



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT
332 MINNESOTA STREET, SUITE E1500
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1323

MVP-RD-N

24 February 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" (8 September 2023) ,¹ MVP-2025-00642-LSP²

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.³ AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.⁴

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army ("the agencies") published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule"). On September 8, 2023, the agencies published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming", which amended the 2023 Rule to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S., 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023) ("*Sackett*").

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the 2023 Rule as amended,

¹ While the Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"; Conforming had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

² When documenting aquatic resources within the review area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, the territorial seas, or interstate water that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

³ 33 CFR 331.2.

⁴ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁵ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

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as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

- a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).
 - i. Wetland 21 (0.02 acres), non-jurisdictional.
 - ii. Wetland 44 (0.07 acres), non-jurisdictional.
 - iii. Wetland 64 (0.03 acres), non-jurisdictional.
 - iv. Wetland 65 (0.01 acres), non-jurisdictional.
 - v. Wetland Ditch 2 (257 linear feet), non-jurisdictional.

2. REFERENCES.

- a. “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States,’” 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) (“2023 Rule”)
- b. “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” 88 FR 61964 (September 8, 2023)
- c. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)
- d. “Memorandum To The Field Between The U.S. Department Of The Army, U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers And The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Concerning The Proper Implementation Of ‘Continuous Surface Connection’ Under The Definition Of ‘Waters Of The United States’ Under The Clean Water Act” (March 12, 2025)

3. REVIEW AREA. The review area for this approved jurisdictional determination are demarcated in red polygons (approximately 0.15 acres) along an approximately 17.7-mile-long corridor that begins at the city of Malmo, Minnesota and ends at the intersection of Trunk Highway 65 and East White Pine Forest Road (see attached drawings page 1 of 6 through page 6 of 6). The project corridor begins at

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approximately latitude 46.3340, longitude -93.5174 and ends at latitude 48.3578, longitude -93.2623.

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A⁶
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. N/A
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁷: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.⁸ N/A
7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the 2023 Rule as amended, consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the 2023 Rule as amended. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.
 - a. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): N/A

⁶ This MFR should not be used to complete a new stand-alone TNW determination. A stand-alone TNW determination for a water that is not subject to Section 9 or 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) is completed independently of a request for an AJD. A stand-alone TNW determination is conducted for a specific segment of river or stream or other type of waterbody, such as a lake, where upstream or downstream limits or lake borders are established.

⁷ 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

⁸ This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

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- b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): N/A
- c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): N/A
- d. Impoundments (a)(2): N/A
- e. Tributaries (a)(3): N/A
- f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): N/A
- g. Additional Waters (a)(5): N/A

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

- a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not “waters of the United States” even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).⁹

Wetland Ditch 2 is identified as being situated within the bottom of man-made ditch. A review of the USGS Topo Map, NHD layer, USDA Soil Mapping, and National Wetland Inventory, all indicate that Wetland Ditch 2 was created within an upland area and does not exhibit relatively permanent flow. Accordingly, the Corps has determined that Wetland Ditch 2 is excluded from Section 404 jurisdiction under (b)(3) of the 2023 Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” 88 FR 61964 Final Rule as ditches (including roadside ditches) excavated wholly in and draining only dry land and that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water.

- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the 2023 Rule as amended (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water).

Wetland 21 – Wetland 21 does not have a continuous surface connection to a traditional navigable water or a Section 10 water.

⁹ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

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Wetland 44 – Wetland 44 does not have a continuous surface connection to a traditional navigable water.

Wetland 64 – Wetland 64 does not have a continuous surface connection to a traditional navigable water.

Wetland 65 – Wetland 65 does not have a continuous surface connection to a traditional navigable water.

The above wetlands are not a TNW, territorial sea, or interstate water and therefore are not an (a)(1) water. There is no evidence that the wetlands physically abut a relatively permanent paragraph (a)(2) impoundment or a jurisdictional (a)(3) tributary. These wetlands are non-tidal wetlands and there is no evidence that these wetlands have a continuous surface connection to a downstream relatively permanent jurisdictional water and as such do not meet the definition of adjacent and cannot be evaluated as an (a)(4) adjacent wetland; therefore, these wetlands are not jurisdictional under the 2023 Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" 88 FR 61964 Final Rule.

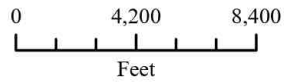
9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
 - a. Wetland delineation drawings labeled as existing conditions submitted with application dated December 2025.
 - b. Corps of Engineers National Regulatory Viewer – National Wetland Inventory, Accessed February 2026.
 - c. Google Earth Aerial Photography dated July 2025.

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A

11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.

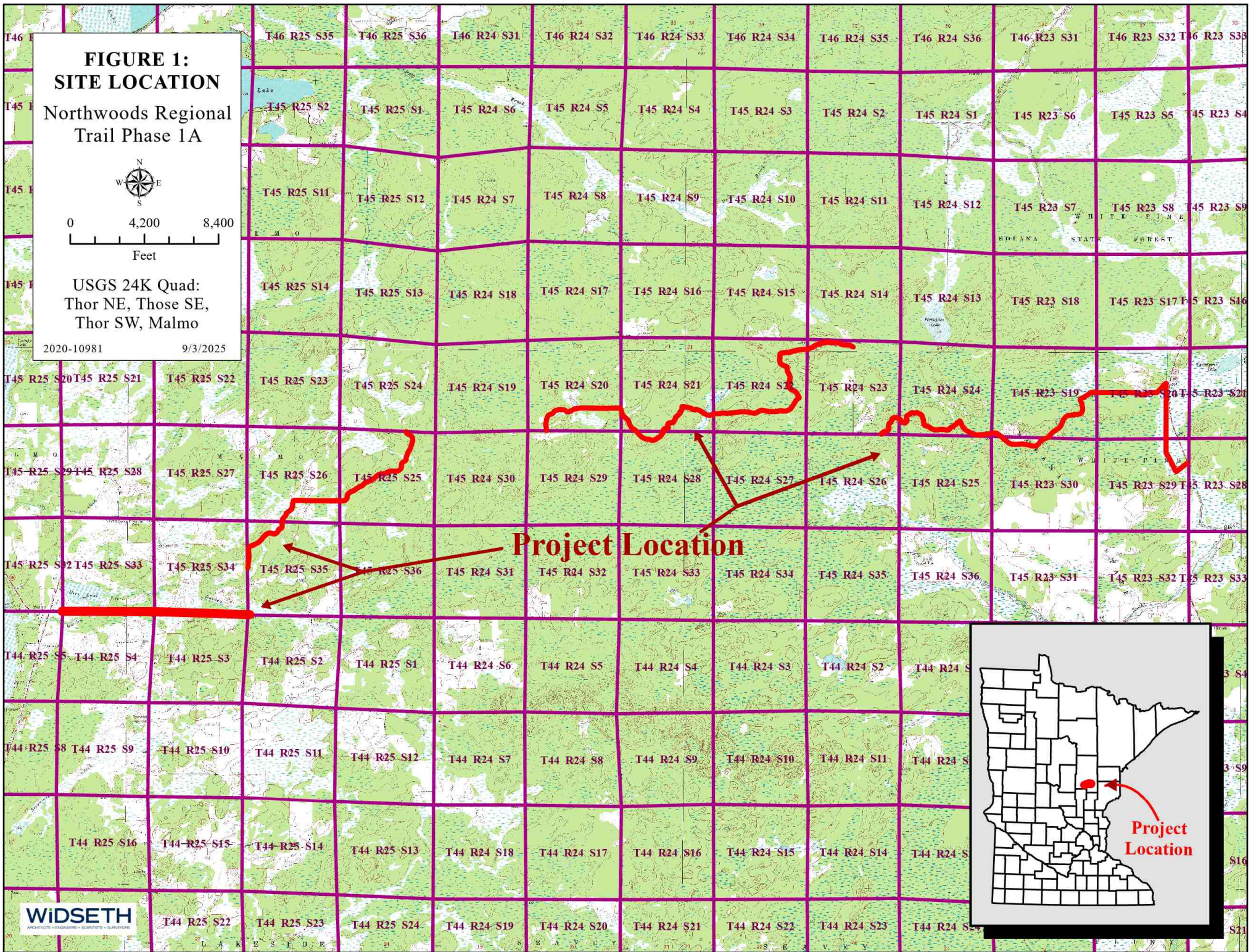
FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

Northwoods Regional
Trail Phase 1A



USGS 24K Quad:
Thor NE, Those SE,
Thor SW, Malmo

2020-10981 9/3/2025



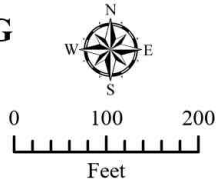
Project Location



Project Location

FIGURE 3: EXISTING CONDITIONS
(Map 09)

Northwoods
Regional Trail-
Phase 1A



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2023 Aitkin Co Imagery

--- Wetland Type Separation

— OHW

■ Delineated Wetland

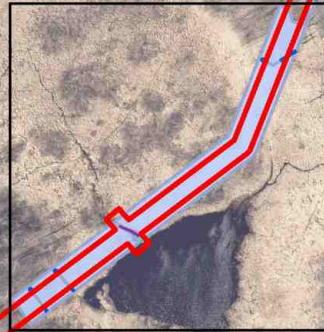
■ Delineated Wetland Ditch

■ Delineated Stream

□ Surveied Area

□ Project Area

*Please see
Figure 2:
Project Overview
for map
section locations*

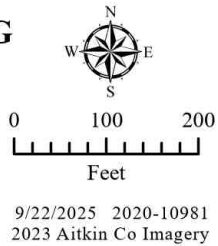


Wetland 022

Wetland 017 Type 7
Wetland 018 Type 7
Wetland 019 Type 7

FIGURE 3: EXISTING CONDITIONS
(Map 20)

Northwoods
Regional Trail-
Phase 1A



--- Wetland Type Separation

— OHW

■ Delineated Wetland

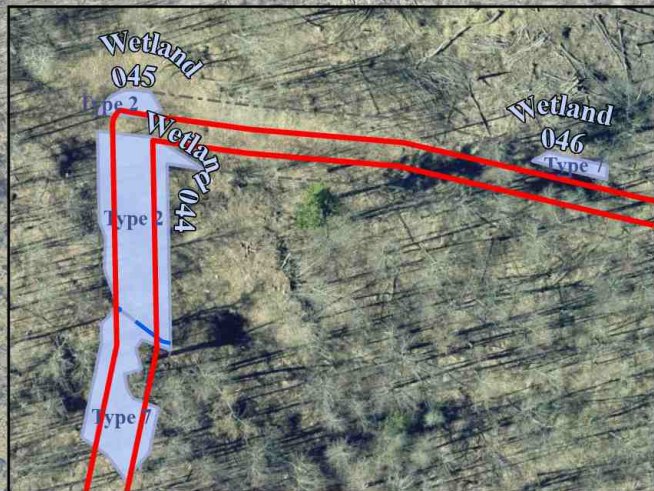
■ Delineated Wetland Ditch

■ Delineated Stream

■ Surveyed Area

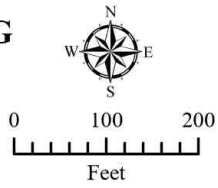
■ Project Area

*Please see
Figure 2:
Project Overview
for map
section locations*



**FIGURE 3: EXISTING
CONDITIONS
(Map 25)**

Northwoods
Regional Trail-
Phase 1A



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Wetland Type
Separation

OHW

Delineated Wetland

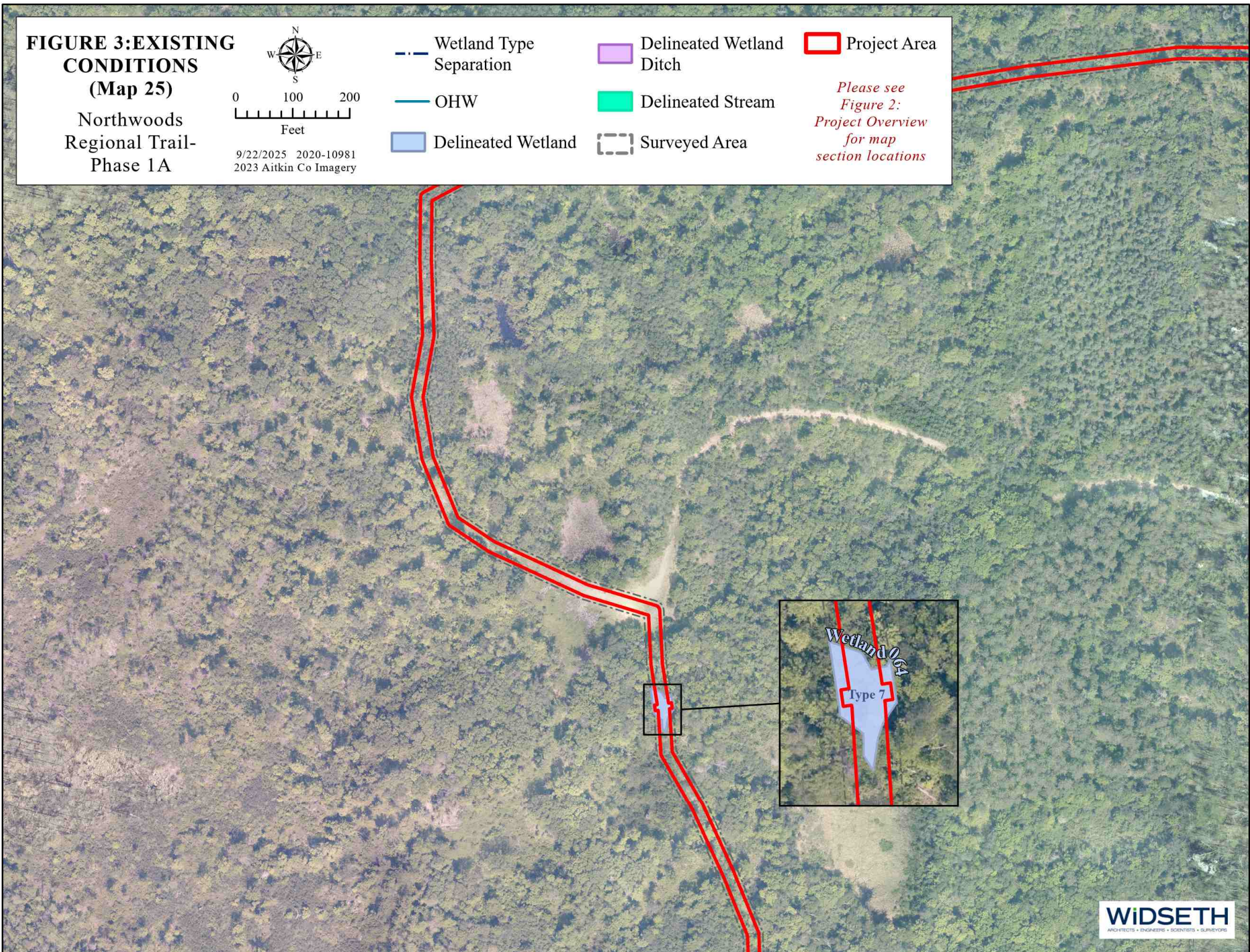
Delineated Wetland
Ditch

Delineated Stream

Surveyed Area

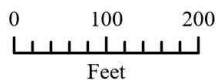
Project Area

*Please see
Figure 2:
Project Overview
for map
section locations*



**FIGURE 3: EXISTING
CONDITIONS
(Map 26)**

Northwoods
Regional Trail-
Phase 1A



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Wetland Type
Separation

OHW

Delineated Wetland

Delineated Wetland
Ditch

Delineated Stream

Surveyed Area

Project Area

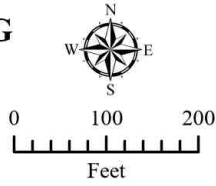
*Please see
Figure 2:
Project Overview
for map
section locations*

230th Pl



FIGURE 3: EXISTING CONDITIONS
(Map 17)

Northwoods
Regional Trail-
Phase 1A



9/22/2025 2020-10981
2023 Aitkin Co Imagery

--- Wetland Type Separation

— OHW

■ Delineated Wetland

■ Delineated Wetland Ditch

■ Delineated Stream

□ Surveied Area

□ Project Area

*Please see
Figure 2:
Project Overview
for map
section locations*

