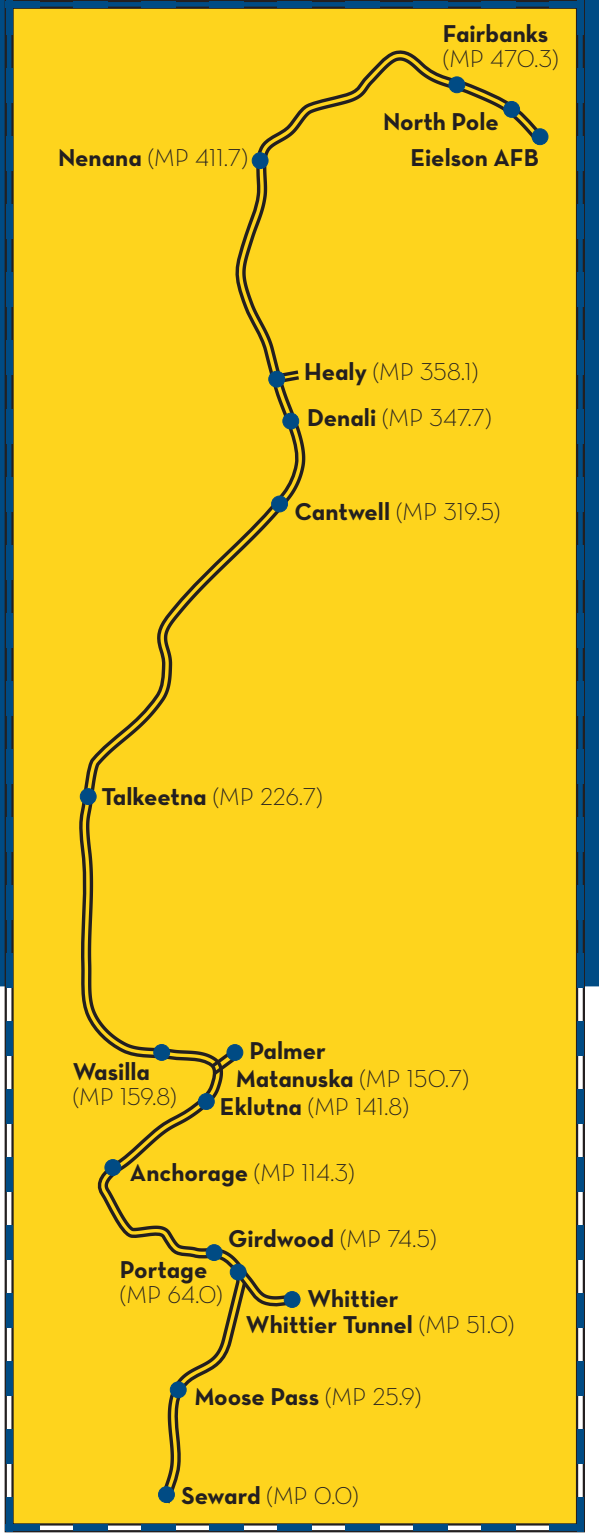


Track & Yard Vegetation Management: University-led Herbicide Research Project



PROJECT SCOPE

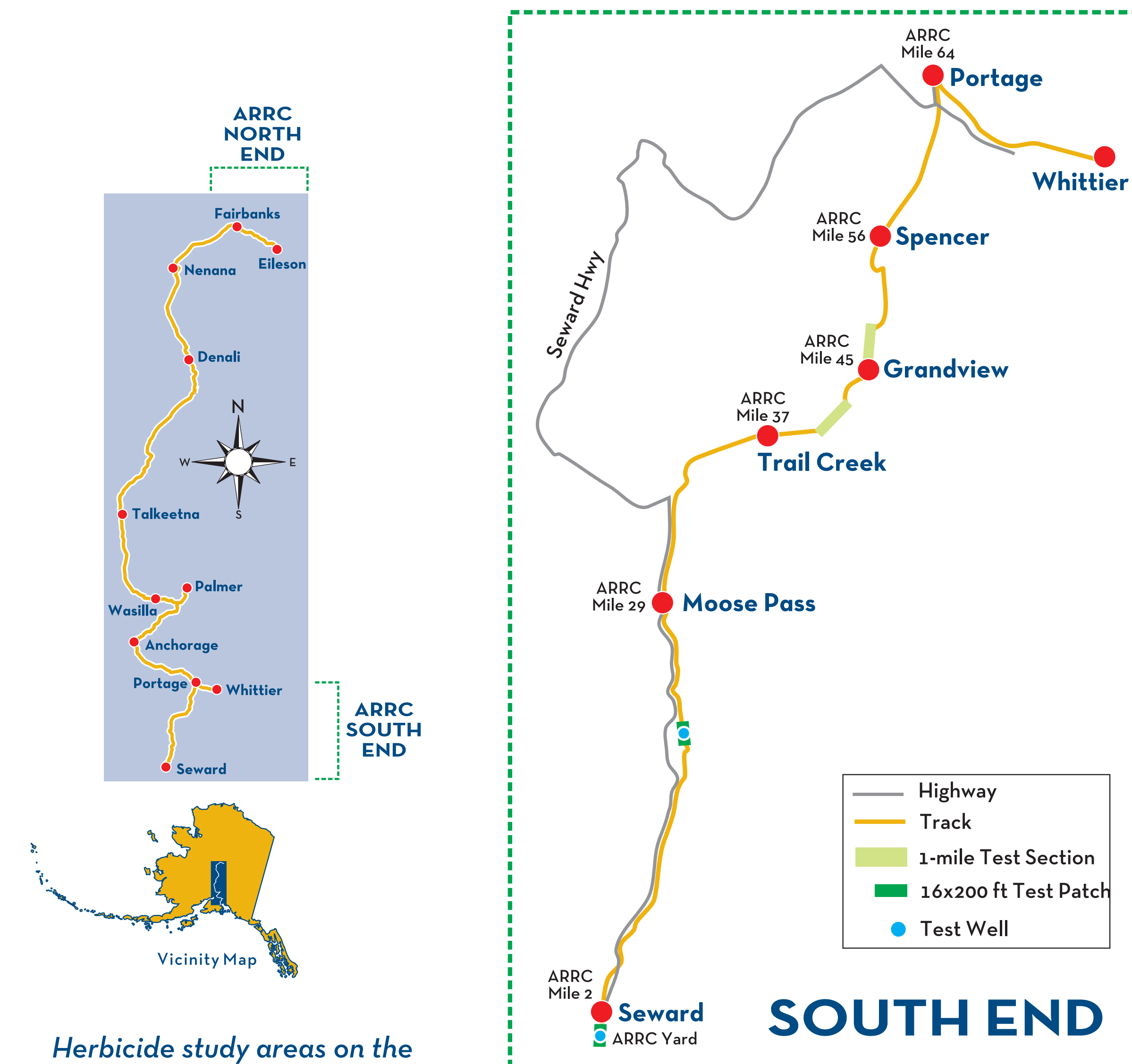
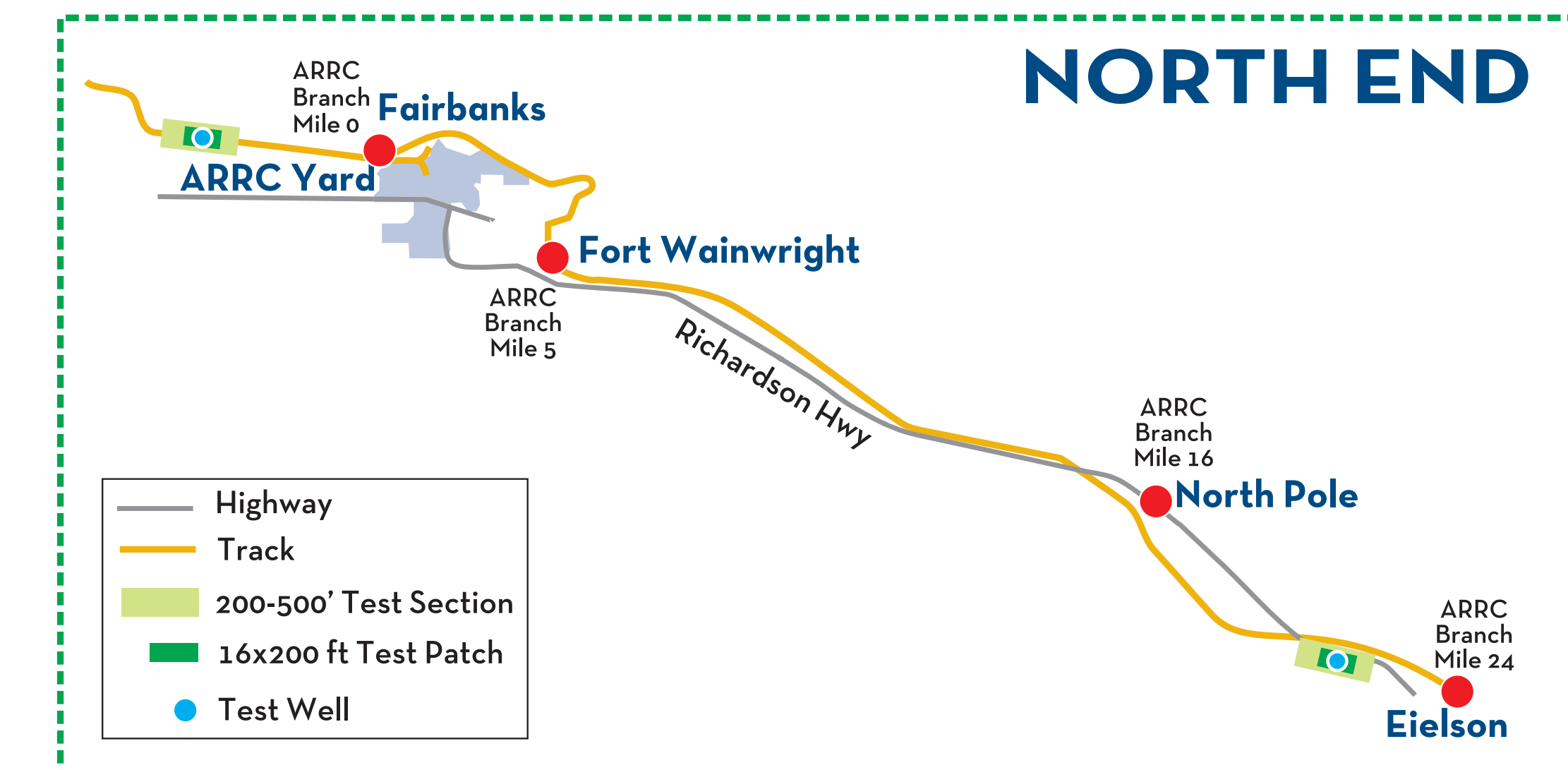
- › The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) commissioned the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) to conduct research on herbicide behavior in Alaska’s environment. Scientists from the Alaska University Transportation Center (AUTC) and researchers from the UAF Water & Environmental Research Center were involved.
- › **Chemicals Studied:** AquaMaster® general use herbicide (glyphosate); Oust® Extra professional use herbicide (sulfometuron methyl and metsulfuron methyl); AgriDex® nonionic surfactant used to effectively apply herbicide.
- › **Size and Location:** less than three acres total at the north and south ends of the railroad to capture the spectrum of climates along railroad operating property.
 - › **South End:** Seward Yard and along the track between Seward and Portage.
 - › **North End:** Along the track adjacent to UAF Experimental Farm near the Yard and along a section of the Eielson Branch.
- › **Year One:** South End – Summer 2008 to Fall 2009; **Year Two:** North End – Summer 2009 to Fall 2010.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

- › Herbicides behave similarly to how they behave in other climate and environments, enabling comparison to other locations where herbicides have been effectively and safely use.
- › Samples from monitoring wells and soil samples indicate that the glyphosate degrades rapidly in Alaskan soil and does not linger or migrate significantly in the soil.

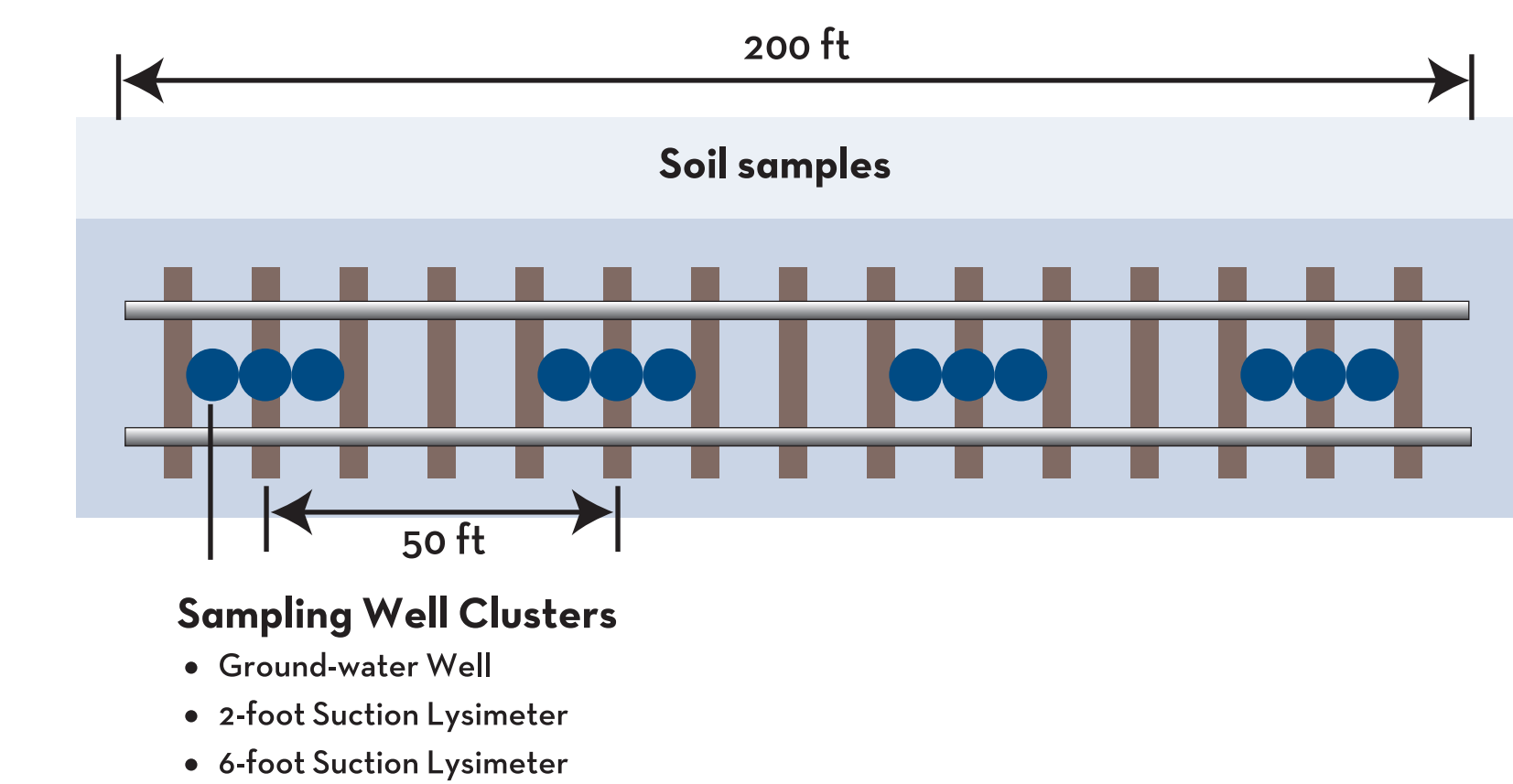
COST AND FUNDING

- › The cost was \$400,000. ARRC funded half (\$200,000) and an AUTC matching grant funded the remaining half.



Herbicide study areas on the South and North end of the Alaska Railroad.

Test patches include several sampling wells and lysimeters, which collect water from unsaturated soil in order to measure soluble chemicals in the water.



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