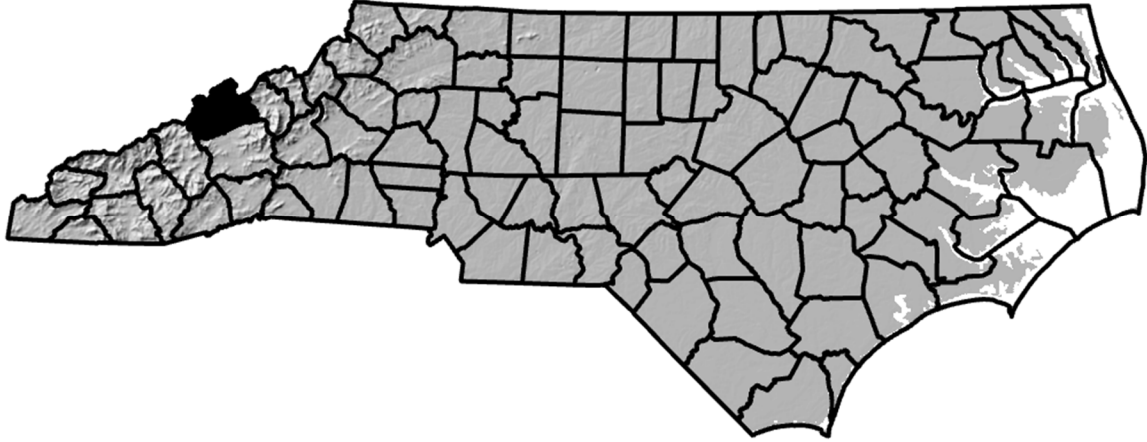


ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025



**Middle Fork California Creek Site I Mitigation Site
Madison County
TIP No. R-2518A
COE Action ID: SAW-2007-2197-357/300
DWR #: 20071134**



Prepared By:
Environmental Analysis Unit & Roadside Environmental Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
December 2025

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SUMMARY

The following report summarizes the stream monitoring activities that have occurred during 2025 at the Middle Fork California Creek Site I Mitigation Site in Madison County. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) originally completed this project in October 2008. During this initial monitoring phase NCDOT attempted multiple remedial corrections to improve channel stability with varying levels of success. In 2022 NCDOT completed a final remediation effort at the site. This report provides the monitoring results for the third formal year of monitoring after remediation was completed. The Year 2025 monitoring period is the third of five scheduled years of monitoring on Site I (See Success Criteria Section 2.1).

Based on the overall conclusions of monitoring at Site I, it has met the required stream and vegetation monitoring protocols for the third formal year of monitoring. NCDOT will continue stream and vegetation monitoring at the Middle Fork California Creek Site I Mitigation Site in 2026.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

The following report summarizes the stream monitoring activities that have occurred during 2025 at Site I. Site I is located on US 19 in Madison County at Sta. 51+70 to 53+90 -L- Lt. (Figure 1). Site I was constructed to provide mitigation for stream impacts associated with Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) number R-2518A in Madison County.

The mitigation site was originally built to provide approximately 787 linear feet of stream relocation/restoration. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) originally completed this project in October 2008. The first year of monitoring was delayed until 2010 due to implementation of corrective measures made following initial construction. In the final (7th) year of the original monitoring period (2016) sections of the site became highly unstable. A remediation effort was undertaken in 2018 to stabilize the sections of the streambanks with rock toe protection and grading. This intermediate remediation effort was not successful due to continued areas of instability throughout the stream reach caused by multiple heavy rainfall events immediately following repairs.

NCDOT reevaluated the design and developed a new remediation plan in 2021. Construction of this remediation plan was completed in November 2022. The 2022 remediation effort involved reducing channel sinuosity in a couple of sections of the stream, installing rock cross vanes and rock & roll riffle structures along 575 linear feet of the channel and replanting the riparian buffer zone. This remediation effort is noted as a 'restart' in the project history in section 1.3.

1.2 Purpose

In order for a mitigation site to be considered successful, the site must meet the success criteria. This report details the monitoring in 2025 at the Site I mitigation site. Hydrologic monitoring was not required for this site.

1.3 Project History

| | |
|----------------|---|
| October 2008 | Construction Completed (Sta. 10+00 to 12+00) |
| March 2009 | Site Planted (Type I only) |
| June 2009 | Water Turned Into Stream (Sta. 10+00 to 12+00) |
| October 2009 | As-Built Survey Completed (Sta. 10+00 to 12+00) |
| November 2010 | Stream Channel Monitoring (Year 1) |
| May 2011 | Construction Completed (Sta. 12+00 to 12+40) |
| October 2011 | Stream Repairs by Main. Forces (Boulder Toe Wall) |
| November 2011 | As-Built Survey Completed (Sta. 12+00 to 12+40) |
| November 2011 | Stream Channel Monitoring (Year 2) |
| March 2012 | Site Planted (Type I and II) |
| September 2012 | Vegetation Monitoring (Year 1) |

| | |
|----------------|--|
| November 2012 | Stream Channel Monitoring (Year 3) |
| March 2013 | Bankfull Monitoring Gauge Installed |
| August 2013 | Vegetation Monitoring (Year 2) |
| November 2013 | Stream Channel Monitoring (Year 4) |
| April 2014 | Stream Remediation Completed |
| June 2014 | Herbicide Application on Japanese Knotweed |
| July 2014 | Mowed Lespedeza Along West Buffer |
| July 2014 | Herbicide Application on Japanese Knotweed |
| July 2014 | Vegetation Monitoring (Year 3) |
| August 2014 | Herbicide Application on Lespedeza Along West Buffer |
| November 2014 | Stream Channel Monitoring (Year 5) |
| March 2015 | Supplemental Planting |
| July 2015 | Vegetation Monitoring (Year 4) |
| November 2015 | Stream Channel Monitoring (Year 6) |
| July 2016 | Vegetation Monitoring (Year 5) |
| November 2016 | Stream Channel Monitoring (Year 7) |
| October 2019 | Stream Repairs by Maintenance Forces |
| November 2022 | Remediation Construction Completed |
| March 2023 | Site Planted (Restart) |
| July 2023 | Vegetation Monitoring (Year 1 Restart) |
| November 2023 | Stream Channel Monitoring (Year 1 Restart) |
| August 2024 | Vegetation Monitoring (Year 2) |
| February 2024 | Supplemental Planting |
| December 2024 | Stream Channel Monitoring (Year 2) |
| September 2025 | Vegetation Monitoring (Year 3) |
| November 2025 | Stream Channel Monitoring (Year 3) |

1.4 Debit Ledger

The entire Middle Fork California Creek Site I stream mitigation site was used at a 1:1 ratio for the R-2518A project to compensate for unavoidable stream impacts.



Figure 1. Vicinity Map

2.0 STREAM ASSESSMENT

2.1 Success Criteria

The permittee shall monitor the restoration and enhancement mitigation sites following the Level 1 protocols outlined in the “Stream Mitigation Guidelines,” dated April 2003 with the following exceptions:

1. Pebble counts shall not be conducted.
2. Two cross sections shall be conducted for streams less than 500 linear feet and five (5) cross sections shall be conducted for streams greater than 500 linear feet.
3. Riparian success shall be by visual inspection of plant survival. Photos will be taken, and comments noted on plant survival.

The permittee shall monitor the preservation sites by visual inspection. Photos will be taken, and comments noted on plant survival. The monitoring shall be conducted annually for a minimum of five (5) years after final planting. The monitoring results shall be submitted to DWR in a final report within sixty (60) days after completing monitoring. After 5 years the NCDOT shall contact the DWR to schedule a site visit to “close out” the mitigation site.

2.2 Stream Description

2.2.1 Post-Construction Conditions

The original stream relocation of the Site I mitigation site involved excavation of a new floodplain and channel, installing several in-stream cross vane structures and planting the riparian buffer zone. The 2022 site remediation included straightening of some meander bends in the upper and lower reaches, installation of rock & roll riffle structures, rock cross vane structures and pools.

2.2.2 Monitoring Conditions

The objective of the Site I stream restoration/relocation was to restore a C3 stream as identified in Rosgen’s Applied River Morphology. A total of five cross sections (three in a riffle and two in a pool) were surveyed. For this report, only cross sections containing riffles were used in the comparison of channel morphology presented below in Table 1 (Site I).

Table 1: Morphological Summary Table

| Variable | Proposed | As-Built Average | Cross-Section #1 | Cross-Section #4 | Cross-Section #5 | Average |
|--|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| Drainage Area (mi ²) | 7.08 | | | | | |
| Width of the Floodprone Area (ft.) | 60.0 | 56.3 | 62.8 | 60.0 | 50.0 | 57.6 |
| Bankfull Width (ft.) | 28.2 | 21.2 | 20.9 | 19.9 | 19.0 | 19.9 |
| Entrenchment Ratio | 2.2 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 2.9 |
| Bankfull Mean Depth (ft.) | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft.) | 2.2 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Width/Depth Ratio | 29.4 | 15.7 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 13.5 | 15.6 |
| Bankfull Cross Sectional Area (ft ²) | 47.0 | 30.7 | 26.3 | 24.0 | 26.5 | 25.6 |

* Riffle values are used for classification purposes, pool values are shown in Appendix A.

2.3 Results of the Stream Assessment

2.3.1 Site Data

The assessment included the survey of five cross sections and the longitudinal profile of Site I established by NCDOT after remediation of the site. The length of the profile along Site I was approximately 650 linear feet. Five cross sections were established during the as-built monitoring year. Cross section locations were subsequently based on the stationing of the longitudinal profile and are presented below. The location of the cross sections and longitudinal profile are shown in Appendix A.

Middle Fork California Creek Site I Cross-Sections:

- ◆ Cross-Section #1: Middle Fork California Creek Site I, Station 1+44.00, midpoint of riffle
- ◆ Cross-Section #2: Middle Fork California Creek Site I, Station 1+90.50, midpoint of pool
- ◆ Cross-Section #3: Middle Fork California Creek Site I, Station 2+90.00, midpoint of pool
- ◆ Cross-Section #4: Middle Fork California Creek Site I, Station 3+23.00, midpoint of riffle
- ◆ Cross-Section #5: Middle Fork California Creek Site I, Station 4+56.00, midpoint of riffle

Based on comparisons of the Remediation As-Built and prior years monitoring data to the Year 3 monitoring data, all cross sections appear stable. The riffle sections demonstrate morphological characteristics of a C3 type stream according to Rosgen's Stream Classification method. Graphs and morphological data of the cross sections are presented in Appendix A. Future survey data will vary depending on the actual location of rod placement and alignment; however, this information should remain similar in appearance. The longitudinal profile showed that the channel bed was stable for the 2025 monitoring evaluation. An area of instability noted during the 2024 monitoring period along the right bank downstream of cross section #5 has stabilized and is now well vegetated (see photo in Appendix B). Hydrologic monitoring was not required per the permit conditions. There was evidence of at least one bankfull event having occurred during the 2025 monitoring year by presence of matted vegetation and wrack lines. NCDOT will continue stream monitoring in 2026.

3.0 VEGETATION: MIDDLE FORK CALIFORNIA CREEK SITE I

3.1 Success Criteria

Mitigation Plan: Riparian success shall be by visual inspection of plant survival. Photos will be taken and comments noted on plant survival.

3.2 Description of Species

The following live stake species were planted in the Streambank Area (Type I):

Salix nigra, Black Willow

Cornus amomum, Silky Dogwood

The following tree species were planted in the Buffer Area (Type II):

Liriodendron tulipifera, Tulip Poplar

Platanus occidentalis, American Sycamore

Quercus rubra, Northern Red Oak

Quercus alba, White Oak

Quercus phellos, Willow Oak

Juglans nigra, Black Walnut

Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Green Ash

Betula nigra, River Birch

Prunus serotina, Black Cherry

3.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring

Streambank & Buffer Vegetation: Year 3 visual inspection noted Black Willow and Silky Dogwood surviving along the streambank. Sycamore, Tulip Poplar, White Oak, Green Ash, Black Walnut, Black Cherry, and Willow Oak were observed surviving within the buffer. A small area of Japanese Knotweed was noted within the site. Herbicide application to the Japanese Knotweed did not take place in 2025 visit due to rain at the time of the evaluation. Some illegal cutting of a few mature Sycamore trees was noted within the right buffer looking downstream along Shake Rag Road. Division 13 Roadside along with the Madison County Sheriff's Office has been notified and is currently investigating this illegal cutting. See Appendix B (Photos) and Appendix D (Illegal Cutting of Vegetation Documentation).

3.4 Conclusions

NCDOT plans to treat the Japanese Knotweed and will continue to monitor the planted vegetation in 2026 at Middle Fork Creek Site I.

4.0 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The Middle Fork California Creek Site I Mitigation Site has met the required monitoring protocols for the third formal year of monitoring following the latest remediation effort on the stream and planted vegetation.

NCDOT proposes to continue stream and vegetation monitoring at the site in 2026.

5.0 REFERENCES

Stream Mitigation Plan, US Highway 19, R-2518A On-Site Mitigation
Madison County, North Carolina, August 2006.

Design Plans for R-2518A, US 19 from I-26 to 0.8 KM east of the Yancey Co.
Line, Stream Mitigation (Preservation, Enhancement, and Restoration),
HSMM.

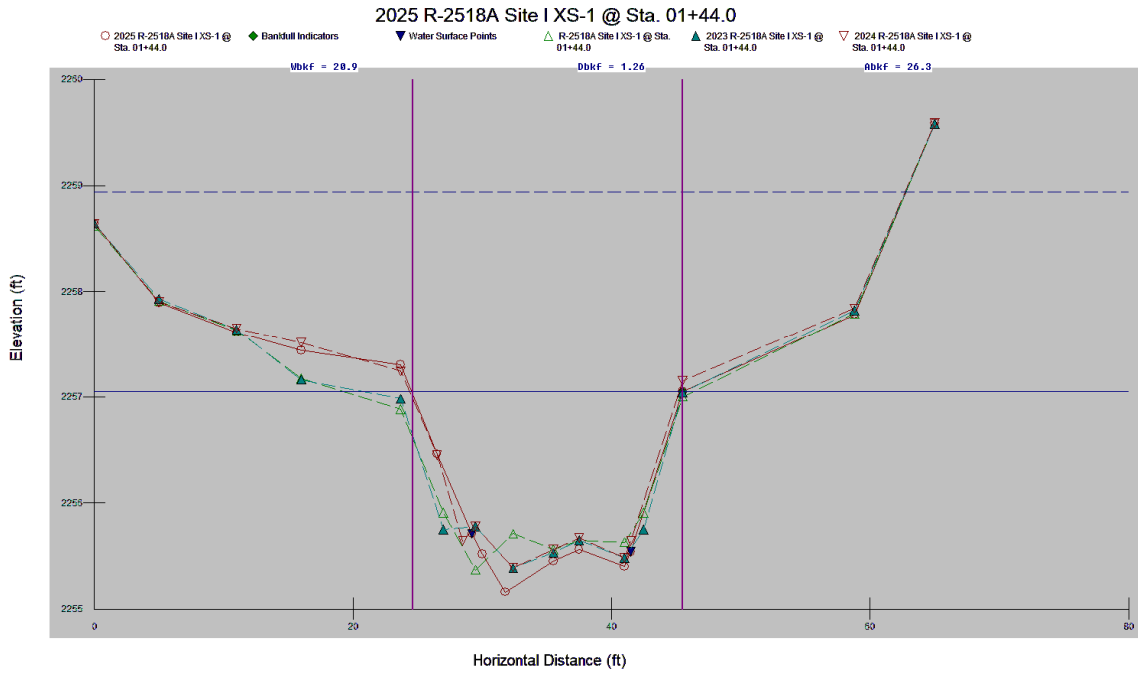
North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), April 29, 2008. 404 and
401 Individual Permits for R-2518A and R-2518B (ACOE Permit No. 2007-
2197-357/300 and DWR Project No. 20071134, Individual Certification No.
3706).

Rosgen, D.L, 1996. Applied River Morphology. Wildland Hydrology, Pagosa
Springs, Colorado.

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 2003. Stream Mitigation Guidelines.
Prepared with cooperation from the US Environmental Protection Agency,
NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and the NC Division of Water
Resources.

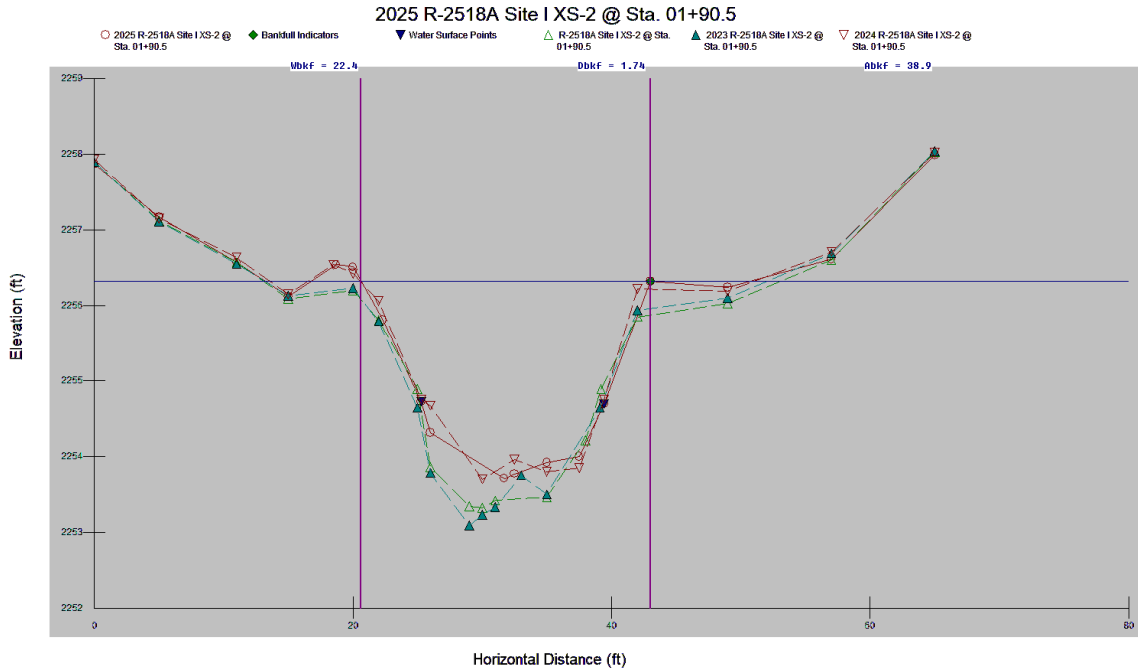
APPENDIX A

CROSS SECTIONS AND LONGITUDINAL PROFILE



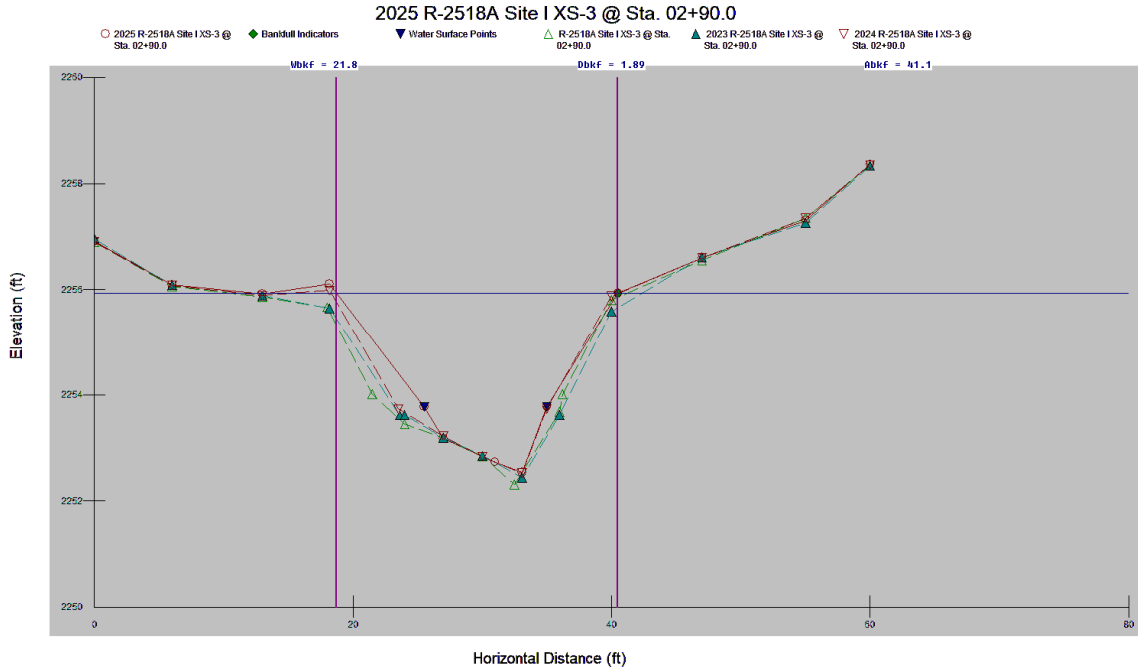
R-2518A Middle California Creek (Site I): Cross-Section #1 (Riffle) Abbreviated Morphological Summary

| Variable | As-built | MY1 (2023) | MY2 (2024) | MY3 (2025) | MY4 (2026) | MY5 (2027) |
|--|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Width of the Floodprone Area (ft) | 56.3 | 61.0 | 63.2 | 62.8 | | |
| Bankfull Width (ft) | 21.2 | 21.6 | 21.8 | 20.9 | | |
| Entrenchment Ratio | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3 | | |
| Bankfull Mean Depth (ft) | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | | |
| Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft) | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.9 | | |
| Width/Depth Ratio | 15.7 | 18.5 | 16.6 | 16.6 | | |
| Bankfull Cross Sectional Area (ft ²) | 30.7 | 25.4 | 28.6 | 26.3 | | |

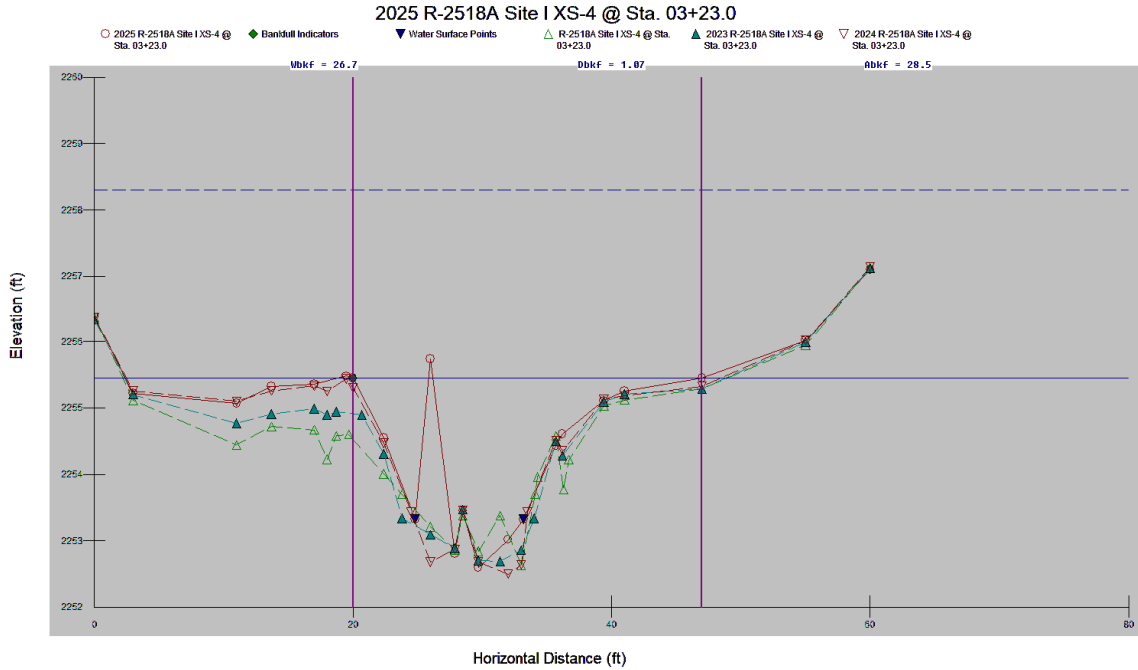


| R-2518A Middle California Creek (Site I): Cross-Section #2 (Pool) Abbreviated Morphological Summary | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Variable | As-Built | MY1 (2023) | MY2 (2024) | MY3 (2025) | MY4 (2026) | MY5 (2027) |
| Bankfull Width (ft) | 20.2 | 20.7 | 20.9 | 22.4 | | |
| Bankfull Mean Depth (ft) | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | | |
| Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft) | 2.5 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.6 | | |
| Bankfull Cross Sectional Area (ft²) | 33.3 | 35.9 | 35.3 | 38.9 | | |

*According to the Rosgen Classification of Natural Rivers floodprone width, entrenchment ratio, and width depth ratio are not measured in pool, glide, or run features.

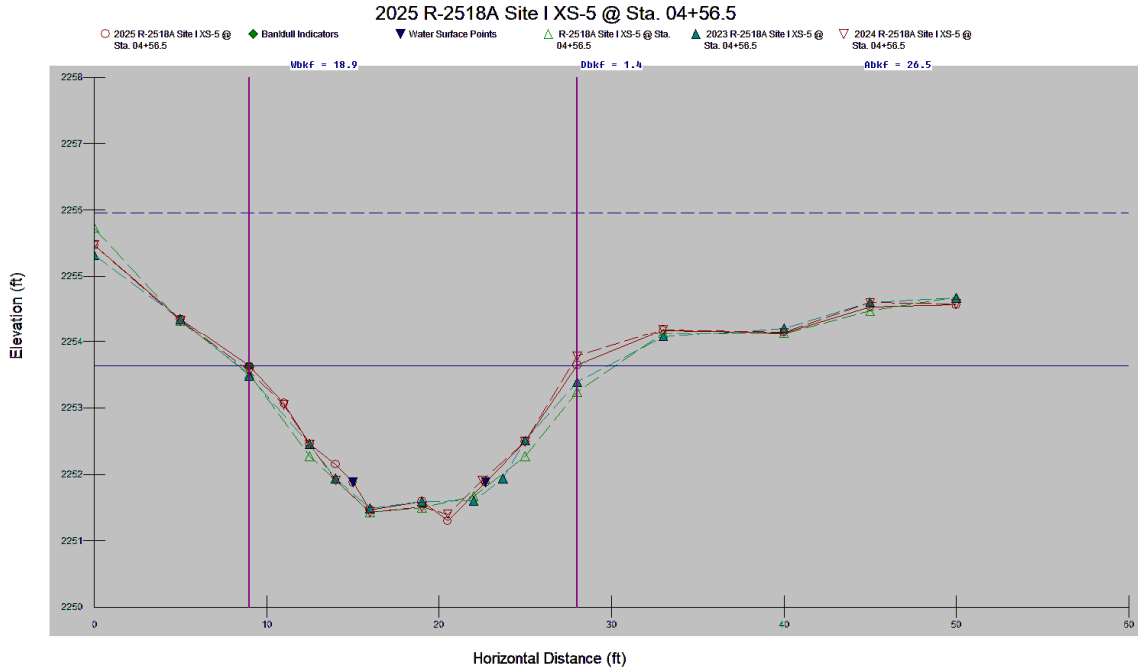


| R-2518A Middle California Creek (Site I): Cross-Section #3 (Riffle) Abbreviated Morphological Summary | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Variable | As-built | MY1 (2023) | MY2 (2024) | MY3 (2025) | MY4 (2026) | MY5 (2027) |
| Width of the Floodprone Area (ft) | 60.0 | 60.0 | 60.0 | 60.0 | | |
| Bankfull Width (ft) | 21.7 | 22.2 | 21.7 | 21.8 | | |
| Entrenchment Ratio | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.8 | | |
| Bankfull Mean Depth (ft) | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.9 | | |
| Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft) | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.4 | | |
| Width/Depth Ratio | 11.0 | 11.8 | 10.7 | 11.5 | | |
| Bankfull Cross Sectional Area (ft²) | 43.0 | 41.9 | 43.9 | 41.1 | | |



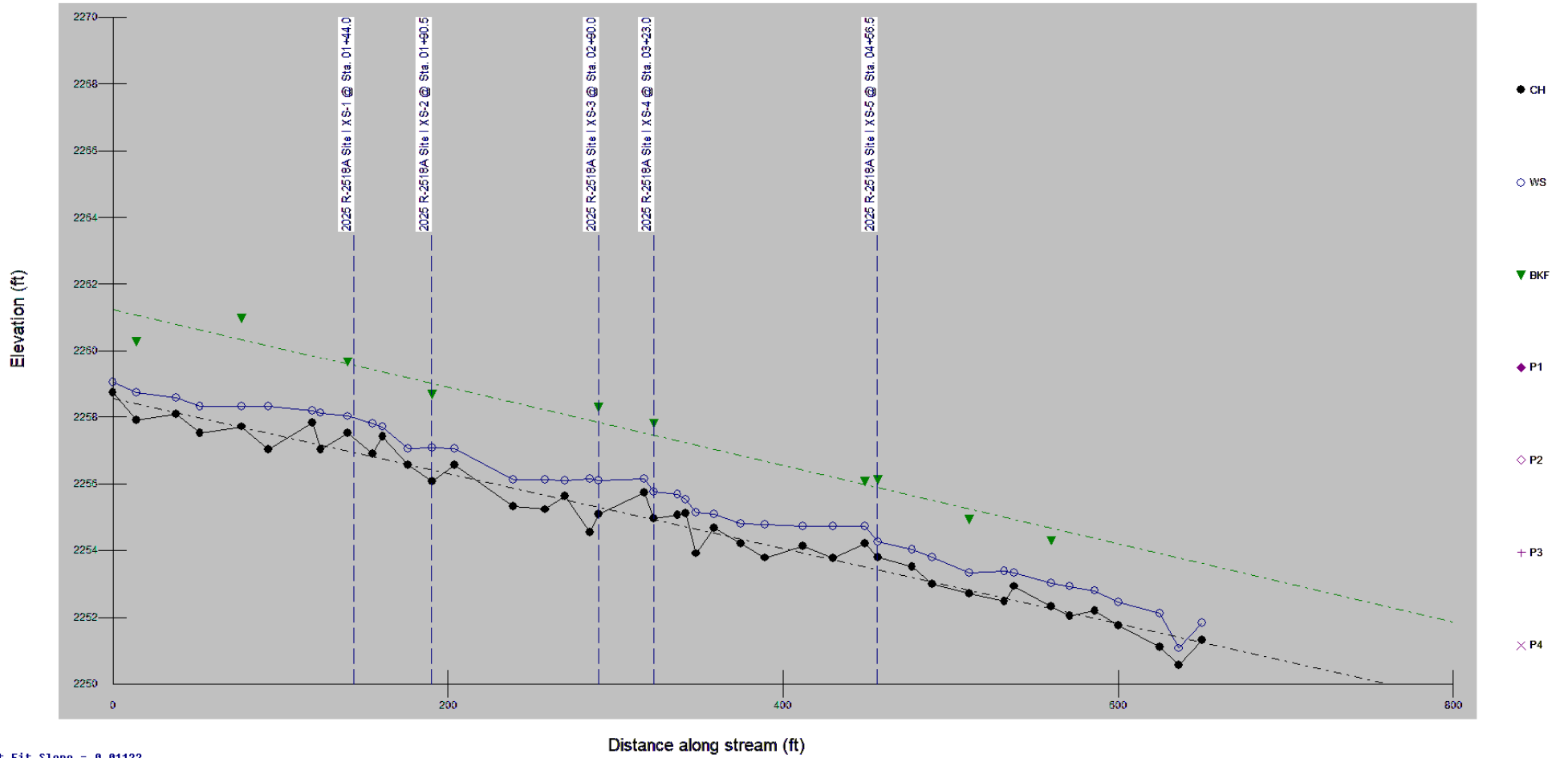
| R-2518A Middle California Creek (Site I): Cross-Section #4 (Pool) Abbreviated Morphological Summary | | | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Variable | As-Built | MY1 (2023) | MY2 (2024) | MY3 (2025) | MY4 (2026) | MY5 (2027) |
| Bankfull Width (ft) | 18.3 | 17.9 | 19.0 | 19.9 | | |
| Bankfull Mean Depth (ft) | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.2 | | |
| Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft) | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.8 | 2.7 | | |
| Bankfull Cross Sectional Area (ft ²) | 18.0 | 24.2 | 31.1 | 24 | | |

*According to the Rosgen Classification of Natural Rivers floodprone width, entrenchment ratio, and width depth ratio are not measured in pool, glide, or run features.



| R-2518A Middle California Creek (Site I): Cross-Section #5 (Riffle) Abbreviated Morphological Summary | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Variable | As-built | MY1 (2023) | MY2 (2024) | MY3 (2025) | MY4 (2026) | MY5 (2027) |
| Width of the Floodprone Area (ft) | 49.5 | 50.0 | 50.0 | 50.0 | | |
| Bankfull Width (ft) | 20.5 | 19.7 | 18.5 | 19.0 | | |
| Entrenchment Ratio | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.6 | | |
| Bankfull Mean Depth (ft) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | | |
| Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft) | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.3 | | |
| Width/Depth Ratio | 15.6 | 15.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | | |
| Bankfull Cross Sectional Area (ft²) | 27.0 | 24.9 | 25.4 | 26.5 | | |

2025 R-2518A Site I Profile



CH Best Fit Slope = 0.01122
 BKF Best Fit Slope = 0.01173

APPENDIX B
SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Middle Fork California Creek Site I



Photo Point #1 (Upstream)



Photo Point #1 (Downstream)



Photo Point #2 (Upstream)



Photo Point #2 (Downstream)



Photo Point #3 (Upstream)
November 2025



Photo Point #3 (Downstream)

Middle Fork California Creek Site I



Photo Point #4 (Upstream)



Photo Point #4 (Downstream)



Photo Point #5 (Upstream)



Photo Point#5 (Downstream)

November 2025

Middle Fork California Creek Site I



Minor Bank Erosion downstream of XS-5 Improved Since 2024 Monitoring

November 2025

Middle Fork California Creek Site I



PP#1 Upstream



PP#1 Downstream



PP#2 Upstream



PP#2 Downstream



PP#3 Upstream



PP#3 Downstream

September 2025

Middle Fork California Creek Site I



PP#4 Upstream



PP#4 Downstream



PP#5 Upstream



PP#5 Downstream



Buffer Overview from Shake Rag Rd.



Buffer Overview from Shake Rag Rd.

September 2025

Middle Fork California Creek Site I



Cut trees along CA fence at Shake Rag Road



Sycamore Tree #1 Cut



Sycamore Tree #2 Cut



Sycamore Tree #3 Cut



Sycamore Tree #4 Cut



Illegal Cutting of Vegetation Sign Installed

September 2025

Middle Fork California Creek Site I

APPENDIX C

AS-BUILT PLAN SHEETS

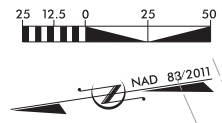
04/12/23

Kimley » Horn

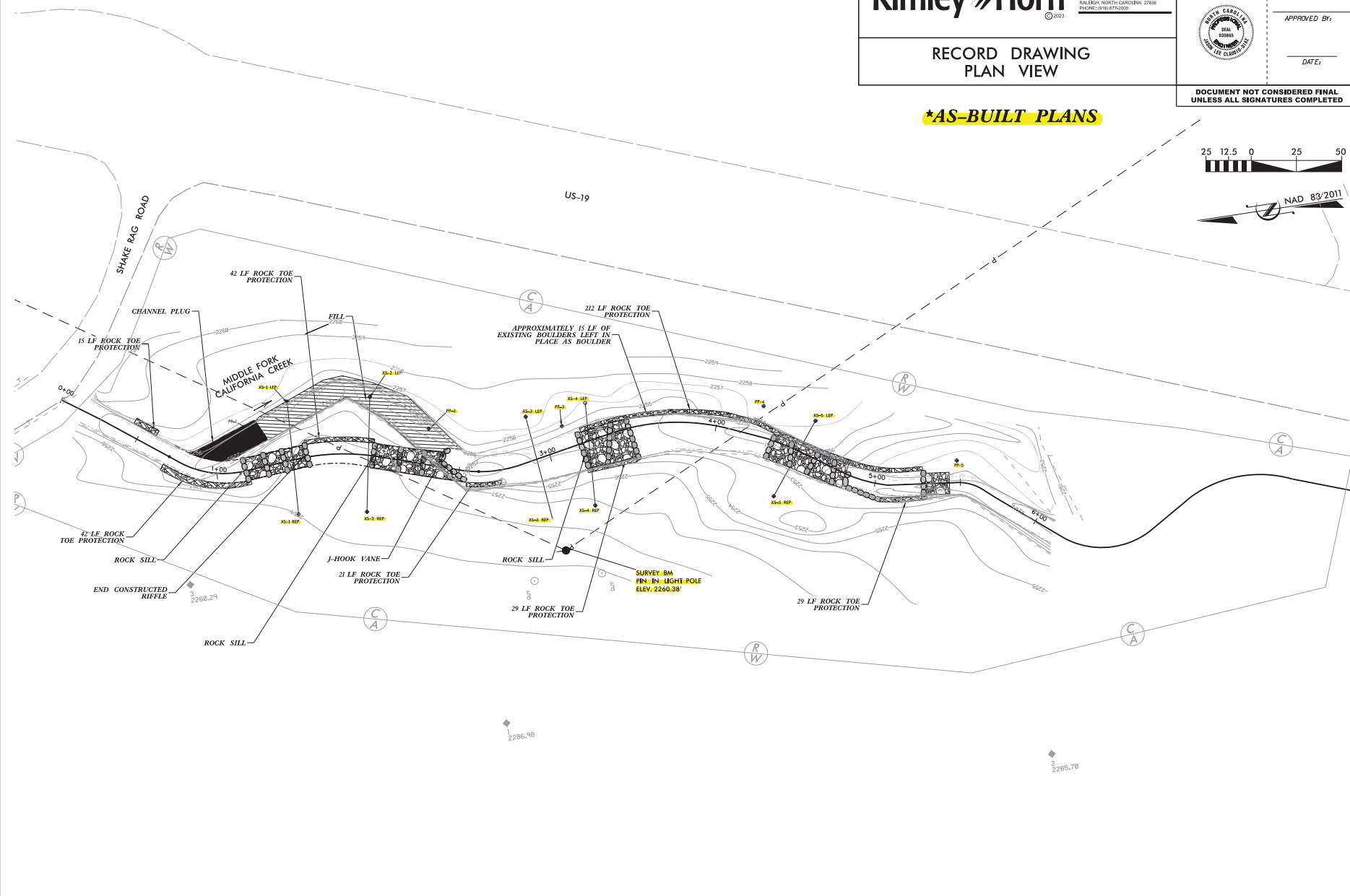
NO. LICENSE #C-0002
P.O. BOX 3308
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27636
PHONE: (919) 876-0000

RECORD DRAWING PLAN VIEW

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| PROJECT REFERENCE NO. R-2518WM | SHEET NO. OSM-4 |
| PROJECT ENGINEER | |
| APPROVED BY: | |
| DATE: | |
| DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED | |



***AS-BUILT PLANS**



04/12/23

| DESC. | STATION | ELEV. |
|----------|---------|--------|
| HR/RS | 2+35 | 2253.8 |
| TR/JHV | 2+60 | 2253.2 |
| HR/RS | 3+25 | 2253.2 |
| RS | 3+40 | 2252.8 |
| RS | 3+64 | 2252.3 |
| TR/RS | 3+75 | 2252.0 |
| HR/RS | 4+05 | 2252.0 |
| RS | 4+74 | 2251.6 |
| RS | 4+89 | 1151.1 |
| RS | 5+02 | 2250.7 |
| TR/JHV | 5+09 | 2250.4 |
| HR/RS | 5+56 | 2250.4 |
| TR/EX RS | 5+72 | 2249.7 |

HR = HEAD OF RIFFLE
 TR = TAIL OF RIFFLE
 RS = ROCK SILL
 EX RS = EXISTING ROCK SILL
 JHV = J-HOOK VANE


| DESC. | STATION | ELEV. |
|----------|---------|--------|
| HR/RS | 1+16 | 2255.5 |
| TR/RS | 1+55 | 2254.3 |
| HR/RS | 1+95 | 2254.3 |
| TR/JHV | 2+37 | 2253.2 |
| HR/RS | 3+20 | 2253.1 |
| TR/RS | 3+50 | 2252.5 |
| HR/RS | 4+36 | 2252.0 |
| TR/JHV | 4+84 | 2250.4 |
| HR/RS | 5+31 | 2250.4 |
| TR/EX RS | 5+46 | 2249.7 |

PREPARED IN THE OFFICE OF:

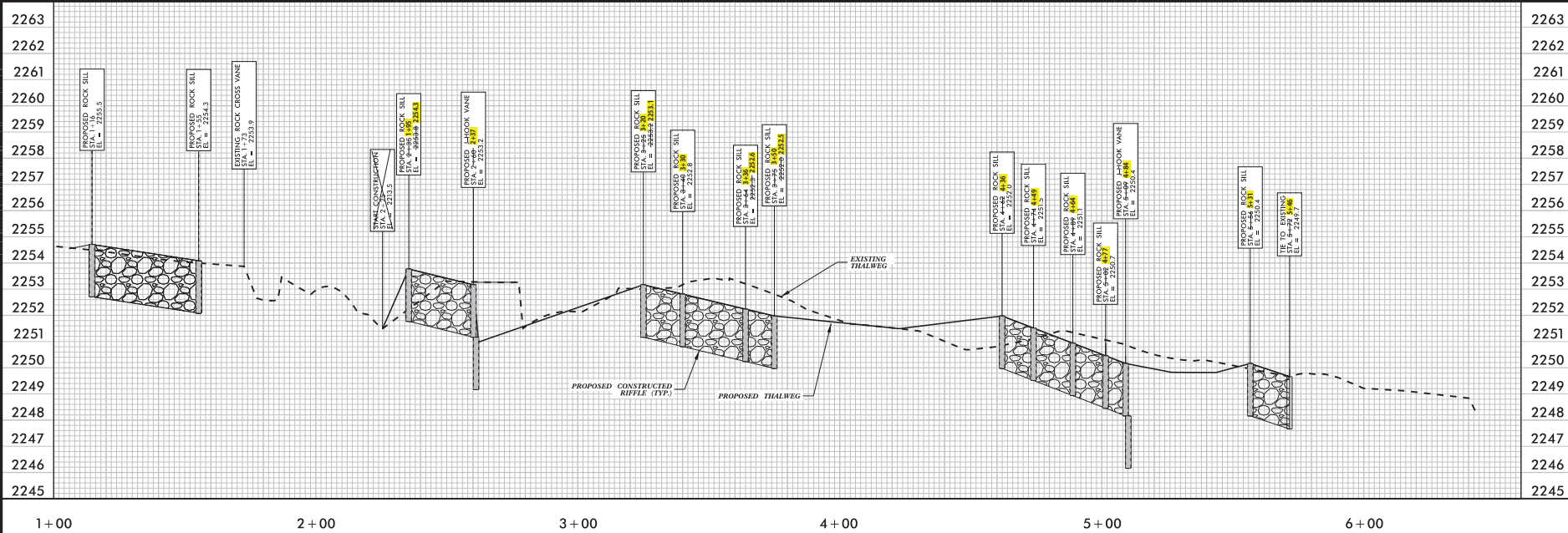
Kimley » Horn

NO. LICENSE #P-002
 200 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 300
 CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28202
 PHONE: (704) 334-0151



PROFILE

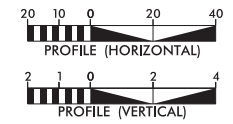
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| PROJECT ENGINEER | |
| APPROVED BY: | |
| DATE: | |
|  | |
| DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED | |

***AS-BUILT PLANS**



LEGEND

- EXISTING GROUND ELEVATION - - - - -
- PROPOSED GROUND ELEVATION ————
- EXISTING ROCK SILL |
- PROPOSED CONSTRUCTED RIFFLE 
- PROPOSED J-HOOK VANE 
- PROPOSED ROCK SILL |



Middle Fork California Creek Site I

Appendix D

Illegal Cutting of Vegetation Documentation

Middle Fork California Creek Site I

FORM SVR-21
May, 2014

**SITES NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO OUTDOOR ADVERTISING
INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR UNLAWFUL DESTRUCTION OF VEGETATION ON
HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY OR VIOLATION OF CONTROL OF ACCESS**

**Only use this form (SVR-21) for vegetation destruction NOT directly related to outdoor advertising (ODA).
Use a different form (Form OA-21) for sites directly related to ODA signs. Attach a continuation sheet, if needed.*

Date incident discovered: 9/4/25 Time incident discovered: 8AM

Persons who observed violation (eye-witness(es)) and contact information: Matthew Green
m1green@ndot.gov.

Brief description of incident Four sycamore trees cut at mitigation site.

Location (City, County, Route, Mile Marker): Madison County, Mars Hill, Shake Rag rd.

Is there an ODA sign located nearby the incident? NO If so, measured distance (ft.) along EOP? _____

If yes, ODA Permit # and Sign Owner : _____

Type of vehicle(s) and equipment used: N/A

State(s) & License Plate #(s): N/A

List all persons involved in the incident and their connection to the adjacent property (business facility or other entity):

| Name: | Driv. License#/ State: | Address: | Phone#: | Connection to adjacent property / entity: |
|-------|------------------------|----------|---------|---|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Does party have a valid SVR permit for the site? NO

What are/ were the violators doing? _____

Who and / or what company are they working for? N/A

What were the instructions given to the violators (by supervisor or person who sent them)?
N/A

In the case of unlawful destruction of vegetation on highway R/W:
Type of vegetation: Trees

Size, type, and number of trees cut and/or damaged by herbicides or other substances (or attach inventory list as needed, with total tree loss value included) : Tree inventory form attached.

If significant areas of damaged brush &/or trees less than 4" diameter, describe the area: _____
----- (and include square footage of these affected area(s)):

•(If possible, photographs should be taken of the site/ damages and included with this report).

Remarks (attach additional remarks if needed): Violators were not seen. Trees were cut between December 2024 and September 2025.

Report completed by: Ronald Edwards Date: 9/25/25
Title: Engineering Tech II

Note: Request law enforcement to review site and provide written report. (G.S. references attached to this form). Include law enforcement report with this investigation report.

CC: Division Engineer, District Engineer, REU, SMO

Middle Fork California Creek Site I

Tree Inventory Form

Date: 9/17/25

Permit #: _____

| Tree # | Species | Caliper Inches | Zone | Comments |
|--------|----------|----------------|------|----------|
| 1 | Sycamore | 5.5' | | |
| 2 | Sycamore | 14' | | |
| 3 | Sycamore | 15' | | |
| 4 | Sycamore | 14.5' | | |
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Page 1 of 1

Total Caliper Inches for Site: 49"

Prepared By: Ronald Edwards

Middle Fork California Creek Site I



STATE PROPERTY INCIDENT REPORT

For use by state department head to report to the Director of the State Bureau of Investigation information or evidence of an attempted arson, arson, damage to, theft from, or theft of, or embezzlement from, or misuse of any State owned personal property, buildings or other real property. Send report to: Assistant Director, Professional Standards Division, NC State Bureau of Investigation, P.O. Box 29500, Raleigh, NC 27626-0500.

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| DEPARTMENT: <i>Roadside Environmental</i> | |
| DIVISION, INSTITUTION OR AGENCY: <i>13, NCDOT</i> | |
| ADDRESS: <i>1405 River side dr Asheville NC, 28804</i> | TELEPHONE: <i>828-920-6700</i> |
| EMPLOYEE REPORTING INCIDENT: <i>Ronald Edwards</i> | |
| TYPE INCIDENT: ARSON <input type="checkbox"/> DAMAGE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EMBEZZLEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> THEFT <input type="checkbox"/> MISUSE <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| PROPERTY INVOLVED: <i>Vegetation</i> | |
| DATE OF INCIDENT: | TIME OF INCIDENT: |
| COUNTY AND CITY: <i>Madison, Mars Hill</i> | |
| IF REPORTED TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT, PROVIDE AGENCY NAME AND ATTACH POLICE INCIDENT REPORT <i>Madison County Sheriffs Department</i> | |
| IF NOT REPORTED, WHY NOT: MONEY/PROPERTY RECOVERED <input type="checkbox"/> ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TAKEN <input type="checkbox"/> NOT A CRIME <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: <i>Four large sycamore trees were cut down at an NCDOT owned mitigation site on Shake Rog rd. Our office was notified of the illegal cut by Matt Green.</i> | |
| LIST STOLEN OR DAMAGED ITEMS AND VALUE ON REVERSE SIDE | |
| SUSPECT(S): EMPLOYEE <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRACT WORKER <input type="checkbox"/> NON-EMPLOYEE <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| DEPARTMENT HEAD/DESIGNEE: (Signature & Title) | DATE: |
| ADDRESS: | |

Middle Fork California Creek Site I

STOLEN OR DAMAGED PROPERTY

| Qty | Item | Fas # | Serial # | Model | Value | Recovered |
|-------------|---------------|-------|----------|-------|----------------------|-----------|
| 49" | Sycamore Tree | | | | 7,350. ⁰⁰ | |
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| TOTAL VALUE | | | | | | |

Recovery Key
R -Recovered; D -Destroyed; U -Unrecoverable; NA -Not Applicable

| | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| FOR SBI USE ONLY | | Reference Number: _____ |
| SBI FILE NUMBER: _____ | | REPORT RECEIVED: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ASSIGNED TO _____ DISTRICT FOR INVESTIGATION AND/OR APPROPRIATE ACTION. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FILED - INVESTIGATION HANDLED BY LOCAL DEPARTMENT | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ | | |
| ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: _____ | | DATE: _____ |

Middle Fork California Creek Site I

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|---------------|
| INCIDENT DATA | Agency Name Madison County Sheriff's Office | | INCIDENT/INVESTIGATION REPORT | | | | Incident Number 2025-0414 | | |
| | ORI NC0580000 | | | | | | Date / Time Reported <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> T <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> S Month Day Yr Time 09 25 2025 13:30 Hrs. | | |
| | #1 | Crime / Incident(s) 290 - Injury to trees, Crops, lands etc. of another | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete | At Found Month Day Yr Time 09 01 2025 12:00 Hrs. | <input type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> S | | Last Known Secure Month Day Yr Time 12 24 2024 12:00 Hrs. | <input type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> S | |
| #2 | Crime Incident | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete | Location of Incident 20 SHAKE RAG RD, Mars Hill, NC 28754 | | | Offense Tract | | | |
| #3 | Crime Incident | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete | Location/Premise 10 - Field/Woods | | | Victim Residence Type <input type="checkbox"/> Single Family <input type="checkbox"/> Multi Family | | | |
| MO | How Attacked or Committed Did Cut trees on another property | | Method Of Entry <input type="checkbox"/> Force <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Force | | Weapon / Tools | | | | |
| | # of Victims 1 | Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Society <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> L.E. Officer Line of Duty <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Unk | Injury: <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Teeth <input type="checkbox"/> Broken Bones <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Lacerations <input type="checkbox"/> Internal <input type="checkbox"/> Unconscious <input type="checkbox"/> Other Major | | Drug/Alcohol Use: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | | | | |
| VICTIM | Victim/Business Name (Last, First, Middle) North Carolina Department of Transportation | | Victim of Crime # 1 | DOB / Age | Race | Sex | Relationship To Offender | | |
| | Home Address 405 Riverside Dr., Asheville, NC 28804 | | | | | | Resident Status <input type="checkbox"/> Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown | | |
| | Employer Name/Address | | | | | | Home Phone (828) 225-4825 | | |
| | | | | | | | Business Phone | | |
| VYR | | Make | Model | Style | Color | Lic/Lis | Vin | | |
| CODES: V = Victim (Denote V2, V3) O = Owner (if other than victim) R = Reporting Person (if other than victim) | | | | | | | | | |
| Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Society <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> L.E. Officer Line of Duty <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Unknown | | | | | | | | | |
| OTHERS INVOLVED | Code | Name (Last, First, Middle) Edwards Jr, Ronald Lee | | | Victim of Crime # | DOB / Age 07/14/1987 38 | Race W | Sex M | |
| | Home Address | | | | Home Phone | | | | |
| | Employer Name/Address | | | | Business Phone | | | | |
| | Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Society <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> L.E. Officer Line of Duty <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Unknown | | | | | | | | |
| | Code | Name (Last, First, Middle) | | | Victim of Crime # | DOB / Age | Race | Sex | |
| Home Address | | | | Home Phone | | | | | |
| Employer Name/Address | | | | Business Phone | | | | | |
| Status Codes: 1 = None 2 = Burned 3 = Counterfeit / Forged 4 = Damaged 5 = Recovered 6 = Seized 7 = Stolen 8 = Unknown (Check "OJ" column if recovered for other jurisdiction) | | | | | | | | | |
| PROPERTY | Victim # | DCI | Status | Value | OJ | QTY | Property Description | Make/Model | Serial Number |
| | 1 | 77 | 4 | 7350.00 | | 1 | 4 Sycamore Trees 49 in in diameter | | |
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| ID | Officer Name Stephen P. Carver | | ID# Unit 3 | Officer Signature | | | Supervisor Signature | | |
| STATUS | Complainant Signature | | | Case Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active <input type="checkbox"/> Closed by Arrest <input type="checkbox"/> Closed by Exception <input type="checkbox"/> Closed by Other Means | | <input type="checkbox"/> Inactive <input type="checkbox"/> Unfounded <input type="checkbox"/> Located (Missing Person and Runaways only) | | Exceptional Clearance: <input type="checkbox"/> Death of Offender <input type="checkbox"/> Prosecution Declined <input type="checkbox"/> In Custody of Other Jurisdiction <input type="checkbox"/> Victim Refuse to Cooperate | |
| | | | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile/No Custody <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | |

Middle Fork California Creek Site I



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

J.R. "JOEY" HOPKINS
SECRETARY

September 26, 2025

Ronnie and Clara Ray
2851 US 19 Hwy.
Mars Hill, NC 28754

Subject: Unauthorized Removal of Trees from NCDOT Mitigation Site along US Highway 19
and Shake Rag Road (SR 1517)

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ray,

On September 4, 2025, the North Carolina Department of Transportation discovered that trees had been cut down from the subject location, which is adjacent to your property. The Department subsequently reviewed and photographed the site on September 17, 2025, which revealed 4 sycamore trees had been cut down from within the mitigation site boundary.

N.C. General Statutes § 14-128 and § 136-93 make it unlawful to remove trees from the right-of-way of any State highway without permission from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. According to our records, no permission from the Department has been granted for tree cutting at this location.

Upon request, the Madison County Sheriff's Office has begun an investigation of this unauthorized tree cutting. Also, a sign has been posted at the site to seek information from the public regarding this incident.

This letter is intended to notify you of the incident described and to request that you contact me to discuss the matter further. I can be reached at 828-920-6700.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Wait".

Jeffrey L. Wait
Division Roadside Environmental Engineer

cc: Scott Killough, Division Maintenance Engineer
Jason Elliott, Environmental Analysis Unit
Matt Green, Roadside Environmental Unit

NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION 13
ROADSIDE ENVIRONMENTAL UNIT

Telephone: 828-920-6700
Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968

LOCATION AND MAILING:
1405 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
ASHEVILLE, NC 28804

Website: www.ncdot.gov