



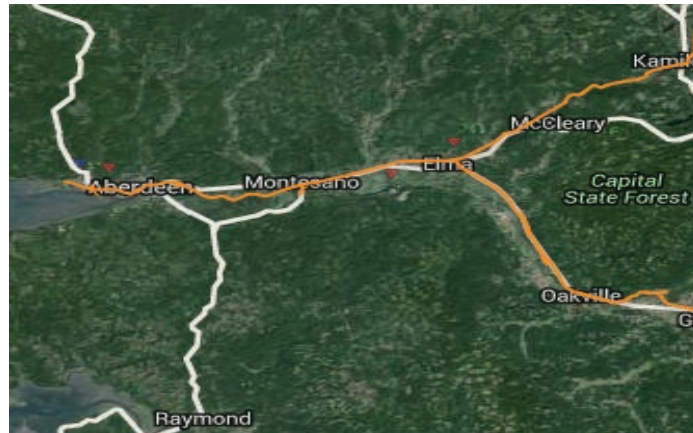
Troubled Bridges

Over Clean Water

A Study of Neglected Railroad Bridges of Grays Harbor

Grays Harbor County Railroad Crossings

PSAP- Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad



Crossings **1-15** are **before the fork**

Crossing **16-20** are on **north fork**

Crossing **21-28** are on **south fork**

Troubled Bridges Over Clean Water

A study of the rail bridges on the PSAP short-line from Centralia to Hoquiam.

These bridges were inspected by a Citizens Taskforce to identify the condition and maintenance status of the rail line that was acquired by Genesee & Wyoming in 2012. The rail system in this area transports freight over almost all the area we observed, but it interchanges with the BNSF and Union Pacific at Centralia, WA. All of the waterways under the 23 bridges crossed by this rail system flow into the Chehalis and ultimately into the Grays Harbor estuary.

Between March 19th and March 22nd 2016, Lee First, from North Sound Baykeeper and RE Sources for Sustainable Communities, Keith Kemplin, a RE Sources volunteer, and several volunteers from Grays Harbor gathered to plan the inspection 23 bridges in the area between Rochester and Hoquiam, Washington.

During the session, bridge inspection protocol developed by the Waterkeeper Alliance for their report about the condition of bridges, the Deadly Crossings Project was reviewed. The training session also provided an overview about stormwater pollution, as well as information about how to report pollution observations. We explained which businesses in the Grays Harbor area are covered under National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) permits, and how to research these permits to determine if businesses are in compliance with their permits. Finally, we provided a very brief overview of the work Waterkeepers do. After the session, we made plans to visit bridges with several of the attendees.

The History of the Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad



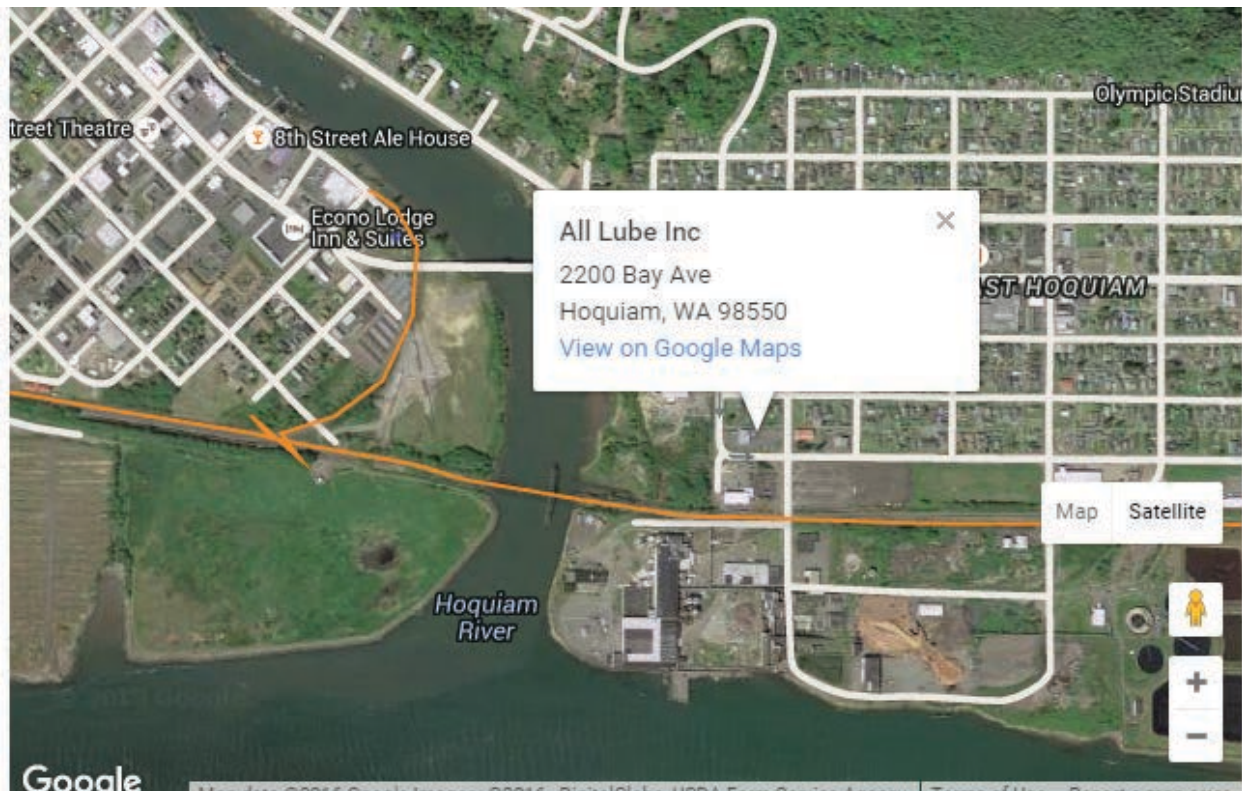
Copalis Lumber Company circa 1910 <http://www.graysharborgenealogy.com/>

The line was first built in 1889 and was operated as the Puget Sound and Grays Harbor (PS&GH). By 1891, the Tacoma, Olympia and Grays Harbor (TO&GH) purchased more track from Elma and Montesano. The Northern Pacific acquired all lines in the area and had full access to Grays Harbor by 1898. 1970 saw Northern Pacific merging with Burlington Northern who later (1997) sold the line to ParkSierra Railgroup, which began operating the railroad under the name Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad. RailAmerica purchased the line in 2002 and it's most current owner, Genesee & Wyoming purchased the assets in 2012.

The Elma Subdivision is the primary mainline for the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad and is approximately 70 miles in length. The Elma Sub starts in Centralia, Washington, Milepost 5, and ends in Hoquiam, Washington, Milepost 75. This subdivision handles traffic to and from the Port of Grays Harbor including grain, autos, soda ash, soybean, garbage, manifest, and local trains. The railline path crosses over 100 creeks, rivers and streams most of which are fish-bearing, in addition to important agricultural lands and countless critical wetlands. Ten miles of that track snakes through the Chehalis Basin Surge Plain, a sensitive wetland which is critical habitat to maturing salmonids and other wildlife.

1. Hoquiam River Swing Bridge

46°58'19" N, 123°52'35" W, 2200 Bay Ave Hoquiam, WA 98550



Cracks in the foundation were observed as well as disconnected and rotten crossbeams. Evidence of eroded steel beams, cracked cross beams and missing cross beam bolts. Last marked inspection was 1992.

2. Wishkah River Bridge

46°58'29" N, 123°48'37" W, 410 South F St Aberdeen, WA 98520



Eroded and cracked cross beams were observed. In addition-
al there was unguarded wiring and many rust-eaten beams.

3. Unnamed crossing- over Chehalis River

46°58'29.81"N, 123°46'12.45"W, 301 Junction City Rd Aberdeen, WA 98520

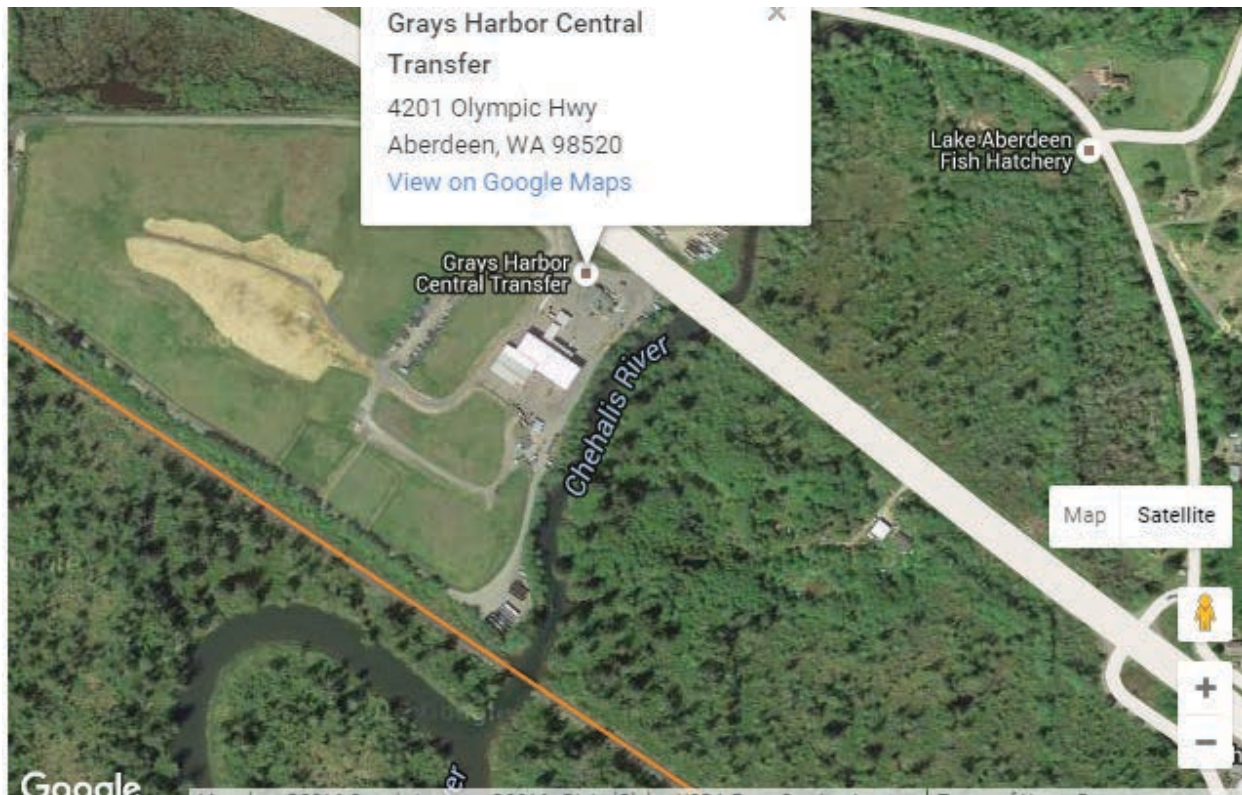


Might be on private property, address given for Sierra Pacific Industries

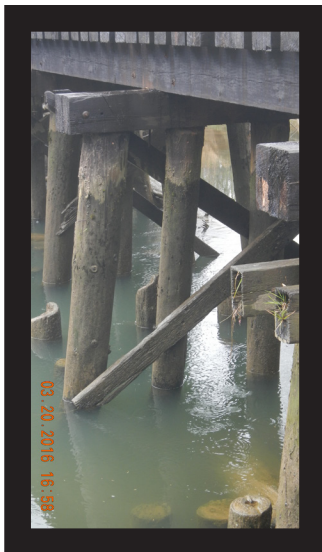
Bridge is circle to the right

4. Unnamed crossing- over Chehalis River

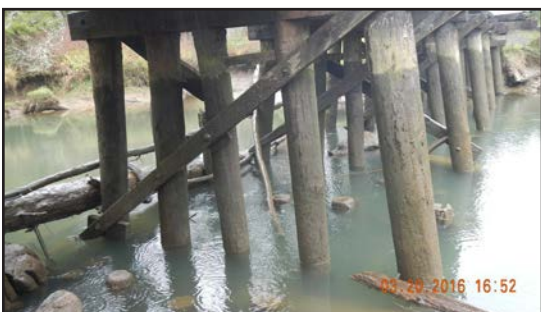
46°58'24.16"N, 123°45'5.01"W, 4201 Olympic Hwy Aberdeen, WA 98520



On south end of the Central Transfer property

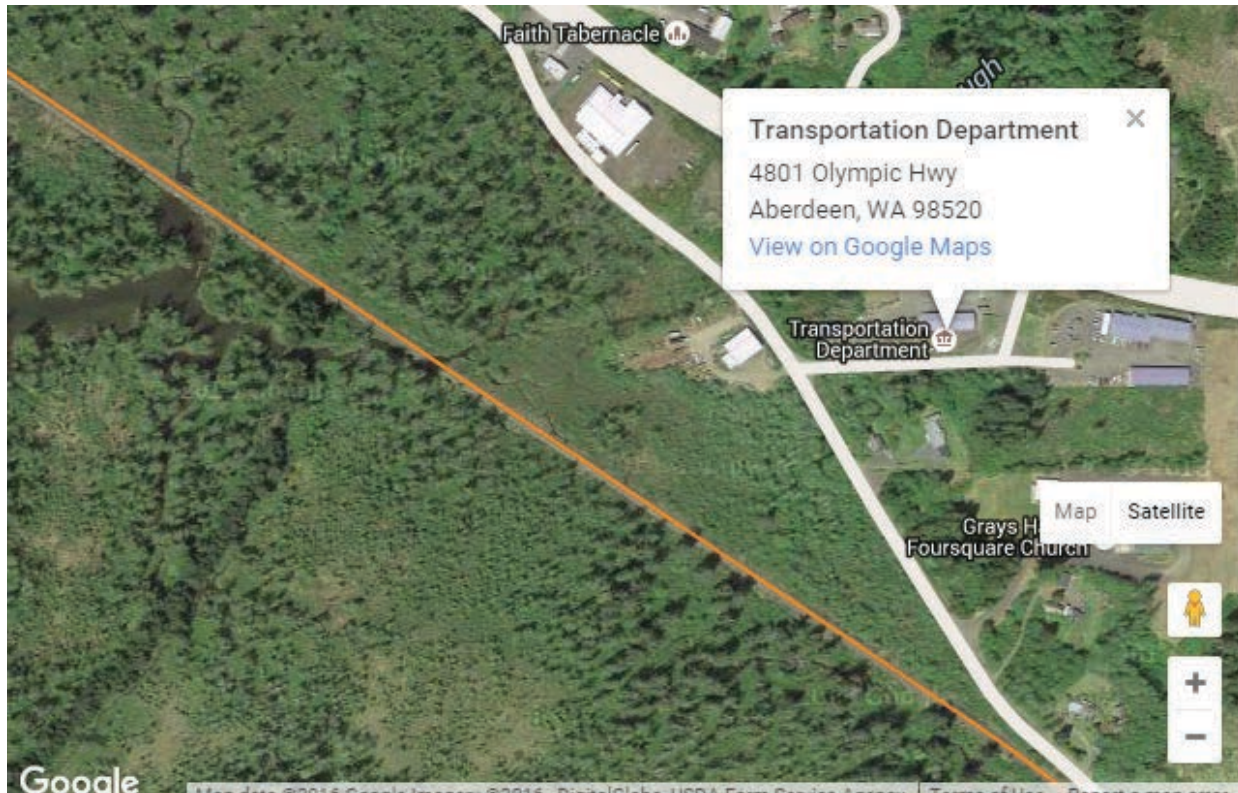


Rotted, truncated and disconnected cross beams. Heavily rusted bolt and cracked beams,. Inspected 1990.



5. Unnamed crossing- Elliot Slough

46°58'13.10"N, 123°44'41.17"W, 4801 Olympic Hwy Aberdeen, WA 98520



Debris, loose and missing spikes. Shifted tie and one unsupported tie. Rusty steel.

6. Unnamed crossing- Mox Chuck Slough

46°57'40.12"N, 123°43'19.74"W, 5300 Central Park Dr Aberdeen, WA 98520



Cracked cross-beam, debris in-stream and at edge.

7. Unnamed crossing- Higgins Slough

46°57'56.54"N, 123°40'1.38"W, 80 Timberview Ln Montesano, WA 98563



All four lateral angle braces rusted, debris along channel bed and creek

8. Wynooche River Rail Bridge

46°58'15.92"N, 123°37'32.68"W, 48 Devonshire Rd Montesano, WA 98563



Foundation shows cracks and leaching. Extreme rust throughout. Rust-eaten beams and cross member. Debris at the side of the bed and leading to the water.

9. Unnamed crossing- Sylvia Creek

46°58'28.85"N, 123°36'46.30"W, 48 Devonshire Rd Montesano, WA 98563



Cut crossbars, gravel in the creek. Debris on track side and rotted ties visible. Inspection date 1996.

10. Unnamed crossing- Camp Creek

46°59'7.74"N, 123°33'27.38"W, 221 Monte Elma Rd Montesano, WA 98563



Gravel in the stream, old creosote timbers along the track and debris in the stream



11. Unnamed crossing- unnamed creek

46°59'57.04"N, 123°29'53.25"W, No good address

Off of Monte Elma Rd, quarter mile west of next address



Cracked crossbeams, evidence of crossbeam end rot.
Partially disconnected cross-beam. Inspected 1993



12. Satsop River Bridge

47°00'01" N, 123°29'40" W, 746 Monte Elma Rd Elma, WA 98541



East approach has burnt and cracked timbers, supports and cross-beams. Last inspected 1992

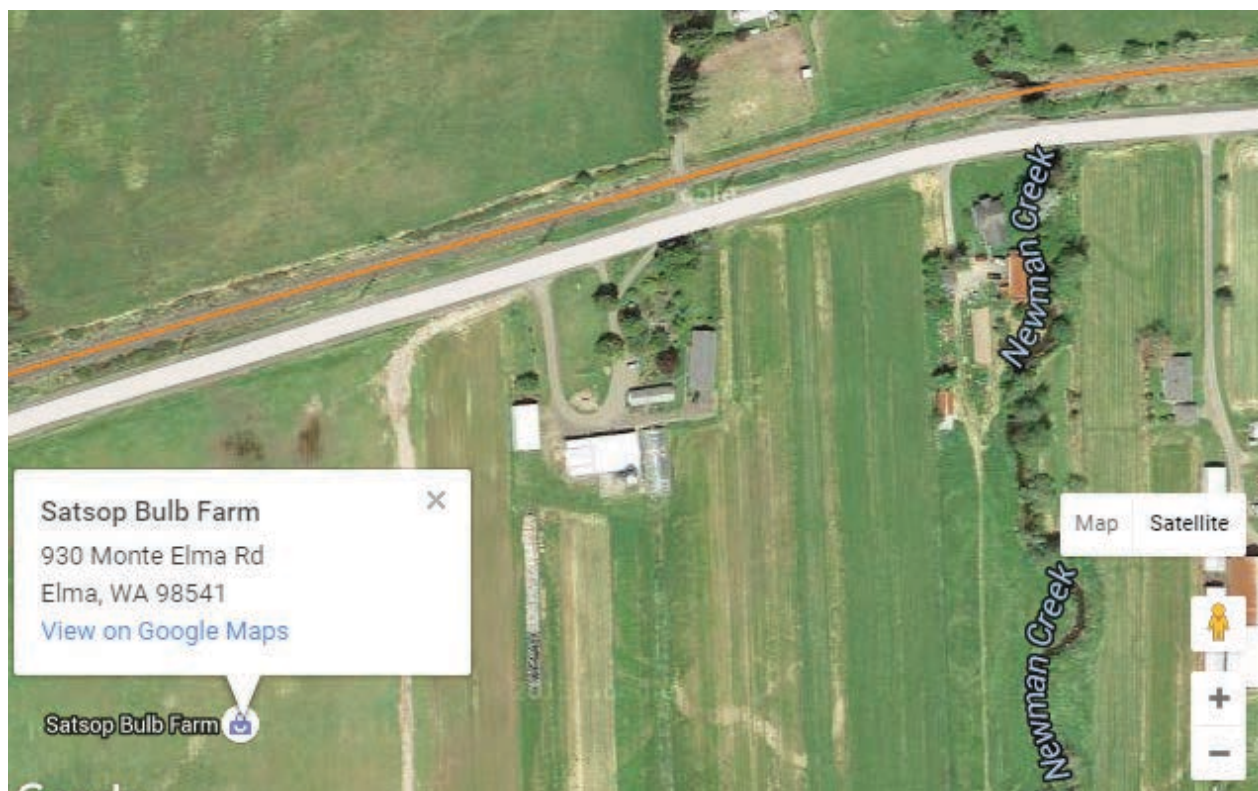
13. Unnamed crossing- Henson Creek

47° 0'2.47"N, 123°29'33.06"W, 746 Monte Elma Rd Elma, WA 98541



14. Unnamed crossing- Newman Creek

47° 0'22.28"N, 123°28'8.94"W, 930 Monte Elma Rd Elma, WA 98541



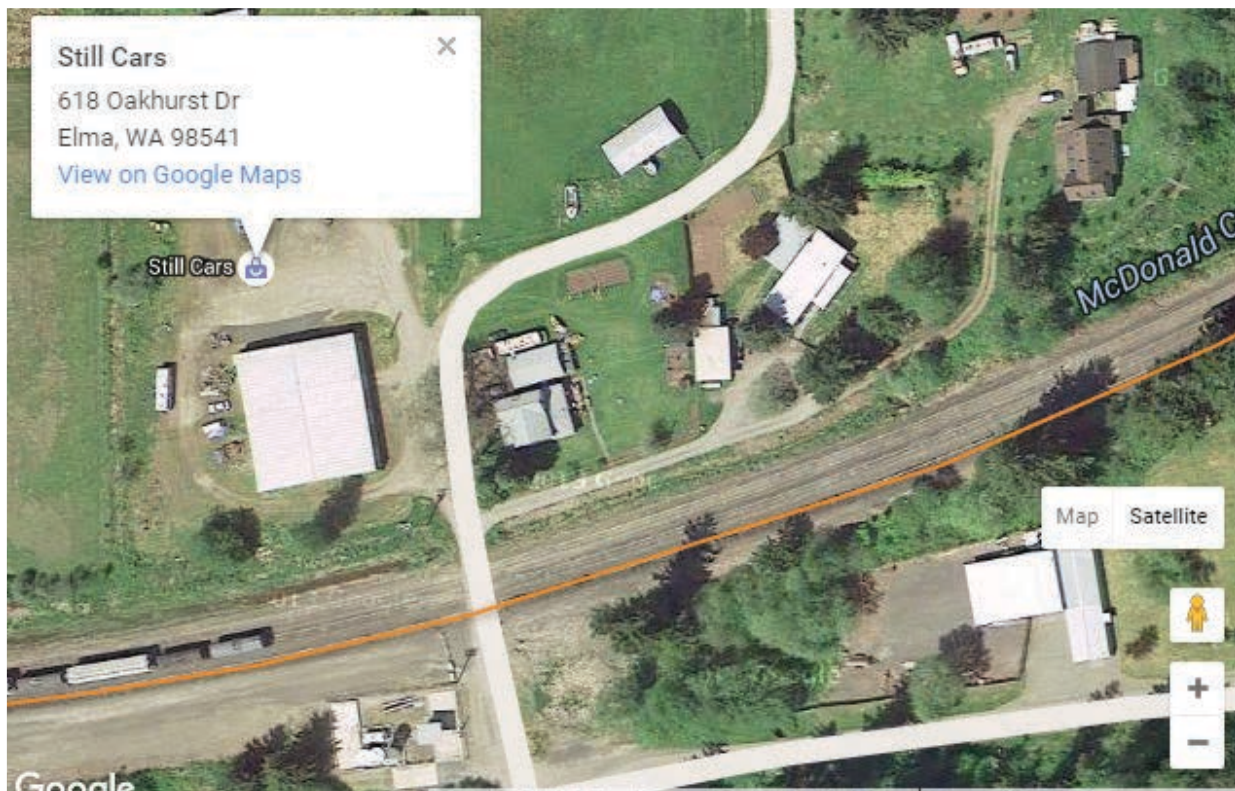
15. Unnamed crossing- Vance Creek

47° 0'25.08"N, 123°25'48.45"W,



16. Unnamed crossing- McDonald Creek

47° 0'33.72"N, 123°23'32.01"W, 618 Oakhurst Dr Elma, WA 98541



17. Cloquallum Creek Bridge

47°01'19" N, 123°21'51" W, 213 Elma McCleary Rd Elma, WA 98541



18/19. Wildcat Creek Bridge (1 & 2)

47°01'28" N, 123°21'33" W, 233 Elma McCleary Rd



20. Unnamed crossing- West Fork Wildcat Creek

47° 2'34.02"N, 123°19'20.34"W



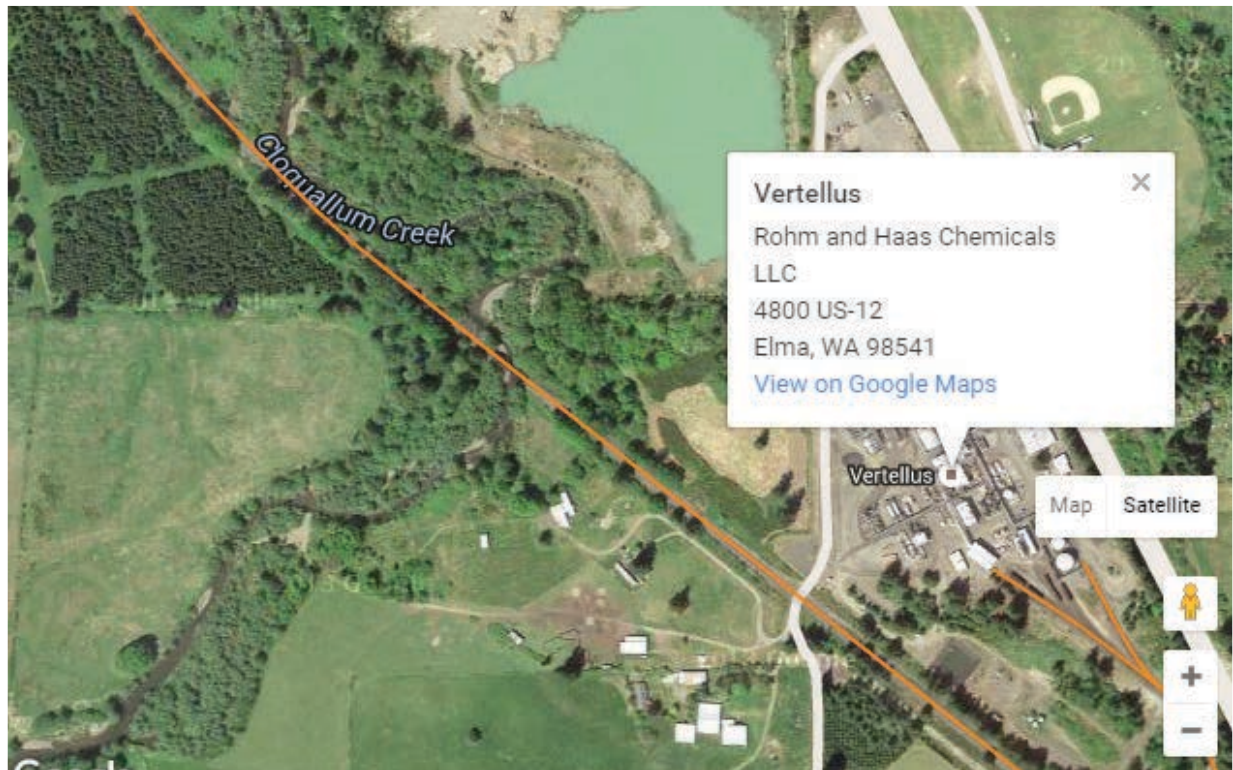
21. Possible crossing- McDonald Creek

47° 0'15.42"N, 123°23'47.02"W, 107 E Waldrip St Elma, WA 98541



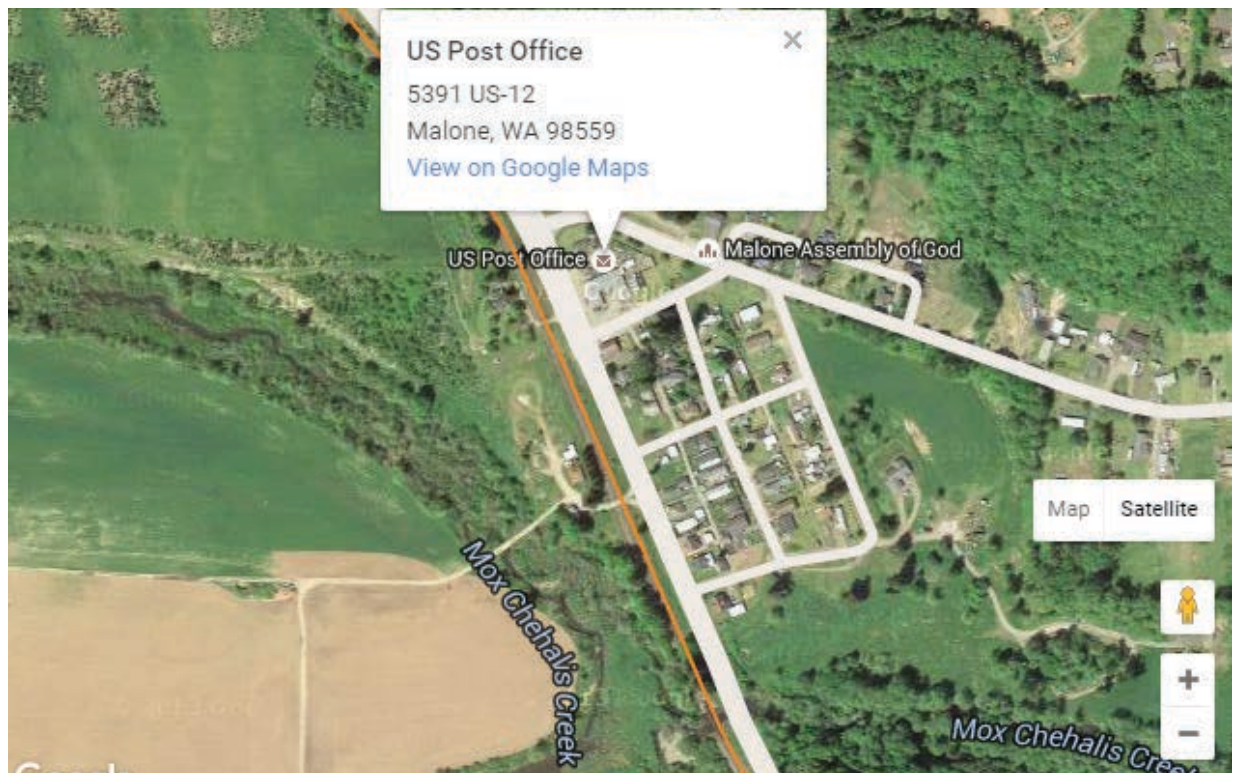
22. Unnamed crossing- Cloquallum Creek

46°59'46.34"N, 123°23'13.68"W, 4800 US-12 Elma, WA 98541



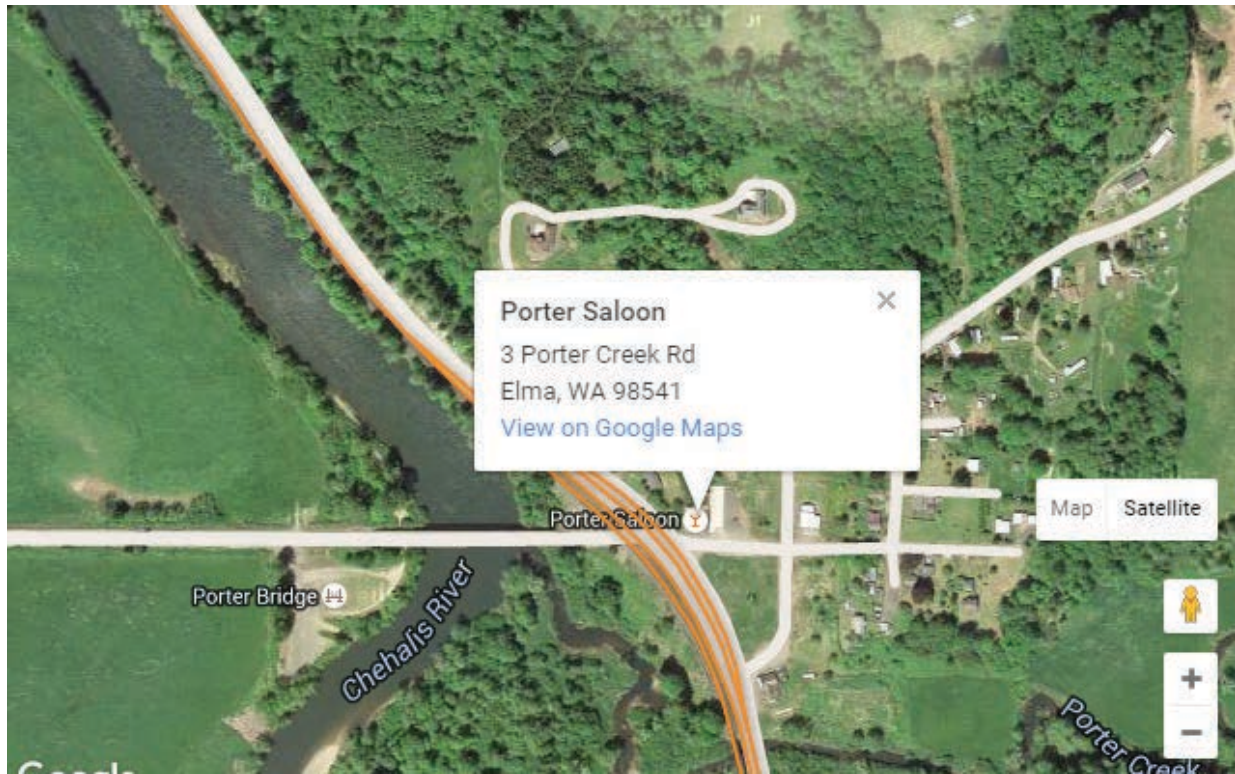
23. Unnamed crossing- Mox Chehalis Creek

46°57'22.90"N, 123°19'38.77"W, 5391 US-12 Malone, WA 98559



24. Unnamed crossing- Porter Creek

46°56'15.22"N, 123°18'38.85"W, 3 Porter Creek Rd Elma, WA 98541



25. Unnamed crossing- Gibson Creek

46°54'11.04"N, 123°17'30.10"W, 6135 US-12 Oakville, WA 98568



26. Unnamed crossing- Cedar Creek

46°52'46.36"N, 123°16'19.44"W, Just south of US-12-Cedar Creek Rd intersection



27. Possible crossing- Harris Creek

46°50'18.19"N, 123°13'3.66"W, Off of US-12 just south of Oakville



28. Possible crossing- Roundtree Creek

46°50'11.78"N, 123°12'38.55"W, Off of US-12 just south of Oakville



Appendix A

Field Notes