CENWS-OD-TS-DM

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD 2 November 2005

SUBJECT: DMMP DETERMINATION OF SUITABILITY OF THE PROPOSED MAINTENANCE DREDGING/EXCAVATION PROJECT AT THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY (BNSF) DOG CREEK CULVERT (200501107) WITH DISPOSAL IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

1. The applicant proposes to dredge approximately 2,000 cubic yards of accumulated material from an area adjacent to the Dog Creek Culvert outlet within the Columbia River, near White Salmon, Skamania County, Washington. They propose to dispose of the material several hundred feet downstream to create shallow water habitat (see Figures 1-4).

2. This summary reflects a consensus determination of the agencies that comprise the regional Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) for the State of Washington. The agencies include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

3. The material to be dredged consists predominately of gravel and cobble-sized substrates with entrained large and small woody debris. It is recruited primarily from the relatively flat gradient area immediately upstream from the culvert outlet site, while some of the material originates from the Dog Creek drainage area. The material settles near the outlet structure at a faster rate than it is removed by routine maintenance or natural flushing, and is frequently partially or completely blocked by the material moved downstream. The obstruction of the culvert impedes the passage of fish from the Columbia River into Dog Creek through this culvert, and their ingress and egress are currently being impeded by the material obstructing the culvert.

4. The area proposed for dredging measures approximately 50 feet wide by 120 feet long, totaling 6,000 square feet (0.14 acres) in size. Material will be excavated to a depth of 6-9 feet, tapering to existing contours. The area to be dredged extends as a shallow bar protruding from a steep, armored embankment. All proposed work will be conducted within BNSF right-of-way, which extends 150 feet into the Columbia River, along the south side of the rail lines.

5. The Washington State Department of Transportation and BSNS expect that this work will promote self-cleaning of the structure, reduce the need for inlet-side maintenance, and lower the probability of inlet-side scouring.

6. Dog creek is a deeply incised, high gradient perennial stream descending approximately 3 miles between the southern flank of Augspurger Mountain and the east flank of Dog Mountain before discharging to the Columbia River. Portions of Dog Creek immediately upstream of the project area exhibit a moderate gradient and provide suitable spawning and refuge habitat for anadromous salmon and steelhead.

7. The project described in the permit public notice is relatively small in scope, and the generally coarse nature of the material to be dredged/excavated consists predominately of gravel/cobble, which is not likely to be a sink for chemical contaminants. In addition, some of the material originates from the Dog Creek drainage area lying within U. S. Forest Service lands, where there are no known significant sources of chemical contamination. Therefore the DMMP agencies conclude that there is

little reason-to-believe that these sediments are contaminated and the material is suitable for dredging/excavation without testing.

8. This determination is contingent upon no perturbations or unanticipated impacts occurring that would affect the quality of the sediments between the date of this suitability determination and the dredging/excavation dates.

9. This suitability determination was coordinated with all DMMP agencies, and the DMMP agencies concurred that no testing of this material is required.

10. However, this determination does not constitute final agency approval of the project. A dredging plan for this project must be completed as part of the final project approval process. A final decision will be made after full consideration of agency input, and after an alternatives analysis is done under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

Concur:

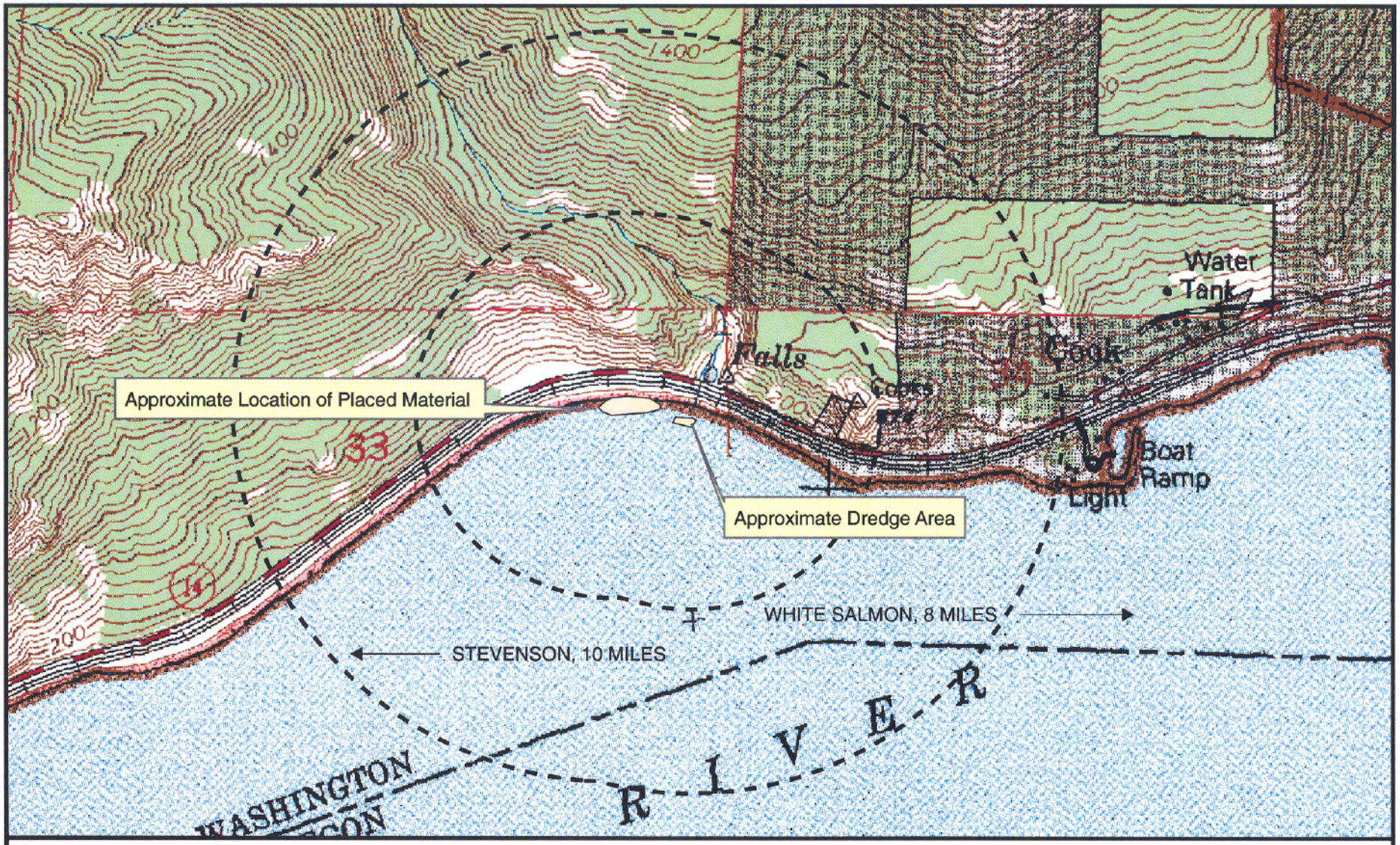
11/3/05
Date — David Kendall, Ph.D., Seattle District Corps of Engineers

11/3/2005
Date — Cinde Donoghue, Washington Department of Ecology

11/3/2005
Date — Jonathan Freedman/John Malek, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

11/3/2005
Date — Peter Leon, Washington Department of Natural Resources

Copies Furnished:
Jim Green, Regulatory Branch Project Manager
Jonathan Freedman, EPA
Peter Leon, DNR
Cinde Donoghue, Ecology
DMMO File



Dog Creek Culvert Maintenance

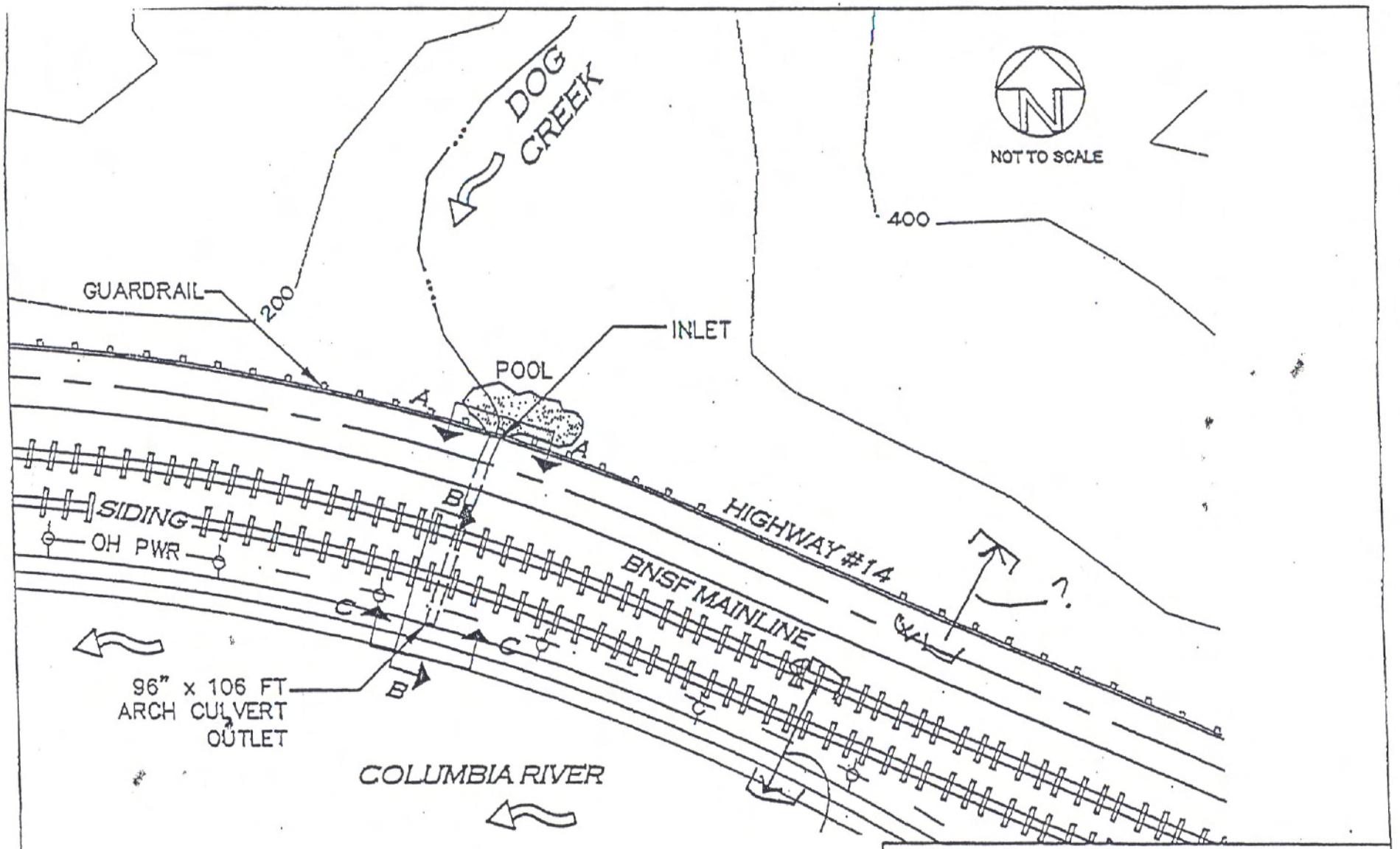
SR 14, MP 55.72

Project Area and Action Area

Project Area

Action Area

project_area.mxd Printed: 08/30/2005

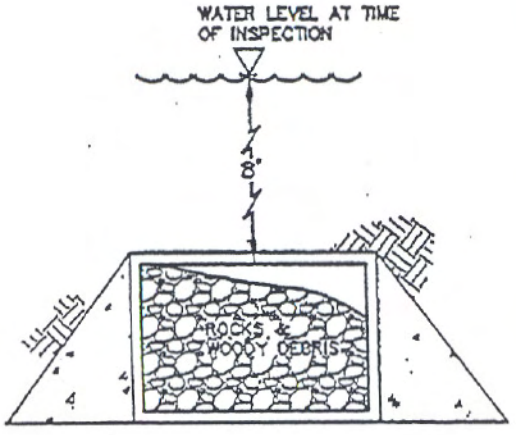


PLAN VIEW

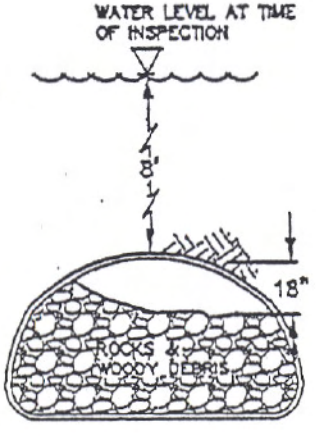
USACE REF. NO.:
PROJECT: DOG CREEK CULVERT MAINTENANCE AT MP 65.6
APPLICANT: BURLINGTON NORTHERN & SANTA FE RAILWAY CO.
WATERWAY: COLUMBIA RIVER, WITHIN RIVER MILE 161 (Approx.)
LEGAL: IN PORTION OF NE 1/4 SEC. 33, T3N, R9E, W.M.
COUNTY: SKAMANIA STATE: WASHINGTON
LAT/LONG: APPROX. N45°42.6': W121°40.3'
DATE: OCTOBER, 2002

Contours Based On USGS 7.5 Quad "Mt Defiance, WA"

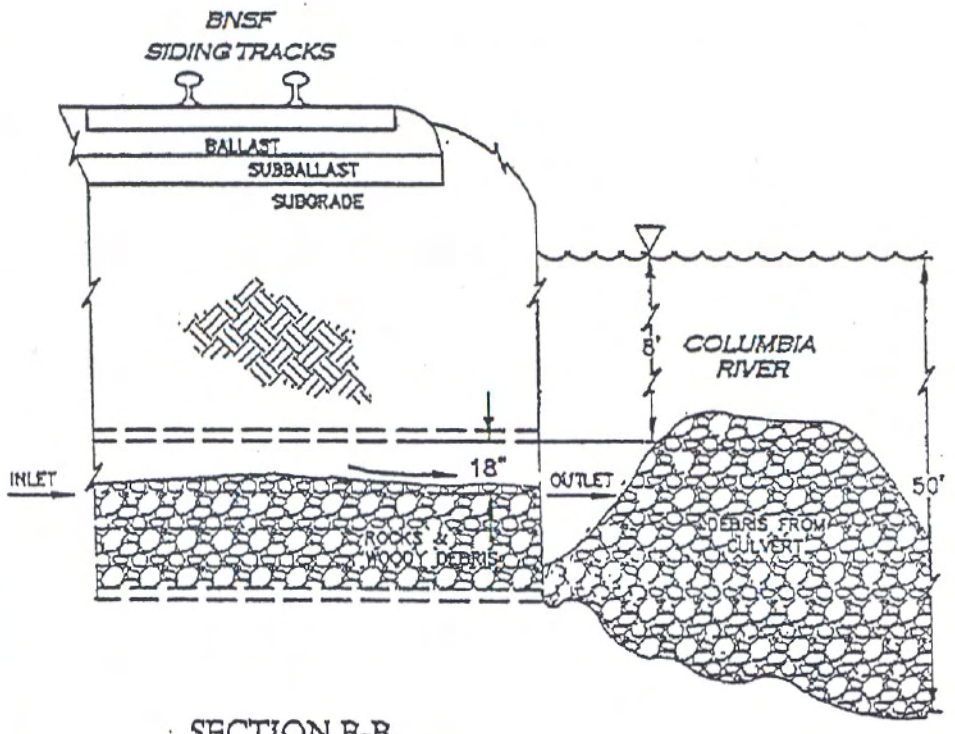
FIG.



INLET
CROSS-SECTION
SCALE: 1"=5'



OUTLET
CROSS-SECTION
SCALE: 1"=5'



SECTION B-B
SCALE: 1"=5'

CULVERT DETAILS

USACE REF. NO.:
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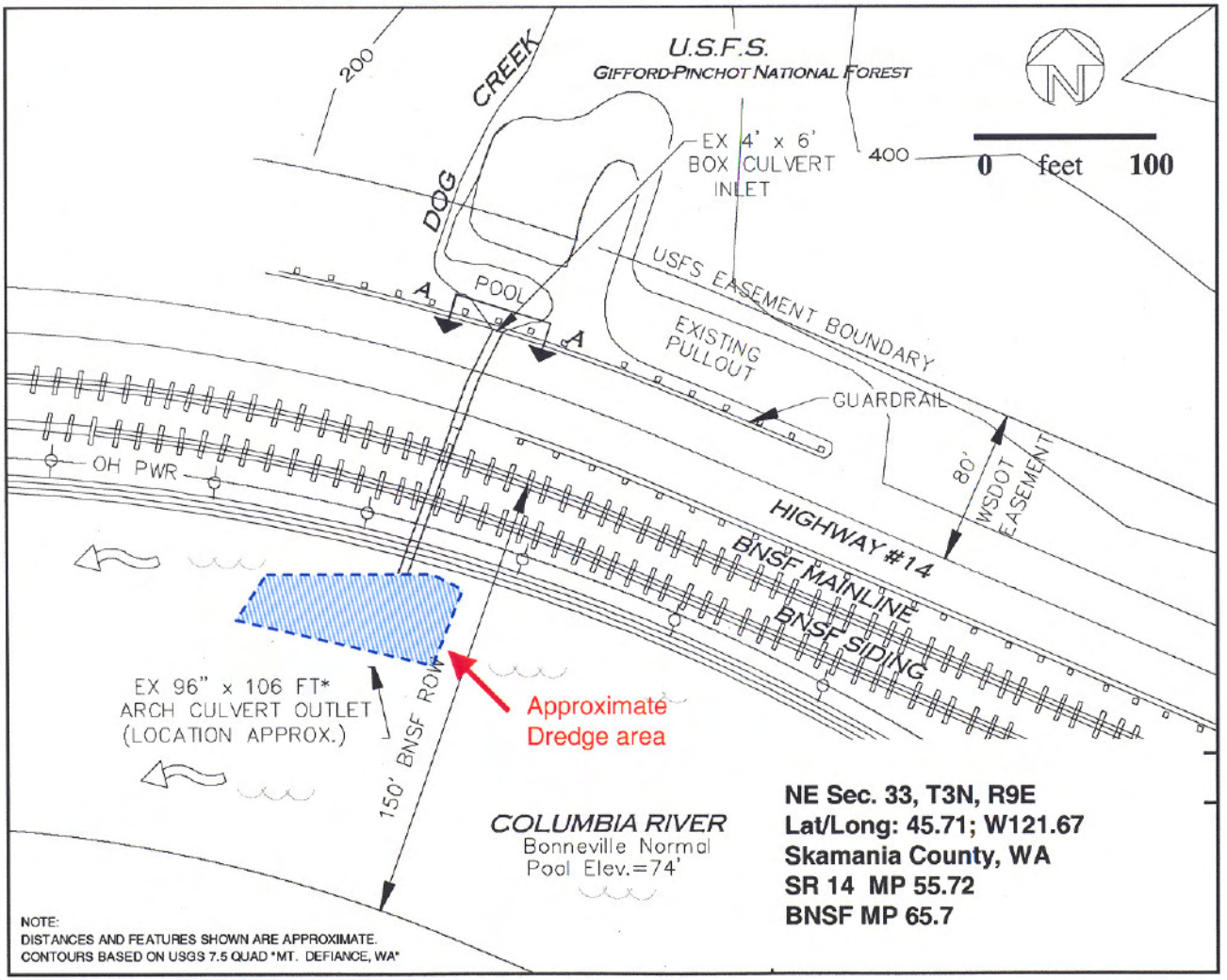
FIG.

DOG CREEK CULVERT

APPROXIMATE DREDGE LOCATION