

April 7, 2020

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings
April 7, 2020
Part of
Public Record

Re: R.J. Corman Railroad Property Abandonment in Scott, Campbell and Anderson Counties, Tennessee, AB-1296 (sub-no. 0x)

Dear Ms. Brown:

This request is filed on behalf of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Inc. (www.tcwp.org), and Cumberland Trail Conference, Inc. (www.cumberlandtrail.org), which are two public interest organizations interested in conservation and recreation in east Tennessee, and are hereinafter referred to as 'proponents'.

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, the proponents request issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between Oneida and Devonia (Moore's Camp).

A. Public Use Condition

Proponents request the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. The justification for this condition is that the rail corridor in question is along a scenic river and will connect nearby Frozen Head State Park, The Cumberland Trail State Park, The North Cumberland Wildlife Management area and several small towns including Oneida, Norma, Winona, Devonia, and Moore's Camp, TN. The corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with local plans. In addition, the corridor provides important wildlife habitat, river fishing access, whitewater canoeing and kayaking access and greenspace and its preservation as a recreational trail is consistent with that end. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time because we have not had an opportunity to assemble or to review title information, complete a trail plan or commence negotiations with the carrier.
2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, proponent also makes the following request:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. §1152.29, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and Cumberland Trails Conference are willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the

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transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by R. J. Corman Railroad Property, LLC and operated by R. J. Corman Railroad Company.

The property, known as the Oneida Line extends from railroad milepost 0.95 at or near Oneida, Tennessee to the end of the line at or near Devonia, Tennessee a distance of approximately 41.05 miles in Scott, Campbell, and Anderson Counties, Tennessee. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-1296 (Sub *0x*).

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

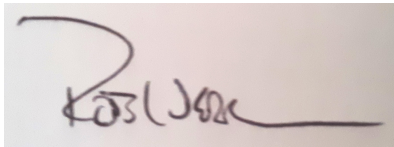
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and the Cumberland Trails Conference acknowledge that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

By our signature below, we certify service upon:

R. J. Corman Railroad Property, LLC,
PO 788
NICHOLASVILLE, KY 40340

by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, first class, on April 8, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Weber", on a light-colored background.

Robert Weber
Chairman, Cumberland Trails Conference
409 Thurman Ave # 102
Crossville, TN 38555

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Bevelhimer", on a light-colored background.

Mark Bevelhimer
President, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
P. O. Box 6873
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

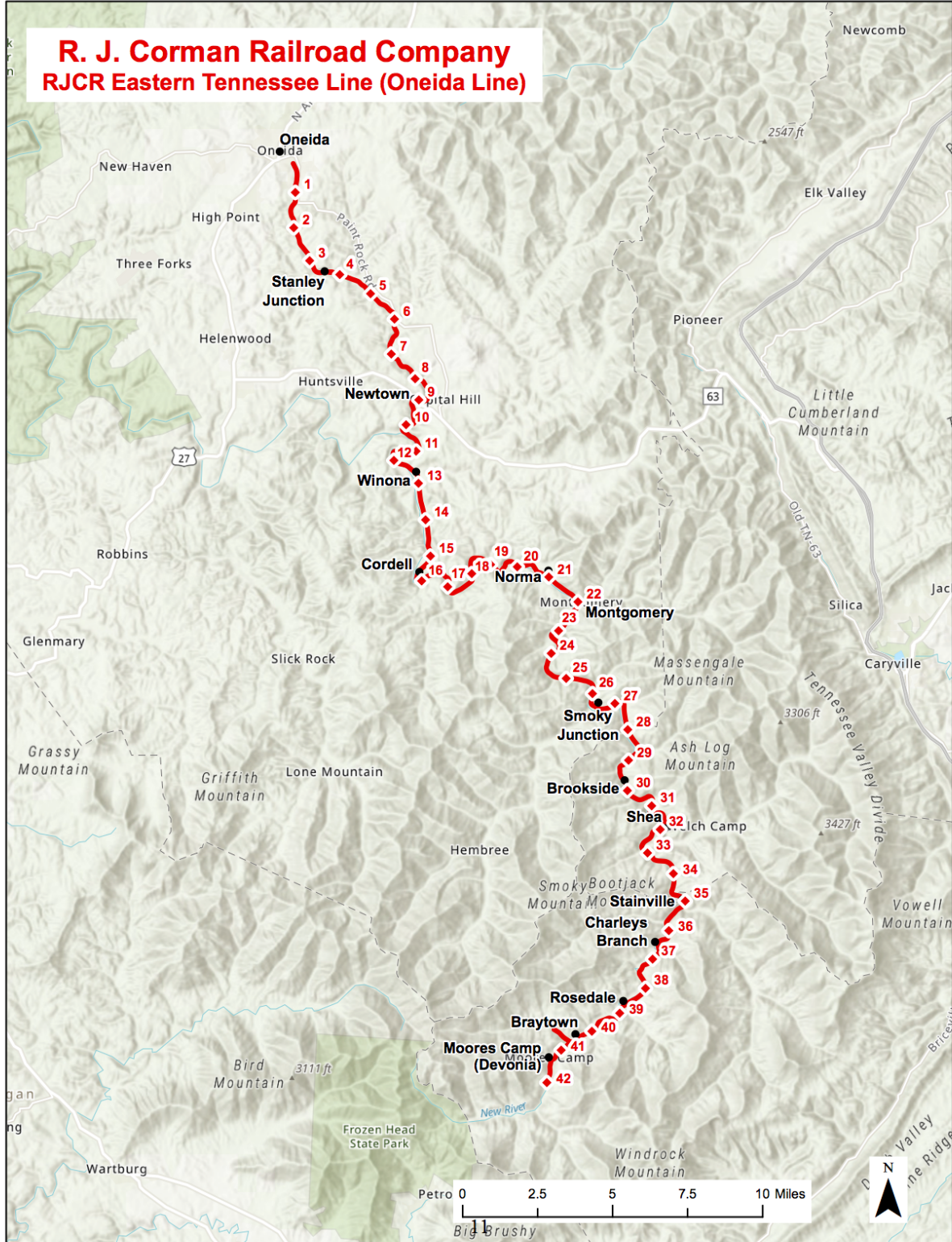
cc:

Catherine Salmen Wright
110 North Main St.
Nicholasville, KY 40356
859-724-4104
Email: cwright@irvinrigsby.com

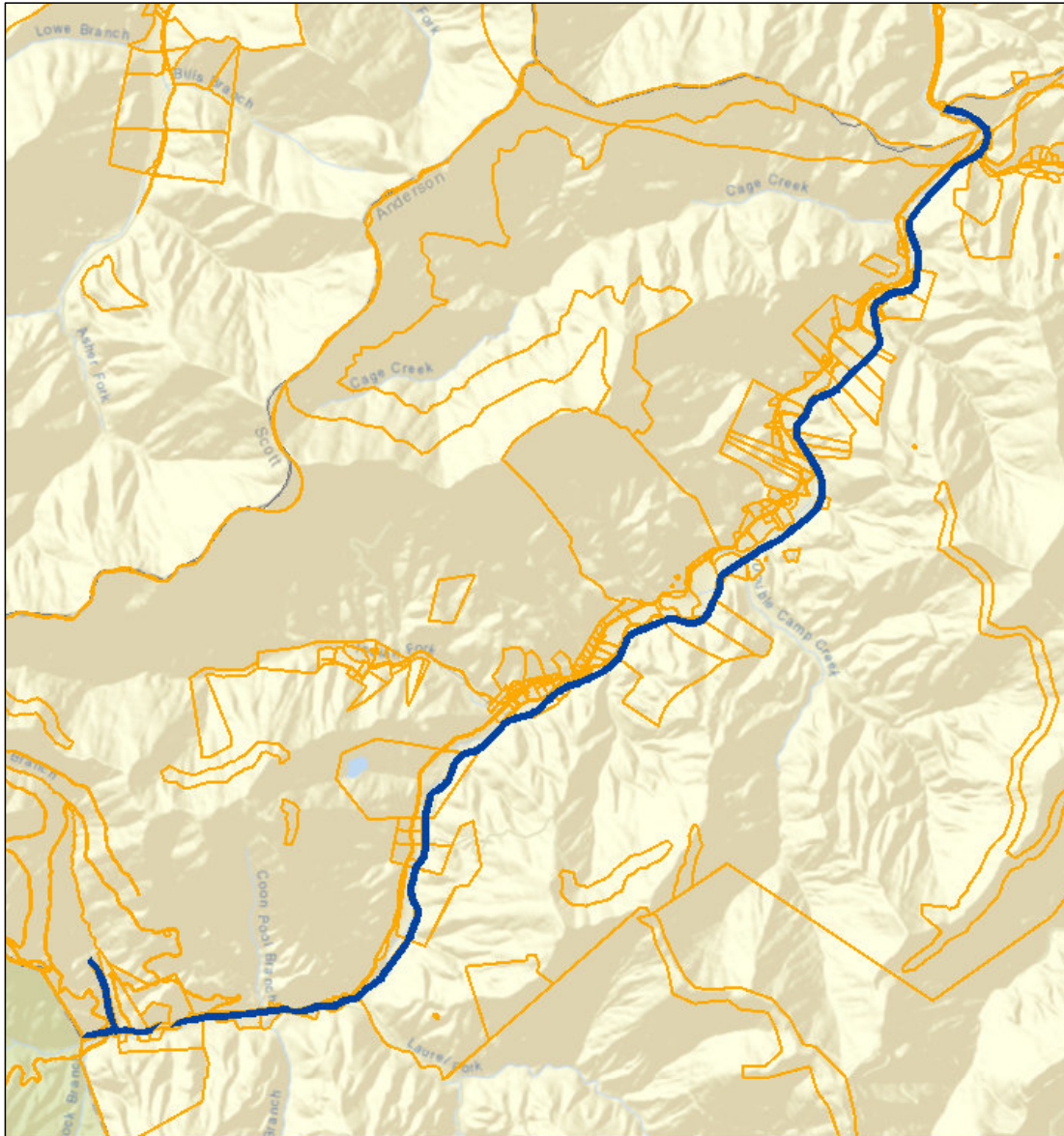
Daniel A. Lakemper
P.O Box 185
Morton, IL 61550
918-465-0299
e-mail: lakemper@mtco.co

R. J. Corman Railroad Company

RJCR Eastern Tennessee Line (Oneida Line)



Anderson County - Parcel: 059 410.00

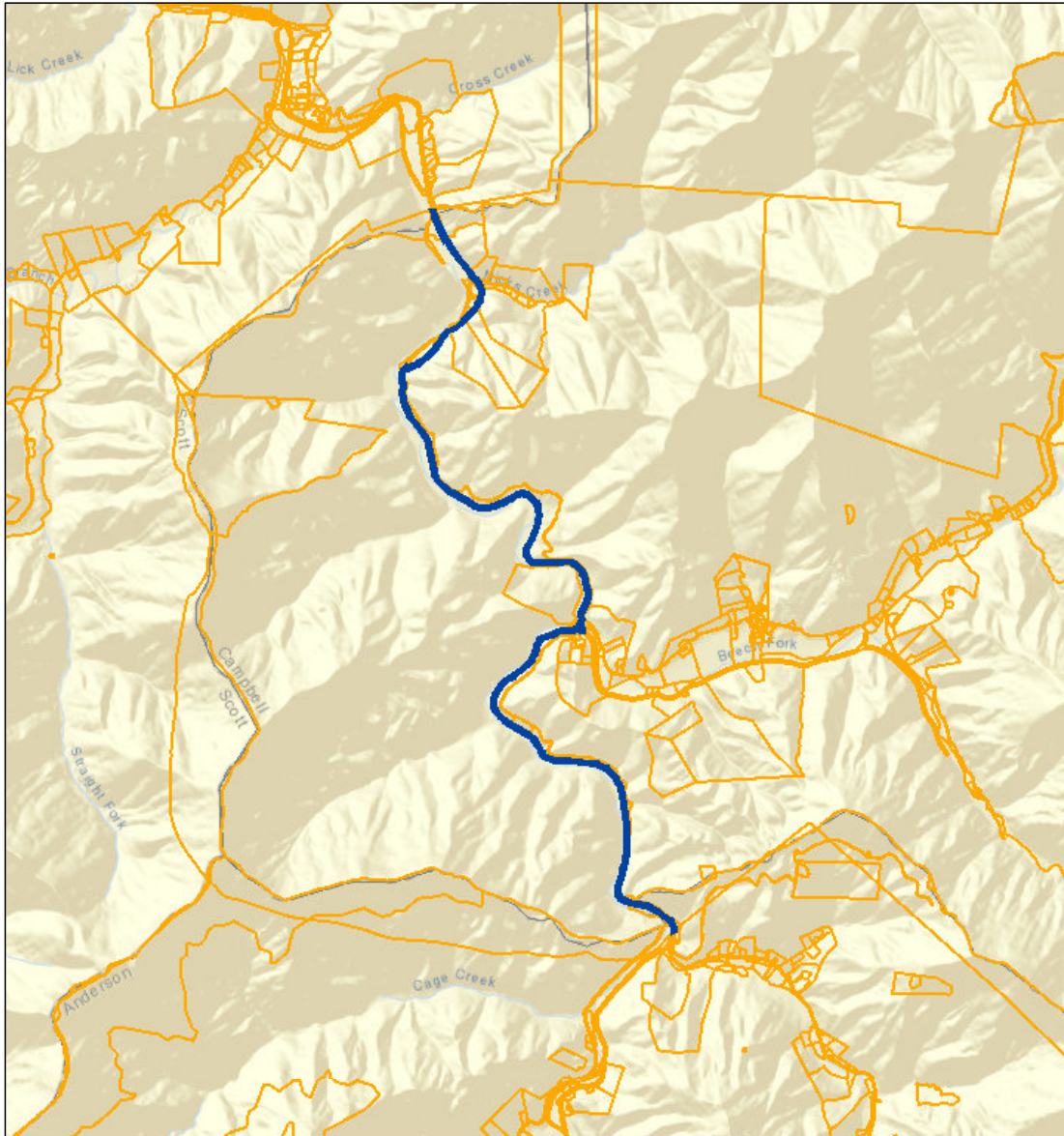


Date: March 20, 2020
County: Anderson
Owner: R J CORMAN RAILROAD
Address: NEW RIVER HWY
Parcel Number: 059 410.00
Deeded Acreage: 0
Calculated Acreage: 0
Date of Imagery: 2015

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
TN Comptroller - OLG
State of Tennessee, Comptroller of the Treasury, Office of Local Government

The property lines are compiled from information maintained by your local county Assessor's office but are not conclusive evidence of property ownership in any court of law.

Campbell County - Parcel: 123 006.00

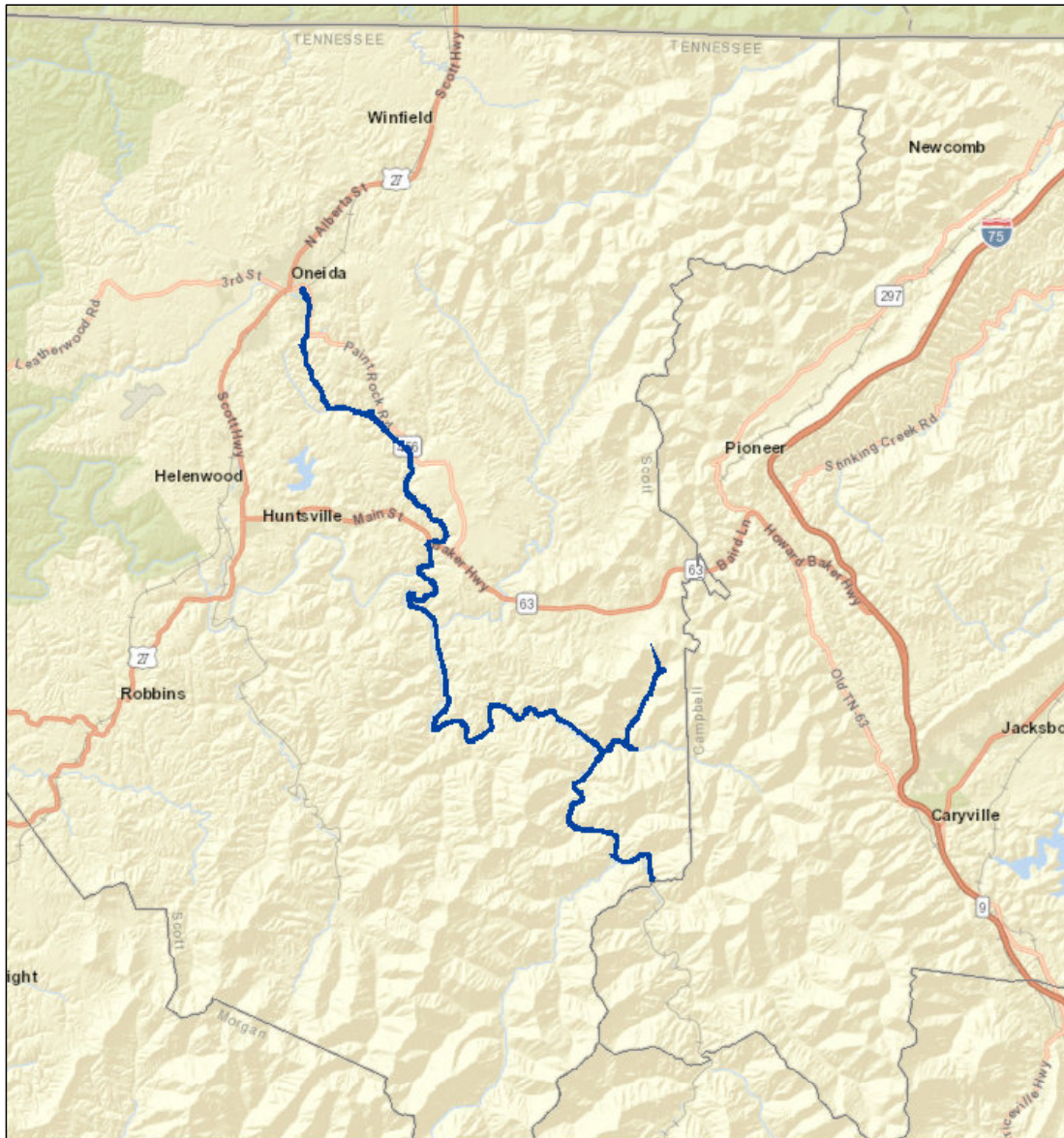


Date: March 20, 2020
County: Campbell
Owner: R J CORMAN RAILROAD
Address: NICKS CREEK
Parcel Number: 123 006.00
Deeded Acreage: 0
Calculated Acreage: 0
Date of Imagery: 2015

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
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Scott County - Parcel: 062 410.00



Date: March 20, 2020
County: Scott
Owner: R J CORMAN RAILROAD
Address: NORMA
Parcel Number: 062 410.00
Deeded Acreage: 0
Calculated Acreage: 362.8
Date of Imagery: 2015

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
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