

- Northern Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*);
- Red Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*);
- Snowshoe Hare (*Lepus americanus*);
- Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*); and
- White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

Reptiles and amphibian species observed, or detected, include:

- Eastern Red-backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*);
- Green Frog (*Lithobates clamitans*);
- Maritime Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis pallidulus*);
- Northern Ringneck Snake (*Diadophis punctatus edwardsii*);
- Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens*);
- Pickerel Frog (*Lithobates palustris*);
- Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*); and
- Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*).

A deer wintering area (DWA) is located adjacent to the Project site, on the north side of the West Branch of the Avon River. During the winter, White-tailed Deer congregate in high density groups in areas which provide shelter from the prevailing wind, offer maximum exposure to the sun and offer cover as well as access to vegetation for browse (NSDNR 2012). DWAs are identified by NSDNR for identifying areas for special management practices in Nova Scotia. Although no designated DWAs on the Project site, there is potential for deer to winter in uncut forested areas, generally located on the east side of the project site.

The encountered wildlife species listed above have populations in Nova Scotia that are considered secure according to the ACCDC (2021) with the exception of a fisher. One fisher was observed during the spring while crossing one of the site access roads. The fisher is ranked S3 (i.e., Vulnerable) by the ACCDC and is therefore included with the SoCC discussion in **Section 6.2.5**.

Although not encountered, the eastern painted turtle and mainland moose were reported by the ACCDC as being observed within 10 km of the BMWP site and potential habitat is available at the site. Dillon personnel checked accessible water bodies, when encountered as part of the wetland and watercourse surveys, for the presence turtles. Dillon biologists were aware of the potential for moose to be present in the LAA and to record signs of moose if encountered. Such signs include scat, tracks, high browse and shed antlers; however, there were no observations or signs of moose reported during the 2021 field surveys.

### 6.2.1.3 Wetlands

Wetlands were assessed as part of the Terrestrial Environment VEC because they may perform many important functions and services in landscapes (e.g., improving water quality, controlling floods, providing critical habitat for rare and endangered species, and many others). In addition to performing important landscape functions, wetland ecosystems are typically some of the most productive ecosystems encountered in Nova Scotia. As such, in Nova Scotia (and elsewhere), many VECs (e.g., SAR

and SoCC, migratory birds and culturally significant flora and fauna) are hosted within wetland ecosystems.

A preliminary wetland assessment was conducted of wetlands located within the Terrestrial LAA between July 26 and September 30, 2021, the detailed methods and results are presented in **Appendix G**. Based on the preliminary proposed project layout that was used for the EA assessment, over 107 wetlands (totaling approximately 286 ha of land) were assessed within the LAA, shown on **Figures 9A-D**. Of these assessed wetlands, approximately 32 ha are located within the PDA and the proposed turbine locations are not predicted to directly interact with any wetlands as none were identified within the proposed footprint to these structures. Approximately 94 of the identified wetlands, primarily swamps, within the LAA are located adjacent to existing roads (i.e., within 30 m) and would likely already be seeing some level of impacts from the ongoing forestry activities onsite.

Wetland class was determined based on the principles of the Canadian Wetland Classification System (National Wetlands Working Group 1997) and the Nova Scotia Wetland Policy (GNS 2019). The majority of wetlands assessed within the Terrestrial LAA in 2021 are treed and shrub swamps, however, many bogs and fens are also present on the landscape. **Table 12** provides a summary of the number of each wetland class and average wetland size by class, as well as a total delineated area of each wetland class present within the assessed area.








**TABLE 12: SUMMARY OF WETLANDS IN THE TERRESTRIAL LAA**

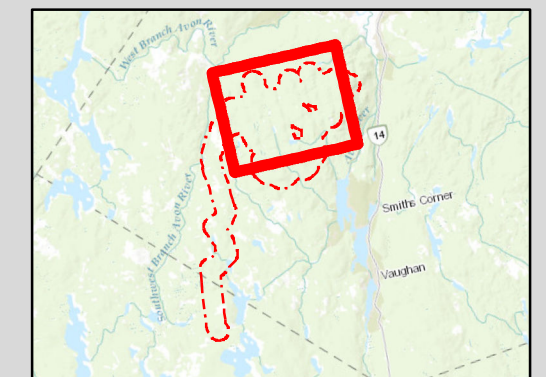
Wetland Class	Total wetlands within Assessed Area	Total Area Delineated within the Assessed Area (ha)	Average size of Wetlands (ha)
Swamp	75	21.43	0.29
Fen	5	1.37	0.27
Bog	29	9.76	0.34



**WETLANDS WITHIN THE TERRESTRIAL LOCAL ASSESSMENT AREA**

FIGURE 9B

-  Proposed Turbine Location
-  Substation
-  Project Development Area
-  Local Assessment Area
-  Preliminary Field Delineated Wetland
-  Wetland
-  Waterbody



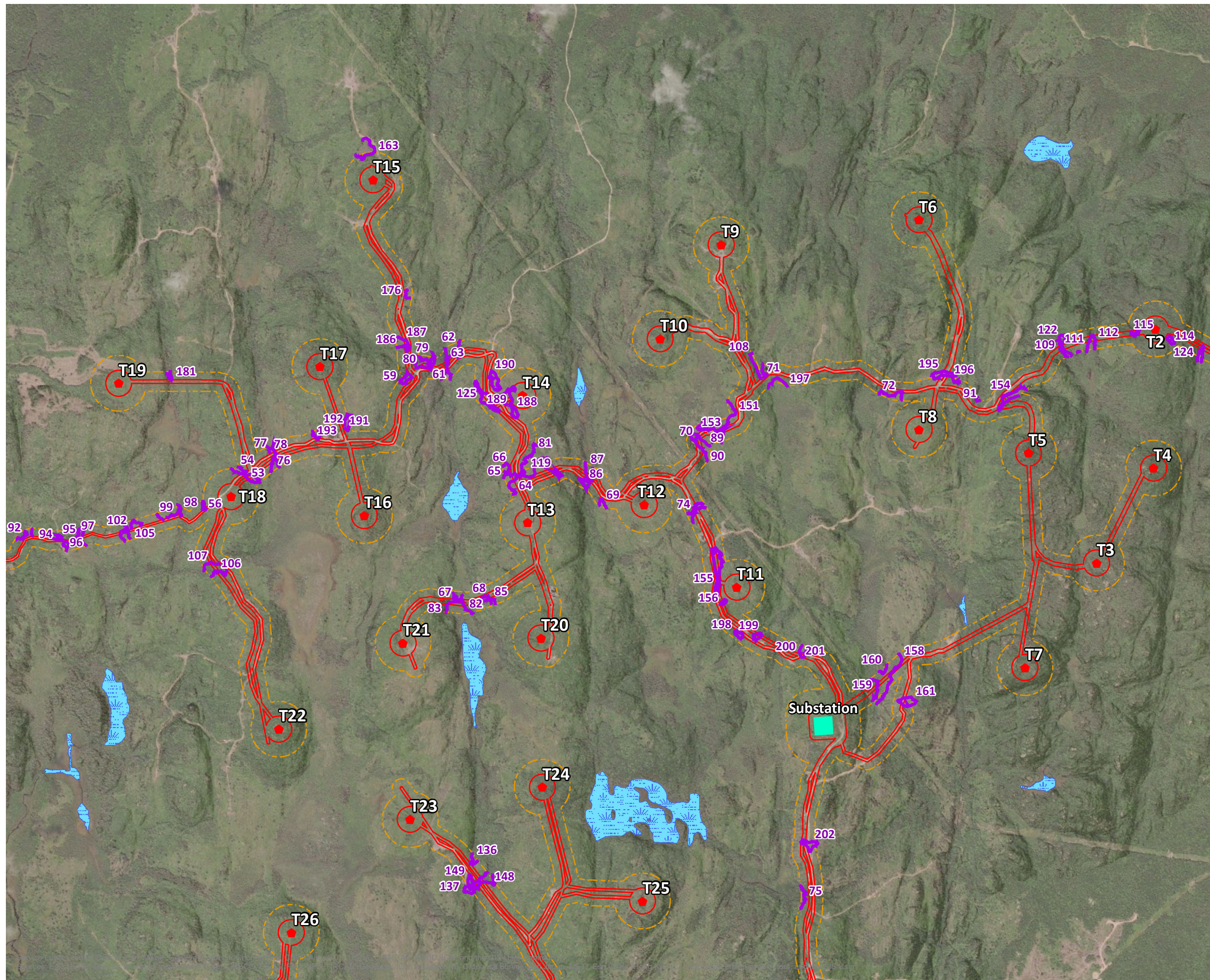
SCALE 1:20,000

MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:  
DATA PROVIDED BY DILLON CONSULTING, GEONB, NATURAL FORCES

MAP CREATED BY: MEC  
MAP CHECKED BY: KB  
MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 20N










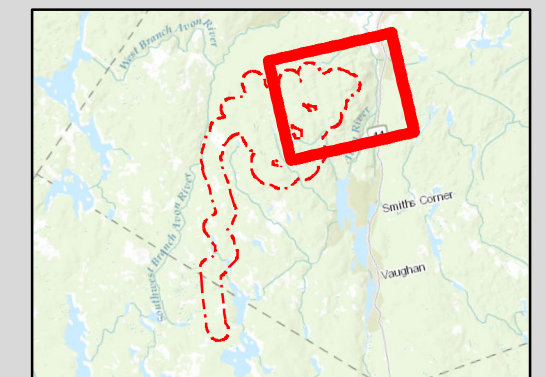
PROJECT: 21-1329  
STATUS: DRAFT  
DATE: 2022-01-10



**WETLANDS WITHIN THE TERRESTRIAL LOCAL ASSESSMENT AREA**

FIGURE 9C

-  Proposed Turbine Location
-  Substation
-  Project Development Area
-  Local Assessment Area
-  Preliminary Field Delineated Wetland
-  Wetland
-  Waterbody

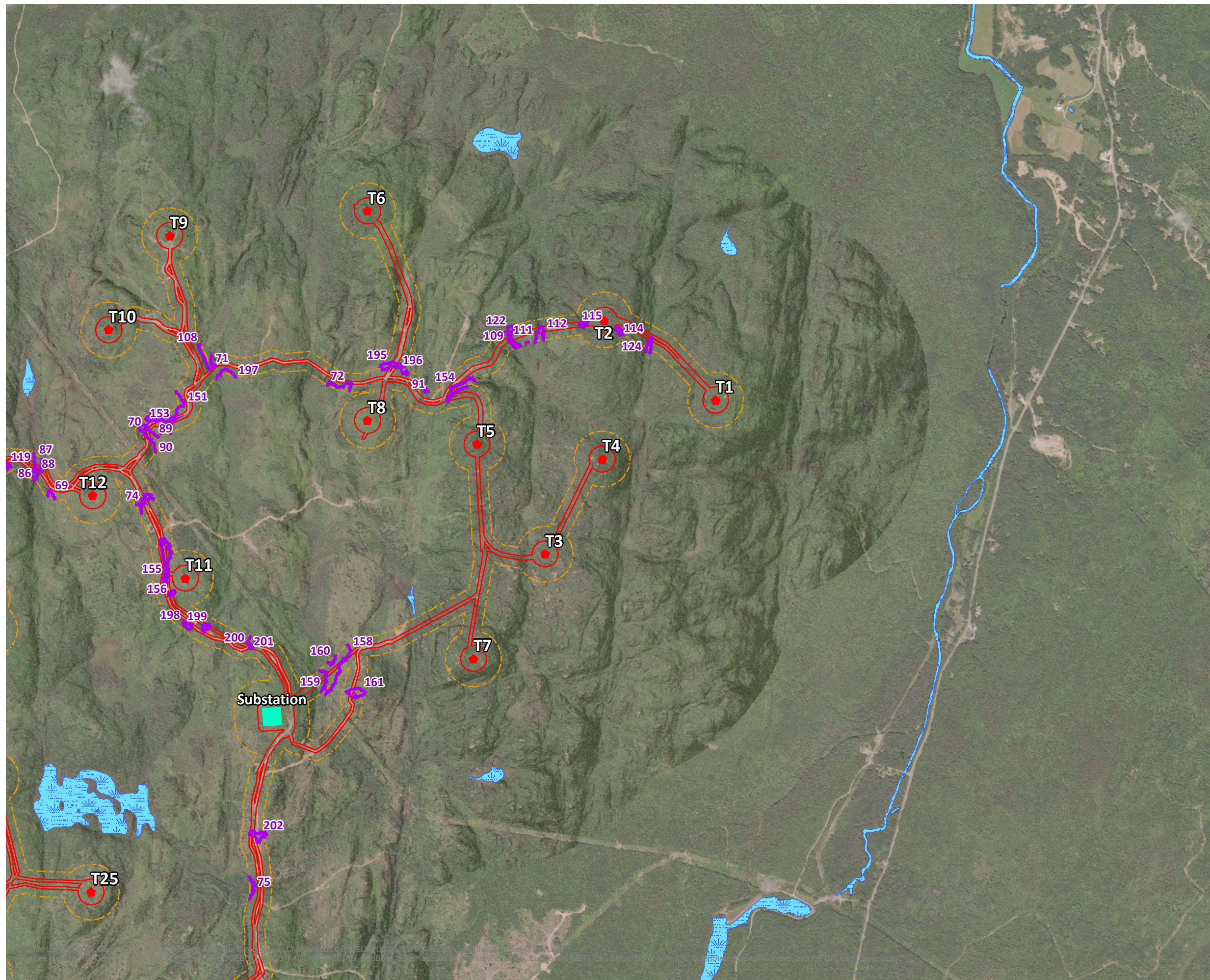


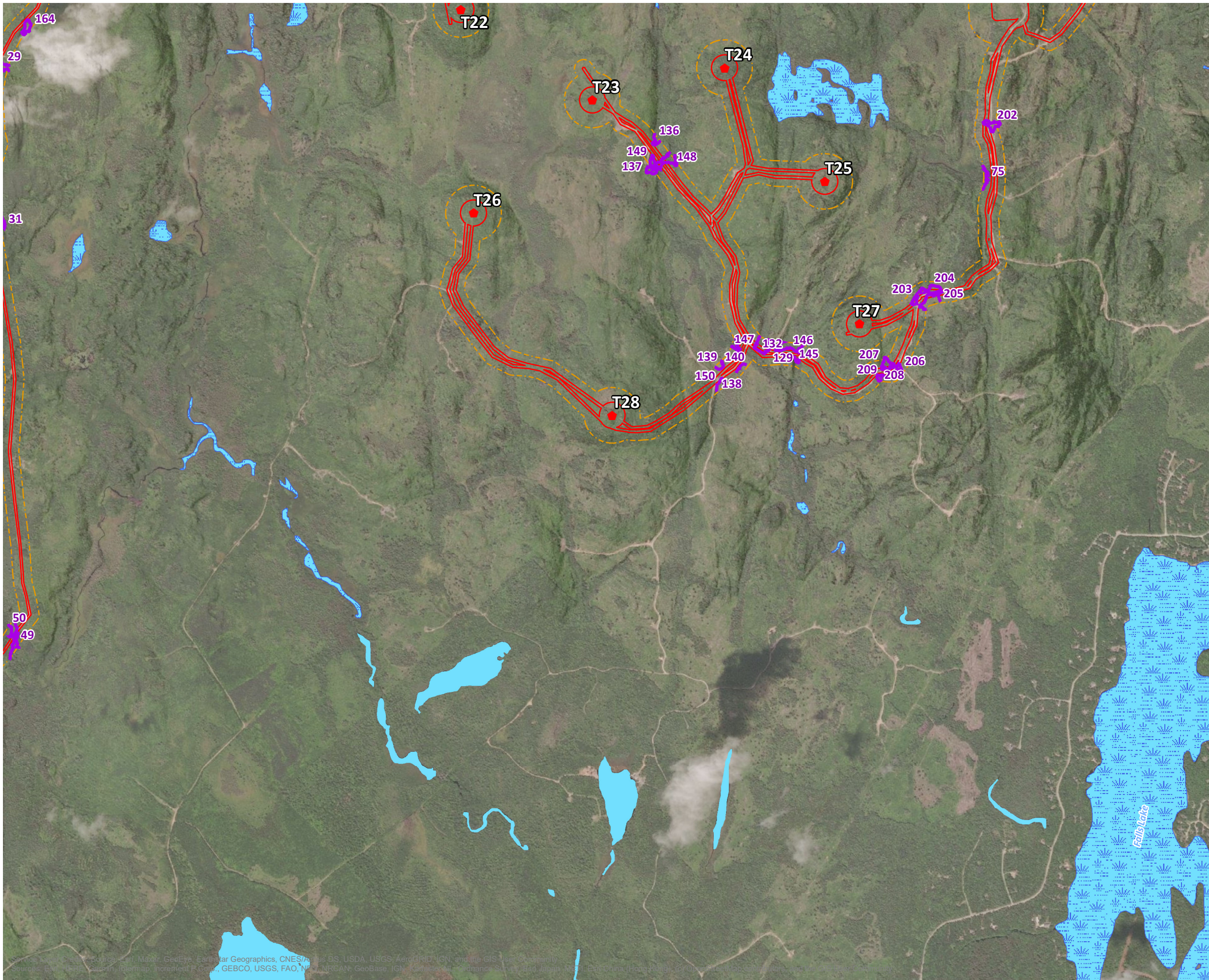
MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:  
DATA PROVIDED BY DILLON CONSULTING, GEONB, NATURAL FORCES

MAP CREATED BY: MEC  
MAP CHECKED BY: KB  
MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 20N



PROJECT: 21-1329  
STATUS: DRAFT  
DATE: 2022-01-10



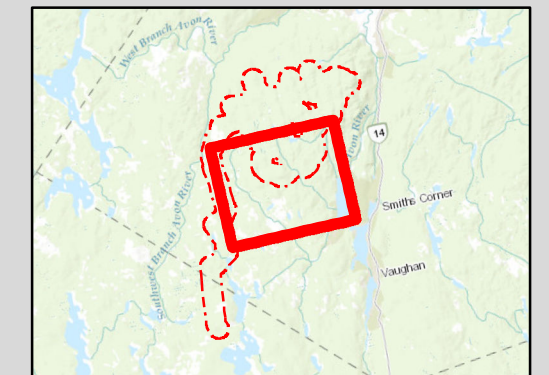


BENJAMINS MILL WIND PROJECT

**WETLANDS WITHIN THE TERRESTRIAL LOCAL ASSESSMENT AREA**

FIGURE 9D

- Proposed Turbine Location
- Project Development Area
- Local Assessment Area
- Preliminary Field Delineated Wetland
- Wetland
- Waterbody



MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:  
 DATA PROVIDED BY DILLON CONSULTING, GEONB, NATURAL FORCES

MAP CREATED BY: MEC  
 MAP CHECKED BY: KB  
 MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 20N



PROJECT: 21-1329  
 STATUS: DRAFT  
 DATE: 2022-01-10

Satellite Imagery Credits: Google Earth, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community  
 Sources: Esri, DeLorme, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Katastry, Swisstopo, Ordnance Survey, Esri, DeLorme, Garmin, IGN, Katastry, Swisstopo, Ordnance Survey, Esri, DeLorme, Garmin, IGN, Katastry, Swisstopo, Ordnance Survey, Esri, DeLorme, Garmin, IGN, Katastry, Swisstopo, Ordnance Survey