



NEVADA DIVISION OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

A division of the
Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

STATE OF NEVADA
Joe Lombardo, Governor
Vinson Guthreau, Director
Jennifer L. Carr, Administrator

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ndep.nv.gov

Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Application

Please refer to the "[Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Application Guidance](#)" document for assistance with completing this application.

A. Pre-Filing Meeting	
Please provide the date that a pre-filing meeting was requested from Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Bureau of Water Quality Planning (BWQP).	Meeting was scheduled on 2/27/2026 and held on 3/10/2026
<i>Note: If a pre-filing meeting has not been requested, please schedule a pre-filing meeting with NDEP BWQP.</i>	

B. Contact Information		
Project Proponent Information		
Company Name: Bureau of Land Management		Address: 5665 Morgan Mill Rd
Applicant Name: Nicole Goehring		City: Carson City
Phone: 775-885-6134	Fax:	State: NV
Email: ngoehring@blm.gov		Zip Code: 89701
Agent Information		
Company Name: N/A		Address:
Agent Name:		City:
Phone:	Fax:	State:
Email:		Zip Code:

C. Project General Information	
Project Location	
Project/Site Name: Winters Ranch	Name of receiving waterbody: Ophir Creek, Winters Creek, and Davis Creek waters, all of which flow to Washoe Lake
Address: N/A	Type of waterbody present at project location (<i>select all that apply</i>):
City: N/A (Washoe Valley)	☒ Perennial River or Stream
County: Washoe	☒ Intermittent River or Stream
State: Nevada	☐ Ephemeral River or Stream
	☒ Lake/Pond/Reservoir
	☐ Wetland
	☐ Other: _____

Zip Code:			
Latitude (UTM or Dec/Deg): 39.3044313°N		Longitude (UTM or Dec/Deg): 119.8183019°W	
Township: 17N	Range: 19E	Section: 26 35 34	¼ Section: NW and SW NW and NE and SW SE
Project Details			
Project purpose:		Bureau of Land Management (BLM) aims to enhance wetland habitat on Winters Ranch and restore aquatic and riparian habitats in and along Ophir, Davis, and Winters creeks. Water from all three creeks flows across the property, which was heavily utilized for ranching prior to BLM acquisition. Improving riparian-wetland habitat quality and stream functionality aligns with BLM's vision to improve habitat and maintain open space on the Winters Ranch property. Additionally, the project would help BLM prove up on its water right permits.	
Describe current site conditions: Attachments can include, but are not limited to, relevant site data, photographs that represent current site conditions, or other relevant documentation.		Winters Ranch is a BLM-managed property that spans 1,300 acres in Washoe Valley, NV. Vegetation in the vicinity of the project area transitions from subalpine vegetation of the Sierra Nevada at the upper western edge of the valley, to Great Basin sagebrush shrublands on the eastern side of the valley. The Ranch itself encompasses the heart of the transition, with much of the range of vegetation occurring on the site, from sub-alpine stream and meadow habitats to sagebrush shrublands, as well as aquatic and alkali habitats associated with Washoe Lake. Vegetation within the project focus areas consists of a mosaic of upland and wetland plant communities ranging from drought-tolerant shrublands to wetland and riparian habitats. The uplands consist primarily of Great Basin sagebrush, while the wetlands consist of a mixture of seasonal wet meadow and Great Basin alkali habitats as well as perennial marsh and riparian habitats. In between the sagebrush and wetland habitats are extensive areas where wetlands and uplands intermingle, with a mosaic of upland and facultative wetland plant species. These habitats occur along areas with relatively sandy soils, but which feature slopes moderate enough that water flows as rivulets and/or sheet flow, and where snowmelt is slow enough that, in localized areas, soils remain saturated for extended durations. In addition, presumably where wetlands prevail, the water table is relatively close to the surface, such that the habitats are supported by both overland flow and subsurface groundwater. Ophir Creek is the largest perennial stream at the Ranch. Its upper watershed is an area with a history of rockslides and debris flows. A landslide event in May 1983 generated a debris fan that affected the Ophir Creek corridor across the Site. Ophir Creek is currently incised along a significant length through the Ranch west of I-580, compromising channel-floodplain connectivity. High flows and sediment transport are constrained by an undersized culvert under I-580. NDOT has historically excavated sediment from the channel upstream and downstream of the culvert, impacting the natural channel slope.	

	Upstream diversions reduce flows on BLM property during the irrigation season. Flows in Davis Creek are typically dependent on snowmelt and may also be reduced by upstream diversions. Infrastructure projects (e.g., I-580) have modified natural channel patterns and concentrate stormwater runoff to Davis Creek. Davis Creek appears to have been diverted along the Virginia & Truckee Railroad grade and under the former tracks at a location that concentrates runoff from other ephemeral channels. The concentration of flow in an undersized channel unaccustomed to the altered flow regime appears to have resulted in incision and widening. In its current state, the channel contains more frequent floods, with limited floodplain inundation, and vegetation appears to be converting from wetland or wet meadow habitats to drier uplands. The railroad grade extends across the Ranch, deflecting and concentrating flows from various channels into a limited number of crossings, which has led to channel incision and meadow desiccation downstream. Flows in Winters Creek are typically dependent on snowmelt and may be reduced by upstream diversions. The length of Winters Creek that runs through the Ranch was modified for ranching activity and more recently ditched. Concentration of flow in a straightened ditch appears to have increased channel slope and flow depths and velocities, resulting in channel scour and erosion. The channel is responding by actively incising, as evidenced by 5 active head cuts; some measured over 5 feet in height. Incision is draining wet meadow soils and accelerating meadow conversion or desiccation. Further downstream, the Virginia & Truckee Railroad grade diverts Winters Creek to a single crossing that accumulates other drainages. Concentration of flow to a single channel east of the railroad grade has also introduced channel incision and meadow desiccation to areas east of the railroad grade. Farther from the freshwater of the streams, and closer to Washoe Lake, the soils become increasingly alkaline, which in turn influences the plant communities. Densely vegetated wetland meadows dominate areas of near neutral to slightly alkaline soils. Various upland species also occur in varying proportions throughout much of the wetland meadow habitats. However, such upland species are replaced by more facultative and obligate wetland species within areas featuring a higher water input and/or a higher water table. These more perennial wetland habitats are scattered as localized habitats among the much larger seasonal wetland meadows. With the exceptions of the areas surrounding lower reaches of the larger streams (especially Ophir Creek), soils adjacent to Washoe Lake are highly alkaline, and the associated plants are adapted accordingly.
Describe the proposed activity including methodology of each project element:	See attached maps and diagrams. Project elements: a) <u>Davis Creek and East Casey Well Area</u>: Project elements include placing sod plugs with native plant species in certain channels/ditches, breaching the railroad berm, and installing beaver dam analogs (BDAs). Groundwater pumped from the

East Well would be directed to an adjacent swale/channel. Where groundwater exits the pipe and enters the swale/channel, targeted grading may be conducted to expand a shallow depression that would help manage inflows. Placement of sod plugs along the length of the channel would encourage flow to disperse.

As BLM considers its water rights management strategy, pumping from the east well may be reduced, and associated project elements may be scaled back accordingly.

b) Ophir Creek and West Casey Well Area: Water pumped from the west well would flow eastward through a culvert and feed a wetland area with potential for expansion. Expansion of wetland vegetation would be facilitated by targeted grading that expands a shallow depression. Sod blocks would be placed in the ditch downstream of the depression to encourage flow dispersion. On Ophir Creek, rock riffles would promote the dispersal of high flows onto the floodplain. The riffles and overbank flow would also reduce the volume of sediment reaching the culvert. As BLM considers its water rights management strategy, pumping from the west well may be reduced or eliminated, which would limit or eliminate project features downstream. Budget and other constraints may limit the extent of rock structures on Ophir Creek.

c) Winters Creek Area: BDAs would be installed along the single-thread segment of Winters Creek, much of which has been ditched, limiting natural stream functionality.

Methods:

• Beaver Dam Analogs: BDAs encourage overbank flows and dissipate high flows across the alluvial fan, restoring the original geomorphic processes that occurred pre-disturbance. By slowing flow and trapping sediment, BDAs help incised channel bottoms aggrade.

- BDAs would be constructed by hand with the aid of a gas-powered post pounder.
- BDAs would be constructed using untreated wooden posts driven into the streambed. The posts would be interwoven with native willow and other woody branches, and limited amounts of native soil, sod, and rock as needed to stabilize the structures.
- Vegetative material would be gathered from nearby public lands

• Rock structures: Restoration of channel-floodplain connectivity would include construction of riffles composed of natural gravels and cobbles. If resources and an access route are available, a boulder step could be installed on the west end of Ophir Creek, where the slope of the channel is higher.

- Riffle-building materials and vehicles would be staged at the corrals on the West Casey Parcel. Vehicles, which could include a backhoe, would be needed to move material closer to and/or directly into the channel where work is occurring.
- Boulder placement would rely on the availability of a backhoe

	• Light scarification of the riffle footprints would be conducted by hand using shovels, rakes, and rock bars for hand-installed riffles, or by lightly roughening the bed with an excavator bucket if heavy equipment is determined necessary. If sufficient personnel are not available, a backhoe would aid in the placement of rock in the channel. •<u>Berm Cut</u>: Restoring the natural flow pathways by removing a section of the railroad grade (less than 80 feet) would improve surface flows and meadow wetting patterns. Sides of the berm would be graded to a 3:1 slope. Bare soil on the slopes would be seeded or otherwise revegetated to minimize erosion potential. Rock would also be placed to provide immediate stability to areas susceptible to concentrated flow and scour. • A backhoe would be needed to cut into the railroad berm and remove the material. •<u>Sod plugs and seasonal depressions</u>: Targeted areas could be graded into small seasonal depressions that support wetland habitat. Materials excavated for these depressions would be used to create channel plugs to encourage overbank flow; excavated materials may also be used to fill other nearby man-made channels that do not currently provide riparian-wetland functions. A swale or shallow pond may also be used to help manage groundwater pumped from the East Casey well; otherwise, water would be piped directly to a nearby channel. • This work would primarily be completed with hand tools. If a hand crew is not available, a backhoe could be used to assist with shallow grading/excavation. Ingress/Egress: • On the East Casey parcel, vehicle access would be via the NDOW easement road. A backhoe for the railroad grade breach would travel along the elevated railroad grade. Personnel would walk along the railroad grade and then cross-country to worksite locations, avoiding disturbance of wet areas to the extent possible. • On the West Casey parcel, vehicles would travel along a dirt road that ends near the old corrals, where vehicles, equipment, and material can be staged. As needed, vehicles would travel cross-country, primarily on the south side of Ophir Creek, to deposit materials at work areas.
Estimate the nature, specific location, and number of discharge(s) expected to be authorized by the proposed activity:	The specific location of the proposed activities are shown in the attached maps. The specific locations of individual structures have been approximated but adjustments may be made in the field. The nature of the proposed work will remain the same. The project, at full potential, includes: • 1 boulder step and 9 rock riffles on Ophir Creek • 18 sod plugs on the eastern portion of Winters Ranch • 20 beaver dam analogs on Winters Creek and other flow paths on the eastern portion of Winters Ranch • 1 breach of a railroad berm on the eastern portion of Winters Ranch, spanning approximately 70 feet. • Up to 2 graded shallow depressions

Provide the date(s) on which the proposed activity is planned to begin and end and the approximate date(s) when any discharge(s) may commence:	Activity could begin as soon as the work is authorized, given appropriate site conditions and available resources. As this project is comprised of multiple sub-projects, work is anticipated to span approximately 5 years, as BLM resources allow.	
Provide a list of the federal permit(s) or license(s) required to conduct the activity which may result in a discharge into regulated waters (see mandatory attachments):	-NWP 27 report submitted to USACE 5/28/2026 -NDEP Working in Waters Temporary Permit for portions of the project that involve heavy equipment operating in waters of the state. -NDOT Encroachment Permit: If water is pumped from the west well and sent through an NDOT culvert under I-580, then a permit must be obtained from NDOT.	
Provide a list of all other federal, state, interstate, tribal, territorial, or local agency authorizations required for the proposed activity and the current status of each authorization:	BLM NEPA: completed 1/14/2026	
Does this activity require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (33 U.S.C. § 4321, et seq.) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or another federal agency where USACE will rely on the EIS to make its permit decision.	No. BLM completed a categorical exclusion for this project.	
Total area of impact to regulated waterbodies (acres):	Total area: 1.2 acres 1 (riffles) + 0.005 (sod plugs) + 0.006 (BDAs) + 0.05 (berm) + 0.13 + 0.01 (depressions)	
Total linear distance of impact to regulated waterbodies (linear feet):	Total distance: 987 feet 745 (riffles) + 45 (sod plugs) + 40 (BDAs) + 32 (berm) + 125 (depressions)	
Quantity and nature of each discharge of fill material proposed within regulated waters (cubic yards):	Temporary:	Permanent:
	0	Total quantity: 915 900 (rock riffles and boulder step) + 8.7 (BDAs) + 6 (sod plugs)
Quantity and nature of each discharge of dredged material proposed within regulated waters (cubic yards):	Temporary:	Permanent:
	0	Total quantity: 280 cubic yards 70 (depressions) + 210 (railroad berm)
Describe the reason(s) why avoidance of temporary fill in regulated waters is not practicable (if applicable):	N/A	
Describe the Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be implemented to avoid and/or minimize impacts to regulated waters: Examples include sediment and erosion control measures, habitat preservation, flow diversions, dewatering, hazardous materials management, water quality monitoring, equipment or plans to treat, control, or manage discharges, etc.	• Disturbance will be minimized by performing as many actions as feasible by hand • Work will not be conducted during high-flow periods when substantial sediment transport is likely to occur. To the extent practicable, in-channel activities will be conducted during low-flow conditions. • Any equipment and materials staging will occur outside wetlands and stream channels. Temporary placement of materials near channels may occur in areas where work is actively occurring. • Power equipment (e.g., post-pounder) will be filled more than 100 ft away from the stream • Any operation of the backhoe in the wetted channel will be kept to minimum. Any operation of the backhoe will be from the banks/bench whenever practical.	

	• Untreated wooden posts will be used • In each channel, the direction of work will be conducted downstream to upstream to minimize turbidity in downstream waters • Topsoil and riparian vegetation salvaged from targeted excavation activity will be reused for sod plugs and revegetation of areas with soil disturbance • Foot traffic will maximize travel along dry, upland ground • Vehicles will use established travel paths to the extent possible. Where necessary, other designated paths may be used and will minimize disturbance of wet areas to the extent possible. • Heavy equipment traffic will remain at least 10 feet from the top of streambank where practicable. Equipment shall be kept farther from unstable, saturated, or steep banks as necessary to prevent bank failure, rutting, and sediment delivery. Access within this setback shall be limited to activities necessary to complete the stream restoration work. • Depending upon conditions, coordination with NDWR could help reduce flows in Ophir Creek during work periods by increasing upstream diversions • Photo monitoring and adaptive management will help ensure that progress is being made toward project goals • Adaptive management may include additional plantings, adjustments to pumping regimes, placement of additional sod plugs, and modification of rock riffles and beaver dam analogs. The following pages of the NDEP Best Management Practices Handbook apply: Ecosystem Restoration 8 (live staking/pole planting), 36 (soil salvage)
Describe how the activity has been designed to avoid and/or minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to regulated waters:	The project is designed to produce positive effects for riparian-wetland systems in the short and long term. Monitoring would flag areas of concern and adaptive management would respond to concerns.
Describe any compensatory mitigation planned for this project (if applicable):	N/A

D. Signature		
Name and Title (Print): Matthew Magaletti, Field Manager	Phone Number: 775-560-8092	Date: August 24, 2026
 Signature of Responsible Official		

Mandatory Attachments:

- **Federal Permit or License Application** - A copy of the federal permit or license application and any readily available water quality-related materials that informed the development of the federal license or permit application.
- **Site Map** - A map or diagram of the proposed project site including project boundaries in relation to regulated waters, local streets, roads, and highways.
- **Engineered Drawings** - Engineered drawings are preferred to be submitted at the 70% design level. If only conceptual designs are available at the time of application, plans for construction should be submitted prior to the start of the project. Specific locations of the proposed activities and details of specific work elements planned for the project should be identified (e.g., staging areas, concrete washouts, perimeter controls, water diversions, or other BMPs).

Submit the completed application materials to NDEP (ndep401@ndep.nv.gov) with the appropriate U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Office copied on the communication (<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Contacts/Contact-Your-Local-Office/>).

Spoils Management

Excavation associated with the proposed project is expected to be limited to the railroad grade breach, localized grading for two shallow depressions, and very minor excavation associated with certain channel restoration features. Suitable excavated native material will be reused on-site to the maximum extent practicable in the creation of other restoration features on Winters Ranch. Sod blocks, in particular, would be created from salvaged excavation material.

Any excess excavated material that is not suitable for reuse will be managed as follows:

- Surplus material can be used in several ways: spread in upland locations on Winters Ranch to blend with existing topography; used to backfill dry ditches on Winters Ranch that are not a part of the project areas and do not have the hydrologic characteristics needed to sustain riparian vegetation; or used for dirt road maintenance on the Ranch.
- Any stockpiled spoils will be placed in designated upland areas located outside stream channels, wetlands, floodplains, and other waters of the State.
 - Designated areas include the existing parking areas along the access road that runs through the East Casey parcel. The parking areas are located near the railroad berm and at the end of the access road.
 - If spoils remain on-site for more than a short duration, stockpiles will be stabilized using erosion and sediment control BMPs (e.g., fiber rolls, silt fence, mulch, or temporary cover).

Contaminated Soil Concerns

Historical mining activity during the Comstock era resulted in soil contamination from metals, including mercury, in parts of Washoe Valley. The Ophir Mill Site north of Ophir Creek is one source area where higher concentrations of contaminants are highly likely. A portion of Ophir Creek, extending from the railroad grade (approximately) to Washoe Lake, is also highlighted as an area with high likelihood of contamination in EPA's CRMS – Map Explorer App map. In 1983, a large landslide in the upper watershed triggered flooding and resulted in thick sediment deposits in and around Ophir Creek (Figure 1). The slide event effectively provided a natural cap over the soils around the mill site and Ophir Creek. The sediment cap along Ophir Creek has an estimated average thickness of three feet in the area between the railroad grade and I-580.

For the proposed Winters Creek Wetland Enhancement Project, no excavation would occur on the West Casey parcel or on Ophir Creek. No disturbance would occur in the immediate vicinity of the Ophir Mill Site. Operation of the west well, located over 500 feet east of the mill site, would involve minimal ground disturbance. Work on Ophir Creek, approximately 350 feet south of the mill site, would include light scarification of the streambed. The scarified streambed would then be covered with gravels and cobbles to form rock riffles.

Placing rock structures in Ophir Creek would help manage high flows by improving access to the floodplain, dissipating erosive energy, promoting sediment retention, and reducing sediment deposition downstream. Along with benefiting stream function, reduced sediment transport also benefits NDOT's

undersized culvert at I-580 and the channel on the east side of the highway. Sediment deposition has created maintenance challenges near the highway in the past.

Before acquiring the Winters Ranch parcels, BLM conducted environmental site assessments. BLM determined that site conditions around the mill site and along Ophir Creek did not exceed levels of concern for the proposed open space and recreational use.

Water Quality (groundwater)

Water samples from a well located approximately 600 feet downgradient of the mill site showed no contaminants of concern when sampled in 2003. The well is estimated to be 130 feet deep.

The artesian nature of the wells on Winters Ranch suggests the presence of a confining layer in the aquifer. In this case, there would be a shallow and deep aquifer, and contamination would be restricted from entering the deep aquifer from which the wells would draw.

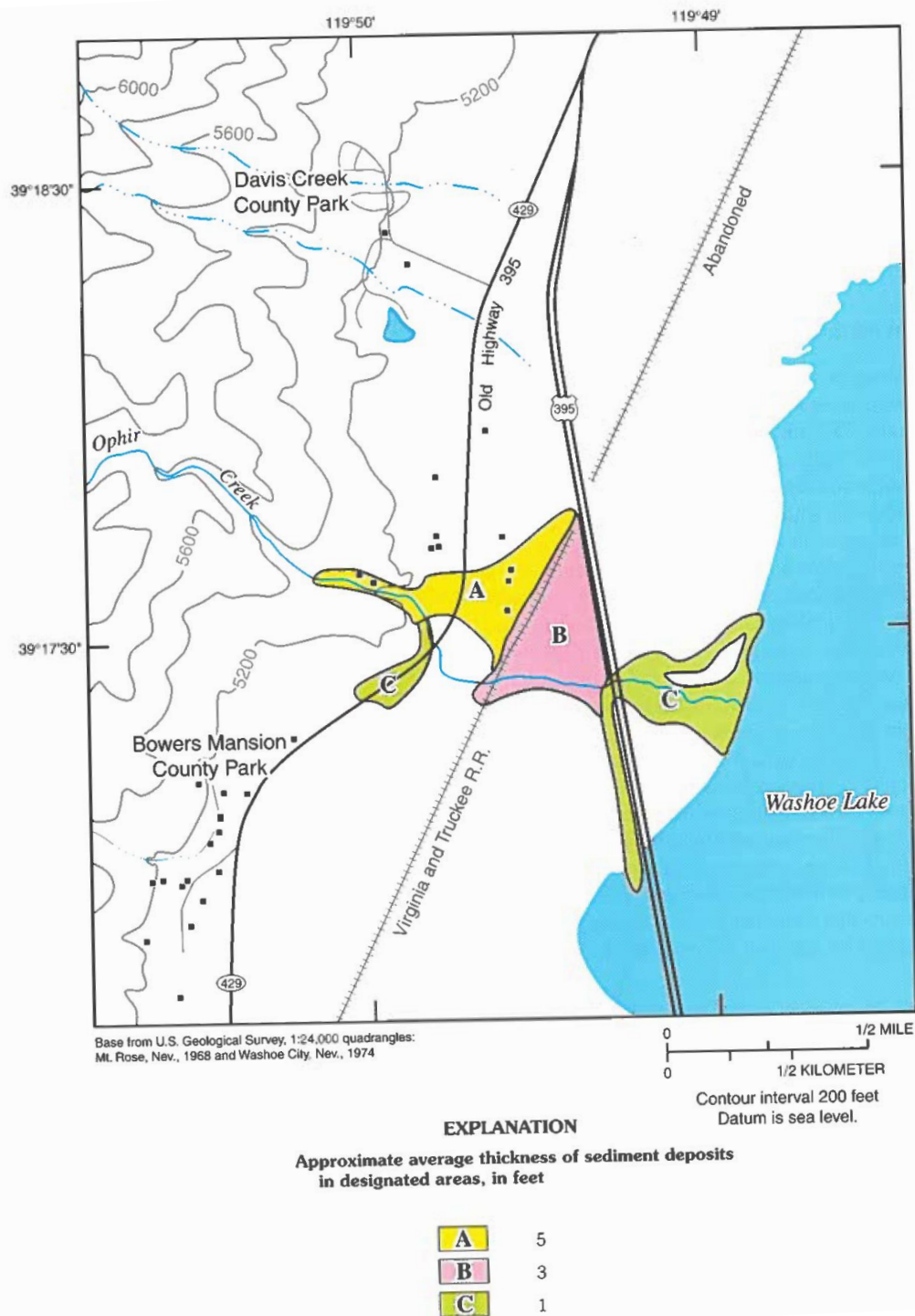
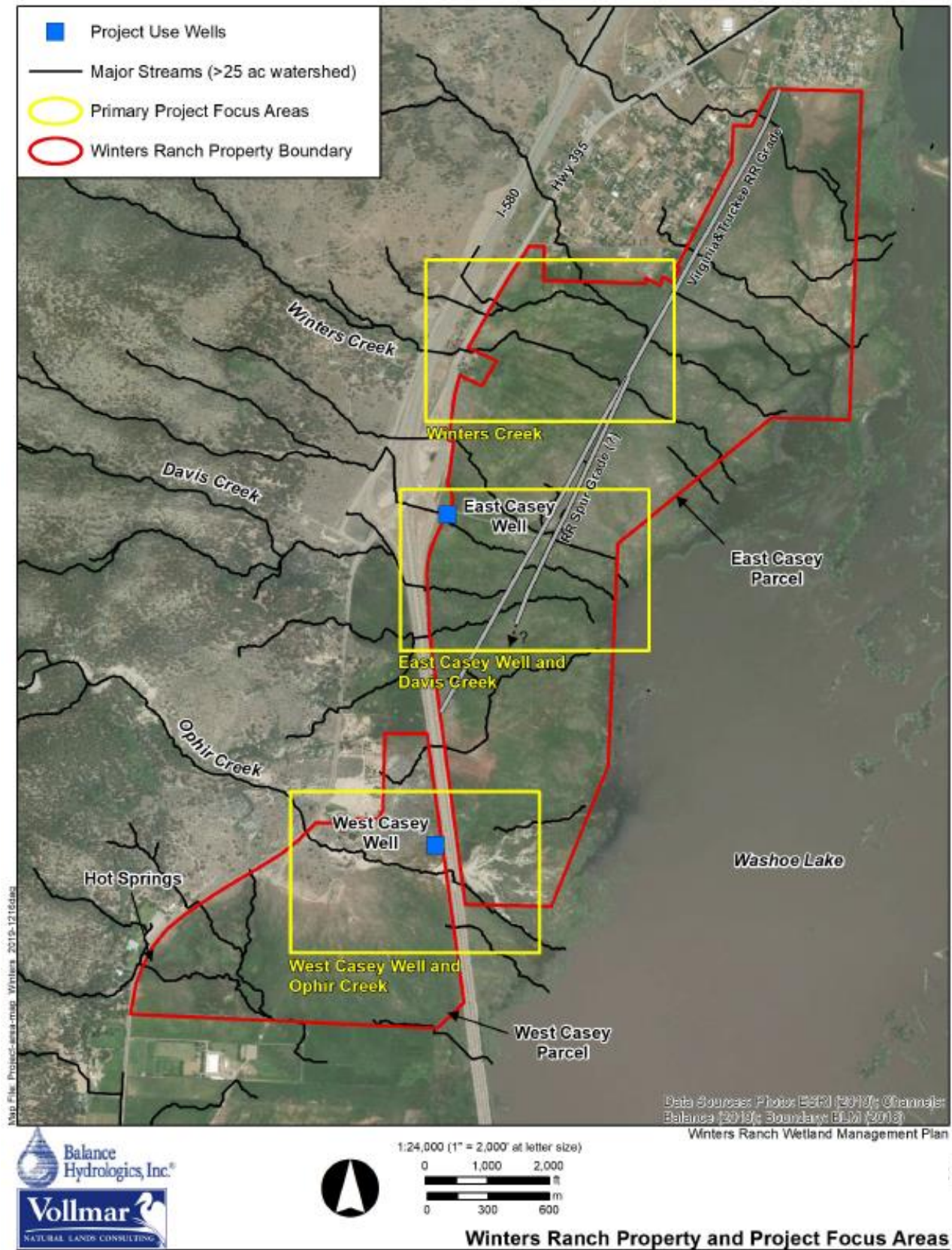


Figure 1. Map of approximate thickness of slid debris deposited by 1983 slide, taken from USGS Professional Paper 1617, *Landslide-Induced Flooding at Ophir Creek, Washoe County, Western Nevada, May 30, 1983*.



Winters Creek Wetland Enhancement: Winters and Davis Creek Areas (Washoe Valley, NV)



Winters Creek Wetland Enhancement: Ophir Creek Area (Washoe Valley, NV)



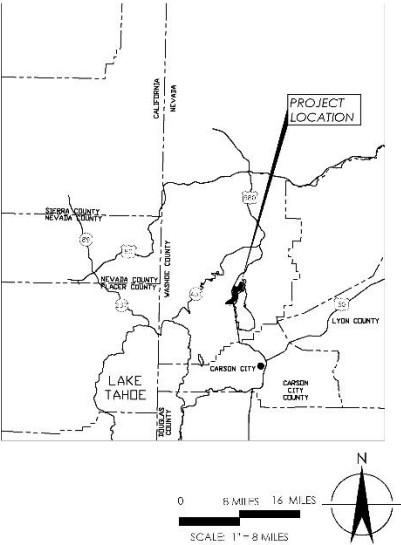
Legend

- West Casey Well (91840)
- West Casey Well Pipe
- BLM Boundary
- NDOT Culverts
- Ophir Creek Riffles
- Wetland Depression
- WCasey Sod Blocks

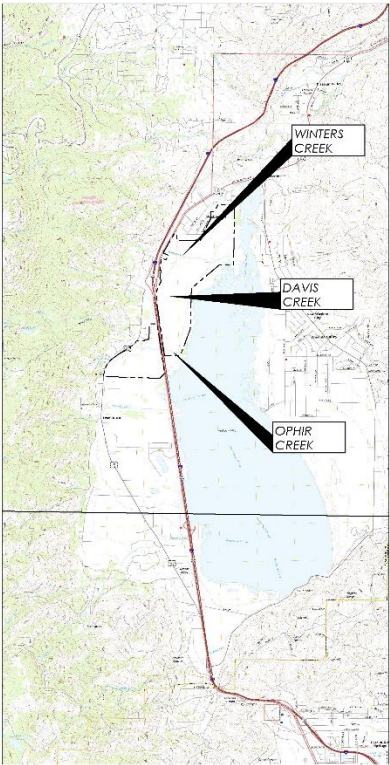
WINTERS RANCH CONCEPTUAL WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PLANS

WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

VICINITY MAP



LOCATION MAP



SHEET INDEX

1.0	COVER SHEET
2.0	OVERVIEW MAP AND LEGEND
3.0	WINTERS CREEK AREA
3.1	EAST CASEY WELL AREA
3.2	DAVIS CREEK AREA
3.3	OPHIR CREEK
3.4	WEST CASEY WELL AREA
4.0	TYPICALS

PROJECT TEAM

**GEOMORPHOLOGIST/
SITE CIVIL ENGINEER**
BALANCE HYDROLOGICS
BRIAN HASTINGS, P.G. (x217)
PETER KULCHAWIK, P.E. (x218)
12020 DONNER PASS ROAD, SUITE B1
TRUCKEE, CALIFORNIA 96161
TEL. (530) 550-9776

PREPARED FOR
US BUREAU OF LAND MANAGMENT
SIERRA FRONT FIELD OFFICE
CARSON CITY DISTRICT
5665 MORGAN HILL ROAD
CARSON CITY NEVADA, 89701



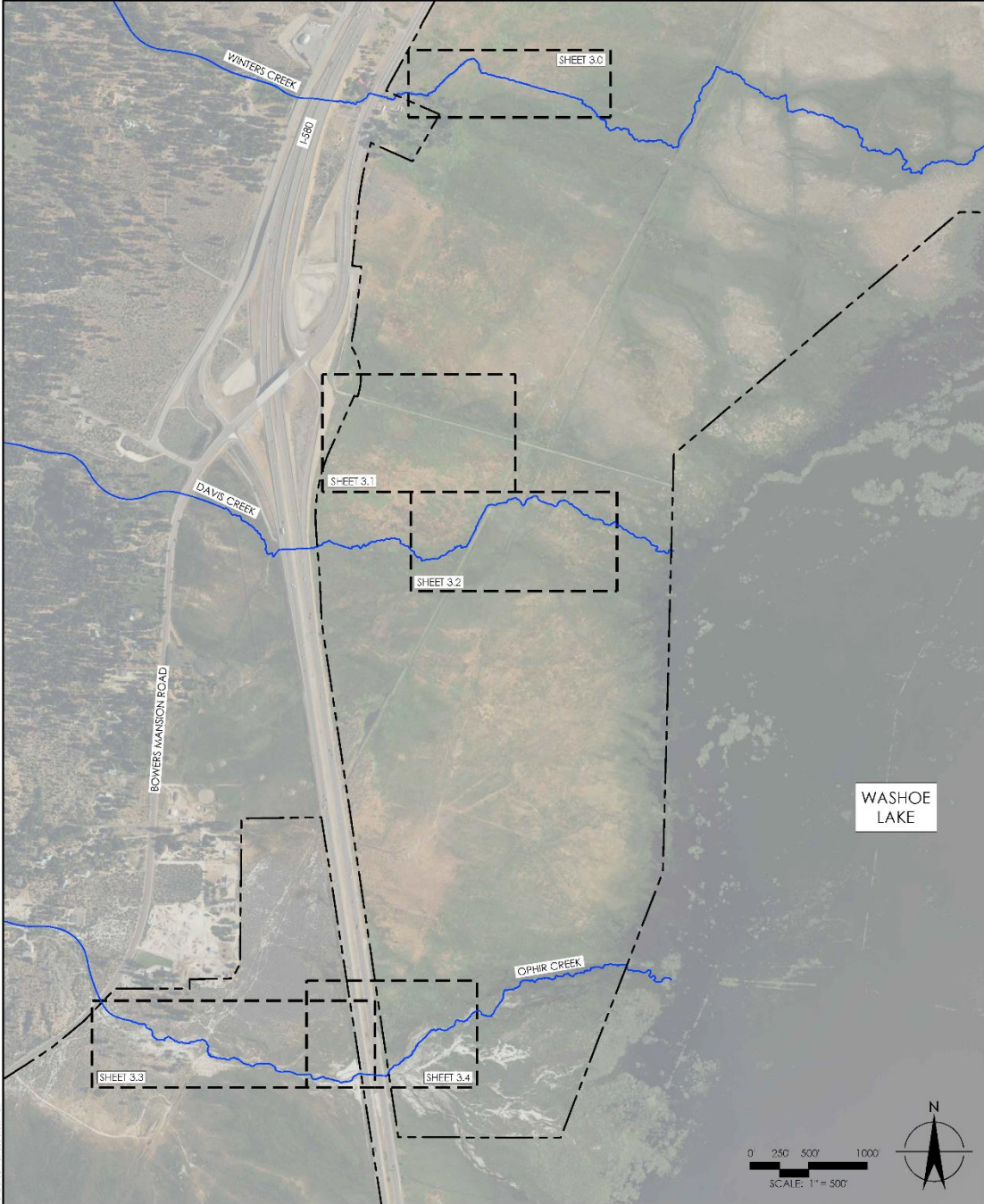
DESIGNED BY	DATE	BY	DATE	BY	DATE	REVISIONS
BM	12/20/16	PAJ				3/25/2017
DS						
CS						
MC						
CH						
GC						
DATE						



COVER SHEET
WINTERS RANCH
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NUMBER
218142
SCALE
AS NOTED
SHEET
1.0

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



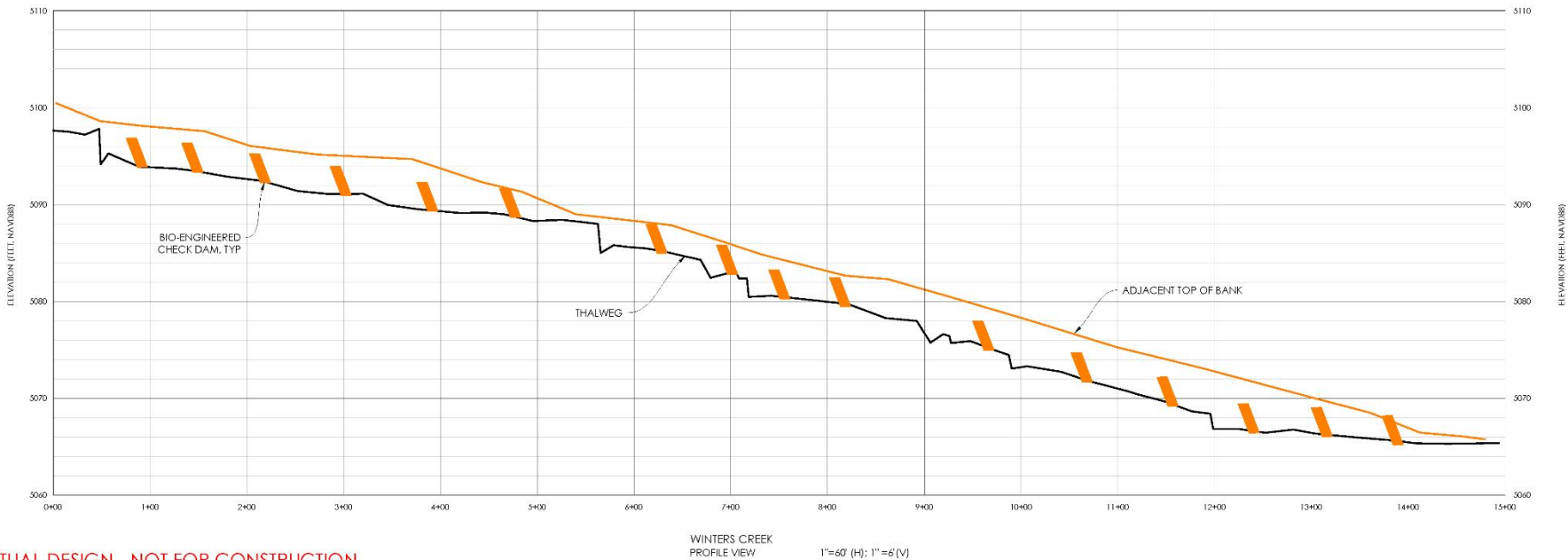
- LEGEND**
- EXISTING INDEX CONTOUR
 - EXISTING INTERMEDIATE CONTOUR
 - PROPERTY BOUNDARY
 - CONTROL POINT
 - CHANNEL STATIONING LINE
 - FLOWLINE FOR AREA HAVING A WATERSHED ONE ACRE OR GREATER
 - ANTICIPATED DIRECTION OF BREAKOUT FLOW
 - BIO ENGINEERED CHECK DAM
 - SOD PLUG
 - ENGINEERED RIFFLE



DESIGNED BY	DATE	BY	SUBMITTALS / REVISIONS
BKH	12/20/19	BKH	30% DESIGN
DJ			
CHECKED BY			
IN CHARGE			
DATE			

OVERVIEW MAP
AND LEGEND
WINTERS RANCH
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NUMBER
218162
SCALE
1" = 500'
SHEET
2.0



CONCEPTUAL DESIGN - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

WINTERS CREEK
PROFILE VIEW
1"=60' (H); 1"=6' (V)

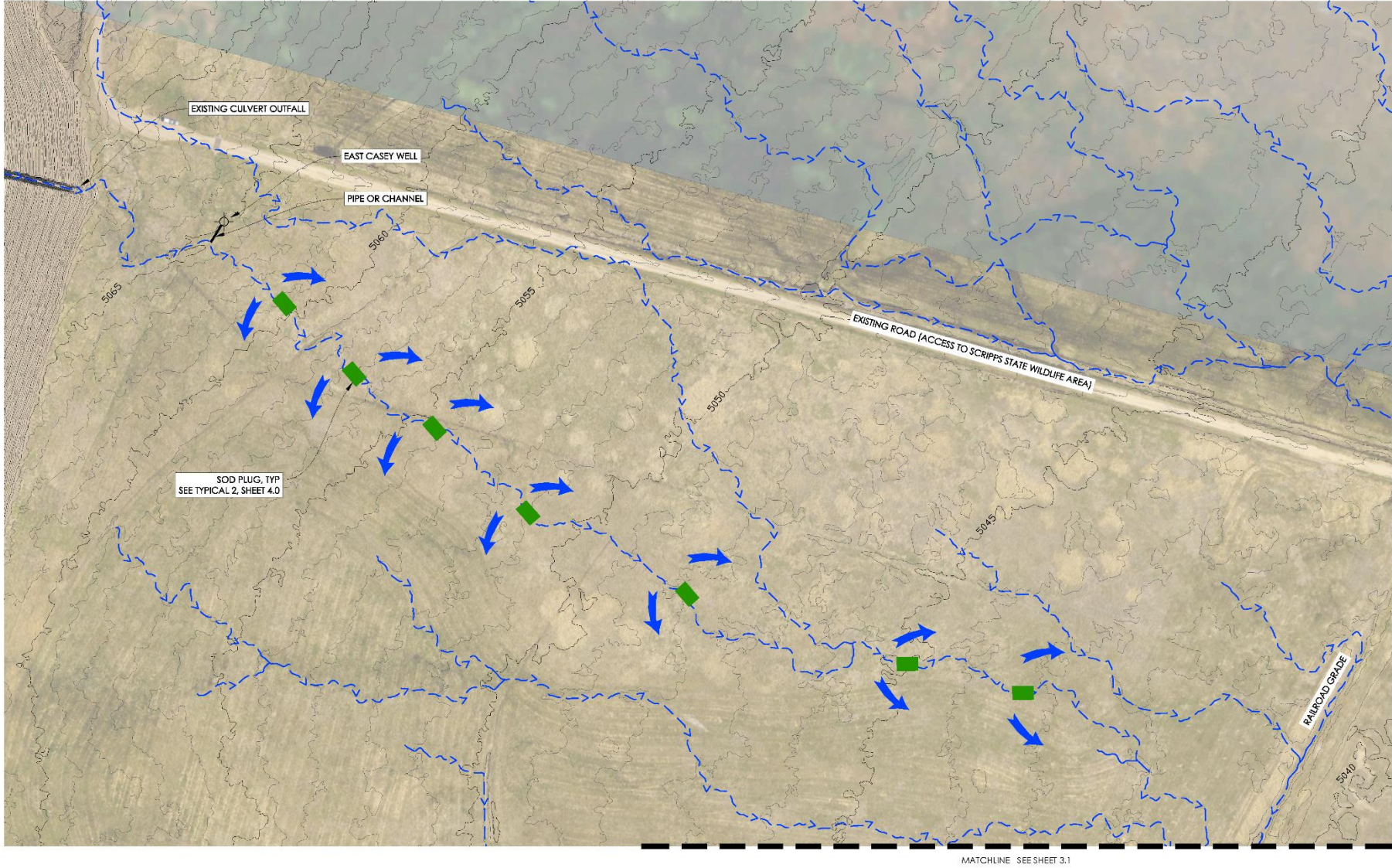


DESIGNED BY	BY	DATE	SUBMITTALS / REVISIONS
BKH	BKH	12/20/19	30% DESIGN
DRAWN BY			
CHECKED BY			
IN CHARGE			
DATE			



WINTERS CREEK AREA
WINTERS RANCH
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NUMBER
2108162
SCALE
1"=60'
SHEET
3.0



CONCEPTUAL DESIGN - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



**Balance
Hydrologics, Inc.**
12020 Donner Pass Rd., Suite B1
Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 550-8776
www.balancehydro.com

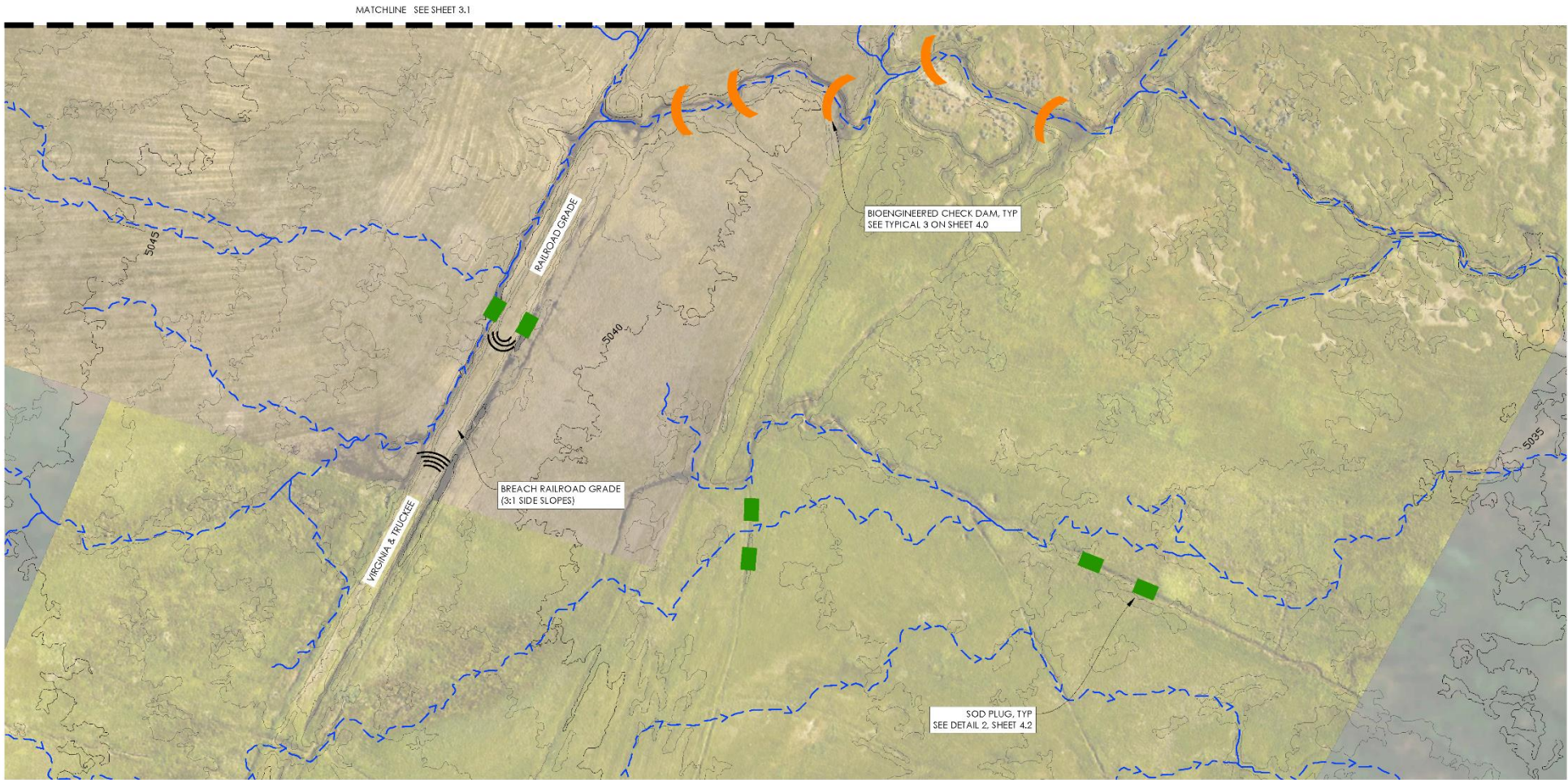
DESIGNED BY	DATE	BY	SUBMITTALS / REVISIONS
BKH	12/20/19	BKH	30% DESIGN
DJ			
CHECKED BY			
IN CHARGE			
DATE			



EAST CASEY WELL AREA
WINTERS RANCH
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NUMBER
218162
SCALE
1" = 60'
SHEET
3.1

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Hydrologics, Inc.**

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DESIGNED BY		BY		SUBMITTALS / REVISIONS	
BKH	12/20/19	BKH	30% DESIGN		
DJ					
CHECKED BY					
IN CHARGE					
DATE					

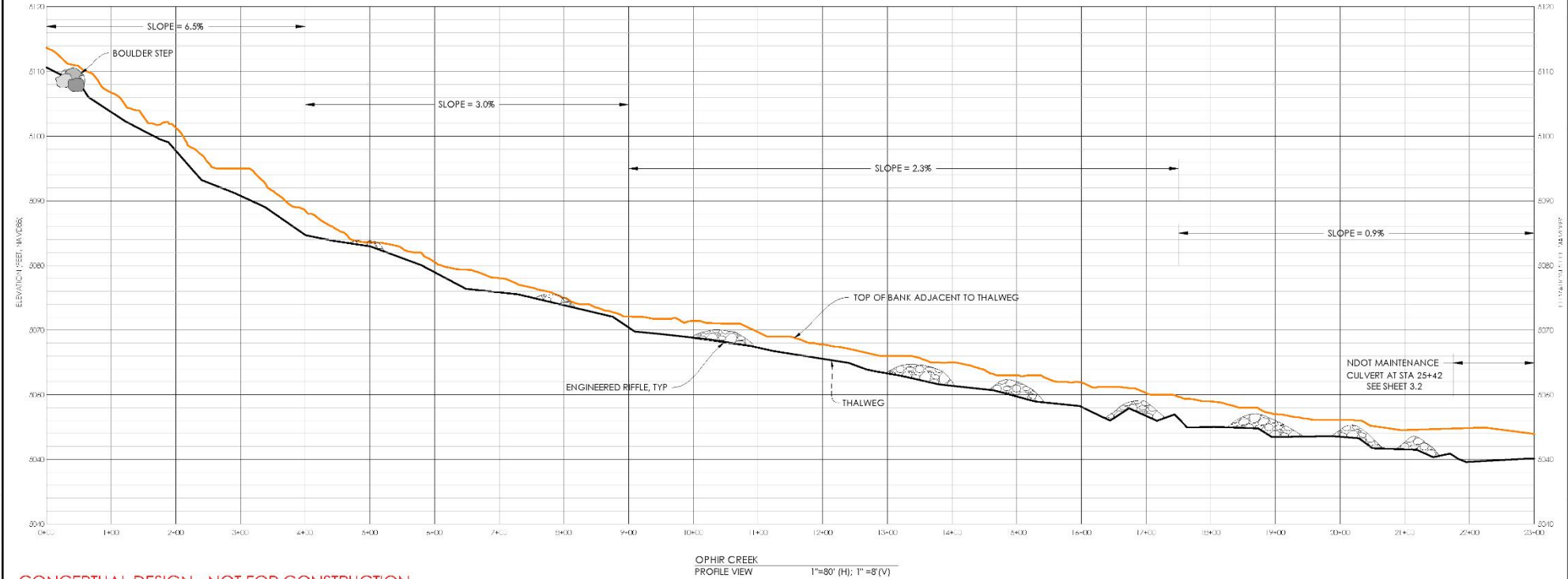
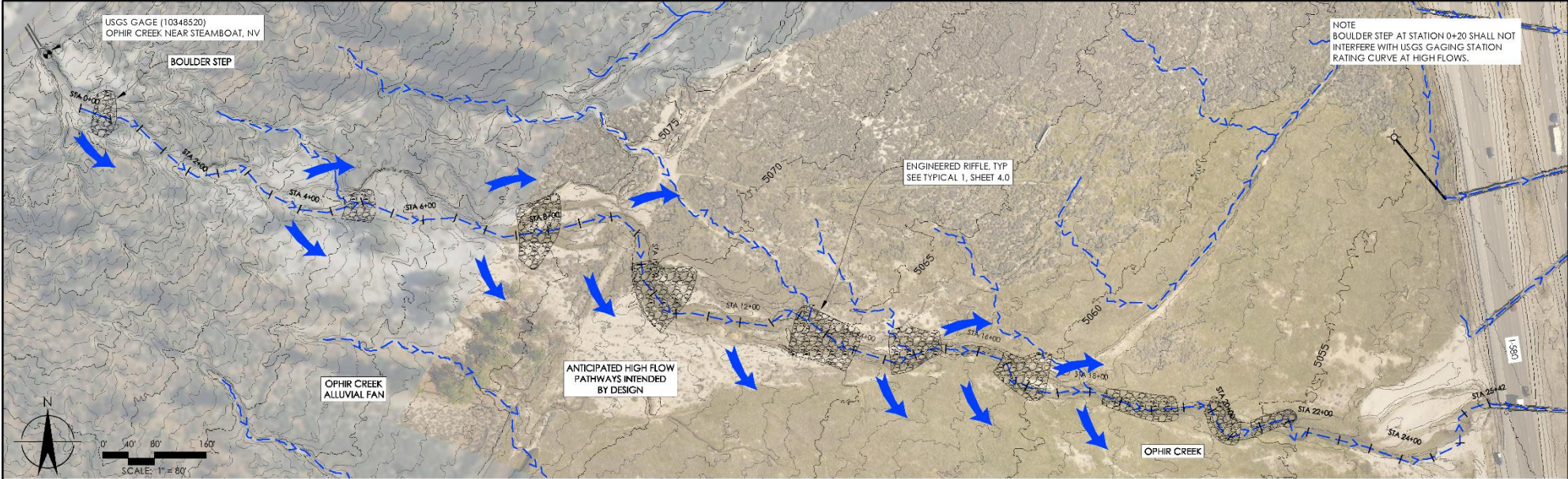


DAVIS CREEK AREA

WINTERS RANCH
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NUMBER
210162
SCALE
1" = 60'
SHEET

3.2



CONCEPTUAL DESIGN - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

OPHIR CREEK
PROFILE VIEW
1"=80' (H); 1"=8' (V)

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DESIGNED BY	DATE	BY	SUBMITTALS / REVISIONS
BKH	12/20/19	BKH	30% DESIGN
DJ			
CHECKED BY			
IN CHARGE			
DATE			

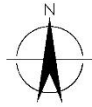
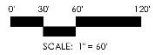
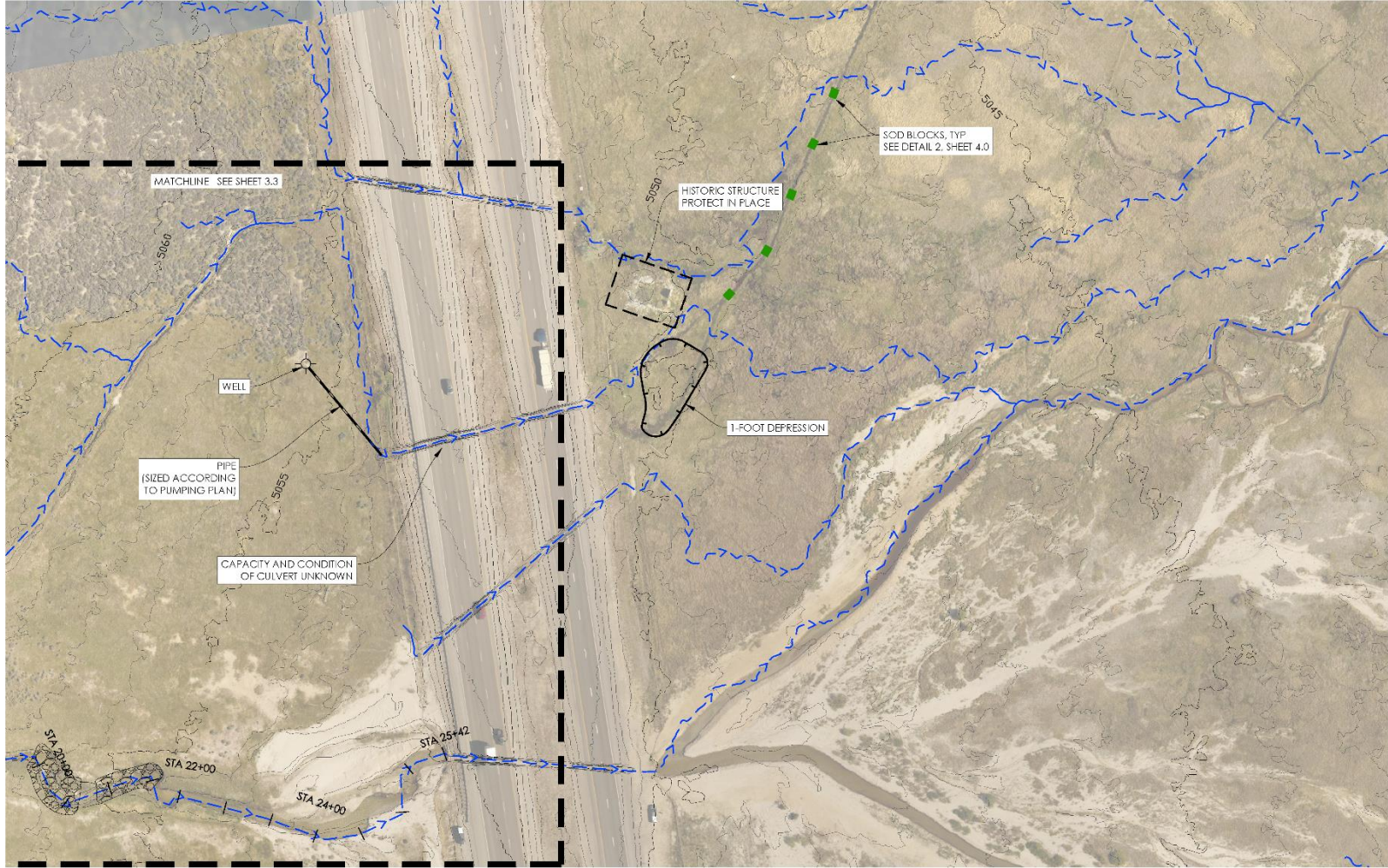
OPHIR CREEK
WINTERS RANCH
WASHINGTON COUNTY, NEVADA

PROJECT NUMBER
218162
SCALE

SHEET
3.2

NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION

ENVIRONMENTAL



Balance Hydrologics, Inc.



12020 Donner Pass Rd., Suite B1
Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 550-8776
www.balancehydro.com

DESIGNED BY	DATE	BY	SUBMITTALS / REVISIONS
BKH	12/20/19	BKH	30% DESIGN
DJ			
IN CHARGE			
DATE			

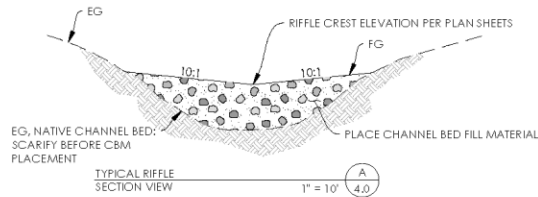
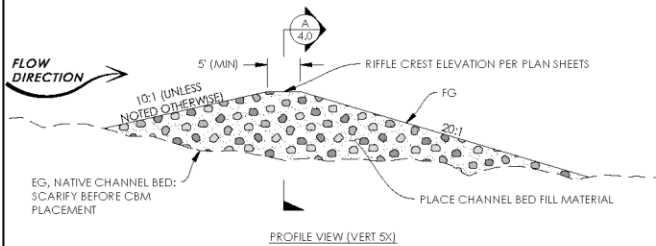
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

WEST CASEY WELL AREA
WINTERS RANCH
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

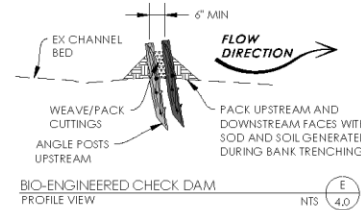
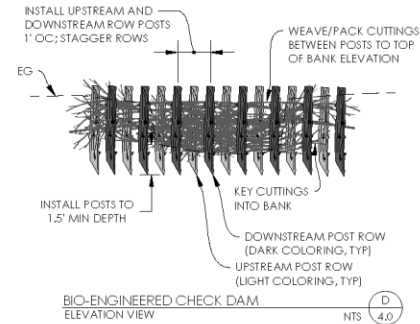
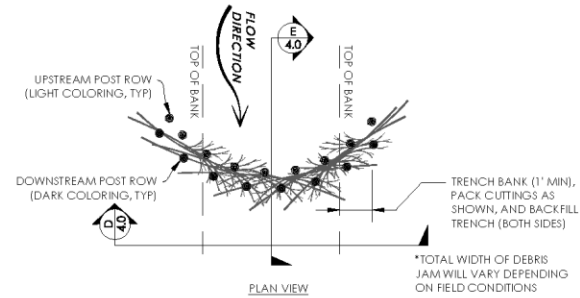
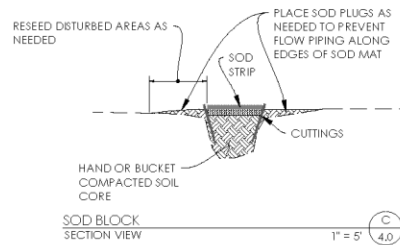
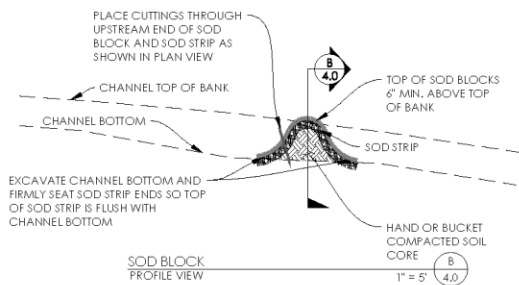
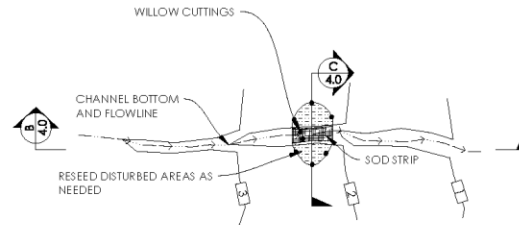
PROJECT NUMBER
218162
SCALE

SHEET
3.4

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



1 TYPICAL RIFFLE
SCALE: 1" = 10'



DESIGNED BY	DATE	BY	SUBMITTALS / REVISIONS
BKH	12/25/19	BKH	30% DESIGN
DJ			
CHECKED BY			
IN CHARGE			
DATE			

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



JOE LOMBARDO
Governor

State of Nevada

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road

Reno, Nevada 89512

Phone (775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

ALAN JENNE
Director

JORDAN GOSHERT
Deputy Director

VACANT
Deputy Director

April 13, 2026

Matthew Magaletti
Bureau of Land Management
Sierra Front Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Winters Ranch Wetland Enhancement Support Letter

Mr. Magaletti;

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (the "Department") appreciates the opportunity to provide support for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed Winters Ranch Wetland Enhancement Project, specifically the use of bioengineered check dams and other proposed stream and wetland improvement activities on Winters Ranch.

The project aims to enhance 150 acres of wetland habitat on Winters Ranch and restore 1.5 miles of aquatic and riparian habitats along Ophir, Davis, and Winters creeks. To achieve this, the BLM will utilize acquired water rights, implement in-channel restoration structures, modify water control structures, and manage vegetation. As described in the Categorical Exclusion (CE), these efforts are expected to improve floodplain connectivity, reduce channel incision, and enhance wetland and riparian habitat conditions.

The Winters Ranch property functions as a crucial wetland habitat for migratory birds in Washoe Valley and is ecologically connected to the adjoining Scripps Wildlife Management Area. The Department also maintains downstream water rights on Winters Creek via the Winters Creek Decree. Given these interests, the Department strongly supports actions that improve hydric function, water distribution, and habitat quality for the benefit of wetland habitat and wildlife.

Ophir, Davis, and Winters creeks have experienced varying levels of degradation, including incision, channelization, and disconnection from their historic floodplains. Process-based restoration techniques, such as bioengineered check dams, hand-built rock structures, and riffles constructed from local materials, are designed to slow water velocities, retain sediment, and raise streambed elevations over time. These approaches have been successfully implemented in similar systems throughout northwestern Nevada. The Department supports the application of these methods at Winters Ranch and anticipates that the relatively high sediment load in these systems will facilitate aggradation and reconnection with the floodplain. The Department also supports the inclusion of monitoring and adaptive management as core components of the project, which will be critical to ensuring long-term project effectiveness and informing any necessary adjustments to implementation.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project, and is fully supportive of its implementation, and is interested in assisting with on-the-ground implementation where possible.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Travis Hawks in black ink.

Travis Hawks
Western Region Supervisor, Fisheries
Nevada Department of Wildlife
(775) 688-1677
thawks@ndow.org

Handwritten signature of Cheyenne Trueblood in black ink.

Cheyenne Trueblood
Western Region Supervising Habitat Biologist
Nevada Department of Wildlife
(775) 688-1145
cheyenne.trueblood@ndow.org

Attachment 5. Photos

Ophir Creek on the West Casey parcel:



Channelized and incised reach of Winters Creek:



Looking down the railroad grade on the East Casey parcel:

