



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8915

June 24, 2020

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Regulatory Division
North Permits Branch
Pensacola Permits Section

PUBLIC NOTICE

Permit Application No. SAJ-2009-04417 (SP-EPS)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Jacksonville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) 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 described below:

APPLICANT: USAF Hurlburt Field
c/o Philip Pruitt
Chief, Installation Management Flight
415 Independence Road
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project would affect waters of the United States associated with East Bay River and East Bay Swamp. The project site is on USAF Hurlburt Field, in Section 12, Township 2 South, Range 25 West, Okaloosa County, Florida.

Directions to the site are as follows: From Pensacola, travel east on U.S Highway 98 until reaching USAF Hurlburt Field. The project site is within this military installation, between Cruz Avenue and Hamby Place.

APPROXIMATE CENTRAL COORDINATES: Latitude 30.427944°
Longitude -86.697434°

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: military mission support

Overall: To construct training facilities necessary to support recapitalization of the AC-130 to the AC-130J combat aircraft.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The wetlands consist of forested systems degraded through immediately adjacent land uses and fire-suppression. The wetlands contain slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), red titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*) sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*), netted chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata*) and scattered sweet bay (*Magnolia virginiana*). The areas surrounding the project site consists of base infrastructure including roads, buildings, parking areas and drainage ditches.

The proposed wetland fill discharge would be in the remainder of what had been a 6.53-acre wetland system. A Corps authorization to fill that entire 6.53 acres of wetlands was issued in 2011 to this applicant. The applicant filled all of those wetlands except for this remaining 0.27-acre; that original Corps authorization expired in 2016.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant seeks authorization to discharge fill material over 0.27-acre of wetlands for construction of a facility housing the AC-130J maintenance training equipment and classroom.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION INFORMATION – The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment:

A wetland delineation of the site was completed before the project design. This allowed the project to avoid and minimize impacts to water of the U.S. to the extent practicable. Still, unavoidable fill will occur in one wetland.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION – The applicant has offered the following compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment:

Compensation for these unavoidable impacts will be accomplished by purchasing from an approved mitigation bank (0.17 forested credits from the Pensacola Bay Mitigation Bank.)

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The Corps is not aware of any known historic properties within the permit area. By copy of this public notice, the Corps is providing information for review. Our final determination relative to historic resource impacts is subject to review by and coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and those federally recognized tribes with concerns in Florida and the Permit Area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES:

The Corps has determined the proposal may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*). The Corps has determined the proposal would have no effect on any other listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH): This notice initiates consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service on EFH as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1996. The proposal would impact approximately 0.27-acre of palustrine wetlands that may no longer be hydrologically connected to tidal waters utilized by various life stages of shrimp, reef fish, red drum, and coastal migratory/pelagic fish. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not

have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or Federally-managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The jurisdictional line at this location was last field-verified by Corps personnel in 2012.

AUTHORIZATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES: Water Quality Certification may be required from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and/or one of the state Water Management Districts.

COMMENTS regarding the potential authorization of the work proposed should be submitted in writing to the attention of the District Engineer through the Pensacola Permits Section, 41 North Jefferson Street, Suite 301, Pensacola, Florida 32502 within 21 days from the date of this notice.

The decision whether to issue or deny this permit application will be based on the information received from this public notice and the evaluation of the probable impact to the associated wetlands. This is based on an analysis of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts for the project, as well as the compensatory mitigation proposed.

QUESTIONS concerning this application should be directed to the project manager, Ed Sarfert, in writing at the Pensacola Permits Section, 41 N. Jefferson Street, Pensacola, FL 32502; by electronic mail at edward.p.sarfert@usace.army.mil; by facsimile transmission at (850)433-8160; or, by telephone at (850)439-9533.

IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Marine Fisheries Services, and other Federal, State, and local agencies, environmental groups, and concerned citizens generally yields pertinent environmental information that is instrumental in determining the impact the proposed action will have on the natural resources of the area.

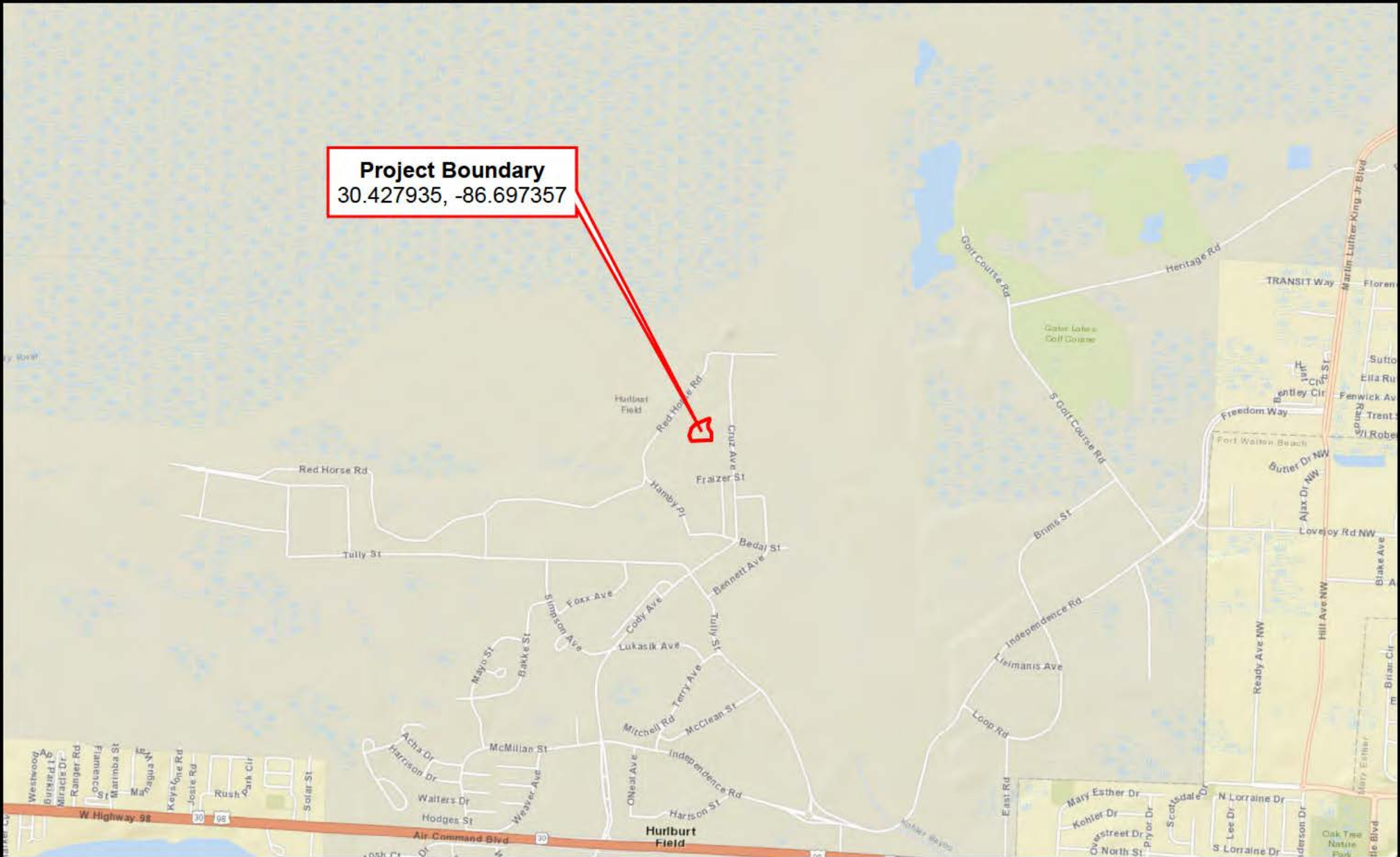
EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, 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 cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain 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. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) 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 to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.


COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY: In Florida, the State approval constitutes compliance with the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan. In Puerto Rico, a Coastal Zone Management Consistency Concurrence is required from the Puerto Rico Planning Board. In the Virgin Islands, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources permit constitutes compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Plan.


REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the designated comment period of the notice and must state the specific reasons for requesting the public hearing.



Project Boundary
30.427935, -86.697357

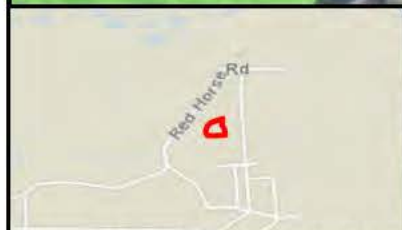
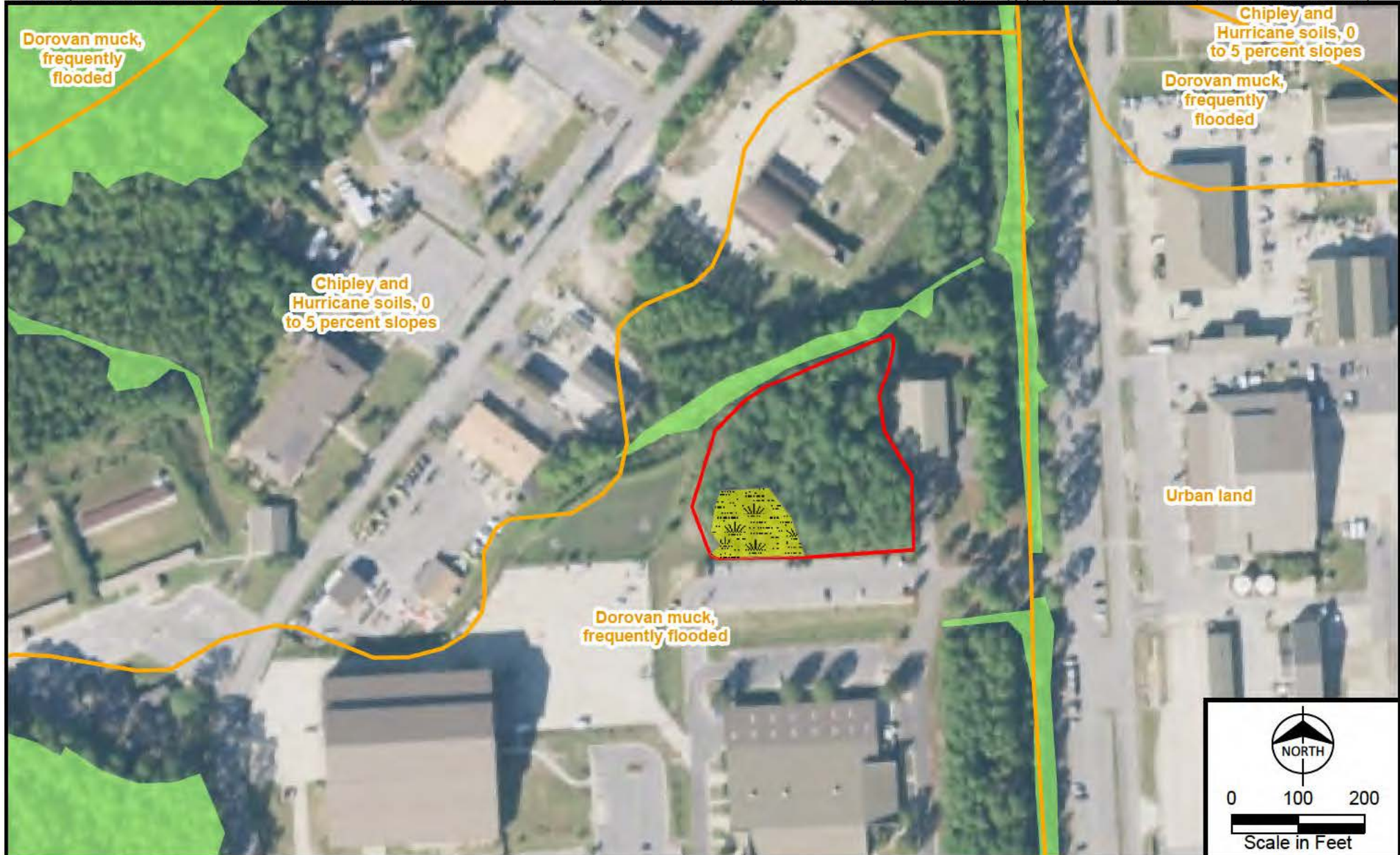


 Project Boundary


0 1,000 2,000
Scale in Feet



Vicinity Map
Hurlburt Field
Okaloosa County, FL



Soil Map Unit Name

Project Boundary

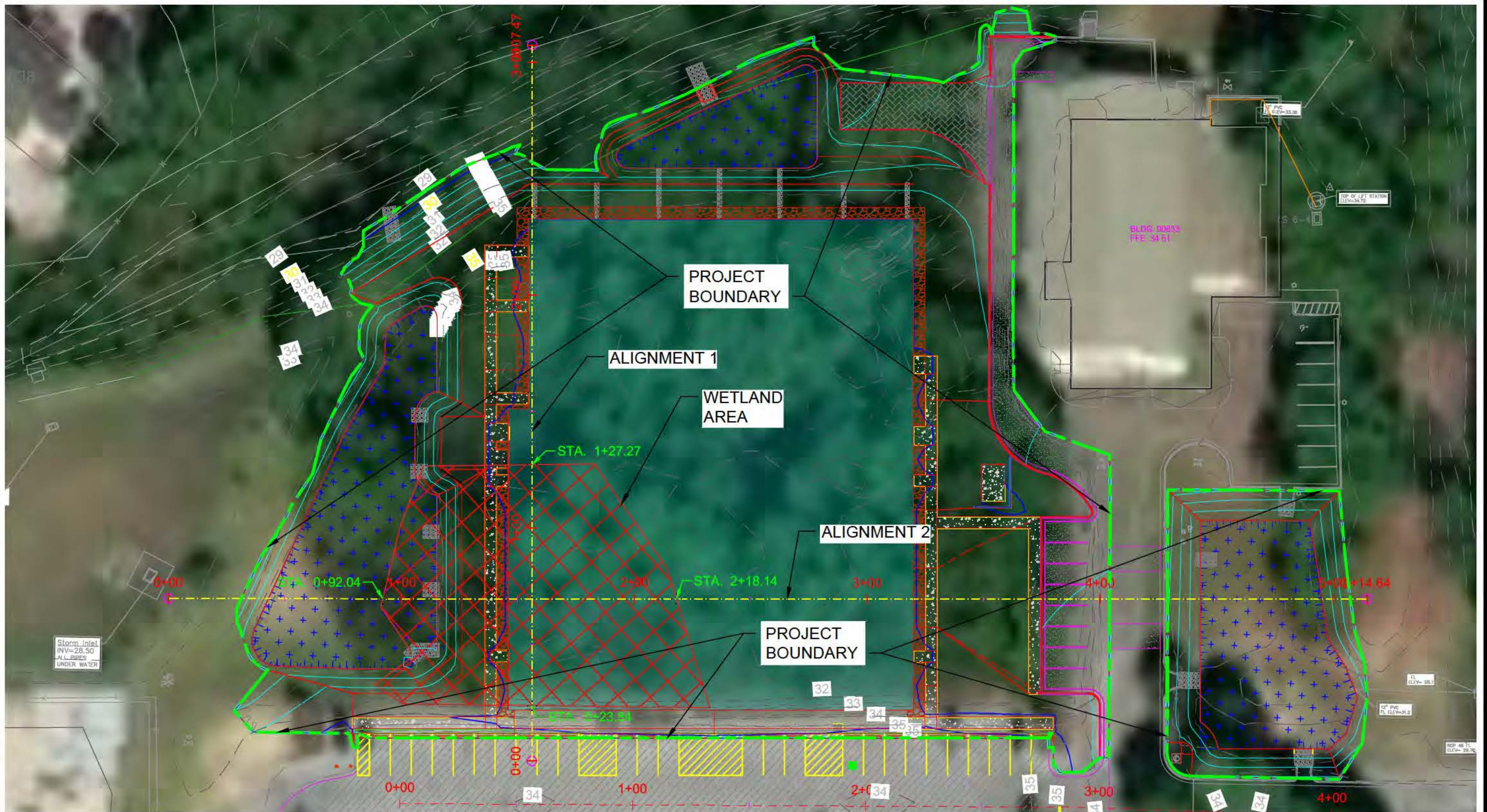
Impacted Wetland

FED/STATE JOINT WETLAND AREA

FLORIDA ERP ISOLATED WETLAND

**BURNS
MCDONNELL**

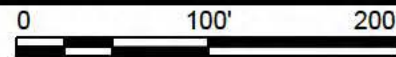
Project Area
USDA/NRCS Soils Map
Hurlburt Field
USACE Mobile District
Okaloosa County, FL



A1

PROJECT AND WETLAND BOUNDARIES

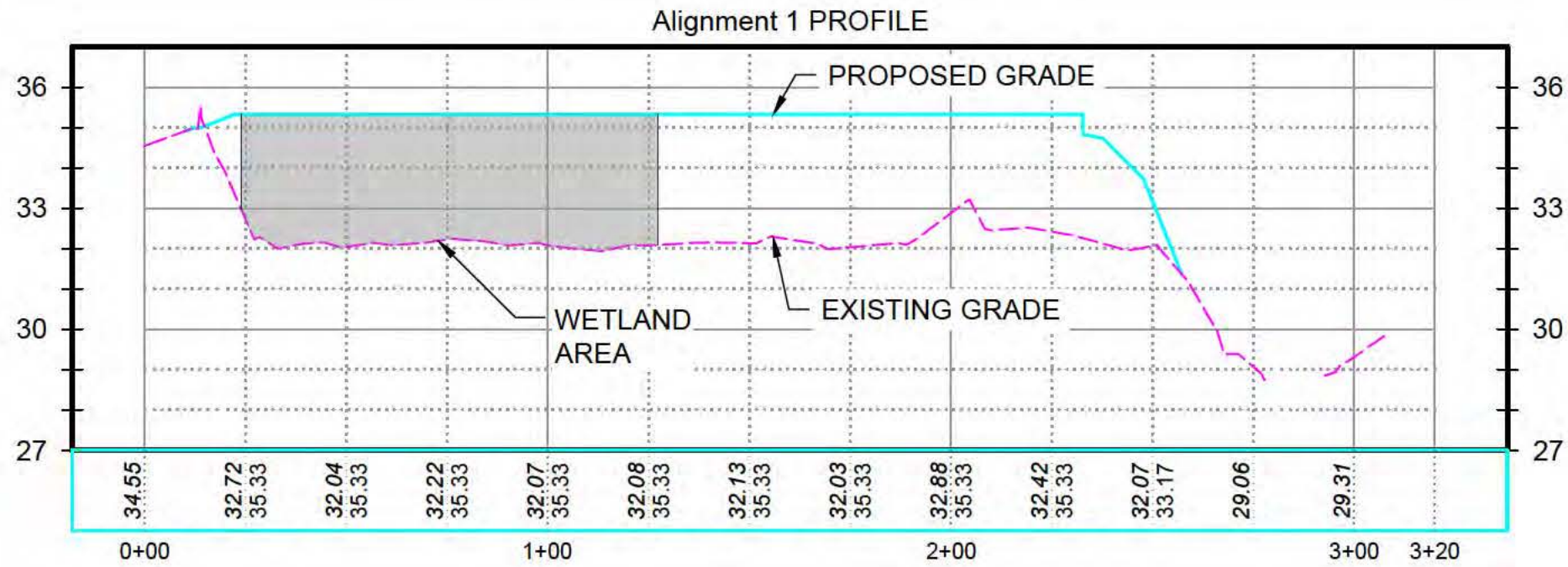
SCALE: AS SHOWN



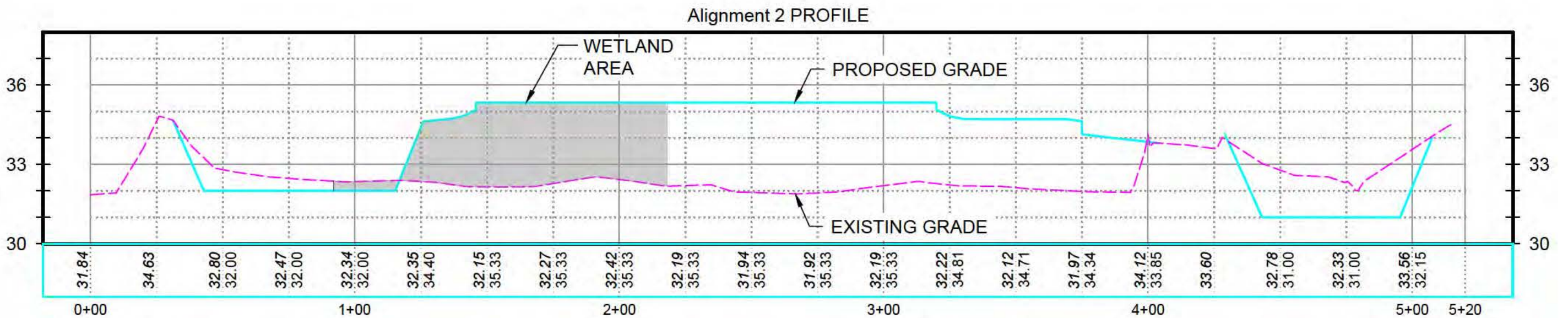
date MARCH 2020
designed S. WIEDEL

HURLBURT FIELD, FLORIDA
HANGAR & AMU
PROJECT AND
WETLAND BOUNDARIES

project FTEV153009
contract
SK - 001



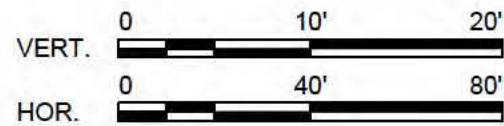
NET VOLUME = 1075.53 CU. YD. (FILL)
 CUT = 18.78 CU. YD.
 FILL = 1094.31 CU. YD.



A1

PROJECT AND WETLAND BOUNDARIES PROFILES

SCALE: AS SHOWN



date MARCH 2020
 designed S. WIEDEL

HURLBURT FIELD, FLORIDA
 HANGAR & AMU
 PROJECT AND
 WETLAND BOUNDARIES

project FTEV153009
 contract
 SK - 002