



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

FAIRBANKS FIELD OFFICE
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
P.O. Box 35066
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	October 3, 2022
EXPIRATION DATE:	November 2, 2022
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2010-00362
WATERWAY:	Tanana 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 as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this Public Notice 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 Public Notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Tiffany Kwakwa at (907) 201-5458, or by email at Tiffany.D.Kwakwa@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Tim Sponseller, Fort Wainwright Directorate of Public Works, 1046 Marks Road, Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703

AGENT: Dan Rees, Fort Wainwright Directorate of Public Works – Environmental Division, 1046 Marks Road, Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703

LOCATION: The project site is located within Sections 19-20, 24, and 25, T. 1 S., R. 1 E., Fairbanks Meridian; USGS Quad Map Fairbanks D-2; Latitude 64.809841° N., Longitude 147.596619° W.; Small Arms Complex, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: The project is located within Fort Wainwright's Small Arms Complex.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose for the Small Arms Complex (SAC) Expansion project is to expand training options to troops and allow for use by more units. The Grenade Launcher Range would expand training options for army troops; the current Hand Grenade Familiarization Range is located within the footprint of the proposed expansion of the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG Range), necessitating relocation; the Anti-Tank Range needs to be expanded to meet TC 25-8 (Training Ranges) design standards; the MPMG Range expansion would allow for use by more than one unit and ease scheduling conflicts; the SAC gravel pit would be expanded to provide gravel for the expansion projects; and utility trenching is needed to install cables that would provide power and communications to the range support buildings.

PROPOSED WORK: The U.S. Army Garrison Alaska proposes to expand the SAC over the next 10 years. Approximately 993,000 cubic yards of clean aggregate would be permanently discharged into approximately 20.7 acres of wetlands. In addition, temporary fill would be discharged into approximately 1.0 acre of wetlands while installing conduit for underground electric and communications lines. Staging for construction would not occur in wetlands. Five specific range construction projects have been identified that would require placement of fill in Waters of the US – the Grenade Launcher Range, the Hand Grenade Familiarization Range Relocation, the Anti-Tank Range, the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range, and Gravel Pit Expansion – plus associated utility trenching.

Grenade Launcher Range (GLR): Clean gravel fill would be discharged in approximately 1.8 acres of wetlands for the construction of the GLR (Sheets 2 and 8). The proposed GLR has two components: the grenade launcher range, and the Range Operations and Control Area (ROCA). The gravel range will be approximately 1300 feet x 100 feet x 3 feet thick. The gravel ROCA pad will not exceed 225 feet x 80 feet x 3 feet thick. All components will have 2:1 side slopes. Four stations will be located on the range with various bunkers and targets constructed of wood, steel, and sandbags. The ROCA will have a parking area and three enclosed structures on it: A ROC tower (12 feet x 12 feet), mess area (20 feet x 40 feet), and an Ammunition Breakdown Building (12 feet x 10 feet). Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024.

Hand Grenade Familiarization Range (HGR): Clean gravel fill will be discharged in approximately 5.0 acres of wetlands for the construction of the HGR (Sheets 3 and 9). The project will consist of a gravel access road and two gravel pads: the range and the Range Operations and Control Area (ROCA). The range will be approximately 725 feet x 200 feet on top of the pad and 737 feet x 212 feet at the base. The pad will consist of four lanes separated by five 164-foot-long x 7.5-foot-high earthen, protective berms. The volume of fill for each berm will total approximately 4,000 cubic yards each. The lanes between each berm will be covered with an 8-inch layer of sand. Geotextile will be installed on top of compacted aggregate under the earthen berms and all other structures on the HGR. Four 9-foot-wide x 9-foot-tall x 5-foot-tall precast concrete throwing pits will also be installed on the range.

The ROCA pad will be approximately 225 feet x 80 feet at the top and 231 feet x 86 feet at the base. The pad will house the following enclosed structures: enclosed heated mess area, heated ammunition breakdown building (ABB), and precast vaulted latrine, as well as room for parking vehicles and equipment.

A gravel road wide enough for two vehicles approximately 100 feet long will connect the existing Range Road and the proposed ROCA pad. One 40-foot long and 18-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe culvert would be installed beneath this road (Sheet 10). The culvert would have an 8-foot by 10-foot rock apron at both the inlet and outlet; the culvert and apron are proposed to be placed in uplands. The road will be approximately 3 feet high with 2:1 side slopes, 24 feet wide at the top, and 36 feet wide at the base.

A 500-foot-long gravel road wide enough for one vehicle will provide access between the ROCA pad and the HGR pad. The road will be approximately 3 feet high with 2:1 side slopes, 12 feet wide at the top, and 24 feet wide at the base.

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2023.

Anti-Tank Range: The existing Anti-Tank Range gravel pad will be expanded to the south and east (Sheets 4 and 11). The pad will be expanded by approximately 12 acres, with fill discharged in approximately 11.1 acres of wetlands. The gravel pad will be approximately 3 feet thick with 2:1 side slopes. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2025.

Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG Range): The existing MPMG Range will be expanded to the east and current target berms will be replaced with longer, updated berms (Sheets 5 and 12) resulting in the discharge of fill into approximately 2.2 acres of wetlands. Twelve new gravel target berms will be constructed ranging from approximately 1000 feet to 3000 feet long. Berms will be 12 feet wide at the top and 36 feet wide at the base. Up to three 40 feet x 50 feet target mounds will be constructed adjacent to each berm. In addition, a gravel pad for a new ROCA, sited entirely in uplands, will be constructed and contain seven enclosed buildings: range control tower, operations/storage building, classroom building, bleacher enclosure, ammunition breakdown building, aerated vault latrine, and covered mess building. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2025.

Gravel Pit: The Gravel Pit will be expanded to the south by approximately 650 feet to source fill material for the range expansion projects (Sheet 6). The excavation will impact approximately 0.5 acres of wetlands. Excavation is anticipated to begin in 2023.

Utility Trenching: 2,700 linear feet of utility cable will be installed underground. The area of disturbance would consist of trenching or ditch witching to create a 1-foot-wide trench to bury conduit containing electrical and/or communications cables (Sheet 7). Trenching may result in sidecast and up to 1.0 acres of temporary wetland impacts. Disturbed areas would be filled with native material generated during disturbance and restored to original grade where necessary and all sidecast would be removed from wetlands upon completion of the project.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-12), dated September 6, 2022. Range expansions are scheduled to begin May 1, 2023, and projects would be constructed in phases as funding becomes available. Anticipated completion is May 1, 2033.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Fairbanks North Star Borough Floodplain Permit

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

a. Avoidance: The applicant states that avoidance of impacts to waters of the US is not practicable. Approximately 65% of the SAC is wetlands and all larger tracts of uplands are occupied by existing ranges. Building new ranges off the SAC is not financially nor logistically practicable due to the existing location and infrastructure. The SAC is strategically located close to Fort Wainwright's Main Post and removed from residential areas. Proximity to Main Post eases burdens associated with transporting troops, equipment, and personnel. In addition, the SAC is sited on a large tract of undeveloped land, which allows for adequate spacing, both between and down range, for surface danger zones. Siting ranges within the existing SAC minimizes impacts by using existing infrastructure.

b. Minimization: The applicant states that the following best management practices would be used to minimize adverse impacts to surrounding wetlands

- Appropriately sized culverts (corrugated metal pipe) will be installed, where deemed necessary, to maintain connectivity 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.
- Upon completion, side slopes will be seeded with certified weed-free native grasses to prevent erosion and discharge of sediments into adjacent wetlands.
- Equipment will be cleaned and inspected before entering the area to ensure invasive weed species are not introduced during construction.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant is proposing to purchase 12.3 compensatory mitigation credits through a mitigation bank

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 United States Army Garrison Alaska (USAG Alaska), is responsible for compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Corps has reviewed the Section 106 documentation from USAG Alaska and concurs with their findings and/or determinations.

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

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

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 NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

No EFH species are known to use the project area.

We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) 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 public notice 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 United States – 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).

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps

Enclosures

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470000

480000

Small Arms Complex Range Expansion

Fort Wainwright



DPW Environmental
USAG Alaska
DPW Bldg 3023



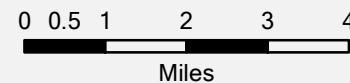
Map Features

Data Source: USGS EROS

-  Project Area
-  Forest
-  Open Woodland
-  Scrub
-  Water
-  Installation Boundary

UTM Zone 6N
WGS84 - Meters
Grid Scale:
10,000 Meters

N



Scale 1:150,000

Lat.: 64.805637
Long.: -147.625881

Last Updated: 9/6/2022

Project: SAC Range Expansion
Applicant: US Army Fort Wainwright
File No.: POA-2010-00362
Proposed Activity: Gravel Pad, Berm,
and Access Road Construction
Vicinity View

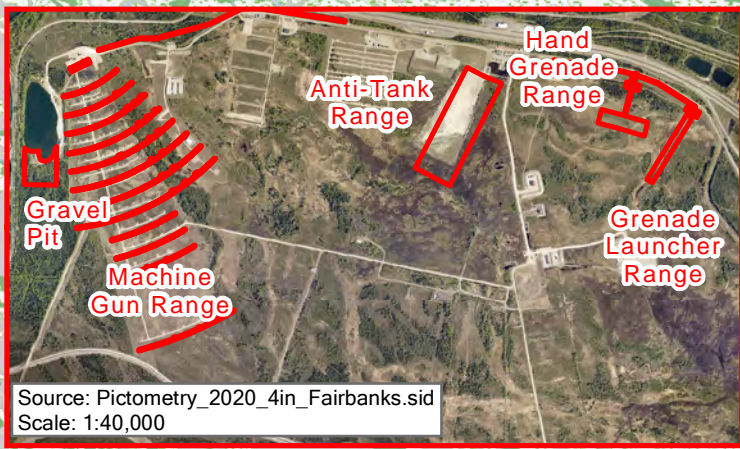
Map Sheet 1 of 12

FAIRBANKS

FORT
WAINWRIGHT

Tanana River

TANANA FLATS
TRAINING AREA



Source: Pictometry_2020_4in_Fairbanks.sid
Scale: 1:40,000

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470000

480000

7190000

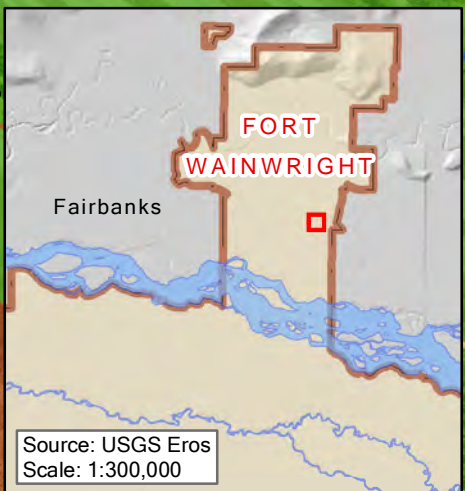
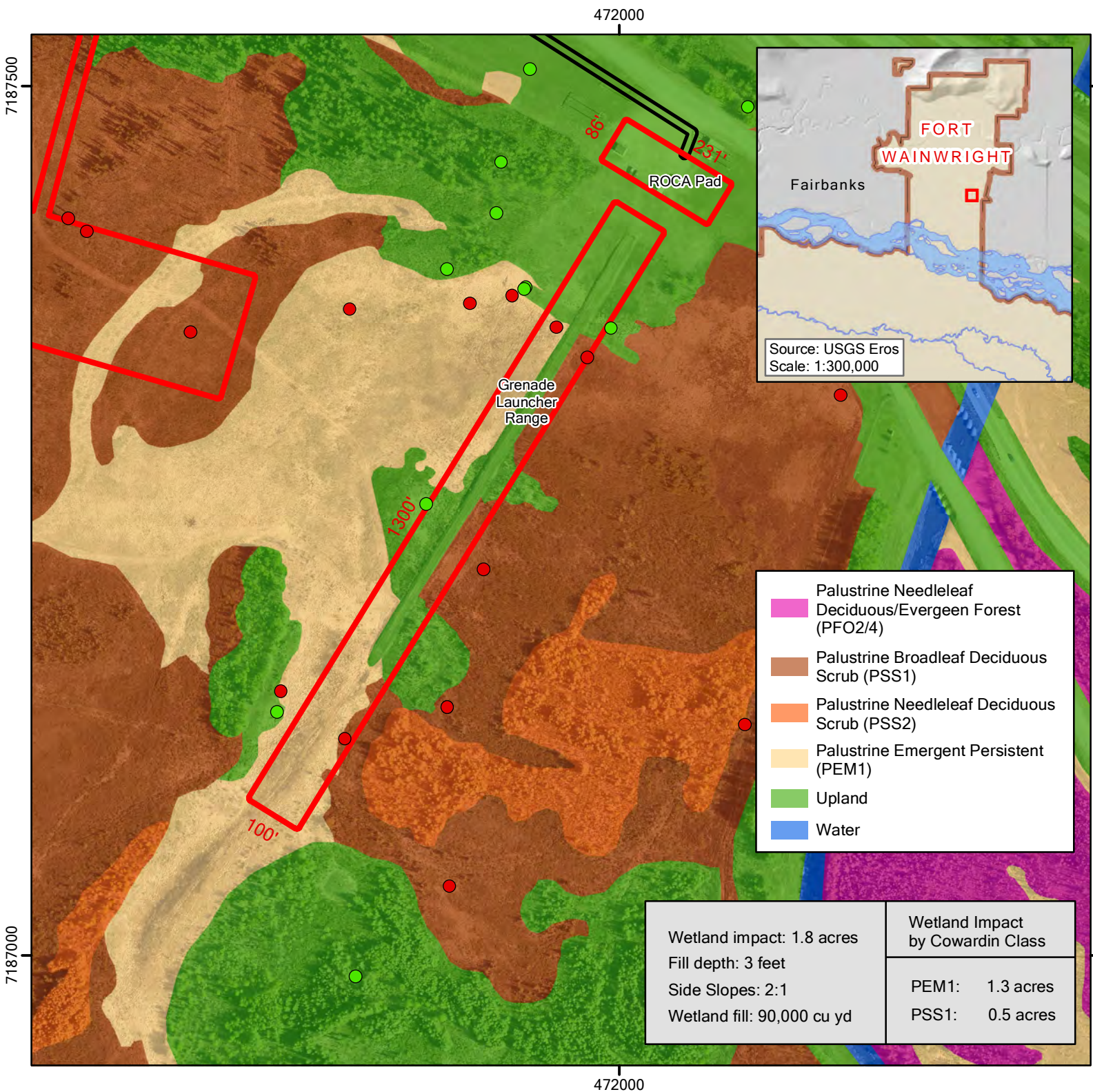
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- Palustrine Needleleaf Deciduous/Evergreen Forest (PFO2/4)
- Palustrine Broadleaf Deciduous Scrub (PSS1)
- Palustrine Needleleaf Deciduous Scrub (PSS2)
- Palustrine Emergent Persistent (PEM1)
- Upland
- Water

Wetland impact: 1.8 acres Fill depth: 3 feet Side Slopes: 2:1 Wetland fill: 90,000 cu yd	Wetland Impact by Cowardin Class
	PEM1: 1.3 acres PSS1: 0.5 acres

Small Arms Complex Range Expansion - Grenade Launcher Range

Fort Wainwright

DPW Environmental
USAG Alaska
DPW Bldg 3023



- Map Features**
- Data Source:
Pictometry_2020_4in_Fairbanks.sid
- Trenching
 - Project Area
 - Installation Boundary
 - Water
 - Upland survey
 - Wetland survey

UTM Zone 6N
WGS84 - Meters
Grid Scale:
500 Meters

0 0.025 0.05 0.075
Miles
Scale 1:3,000

Lat.: 64.805637
Long.: -147.625881

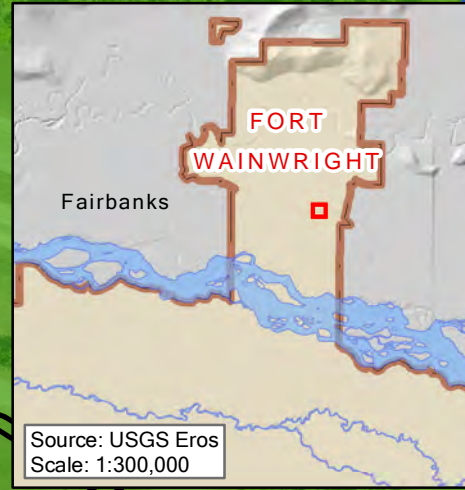
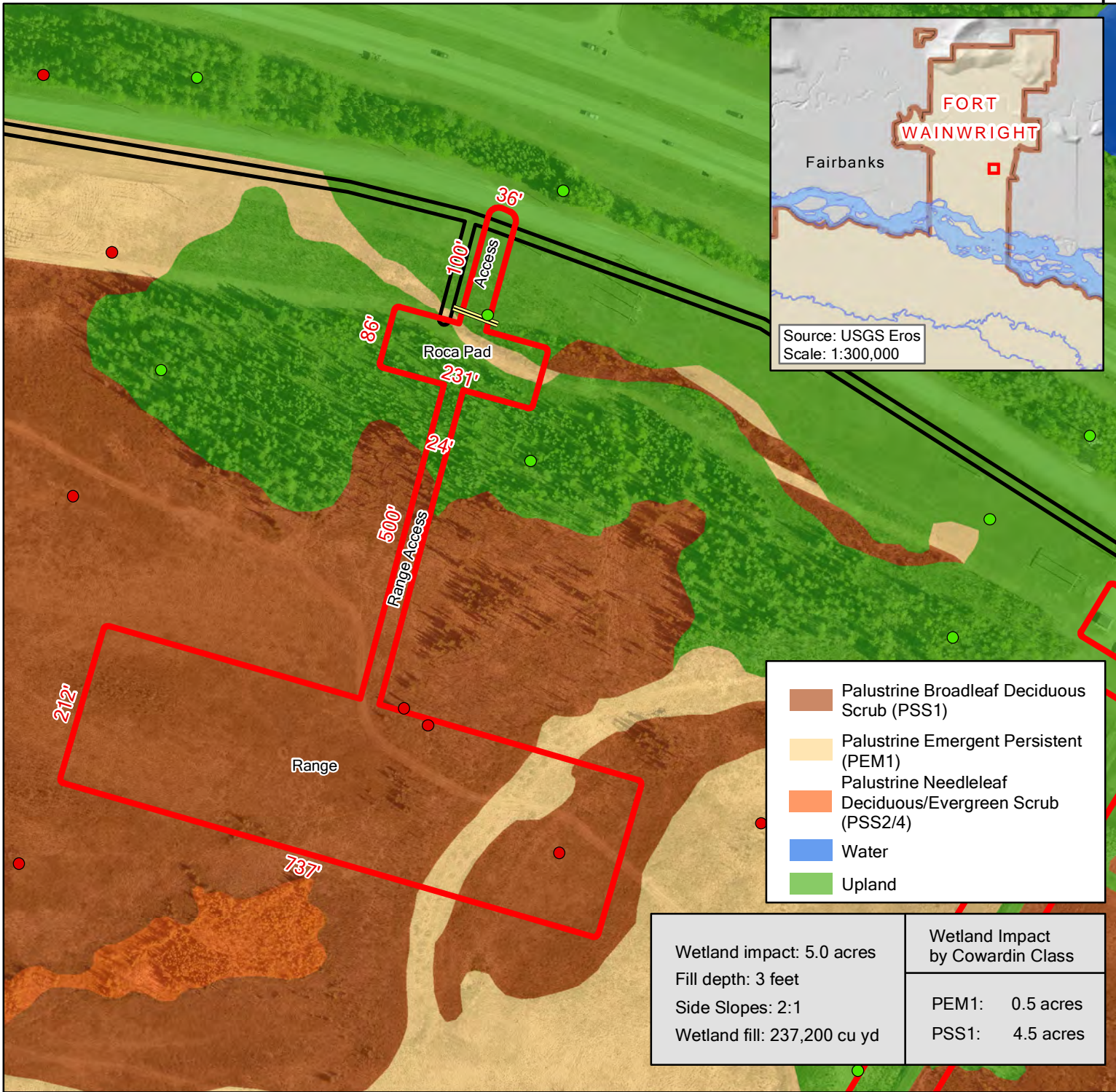
Last Updated: 9/6/2022



Project: SAC Range Expansion
Applicant: US Army Fort Wainwright
File No.: POA-2010-00362
Proposed Activity: Gravel Pad, Berm, and Access Road Construction
Plan View

Map Sheet 2 of 12

472000



Small Arms Complex
Range Expansion -
Hand Grenade Range

Fort Wainwright

DPW Environmental
USAG Alaska
DPW Bldg 3023

Map Features

Data Source:
Pictometry_2020_4in_Fairbanks.sid

- Trenching
- Project Area
- Installation Boundary
- 18" Culvert
- Water
- Upland survey
- Wetland survey

- Palustrine Broadleaf Deciduous Scrub (PSS1)
- Palustrine Emergent Persistent (PEM1)
- Palustrine Needleleaf Deciduous/Evergreen Scrub (PSS2/4)
- Water
- Upland

UTM Zone 6N
WGS84 - Meters
Grid Scale:
500 Meters

Miles
Scale 1:2,500

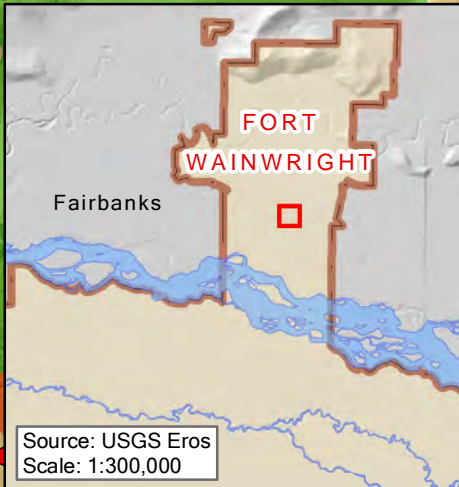
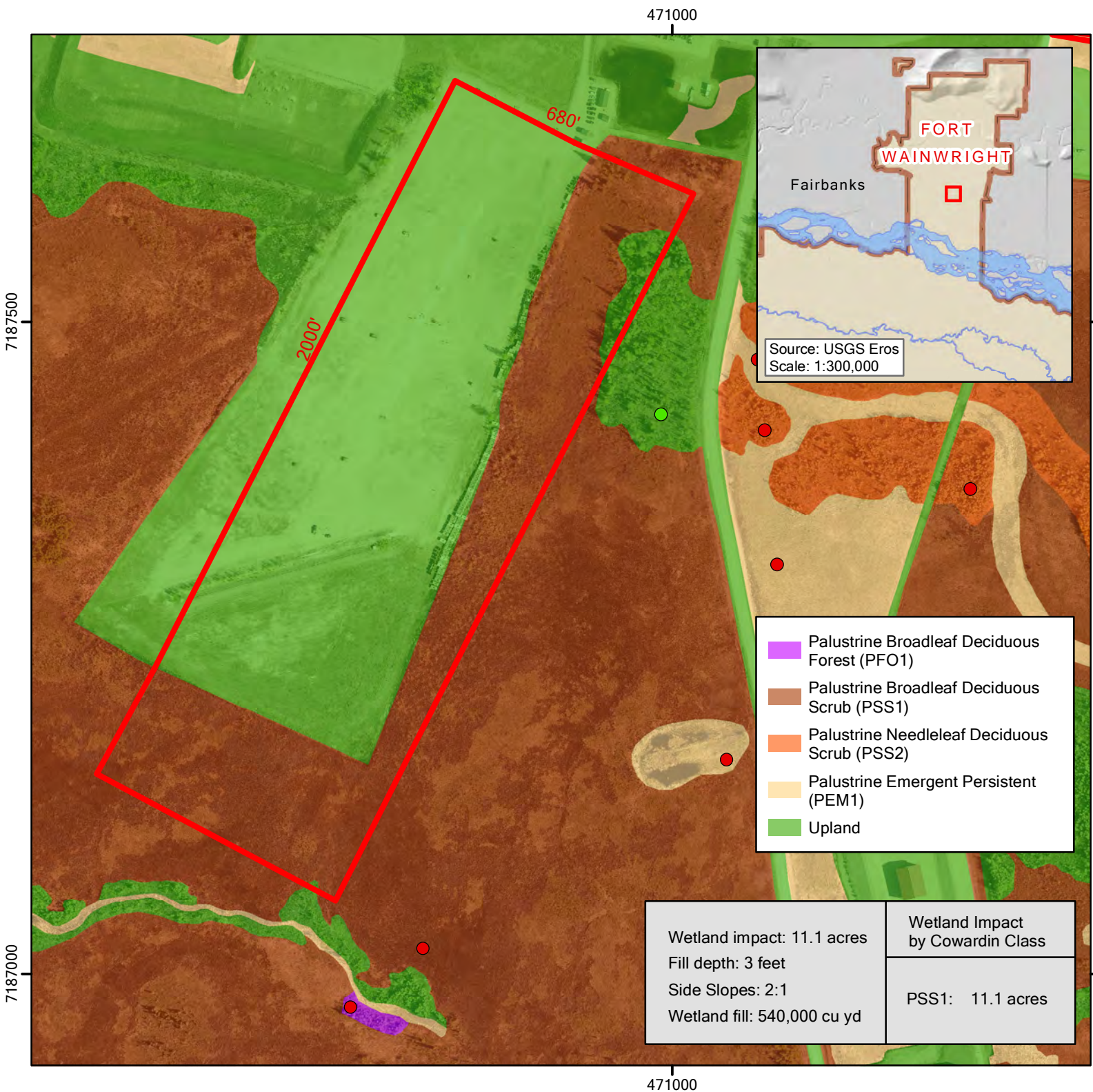
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Long.: -147.625881

Last Updated: 9/6/2022

Wetland impact: 5.0 acres Fill depth: 3 feet Side Slopes: 2:1 Wetland fill: 237,200 cu yd	Wetland Impact by Cowardin Class
	PEM1: 0.5 acres PSS1: 4.5 acres

Project: SAC Range Expansion
Applicant: US Army Fort Wainwright
File No.: POA-2010-00362
Proposed Activity: Gravel Pad, Berm, Trench, & Access Road Construction
Plan View

472000



Small Arms Complex
Range Expansion -
Anti-Tank Range

Fort Wainwright

DPW Environmental
USAG Alaska
DPW Bldg 3023



Map Features

Data Source:
Pictometry_2020_4in_Fairbanks.sid

- Project Area
- Installation Boundary
- Water
- Upland survey
- Wetland survey

- Palustrine Broadleaf Deciduous Forest (PFO1)
- Palustrine Broadleaf Deciduous Scrub (PSS1)
- Palustrine Needleleaf Deciduous Scrub (PSS2)
- Palustrine Emergent Persistent (PEM1)
- Upland

UTM Zone 6N
WGS84 - Meters
Grid Scale:
500 Meters

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Miles
Scale 1:4,000



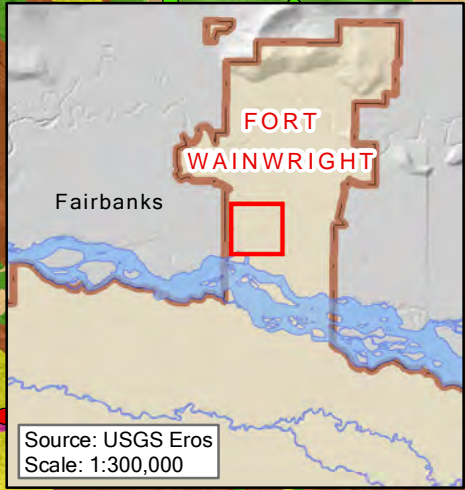
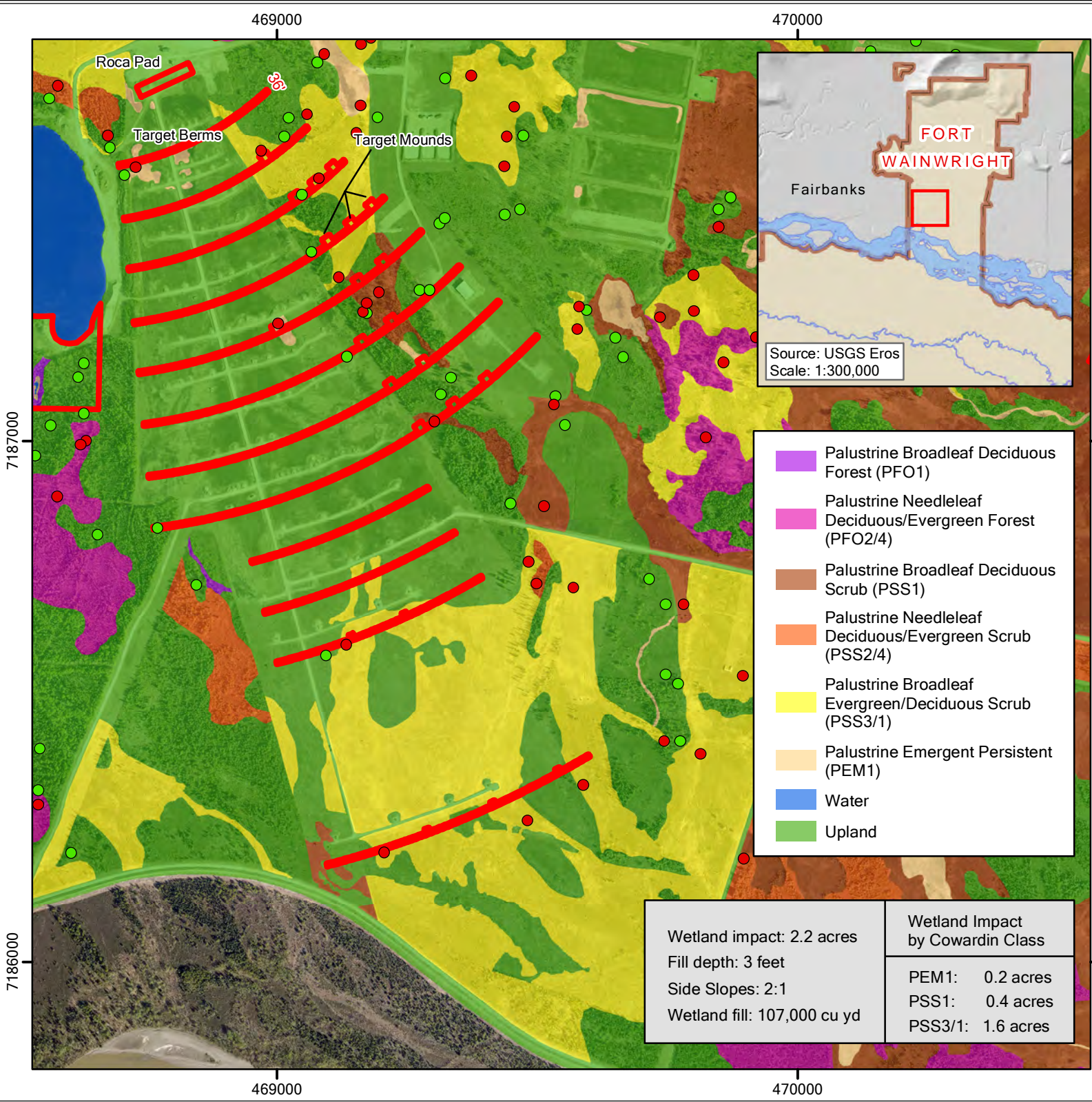
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Long.: -147.625881

Last Updated: 9/6/2022

Wetland impact: 11.1 acres Fill depth: 3 feet Side Slopes: 2:1 Wetland fill: 540,000 cu yd	Wetland Impact by Cowardin Class
	PSS1: 11.1 acres

Project: SAC Range Expansion
Applicant: US Army Fort Wainwright
File No.: POA-2010-00362
Proposed Activity: Gravel Pad, Berm, Trench, & Access Road Construction Plan View

Map Sheet 4 of 12



- Palustrine Broadleaf Deciduous Forest (PFO1)
- Palustrine Needleleaf Deciduous/Evergreen Forest (PFO2/4)
- Palustrine Broadleaf Deciduous Scrub (PSS1)
- Palustrine Needleleaf Deciduous/Evergreen Scrub (PSS2/4)
- Palustrine Broadleaf Evergreen/Deciduous Scrub (PSS3/1)
- Palustrine Emergent Persistent (PEM1)
- Water
- Upland

Wetland impact: 2.2 acres	Wetland Impact by Cowardin Class
Fill depth: 3 feet	
Side Slopes: 2:1	
Wetland fill: 107,000 cu yd	
	PEM1: 0.2 acres
	PSS1: 0.4 acres
	PSS3/1: 1.6 acres

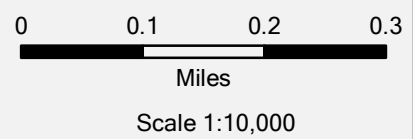
Small Arms Complex
Range Expansion -
Machine Gun Range
Fort Wainwright

DPW Environmental
USAG Alaska
DPW Bldg 3023

Map Features
Data Source:
Pictometry_2020_4in_Fairbanks.sid

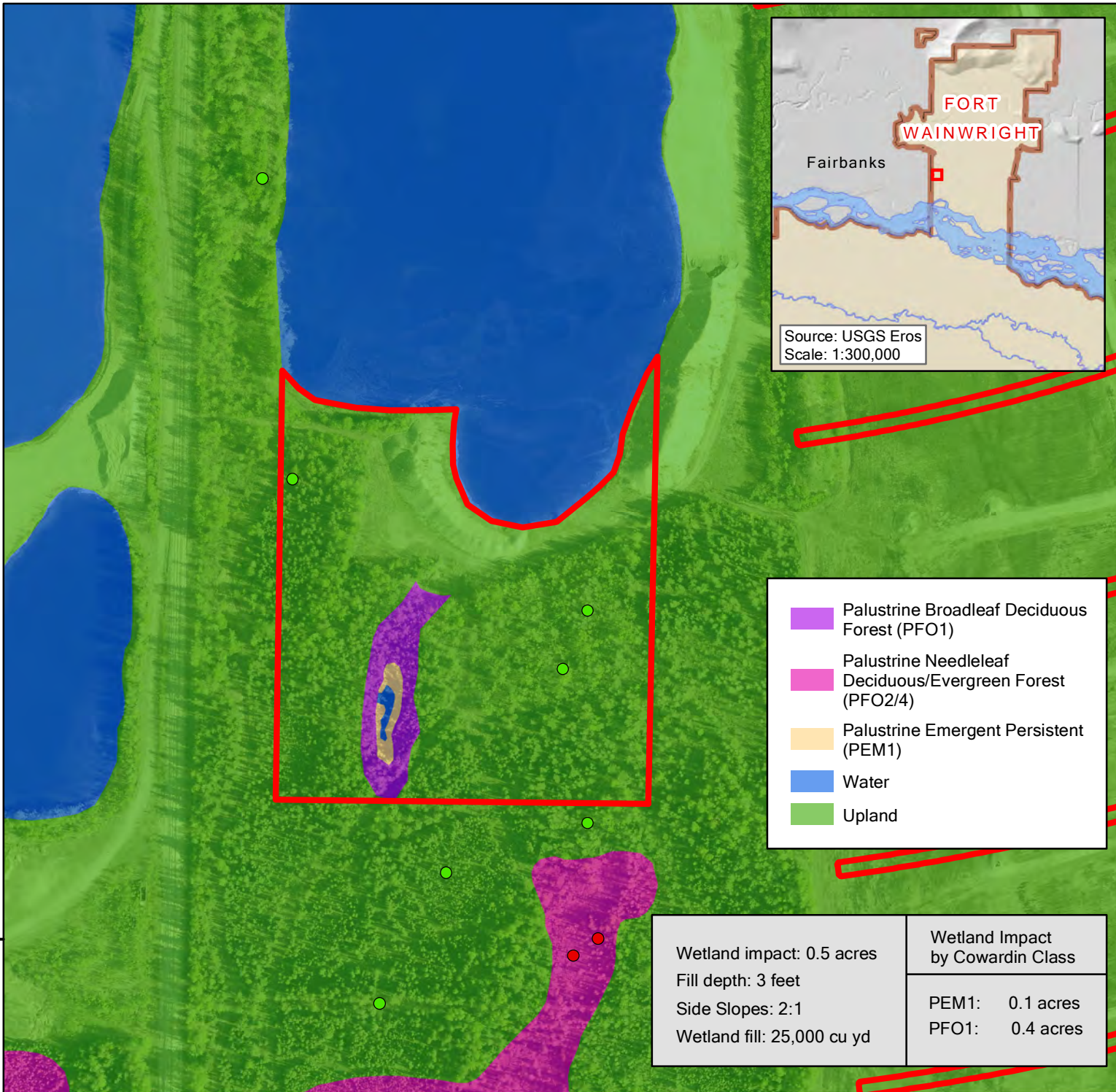
- Project Area
- Installation Boundary
- Water
- Upland survey
- Wetland survey

UTM Zone 6N
WGS84 - Meters
Grid Scale:
500 Meters



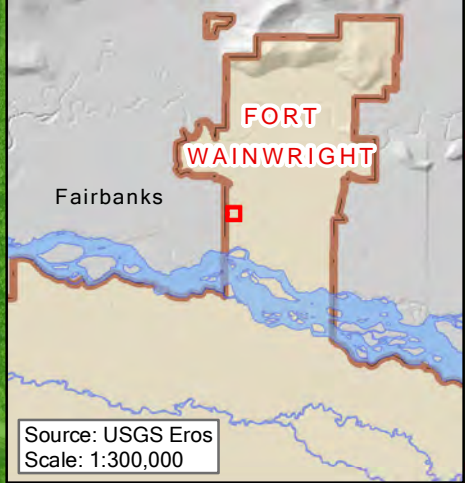
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Project: SAC Range Expansion
Applicant: US Army Fort Wainwright
File No.: POA-2010-00362
Proposed Activity: Gravel Pad, Berm,
and Access Road Construction
Plan View



Palustrine Broadleaf Deciduous Forest (PFO1)
 Palustrine Needleleaf Deciduous/Evergreen Forest (PFO2/4)
 Palustrine Emergent Persistent (PEM1)
 Water
 Upland

Wetland impact: 0.5 acres	Wetland Impact by Cowardin Class	
Fill depth: 3 feet	PEM1:	0.1 acres
Side Slopes: 2:1	PFO1:	0.4 acres
Wetland fill: 25,000 cu yd		



Small Arms Complex Range Expansion - Gravel Pit

Fort Wainwright



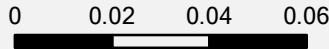
DPW Environmental
USAG Alaska
DPW Bldg 3023

Map Features

Data Source:
Pictometry_2020_4in_Fairbanks.sid

- Project Area
- Installation Boundary
- Water
- Upland survey
- Wetland survey

UTM Zone 6N
WGS84 - Meters
Grid Scale:
500 Meters



Scale 1:2,500

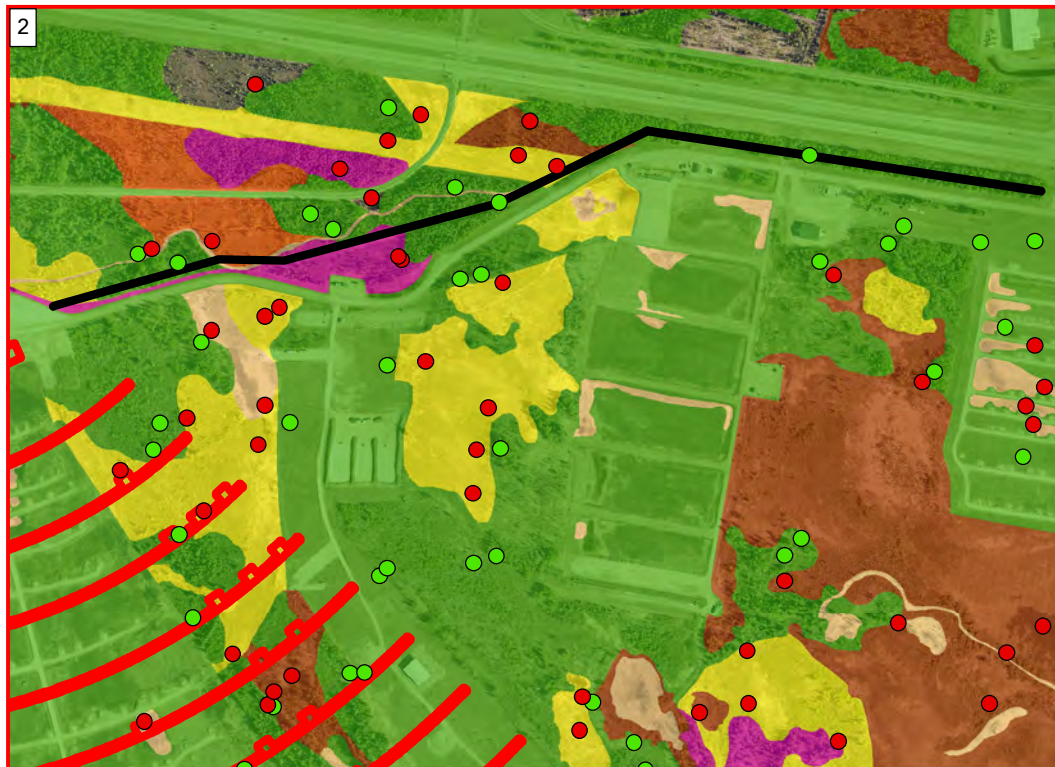
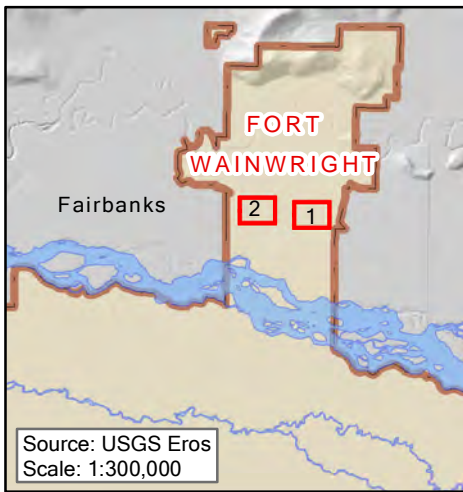
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Project: SAC Range Expansion
Applicant: US Army Fort Wainwright
File No.: POA-2010-00362
Proposed Activity: Gravel Pad, Berm, Trench, & Access Road Construction Plan View

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- Palustrine Broadleaf Deciduous Forest (PFO1)
- Palustrine Needleleaf Deciduous/Evergreen Forest (PFO2/4)
- Palustrine Broadleaf Deciduous Scrub (PSS1)
- Palustrine Needleleaf Deciduous/Evergreen Scrub (PSS2/4)
- Palustrine Broadleaf Evergreen/Deciduous Scrub (PSS3/1)
- Palustrine Emergent Persistent (PEM1)
- Water
- Upland

Wetland Impact (acres) by Cowardin Class			
PSS1:	0.06	PEM1:	0.47
PSS3/1:	0.15	PFO2/4:	0.23
PSS2/4:	0.07		

Wetland impact: 1 acre
 Length of conduit: 2,700 feet
 Width of trench: 1 foot
 Wetland fill: temporary

Small Arms Complex
 Range Expansion -
 Trenches

Fort Wainwright

DPW Environmental
 USAG Alaska
 DPW Bldg 3023

Map Features

Data Source:
 Pictometry_2020_4in_Fairbanks.sid

- Trenching
- Project Area
- Installation Boundary
- Water
- Upland survey
- Wetland survey

UTM Zone 6N
 WGS84 - Meters
 Grid Scale:
 500 Meters

0 0.09 0.18 0.27
 Miles

Scale 1:10,000

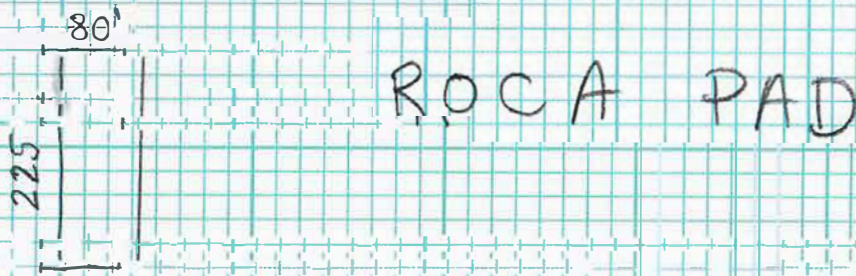
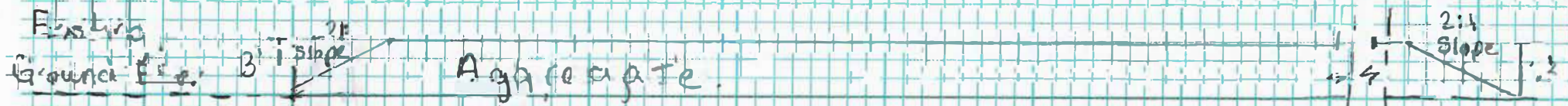
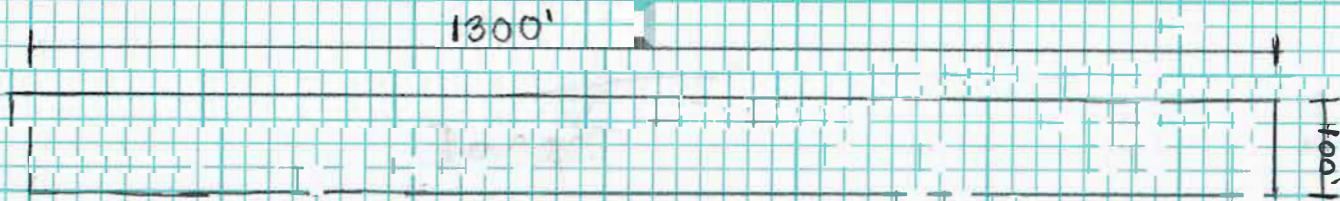
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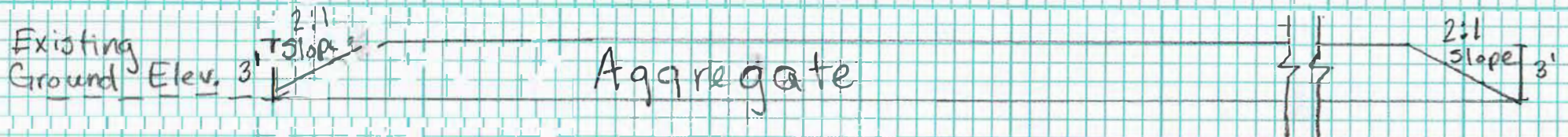
Project: SAC Range Expansion
 Applicant: US Army Fort Wainwright
 File No.: POA-2010-00362
 Proposed Activity: Gravel Pad, Berm,
 Trench, & Access Road Construction
 Plan View

Map Sheet 7 of 12

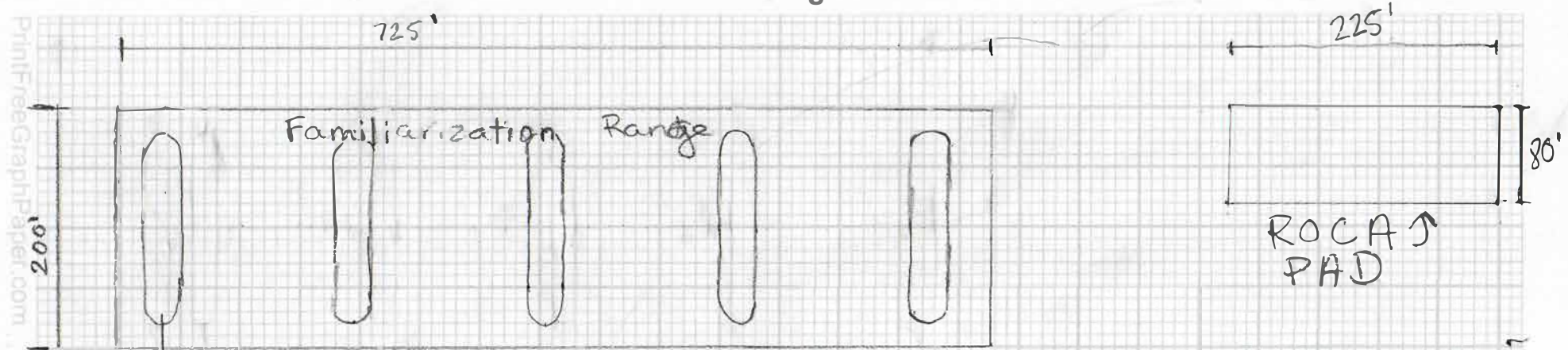
Grenade Launcher Range



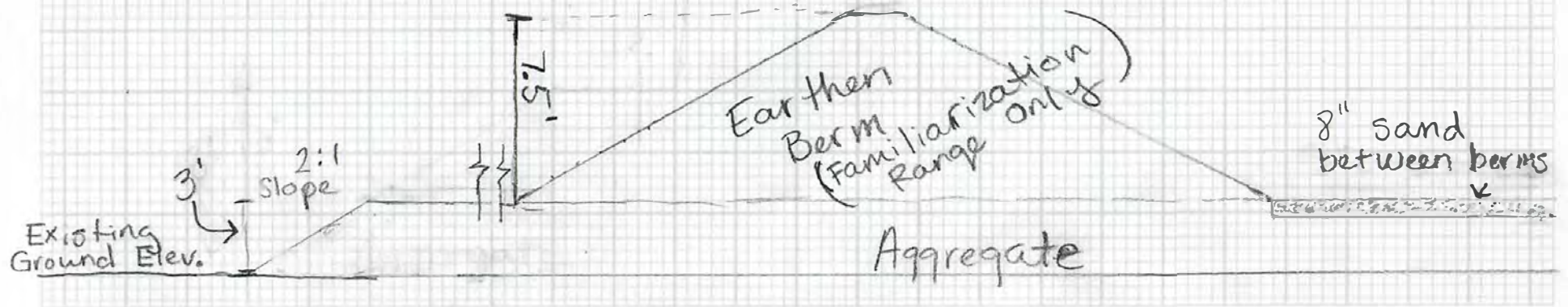
Project: Small Arms Complex Range Expansion
Applicant: US Army Fort Wainwright
File No.: POA-2010-00362
Proposed Activity: Grenade Launcher Range
Sheet 8 of 12



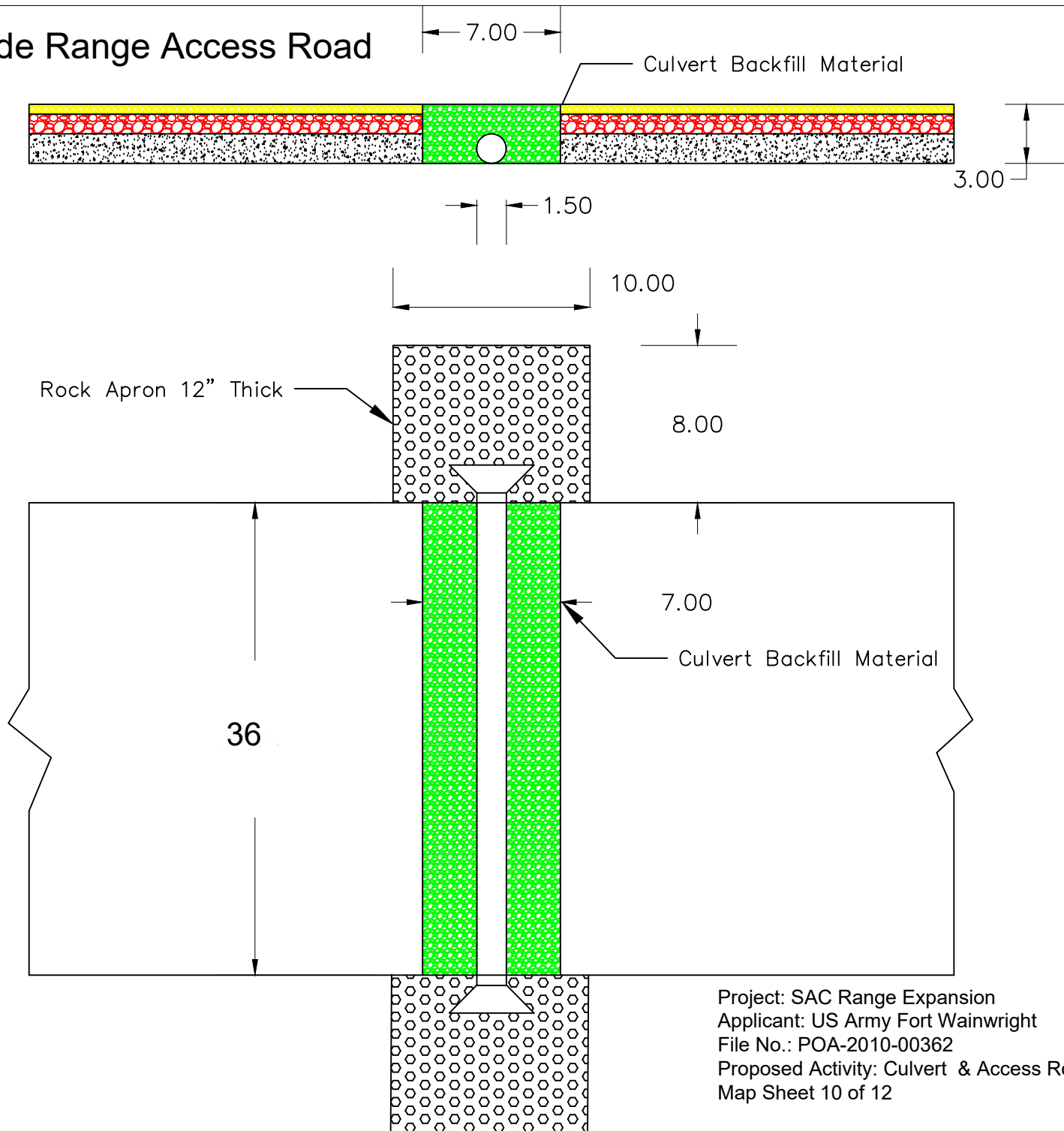
Hand Grenade Familiarization Range Earthen Berm Cross Section



Project: Small Arms Complex Range Expansion
Applicant: US Army Fort Wainwright
File No.: POA-2010-00362
Proposed Activity: Hand Grenade Range & Berm Construction
Map Sheet 9 of 12



Hand Grenade Range Access Road & Culvert

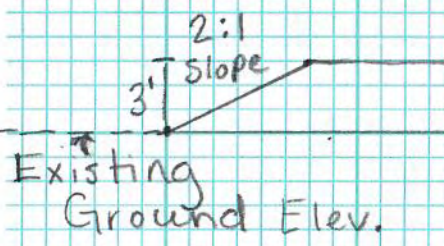
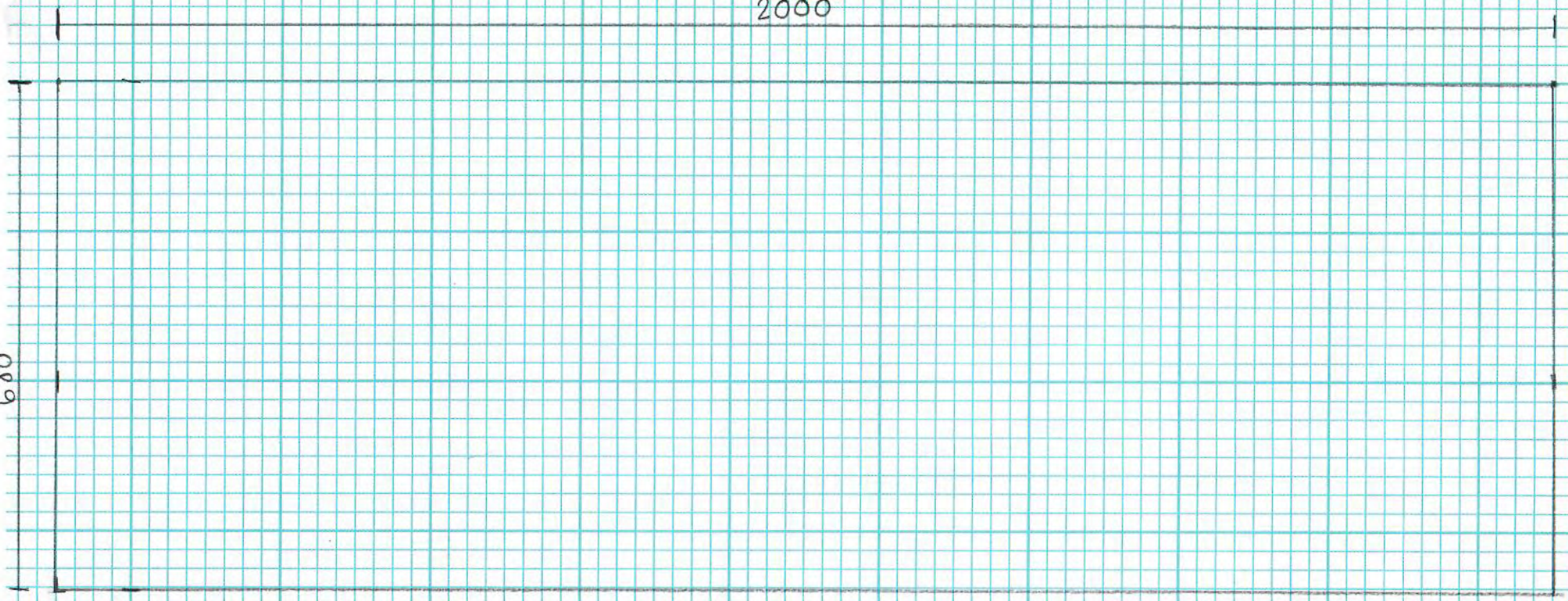


Project: SAC Range Expansion
Applicant: US Army Fort Wainwright
File No.: POA-2010-00362
Proposed Activity: Culvert & Access Road Construction
Map Sheet 10 of 12

Anti-Tank Range

2000'

680'



Aggregate

Project: SAC Range Expansion
Applicant: US Army Fort Wainwright
File No.: POA-2010-00362
Proposed Activity: Anti-Tank Range Construction
Map Sheet 11 of 12



Machine Gun Range

