# Bear River ECC Final Meeting Notes March 13, 2019 Pocatello, Idaho

	Name	Organization
(	Mark Stenberg	PacifiCorp
(	Lynn Van Every	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
[	Jim DeRito, by phone	Trout Unlimited
(	Corey Lyman	U.S. Forest Service
(	Cary Myler	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(	Ryan Hillyard	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
(	Allison Michalski, by phone	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Х	Ryan Beatty	Bureau of Land Management
	Charlie Vincent	American Whitewater
	Hunter Osborne	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
	Kirk Rich	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
	Susan Rosebrough	National Park Service
	Kevin Lewis	Idaho Rivers United

Othe	Others Participating			
	Name	Organization		
	Eve Davies	PacifiCorp		
Х	Matt Lucia	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust		
Х	Tom Lucia	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust		
Х	Greg Mladenka	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality		
Х	Arnie Brimmer	Idaho Department of Fish and Game		
Х	Steven Smith	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality		
Х	Sophie Nosworthy	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust		

Commitments Made during the March 2019 Meeting			
All	<ul> <li>Update/revise short forms (proposals) for 2019 habitat enhancement projects as needed based on ECC comments. Provide to Stenberg &amp; Hugentobler.</li> <li>Long forms (applications) for 2019 grant fund proposals due from ECC sponsors to Stenberg &amp; Hugentobler Friday, April 5.</li> <li>Egley site visit Wednesday, May 8.</li> <li>FYI – Soda Spin reports are under revision due to a mapping issue. Water temperature report is expected in June 2019.</li> </ul>		
Stenberg	<ul> <li>Wrap Oneida spawning channel design memo from Bowen Collins.</li> <li>Obtain cost estimate for Mink Creek water right analysis.</li> <li>Provide ECC with an update on adjudication of the Bear River.</li> <li>Coordinate with Mussler (and other landowners) regarding June field tour.</li> <li>Obtain update on the Bushman/Stauffer Creek project.</li> <li>Update the ECC on PacifiCorp's direction on the Paris Creek hydro project, as needed.</li> <li>Coordinate with IDFG on Broodstock pond weir repairs. Repair needs noted at March meeting: Some modifications needed in the concrete boxes to be able to take full</li> </ul>		

	<ul> <li>water claim. IDFG has problems with access to the fish ladder, to net fish, which is a safety issue. Fix elbows on inlet pipes. Also fix hole in fence.</li> <li>Coordinate with DeRito &amp; Van Every regarding Bear River Commission Tour of BCT broodstock ponds.</li> <li>Review ground rules at a future meeting.</li> </ul>
DeRito	Provide Mink Creek fish barrier data.
Lucia	Provide information on water rights encumbered on SSLT's Mink Creek projects.
Cirrus	Finalize Soda Spin reports.
Hillyard, Brimmer	<ul> <li>Provide information on fish populations and distribution in Mink Creek. Summarize Twin Lakes data. Consider future sampling.</li> <li>Check status of Kempton Stauffer culvert invoice.</li> <li>Document repairs to fish screens funded by the ECC in the annual conservation hatchery report (yearlygoing forward).</li> </ul>
Lyman	Update interested ECC members, as needed, on Bartschi/Stauffer Creek project.
Hugentobler	Forward action items and revised ECC calendar to the ECC.
Action items in blue have	been carried over.

### **Decisions Made by Email Since January ECC Meeting**

• Approved draft January meeting notes.

### **Decisions Made at This Meeting**

• Approve the budget for Larsen parcel<sup>1</sup>, acquisition contingent on a letter of intent with Larsen that the ECC's intention is to buy and hold the property, retaining a conservation easement, and at the time of sale it may include a home site.

### Added to Today's Agenda

- Update on the Bear River watershed conservation area
- Fish screen repairs
- Stauffer Creek

### **Project Updates**

Oneida Spawning Channel – Bowen Collins had been scheduled to present its memo with final recommendations and 30 percent design; however, IDFG has stated they prefer to direct efforts to Mink Creek rather than Oneida. Lyman said he agreed Oneida may not be the best place for spawning enhancement efforts. Stenberg provided his observations on recreational fishing in the area. Hillyard said spawning enhancements on the Clegg property have not really taken off. Mladenka asked about Dead Horse spring and suggested using it as an analog—introduce some Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) (eggs or juveniles) and see if they use it. This would require much less funding, he said. Lyman noted complications at Oneida, including very large annual discharges. Stenberg said he thinks the biggest issue is whether BCT find it, with the powerhouse tailrace right there. Hillyard noted that there are some

<sup>1</sup> Additional detail included in Land and Water Fund Updates, March 13, 2019.

springs there. He asked about total cost. Stenberg reviewed cost from Bowen Collins estimates. High end would be \$400,000 and fish may not find the spawning channel, which is about 800 feet long. Hillyard said he felt minimum flows in Mink Creek may be more important. Mladenka asked what the issue are at Mink Creek. Hillyard and Van Every noted there is a barrier at Egley. Fish are going there and can't get past. It is unknown whether water rights are available on Mink Creek. Twin Lakes owns the majority. Brimmer noted there is a new president of Twin Lakes Canal Company. Stenberg showed another potential spawning area farther downstream on the Oneida aerials. He said temperatures may be an issue there, but it is more accessible, so there may be an opportunity for spawning habitat there. Mladenka asked if there is any chance that BCT will spawn in the mainstem. Brimmer said BCT will choose a tributary over the mainstem whenever they can. Hillyard said he thought it was more likely rearing habitat. Mladenka asked why work at Oneida when Mink Creek has everything needed except water and passage? Stenberg said because, as we heard from USU professors the Oneida reach has been lost to BCT because there is no spawning habitat. Twin Lakes mentioned this many times, he said. Mladenka noted that fisheries biologists are saying they have other priorities, given that costs came in so high. Water temperatures are the limiting factor here, while Mink Creek needs water. Mladenka said we have the money, but is water available? Brimmer said it could be just a matter of moving a couple of points of diversion. Hillyard said perhaps moving some of the lower points from Mink Creek to the Bear River. Lucia asked how much water was needed. Hillyard estimated 10 cfs, but said Teuscher thought perhaps more.

Stenberg said he will wrap up the memo from Bowen Collins. He said the ECC may want to do project scoping, including a water right analysis in Mink Creek. Stenberg will get an estimate from a consultant, as well as an update on adjudication of the Bear River. DeRito will pull fish barrier data for Mink Creek. ECC members will obtain more information on fish populations and distribution in Mink Creek (IDFG will summarize the Twin Lakes data. Van Every has some archived data). Hillyard said the area has not been sampled since he's been with IDFG. This effort may be needed as well. Lucia will gather Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust's (SSLT) data on water rights encumbered on their projects.

Bartschi/Stauffer Creek Planning – The planning portion of this project, funded by the ECC in 2018, is now complete. Some funding will be returned to general fund. Lyman provided an update on ongoing work. He said the primary objective of the Bartschi project is getting rid of the diversion dam. The project will also restore wet meadow and fish habitat in the stream. He said he is not planning to submit for ECC funding this year. The project consultant is currently working on conceptual design. Lyman said he had just met with Bartschi. He is proceeding with work needed to allow for permitting this year. Lyman reviewed conceptual plans with ECC (see Attachment 1). He said he is meeting with the landowner and Water Resources tomorrow [March 14, 2019] regarding water rights. Lyman said he will have more information in a couple of weeks and will distribute it to interested ECC members when available.

**Kempton Stauffer Culvert** – This project is now complete; however, only \$5,000 has been billed. Hillyard will check to see if another invoice is forthcoming.

**Mussler** – Stenberg said the project was previously on hold due to Soda Spin but now good progress has been made. He noted it would be good to visit this project during site tours.

**Bushman** – Stenberg will call Bushman for an update.

Stenberg noted there are currently four open projects, including Oneida spawning channel.

Screen Repair – Funding has been disbursed.

### **Paris Creek Update**

Van Every let Stenberg know the mining company that previously expressed interest in placing water from their de-watering operations into Paris Creek will not be pursuing that, so that possible scenario is no longer under consideration. Stenberg said PacifiCorp had directed him to dispose of Paris, so he will now go back to them for direction. He will update the ECC when that information is available. He said the irrigation company has been unresponsive, but he will follow up with them.

Stenberg reviewed the habitat enhancement fund balance with the ECC. He said \$433,290.98 is available for 2019 habitat enhancement projects.

### Operation Plan Update - Reservoir Drawdowns - Stenberg

Stenberg said he is developing a table to describe routine reservoir drawdown and dewatering events and will review it with the ECC when it is complete.

### **Short Form Review**

### **Screen Tender**

Amount Requested: \$15,000

Applicant: Hillyard, IDFG

**ECC Sponsor:** Stenberg, PacifiCorp

Funds Manager: Brimmer, IDFG

No additional information requested.

### Station Creek Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) - DeRito

**Amount Requested:** \$49,083

**Applicant:** Bouwes, Anabranch Solutions

ECC Sponsor: DeRito, Trout Unlimited

Funds Manager: Stenberg, PacifiCorp

DeRito said this proposal is similar to last year's. It now includes BDAs and post-assisted log structures (PALS) but no beaver. The proposal includes structures and monitoring. Stenberg asked if there is a map of BDA locations. DeRito said no, but they are all within the Westerberg property. Stenberg asked who would do the permitting. DeRito said it's complete and was done by Anabranch. Stenberg asked if this treatment would be similar to that in photos provided earlier plus the PALs. DeRito said yes. Beatty asked if the goal is to attract beaver and will there be an effort made to remove them. DeRito said it is hoped they will move in, but the applicant won't actively move them in. He said beaver have been illegally poached on the property in the past. Stenberg said there doesn't seem to be much of a woody

component in that area, will that be enhanced? DeRito said there is woody habitat in place at the lower site and he doesn't think it will be limiting there. No additional information was requested.

### **Skinner/Bear River Fence**

Amount Requested: \$44,986

Applicant: Hillyard, IDFG

ECC Sponsor: DeRito, Trout Unlimited

Funds Manager: Myler, USFWS

The project area is located south of Montpelier by Dingle, Idaho. Dustin Skinner is the landowner. A conservation easement is actively being pursued here and an underpass for wildlife is proposed. An adjacent landowner owns a pasture and doesn't want cattle using the wildlife underpass. Hillyard noted this is a regionally recognized pinch point for migration – there are a lot of accidents at this location. Beatty asked if the fence would it be let down annually. Hillyard said yes. The proposal includes four miles of fence, two miles each side. Stenberg noted the project is out of the action area and would have to go PacifiCorp for approval. He noted that the project is above Stewart Dam, an area with no previous ECC projects. Mladenka asked about the landowner's acreage. Hillyard said he did not know. He said the landowner's cousin adjoins and is also considering a conservation easement on his property. Mladenka asked about the number of cattle on the property. He asked whether a different grazing plan, rather than a fence, would serve the purpose. Hillyard said he will obtain additional information. Van Every asked whether the landowner could put in off-channel water sources rather than a fence. Stenberg said the ECC needs to see benefits to water quality or BCT. He asked whether there would be an exclusion area within the fence. Hillyard said yes. Myler noted that a very long and sinuous letdown fence would be hard to maintain. Hillyard said he will look at other options for fencing (perhaps electric).

Mladenka asked about out-of-action-area projects. Stenberg noted that the ECC has done multiple projects on the Cub River and Paris Creek. Others have been considered but not approved. Mladenka said he believed this project may be a better fit for someone like the Elk Foundation, or perhaps a smaller ask with partners.

### **Eightmile Culvert**

Amount Requested: \$20,000

Applicant: Lyman, USFS

**ECC Sponsor:** Lyman, USFS

Funds Manager: Bear Lake County

No additional information requested.

**Cove Spring BCT Genetics Testing** 

**Amount Requested:** \$900

Applicant: Beatty, BLM

ECC Sponsor: Hillyard, IDFG

Funds Manager: Stenberg, PacifiCorp

Beatty said with discussion of connecting Cove to Kackley, the last fish sampling found a lot of introgression. He said he knows the area is being considered for renovation. This study will help inform decisions. Some water chemistry sampling is also included in proposal, he said, which IDEQ has offered to help with.

Stenberg said a group of ECC members is doing some willow plantings and Russian olive treatment in the area later in the week. Beatty noted that Kackley Springs has been running high and is now going around the fish trap. Beatty will change the funds manager for this project to Stenberg, with Hillyard as ECC Sponsor.

### **Screen Repair Set-Aside**

Repairs to Albert Moser were proposed this year, with \$6,000 left for repairs during the rest of the year. North Creek (Liberty) Screen, which was converted from a bubbler, isn't working well. IDFG is proposing to request same amount yearly and would hold any unspent funds over for larger repairs. Stenberg agreed and requested they document all work in the annual Conservation Hatchery report. IDFG is proposing \$8,000 annually.

# Attachment 1: Bartschi/Stauffer Conceptual Plan

# **CONCEPTUAL DESIGN DRAWINGS**

## **DRAWING INDEX**

SHEET-16

SHEET-17

SHEET-18

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SHEET-2	EXISTING CONDITIONS
SHEET-3	HISTORIC AERIAL - 1953
SHEET-4	HISTORIC AERIAL - 1969
SHEET-5	RELATIVE ELEV. MODEL - UPSTREAM
SHEET-6	RELATIVE ELEV. MODEL - CROSSING
SHEET-7	RELATIVE ELEV. MODEL - DOWNSTREAM
SHEET-8	RELATIVE ELEV. MODEL - TRIBUTARIES
SHEET-9	<b>EXISTING CONDITIONS - UPSTREAM</b>
SHEET-10	<b>EXISTING CONDITIONS - CROSSING</b>
SHEET-11	<b>EXISTING CONDITIONS - DOWNSTREAM</b>
SHEET-12	<b>EXISTING CONDITIONS - TRIBUTARIES</b>
SHEET-13	<b>DESIGN CONDITIONS - UPSTREAM</b>
SHEET-14	<b>DESIGN CONDITIONS - CROSSING</b>
SHEET-15	<b>DESIGN CONDITIONS - DOWNSTREAM</b>

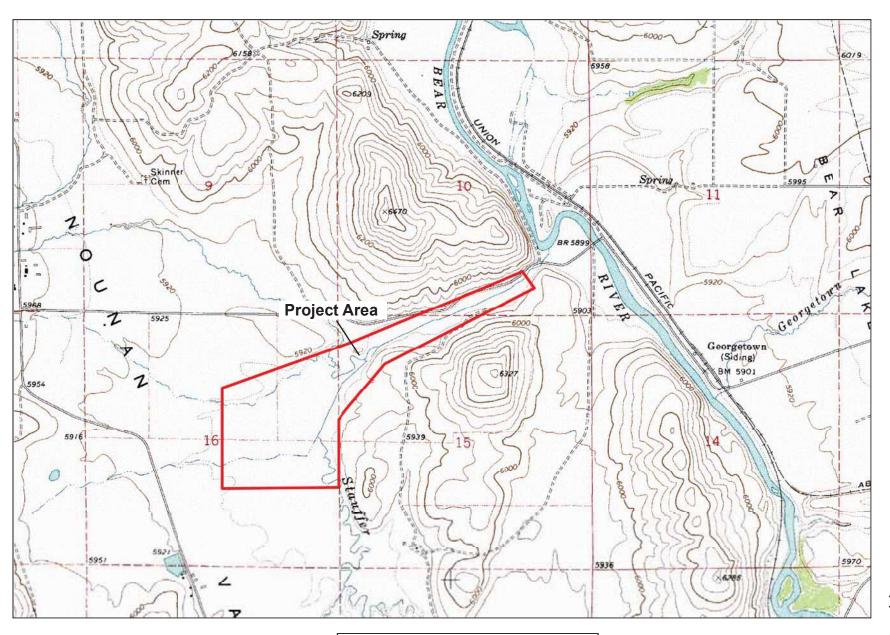
DESIGN CONDITIONS - TRIBUTARIES

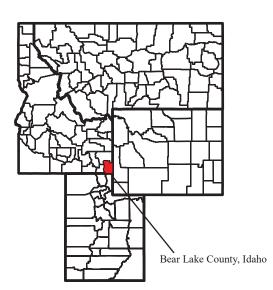
SIDE CAST REMOVAL - DOWNSTREAM

SIDE CAST REMOVAL - UPSTREAM

# PREPARED FOR:

Stauffer Creek Restoration Project Proponents





Scale:1:24,000 1 inch = 2,000 ft.
Township: 11S Range: 43E
Sections: NW1/4 Sec 15, NW1/4 Sec 16
USGS Nounan Quadrangle



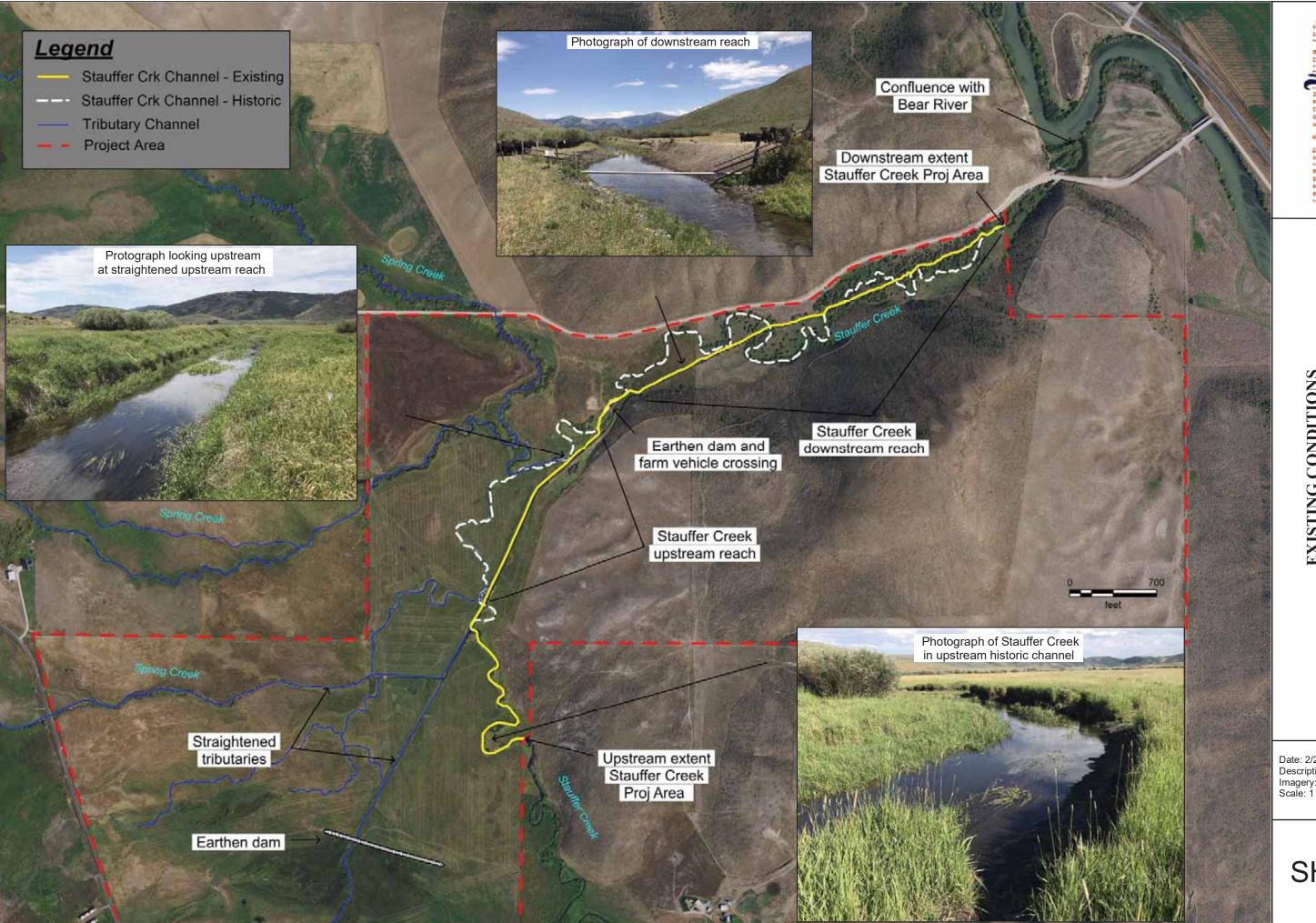
TITLE SHEET

Stauffer Creek Bear Lake County, Idaho

Date: 2/20/2019 Description: Title Sheet

Drawing:

SHEET 1

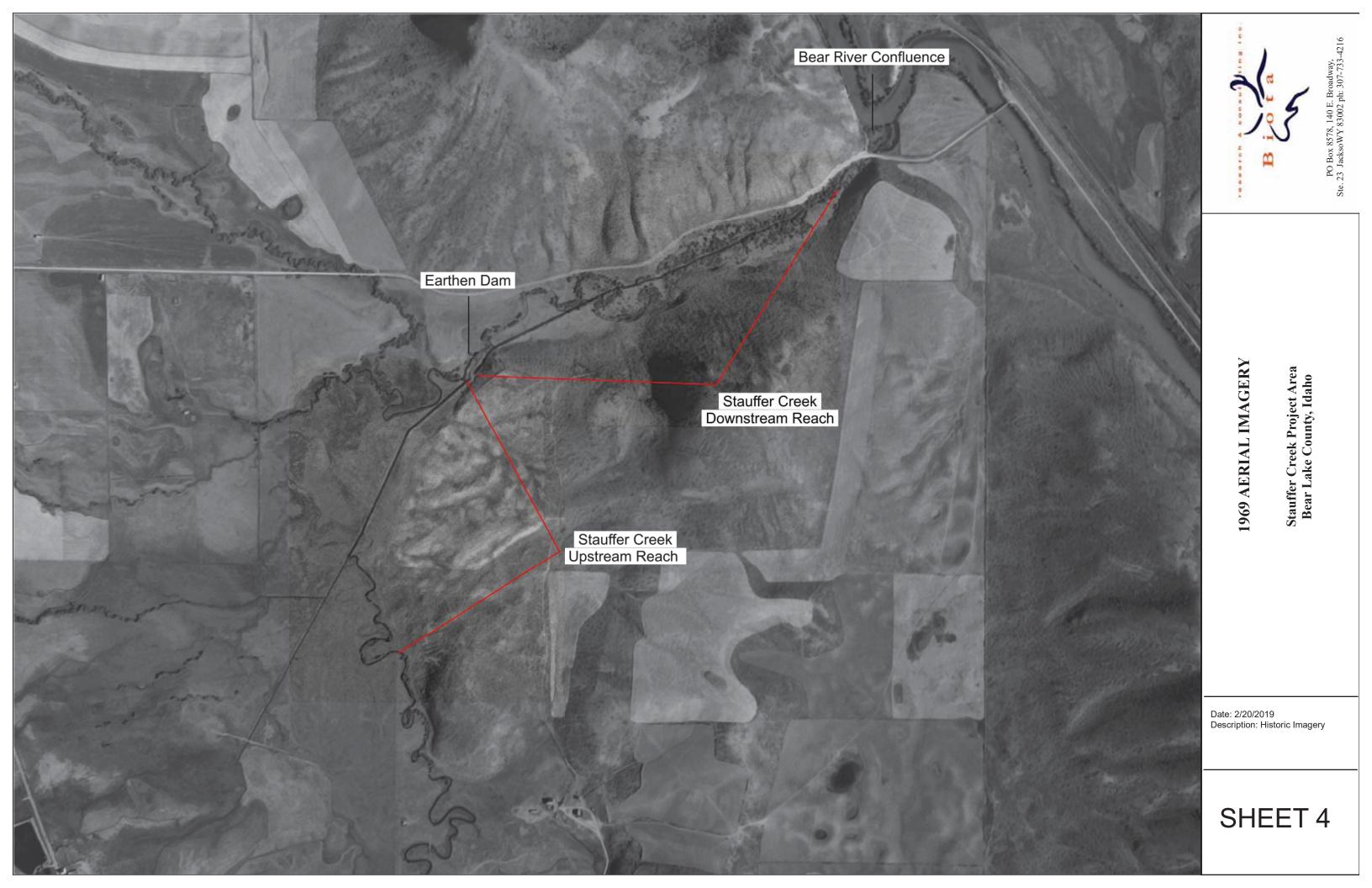


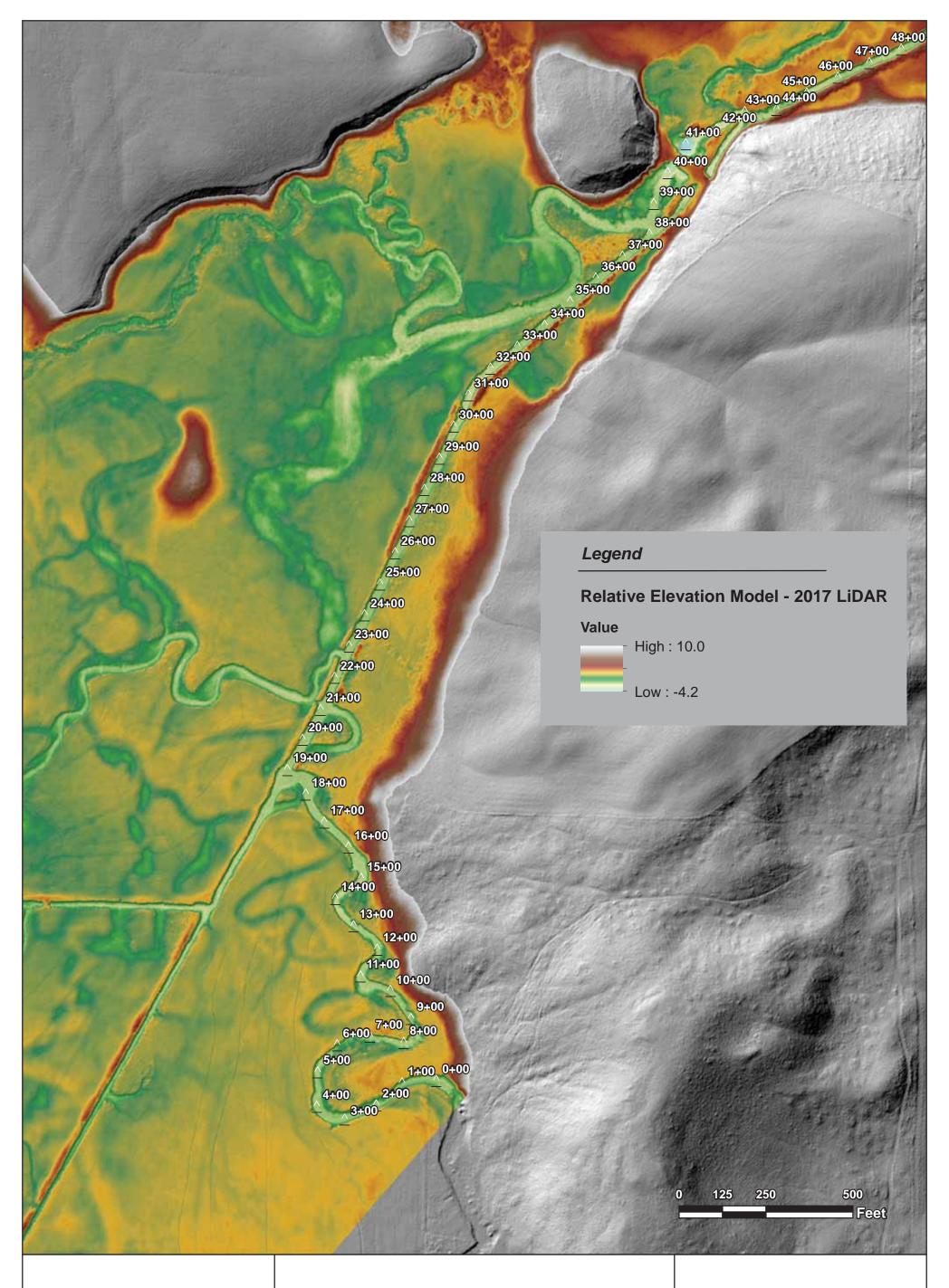


# EXISTING CONDITIONS

Date: 2/20/2019 Description: Existing Conditions Imagery: NAIP 2017 Scale: 1 inch = 700 ft.

SHEET 2





Date: 02/20/2019
Description: Existing Conditions
Scale 1 inch = 250 feet
2017 LiDAR

Drawing:

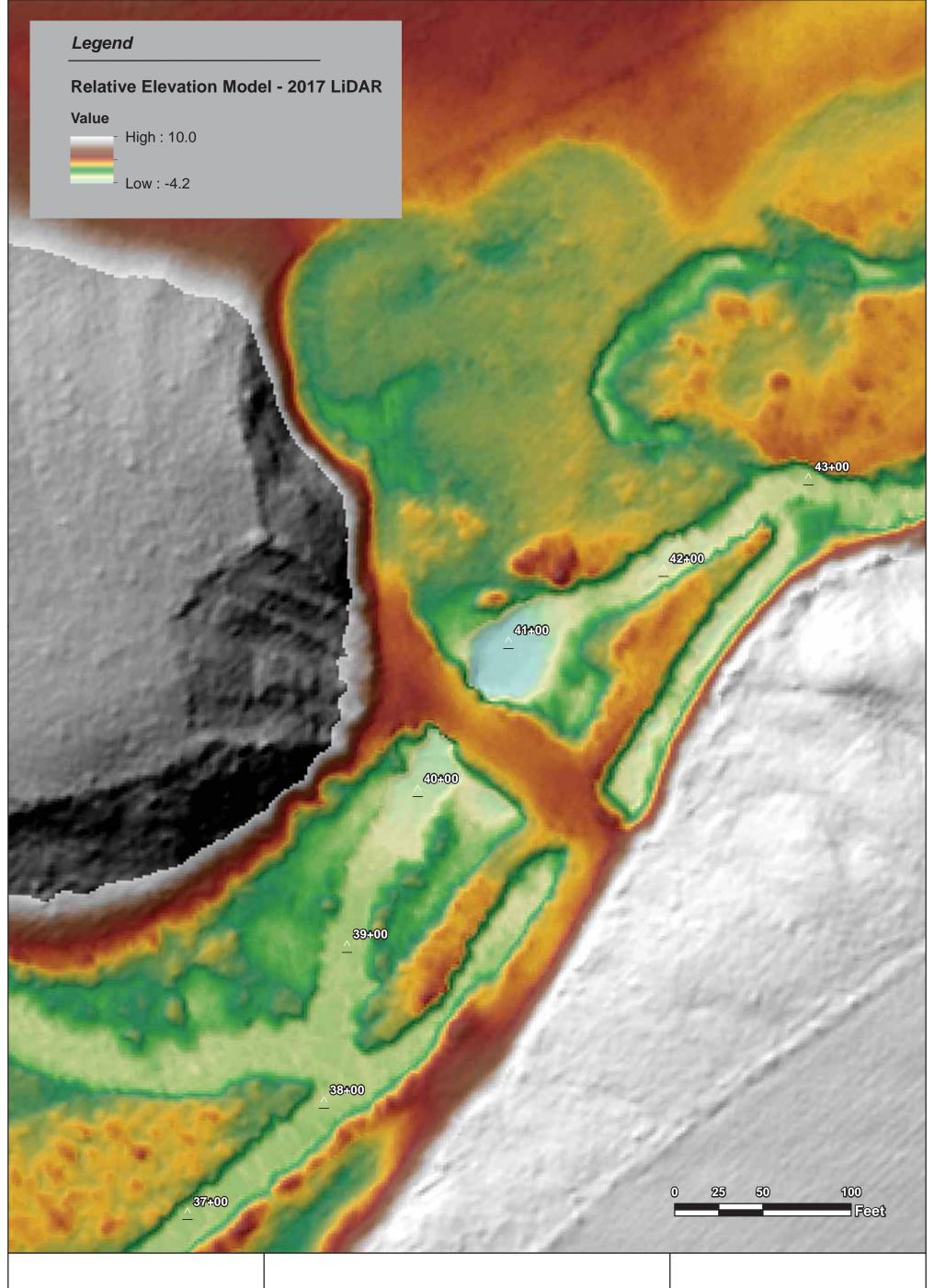
SHEET 5

Relative Elevation Model Upstream Reach

Stauffer Creek Project Area Bear Lake County, ID



PO Box 8578, 140 E Broadway, Suite 23, Jackson, WY 83002



Date: 02/20/2019
Description: Existing Conditions
Scale 1 inch = 50 feet
2017 LiDAR

Drawing:

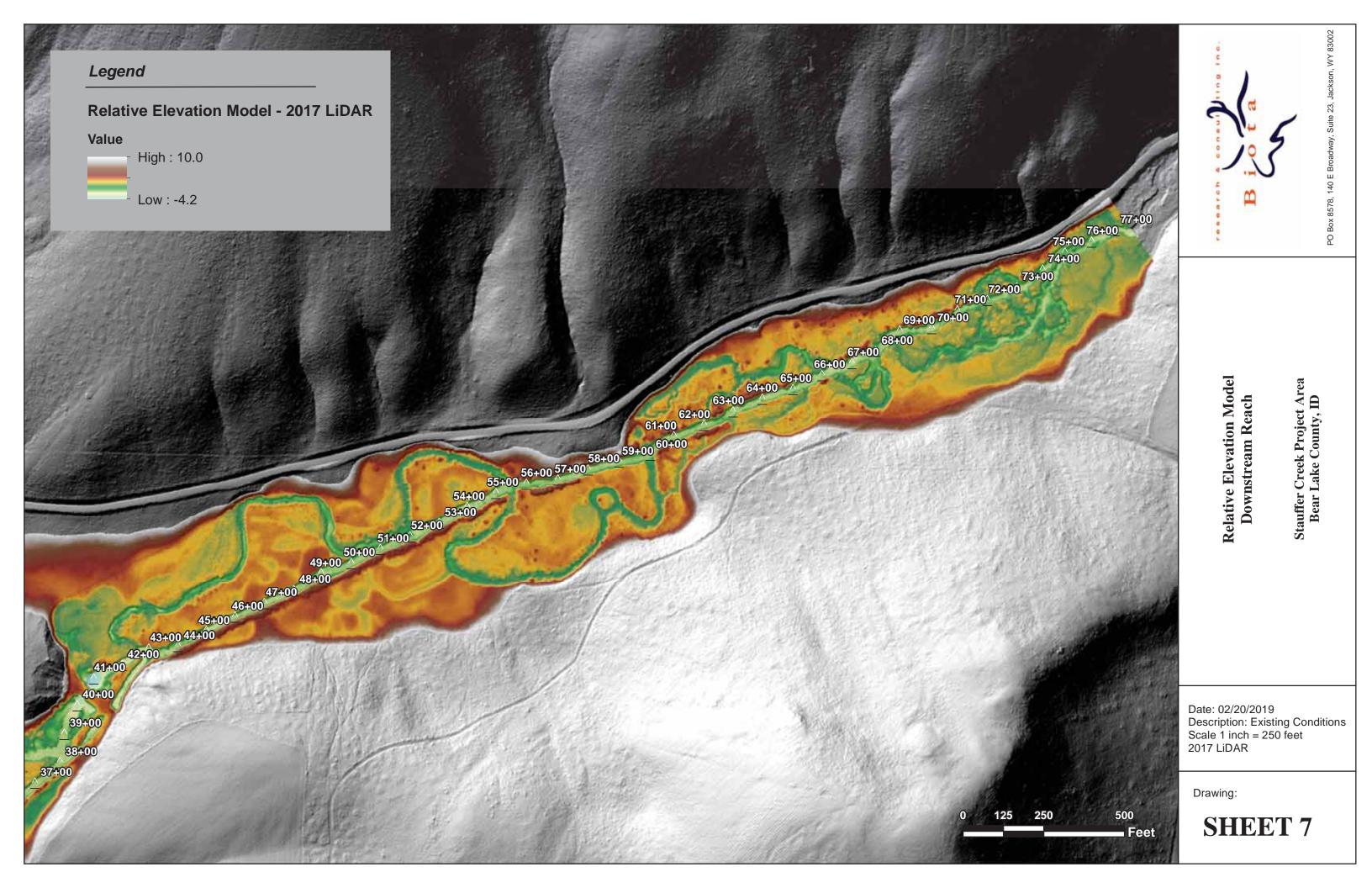
SHEET 6

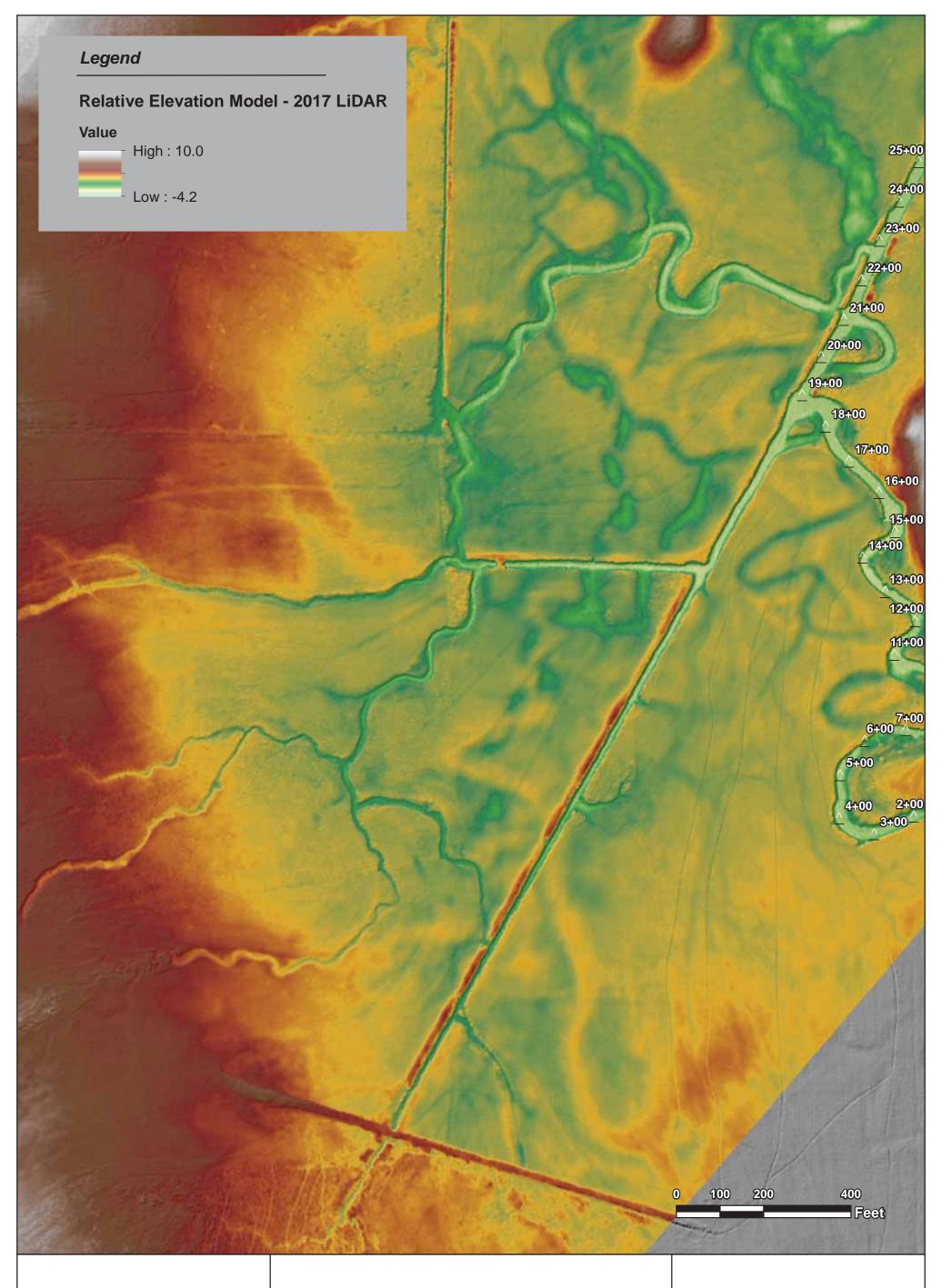
Relative Elevation Model Earthen Dam

Stauffer Creek Project Area Bear Lake County, ID



PO Box 8578, 140 E Broadway, Suite 23, Jackson, WY 83002





Date: 02/20/2019
Description: Existing Conditions
Scale 1 inch = 200 feet
2017 LiDAR

Drawing:

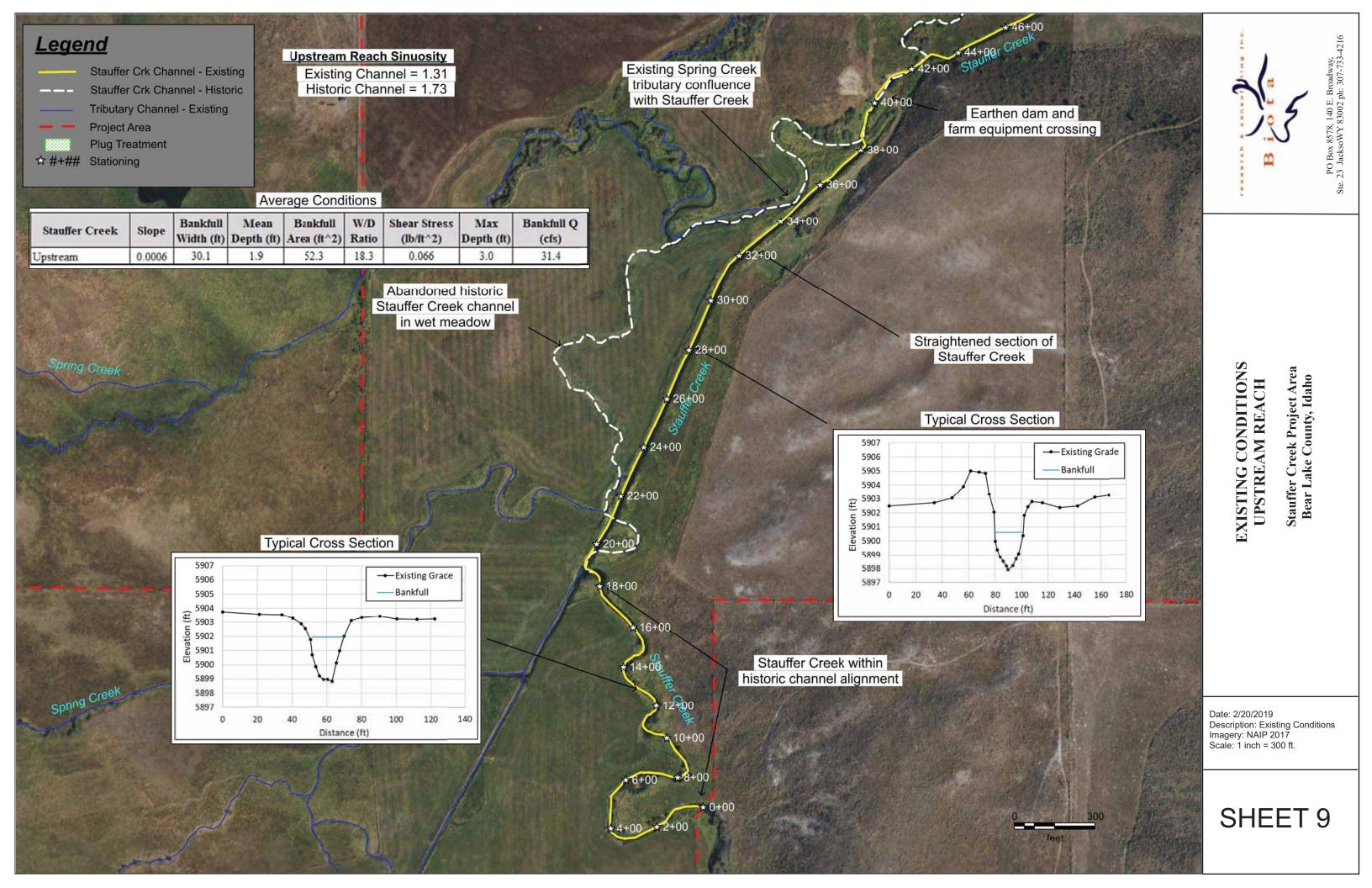
**SHEET 8** 

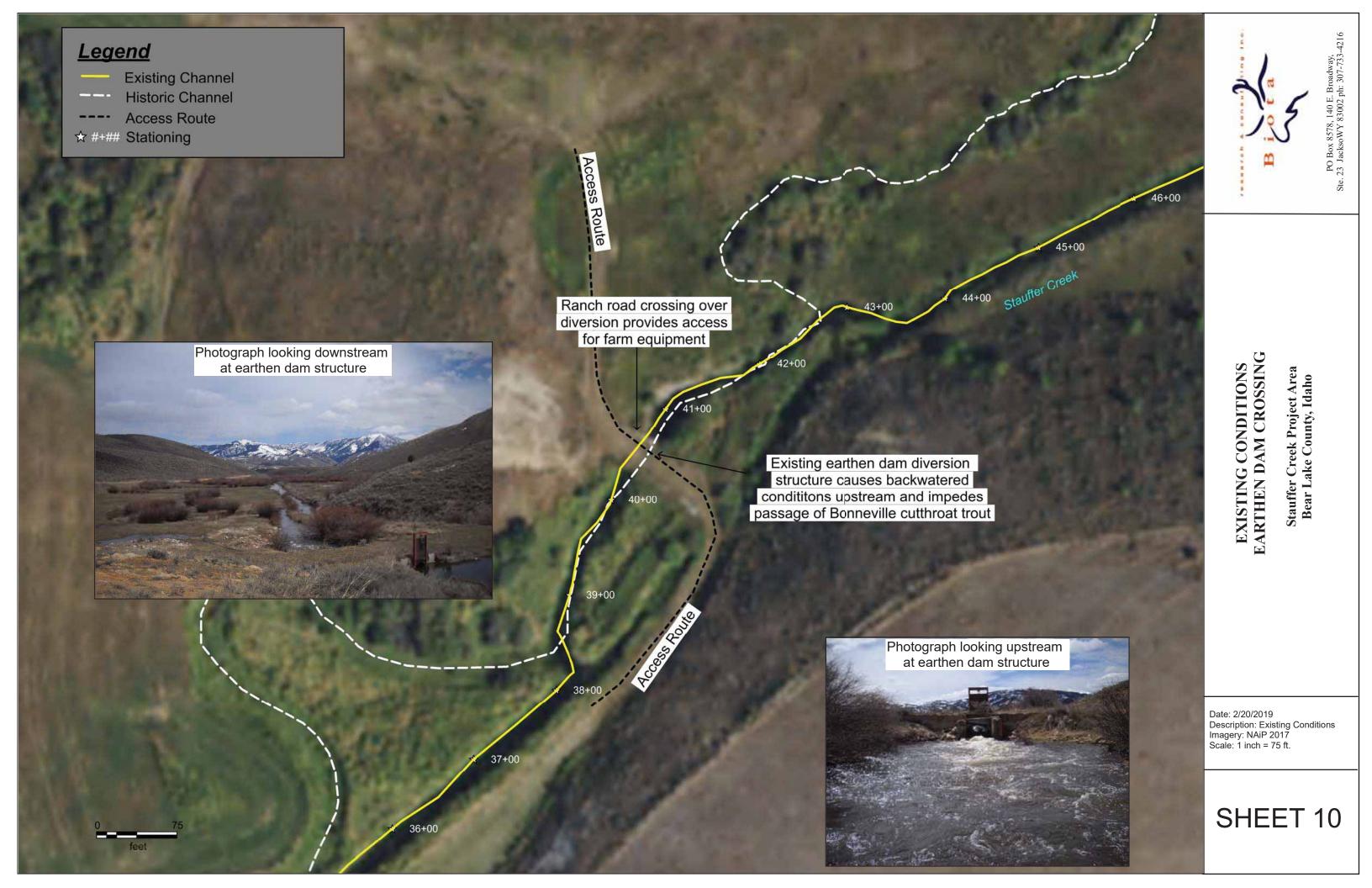
Relative Elevation Model Tributaries

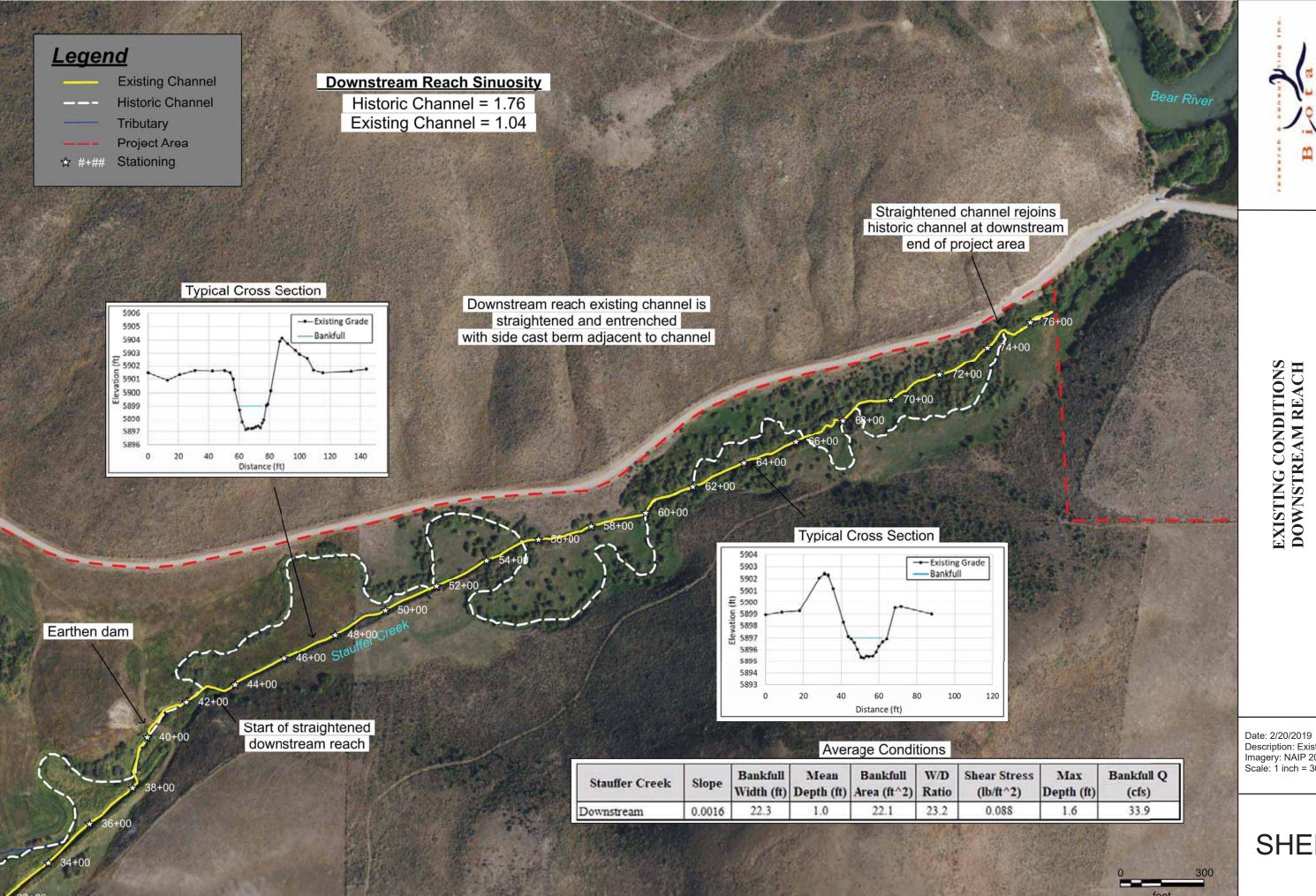
Stauffer Creek Project Area Bear Lake County, ID



PO Box 8578, 140 E Broadway, Suite 23, Jackson, WY 83002







Description: Existing Conditions Imagery: NAIP 2017
Scale: 1 inch = 300 ft.

SHEET 11

