

#### The Growing & Evolving Benefits of Stream Restoration

From Resiliency to Stormwater BMPs – How Will the Industry Continue to Adapt?

J. George Athanasakes October 30, 2018



#### Presentation Outline

- Evolution of Funding Sources
- Key Drivers of Restoration by Region
- Stormwater BMP
- Key BMP to Build Resilient Communities
- Continued Evolution
- Conclusions

#### **Evolution of Funding Sources**

- Municipalities
- Grant Programs
- Philanthropy
- Mitigation
- Stormwater BMPs/MS4 Program/Sediment TMDLs
- Large Capital Projects
- Future Funding?



#### **Overview of Mitigation**

- It all Started with the Clean Water Act
- 2008 Final Compensatory Mitigation Rule
- Forms of Mitigation
  - On-Site
  - Mitigation Banks
  - In Lieu Fee Programs
- All Forms Offer Viable Mitigation





### On Site Mitigation

- Direct Mitigation for Project Impact
- Simplified Permitting Process
- Can be a Piece-Meal Approach
- Cost Considerations



### Mitigation Banking

- Requires Upfront Investment
- Once Approved Owner Sells Credits
- Credits Approved for Sale Based on Release Schedule
- Private Investment







#### In Lieu Fee

- Provides Means to PoolMitigation Dollars
- Allows for Larger More Comprehensive Restoration Projects
- Typically Paid at a Set Rate Per Unit of Impact

#### Typical ILF Costs per Credit Foot

- North Carolina \$507
- Kentucky \$280 \$710
- Tennessee \$400 \$600
- Virginia \$375 \$700

"...environmental regulation is driving a \$25-billion-per year restoration industry that directly employs more people than coal mining, logging, or steel production — but fewer than oil and gas or auto manufacturing"

— Todd BenDor, UNC

#### **Drivers by Region**

- Eastern US Mitigation
- Central US Grants
- Western US Endangered Species
- Drivers Evolving
  - Mitigation Expanding
  - Water Quality Programs

#### Nutrient Reduction Offset Credit – Chesapeake Bay

- Bay Declared a National Treasure
- Bay TMDL Established 2025 Pollution Reduction Goals
  - 6 Bay States
  - DC Area
- Influence of MS4 Programs
- Goal is to Reduce Pollution Levels by 20-25% over 2009 Levels\*

\*Cost estimated at \$7-10 Billion.

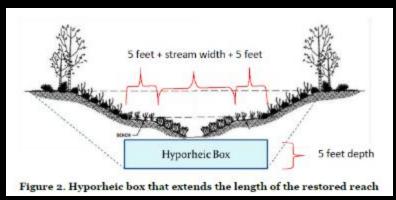


#### Ways to Generate Credits

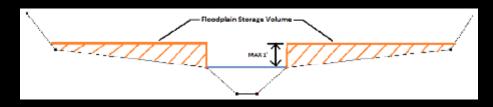
1 - Credit for Preventing Sediment Loss During Storm Flows



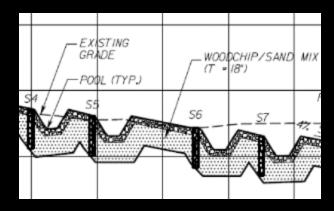
**2** - Credit for Instream & Riparian Nutrient Processing within the Hyporheic Zone During Base Flow



#### **3** - Credit for Floodplain Reconnection Volume



4 - Dry Channel Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance as an Upland Stormwater Retrofit



#### Nutrient Removal Cost Summary

- Traditional Stormwater
- Nutrient Bank (in VA only)
- Stream Restoration

\$20-75K per LB P \$15-20K per LB P \$2 -9K per LB P



#### Elm Fork Restoration Case Study

- Entrenched Stream
- Minimal Riffle Habitat
- Significant Erosion

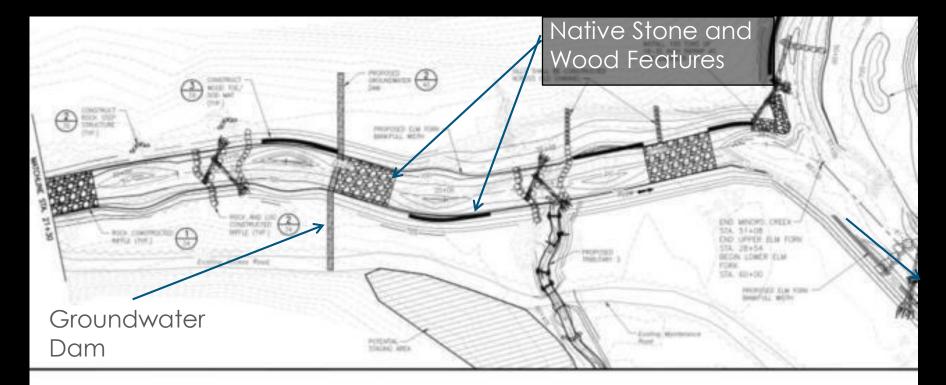


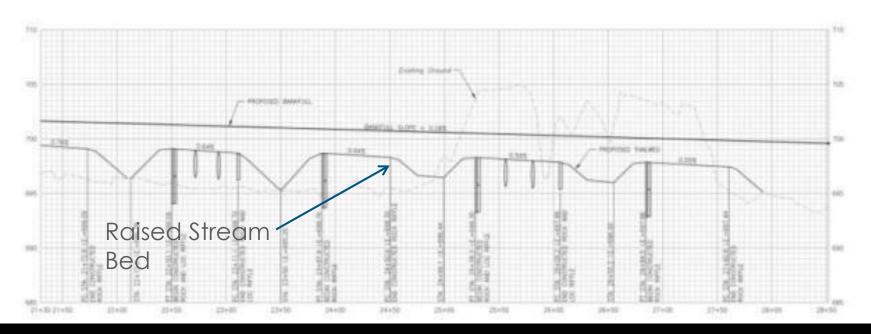
#### **Design Approach**

- Raised Channel Bed
- Established Floodplain Access
- Increased Riffle/Pool Habitat
- Project Encompasses
   8,500 Feet of Restoration

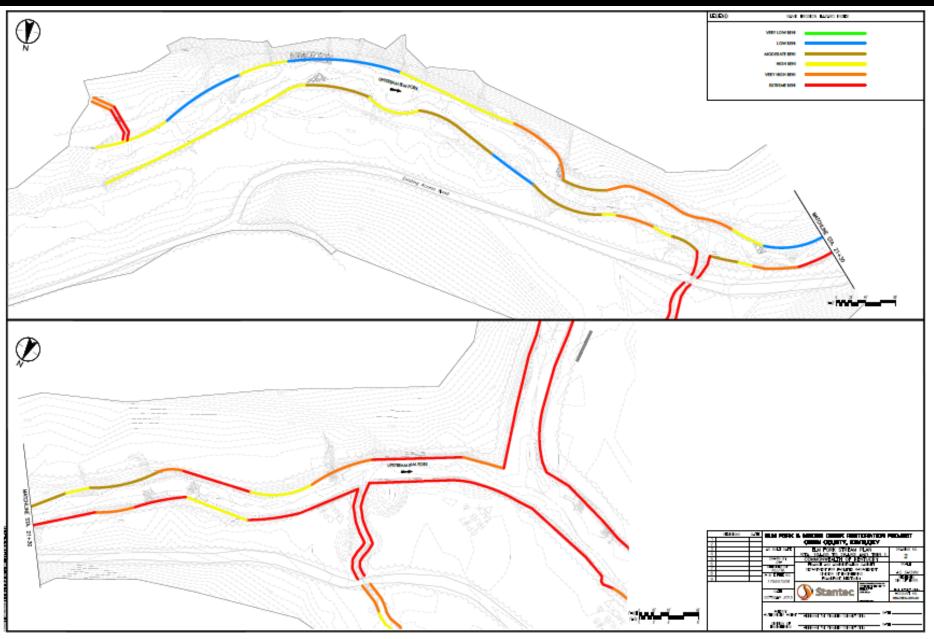




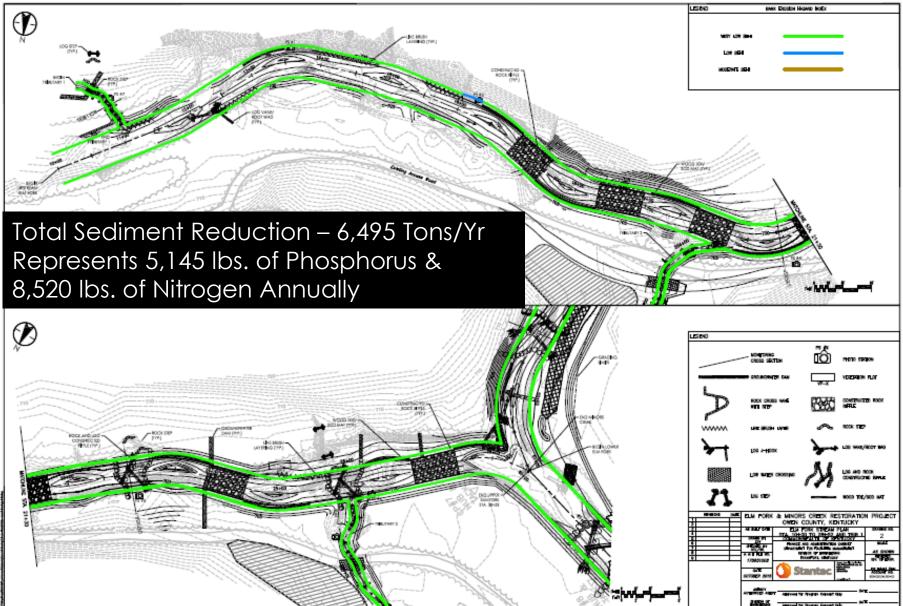




#### **Pre-Restoration BANCS Model**



#### **Post Restoration BANCS Model**

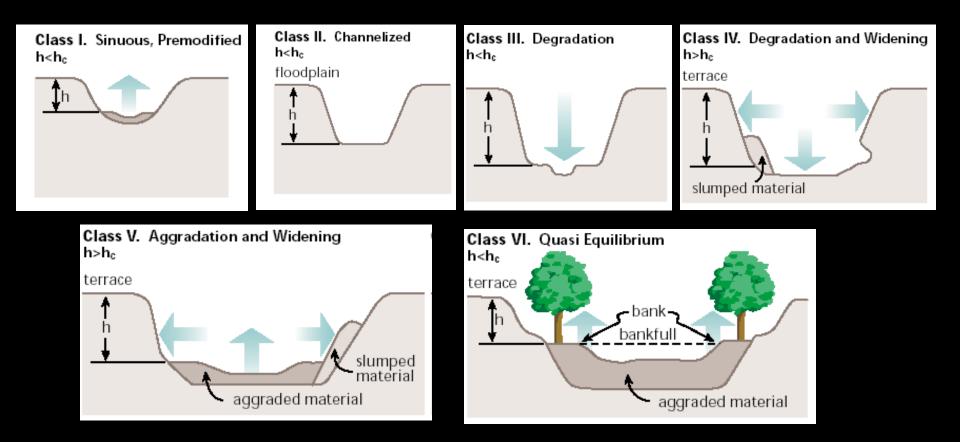


After 2 Growing Season

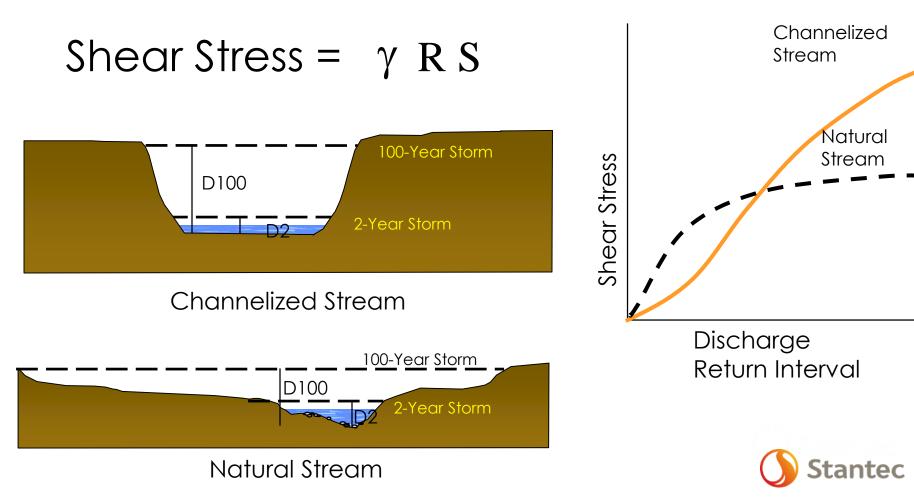
#### Use of Stream Restoration for Resiliency

- Properly Restored Stream Inherently Resilient
- Importance of Floodplain Access
- Need for Buffers
- Increase in Funding Related to Resiliency

## Simon's Modification of Schumm's Model

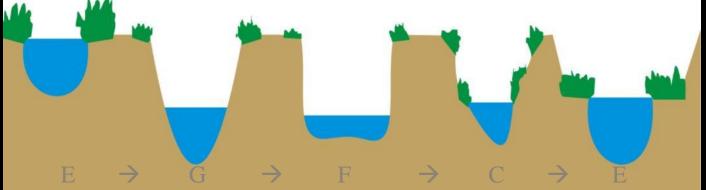


### **Shear Stresses in Streams**



# Use of Rosgen's Classification System to Predict Channel Evolution





#### Katy Prairie Stream Restoration Case Study

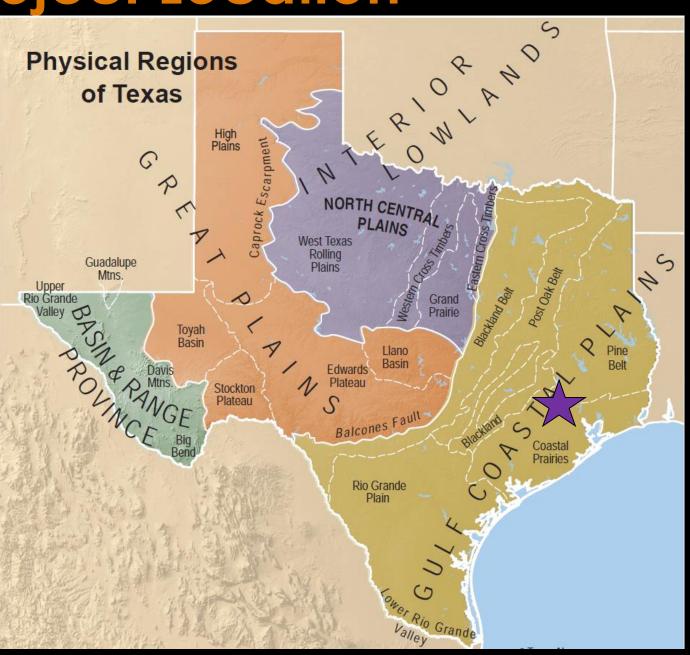
- Stream Mitigation Bank & PRM
- Poor Floodplain Access
- Poor Habitat

# **Project Goals**

- 1. Generate Stream Mitigation Credits
- 2. Stable Stream
  - Dimension Pattern
    Profile
  - 100-Year Flood
     Event
- 3. Restore Habitat



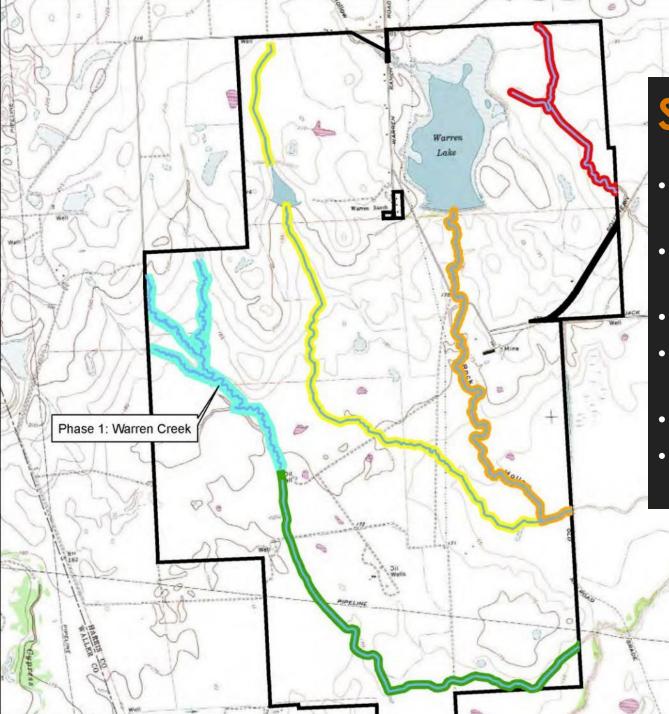
# **Project Location**



# **Project Partners**

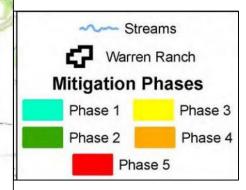
- Restoration Systems LLC
- Warren Ranch
- Katy Prairie Conservancy
- Stantec
- Forbes Consultancy
- Land Mechanics
- Wright Contracting
- Stuckey's Contract Services





#### Summary

- Umbrella Mitigation Bank
- PRM for the Grand Parkway
- 5 Phases
- Phases 1 4Constructed
- 86,000 Total Feet
- Post Construction Monitoring



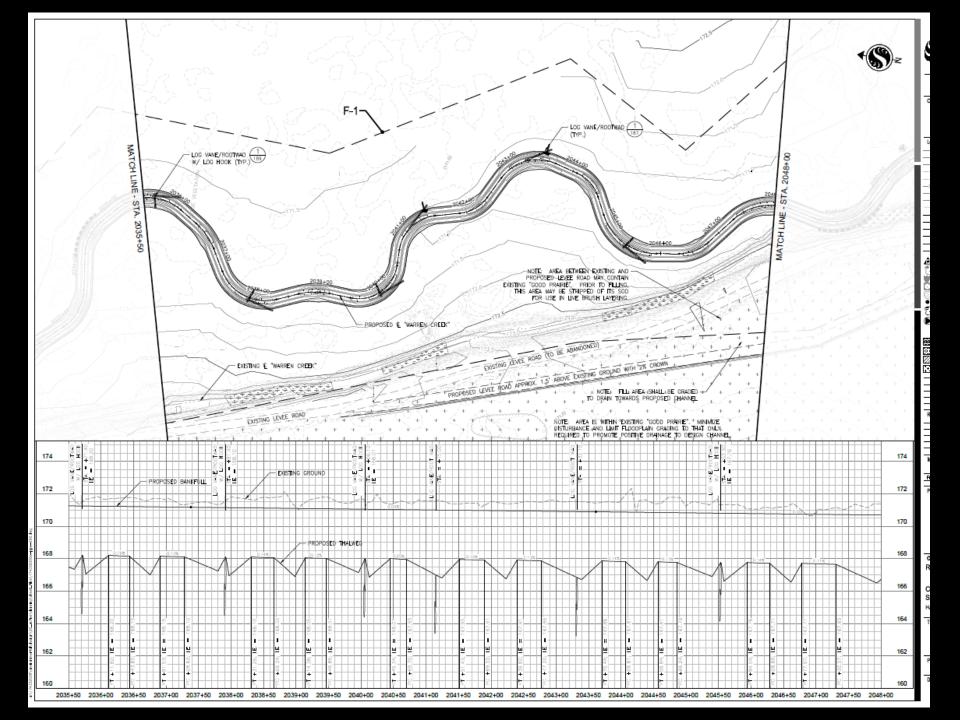


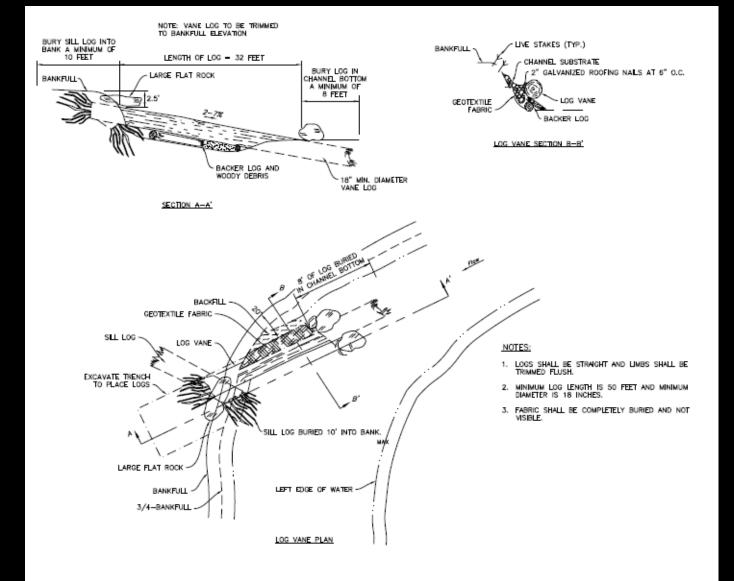


#### **Design Process**

- Review of Watershed
- Overview of Site (Toothpick Survey)
- Gage Analysis/Region Geomorphic Relationships
- Geomorphic Data Collection
  - Cross Sections
  - Longitudinal Profile
  - Pebble Counts
  - Bar Samples
- Sediment Transport Analysis













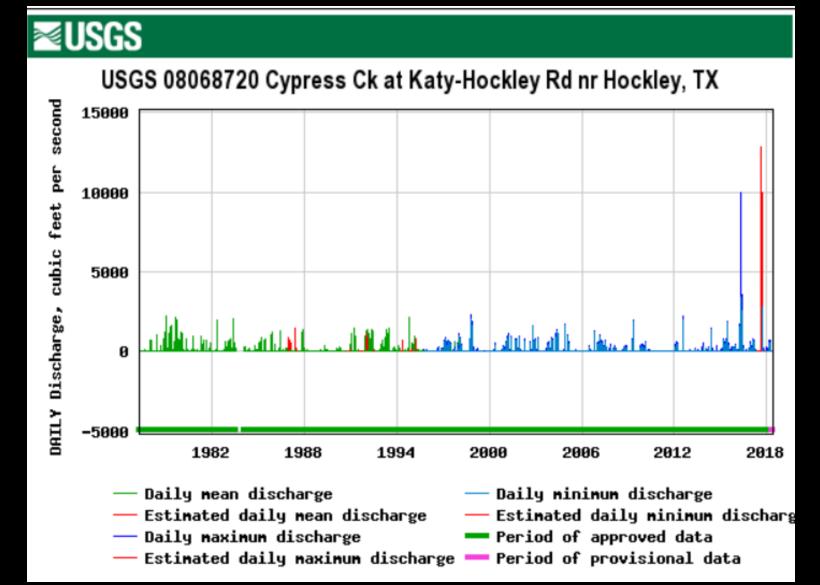




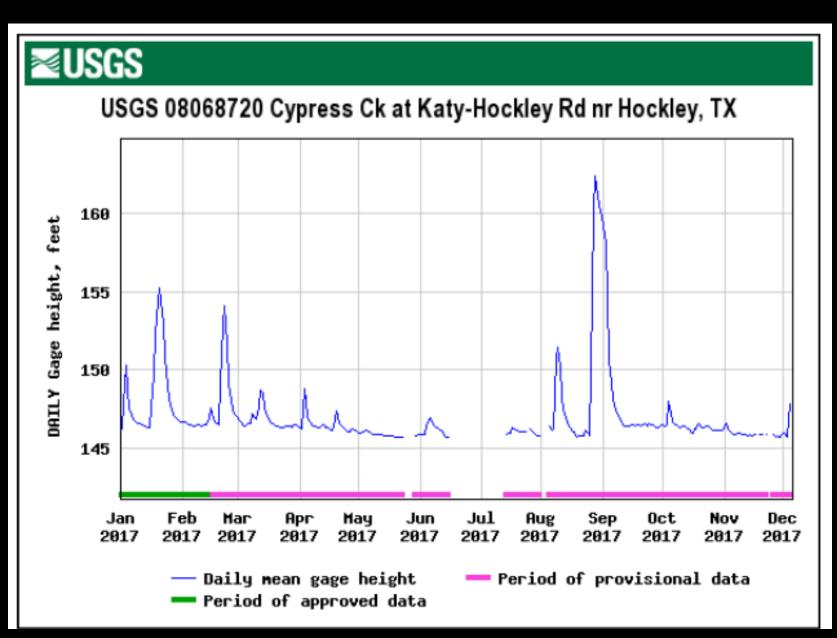




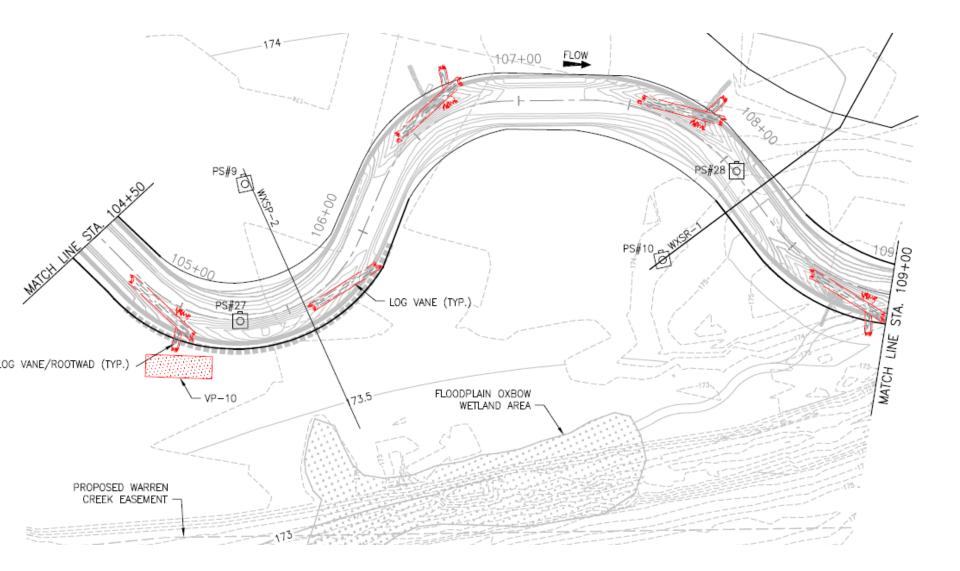
# Daily Discharge 1976 - 2017



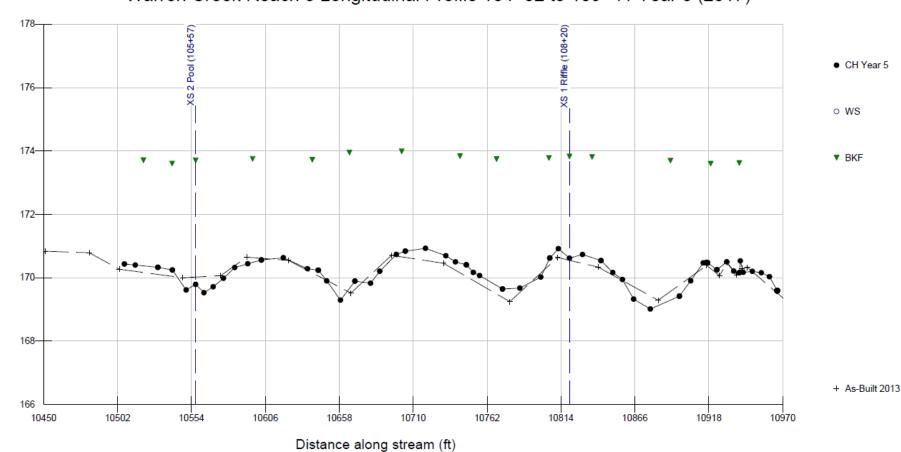
## Daily Gage Height Jan. – Dec. 2017



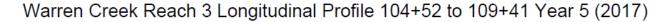




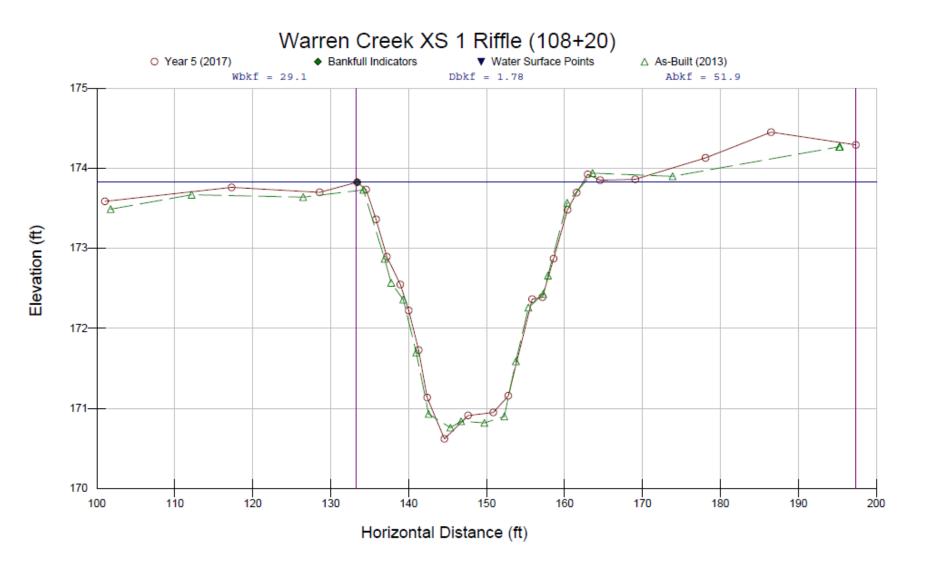




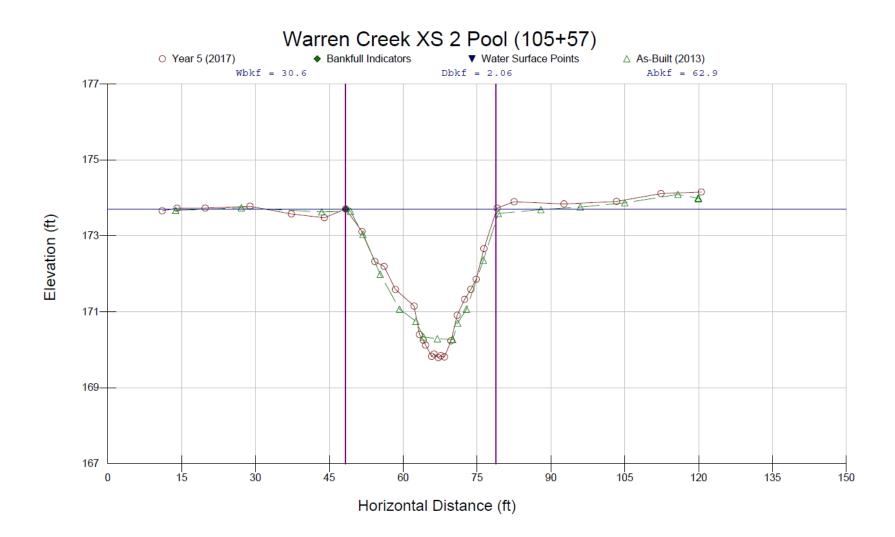
Elevation (ft)













#### Photos Station 1 – As-Built Survey











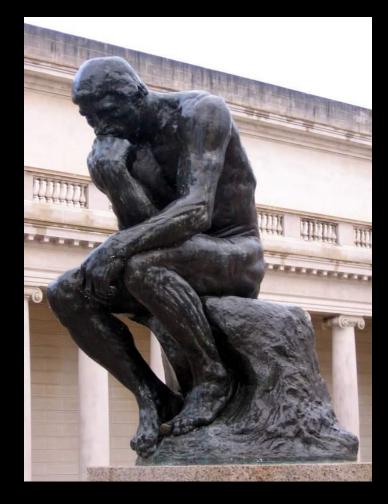


### Adaptive Management of Profession

- Funding Sources
- Certification/Licensure
- Movement Towards
   Functional Uplift

### **Certification/Licensure**

- Positives & Negatives
- Must Make Sure Program Does not Exclude Approaches
- Certification of Teams vs
   Individuals
- Need to be Careful What We Wish For...



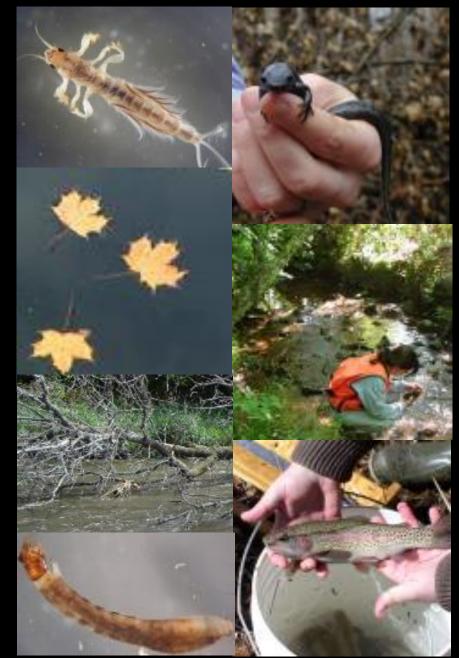
### Best Ways to Stop Bad Projects from Happening

- Strong Procurement Process
- Focus on Preventing Misapplication of Methods
- Need Documented Standards of Care for Viable Methods
- Educated Reviewers
- Informed Clients



#### Movement Towards Functional Uplift

- Need Best Ecologically Based Science
- Robust Monitoring
- Measure (Currency) for Mitigation (Function versus Foot)
- Continuous Cycle





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