## MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STREAM MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

U.S. 2 - Swamp Creek East Lincoln County, Montana

Project Completed: 2019 Monitoring Report #1: December, 2019



Prepared for:



Prepared by:



## **MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **STREAM MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT #1**

## YEAR 2019

U.S. 2 – Swamp Creek East Lincoln County, Montana

MDT Project Number: NH 1-1(35)49 F, CN 1027000

Control Number: 1027000

USACE Permit: NWO-2012-00146-MTM SPA Authorization: MDT-R1-04-2018

Prepared for:

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 2701 Prospect Ave Helena, MT 59620-1001

Prepared by

#### Confluence Consulting, Inc. P.O. Box 1133 Bozeman, MT 59771

December 2019

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Site Location	4
3.0	Monitoring Methods	4
3.1. 3.2.	Vegetation Monitoring Photo Documentation	4 5
4.0	Monitoring Results	5
4.1	. Vegetation Monitoring	5
5.0	Comparison of Results to Success Criteria	5
5.1	. Lower Reach	6
6.0	Literature Cited	6

#### TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1. Reconstructed channel reach lengths and nomenclature	. 4
Table 2. Percent cover of vegetation transects within the Lower Reach of Swamp	
Creek East in 2019.	. 5
Table 3. Status of quantitative success criteria for the Lower Reach of Swamp Creek East in 2019	. 6
Figure 1. Location of the Swamp Creek East stream mitigation site.	. 3

#### APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Monitoring Feature Maps
- Appendix B: Project Area Photos

Appendix C: 2019 Plant Species List

Appendix D: Project Design Sheets

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

As part of the U.S. Highway 2 – Swamp Creek East road reconstruction project (NH 1-1(35)49 F), the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) modified two reaches of Swamp Creek to allow for highway widening and roadway improvements. To mitigate for unavoidable impacts from this project, MDT proposed on-site stream mitigation actions within the highway right-of-way. Once completed, the project will reconstruct a total of 1,084 feet of Swamp Creek adjacent to U.S. Highway 2.

The lower reach, located east of the U.S. Highway 2 corridor and approximately 170 linear feet, was completed prior to the 2019 monitoring event and was assessed in 2019. The upper reach, located west of the U.S. Highway 2 corridor and approximately 899 linear feet, was still under construction during the 2019 monitoring event and will be assessed in 2020. This report documents the site's baseline condition immediately following completion of the lower reach. Post-construction monitoring of both the upper and lower reaches will occur in 2020.

The relocation of Swamp Creek was permitted in a modification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit NWO-2012-00146-MTM. The modified permit allows the highway widening and roadway improvement project to impact 0.751 acres of wetland and 1,315 linear feet of stream channel. Provisions outlined in the modified USACE permit include monitoring the two relocated reaches of Swamp Creek for at least three years following construction.

Quantitative success criteria for Swamp Creek East include:

1. **Revegetation Success** will be achieved when areal cover of vegetation is  $\geq$ 75%.

#### Additional reporting requirements:

1. **Photo Documentation** of the restored stream channel and adjacent riparian vegetation community will be conducted annually from established photo points to monitor the development of the site, and to provide certification showing distinct positive changes from pre-construction to the final monitoring year. Photo points will be established along each reach to show the stream channel and vegetation establishment both upstream and downstream.

Baseline monitoring results for the lower reach of the Swamp Creek East project site are presented in Section 4 and compared to success criteria in Section 5. Additional documentation of the site's condition is provided in the report appendices, including maps displaying locations of vegetation transects, photographs, and a plant species list.



Figure 1. Location of the Swamp Creek East stream mitigation site.

#### 2.0 SITE LOCATION

The Swamp Creek East project area lies approximately 19 miles south of Libby, Montana. The project is located on a mix of private and MDT-owned parcels in Section 2 of Township 27 North, Range 30 West, in Lincoln County, Montana (Figure 1). The stream mitigation project includes two reconstructed channel reaches (upper and lower) totaling approximately 1,069 linear feet within the U.S. Highway 2 project corridor. Lengths of each reconstructed channel reach are based on the design plans, and are indicated in Table 1.

Reconstructed Channel Reach	Channel stationing Begin	Channel Stationing End	Total Length (meters)	Total Length (feet)	Year Constructed
Upper	900+00.00	902+73.95	273.95	898.79	2020
Lower	800+00.00	800+51.74	51.74	169.75	2019
		Total	325.69	1,068.54	

Table 1. Reconstructed channel reach lengths and nomenclature.

#### 3.0 MONITORING METHODS

A field crew conducted baseline monitoring activities at the project site on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The following data were collected at the Swamp Creek East stream mitigation site:

#### 3.1. Vegetation Monitoring

During the 2019 monitoring event, two permanent vegetation monitoring transects were established perpendicular to the lower reach. The transect locations were randomly selected and spaced 80 feet apart. Transect lengths were determined by the width of the disturbed area, and were 42.0 feet and 42.1 feet long, for Transects 1 and 2, respectively (Map 1; Appendix A). Due to the incomplete construction, no transects were established in the upper reach. Monitoring transects will be installed during the 2020 monitoring event in the upper reach following completion of channel construction activities.

Vegetation establishment within the areas adjacent to the channel was assessed using the Line Point Intercept (LPI) method (Elzinga et al. 1998). This method entails measuring vegetation cover along a linear transect by dropping a pin flag at predetermined intervals and recording whether the pin flag contacts vegetation, and if so, species presence at that point. At each interval point, if the pin flag contacts any plant, the point is recorded as a 'hit'. If the pin flag does not touch a plant, the point is recorded as 'bare'. Vegetation data were collected at 22 equally spaced points along each transect.

Percent cover was calculated for vegetation and for bare ground, where:

Percent cover = (# of hits per cover category / total # of points) x 100

#### 3.2. Photo Documentation

The project site was photographed to document baseline stream channel conditions and vegetation establishment. Monitoring photos were taken at three permanent photo-documentation sites, at the endpoints of each vegetation transect, and at each rock weir installed across the channel. Photos will be taken at these locations during future monitoring events to document changes in site conditions over time. The permanent photo documentation locations were recorded with a GPS and noted on field maps to allow for repetition during subsequent monitoring years.

#### 4.0 MONITORING RESULTS

#### 4.1. Vegetation Monitoring

Table 2 summarizes the areal percent cover of total vegetation and bare ground observed along the vegetation transects. In 2019, total vegetation cover was 75% and 83%, for Transects 1 and 2, respectively. Total vegetation cover averaged across the two transects was calculated as 79% and bare ground 21%. Dominant species recorded along the transects included spreading bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and great mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*).

Location	Longth (ft)	% Cov	/er
Location	Lengin (ii)	Bare Ground/Fabric	Vegetation
Transect 1	42	25	75
Transect 2	42.1	17	83
Total		21	79

 Table 2. Percent cover of vegetation transects within the Lower Reach of

 Swamp Creek East in 2019.

Appendix C includes a list of plant species observed during the 2019 monitoring event. Six of the 16 plant species observed in 2019 were hydrophytic based on the 2016 National Wetland Plant List (NWPL) (Lichvar *et al.*, 2016). Three of the 16 plant species observed on site were native and considered beneficial to the restoration efforts within the project area. These native plant species included strawberry goosefoot (*Chenopodium capitatum*), slender wild rye (*Elyus trachycaulus*), and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Three Montana Listed Priority 2B noxious weed species were observed within the lower reach, including Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), and common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*).

#### 5.0 COMPARISON OF RESULTS TO SUCCESS CRITERIA

Monitoring of the Swamp Creek East mitigation project is intended to document whether the site is meeting, or moving toward meeting the success criteria outlined in the modified USACE permit issued for the project. The following section compares the results of the first year of monitoring with success criteria to document whether the lower reach of the project is succeeding as intended.

#### 5.1. Lower Reach

The lower reach of the Swamp Creek East mitigation site was constructed in 2019 and has undergone one growing season. The vegetation observed along the transects was dominated by non-native annual to perennial species which generally provide some stability over bare ground and cover for small animals, but decrease overall native species diversity and do not enhance riparian habitat complexity. The two most dominant species recorded along the transects were spreading bent and common mullein. The first year of monitoring indicates the lower reach of the site is meeting the single quantitative success criteria outlined in the permit (Table 3). By August 2019, areal cover of riparian and stream bank vegetation exceeded the 75% success criteria threshold, and is expected to progress toward increasing vegetation cover during subsequent monitoring years.

Table 3. Status of	quantitative success	criteria for the Lower	Reach of Swamp	Creek East in 2019.

Parameter	Success Criteria	Status	Site Meeting Success Criteria?
Vegetation Success	Vegetation Success will be achieved when areal cover of riparian and streambank vegetation is ≥75%.	Lower Reach exhibits an average of 79% vegetation cover.	YES

#### 6.0 LITERATURE CITED

- Elzinga, C.L., D.W. Salzer, and J.W. Willoughby. 1998. Measuring and monitoring plant populations. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Technical Reference 1730-1. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior.
- Lichvar, R.W., D.L. Banks, W.N. Kirchner, and N.C. Melvin. 2016. *The National Wetland Plant List: 2016 Update of Wetland Ratings.* Phytoneuron 2016-30: 1-17. Published 28 April 2016. ISSN 2153 733X

Montana Department of Agriculture. *Montana Noxious Weed List*. June 2019. Accessed December 2019 at: https://agr.mt.gov/Portals/168/Documents/Weeds/2019%20Montana%20Noxious%2 0Weed%20List.pdf?ver=2019-07-02-095540-487

## Appendix A

**Monitoring Feature Maps** 

MDT Stream Mitigation Monitoring U.S. 2 - Swamp Creek East Lincoln County, Montana



## Appendix B

**Project Area Photos** 

MDT Stream Mitigation Monitoring U.S. 2 - Swamp Creek East Lincoln County, Montana

PROJECT NAME:

Swamp Creek East Stream Mitigation Site

DATES:





2019 Photo Point 1: View looking south (upstream) of lower reach.



2013 Photo Point 2: View looking north (downstream) of lower reach

PROJECT NAME:

Swamp Creek East Stream Mitigation Site

DATES:





2019 Additional Photo 1: View looking east across rock weir #1 in lower reach..



2019 Additional Photo 2: View looking upstream at rock weir #1 in lower reach

PROJECT NAME:

Swamp Creek East Stream Mitigation Site

DATES:





2019 Additional Photo 3: View looking east across rock weir #2 in lower reach..



2019 Additional Photo 4: View looking upstream at weir #2 in lower reach

PROJECT NAME:

Swamp Creek East Stream Mitigation Site

DATES:





2019 Additional Photo 5: View looking east across rock weir #3 in lower reach..



2019 Additional Photo 6: View looking upstream at weir #3 in lower reach.

PROJECT NAME:

Swamp Creek East Stream Mitigation Site

DATES:



2019 Additional Photo 7: View looking east across rock weir #4 in lower reach..



2019 Additional Photo 8: View looking upstream at weir #4 in lower reach.

PROJECT NAME:

Swamp Creek East Stream Mitigation Site

DATES:





2019 Additional Photo 9: View looking west across Vegetation Transect #1.



2019 Additional Photo 10: View looking east across Vegetation Transect #1

PROJECT NAME:

Swamp Creek East Stream Mitigation Site

DATES:





2019 Additional Photo 11: View looking west across Vegetation Transect #2.



2019 Additional Photo 12: View looking east across Vegetation Transect #2

PROJECT NAME:

Swamp Creek East Stream Mitigation Site

DATES:





2019 Photo Point 3: View looking south (upstream) of upper reach during construction.

## Appendix C

2019 Plant Species List

MDT Stream Mitigation Monitoring U.S. 2 - Swamp Creek East Lincoln County, Montana

Scientific Name	Common Name	WMVC Indicator Status*
Agrostis stolonifera	Spreading Bent	FAC
Bromus inermis	Smooth Brome	UPL
Bromus japonicus	Japanese Brome	UPL
Bromus squarrosus	Corn Brome	UPL
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-Ear Chickweed	FACU
Chenopodium capitatum	Strawberry Goosefoot	UPL
Cirsium arvense	Canada Thistle	FAC
Elymus repens	Creeping Wild Rye	FAC
Elymus trachycaulus	Slender Wild Rye	FAC
Leucanthemum vulgare	Ox-Eye Daisy	FACU
Phalaris arundinacea	Reed Canary Grass	FACW
Plantago major	Great Plantain	FAC
Sisymbrium altissimum	Tall Hedge-Mustard	FACU
Tanacetum vulgare	Common Tansy	FACU
Thlaspi arvense	Field Pennycress	UPL
Verbascum thapsus	Great Mullein	FACU

#### Plant species list for the Lower Reach of Swamp Creek East in 2019.

\*2016 National Wetland Plant List; Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coasts (WMVC) (Lichvar et al. 2016)

## Appendix D

**Project Design Sheets** 

MDT Stream Mitigation Monitoring U.S. 2 - Swamp Creek East Lincoln County, Montana FOR MDT INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY Highways & Erigineering

# MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## CHANNEL RE-ALIGNMENT PLANS FEDERAL AID PROJECT NH 1-1(35) 49

SWAMP CREEK - EAST LINCOLN COUNTY

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHANNEL PLANS	SHEET NO.
TITLE SHEET/TABLE OF CONTENTS	CC.1
CENTERI INE COORDINATE TABLE	CC2
CHANNEL TYPICAL SECTIONS	603
SUMMARIES	CC4 CC5-CC6
LETALS CHANNEL WER DROP POOL DETAIL HABITAT BOULDER DETAIL	CC5 CC6
PLAN & PROFILE CHANNEL BOD AND CHANNEL 900	ÇC7 çc7
CHANNEL RE-ALIGNMENT CROSS-SECTIONS	CC1-CC15 cc1-cc2 cc3-cc15

NOTTANA NDTA WITTAN CONTANA

.

## FOR MDT INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY HIRVING & Engineering

#### CHANNEL 800

STATION 800+00.00 800+36.96 800+40.35 800+43.33 800+43.79 800+43.79		NATURA I		
STATION	DESCRIPTION	COORDINATE	E OR X	BEMARKS.
500+00.00	POT	10 100 000		
800+36.95	PC	10,438,662	14,363,940	BEGIN CHANNEL BOO
800+40.35	PI	10,412,718	14,390.260	State State State State State
800+43 33		10,410.336	14:392.678	
800+47.70		10,406.947	14,392 483	
800-40.40	PG	10,406,489	14 202 457	the second secon
000446.18	PI	10,402,102	14 300 605	the second second second second
DU0151,74	PT	10 200 720	141948.203	and the second se

	CENTE	RLINE ALIGNM	ENT COORDI	
TATION	DESCRIPTION	NOR Y COORDINATE		REMARKS
900+00.00	POT	10.040 500	of all as if as it is	, including
900+29,13	PC	10.319.537	14 435 421	BEGIN CHANNEL 900
900+39,31	P1	10/294.837	14:419.987	The state of the s
900+45.56	PT	10,266,199	14,414,589	
900+51.53	PC	10,280,154	14,422,787	
900+54,71	P!	10,276,608	14,427,568	
900+57.80	PT	10:274.723	14,430,163	
801457 25	Di	10,271,963	14,431 728	
907403-00		10,185,559	14 480 988	
902429.40	00	10,145.076	14,502-476	the formation of the second se
90241138	- HL	10,121.052	14 513 440	
902-33 36		10,119,342	14 514 220	and the state of t
907473 06		10,117.547	14 614 701	
1004 - 1 0.000 I	POT	10.078.702	14 830 003	Chill Child

CHANNEL 900

×

STATE PROJECT NUMBER SHEET NO. NONTANA NH 1-1(35) 49 F CC 2

ADTA washing the washing

thect. doi DES KINED BY CHECKED BY CHECKED BY

Cr \ D8A\ 102 11/21/20.17 71.25151 AU

.



.

- e .

#### FOR MDT INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY 11/21/2017 Unspire

STATE PROJECT NUMBER SHEET NO. NONTANA NH 7-1(35)49 F CC 4

		CHANNEL														
					cubic meters			1	sousne mete	~ T						
STATION	CHANNEL.	EXCESS:	EMB.+	STHEAM	<b>ONATIVE</b>	F	ANDOM RIP	RAP	FROSHIS	COR.	triopint	REMARKS				
800+00.00		0120000		MATCHUAL	SORS	- Geo 1	GL.2	CL 3	CNTHL CL A	NETTING	Infort					
800+51.74				107				44.0		620	912	CHANNEL CHANGE BOO LT				
900+00.00	4740			-												
900+73.95		-	-	550			-	116.0		3 300	1 824	CHANNEL CHANGE BOD LT. & RT.				
				-			_									
							90.0	180.0				30 WEIR STRUCTURES				
	-				-			10.0				HABITAT BOULDER				
									-							
				1												
TOTAL	.5 (388		-	657			'90.0	\$50 B		1.000	0.790					

CADD AN ADD A CONTRACTOR

3. 46

C: \ DGM

÷.

## FOR MDT INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY Highways & Engineering



- 24







													Date:				on Di		ION		V (1/21/2017	STATE	PROJECT NO.	SHEET NO.			
			CPS - U	6689	7:26:4	10 AM	11/2.1	/20 CZ:\	DGN\ 10	27 rdlay i 18.	dgn		FC	JH-IV	RUSKY		IN DEVICE	<u>רות שו</u> כ	5179		IUN	ONL	. Y Highw Divisio	ays & Engineer in	MONTANA	HH 1-1(35)49F	CC 2
											EX(	CAVATIO	N.						EM	BANKMEN	T S	:			CT	A NINTERT	ØÅÅ
											001		- 								- 10 g	i.			UI	LAININE/L	000
																	:	•••									
																		,									
																	÷										
																											•
		•																									
										i a						£ _	jų.									ē.	
:	922	:													12:12	514 S	323										
														Ser.	All a	e_ K	20	-						÷ -			
	920									1 De 13					о <sub>с</sub>	i											
												0	0 5 1	8	10075	1.74	. :			4		: .		:			
		;								=					Š									1			

٦

.

.





14





CPS -	U6689	7:26:24 AM	11/21/20 12 \ DSH\ J027 rdig(120_dog	FC	)PPM		MAR YOISTI	RIBUTION	ONUN	11/21/2017	STATE	PROJECT NO.	SHEET NO.	I
	-	-	EXCAVATION cubic maters		2			EMBANKMENT cubic meters	ا عا <b>۲</b> (چېچ	Division	MONTANA	NH 1-1(35)49F	CC 5	
						-								



.















\*









.

. .

D-19

.









																			WIGTRIPLITION				ONU X/11/21/2017				TATE	PROJEC	T NO.	SHEET N	NO.
		CPS	- U668	39 7: ,	9 7:26:38 AM			1/20 0	7 \ DG	V\ 102	7 rdlay i	118.dgn	. dgn FOH			RYMDELLINNWERIKAK DIS			DISI	SIKIBUTION ONLY Highways & En Division					ys & Engin	eering M		NH 1-10	35 J49F	CC 1	
			1	1	1			T				E	XCAVAT	ION						EMBAN	KMĖNT										
	c		and menter or										cubic met	ters	3					cubic	meters						CH	ANN	EL	800	
																						I .					ļ				
													,		1	·····											+			~ ~	
				L										5.		12		8									1.0.000 mm.a.dut				
922											+ =				*	8 92	11	8			,										
				a commentation											417 - Z	7320	22 - 21														
								+								<u> </u>					···· ····· ·										
													6		sh	0+40	00				2				1010 PO 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10						
				a har har dar - Palladar Ir	(mane								1	- mun mun mum						]											
				-			av																								
																										-					
				]										98				3													
922				1	1		-	Ļ.			,			321		921															
															27 .5	920.			1			~			.    .	1					
920	L										-						- CY				* ***								1-1-1		
				-					-							- 40 - 10				,											
	-								-					+			[			• • • • • • •						1			1		
									au +				••••		80	0+30.	-00	1 1			2		ne (************************************						and 1.779.121 \$1.6749/9		BARNET
			* * ***													· · · · · ·					~ ~ ~ ~		~						1		
																				1010 AMM 1000											
		-						~										,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,													
000					i		<u> </u>							28		1 2									. i					1	
			i i						TT		1			- No	8	8 92	8 9														
920									Ĩ						214 200	25	205-51														
																[ <b>`</b> ‡`]															
918				1	1						+					4					,									 	
					ļ										- 80	NATON	00				0		-							· -	
				_					-							14140.	401								wr Fanna unn				1		
																						~ ~									
922	2										+-+				0 0	3 49	19 0	20. 23											~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		
	-				+	<u></u>									2	6 920												i i i			
920	<b>}</b>     .				+				-++						ary	24	26						1		···· ·· ·· ·						
															······································	1.				1996-1 1997911 1997911											
	<b>E</b>						T						1	· • • · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		1															
									1	i i i			¢		80	0+10.	001				5										
t i i					1											Lange Contract								t			x 101000 00000	ND 10 00000 0000			
	i I		······												110340. 1944mm	<u></u>															
					3																					-					
920	2				1										1.6		g	~		/		wa			~ ~ ~ ~ ~						
											-				- 01 - 2	10 000	5_27					-									
918	3															0.0										-	100040 1401140				
	1 1		1										1 1		1 1 1		1_1			1	0										_



167 F

16