



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Portland District

PUBLIC NOTICE

for Permit Application

Issue Date: June 21, 2004

Expiration Date: July 6, 2004

Corps of Engineers Action ID: 200000544

Oregon Division of State Lands Number: 30612-RF

15-Day Notice

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached plan.

Comments: Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers number shown above and reach this office no later than the above expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CENWP-OP-G (Mr. Robert Rose)
PO Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

Applicant: Coos County

Location: Between Johnson Mill and Myrtle Point, in Coos County, Oregon.

Project Description: Coos County is proposing to lay approximately 7 miles of 4-inch diameter natural gas pipeline from Johnson Mill on the north bank of the Coquille River southeast to Myrtle Point. For part of the distance the pipeline would be installed along Highway 42. For much of the remainder the project would run along an abandoned railroad right-of-way. The project includes crossings of approximately six perennial streams, a number of ephemeral streams, the North Fork of the Coquille River, and one major wetland area.

In most locations the pipeline would be installed by trenching. However, substantial efforts have been made to avoid trenching through streams or wetlands. Where the pipeline is installed in Highway 42 the trench would be above the level of existing culverts carrying streams through the fill upon which the highway is built. Where the pipeline is installed in the railroad right-of-way, operations would be limited to the top of the embankment, eliminating discharges of material into any neighboring wetlands.

Where the pipeline would cross Grady Creek, the North Fork of the Coquille River, and major wetlands, the pipe would be installed by horizontal directional drilling: a drilling rig would be used to drill a borehole underneath the stream or wetland and the pipe would then be pulled through the borehole. During drilling, a fluid composed of bentonite and water is injected into

the borehole. This aids the drill bit motor, lubricates and holds open the borehole, and flushes cuttings from the borehole. It is possible that the borehole will intercept fractures in the soil or rock, allowing some drilling fluid to escape the borehole, run along the fracture and come to the surface. This condition is known as fracturing out (a "frac-out" or "frac"), and the result could be a discharge of drilling fluid into the stream. The applicant has indicated that their contractor will take substantial measures to reduce the probability of such a frac-out, such as increasing the distance between the bottom of the stream and the borehole (depth below the bottom of the North Fork of the Coquille will be at least 15 feet). In addition, a contingency plan for containing and possibly removing the material will be followed.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to provide natural gas to the Myrtle Point vicinity.

Drawings: Five drawings are attached.

Additional Information: Additional information may be obtained from Mr. Robert Rose, Enforcement Team Leader, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 503-808-4379 or by email at robert.e.rose@nwp01.usace.army.mil.

Authority: This permit will be issued or denied under the following:

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), for discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Water Quality Certification: A permit for the described work will not be issued until certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217), has been received or is waived from the certifying state. Attached is the state's notice advertising the request for certification.

Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation: The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

Coastal Zone Management Act Certification: A permit for the described work will not be issued until the state has concurred with the applicant's certification that the described activity affecting land or water uses in the Coastal Zone complies with the State Coastal Zone Management Program. Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended by 16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3), requires the applicant to provide a Certification of Consistency statement. If the state fails to concur or object to the certification statement within six months, state concurrence shall be conclusively presumed. Attached to this Public Notice is a notice of application for Certification of Consistency with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program.

Public Hearing: Any person may request in writing within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Endangered Species: Preliminary determinations indicate that the proposed activity may affect

affect an endangered, threatened or proposed species or its critical habitat. Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844) will be initiated. A permit for the proposed activity will not be issued until the consultation process is completed.

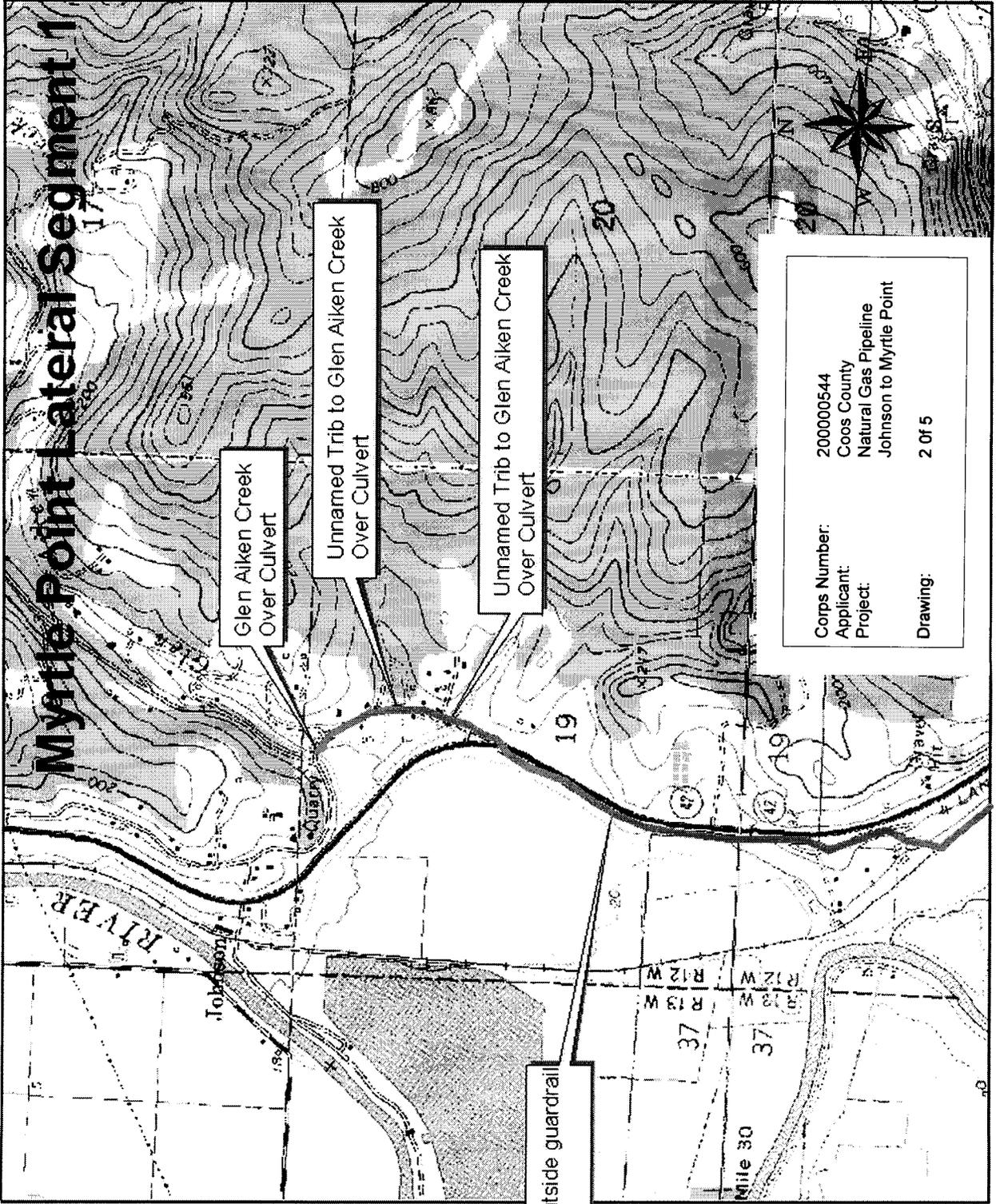
Cultural Resources: The described activity is not located on property registered or eligible for registration in the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places. This notice has been provided to the State Historic Preservation Office.

Evaluation: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the described activity, will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Additional Requirements: State law requires that leases, easements, or permits be obtained for certain works or activity in the described waters. These State requirements must be met where applicable, and a Department of the Army permit must be obtained before any work within the applicable Statutory Authority previously indicated may be accomplished. Other local governmental agencies may also have ordinances or requirements, which must be satisfied before the work is accomplished.

Myrtle Point Lateral Segment 1



Glen Aiken Creek
Over Culvert

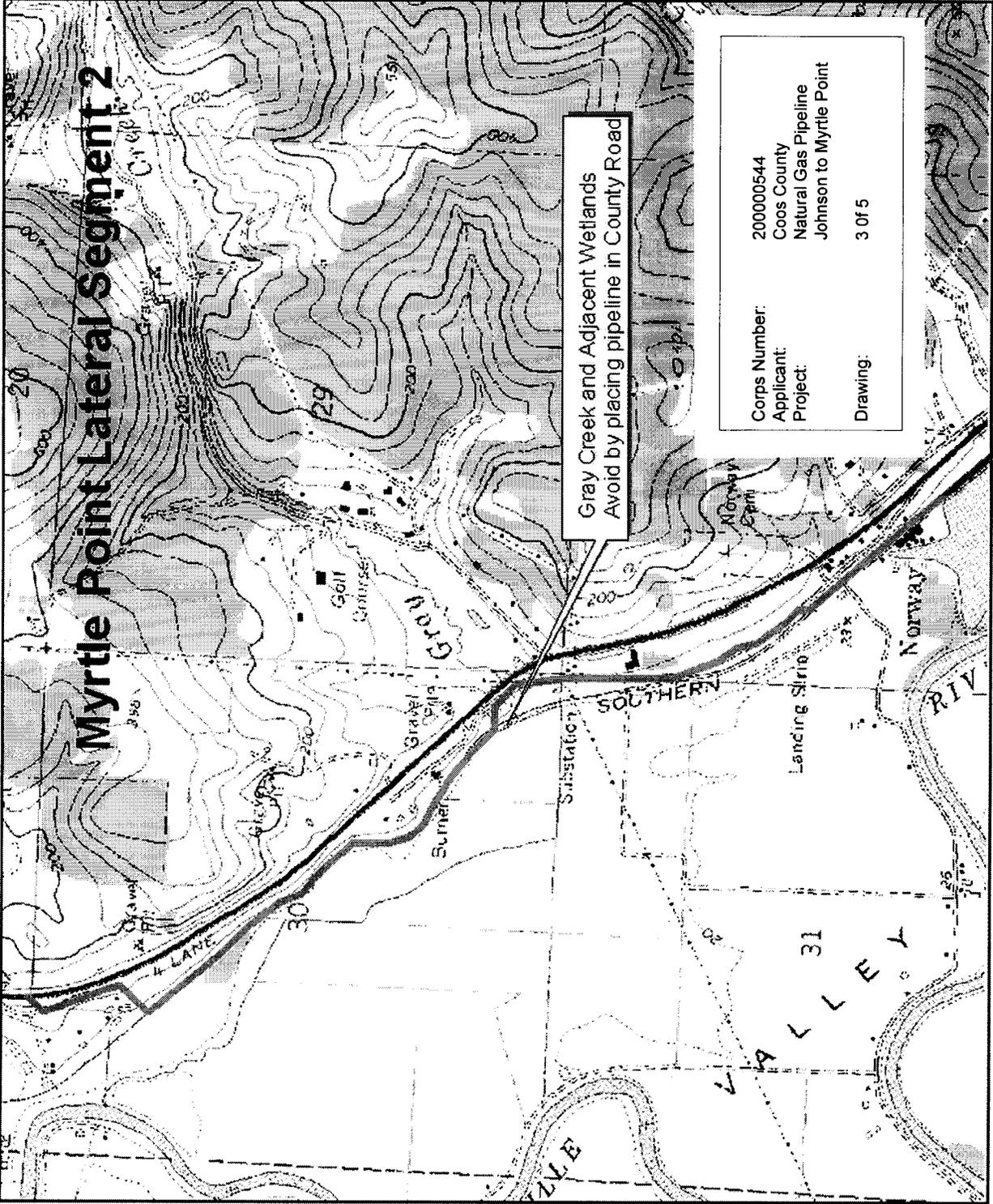
Unnamed Trib to Glen Aiken Creek
Over Culvert

Unnamed Trib to Glen Aiken Creek
Over Culvert

st outside guardrail

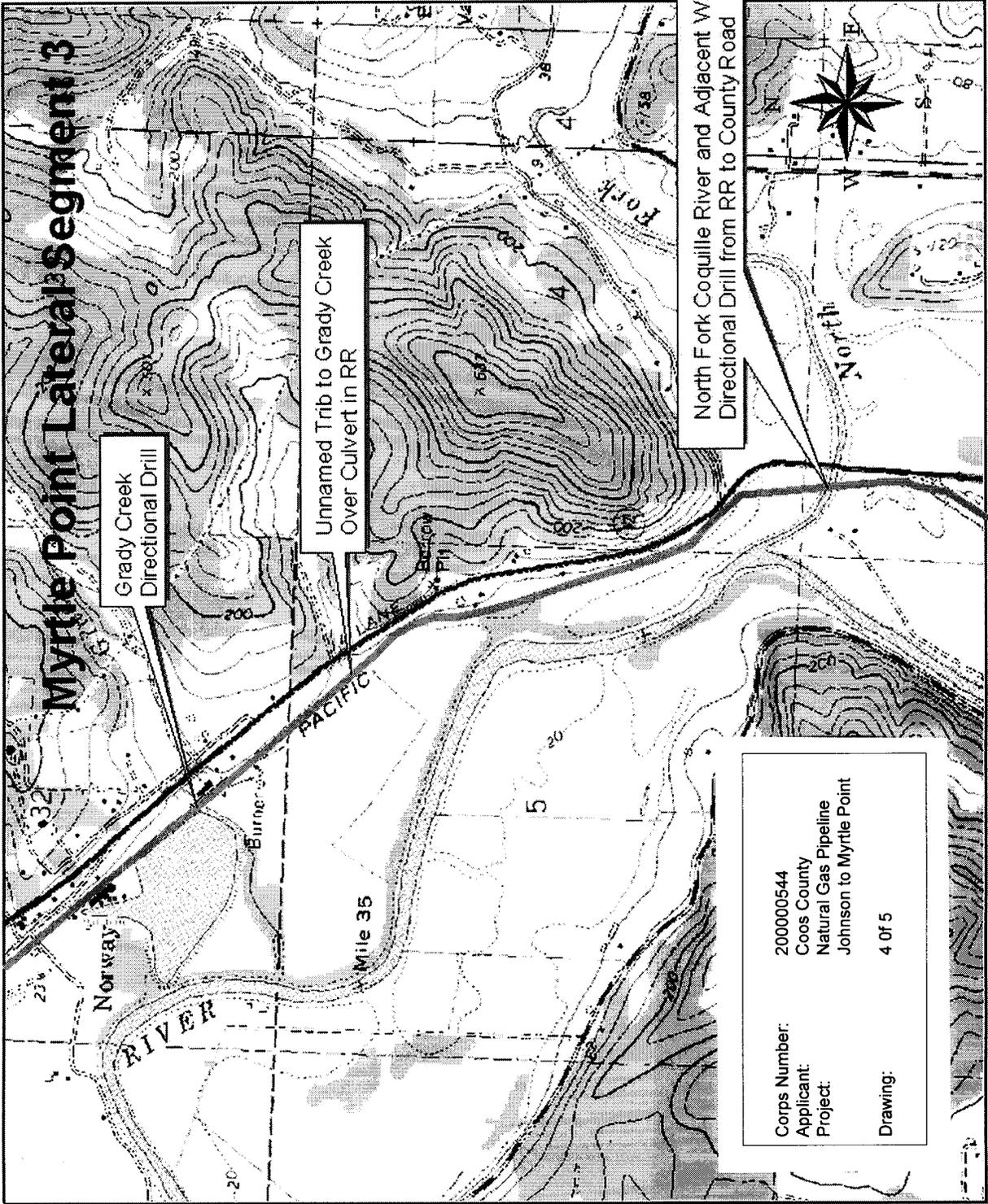
Corps Number: 200000544
Applicant: Coos County
Project: Natural Gas Pipeline
 Johnson to Myrtle Point
Drawing: 2 of 5

Myrtle Point Lateral Segment 2



Corps Number:	200000544
Applicant:	Coos County
Project:	Natural Gas Pipeline Johnson to Myrtle Point
Drawing:	3 of 5

Myrtle Point Lateral Segment 3



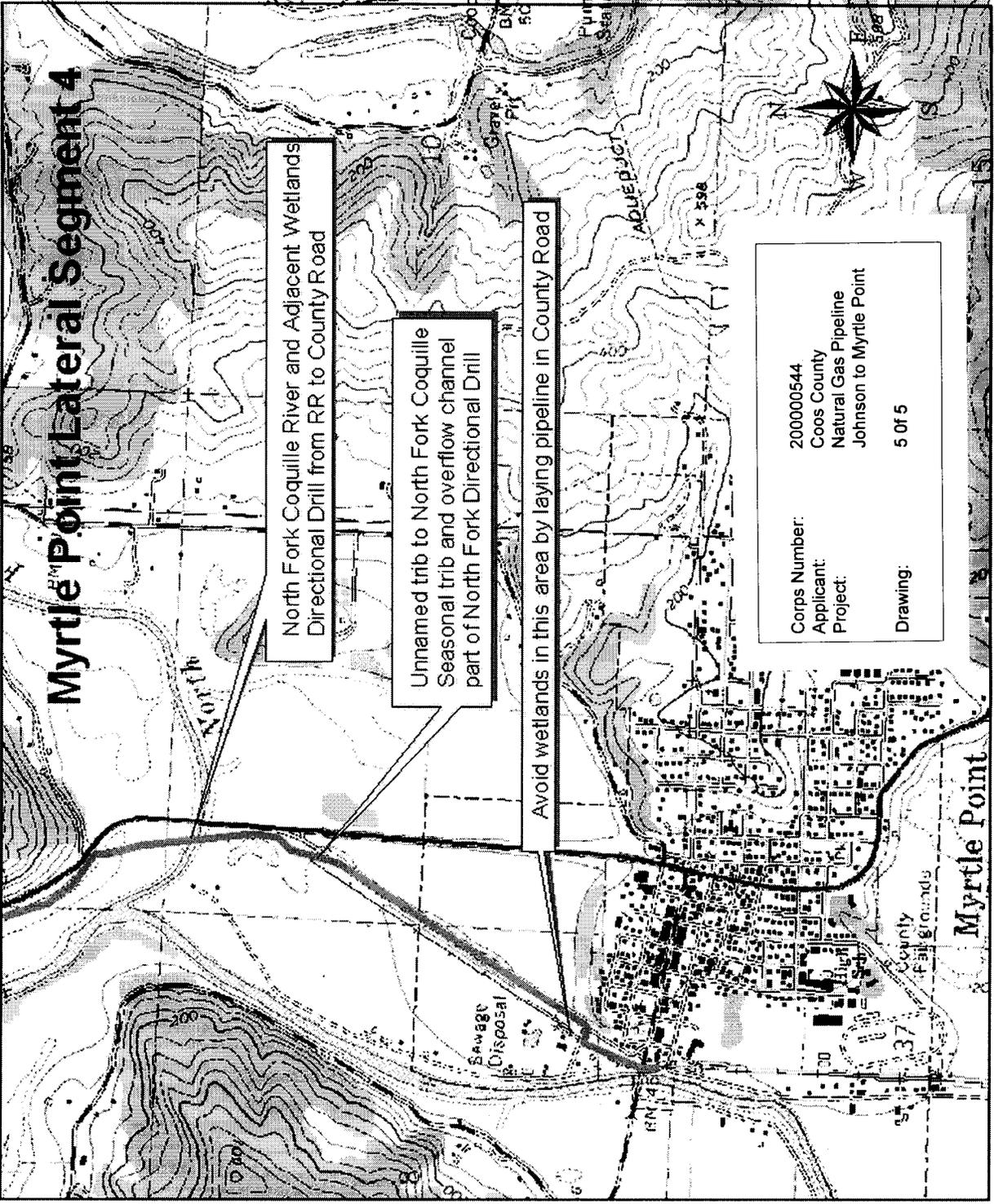
Grady Creek
Directional Drill

Unnamed Trib to Grady Creek
Over Culvert in RR

North Fork Coquille River and Adjacent Wetlands
Directional Drill from RR to County Road

Corps Number: 20000544
Applicant: Coos County
Project: Natural Gas Pipeline
 Johnson to Myrtle Point
Drawing: 4 of 5

Myrtle Point Lateral Segment 4



North Fork Coquille River and Adjacent Wetlands
Directional Drill from RR to County Road

Unnamed trib to North Fork Coquille
Seasonal trib and overflow channel
part of North Fork Directional Drill

Avoid wetlands in this area by laying pipeline in County Road

Corps Number:	200000544
Applicant:	Coos County
Project:	Natural Gas Pipeline Johnson to Myrtle Point
Drawing:	5 of 5