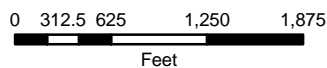


**COLORADO**  
 Department of Transportation  
 Region 5

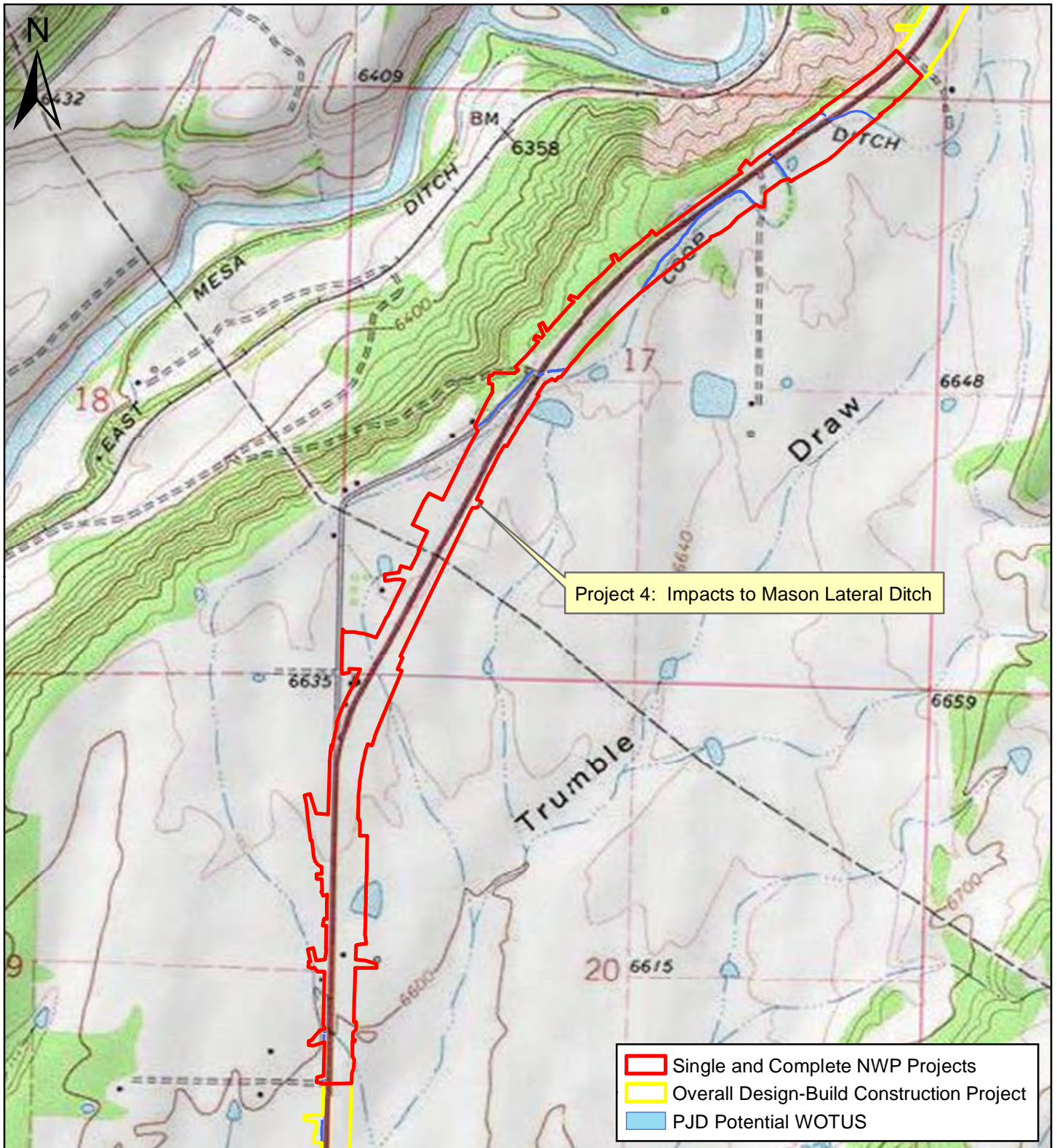
Map Source: USGS 7.5-Minute Map for Loma Linda, CO



1:15,000

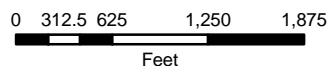
Date: 3/6/2019

**Figure 3a**  
**Single & Complete**  
**Projects 1, 2, & 3**  
**US 550 South**  
**Design Build**  
 La Plata County, CO



**COLORADO**  
 Department of Transportation  
 Region 5

Map Source: USGS 7.5-Minute Map for Loma Linda, CO

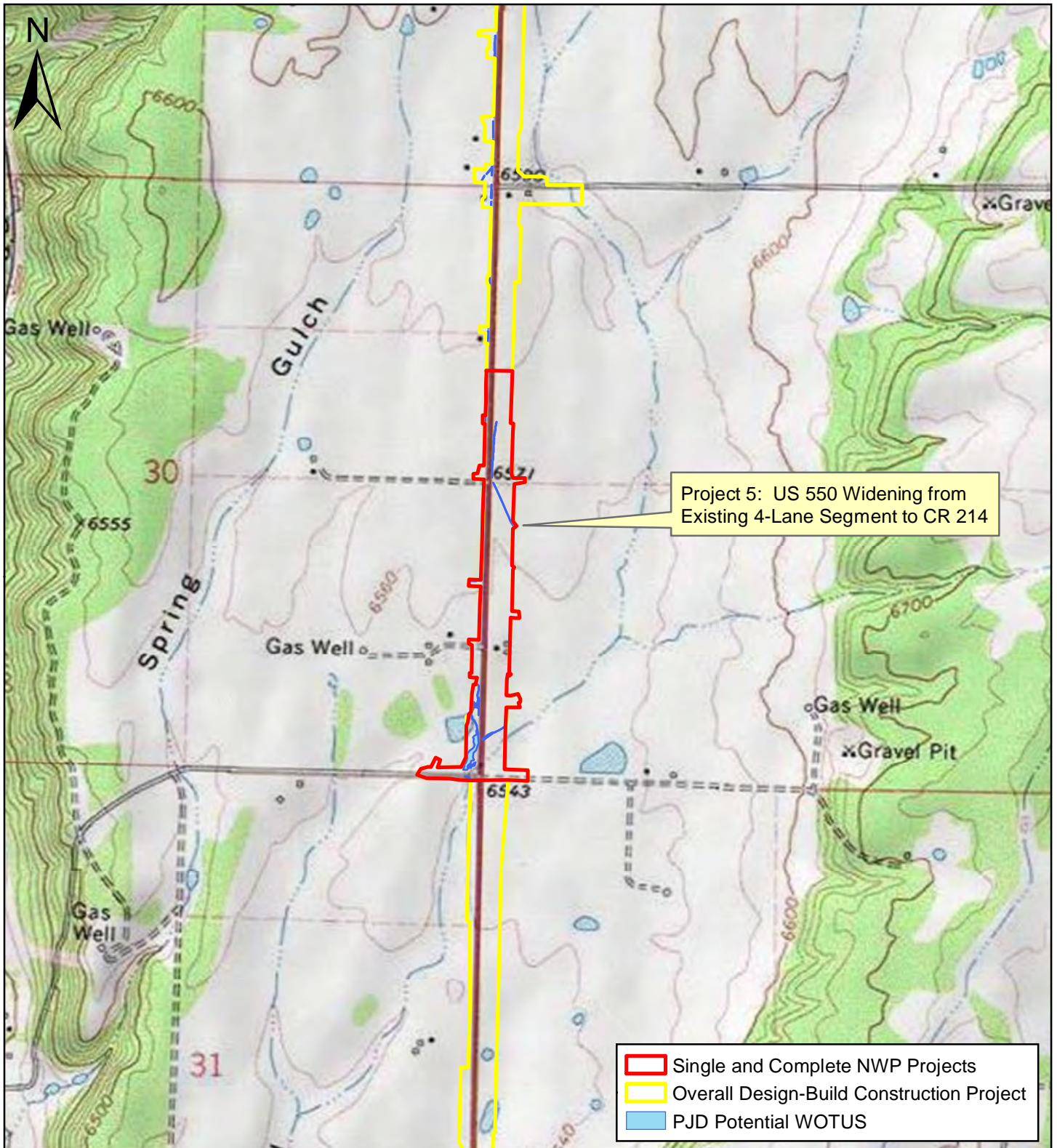


1:15,000

Date: 3/6/2019

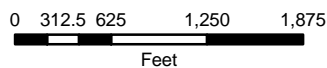
**Figure 3b**  
**Single & Complete**  
**Projects 4**  
**US 550 South**  
**Design Build**

La Plata County, CO



**COLORADO**  
 Department of Transportation  
 Region 5

Map Source: USGS 7.5-Minute Map for Loma Linda, CO

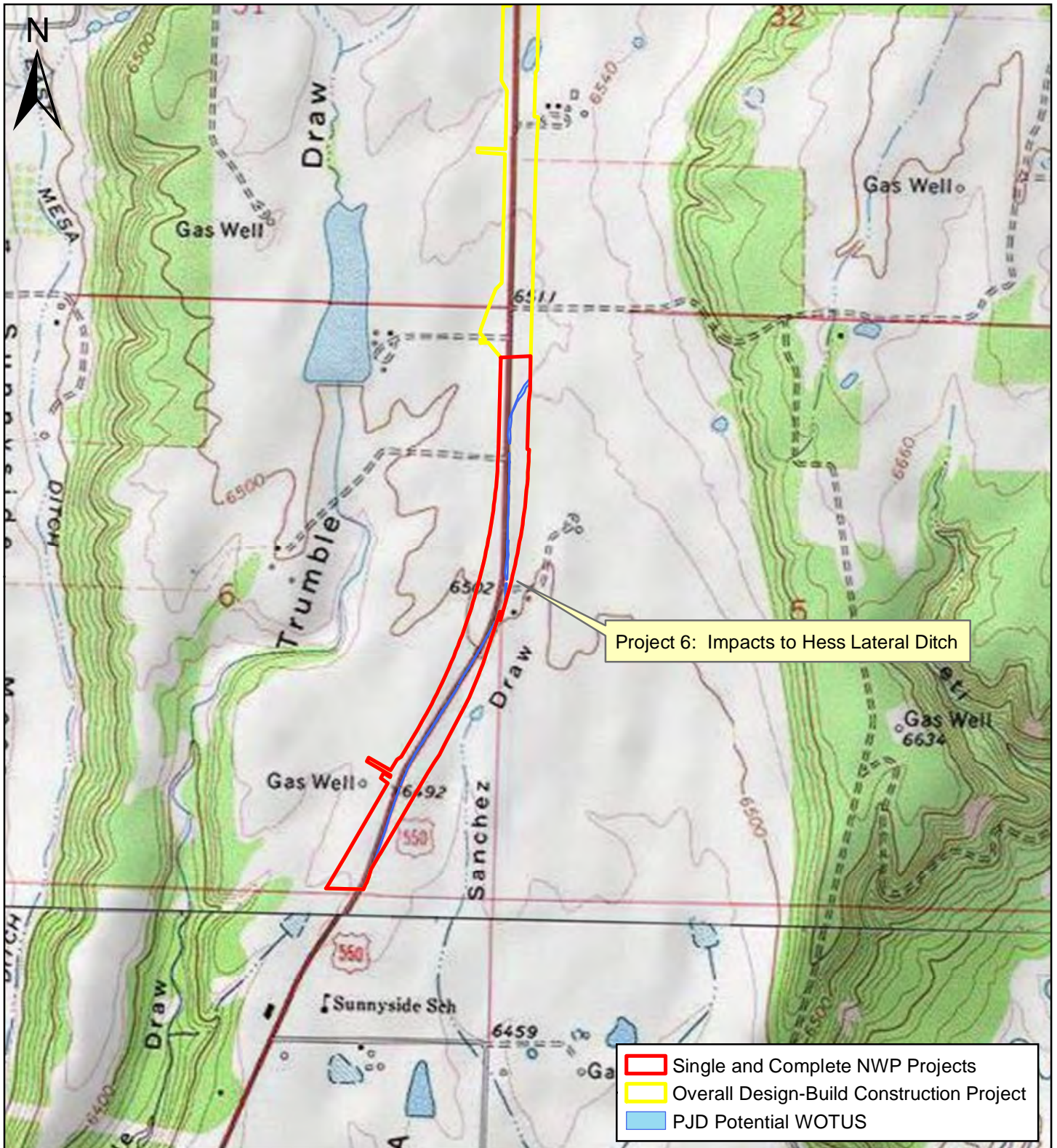


1:15,000

Date: 3/6/2019

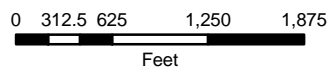
**Figure 3c**  
**Single & Complete**  
**Project 5**  
**US 550 South**  
**Design Build**

La Plata County, CO



**COLORADO**  
 Department of Transportation  
 Region 5

Map Source: USGS 7.5-Minute Map for Loma Linda, CO



1:15,000

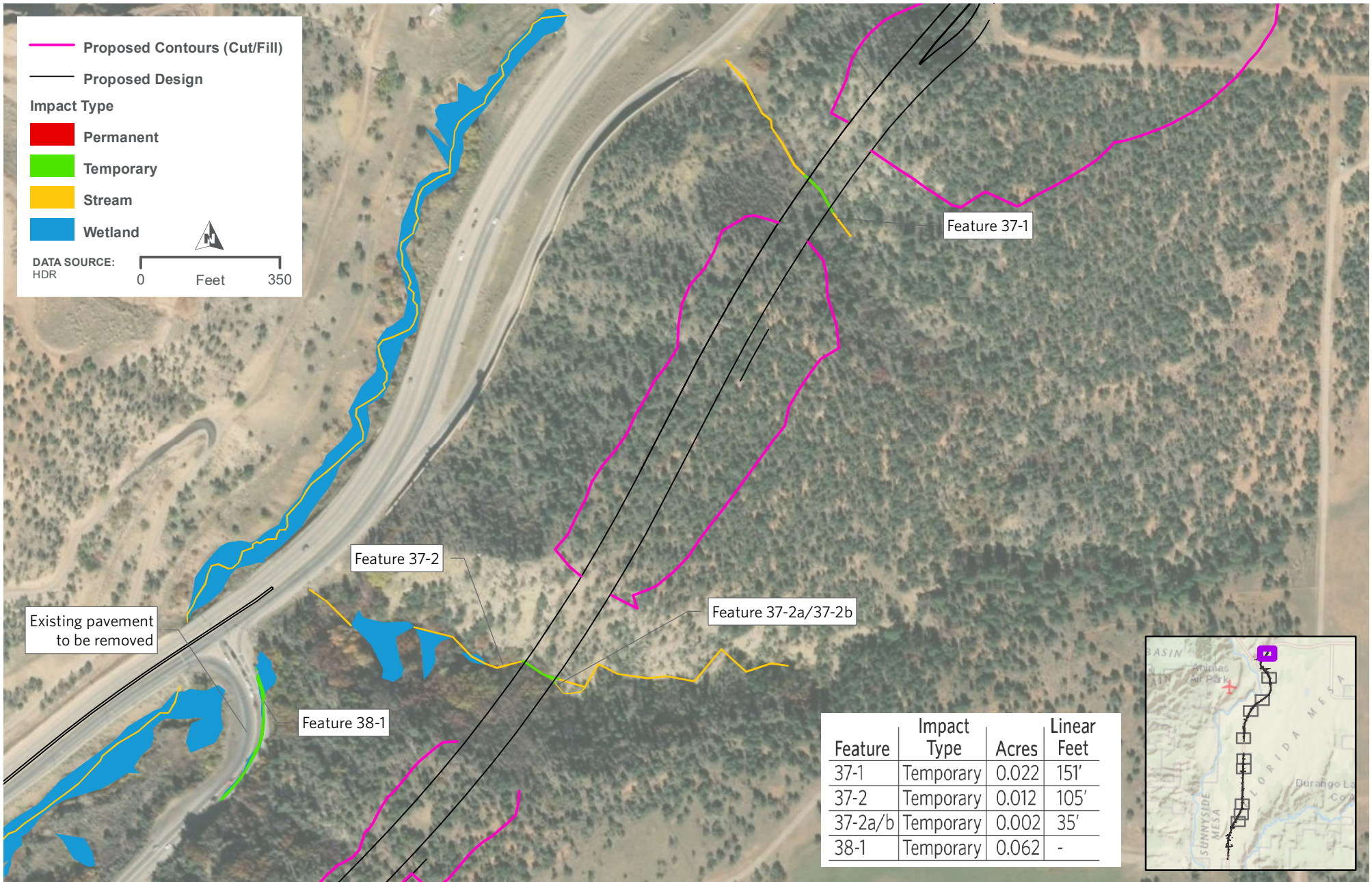
Date: 3/6/2019

**Figure 3d**  
**Single & Complete**  
**Project 6**  
**US 550 South**  
**Design Build**

La Plata County, CO

**ATTACHMENT 4**

**Wetland Impact Sheets**



— Proposed Contours (Cut/Fill)

— Proposed Design

Impact Type

■ Permanent

■ Temporary

■ Stream

■ Wetland

DATA SOURCE:  
HDR



Existing pavement  
to be removed

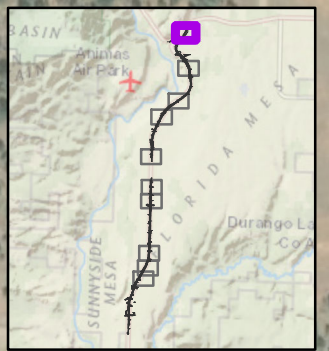
Feature 37-2

Feature 37-1

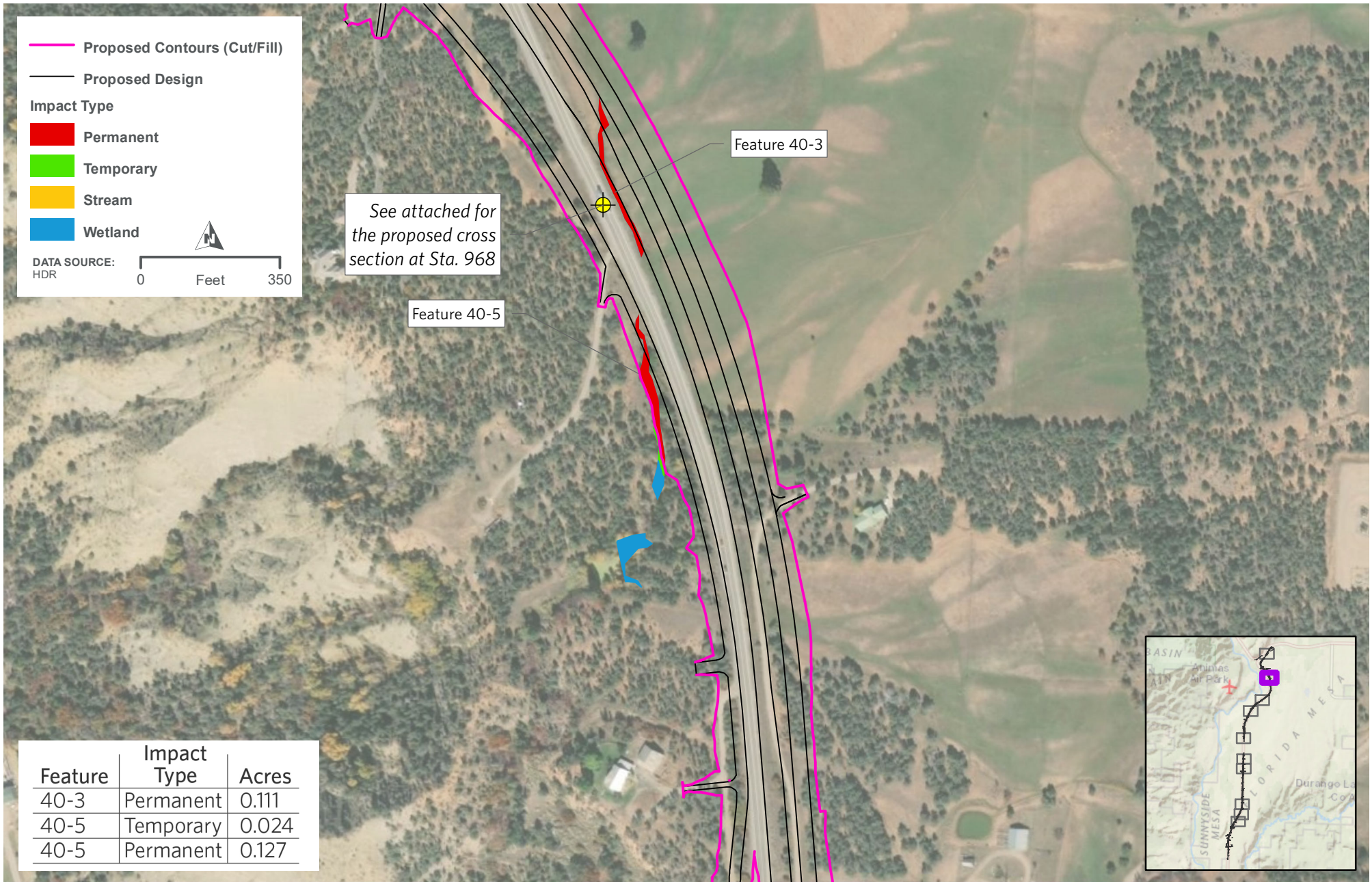
Feature 37-2a/37-2b

Feature 38-1

Feature	Impact Type	Acres	Linear Feet
37-1	Temporary	0.022	151'
37-2	Temporary	0.012	105'
37-2a/b	Temporary	0.002	35'
38-1	Temporary	0.062	-



**US 550/160 CONNECTION SOUTH D/B  
AQUATIC RESOURCES IMPACTS MAP**



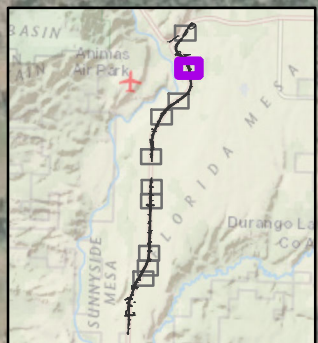
See attached for  
the proposed cross  
section at Sta. 968

Feature 40-5

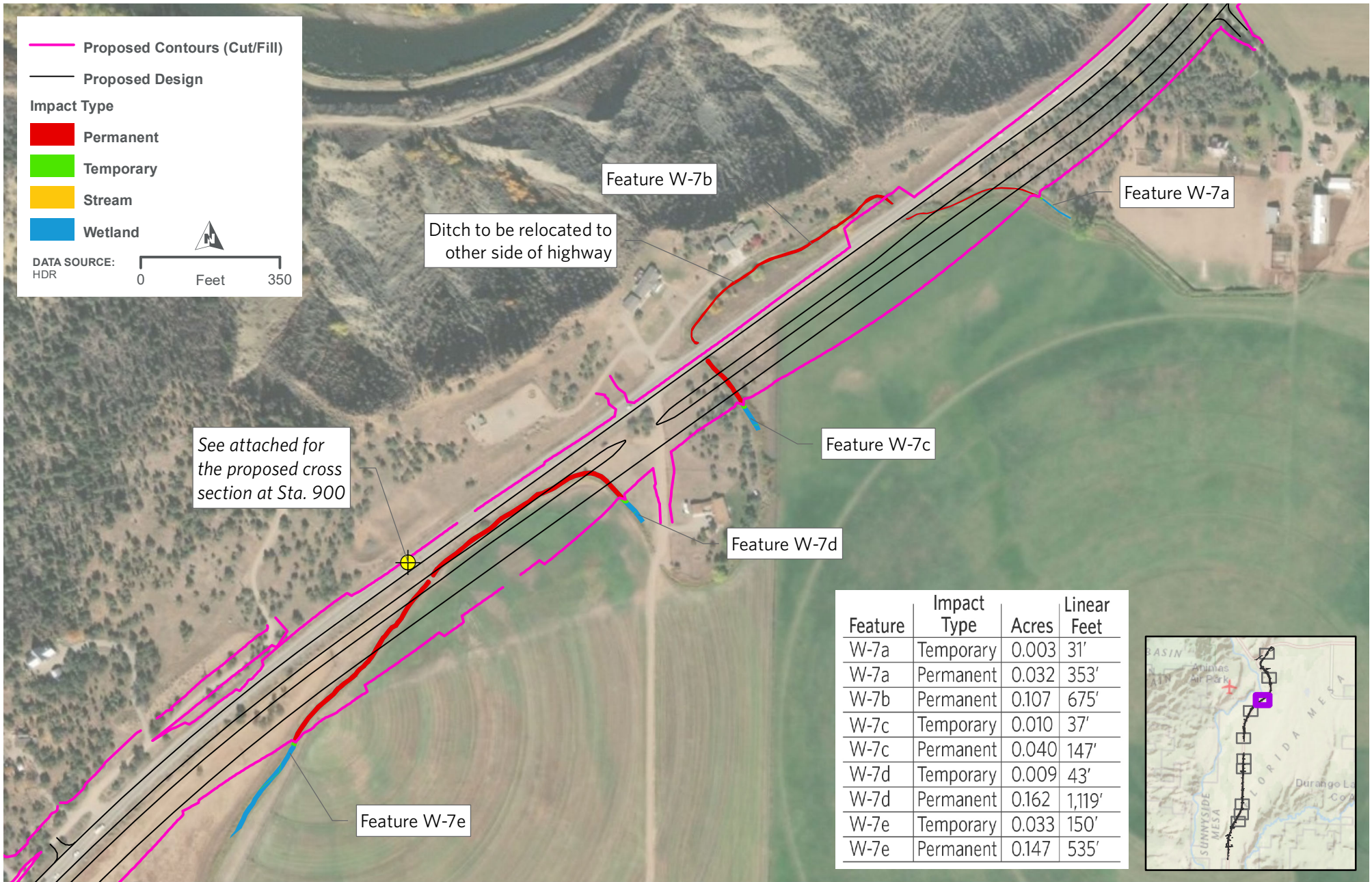
Feature 40-3

— Proposed Contours (Cut/Fill)  
— Proposed Design  
**Impact Type**  
■ Permanent  
■ Temporary  
■ Stream  
■ Wetland  
 DATA SOURCE: HDR  
 0 Feet 350

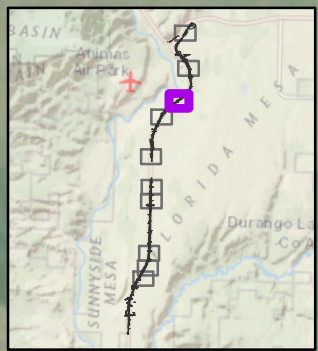
Feature	Impact Type	Acres
40-3	Permanent	0.111
40-5	Temporary	0.024
40-5	Permanent	0.127



**US 550/160 CONNECTION SOUTH D/B  
AQUATIC RESOURCES IMPACTS MAP**

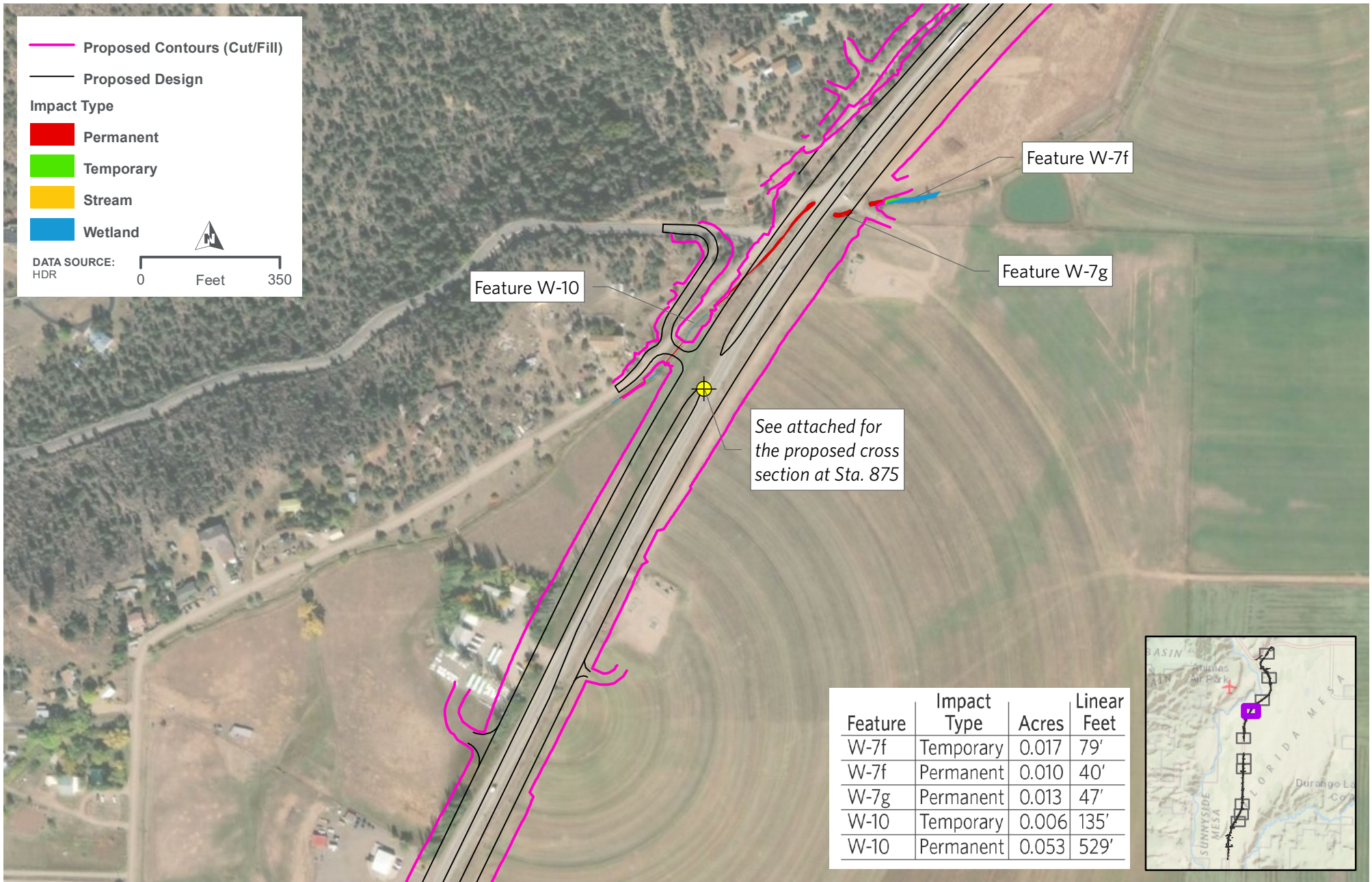


Feature	Impact Type	Acres	Linear Feet
W-7a	Temporary	0.003	31'
W-7a	Permanent	0.032	353'
W-7b	Permanent	0.107	675'
W-7c	Temporary	0.010	37'
W-7c	Permanent	0.040	147'
W-7d	Temporary	0.009	43'
W-7d	Permanent	0.162	1,119'
W-7e	Temporary	0.033	150'
W-7e	Permanent	0.147	535'



**US 550/160 CONNECTION SOUTH D/B  
AQUATIC RESOURCES IMPACTS MAP**



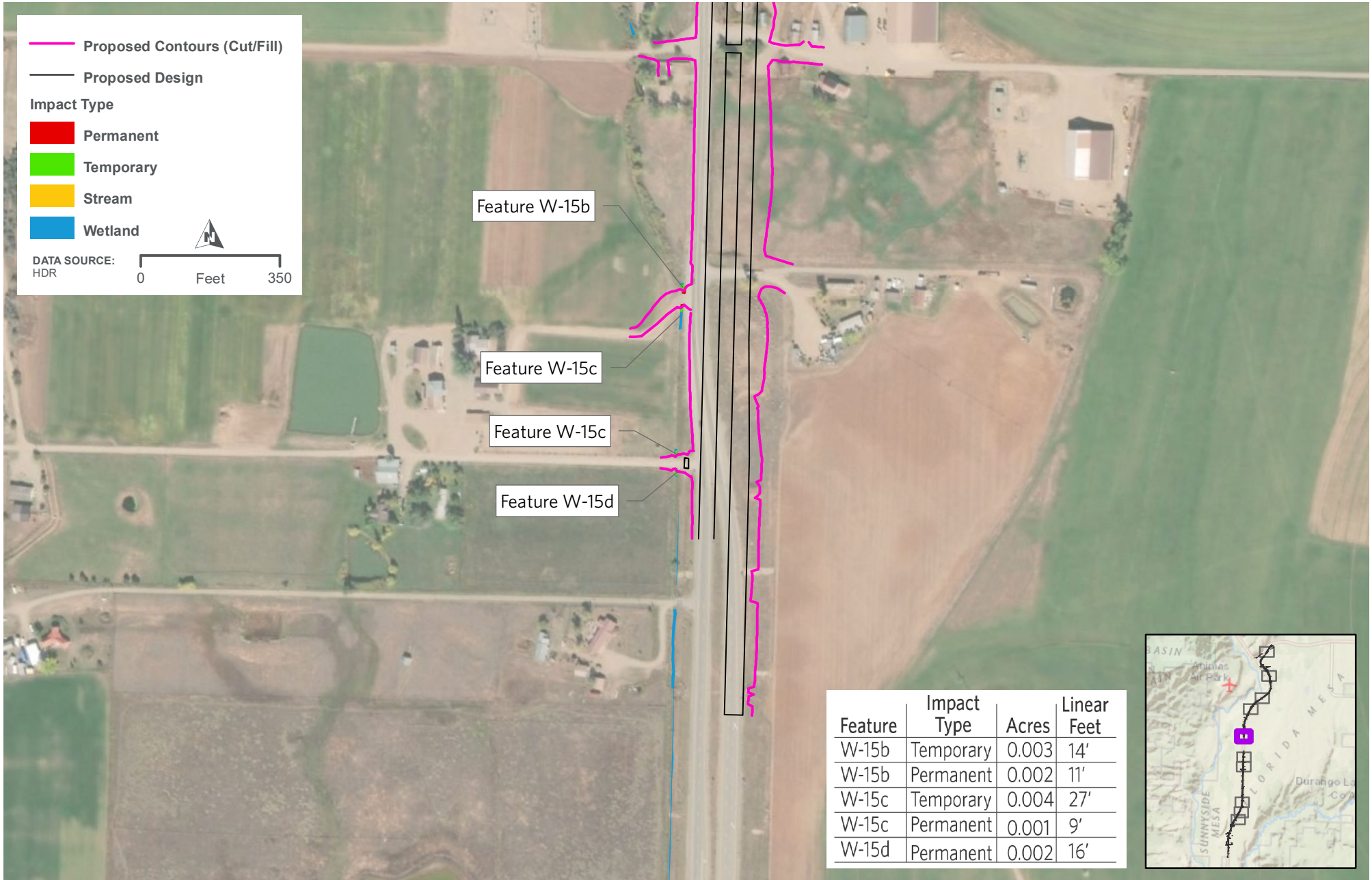


See attached for  
the proposed cross  
section at Sta. 875

Feature	Impact Type	Acres	Linear Feet
W-7f	Temporary	0.017	79'
W-7f	Permanent	0.010	40'
W-7g	Permanent	0.013	47'
W-10	Temporary	0.006	135'
W-10	Permanent	0.053	529'



**US 550/160 CONNECTION SOUTH D/B  
AQUATIC RESOURCES IMPACTS MAP**



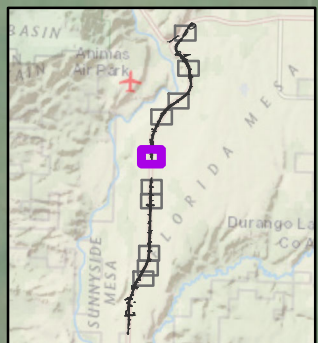
Feature W-15b

Feature W-15c

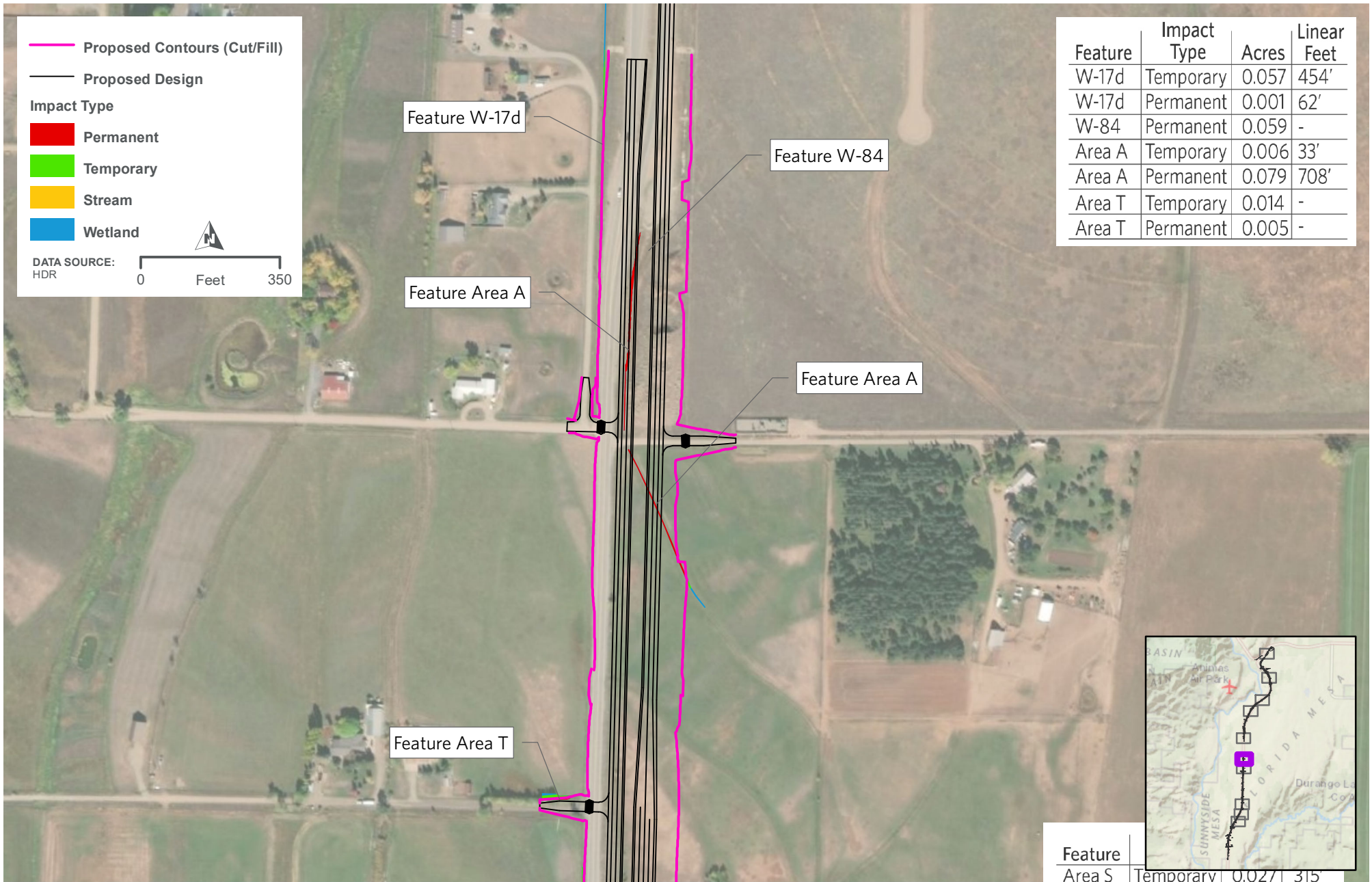
Feature W-15c

Feature W-15d

Feature	Impact Type	Acres	Linear Feet
W-15b	Temporary	0.003	14'
W-15b	Permanent	0.002	11'
W-15c	Temporary	0.004	27'
W-15c	Permanent	0.001	9'
W-15d	Permanent	0.002	16'



**US 550/160 CONNECTION SOUTH D/B  
AQUATIC RESOURCES IMPACTS MAP**

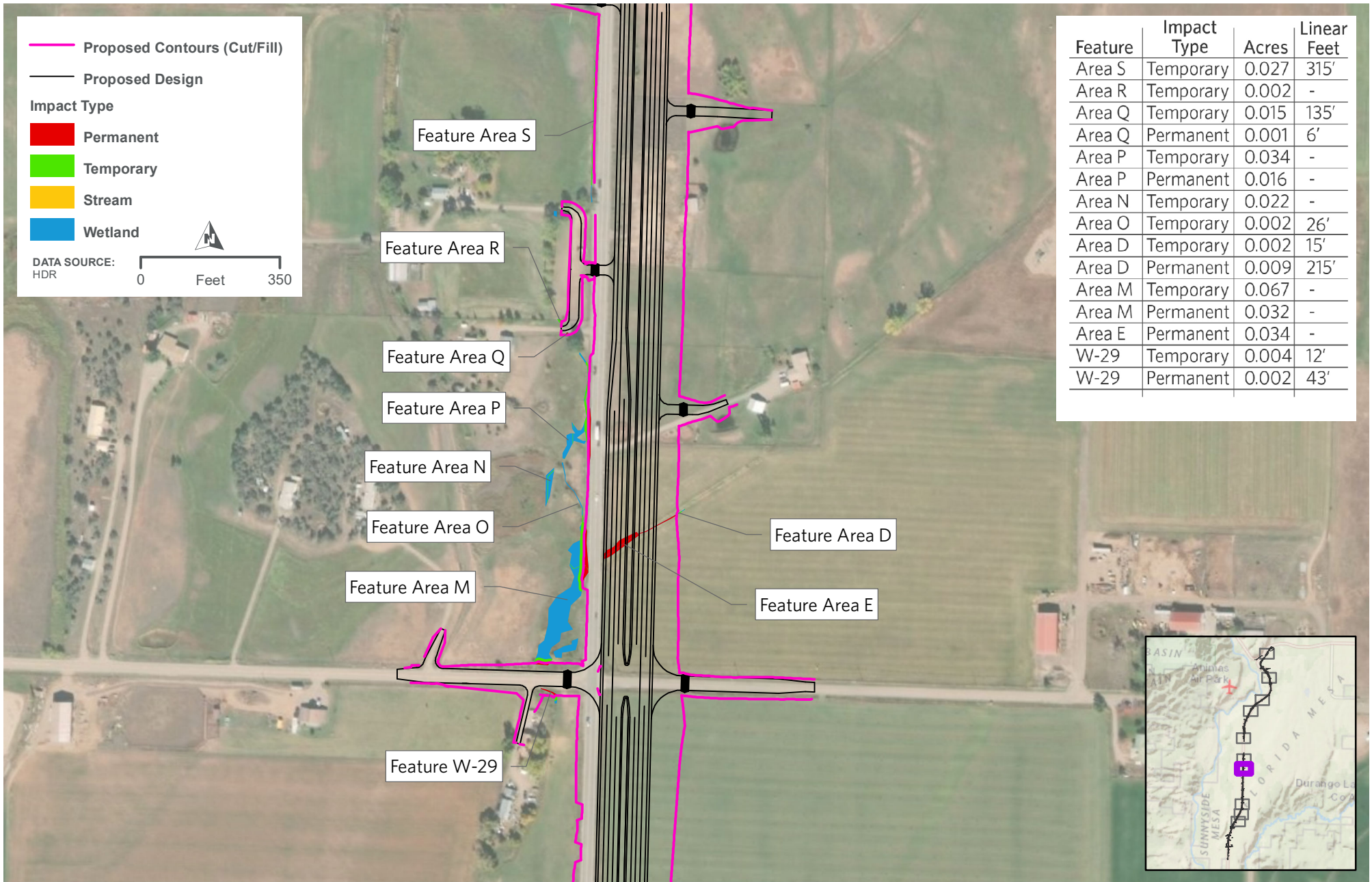


Feature	Impact Type	Acres	Linear Feet
W-17d	Temporary	0.057	454'
W-17d	Permanent	0.001	62'
W-84	Permanent	0.059	-
Area A	Temporary	0.006	33'
Area A	Permanent	0.079	708'
Area T	Temporary	0.014	-
Area T	Permanent	0.005	-

Feature	Impact Type	Acres	Linear Feet
Area S	Temporary	0.027	315'



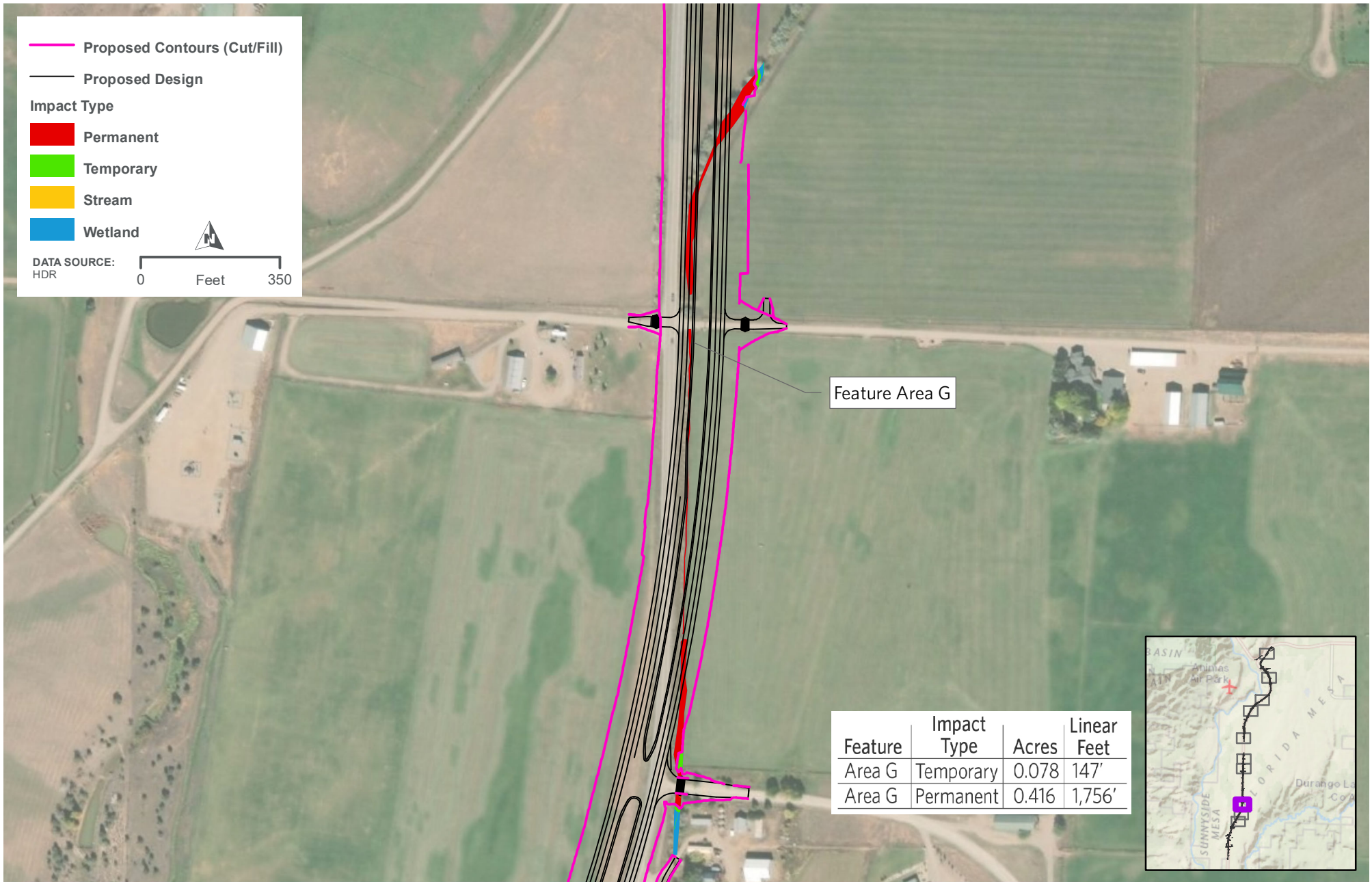
**US 550/160 CONNECTION SOUTH D/B  
AQUATIC RESOURCES IMPACTS MAP**



Feature	Impact Type	Acres	Linear Feet
Area S	Temporary	0.027	315'
Area R	Temporary	0.002	-
Area Q	Temporary	0.015	135'
Area Q	Permanent	0.001	6'
Area P	Temporary	0.034	-
Area P	Permanent	0.016	-
Area N	Temporary	0.022	-
Area O	Temporary	0.002	26'
Area D	Temporary	0.002	15'
Area D	Permanent	0.009	215'
Area M	Temporary	0.067	-
Area M	Permanent	0.032	-
Area E	Permanent	0.034	-
W-29	Temporary	0.004	12'
W-29	Permanent	0.002	43'



**US 550/160 CONNECTION SOUTH D/B  
AQUATIC RESOURCES IMPACTS MAP**



Proposed Contours (Cut/Fill)

Proposed Design

Impact Type

Permanent

Temporary

Stream

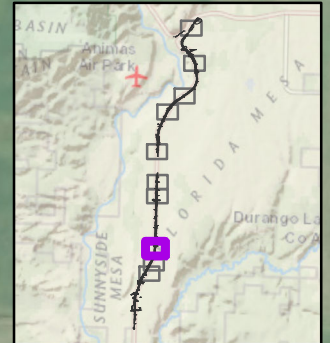
Wetland

DATA SOURCE:  
HDR

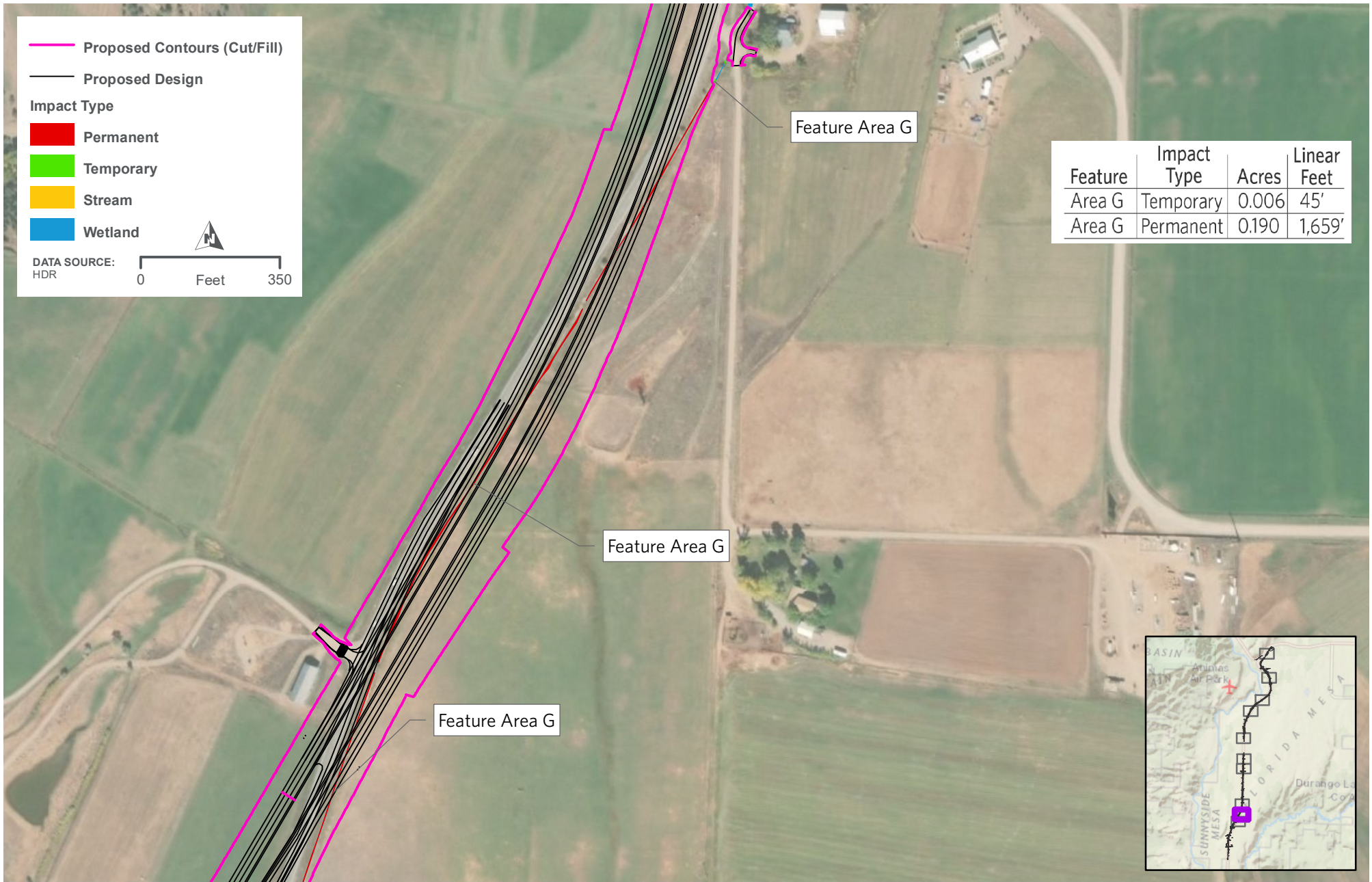
0 Feet 350

Feature Area G

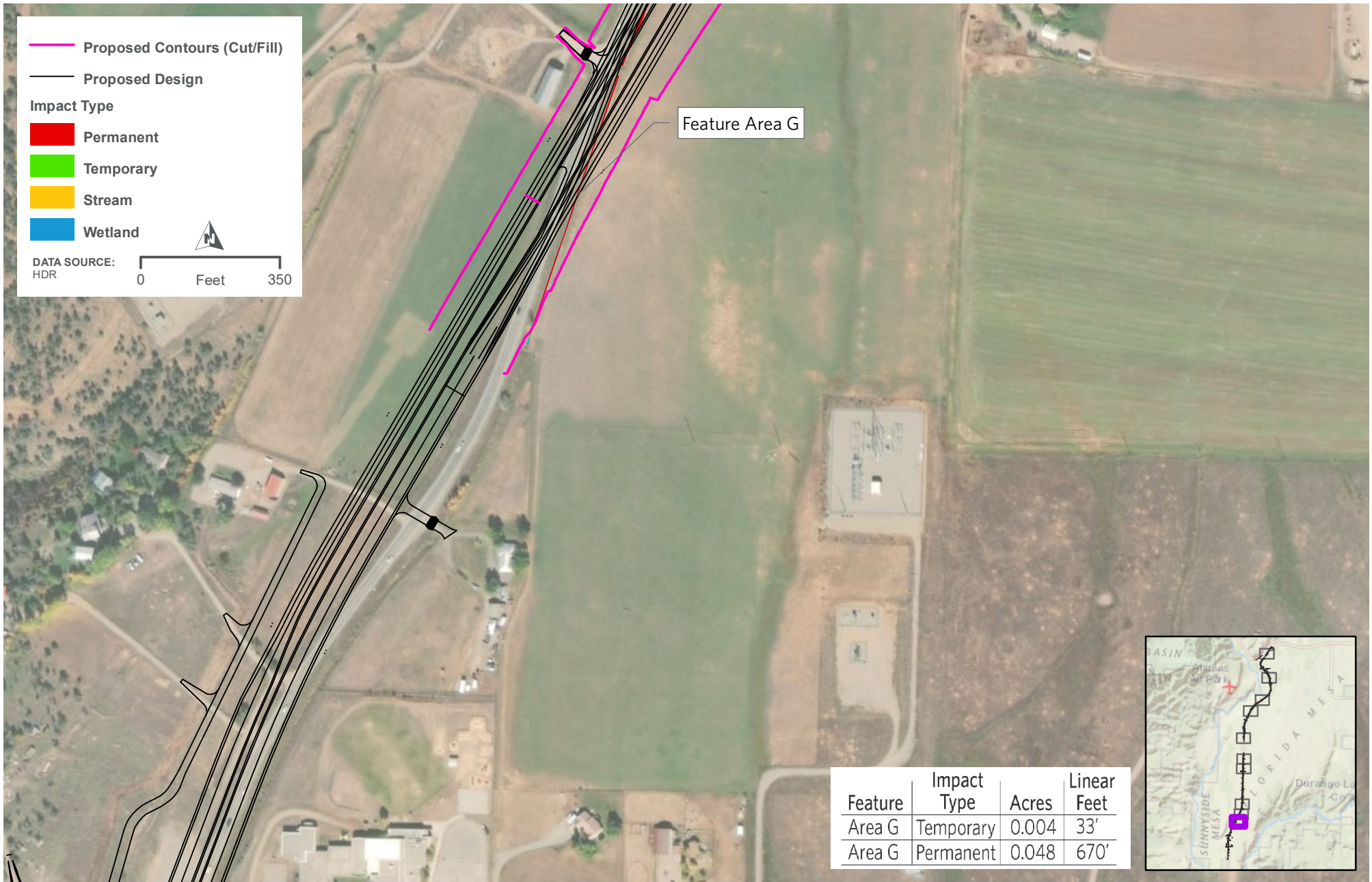
Feature	Impact Type	Acres	Linear Feet
Area G	Temporary	0.078	147'
Area G	Permanent	0.416	1,756'



**US 550/160 CONNECTION SOUTH D/B  
AQUATIC RESOURCES IMPACTS MAP**



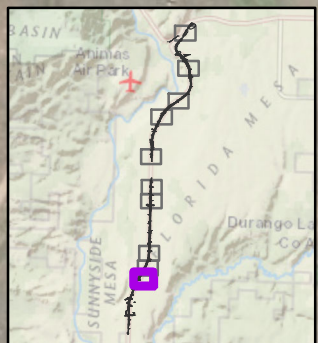
**US 550/160 CONNECTION SOUTH D/B  
AQUATIC RESOURCES IMPACTS MAP**



Feature Area G

— Proposed Contours (Cut/Fill)  
— Proposed Design  
**Impact Type**  
■ Permanent  
■ Temporary  
■ Stream  
■ Wetland  
 DATA SOURCE: HDR  
 0 Feet 350

Feature	Impact Type	Acres	Linear Feet
Area G	Temporary	0.004	33'
Area G	Permanent	0.048	670'



**US 550/160 CONNECTION SOUTH D/B  
AQUATIC RESOURCES IMPACTS MAP**

**ATTACHMENT 5**

**Cross Section Drawings**





**ATTACHMENT 6**

**Section 7 Consultation Documentation**



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Colorado Division**

January 31, 2019

12300 W. Dakota Ave., Suite #180  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228  
720-963-3000

Drue L. DeBerry  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC, (MS 65412)  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486  
VIA EMAIL ONLY

Attention: Ms. Alison Michael

**Subject: Concurrence Extension Request for CDOT Region 5's Reevaluation of the US 550 South Connection to US 160 Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement/Section 4(f) Evaluation and Record of Decision, La Plata County, Colorado. Project # NHPP 5501-029; SA 22420, Consultation #ES/LK-6-CO-06-F-011**

Dear Mr. DeBerry:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region 5, proposes to construct a new connection to U.S. Highway 160 (US 160) from the existing U.S. Highway 550 (US 550) alignment near milepost 15.7. The new connection would tie in to existing US 160 at the Grandview Interchange which is approximately 0.6 mile east of the existing US 160 and US 550 (south) connection. The connection from existing US 550 to US 160 via Grandview Interchange would create an additional approximately 1.2 miles of new roadway.

The US 550 South Connection to US 160 Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement/Section 4(f) Evaluation (SFEIS) was prepared in June 2012 to supplement information contained in the US Highway 160 from Durango to Bayfield Environmental Impact Statement and Final Section 4(f) Evaluation (FEIS). A Reevaluation of the SFEIS was finalized in 2015 to update possible impacts from new alternatives that warranted analysis. As a part of the SFEIS Reevaluation analysis, a Biological Resource Report(BRR) was prepared in October 2014 to assess possible impacts to federally listed/proposed/candidate species and proposed/designated critical habitat that could result from the proposed alternatives. The 2014 BRR developed "Is Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determinations for the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and endangered New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*). An "Is Likely to Adversely Affect" determination was asserted for the endangered Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) and endangered razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) due to temporary minor water depletions to the Upper Colorado River Basin. A letter of concurrence with these determinations was issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service (USFWS) on November 3, 2014. The letter of concurrence agreed that

anticipated impacts to the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and New Mexico meadow jumping mouse would be discountable and insignificant and that the possible impacts resulting from minor temporary water depletions within the Upper Colorado River Basin were addressed in the May 21, 1999 Minor Water Depletions of 100 Acre-feet or Less from the San Juan River Basin Biological Opinion. Based upon the findings of the SFEIS, a Record of Decision (ROD) was published in April 2015.

General habitat conditions within the action area have not changed significantly since the 2015 ROD. Site visits of the current project and action area were conducted in July 2018 by HDR and CDOT biologists. On site evaluations and desktop analysis of existing habitats confirmed that there have been no widespread degradations to habitats within the action area such as large scale developments, wildfire, severe drought, or other similar changes that could have altered the ecosystems described in the SFEIS. Additionally, there are no additional proposed/listed/candidate species or proposed/designated critical habitat that would require analysis beyond what was assessed in the 2014 BRR. Minimization and conservation measures proposed in the BRR and USFWS Letter of Concurrence for listed/proposed/candidate species that may be present in the action area will be adhered too including the performance of pre-construction presence/absence surveys within suitable nesting habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

The FHWA is requesting an extension to the Letter of Concurrence provided by the USFWS on November 3, 2014 for those determinations documented in the October 2014 BRR. As required by the previous consultation on this action, it is also requested that the USFWS confirm that the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program can implement sufficient flows identified for the recovery of the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker in a timely manner to offset the anticipated minor temporary depletions associated with the action.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mark Lawler, CDOT Region 5 Biologist, at 970.385.8371.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Cater, P.E.  
Division Administrator

By: Stephanie Gibson  
Environmental Program Manager

Cc: Jeff Peterson, CDOT Headquarters  
Cc: Stephanie Gibson, FHWA Colorado Division  
Cc: Mark Lawler, CDOT Region



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Colorado Ecological Services

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/ES/CO

Front Range:  
Post Office Box 25486  
Mail Stop 65412  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

Western Slope:  
445 W. Gunnison Avenue  
Suite 240  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-5711

ES/LK-6-CO-06-F-011  
Previous TAILS: 06E24000-2015-I-0019  
TAILS: 06E24000-2019-I-0371

February 28, 2019

Stephanie Gibson  
Federal Highway Administration – Colorado Division  
12300 West Dakota Avenue, Suite 180  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Dear Ms. Gibson:

On November 3, 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) concurred with your determination that the realignment of the U.S. Highway 550 South Connection to U.S. Highway 160 in Durango, La Plata County, Colorado, was not likely to adversely affect the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*) and the endangered New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*) (06E24000-2019-I-0371). Critical habitats for these species have not been proposed or designated in the project area; therefore, none will be affected. Our review was performed consistent with our authority under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Our concurrence was based on the lack of habitat for these species in the project area; therefore effects were expected to be discountable. In addition, the possible impacts resulting from minor temporary water depletions within the Upper Colorado River Basin were addressed in the May 21, 1999, Minor Water Depletions of 100 Acre-feet or Less from the San Juan River Basin Biological Opinion. Based upon the findings of the *US 550 South Connection to US 160 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement*, a Record of Decision (ROD) was published in April 2015.

On February 1, 2019, we received your request to extend our earlier concurrence, and to confirm that the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program can implement sufficient flows identified for the recovery of the Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) and razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) in a timely manner to offset the anticipated minor temporary depletions associated with the action. There have been no changes to the project description, and habitat conditions in the corridor have also not changed significantly since the 2015 ROD. Further, no additional species have been listed or additional critical habitat proposed or designated in the project area. Minimization and conservation measures proposed in the biological report as well as our earlier concurrence will be adhered to including the performance

of pre-construction presence/absence surveys within suitable nesting habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

Given that neither habitat conditions nor the project description have changed, and that no new species or critical habitats have been listed, proposed, or designated, we continue to expect the impacts from the project to the species to be insignificant and discountable. Further, the Service considers the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program's overall progress toward recovery of the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker in the San Juan River to be sufficient for the Program to continue as the ESA compliance mechanism for water development and operations within the San Juan River Basin.

Please note that reinitiation of consultation will be required if:

1. New information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in this consultation;
2. The action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an adverse effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in this consultation; or
3. A new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.

If the proposed project has not commenced within one year, please contact the Colorado Field Office to request an extension. We appreciate your submitting this report to our office for review and comment. If the Service can be of further assistance, please contact Alison Deans Michael of my staff at [alison\\_michael@fws.gov](mailto:alison_michael@fws.gov) or (303) 236-4758.

Sincerely,

Drue L. DeBerry  
Colorado and Nebraska Field Offices Supervisor

ec: USFWS/GJ (Aimee Crittendon)  
CDOT, HQ (Jeff Peterson)  
CDOT, R5 (Mark Lawler)  
Michael



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Colorado Division**

February 1, 2019

12300 W. Dakota Ave., Suite #180  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228  
720-963-3000

Drue L. DeBerry  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC, (MS 65412)  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486  
VIA EMAIL ONLY

Attention: Ms. Alison Michael

**RE: Biological Assessment for Reevaluation of the 2005 U.S. Highway 550 State Line North to County Road 220 Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, La Plata County, Colorado. Project # NHPP 5501-029; SA 22420, Consultation #ES-6-RO-05-F-GJSJ002**

Dear Mr. DeBerry:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), proposes to extend the existing four-lane widening on U.S. Highway 550 (US 550) at County Road (CR) 302 south to approximately milepost (MP) 7.45 at Kirby Lane and north to MP 15.8 near the existing US 550/CR 220 intersection. As a result of this proposal, FHWA is requesting formal consultation on the potential effects this action may have on federally listed species. Specifically, an “Is Likely to Adversely Affect” determination has been documented in the attached biological Assessment (BA) for the endangered Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) and endangered razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) due to temporary minor water depletions within the Upper Colorado River Basin. In addition, written agreement or non-agreement is requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the “Is Not Likely to Adversely Affect” determination for the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*).

These determinations for these three species have been previously consulted on with the USFWS during the development of the *US 550 New Mexico State Line to County Road 220 Environmental Assessment*. A letter of concurrence was issued for the project on October 20, 2005 (Consultation #ES-6-RO-05-F-GJSJ002). The letter of concurrence agreed that impacts to the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher would be discountable and insignificant and that the possible impacts resulting from minor temporary water depletions within the Upper Colorado River Basin were addressed in the May 21, 1999 *Minor Water Depletions of 100 Acre-feet or Less from the San Juan River Basin Biological Opinion*. As required by the previous consultation on this action, it is also requested that the USFWS confirm that the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program is able to implement sufficient flows identified for the recovery of the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker in a timely manner to offset the anticipated minor temporary depletions associated with the action.

Please see the attached BA for a more detailed analysis of anticipated impacts and effects from the action as well as conservation and mitigation measures to minimize and offset possible impacts. This will ensure that FHWA and CDOT comply with the Endangered Species Act. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mark Lawler, CDOT Region 5 Biologist, at 970.385.8371.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Cater, P.E.  
Division Administrator

By: Stephanie Gibson  
Environmental Program Manager

Enclosure: Biological Assessment, Reevaluation of the US 550 2005 EA and FONSI

Cc: Jeff Peterson, CDOT Headquarters  
Cc: Stephanie Gibson, FHWA Colorado Division  
Cc: Mark Lawler, CDOT Region 5





# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Colorado Ecological Services

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/ES/CO

Front Range:  
Post Office Box 25486  
Mail Stop 65412  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

Western Slope:  
445 W. Gunnison Avenue  
Suite 240  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-5711

ES-6-RO-05-F-GJSJ002  
TAILS: 06E24000-2019-I-0374

February 28, 2019

Stephanie Gibson  
Federal Highway Administration – Colorado Division  
12300 West Dakota Avenue, Suite 180  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Dear Ms. Gibson:

On October 20, 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) concurred with your determination that reconstructing US550 between the New Mexico State Line and County Road 220 in La Plata County, Colorado, was not likely to adversely affect the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*) or its designated critical habitat but was likely to adversely affect the endangered Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) and endangered razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) due to water depletions (ES-6-RO-05-F-GJSJ002). Our review was performed consistent with our authority under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Our concurrence was based on the small amount of Southwestern Willow Flycatcher present in the project area and conservation measures designed to reduce the effects of the project to a level that is insignificant or discountable. These conservation measures included performing construction activities resulting in direct impacts to the species' habitat after August 15 and before May 1 and conducting pre-construction surveys. In addition, the possible impacts resulting from minor temporary water depletions within the Upper Colorado River Basin were addressed in the May 21, 1999, Minor Water Depletions of 100 Acre-feet or Less from the San Juan River Basin Biological Opinion. Based upon the findings of the the *U.S. Highway 550 State Line North to County Road 220 Environmental Assessment*, a Finding of No Significant Impacts was finalized in December 2005.

On February 1, 2019, we received your request to review our earlier concurrence, and to confirm that the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program can implement sufficient flows identified for the recovery of the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker in a timely manner to offset the anticipated minor temporary depletions associated with the action. You are now proposing to construct the segment between mileposts 7.45 and 15.8. There have been no changes to the project description; however, habitat conditions for the Southwestern Willow

Flycatcher in the corridor have degraded and the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*) has been listed as endangered.

During site surveys conducted in 2018, you noted that willow patches along the Coop Ditch are no longer sufficient to support nesting habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher though may support marginal stopover habitat though better habitat is nearby; therefore, you determined that impacts to the species are expected to be insignificant and discountable. Because the species is unlikely to be present in the project area, conservation measures such as additional surveys and compensatory mitigation are no longer warranted. Critical habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher has not been designated in the project area; therefore, none will be affected.

The 2018 site surveys also confirmed that habitat for the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse is not present in the project area. Because of this, you made the determination that the project will have no effect on the species.

Given that the project description has not changed, and that habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher has degraded to the point where it is no longer expected to support the species, we continue to expect the impacts from the project to be insignificant and discountable. Further, the Service considers the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program's overall progress toward recovery of the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker in the San Juan River to be sufficient for the Program to continue as the ESA compliance mechanism for water development and operations within the San Juan River Basin.

Please note that reinitiation of consultation will be required if:

1. New information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in this consultation;
2. The action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an adverse effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in this consultation; or
3. A new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.

If the proposed project has not commenced within one year, please contact the Colorado Field Office to request an extension. We appreciate your submitting this report to our office for review and comment. If the Service can be of further assistance, please contact Alison Deans Michael of my staff at [alison\\_michael@fws.gov](mailto:alison_michael@fws.gov) or (303) 236-4758.

Sincerely,

Drue L. DeBerry  
Colorado and Nebraska Field Offices Supervisor

ec: USFWS/GJ (Aimee Crittendon)  
CDOT, HQ (Jeff Peterson)  
CDOT, R5 (Mark Lawler)  
Michael

**ATTACHMENT 7**

**Section 106 Consultation Documentation**



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation  
Division of Transportation Development

Environmental Programs Branch  
4201 E. Arkansas Ave.  
Shumate Building  
Denver, CO 80222-3400  
(303) 757-9281

February 1, 2018

Mr. Steve Turner  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
History Colorado Center  
1200 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80203

Subject: Determinations of Eligibility and Effects, Alternatives R5 and RGM6, US 550 South Connection to US 160, La Plata County (CHS #33425)

Dear Mr. Turner:

This letter and the attached materials constitute a request for concurrence on updated determinations of eligibility and effects for the project referenced above. We previously consulted with you regarding eligibility and effects for various alternatives associated with this project between 2009 and 2011, and a Memorandum of Agreement was executed in 2012. In 2015, CDOT re-opened Section 106 consultation regarding an Independent Alternatives Analysis (IAA) that examined the best alternative to connect US Highway 550 to US 160. As a result of the IAA, Alternative R5 was evaluated and a design variation of the previously identified preferred alternative—Revised G Modified 6 (RGM6)—was identified (refer to the enclosed map). Eligibility and effects determinations were completed for all historic properties in the APE for Alternatives R5 and RGM6 as part of the 2015 consultation.

This submittal includes the following updates:

1. Revised eligibility and effects for Mason Lateral (5LP6695);
2. Updates to archaeological sites that will be directly affected;
3. Amendment to the MOA; and
4. Mitigation outlined in the MOA.

**1. Revised Eligibility and Effects, Mason Lateral (5LP6695)**

*Eligibility:* In the earlier consultation for preferred alternative RGM6, the entire Mason Lateral was treated as eligible because it had not been surveyed completely, and the segment in the APE (5LP6695.1) was determined to be *supporting*. Since then, the entire ditch has been re-evaluated and documented on a new management data and linear component form. As a result, CDOT has determined that the ditch may be significant, but the alignment has been modified from the original and alterations in the past five to ten years have compromised its overall integrity. For these reasons, the entire ditch has been determined *not eligible*. Refer to the attached site form for more information.

*Effects:* In 2010, consultation for then-preferred alternative Revised G Modified outlined direct effects to 488 lineal feet of the ditch. In the 2015 consultation it was determined that due to change in the project's common termini, the ditch was located south of the improvements so there was a finding of *no historic properties affected*. Under new preferred Alternative RGM6, it has been determined that there are no effects to the Mason Lateral because it is no longer considered to be within the US 550/US 160 Connection project study area. Because there are no direct effects and the entire ditch is not eligible, the project results in a finding of *no historic properties affected*.

**2. Updates to archaeological sites.** Five archaeological sites were identified in the 2012 MOA—5LP6665, 5LP6670, 5LP9588, 5LP9589, and 5LP9590—all of which were included based on direct effects from Alternative Revised G Modified, the previous preferred alternative. Since the execution of the MOA, new preferred alternative RGM6 has been identified (as noted above), and there are changes to the localities that will be affected. Of the sites initially identified for mitigation in the MOA, site 5LP9589 will be avoided by RGM6 but the remaining four sites (5LP6665, 5LP6670, 5LP9588, and 5LP9590) will still be adversely affected. In addition, two sites identified in previous consultation (5LP2223 and 5LP9587) will be adversely affected by RGM6, as will one site documented during recent monitoring of geotechnical drilling conducted along the RGM6 corridor (5LP11301, recommended NRHP eligible). Because 5LP2223 and 5LP9587 were previously documented and their eligibility status has not changed, site forms for those resources are not included herewith. The form for newly recorded site 5LP11301 is enclosed.

**3. Amendment to the MOA.**

An amendment to the 2012 MOA is being developed and will reflect the revisions to the list of archaeological sites, as noted above. The amendment will be reviewed and circulated for signature by the Federal Highway Administration, your office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In addition, a revised Documentation for Finding of Adverse Effect will be submitted to the Advisory Council in the near future.

**4. Mitigation.**

Under Stipulation I.B of the 2012 MOA, FHWA and CDOT committed to developing an interpretive plan that involves input and review by SHPO and the consulting parties. At this time, CDOT is requesting your input regarding the interpretive options noted in the MOA.

Under Stipulation I.C of the 2012 MOA, CDOT and FHWA committed to coordinating with your office and the consulting parties when design plans reached the 30%, 70%, and 90% thresholds. Attached are select sheets of the post-Field Inspection Review plans (slightly over 30%) for your review. These plan sheets show the proposed US 550 alignment relative to the historic ranch properties along the corridor. Per the MOA, we request your comments regarding these plans. A copy of the 2012 MOA is also enclosed for your review.

We request your concurrence with the determinations of eligibility and effects as outlined above. This information has been sent concurrently to the consulting parties (including three Native American tribes) identified for the project. Please contact CDOT Senior Historian Lisa Schoch at (303) 512-4258 or [lisa.schoch@state.co.us](mailto:lisa.schoch@state.co.us), or Senior Archaeologist Dan Jepson at (303) 757-9631 or [daniel.jepson@state.co.us](mailto:daniel.jepson@state.co.us), if you have questions or require additional information.

Mr. Turner  
February 1, 2018  
Page 3 of 3

Very truly yours,



Jane Hann, Manager  
Environmental Programs Branch

Enclosures      Alternatives map  
                         Site forms for 5LP6695 & 5LP11301  
                         Copy of 2012 MOA  
                         Post-FIR Plans (select sheets)

cc:      Tony Cady, CDOT Region 5



 OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

MAR 12 2018

Jane Hann  
Manager, Environmental Programs Branch  
Department of Transportation  
4201 East Arkansas Avenue  
Shumate Building  
Denver, Colorado 80222-3400

Re: Determinations of Eligibility and Effects, Alternatives R5 and RGM6, US 550 South Connection to US 160, La Plata County (HC #33425)

Dear Ms Hann:

We received your correspondence dated February 1, 2018 on February 8, 2018 requesting additional consultation on the referenced project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

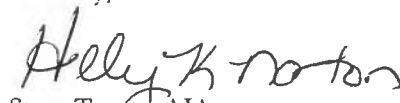
Our comments are provided in order of the four updates presented by your letter.

1. We concur with your determination that the Mason Lateral Ditch (5LP6695) is not eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places due to insufficient aspects of historic integrity. We concur that the undertaking will result in a finding of no historic properties affected to site 5LP6695.
2. We concur with your determination that site 5LP11301 is eligible for listing to the National Register under Criterion D. In order for our office to provide comment on your revised findings to archaeological sites located within alternative RGM6, we request that you provide a map that graphically shows the current preferred alternative and locations of nearby historic properties and/or a shapefile of this alignment so that we may complete this comparison within our GIS. Additionally, we request that you provide a hard-copy of the report titled *Results of Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Boring for the Colorado Department of Transportation Highway 550 and 160 Interchange, in La Plata County, Colorado* for our review.
3. We look forward to additional consultation on the draft amendment to the existing project MOA.
4. Considering recent staffing changes within our office, we respectfully request a meeting to discuss alternative mitigation options and ways to minimize effects to nearby historic and archaeological resources as per Stipulations I.B and I.D of the MOA. Such a meeting will ensure that there is understanding and agreement among your consulting parties.

We request being involved in the consultation process with the local government, which as stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3 is required to be notified of the undertaking, and with other consulting parties. Additional information provided by the local government or consulting parties might cause our office to re-evaluate our eligibility and potential effect findings.

If we may be of further assistance, please contact Mark Tobias, Intergovernmental Services Manager, at (303) 866-4674 or [mark.tobias@state.co.us](mailto:mark.tobias@state.co.us).

Sincerely,

  
Steve Turner, AIA  
State Historic Preservation Officer



Jane Hann  
Manager, Environmental Programs Branch  
Colorado Department of Transportation  
2829 W. Howard Place  
Denver, CO 80204

JUL 09 2018

Re: Determinations of Eligibility and Effects for Historic Resources, US 550 – County Road 302  
North and Gap Design-Build, La Plata County (HC #74526)

Dear Ms. Hann:

Thank you for your correspondence dated June 27, 2018 and received on June 29, 2018 by our office regarding the consultation of the above-mentioned project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106).

After review of the provided information, we do not object to the proposed Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed project.

After review, we recognize that 5LP.9307 was previously determined *officially eligible* during Section 106 consultation for the US 550 South Connection to US 160 project. This project resulted in a finding of adverse effect to 5LP.9307, which has been mitigated. The current undertaking will result in effects similar in type and magnitude and we agree that effects of the current undertaking have been evaluated and resolved under earlier mitigation. We concur that the following resources are *not eligible* for the National Register of Historic Places.

- 5LP.6654.1
- 5LP.6695
- 5LP.11312
- 5LP.11313
- 5LP.11314
- 5LP.11315
- 5LP.11316
- 5LP.11317
- 5LP.11318
- 5LP.11319
- 5LP.11320
- 5LP.11321
- 5LP.11322
- 5LP.11323
- 5LP.11324
- 5LP.11325
- 5LP.11326
- 5LP.11343

Our office has reviewed the scope of work and assessment of adverse effect, we concur with the recommended finding of *no historic properties affected* [36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)] under Section 106 for the following resources.

- 5LP.6654.1
- 5LP.6695
- 5LP.11312
- 5LP.11313
- 5LP.11314
- 5LP.11315
- 5LP.11316
- 5LP.11317
- 5LP.11318
- 5LP.11319
- 5LP.11320
- 5LP.11321
- 5LP.11322
- 5LP.11323
- 5LP.11324
- 5LP.11325
- 5LP.11326
- 5LP.11343

Should unidentified archaeological resources be discovered in the course of the project, work must be interrupted until the resources have been evaluated in terms of the National Register eligibility criteria (36 CFR 60.4) in consultation with our office pursuant to 36 CFR 800.13. Also, should the consulted-upon scope of the work change please contact our office for continued consultation under 36 CFR 800.

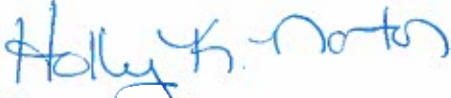
We request being involved in the consultation process with the local government, which as stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3 is required to be notified of the undertaking, and with other consulting



parties. Additional information provided by the local government or consulting parties might cause our office to re-evaluate our eligibility and potential effect findings. Please note that our compliance letter does not end the 30-day review period provided to other consulting parties.

If we may be of further assistance, please contact Jason O'Brien, Section 106 Compliance Manager, at (303) 866-2673 or [Jason.obrien@state.co.us](mailto:Jason.obrien@state.co.us).

Sincerely,

  
for Steve Turner, AIA  
State Historic Preservation Officer