



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Little Rock District

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS – STATE OF ARKANSAS

Application Number: MVM 2016-00011

Date: January 8, 2016

Comments Due: February 2, 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Comments are invited on the work described below. Please see the Public Involvement section for details on submitting comments.

Point of Contact. If additional information is desired, please contact the project manager, Mr. Johnny McLean, telephone number: (501) 324-5295, mailing address: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, PO Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, email address: Johnny.L.McLean@usace.army.mil

Project Information. Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1344), notice is hereby given that

**Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD)
PO Box 2261
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261**

has requested authorization for the placement of dredged and fill material in waters of the United States associated with replacing four bridges and widening the approaches on State Highway 14, and constructing a boat ramp on the Cache River. The proposed project is located on State Highway 14 immediately west of the City of Amagon in sections 19, 20, 29 and 30, T. 11 N., R. 1 W., and in sections 24 and 25, T. 11 N., R. 2 W., Jackson County, Arkansas.

The basic purpose of the project is to upgrade 1.8 miles of State Highway 14 and replace four structurally deficient bridges. The overall purpose of the project is to upgrade the roadway and make it safer for motor vehicle traffic in the Jackson County area. The project is not water dependent.

The proposed project would construct the two western bridges (Cache River and Cache River Relief 1) on new alignment approximately 50 feet downstream from the existing bridges. The project would construct the two eastern bridges (Cache River Relief 3 and Cache River Relief 4) on existing location and construct temporary detour roads approximately 50 feet downstream from the existing bridges. Temporary work roads would be required at all four bridge locations to facilitate demolition and construction. The existing roadway consists of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes with 4-foot-wide shoulders. The proposed roadway would consist of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes with 8-foot-wide shoulders. An Arkansas Game and Fish Commission boat ramp would be constructed on the north side of the new Cache River Bridge and within the AHTD right-of-way. The boat ramp would consist of a 16-foot-wide by 150-foot-long corrugated, concrete ramp with a 60-foot-wide by 80-foot-long parking lot. The construction would discharge approximately 79,000 cubic yards of permanent fill and 40,000 cubic yards of temporary fill into the Cache River, the three relief channels and the adjacent wetlands. Approximately 15.1 acres of wetlands would be permanently impacted and approximately 4.5

acres of wetlands would be temporarily impacted. Impacts to the Cache River and the three relief channels would be approximately 0.8 acres. The majority of these impacts would be temporary and the result of detour road and work road construction. The boat ramp would impact less than 0.1 acres of the Cache River channel.

The proposed project is located in the Mississippi Alluvial Plains Ecoregion. Land use within the project area is dominated by row crop agricultural land. Forested tracts are limited to areas within the floodplain that are too low to be farmed. The Cache River is a perennial stream that flows into the White River approximately 75 miles to the south near the City of Clarendon. All of the relief channels flow intermittently and into the Cache River within a mile of the project location. The majority (13.8 acres) of impacted wetlands are slightly impaired or fully functional scrub/shrub wetlands. These wetlands are dominated by black willow (*Salix nigra*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), coffee bean (*Sesbania herbacea*), swamp privet (*Forestiera acuminata*), and several species of smartweed (*Persicaria sp.*). The remaining impacted wetlands (5.8 acres) are bottomland hardwoods dominated by black willow and honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*).

The Federal Highway Administration approved this project as a categorical exclusion (CE) on April 27, 2015. There are no relocatees, environmental justice issues, cultural resources, or prime farmlands associated with the project. The project lies within the current known range of the Federally endangered Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*). The AHTD will prohibit clearing activities during the active period of the bats in Arkansas from April 1 to October 15, or a professional biologist will perform a habitat assessment to ensure that no Northern Long-eared Bats or Indiana Bats are present prior to any clearing activities. The project lies within Zone A-Special Flood Hazard Area, as designated by the National Flood Insurance Program, and shown on Panels 250 and 275 of the Jackson County Flood Insurance Rate Map. The AHTD has determined that the project will not support incompatible use and development of the flood plain and adjacent properties should not be impacted nor have a greater flood risk than existed before construction of the project. The least environmentally damaging most practicable alignment for the project was selected. An attempt was made to design the project to maintain the flow of traffic during construction while minimizing impacts to the wetlands and the City of Amagon. Wetlands line both sides of the highway at this location; therefore, complete avoidance was not possible. Constructing the entire project on new location would impact more than 19.6 acres of wetlands. Shifting the alignment on the two western bridges was more practical since temporary detour bridges would have been required to pass high flows. Temporary detour roads rather than detour bridges on the two eastern bridges were more practical since they would minimize impacts to wetlands and the City of Amagon. The AHTD proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable impacts to 19.6 acres of wetlands with 206.4 credits (59 acres) at their Glaise Creek Mitigation Bank which is located near Worden, Arkansas.

The location and general plan for the proposed work are shown on the enclosed sheets 1 through 9 of 11.

Water Quality Certification. By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting water quality certification from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in

accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the comment period and a public hearing, if held, a determination relative to water quality certification will be made. Evidence of this water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify must be submitted prior to the issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit.

Cultural Resources. The AHTD staff archeologists have reviewed topographic maps, the National Register of Historic Places, and other data on reported sites in the area. The Federal Highway Administration has completed coordination with all associated Native American Nations and tribal governments. The District Engineer invites responses to this public notice from Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

Endangered Species. The project lies within the current known range of the Federally endangered Northern Long-eared Bat and Indiana Bat. Our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity will not affect listed Endangered Species or their critical habitat. A copy of this notice is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies and constitutes a request to those agencies for information on whether any other listed or proposed-to-be-listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

Flood Plain. We are providing copies of this notice to appropriate flood plain officials in accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use) and Executive Order 11988 on Flood Plain Management.

Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. The evaluation of activities to be authorized under this permit which involves the discharge of dredged or fill material will include application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines are contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 230.

Public Involvement. Any interested party is invited to submit to the above-listed POC written comments or objections relative to the proposed work on or before **February 2, 2016**. Substantive comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted and made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in determining whether this work would be in the public interest. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

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, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision.

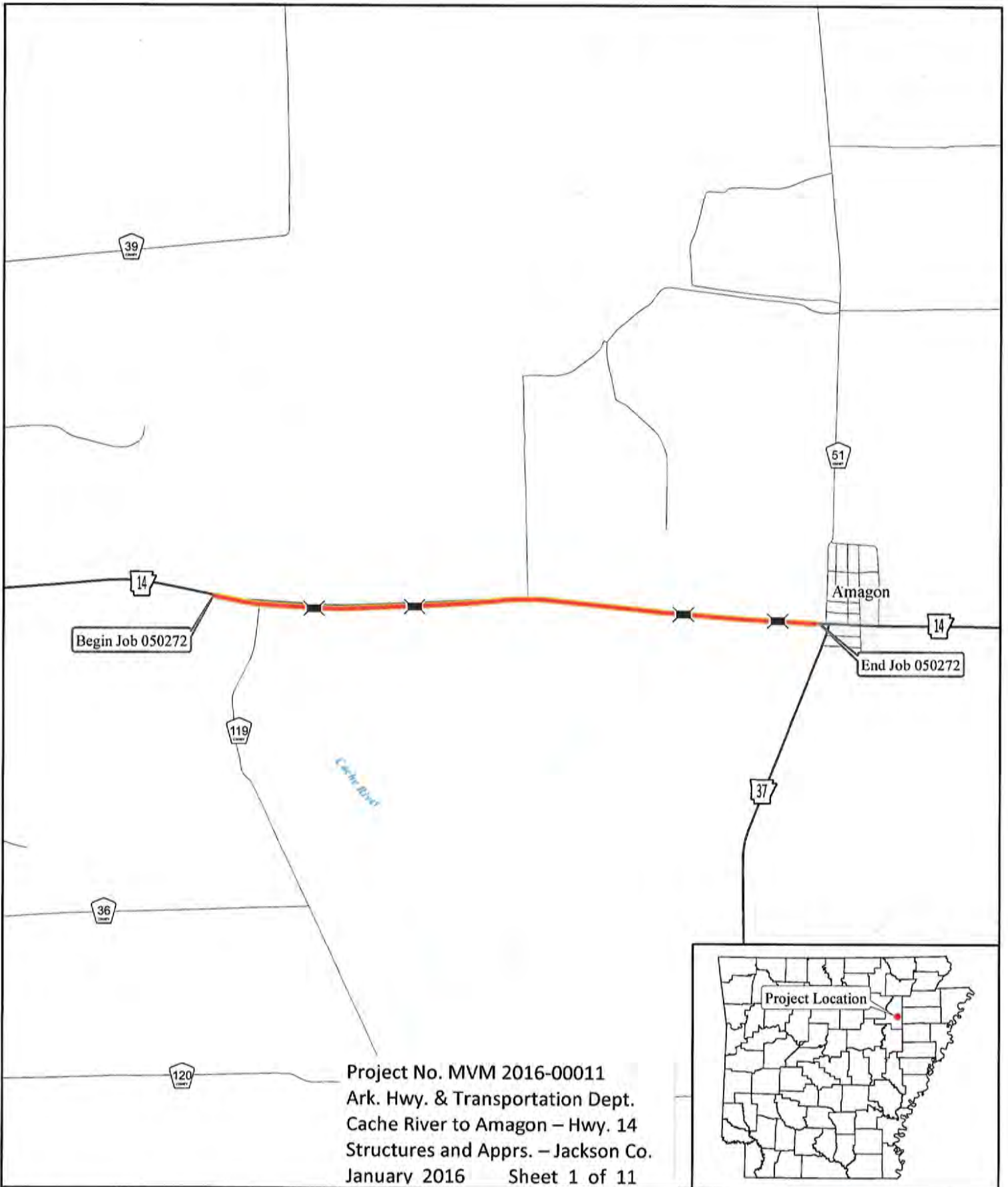
NOTE: The mailing list for this Public Notice is arranged by state and county(s) where the project is located, and also includes any addressees who have asked to receive copies of all public notices. Please discard notices that are not of interest to you. If you have no need for any of these notices, please advise us so that your name can be removed from the mailing list.

Enclosures

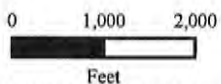
Approximate Coordinates of Project Center

Latitude: **35.563035** Longitude: **-91.140628**

UTM Zone: **15** North: **3937075** East: **668510**

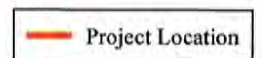


Project No. MVM 2016-00011
 Ark. Hwy. & Transportation Dept.
 Cache River to Amagon – Hwy. 14
 Structures and Apprs. – Jackson Co.
 January 2016 Sheet 1 of 11



AHTD-Environmental GIS-Hopkins
 April 3, 2015

Job 050272
 Cache River - Amagon Strs. & Apprs.
 (Hwy. 14)
 Jackson County



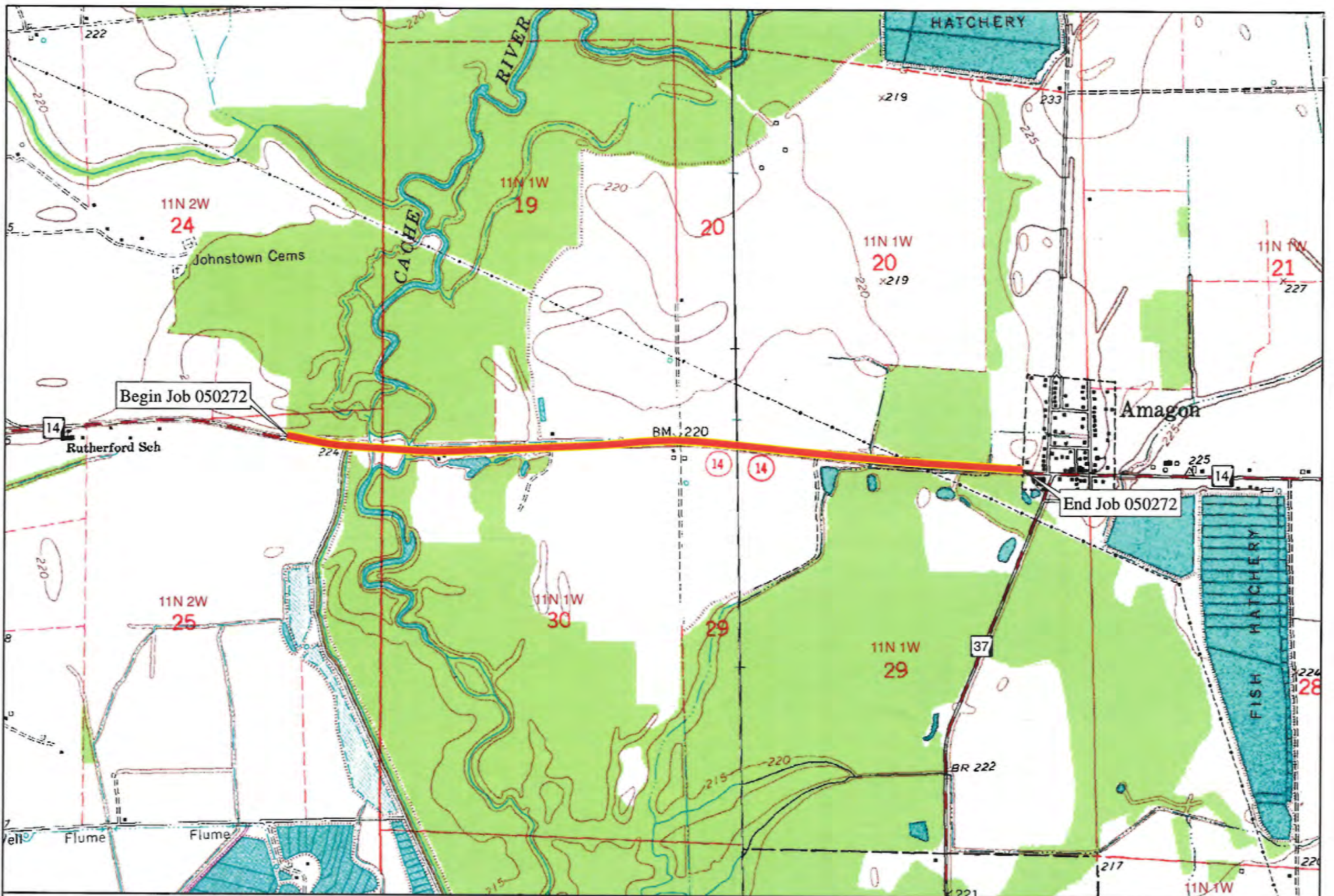
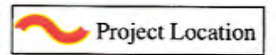
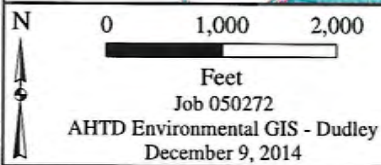
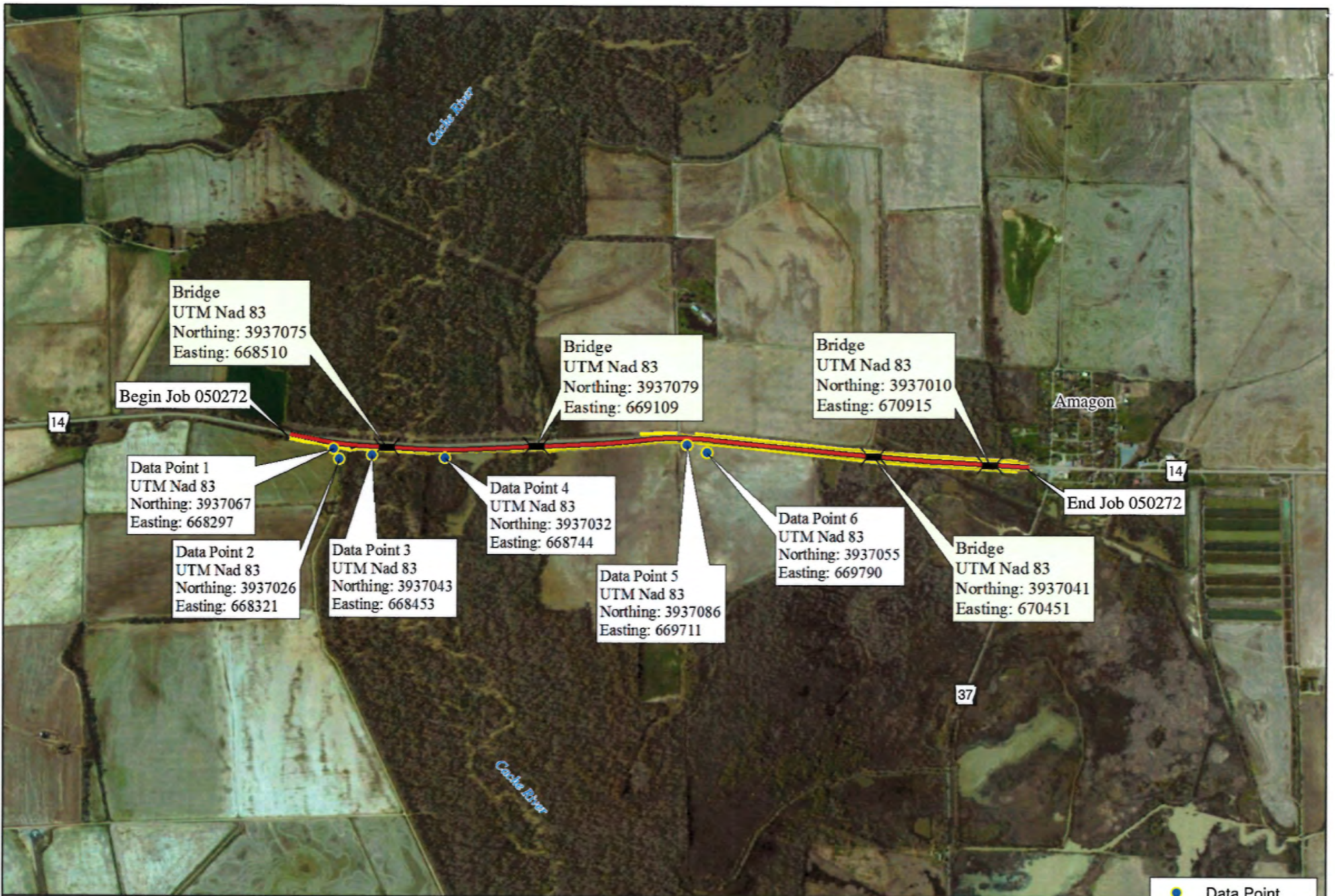


Figure 1
 Topographic Map
 Showing Project Location





Bridge
UTM Nad 83
Northing: 3937075
Easting: 668510

Begin Job 050272

Data Point 1
UTM Nad 83
Northing: 3937067
Easting: 668297

Data Point 2
UTM Nad 83
Northing: 3937026
Easting: 668321

Data Point 3
UTM Nad 83
Northing: 3937043
Easting: 668453

Data Point 4
UTM Nad 83
Northing: 3937032
Easting: 668744

Data Point 5
UTM Nad 83
Northing: 3937086
Easting: 669711

Bridge
UTM Nad 83
Northing: 3937079
Easting: 669109

Data Point 6
UTM Nad 83
Northing: 3937055
Easting: 669790

Bridge
UTM Nad 83
Northing: 3937010
Easting: 670915

Bridge
UTM Nad 83
Northing: 3937041
Easting: 670451

Amagon

End Job 050272

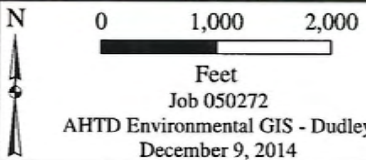
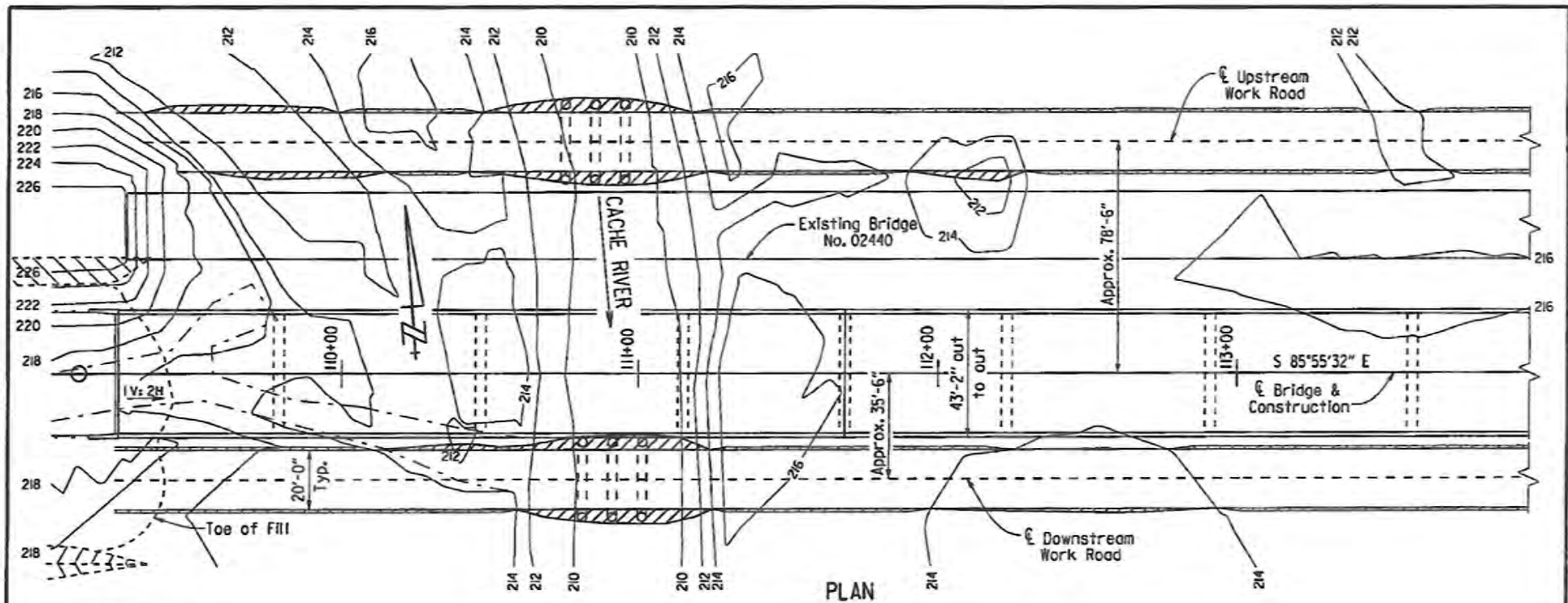
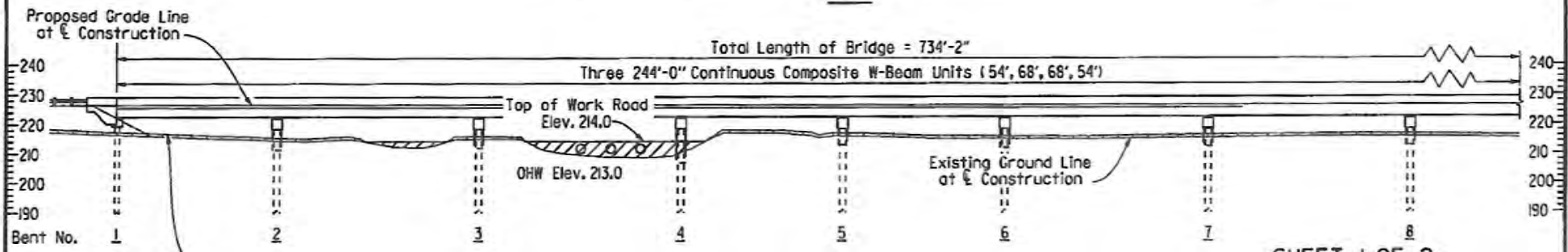


Figure 5
Aerial Photograph





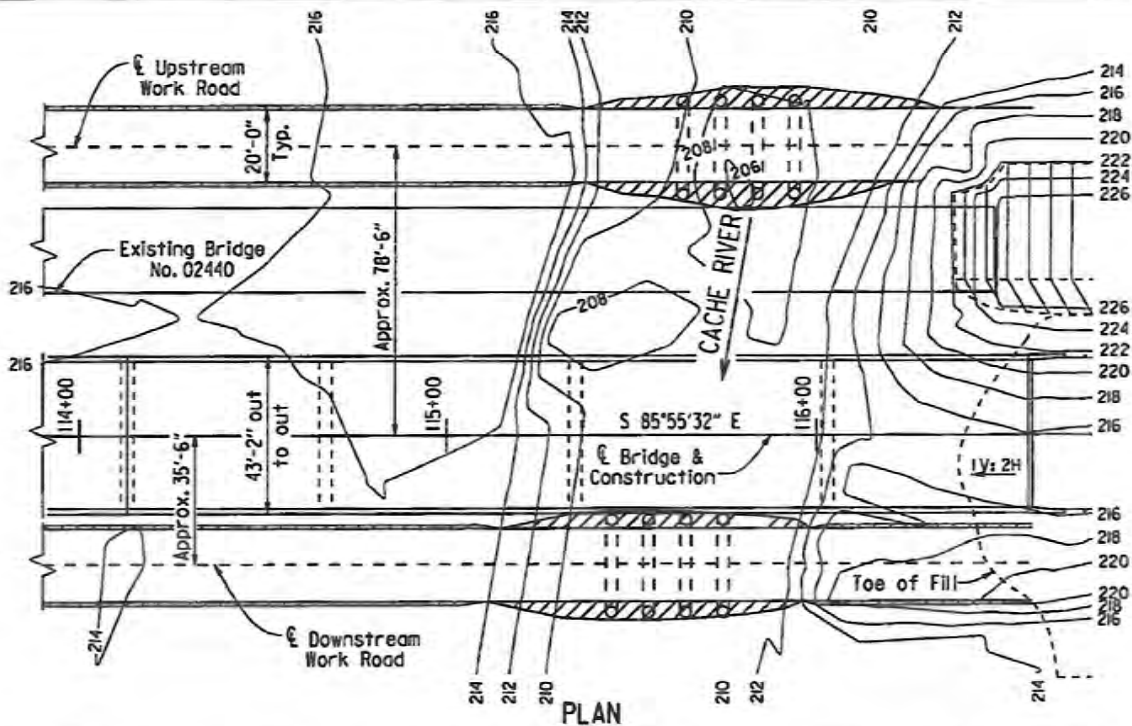
PLAN



ELEVATION

SHEET 1 OF 2
 CONCEPTUAL WORK PLAN
 FOR TEMPORARY FILL
 JOB 050272
 CACHE RIVER
 CACHE RIVER - AMAGON
 STRS. & APPRS. (S)

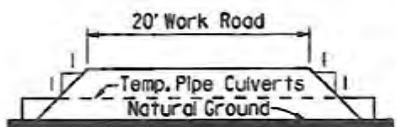
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 CHECKED BY: SMD DATE: 4/1/15 SCALE: 1" = 50'



Upstream Work Road	Approximate Quantities	
	Below OHW	Total
Fill Area	5675 sq ft	16590 sq ft
Fill Volume	520 cu yd	1090 cu yd

Downstream Work Road	Approximate Quantities	
	Below OHW	Total
Fill Area	4125 sq ft	16965 sq ft
Fill Volume	390 cu yd	940 cu yd

Note: OHW is Ordinary High Water



Note: Temp. Pipe Culverts shall be placed to maintain drainage at low flow as directed by the Engineer.

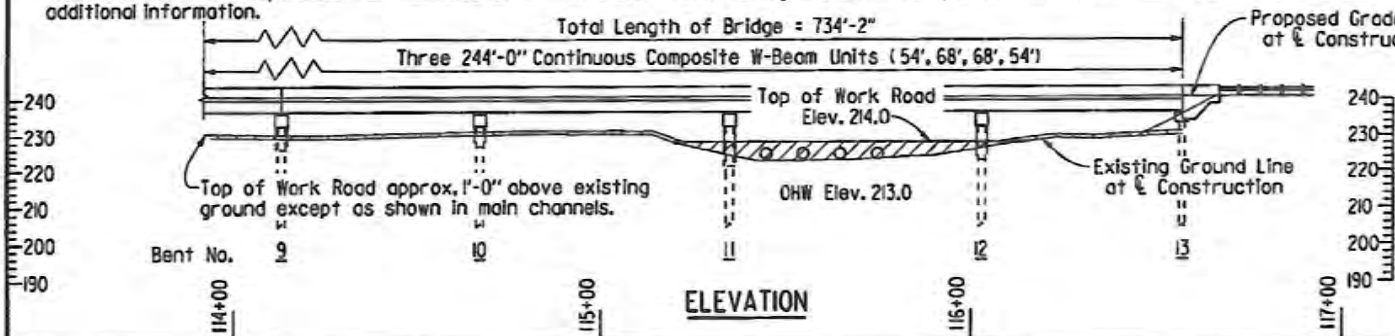
SECTION THRU WORK ROAD

No Scale

The temporary fill to construct the work road(s) shown has been permitted to facilitate construction of the project. The Contractor shall determine and provide temporary culverts of a size and number that will be sufficient to maintain low stream flows and assist passage of aquatic wildlife.

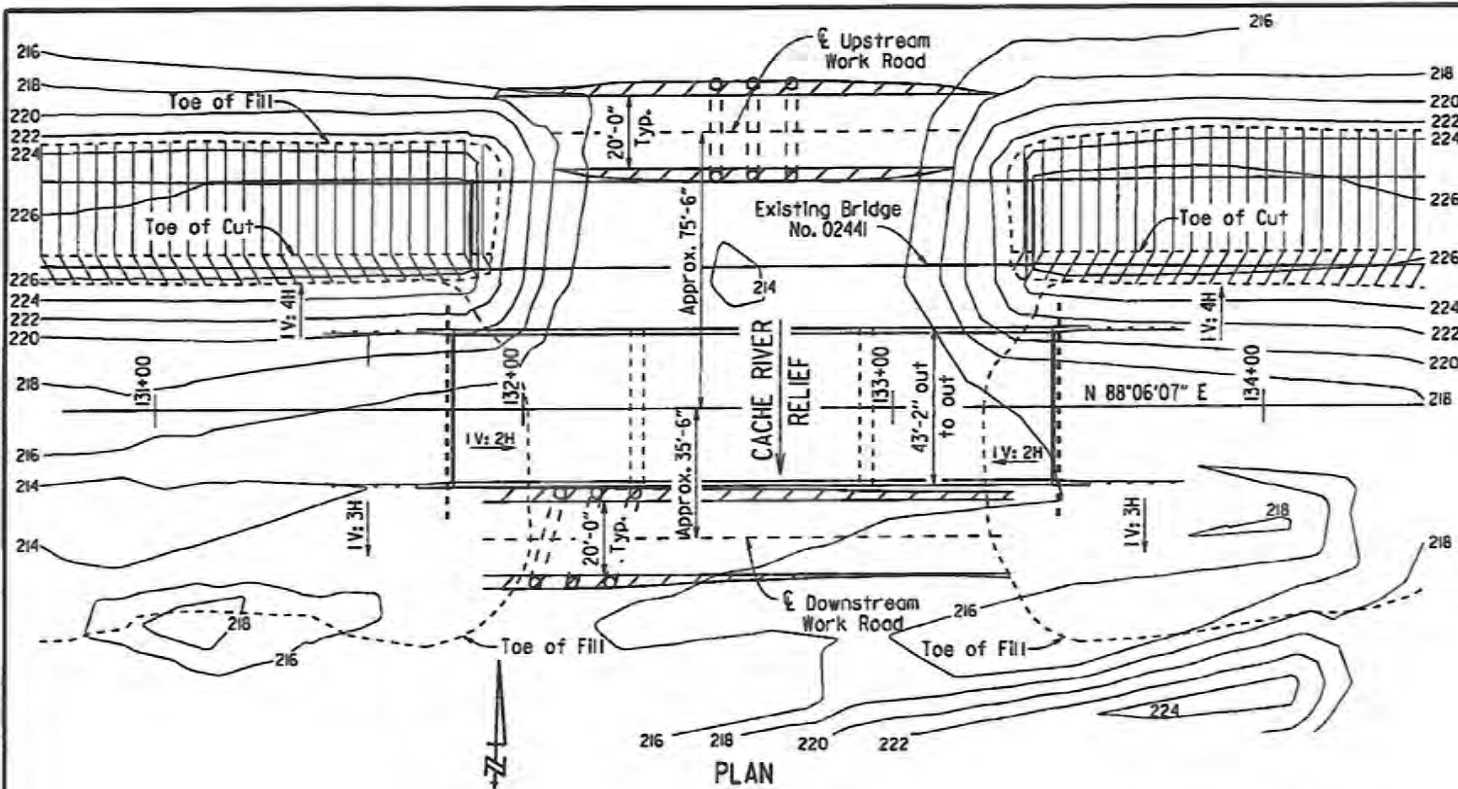
The Contractor may submit an alternative work road plan for approval by the Engineer showing details of and describing the proposed modifications. The primary objective of any proposed modifications should be to minimize the reduction of the waterway opening in the floodplain. The top of the alternative work road(s) shall not exceed the elevation shown. A determination will be made by the Engineer within ten (10) business days concerning the necessity or practicability of the request. A modification of the Section 404 Permit and additional review time by the Corps of Engineers may be required if the alternative work road(s) increase the volume of temporary fill that has been permitted for the project. The contract time will not be extended for the time required to consider or approve any alternate work road(s) submittal.

The Contractor is responsible for maintenance of the work road(s) during the contract period. See Section 110.05(c) in the Standard Specifications for additional information.



SHEET 2 OF 2
 CONCEPTUAL WORK PLAN
 FOR TEMPORARY FILL
 JOB 050272
 CACHE RIVER
 CACHE RIVER - AMAGON
 STRS. & APPRS. (S)

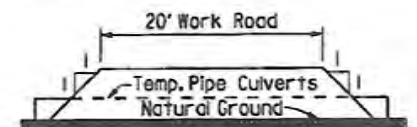
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Upstream Work Road	Approximate Quantities	
	Below OHW	Total
Fill Area	2850 sq ft	3040 sq ft
Fill Volume	210 cu yd	295 cu yd

Downstream Work Road	Approximate Quantities	
	Below OHW	Total
Fill Area	3300 sq ft	3580 sq ft
Fill Volume	210 cu yd	320 cu yd

Note: OHW is Ordinary High Water



Note: Temp. Pipe Culverts shall be placed to maintain drainage at low flow as directed by the Engineer.

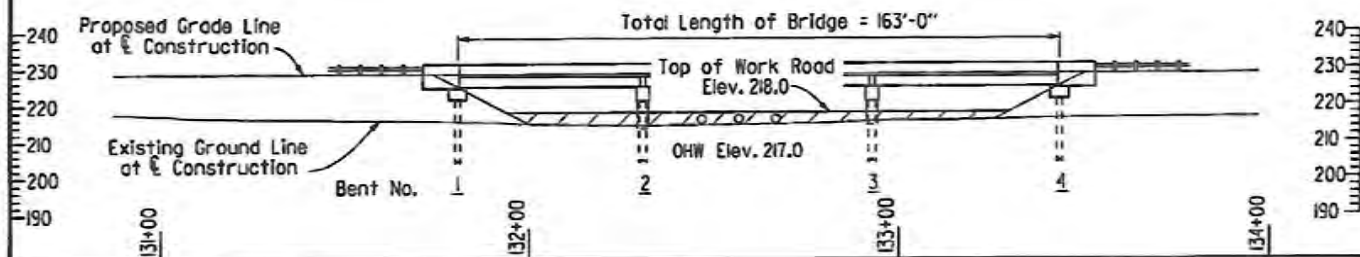
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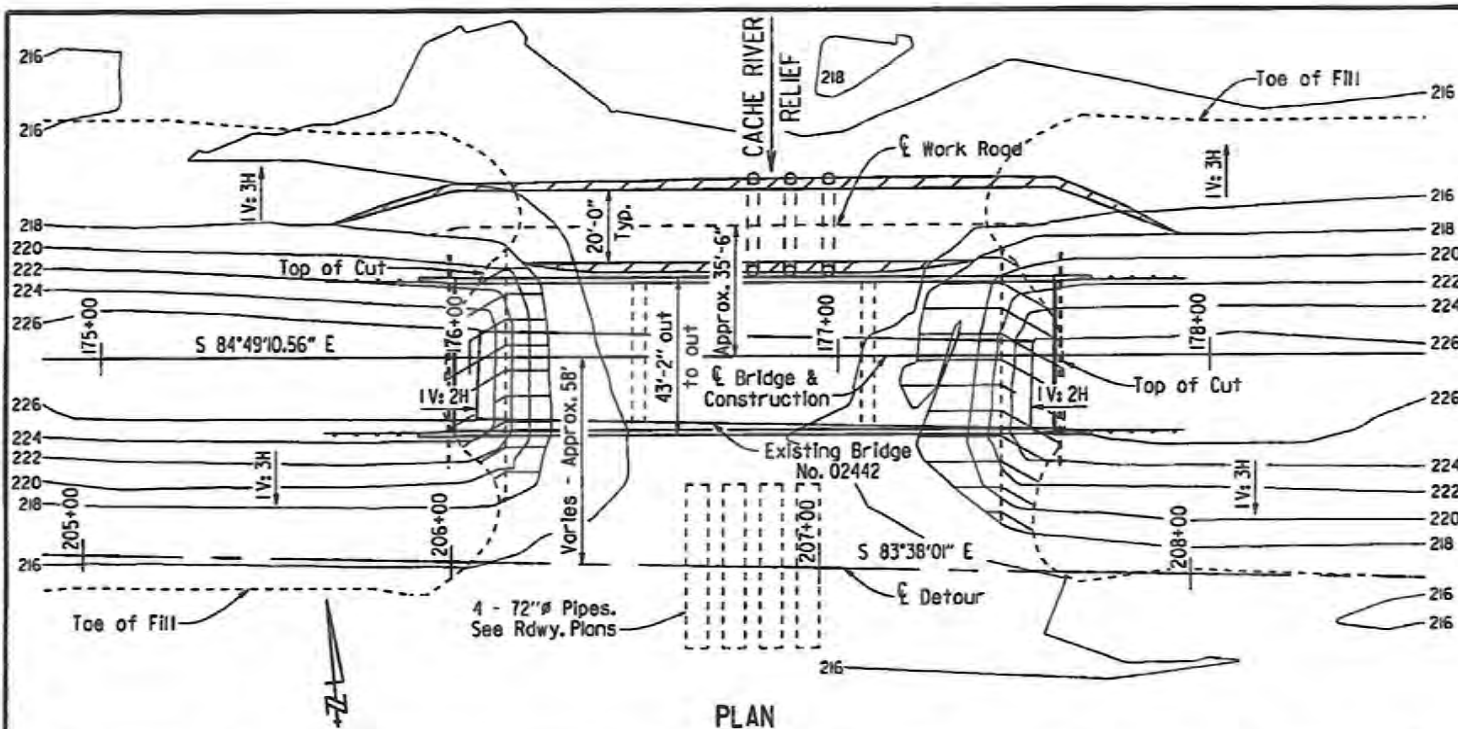
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The Contractor is responsible for maintenance of the work road(s) during the contract period. See Section 110.05(c) in the Standard Specifications for additional information.



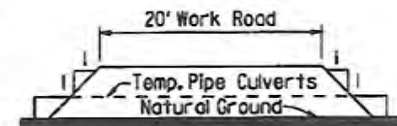
CONCEPTUAL WORK PLAN
FOR TEMPORARY FILL
JOB 050272
CACHE RIVER RELIEF (SITE NO. 2)
CACHE RIVER - AMAGON
STRS. & APPRS. (S)

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Work Road	Approximate Quantities	
	Below OHW	Total
Fill Area	4040 sq ft	4340 sq ft
Fill Volume	220 cu yd	345 cu yd

Note: OHW is Ordinary High Water



Note: Temp. Pipe Culverts shall be placed to maintain drainage at low flow as directed by the Engineer.

SECTION THRU WORK ROAD

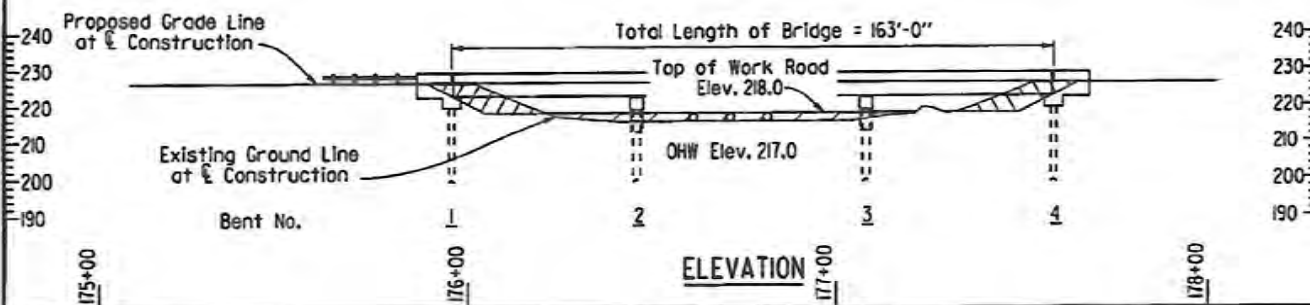
No Scale

PLAN

The temporary fill to construct the work road(s) shown has been permitted to facilitate construction of the project. The Contractor shall determine and provide temporary culverts of a size and number that will be sufficient to maintain low stream flows and assist passage of aquatic wildlife.

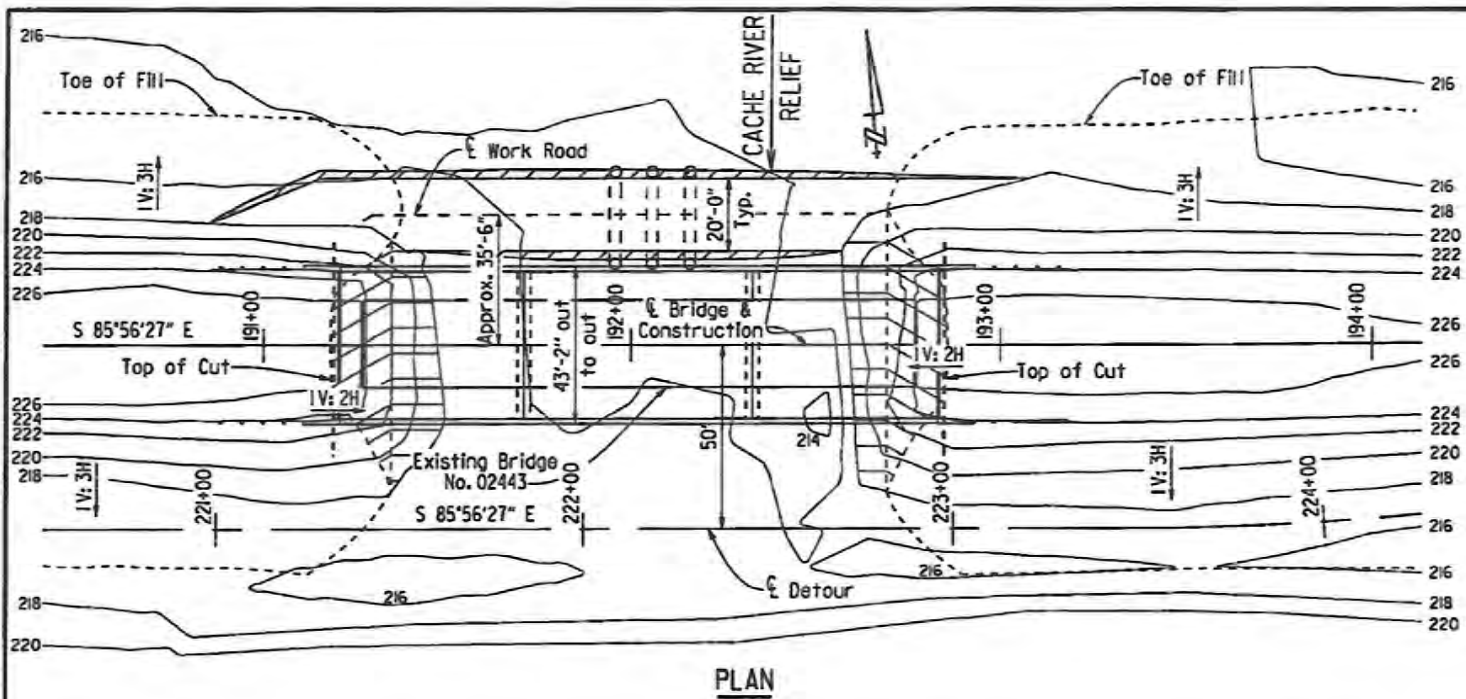
The Contractor may submit an alternative work road plan for approval by the Engineer showing details of and describing the proposed modifications. The primary objective of any proposed modifications should be to minimize the reduction of the waterway opening in the floodplain. The top of the alternative work road(s) shall not exceed the elevation shown. A determination will be made by the Engineer within ten (10) business days concerning the necessity or practicability of the request. A modification of the Section 404 Permit and additional review time by the Corps of Engineers may be required if the alternative work road(s) increase the volume of temporary fill that has been permitted for the project. The contract time will not be extended for the time required to consider or approve any alternate work road(s) submittal.

The Contractor is responsible for maintenance of the work road(s) during the contract period. See Section 110.05(c) in the Standard Specifications for additional information.



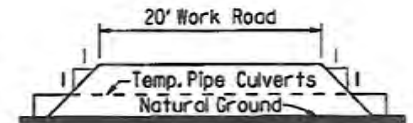
**CONCEPTUAL WORK PLAN
FOR TEMPORARY FILL
JOB 050272
CACHE RIVER RELIEF (SITE NO. 3)
CACHE RIVER - AMAGON
STRS. & APPRS. (S)**

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Work Road	Approximate Quantities	
	Below OHW	Total
Fill Area	3160 sq ft	3850 sq ft
Fill Volume	115 cu yd	230 cu yd

Note: OHW is Ordinary High Water



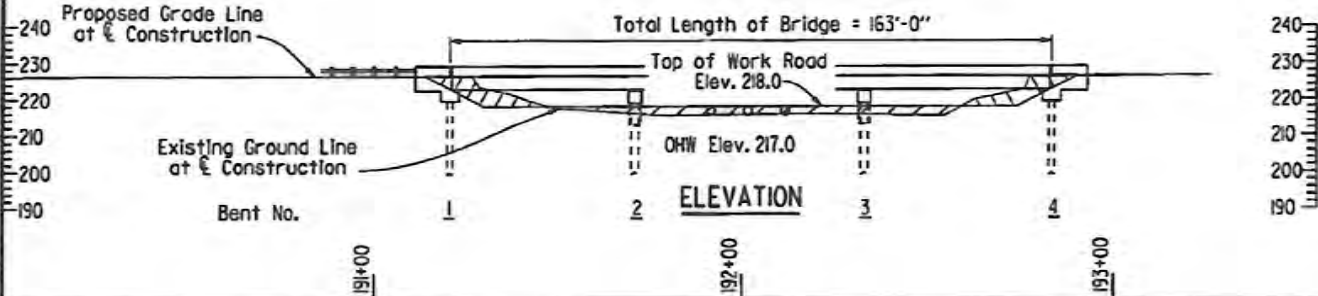
Note: Temp. Pipe Culverts shall be placed to maintain drainage at low flow as directed by the Engineer.

SECTION THRU WORK ROAD
No Scale

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The Contractor may submit an alternative work road plan for approval by the Engineer showing details of and describing the proposed modifications. The primary objective of any proposed modifications should be to minimize the reduction of the waterway opening in the floodplain. The top of the alternative work road(s) shall not exceed the elevation shown. A determination will be made by the Engineer within ten (10) business days concerning the necessity or practicability of the request. A modification of the Section 404 Permit and additional review time by the Corps of Engineers may be required if the alternative work road(s) increase the volume of temporary fill that has been permitted for the project. The contract time will not be extended for the time required to consider or approve any alternate work road(s) submittal.

The Contractor is responsible for maintenance of the work road(s) during the contract period. See Section 110.05(c) in the Standard Specifications for additional information.



**CONCEPTUAL WORK PLAN
FOR TEMPORARY FILL
JOB 050272
CACHE RIVER RELIEF (SITE NO. 4)
CACHE RIVER - AMAGON
STRS. & APPRS. (S)**

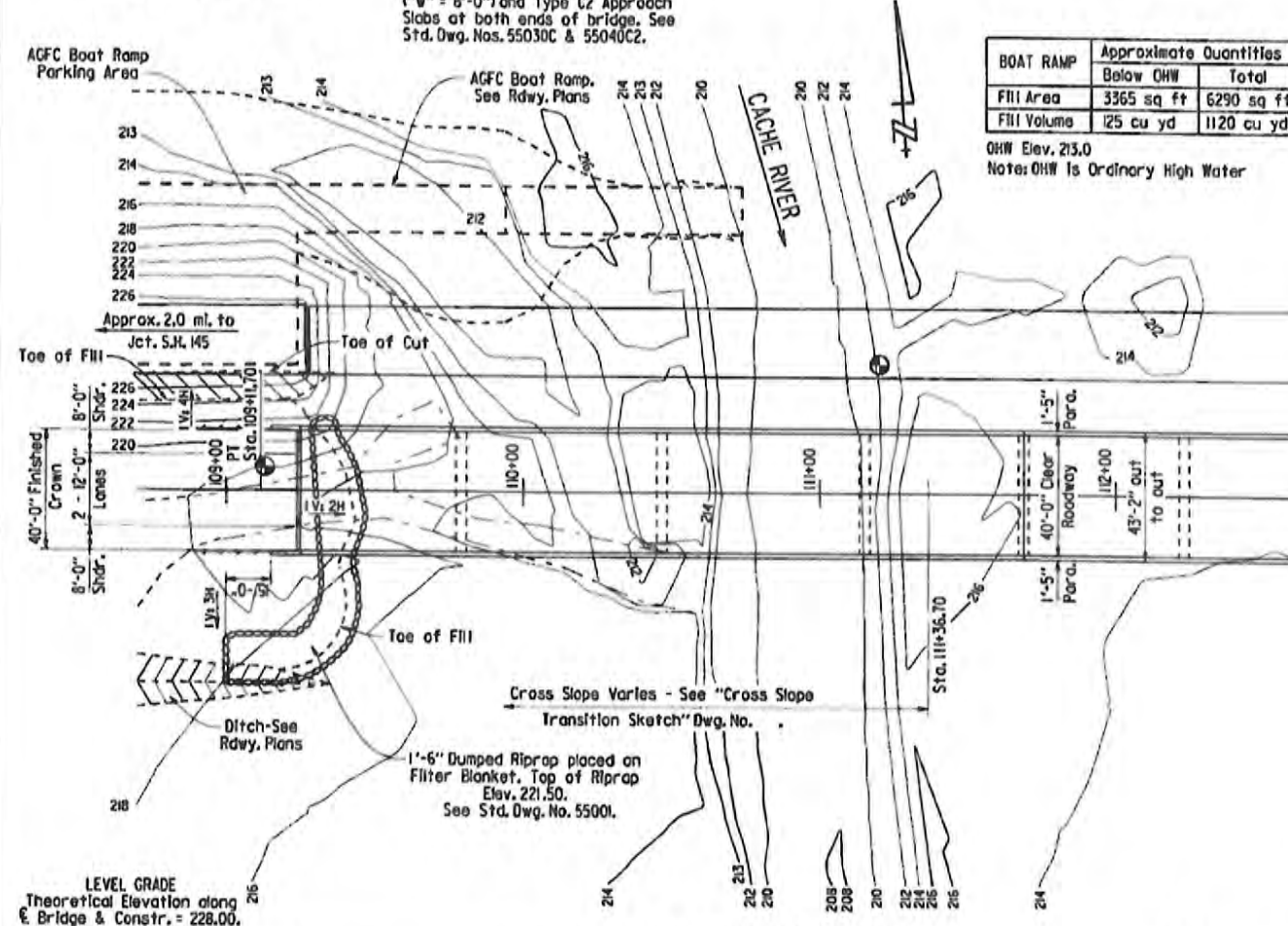
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For R/W Data, see Rdwy. Plans

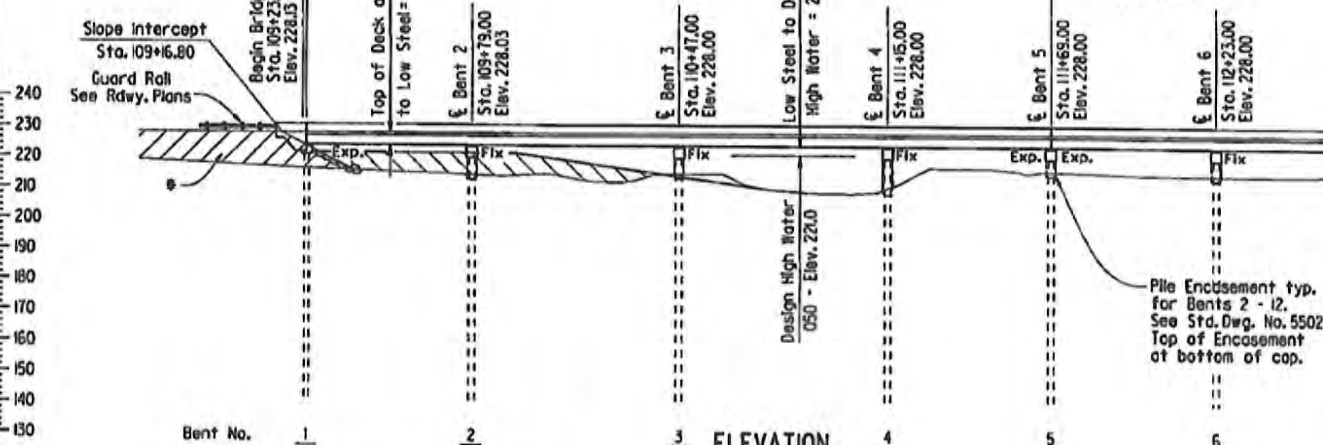
Place Type C Approach Gutters
 ("w" = 8'-0") and Type C2 Approach
 Slabs at both ends of bridge. See
 Std. Dwg. Nos. 55030C & 55040C2.

BOAT RAMP	Approximate Quantities	
	Below OHW	Total
FHI Area	3365 sq ft	6290 sq ft
FHI Volume	125 cu yd	1120 cu yd

OHW Elev. 213.0
 Note: OHW is Ordinary High Water



LEVEL GRADE
 Theoretical Elevation along
 Bridge & Constr. = 228.00,
 See "Cross Slope Transition
 Sketch", Dwg. No.
 Elevations shown are actual
 elevations along
 Bridge.
 Stations shown are
 along Bridge.



Bent No.	Top of Deck at Bridge to Low Side top of Cop
2	4'-5 5/8"
3, 4, 6-8 10-12	4'-4 5/8"
5, 9	4'-5 5/8"

* Proposed Bridge Embankments shall be internally reinforced with Geogrid. Geogrid materials and placement shall be as specified in SP Job No. 050272 "Geosynthetic Internal Reinforced Embankment Construction."

BOAT RAMP SKETCH
CACHE RIVER
CACHE RIVER - AMAGON
 SCALE: 1" = 60'

Required Mitigation Credits Worksheet

Factor	Permanent BLH Wetland	Permanent Scrub/Shrub Wetland	AGFC Boat Ramp	Temporary BLH Wetland	Temporary Scrub/Shrub Wetland
Lost Type	3.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
Priority Category	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Existing Condition	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.0
Duration	2	2	2	0.2	0.2
Dominant Impact	3	3	3	3	3
Cumulative Impact	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Sum of r Factors	R ₁ =12.0	R ₂ =10.5	R ₃ =12.0	R ₃ =10.2	R ₄ =8.7
Impacted Area	AA ₁ =3.0	AA ₂ =11.9	AA ₃ =0.2	AA ₄ =2.6	AA ₅ =1.9
R x AA=	36.0	125.0	2.4	26.5	16.5

$$\text{TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS} = \sum (R \times AA) = 206.4$$

The average credit per acre at the Glaise Creek Mitigation Bank is 3.5. 206.4 wetland credits at Glaise Creek Mitigation Bank is 59.0 acres.



Figure 2. Scrub/Shrub Wetland



Figure 3. Forested Wetlands