



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
218 SUMMIT PARKWAY, SUITE 222
HOMEWOOD, ALABAMA 35209

CESAM-RD-N
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2006-01867-JAP

August 20, 2020

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**REQUEST TO RETAIN UNAUTHORIZED FILL IN WETLANDS AND THE PROPOSED
DISCHARGE OF FILL MATERIAL INTO WETLANDS ASSOCIATED WITH AIRPORT
IMPROVEMENTS IN UNION SPRINGS, BULLOCK COUNTY, ALABAMA**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Franklin Field Airport Authority
Attention: Thomas Main
Post Office Box 522
Union Springs, Alabama 36089
thomasmain@franklinfieldairport.com

AGENT: Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood
Attention: April Henley
2660 Eastchase Lane, Suite 200
Montgomery, Alabama 36117
april.henley@gmcnetwork.com

LOCATION: **The proposed project is located in wetlands located on the existing Franklin Field Airport property in Union Springs, Bullock County, Alabama. Specifically, the project boundary is centered at latitude 32.166726, -85.810152 within Sections 23 and 26, Township 14 North, Range 22 East. The project is situated within the Lower Tallapoosa River watershed (HUC 03150110).**

PROJECT PURPOSE: **The basic project purpose is transportation.**

PROPOSED WORK: **The applicant is requesting after-the fact authorization to retain the unauthorized discharge of fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.) in association with the relocation of County Road 177. The discharge of fill material resulted in unavoidable impacts to 2.97 acres of wetlands, which includes 2.21 acres of fill for the new road and 0.76 acre of permanent conversion**

from forested to herbaceous wetlands. The applicant is also requesting authorization to permanently convert 10.13 acres of forested wetlands in association with the installation of a security fence and clearing within the Runway Object Free Area (ROFA).

PROJECT HISTORY: A DA permit was issued on October 22, 2018 to Franklin Field Airport Authority for the discharge of fill material into 8.17 acres of wetlands for activities associated with airport improvements. The work included extending the existing 3,660 linear foot runway to a 5,000 linear foot runway, relocating a portion of County Road 177 outside of the Runway Protection Zone, and constructing a taxiway, apron, and aircraft hangars.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: The applicant stated proposed impacts to aquatic resources were avoided and minimized through consideration of alternatives and site specific design modifications. Approximately 89 acres of wetlands and 486 linear feet of intermittent stream would be avoided. Additional efforts include the use of best management practices to minimize impacts to aquatic resources. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts at this time.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to purchase wetland credits from an approved mitigation bank.

LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY ROLE: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is considered the lead federal agency responsible for coordinating and conducting environmental reviews pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FAA has prepared their NEPA documentation; however, a separate USACE decision document would be prepared prior to a final decision concerning issuance or denial of the requested DA permit. Comments received would be used by the USACE in the preparation of any supplemental Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement, if required, pursuant to NEPA prior to a final decision concerning issuance or denial of the DA permit.

The applicant will apply for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a) (1) of the Clean Water Act, and upon completion of the required advertising, a determination relative to certification will be made.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the USACE can be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. 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 use 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, cultural values, 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 production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The USACE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian 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 USACE 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.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: The FAA previously (04-1428) consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer regarding this project. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. Copies of this public notice are being distributed to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally-recognized American Indian tribes, and the National Park Service, Division of Archaeological Services for review and comment.

ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES: Previous consultation conducted by the FAA is greater than two years old. Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Species indicates the following species have the potential to occur in the project watershed: wood stork, southern clubshell, and relict trillium. An effects determination will be made during the evaluation process, at which time the USACE will initiate consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), if

necessary. Copies of this public notice are being sent to the USFWS for review and comment.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2006-01867-JAP** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District, Birmingham Field Office, Attention: **Ms. Courtney Shea**, 218 Summit Parkway, Suite 222, Homewood, Alabama 35209, with a copy to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Field Operations Division, Office of Field Services, Attention: Mr. Richard Hulcher, Post Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to USACE at **Courtney.M.Shea@usace.army.mil** and to ADEM at **fieldmail@adem.alabama.gov**.

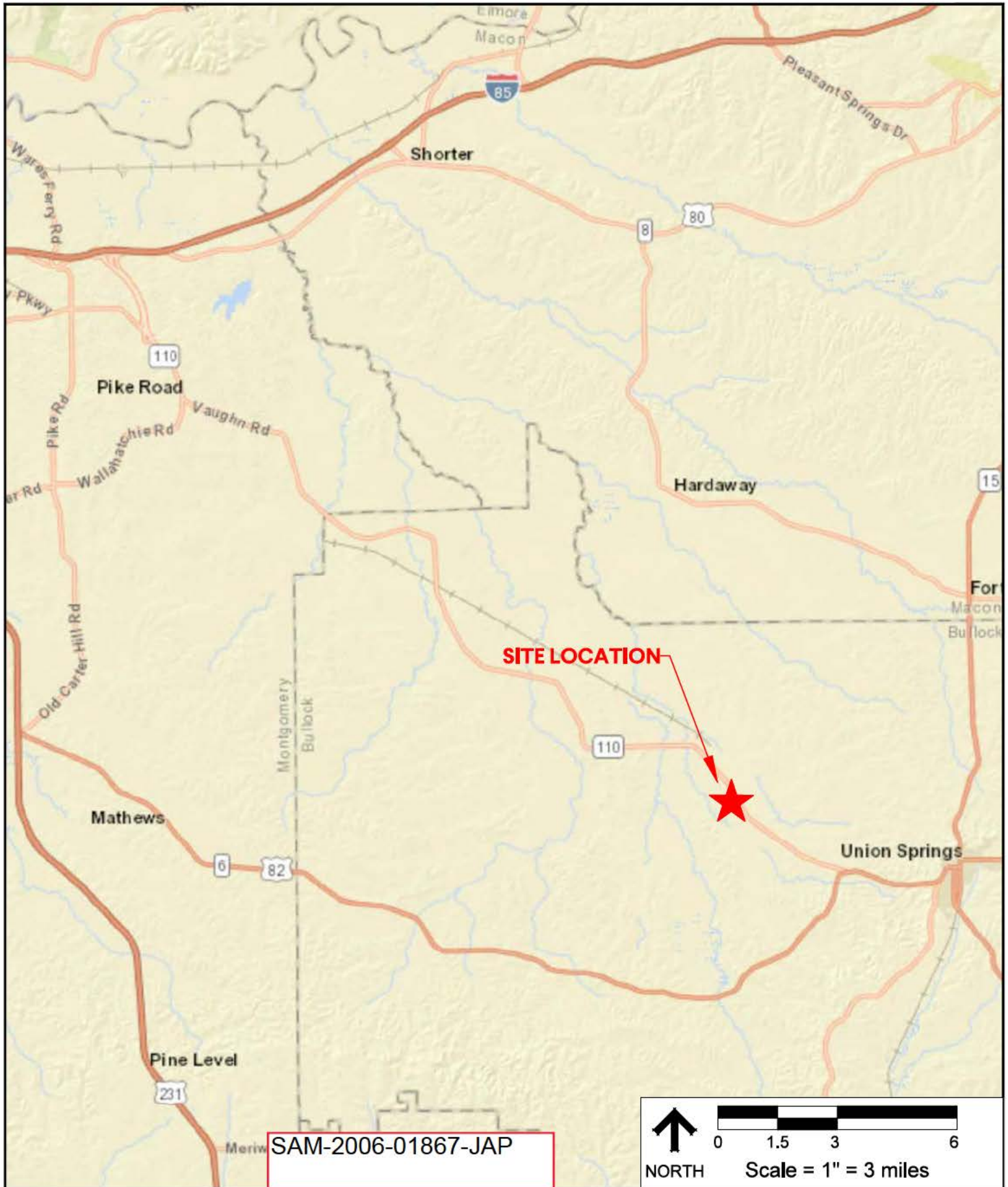
Comments should be received no later than **30 days** from the date of this Public Notice.

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at **Courtney.M.Shea@usace.army.mil** or telephone number **(205) 381-8108**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

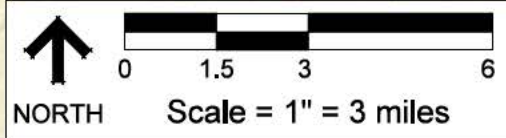
For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attachments



SAM-2006-01867-JAP

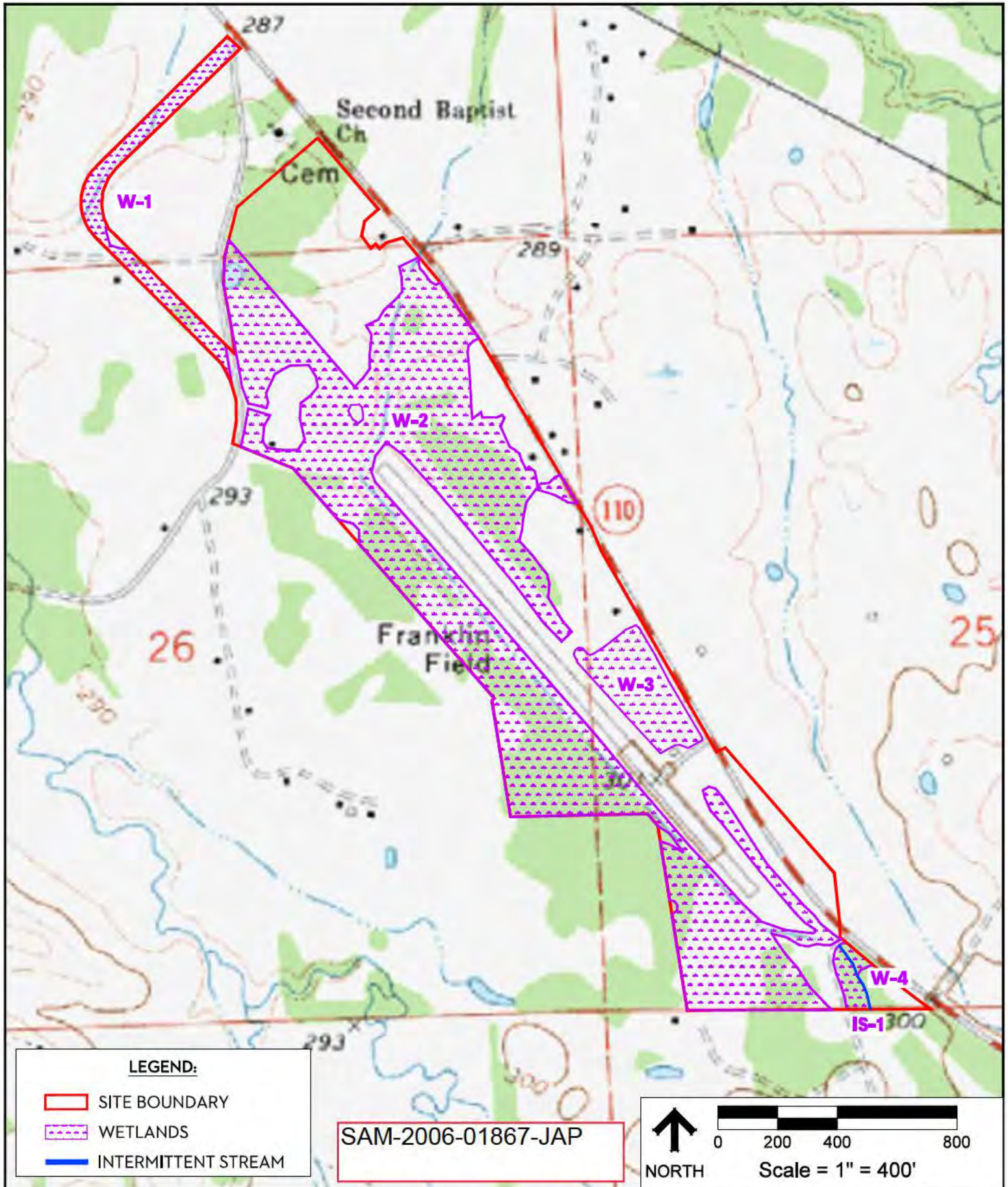


REF. SHEET: ESRI WORLD STREETS
 DESCRIPTION: INDIVIDUAL PERMIT APPLICATION
FRANKLIN FIELD AIRPORT
 UNION SPRINGS, BULLOCK COUNTY, ALABAMA

FIGURE 1
 GENERAL LOCATION MAP
 GMC # EMGM205008
 DATE: 03.16.20
 DRAWN BY: AYH

2660 East Chase Lane, Suite 200
 Montgomery, AL 36117
 T 334.271.3200
 GMCNETWORK.COM





REF. SHEET: THOMPSON, ALABAMA QUADRANGLE MAP

DESCRIPTION: INDIVIDUAL PERMIT APPLICATION

JURISDICTIONAL AREAS

FRANKLIN FIELD AIRPORT

UNION SPRINGS, BULLOCK COUNTY, ALABAMA

FIGURE 2

USGS QUADRANGLE MAP

GMC # EMGM205008

DATE: 03.16.20

DRAWN BY: AYH

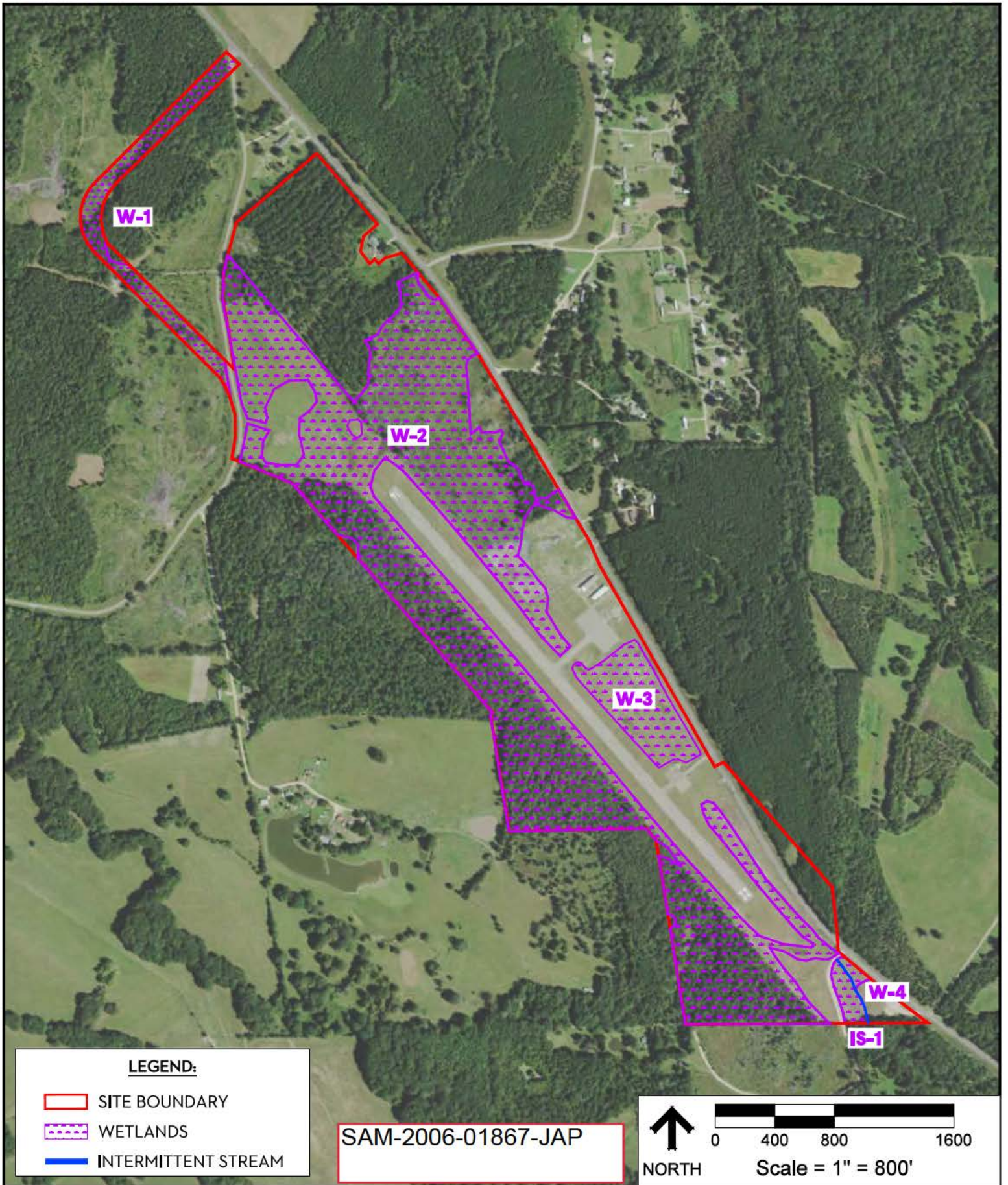
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GMCNETWORK.COM

GMC



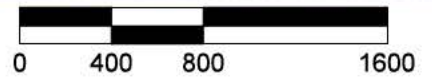
LEGEND:

- SITE BOUNDARY
- WETLANDS
- INTERMITTENT STREAM

SAM-2006-01867-JAP



NORTH



Scale = 1" = 800'

REF. SHEET: ESRI WORLD IMAGERY
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JURISDICTIONAL AREAS
 FRANKLIN FIELD AIRPORT
 UNION SPRINGS, BULLOCK COUNTY, ALABAMA

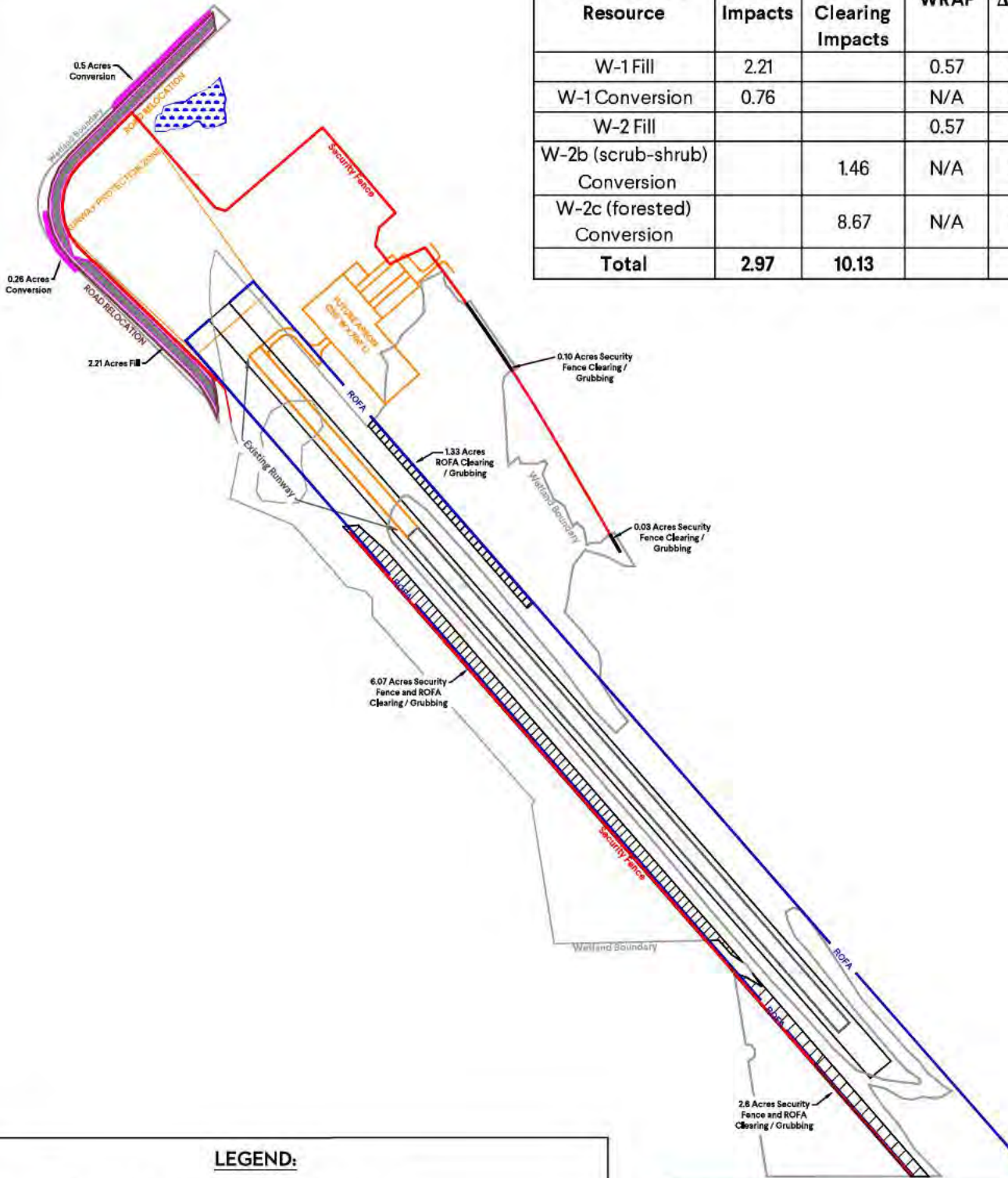
FIGURE 3

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH
 GMC # EMGM205008
 DATE: 03.16.20
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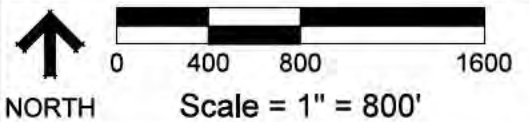
Jurisdictional Resource	ATF Impacts	Fence / ROFA Clearing Impacts	WRAP	ΔWRAP	Required Credits
W-1 Fill	2.21		0.57	N/A	1.26
W-1 Conversion	0.76		N/A	0.03	0.02
W-2 Fill			0.57	N/A	
W-2b (scrub-shrub) Conversion		1.46	N/A	0.06	0.09
W-2c (forested) Conversion		8.67	N/A	0.31	2.69
Total	2.97	10.13			4.06



LEGEND:

-  PREVIOUSLY PERMITTED ROAD FILL
-  ATF WETLAND FILL IMPACTS (2.21Ac.)
-  ATF WETLAND CONVERSION IMPACTS (0.76 Ac.)
-  PROPOSED CLEARING IMPACTS (CONVERSION 10.13 Ac.)
-  HIGH QUALITY WETLANDS AVOIDED

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REF. SHEET: ESRI WORLD IMAGERY
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ALTERNATIVE 2 (PREFERRED) SITE PLAN
FRANKLIN FIELD AIRPORT

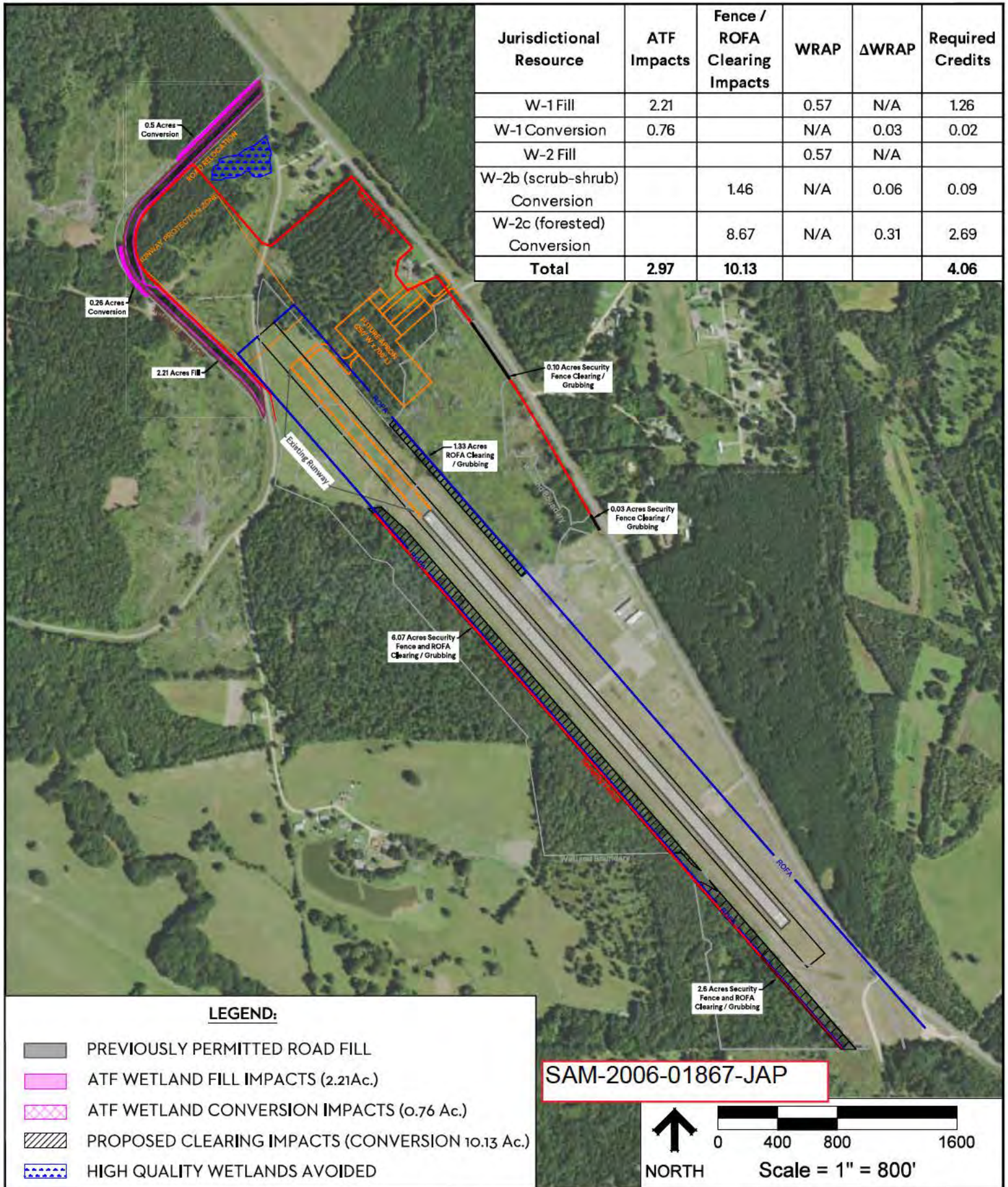
UNION SPRINGS, BULLOCK COUNTY, ALABAMA

FIGURE 4


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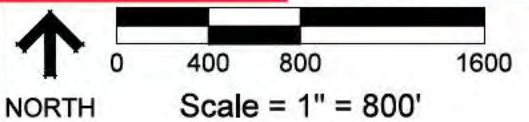




LEGEND:

-  PREVIOUSLY PERMITTED ROAD FILL
-  ATF WETLAND FILL IMPACTS (2.21Ac.)
-  ATF WETLAND CONVERSION IMPACTS (0.76 Ac.)
-  PROPOSED CLEARING IMPACTS (CONVERSION 10.13 Ac.)
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REF. SHEET: ESRI WORLD IMAGERY
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ALTERNATIVE 2 (PREFERRED) AERIAL
FRANKLIN FIELD AIRPORT

UNION SPRINGS, BULLOCK COUNTY, ALABAMA

FIGURE 5

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH
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