

Information for File # 2015-02993-ARC

Applicant St. Louis-Lake Counties Regional Rail Authority

Corps Contact Andrew R. Chambers

Address 600 South Lake Avenue, Suite 211, Duluth, MN 55802

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Phone 218-720-5291

Primary County St. Louis County

Section 15, 22, 23 24, 26 3, 4, 8, 9, 17, 18

Township 62N 62N

Range 14W 13W

Information Complete On **January 19, 2016**

Posting Expires On **February 14, 2016**

Authorization Type LOP-05-MN

This application is being reviewed in accordance with current practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are subject to Corps of Engineers jurisdiction under Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. If an approved jurisdictional determination is completed as part of the review process for this application, a copy will be posted on the St. Paul District web page at the following link:
<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

Project:

St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Rail Authority is proposing to construct two additional segments of the Mesabi Trail, the western portion in Eagles Nest Township and the eastern portion in Morse Township in St. Louis County. This work is another step in completing the proposed 145 mile paved trail allowing non-motorized alternative transportation from Grand Rapids to Ely.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE:

The trail would be approximately 8.7 miles long and consist of a 10-foot wide paved surface with 2-foot gravel shoulders and a 255-foot-long by 8-foot-wide floating bridge across a large wetland complex. Typical side slopes of 3:1 (horizontal:vertical) are planned for the alignment and would be vegetated immediately to prevent erosion. Culverts would be placed where necessary to maintain proper drainage along the trail, and would be sized based on the Bureau of Land Management's general sizing chart for culverts.

Clearing and grubbing approximately 10 acres of forested land is planned for the western trail segment during the 2015/2016 winter months (between October and April). The eastern segment will likely be constructed in the summer of 2017 to allow for the 15 acres of tree clearing during the winter of 2016/2017. Tree clearing during the winter was suggested by the applicant to avoid impacts to the Northern long-eared bat.

NAME, AREA AND TYPES OF WATERS (INCLUDING WETLANDS) SUBJECT TO LOSS:

The project would result in permanent impact to 26,582 square feet (0.61 acres) and temporary impact to 20,355 square feet (0.47 acres) of shallow marsh, deep marsh, shrub-carr, wet meadow, and bog wetlands adjacent to Armstrong River. The work for this project would include work area directly adjacent to the 10-foot-wide trail, accounting for the 0.47 acres of temporary wetland impact. The temporarily impacted areas will be restored and seeded to the pre-construction conditions.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

West section northern route was located within the Highway 169 right-of-way and consisted of going through multiple large wetlands, crossing the Armstrong River, extending the existing culverts, and crossing steep terrain and private properties. Due to these circumstances, this alternative was abandoned.

West section middle and southern routes would have needed to impact a significantly higher number of wetlands and crossed very steep and rocky terrain. The middle route utilized an old railroad grade but was now owned almost entirely by private landowners.

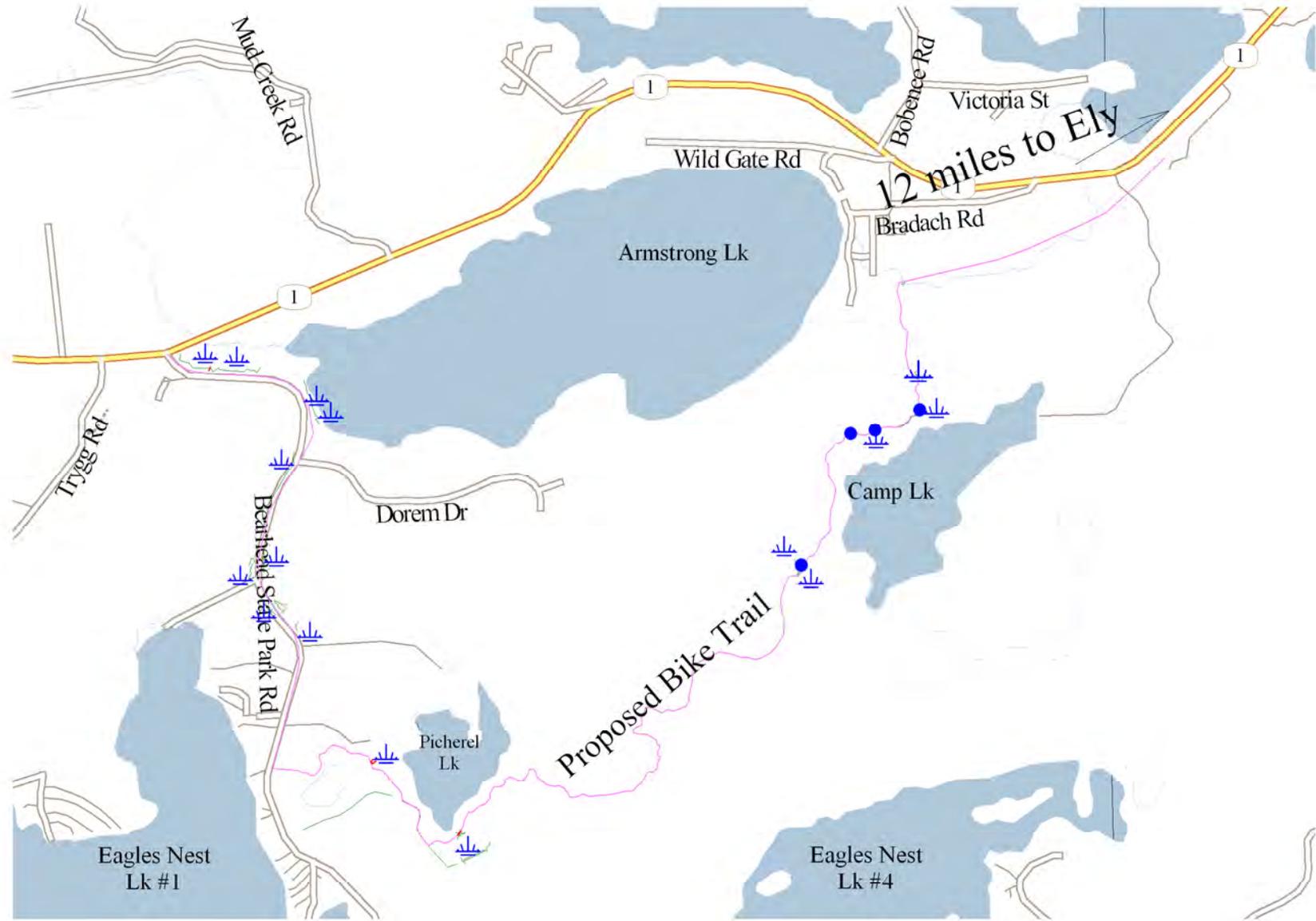
The no build alternative was abandoned due to the economic and social benefits of the Mesabi Trail.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:

Due to the impacts to wetlands exceeding the 10,000 square foot threshold for a >80% county, compensatory mitigation is required to replace the functions lost due to the project described above. The applicant has proposed to purchase compensatory mitigation credits through two mitigation banks in Bank Service area 2. A purchase agreement was made for 0.57 wetland credits consisting of wet meadow, shrub-carr, and wooded swamp wetland types to be debited from a mitigation bank in Koochiching County. A second purchase agreement was made for .04 coniferous bog credits to be debited from a mitigation bank in Lake of the Woods County.

Drawings See attached.

Wetlands along Proposed Bike Trail: Eagles Nest Twp, S13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, T62N, R14W



5000 0 US Feet

Scale = 1 : 2000.00 (In : US Feet)

2015-02993-ARC
Drawing 1 of 7

SPC, NAD 83, 2201



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- CIVIL ENGINEERING
- ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
- LAND SURVEYING
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- MINING
- LAND DATA BASE MAPPING

I hereby certify that this plan, specification or report was prepared by me or under my supervision and that I am a duly licensed PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER under the laws of the State of MINNESOTA

Printed name: _____
 Date: _____ Lic. No. _____

PROJECT NO: RRA14-02
 DATE: OCT 2015
 DRAWN BY: JDS
 CHECKED BY: X

DATE	REVISIONS	DESCRIPTION

REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

BEAR HEAD TO CAMP LAKE ROAD

OVERVIEW

SHEET NO.
1 OF **1**

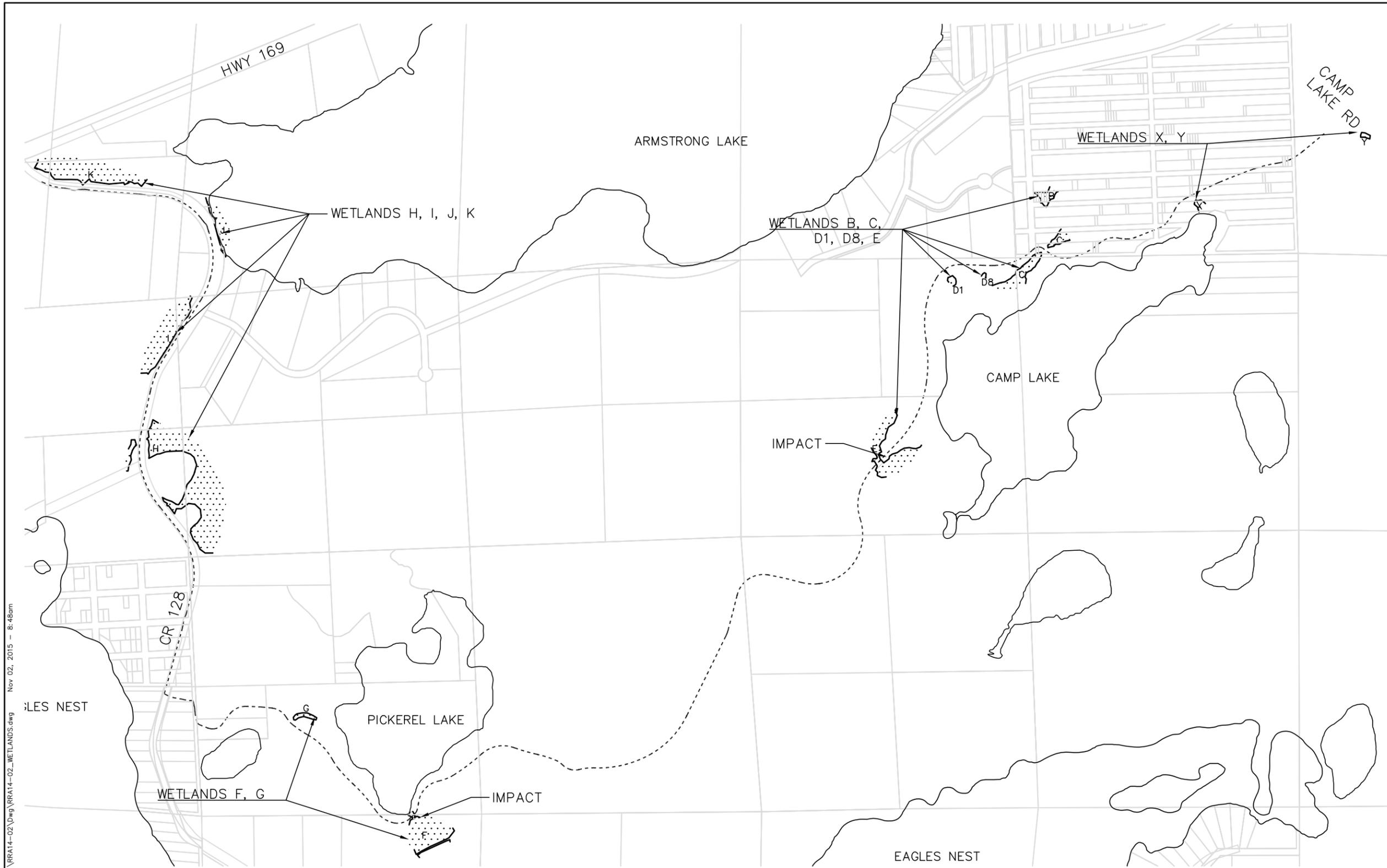


----- TRAIL ALIGNMENT

2015-02993-ARC
Drawing 2 of 7

Plotted By: JeremyS
 L:\RRA14-02\Draw\RR14-02_METLANDS.dwg
 Nov 16, 2015 9:02am

Plotted By: jeremys L:\RRA14-02\Draw\Wetlands\Wetlands.dwg Nov 02, 2015 8:48am



----- TRAIL ALIGNMENT

WETLAND IMPACT SUMMARY
 - WETLAND E: 4,868 SF. FT.
 - WETLAND F: 2,841 SF. FT.
TOTAL IMPACTS: 7,709 SQ. FT. (0.18 AC)

2015-02993-ARC
 Drawing 3 of 7



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REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

BEAR HEAD TO CAMP LAKE ROAD

WETLAND IMPACTS

SHEET NO.
2 OF **3**

Index Map of Wetlands & NWI Map: Bike Trail of Camp Lk Rd to Hwy 169 Underpass



6000 0 US Feet

Scale = 1 : 2000.00 (In : US Feet)

2015-02993-ARC
Drawing 4 of 7

Rev 8-4-2015.

GIS by Tom Fait, SWEC 218-341-1775

Aug 19, 2015 12:20pm
C:\St. Louis County Regional RR Authority\15-130 Mesabi Trail Camp Lake Road\dwg\300\130 ba.dwg



Engineering
Land Surveying
Economic Development

JPJ ENGINEERING, INC
425 Grant Street
P.O. Box 656
Hibbing, MN 55746
Phone: (218) 262-5528
www.jpjeng.com

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2015-02993-ARC
Drawing 5 of 7

MESABI TRAIL - CAMP LAKE RD
TO HWY 169 UNDERPASS
MORSE TOWNSHIP, MINNESOTA

SITE PLAN

REVISION DATE:	DESCRIPTION:

SURVEYED	DRS
DESIGNED	SC
DRAWN	SC
CHECKED	JPJ

I hereby certify that this plan was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly licensed professional Engineer under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

PRELIMINARY

JOHN P. JAMNICK, P.E.

DATE _____ LIC. NO. 19907



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2015-02993-ARC
Drawing 6 of 7

MESABI TRAIL - CAMP LAKE R
TO HWY 169 UNDERPASS
MORSE TOWNSHIP, MINNESOTA

WETLAND IMPACT MAP

REVISION DATE:	DESCRIPTION:

SURVEYED	DRS
DESIGNED	SC
DRAWN	SC
CHECKED	JPJ

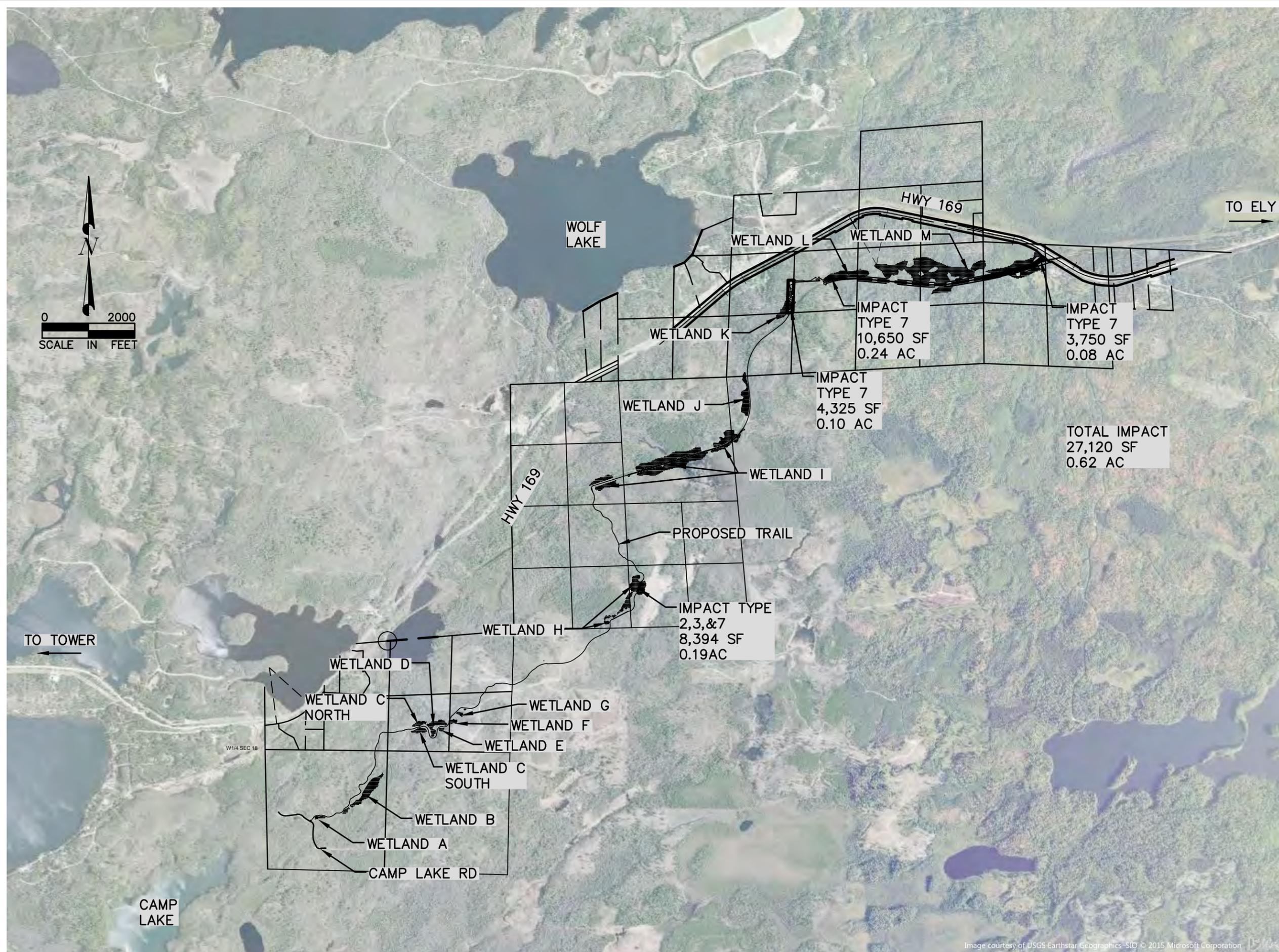
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PRELIMINARY

JOHN P. JAMNICK, P.E.

DATE _____ LIC. NO. 19907

15-130
PROJECT #



Nov 11, 2015 3:12pm
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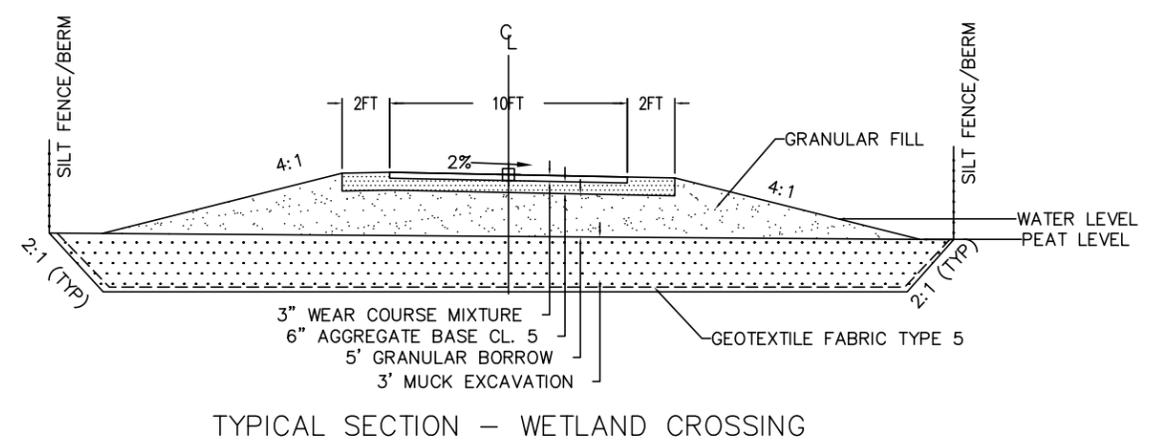
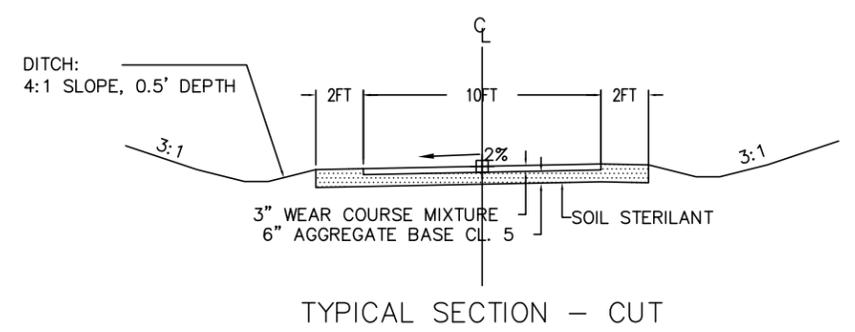
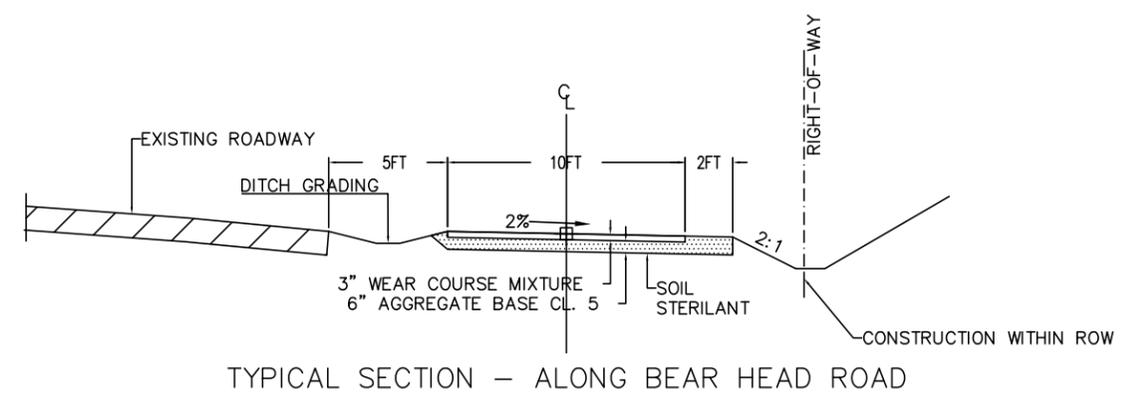
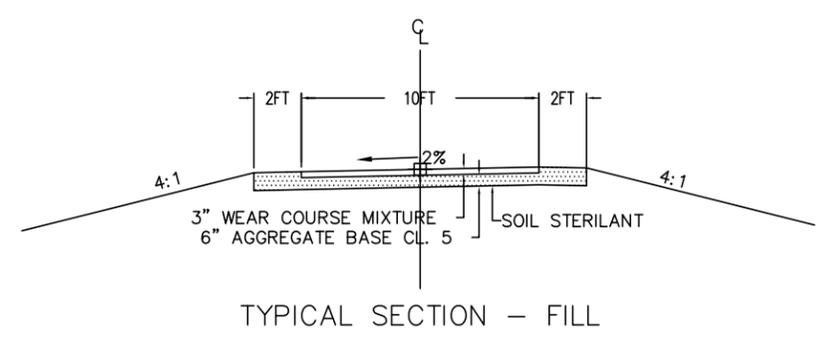
DATE	REVISIONS	DESCRIPTION

REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

BEAR HEAD TO CAMP LAKE ROAD

DESIGN SUMMARY

SHEET NO.
3 OF **3**



Design Details:

- Project will be constructed in accordance with FHWA-Mn/DOT Stewardship Plan including:
- 8820.9995 State Aid Minimum Bicycle Path Standards
 - Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - Mn/DOT Bikeway Facility Design Manual, Mar 07

- Specific design elements include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Path type: two-way, shared-use path
 - Design speed: 20mph
 - Path width: 10ft
 - Path surfacing: bituminous
 - Shoulder width: 2ft
 - Inslope: 1:3 desired, 1:2 max
 - Superelevation: 2%

2015-02993-ARC
Drawing 7 of 7