

CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT COVER SHEET

DAHP Project Number: (Please contact the lead agency for the project number. If associated to SEPA, please contact SEPA@dahp.wa.gov to obtain the project number before creating a new project.)

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Title of Report: Deep River Restoration Survey Area Addendum Archaeological Survey Report

Date of Report: January 2026

County(ies): Wahkiakum Section: 17 Township: 10 North Range: 08 West

Quad: Roseburg Acres: 1

PDF of Report uploaded to WISAARD report module (REQUIRED) Yes

Historic Property Inventory Forms to be Approved Online? Yes No

Archaeological Site(s)/Isolate(s) found or amended? Yes No

Cemetery/burial site found or amended? Yes No

TCP(s) found? Yes No

Replace a draft? Yes No

Satisfy a DAHP Archaeological Excavation Permit requirement? Yes # No

Were Human Remains Found? Yes DAHP Case # _____ x No

DAHP Archaeological Site #:

- Submission of PDFs into WISAARD's report module is required.
- Please be sure that any PDF submitted to WISAARD has its cover sheet, figures, graphics, appendices, attachments, correspondence, etc., compiled into a single PDF file.
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Deep River Restoration Survey Area Addendum Archaeological Survey Report

Prepared for
Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce

Submitted by
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748 #79 Market Street
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January 2026

HEG Contract No. 25-096

Executive Summary

Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) contracted with Harris Environmental Group, Inc. (Harris Environmental) to perform a preliminary cultural resources survey within the Deep River Floodplain Survey Area in Wahkiakum County, Washington including pedestrian survey and shovel test excavations of selected high-probability areas within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). This survey was conducted in February of 2024, and no new cultural resources were identified, however, much of the Survey Area was inundated during the investigation. CREST proposes to meet four primary objectives: 1) restore fish passage to 17 stream miles of East Fork Deep River; 2) reduce the frequency, duration, and severity of flooding on 100-plus acres of private land and two county-owned roadways; 3) increase the quality and quantity of tidal off-channel and side-channel habitat within the Survey Area; and 4) reduce the frequency of tidal flooding by raising a low spot in the dike that separates the East Fork from the mainstem Deep River. The project is being funded by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), which triggers adherence to compliance mandates of Executive Order 21-02, which requires most RCO-funded projects to be reviewed for their potential harm to cultural resources.

This report outlines the methods and results of an archaeological addendum investigation, within Survey Area 2, including a pedestrian survey and subsurface shovel test excavations at Deep River, Wahkiakum County, Washington. Statements of policy or legal interpretation made by the authors are not necessarily binding upon CREST and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the company.

Harris Environmental conducted the survey for CREST in November of 2025. The investigations consisted of a pedestrian survey and shovel test excavations. Pedestrian survey was attempted with only a small upland area within Survey Area 2 that provided subsurface testing, the other survey areas were inundated with tidal waters rising rapidly during the investigation. No cultural resources were identified.

As part of the supplemental survey, Harris Environmental also recorded and evaluated the historical dike upon which Wirkkala Road sits, providing access to the project area. The dike is recommended as not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A Washington State Historic Property Inventory (HPI) form was completed for the dike, which is appended to this report (Appendix A).

While there is always a possibility of buried cultural materials that were not observed during a survey, Harris Environmental recommends that the proposed Deep River Watershed Connectivity project will have **No Adverse Effect on any historic properties, including archaeological sites, within, or immediately adjacent to, the project area** the project. As a large portion of the Survey Area was under water, at low tide, during the current investigation, additional testing in those areas could be warranted. However, given the amount of disturbance from a century of farming that was witnessed in each of the four holes excavated, it is highly unlikely that additional tests in the inundated areas would produce different results.

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Introduction

This report presents the results of archaeological investigation within an addendum survey area in Deep River, Wahkiakum County, Washington (Figure 1). The investigations consisted of a pedestrian survey and subsurface shovel test excavations. The Area of Potential Effect (APE), which moving forward will be known as Survey Area, is owned and managed by private landowners (Figure 2).

CREST proposes to replace an existing bank of culverts equipped with flap tide gates with a very large box culvert with muted tidal regulators. Incised and constrained channel sections will be laid back with habitat features (benches, alcoves) added. The project is funded by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), which triggers adherence to compliance mandates of Executive Order 21-02. CREST contracted Harris Environmental Group, Inc. (Harris Environmental) to conduct the archaeological investigations. This report outlines the background, methods, and results of the archaeological addendum survey and shovel test excavations. Harris Environmental conducted the archaeological investigations in coordination with Jay Horita, Habitat Restoration Project Manager at CREST.

Survey Area Location

The addendum Survey Area is in Wahkiakum County, Washington, approximately 1.06 miles northeast of Highway 4 on E. Deep River Road. The Survey Area addendum is divided into three areas south of W. Deep River Road in Township 10 North, Range 08 West, and encompasses the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ quarter corners of Section 17 (Figure 1). Survey Areas 1, 2 and 3 are described below.

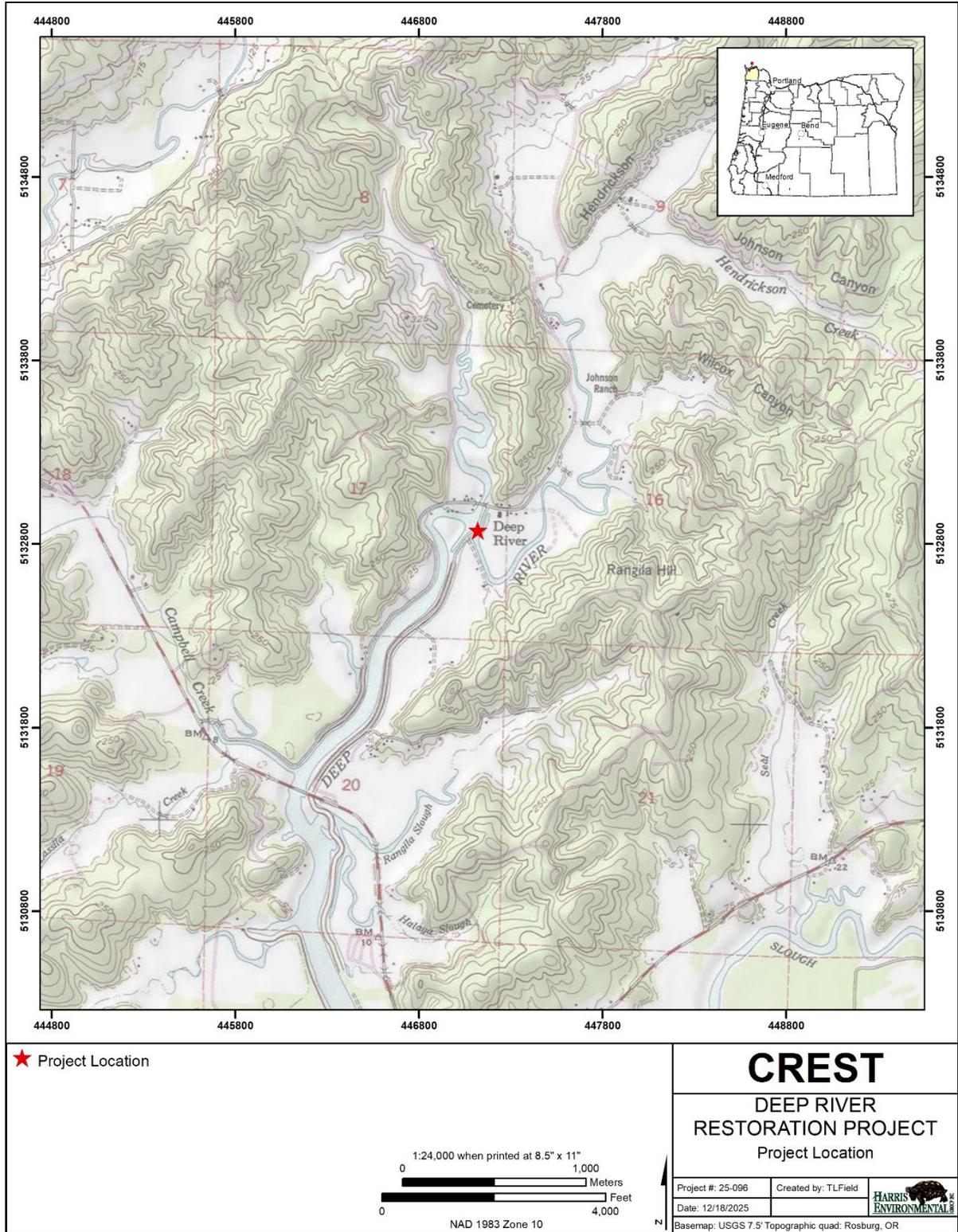


Figure 1. USGS topographic map showing the location of the addendum Deep River Restoration Survey Area.

Addendum Survey Area Description

The addendum Survey Areas 1, 2, and 3 are located along the western bank of Deep River's floodplain, just east of E. Deep River Road. The Survey Areas range in elevation from 7 to 13 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The topography of the Survey Areas has been considerably altered by land modifications and use, most notably agricultural manipulation for decades (Patterson 2024). Survey Areas 1 and 3 were completely covered in standing water at the time of the survey and Survey Area 2 held only a small area of elevated land (Figures 2 and 3).

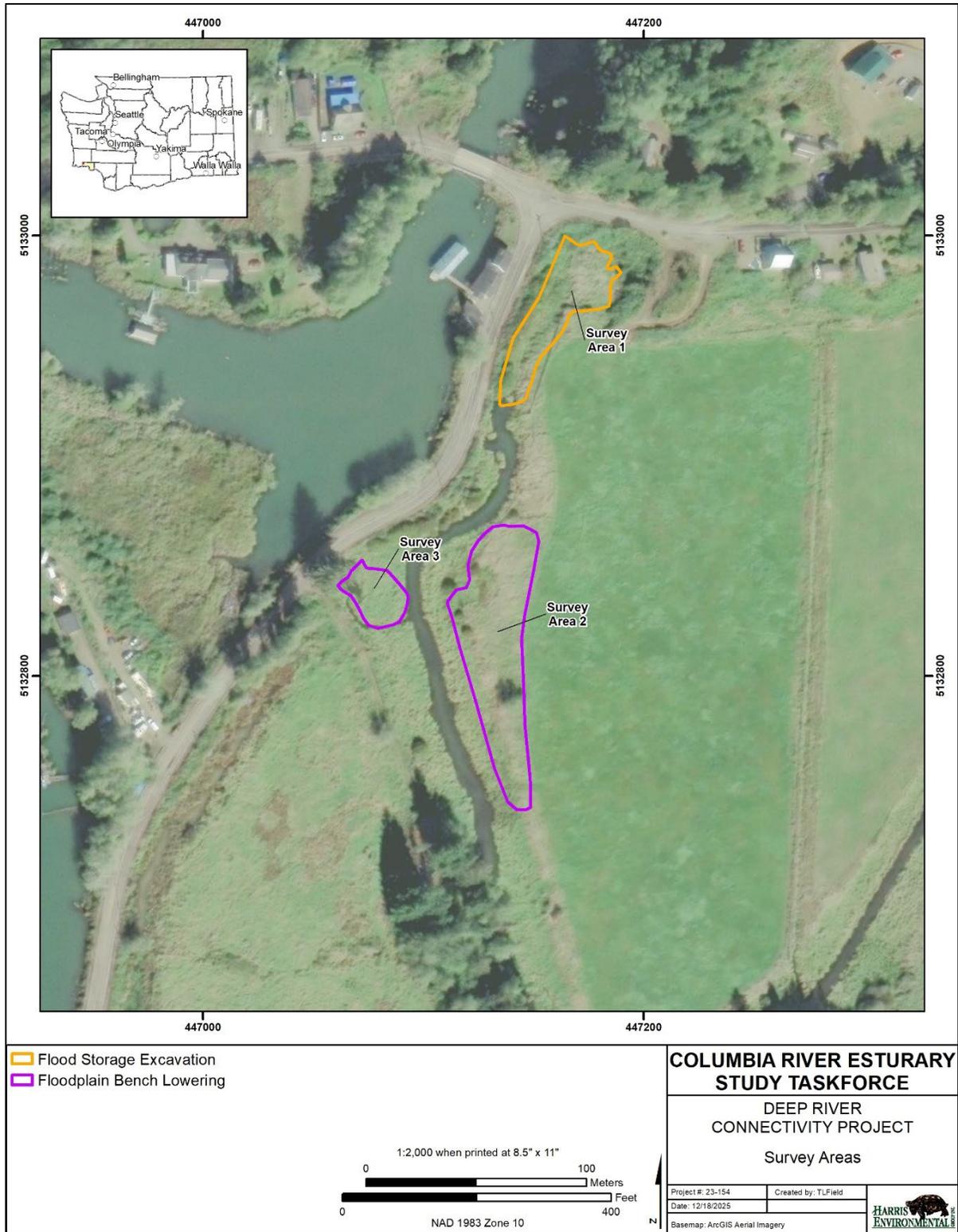


Figure 2. Aerial map showing the addendum Deep River Restoration Survey Areas 1, 2 and 3.

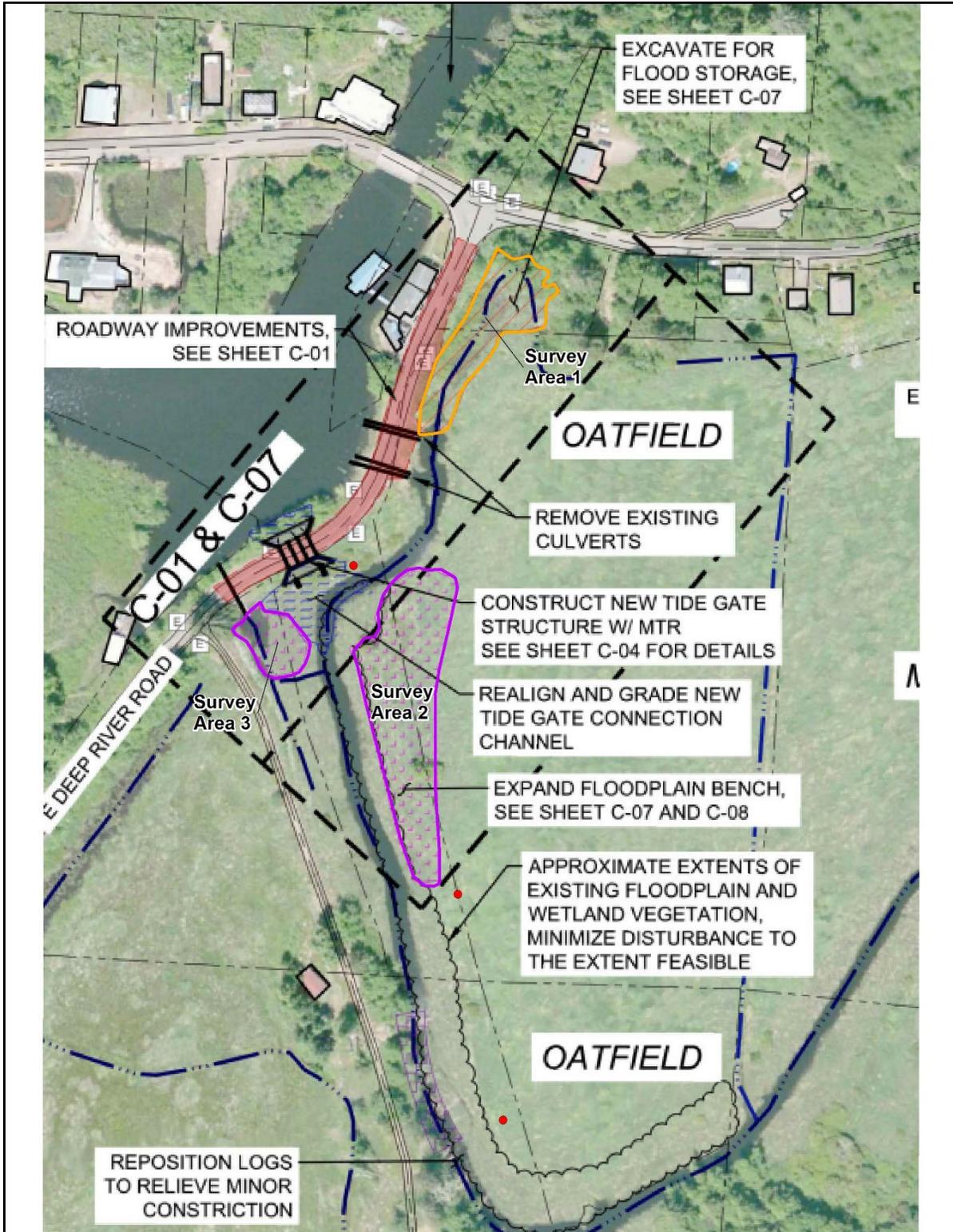


Figure 3. CREST provided plans for Survey Areas 1, 2 and 3.

Survey Area 1

Survey Area 1, depicted in the CREST provided project plans, “Excavate for Flood Storage” highlighted in orange, is located in the northern portion of the floodplain, below E. and W. Deep River Road (Figures 2 and 3). Survey Area 1 is planned to undergo floodplain lowering by surface layer excavation with a max 2 feet (ft.) excavation depth. This area has been reported to be inundated from failed culverts for some time (Patterson 2024). There was no exposed soil or elevated land to examine within Survey Area 1 (Figures 4-6).



Figure 4. Overview of completely inundated Survey Area 1, facing west.



Figure 5. Overview of completely inundated Survey Area 1, facing west-northwest.



Figure 6. Overview of completely inundated Survey Area 1, facing west-southwest.

Survey Area 2

Survey Area 2, depicted in the CREST provided project plans, “Expand Floodplain Bench” highlighted in purple is located in the central western portion of the floodplain (Figures 2 and 3). Survey Area 2 will undergo floodplain lowering through benching and expansion excavation, with a max depth of 5 ft., but more commonly 1-3 ft. Harris Environmental previously excavated shovel test pit (STP) 36, during the initial survey in 2024 (Figure 16). STP 36 contained truncated, mottled clayey soils just below the surface (Patterson 2024).

At the time of the site visit, addendum Survey Area 2 held waters approximately 1 ft. one foot deep at low tide (Figure 7), and at high tide water level increased to approximately 2-2.5 3 ft. deep (Figure 8). The western border of Survey Area 2 drops off into deeper water depths (Figure 10). The only elevated land in Survey Area 2 is on either side of a lone Box Elder Maple (*Sapindaceae*) tree (Figures 10-12).



Figure 7. Overview of Survey Area 2 at low tide, on the western banks of Deep River's floodplain, facing south.



Figure 8. Overview of Survey Area 2 at high tide, on the western banks of Deep River's floodplain, facing south.



Figure 9. Overview of Survey Area 2 showing deeper water depths on the western boundary, facing west-southwest.



Figure 10. Overview of elevated land in Survey Area 2 on the southern side of the lone Box Elder Maple tree, facing northwest.



Figure 11. Overview of elevated land in Survey Area 2 on the northern side of the lone Box Elder Maple tree, facing south.



Figure 12. Overview of Survey Area 2 from E. Deep River Road showing the only elevated land and lone Box Elder Maple tree on the western banks of Deep River floodplain, facing east.

Survey Area 3

Survey Area 3, depicted in the CREST provided project plans, highlighted in purple is located southwest of the tide gate installation off E. Deep River Road (Figures 2 and 3). Survey Area 3 underwent a previous subsurface investigation, STP #13, in the 2024 (Figure 16). STP 13 revealed fill material from the original tide gate and culvert installation as well as more impounded soils

from agriculture (Patterson 2024). Survey Area 3 was completely inundated and not accessible during the addendum survey due to a steep drop off and unsafe water levels (Figures 13-15).



Figure 13. Overview of inundated Survey Area 3, facing north.



Figure 14. Overview of inundated Survey Area 3, facing south-southeast.



Figure 15. Overview of inundated Survey Area 3, facing west.

Environmental and Ethnographic Background

For a complete environmental and ethnographic background on the 16-acre Deep River Restoration Survey Area see, *Deep River Restoration Project Area Archaeological Inventory Report*, on file at Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, WA (Patterson 2024).

Soils

The Deep River is a low-gradient, tidally influenced tributary of the Columbia River that drains into Grays Bay on the river's north shore (Thomas 1983). According to the USDA NRCS Soil Survey for Wahkiakum County, the Deep River floodplain consists of broad alluvial wetlands, diked pastures, and freshwater tidal marshes formed by repeated overbank deposition and persistent saturation. The Survey Area is mapped as one soil type, Ocosta silty clay loam. The National Resources Conservation Service (2025) describes the specific soils accordingly: Ocosta silty clay loam is found on 0 to 2 percent slopes, usually on flood plains or deltas. The Ocosta parent material is clayey alluvium, which is congruent with the Survey Area. A typical soil profile for Ocosta silty clay loam is:

- 0 to 12 inches (0 to 31 cm): silty clay loam
- 12 to 20 inches (31 to 51 cm): silty clay
- 20 to 60 inches (51 to 152 cm): clay

These soils are poorly drained and the depth to water table is typically 12 to 35 inches (31 to 89 cm) (NRCS 2025). These mapped soil and wetland patterns place the Deep River valley floodplain within one of the most regularly inundated portions of the lower Columbia estuary (Thomas 1983).

Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites

According to the 2024 Deep River Cultural Resources Report, there have been no archaeological sites recorded within 1 mile of the project area. The closest recorded archaeological site is located 1.67 miles northeast of the project area on Salme Hill, the Old Salmon Creek Cemetery, 45WK92. Established in 1886 for use by Finnish settlers which began settling in Deep River and Salmon Creek in the 1870's. The cemetery was in use from 1886 until 1929, when it was relocated (Holschuh 2013).

One historic property is within 1 mile of the project area: the Deep River Pioneer Lutheran Church. Located 0.74 miles north of the project area, the church and its adjoining cemetery was historically known as the Finnish Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Established in 1902, the church retains many of its original features after restoration work. The building is made of wood, 26-feet-high, 46-feet-long, and 18-feet-high, with a high steeple and dome. A toned church bell is still present in the church, as are many of the original features, including pews, pulpit, and wood-burning stove. The property is listed as Deep River Pioneer Lutheran Church and is listed in the National Historic Register (Hess 1973).

Research into the GLO records and historic land patents revealed information only for Township 10 North, Range 08 West, Section 16, which was land “granted and vested in the State of Washington...for the support of common schools”, along with several other Township, Ranges, and Sections, aggregating to over 6,511 acres in the state of Washington in 1970 (United States of America 1970) (Patterson 2024).

Expectations

Harris Environmental reviewed a variety of sources, including the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) records, census records, historic newspapers, and historic aerial photos, to determine the range of possible cultural resources within the Survey Area. The review of previously recorded resources in the Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) records indicated that no archaeological resources were previously recorded within the study area. Harris Environmental had low expectations locating pre-contact cultural resources along the banks of the Deep River. The Survey Area falls within the floodplain of Deep River and has been used extensively as agricultural fields, likely as far back as the 19th Century.

Furthermore, the initial survey conducted in 2024 reported inundation in the addendum Survey Areas (Patterson 2024). The mapped soil and wetland patterns place the Deep River valley floodplain within one of the most regularly inundated portions of the lower Columbia estuary (Thomas 1983). Therefore, Harris Environmental had high expectations of flooded conditions.

Fieldwork Methods

Harris Environmental archaeologist Andrea Mora B.A., carried out the pedestrian and subsurface survey on November 20, 2025. Archaeologist Andrea Mora, B.A., began with a pedestrian survey of the Survey Areas by wading through the inundated floodplain. Area 2 was found to have the only elevated land within the deep River floodplain (Figures 10 and 11). The final stage of the field investigations was the excavation of three shovel probes and one auger probe (Figure 8). The three shovel probes measured 35 cm in diameter and were excavated to a depth of at least 30 to 50

centimeters below ground surface (cmbgs) within Survey Area 2 (Figure 16). The auger probe measured 4 inches in diameter and was excavated to a depth of 50 cmbgs or 70 centimeters below water surface (cmbws) in Survey Area 1 (Figure 16). The methods for the performance of each stage are listed below.

Pedestrian Investigation

CREST provided the survey boundary to Harris Environmental in the form of digital GIS shapefiles. The areas of concern for ground disturbing activities include three floodplain lowering excavations (Areas 1, 2 and 3; Figure 2). The pedestrian survey began by locating elevated land to perform subsurface investigations within these areas. The entirety of Survey Areas 1 and 3, was covered by standing water. Survey Area 1 had water depths ranging between approximately one to two feet deep (Figures 4-6). Survey Area 3 had water depths that were not safely accessible to survey (Figures 13-15). Survey Area 2 had elevated land on either side of a lone Box Elder Maple (*Sapindaceae*) tree (Figures 10 and 11).

During the pedestrian survey Harris Environmental encountered tall reed canary grasses that obscured the floodplain surface and gave the appearance of elevated ground (Figures 7-8). Field inspection showed that these areas were fully inundated, with standing water beneath the vegetation and deeper depths on the western banks of the elevated land within Survey Area 2 (Figure 9). The elevated floodplain land displayed zero ground visibility due to dense reed canary grasses (Figure 12).

Subsurface Investigation

Harris Environmental performed subsurface investigations in Areas 1 and 2 (Figure 16). Survey Area 1 was completely inundated and so an auger investigation was performed (Figures 17-19). Three subsurface excavations were performed within Survey Area 2 (Figures 21-29). All soils observed were mottled silty clayey loam with no rock content. No cultural material was identified in any of the subsurface probes (Table 1).

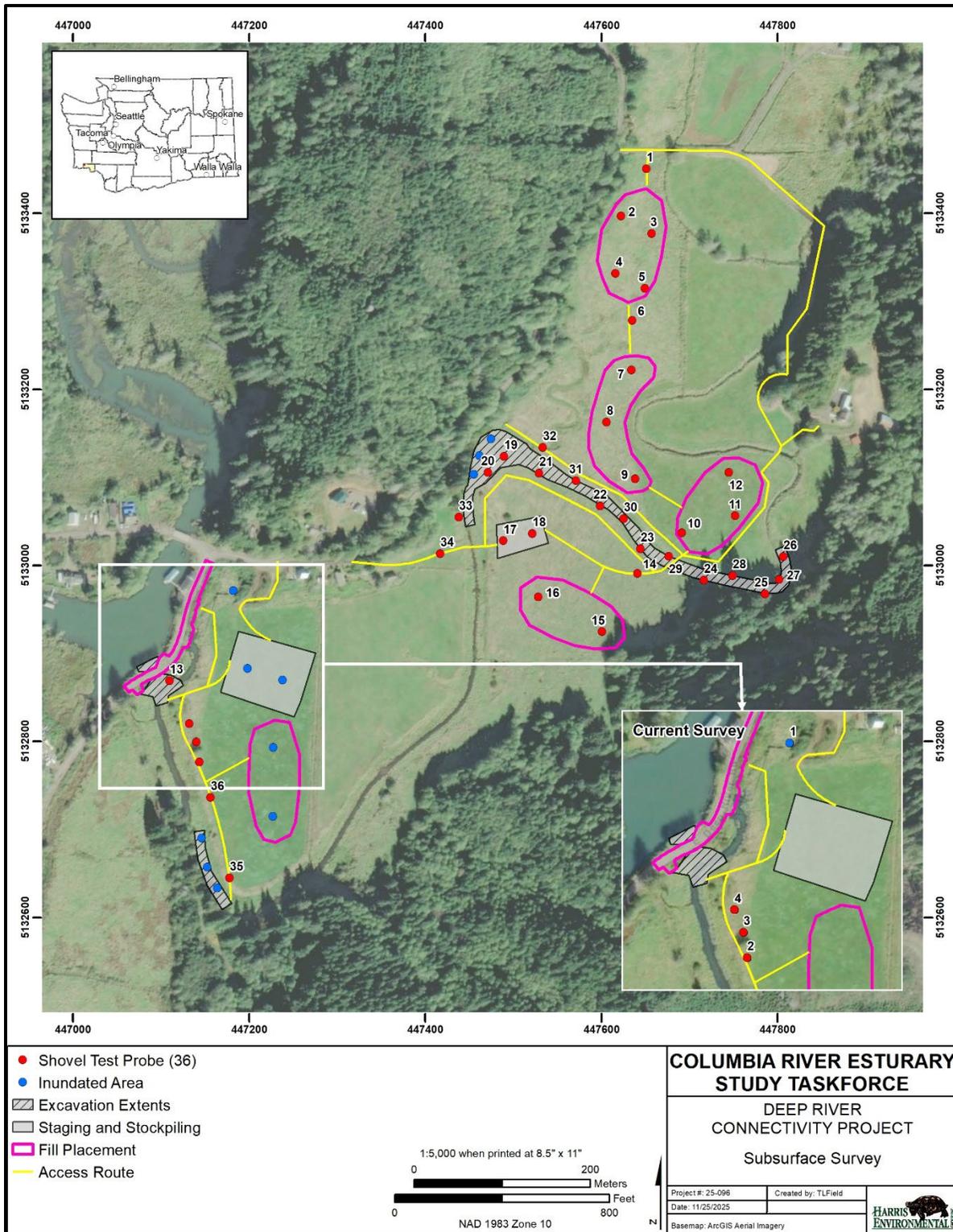


Figure 16. Aerial map showing addendum survey area and additional STPs placed in Survey Area 1 and 2.

Table 1. Survey Areas 1 and 2 Subsurface Testing Results.

STP#	Location	cmbgs	Soils Observed	Results
1 Auger	10 447182 E 5132971 N Survey Area 1	0-20	Standing water	
		20-40	Hydric brown silty loam, heavily rooted throughout	No rock
		40-70	Brown, orange, and grey silty clayey loam	Wood fragments, no rock
2	447144 E 5132776 N Survey Area 2	0-20	Brown clayey loam, roots throughout	No rock
		20-60	Mottled brown, grey and orange clayey loam, rootlets throughout	Water table at 50 cmbgs, no rock
3	447140 E 5132799 N Survey Area 2	0-20	Brown clayey loam, heavily rooted throughout	No rock
		20-30	Mottled dark brown, orange, and grey clayey loam	10 cm thick charcoal layer, sparse 3 cm charcoal chunks, no rock
		30-50	Hydric mottled dark brown, orange, and grey clayey loam	Water table at 35 cmbgs, no rock
4	447132 E 5132820 N Survey Area 2	0-20	Brown silty clayey loam	Water table at 20 cmbgs, no rock
		20-30	Hydric brown, orange, and grey clayey loam	No rock



Figure 17. Overview of augured STP-1, facing south.



Figure 18. STP-1 representation photo of augured mottled soils to 70 cmbws.



Figure 19. Photo representation of wood fragments produced from 40-70 cmbgs of STP-1.



Figure 20. STP-1 augured to 50 cmbgs, beginning at 20 centimeters below water surface (cbws).



Figure 21. Overview of STP-2, facing north.



Figure 22. STP-2, terminated at 60 cmbgs, showing water table at 50 cmbgs.



Figure 23. STP-2 terminated at 60 cmbgs, showing water table at 50 cmbgs.



Figure 24. Overview of STP-3, facing south.



Figure 25. STP-3, terminated at 50 cmbgs, showing water table at 35 cmbgs.



Figure 26. STP-3 southern soil profile, facing south.



Figure 27. Overview of STP-4, facing south.



Figure 28. STP-4, terminated at 30 cmbgs, showing water table at 20 cmbgs.



Figure 29. STP-4, terminated at 30 cmbgs.

Historic Property Inventory

Harris Environmental conducted a historic property inventory for the addendum Survey Areas, and recorded one historic property, the historic dike that carries E Deep River Road north along the eastern boundary of the project area.

The 1873 and 1882 GLO maps depict the Deep River project area as an unattributed parcel measuring 12.64 acres on the eastern side of Deep River. There is no development shown on these

maps (GLO 1873, 1882), as they predate the major development that occurred in the early 1900s, including the construction of a network of dikes throughout the area. This was part of an effort in that time to protect the new town and its emerging farmlands from encroaching waters (Gatens-Klint 2009). Both maps show the river in its natural, meandering trajectory.

Records indicate that the Deep River area, at the time of the town's founding and in its early years of development, was a swampy marsh area, and when the tides came in, parts of the town became inundated. Deep River was built on pilings because of the Columbia River tides, which came in twice a day. The sidewalks and roads were constructed of planks that were elevated at least six feet above high water to enable people to move around freely.

Logging became a major industry in Wahkiakum County, and farming increased as farmland was claimed from the cleared forests. Farming was enabled not only from the forest but from the river. Charles Rangila started building dikes in 1911 to keep the high tides off his farmland, and the practice became a practical solution to the flooding problem (Gatens-Klint 2009). Diking districts organized in the early 1900s drained much of the county's tidelands to create agricultural land, as seen in later maps where the dike has channeled the river around the agricultural fields.

East Deep River Road was constructed as part of this effort as a route to connect small logging communities like Rosburg, Grays River, and the Deep River area. The portion within the project area is atop a levee comprised of rocky fill, as seen in STPs excavated within its prism. The levee is the northern portion of E Deep River Road, immediately south of its intersection with W Deep River Road, which crosses the river to the north. The 1940 USGS topographic map shows the channelized river that surrounds the fields within the project area, showing the influence of the dike on the river in this area (historicaerials.com).

NRHP Evaluation

To be considered significant, and therefore eligible for listing on the NRHP, a property must possess integrity, and meet one of the following Criteria of significance.

Criterion A: That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

The dike, as part of E Deep River Road, is associated with the local history of development in the Deep River area, which includes themes of logging, farming, and the founding of a Finnish immigrant community; however, it is not nationally significant. While it can be inferred that the levee was part of the effort to protect the adjacent agricultural fields from flooding, there is no indication that the levee was part of the original diking effort.

It is therefore the recommendation of Harris Environmental that the E Deep River dike is not eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A.

Criterion B: That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

The dike has no apparent association with a person significant in our past. There is no landownership attributed to the project area or the levee. Significant properties in the area, such as the Lutheran Church, are associated with individuals, but there is no indication of association.

It is therefore the recommendation of Harris Environmental that the E Deep River dike is not eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion B.

Criterion C: That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The E Deep River Road dike does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction. It does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value.

It is therefore the recommendation of Harris Environmental that the E Deep River dike is not eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion C.

Criterion D: That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The E Deep River Road dike is unlikely to yield information important to our shared history. Harris Environmental has excavated probes within the levee prism and no sign of cultural deposits was observed. Soils in these areas were observed to be disturbed, characterized by gravelly and cobbly matrix that is indicative of either imported fill or lower sediments that have been placed to facilitate the raised levee.

It is therefore the recommendation of Harris Environmental that the levee is not eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion D.

The dike was remodeled in 1974, so it does not retain its original integrity of materials or workmanship. It is presumably in its original configuration, so it does retain integrity of setting, location, feeling, and association. Overall, the E Deep River Road dike retains fair integrity.

Results and Recommendations

No artifacts or features were observed on the surface in any of the survey areas. Three shovel probes and one auger probe were excavated during the fieldwork. All four probes showed significant signs of disturbance; no native soils were identified and all holes contained truncated, mottled silty clayey soils just below the surface. While Ocosta silty clay loam was predicted in the Survey Area, years of plowing have disturbed the soils. None of the excavated shovel probes contained cultural material of any kind. No further work is recommended.

The E Deep River Road dike, within the Survey Area, is recommended as not eligible for listing on the NRHP as it does not meet any of the Criteria for significance. Harris Environmental has completed an Historic Property Inventory (HPI) form for the property on WISAARD web portal. This HPI form is available as Appendix A.

Archaeological survey and investigation are based on sampling the surface and subsurface for potential cultural resources to infer the potential for cultural resources within the entirety of the project area. Although the potential is very low, there remains a possibility that unidentified archeological materials/resources exist in the project area, especially subsurface materials or features. Therefore, if any cultural, historic, paleontological materials/resources, or human remains are encountered during the course of the project planning or proposed construction activities, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation must be contacted *immediately* in accordance with legislation regarding the *Protection of Historic Properties* [CFR Part 800.13(b)], *Archaeological Sites and Records* [RCW 27.53], *Indian Graves and Records* [RCW 27.44], and *Abandoned and Historic Cemeteries and Historic Graves* [RCW 68.80].

Inadvertent Discovery Plan

The following language is in compliance with the Inadvertent Discovery of Human Skeletal Remains on Non-Federal and Non-Tribal Land in the State of Washington (RCWs 68.50.645, 27.44.055, and 68.60.055).

If ground disturbing activities encounter human skeletal remains during the course of construction, then all activity will cease that may cause further disturbance to those remains. The area of the find will be secured and protected from further disturbance until the State provides notice to proceed. The finding of human skeletal remains will be reported to the county medical examiner/coroner and local law enforcement in the most expeditious manner possible. The remains will not be touched, moved, or further disturbed. The county medical examiner/coroner will assume jurisdiction over the human skeletal remains and make a determination of whether those remains are forensic or non-forensic. If the county medical examiner/coroner determines the remains are non-forensic, then they will report that finding to DAHP, who will then take jurisdiction over the remains. The DAHP will notify any appropriate cemeteries and all affected tribes of the find. The State Physical Anthropologist will make a determination of whether the remains are Indian or Non-Indian and report that finding to any appropriate cemeteries and the affected tribes. The DAHP will then handle all consultation with the affected parties as to the future preservation, excavation, and disposition of the remains.

Contact information, to be used in the case of unanticipated discovery:

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Assistant State Physical Anthropologist

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Prosecuting Attorney/Coroner
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Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

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Confederated Tribes of the Grande Rhond

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briece.edwards@grandronde.org

References

Holschuh, Dana

2013 *State of Washington Archaeological Site Inventory Form. Old Salmon Creek Cemetery. 45WK92.* On file at Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, WA.

National Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS)

2025 Web Soil Survey. Natural Resources and Conservation Service, US Department of Agriculture. Electronic document, [Web Soil Survey](#) accessed November 2025.

Thomas, Duncan W.

1983 *Changes in Columbia River Estuary Habitat Types Over the Past Century.* Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST). [7 - CHANGES IN COLUMBIA RIVER ESTUARY HABITAT TYPES OVER THE PAST CENTURY.pdf](#) Electronically accessed November 2025.

Patterson, Robert

2024 *Deep River Restoration Project Area Archaeological Inventory Report.* On file at Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, WA.

Appendix A – Washington State HPI Form

Historic Property Report

Historic Name: E Deep River Road Dike

Property ID: 738647

Location



Address: 239 E Deep River Rd, Naselle, Washington, 98638

Geographic Areas: Wahkiakum County, ROSBURG Quadrangle, T10R08W17

Information

Number of stories:

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1910	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Remodel	1974	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Transportation	Transportation - Road-Related (vehicular)
Agriculture/Subsistence	
Landscape	
Transportation	Transportation - Road-Related (vehicular)
Agriculture/Subsistence	
Landscape	



Historic Property Report

Historic Name: E Deep River Road Dike

Property ID: 738647

Historic Context:

Category

Agriculture

Engineering

Landscape Architecture

Transportation

Architect/Engineer:

Category

Name or Company

Thematics:

Local Registers and Districts

Name

Date Listed

Notes

Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name

Resource Inventory

SHPO Determination

SHPO Determined By, Determined Date

2024-03-02068, , Deep River Watershed Connectivity (RCO 20-1332)

Survey/Inventory

Photos



Overview from intersection of E and W Deep River Roads looking south.jpg



Overview looking south.jpg



Overview looking northeast.jpg



Overview looking north.jpg



Historic Property Report

Historic Name: E Deep River Road Dike

Property ID: 738647

Inventory Details - 12/18/2025

Common name: E Deep River Road Dike

Date recorded: 12/18/2025

Field Recorder: Dana Holschuh

Field Site number:

SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Form Type	Utilitarian

Styles:

Period	Style Details
No Style	No Style

Surveyor Opinion

Significance narrative: Harris Environmental conducted a historic property inventory for the addendum Survey Areas, and recorded one historic property, the historic dike that carries E Deep River Road north along the eastern boundary of the project area.

The 1873 and 1882 GLO maps depict the Deep River project area as an unattributed parcel measuring 12.64 acres on the eastern side of Deep River. There is no development shown on these maps (GLO 1873, 1882), as they predate the major development that occurred in the early 1900s, including the construction of a network of dikes throughout the area. This was part of an effort in that time to protect the new town and its emerging farmlands from encroaching waters (Gatens-Klint 2009). Both maps show the river in its natural, meandering trajectory.

Records indicate that the Deep River area, at the time of the town's founding and in its early years of development, was a swampy marsh area, and when the tides came in, parts of the town became inundated. Deep River was built on pilings because of the Columbia River tides, which came in twice a day. The sidewalks and roads were constructed of planks that were elevated at least six feet above high water to enable people to move around freely.

Logging became a major industry in Wahkiakum County, and farming increased as farmland was claimed from the cleared forests. Farming was enabled not only from the forest but from the river. Charles Rangila started building dikes in 1911 to keep the high tides off his farmland, and the practice became a practical solution to the flooding problem (Gatens-Klint 2009). Diking districts organized in the early 1900s drained much of the county's tidelands to create agricultural land, as seen in later maps where the dike has channeled the river around the agricultural fields.

East Deep River Road was constructed as part of this effort as a route to connect small logging communities like Rosburg, Grays River, and the Deep River area. The portion within the project area is atop a levee comprised of rocky fill, as seen in STPs excavated within its prism. The levee is the northern portion of E Deep River Road, immediately south of its intersection with W Deep River Road, which crosses the river to the north. The 1940 USGS topographic map shows the channelized river that surrounds the fields



Historic Property Report

Historic Name: E Deep River Road Dike

Property ID: 738647

within the project area, showing the influence of the dike on the river in this area (historicaerials.com).

To be considered significant, and therefore eligible for listing on the NRHP, a property must possess integrity, and meet one of the following Criteria of significance.

Criterion A: That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

The dike, as part of E Deep River Road, is associated with the local history of development in the Deep River area, which includes themes of logging, farming, and the founding of a Finnish immigrant community, however it is not nationally significant.

While it can be inferred that the levee was part of the effort to protect the agricultural fields from flooding, there is no indication that the levee was part of the original diking effort. It is recommended that therefore the E Deep River dike is not eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A.

Criterion B: That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

The dike has no apparent association with a person significant in our past. There is no landownership attributed to the project area or the levee. Significant properties in the area, such as the Lutheran Church, are associated with individuals, but there is no indication of association. It is therefore the recommendation of Harris Environmental that the E Deep River dike is not eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion B.

Criterion C: That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The E Deep River Road dike does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction. It does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. It is therefore the recommendation of Harris Environmental that the E Deep River dike is not eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion C.

Criterion D: That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The E Deep River Road dike is unlikely to yield information important to our shared history. Harris Environmental has excavated probes within the levee prism and no sign of cultural deposits was observed. Soils in these areas were observed to be disturbed, characterized by gravelly and cobbly matrix that is indicative of either imported fill or lower sediments that have been placed to facilitate the raised levee. It is therefore the recommendation of Harris Environmental that the levee is not eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion D.

The dike was remodeled in 1974, so it does not retain its original integrity of materials or workmanship. It is presumably in its original configuration, so it does retain integrity of setting, location, feeling, and association. Overall, the E Deep River Road dike retains fair integrity.

Physical description:

The portion of the E Deep River Road dike within the Deep River Watershed Connectivity project area is a portion of E Deep River Road, and is constructed from rock and earth and built up and reinforced with large angular cobbles and boulders. It measures approximately 675 ft. (205.74 m) in length and approximately 70 ft. wide. It is approximately 8 ft. high from the lower landform to the surface of the pavement. It is characterized by E Deep River Road and its shoulders, descending short, steep slopes to the river level below.