



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

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May 28, 2024

Yakima County Planning Division
Phil Hoge, Planner III
128 N. 2nd St.
4th Floor Courthouse
Yakima, WA 98901

Subject: LRN2024-0004/SEP2018-00006 – Williamson (Miocene Resources, LLC)

Dear Phil Hoge:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) holds easement over what is referred to as Mud Lake Road. DNR uses this road for land management and administrative activities, including timber haul, fire control and access to a communication site. Reroute of Mud Lake Road is proposed to ultimately occur. The proponent asserts that they will work cooperatively with easement holders to relocate the road, but the route proposed does not appear feasible.

DNR is concerned that it is not reasonably possible to relocate Mud Lake Road over the hillside north of the active quarry, to a condition that remains comparably safe and usable for our resource management needs. The proposed relocation is over very steep slopes, through portions of the Sanford Pasture Landslide, as shown on the Expanded Reclamation Permit Application for Horseshoe Bend Quarry (Rec'd May 31, 2023 - see attached map). It appears crossing these steep slopes would require full bench construction (no fill slope) to meet Forest Practices standards, as well as the use of at least one switchback for reasonably safe and comparable grades. Without a road design, we estimate the full bench cut slopes may be 20' to 30' high and the switchback cut slope about 120' high or more.

Relocation of Mud Lake Road may be years in the future, however, we do not believe it is reasonable to approve an action that will ultimately require relocation to where it does not appear feasible. We request that a professionally engineered design, meeting Forest Practices standards and following DNR's current Forest Roads Guidebook requirements for a Single Lane Mainline, be provided to DNR for review and approval prior to any approval that may lead to such a relocation. Until proven otherwise, it should be assumed such relocation is impossible. DNR believes that the current route, shifted into the hill through the mining area, may be a feasible option.

Please contact me with questions at (509) 571-0279 or Stephanie.Margheim@dnr.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

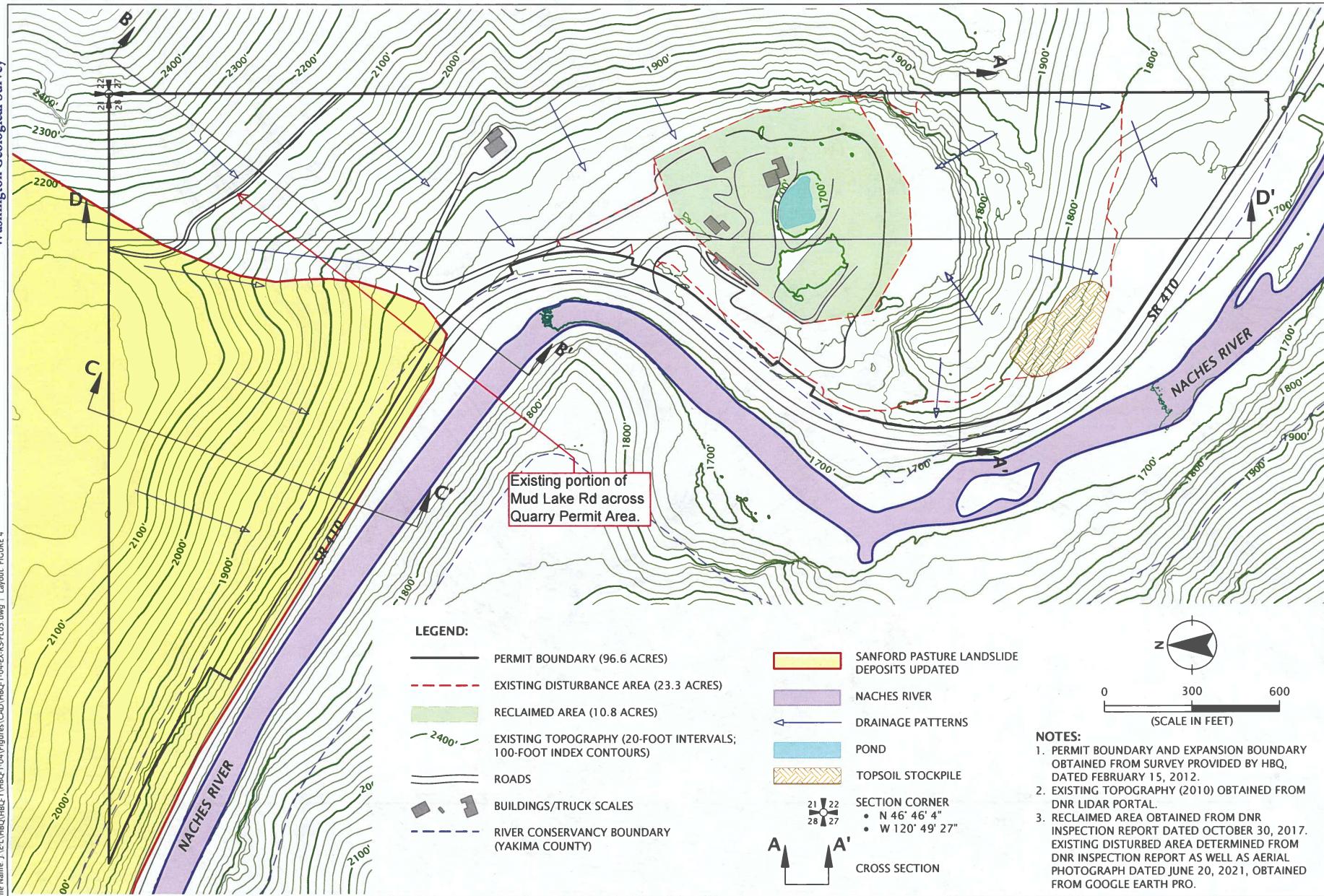
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Margheim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Stephanie" on the top line and "Margheim" on the bottom line.

Stephanie Margheim
Acting Assistant Region Manager

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May 31, 2023

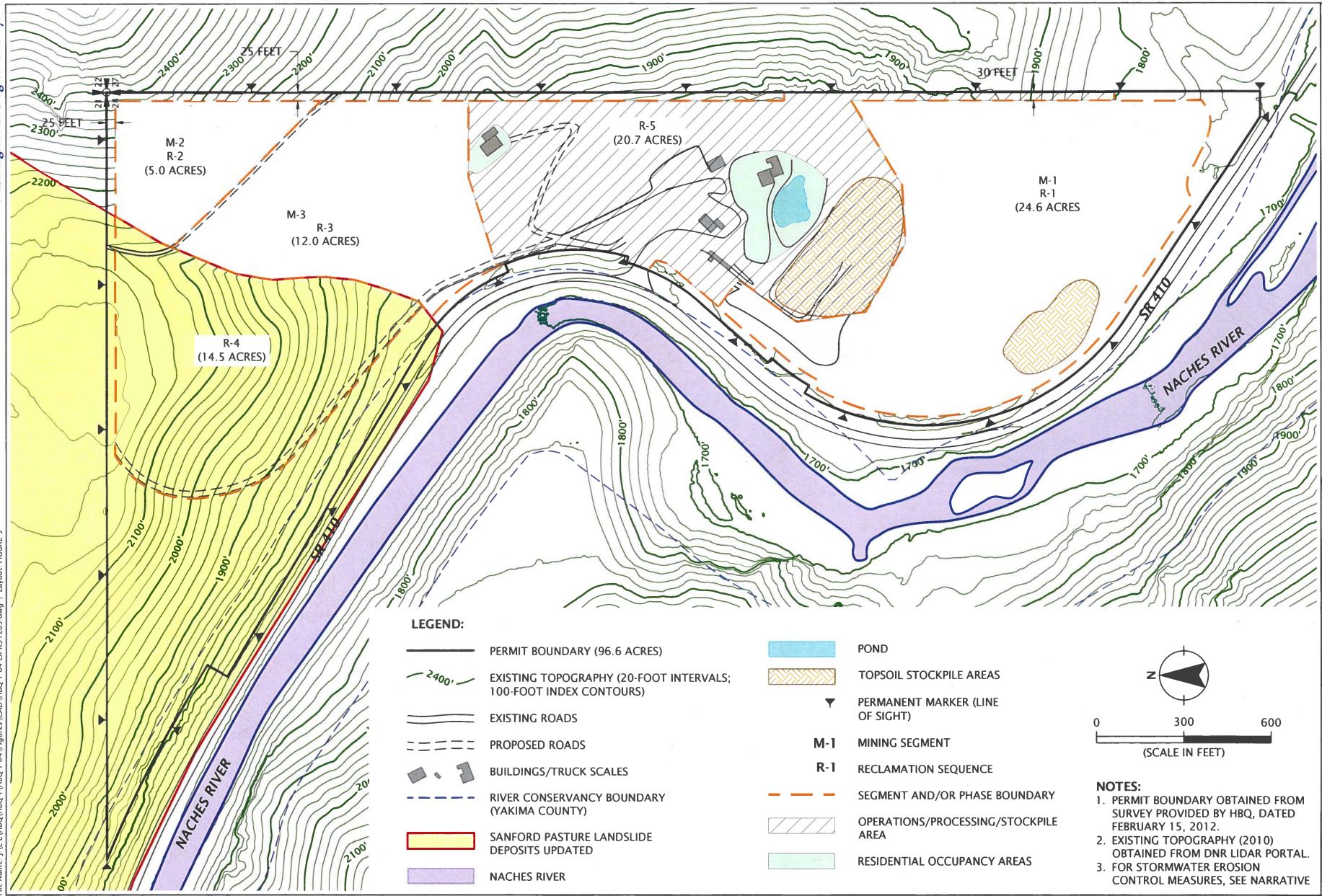
Washington Geological Survey

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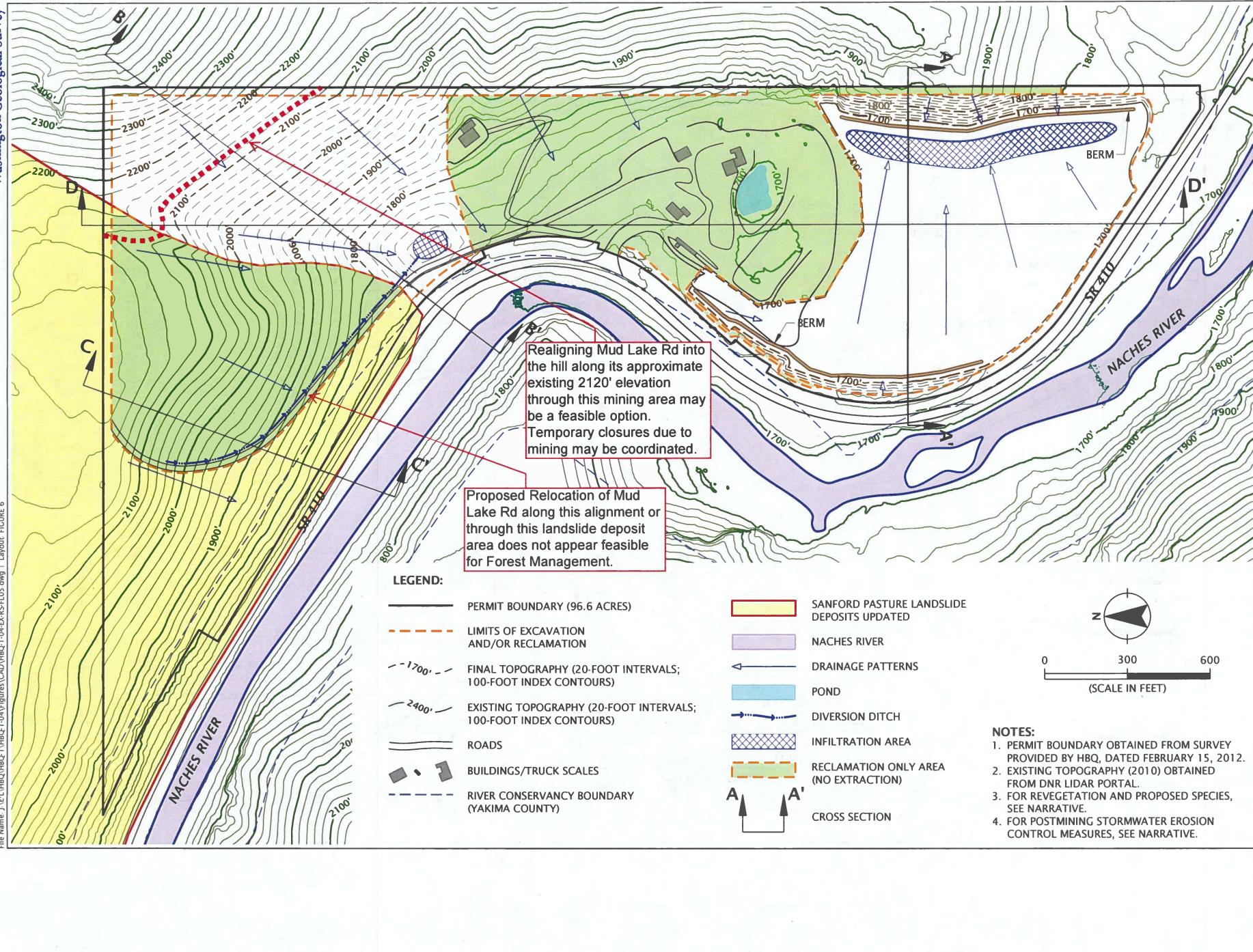
Washington Geological Survey

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