

Glenda Wiles

From: Clancy, Chris -FS [cclancy@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 11:08 AM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Mitchell Slough documents.
Attachments: Mitchell Slough Inspection2.docx; Mitchell portages.docx

Glenda, attached are two documents. Could you forward these to Jeff and J.R., please?

The first is an electronic copy of the report I submitted to the Commissioners. In this document the fences yet to be dealt with are # 5, 8 and 10. The bridges on the properties could likely all be dealt with on the future signs at Victor Crossing and Bell Crossing. On Walter Babcock's property there is a pipe crossing the slough and we suggested a sign to inform the public not to sit on it. It is up to the landowner if he wants that sign.

At #12, which is the Locke-Levenstein boundary, we thought a minor adjustment in the stays would allow easier movement through the fence. Mrs. Levenstein did not think any adjustments were needed.

The second document has pictures of the work we did at the 2 portages that we completed.

I have some photos of other portage structures that I can send you. I will do that in a separate e-mail message.

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Mitchell Slough Inspection
3/4/2013

Present:

Ravalli County Commissioners – J.R. Iman, Jeff Burrows

Bitterroot Conservation District- Howard Eldredge

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Chet Crowser, Charlie Sperry, Doug Johnson, Chris Clancy

Petitioner- Andy Roubik

Floater- Michael Howell

The inspection began at Victor Crossing, where it passes over Mitchell Slough. All of the individuals proceeded downstream through various properties to where Mitchell Slough passes under the Bell Crossing Highway.

Following are some photographs and notes for the potential portage sites (Number 1 is upstream of Victor Crossing) :

2. **Fallen Tree** – This tree was judged to be a natural barrier that was relatively easy to cross over by waders and canoeists



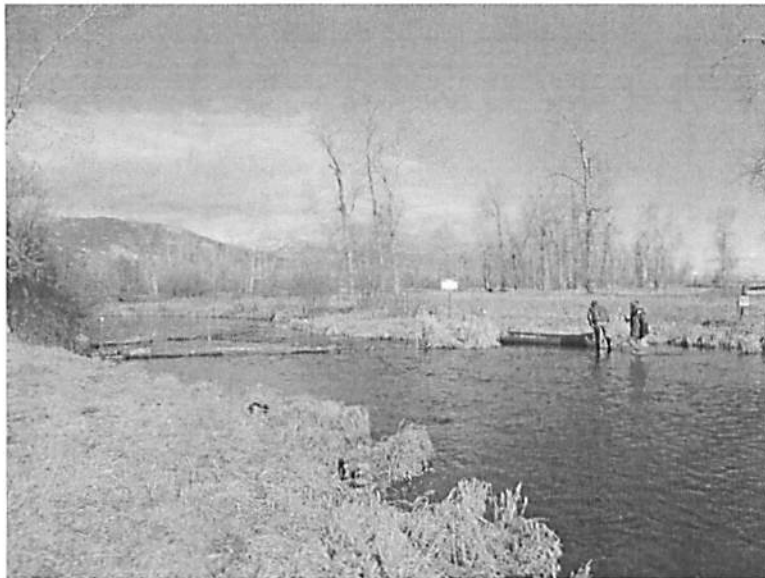
3. **Property boundary fence between John Lewis and James Wark.** The traditional post and barbed wire fence is across Mitchell Slough and is difficult to pass over by waders and canoeists. We discussed the fence with John Lewis onsite. It was determined that FWP would rebuild the fence at the site, preferably using brace posts on each bank and smooth wire with PVC pipe over the appropriate wires. The lower wires will be loose enough to allow a canoe to be pushed

underneath and waders to easily pass through the fence. Other possible alternatives are a small corridor of hanging PVC or a v-gate on the streambank with a horizontal boat pass.



4. **Short bridge on Wark property.** A canoe was able to pass under the bridge but wading could be difficult. A sign informing recreationists that they may walk around the bridge and immediately re-enter the stream seemed appropriate.

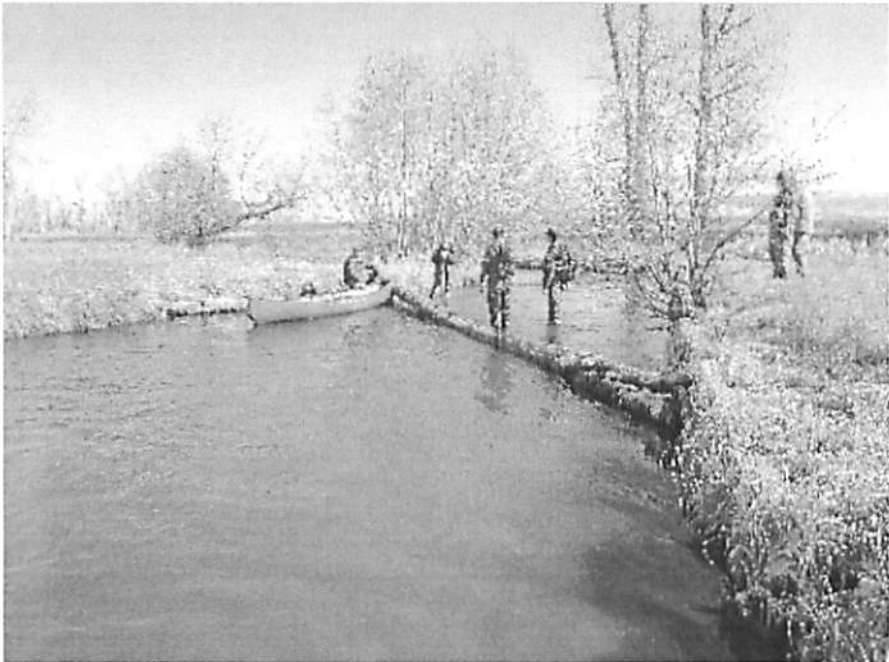
5. **Property boundary fence between James Wark and Thomas Hyde.** Similar situation to #3.



6. Short steel bridge on Hyde property. Similar solution to #3 (sign) proposed.



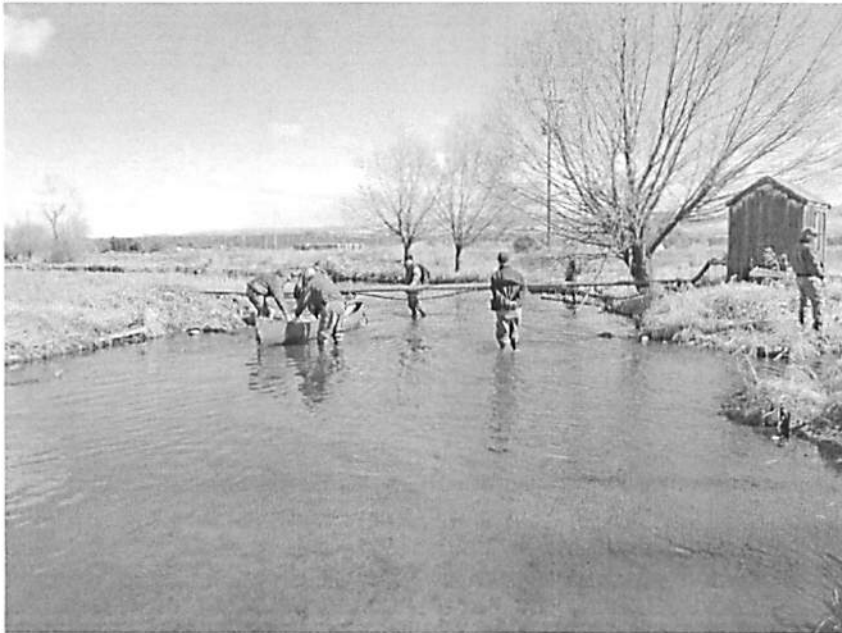
7. Fish Habitat Structure (man made?). Easily crossed by floaters and waders.



8. Hyde north boundary fence. Similar situation to #3 and #5.



9. Walter Babcock irrigation pipe crossing channel. A sign to ask recreationists to pass under the pipe or around the pipe and immediately back into the stream seemed appropriate.



10 and 11. Babcock-Locke boundary fences. The Babcock fence is difficult to pass under and through. Will meet with landowner or agent to discuss possible solutions. The fence is only electrified when stock are crossing the stream. We discussed the fence on the Locke boundary with landowner and ranch manager. It was decided to send them some photos of potential gates that would allow boats and waders to pass around the fence.



12. Locke-Levenstein boundary fence – Some modification of the stays and wire that would allow floaters to lift up the lowest wire was discussed. Also, a similar solution on the upper wire to allow waders to pass through the fence was discussed. A PVC pipe would be installed on the fence, with possible signing to alert recreationists as to where the cross.



13. **Levenstein north boundary fence.** A missing strand allowed floaters and waders to pass through the fence. The decision was made to leave the fence as it is.



14. **Horse Fence upstream of Bell Crossing.** Single strand with high electrified? wire. Leave as is, possibly sign if electrified.



The next step will be to meet with representatives of the following properties:

James Wark, Thomas Hyde, Walter Babcock

Once the details of each site that require modification or signing have been worked out, FWP will begin

The first 2 pictures are the recent portage on the Locke property. We installed a brace post and gate that has a spring device that automatically closes it.



These 2 pictures are the portage at the Lewis-Wark boundary. We built 2 new braces and put in new smooth wire with some plastic pipe over part of it.



Glenda Wiles

From: Clancy, Chris -FS [cclancy@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 11:12 AM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: FW: Mitchell Slough Portage Information
Attachments: portage illustration.pdf; Cottonwood Grove.jpg; Dearbornbridge2.JPG; DearbornBridge4.JPG.jpg; Pedestrian pass.pdf; Step over stair.pdf

Glenda, attached are a few pictures of other portages that were sent to me. These will give an idea of other things that can be done. We still have to make sure the landowner and petitioners can agree on which structure to use.

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From: Sperry, Charlie [mailto:csperry@mt.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2013 11:22 AM
To: Clancy, Chris -FS
Cc: Crowser, Chet
Subject: Mitchell Slough Portage Information

Hi Chris,

My schedule is still holding up to join you in the portage inspection for Mitchell Slough. I made arrangements to meet Chet on Monday morning at the R2 office.

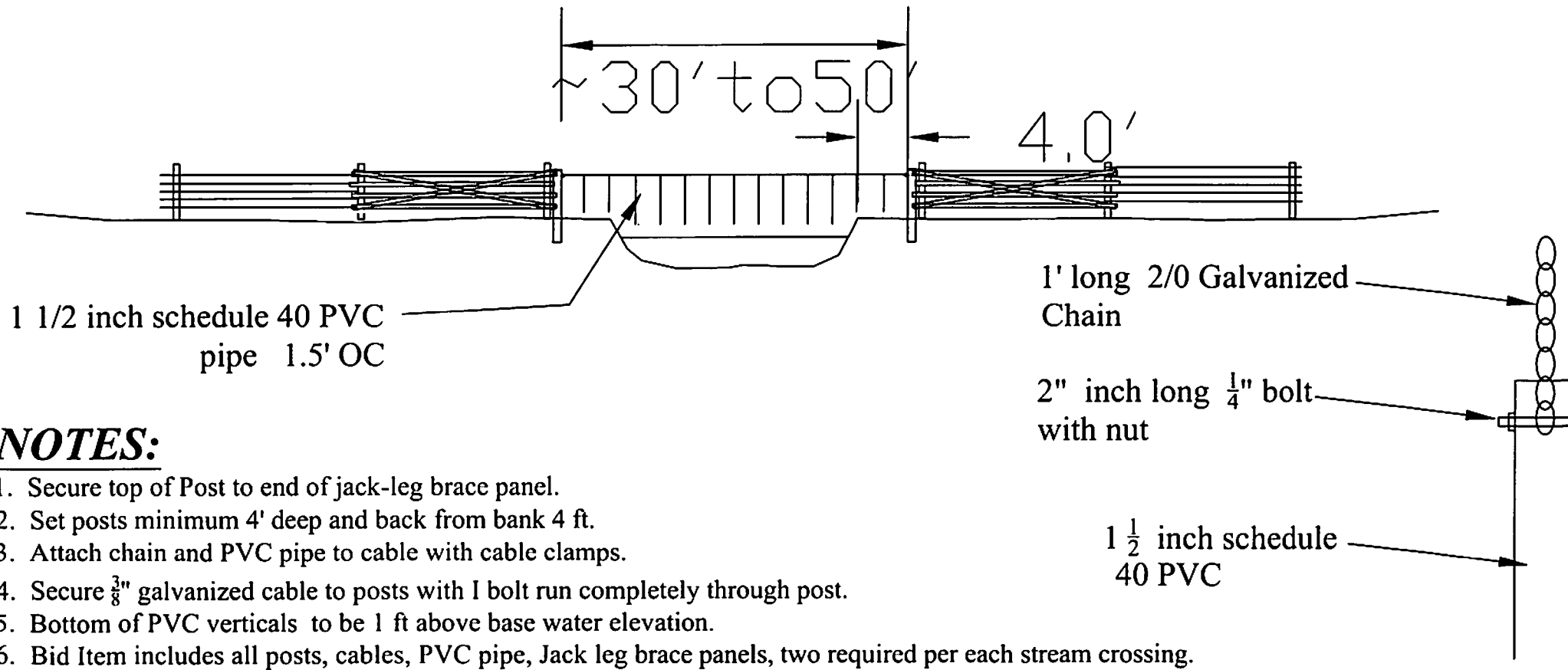
I am attaching some photos and illustrations related to pedestrian and hand-carry boat passage through fences, and float gate specs.

Charlie

Charlie Sperry
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Stream X-ings



NOTES:

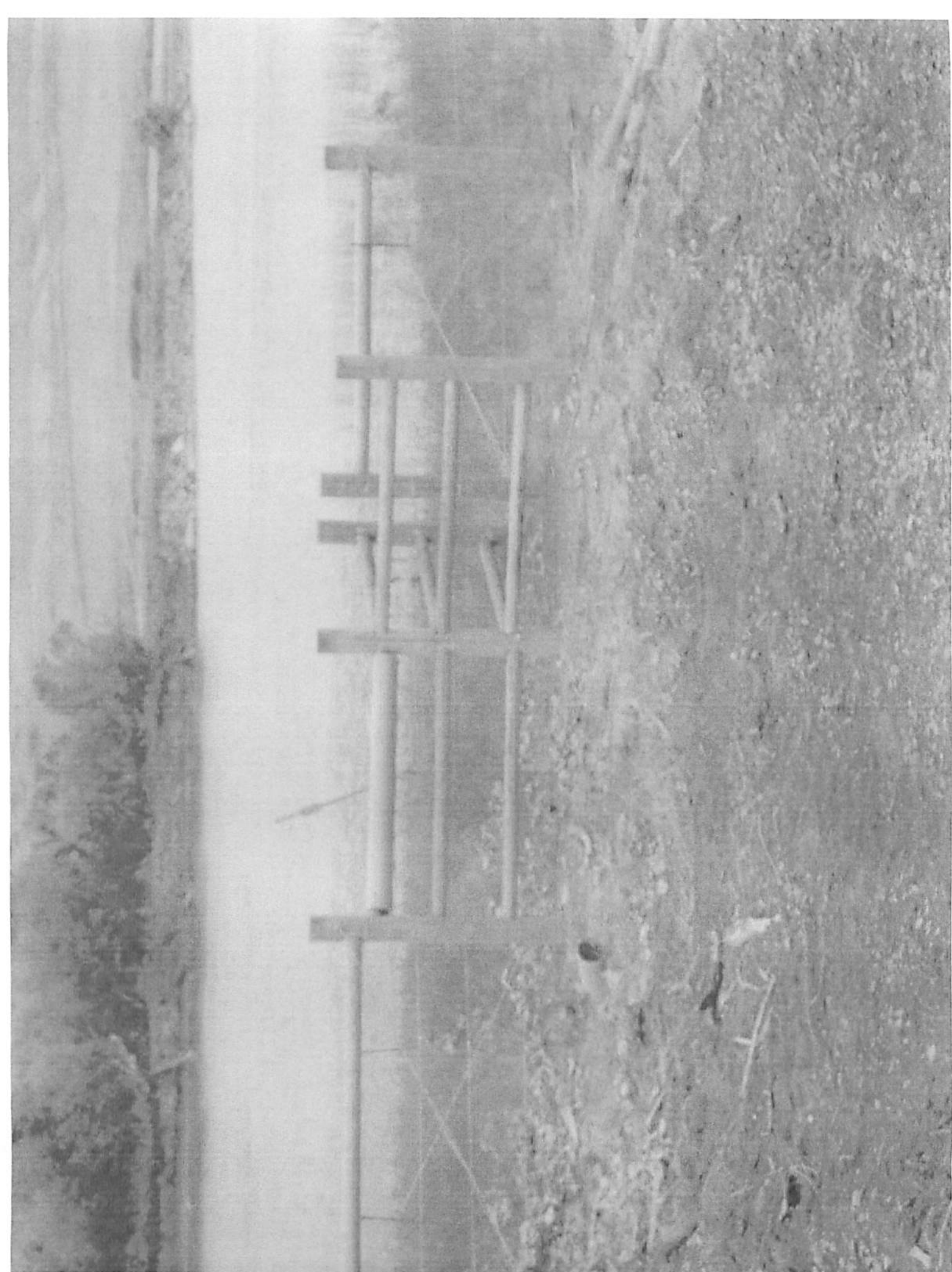
1. Secure top of Post to end of jack-leg brace panel.
2. Set posts minimum 4' deep and back from bank 4 ft.
3. Attach chain and PVC pipe to cable with cable clamps.
4. Secure 3/8" galvanized cable to posts with 1 bolt run completely through post.
5. Bottom of PVC verticals to be 1 ft above base water elevation.
5. Bid Item includes all posts, cables, PVC pipe, Jack leg brace panels, two required per each stream crossing.

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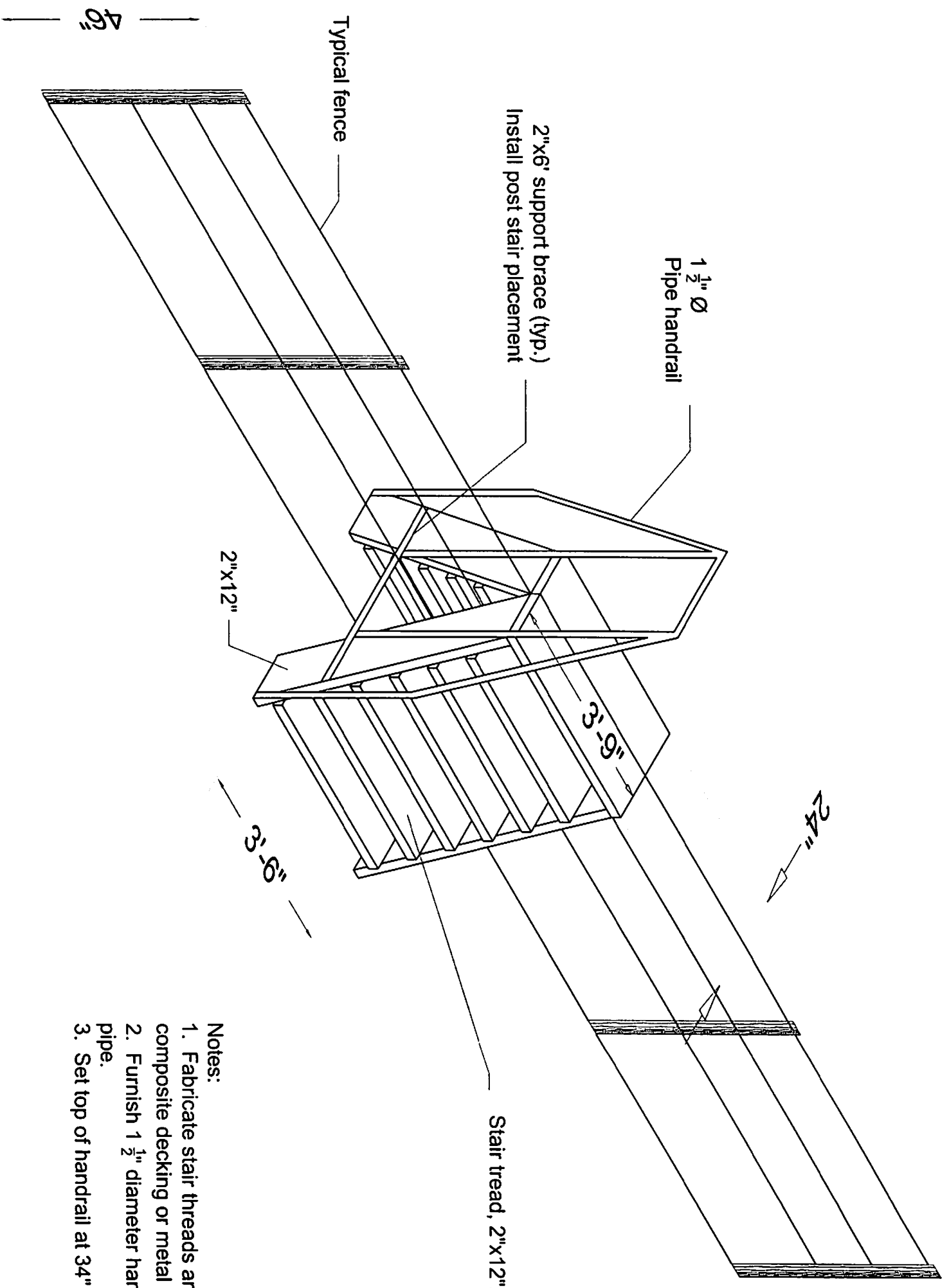


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- Notes:
1. Fabricate stair threads on composite decking or metal
 2. Furnish 1 1/2" diameter handrail pipe.
 3. Set top of handrail at 34"