

APPLICATION NO. MVM 2008-00267

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS - STATE OF ARKANSAS  
(25-Day Comment Period)  
(Comment Expiration Date – July 21, 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: <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 the

**Arkansas Highway and 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 replacing the bridges and approaches over the White River and its adjacent floodplain at Clarendon. The proposed project is located on the White River and its adjacent wetlands at river mile 98.7 in sections 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29 and 30, T. 1 N., R. 3 W., and in sections 25 and 36, T. 1 N., R. 4 W., Monroe County, Arkansas. Construction will be on a new alignment.

This project was previously permitted by the Memphis District Corps of Engineers on October 20, 2000; however, the work was never initiated and the Section 404 permit expired. Through coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), some modifications to the original project were made that resulted in more bridging and slightly fewer impacts. The original environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) were signed on February 29, 2000. A reassessment of the project was completed by the AHTD and Federal Highway Administration on August 16, 2005. Since the roadway crosses the White River National Wildlife Refuge, a compatibility determination was completed by the USFWS on

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December 6, 2007. The bridge over the navigable portion of the White River will require authorization from the U.S. Coast Guard in accordance with Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

The purpose of the project is to replace the structurally and functionally deficient bridges and approaches. A total of 75.8 acres of wetlands will be impacted by the proposed project. Approximately 30.7 acres of wetlands will be filled and approximately 45.1 acres of wetlands will be cleared, grubbed and bridged. The AHTD proposes to mitigate for the wetland losses with 117.3 acres at the Brushy Lake Mitigation Bank near Clarendon and 134.2 acres at the Glaise Creek Mitigation Bank near Worden. The mitigation requirements were calculated using the Charleston Method. This method determined the acreage ratio to be approximately 3.4 acres of mitigation for every 1.0 acre impacted or a total of 1009.3 required mitigation credits.

As part of the construction process, the asphalt will be removed from the existing roadway and the earthen embankment will be pushed back into the adjacent borrow ditches along the western approach. The State and Federal resource agencies previously agreed that mitigation would not be required for filling the borrow ditches since the floodplain would be restored to its natural elevation, covered with topsoil, and replanted in bottomland hardwoods. Work roads will temporarily impact approximately 6.5 acres of wetlands that currently exist within the maintained highway right-of-way. After construction, these areas will be reshaped to their original contour and allowed to naturally revegetate.

The location and general plan for the proposed work are shown on the enclosed sheets 1 through 7 of 7.

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.

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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 **July 21, 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

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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.

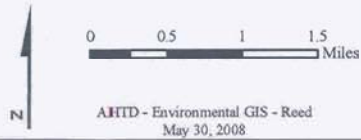
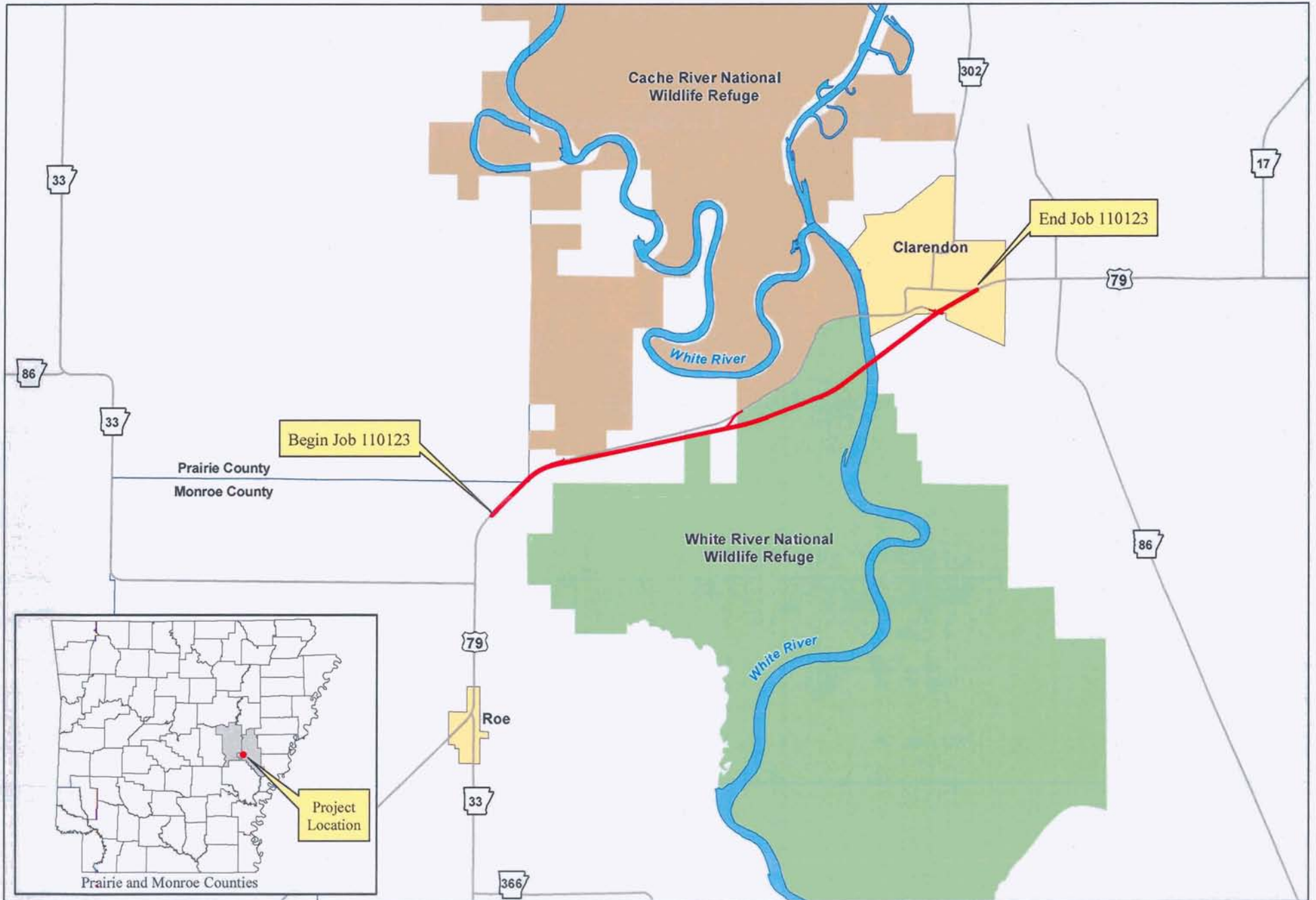
Any person may request in writing within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised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

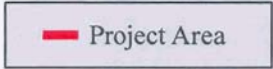
Approximate Coordinates of Project Center

UTM Zone: **15** Northing: **3838130.28** Easting: **652367.48**

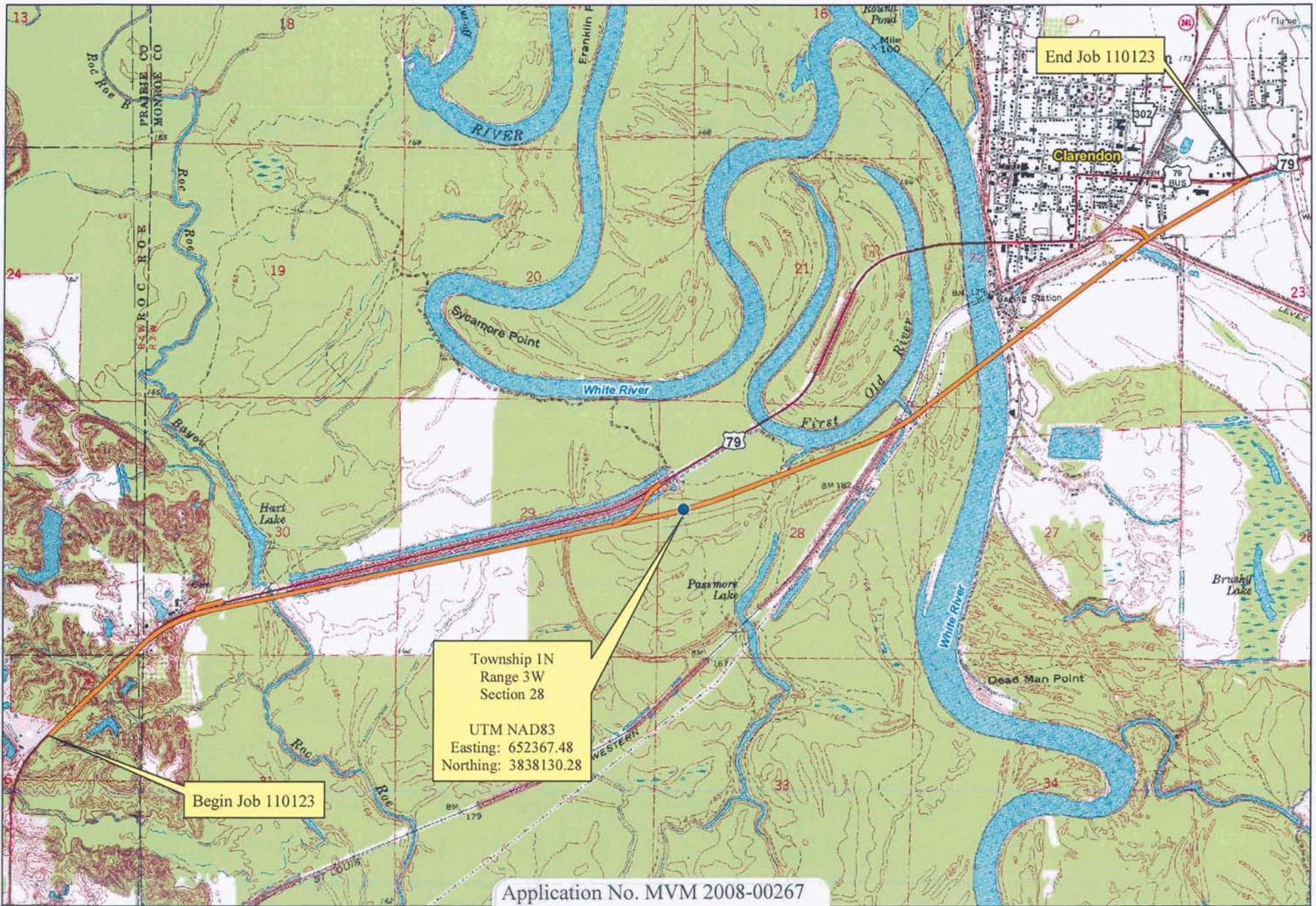


AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
May 30, 2008

Job 110123  
White River & Relief Strs. & Apprs.  
(Clarendon)  
Monroe County







End Job 110123

Clarendon

Begin Job 110123

Township 1N  
Range 3W  
Section 28  
  
UTM NAD83  
Easting: 652367.48  
Northing: 3838130.28

Application No. MVM 2008-00267  
Ark. Hwy. Transportation Dept.  
White River, mile 98.7 (Clarendon)  
Bridges & Approaches Replacement  
June 2008      Sheet 2 of 7

- Project Area
- Approximate Center of Project







**Job 110123**  
**White River & Relief Strs. & Apprs.**  
**(Clarendon)**  
**Monroe County**

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000  
Feet

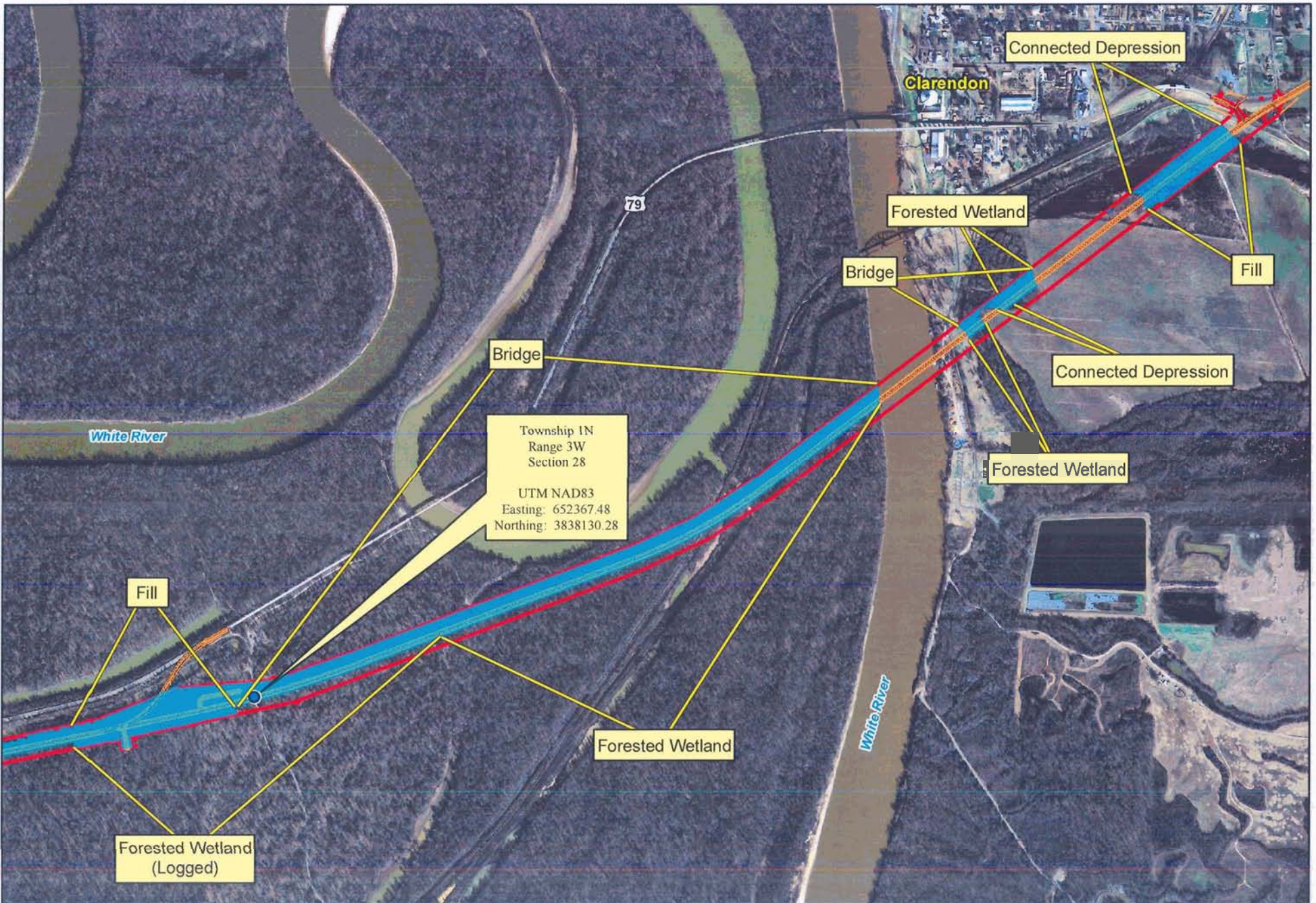
AHTD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
May 12, 2008

— Project Area

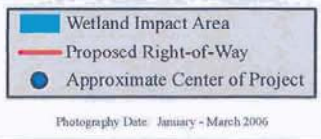
● Approximate Center of Project

Photography Date: January - March 2006

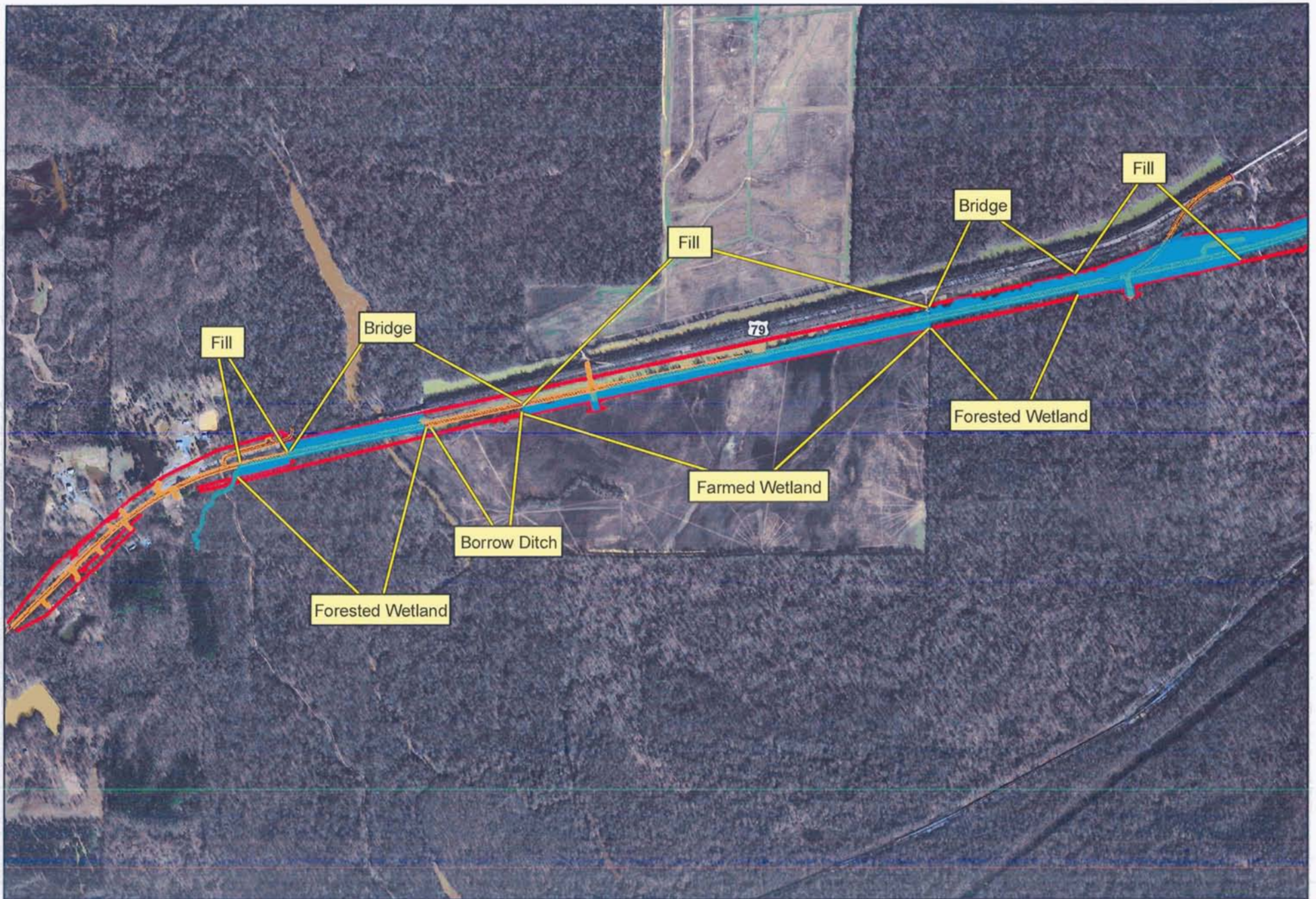




Job 110123  
 White River & Relief Strs. & Apprs.  
 (Clarendon)  
 Monroe County







0 500 1,000 1,500  
Feet

AHFD - Environmental GIS - Reed  
May 15, 2008

Job 110123  
White River & Relief Strs. & Apprs.  
(Clarendon)  
Monroe County

Wetland Impact Area  
Proposed Right-of-Way

Photography Date: January - March 2006



Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material

**Job 110394**

East approach to White River Bridge  
(Sta. 341+00-352+00)

144,601 cu yds

Borrow ditches adjacent to existing  
road embankment 775,000 cu yds.

**Job 110503**

West approach from edge of escarpment to end of Roc Roe bridge  
(Sta. 142+00-146+04.02)

17,823 cu yds.

East end of Roc Roe bridge to west end of relief bridge  
(Sta. 169+50.17-210+83.94)

179,672 cu yds.

East end of relief bridge to west end of White River Bridge  
(Sta. 225+51.97-241+85.73)

127,258 cu yds.

Boat Ramp (West side)  
(Sta. 25+00-26+73.76)

2081 cu yds.

Temporary Connection  
(Sta. 401+00-410+00)

25,875 cu yds.

Right side access road  
(Sta. 176+73.67)

2230 cu yds.

Right side access road  
(Sta. 230+53.06)

2380 cu yds.

Left side access road to Old River Camp Ground  
(Sta. 238+46.56)

2855 cu yds.

Total = 504,775 cu yds.



### REQUIRED MITIGATION CREDITS WORKSHEET

Factor	Area 1 Fill Forested Wet	Area 2 Bridge Forested Wet	Area 3 Fill Farmed Wet	Area 4 Bridge Forested Wet	Area 5 Fill Forested Wet	Area 6 Bridge Forested Wet	Area 7 Bridge Forested Wet	Area 8 Bridge Depression Forested	Area 9 Fill Borrow Pits
Lost Type	3.0	3.0	0.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.2	3.0	0.2
Priority Category	2.0	2.0	0.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.5	0.5	0.5
Existing Condition	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.5
Duration	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Dominant Impact	3.0	0.2	3.0	0.2	3.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	3.0
Cumulative Impact	3.79	3.79	3.79	3.79	3.79	3.79	3.79	3.79	3.79
Sum of r Factors	R <sub>1</sub> = 16.29	R <sub>2</sub> = 13.49	R <sub>3</sub> = 11.49	R <sub>4</sub> = 13.49	R <sub>5</sub> = 16.29	R <sub>6</sub> = 13.49	R <sub>7</sub> = 9.19	R <sub>8</sub> = 11.49	R <sub>9</sub> = 11.99
Impacted Area	A <sub>1</sub> = 1.5	A <sub>2</sub> = 7.4	A <sub>3</sub> = 12.1	A <sub>4</sub> = 5.1	A <sub>5</sub> = 10.1	A <sub>6</sub> = 29.6	A <sub>7</sub> = 2.1	A <sub>8</sub> = 0.9	A <sub>9</sub> = 7.0
R x A =	24.4	99.8	139.0	68.8	164.5	399.3	19.3	10.3	83.9

**Total Required Credits =  $\sum (R \times AA) = 1009.3$**