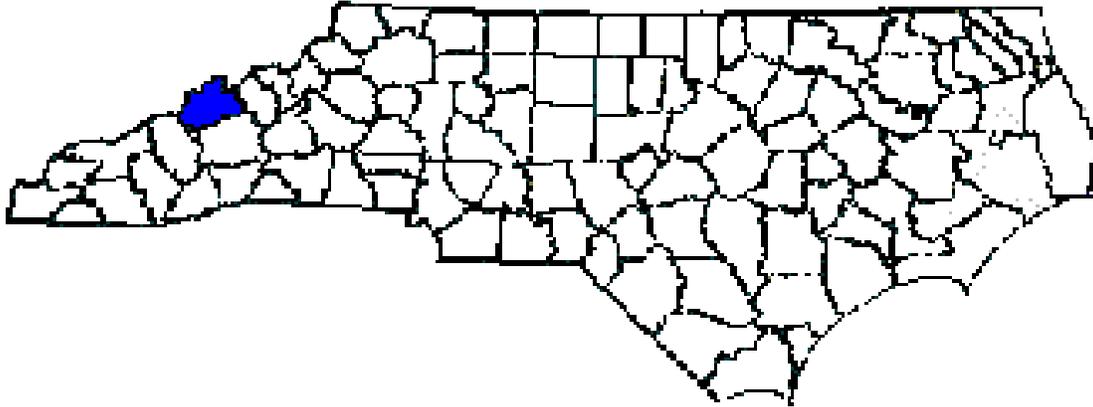


ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013



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



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SUMMARY

The following report summarizes the stream monitoring activities that have occurred during the Year 2013 at the Middle Fork Creek Site I Mitigation Site in Madison County. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) completed this project in October 2008 and water was turned in June 2009 (Sta. 10+00 to 12+00) and May 2011 (Sta.12+00 to 12+40). This report provides the monitoring results for the fourth formal year of monitoring (Year 2013). The Year 2013 monitoring period was the fourth of five scheduled years of monitoring on the Middle Fork Creek Site I Mitigation Site (See Success Criteria Section 2.1).

Based on the overall conclusions of monitoring at the Middle Fork Creek Site I, it has not met the required monitoring protocols for the fourth formal year of monitoring on the stream but has met the monitoring protocols for the second formal year of monitoring on the planted vegetation. The eroded areas noted during the 2011 (Year 2) evaluation from Sta. 11+79 to 11+95 Lt. and 11+95 to 12+05 Rt.) were repaired in March 2012. During the November 2013 stream survey, it was noted that the channel is experiencing some instability on the streambanks at the following locations: right bank at Cross Section #1, left bank downstream of Photo Point #1, left bank downstream of Photo Point #2, and left bank downstream of Photo Point #4. NCDOT plans to repair these eroded banks by Spring of 2014. Any disturbed areas during the repair work will be replanted. The streambank and buffer area were planted in March 2012 with live stakes and bareroot seedlings. The planted vegetation is surviving at this time.

NCDOT will continue stream monitoring at the Middle Fork Creek Site I Mitigation Site in 2014.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

The following report summarizes the stream monitoring activities that have occurred during the Year 2013 at the Middle Fork Creek Site I Mitigation Site. Site I is located on US 19 in Madison County at Sta. 51+70 to 53+90 -L- Lt. (Figure 1). The Middle Fork Creek 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 provided approximately 787 linear feet of stream relocation/restoration. Construction was completed during October 2008 and water was turned in June 2009 (Sta. 10+00 to 12+00) and May 2011 (Sta.12+00 to 12+40) by the NCDOT. The stream relocation involved excavation of a new floodplain and channel, installing several in-stream cross vane structures and planting the riparian buffer zone.

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 2013 at the Middle Fork Creek 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)
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)

1.4 Debit Ledger

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



Figure 1. Vicinity Map

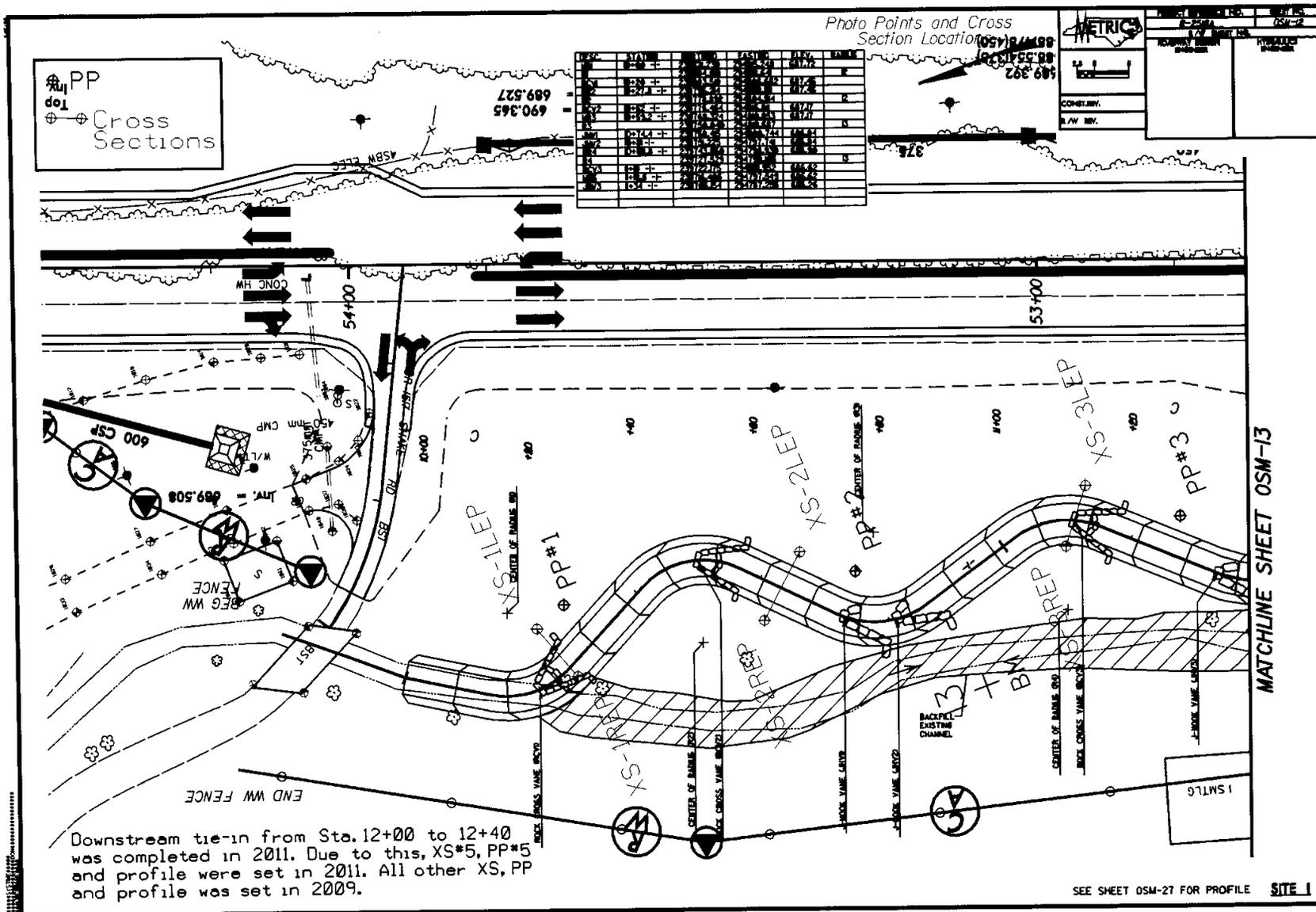


Figure 2. Site I Map

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 stream relocation of the Middle Fork Creek 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.

2.2.2 Monitoring Conditions

The objective of the Middle Fork Creek Site I stream restoration/relocation was to restore a B4c 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. Abbreviated Morphological Summary (Middle Fork Creek Site I)

Variable	Proposed	Cross-Section #2 (Riffle)	Cross-Section #4 (Riffle)	Cross-Section #5 (Riffle)	Min. – Max Values (Riffle Sections Only)
		2013	2013	2013	2013
Drainage Area (mi ²)	7.08	7.08	7.08	7.08	7.08
Bankfull Cross Sectional Area (ft ²)	47.04	36.86	40.61	49.35	36.86 – 49.35
Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft.)	2.38 – 2.97	3.01	3.46	2.99	2.99 – 3.46
Width of the Floodprone Area (ft.)	40.05	37	35.4	45.3	35.4 – 45.3
Bankfull Mean Depth (ft.)	1.98	1.54	1.71	1.96	1.54 – 1.96
Width/Depth Ratio	12	15.58	13.89	12.83	12.83 – 15.58
Entrenchment Ratio	1.7	1.54	1.49	1.8	1.49 – 1.80
Bankfull Width (ft.)	23.8	24	23.75	25.15	23.75 – 25.15

* 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 the Middle Fork Creek Site I established by NCDOT after construction. The length of the profile along the Middle Fork Creek Site I was approximately 787 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 Creek Site I Cross-Sections:

- ◆ Cross-Section #1: Middle Fork Creek Site I, Station 47+00, midpoint of pool
- ◆ Cross-Section #2: Middle Fork Creek Site I, Station 185+05, midpoint of riffle
- ◆ Cross-Section #3: Middle Fork Creek Site I, Station 343+00, midpoint of pool
- ◆ Cross-Section #4: Middle Fork Creek Site I, Station 483+00, midpoint of riffle
- ◆ Cross-Section #5: Middle Fork Creek Site I, Station 674+00, midpoint of riffle

Based on comparisons of the As-Built to the monitoring data, all of the cross sections appear stable with little or no active bank erosion, except for, some right bank erosion at Cross Section #1. Graphs of the cross sections are presented in Appendix A. Future survey data will vary depending on 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 2013 monitoring evaluation but there was some left bank erosion noted downstream of PP#1, downstream of PP#2, and downstream of PP#4. Pebble counts were not required per the permit conditions and therefore were not completed. Two bankfull events were documented at Site I during the 2013 monitoring year.

3.0 VEGETATION: MIDDLE FORK CREEK SITE I

3.1 Description of Species

The following tree species were planted on the streambank:

Salix nigra, Black Willow

Cornus amomum, Silky Dogwood

The following tree species were planted in the buffer area:

Liriodendron tulipifera, Yellow Poplar

Platanus occidentalis, Sycamore

Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Green Ash

Quercus alba, White Oak

3.2 Results of Vegetation Monitoring

Streambank & Buffer Vegetation: The streambank reforestation was completed in March 2012. The Year 2 vegetation monitoring evaluation noted: Type I: Black Willow and Type II: Sycamore, Green Ash, Tulip Poplar, and White Oak were surviving at the time of the monitoring evaluation. The powerline easement was noted during the 2012 monitoring evaluation as having been sprayed. It was noted during the 2013 monitoring evaluation that the powerline easement has started to re-vegetate.

3.3 Conclusions

NCDOT will continue to monitor the planted vegetation in 2014.

4.0 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The UT to Middle Fork Creek Site I Mitigation Site has not met the required monitoring protocols for the fourth formal year of monitoring on the stream but has met the required monitoring protocols for the second formal year of monitoring on the planted vegetation. NCDOT plans to repair the eroded banks by the Spring of 2014 and any disturbed areas from the repair work will be replanted. NCDOT will continue monitoring the Middle Fork Creek Site I Mitigation Site in 2014.

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-
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3706).

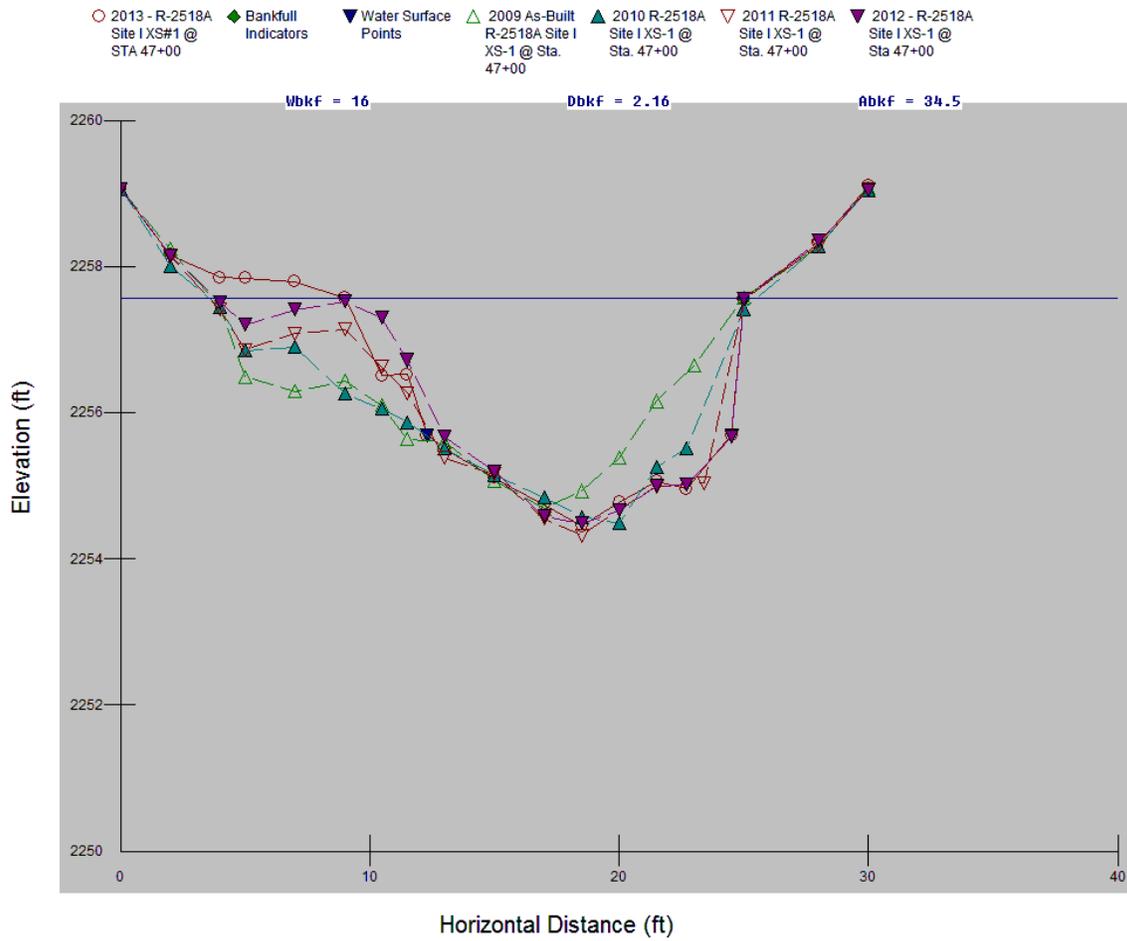
Rosgen, D.L, 1996. Applied River Morphology. Wildland Hydrology, Pagosa
Springs, Colorado.

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 Site I XS#1 @ STA 47+00

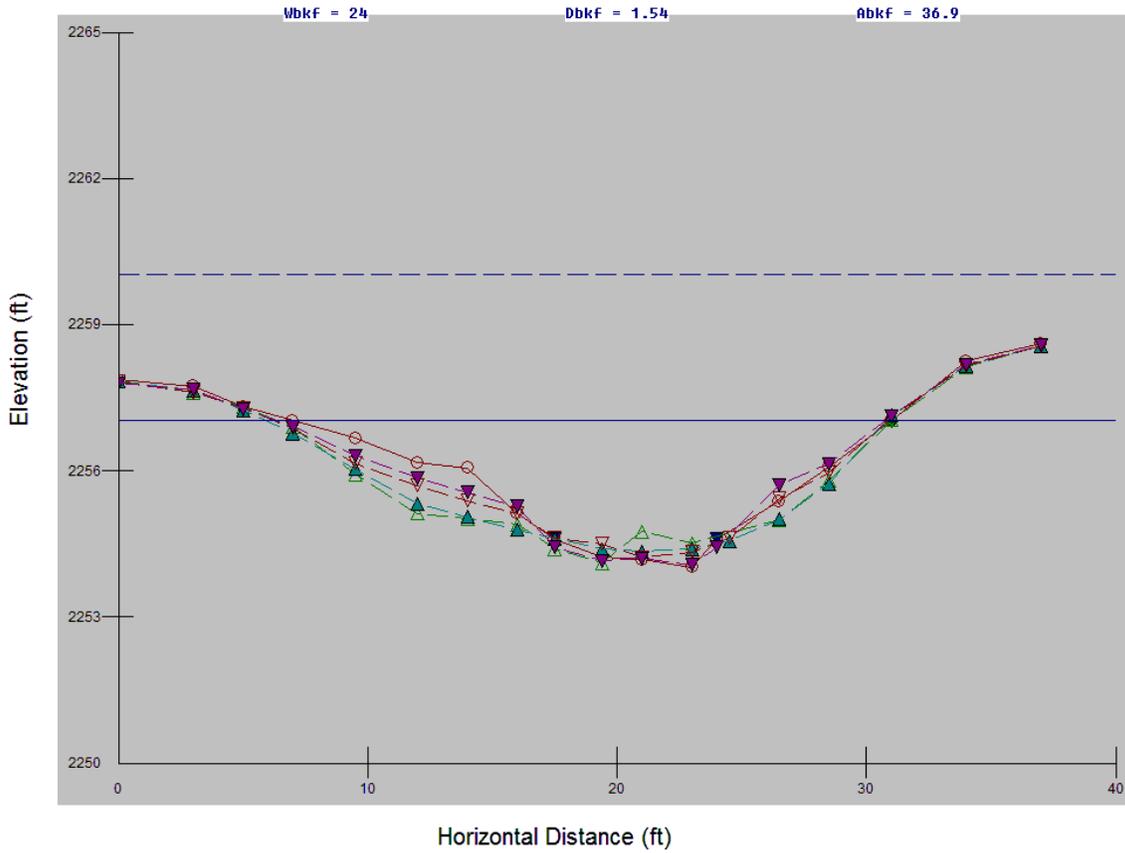


Site I: Cross-Section #1 (Pool) Abbreviated Morphological Summary					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bankfull Cross Sectional Area (ft ²)	34.89	42.04	33.97	34.54	
Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft.)	2.93	2.89	3.07	3.11	
Bankfull Mean Depth (ft.)	1.66	1.67	1.61	2.16	
Bankfull Width (ft.)	20.97	25.14	21.16	15.99	

*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.

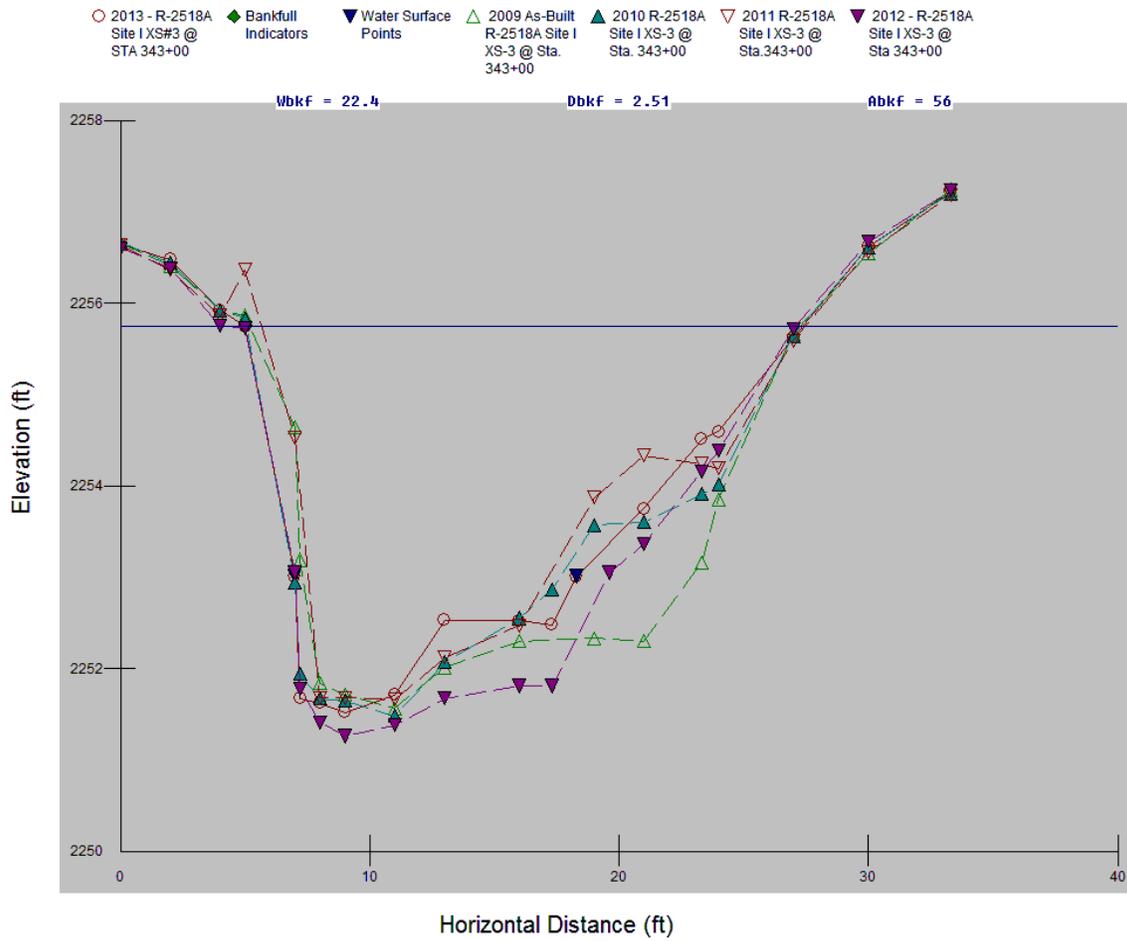
R-2518A Site I XS#2 @ STA 185+05

- 2013 - R-2518A Site I XS#2 @ STA 185+05
- ◆ Bankfull Indicators
- ▼ Water Surface Points
- △ 2009 As-Built R-2518A Site I XS-2 @ Sta. 185+05
- ▲ 2010 R-2518A Site I XS-2 @ Sta. 185+05
- ▽ 2011 R-2518A Site I XS -2 @ Sta.185+05
- ▼ 2012 - R-2518A Site I XS-2 @ Sta 185+05



Site I: Cross-Section #2 (Riffle) Abbreviated Morphological Summary					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bankfull Cross Sectional Area (ft ²)	46.76	42.04	41.31	36.86	
Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft.)	2.8	2.89	1.64	3.01	
Width of the Floodprone Area (ft.)	37	37	37	37	
Bankfull Mean Depth (ft.)	1.83	1.67	1.64	1.54	
Width/Depth Ratio	13.96	15.05	15.35	15.58	
Entrenchment Ratio	1.45	1.47	1.47	1.54	
Bankfull Width (ft.)	25.54	25.14	25.17	24	

R-2518A Site I XS#3 @ STA 343+00

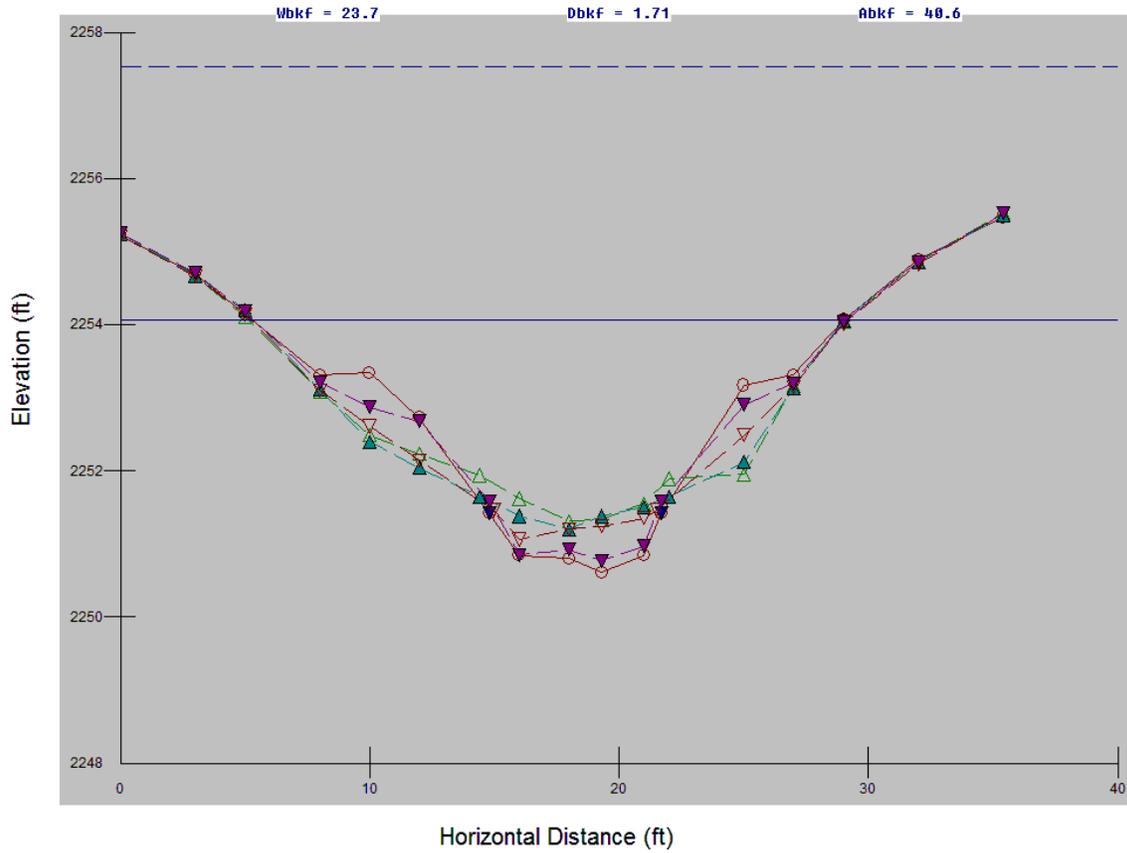


Site I: Cross-Section #3 (Pool) Abbreviated Morphological Summary					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bankfull Cross Sectional Area (ft ²)	60.29	65.99	64.06	56.03	
Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft.)	4.35	4.7	4.47	4.22	
Bankfull Mean Depth (ft.)	2.67	2.71	2.91	2.51	
Bankfull Width (ft.)	22.59	24.38	22.03	22.36	

*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.

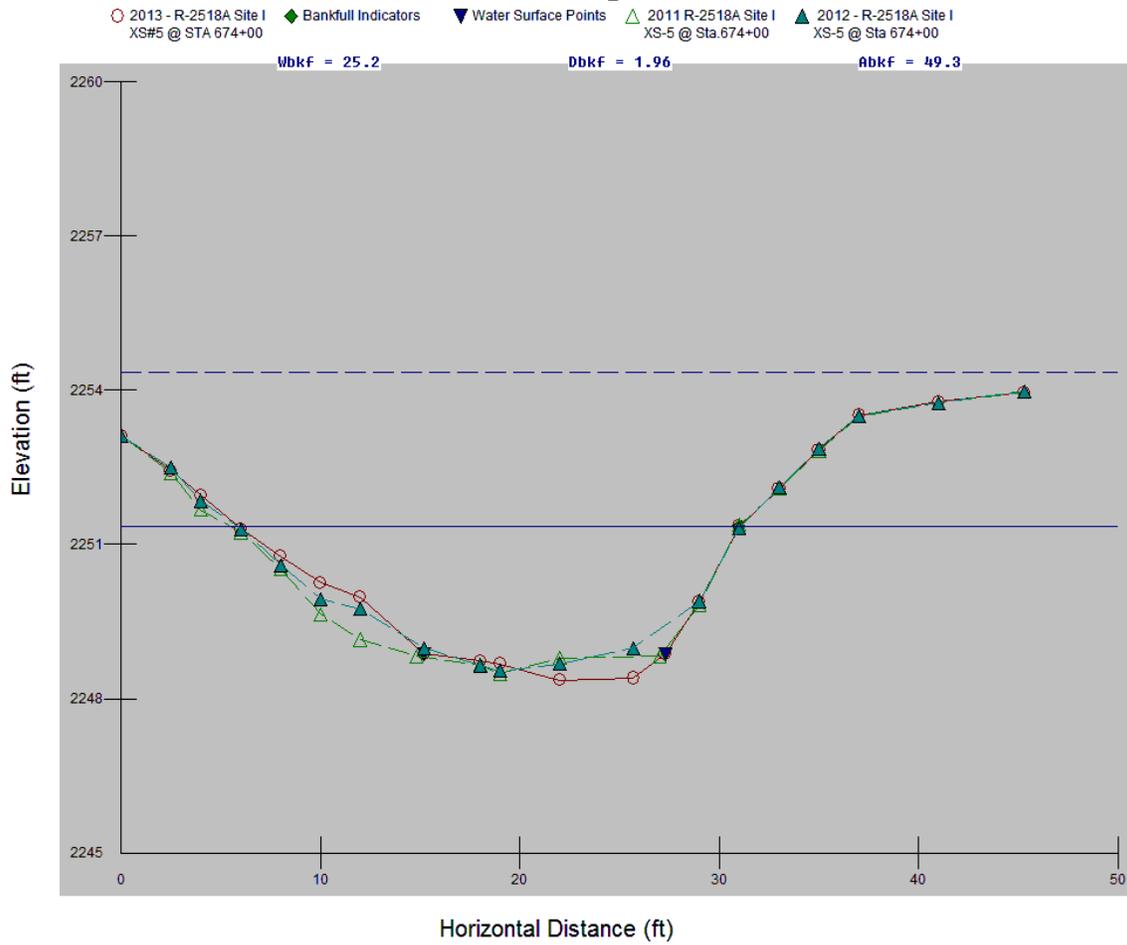
R-2518A Site I XS#4 @ STA 483+00

- 2013 - R-2518A Site I XS#4 @ STA 483+00
- ◆ Bankfull Indicators
- ▼ Water Surface Points
- △ 2009 As-Built R-2518A Site I XS-4 @ Sta. 483+00
- ▲ 2010 R-2518A Site I XS-4 @ Sta. 483+00
- ▽ 2011 R-2518A Site I XS-4 @ Sta. 483+00
- ▼ 2012 - R-2518A Site I XS-4 @ Sta. 483+00



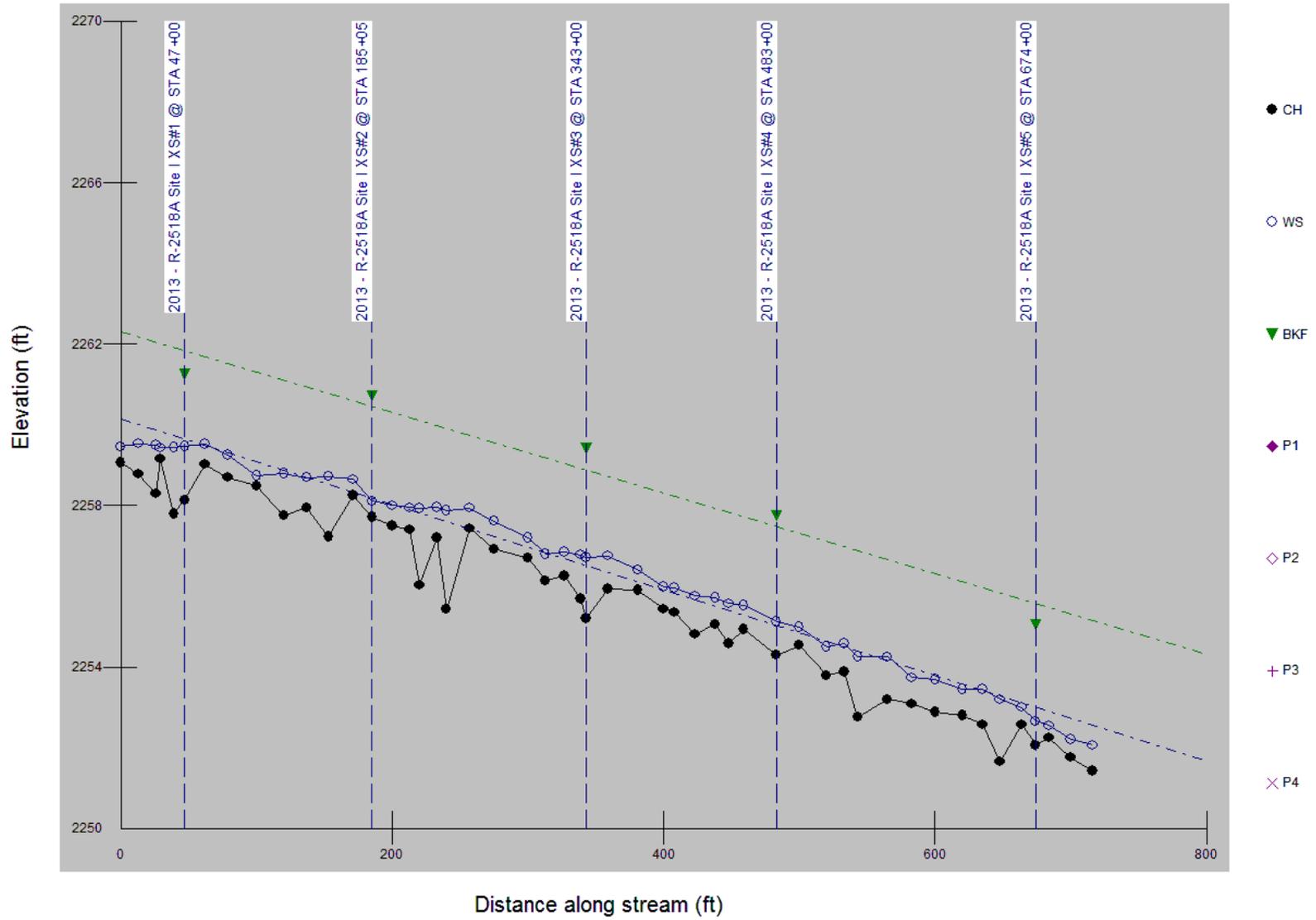
Site I: Cross-Section #4 (Riffle) Abbreviated Morphological Summary					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bankfull Cross Sectional Area (ft ²)	43.32	41.82	40.88	40.61	
Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft.)	2.86	2.95	3.27	3.46	
Width of the Floodprone Area (ft.)	35.4	35.4	35.4	35.4	
Bankfull Mean Depth (ft.)	1.83	1.77	1.73	1.71	
Width/Depth Ratio	12.9	13.35	13.62	13.89	
Entrenchment Ratio	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.49	
Bankfull Width (ft.)	23.61	23.63	23.57	23.75	

R-2518A Site I XS#5 @ STA 674+00



Site I: Cross-Section #5 (Riffle) Abbreviated Morphological Summary				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bankfull Cross Sectional Area (ft ²)	52.26	46.77	49.35	
Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft.)	2.89	2.78	2.99	
Width of the Floodprone Area (ft.)	45.3	45.3	45.3	
Bankfull Mean Depth (ft.)	2.04	1.87	1.96	
Width/Depth Ratio	12.57	13.41	12.83	
Entrenchment Ratio	1.77	1.81	1.8	
Bankfull Width (ft.)	25.64	25.07	25.15	

2013 R-2518A Site I Profile



APPENDIX B
SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Middle Fork Creek Site I



Photo Point #1 (Upstream)



Photo Point #1 (Downstream)



Photo Point #2 (Upstream)



Photo Point #2 (Downstream)



Photo Point #3 (Upstream)
November 2013



Photo Point #3 (Downstream)

Middle Fork Creek Site I



Photo Point #4 (Upstream)



Photo Point #4 (Downstream)



Photo Point #5 (Upstream)



Photo Point#5 (Downstream)



Left Bank Erosion Downstream of Photo Point#1
November 2013



Left Bank Erosion Downstream of Photo Point #2

Middle Fork Creek Site I



Left Bank Erosion downstream of PP#4

November 2013

Middle Fork Creek Site I



Vegetation Overview Photo



Vegetation Overview Photo



Vegetation Overview Photo

August 2013