

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TECHNICAL REPORT COVERSHEET

650-050-38
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT
08/22

FARMLAND MEMORANDUM

Florida Department of Transportation

District One

State Road (SR) 70

Limits of Project: from Lonesome Island Road to County Road (CR) 721 South

Highlands County, Florida

Financial Management Number: 449851-1-22-01

ETDM Number: 14490

Date: March 2025

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.

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 1/31/25	4. Sheet 1 of 1
1. Name of Project SR 70 from Lonesome Island Rd to CR 721 S	5. Federal Agency Involved FDOT per 23 U.S.C. §327 and the FDOT/F		
2. Type of Project Transportation - Roadway Widening	6. County and State Highlands County, Florida		
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS 2/28/25	2. Person Completing Form Josue Aceituno
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form).		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size 67,987 466
5. Major Crop(s) Oranges; Forage	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 148,883 % 22.62		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 85,417 % 0.11
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used N/A	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System Soil Potential Rating		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 3/4/25
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Corridor For Segment	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	Corridor A (Alt. 1) 308.54	Corridor B (Alt. 2)	Corridor C (Alt. 3)
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	0		
C. Total Acres In Corridor	356.64		
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information			
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	225.7		
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	0		
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	0.15		
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	83.9		
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)		42.7	
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))		Maximum Points	
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	15	
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10	
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	15	
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	0	
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	10	
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0	
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5	
8. On-Farm Investments	20	20	
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0	
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	0	
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	75	0
0		0	0
0		0	0
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)			
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	42.700000000000006	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	75	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	117.7	0
5. Reason For Selection:	6. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?		
Corridor A (Alt. 1)	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project: 225.7	3. Date Of Selection: 3/25/25	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Corridor A was selected due to the minimal environmental impacts, avoidance of existing SFWMD canals, and low level of significance (less than 160 points) for the impacted farmlands within and adjacent to the proposed corridor.

Signature of Person Completing this Part:

March 25, 2025

DATE

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

Martin Horwitz

From: Feagle, Autumn "Brooke" <Brooke.Feagle@dot.state.fl.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 2:45 PM
To: Jeffrey Novotny
Cc: Martin Horwitz; Gilmer, Nikki; Cothern, Kathern
Subject: Fw: [External Email]CPA-106 Review for FPID 449851-1 SR70 from Lonesome Island Rd to CR 721 South
Attachments: 449851-1_NRCS Form+Attachments.pdf

Caution: External email.

Good afternoon Jeff,

Please find attached the Farmlands Form from NRCS.

Thanks!

Brooke Feagle
AtkinsRéalis on behalf of **FDOT**
GEC Project Manager
FDOT District One
Direct Line: 863.800.9539

From: AceitunoDiaz, Josue - FPAC-NRCS, FL <Josue.AceitunoDiaz@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 9:22 AM
To: Gilmer, Nikki <Nikki.Gilmer@dot.state.fl.us>
Cc: Cothern, Kathern <Kathern.Cothern@dot.state.fl.us>; Feagle, Autumn "Brooke" <Brooke.Feagle@dot.state.fl.us>; Giuliani, Isabelle - FPAC-NRCS, FL <isabelle.giuliani@usda.gov>; Townsend, Stephanie - FPAC-NRCS, FL <Stephanie.Townsend@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email]CPA-106 Review for FPID 449851-1 SR70 from Lonesome Island Rd to CR 721 South

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Good Morning Nikki,

Please see attached to this email the NRCS Farmland Conversion Impact Rating with NRCS portion completed based on the information that was provided.

If you have any questions please reach out,

Best regards,

Josué Aceituno-Díaz
Resources Soil Scientist
Soils Division|Southeast Region
Sebring Field Office



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service
4505/4507 George Blvd, Sebring, FL 33872
p: (863) 385-7853 | c: (863) 464-3969

From: Gilmer, Nikki <nikki.gilmer@dot.state.fl.us>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 11:30 AM
To: AceitunoDiaz, Josue - FPAC-NRCS, FL <Josue.AceitunoDiaz@usda.gov>
Cc: kathern.cothern@dot.state.fl.us; brooke.feagle@dot.state.fl.us; Giuliani, Isabelle - FPAC-NRCS, FL <isabelle.giuliani@usda.gov>
Subject: [External Email]CPA-106 Review for FPID 449851-1 SR70 from Lonesome Island Rd to CR 721 South

[External Email]

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**;

Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov



Gilmer, Nikki sent you a secure message

[Access message](#)

Good morning Josue,

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, is conducting a PD&E Study to widen the existing two-lane state road to a four-lane divided state road in Highlands county (FPID 449851-1). Attached is the NRCS 106 form and .shp files for the referenced project to complete coordination with the NRCS in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981. Please let me know if you need any more information for your review.

Thanks,
Nikki Gilmer
ETDM Coordinator & Environmental Project Manager
Florida Department of Transportation | District One
801 North Broadway Ave | Bartow, FL 33830
Phone: (863) 519-2375 Email: nikki.gilmer@dot.state.fl.us



Attachments expire on Mar 14, 2025



1 compressed file

449851-1_SR 70 Farmlands.zip



1 PDF

449851-1_NRCS Form+Attachments.pdf

This message requires that you sign in to access the message and any file attachments.



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**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

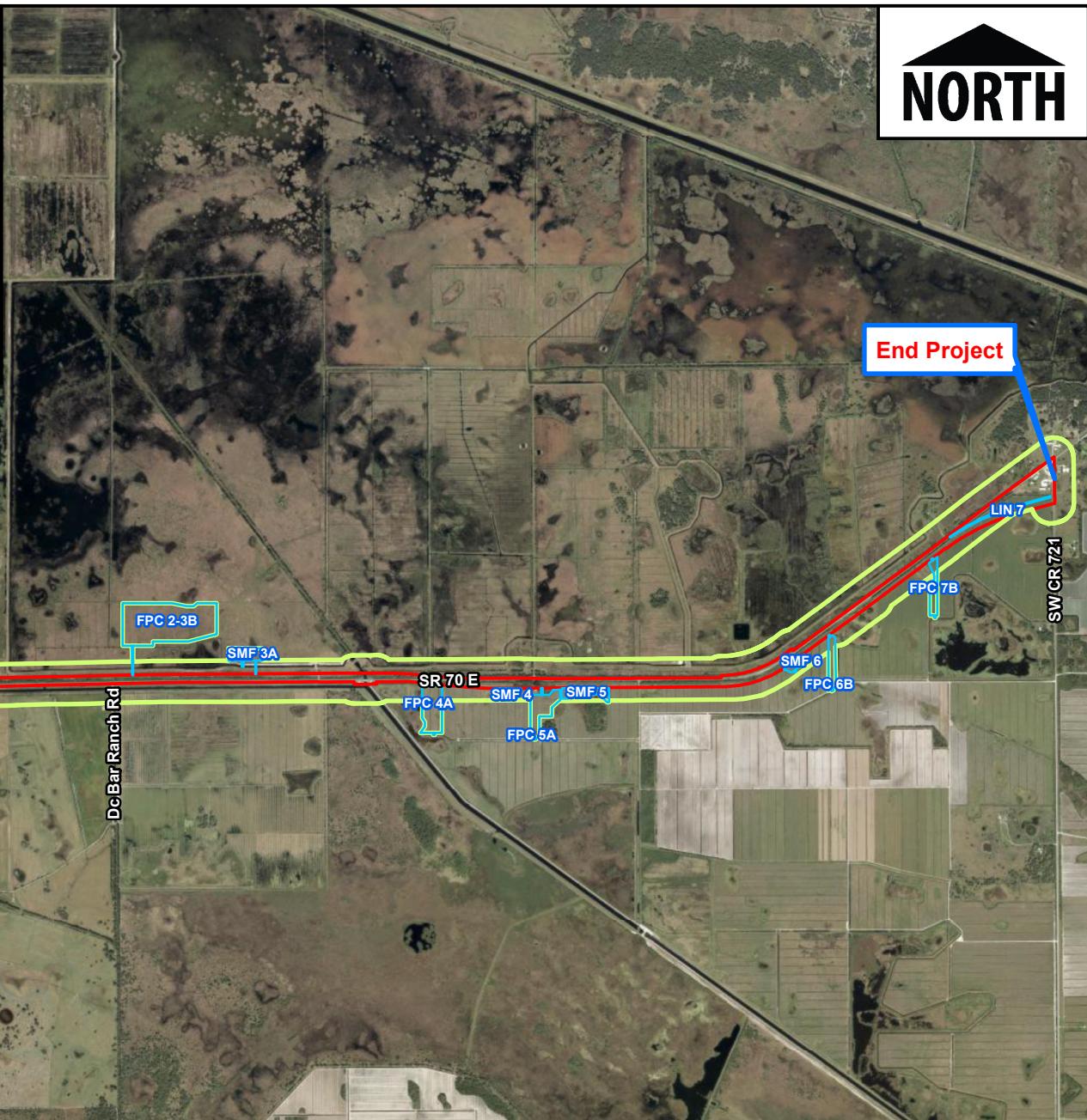
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10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10				
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	0	0	0	0
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	42.7	0	0	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	0	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	42.7	0	0	0
1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:		4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?	
				YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Reason For Selection:					

Signature of Person Completing this Part:

DATE

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

NORTH



Legend

- Project Study Area (Green)
- Project Action Area (Red)
- Preferred Pond (Blue)

Project Location Map

SR 70 from Lonesome Island Road to CR 721S

FPID No. 449851-1-22-01
Highlands County, Florida

4,000 2,000 0 4,000
Feet



**NORTH**

DNB Rd

Begin Project

SR 70 E

Macia Grove Rd

J.C. Durance Rd

FPC 1B

- Project Study Area
- Project Action Area
- Preferred Pond
- Farmland of Unique Importance
- Not Prime Farmland

Farmlands Map

SR 70 from Lonesome Island Road to CR 721S

FPID No. 449851-1-22-01
Highlands County, Florida

800 400 0 800


Feet



**NORTH**

- Project Study Area
- Project Action Area
- Preferred Pond
- Farmland of Unique Importance
- Not Prime Farmland

Farmlands Map

SR 70 from Lonesome Island Road to CR 721S

800 400 0 800
Feet



FPID No. 449851-1-22-01
Highlands County, Florida

 NORTH

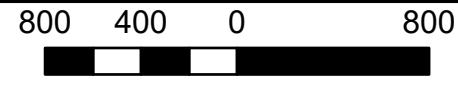
- Project Study Area
- Project Action Area
- Preferred Pond
- Farmland of Unique Importance
- Not Prime Farmland

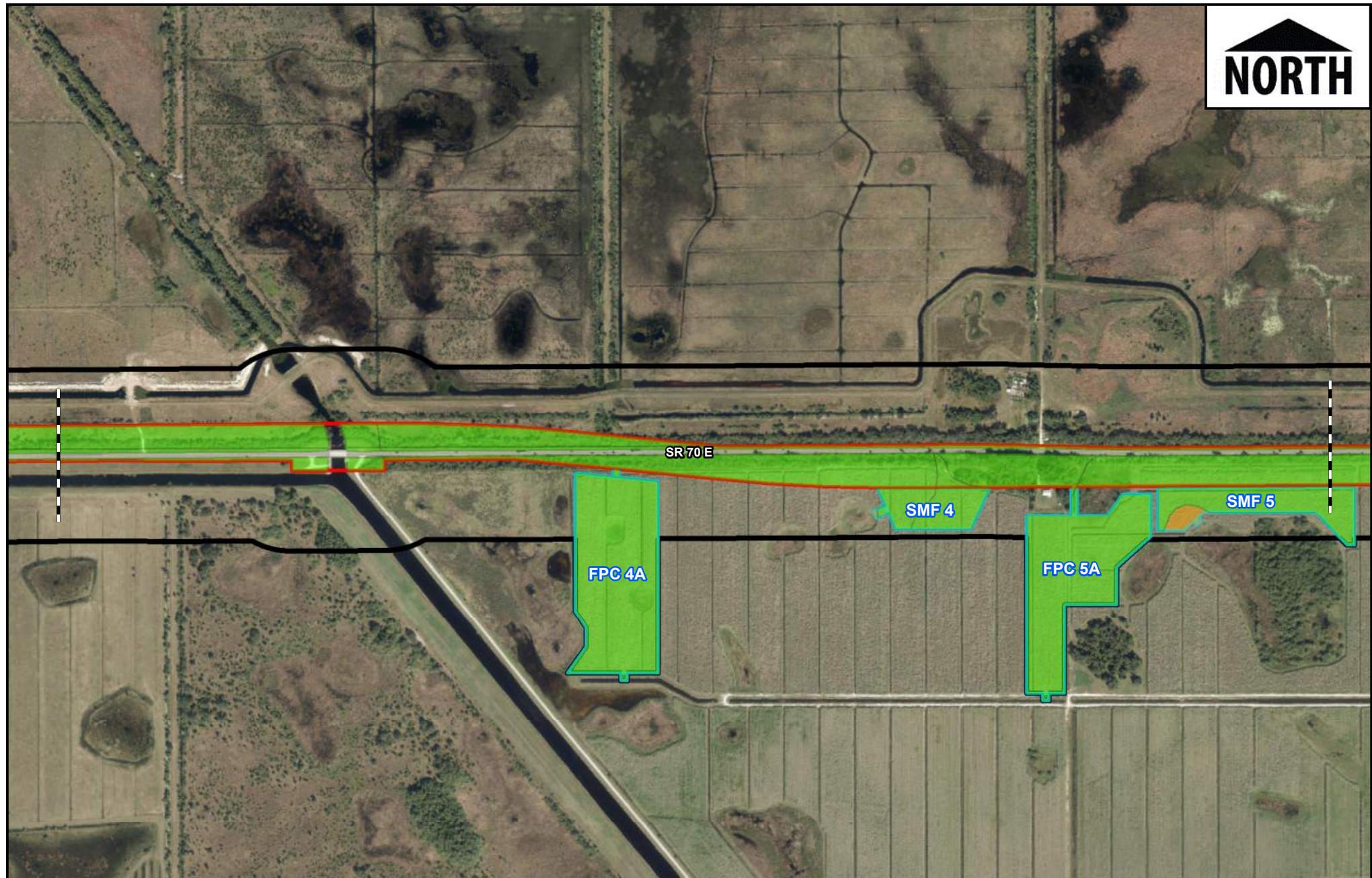
Page 3 of 6

Farmlands Map

SR 70 from Lonesome Island Road to CR 721S

FPID No. 449851-1-22-01
Highlands County, Florida



 NORTH

- Project Study Area
- Project Action Area
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- Not Prime Farmland

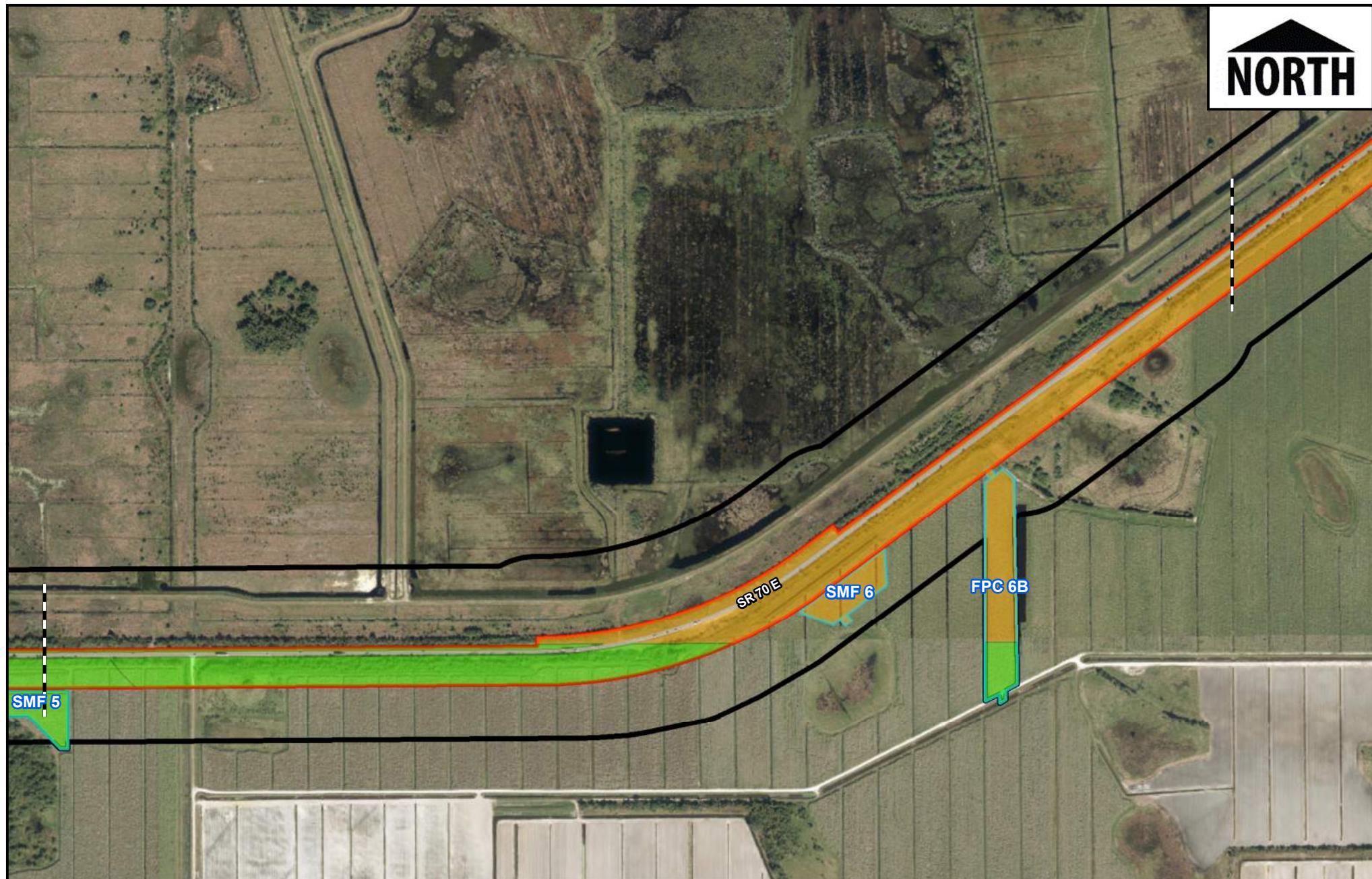
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800 400 0 800
Feet



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800 400 0 800
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