### **TECHNICAL REPORT COVERSHEET**

#### DRAFT FARMLANDS EVALUATION

Florida Department of Transportation

District One

S.R. 70 PD&E Study

Limits of Project: From C.R. 721 S to C.R. 599/128th Avenue

Highlands and Okeechobee Counties, Florida

Financial Management Number: 450334-1-22-01

ETDM Number: 14491

Date: September 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.

(Rev. 1-91)

# FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)			3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 9/29/25 Sheet 1 of							
1. Name of Project SR 70 from CR 721S to CR 599/SW 128th Ave.				5. Federal Agency Involved FDOT District One						
2. Type of Project PD&E Study (FPID 450334-1)				6. County and State Highlands County, Florida						
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)			Date Request Received by NRCS			2. Person Completing Form				
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 forr				YES V NO		Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size				
5. Major Crop(s)		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	nd in Government Jurisdiction			7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA				
		Acres:	%			Acres: %				
Name Of Land Evaluation System U					Site Assessment System			10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS		
PART III (To be completed by Fe	deral Agency)			Altern	ative Corr	idor For Se	gment <u>16</u>			
				Preferred Alt 1		Alt 2				
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Dire	ctly			176.6	164.2	164.2				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted India	rectly, Or To Receive S	Services		0	0	-				
C. Total Acres In Corridor				281.3	286	.5				
PART IV (To be completed by N	RCS) Land Evaluati	on Information								
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Fa	armland									
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local	Important Farmland									
C. Percentage Of Farmland in Cour	·									
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt.	Jurisdiction With Same	Or Higher Relativ	e Value							
PART V (To be completed by NRCS	,		Relative							
value of Farmland to Be Serviced of	'	T T								
PART VI (To be completed by Fed Assessment Criteria (These criteria			aximum Points							
1. Area in Nonurban Use			15							
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use			10							
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Far			20							
4. Protection Provided By State			20							
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average			10							
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland			25							
7. Availablility Of Farm Support S	Services		5							
8. On-Farm Investments			20					+		
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services			25					+		
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS			10					+		
			100					<del>                                     </del>		
PART VII (To be completed by Fe										
Relative Value Of Farmland (From			100							
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)			160							
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)			260							
Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farm	lands to be 3	Date Of	Selection:	4 Was	A Local Site	Assessment Use	d?		
	Converted by Proje		24.00.		1. *****	7 ( Loodi Oilo	7 tooooomonic oo	, d.		
						YES NO 🗸				
5. Reason For Selection:	1	ı								
Signature of Derson Completing the				ID ATE						
Signature of Person Completing this Part:						DATE				
NOTE: Complete a form for ea	ach seament with r	nore than one	Alternat	e Corridor						

### **CORRIDOR - TYPE SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

The following criteria are to be used for projects that have a linear or corridor - type site configuration connecting two distant points, and crossing several different tracts of land. These include utility lines, highways, railroads, stream improvements, and flood control systems. Federal agencies are to assess the suitability of each corridor - type site or design alternative for protection as farmland along with the land evaluation information.

(1) How much land is in nonurban use within a radius of 1.0 mile from where the project is intended? More than 90 percent - 15 points 90 to 20 percent - 14 to 1 point(s) Less than 20 percent - 0 points

(2) How much of the perimeter of the site borders on land in nonurban use? More than 90 percent - 10 points 90 to 20 percent - 9 to 1 point(s) Less than 20 percent - 0 points

(3) How much of the site has been farmed (managed for a scheduled harvest or timber activity) more than five of the last 10 years?

More than 90 percent - 20 points
90 to 20 percent - 19 to 1 point(s)

Less than 20 percent - 0 points

(4) Is the site subject to state or unit of local government policies or programs to protect farmland or covered by private programs to protect farmland? Site is protected - 20 points

Site is protected - 20 points Site is not protected - 0 points

(5) Is the farm unit(s) containing the site (before the project) as large as the average - size farming unit in the County? (Average farm sizes in each county are available from the NRCS field offices in each state. Data are from the latest available Census of Agriculture, Acreage or Farm Units in Operation with \$1,000 or more in sales.)

As large or larger - 10 points

Below average - deduct 1 point for each 5 percent below the average, down to 0 points if 50 percent or more below average - 9 to 0 points

(6) If the site is chosen for the project, how much of the remaining land on the farm will become non-farmable because of interference with land patterns?

Acreage equal to more than 25 percent of acres directly converted by the project - 25 points

Acreage equal to between 25 and 5 percent of the acres directly converted by the project - 1 to 24 point(s)

Acreage equal to less than 5 percent of the acres directly converted by the project - 0 points

(7) Does the site have available adequate supply of farm support services and markets, i.e., farm suppliers, equipment dealers, processing and storage facilities and farmer's markets?

All required services are available - 5 points

Some required services are available - 4 to 1 point(s)

No required services are available - 0 points

(8) Does the site have substantial and well-maintained on-farm investments such as barns, other storage building, fruit trees and vines, field terraces, drainage, irrigation, waterways, or other soil and water conservation measures? High amount of on-farm investment - 20 points

Moderate amount of on-farm investment - 20 points

Moderate amount of on-farm investment - 19 to 1 point(s)

No on-farm investment - 0 points

(9) Would the project at this site, by converting farmland to nonagricultural use, reduce the demand for farm support services so as to jeopardize the continued existence of these support services and thus, the viability of the farms remaining in the area? Substantial reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 25 points

Some reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 1 to 24 point(s)

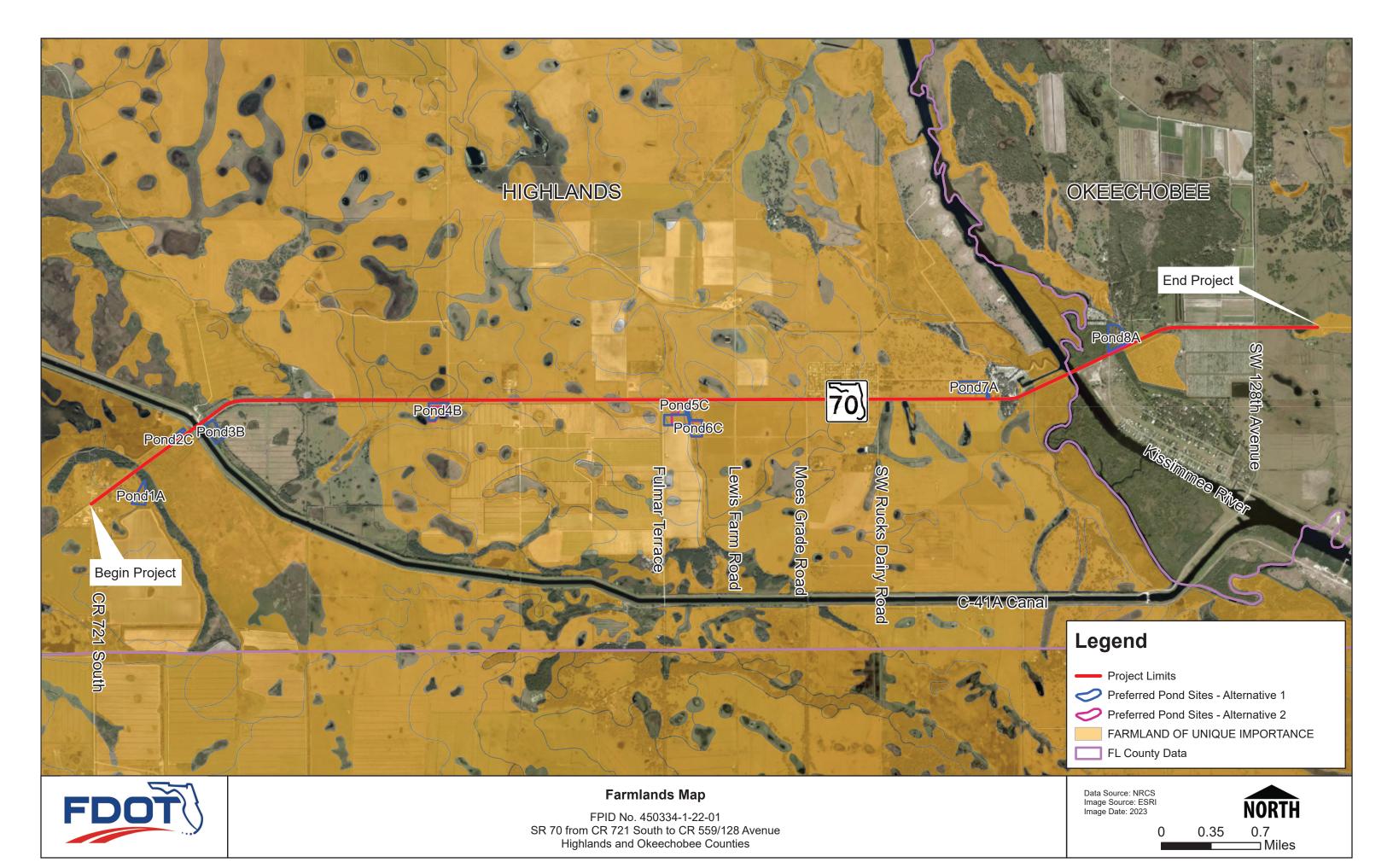
No significant reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 0 points

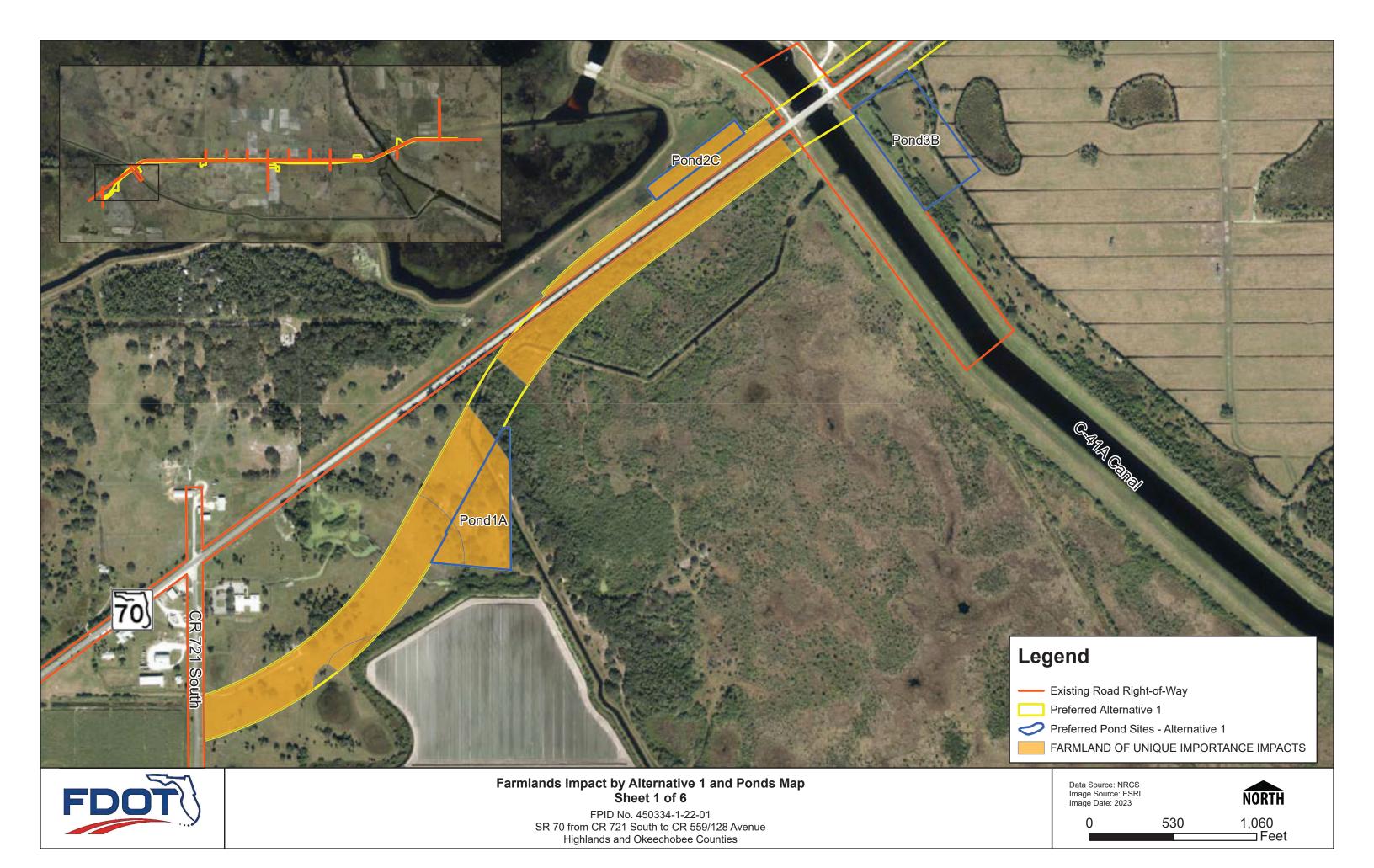
(10) Is the kind and intensity of the proposed use of the site sufficiently incompatible with agriculture that it is likely to contribute to the eventual conversion of surrounding farmland to nonagricultural use?

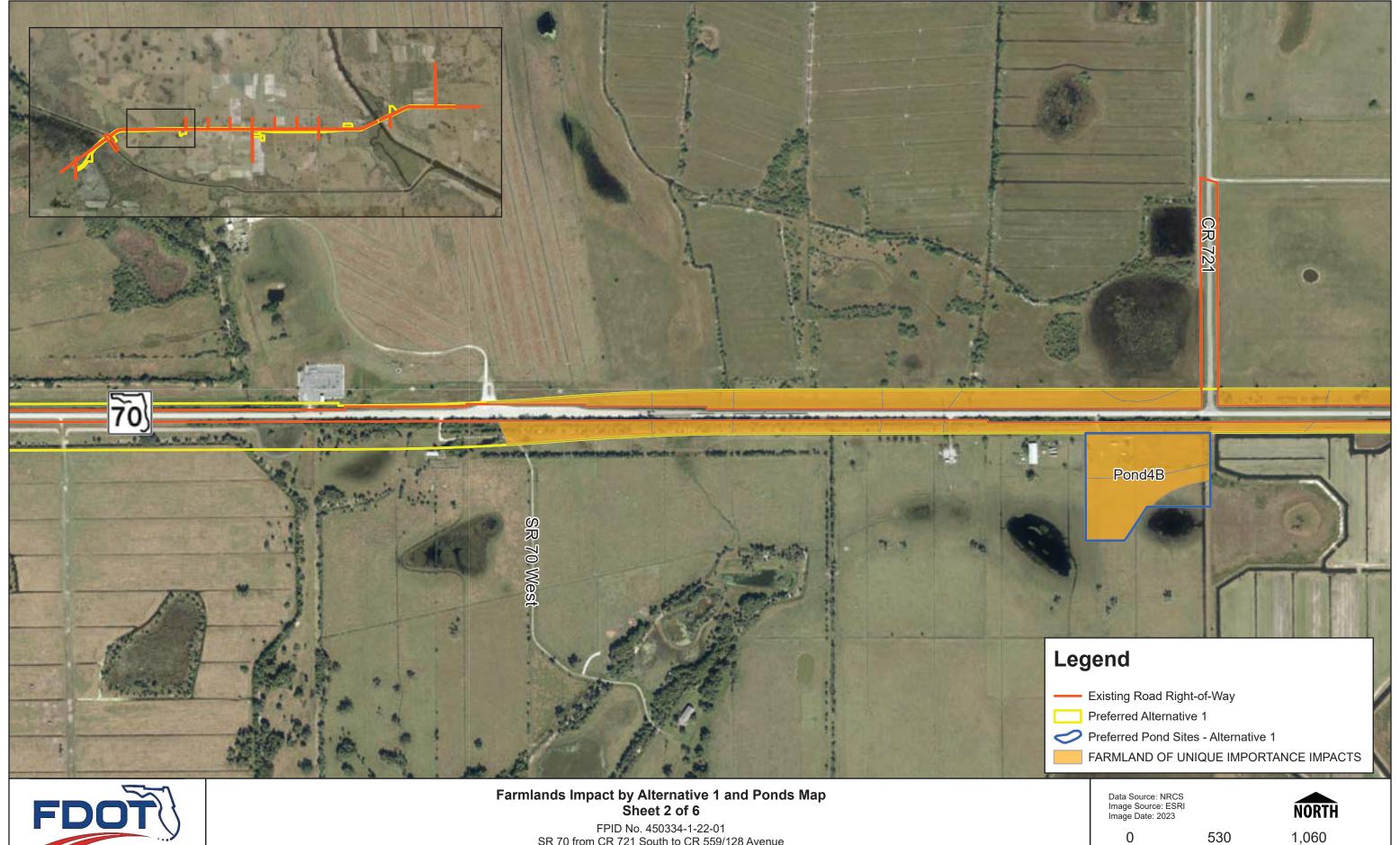
Proposed project is incompatible to existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 10 points

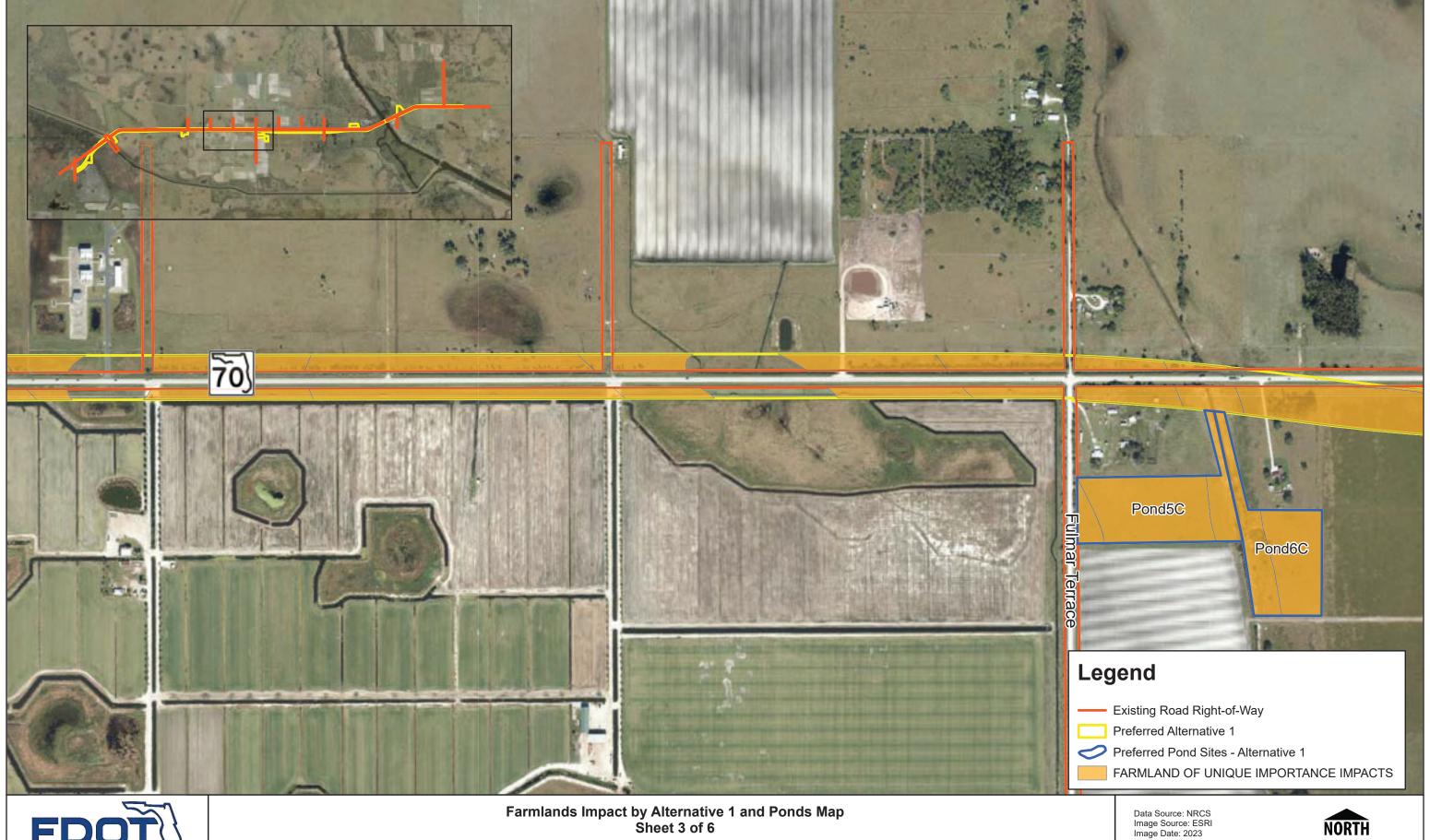
Proposed project is tolerable to existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 9 to 1 point(s)

Proposed project is fully compatible with existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 0 points

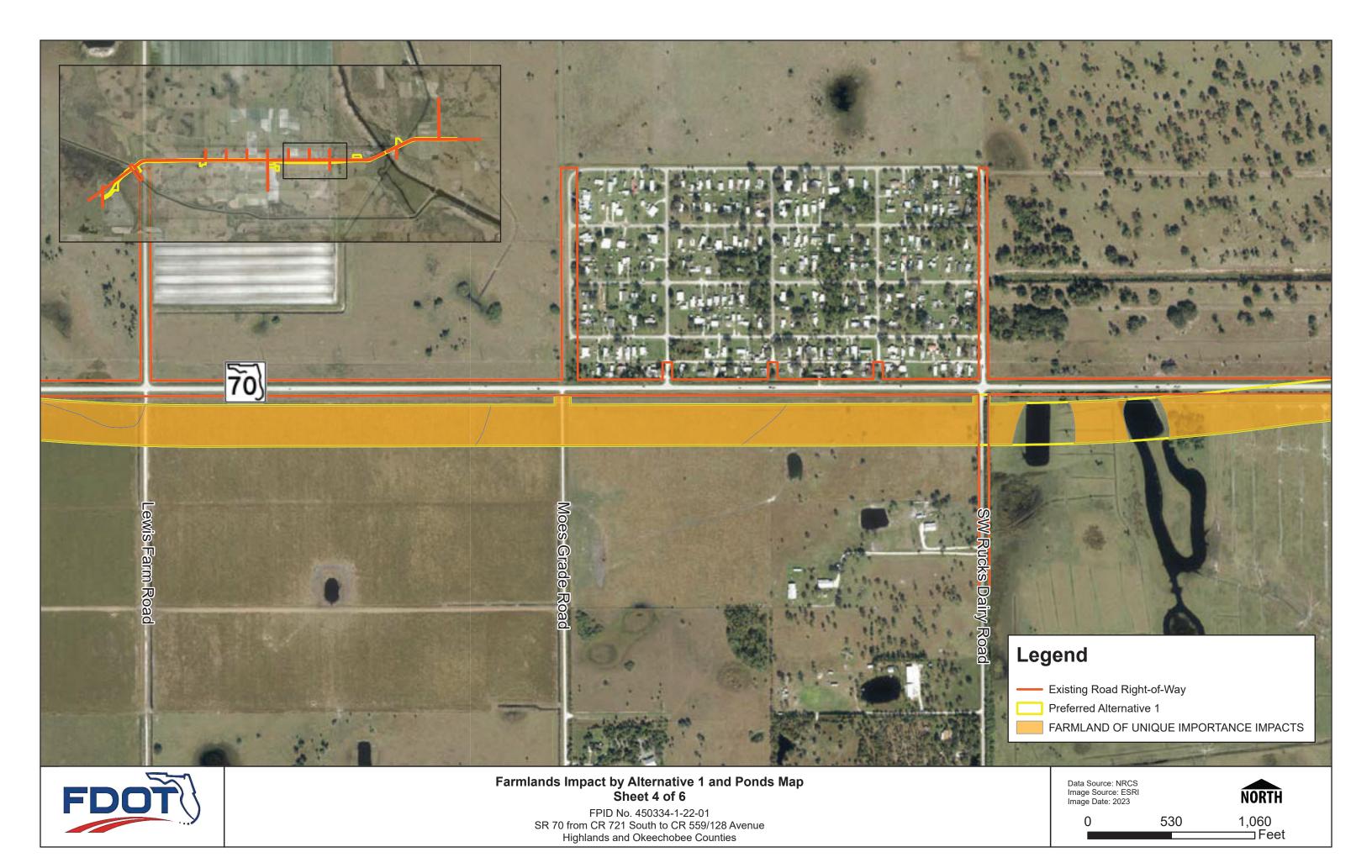


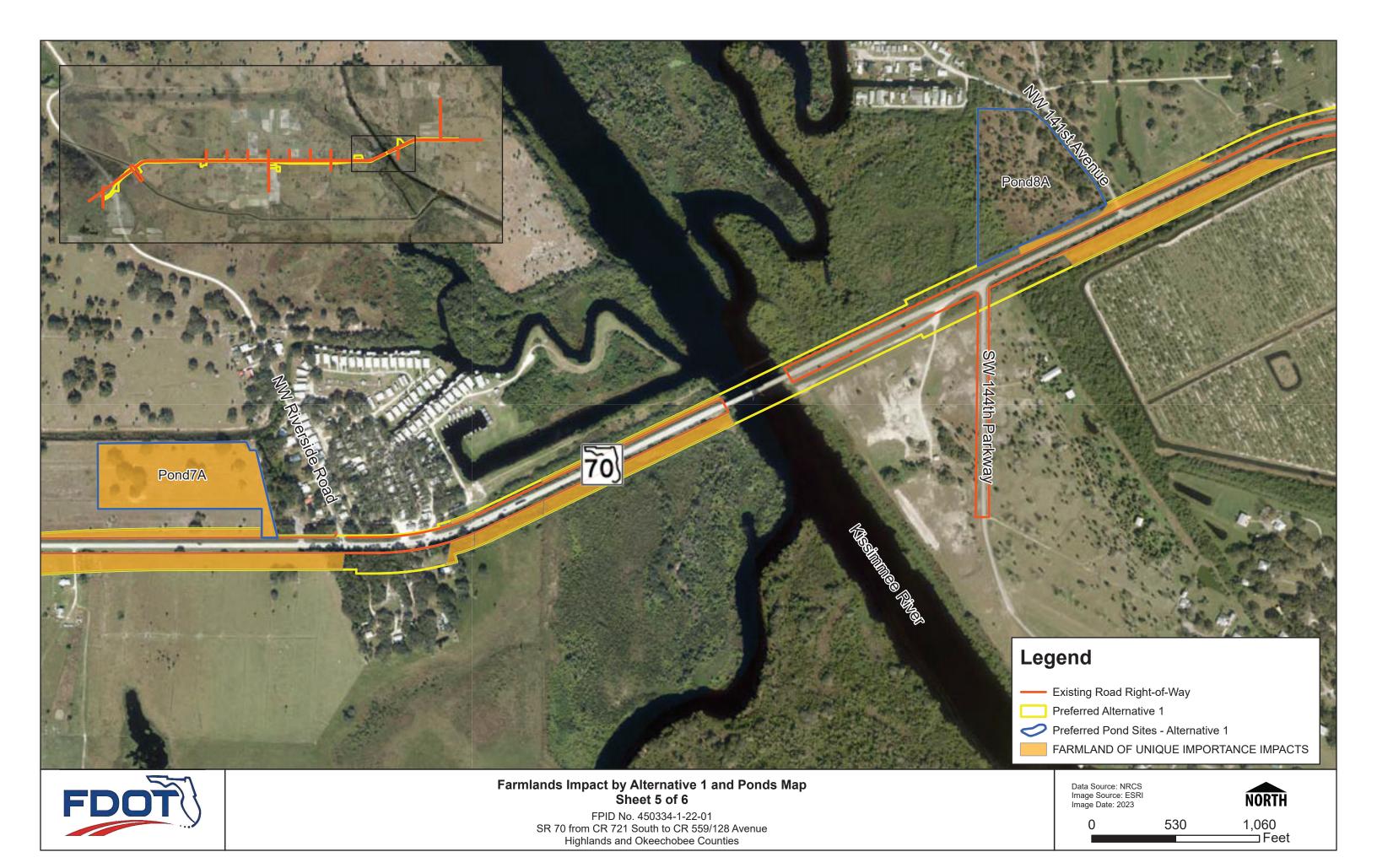


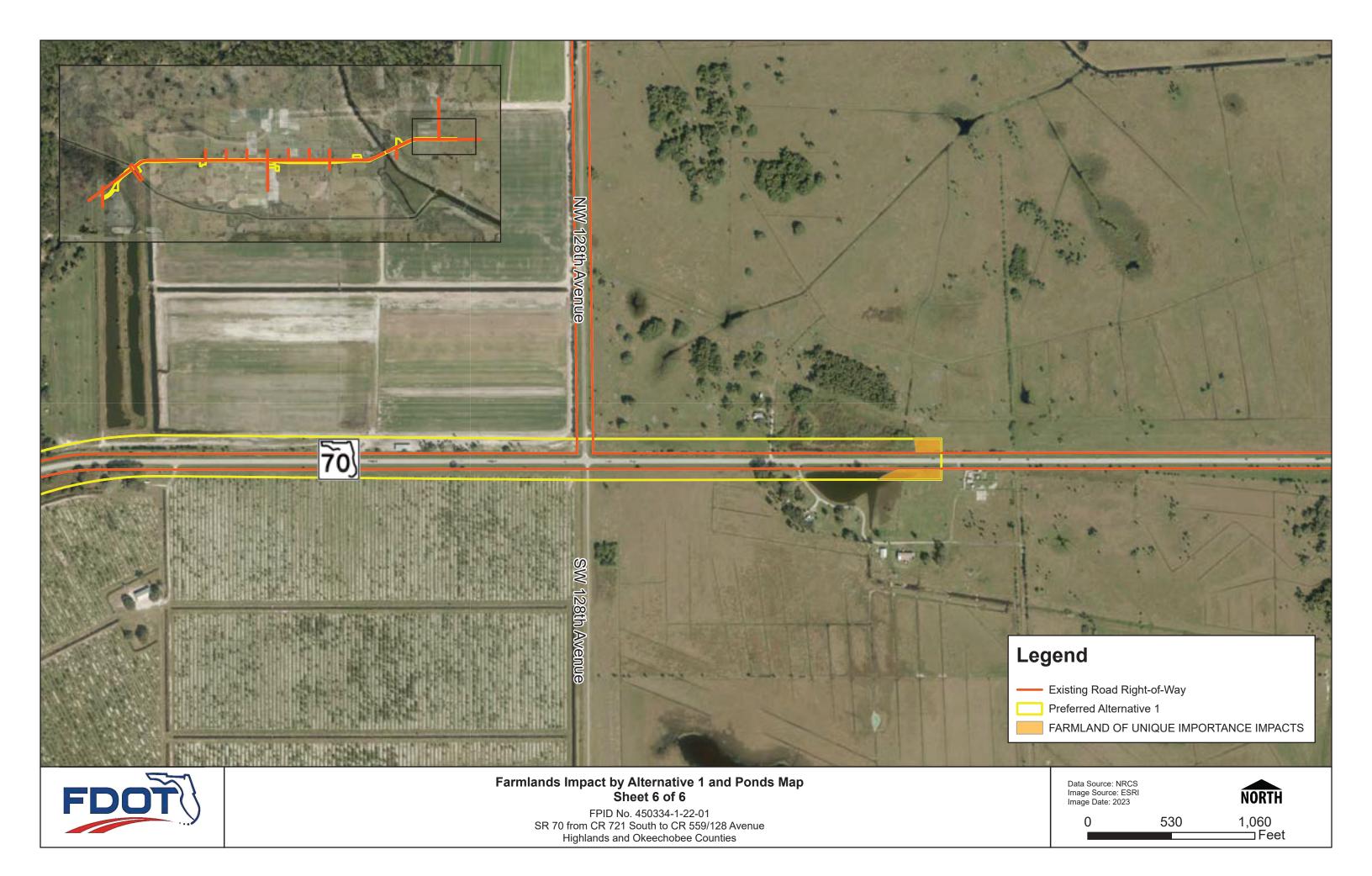


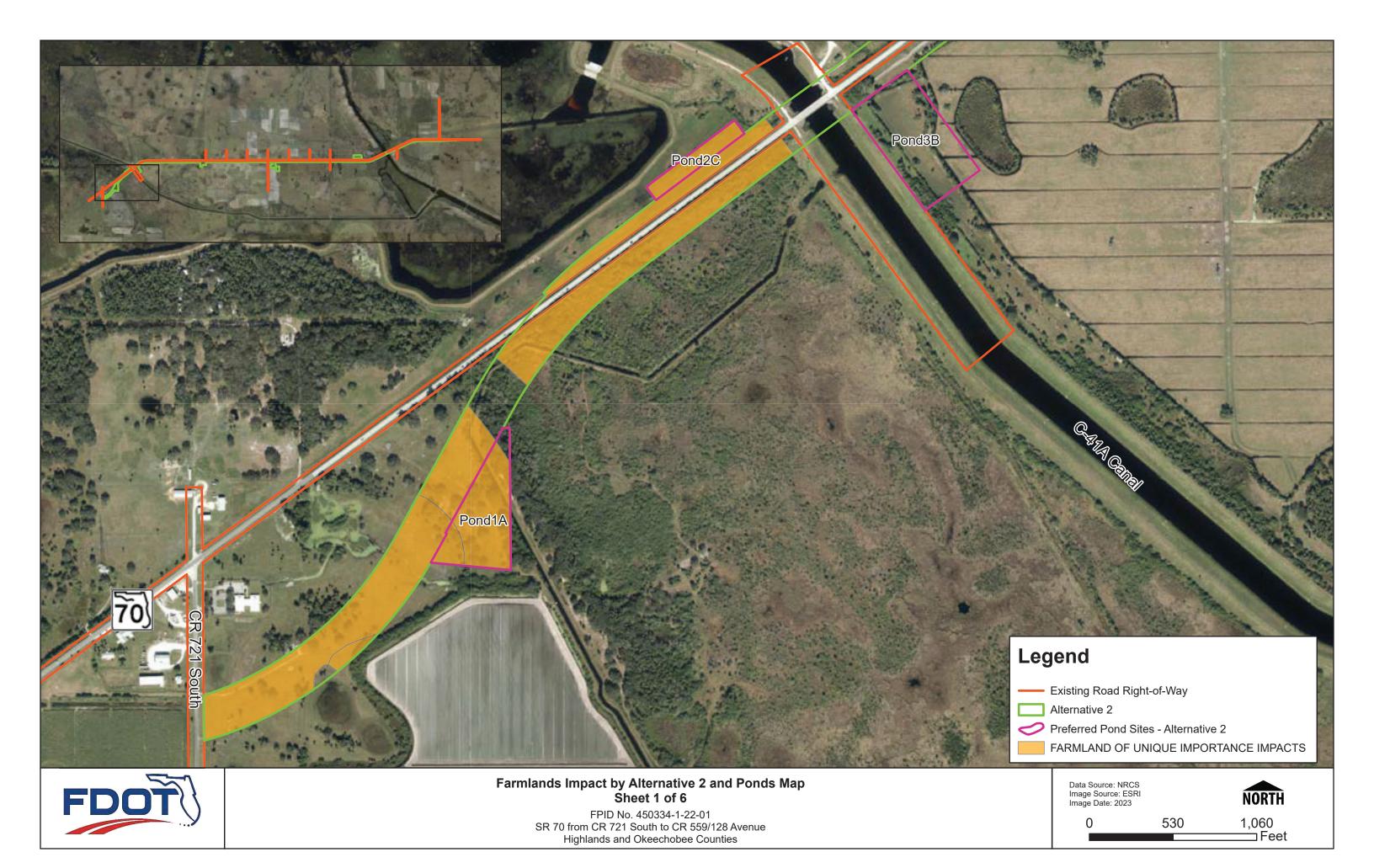


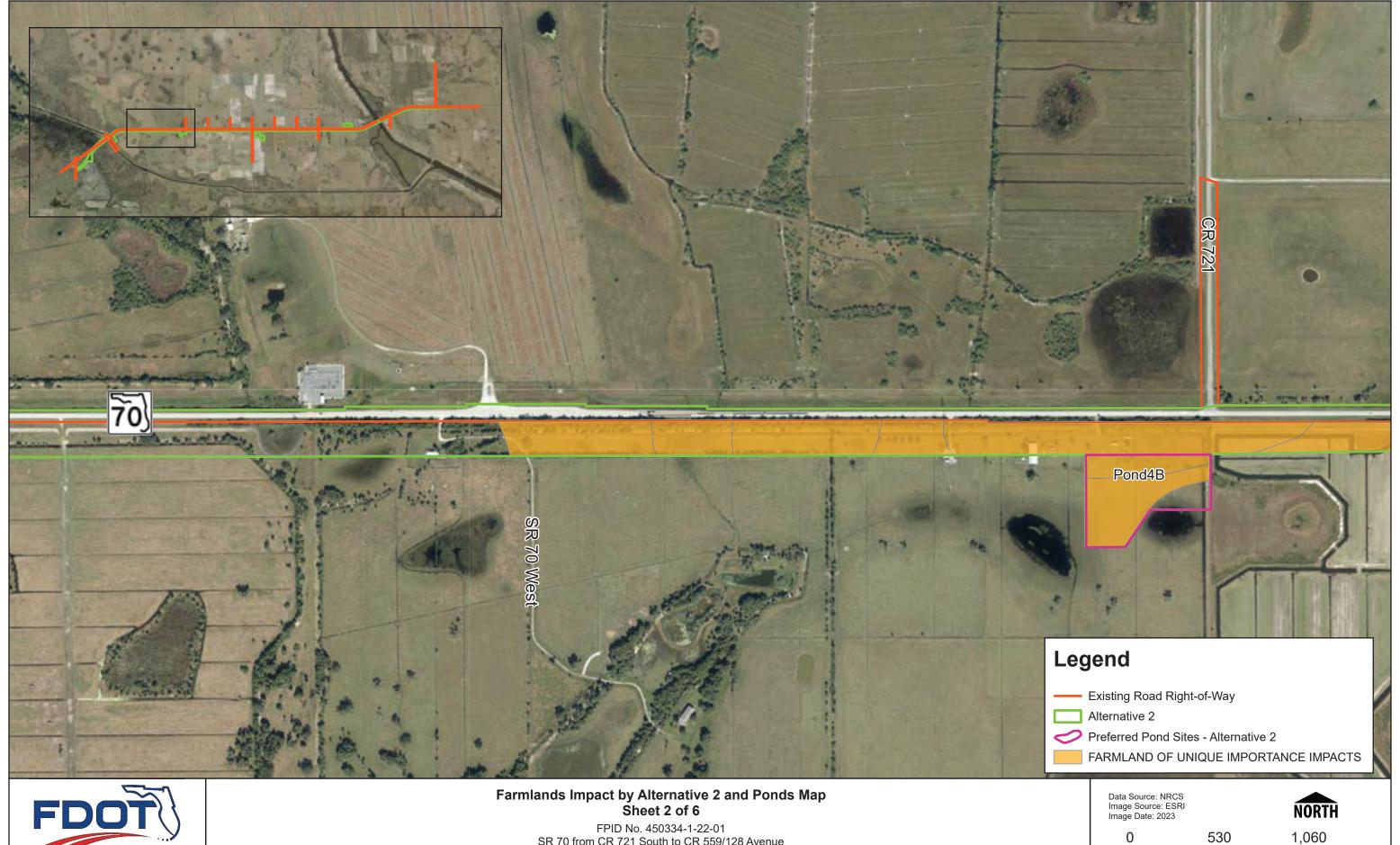
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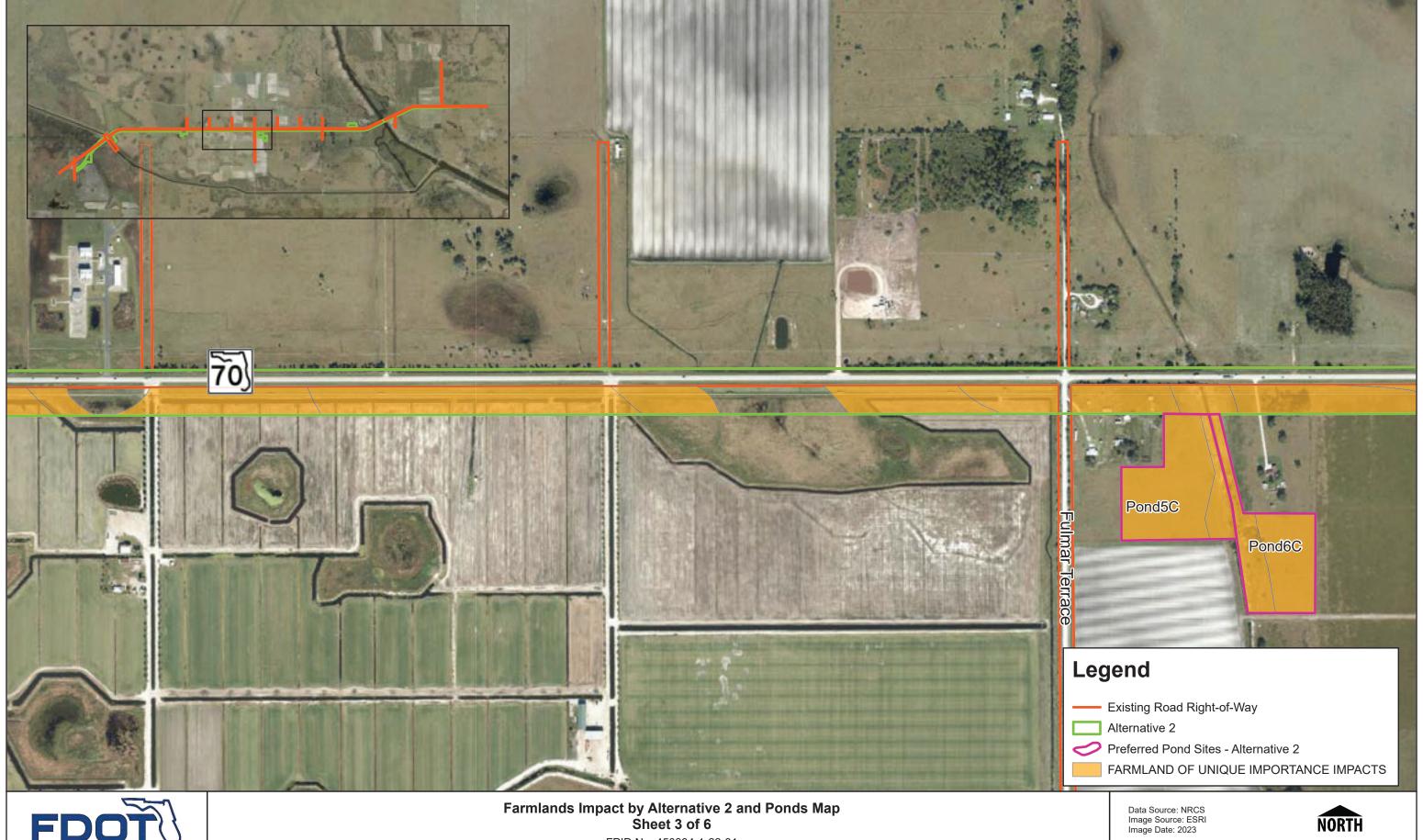






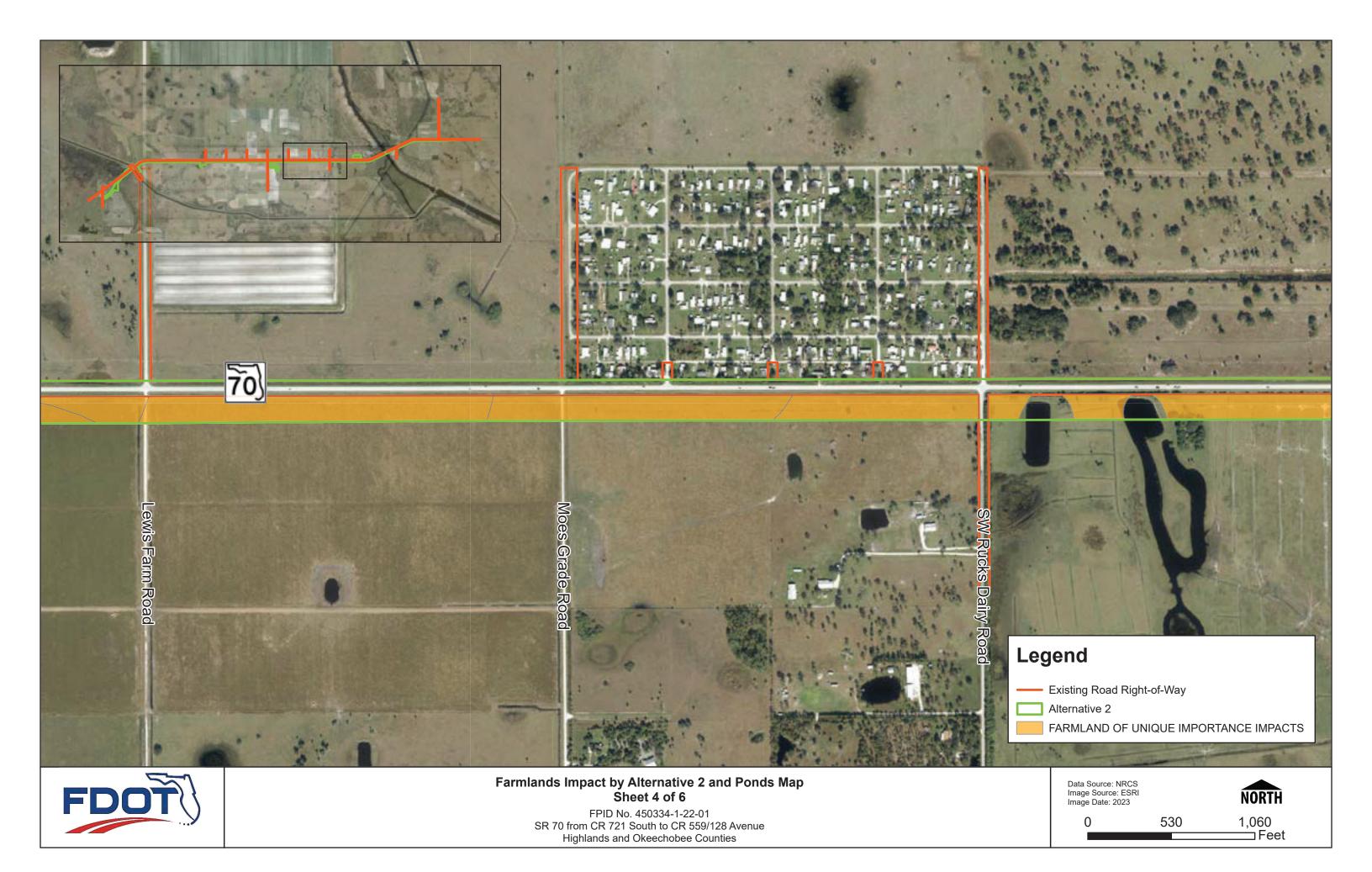


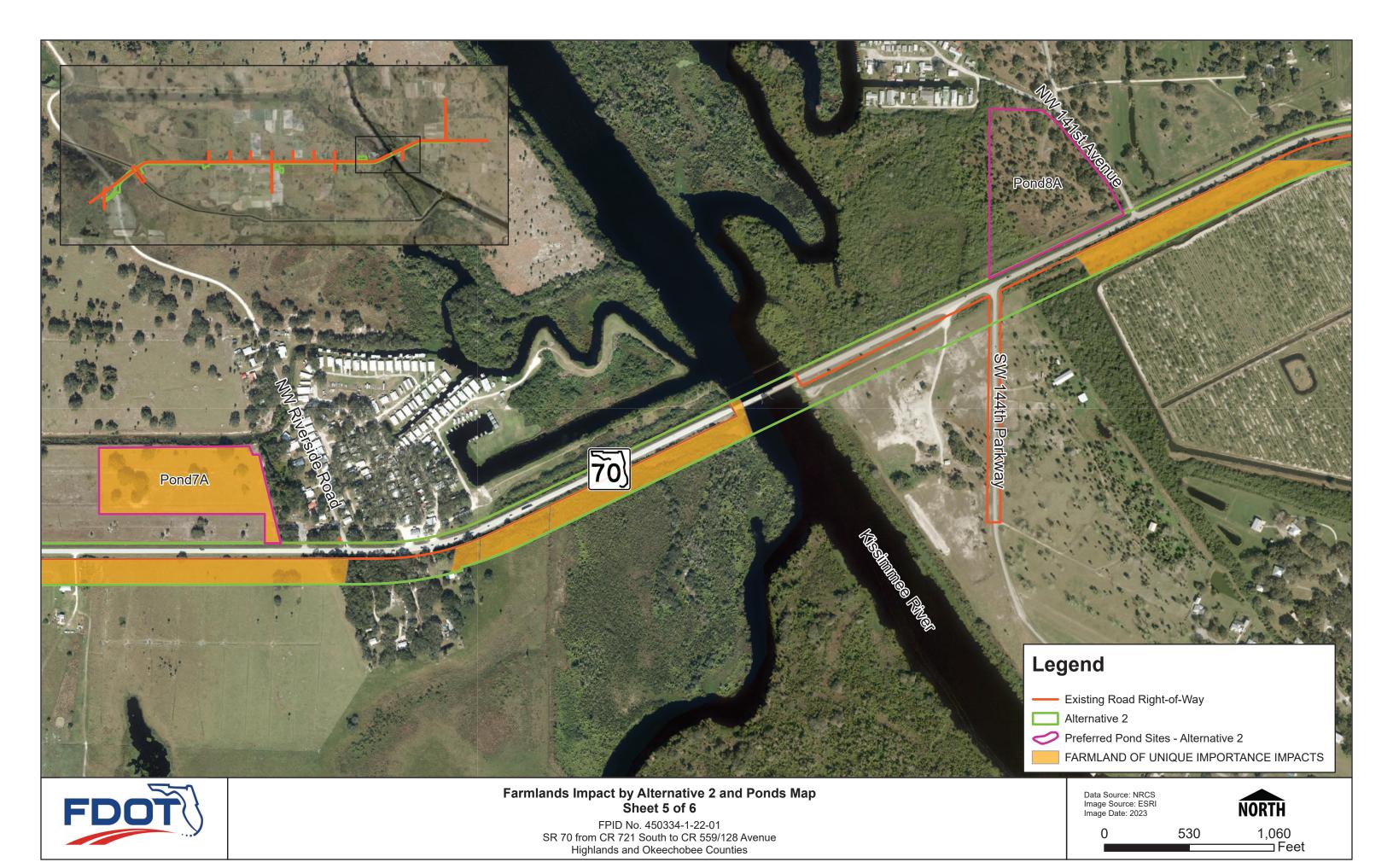
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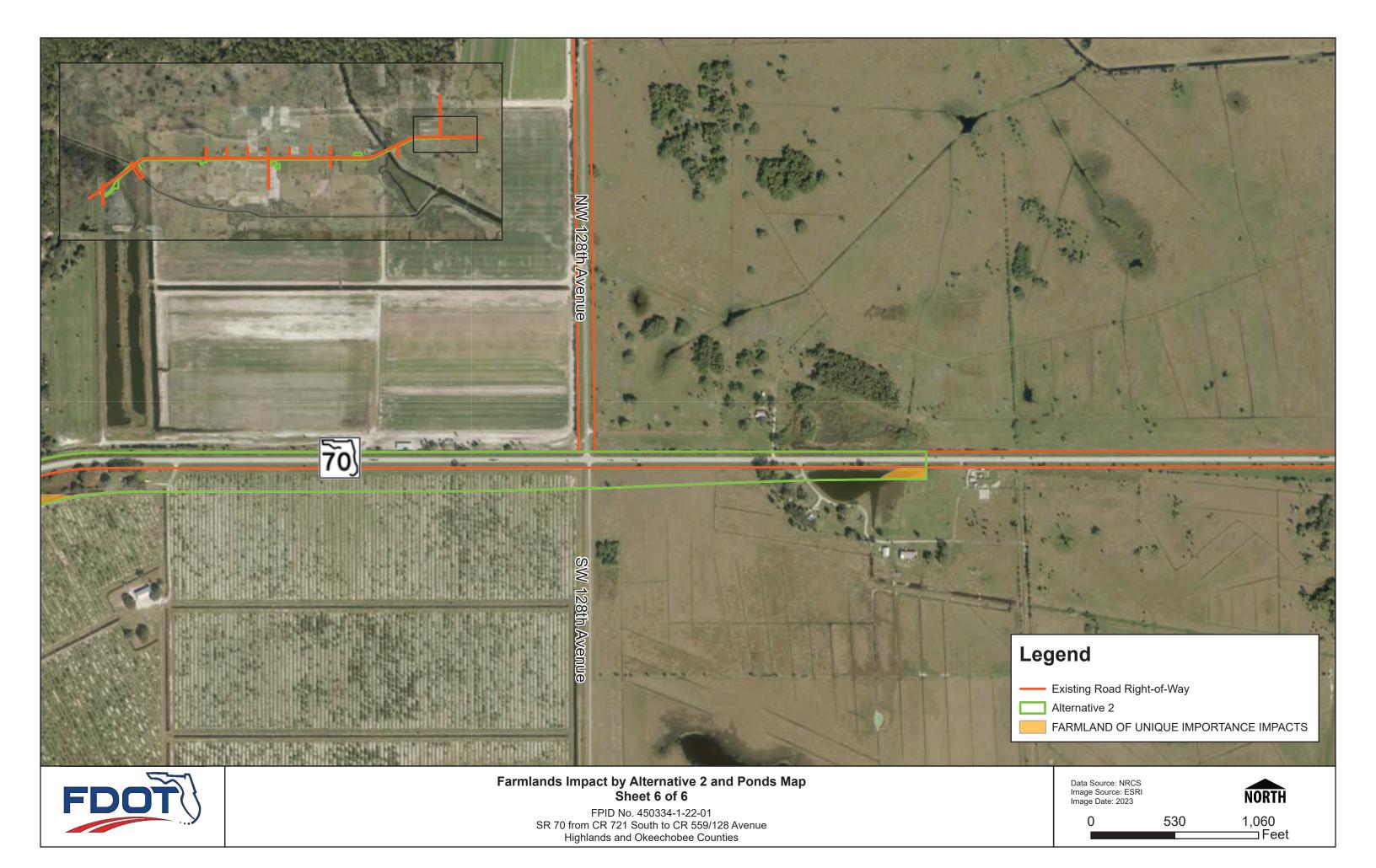


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(Rev. 1-91)

# FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

Name of Project   DRE Study (FPID 450334-1)   S. Forderial Agency   Type of Project   DRE Study (FPID 450334-1)   S. County and State   Okeechobec County, Florida	PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)			3. Date <b>9/29</b>	of Land Evaluation	4. Sheet 1 of <b>1</b>				
ART II (To be completed by NRCS)  Do sith common contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (In n, the FPPA acres in rigidate)  A. Acres in rigidate   Average Farm Size    For international prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (In n, the FPPA acres in rigidate)  S. Majer Crop(s)  A. Acres in rigidate   Average Farm Size    For international prime, unique statewide or local important farmland?  S. Majer Crop(s)  B. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction    Acres   %	1. Name of Project SR 70 from CR 721S to CR 599/SW 128th Ave.			C Cadanal Anaman Involved						
ART II (To be completed by NRCS)  Do sith common contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (In n, the FPPA acres in rigidate)  A. Acres in rigidate   Average Farm Size    For international prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (In n, the FPPA acres in rigidate)  S. Majer Crop(s)  A. Acres in rigidate   Average Farm Size    For international prime, unique statewide or local important farmland?  S. Majer Crop(s)  B. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction    Acres   %	2. Type of Project PD&E Study (FPID 450334-1)			6. County and State Okeechobee County, Florida						
tiff no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). If a second is possible to the second is the second in the period of the	PART II (To be completed by NRCS)			1. Date I	Date Request Received by NRCS			2. Person Completing Form		
S. Major Crop(s)  8. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 9. Name of Local Site Assessment System  9. Name of Local Site Assessment System  10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS  Acres: 9. Name of Local Site Assessment System  10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS  Acres: 9. Alternative Corridor For Segment 16. Preferred Art 1 All 2  1. All 2  2. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS  Acres: 9. 10.1  1. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly 9. 5.9  1. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services 9. 0 9. 0 9. 0 9. 1. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services 9. 0 9. 0 9. Collad Acres In Corridor  1. Total Acres Statewide And Local Good Linit To Be Converted 9. 0 9. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Goot Linit To Be Converted 9. 0 9. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Goot Linit To Be Converted 9. 0 9. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Goot Linit To Be Converted 9. 0 9. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Goot Linit To Be Converted 9. 0 9. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Goot Linit To Be Converted 9. 0 9. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Goot Linit To Be Converted 9. 0 9. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Goot Linit To Be Converted 9. 0 9. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Goot Linit To Be Converted to Bear County or Linit To Be Converted to Bear County or Linit To Bear Converted District To Bear County or Linit To Bear County or L		•	•	YES I✓I NO I I			Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size			
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Value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)   Part VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor   Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))   Maximum   Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))   Points										
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### **CORRIDOR - TYPE SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

The following criteria are to be used for projects that have a linear or corridor - type site configuration connecting two distant points, and crossing several different tracts of land. These include utility lines, highways, railroads, stream improvements, and flood control systems. Federal agencies are to assess the suitability of each corridor - type site or design alternative for protection as farmland along with the land evaluation information.

(1) How much land is in nonurban use within a radius of 1.0 mile from where the project is intended? More than 90 percent - 15 points 90 to 20 percent - 14 to 1 point(s) Less than 20 percent - 0 points

(2) How much of the perimeter of the site borders on land in nonurban use? More than 90 percent - 10 points 90 to 20 percent - 9 to 1 point(s) Less than 20 percent - 0 points

(3) How much of the site has been farmed (managed for a scheduled harvest or timber activity) more than five of the last 10 years?

More than 90 percent - 20 points
90 to 20 percent - 19 to 1 point(s)

Less than 20 percent - 0 points

(4) Is the site subject to state or unit of local government policies or programs to protect farmland or covered by private programs to protect farmland? Site is protected - 20 points

Site is protected - 20 points Site is not protected - 0 points

(5) Is the farm unit(s) containing the site (before the project) as large as the average - size farming unit in the County? (Average farm sizes in each county are available from the NRCS field offices in each state. Data are from the latest available Census of Agriculture, Acreage or Farm Units in Operation with \$1,000 or more in sales.)

As large or larger - 10 points

Below average - deduct 1 point for each 5 percent below the average, down to 0 points if 50 percent or more below average - 9 to 0 points

(6) If the site is chosen for the project, how much of the remaining land on the farm will become non-farmable because of interference with land patterns?

Acreage equal to more than 25 percent of acres directly converted by the project - 25 points

Acreage equal to between 25 and 5 percent of the acres directly converted by the project - 1 to 24 point(s)

Acreage equal to less than 5 percent of the acres directly converted by the project - 0 points

(7) Does the site have available adequate supply of farm support services and markets, i.e., farm suppliers, equipment dealers, processing and storage facilities and farmer's markets?

All required services are available - 5 points

Some required services are available - 4 to 1 point(s)

No required services are available - 0 points

(8) Does the site have substantial and well-maintained on-farm investments such as barns, other storage building, fruit trees and vines, field terraces, drainage, irrigation, waterways, or other soil and water conservation measures? High amount of on-farm investment - 20 points

Moderate amount of on-farm investment - 20 points

Moderate amount of on-farm investment - 19 to 1 point(s)

No on-farm investment - 0 points

(9) Would the project at this site, by converting farmland to nonagricultural use, reduce the demand for farm support services so as to jeopardize the continued existence of these support services and thus, the viability of the farms remaining in the area? Substantial reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 25 points

Some reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 1 to 24 point(s)

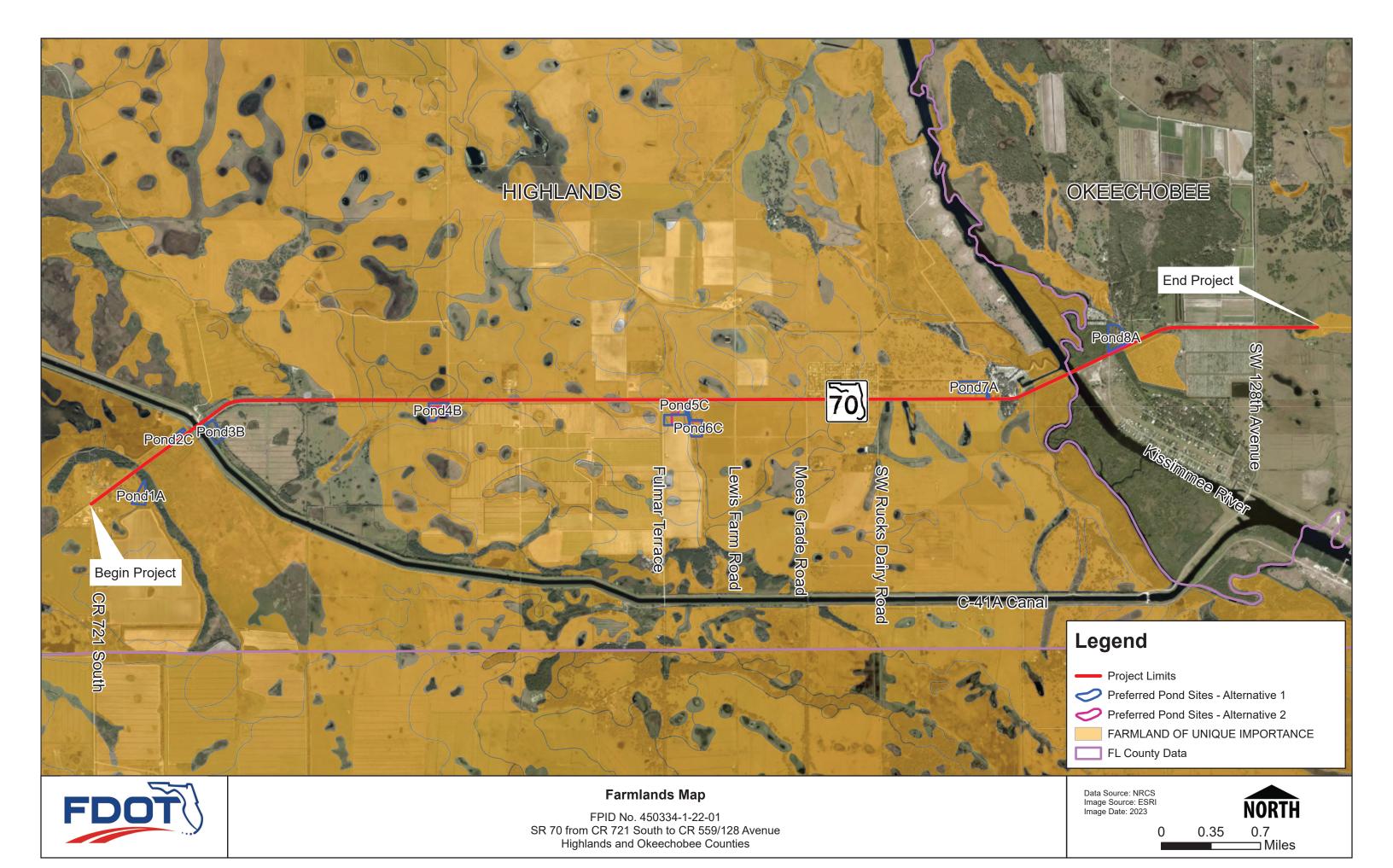
No significant reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 0 points

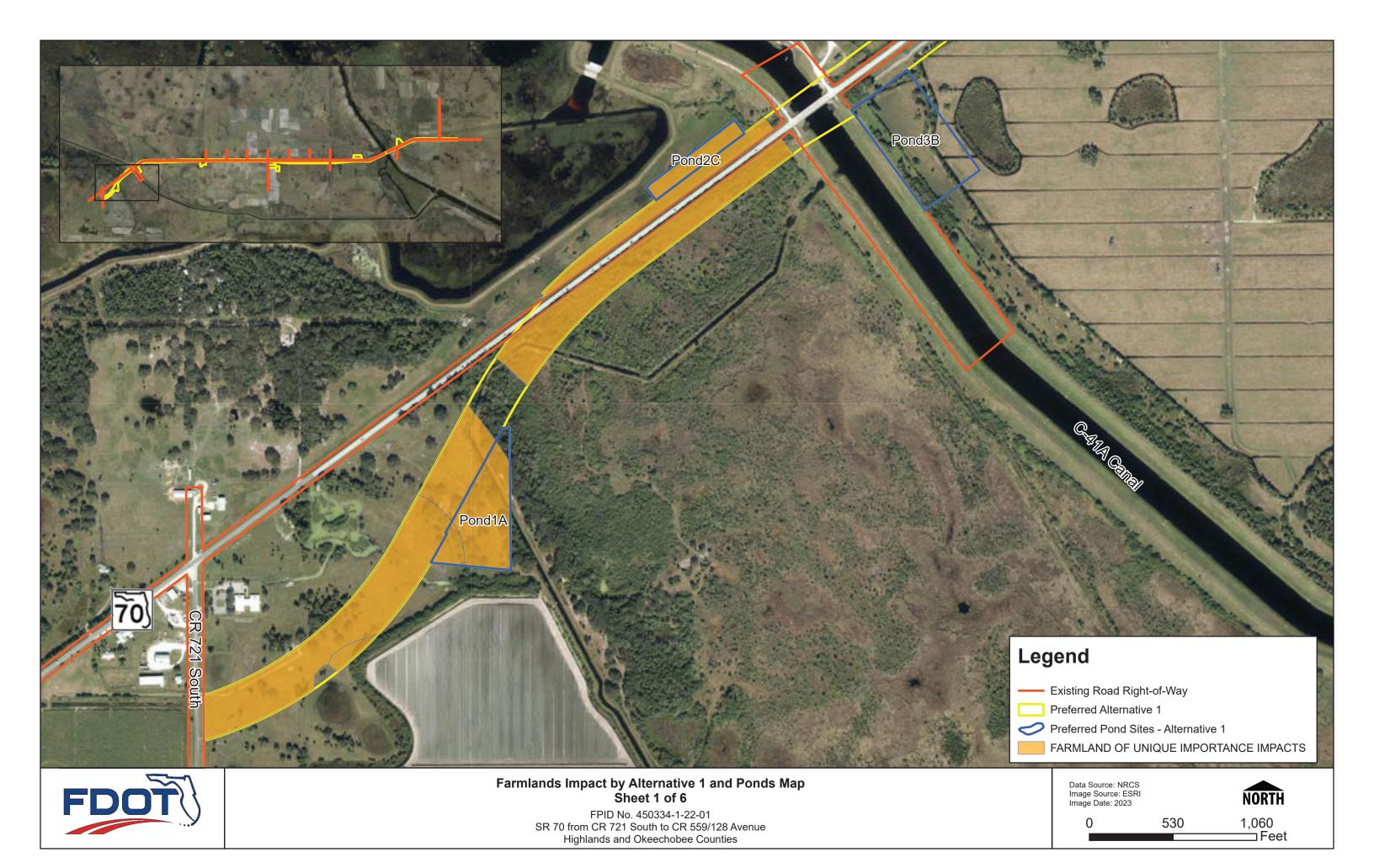
(10) Is the kind and intensity of the proposed use of the site sufficiently incompatible with agriculture that it is likely to contribute to the eventual conversion of surrounding farmland to nonagricultural use?

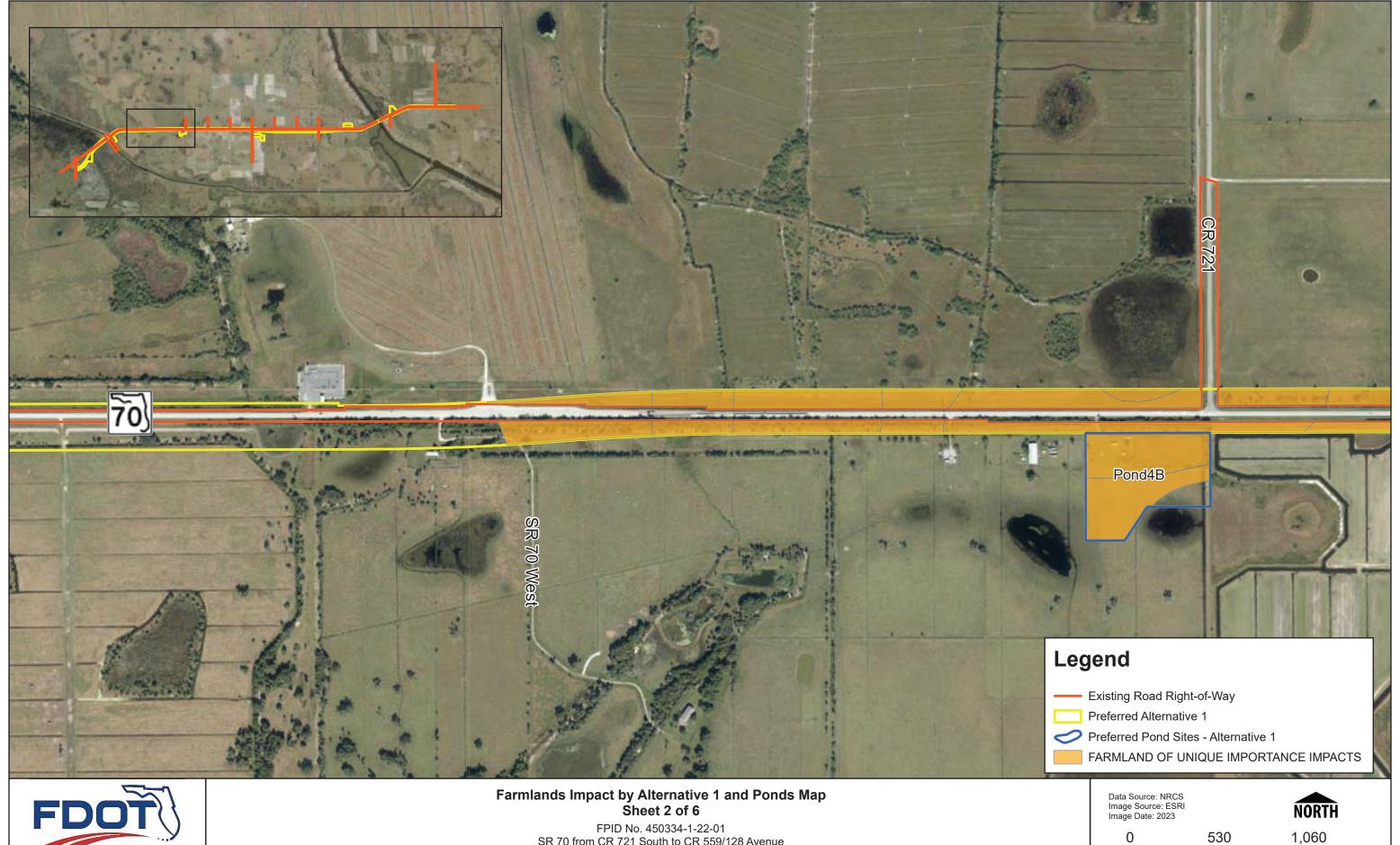
Proposed project is incompatible to existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 10 points

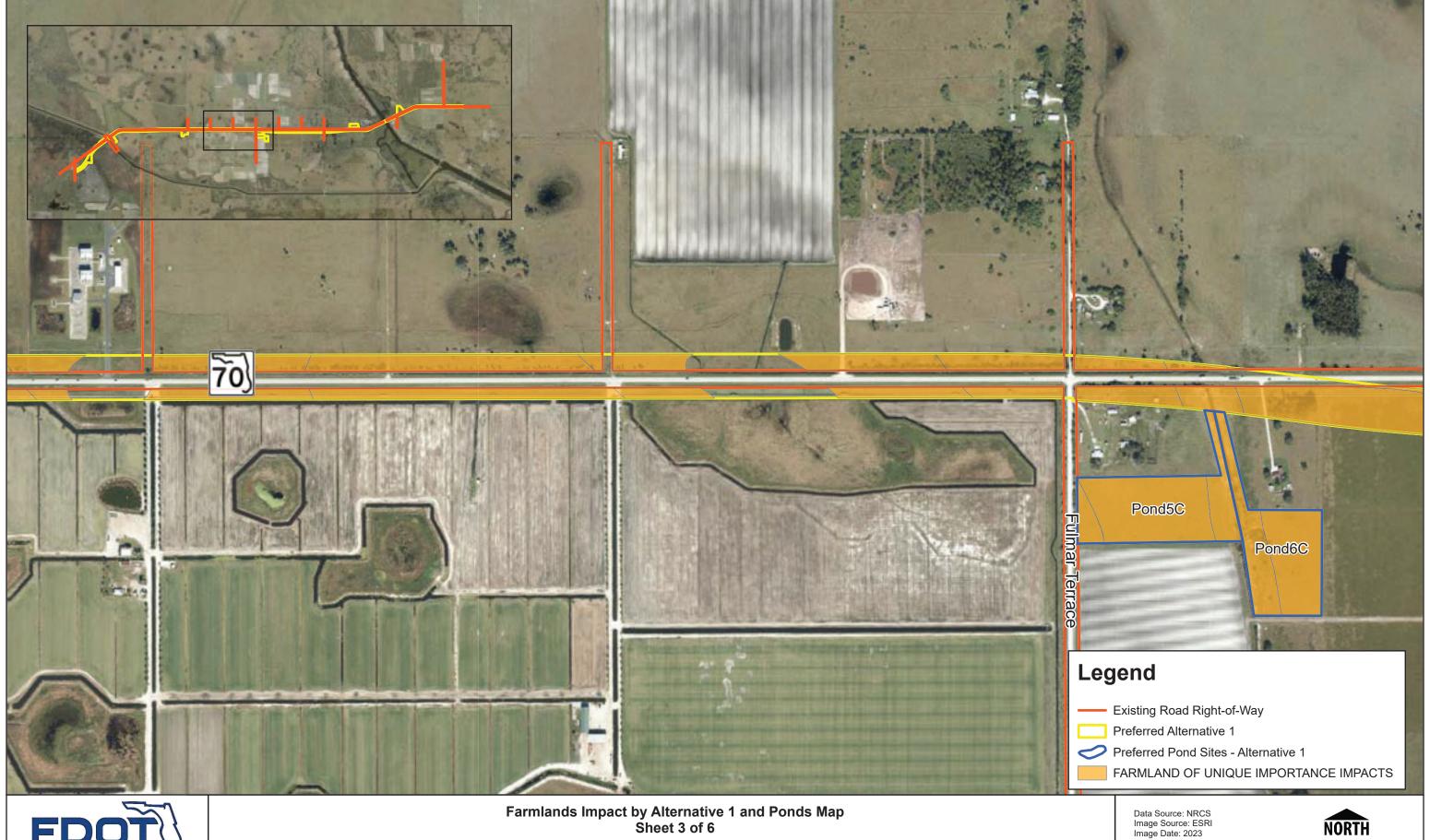
Proposed project is tolerable to existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 9 to 1 point(s)

Proposed project is fully compatible with existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 0 points

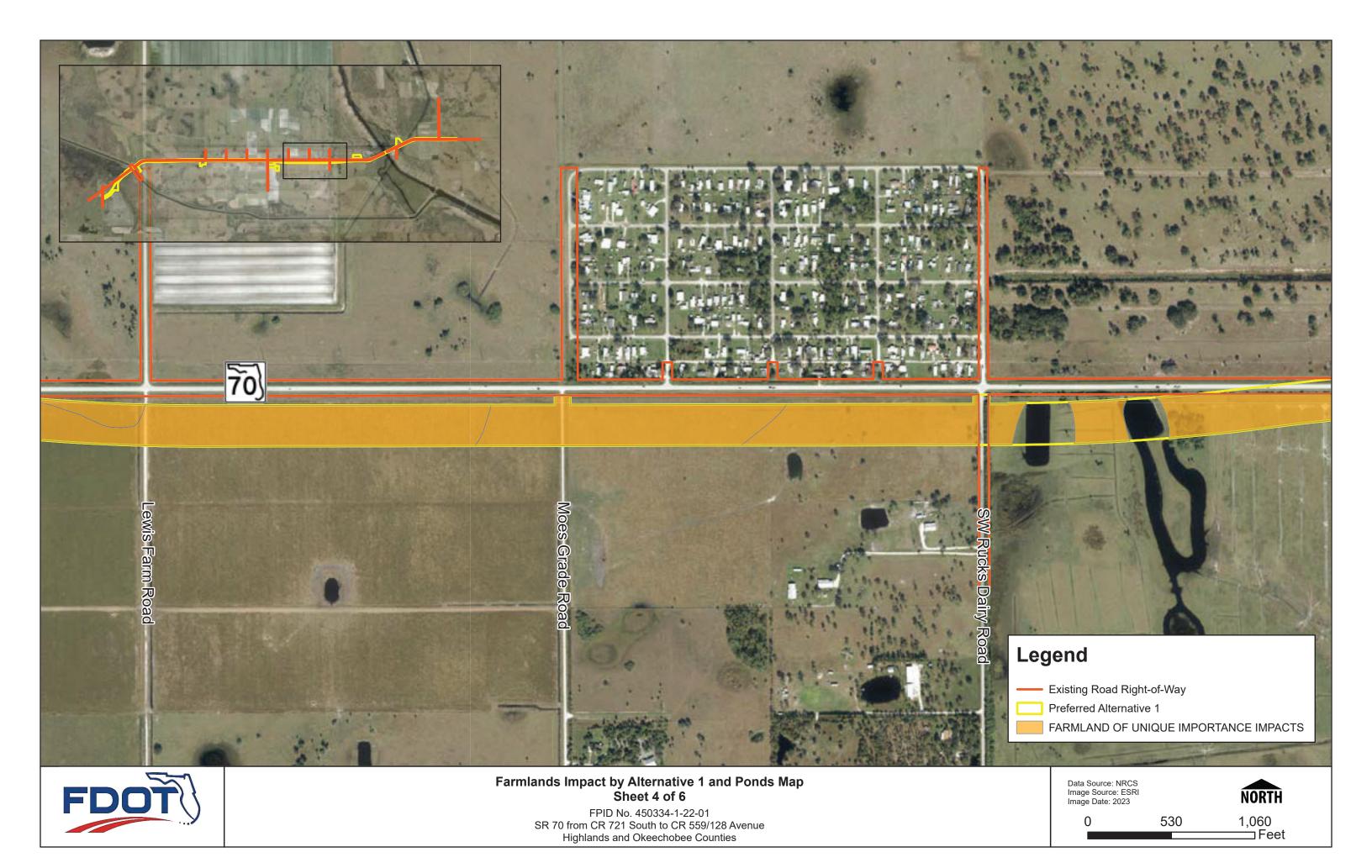


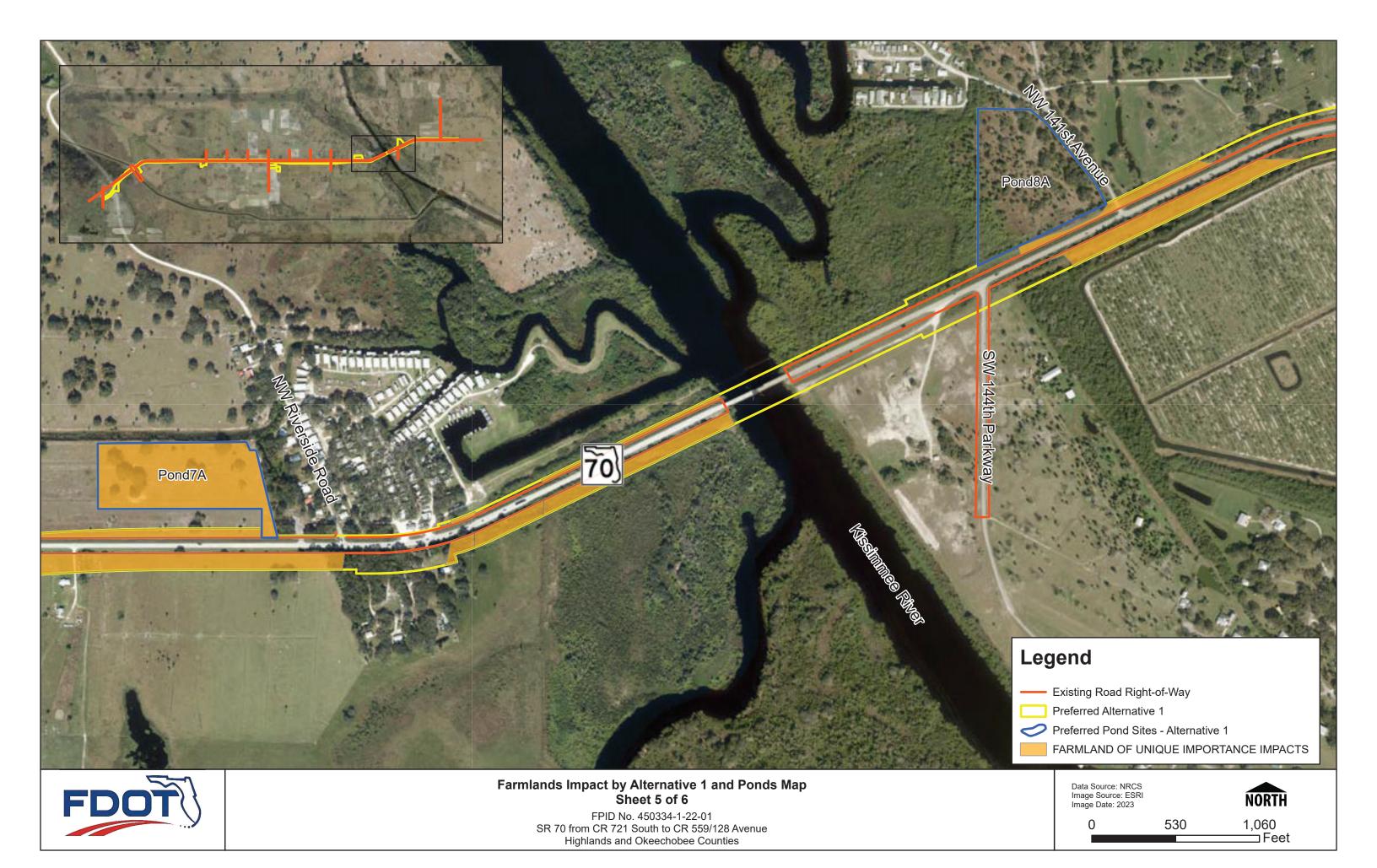


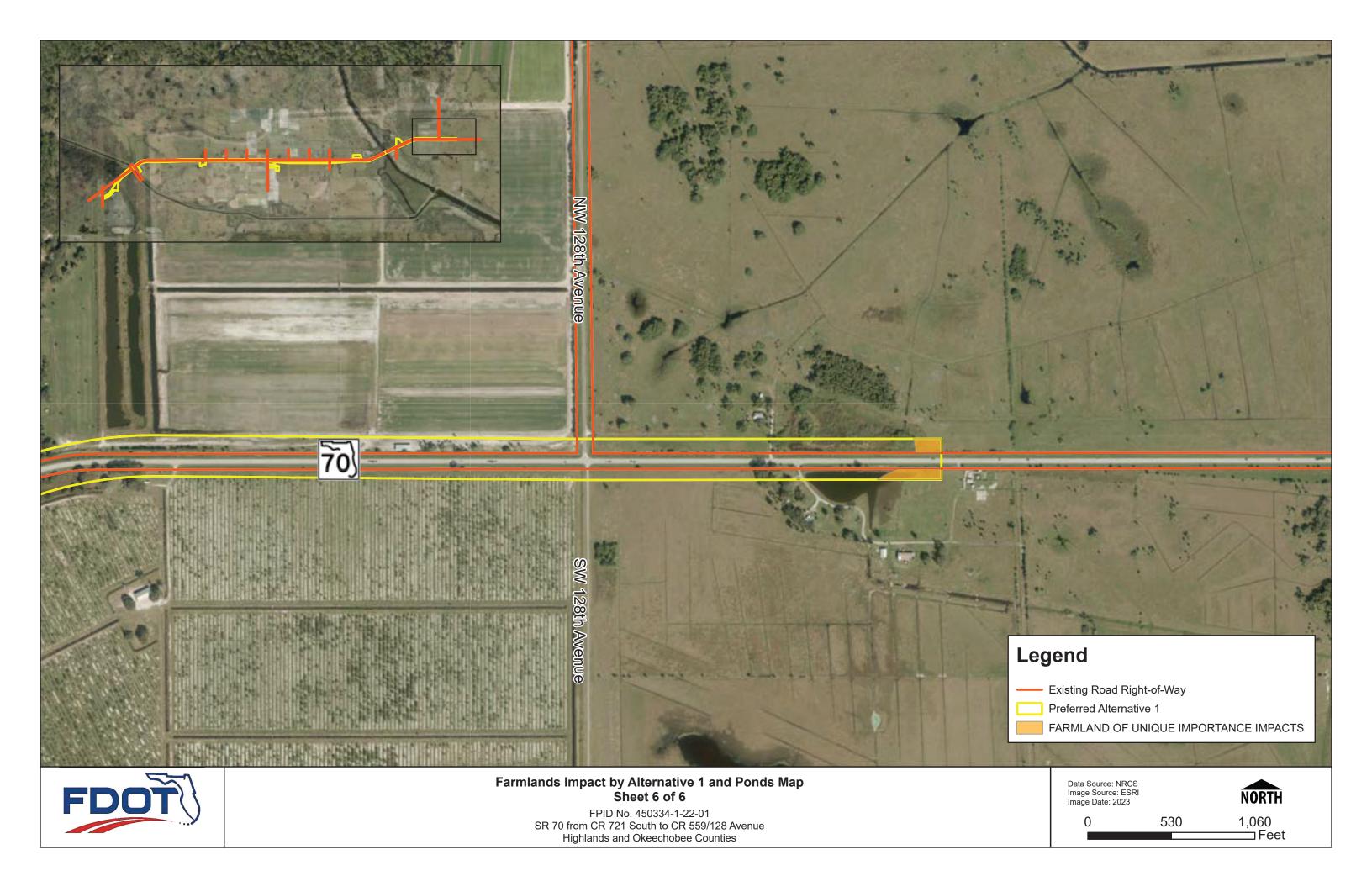


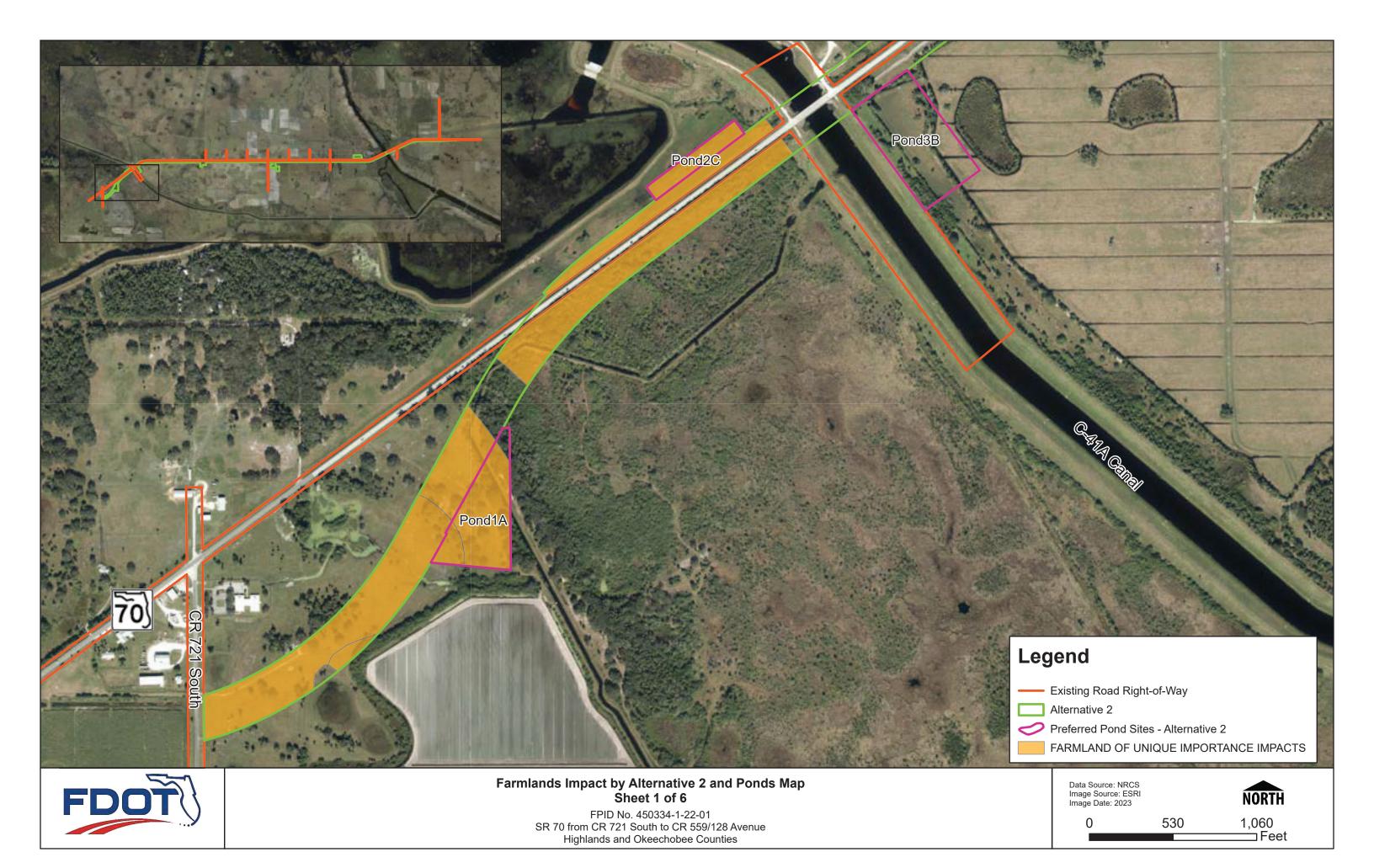


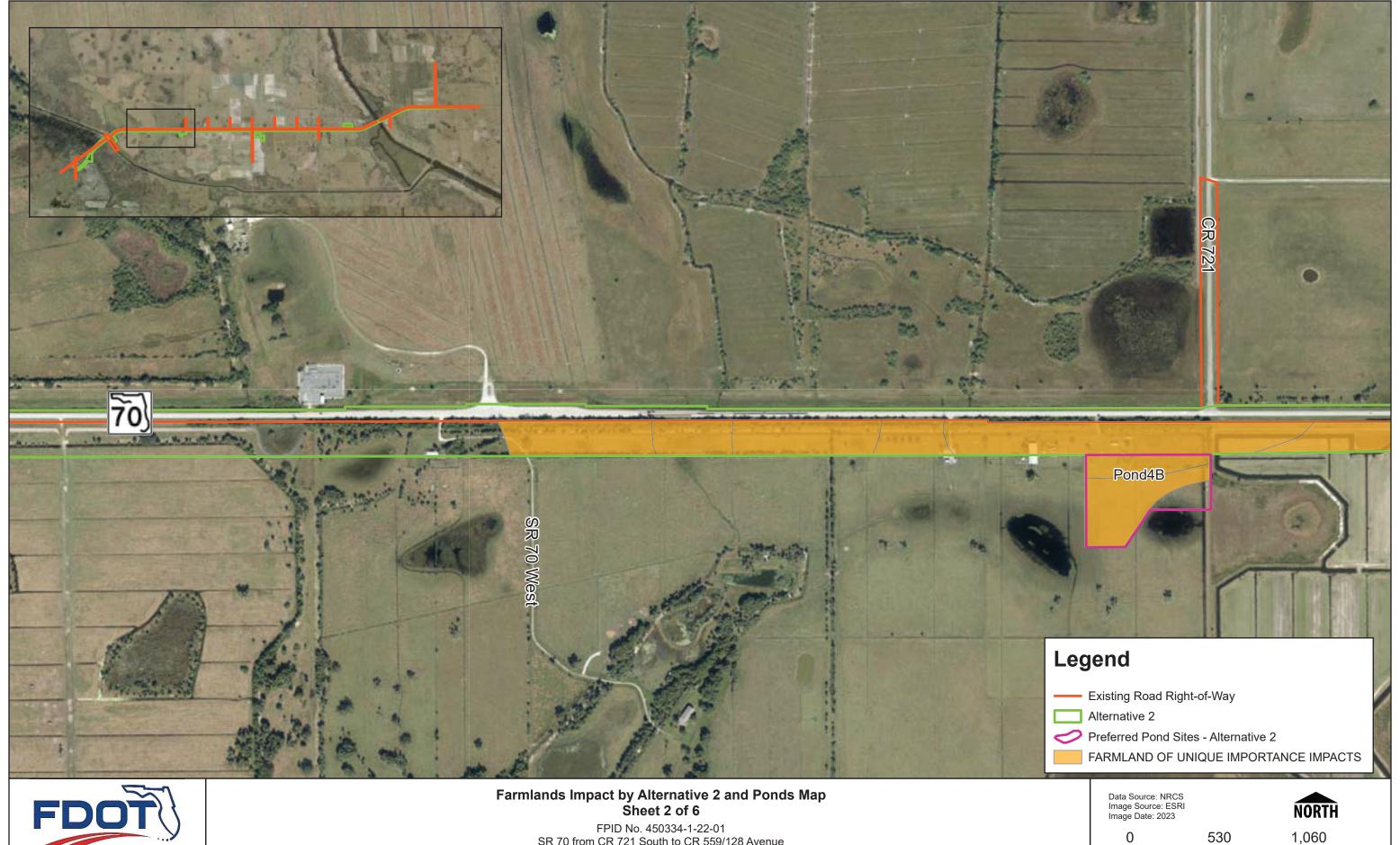
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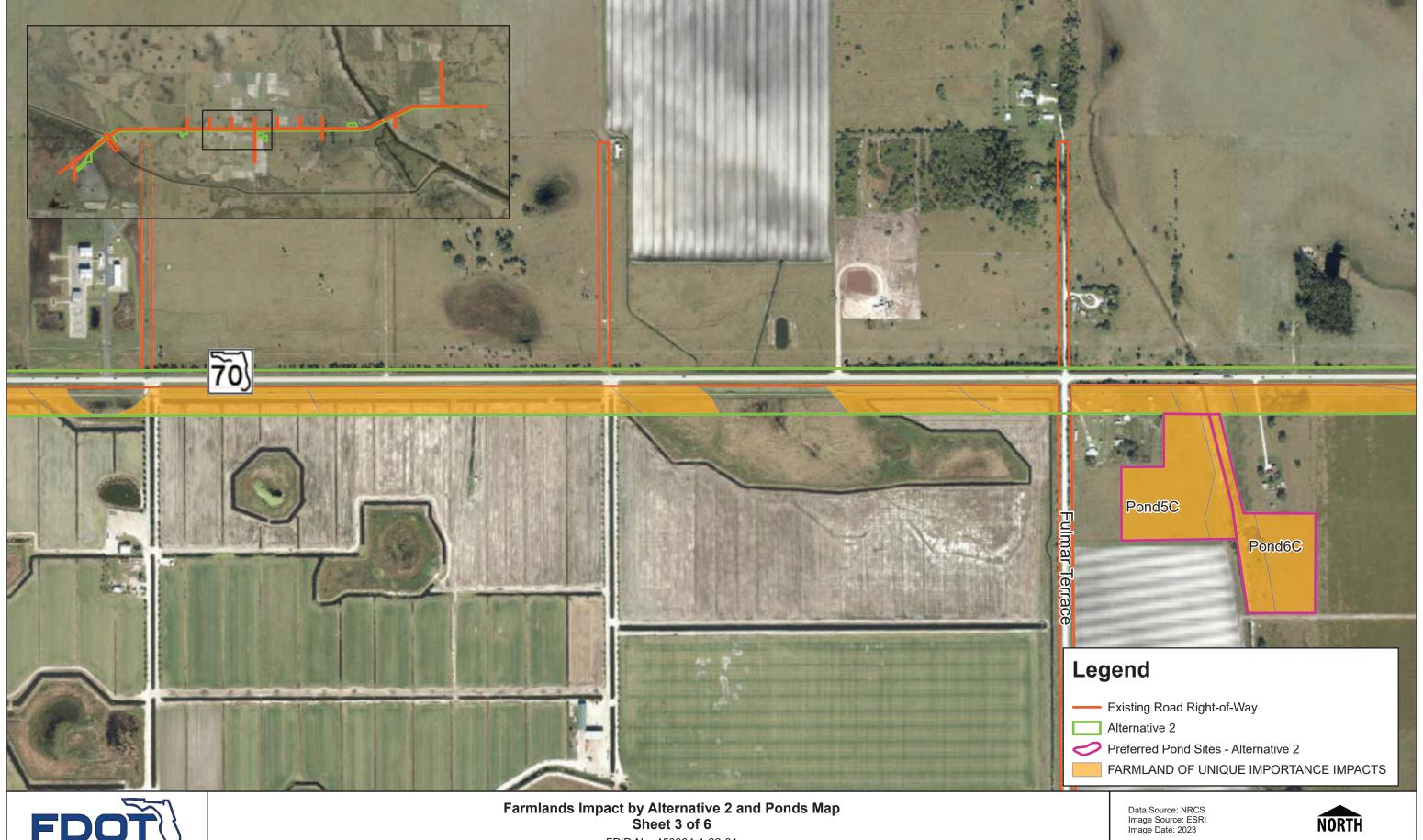








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