



Reecer Creek Levee Project

A long-term goal has been accomplished to mitigate flooding impacts to people and property while protecting the environment. Several projects have been a part of the plan to reduce flooding risk in West Ellensburg, including construction of two levees which would extend from Interstate 90 to University Way. Together the two levees comprise the Reecer Creek Levee Project.



Dolarway Rd and Pott Rd., facing North, 2009



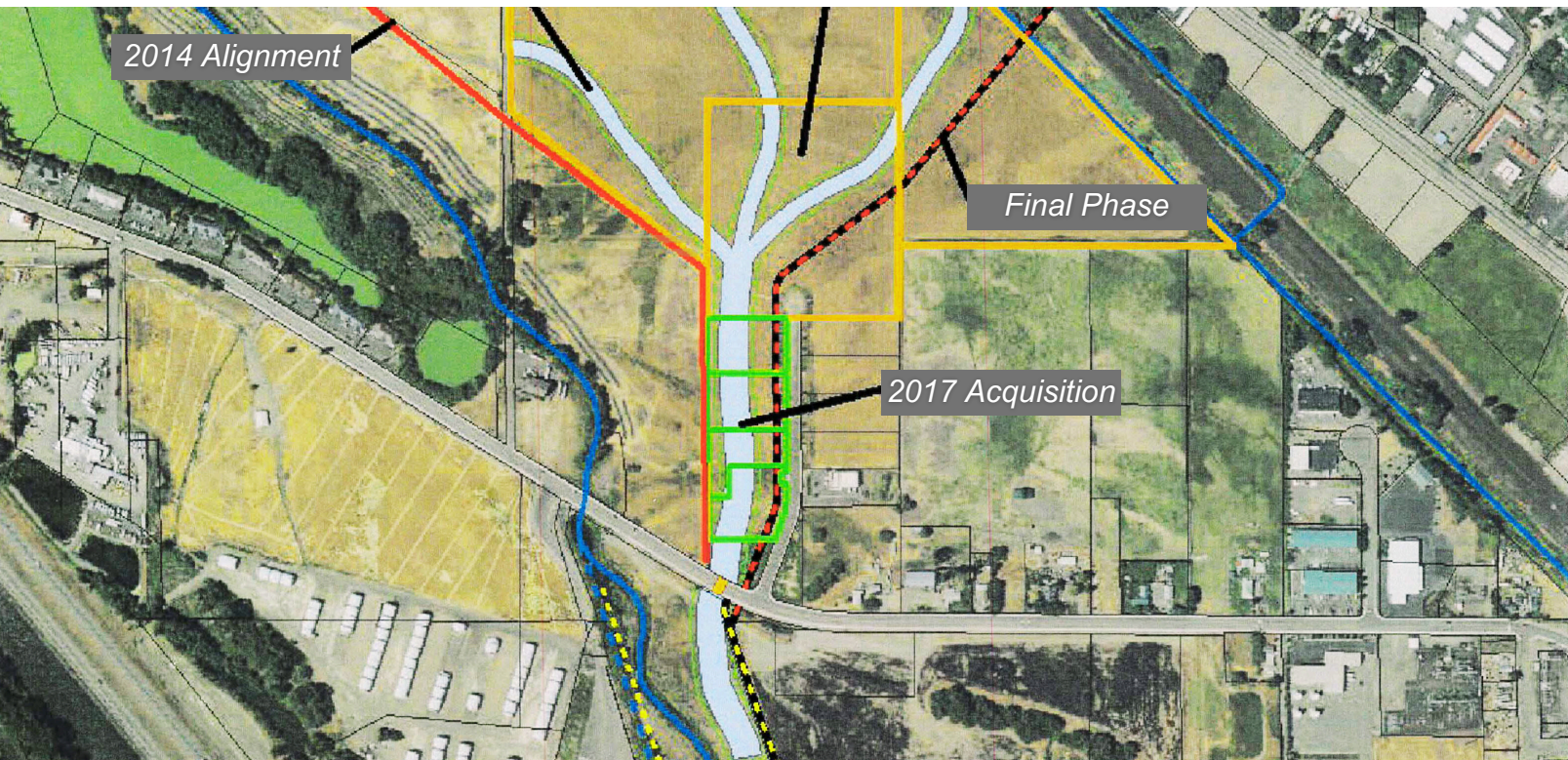
Dolarway Rd. / Reecer Creek 28' bridge (before)



Placing gravel, Reecer Creek Levee Project, 2025



Completed Dolarway Rd. / Reecer Creek Bridge, (after)



Project Partners

City of Ellensburg

The Yakama Nation

State of Washington Department of Ecology

Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District

Aspect Consulting

Hurst Construction

Multiple Phases of the Project

- 2010** The City completed construction of the lower levee south of Dolarway along with the newly constructed Reecer Creek stream channel (shown by the black and yellow dashed line in the diagram). This levee extended South to Interstate 90.
- 2012** The Dolarway Road project replaced an undersized at grade 28' bridge that spanned Reecer Creek with three elevated bridges that now span 90' across Reecer Creek.
- 2014** The City received a \$1.5 million dollar grant from the State Department of Ecology to extend the 2010 levee along the boundary of the Yakama Nation's property, north to University Way. Many fish enhancements and flood reduction projects were planned for that project. The Yakama Tribe requested that the City work with Trust for Public Lands to acquire 56 acres, north of Dolarway. This changed the alignment and move the connection from University Way toward the Burlington Northern Railway (BSNF), to someday allow for Whiskey Creek to join Reecer Creek for long-term fish enhancements.
- 2017** Approximately \$1.2 million of the 2014 Ecology grant was used to acquire five undeveloped business lots along Enterprise Way. Those business lots were needed for the new levee alignment which would terminate at the BNSF junction. The City was unsuccessful in acquiring additional funding for the 56 acres.
- 2020** The City issued \$5 million in stormwater revenue bonds to purchase the 56 acres and pay for construction of the new bridge, flood swales, and levee. Subsequently, permitting activities continued for several years, including extensive cultural resource review of the 56 acre site.
- 2023** An additional Dolarway Bridge was designed and built to convey the overflow waters from Reecer and Currier Creeks, and the flow channels downstream of Dolarway were constructed as part of this bridge project.
- 2025** The final phase of the Reecer Creek Levee Project was completed.