
Womack & Associates, Inc.
Geology and Geotechnical Engineering

February 26, 2014

Michael Shannon
2417 Stanmore Drive
Houston, TX 77019

**RE: INITIAL DEBRIS FLOW INVESTIGATION AND EMERGENCY MITIGATION,
LOT 27 GREENHORN SUBDIVISION, HAILEY, IDAHO**

Dear Mr. Shannon:

In early September 2013, a series of rainstorms produced heavy and localized precipitation in the vicinity of the Greenhorn Subdivision, located approximately 7 miles north of Hailey in Blaine County, Idaho. The storms triggered debris flows that began high in the canyon upslope and south of Lot 27. The rainstorms occurred shortly after the Beaver Creek Fire burned most of the vegetation in the adjacent canyon area. As authorized by the owner, Michael Shannon, Womack & Associates, Inc. (WAI), conducted an initial geotechnical investigation of the debris flows that impacted Lot 27, WAI prepared this geotechnical investigation memo to support the application for an emergency permit to reduce the hazard to people and property. The report is intended to:

1. Provide a brief summary of the debris flows.
2. Describe existing mitigation structures constructed in response to the first flow.
3. Evaluate performance of the structures during subsequent flows and recommend improvements to make them safer.
4. Provide alternative approaches for final mitigation.

Existing Mitigation

The initial event reached the canyon mouth and alluvial fan, where the debris lobe impacted the house and surrounding landscaping. Following the first debris flow, an earthworks contractor was directed by the owner of Lot 27 to excavate two diversion channels leading off to the northeast and northwest from the mouth of the natural debris flow channel on BLM land (see *Exhibit 1*). The eastern channel followed the path that the debris might have taken (i.e., straight down the fan) without mitigation. The western channel redirected much of the flow that would have otherwise gone to the east onto Huffaker's lot and caused greater damage. Some debris also flanked the channels onto Huffaker's property.

Exhibit 1 is a recent topographic survey map that identifies existing conditions and the limits of work completed to date, including locations of photos that are appended to illustrate specific site

P.O. BOX 12650, Jackson, Wyoming 83002 (307) 733-7209

**GEOLOGY & GEOTECHNICAL
ENGINEERING REPORT**

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conditions. The channelization efforts on *Exhibit 1* were performed under emergency conditions and intended to reduce the risk of future debris flows reaching the house. Due to lack of time and the imminent danger of more flows, the initial site alterations were completed without formal design components such as potential debris flow intervals, flow rates, or mass quantities. The trenches were inadvertently initiated south of the property line on BLM land, although the intent was to construct the channels and provide deposition areas within Lot 27. In hindsight, the channels could not have been situated entirely on Lot 27.

A higher intensity storm on September 13 caused larger debris flows which were conveyed and detained by the improvements, without which the home may very well have been severely damaged or destroyed. For the emergency permit application, the size, orientation, and entrance controls of the channel have been evaluated in the context of predicted future debris flows. This report examines the ability of the existing improvements to handle reasonable design debris flows on a short-term basis and suggests additional emergency mitigation work where necessary.

A large amount of unconsolidated colluvium (soil and rock debris) is “stored” on BLM land in the burned source areas in the upper reaches of the watershed. This material is poised to be mobilized during storms and is clearly dangerous.

The diversion channel construction started within the natural channel, approximately 50 feet upstream from the Lot 27 property line. *Photos 1-3* illustrate the natural eroded channel. The man-made channels were excavated to convey flow around the Lot 27 developed area. *Photos 4* and *5* were taken at the confluence of the two man-made channels. The photos provide an indication of the size of site alterations installed to protect Lot 27 from water and debris. *Photo 6* shows the terminal end of the northeast trending channel and its deposition area, primarily located on Lot 24 (Huffaker). *Photo 7* looks upstream of the northwest trending channel. *Photos 8* and *9* show its deposition area and debris remnants from the September 13 event.

Emergency Permit Considerations

The existing trenches were demonstrated to be effective during the September 13 storm. For the emergency permit application, the size, orientation, and entrance controls of the channels have been evaluated in the context of predicted future debris flows. Empirical estimates of debris flow volumes have been compared to the conveyance capacity of the channel. The potential need for entrance controls to prevent clogging and flanking has also been evaluated.

Future debris flows will likely follow and enlarge the well-defined trench incised during previous storm events. However, upon reaching the head of the alluvial fan, natural debris flows deflect left or right unpredictably. Ultimately, debris flows will cover the entire surface of the alluvial fan. Mitigation procedures are implemented to deflect, channelize, or stop the debris.

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Based on calculations described below, additional emergency improvements are recommended to increase the capacity of the diversion channel and provide a deposition area that reduces the risk of debris reaching the road (*Exhibit 2*). The proposed emergency improvements are intended to reduce the risk of flows into the eastern side of Lot 27 or Lot 24 and to convey all flows to the dedicated deposition basin on the western portion of Lot 27. From the deposition area, remnants of flows (primarily water) would enter into the Greenhorn Loop Road borrow ditch and flow northward to discharge into Greenhorn Creek. The improvements would require BLM approval to enhance the existing channel and improve the watershed drainage conditions. In general, the proposed improvements within BLM land would include:

1. Remove existing debris and slash piles that are poised to mobilize and increase impacts of future flows (*Photos 2 & 3* as shown on *Exhibit 1 & 2*).
2. Reclaim the northeast trending man-made channel back to original conditions.
3. Enlarge the channel and the north side berm to resist debris flow runoff and erosion, as discussed in more detail below.
4. Enlarge the existing natural channel upstream beyond the apex of the alluvial fan and soften the angle in which the debris will enter the northwest trending channel (shown in *Exhibit 2*).

BLM approval is likely required prior to moving forward with the improvements. We understand that the existing site alterations were inadvertently performed on BLM land, but under emergency conditions. The existing site alterations should remain intact until engineering is completed.

Debris Flow Prediction and Performance of Existing Trenches

Calculations predict the debris flow parameters summarized below. For the emergency short-term application, the design storm was selected as the 25-year, 6-hour storm. Calculations are presented in Appendix A. For comparison's sake, data from a 100-year storm have also been appended. The entire drainage area was assumed to be steeper than 30% and burned at moderate to high intensity. Design parameters are in metric units per standard practice in the literature.

Design storm:	51 mm
Basin area with slopes > 30%:	0.1 km ²
Basin area burned:	0.1 km ²
Debris flow volume:	1,527 m ³ .
Debris flow velocity:	4.52 m/sec
Required conveyance:	24 m ³ /sec
Required channel area:	9.25 m ² . (100 ft ²)
Runup height:	0.6 m (2.0 ft)
Required berm height:	2.67 m (8.7 ft)

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In order for the existing conveyances to be considered adequate for emergency conveyance, the channel dimensions should be at least 8 feet wide at the bottom, 6 feet deep, and 26 feet wide at the top (1.5H:1V side slopes). The downhill faces of the trench should be armored with riprap to reduce the risk of erosion and breaching, particularly in the late stages of debris flows, which tend to consist mostly of water with less solids. Berm height at the corner where the flow is deflected to the northeast is calculated at 8.7 feet to resist impact force. The proposed dimensions are substantially larger than the existing conveyance. Figure 1 illustrates the proposed berm cross-section at the corner.

Emergency Action Alternatives

The conveyance of the existing trench is limited by its low gradient crossing the hillside and the sharp turn required at the entrance. The sharp turn is difficult to alter, given the steep slope uphill of the existing trenches. Alternative approaches might include:

1. Do nothing to the existing channel, which is considerably undersized to accommodate the runoff from a 25-year 6 hr storm. We strongly recommend enlarging the channel according to the dimensions given. It is necessary to abandon and reclaim the northeast channel because it discharges directly onto Lot 24.
2. Debris flow fences, which would be constructed near the existing sharp turn on BLM land. A series of 2 to 3 fences would probably be required, spaced about 100 feet apart. Fences would be roughly 30 feet x 10 feet and constructed of interlocking steel rings supported by posts and cables with slip fittings to allow deflection upon impact. This alternative would probably cost on the order of \$300,000 to \$450,000. The fences would be colored to blend with natural background and would have the least visual impact.
3. Improve the diversion entrance by reducing curvature and extending the entrance above the apex of the alluvial fan, to reduce the risk of flanking. Riprap armoring would be installed at the entrance to the diversion and along the downhill berm of the channel. The diversion would be located, at least in part, on BLM land. This alternative has obvious aesthetic consequences, but would be safer and more economical to build.
4. Provide a deposition basin at the distal end of the trench on Lot 27. The basin would need to be sized to accommodate the design debris flow volume of 1,527 m³, or about 2,000 yd³.

The existing site alterations should remain in place until engineering upgrades to the emergency submittal work are approved or an alternative approach has been selected. The site is located in a geological hazard zone. Be aware that the recommended work is based on a particular level of quantitative risk (25 year storm) intended to reduce the hazard. Larger storms with larger runoff volumes are obviously possible. Calculations for the 100-year storm are included in Appendix A

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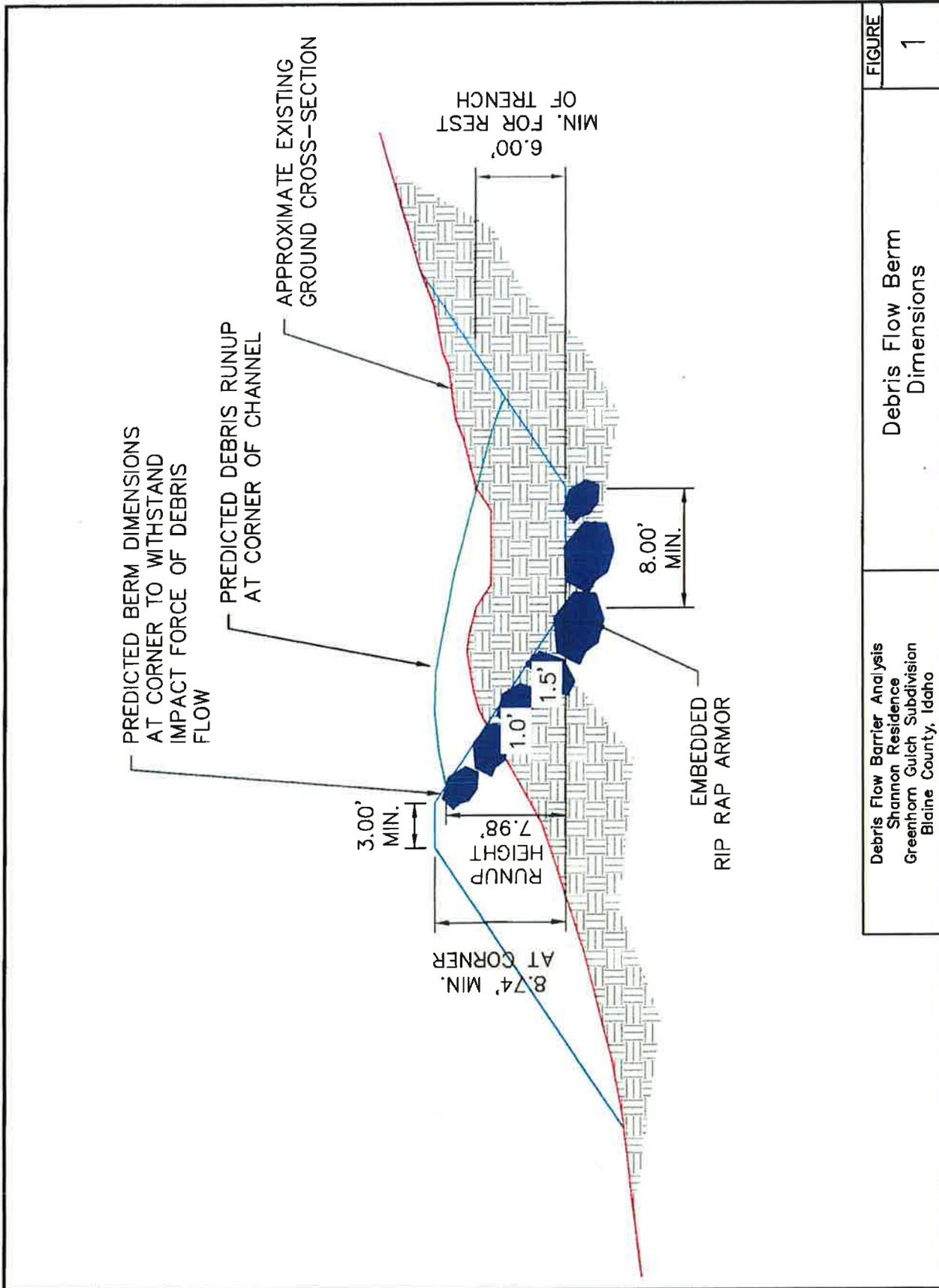


FIGURE 1

Debris Flow Berm Dimensions

Debris Flow Barrier Analysis
 Shannon Residence
 Greenhorn Gulch Subdivision
 Blaine County, Idaho

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for comparison purposes. In any case, quantitative risk assessments of debris flow quantities and return intervals have been shown to be accurate to within perhaps an order of magnitude. Therefore, no warranty of performance is made or implied.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or concerns regarding this memo.

Respectfully submitted,

WOMACK & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Ray Womack



Ray Womack, P.E., P.G.

Cc: Jim Zarubica

Attached: Exhibits 1 & 2
Photos 1-9
Appendix A (Debris Flow Calculations for 25 and 100-year design storms)

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Debris Flow Barrier Analysis
 Shannon Residence
 Greenhorn Gulch Subdivision
 Blaine County, Idaho

Proposed
 Site Alterations

EXHIBIT
 2

West
Canyon

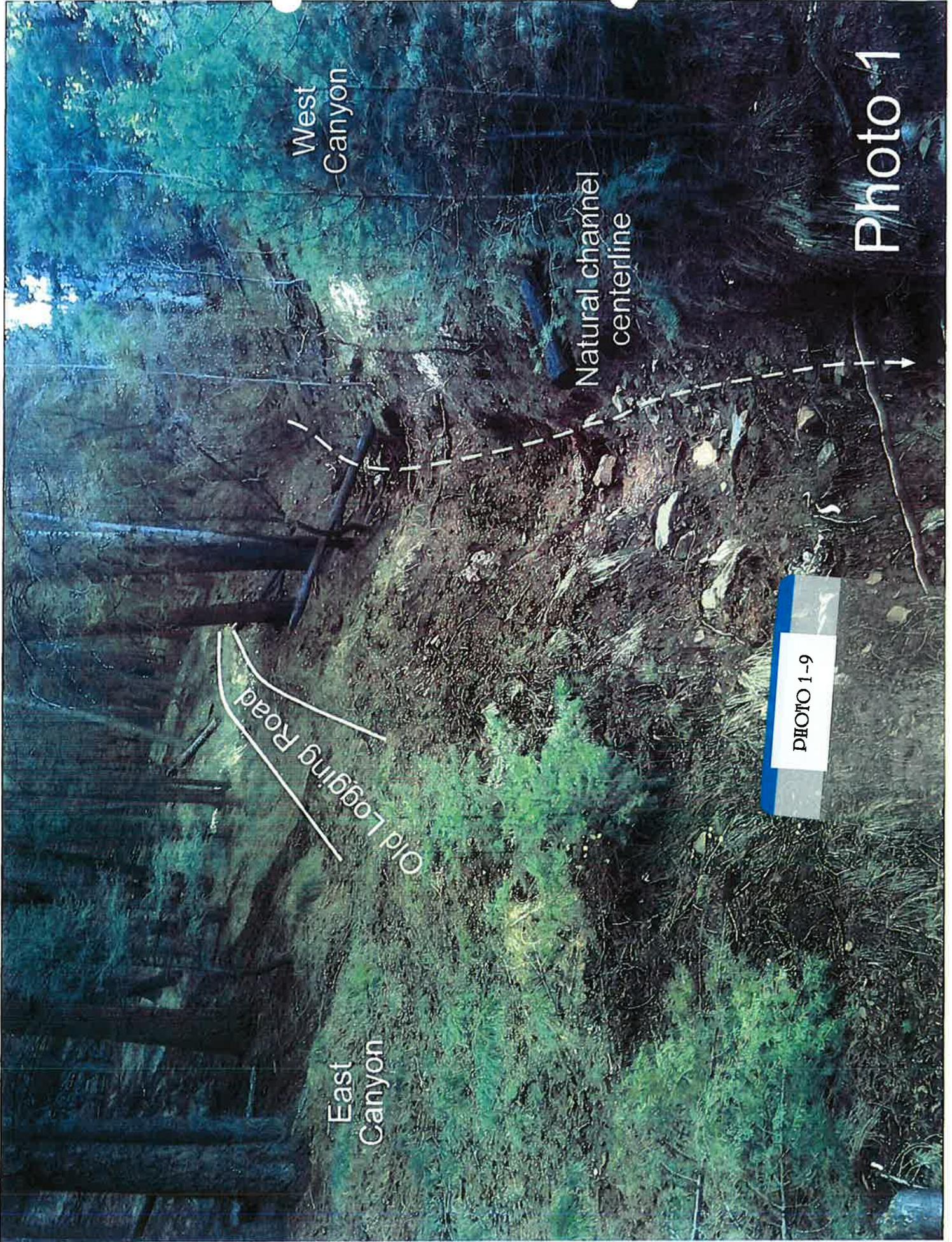
Natural channel
centerline

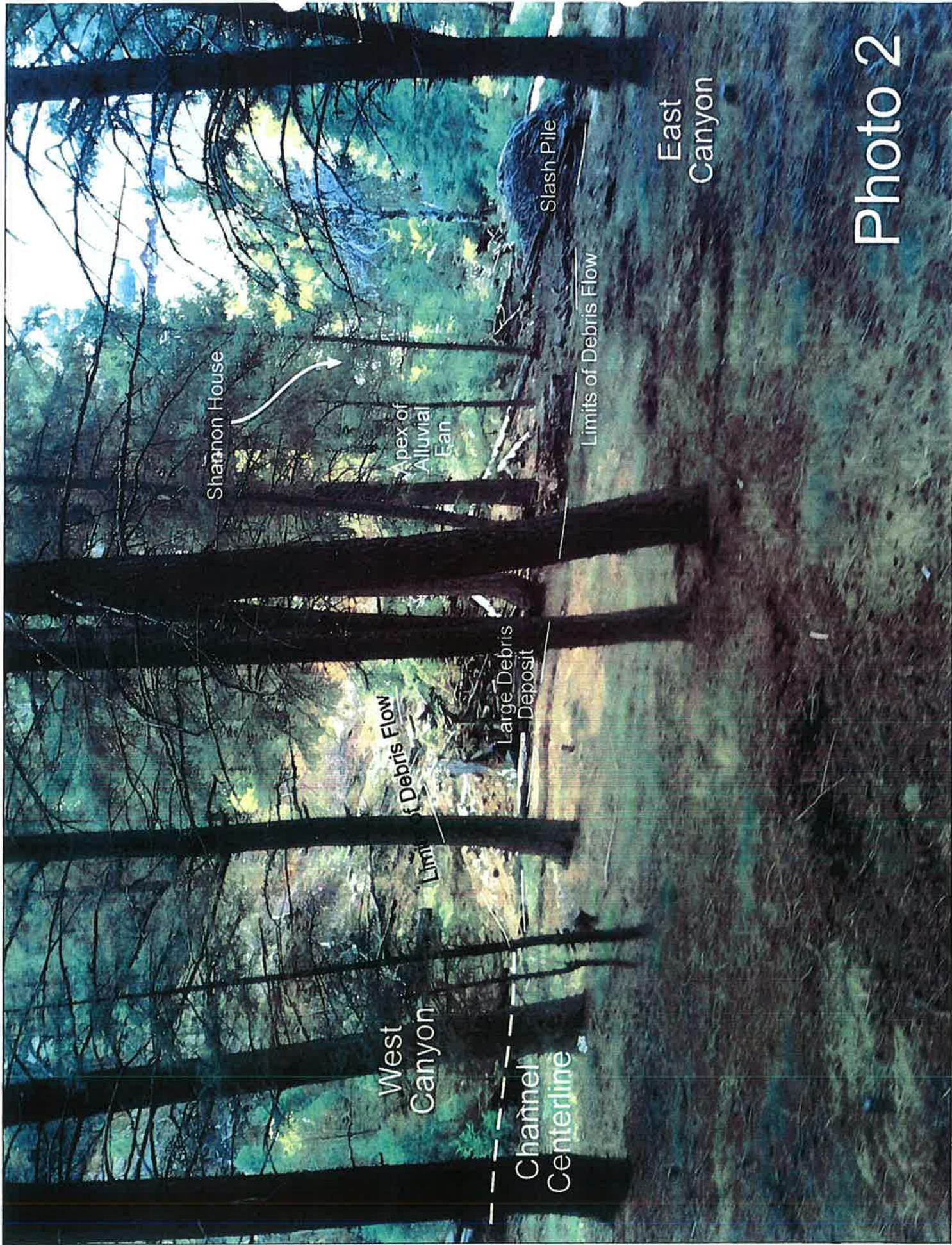
Photo 1

Old Logging Road

East
Canyon

PHOTO 1-9





Shannon House

Apex of Alluvial Fan

Slash Pile

East Canyon

Limits of Debris Flow

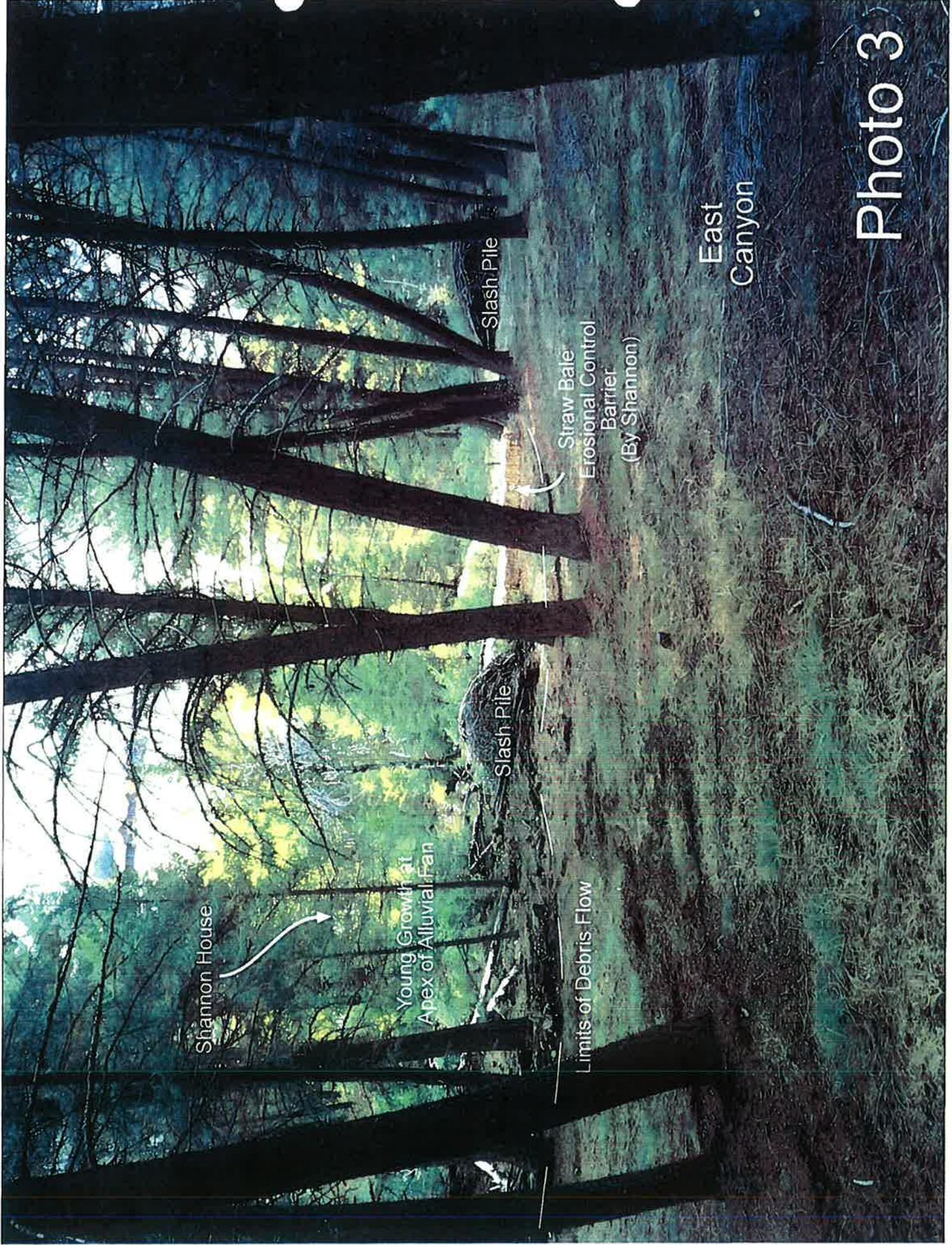
Limits of Debris Flow

Large Debris Deposit

West Canyon

Channel Centerline

Photo 2



Shannon House

Young Growth at
Apex of Alluvial Fan

Limits of Debris Flow

Slash Pile

Slash Pile

Straw Bale
Erosional Control
Barrier
(By Shannon)

East
Canyon

Photo 3

Shannon House

Greenhorn Loop Road

Man-made Channel

Photo 4



Shannon House



Man-made
Channel



Photo 5





Shannon House
(Beyond)

Greenhorn Loop Road

Lot 24

Natural Channel

Photo 6

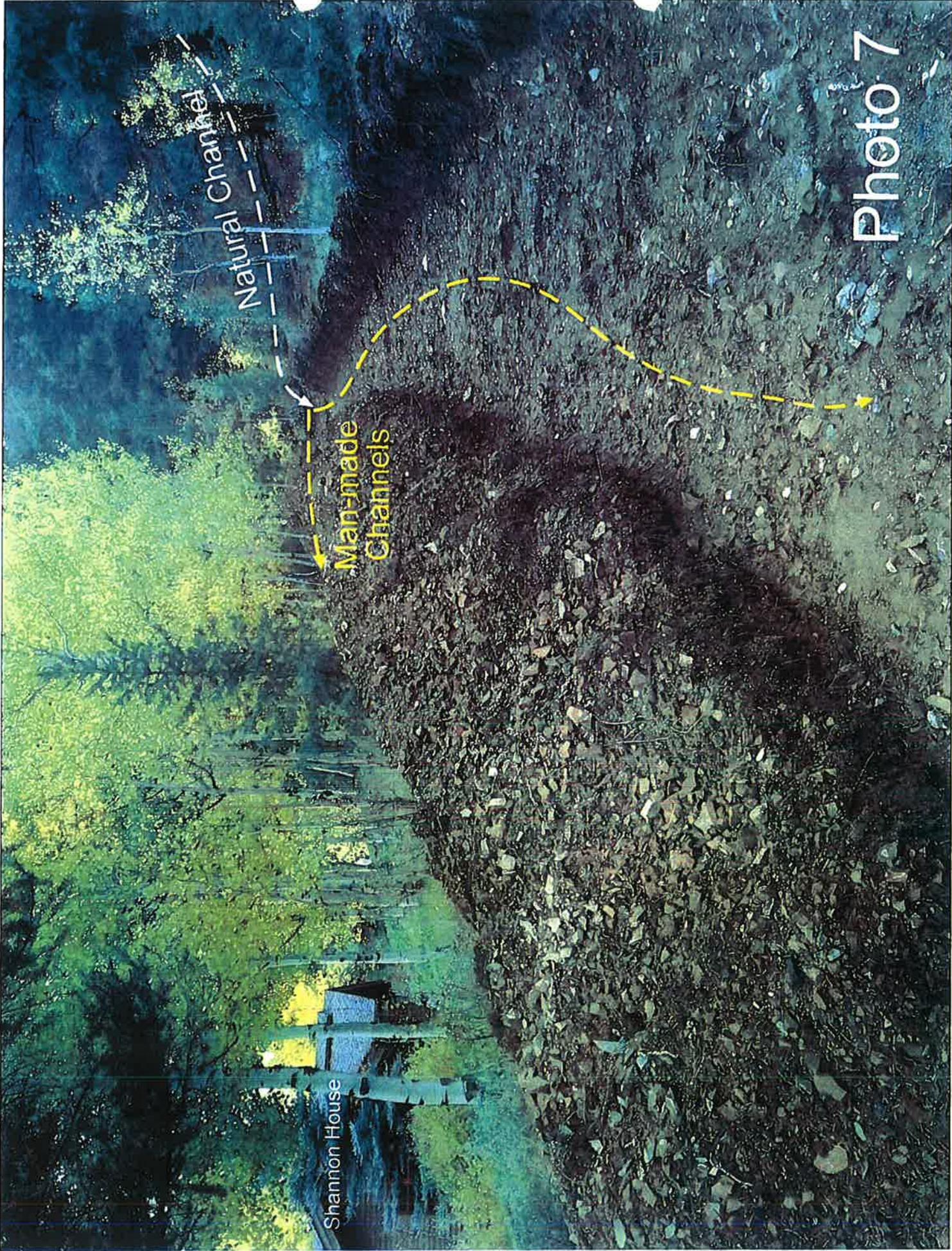
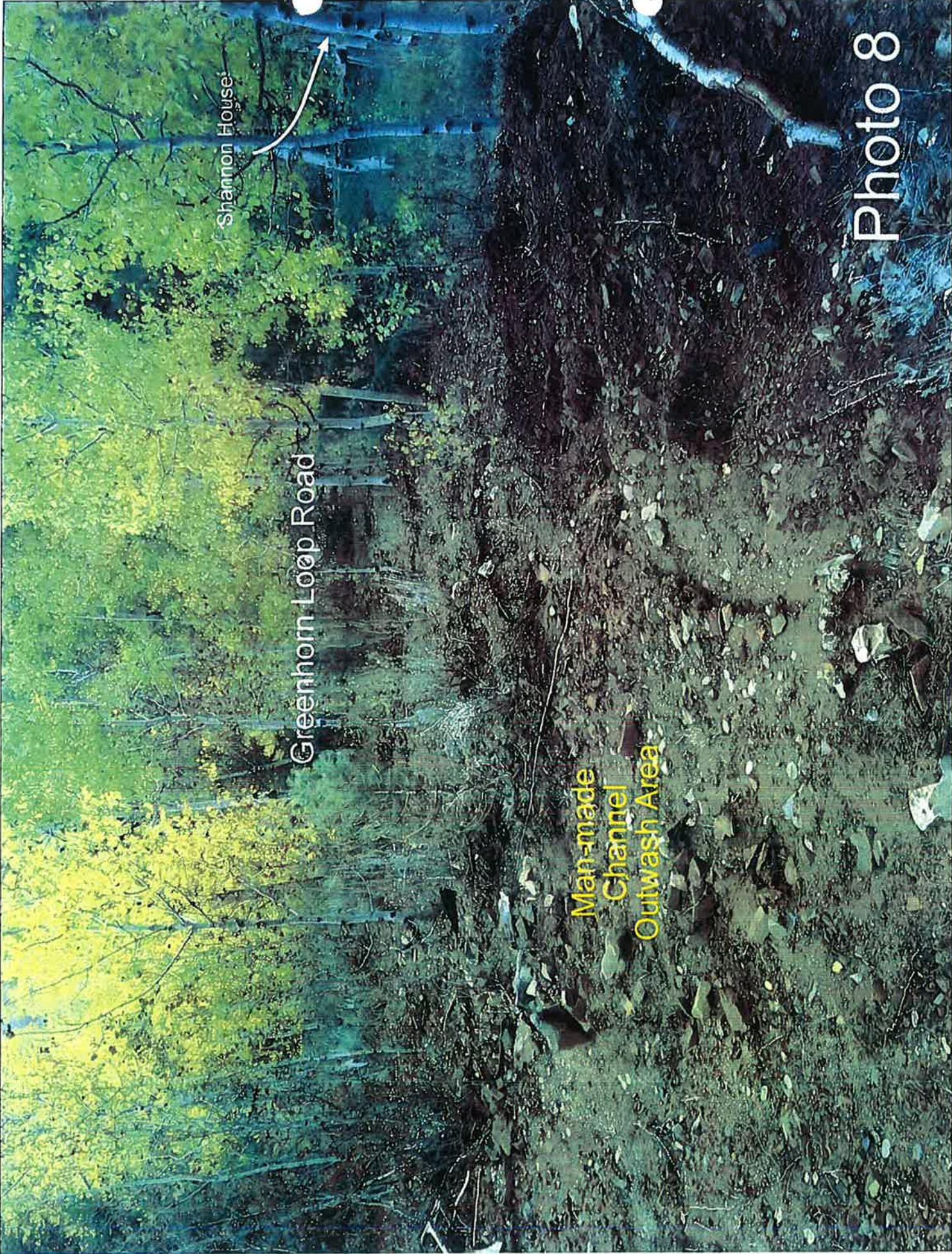


Photo 7



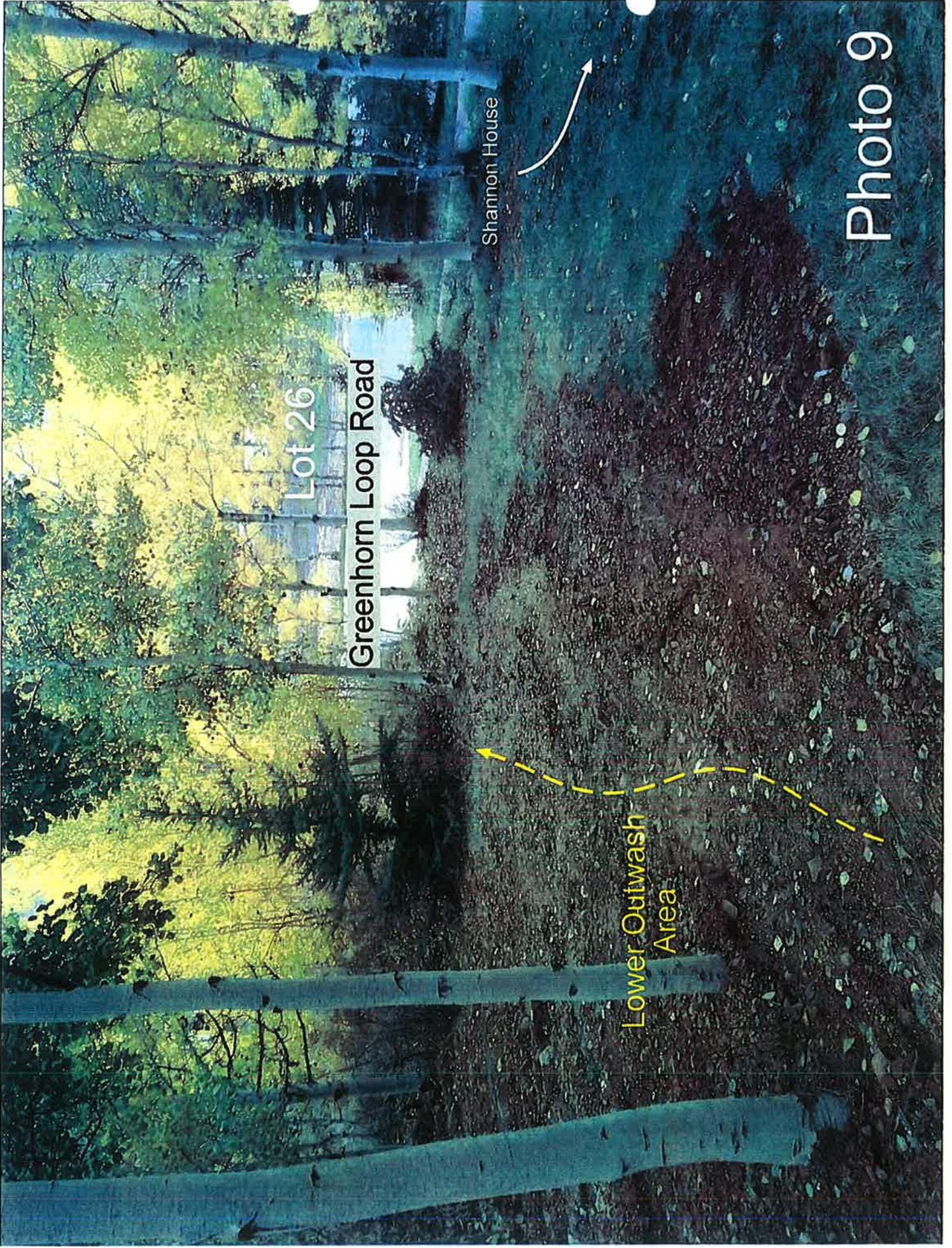
Shannon House



Greenhorn Loop Road

Man-made
Channel
Outwash Area

Photo 8



Lot 26

Greenhorn Loop Road

Shannon House

Lower Outwash Area

Photo 9

APPENDIX A

**Debris Flow Calculations:
25 and 100-year Design Storms**

Shannon Debris Calculations - 2.5yr 6hr

Area =	1,062,500	ft ²
	98,709.48	m ²
	0.099	km ²

Precipitation =	2	in
	50.8	mm

* Idaho Figure 22, isopluvials of 25-yr 6-hr precipitation in tenths of an inch

* NOAA ATLAS 2, Volume V

Gartner et al. (2007) model based on 50 debris flow events in Colorado, Utah, and California

$$\ln V = 0.59(\ln S_{30}) + 0.65(B)^{1/2} + 0.18(R)^{1/2} + 7.21$$

S ₃₀ =	0.10	* basin area with slopes greater than or equal to 30 percent (km ²) - assume total area
B =	0.10	* basin area burned at moderate to high severity (km ²), assume total area
R =	50.80	* total storm runoff (mm)
ln V =	7.33	
V =	1,527	* debris flow volume (m ³)

Existing flow characteristics

$$Q_{peak} = 0.135 V^{0.780} \text{ - *Granular debris flows in Japan (Mizuyama et al. 1992)}$$

$$Q_{peak} = 0.0188 V^{0.790} \text{ - *Muddy debris flows in Japan (Mizuyama et al. 1992)}$$

Q _{peak} =	41.09	m ³ /s - Granular
Q _{peak} =	6.16	m ³ /s - Muddy
Q _{peak average} =	23.62	m ³ /s - average

Empirical Relationships for Debris Flows, Dieter Rickenmann, Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, CH-8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland

$V = 2.1 Q^{0.33} S^{0.33}$

$Q_{peak\ average} =$	23.62	m ³ /s - average
$S =$	0.43	m/m
$V =$	4.52	m/s
$A_{req} =$	5.22	m ²
$A_{req} =$	56.24	ft ²

$Q_{peak} =$	41.09	m ³ /s - Granular
$S =$	0.43	m/m
$V =$	5.43	m/s
$A_{req} =$	7.57	m ²
$A_{req} =$	81.48	ft ²

$Q_{peak} =$	6.16	m ³ /s - Muddy
$S =$	0.43	m/m
$V =$	2.90	m/s
$A_{req} =$	2.12	m ²
$A_{req} =$	22.84	ft ²

Uphill Data from topo

* Uphill topography on topo shows the following data:

$A_{calculated} =$	6.5	ft ²
	0.60	m ²
$S_{calculated} =$	0.24	m/m
$V =$	4.44	m/s - * Q_{peak} for granular flow
$A_{required} =$	9.25	m ²
	99.61	ft ²

Possible debris flow configurations

$A_{required} =$	9.25	m ²
	99.61	ft ²

* calculations based on sideslope = 1.5:1

bottom (ft)	top (ft)	Depth (ft)	Area (ft ²)
8	26	6	102

Runup Height calculations

$$(Chu \text{ et al. } 1995) - \Delta h = (v^2 \cos^2(\Theta_0 + \Theta) \tan \Theta / g(S_f + \tan \Theta)) * (1 + (g h \cos \Theta_0 / 2v^2)^2)$$

v =	4.44	m/s
$\Theta_0 =$	0.23	rad
$\Theta =$	0.59	rad
g =	9.78045	m/s ²
$S_f =$	0.58	
h =	1.8288	m
$\Delta h =$	0.60	m
	1.98	ft

Debris Impact Force

(Hungry et al., 1984; VanDine, 1996; and Lo, 2000)

$$F_d = (h * \rho * v^2 * \sin \delta) * 3$$

h =	1.8288	m
$\rho =$	1920	kg/m ³
v =	4.44	m/s
$\delta =$	1.30899	rad
$F_d =$	200,572.95	N/m
	13,743.84	lb/ft

Required berm height

h =	8.74	ft
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$$* p = 1/2 k_p * h^2 * \gamma$$

Shannon Debris Calculations - 100yr 24hr

Area =	1,062,500	ft ²
	98,709.48	m ²
	0.099	km ²

Precipitation =

4	in
101.6	mm

* Idaho Figure 22, isopluvials of 25-yr 6-hr precipitation in tenths of an inch
 * NOAA ATLAS 2, Volume V

Gartner et al. (2007) model based on 50 debris flow events in Colorado, Utah, and California

$$\ln V = 0.59(\ln S_{30}) + 0.65(B)^{1/2} + 0.18(R)^{1/2} + 7.21$$

S ₃₀ =	0.10	* basin area with slopes greater than or equal to 30 percent (km ²) - assume total area
B =	0.10	* basin area burned at moderate to high severity (km ²), assume total area
R =	101.60	* total storm runoff (mm)
ln V =	7.86	
V =	2,598	* debris flow volume (m ³)

Existing flow characteristics

$$Q_{\text{peak}} = 0.135 V^{0.780} \text{ - *Granular debris flows in Japan (Mizuyama et al. 1992)}$$

$$Q_{\text{peak}} = 0.0188 V^{0.790} \text{ - *Muddy debris flows in Japan (Mizuyama et al. 1992)}$$

Q _{peak} =	62.19	m ³ /s - Granular
Q _{peak} =	9.37	m ³ /s - Muddy
Q _{peak average} =	35.78	m ³ /s - average

Empirical Relationships for Debris Flows, Dieter Rickenmann, Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, CH-8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland

$$V = 2.1 Q^{0.33} S^{0.33}$$

$Q_{\text{peak average}} =$	35.78	m^3/s - average
$S =$	0.43	m/m
$V =$	5.19	m/s
$A_{\text{req}} =$	6.90	m^2
$A_{\text{req}} =$	74.27	ft^2

$Q_{\text{peak}} =$	62.19	m^3/s - Granular
$S =$	0.43	m/m
$V =$	6.22	m/s
$A_{\text{req}} =$	9.99	m^2
$A_{\text{req}} =$	107.57	ft^2

$Q_{\text{peak}} =$	9.37	m^3/s - Muddy
$S =$	0.43	m/m
$V =$	3.33	m/s
$A_{\text{req}} =$	2.81	m^2
$A_{\text{req}} =$	30.26	ft^2

Uphill Data from topo

* Uphill topography on topo shows the following data:

$A_{\text{calculated}} =$	6.5	ft^2
	0.60	m^2
$S_{\text{calculated}} =$	0.24	m/m
$V =$	5.09	m/s - * Q_{peak} for granular flow
$A_{\text{required}} =$	12.22	m^2
	131.49	ft^2

Possible debris flow configurations

$A_{\text{required}} =$	12.22	m^2
	131.49	ft^2

* calculations based on sideslope = 1.5:1

bottom (ft)	top (ft)	Depth (ft)	Area (ft ²)
8	26	6	102

Runup Height calculations

(Chu et al. 1995) - $\Delta h = (v^2 \cos^2(\theta_0 + \theta) \tan \theta / g(S_r + \tan \theta)) * (1 + (g h \cos \theta_0 / 2v^2)^2)$

v =	5.09	m/s
$\theta_0 =$	0.23	rad
$\theta =$	0.59	rad
g =	9.78045	m/s ²
$S_r =$	0.58	
h =	1.8288	m
$\Delta h =$	0.74	m
	2.42	ft

Debris Impact Force

(Hungre et al., 1984; VanDine, 1996; and Lo, 2000)

$F_d = (h * \rho * v^2 * \sin \delta) * 3$

h =	1.8288	m
$\rho =$	1920	kg/m ³
v =	5.09	m/s
$\delta =$	1.30899	rad
$F_d =$	263,682.90	N/m
	18,068.32	lb/ft

Required berm height

h =	10.02	ft
-----	-------	----

*** $p = 1/2 k_p * h^2 * \gamma$**

**SHANNON RESIDENCE DEBRIS FLOW PROTECTION
LOT 27 GREENHORN GULCH SUBDIVISION
BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO
DEBRIS FLOW BARRIERS**

OWNER:

Michael Shannon
2417 Stanmore Drive
Houston, TX 77019

ENGINEERING:

JA Womack, P.C.
PO Box 9550
Jackson, WY 83001
(307) 733-5150

PROJECT LOCATION:

Greenhorn Gulch, Lot 27
Blaine County, Idaho

PURPOSE OF WORK:

NATURAL EROSION UPHILL OF THE PROPERTY IS LIKELY AND THIS PROJECT SEEKS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF DAMAGE FROM SUCH MOVEMENT OF MATERIAL.

SUMMARY OF WORK:

CLEARING AND GRUBBING OF TREES AND VEGETATION WITHIN CONSTRUCTION AREA OF DEBRIS FLOW TRENCH AND BERM. EXCAVATION OF TRENCH AND CONSTRUCTION OF TRAINING WALLS AND DEFLECTION BERM. PLACEMENT OF AGGREGATE RIP RAP ARMORING OF TRENCH BOTTOM, TRAINING WALLS, AND DEFLECTION BERM. REVEGETATION OF NON-ARMORED SURFACES OF BERM AND TRAINING WALLS. IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE AT OR BELOW GRADE.

SOURCE OF MAPPING:

Galena Engineering, Inc.
317 N. River St.
Hailey, Idaho 83333

BENCHMARK AND BASIS OF BEARING:

HORIZONTAL DATUM: 1/2" REBAR BENCHMARK FOUND AT NW CORNER OF LOT
VERTICAL DATUM: NGVD 1988



Project Area

Approx. Scale: 1" = 100 ft

INDEX OF FIGURES:

<u>SHEET TITLE</u>	<u>SHEET No.</u>
COVER SHEET	S1.0
CONSTRUCTION NOTES	S1.1
EXISTING CONDITIONS	S2.0
PROPOSED TRENCH AND BERM CONSTRUCTION	S2.1
SECTION DETAILS	S2.2

NOTE: RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS DOCUMENT ARE CONTINGENT UPON OBSERVATION AND INSPECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION BY AN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DESIGN ENGINEER



**DEBRIS FLOW
MAPS & PLATS**

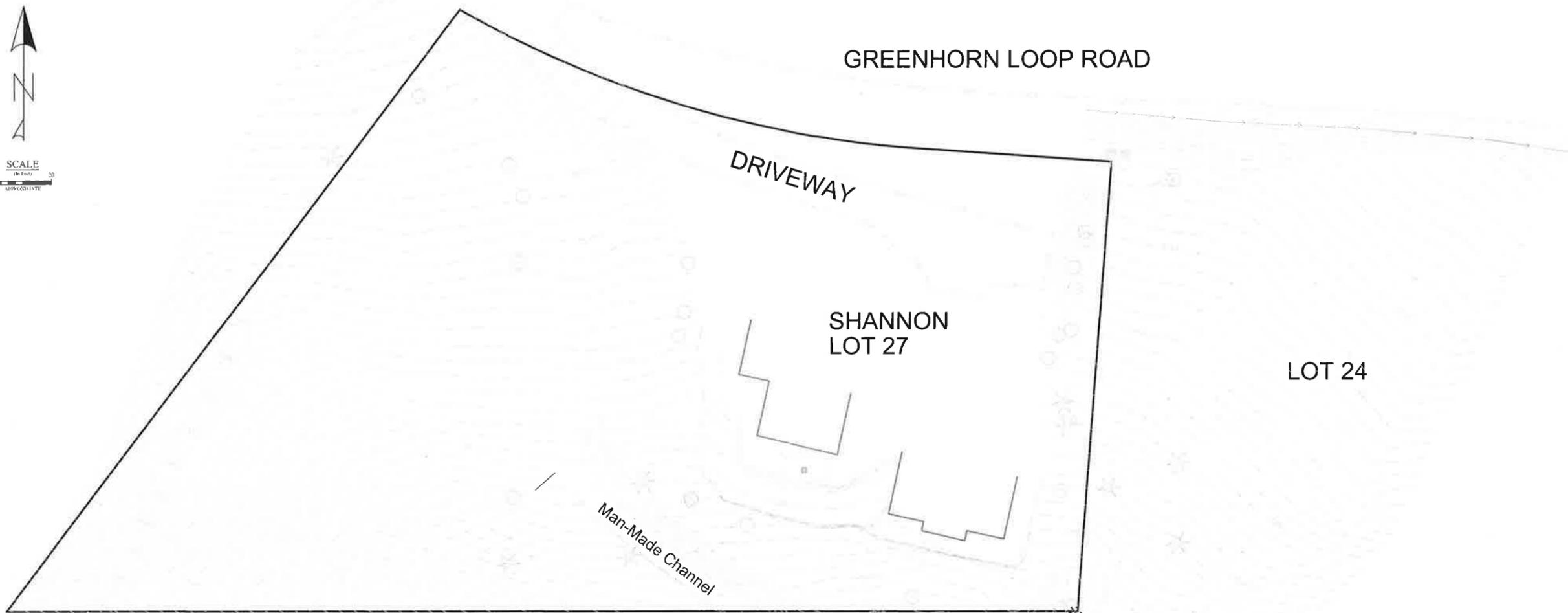
PLAN VERSION	DATE	DRAFTER	APPROVED
SHEET TITLE: TITLE SHEET, NOTES, AND VICINITY MAP			
PROJECT TITLE: Debris Flow Mitigation SHANNON RESIDENCE LOT 27 GREENHORN GULCH SUBDIVISION BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO			
PROJECT NUMBER			
SHEET			S1.0

The Following Images: W:\Clients\Galena Engineering\maps & plats\

Project 111940 on Apr 14, 2014 at 11:22am
 The following image is a screenshot of the project file in the software application.

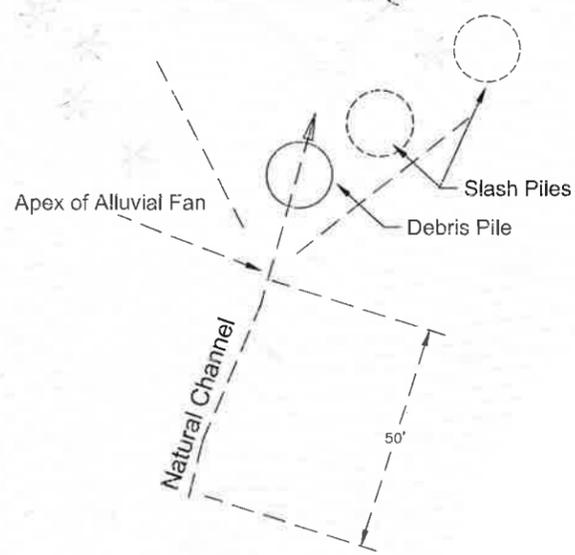


SCALE
0 10 20
feet
APPROXIMATE



- LEGEND**
- Property Line
 - - - Adjoiners Lot Line
 - EOA = Edge of Asphalt
 - FL = Ditch Flowline
 - - - FNC = Fence Line
 - Retaining Wall
 - 5' Contour Interval
 - 1' Contour Interval
 - Existing Structure
 - TVBOX = Television Riser
 - PBOX = Power Box
 - PHBOX = Phone Riser
 - CB = Catch Basin
 - DT = Deciduous Tree
 - CT = Conifer Tree

BLM



Man-Made Channel
(to be reclaimed)



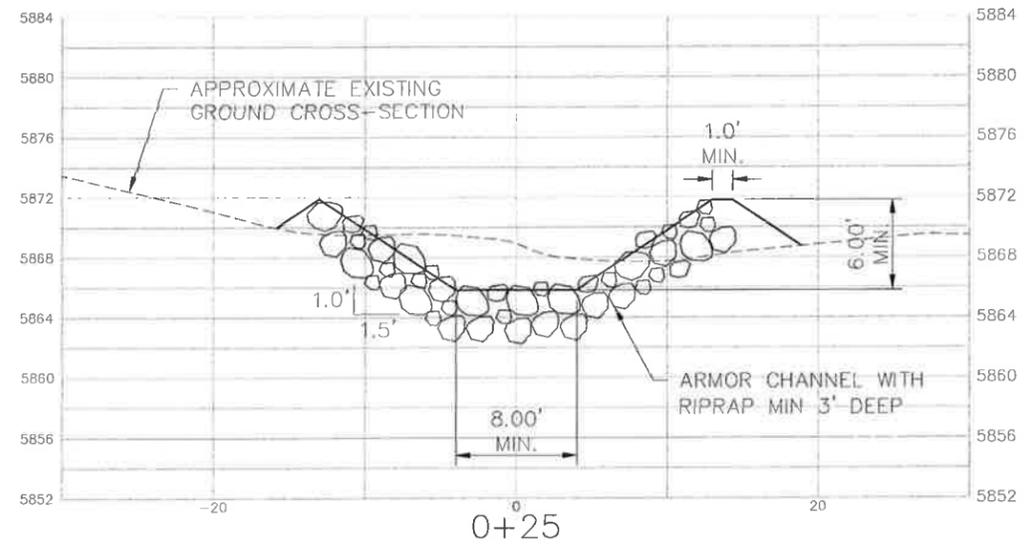
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SHEET TITLE: EXISTING CONDITIONS			
PROJECT NUMBER			
SHEET			
PROJECT NUMBER			
SHEET			

JORGENSEN ASSOCIATES, P.C.
 ENGINEERS • LAND SURVEYORS • PLANNERS
 P.O. Box 9550, 2760 Low Simpson Ave., Jackson, Wyoming 83002
 Phone: 307.733.8888
 Fax: 307.733.8889
 Email: info@jorgensenassociates.com

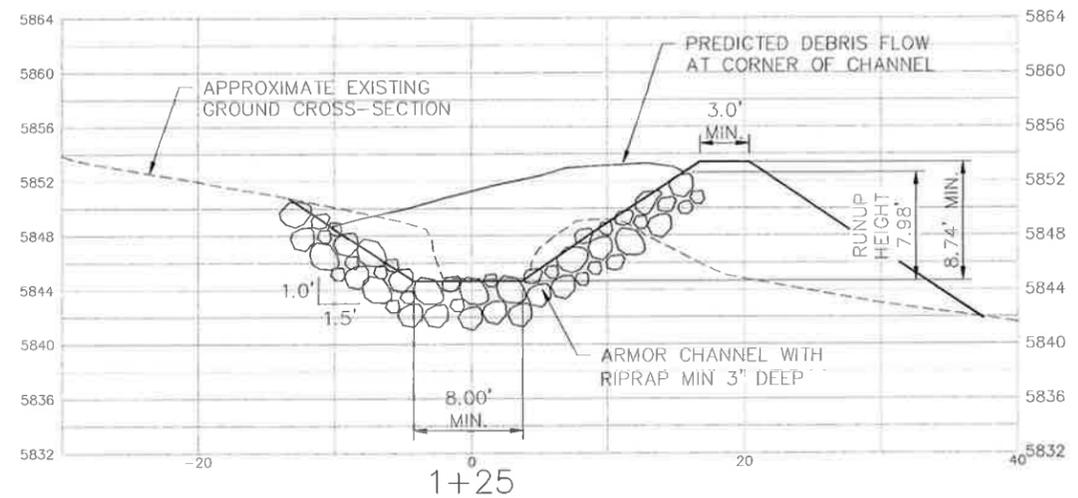
S2.0

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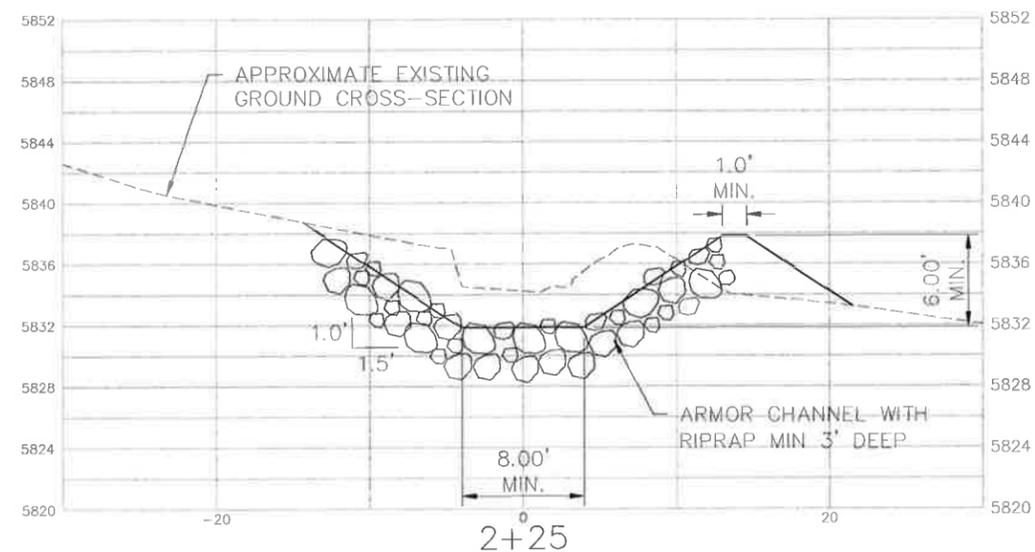
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Section A-A' Typ.



Section B-B' Typ.



Section C-C' Typ.



PLAN VERSION	DATE	DRAFTER	APPROVED

SHEET TITLE:
SECTION DETAILS
 PROJECT TITLE:
**DEBRIS FLOW MITIGATION
 SHANNON RESIDENCE
 LOT 27 GREENHORN
 GULCH SUBDIVISION
 BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO**

JORGENSEN ASSOCIATES, P.C.
 1000 W. 14th Street, Suite 200 • Pocatello, ID 83420
 P.O. Box 9556, 270 East Simpson Ave., Jackson, Wyoming 83002
 (307) 733-6130 • FAX (307) 733-5187
 jorgensen@jorgensenassociates.com

PROJECT NUMBER
 SHEET
S2.2