

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
YAKIMA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

APPENDIX G

Cultural Resources Documentation

June 2018

**Integrated Feasibility Report and
Environmental Assessment**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Seattle District



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

Environmental and Cultural Resources Branch

Allyson Brooks, Ph.D.
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Post Office Box 48343
Olympia, Washington 98504-8343

APR 03 2017

SUBJECT: Yakima River Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration Project: Yakima County, WA

Dear Dr. Brooks:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) proposes to implement an ecosystem restoration project (undertaking) located along the Yakima River near the city of Yakima between the Selah Gap and Union Gap (Gap to Gap Reach), Yakima County, Washington. The purpose of the undertaking is to restore ecosystem process, structure, and function in the Gap to Gap Reach of the Yakima River that has been lost due to degradation of the natural ecosystem processes stemming from the disconnection of the river with its historic floodplain. The Corps has determined and documented the area of potential effect (APE) for the undertaking and is consulting with your office under Section 106 as provided at 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(a). The letter also summarizes efforts that the Corps has taken to date to identify historic properties that may be affected by the undertaking.

Located east of the Cascade Mountain Range in central Washington State, the Yakima River ecosystem between the cities of Yakima and Union Gap has been degraded and reduced overtime as a result of infrastructure and urban development, and can be tied directly to the construction of the Congressionally funded Yakima Authorized Levee System built by the Corps in 1947. The Federal levee system includes approximately 5 miles of levee along the right bank and 2 miles of levee along the left bank of the Yakima River. Over time, local and Federal entities have extended the original Corps system to include several additional miles of levee both upstream and downstream of the original authorized project. Currently the length of the levees and revetments combined (19.9 miles) is twice the length of the main channel in the Gap to Gap reach, significantly reducing channel length and complexity, degrading and fragmenting habitat, and disrupting natural fluvial processes. These changes have negatively impacted in-stream habitat, increased in-channel velocities and depths, reduced levee integrity, and increased operations and maintenance costs.

The proposed action includes levee removals, levee realignment, spur dike removals, floodplain topographic restoration, side channel construction, hydrologic enhancement of a disconnected floodplain channel, replacement of barrier culverts, and wetland reconnection.

Work would be completed in four areas: the Diking District #1 (DID#1) floodplain area, Sportsman Island, Blue Slough, and Spring Creek. The proposed action would reconnect and restore natural riverine processes beneficial to native fish to over 320 acres of floodplain through the realignment of the existing DID#1 levee. Realignment of the DID#1 levee would improve fish habitat by giving the river channel the opportunity to migrate and promote bar, island, and side channel formation. The proposed action would also create and restore approximately 20 acres of side channel habitat at the Sportsman's Park Island that is currently lacking in this reach of the Yakima River. Restoration of flow to Blue Slough would restore surface water hydrology to 2 miles/12 acres of relic channel that currently is only wet seasonally when ground water elevations are high. Additionally, replacement of all undersized Blue Slough culverts less than 6 feet wide would improve fish passage for all native salmonids and life stages. The reconnection of Spring Creek would restore fish access to rare cold water off-channel habitat.

By removing constraints to the natural flow of the river the proposed action reestablishes the conditions that allow the dynamic processes of channel formation and sediment transport to function naturally, which creates and sustains the habitat conditions suited to the ESA-listed fish and other species native to the Yakima River. Restored anabranching channels provide important rearing and refuge habitat for salmonids, especially important during high flows, as well as increased riparian vegetation which provides forage (insect drop) and cover. Many historic side channels that were isolated from the river when the levee was constructed would be reconnected by the proposed action. The proposed action restores inundation of the historic floodplain and associated exchange of nutrients and increases habitat complexity via food subsidies and large wood. The proposed action restores conditions such that this dynamic river system can continue to form and re-form channels as sediment moves around in the system. The project would restore the ecosystem processes that form and sustain riverine habitat, which is key to successful restoration and consistent with Corps restoration policy. Overall, the tentatively selected plan (TSP) would restore frequent inundation to more than 320 acres of historic floodplain by realigning 1.7 miles of revetment and levee and removing 8% of the hardened streambank in the nearly 10 mile long Gap to Gap Reach. It would also reconnect approximately 2.4 miles of historic side channel habitat.

The undertaking is located in Township 13 North, Range 19 East, Sections 4, 5, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, and 33 near Yakima, Washington (Figure 1 and 2). The Corps has determined the area of potential effect (APE) for the Yakima River Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration Project to be area of all excavation, feature removal, restoration benefits, as well as all staging and access zones. The APE for both direct and indirect effects encompasses approximately 112 acres. The Corps believes that the APE is sufficient to identify and consider both direct and indirect effects of the proposed project.

We would like to summarize efforts taken to date to identify cultural resources within the APE. The Corps staff archaeologist has conducted a records search and literature review of the

Washington Information System Architectural and Archaeological Records Database (WISAARD). The literature review and records search indicates that two previously recorded structures (45 years or older) or archaeological sites potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) have been identified within the proposed ecosystem restoration project area, the Moxee Blvd Bridge (45YA01606) and Irrigation Canals #1 and #2 (45YA846). Four cultural resources surveys have been previously conducted within the project area. We have also notified the Yakama Nation about the project to identify properties to which they may attach religious or cultural significance or other concerns with historic properties that may be affected.

The Corps requests your review and agreement with our determination of the APE. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact the project Archaeologist, Ms. Ashley Dailide, at ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil or (206) 764-6942. I may be contacted at evan.r.lewis@usace.army.mil or (206) 764-6922.

Sincerely,



Evan R. Lewis, Chief
Environmental and Cultural
Resources Branch

Enclosure

Figure 1. Project Location Overview

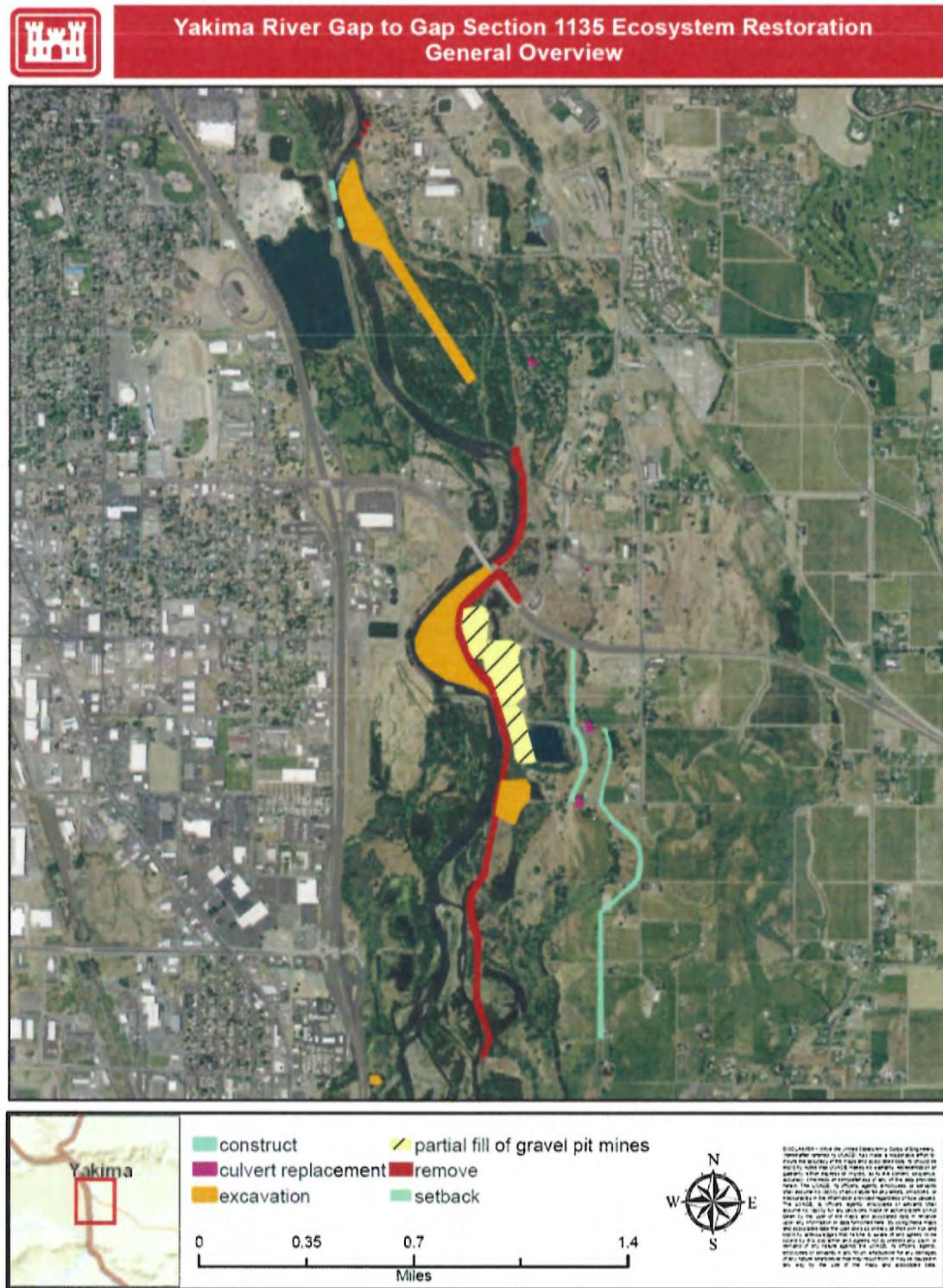
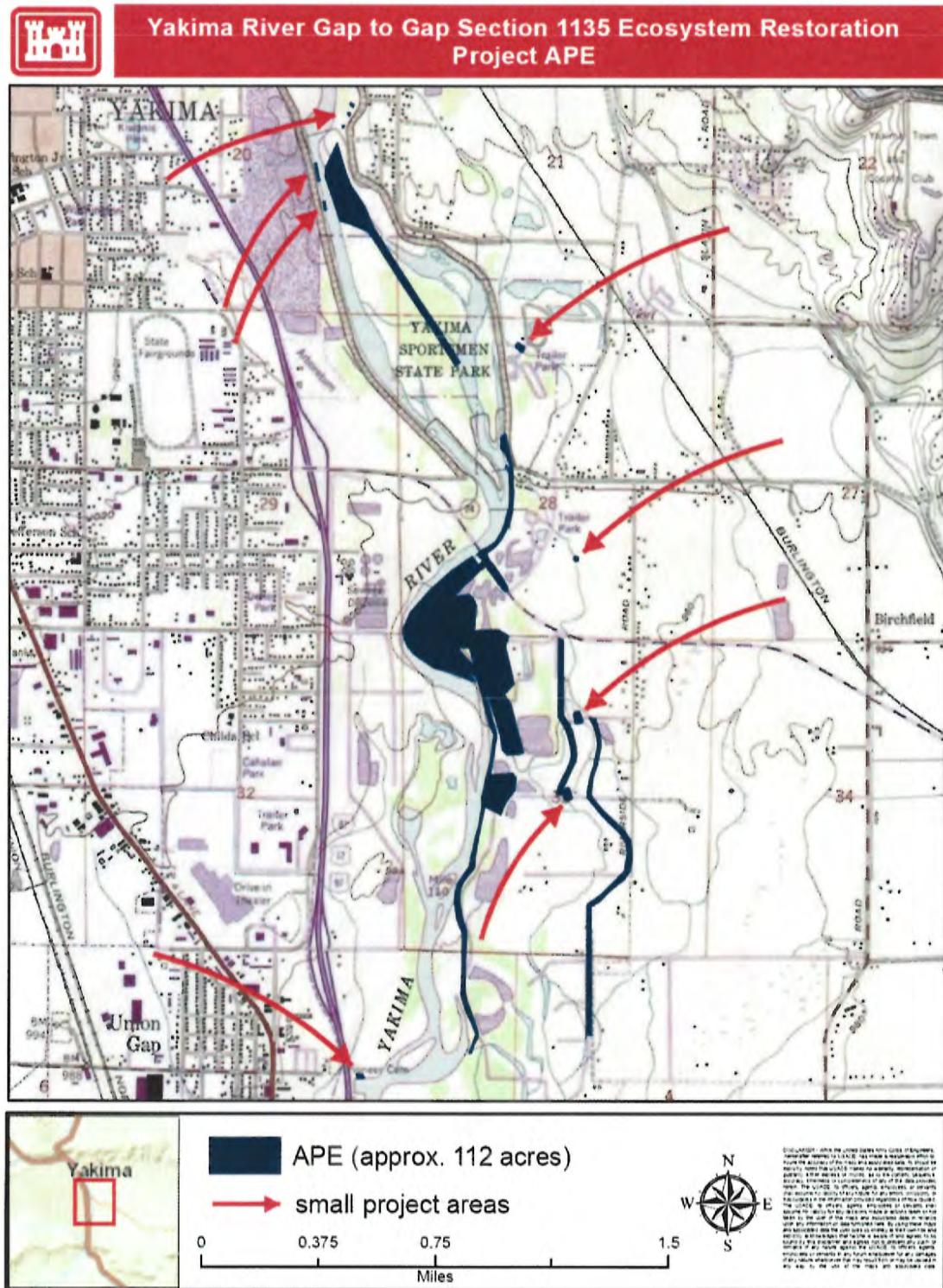


Figure 2. Project APE





Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 3, 2017

Mr. Evan R. Lewis
Environmental Resources Section
Corps of Engineers – Seattle District
PO Box 3755
Seattle, Washington 98124-3755

Re: Yakima River Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration Project
Log No.: 2017-04-02345-COE-S

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for contacting our department. We have reviewed the materials you provided for the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed Yakima River Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration Project along the Yakima River near Yakima and Union Gap, Yakima County, Washington

We concur with your determination of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) as described and presented in your figures and text.

We look forward to further consultations as consult you with the concerned tribal governments, provide the results of the professional cultural resources review, and your determination of effect.

We would also appreciate receiving any correspondence or comments from concerned tribes or other parties that you receive as you consult under the requirements of 36CFR800.4(a)(4).

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer in compliance with the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and its implementing regulations 36CFR800.4. Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert G. Whitlam, Ph.D.' followed by a long, thin, horizontal line.

Robert G. Whitlam, Ph.D.
State Archaeologist
(360) 890-2615
email: rob.whitlam@dahp.wa.gov





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Environmental and Cultural Resources Branch

APR 03 2017

The Honorable JoDe Goudy
Chairman, Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation
P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948

SUBJECT: Yakima River Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration Project: Yakima County, WA

Dear Chairman Goudy:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) proposes to implement an ecosystem restoration project (undertaking) located along the Yakima River near the city of Yakima between the Selah Gap and Union Gap (Gap to Gap Reach), Yakima County, Washington. The purpose of the undertaking is to restore ecosystem process, structure, and function in the Gap to Gap Reach of the Yakima River that has been lost due to degradation of the natural ecosystem processes stemming from the disconnection of the river with its historic floodplain. To assist in our review, we are notifying you about the project, requesting your assistance in identifying any issues or concerns you might have, and seeking information to identify properties which may be of religious or cultural significance that may be affected by the project as specified by the implementing regulations for Section 106 at 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(a)(4). The letter also summarizes efforts that the Corps has taken to date to identify historic properties that may be affected by the undertaking.

Located east of the Cascade Mountain Range in central Washington State, the Yakima River ecosystem between the cities of Yakima and Union Gap has been degraded and reduced over time as a result of infrastructure and urban development, and can be tied directly to the construction of the Congressionally funded Yakima Authorized Levee System built by the Corps in 1947. The Federal levee system includes approximately 5 miles of levee along the right bank and 2 miles of levee along the left bank of the Yakima River. Over time, local and Federal entities have extended the original Corps system to include several additional miles of levee both upstream and downstream of the original authorized project. Currently the length of the levees and revetments combined (19.9 miles) is twice the length of the main channel in the Gap to Gap reach, significantly reducing channel length and complexity, degrading and fragmenting habitat, and disrupting natural fluvial processes. These changes have negatively impacted in-stream habitat, increased in-channel velocities and depths, reduced levee integrity, and increased operations and maintenance costs.

The proposed action includes levee removals, levee realignment, spur dike removals, floodplain topographic restoration, side channel construction, hydrologic enhancement of a

disconnected floodplain channel, replacement of barrier culverts, and wetland reconnection (Figure 1). Work would be completed in four areas: the Diking District #1 (DID#1) floodplain area, Sportsman Island, Blue Slough, and Spring Creek. The proposed action would reconnect and restore natural riverine processes beneficial to native fish to over 320 acres of floodplain through the realignment of the existing DID#1 levee. Realignment of the DID#1 levee would improve fish habitat by giving the river channel the opportunity to migrate and promote bar, island, and side channel formation. The proposed action would also create and restore approximately 20 acres of side channel habitat at the Sportsman's Park Island that is currently lacking in this reach of the Yakima River. Restoration of flow to Blue Slough would restore surface water hydrology to 2 miles/12 acres of relic channel that currently is only wet seasonally when ground water elevations are high. Additionally, replacement of all undersized Blue Slough culverts less than 6 feet wide would improve fish passage for all native salmonids and life stages. The reconnection of Spring Creek would restore fish access to rare cold water off-channel habitat.

By removing constraints to the natural flow of the river the proposed action reestablishes the conditions that allow the dynamic processes of channel formation and sediment transport to function naturally, which creates and sustains the habitat conditions suited to the ESA-listed fish and other species native to the Yakima River. Restored anabranching channels provide important rearing and refuge habitat for salmonids, especially important during high flows, as well as increased riparian vegetation which provides forage (insect drop) and cover. Many historic side channels that were isolated from the river when the levee was constructed would be reconnected by the proposed action. The proposed action restores inundation of the historic floodplain and associated exchange of nutrients and increases habitat complexity via food subsidies and large wood. The proposed action restores conditions such that this dynamic river system can continue to form and re-form channels as sediment moves around in the system. The project would restore the ecosystem processes that form and sustain riverine habitat, which is key to successful restoration and consistent with Corps restoration policy. Overall, the tentatively selected plan (TSP) would restore frequent inundation to more than 320 acres of historic floodplain by realigning 1.7 miles of revetment and levee and removing 8% of the hardened streambank in the nearly 10 mile long Gap to Gap Reach. It would also reconnect approximately 2.4 miles of historic side channel habitat.

We would like to summarize efforts taken to date to identify cultural resources within the area of potential effect (APE) (Figure 2). The Corps staff archaeologist has conducted a records search and literature review of the Washington Information System Architectural and Archaeological Records Database (WISAARD). The literature review and records search indicates that two previously recorded structures (45 years or older) or archaeological sites potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) have been identified within the proposed ecosystem restoration project area, the Moxee Blvd Bridge

(45YA01606) and Irrigation Canals #1 and #2 (45YA846). Four cultural resources surveys have been previously conducted within the project area.

If the Tribe has information or concerns regarding properties which may be of religious or cultural significance that you believe may be affected by this project, please contact us as soon as possible so that we may consult with you and ensure consideration of the information in a timely manner. A copy of this letter with enclosures will be furnished to: Mr. Johnson Meninick, Cultural Resources Program Director and Jon Shellenberger, Cultural Resources Program.

If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact the project archaeologist, Ms. Ashley Dailide, at ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil or (206) 764-6942. You may also contact Ms. Lori Morris (Tribal Liaison) at (206) 764-3625 or by email at frances.morris@usace.army.mil. I may be reached by telephone at (760) 764-6922 or by email at evan.r.lewis@usace.army.mil. Thank you for your assistance with this undertaking.

Sincerely,



Evan R. Lewis, Chief
Environmental and Cultural
Resources Branch

Enclosure

Figure 1. Project Location Overview

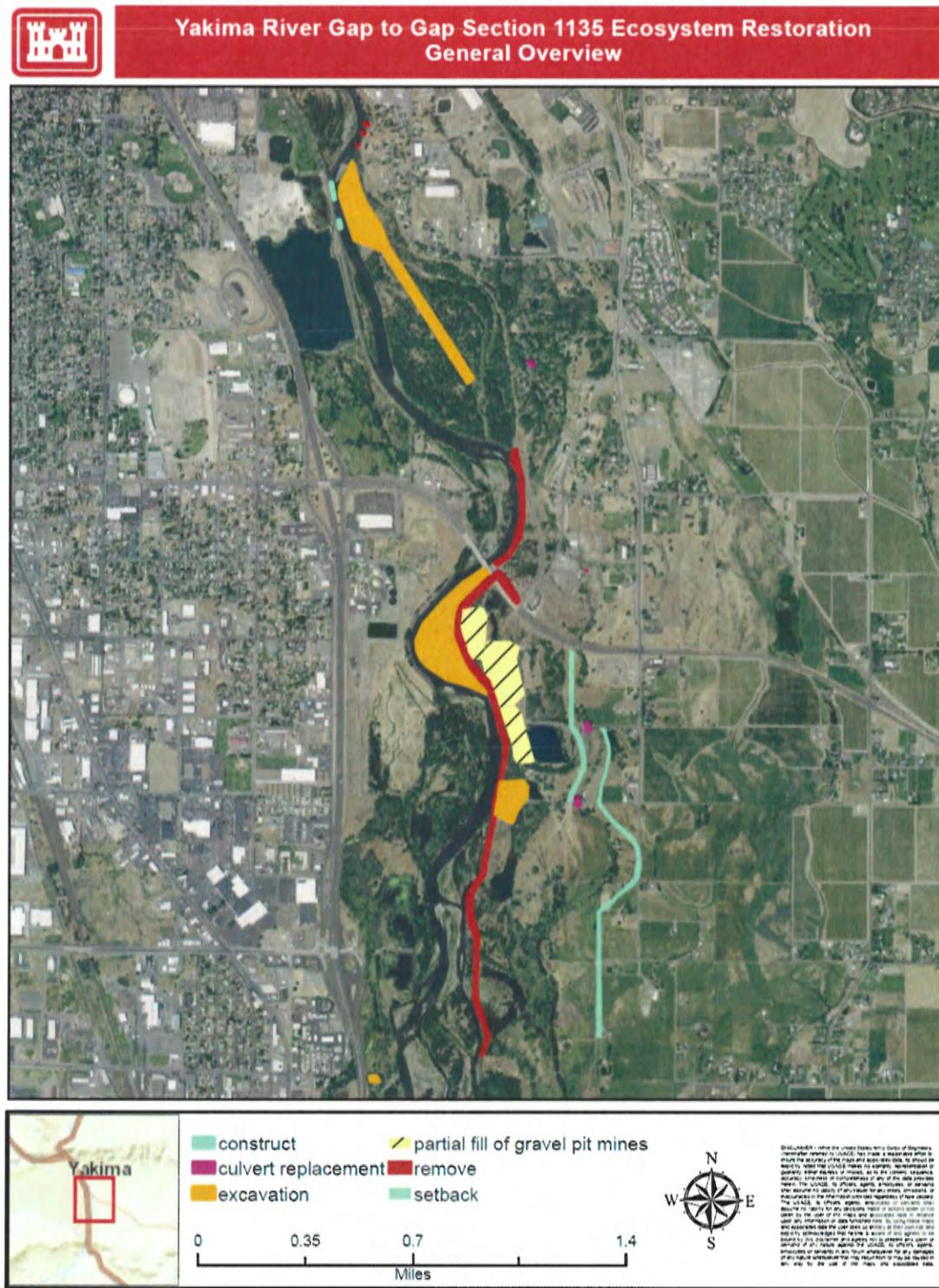
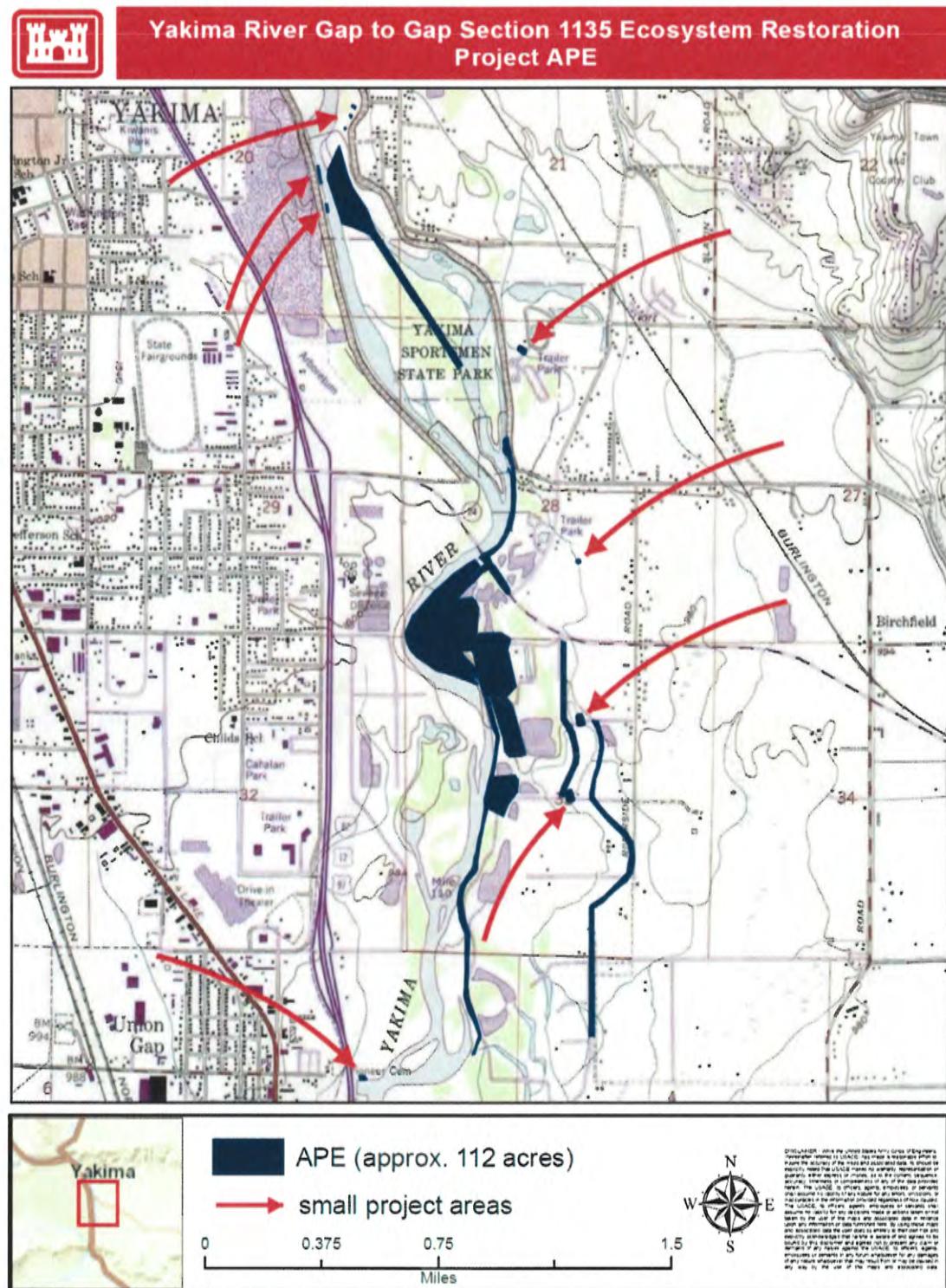


Figure 2. Project APE





Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

August 23, 2017

Mr. Evan R. Lewis, Chief
Environmental and Cultural Resources Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, Washington 98124-3755

In future correspondence please refer to:

Project Tracking Code: 2017-04-02345

Property: Yakima River Authorized Levee System, Selah Gap to Union Gap

Re: Yakima River Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Evans:

Thank you for contacting the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) regarding the above referenced proposal. This action has been reviewed on behalf of the SHPO under provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and 36 CFR Part 800. Our review is based upon documentation contained in your communication.

First, we agreed with the definition of the project Area of Potential Effect (APE) in our letter to you of April 3, 2017. We also concur with your determination that the Nob Hill, KOA/Sportsman Park, and DID#1 Levees are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing structures to the Yakima River Authorized Levee System dating to 1947 and authorized by Congress following record flooding in 1933. We also concur that archaeological site 45 YA 1606 (Moxee Boulevard Bridge concrete abutments) are not eligible for the National Register.

We concur with your determination that the proposed Ecosystem Restoration Project will have "no adverse effect" on character-defining features that qualify the Yakima River Authorized Levee System and its contributing elements for the National Register. As a result of our concurrence, further contact with DAHP on this proposal is not necessary. However, if new information about affected resources becomes available and/or the project scope of work and/or locations change significantly, please resume consultation as our assessment may be revised. Also, if any archaeological resources are uncovered during construction, please halt work immediately in the area of discovery and contact the appropriate Native American Tribes and DAHP for further consultation.

Finally, please note that in order to streamline our responses, DAHP requires that all documents related to project reviews be submitted electronically. Correspondence, reports, notices, photos, etc. must now be submitted in PDF or JPG format. For more information about how to submit documents to DAHP please visit: <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/programs/shpo-compliance>. To assist you in conducting a cultural resource survey and inventory effort, DAHP has



developed guidelines including requirements for survey reports. You can view or download a copy from our website.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at greg.griffith@dahp.wa.gov or 360-586-3073.

Sincerely,



Gregory Griffith
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

c: Johnson Meninick, Yakama Nation, Cultural Resources
Kate Valdez, Yakama Nation, THPO

