

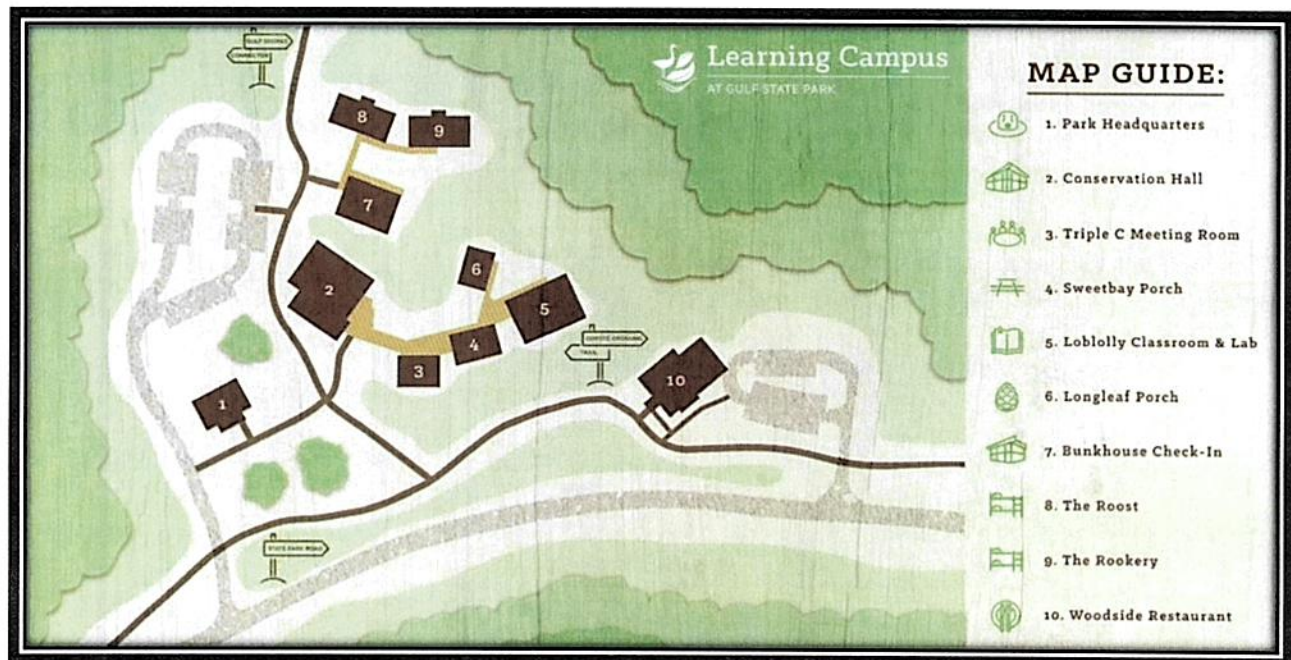


EVENT: Fort Morgan Trail Extension – Public Input Meeting
LOCATION: Gulf State Park Learning Campus – Triple C Meeting Room
20115 State Park Road, Gulf Shores, AL 36542
DATE: October 27, 2020, 6:00 P.M.

- ▼ Introduction
- ▼ Project Overview
- ▼ Limitations and Environmental Constraints
- ▼ Preliminary Alignments
- ▼ Additional Discussion Items

Masks will be required.

Meeting Location Guide:



PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR BUCKET 3 SLATE:

#359 - Fort Morgan Parkway Trail Extension (ADCNR, State Parks) - \$4,433,600

This project proposes to extend and ultimately complete the Fort Morgan Parkway Trail from Fort Morgan Historical Park to Gulf State Park and includes the construction of a midzone to provide parking, restroom facilities, and interpretive signage.

When completed, the Fort Morgan Parkway Trail will provide approximately 30 miles of recreation trail from Fort Morgan to Orange Beach and will connect with numerous trail spurs and loops along the way.



Fort Morgan Civic Association Proposed plan for the Fort Morgan Parkway Trail Extension

The Fort Morgan Civic Association works to preserve the natural environment and increase the quality of life of current and future residents of Fort Morgan by promoting coordinated and harmonious development of the peninsula. The extension of the existing recreational parkway from its current terminus at Peninsula Boulevard, Gulf Shores to the Fort Morgan Historical Park has the potential to cause unnecessary environmental degradation and negative quality of life impacts to Fort Morgan residents if the design used for the Gulf Shores portion of the parkway is continued in Fort Morgan. The unique nature of Fort Morgan and its lower population density should be preserved if at all possible to allow future generations to experience this one of a kind location in Alabama and the Gulf coast. The Fort Morgan Civic Association would like to propose the plan below for to the Fort Morgan Parkway Trail Extension to create a unique safe recreational experience for those that utilize both the Gulf Shores and Fort Morgan sections.

Proposed Plan:

1. Create 5 ft wide marked bike lanes both directions on Hwy 180 from Peninsula Blvd to the Fort Morgan Historical Site. The project would be best completed during the current ALDOT plan for repaving of Hwy 180 (date TBD).

2. Create a midzone restroom, parking area, interpretive signage area and beach access on property located between The Beach Club and Kiva Dunes (currently owned by Gulf State Park).
3. Construct an over road crossover to allow bikers, walkers, runners to cross Hwy 180 from just west of the public boat ramp or install a pedestrian crossing with a traffic light initiated when pedestrians engage it to allow safe access both directions to the restroom/ break facilities.

This proposed plan will allow for the safe biking, walking and running experience for all levels of recreational athletes, preserve the unique natural environment of the Fort Morgan peninsula, and create less impact to the environment, property and business owners on Fort Morgan. The current trail in Gulf Shores does not allow for full enjoyment by those preferring a road bike experience due to speed limitations and constant stops at all roads/ driveways crossing its route. The proposed plan will allow all recreational physical fitness activities to enjoy a safe and stimulating experience. Creating a bike lane on the Fort Morgan extension will also result in a decrease in bike related accidents on this stretch of Hwy 180. Hwy 180 currently has shoulders that are too limited in width to provide protection for bikers, walkers and runners. Creating a separate parkway would not eliminate the risk to those utilizing road bikes. A dedicated bike lane both directions that is properly marked will serve to keep pedestrian and bike traffic adequately separated from road traffic. This plan will also lessen the potential for degradation of sensitive habitat through the use of existing right of ways for Hwy 180 to widen the road instead of construction of a completely separate trail through mature woodlands and protected wetlands. An additional benefit to this plan is that it will cause less encroachment on both home and business owners property lines by focusing on easement areas immediately adjacent to Hwy 180 instead of utilizing utility easements located outside of the Hwy 180 easement, thereby providing more positive local support for the project.

FMCA suggested revisions to Fort Morgan Bike Trail Extension Plan

In reference to plan delivered by ADCNR and Volkert Engineering staff to the FMCA membership in Oct 2020, the FMCA suggests the following revisions to better protect our community, its natural environment and to accommodate future planning and growth:

- Initial Crossing North to South located at Peninsula Blvd (reference Perdido Key Hwy crossings) or cross SR 180 using Pedestrian overpass at GS municipal boundary (reference Gulf State Park)
- Utilize existing powerline trail from GS Municipal boundary West to “The Pines” area to minimize impacts to wildlife habitat, wetlands, cultural resources while also reducing conflict points at public roadways & +150 private driveways
- Work with ALDOT to reduce speed limit to 35mph on SR180 in “The Pines” area to safely accommodate potential parking areas near the planned Gulf Highlands/Gulf State Park and also allow for 2nd pedestrian crossing (reference Perdido Key crosswalks) at that location
- Plan for restroom/rest/parking facilities near the planned Gulf Highlands/Gulf State Park acquisition to better serve public
- Continue path West on the North side of SR180 to Fort Morgan Historic Site utilizing existing paths while minimizing impacts on wetlands and ABM habitat while also reducing conflict points at public roadways & private driveways
- Consider reduction of speed limit to 45mph along entirety of SR180 from GS Municipal Boundary to Fort Morgan Historic Site in order to accommodate a 3rd Bike/Pedestrian Lane adjacent to SR180 to double as evacuation route



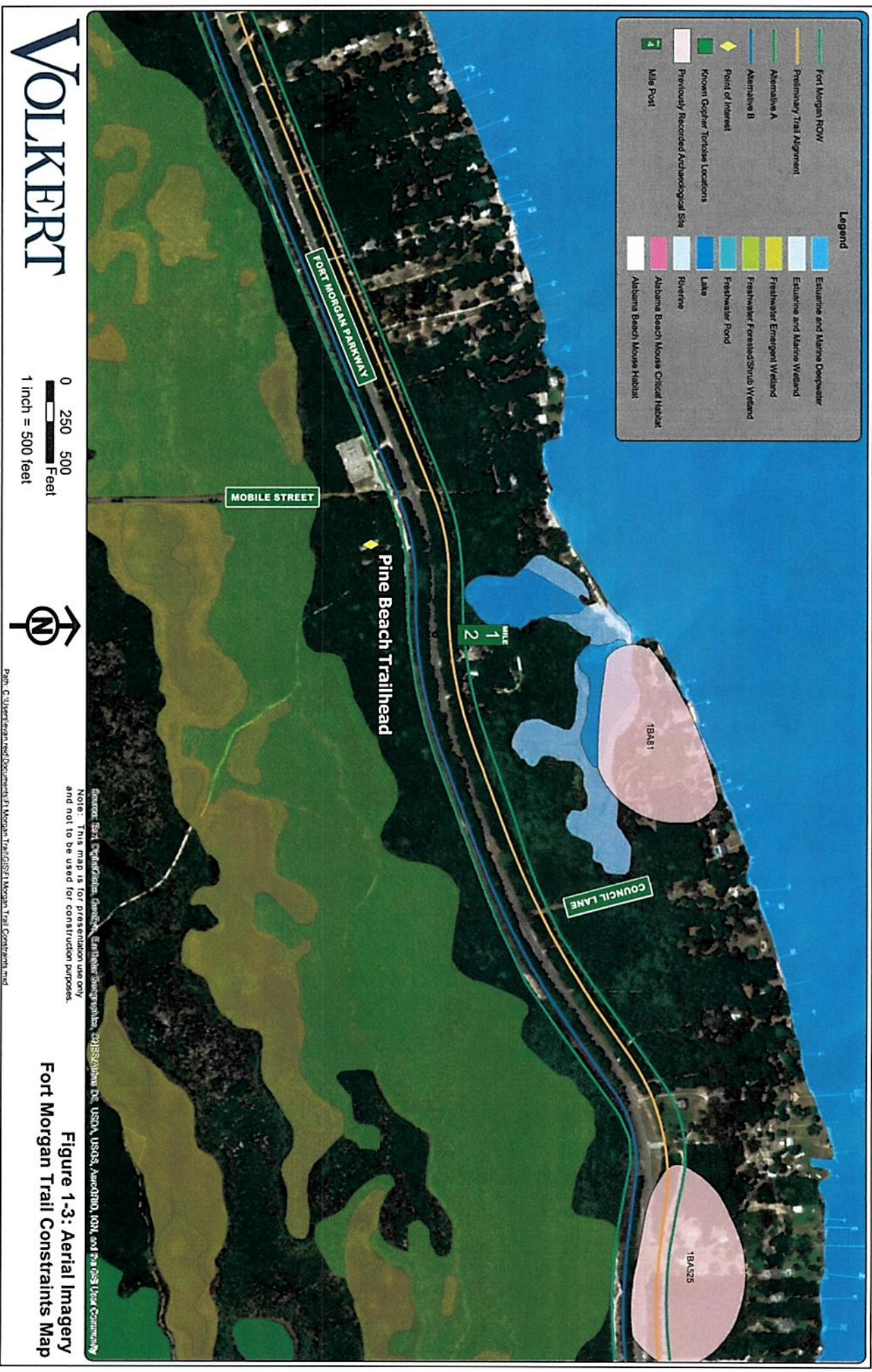


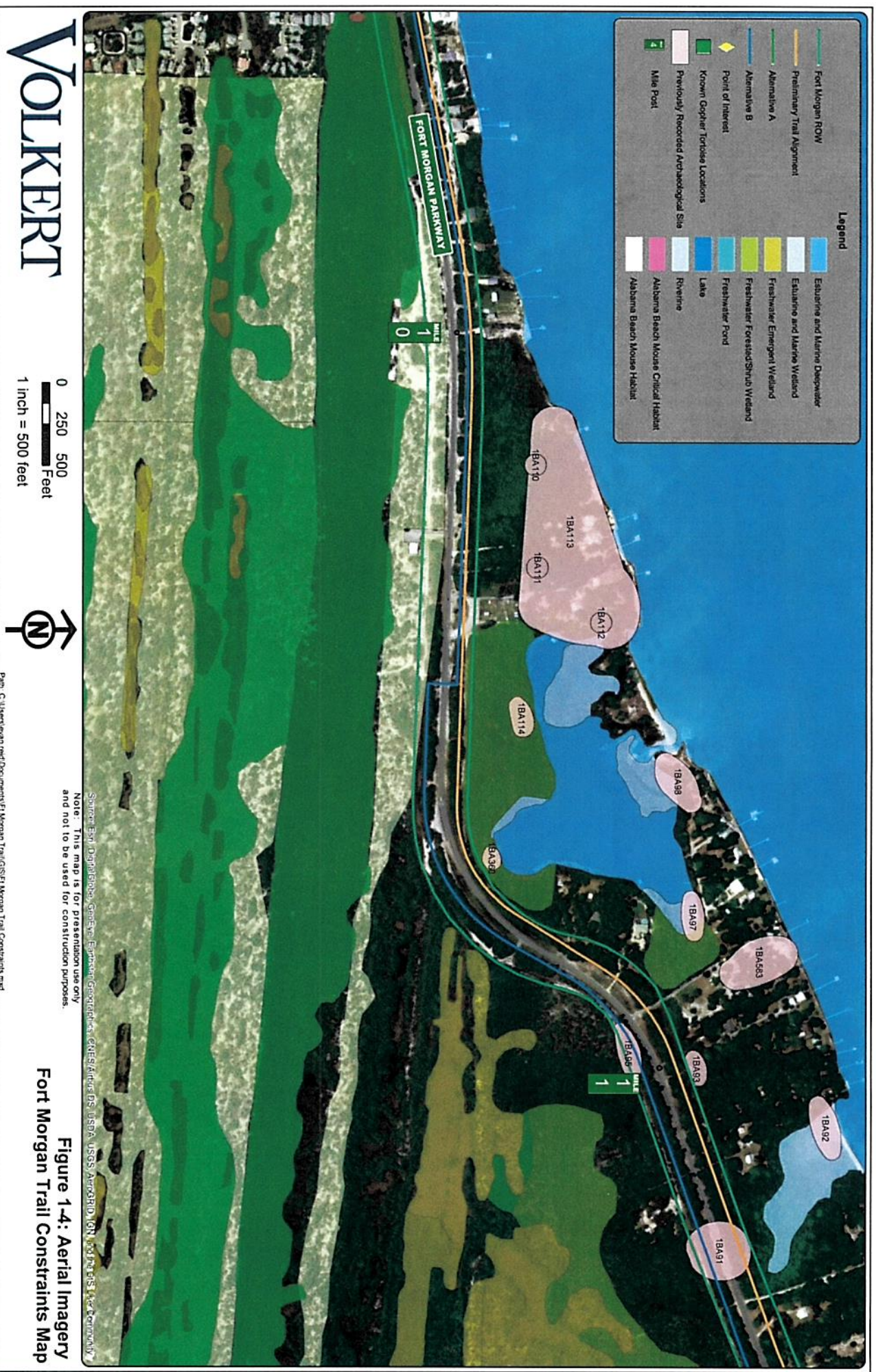
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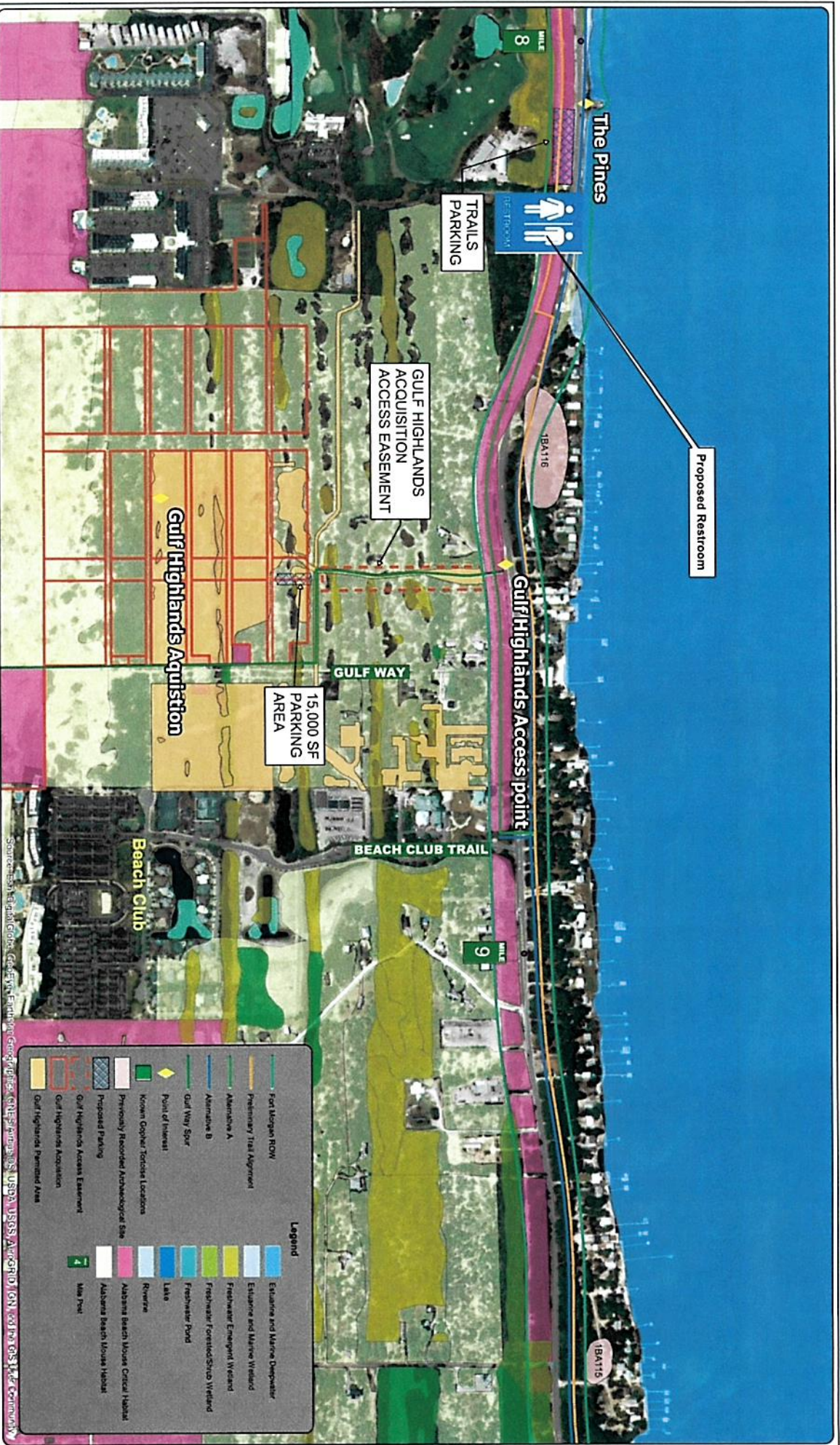
Source: Soil, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

NOTE: This map is for presentation use only and not to be used for construction purposes.

Figure 1-2: Aerial Imagery
Fort Morgan Trail Constraints Map







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0 250 500
Feet
1 inch = 500 feet



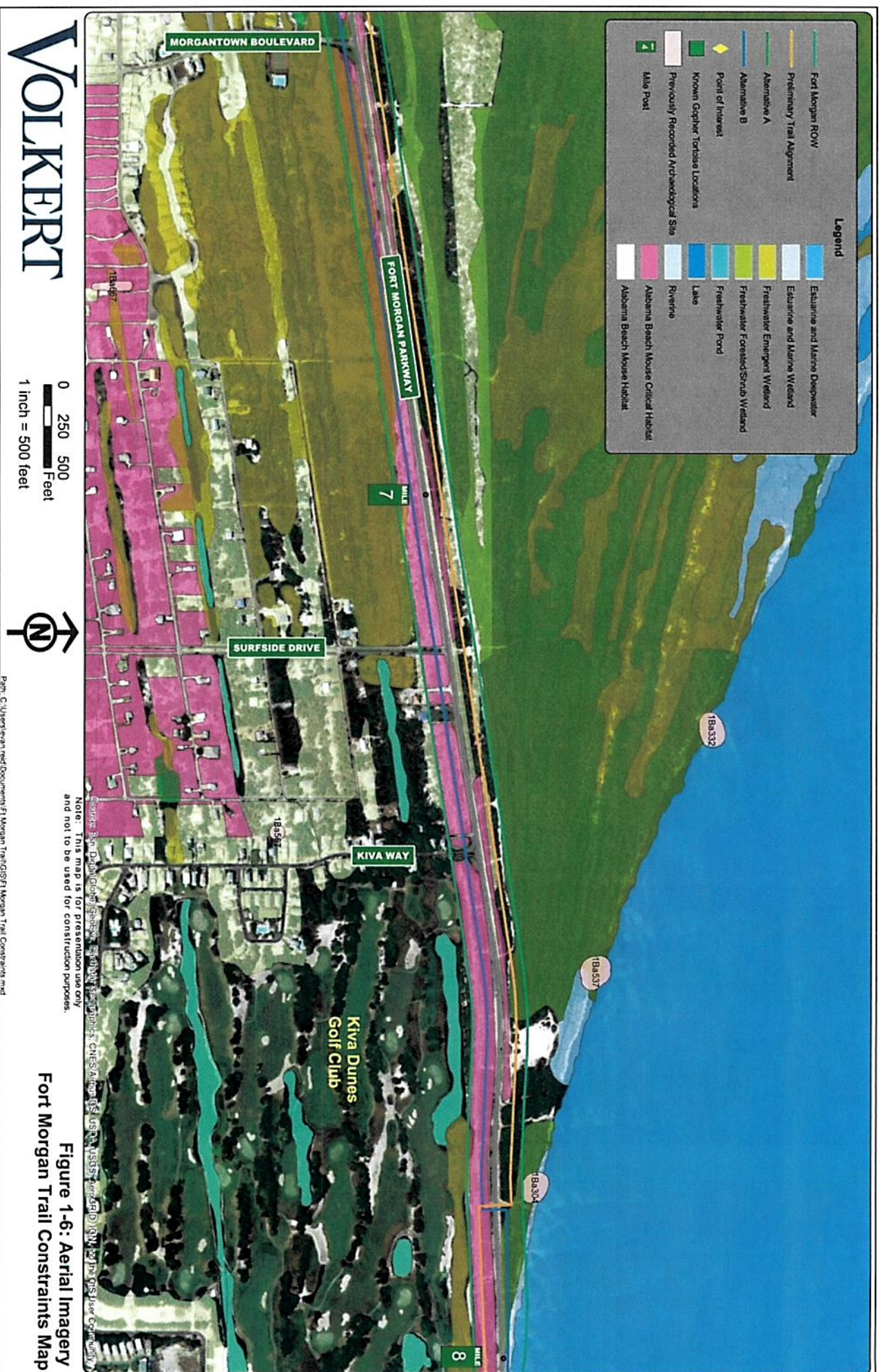
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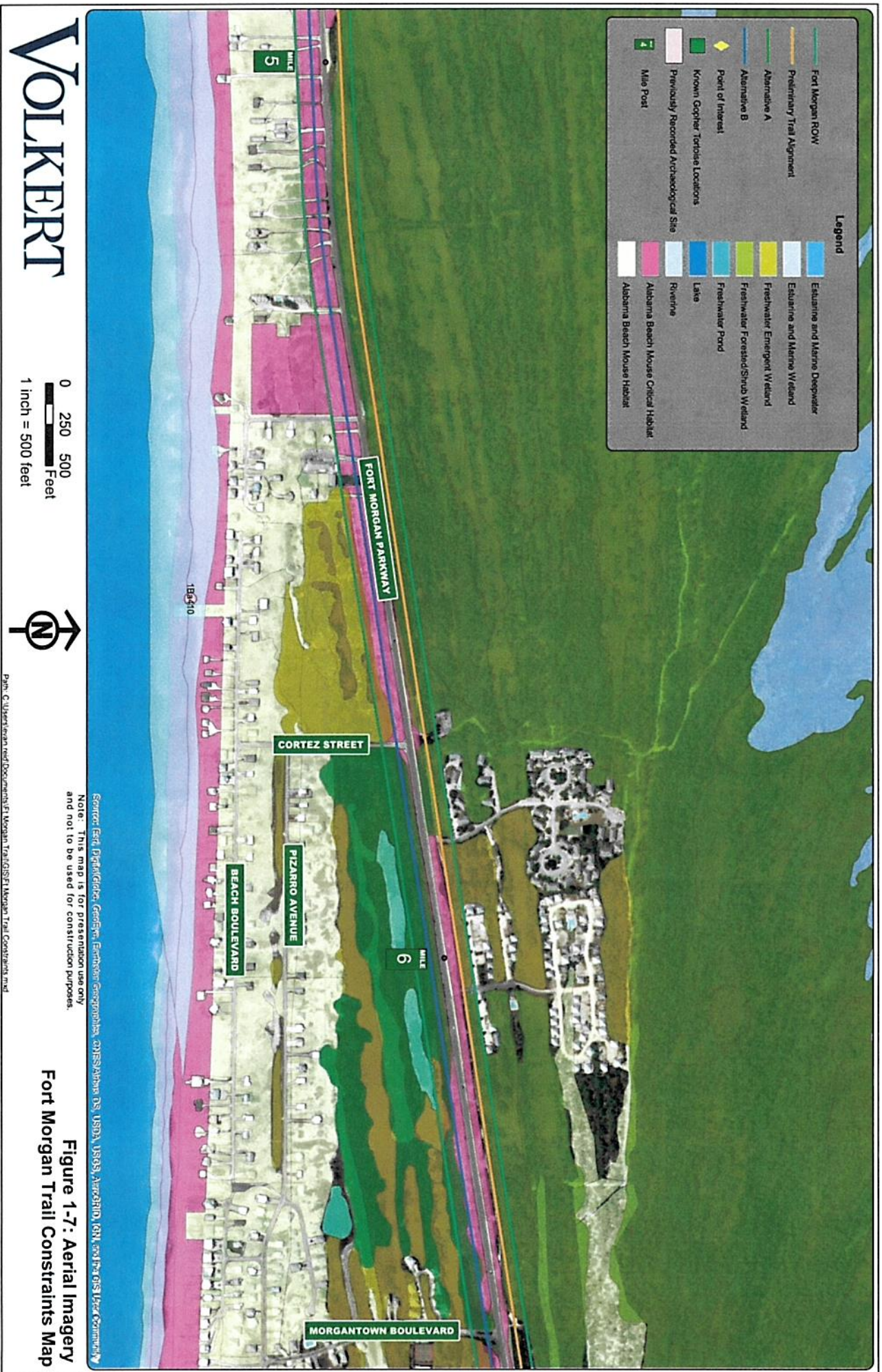
**Figure 1-5: Aerial Imagery
Fort Morgan Trail Constraints Map**

Path: C:\Users\megan\red Documents\Fort Morgan Trail\GIS\Fort Morgan Trail Constraints.mxd

Legend

	Fort Morgan ROW		Alabama Beach Mouse Critical Habitat
	Preliminary Trail Alignment		Estuarine and Marine Wetland
	Alternative A		Freshwater Emergent Wetland
	Alternative B		Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
	Gulf Way Spur		Freshwater Pond
	Point of Interest		Lake
	Known Dogger Trench Locations		Reverse
	Previously Recorded Archaeological Site		Alabama Beach Mouse Habitat
	Gulf Highlands Access Easement		Marine Pond
	Proposed Parking		
	Gulf Highlands Acquisition		
	Gulf Highlands Permitted Area		





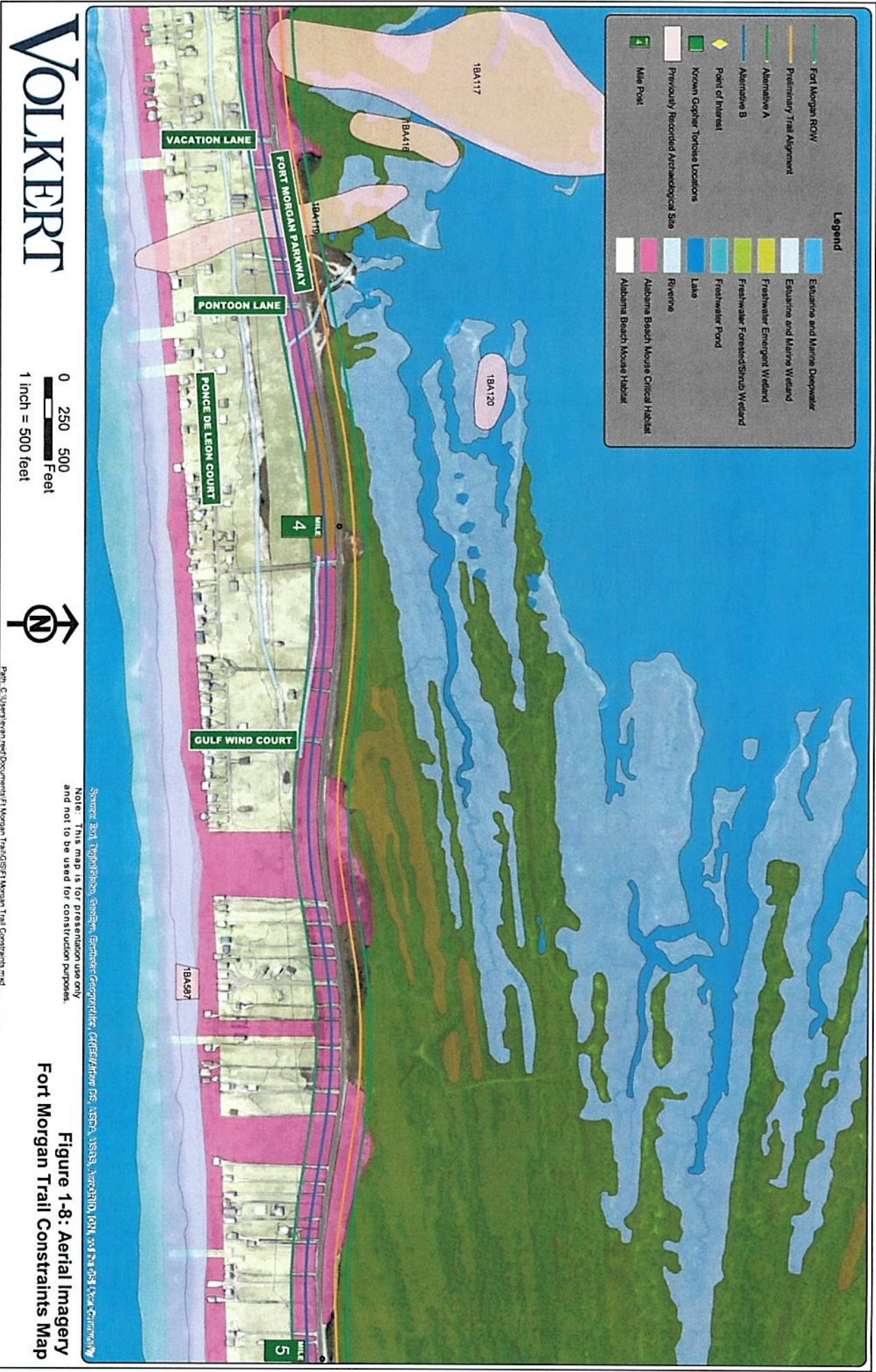
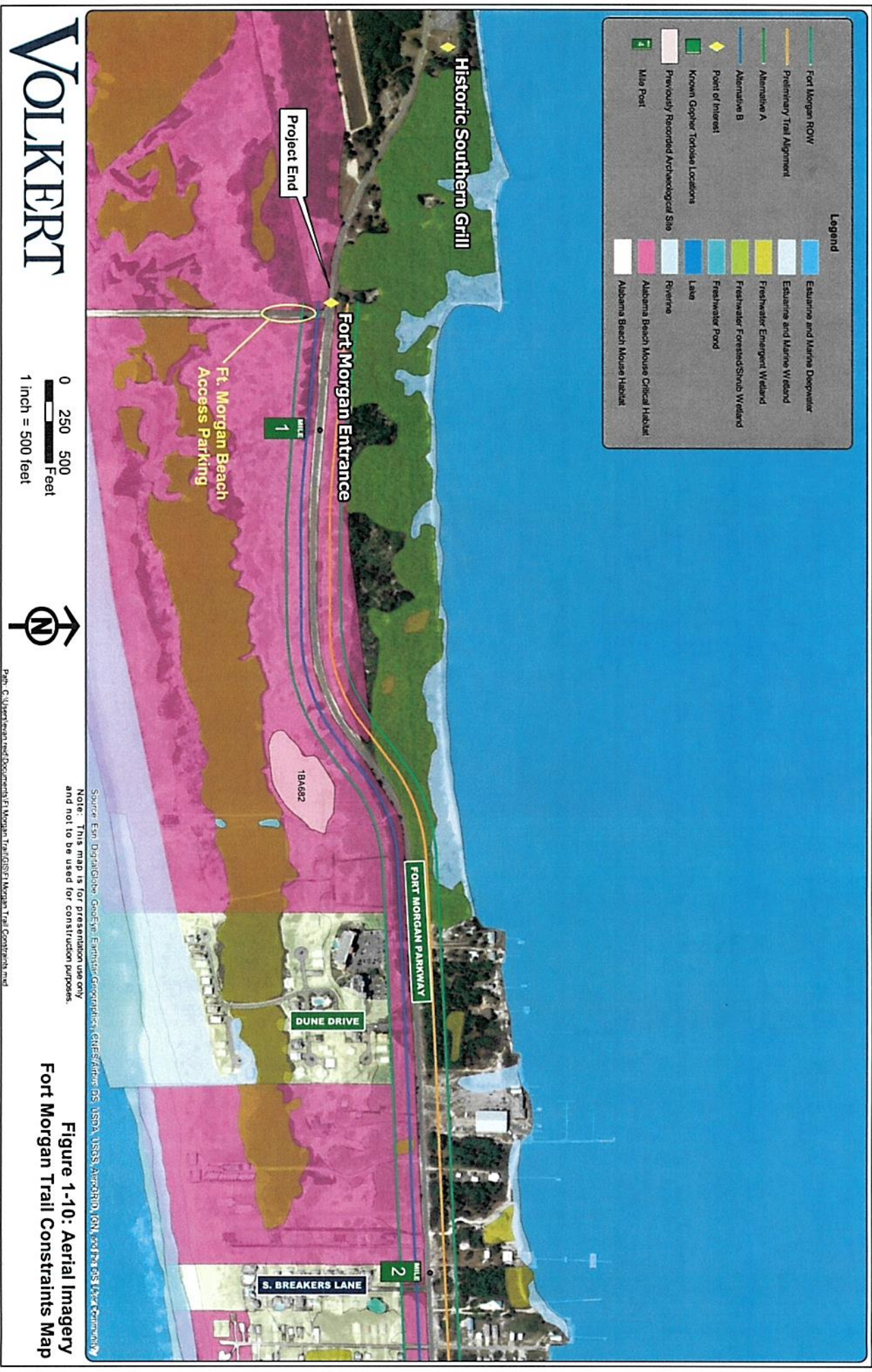


Figure 1-8: Aerial Imagery Fort Morgan Trail Constraints Map



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0 250 500 Feet
1 inch = 500 feet

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the FAA for data.

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Figure 1-11: Aerial Imagery Fort Morgan Trail Constraints Map