



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

MVP

21 JULY 2025

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-2025-00649-KME MFR 1 of 1.

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.² 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.³

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),⁴ the 2023 Rule as amended, as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

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 33 CFR 331.2.

³ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁴ 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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- 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 4 (0.039 acres); non-jurisdictional
 - II. Wetland 5 (0.047 acres); non-jurisdictional
 - III. Wetland 6 (0.02 acres); non-jurisdictional
 - IV. Wetland 8 (0.042 acres); 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 is 1.5 acres and is identified by the polygon on the attached Figure 2. The review area is located in Section 22, Township 47N, Range 4W at the center coordinates (in decimal degrees) of Latitude: 46.544 and Longitude: -90.8562 in the Township of Gingles, Ashland County, Wisconsin. There are no other JDs associated with the review area.

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A⁵

⁵ 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.

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5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. N/A
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁶: 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 10.⁷ 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
 - 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

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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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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).⁸ N/A
- 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).

Wetlands 4, 5, 6, and 8 are closed depressions, surrounded by uplands. They are not TNWs, territorial seas, or interstate waters and therefore are not category (a)(1) waters. Based on a review of the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) the nearest waterway is an unnamed tributary to Little Beartrap Creek located 0.10 mile southeast. There are no ditches, swales, pipes, or culverts that provide a continuous surface connection to jurisdictional waterways or WOUS. Wetlands 4, 5, 6, and 8 do not physically abut a relatively permanent paragraph (a)(2) impoundment or a jurisdictional (a)(3) tributary and t do not have continuous surface connection to a relatively permanent jurisdictional water and as such do not meet the definition of adjacent and cannot be evaluated as an (a)(4) adjacent wetlands; therefore, they 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. An office evaluation was conducted on July 18, 2025.
 - b. Wetland Delineation Report from Wetlands & Waterways dated May 24, 2025, which included the following maps: USGS Topographic Map with site location,

⁸ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

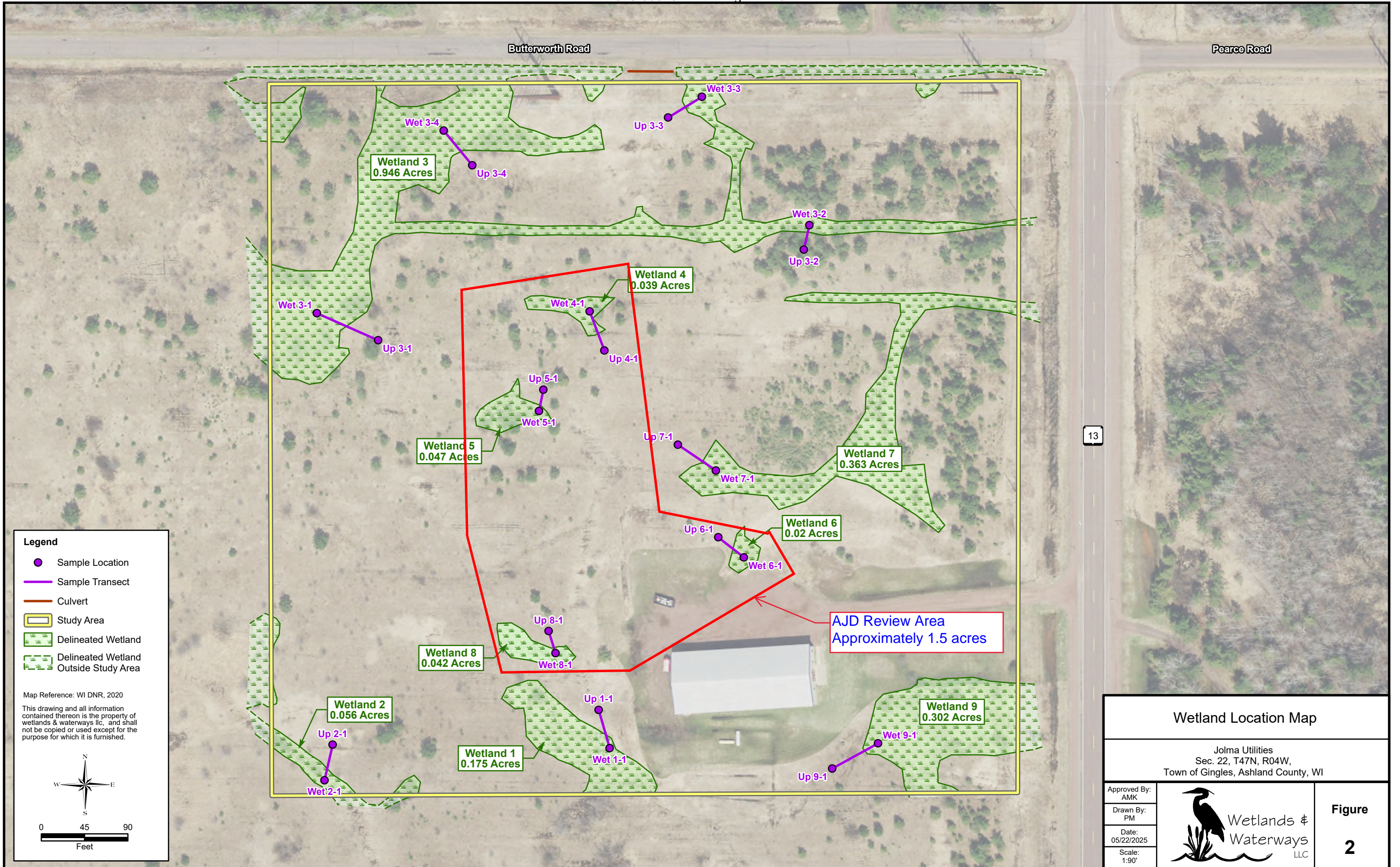
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Ashland County 2-foot Contour map, the WWI map with wetland and indicator soil layers, the Ashland County Soil Survey Map, the Hydric Soils map, the WDNR Lidar map, Other reference materials/methods included in the report were aerial photos, the Wisconsin State Climatology Office's webpage and the USACE APT method antecedent precipitation, Munsell Soil Color Charts, the 1987 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory, 1987) and the Northcentral/Northeast Regional Supplement, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States Guide, a Trimble DA2 Global Positioning System (GPS) with sub-meter accuracy.

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.

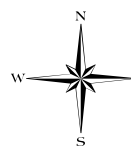


Legend

- Sample Location
- Sample Transect
- Culvert
- Study Area
- Delineated Wetland
- Delineated Wetland Outside Study Area

Map Reference: WI DNR, 2020


This drawing and all information contained thereon is the property of wetlands & waterways llc, and shall not be copied or used except for the purpose for which it is furnished.

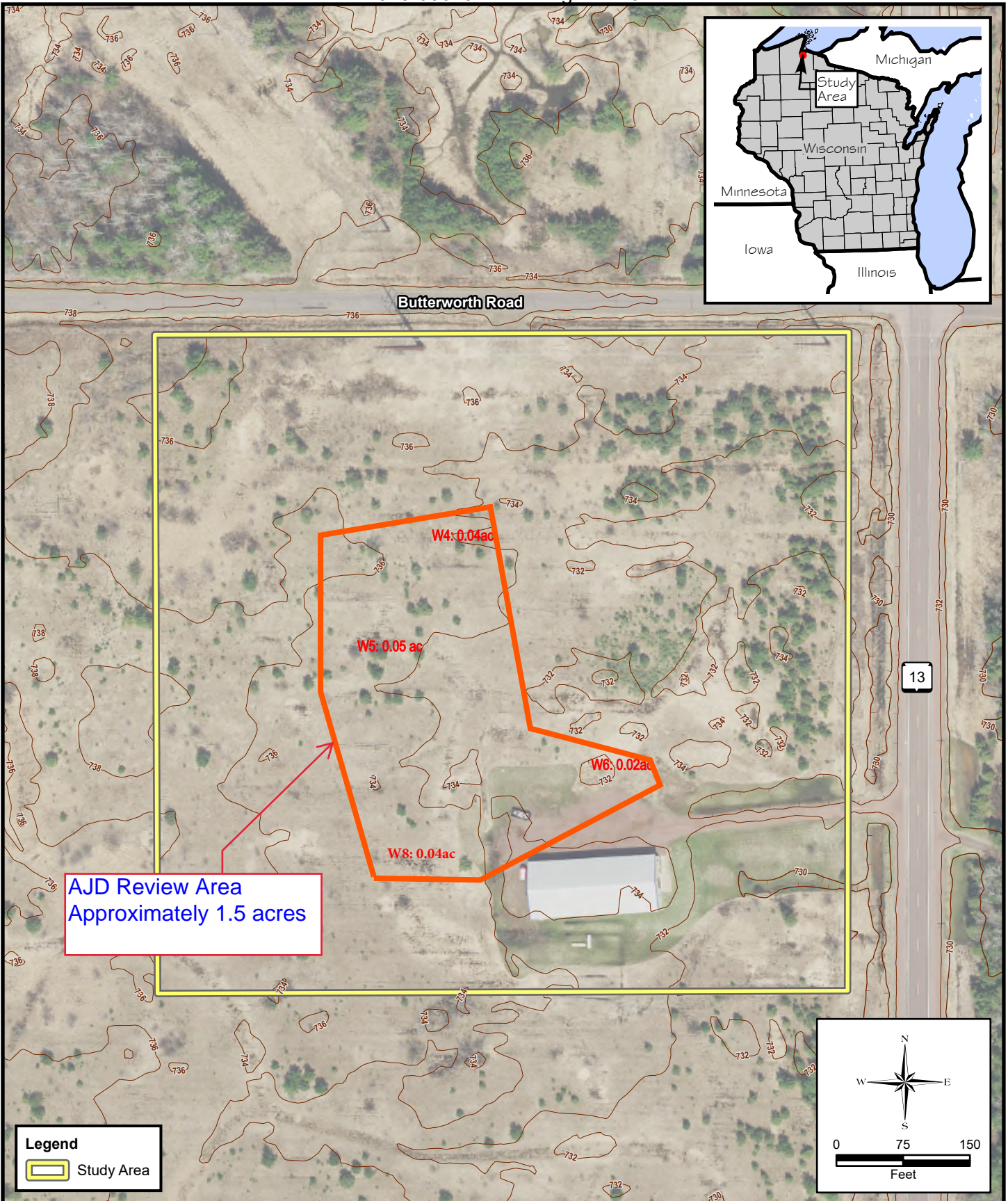


0 45 90
Feet

13

AJD Review Area
Approximately 1.5 acres

Wetland Location Map			
Jolma Utilities Sec. 22, T47N, R04W, Town of Gingles, Ashland County, WI			
Approved By: AMK		Figure	
Drawn By: PM		2	
Date: 05/22/2025			
Scale: 1:90'			



AJD Review Area
Approximately 1.5 acres

Legend
 Study Area

North arrow and scale bar:
 N
 W E
 S
 0 75 150
 Feet

<p>Ashland County 2-Foot Contour Map</p>	<p>Approved By: AMK</p>	<p>Map References: Contours: Ashland County, 2019 Aerial Source: WI DNR, 2020</p>	<p>Wetlands & Waterways LLC</p>	<p>Figure 1B</p>
	<p>Drawn By: PM</p>			
<p>Jolma Utilities Sec. 22, T47N, R04W, Town of Gingles, Ashland County, WI</p>	<p>Scale: 1:150'</p>			

