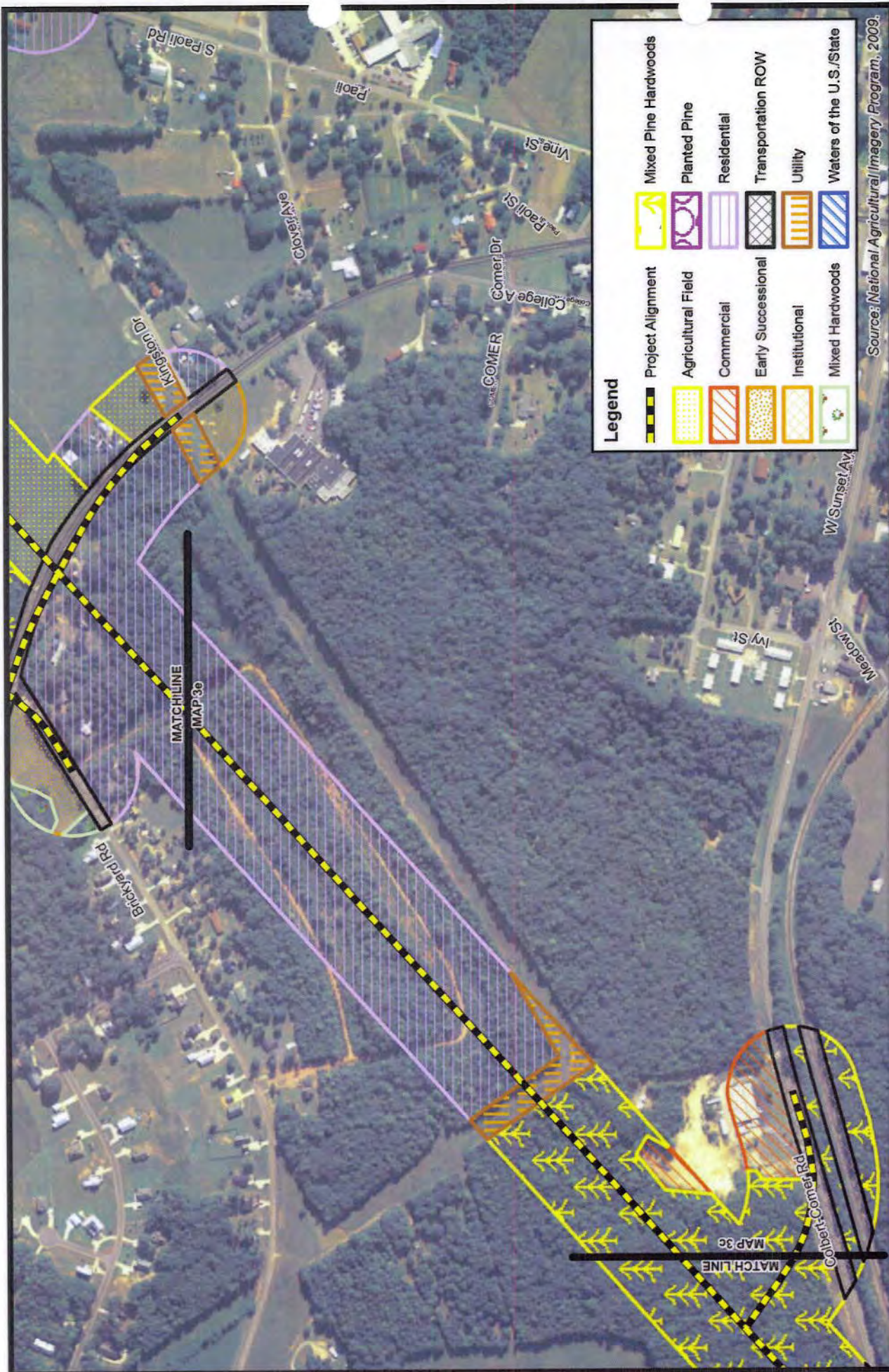
Figure 3c: Habitats Map





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 Elbert/Madison Counties
 SR 72 From West of City Limits of Comer
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- Legend**
- | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Project Alignment | | Mixed Pine Hardwoods |
| | Agricultural Field | | Planted Pine |
| | Commercial | | Residential |
| | Early Successional | | Transportation ROW |
| | Institutional | | Utility |
| | Mixed Hardwoods | | Waters of the U.S./State |

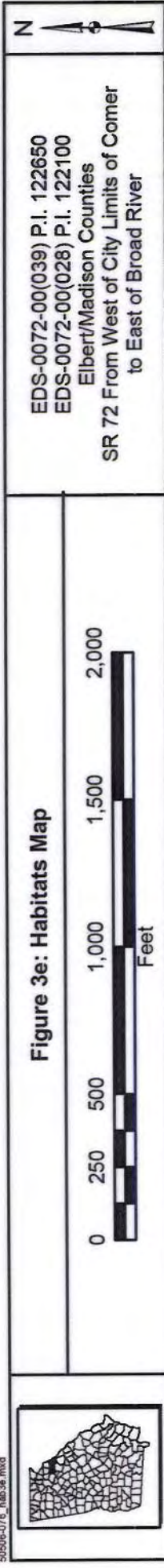
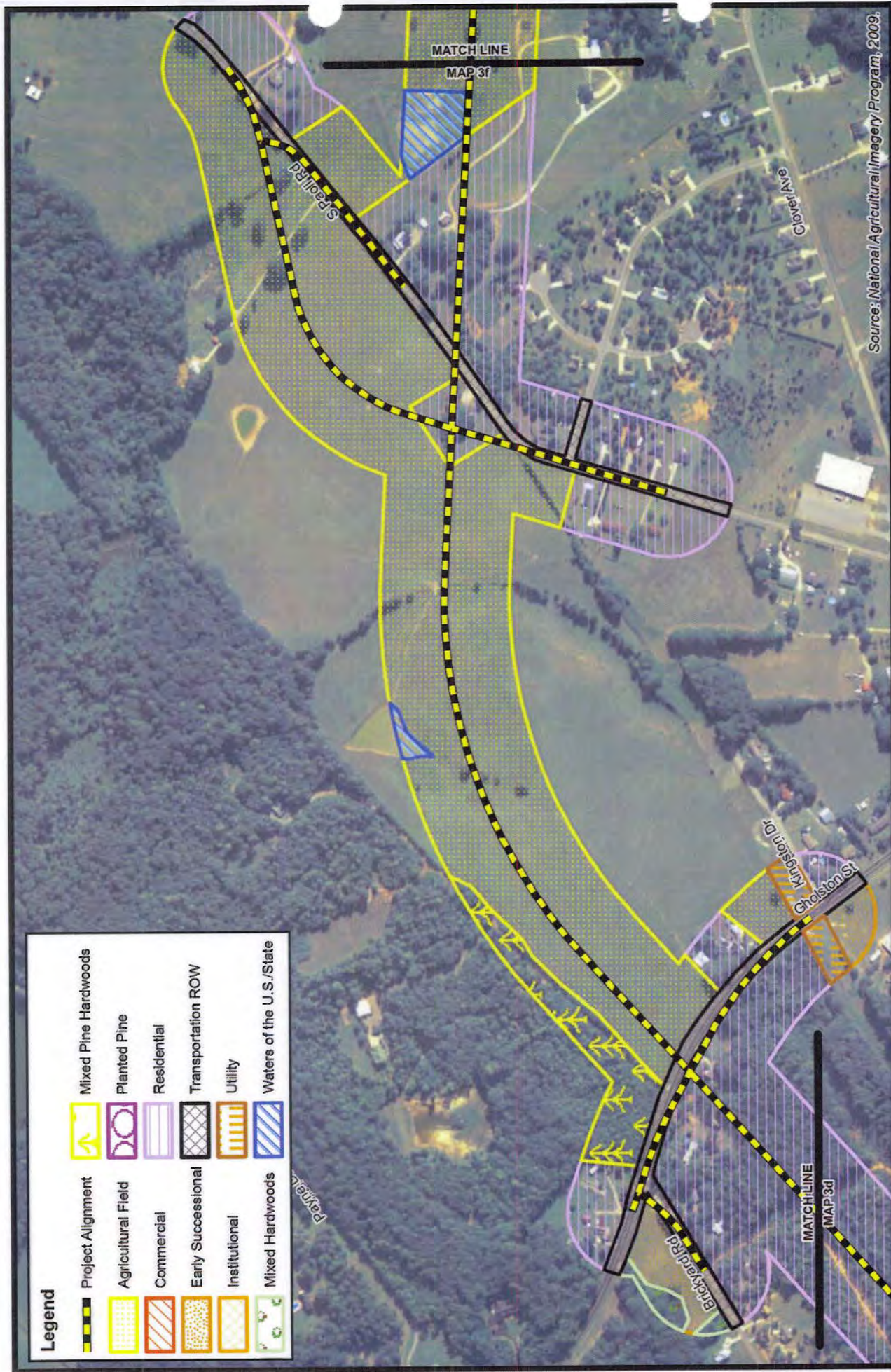
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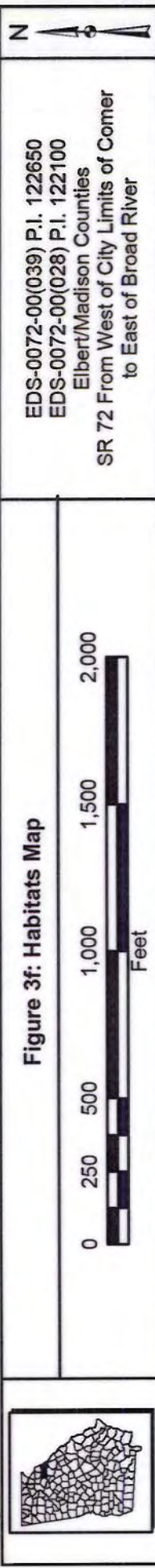
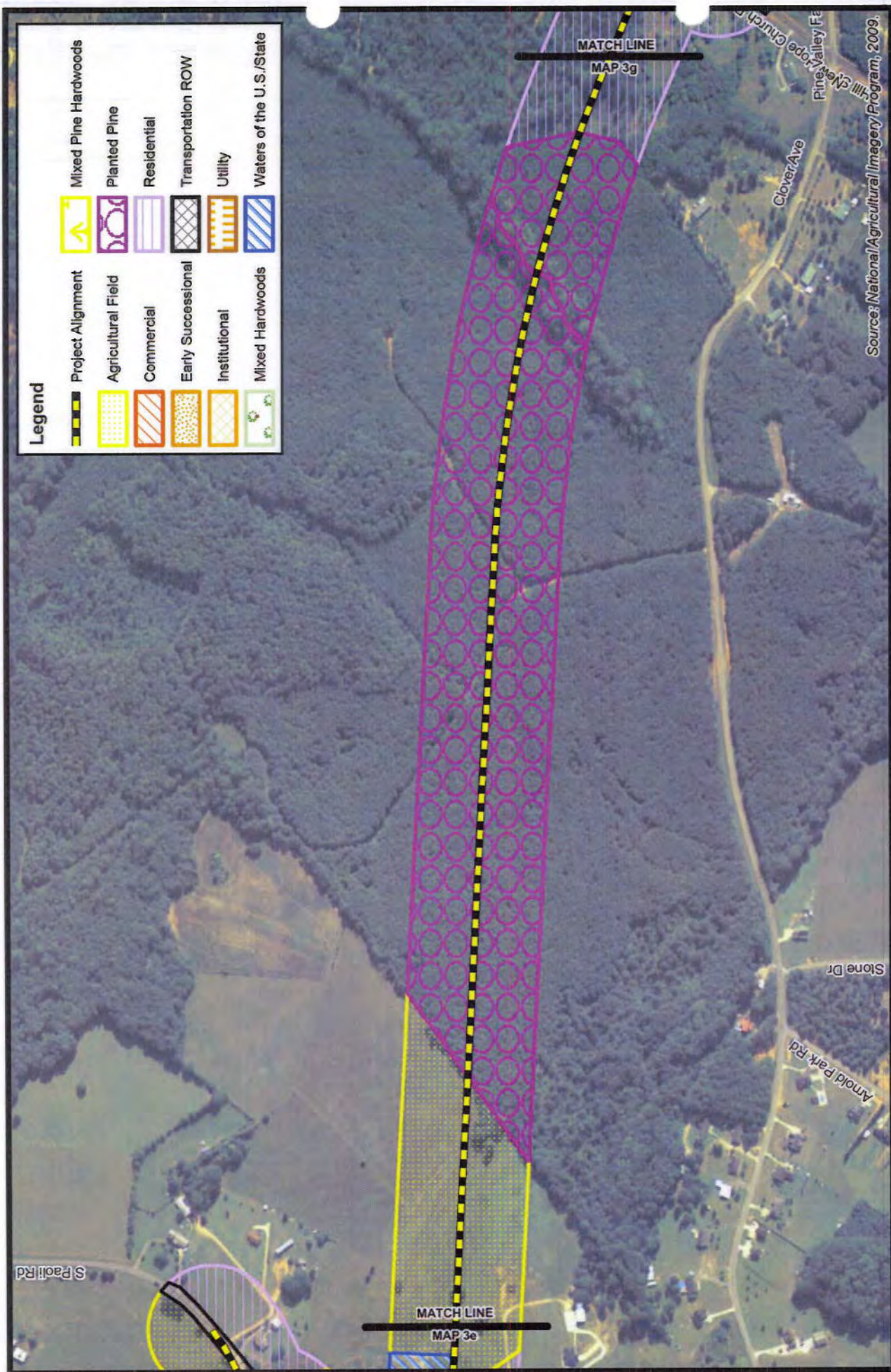


Figure 3d: Habitats Map



EDS-0072-00(039) P.I. 122650
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 Elbert/Madison Counties
 SR 72 From West of City Limits of Comer
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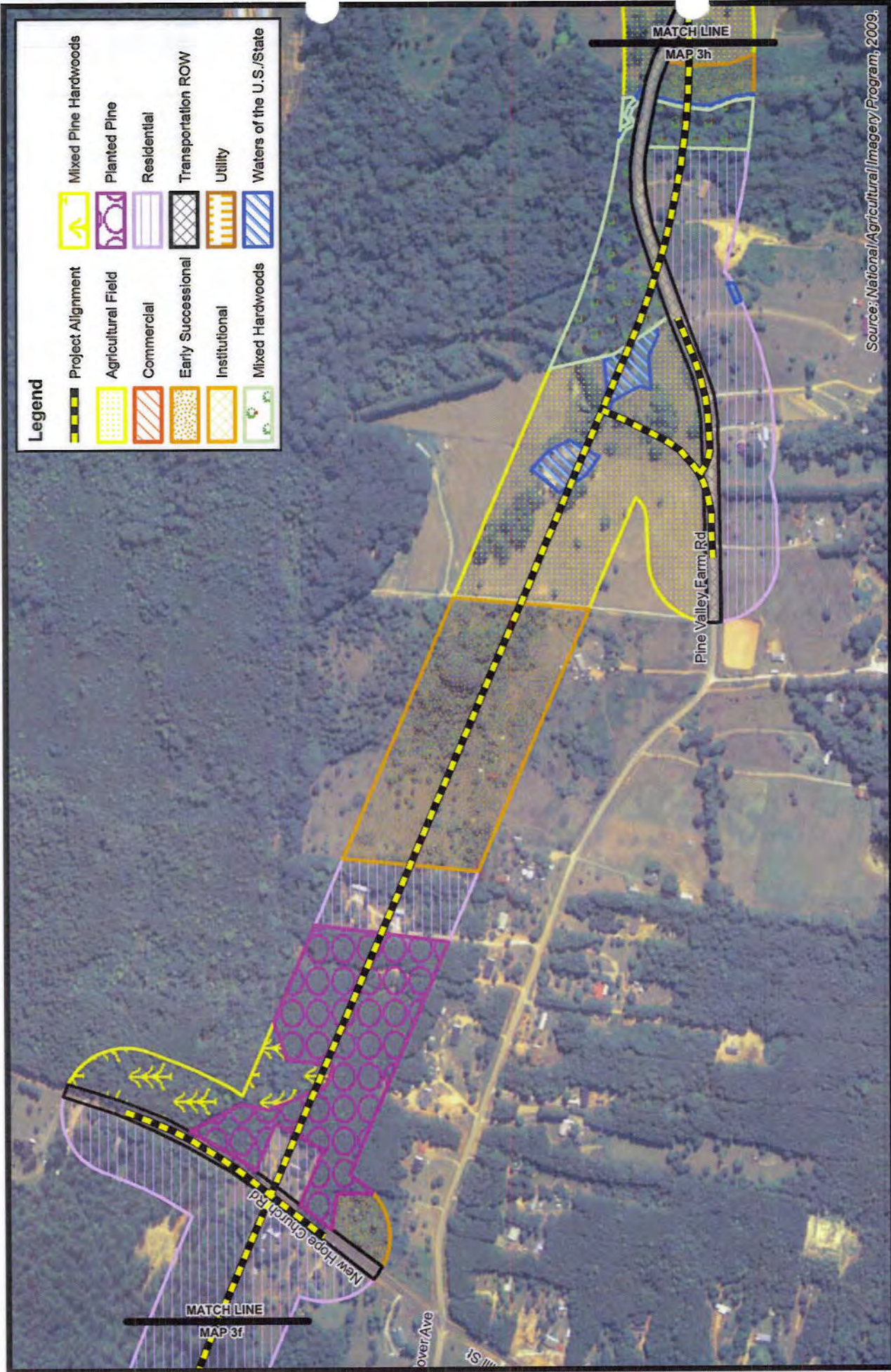
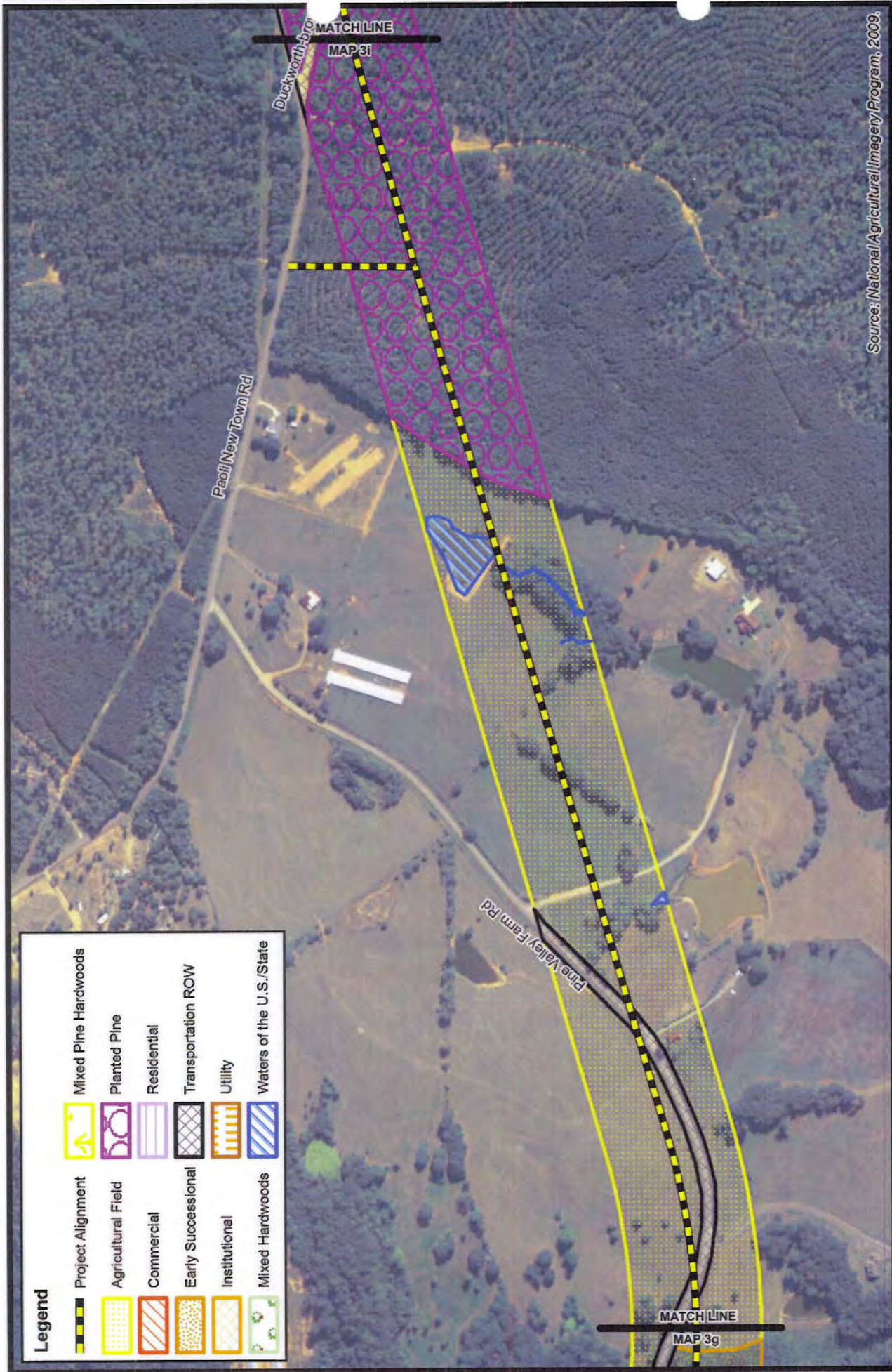


Figure 3g: Habitats Map

EDS-0072-00(039) P.I. 122650
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Elbert/Madison Counties
SR 72 From West of City Limits of Comer
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Source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, 2009.

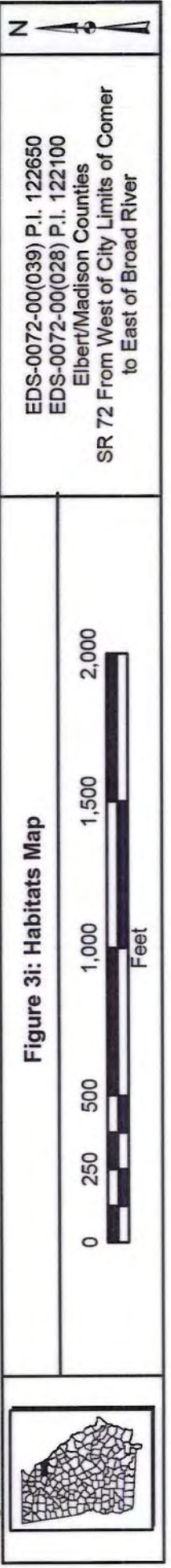
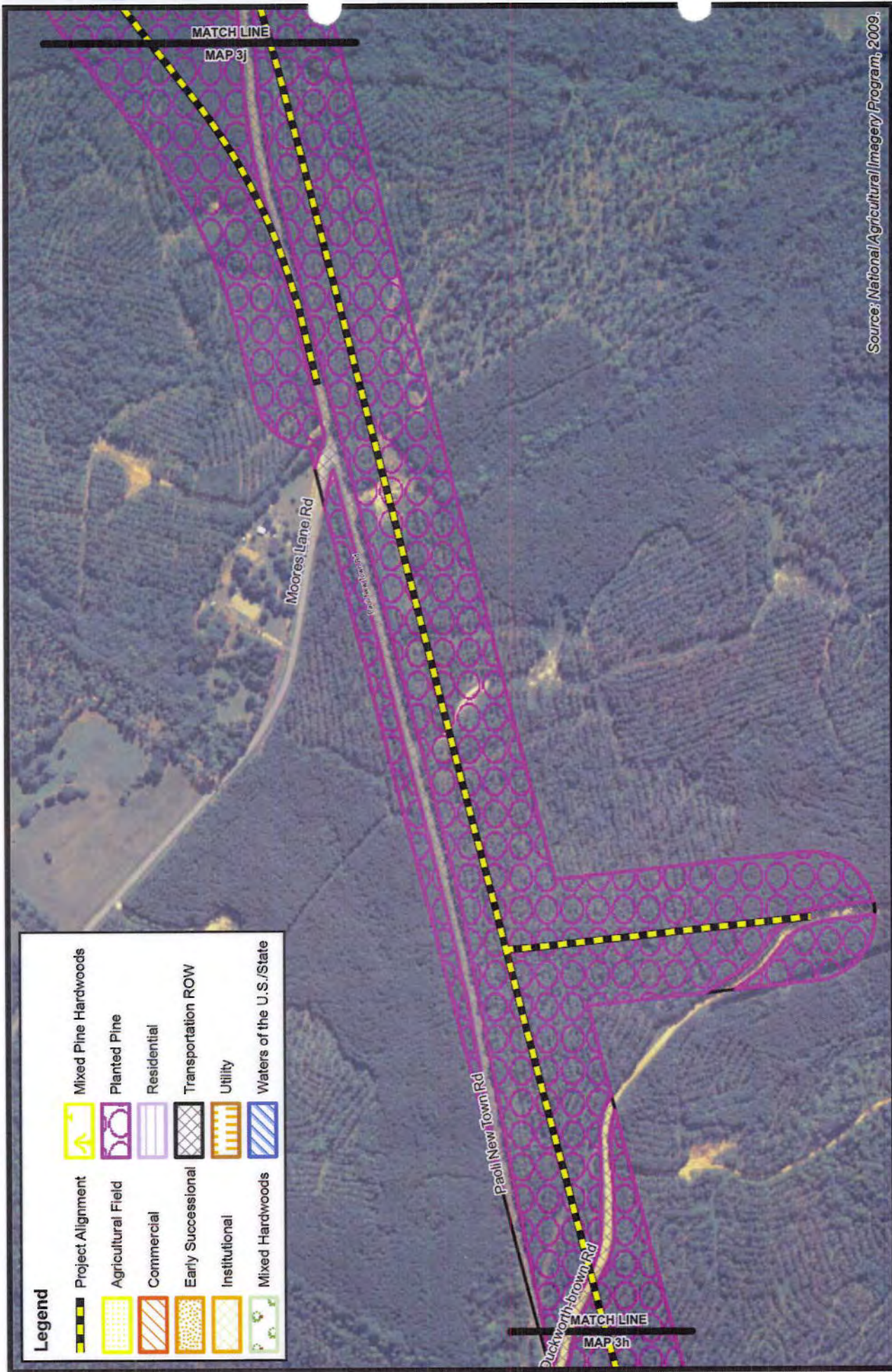


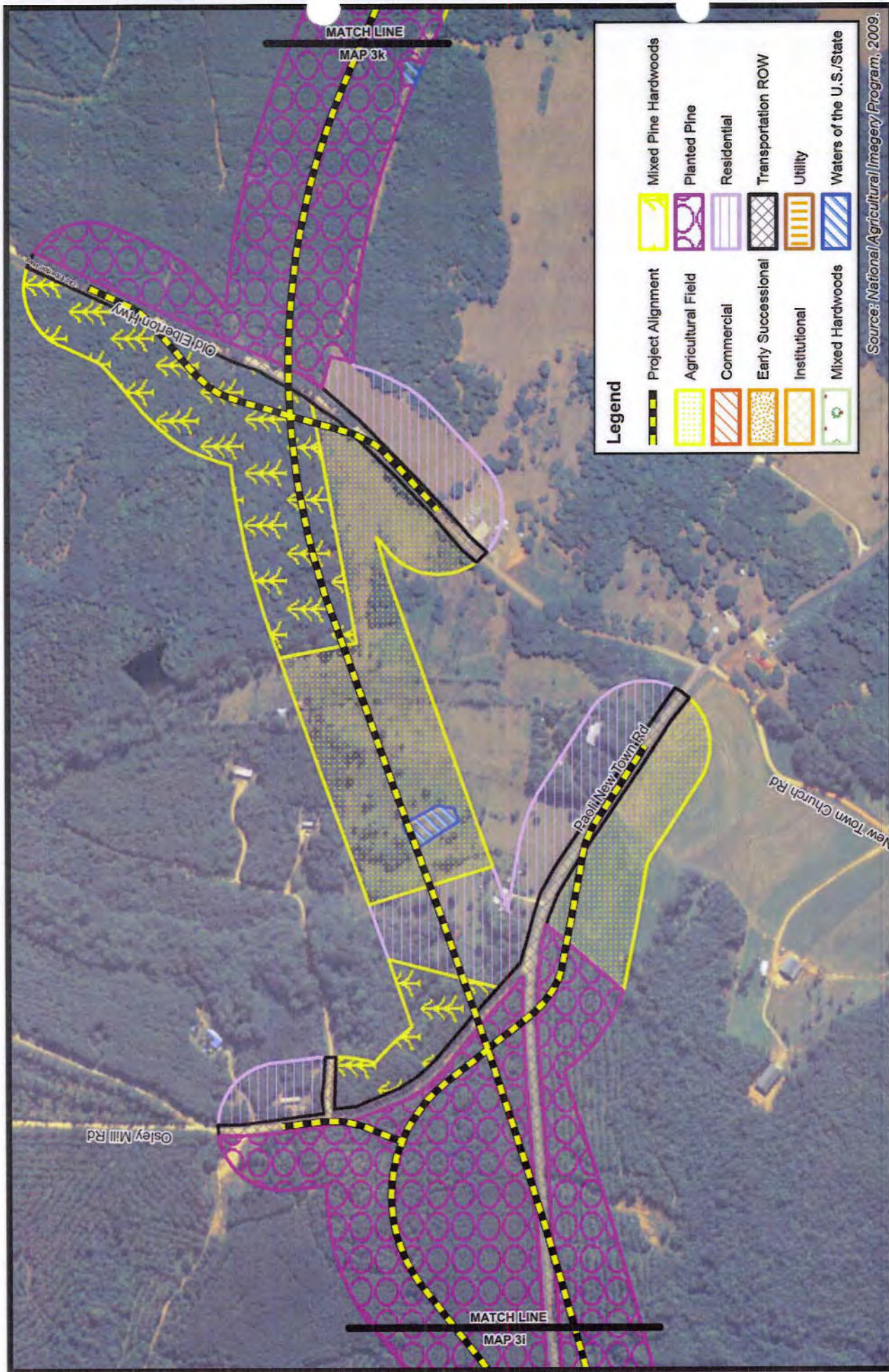
EDS-0072-00(039) P.I. 122650
EDS-0072-00(028) P.I. 122100
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SR 72 From West of City Limits of Comer
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Figure 3h: Habitats Map



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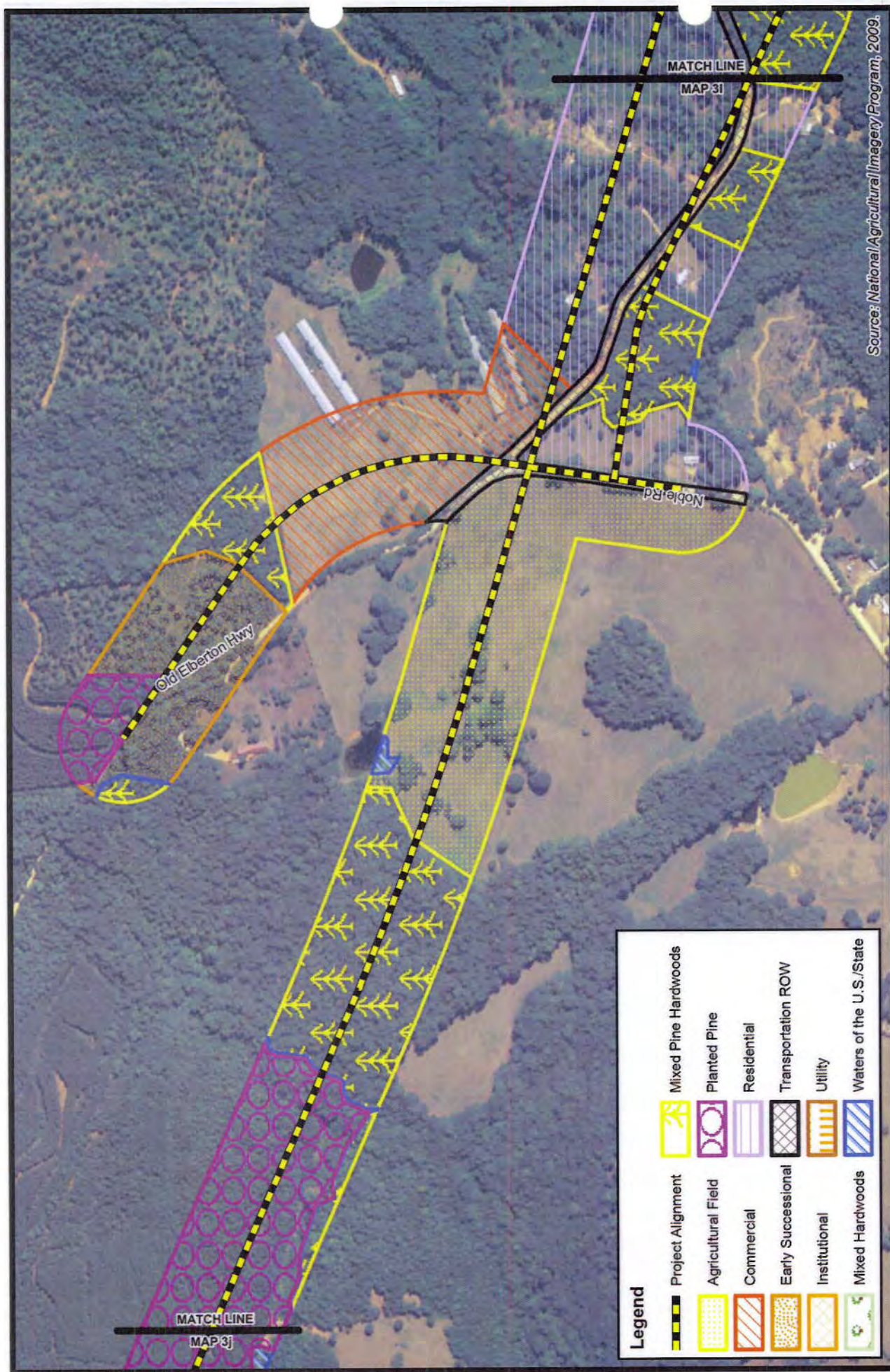


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 Elbert/Madison Counties
 SR 72 From West of City Limits of Comer
 to East of Broad River

Figure 3j: Habitats Map



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 to East of Broad River

Figure 3k: Habitats Map



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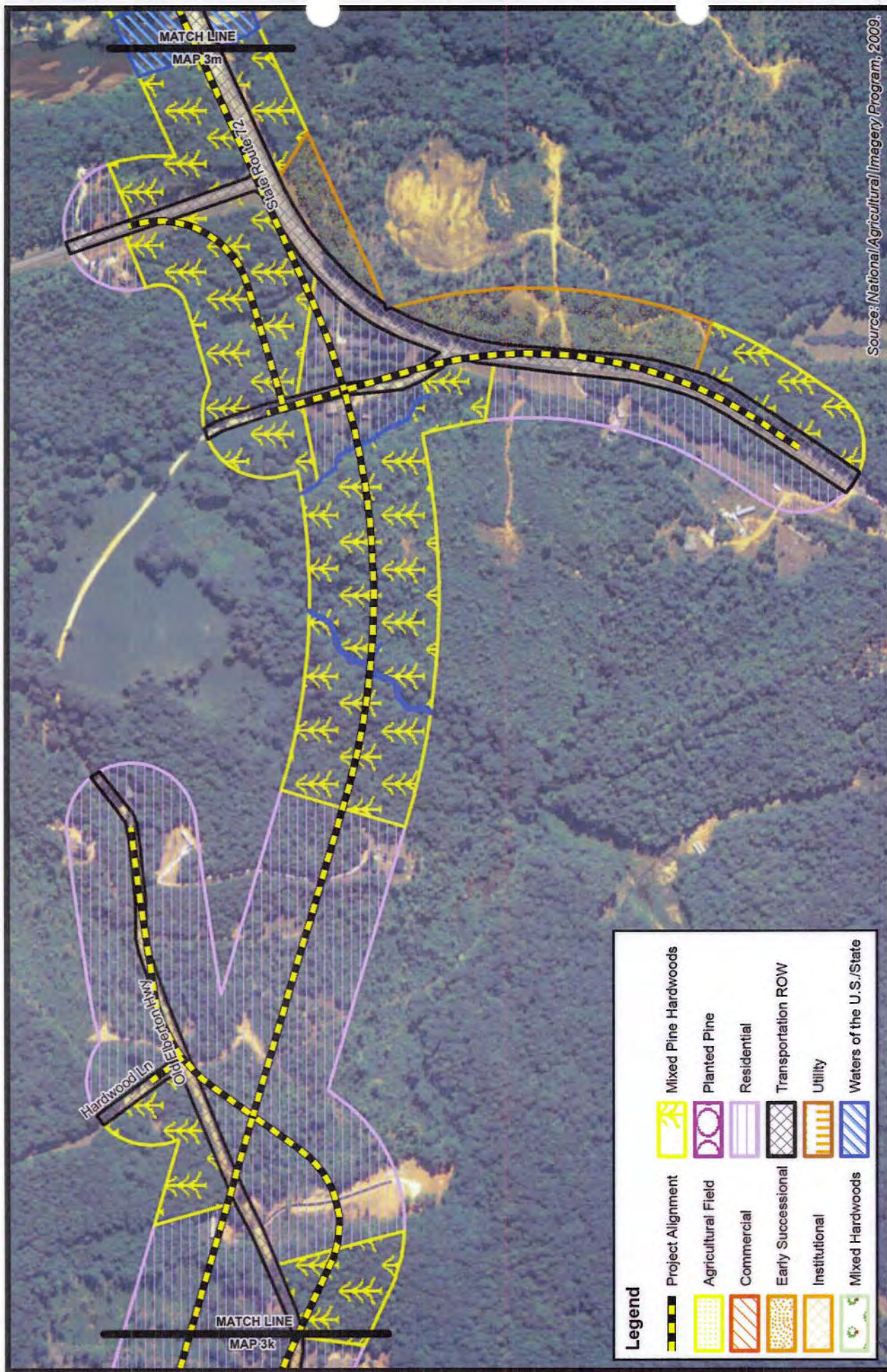
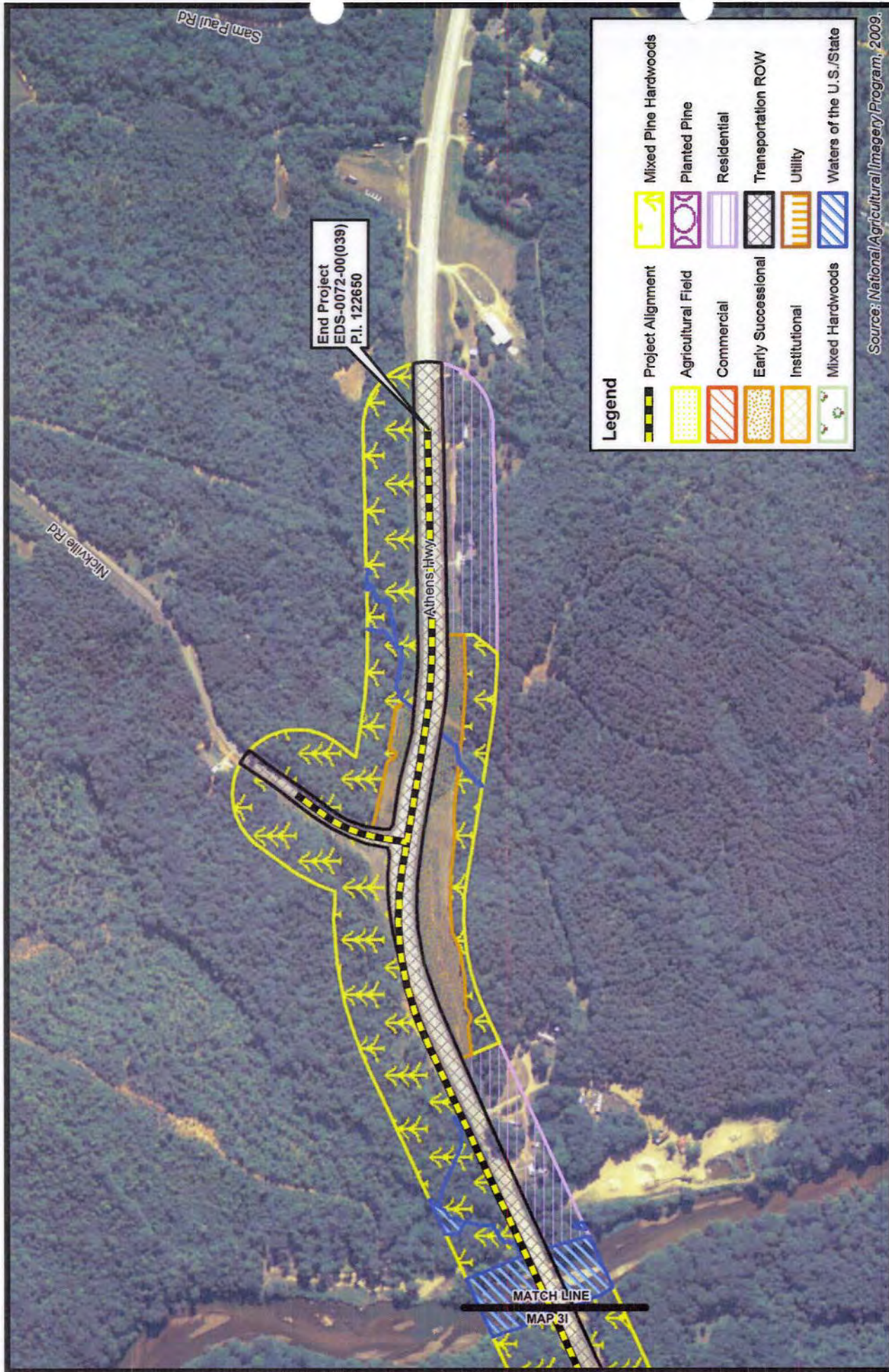


Figure 31: Habitats Map



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Elbert/Madison Counties
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Figure 3m: Habitats Map



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