



# Florida Department of TRANSPORTATION

## **Natural Resource Evaluation (NRE)**

Florida Department of Transportation

District 4

Atlantic Avenue (SR 806) Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

Limits of Project: From Florida's Turnpike (M.P. 1.748) to Jog Road (M.P. 3.560)

Palm Beach County, Florida

Financial Management Number: 440575-3-22-02

Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Number: 14423

Date: June 2023

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

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## Executive Summary

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Four, is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for widening of Atlantic Avenue (SR 806) in Palm Beach County from Florida's Turnpike (M.P. 1.748) (referred to as Turnpike throughout this report) to Jog Road (M.P. 3.560). The purpose of the study is to evaluate the viability, challenges, and solutions for the widening of Atlantic Avenue from four to six lanes to improve the local and regional transportation network while also providing enhanced multimodal interrelationships along Atlantic Avenue from Turnpike to Jog Road. The study was conducted in order to meet the requirements of the FDOT, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other related federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. This is a federally funded project.

This Natural Resources Evaluation (NRE) is being prepared as part of this PD&E Study. This report identifies and evaluates wetland habitat, federal and state listed species, and Essential Fish Habitat within or adjacent to the project area that may affect implementation of the project. The identification of measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate for potential impacts is also discussed. Preliminary coordination with the relevant regulatory agencies was afforded through the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process. Comments about potential effects to environmental resources were provided in the ETDM Summary Report (Project # 14423). Additional comments were sought through the Advance Notification (AN) process for the project.

The 'No-Build' Alternative and the following Build Alternatives are discussed in this document: Alternative 1: Best Fit Alignment with a ten-foot-wide sidewalk on the south side and an eight-foot-wide sidewalk on the north side, Alternative 2: South Alignment with a ten-foot-wide sidewalk on the south side and an eight-foot-wide sidewalk on the north side, Alternative 3: Best Fit Alignment with ten-foot-wide sidewalk on both the north and south sides, and Alternative 3(a): Best Fit Alignment with ten-foot-wide sidewalk (six-foot minimum in constrained areas) on both the north and south sides. A summary of the analysis of potential project impacts for the proposed improvements is presented below.

### Listed Species

The project area was evaluated for potential occurrences of federal and state listed protected plant and animal species in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and Chapters 5B-40 and 68A-27 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The evaluation included coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). The evaluation also included literature and database reviews, as well as field assessments of the project area to identify the potential occurrence of protected species and/or presence of federal-designated critical habitat. Based on an evaluation of collected data and field reviews, the federal and state listed species discussed below were determined to have the potential to occur within or adjacent to the project area. An effect determination was made for each of these federal and state listed species based on an analysis of the potential impacts of the proposed project on



each species.

The project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the following federally listed species:

- Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*).

The project will have no effect on the following federally listed species:

- Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*);
- West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*);
- Wood stork (*Mycteria americana*);
- Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*);
- Snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*); and
- Federally listed plants: four-petaled pawpaw (*Asimina tetramera*), Florida perforate cladonia (*Cladonia perforata*), Okeechobee gourd (*Cucurbita okeechobeensis ssp. okeechobeensis*), Florida prairie-clover (*Dalea carthagenensis floridana*), beach jacquemontia (*Jacquemontia reclinata*), and tiny polygala (*Polygala smallii*).

The project will have no effect anticipated on the following state listed species:

- Florida burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia floridana*);
- Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*); and
- State listed plants: large-flowered rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*), coastal mock vervain (*Glandularia matitima*), pineland jacquemontia (*Jacquemontia curtissii*), nodding pinweed (*Lechea cernua*), Carter's flax (*Linum carteri var. smallii*), cutthroat grass (*Panicum abcissum*), and giant orchid (*Pteroglossaspis ecristata*).

There are several species which may occur in the project vicinity and are not listed as threatened but receive other legal protection. These include the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). There is no effect anticipated for these species. Potential bat species include the Mexican free-tail (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), tri-colored (*Perimyotis subflavus*), evening (*Nycticeius humeralis*), big brown (*Eptesicus fuscus*), northern yellow (*Dasypterus intermedius*), and Seminole (*Lasiurus seminolus*) bats; there is no adverse effect anticipated to bat species.

### **Wetlands and Other Surface Waters**

For the purposes of this document, wetlands are defined as per 62.340 F.A.C., Section 373.019 (27) Florida Statutes, and *Corp of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* (1987) with *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region* (2010). Based on field reconnaissance and a desktop analysis, there are no wetlands within the project corridor. Accordingly, there are no wetland impacts associated with any of the alternatives. There are three canals adjacent or perpendicular to the project corridor, managed by the Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD): the E-2E, E-2W, and L-34 canals. The E-2E and E-2W canals are perpendicular to the corridor and the L-34 canal runs parallel to Atlantic Avenue for most of the project length. It is separated from the roadway by an approximate 50-foot-wide area of maintained turf grass. There are no proposed, permanent impacts to the E-2E, E-2W, or L-

34 canals.

### **Essential Fish Habitat**

The proposed project is not within Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). This was confirmed through field reconnaissance and a desktop analysis. Therefore, no impacts to EFH are anticipated.

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## 1.0 Project Overview

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study to evaluate the proposed widening of a 1.8-mile segment of Atlantic Avenue (SR 806) from Florida's Turnpike (MP 1.748) (referred to as Turnpike throughout this report) to Jog Road (MP 3.560) in unincorporated Palm Beach County (see **Figure 1**). The proposed project would widen the existing four-lane roadway with no designated bike lanes to a six-lane roadway with upgraded bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Additionally, new stormwater management facilities were evaluated within the study area. The study is being conducted in order to meet the requirements of the FDOT, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other related federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. This report is formatted to conform with the Project Development and Environment Manual, Part 2, Chapters 9, 16, and 17, the NRE outline and guidance (FDOT 2020a; 2020b), and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands

### 1.1 Project Purpose and Need

The primary purpose of the project is to improve the local and regional transportation network while also providing enhanced multimodal interrelationships along Atlantic Avenue from Turnpike to Jog Road.

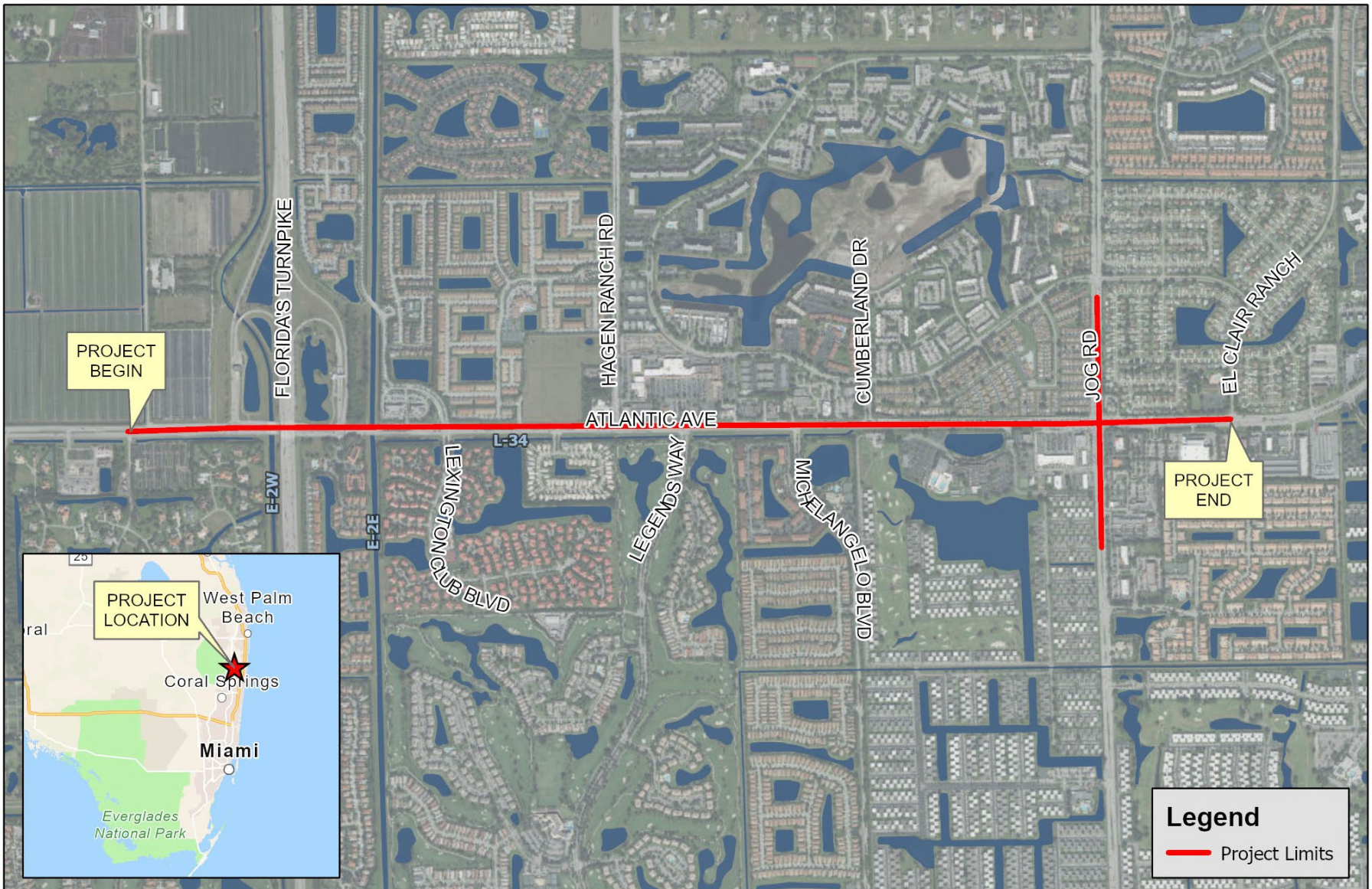
The project is located within the jurisdiction of the Palm Beach TPA. The proposed widening is included in the Palm Beach TPA's *2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)*, in the *2020-2040 Desires Plan* and within the *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-2026* (adopted date: June 16, 2020). This project is also listed as number 16-1 in the List of Priority Projects by the Palm Beach TPA. Funding for right-of-way is planned to be available in Year 2024-2025. Within the TIP, the total cost is listed for widening of Atlantic Avenue from west of Lyons Road to Jog Road.

The 2018 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) within the project limits ranges from 38,900 to 46,700 vehicles per day (VPD). Based on the anticipated growth within the corridor, the future traffic volumes were projected from 57,100 to 70,400 VPD by 2045. The corridor with the existing capacity within the project limits is anticipated to operate at Level of Service (LOS) 'F' by design year 2045. Widening Atlantic Avenue will promote enhanced traffic flow and will help improve the LOS.

Atlantic Avenue intersects two major north-south roadways: Turnpike on the west and Jog Road on the east. The Turnpike is a part of the state's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS). The SIS includes Florida's important transportation facilities that support the state's economy and mobility. Currently, Atlantic Avenue is an inadequate link between these multilane roadways. Expanding Atlantic Avenue to six lanes will better serve the regional transportation network and the local collector roadways.

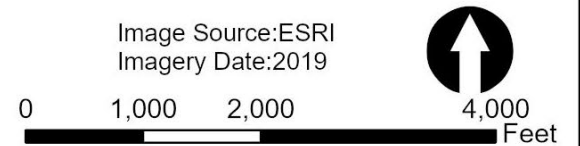
Atlantic Avenue contains a sidewalk adjacent to the westbound lanes throughout the entire length of the study area. There is a sidewalk adjacent to the eastbound lanes from the Turnpike to Michelangelo Boulevard. However, there is an existing sidewalk gap from Michelangelo Boulevard to west of Jog Road on the south side of Atlantic Avenue. There are four-foot-wide bicycle facilities along Atlantic Avenue. The Palm Beach TPA *Master Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan (MCBTP) (March 2011)* includes bicycle facilities improvement recommendations throughout Palm Beach County. The MCBTP designates Atlantic Avenue from the Turnpike to I-95 as a "Priority Corridor." The TPA Bike Suitability Map (February 2016) states that this section of Atlantic Avenue is ranked as "fair": high speed road (>35 mph) with some space for bicyclists to travel.

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**Figure 1. Project Location Map**  
 Atlantic Avenue (SR 806) from Florida's Turnpike  
 (MP 1.748) to Jog Road (MP 3.560)  
 FPID No. 440575-3-22-02  
 Palm Beach County

Image Source:ESRI  
 Imagery Date:2019





## 1.2 Project Alternatives

### No-Build Alternative

Under the ‘No-Build’ alternative, Atlantic Avenue would remain in its existing condition from Turnpike to Jog Road. From Turnpike to Jog Road, Atlantic Avenue has four lanes with a 20 to 30-foot sod median with Type F curb and gutter, and five-foot shoulders. Sidewalks (six-foot wide) are present on both sides, with the exception of Michelangelo Boulevard to just west of Jog Road on the south side of Atlantic Avenue. The existing right-of-way width would remain as is, varying between 113 feet and 175 feet. The existing four-lane divided facility would continue to accommodate future year traffic volumes as is with degraded LOS.

Based on the existing year analysis (2018), there are some segments within project limits with LOS E or F under existing condition. The corridor performance under the ‘No-Build’ alternative would deteriorate through the design year 2045. The corridor does have a sidewalk gap on the south side and does not include buffered bicycle lanes. This deficiency in multimodal accommodations would remain as is under the ‘No-Build’ condition and does not conform to the Palm Beach TPA’s 2045 LRTP, identifying the sidewalk gap as a Tier 2 Pedestrian Priority Gap and the entire study segment as a Tier 2 Bicycle Priority Network. Tier 1 is defined as missing sidewalks/bicycle facilities in areas with high active transportation demand and equity disparities, and Tier 2 is all other sidewalk/bicycle facilities gaps in the County’s urbanized areas. In addition, the ‘No-Build’ alternative would retain the existing horizontal and vertical geometry.

### Build Alternative

The following section provides information on the typical section and mainline alternatives evaluated following the initial screening.

**Alternative 1: Best Fit – Alignment** - The typical section proposed from Turnpike to Jog Road incorporates the FDOT’s criteria for a six-lane divided urban facility. It is comprised of three 11-foot travel lanes in each direction with a 22-foot median. In each direction, seven-foot-wide buffered bicycle lanes are proposed adjacent to Type F curb and gutter with an eight-foot-wide sidewalk on the north side and a ten-foot-wide sidewalk on the south side. This typical section requires a minimum of 130 feet in order to accommodate mainline improvements. Therefore, right-of-way for the mainline is required under this alternative at various locations within the study limits. In order to minimize right-of-way take on the south side of Atlantic Avenue from the L-34 Canal, a best fit alignment was considered, which utilizes some right-of-way on the north side as well as the south side of Atlantic Avenue. Right-of-way acquisition on the north side of Atlantic Avenue will require up to 23 feet west of Cumberland Drive, but is not anticipated to require any business or residential relocations. The L-34 Canal on the south side will require realignment, and a portion will also require to be piped with dual 84-inch culverts. For this concept, no widening is assumed from the Turnpike southbound ramp intersection to the east side of the Turnpike Bridge since six lanes can be accommodated only by restriping the existing pavement. This alternative was developed prior to the TPA’s resolution being signed and, therefore, did not consist of any

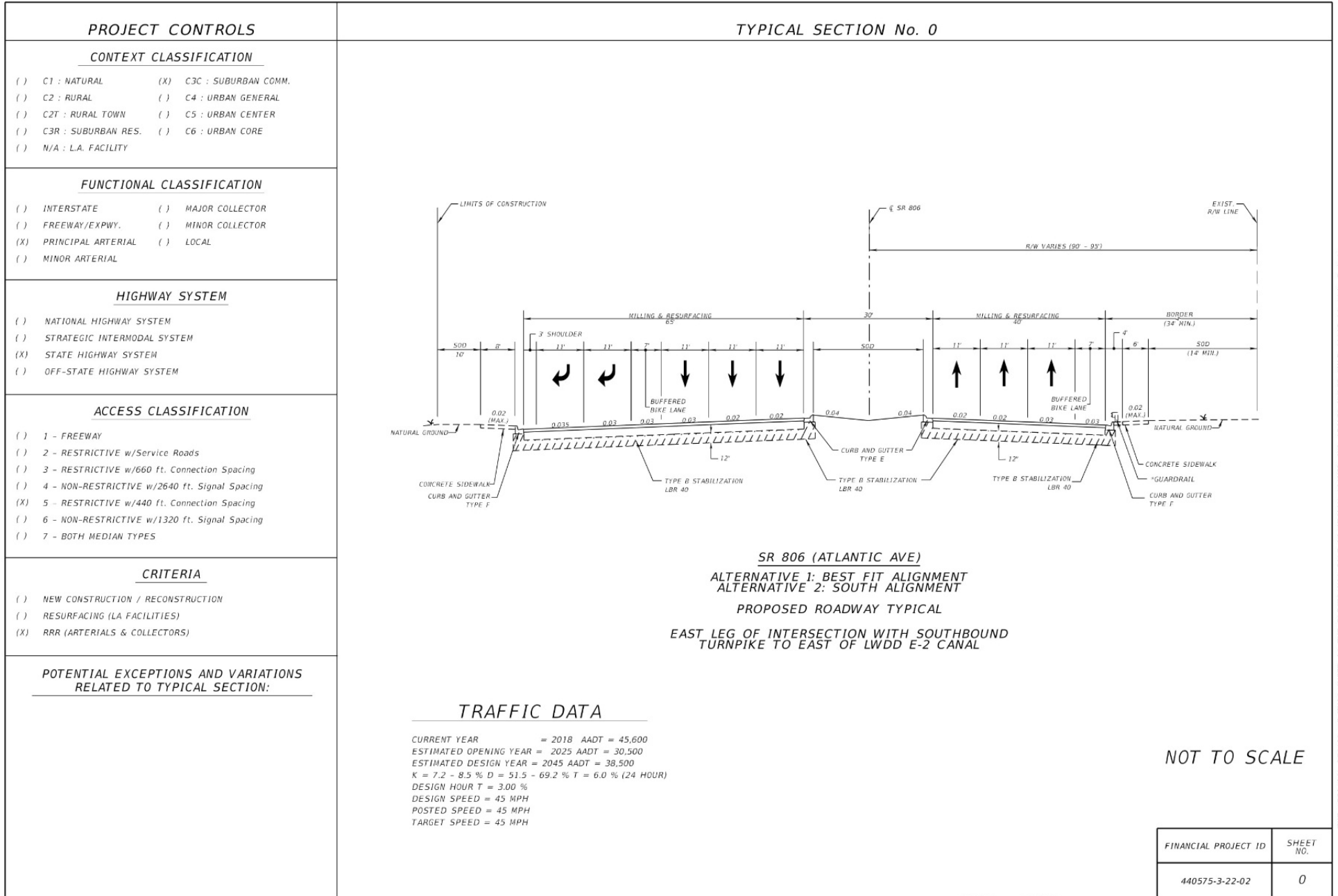
widening, even for wider sidewalks. For these reasons and due to maintenance requirements for piping portions of the L-34 Canal, this alternative was discarded.

**Alternative 2: South – Alignment** - This alternative typical section is the same as in Alternative 1. However, it generally holds the north right-of-way line along Atlantic Avenue east of Stone Quarry Road, shifting the alignment to the south. This increases the amount of right-of-way take on the south side of Atlantic Avenue from the L-34 Canal. Due to associated right-of-way impacts to the L-34 Canal and maintenance requirements for piping portions of the Canal, this alternative was discarded.

**Alternative 3: Best Fit – Alignment** - This alternative typical section is similar to Alternative 1 with the exception of having a ten-foot-wide sidewalk on the north side as opposed to an eight-foot-wide sidewalk as it was developed in response to the Palm Beach TPA's signed resolution. It maintains a similar alignment to Alternative 1. Another key difference is that it includes widening of the sidewalks on both sides from the Turnpike southbound ramp intersection to east of the Turnpike Bridge which also includes widening both E-2W bridges. Due to maintenance requirements for piping portions of the L-34 Canal, this alternative was discarded.

**Alternative 3(a): Best Fit Alignment** – This alternative typical section includes ten-foot-wide sidewalks (six-foot minimum in constrained areas) on both sides, and seven-foot-wide buffered bicycle lanes on both sides. The bicycle lane is reduced to five feet wide going westbound between Hagen Ranch Road and Legends Way (a length of approximately 630 feet) due to right-of-way constraints. Bulkhead walls are proposed along the right turns at Legends Way and Michelangelo Boulevard. Alternative 3(a) is the only viable alternative based on LWDD and Palm Beach TPA requirements. See **Figure 2** for Project Alternatives.

**Figure 2a: Project Alternatives**

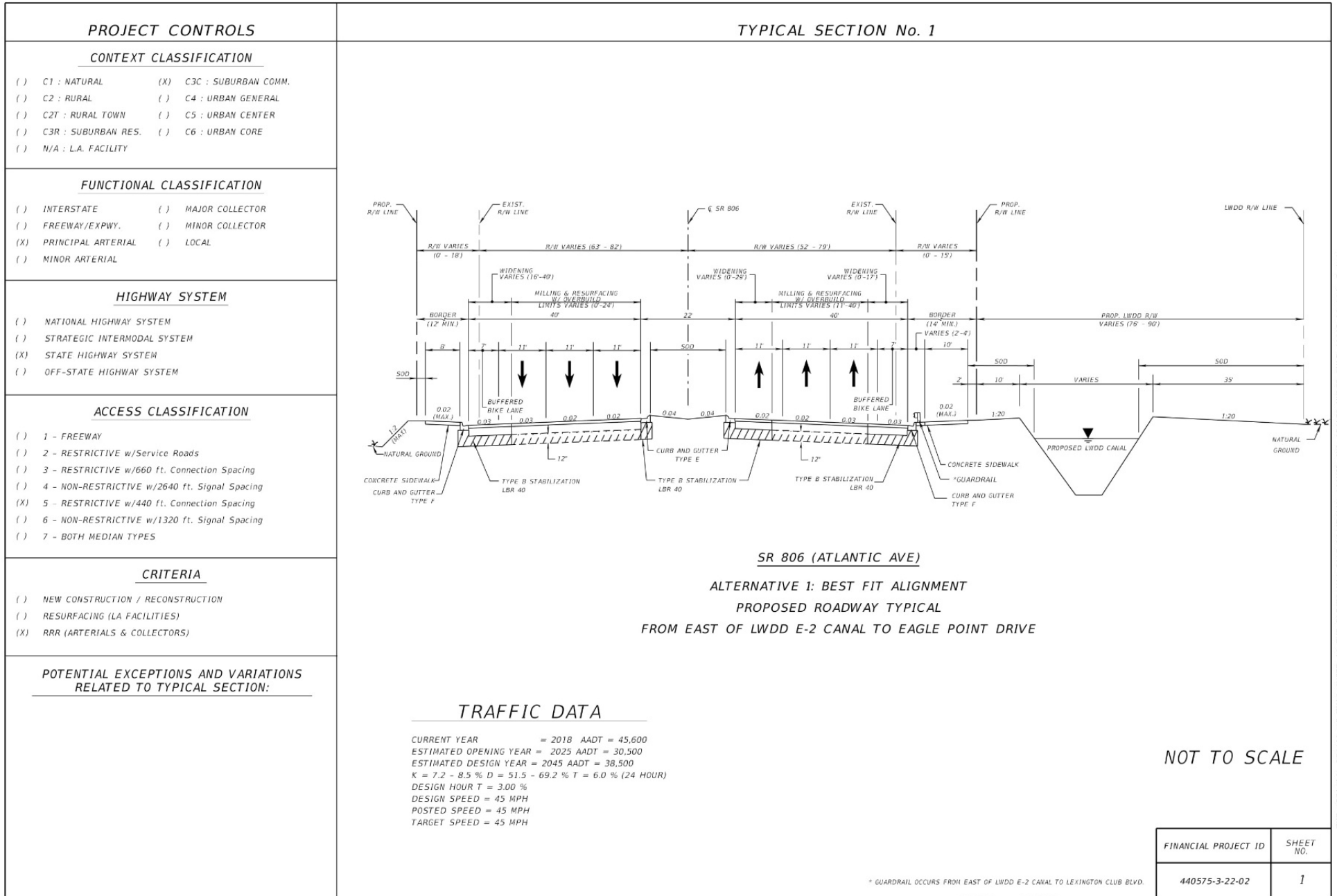


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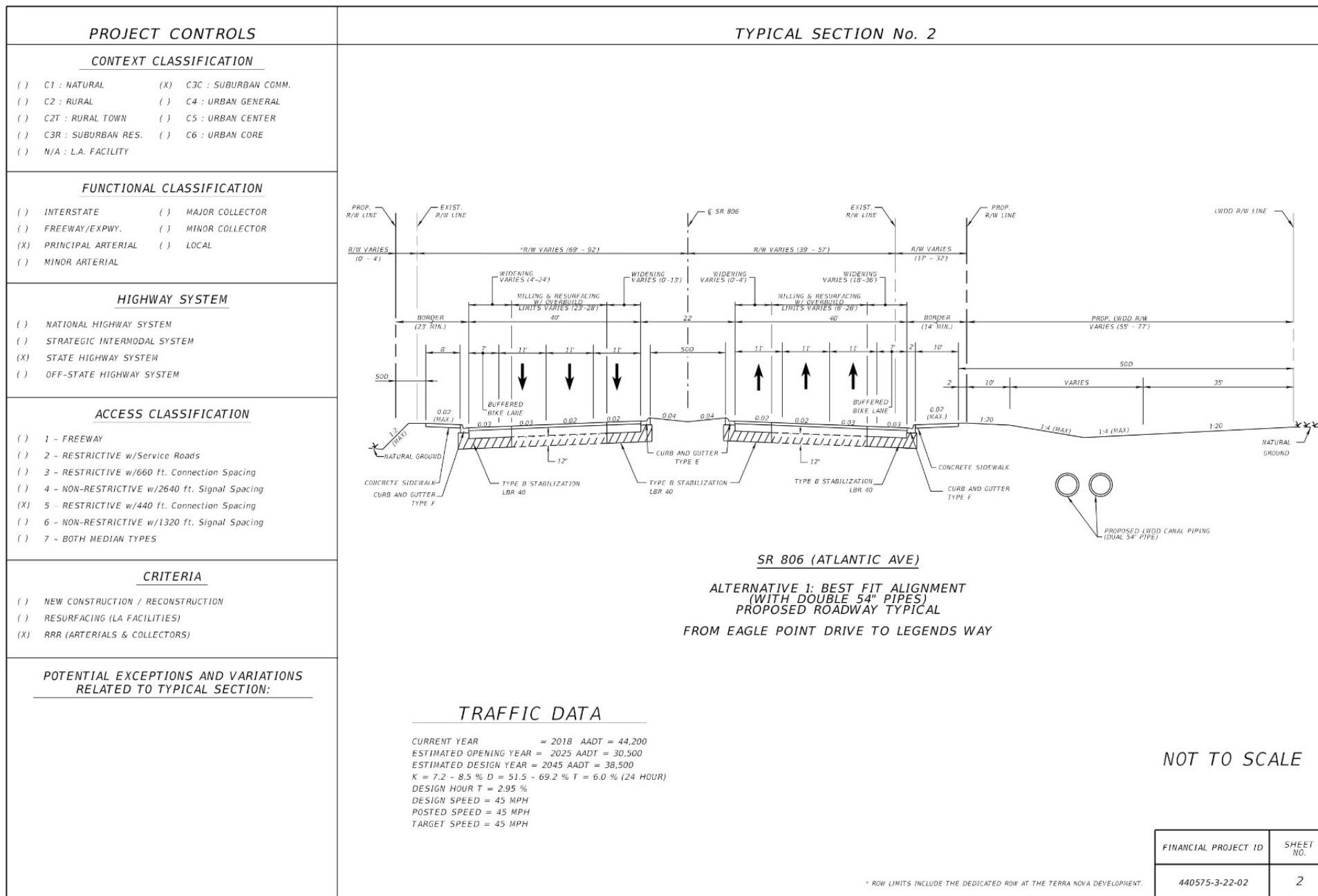


Figure 2b: Project Alternatives



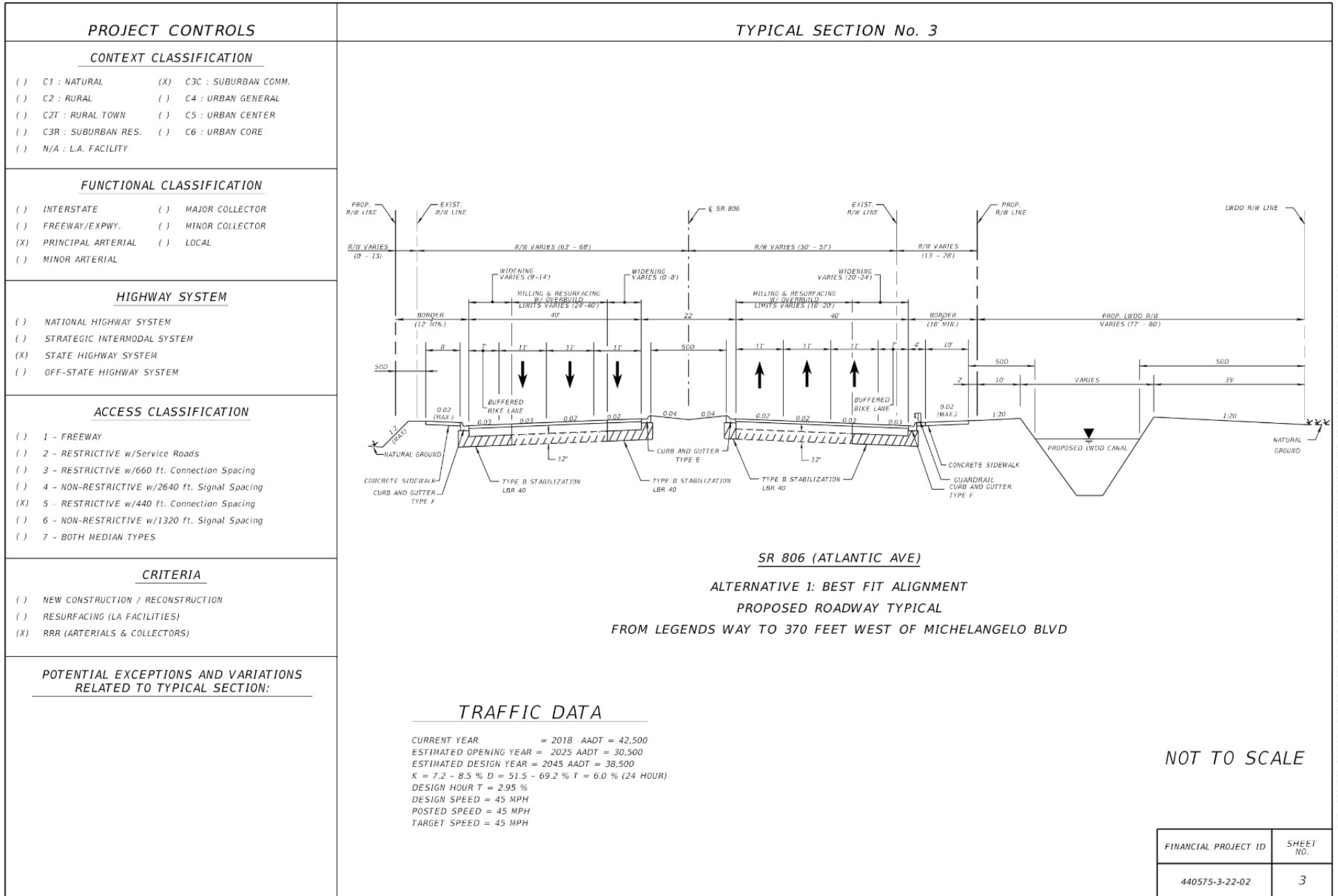
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Figure 2c: Project Alternatives



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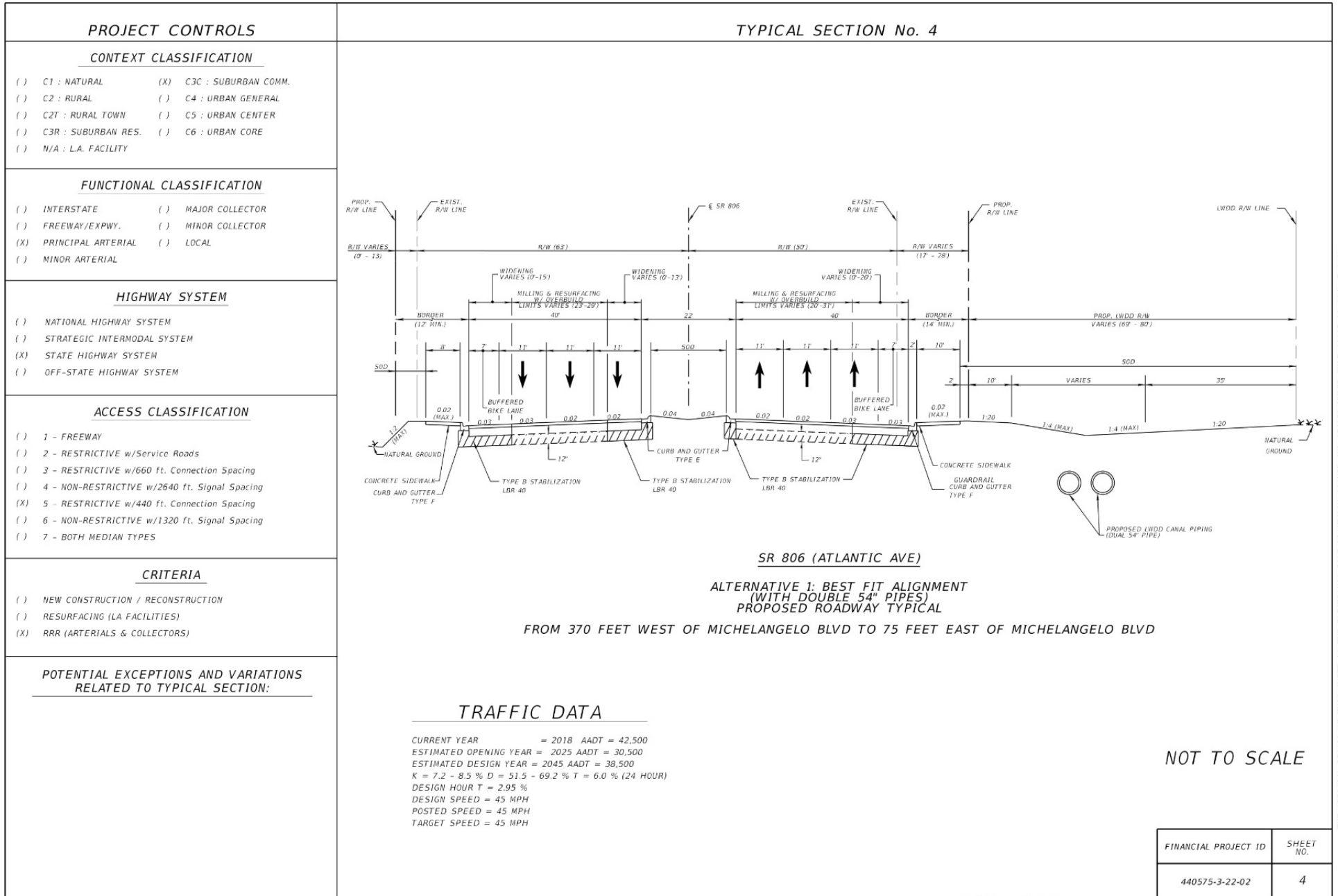
Figure 2d: Project Alternatives



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Figure 2e: Project Alternatives

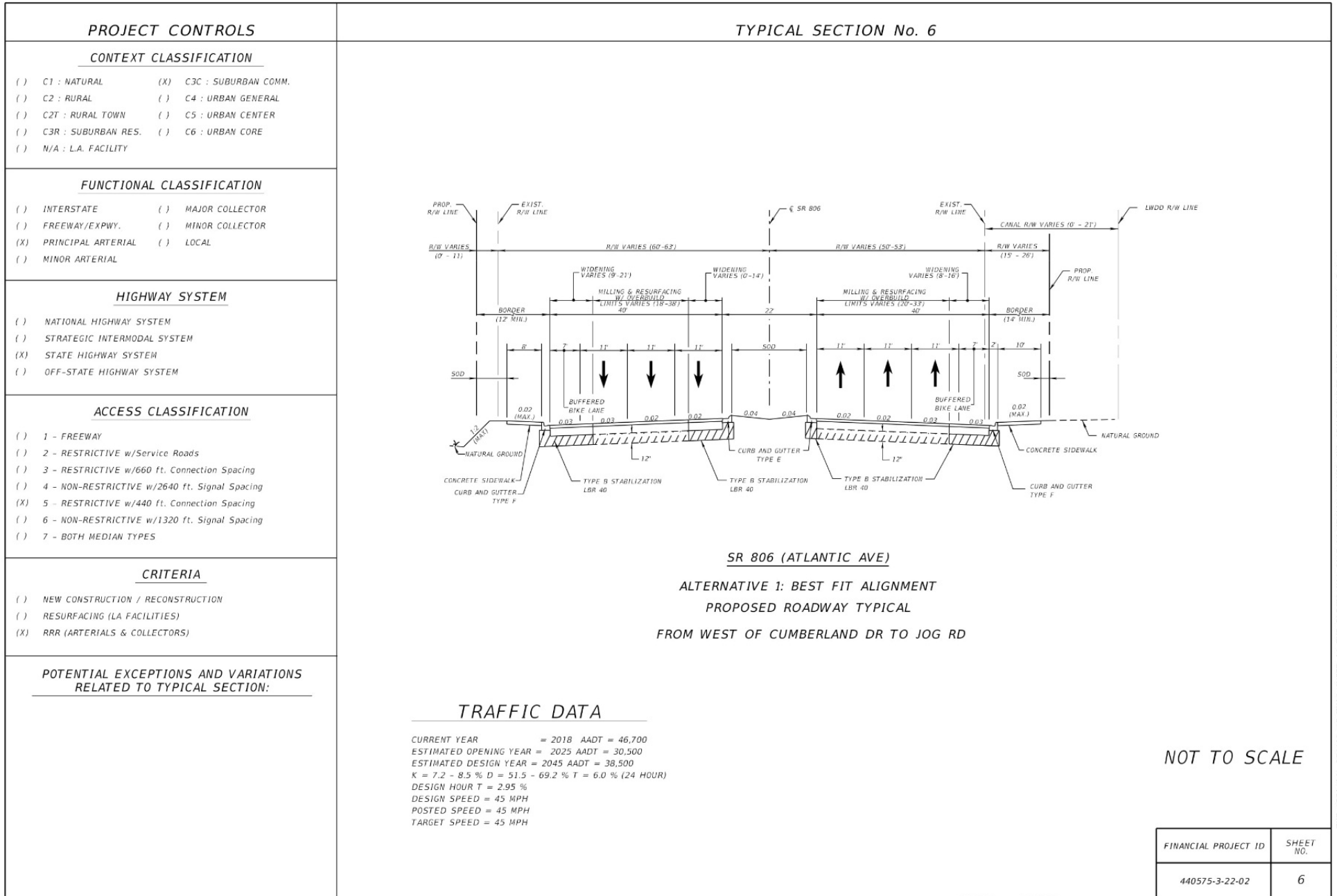


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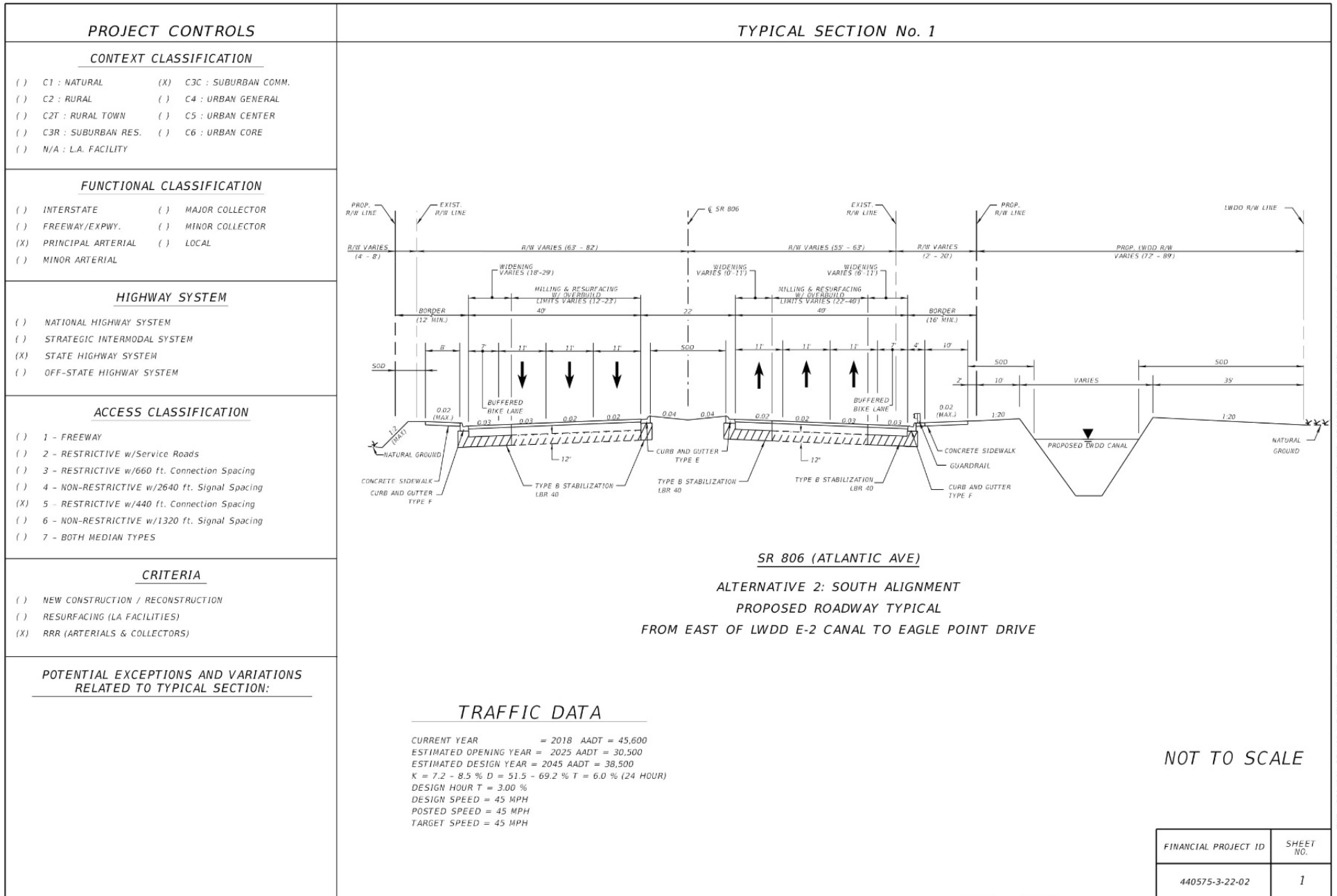


**Figure 2g: Project Alternatives**



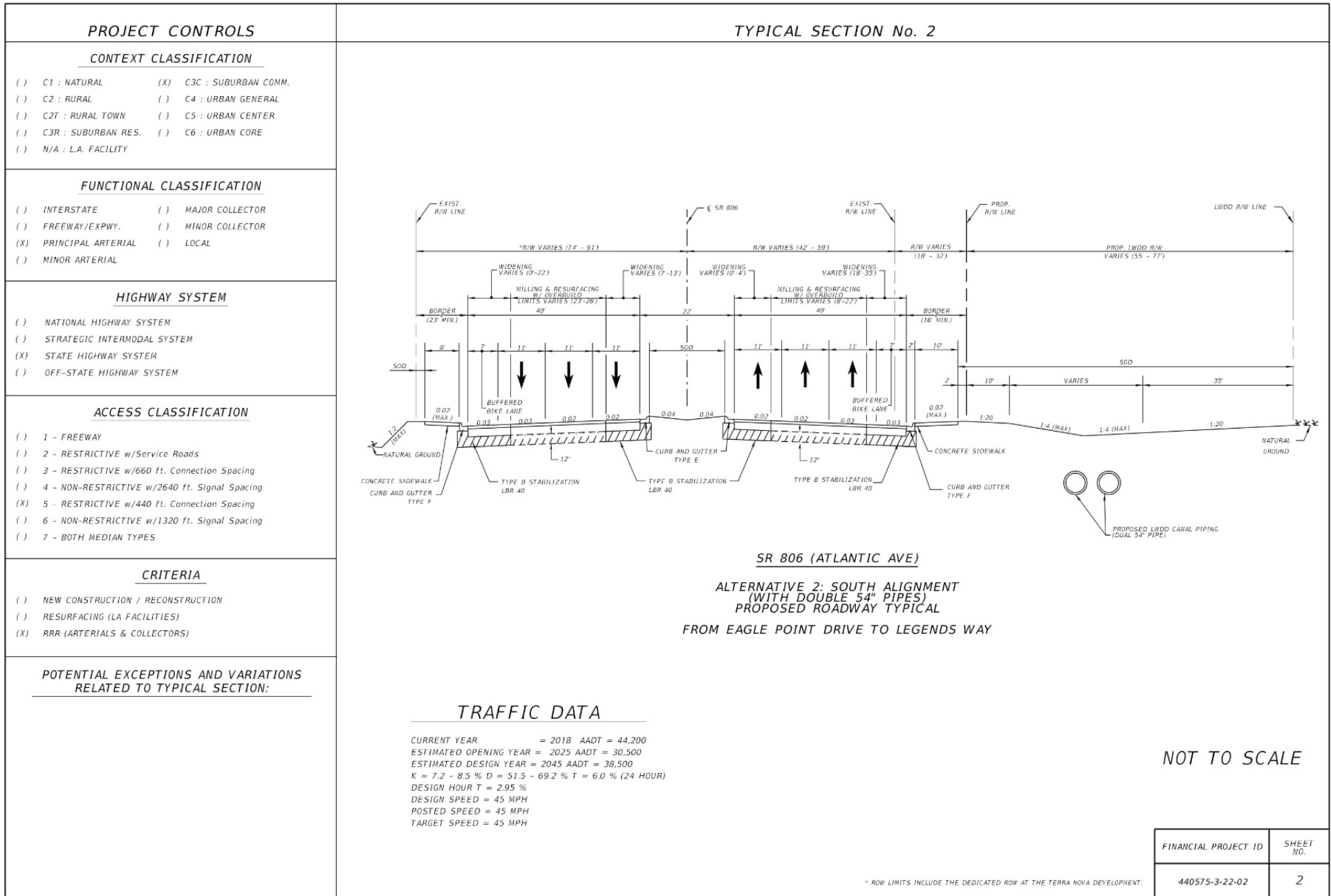
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Figure 2h: Project Alternatives



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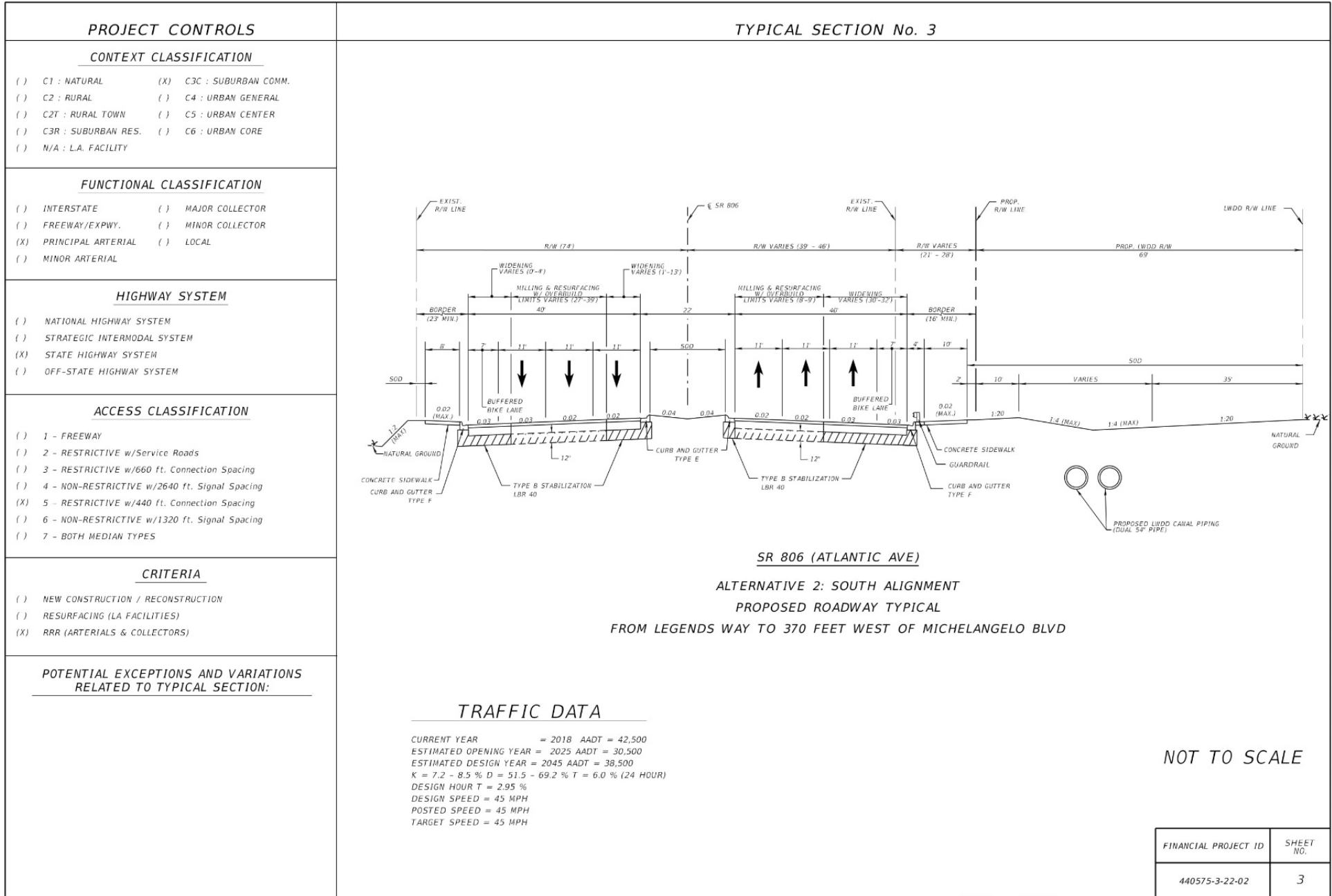
Figure 2i: Project Alternatives



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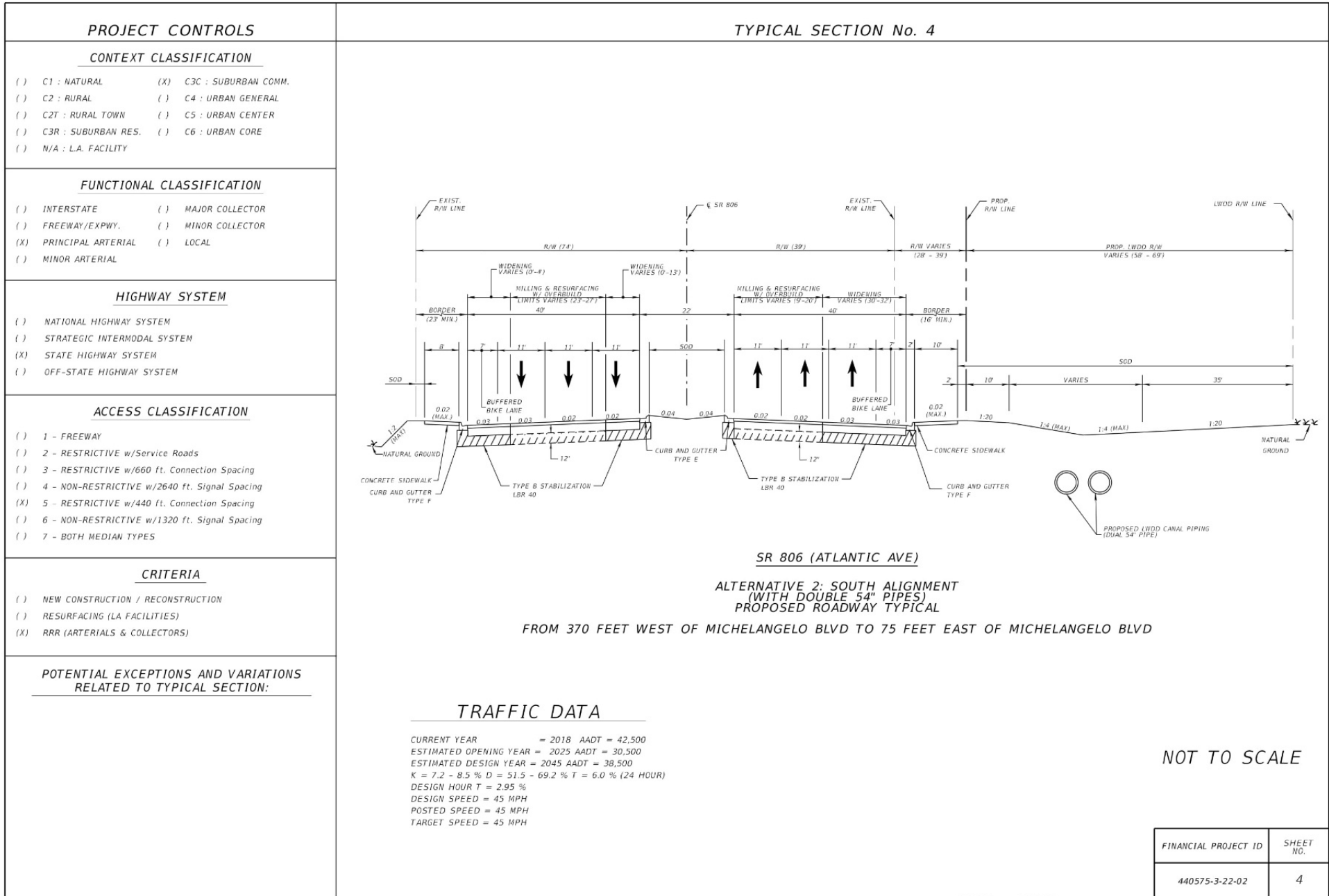


Figure 2j: Project Alternatives



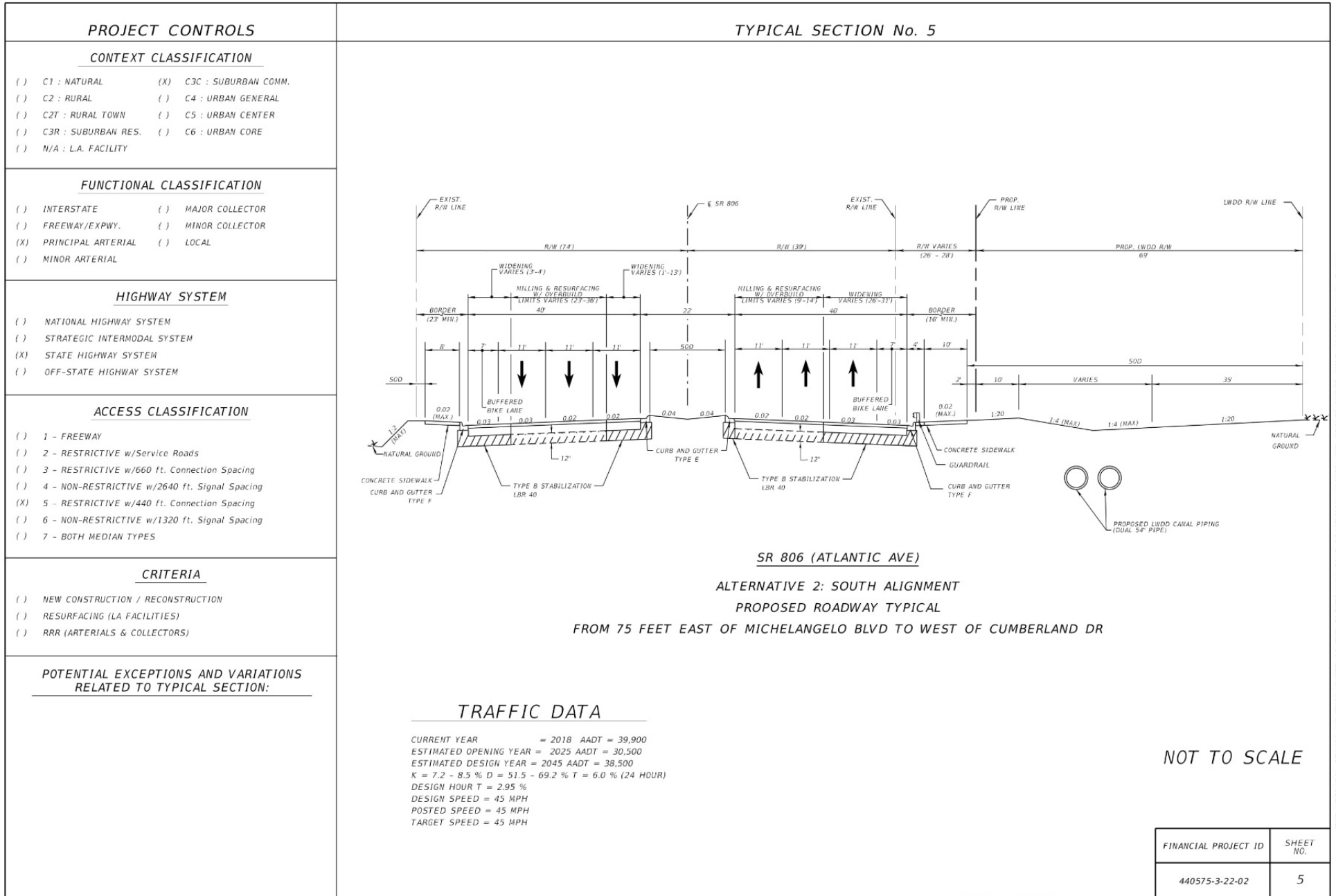
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Figure 2k: Project Alternatives



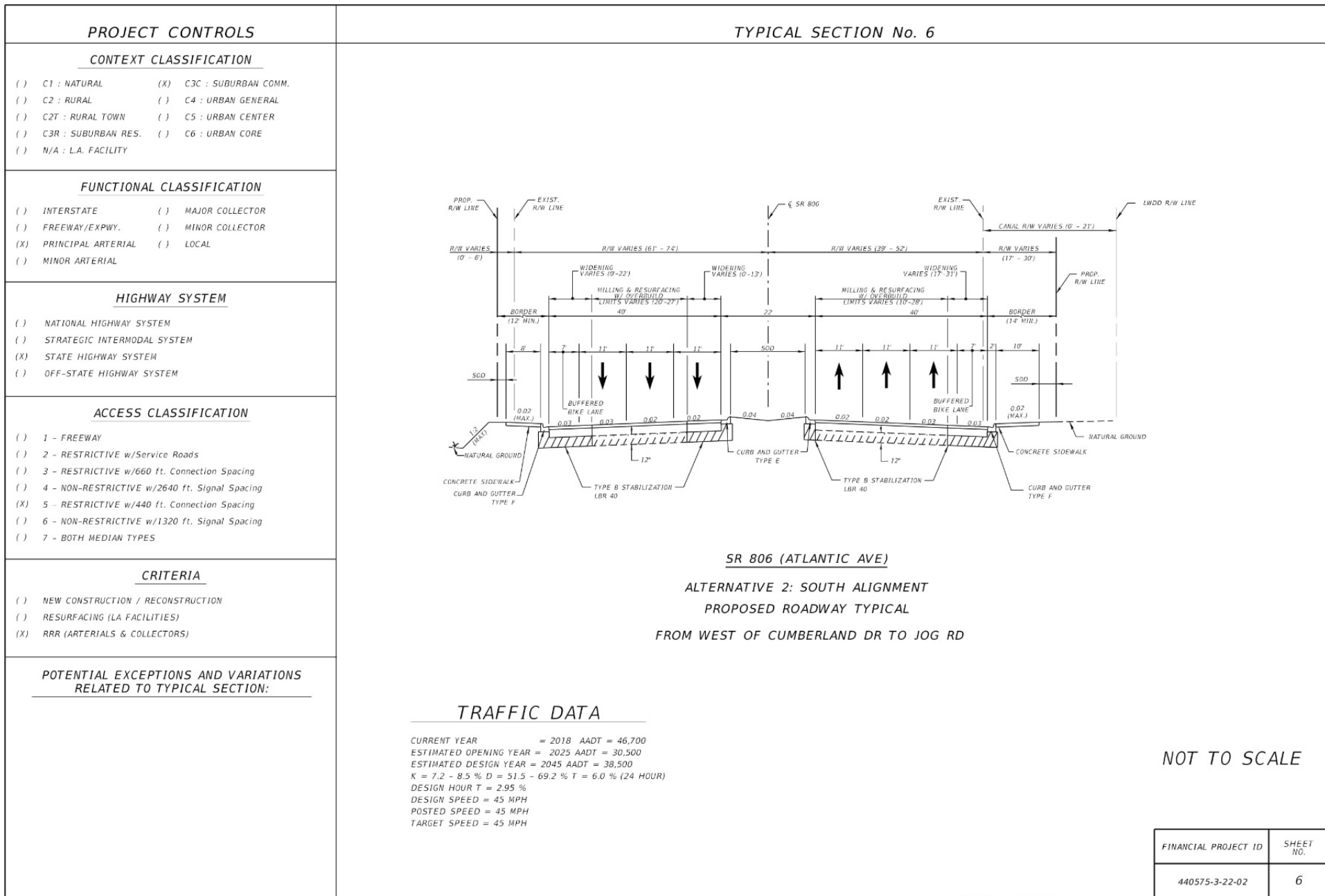
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Figure 21: Project Alternatives



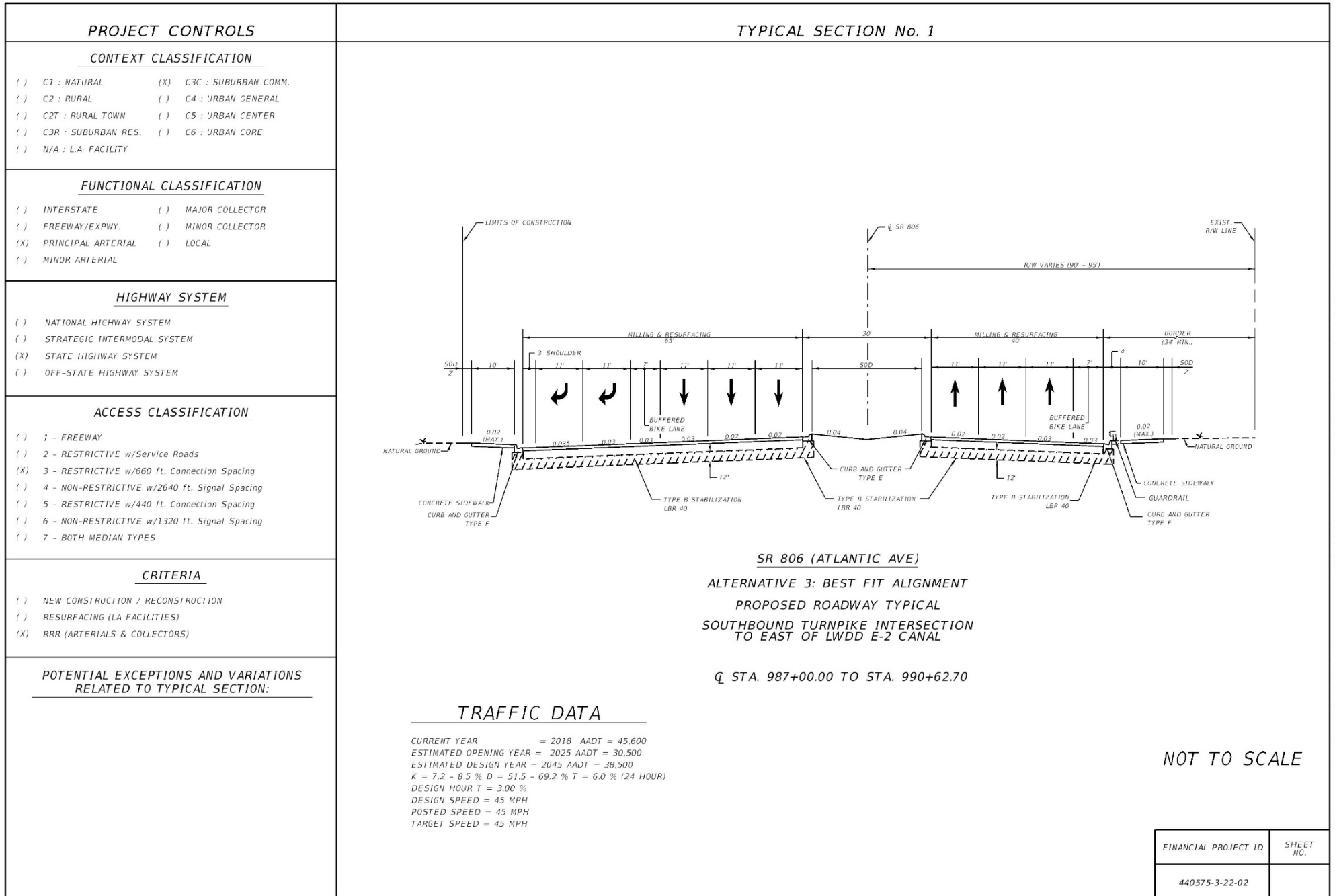
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**Figure 2m: Project Alternatives**



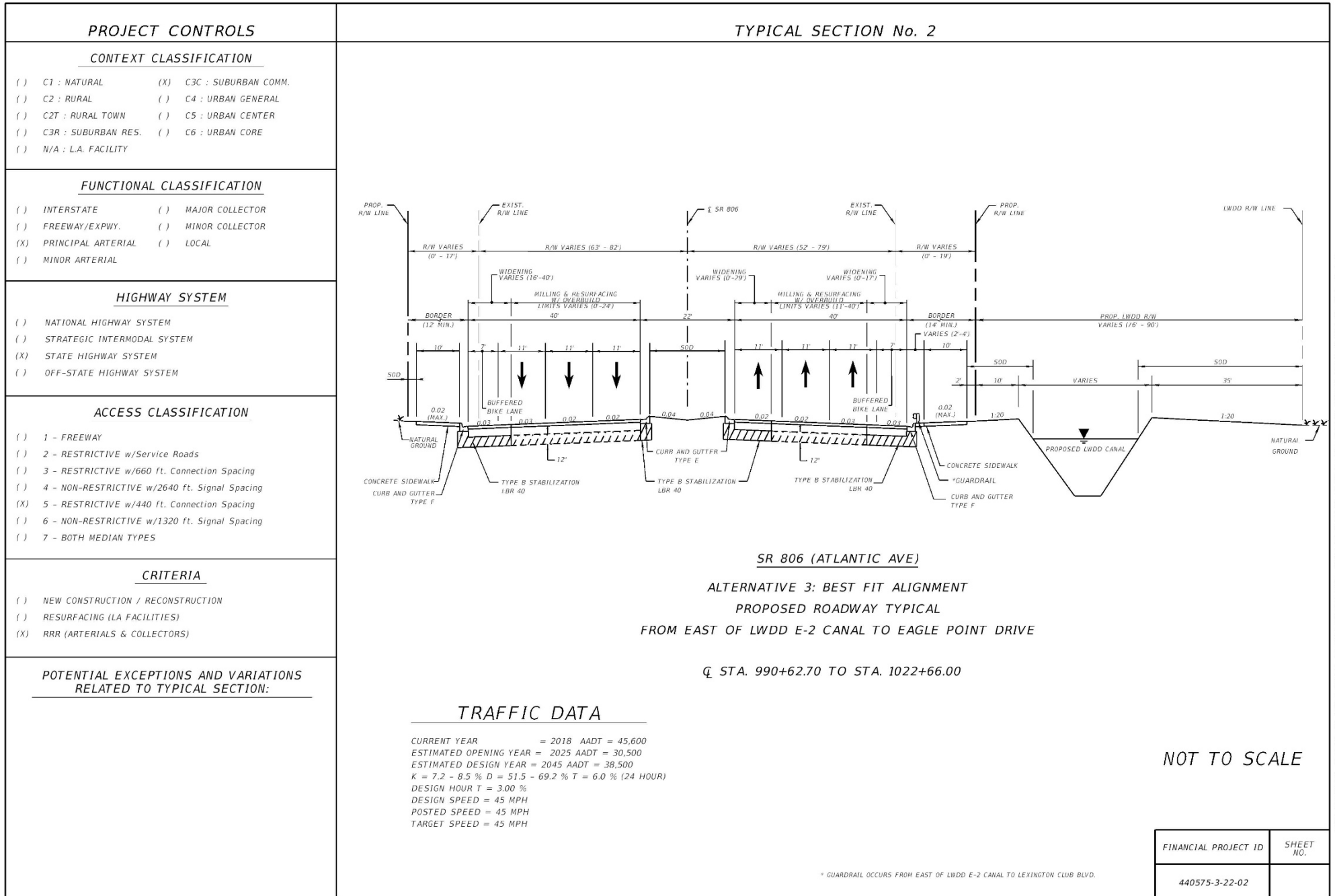
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Figure 2n: Project Alternatives



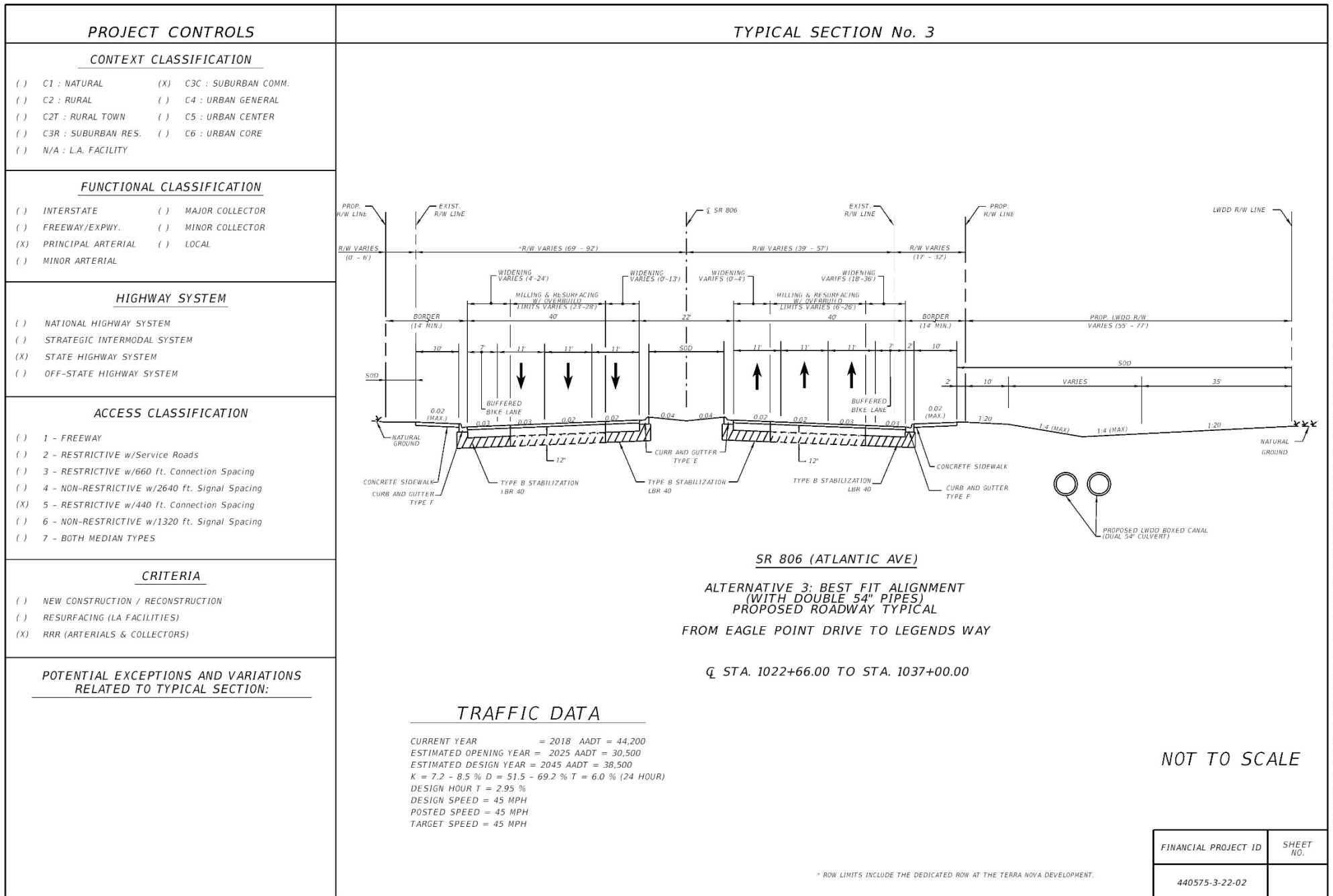
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**Figure 2o: Project Alternatives**



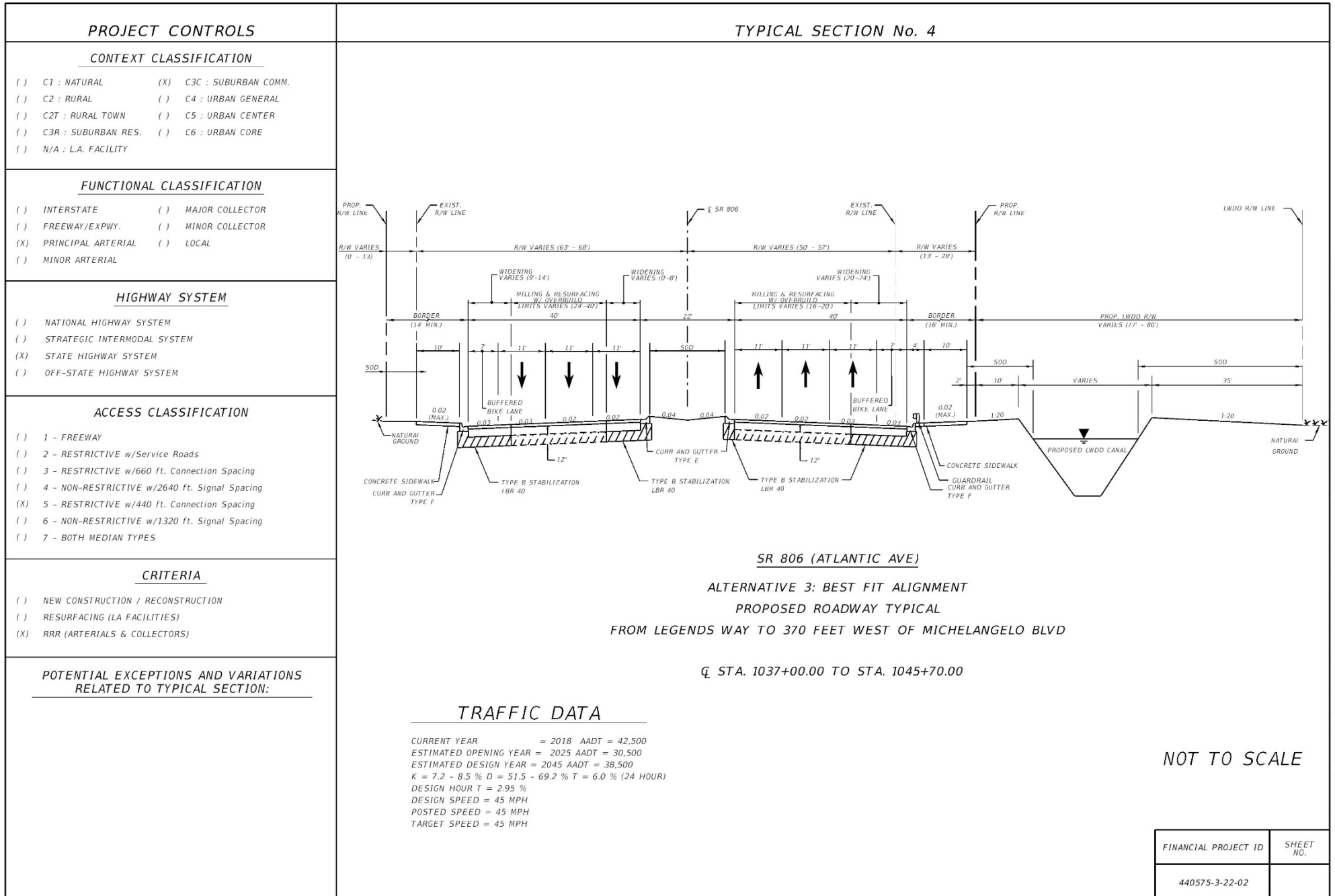
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**Figure 2p: Project Alternatives**



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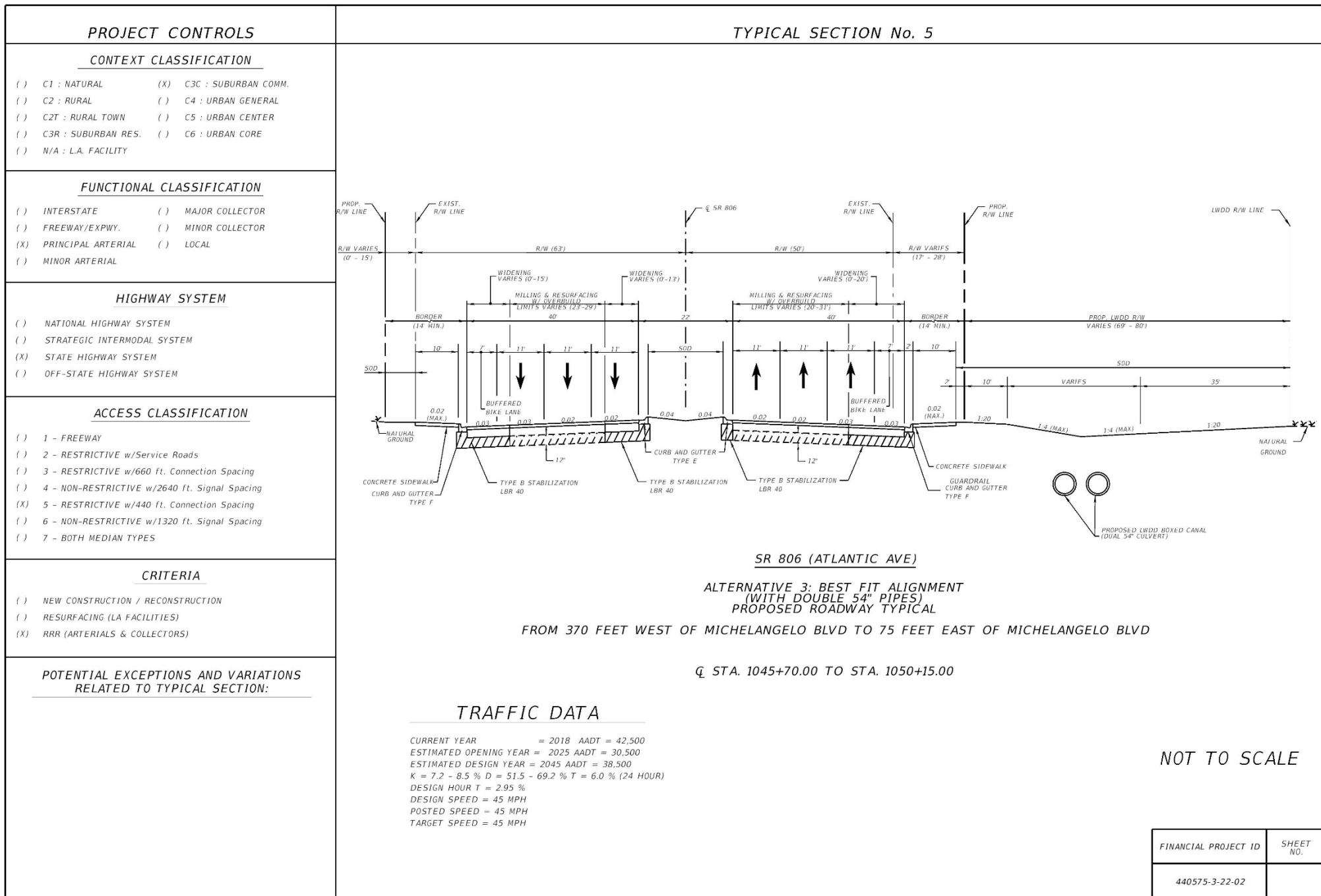
Figure 2q: Project Alternatives



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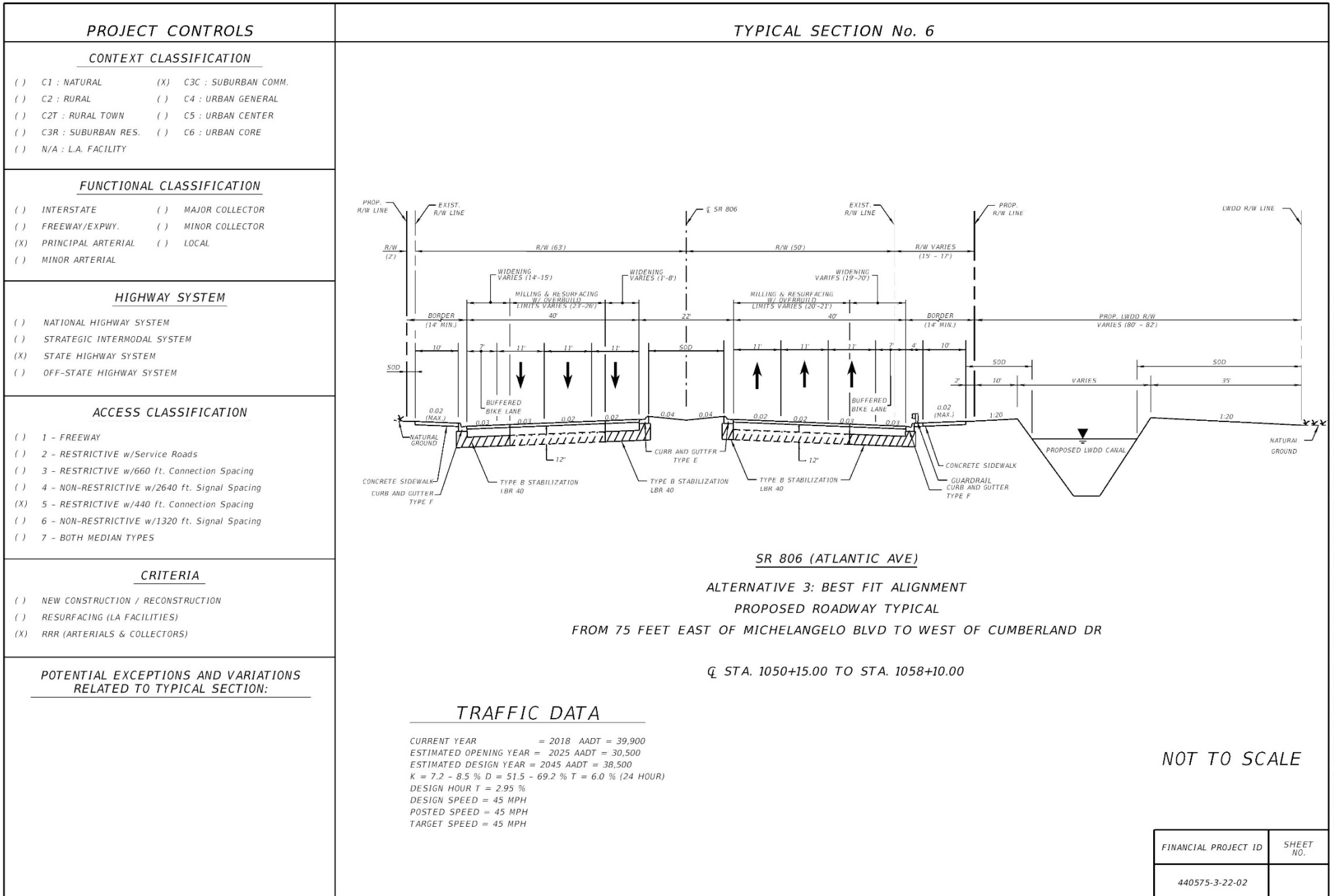


Figure 2r: Project Alternatives



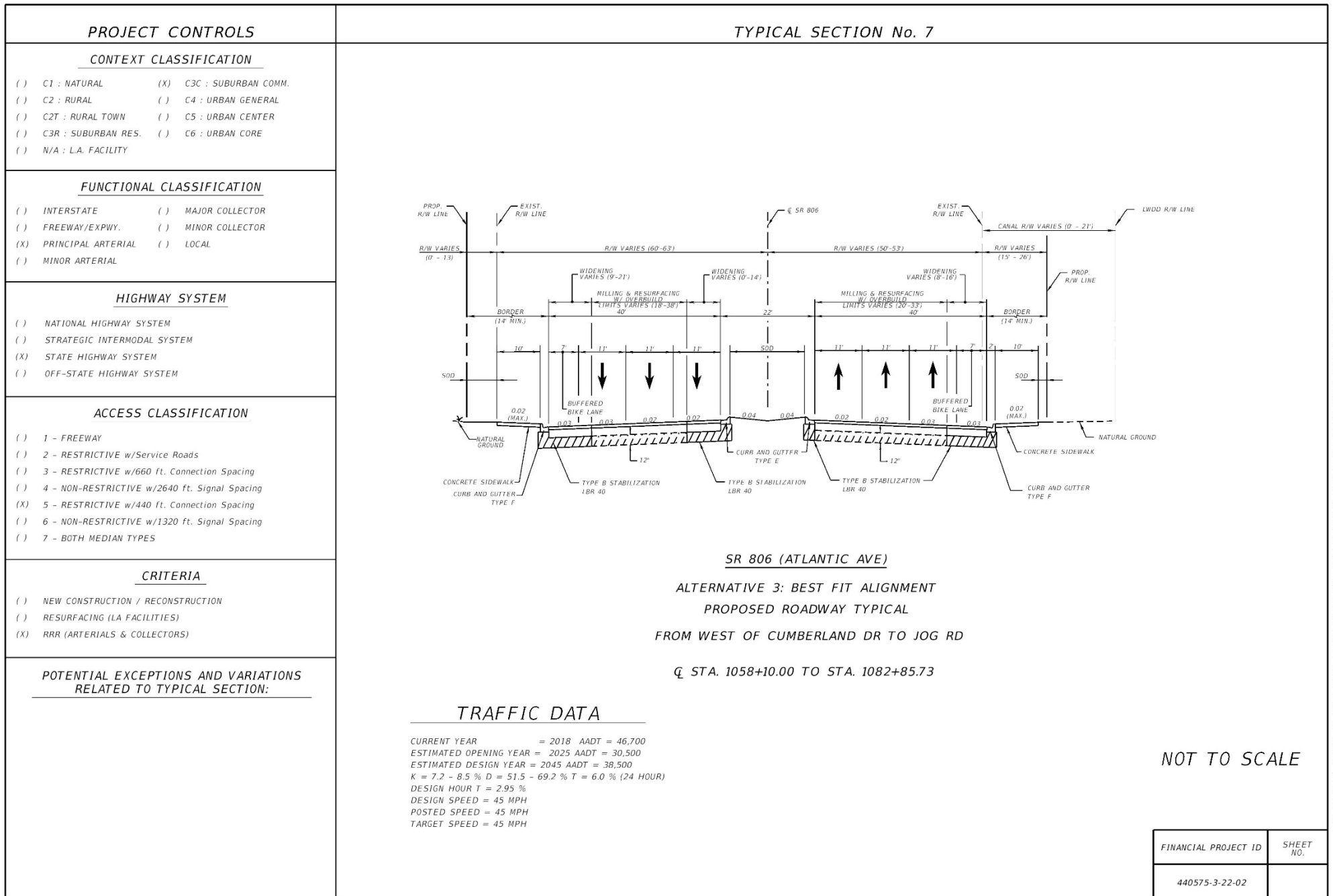
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Figure 2s: Project Alternatives



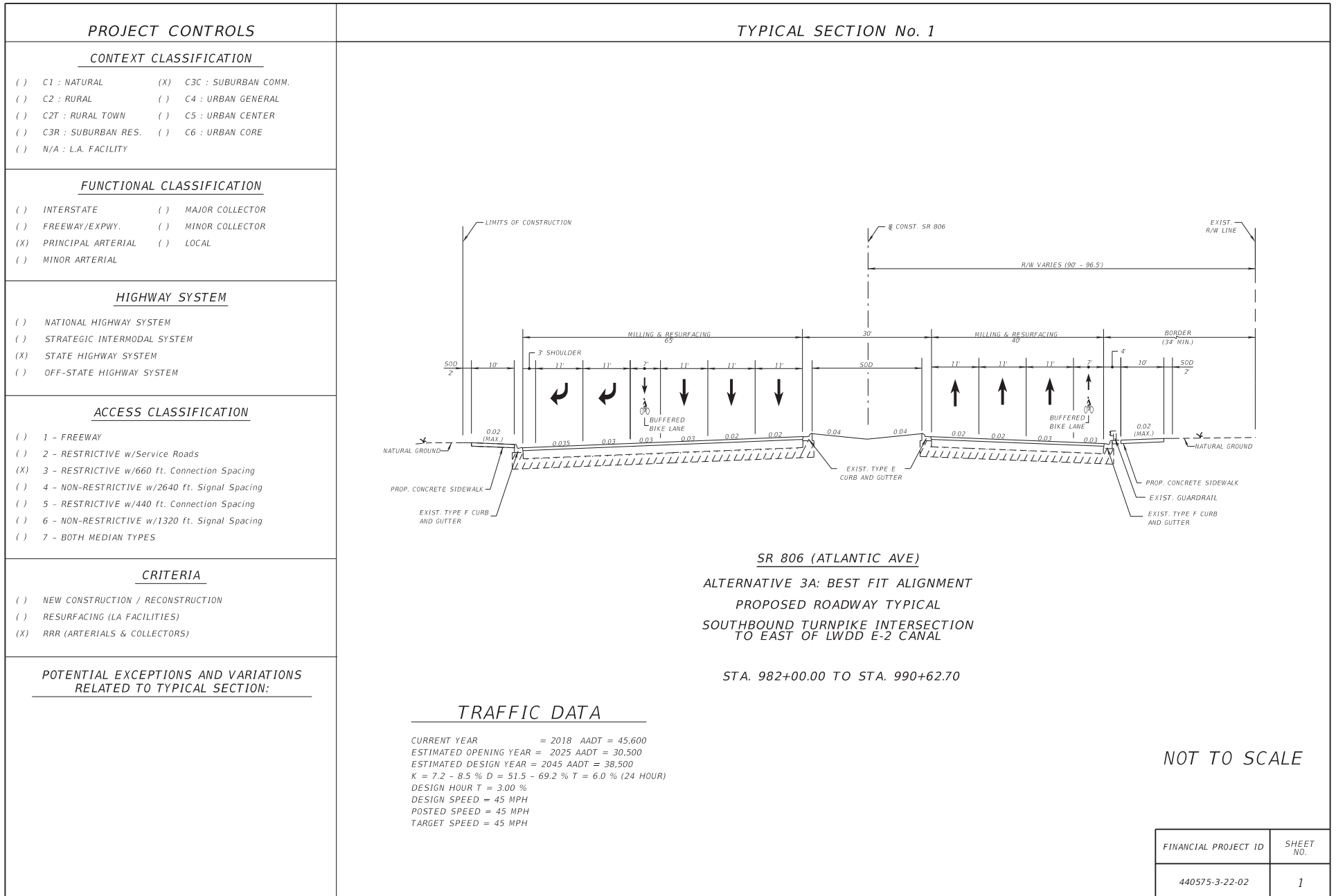
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Figure 2t: Project Alternatives



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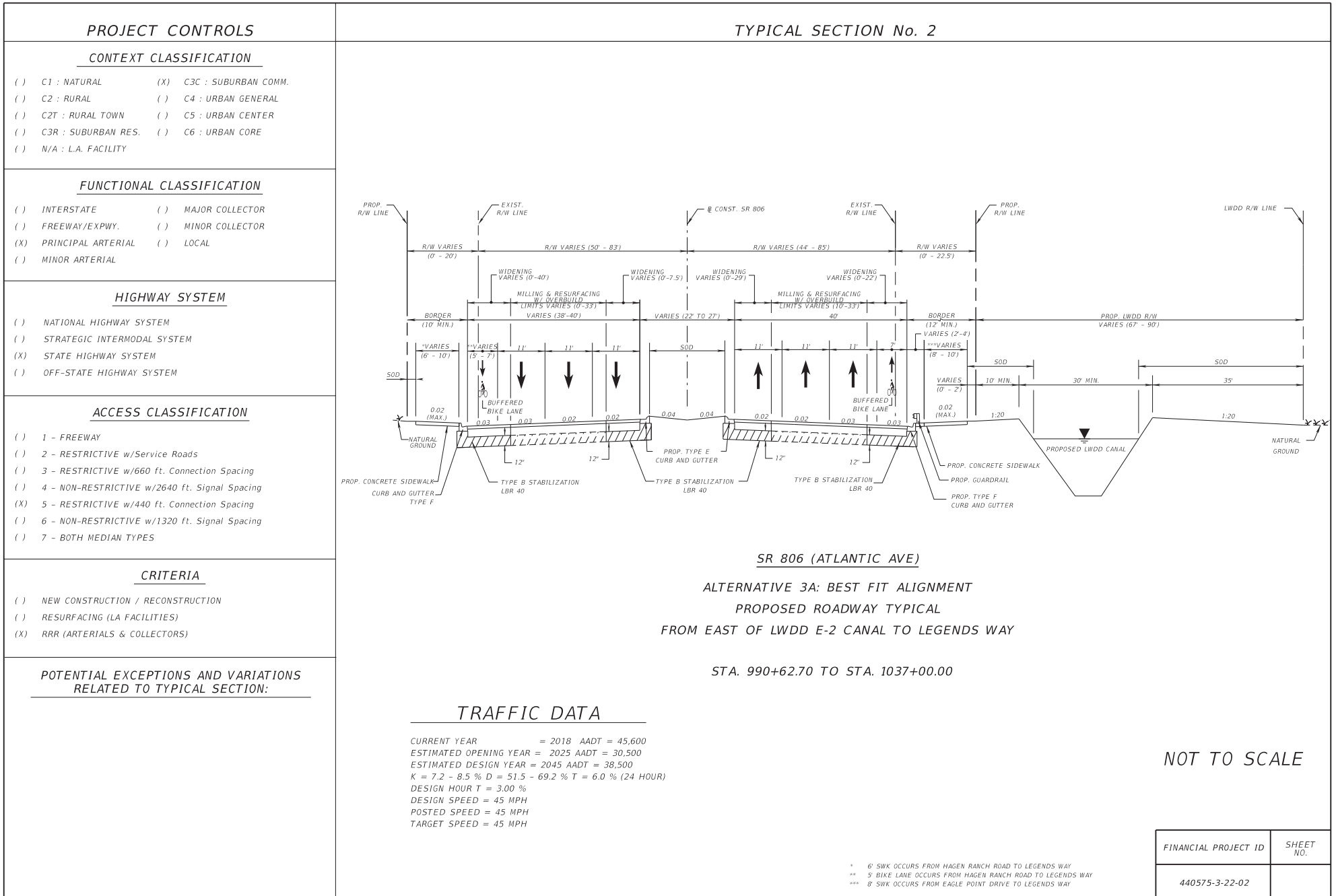
Figure 2u: Project Alternatives



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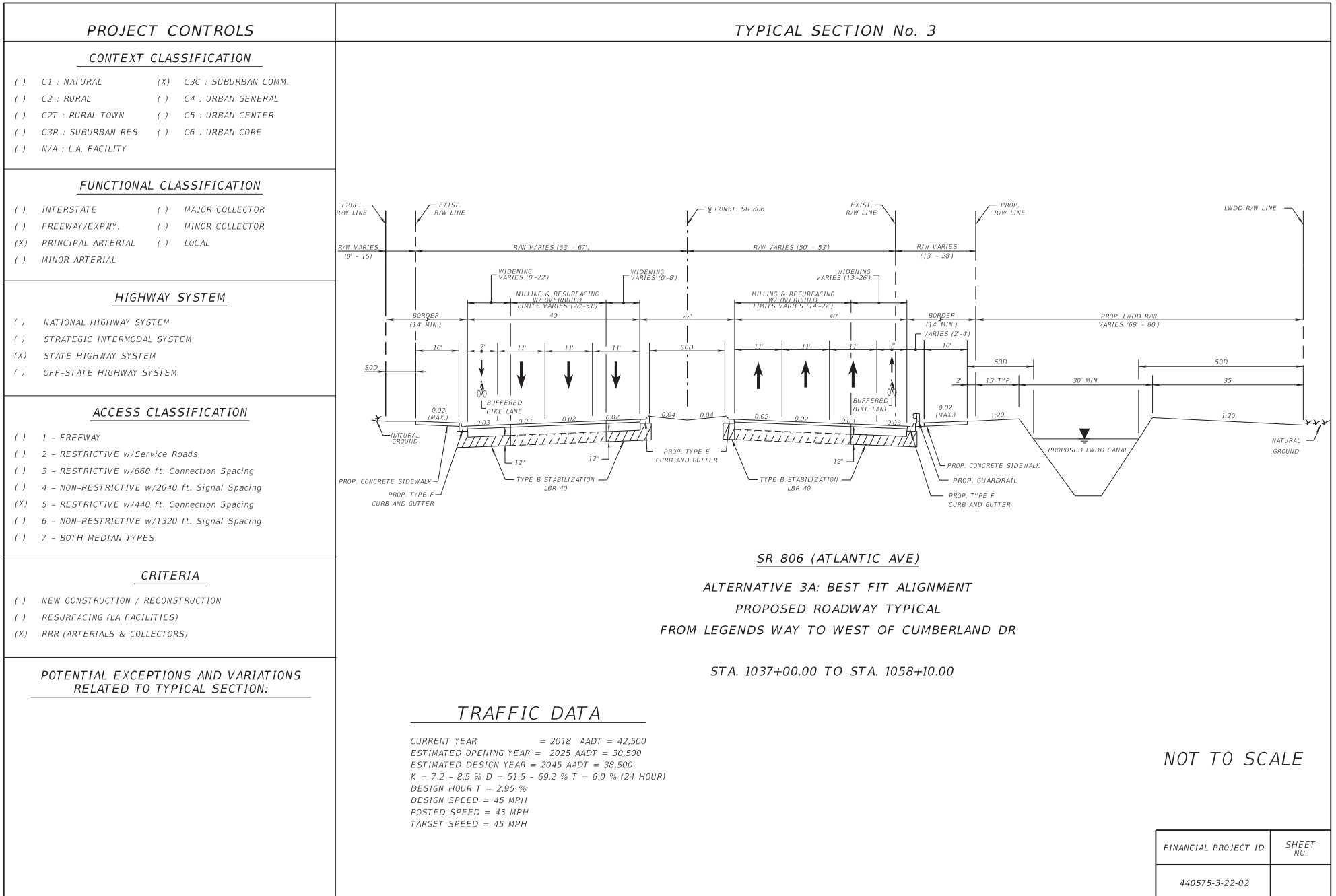
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**Figure 2v: Project Alternatives**



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Figure 2w: Project Alternatives



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## 1.3 Existing Environmental Conditions

Information contained in this section is based on desktop analyses, field reviews, and research concerning natural resources and land use along the project corridor.

### 1.3.1 Land Use

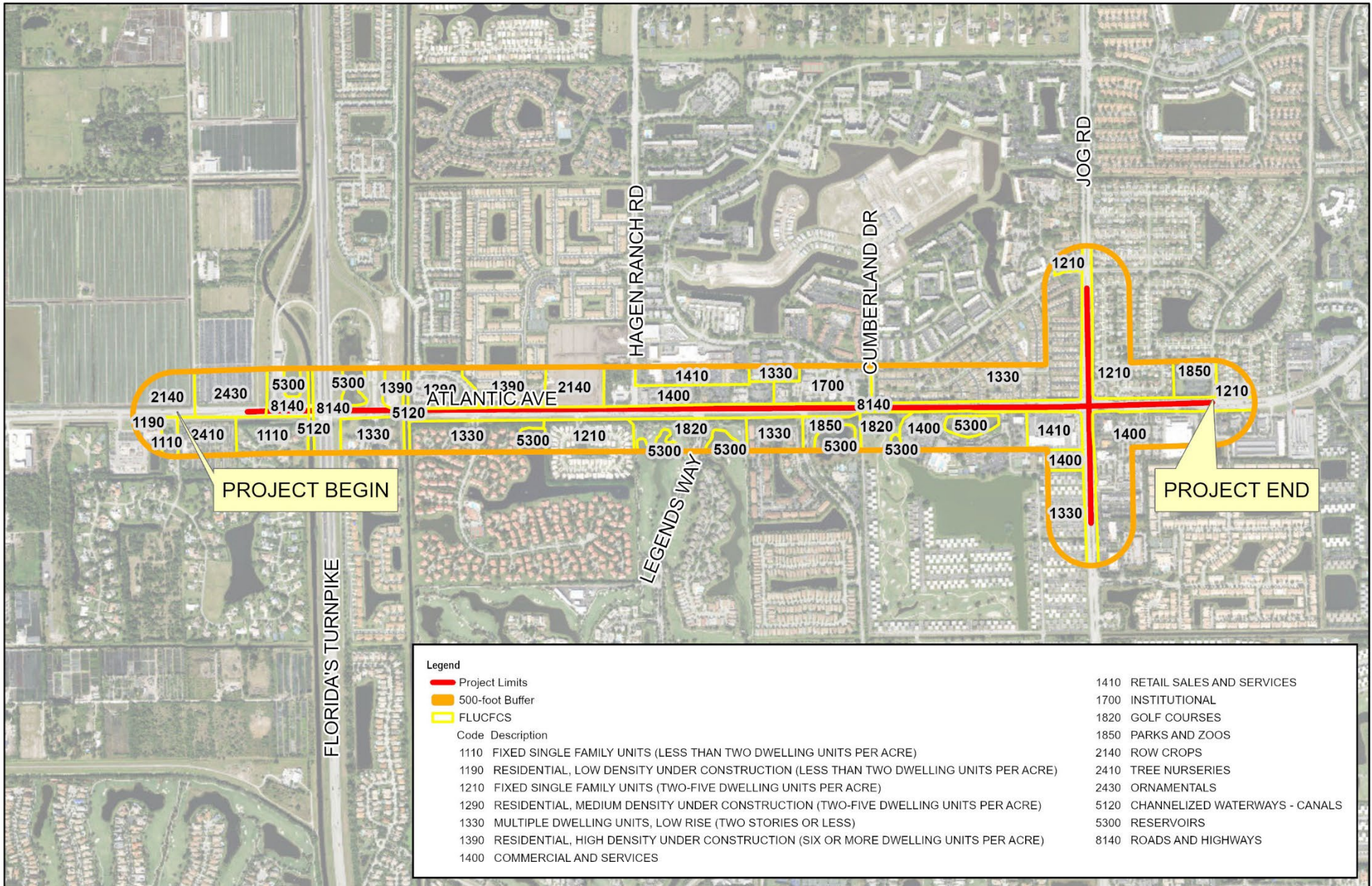
The project corridor is primarily urban with adjacent residential communities. There are three commercial areas that provide services to the local community and the traveling public using the corridor between Jog Road and the Turnpike. From west to east, they are: Tuscan Commons (east of Turnpike NB entrance); Villages of Oriole Plaza (entrance at Legends Way); and Kings Point Shopping Center (west of the Jog Road intersection).

Adjacent to the corridor on the south side is the LWDD L-34 Canal that starts at the LWDD E-2E Canal and ends just west of Cumberland Road (see **Figure 1**). Generally, the canal is approximately 14 feet deep and 52 feet from top of bank to top of bank. During the field review on May 27, 2022, the depth of the water ranged from 15 to 28 inches. The land on either side of the artificial canal consists of maintained grasses. The distance from the curb and gutter to the top of the canal is approximately 45 feet.

The canal dead ends into a shallower ditch (approximately five feet deep and 35 feet from bank to bank) near Cumberland Road. During the field review, little to no water was in the roadside ditch. The ditch is piped just west of Jog Road and daylights to the east of the intersection.

Land use designations for the project have been determined using South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Florida Land Use, Cover, and Forms Classification System (FLUCFCS) (University of Florida GeoPlan Center, 2019) (see **Table 1**). The following analysis and mapping of land use considers all land use within 500 feet of the project corridor (see **Figure 3**).



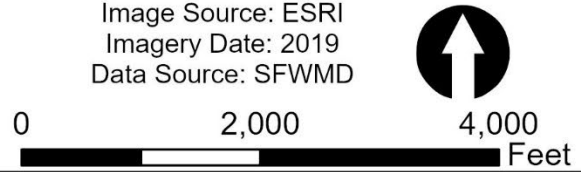


Legend			
	Project Limits		
	500-foot Buffer		
	FLUCFCS		
Code	Description		
1110	FIXED SINGLE FAMILY UNITS (LESS THAN TWO DWELLING UNITS PER ACRE)	1410	RETAIL SALES AND SERVICES
1190	RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY UNDER CONSTRUCTION (LESS THAN TWO DWELLING UNITS PER ACRE)	1700	INSTITUTIONAL
1210	FIXED SINGLE FAMILY UNITS (TWO-FIVE DWELLING UNITS PER ACRE)	1820	GOLF COURSES
1290	RESIDENTIAL, MEDIUM DENSITY UNDER CONSTRUCTION (TWO-FIVE DWELLING UNITS PER ACRE)	1850	PARKS AND ZOOS
1330	MULTIPLE DWELLING UNITS, LOW RISE (TWO STORIES OR LESS)	2140	ROW CROPS
1390	RESIDENTIAL, HIGH DENSITY UNDER CONSTRUCTION (SIX OR MORE DWELLING UNITS PER ACRE)	2410	TREE NURSERIES
1400	COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES	2430	ORNAMENTALS
		5120	CHANNELIZED WATERWAYS - CANALS
		5300	RESERVOIRS
		8140	ROADS AND HIGHWAYS



**Figure 3. Land Use Map**  
 Atlantic Avenue (SR 806) from Florida's Turnpike  
 (MP 1.748) to Jog Road (MP 3.560)  
 FPID No. 440575-3-22-02  
 Palm Beach County

Image Source: ESRI  
 Imagery Date: 2019  
 Data Source: SFWMD



**Table 1: Current Land Use**

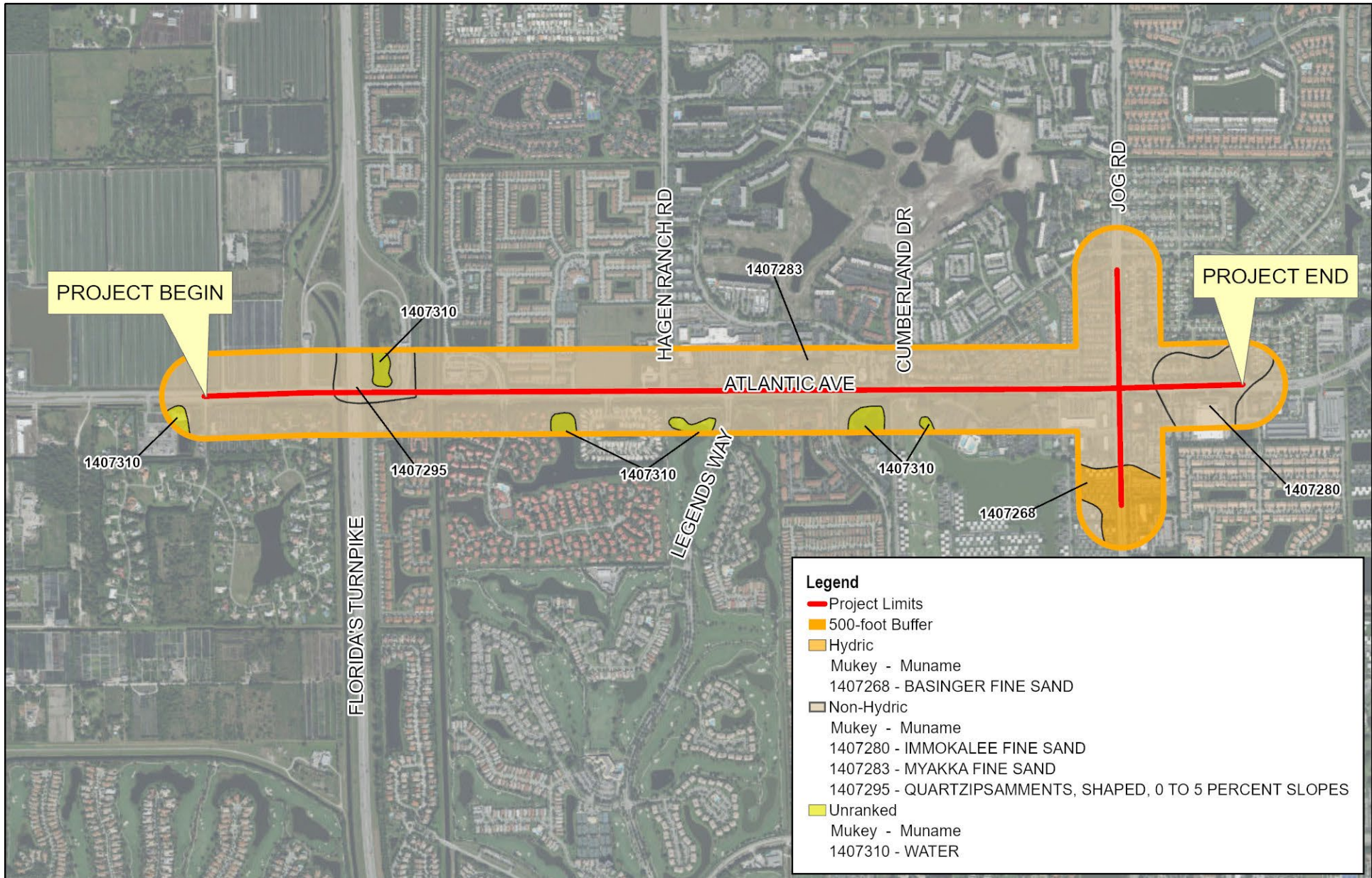
<b>Category</b>	<b>FLUCFCS Code</b>	<b>Acreage within 500 ft Buffer</b>	<b>Percentage of 500 ft Buffer</b>
Fixed Single-Family Units (Less Than Two Dwelling Units Per Acre)	1110	7.72	3.17%
Fixed Single-Family Units (Two–Five Dwelling Units Per Acre)	1210	14.61	6.00%
Residential, Medium Density Under Construction (Two–Five Dwelling Units Per Acre)	1290	7.88	3.24%
Multiple Dwelling Units, Low Rise (Two Stories or Less)	1330	53.00	21.77%
Residential, High Density Under Construction (Six Or More Dwelling Units Per Acre)	1390	11.25	4.62%
Commercial and Services	1400	30.91	12.70%
Retail Sales and Services	1410	12.88	5.29%
Institutional	1700	10.35	4.25%
Golf Courses	1820	13.86	5.69%
Parks and Zoos	1850	3.33	1.37%
Row Crops	2140	7.13	2.93%
Tree Nurseries	2410	0.03	0.01%
Ornamentals	2430	3.84	1.58%
Channelized Waterways - Canals	5120	2.66	1.09%
Reservoirs	5300	15.41	6.33%
Roads and Highways	8140	48.61	19.96%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>243.47</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### 1.3.2 Soils

Soils in the project corridor were mapped using the ESRI's Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database. Three non-hydric soil types are mapped within a 500-foot buffer of the existing project corridor: Immokalee Fine Sand at 6.25% coverage, Myakka Fine Sand (0–2 percent slopes) at 83.30%, and Quartzipsamments (0–5 percent slopes) at 3.15%. One hydric soil type is mapped within a 500-foot buffer of the existing project corridor: Basinger Fine Sand at 4.67% coverage. The remaining 2% of the project corridor is mapped as water (see **Figure 4**).

DRAFT





**Figure 4. Soils Map**

Atlantic Avenue (SR 806) from Florida's Turnpike  
 (MP 1.748) to Jog Road (MP 3.560)  
 FPID No. 440575-3-22-02  
 Palm Beach County

Image Source: ESRI  
 Imagery Date: 2019  
 Data Source: NRCS



### 1.3.3 Wetlands

For the purposes of this document, wetlands are defined as per 62.340 Florida Administrative Code, Section 373.019 (27) Florida Statutes, and *Corp of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* (1987) with *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region* (2010).

A field review was conducted on May 27, 2022, by environmental scientists familiar with Florida natural communities. Based on the findings of the field review, there are no natural, jurisdictional wetlands within a 500-foot buffer of the proposed alternatives. The water features in the 500-foot buffer are artificial lakes associated with golf courses and the three artificial drainage canals managed by the LWDD that cross or parallel the project corridor (see **Figure 5**).

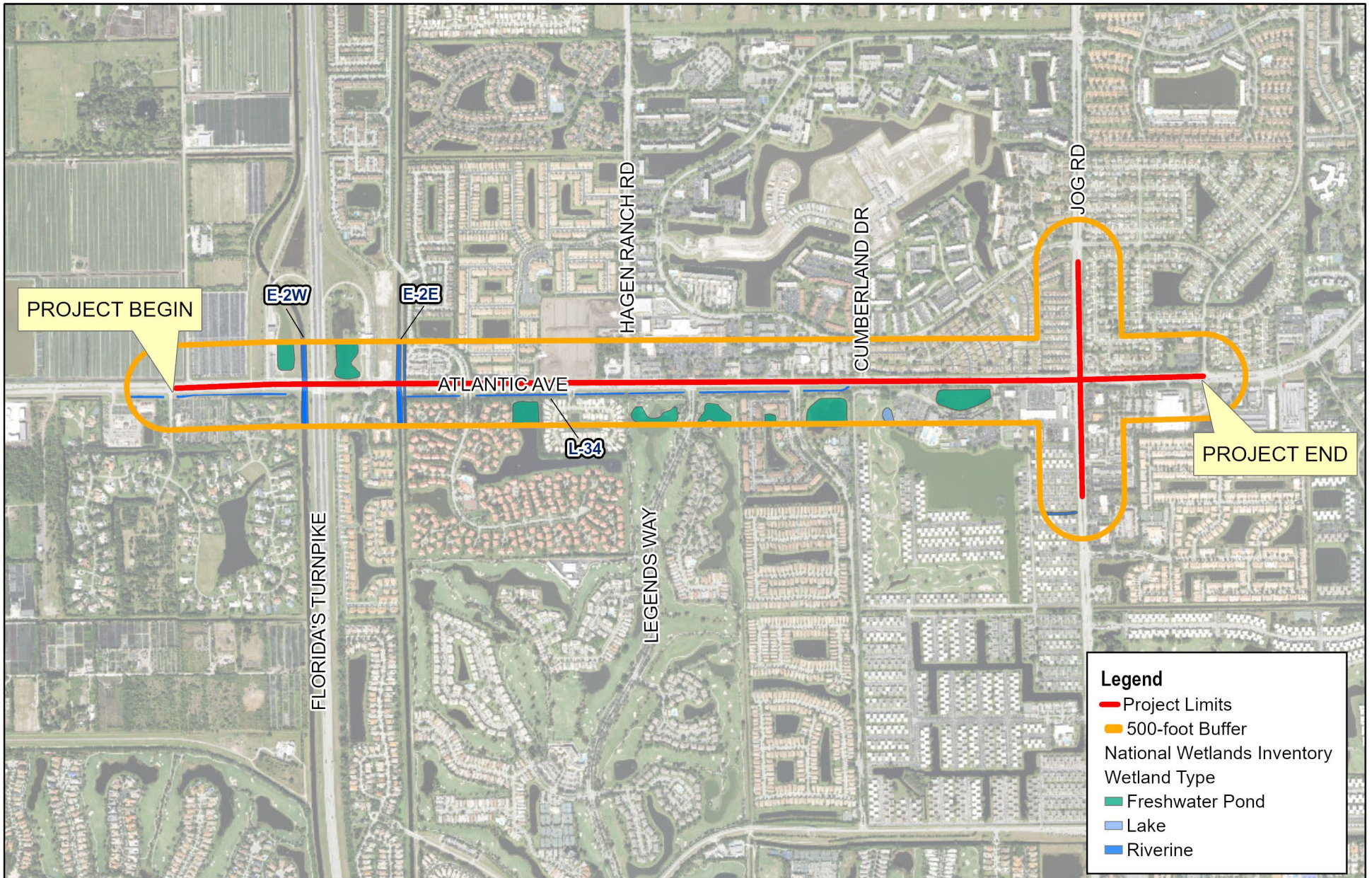
### 1.3.4 Essential Fish Habitat

As part of the ETDM Summary report, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) assigned a Degree of Effect (DOE) of Minimal. The agency comment stated no NMFS involvement. The FDOT further clarified that NMFS commented that no Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is located within the project area and an EFH Assessment is not required. Field review confirmed the determination.

### 1.3.5 Special Designations

Based on Geographic Information System (GIS) information gathered through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Geospatial Open Data, there are no conservation lands, conservation easements, Aquatic Preserves, Outstanding Florida Waterbodies, or Wild and Scenic Rivers in the study area. However, the project falls within the Biscayne Sole Source Aquifer (SSA). An SSA checklist was prepared for this project and is provided under separate cover.





**Legend**

- Project Limits
- 500-foot Buffer
- National Wetlands Inventory
- Wetland Type
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine



**Figure 5. Wetland Map**  
 Atlantic Avenue (SR 806) from Florida's Turnpike  
 (MP 1.748) to Jog Road (MP 3.560)  
 FPID No. 440575-3-22-02  
 Palm Beach County

Image Source: ESRI  
 Imagery Date: 2019  
 Data Source: USFWS NWI

0                      2,000                      4,000  
 Feet



## 2.0 Listed Species

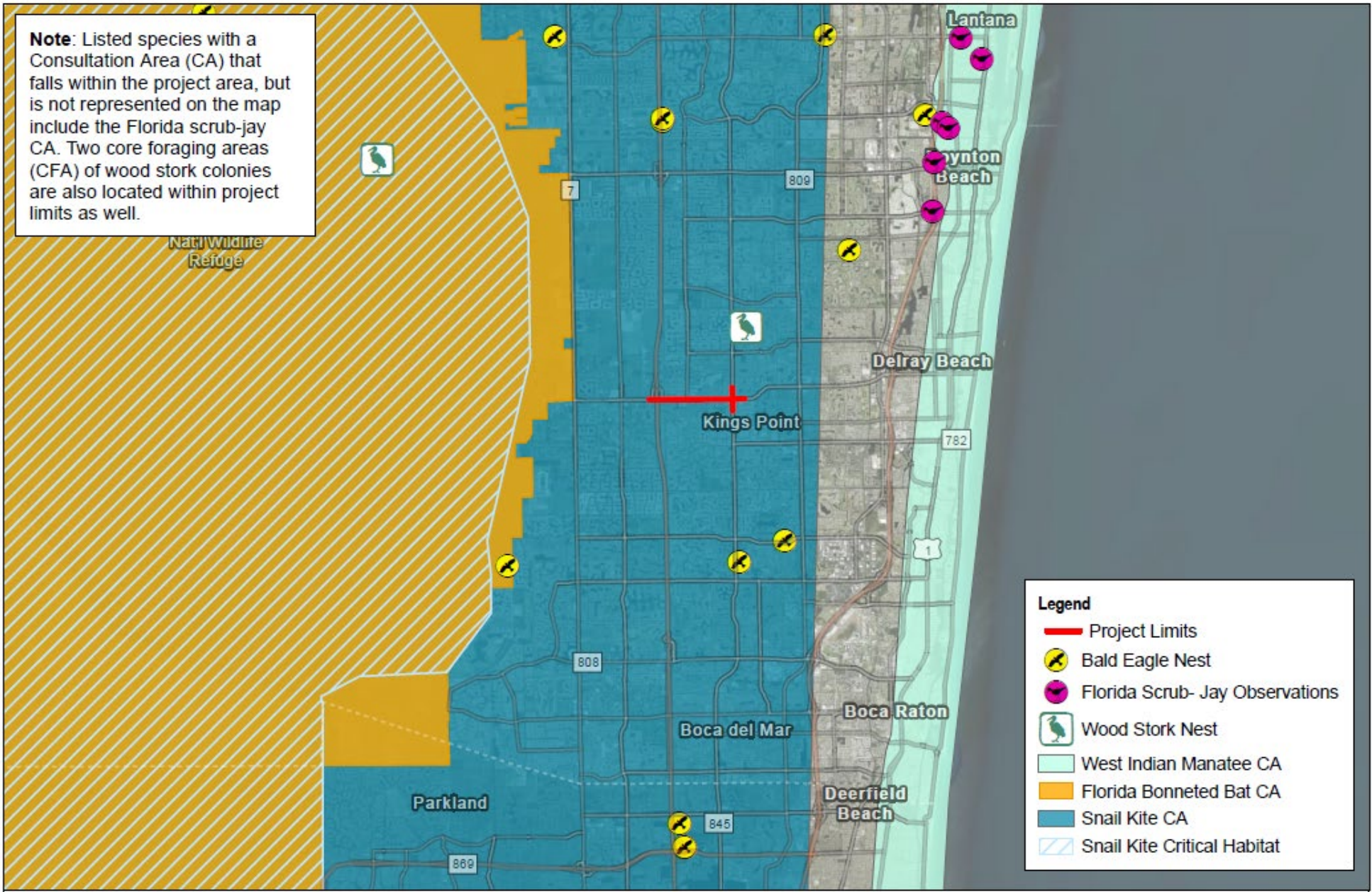
Listed species are afforded special protective status by federal and state agencies. This special protection is federally administered by the United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – National Marine Fisheries Services (NOAA- NMFS) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended). The USFWS administers the federal list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (50 CFR 17.11-12). Federal protection of marine species is the responsibility of the NOAA- NMFS. Impacts to critical habitat were also evaluated per Section 3(5)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The study area was also evaluated for the occurrence of Critical Habitat as defined by the ESA of 1973 as amended and 50 CFR Part 424.

Administered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the State of Florida affords special protection to animal species designated as State designated Threatened, pursuant to Chapter 68A-27, F.A.C. The state also affords protection to federally designated Endangered and Threatened Species, thus all federally listed species are also state listed, pursuant to Chapter 68A-27.003(1)(b). The State of Florida also protects and regulates plant species designated as endangered, threatened, or commercially exploited as identified on the Regulated Plant Index (5B- 40.0055, F.A.C.), which is administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Plant Industry, pursuant to Chapter 5B-40, F.A.C.

Agency coordination to obtain protected species information for this project occurred through the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Programming Screening (Project #14423). Members of the ETAT provided input and comments pertaining to threatened, endangered, and protected species within the project area. The ETAT representatives from the FWC assigned the project a Degree of Effect (DOE) of “*Minimal*” for Wildlife and Habitat as there are no significant wildlife resources within the project study area, and minimal impacts to wildlife resources are anticipated. The USFWS also assigned the project a DOE of “*Minimal*” with mention of wood stork Core Foraging Area (CFA) being potentially present within the project area. The USFWS also stated that there is potential habitat for eastern indigo snake and federally listed plants within the project corridor. The FDACS assigned a DOE of “*N/A / No Involvement*”.

### 2.1 Methodology

Searches of agency databases, species-specific suitable habitat information, and observation records for potential habitat were completed for protected species identified to have a potential to occur within the project area (See **Figure 6**). Verification of protection status for state listed species used the 2018 listing available from the FWC (FWC, 2018). Land use/land cover mapping was used to further determine the potential location of suitable habitat. A field review was conducted on May 27, 2022, by environmental scientists familiar with Florida natural communities in order to confirm the finding of the database and literature review.



**Figure 6. Protected and Listed Species Map**

Atlantic Avenue (SR 806) from Florida's Turnpike  
 (MP 1.748) to Jog Road (MP 3.560)  
 FPID No. 440575-3-22-02  
 Palm Beach County

Image Source: ESRI  
 Imagery Date: 2021





Information sources and databases used include the following:

- USFWS IPaC;
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Biodiversity Matrix Report;
- USDA NRCS – Palm Beach County soil survey (FGDL SSRGO - 2018);
- FWC
  - Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest locator (2020–2021 nesting season data);
  - Manatee Protection Areas – Palm Beach County (FWC, 2020a; 2020b; 2020c);
  - Wading bird rookeries locator (1999) (2020) (FWC 2020d);
  - Wood stork Active Colonies (2010 – 2019) (USFWS, 2020); and
  - Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) Habitat and Observations (1992 – 1993);
- Friends of Eagles – EagleWatch Public View Nest Locations (2019–2020 nesting data);
- USFWS – <https://www.fws.gov/verobeach/GIS.html>
  - Critical Habitat for threatened and endangered species;
  - South Florida wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) core foraging areas (CFA) (18.6-mile radius); and
  - Consultation Areas for federally listed species
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Effect Determination Keys for the wood stork, eastern indigo snake, and Florida bonneted bat.

## 2.2 Results

### 2.2.1 Species Effect Determination

Using all the available resources and the species lists generated in the IPaC and the FNAI Biodiversity Matrix database reports, the following list of species was generated (Table 2). Table 2 also contains a brief description of the primary habitat required for a particular species, the state/federal protection status, and the probability of presence or occurrence within the project area. The table has an effect determination for all species contained in each report (USFWS IPaC and FNAI Biodiversity Matrix). Each of the individual species were examined for habitat type required and compared to known available habitat as determined from pedestrian field review and desktop analysis of habitat types and soil types within the corridor.

The study area was assessed for Critical Habitat designated by Congress in the CFA Title 50, Part 17.94 Critical Habitats. Review of the USFWS’s available data indicates there is no Critical Habitat within the project limits or surrounding areas. Therefore, the proposed project will have no involvement with Critical Habitat.

**Table 2:** State and Federal Listed Species

Species Name	Common Name	Protected Status		Habitat Required	Probability of Presence	Determination of Effect	Comments
		Federal	State				
<b>Mammals</b>							
<i>Eumops floridanus</i>	Florida bonneted bat	E	FE	Roosting habitat: forested areas, usually with mature trees and snags with cavities or loose bark. Man-made structures such as bridges or culverts are also used. Foraging habitat is fairly open areas with insect prey available.	L	No Effect	FNAI potential and outside Consultation Area. No evidence observed beneath the E2E canal bridges or those west of the Turnpike overpass.
<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i> , <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> , <i>Nycticeius humeralis</i> , <i>Eptesicus fuscus</i> , <i>Lasiurus seminolus</i> , and <i>Dasypterus intermediu</i>	Mexican free-tail bat, tri-colored bat, evening bat, big brown bat, Seminole bat, and northern yellow bat	-	SGCN	Caves, tree foliage, tree cavities, buildings, and other man-made structures.	L	No Adverse Effect Anticipated	No presence of bat species observed within the project area.
<i>Puma (Felis) concolor coryi</i>	Florida panther	E	FE	Requires undeveloped upland and wetland habitat with notable habitat connectivity.	N	No Effect	Project is not within Panther Focus Area. Project is outside Consultation Area (>23 miles SW). Project is a major urban corridor. No suitable habitat present.
<i>Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris</i>	Southeastern beach mouse	T	FT	Primary and secondary dunes. Diet consists of beach plant species.	N	No Effect	No suitable habitat.
<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	West Indian manatee	T	FT	Coastal waters, rivers, and lakes. Some artificial canals without control structures.	N	No Effect	No suitable habitat.
<b>Birds</b>							
<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	Florida scrub-jay	T	FT	Fire dominated, low growing oak scrub habitat on well drained soils (USFWS, 2015c; 1999b).	N	No Effect	Within Consultation Area. No suitable habitat within 3 miles (ESE) of project.
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood stork	T	FT	Freshwater and estuarine wetlands, primarily nesting in cypress or mangrove swamps (USFWS, 2013a).	H	No Effect	The project is within the CFAs of two wood stork colonies: Wakodahatchee located approximately 1.4 miles north of the project, and LOX-NC 4 located approximately 8.2 miles northeast of the project; the project will not impact SFH.
<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>	Snail kite	E	FE	Large open freshwater marshes and lakes with shallow water. Requires apple snail for prey (USFWS, 2006).	L	No Effect Anticipated	Within Consultation Area; no suitable habitat.
<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida burrowing owl	-	ST	High, sparsely vegetated sandy ground.	N	No Effect Anticipated	No suitable habitat.

Species Name	Common Name	Protected Status		Habitat Required	Probability of Presence	Determination of Effect	Comments
		Federal	State				
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle	BGEA MBTA	-	Estuaries, large lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and seacoasts. Perching and nesting areas are found in tall trees or suitable structures (e.g., cell towers) (USFWS, 2007).	L	No Effect Anticipated	Removed from USFWS Endangered Species List (2007) and the FWC Imperiled Species List (2008). No suitable habitat. Nearest nest is ~ 3.3 miles S.
<i>Pandion Haliaeetus</i>	Osprey	MBTA	-	Nesting areas include trees and structures such as telephone poles or road signs.	H	No Effect Anticipated	No nests were observed within the project area.
<b>Reptiles</b>							
<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	American alligator	T	FT	Found in most permanent bodies of freshwater.	H	No Effect	Listed due to similar appearance to American crocodile. No species observed, including roadside canal.
<i>Drymarchon couperi corais</i>	Eastern indigo snake	T	FT	Scrub and sandhill, primarily. Requires large tracts of land to survive (USFWS 2019b; 2017).	L	May Affect Not Likely to Adversely Affect	No suitable habitat- USFWS. Entire project area is urban land use (USFWS, 2019). Not observed during pedestrian survey.
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher tortoise	C	ST	Dry upland habitats most common; pastures and road shoulders less often.	N	No Effect Anticipated	No suitable habitat. Not observed during pedestrian survey.
<b>Insects</b>							
<i>Strymon acis bartrami</i>	Bartram's hairstreak butterfly	E	FE	Pine rocklands that contain Pineland croton and other species endemic to that habitat (2015b).	N	No Effect	No Critical Habitat for this species on the project. No suitable habitat.
<b>Flowering Plants</b>							
<i>Asimina tetramera</i>	Four-petal pawpaw	E	FE	Openings in sand pine scrub on south-central Atlantic coast.	N	No Effect	No suitable habitat.
<i>Cucurbita okeechobeensis ssp. okeechobeensis</i>	Okeechobee gourd	E	FE	Disturbed wetland in Pond apple forests (USFWS 1999c).	N	No Effect	No mucky soils present in project. No suitable habitat.
<i>Dalea carthagenensis floridana</i>	Florida prairie-clover	E	FE	Pine rockland, edges of rockland hammock, coastal uplands, marl prairie.	N	No Effect	No suitable habitat.
<i>Jacquemontia reclinata</i>	Beach jacquemontia	E	FE	Lee side of stable, vegetated dunes, coastal strand, coastal scrub.	N	No Effect	No suitable habitat.
<i>Polygala smallii</i>	Tiny polygala	E	FE	Pine rockland, scrub, sandhill & open coastal spoil piles.	N	No Effect	No suitable habitat.
<i>Trichomanes punctatum ssp. floridanum</i>	Florida filmy fern	E	FE	Tree trunks in hammocks, edges of lime sinks, and limestone boulders.	N	No Effect	No suitable habitat.

<i>Species Name</i>	Common Name	Protected Status		Habitat Required	Probability of Presence	Determination of Effect	Comments
		Federal	State				
<i>Pteroglossaspis ecristata</i>	Giant orchid	-	T	Sandhill, scrub, pine flatwoods, pine rocklands.	N	No Effect Anticipated	No suitable habitat.
<i>Roystonea elata</i>	Florida royal palm	-	E	Tropical hammocks.	N	No Effect Anticipated	No suitable habitat.
<i>Sachsia polycephala</i>	Bahama sachsia	-	T	Pine rocklands.	N	No Effect Anticipated	No suitable habitat.
<i>Conradina grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered rosemary	-	T	Coastal scrub, pine scrub, dunes, or sand hills.	N	No Effect Anticipated	Endemic to the Atlantic coastal ridge. No suitable habitat.
<i>Encyclia cochleata var. triandra</i>	Clamshell orchid	-	E	Trunks and branches of tree species in swamps and hammocks.	N	No Effect Anticipated	No suitable habitat.
<i>Glandularia maritima</i>	Coastal mock vervain	-	E	Back dunes, dune swales, and coastal hammocks.	N	No Effect Anticipated	No suitable habitat.
<i>Jacquemontia curtissii</i>	Pineland jacquemontia	-	T	Pine flatwoods.	N	No Effect Anticipated	No suitable habitat.
<i>Lechea ceruna</i>	Nodding pineweed	-	T	Scrub and scrubby flatwoods.	N	No Effect Anticipated	No suitable habitat.
<i>Linum carteri var. smallii</i>	Small's flax	-	E	Pine rocklands, pine flatwoods.	N	No Effect Anticipated	No suitable habitat.
<i>Panicum abscissum</i>	Cutthroat grass	-	E	Seepage areas, seasonal ponds in scrubby flatwoods, and depression marshes in wet pinelands.	N	No Effect Anticipated	No suitable habitat.
<b>Lichens</b>							
<i>Cladonia perforate</i>	Florida perforate cladonia	E	FE	Rosemary scrub on Atlantic coastal ridge.	N	No Effect	No suitable habitat.

Note: FE - federally endangered, FT - federally threatened, ST - state threatened, E - endangered, T - threatened, C - candidate, SGCN - Species of Greatest Conservation Need, BGEA - Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, MBTA - Migratory Bird Treaty Act

**Sources:**

- (1) USFWS - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service status, Official lists of Threatened and Endangered species, 50 CFR 17.11
- (2) FWC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida’s Threatened and Endangered Species List, Updated December 2018.  
[ranking: E - endangered, T – threatened T (SA) - threatened due to similarity of appearance, SSC - species of special concern]  
[http://ecos.fws.gov/tess\\_public/reports/species-by-current-range-county?fips=12105](http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/reports/species-by-current-range-county?fips=12105) accessed February 2020  
<http://www.fnai.org/bioticssearch.cfm> accessed February 2020

**USFWS Notations:**

- (1) The Bald Eagle is afforded federal protection through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA).

**FWC Notations:**

Has a significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or human exploitation which, in the foreseeable future, may result in becoming a threatened species unless appropriate protective/management techniques are initiated/maintained.

**Note:**

*In accordance with Florida Administrative Code (FAC) Title 68A-27.0012, Procedures for Listing and Removing Species from Florida’s Endangered and Threatened Species List, federally endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act will be listed by the FWC by their federal designation.*

**Likelihood of Species Presence**

**None (N)** – Species has been documented in Palm Beach County but due to complete absence of suitable habitat, could not be naturally present within the project corridor.

**Low (L)** – Species with a low likelihood of occurrence within the project corridor are defined as those species that are known to occur in Palm Beach County or the bioregion, but preferred habitat is limited on the project corridor, or the species is rare.

**Moderate (M)** - Species with a moderate likelihood for occurrence are those species known to occur in Palm Beach County or nearby counties, and for which suitable habitat is well represented on the project corridor but no observations or positive indications exist to verify presence.

**High (H)** - Species with a high likelihood for occurrence are suspected within the project corridor based on known ranges and existence of sufficient preferred habitat on the corridor; are known to occur adjacent to the corridor; or have been previously observed or documented in the vicinity.

### 2.2.2 Federally Listed Species

Based on the USFWS IPaC Species List there are 18 federal listed animal species considered for this project area. From the FNAI Biodiversity Matrix, there is only one species considered as likely to occur within the five single matrix units touched by the project boundaries. There are six species considered as potential in the project area. There are no documented occurrences for any species in the project area listed by FNAI.

For this discussion of faunal species, species with the FNAI designation as potentially being present in the project area will be discussed. Species like sea turtles and the southern beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris*) are eliminated from discussion because there is no potential for occurrence in the project area. Each species discussed below will include information of habitat, comparison to existing conditions, and a reason for the determination given. Where available, species-specific determination keys are used to confirm the determination.

#### Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi corais*) – Threatened – May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect (MANLAA)

The USFWS IPaC species list contained the Eastern indigo snake as a potentially occurring species in the project area. The list is general for Palm Beach County. The FNAI Biodiversity Matrix report indicated that this species had a potential for occurrence. This report is more specific based on five one-square-mile matrix units that were user-defined to only include the project limits and a buffer. The ETDM Summary report comment from the USFWS indicated that there was a potential for this species to occur in the project limits.

A field review did not find any evidence of gopher tortoise or their burrows, and there was no indication of other potential refugia in the project limits that could be used by Eastern indigo snakes. The project is in a highly urban setting with little undeveloped property. There is no suitable habitat for this species. Using the USFWS determination key, the project may affect, is not likely to adversely affect the Eastern indigo snake (Step D) (USFWS, 2017) - see **Appendix B**. Step B references the issuance of a federal permit and using the Standard Protection Measures during site preparation and project construction. Based on the key, no further consultation with USFWS is necessary. FDOT will implement Standard Protection Measures for the species (see **Appendix C**).

#### Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*) – Endangered – No Effect

The USFWS IPaC species list contained this species. The Consultation Area for the Florida bonneted bat is greater than 1.5 miles west of the project limits. Field review for potential bat presence underneath the Turnpike overpasses and the bridges over the project canals found no evidence of bat presence. Updated surveys are recommended during final design. The consultation key was used to assess potential presence (USFWS, 2019a). The no effect determination was met in couplet 1b of the key. With a finding of no effect to the Florida bonneted bat, no coordination with USFWS is required (see **Appendix D**).

West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) – Threatened – No Effect

The project is in a highly urbanized area. Based on a USFWS database review, the closest location of protected habitat for the manatee is approximately nine miles southeast of the project boundary at US 1. The C-15 canal east of US 1 connects to the Intracoastal Waterway south of Linton Boulevard. However, a SFWMD water control structure in the C-15 Canal located approximately 500 feet east of US 1 prevents manatee movement further into the canal system. Based on the Effect Determination Key for the West Indian manatee, the project will have no effect on the West Indian manatee (Step A) (USFWS, 2013b) – see **Appendix E**. No further coordination with the USFWS is needed.

Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) – Threatened – No Effect

The project is within the USFWS Consultation Area for this species. The closest observation for this species is approximately seven miles northeast of the project boundary. The closest suitable habitat for this species is located 3.5 miles east of the project boundary. A field review found no suitable habitat within the urban area of the project. This project will have no effect on the Florida scrub-jay.

Wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) – Threatened – No Effect

The USFWS recognizes an 18.6-mile core foraging area (CFA) around all known wood stork colonies in South Florida. The project is within the CFAs of two wood stork colonies: Wakodahatchee located approximately 1.4 miles north of the project, and LOX-NC 4 located approximately 8.2 miles northeast of the project (see **Figure 7**). As defined by the USFWS, suitable foraging habitat (SFH) for wood storks includes wetlands and surface waters which are reasonably accessible, have areas of water that are relatively calm, uncluttered by dense thickets of aquatic vegetation, and have permanent or seasonal water depth between 2 and 15 inches. The project area was reviewed for SFH. There are no wetlands associated with this project. There are numerous artificial lakes adjacent to the project that are part of the overall landscaping for residential or golf course developments. While these water features may provide SFH, none of the existing lakes will be impacted by the project. The Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD) manages three canals that either parallel or cross the project corridor. The E-2E and E-2W canals are perpendicular to the corridor; the Atlantic Avenue roadway bridges both waterways. The L-34 canal parallels Atlantic Avenue for most of the project length. No impacts are proposed to the E-2E and E-2W canals in any of the alternatives. Proposed permanent impacts to the L-34 canal are included in Alternatives 1, 2, and 3. However, these alternatives have been discarded due to maintenance requirements or right-of-way impacts. Proposed permanent impacts to the L-34 would include: 1.16 acres of surface water impacts associated with Build Alternative 1- typical sections 2, 4, 6; 2.07 acres of surface water impacts associated with Build Alternative 2- typical sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; and 1.16 acres of surface water impacts associated with Build Alternative 3- typical sections 2, 4, 6 (Build Alternatives 1 and 3 have identical impacts to the L-34 canal). The only viable alternative, Alternative 3(a), does not include any permanent impacts to the L-34 canal.

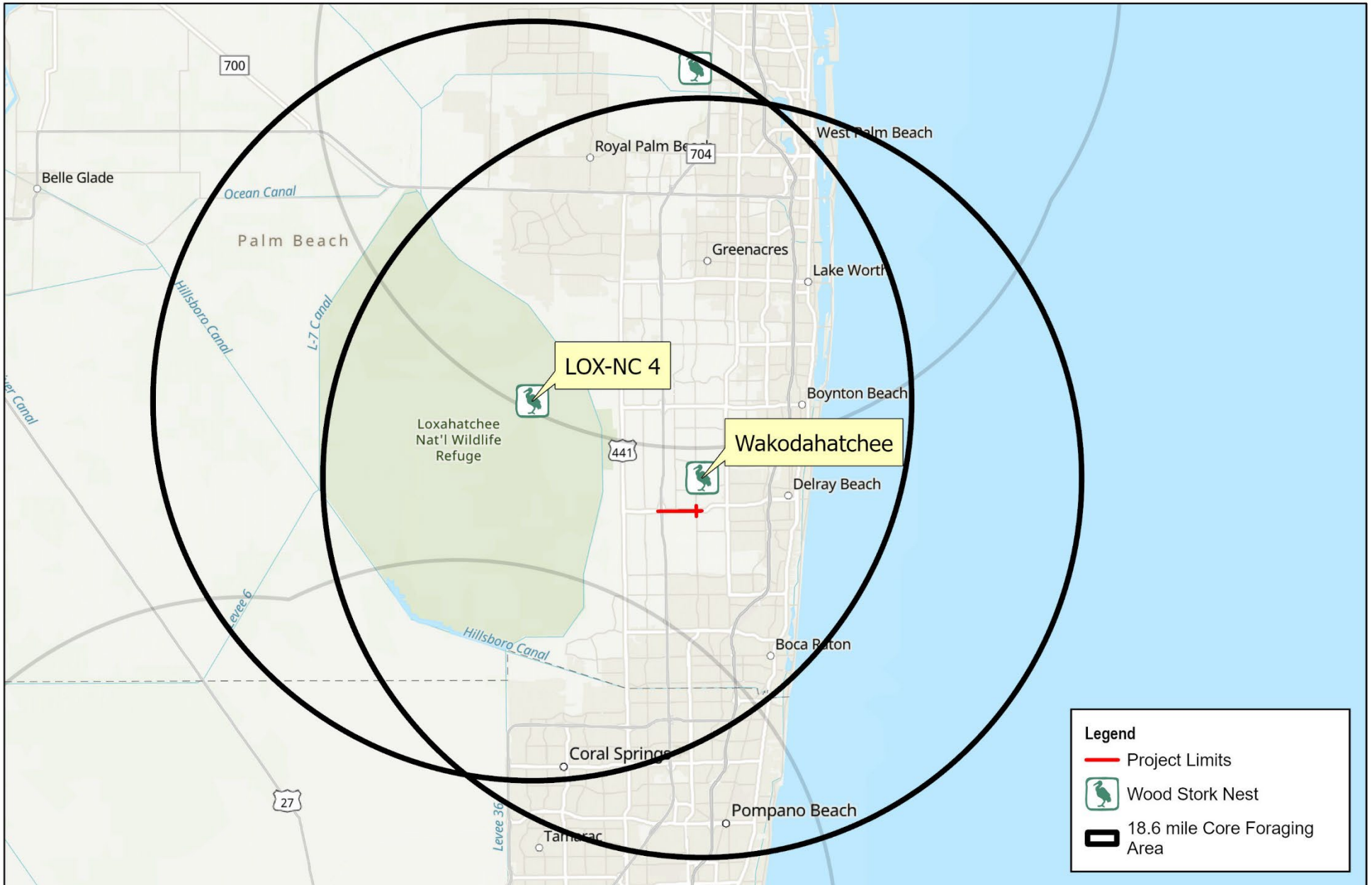
Based on the field review, the adjacent LWDD canals do not provide SFH for the wood stork. The LWDD canals within the study area lack littoral shelves, have steep artificially maintained slopes,

and typically have water depths that exceed SFH requirements or dense thickets of invasive vegetation at shallower locations. Additionally, there is an approximately 35-foot-tall landscaping buffer (e.g., *Ficus spp.*) directly south of the L-34 canal associated with several of the residential communities and golf courses to the south of Atlantic Avenue. This landscaping buffer consisting of large canopy trees obstructs wood storks from accessing the canal from the south at the locations of proposed surface water impacts (Build Alternatives 1, 2, and 3). Access to the L-34 canal from the north is partially obstructed by overground utilities and traffic on Atlantic.

No wetland impacts or impacts to SFH are anticipated. As such, when applying the project specifics to the *May 2010 Effect Determination Key for the Wood Stork in Southern Florida* (**Appendix F**) it has been determined the project will have no effect on the wood stork (Project does not affect SFH > no effect).

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**Figure 7. Wood Stork Core Foraging Areas**

Atlantic Avenue (SR 806) from Florida's Turnpike  
 (MP 1.748) to Jog Road (MP 3.560)  
 FPID No. 440575-3-22-02  
 Palm Beach County

Image Source: ESRI  
 Imagery Date: 2019



Snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*) – Endangered – No Effect

The project is 3.3 miles east of designated Critical Habitat for this species and within the Consultation Area for the snail kite. The nearest wetland habitat that could support foraging or nesting is located within the Critical Habitat. The project is highly urban and does not contain suitable habitat for the species (USFWS 2006; Hipes, et al. 2001); therefore, the project will have no effect on the snail kite.

Federally Listed Plants

Due to lack of suitable habitat within the project corridor, the project will have no effect on the following federally listed plants: four-petaled pawpaw (*Asimina tetramera* - Endangered), Florida perforate cladonia (*Cladonia perforata* - Endangered), Okeechobee gourd (*Cucurbita okeechobeensis* ssp. *okeechobeensis* - Endangered), Florida prairie-clover (*Dalea carthagenensis floridana* - Endangered), beach jacquemontia (*Jacquemontia reclinata* - Endangered), and tiny polygala (*Polygala smallii* - Endangered).

2.2.3 State Listed Species

State-listed wildlife species which have been identified as having a probability for occurrence in the vicinity of the study area include the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and the Florida burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia floridana*).

Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) – Threatened – No Effect Anticipated

The gopher tortoise is state-designated threatened and is a candidate for federal listing. Preferred habitats include xeric areas with sandy soils and open canopy with low groundcover. This species can also be found within grassed areas in roadway right-of-ways. No gopher tortoise burrows or individuals were observed in the study area, and potential for occurrence is low as the project is in a well-developed and heavily urbanized area. Therefore, there is no effect anticipated on the gopher tortoise.

Florida burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia floridana*) – Threatened – No Effect Anticipated

The Florida burrowing owl is state-designated threatened and can be found in native open prairies and cleared areas that offer short groundcover such as agricultural fields, pastures, golf courses, airports, and vacant lots throughout Florida. The owls usually dig their own burrows but are known to use armadillo or gopher tortoise burrows. There are no open, sandy patches of undeveloped land that could support this species (Hipes, et al., 2001). The LWDD L-34 Canal is fully sodded and maintained and lacks any open sandy areas. The field review did not find any evidence of the species along or adjacent to the project corridor. Therefore, there is no effect anticipated on the Florida burrowing owl.

## State Listed Plants

Due to lack of suitable habitat within the project corridor, the project will have no effect anticipated on the following state listed plants: large-flowered rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora* - Threatened), coastal mock vervain (*Glandularia matitima* - Endangered), pineland jacquemontia (*Jacquemontia curtissii* - Threatened), nodding pinweed (*Lechea cernua* - Threatened), Carter's flax (*Linum carteri* var. *smallii* - Endangered), cutthroat grass (*Panicum abcissum* - Endangered), or giant orchid (*Pteroglossaspis ecristata* - Threatened).

### 2.2.4 Other Protected Species

#### Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

This species receives federal protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), enacted in 1940 and amended several times since. A minimum avoidance buffer distance of 660 feet is required by USFWS for road construction if the activity is conducted during the nesting season and visible from the bald eagle nest; a minimum avoidance buffer distance of 330 feet is required for road construction during the nesting season if the nest is not visible from work activities. A desktop review of FWC and Audubon EagleWatch 2020 nesting data, as well as a field review, indicates that no nests occur within 660 feet of the study area. An updated survey is recommended prior to construction to identify potential future nests within 660 feet of the project area. If any active nests are determined to exist within either the 330-foot or 660-foot protection buffers prior to construction, the FDOT will implement standard protection measures. There is no effect anticipated on the bald eagle.

#### Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

The osprey receives federal protection under the MBTA and has the potential to occur within the project area. Ospreys predate fish in open fresh and saltwater wetlands. No osprey nests were observed within the project footprint. There is no effect anticipated on the osprey.

#### Non-listed Bat Species

The following bat species are known to occur in the region: the Mexican free-tail (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), tri-colored (*Perimyotis subflavus*), evening (*Nycticeius humeralis*), big brown (*Eptesicus fuscus*), Seminole (*Lasiurus seminolus*), and northern yellow (*Dasypterus intermedius*) bats. While not listed species, all bat species are protected in Florida per Chapter 68A of the Florida Administrative Code. Bats could potentially utilize cavities in the bridge structure(s) for roosting habitat. A survey was conducted within the project limits to identify potential bat presence; none were observed. Since work is proposed that would affect the individuals roosting under the bridge, exclusion is recommended during construction. There are no adverse effects anticipated to bat species.

### 3.0 Wetlands and Other Surface Waters

For the purposes of this document, wetlands are defined as per 62.340 F.A.C., Section 373.019 (27) Florida Statutes, and *Corp of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* (1987) with *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region* (2010). The ETDM Summary report states that there are 18.1 acres of wetlands within the 500-foot buffer for the project. A Summary DOE of Moderate was assigned for wetlands and surface waters in the project area. The same DOE was assigned by USACE. USFWS, FDEP, and SFWMD assigned a DOE of Minimal. The SFWMD stated that there are no state jurisdictional wetlands located within or adjacent to the project.

#### 3.1 Methods

In accordance with EO 11990 and Part 2, Chapter 9 - Wetlands and Other Surface Waters of the FDOT PD&E Manual, the FDOT has undertaken all actions to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out the agency's responsibilities. Wetlands were identified through the review of available literature, GIS data, and field verification. The following sources were reviewed prior to conducting the field review:

- USFWS NWI Maps;
- Land use and land cover maps (SFWMD 2017–2019);
- NRCS Soil Survey of Palm Beach County, Florida (2018);
- ETDM Summary Report (14423); and
- True color aerial photography (2019).

Subsequent to the review of all available materials, a field assessment was conducted on May 27, 2022, to identify the presence of wetland vegetation, evidence of hydrology, and hydric soil indicators. The jurisdictional limits of the wetlands were estimated using the criteria stated in the USACE *Final Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineations Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region* (October 2010), and Florida statewide unified wetland delineation methodology as adopted by FDEP and the Water Management Districts per Chapter 62-340 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and described in *The Florida Wetlands Delineation Manual*.

#### 3.2 Results

The project corridor is entirely developed except for a small undeveloped parcel that is currently zoned as Multiple Use Planned Development. This remnant parcel has been mapped in the National Wetlands Inventory for having a wetland. However, since the 2016 Villagio residential development in this parcel, a small wetland approximately 800 feet north of the project is all that remained of any natural wetland habitat in the vicinity of the project. The development appears to have removed a water source and the area has dried. The field review confirmed that there are no wetlands associated with this project. There are numerous artificial lakes adjacent to the project

that are part of the overall landscaping for residential or golf course development. None of the existing lakes will be impacted by the project.

The Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD) manages three canals adjacent or perpendicular to the project corridor: the E-2E, E-2W, and L-34 canals. The E-2E and E-2W canals are perpendicular to the corridor; the Atlantic Avenue roadway bridges both waterways. The L-34 canal parallels Atlantic Avenue for most of the project length. It is separated from the roadway by an approximate 50-foot-wide maintained grass area.

### 3.2.1 Impact Area

There are no wetlands associated with this project. Accordingly, there are no wetland impacts associated with any of the alternatives. No impacts are proposed to the E-2E and E-2W canals in any of the alternatives. Proposed permanent impacts to the L-34 canal are included in Alternatives 1, 2, and 3. However, these alternatives have been discarded due to maintenance requirements or right-of-way impacts. Proposed permanent impacts to the L-34 would include: 1.16 acres of surface water impacts associated with Build Alternative 1- typical sections 2, 4, 6; 2.07 acres of surface water impacts associated with Build Alternative 2- typical sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; and 1.16 acres of surface water impacts associated with Build Alternative 3- typical sections 2, 4, 6 (Build Alternatives 1 and 3 have identical impacts to the L-34 canal). The only viable alternative, Alternative 3(a), does not include any permanent impacts to the L-34 canal, only temporary impacts associated with drainage improvements.

Mitigation is not anticipated for potential temporary impacts to the L-34 canal associated with the only viable alternative, Alternative 3(a), or proposed permanent impacts associated with the discarded alternatives, Alternatives 1, 2, and 3, per Part IV of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes. There are no proposed impacts to the E-2E or E-2W canals. The No-Build Alternative would not result in any impacts to surface waters.

## 4.0 Essential Fish Habitat

This section documents Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) in accordance with Part 2, Chapter 17 – Essential Fish Habitat of the FDOT PD&E Manual and The *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act*, as amended (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the regional Fishery Management Councils and the Secretary of Commerce to describe and identify EFH for species under federal Fishery Management Plans. EFH is defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Act as “those water and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.” The term “fish” includes finfish, crabs, shrimp, and lobsters. On April 23, 1997 [62 Federal Register (FR) 19723], the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) issued proposed regulations containing guidelines for the description and identification of EFH in fishery management plans, adverse impacts on EFH, and actions to conserve and enhance EFH. These rules were revised and finalized on January 22, 2002 (67 FR 2343). The regulations also provide a process for NMFS to coordinate

and consult with federal and state agencies on activities that may adversely affect EFH. The purpose of the rule is to assist in describing and identifying EFH, minimize adverse effects on EFH, and identify other actions to conserve and enhance EFH. The purpose of the coordination and consultation provisions is to specify procedures for adequate consultation with NMFS on activities that may adversely affect EFH.

#### 4.1 Methodology

The project area has been reviewed to assess the potential occurrence of the South Atlantic species and the highly migratory species during any stage of their life cycle. In order to determine EFH that has potential to occur within the study area, available site-specific data was collected and evaluated. For the purposes of this study, the project study area is defined as 500 feet north and south of the Atlantic Avenue centerline.

Environmental scientists familiar with Florida natural communities conducted field reviews of the project area, adjacent habitats, and species-specific surveys on May 27, 2022. A literature/database review was conducted prior to the survey using National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries EFH Mapper and GIS data from USFWS to determine the potential occurrence of listed marine species and habitat within the project.

#### 4.2 Results

The proposed project is within the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) area of jurisdiction. From the desktop analysis and field review, there is no potential EFH habitat within the project area or any of the proposed build alternatives. No EFH will be impacted by this project.

### 5.0 Anticipated Permits and Review Agencies

Both the FDEP and the SFWMD regulate impacts to wetlands and surface waters within the project area. On Dec. 22, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published their approval of Florida's State 404 Program in the Federal Register, and the FDEP began administering the State 404 Program on that date. Other agencies, including the USFWS, NMFS, USEPA, and the FWC, review and comment on wetland permit applications. In addition, FDEP regulates stormwater discharges from construction sites. The complexity of the permitting process will depend on the degree of impact to jurisdictional areas. It is anticipated that the following permits will be required for this project:

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| • Section 404   | FDEP  |
| • Environmental Resource Permit (ERP)                             | SFWMD |
| • Right-of-way permit   | LWDD  |
| • National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits (NPDES) | FDEP  |

#### 5.1 Federal Permits and Coordination/Consultation

The FDOT Office of Environmental Management confirmed in an August 29, 2022 email that no

further coordination or consultation with USFWS and NMFS is anticipated for the federally-listed species due to the determination of effect of May Affect but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect or No Effect. The Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake will be implemented during construction.

## 5.2 State Permits and Coordination/Consultation

No further coordination/consultation with FWC is anticipated for the state listed species due to the DOE of no effect anticipated or no adverse effect anticipated.

### Section 404

Based on review of the retained waters mapping feature managed by the FDEP, the L-34 canal is “assumed waters”, thus, Section 404 permitting will be processed with the FDEP. The State 404 Program is responsible for overseeing permitting for any project proposing dredge or fill activities within state assumed waters.

### Environmental Resource Permit

No wetlands will be impacted by the project; however, surface water impacts will require a SFWMD ERP. SFWMD requires an ERP when construction of any project results in the creation of a new or modification of an existing surface water management system, or results in impacts to waters of the state.

### Right-of-Way Permit

LWDD right-of-way permit will be required for work within the LWDD right-of-way and the L-34 canal.

### National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit

Forty CFR Part 122 prohibits point source discharges of stormwater to waters of the U.S. without a NPDES permit. Under the State of Florida’s delegated authority to administer the NPDES program, construction sites that will result in greater than one acre of disturbance must file for and obtain either coverage under an appropriate generic permit contained in Chapter 62-621, F.A.C. or an individual permit issued pursuant to Chapter 62-620, F.A.C. A major component of the NPDES permit is the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP identifies potential sources of pollution that may reasonably be expected to affect the quality of stormwater discharges from the site and discusses good engineering practices (i.e., best management practices) that will be used to reduce the pollutants.

## 6.0 Conclusions

### 6.1 Listed Species

The project area was evaluated for potential occurrences of federal and state listed protected plant

and animal species in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and Chapters 5B-40 and 68A-27 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Based on an evaluation of collected data and field reviews, the federal and state listed species discussed below were determined to have the potential to occur within or adjacent to the project area. An effect determination was made for each of these federal and state listed species based on an analysis of the potential impacts of the proposed project on each species.

The project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the following federally listed species:

- Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*).

The project will have no effect on the following federally listed species:

- Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*);
- West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*);
- Wood stork (*Mycteria americana*);
- Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*);
- Snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*); and
- Federally listed plants: four-petaled pawpaw (*Asimina tetramera*), Florida perforate cladonia (*Cladonia perforata*), Okeechobee gourd (*Cucurbita okeechobeensis ssp. okeechobeensis*), Florida prairie-clover (*Dalea carthagenensis floridana*), beach jacquemontia (*Jacquemontia reclinata*), and tiny polygala (*Polygala smallii*).

The project will have no effect anticipated on the following state listed species:

- Florida burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia floridana*);
- Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*); and
- State listed plants: large-flowered rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*), coastal mock vervain (*Glandularia matitima*), pineland jacquemontia (*Jacquemontia curtissii*), nodding pinweed (*Lechea cernua*), Carter's flax (*Linum carteri var. smallii*), cutthroat grass (*Panicum abcessum*), and giant orchid (*Pteroglossaspis ecristata*).

There are several species which may occur in the project vicinity and are not listed as threatened but receive other legal protection. These include the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). There is no effect anticipated for these species. Potential bat species include the Mexican free-tail (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), tri-colored (*Perimyotis subflavus*), evening (*Nycticeius humeralis*), big brown (*Eptesicus fuscus*), northern yellow (*Dasypterus intermedius*), and Seminole (*Lasiurus seminolus*) bats; there is no adverse effect anticipated to bat species.

## 6.2 Wetlands and Other Surface Waters

There are no wetlands associated with this project. Accordingly, there are no wetland impacts associated with any of the alternatives. No impacts are proposed to the E-2E and E-2W canals in any of the alternatives. Proposed permanent impacts to the L-34 canal are included in Alternatives 1, 2, and 3. However, these alternatives have been discarded due to maintenance requirements or



right-of-way impacts. The only viable alternative, Alternative 3(a), does not include any permanent impacts to the L-34 canal. The FDOT has undertaken all actions to avoid and minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands and surface waters, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands/surface waters in carrying out the agency's responsibilities.

### 6.3 Essential Fish Habitat

There is no EFH affected by the project, therefore, coordination with NMFS is not required.

### 6.4 Implementation Measures and Commitments

Based on the field and literature reviews outlined in this report, federal or state listed protected species have the potential to occur within the project study area. In order to ensure that the proposed project will not adversely impact these species, the FDOT will adhere to the following:

- The FDOT will perform additional wildlife surveys for bald eagle, osprey, gopher tortoise, and other wildlife species during the project design phase. If these species are found to be present in the project area, then the appropriate measures discussed in this report will be followed.
- Should protected plant species be identified within the project impact area during the design and permitting phase, coordination will be initiated with the FDACS or other appropriate agencies to allow for relocation to adjacent habitat or other suitable protected lands prior to construction.
- During the construction phase of this project, the FDOT will implement the Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction and other best management practices to avoid, where possible, and otherwise minimize adverse impacts to wetlands/surface waters and water quality within the project limits to the maximum extent practicable.

Based upon findings of the preliminary data collection, general corridor surveys, and ongoing coordination with the USFWS and FWC, the FDOT is considering the following project commitments:

- The most recent version of USFWS' *Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake* will be implemented during construction to ensure that the Eastern indigo snake will not be adversely impacted by the project.

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**Appendix A**  
Florida Natural Areas Inventory Report



1018 Thomasville Road  
Suite 200-C  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
850-224-8207  
fax 850-681-9364  
www.fnai.org

November 24, 2021

Dara Jarvis  
Scalar Consulting Group, Inc  
13337 North 56<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tampa, FL 33617

Dear Ms. Jarvis,

Thank you for requesting information from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). At your request we have produced the following report for your project area.

The purpose of this Standard Data Report is to provide objective scientific information on natural resources located in the vicinity of a site of interest, in order to inform those involved in project planning and evaluation. This Report makes no determination of the suitability of a proposed project for this location, or the potential impacts of the project on natural resources in the area.

**Project:** PD&E Study for Atlantic Ave (SR 806)  
**Date Received:** 11/17/2021  
**Location:** Palm Beach County

### Element Occurrences

A search of our maps and database indicates that we currently have no element occurrences mapped in the vicinity of the study area (see enclosed map). Please be advised that a lack of element occurrences in the FNAI database is not a sufficient indication of the absence of rare or endangered species on a site.

*The element occurrences data layer includes occurrences of rare species and natural communities. The map legend indicates that some element occurrences occur in the general vicinity of the label point. This may be due to lack of precision of the source data, or an element that occurs over an extended area (such as a wide ranging species or large natural community). For animals and plants, element occurrences generally refer to more than a casual sighting; they usually indicate a viable population of the species. Note that some element occurrences represent historically documented observations which may no longer be extant. Extirpated element occurrences will be marked with an 'X' following the occurrence label on the enclosed map.*

### Likely and Potential Rare Species

In addition to documented occurrences, other rare species and natural communities may be identified on or near the site based on habitat models and species range models (see enclosed Biodiversity Matrix Report). These species should be taken into consideration in field surveys, land management, and impact avoidance and mitigation.

*FNAI habitat models indicate areas, which based on land cover type, offer suitable habitat for one or more rare species that is known to occur in the vicinity. Habitat models have been developed for approximately 300 of the rarest species tracked by the Inventory, including all federally listed species.*



Florida Resources  
and Environmental  
Analysis Center

Institute of Science  
and Public Affairs

The Florida State University

*Tracking Florida's Biodiversity*



*FNAI species range models indicate areas that are within the known or predicted range of a species, based on climate variables, soils, vegetation, and/or slope. Species range models have been developed for approximately 340 species, including all federally listed species.*

*The FNAI Biodiversity Matrix Geodatabase compiles Documented, Likely, and Potential species and natural communities for each square mile Matrix Unit statewide.*

#### CLIP

The enclosed map shows natural resource conservation priorities based on the Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project. CLIP is based on many of the same natural resource data developed for the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment, but provides an overall picture of conservation priorities across different resource categories, including biodiversity, landscapes, surface waters, and aggregated CLIP priorities (that combine the individual resource categories). CLIP is also based primarily on remote sensed data and is not intended to be the definitive authority on natural resources on a site.

For more information on CLIP, visit <https://www.fnai.org/services/clip>.

The Inventory always recommends that professionals familiar with Florida's flora and fauna conduct a site-specific survey to determine the current presence or absence of rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Please visit [www.fnai.org/species-communities/tracking-main](http://www.fnai.org/species-communities/tracking-main) for county or statewide element occurrence distributions and links to more element information.

The database maintained by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory is the single most comprehensive source of information available on the locations of rare species and other significant ecological resources. However, the data are not always based on comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Therefore this information should not be regarded as a final statement on the biological resources of the site being considered, nor should it be substituted for on-site surveys. Inventory data are designed for the purposes of conservation planning and scientific research, and are not intended for use as the primary criteria for regulatory decisions.

Information provided by this database may not be published without prior written notification to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, and the Inventory must be credited as an information source in these publications. **The maps contain sensitive environmental information, please do not distribute or publish without prior consent from FNAI.** FNAI data may not be resold for profit.

Thank you for your use of FNAI services. An invoice will be mailed separately. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (850) 224-8207 or at [kbrinegar@fnai.fsu.edu](mailto:kbrinegar@fnai.fsu.edu).

Sincerely,

*Kerri Brinegar*

Kerri Brinegar  
GIS / Data Services

Encl

# PD&E Study for Atlantic Ave (SR 806)

# Palm Beach County

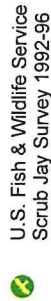
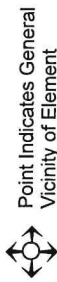
Site boundaries are approximate.

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### Element Occurrences

- Animals
- Plants
- Communities
- Other
- Data Sensitive



### Conservation Lands

- Federal
- State
- Local
- Private
- State Aquatic Preserves

### Land Acquisition Projects

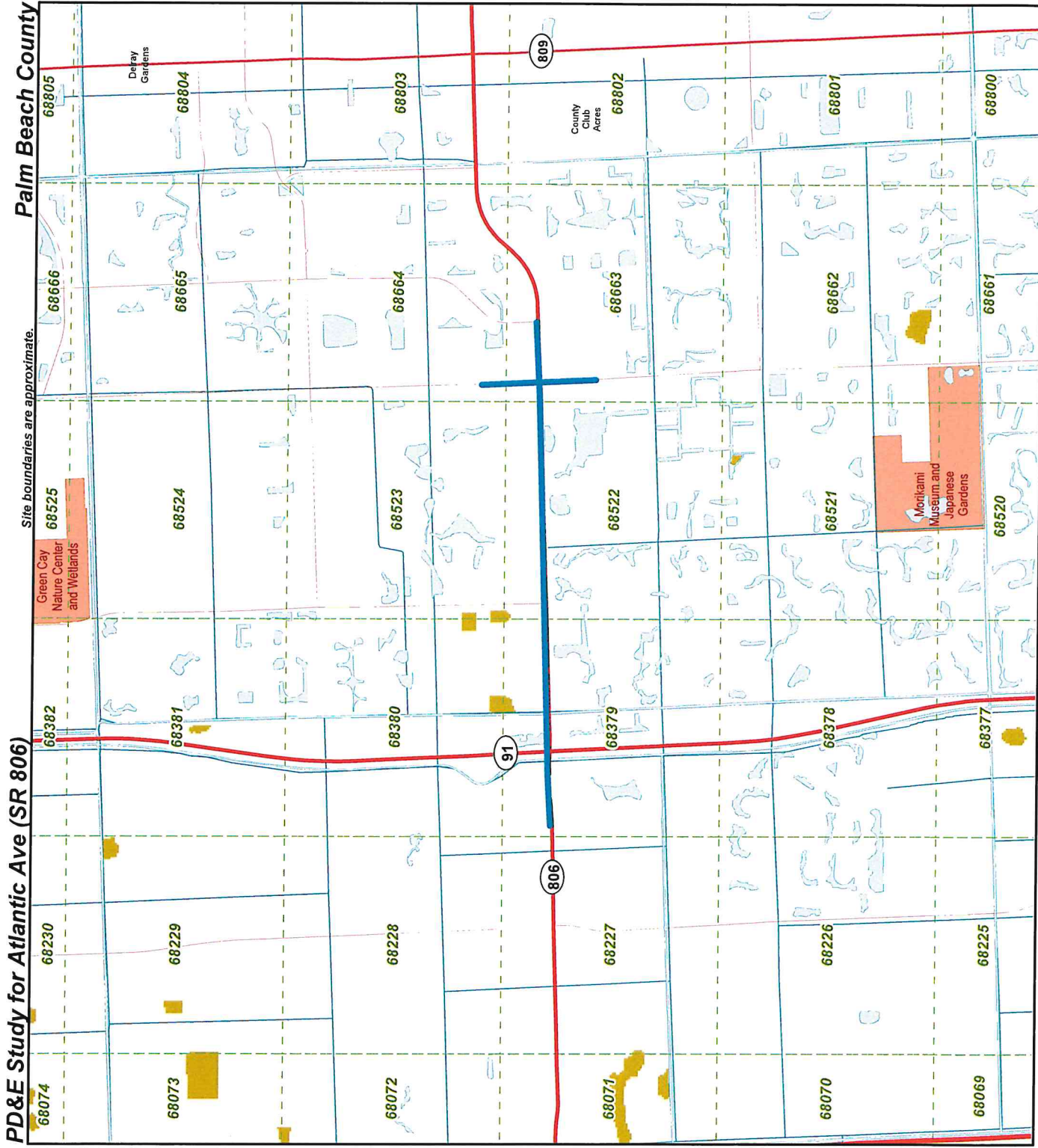
- Florida Forever
- Board of Trustees Projects

### FNAI Rare Species Habitat

- FNAI Rare Species Habitat
- FNAI Biodiversity Matrix Square Mile Units

### County Boundary

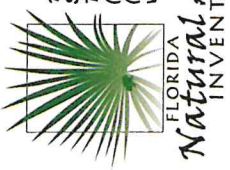
- Roads
- Water



Map produced by KAB  
11/24/2021

**NOTE**  
This map contains environmentally sensitive information. Please do not distribute or publish without prior consent from FNAI. Map should not be interpreted without accompanying documents.





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## PD&E Study for Atlantic Ave (SR 806)

Site boundaries are approximate.

Palm Beach County

### CLIP v4.0 Resource Priorities

#### Biodiversity Resource Category

- Priority 1 - highest
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

#### Landscape Resource Category

- Priority 1 - highest
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

#### Surface Water Resource Category

- Priority 1 - highest
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

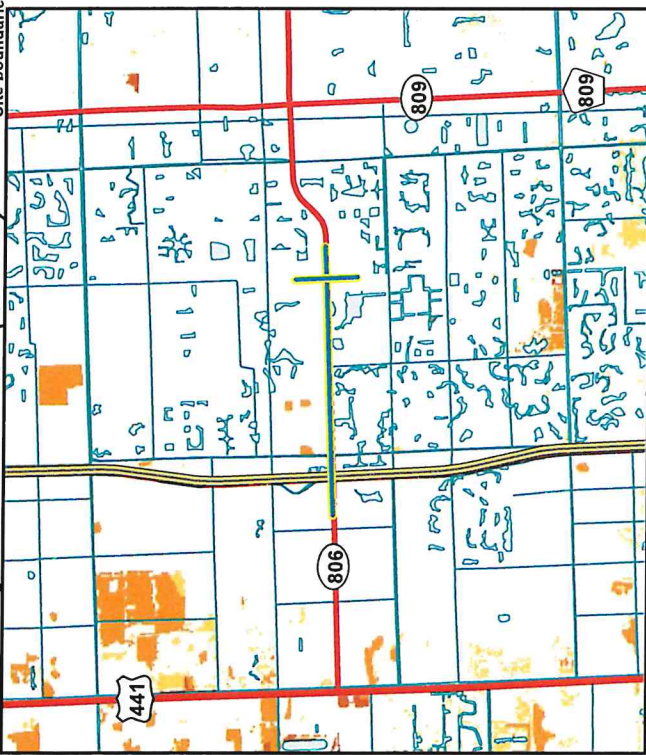
#### Aggregated CLIP Priorities

- Priority 1 - highest
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

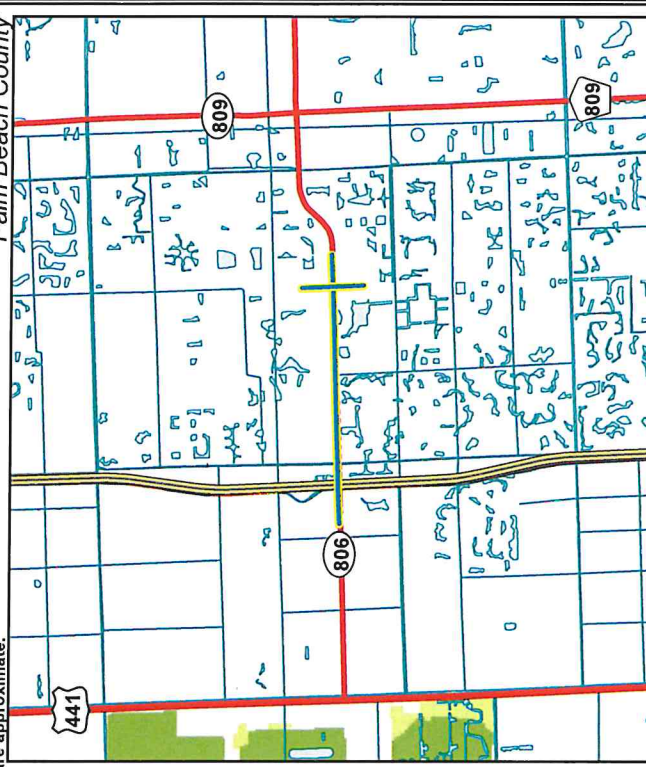
Site Boundary

Map should not be interpreted without accompanying documents.

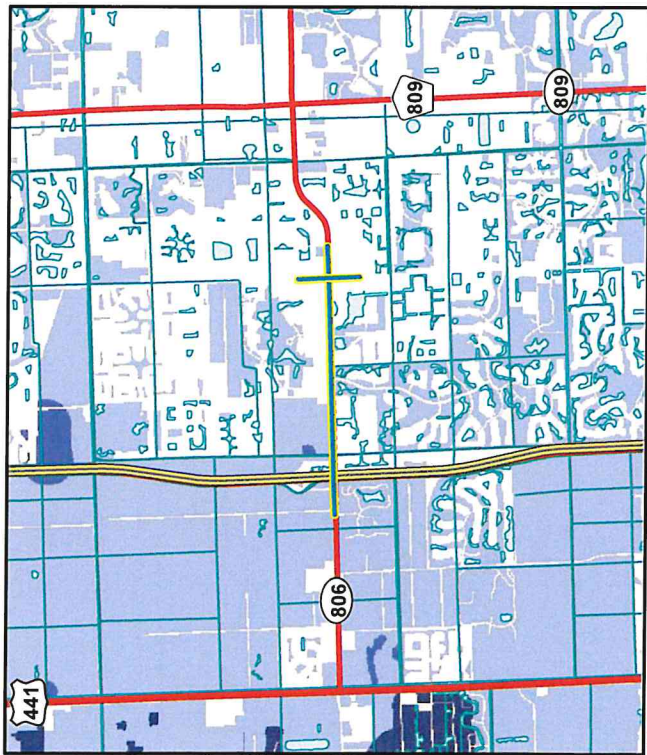
Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP) is a cooperative effort between the FSU Florida Natural Areas Inventory, UF Center for Landscape Conservation Planning, and FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, with additional funding from FL Dept of Environmental Protection and US Fish & Wildlife Service.



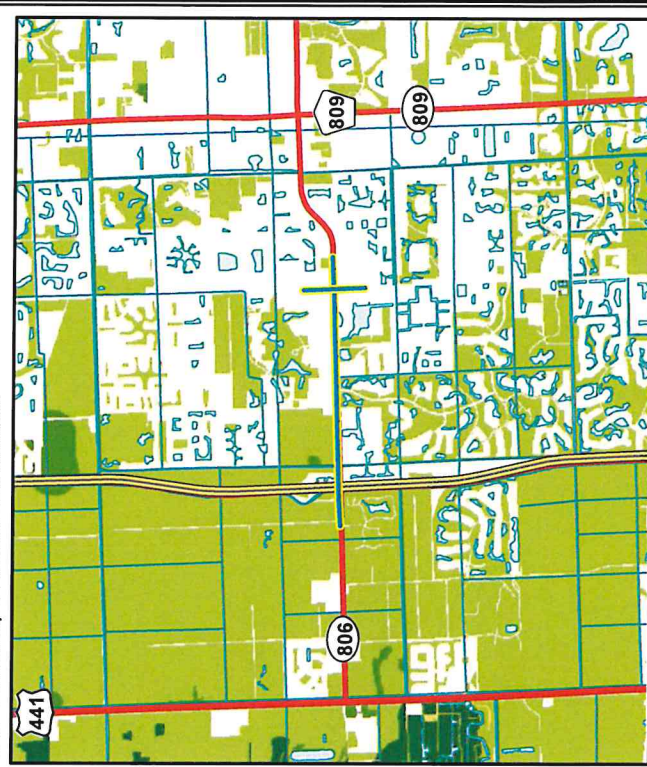
CLIP Biodiversity Resource Priorities



CLIP Landscape Resource Priorities



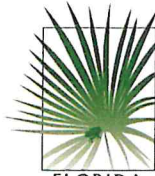
CLIP Surface Water Resource Priorities



CLIP Aggregated Resource Priorities







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FLORIDA  
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INVENTORY

## Florida Natural Areas Inventory Biodiversity Matrix Report



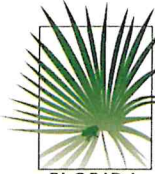
Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
<b>Matrix Unit ID: 68379</b>					
<b>Likely</b>					
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	G4	S2	T	FT
<b>Potential</b>					
<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
<i>Coleataenia abscissa</i>	cutthroatgrass	G3	S3	N	E
<i>Conradina grandiflora</i>	large-flowered rosemary	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Elytraria caroliniensis var. angustifolia</i>	narrow-leaved Carolina scalystem	G4T2	S2	N	N
<i>Eumops floridanus</i>	Florida bonneted bat	G1	S1	E	FE
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
<i>Lechea cernua</i>	nodding pinweed	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Linum carteri var. smallii</i>	Small's flax	G2T2	S2	N	E
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	N	N
<i>Podomys floridanus</i>	Florida Mouse	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Pteroglossaspis ecristata</i>	giant orchid	G2G3	S2	N	T
<i>Roystonea regia</i>	Florida royal palm	G2G3	S2	N	E
<i>Trichomanes punctatum ssp. floridanum</i>	Florida filmy fern	G4G5T1	S1	E	E
<b>Matrix Unit ID: 68522</b>					
<b>Likely</b>					
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	G4	S2	T	FT
<b>Potential</b>					
<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
<i>Coleataenia abscissa</i>	cutthroatgrass	G3	S3	N	E
<i>Conradina grandiflora</i>	large-flowered rosemary	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Elytraria caroliniensis var. angustifolia</i>	narrow-leaved Carolina scalystem	G4T2	S2	N	N
<i>Eumops floridanus</i>	Florida bonneted bat	G1	S1	E	FE
<i>Glandularia maritima</i>	coastal vervain	G3	S3	N	E
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
<i>Jacquemontia curtissii</i>	pineland jacquemontia	G2	S2	N	T
<i>Lechea cernua</i>	nodding pinweed	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Linum carteri var. smallii</i>	Small's flax	G2T2	S2	N	E
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	N	N
<i>Podomys floridanus</i>	Florida Mouse	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Prosthechea cochleata</i>	clamshell orchid	G4G5	S2	N	E
<i>Pteroglossaspis ecristata</i>	giant orchid	G2G3	S2	N	T
<i>Roystonea regia</i>	Florida royal palm	G2G3	S2	N	E
<i>Sachsia polycephala</i>	Bahama sachsia	G2	S2	N	T
<i>Trichomanes punctatum ssp. floridanum</i>	Florida filmy fern	G4G5T1	S1	E	E
<b>Matrix Unit ID: 68663</b>					
<b>Potential</b>					
<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST

**Definitions:** Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.

Documented-Historic - Rare species and natural communities documented, but not observed/reported within the last twenty years.

Likely - Rare species and natural communities likely to occur on this site based on suitable habitat and/or known occurrences in the vicinity.

Potential - This site lies within the known or predicted range of the species listed.



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FLORIDA  
**Natural Areas**  
INVENTORY

## Florida Natural Areas Inventory Biodiversity Matrix Report



Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
<i>Coleataenia abscissa</i>	cutthroatgrass	G3	S3	N	E
<i>Conradina grandiflora</i>	large-flowered rosemary	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Elytraria caroliniensis</i> var. <i>angustifolia</i>	narrow-leaved Carolina scalystem	G4T2	S2	N	N
<i>Eumops floridanus</i>	Florida bonneted bat	G1	S1	E	FE
<i>Glandularia maritima</i>	coastal vervain	G3	S3	N	E
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
<i>Jacquemontia curtissii</i>	pineland jacquemontia	G2	S2	N	T
<i>Lechea cernua</i>	nodding pinweed	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Linum carteri</i> var. <i>smallii</i>	Small's flax	G2T2	S2	N	E
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	N	N
<i>Podomys floridanus</i>	Florida Mouse	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Pteroglossaspis ecristata</i>	giant orchid	G2G3	S2	N	T
<i>Roystonea regia</i>	Florida royal palm	G2G3	S2	N	E
<i>Sachsia polycephala</i>	Bahama sachsia	G2	S2	N	T
<i>Trichomanes punctatum</i> ssp. <i>floridanum</i>	Florida filmy fern	G4G5T1	S1	E	E

**Matrix Unit ID: 68664**

**Potential**

<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
<i>Coleataenia abscissa</i>	cutthroatgrass	G3	S3	N	E
<i>Conradina grandiflora</i>	large-flowered rosemary	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Elytraria caroliniensis</i> var. <i>angustifolia</i>	narrow-leaved Carolina scalystem	G4T2	S2	N	N
<i>Eumops floridanus</i>	Florida bonneted bat	G1	S1	E	FE
<i>Glandularia maritima</i>	coastal vervain	G3	S3	N	E
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
<i>Jacquemontia curtissii</i>	pineland jacquemontia	G2	S2	N	T
<i>Lechea cernua</i>	nodding pinweed	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Linum carteri</i> var. <i>smallii</i>	Small's flax	G2T2	S2	N	E
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	N	N
<i>Podomys floridanus</i>	Florida Mouse	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Prosthechea cochleata</i>	clamshell orchid	G4G5	S2	N	E
<i>Pteroglossaspis ecristata</i>	giant orchid	G2G3	S2	N	T
<i>Roystonea regia</i>	Florida royal palm	G2G3	S2	N	E
<i>Sachsia polycephala</i>	Bahama sachsia	G2	S2	N	T
<i>Trichomanes punctatum</i> ssp. <i>floridanum</i>	Florida filmy fern	G4G5T1	S1	E	E

**Definitions:** Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.  
 Documented-Historic - Rare species and natural communities documented, but not observed/reported within the last twenty years.  
 Likely - Rare species and natural communities likely to occur on this site based on suitable habitat and/or known occurrences in the vicinity.  
 Potential - This site lies within the known or predicted range of the species listed.



## Elements and Element Occurrences

An **element** is any exemplary or rare component of the natural environment, such as a species, natural community, bird rookery, spring, sinkhole, cave, or other ecological feature.

An **element occurrence (EO)** is an area of land and/or water in which a species or natural community is, or was, present. An EO should have practical conservation value for the Element as evidenced by potential continued (or historical) presence and/or regular recurrence at a given location.

## Element Ranking and Legal Status

Using a ranking system developed by NatureServe and the Natural Heritage Program Network, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory assigns two ranks for each element. The global rank is based on an element's worldwide status; the state rank is based on the status of the element in Florida. Element ranks are based on many factors, the most important ones being estimated number of Element Occurrences (EOs), estimated abundance (number of individuals for species; area for natural communities), geographic range, estimated number of adequately protected EOs, relative threat of destruction, and ecological fragility.

### **FNAI GLOBAL ELEMENT RANK**

- G1** = Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- G2** = Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- G3** = Either very rare and local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.
- G4** = Apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range).
- G5** = Demonstrably secure globally.
- GH** = Of historical occurrence throughout its range, may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker).
- GX** = Believed to be extinct throughout range.
- GXC** = Extirpated from the wild but still known from captivity or cultivation.
- G#?** = Tentative rank (e.g., G2?).
- G#G#** = Range of rank; insufficient data to assign specific global rank (e.g., G2G3).
- G#T#** = Rank of a taxonomic subgroup such as a subspecies or variety; the G portion of the rank refers to the entire species and the T portion refers to the specific subgroup; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G3T1).
- G#Q** = Rank of questionable species - ranked as species but questionable whether it is species or subspecies; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G2Q).
- G#T#Q** = Same as above, but validity as subspecies or variety is questioned.
- GU** = Unrankable; due to a lack of information no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., GUT2).
- GNA** = Ranking is not applicable because the element is not a suitable target for conservation (e.g. a hybrid species).
- GNR** = Element not yet ranked (temporary).
- GNRTNR** = Neither the element nor the taxonomic subgroup has yet been ranked.

### **FNAI STATE ELEMENT RANK**

- S1** = Critically imperiled in Florida because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- S2** = Imperiled in Florida because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- S3** = Either very rare and local in Florida (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.
- S4** = Apparently secure in Florida (may be rare in parts of range).
- S5** = Demonstrably secure in Florida.
- SH** = Of historical occurrence in Florida, possibly extirpated, but may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker).
- SX** = Believed to be extirpated throughout Florida.
- SU** = Unrankable; due to a lack of information no rank or range can be assigned.
- SNA** = State ranking is not applicable because the element is not a suitable target for conservation (e.g. a hybrid species).
- SNR** = Element not yet ranked (temporary).

## **FEDERAL LEGAL STATUS**

Legal status information provided by FNAI for information only. For official definitions and lists of protected species, consult the relevant federal agency.

Definitions derived from U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, Sec. 3. Note that the federal status given by FNAI refers only to Florida populations and that federal status may differ elsewhere.

**C** = Candidate species for which federal listing agencies have sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list the species as Endangered or Threatened.  
**E** = Endangered: species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.  
**E, T** = Species currently listed endangered in a portion of its range but only listed as threatened in other areas  
**E, PDL** = Species currently listed endangered but has been proposed for delisting.  
**E, PT** = Species currently listed endangered but has been proposed for listing as threatened.  
**E, XN** = Species currently listed endangered but tracked population is a non-essential experimental population.  
**T** = Threatened: species likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.  
**PE** = Species proposed for listing as endangered  
**PS** = Partial status: some but not all of the species' infraspecific taxa have federal  
**PT** = Species proposed for listing as threatened  
**SAT** = Treated as threatened due to similarity of appearance to a species which is federally listed such that enforcement personnel have difficulty in attempting to differentiate between the listed and unlisted species.  
**SC** = Not currently listed, but considered a "species of concern" to USFWS.

## **STATE LEGAL STATUS**

Provided by FNAI for information only. For official definitions and lists of protected species, consult the relevant state agency.

**Animals:** Definitions derived from "Florida's Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern, Official Lists" published by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 1 August 1997, and subsequent updates.

**C** = Candidate for listing at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
**FE** = Listed as Endangered Species at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
**FT** = Listed as Threatened Species at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
**FXN** = Federal listed as an experimental population in Florida  
**FT(S/A)** = Federal Threatened due to similarity of appearance  
**ST** = State population listed as Threatened by the FFWCC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is acutely vulnerable to environmental alteration, declining in number at a rapid rate, or whose range or habitat is decreasing in area at a rapid rate and as a consequence is destined or very likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future.  
**SSC** = Listed as Species of Special Concern by the FFWCC. Defined as a population which warrants special protection, recognition, or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or substantial human exploitation which, in the foreseeable future, may result in its becoming a threatened species. (SSC\* for *Pandion haliaetus* (Osprey) indicates that this status applies in Monroe county only.)  
**N** = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

**Plants:** Definitions derived from Sections 581.011 and 581.185(2), Florida Statutes, and the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act, 5B-40.001. FNAI does not track all state-regulated plant species; for a complete list of state-regulated plant species, call Florida Division of Plant Industry, 352-372-3505 or see: <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/>.

**E** = Endangered: species of plants native to Florida that are in imminent danger of extinction within the state, the survival of which is unlikely if the causes of a decline in the number of plants continue; includes all species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the U.S. Endangered Species Act.  
**T** = Threatened: species native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so decreased in number as to cause them to be Endangered.  
**N** = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

## Element Occurrence Ranking

FNAI ranks of quality of the element occurrence in terms of its viability (EORANK). Viability is estimated using a combination of factors that contribute to continued survival of the element at the location. Among these are the size of the EO, general condition of the EO at the site, and the conditions of the landscape surrounding the EO (e.g. an immediate threat to an EO by local development pressure could lower an EO rank).

- A** = Excellent estimated viability
- A?** = Possibly excellent estimated viability
- AB** = Excellent or good estimated viability
- AC** = Excellent, good, or fair estimated viability
- B** = Good estimated viability
- B?** = Possibly good estimated viability
- BC** = Good or fair estimated viability
- BD** = Good, fair, or poor estimated viability
- C** = Fair estimated viability
- C?** = Possibly fair estimated viability
- CD** = Fair or poor estimated viability
- D** = Poor estimated viability
- D?** = Possibly poor estimated viability
- E** = Verified extant (viability not assessed)
- F** = Failed to find
- H** = Historical
- NR** = Not ranked, a placeholder when an EO is not (yet) ranked.
- U** = Unrankable
- X** = Extirpated

\*For additional detail on the above ranks see: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/eorankguide.htm>

FNAI also uses the following EO ranks:

- H?** = Possibly historical
- F?** = Possibly failed to find
- X?** = Possibly extirpated

The following offers further explanation of the H and X ranks as they are used by FNAI:

The rank of H is used when there is a lack of recent field information verifying the continued existence of an EO, such as (a) when an EO is based only on historical collections data; or (b) when an EO was ranked A, B, C, D, or E at one time and is later, without field survey work, considered to be possibly extirpated due to general habitat loss or degradation of the environment in the area. This definition of the H rank is dependent on an interpretation of what constitutes "recent" field information. Generally, if there is no known survey of an EO within the last 20 to 40 years, it should be assigned an H rank. While these time frames represent suggested maximum limits, the actual time period for historical EOs may vary according to the biology of the element and the specific landscape context of each occurrence (including anthropogenic alteration of the environment). Thus, an H rank may be assigned to an EO before the maximum time frames have lapsed. Occurrences that have not been surveyed for periods exceeding these time frames should not be ranked A, B, C, or D. The higher maximum limit for plants and communities (i.e., ranging from 20 to 40 years) is based upon the assumption that occurrences of these elements generally have the potential to persist at a given location for longer periods of time. This greater potential is a reflection of plant biology and community dynamics. However, landscape factors must also be considered. Thus, areas with more anthropogenic impacts on the environment (e.g., development) will be at the lower end of the range, and less-impacted areas will be at the higher end.

The rank of X is assigned to EOs for which there is documented destruction of habitat or environment, or persuasive evidence of eradication based on adequate survey (i.e., thorough or repeated survey efforts by one or more experienced observers at times and under conditions appropriate for the Element at that location).

DRAFT

**Appendix B**  
Eastern Indigo Snake Consultation Key



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
South Florida Ecological Services Office  
1339 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

August 1, 2017

Donnie Kinard  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Subject: Consultation Key for the Eastern Indigo Snake – Revised

Dear Mr. Kinard:

This letter revises and replaces the January 25, 2010, and August 13, 2013, letters to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding the use of the eastern indigo snake programmatic effect determination key (Key) for projects occurring within the South Florida Ecological Service's Office (SFESO) jurisdiction. This revision supersedes all prior versions of the Key in the SFESO area. The purpose of this revision is to clarify portions of the previous keys based on questions we have been asked, specifically related to habitat and refugia used by eastern indigo snakes (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), in the southern portion of their range and within the jurisdiction of the SFESO. This Key is provided pursuant to the Service's authorities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C.1531 *et seq.*). This Key revision has been assigned Service Consultation Code: 41420-2009-I-0467-R001.

The purpose of this Key is to assist the Corps (or other Federal action agency) in making appropriate effects determinations for the eastern indigo snake under section 7 of the Act, and streamline informal consultation with the SFESO for the eastern indigo snake when the proposed action can be walked through the Key. The Key is a tool available to the Corps (or other Federal action agency) for the purposes of expediting section 7 consultations. There is no requirement to use the Key. There will be cases when the use of the Key is not appropriate. These include, but are not limited to: where project specific information is outside of the scope of the Key or instances where there is new biological information about the species. In these cases, we recommend the Corps (or other Federal action agency) initiates traditional consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act, and identify that consultation is being requested outside of the Key.

This Key uses project size and home ranges of eastern indigo snakes as the basis for making determinations of "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" (NLAA) and "may affect, and is likely to adversely affect" (may affect). Suitable habitat for the eastern indigo snake consists of a mosaic of habitats types, most of which occur throughout South Florida. Information on home ranges for individuals is not available in specific habitats in South Florida. Therefore, the SFESO uses the information from a 26-year study conducted by Layne and Steiner (1996) at Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Florida, as the best available



information. Layne and Steiner (1996) determined the average home range size for a female eastern indigo snake was 46 acres and 184 acres for a male.

Projects that would remove/destroy less than 25 acres of eastern indigo snake habitat are expected to result in the loss of a portion of an eastern indigo snakes home range that would not impair the ability of the individual to feed, breed, and shelter. Therefore, the Service finds that take would not be reasonably certain to occur due to habitat loss. However, these projects have the potential to injure or kill an eastern indigo snake if the individual is crushed by equipment during site preparation or other project aspects. The Service's *Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake* (Service 2013 or most current version) and the excavation of underground refugia (where a snake could be buried, trapped and/or injured), when implemented, are designed to avoid these forms of take. Consequently, projects less than 25 acres that include the Service's *Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake* (Service 2013 or most current version) and a commitment to excavate underground refugia as part of the proposed action would be expected to avoid take and thus, may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect the species.

If a proposed project would impact less than 25 acres of vegetated eastern indigo snake habitat (not urban/ human-altered) completely surrounded by urban development, and an eastern indigo snake has been observed on site, the Key should not be used. The Service recommends formal consultation for this situation because of the expected increased value of the vegetated habitat within the individual's home range.

Projects that would remove 25 acres or more of eastern indigo snake habitat could remove more than half of a female eastern indigo snakes home range. This loss of habitat within a home range would be expected to significantly impair the ability of that individual to feed, breed, and shelter. Therefore, the Service finds take through habitat loss would be reasonably certain to occur and formal consultation is appropriate. Furthermore, these projects have the potential to injure or kill an eastern indigo snake if the individual is crushed by equipment during site preparation or other project aspects. The Service's *Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake* (Service 2013 or most current version) and the excavation of underground refugia (where a snake could be buried, trapped and/or injured), when implemented, are designed to avoid these forms of take.

Eastern indigo snakes use a variety of habitat and are difficult to detect. Therefore, site specific information on the land use, observations of eastern indigo snakes within the vicinity, as well as other factors, as appropriate, will all be considered by the Service when making a final recommendation on the appropriate effects determination and whether it is appropriate to conclude consultation with the Corps (or other Federal action agency) formally or informally for projects that will impact 25 acres or more of habitat. Accordingly, when the use of the Key results in a determination of "may affect," the Corps (or other Federal action agency) is advised that consultation may be concluded informally or formally, depending on the project specific effects to eastern indigo snakes. Technical assistance from the Service can assist you in making a determination prior to submitting a request for consultation. In circumstances where the Corps (or other Federal action agency) desires to proceed with a consultation request prior to receiving

additional technical assistance from the Service, we recommend the agency documents the biological rationale for their determination and proceed with a request accordingly.

If the use of the Key results in a determination of “no effect,” no further consultation is necessary with the SFESO. If the use of the Key results in a determination of “NLAA,” the SFESO concurs with this determination based on the rationale provide above, and no further consultation is necessary for the effects of the proposed action on the eastern indigo snake. For “no effect” or “NLAA” determinations, the Service recommends that the Corps (or other Federal action agency) documents the pathway used to reach your no effect or NLAA determination in the project record and proceed with other species analysis as warranted.

**Eastern Indigo Snake Programmatic Effect Determination Key**  
**Revised July 2017**  
**South Florida Ecological Service Office**

**Scope of the Key**

This Key should be used only in the review of permit applications for effects determinations for the eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) within the South Florida Ecological Service’s Office (SFESO) area (Broward, Charlotte, Collier, De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, Sarasota, and St. Lucie Counties). There is no designated critical habitat for the eastern indigo snake.

This Key is subject to revision as the Corps (or other Federal action agency) and Service deem necessary and in particular whenever there is new information on eastern indigo snake biology and effects of proposed projects.

The Key is a tool available to the Corps (or other Federal action agency) for the purposes of expediting section 7 consultations. There is no requirement to use the Key. There will be cases when the use of the Key is not appropriate. These include, but are not limited to: where project specific information is outside of the scope of the Key or instances where there is new biological information about the species. In these cases, we recommend the Corps (or other Federal action agency) initiates traditional consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act, and identify that consultation is being requested outside of the Key.

**Habitat**

Habitat use varies seasonally between upland and wetland areas, especially in the more northern parts of the species' range. In southern parts of their range eastern indigo snakes are habitat generalists which use most available habitat types. Movements between habitat types in northern areas of their range may relate to the need for thermal refugia (protection from cold and/or heat).

In northern areas of their range eastern indigo snakes prefer an interspersed of tortoise-inhabited sandhills and wetlands (Landers and Speake 1980). In these northern regions eastern indigo

snakes most often use forested areas rich with gopher tortoise burrows, hollowed root channels, hollow logs, or the burrows of rodents, armadillos, or land crabs as thermal refugia during cooler seasons (Lawler 1977; Moler 1985a; Layne and Steiner 1996). The eastern indigo snake in the northern region is typically classified as a longleaf pine savanna specialist because here, in the northern four-fifths of its range, the eastern indigo snake is typically only found in vicinity of xeric longleaf pine–turkey oak sandhills inhabited by the gopher tortoise (Means 2006).

In the milder climates of central and southern Florida, comprising the remaining one fifth of its range, thermal refugia such as those provided by gopher tortoise burrows may not be as critical to survival of indigo snakes. Consequently, eastern indigo snakes in these regions use a more diverse assemblage of habitats such as pine flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, floodplain edges, sand ridges, dry glades, tropical hammocks, edges of freshwater marshes, muckland fields, coastal dunes, and xeric sandhill communities; with highest population concentrations of eastern indigo snakes occurring in the sandhill and pineland regions of northern and central Florida (Service 1999). Eastern indigo snakes have also been found on agricultural lands with close proximity to wetlands (Zeigler 2006).

In south Florida, agricultural sites (*e.g.*, sugar cane fields and citrus groves) are occupied by eastern indigo snakes. The use of sugarcane fields by eastern indigo snakes was first documented by Layne and Steiner in 1996. In these areas there is typically an abundance of wetland and upland ecotones (due to the presence of many ditches and canals), which support a diverse prey base for foraging. In fact, some speculate agricultural areas may actually have a higher density of eastern indigo snakes than natural communities due to the increased availability of prey. Gopher tortoise burrows are absent at these locations but there is an abundance of both natural and artificial refugia. Enge and Endries (2009) reporting on the status of the eastern indigo snake included sugarcane fields and citrus groves in a Global Information Systems (GIS)-base map of potential eastern indigo snake habitat. Numerous sightings of eastern indigo snakes within sugarcane fields have been reported within south Florida (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Indigo Snake Database [Enge 2017]). A recent study associated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) (A-1 FEB Project formerly A-1 Reservoir; Service code: 41420-2006-F-0477) documented eastern indigo snakes within sugarcane fields. The snakes used artificial habitats such as piles of limerock, construction debris, and pump stations. Recent studies also associated with the CERP at the C-44 Project (Service code: 41420-2009-FA-0314), and C-43 Project (Service code: 41420-2007-F-0589) documented eastern indigo snakes within citrus groves. The snakes used artificial habitats such as boards, sheets of tin, construction debris, pipes, drain pipes in abandoned buildings and septic tanks.

In extreme south Florida (*i.e.*, the Everglades and Florida Keys), eastern indigo snakes also utilize tropical hardwood hammocks, pine rocklands, freshwater marshes, abandoned agricultural land, coastal prairie, mangrove swamps, and human-altered habitats. Though eastern indigo snakes have been found in all available habitats of south Florida it is thought they prefer hammocks and pine forests since most observations occur there and use of these areas is disproportionate compared to the relatively small total area of these habitats (Steiner *et al.* 1983).

Even though thermal stress may not be a limiting factor throughout the year in south Florida, eastern indigo snakes still seek and use underground refugia. On the sandy central ridge of central Florida, eastern indigo snakes use gopher tortoise burrows more (62 percent) than other underground refugia (Layne and Steiner 1996). Other underground refugia used include armadillo (*Dasyus novemcinctus*) burrows near citrus groves, cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*) burrows, and land crab (*Cardisoma guanhumi*) burrows in coastal areas (Layne and Steiner 1996; Wilson and Porras 1983). Natural ground holes, hollows at the base of trees or shrubs, ground litter, trash piles, and crevices of rock-lined ditch walls are also used (Layne and Steiner 1996). These refugia are used most frequently where tortoise burrows are not available, principally in low-lying areas off the central and coastal ridges.

### **Minimization Measures**

The Service developed protection measures for the eastern indigo snake “Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake” (Service 2013) located at: [https://www.fws.gov/verobeach/ReptilesPDFs/20130812\\_EIS%20Standard%20Protection%20Measures\\_final.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/verobeach/ReptilesPDFs/20130812_EIS%20Standard%20Protection%20Measures_final.pdf). These protection measures (or the most updated version) are considered a minimization measure for projects proposed within eastern indigo snake habitat.

### **Determinations**

If the use of this Key results in a determination of “**no effect**,” no further consultation is necessary with the SFESO.

If the use of this Key results in a determination of “**NLAA**,” the SFESO concurs with this determination and no further consultation is necessary for the effects of the proposed action on the eastern indigo snake.

For no effect or NLAA determinations, the Corps (or other Federal action agency) should make a note in the project file indicating the pathway used to reach your no effect or NLAA determination.

If a proposed project would impact less than 25 acres of vegetated eastern indigo snake habitat (not urban/ human-altered) completely surrounded by urban development, and an eastern indigo snake has been observed on site, the subsequent Key should not be used. The Service recommends formal consultation for this situation because of the expected increased value of the vegetated habitat within the individual’s home range.

If the use of this Key results in a determination of “**may affect**,” consultation may be concluded informally or formally depending on project effects to eastern indigo snakes. Technical assistance from the Service can assist you in making a determination prior to submitting a request for consultation. In circumstances where the Corps desires to proceed with a consultation request prior to receiving additional technical assistance from the Service, we recommend the Corps document the biological rationale for their determination and proceed with a request accordingly.

- A. Project is not located in open water or salt marsh.....go to B  
 Project is located solely in open water or salt marsh.....no effect
- B. Permit will be conditioned for use of the Service's most current guidance for Standard Protection Measures For The Eastern Indigo Snake (currently 2013) during site preparation and project construction.....go to C  
 Permit will not be conditioned as above for the eastern indigo snake, or it is not known whether an applicant intends to use these measures and consultation with the Service is requested.....may affect
- C. The project will impact less than 25 acres of eastern indigo snake habitat (e.g., sandhill, scrub, pine flatwoods, pine rocklands, scrubby flatwoods, high pine, dry prairie, coastal prairie, mangrove swamps, tropical hardwood hammocks, hydric hammocks, edges of freshwater marshes, agricultural fields [including sugar cane fields and active, inactive, or abandoned citrus groves], and coastal dunes).....go to D  
 The project will impact 25 acres or more of eastern indigo snake habitat (e.g., sandhill, scrub, pine flatwoods, pine rocklands, scrubby flatwoods, high pine, dry prairie, coastal prairie, mangrove swamps, tropical hardwood hammocks, hydric hammocks, edges of freshwater marshes, agricultural fields [including sugar cane fields and active, inactive, or abandoned citrus groves], and coastal dunes).....may affect
- D. The project has no known holes, cavities, active or inactive gopher tortoise burrows, or other underground refugia where a snake could be buried, trapped and/or injured during project activities.....NLAA  
 The project has known holes, cavities, active or inactive gopher tortoise burrows, or other underground refugia where a snake could be buried, trapped and /or injured.....go to E
- E. Any permit will be conditioned such that all gopher tortoise burrows, active or inactive, will be excavated prior to site manipulation in the vicinity of the burrow<sup>1</sup>. If an eastern indigo snake is encountered, the snake must be allowed to vacate the area prior to additional site manipulation in the vicinity. Any permit will also be conditioned such that holes, cavities, and snake refugia other than gopher tortoise burrows will be inspected each morning before planned site manipulation of a particular area, and, if occupied by an eastern indigo snake, no work will commence until the snake has vacated the vicinity of proposed work.....NLAA<sup>2</sup>  
 Permit will not be conditioned as outlined above.....may affect

**End Key**

<sup>1</sup> If excavating potentially occupied burrows, active or inactive, individuals must first obtain state authorization via a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent permit. The excavation method selected should also minimize the potential for injury of an indigo snake. Applicants should follow the excavation guidance provided within the most current Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines found at <http://myfwc.com/gophertortoise>.

<sup>2</sup> Please note, if the proposed project will impact less than 25 acres of vegetated eastern indigo snake habitat (not urban/ human-altered) completely surrounded by urban development, and an eastern indigo snake has been observed on site. NLAA is not the appropriate conclusion. The Service recommends formal consultation for this situation because of the expected increased value of the vegetated habitat within the individual's home range

Working with the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida, the Service has established a fund to support conservation and recovery for the eastern indigo snake. Any project that has the potential to affect the eastern indigo snake and/or its habitat is encouraged to make a voluntary contribution to this fund. If you would like additional information about how to make a contribution and how these monies are used to support eastern indigo snake recovery please contact Ashleigh Blackford, Connie Cassler, or José Rivera at 772-562-3559.

This revised Key is effective immediately upon receipt by the Corps. Should circumstances change or new information become available regarding the eastern indigo snake and/or implementation of the Key, the determinations herein may be reconsidered and this Key further revised or amended.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in the effort to conserve fish and wildlife resources. If you have any questions or comments regarding this Key, please contact the SFESO at 772-562-3909.

Sincerely,



Roxanna Hinzman  
Field Supervisor  
South Florida Ecological Services

Cc:

Corps, Jacksonville, Florida (Dale Beter, Muriel Blaisdell, Ingrid Gilbert, Angela Ryan,  
Irene Sadowski, Victoria White, Alisa Zarbo)  
Service, Athens, Georgia (Michelle Elmore)  
Service, Jacksonville, Florida (Annie Dziergowski)  
Service, Panama City, Florida (Sean Blomquist)

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**Appendix C**  
Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake



**STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**August 12, 2013**

The eastern indigo snake protection/education plan (Plan) below has been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Florida for use by applicants and their construction personnel. At least **30 days prior** to any clearing/land alteration activities, the applicant shall notify the appropriate USFWS Field Office via e-mail that the Plan will be implemented as described below (North Florida Field Office: [jaxregs@fws.gov](mailto:jaxregs@fws.gov); South Florida Field Office: [verobeach@fws.gov](mailto:verobeach@fws.gov); Panama City Field Office: [panamacity@fws.gov](mailto:panamacity@fws.gov)). As long as the signatory of the e-mail certifies compliance with the below Plan (including use of the attached poster and brochure), no further written confirmation or “approval” from the USFWS is needed and the applicant may move forward with the project.

If the applicant decides to use an eastern indigo snake protection/education plan other than the approved Plan below, written confirmation or “approval” from the USFWS that the plan is adequate must be obtained. At least 30 days prior to any clearing/land alteration activities, the applicant shall submit their unique plan for review and approval. The USFWS will respond via e-mail, typically within 30 days of receiving the plan, either concurring that the plan is adequate or requesting additional information. A concurrence e-mail from the appropriate USFWS Field Office will fulfill approval requirements.

The Plan materials should consist of: 1) a combination of posters and pamphlets (see **Poster Information** section below); and 2) verbal educational instructions to construction personnel by supervisory or management personnel before any clearing/land alteration activities are initiated (see **Pre-Construction Activities** and **During Construction Activities** sections below).

**POSTER INFORMATION**

Posters with the following information shall be placed at strategic locations on the construction site and along any proposed access roads (a final poster for Plan compliance, to be printed on 11” x 17” or larger paper and laminated, is attached):

**DESCRIPTION:** The eastern indigo snake is one of the largest non-venomous snakes in North America, with individuals often reaching up to 8 feet in length. They derive their name from the glossy, blue-black color of their scales above and uniformly slate blue below. Frequently, they have orange to coral reddish coloration in the throat area, yet some specimens have been reported to only have cream coloration on the throat. These snakes are not typically aggressive and will attempt to crawl away when disturbed. Though indigo snakes rarely bite, they should NOT be handled.

**SIMILAR SNAKES:** The black racer is the only other solid black snake resembling the eastern indigo snake. However, black racers have a white or cream chin, thinner bodies, and WILL BITE if handled.

**LIFE HISTORY:** The eastern indigo snake occurs in a wide variety of terrestrial habitat types throughout Florida. Although they have a preference for uplands, they also utilize some wetlands

and agricultural areas. Eastern indigo snakes will often seek shelter inside gopher tortoise burrows and other below- and above-ground refugia, such as other animal burrows, stumps, roots, and debris piles. Females may lay from 4 - 12 white eggs as early as April through June, with young hatching in late July through October.

**PROTECTION UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE LAW:** The eastern indigo snake is classified as a Threatened species by both the USFWS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. “Taking” of eastern indigo snakes is prohibited by the Endangered Species Act without a permit. “Take” is defined by the USFWS as an attempt to kill, harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, collect, or engage in any such conduct. Penalties include a maximum fine of \$25,000 for civil violations and up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for criminal offenses, if convicted.

Only individuals currently authorized through an issued Incidental Take Statement in association with a USFWS Biological Opinion, or by a Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit issued by the USFWS, to handle an eastern indigo snake are allowed to do so.

**IF YOU SEE A LIVE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:**

- Cease clearing activities and allow the live eastern indigo snake sufficient time to move away from the site without interference;
- Personnel must NOT attempt to touch or handle snake due to protected status.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Immediately notify supervisor or the applicant’s designated agent, **and** the appropriate USFWS office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- If the snake is located in a vicinity where continuation of the clearing or construction activities will cause harm to the snake, the activities must halt until such time that a representative of the USFWS returns the call (within one day) with further guidance as to when activities may resume.

**IF YOU SEE A DEAD EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:**

- Cease clearing activities and immediately notify supervisor or the applicant’s designated agent, **and** the appropriate USFWS office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Thoroughly soak the dead snake in water and then freeze the specimen. The appropriate wildlife agency will retrieve the dead snake.

**Telephone numbers of USFWS Florida Field Offices to be contacted if a live or dead eastern indigo snake is encountered:**

**North Florida Field Office – (904) 731-3336**  
**Panama City Field Office – (850) 769-0552**  
**South Florida Field Office – (772) 562-3909**

## **PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

1. The applicant or designated agent will post educational posters in the construction office and throughout the construction site, including any access roads. The posters must be clearly visible to all construction staff. A sample poster is attached.
2. Prior to the onset of construction activities, the applicant/designated agent will conduct a meeting with all construction staff (annually for multi-year projects) to discuss identification of the snake, its protected status, what to do if a snake is observed within the project area, and applicable penalties that may be imposed if state and/or federal regulations are violated. An educational brochure including color photographs of the snake will be given to each staff member in attendance and additional copies will be provided to the construction superintendent to make available in the onsite construction office (a final brochure for Plan compliance, to be printed double-sided on 8.5" x 11" paper and then properly folded, is attached). Photos of eastern indigo snakes may be accessed on USFWS and/or FWC websites.
3. Construction staff will be informed that in the event that an eastern indigo snake (live or dead) is observed on the project site during construction activities, all such activities are to cease until the established procedures are implemented according to the Plan, which includes notification of the appropriate USFWS Field Office. The contact information for the USFWS is provided on the referenced posters and brochures.

## **DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

1. During initial site clearing activities, an onsite observer may be utilized to determine whether habitat conditions suggest a reasonable probability of an eastern indigo snake sighting (example: discovery of snake sheds, tracks, lots of refugia and cavities present in the area of clearing activities, and presence of gopher tortoises and burrows).
2. If an eastern indigo snake is discovered during gopher tortoise relocation activities (i.e. burrow excavation), the USFWS shall be contacted within one business day to obtain further guidance which may result in further project consultation.
3. Periodically during construction activities, the applicant's designated agent should visit the project area to observe the condition of the posters and Plan materials, and replace them as needed. Construction personnel should be reminded of the instructions (above) as to what is expected if any eastern indigo snakes are seen.

## **POST CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

Whether or not eastern indigo snakes are observed during construction activities, a monitoring report should be submitted to the appropriate USFWS Field Office within 60 days of project completion. The report can be sent electronically to the appropriate USFWS e-mail address listed on page one of this Plan.



# **ATTENTION:**

## **THREATENED EASTERN INDIGO SNAKES MAY BE PRESENT ON THIS SITE!!!**

### **IF YOU SEE A LIVE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:**

- Cease clearing activities and allow the eastern indigo snake sufficient time to move away from the site without interference.
- Personnel must NOT attempt to touch or handle snake due to protected status.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Immediately notify supervisor or the applicant's designated agent, **and** the appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- If the snake is located in a vicinity where continuation of the clearing or construction activities will cause harm to the snake, the activities must halt until such time that a representative of the USFWS returns the call (within one day) with further guidance as to when activities may resume.

### **IF YOU SEE A DEAD EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:**

- Cease clearing activities and immediately notify supervisor or the applicant's designated agent, **and** the appropriate USFWS office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Thoroughly soak the dead snake in water and then freeze the specimen. The appropriate wildlife agency will retrieve the dead snake.

### **USFWS Florida Field Offices to be contacted if a live or dead eastern indigo snake is encountered:**

**North Florida Field Office – (904) 731-3336**

**Panama City Field Office – (850) 769-0552**

**South Florida Field Office – (772) 562-3909**

### **Killing, harming, or harassing indigo snakes is strictly prohibited and punishable under State and Federal Law.**

**DESCRIPTION:** The eastern indigo snake is one of the largest non-venomous snakes in North America, with individuals often reaching up to 8 feet in length. They derive their name from the glossy, blue-black color of their scales above and uniformly slate blue below. Frequently, they have orange to coral reddish coloration in the throat area, yet some specimens have been reported to only have cream coloration on the throat. These snakes are not typically aggressive and will attempt to crawl away when disturbed. Though indigo snakes rarely bite, they should NOT be handled.

**SIMILAR SNAKES:** The black racer is the only other solid black snake resembling the eastern indigo snake. However, black racers have a white or cream chin, thinner bodies, and WILL BITE if handled.

**LIFE HISTORY:** The eastern indigo snake occurs in a wide variety of terrestrial habitat types throughout Florida. Although they have a preference for uplands, they also utilize some wetlands and agricultural areas. Eastern indigo snakes will often seek shelter inside gopher tortoise burrows and other below- and above-ground refugia, such as other animal burrows, stumps, roots, and debris piles. Females may lay from 4 - 12 white eggs as early as April through June, with young hatching in late July through October.

**PROTECTION:** The eastern indigo snake is classified as a Threatened species by both the USFWS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. "Taking" of eastern indigo snakes is prohibited by the Endangered Species Act without a permit. "Take" is defined by the USFWS as an attempt to kill, harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, collect, or engage in any such conduct. Penalties include a maximum fine of \$25,000 for civil violations and up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for criminal offenses, if convicted.

Only individuals currently authorized through an issued Incidental Take Statement in association with a USFWS Biological Opinion, or by a Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit issued by the USFWS, to handle an eastern indigo snake are allowed to do so.

DRAFT

**Appendix D**  
Florida Bonneted Bat Consultation Key



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
South Florida Ecological Services Office  
1339 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vero Beach, Florida 32960  
October 22, 2019

Shawn Zinszer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Subject: Consultation Key for the Florida bonneted bat; 04EF2000-2014-I-0320-R001

Dear Mr. Zinszer:

This letter replaces the December 2013, Florida bonneted bat guidelines provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to assist your agency with effect determinations within the range of the Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*). This October 2019 revision supersedes all prior versions. The enclosed *Florida Bonneted Bat Consultation Guidelines* and incorporated *Florida Bonneted Bat Consultation Key* (Key) are provided pursuant to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) authorities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C.1531 *et seq.*). This letter, guidelines, and Key have been assigned Service Consultation Code: 41420- 04EF2000-2014-I-0320-R001.

The purpose of the guidelines and Key is to aid the Corps (or other Federal action agency) in making appropriate effect determinations for the Florida bonneted bat under section 7 of the Act, and streamline informal consultation with the Service for the Florida bonneted bat when the proposed action is consistent with the Key. There is no requirement to use the Key. There will be cases when the use of the Key is not appropriate. These include, but are not limited to: where project specific information is outside of the scope of the Key, applicants do not wish to implement the identified survey or best management practices, or if there is new biological information about the species. In these cases, we recommend the Corps (or other Federal action agency) initiate traditional consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act, and identify that consultation is being requested outside of the Key.

This Key uses type of habitat (*i.e.*, roosting or foraging), survey results, and project size as the basis for making determinations of "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" (MANLAA) and "may affect, and is likely to adversely affect" (LAA). The Key is structured to focus on the type(s) of habitat that will be affected by a project. When proposed project areas provide features that could support roosting of Florida bonneted bats, it is considered roosting habitat. If evaluation of roosting habitat determines that roosting is not likely, then the area is subsequently evaluated for its value to the species as foraging habitat.

### Roosting habitat

The guidelines describe the features of roosting habitat. When a project is proposed in roosting habitat, the likelihood that roosting is occurring is evaluated through surveys (*i.e.*, full acoustic or limited roost). When a roost is expected and the proposed activity will affect that roost, formal consultation is required. This is because the proposed activity is expected to take individuals through the destruction of the roost and the appropriate determination is that the project may affect, and is likely to adversely affect (LAA) the species. When roosting is expected, but all impacts to the roost can be avoided, and only foraging habitat (without roost structure) will be affected, the Service finds that it is reasonable to conclude that the proposed action is not likely to impair feeding, breeding, or sheltering. Thus, the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to affect the Florida bonneted bat (MANLAA).

The exception to this logic path is if the proposed action will affect more than 50 acres of foraging habitat in proximity to the roost. Under this scenario, we anticipate that the loss of the larger amount of foraging habitat near the roost could significantly impair feeding of young and overall breeding (*i.e.*, LAA). Consequently, these projects would require formal consultation to analyze the effect of the incidental take.

If the roost surveys demonstrate that roosting is not likely, the project is then evaluated for its effects to foraging habitat. Our evaluation of these actions is described below. The exception is for projects less than or equal to 5 acres if a limited roost survey is conducted. Limited roost surveys rely on peeping and visual surveys to determine whether roosting is likely. On these small projects, this survey strategy is believed to be more economical and is considered a reasonable effort to evaluate the potential for roosting. The Service acknowledges that this approach is less reliable in evaluating the likelihood of roosting when it is not combined with acoustic surveys. Therefore, when limited roost surveys are conducted for projects that are less than or equal to 5 acres in size and the determination is that roosting is not likely, we conclude that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the species (MANLAA).

### Foraging habitat

The guidelines describe the features of foraging habitat. Data informing the home range size of the Florida bonneted bats is limited. Global Positioning System (GPS) and radio-telemetry data for Florida bonneted bats documents that they move large distances and likely have large home ranges. Data from recovered GPS satellite tags on Florida bonneted bats tagged at Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area (BWWMA) found the maximum distance detected from a capture site was 24.2 mi (38.9 km); the greatest path length travelled in a single night was 56.3 mi (90.6 km) (Ober 2016; Webb 2018a-b). At BWWMA, researchers found that most individual locations were within one mile of the roost (point of capture) (Ober 2015). Additional data collected during the month of December documented the mean maximum distance Florida bonneted bats (n=8) with tags traveled from the roost was 9.5 mi (Webb 2018b).

The Service recognizes that the movement information comes from only one site (BWWMA and vicinity), and data are from small numbers (n=20) of tagged individuals for only short periods of time (Webb 2018a-b). We expect that across the Florida bonneted bat's range differences in

habitat quality, prey availability, and other factors will result in variable habitat use and home range sizes between locations. Foraging distances and home range sizes in high quality habitats are expected to be smaller while foraging distances and home range sizes in low quality habitat would be expected to be larger. Regardless, we use these studies as our best available information to evaluate when changes to foraging habitat may have an effect on the species ability to feed, breed, and shelter and subsequently result in incidental take. When considering where most of the nightly activity was observed, we calculate a foraging area centered on a roost with a 1 mile radius would include approximately 2,000 acres, and a foraging area centered on a 9.5 mile radius would encompass approximately 181,000 acres, on any given night.

Given the Service's limited understanding of how the Florida bonneted bat moves throughout its home range and selects foraging areas, we choose to use 50 acres of habitat as a conservative estimate to when loss of foraging habitat may affect the fitness of an individual to the extent that it would impair feeding and breeding. Projects that would remove, destroy or convert less than 50 acres of Florida bonneted bat foraging habitat are expected to result in a loss of foraging opportunities; however, this decrease is not expected to significantly impair the ability of the individual to feed and breed. Consequently, projects impacting less than 50 acres of foraging habitat that implement the identified best management practices in the Key would be expected to avoid take, and the appropriate determination is that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the species (MANLAA).

Next, the Service incorporated the level of bat activity into our Key to evaluate when a foraging area may have greater value to the species. When surveys document high bat activity, we deduce that this area has increased value and importance to the species. Thus, when high bat activity is detected in parcels with greater than 50 acres of foraging habitat, we anticipate that the loss, destruction, or conversion of this habitat could significantly impair the ability of an individual to feed and breed (*i.e.*, LAA); thus formal consultation is warranted.

If surveys do not indicate high bat activity, we anticipate that loss of this additional foraging habitat may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the species (MANLAA). This is because although the acreage is large, the area does not appear to be important at the landscape scale of nightly foraging. Therefore, its loss is not anticipated to significantly impair the ability of an individual to feed or breed.

The exception to this approach is for projects greater than 50 acres when they occur in potential roosting habitat that is not found to support roosting or high bat activity. Under this scenario, the Service concludes that the loss of the large acreage of suitable roosting habitat has the potential to significantly impair the ability of an individual to breed or shelter (*i.e.*, LAA) because the species is cavities for roosting are expected to be limited range wide and the project will impair these limited opportunities for roosting.

### Determinations

The Corps (or other Federal action agency) may reach one of several determinations when using this Key. Regardless of the determination, when acoustic bat surveys have been conducted, the Service requests that these survey results are provided to our office to increase our knowledge of



the species and improve our consultation process. Surveys results and reports should be transmitted to the Service at [FBBsurveyreport@fws.gov](mailto:FBBsurveyreport@fws.gov) or mail electronic file to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attention Florida bonneted bat surveys, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960. When formal consultation is requested, survey results and reports should be submitted with the consultation request to [verobeach@fws.gov](mailto:verobeach@fws.gov).

**No effect:** If the use of the Key results in a determination of “no effect,” no further consultation is necessary with the Service. The Service recommends that the Corps (or other Federal action agency) documents the pathway used to reach the determination in the project record and proceeds with other species analyses as warranted.

**May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect (MANLAA):** In this Key we have identified two ways that consultation can conclude informally, MANLAA-P and MANLAA-C.

**MANLAA-P:** If the use of the Key results in a determination of “MANLAA- P,” the Service concurs with this determination based on the rationale provide above, and no further consultation is necessary for the effects of the proposed action on the Florida bonneted bat. The Service recommends that the Corps (or other Federal action agency) documents the pathway used to reach the determination in the project record and proceeds with other species analyses as warranted.

**MANLAA-C:** If the use of the Key results in a determination of MANLAA-C, further consultation with the Service is required to confirm that the Key has been used properly, and the Service concurs with the evaluation of the survey results. Survey results should be submitted with the consultation request.

**May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect (LAA) -** When the determination in the Key is “LAA” technical assistance with the Service and modifications to the proposed action may enable the project to be reevaluated and conclude with a MANLAA-C determination. Under other circumstance, “LAA” determinations will require formal consultation.

Working with the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida, the Service has established a fund to support conservation and recovery for the Florida bonneted bat. Any project that has the potential to affect the Florida bonneted bat and/or its habitat is encouraged to make a voluntary contribution to this fund. If you would like additional information about how to make a contribution and how these monies are used to support Florida bonneted bat recovery please contact Ashleigh Blackford, Connie Cassler, or José Rivera at 772-562-3909.

This revised Key is effective immediately upon receipt by the Corps. Should circumstances change or new information become available regarding the Florida bonneted bat and/or implementation of the Key, the determinations herein may be reconsidered and this Key further revised or amended. We have established an email address to collect comments on the Key and the survey protocols at: [FBBguidelines@fws.gov](mailto:FBBguidelines@fws.gov).

Thank you for your continued cooperation in the effort to conserve fish and wildlife resources. If you have any questions regarding this Key, please contact the South Florida Ecological Services Office at 772-562-3909.

Sincerely,



Roxanna Hinzman  
Field Supervisor  
South Florida Ecological Services

Enclosure

Cc: electronic only

Corps, Jacksonville, Florida (Dale Beter, Muriel Blaisdell, Ingrid Gilbert, Alisa Zarbo, Melinda Charles-Hogan, Susan Kaynor, Krista Sabin, John Fellows)

#### LITERATURE CITED

Ober, H. 2015. Annual report to USFWS for calendar year 2015. Permit number TE23583B-1. University of Florida, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, North Florida Research and Education Center. Quincy, Florida.

Ober, H. 2016. Annual report to USFWS for calendar year 2016. Permit number TE23583B-1. University of Florida, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, North Florida Research and Education Center. Quincy, Florida.

Webb, E.N. 2018a. Email to Paula Halupa *et al.* University of Florida, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Gainesville, Florida. April 1, 2018.

Webb, E.N. 2018b. Presentation given at Florida bonneted bat working group meeting at The Conservancy of Southwest Florida. University of Florida, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Gainesville, Florida. May 24, 2016.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
South Florida Ecological Services Office**

**FLORIDA BONNETED BAT CONSULTATION GUIDELINES**

*October - 2019*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s South Florida Ecological Services Field Office (Service) developed the Florida Bonneted Bat Consultation Guidelines (Guidelines) to assist in avoiding and minimizing potential negative effects to roosting and foraging habitat, and assessing effects to the Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*) from proposed projects. The Consultation Key within the Guidelines assists applicants in evaluating their proposed projects and identifying the appropriate consultation paths under sections 7 and 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). These Guidelines are primarily for use in evaluating regulatory projects where development and land conversions are anticipated. These Guidelines focus on conserving roosting structures in natural and semi-natural environments. The following Consultation Area map (Figure 1 and Figure 2, Appendix A), Consultation Flowchart (Figure 3), Consultation Key, Survey Framework (Appendices B-C), and **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** (Appendix D) are based upon the best available scientific information. As more information is obtained, these Guidelines will be revised as appropriate. If you have comments, or suggestions on these Guidelines or the Survey Protocols (Appendix B and C), please email your comments to [FBBguidelines@fws.gov](mailto:FBBguidelines@fws.gov). These comments will be reviewed and incorporated in an annual review.

Terms in <b>bold</b> are further defined in the Glossary.
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Wherever possible, proposed development projects within the Consultation Area should be designed to avoid and minimize take of Florida bonneted bats and to retain their habitat. Applicants are encouraged to enter into early technical assistance/consultation with the Service so we may provide recommendations for avoiding and minimizing adverse effects. Although these Guidelines focus on the effects of a proposed action (*e.g.*, development) on natural habitat, (*i.e.*, non-urban), Appendix E also provides Best Management Practices for Land Management Projects.

If you are renovating an existing artificial structure (*e.g.*, building) within the urban environment with or without additional ground disturbing activities, these Guidelines do not apply. The Service is developing separate guidelines for consultation in these situations. Until the urban guidelines are complete, please contact the Service for additional guidance.

The final listing rule for the Florida bonneted bat (Service 2013) describes threats identified for the species. Habitat loss and degradation, as well as habitat modification, have historically affected the species. Florida bonneted bats are different from most other Florida bat species because they are reproductively active through most of the year, and their large size makes them capable of foraging long distances from their roost (Ober *et al.* 2016). Consequently, this species is vulnerable to disturbances around the roost during a greater portion of the year and considerations about foraging habitat extend further than the localized roost.

### **Use of Consultation Area, Flowchart, and Key**

Figure 1 shows the Consultation Area for the Florida bonneted bat where this consultation guidance applies. For information on how the Consultation Area was delineated see Appendix A. The Consultation Flowchart (Figure 3) and Consultation Key direct project proponents through a series of couplets that will provide a conclusion or determination for potential effects to the Florida bonneted bat. *Please Note: If additional listed species, or candidate or proposed species, or designated or proposed critical habitat may be affected, a separate evaluation will be needed for these species/critical habitats.*

Currently, the Consultation Flowchart (Figure 3) and Consultation Key cannot be used for actions proposed within the urban development boundary in Miami-Dade and Broward County. The urban development boundary is part of the Consultation Area, but it is excluded from these Guidelines because Florida bonneted bats use this area differently (roosting largely in artificial structures), and small natural foraging areas are expected to be important. Applicants with projects in this area should contact the Service for further guidance and individual consultation.

Determinations may be either “no effect,” “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” (**MANLAA**), or “may affect, and is likely to adversely affect” (**LAA**). An applicant’s willingness and ability to alter project designs could sufficiently minimize effects to Florida bonneted bats and allow for a **MANLAA** determination for this species (informal consultation). The Service is available for early technical assistance/consultation to offer recommendations to assist in project design that will minimize effects. When take cannot be avoided, applicants and action agencies are encouraged to incorporate compensation to offset adverse effects. The Service can assist with identifying compensation options (*e.g.*, conservation on site, conservation off-site, contributions to the Service’s Florida bonneted bat conservation fund, *etc.*).

### **Using the Key and Consultation Flowchart**

- “No effect” determinations do not need Service concurrence.
- “May affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” **MANLAA**. Applicants will be expected to incorporate the appropriate BMPs to reach a **MANLAA** determination.
  - **MANLAA-P** (in blue in Consultation Flowchart) have programmatic concurrence through the transmittal letter of these Guidelines, and therefore no further consultation with the Service is necessary unless assistance is needed in interpreting survey results.
  - **MANLAA-C** (in black in Consultation Flowchart) determinations require further consultation with the Service.
- “May affect, and is likely to adversely affect” (**LAA**) determinations require consultation with the Service. Project modifications could change the **LAA** determinations in numbers 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 17 to **MANLAA**. When take cannot be avoided, **LAA** determinations will require a biological opinion.
- The Service requests copies of surveys used to support all determinations. If a survey is required by the Consultation Key and the final determination is “no effect” or “MANLAA-P”, send the survey to [FBBsurveyreport@fws.gov](mailto:FBBsurveyreport@fws.gov), or mail electronic file to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attention Florida bonneted bat surveys, 1339 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960. If a survey is required by the Consultation Key and the determination is “MANLAA-C” or “LAA”, submit the survey in the consultation request.

For the purpose of making a decision at Couplet 2: If any potential roosting structure is present, then the habitat is classified as **potential roosting habitat**, and the left half of the flowchart should be followed (see Figure 3). We recognize that roosting habitat may also be used by Florida bonneted bats for foraging. If the project site only consists of **foraging habitat** (*i.e.*, no suitable roosting structures), then the right side of the flowchart should be followed beginning at step 13.

For couplets 11 and 12: **Potential roosting habitat** is considered **Florida bonneted bat foraging habitat** when a determination is made that roosting is not likely.

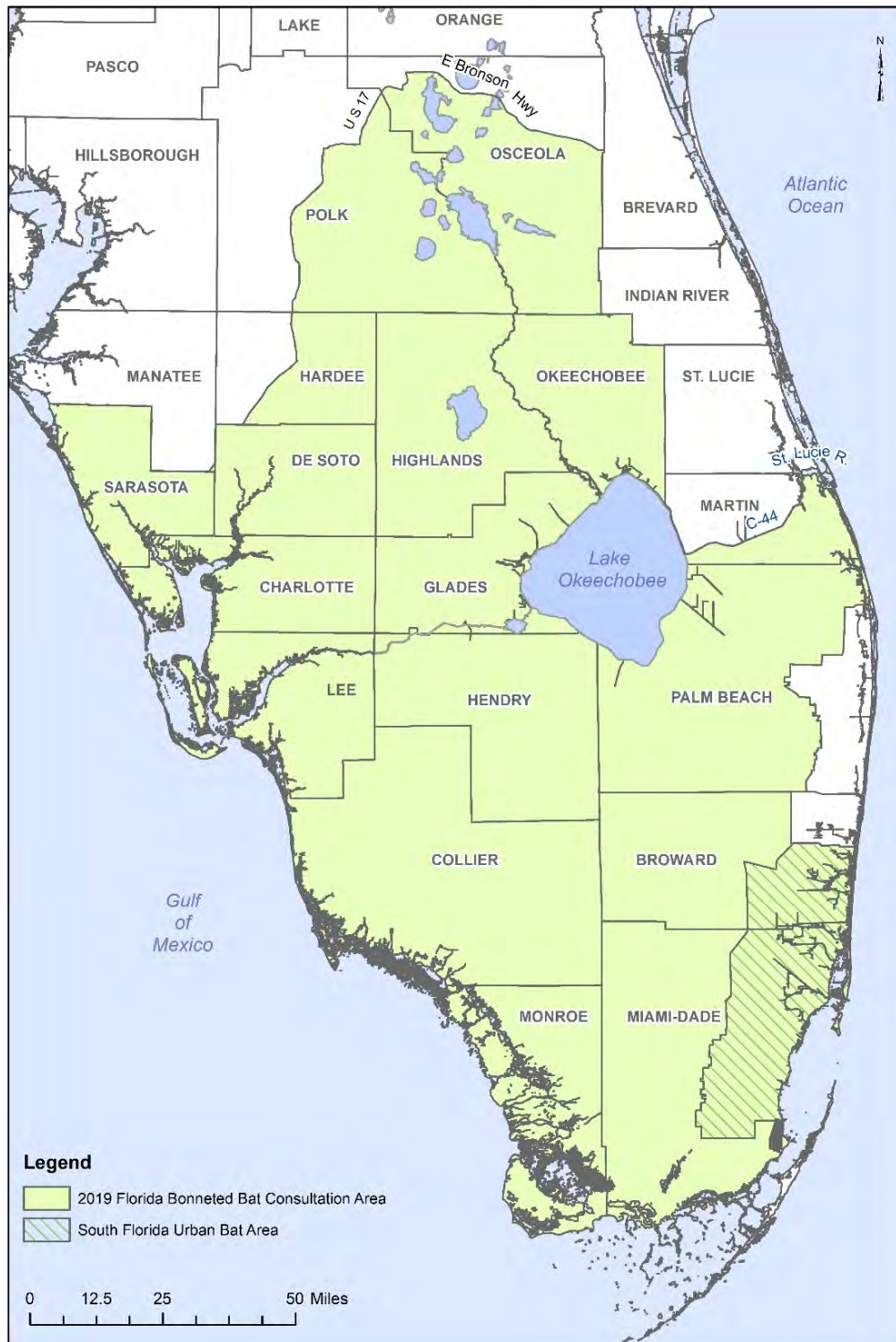


Figure 1. Florida Bonneted Bat Consultation Area. Hatched area (Figure 2) identifies the urban development boundary in Miami-Dade and Broward County. Applicants with projects in this area should contact the Service for specific guidance addressing this area and individual consultation. The Consultation Key should not be used for projects in this area.



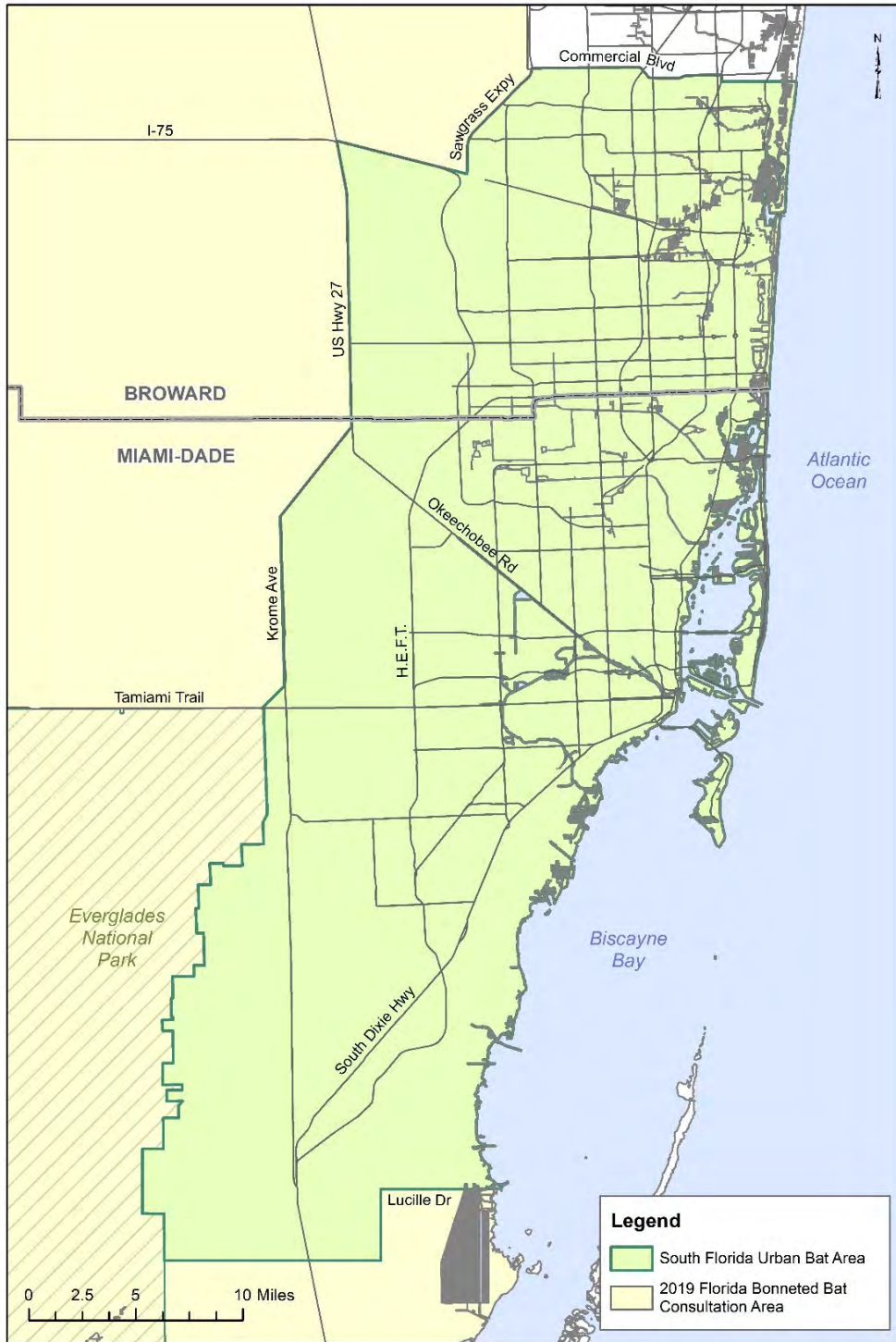


Figure 2. Urban development boundary in Miami-Dade and Broward County. The Consultation Key should not be used for projects in this area. Applicants with projects in this South Florida Urban Bat Area should contact the Service for specific guidance addressing this area and individual consultation.



## Florida Bonneted Bat Consultation Key<sup>#</sup>

Use the following key to evaluate potential effects to the Florida bonneted bat (FBB) from the proposed project. Refer to the Glossary as needed.

- 1a. Proposed project or land use change is partially or wholly within the Consultation Area (Figure 1).....**Go to 2**
- 1b. Proposed project or land use change is wholly outside of the Consultation Area (Figure 1).....**No Effect**
  
- 2a. Potential FBB roosting habitat exists within the project area.....**Go to 3**
- 2b. No potential FBB roosting habitat exists within the project area.....**Go to 13**
  
- 3a. Project size/footprint\*  $\leq$  5 acres (2 hectares)..... **Conduct Limited Roost Survey (Appendix C)**  
then **Go to 4**
- 3b. Project size/footprint\*  $>$  5 acres (2 hectares).....**Conduct Full Acoustic/Roost Surveys (Appendix B)** then  
**Go to 6**
  
- 4a. Results show FBB roosting is likely .....**Go to 5**
- 4b. Results do not show FBB roosting is likely.....**MANLAA-P if BMPs (Appendix D) used and survey reports are submitted. Programmatic concurrence.**
  
- 5a. Project will affect roosting habitat.....**LAA<sup>+</sup> Further consultation with the Service required.**
- 5b. Project will not affect roosting habitat..... **MANLAA-C with required BMPs (Appendix D). Further consultation with the Service required.**
  
- 6a. Results show some FBB activity.....**Go to 7**
- 6b. Results show no FBB activity.....**No Effect**
  
- 7a. Results show FBB roosting is likely.....**Go to 8**
- 7b. Results do not show FBB roosting is likely.....**Go to 10**
  
- 8a. Project will not affect roosting habitat.....**Go to 9**
- 8b. Project will affect roosting habitat.....**LAA<sup>+</sup> Further consultation with the Service required.**
  
- 9a. Project will affect\*  $>$  50 acres (20 hectares) (wetlands and uplands) of foraging habitat.....**LAA<sup>+</sup> Further consultation with the Service required.**
- 9b. Project will affect\*  $\leq$  50 acres (20 hectares) (wetlands and uplands) of foraging habitat..... **MANLAA-C with required BMPs (Appendix D). Further consultation with the Service required.**
  
- 10a. Results show high FBB activity/use.....**Go to 11**
- 10b. Results do not show high FBB activity/use.....**Go to 12**
  
- 11a. Project will affect\*  $>$  50 acres (20 hectares) (wetlands and uplands) of FBB habitat (roosting and/or foraging)..... **LAA<sup>+</sup> Further consultation with the Service required.**
- 11b. Project will affect\*  $\leq$  50 acres (20 hectares) (wetlands and uplands) of FBB habitat (roosting and/or foraging)..... **MANLAA-C with required BMPs (Appendix D). Further consultation with the Service required.**
  
- 12a. Project will affect\*  $>$  50 acres (20 hectares) (wetlands and uplands) of FBB habitat..... **LAA<sup>+</sup> Further consultation with the Service required.**
- 12b. Project will affect\*  $\leq$  50 acres (20 hectares) (wetlands and uplands) of FBB habitat..... **MANLAA-P if BMPs (Appendix D) used and survey reports are submitted. Programmatic concurrence.**

- 13a. FBB foraging habitat exists within the project area and foraging habitat will be affected.....**Go to 14**
- 13b. FBB foraging habitat exists within the project area and foraging habitat will not be affected **OR** no FBB foraging habitat exists within the project area.....**No Effect**
- 14a. Project size\* > 50 acres (20 hectares) (wetlands and uplands) .....**Go to 15**
- 14b. Project size\* ≤ 50 acres (20 hectares) (wetlands and uplands) ..... **MANLAA-P if BMPs (Appendix D) used. Programmatic concurrence.**
- 15a. Project is within 8 miles (12.9 kilometers) of high quality potential roosting areas^.....**Conduct Full Acoustic Survey (Appendix B) and Go to 16**
- 15b. Project is not within 8 miles (12.9 kilometers) of high quality potential roosting area^.....**MANLAA-P if BMPs (Appendix D) used. Programmatic concurrence.**
- 16a. Results show some FBB activity.....**Go to 17**
- 16b. Results show no FBB activity.....**No Effect**
- 17a. Results show high FBB activity/use.....**LAA+ Further consultation with the Service required.**
- 17b. Results do not show high FBB activity/use..... **MANLAA-P if BMPs (Appendix D) used and survey reports submitted. Programmatic concurrence.**

# If you are within the urban environment and you are renovating an existing artificial structure (with or without additional ground disturbing activities), these Guidelines do not apply. The Service is developing separate guidelines for consultation in these situations. Until the urban guidelines are complete, please contact the Service for additional guidance

\*Includes wetlands and uplands that are going to be altered along with a 250- foot (76.2- meter) buffer around these areas if the parcel is larger than the altered area.

+Project modifications could change the LAA determinations in numbers 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 17 to MANLAA determinations.

^Determining if **high quality potential roosting areas** are within 8 mi (12.9 km) of a project is intended to be a desk-top exercise looking at most recent aerial imagery, not a field exercise.

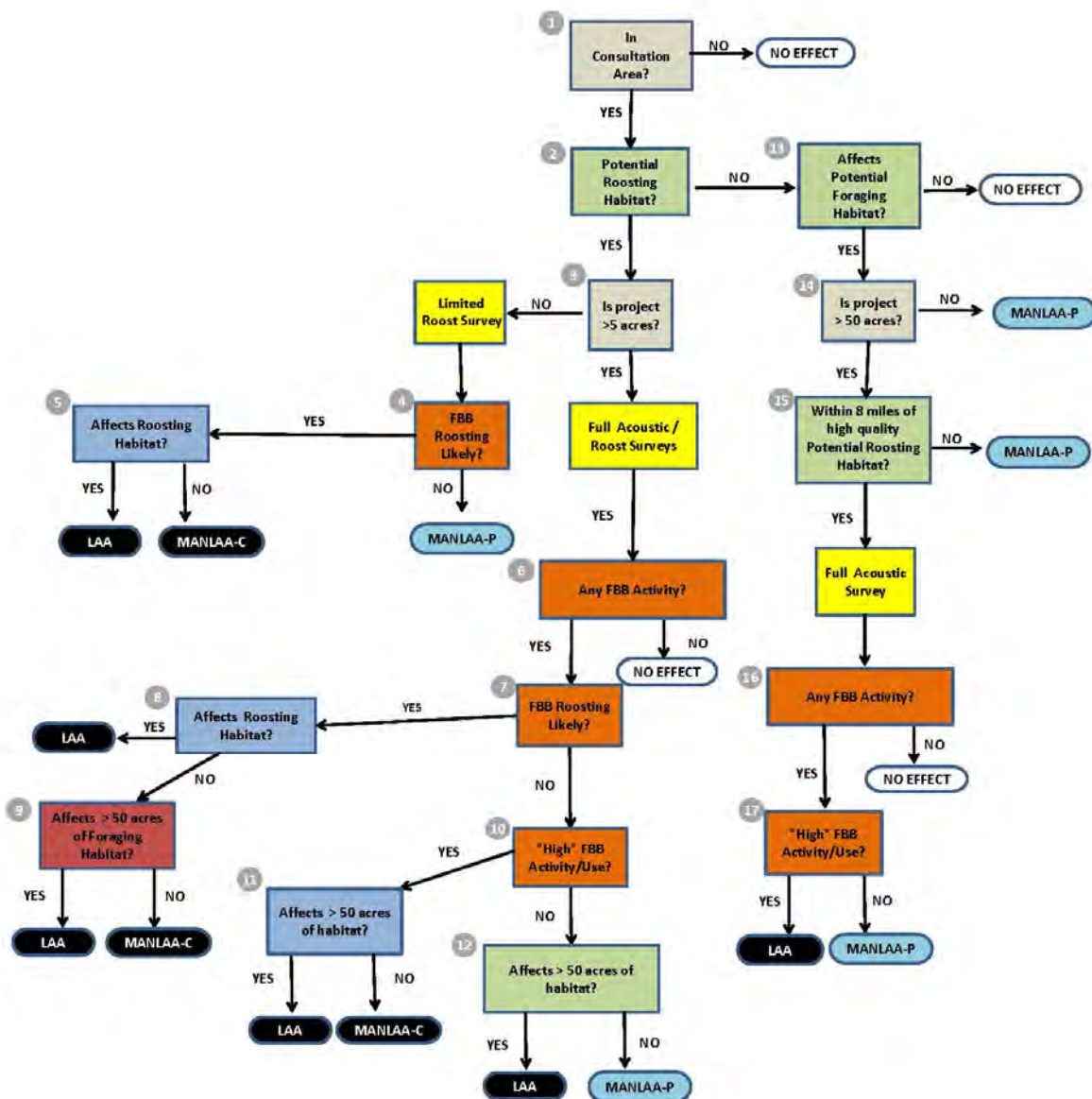


Figure 3. Florida bonneted bat Consultation Flowchart. “No effect” determinations do not need Service concurrence. “May affect, but not likely to adversely affect”, **MANLAA-P**, in blue have programmatic concurrence through the transmittal letter of these Guidelines, and therefore no further consultation with the Service is necessary unless assistance is needed in interpreting survey results. **MANLAA-C** determinations in black require further consultation with the Service. Applicants are expected to incorporate the appropriate **BMPs** to reach a **MANLAA** determination. “May affect, and is likely to adversely affect”, **LAA**, (also in black) determinations require consultation with the Service. Further consultation with the Service may identify project modifications that could change the **LAA** determinations in numbers 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 17 to **MANLAA** determinations. The Service requests Florida bonneted bat survey reports for all determinations.

## GLOSSARY

**BMPs** – Best Management Practices. Recommendations for actions to conserve roosting and foraging habitat to be implemented before, during, and after proposed development, land use changes, and land management activities.

**FBB Activity** – Florida bonneted bat (FBB) activity is when any Florida bonneted bat calls are recorded during an acoustic survey or human observers see or hear Florida bonneted bats on a site.

**FORAGING HABITAT** - Comprised of relatively open (*i.e.*, uncluttered or reduced numbers of obstacles, such as fewer tree branches and leaves, in the flight environment) areas to find and catch prey, and sources of drinking water. In order to find and catch prey, Florida bonneted bats forage in areas with a reduced number of obstacles. This includes: open fresh water, permanent or seasonal freshwater wetlands, within and above wetland and upland forests, wetland and upland shrub, and agricultural lands (Bailey *et al.* 2017). In urban and residential areas drinking water, prey base, and suitable foraging can be found at golf courses, parking lots, and parks in addition to relatively small patches of natural habitat.

**FULL ACOUSTIC/ROOST SURVEY** - This is a comprehensive survey that will involve systematic acoustic surveys (*i.e.*, surveys conducted 30 minutes prior to sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise, over multiple consecutive nights). Depending upon acoustic results and habitat type, targeted roost searches through thorough visual inspection using a tree-top camera system or observations at emergence (*e.g.*, looking and listening for bats to come out of tree cavities around sunset) or more acoustic surveys may be necessary. See Appendix B for a full description.

**HIGH FBB ACTIVITY/USE** - High Florida bonneted bat (FBB) activity/use or importance of an area can be defined using several parameters (*e.g.*, types of calls, numbers of calls). An area will be considered to have high FBB activity/use if **ANY** of the following are found: (a) multiple FBB feeding buzzes are detected; (b) FBB social calls are recorded; (c) large numbers of Florida bonneted bat calls (9 or more) are recorded throughout one night. Each of these parameters is considered to indicate that an area is actively used and important to FBBs, however, the Service will further evaluate the activity/use of the area within the context of the site (*i.e.*, spatial distribution of calls, site acreage, habitat on site, as well as adjacent habitat) and provide additional guidance.

**HIGH QUALITY POTENTIAL ROOSTING AREAS** - Sizable areas (>50 acres) [20 hectares] that contain large amounts of high-quality, natural roosting structure – (*e.g.*, predominantly native, mature trees; especially pine flatwoods or other areas with a large number of cavity trees, tree hollows, or high woodpecker activity).

**LAA** - May Affect, and is Likely to Adversely Affect. The appropriate conclusion if any adverse effect to listed species may occur as a direct or indirect result of the proposed action or its interrelated or interdependent actions, and the effect is not: discountable, insignificant, or

beneficial [see definition of “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” (**MANLAA**)]. In the event the overall effect of the proposed action is beneficial to the listed species, but also is likely to cause some adverse effects, then the proposed action is “likely to adversely affect” the listed species. If incidental take is anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed action, an “is likely to adversely affect” (**LAA**) determination should be made. An “is likely to adversely affect” determination requires the initiation of formal section 7 consultation.

**LIMITED ROOST SURVEY** - This is a reduced survey that may include the following methods: acoustics, observations at emergence (*e.g.*, looking and listening for bats to come out of tree cavities around sunset), and visual inspection of trees with cavities or loose bark using tree-top cameras (or combination of these methods). Methods are fairly flexible and dependent upon composition and configuration of project site and willingness and ability of applicant and partners to conserve roosting structures on site. See also Appendix C for a full description.

**MANLAA** - May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect. The appropriate conclusion when effects on listed species are expected to be discountable, insignificant, or completely beneficial. Beneficial effects are contemporaneous positive effects without any adverse effects to the species. Insignificant effects relate to the size of the impact and should never reach the scale where take occurs. Discountable effects are those extremely unlikely to occur. Based on best judgment, a person would not: (1) be able to meaningfully measure, detect, or evaluate insignificant effects; or (2) expect discountable effects to occur. To use these Guidelines and Consultation Key applicants must incorporate the appropriate **BMPs** (Appendix D) to reach a **MANLAA** determination.

In this Consultation Key we have identified two ways that consultation can conclude informally, **MANLAA-P** and **MANLAA-C**:

**MANLAA-P**: programmatic concurrence is provided through the transmittal letter of these Guidelines, no additional consultation is required with the Service for Florida bonneted bats. All survey results must be submitted to Service.

**MANLAA-C**: further consultation with the Service is required to confirm that the Consultation Key has been used properly, and the Service concurs with the evaluation of the survey results. Request for consultation must include survey results.

**NO EFFECT** - The appropriate conclusion when the action agency determines its proposed action will not affect listed species or designated critical habitat.

**POTENTIAL ROOSTING HABITAT** - Includes forest and other areas with tall, mature trees or other areas with suitable roost structures (*e.g.*, utility poles, artificial structures). Forest is defined as all types including: pine flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, pine rocklands, royal palm hammocks, mixed or hardwood hammocks, cypress, sand pine scrub, or other forest types. (Forrest types currently include exotic forests such as melaleuca, please contact the Service for additional guidance as needed). More specifically, this includes habitat in which suitable structural features for breeding and sheltering are present. In general, roosting habitat contains one or more of the following structures: tree snags, and trees with cavities, hollows, deformities, decay, crevices, or loose bark. Structural characteristics are of primary importance.

Florida bonneted bats have been found roosting in habitat with the following structural features, but may also occur outside of these parameters:

- trees greater than 33 feet (10 meters) in height, greater than 8 inches (20 centimeters) in diameter at breast height (DBH), with cavity elevations higher than 16 feet (5 meters) above ground level (Braun de Torrez 2019);
- areas with a high incidence of large or mature live trees with various deformities (*e.g.*, large cavities, hollows, broken tops, loose bark, and other evidence of decay) (*e.g.*, pine flatwoods);
- rock crevices (*e.g.*, limestone in Miami-Dade County); and/or
- artificial structures, mimicking natural roosting conditions (*e.g.*, bat houses, utility poles, buildings), situated in natural or semi-natural habitats.

In order for a building to be considered a roosting structure, it should be a minimum of 15 feet high and contain one or more of the following features: chimneys, gaps in soffits, gaps along gutters, or other structural gaps or crevices (outward entrance approximately 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) in size or greater. Structures similar to the above (*e.g.*, bridges, culverts, minimum of 15 feet high) are expected to also provide roosting habitat, based upon the species' morphology and behavior (Keeley and Tuttle 1999). Florida bonneted bat roosts will be situated in areas with sufficient open space for these bats to fly (*e.g.*, open or semi-open canopy, canopy gaps, above the canopy, and edges which provide relatively uncluttered conditions [*i.e.*, reduced numbers of obstacles, such as fewer tree branches and leaves, in the flight environment]).

***For the purpose of this Consultation Key:** Roosting habitat refers to habitat with structures that can be used for daytime and maternity roosting. Roosting at night between periods of foraging can occur in a broader range of structure types. For the purposes of this guidance we are focusing on day roosting habitat.*

**ROOSTING IS LIKELY**– Determining likelihood of roosting is challenging. The Service has provided the following definition for the express purpose of these Guidelines. Researchers use additional cues to assist in locating roosts. As additional indicators are identified and described we expect our Guidelines will be improved.

**In this Consultation Key** the Service will consider the following evidence indicative that roosting is likely nearby (*i.e.*, reasonably certain to occur) if **ANY** of the following are documented: (a) Florida bonneted bat calls are recorded within 30 minutes before sunset to 1½ hours following sunset or within 1½ hours before sunrise; (b) emergence calls are recorded; (c) human observers see (or hear) Florida bonneted bats flying from or to potential roosts; (d) human observers see and identify Florida bonneted bats within a natural roost or artificial roost; and/or (e) other bat sign (*e.g.*, guano, staining, etc.) is found that is identified to be Florida bonneted bat through additional follow-up.

In addition to the aforementioned events, researchers consider roosting likely in an area when (1) large numbers of Florida bonneted bat calls are recorded throughout the night (*e.g.*,  $\geq 25$  files per night at a single acoustic station when 5 second file lengths are recorded); (2) large numbers of FBB calls are recorded over multiple nights (*e.g.*, an average of  $\geq 20$  files per night from a single detector when 5 second file lengths are recorded); or (3) social calls are recorded. Because social calls and large numbers of calls recorded over one or more nights can be indicative of high

FBB activity/use or when roosting is likely, the Service is choosing not to use these as indicators to make the determination that roosting is likely. Instead we are relying on the indicators that are only expected to occur at or very close to a roost location [(a)-(e) above].

**TAKE** - to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct. [ESA §3(19)] Harm is further defined by the Service to include significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering. Harass is defined by the Service as actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering. [50 CFR §17.3].



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## Appendix A. Delineation and Justification for Consultation Area

The Consultation Area (Figure 1) represents the general range of the species. The Consultation Area represents the area within which consideration should be given to potential effects to Florida bonneted bats from proposed projects or actions. Coordination and consultation with the Service helps to determine whether proposed actions and activities may affect listed species. This Consultation Area defines the area where proposed actions and activities may affect the Florida bonneted bat.

This area was delineated using confirmed presence data, key habitat features, reasonable flight distances and home range sizes. Where data were lacking, we used available occupancy models that predict probability of occurrence (Bailey *et al.* 2017). Below we describe how each one of these data sources was used to determine the overall Consultation Area.

Presence data: Presence data included locations for: (1) confirmed Florida bonneted bat acoustic detections; (2) known roost sites (occupied or formerly occupied; includes natural roosts, bat houses, and utility poles); (3) live Florida bonneted bats observed or found injured; (4) live Florida bonneted bats captured during research activities; and (5) Florida bonneted bats reported as dead. The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) dataset incorporates information from January 2003 to May 2019.

The vast majority of the presence data came from acoustic surveys. The species' audible, low frequency, distinct, echolocation calls are conducive for acoustic surveys. However, there are limitations in the range of detection from ultrasonic devices, and the fast, high-flying habits of this species can confound this. Overall, detection probabilities for Florida bonneted bats are generally considered to be low. For example, in one study designed to investigate the distribution and environmental associations of Florida bonneted bat, Bailey *et al.* 2017 found overall nightly detection probability was 0.29. Based on the estimated detection probabilities in that study, it would take 9 survey nights (1 detector per night) to determine with 95% certainty whether Florida bonneted bat are present at a sampling point. Positive acoustic detection data are extremely valuable. However, it is important to recognize that there are issues with false negatives due to limitations of equipment, low detection probabilities, difference in detection due to prey availability and seasonal movement over the landscape, and in some circumstances improperly conducted surveys (*i.e.*, short duration or in unsuitable weather conditions).

Key habitat features: We considered important physical and biological features with a focus on potential roosting habitat and applied key concepts of bat conservation (*i.e.*, need to conserve roosting habitat, foraging habitat, and prey base). To date, all known natural Florida bonneted bat roosts (n=19) have been found in live trees and snags of the following types: slash pine, longleaf pine, royal palm, and cypress (Braun de Torrez 2018). Several of the recent roost discoveries are located in fire-maintained vegetation communities, and it appears that Florida bonneted bats are fire-adapted and can benefit from prescribed burn regimes that closely mimic historical fire patterns (Ober *et al.* 2018).

From a landscape and roosting perspective, we consider key habitat features to include forested areas and other areas with mature trees, wetlands, areas used by red-cockaded woodpeckers

(*Picoides borealis*; RCW), and fire-managed and other conservation areas. However, recent work suggests that Florida bonneted bats do not use pinelands more than other land cover types (Bailey *et al.* 2017). In fact, Bailey *et al.* 2017 detected Florida bonneted bats in all land cover types investigated in their study (e.g., agricultural, developed, upland, and wetland). For the purposes of these consultation guidelines, we are focusing on the conservation of potential roosting habitats across the species' range. However, we also recognize the need for comprehensive consideration of foraging habitats, habitat connectivity, and long-term suitability.

Flight distances and home range sizes: Like most bats, Florida bonneted bats are colonial central-place foragers that exploit distant and scattered resources (Rainho and Palmeirim 2011). Morphological characteristics (narrow wings, high wing-aspect ratio) make *Eumops* spp. well-adapted for efficient, low-cost, swift, and prolonged flight in open areas (Findley *et al.* 1972, Norberg and Rayner 1987). Other *Eumops* including Underwood's mastiff bat (*Eumops underwoodi*), and Greater mastiff bat or Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis*) are known to forage and/or travel distances ranging from 6.2 miles to 62 miles from the roost with multiple studies documenting flight distances approximately 15- 18 miles from the roost (Tibbitts *et al.* 2002, Vaughn 1959 as cited in Best *et al.* 1996, Siders *et al.* 1999, Siders 2005, Vaughan 1959 as cited in Siders 2005.)

Like other *Eumops*, Florida bonneted bats are strong fliers, capable of travelling long distances (Belwood 1992). Recent Global Positioning System (GPS) and radio-telemetry data for Florida bonneted bats documents that they also move large distances and likely have large home ranges. Data from recovered GPS satellite tags on Florida bonneted bats tagged at Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area (WMA), found the maximum distance detected from a capture site was 24.2 mi (38.9 km); the greatest path length travelled in a single night was 56.3 mi (90.6 km) (Ober 2016; Webb 2018a-b). Additional data collected during the month of December documented the mean maximum distance of Florida bonneted bats (n=8) with tags traveled from the roost was 9.5 mi (Webb 2018b). The Service recognizes that the movement information comes from only one site (Babcock-Webb WMA and vicinity), and data are from small numbers (n=20) of tagged individuals for only short periods of time (Webb 2018a-b). We expect that across the Florida bonneted bat's range differences in habitat quality, prey availability, and other factors will result in variable habitat use and home range sizes between locations. Foraging distances and home range sizes in high quality habitats are expected to be smaller while foraging distances and home range sizes in low quality habitat would be expected to be larger. Consequently, because Babcock-Webb WMA provides high quality roosting habitat, this movement data could represent the low end of individual flight distances from a roost.

Given the species' morphology and habits (e.g., central-place forager) and considering available movement data from other *Eumops* and Florida bonneted bats discussed above, we opted to use 15 miles (24 km) as a reasonable estimate of the distance Florida bonneted bats would be expected to travel from a roost on any given night. For the purposes of delineating a majority of the Consultation Area, we used available confirmed presence point location data and extended out 15 miles (24 km), with modifications for habitat features (as described above). As more movement data are obtained and made available, this distance estimate may change in the future.

Occupancy model – Research by Bailey *et al.* (2017) indicates the species' range is larger than previously known. Their model performed well across a large portion of the previously known

range when considering confirmed Florida bonneted bat locations; thus it is anticipated to be useful where limited information is available for the species.

We used the model output from Bailey *et al.* (2017) to more closely examine areas where we are data-deficient (*i.e.*, areas where survey information is particularly lacking). We considered 0.27 probability of occurrence a filter for high likelihood of occurrence because 0.27 was the model output for Babcock-Webb WMA, an area where Florida bonneted bats are known to occupy and heavily use. Large portions of Sarasota, Martin, and Palm Beach counties were identified as having probability of occurrence of 0.27. The consultation area should include areas where the species has a high likelihood of occurring. Based on this reasoned approach, all of Sarasota County, portions of Martin County, and greater parts of Palm Beach County were included in the Consultation Area.

We recognize that there are areas in the northern portion of the range where the model is less successful predicting occurrence based on the known Florida bonneted bat locations (*i.e.*, the model predicts low likelihood of occurrence on Avon Park Air Force range, where the species is known to roost). Consequently, the Service is proactively working with partners to conduct surveys in the areas added based on the model to confirm that inclusion of these portions of the aforementioned counties is appropriate. The Consultation Area may be adjusted based on changes in this information.

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## Appendix B: Full Acoustic / Roost Survey Framework

*Purpose:* The purpose of this survey is to: (1) determine if Florida bonneted bats are likely to be actively roosting or using the site; (2) locate active roost(s) and avoid the loss of the structure, if possible; and, (3) avoid or minimize the take of individuals. In some cases, changes in project designs or activities can help avoid and minimize take. For example, project proponents may be able to retain suspected roosts or conserve roosting and foraging habitats. Changing the timing or nature of activities can also help reduce the losses of non-volant young or effects to pregnant or lactating females. If properly conducted, acoustic surveys are the most effective way to determine presence and assess habitat use. If the applicant is unable to follow or does not want to follow the Full Acoustic/Roost Survey framework when recommended according to the Key, the Corps (or other Action Agency) will not be able to use these Guidelines and will need to provide a biologically supported rationale using the best available information for their determination in their request for consultation.

*General Description:* This is a *comprehensive survey effort*, and robust acoustic surveys (*i.e.*, surveys conducted 30 minutes prior to sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise, over multiple nights) are a fundamental component of the approach. Depending upon acoustic results and habitat type, it may also include: observations at emergence (*e.g.*, emergence surveys during which observers look and listen for bats to come out of roost structures around sunset), visual inspection of trees/snags (*i.e.*, those with cavities, hollows, and loose bark) and other roost structures with tree-top cameras, or follow-up targeted acoustic surveys. Methods are dependent upon composition and configuration of project site and willingness and ability of applicant and partners to conserve roosting and foraging habitats on site.

### General Survey Protocol:

*[Note: The Service will provide more information in separate detailed survey protocols in the near future. This will include specific information on: detector types, placement, orientation, verification of proper functioning, analysis, reporting requirements, etc.]*

- Approach is intended for project sites > 5 acres (2 hectares).
- For sites containing roosting habitat, acoustic surveys should primarily focus on assessing roosting habitat within the project site that will be lost or modified (*i.e.*, areas that will not be conserved), and locations on the property within 250 feet (76.2 meters) of areas that will not be conserved. This will help avoid or minimize the loss of an active roost and individuals. Secondly, since part of the purpose is to determine if Florida bonneted bats are using the site, acoustic devices should also be placed near open water and wetlands to maximize chances of detection and aid in assessing foraging habitat that may be lost.
- For sites that do not contain ANY roosting habitat, but do contain foraging habitat (see Figure 3 - Consultation Flowchart and Key, Step 2 [no], Step 13 [yes]), efforts should focus on assessing foraging habitat within the project site that will be lost or modified (*i.e.*, areas that will not be conserved).
- Acoustic surveys should be performed by those who are trained and experienced in setting up, operating, and maintaining acoustic equipment; and retrieving, saving,

analyzing, and interpreting data. Surveyors should have completed one or more of the available bat acoustic courses/workshops, or be able to show similar on-the-job or academic experience (Service 2018).

- Due to the variation in the quality of recordings, the influence of clutter, the changing performances of software packages over time, and other factors, manual verification is recommended (Loeb *et al.* 2015). Files that are identified to species from auto-ID programs must be visually reviewed and manually verified by experienced personnel.
- Acoustic devices should be set up to record from 30 minutes prior to sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise for multiple nights, under suitable weather conditions.
- Acoustic surveys can be conducted any time of year as long as weather conditions meet the criteria. If any of the following weather conditions exist at a survey site during acoustic sampling, note the time and duration of such conditions, and repeat the acoustic sampling effort for that night: (a) temperatures fall below 65°F (18.3°C) during the first 5 hours of survey period; (b) precipitation, including rain and/or fog, that exceeds 30 minutes or continues intermittently during the first 5 hours of the survey period; and (c) sustained wind speeds greater than 9 miles/hour (4 meters/second; 3 on Beaufort scale) for 30 minutes or more during the first 5 hours of the survey period (Service 2018). At a minimum, nightly weather conditions for survey sites should be checked using the nearest NOAA National Weather Service station and summarized in the survey reports. Although not required at this time, it has been demonstrated that conducting surveys on warm nights late in the spring can help maximize detection probabilities (Ober *et al.* 2016; Bailey *et al.* 2017).
- Acoustic devices should be calibrated and properly placed. Microphones should be directed away from surrounding vegetation, not beneath tree canopy, away from electrical wires and transmission lines, away from echo-producing surfaces, and away from external noises. Directional microphones should be aimed to sample the majority of the flight path/zone. Omnidirectional microphones should be deployed on a pole in the center of the flight path/zone and oriented horizontally. For monitoring possible roost sites, microphones should be directed to maximize likelihood of detection.
- To standardize recordings, acoustic device recordings should have a 2-second trigger window and a maximum file length of 15 seconds.
- The number of acoustic survey sites and nights needed for the assessment is dependent upon the overall acreage of suitable habitat proposed to be impacted by the action.
  - For non-linear projects, a minimum of 16 detector nights per 20 acres of suitable habitat expected to be impacted is recommended.
  - For linear projects (*e.g.*, roadways, transmission lines), a minimum of five detector nights per 0.6 mi (0.97 km) is recommended. Detectors can be moved to multiple locations within each kilometer surveyed, but must remain in a single location throughout any given night.
  - For any site, and in particular for sites > 250 acres, please contact the Service to assist in designing an appropriate approach.
- If results of acoustic surveys show **high Florida bonneted bat activity** or **Florida bonneted bat roosting likely** (*e.g.*, high activity early in the evening) (see definitions in Glossary), follow-up methods such as emergence surveys, visual inspection of the roosting structures, or follow-up acoustic surveys are recommended to locate potential roosts. Using a combination of methods may be helpful.

- For bat emergence surveys, multiple observers should be stationed at potential roosts if weather conditions (as above) are suitable. Surveyors should be quietly stationed 30 minutes before sunset so they are ready to look and listen for emerging FBBs from sunset to 1½ hours after sunset. When conducting emergence surveys it is best to orient observers so that the roost is silhouetted in the remaining daylight; facing west can help maximize the ability to notice movement of animals out of a roost structure.
- Visual inspection of trees with cavities and loose bark during the day may be helpful. Active RCW trees should not be visually inspected during the RCW breeding season (April 15 through June 15).
- Visual inspection alone is not recommended due to the potential for roosts to be too high for cameras to reach, too small for cameras to fit, or shaped in a way that contents are out of view (Braun de Torrez *et al.* 2016).
- If roosting is suspected on site, use tree-top cameras during the day to search those trees/snags or other structures that have potential roost features (*i.e.*, cavities, hollows, crevices, or other structure for permanent shelter). If unsuccessful (*e.g.*, cannot see entire contents within a given cavity, cannot reach cavity, cannot see full extent of cavity) OR occupied roosts are found with the tree-top camera within the area in which high Florida bonneted bat activity/likely Florida bonneted bats roosting were identified, we recommend emergence surveys and/or acoustics to verify occupancy and/or identify bat species.
- Provide report showing effort, methods, weather conditions, findings, and summary of acoustic data relating to Florida bonneted bats (*e.g.*, # of calls, time of calls, and station number) organized by the date on which the data were collected. Sonograms of all calls with signatures at or below 20kHz shall be included in the report. The report shall be provided to the Corps project manager assigned to the project for which the survey was conducted and to the Service via the email address [verobeach@fws.gov](mailto:verobeach@fws.gov). **Raw acoustic data should be provided to the Service for all surveys. Raw acoustic data should be provided as “all raw data” and “all raw data with signatures at or below 20kHz”. Data can be submitted to the Service via flash drive, memory stick, or hard drive. Data can be submitted digitally to [verobeach@fws.gov](mailto:verobeach@fws.gov) or via mail to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn: Florida bonneted bat data manager, 1339 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960.**
- Negative surveys are valid for 1 year after completion of the survey.

If you have comments, or suggestions on this survey protocols, please email your comments to [FBBguidelines@fws.gov](mailto:FBBguidelines@fws.gov). These comments will be reviewed and incorporated in an annual review.

## Literature Cited – Appendix B

- Bailey, A.M., H.K. Ober, A.R. Sovie, and R.A. McCleery. 2017. Impact of land use and climate on the distribution of the endangered Florida bonneted bat. *Journal of Mammalogy*. 98:1586-1593.
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## Appendix C: Limited Roost Survey Framework

*Purpose:* The purpose of this survey is to: (1) determine if Florida bonneted bats are likely to be actively roosting within suitable structures on-site; (2) locate active roost(s) and avoid the loss of the structure, if possible; and, (3) avoid or minimize the take of individuals. In some cases, changes in project designs or activities can help avoid and minimize take. For example, applicants and partners may be able to retain the suspected roosts or conserve roosting and foraging habitats. Changing the timing of activities can also help reduce the losses of non-volant young or effects to pregnant or lactating females.

*General Description:* This is a *reduced survey effort* that may include the following methods: visual inspection of trees/snags (*i.e.*, those with cavities, hollows, and loose bark) and other roost structures with tree-top cameras, observations at emergence (*e.g.*, emergence surveys during which observers look and listen for bats to come out of roost structures around sunset), acoustic surveys, or a combination of these methods. Methods are fairly flexible and dependent upon composition and configuration of project site and willingness and ability of applicant and partners to conserve roosting habitat on site.

### General Survey Protocol:

*[Note: The Service will provide more information in separate, detailed survey protocols in the near future. This will include specific information on: detector types, placement, orientation, verification of proper functioning, analysis, reporting requirements, etc.]*

- Approach is **intended only for small project sites** (*i.e.*, sites  $\leq 5$  acres [2 hectares]).
- Efforts should focus on assessing potential roosting structures within the project site that will be lost or modified (*i.e.*, areas that will not be conserved), or are located on the property within 250 feet (76.2 meters) of areas that will not be conserved.

### **Identification of potential roost structures**

- This step is necessary prior to any of the methods that follow.
- Run line transects through roosting habitat close enough that all trees and snags are easily inspected. Transect spacing will vary with habitat structure and season from a maximum of 91 m (300 ft) between transects in very open pine stands to 46 m (150 ft) or less in areas with dense mid-story. Transects should be oriented north to south, to optimize cavity detectability because many RCW cavity entrances are oriented in a westerly direction (Service 2004).
- Visually inspect all trees and snags or other structures for evidence of cavities, hollows, crevices that can be used for permanent shelter. Using binoculars, examine structures for cavities, loose bark, hollows, or other crevices that are large enough for Florida bonneted bats (diameter of opening  $>$  or  $=$  to 1 inch (2.5 cm) (Braun de Torrez *et al.* 2016).
- When potential roosting structures are found, record their location in the field using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit.

### **Visual Inspection of trees and snags with tree-top cameras**

- Visually inspect all cavities using a video probe (peeper) and assess the cavity contents.

Active RCW trees should not be visually inspected during the RCW breeding season (April 15 through June 15).

- Visual inspection alone is valid only when the entire cavity is observed and the contents can be identified. Typically, acoustics at emergence will also be needed to definitively identify bat species, if bats are present or suspected.
- If bats are suspected, or if contents cannot be determined, or if the entire cavity cannot be observed with the video probe; follow methods for an Acoustic Survey or an Emergence Survey (below). If the Corps (or other action agency) or applicant does not wish to conduct acoustic or emergence surveys, the Corps (or other action agency) cannot use the key and must request formal consultation with the Service.
- Record tree species or type of cavity structure, tree diameter and height, cavity height, cavity orientation and cavity contents.

### **Emergence Surveys**

- For bat emergence surveys, multiple observers should be stationed at potential roosts if weather conditions (as described below in Acoustic Surveys) are suitable.
- Surveyors should be quietly stationed 30 minutes prior to sunset so they are ready to look and listen for emerging Florida bonneted bats from sunset to 1½ hours after sunset.
- When conducting emergence surveys it is best to orient observers so that the roost is silhouetted in the remaining daylight; facing west can help maximize the ability to notice movement of animals out of a roost structure.
- Record number of bats that emerged, the time of emergence, and if bat calls were heard.

### **Acoustic surveys**

- Acoustic surveys should be performed by those who are trained and experienced in setting up, operating, and maintaining acoustic equipment; and retrieving, saving, analyzing, and interpreting data. Surveyors should have completed one or more of the available bat acoustic courses/workshops, or be able to show similar on-the-job or academic experience (Service 2018).
- Due to the variation in the quality of recordings, the influence of clutter, and the changing performances of software packages over time, and other factors, manual verification is recommended (Loeb *et al.* 2015). Files that are identified to species from auto-ID programs must be visually reviewed and manually verified by experienced personnel.
- Acoustic devices should be set up to record from 30 minutes prior to sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise for multiple nights, under suitable weather conditions.
- Acoustic surveys can be conducted any time of year as long as weather conditions meet the criteria. If any of the following weather conditions exist at a survey site during acoustic sampling, note the time and duration of such conditions, and repeat the acoustic sampling effort for that night: (a) temperatures fall below 65°F (18.3°C) during the first 5 hours of survey period; (b) precipitation, including rain and/or fog, that exceeds 30 minutes or continues intermittently during the first 5 hours of the survey period; and (c) sustained wind speeds greater than 9 miles/hour (4 meters/second; 3 on Beaufort scale) for 30 minutes or more during the first 5 hours of the survey period (Service 2018). At a minimum, nightly weather conditions for survey sites should be checked using the nearest NOAA National Weather Service station and summarized in the survey reports. Although not required at this time, it has been demonstrated that conducting surveys on



warm nights late in the spring can help maximize detection probabilities (Ober *et al.* 2016; Bailey *et al.* 2017).

- Acoustic devices should be calibrated and properly placed. Microphones should be directed away from surrounding vegetation, not beneath tree canopy, away from electrical wires and transmission lines, away from echo-producing surfaces, and away from external noises. Directional microphones should be aimed to sample the majority of the flight path/zone. Omnidirectional microphones should be deployed on a pole in the center of the flight path/zone and oriented horizontally. For monitoring possible roost sites, microphones should be directed to maximize likelihood of detection.
- To standardize recordings, acoustic device recordings should have a 2-second trigger window and a maximum file length of 15 seconds.
- Acoustic surveys should be conducted over a minimum of four nights.
- If acoustic devices cannot be left in place for the entire night for multiple nights as above, then a combination of short acoustic surveys (from sunset and extending for 1½ hours), stationed observers for emergence surveys or visual inspection of trees/snags with tree-top cameras may be acceptable. Contact the Service for guidance under this circumstance.

### Reporting

- Provide report showing effort, methods, weather conditions, findings, and summary of acoustic data relating to Florida bonneted bat by date (*e.g.*, # of calls, time of calls). Sonograms of all calls with signatures at or below 20kHz shall be included in the report. The report shall be provided to the Corps project manager assigned to the project for which the survey was conducted and to the Service via the email address **verobeach@fws.gov**. **Raw acoustic data should be provided to the Service for all surveys. Raw acoustic data should be provided as “all raw data” and “all raw data with signatures at or below 20kHz”. Data can be submitted to the Service via flash drive, memory stick, or hard drive. Data can be submitted digitally to verobeach@fws.gov or via mail to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn: Florida bonneted bat data manager, 1339 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960.**
- Negative surveys are valid for 1 year after completion of the survey

If you have comments, or suggestions on this survey protocols, please email your comments to [FBBguidelines@fws.gov](mailto:FBBguidelines@fws.gov). These comments will be reviewed and incorporated in an annual review.

## Literature Cited – Appendix C

- Bailey, A.M., H.K. Ober, A.R. Sovie, and R.A. McCleery. 2017. Impact of land use and climate on the distribution of the endangered Florida bonneted bat. *Journal of Mammalogy*. 98:1586-1593.
- Braun de Torrez, E.C., H.K. Ober, and R.A. McCleery. 2016. Use of a multi-tactic approach to locate and endangered Florida bonneted bat roost. *Southeastern Naturalist* 15(2):235-242.
- Loeb, S.C., T.J. Rodhouse, L.E. Ellison, C.L. Lausen, J.D. Reichard, K.M. Irvine, T.E. Ingersoll, J.T.H. Coleman, W.E. Thogmartin, J.R. Sauer, C.M. Francis, M.L. Bayless, T.R. Stanley, and D.H. Johnson. 2015. A plan for the North American bat monitoring program (NABat). United States Department of Agriculture. Forest Service. Research & Development, Southern Research Station. General Technical Report SRS-208.
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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2004. South Florida Ecological Services Office DRAFT July 12, 2004 Species Conservation Guidelines South Florida Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Appendix A. Red-cockaded Woodpecker South Florida Survey Protocol. July 12, 2004. South Florida Ecological Service Office, Vero Beach Florida. <https://www.fws.gov/verobeach/BirdsPDFs/200407SlopesCompleteRedCockadedWoodpecker.pdf>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2018. Range-wide Indiana bat survey guidelines. <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/inba/surveys/pdf/2018RangewideIBatSurveyGuidelines.pdf>

## Appendix D: Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Development Projects

Ongoing research and monitoring will continue to increase the understanding of the Florida bonneted bat and its habitat needs and will continue to inform habitat and species management recommendations. These BMPs incorporate what is known about the species and also include recommendations that are beneficial to all bat species in Florida. These BMPs are intended to provide recommendations for improving conditions for use by Florida bonneted bats, and to help conserve Florida bonneted bats that may be foraging or roosting in an area.

The BMPs required to reach a “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” (MANLAA) determination vary depending on the couplet from the Consultation Key used to reach that particular MANLAA. The requirements for each couplet are provided below followed by the list of BMPs. If the applicant is unable or does not want to do the required BMPs, then the Corps (or other Action Agency) will not be able to use this Guidance and formal consultation with the Service is required.

Couplet Number for MANLAA from Consultation Key	Required BMPs
4b	BMP number 1 if more than 3 months has occurred between the survey and start of the project, and any 3 BMPs out of BMPs 4 through 13
5b	BMP number 2, and any 3 BMPs out of BMPs 3 through 13
9b	BMPs number 2 and 3, and any 4 BMPs out of BMPs 5 through 13
11b	BMPs number 1 and 4, and any 4 BMPs out of BMPs 5 through 13
12b	BMP number 1, and any 3 BMPs out of BMPs 3 through 13
14b	Any 2 BMPs out of BMPs 3 through 13
15b	Any 3 BMPs out of BMPs 3 through 13
17b	Any 4 BMPs out of BMPs 3 through 13

### BMPs for development, construction, and other general activities:

1. If potential roost trees or structures need to be removed, check cavities for bats within 30 days prior to removal of trees, snags, or structures. When possible, remove structure outside of breeding season (*e.g.*, January 1 – April 15). If evidence of use by any bat species is observed, discontinue removal efforts in that area and coordinate with the Service on how to proceed.
2. When using heavy equipment, establish a 250 foot (76 m) buffer around known or suspected roosts to limit disturbance to roosting bats.
3. For every 5 acres of impact, retain a minimum of 1.0 acre of native vegetation. If upland habitat is impacted, then upland habitat with native vegetation should be retained.
4. For every 5 acres of impact, retain a minimum of 0.25 acre of native vegetation. If upland habitat is impacted, then upland habitat with native vegetation should be retained..
5. Conserve open freshwater and wetland habitats to promote foraging opportunities and avoid impacting water quality. Created/restored habitat should be designed to replace the function of native habitat.

6. Conserve and/or enhance riparian habitat. A 50-ft (15.2 m) buffer is recommended around water bodies and stream edges. In cases where artificial water bodies (*i.e.*, stormwater ponds) are created, enhance edges with native plantings especially in cases in which wetland habitat was affected.
7. Avoid or limit widespread application of insecticides (*e.g.*, mosquito control, agricultural pest control) in areas where Florida bonneted bats are known or expected to forage or roost.
8. Conserve natural vegetation to promote insect diversity, availability, and abundance. For example, retain or restore 25% of the parcel in native contiguous vegetation.
9. Retain mature trees and snags that could provide roosting habitat. These may include live trees of various sizes and dead or dying trees with cavities, hollows, crevices, and loose bark. See “Roosting Habitat” in “Background” above.
10. Protect known Florida bonneted bat roost trees, snags or structures and trees or snags that have been historically used by Florida bonneted bats for roosting, even if not currently occupied, by retaining a 250 foot (76 m) disturbance buffer around the roost tree, snag, or structure to ensure that roost sites remain suitable for use in the future.
11. Avoid and minimize the use of artificial lighting, retain natural light conditions, and install wildlife friendly lighting (*i.e.*, downward facing and lowest lumens possible). Avoid permanent night-time lighting to the greatest extent practicable.
12. Incorporate engineering designs that discourage bats from using buildings or structures. If Florida bonneted bats take residence within a structure, contact the Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission prior to attempting removal or when conducting maintenance activities on the structure.
13. Use or allow prescribed fire to promote foraging habitat.

## **Appendix E: Additional Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Land Management Projects**

### **Ecological Land Management**

The Service reviews and develops Ecological Land Management projects that use land management activities to restore and maintain native, natural communities that are beneficial to bats. These activities include prescribed fire, mechanical treatments to reduce vegetation densities, timber thinning to promote forest health, trail maintenance, and the treatment of exotic vegetation. The following BMPs provide recommendations for conserving Florida bonneted bat roosting and foraging habitat during ecological land management activities. The Service recommends incorporating these BMP into ecological land management plans.

If potential roost trees need to be removed, check cavities for bats prior to removal of trees or snags. If evidence of use by any bat species is observed, discontinue removal efforts in that area and coordinate with the Service on how to proceed.

#### **Ecological Land Management BMPs:**

- Protect potential roosting habitat during ecological land management activities, if feasible. Avoid removing trees or snags with cavities.
- Rake and/or manually clear vegetation around the base of known or suspected roost trees to remove fuel prior to prescribed burning.
- If possible, use ignition techniques such as spot fires or backing fire to limit the intensity of fire around the base of the tree or snag containing the roost. The purpose of this action is to prevent the known or suspected roost tree or snag from catching fire and also to attempt to limit the exposure of the roosting bats to heat and smoke. A 250-ft (76 m) buffer is recommended.
- If prescribed fire is being implemented to benefit Florida bonneted bats, Braun de Torrez et al. (2018) noted that fire in the dry/spring season could be most beneficial.
- When creating firebreaks or conducting fire-related mechanical treatment, mark and avoid any known or suspected bat roosts.
- When using heavy equipment, establish a buffer of 250 feet (76 m) around known roosts to limit disturbance to roosting bats.
- Establish forest management efforts to maintain tree species and size class diversity to ensure long-term supply of potential roost sites.
- For every 5 acres (2 hectares) of timber that is harvested, retain a clump of trees 1-2 acres (0.4 - 0.8 hectare) in size containing potential roost trees, especially pines and royal palms (live or dead). Additionally, large snags in open canopy should be preserved.

#### **Literature Cited – Appendix E**

Braun de Torrez, E.C., H.K. Ober, and R.A. McCleery. 2018. Activity of an Endangered Bat Increases Immediately Following Prescribed Fire. *The Journal of Wildlife Management*.

**Appendix E**  
West Indian Manatee Programmatic Key



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
South Florida Ecological Services Office  
1339 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

April 25, 2013

Donald W. Kinard  
Chief, Regulatory Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
701 San Marco Boulevard, Room 372  
Jacksonville, Florida 32207-8175

Dear Mr. Kinard:

This letter acknowledges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) receipt of your April 12, 2013, letter requesting concurrence on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) implementation of the revised Manatee Key and its enclosures dated April 2013. This letter represents the Service's views on the potential effects of the proposed action in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*). For future reference, we have assigned this concurrence letter to Service Consultation Code 2013-I-0151.

The Manatee Key is a tool that has been used by the Corps' Regulatory Division since 1992 to assist in making its effect determinations, as required under 50 CFR 402.14(a), on permit applications for in-water activities such as, but not limited to, maintenance dredging, the placement of fill material for shoreline stabilization, the construction or placement of other in-water structures, as well as the construction of docks, marinas, boat ramps, boat slips, dry storage or any other watercraft access structures or facilities. Your agency has determined utilization of the 2013 Manatee Key, and its enclosures, to review projects in waters accessible to the endangered West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the manatee or its designated critical habitat.

Since July 2011, the Service has worked closely with the Corps and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) on revising the March 2011 version of the Manatee Key and its associated maps. Minor changes to the March 2011 Manatee Key were made to ensure consistency with the manatee programmatic consultation co-developed by the Corps and the Service in cooperation with the FWC.

For all new or expanding multi-slip facilities located in a county with a State-approved MPP in place that reach a "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determination using the 2013 Manatee Key, the Service concurs with these determinations and no further consultation with the Service is necessary.



For all applications to construct residential dock facilities that reach a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determination using the 2013 Manatee Key, the Service concurs with these determinations and no further consultation with the Service is necessary. As such, the Service will not receive permit applications from the Corps for these types of facilities.

For those counties with a watercraft-related mortality rate that averages less than one dead manatee a year, we conclude take is not reasonably certain to occur as a result of new or expanding watercraft access facilities in these counties. Therefore, for multi-slip facilities proposed to be built or expanded in those counties that reach a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determination using the 2013 Manatee Key, the Service concurs with these effect determinations and no further consultation with the Service is necessary.

For all applications to repair or replace existing multi-slip facilities that do not provide new watercraft access and reach a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determination using the 2013 Manatee Key, the Service concurs with these determinations. As such, the Service will not receive permit applications from the Corps for these types of existing facilities since they were covered by the Service’s March 17, 2011, consultation on the 2011 Manatee Key.

All other future applications for multi-slip facilities reaching a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determination using the 2013 Manatee Key will be forwarded to the Service for concurrence. The Corps agreed to forward to the Service those applications that are consistent with the Manatee Key.

All culverts 8 inches to 8 feet in diameter must be grated to prevent manatee entrapment. To effectively prevent manatee access, grates must be permanently fixed, spaced a maximum of 8 inches apart (may be less for culverts smaller than 16 inches in diameter) and may be installed diagonally, horizontally, or vertically. Culverts less than 8 inches or greater than 8 feet in diameter are exempt from this requirement. If new culverts and/or the maintenance or modification of existing culverts are grated as described above, the determination of “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” is appropriate and no further consultation with the Service is necessary.

We have examined the April 2013 version of the Manatee Key and its enclosures and agree with its structure and content. Currently, the FWC does not require implementation of the signage component of the standard construction conditions for in-water work for the State’s review of the permit application. However, the Corps and the Service will require applicants to implement the signage component of the standard construction conditions for any in-water work authorized by a Department of the Army permit. Therefore, except as noted above, for all future applications reviewed with the April 2013 version of the Manatee Key in which the Corps reaches a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determination with respect to the manatee and/or its designated critical habitat, the Service hereby concurs with those determinations in accordance with 50 CFR 402.14(b)1. As such, the March 2011 version of the Manatee Key and its associated maps, as well as other earlier versions of the Manatee Key, are no longer applicable.

The Service does not anticipate the proposed action will result in the incidental take of manatees. Furthermore, the Service is not including an incidental take authorization for marine mammals at this time because the incidental take of marine mammals is not expected to occur and has not been authorized under section 101(a)(5) of the MMPA and/or its 1994 Amendments. Following issuance of such regulations or authorizations, the Service may reinstate consultation to include an incidental take statement for marine mammals, if deemed appropriate.

This concurrence letter fulfills the requirements of section 7 of the Act and no further action is required. If modifications are made to the Manatee Key, if additional information involving potential effects to listed species becomes available, or if a new species is listed or new critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the project, then reinitiation of consultation may be necessary.

This concurrence letter represents the collective assessment of the April 2013 version of the Manatee Key and its enclosures from the Service's three field offices in Florida: Panama City, North Florida, and South Florida. If you have any questions or concerns about this consultation, please feel free to contact Kalani Cairns at 772-469-4240.

Sincerely yours,



Larry Williams  
State Supervisor

cc: electronic copy only  
Corps, Jacksonville, Florida (Stuart Santos)  
Service, Atlanta, Georgia (Jack Arnold)  
Service, Jacksonville, Florida (Dawn Jennings)  
Service, Panama City, Florida (Don Imm)

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**THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT, AND THE STATE OF  
FLORIDA EFFECT DETERMINATION KEY FOR THE MANATEE IN FLORIDA  
April 2013**

**Purpose and background of the key**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to improve the review of permit applications by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Project Managers in the Regulatory Division regarding the potential effects of proposed projects on the endangered West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) in Florida, and by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or its authorized designee or Water Management District, for evaluating projects under the State Programmatic General Permit (SPGP) or any other Programmatic General Permits that the Corps may issue for administration by the above agencies. Such guidance is contained in the following dichotomous key. The key applies to permit applications for in-water activities such as, but not limited to: (1) dredging [new or maintenance dredging of not more than 50,000 cubic yards], placement of fill material for shoreline stabilization, and construction/placement of other in-water structures as well as (2) construction of docks, marinas, boat ramps and associated trailer parking spaces, boat slips, dry storage or any other watercraft access structures or facilities.

At a certain step in the key, the user is referred to graphics depicting important manatee areas or areas with inadequate protection. The maps can be downloaded from the Corps' web page at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/SourceBook.aspx>. We intend to utilize the most recent depiction of these areas, so should these areas be modified by statute, rule, ordinance and/or other legal mandate or authorization, we will modify the graphical depictions accordingly. These areas may be shaded or otherwise differentiated for identification on the maps.

***Explanatory footnotes are provided in the key and must be closely followed whenever encountered.***

**Scope of the key**

This key should only be used in the review of permit applications for effect determinations on manatees and should not be used for other listed species or for other aquatic resources such as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Corps Project Managers should ensure that consideration of the project's effects on any other listed species and/or on EFH is performed independently. This key may be used to evaluate applications for all types of State of Florida (State Programmatic General Permits, noticed general permits, standard general permits, submerged lands leases, conceptual and individual permits) and Department of the Army (standard permits, letters of permission, nationwide permits, and regional general permits) permits and authorizations. The final effect determination will be based on the project location and description; the potential effects to manatees, manatee habitat, and/or manatee critical habitat; and any measures (such as project components, standard construction precautions, or special conditions included in the authorization) to avoid or minimize effects to manatees or manatee critical habitat. Projects that key to a "may affect" determination equate to "likely to adversely affect" situations, and those projects should not be processed under the SPGP or any other programmatic general permit. For



all “may affect” determinations, Corps Project Managers shall refer to the Manatee Programmatic Biological Opinion, dated March 21, 2011, for guidance on eliminating or minimizing potential adverse effects resulting from the proposed project. If unable to resolve the adverse effects, the Corps may refer the applicant to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for further assistance in attempting to revise the proposed project to a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” level. The Service will coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the counties, as appropriate. Projects that provide new access for watercraft and key to “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” may or may not need to be reviewed individually by the Service.

**MANATEE KEY**  
**Florida<sup>1</sup>**  
**April 2013**

**The key is not designed to be used by the Corps' Regulatory Division for making their effect determinations for dredging projects greater than 50,000 cubic yards, the Corps' Planning Division in making their effect determinations for civil works projects or by the Corps' Regulatory Division for making their effect determinations for projects of the same relative scope as civil works projects. These types of activities must be evaluated by the Corps independently of the key.**

A. Project is not located in waters accessible to manatees and does not directly or indirectly affect manatees (see Glossary).....*No effect*

Project is located in waters accessible to manatees **or** directly or indirectly affects manatees ..... B

B. Project consists of one or more of the following activities, all of which are *May affect*:

1. blasting or other detonation activity for channel deepening and/or widening, geotechnical surveys or exploration, bridge removal, movies, military shows, special events, etc.;
2. installation of structures which could restrict or act as a barrier to manatees;
3. new or changes to existing warm or fresh water discharges from industrial sites, power plants, or natural springs or artesian wells (but only if the new or proposed change in discharge requires a Corps permit to accomplish the work);
4. installation of new culverts and/or maintenance or modification of existing culverts (where the culverts are 8 inches to 8 feet in diameter, ungrated and in waters accessible, or potentially accessible, to manatees)<sup>2</sup>;
5. mechanical dredging from a floating platform, barge or structure<sup>3</sup> that restricts manatee access to less than half the width of the waterway;
6. creation of new slips or change in use of existing slips, even those located in a county with a State-approved Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) in place and the number of slips is less than the MPP threshold, to accommodate docking for repeat use vessels, (*e.g.*, water taxis, tour boats, gambling boats, etc; or slips or structures that are not civil works projects, but are frequently used to moor large vessels (>100') for shipping and/or freight purposes; does not include slips used for docking at boat sales or repair facilities or loading/unloading at dry stack storage facilities and boat ramps); [Note: For projects within Bay, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hernando, Jefferson, Lafayette, Monroe (south of Craig Key), Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla or Walton County, the reviewer should proceed to Couplet C.]
7. any type of in-water activity in a Warm Water Aggregation Area (WWAA) or No Entry Area (see Glossary and accompanying Maps<sup>4</sup>); [Note: For residential docking facilities in a Warm Water Aggregation Area that is not a Federal manatee sanctuary or No Entry Area, the reviewer should proceed to couplet C.]
8. creation or expansion of canals, basins or other artificial shoreline and/or the connection of such features to navigable waters of the U.S.; [Note: For projects proposing a single residential dock, the reviewer should proceed to couplet C; otherwise, project is a *May Affect*.]

9. installation of temporary structures (docks, buoys, etc.) utilized for special events such as boat races, boat shows, military shows, etc., but only when consultation with the U.S. Coast Guard and FWS has not occurred; [Note: See programmatic consultation with the U.S. Coast Guard on manatees dated May 10, 2010.].
- Project is other than the activities listed above..... C
- C. Project is located in an Important Manatee Area (IMA) (see Glossary and accompanying Maps<sup>4</sup>) ..... D
- Project is not located in an Important Manatee Area (IMA) (see Glossary and accompanying Maps<sup>4</sup>) ..... G
- D. Project includes dredging of less than 50,000 cubic yards ..... E
- Project does not include dredging ..... G
- E. Project is for dredging a residential dock facility or is a land-based dredging operation..... N
- Project not as above..... F
- F. Project proponent **does not elect** to follow all dredging protocols described on the maps for the respective IMA in which the project is proposed ..... *May affect*
- Project proponent **elects** to follow all dredging protocols described on the maps for the respective IMA in which the project is proposed..... G
- G. Project provides new<sup>5</sup> access for watercraft, *e.g.*, docks or piers, marinas, boat ramps and associated trailer parking spaces, new dredging, boat lifts, pilings, floats, floating docks, floating vessel platforms, boat slips, dry storage, mooring buoys, or other watercraft access (residential boat lifts, pilings, floating docks, and floating vessel platforms installed in existing slips are not considered new access) or improvements allowing increased watercraft usage..... H
- Project does not provide new<sup>5</sup> access for watercraft, *e.g.*, bulkheads, seawalls, riprap, maintenance dredging, boardwalks and/or the maintenance (repair or rehabilitation) of currently serviceable watercraft access structures provided all of the following are met: (1) the number of slips is not increased; (2) the number of existing slips is not in question; and (3) the improvements do not allow increased watercraft usage..... N
- H. Project is located in the Braden River Area of Inadequate Protection (Manatee County) (see Glossary and accompanying AIP Map<sup>4</sup>) ..... *May affect*
- Project is not located in the Braden River Area of Inadequate Protection (Manatee County) (see Glossary and accompanying AIP Map<sup>4</sup>)..... I
- I. Project is for a multi-slip facility (see Glossary) ..... J
- Project is for a residential dock facility or is for dredging (see Glossary)..... N
- J. Project is located in a county that currently has a State-approved MPP in place (BREVARD, BROWARD, CITRUS, CLAY, COLLIER, DUVAL, INDIAN RIVER, LEE, MARTIN, MIAMI-DADE, PALM BEACH, ST. LUCIE, SARASOTA, VOLUSIA) or shares contiguous waters with a county having a State-approved MPP in place (LAKE, MARION, SEMINOLE)<sup>6</sup> ..... K
- Project is located in a county not required to have a State-approved MPP ..... L

K. Project has been developed or modified to be consistent with the county’s State-approved MPP **and** has been verified by a FWC review (or FWS review if project is exempt from State permitting) **or** the number of slips is below the MPP threshold ..... N

Project has not been reviewed by the FWC or FWS **or** has been reviewed by the FWC or FWS **and** determined that the project is not consistent with the county’s State-approved MPP ..... *May affect*

L. Project is located in one of the following counties: CHARLOTTE, DESOTO<sup>7</sup>, FLAGLER, GLADES, HENDRY, HILLSBOROUGH, LEVY, MANATEE, MONROE<sup>7</sup>, PASCO<sup>7</sup>, PINELLAS ..... M

Project is located in one of the following counties: BAY, DIXIE, ESCAMBIA, FRANKLIN, GILCHRIST, GULF, HERNANDO, JEFFERSON, LAFAYETTE, MONROE (south of Craig Key), NASSAU, OKALOOSA, OKEECHOBEE, PUTNAM, SANTA ROSA, ST. JOHNS, SUWANNEE, TAYLOR, WAKULLA, WALTON ..... N

M. The number of slips does not exceed the residential dock density threshold (see Glossary) ..... N

The number of slips exceeds the residential dock density threshold (see Glossary) ..... *May affect*

N. Project impacts to submerged aquatic vegetation<sup>8</sup>, emergent vegetation or mangrove will have beneficial, insignificant, discountable<sup>9</sup> or no effects on the manatee<sup>10</sup> ..... O

Project impacts to submerged aquatic vegetation<sup>8</sup>, emergent vegetation or mangrove may adversely affect the manatee<sup>10</sup> ..... *May affect*

O. Project proponent **elects** to follow standard manatee conditions for in-water work<sup>11</sup> and requirements, as appropriate for the proposed activity, prescribed on the maps<sup>4</sup> ..... P

Project proponent **does not elect** to follow standard manatee conditions for in-water work<sup>11</sup> and appropriate requirements prescribed on the maps<sup>4</sup> ..... *May affect*

P. If project is for a new or expanding<sup>5</sup> multi-slip facility and is located in a county with a State-approved MPP in place **or** in Bay, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hernando, Jefferson, Lafayette, Monroe (south of Craig Key), Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Putnam, St. Johns, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla or Walton County, the determination of “*May affect, not likely to adversely affect*” is appropriate<sup>12</sup> and no further consultation with the Service is necessary.

If project is for a new or expanding<sup>5</sup> multi-slip facility and is located in Charlotte, Desoto, Flagler, Glades, Hendry, Hillsborough, Levy, Manatee, Monroe (north of Craig Key), Pasco, or Pinellas County, further consultation with the Service is necessary for “*May affect, not likely to adversely affect*” determinations.

If project is for repair or rehabilitation of a multi-slip facility and is located in an Important Manatee Area, further consultation with the Service is necessary for “*May affect, not likely to adversely affect*” determinations. If project is for repair or rehabilitation of a multi-slip facility and: (1) is not located in an Important Manatee Area; (2) the number of slips is not increased; (3) the number of existing slips is not in question; and (4) the improvements to the existing watercraft access structures do not allow increased watercraft usage, the determination of “*May affect, not likely to adversely affect*” is appropriate<sup>12</sup> and no further consultation with the Service is necessary.

If project is a residential dock facility, shoreline stabilization, or dredging, the determination of “*May affect, not likely to adversely affect*” is appropriate<sup>12</sup> and no further consultation with the Service is necessary. **Note:** For residential dock facilities located in a Warm Water Aggregation Area or in a No Entry area, seasonal restrictions may apply. See footnote 4 below for maps showing restrictions.

If project is other than repair or rehabilitation of a multi-slip facility, a new<sup>5</sup> multi-slip facility, residential dock facility, shoreline stabilization, or dredging, and does not provide new<sup>5</sup> access for watercraft or



improve an existing access to allow increased watercraft usage, the determination of “*May affect, not likely to adversely affect*” is appropriate<sup>12</sup> and no further consultation with the Service is necessary.

<sup>1</sup> On the St. Mary’s River, this key is only applicable to those areas that are within the geographical limits of the State of Florida.

<sup>2</sup> All culverts 8 inches to 8 feet in diameter must be grated to prevent manatee entrapment. To effectively prevent manatee access, grates must be permanently fixed, spaced a maximum of 8 inches apart (may be less for culverts smaller than 16 inches in diameter) and may be installed diagonally, horizontally or vertically. For new culverts, grates must be attached prior to installation of the culverts. Culverts less than 8 inches or greater than 8 feet in diameter are exempt from this requirement. If new culverts and/or the maintenance or modification of existing culverts are grated as described above, the determination of “*May affect, not likely to adversely affect*” is appropriate<sup>11</sup> and no further consultation with the Service is necessary.

<sup>3</sup> If the project proponent agrees to follow the standard manatee conditions for in-water work as well as any special conditions appropriate for the proposed activity, further consultation with the Service is necessary for “*May affect, not likely to adversely affect*” determinations. These special conditions may include, but are not limited to, the use of dedicated observers (see Glossary for definition of dedicated observers), dredging during specific months (warm weather months vs cold weather months), dredging during daylight hours only, adjusting the number of dredging days, does not preclude or discourage manatee egress/ingress with turbidity curtains or other barriers that span the width of the waterway, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Areas of Inadequate Protection (AIPs), Important Manatee Areas (IMAs), Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WWAAs) and No Entry Areas are identified on these maps and defined in the Glossary for the purposes of this key. These maps can be viewed on the [Corps’ web page](#). If projects are located in a No Entry Area, special permits may be required from FWC in order to access these areas (please refer to Chapter 68C-22 F.A.C. for boundaries; maps are also available at [FWC’s web page](#)).

<sup>5</sup> New access for watercraft is the addition or improvement of structures such as, but not limited to, docks or piers, marinas, boat ramps and associated trailer parking spaces, boat lifts, pilings, floats, floating docks, floating vessel platforms, (maintenance dredging, residential boat lifts, pilings, floating docks, and floating vessel platforms installed in existing slips are not considered new access), boat slips, dry storage, mooring buoys, new dredging, etc., that facilitates the addition of watercraft to, and/or increases watercraft usage in, waters accessible to manatees. The repair or rehabilitation of any type of currently serviceable watercraft access structure is not considered new access provided all of the following are met: (1) the number of slips is not increased; (2) the number of existing slips is not in question; and (3) the improvements to the existing watercraft access structures do not result in increased watercraft usage.

<sup>6</sup> Projects proposed within the St. Johns River portion of Lake, Marion, and Seminole counties and contiguous with Volusia County shall be evaluated using the Volusia County MPP.

<sup>7</sup> For projects proposed within the following areas: the Peace River in DeSoto County; all areas north of Craig Key in Monroe County, and the Anclote and Pithlachascotee Rivers in Pasco County, proceed to Couplet M. For all other locations in DeSoto, Monroe (south of Craig Key) and Pasco Counties, proceed to couplet N.

<sup>8</sup> Where the presence of the referenced vegetation is confirmed within the area affected by docks and other piling-supported minor structures and the reviewer has concluded that the impacts to SAV, marsh or mangroves would not adversely affect the manatee or its critical habitat, proceed to couplet O.

Where the presence of the referenced vegetation is confirmed within the area affected by docks and other piling-supported minor structures and the reviewer has concluded that the impacts to SAV, marsh or mangroves would adversely affect the manatee or its critical habitat, the applicant can elect to avoid/minimize impacts to that vegetation. In that instance, where impacts are unavoidable and the applicant elects to abide by or employ construction techniques that exceed the criteria in the following documents, the reviewer should conclude that the impacts to SAV, marsh or mangroves would not adversely affect the manatee or its critical habitat and proceed to couplet O.

- “Construction Guidelines in Florida for Minor Piling-Supported Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV), Marsh or Mangrove Habitat,” prepared jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Marine Fisheries Service (August 2001) [refer to the [Corps’ web page](#)], and
- “Key for Construction Conditions for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in or over Johnson’s seagrass (*Halophila johnsonii*),” prepared jointly by the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (October 2002), for those projects within the known range of Johnson’s seagrass occurrence (Sebastian Inlet to central Biscayne Bay in the lagoon systems on the east coast of Florida) [refer to the [Corps’ web page](#)],

Where the presence of the referenced vegetation is confirmed within the area affected by docks and other piling-supported minor structures and the reviewer has concluded that the impacts to SAV, marsh or mangroves would adversely affect the manatee or its critical habitat, and the applicant does not elect to follow the above Guidelines, the Corps will need to request formal consultation on the manatee with the Service as *May affect*.

For activities other than docks and other piling-supported minor structures proposed in SAV, marsh, or mangroves (*e.g.*, new dredging, placement of riprap, bulkheads, etc.), if the reviewer determines the impacts to the SAV, marsh or mangroves will not adversely affect the manatee or its critical habitat, proceed to couplet O, otherwise the Corps will need to request formal consultation on the manatee with the Service as *May affect*.

<sup>9</sup> See Glossary, under “is not likely to adversely affect.”

<sup>10</sup> Federal reviewers, when making your effects determination, consider effects to manatee designated critical habitat pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. State reviewers, when making your effects determination, consider effects to manatee habitat within the entire State of Florida, pursuant to Chapter 370.12(2)(b) Florida Statutes.

<sup>11</sup> See the [Corps' web page](#) for manatee construction conditions. At this time, manatee construction precautions c and f are not required in the following Florida counties: Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Jefferson, Lafayette, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, and Walton.

<sup>12</sup> By letter dated April 25, 2013, the Corps received the Service's concurrence with “*May affect, not likely to adversely affect*” determinations made pursuant to this key for the following activities: (1) selected non-watercraft access projects; (2) watercraft-access projects that are residential dock facilities, excluding those located in the Braden River AIP; (3) launching facilities solely for kayaks and canoes, and (4) new or expanding multi-slip facilities located in Bay, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hernando, Jefferson, Lafayette, Monroe (south of Craig Key), Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla or Walton County.

Additionally, in the same letter dated April 25, 2013, the Corps received the Service's concurrence for “*May affect, not likely to adversely affect*” determinations specifically made pursuant to Couplet G of the key for the repair or rehabilitation of currently serviceable multi-slip watercraft access structures provided all of the following are met: (1) the project is not located in an IMA, (2) the number of slips is not increased; (3) the number of existing slips is not in question; and (4) the improvements to the existing watercraft access structures do not allow increased watercraft usage. Upon receipt of such a programmatic concurrence, no further consultation with the Service for these projects is required.

## GLOSSARY

**Areas of inadequate protection (AIP)** – Areas within counties as shown on the maps where the Service has determined that measures intended to protect manatees from the reasonable certainty of watercraft-related take are inadequate. Inadequate protection may be the result of the absence of manatee or other watercraft speed zones, insufficiency of existing speed zones, deficient speed zone signage, or the absence or insufficiency of speed zone enforcement.

**Boat slip** – A space on land or in or over the water, other than on residential land, that is intended and/or actively used to hold a stationary watercraft or its trailer, and for which intention and/or use is confirmed by legal authorization or other documentary evidence. Examples of boat slips include, but are not limited to, docks or piers, marinas, boat ramps and associated trailer parking spaces, boat lifts, floats, floating docks, pilings, boat davits, dry storage, etc.

**Critical habitat** – For listed species, this consists of: (1) the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), on which are found those physical or biological features (constituent elements) (a) essential to the conservation of the species and (b) which may require special management considerations or protection; and (2) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the ESA, upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species. Designated critical habitats are described in 50 CFR 17 and 50 CFR 226.

**Currently serviceable** – Currently, serviceable means usable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

**Direct effects** – The direct or immediate effects of the project on the species or its habitat.

**Dredging** – For the purposes of this key, the term dredging refers to all in-water work associated with dredging operations, including mobilization and demobilization activities that occur in water or require vessels.

**Emergent vegetation** – Rooted emergent vascular macrophytes such as, but not limited to, cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora* and *S. patens*), needle rush (*Juncus roemerianus*), swamp sawgrass (*Cladium mariscoides*), saltwort (*Batis maritima*), saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), and glasswort (*Salicornia virginica*) found in coastal salt marsh-related habitats (tidal marsh, salt marsh, brackish marsh, coastal marsh, coastal wetlands, tidal wetlands).

**Formal consultation** – A process between the Services and a Federal agency or applicant that: (1) determines whether a proposed Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat; (2) begins with a Federal agency's written request and submittal of a complete initiation package; and (3) concludes with the issuance of a biological opinion and incidental take statement by either of the Services. If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required (except when the Services concur, in writing, that a proposed

action “is not likely to adversely affect” listed species or designated critical habitat). [50 CFR 402.02, 50 CFR 402.14]

**Important manatee areas (IMA)** – Areas within certain counties where increased densities of manatees occur due to the proximity of warm water discharges, freshwater discharges, natural springs and other habitat features that are attractive to manatees. These areas are heavily utilized for feeding, transiting, mating, calving, nursing or resting as indicated by aerial survey data, mortality data and telemetry data. Some of these areas may be federally-designated sanctuaries or state-designated “seasonal no entry” zones. Maps depicting important manatee areas and any accompanying text may contain a reference to these areas and their special requirements. Projects proposed within these areas must address their special requirements.

**Indirect effects** – Those effects that are caused by or will result from the proposed action and are later in time, but are still reasonably certain to occur. Examples of indirect effects include, but are not limited to, changes in water flow, water temperature, water quality (*e.g.*, salinity, pH, turbidity, nutrients, chemistry), prop dredging of seagrasses, and manatee watercraft injury and mortality. Indirect effects also include watercraft access developments in waters not currently accessible to manatees, but watercraft access can, is, or may be planned to waters accessible to manatees by the addition of a boat lift or the removal of a dike or plug.

**Informal consultation** – A process that includes all discussions and correspondence between the Services and a Federal agency or designated non-Federal representative, prior to formal consultation, to determine whether a proposed Federal action may affect listed species or critical habitat. This process allows the Federal agency to utilize the Services’ expertise to evaluate the agency’s assessment of potential effects or to suggest possible modifications to the proposed action which could avoid potentially adverse effects. If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required (except when the Services concur, in writing, that a proposed action “is not likely to adversely affect” listed species or designated critical habitat). [50 CFR 402.02, 50 CFR 402.13]

**In-water activity** – Any type of activity used to construct/repair/replace any type of in-water structure or fill; the act of dredging.

**In-water structures – watercraft access structures** – Docks or piers, marinas, boat ramps, boat slips, boat lifts, floats, floating docks, pilings (depending on use), boat davits, etc.

**In-water structures – other than watercraft access structures** – Bulkheads, seawalls, riprap, groins, boardwalks, pilings (depending on use), etc.

**Is likely to adversely affect** – The appropriate finding in a biological assessment (or conclusion during informal consultation) if any adverse effect to listed species may occur as a direct or indirect result of the proposed action or its interrelated or interdependent actions and the effect is not: discountable, insignificant, or beneficial (see definition of “is not likely to adversely affect”). An “is likely to adversely affect” determination requires the initiation of formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA.

**Is not likely to adversely affect** – The appropriate conclusion when effects on listed species are expected to be discountable, insignificant, or completely beneficial. **Discountable effects** are those extremely unlikely to occur. **Insignificant effects** relate to the size of the impact and should never reach the scale where take occurs. **Beneficial effects** are contemporaneous positive effects without any adverse effects to the species. Based on best judgment, a person would not (1) be able to meaningfully measure, detect, or evaluate insignificant effects or (2) expect discountable effects to occur.

**Manatee Protection Plan (MPP)** – A manatee protection plan (MPP) is a comprehensive planning document that addresses the long-term protection of the Florida manatee through law enforcement, education, boat facility siting, and habitat protection initiatives. Although MPPs are primarily developed by the counties, the plans are the product of extensive coordination and cooperation between the local governments, the FWC, the Service, and other interested parties.

**Manatee Protection Plan thresholds** – The smallest size of a multi-slip facility addressed under the purview of a Manatee Protection Plan (MPP). For most MPPs, this threshold is five slips or more. For Brevard, Clay, Citrus, and Volusia County MPPs, this threshold is three slips or more.

**Mangroves** – Rooted emergent trees along a shoreline that, for the purposes of this key, include red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*) and white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*).

**May affect** – The appropriate conclusion when a proposed action may pose any effects on listed species or designated critical habitat. When the Federal agency proposing the action determines that a “may affect” situation exists, then they must either request the Services to initiate formal consultation or seek written concurrence from the Services that the action “is not likely to adversely affect” listed species. For the purpose of this key, all “may affect” determinations equate to “likely to adversely affect” and Corps Project Managers should request the Service to initiate formal consultation on the manatee or designated critical habitat. **No effect** – the appropriate conclusion when the action agency determines its proposed action will not affect a listed species or designated critical habitat.

**Multi-slip facility** – Multi-slip facilities include commercial marinas, private multi-family docks, boat ramps and associated trailer parking spaces, dry storage facilities and any other similar structures or activities that provide access to the water for multiple (five slips or more, except in Brevard, Clay, Citrus, and Volusia counties where it is three slips or more) watercraft. In some instances, the Corps and the Service may elect to review multiple residential dock facilities as a multi-slip facility.

**New access for watercraft** – New dredging and the addition, expansion or improvement of structures such as, but not limited to, docks or piers, marinas, boat ramps and associated trailer parking spaces, boat lifts, pilings, floats, floating docks, floating vessel platforms, (residential boat lifts, pilings, floats, and floating vessel platforms installed in existing slips are not considered new access), boat slips, dry storage, mooring buoys, etc., that facilitates the addition of watercraft to, and/or increases watercraft usage in, waters accessible to manatees.

**Observers** – During dredging and other in-water operations within manatee accessible waters, the standard manatee construction conditions require all on-site project personnel to watch for manatees to ensure that those standard manatee construction conditions are met. Within important manatee areas (IMA) and under special circumstances, heightened observation is needed. **Dedicated Observers** are those having some prior experience in manatee observation, are dedicated only for this task, and must be someone other than the dredge and equipment operators/mechanics. **Approved Observers** are dedicated observers who also must be approved by the Service (if Federal permits are involved) and the FWC (if state permits are involved), prior to work commencement. Approved observers typically have significant and often project-specific observational experience. Documentation on prior experience must be submitted to these agencies for approval and must be submitted a minimum of 30 days prior to work commencement. When dedicated or approved observers are required, observers must be on site during all in-water activities, and be equipped with polarized sunglasses to aid in manatee observation. For prolonged in-water operations, multiple observers may be needed to perform observation in shifts to reduce fatigue (recommended shift length is no longer than six hours). Additional information concerning observer approval can be found at [FWC's web page](#).

**Residential boat lift** – A boat lift installed on a residential dock facility.

**Residential dock density ratio threshold** – The residential dock density ratio threshold is used in the evaluation of multi-slip projects in some counties without a State-approved Manatee Protection Plan and is consistent with 1 boat slip per 100 linear feet of shoreline (1:100) owned by the applicant.

**Residential dock facility** – A residential dock facility means a private residential dock which is used for private, recreational or leisure purposes for single-family or multi-family residences designed to moor no more than four vessels (except in Brevard, Clay, Citrus, and Volusia counties which allow only two vessels). This also includes normal appurtenances such as residential boat lifts, boat shelters with open sides, stairways, walkways, mooring pilings, dolphins, etc. In some instances, the Corps and the Service may elect to review multiple residential dock facilities as a multi-slip facility.

**Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)** – Rooted, submerged, aquatic plants such as, but not limited to, shoal grass (*Halodule wrightii*), paddle grass (*Halophila decipiens*), star grass (*Halophila engelmanni*), Johnson's seagrass (*Halophila johnsonii*), sago pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), clasping-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton perfoliatus*), widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*), manatee grass (*Syringodium filiforme*), turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*), tapegrass (*Vallisneria americana*), and horned pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*).

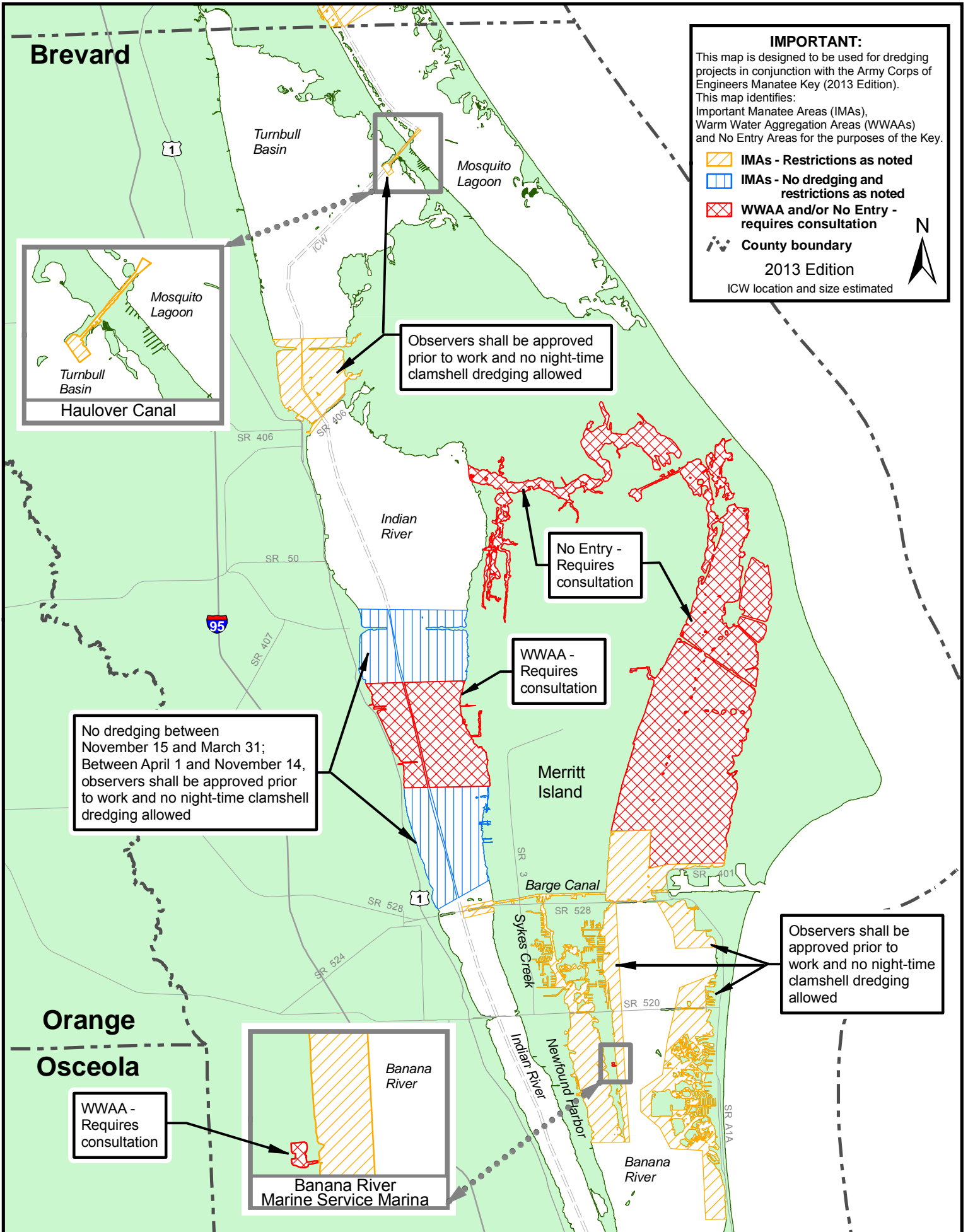
**Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WWAAs) and No Entry Areas** – Areas within certain counties where increased densities of manatees occur due to the proximity of artificial or natural warm water discharges or springs and are considered necessary for survival. Some of these areas may be federally-designated manatee sanctuaries or state-designated seasonal “no entry” manatee protection zones. Projects proposed within these areas may require consultation in order to offset expected adverse impacts. In addition, special permits may be required from the FWC in order to access these areas.

**Watercraft access structures** – Docks or piers, marinas, boat ramps and associated trailer parking spaces, boat slips, boat lifts, floats, floating docks, pilings, boat davits, dry storage, etc.

**Waters accessible to manatees** – Although most waters of the State of Florida are accessible to the manatee, there are some areas such as landlocked lakes that are not. There are also some weirs, salinity control structures and locks that may preclude manatees from accessing water bodies. If there is any question about accessibility, contact the Service or the FWC.




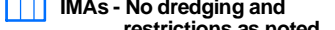
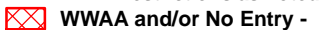

# Brevard County - North



**Brevard**

**IMPORTANT:**

This map is designed to be used for dredging projects in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key (2013 Edition). This map identifies: Important Manatee Areas (IMAs), Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WWAAs) and No Entry Areas for the purposes of the Key.

-  IMAs - Restrictions as noted
-  IMAs - No dredging and restrictions as noted
-  WWAA and/or No Entry - requires consultation
-  County boundary

2013 Edition

ICW location and size estimated



**Mosquito Lagoon**

**Turnbull Basin**

**Haulover Canal**

Observers shall be approved prior to work and no night-time clamshell dredging allowed

No Entry - Requires consultation

WWAA - Requires consultation

No dredging between November 15 and March 31; Between April 1 and November 14, observers shall be approved prior to work and no night-time clamshell dredging allowed

Observers shall be approved prior to work and no night-time clamshell dredging allowed

WWAA - Requires consultation

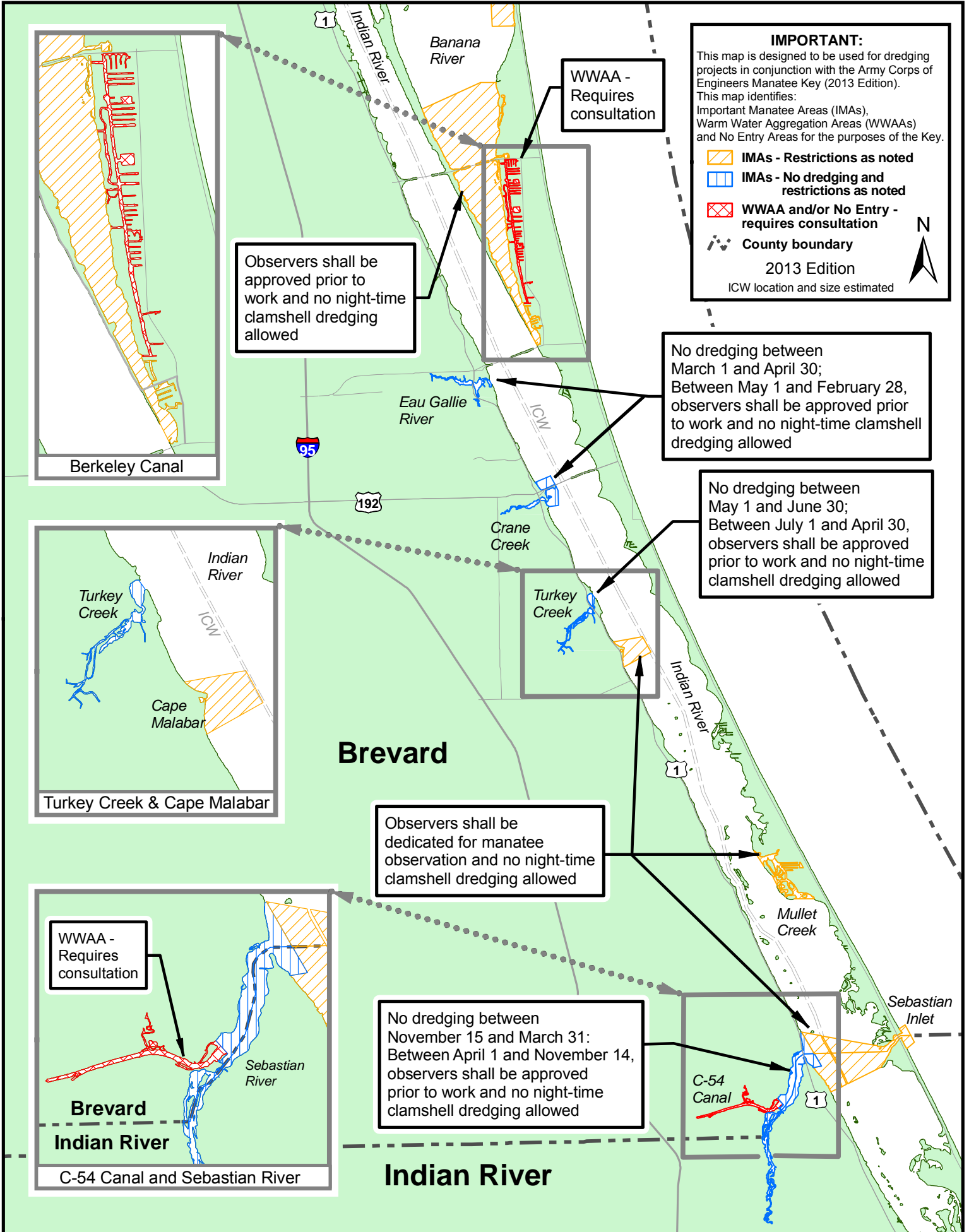
**Banana River**

**Banana River Marine Service Marina**

**Orange**

**Osceola**

# Brevard County - South



## IMPORTANT:

This map is designed to be used for dredging projects in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key (2013 Edition). This map identifies: Important Manatee Areas (IMAs), Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WWAAs) and No Entry Areas for the purposes of the Key.

- IMAs - Restrictions as noted
- IMAs - No dredging and restrictions as noted
- WWAA and/or No Entry - requires consultation
- County boundary

2013 Edition

ICW location and size estimated



Observers shall be approved prior to work and no night-time clamshell dredging allowed

WWAA - Requires consultation

No dredging between March 1 and April 30; Between May 1 and February 28, observers shall be approved prior to work and no night-time clamshell dredging allowed

No dredging between May 1 and June 30; Between July 1 and April 30, observers shall be approved prior to work and no night-time clamshell dredging allowed

Observers shall be dedicated for manatee observation and no night-time clamshell dredging allowed

No dredging between November 15 and March 31; Between April 1 and November 14, observers shall be approved prior to work and no night-time clamshell dredging allowed

WWAA - Requires consultation

Brevard  
Indian River  
C-54 Canal and Sebastian River

Berkeley Canal

Turkey Creek & Cape Malabar

C-54 Canal

Brevard

Indian River

Banana River

Eau Gallie River

Crane Creek

Turkey Creek

Mullet Creek

Sebastian Inlet

1

95

192

1

1

Indian River

Turkey Creek

Cape Malabar

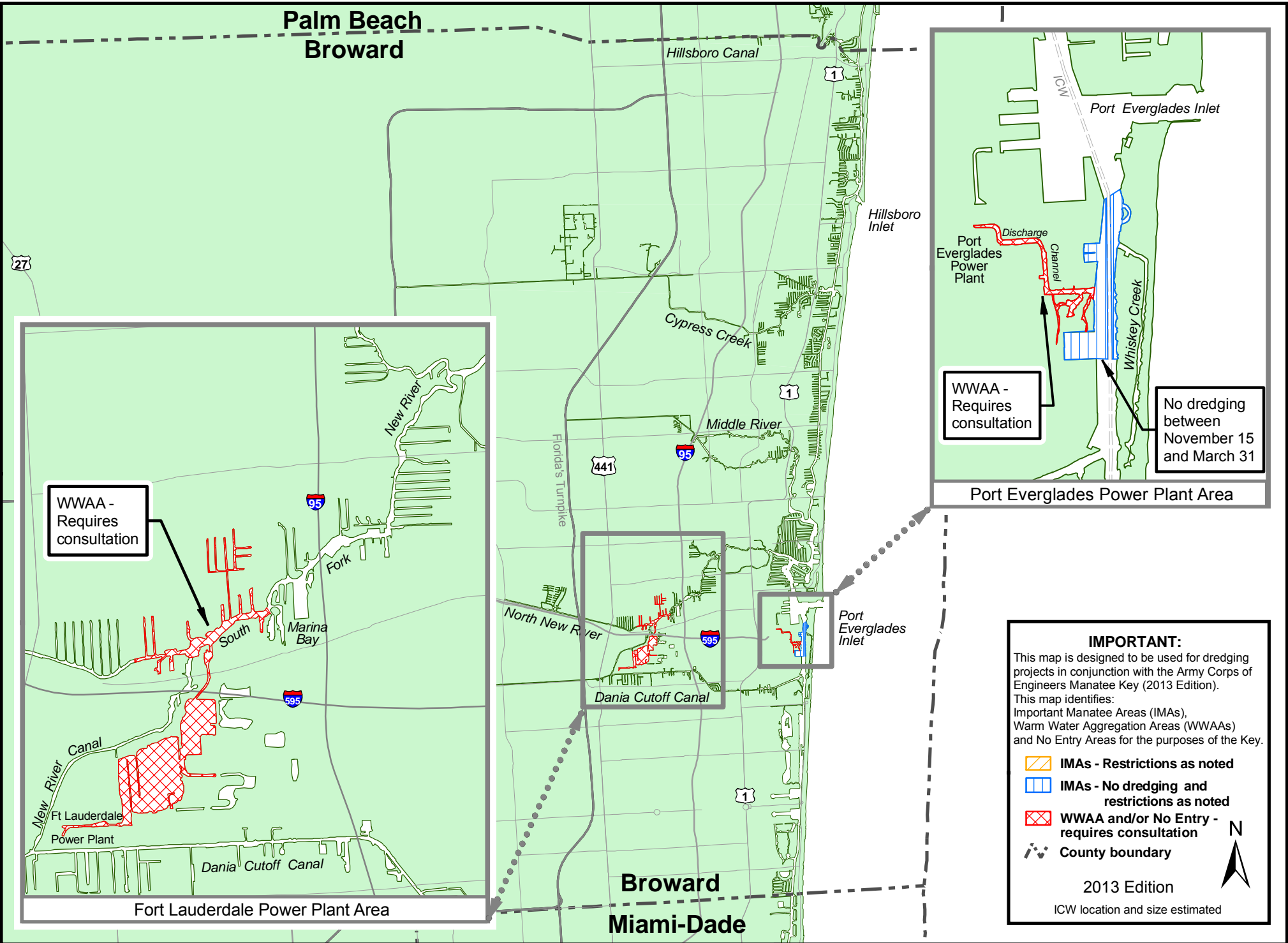
Sebastian River

Brevard





Indian River


C-54 Canal and Sebastian River

# Broward County



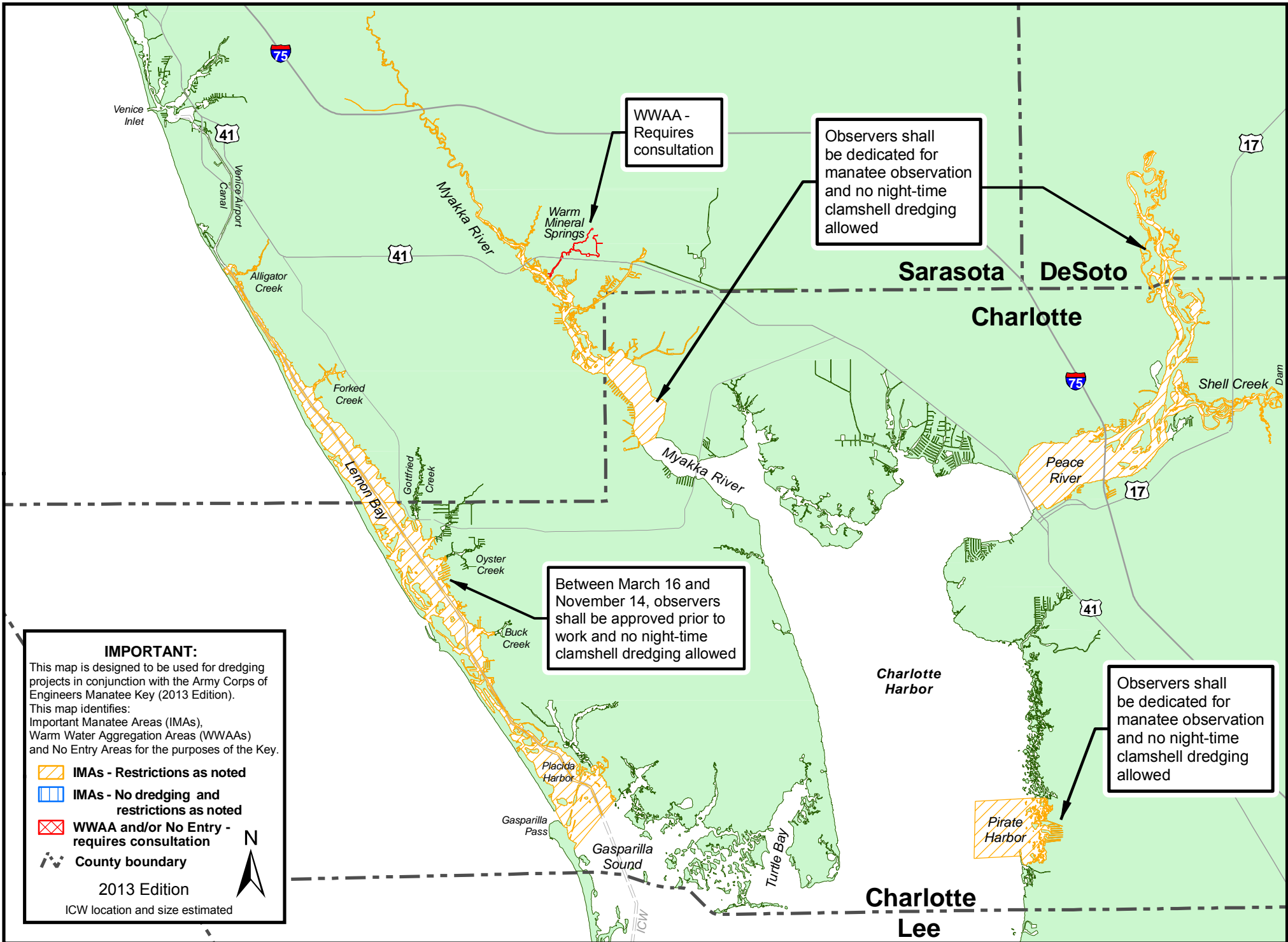
**IMPORTANT:**  
 This map is designed to be used for dredging projects in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key (2013 Edition).  
 This map identifies:  
 Important Manatee Areas (IMAs),  
 Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WWAAs)  
 and No Entry Areas for the purposes of the Key.

-  IMAs - Restrictions as noted
-  IMAs - No dredging and restrictions as noted
-  WWAA and/or No Entry - requires consultation
-  County boundary

N  


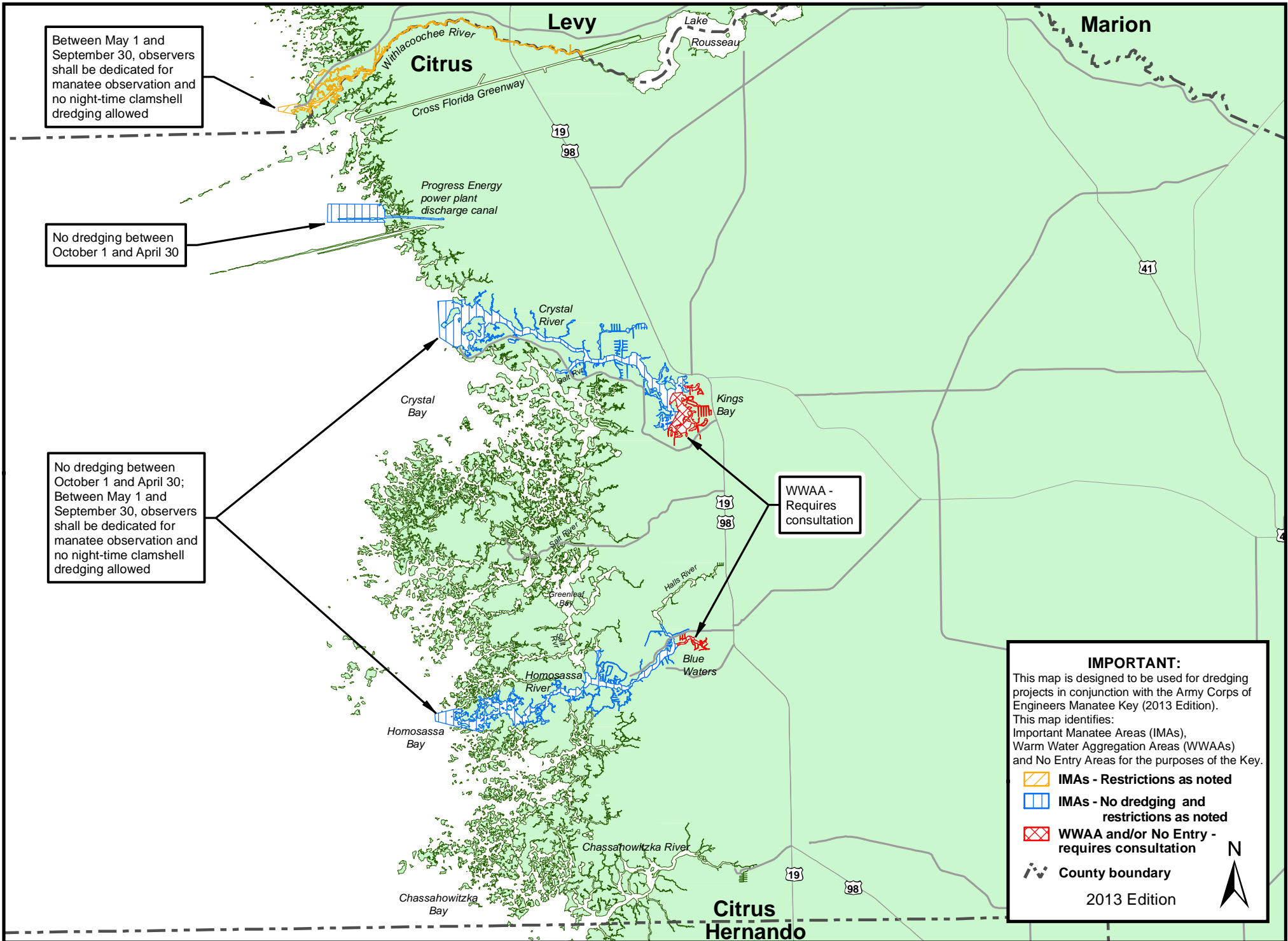
2013 Edition  
 ICW location and size estimated

# Charlotte, DeSoto, and Southern Sarasota Counties

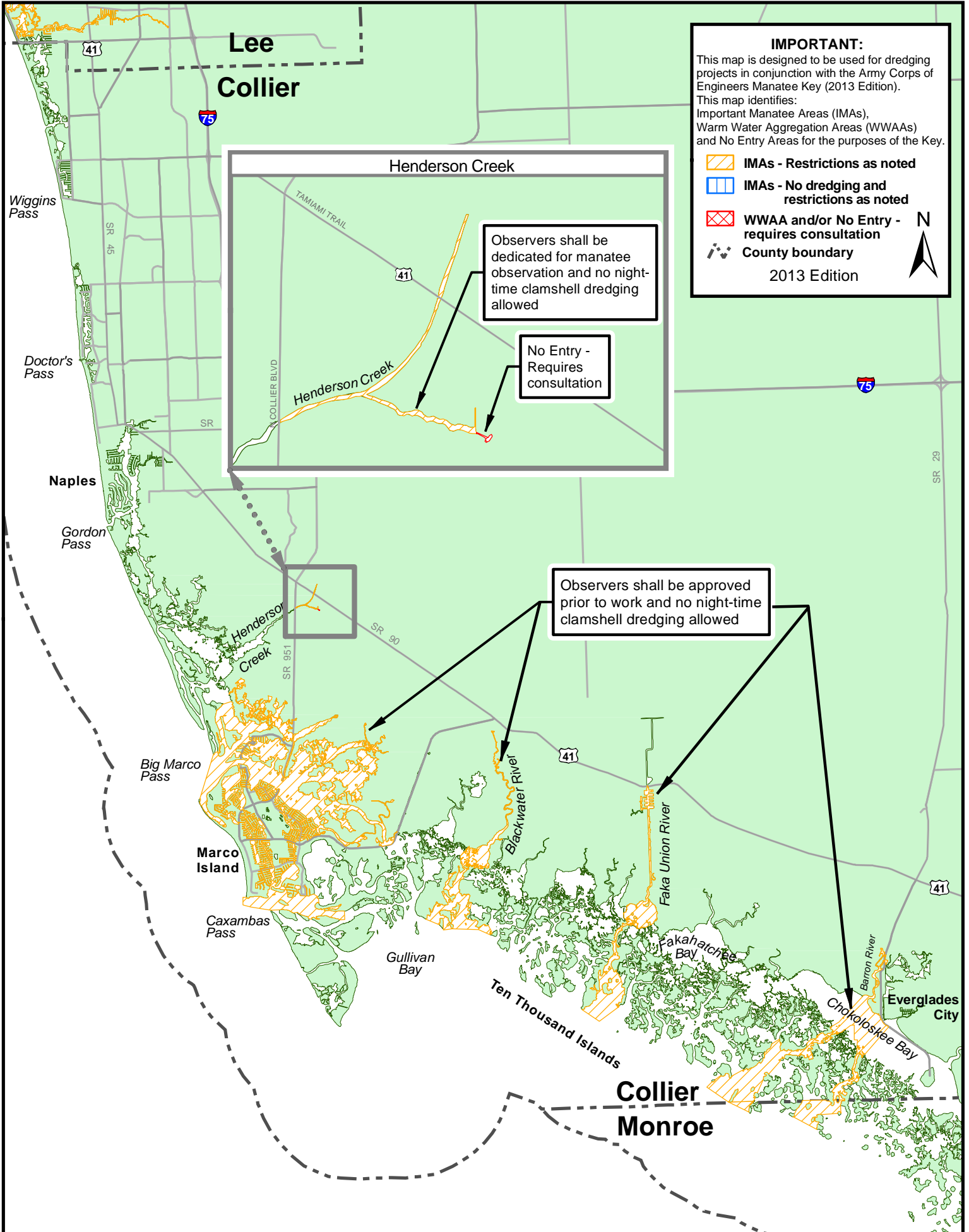




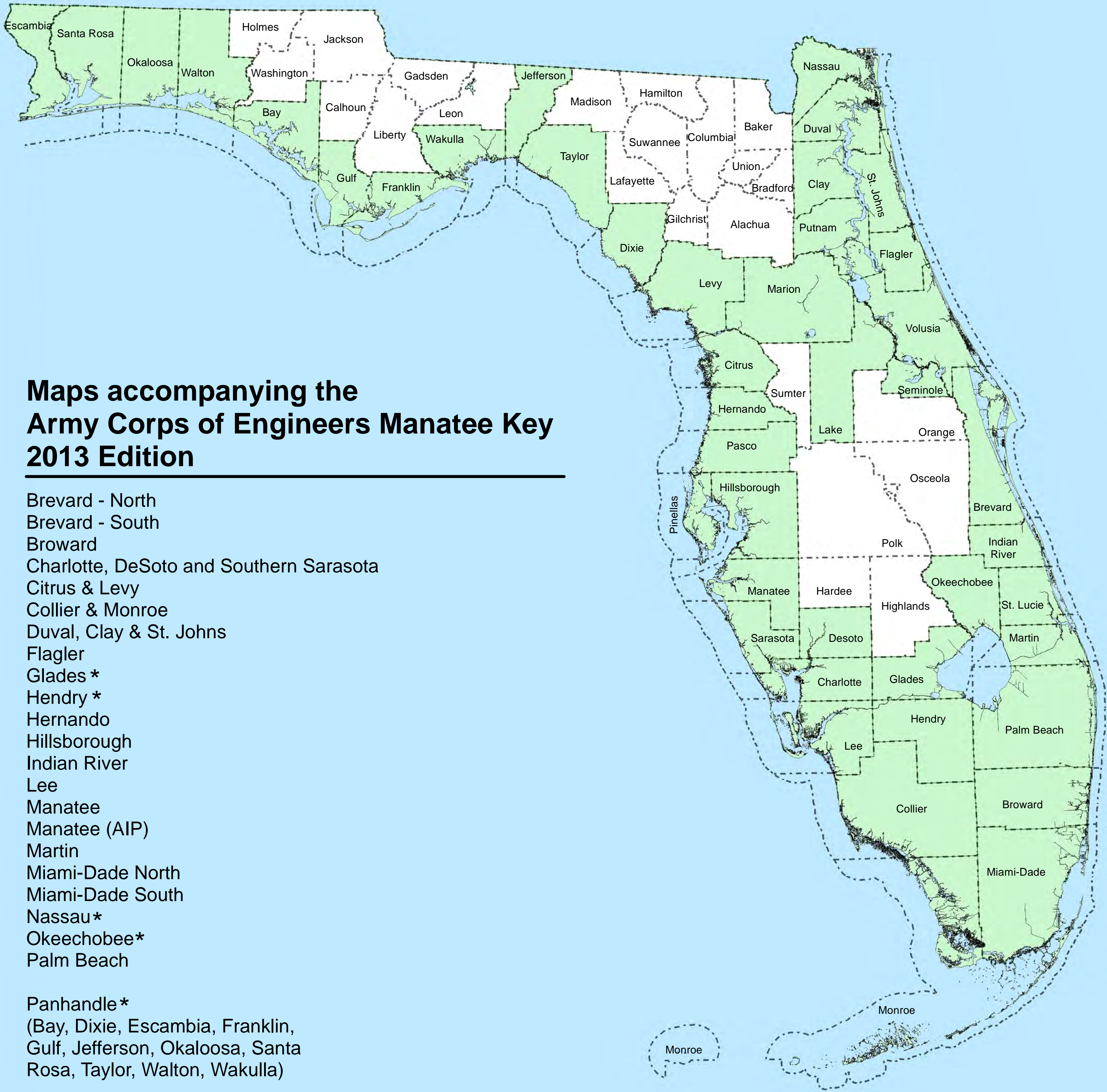
# Citrus and Levy Counties



# Collier and Monroe Counties







## Maps accompanying the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key 2013 Edition

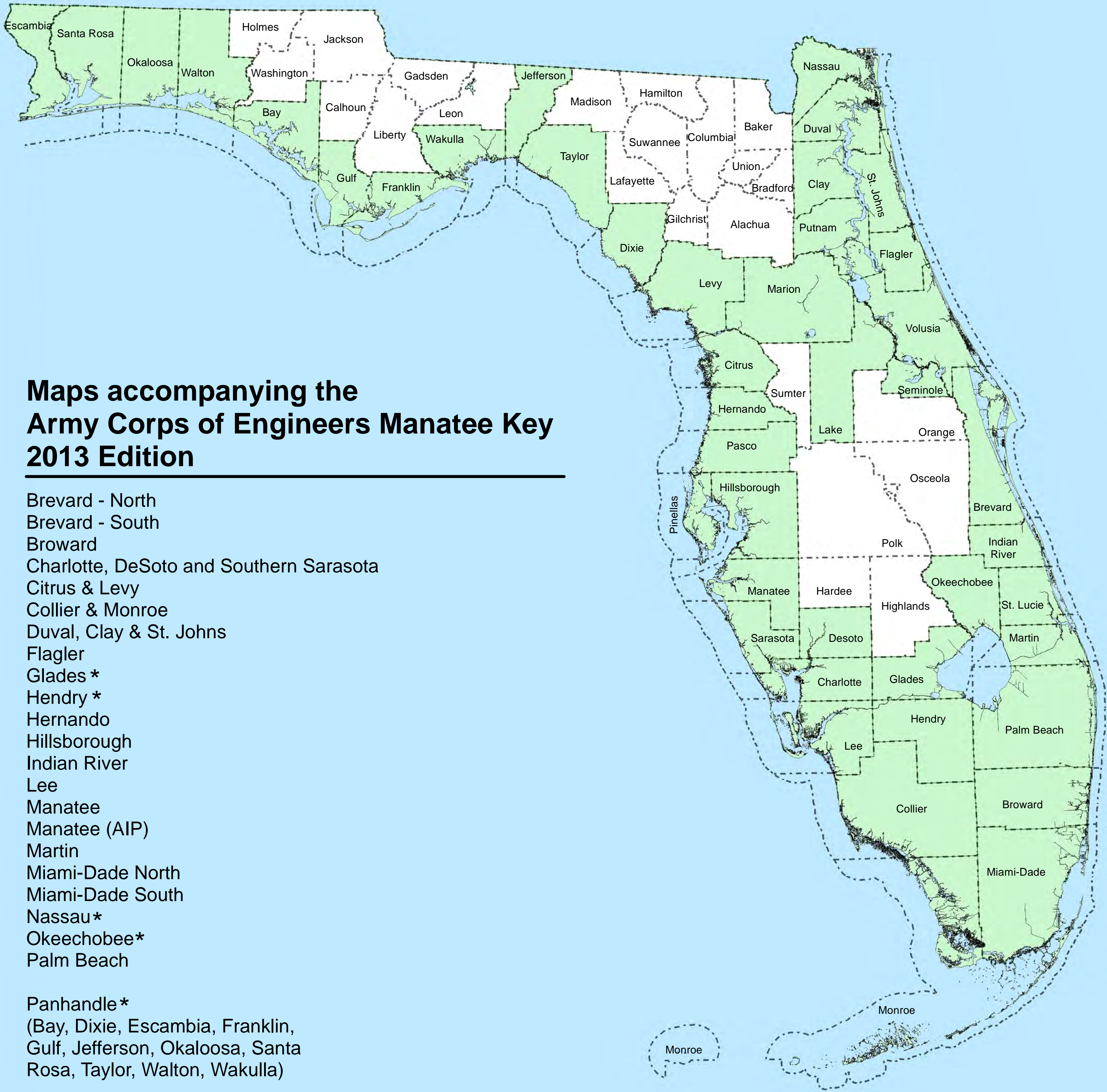
Brevard - North  
 Brevard - South  
 Broward  
 Charlotte, DeSoto and Southern Sarasota  
 Citrus & Levy  
 Collier & Monroe  
 Duval, Clay & St. Johns  
 Flagler  
 Glades \*  
 Hendry \*  
 Hernando  
 Hillsborough  
 Indian River  
 Lee  
 Manatee  
 Manatee (AIP)  
 Martin  
 Miami-Dade North  
 Miami-Dade South  
 Nassau \*  
 Okeechobee\*  
 Palm Beach

Panhandle \*  
 (Bay, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin,  
 Gulf, Jefferson, Okaloosa, Santa  
 Rosa, Taylor, Walton, Wakulla)

Pinellas & Pasco  
 Putnam  
 Sarasota  
 Seminole \*  
 St. Lucie  
 Volusia Coastal  
 Volusia, Lake and Marion

\* The counties marked currently have no  
 Important Manatee Areas (IMAs),  
 Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WWAAs)  
 or Areas of Inadequate Protection (AIPs).





## Maps accompanying the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key 2013 Edition

Brevard - North  
 Brevard - South  
 Broward  
 Charlotte, DeSoto and Southern Sarasota  
 Citrus & Levy  
 Collier & Monroe  
 Duval, Clay & St. Johns  
 Flagler  
 Glades \*  
 Hendry \*  
 Hernando  
 Hillsborough  
 Indian River  
 Lee  
 Manatee  
 Manatee (AIP)  
 Martin  
 Miami-Dade North  
 Miami-Dade South  
 Nassau \*  
 Okeechobee\*  
 Palm Beach

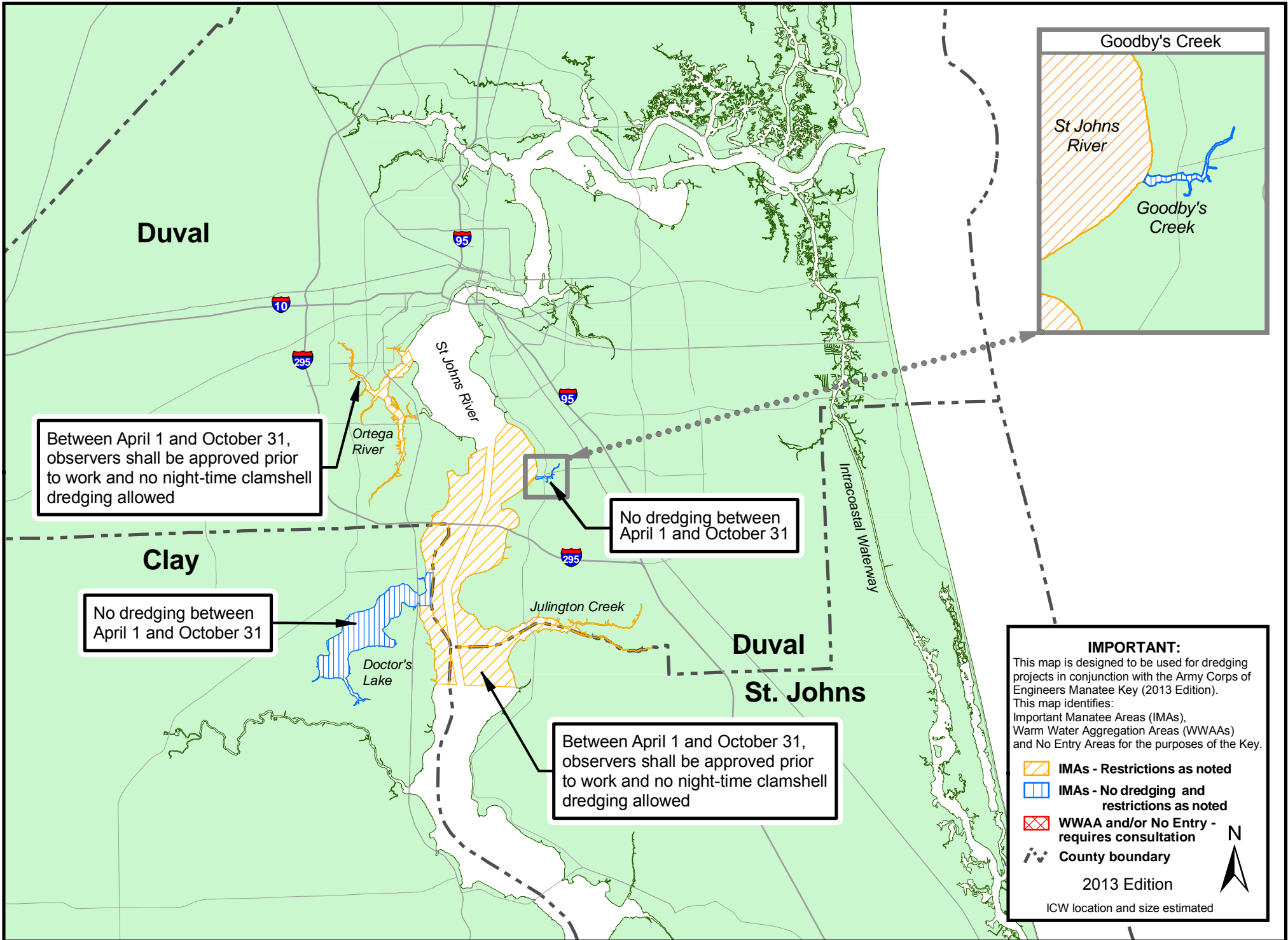
Panhandle \*  
 (Bay, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin,  
 Gulf, Jefferson, Okaloosa, Santa  
 Rosa, Taylor, Walton, Wakulla)

Pinellas & Pasco  
 Putnam  
 Sarasota  
 Seminole \*  
 St. Lucie  
 Volusia Coastal  
 Volusia, Lake and Marion

\* The counties marked currently have no  
 Important Manatee Areas (IMAs),  
 Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WWAAs)  
 or Areas of Inadequate Protection (AIPs).



# Duval, Clay and St Johns Counties







Between April 1 and October 31, observers shall be approved prior to work and no night-time clamshell dredging allowed

No dredging between April 1 and October 31

No dredging between April 1 and October 31

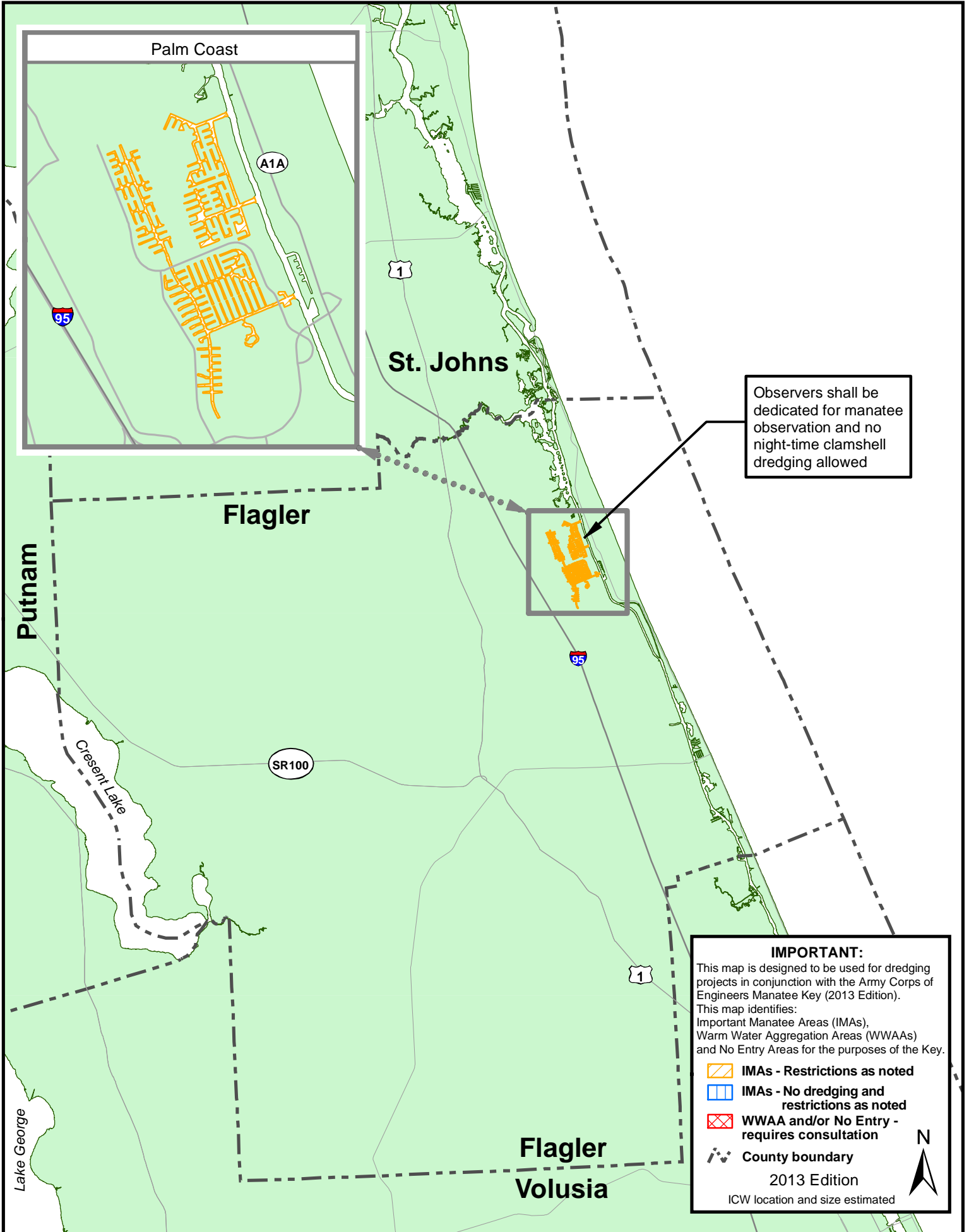
Between April 1 and October 31, observers shall be approved prior to work and no night-time clamshell dredging allowed

**IMPORTANT:**  
 This map is designed to be used for dredging projects in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key (2013 Edition). This map identifies: Important Manatee Areas (IMAs), Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WWAAs) and No Entry Areas for the purposes of the Key.

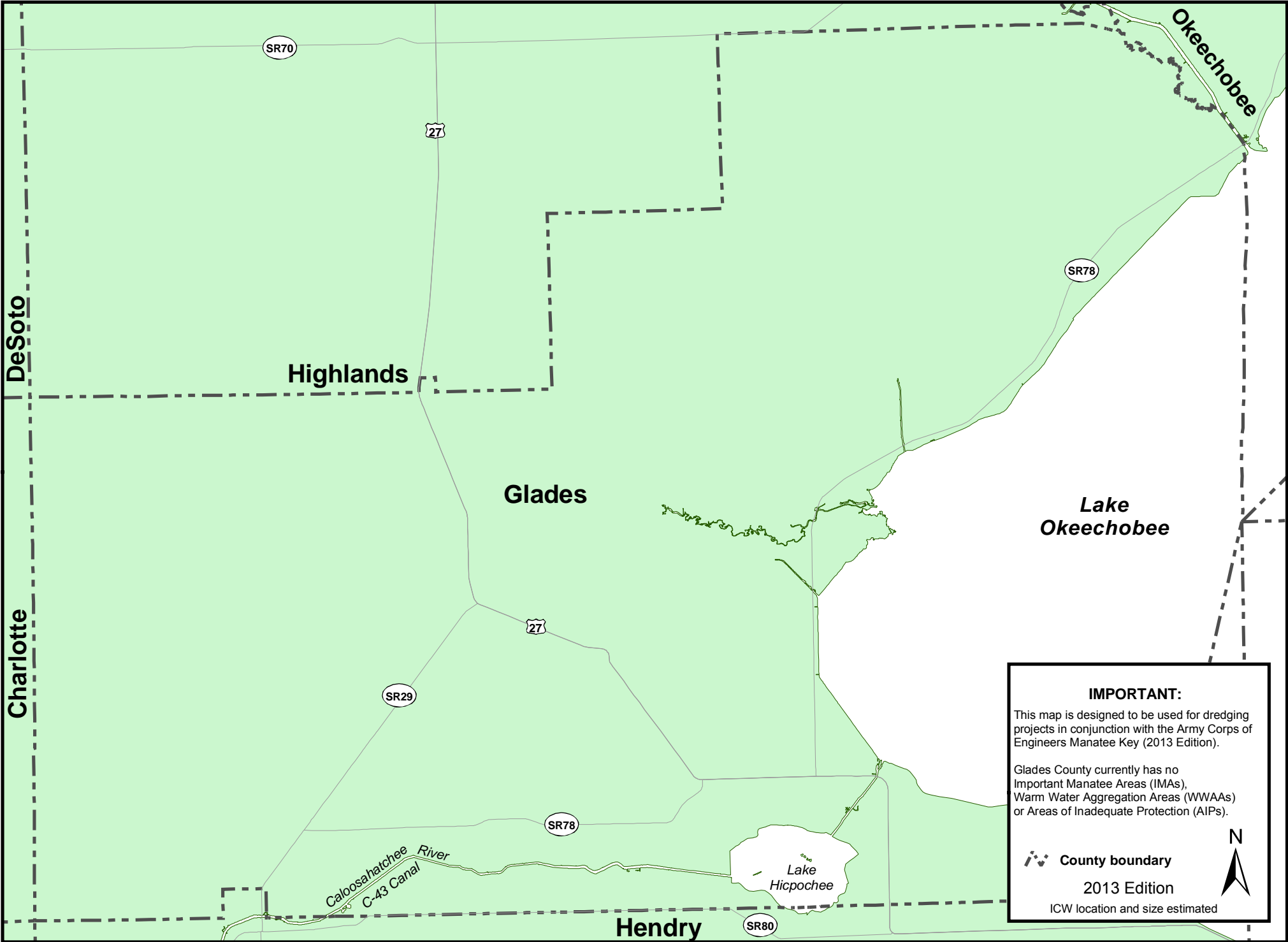
-  IMAs - Restrictions as noted
-  IMAs - No dredging and restrictions as noted
-  WWAA and/or No Entry - requires consultation
-  County boundary

2013 Edition  
 ICW location and size estimated


# Flagler County



# Glades County




**IMPORTANT:**  
This map is designed to be used for dredging projects in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key (2013 Edition).  
Glades County currently has no Important Manatee Areas (IMAs), Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WWAAs) or Areas of Inadequate Protection (AIPs).

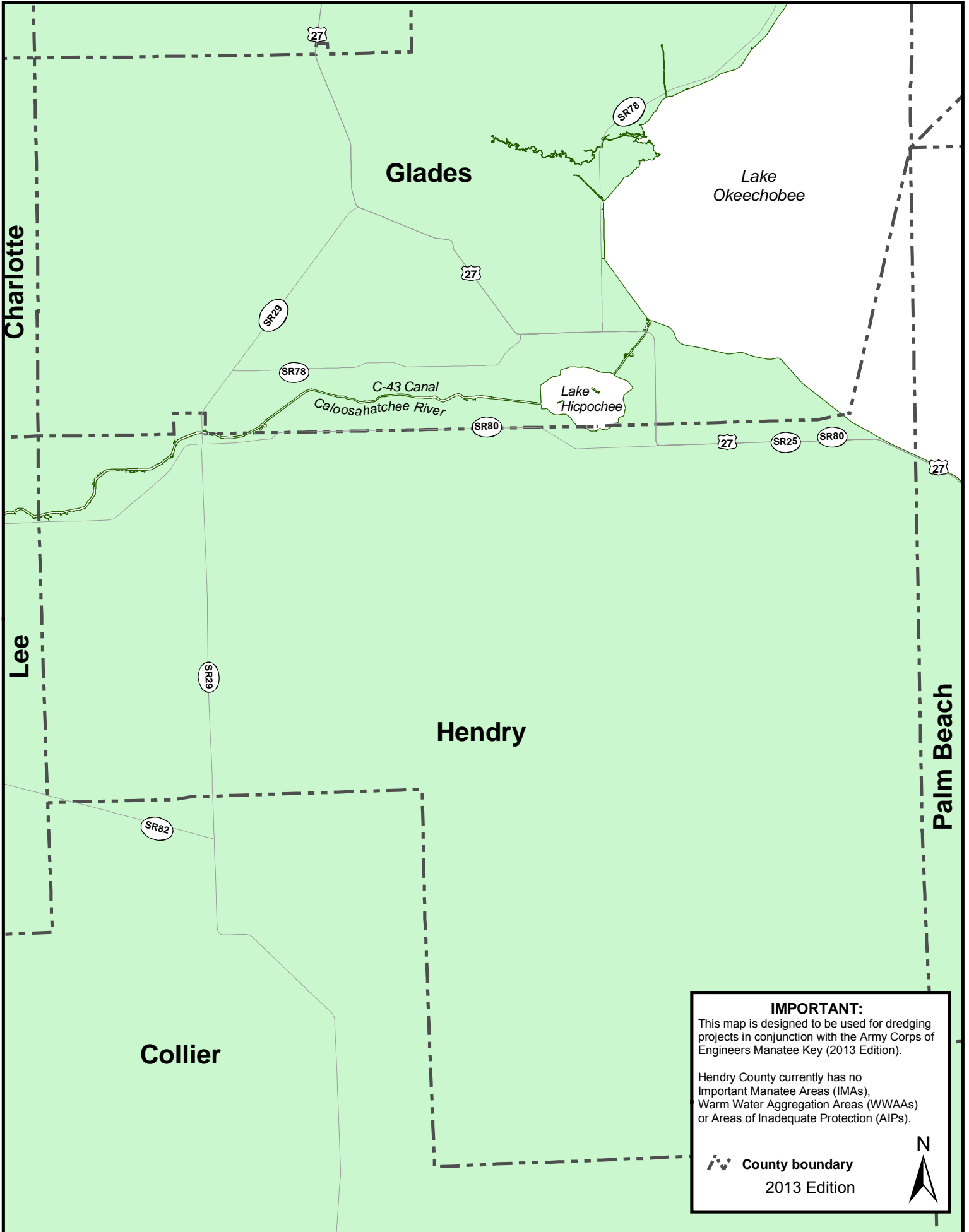
 **County boundary**

2013 Edition

ICW location and size estimated



# Hendry County



**IMPORTANT:**

This map is designed to be used for dredging projects in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key (2013 Edition).

Hendry County currently has no Important Manatee Areas (IMAs), Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WWAAs) or Areas of Inadequate Protection (AIPs).

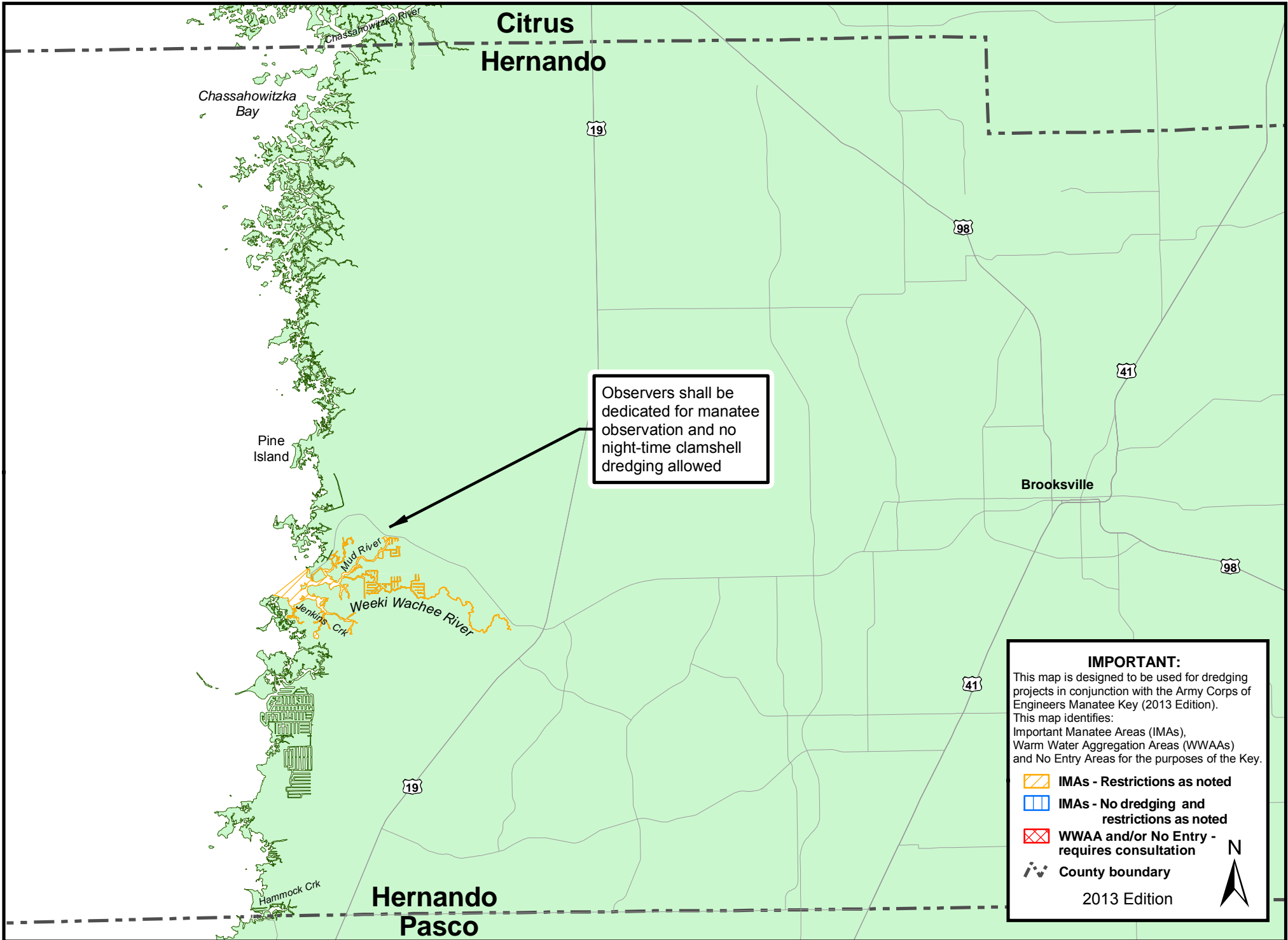


County boundary

2013 Edition

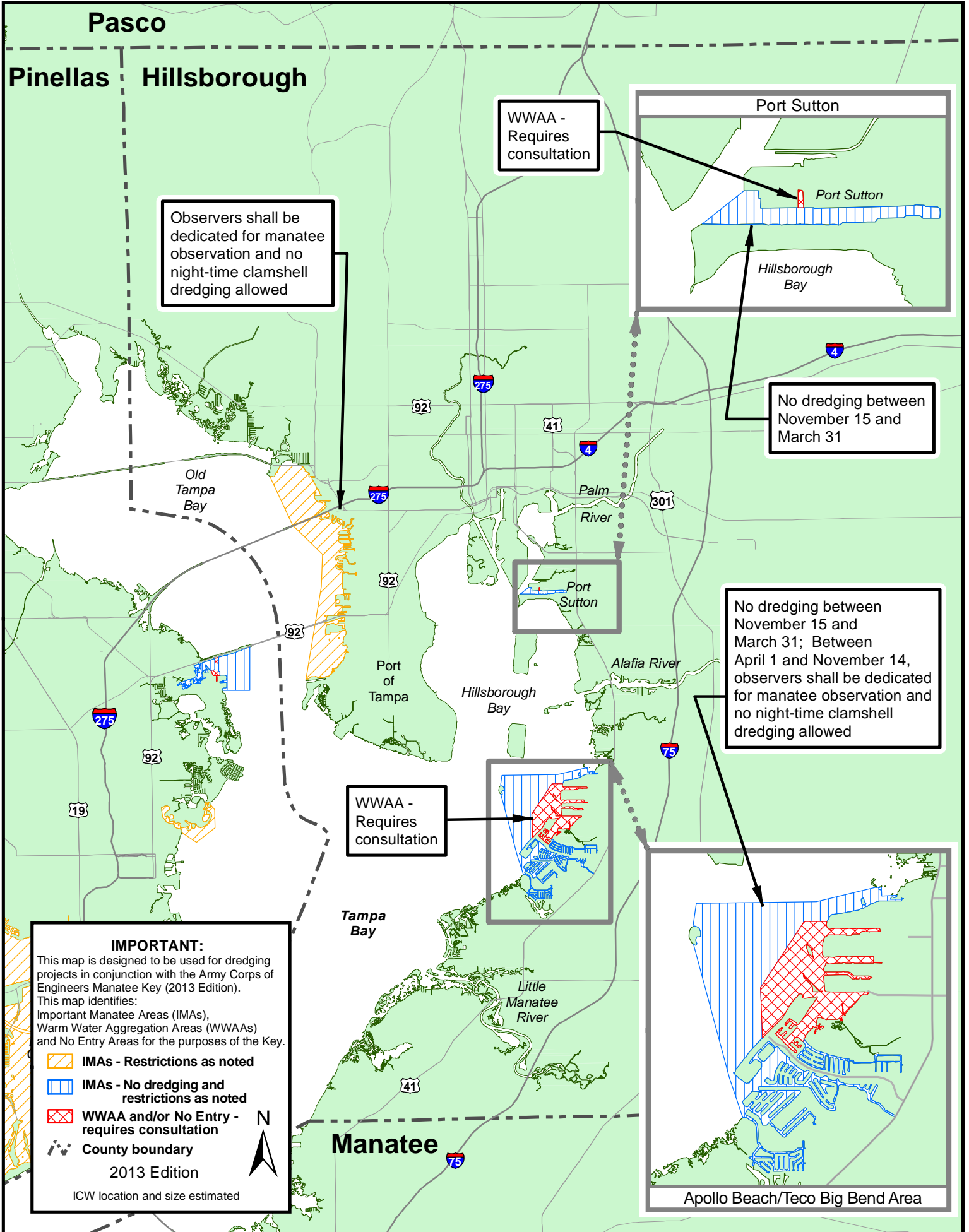


# Hernando County

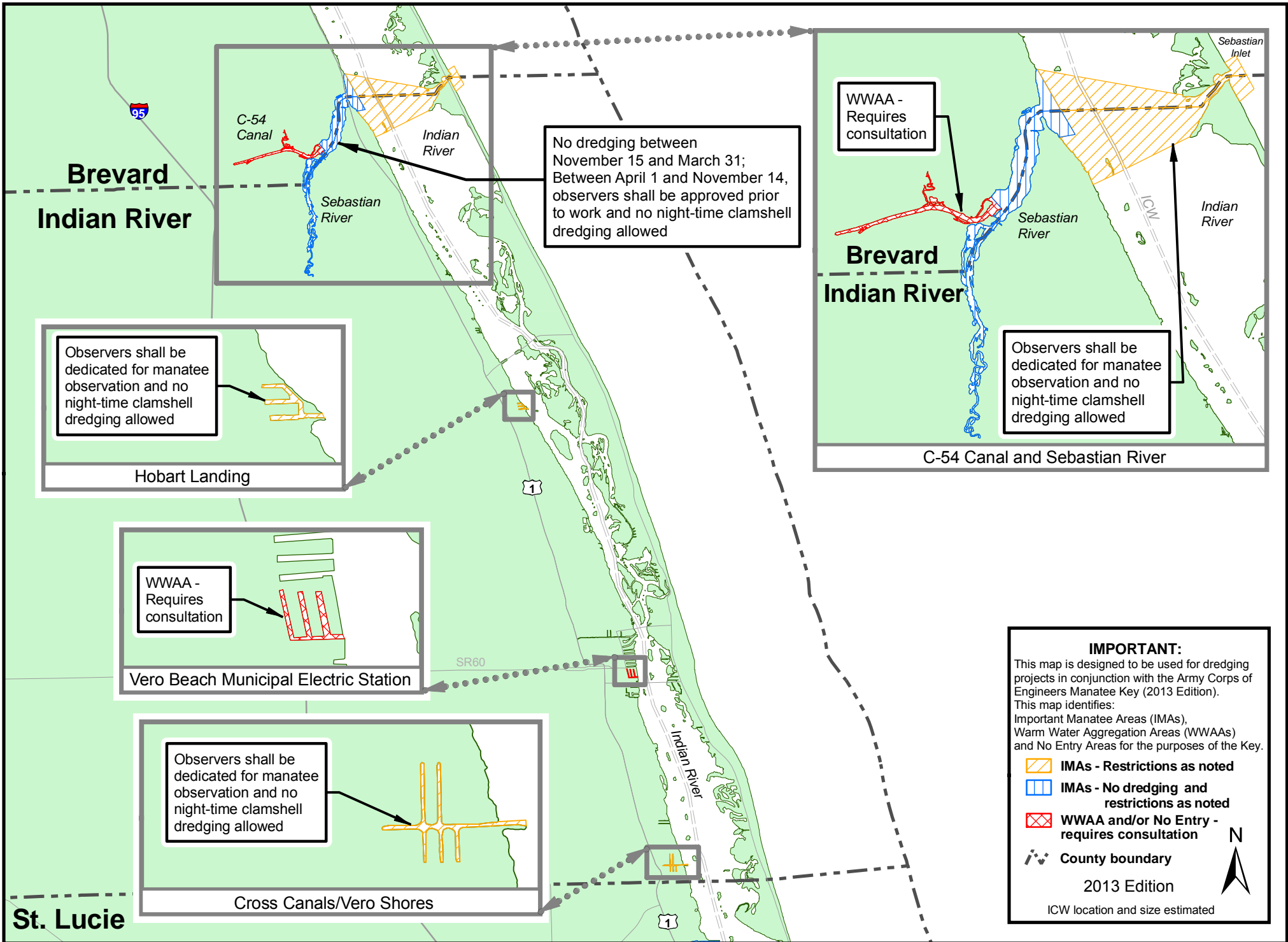




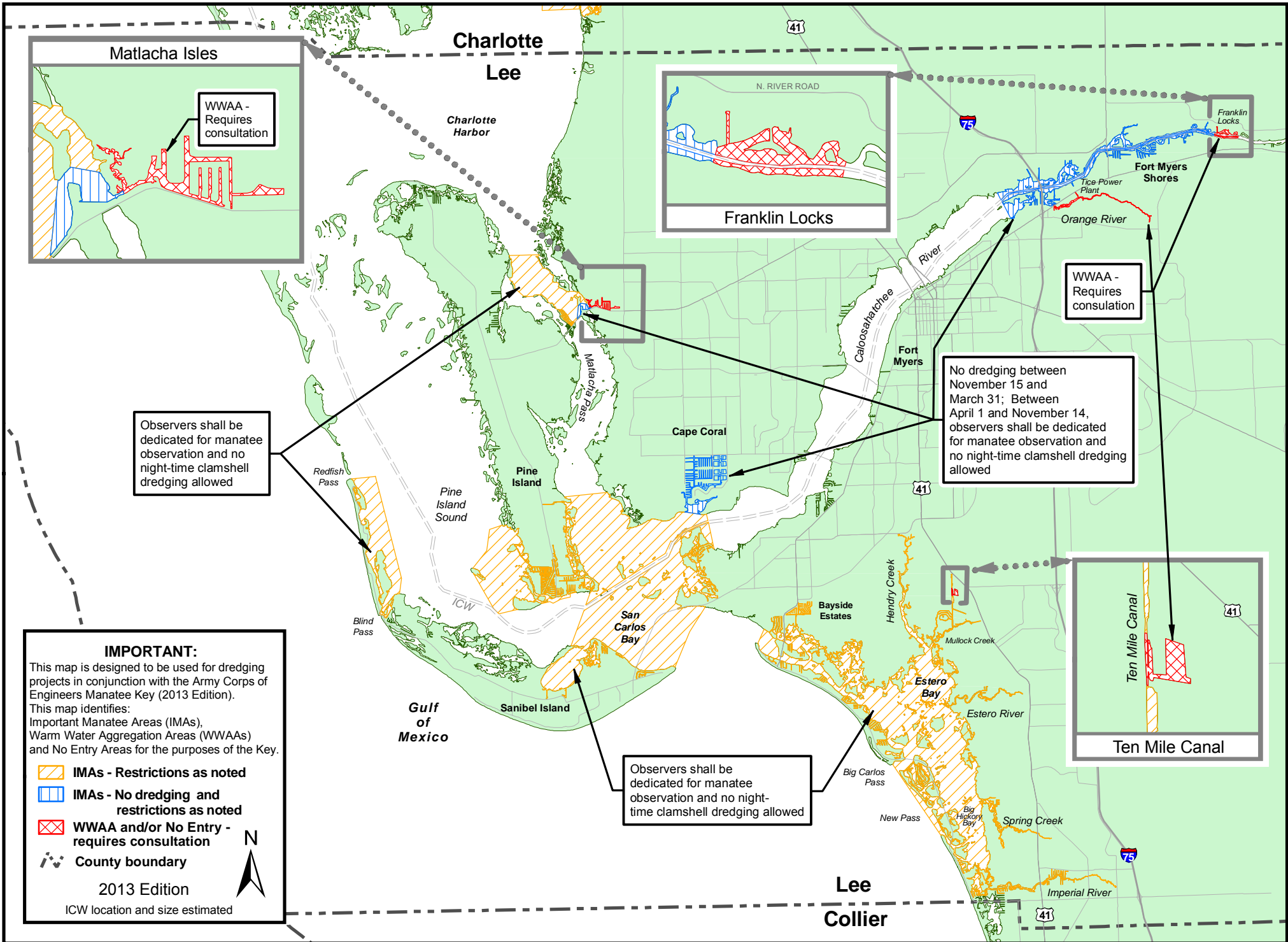
# Hillsborough County



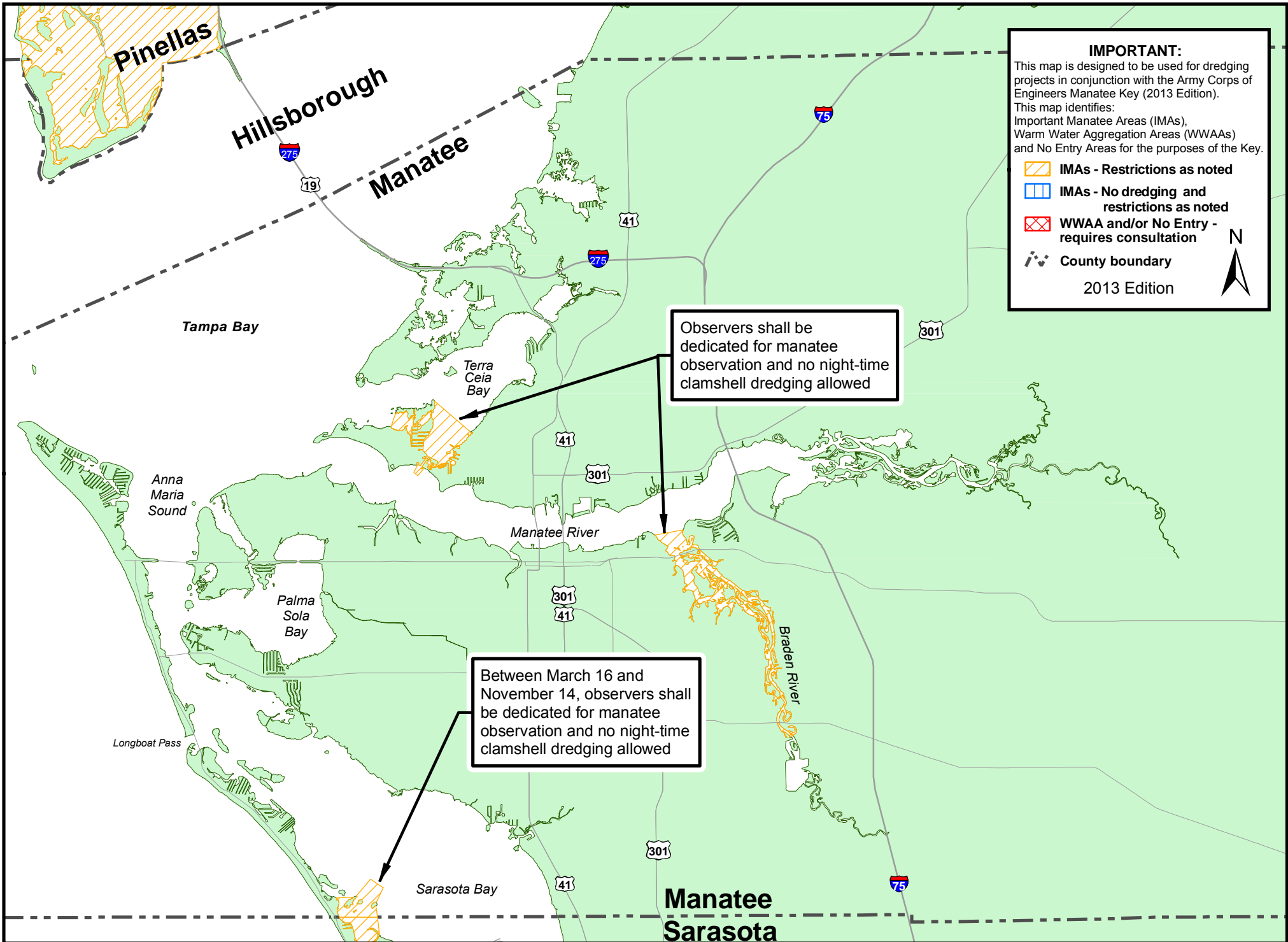
# Indian River County



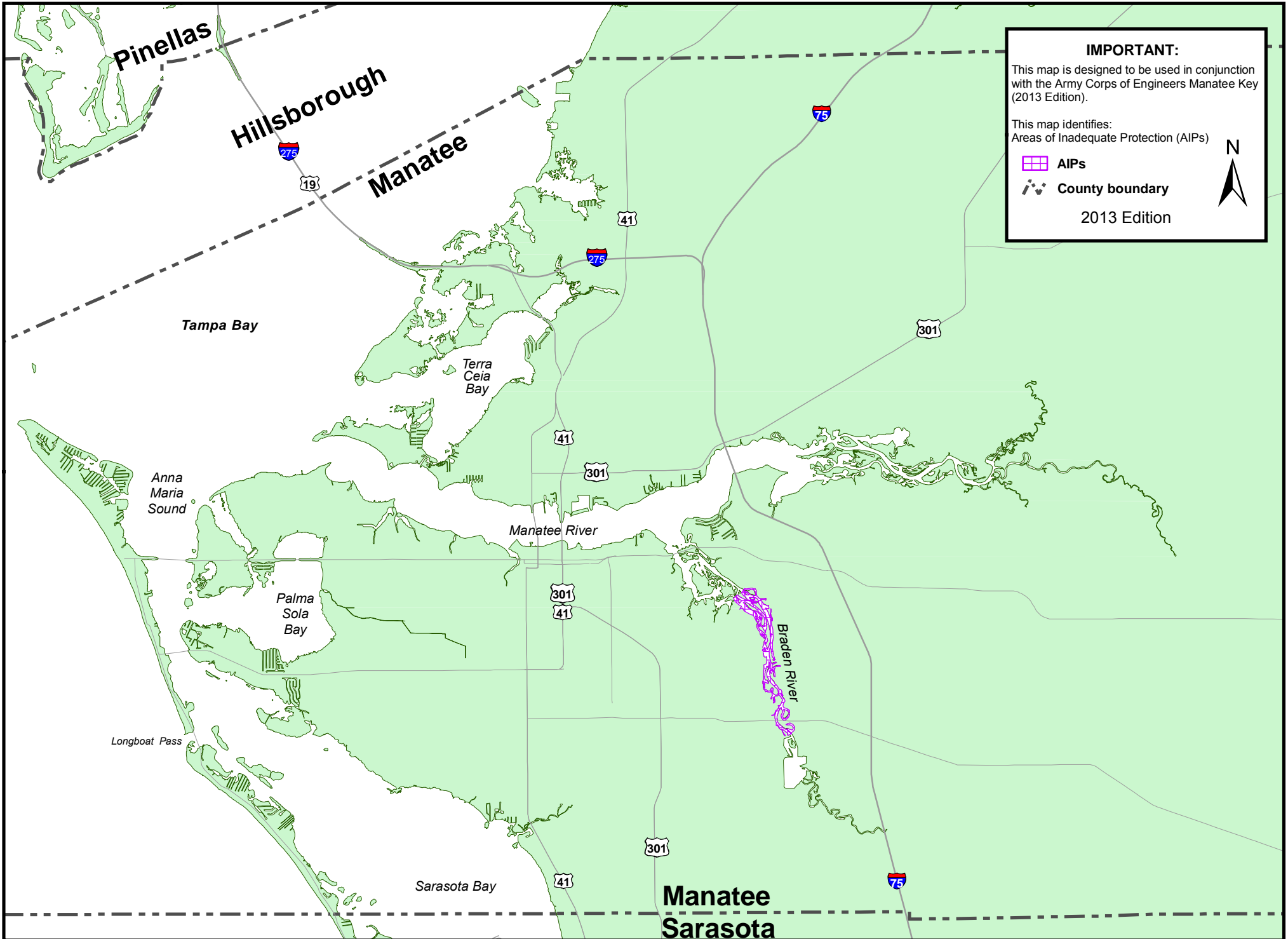
# Lee County



# Manatee County

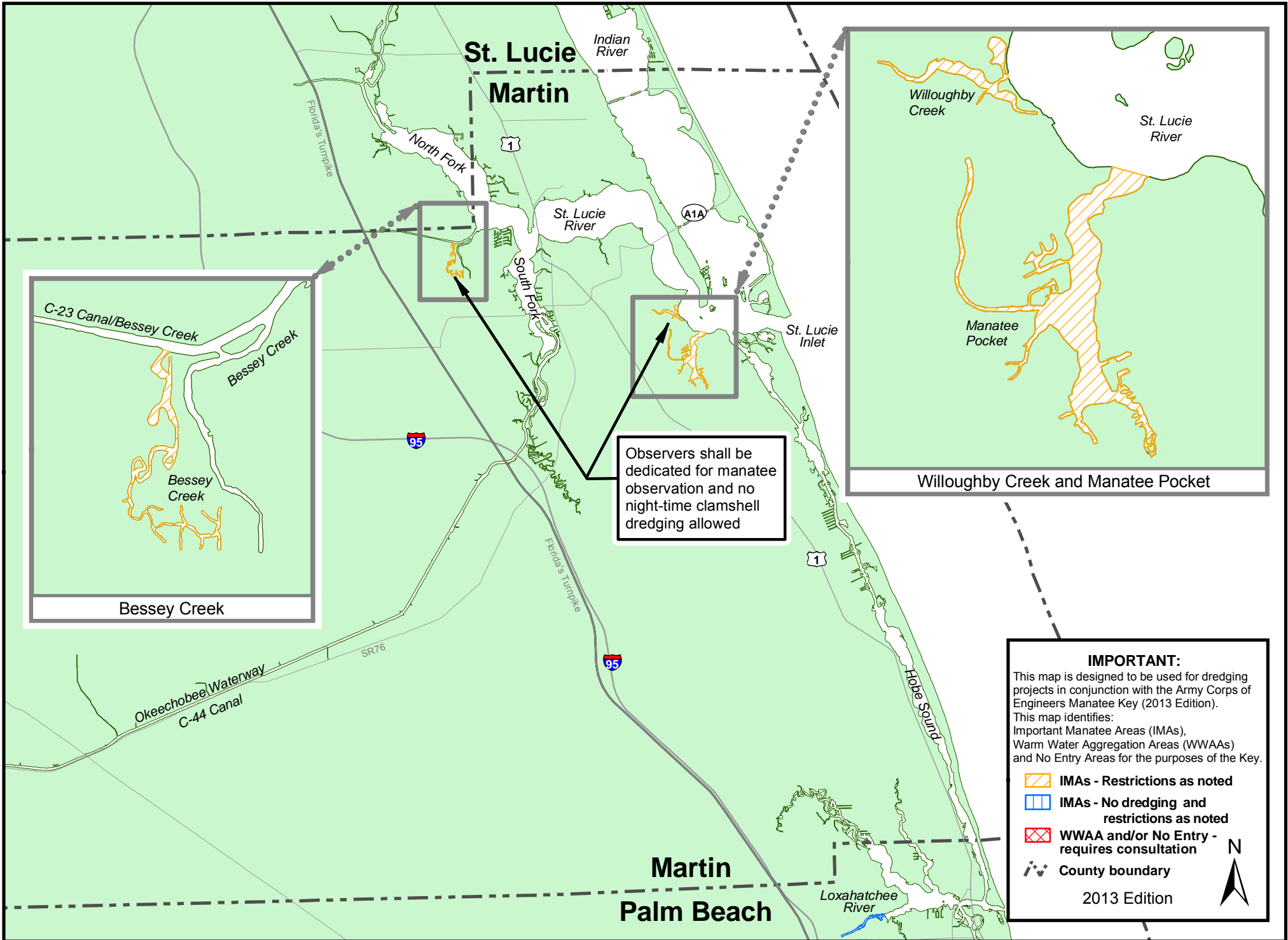


# Manatee County (AIP)



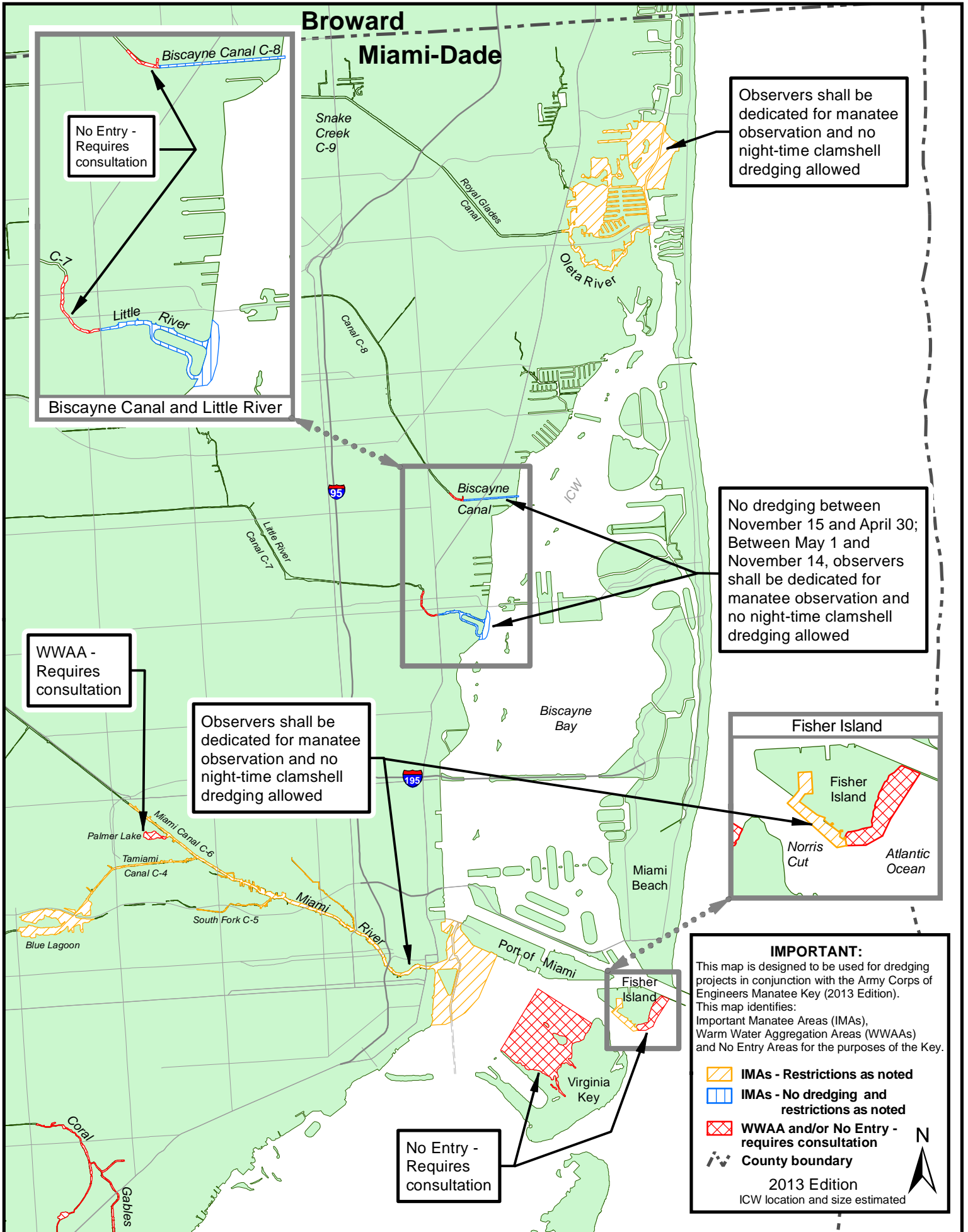


# Martin County

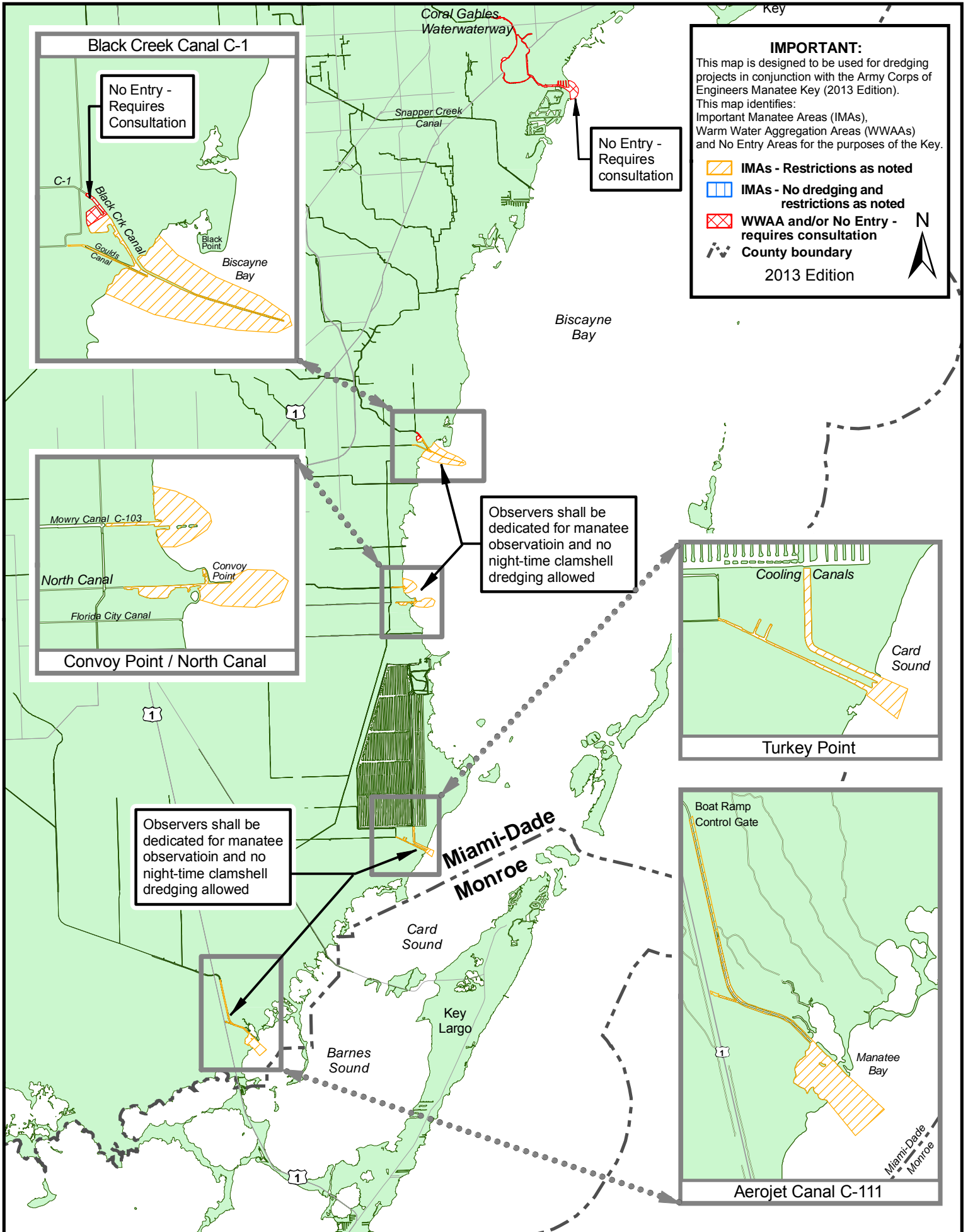




# Miami-Dade County - North



# Miami-Dade County - South



# Nassau County

## IMPORTANT:

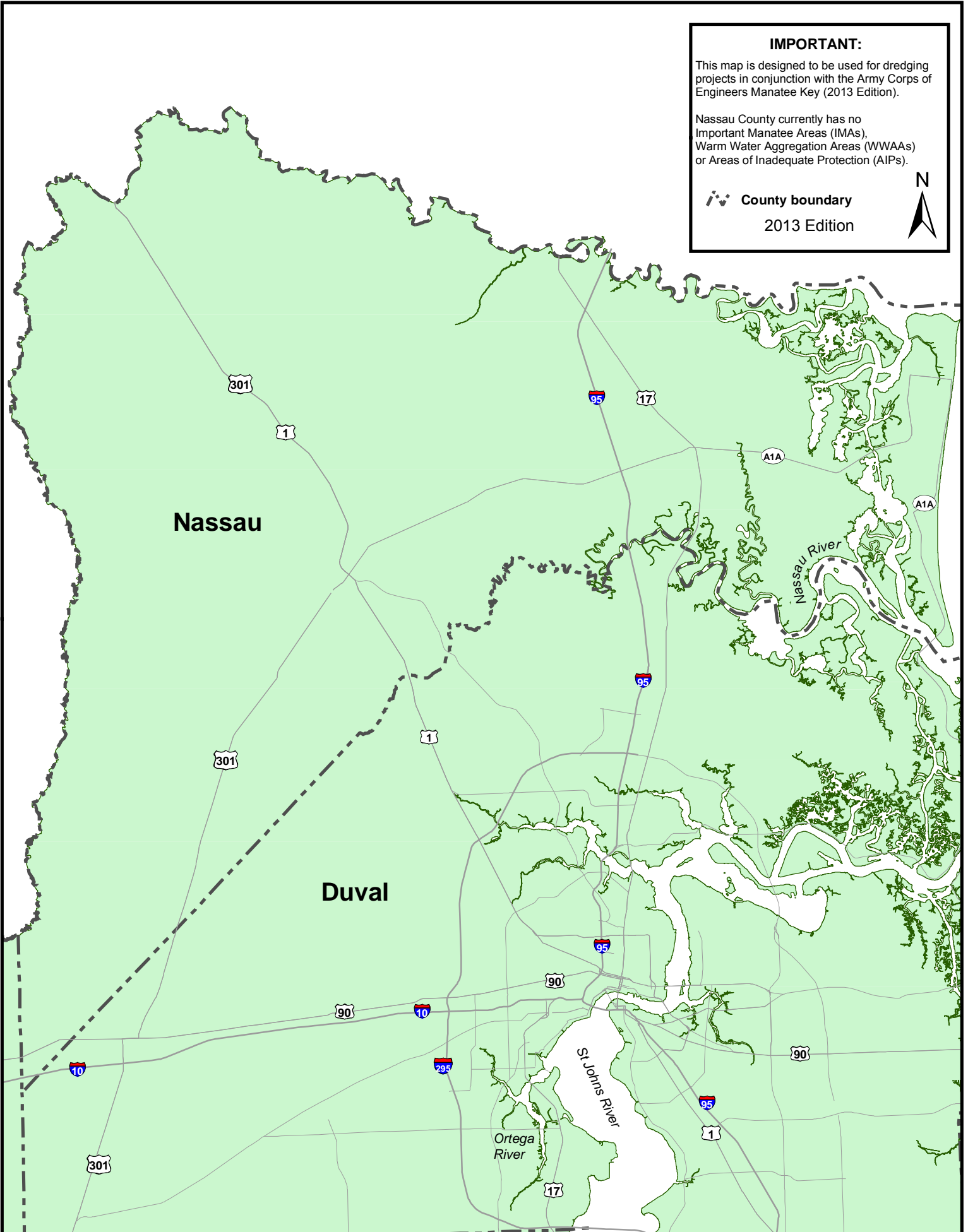
This map is designed to be used for dredging projects in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key (2013 Edition).

Nassau County currently has no Important Manatee Areas (IMAs), Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WWAAs) or Areas of Inadequate Protection (AIPs).

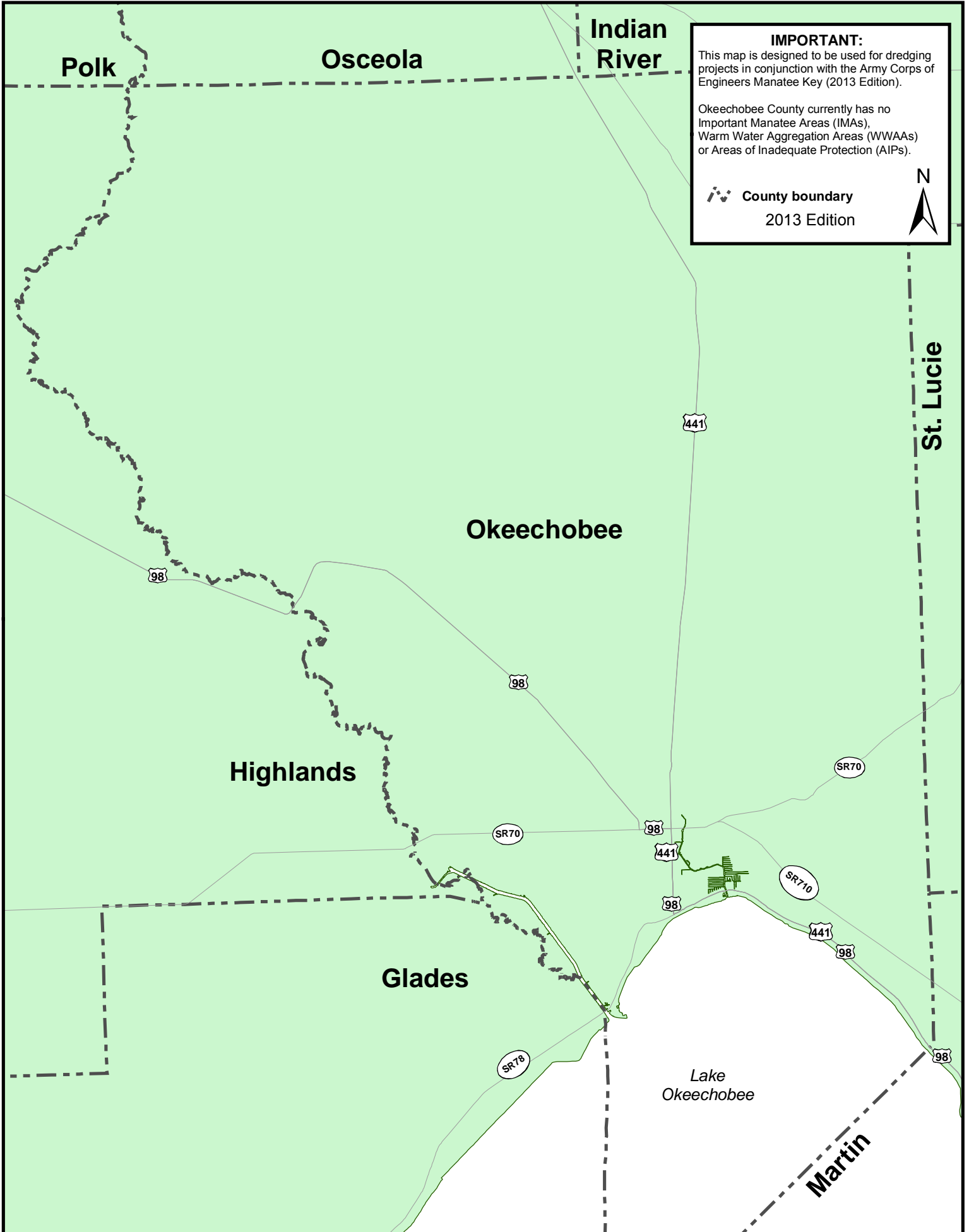


County boundary

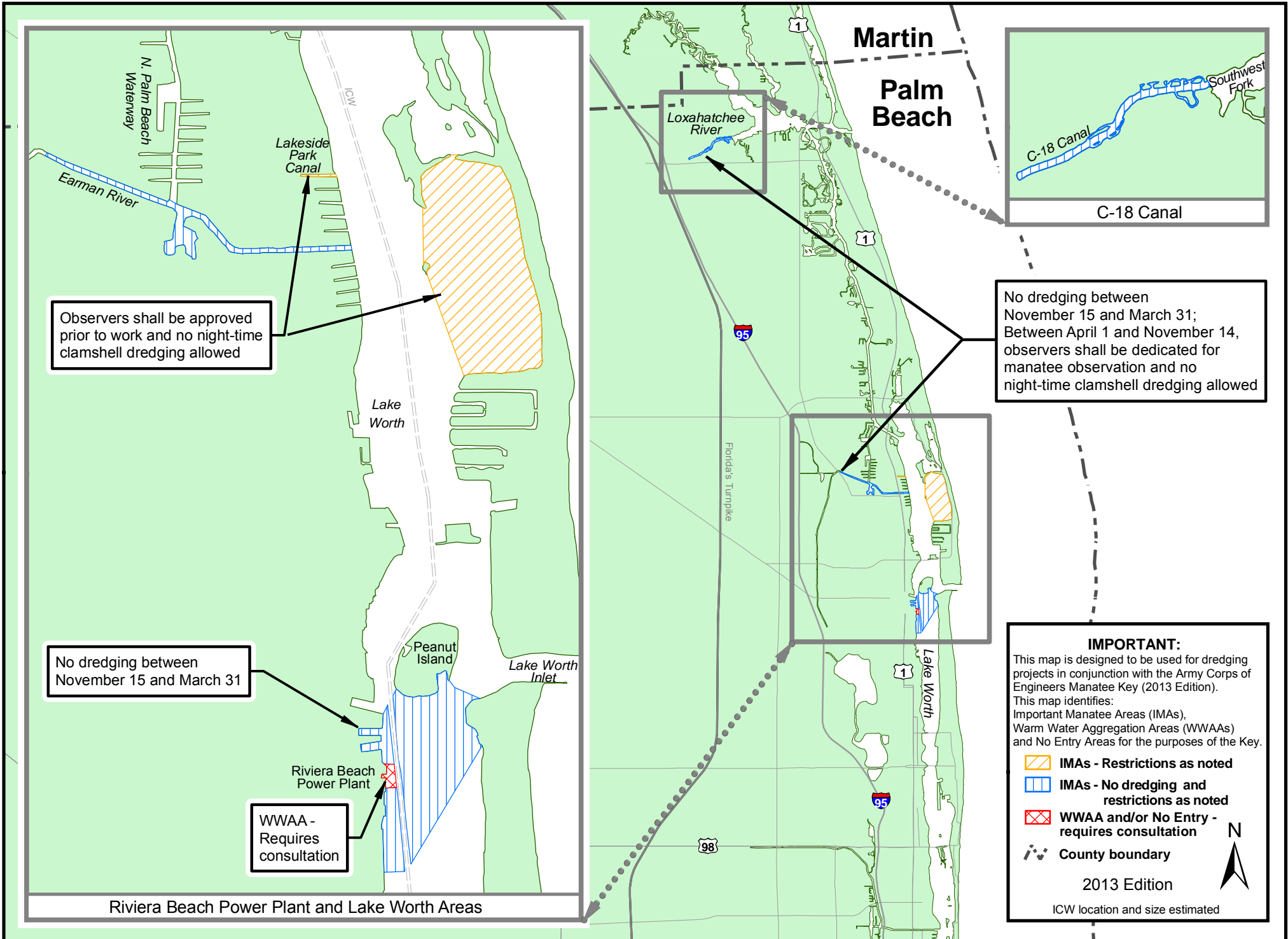
2013 Edition



# Okeechobee County



# Palm Beach County



# Florida Panhandle



**IMPORTANT:**

This map is designed to be used for dredging projects in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key (2013 Edition).

The counties listed below have no Important Manatee Areas (IMAs), Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WWAAs) or Areas of Inadequate Protection (AIPs).

- Bay
- Dixie
- Escambia
- Franklin
- Gulf
- Jefferson
- Okaloosa
- Santa Rosa
- Taylor
- Walton
- Wakulla

 County boundary

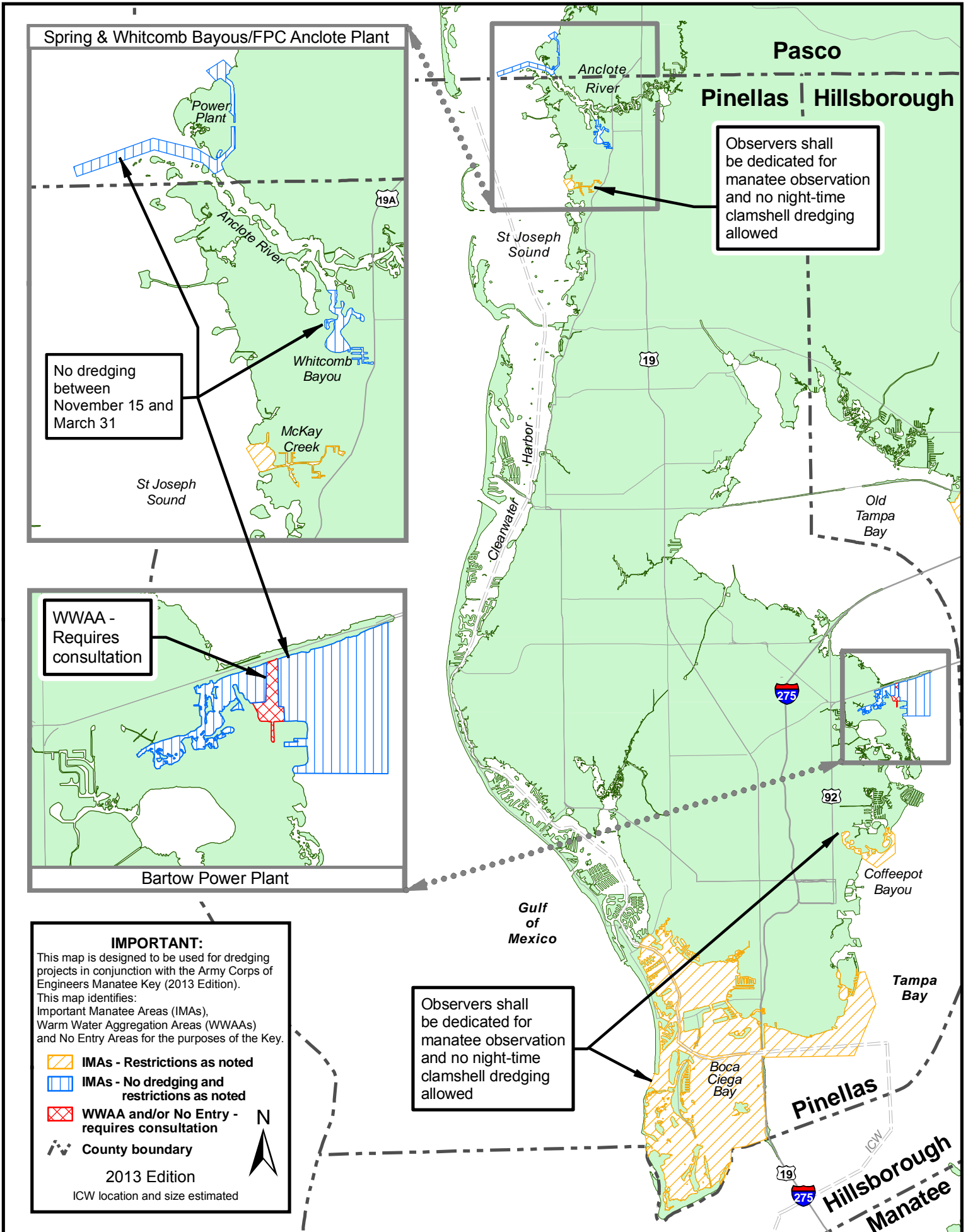


2013 Edition

ICW location and size estimated



# Pinellas and Pasco Counties



# Putnam County


## IMPORTANT:


This map is designed to be used for dredging projects in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key (2013 Edition).

This map identifies:

Important Manatee Areas (IMAs), Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WVAAs) and No Entry Areas for the purposes of the Key.

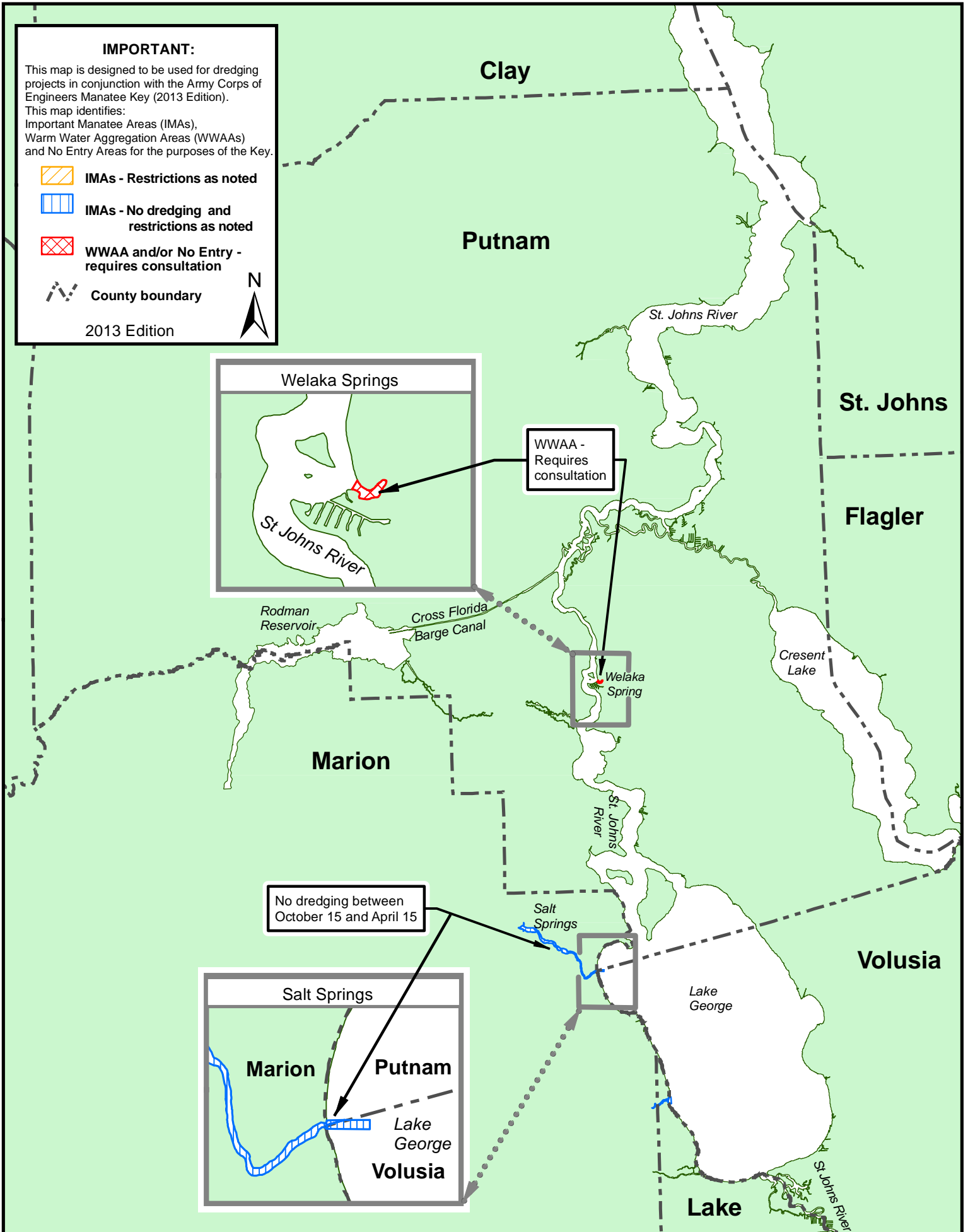
 IMAs - Restrictions as noted

 IMAs - No dredging and restrictions as noted

 WVAAs and/or No Entry - requires consultation

 County boundary





2013 Edition



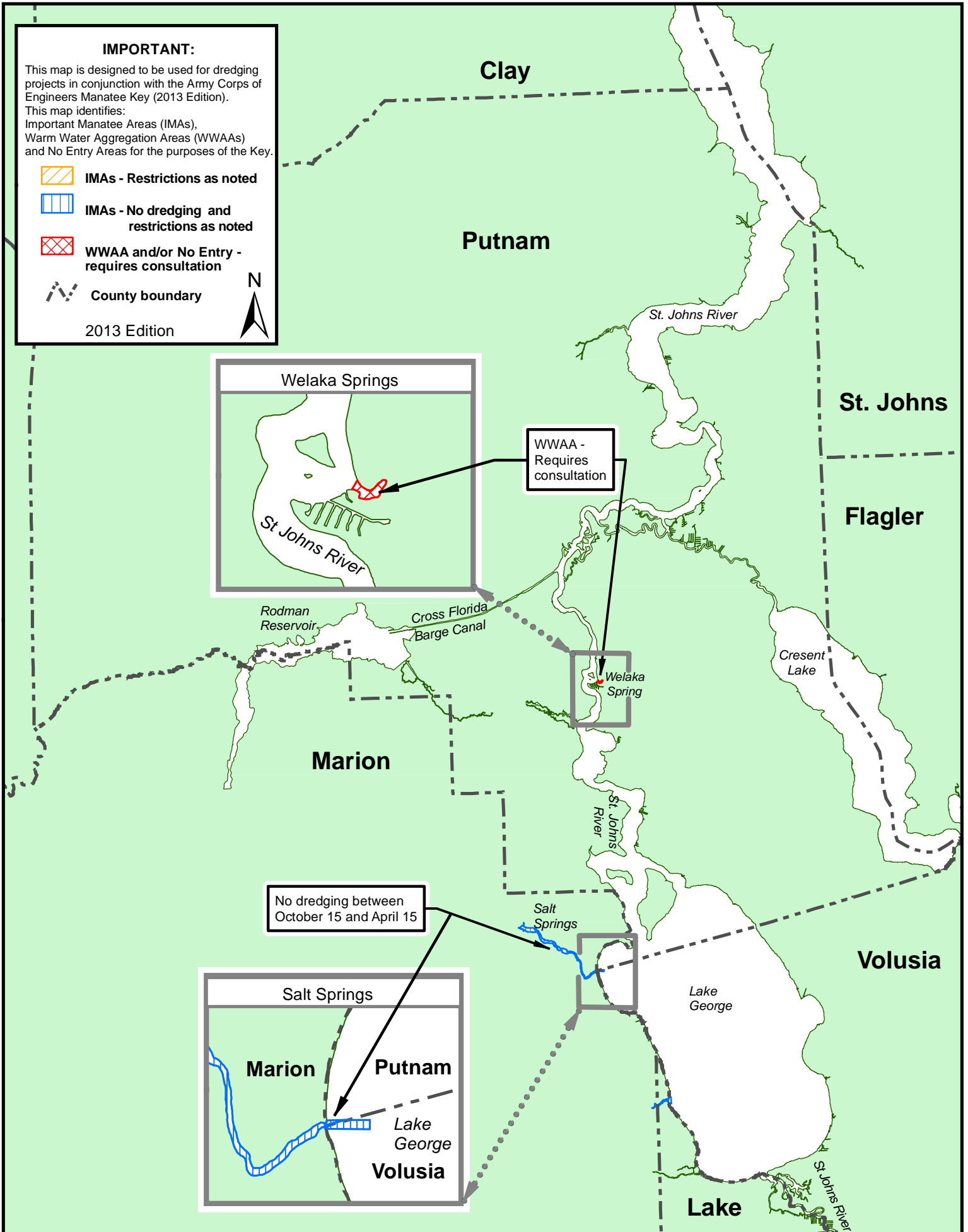
# Putnam County

**IMPORTANT:**

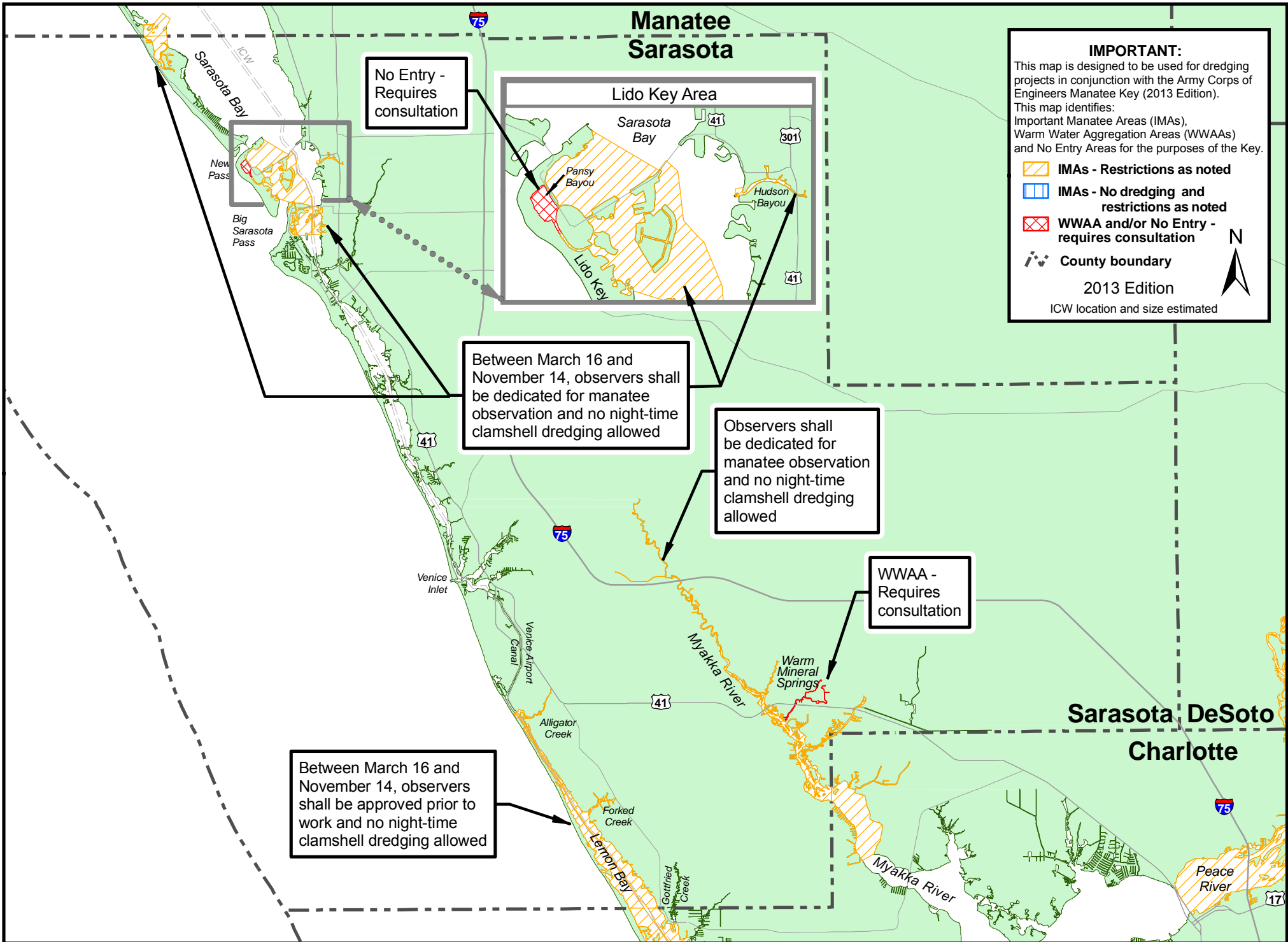
This map is designed to be used for dredging projects in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key (2013 Edition). This map identifies:

-  IMAs - Restrictions as noted
-  IMAs - No dredging and restrictions as noted
-  WWAAs and/or No Entry - requires consultation
-  County boundary

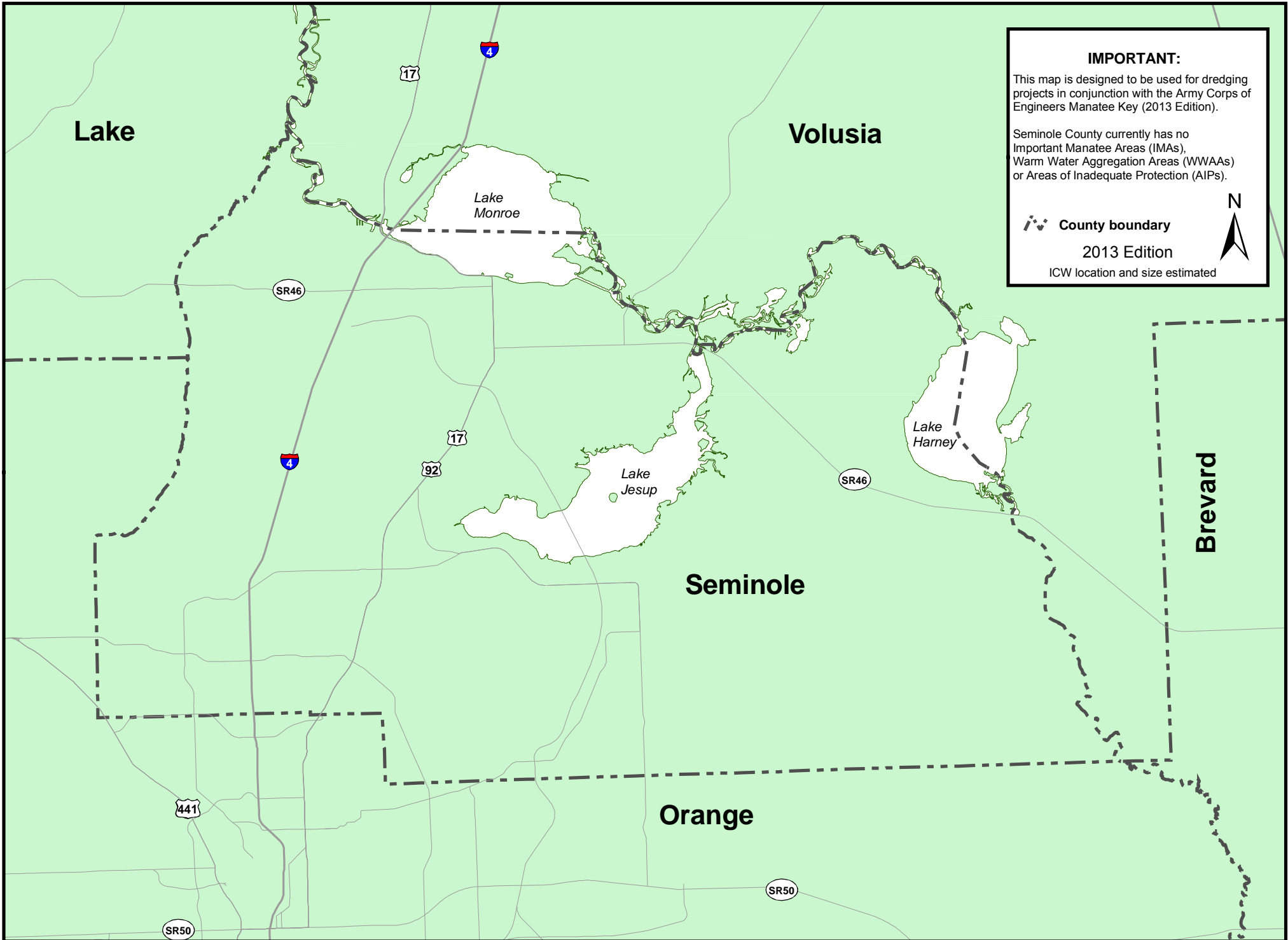
2013 Edition



# Sarasota County



# Seminole County



## IMPORTANT:

This map is designed to be used for dredging projects in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers Manatee Key (2013 Edition).

Seminole County currently has no Important Manatee Areas (IMAs), Warm Water Aggregation Areas (WAAAs) or Areas of Inadequate Protection (AIPs).

 County boundary

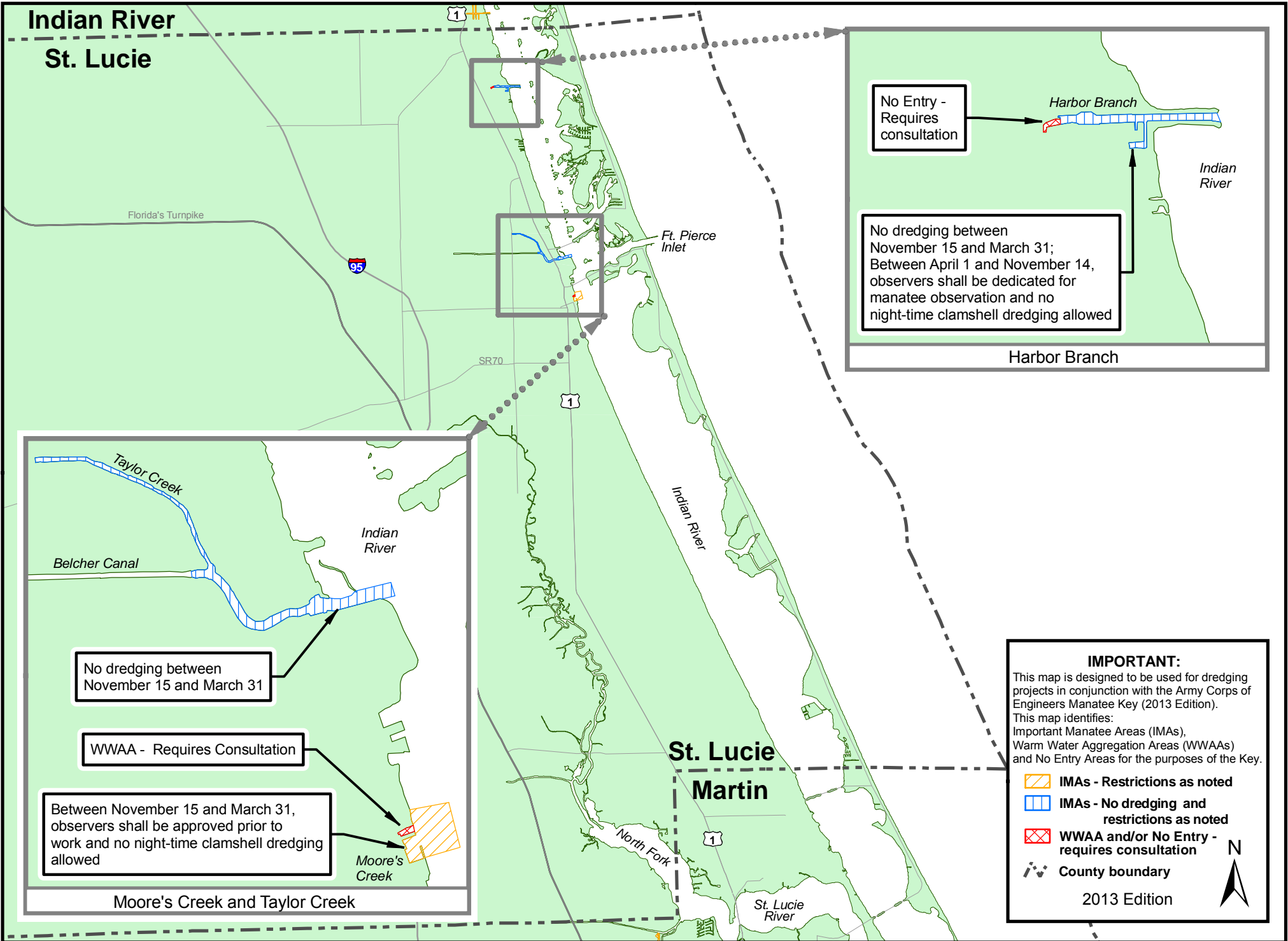
2013 Edition

ICW location and size estimated



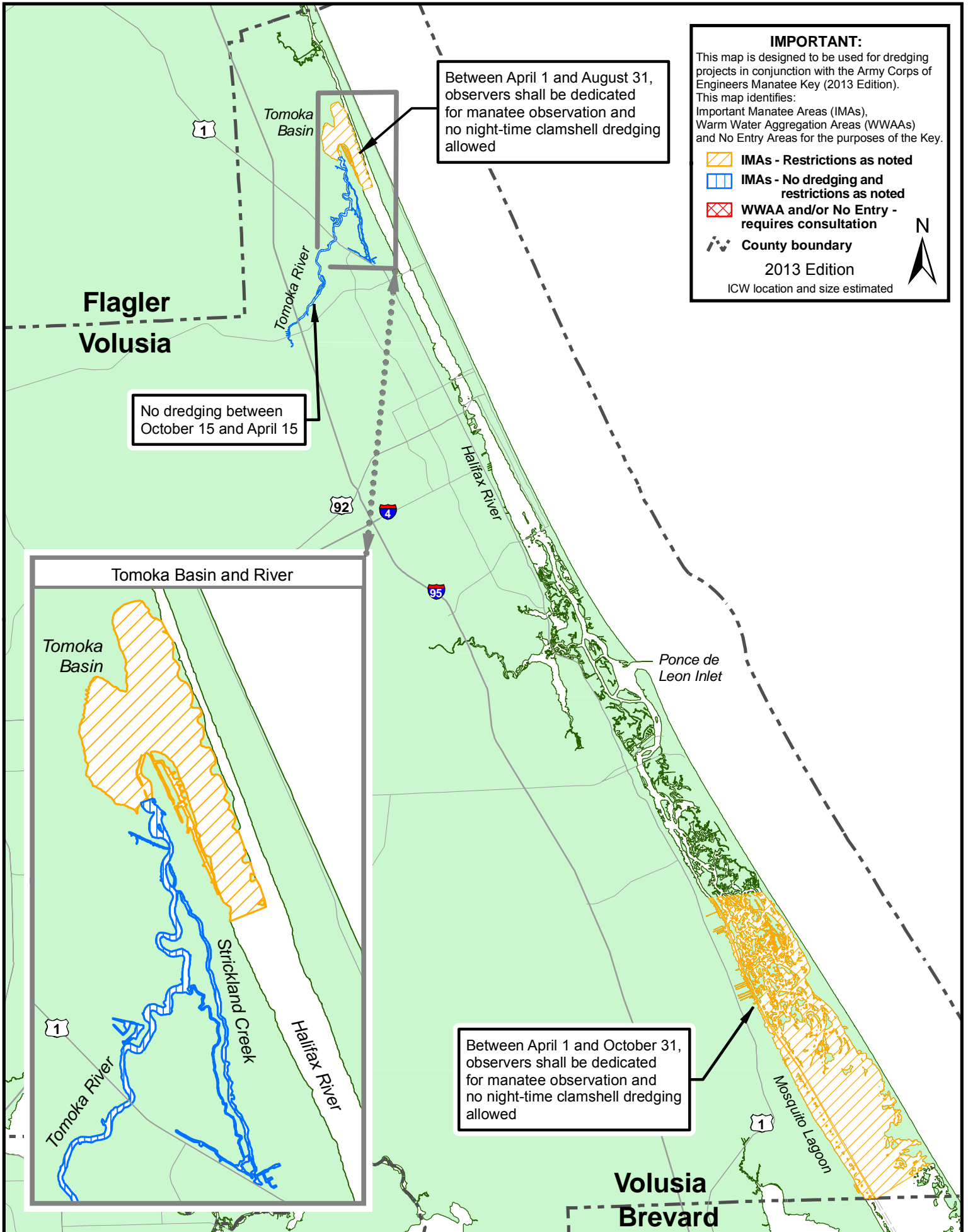
Brevard

# St. Lucie County

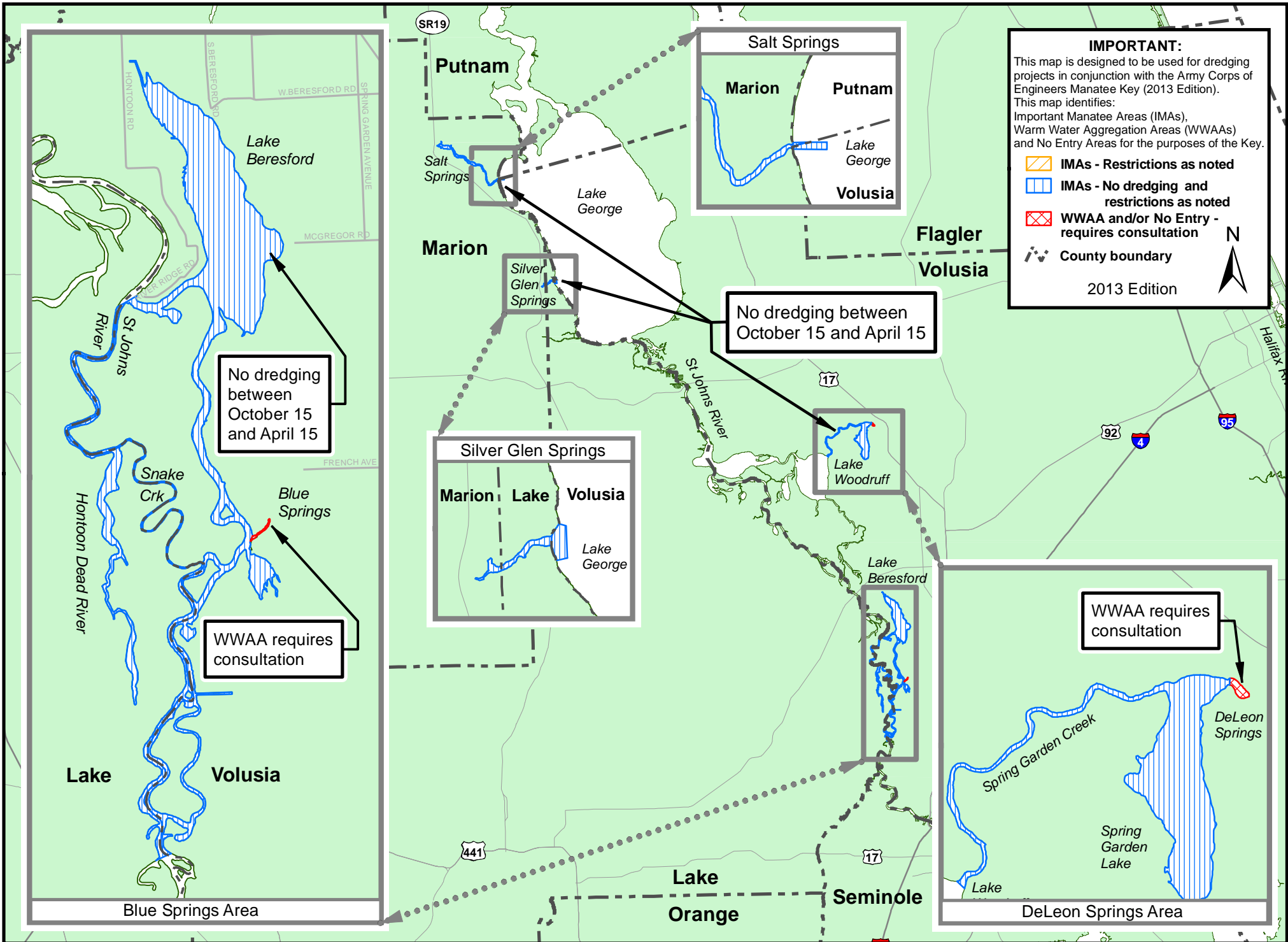




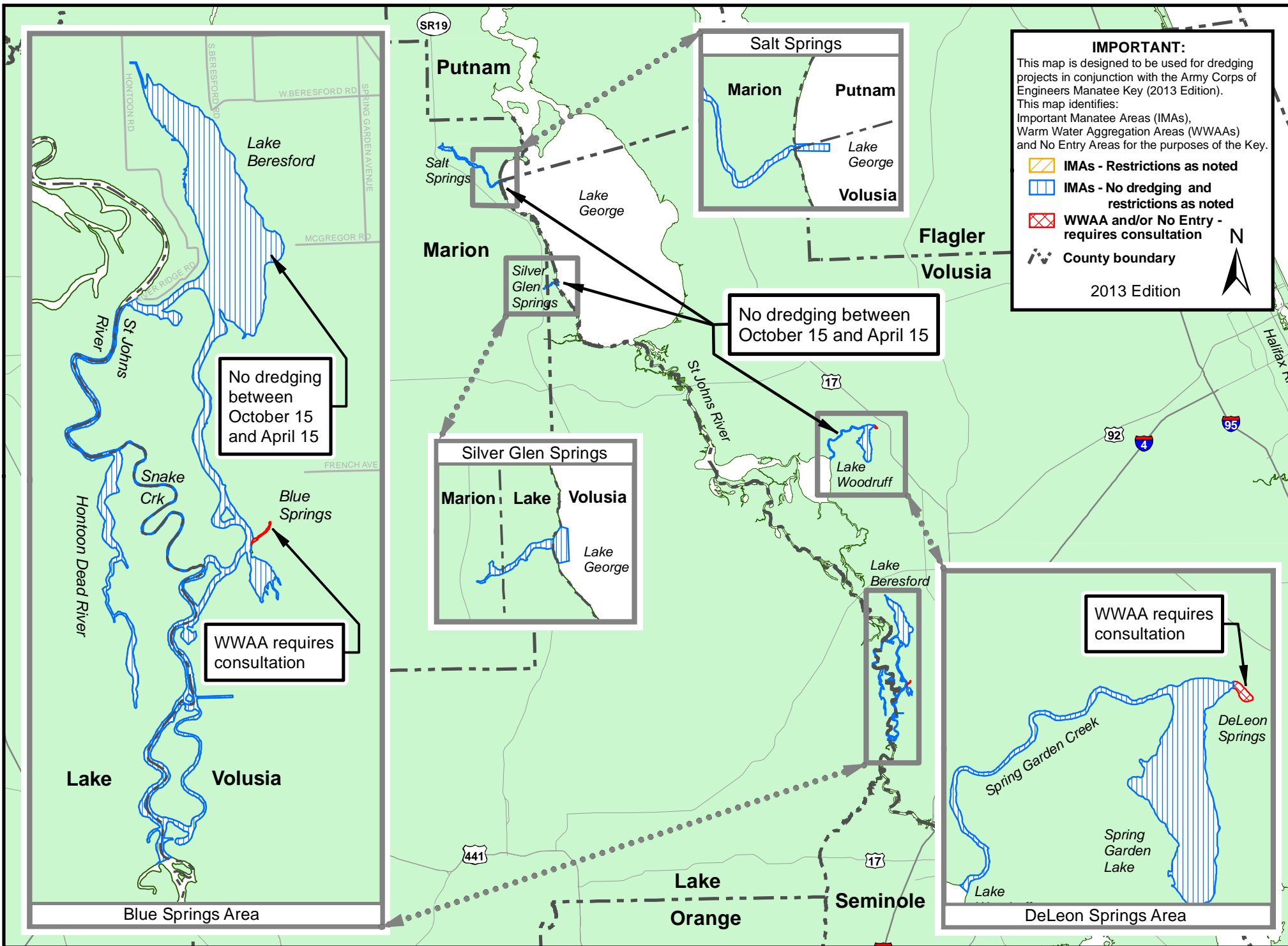
# Volusia County - Coastal



# Volusia, Lake and Marion Counties



# Volusia, Lake and Marion Counties



DRAFT

**Appendix F**  
Wood Stork Programmatic Key



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
South Florida Ecological Services Office  
1339 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

May 18, 2010

Donnie Kinard  
Chief, Regulatory Division  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Service Federal Activity Code: 41420-2007-FA-1494  
Service Consultation Code: 41420-2007-I-0964  
Subject: South Florida Programmatic  
Concurrence  
Species: Wood Stork

Dear Mr. Kinard:

This letter addresses minor errors identified in our January 25, 2010, wood stork key and as such, supplants the previous key. The key criteria and wood stork biomass foraging assessment methodology have not been affected by these minor revisions.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) South Florida Ecological Services Office (SFESO) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District (Corps) have been working together to streamline the consultation process for federally listed species associated with the Corps' wetland permitting program. The Service provided letters to the Corps dated March 23, 2007, and October 18, 2007, in response to a request for a multi-county programmatic concurrence with a criteria-based determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" (NLAA) for the threatened eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) and the endangered wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) for projects involving freshwater wetland impacts within specified Florida counties. In our letters, we provided effect determination keys for these two federally listed species, with specific criteria for the Service to concur with a determination of NLAA.

The Service has revisited these keys recently and believes new information provides cause to revise these keys. Specifically, the new information relates to foraging efficiencies and prey base assessments for the wood stork and permitting requirements for the eastern indigo snake. This letter addresses the wood stork key and is submitted in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The eastern indigo snake key will be provided in a separate letter.

Wood stork

## Habitat

The wood stork is primarily associated with freshwater and estuarine habitats that are used for nesting, roosting, and foraging. Wood storks typically construct their nests in medium to tall



trees that occur in stands located either in swamps or on islands surrounded by relatively broad expanses of open water (Ogden 1991, 1996; Rodgers et al. 1996). Successful colonies are those that have limited human disturbance and low exposure to land-based predators. Nesting colonies protected from land-based predators are characterized as those surrounded by large expanses of open water or where the nest trees are inundated at the onset of nesting and remain inundated throughout most of the breeding cycle. These colonies have water depths between 0.9 and 1.5 meters (3 and 5 feet) during the breeding season.

Successful nesting generally involves combinations of average or above-average rainfall during the summer rainy season and an absence of unusually rainy or cold weather during the winter-spring breeding season (Kahl 1964; Rodgers et al. 1987). This pattern produces widespread and prolonged flooding of summer marshes, which maximize production of freshwater fishes, followed by steady drying that concentrate fish during the season when storks nest (Kahl 1964). Successful nesting colonies are those that have a large number of foraging sites. To maintain a wide range of foraging sites, a variety of wetland types should be present, with both short and long hydroperiods. The Service (1999) describes a short hydroperiod as a 1 to 5-month wet/dry cycle, and a long hydroperiod as greater than 5 months. During the wet season, wood storks generally feed in the shallow water of the short-hydroperiod wetlands and in coastal habitats during low tide. During the dry season, foraging shifts to longer hydroperiod interior wetlands as they progressively dry-down (though usually retaining some surface water throughout the dry season).

Wood storks occur in a wide variety of wetland habitats. Typical foraging sites for the wood stork include freshwater marshes and stock ponds, shallow, seasonally flooded roadside and agricultural ditches, narrow tidal creeks and shallow tidal pools, managed impoundments, and depressions in cypress heads and swamp sloughs. Because of their specialized feeding behavior, wood storks forage most effectively in shallow-water areas with highly concentrated prey. Through tactolocation, or grope feeding, wood storks in south Florida feed almost exclusively on fish between 2 and 25 centimeters [cm] (1 and 10 inches) in length (Ogden et al. 1976). Good foraging conditions are characterized by water that is relatively calm, uncluttered by dense thickets of aquatic vegetation, and having a water depth between 5 and 38 cm (5 and 15 inches) deep, although wood storks may forage in other wetlands. Ideally, preferred foraging wetlands would include a mosaic of emergent and shallow open-water areas. The emergent component provides nursery habitat for small fish, frogs, and other aquatic prey and the shallow, open-water areas provide sites for concentration of the prey during seasonal dry-down of the wetland.

### Conservation Measures

The Service routinely concurs with the Corps' "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determination for individual project effects to the wood stork when project effects are insignificant due to scope or location, or if assurances are given that wetland impacts have been avoided, minimized, and adequately compensated such that there is no net loss in foraging potential. We utilize our *Habitat Management Guidelines for the Wood Stork in the Southeast Region* (Service 1990) (Enclosure 1) (HMG) in project evaluation. The HMG is currently under review and once final will replace the enclosed HMG. There is no designated critical habitat for the wood stork.



The SFESO recognizes a 29.9 kilometer [km] (18.6-mile) core foraging area (CFA) around all known wood stork colonies in south Florida. Enclosure 2 (to be updated as necessary) provides locations of colonies and their CFAs in south Florida that have been documented as active within the last 10 years. The Service believes loss of suitable wetlands within these CFAs may reduce foraging opportunities for the wood stork. To minimize adverse effects to the wood stork, we recommend compensation be provided for impacts to foraging habitat. The compensation should consider wetland type, location, function, and value (hydrology, vegetation, prey utilization) to ensure that wetland functions lost due to the project are adequately offset. Wetlands offered as compensation should be of the same hydroperiod and located within the CFAs of the affected wood stork colonies. The Service may accept, under special circumstances, wetland compensation located outside the CFAs of the affected wood stork nesting colonies. On occasion, wetland credits purchased from a "Service Approved" mitigation bank located outside the CFAs could be acceptable to the Service, depending on location of impacted wetlands relative to the permitted service area of the bank, and whether or not the bank has wetlands having the same hydroperiod as the impacted wetland.

In an effort to reduce correspondence in effect determinations and responses, the Service is providing the Wood Stork Effect Determination Key below. If the use of this key results in a Corps determination of "no effect" for a particular project, the Service supports this determination. If the use of this Key results in a determination of NLAA, the Service concurs with this determination<sup>1</sup>. This Key is subject to revisitation as the Corps and Service deem necessary.

The Key is as follows:

- A. Project within 0.76 km (0.47 mile)<sup>2</sup> of an active colony site<sup>3</sup> ..... "may affect"<sup>4</sup>
- Project impacts Suitable Foraging Habitat (SFH)<sup>5</sup> at a location greater than 0.76 km (0.47 mile) from a colony site..... "go to B"

<sup>1</sup> With an outcome of "no effect" or "NLAA" as outlined in this key, and the project has less than 20.2 hectares (50 acres) of wetland impacts, the requirements of section 7 of the Act are fulfilled for the wood stork and no further action is required. For projects with greater than 20.2 hectares (50 acres) of wetland impacts, written concurrence of NLAA from the Service is necessary.

<sup>2</sup> Within the secondary zone (the average distance from the border of a colony to the limits of the secondary zone is 0.76 km (2,500 feet, or 0.47 mi).

<sup>3</sup> An active colony is defined as a colony that is currently being used for nesting by wood storks or has historically over the last 10 years been used for nesting by wood storks.

<sup>4</sup> Consultation may be concluded informally or formally depending on project impacts.

<sup>5</sup> Suitable foraging habitat (SFH) includes wetlands that typically have shallow-open water areas that are relatively calm and have a permanent or seasonal water depth between 5 to 38 cm (2 to 15 inches) deep. Other shallow non-wetland water bodies are also SFH. SFH supports and concentrates, or is capable of supporting and concentrating small fish, frogs, and other aquatic prey. Examples of SFH include, but are not limited to freshwater marshes, small ponds, shallow, seasonally flooded roadside or agricultural ditches, seasonally flooded pastures, narrow tidal creeks or shallow tidal pools, managed impoundments, and depressions in cypress heads and swamp sloughs.

Project does not affect SFH..... “no effect”.

B. Project impact to SFH is less than 0.20 hectare (one-half acre)<sup>6</sup>.....NLAA<sup>1</sup>”

Project impact to SFH is greater in scope than 0.20 hectare (one-half acre).....go to C

C. Project impacts to SFH not within the CFA (29.9 km, 18.6 miles) of a colony site .....go to D

Project impacts to SFH within the CFA of a colony site .....go to E

D. Project impacts to SFH have been avoided and minimized to the extent practicable; compensation (Service approved mitigation bank or as provided in accordance with Mitigation Rule 33 CFR Part 332) for unavoidable impacts is proposed in accordance with the CWA section 404(b)(1) guidelines; and habitat compensation replaces the foraging value matching the hydroperiod<sup>7</sup> of the wetlands affected and provides foraging value similar to, or higher than, that of impacted wetlands. See Enclosure 3 for a detailed discussion of the hydroperiod foraging values, an example, and further guidance<sup>8</sup>..... NLAA<sup>1</sup>”

Project not as above..... “may affect<sup>4</sup>”

E. Project provides SFH compensation in accordance with the CWA section 404(b)(1) guidelines and is not contrary to the HMG; habitat compensation is within the appropriate CFA or within the service area of a Service-approved mitigation bank; and habitat compensation replaces foraging value, consisting of wetland enhancement or restoration matching the hydroperiod<sup>7</sup> of the wetlands affected, and provides foraging value similar

<sup>6</sup> On an individual basis, SFH impacts to wetlands less than 0.20 hectare (one-half acre) generally will not have a measurable effect on wood storks, although we request that the Corps require mitigation for these losses when appropriate. Wood storks are a wide ranging species, and individually, habitat change from impacts to SFH less than one-half acre are not likely to adversely affect wood storks. However, collectively they may have an effect and therefore regular monitoring and reporting of these effects are important.

<sup>7</sup> Several researchers (Flemming et al. 1994; Ceilley and Bortone 2000) believe that the short hydroperiod wetlands provide a more important pre-nesting foraging food source and a greater early nestling survivor value for wood storks than the foraging base (grams of fish per square meter) than long hydroperiod wetlands provide. Although the short hydroperiod wetlands may provide less fish, these prey bases historically were more extensive and met the foraging needs of the pre-nesting storks and the early-age nestlings. Nest productivity may suffer as a result of the loss of short hydroperiod wetlands. We believe that most wetland fill and excavation impacts permitted in south Florida are in short hydroperiod wetlands. Therefore, we believe that it is especially important that impacts to these short hydroperiod wetlands within CFAs are avoided, minimized, and compensated for by enhancement/restoration of short hydroperiod wetlands.

<sup>8</sup> For this Key, the Service requires an analysis of foraging prey base losses and enhancements from the proposed action as shown in the examples in Enclosure 3 for projects with greater than 2.02 hectares (5 acres) of wetland impacts. For projects with less than 2.02 hectares (5 acres) of wetland impacts, an individual foraging prey base analysis is not necessary although type for type wetland compensation is still a requirement of the Key.

to, or higher than, that of impacted wetlands. See Enclosure 3 for a detailed discussion of the hydroperiod foraging values, an example, and further guidance<sup>8</sup>..... “NLAA<sup>1</sup>”

Project does not satisfy these elements ..... “may affect<sup>4</sup>”

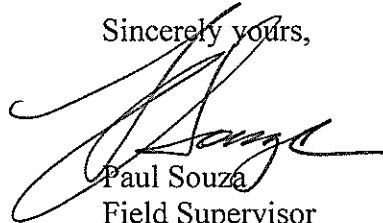
This Key does not apply to Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects, as they will require project-specific consultations with the Service.

Monitoring and Reporting Effects

For the Service to monitor cumulative effects, it is important for the Corps to monitor the number of permits and provide information to the Service regarding the number of permits issued where the effect determination was: “may affect, not likely to adversely affect.” We request that the Corps send us an annual summary consisting of: project dates, Corps identification numbers, project acreages, project wetland acreages, and project locations in latitude and longitude in decimal degrees.

Thank you for your cooperation and effort in protecting federally listed species. If you have any questions, please contact Allen Webb at extension 246.

Sincerely yours,



Paul Souza  
Field Supervisor  
South Florida Ecological Services Office

Enclosures

- cc: w/enclosures (electronic only)
- Corps, Jacksonville, Florida (Stu Santos)
- EPA, West Palm Beach, Florida (Richard Harvey)
- FWC, Vero Beach, Florida (Joe Walsh)
- Service, Jacksonville, Florida (Billy Brooks)