August 2019
South Fork Skagit River Floodplain Restoration

Cultural Resources Survey Report

Prepared for Skagit County Public Works

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ABBREVIATIONS

APE	Area of Potential Effects
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cm	centimeter
cmbs	centimeters below the surface
IDP	inadvertent discovery plan
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
Project	South Fork Skagit River Floodplain Restoration Project
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1 Introduction

Skagit County Public Works is planning to construct the South Fork Skagit River Floodplain Restoration Project (the Project) near Conway in Skagit County, Washington (Figure 1). The Project will increase tidal exchange and floodplain connectivity throughout the site to re-establish, to the degree possible, natural hydrologic exchange between the South Fork Skagit River and the floodplain. The Project requires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. This memorandum assists USACE in fulfilling the requirements of Section 106.

1.1 Project Description

The Project is located approximately 0.6 mile north of the town of Conway in Skagit County, Washington (Section 13 of Township 33 North, Range 3 East, and Section 18 of Township 33 North, Range 4 East, Willamette Meridian). The Project consists of excavating to create additional channels and pond features, which will connect to a channel that was constructed on the property in 2003 (Figure 2). Large woody debris may be placed in the channel and pond features to create habitat.

1.2 Regulatory Context

Under Section 106 and its implementing regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800, USACE is required to consider the effects of the permitted activity on historic properties. A historic property is "any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places" (NRHP) (36 CFR 800.16(l)(1)). Traditional Cultural Properties may also be historic properties. Under the Section 106 process, USACE must consult with interested and affected Indian Tribes and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on potential impacts to cultural and historic resources.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, a historic property must have significance and retain integrity. Significant properties meet one or more of the following criteria:

A. They have an association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B. They have an association with the lives of significant persons in our past.
C. They embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
D. They have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory.

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0 4
Miles

Figure 1
Project Vicinity
South Fork Skagit River Floodplain Restoration
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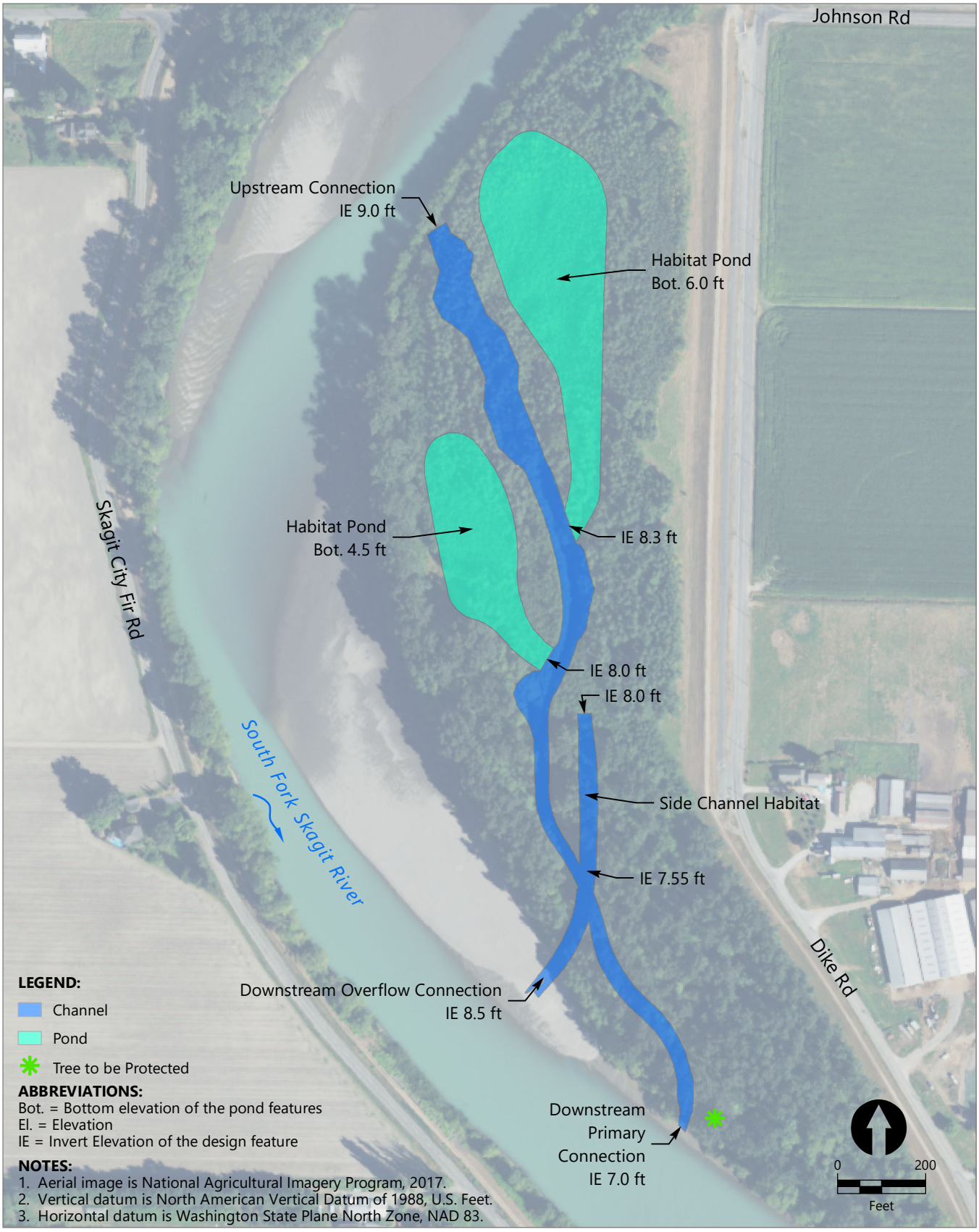

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Figure 2
Project Plan View
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"Integrity" is defined as a historic property's ability to convey its historic significance—in other words, its historic appearance and setting.

This report assists USACE with fulfilling the requirements of Section 106 and 36 CFR 800 by recommending the following:

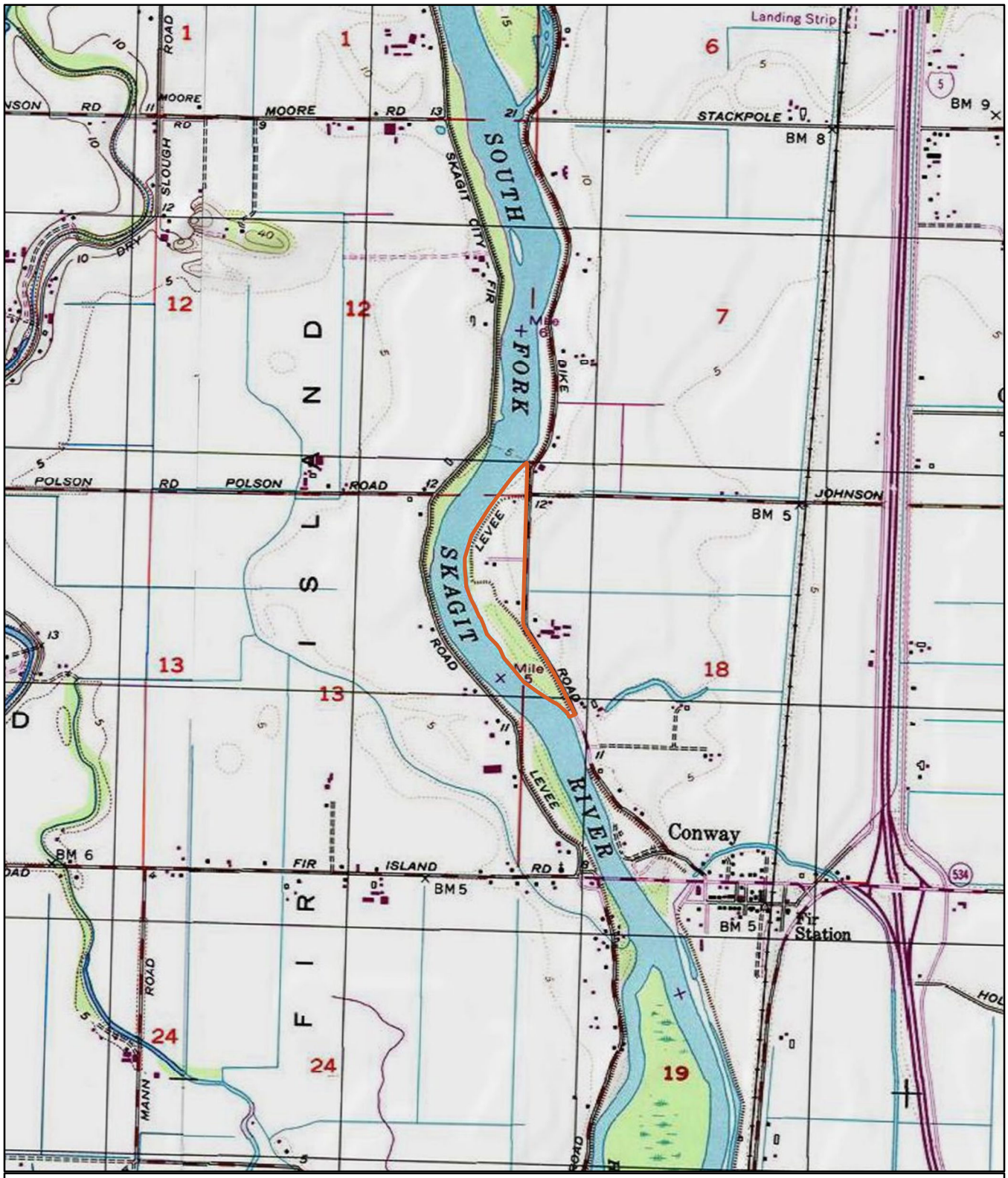
- The Area of Potential Effects (APE)
- Whether there are NRHP-eligible historic properties in the APE
- Whether the undertaking will adversely affect any NRHP-eligible historic properties

1.3 Area of Potential Effects

The APE for a project is "the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties" (36 CFR 800.16(d)). USACE will determine the APE for the project. The APE for the project includes areas where ground disturbance could affect archaeological sites or modifications could affect historic structures (Figure 3). Ground disturbance is expected to occur:

- In the footprint of planned features, at a depth of up to 20 feet below the ground surface
- Where heavy equipment could access the site (including vegetation removal and vehicle tracks), at a depth of up to 1 foot below the ground surface

Because it is currently unknown where exactly staging, stockpiling, and access will occur on the parcel, the APE includes the entire property.



USGS 7.5' Quad, Conway

Area of Potential Effects

Miles

0 0.125 0.25 0.5

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Figure 3
Area of Potential Effects
South Fork Skagit River Floodplain Restoration
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2 Environmental and Cultural Context

2.1 Environmental Setting

The APE is located along the South Fork of the Skagit River, a large distributary of the Skagit River that empties into central Puget Sound, Washington. The Project vicinity is in the Puget Trough physiographic province, which is characterized by north-south trending ridges and troughs formed during the last glacial maximum in the late Pleistocene, the Vashon Stade of the Fraser Glaciation (Galster and Laprade 1991; Easterbrook 2003). Glaciers began to retreat about 14,500 years ago, leaving deposits of recessional outwash (Heller and Dethier 1981). As a result of glaciation and subsequent alluvial activity, western Skagit County is characterized by benchlike plains.

As the glaciers continued to melt, global sea level rose while the landmass rebounded. Around 9,000 years ago, isostatic rebound was complete but sea level was still rising, and early Holocene shorelines began to submerge. Shorelines in the area did not stabilize until the mid-Holocene, about 5,000 years ago (Thorson 1980). The Skagit River delta would have begun to aggrade at this time. In addition to eustatic and isostatic sea level changes, the central Puget Sound area has been affected by tectonic activity. Sediments in the lower Snohomish River "reveal evidence of at least three episodes of liquefaction, at least one event of abrupt subsidence, and at least one tsunami since ca. A.D. 800" (Bourgeois and Johnson 2000:482). The Project area would likely have been subtidal in the early to mid-Holocene, emerging as alluvial sediments aggraded in the mid to late Holocene. Emergence of intertidal wetlands may have been interrupted by episodes of subsidence.

Early historic maps, prior to historic modifications, show little detail of natural conditions in the Project vicinity (Figure 4). Later maps show the levees (also sometimes called called dikes) that were constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the region. Current elevation across the parcel is about 11 to 15 feet above mean sea level, so elevation prior to historic land modifications was probably at about this level or possibly lower (if the levees are retaining alluvial sediment from periodic flooding that would otherwise be scoured away).

Part of the Project area is listed on the National Wetland Inventory, and the entire area is shown as having hydric soils (a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding; Figure 5). Soils in the Project area are Mt. Vernon very fine sandy loam (moderately well-drained soils formed in alluvium and volcanic ash) and Briscot fine sandy loam (hydric soils formed in poorly drained alluvium).

Figure 4
1877 General Land Office Map

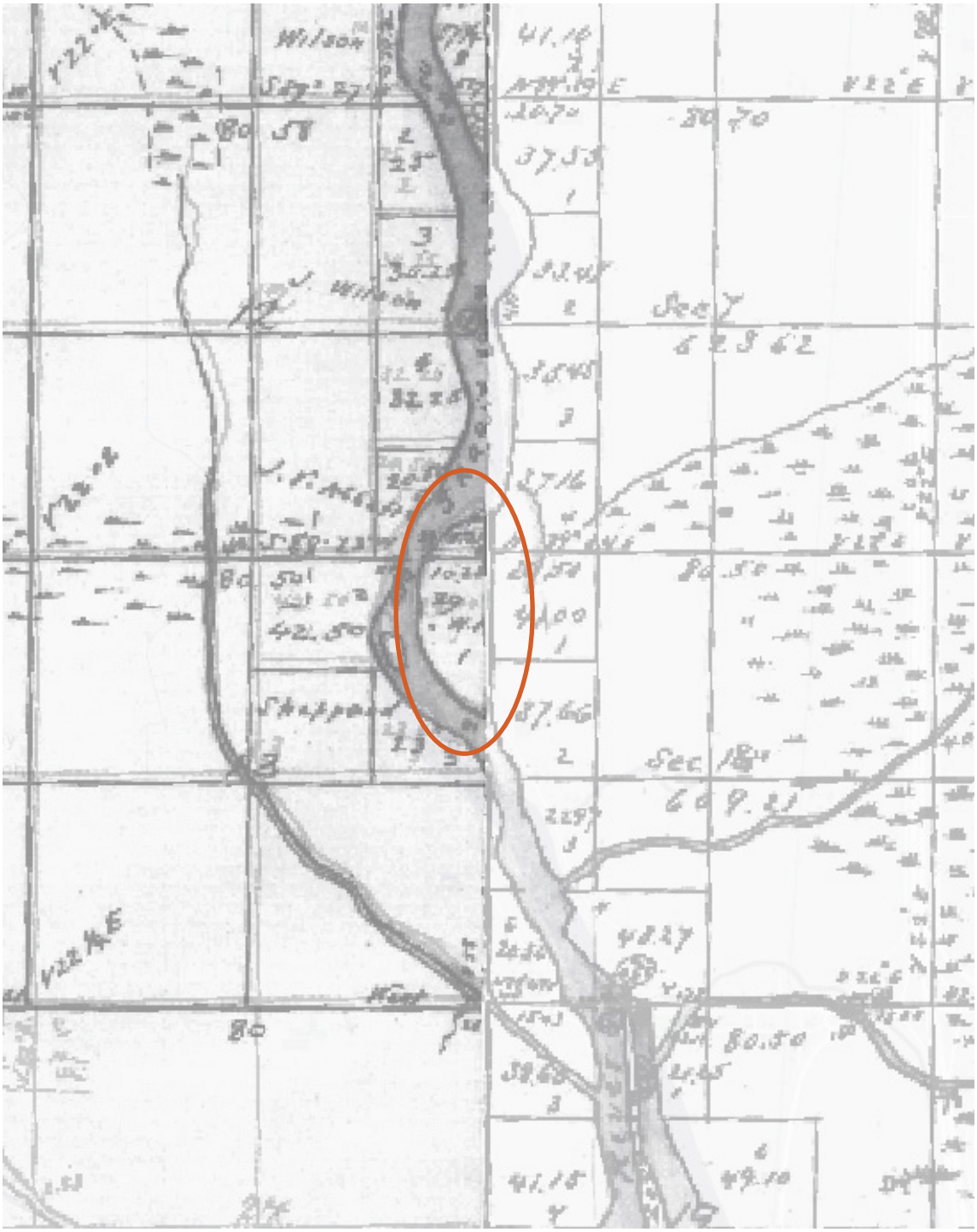
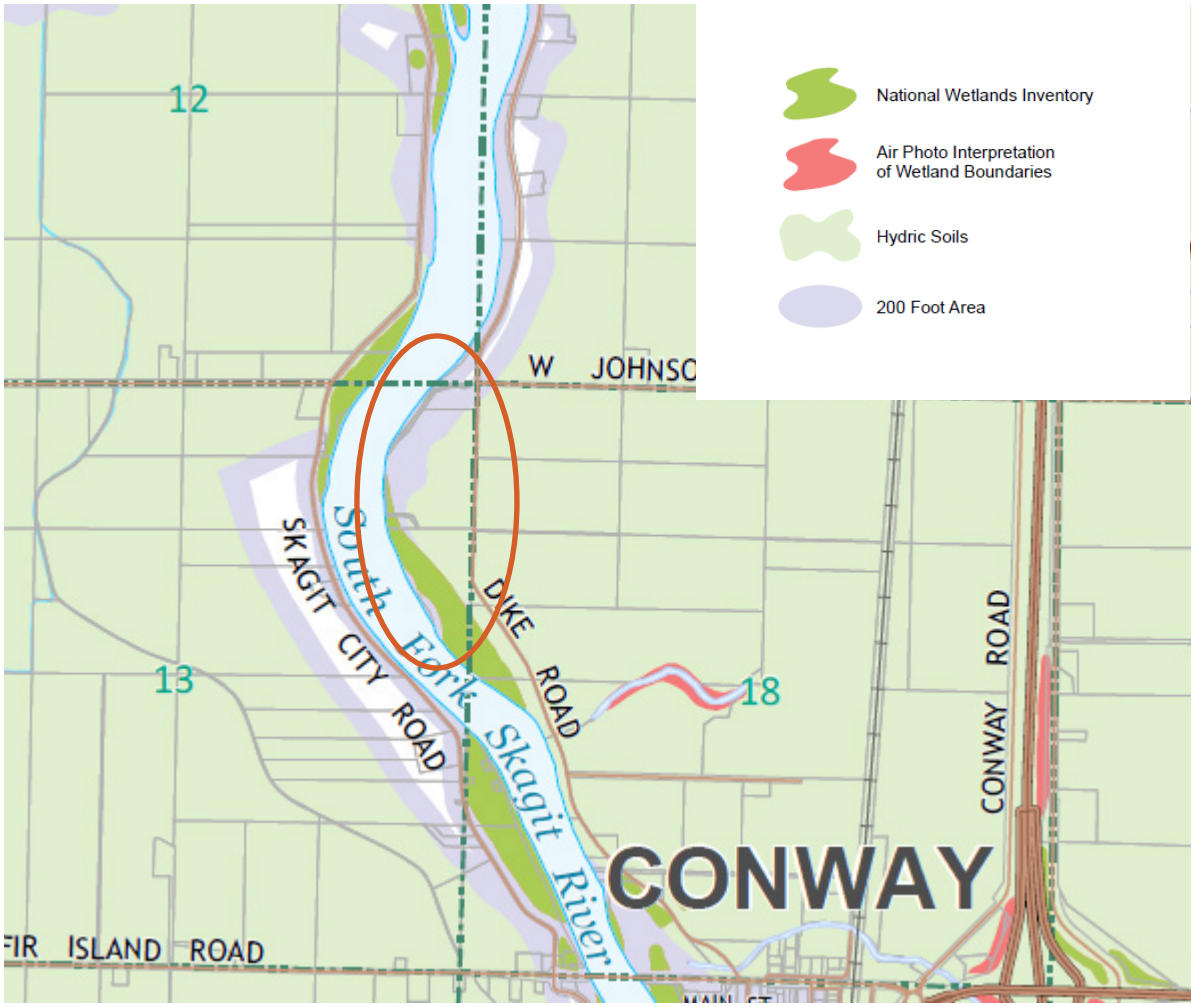


Figure 5
Wetlands and Hydric Soils in the Project Vicinity



Skagit County National Wetlands Inventory and Hydric Soils, May 2015, https://www.skagitcounty.net/GIS/Documents/HydricSoils/t33r3_4.pdf

The Skagit River delta area is in the *Tsuga heterophylla* vegetation zone (Franklin and Dyrness 1973:45). Prior to historic and modern logging and development, this zone was characterized by forests of western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) with understories of shrubs, ferns, and grasses (Franklin and Dyrness 1973:72-73). A variety of fauna would have been present in the area, including large and small mammals in the uplands, and fish, invertebrates, and waterfowl in the river.

2.2 Cultural Setting

The earliest archaeological sites in the northern Puget Sound and Gulf of Georgia region date to the early to mid-Holocene around 8,100 to 4,400 years ago. The sites are attributed to the Old Cordilleran culture in British Columbia, and the Olcott Tradition in northwestern Washington, and are classified as Archaic Period (Matson and Coupland 1995:78; Ames and Maschner 1999:67-72). The sites typically consist of stone tools, including leaf-shaped bifacial points and cobble tools, and lack evidence of permanent houses.

By the latter part of the mid-Holocene, larger populations began to organize in complex ways to exploit a wide range of terrestrial and littoral resources including salmon and shellfish; land mammals; and plant resources such as berries, roots, and bulbs. Cultures around Puget Sound and northward show "an unequivocal adaptation to coastal resources," though classic Northwest coast developments such as sizeable longhouses and large-scale storage are still absent (Matson and Coupland 1995:97).

Over time, populations grew and began to reside in large semi-sedentary cedar plank house villages located at river mouths and confluences and on protected shorelines. The artifact tool kits became increasingly complex and specialized, allowing for large takes of resources, which were processed and stored for year-long consumption (Ames and Maschner 1999). Archaeological expressions of late Holocene cultures are consistent with ethnographic descriptions.

The Project area is located in the traditional territory of the Lower Skagit Tribe, Southern Coast Salish people who speak the Northern Lushootseed language. Salish peoples traditionally relied on a seasonal round that focused on fishing and also included hunting for sea and land mammals, gathering plant foods and medicines, and harvesting intertidal invertebrates (Suttles 1990). Villages consisted of large split-plank houses occupied by extended family groups, but seasonal camps used temporary shelters.

Salish communities felt the effects of Euroamerican contact prior to sustained interaction with Euroamericans. Introduced diseases had already caused shifts in population and settlement patterns by the time the first settlers arrived in the early 1820s (Ruby and Brown 1986). The Point Elliott Treaty of 1855 was signed in Mukilteo, and the Lower Skagit Tribe were signatories. Tribal members were removed from their lands and assigned to the Swinomish Reservation (Ruby and Brown 1986). Despite demographic and social changes, Skagit people remain in the area today and practice many aspects of their traditional culture.

The first Euroamerican contact in the area was in 1792, when George Vancouver's party landed on the beach near present-day Everett. The U.S. Exploring Expedition (led by Charles Wilkes) mapped the region in 1841, but the area was not systematically explored until the 1850s. The first Euroamerican settlement in Skagit County was by "Blanket Bill" Jarman and his Native American wife

in 1852 (Oakley 2004). The first settler along the South Fork Skagit was William H. Sartwell, who built a cabin on the Project parcels in 1863 and operated a small trading post there. The town of Conway was founded in 1873 on the east bank of the South Fork Skagit River, and Skagit County was carved out of Whatcom County in 1883. Conway grew after the Great Northern Railway was routed through the town in 1891. A bridge to Fir Island, on the west side of the river, was built in 1914 (Pleas et al. 2017). Agriculture continued to be the main economic driver, including grain and vegetable production, dairying, and flower growing. Western Skagit County remains rural and agricultural today, though regional growth is affecting the area (Oakley 2004).

Flooding has been a challenge for area residents throughout recorded history, and "often the labor of months, if not years, was swept away in a single night (Pleas et al. 2017:22). Fir Island (on the opposite bank of the river from the Project area) was "under water for many months of the year" (Skagit River Journal 2011). Efforts began early on to control flooding through construction of levees and dikes, with the first in Skagit County constructed near La Conner (about 10 miles northwest of the Project area) in 1863 (Oakley 2004). A major flood destroyed much of Conway in 1892, spurring more levee-building (Pleas et al. 2017). The Project parcel levees were constructed by 1897, though levees in the area were topped by a flood in November of that same year (Bennett 1978; Batdorf 2013). Floods large enough to top or breach levees in the Skagit River delta area also occurred in 1892, 1917, 1921, 1949, 1951, 1975, 1990, 1995 and 2003. Several towns have been abandoned in part due to flooding, including Fir (across the river from Conway) and Skagit City (about 2 miles upstream of Fir).

The Project parcel, as noted above, was homesteaded by Sartwell. He sold it to the Norwegian ship's carpenter turned local businessman and farmer Magnus Anderson in 1869, and it appears that Anderson and his wife Mathilda moved to the property between 1874 and 1877. The Andersons built a large house on the property (Figure 6) in 1884 (Pleas et al. 2017; Skagit River Journal 2011; Bennett 1978). Sartwell's cabin reportedly stood until the early 1900s, when it was "tumbled asunder and had to be carried away" (Skagit River Journal 2011). Dike District No. 3 purchased the property in 2002 from John Olson, who had owned it since at least 1986. The Anderson farmhouse stood until 2003, when it was demolished for the habitat restoration project, along with the farmstead's outbuildings. The levee was also demolished at that time, with a new levee constructed to the east along Dike Road. Figure 7 shows the demolition in progress, during the 2003 flood.

2.3 Previous Research

A cultural resources survey was conducted in the area in 1978, which included evaluation of the APE (Bennett 1978). However, it does not appear that subsurface testing was conducted. Three surveys have been conducted within a mile of the Project area (Kent 2004; Baldwin 2013; Munsell 2019). None of these surveys located any cultural resources, although one located shell and organic material of uncertain origin (Baldwin 2013, survey located in Conway).

One archaeological site has been recorded in the APE: site 45SK126 (Magnus Anderson Farm). The site is described as "the property and some of the farm buildings and house from one of the earliest settlers in the Skagit River delta" (Bennett 1978). Bennett apparently recorded the location as an archaeological site, rather than a historic structure or landscape, because of the potential for subsurface features related to either the Sartwell or Anderson occupations of the property. The site was not evaluated for NRHP eligibility.

The site as mapped in 1978 (Figure 6), shows a house, several outbuildings, and a garage. Bennett notes that, in 1930, chicken houses and a different garage were also present on the property (Bennett 1978). The 1978 configuration appears to be unchanged in 1990 (see Figure 6). The structures on the site were removed after the purchase of the property by Dike District No. 3 in 2002. In 2003, the levees were removed except for the waterward riprap. In 2004, the riprap was breached in one location to allow for the construction of a back-channel for habitat. After the removal of the structures and levee, the property quickly revegetated. Figure 7 shows the levee removal in process, and Figure 8 shows changes to the property between 2003 and 2011.

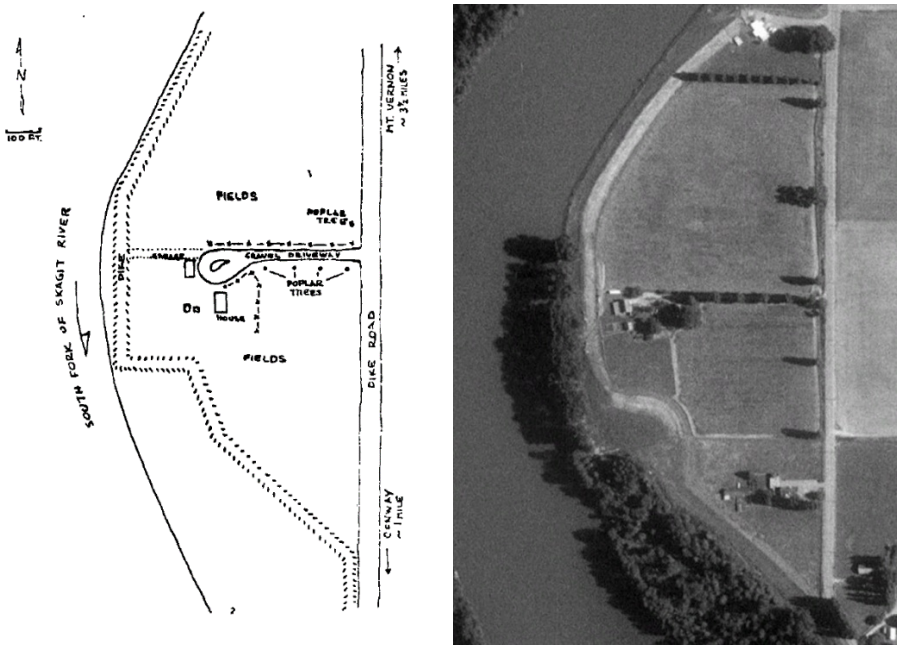
In addition to site 45SK126, there are 11 recorded sites within a mile of the APE (Table 1). Notably, every precontact (or possibly precontact) site is noted as being adjacent to a slough or former slough rather than adjacent to the river channel (Figure 9).

Table 1
Archaeological Sites within a Mile of the APE

Site Number	Description	Distance from the APE
45SK119	Weaver's Cemetery, a small family burial area	0.23 mile southwest
45SK120	Historic townsite of Fir	0.36 mile south
45SK074	Fire-cracked rock, charcoal, and wood of uncertain age*	0.42 mile west
45SK073	Small shell midden and fire-cracked rock*	0.43 mile southwest
45SK072	Small shell midden and fire-cracked rock*	0.53 mile southwest
45SK115	Historic Conway townsite	0.7 mile south
45KI061	Shell midden and precontact artifacts*	0.80 mile southeast
45SK062	Small shell midden and dark-stained soil*	0.83 mile east
45SK060	Precontact shell midden	0.86 mile southeast
45SK130	Historic townsite of Skagit City	1.0 mile north
45SK039	Multi-component precontact shell midden*	1.0 mile northwest

* Described as "located near a former slough"

Figure 6
Site 45SK126, Magnus Anderson Farm



Left, Bennett 1978a. Right, 1990 Aerial photograph

Figure 7
Levee Removal in Progress During 2003 Flood

http://www.skagitriverhistory.com. Looking southwest.

Figure 8
Habitat Restoration and Revegetation

Left: November 2003, after removal of levees and structures. Center: April 2005, showing habitat back channel. Right: August 2011, property revegetated.

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Figure 9
Precontact and Possibly Precontact Sites Within a Mile of the APE
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3 Methods and Results

3.1 Methods

Archaeological survey was designed to meet three objectives:

- Locate any remaining surface or subsurface features of site 45SK126 (Magnus Anderson Farm).
- Evaluate the potential for precontact archaeological materials.
- If potential for archaeological materials is identified, implement more intensive subsurface testing.

The first objective was met by conducting pedestrian survey across the APE and excavating shovel probes around the former farmstead area at 30-meter intervals (four probes). Pedestrian survey was conducted by walking the proposed channel and pond feature areas at 10-meter transects, oriented in the direction of the proposed feature.

The second objective was met by planning shovel probes at 30-meter intervals across the remaining APE (32 probes), then excavating 25% of the planned probes (eight probes) to gather information to evaluate archaeological potential. Because these initial probes indicated low archaeological potential, the remaining probes (more intensive subsurface testing) were not excavated. In addition to shovel probes, in one area where the back channel created in 2004 exposed a cutbank, a profile was cleared instead of excavating a shovel probe, to take advantage of the opportunity to expose a wider and deeper area. A total of 12 shovel probes and one profile were excavated.

Shovel probes were excavated by hand, 35 to 40 centimeters wide and as deep as possible. Backdirt was screened through 1/4-inch mesh. Any cultural materials were noted, photographed, and returned to the unit. Units were backfilled. All transects and probe locations were recorded using a handheld GPS device.

3.2 Results

The archaeological survey was conducted from May 15 to 17, 2019, by archaeologist Barbara Bundy with field support from Andy Brew. Field conditions were overcast and mild, with rain showers on the morning of May 17.

3.2.1 Pedestrian Survey

The pedestrian survey revealed thick, heavy vegetation across the APE (Attachment 1 contains photographs of conditions in the APE). Vegetation was impassable in some areas. There is public access to the property, but it mostly consists of trails to the river at the north and south end of the property and a trail along the old levee; there is little evidence of recent use within the APE beyond those trails.

Modern debris was sparse, consisting of a plastic barrel, a few isolated beverage cans and plastic bottles, and a few items near the old farmstead (described in the following paragraph). Evidence of recent flooding in the APE was apparent, including vegetation down and covered in sediment.

Very little evidence of the former Anderson farm was visible. The road is still partially visible as a trail, and some old trees (poplars and a bigleaf maple [*Acer macrophyllum*]) are still standing. One structure was encountered at the old farmstead near the former turn-around driveway, an expedient shed that was in poor condition (Figure 10). The structure is constructed of posts supported by dimensional lumber, with a shed roof. The roof and walls are a mix of plywood, shiplap, and dimensional lumber. There are plywood doors on both north and south elevations. The only item in the shed was a wall-mounted portion of an elevator grain conveyer belt for use in a farm silo, apparently repurposed for storage use in the shed. The use of plastic dates the item to post-World War II, and this type of conveyor is still in use. The shed was near a large bigleaf maple covered with English ivy (*Hedera helix*). Around the tree were two political signs on corrugated plastic appearing to date to the early 2000s, a plastic yard cart, and a broken lawn chair of metal and plastic. None of the items observed at the farmstead appear to be older than 50 years and generally seem to date to within the last 15 to 20 years.

The only cultural item observed outside the farmstead (apart from the occasional plastic beverage bottle or recent can) was a large plastic barrel with a square hole cut in the side (Figure 11; Attachment 1). Nothing was observed during the pedestrian survey that is likely to be older than 50 years.

Figure 10
Shed at Site 45SK126

Left: Shed north elevation. Right: Shed interior with repurposed conveyor track.

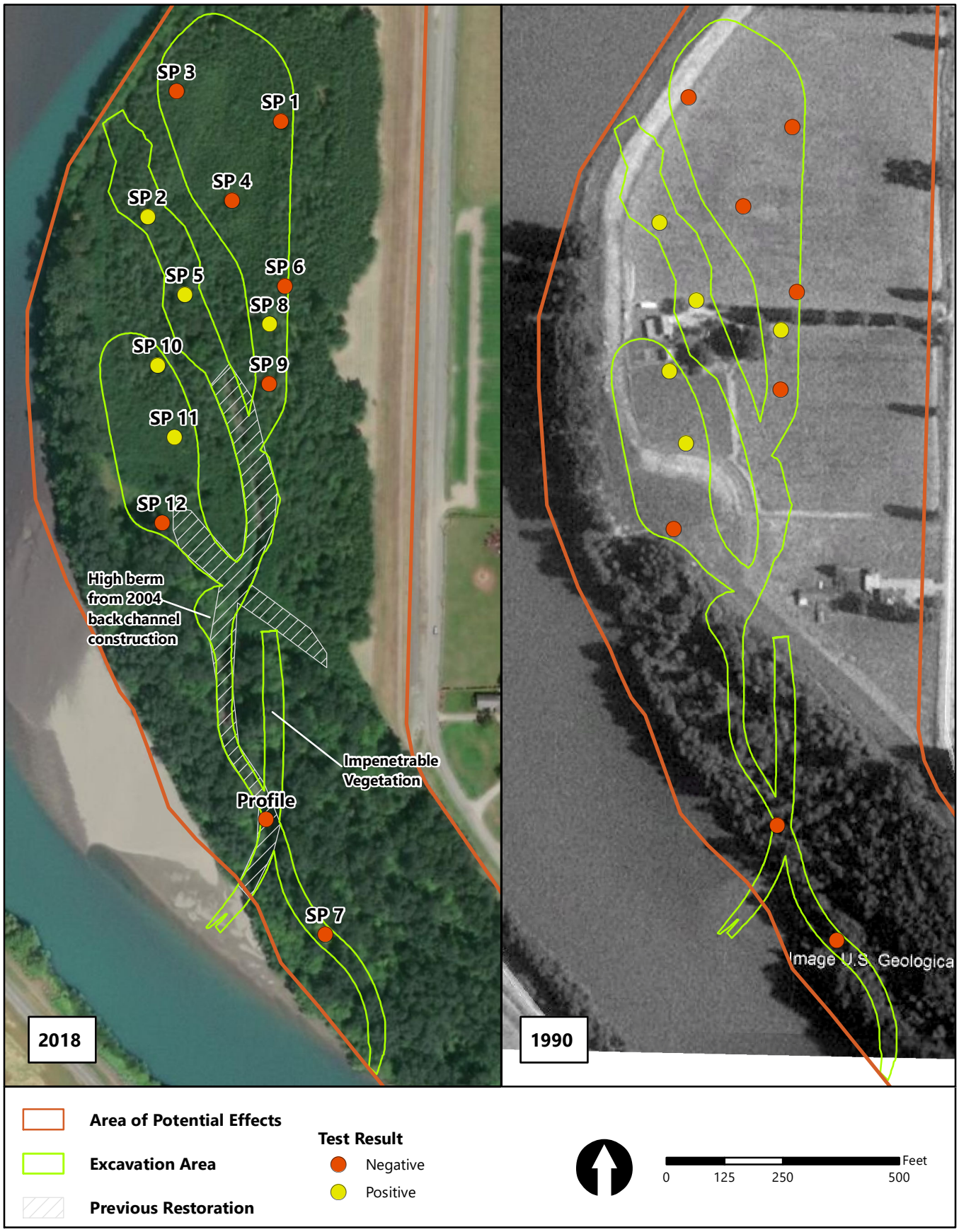

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Figure 11
Subsurface Test Results
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3.2.2 Subsurface Testing

3.2.2.1 Site 45SK126

Four shovel probes were excavated around the former structures of site 45SK126 (Anderson Farm): SP 5, SP 6, SP 8, and SP 10. Shovel probe locations and results are provided in Table 2 and shown in Figures 12 and 13. In one of the probes (SP 5), a very compact impenetrable layer was encountered at 38 centimeters below the surface (cmbs). It appeared to be a former driving or parking surface. The surface was under 12 centimeters of medium brown clayey silt with organics, and 16 centimeters of mottled medium brown sandy loam with organics and redox. These layers were present across the APE and are attributed to recent flood deposition. SP 6 contained no cultural materials. SP 5 contained one chunk of aggregate (approximately 2.5 cm at the longest dimension) at about 20 cmbs, and SP 8 contained one small piece of rusted metal (approximately 1.5 cm at the longest dimension) around 15 to 30 cmbs. SP 10 contained the most artifacts of any subsurface test (Figure 12): two wire nails (one broken), two pieces of bottle glass (one clear rim fragment, one brown body fragment), one piece of window glass, one unidentifiable piece of metal, and one piece of an unidentified composite material (appears to be a metal/textile composite like those used in automotive engine head gaskets). None of these items are diagnostic to the historic period.

Figure 12
Cultural Materials from SP 10

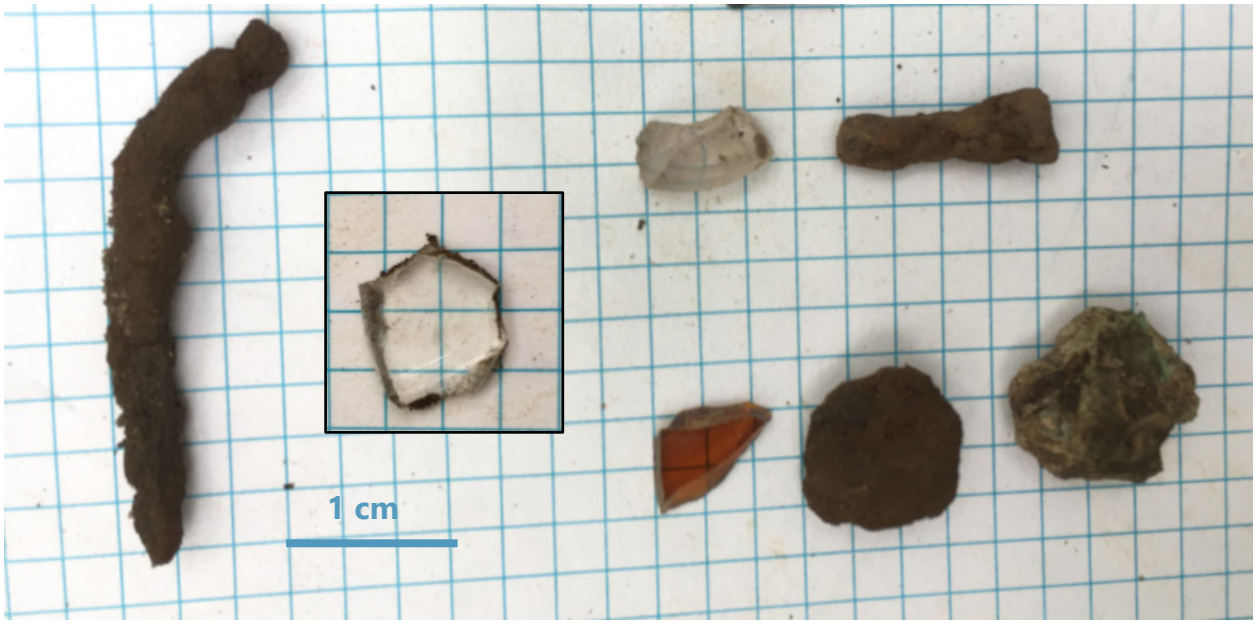

Table 2
Shovel Probe Results

SP	Depth (cmbs)	Description	Interpretation	Cultural Materials
1	0-11	Medium brown clayey silt with organics	Recent surface deposits	None
	11-98	Greyish brown well-sorted fine sandy loam with redox	Alluvial deposits, periodically flooded (hydric)	
2	0-12	Medium brown clayey silt with organics	Recent surface deposits	One small piece of rusted metal (<1 cm) around 40 to 50 cmbs
	12-41	Medium brown mottled fine sandy loam with organics and redox	Plow zone	
	41-60	Medium brown mottled fine sandy loam with redox, compact, few organics	Alluvial deposits, periodically flooded (hydric)	
	60-97	Fine greyish brown silty sand with redox	Alluvial deposits, periodically flooded (hydric)	
3	0-13	Medium brown clayey silt with organics	Recent surface deposits	None
	13-45	Medium brown mottled fine sandy loam with redox, compact, few organics	Plow zone	
	45-82	Fine greyish brown silty sand with redox	Alluvial deposits, periodically flooded (hydric)	
4	0-11	Medium brown clayey silt with organics	Recent surface deposits	None
	11-24	Medium brown mottled fine sandy loam with redox, compact, few organics	Plow zone	
	24-93	Fine greyish brown silty sand with redox	Alluvial deposits, periodically flooded (hydric)	
5*	0-11	Medium brown clayey silt with organics	Recent surface deposits	One chunk of aggregate (~2.5 cm) at about 20 cmbs
	11-38	Medium brown mottled fine sandy loam with redox, compact, few organics. Very compact layer directly underneath.	Disturbed sediments	
6*	0-12	Medium brown clayey silt with organics	Recent surface deposits	None
	12-37	Medium brown mottled fine sandy loam with redox, compact, few organics	Plow zone	
	37-98	Fine greyish brown silty sand with redox	Alluvial deposits, periodically flooded (hydric)	
7	0-101	Fine, well-sorted greyish brown sand, loose	Alluvial deposit	None

SP	Depth (cmbs)	Description	Interpretation	Cultural Materials
8*	0-13	Medium brown clayey silt with organics	Recent surface deposits	One small piece of rusted metal (~1.5 cm) around 15 to 30 cmbs
	13-45	Medium brown mottled fine sandy loam with redox, compact, few organics	Plow zone	
	45-59	Fine, well-sorted greyish brown sand, loose	Alluvial deposit	
	59-96	Fine greyish brown silty sand with redox	Alluvial deposits, periodically flooded (hydric)	
9	0-11	Medium brown clayey silt with organics	Recent surface deposits	None
	11-38	Medium brown mottled fine sandy loam with redox, compact, few organics. Very compact layer directly underneath.	Disturbed sediments	
10*	0-6	Medium brown clayey silt with organics	Recent surface deposits	10 to 51 cmbs: One piece of clear window glass, one fragment of a clear glass bottle rim, one fragment of brown bottle glass, one partial metal nail, one fragment of metal, one fragment of unidentified composite material (textile/metal/ rubber). All ~ 1cm or less. 51 to 70 cmbs: one metal wire nail
	6-51	Medium brown mottled fine sandy loam with redox, compact, few organics	Plow zone	
	51-70	Fine, well-sorted greyish brown sand, loose	Alluvial deposit	
	70-101	Fine greyish brown silty sand with redox	Alluvial deposits, periodically flooded (hydric)	
11	0-8	Medium brown clayey silt with organics	Recent surface deposits	One small piece of rusted metal (<1 cm) at around 35 cmbs
	8-32	Medium brown mottled fine sandy loam with redox, compact, few organics	Plow zone	
	32-98	Fine, well-sorted greyish brown sand, loose	Alluvial deposit	
12	0-35	Medium brown mottled fine sandy loam with redox, compact, few organics	Plow zone	None
	35-100	Fine greyish brown silty sand with redox	Alluvial deposits, periodically flooded (hydric)	
Profile	0-116	Fine, well-sorted greyish brown sand, loose. Pockets of very fine sand with redox, one pocket of clay loam. Very wet at base.	Alluvial deposit	None

* Farmstead area shovel probe

In general, it appears that the structures on the Anderson farm property were completely removed except for the shed. Removal appears to have been very thorough, possibly to avoid items making their way into the river during flooding. It is also possible that surface sediments were used to top the new levee constructed near Dike Road. In any case, there is very little left on the surface or subsurface to indicate that the farmstead was ever there.

3.2.2.2 Remainder of the APE

Eight shovel probes were excavated and one profile area was cleared in the remainder of the APE (Table 2 and Figures 11 and 13).

The eight remaining probes fall into two categories (with two exceptions). The first consists of those that are entirely loose sand or silty sand. These include SP 7 and the profile location (Figure 14). Both are in the part of the APE that was outside the original 1897 levee (see Figure 3 for the 1897 levee location). This area has been repeatedly exposed to flooding and is probably similar in depositional context to the sandbar that can be seen on aerial photos. These two tests demonstrate that there is little archaeological potential in the area outside the 1897 levee.

The second category is probes that revealed a thin surface layer with organic debris, over disturbed sediments, over apparently intact alluvial deposits. These include SP 2, SP 3, SP 4, SP 11, and SP 12 (farmstead tests SP 8 and SP 10 have similar stratigraphy). The intact alluvial deposits sometimes exhibited weak stratification but were generally fairly homogeneous. All are hydric soils, indicating that they are periodically saturated. This appears to be native alluvial sediments, with the upper 35 to 50 centimeters disturbed by agricultural activity.

The exceptions are SP 1 and SP 9. SP 1 is similar to the second category but missing the plow zone. A thin (8- to 11-cm thick) surface layer overlies the apparently intact alluvial deposits. This location was a maintained field in aerial photos until the conversion of the property to habitat, so a plow zone would be expected. It is the closest test to the new levee and, therefore, it is possible that the upper 35 to 50 centimeters were removed during construction. SP 9 had the same stratigraphy as SP 5 at the farmstead: a very compact impenetrable layer at 38 centimeters cmbs. This area was also a plowed field prior to conversion. It is possible that this area was used for construction staging or stockpiling during construction of the new levee or removal of the farm structures.

No evidence of precontact stable surfaces or paleosols was observed in any of the shovel probes. No precontact artifacts were discovered. Given that the property is low-lying and frequently flooded (pre-1897 levee), the potential for intact significant archaeological materials is low. Excavation anywhere on the property is unlikely to encounter archaeological materials.

Figure 13
Shovel Probe Stratigraphy

Top left: SP 12 – typical stratigraphy. Top right: SP 5 – impenetrable surface encountered.
Bottom left: SP 7 – loose sand throughout. Bottom right: SP 1 – plow zone removed.

Figure 14
Profile at Existing Back Channel, Facing West

3.3 Recommendations

Site 45SK126 has not previously been evaluated for NRHP-eligibility; the recorder implied that subsurface features associated with the Anderson family might be historically significant. The standing structures are gone, except for the shed. Given that the property has not been owned by the Anderson family since at least 1986, it is unlikely that the shed is associated with their tenure. It is an expedient outbuilding in poor condition and unlikely to be of historic age. It is not likely associated with site 45SK126, and is not likely to be a potential historic property individually.

Debris on the surface (and subsurface in shovel probes) is either conclusively modern, or non-diagnostic. No discernible features that could be historic or associated with the Anderson family were identified during the survey. It is possible that a small, subsurface feature such as a privy or a buried refuse deposit is present somewhere near the farmstead. Given the small portion of the APE that passes through the farmstead structures area, it is unlikely that construction would disturb intact, significant components of site 45SK126 (if any such components exist). However, an inadvertent discovery plan (IDP) should be prepared for use during construction.

Changes to the project as the design advances (such as adjustments to the location and extent of the excavation area) are unlikely to result in potential effects to archaeological resources because the archaeological potential of the landform is low.

It is recommended that USACE determine that the Project will have **no adverse effects on historic properties**. It is further recommended that an IDP be developed.

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Attachment 1
Photographs

Photograph 1
Overview of north portion of property, facing northwest from top of new levee.

Photograph 2
Former farmstead driveway, facing west.

Photograph 3
Former farmstead driveway, facing northwest. Political sign, shed, and garden cart circled.

Photograph 4
Plastic barrel found during pedestrian survey. Marking detail, top left.

Photograph 5
Evidence of recent high velocity flooding, facing west.

Photograph 6
Upper portion of back channel constructed in 2004, facing northeast.

Photograph 7
Lower portion of back channel constructed in 2004, just upstream of profile location.

Photograph 8
Profile in progress, showing location in relation to back channel.

Photograph 9
Closeup of typical sediments interpreted as intact alluvium (medium brown mottled fine sandy loam with redox, compact, few organics).