

<b>County</b>	Richland	<b>Upstream River Mile</b>	36.3
<b>Classification</b>	PCM/I: Partly confined meandering/islands	<b>Downstream River Mile</b>	27.8
<b>General Location</b>	To Sidney	<b>Length</b>	8.50 mi (13.68 km)

### Narrative Summary

Reach D13 is located just upstream of Sidney. It is 8.5 miles long, and is a PCM/I reach type, indicating a primary meandering channel thread with distinct islands largely formed by historic bendway cutoffs. The reach has multiple pipeline crossings, and the Highway 23 Bridge and approach have confined the river and isolated floodplain area. Floodplain development for irrigated agricultural is extensive, and in many cases irrigated fields intersect the channel bank. These locations are commonly armored, and low field dikes affect floodplain access.

In 2011 there was almost 16,000 feet of bank armor in the reach, protecting 16 percent of the total bank line. That includes 2,440 feet of car bodies. The car body revetments are all located off of the main channel at RM 32.2L. About ½ mile of rock riprap was constructed between 2001 and 2011.

Although no side channels have been intentionally blocked in the reach, there has still been a net loss of almost two miles of side channel since 1950, reflecting passive abandonment of side channels with flow alterations.

There are three mapped pipeline crossings in the reach, two at the Sidney Bridge and another about a mile upstream. The two on the bridge are apparently installed on the bridge structure itself. The one upstream at RM 32.1 is described as an LPG pipeline installed in 1997; however no more information was available.

Reach D13 has had 28 reported ice jam events since 1917. Especially severe damages were reported in the ice jam of March 25, 1943.

Human development has resulted in isolation of 18 percent of the historic 100-year floodplain and 26 percent of the 5-year floodplain. This isolation includes the effects of transportation infrastructure embankments (mainly Highway 23), low agricultural dikes on the edges of irrigated fields, and reduced flood magnitudes. There has been fairly extensive land use encroachment into the Channel Migration Zone: as of 2011 there were 250 acres of pivot irrigation and 137 acres of urban/exurban land uses within the CMZ, making these areas especially prone to the threat of river erosion. One drill pad was mapped within 1,500 feet of the river at RM 32. There is also a large animal handling facility that drains to an irrigation return flow point at RM 29.

Reach D13 shows, like most other reaches below the Bighorn River, a shrinking channel with reduced rates of erosion and floodplain turnover. The bankfull channel area in the reach dropped by 220 acres since 1950, and there was a similar amount of mapped riparian encroachment into old channel areas. Floodplain turnover rates have dropped from 14.3 acres per year from 1950-1976 to 6.1 acres per year from 1976-2001. There has also been a net loss of 45 acres of open bar area as the channel has become smaller and more forested. On the floodplain, riparian acreage has decreased; about 424 acres or 27 percent of the total riparian area was cleared for irrigation since 1950.

Like numerous reaches below the Bighorn River confluence, Reach D13 exhibits a shift from a largely braided pattern in 1950 to an anabranching pattern today. The pattern shift reflects the fact that side channels that used to flow around open bars (braided) now flow around wooded islands (anabranching). This shift appears largely due to riparian encroachment onto sand bars since 1950. This encroachment reflects the flow alterations identified in the reach, and may also be due to the altered sediment regime imposed by upstream influences including Yellowtail Dam. Changes in sediment loading have not been quantified in the CEA.

There are 45 acres of Russian olive mapped in the reach.

Reach D13 was sampled as part of the fisheries study. A total of 38 fish species were sampled in the reach, including six Species of Concern: the Blue Sucker, Pallid Sturgeon, Sauger, Shortnose Gar, Sicklefin Chub, and Sturgeon Chub.

Reach D13 was also sampled as part of the avian study. A total of 39 bird species were identified in the reach. The Red-headed Woodpecker was found, which is a Species of Concern (SOC). In contrast to most other reaches, Reach D12 has seen a reduction in the forested area that is at low risk of cowbird parasitism since 1950. At that time, there were 27.6 acres per valley mile of such forest, and that number decreased to 18.1 acres per valley mile by 2001.

A hydrologic evaluation of flow depletions indicates that flow alterations over the last century have been major in this reach. The magnitude of the 100-year flood is now 134,000 cfs, which 6 percent lower than it was pre-development (143,000 cfs). The 2-year flood, which strongly influences overall channel form, has dropped by 22 percent. Low flows have also been impacted; severe low flows described as 7Q10 (the lowest average 7-day flow anticipated every ten years) for summer months has dropped from an estimated 4,190 cfs to 2,000 cfs with human development, a reduction of 52 percent. More typical summer low flows, described as the summer 95% flow duration, have dropped from 6,340 cfs under unregulated conditions to 2,550 cfs under regulated conditions, a reduction of 60 percent.

Seasonal low flows have increased by 82 percent in the fall and 63 percent in the winter. Both fall and winter base flows are currently about 3,500 cfs.

CEA-Related observations in Reach D13 include:

- Conversion of river pattern from braided to anabranching due to riparian encroachment onto sand bars since 1950.
- Passive side channel abandonment due to hydrologic alterations and potentially downcutting due to CMZ confinement.

- 100-year floodplain isolation due to low agricultural field dikes.
- 100-year floodplain isolation due to transportation infrastructure.
- Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) restrictions that significantly confine the river corridor, potentially causing downcutting. This may be an important Increase in area at low risk of cowbird parasitism with riparian encroachment

Recommended Practices (may include Yellowstone River Recommended Practices--YRRPs) for Reach D13 include:

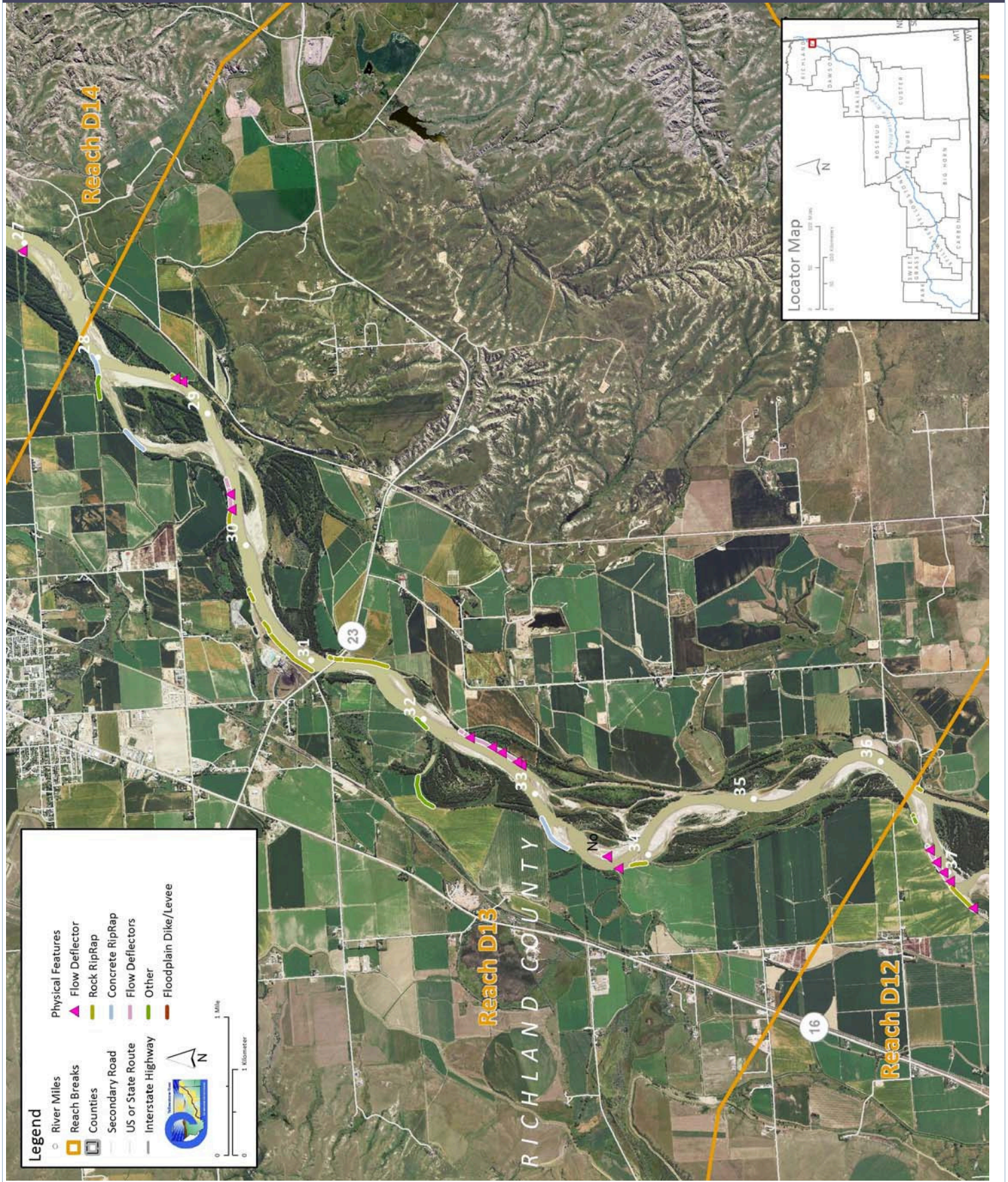
- Nutrient Management at Animal Handling Facility at RM 29L
- Pipeline Crossing PRACTICE RM 32.1
- Old car body removal RM 32.2L
- Russian olive removal



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.

<b>Discharge</b>	<b>Undev.</b>	<b>Developed</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>"Undeveloped" flows represent conditions prior to significant human development, whereas "developed" flows reflect the current condition of both consumptive and non-consumptive water use.</b>		
2 Year (cfs)	69,900	54,300	-22.3%			
100 Year (cfs)	143,000	134,000	-6.3%			
<b>Bankfull Channel Area (Ac)</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1950-2001</b>	<b>Bankfull channel area is the total footprint of the river inundated at approx. the 2-year flood.</b>
	1,163.3	1,160.8	991.3	942.8	-220.5	
<b>Physical Features</b>	<b>2011 Length (ft)</b>	<b>% of Bankline</b>	<b>2001-2011 Change</b>	<b>There are additional types of bank armor such as car bodies and steel retaining walls, but they are relatively minor.</b>		
Rock Riprap	6,386	7.1%	2,410			
Concrete Riprap	3,329	3.7%	0			
Flow Deflectors	4,179	4.6%	143			
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,894</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>2,553</b>			
<b>Length of Side Channels Blocked (ft)</b>	<b>Pre-1950s</b>	<b>Post-1950s</b>	<b>Numerous side channels have been blocked by small dikes.</b>			
	0	0				
<b>Floodplain Turnover</b>	<b>1950 - 1976</b>	<b>1976 - 2001</b>	<b>1950-2001 In-channel riparian encroachment (negative number indicates retreat)</b>	<b>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.</b>		
Total Acres	371.6	151.8				
Acres/Year	14.3	6.1				
Acres/Year/Valley Mile	1.9	0.8	291.7 acres			
<b>Open Bar Area</b>	<b>Point Bars</b>	<b>Bank Attached</b>	<b>Mid-Channel</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>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.</b>	
Change in Area '50 - '01 (Ac)	-58.3	-10.5	23.6	-45.3		
<b>Floodplain Isolation</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>% of FP</b>	<b>Floodplain isolation refers to area that historically was flooded, but has become isolated do to flow alterations or physical features such as levees.</b>			
5 Year	466.6	26%				
100 Year	766.0	18%				
<b>Restricted Migration Area</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>% of CMZ</b>	<b>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.</b>			
	639.4	18%				
<b>Land Use</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>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.</b>	
Agricultural Land (Ac)	5,052.4	4,997.8	Flood (Ac)	3,209.5	2,324.4	
Ag. Infrastructure (Ac)	73.2	210.1	Sprinkler (Ac)	0.0	0.0	
Exurban (Ac)	5.1	216.3	Pivot (Ac)	0.0	893.5	
Urban (Ac)	0.0	0.0				
Transportation (Ac)	53.4	56.8				
<b>1950s Riparian Vegetation Converted to a Developed Land Use (ac)</b>	<b>To Irrigated</b>	<b>To Other Use</b>	<b>Total Rip. Converted</b>	<b>% of 1950s Rip.</b>	<b>Changes in the extents of riparian vegetation are influenced by land use changes within the corridor.</b>	
	424.0	19.4	443.4	27.0%		
<b>National Wetlands Inventory</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Acres per Valley Mi</b>	<b>Total Wetland Acres</b>	<b>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).</b>		
Riverine	65.0	8.5	<b>252.0</b>			
Emergent	126.5	16.6				
Scrub/Shrub	60.6	7.9				
<b>Russian Olive (2001) (Appx. 100-yr Floodplain)</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>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.</b>			
	44.7	3.2%				
<b>Riparian Forest at low risk of Cowbird Parasitism (Ac/Valley Mile)</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>Change 1950-2011</b>	<b>Cowbirds are associated with agricultural and residential development, displacing native bird species by parasitizing their nests.</b>	
	27.6	23.0	18.1	-9.4		

## PHYSICAL FEATURES MAP (2011)



CHANNEL MIGRATION ZONE MAP

