

PUBLIC NOTICE



US Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District

Project No. 2021-003-CW
Issue Date: 2021-06-21
Expiration Date: 2021-07-22

INTRODUCTION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District (USACE-NWK), has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for the proposed restoration of degraded embayments and to address the downstream emigration of native fish. The Draft IFR/EA was prepared to assess and document potential effects to the human and natural environment of the project's Proposed Action. The USACE has made a preliminary determination that the Proposed Action would not result in significant degradation to the environment and therefore supports preparation of a Draft FONSI. The Draft IFR/EA and Draft FONSI are provided with issuance of this Public Notice to initiate a 30-day public review and comment period. The Draft IFR/EA appendices are available upon request.

This Public Notice and project related information are being provided to solicit public input on the proposed action. Any interested party is invited to submit to this office written facts or objections relative to the proposed project, both favorable and unfavorable in nature. All comments will be accepted and made part of the public record. The USACE will consider all pertinent comments in preparing final documentation for completion of the NEPA process through signature of the FONSI by the USACE Kansas City District Commander.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Additional information about this application may be obtained by contacting Richard Skinker, Environmental Resources Specialist, U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, ATTN: Environmental Resources Section, Civil Works Program Branch, 601 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; by email at richard.a.skinker@usace.army.mil; or by phone at (816) 389-3134. Written comments will be accepted by mail and email. All mailed comments to this public notice should be directed to the above address.

PROJECT LOCATION (As shown on the attached map): The project location is Rathbun Lake, located at Chariton River mile marker 142, approximately 7 miles north of Centerville, Iowa, in Appanoose County.

AUTHORITY: Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended, provides the authority to modify existing Corps projects to restore the environment and construct new projects to restore areas degraded by Corps projects.

ACTIVITY: (As shown on the attached drawings): The USACE-NWK, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) propose an ecosystem restoration project at Rathbun Lake. The purpose of this project is to protect and restore fish spawning and nursery embayment habitat and to minimize the downstream emigration of fish including predators to benefit the overall lake ecosystem. The Recommended Plan includes embayment restoration at five locations within Rathbun Lake and a fish barrier placed near the Lake inlet tower. The Recommended Plan consists of grading and sloping degraded banks, the placement of rock to stabilize restored areas, vegetation at top of bank to prevent erosion and the use of rock extensions to direct silt movement away from embayments. The proposed fish barrier design is a floating electric boom barrier.

Aquatic ecosystem restoration is generally conducted by using a bulldozer to grade and slope eroded banks. A truck would haul rock and an excavator/track hoe is used to place rock to achieve the design specifications for each restoration location. It is anticipated that land access would be required to accomplish all proposed restorations. Fish barrier installation is anticipated to require both land access and water access. Land access requires provision of access roads, which may require vegetation clearing and construction of temporary and/or permanent access roads. Access routes would be identified in a manner to minimize vegetation disturbance/clearance and to avoid environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands.

TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC HABITAT: Embayment restoration activities would occur along the Rathbun Lake shoreline and fish barrier installation would take place near the Lake inlet tower. The proposed project construction would result in short-term impacts to terrestrial habitat from clearing and grubbing of vegetation and soils disturbance for restoration site access, haul roads, and a staging/laydown area for the construction contractor during construction of restoration features. Under the Recommended Plan there would be short-term adverse impacts from the construction of project features and temporary displacement of fish and wildlife by construction activities. However, wildlife species would be anticipated to return to disturbed areas following construction. The Recommended Plan would provide long-term benefits to the lake ecosystem.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: USACE has determined that the Proposed Action would result in a determination of "no effect" for prairie bush clover and the western prairie fringed orchid and determinations of "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" for the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. The proposed action is not anticipated to jeopardize the continued existence of species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

WETLANDS and WATERS OF THE US: Proposed construction activities would result in no disturbance to wetlands. No wetlands were observed within or adjacent to the areas of proposed restoration during field assessments conducted in 2019. An additional wetland survey would be performed prior to construction to document the presence of wetlands within the project area. The project complies with Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands. Steps to minimize impacts to waters of the United States would include Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs may include, but not be limited to erosion control, proper staging of equipment and construction contractor adherence to a stormwater pollution prevention plan.

The project would be conducted under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 27 – Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities. NWP 27 authorizes activities in waters of the United States associated with restoration and enhancement provided those activities result in net increases in aquatic

resource functions and services. In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, the IDNR has issued Section 401 Water Quality Certification for NWP 27. The project will comply with NWP 27 general permit conditions and State of Iowa regional permit conditions.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: USACE will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR 800. A Phase I Intensive Archaeological Investigation was conducted by the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist at restoration and barrier placement locations in 2018. No artifacts or archaeological features were identified in the survey. All areas were either previously disturbed and lack the potential for intact archaeological deposits or no archaeological deposits were identified during the survey. No further archaeological investigation of the areas surveyed was recommended by the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist. The Kansas City District Archaeologist concurs with this recommendation.

FLOODPLAINS: The proposed project was reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, which discourages direct or indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative. This project takes place within the floodplain and does not directly or indirectly support floodplain development. Comments are requested from individuals and agencies that believe the proposed work will adversely impact the floodplain.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS: The Draft IFR/EA includes evaluation of effects of the Recommended Plan on the human and natural environment. All relevant factors were considered including climate change, land use, geology, soils, prime farmland, wetlands, riparian vegetation, water quality, fish, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, recreation, socioeconomics and environmental justice, historic and cultural resources, hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste, air quality, noise, aesthetics, safety, floodplain and the general needs and welfare of the people.

PUBLIC HEARING: The USACE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American 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 USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny an authorization for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to address impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in preparation of the final IFR/EA and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to NEPA. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.



Project Location

Habitat Restoration Locations

Legend

- Embayment Access
- Embayment Restoration Locations



S70

J18

Iconium

Rathbun Lake

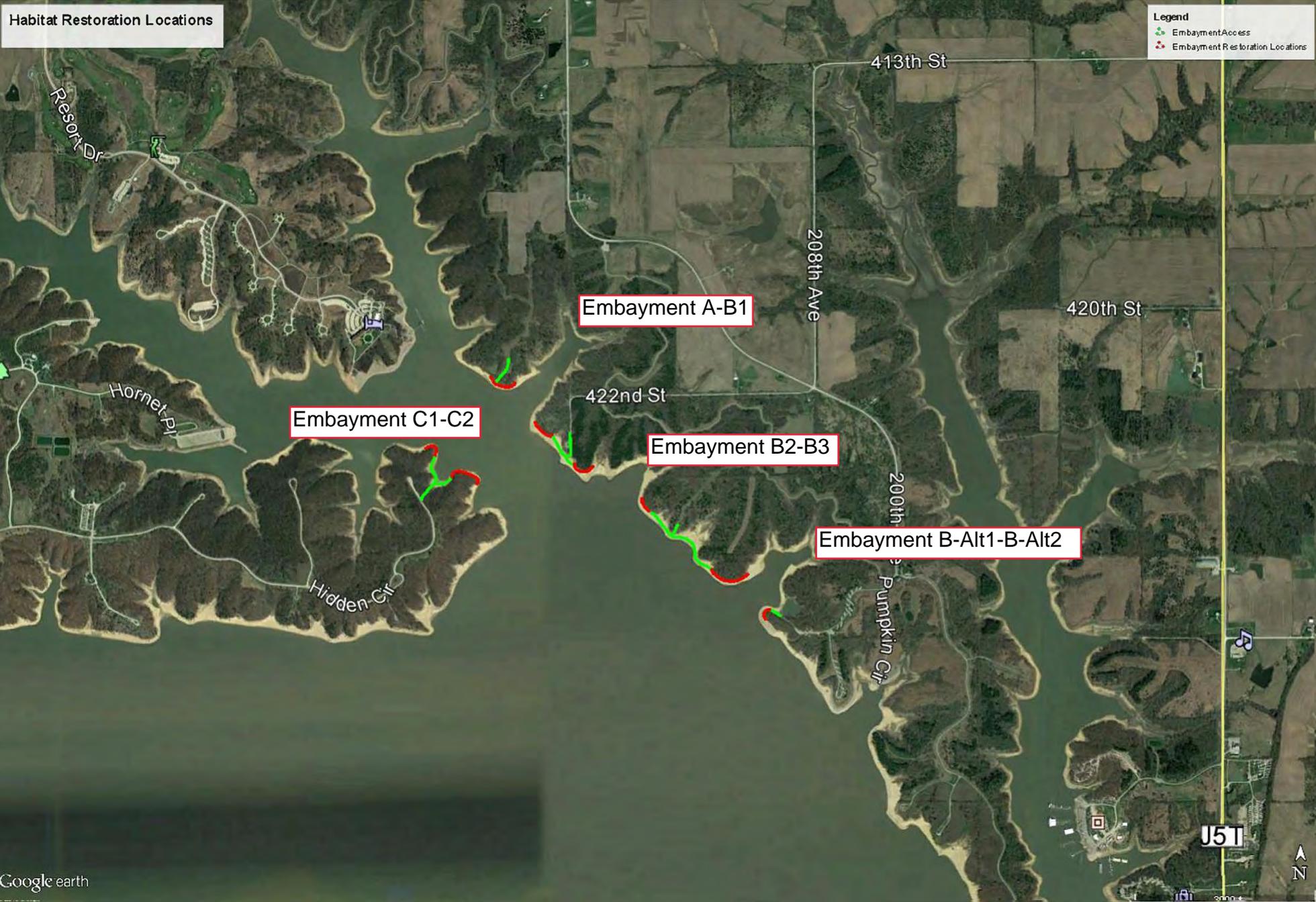
Hwy S70

142.3 141.9
142.2 141.8 140.5
141.1 141.4 N
141

J29

Habitat Restoration Locations

- Legend
- Embayment Access
 - Embayment Restoration Locations



Legend
EmbaymentAccess
Embayment Restoration Locations

Rathbun Lake

Embayment D-E

18

430th St

37th Ave

435th St

Southfork Pl

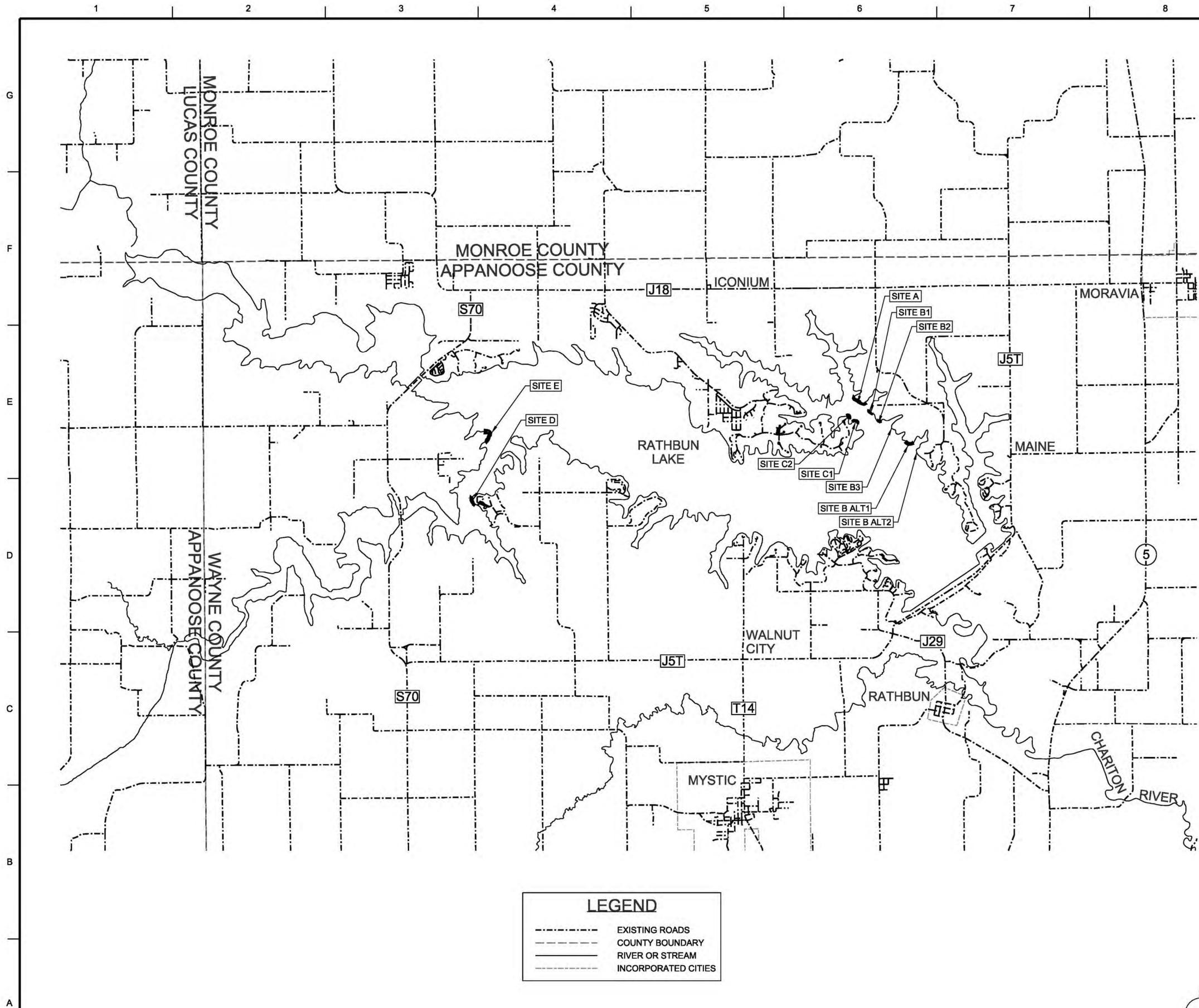
150th Ave

160th Ave

google earth

© 2018

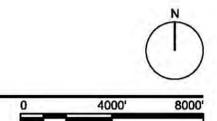




LEGEND

	EXISTING ROADS
	COUNTY BOUNDARY
	RIVER OR STREAM
	INCORPORATED CITIES

B1 LOCATION MAP
SCALE: 1" = 4000'



GENERAL NOTES



DATE	DESCRIPTION	MARK

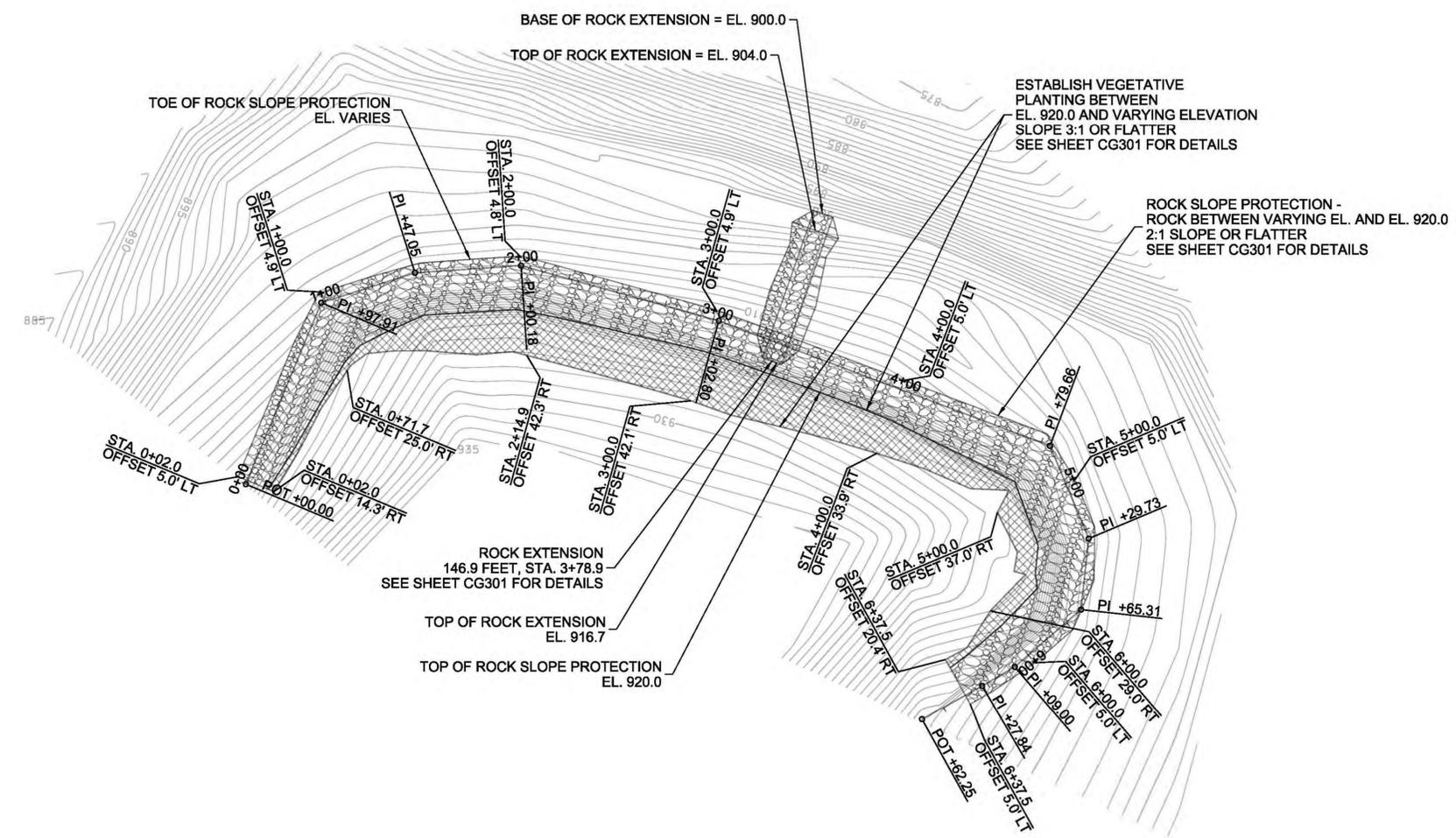
DESIGNED BY: B. SCHLEETER	ISSUE DATE: MM/YY
CHECKED BY: R. WORRELL	MINIMUM SCALE: 1:4000
SUBMITTED BY: B. SCHLEETER	PROJECT NO.:
SIZE: ANSI D	CONTRACT NO.:
PRELIMINARY PLANS NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION	WXXXX-XX-XX-XXX

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
KANSAS CITY DISTRICT
801 EAST 12TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64016

RATHBUN LAKE, IOWA
AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION
SECTION 1135
FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT
LOCATION MAP & SITE ACCESS

SHEET ID
GI-001

G
F
E
D
C
B
A



GENERAL NOTES

1. PLACE ROCK TO DIMENSION SHOWN. SOME ADJUSTMENTS TO LOCATION WILL BE NECESSARY. NO INCREASE IN ROCK QUANTITIES FROM WHAT IS SHOWN IN PLANS.

LEGEND

- RIPRAP
- GRADING
- MAJOR CONTOUR
- MINOR CONTOUR



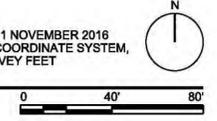
DATE	DESCRIPTION	MARK

DESIGNED BY: B. SCHLEETER	ISSUE DATE: MM/DD/YYYY
CHECKED BY: M. WERBCK	REVISION NO.:
SUBMITTED BY: R. WORRELL	CONTRACT NO.:
SIZE: ANSI D	WXXXX-XX-XX-XXX
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS KANSAS CITY DISTRICT 801 EAST 12TH STREET KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64016	PRELIMINARY PLANS NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

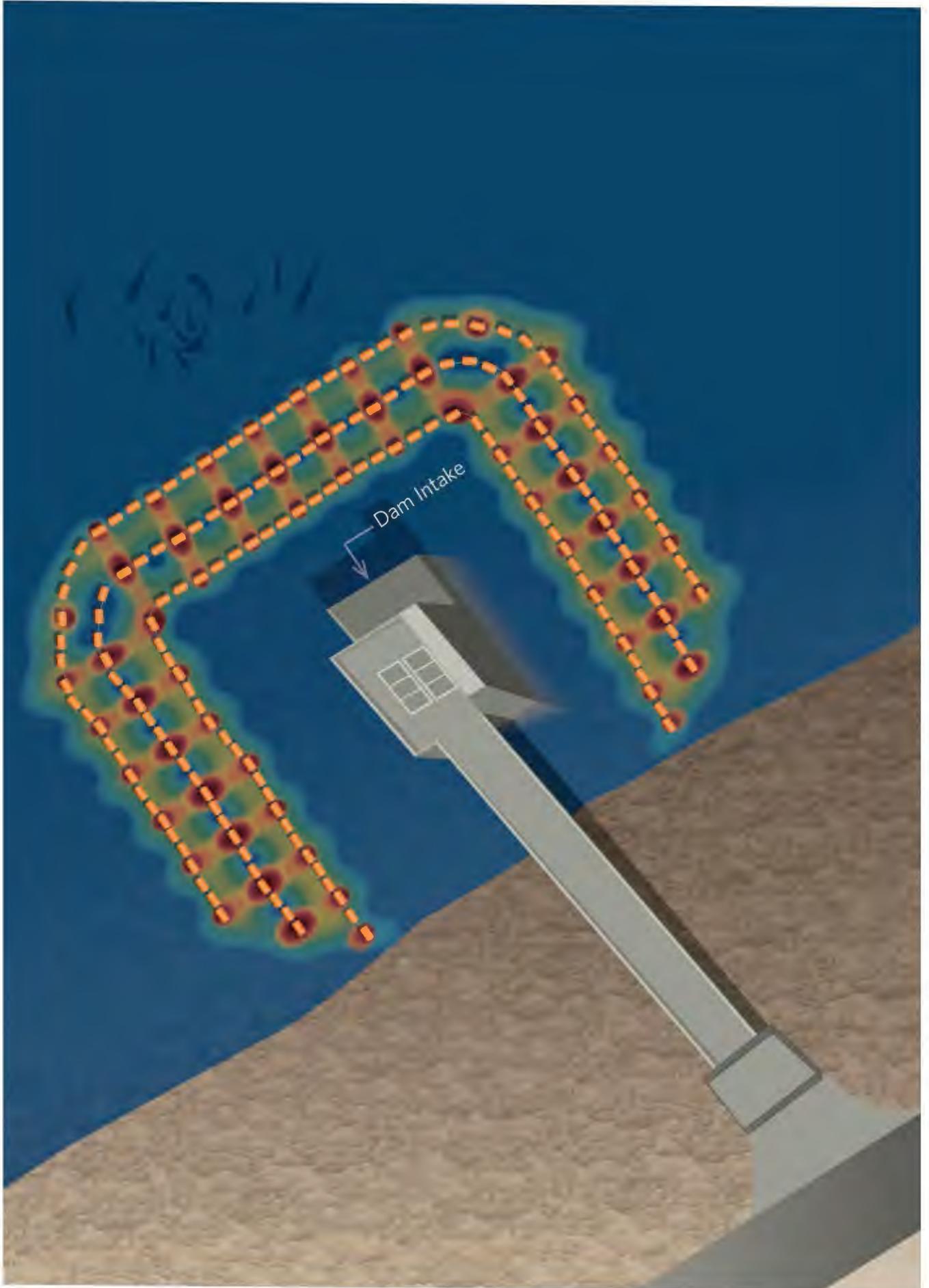
RATHBUN LAKE, IOWA
AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION
SECTION 1135
FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT
SITE C1 PLAN

D2 **SITE PLAN C1**
SCALE: 1" = 40'

SURVEY COLLECTED 31 OCTOBER 2010 TO 1 NOVEMBER 2016
COORDINATE SYSTEM: U.S. STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM,
IOWA SOUTH 1402, NAD 83/NAVD - U.S. SURVEY FEET



SHEET ID
CH-107



Floating Electric Boom Barrier - Plan View