



## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Connely Baldwin  
PacifiCorp Energy  
Hydro Resources  
NTO 110

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**FROM:** Craig Bagley, P.E. CFM, and Tyler Seamons, P.E.  
Bowen, Collins and Associates  
154 E 14000 South, Draper, Utah

**DATE:** October 25, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Updated Bear River Floodplain Analysis

**JOB NO.:** 166-13-03

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### SECTION 1 – PURPOSE, SCOPE, AND AUTHORIZATION

#### Introduction

Bowen, Collins & Associates (BC&A) was retained by PacifiCorp Energy to update the Bear River floodplain analysis that we performed in 2014 (2014 Study). That study was performed to evaluate the floodplain impacts of increasing the maximum release rate into the Bear River from the Soda Power Plant to 2,500 cfs. The floodplain mapping prepared as part of the 2014 Study was developed using a hydraulic river model that included 11 field-surveyed cross sections and 10 meter USGS DEM mapping of the study reach.

PacifiCorp recently obtained more accurate and detailed topographic mapping of the floodplain along the Bear River in between Grace, Idaho and Oneida Reservoir. Also, on March 27, 2017, a 2,500 cfs release from the Soda Power Plant (producing a flow rate of approximately 3,000 cfs within the study reach) was observed. Based on the availability of this new data, analyses were performed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Utilize observations and data collected during a 3,000 cfs flood event and more accurate topographic mapping information developed from LiDAR data collected in 2017 to update the hydraulic model and associated floodplain mapping along the Bear River in the study area shown in Figure 1.

- Modify the hydraulic model developed in 2014 to evaluate the potential impacts that dredging sediment deposits from the Bear River in the vicinity of the Cottonwood Creek confluence would have on the water surface profile and associated floodplain in the study area.

This Technical Memorandum has been prepared to document the analyses associated with these two objectives.

### **Project Staff**

The project work was performed by the following BC&A team members: Craig Bagley/Project Manager, and Tyler Seamons/Project Engineer. The project was completed in BC&A's Draper, Utah office. These individuals can be contacted at 801-495-2224 to answer questions pertaining to this study.

## **SECTION 2 – ANALYSIS**

A detailed summary of the process used to update and calibrate the model and floodplain is described in this section. The data listed in Table 1 were provided to BC&A by PacifiCorp and was used in this study.

**Table 1**  
**Data Used and Source**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Digital Elevation Model	GeoTerra	LiDAR data (June 23, 2017)
Bathymetric Survey Data	Electrical Consultants Inc. (Chad Moser PLS)	5 underwater channel cross sections near Cottonwood Creek (Sept. 15, 2017)
Bear River Flow Data	PacifiCorp	3,000 cfs used in floodplain model; 1,100 cfs used for calibration with LiDAR data
Miscellaneous Photographs of the Bear River Floodplain during the 3,000 cfs flood event	PacifiCorp	Photographs were taken by PacifiCorp personnel from various vantage points to document floodplain boundaries.

### **Updating and Calibrating the 2014 Hydraulic Model**

A hydraulic model has four main components: flow data, channel geometry data, channel roughness values, and model boundary conditions to define hydraulic conditions to use at the downstream end of the hydraulic model. The data and processes that were used to revise and update these model elements as part of this project are described below.

#### **Flow Data**

PacifiCorp personnel requested that the updated hydraulic analysis be based on conditions that existed during the March 2017 flood event. During that event, 2,500 cfs was being released in

the river from the Soda Power Plant and an estimated 3,760 cfs was flowing into the Oneida Narrows Reservoir. It was estimated that Cottonwood Creek was discharging about 760 cfs into the Bear River and that about 3,000 cfs was flowing through the river reach between the Cheese Factory Bridge and Cleveland Bridge. These are the flow conditions used in the updated steady-state model simulations. The locations of the measured and estimate flow rates and are shown in Appendix A.

### Channel Geometry Data

The 2014 hydraulic model was based on channel geometry data collected at 11 channel cross sections that were derived from a detailed channel and floodplain survey. The locations of those cross sections are shown in Figure 1. The topographic survey data for the overbank and floodplain areas were compared to the 2017 LiDAR data. The LiDAR data closely matched the field survey data, providing confidence in the use of the LiDAR data in updating the model and floodplain mapping.

The original hydraulic model included some internally-interpolated channel cross sections to provide data that the modeling software needed to be stable and compute water surface elevations. In the updated analysis, the interpolated cross sections were eliminated and 16 new cross sections were added to the model throughout the study area to provide computations needed to more accurately define the floodplain boundaries. Five of these cross sections, near the confluence of Cottonwood Creek, included underwater survey data in the channel. The low flow (underwater) channel cross section data for the remaining 11 cross sections were interpolated based on surveyed channel cross section data collected in 2014. All overbank geometry data for the 16 new cross sections were developed using the 2017 LiDAR data.

### Channel Roughness Values

Channel roughness coefficients (Manning's *n* values) were based on published values found in *Open-Channel Hydraulics* (Chow, 1959). A range of values is typical for each given channel type or floodplain. The values in this model were adjusted within this range as part of the calibration process. Roughness coefficients used in this model are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2**  
**Roughness Coefficients used in Hydraulic Model**

Description	Manning's <i>n</i> Values Used
Main Channel	0.025-0.03
Overbanks – Pasture/Fields	0.03
Overbanks – Dense Brush	0.1

### Model Boundary Conditions

The model boundary condition was set at the downstream end. A normal depth calculation with a hydraulic slope of 0.00023 was used. This slope was estimated based on the calibration results

from to the approximate water surface elevation from the LiDAR data. This proved to provide good results throughout the calibration process.

### **Updated Model Calibration**

After updating the HEC-RAS hydraulic computer model developed as part of the 2014 Study as described above, photographs taken during the 2017 flood event of about 3,000 cfs were used to calibrate the model (see Appendix A). The calibration process included adjusting the Manning's "n" values to attain a computed water surface elevation that approximately predicted the floodplain boundaries documented in the photographs taken during the event. After the model was calibrated at a discharge of 3,000 cfs, it was run again at 1,100 cfs to produce a water surface profile that could be compared to the approximate water surface elevation derived from LiDAR data collected on the river banks near the edge of the water surface. The 1,100 cfs discharge was the approximate discharge that existed in the Bear River the day that the LiDAR data was collected. The computed profile at 1,100 cfs reasonably matches the approximate observed water profile the day of the LiDAR flight (0.4 ft average). This added some confidence that the model was reasonably simulating existing field hydraulic conditions.

The updated hydraulic profile from the analysis is presented in Figure 2. As Figure 2 indicates, there is a significant amount of sediment deposition in the river at the Cottonwood Creek confluence. The updated floodplain mapping of the study area is presented in Figures 3 and 4.

Detailed cross sections plots with computed water surface elevations from the hydraulic analysis are included in Appendix B.

### **Dredging Evaluation**

A hydraulic analysis was performed to evaluate the potential effects of dredging near the confluence of Cottonwood Creek on the mapped floodplain. After plotting the profile of the newly surveyed cross sections, it was evident there was existing sediment deposits (3+ ft) at and near the confluence that was creating a flow restriction (see Figure 2). Another hydraulic simulation was performed with the HEC-RAS hydraulic computer model assuming that much of the sediment would be removed. The assumed dredged cross section used to update Cross Section 26727 in the model simulation is shown in Figure 5. The channel dimensions shown in Figure 5 were based on the adjacent model cross section geometries. The assumed new channel invert was selected to maintain the assumed natural channel slope.

The dredging scenario model results show a maximum drop in water surface elevation of 2.4 feet at the confluence of Cottonwood Creek, as illustrated in Figure 6. Also shown in Figure 6, the computed water surface elevation returns to pre-dredging depths near cross section 47895.41 (4 miles upstream). Upstream of that point the river water surface elevation and floodplain boundaries are not significantly impacted. The reduced floodplain boundaries are compared to the existing floodplain boundaries with 3,000 cfs flowing in the river in Figure 7. As Figure 7 indicates, within the channel reach where the computed water surface elevation is reduced there is a reduction to the areal extent of the floodplain adjacent to the river of about 60 acres (15 acres downstream of the Cleveland Bridge and 45 acres upstream of the bridge). This is because most of the river is contained in the main river channel at a discharge of 3,000 cfs.

It is impossible to accurately estimate the dredging volume required to achieve the condition simulated in the dredged condition model run. The HEC-RAS computer software utilizes channel geometries that are linearly interpolated in between cross sections. Using this premise, the average end area method was used to roughly estimate dredging volumes with the assumption that there would be no dredging required at the upstream and downstream cross sections. This yielded an estimated cut volume of 15,000 to 30,000 cubic yards. In order to more accurately estimate this volume a more detailed survey must be performed.

### **SECTION 3 – CONCLUSIONS**

Updating and calibrating the HEC-RAS hydraulic computer model used in the 2014 Study with recent LiDAR and bathymetric survey has produced a floodplain boundary that closely approximate conditions that were observed and photographically documented during the 2017 flood of approximately 3,000 cfs (2,500 cfs release from the Soda Power Plant) in the study area.

The model analysis used to simulate the potential effects of dredging sediment deposits in the Bear River near the confluence of Cottonwood Creek indicates that only a minor reduction to the floodplain would be experienced if dredging is performed.

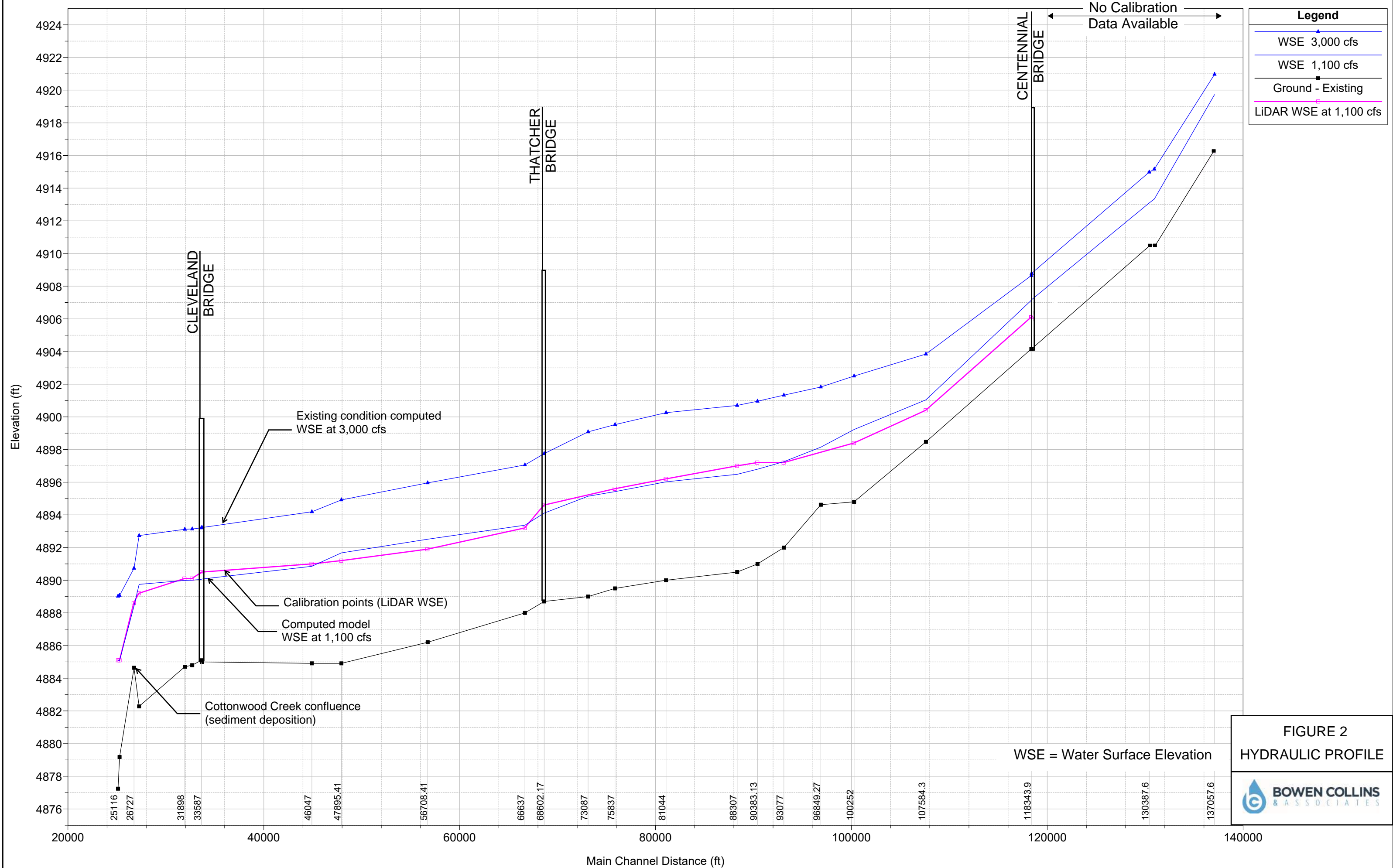
The results of this analysis are intended to give PacifiCorp an approximation of the limits of the floodplain boundaries during a 3,000 cfs flood event with the existing channel conditions and location. While a more detailed analysis may produce slightly different floodplain extents, we believe the HEC-RAS model was calibrated well and the resulting floodplain provides a reasonable magnitude of inundated areas.

# FIGURES

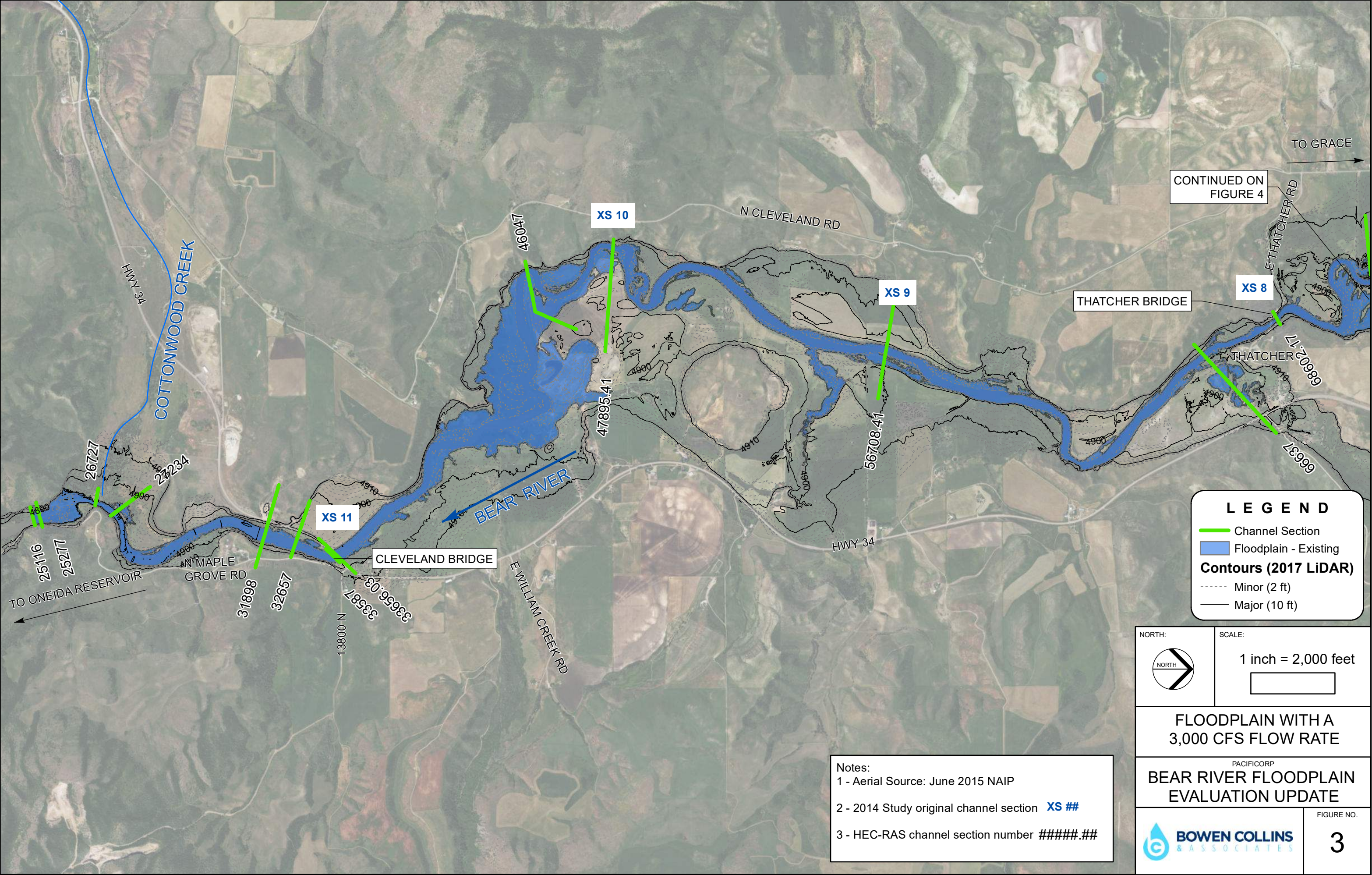








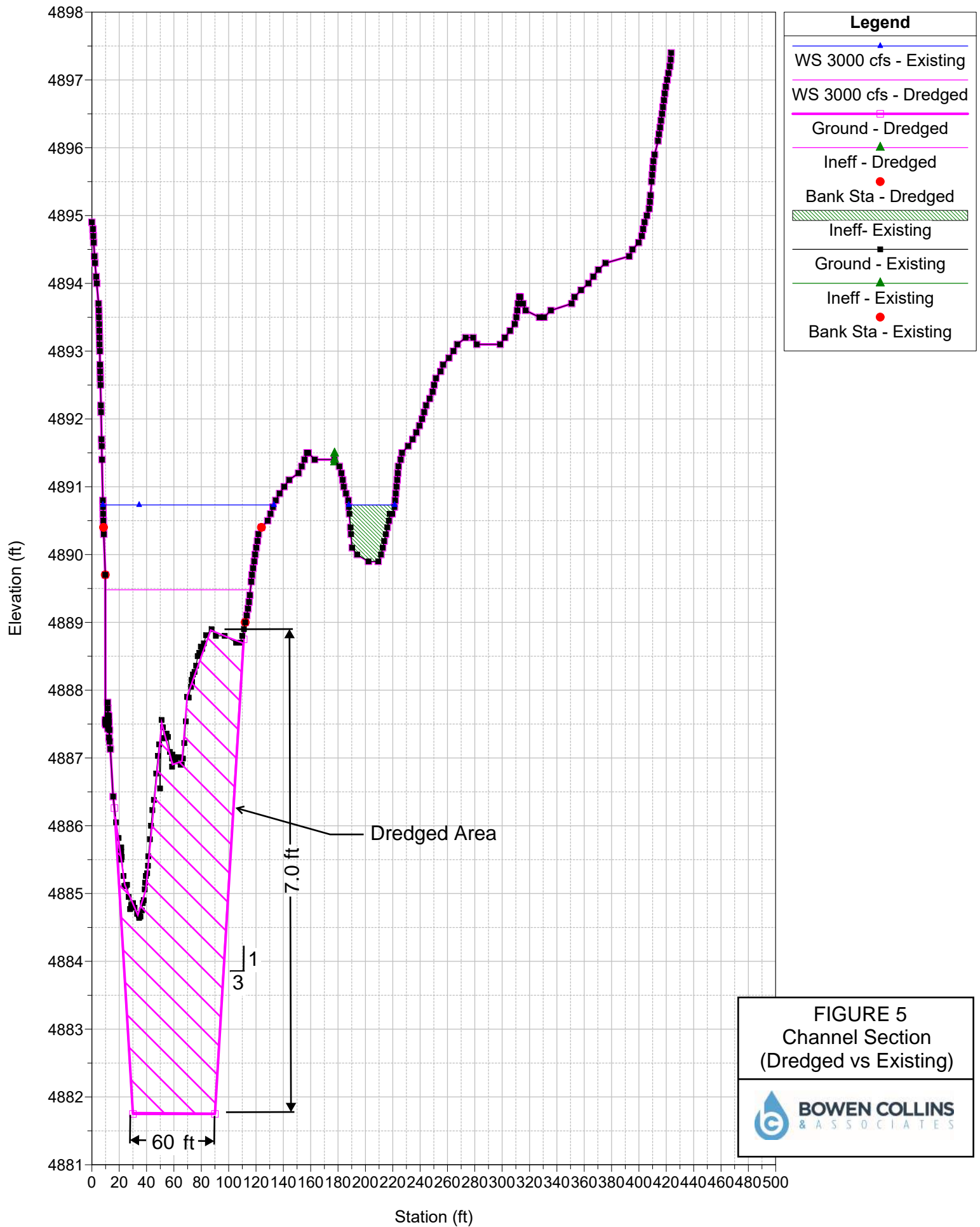




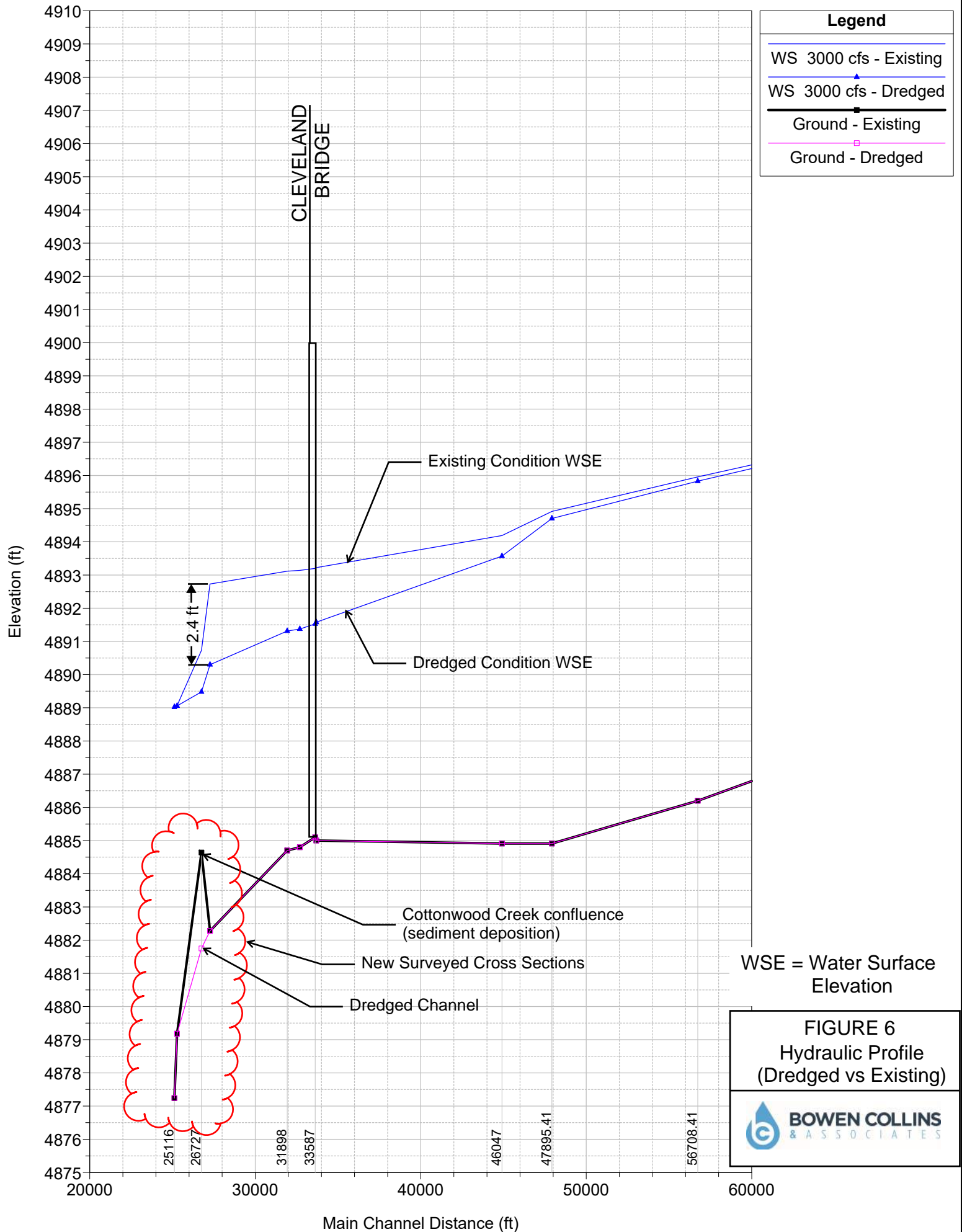




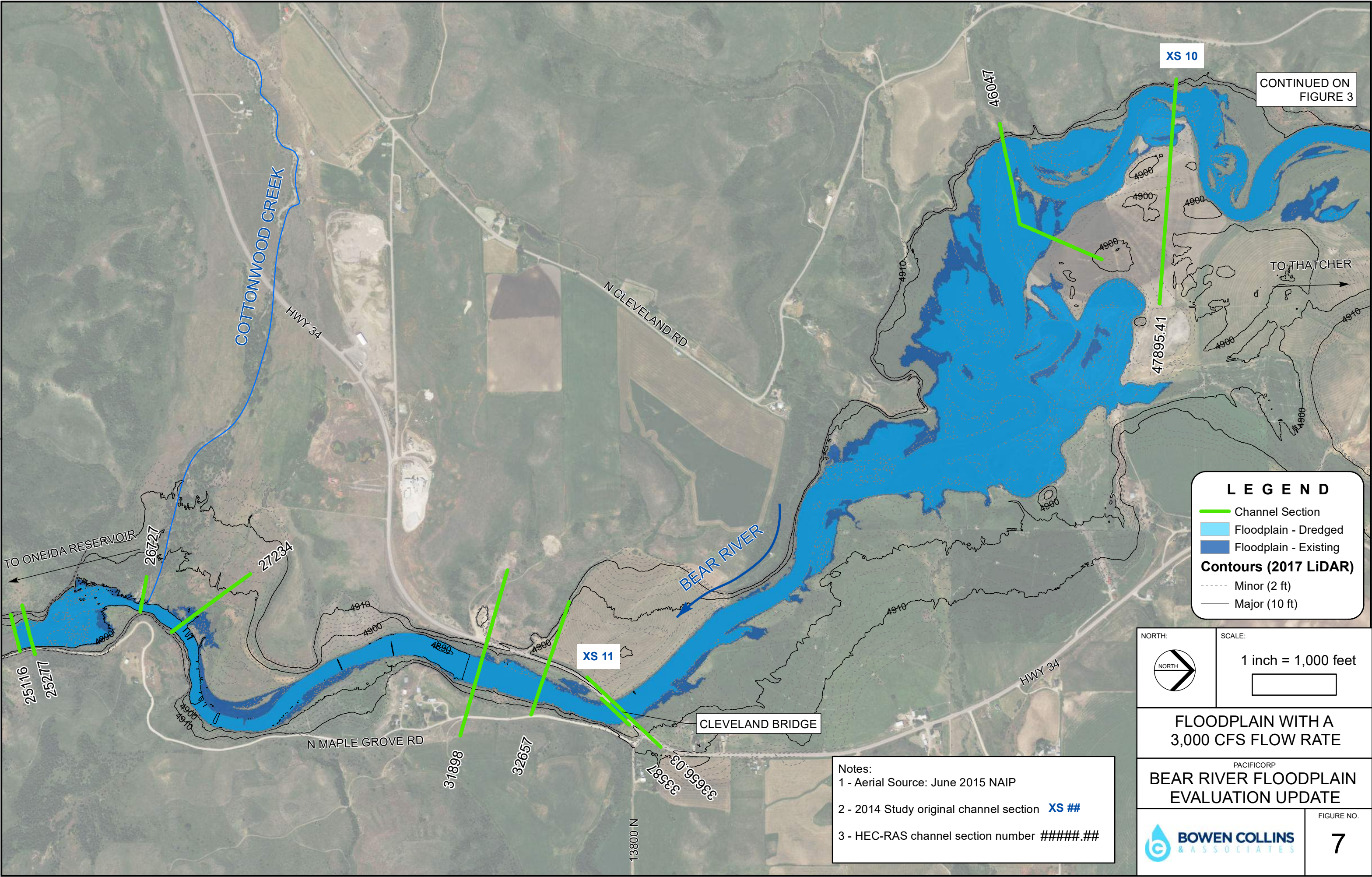












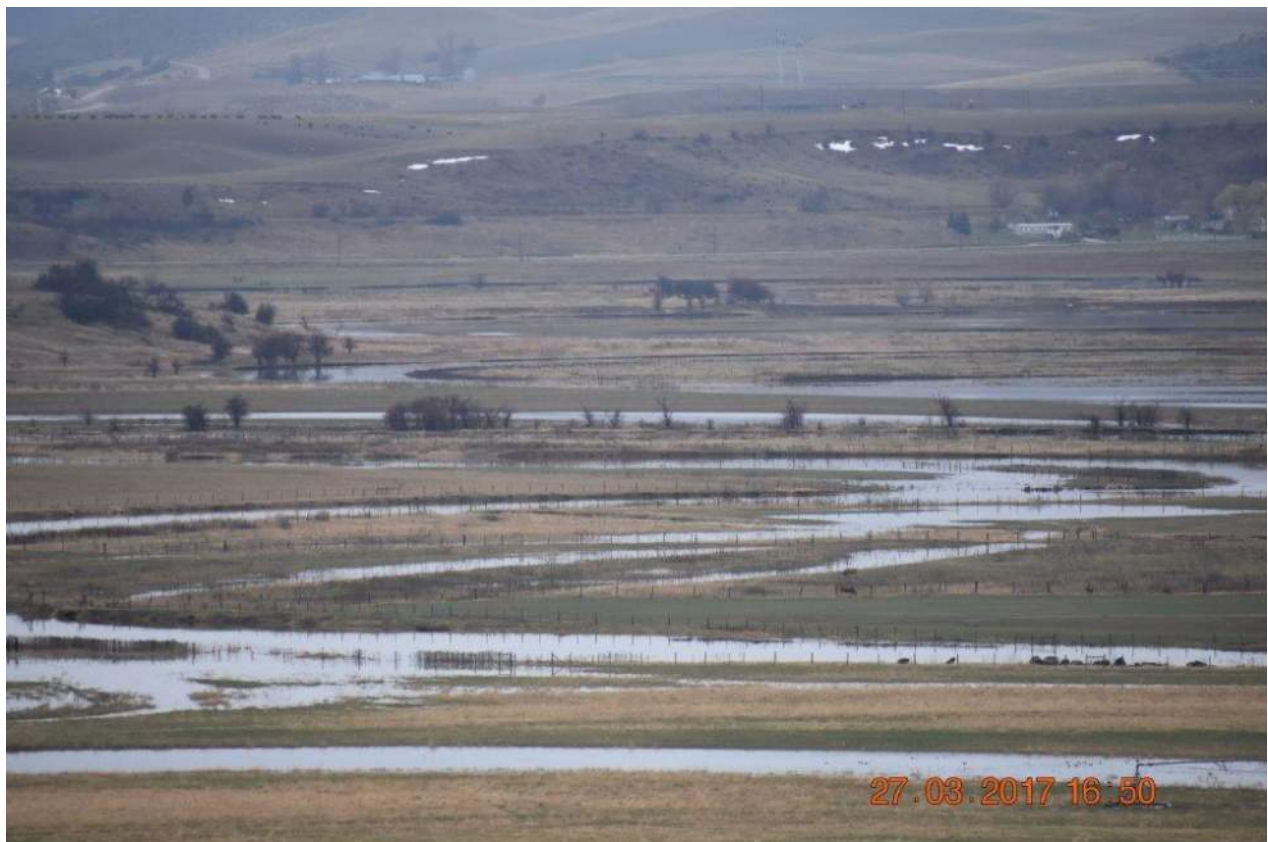


# **APPENDIX A**

## **SUPPORTING DATA**

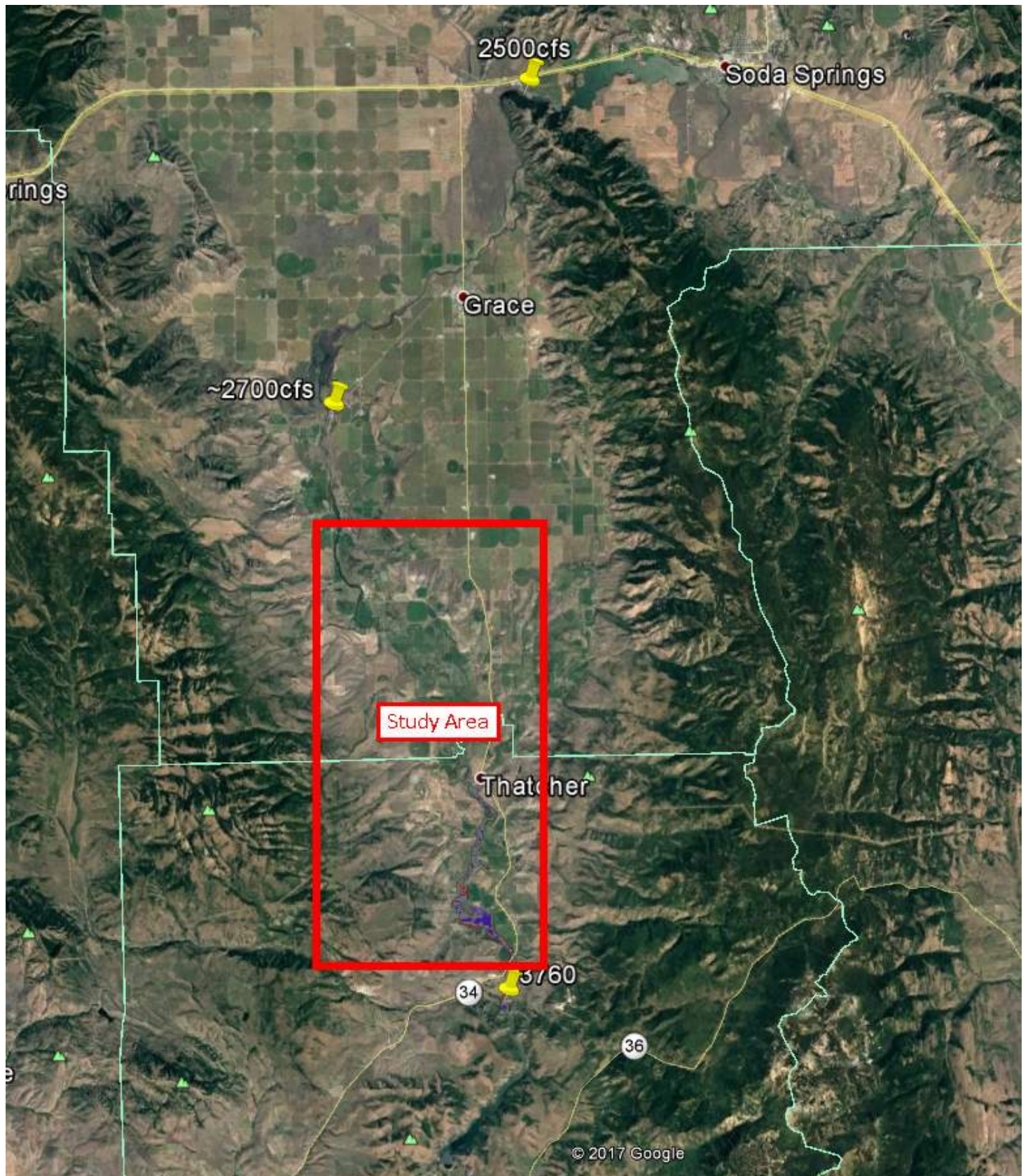


## Samples of Photos used in the model calibration process





## Basis of Flow Data



## Project Identification

Job #: 170002 Job Name: *Bear River Hydroelectric Project*  
 Job Location: *SE Idaho - North Central Utah*  
 Job Bounds (WGS84 decimal degrees): North Latitude: 42.671000  
 West Longitude: -112.247000 East Longitude: -111.602000  
 South Latitude: 41.448000  
 Job Type: *Mapping & Orthophotography*  
 Data shipped to: *WEST Consultants, Inc.*  
 Contact: *Christopher Goodell* Phone: 503-946-8536 Email: [cgoodell@westconsultants.com](mailto:cgoodell@westconsultants.com)  
 Address: 10300 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 470  
 City: *Portland* State: *OR* Zip: 97223  
 Project invoiced to: *WEST Consultants, Inc.*  
 Contact: *Christopher Goodell* Phone: 503-946-8536 Email: [cgoodell@westconsultants.com](mailto:cgoodell@westconsultants.com)  
 Address: 10300 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 470  
 City: *Portland* State: *OR* Zip: 97223  
 Client technical contact:  
 Name: *Christopher Goodell* Phone: 503-946-8536 Email: [cgoodell@westconsultants.com](mailto:cgoodell@westconsultants.com)  
 Address: 10300 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 470 City: *Portland* State: *OR* Zip: 97223  
 Project boundary source: *Client*  
 Project boundary approved by: *Client*  
 Scope of services approved by:  
 Name: *Christopher Goodell* Phone: 503-946-8536 Email: [cgoodell@westconsultants.com](mailto:cgoodell@westconsultants.com)  
 Address: 10300 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 470 City: *Portland* State: *OR* Zip: 97223  
 Notes:

## Data Sources

Final products by: *GeoTerra, Inc.*  
 Contact: *Brad Hille* Phone: 503-239-6010 Email: [bhille@geoterra.us](mailto:bhille@geoterra.us)  
 Address: 7816 SE 13th Avenue City: *Portland* State: *OR* Zip: 97202  
 Aerial photography by: *GeoTerra, Inc.*  
 Contact: *Bruce Bergman* Phone: 503-239-6010 Email: [bbergman@geoterra.us](mailto:bbergman@geoterra.us)  
 Address: 7816 SE 13th Avenue City: *Portland* State: *OR* Zip: 97202  
 ABGPS / IMU by: *GeoTerra, Inc.*  
 Contact: *Bruce Bergman* Phone: 503-239-6010 Email: [bbergman@geoterra.us](mailto:bbergman@geoterra.us)  
 Address: 7816 SE 13th Avenue City: *Portland* State: *OR* Zip: 97202  
 Ground survey by: *Harper-Leavitt Engineering, Inc.*  
 Contact: *Chris Street* Phone: 208-785-2977 Email: [cstreet@hleinc.com](mailto:cstreet@hleinc.com)  
 Address: 800 W. Judicial Street City: *Blackfoot* State: *ID* Zip: 83221  
 Ground survey coordinated by: *Client*  
 Notes:



## Project Specifications:

170002

**Aerial Photography:** Flown on: 23-Jun-17 using digital aerial camera number: 10411033  
 Camera Type: Vexcel UltraCam XP Focal Length: 100.500 mm Pixel size: 6.0 microns  
 Computed Median Ground Sample Distance (GSD): 29.464 cm 0.967 feet  
 # lines: 20 # exp: 500 End lap: 60% Side lap: 30%  
 Imagery is RGB and was flown with: ABGPS & IMU

Aerial Triangulation approved by:

*Gordon Peet; ASPRS Certified Photogrammetrist #1252; Oregon Registered Professional Photogrammetrist #80291RPP*

**Map Scale:** 1"=200' Contour Interval: 5.0'

**Orthophotos:** Pixel size: 1.00' # tiles: 503

**Data Controlled by:** Surveyed targets

Horizontal Datum: NAD83 (2011)

Vertical Datum: NAVD 88

Coordinate System: UTM State: N/A Zone: 12 Units: US Survey feet

*Coordinates are standard grid coordinates*

This data has been photogrammetrically compiled to meet National Map Accuracy Standards as shown below:

**Note: data in areas covered by dense trees or shadows may not meet these standards.**

*Horizontal Accuracy:* At a map scale of 1"=200' not more than 10% of all well-defined planimetric features are in error by more than 4.0'

*Vertical Accuracy:* Contour interval: 5.0'

*Not more than 10% of all vertical points are in error by more than 1/2 the above contour interval.*

*Orthophoto Accuracy:* These orthophotos were designed for optimal viewing at 1"=200' scale.

Performing quality control or plotting images at scales larger than 1"=100' is not recommended.

Anomalies observable only at scales larger than 1"=100' are considered to fall outside the specifications of this project.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Field verification of data accuracy should occur prior to design level tasks that are dependent on this data.

Project performed under the supervision of:

*Brad Hille; ASPRS Certified Photogrammetric Technician #1291PT; Oregon Registered Professional Photogrammetrist #80317RPP*

Miscellaneous Notes:

## Products Delivered:

- 2' Contours from Ground Classified LiDAR in ArcGIS Geodatabase format
- 1 foot Bare Earth Raster in ArcGIS Geodatabase format
- Terrain dataset in ArcGIS Geodatabase format
- Classified (ground/non-ground) in .LAZ format
- SBET trajectories in shapefile format
- 1.0' pixel resolution, 4-band RGBir orthophotography in uncompressed TIF/TFW format
- 20:1 MrSID compressed, 4-band RGBir orthophotography tiles and mosaic in SID/SDW format
- Tile Indexes in shapefile format
- Survey Control Data in CSV, JPG & PDF format
- Flight index in ACAD DWG format
- Metadata Report in Standard GeoTerra PDF format

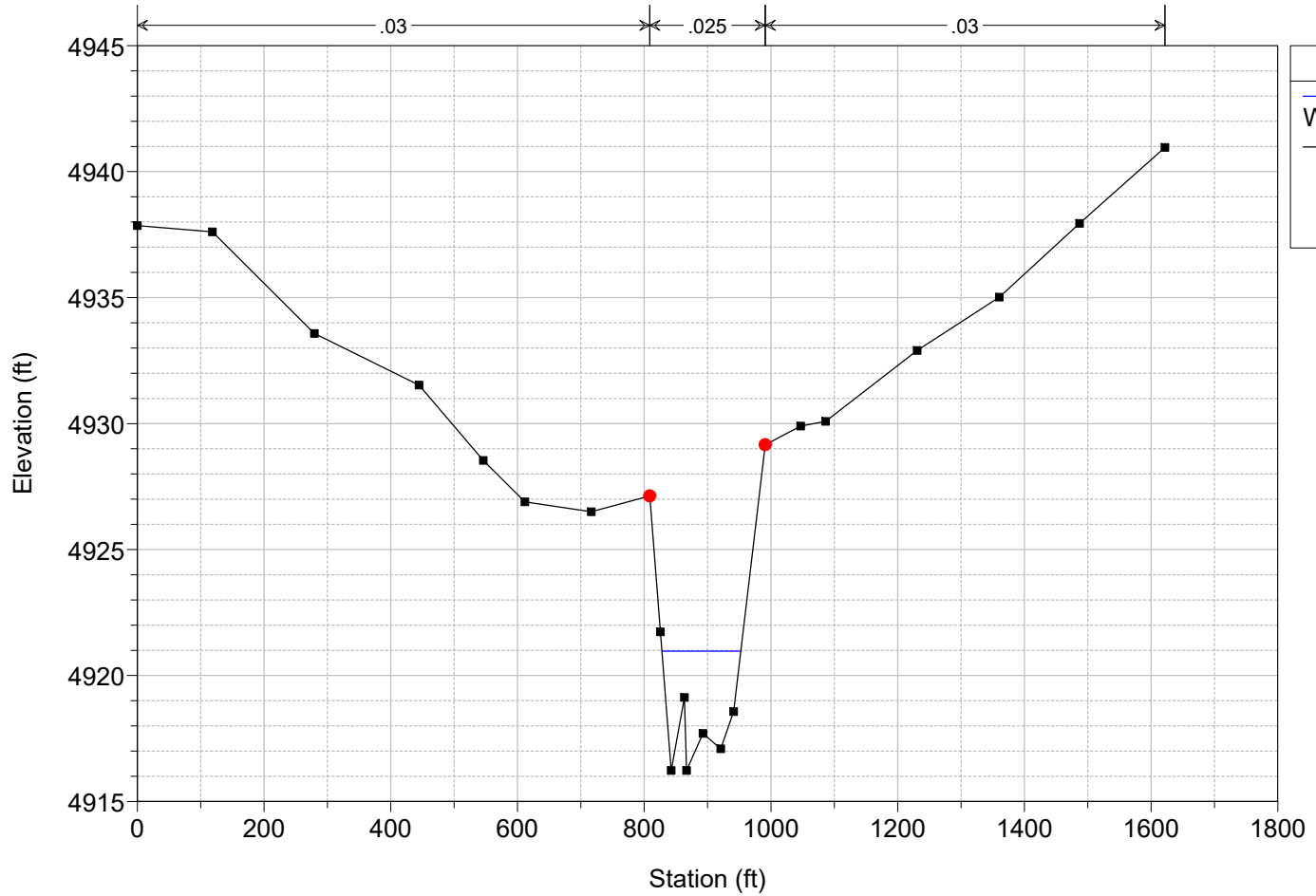
Metadata prepared by: CO

Metadata checked by: SK

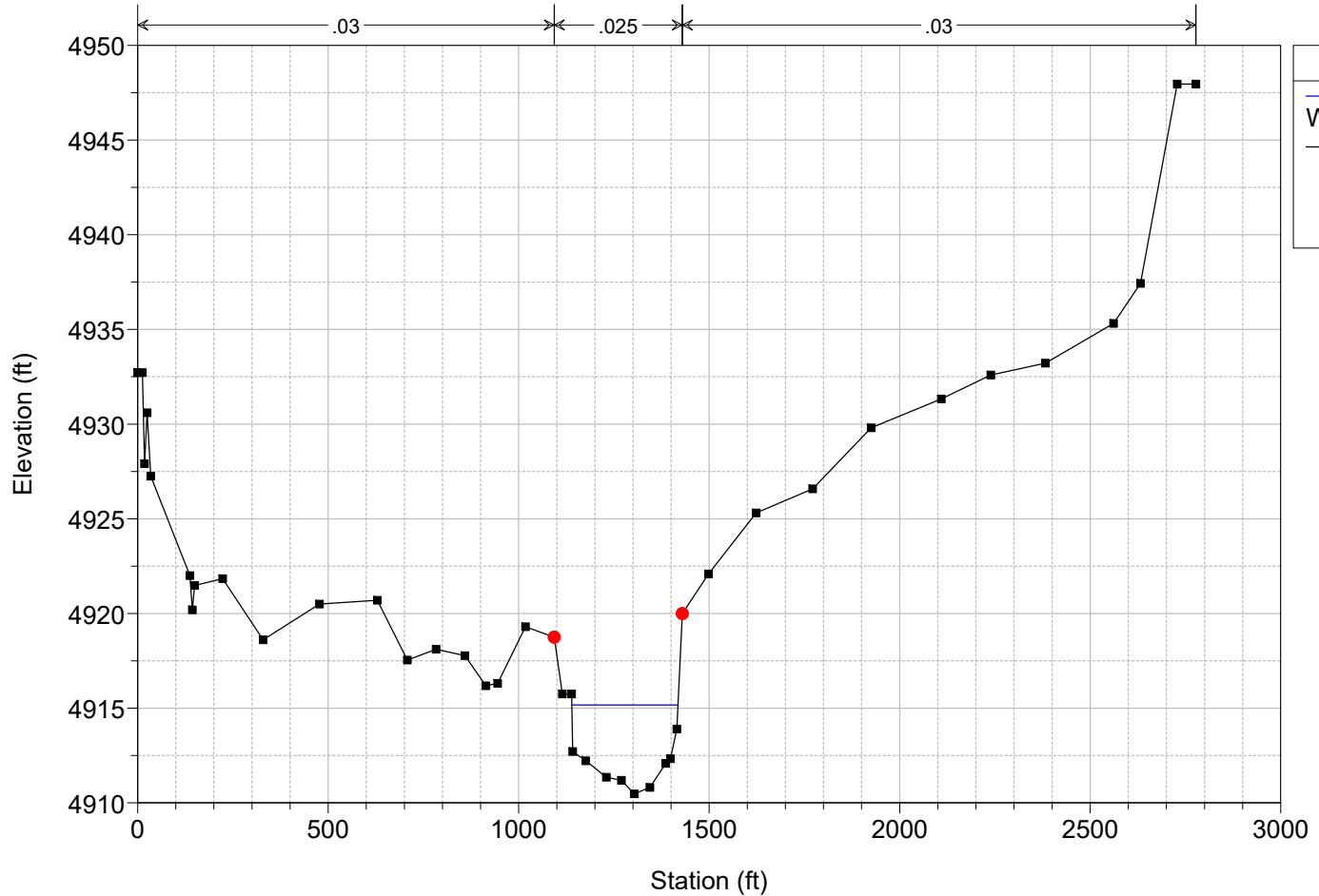
# **APPENDIX B**

## **HEC-RAS CROSS SECTIONS**

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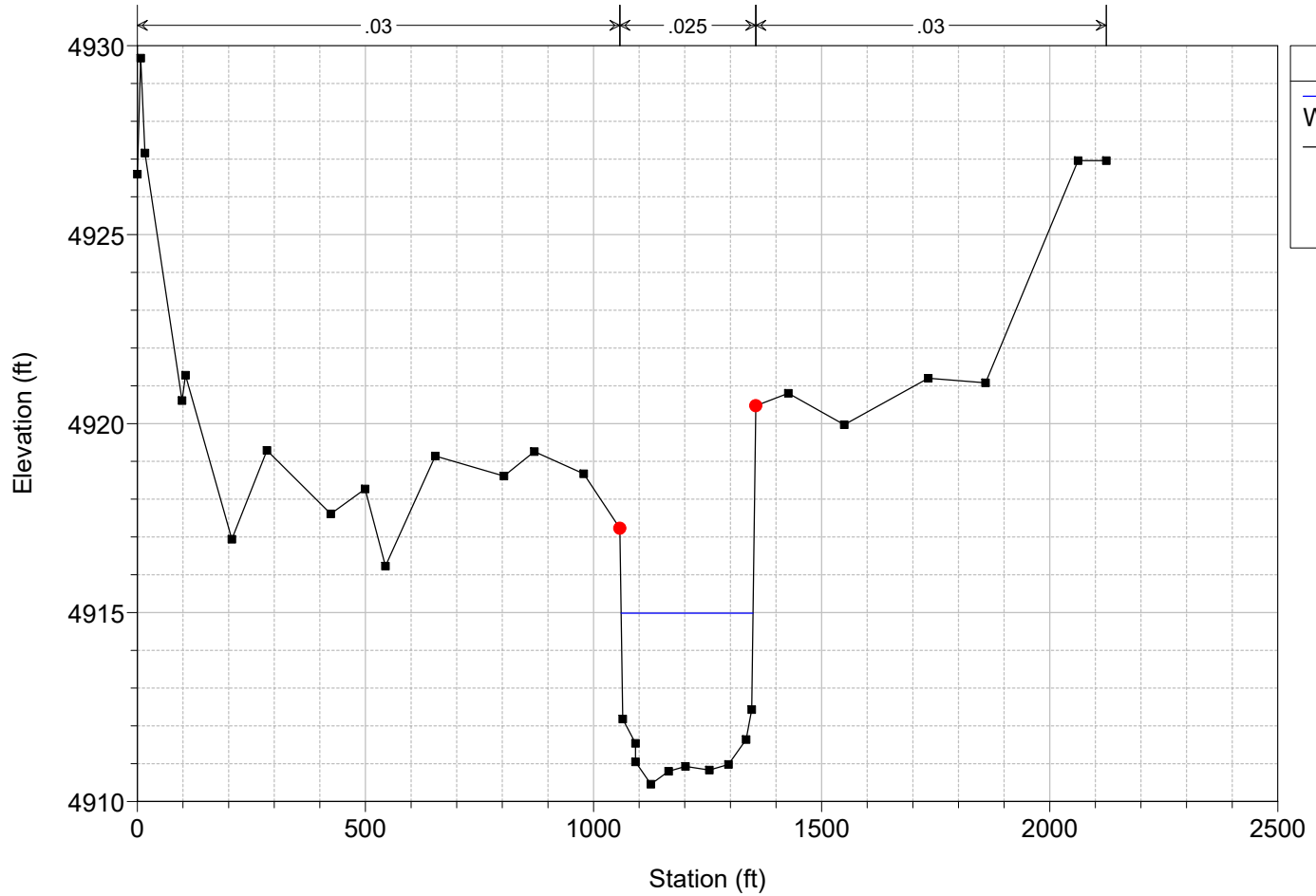


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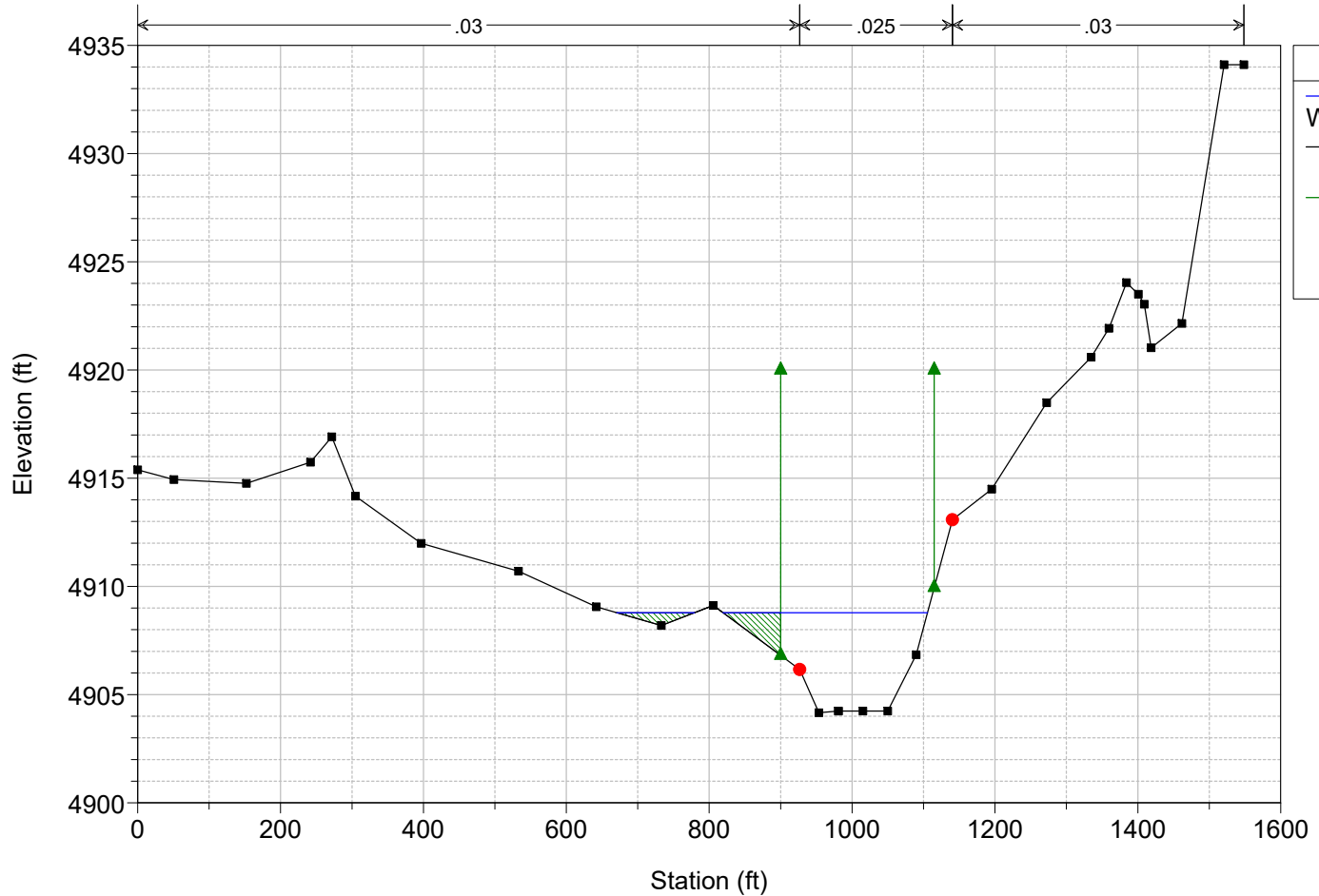




Base Plan: Existing 3670 10/25/2017  
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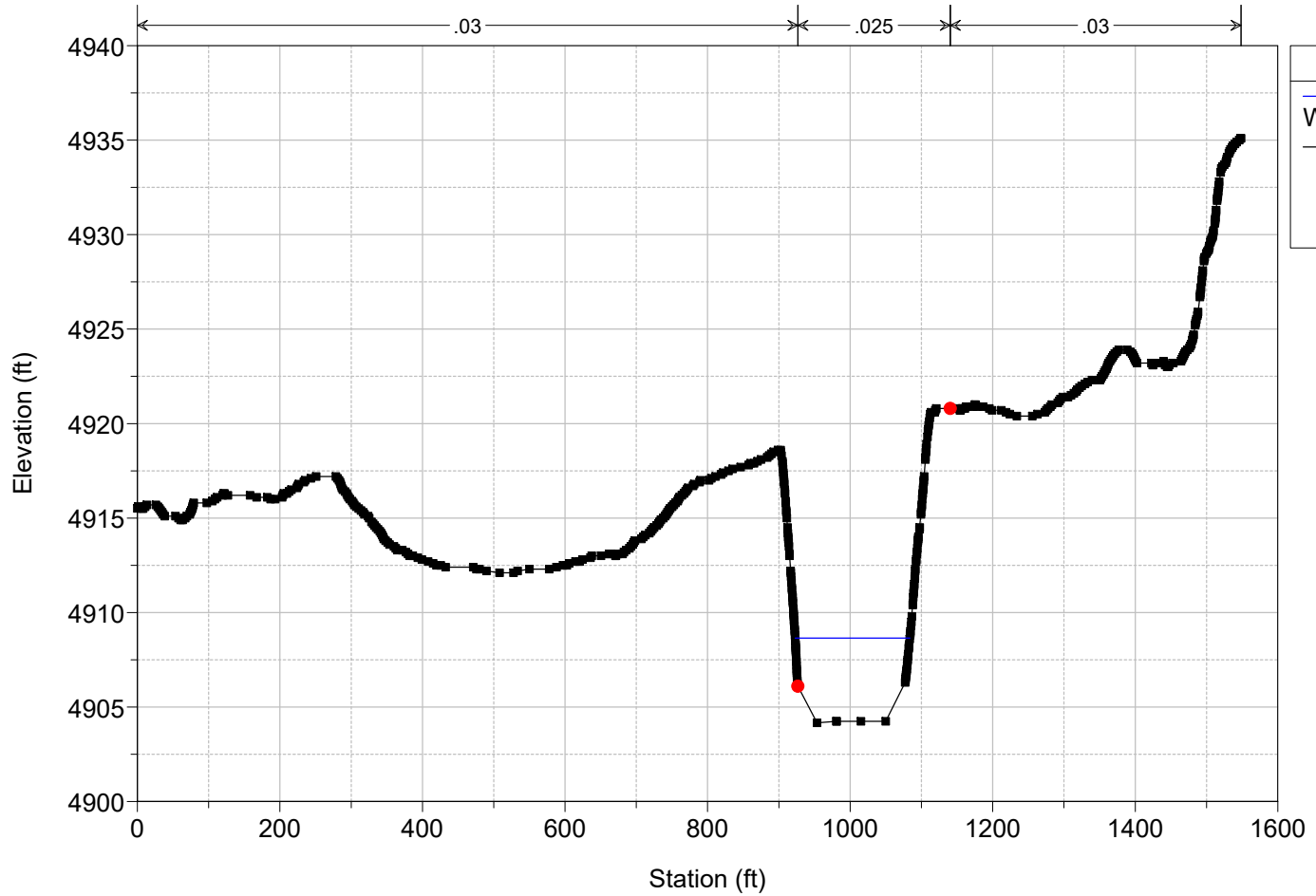


Base Plan: Existing 3670 10/25/2017  
RS = 118374 XS 4 US Centennial Bridge



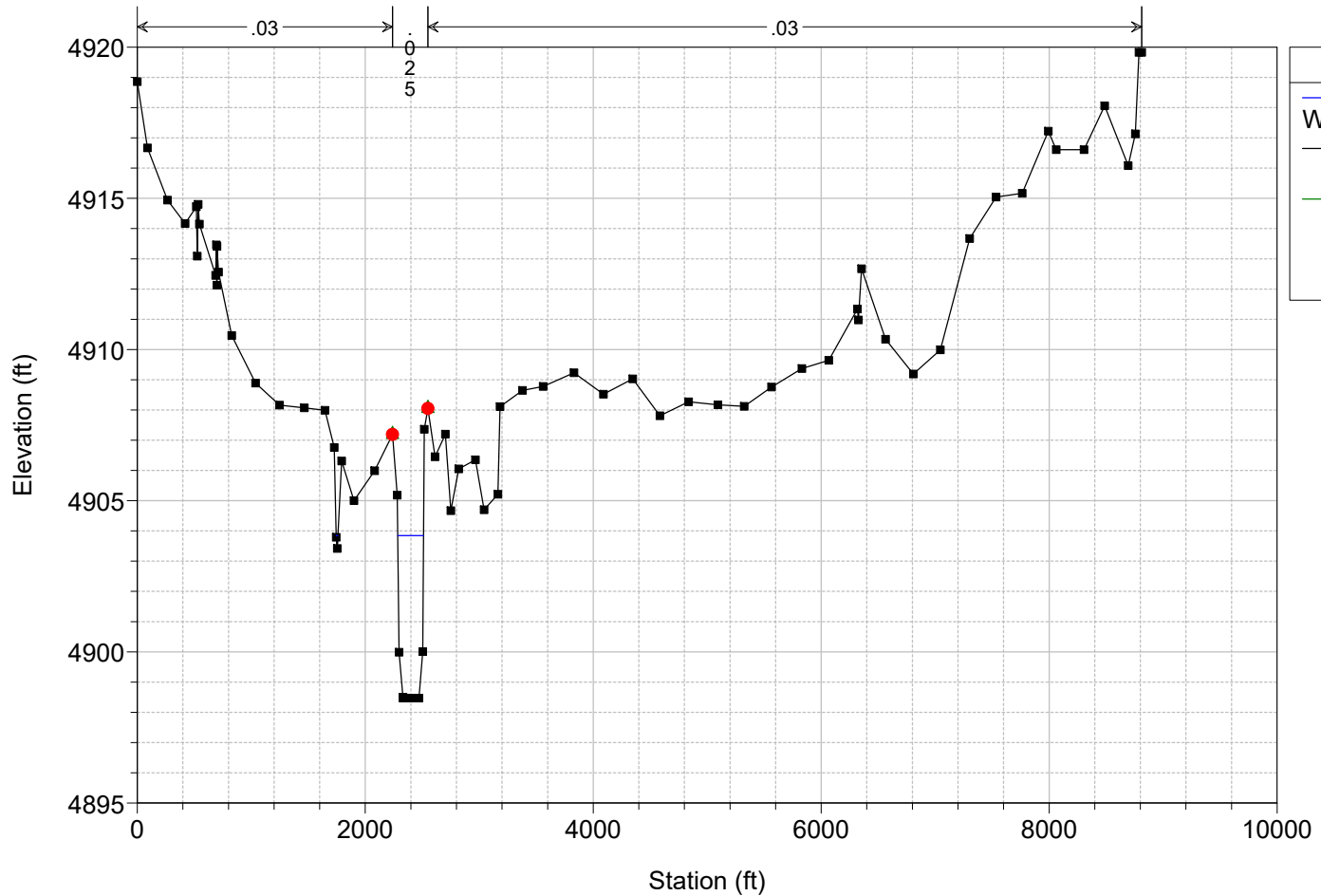
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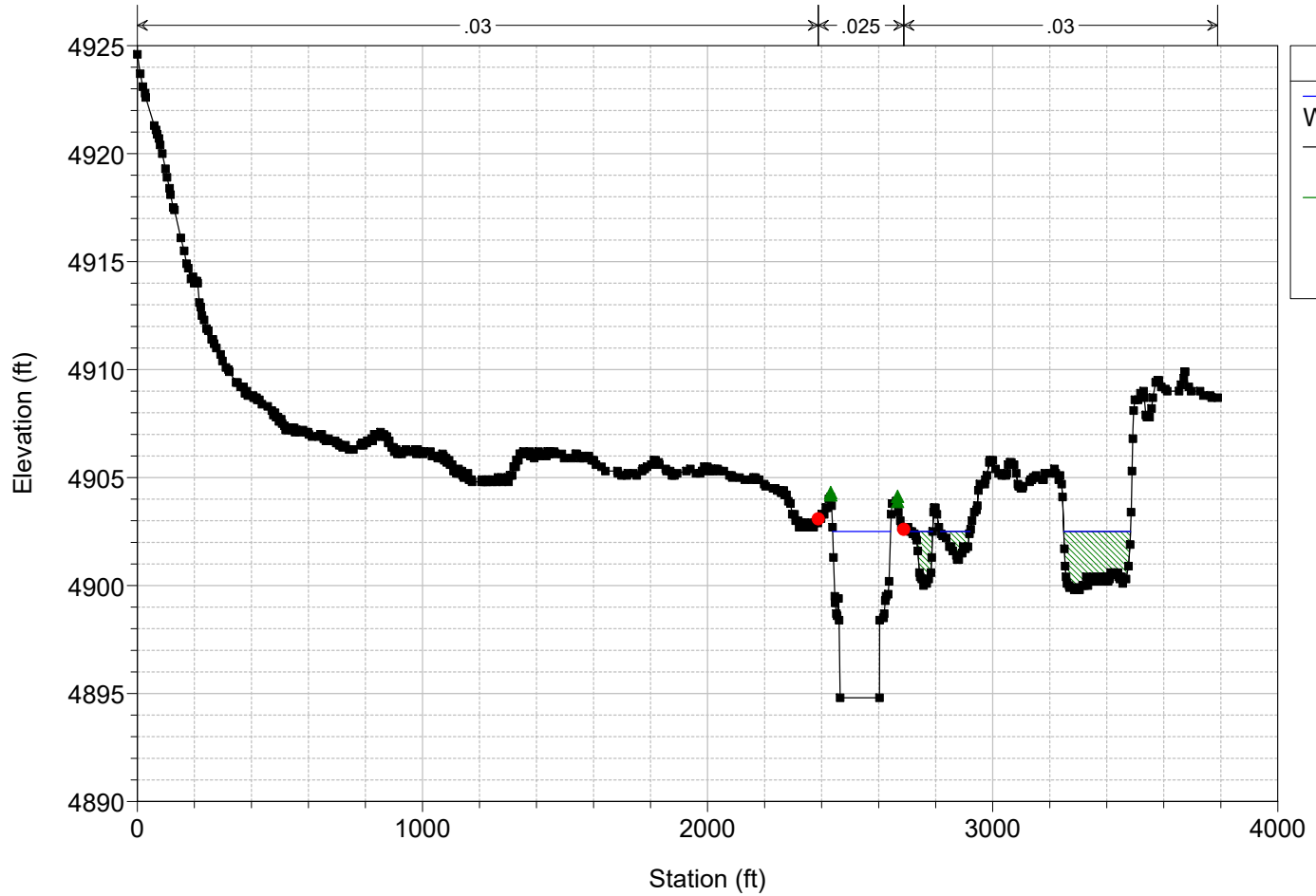


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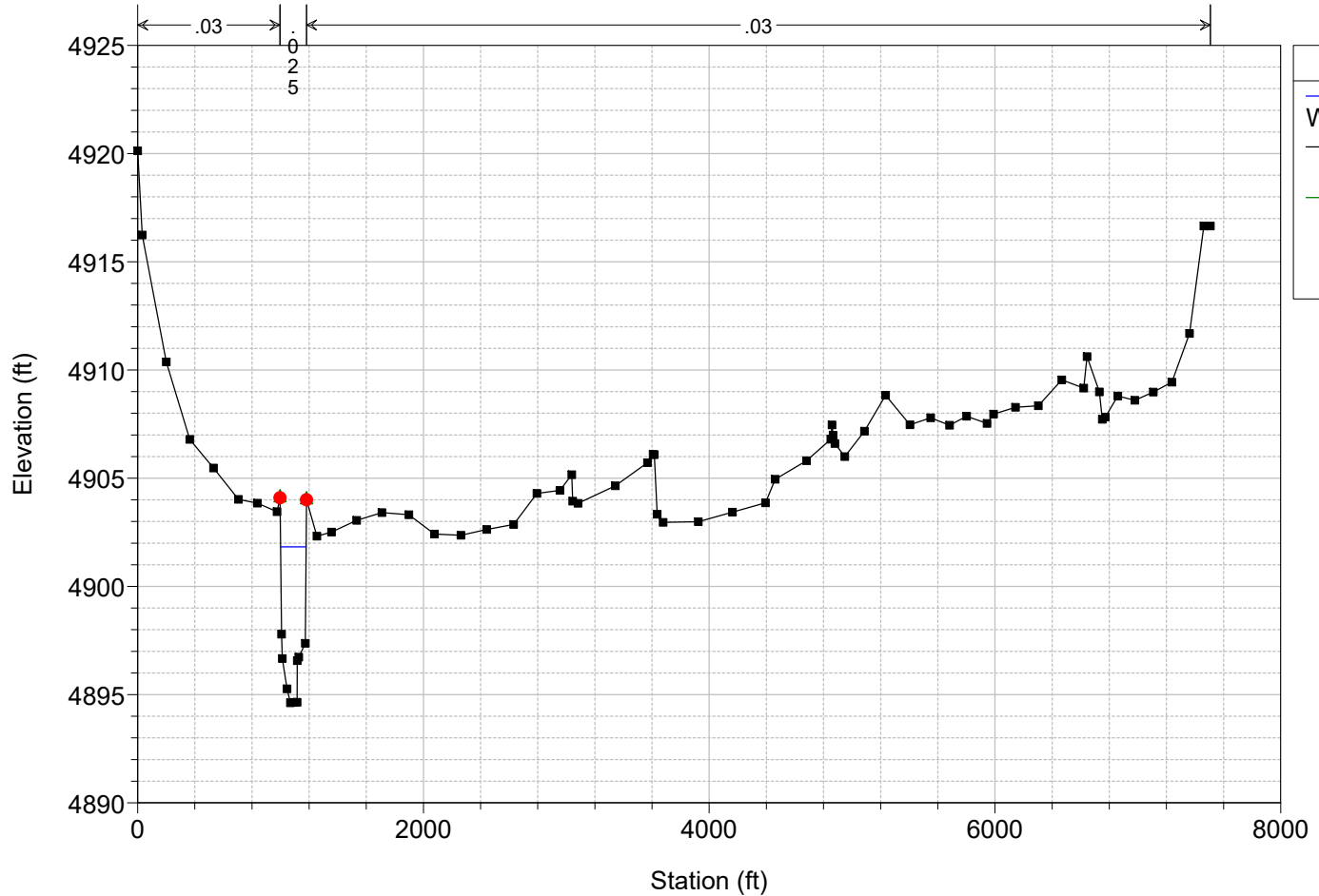
RS = 107584.3 XS 5



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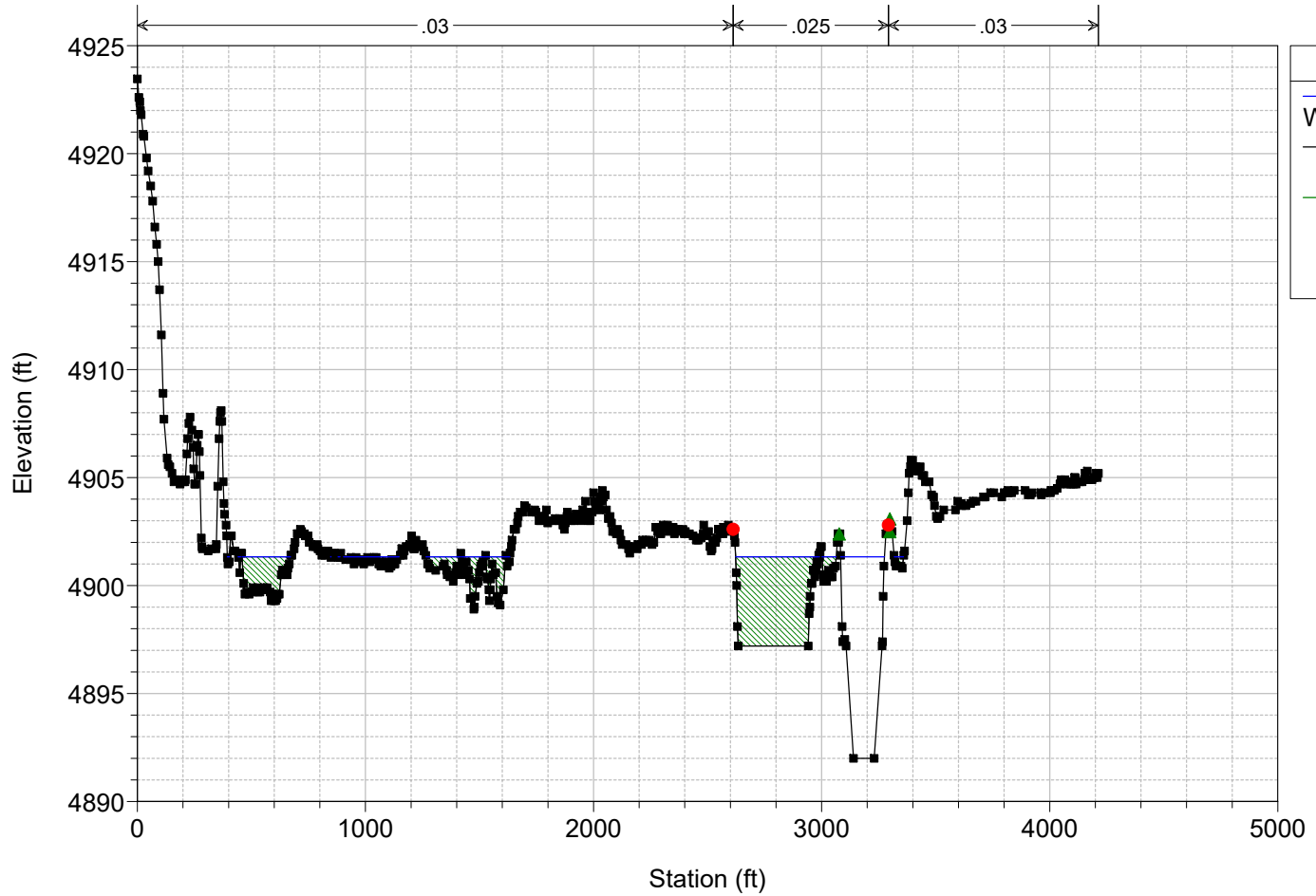


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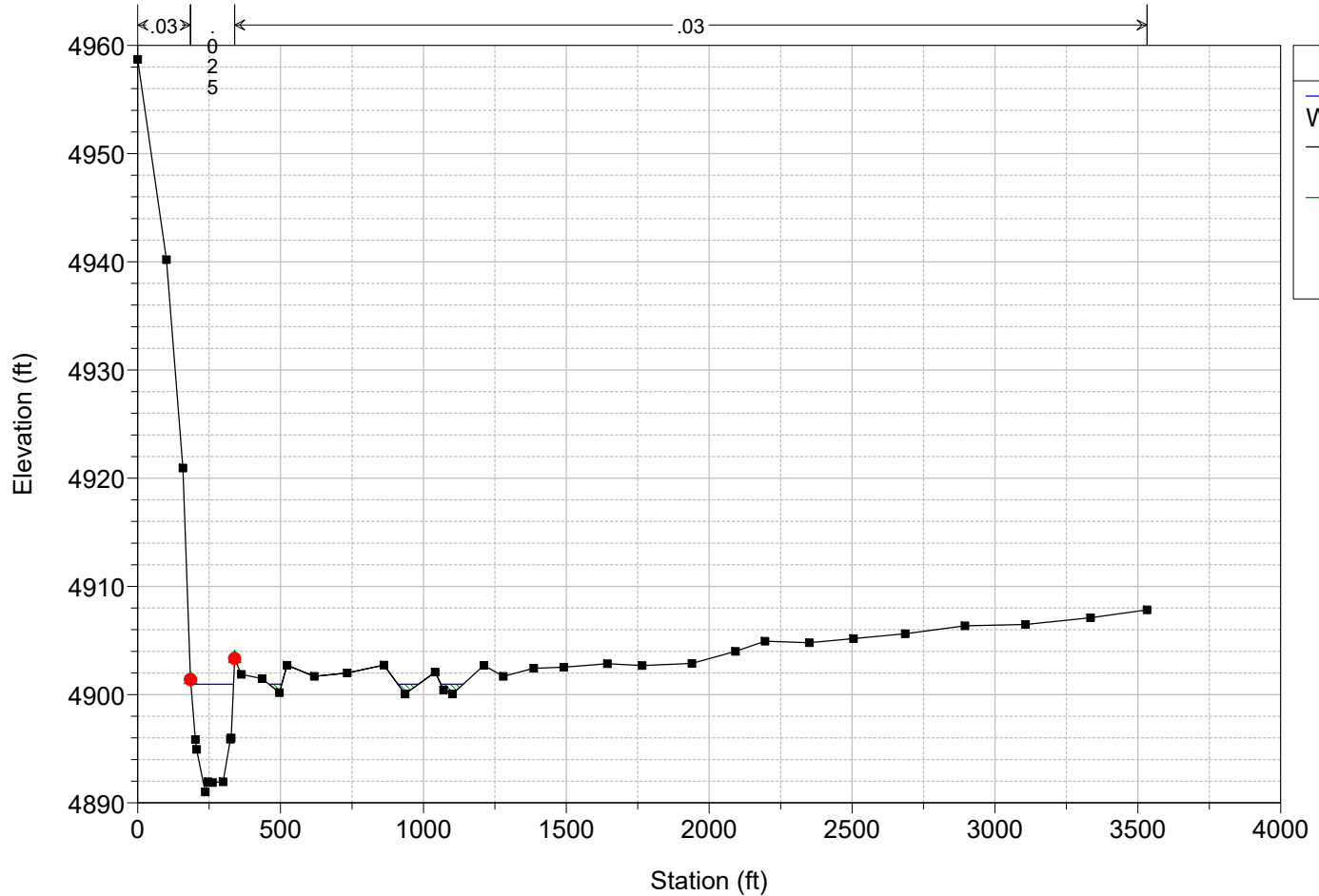




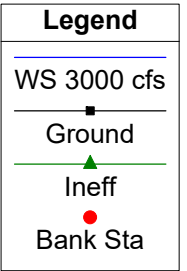
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RS = 93077



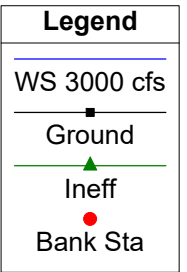
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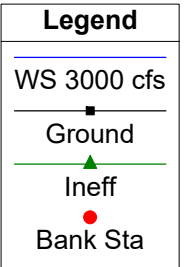
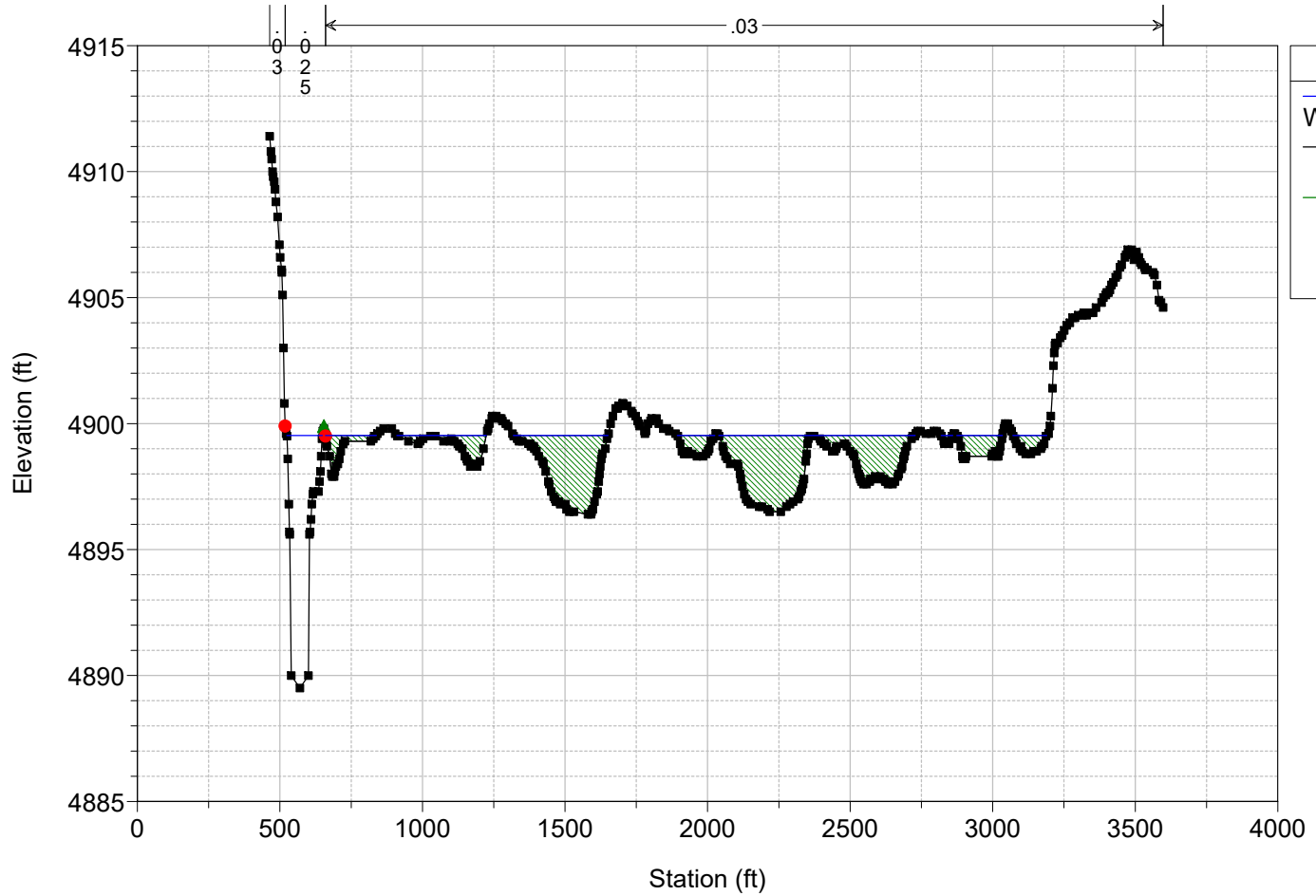
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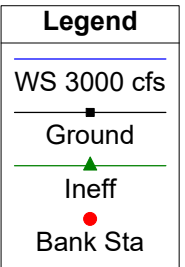
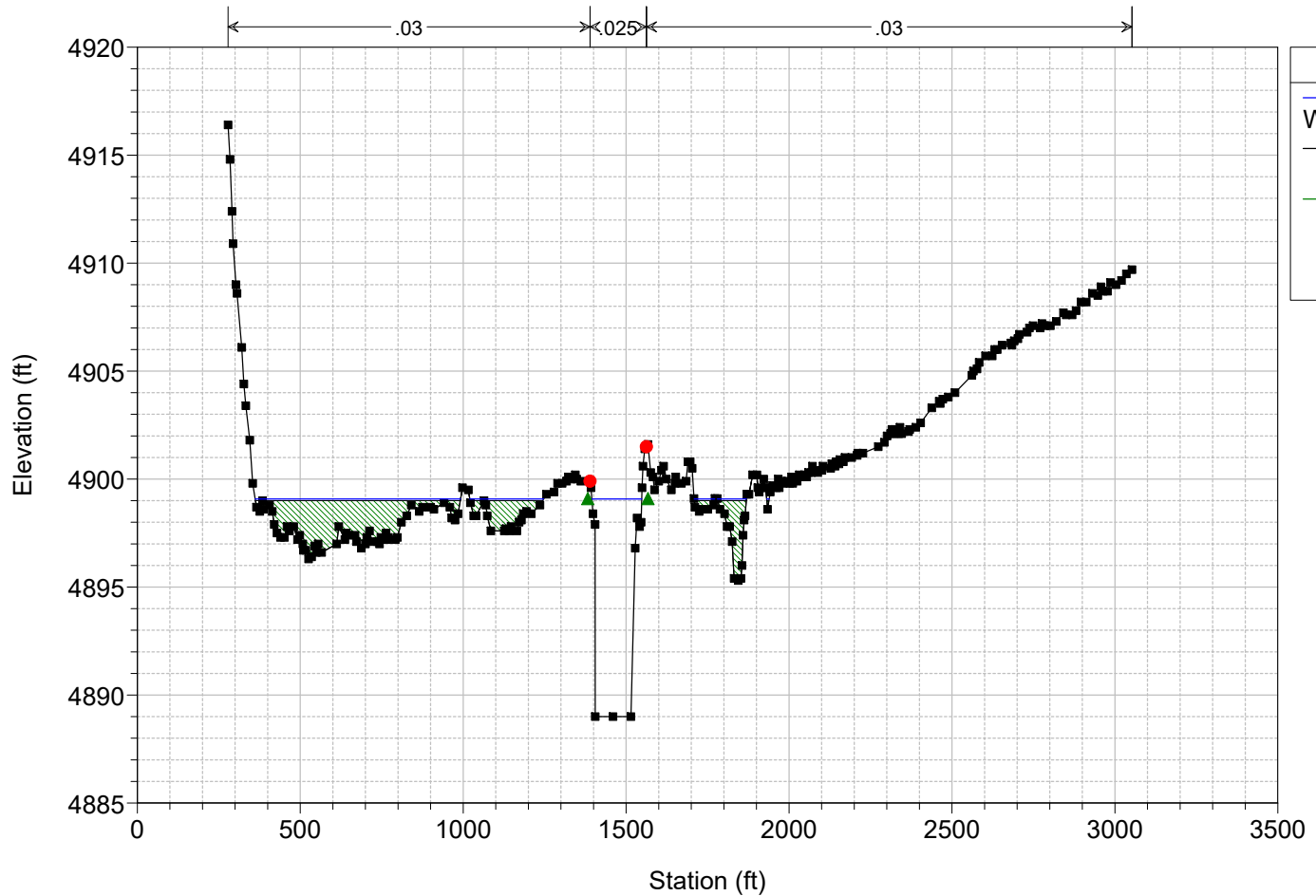
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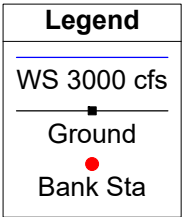
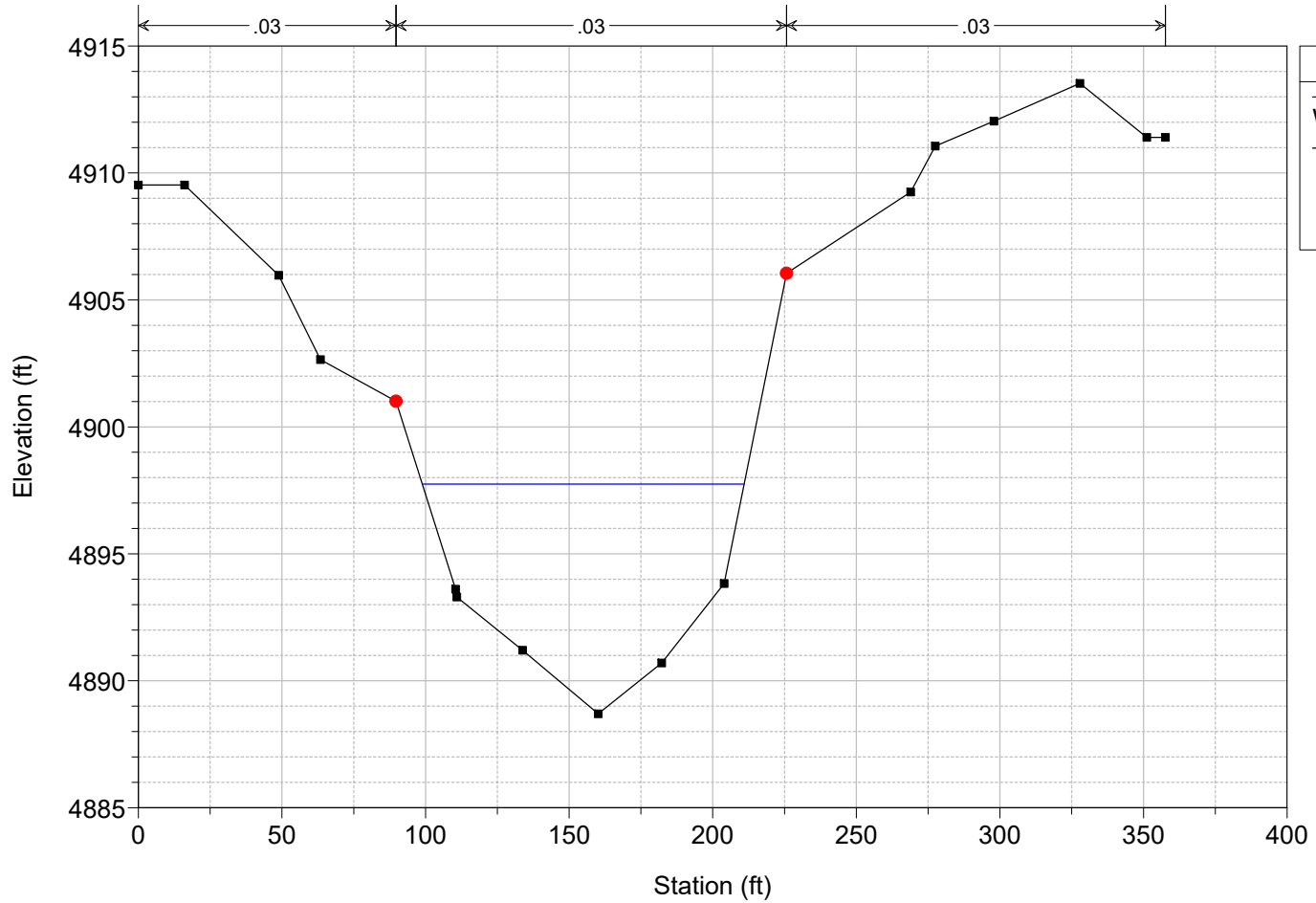


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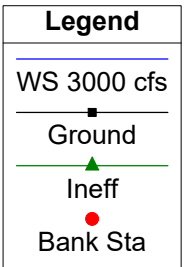
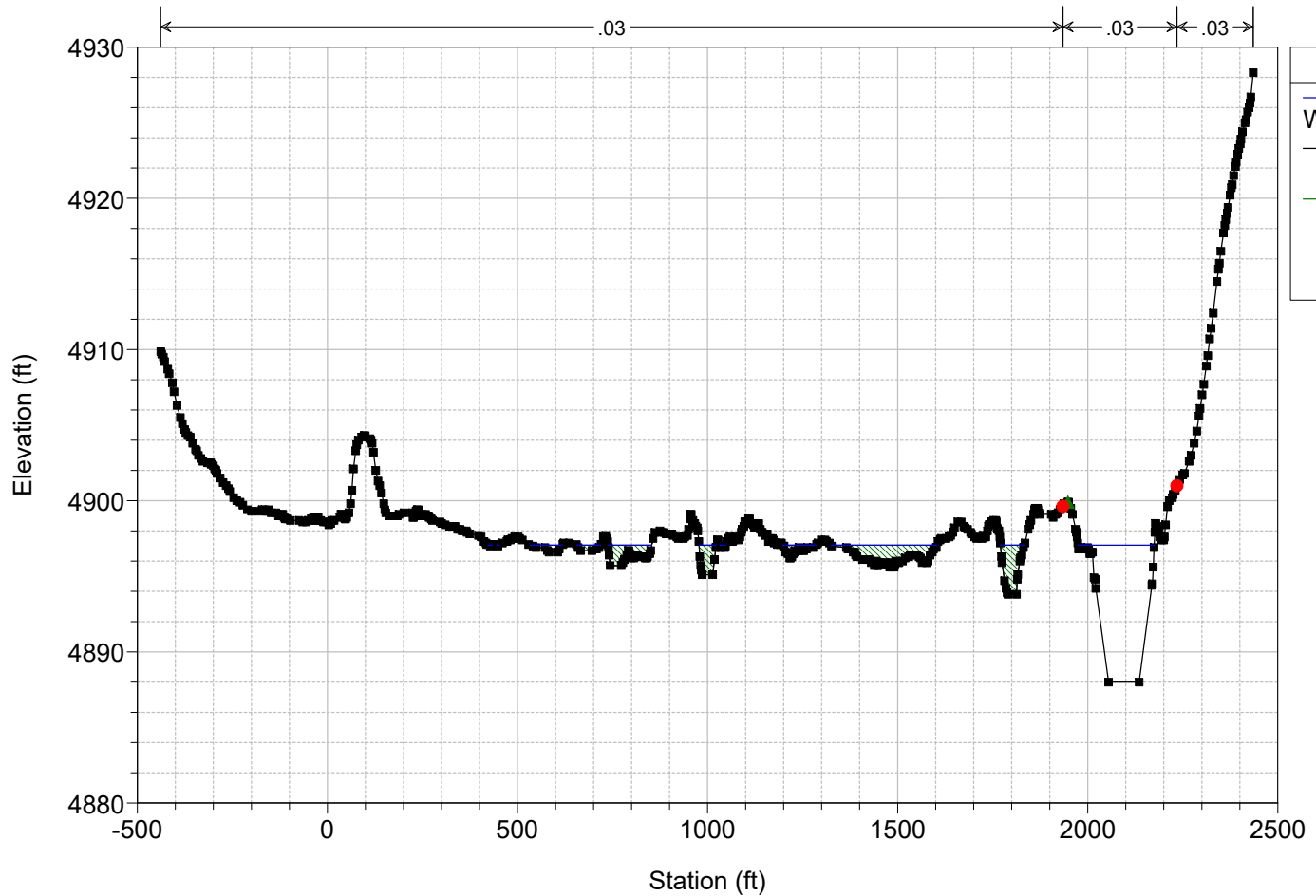




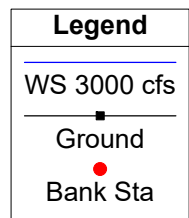
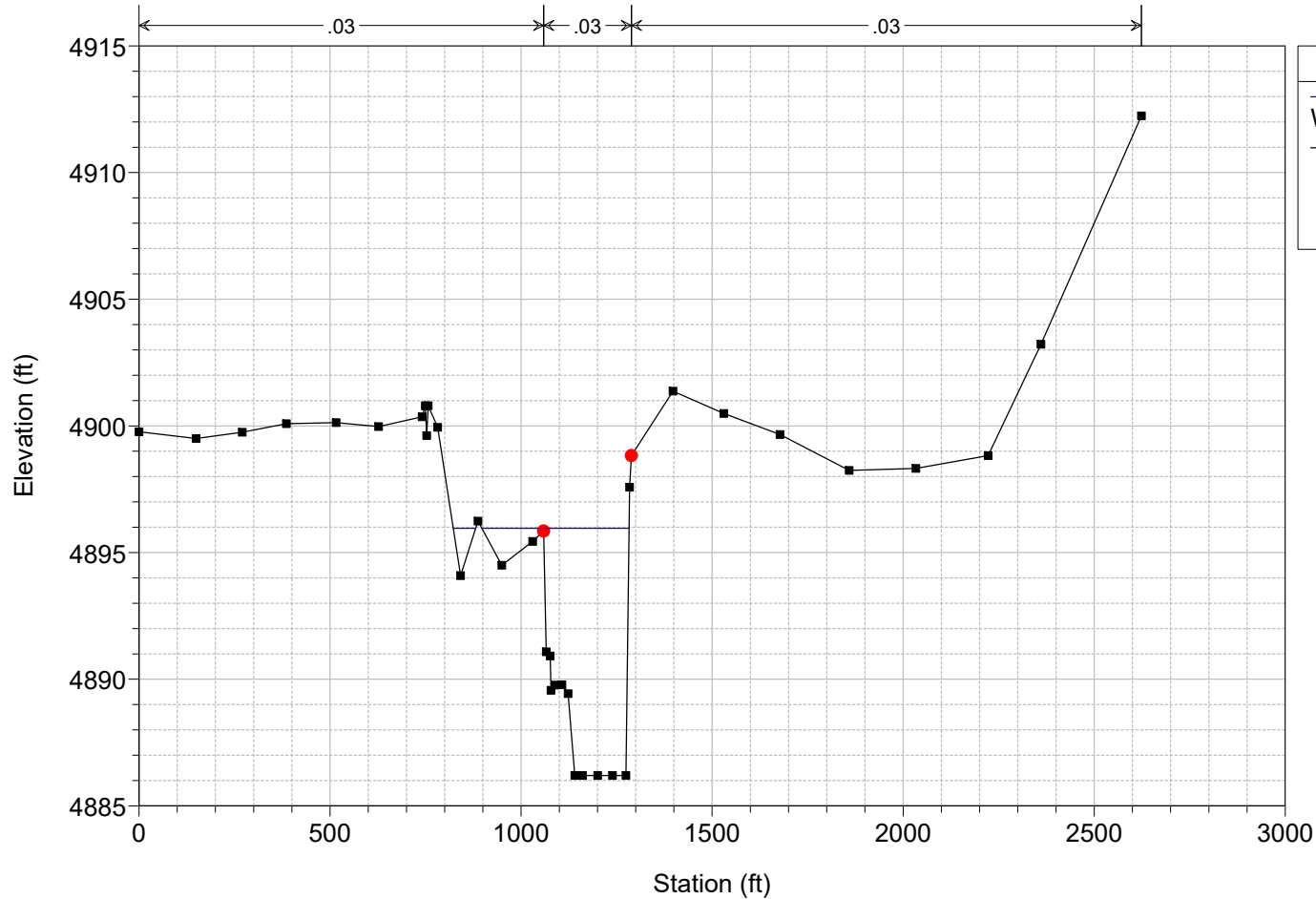
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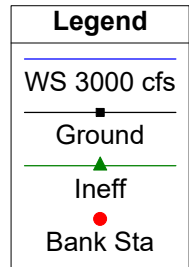
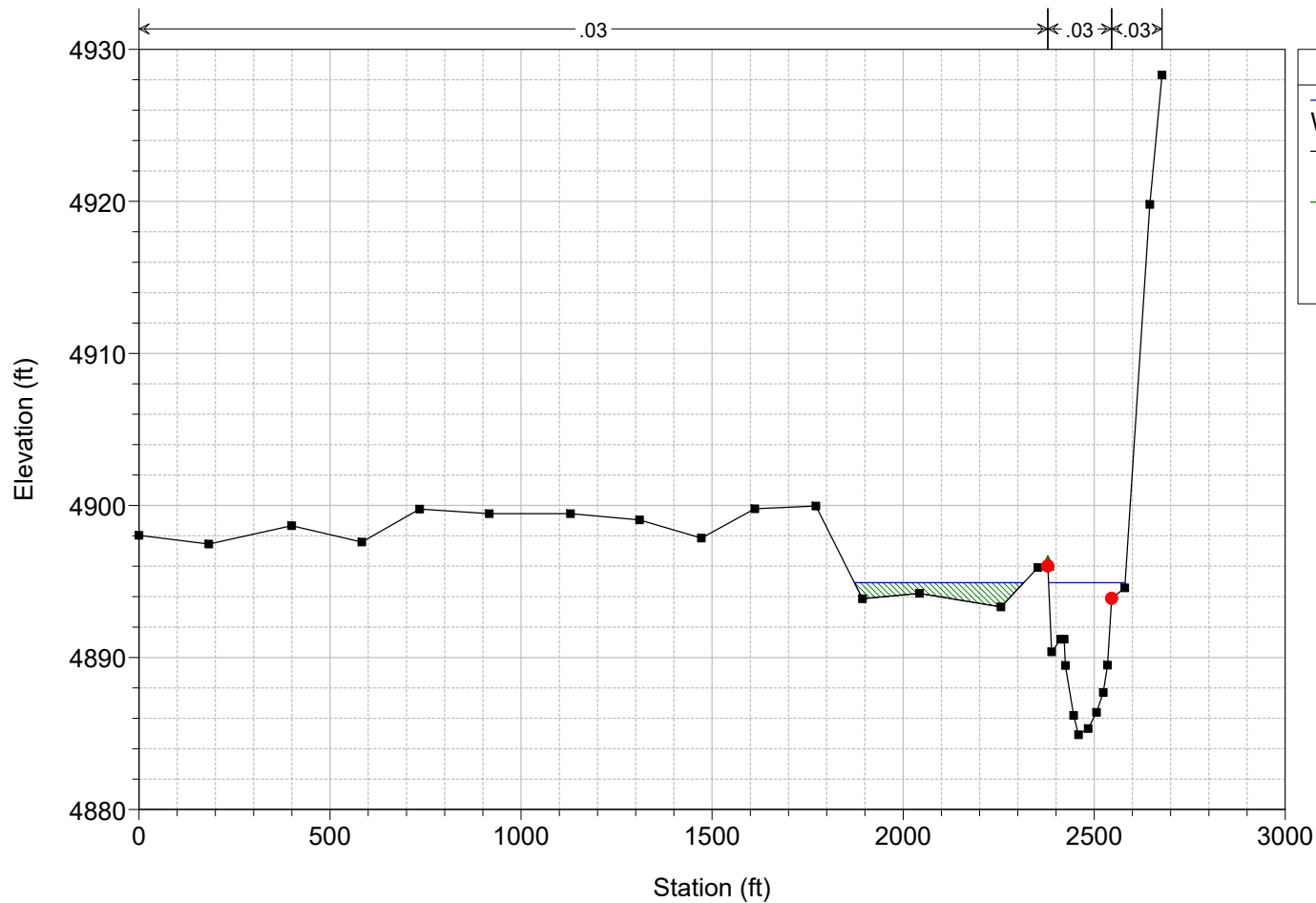
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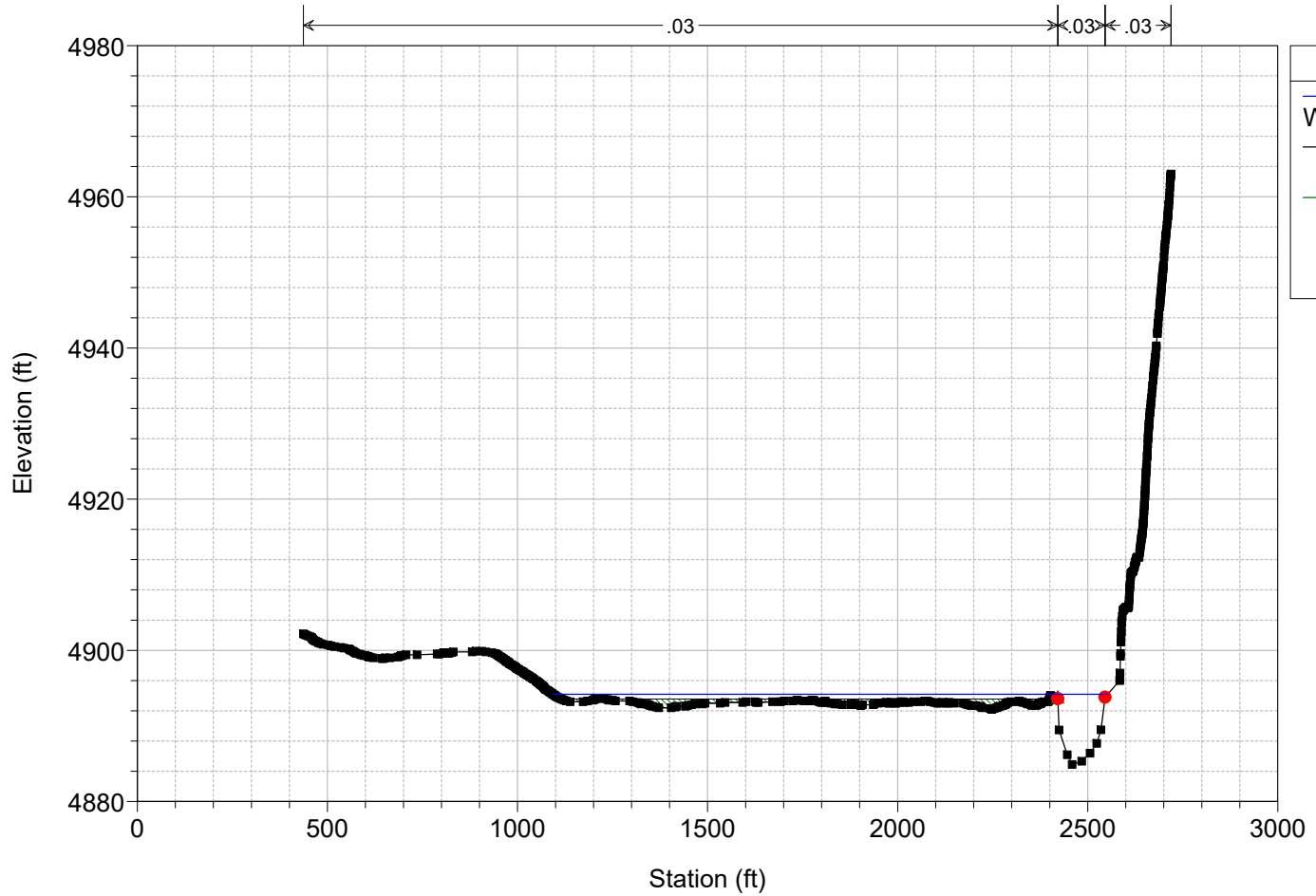
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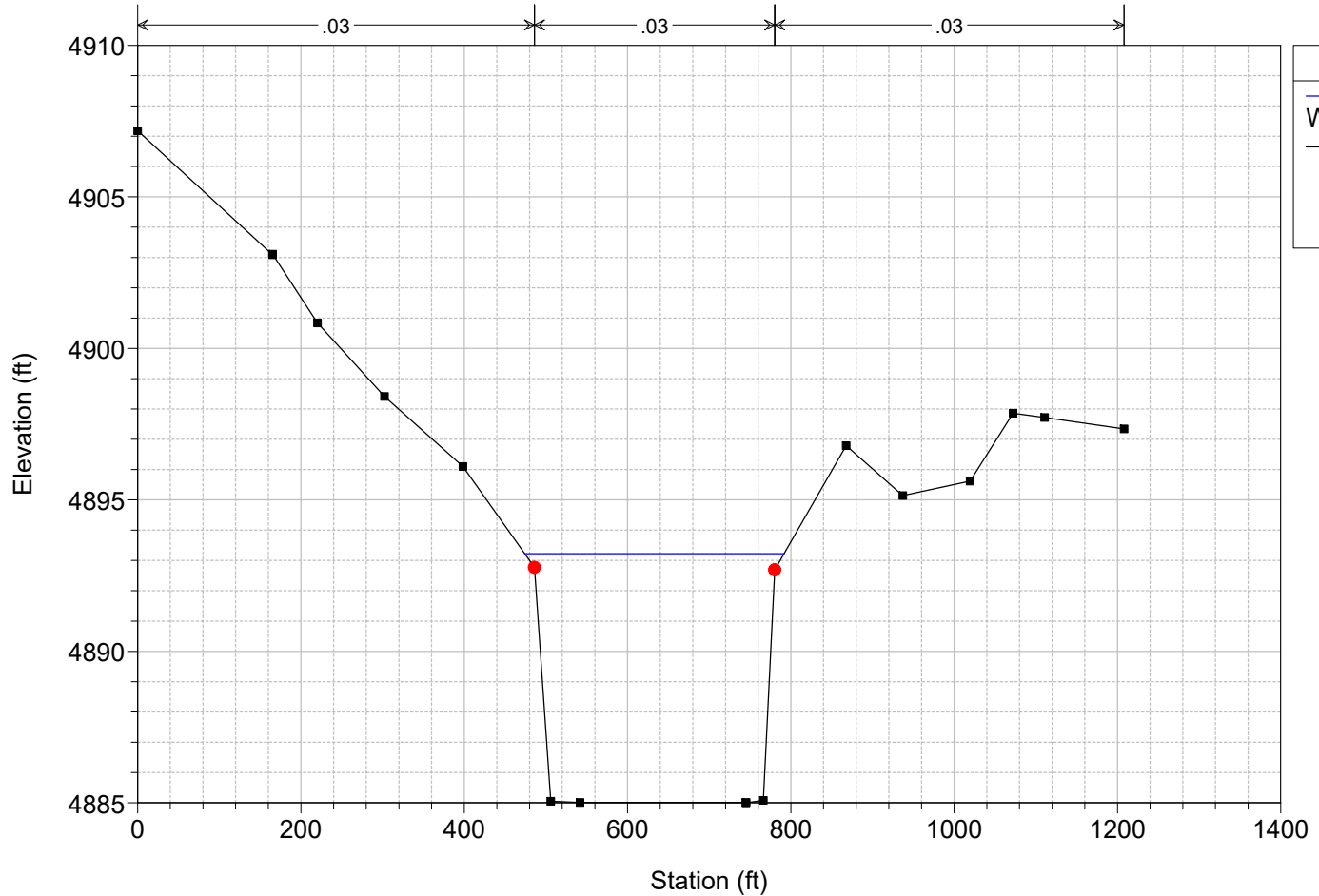
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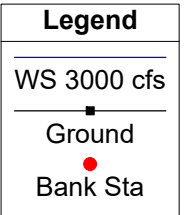
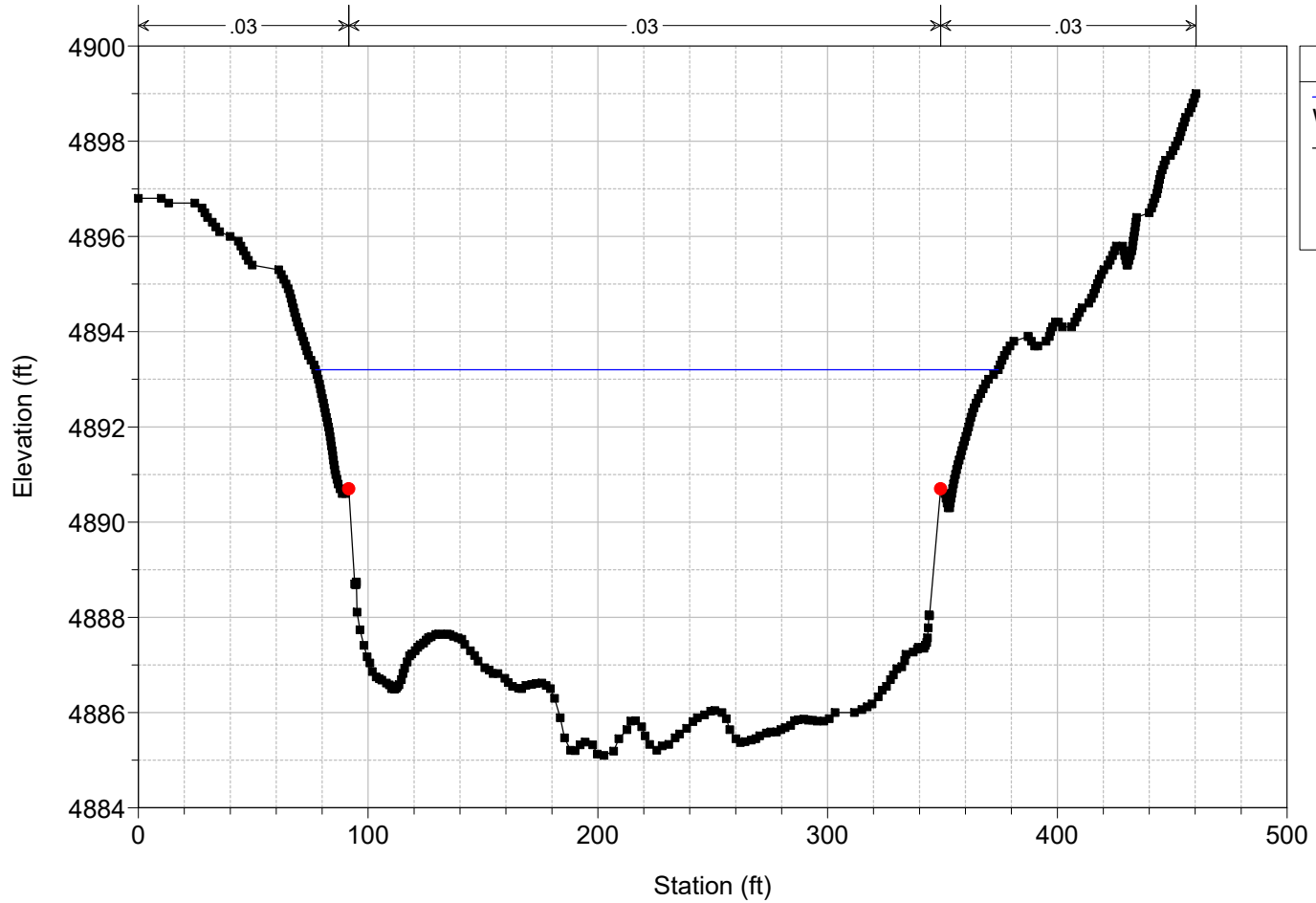


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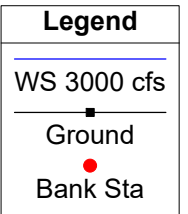
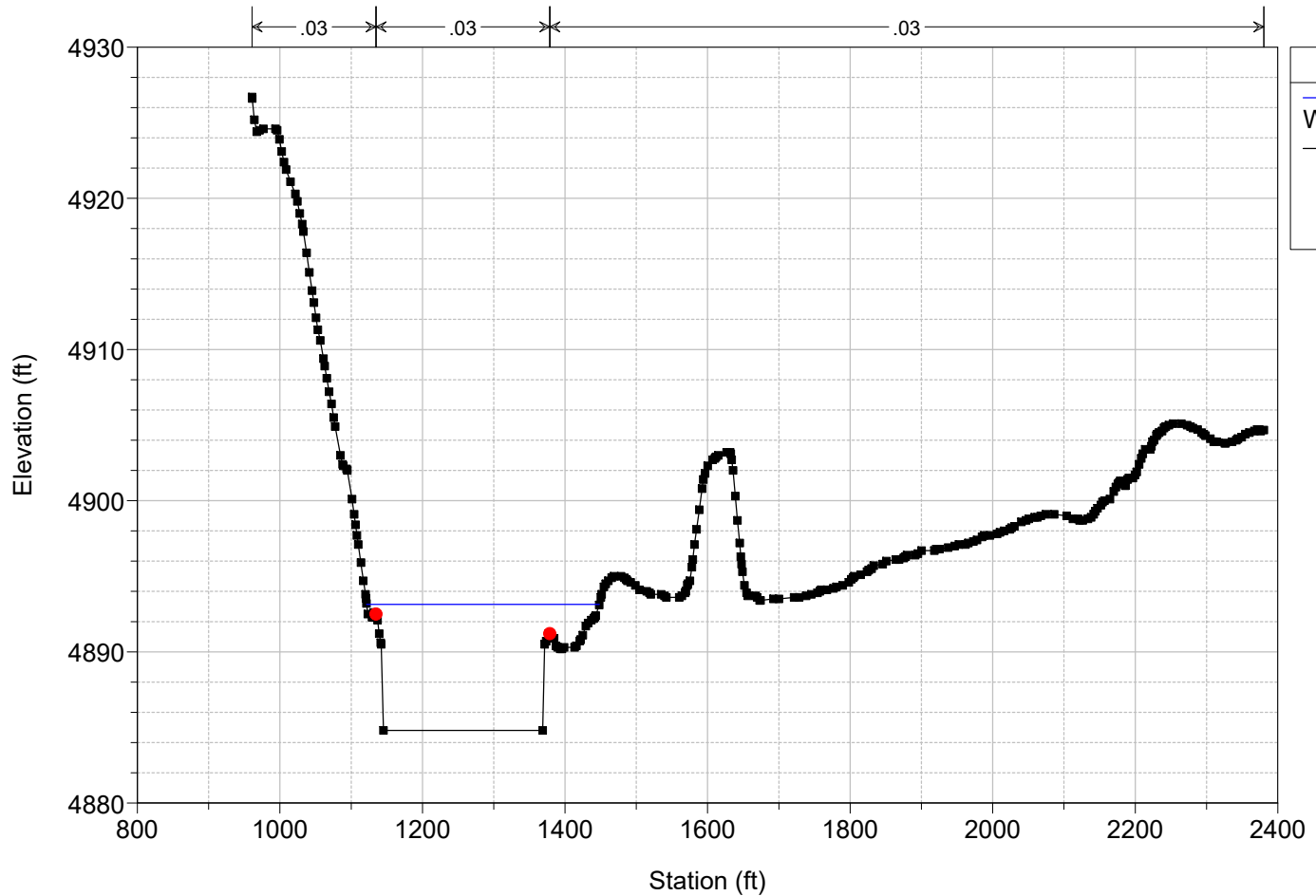




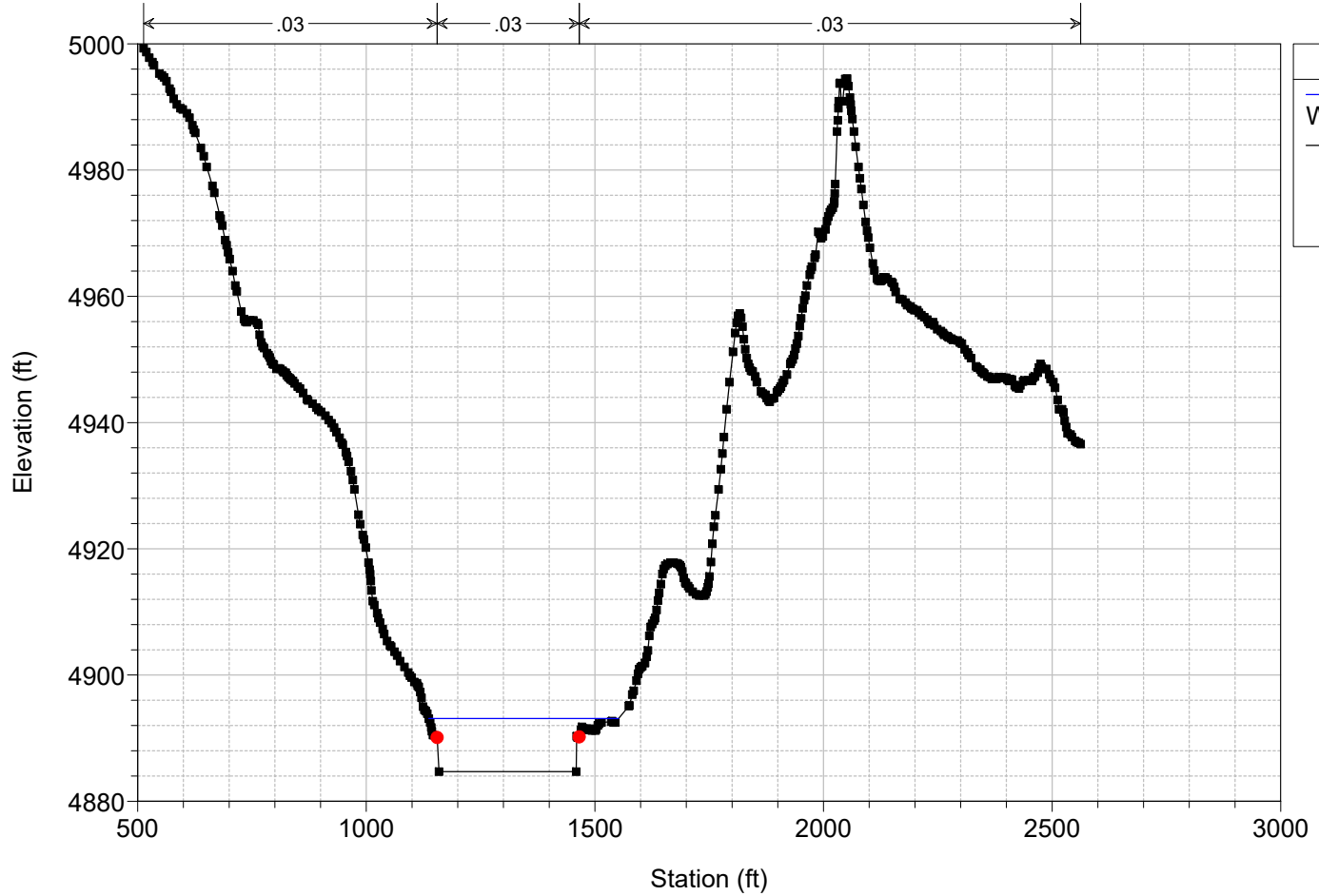
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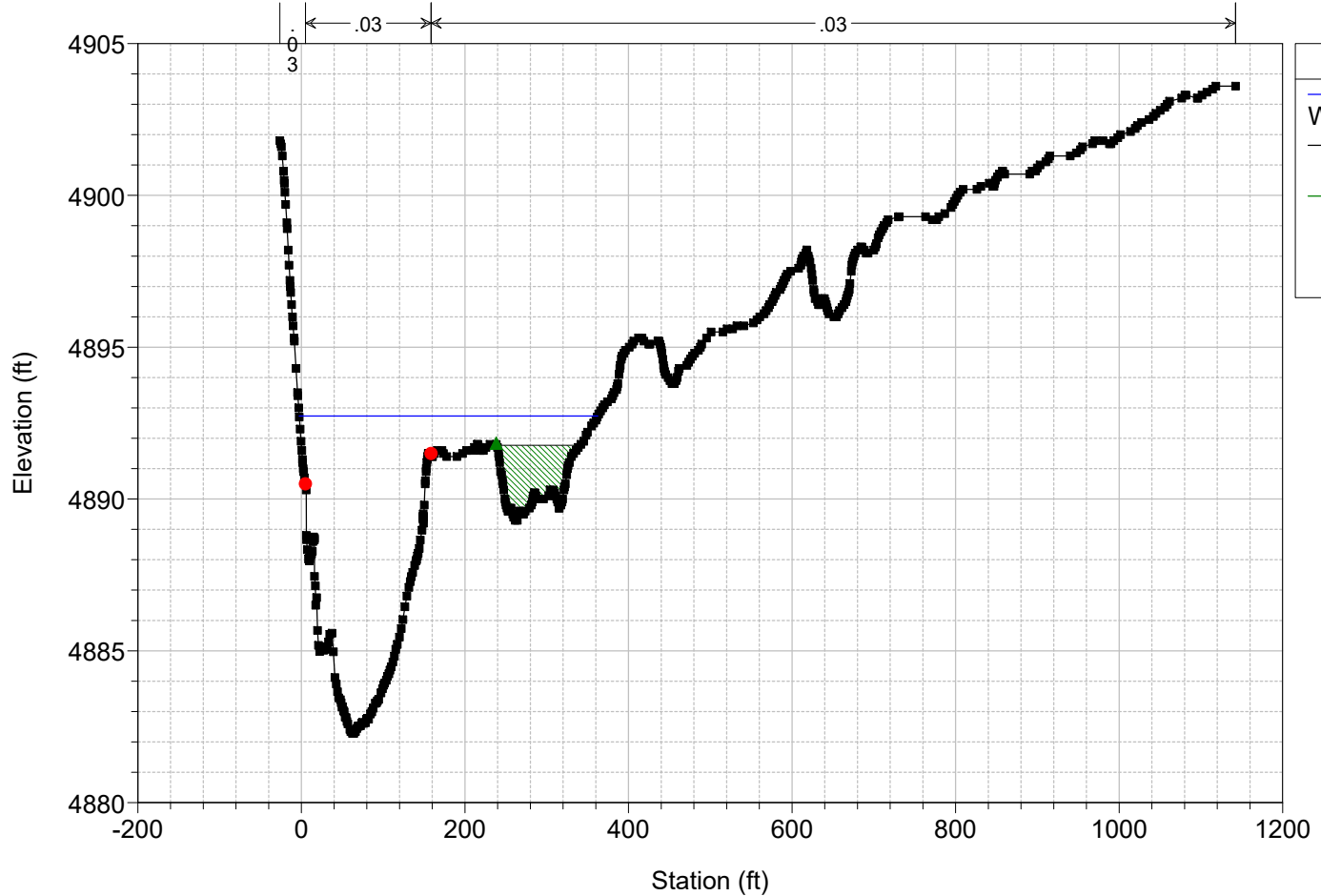
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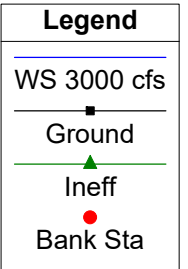
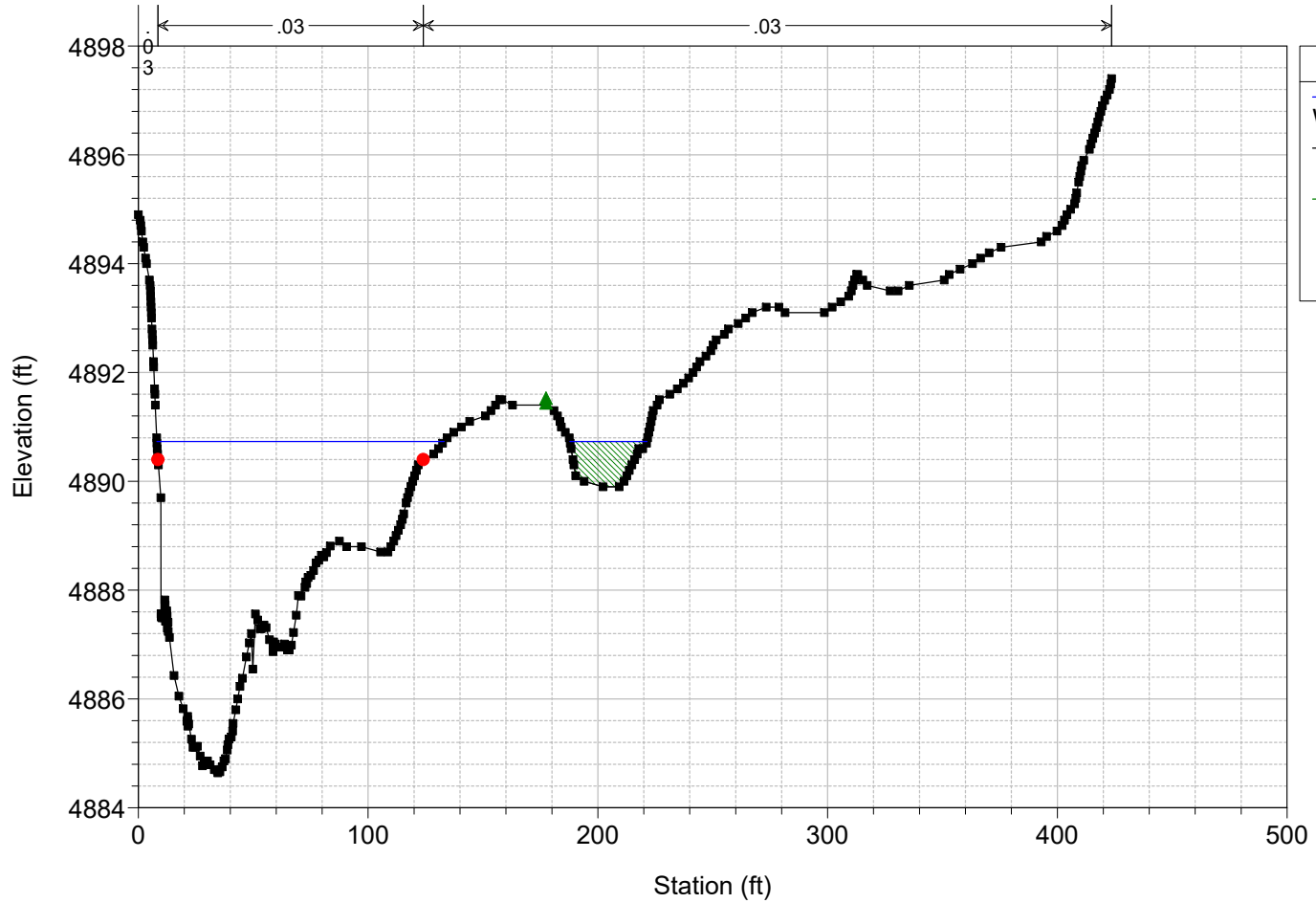
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RS = 31898



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RS = 27234



Base Plan: Existing 3670 10/25/2017  
RS = 26727



Base Plan: Existing 3670 10/25/2017  
RS = 25277

