



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District



Joint Public Notice

Application for a Department of the Army Permit and an Environmental Protection Agency Water Quality Certification and Washington Department of Ecology Coastal Zone Management Consistency Decision

US Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
4735 E. Marginal Way S,
Bldg 1202
Seattle, WA 98134-2388
Telephone (360) 890-6037
Attn: Grace Hall, Project
Manager

WA Department of Ecology
SEA Program
P.O. Box 47600,
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov
Telephone (360) 407-6076
Attn: SEA Program, Federal
Permit Coordinator

U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 10
805 Southwest Broadway Street,
Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205
Telephone (206) 553-0532
ATTN: Jeff Brittain

Public Notice Date: May 30, 2025
Expiration Date: June 29, 2025

Reference No.: NWS-2025-180
Name: National Park Service
(Tahoma Creek Excavation and
Bank Stabilization)

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) have received an application to perform work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed drawings dated May 1, 2025.

The Corps will review the work in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). EPA will review the work pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA, with applicable provisions of State water pollution control laws. Ecology will review the work in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

APPLICANT: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Mt. Rainier National Park
Attention: Gregory Dudgeon
55210 238th Avenue East
Ashford, Washington 98304
Telephone: (360) 569-6503

LOCATION: In Tahoma Creek near Ashford, Pierce County, Washington (Latitude: 46.741456, Longitude: -121.896541). Excavation would occur up to 200 feet upstream and 1,000 feet downstream of the Tahoma Creek Bridge on Paradise Valley Road East. The excavated material would be disposed on an approximately 1,000-foot-long stretch of exposed gravel

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terraces adjacent to the dredge site. Bank stabilization would occur on 50 linear feet of each bank upstream of the Tahoma Creek Bridge.

WORK: The applicant proposes to permanently discharge up to 250 cubic yards of riprap for bank stabilization and conduct maintenance dredging resulting in the discharge of spoils waterward of the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) in Tahoma Creek. The applicant proposes to conduct the excavation up to three times before 2035, resulting in the total discharge of up to 41,787 cubic yards of spoils waterward of the OHWM over a ten-year period.

Prior to construction, block nets would be installed upstream and downstream of the bridge to prevent fish access into the work area. The work area would be dewatered, and remaining fish would be collected and relocated by hand or dip nets. If necessary, electrofishing would be used only in areas where other means of fish capture are infeasible.

Tahoma Creek would be temporarily diverted to dewater and isolate the work area. Up to 5,926 cy of existing sediment over a 0.46-acre area waterward of the OHWM would be excavated to create a 20-ft wide, 8-ft deep, and 600-1,000-ft long diversion channel to the east of the existing channel in the unwetted floodplain. The excavated material would be temporarily stored on gravel bars waterward of the OHWM before being backfilled to its original location after work is complete. A 5-ft high, 25-ft long, and 10-ft wide diversion dam composed of 47 cy of existing sediment would be created with a bulldozer to reroute streamflow into the diversion channel. The creation of this diversion dam would involve in-water machinery use.

Two excavators would be used to excavate up to 17,333 cy of existing rock, sediment, and woody debris over an area in the stream channel up to 1.79 acres in size (up to 65 ft wide, up to 200 ft upstream of the bridge, and up to 1,000 ft downstream of the bridge). The excavated material would be deposited on exposed gravel terraces, with up to 13,929 cy deposited waterward of the OHWM.

Up to 250 cy of riprap would be discharged waterward of the OHWM to replace up to 50 linear ft of both banks upstream of the bridge for bank stabilization (resulting in a total of 100 linear feet of bank stabilization).

For the initial bank stabilization and excavation, the diversion dam is expected to be in place for up to three weeks. For the following two excavations, the dam is expected to be in place for up to two weeks. Proposed wetlands impacts are avoided to the maximum extent possible; the only impact, if necessary, would be the placement of mats or wood to allow an equipment crossing with a maximum length of 15 feet through the wetland area. All mats or wood would be temporary and removed after work is complete.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the proposed work is to minimize risk of damage to the existing bridge and road by restoring hydraulic capacity beneath the bridge and stabilizing the eroding streambanks adjacent to the bridge wingwalls.

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DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (DMMP):

Dredged Material Testing: No testing has been completed. Prior to completing our review, the proposed dredged material must be evaluated according to the procedures specified by the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP). The DMMP evaluation may include both chemical and biological testing of sediments. For this project, the DMMP agencies will determine the appropriate disposal method. The sediment testing data will be available at the Corps, Seattle District, Dredged Material Management Office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The proposed maintenance excavation would occur three times over a ten-year period.

The location of the ordinary high-water mark shown on the project drawings has not yet been verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). If the Corps determines the boundaries of the wetland/waters are substantially inaccurate, a new public notice may be published.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA on all actions that may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat. The National Park Service, as the lead agency for ESA consultation, will consult with the NMFS and/or the USFWS as required under Section 7 of the ESA.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The proposed action would impact EFH in the project area. The National Park Service, as the lead agency for a determination regarding EFH, will consult with the National Marine Fisheries Services if necessary.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The National Park Service, as the lead agency for determining compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Native American Nations as appropriate.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION – CORPS - The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns,

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wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for the work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

SOURCE OF FILL MATERIAL: The fill material will be sourced from a rockfall three miles northwest of the project site to the greatest extent possible. The remainder will be imported material delivered to the site. Should a permit be issued, the Corps will evaluate the fill material source prior to the start of construction.

EVALUATION – ECOLOGY: Ecology is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, Native American Nations or tribal governments, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Ecology will be considering all comments to determine whether to issue a Coastal Zone Management federal consistency decision for the proposed project. As a Federal agency, the National Park Service will contact the Washington Department of Ecology directly to ensure the work is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Program.

EVALUATION – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA): The EPA is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, Native American Nations or tribal governments, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. The EPA will be considering all comments to determine whether to certify or deny a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the proposed project.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether authorizing the work would not be contrary to the public interest. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include on the subject line of the e-mail message the permit applicant's name and reference number as shown below. Either conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below, and the commenter's name, address, and phone number. All comments whether conventional mail or e-mail must reach this office, no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration.

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CORPS COMMENTS: All e-mail comments can be sent to grace.k.hall@usace.army.mil. You may also now submit project specific comments to the Corps through the new Regulatory Request System (RRS) through this link: <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs> ; Click Public Notices and filter to Washington State to see all current Seattle District Public Notices, including this notice. You may submit your comments directly through this portal.

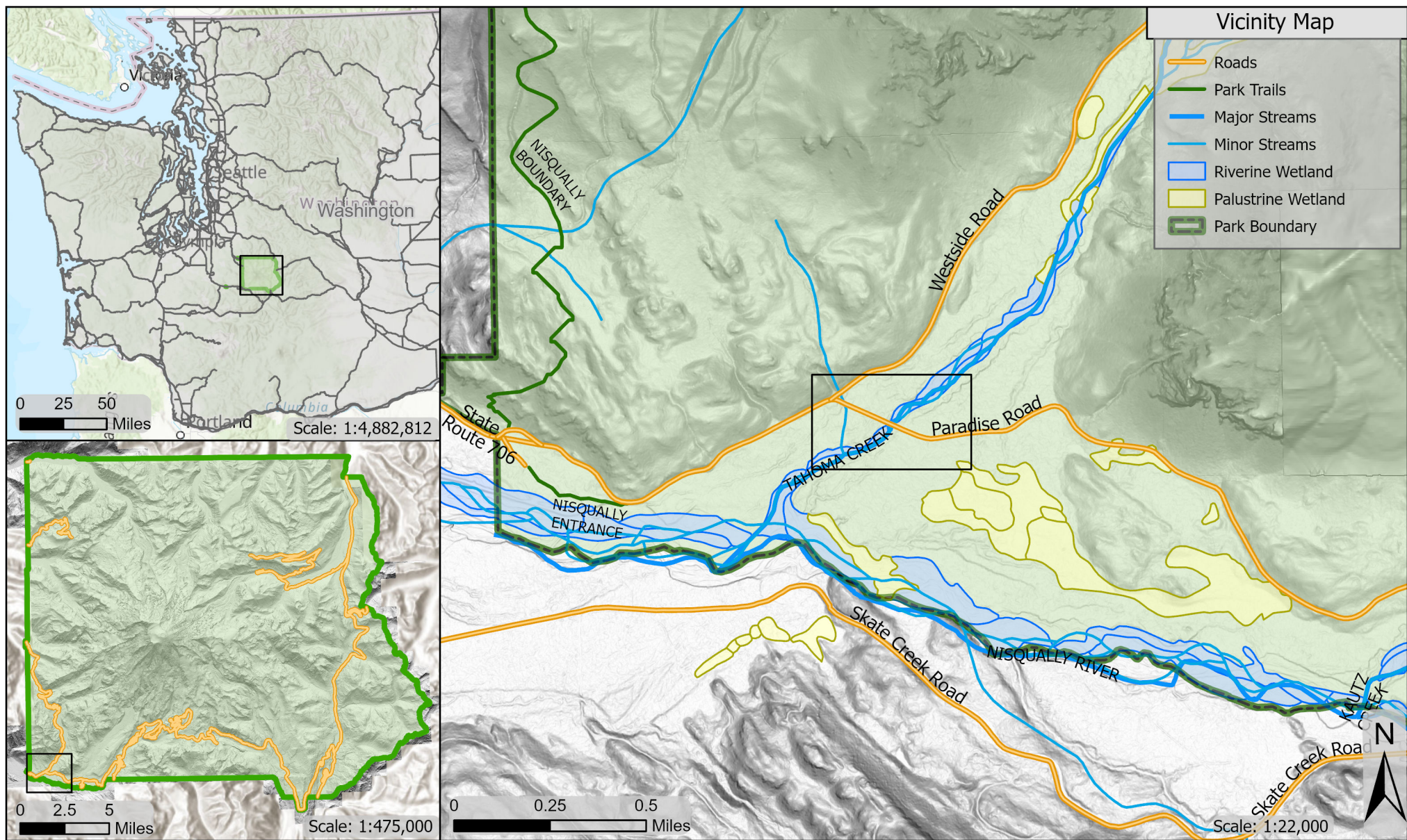
Conventional mail comments should be sent to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch,
Attention: Grace Hall, 4735 E. Marginal Way S, Bldg 1202, Seattle, Washington, 98134-2388.
All comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act including any personally identifiable information such as names, phone numbers, and addresses.

ECOLOGY COMMENTS: Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to a request for Coastal Zone Management consistency decision, may do so by submitting written comments to the following address: Department of Ecology, Attn: SEA program – Federal Permitting Section, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, Washington, 98504-7600, or e-mail to ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov.

EPA COMMENTS: Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to a request for water quality certification under Section 401 of the CWA, may do so by submitting written comments to the following address: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, 805 Southwest Broadway Street, Suite 500, Portland, Oregon, 97205-3331.

To ensure proper consideration of all comments, responders must include the following name and reference number in the text of their comments: NWS-2025-180; National Park Service (Tahoma Creek Excavation and Bank Stabilization).

Encl: Figures (7 pages)



REFERENCE: NWS-2025-180

APPLICANT:
Mount Rainier National Park

ADJECENT PROPERTY OWNERS:
All project lands are federal, National Park Service/
Mount Rainier National Park. Gifford Pinchot National
Forest 0.5mi south, private land 1mi west

LOCATION:
T015N R007E S35 NWSW

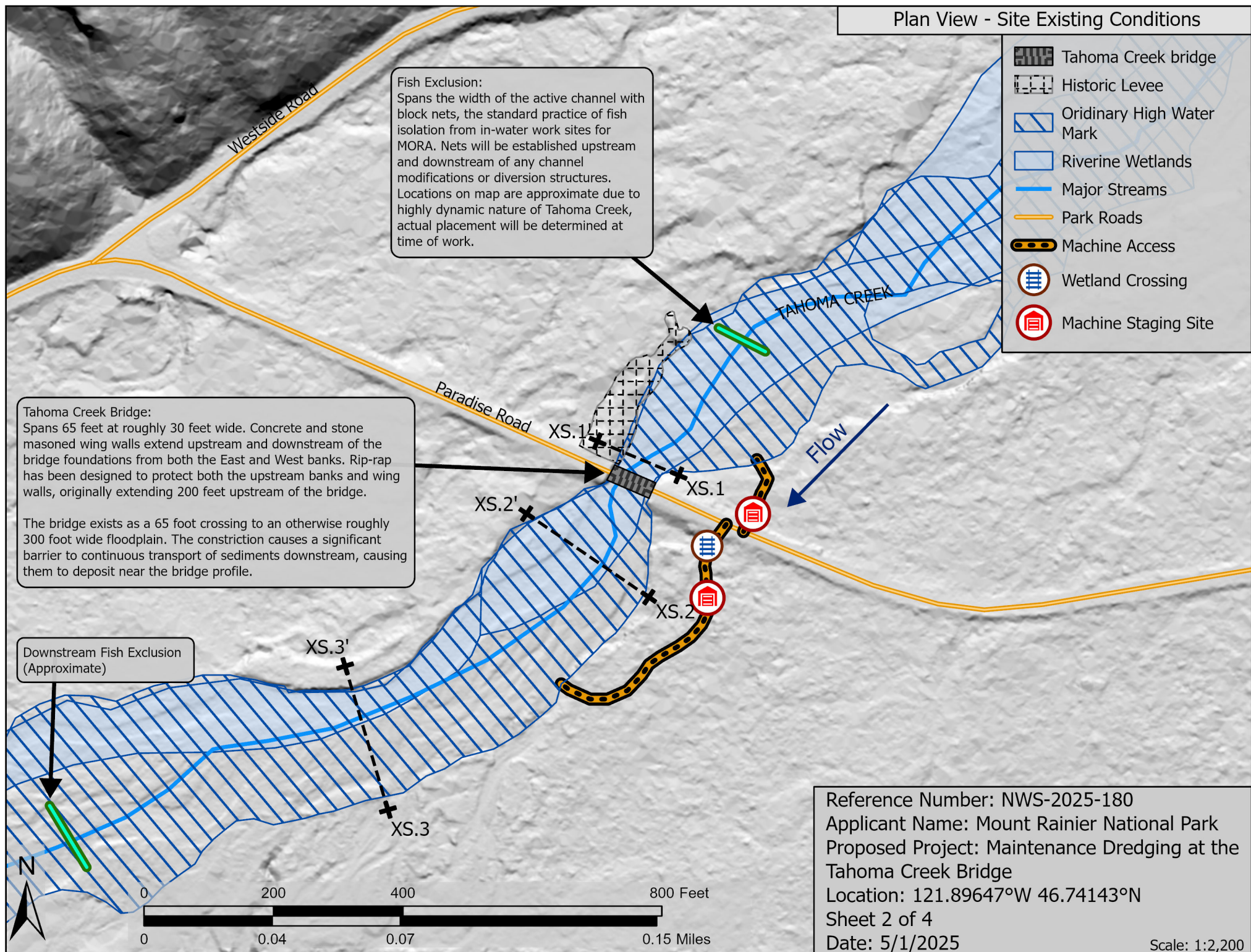
LONG/LAT:
121.89647°W 46.74143°N

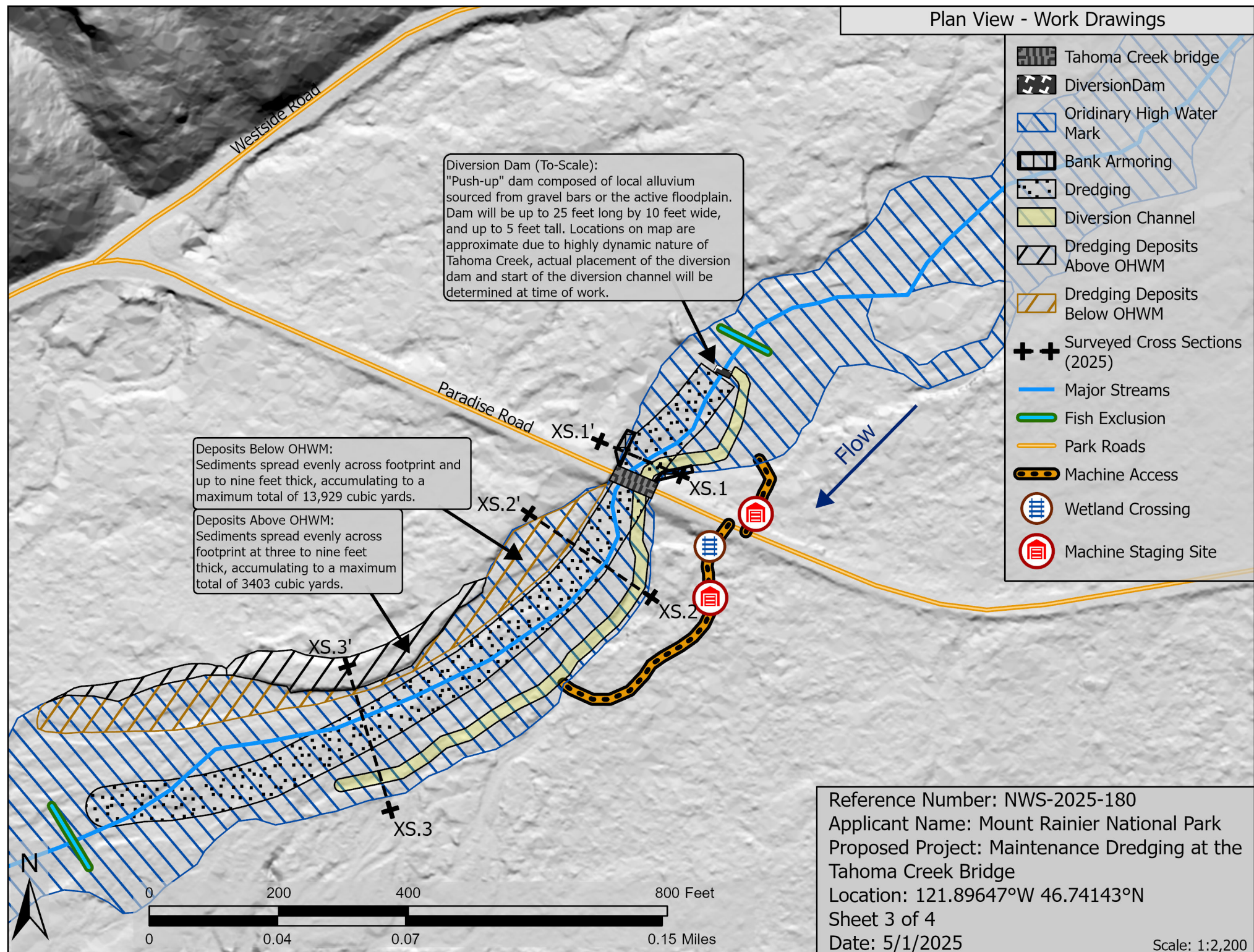
DATE: 5/1/2025

PAGE 1 of 7












PROPOSED PROJECT:
Maintenance Dredging of Tahoma
Creek at the Tahoma Creek Bridge
in Mount Rainier National Park

IN: Tahoma Creek
NEAR: Ashford (~8mi east)
COUNTY: Pierce
STATE: WA





Plan View - Work Drawings

-  Tahoma Creek bridge
-  DiversionDam
-  Ordinary High Water Mark
-  Bank Armoring
-  Dredging
-  Diversion Channel
-  Dredging Deposits Below OHWM
-  Surveyed Cross Sections (2025)
-  Major Streams
-  Park Roads
-  Machine Access

Bank Armoring:
Class 4 to Class 5 rock used to construct rip-rap armoring along both banks. Each section will be dug in and emplaced 1-2 feet below the final elevation of the dredging profile. Asymmetric layout of the two banks is reflective of the orientation of the floodplain itself, which is centered east of the bridge immediately upstream of the road. New armoring is one in a long series of installments to maintain the banks near the bridge since 1968.

XS.1'

XS.1

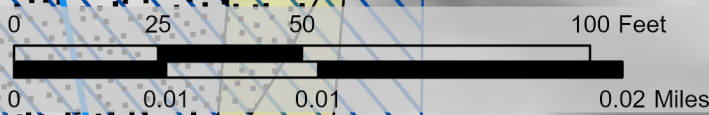
Tahoma
Creek
bridge

Paradise Road

Flow

Reference Number: NWS-2025-180
Applicant Name: Mount Rainier National Park
Proposed Project: Maintenance Dredging at the Tahoma Creek Bridge
Location: 121.89608°W 46.7416°N
Sheet 4 of 4
Date: 5/1/2025

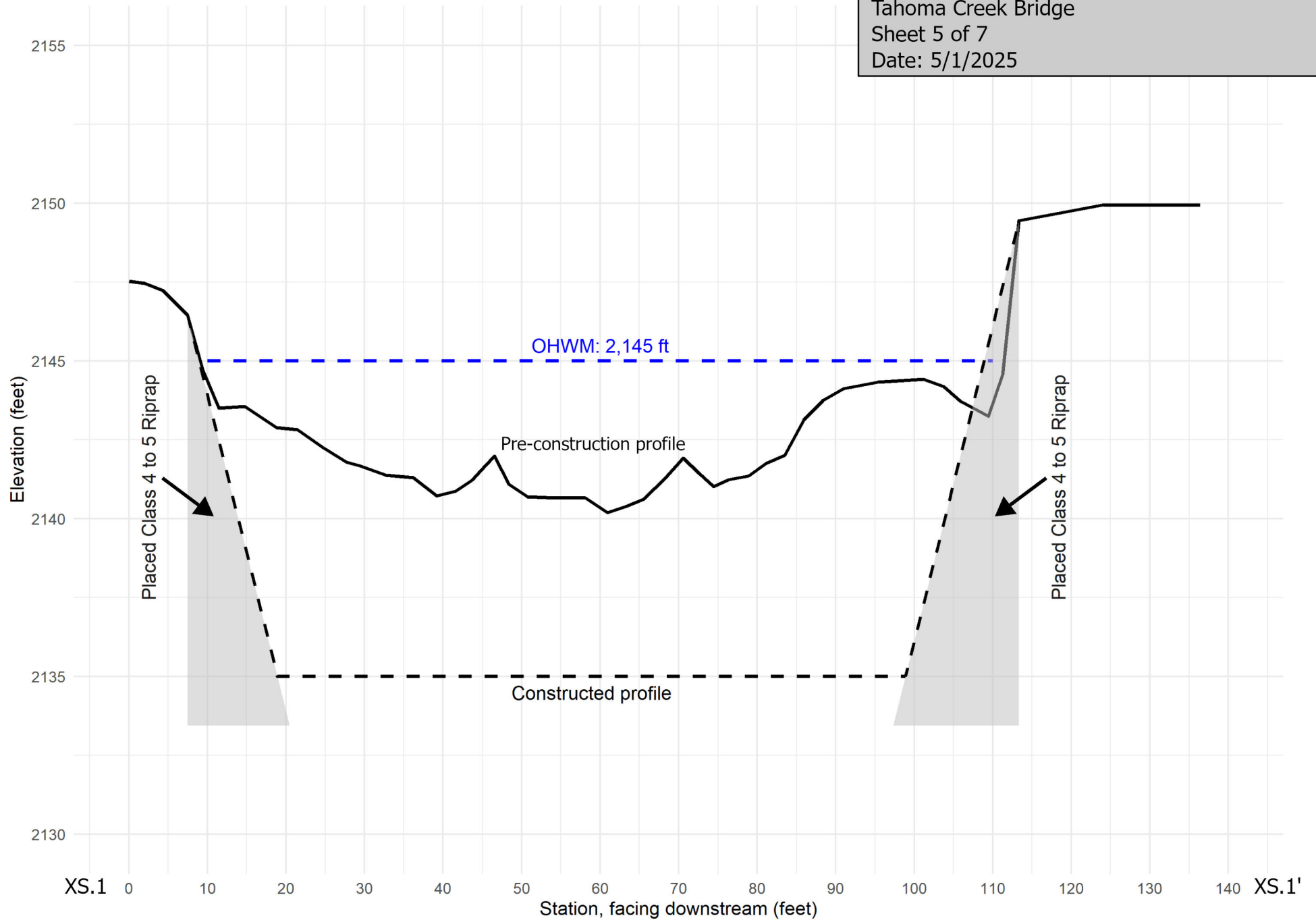
Scale: 1:400



Tahoma Creek - Cross Section 1

Vertical Exaggeration: 4.3x

Reference Number: NWS-2025-180
Applicant Name: Mount Rainier National Park
Proposed Project: Maintenance Dredging at the
Tahoma Creek Bridge
Sheet 5 of 7
Date: 5/1/2025



Tahoma Creek – Cross Section 2

Vertical Exaggeration: 11.8x

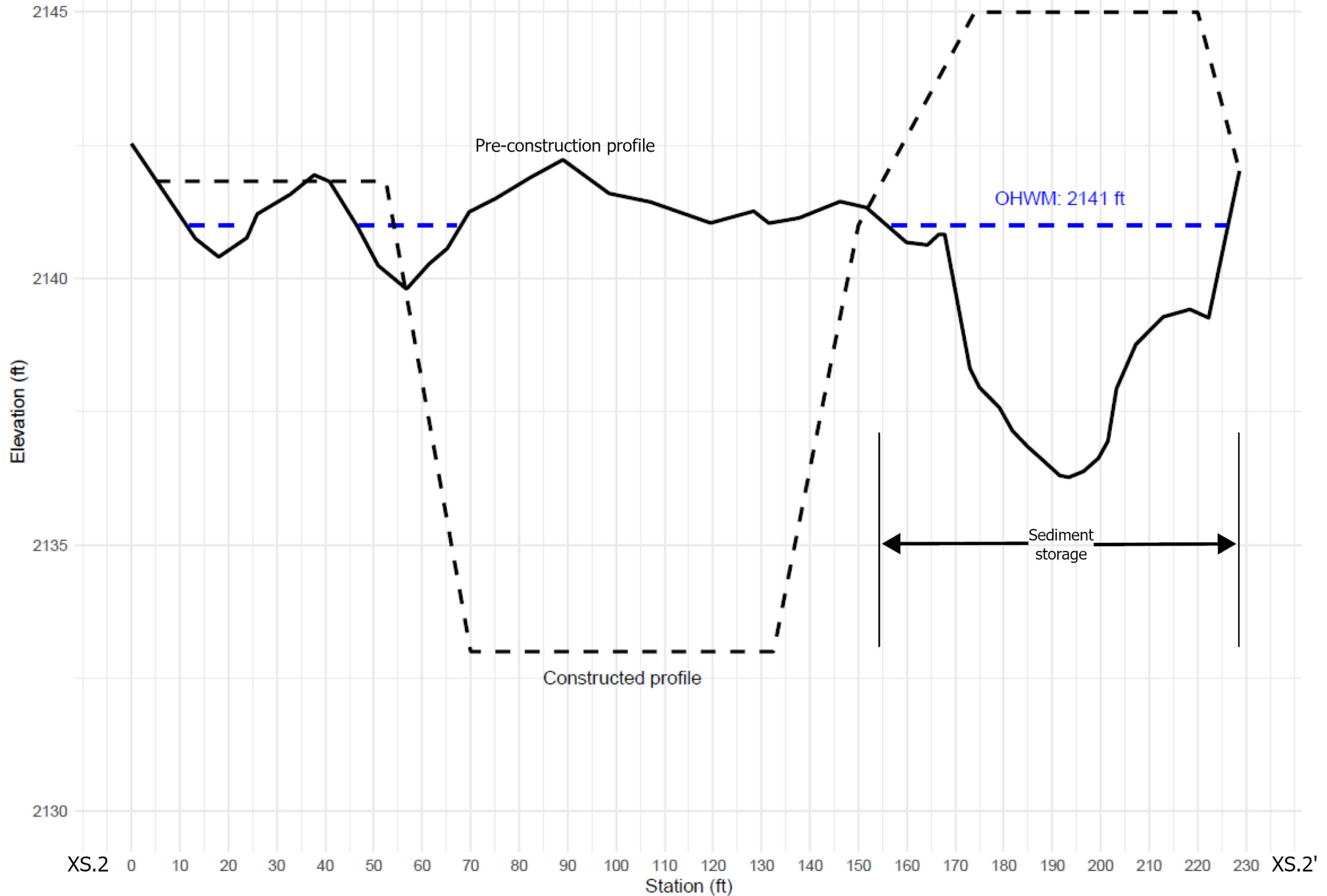
Reference Number: NWS-2025-180

Applicant Name: Mount Rainier National Park

Proposed Project: Maintenance Dredging at the Tahoma Creek Bridge

Sheet 6 of 7

Date: 5/1/2025



Tahoma Creek – Cross Section 3

Vertical Exaggeration: 9.3x

Reference Number: NWS-2025-180
Applicant Name: Mount Rainier National Park
Proposed Project: Maintenance Dredging at the
Tahoma Creek Bridge
Sheet 7 of 7
Date: 5/1/2025

