

September 13, 2024

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St. Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

Colorado Water Conservation Board,

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (Bird Conservancy) has completed Phase I of the Conejos River Restoration Project, for which we received a Water Plan Grant with a funding start date of May 15, 2023. This CWCB Water Plan Grant supported Phase I of this three phase project, the overall goal of which is to restore and enhance 3.8 miles of the Conejos River west of Mogote, Colorado (Conejos County). Restoration and enhancement efforts include streambank stabilization, floodplain reconnection, in-channel morphology adjustments, riparian revegetation, backwater and side channel reconnection, and irrigation infrastructure updates. Phase I included completion of site surveys, preliminary engineering designs, permitting, and final designs by Southwest River Engineering (SRE). These site results and designs have informed progression of the project into Phase II, the first implementation phase.

The work completed under this agreement is described below and categorized based on those tasks included in the Water Plan Grant Statement of Work. As outlined below, delivery of work under this agreement went relatively smoothly and as planned.

**Task 1: Comprehensive site assessment**

This was completed by SRE, with assistance from Bird Conservancy, in August 2023. Deliverables included the aerial site map with preliminary designs and cost estimates per property within the entire project reach and summaries of stakeholder meetings regarding these designs. This task has been fully completed and was reported to CWCB in the November 2023 Water Plan Grant progress report. Copies of the preliminary designs, cost estimates, and meeting summaries were included with that report.

**Task 2: Complete construction designs cost estimates**

SRE completed final designs for Phase II projects, which are included with this final report. Cost estimates were included in the November 2023 progress report. These designs and estimates were used to begin fundraising for the first implementation phase, Phase II.

**Task 3: Construction permitting application**

Bird Conservancy and SRE completed all necessary documentation for submission of pre-construction notices (PCNs) to the US Army Corps of Engineers for Phase II projects in May 2024. The PCN submittal letter is included in this report. Due to file size, individual PCN packets were not included but can be sent to CWCB if needed. Verification of Nationwide Permit 27 was received from Tucker Feyder at the US Army Corps of Engineers for each individual Phase II landowner's project on July 26, 2024. The concurrence letter from the Corps is included with this report.



# Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

*Connecting People, Birds and Land*

## Task 4: Site preparation

Task 4 outlined the construction contractor bidding process, to be managed by SRE and assisted by Bird Conservancy. This Task did not have funds assigned to it in the subcontract between SRE and Bird Conservancy. Additionally, given the timelines of Phases I and II, bidding for construction was more suited to be part of the Phase II project process. In late March/early April 2024, Bird Conservancy worked with Laura Spann at CWCB to remove Task 4 deliverables from our Statement of Work. Construction bidding has been included in the Phase II project work. A CWCB Water Plan Grant for Phase II was awarded to the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation) in March 2024.

## Task 5: Project management

Per discussions with Laura Spann, the \$1,500 allocated to Task 4 were shifted to Task 5 to supplement reimbursement of Bird Conservancy staff time on other tasks associated with this grant. This task has been ongoing until delivery of this report, which marks completion of all tasks and deliverables associated with this award.

Due to the likely timing of securing all necessary funds for Phase II implementation, permits and final designs were not completed for Phase III projects. Phase III is unlikely to be implemented for several more years, over which time river dynamics and landowner goals may shift. Consequently, we determined it was too early to secure permits and finalize designs for Phase III projects, as they would likely need to be revised by the time we are able to implement. These tasks will be included in Phase III implementation funding requests.

Attached with this final report is documentation indicating cash and in-kind match commitments and expenditure. All match committed towards this grant and project has been expended.

Bird Conservancy continues to work with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration project on Phase II fundraising and SRE as the site manager once construction begins. Once all funds for Phase II are secured, fundraising for the remaining projects in Phase III will begin.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,

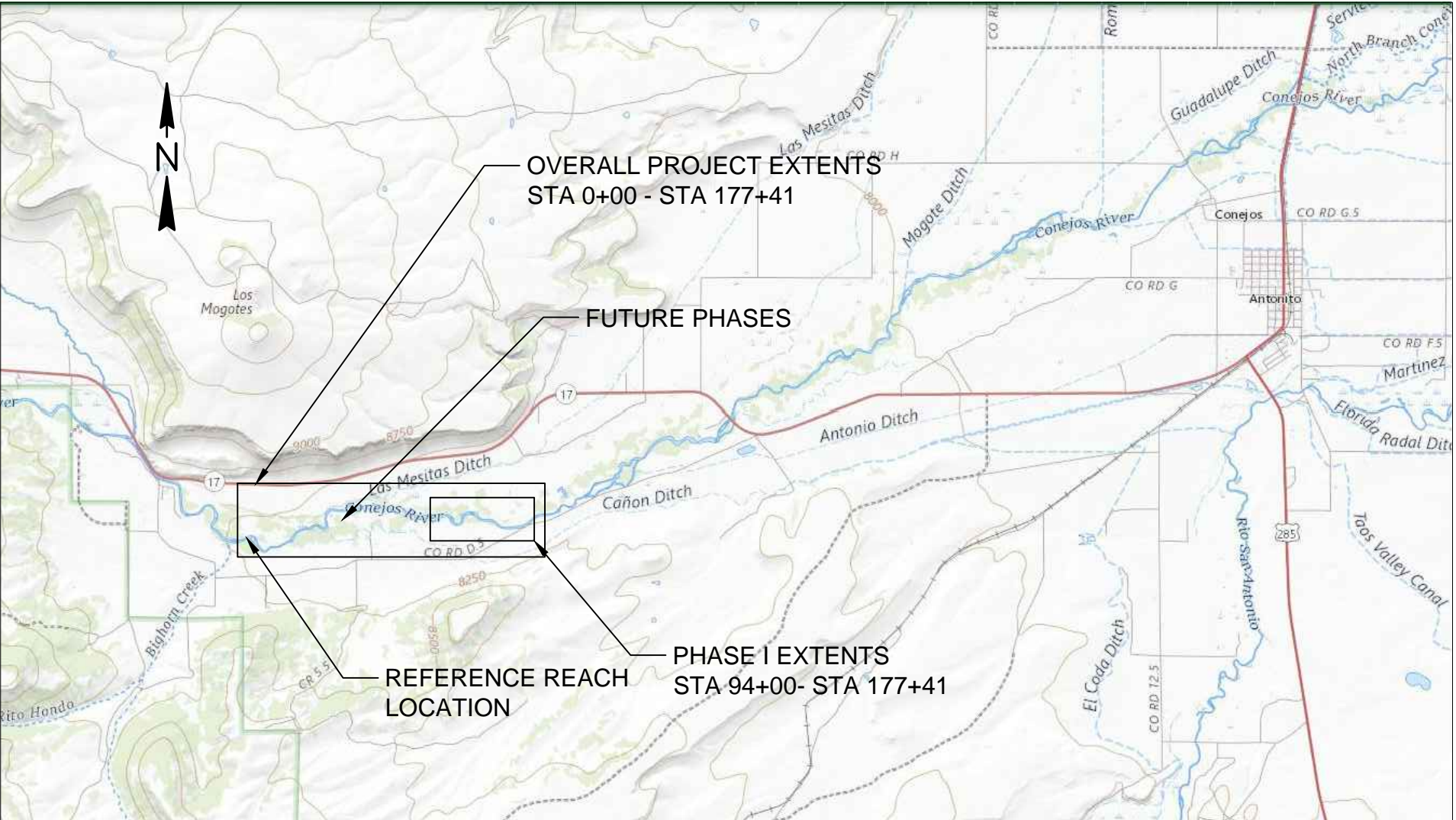
Anna Greenberg  
Wetlands Program Manager  
312-848-4657; [anna.greenberg@birdconservancy.org](mailto:anna.greenberg@birdconservancy.org)

Matching Funds Tracking Sheet									
Task	Description	Total Budget/Match Funds	Previously Invoiced Match	Current Invoice Match	Total Match to Date	Remaining Total	Match Type (Cash or In-Kind)	% of In Kind Match	Source
1	Comprehensive Site Assessment	\$21,110.14	\$21,110.14	\$0.00	\$21,110.14	\$0.00			Rio Grande WCD; CO State Land Board
	Conduct two-day river survey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
	Prepare initial comprehensive design, including aerial base map, and project cost estimates	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$0.00	\$12,500.00	\$0.00	Cash		
	Prepare initial comprehensive design, including aerial base map, and project cost estimates	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	In-Kind	4%	Trout Unlimited
	Conduct stakeholders meetings to review initial design	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
	Project design oversight and review	\$110.14	\$110.14	\$0.00	\$110.14	\$0.00	Cash		NRCS, travel
	Project design oversight and review	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	In-Kind	19%	NRCS, salary
2	Construction designs & cost estimates	\$11,000.00	\$8,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$11,000.00	\$0.00			
	Prepare final construction design and cost estimates	\$7,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	Cash		Conejos WCD, CPW Wetlands Grant
	Project oversight and review of final construction designs	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	In-Kind	10%	NRCS, salary
3	Construction permitting application	\$3,842.86	\$0.00	\$3,842.86	\$3,842.86	\$0.00			
	US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit Guidance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
	Project oversight; provide input for permit application	\$3,842.86	\$0.00	\$3,842.86	\$3,842.86	\$0.00	In-Kind	11%	NRCS, salary
4	Site preparation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
	Property boundary survey may be needed if a boundary dispute arises	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
5	Project Management	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
	Grant management/accounting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
	10% Indirect management expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
	TOTAL	\$35,953.00	\$29,610.14	\$6,342.86	\$35,953.00	\$0.00			
									Note: If match is identified as in kind in column H - track the percent of in kind match to the total match.

# Conejos River Restoration Plan

PREPARED FOR BIRD CONSERVANCY OF THE ROCKIES

PHASE I

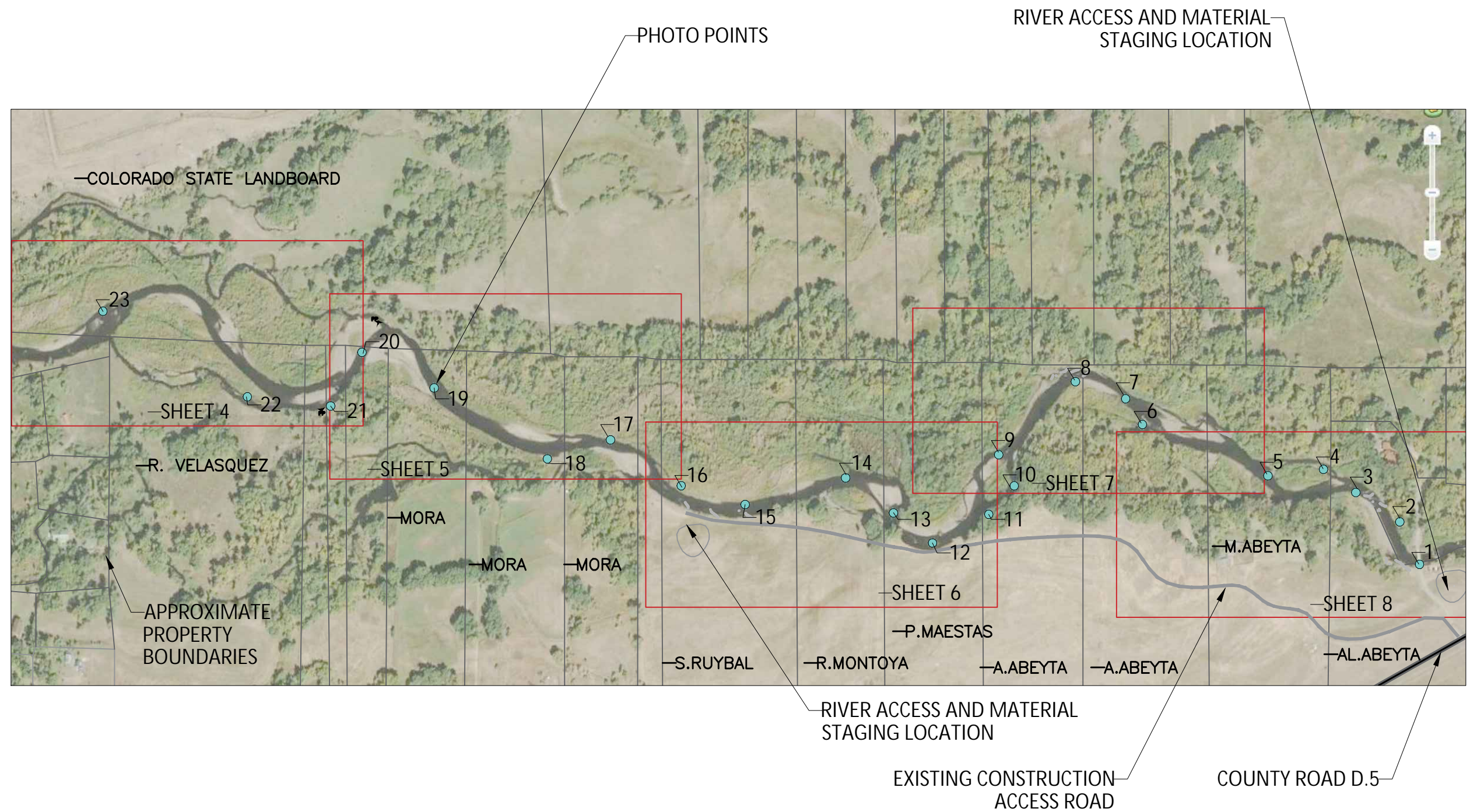


LOCATION MAP

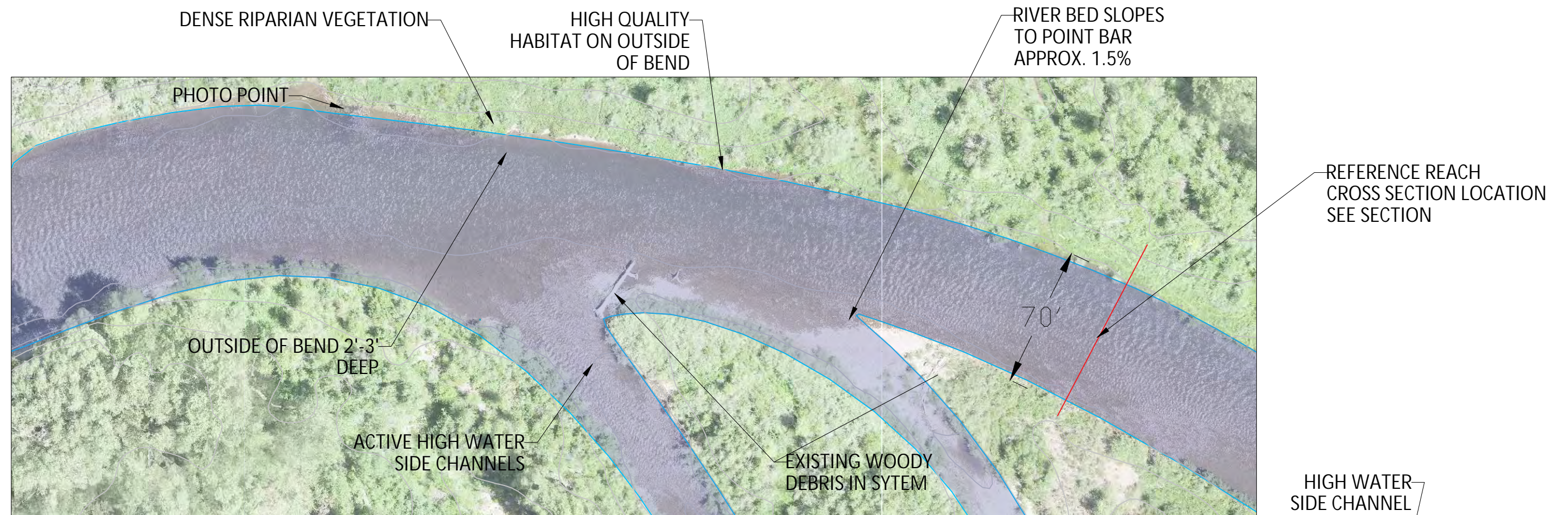
SHEET INDEX

- 1. COVER SHEET, LOCATION MAP
- 2. STAGING AND ACCESS/SHEET LAYOUT
- 3. REFERENCE REACH
- 4. STA 94+00 - 112+00 PLAN
- 5. STA 112+00 - 131+00 PLAN
- 6. STA 131+00 - 149+00 PLAN
- 7. STA 149+00 - 169+00 PLAN
- 8. STA 169+00 - 177+41 PLAN
- 9. CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
- 10. CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

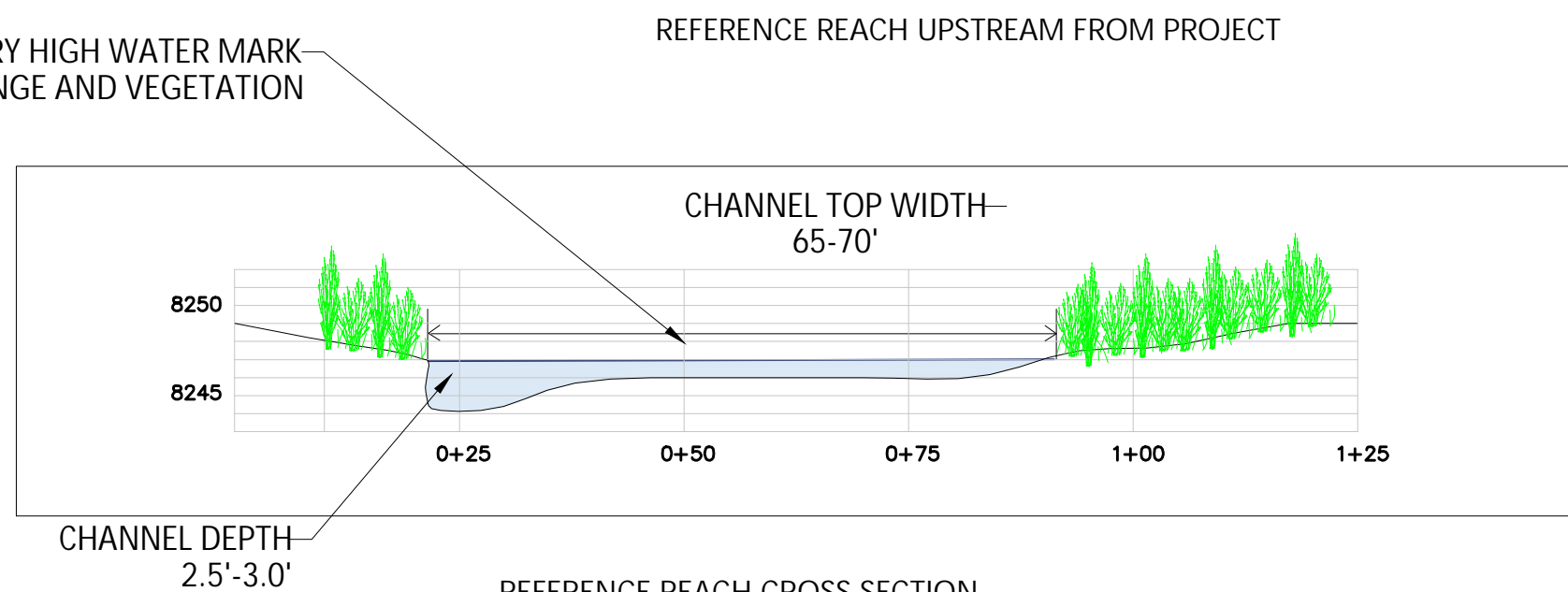








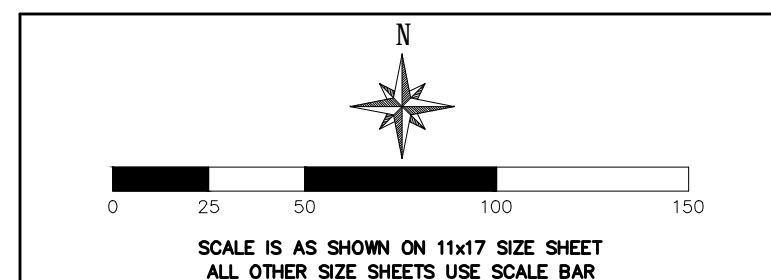
ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK  
BASED ON GRADE CHANGE AND VEGETATION



REFERENCE REACH CROSS SECTION  
NTS



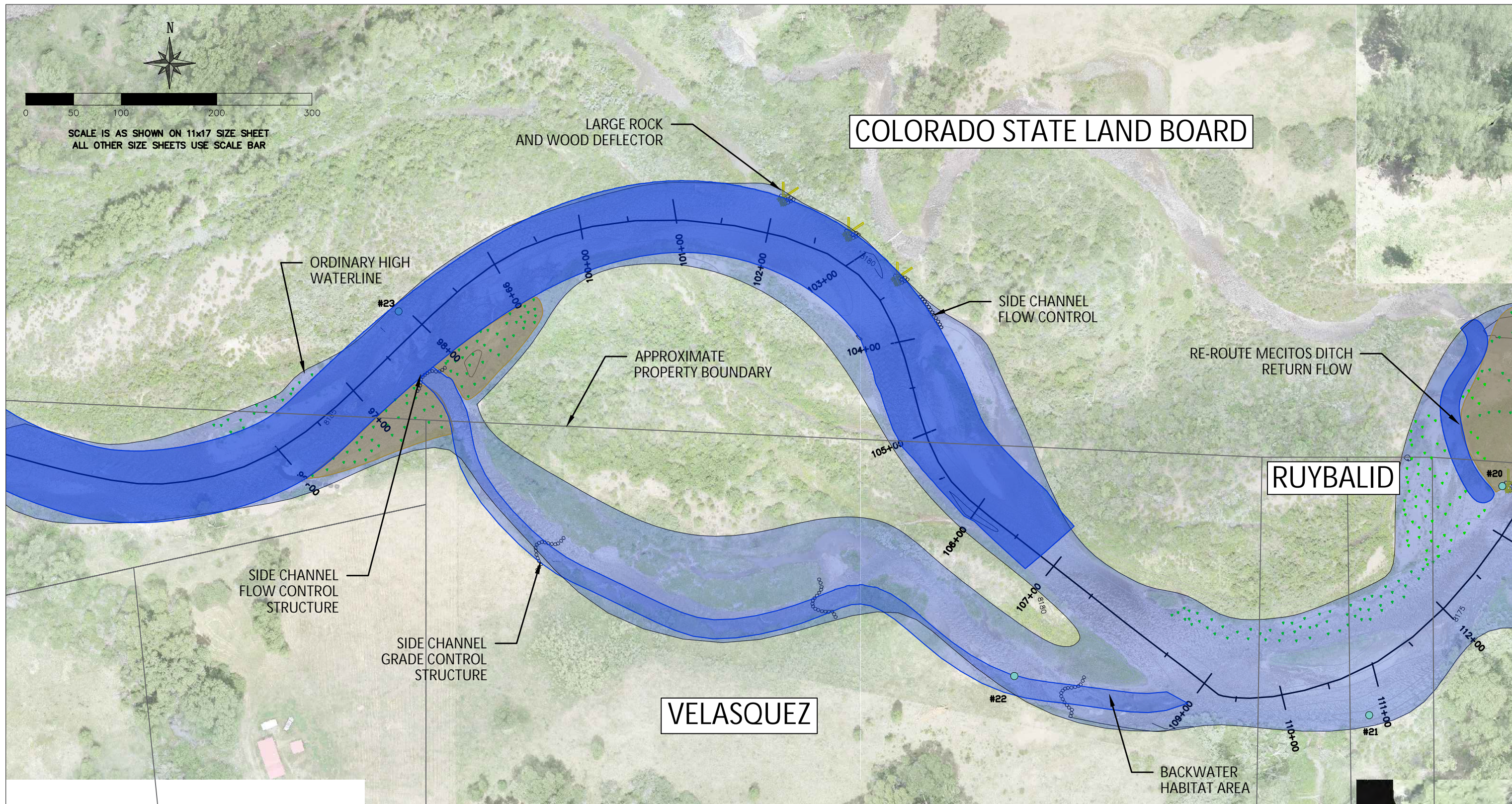
REFERENCE REACH PHOTO  
NTS



102 Third St., P. O. Box 5727, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
Tel: 970.264.1195 Email: cpitcher@swriver.com

CONEJOS RESTORATION PLAN		Sheet
PHASE I		3
REFERENCE REACH PLAN VIEW AND CROSS SECTION		of
		10
Scale: As shown	04.24.2024	





PLAN VIEW

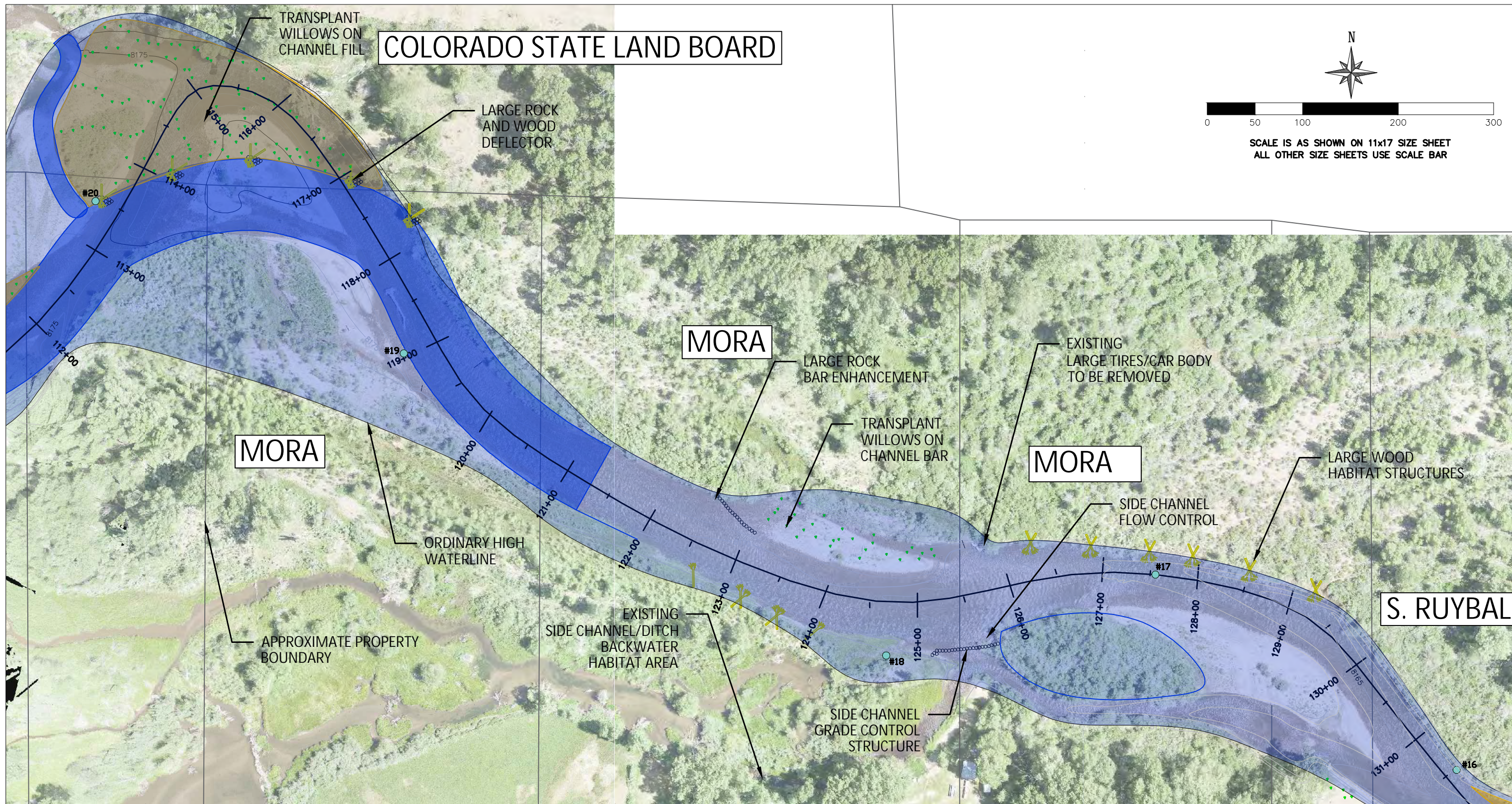
- |  |                         |  |               |  |                    |
|--|-------------------------|--|---------------|--|--------------------|
|  | EXISTING ROCK STRUCTURE |  | FILL MATERIAL |  | EXCAVATED POOL     |
|  | PROPOSED ROCK STRUCTURE |  | CUT MATERIAL  |  | WILLOW TRANSPLANTS |
|  | PROPOSED ROOT WAD       |  | NEW CHANNEL   |  | PHOTO POINT        |



102 Third St., P. O. Box 5727, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
Tel: 970.264.1195 Email: cpitcher@swwriver.com

CONEJOS RIVER		Sheet
RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT		4
PLAN VIEW Station 94+00 - 112+00		of 10
Scale: 1"=100'	04.24.2024	





PLAN VIEW

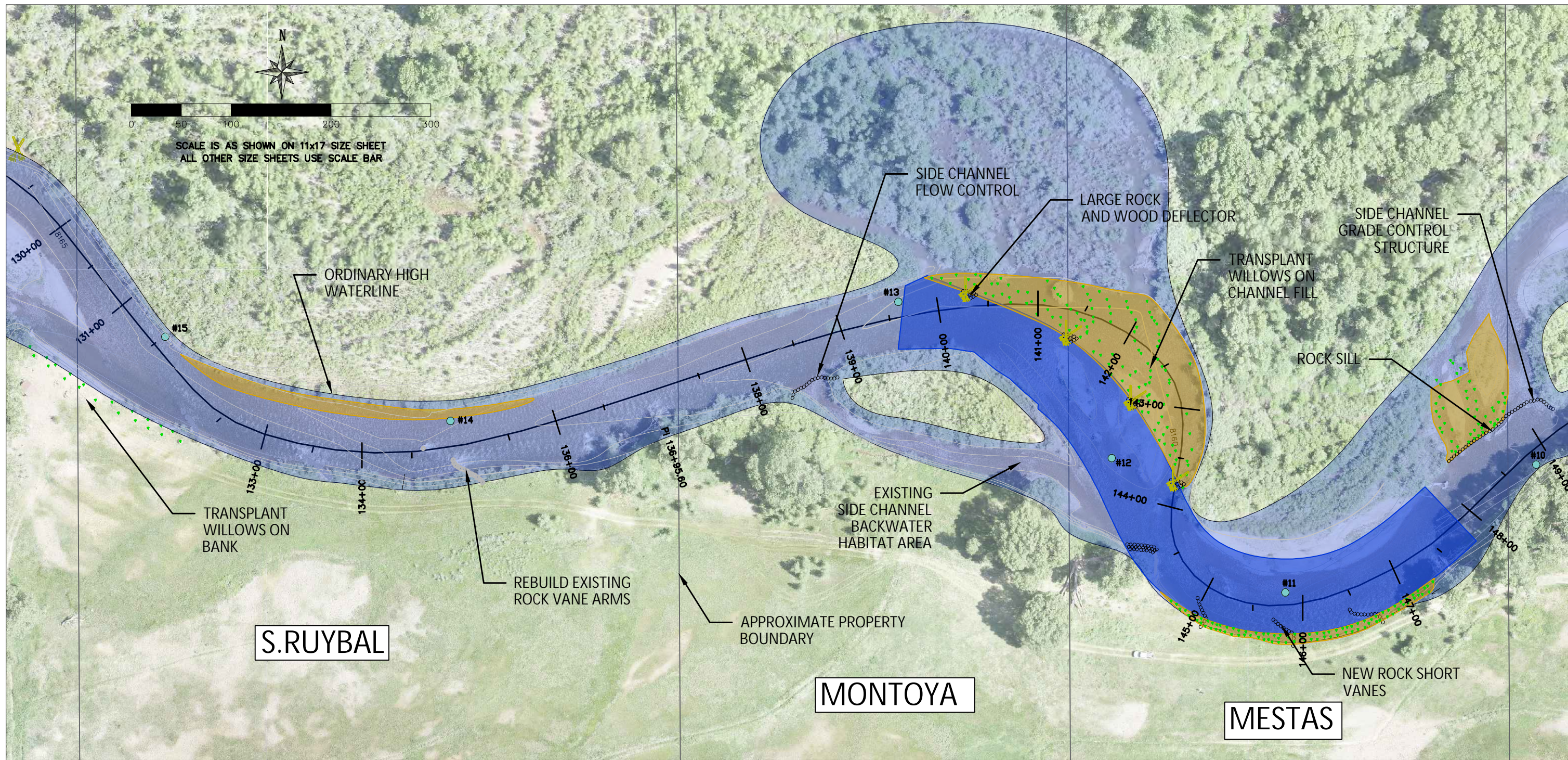
- |  |                         |  |               |  |                    |
|--|-------------------------|--|---------------|--|--------------------|
|  | EXISTING ROCK STRUCTURE |  | FILL MATERIAL |  | EXCAVATED POOL     |
|  | PROPOSED ROCK STRUCTURE |  | CUT MATERIAL  |  | WILLOW TRANSPLANTS |
|  | PROPOSED ROOT WAD       |  | NEW CHANNEL   |  | PHOTO POINT        |



102 Third St., P. O. Box 5727, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
 Tel: 970.284.1195 Email: cpitcher@sariver.com

CONEJOS RIVER		Sheet
RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT		5
PLAN VIEW		of
Station 112+00 - 131+00		10
Scale: 1"=100'	04.24.24	





PLAN VIEW

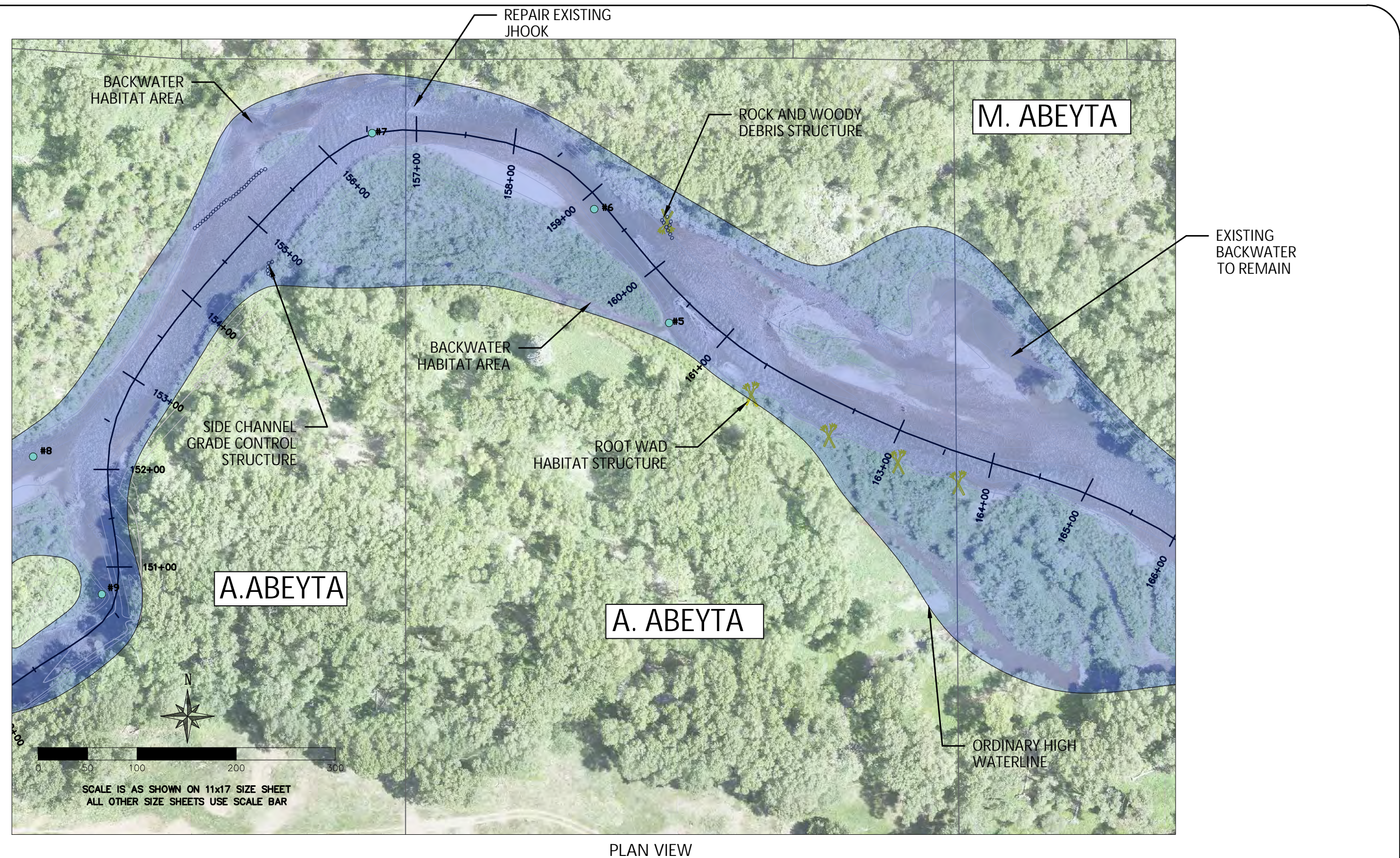
- |                         |               |                    |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| EXISTING ROCK STRUCTURE | FILL MATERIAL | EXCAVATED POOL     |
| PROPOSED ROCK STRUCTURE | CUT MATERIAL  | WILLOW TRANSPLANTS |
| PROPOSED ROOT WAD       | NEW CHANNEL   | PHOTO POINT        |



102 Third St., P. O. Box 5727, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
Tel: 970.264.1195 Email: cpitcher@sariver.com

CONEJOS RIVER		Sheet
RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT		6
PLAN VIEW		of
Station 130+00 - 149+00		10
Scale: 1"=100'	04.24.2024	





PLAN VIEW

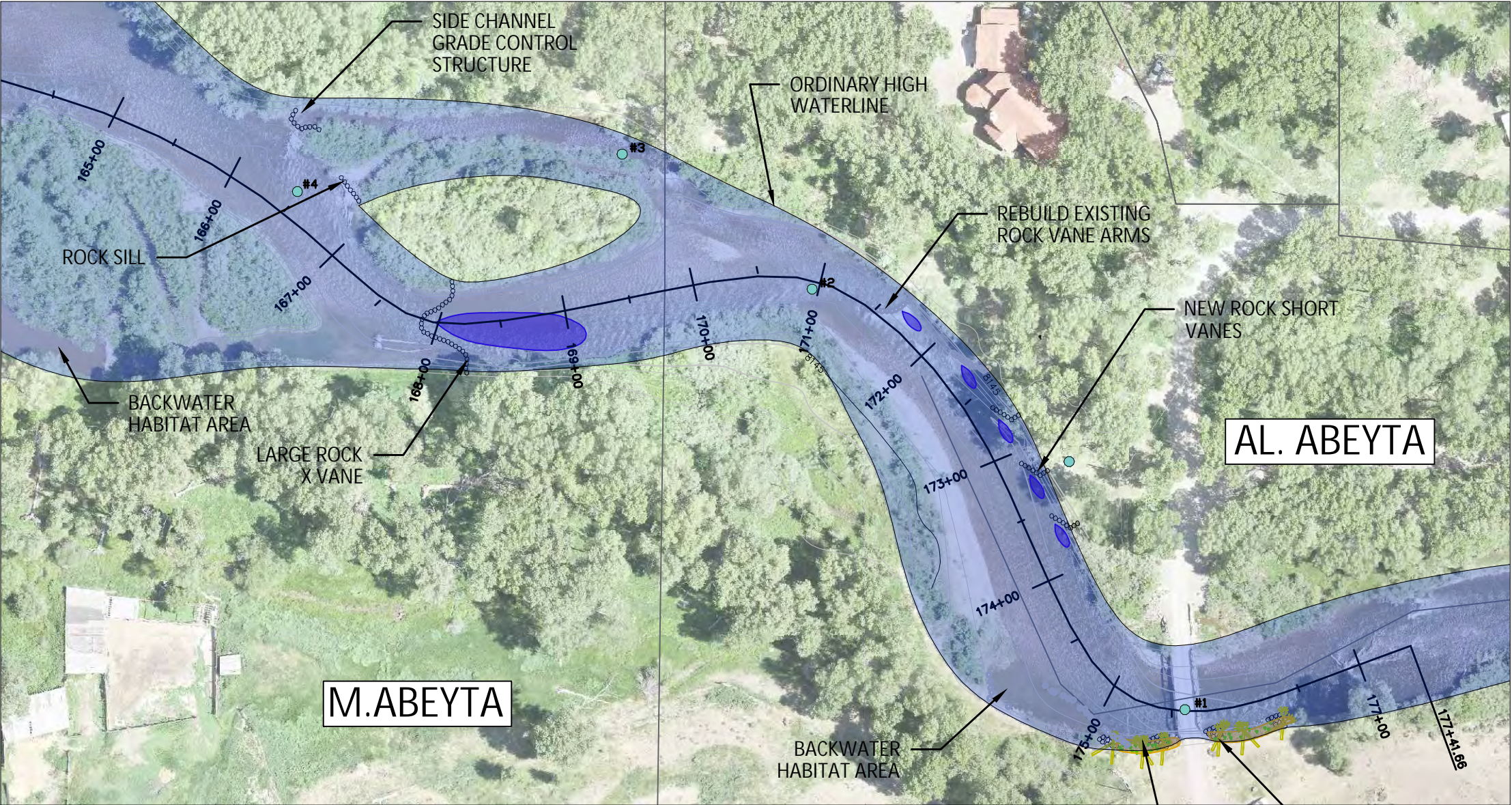
- |  |                         |  |               |  |                    |
|--|-------------------------|--|---------------|--|--------------------|
|  | EXISTING ROCK STRUCTURE |  | FILL MATERIAL |  | EXCAVATED POOL     |
|  | PROPOSED ROCK STRUCTURE |  | CUT MATERIAL  |  | WILLOW TRANSPLANTS |
|  | PROPOSED ROOT WAD       |  | NEW CHANNEL   |  | PHOTO POINT        |



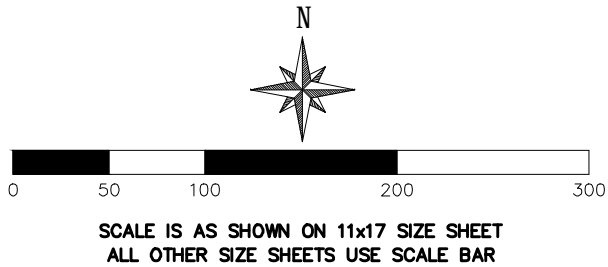
102 Third St., P. O. Box 5727, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
Tel: 970.284.1195 Email: cpitcher@sawriver.com

CONEJOS RIVER		Sheet
RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT		7
PLAN VIEW		of
Station 149+00 - 166+00		10
Scale: 1"=100'	04.24.2024	





PLAN VIEW



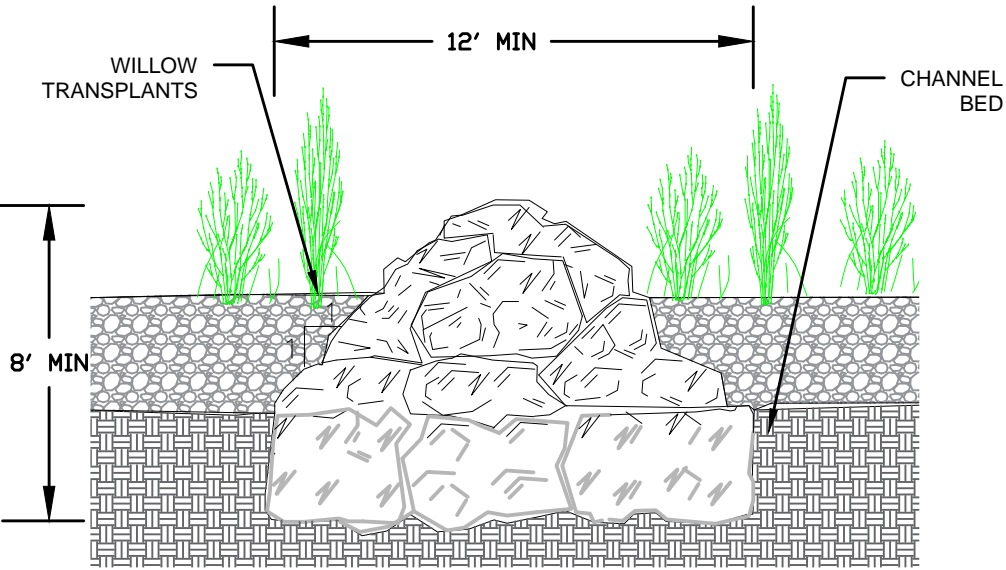
- |                         |               |                    |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| EXISTING ROCK STRUCTURE | FILL MATERIAL | EXCAVATED POOL     |
| PROPOSED ROCK STRUCTURE | CUT MATERIAL  | WILLOW TRANSPLANTS |
| PROPOSED ROOT WAD       | NEW CHANNEL   | PHOTO POINT        |



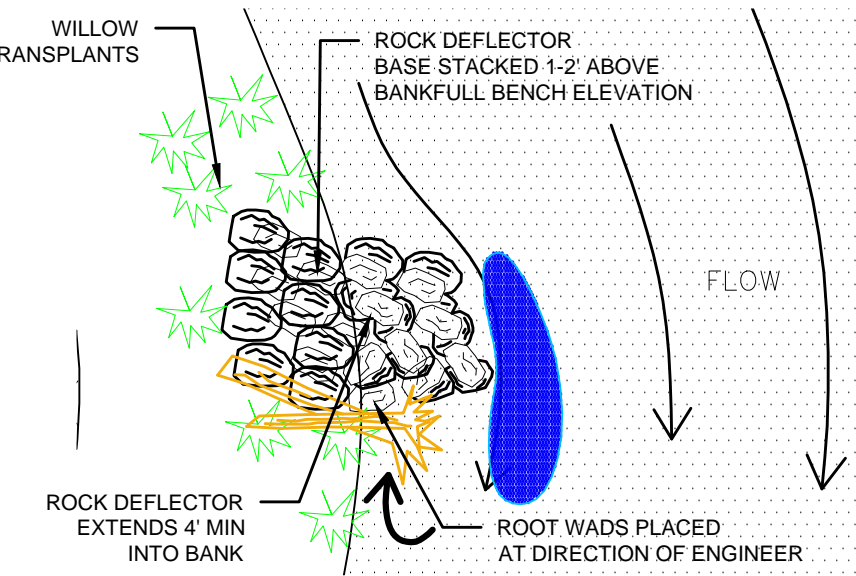
102 Third St., P. O. Box 5727, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
Tel: 970.264.1195 Email: cpitcher@sariver.com

CONEJOS RIVER		Sheet
RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT		8
PLAN VIEW		of
Station 169+00 - 177+41		10
Scale: 1"=100'	04.24.2024	

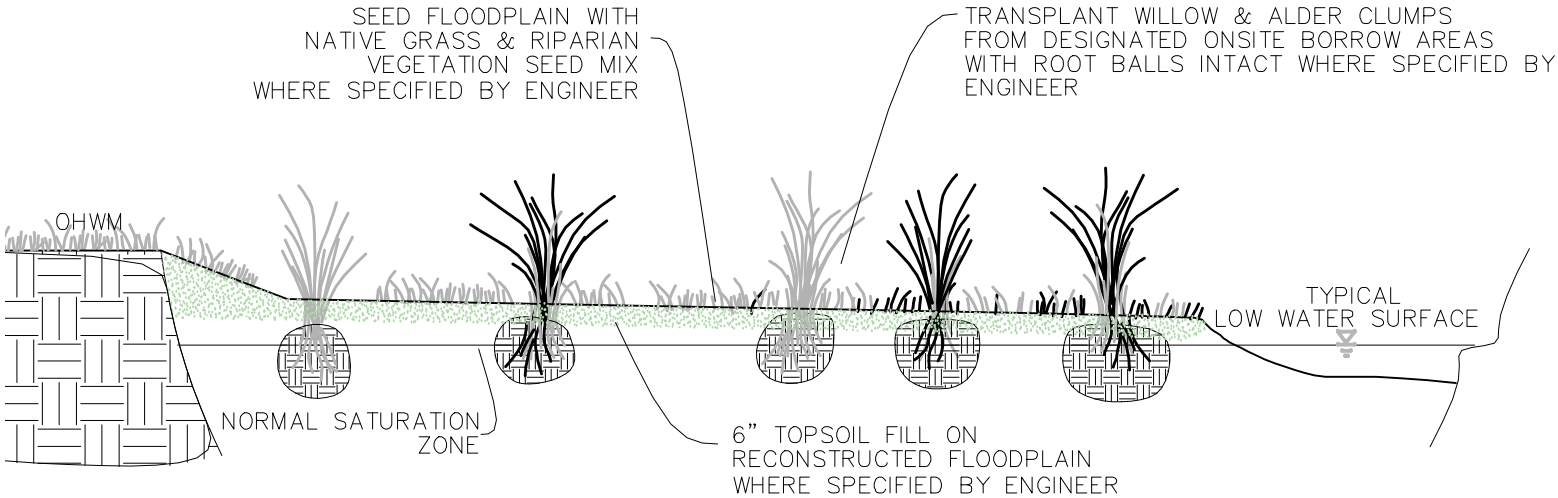




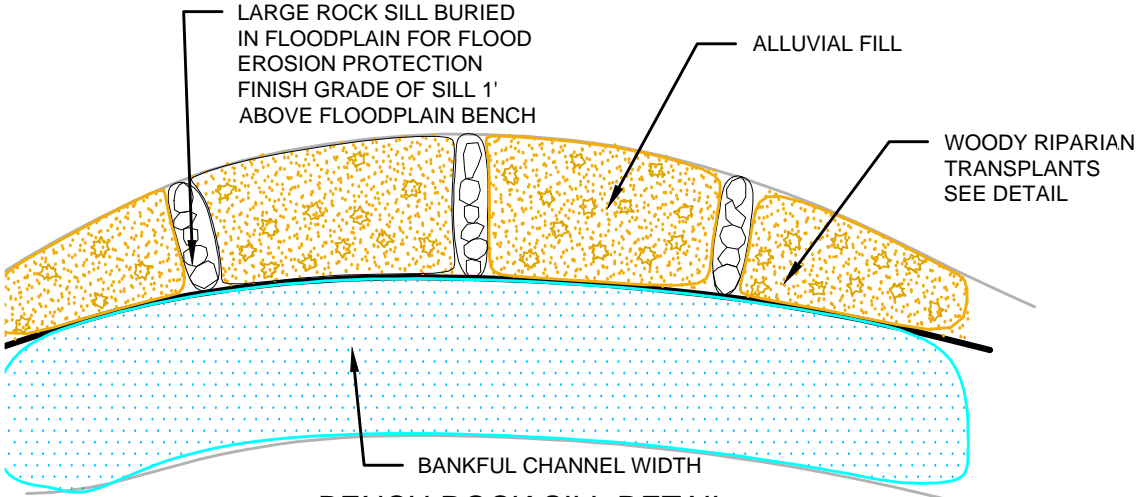
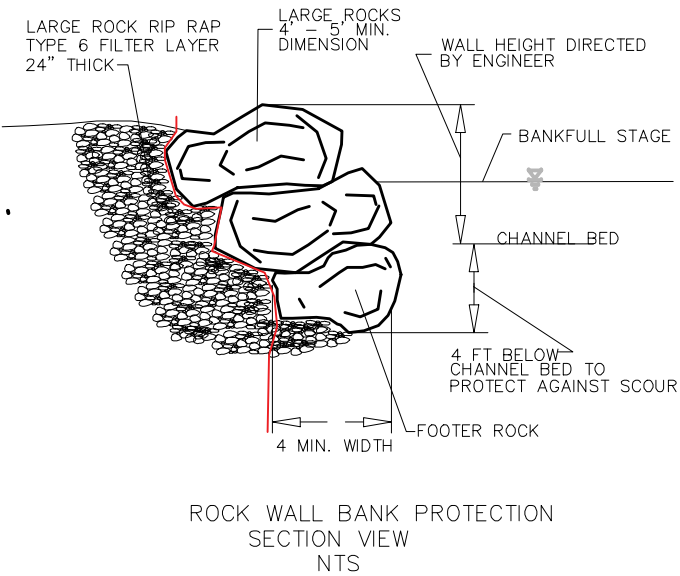
**ROCK DEFLECTOR  
SECTION VIEW DETAIL**



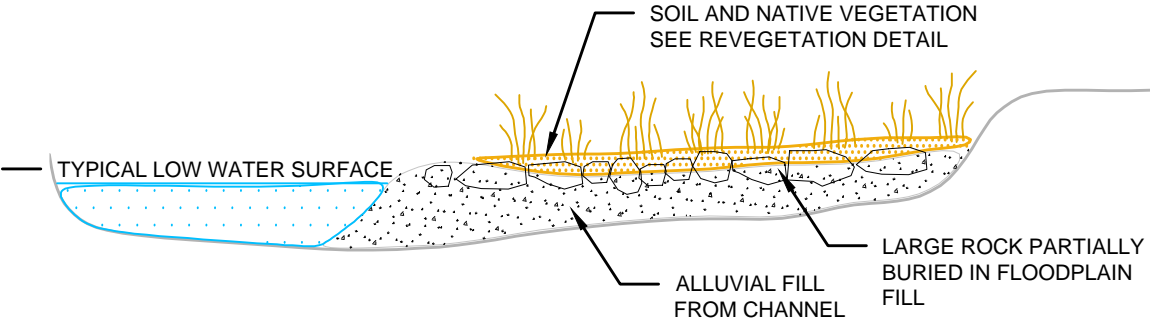
NOTE Large Rootwads shall be a minimum 20 ft in length and a minimum trunk diameter of 12 inches. Rootball shall be intact.



**BENCH REVEGETATION  
DETAIL**



**BENCH ROCK SILL DETAIL**



**BENCH ROCK SILL SECTION DETAIL**

0 25 50 100 150

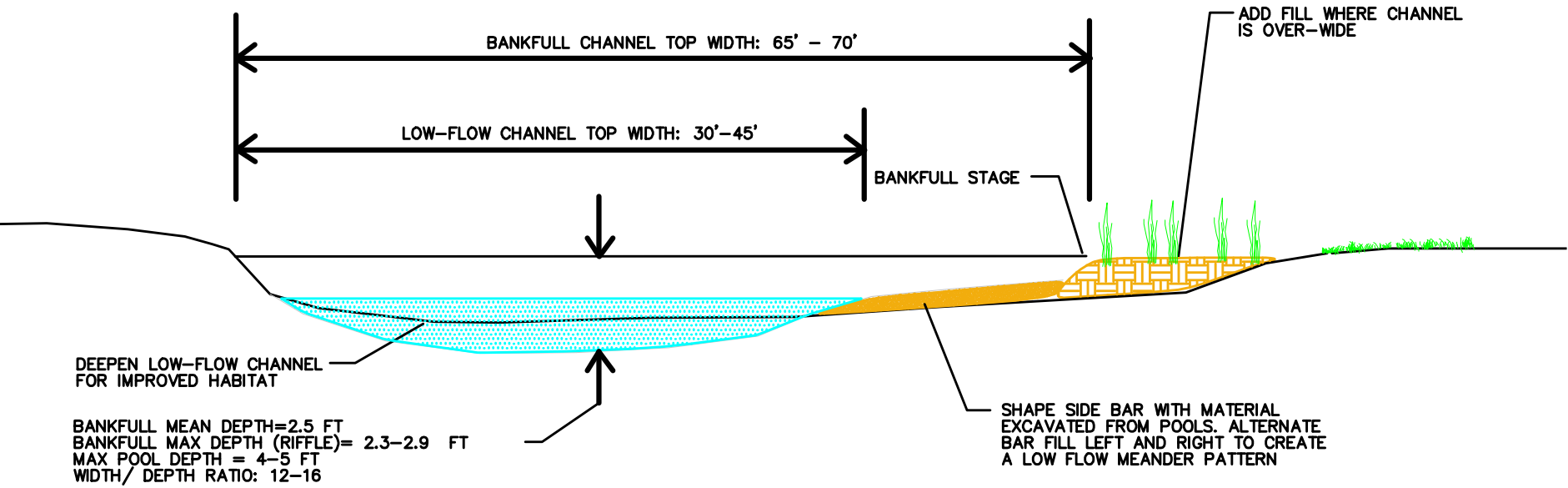
SCALE IS AS SHOWN ON 11x17 SIZE SHEET  
ALL OTHER SIZE SHEETS USE SCALE BAR

**SOUTHWEST  
RIVER ENGINEERING**

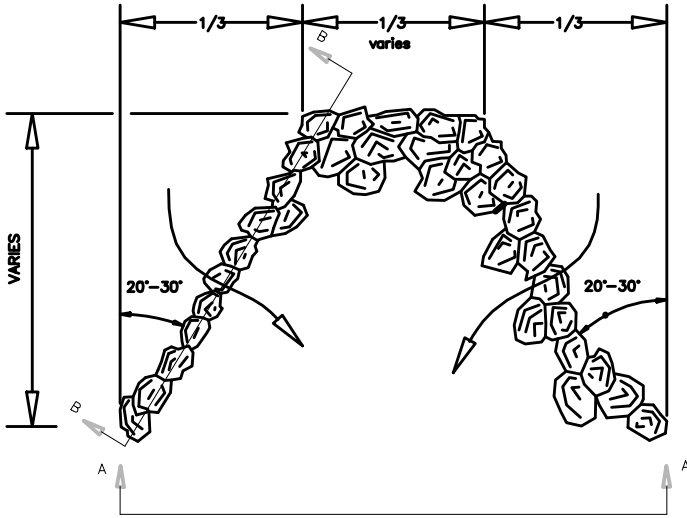
102 Third St., P. O. Box 5727, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
Tel: 970.264.1195 Email: cpitcher@swriver.com

CONEJOS RIVER		Sheet
RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT		9
CONSTRUCTION DETAILS		of
		10
		04.24.2024

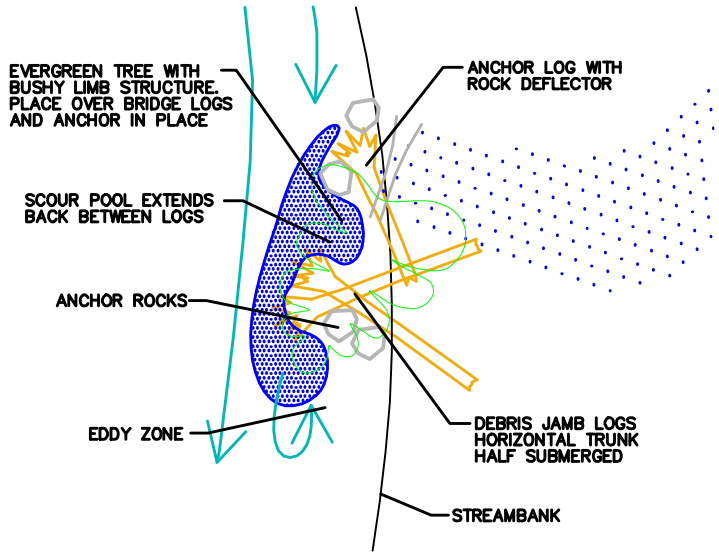




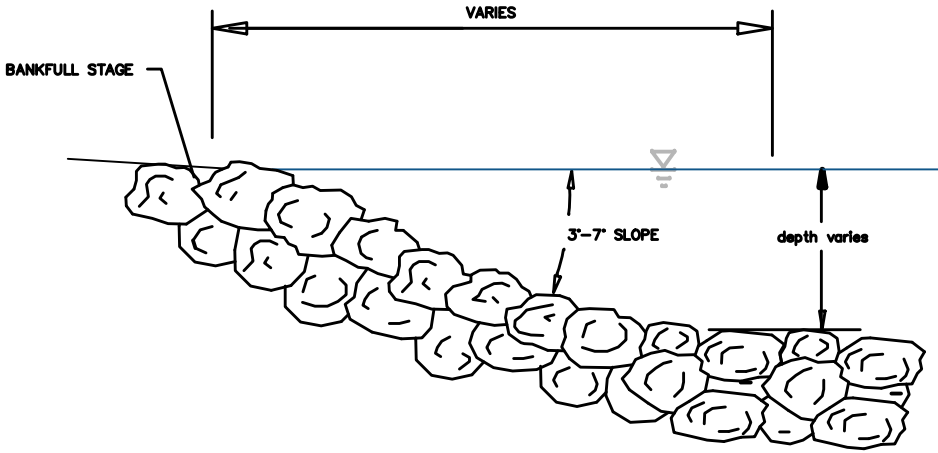
TYPICAL RIVER SECTION  
NTS



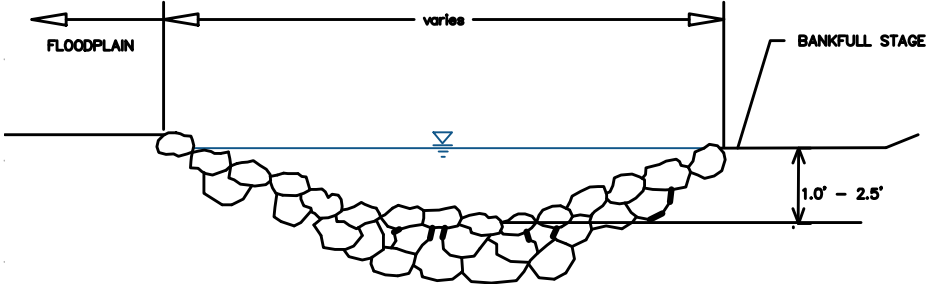
GRADE CONTROL STRUCTURE  
PLAN VIEW  
NTS



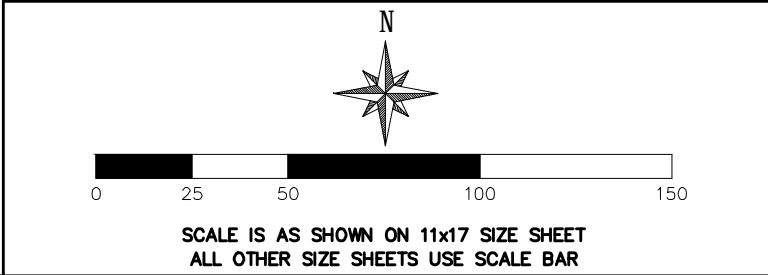
WOODY DEBRIS STRUCTURE  
NTS



GRADE CONTROL STRUCTURE  
PROFILE VIEW B-B  
NTS



GRADE CONTROL STRUCTURE  
PROJECTED CROSS SECTION A-A  
NTS





**SOUTHWEST**  
RIVER ENGINEERING

102 Third St., P. O. Box 5727, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
Tel: 970.264.1195 Email: cpitcher@swriver.com

CONEJOS RIVER		Sheet
RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT		10
CONSTRUCTION DETAILS		of
		10
NTS	04.24.2024	



# SOUTHWEST RIVER ENGINEERING

May 20, 2024

Tucker Feyder  
Regulatory Specialist  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
1970 E 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Suite 109  
Durango, CO 81301

**RE: Conejos River Restoration Project  
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies**

Dear Tucker,

Enclosed is an application for a proposed river improvement project on the Conejos River, located 10.3 miles west of the Antonito, Colorado. The entire project includes approximately 3.8 river miles of the Conejos River. Southwest River Engineering has been hired by the project sponsor, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, to develop and implement a habitat enhancement plan for this project, and to act as agent for the 404/401 permit process. This first phase of project implementation includes 8300 linear feet of the Conejos River across 8 individual property owners. We believe that this project meets the guidelines for a Nationwide Permit #27. Based on recommendations from the USACE we have included signed permit applications (Eng Form 6082) for each individual property owner. However, common application components for the entire project were not duplicated for each property. The following property owners are participating in this phase of the project implementation from upstream to downstream:

1. Regan Velasquez
2. Joe Mora
3. Stuart Ruybal
4. Reuben Montoya
5. Patricia Mestas
6. Aaron Abeyta
7. M Abeyta
8. Al Abeyta Jr.

The enclosed plans and 404 permit application documents describe in detail the proposed enhancement work. The design plans show a variety of in-stream structures: rock and woody debris habitat structures, grade control structures, sills and rock deflectors to promote aquatic habitat, bank stability and an overall improved riparian health. Native vegetation will be planted along the banks and floodplains in disturbed areas and mature stands of native bank vegetation will remain undisturbed. Please see the enclosed plan set.

The Conejos is not identified as one of the Wild and Scenic Rivers of the U.S., and, in this location, does not contain critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. In order to minimize disturbance, we will construct the project with heavy equipment on the stream bank or on the low-flow side bars wherever possible. The proposed habitat and bank stability work is in an area that has previously been disturbed and is within the existing river channel where historic artifacts and/or structures are not expected to be found.





# SOUTHWEST RIVER ENGINEERING

To minimize any potential for adverse effects to water quality we will steam clean the machinery before it enters the river, and we will follow a rigorous set of Best Management Practices (copy attached). Given the coarse nature of the bed sediments, any change in turbidity downstream due to construction activities should be limited in magnitude and duration.

Included in this submittal is the PCN (Eng Form 6082) for each property owner and the following supporting documents:

*Project Design Drawings (10 Sheets)*

*CPW Letter of support (email correspondence)*

*USFWS Critical Habitat Map*

*Nation Wetlands Inventory Map*

*National Register of Historic Places Map*

*Cultural Resources clearance NRCS Archeologist (email correspondence)*

*Working In Rivers Best Management Practices*

Please do not hesitate to call our office should you require additional information to process this application.

Sincerely,

*Chris Pitcher*

Chris Pitcher P.E.  
Southwest River Engineering, LLC

