



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St Paul District

SPONSOR: Northland Mitigation, LLC

Public Notice

ISSUED: February 12, 2015

EXPIRES: March 13, 2015

REFER TO: MVP-2014-02460-EMN

SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act

1. WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: Northland Mitigation, LLC
240 2nd Street South
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494

SPONSOR'S AGENT: Allen O'Leary
Wetland & Wildlife Services, LLC
2411 30th Street North
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in the SW ¼ NE ¼ and SE ¼ NW ¼ of Section 33, T. 21N, R. 14E of Waupaca County, Wisconsin. The approximate latitude/longitude coordinates near the center of the project area are 44.25187/ -88.80733. Overview maps showing the project location have been included in the attachments.

BANK SERVICE AREA: The proposed bank service area is the Fox Geographic Management Unit.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The sponsor is proposing to develop the Northland Wetland Bank in the Township of Caledonia, Waupaca County. The proposed bank site is approximately 63 acres in size, including upland buffer areas and is located approximately 2.5 miles east of the city of Fremont.

Current land use, including adjacent properties – Currently, the property is comprised of agricultural land and farmed wetlands with a main drainage ditch bisecting the eastern half of the site and two lateral ditches on the north and south property lines. The main ditch is oriented on an angle from northeast to southwest and ultimately drains into the Wolf River to the south and west of the proposed bank site. Approximately 25 acres of existing wetlands (farmed) were identified on-site based upon a wetland delineation conducted in September/October 2014. The immediate area surrounding the site is comprised of forested uplands and forested wetlands to the east, USH 10 to the south, and forested uplands, agricultural land, and rural residential properties to the north and west.

Modifications proposed to restore, establish, enhance and/or preserve wetlands on the bank site - The bank sponsor proposes to restore approximately 20 acres of fresh wet meadow in effectively drained agricultural land by disabling an existing tile system west of the main ditch and restoring by

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rehabilitation 13 acres of severally degraded farmed wetland to approximately 6 acres of scrub-shrub wetland and 7 acres of forested wetland east of the main ditch.

The bank sponsor has proposed two separate restoration plans for the proposed bank site. The proposed work for the restoration of 20 acres of fresh wet meadow west of the main ditch would include: the two lateral ditches on the north and south property lines would be completely backfilled with material from the existing spoil banks; a 6-foot wide berm no greater than 6-inches in height would be constructed along the west side of the main ditch to prevent surface water from entering the main ditch; preparing a seed bed in the cultivated farm field that consists of big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), monkeyflower (*Mimulus ringens*), blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*), and other native wetland grasses and forbs (planted with a no-till drill seeder); and disabling the existing tile system west of the main ditch to minimize disturbance to the restoration area. The bank sponsor has proposed to monitor this portion of the bank site for 5 years.

The proposed work for the restoration through rehabilitation of the 13 acres of severely degraded farmed wetland east of the main ditch would include: two years of invasive species control (specifically reed canary grass) that would begin in the winter of 2014-15; the invasive species control would begin with harvesting of reed canary grass by a local farmer (mowing for hay) over the winter of 2014-15; a prescribed burn would be performed in the spring of 2015 to rid this area of any residual reed canary grass vegetation; the area would be treated with a glyphosate herbicide application in mid-June prior to treat any newly sprouted reed canary grass in the rehabilitation area; a second glyphosate treatment would be applied to any remaining reed canary grass in late August/early September 2015; a second prescribed burn would be conducted in October 2015; and a final glyphosate treatment would be applied in May 2016. After the final herbicide application, the southeast 7.0 acres of the rehabilitation area would be planted with bare-root seedlings of swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), American elm (*Ulmus Americana*), and tamarack (*Larix laricina*), which are present in the reference wetland east of the bank site. The remaining 6.0 acres of the severely degraded farmed wetland would be planted with bare-root seedlings of speckled alder (*Alnus incana*), silky dogwood (*Cornus amomium*), and common ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*). The planting plan for the trees and shrubs in both the scrub-shrub and hardwood swamp communities would consist of planting 300-400 bare root stems per acre in clusters of 5 individuals of each species spaced evenly around each 20-foot diameter planting plot. The clusters of individuals would be spread randomly over the site and individual species may overlap. Deer repellent would be applied to the seedlings to prevent browsing and would be reapplied per the label directions. The bank sponsor has proposed to monitor this portion of the bank site for 8 years.

In addition, approximately 26 acres of upland buffer would be established in the northern portion of the bank site. The existing upland agricultural fields would be seeded with native grasses, forbes, and wildflowers. The bank sponsor has proposed the dominant species to be big bluestem, switchgrass, smooth aster, smooth penstemon, yellow coneflower, and black-eyed susan.

Long-term management of the site: The bank sponsor or their successors would be responsible for managing the proposed bank site to remain free of invasive species through prescribed burns, spot herbicide treatment, supplemental seeding/tree planting, and any other management techniques that are deemed necessary. The low berms along the main ditch would be monitored for erosion and repaired in the event that they are damaged in any way. The bank sponsor would be responsible for long-term management of the site, but may transfer the title of the land to an established conservancy entity or

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private party, along with the contingency that a long-term maintenance agreement would be signed by the new owner. This would ensure that long-term maintenance activities would be continued and that the new owner would be responsible for managing the site in perpetuity in accordance with the terms of an approved bank plan and conservation easement restrictions.

The project would restore approximately 33.0 acres of wetlands with an additional 26.4 acres of restored upland buffer.

SURROUNDING LAND USE: Surrounding land use is comprised mainly of agricultural operations, recreational and undeveloped forest land, and scattered rural residential properties.

COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES: This project has been coordinated with the following members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and other resource agencies: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

3. REPLIES/COMMENTS.

Interested parties are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections within 30 days of the date of this notice. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. Comments received may be forwarded to the applicant. A copy of the full prospectus submitted by the Sponsor is available to the public for review upon request.

Replies may be addressed to Regulatory Branch, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700, Saint Paul, MN 55101-1678.

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call Eric Norton at the Stevens Point field office of the Corps, telephone number (651) 290-5879.

To receive Public Notices by e-mail, go to: http://mvp-extsttp/list_server/ and add your information in the New Registration Box.

4. FEDERALLY-LISTED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE OR PLANTS OR THEIR CRITICAL HABITAT.

None were identified by the bank sponsor or are known to exist in the action area. However, Waupaca County is within the known historic range for the following Federally-listed species:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Northern Long-Eared Bat | Hibernates in caves and mines – swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during spring and summer. |
| Gray Wolf | Northern forested areas. |
| Snuffbox | Small to medium-sized creeks and some larger rivers, in areas with a swift current. |

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Karner blue butterfly

Prairie, oak savanna, and jack pine areas with wild lupine

This notice is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

5. JURISDICTION.

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 any 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. Because this project is a mitigation bank, any required compensatory mitigation would be accounted for in the credit yield calculations. Any regulated discharges associated with implementation of a final approved bank plan could likely be authorized by regional general permit if the bank plan is approved before any regulated discharge occurs. Any ***approved jurisdictional determination*** needed will be made prior to reaching a decision, and will be posted on the St. Paul District web page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

6. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL.

The Corps will review information on known cultural resources and/or historic properties within and adjacent to the project area. The Corps will also consider the potential effects of the project on any properties that have yet to be identified. The results of this review and the Corps' determination of effect will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer independent of this public notice. Any adverse effects on historic properties will be resolved prior to the Corps authorization, or approval, of the work in connection with this project.

7. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS.

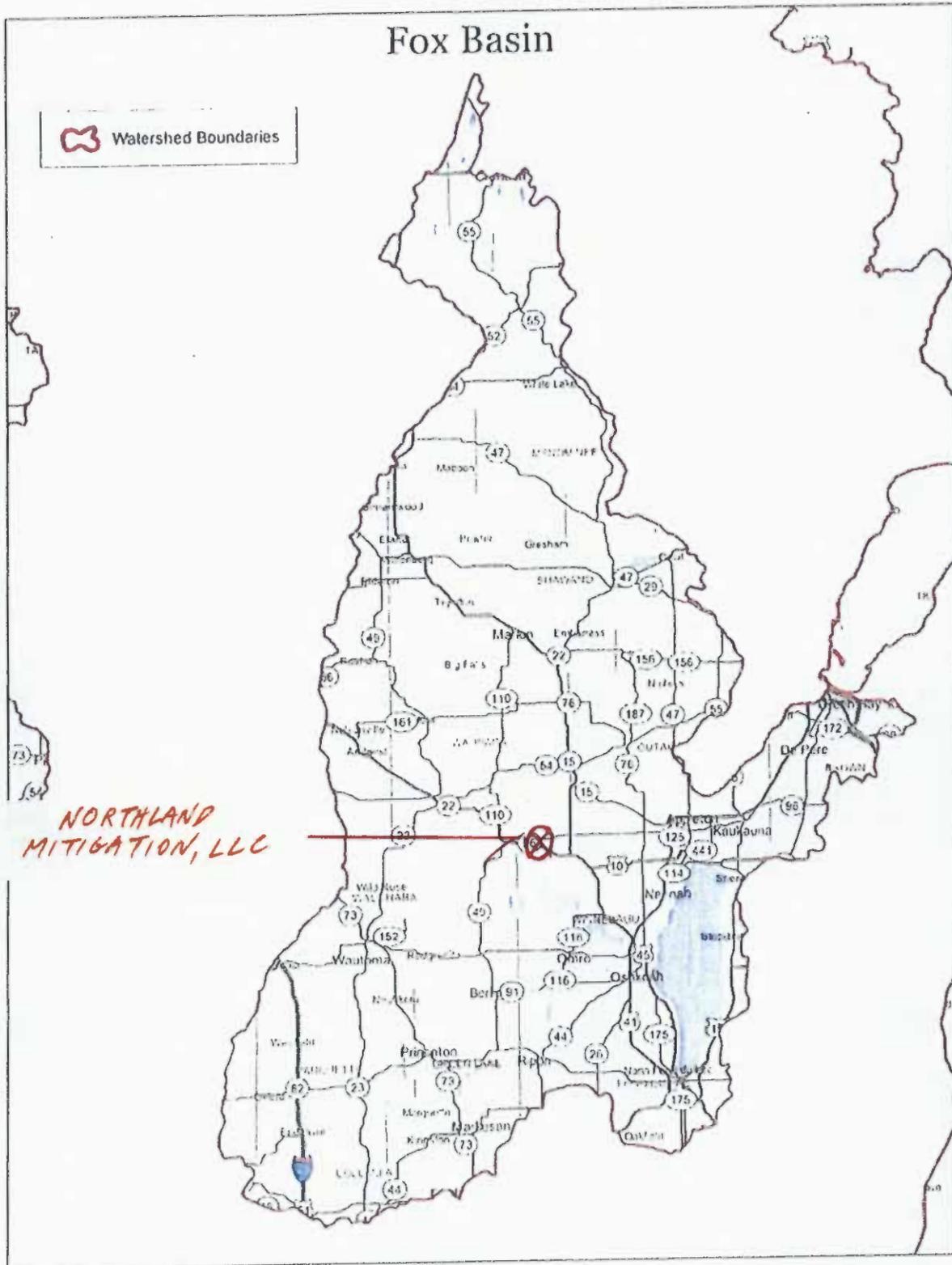
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

Jeffrey M Olson,
Northeast Section Chief

Enclosure(s): Project maps and drawing

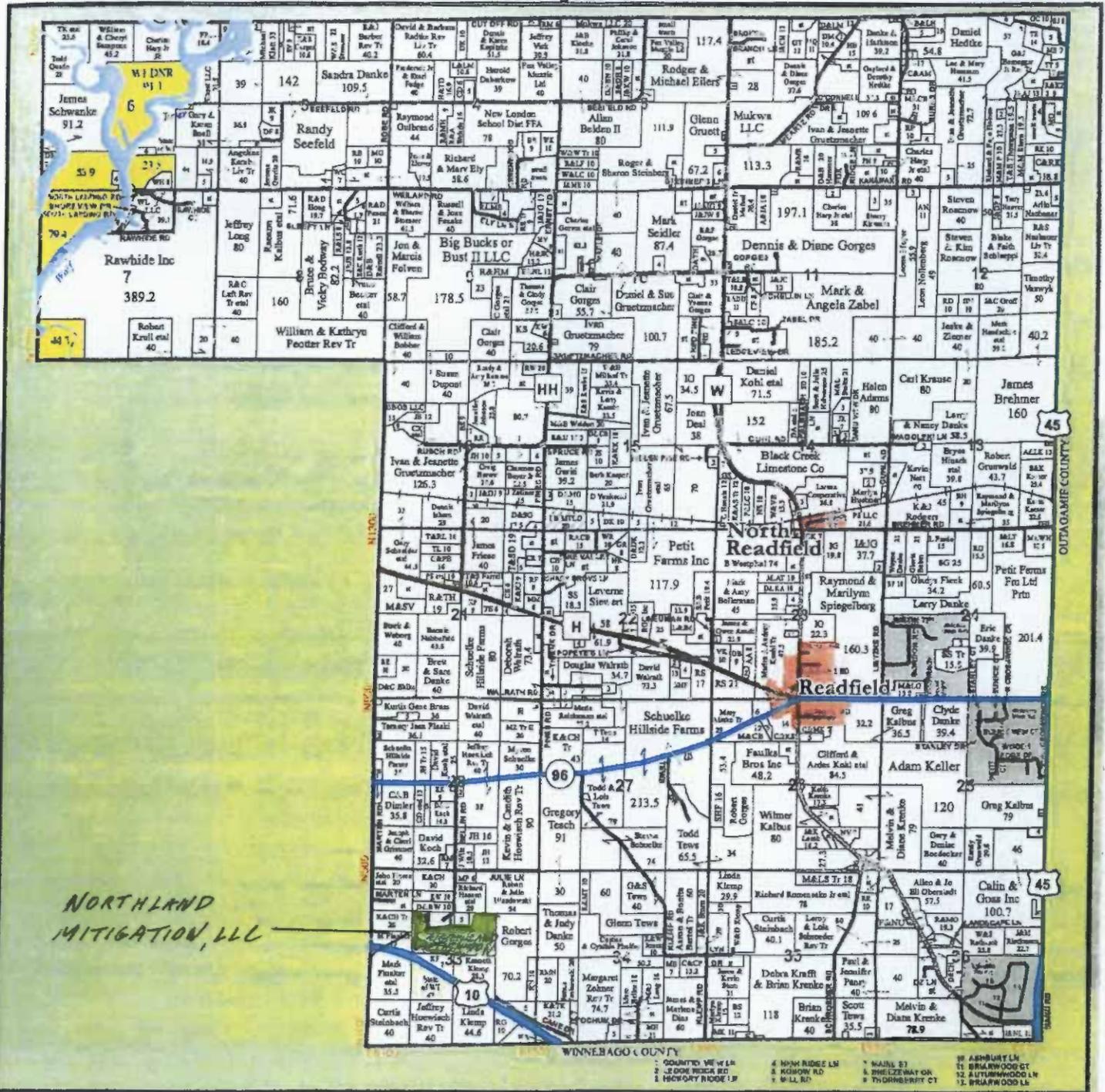
Bank Service Area

Northland Mitigation, LLC



See Page 27

See Page 17



Plat Map

Northland Mitigation, LLC

Town of Caledonia, Waupaca County, Wisconsin



Wisconsin Wetland Inventory - Freemont Site



Legend

- Wetland Class Points**
 - Dammed pond
 - Excavated pond
 - Filled excavated pond
 - Filled/draind wetland
 - Wetland too small to delineate
- Filled Points**
 - ▨ Filled Areas
- Wetland Class Areas**
 - ▨ Wetland
 - ▨ Upland
- Other Features**
 - NRCS Wetspots
 - ▨ Wetland Indicators
 - ▨ Quarter-Quarter
 - ▨ Rivers and Streams
 - ▨ Open Water
 - 2010 Air Photos (WROC)

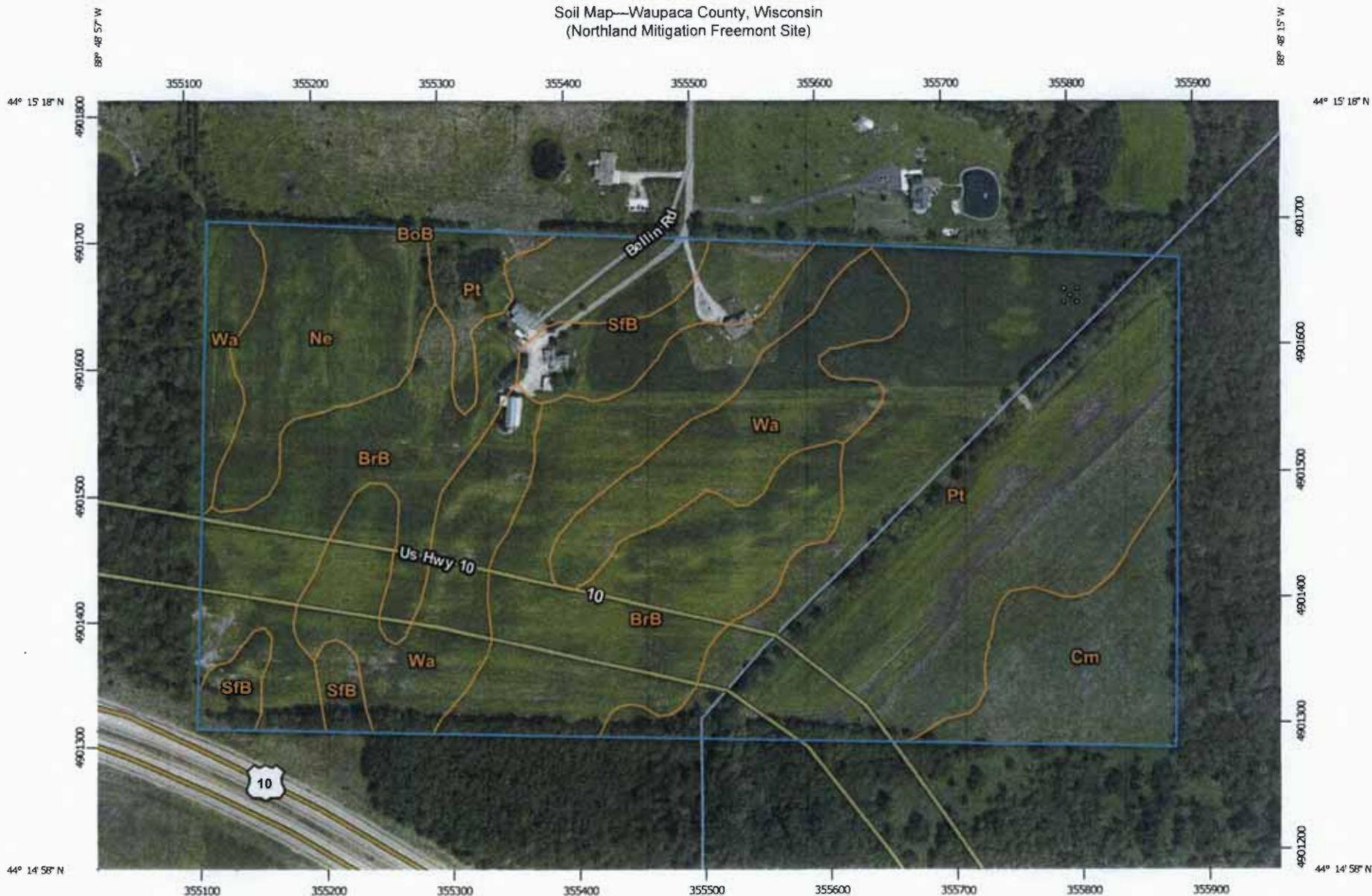
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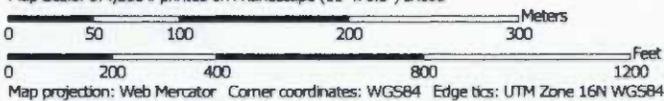
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Soil Map—Waupaca County, Wisconsin
(Northland Mitigation Freemont Site)



Map Scale: 1:4,280 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.





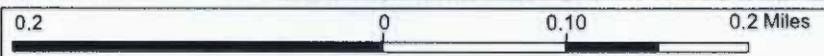
Freemont Site Hydrologic Flow Map Ditched Stream and Drain Tile System



Legend

- Quarter-Quarter
- Rivers and Streams
- Open Water
- 2010 Air Photos (WROC)

1: 6,047



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Notes

Ditched stream and drain tile system

Northland Mitigation, LLC

Wetland Delineation Map

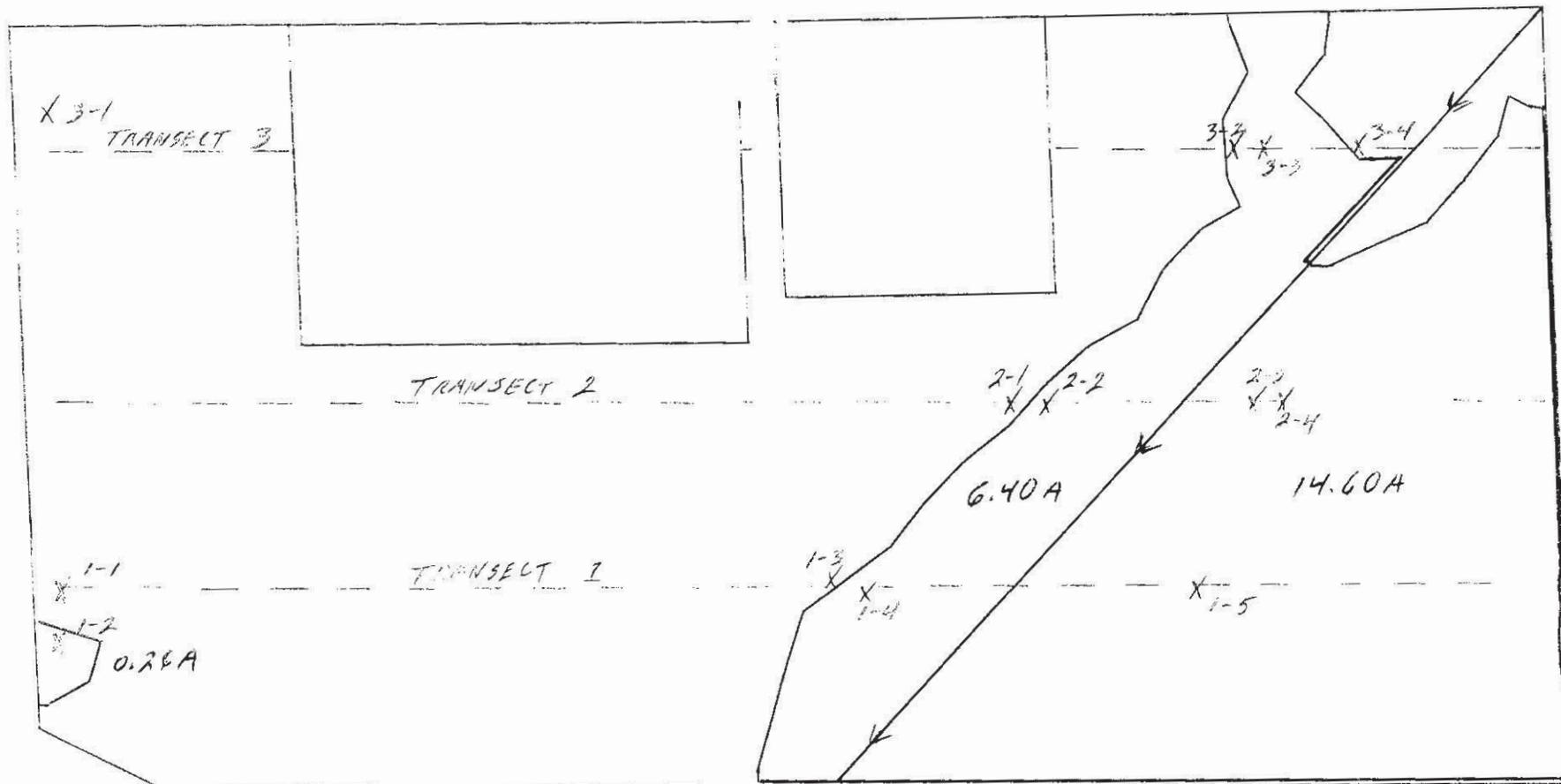
Scale: 1 inch = 260 feet



Northland Mitigation, LLC

Wetland Delineation Map

Scale 1 inch = 275 feet



Northland Mitigation Freemont Site

Proposed Wetland Areas

Scale: 1 inch = 264 feet

