

**Biological Resources Survey**

**Heskett Station Natural Gas Pipeline**  
**Morton County, North Dakota**



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**Prepared for**



**Prepared by**



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

On December 9, 2011, ProSource Technologies, LLC (ProSource) submitted a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) North Dakota Field Office to initiate Section 7 coordination of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) for this project. On May 18, 2012, ProSource received written correspondence from the USFWS regarding their response to the December 9 letter (USFWS Project #2012-CPA-0263). Additional information and recommendations were included in the USFWS letter for planning purposes, to assist Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) with compliance of Federal laws.

During the week of June 18-23, 2012, ProSource completed an onsite biological survey of the proposed Heskett Station pipeline corridor, to review the route for listed threatened and endangered wildlife species, as well as habitat, that were discussed in the aforementioned letters. A second site visit was also completed August 15 to survey a portion of the route (as further explained in Section 2 of this report. During the biological survey, ProSource also completed a wetland delineation, in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) *Wetland Delineation Manual* methods for the Midwest Region. Twenty-four (24) wetlands and two (2) Waters of the United States (WOUS) were identified and delineated, totaling 26 sites. Results of the wetland delineation are included in a separate report, dated December 2012.

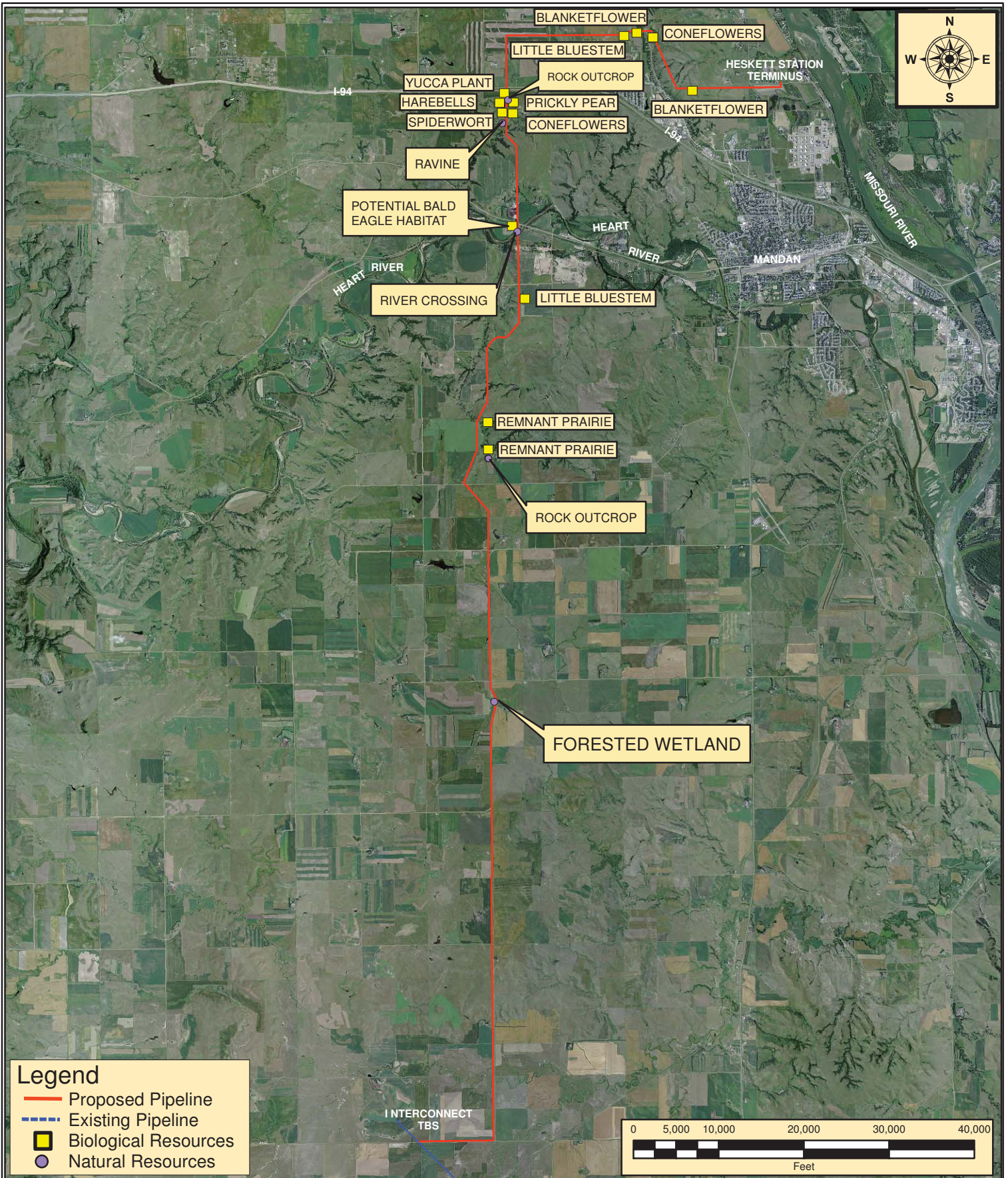
The purpose of this biological survey report is to provide documentation of wildlife resources within the proposed pipeline route, as well as to provide a determination of the potential impacts to protected wildlife and critical habitat as a result of construction. The analysis of effects will assist with the development of avoidance and mitigation measures, in accordance with USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act requirements, as well as USACE requirements in regards to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act.

### **1.1 Route Corridor**

Montana-Dakota is proposing to construct a natural gas pipeline in Morton County, North Dakota, which would be a total length of approximately 24 miles. The pipeline is proposed to originate from a connection approximately two (2) miles west of the intersection of 54<sup>th</sup> Street and County Road (CR) 82 and extend north along CR 82. The pipeline will cross several private properties, cross underneath the Heart River and Interstate 94, extend north for approximately 0.70 mile and then turn east and terminate approximately one (1) mile east of the intersection of North Dakota State Route 1806 and 38<sup>th</sup> Street. The pipeline route is shown on Figure 1.

### **1.2 Route Description**

There are several types of habitat and topographical features within the limits of the proposed route. Rolling plains, emergent wetlands, ravines, woodlands, streams/rivers, pasture, rock outcrops/buttes, and agricultural cropland occur within the route. In general, there is more topographic relief and biological diversity on the northern half of the route. The southern half includes more agricultural land and less topographic relief, especially near the Little Heart River.



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Heskett Station  
Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline  
Morton County, North Dakota

FIGURE 1  
Biological Resources Map



## **2. METHODOLOGY**

ProSource performed an on-site biological survey within a 400-foot wide survey corridor for the entire pipeline route. ProSource biologists completed a meander survey on foot within the limits, visually covering the corridor width. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) were not used for driving the route. Field notes were recorded in notebooks, and on geographic information systems (GIS) aerial prints of the route. Field data were collected with a Trimble GEO-XH Series handheld global positioning system (GPS) and photographs were taken, as appropriate, along the entire length of the proposed route. Recorded items include any occurrences of USFWS listed species or habitat, unique or sensitive habitats, general vegetative cover, land use, wetlands, and river crossings. A line-of-sight survey for raptors and nests was also conducted for a distance of approximately 0.5 mile from the corridor survey area. ProSource recorded all wildlife observed during the field survey.

On August 15, 2012, ProSource returned a second time to review a route alternative segment of the proposed corridor. Review of data from the first trip indicated biological and cultural resources that required avoidance. Features that prompted a review of the alternative route include a documented cultural resource site, remnant prairie, and a geological rock outcrop feature. The location of the pipeline re-alignment is located near the crossing of 44<sup>th</sup> Street. The cultural resource site is discussed in a separate report for this project.

Assessments for federally listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species were conducted by evaluating historic and present occurrences, and by determining if potential habitat for such species exists within the Project area. In Section 4.2 of this report, ProSource has made determinations of effect for USFWS protected species (as further described). Determinations were made concerning direct and cumulative effects of the proposed activity on each species and their habitat. Standardized determinations made for federally listed species, following the USFWS Section 7 Technical Assistance are:

- No effect
- May affect
- Not likely to be adversely affected
- Likely to be adversely affected

### **3. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF CONCERN**

#### **3.1 Listed Species**

ProSource reviewed information obtained from the USFWS regarding listed and candidate species and designated critical habitats. According to the USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region (USFWS 2012), the listed species occurring or potentially occurring in Morton County include:

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
black-footed ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	Endangered
gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Endangered
interior least tern	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	Endangered
pallid sturgeon	<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>	Endangered
piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Endangered
whooping crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	Threatened

In addition to these six species, Critical Habitat has been designated for piping plover along the shores of the Missouri River, within Morton County. Also, Sprague's pipit (*Anthus spragueii*), and Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*) are listed as Candidate species in Morton County.

#### **3.2 Unique Habitat and Habitat of Concern**

Including the species listed above, ProSource also surveyed the pipeline route for significant habitat that may be present. Features of interest included high-quality wetlands and woodlands, bald and golden eagle nests, native prairie remnants that could support the Dakota skipper and Sprague's pipit, and migratory bird concentrations or nests.

#### **3.3 Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle**

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) feeds on fish and carrion and typically roosts in large trees near a water source. Bald eagle nesting habitat is typically any mature stands of conifer or cottonwood trees in association with rivers, streams, reservoirs, lakes, or any significant body of water. Bald eagles would potentially be present along the Missouri River and the Heart River, in regards to this project.

Golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) build nests on cliffs or in the largest trees of forested stands that often afford an unobstructed view of the surrounding habitat. Their nests are usually sticks and soft material added to existing nests, or new nests that are constructed to create strong, flat or bowl shaped platforms (USFWS 2011). The breeding season for golden eagles is from mid-March through late July and they are known to migrate through the area of the project.

#### **3.4 Migratory Birds**

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects migratory birds. The original 1918 statute implemented a 1916 Treaty between the U.S. and Great Britain (for Canada) for the protection of migratory birds. On January 10, 2001 President Clinton signed Executive Order 13186 requiring federal agencies to prepare memorandums of understanding (MOU) to ensure Federal actions do not

negatively impact migratory birds. Further protection of migratory birds through interagency MOUs and programmatic migratory bird conservation practices was also directed via the Executive Order. The birds protected under this law include common species found on this corridor, as well as birds listed as threatened or endangered.

## **4. RESULTS OF FIELD SURVEY**

### **4.1 Vegetation Community Types Overview**

During the field survey, ProSource identified seven general types of vegetative communities and habitat types within the survey area. These vegetative communities are classified as:

- prairie remnants,
- forest and woodland
- pasture and rangeland,
- agricultural fields,
- wetlands and rivers,
- rock outcrops, and
- noxious weeds.

#### **4.1.1 Prairie Remnants**

Although much of the corridor consisted of pasture and rangeland for cattle and horses, there were three locations along the route where remnant dry-mesic mixed grass prairie was observed. Grass and forb species of significance (excluding common pasture grasses and any noxious weeds) observed at these locations are included in Table 4-1. The locations of the prairie remnants are shown in Figures 2 and 7.

<b>Table 4-1. Prairie Plants Observed within Route Corridor</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Plant Type</b>
big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Grass
blanketflower	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Forb
Canada wildrye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Grass
gayfeather	<i>Liatris punctata</i>	Forb
harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Forb
Indian grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Grass
leadplant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Forb
little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Grass
needle and thread	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>	Grass
prairie coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Forb
prairie junegrass	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Grass
prairie rose	<i>Rosa arkansana</i>	Shrub
prickly pear	<i>Opuntia polyacantha</i>	Cactus
purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	Forb
purple prairie clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Forb
shell-leaf penstemon	<i>Penstemon grundiflorus</i>	Forb
sideoats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Grass
silver-leaf scurfpea	<i>Pedimelum argophyllum</i>	Forb
spiderwort	<i>Tridescana</i> spp.	Forb
wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Forb
yucca	<i>Yucca glauca</i>	Shrub

### 4.1.2 Forest and Woodland

Woody vegetation communities occurred throughout the survey area, especially at the northern half of the pipeline route, where there was more topographic relief. Trees and shrubs were frequently associated with ravines, as well as riverine habitat. Table 4-2 lists the species of trees and shrubs frequented along the route during the biological survey.

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
American elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
American plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>
black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
box elder	<i>Acer Negundo</i>
Bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Eastern cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
Eastern red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>
Juneberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>
mulberry spp.	<i>Morus</i> spp.
ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
quaking aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
red osier dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
Russian olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
sandbar willow	<i>Salix interior</i>
Siberian elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>
silver buffaloberry	<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>
Western snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>
willow spp.	<i>Salix</i> spp.

### 4.1.3 Pasture and Rangeland

Vast expanses of pasture and rangeland occur within the pipeline route. Pasture and rangeland include grasses and forbs for which cattle and horses rely on for food. These areas typically do not contain nearly the plant diversity of remnant prairie areas, and are subject to ground compaction from hooves, as well as higher occurrences of non-native and noxious weeds. Ground disturbance and higher levels of nitrogen from manure can promote weed growth within these habitat types.

### 4.1.4 Agricultural Fields

Agricultural fields are present within the survey limits. Crops observed throughout the entire route include wheat, peas, sunflower, alfalfa, oats, and corn. Agricultural fields generally provide minimal habitat value for cover. However, agricultural fields often contain remnant corn kernels and seeds left over after harvesting, which can provide a food source to several species of birds and mammals. Agricultural fields are often a source of undesirable sediment and nutrient loading into nearby wetlands, streams, and rivers. Excessive nutrients and sediment are known to disrupt natural ecological processes in such environments.

#### 4.1.5 Wetlands and Rivers

Twenty four wetlands and two WOUS were identified during the wetland delineation. The *Wetland Delineation Report* for this project provides detail on wetland types and plant community types within each of the sites. This report will be used as the basis for Section 404 permitting through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). No rare wetland types such as fens or bogs are located within the proposed route, and all of the wetland plants documented are common or relatively common in North Dakota.

The pipeline is proposed to cross under the Heart River and the north branch of the Little Heart River. The Missouri River is located 0.50 mile to the east of the project, and will not be crossed or affected. In-stream surveys for mussels, fish, and other aquatic life were not conducted as part of this biological survey report, as these resources will be avoided by horizontal directional drilling (HDD). The HDD process entails drilling a subsurface borehole for the pipe so it will cross under the river, therefore eliminating surface impacts to water resources.

#### 4.1.6 Rock Outcrops

Rock outcrops were observed at two locations within the pipeline route. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) defines rock outcrops as exposures of bare bedrock other than lava flows and rock-lined pits. Most rock outcrops are hard rock. Often associated with these rock outcrops are rock fragments, which are rock or mineral fragments having a diameter of 2 millimeters or more, such as pebbles, cobbles, stones, and boulders. Flasher-Rock outcrop-Vebar complex, 9 to 70 percent slopes (59F) is the soil map unit (type) that is associated with the rock outcrops within this pipeline route, according to the NRCS *Soil Survey for Morton County, ND*. The Flasher-Rock outcrop-Vebar complex map unit occurs on ridges on uplands. Rock outcrops provide conditions for plant species adapted to areas of less surface soil moisture, such as prickly pear, harebell, common juniper, and yucca, among others.

#### 4.1.7 Noxious Weeds

Table 4-3 lists the noxious weeds encountered during the biological survey. Leafy spurge and spotted knapweed were the most frequent. Canada and musk thistles were observed occasionally.

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
absinth wormwood	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>
leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>
musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>

## **4.2 Wildlife**

### **4.2.1 Black-footed Ferret**

**Federal Status:** Endangered

**Affects Determination:** No Effect

According to the USFWS (2007a), black-footed ferrets were most likely extirpated from the wild until 1991 when they were reintroduced to a prairie dog complex, which it depends on for food, in the Shirley Basin of Wyoming. Since the 1991 reintroduction to the wilds of Wyoming, the black-footed ferret has also been reintroduced to Colorado, South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, Utah, Kansas, and New Mexico (USFWS 2007a). Since no prairie dog complexes were observed during the field survey and because it is expected that the black-footed ferret has been extirpated from North Dakota, the proposed pipeline project will have no effect on the black-footed ferret. No black-footed ferrets were observed during the survey.

### **4.2.2 Gray Wolf**

**Federal Status:** Endangered

**Affects Determination:** No Effect

According to the USFWS (2011), “Gray wolves, in the lower 48 states, are found mainly in the forested lands of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming but are also known to or are believed to occur in Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington.” The gray wolf is a highly mobile species and prefers low density areas away from roads and people. The last confirmed reported sighting within North Dakota was in 1991 (USGS 2006). Based on their high mobility, tendency to avoid humans, and limited number of confirmed sightings, the proposed pipeline is expected to have no effect on the gray wolf. No Gray wolves or tracks were observed during the survey.

### **4.2.3 Interior Least Tern**

**Federal Status:** Endangered

**Affect Determination:** No Effect

According to the USFWS (1990), the least tern was historically found throughout the Missouri River system and utilizes sparsely vegetated sandbars, in conjunction with piping plovers, on the Missouri River in North Dakota. The proposed pipeline route does not cross the Missouri River, however the Heart River is proposed to be crossed using the HDD method. The Heart River did exhibit sparsely vegetated sandbars within the river channel at the proposed pipeline crossing. Because the river will be crossed using HDD, with drilling stations being located far from the river channel, the project will have no effect on the Interior least tern. No Interior least terns were observed during the survey.

### **4.2.4 Pallid Sturgeon**

**Status:** Endangered

**Affect Determination:** No Effect

According to the USFWS (2007b) the Pallid sturgeon can be found in the main channel area of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers from Montana to Louisiana and the Atchafalaya River in Louisiana. The proposed pipeline route does not cross the Missouri River but does cross the Heart River and several smaller tributaries that flow into the Missouri River. All rivers and streams with flowing water at the time of construction will be crossed via HDD to avoid impacts to the river/streambed and banks. In addition to directionally drilling under all rivers and streams with flowing water at the time of construction, sediment barriers such as silt fence, staked hay or

straw bales, or sand bags will be installed, as needed. The sediment barriers will prevent any sedimentation from entering waterbodies. Crossing the river/streams by HDD, and the use of sediment barriers will result in no effect to the Pallid sturgeon. In-stream surveys (Heart River, Little Heart River) were not included as part of this field survey, and therefore no Pallid sturgeons were observed.

#### **4.2.5 Whooping Crane**

**Federal Status:** Endangered

**Affect Determination:** May Affect, Is Not Likely to be Adversely Affected

Whooping Cranes would most likely be found in the croplands and shallow freshwater wetlands of Morton County during the fall and spring migration (Lewis 1995). Because both cropland and wetlands exist within the proposed project right-of-way, the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the whooping crane. Whooping cranes would avoid croplands and wetlands where pipeline construction is occurring in favor of suitable adjacent habitat. No Whooping Cranes were observed during the survey.

#### **4.2.6 Piping Plover**

**Federal Status:** Threatened

**Affect Determination:** No Effect

In North Dakota, piping plovers inhabit barren sand and gravel shores of the Missouri River and natural alkaline lakes with salt-encrusted, white beaches (Elliott-Smith and Haig 2004). Because the proposed route does not cross the Missouri River or any alkaline lakes with salt-encrusted, white beaches, the project will have no effect on the piping plover. The Heart River will be crossed via HDD. No Piping Plovers were observed during the survey.

#### **4.2.7 Sprague's Pipit**

**Federal Status:** Candidate

**Affect Determination:** May Affect, Is Not Likely to be Adversely Affected

Sprague's pipits are small birds that inhabit the grassland prairies of North Dakota during the breeding season and then migrate to the southern United States and northern Mexico for winter (Jones 2010). According to Jones (2010), "the principal causes for the declines in Sprague's pipit populations are habitat conversion to seeded pasture, hayfield, and cropland, as well as overgrazing by livestock". While suitable habitat does occur within the project area, the proposed pipeline will not alter or convert any native habitat to seeded pasture, hayfield, or cropland. In addition, Sprague's pipit is a highly mobile species and would most likely use suitable adjacent habitat; therefore the project is not expected to adversely affect Sprague's pipits. No Sprague's pipits were observed during the survey.

#### **4.2.8 Dakota Skipper**

**Federal Status:** Candidate

**Affect Determination:** May Affect, Is Not Likely to be Adversely Affected

According to the USFWS, the Dakota skipper (butterfly) is associated with high-quality prairie ranging from wet-mesic tallgrass prairie to dry-mesic mixed grass prairie. As stated in the May 18, 2012 letter, the following wildflowers are usually present within the suitable prairie habitat associated with the Dakota skipper: wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*), harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), smooth camas (*Zygadenus elegans*), pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), upright coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*), and blanketflower (*Gaillardia aristata*). Although some occurrences of associated plants, as identified in Section 4.1, were observed sporadically,

large in-tact areas of these plants were not observed. The remnant prairie locations identified in this report are relatively small patches, two of which are being avoided by re-routing the pipeline location to the west. Several plant species that the Dakota skipper favors are located on or near rock outcrops, which are being avoided by the re-route or by drilling underneath the rock features. Although some plant species and habitat for the Dakota skipper are present within the route corridor, the habitat will be mostly avoided. No Dakota skipper butterflies were observed during the field survey.

#### 4.2.9 Bald and Golden Eagles

**Federal Status:** Unlisted; protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

**Affect Determination:** No Effect

No bald eagles, golden eagles, or nests were observed during the field survey. The Missouri River is located approximately 0.50 mile east of the pipeline terminus at Heskett Station, which is located outside of the river valley, where eagles would likely occur. At the Heart River, however, there are large cottonwood trees within the elevated floodplain that potentially provide suitable habitat. The pipeline is proposed to cross underneath the Heart River using HDD. Stations for drilling will be located several hundred yards away from the trees. The project will have no effect on the eagles because tree removal will not occur at the river crossing. No nests were observed at the location, and the drilling activities will be located a substantial distance from the trees. The Little Heart River, located toward the southern extent of the pipeline route, would not likely support eagles, because it is not as large, and is more vulnerable to seasonal variations such as dry-up and freeze-up. Also, there are no trees surrounding the Little Heart River at the crossing location. No bald or golden eagles were observed during the survey.

#### 4.2.10 General Wildlife Observed

Various mammals and birds were observed during the six-day survey of the route. Table 4-4 lists the various wildlife species observed or encountered during the biological survey.

<b>Table 4-4. General Wildlife Observed</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Bird
barn swallow	<i>Hirundo Rustica</i>	Bird
beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Mammal
downy woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Bird
jackrabbit	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	Mammal
killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Bird
mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Bird
red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Bird
red-winged black bird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Bird
ring-necked pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Bird
turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Bird
white-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Mammal
wild turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Bird

## **5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

### **5.1 Survey Results Summary**

No occurrences of USFWS listed species were observed during the surveys completed in June and August 2012. The project will have no effect on the black-footed ferret, gray wolf, interior least tern, Pallid sturgeon, piping plover, or bald/golden eagles. The project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the, whooping crane, Sprague's pipit, and Dakota skipper.

### **5.2 Avoidance and Minimization**

The Heskett Station Natural Gas Pipeline Project has been planned and designed to avoid impacts to protected resources identified within or near the pipeline route.

The following measures have been taken by Montana-Dakota to reduce impacts to USFWS listed species, their habitat, and other significant resources identified during the planning process (from north to south):

1. Montana-Dakota will implement its *Upland and Erosion Control Plan* as well as its *Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan* to mitigate effects of construction to sensitive habitat.
2. The Heart River and associated potential bald eagle habitat are being avoided by using the HDD method to cross underneath the river, therefore preventing impacts to the river channel, riparian habitat, and the large trees that could be suitable for eagles (Figure 5).
3. A rock outcrop, an identified cultural resources site, and two areas of remnant prairie, located near the crossing of 44<sup>th</sup> Street (Figure 7) will be avoided by routing the pipeline to the west of these features.
4. Wetland 18, a forested ephemeral wetland (as identified in the separate wetland delineation report) will be avoided by routing the pipeline around the resource, to the east. This action eliminates impacts to a relatively uncommon wetland type in North Dakota.

### **5.3 Recommendation**

Montana-Dakota has demonstrated avoidance and minimization measures during the planning stage of the proposed pipeline. Montana-Dakota will continue necessary coordination with the USFWS North Dakota Field Office to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations, in regards to this project. Based on our evaluation of the biological resources identified within the proposed route, ProSource has determined that the construction of the Heskett Station Natural Gas Pipeline will have either no effect or it may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the USFWS-listed species (for Morton County) and their associated habitats, as described in section 4.2 of this report. ProSource requests that the USFWS provide written documentation in support of this determination, as well as documentation that required coordination with USFWS has been successfully completed for this project.

## **6. LIMITATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS**

The scope and depth of this study is consistent with ProSource representations. The following limitations and exceptions apply:

- This document must be read and interpreted as a whole. Specific individual sections of this document are dependent upon the balance of this document in its entirety.
- This document has been prepared specifically for Montana-Dakota. No additional party other than Montana-Dakota and regulatory agencies may use the information contained in this document without written permission from ProSource and Montana-Dakota.
- This document is time sensitive because environmental conditions will change over time.

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## **APPENDIX A**

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Heskett Station Natural Gas Pipeline  
Biological Survey Photographs  
June 18-23, 2012



Photo 1: Rock outcrop with ravine in distance, facing south.



Photo 2: Purple Coneflower (Dakota Skipper association).

Heskett Station Natural Gas Pipeline  
Biological Survey Photographs  
June 18-23, 2012



Photo 3: Prickly Pear on Rock Outcrop.



Photo 4: Rangeland.

Heskett Station Natural Gas Pipeline  
Biological Survey Photographs  
June 18-23, 2012



Photo 5: Rock Outcrop (avoided via re-route).



Photo 6: Agricultural Field with Juvenile Sunflower.

Heskett Station Natural Gas Pipeline  
Biological Survey Photographs  
June 18-23, 2012



Photo 7: Blanketflower (Dakota Skipper Association), Remnant Prairie.



Photo 8: Potential Raptor Perch.

Heskett Station Natural Gas Pipeline  
Biological Survey Photographs  
June 18-23, 2012



Photo 9: Ravine.



Photo 10: Wetland (Wetland #13) (typical emergent wetland).

Heskett Station Natural Gas Pipeline  
Biological Survey Photographs  
June 18-23, 2012



Photo 11: Ephemeral Forested Wetland (Wetland #18) (avoided via re-route).



Photo 12: Little Heart River (Wetland #21) (avoided via HDD).

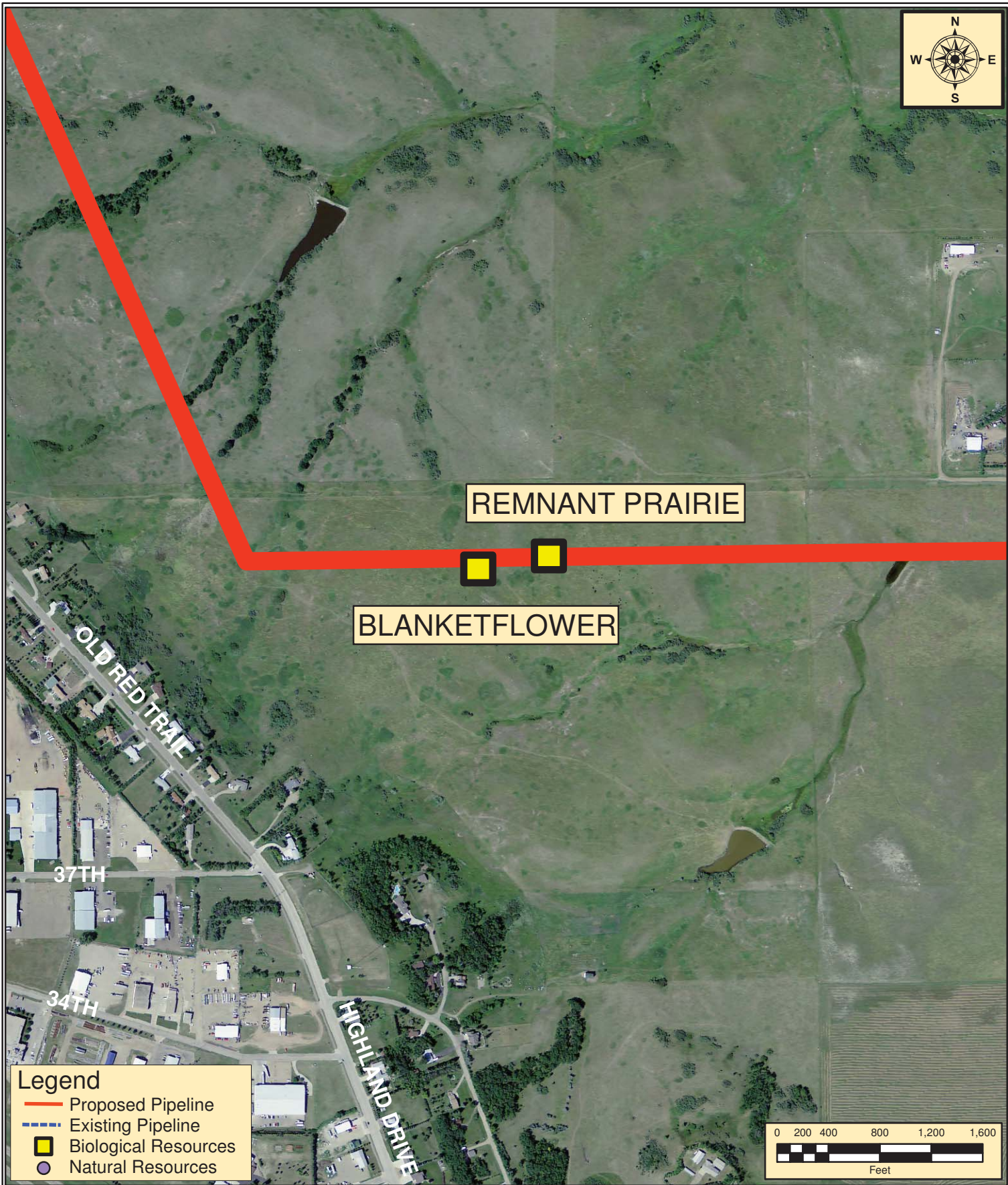
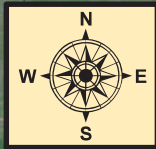
Heskett Station Natural Gas Pipeline  
Biological Survey Photographs  
June 18-23, 2012



Photo 13: Heart River (Wetland 24). Tall Cottonwood Trees. Potential Bald Eagle Habitat (avoided via HDD).

## **APPENDIX B**

### **FIGURES**



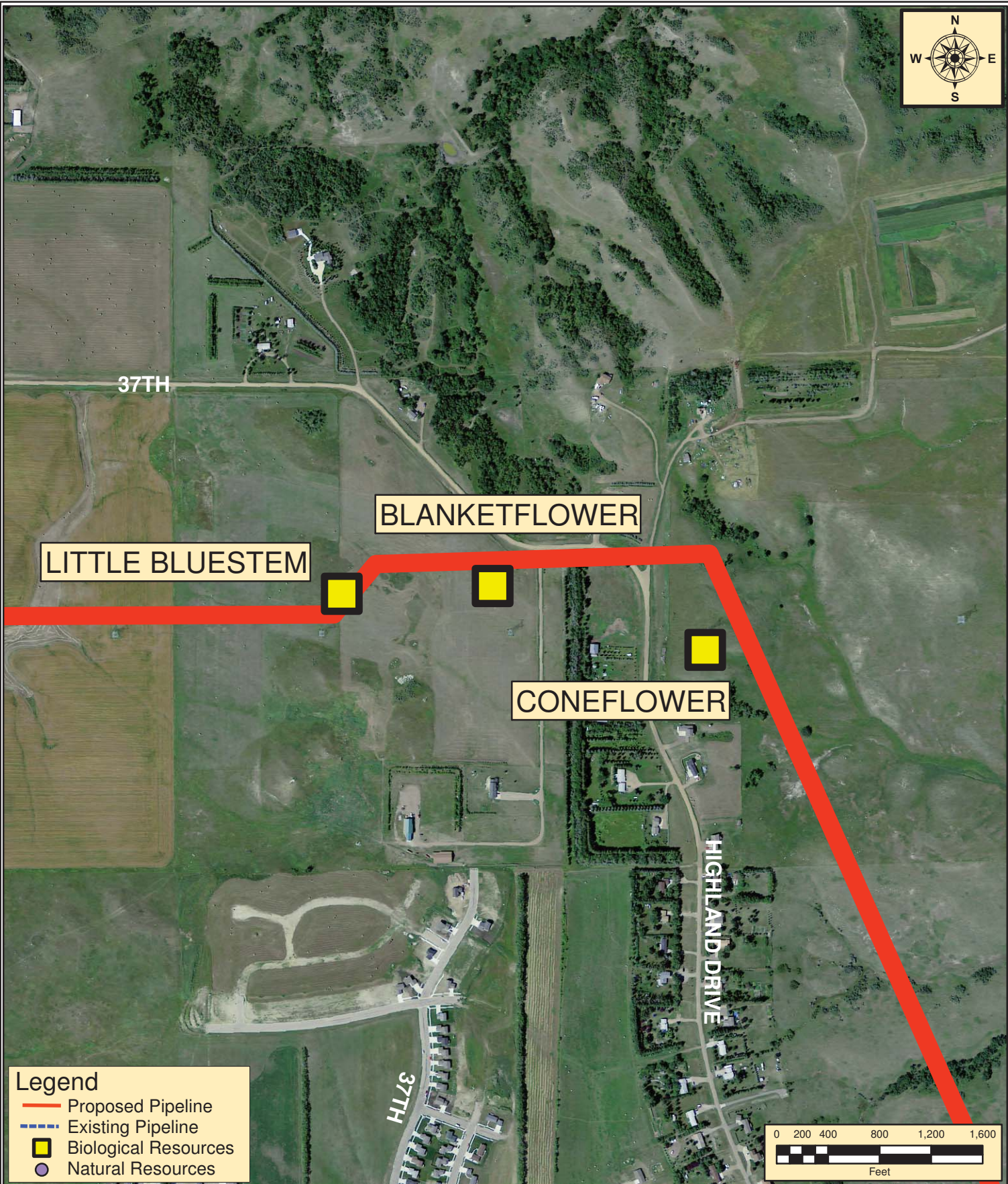
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Heskett Station  
Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline  
Morton County, North Dakota

FIGURE 2  
Biological Resources Map





**Legend**

- Proposed Pipeline
- - - Existing Pipeline
- Biological Resources
- Natural Resources

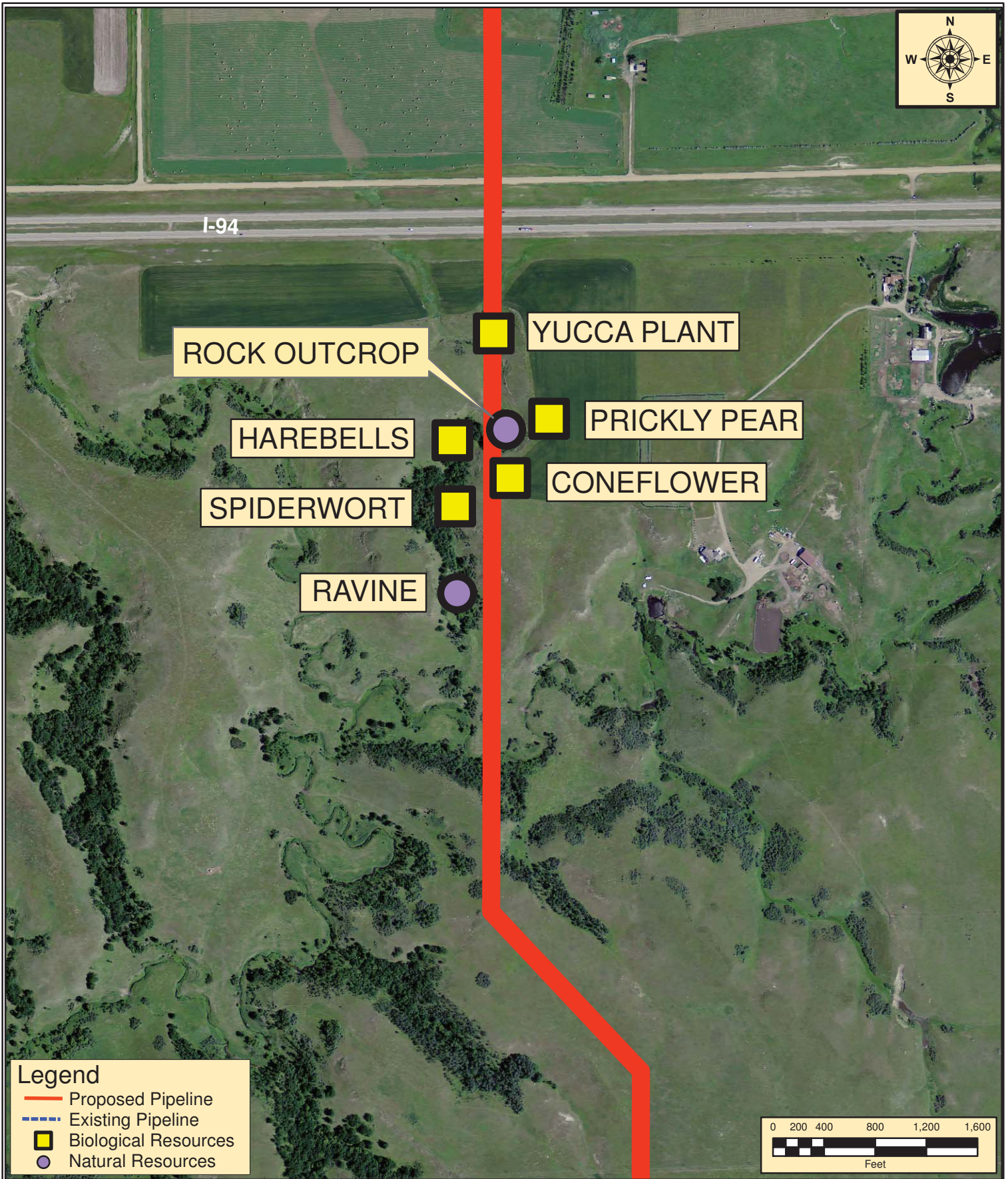


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Heskett Station  
Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline  
Morton County, North Dakota

FIGURE 3  
Biological Resources Map



BiologicalResources\_01.mxd



Heskett Station  
Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline  
Morton County, North Dakota

FIGURE 4  
Biological Resources Map





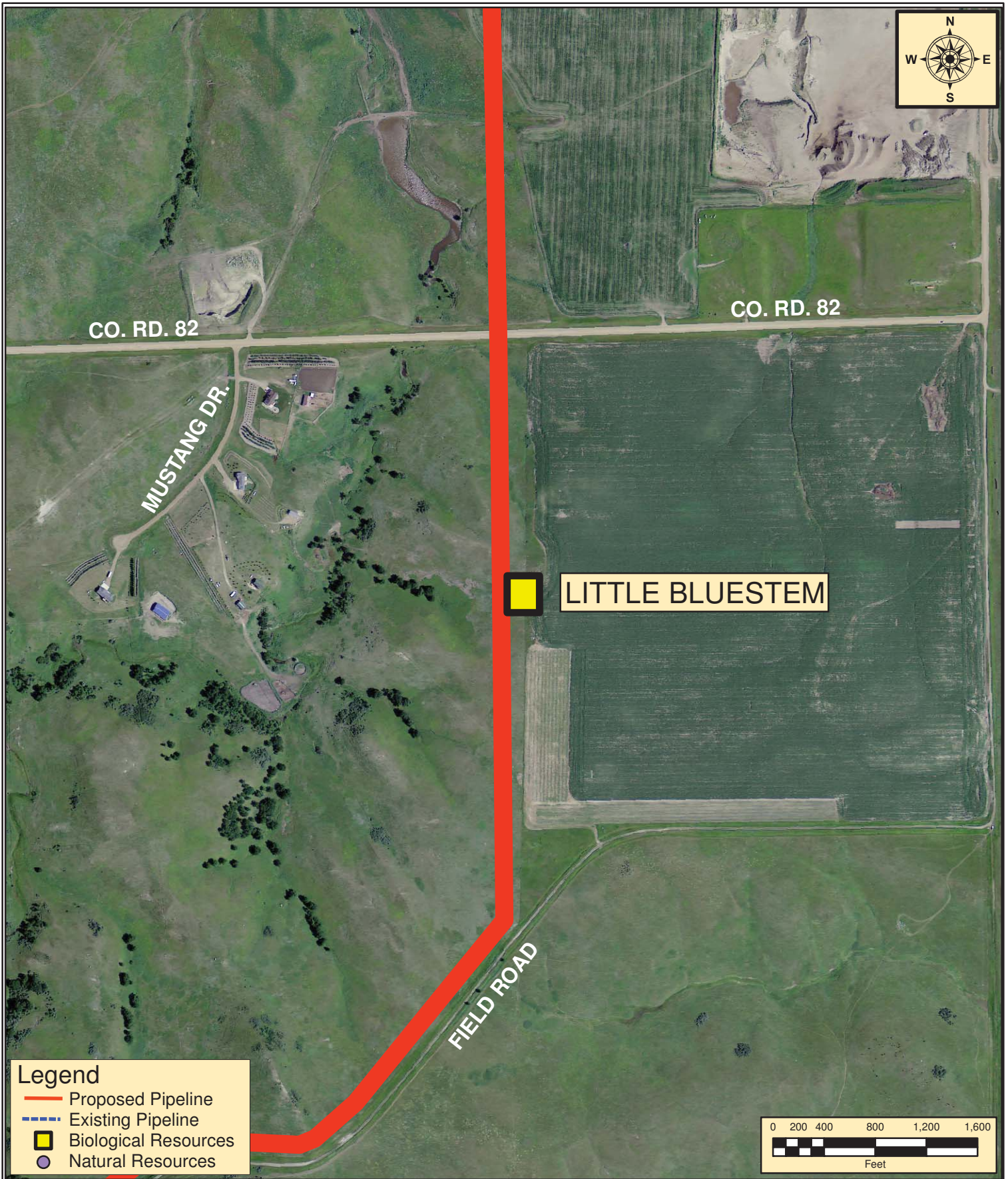
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Heskett Station  
Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline  
Morton County, North Dakota

FIGURE 5  
Biological Resources Map

**ProSource**  
TECHNOLOGIES



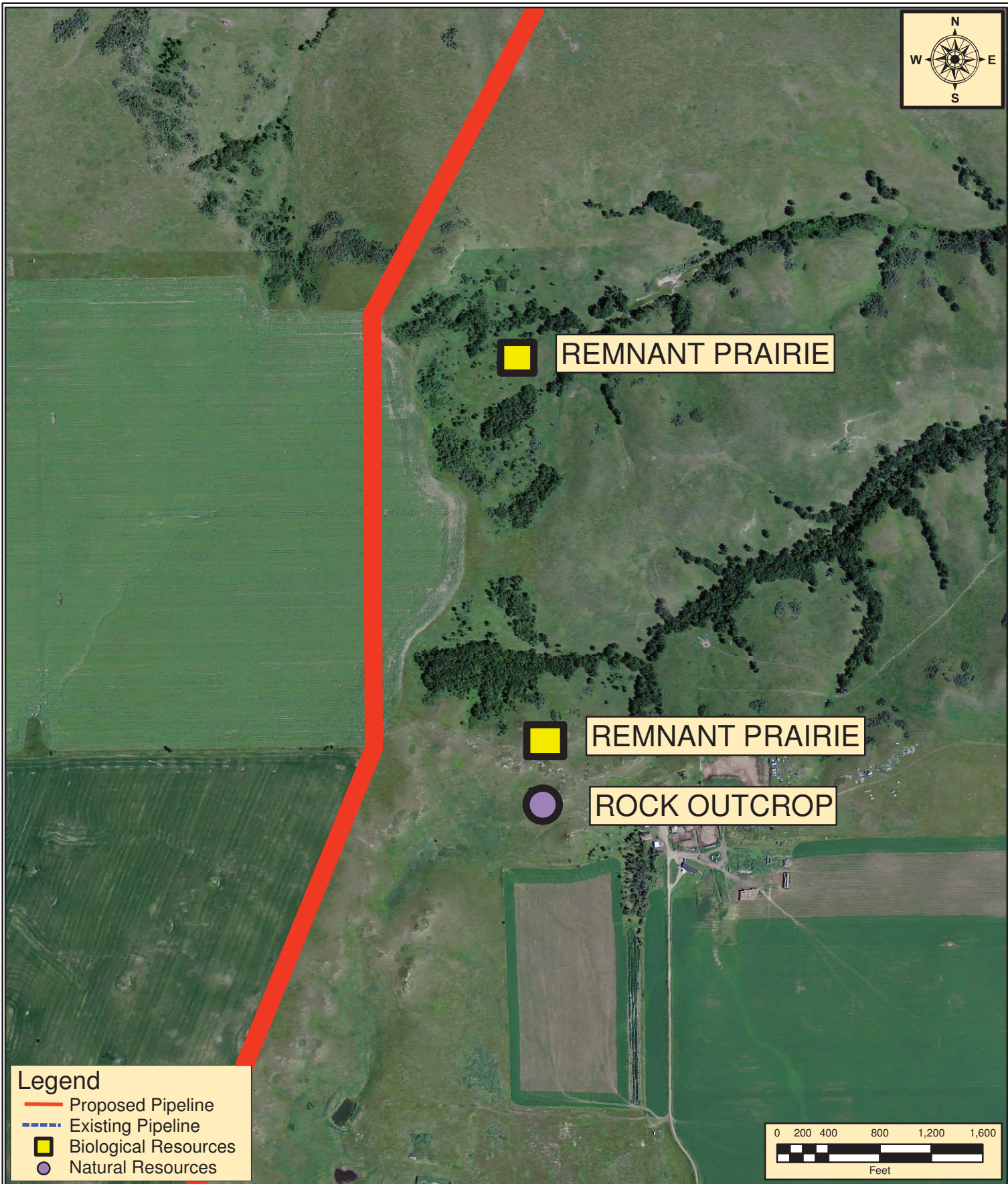
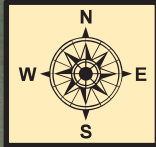
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Heskett Station  
 Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline  
 Morton County, North Dakota

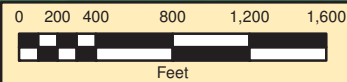
FIGURE 6  
 Biological Resources Map

**ProSource**  
 TECHNOLOGIES



**Legend**

- Proposed Pipeline
- - - Existing Pipeline
- Biological Resources
- Natural Resources



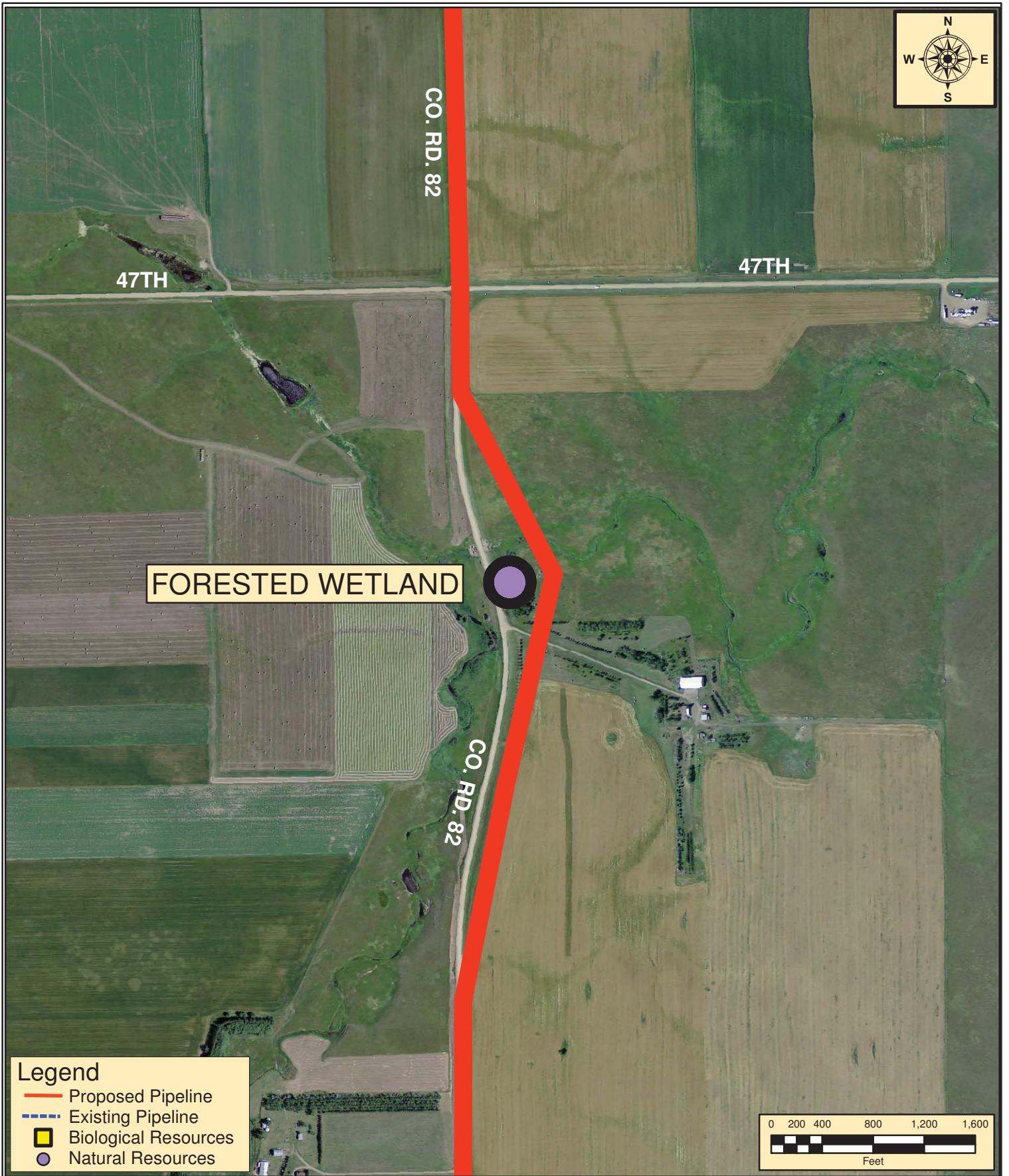
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Heskett Station  
Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline  
Morton County, North Dakota

FIGURE 7  
Biological Resources Map





BiologicalResources\_01.mxd



Heskett Station  
Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline  
Morton County, North Dakota

FIGURE 8  
Biological Resources Map

