Wolf Pond Mitigation Report

Union County, North Carolina

USGS HUC: 03040105070010 Project ID No. D 06054-B



Prepared by:



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Executive Summary

The Wolf Pond Stream Restoration Site (Site) lies within a conservation easement located within a parcel owned by Franklin W. Howey. The Site falls within Union County, North Carolina approximately five miles south of Monroe, North Carolina. The streams within the Site drain a portion of the USGS hydrologic unit 03040105070010 within the Yadkin River Basin and 03-07-14 NCDWQ sub-basin.

Prior to restoration, the Site included two stream systems (UT1 and UT2). Both stream systems are unnamed tributaries of Adams Branch. UT1 flows into UT2 and has a drainage area of approximately 0.12 square miles. UT2 consists of two reaches formed by a split at the junction with UT1. Upper section UT2 lies above the junction and has a drainage area of approximately 0.63 square miles. Lower section UT2 lies below the junction and has a drainage area of approximately 0.83 square miles.

During the past two decades, the watershed for UT1 has consisted of cut over forest and crop land. In the same time period, the watershed for UT2 has consisted of cut over forest, crop land, and intact forest.

The site consisted of primarily agricultural fields. For most of the length of the streams, the landowners had repeatedly cleared the land adjacent to the stream channel, and prior to restoration, some sections of the area adjacent to the stream channel continued to be void of woody vegetation while other sections exhibited early successional growth featuring thickets of vines. The stream channel appeared to have been straightened.

Due to the modification to the watershed, surrounding agricultural land, and channel, the channel was downcut and expanded in width. In some sections, bedrock limited downcutting, but accelerated lateral bank erosion and subsequent channel widening. These conditions impaired water quality by increasing sediment loads, increasing nutrient and pollution inputs due to direct contribution and lack of filtration by the riparian buffer, increased turbidity, elevated water temperature due to lack of significant shading by the riparian buffer, and reduced oxygen levels due to increased BOD and lack of reoxygenating features such as riffles. Wildlife habitat had been impaired by a lack of physical habitat in-stream or in the buffer, poor water quality, and impaired floodplain dynamics.

The streams were restored using a combination of Rosgen Priority I and II approaches. The channel restoration brought about stable channel geometry, introduced bed and bank features, stabilized the channel banks, and reconnected the channel to a floodplain. In total, channel restoration work restored 4,513 linear feet of stream. The riparian buffer was restored through conditioning the soil and planting native vegetation. Buffer restoration restored 12.1 acres of riparian buffer. Table 1 provides a summary of restoration values.

The stream restoration will improve water quality by reducing sediment inputs from unstable banks, decreasing nutrient and pollutant inputs by reducing direct contributions and filtering sheet flow within the riparian buffer, increase oxygen levels by decreasing BOD and introducing reoxygenating features such as riffle. Wildlife habitat will improve through the introduction of physical in-stream habitat and buffer habitat, improving water quality, and reestablishing flood plain dynamics.

Monitoring in 2008 through 2012 will assess the Site's stream and riparian areas to determine restoration success. The monitoring plan has been established based on guidance provided by The Stream Mitigation Guidelines disseminated by the United States Corps of Engineers – Wilmington District (McLendon, Scott, Fox, Becky et al. 2003) and the most current version of the EEP documents entitled "Content, Format, and Data Requirements for EEP Monitoring Reports". Streams will be monitored for stability using cross section and longitudinal profile surveys and photo documentation. Riparian areas will be monitored for plant survival using stem counts.

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Narrative

The Wolf Pond Stream Restoration Site (Site) lies within a conservation easement located within a parcel owned by Franklin W. Howey. The Site falls within Union County, North Carolina approximately five miles south of Monroe, North Carolina. The streams within the Site drain a portion of the USGS hydrologic unit 03040105070010 within the Yadkin River Basin and 03-07-14 NCDWQ sub-basin.

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Due to the modification to the watershed, surrounding agricultural land, and channel, the channel was downcut and expanded in width. In some sections, bedrock limited downcutting, but accelerated lateral bank erosion and subsequent channel widening. These conditions impaired water quality by increasing sediment loads, increasing nutrient and pollution inputs due to direct contribution and lack of filtration by the riparian buffer, increased turbidity, elevated water temperature due to lack of significant shading by the riparian buffer, and reduced oxygen levels due to increased BOD and lack of reoxygenating features such as riffles. Wildlife habitat had been impaired by a lack of physical habitat in-stream or in the buffer, poor water quality, and impaired floodplain dynamics.

The goals of the project relate to providing ecological improvements to the Site's streams and riparian buffers through beneficial modifications of hydrology, water quality, and habitat.

Goals related to hydrology include:

- Re-establishing floodplain connection by raising bed elevations
- Increase flood storage by re-establishing floodplain

Goals related to water quality include:

- Reducing turbidity by reducing sediment inputs
- Reducing water temperatures by providing shading

• Increasing / stabilizing oxygen levels by reducing BOD/COD and increasing reoxygenating turbulence

Goals related to habitat include:

- Improve bed habitat by increasing riffle pool diversity, reducing sediment deposition, and improving low flow water depths
- Improve bank habitat by increasing stability and woody biomass
- Improve floodplain habitat by establishing microtopography and hydrology, removing invasive vegetation, and increasing habitat diversity
- Improve food web dynamics by adding biomass (such as detritus, woody debris, and leaf matter) and re-establishing floodplain connection

The restoration achieves these goals through the following objectives:

- Stabilizing channel bed and banks through modifying dimension, pattern, and profile using natural channel design
- Installing in-stream structures such as rock vanes
- Installing in-bank structures such as root wads
- Raising stream bed elevations
- Restoring soils in riparian buffer
- Removing invasive vegetation
- Planting native vegetation in riparian buffer

Priority I and Priority II restoration approaches were used for this project. The Priority II approach was used to re-establish an active floodplain and stabilize the stream banks (Rosgen, David L. 1997). The Priority I approach was used to raise bed elevations and reconnect the channel to the abandoned floodplain. These methods were primarily employed to re-establish an appropriate stream cross section, bed form and pattern in order to improve habitat and ecosystem functions. The streams were also connected to flood plains which will re-establish more natural riparian conditions.

The riparian buffer was planted as five zones. Zone 1, the stream channel zone, was planted with fast growing; obligate pioneer species able to provide stability to the channel. Zone 2 was the stream bank zone consisting of planted tree and shrub species and seeded native herbaceous species typically found along stream banks in the region. Zone 3 was a forested riparian area consisting of selected tree and shrub species tolerant of range of inundation and saturation. Zone 4 was a bottomland area consisting of selected tree and shrub species adapted to extended periods of inundation and saturation. Zone 5 was a transitional zone consisting of Zone 3 species tolerant of edge habitats. Zone 1 was planted with live stakes and the remaining zones were planted with bare roots

seedlings. Planting spacing was determined according to planting type. The entire easement was planted as described above.

Project Stream	Stream Restoration Linear Footage	Stream Enhancement Level II Linear Footage	Wetland Restoration Acreage	Wetland Enhancement Acreage	Riparian Buffer Restoration
UT1	1,541	0	0	0	
UT2	2,972	0	0	0	
Total Site	4,513	0	0	0	12.1
Total SMU	4,513	0	-	-	-
Total WMU	-	-	0	0	-

Table 1: Mitigation Summary Table

Table 2: Mitigation Unit Summary

Contract Stream Mitigation Units (SMU)	As-built Stream Mitigation Units (SMU)	Contract Wetland Mitigation Units (WMU)	As-built Wetland Mitigation Units (WMU)
4,500	4,513	-	-

Modifications to the Restoration Plan and Construction Plan Summary

The following is a summary of changes that were made from the Restoration Plan to the construction plans as well as changes implemented during construction. Most of the changes resulted from the contractor hitting bedrock while excavating the channel or installing structures.

Station 114+00 to 115+00 – The contractor had to re-align the stream through this section in order to excavate the channel. Also, the proposed Rock Cross Vane that would have been at Station 115+00 was deleted since it was not possible to build because of the bedrock in this area. The bedrock should provide bed stabilization in this section.

Vernal Pools – The construction drawings show a total of seven vernal pools that are meant to be placed where concentrated storm water enters the buffer from the adjacent fields. A total of nine vernal pools were actually constructed and some of them are much larger than what was shown in the construction drawings (see Record Set drawings).

Station 204+50 – Constructed Riffle was deleted due to bedrock in the channel.

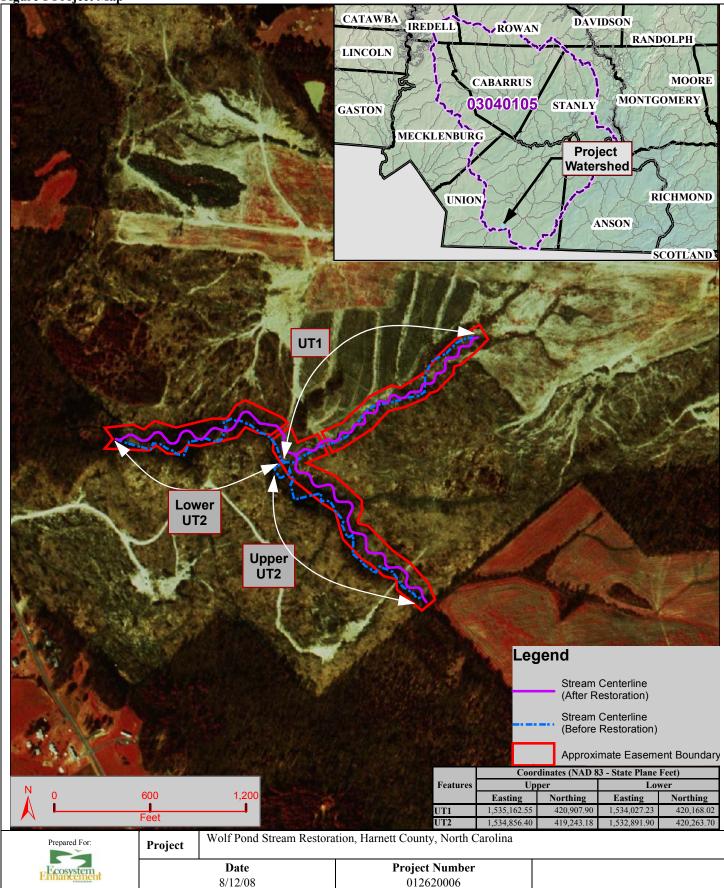
Station 213+30 – The A-Vane at this location was deleted due to bedrock that was at the proposed grade of the riffle. The structure was no longer necessary since bedrock is in this location.

Station 227+30 – Two root wad structures were deleted from this meander because the outside of the bend was adjacent to a wetland. The designer felt that adding the root wads in the outside of this bend would cause instability in the bank.

Station 100+00 – Four Log Sills were added to the upstream tie in of UT1 due to a discrepancy with the survey in this location. Each log sill has a drop of 0.5 feet and they are spaced approximately 6 feet apart in the profile.

Station 101+85 – A proposed Rock Cross Vane was deleted from this location because of existing bedrock in this area at grade.

Figure 1 Project Map



Monitoring Plan

The monitoring plan to evaluate the success of the stream restoration project is based on guidance provided by The Stream Mitigation Guidelines (McLendon, Scott, Fox, Becky et al. 2003) disseminated by the United States Corps of Engineers – Wilmington District and recommendations from the Ecosystem Enhancement Program. The collection and summarization of monitoring data will be conducted in accordance with the most current version of the EEP documents entitled "Content, Format, and Data Requirements for EEP Monitoring Reports".

Monitoring work will occur annually for five years and includes reference photographs, channel materials sampling, site survey, and visual assessment and mapping of significant features. The success criteria and assessment methods for the Site's streams and riparian buffer are provided below.

Stream Monitoring

Success Criteria

The stream geometry will be considered successful if the cross-section geometry, profile, and sinuosity are stable or reach a dynamic equilibrium. It is expected that there will be minimal changes in the designed cross sections, profile, and/or substrate composition. Changes that may occur during the monitoring period will be evaluated to determine if they represent a movement toward a more unstable condition (e.g. down cutting, or bank erosion) or are minor changes that represent an increase in stability (e.g. settling, vegetative changes, coarsening of bed material, etc.).

Deviation from the design ratios will not necessarily denote failure as it is possible to maintain stability and not stay within the design geometry. Changes to the as-built bankfull elevation may occur due to natural processes of channel adjustment.

Assessment Methods

The survey of channel dimension consists of 8 permanent cross sections placed at unique stream segments throughout the project extent. The cross sections represent 4 riffles and 4 pools. Annual photographs showing both banks will be taken for each cross section.

The survey of the longitudinal profile covers 3,000 feet of the project reaches. Newly-constructed meanders will be surveyed to provide pattern measurements.

Right and left bank view permanent photo stations have been set up to visually monitor stream conditions. These photo stations are mapped on the Record Drawings.

The entire restored length of stream will be investigated for channel stability and instream structure functionality. Any evidence of channel instability will be identified, mapped, and photographed. All structures will be inventoried for functionality.

Riparian Buffer Vegetation

Success Criteria

The success of riparian and wetland vegetation planting will be gauged by stem counts of planted species. Riparian and wetland vegetation will be considered successful with the survival of 260 planted stems per acre at the end of the fifth year of monitoring, with survival of 320 planted stems per acre at the end of the third year of monitoring as an interim measure of success. Photos taken at established photo points should indicate maturation of riparian vegetation community.

Assessment Methods

The success of vegetation plantings will be measured through stem counts. Five permanent plots will be used to sample the riparian buffer and restoration wetlands. Each quadrant covers 1,000 square feet. During the counts, the health of the vegetation will be noted. The vegetation survey will occur during the growing season. Permanent photo points have been set up for each plot.

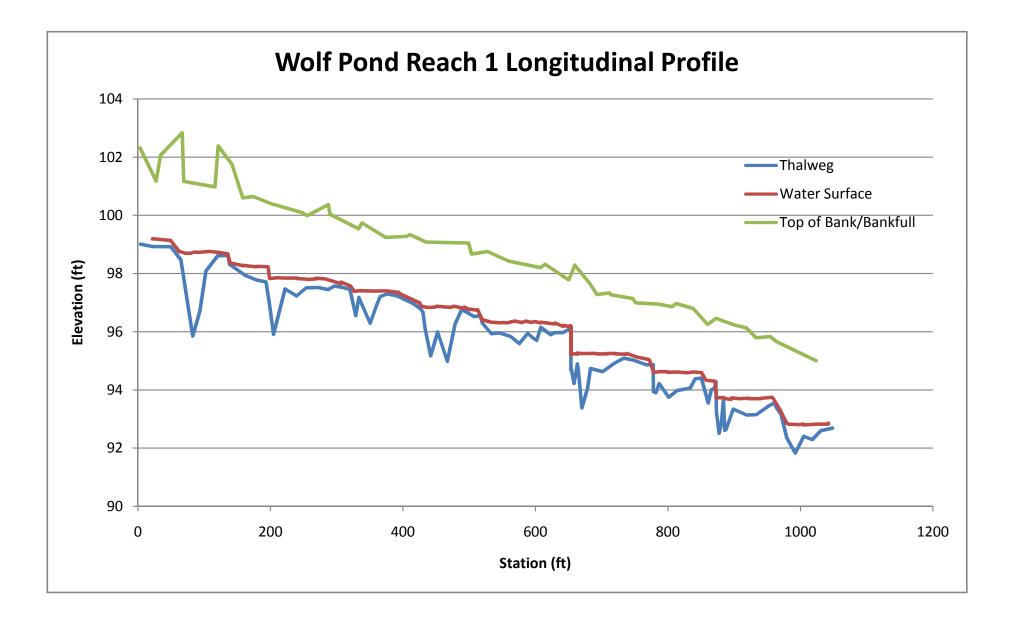
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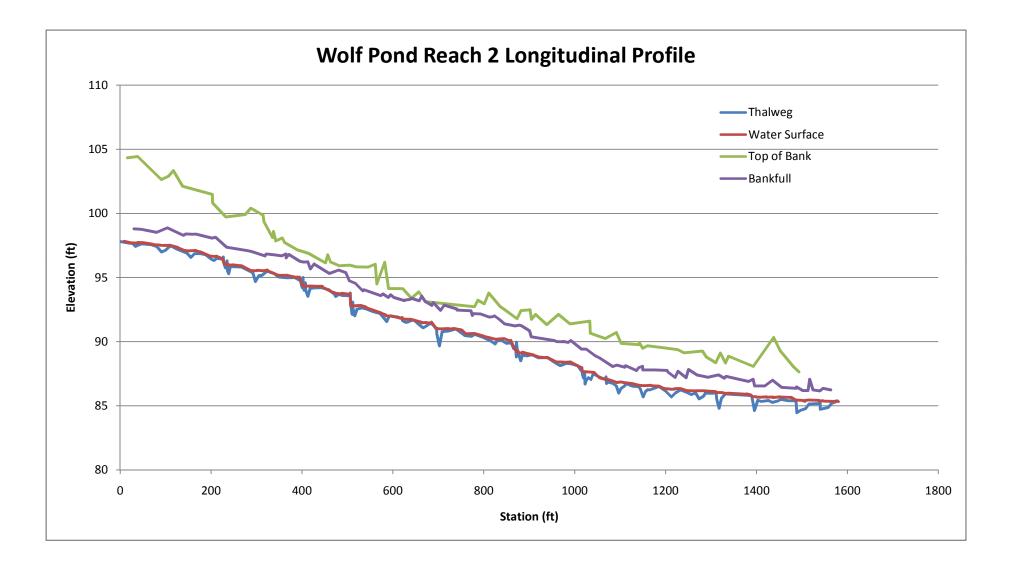
- McLendon, Scott, Becky Fox, et al. (2003). Stream Mitigation Guidelines. United States Army Corps of Engineers - Wilmington District, United States Environmental Protection Agency, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and North Carolina Department of Natrual Resources - Division of Water Quality.
- Rosgen, David L. (1997). <u>A Geomorphic Approach to Restoration of Incised Rivers</u>. Management of Landscapes Disturbed by Channel Incision.

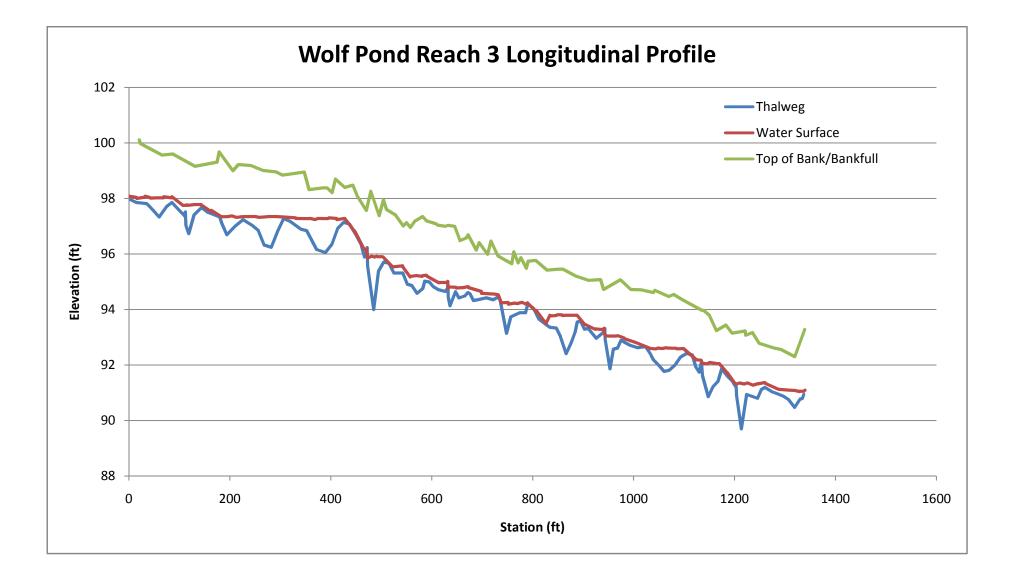
Attachment 1 Record Drawings

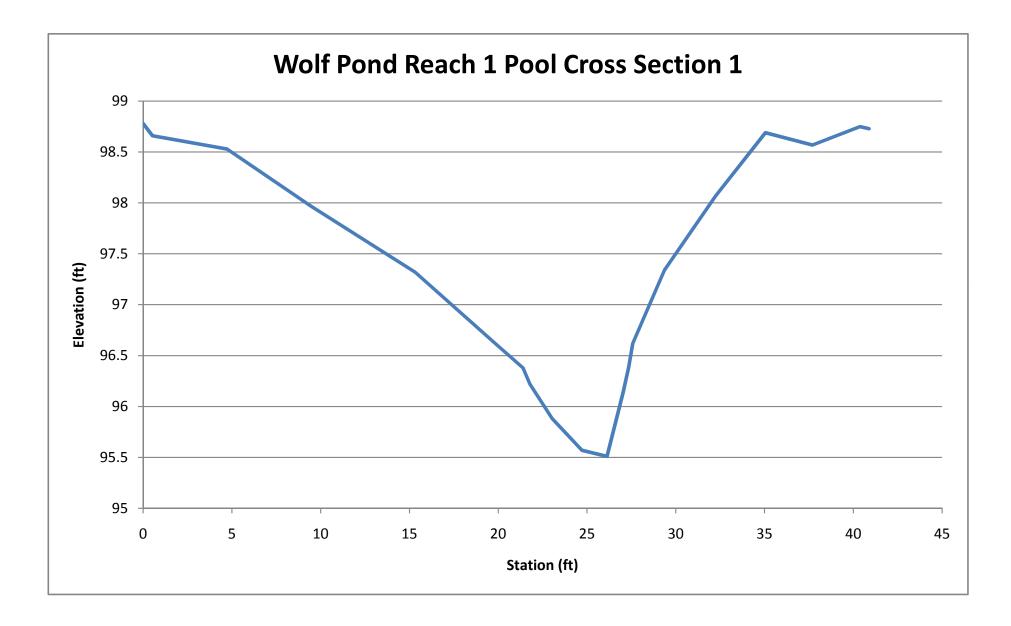
(See Record Drawing Set separate from this document – Dated 06/13/2008)

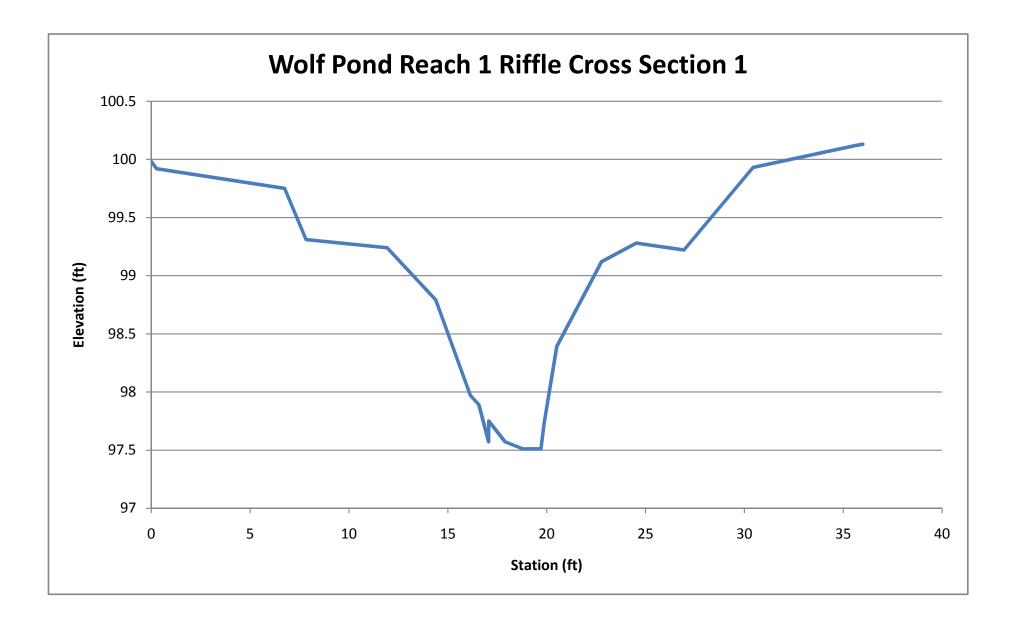
Attachment 2 Baseline Monitoring Stream Geomorphology

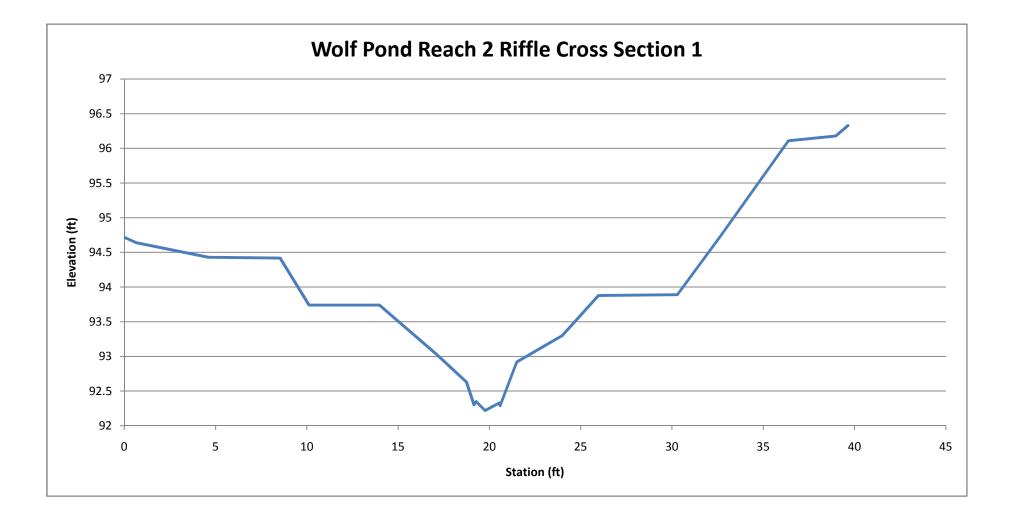


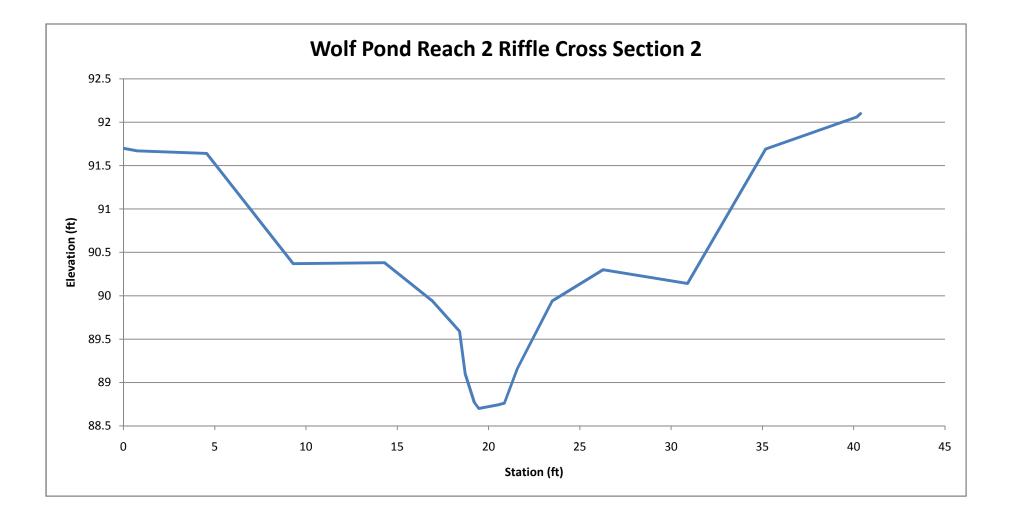


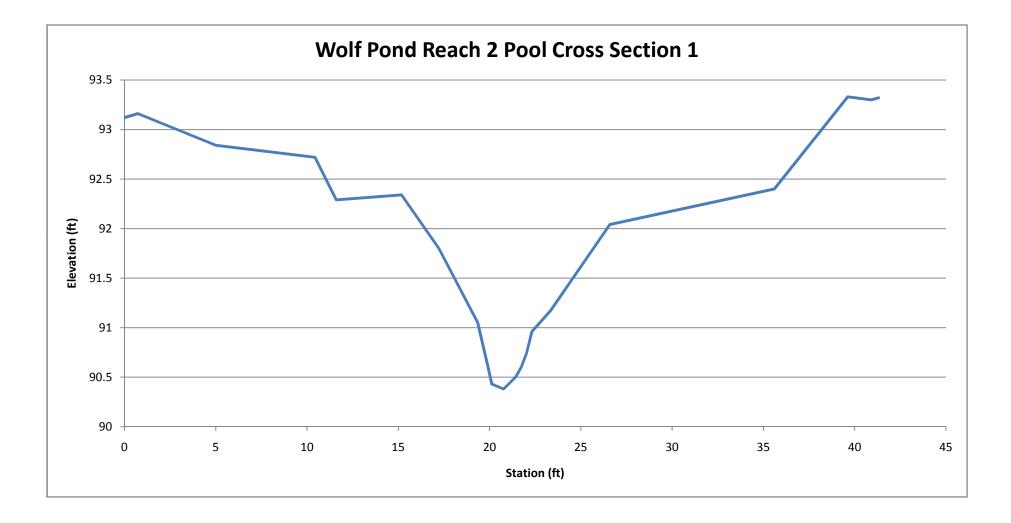


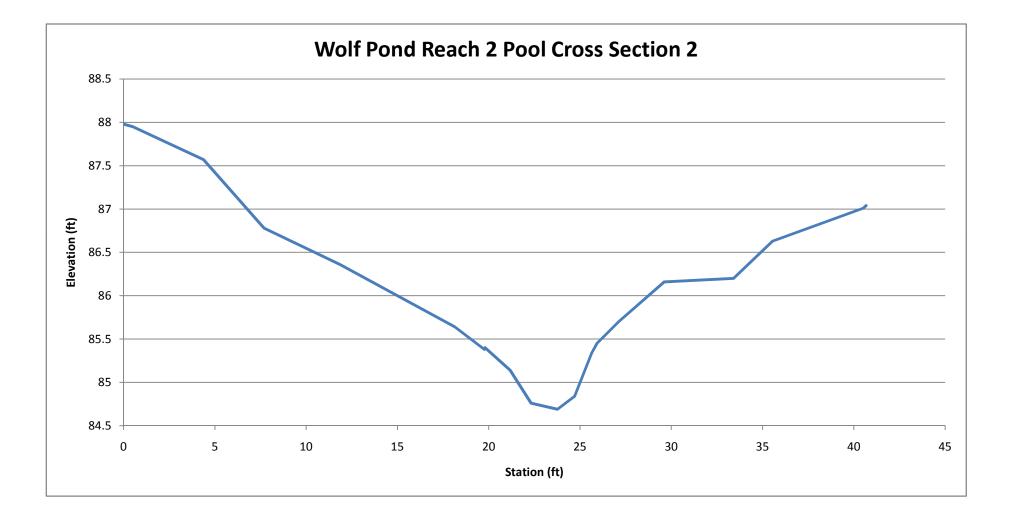


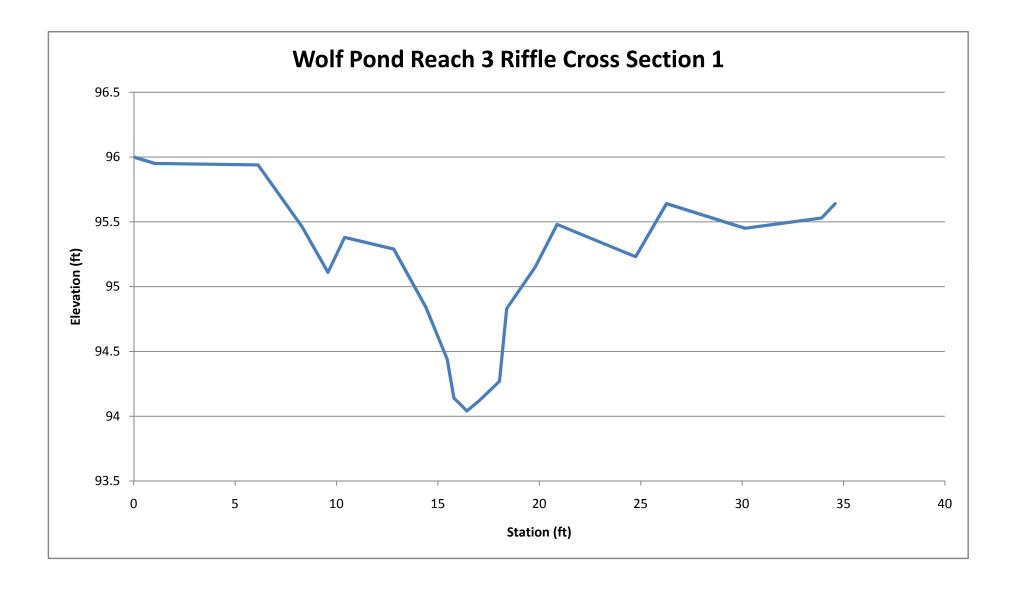


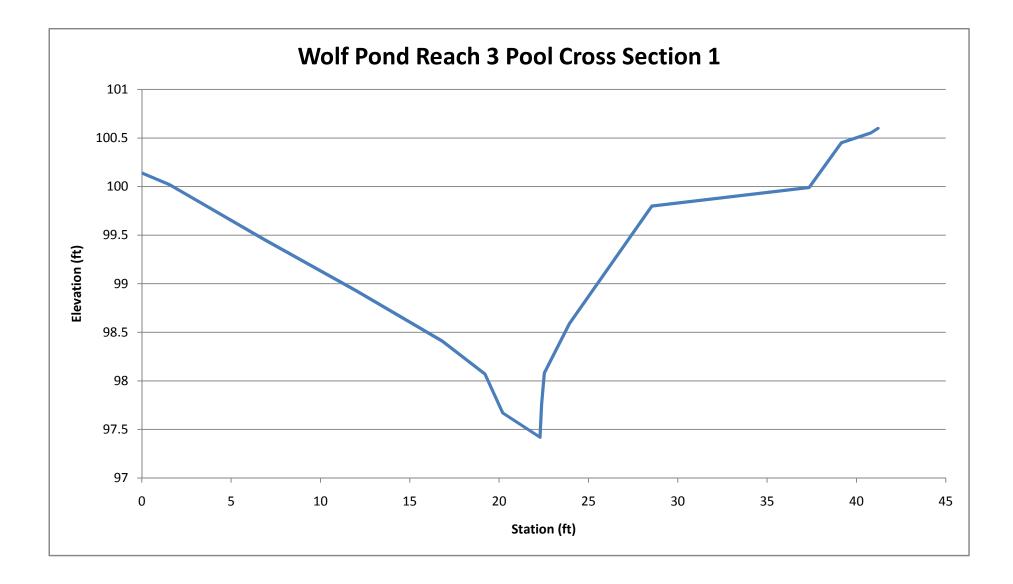


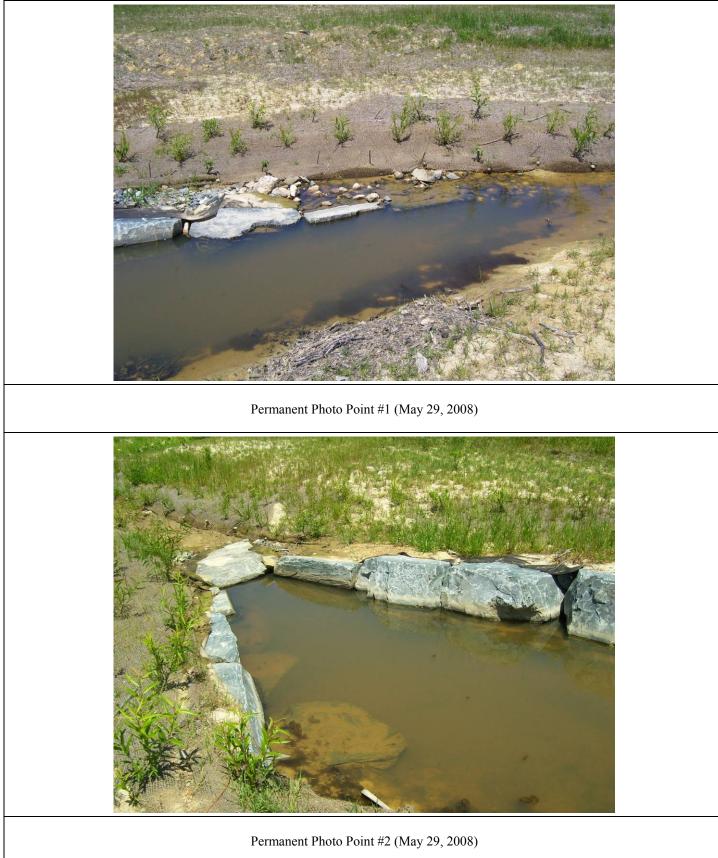


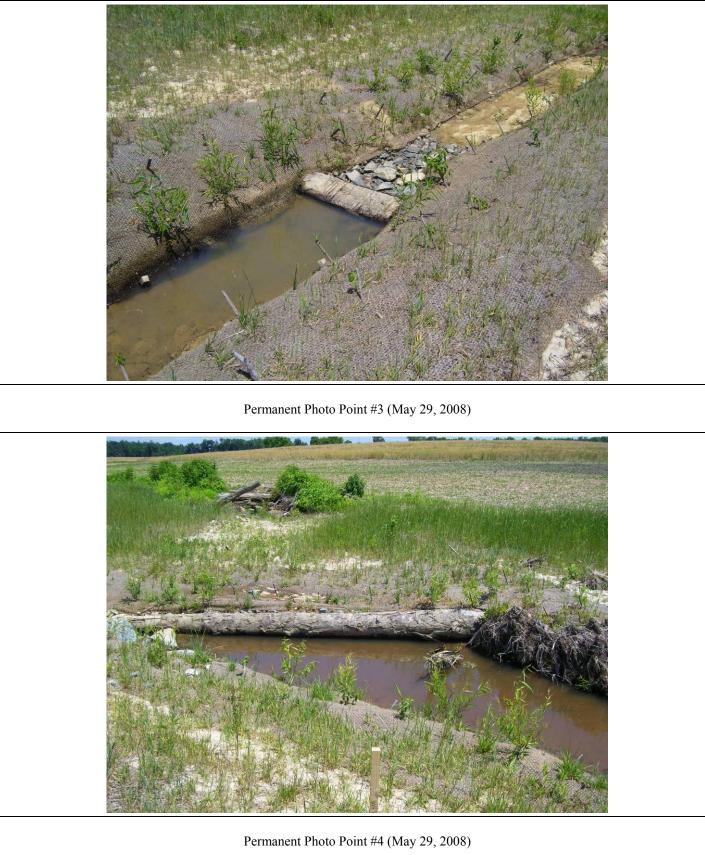


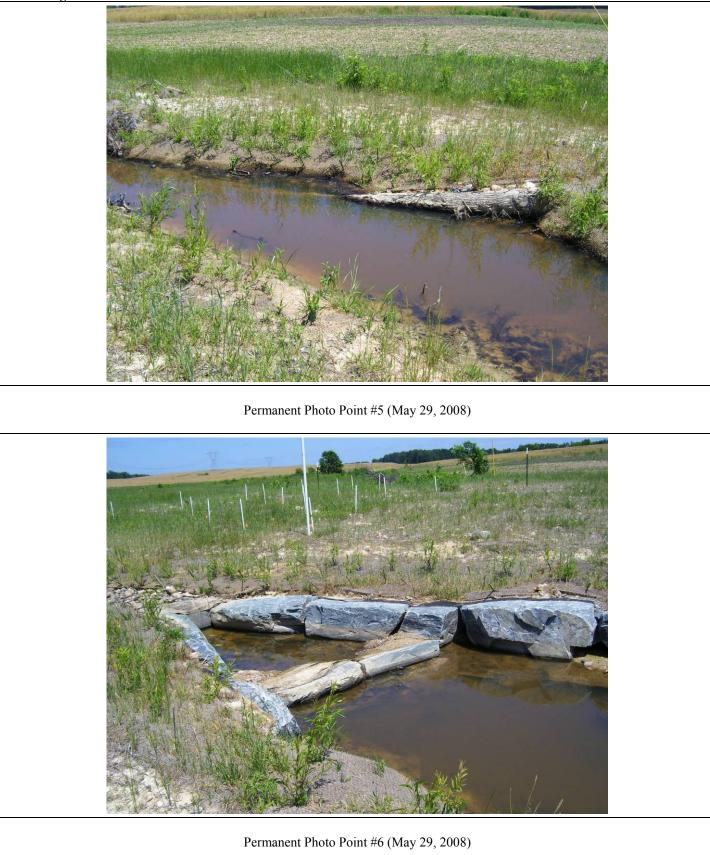


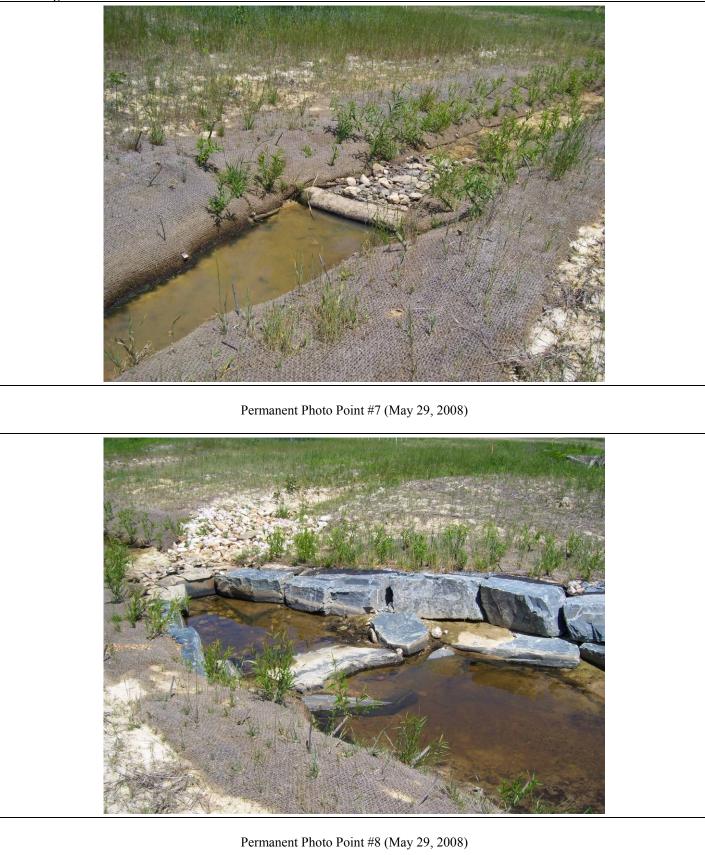




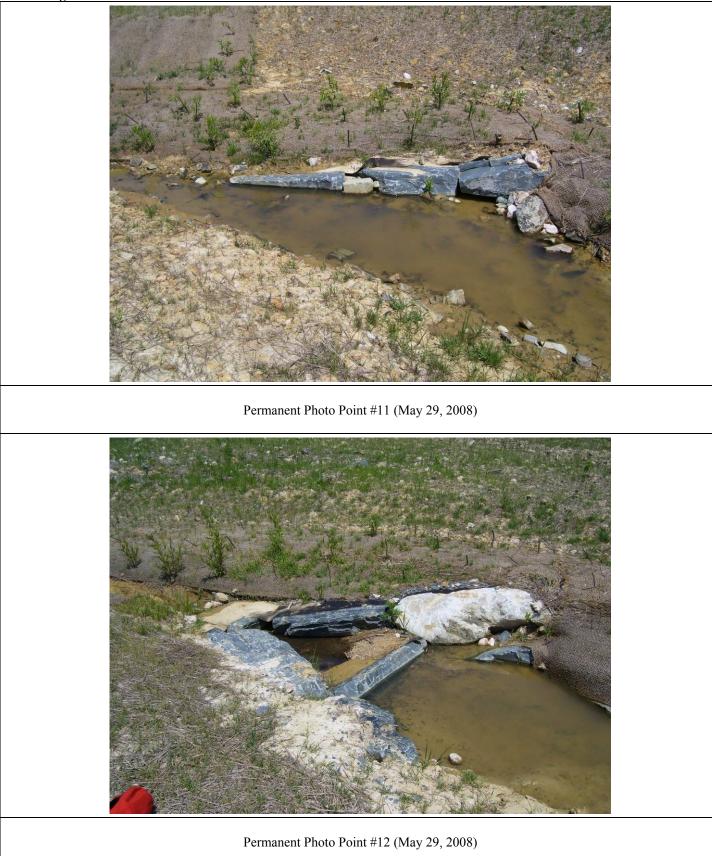


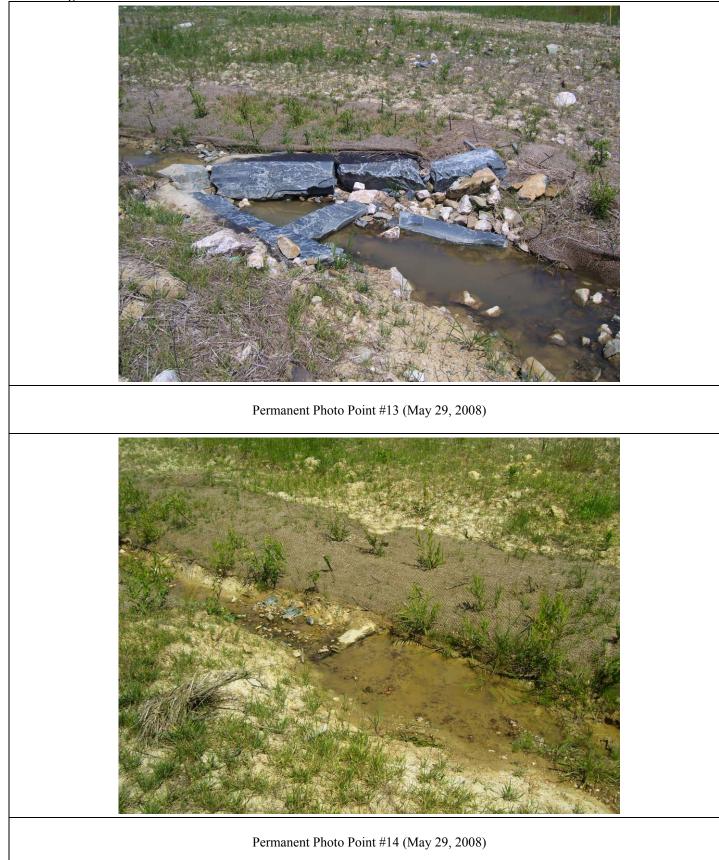






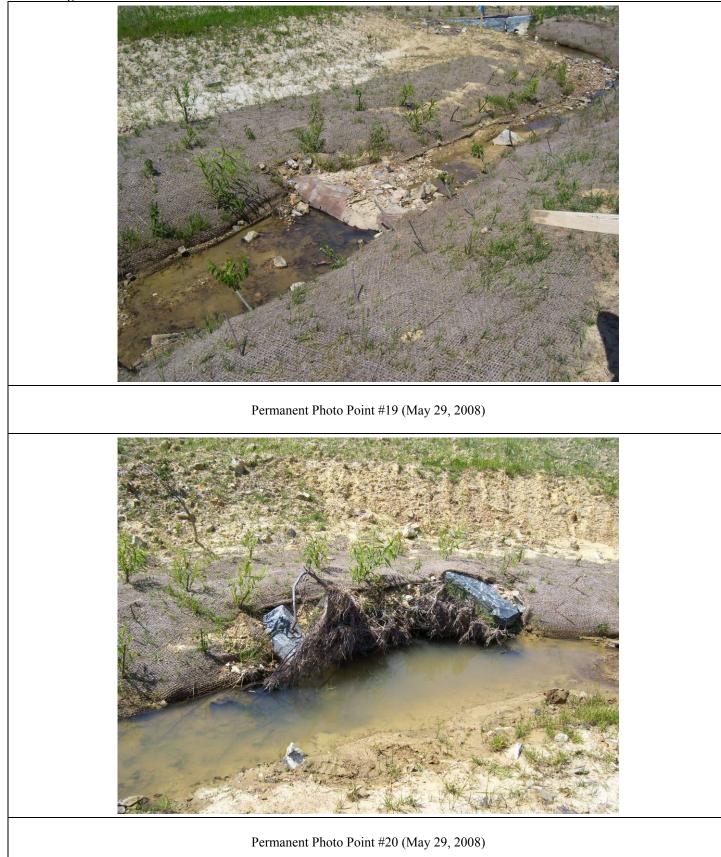


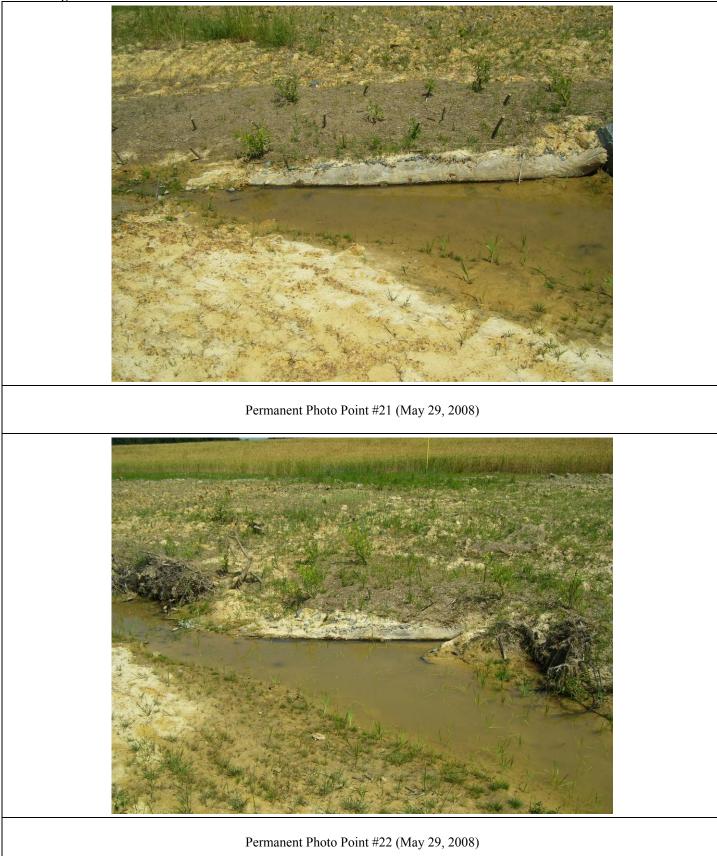


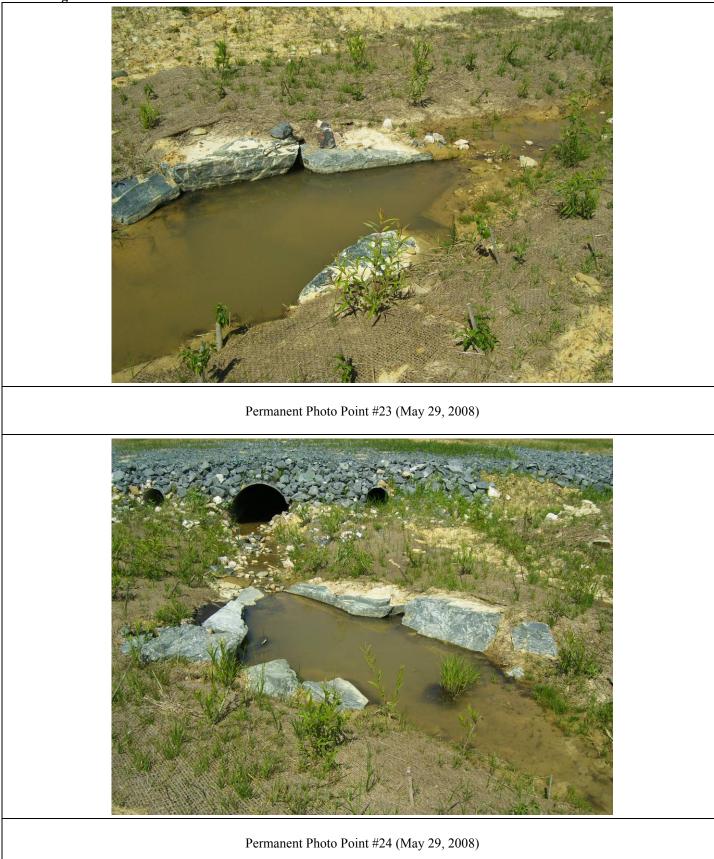




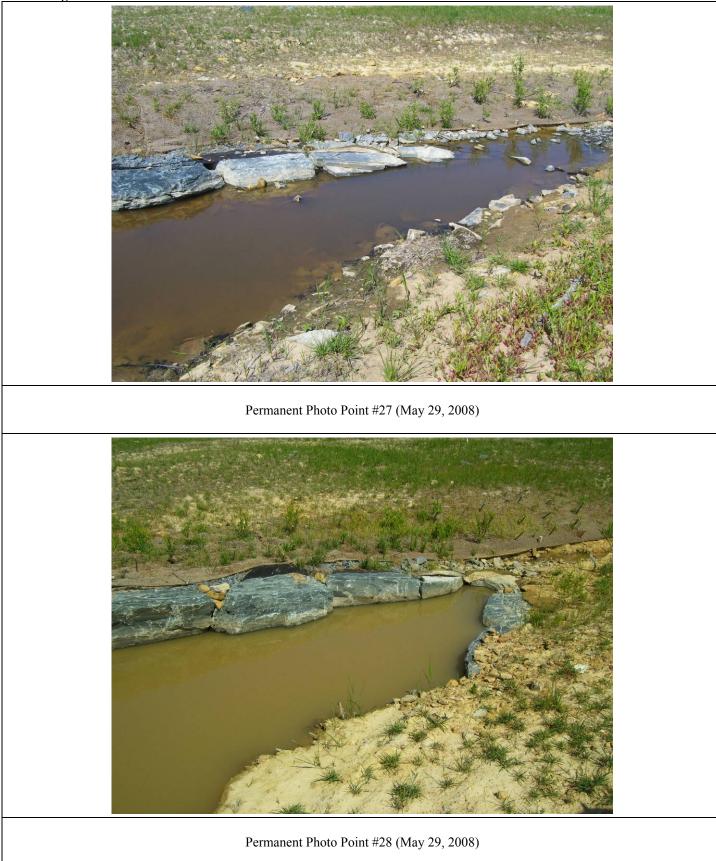




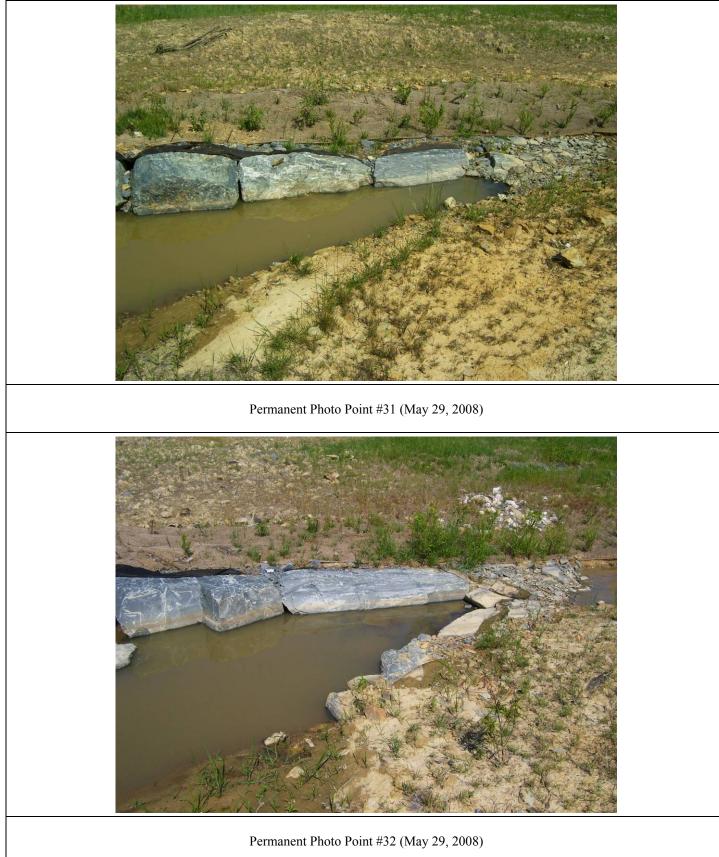






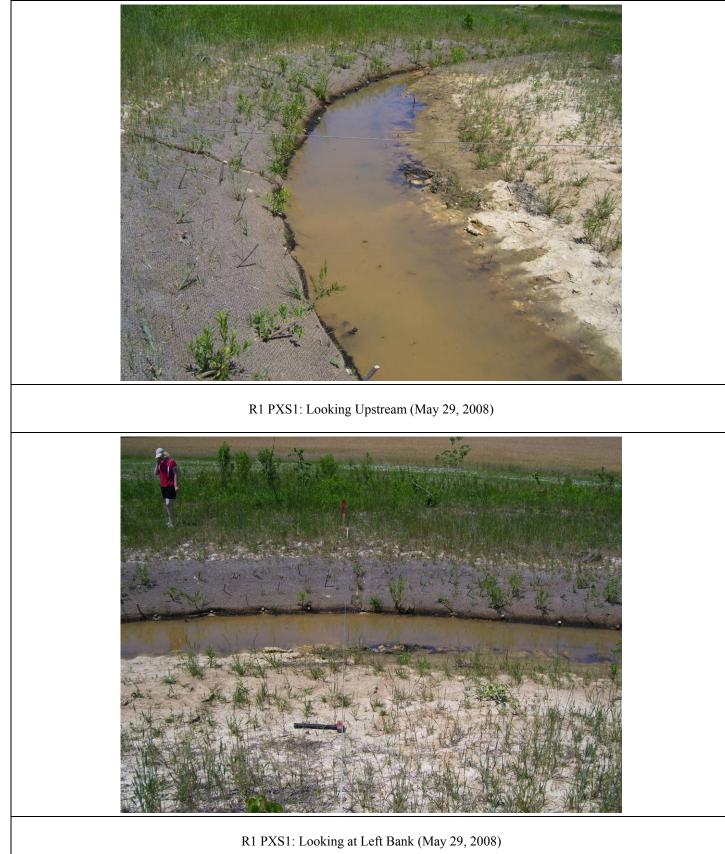








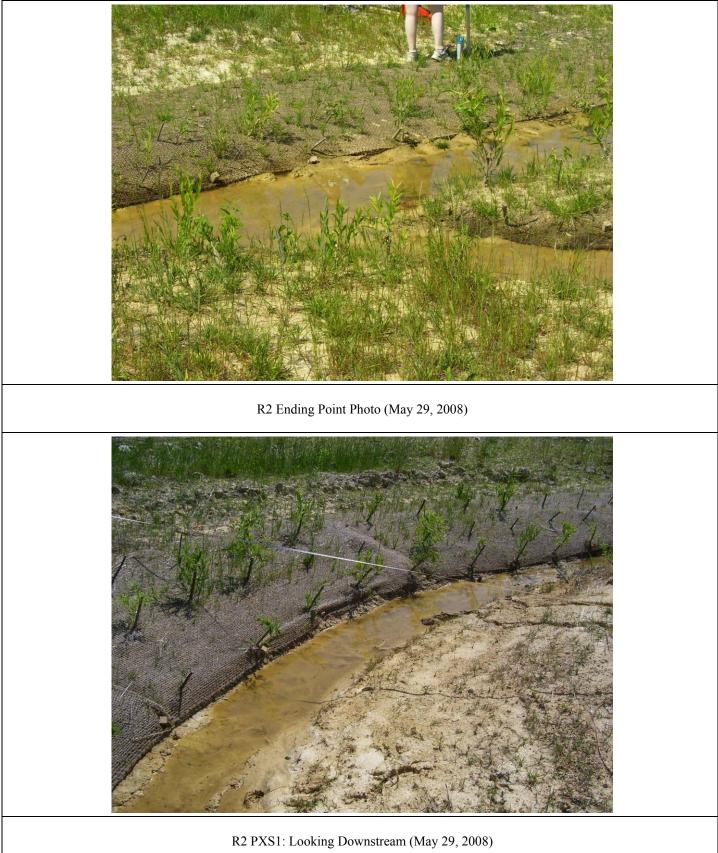




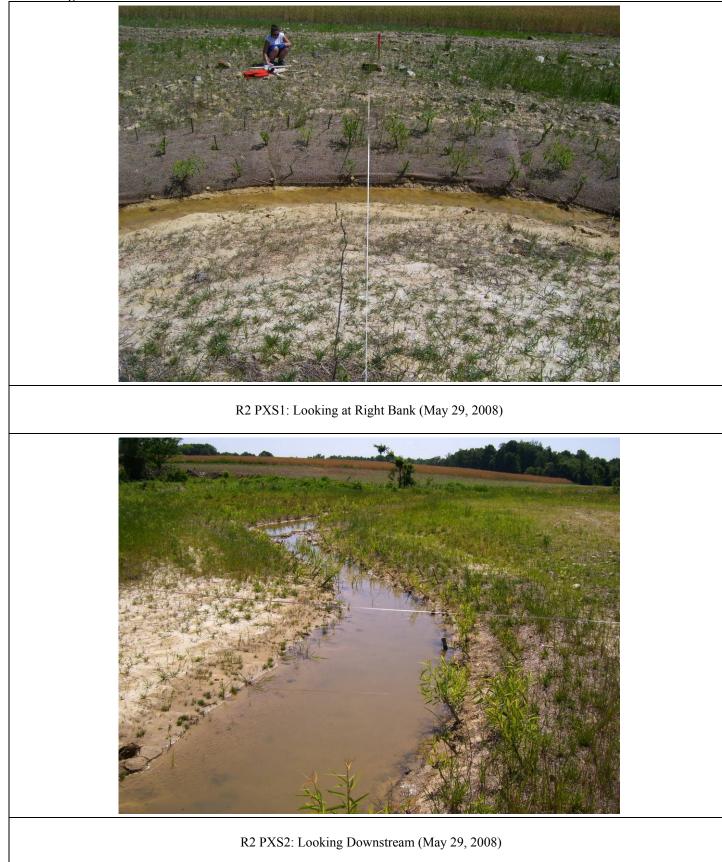


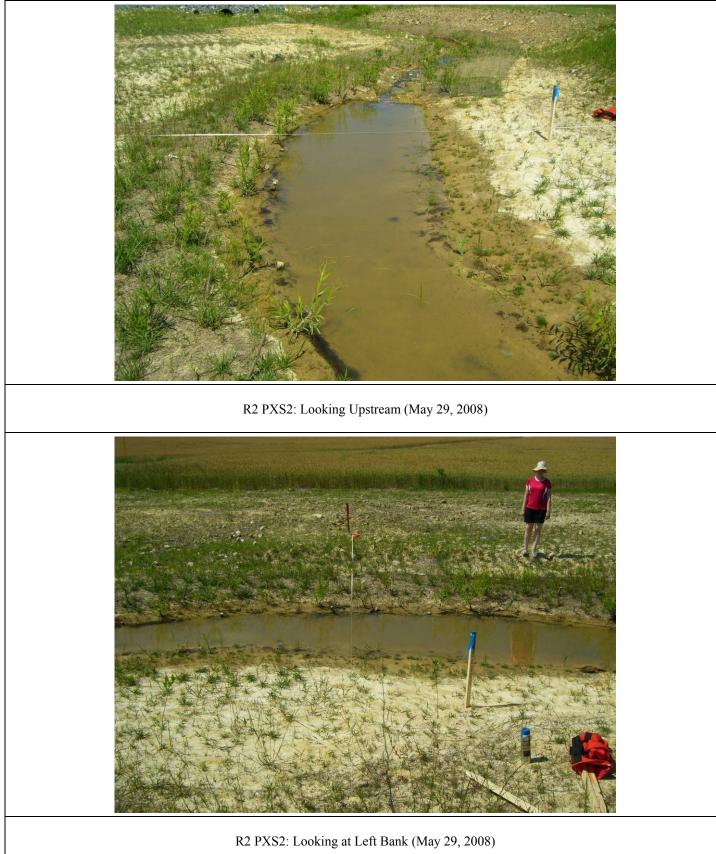


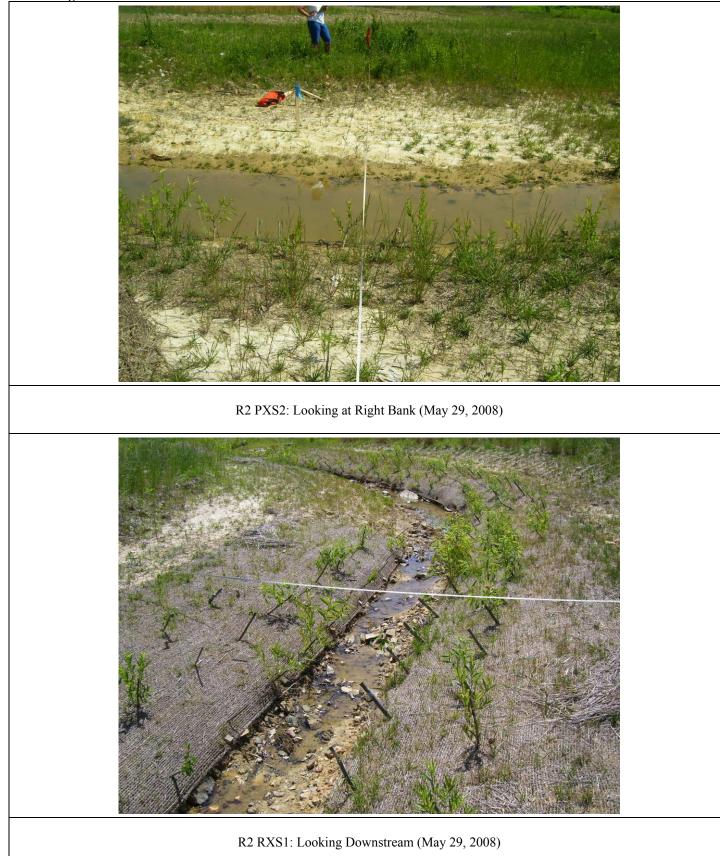


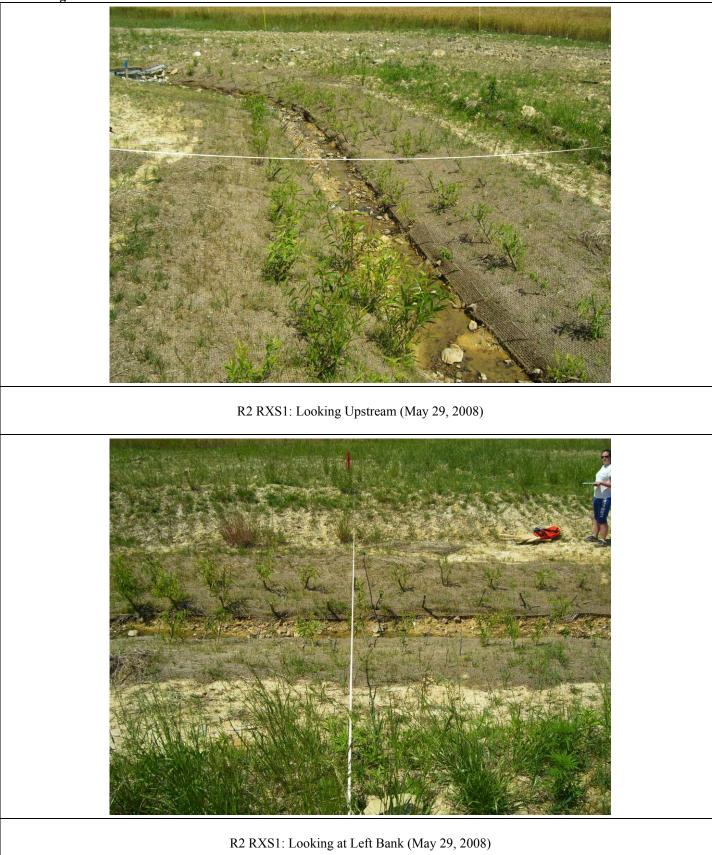






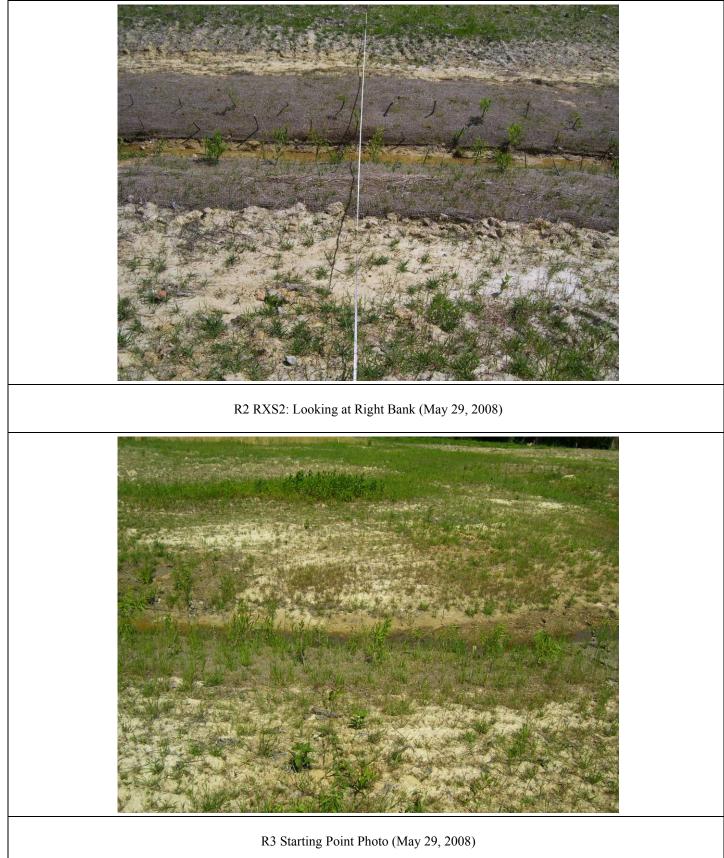


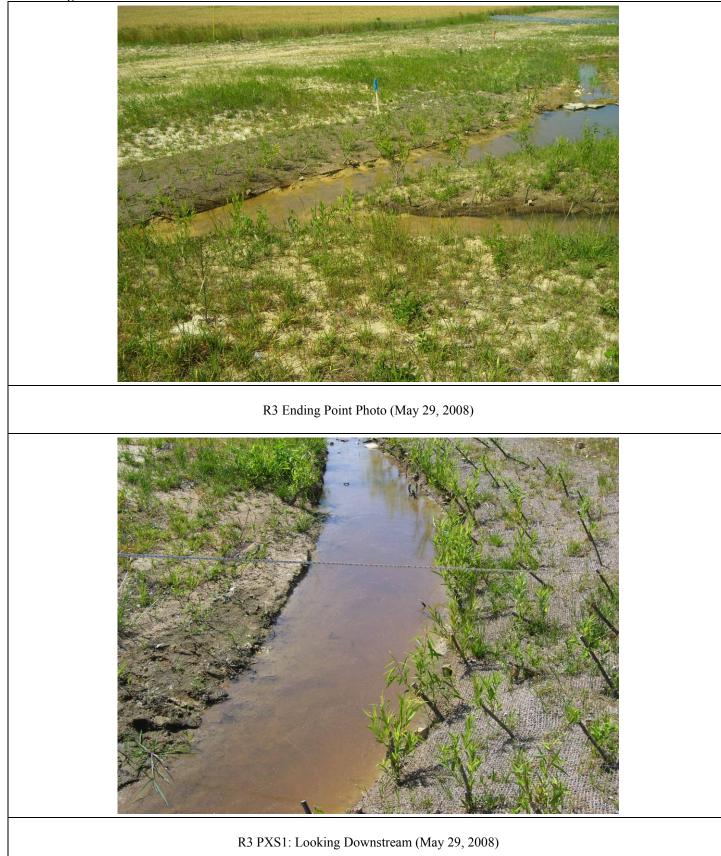


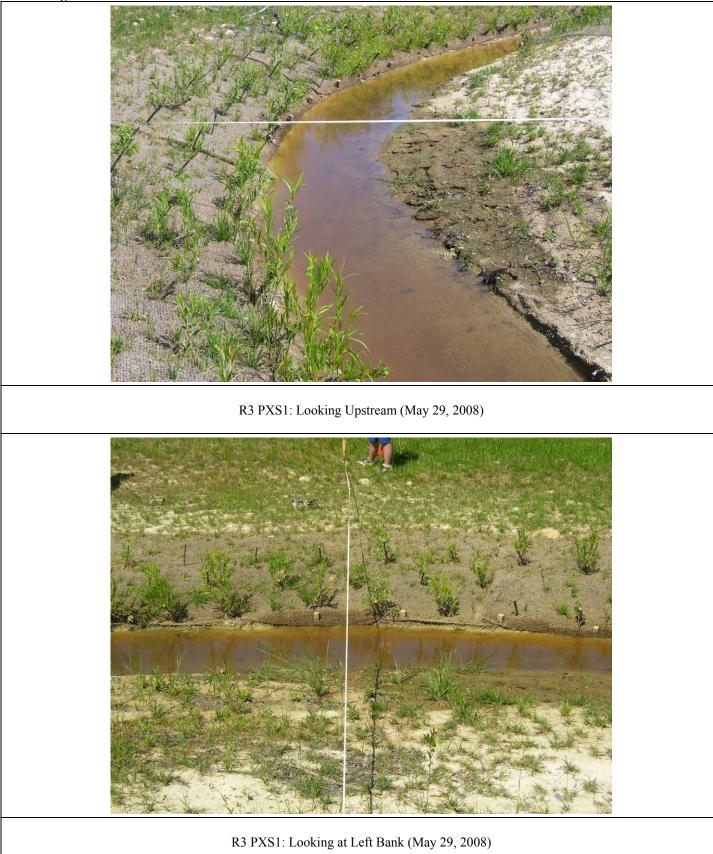


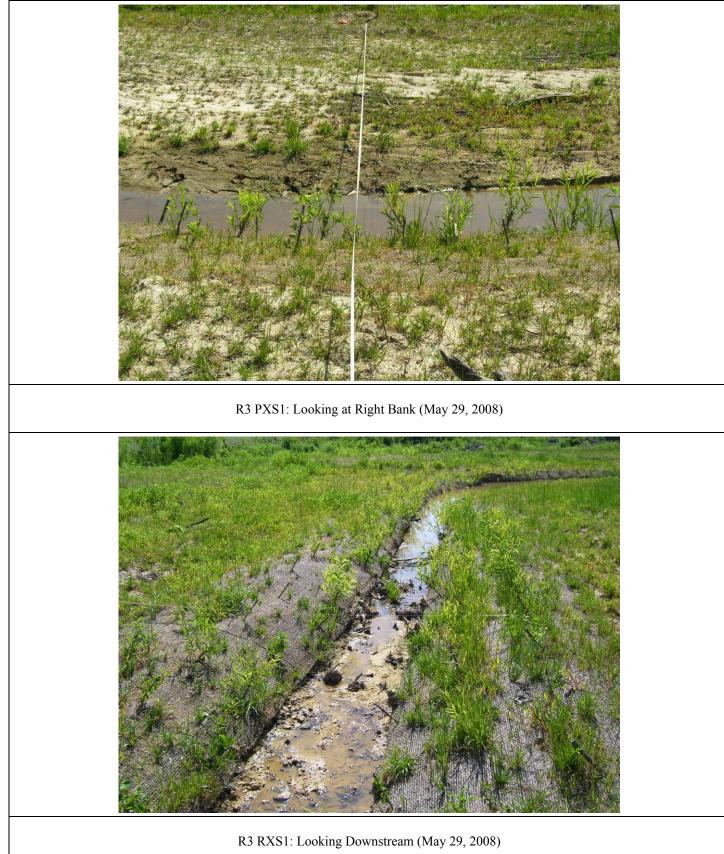


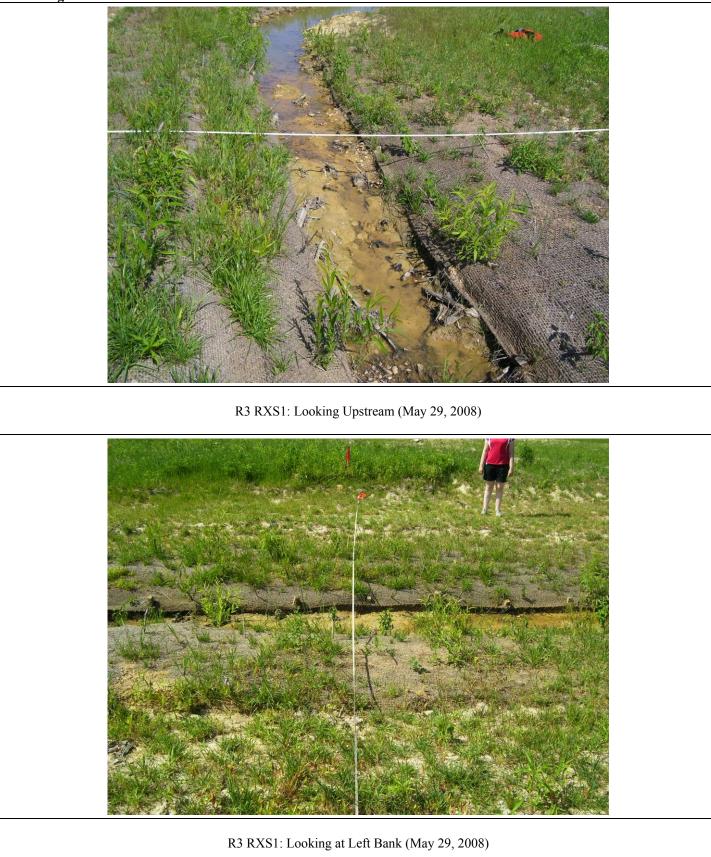


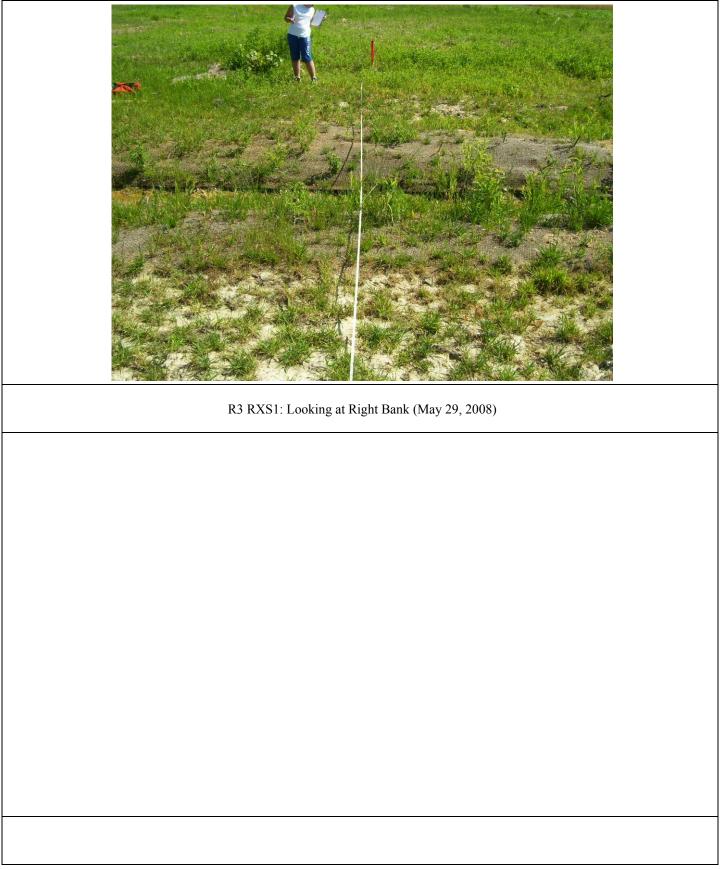






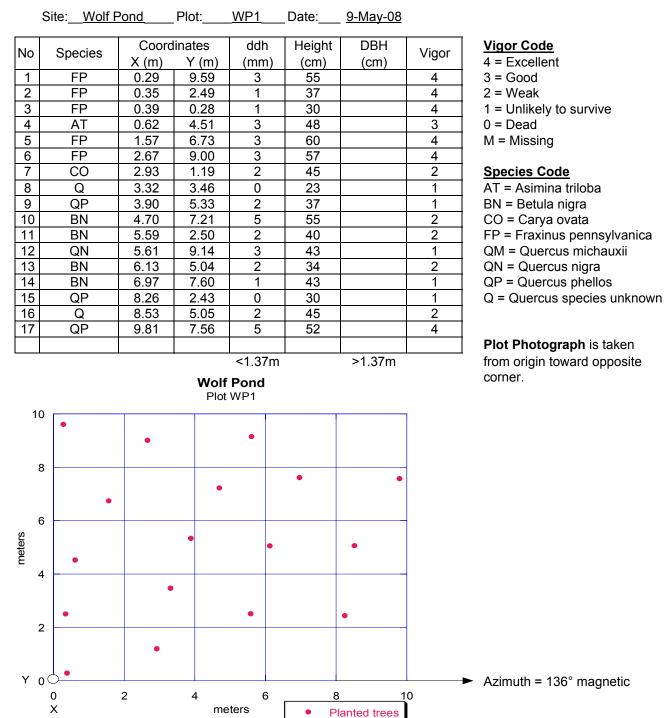






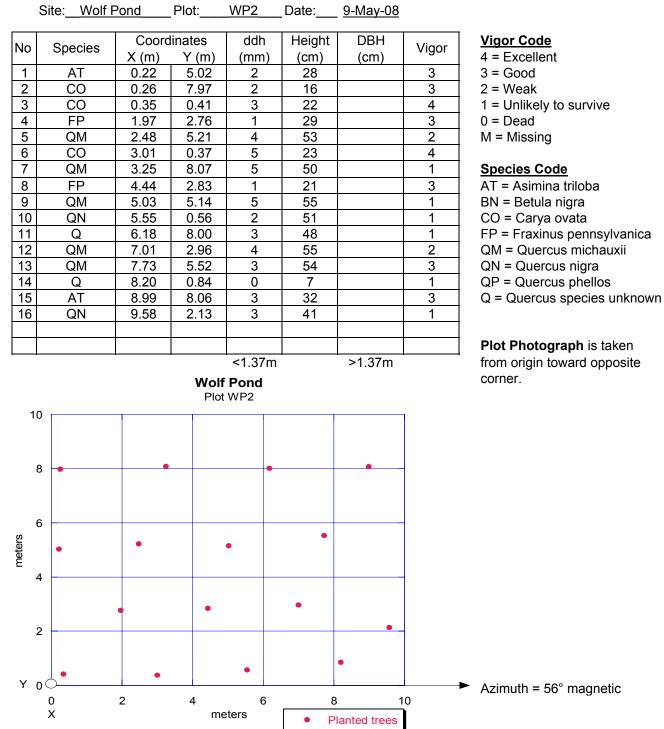
Vegetation

Environmental Banc & Exchange IPO Number: NC-01-2007 Monitoring Plots Baseline Data



Plot origin is the most Southwest corner and is identified by a 10' section of PVC pipe.

Monitoring Plots Baseline Data



Plot origin is the most Southwest corner and is identified by a 10' section of PVC pipe.

WP3

Monitoring Plots Baseline Data

Plot:

Site: Wolf Pond

Date: <u>9-May-08</u>

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No	Species	Coordinates		ddh	Height	DBH	Vigor	<u>Vigor Code</u>
NU	opecies	X (m)	Y (m)	(mm)	(cm)	(cm)	vigoi	4 = Excellent
1	FP	0.15	7.12	1	33		4	3 = Good
2	AT	0.29	1.45	3	44		3	2 = Weak
3	QM	0.30	9.80	1	44		3	1 = Unlikely to survive
4	QM	0.37	4.29	1	25		1	0 = Dead
5	FP	2.31	7.16	4	53		3	M = Missing
6	CO	2.86	9.91	2	18		3	-
7	BN	2.87	1.65	3	43		2	Species Code
8	QM	3.13	4.21	2	59		1	AT = Asimina triloba
9	AT	4.58	7.21	1	27		2	BN = Betula nigra
10	BN	5.29	1.81	2	46		2	CO = Carya ovata
11	CO	5.65	9.85	1	14		1	FP = Fraxinus pennsylvanica
12	QN	5.82	4.47	4	49		1	QM = Quercus michauxii
13	Q	6.65	7.28	0	12		1	QN = Quercus nigra
14	BN	7.46	1.68	3	43		2	QP = Quercus phellos
15	Q	8.48	4.42	2	40		1	Q = Quercus species unknown
16	QM	8.62	9.86	7	58		4	
17	QN	8.82	7.25	3	50		1	
18	BN	9.90	1.68	2	46		3	Plot Photograph is taken
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Plot origin is the most Southwest corner and is identified by a 10' section of PVC pipe.

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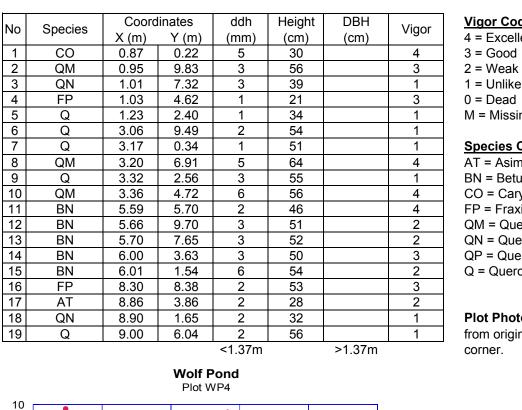
Plot:

Site: Wolf Pond

Monitoring Plots Baseline Data

Date:

<u>9-May-08</u>



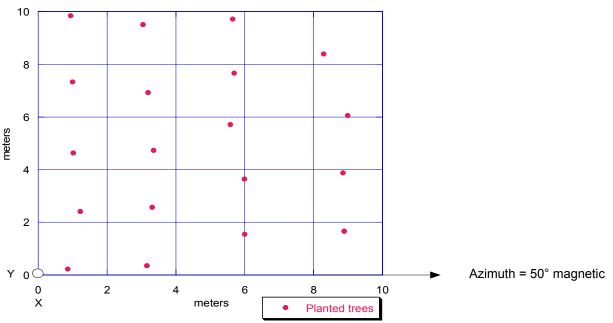
Vigor Code

4 = Excellent 1 = Unlikely to survive M = Missing

Species Code

AT = Asimina triloba BN = Betula nigra CO = Carya ovata FP = Fraxinus pennsylvanica QM = Quercus michauxii QN = Quercus nigra QP = Quercus phellos Q = Quercus species unknown

Plot Photograph is taken from origin toward opposite

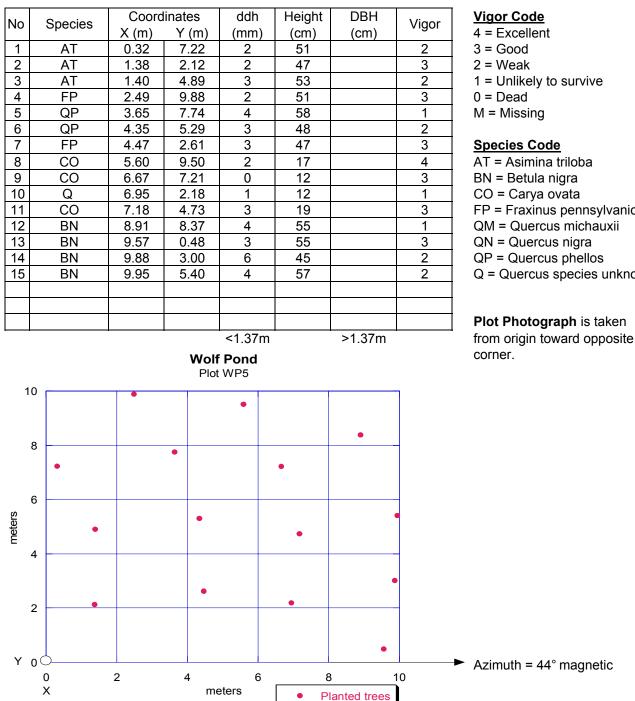


Plot origin is the most Southwest corner and is identified by a 10' section of PVC pipe.

Monitoring Plots Baseline Data

Site: Wolf Pond Plot:

WP5 Date: 9-May-08



- 1 = Unlikely to survive
- FP = Fraxinus pennsylvanica QM = Quercus michauxii QN = Quercus nigra QP = Quercus phellos Q = Quercus species unknown

Plot Photograph is taken

Plot origin is the most Southwest corner and is identified by a 10' section of PVC pipe.

Wolf Pond Vegetation Plot Photos June, 2008



Vegetation Plot 1



Vegetation Plot 2



Vegetation Plot 3



Vegetation Plot 4



Vegetation Plot 5