



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Little Rock District, Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 867  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867**

**CESWL-RO**

**December 14, 2007**

**APPLICATION NO. MVK 2007-00787**

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS - STATE OF ARKANSAS  
(25-Day Comment Period)  
(Comment Expiration Date - **January 07, 2008**)**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Comments are invited on the work described below. Please see the Public Involvement section for details on submitting comments.**

Point of Contact. If additional information is desired, please contact the project manager, Johnny McLean, telephone number: (501) 324-5296, mailing address: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Office, PO Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, e-mail address: [Johnny.L.McLean@usace.army.mil](mailto:Johnny.L.McLean@usace.army.mil).

Project Information. Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1344), notice is hereby given that

**Arkansas Highway Transportation  
Department (AHTD)  
PO Box 2261  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203**

has requested authorization for the placement of dredged and fill material in waters of the United States associated with constructing two segments (jobs) of the Interstate 69 (I-69) Connector highway. The proposed project begins on the south side of Pine Bluff at the Interstate-530 (I-530) interchange, extends through Jefferson, Cleveland and Lincoln Counties and ends at State Highway 212 just east of Star City, Arkansas. Total length of this project is approximately 15 miles.

The purpose of the project is to construct a four-lane interstate grade highway that will connect I-69 to Interstates 30 and 40 in Little Rock via I-530 in Pine Bluff. Plans are to construct two lanes now and two lanes will be constructed at a later date. The corridor for all four lanes of this 15-mile project will be cleared. Therefore, total impacts and mitigation for the four lane impacts have been calculated and included in this public notice.

Construction of the project will impact fourteen wetland areas totalling 29.3 acres. The majority

of wetlands impacted by this project are pine flats that were willow oak flats prior to being commercially timbered. Table 1 shows the wetland number, type and area impacted. Four of the wetland areas (Wetlands #2, #3, #4, and #6) totalling 15.2 acres have been determined to be isolated and will not require a Section 404 permit. However, the AHTD will mitigate for the 15.2 acres of wetlands impacted under guidance of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Executive Order 11990. The remaining 14.1 acres of wetlands impacts will be mitigated in accordance with the credits calculated by utilizing the Charleston Evaluation Method. Mitigation for the 14.1 acres lost would require approximately 146 credits. For wetland mitigation, the AHTD is pursuing sites adjacent to Bayou Bartholomew and Bayou Imbeau that are currently in agriculture production and could be relatively easily restored to bottomland hardwood wetlands. These sites would yield approximately 286 total wetland restoration credits. The remaining 140 credits would likely be used for future I-69 Connector construction.

Construction of the project will impact twenty-five stream segments totalling 18,410 linear feet. Table 1 shows the stream name, type, location and approximate length impacted. The majority of streams impacted by this project are Coastal Plain intermittent. These streams generally flow during the winter and spring but only flow intermittently during the summer and fall after rainfall events. The two perennial streams, Sandy Bayou and Bayou Bartholomew will be bridged. The stream impacts will be mitigated in accordance with the credits calculated by utilizing the Little Rock District's Stream Evaluation Method. Efforts between the AHTD, state and Federal agencies, and stream mitigation entrepreneurs are currently underway to develop a stream mitigation proposal. The FHWA and AHTD will assure that a conceptual framework for mitigation for the total stream impacts is submitted to the Corps of Engineers prior to letting a construction contract for this project.

The location and general plan for the proposed work are shown on the enclosed Sheets 1 through 23 of 23. Sheets 2-4 of 23 are topographic indices of the wetland and stream areas that will be impacted. Sheets 5-23 of 23 are aerial maps that show the specific area of each impact.

The I-69 Connector is a 40-mile stretch of interstate that, when completed, will extend from Pine Bluff to Monticello, Arkansas. A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), entitled Southeast Arkansas I-69 Corridor, was completed and approved by the FHWA on August 7, 2001 and is available for viewing at the AHTD central offices in Little Rock. During the planning stages and as part of the EIS process, the AHTD evaluated and held public meetings on several potential alternative alignments. As part of this process, extensive efforts were made to locate the alignment on the highest part of the Coastal Plain between the Bayou Bartholomew and Saline River watersheds in order to avoid major wetland and stream impacts.

**Water Quality Certification.** By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting water quality certification from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the comment period and a public hearing, if held, a determination relative to water quality certification will be made. Evidence of this water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify must be submitted prior to the issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit.

**Cultural Resources.** The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted; and it has been determined that there are no properties currently listed in the Register, or eligible for inclusion therein, which would be affected by the proposed work. A Corps staff archeologist also will review topographic maps and data on reported sites in the area. If it is determined that further review is not warranted, these reviews will constitute the full extent of cultural resources

investigation by this office unless we are made aware, as a result of comments received in response to this notice or by other means, of the existence of specific structures or sites which might be affected by the proposed work.

**Endangered Species.** Our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity will not affect listed Endangered Species or their critical habitat. A copy of this notice is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies and constitutes a request to those agencies for information on whether any listed or proposed-to-be-listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

**Flood Plain.** We are providing copies of this notice to appropriate flood plain officials in accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use) and Executive Order 11988 on Flood Plain Management.

**Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines.** The evaluation of activities to be authorized under this permit which involves the discharge of dredged or fill material will include application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines are contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 230.

**Public Involvement.** Any interested party is invited to submit to the above-listed POC written comments or objections relative to the proposed work on or before **January 07, 2008**. Substantive comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted and made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in determining whether this work would be in the public interest. 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.

The Corps of Engineers 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 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.

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. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision.

NOTE: The mailing list for this Public Notice is arranged by state and county(s) where the project is located, and also includes any addressees who have asked to receive copies of all public notices. Please discard notices that are not of interest to you. If you have no need for any of these notices, please advise us so that your name can be removed from the mailing list.

Enclosures

Approximate Coordinates of Project Center

**Latitude: 34.06397551 Longitude: 91.98502516**

**UTM Zone: 15 North: 3765894.06 East: 597282.87**

**Table 1. Summary of Wetland and Stream Impacts**

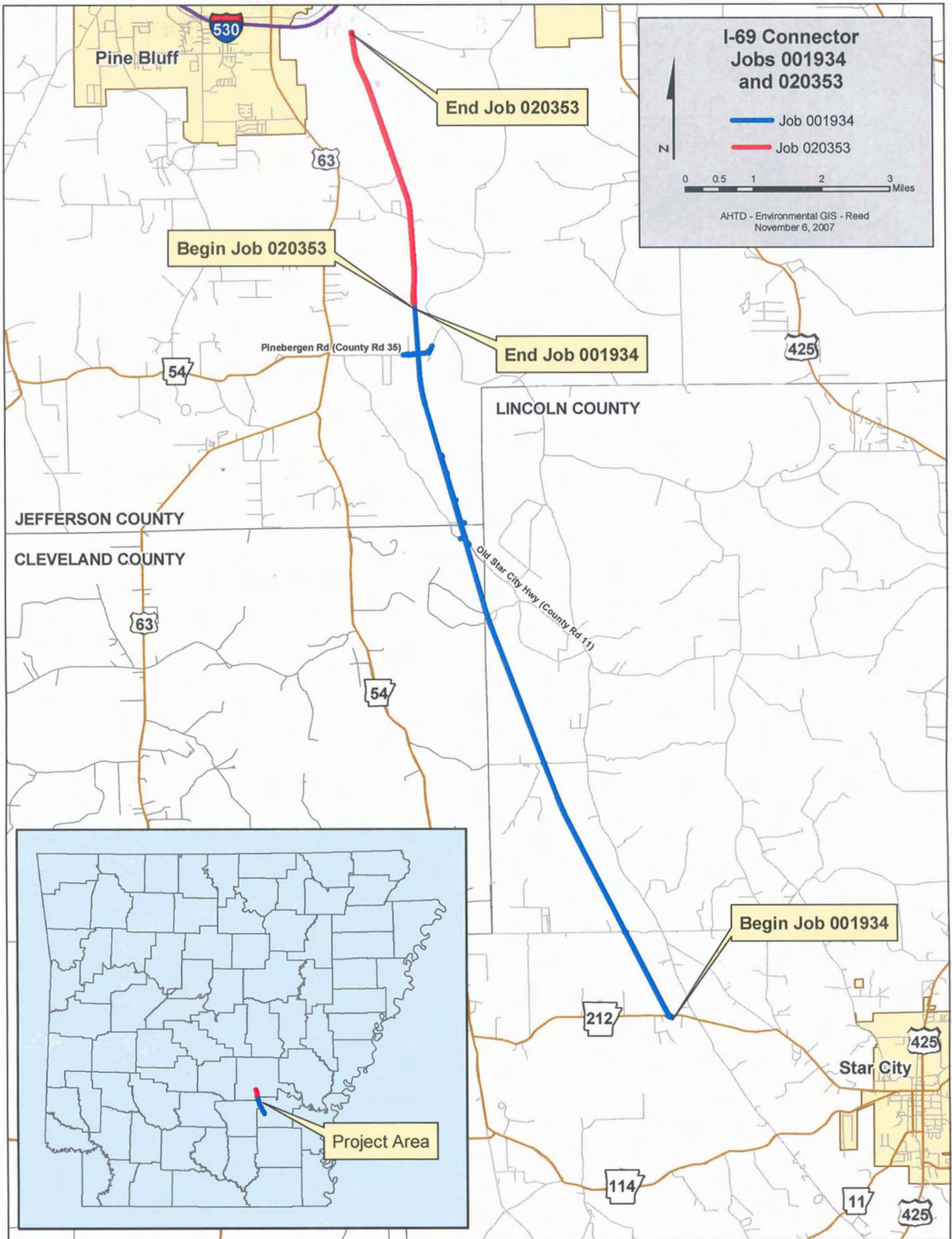
**Summary of Wetland Impact - AHTD Jobs 001934 & 020353**

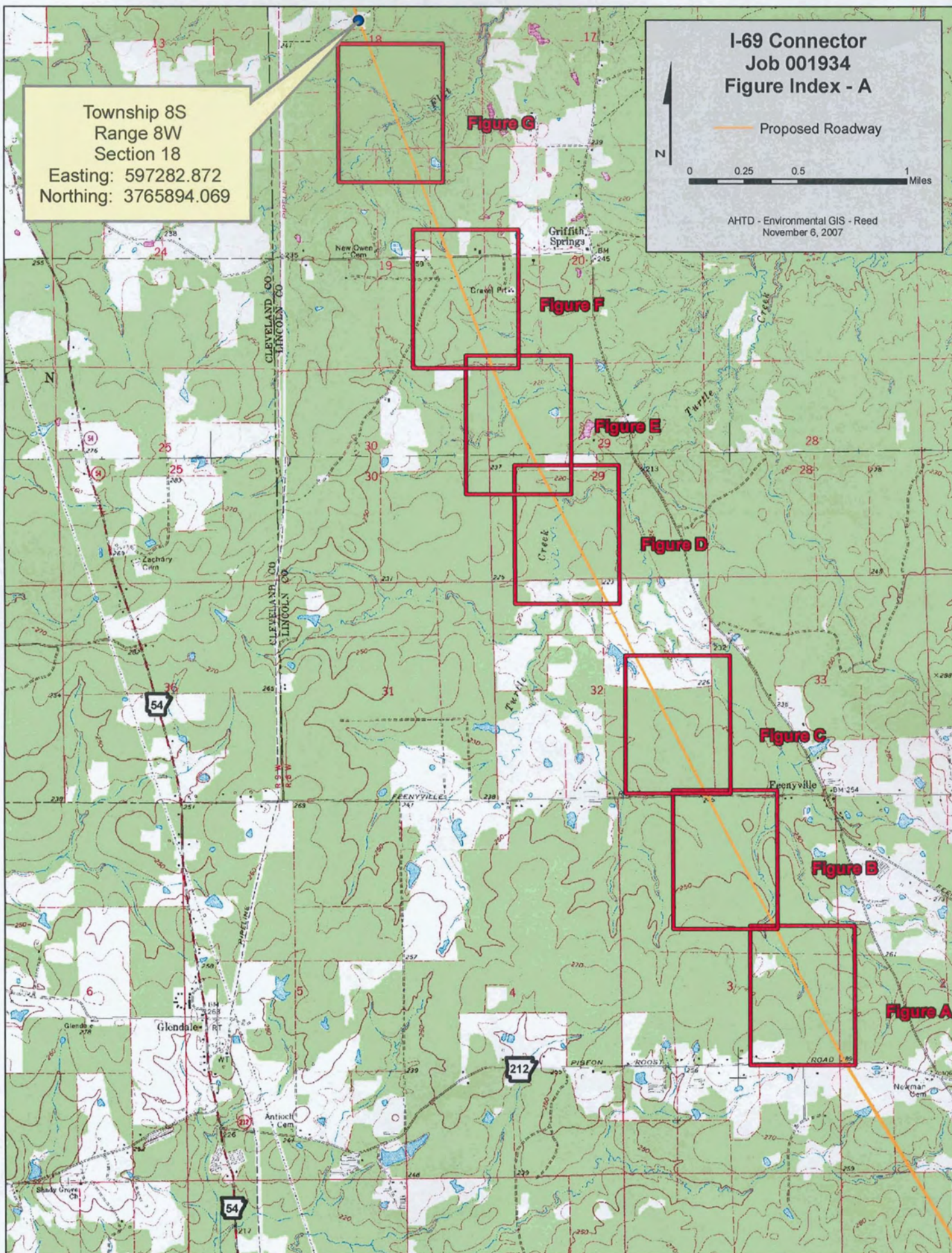
Wetland ID.	Wetland Type	Size (Acres)	Impacts
Wetland #1	Palustrine Forested	1.5	Fill-9,100 cu. yds.
Wetland #2*	Palustrine Forested	5.8	Cut-5,700 cu. yds.
Wetland #3*	Palustrine Forested	1.6	Fill-16,200 cu. yds.
Wetland #4*	Palustrine Forested	4.6	Cut-8,600 cu. yds.
Wetland #5	Scrub/Shrub	0.2	Fill-4,600 cu. yds.
Wetland #6*	Palustrine Forested	3.2	Cut-11,800 cu. yds.
Wetland #7	Palustrine Forested	0.5	Fill-6,700 cu. yds.
Wetland #8	Palustrine Forested	0.6	Fill-16,296 cu. yds.
Wetland #9	Riverine	0.4	Cleared/Disturbed
Wetland #10	Palustrine Forested	4.0	Fill-43,196 cu. yds.
Wetland #11	Riverine	1.6	Cleared/Disturbed
Wetland #12	Palustrine Forested	1.4	Fill-24,627 cu. yds.
Wetland #13	Palustrine Forested	2.1	Fill-23,333 cu. yds.
Wetland #14	Riverine/Herbaceous	1.8	Fill-58,073 cu. yds.
<b>Totals</b>		<b>29.3</b>	<b>Cut-26,100 cu. yds.</b> <b>Fill-202,125 cu. yds.</b>

\* Wetlands determined to be non-jurisdictional (isolated).

**Summary of Stream Impacts - AHTD Jobs 001934 & 020353**

Stream ID.	Stream Type	Location	Impact Length (ft)
Stream A-unnamed (upper section)	Intermittent	Sec.3, T9S, R8W	2059
Stream A (middle section)	Intermittent	Sec.3, T9S, R8W	564
Tributary to Stream A	Intermittent	Sec.3, T9S, R8W	630
Turtle Creek (Relief Channel A)	Intermittent	Sec.29, T8S, R8W	445
Turtle Creek (Relief Channel B)	Intermittent	Sec.29, T8S, R8W	353
Turtle Creek (Relief Channel C)	Intermittent	Sec.29, T8S, R8W	681
Turtle Creek	Intermittent	Sec.29, T8S, R8W	734
Stream B-unnamed	Intermittent	Sec.29, T8S, R8W	955
Stream C-unnamed	Intermittent	Sec.19, T8S, R8W	530
Flat Creek	Intermittent	Sec.18, T8S, R8W	617
Tributary to Flat Creek	Intermittent	Sec.18, T8S, R8W	1347
Melton Creek	Intermittent	Sec.18, T8S, R8W	498 ^
Walker Creek	Intermittent	Sec.12, T8S, R9W	520
Stream D-unnamed (upper section)	Intermittent	Sec.1, T8S, R9W	1425
Stream D-(lower section)	Intermittent	Sec.1, T8S, R9W	653
Stream E-unnamed	Intermittent	Sec.1, T8S, R9W	824
Tributary to Stream E	Intermittent	Sec.1, T8S, R9W	191
Greens Creek	Intermittent	Sec.35, T7S, R9W	1141
Greens Creek (relief channel)	Intermittent	Sec.35, T7S, R9W	384
Stream F-unnamed	Intermittent	Sec.25, T7S, R9W	960
Stream G-unnamed	Intermittent	Sec.25, T7S, R9W	546
Steep Bank Creek	Intermittent	Sec.24, T7S, R9W	573
Tributary to Steep Bank	Intermittent	Sec.24, T7S, R9W	467
Stream H-unnamed	Intermittent	Sec.24, T7S, R9W	559
Stream J-unnamed	Intermittent	Sec.24, T7S, R9W	754
Sandy Bayou (Wetland #9)	Perennial	Sec.13&14, T7S, R9W	Bridge
Bayou Bartholomew (Wetland #11)	Perennial	Sec.2, T7S, R9W	Bridge
Bayou Imbeau (Wetland #14)	Intermittent	Sec.26, T7S, R9W	R.C. Box Culvert
<b>Totals</b>			<b>18,410</b>





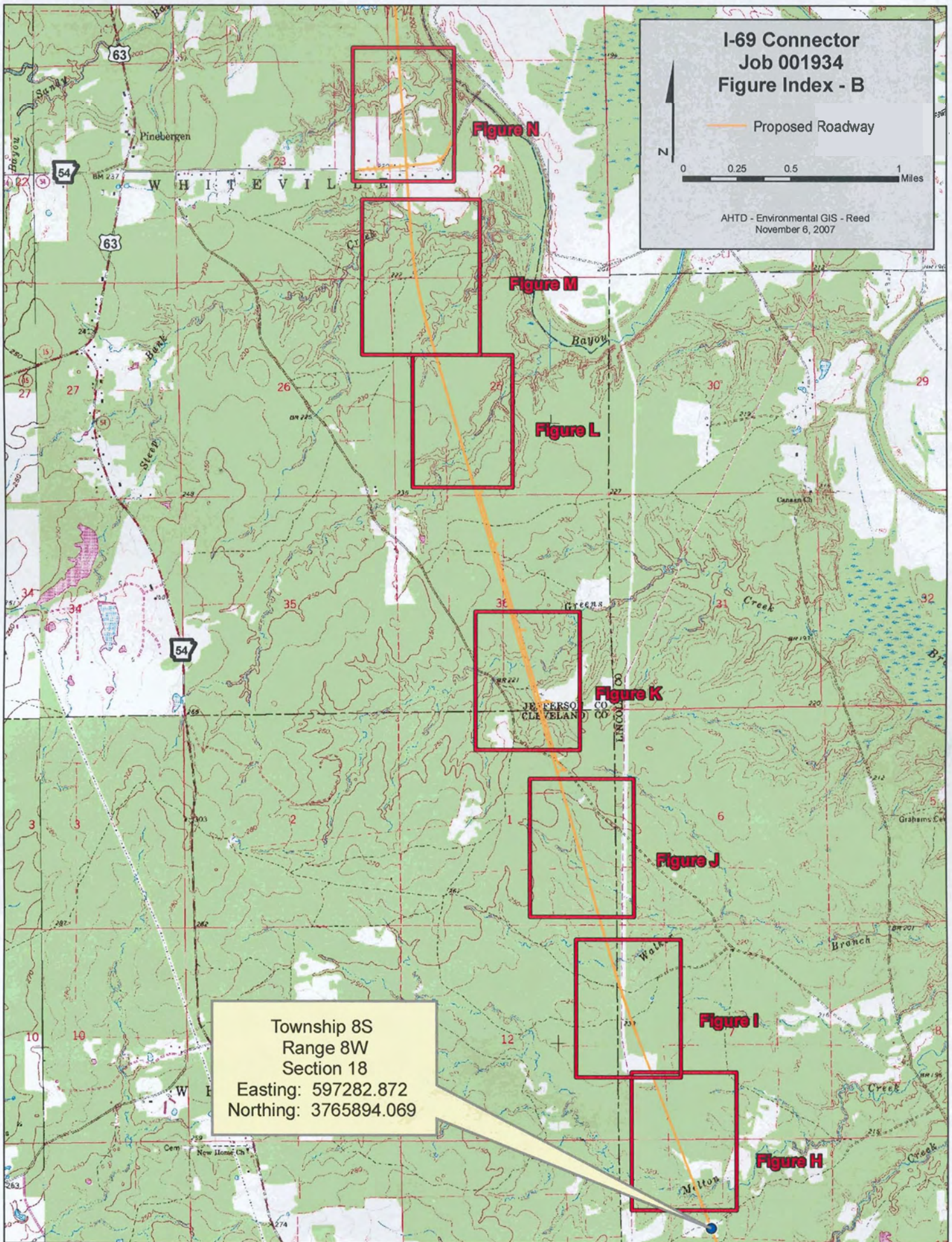
Township 8S  
 Range 8W  
 Section 18  
 Easting: 597282.872  
 Northing: 3765894.069

**I-69 Connector  
 Job 001934  
 Figure Index - A**

Proposed Roadway

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
 November 6, 2007



**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure Index - B**

— Proposed Roadway

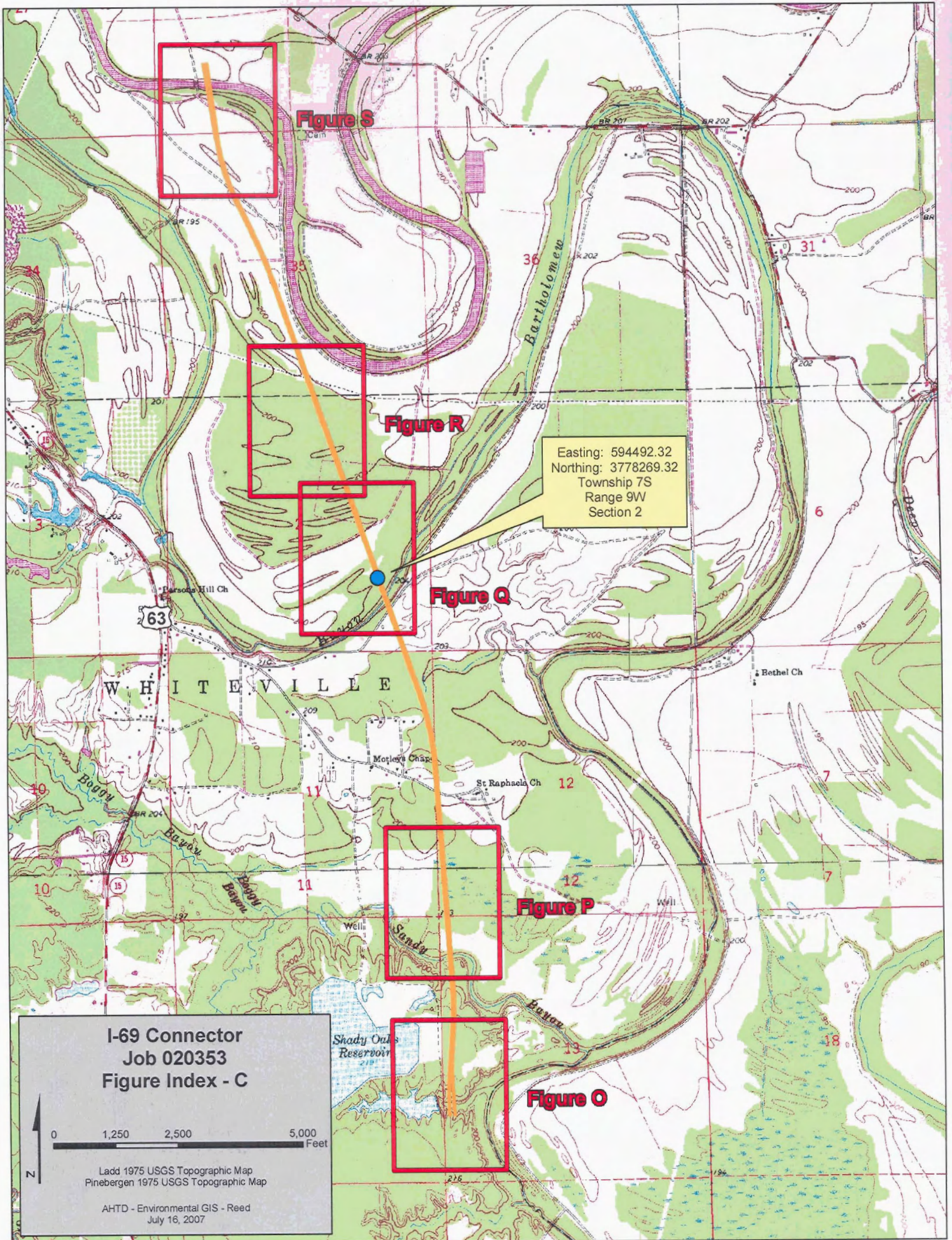
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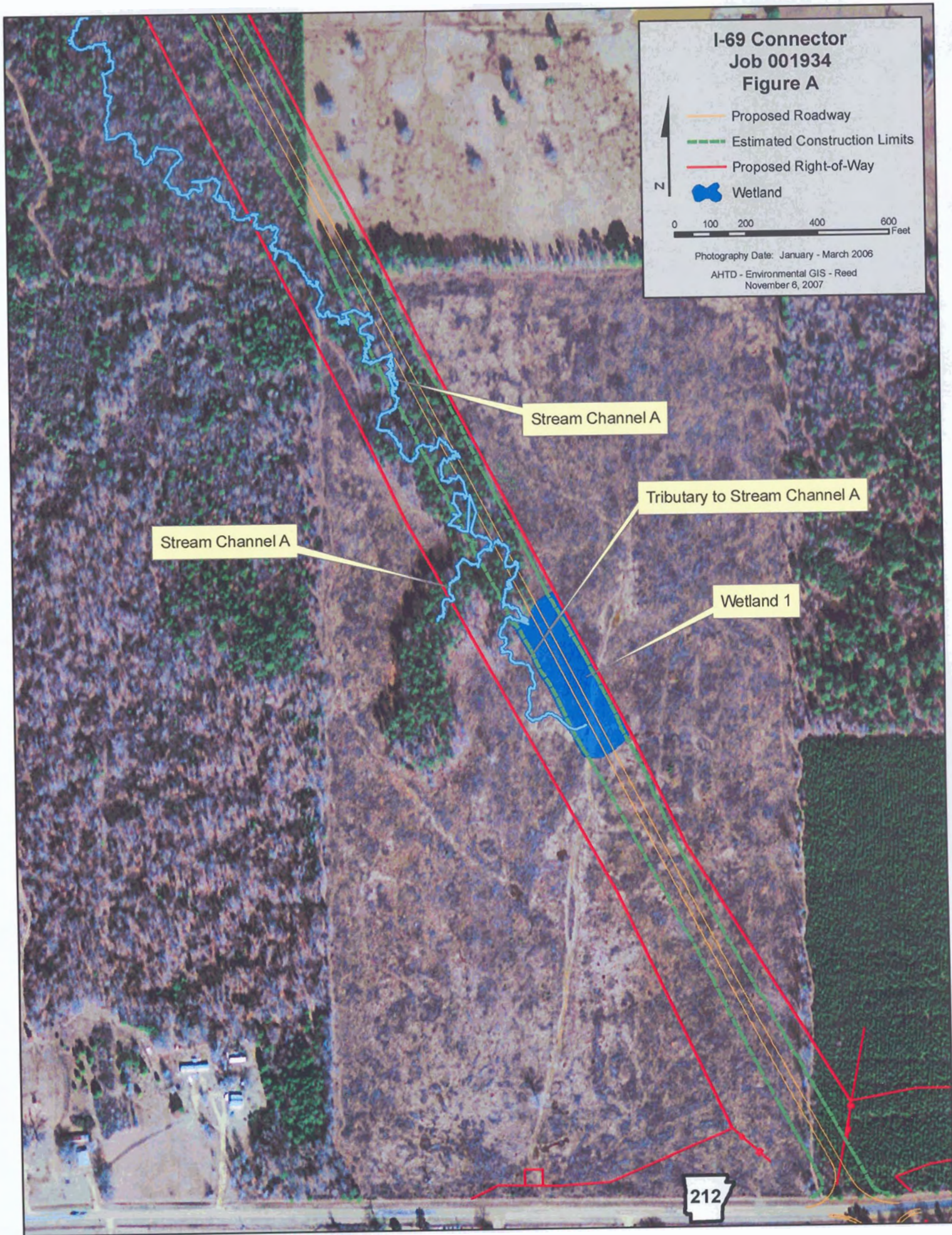
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
November 6, 2007

Township 8S  
Range 8W  
Section 18  
Easting: 597282.872  
Northing: 3765894.069







**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure A**

 Proposed Roadway  
 Estimated Construction Limits  
 Proposed Right-of-Way  
 Wetland

N  
 0 100 200 400 600 Feet

Photography Date: January - March 2006  
 AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
 November 6, 2007

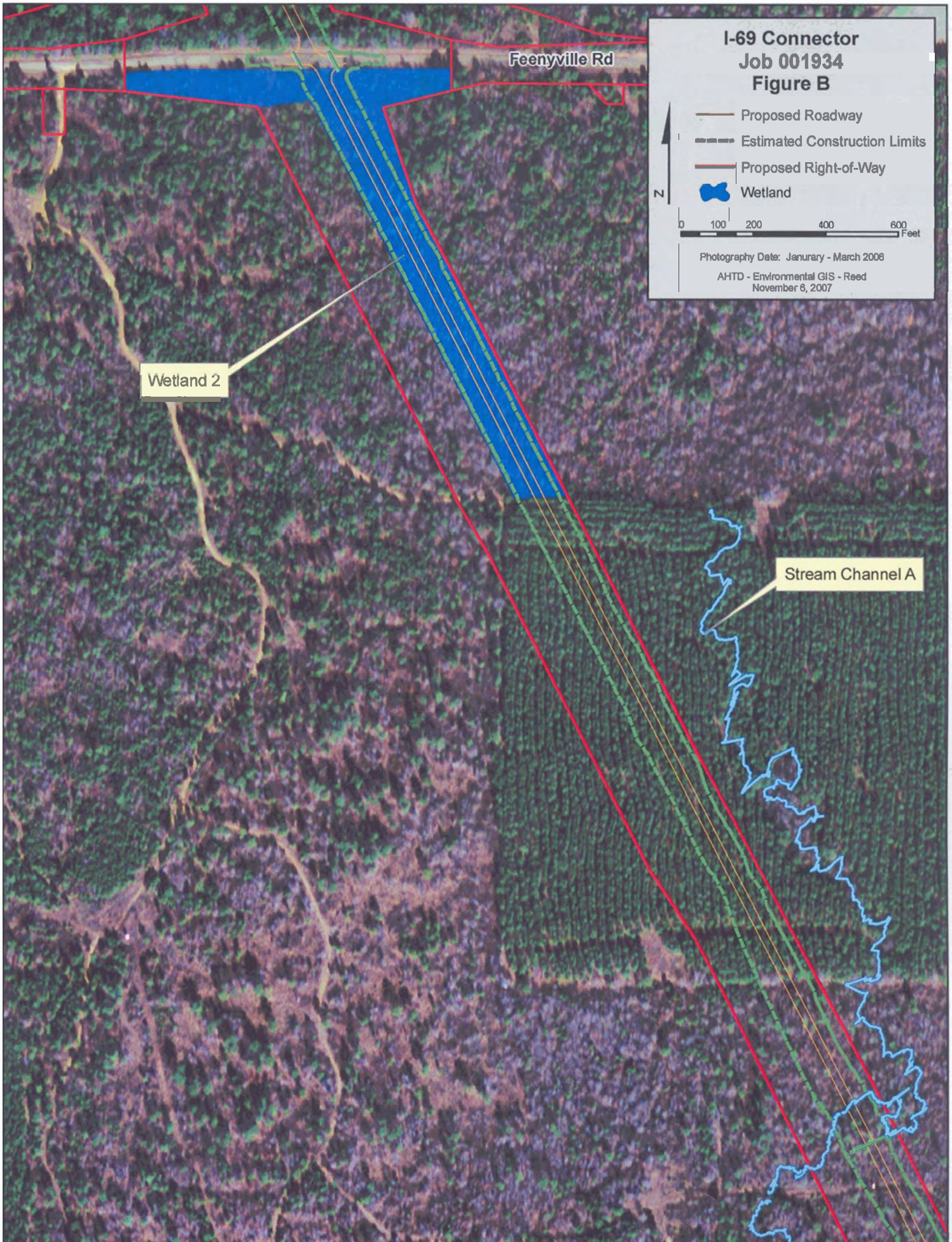
Stream Channel A

Tributary to Stream Channel A

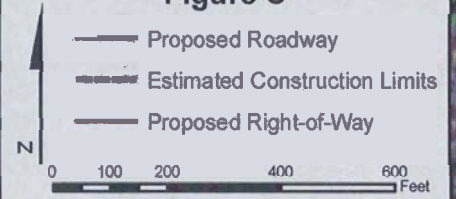
Stream Channel A

Wetland 1

212



**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure C**



Photography Date: January - March 2006

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November 6, 2007

Herbaceous Wetland

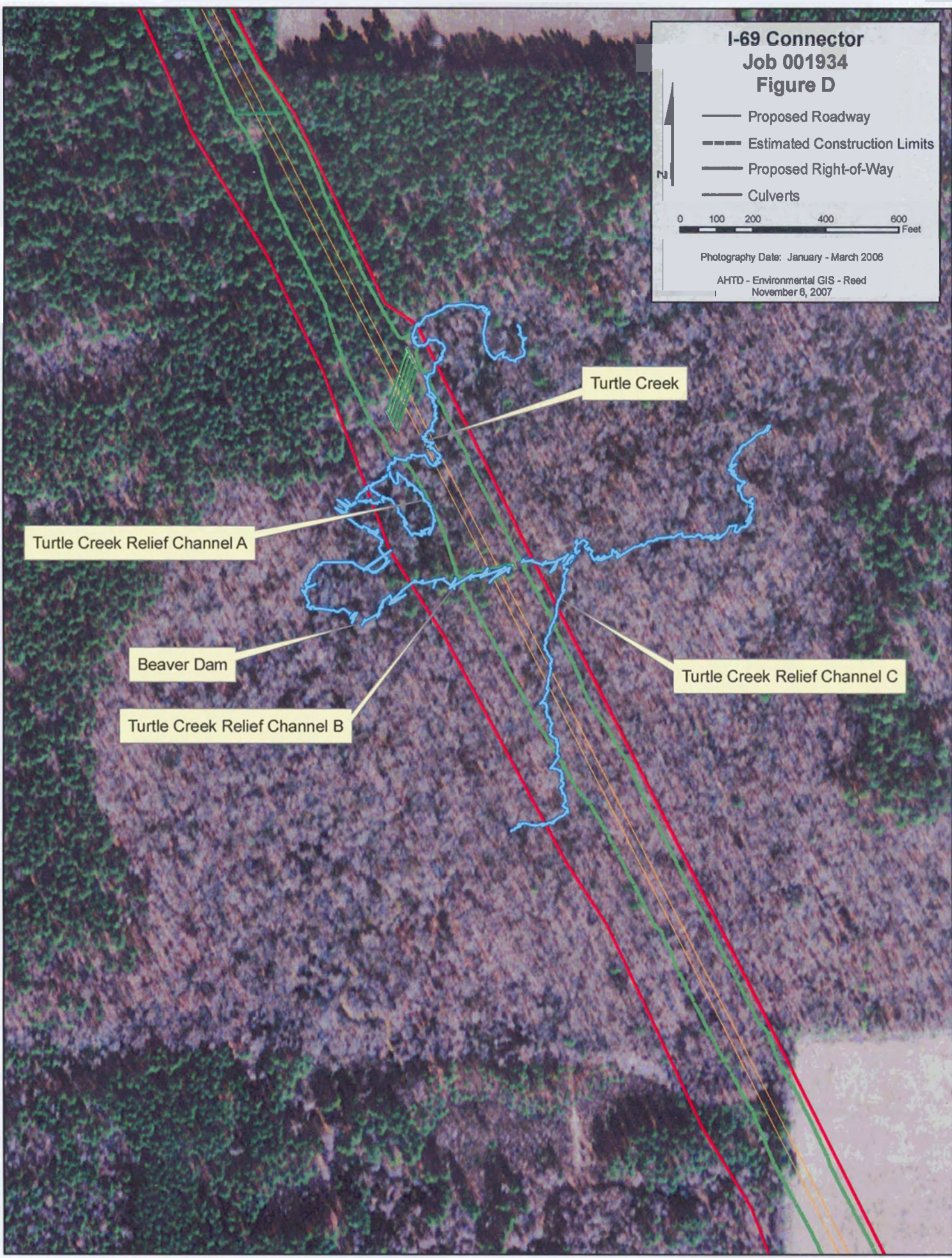
**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure D**

- Proposed Roadway
- Estimated Construction Limits
- Proposed Right-of-Way
- Culverts



Photography Date: January - March 2006

AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
November 6, 2007



Turtle Creek

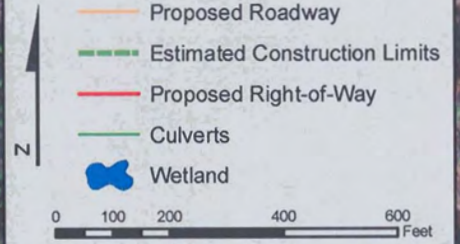
Turtle Creek Relief Channel A

Beaver Dam

Turtle Creek Relief Channel B

Turtle Creek Relief Channel C

**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure E**



Photography Date: January - March 2006

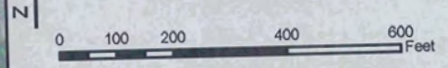
AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
November 6, 2007

Stream Channel B

Wetland 3

**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure F**

- Proposed Roadway
- Estimated Construction Limits
- Proposed Right-of-Way



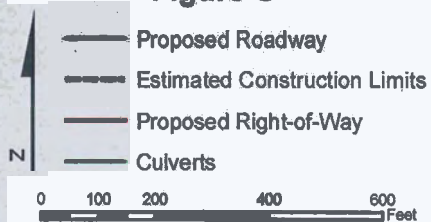
Photography Date: January - March 2006

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November 6, 2007

Griffith Springs Rd

Stream Channel C

**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure G**



Photography Date: January - March 2006

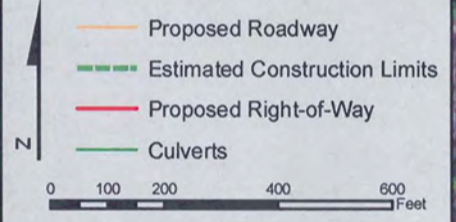
AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
November 6, 2007

Flat Creek

Flat Creek Tributary

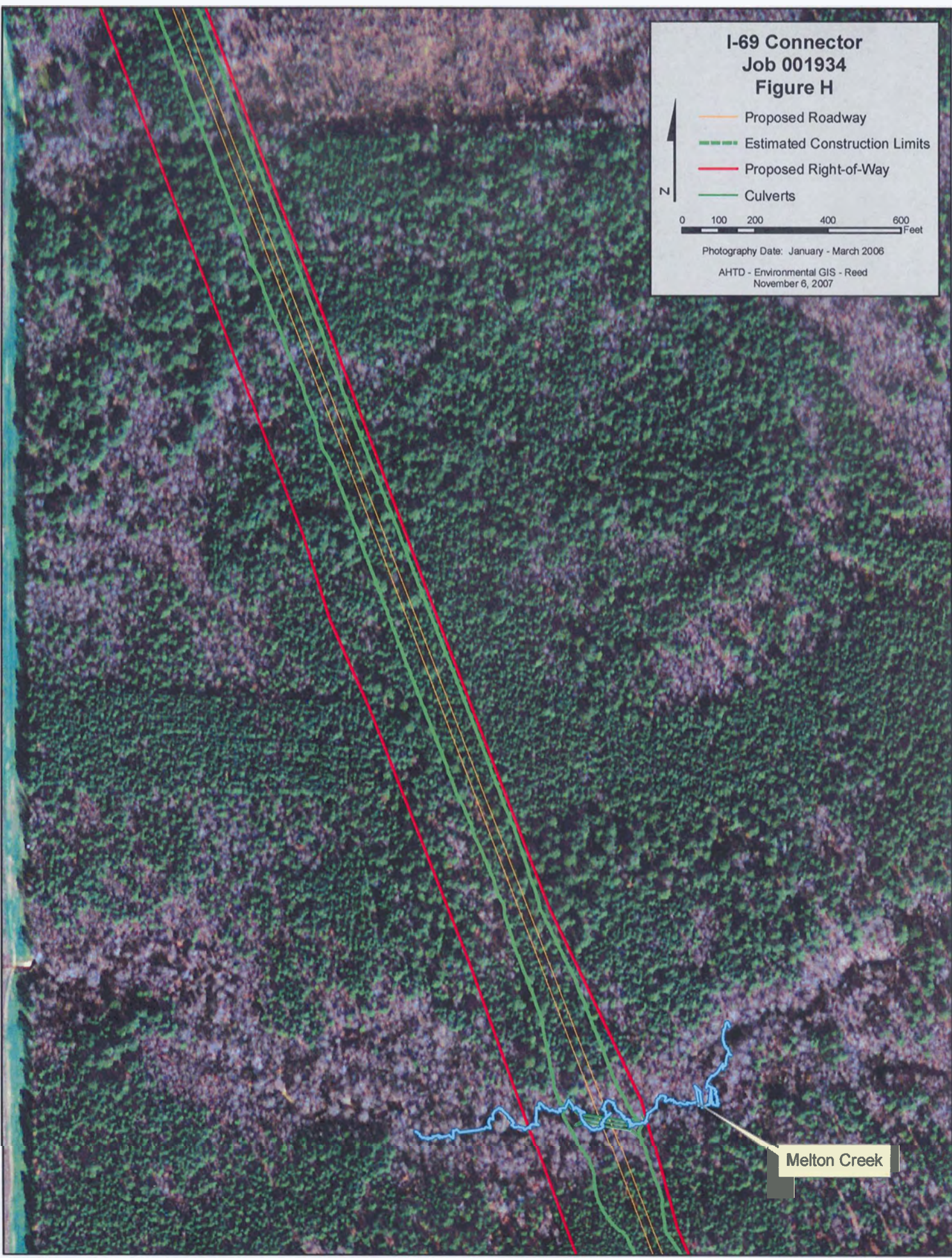


**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure H**

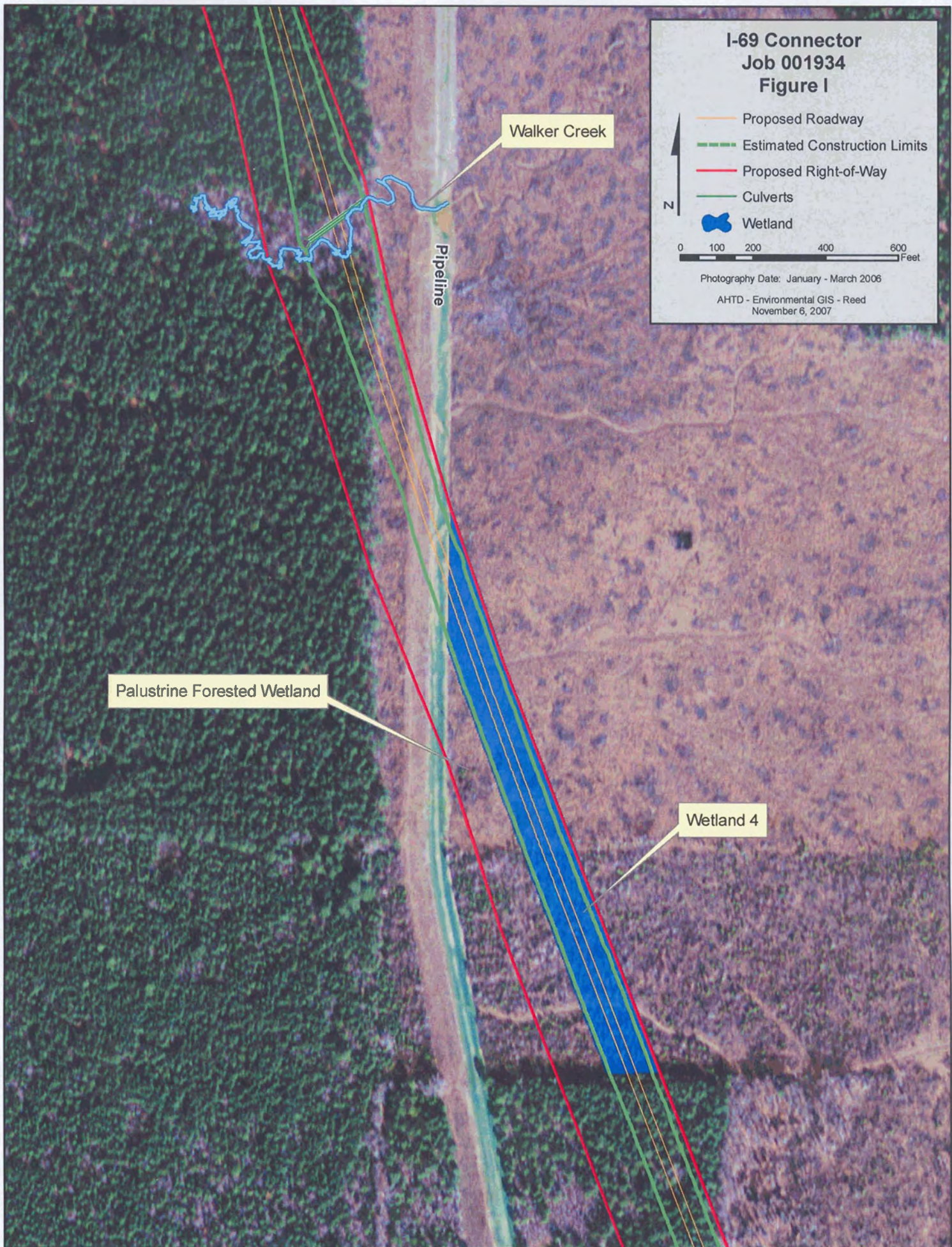


Photography Date: January - March 2006

AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
November 6, 2007



Melton Creek



**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure I**

- Proposed Roadway
- Estimated Construction Limits
- Proposed Right-of-Way
- Culverts
- Wetland

Photography Date: January - March 2006

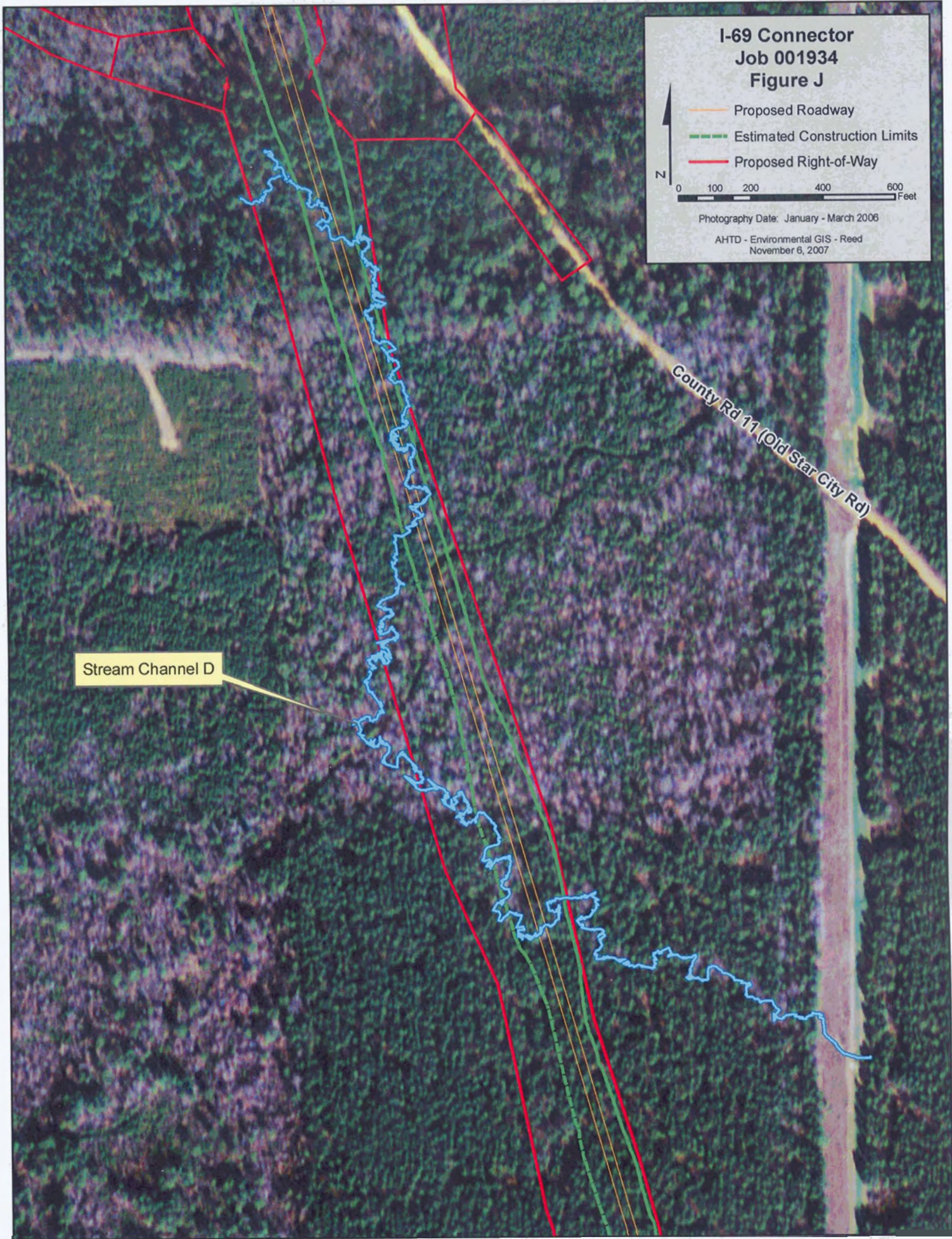
AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
November 6, 2007

Walker Creek

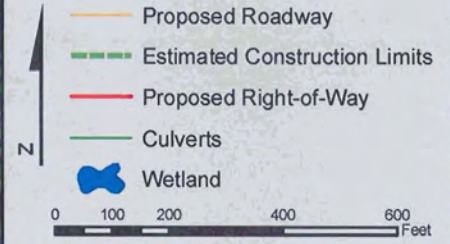
Pipeline

Palustrine Forested Wetland

Wetland 4

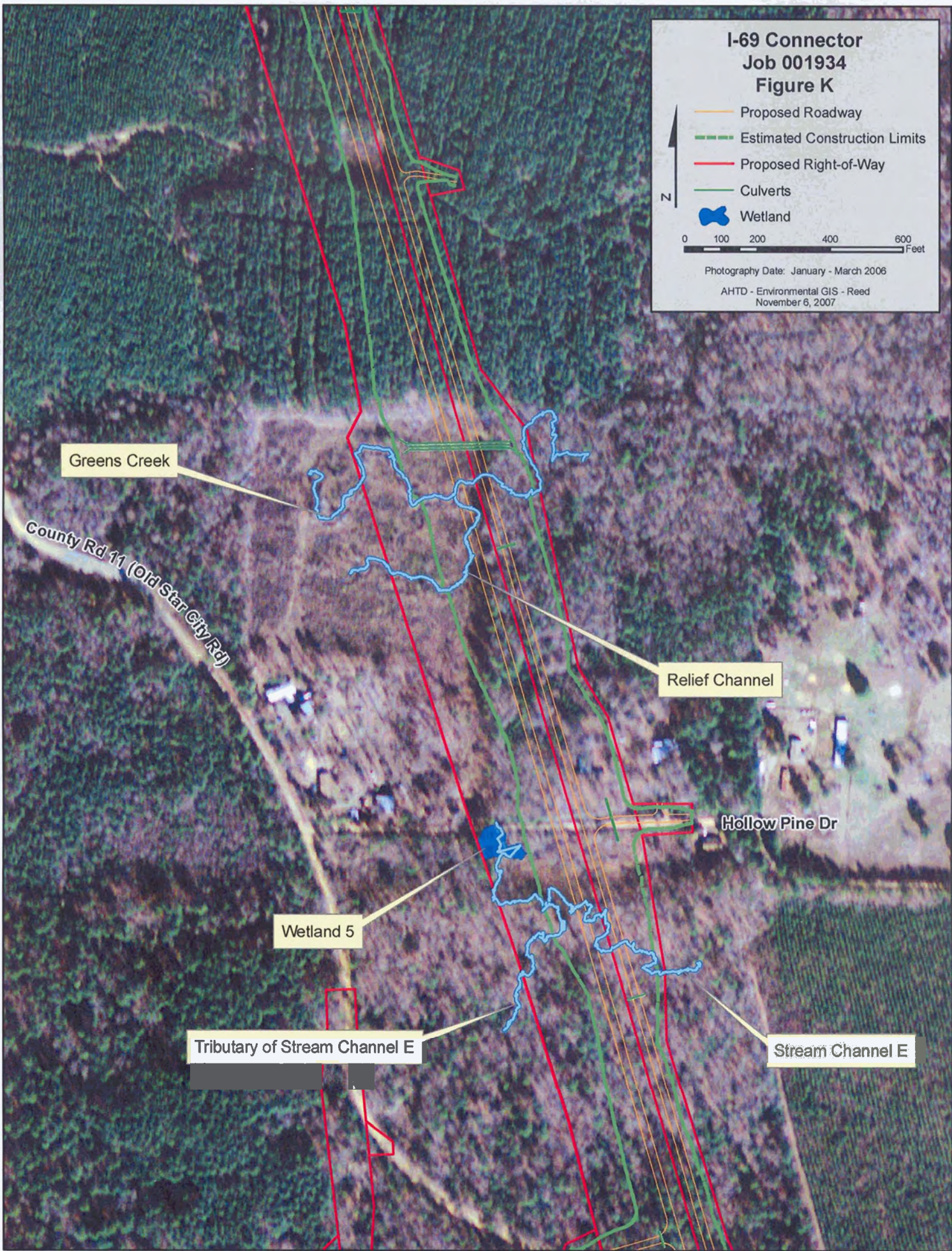


**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure K**

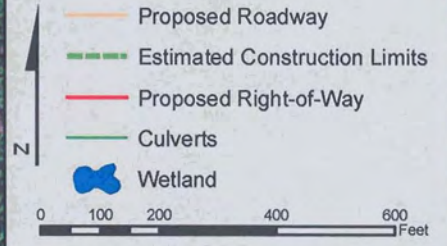


Photography Date: January - March 2006

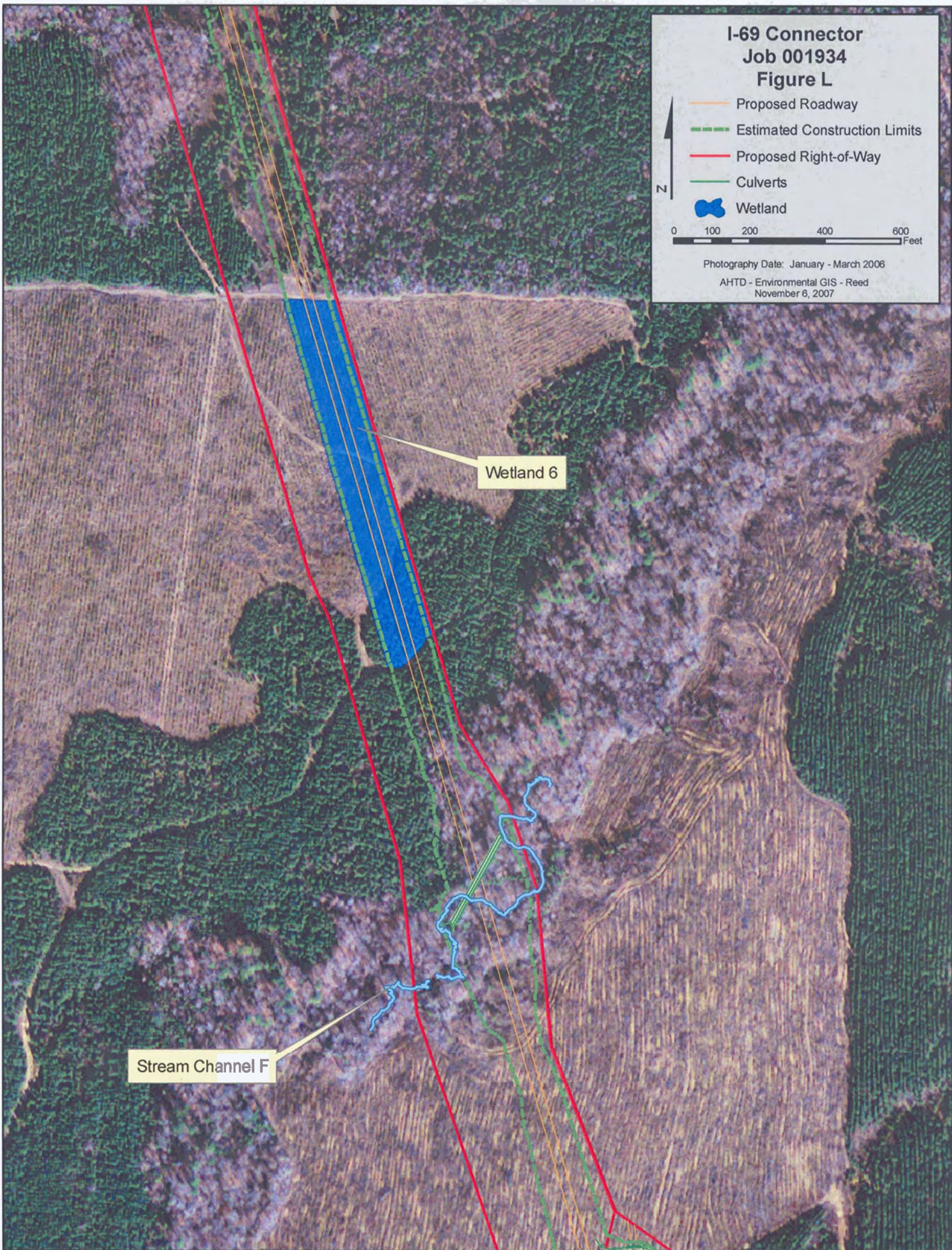
AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
November 6, 2007



**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure L**

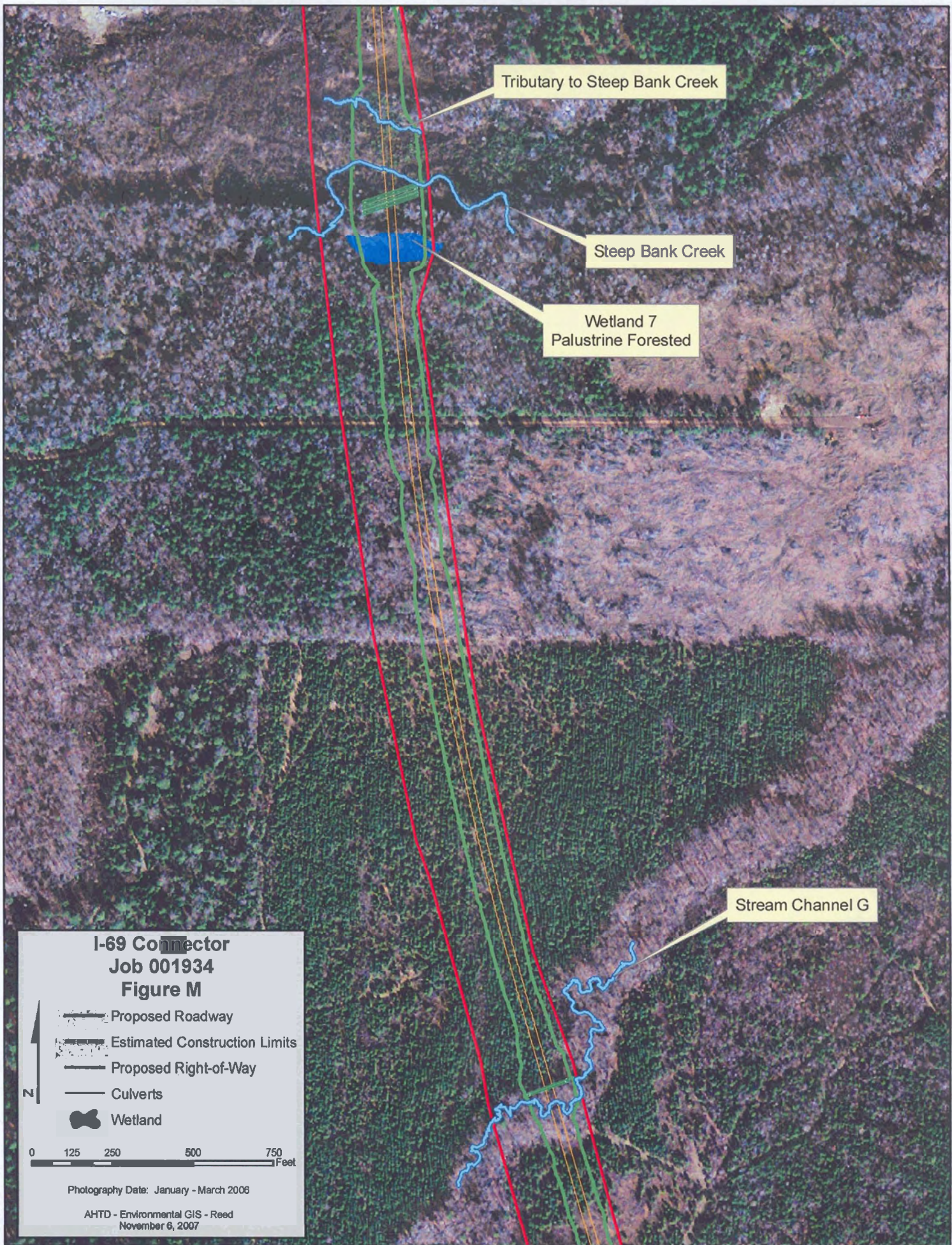


Photography Date: January - March 2006  
AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
November 6, 2007



Wetland 6

Stream Channel F








Tributary to Steep Bank Creek

Steep Bank Creek

Wetland 7  
Palustrine Forested

Stream Channel G

**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure M**

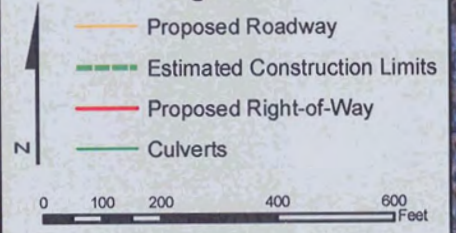
-  Proposed Roadway
-  Estimated Construction Limits
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Culverts
-  Wetland

0 125 250 500 750 Feet

Photography Date: January - March 2006

AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
November 6, 2007

**I-69 Connector  
Job 001934  
Figure N**



Photography Date: January - March 2006

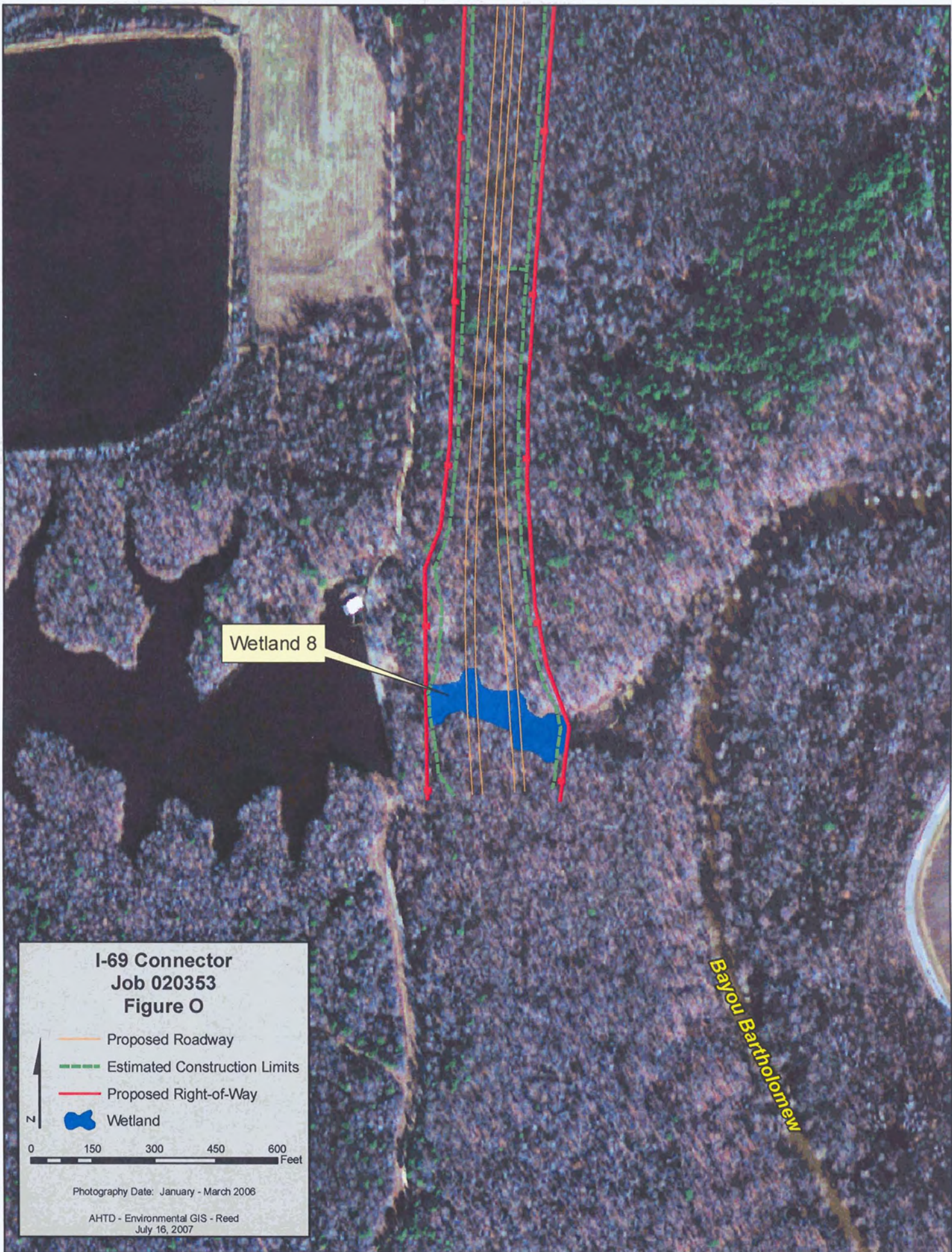
AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
November 6, 2007

Stream Channel J

Stream Channel I

Stream Channel H

Pinebergen Rd



Wetland 8

Bayou Bartholomew

**I-69 Connector  
Job 020353  
Figure O**

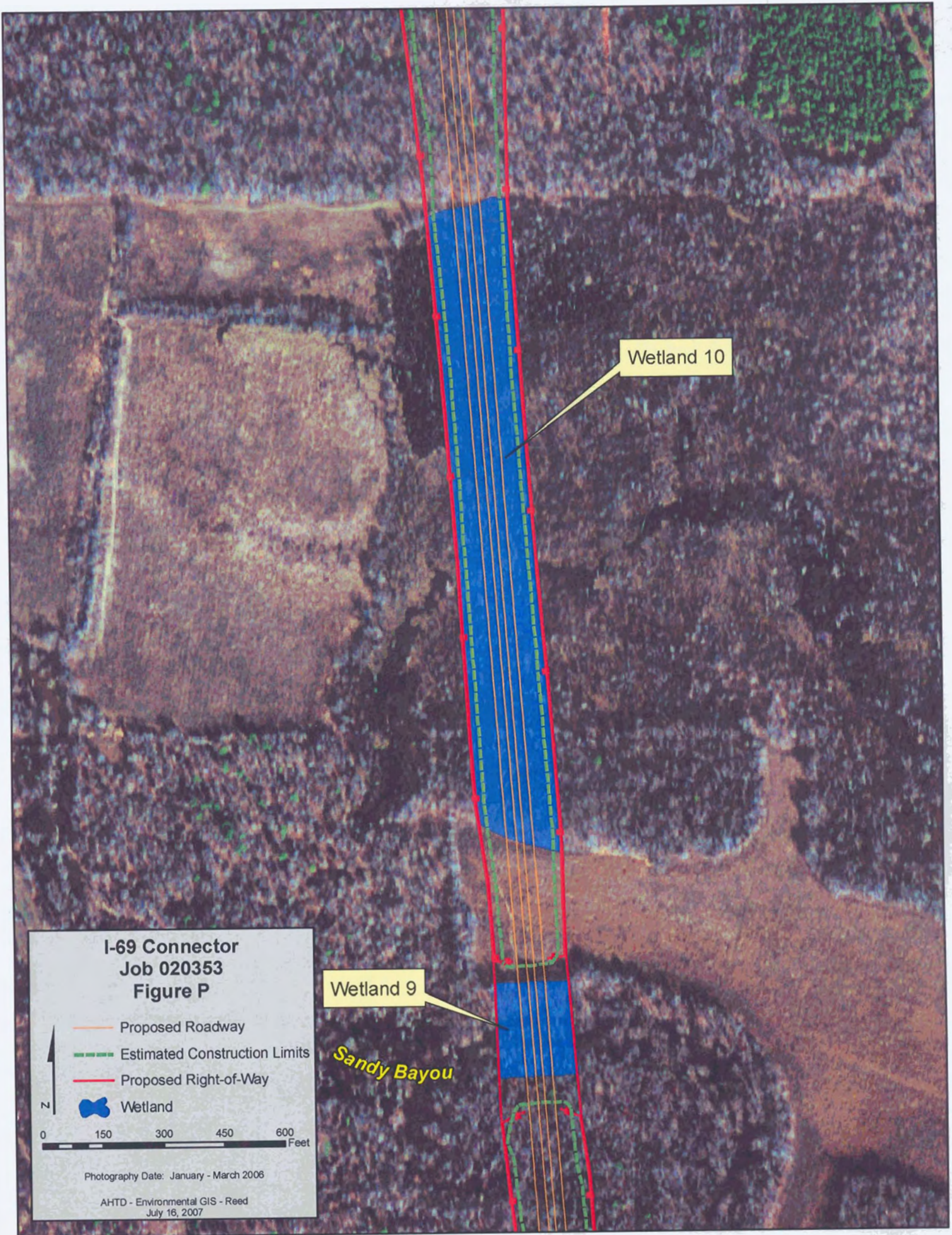
- Proposed Roadway
- Estimated Construction Limits
- Proposed Right-of-Way
- Wetland

N





0 150 300 450 600 Feet

Photography Date: January - March 2006  
AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
July 16, 2007





**I-69 Connector  
Job 020353  
Figure P**

-  Proposed Roadway
-  Estimated Construction Limits
-  Proposed Right-of-Way
-  Wetland

N

0 150 300 450 600 Feet

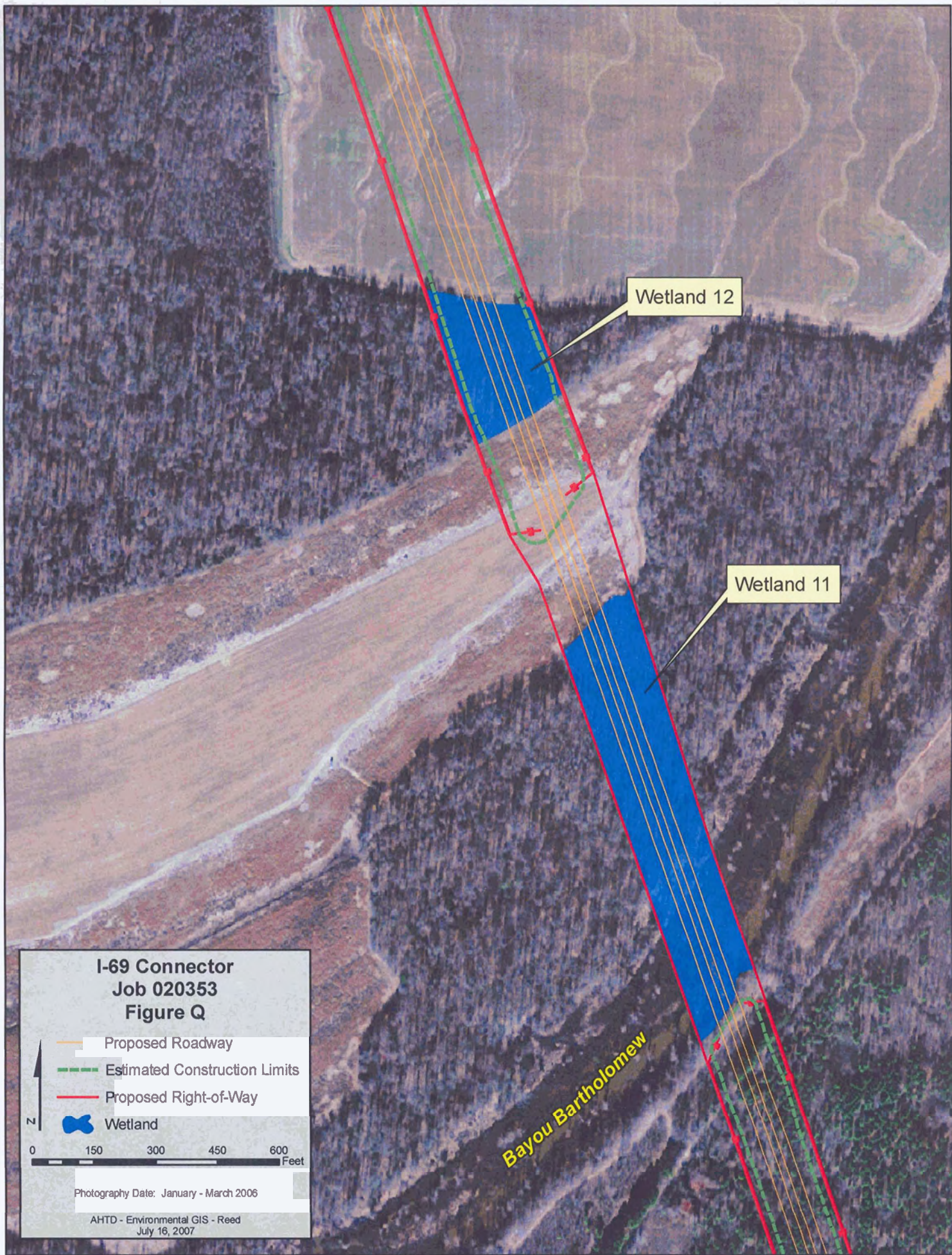
Photography Date: January - March 2006

AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
July 16, 2007

Wetland 9

*Sandy Bayou*

Wetland 10



Wetland 12

Wetland 11

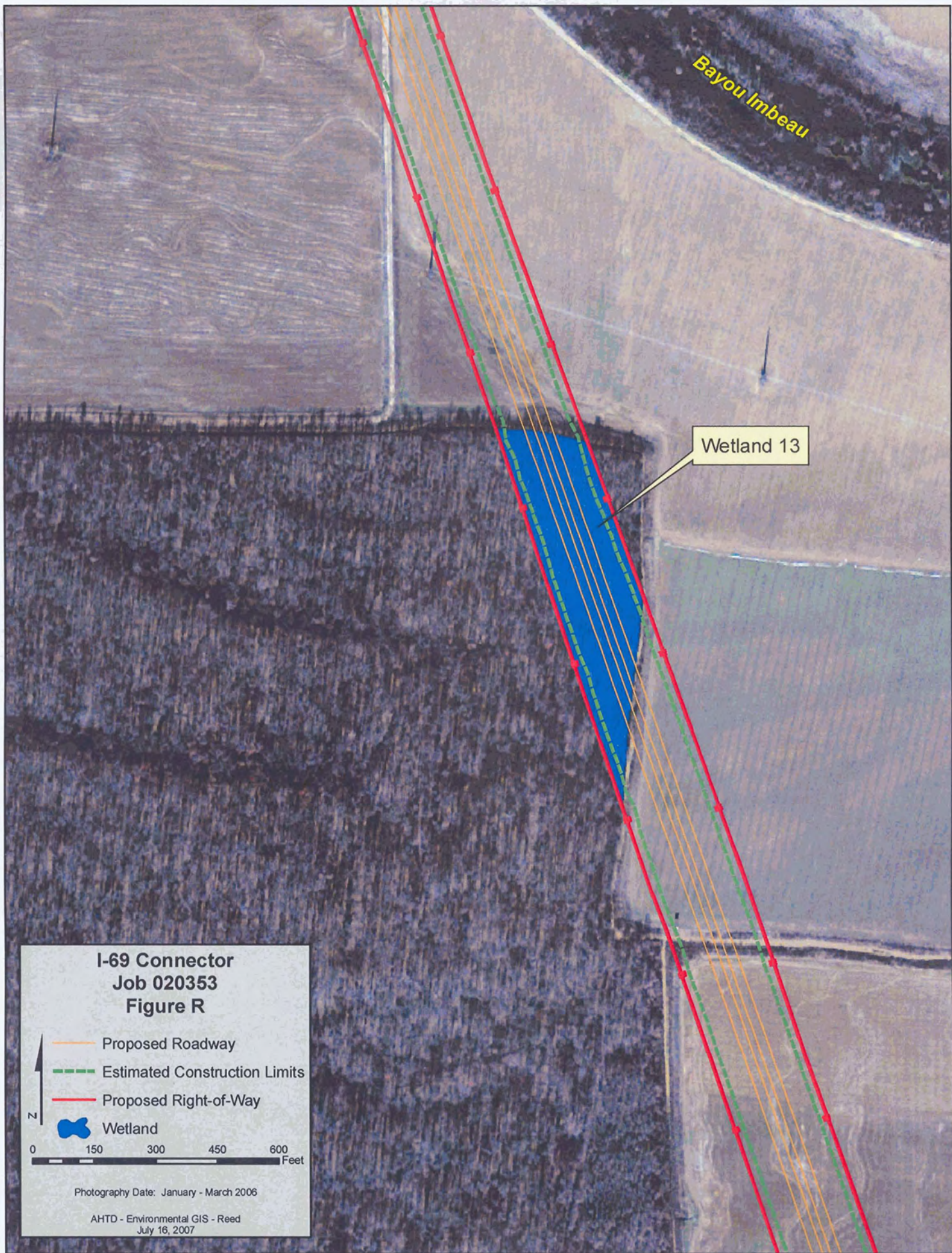
Bayou Bartholomew

**I-69 Connector  
Job 020353  
Figure Q**

- Proposed Roadway
- Estimated Construction Limits
- Proposed Right-of-Way
- Wetland

0 150 300 450 600 Feet

Photography Date: January - March 2006  
AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
July 16, 2007



Bayou Imbeau

Wetland 13

**I-69 Connector  
Job 020353  
Figure R**

- Proposed Roadway
- Estimated Construction Limits
- Proposed Right-of-Way
- Wetland

0 150 300 450 600 Feet

Photography Date: January - March 2006  
AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
July 16, 2007

