

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Public involvement is an important aspect of the flood planning process, particularly in complicated watersheds like Ahtanum and Wide Hollow. Input from the public was necessary in order to gather a comprehensive record of past flooding and areas that are particularly prone to flooding. This was important as little technical flood monitoring has taken place historically in the watershed. Public involvement consisted of forming Steering and Committees, holding public meetings, and conducting interviews of people with knowledge of historical flooding conditions in the watershed.

#### **COMMITTEES**

Two committees were developed as part of the CFHMP process. The Advisory Committee drafted goals, objectives, and the alternatives for the plan. The Steering Committee worked to determine the feasibility of Plan alternatives. The Advisory Committee included members of the general public, the development community, the business community, irrigation districts, the Department of Ecology, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Yakama Nation, transportation agencies, and citizen environmental and historic preservation groups. The Steering Committee consisted of staff actively involved in representing the jurisdictions participating in the plan. This included staff from the Yakama Nation, the City of Union Gap, the City of Yakima, and Yakima County. The Steering Committee and Advisory Committees were combined during the development of alternatives. Unless otherwise noted, the use of the term Committee refers to the combined Steering and Committees.

#### **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee consisted of representatives from the four jurisdictions involved in developing and implementing the plan: The Yakama Nation, the City of Yakima, the City of Union Gap, and Yakima County. Steering Committee Membership is listed in Table 2-1.

<b>Table 2-1</b> <b>AHTANUM-WIDE HOLLOW STEERING COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>Steering Committee Member</b>	<b>Representing</b>
William Rathbone	City of Union Gap
Chris Waarvick	City of Yakima
Dean Patterson	Yakima County Planning
Tom Ring	Yakama Nation Water Resources
Virgil James	Yakama Nation Zoning
Jeff Peters	City of Yakima
Dennis Henne	City of Union Gap
Brett Sheffield	City of Yakima
Michael Kerins	Yakima County Planning
Steve Erickson	Yakima County Planning
John Knutson	FCZD, Surface Water Manager
Terry Keenhan	FCZD, Surface Water Manager
Dianna Woods	Yakima County Surface Water
Keelan McPhee	Yakima County Surface Water
Joel Freudenthal	Yakima County Surface Water
Khalid Marcus	Yakima County Surface Water
Andreas Kammereck	Golder Associates, Consultants

Steering Committee meetings were held on an as needed basis throughout the course of the planning process. Eleven Steering Committee meetings were held between November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 and July 27<sup>th</sup> 2006. See Table 2-2.

<b>TABLE 2-2 Steering Committee Meetings, 2004-2006</b>		
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	Nov. 1st, 2004	Setting for the planning process, role of committees
2	Dec. 16th, 2004	Public outreach- public meetings held
3	Mar. 7th, 2005	Formation of Committee
4	Mar. 28th, 2005	Committee, Outreach- postcard mailings
5	May 23rd, 2007	Committee meetings and membership, Technical Memos by Golder Associates
6	Jul. 25th, 2005	Progress of background chapters as deliverable to DOE
7	Sept. 26th, 2005	Goals and Objectives, Finalizing memos for deliverable to DOE
8	Nov. 28th, 2005	Review Goals and Objectives with both committees
9	Dec 15th, 2005	Goals and Objectives (Draft 12)
10	Jan. 30th, 2006	Finalize Goals and Objectives (Draft 12) , begin Alternatives discussion
11	Mar. 27th, 2006	Golder Budget Revision, Plans on how to proceed with Alternatives discussion
12	Jul. 27th, 2006	Combining Steering and Committees for Alternatives discussion.

### **Advisory Committee**

The Committee formed the heart of public involvement in the flood planning process. The Committee includes members of the general public, the development community, the business community, irrigation districts, the Department of Ecology, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Yakama Nation, transportation agencies, and citizen environmental and historic preservation groups. The role of Committee members and aspects of participation are summarized below:

- Provide input into the planning process
- Provide information about flooding problems, and issues relating to flooding, in the Ahtanum, Wide Hollow, and Spring (Chambers) Creek (Union Gap) watersheds
- Learn about flood hazard management
- Help develop goals and alternatives for flood hazard management in the Ahtanum-Wide Hollow area
- Be kept informed about the regulations and policies surrounding flood planning
- Help educate the community about flood issues
- Support implementation of the plan by the County, the Yakama Nation, and the cities of Yakima and Union Gap; and adoption by the County and cities

- Review and provide input on draft FEMA restudy maps

Committee members were selected through several different methods. A list of potential Committee representatives was created representing diverse groups with an interest in flooding issues. The list was discussed and approved by the Steering Committee. Categories were as follows:

- Irrigation Districts
- Department of Ecology
- Environmental/Historical Preservation Groups
- Schools
- Development Community
- Engineering/Surveying
- Fish and Wildlife
- Business Community
- Transportation Agencies
- North Yakima Conservation District
- General Public

Members of the public who had expressed interest in participating at public meetings were contacted, based on geographic location.

Urban areas were underrepresented in the public meetings, so a postcard inviting residents and business owners to join the Committee was sent to residents near the floodplain within the urban areas of Yakima and Union Gap. This generated considerable interest, and several business owners joined the Committee. Agency representatives and other representatives of groups identified on the list were contacted by phone.

<b>Table 2-3</b> <b>AHTANUM-WIDE HOLLOW ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Bill Goggin	Engineering - Private
Bill Koreski	Business - Union Gap
Brandon Rogers	Yakama Nation – Fisheries
Bruce Johnson	Public – West Valley
Buck Taylor & Mike Redmond	Yakima Air Terminal
Chuck Steele	Department of Ecology
Dale Murphy	Public - Wide Hollow
David Taylor	Ahtanum Irrigation District
Ed Campbell	Ahtanum Mission
Eric Bartrand	WDFW
Frank Glaspey	Business - Union Gap
Joel Freudenthal	Yakima County
LaRayne Case-Malner	Public- Emma Lane
Lee Hackett	Business - Union Gap
Leslie Wahl	Audubon Society
Mark Herke	Business - Ahtanum
Mathew Barnett	Business - Union Gap
Merle Warehime	Yakima Association of Realtors
Richard Visser	WDFW
Robert Smoot	Yakima Valley Canal Company
Ron Anderson	Yakima Association of Realtors
Steve Simon	Public - Union Gap
Steve Strosahl	Development Community
Tim Critchlow	West Valley School District

Forty-eight Committee meetings were held between April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The Advisory Committee and Steering Committee were combined as of July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006. See Table 2-4 Committee Meetings.

<b>TABLE 2-4 Advisory &amp; Combined Committee Meetings, 2005-2010</b>		
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	April 14, 2005	Introduction
2	April 28, 2005	Flood Information/Issues
3	May 17, 2005	Flood Issues
4	June 7, 2005	Membership/Goals and Objectives

**TABLE 2-4 Advisory & Combined Committee Meetings, 2005-2010**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
5	July 21, 2005	Goals and Objectives
6	Oct. 20, 2005	Goals and Objectives
7	Nov. 17, 2005	Goals and Objectives
8	Jan. 19, 2006	Goals and Objectives/Floodplains 101
9	Feb. 16, 2006	Goals and Objectives Finalized/Floodplains 101
10	May 18, 2006	Flooding Processes in Ahtanum
11	July 20, 2006	Introduction to Alternatives
12	Sept. 21, 2006	Process for Generating Alternatives (Steering Committee and Committee Combined)
13	Oct. 19, 2006	Ahtanum Mission / North Fork Bridges
14	Nov. 16, 2006	Emma Lane / General Inundation Issues
15	Jan. 4, 2007	Irrigation Infrastructure
16	Jan. 25, 2007	Spring Creek / Shaw Creek
17	Feb. 18, 2007	Shaw Creek / Vegetation / Fish and Wildlife
18	March 8, 2007	Fish and Wildlife/Emergency Response / Union Gap
19	Apr. 5, 2007	Infrastructure
20	April 26, 2007	Infrastructure
21	May 17, 2007	Land Use
22	June 14, 2007	Regulatory Issues
23	June 28, 2007	Channel Issues
24	July 26, 2007	Channel Issues
25	Sept. 27, 2007	Close Alternative brain-storming, next steps
26	Oct. 18, 2007	Consider evaluation methods
27	Nov. 8, 2007	Review Alternative ranking worksheet
28	Jan. 24, 2008	Introduce Alternatives Summary Tables, review Ahtanum Mission, Emma Lane, Union Gap
29	Feb. 26, 2008	Review channel issues, Shaw Creek, Wide Hollow
30	March 25, 2008	Review bridges & roads, and irrigation
31	April 7, 2008	Review land use and dropped alternatives
32	May 5, 2008	Review development standards, flood response, information/outreach, and more on Shaw Creek
33	Sept. 4, 2008	Mapping update, edits to background chapters
34	Dec. 8, 2008	Alternatives tracking and edits
35	Jan. 21, 2009	Alternatives tracking and edits
36	Feb. 17, 2009	Alternative tracking and edits
37	March 16, 2009	Select Recommendations from alternatives
38	April 20, 2009	Select Recommendations from alternatives
39	May 18, 2009	Select Recommendations from alternatives
40	June 15, 2009	Select Recommendations from alternatives

**TABLE 2-4 Advisory & Combined Committee Meetings, 2005-2010**

	Date	Topic
41	July 30, 2009	Chapter 9 to committee, review draft work maps, review potential gaps in alternatives
42	Sept. 21, 2009	Review potential gaps in alternatives, 100-year bridge recommendations
43	Dec. 10, 2009	Tighter language for select recommendations
44	Jan. 21, 2010	Union Gap mill site, review Wide Hollow draft work maps
45	Feb. 18, 2010	Review Wide Hollow FEMA final draft work maps and last suggested edits to draft recommendations
46	April 19, 2010	Prioritize recommendations, discuss funding for plan implementation and economic costs of development in floodplains
47	Sept. 14, 2010	Discussion - additions from information developed during process including: FEMA draft maps, hydraulics at existing bridges, smaller flood events, and role of land use, maintenance, and management
48	Oct. 18, 2010	Integration of planning suggestions in chapter 8, review of bridge analysis, stream clean-out demonstration project, and 25-year flood mapping. Last committee meeting.

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS, OPEN HOUSES, ADVERTISEMENTS, INTERVIEWS**

### **Neighborhood Meetings**

A wealth of information was gathered at neighborhood meetings about flood problem areas. This information was entered into a master database, with corresponding points included on a map of the two basins. This map and database serve as a baseline for identifying problem “hot spots”. The workshops were advertised on the radio, and there was some newspaper and television coverage.

Four public workshops, facilitated by Yakima County and Golder staff, were held at the following locations:

**Table 2-5 Public Workshops, 2005**

	Date	Location
1.	Jan. 25, 2005	Ahtanum Valley Elementary School 3006 S. Wiley Rd., Yakima Co.
2.	Jan. 26, 2005	Wide Hollow Elementary School 1000 S. 72 <sup>nd</sup> Ave., Yakima Co.
3.	Jan. 27, 2005	Ahtanum Youth Park 1000 Ahtanum Rd. Union Gap
4.	Feb. 1, 2005	Yakima Valley Restitution Center 2403 S. 18 <sup>th</sup> St. Union Gap

The purpose of these workshops was to gather flood information from residents within the Ahtanum and Wide Hollow watersheds, corresponding to the CFHMP project area.

Information gathered at the public meetings included personal statements, photographs, and videos of flood events.

At each public workshop, attendees placed adhesive dots on laminated maps next to known flood problems, while workshop facilitators wrote descriptions of each problem. Yakima County GIS Department staff developed the maps, which correspond to six defined extents within the Ahtanum and Wide Hollow watersheds, including:

- Ahtanum;
- West Valley -North;
- West Valley -South;
- West Yakima;
- Southwest Yakima; and,
- Yakima and Union Gap.

At the end of each workshop, the collected information was entered into an Excel database. Upon completion of all four public workshops, the Yakima County GIS Department translated the collected information into a GIS database that associates flood problems with their locations. Reported information from the workshops was not verified at that time. The maps provided background reports which were utilized when examining flooding problems in the basin, rather than a final product.

### **Workshops Summary**

The first public workshop was held on January 25, 2005 at the Ahtanum Valley Elementary School located at 3006 South Wiley Road. There were approximately 38 attendees, which was the greatest number of people to attend any of the workshops. This workshop spurred many discussions about problems and issues throughout the region, particularly in the upper Ahtanum area.

The second public workshop was held on January 26, 2005 at the Wide Hollow Elementary School located at 1000 South 72nd Avenue. There were 8 attendees. Most comments and problems brought to attention at this meeting regarded Wide Hollow Creek.

The third public workshop was held on January 27, 2005 at the Ahtanum Youth Park located at 1000 Ahtanum Road. There were 13 attendees. Most comments and problems brought to attention at this meeting pertained to the Southwest Yakima geographic extent.

The fourth public workshop was held on February 4, 2005 at the Yakima Valley Restitution Center located at 2403 South 18th Street. There were 3 attendees.

### **Interviews of Agency/City/Tribal Representatives**

Interviews were conducted with Dennis Henne, Public Works Director for the City of Union Gap, Augie Martinez, County Roads Maintenance Supervisor, Ken McNamee, Department



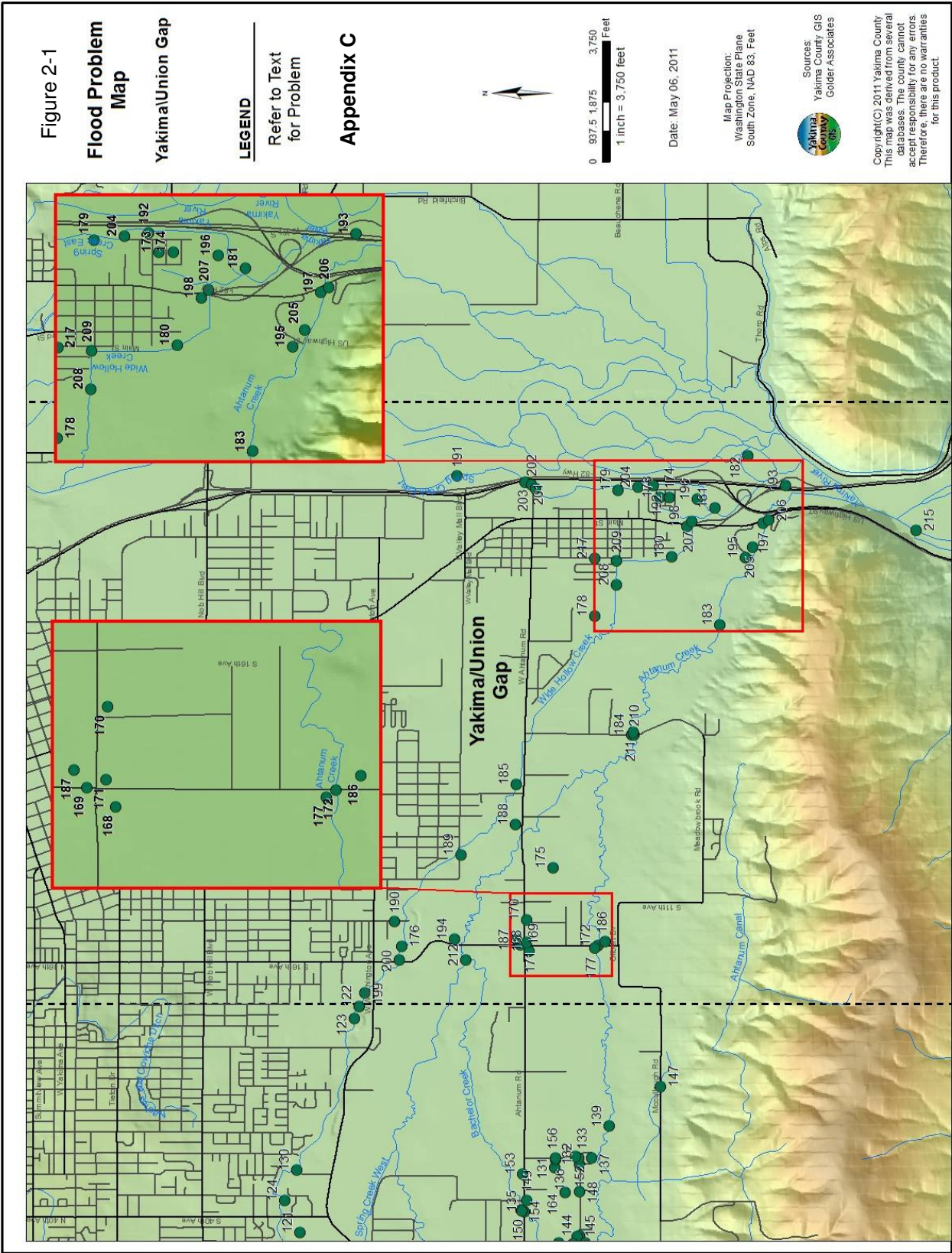
of Natural Resources, and Virgil James, Yakama Nation Zoning Official. Regulatory information and flood problem location information were gathered during these interviews. Broader issues, such as land use and emergency management, were also discussed and recorded for reference in the plan. More information about these interviews and field visits is included in Chapter 7 and Appendix E.

### **Additional Outreach and Results**

Considerable information was gathered at the four public workshops and in stakeholder interviews. Summaries of this information by watershed area are located in Appendix F. The meetings established positive relationships with residents, which facilitated continued field work and organization of the Committee. Several residents in the rural portions of the two basins were active in providing information about past flooding, and participating in the Committee.

Newsletters describing progress of the planning effort were mailed to everyone on the contact list (over 100 people) between April 2005 and August 2006. This period saw creation of the goals and objectives, a critical phase that would guide the rest of the process.

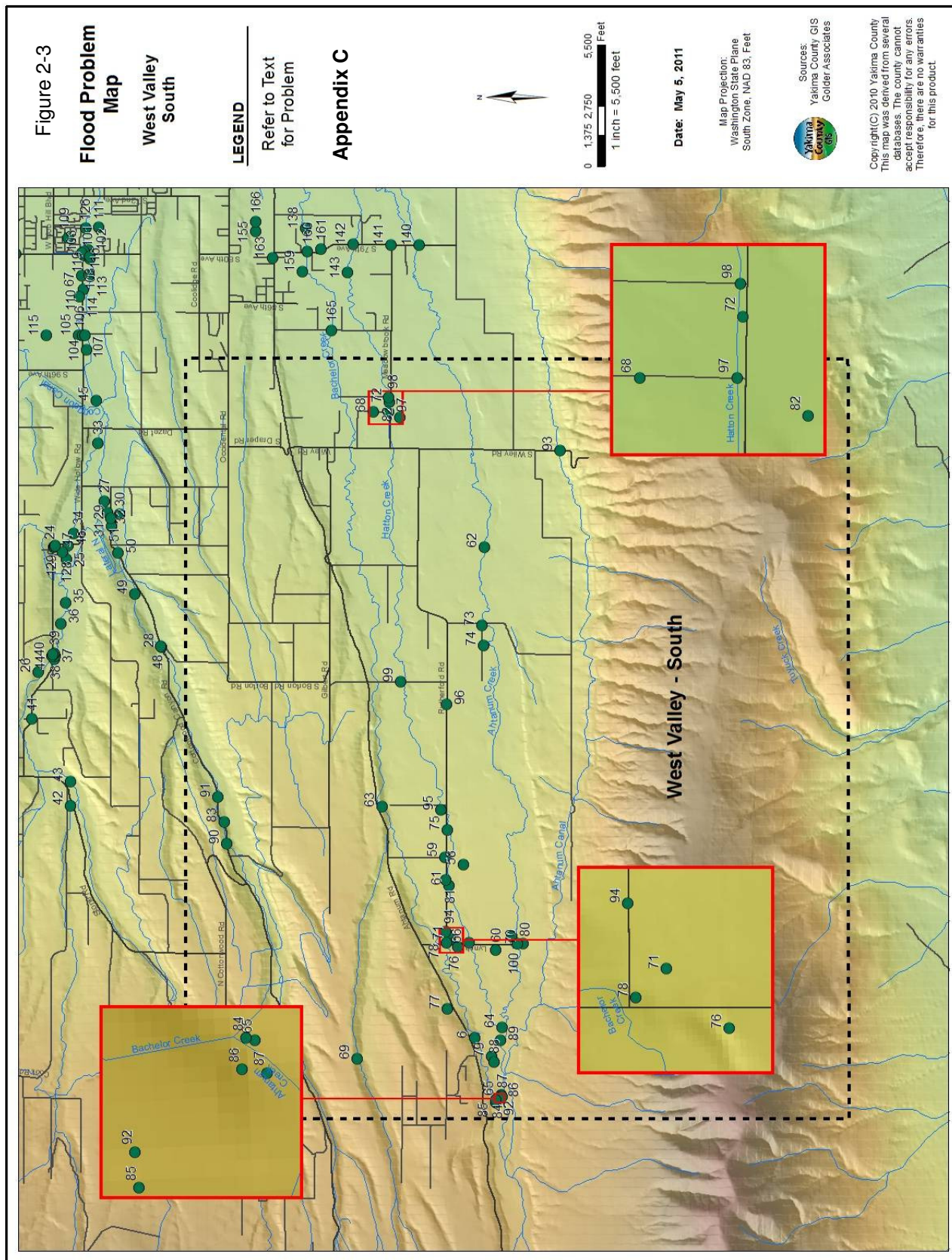
Maps, shown as Figures 2-1 through 2-6, were created by Yakima County GIS by combining the information gathered through public meetings and interviews. A corresponding database, which included comments gathered at public meetings, was also created (Appendix C). These maps were passed out to committee members and referred to throughout the process of identifying problems and determining plan alternatives. The maps and databases are further explored in the following chapters and appendices.







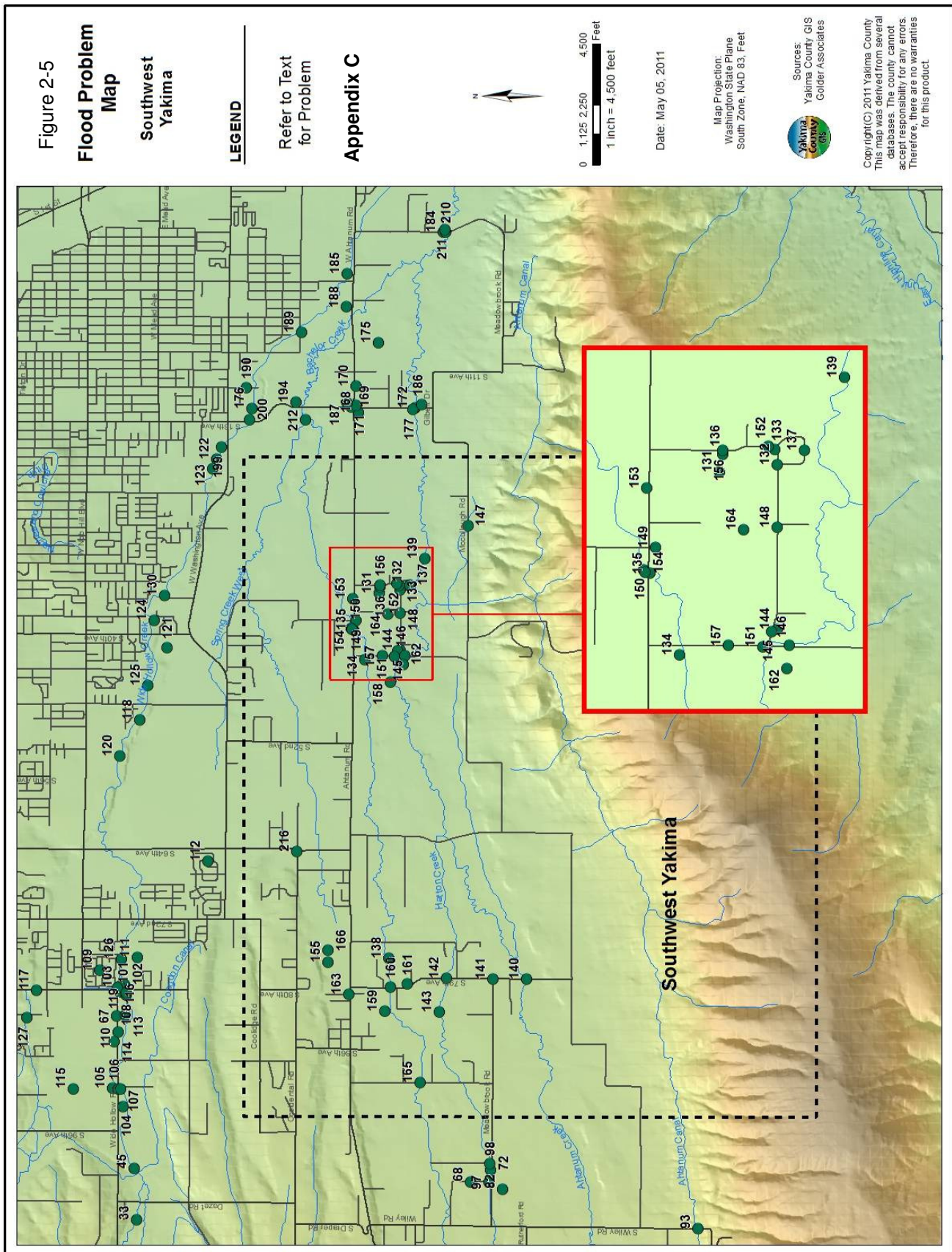














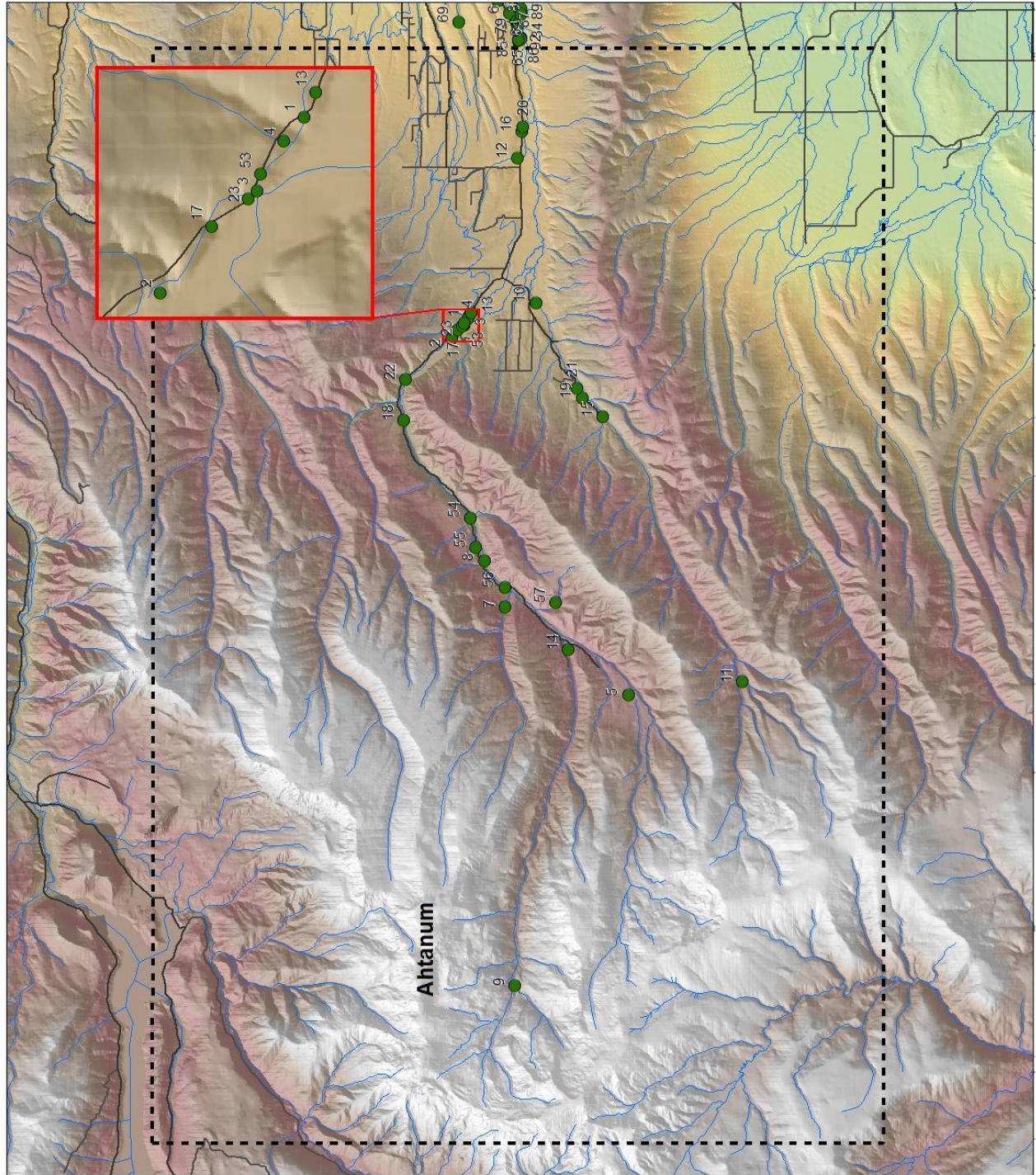
**Figure 2-6  
Flood Problem  
Map**

## Ahtanum

## LEGEND

Refer to Text  
for Problem

## Appendix C



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