

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Public Scoping Meeting – October 8, 2009

Proposed Environmental Assessment

**Alternatives for
Palisades Dam
Security
Enhancements**

Pacific Northwest Region

Boise Project, Idaho



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation**

Background:

Based on Homeland Security Directives and the definition of critical infrastructure contained in the USA Patriot Act, Reclamation has designated Palisades Dam as a Mission Critical Facility.



RECLAMATION

Consequences:

The loss of the dam would generate catastrophic consequences in the downstream floodplains.

- **Downstream damages to property**
- **Loss of irrigation benefits**
- **Loss of fish and wildlife benefits**
- **Loss of recreation benefits**

Project Overview

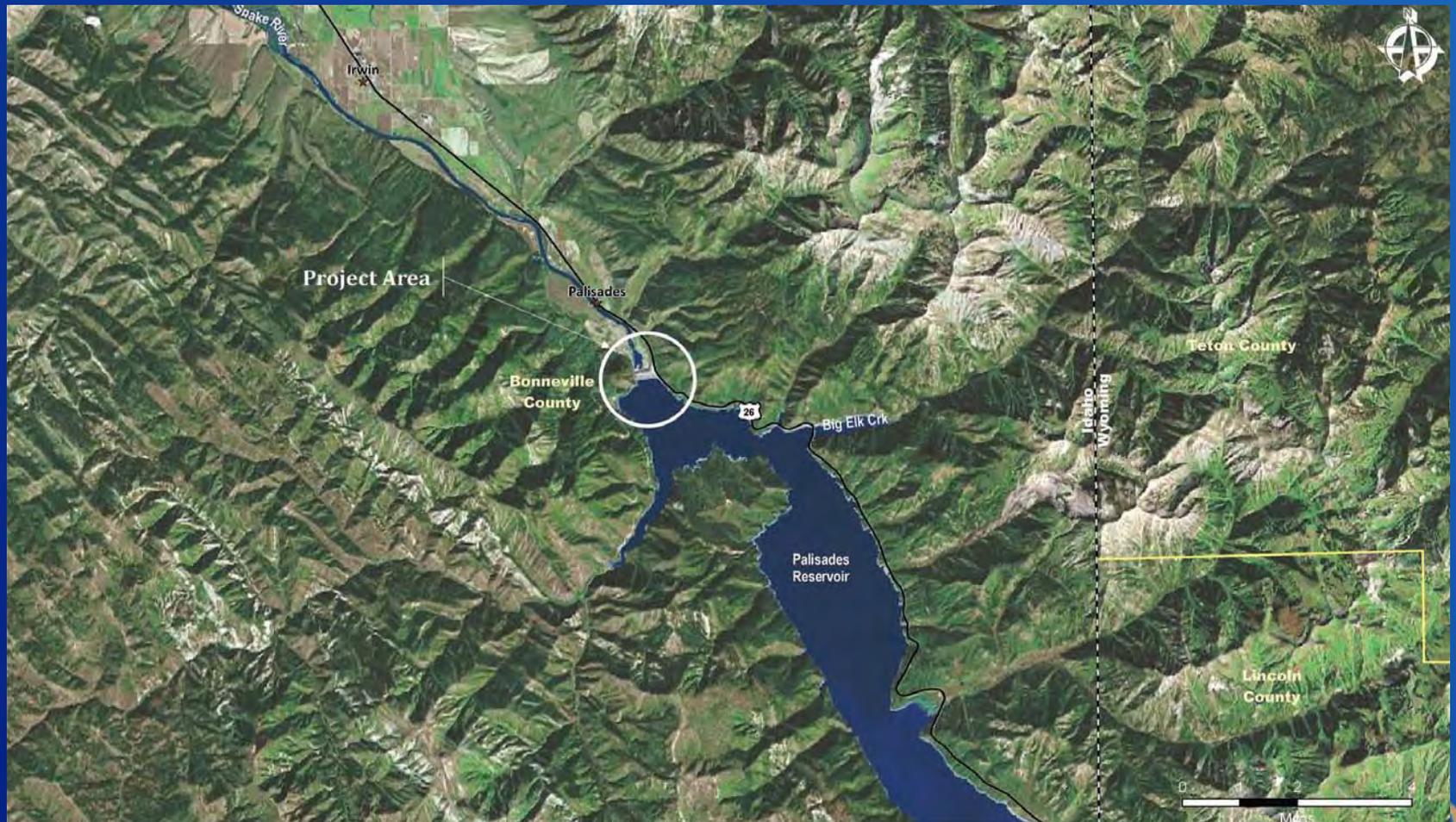
Completed Processes

- Security assessments
- Risk reduction decisions
- Site security plan
- Evaluation of alternative security enhancements

Future Actions

- NEPA compliance
- Implementation of selected action

For security and public safety considerations, Reclamation is planning to implement short and long term corrective actions for Palisades Dam.



Disclaimer: This map is intended for general informational and planning purposes only. The Bureau of Reclamation makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the completeness, accuracy, or utility of these data and will not be liable for their use beyond the above expressed purpose.

Data Source: Inside Idaho, Digital Globe

Map Date: October, 2009

Area Map
Palisades Dam Security Enhancements

Short Term Actions:

- Reclamation has purchased and installed U.S. State Department certified fixed swing beam vehicle (crash-rated) barriers.
- When threat conditions increase or there is a direct threat to the dam, the fixed swing beam vehicle barriers will be closed to temporarily restrict vehicle traffic across the crest of the dam.
- Pedestrians, bicycles, snowmobiles, etc. will still have access to the crest of the dam when vehicle access is restricted.



Long Term Action:

- A decision on which vehicle restriction alternative to be implemented will be made after the NEPA process is completed.
- Pedestrians, bicycles, etc. will still have access to the crest of the dam regardless of the alternative selected.



RECLAMATION

Long Term Alternatives:

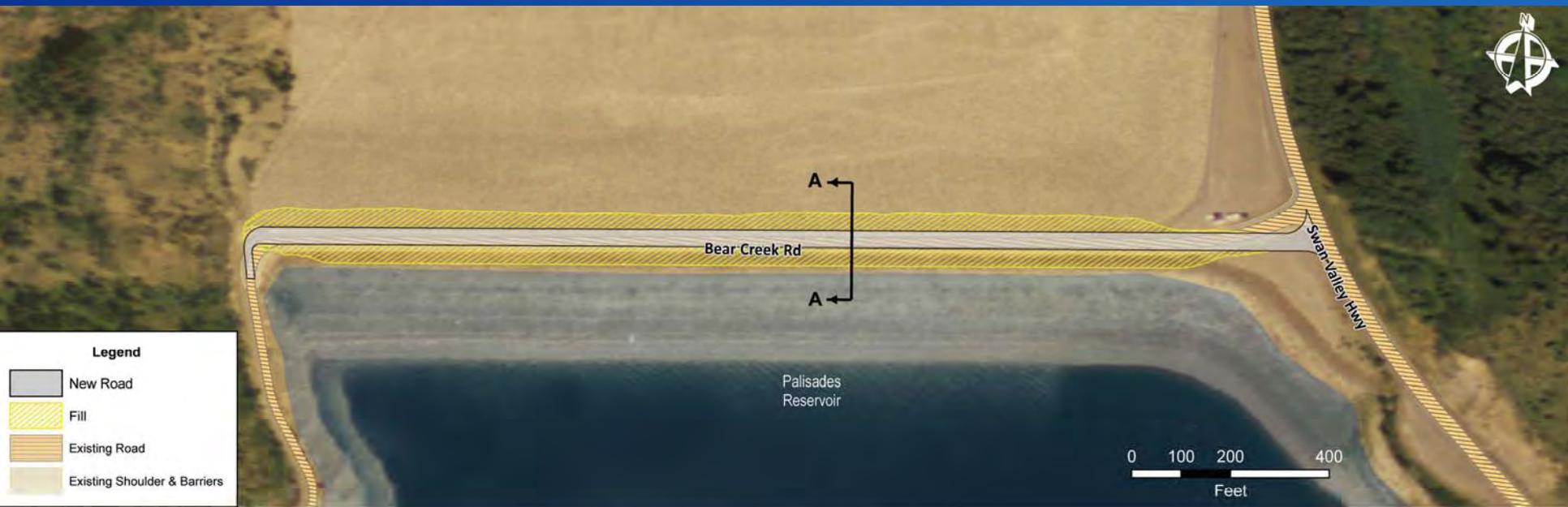
Several options are available that provide a long term solution as well as satisfy Reclamation's obligation to Bonneville County, the US Forest Service, those necessary emergency response vehicles', and public vehicular access.

Alternatives currently identified include:

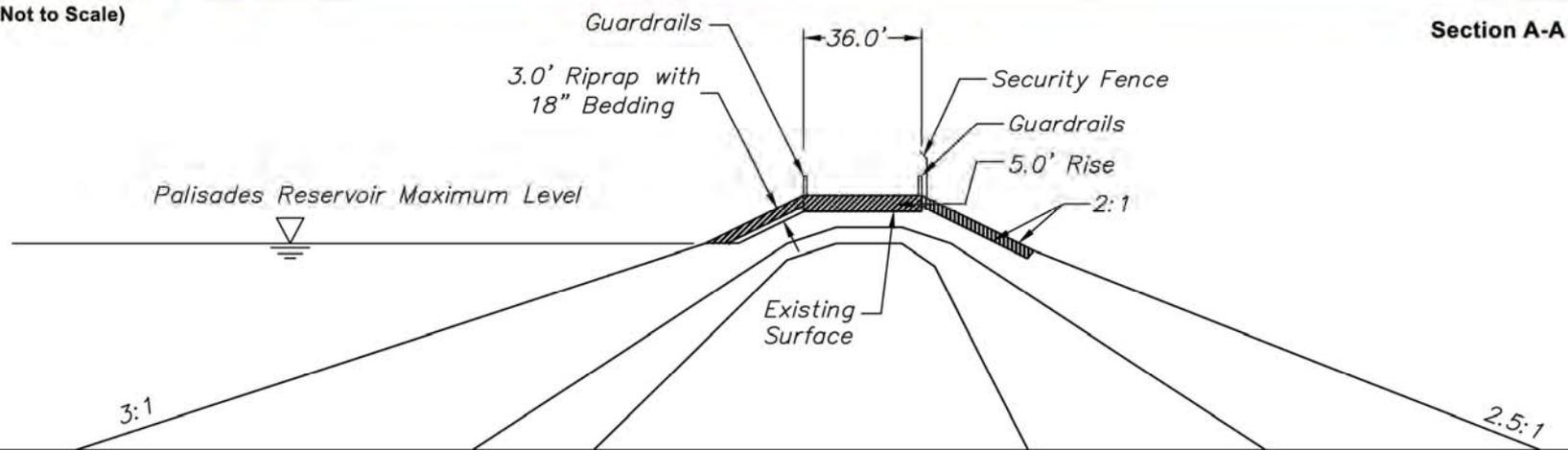
- **Alternative A** – No Action (will not meet purpose and need to correct security vulnerabilities at Palisades Dam)
- **Alternative B** – Raise the dam crest by 5 feet
- **Alternative C** – Widen the dam crest up-stream by 10 feet
- **Alternative D** – Down-stream water crossing
- **Alternative E** – Crest median

Alternative B

Raise the dam crest by 5 feet



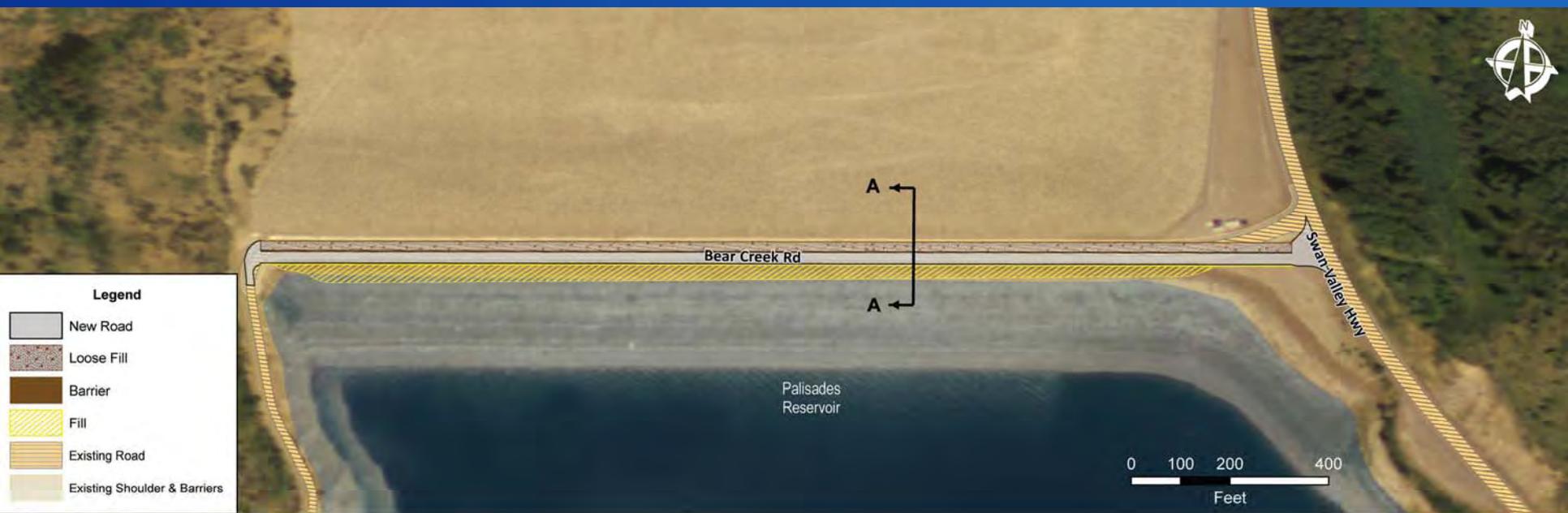
(Not to Scale)



Alternative B: Raised Crest
Palisades Dam Security Enhancements

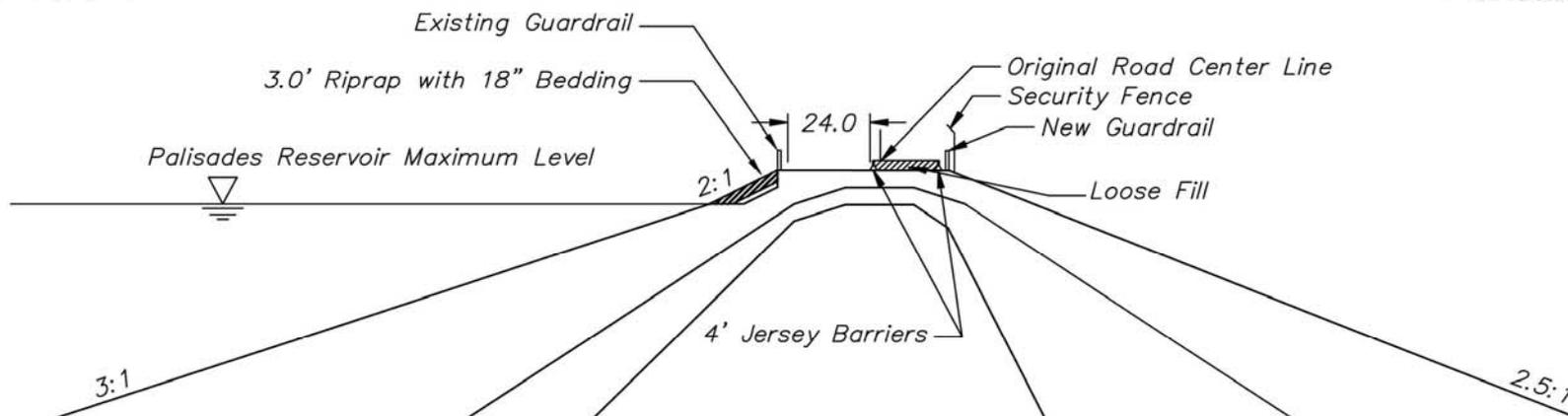
Alternative C

Widen the dam crest up-stream by 10 feet



(Not to Scale)

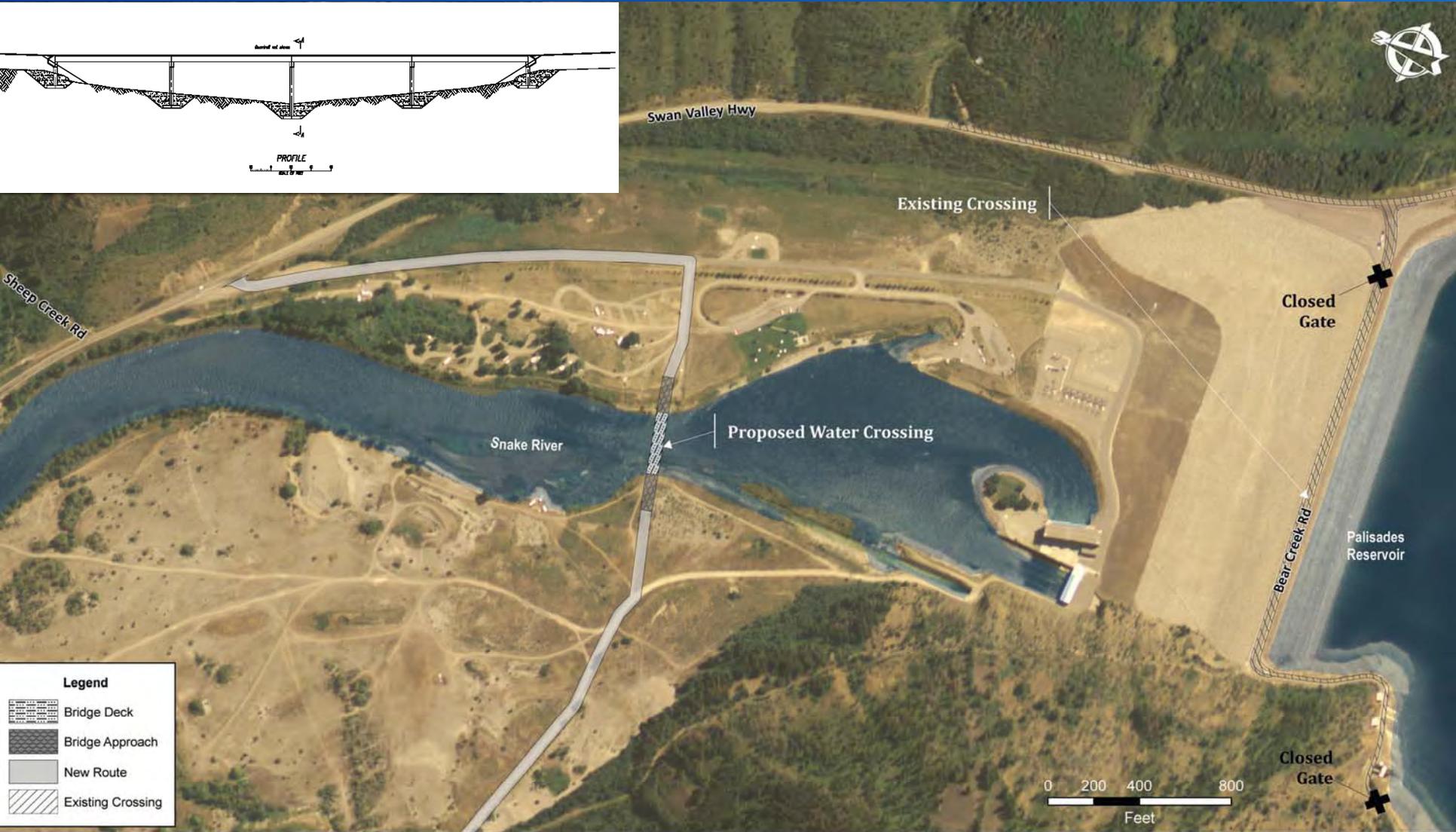
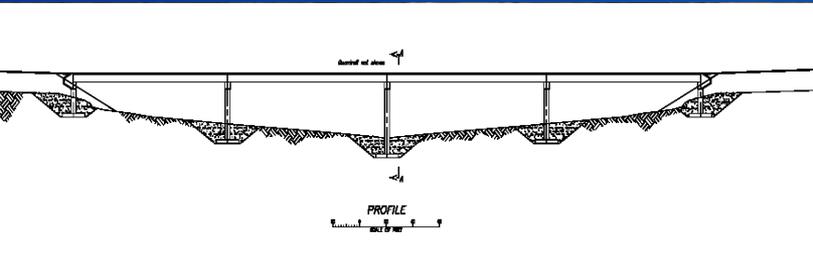
Section A-A



Alternative C: Widen Crest
Palisades Dam Security Enhancements

Alternative D

Proposed down-stream water crossing



Disclaimer: This map is intended for general informational and planning purposes only. The Bureau of Reclamation makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the completeness, accuracy, or utility of these data and will in no event be liable for them in any way or for any purpose.

Data Sources: InSitu; Edito; Digital Globe

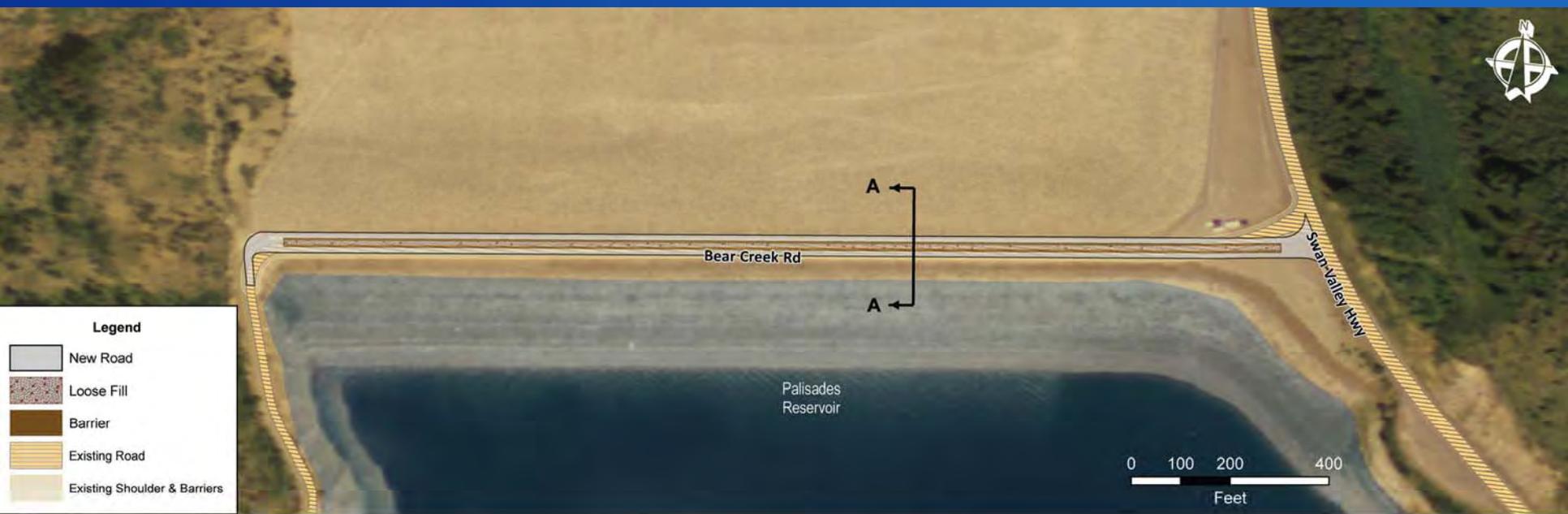
Map Date: October, 2009

Alternative D: Downstream Water Crossing Palisades Dam Security Enhancements

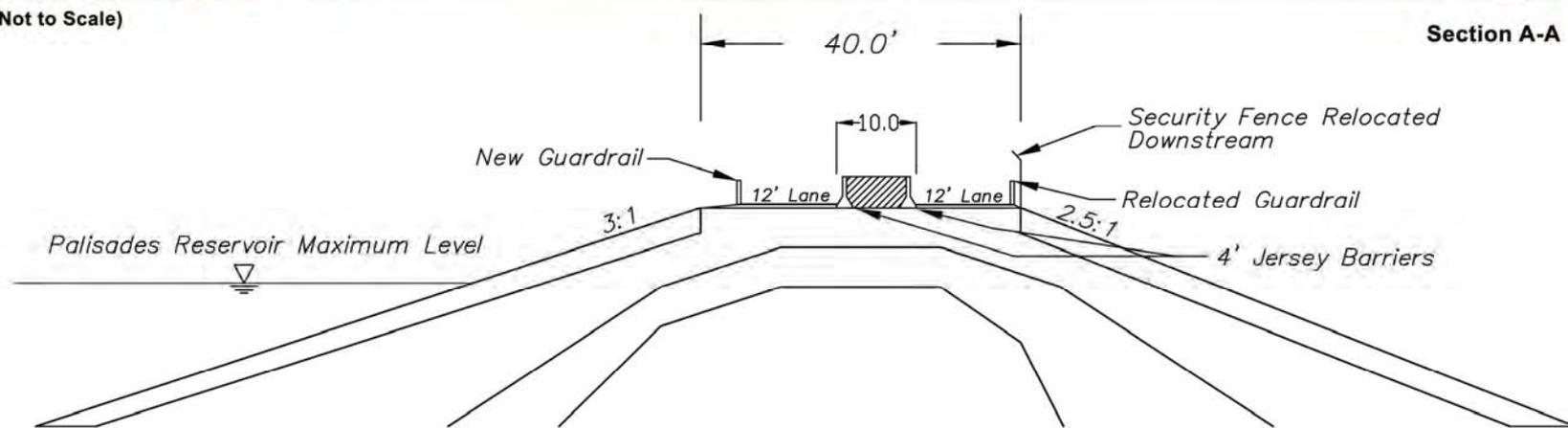
NOTE: This is a concept view; the alternative shown is not designed.

Alternative E

Crest median (construct a 10-foot median)



(Not to Scale)



Alternative E: Crest Median (Interim)
Palisades Dam Security Enhancements

Comparative Analysis of Alternatives

Comparison of Alternatives			
Alternative	Advantages	Disadvantages	Estimated Cost
Alternative A - No Action	None	Doesn't meet Purpose and Need	Not applicable
Alternative B – Raise the dam crest by 5 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nearby borrow areas ▪ Conventional construction methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lengthy crest road traffic disruption during construction ▪ Existing crest features would need to be replaced 	\$5.8 million
Alternative C – Widen the dam crest up-stream by 10 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nearby borrow areas ▪ Minimal crest road traffic disruption during construction ▪ Conventional construction methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lengthy crest road traffic disruption during construction 	\$3.7 million
Alternative D – Construct a new water crossing down-stream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conventional construction methods ▪ No structural dam modifications ▪ Least expensive build alternative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will impact local park ▪ Will requires new maintenance agreements 	\$2 million (based on similar projects)
Alternative E – Construct a 10-foot median on the dam crest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relatively easy to implement ▪ Limited traffic disruption ▪ Moderate cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moderate crest road traffic disruption during construction ▪ Will restrict use by wide loads 	\$2.8 million

NEPA Process

Environmental Assessment (EA)

- Public Scoping/Issue Identification  October 8, 2009
- Develop initial range of alternatives  Ongoing
- Analyze impacts of alternatives  Ongoing
- Draft EA distributed for public comment  Late April 2010
- Final EA and decision document  September 2010
- Implement Security Measures  Spring 2011

Impacts to be Analyzed in the EA

- **Transportation (travel time, emergency response, traffic safety, etc.)**
- **Economic (businesses, property values, cost of project to taxpayers)**
- **Quality of Life (noise, traffic patterns, safety, etc.)**
- **Recreation**
- **Historic Integrity of Dam**
- **Aesthetics**
- **Fish and Wildlife**

Contacts

For any further input, please call:

John Tiedeman
Activity Manager
208-378-5034

Ryan Newman
Natural Resources Specialist
208-678-0461 ext. 38

RECLAMATION