



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

FAIRBANKS FIELD OFFICE
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
2175 University Avenue, Suite 201E
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4927

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	May 20, 2021
EXPIRATION DATE:	June 21, 2021
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2020-00530
WATERWAY:	South Fork Chena River

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States (U.S.) as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this Public Notice (PN) should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the Project Manager's email as listed below or to regpagemaster@usace.army.mil. All comments should include the PN reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this PN to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Amy Tippery at (907) 458-1602, by fax at (907) 474-2164, or by email at: Amy.C.Tippery@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Tim Sponseller, Fort Wainwright Directorate of Public Works, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska.

AGENT: Dan Rees, Fort Wainwright Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Sections 11 and 12, T. 2 S., R. 6 E., Fairbanks Meridian; Latitude 64.755719° N., Longitude 146.473071° W.; Yukon Training Area, near Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to provide access to the northeastern portion of the Yukon Training Area for military training exercises and wildfire suppression and control activities.

PROPOSED WORK: The proposed access project entails discharge of fill material into 7.9 acres of wetlands for the upgrade of an existing three mile long trail, and the development of 3.1 acres of wetlands for a materials extraction site to provide access to a new a full span vehicle bridge across the South Fork Chena River. The trail upgrade would involve placement of 118,654 cubic yards (cy) of gravel fill material into 7.9 acres of Palustrine Needleleaved Evergreen Scrub wetlands. The materials site would supply a maximum of 77,000 cy of gravel extracted from Palustrine Needleleaf Evergreen Scrub Shrub and Palustrine Broadleaf Deciduous/Evergreen Scrub-Shrub wetlands. The materials site would be located adjacent to the trail upgrade for minimization of secondary effects to the local ecosystem. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1–2), dated May 10, 2021.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: N/A

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the U.S. from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: The original project drafts included the footprint of the bridge in waters of the U.S., which was avoided by planning for a longer bridge span with approach and abutments entirely in uplands. Upland material sites, which are limited by material quality, will be used as a primary source of materials as much as possible and supplemented by gravel extracted from the wetland adjacent to the trail when extraction from upland sites is not financially or logistically feasible. The trail upgrades will avoid wetlands where possible. A 1,500-foot section of the original route proposed in 2018 was re-routed to the south to avoid impacts to approximately 0.5 acres of wetlands. Vegetation clearing will take place outside of the nesting bird window between May 1 and July 15 to minimize disturbances to nesting migratory birds. To protect the trail from erosion and avoid future in-stream work, the trail will be armored with class 3 non-erodible aggregate where it is in close proximity to river cut-banks.

b. Minimization: Construction of a full span crossing will minimize and likely eliminate in-stream crossing impacts by recreational users. Currently, recreational users travel through the riverbed using off-road vehicle (ORV)s to access the trail on the east side of the South Fork Chena River. Moving the crossing from in-stream to a bridge will minimize riverbank erosion and disturbance to the streambed. The proposed trail upgrade minimizes disturbance to wetlands and waters and surrounding uplands by following current roads and an existing trail as much as possible, and the top width of the trail was reduced from 36 feet to 18 feet to minimize total width and thus the discharge of fill into wetlands. A 100-foot riparian buffer will be maintained between the South Fork Chena River and any disturbance related to the upgrade of the trail to the maximum extent practicable. To minimize direct impacts to the chemical or biological integrity of the South Fork Chena River, material site will be placed as far as possible from the river and other open water. Gravel extraction will be done in such a way that no connection between the river and the extraction site will be established.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: Any required compensatory mitigation should be off site or through a mitigation bank per Army policy (DoDI 4715.03, March 18, 2011, page 24). Adverse

effects to wetlands have been avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable. The following benefits to the public and surrounding environment should also be considered:

- Upgrade of the trail will result in an optimal route for ORV thus removing traffic from the river and confining it to the trail thus reducing disturbance to adjacent wetlands, stream beds and banks.
- The upgraded trail will result in access to the river and surrounding valley and uplands for recreation, military training and wildfire suppression. Equipment staging areas will be left in place on either side of the river to provide public river access for non-motorized, carry-in boats.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The lead Federal agency, the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Wainwright, is responsible for compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Corps of Engineers (Corps) will review the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Wainwright's documentation and either concur with their documentation or continue to work with them until any issues are resolved. A permit for the described work will not be issued until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Corps concurs with the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Wainwright's work or documentation.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The project area is within the known range of the King salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This PN serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period.

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. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must 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, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore 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. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The 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 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.

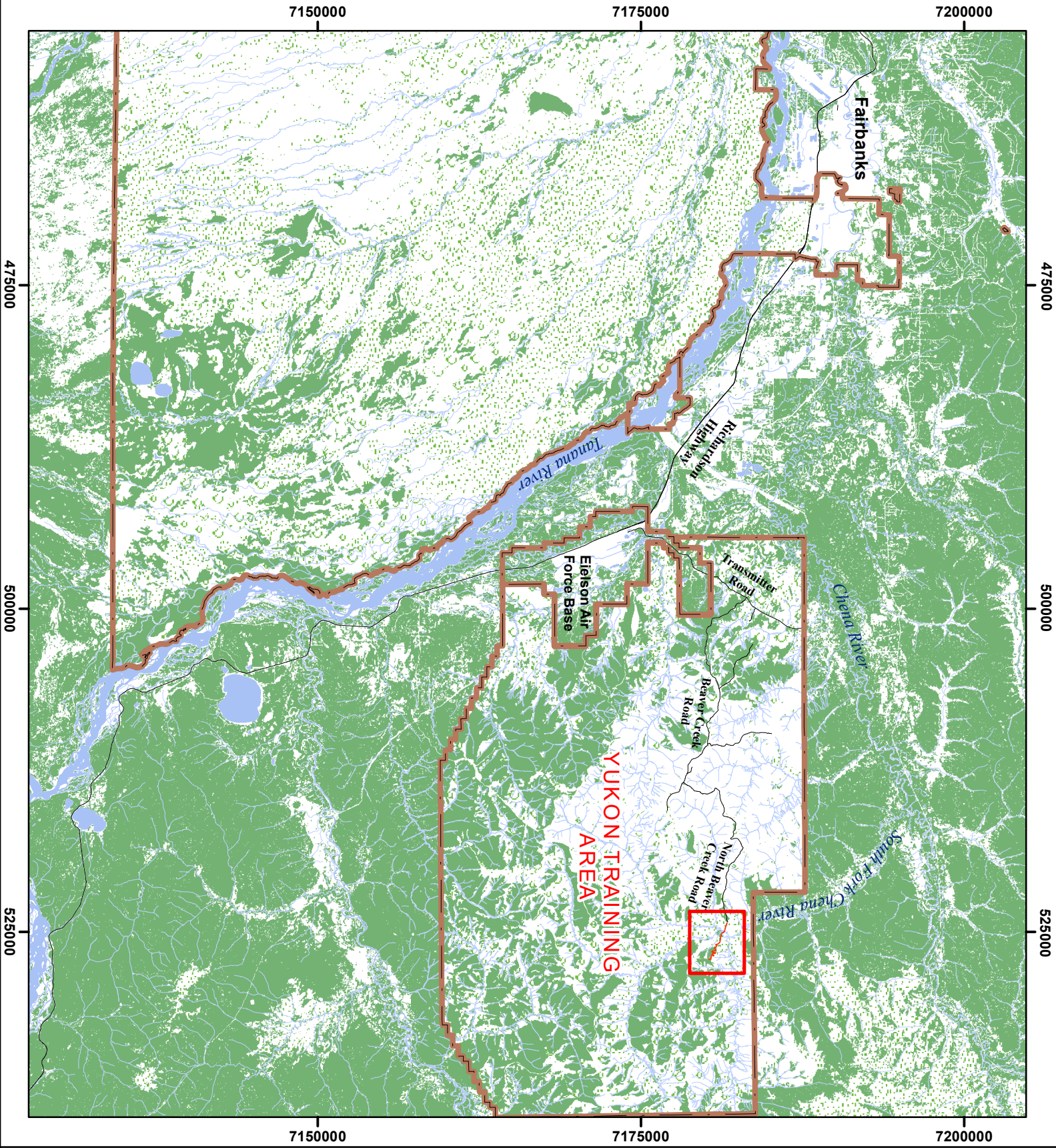
AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



YTA South Fork Chena Trail Upgrade

Yukon Training Area
 DPW Environmental
 USAG Alaska
 DPW Bldg 3023

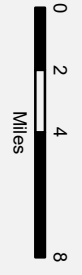
Map Features

Data Source: USGS EROS

- Forest
- Open Woodland
- Scrub
- Waterbody
- Installation Boundary
- Trail Upgrade



UTM Zone 6N
 WGS84 - Meters
 Grid Scale:
 25,000 Meters



Scale 1:400,000
 Lat: 64.755719
 Long: -146.473071
 Last Updated: 12/15/2020

POA-2020-00530
 USAGAK Fort
 Wainwright
 outh Fork Chena
 River
 May 10, 2021
 Sheet 1 of 2

Plan View

S. Fork Chena Trail - Yukon Training Area

DPW Environmental
USAG Alaska
DPW Bldg 3023



Map Features

Data Source:
Yukon_Command_Training_Area.sid

☆ 24" Culvert Locations

- Clear Span Bridge
- Class 3 Non-Erodible Aggregate
- Material Site
- Staging Area
- Proposed Corridor
- Mapped Area
- ImpactArea

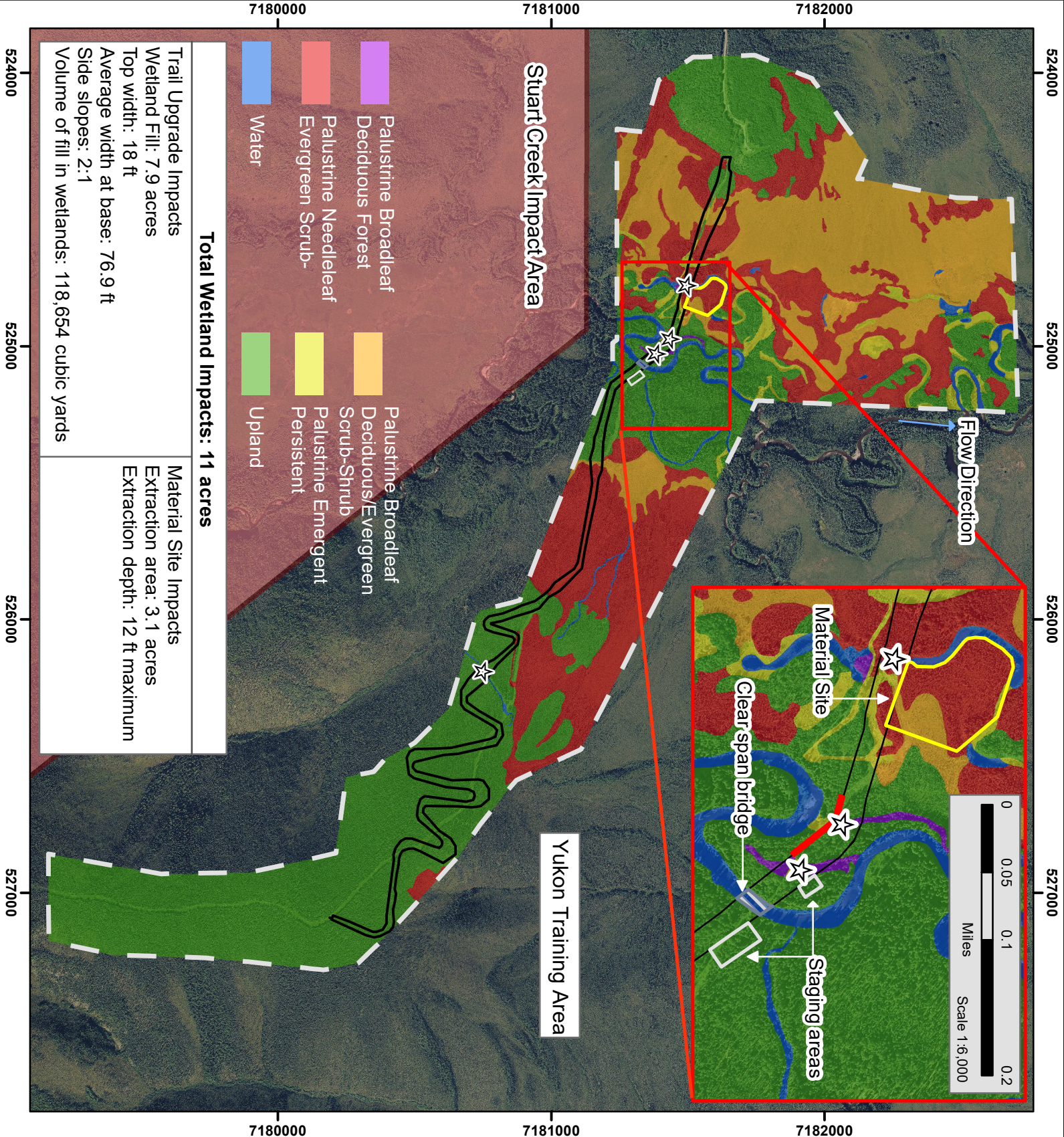
UTM Zone 6N
WGS84 - Meters

Grid Scale:
1,000 Meters

0 0.1 0.2 0.4
Miles

Scale 1:18,500

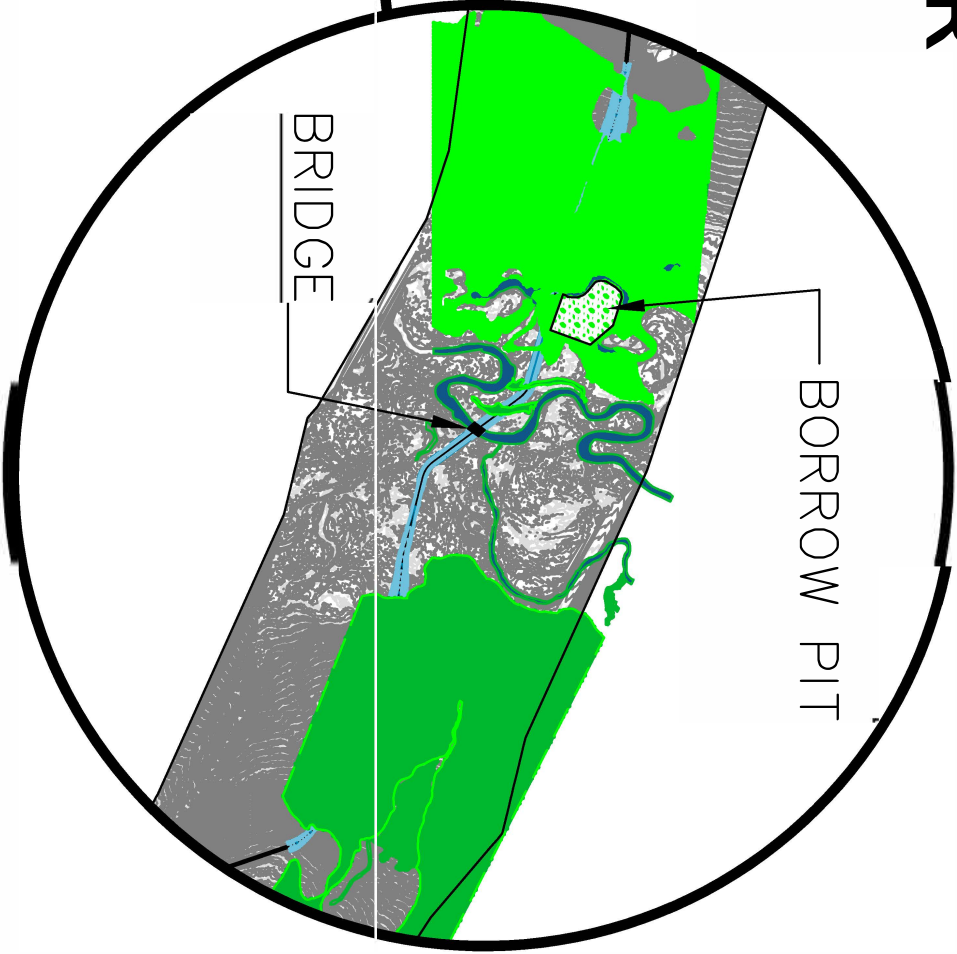
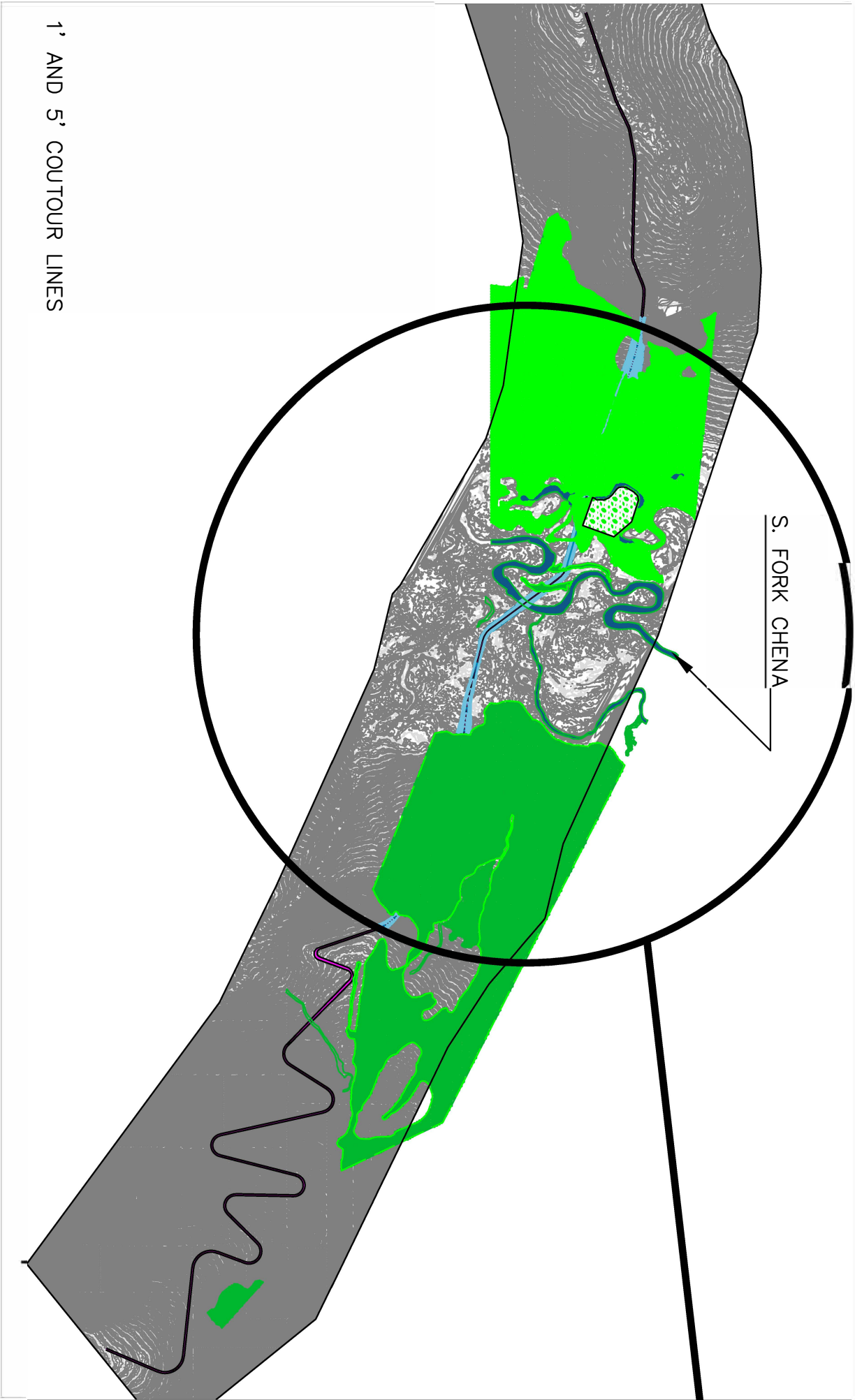
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Sheet 2 of 2



SHEET INDEX

COVER SHEET	1
PLAN AND PROFILES	2-17
SECTIONS	18-25
VOLUMES	25

SOUTH FORK CHENA RIVER
PRELIMINARY SCOPING FOR
CORPS PERMITTING
PLAN SET

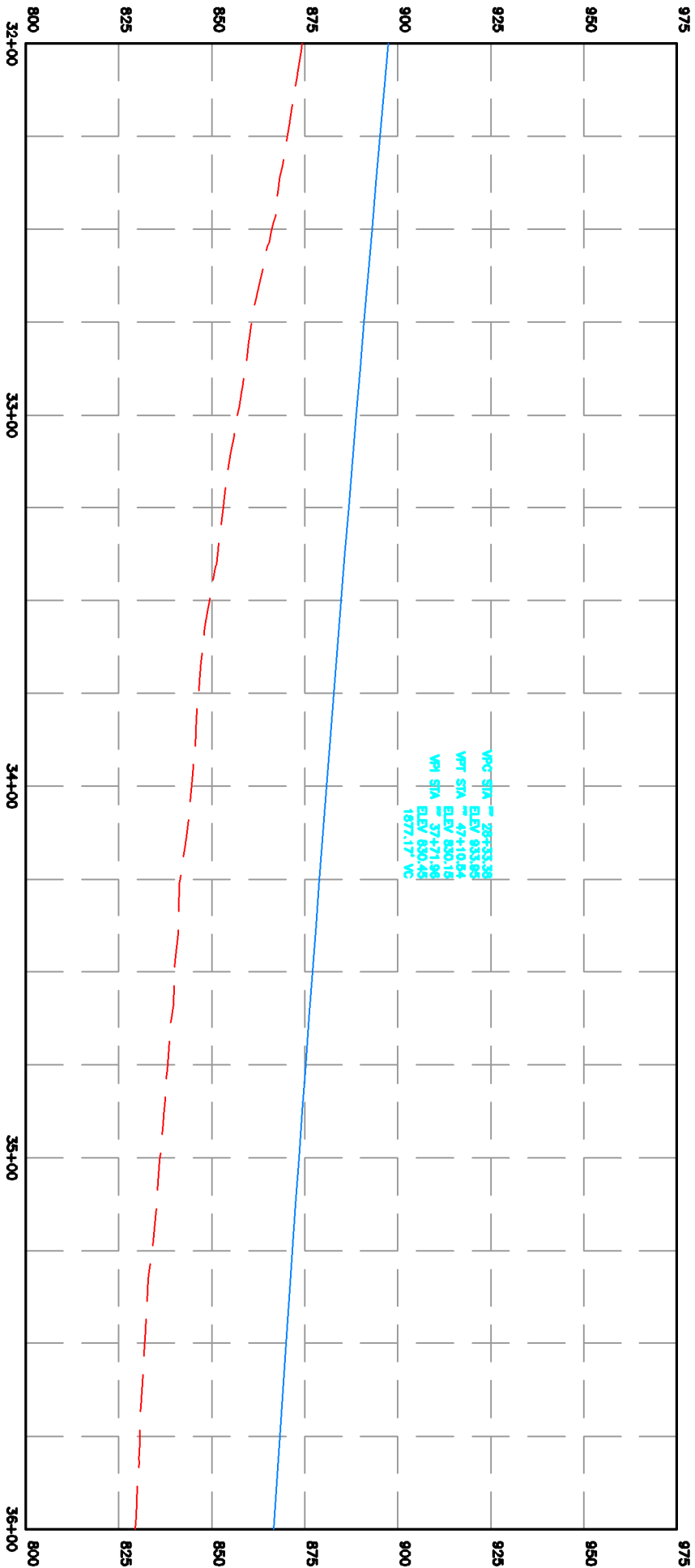
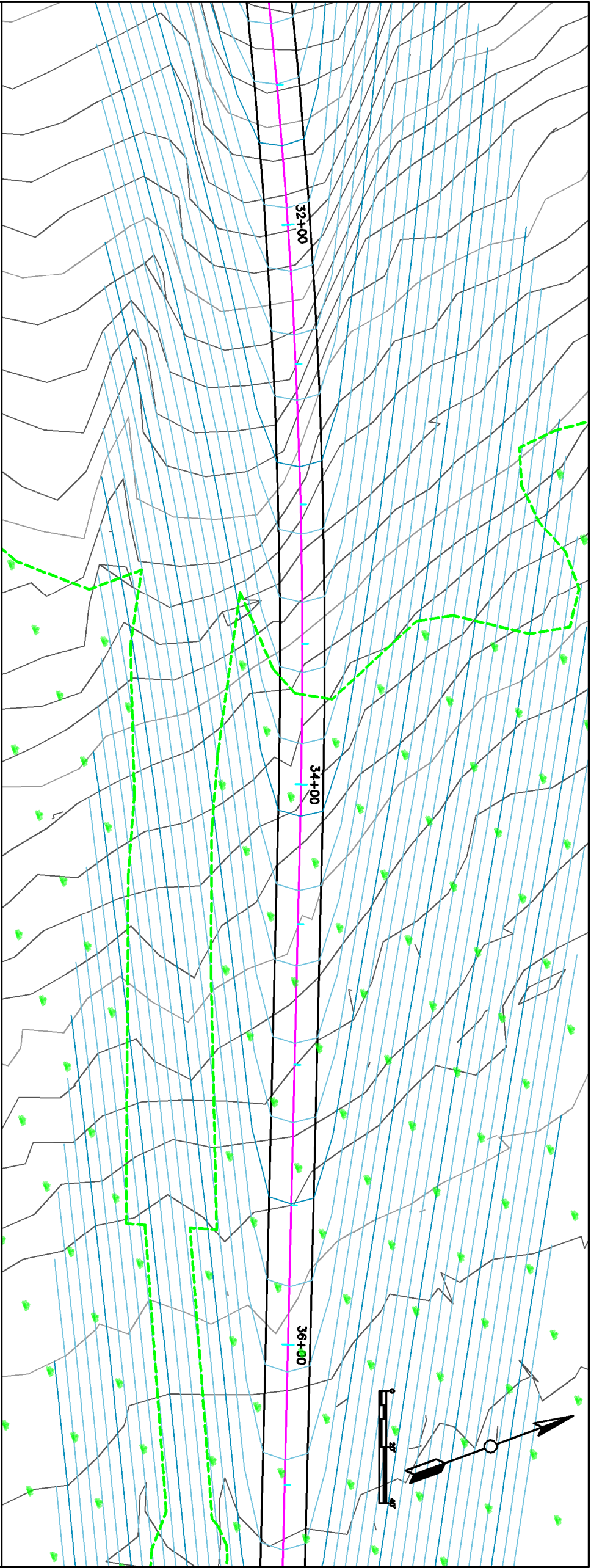


FILL TO WETLAND =
118,658.1CUBIC YARDS
AVERAGE CORRIDOR
WIDTH 76.9 FEET
=

Project: South Fork Chena Trail Upgrade
Applicant: US Army Fort Wainwright
File No.: POA-2020-00530
Proposed Activity: Trail Upgrades
Plan & Cross Section Views
Map Sheet 3 of 3

1' AND 5' COUTOUR LINES

OWNER:	LAND REHABILITATION & MAINTENANCE:	SALCHA-DELTA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATIN DISTRICT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFETY PROGRAMS, METHODS OR PROCEDURES OF OPERATION, USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DESIGN SHOWN ON THESE DRAWINGS. WHERE SPECIFICATIONS ARE GENERAL OR NOT CALLED OUT, THE SPECIFICATIONS SHALL CONFORM TO STANDARDS OF INDUSTRY. DRAWINGS ARE FOR USE ON THIS PROJECT ONLY AND ARE NOT INTENDED FOR REUSE.	REVISIONS: 18' TOP SURFACE	POA-2020-00530
			PRELIMINARY NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION	USAGAK, Fort Wainwright South Fork Chena River May 10, 2021 Sheet 3 of 6
			REV DATE	
			DESCRIPTION	



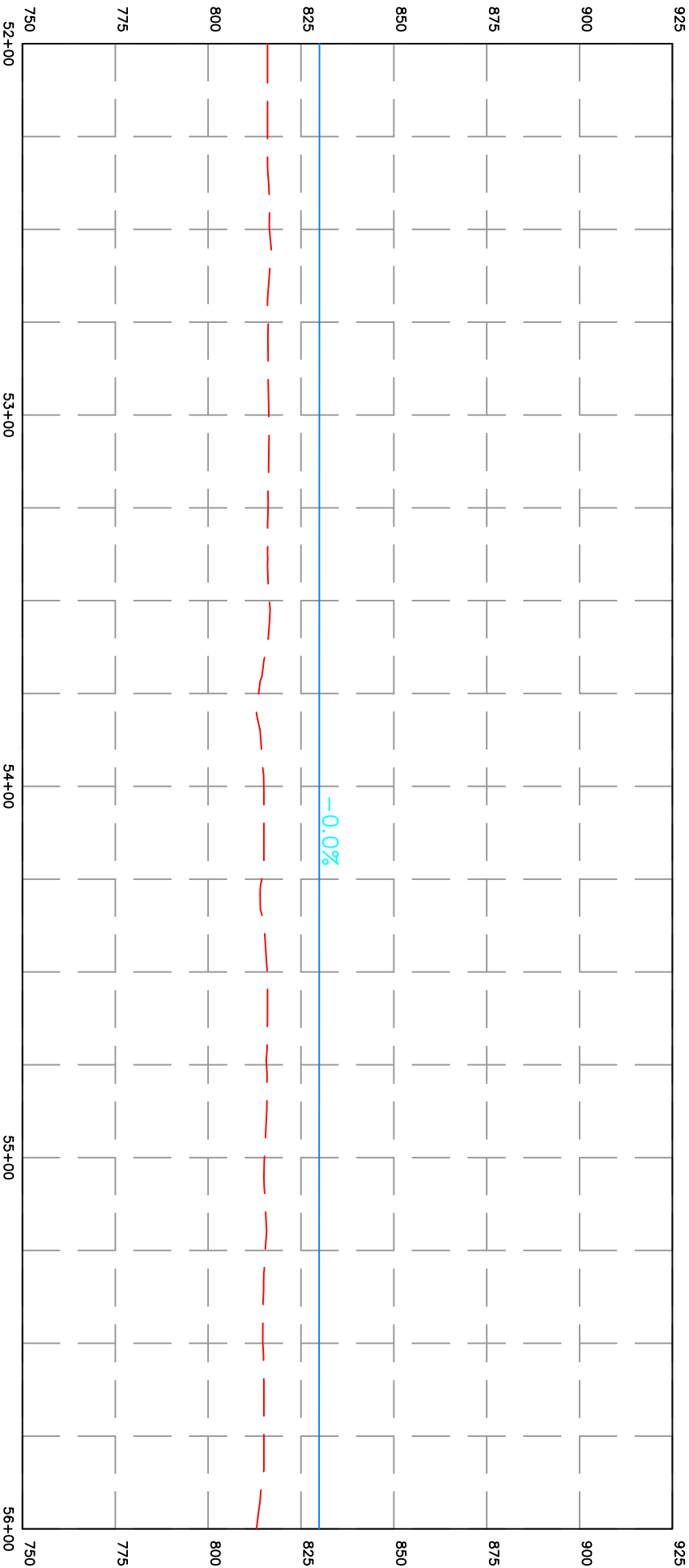
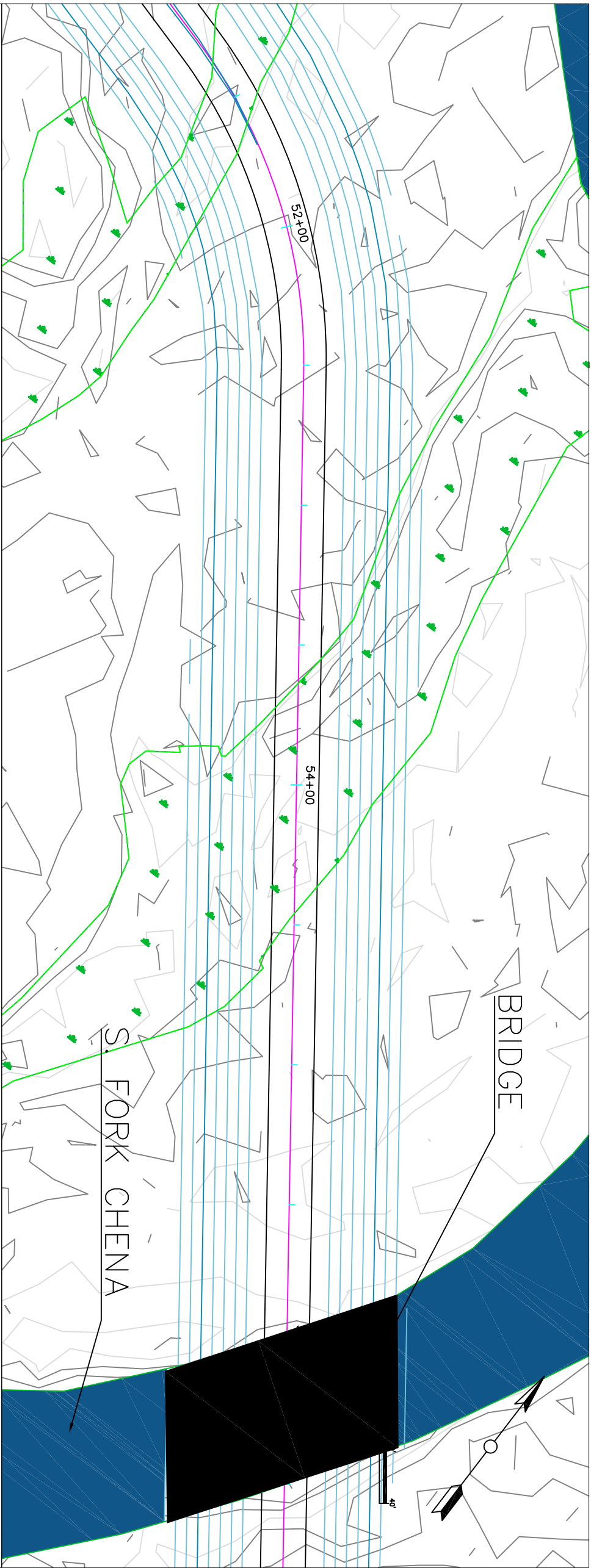
General Notes

Sheet four shows
typical wetland
crossing

No.	Revision/Issue	Date

Print Name and Address

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Sheet 4 of 6



General Notes

Sheet five shows
bridge crossing in
uplands.

No.	Revision/Issue	Date

Print Name and Address

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Sheet 5 of 6

Sheet 6 typical cross section grade changes; fill and borrow locations.

No.	Revision/Issue	Date

Print Name and Address

POA-2020-00530
USAG Alaska, Fort
Wainwright
May 10, 2020
Sheet 6 of 6

