

Information for File # 2008-02391-WMS

Applicant: Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Corps Contact: Bill Sande

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Primary County: Sawyer County, Wisconsin

Section: 17, 18, 30, 31

Township: 40N

Range: 3W

Information Complete On: March 23, 2015

Posting Expires On: April 22, 2015

Authorization Type: LOP-06-WI

This application is being reviewed in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act identified in Regulatory Guidance Letter 07-01. We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are regulated by the Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Our jurisdictional review and final jurisdictional determination could result in modifications to the scope of the project's regulated waterbody/wetland impacts and compensatory mitigation requirements identified above. An approved jurisdictional determination will be made prior to reaching a permit decision, and will be posted on the St. Paul District web page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/>.

Project Description and Purpose: The applicant proposes to relocate a section of the Dead Horse Run ATV & snowmobile trail to reduce impacts to soil and water resources associated with the existing trail located within portions of the Thornapple Hemlocks Research Natural Area and the Spring Brook Semi-primitive Non-motorized area. The Dead Horse Run trail is 67 miles in length and connects the Tuscobia State Trail with the towns of Butternut, Cayuga and Clam Lake, as well as other trail systems in Ashland and Bayfield Counties. The project involves the closure and removal of 5.01 miles of existing trail and the construction of 7.67 miles of new trail.

Name, Area and Types of Waters (Including Wetlands) Subject to Loss: The construction of 7.67 miles of new trail would require crossing an unnamed tributary to the Brunet River and 1195 linear feet of wetlands at six locations. The project would result in discharges of fill material on the bed of an unnamed tributary to the Brunet River, and 0.44 acres of wetlands. Wetland impact by wetland includes 0.23-acre of alder thicket and 0.21-acre of forested wetland. The proposed trail would have a 12-foot top width with 1:1 shoulders and be constructed with coarse porous fill placed on top of Tensar geogrid. Equalization culverts would be placed every 75 feet at wetlands crossings to maintain natural hydrology.

Alternatives Considered: The US Forest Service evaluated routing the Deadhorse Run trail onto 5.04 miles of Forest Roads 311 and 162. The Forest Service determined that this alternative is not practicable because both roads have a 55 mph posted speed limit and heavy vehicular and logging truck traffic which would result in a safety hazard. Further, the Town of Draper did not support this alternative.

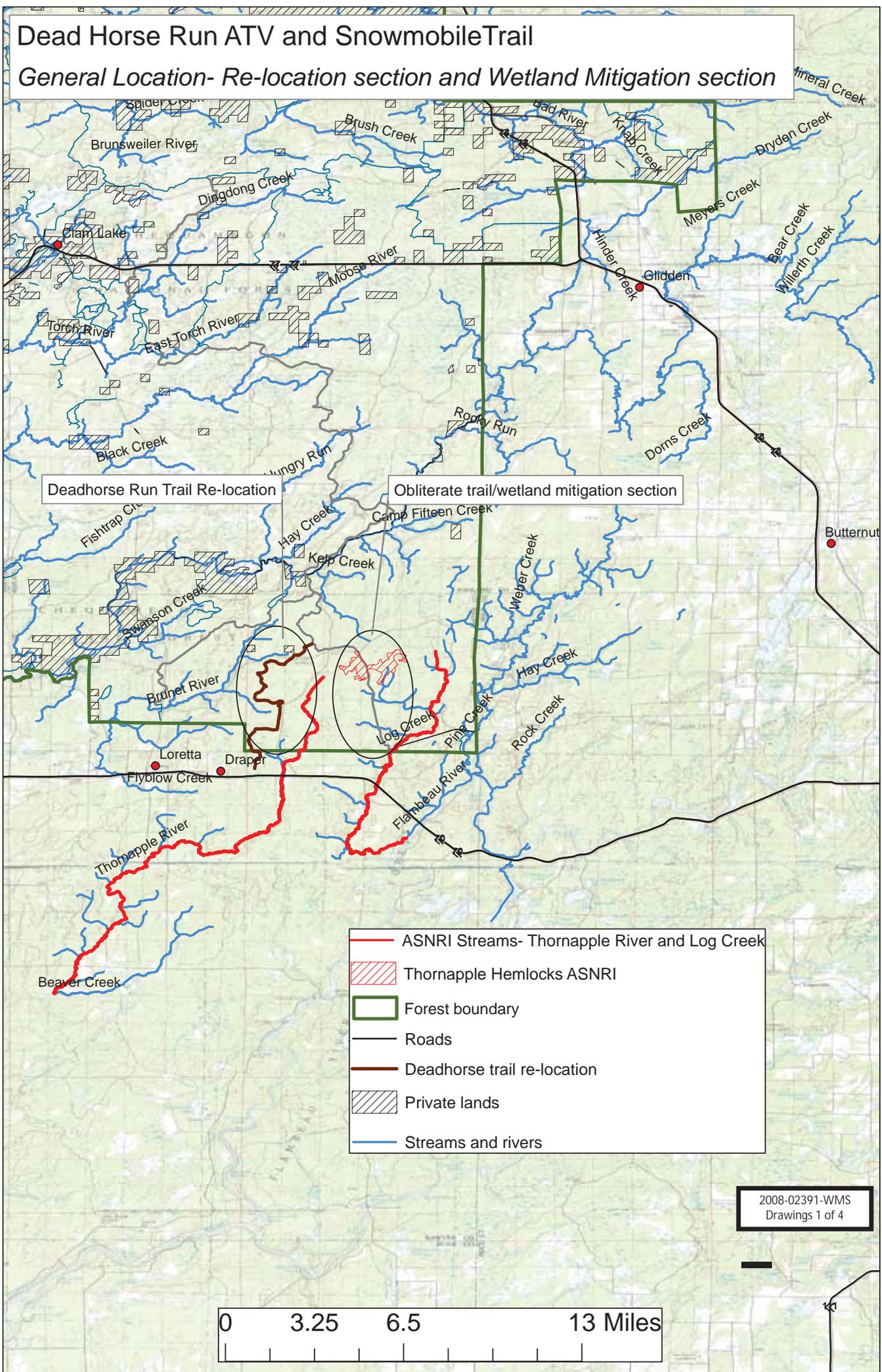
The Forest Service also evaluated the use of puncheon bridges, elevated boardwalks and full bridges as alternative methods to cross the wetlands to avoid and minimize wetland impacts. Based on an evaluation of the costs per foot of structure for each of the typical designs and associated wetland impacts, the applicant determined the construction of puncheon bridges would cost \$167,300 and impact 0.39 acre of wetlands, elevated boardwalks would cost \$1,190,558 and impact 0.19 acre of wetlands, and bridges would cost \$1,553,500 and also impact 0.19 acre of wetlands. The preferred alternative of constructing the wetland crossing with porous fill would cost \$76,825, which also results in reduced long term maintenance costs over the other structures.

Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant proposes to restore 1.02 acres of forested and alder thicket wetlands by removing 1,938 linear feet of existing trail at “Wetland B”. The existing trail is part of an old railroad bed constructed in the early 19th century that is located in the Thornapple Hemlocks Research Natural Area and the Spring Brook Semi-primitive Non-motorized area. The restoration would involve removing the non-native fill material down to the original soil surface and restoring the grade to match the contours and elevation of the adjacent undisturbed wetlands. The site would be seeded with a wetland seed mix immediately following final grading.

Drawings See attached.

Dead Horse Run ATV and Snowmobile Trail

General Location- Re-location section and Wetland Mitigation section



Deadhorse Run Trail Re-location

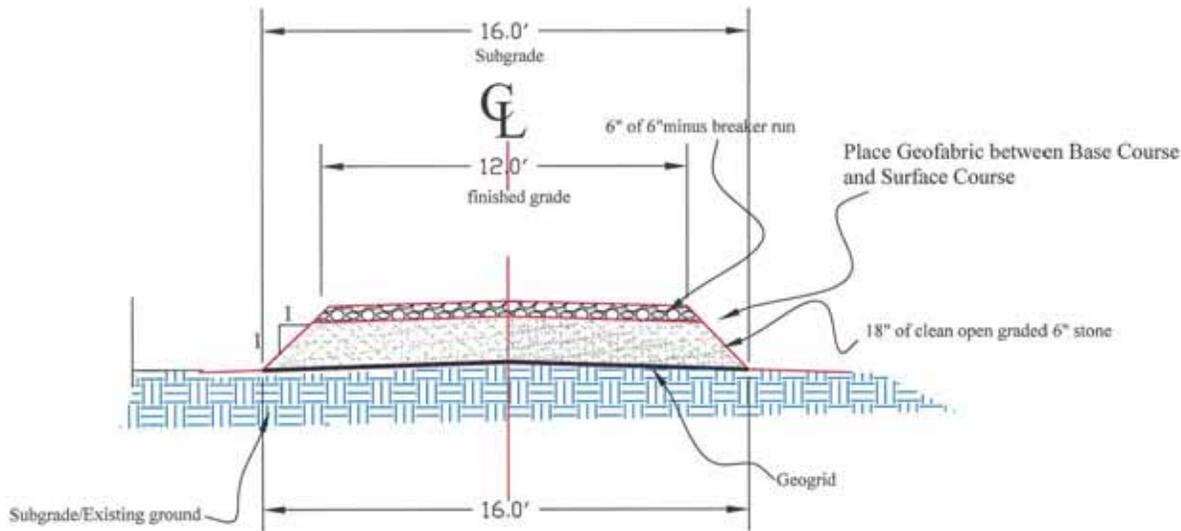
Obliterate trail/wetland mitigation section

- ASNRI Streams- Thornapple River and Log Creek
- ▨ Thornapple Hemlocks ASNRI
- ▭ Forest boundary
- Roads
- Deadhorse trail re-location
- ▨ Private lands
- Streams and rivers

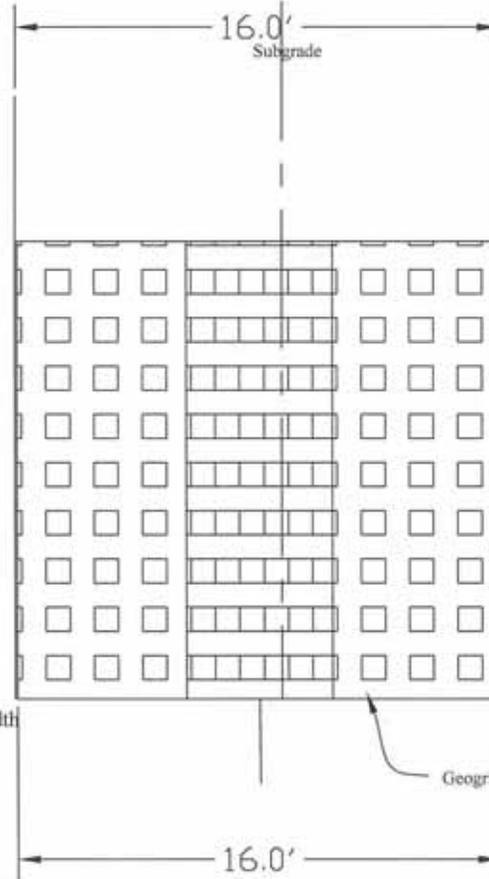
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Drawings 1 of 4



Typical Section View

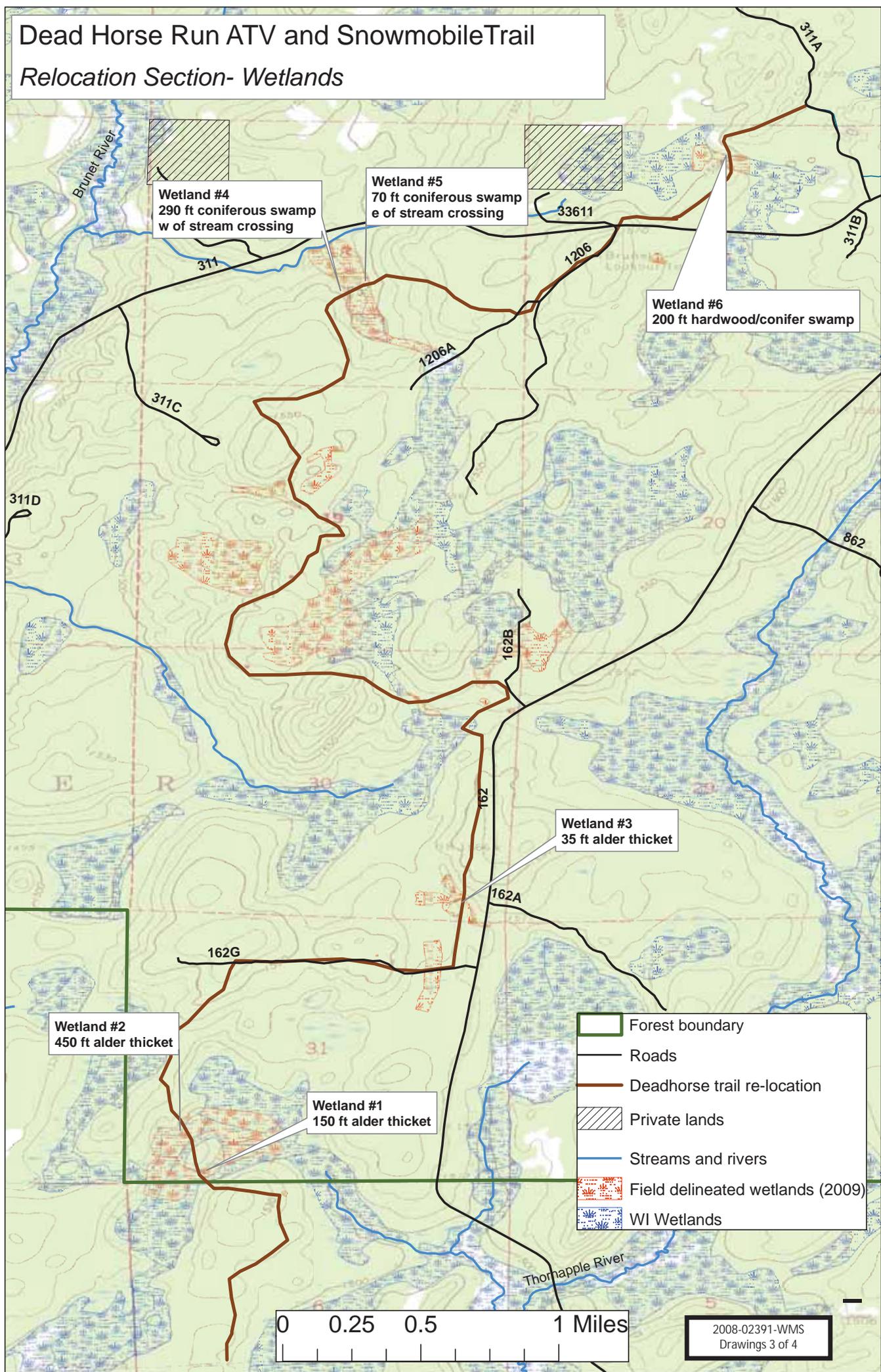


CL



Place Geogrid over entire width of subgrade. Overlap in center to provide 16 feet total width

Dead Horse Run ATV and Snowmobile Trail Relocation Section- Wetlands



Wetland #4
290 ft coniferous swamp
w of stream crossing

Wetland #5
70 ft coniferous swamp
e of stream crossing

Wetland #6
200 ft hardwood/conifer swamp

Wetland #3
35 ft alder thicket

Wetland #2
450 ft alder thicket

Wetland #1
150 ft alder thicket

- Forest boundary
- Roads
- Deadhorse trail re-location
- Private lands
- Streams and rivers
- Field delineated wetlands (2009)
- WI Wetlands

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

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Drawings 3 of 4

Dead Horse Run ATV and Snowmobile Trail Wetland Mitigation Section- Wetland locations

