



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Albuquerque District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application Number: SPA-2011-00288

Date: April 6, 2012

Comments Due: April 27, 2012

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District (Corps), is evaluating a permit application to excavate approximately 1.16 acre of Mosquito Lake in the Saguache Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest in order to create a recreational trout fishery. The lake is a natural, shallow alpine lake with no man-made improvements. Anecdotal information indicates there was a viable fishery in the lake more than fifty years ago. This notice is to inform interested parties of the proposed activity and to solicit comments.

AUTHORITY: This application is being evaluated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S.

APPLICANT: Rio Grande National Forest
Saguache Ranger District
46525 Highway 17
Saguache, Colorado 81149

LOCATION: The project site is located in Section 10, Township 47 N, Range 7 E, Latitude 38.3376°, Longitude -106.1802°, Saguache County, Colorado.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to drain Mosquito Lake and excavate approximately 1.16 acres of the lake bottom. The total open water area of the lake is approximately 2 acres, and the acreage of open water will not change. The existing depth of the lake averages less than two feet. Post-project depth will be a maximum of 9 feet, which will allow for over-wintering of a stocked trout population. The quantity of material to be removed is approximately 7,500 cubic yards. Equipment to be used will be a track hoe and dump trucks. Access into the lake from adjacent uplands will require mats to be placed across approximately 15 feet of emergent vegetation. No excavation will occur within two feet of this vegetated fringe, and bottom contours will be established at a 3-to-1 slope waterward of this area to prevent sloughing. Hydraulic pumps will de-water the lake and provide continuous de-watering throughout the construction period. The pump hose outlets will be placed directly into Mosquito Creek approximately 25 feet downstream from the existing natural lake outlet. Expected flows during initial drainage will be 5 cfs (cubic feet per second), and will drop to 2 cfs for the duration of the project. Existing flows of Mosquito Creek average 1.5 cfs and are fairly constant throughout the warmer

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months. Methods to control potential sedimentation have not been identified. The existing natural lake outlet will be reinforced with rock in an area measuring approximately 4 feet by 4 feet. The bottom elevation of the outlet will be raised approximately 8 inches in order to raise the post-project elevation of the water level in the lake. The reinforced outlet work will be done by hand, including hauling in rock by wheel barrow from the equipment access road. No grouting will be used. In order to maintain stability of the outlet, no excavation will be allowed within 15 feet of the outlet, nor within any vegetated shallows areas near the outlet. Road improvements and construction of a recreational user parking area will not require work in waters of the United States. Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to provide a recreational trout fishing opportunity within the Saguache Ranger District. The applicant believes there is a need to provide a vehicle accessible fishing location in the District since all others are accessible only by foot or horseback over long distances. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant has avoided and minimized permanent impacts by deleting plans for a fishing peninsula, by reducing the area to be excavated, by proposing to construct outlet improvements by hand only, and by proposing to install construction mats for heavy equipment access across the shoreline. In addition, the applicant has located an upland disposal site for the dredged material. Post-project activities include restoration and monitoring of the equipment access area and monitoring of the outlet area for natural re-vegetation and long-term stabilization.

OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS:

State Water Quality Certification: The applicant is required to obtain water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Section 401 requires that any applicant for an individual Section 404 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps of Engineers prior to permit issuance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Environmental Setting. The site is characterized as a small alpine (approximately 10,750 feet elevation) lake at the headwaters of Mosquito Creek. The lake is uniformly shallow with a perimeter of emergent vegetation. A large portion of the upstream area of the lake is herbaceous marsh.

Alternatives. The applicant has provided information concerning project alternatives. Alternatives proposed by the applicant include the “no action” alternative which would leave the lake in its present naturally shallow state with no recreational fishery. Additional information concerning project alternatives are available upon request. All reasonable project alternatives, in particular those which may be less damaging to the aquatic environment, will be considered.

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EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR Part 230).

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: The Corps consulted district files and records, the latest version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and state records of NRHP-eligible and potentially eligible historic properties to determine if there are any cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed undertaking. Based on this initial information, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project will not likely affect any historic properties. The Forest Service is also in the process of conducting a cultural resource survey as part of their project evaluation process. This information will be used by the Corps in making a final determination.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Corps has reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) latest published version of Federally-listed endangered and threatened species located in Saguache County, Colorado, to determine if any listed species or their critical habitat may occur in the proposed project area. We also conducted informal consultation with the local USFWS office. The Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed activity will not affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: All comments pertaining to this Public Notice must reach this office on or before April 27, 2012 which is the close of the comment period. Extensions of the comment period may be granted for valid reasons provided a

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written request is received by the limiting date. If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections. Anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state, with particularity, the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the Corps determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location. Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to:

Hildreth Cooper, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
1970 E. 3rd Avenue, Suite 109
Durango, Colorado 81301
970-259-1582
FAX 970-259-1658
E-mail: Hildreth.L.Cooper@usace.army.mil

Please note that names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice may be made publicly available through the Freedom of Information Act.

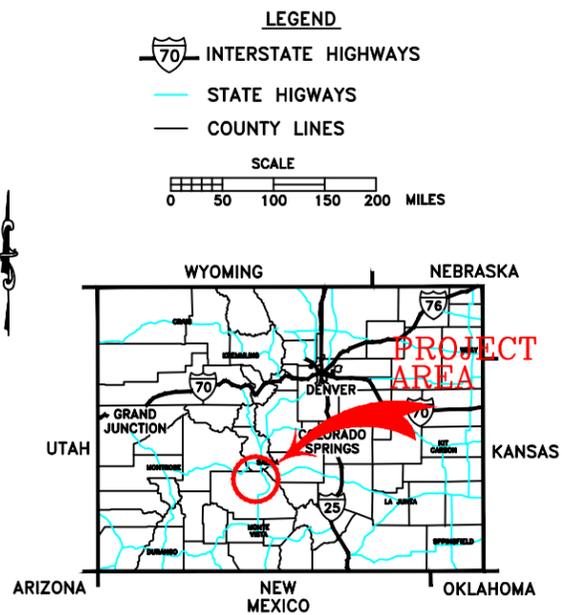
DISTRICT ENGINEER
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Enclosure

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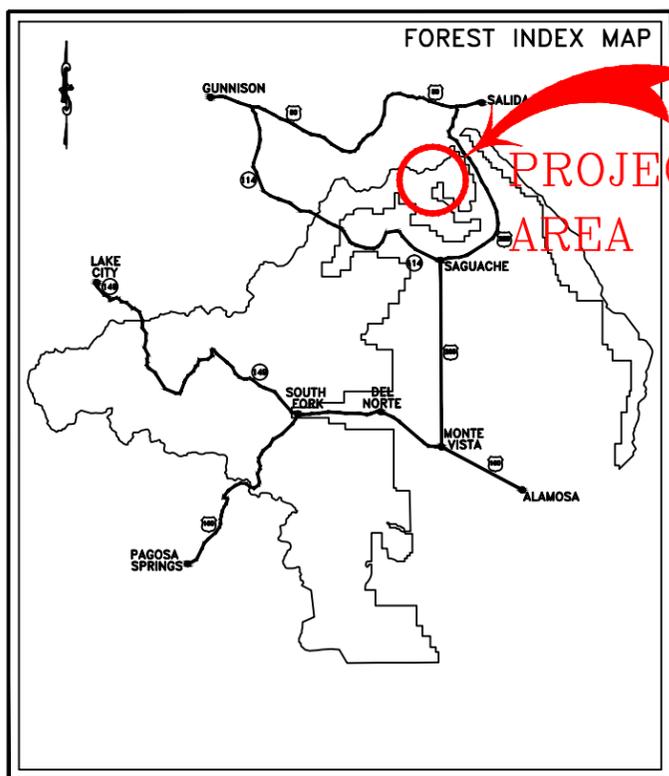
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FOREST SERVICE
 REGION TWO

RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST
 DRAWINGS FOR PROPOSED
 MOSQUITO LAKE DREDGE
 SAGUACHE RANGER DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION	SHEET NO.
COVER SHEET	1
PROJECT INFORMATION	2
EXISTING SITE	3
PROPOSED SITE	4
DETAILS	5-6



PREPARED BY: J. CONNERS
 REVIEWED BY: J. MOLL

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FOREST SERVICE

R-2
 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

RECOMMENDED BY: _____ Qualified Engineer _____ Date _____
 RECOMMENDED BY: _____ Forest Engineer _____ Date _____
 RECOMMENDED BY: _____ District Ranger _____ Date _____
 APPROVED BY: _____ Forest Supervisor _____ Date _____

Forest
RIO GRANDE N. F.
 Project Name
MOSQUITO LAKE DREDGE

Sheet Title
COVER SHEET
 Scale: **NO SCALE**
 Sheet: **1 OF 6**

ABBREVIATIONS

CU. YD.	CUBIC YARDS
D.Q.	DESIGN QUANTITY
L.S.Q.	LUMP SUM QUANTITY
L.S.	LUMP SUM
NFSR	NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROAD

PAY ITEMS				
ITEM NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	METHOD OF MEASUREMENT	QUAN.	UNIT
017113	MOBILIZATION	L.S.Q.	1	L.S.
311313	CLEARING AND GRUBBING	L.S.Q.	1	L.S.
352023	DREDGING/EXCAVATION	D.Q.	7500	CU. YD.
340113	ROAD RECONDITIONING	L.S.Q.	1	L.S.
354237	OUTLET REINFORCEMENT	L.S.Q.	1	L.S.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE



R-2
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

RECOMMENDED BY:	_____	Qualified Engineer	_____	Date
RECOMMENDED BY:	_____	Forest Engineer	_____	Date
RECOMMENDED BY:	_____	District Ranger	_____	Date
APPROVED BY:	_____	Forest Supervisor	_____	Date

Forest
RIO GRANDE N. F.

Project Name
**MOSQUITO LAKE
DREDGE**

Sheet Title	
PROJECT INFORMATION	
Scale	Sheet
NO SCALE	2 OF 6



BEFORE

NOTE: NO SURVEY DATA EXISTS FOR LAKE DEPTH. CONTOURS SHOWN ARE BEST ESTIMATE.

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FOREST SERVICE



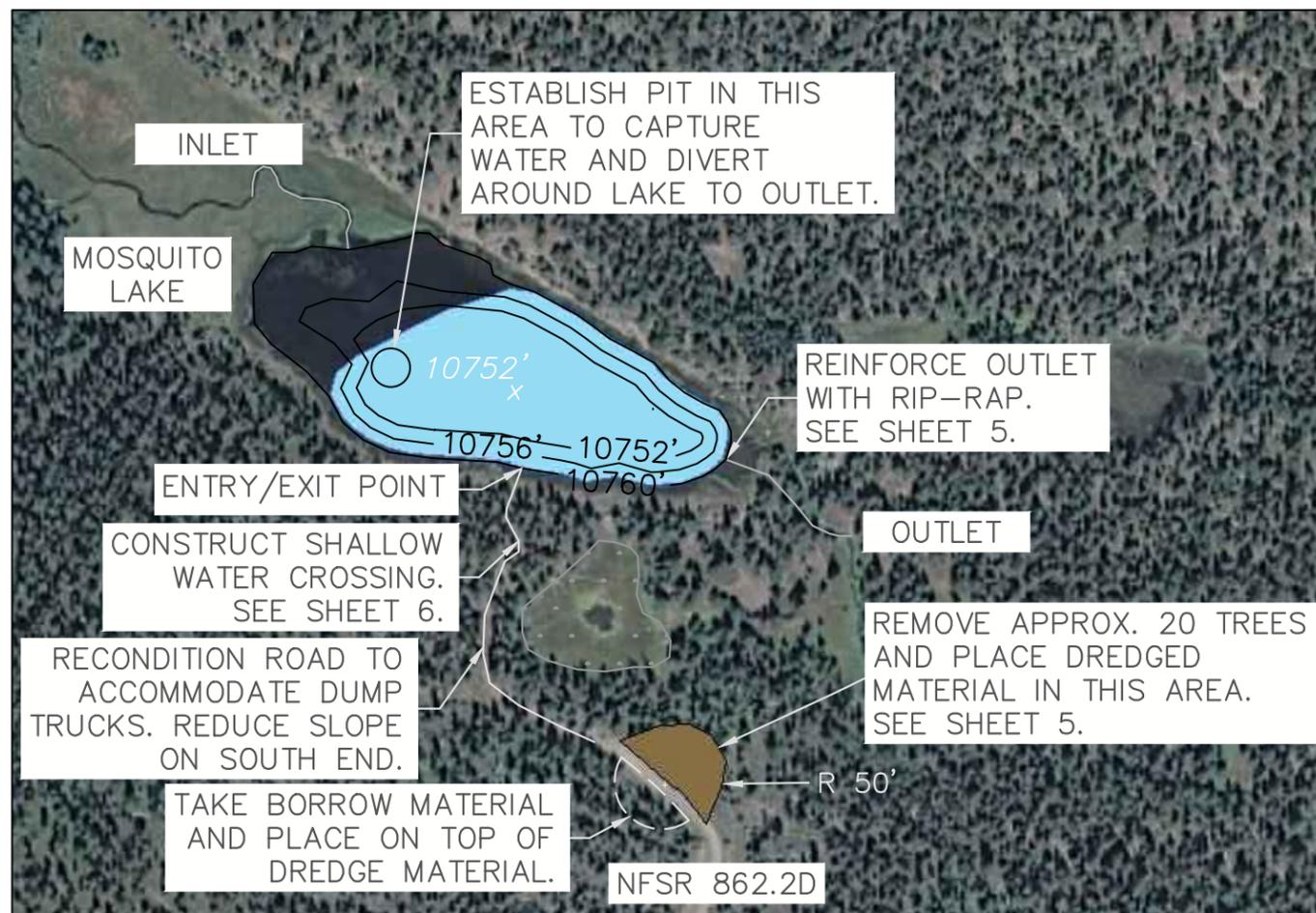
R-2
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

RECOMMENDED BY:	_____	Qualified Engineer	_____	Date
RECOMMENDED BY:	_____	Forest Engineer	_____	Date
RECOMMENDED BY:	_____	District Ranger	_____	Date
APPROVED BY:	_____	Forest Supervisor	_____	Date

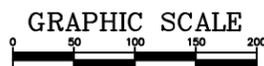
Forest
RIO GRANDE N. F.

Project Name
**MOSQUITO LAKE
DREDGE**

Sheet Title EXISTING SITE	
Scale 1" = 150'	Sheet 3 OF 6



AFTER



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE



R-2
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

RECOMMENDED BY: _____ Qualified Engineer _____ Date _____

RECOMMENDED BY: _____ Forest Engineer _____ Date _____

RECOMMENDED BY: _____ District Ranger _____ Date _____

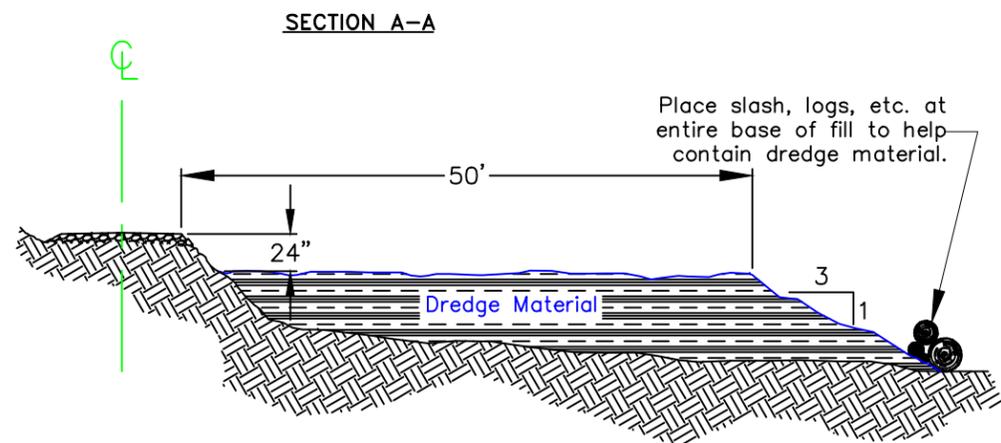
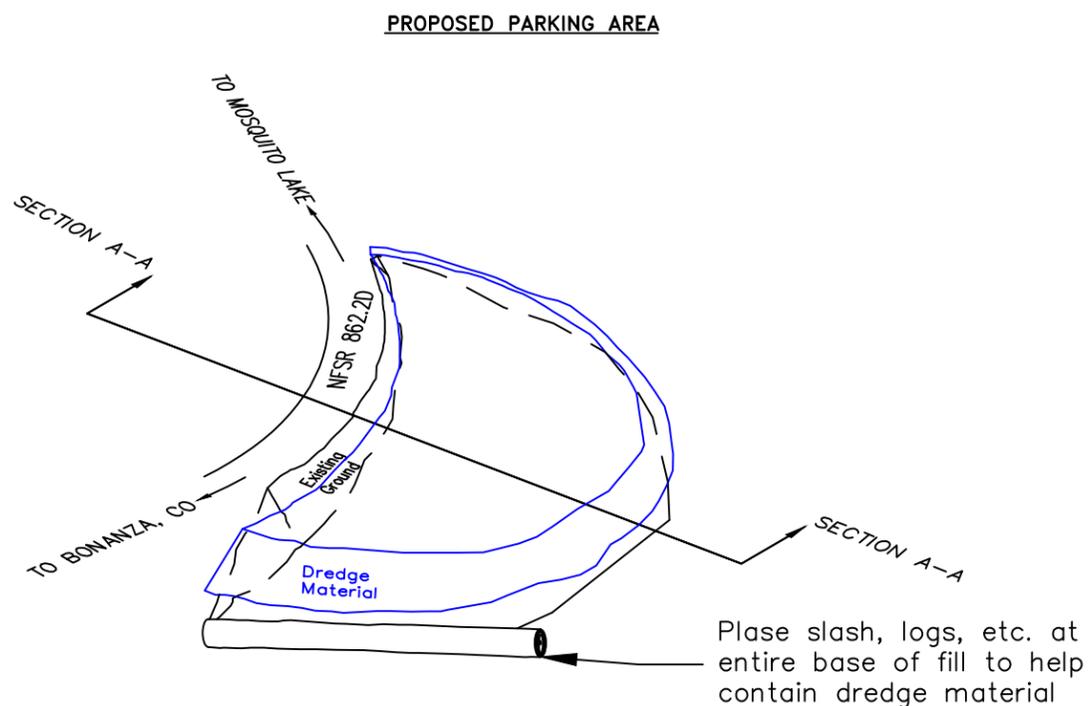
APPROVED BY: _____ Forest Supervisor _____ Date _____

Forest
RIO GRANDE N. F.

Project Name
**MOSQUITO LAKE
DREDGE**

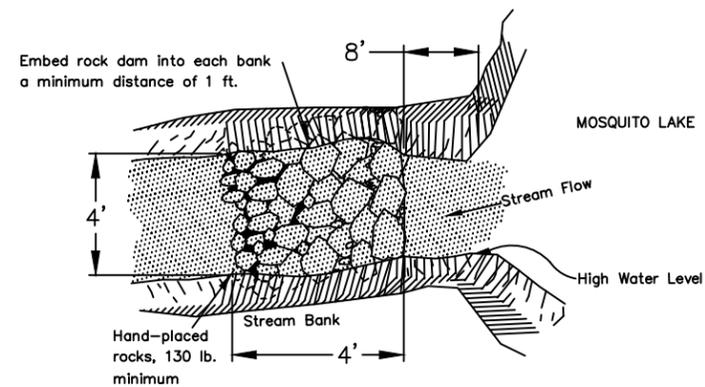
Sheet Title
PROPOSED SITE

Scale 1" = 150'	Sheet 4 OF 6
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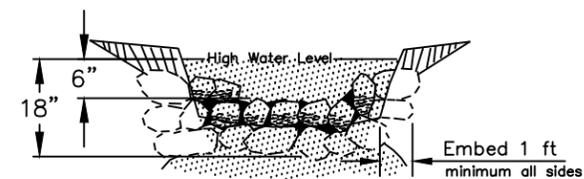


OUTLET STREAM ROCK REINFORCEMENT

NOT TO SCALE

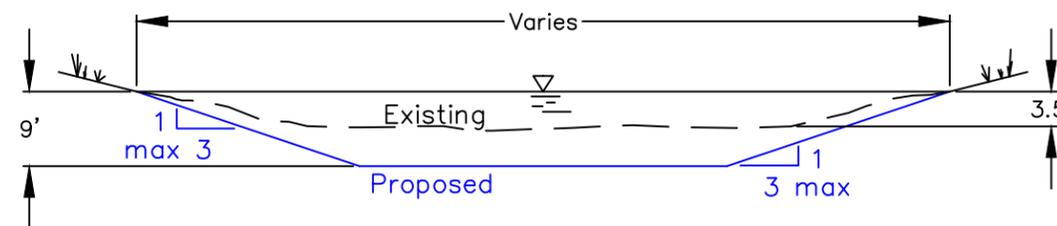


PLAN VIEW



PROFILE VIEW

TYPICAL LAKE CROSS SECTION



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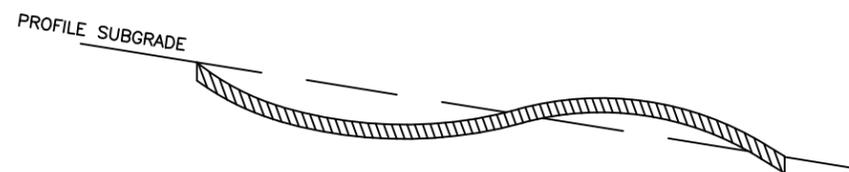
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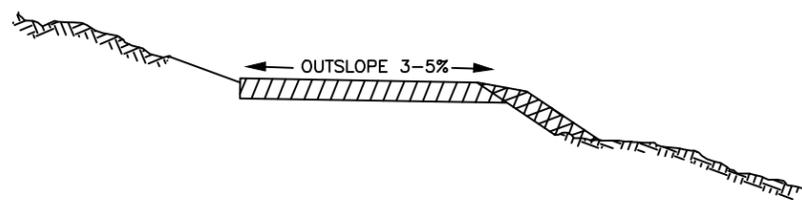
Forest
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Sheet Title
DETAILS
Scale
NO SCALE
Sheet
5 OF 6

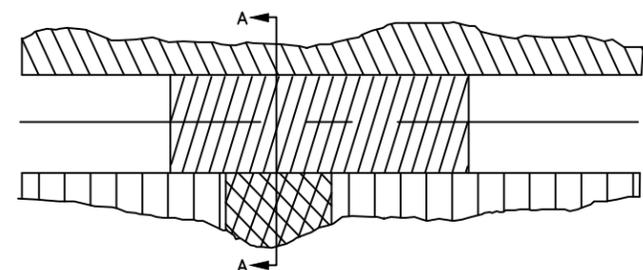
PROFILE



SECTION A-A



PLAN



-  FILL SLOPE
-  CUT SLOPE
-  SUBGRADE TREATMENT
-  SLOPE PROTECTION

NOTES

- 1) THE DRAIN DIP INVERT SHALL BE SMOOTH AND FREE DRAINING.

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R-2
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Sheet Title
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NO SCALE
 Sheet
6 OF 6