

# Alaska Public Safety Interior Training Facility, Site Selection

## Virtual Community Meeting #1 Summary

Thursday, December 10, 2020, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

### Presenters

Katie Conway, DOWL  
LaQuita Chmielowski, DOWL

### Purpose for Community Meeting #1

The Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) seeks community feedback to assist in the selection of a site for a public safety training facility in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) to serve the Alaska Interior region. During the meeting APOA's consultant DOWL presented the site selection criteria, evaluation criteria, and the 10 prospective sites.

### Project Needs and Goals

- To find a suitable location for an Interior Public Safety Training Facility
- To fill a need from the closing of the only Interior Public Safety Training Facility that was located on Fairbanks International Airport property
- Support the Interior public safety agencies and organizations
- APOA and the Public Safety Coalition will work together to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and management of the new facility
- APOA and the Public Safety Coalition are working together to secure funding

### Facility Purpose

- Adequate outdoor and indoor training is critical for public safety entities
- A conceptual site layout showed that to provide adequate outdoor and indoor needs the parcel will need to be between 120 and 150 acres
- A facility of this size will provide Interior public safety entities a local training facility that will accommodate:
  - inside facilities for classroom training and winter range training
  - outdoor facilities –a driving course for the Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC), multiple-bay range
- Potential use for Agency sponsored public educational and training opportunities

### Discussion Notes

21 people logged into the presentation and many participants had questions particularly about Sites 2 and 10.

Below is a list of the questions and responses:

- **Could the Training Facility be open to other agencies?**  
**Response:** Yes, this training facility will be open to all law enforcement agencies.
- **Has lead been addressed.**  
**Response:** Yes, lead and the projectiles will be addressed in the design plan of the training facility.
- **Would this Training Facility be co-located near the South Cushman or DOD ranges?**  
**Response:** The South Cushman range is not safe for law enforcement, due to public access and that many groups have access to this public range. The need for a training facility that is fenced with limited access points is preferred for law enforcement.
- **Are area agencies on board for the project?**  
**Response:** APOA has coordinated with the FNSB Mayor's office, and DOWL is coordinating with the FNSB Lands' Department and BLM Reality Office.
- **Are other agencies working on a range?**  
**Response:** Most local law enforcement departments use temporary ranges, the borough range, or military ranges after APOA lost the use of the Airport Range. Collectively, all agencies are trying to work together on this new training facility. This training facility is badly needed by all interior law enforcement agencies. Through the use of APOA, other law enforcement agencies are working together to promote this training facility for future funding. ADF&G is represented on the Public Safety Council (PSC) and the PSC is looking into Pitman Roberson Funds for the project.
- **ADF&G has a need for a training range for muzzle loader. Many land management agencies need to train employees for defense of dangerous animal training.**  
**Response:** ADF&G recently was awarded Pitman Roberson Funds to improve the South Cushman range.
- **Why did the study not take into consideration private properties?**  
**Response:** Private property was not considered due to the possible high cost of private property.
- **Why was University of Alaska property not looked at?**  
**Response:** University property was categorized as private, and not looked at due to the potential high cost.
- **Which site is the preferred site?**  
**Response:** Currently all eligible sites are under consideration.
- **What is the possible budget for a project this size, this should be considered?**  
**Response:** A detailed cost estimate for design and construction will be completed as part of this project.
- **If Site 2 is owned by the FNSB would they be able to transfer landownership to APOA?**  
**Response:** At this time the project team is unable to answer this question.
- **Will the training facility be able to accommodate multiple agencies?**  
**Response:** Yes, this is one of the goals for the training facility.
- **What else will the facility house?**  
**Response:** Driving course(s); indoor and outdoor qualification bays; long-range qualification bay; multiple classroom training rooms; large pad for driving course; skid car will have

permanent location; permanent and one location to store training equipment; fenced in site for increased range safety and site security; tactical-armored vehicle training facility; and rescue training.

The overall goal is to have a training facility large enough to be able to schedule multiple agencies and centrally located, for response times and limiting overtime due to travel to training.

#### **Site specific responses:**

- Overall, hopefully this will get a good training range for the public safety entities.
- Current range development best practices recommend the largest parcel as possible to have a large land buffer between training facility/firing range(s) and any residential, businesses.
- Site 2 may be a good location because of the size and location. It is centrally located between Fairbanks and North Pole; leaving trees and the size will enable the training facilities to be far enough away and create a large noise buffer from the neighborhood in the northeast corner of the site; potential gravel on-site; large enough site to construct driving ranges/courses; water hazards could be created by mining material; the Fort Wainwright law enforcement range is close to Site 2. Additionally, buildings can be constructed within the driving course for training and the buildings could be used for ingress and egress trainings.
- Sites 1 and 3 are right along the Tanana River and along the Tanana River over 50 feet has been lost to erosion.
- Site 7 may be a good location because of location near the current DOD range; noise may be less of an issue because of that; possibilities because it is a larger parcel; close to the river and this may ease public concerns with stray rounds.

## **Next Steps**

#### **Site Selection Study**

- Finalize Site Selection Study with APOA's input
- APOA will select a preferred and an alternative site

#### **Site Master Plan and Architectural Design**

- After selected site is confirmed prepare the master plan and architectural design
- This report includes a design and construction estimate

#### **Virtual Community Meeting #2**

- After the Site Selection Study has been completed and Site Development and Facility Design have been completed virtual community meeting #2 will be held

#### **Produce a Legislative funding request/packet**

- Site Selection Study; Site Master Plan and Architectural Design with estimate; with two-page project brochure/ graphical representation of the project.

# ALASKA PUBLIC SAFETY INTERIOR TRAINING FACILITY – SITE SELECTION

Community Meeting (Virtual)

December 10, 2020



# MEETING PROTOCOL

Thank you for joining us today!

- Please stay muted until we indicate it is okay to unmute
- The team will respond to all questions upon the conclusion of the presentation
- You can ask questions in writing via Zoom instant messenger, or email (see bottom of slide)
- Questions asked in writing during the presentation will be repeated and answered following the presentation in the order received
- After that, we will open the line for all other questions and comments from folks who did not first put those in writing
- Please take our survey after the meeting to help us improve the online meeting experience

## PROJECT TEAM

LaQuita Chmielowski, DOWL

Katie Conway, DOWL

Brad Doggett, DOWL

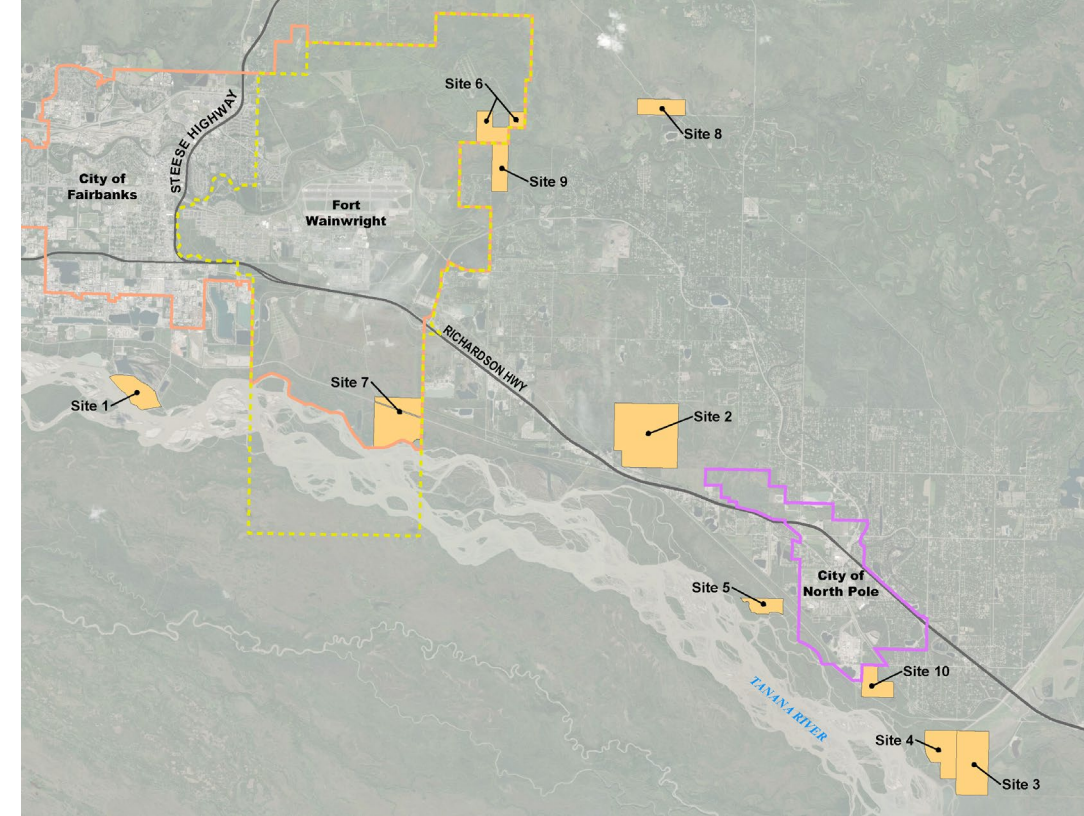
Alexa Greene, DOWL

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# PURPOSE FOR A COMMUNITY MEETING

- The Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) is seeking community feedback to assist in the selection of a site for a public safety training facility in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) to serve the Alaska Interior region.
- During this meeting we will review
  - site selection criteria,
  - evaluation criteria, and
  - 10 prospective sites
- From those 10 prospective sites we are reaching out to the public to gather your input



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# PROJECT NEED AND GOALS

- To find a suitable location for an Interior Public Safety Training Facility
- To fill a need from the closing of the only Interior Public Safety Training Facility that was located on Fairbanks International Airport property
- Support the Interior public safety agencies and organizations
- APOA and the Public Safety Coalition will work together to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and management of the new facility
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# FACILITY PURPOSE

- Adequate outdoor and indoor training is critical for public safety; this facility will benefit all who live, work, and visit within the region.
- A conceptual site layout showed that to provide adequate outdoor and indoor needs the parcel will need to be between 120 and 150 acres.
- A facility of this size will provide Interior public safety entities a local training facility that will accommodate:
  - inside facilities for classroom training and winter range training
  - outdoor facilities – a driving course for the Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC), multiple-bay range
- Potential use for Agency sponsored public educational and training opportunities



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# TIMELINE

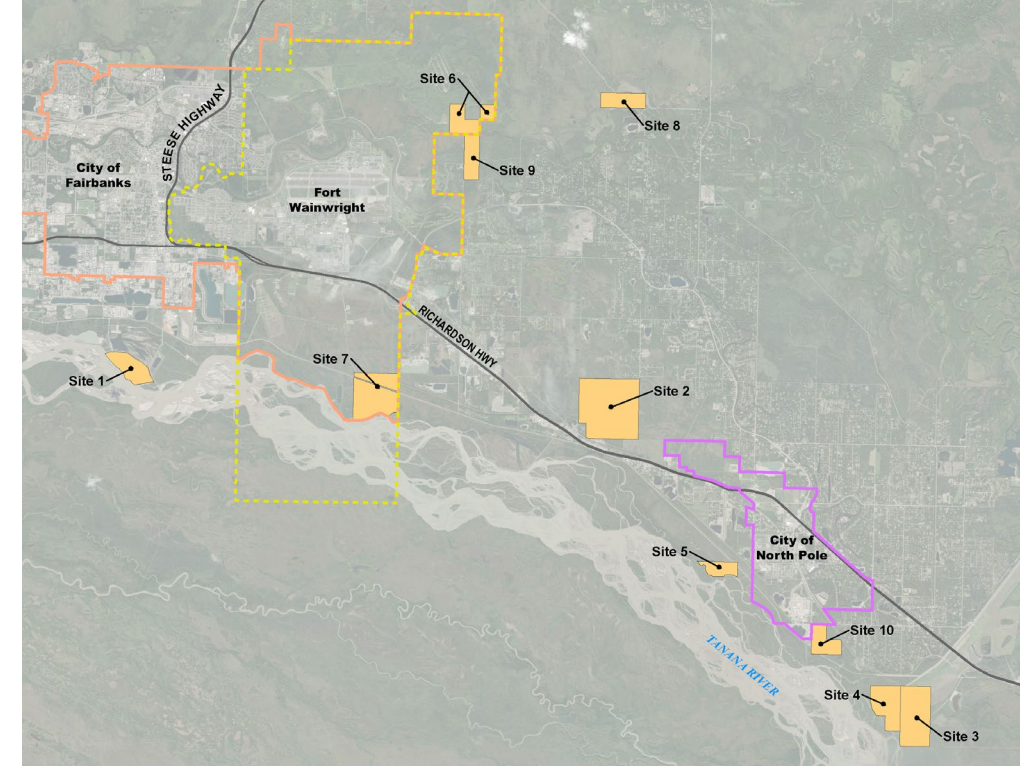
Description	Estimated Dates
Stakeholder Survey	December 14
Site Selection Study – Finalized	End of December 2020
Design Master Plan – Finalized	End of December 2020
Funding Request – Finalize Legislative funding package	End of December 2020
Community Meeting #2 (Virtual)	Early/Mid-January 2021
Funding Request – submit to the Legislature	Mid-January 2021
Funding Approved	Spring 2021
Design begins	Summer 2021
Entitlements/ Permitting	Fall 2021 – Fall 2022
Construction begins	Summer 2023



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# SITE SELECTION

- What is the need for a site selection study?
- Site selection criteria
  - Location
  - Size
  - Zoning District
  - Accessibility
  - Environmental Sensitivity
  - Soil and Drainage
  - Availability of Utilities
  - Acquisition and Development Cost



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# EVALUATION PROCESS

1. Determining search criteria and identifying desired parameters of the site.
2. Inventorying potentially available parcels.
3. Evaluating parcels against initial criteria and eliminating unsuitable sites.
4. Refining the inventory to only suitable parcels and expanding analysis on these sites.
5. Presenting the most suitable sites and documenting the merits and potential drawbacks for each.
6. Making a site recommendation based on the analysis.

A comprehensive list of potential sites was developed based on the following initial screening criteria:

- Location: Fairbanks/North Pole area
- Size: The parcel must be at least 120 to 320 acres in size.
- Use: Vacant

***From more than 100 possible sites down to ten currently***

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# SITE 1

**Location:** Southwest side of S. Cushman Street Ext. and Northwest of the Tanana River

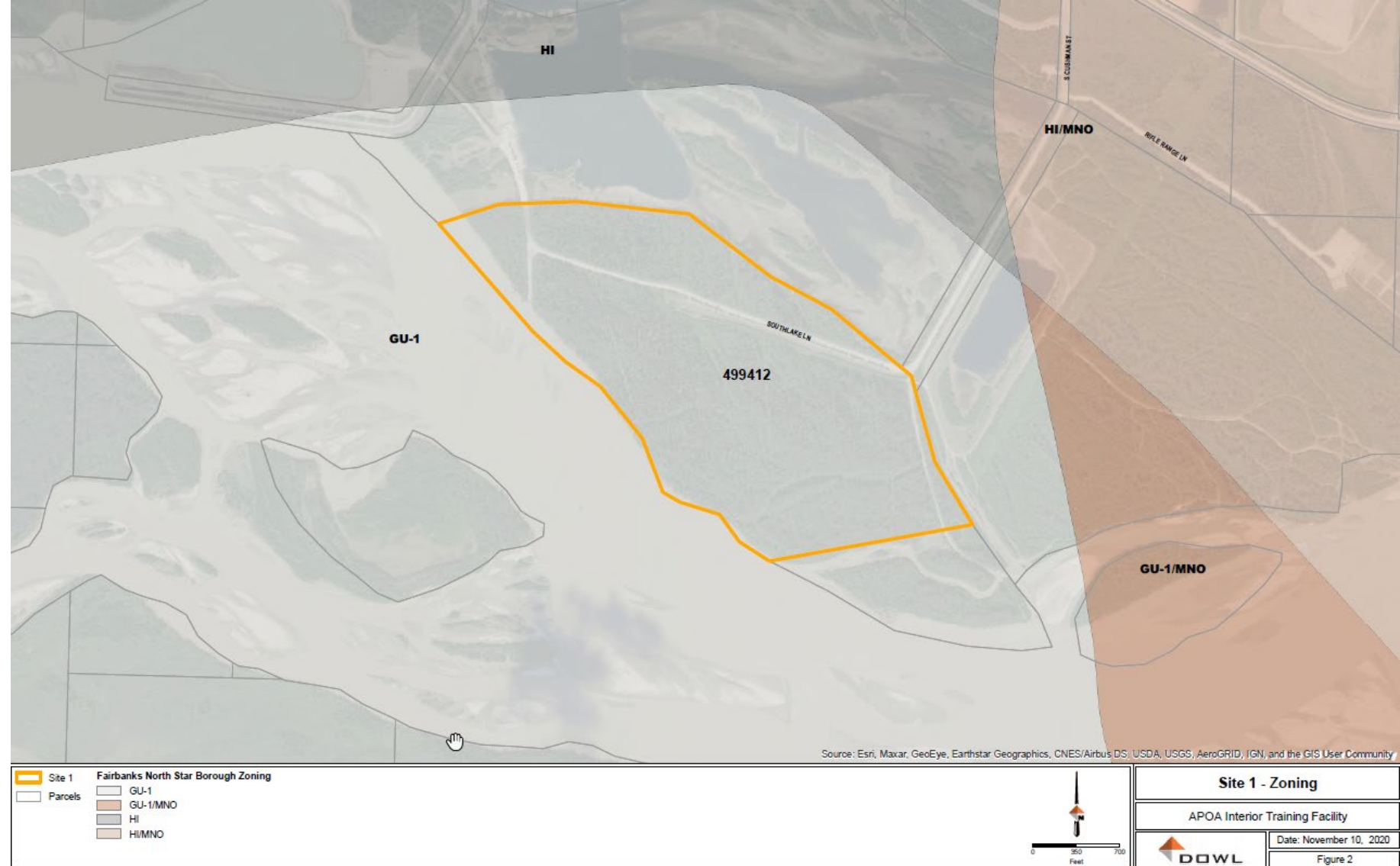
**Zoning:** General Use – 1

**Wetland:** Small portion located along western edge

**Floodplain:** Entire site within regulatory floodway area

**Ownership:** State of AK, DNR

**Size:** 167 acres



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## SITE 2

**Location:** Northeast side of Richardson Hwy, between Fairbanks and North Pole

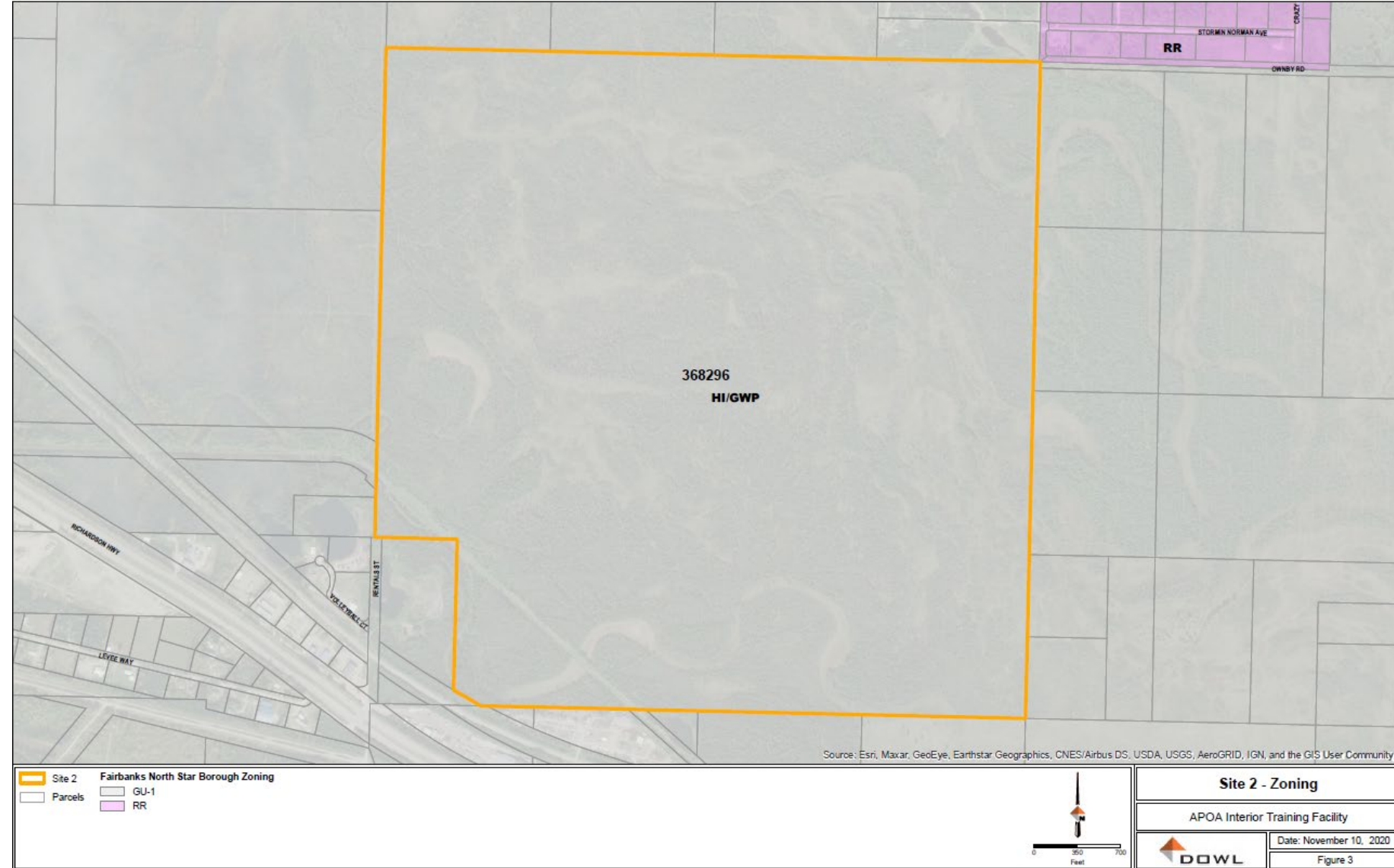
**Zoning:** General Use – 1/ Groundwater Damage Protection

**Wetland:** ~ 593 acres of the 619 gross acres encumbered by wetlands

**Floodplain:** Not located within a special flood hazard area

**Ownership:** FNSB

**Size:** 619 acres



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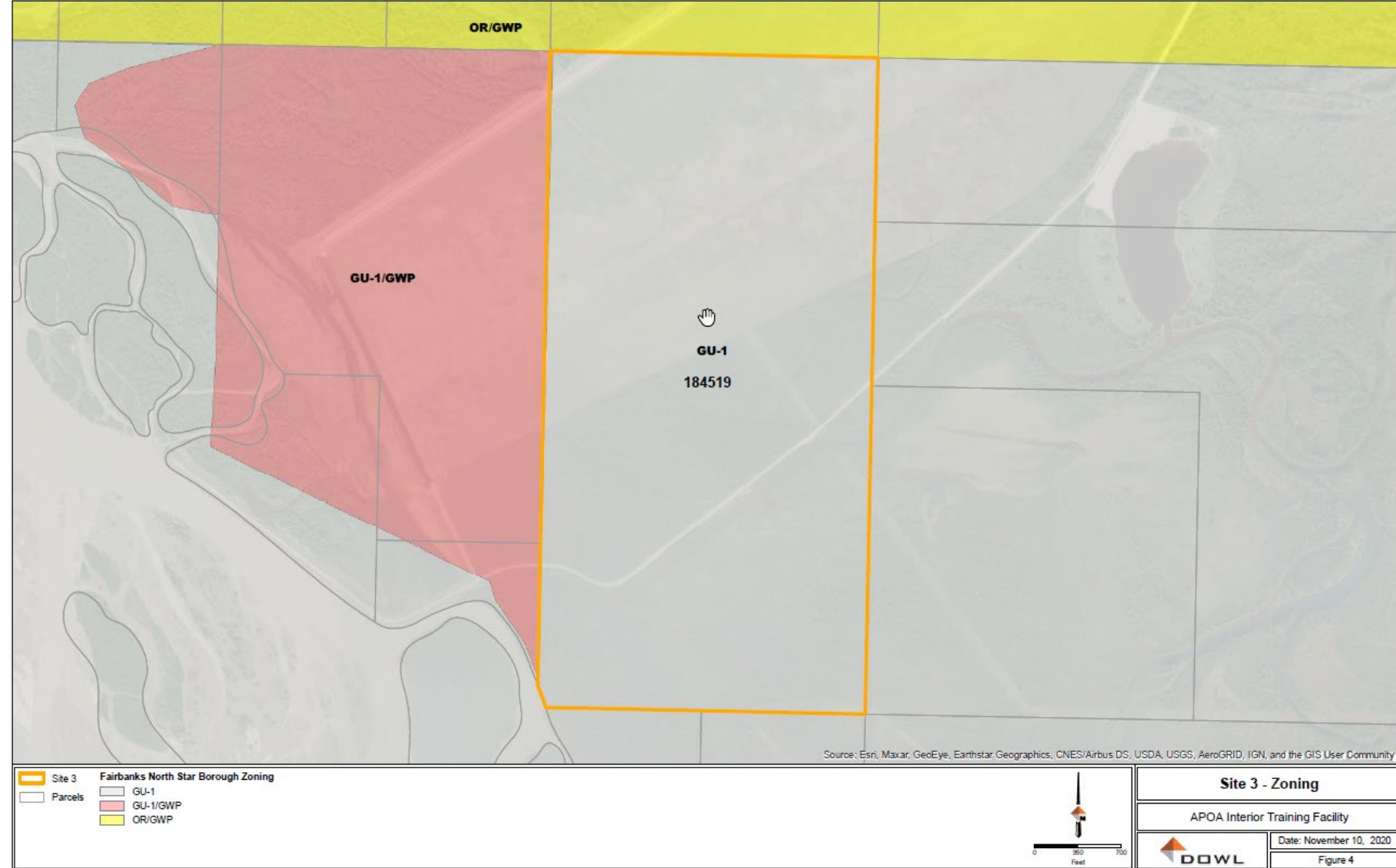
## SITE 3

**Location:** South of Old Richardson Hwy, east of Dyke Road

**Ownership:** BLM.

This site was evaluated further, however during right-of-way review it was determined that this parcel is unavailable for sale due to Public Land Orders.

**Size:** 320 acres



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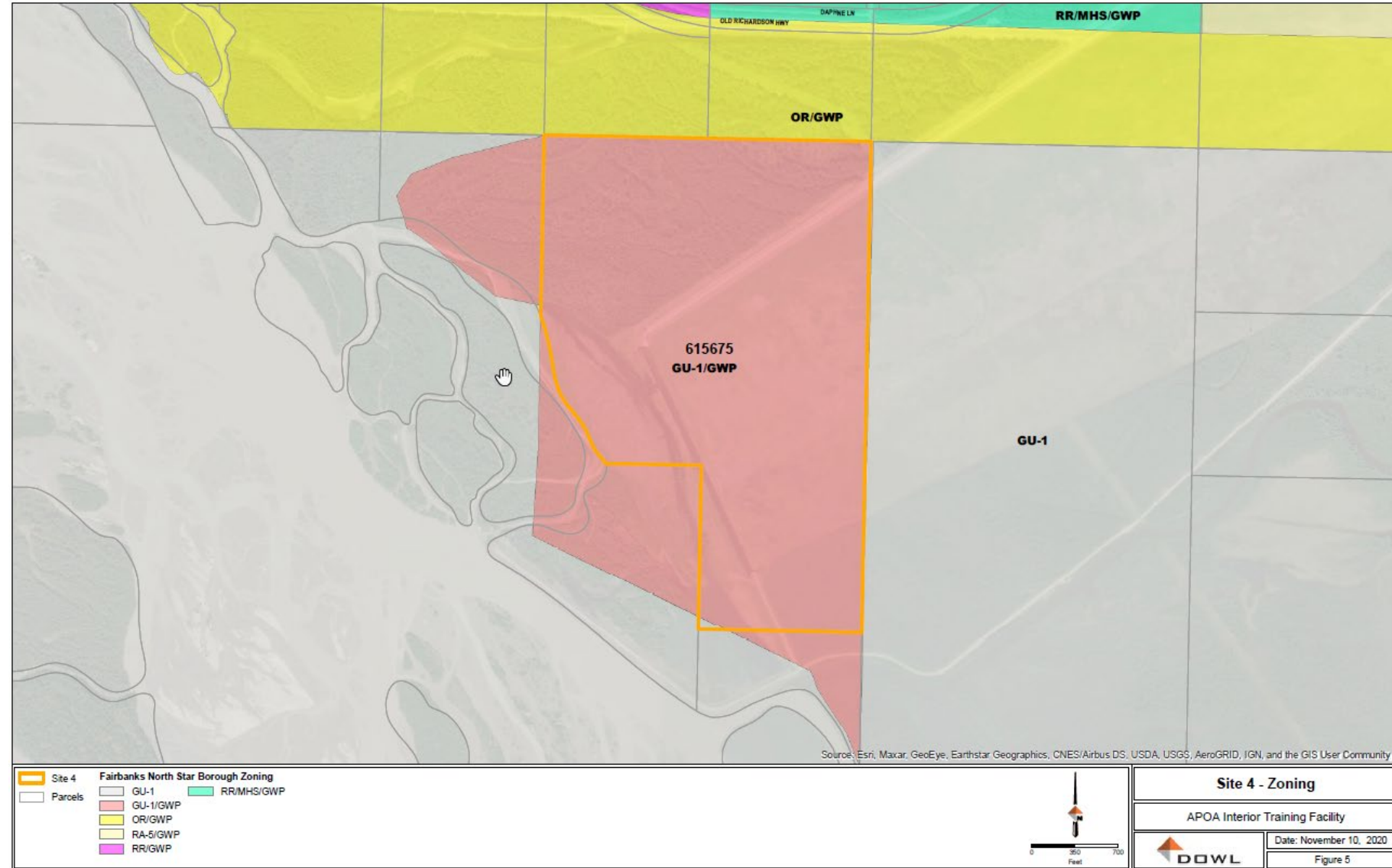
# SITE 4

**Location:** South of Old Richardson Hwy, east of Dyke Road

**Ownership:** BLM.

This site was evaluated further, however during right-of-way review it was determined that this parcel is unavailable for sale due to Public Land Orders.

**Size:** 200 acres



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# SITE 5

**Location:** West of the Tanana Levee

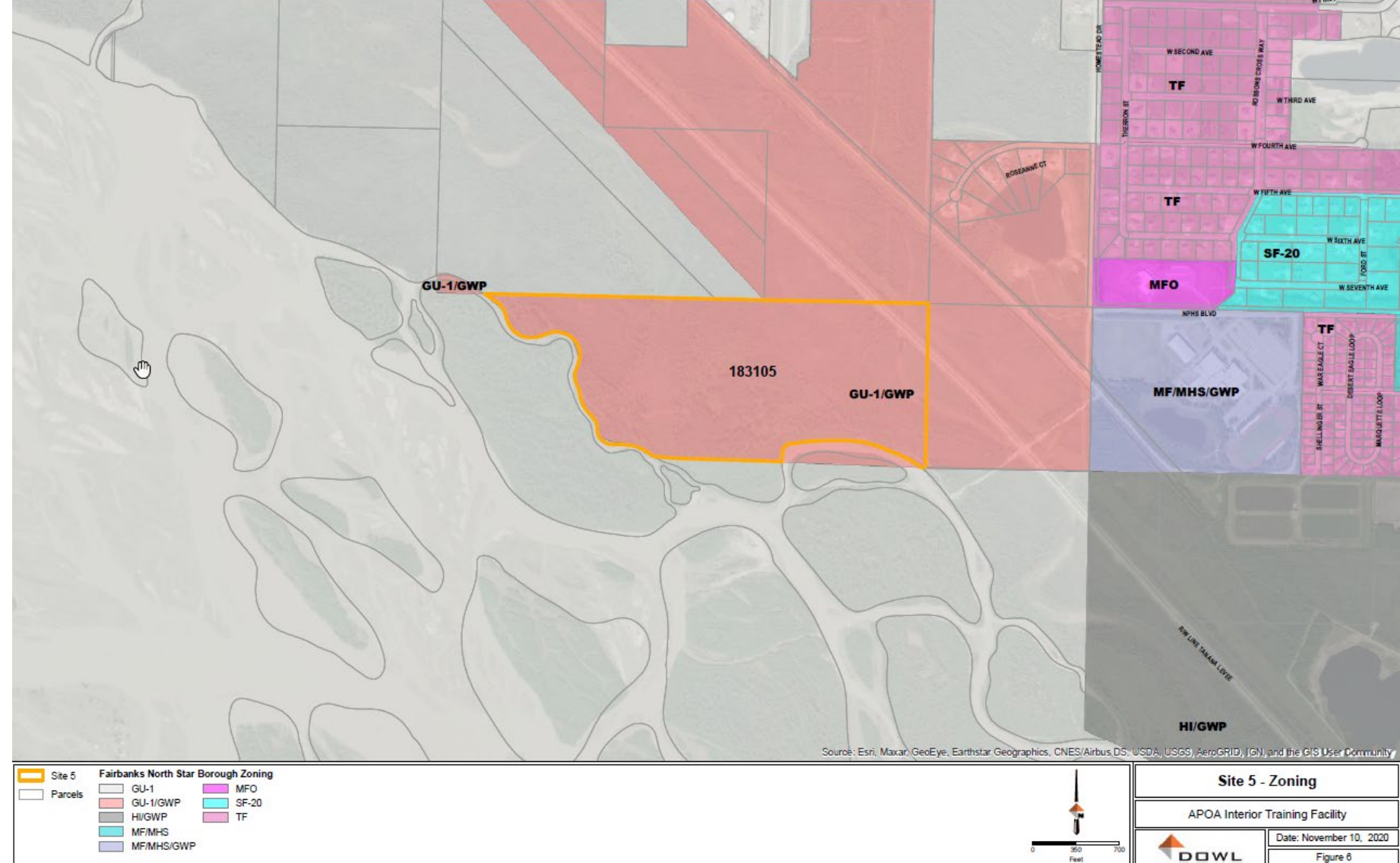
**Zoning:** General Use – 1/ Groundwater Damage Protection

**Wetland:** Located almost entirely behind the Tanana Levee and encumbered by wetlands

**Floodplain:** Large portion is within floodway

**Ownership:** State of Alaska, DNR

**Size:** 158.8 acres



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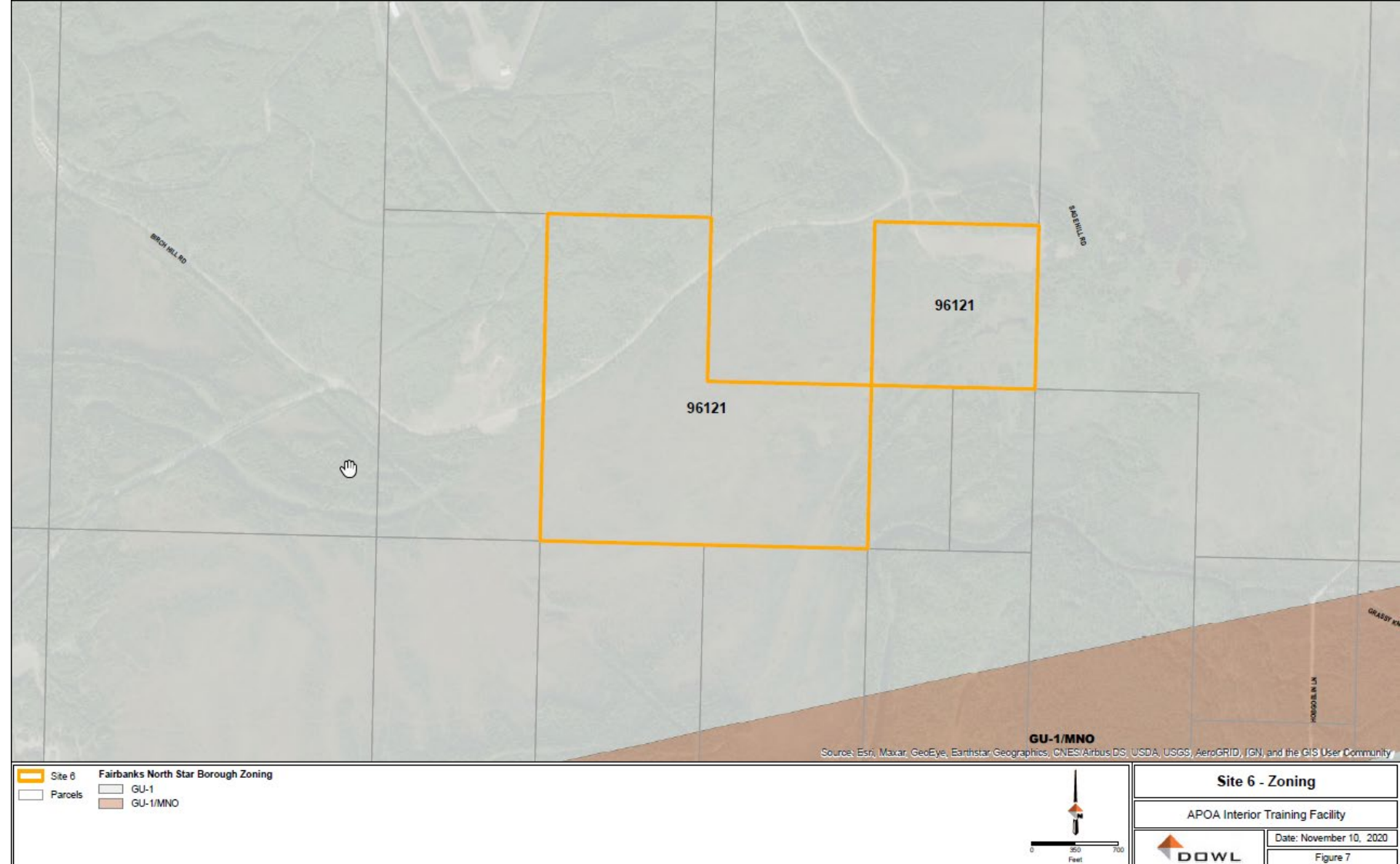


## SITE 6

**Location:** Located on Fort Wainwright – west side of Ammo Road and east of the Ammo and Sage Hill Road intersection.

**Ownership:** Ft Wainwright, and was not evaluated further

**Size:** 160 acres



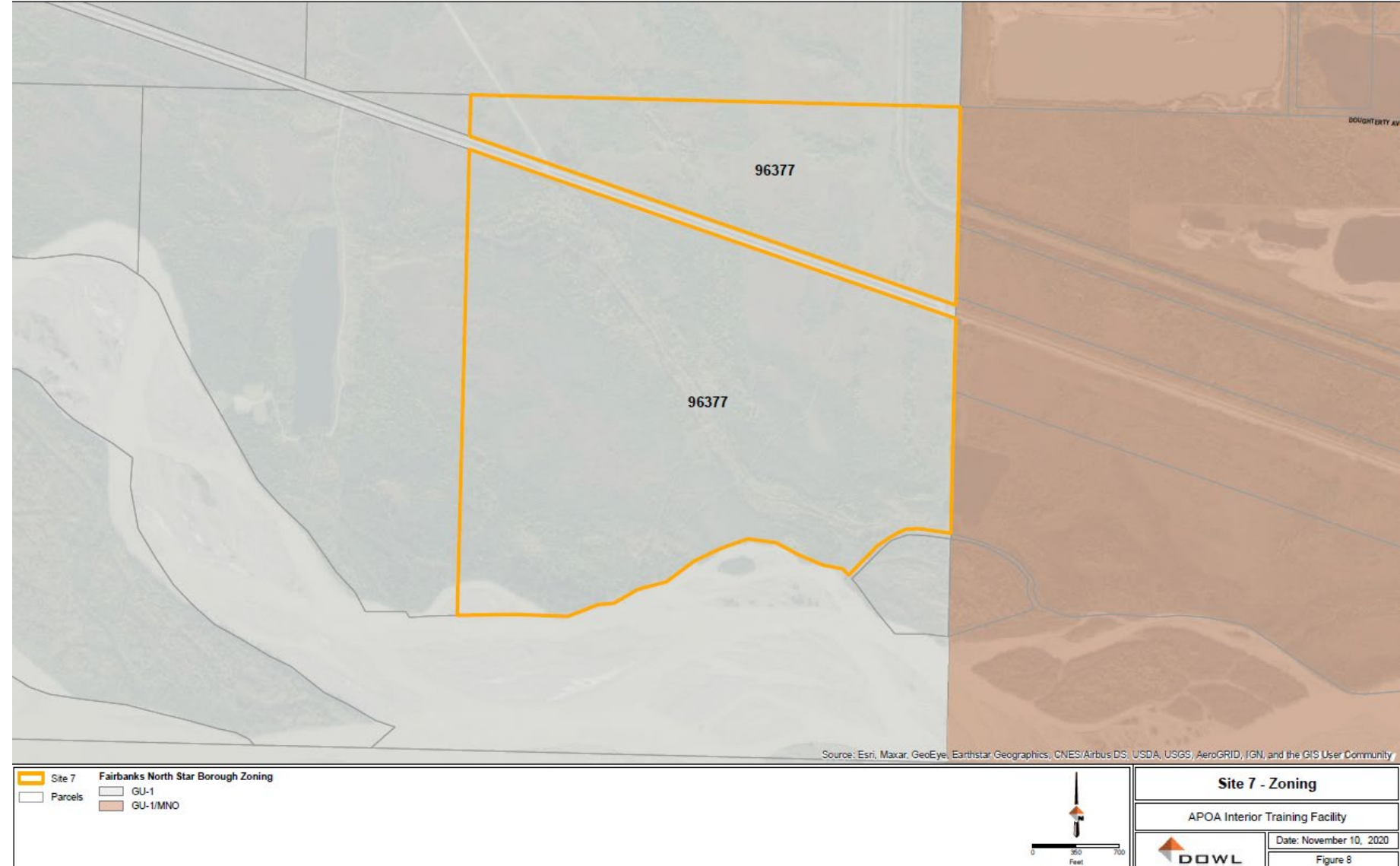
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# SITE 7

**Location:** Located on Fort Wainwright – west of Bethany Street and east of the Tanana River.

**Ownership:** Ft Wainwright, and was not evaluated further

**Size:** 448.8 acres



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## SITE 8

**Location:** North of Bate Street and north of the Chena River

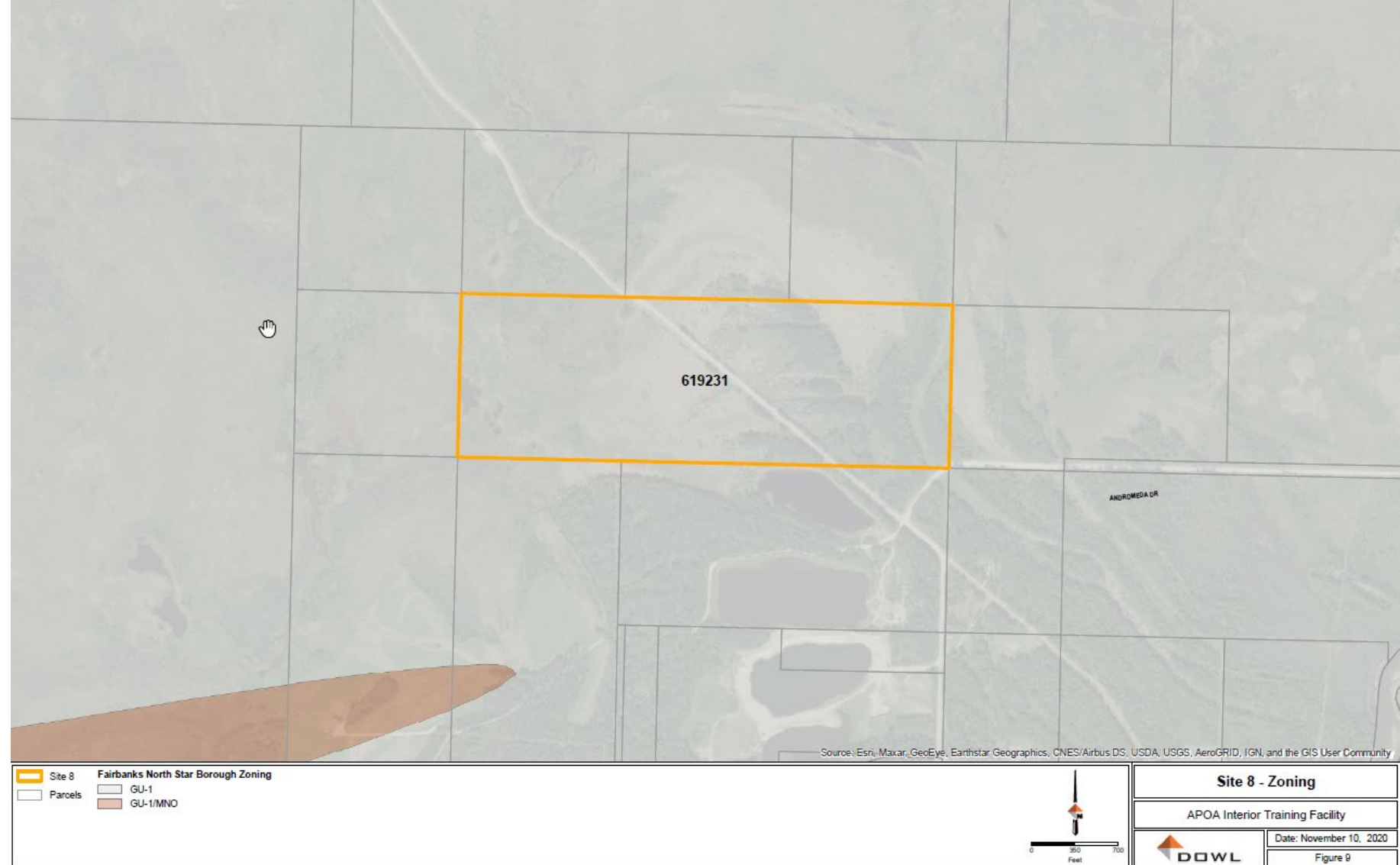
**Zoning:** General Use – 1

**Wetland:** Majority of the site is encumbered by wetlands

**Floodplain:** Majority of the site is in an area of reduced flood risk

**Ownership:** State of Alaska Mental Health Trust

**Size:** 120 acres



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## SITE 9

**Location:** North of the Chena River and bisected by Prester John Drive

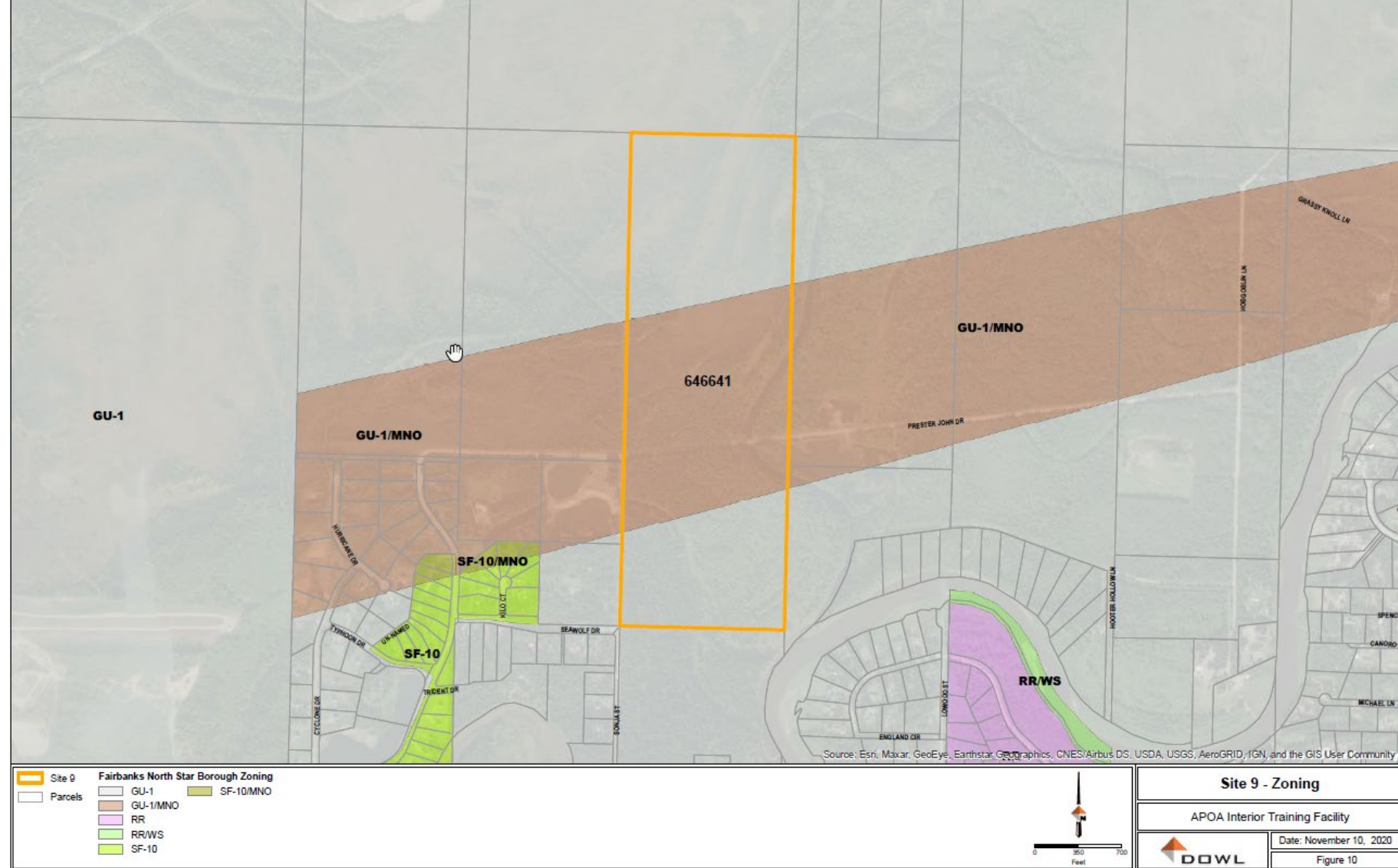
**Zoning:** General Use – 1 /Military Noise

**Wetland:** Located on the northern portion and a small portion of the south portion

**Floodplain:** Majority of the site is in an area of reduced flood risk

**Ownership:** State of Alaska Mental Health Trust

**Size:** 120 acres



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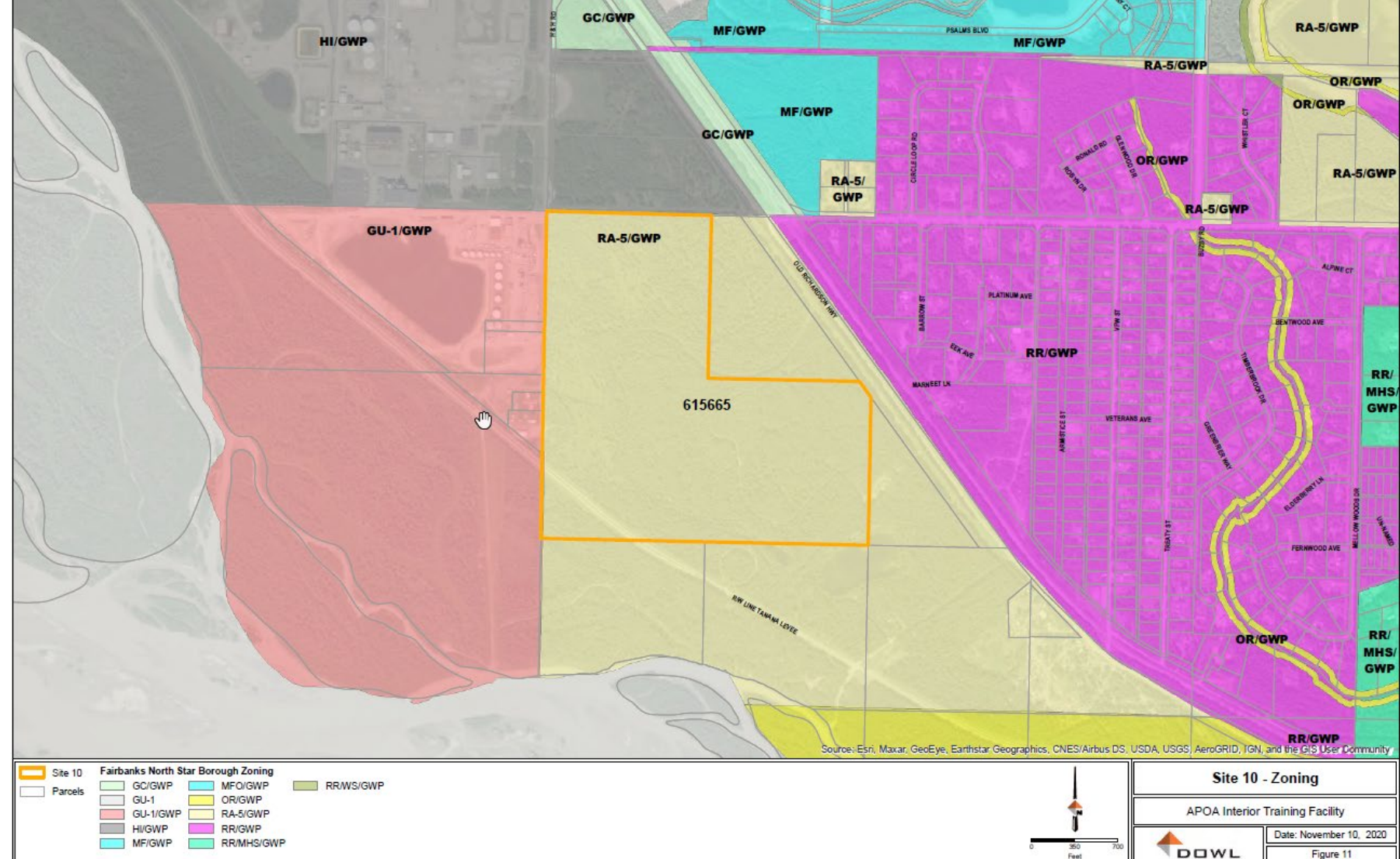
## SITE 10

**Location:** Southwest side of the Old Richardson Hwy

**Ownership:** BLM.

This site was evaluated further, however during right-of-way review it was determined that this parcel is unavailable for sale due to Public Land Orders.

**Size:** 120 acres



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# WHAT WE NEED FROM THE PUBLIC

- Take a 4-minute online survey, that will help APOA consider the best site location
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APOA>
- Submit your comments to [agreene@dowl.com](mailto:agreene@dowl.com)



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## NEXT STEPS

- Site Selection Study
  - Finalize Site Selection Study with APOA's input
  - APOA will select a preferred and an alternative site
- Site Master Plan and Architectural Design
  - After selected site is confirmed prepare the master plan and architectural design
  - This report includes a design and construction estimate
- Produce a Legislative funding request/packet
  - Site Selection Study; Site Master Plan and Architectural Design with estimate; with graphical cover page and a one/two-page project brochure/ graphical representation of the project.



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**Please take our survey!**



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APOA>

The survey is open for participation now and will remain open until 4:00 p.m. on December 14.

You can also find the survey by visiting the project web page. Go to [www.dowl.com/outreach](http://www.dowl.com/outreach) and click on “Alaska Peace Officers Association” in the drop-down menu.

**THANK YOU...**

Any questions or comments? Please call or email  
Alexa Greene: [agreene@DOWL.com](mailto:agreene@DOWL.com); 907.562.2000