



May 5, 2008

TO: W. Smith, South Central Region, Union Gap, WA

FROM: T.M. Allen / M.P. Mulhern
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Geotechnical Services Division
Fax (360) 709-5585

SUBJECT: SR 261, MP 4.60 to 4.80 XL-3288
State-Wide Risk Reduction Rock Slope Scaling Program
Geotechnical Recommendations

INTRODUCTION

A state-wide risk reduction scaling program was implemented by WSDOT in 2006. The program is meant to reduce rockfall until a permanent slope stabilization project under the P3 Unstable Slope Program can be programmed and constructed. This memorandum presents our findings and mitigation recommendations for the rock slope located on SR 261 between MP 4.60 and 4.80, approximately 3 miles east of Starbuck, Washington (Figure 1).

GEOTECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

Our geotechnical site assessment consisted of taking photographs of the slope, conducting Maintenance interviews, measuring slope heights, lengths, orientations, and detailing risk reduction work which includes slope scaling, debris removal, and determining estimated quantities. Project stationing was provided by the Region in February 2008.

SITE CONDITIONS

This unstable rock slope is approximately 1000-feet long and about 25-feet high with the existing cutslope angle near-vertical. The natural slope above the cut is oriented around 30° with near-vertical basalt outcrops at approximately 50- and 100-feet upslope, respectively (Figure 2). The ditch is approximately 2- to 3-feet wide and Maintenance indicates it is unable to contain the larger rockfall generated from the cut, or the rockfall initiated from the basalt outcrops above the highway cut. Rockfall impacts both lanes of the highway at this location.

The slope is primarily composed of highly fractured, slightly weathered, strong basalt. The bedrock is mapped as the upper basalt flows of the Grande Ronde Formation of the Columbia River Basalt Group. Block sizes range from 1- to 8-feet in dimension. Observed rockfall occurs as raveling and toppling-type failures. Maintenance indicates that a majority of the

rockfall initiates in the near-vertical basalt outcrops above the highway cut. The rockfall from upslope launches off the highway cutslope and enters SR 261 (Figure 2).

No groundwater was observed on the slope during our site assessment on February 21, 2007.

MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Mitigation measures that will reduce rockfall at this location consist of slope scaling and debris removal.

Slope Scaling and Debris Removal

Slope scaling limits and areas of intensive scaling are shown in Figures 3, 4, and 5. Within the slope scaling limits, typical rock scaling operations should be performed. The locations of intense scaling should consist of removing unstable blocks that we observed during our site visits.

We estimate that 100 crew hours will be required for slope scaling. Special Provisions for Slope Scaling are provided in Appendix B. Scaling will likely damage the highway surfacing, so provisions for its repair should be included in the contract.

We also estimate that approximately 300 cubic yards of debris will be generated during scaling operations. A Special Provision for Debris Removal Including Haul is provided in Appendix B.

CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

Traffic

Full roadway closures will be required to perform scaling operations. We anticipate that these closures will be accomplished with short-duration work windows on the order of 20 to 30 minutes in length.

Geotechnical Inspection

We request that a geotechnical specialist from our office be contacted to assess the slope prior to the completion of scaling to help the engineer determine whether or not additional scaling is required.

If you have questions regarding the information presented in this memorandum, then please contact Mike Mulhern at (360) 709-5583 or Doug Anderson at (360) 709-5427.

TMA:mpm

cc: B. Hooker, South Central Region, Union Gap, WA
J. Wood, South Central Region, Union Gap, WA

W. Smith
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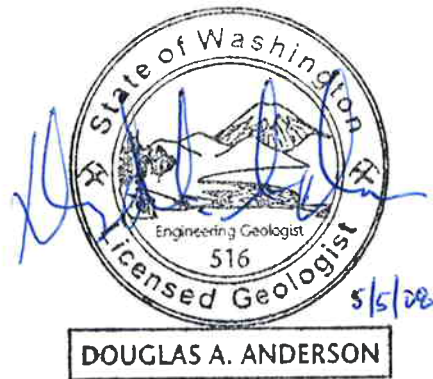
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Agency Approving Authority:
TONY M. ALLEN, P.E.
State Geotechnical Engineer



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APPENDIX A

Figures

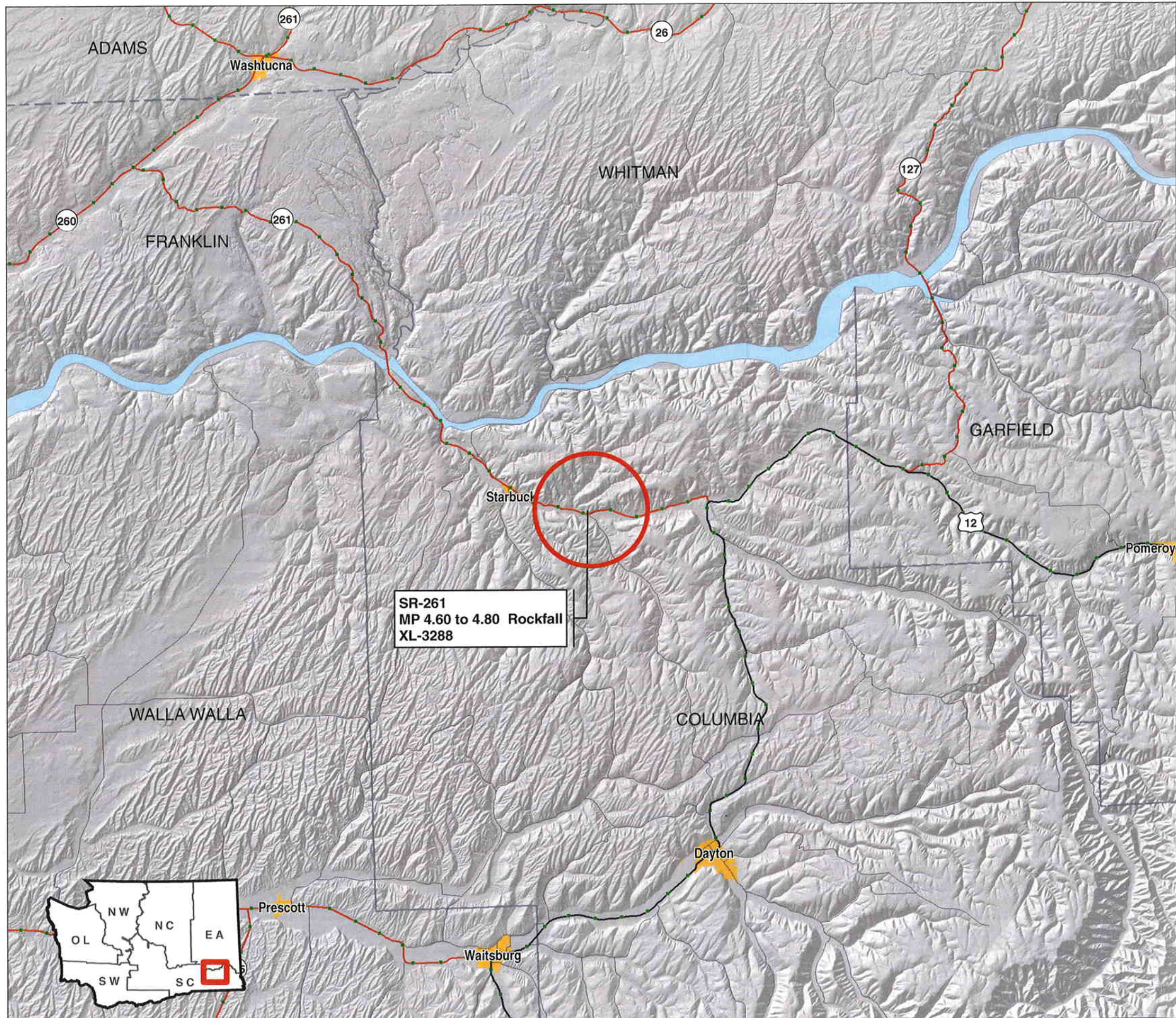
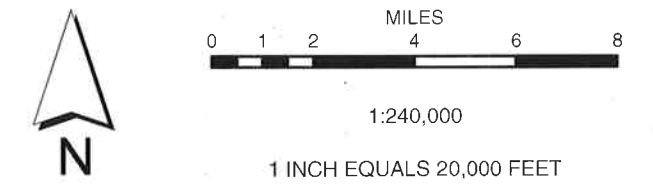


FIGURE 1: SITE VICINITY
 SR-261 VICINITY MP 4.60 TO 4.80 ROCKFALL
 JOB#: XL-3288

- LEGEND**
- Risk Reduction Scaling Program Slopes
 - Milepost Markers
- State Routes**
- Interstate
 - US Route
 - State Route
 - Ramps
 - Proposed Route
 - Local Road
 - County Boundary Lines
 - Incorporated Cities



PROJECT MANAGER	MIKE MULHERN
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DATE	MARCH 17, 2008

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JOB XL-3288 S.R. 261

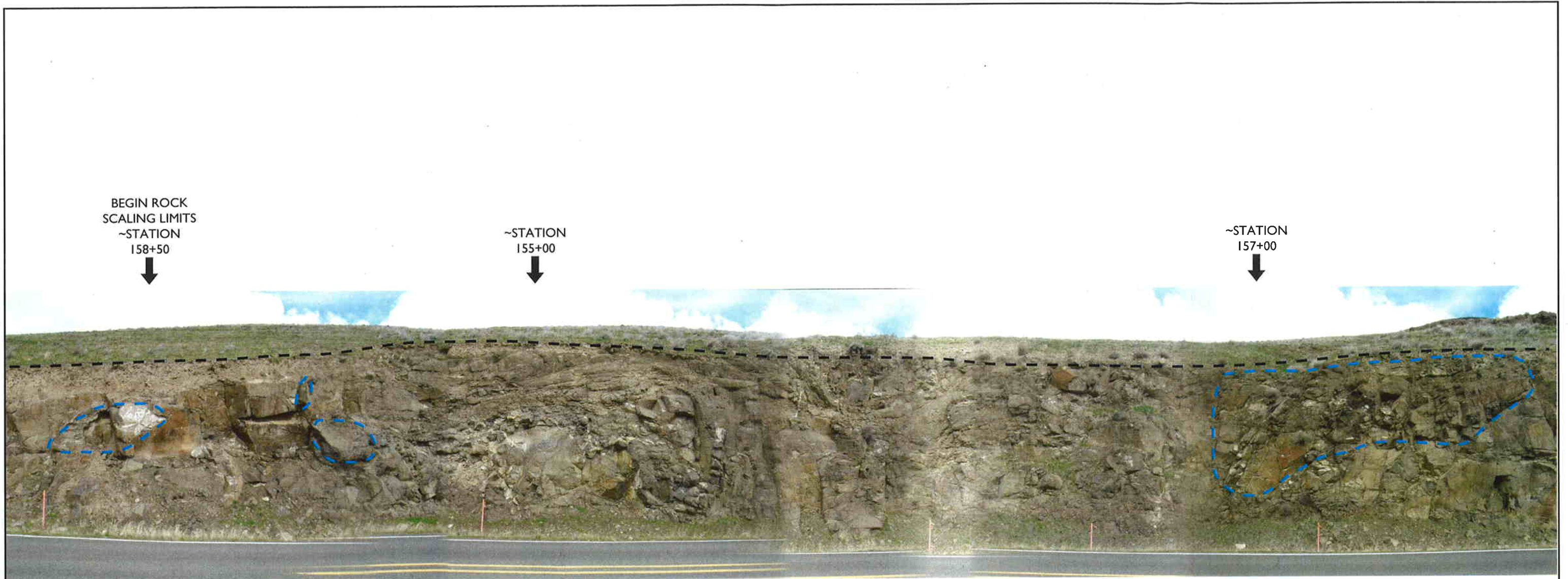
SR 261 vicinity MP 4.60 to 4.80 Rockfall



WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
GEOTECHNICAL DIVISION

DATE 4/2008
SCALE N.T.S.
VERT. _____
HORIZ. _____
SHEET _____ OF _____
DRAWN BY WM

Figure 2: A photograph showing the unstable rock slope on SR 261 vicinity MP 4.60 to 4.80. Note the basalt outcrops upslope.



LEGEND

- - - Areas of Intense Scaling
- - - Slope Scaling Limits



**WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
GEOTECHNICAL DIVISION**

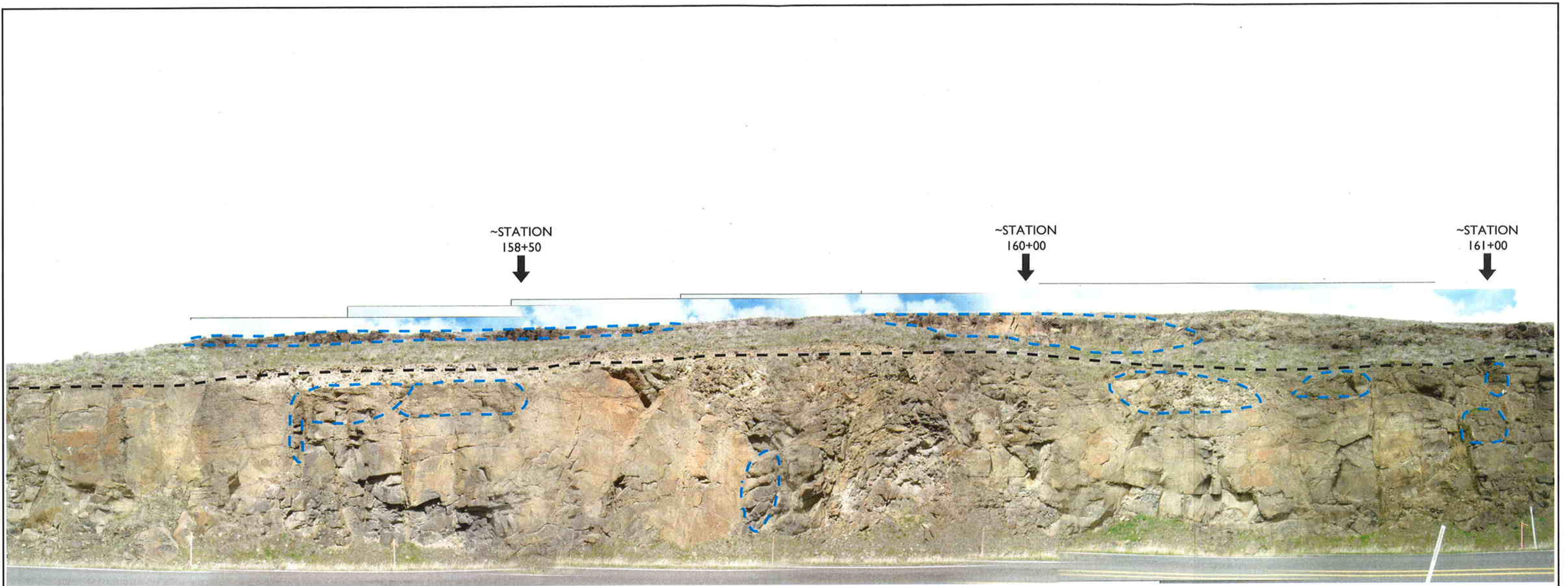
FIGURE 3: RISK REDUCTION MITIGATION DESIGN

SR 261 MITIGATION MEASURES

SR-261 SRMP 4.60 - 4.80 JOB # XL-3288

NOT TO SCALE

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DATE	MAY 6, 2008
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LEGEND

- - - Areas of Intense Scaling
- - - Slope Scaling Limits



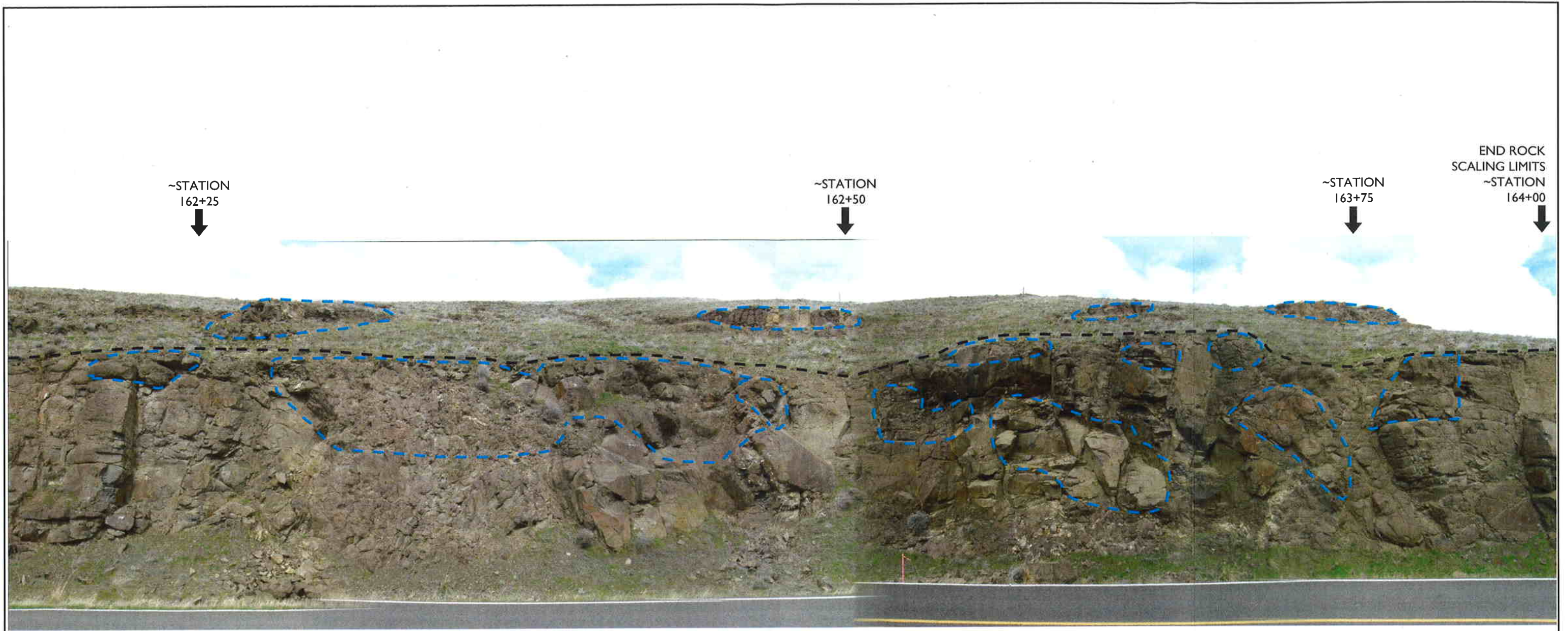
FIGURE 4: RISK REDUCTION MITIGATION DESIGN

SR 261 MITIGATION MEASURES

SR-261 SRMP 4.60 - 4.80 JOB # XL-3288

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LEGEND

- - - Areas of Intense Scaling
- - - Slope Scaling Limits



FIGURE 5: RISK REDUCTION MITIGATION DESIGN

SR 261 MITIGATION MEASURES

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APPENDIX B

Special Provisions

3/12/08

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SLOPE SCALING

Description

This work shall consist of the manual removal of vegetation and loose rock and soil on the slope at the locations shown in the Plans or as directed by the Engineer. The Contractor shall provide all materials, equipment, and labor necessary to perform this work.

Submittals

Not less than 2 weeks prior to commencing rock scaling, the Contractor shall provide to the Engineer:

- A. The Contractor shall provide written evidence that the rock slope scaling foreman and scalers have performed satisfactory work in similar capabilities for sufficient length of time to be fully qualified to perform their duties. The foreman shall have not less than 1500 hours of demonstrated experience as a scaler. The scalers shall have not less than 1000 hours of demonstrated experience on similar projects.
- B. The Contractor shall submit a detailed work plan for each rock slope to be scaled. The plan shall include:
 1. The proposed construction sequence and schedule.
 2. The type of equipment and tools to be used.
 3. The number of scaling crews to be employed on the project. (A scaling crew is defined as one qualified foreman and two qualified scalers.)
 4. Debris removal and disposal plan generated from the scaling work.
 5. Provisions to protect adjacent facilities.

Work shall not begin until the Engineer has approved the appropriate submittals in writing.

Materials

Slope scaling will be done with the use of scaling bar, portable hydraulic wedges, air pillows, hand drills, splitters, Boulder Buster™ or other mechanical means. Other hand tools in addition to scaling bars may be used provided they have demonstrated effectiveness to perform the required work by approval of the Engineer.

Construction Requirements

All trees and brush within 20 feet of the slope crest shall be flush cut and the root wad left intact.

Work shall proceed according to the work plan and schedule submitted by the Contractor prior to commencement of work. The size of the crew, defined as a foreman and two qualified scalers, shall be maintained at all times.

3/12/08

Slope scaling shall start at the top of the slope and work shall proceed down slope, removing loose rock and soil as the work progresses. Tree and brush removal shall be included as Slope Scaling. Unless otherwise directed by the Engineer, all trees within 20 feet of the slope crest shall be flush cut and the root wad left intact. Tree falling shall be completed prior to performing other scaling work.

The extent of the slope scaling will be determined by the Engineer and/or be specified in the Plans.

All rock, debris, and vegetive material produced by the scaling operation shall be removed by the Contractor and hauled to a site specified in the contract. See Special Provision **DEBRIS REMOVAL INCLUDING HAUL**.

Measurement

Slope scaling will be measured by the crew hour.

Debris removal will be by the cubic yard in the hauling conveyance at the point of removal from the roadway. See Special Provision **DEBRIS REMOVAL INCLUDING HAUL**.

Payment

Payment will be made in accordance with Section 1-04.1, for the following Bid item included in the proposal:

"Slope Scaling", per crew hour.

The unit contract price per crew hour for "Slope Scaling" shall be full pay for performing the work as specified.

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DEBRIS REMOVAL INCLUDING HAUL

Description

This work consists of removing existing debris from the roadway or material generated from slope scaling, mechanical scaling, and/or trim blasting operations.

Construction Requirements

The Contractor shall remove all existing and slope scaling-, mechanical scaling -, and/or trim blasting-related debris within the project limits and as directed by the Engineer. The Contractor shall also haul and place debris at a specified location.

Measurement

Debris removal will be measured by the cubic yard in the hauling conveyance at the point of removal from the roadway.

Payment

Payment will be made in accordance with Section 1-04.1 for the following bid item that is included in the proposal:

“Debris Removal Including Haul”, per cubic yard.

The unit contract price per cubic yard for “Debris Removal Including Haul” shall be full pay for performing the work described including furnishing the equipment, materials, and labor required to load, haul, and place the debris at the specified location.