

County	Stillwater	Upstream River Mile	413.7
Classification	PCA: Partially confined anabranching	Downstream River Mile	405.9
General Location	Below Columbus	Length	7.80 mi (12.55 km)

Narrative Summary

Reach A14 is located in Stillwater County, just downstream of Columbus. The reach is a Partially Confined Anabranching (PCA) reach type, reflecting some valley while influence coupled with relatively extensive forested islands. The reach is 7.8 miles long, extending from RM 405.9 to RM 413.7. The partial geologic confinement within Reach A14 is created by interbedded sandstone and shale of the Cretaceous-age Judith River Formation that intermittently forms the active channel margin on either its right or left bank. The Parkman Sandstone, a massive cliff-forming unit within the Judith River Formation, forms cliffs against the channel that are commonly over 150 feet high.

Similar to other reaches in Region A, the overall footprint of the river channel has increased in size since 1950. In 1950, the channel footprint was 637 acres but by 2001 it had expanded to 728 acres. This was accompanied by a net loss of about 32 acres of riparian area to channel during that same timeframe.

Approximately 16 percent of the bankline in Reach A14 is armored, and the armor is almost entirely rock riprap, with a very short section of flow deflectors. The armor is located almost entirely on the northern corridor margin, where transportation infrastructure (mainly railroad) follows the edge of the valley.

Over three miles of side channels have been blocked in Reach A14, with about half of the blockages occurring prior to 1950 and half after. The losses occurred on two distinct channels, one at RM 410 on the south side of the corridor and one at RM 407 on the north side.

Land use in Reach A14 is almost entirely agricultural, with almost 260 acres mapped as agricultural infrastructure. This in part reflects corrals that are part of an animal handling facility on the north side of the river at RM 409. There are 1,300 acres under flood irrigation in the reach, and 144 acres in pivot. A total of 227 acres of developed land are in the Channel Migration Zone, most of that is in flood irrigation (215 acres). Less than 2 percent of the CMZ is isolated by physical features, all of which is behind the armored rail line on the north side of the river.

There is one major diversion in Reach A14; Cove Ditch diverts water from the north bank at RM 410.

Reach A14 was sampled as part of the avian study. The average species richness in Reach A14 was 7.9, which indicates the average number of species observed during site visits to the reach in cottonwood habitats. The average species richness for all sites evaluated is 8. Riparian mapping in Reach A14 shows a reduction of about 100 acres of closed timber in the reach since 1950. Since 1950, Reach A14 has lost most of its forest that would be considered at low risk of cowbird infestation due to its separation from agricultural infrastructure. In 1950, about 10.5 acres of forest per valley mile were identified as low risk and by 2001 that forest area had been reduced to 0.5 acres per valley mile.

Reach A14 has approximately 2.5 acres of mapped Russian olive, which is concentrated along ditches and low riparian/wetland areas north of the river. There are also over 250 acres of mapped wetland in the reach, most of which is emergent marshes and wet meadows. About 27 acres of emergent wetland have been isolated from the river corridor by the rail line at RM 413.5.

A hydrologic evaluation of flow depletions indicates that flow alterations over the last century have been moderate in this reach. The mean annual flood is estimated to have dropped from 16,200 cfs to 15,100 cfs, a drop of about 7 percent. The biggest influence has been on low flows: severe low flows described as 7Q10 (the lowest average 7-day flow anticipated every ten years) for summer months has dropped from an estimated 2,280 cfs to 1,770 cfs with human development, a reduction of 22 percent. More typical summer low flows, described as the summer 95% flow duration, have dropped from 1,760 cfs under unregulated conditions to 1,680 cfs under regulated conditions at the Livingston gage, a reduction of 4.6 percent.

CEA-Related observations in Reach A14 include:

- Isolation of large wetland area by rail line
- Over 3 miles of side channel blockages
- Large corrals that are part of an animal handling facility within 1,000 feet of the riverbank

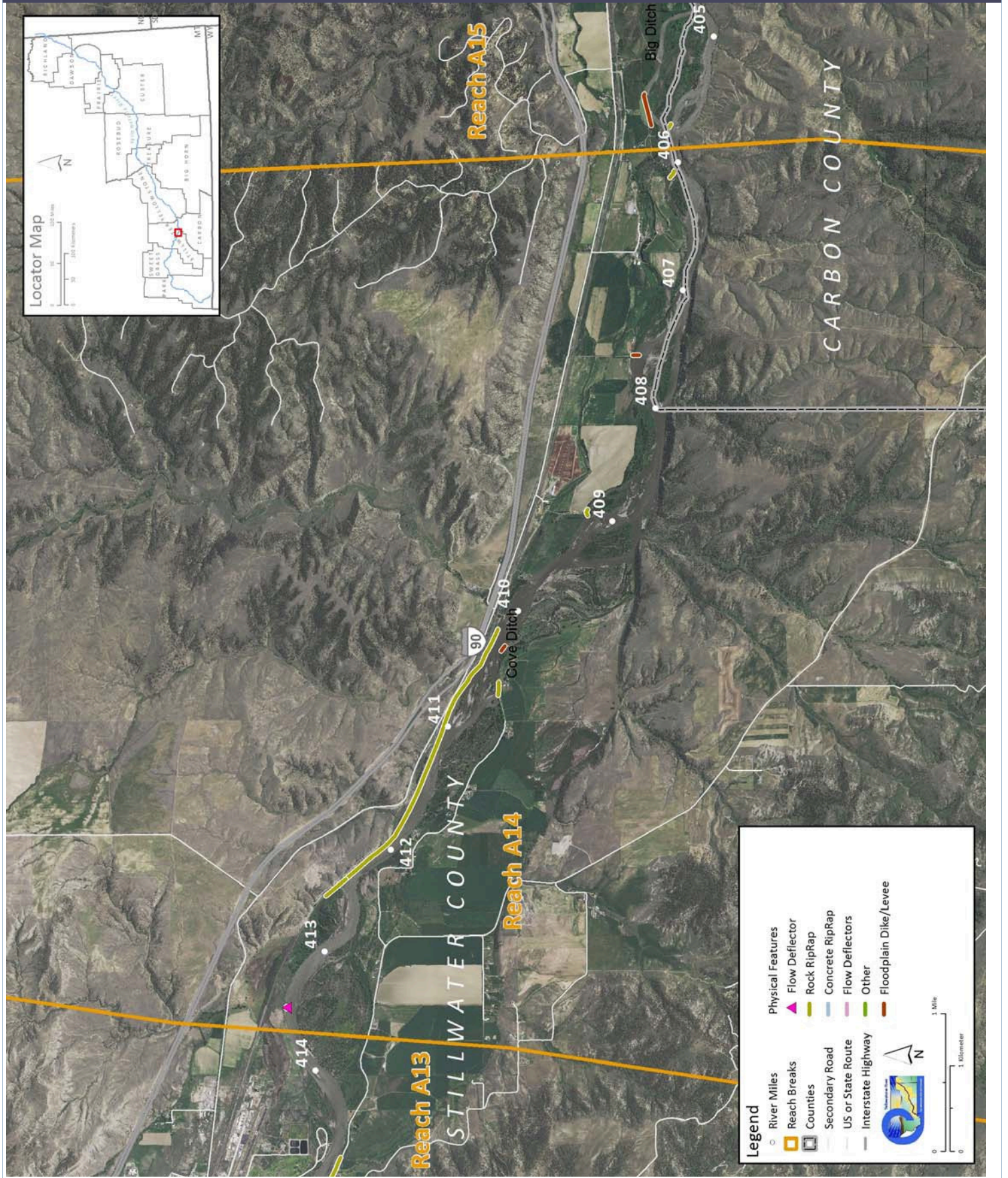
Recommended Practices (may include Yellowstone River Recommended Practices--YRRPs) for Reach A14 include:

- Side channel restoration at RM 410 and RM 407
- Russian olive removal (2.5 acres)
- Nutrient management at corrals that are part of an animal handling facility at RM 409
- Irrigation diversion structure management at Cove Ditch Diversion
- Wetland management/restoration at large complex isolated from river by rail line at RM 413.5

The following table summarizes some key CEA results that have been used to describe overall condition and types of human influences affecting the river. The values are specific to this single reach. Blanks indicate that a particular value was not available for this area. This information is consolidated from a large dataset that is presented in more detail in the full reach narrative report.

Discharge	Undev.	Developed	% Change	"Undeveloped" flows represent conditions prior to significant human development, whereas "developed" flows reflect the current condition of both consumptive and non-consumptive water use.		
2 Year (cfs)	31,000	29,800	-3.9%			
100 Year (cfs)	56,600	55,900	-1.2%			
Bankfull Channel Area (Ac)	1950	1976	1995	2001	1950-2001	Bankfull channel area is the total footprint of the river inundated at approx. the 2-year flood.
	637.3	675.2	635.5	727.9	90.6	
Physical Features	2011 Length (ft)	% of Bankline	2001-2011 Change	There are additional types of bank armor such as car bodies and steel retaining walls, but they are relatively minor.		
Rock Riprap	13,457	16.4%	1,807			
Concrete Riprap	0	0.0%	0			
Flow Deflectors	64	0.1%	0			
Total	13,521	16.5%	1,807			
Length of Side Channels Blocked (ft)	Pre-1950s	Post-1950s	Numerous side channels have been blocked by small dikes.			
	9,672	9,176				
Floodplain Turnover	1950 - 1976	1976 - 2001	1950-2001 In-channel riparian encroachment (negative number indicates retreat)	The rate of floodplain turnover reflects how many acres of land are eroded by the river. Turnover is associated with the creation of riparian habitat.		
Total Acres	185.7	141.7	-31.84 acres			
Acres/Year	7.1	5.7				
Acres/Year/Valley Mile	1.0	0.8				
Open Bar Area	Point Bars	Bank Attached	Mid-Channel	Total	The type and extent of open sand and gravel bars reflect in-stream habitat conditions that can be important to fish, amphibians, and ground-nesting birds such as least terns.	
Change in Area '50 - '01 (Ac)						
Floodplain Isolation	Acres	% of FP	Floodplain isolation refers to area that historically was flooded, but has become isolated do to flow alterations or physical features such as levees.			
5 Year	40.7	13%				
100 Year	0.0	0%				
Restricted Migration Area	Acres	% of CMZ	Channel Migration Zone restrictions refer to the area and percent of the CMZ that has been isolated by features such as bank armor, dikes, levees, and transportation embankments.			
	25.7	1%				
Land Use	1950	2011	1950	2011	Changes in land use reflect the development of the river corridor through time. The irrigated agricultural are is a sub-set of the mapped agricultural land.	
Agricultural Land (Ac)	4,716.0	4,443.6	Flood (Ac)	1,663.6	1,319.8	
Ag. Infrastructure (Ac)	73.7	258.5	Sprinkler (Ac)	0.0	0.0	
Exurban (Ac)	0.0	0.0	Pivot (Ac)	0.0	144.0	
Urban (Ac)	0.0	0.0				
Transportation (Ac)	90.2	188.5				
1950s Riparian Vegetation Converted to a Developed Land Use (ac)	To Irrigated	To Other Use	Total Rip. Converted	% of 1950s Rip.	Changes in the extents of riparian vegetation are influenced by land use changes within the corridor.	
	11.7	3.2	14.9	2.0%		
National Wetlands Inventory	Acres	Acres per Valley Mi	Total Wetland Acres	Wetlands units summarized from National Wetlands Inventory Mapping include Riverine (typically open water sloughs), Emergent (marshes and wet meadows) and Shrub-Scrub (open bar areas with colonizing woody vegetation).		
Riverine	14.4	2.0	283.3			
Emergent	211.3	29.3				
Scrub/Shrub	57.6	8.0				
Russian Olive (2001) (Appx. 100-yr Floodplain)	Acres	%	Russian olive is considered an invasive species and its presence in the corridor is fairly recent. Its spread can be used as a general indicator of invasive plants within the corridor.			
	2.5	0.1%				
Riparian Forest at low risk of Cowbird Parasitism (Ac/Valley Mile)	1950	1976	2001	Change 1950-2011	Cowbirds are associated with agricultural and residential development, displacing native bird species by parasitizing their nests.	
	10.5	0.5	0.5	-10.0		

PHYSICAL FEATURES MAP (2011)



CHANNEL MIGRATION ZONE MAP

