



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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SUBJECT: ENG – Trip Report
Beloukas EWP – Teanaway River
Kittitas County, WA

File Code: 210-0

TO: Lynelle Knehans
State Conservation Engineer
Spokane, WA

PURPOSE

On May 11, 2026, we visited the Beloukas EWP site to visually inspect site conditions for bank stabilization along the Teanaway River following flooding in December 2025. The flooding caused extensive bank erosion and continues to pose a significant hazard to the foundation of a house on the property. The site is located at 220 Seaton Road, Cle Elum, WA.

PARTICIPANTS

Joe Gasperi, State Geologist, Spokane, WA
Annika Smith, Geologist, Spokane, WA
Isaiah Krutak, Civil Engineer, Spokane, WA

DATA COLLECTION

We walked the site and visually inspected the conditions of the streambank. We observed near vertical streambanks with stress cracks near the top of bank indicating a continuing threat to slope stability and signs of topple, slump, and rotational slope failure. The approximate project location is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Approximate location of area impacted by flood flows in December 2025. North is toward top of page.

FINDINGS

The foundation soils consist of Pleistocene age alpine glacial drift composed mostly of cobbles and gravel with a silt matrix. These soils are susceptible to slope failure when the toe of the slope is undercut through stream erosion and when saturated from heavy rain or rain on snow events (Figures 2 to 5).

The streambank in this reach of channel remains unstable and will continue to collapse through topple, slump, or rotational failure modes when saturated or eroded at the toe by the Teanaway River. The structure at the top of bank will be undermined by ongoing bank failure unless action is taken to stabilize the toe of the slope from further erosion and drainage is provided to protect the embankment from excessive saturation. The structure is in imminent threat of failure if the streambank is not stabilized.



Figure 2. Image of the cobble gravel material of the alpine glacial drift which comprises the hillslope.



Figure 3. Near vertical streambank with cracks and wet surface from bank saturation.



Figure 4. Image of structure at top of bank with topple, slump, and rotational failure of slope along with active cracking.



Figure 5. Image showing impacts of progressive slope failure.

JOE GASPERI
Geologist

cc: Holly Taylor, District Conservationist, Ellensburg, WA
Brianna Patterson, Cultural Resources Specialist, Wenatchee, WA