

SECTION E

STREAM CHANNEL CONDITION

INTRODUCTION

This report provides the results of an assessment of the stream channels of the Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) ownership in the Elk Creek watershed analysis unit (WAU). The assessment was done following a modified methodology from the Watershed Analysis Manual (Version 4.0, Washington Forest Practices Board). The stream channel analysis is based on field observations and stream channel slope class and channel confinement information developed from a digital terrain model in the company's Geographic Information System (GIS).

The goals of the assessment were to determine the existing channel conditions and identify the sensitivity of the channels to wood and sediment. Stream channels are defined by the transport of water and sediment. A primary structural control of a channel in a forested environment, besides large rock substrate, is from woody debris. Channel morphology and condition therefore reflect the input of sediment, wood and water relative to the ability of the channel to either transport or store these inputs (Sullivan et. al., 1986).

Stream channel conditions represent the strongest link between forest practices and fisheries resources. Changes in channel condition typically reflect changes to fish habitat. Because of this the fish habitat and stream channel assessments were done in the same reaches. The results for the fish habitat parameters are presented in Section F - Fish Habitat Assessment.

METHODS

The methods of the stream channel assessment are designed to identify channel segments that are likely to respond similarly to changes in sediment or wood and group them into distinct geomorphic units. These geomorphic units enable an interpretation of habitat-forming processes dependent on similar geomorphic and channel morphology conditions. The channels are also evaluated for current channel condition to provide baseline information for the evaluation of channel conditions over the long term.

Stream Segment Delineation

The stream channel network for the Elk Creek WAU was partitioned into stream segments based on three classes of channel confinement and several classes of channel gradient. These classifications were based on channel classifications prepared from digital terrain data in Mendocino Redwood Company's Geographic Information System (GIS). The slope classes used for delineation are 0-3%, 3-7%, 7-12%, and 12-20%. Channel confinement was classified by confined, moderately confined, and unconfined. Confined channels have a valley to channel width ratio of <2, moderately confined channels have a valley to channel width ratio of <4, and unconfined channels have a valley to channel width ratio of >4.

Channel segments were delineated based on either a change in slope class or change in channel confinement. The channel segments were numbered with a two letter code, corresponding to the

planning watershed, followed by a unique number (*1 through n* for each planning watershed). The delineated stream segments are shown on Map E-1.

Field Measurements and Observations

Selection of field sites for stream channel observations was based on gathering a sample of response (0-3% gradient) and transport (3-20% gradient) channels. No attention was focused on the source reaches (>20% gradient).

For each channel segment the bankfull width, bankfull maximum depth, bankfull average depth, floodprone depth, floodprone width, and channel bankfull width to depth ratio are measured at a cross section representative of the channel segment. A pebble count of 50 randomly selected pebbles is counted at the cross section to determine the D_{50} (median particle size) of the streambed. Streambed sediment characteristics are interpreted from observations of gravel bars, fine sediment abundance and particle size of the stream bed material. The segment is classified by morphology types based on Montgomery and Buffington (1993). The channel morphology is further interpreted by flood plain interaction for the segment (continuous, discontinuous, inactive, none) and channel roughness characteristics. Large woody debris (LWD) functioning in the channel was inventoried (presented in Section D, Riparian Function). The number and type of pools (LWD forced, bank forced, boulder forced, free formed) were observed. The field observations are summarized and defined in Table E-1.

Geomorphic Units

Channel segments were grouped into geomorphic units by similar attributes of channel condition, position in the drainage network, and gradient/confinement classes. The intent of the geomorphic units are to stratify channel segments of the WAU into units which respond similarly to the input factors of coarse and fine sediment, and LWD. These geomorphic units can then be interpreted to have similar habitat-forming processes.

Interpretations related to sediment supply, transport capacity and LWD response were the basis for development of sensitivity of geomorphic units to coarse sediment, fine sediment and LWD inputs. These interpretations were based primarily on existing conditions observed in the stream channels of the WAU. The channel sensitivity to changes to coarse sediment, fine sediment and LWD are based on how the current state of the channel is likely to respond to inputs of these variables.

Long Term Channel Monitoring Sites

Two long-term stream channel monitoring segments were established on Upper and Lower Elk Creek to monitor stream channel morphology conditions and stream sediment characteristics. A long-term stream channel monitoring segment was first established in Lower Elk Creek in 1999. A re-survey of the segment was conducted in 2000 and again in 2005 for this report. The segment in Upper Elk Creek was first established in 2005.

Longitudinal profiles, cross sections and streambed substrate measurements were surveyed in each segment. Permeability of spawning gravels was measured (methods and results presented in the Fish Habitat section). These monitoring segments will be re-surveyed and monitored over time to provide insight into changes in channel morphology, sediment transport and fish habitat conditions from our restoration work.

The stream monitoring segments are typically 20-30 bankfull channel widths in length. Permanent benchmarks (PBMs) are placed at the upstream and downstream ends of the monitoring segment. The PBMs are monumented with nails in the base of large trees along with a re-bar pin in the ground adjacent to the nail.

The longitudinal profile is a survey of the thalweg, the deepest point of the channel, excluding any detached or “dead end” scours and/or side channels. At every visually apparent change in thalweg location or depth, the station along the channel and the elevation is recorded. In the absence of visually apparent changes, thalweg measurements are taken every 15-20 feet along the channel. A profile graph of the channel’s thalweg is created from the longitudinal survey (see Appendix E for longitudinal profiles for the Elk Creek WAU). A computer program (LONGPRO) developed by the USGS for Redwood National Park was used to analyze the profiles. This program converted the surveys into standardized data sets with uniform five-foot spacing between points and determined the residual water depth of each point. The residual water depth is the depth of water in pools of the channel segment defined by the riffle crest height at the outlet of the pool. No minimum pool depth is specified. The distribution, mean and standard deviation of the residual water depths for the longitudinal profile segment are calculated. This provides the ability to statistically evaluate changes in the residual water depths from the thalweg profile over time.

Along the longitudinal profile, three to five channel cross sections are surveyed (locations are permanently monumented). The cross sections are located along relatively straight reaches in the monitoring segment. Cross sections are surveyed from above the floodprone depth of the channel. A graph of the cross section is created from the survey (see Appendix E for cross sections graphs for the Elk Creek WAU). At each cross section a pebble count is done, to determine the particle size distribution and median particle size (D_{50}), by measuring 100 randomly selected pebbles along the cross section fall line.

RESULTS

Stream Channel Observations

Field channel surveys or observations were taken on 34 stream reaches in the Elk Creek WAU during the summer of 2004. Table E-1 provides a summary of the data collected. Further detail specific to in-channel fish habitat relationships is found in Section F - Fish Habitat Assessment of this report. LWD measured and evaluated in stream channels is reported in the Riparian Function section.

Key to Table E-1.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>
ID #	The stream identification number (see Map E-1), two letter planning watershed code followed by unique number for the planning watershed. RC – Rockport Elk
Channel confinement	Confined-channel width to valley width ratio < 2, moderately confined-channel width to valley width ratio 2-4, unconfined-channel width to valley width ratio >4, based on the DTM in GIS.
Survey Length	Length of stream surveyed.
GIS slope category	Slope class as designated by DTM in GIS.
Field Observed Slope	Mean slope of segment as observed in field.
Maximum Bankfull Depth	Maximum bankfull depth of representative cross section.
Mean Bankfull Depth	Average bankfull depth of representative cross section.
Bankfull width	Bankfull width of representative cross section.
Width/Depth Ratio	Ratio of bankfull channel width to average bankfull depth.
Floodprone depth	Maximum depth during flooding estimated by 2 times max. bankfull depth (Rosgen, 1996).
Floodprone width	Width of water at floodprone depth (Rosgen, 1996).
Entrenchment Ratio	Ratio of floodprone width to bankfull channel width.

Sediment/Bedform Characteristics

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>
Geomorphic Unit	Number of the geomorphic unit the channel segment is in.
Montgomery/Buffington Class	The channel morphology type: PR = pool/riffle, FP/R = forced pool/riffle, SP = step pool, PB = plane bed, CAS = cascade (Montgomery and Buffington, 1993)
Floodplain Continuity	Description of floodplain/channel interaction either: continuous, inactive, discontinuous or none.
D ₅₀	Median gravel size of the stream bed particle distribution at a representative riffle.

Pool Characteristics

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>
Free	number of free formed pools in segment.
LWD Forced	number of LWD forced pools in segment.
Boulder Forced	number of boulder forced pools in segment.
Bank Forced	number of bank forced pools in segment.
Pool Spacing	average space between pools by bankfull widths.
Mean Res. Pool Depth	average of all residual pool depths in segment (data collected by fisheries staff).

Table E-1. Stream Channel Observations for the Elk Creek Watershed Analysis Unit, 2005

Segment Name	ID #	Channel Confinement	Survey Length (ft)	GIS Slope Category (%)	Field Observed Slope (%)	Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft)	Mean Bankfull Depth (ft)	Bankfull Width (ft)	Width/Depth Ratio	Flood-prone Depth	Flood-prone Width	Entrenchment Ratio
Upper Elk	CE02	Confined	4183	0-3	2.4%	4.7	3.7	46	12.4	7.4	80	1.7
Upper Elk	CE04	Confined	1130	0-3	1.5%	4	3.1	32	10.3	8.0	35	1.1
Upper Elk	CE05	Confined	1230	0-3	2.0%	3.9	2.8	29	10.4	7.8	45	1.6
Upper Elk	CE06	Confined	1100	0-3	2.9%	2.5	1.5	30	20.0	5.0	35	1.2
Upper Elk	CE07	Confined	1500	0-3	2.0%	3.2	2.1	22	10.5	6.4	50	2.3
Upper Elk	CE08	Confined	1000	3-7	3.0%	2.2	1.8	10	5.6	4.4	15	1.5
Upper Elk	CE09	Confined	640	3-7	4.0%	2.4	1.8	13	7.2	4.8	20	1.5
Twin Bridges	CE10	Confined	750	3-7	6.7%	2.3	1.6	22	13.8	3.2	31	1.4
Twin Bridges	CE11	Confined	1400	0-3	5.5%	3.2	2.1	19	9.0	6.4	30	1.6
Twin Bridges	CE12	Confined	1200	3-7	5.0%	2.8	1.9	16	8.4	5.6	50	3.1
Three Springs	CE30	Confined	1100	0-3	2.8%			20				0.0
Three Springs	CE31	Confined	1095	3-7	3.0%	3.2	2.1	23	11.0	6.4	40	1.7
Sulfur Creek	CE39	Confined	1000	3-7	3.8%	2.1	1.5	13	8.7	4.2	23	1.8
Sulfur Creek	CE40	Confined	950	3-7	7.2%	2.2	1.4	16	11.4	4.4	20	1.3
Sulfur Creek	CE41	Confined	850	12-15	9.7%			15				0.0
Soda Fork	CE44	Confined	1500	3-7	2.4%	2.1	1.4	25.5	18.2	4.2	40	1.6
Soda Fork	CE46	Confined	1486	0-3	4.7%	3	1.6	20.7	12.9	6.0	31	1.5
Upper Elk	CE50	Confined	550	3-7	3.3%	2.2	1.8	11	6.1	4.4	60	5.5

Table E-1 continued. Stream Channel Observations for the Elk Creek Watershed Analysis Unit, 2005.

Segment Name	ID #	Channel Confinement	Survey Length (ft)	GIS Slope Category (%)	Field Observed Slope (%)	Maximum Bankfull Depth (ft)	Mean Bankfull Depth (ft)	Bankfull Width (ft)	Width/Depth Ratio	Flood-prone Depth	Flood-prone Width	Entrenchment Ratio
Upper Elk	CE51	Confined	650	7-12	4.5%	2.1	1.7	10	5.6	2.4	10	1.1
Upper Elk	CE52	Confined	640	12-15	7.0%	1.8	1.4	10.5	7.5	3.6	30	2.9
Mayville	CE61	Confined	450	0-3	13.3%			10				0.0
Lower Elk	CL01	Moderately confined	1300	0-3	0.8%	5	3	59	19.7	9.8	250	4.2
Lower Elk	CL02	Confined	1600	0-3	1.3%	3	2.4	44.5	18.5	6.0	200	4.5
Lower Elk	CL03	Confined	1600	0-3	1.8%			45				0.0
Lower Elk	CL05	Confined	2555	0-3	2.2%	5.5	3.5	52	14.9	11.0	67.0	1.3
South Fork Elk	CL06	Confined	800	3-7	2.1%	2.2	1.62	17	10.5	4.4	60	3.5
South Fork Elk	CL07	Confined	600	3-7	14.8%	2	1.2	14	11.7	4.0	20	1.4
Little South Fork Elk	CL12	Confined	2000	7-12	5.6%	2.9	2	12	6.0	5.8	40	3.3
Hunters Camp	CL16	Confined	200	12-15	11.5%			10				0.0
Lower Elk	CL24	Confined	550	7-12	11.8%	2.2	1.4	15.4	11.0	4.3	30	1.9

Table E-1. Stream Channel Observations for the Elk Creek Watershed Analysis Unit, 2005.

Segment Name	ID #	Floodplain Continuity	Geomorphic Unit	D ₅₀ (mm)	Pools (number by type)				Total number of pools	Pool spacing (#/feet)	Mean residual pool depth (feet)	Key LWD pieces per 100 meters (w/ debris jams)	% of LWD pieces in debris jams
					Bank	Boulder	LWD	Free					
Upper Elk	CE02	No floodplain	2	84	5	22	4	2	33	2.8	2.7	0.2	0%
Upper Elk	CE04	No floodplain	2	74	4	7	0	3	14	2.5	2.4	0.0	0%
Upper Elk	CE05	Inactive	2	47	6	3	1	2	12	3.5	2.5	0.3	0%
Upper Elk	CE06	Discontinuous	2	26	8	1	1	8	18	2.0	2.6	1.8	45%
Upper Elk	CE07	Discontinuous	2	35	14	0	1	0	15	4.5	2.4	0.4	0%
Upper Elk	CE08	No floodplain	2	56	4	2	1	1	8	12.5		2.3	0%
Upper Elk	CE09	No floodplain	3	42	8	0	1	0	9	5.5	1.4	6.2	69%
Twin Bridges	CE10	No floodplain	3	33	5	1	7	0	13	2.6	1.5	1.3	0%
Twin Bridges	CE11	No floodplain	3	42	5	6	3	1	15	4.9	1.5	1.6	65%
Twin Bridges	CE12	Discontinuous	3	40	1	0	14	0	15	5.0	1.5	1.9	0%
Three Springs	CE30		2		2	7	2	0	11	5.0	1.1	3.3	31%
Three Springs	CE31	No floodplain	2	95	5	2	3	0	10	4.8	2.1	6.0	69%
Sulfur Creek	CE39	Inactive	2	64	5	5	2	2	14	5.5	2.2	5.6	76%
Sulfur Creek	CE40	No floodplain	3	93	4	5	1	1	11	5.4	1.8	5.9	43%
Sulfur Creek	CE41		4		2	2	2	1	7	8.1	2.1	3.9	68%
Soda Fork	CE44		2	35					0		2.0	2.8	41%
Soda Fork	CE46	No floodplain	3	98	2	2	1	22	27	2.7	2.7	1.1	83%
Upper Elk	CE50	Discontinuous	2	37	2	4	4	0	10	5.0		0.0	0%
Upper Elk	CE51	Discontinuous	3	41	6	1	7	2	16	4.3	1.3	7.1	33%
Upper Elk	CE52	Inactive	4	28	1	0	5	1	7	8.7		1.5	0%
Mayville	CE61		4		2	2	1	1	6	7.5		2.2	0%
Lower Elk	CL01	Discontinuous	1	45	4	0	6	2	12	1.8	3.7	0.0	0%
Lower Elk	CL02	Discontinuous	2	42	4	2	2	2	10	3.6	3.3	0.4	0%
Lower Elk	CL03		2		3	9	0	4	16	2.2	3.1	0.0	0%
Lower Elk	CL05	No floodplain	2	64	10	10	3	2	25	2.0	2.9	0.5	0%

Table E-1. Stream Channel Observations for the Elk Creek Watershed Analysis Unit, 2005.

Segment Name	ID #	Floodplain Continuity	Geomorphic Unit	D ₅₀ (mm)	Pools (number by type)				Total number of pools	Pool spacing (#/feet)	Mean residual pool depth (feet)	Key LWD pieces per 100 meters (w/ debris jams)	% of LWD pieces in debris jams
					Bank	Boulder	LWD	Free					
South Fork Elk	CL06	Discontinuous	2	39	0	0	7	0	7	6.7	1.7	1.2	0%
South Fork Elk	CL07	Discontinuous	3	105	0	9	2	0	11	3.9	1.0	4.9	0%
Little SF Elk	CL12	No floodplain	4	19	5	1	17	5	28	6.0	1.0	0.8	0%
Hunters Camp	CL16	No floodplain	4		0	4	0	2	6	3.3	1.1	24.6	67%
Lower Elk	CL24		4	21	0	6	6	0	12	3.0	1.1	4.8	0%

Stream Geomorphic Units

Stream geomorphic units were developed for the stream network on the MRC property in the Elk Creek watershed. These units are general representations of stream channels with similar sensitivities to coarse sediment, fine sediment and large woody debris inputs. Four stream geomorphic units were developed for interpretation of stream channel response to forest management interactions in the Elk Creek WAU. The four stream geomorphic units are described below.

Geomorphic Unit I. Low Gradient, Moderately Confined Channels.

Includes Segments: CL01

General Description:

The channels within this unit flow through short areas of unconfined to moderately confined canyons. Hillslopes or inner gorge topography typically controls the lateral edge of the floodplain. Some terraces are present and floodplains are present though discontinuously. The bankfull channel is typically between 15 and 60 feet in width. The channels in this unit are low gradient (0-2 percent, but usually <1 percent). These channels exhibit moderate sediment transport capacity. The meandering, low gradient pattern and profile facilitate sediment deposition. When terraces are present bank erosion is observed in this unit, particularly on the outside of meander mends and toes of large landslides.

Associated Channel Types:

This unit primarily exhibits pool/riffle morphology. The Rosgen classifications (Rosgen, 1994) for these channels are primarily C4, with some areas of F4 and DA4.

Fish Habitat Associations:

Spawning habitat and gravel are in moderate amounts in this unit, but spawning gravel quality is reasonably good where present. Rearing habitat availability can be good where sufficient LWD creates good pool habitat and shelter, however summer rearing can be absent because some of the streams in this unit can go subsurface during the summer rearing period. Young fish would have to migrate to other areas to survive through the summer months. Overwintering habitat is provided by large cobble/boulder and bedrock substrates. LWD when present in this unit also provides overwintering habitat for juvenile salmonids.

Conditions and Response Potential:

Coarse Sediment: High Response Potential

These channels are depositional areas for coarse sediment. The moderate sediment transport capacity makes these channels vulnerable to changes in supply of coarse sediment. Fluctuations of coarse sediment can occur that will surpass the transport capacity of the stream. When this occurs pools can be filled, the influence of large woody debris and bedrock controlled sections are lessened and the channels can aggrade. Aggradation of the channel can create greater bank erosion, or wider braided channels.

Fine Sediment: Moderate Response Potential

The channels of this unit have high fine sediment transport capacity due to high flow capacity of the channel. However, when there is a high fine sediment supply in transport, accumulations of fine sediment do occur in this unit. Sparse to moderate accumulations of fine sediment was

observed in this unit. These accumulations were observed in the gravel bars, along channel margins, and in some pools.

Large Woody Debris: High Response Potential

The alluvial composition of the bed material in conjunction with a low gradient channel makes these channels highly responsive to LWD inputs. LWD is a dominant influence for pool development, sediment storage behind LWD accumulations and stabilization of bank and bedforms within the channels in this unit.

Geomorphic Unit II. Confined Low Gradient Channel Segments.

Includes Segments: CE01, CE02, CE04, CE05, CE06, CE07, CE08, CE30, CE31, CE39, CE44, CE50, CL02, CL03, CL05, CL06

General Description: The channels within this unit meander through confined canyons. The channels are typically confined by hillslopes with a narrow floodplain occasionally present, typically on the inside of meander bends. Alternating gravel bars on meander bends often define the bankfull width. The bankfull channel is typically between 10 and 30 feet in width. These channels are often entrenched within terrace or landslide deposits. Bank erosion is high. The channels in this unit are low gradient (<3 percent), but sediment transport capacity is high due to the highly confined channel keeping water energy directed within the channel. The channel bed is composed of primarily gravel-sized particles.

Associated Channel Types:

This unit primarily exhibits pool/riffle morphology, however some step pool and forced pool/riffle morphology does occur. The Rosgen classification (Rosgen, 1994) for these channels is predominantly F4.

Fish Habitat Associations:

This unit is characterized by large substrate that provides an element of roughness to the stream. Larger sized cobbles break up the flow of water creating velocity breaks and bubble curtains. Velocity breaks are located directly behind (downstream) cobble and boulders and provide a resting place for fish. The white water or bubble curtains that are created by larger, exposed substrate are considered a valuable source of shelter for fish. This unit has low amounts of large woody debris, due the confined nature of the channels wood recruitment would have a positive effect on the quality of in-stream habitat by providing increased scour and shelter to pool habitat.

Conditions and Response Potential:

Coarse Sediment: Moderate Response Potential

These channels are not depositional areas for coarse sediment. Coarse gravel accumulations are common in point and medial gravel bars in this unit. The high confinement of these channels creates relatively high sediment transport capacity. However, if the supply of coarse sediment surpasses the transport capacity the impact can be filling of pools or increased scour of the bed.

Fine Sediment: Moderate Response Potential

The channels of this unit have high fine sediment transport capacity due to confinement of the channels. However, the watershed has a relatively high background sediment rate. This high rate of sediment input can result in pool filling or bed fining from high fine sediment accumulations.

Fine sediment accumulations were observed in this unit on the top of gravel bars, accumulated in the bed of plane bed reaches, along pool margins, and in some pools.

Large Woody Debris: High Response Potential

The alluvial composition of the bed material in conjunction with a low gradient channel makes these channels highly responsive to LWD inputs. LWD is a dominant influence for pool development, sediment storage behind LWD accumulations and stabilization of bank and bedforms within the channels in this unit.

Geomorphic Unit III. Moderate Gradient Confined Transport Segments.

Includes Segments: CE09, CE10, CE11, CE12, CE40, CE46, CE51, CL07

General Description:

Stream channel segments in this unit are confined within canyons, though areas of moderate confinement occur locally. Typically entrenchment ratios (bankfull to floodprone width) are between 1 and 5 bankfull widths. This is sufficient to allow some isolated terrace formation and channel meandering, though not common. The channel segments in this unit are near the transition between deposition and transport channels. Due to the moderate gradient (3-7 percent) of the channels, they are responsive to aggradation and degradation from changes in the stream sediment supply. The stream bed of these channels varies from gravel to boulder sized particles. The terraces in this unit appear to be created from large episodic sediment loads such as frequent mass wasting. The gradient of the stream is high enough that stream segments in this unit easily down-cut through the terrace deposits when flow is concentrated.

Associated Channel Types:

This unit primarily exhibits step pool and forced pool/riffle morphology, with areas of cascade morphology. The Rosgen classifications (Rosgen, 1994) for these channels vary from G1-4 with areas of B4 and A4 depending on the bank configuration, slope and channel substrate.

Fish Habitat Associations:

Spawning areas in this unit are infrequent, due to lack of accumulations of gravel sized particles. The steeper gradient segments of this unit typically form step-pool, cascade, and some pool-riffle habitat. The step-pools that are typically boulder formed, and offer substrate refugia, which provide both rearing and overwintering habitat.

Conditions and Response Potential:

Coarse Sediment: Moderate Response Potential

The channels in this unit have relatively high sediment transport capacity. In the lower gradient sections of these channels coarse sediment can create pool filling and aggradation, resulting in increased bank erosion and poor stream habitat. The step pool sections of these channels have relatively stable cobble and boulder component that can remain relatively static except in extreme flows. Increased coarse sediment supply can create pool filling, but is only moderately influential on the morphology because pool filling at these moderate gradients creates lower channel roughness which in turn promotes more step pool or cascade development, provided high inputs of coarse sediment subside.

Fine Sediment: Low Response Potential

The channels of this unit have high fine sediment transport capacity due to high flow capacity of the channel. However, when there is a high fine sediment supply in transport, accumulations of fine sediment do occur but typically have short residence times in this unit. Sparse to moderate accumulations of fine sediment was observed in this unit. These accumulations were observed in the bed and along channel margins.

Large Woody Debris: Moderate Response Potential

The high confinement or entrenchment of these channels provides little opportunity for the channel to meander or develop a floodplain. Water energy is concentrated within the confines of canyon walls or stream banks making the role of LWD less sensitive as channels with less confinement or entrenchment. LWD is less likely to enter the channel because it becomes suspended over the channels narrower bankfull width. The role of LWD is typically as sediment storage or forced step pool development in these channels. Bed morphology in channels with slope gradients of 4-10% is typically step pool (Montgomery and Buffington, 1993). The large bed forming material of step pool morphology is generally stable making the role of LWD in these channels less sensitive than other channel types.

Geomorphic Unit IV. High Gradient Transport Segments.

Includes Segments: CE41, CE52, CE61, CL12, CL16, CL24

General Description:

Channel segments in this unit are high gradient transport reaches from 7-20% with high sediment transport capacity. The channel segments in this unit typically flow through tightly confined, V-shaped canyons. These are typically zones of scour during high flows or debris flows. Stream substrate is typically from cobble to large boulders. Typically, there is no surface water flow in this unit in the summer drought season.

Associated Channel Types:

This unit varies its morphology from step pool to cascades with some occasional waterfalls. The cascades and waterfalls occur in the steepest segments of this unit and only during winter storm events. The Rosgen (Rosgen, 1996) classification for these channels varies between A2, A3, and AA2, AA3 depending on channel gradient and substrate composition.

Fish Habitat Associations:

Potential for steelhead trout utilization is low due to the high gradient; 8% to 20% and small channel sizes. Rearing would be unlikely because stream flow typically goes subsurface in the summer months.

Conditions and Response Potential:

Coarse Sediment: Low Response Potential

Typically the channel morphology in this unit is cascade, with some step pool morphology at the lower gradients observed in these channels. These channels have bed material that is coarse and relatively immobile. Down cutting or bank erosion are not common in these high gradient, large substrate dominated channels even with increases in sediment supply. Debris flows can cover the substrate creating the cascade morphology but this is generally short-lived due to the high sediment transport capacity of the channels.

Fine Sediment: Low Response Potential

The high gradient of the channels in this unit creates a high fine sediment transport capability. Pools or storage areas for fine sediment in these channels are limited making the impacts from fine sediment minimal. Down cutting or bank erosion are not common in these high gradient, large substrate dominated channels even with increases in sediment supply.

Large Woody Debris: Moderate Response Potential

The role of LWD in these channels is to provide storage of sediment and also as a source for downstream LWD. LWD is needed in these channels however the need for LWD as a source for downstream LWD is episodic and therefore the least sensitive as other channel types. The storage of sediment by LWD in these channels is necessary, but can be accomplished by a range of size classes of LWD not necessarily very key LWD pieces.

Long Term Stream Monitoring

During the summer of 2005, two long term channel monitoring segments in Upper and Lower Elk Creek (CE01 and CL01) were surveyed for longitudinal profiles, cross sections, large woody debris and streambed substrate particle size distribution. The particle size distribution of the bed was surveyed in four cross sections and seven pools were surveyed for fine sediment deposition utilizing the V-star methodology (Hilton and Lisle 1993). The plots of the surveys are included in the appendix of this module (Appendix E) for display. The results of the stream gravel bulk samples and permeabilities are presented in section F - Fish Habitat Assessment of this report.

Cross-sectional data was analyzed using a software program developed by the United States Department of Agriculture called WinXSPRO (Hardy et al 2005). This software program integrates the area under the designated boundary elevation line and the bed topography using Simpson's Rule (a formula that gives a numerical approximation to the value of a definite integral) to derive the cross-sectional area. A Gini coefficient can also be calculated to assess changes in channel form. The Gini coefficient is defined as the arithmetic average of the differences between all pairs of depths and is a repeatable index that quantifies stream channel form independent of stage height and cross sectional area. It has a minimum value of zero when all depths are equal and a maximum value of one. A change in the Gini coefficient for a cross section over time describes the change in channel shape. An increase (positive value) in the Gini coefficient indicates the channel is becoming deeper and narrower. Conversely, a decrease (negative value) indicates the channel is becoming flatter and wider. The cross sections should have the same number of measured depths (data points) in order to correctly compare the change in Gini coefficient.

Upper Elk

This was the first year that long term channel monitoring data was collected for Upper Elk Creek (segment CE01), so no analysis of changes in channel morphology (specifically for longitudinal profile and cross-sectional data) can be conducted at this point. This data represents the baseline conditions to be compared with future monitoring.

Longitudinal profile data (Table E-2) indicate that the segment in Upper Elk has a mean residual depth of 0.70 feet with a standard deviation of about 1 foot. Furthermore, 78% of the reach was classified as pool type habitat.

In-stream large woody debris (Table E-3) data show a low level of key pieces in this segment (0.7 key pieces per 100 feet of channel). For this size channel, a target of 3.3 key pieces per 100 feet

is desirable (Bilby and Ward 1989). The observed LWD data along with channel morphology and riparian stand data indicate that LWD demand is high (this channel segment has a high sensitivity rating and a low recruitment potential).

The mean of the V-star observations (Table E-5) indicate that this long term monitoring segment exhibits fine sediment deposition characteristic of regional index streams with little to no prior disturbance, as observed in the study by Knopp 1993. The index streams observed by Knopp 1993 indicated mean V-star values ranging from 0.17 to 0.28 whereas the moderately to highly disturbed watersheds resulted in mean values of 0.37 to 0.42.

Lower Elk

This was the third year that data was collected on this long-term channel reach (CL01) in Lower Elk. Comparisons to the 1999 and 2000 datasets are made in the tables below.

Longitudinal profile data (Table E-2) indicate that the segment in Lower Elk displays a decrease in mean residual depth of 0.28 feet. The standard deviation around this mean, however, is roughly the same as the 2000 data indicates. Also, the percentage of pools in this reach has decreased by roughly 15%.

In-stream large woody debris (Table E-3) data show a low level of key pieces in this segment (1.0 key pieces per 100 feet of channel). For this size channel, a target of 3.3 key pieces per 100 feet is desirable (Bilby and Ward 1989). The observed LWD data along with channel morphology and riparian stand data indicate that LWD demand is high (this channel segment has a high sensitivity rating and a low recruitment potential).

Cross-sectional and pebble count data (Table E-4) in segment CL01 indicate a mix of channel morphology changes and a small increase in substrate particle sizes when compared with the 2000 data. The uppermost cross-section (number 4) exhibited signs of aggradation while becoming wider and flatter. The most downstream cross-section (number one) displayed the largest amount of aggradation (27.4 square feet), but the channel had a slightly positive Gini coefficient indicating a narrower and deeper channel. The remaining two cross-sections (number 2 and 4) became wider and deeper with increases in cross-sectional area (degradation).

The mean of the V-star observations (Table E-5) indicate that this long term monitoring segment exhibits fine sediment deposition characteristic of regional index streams with little to no prior disturbance, as observed in the study by Knopp 1993. The index streams observed by Knopp 1993 indicated mean V-star values ranging from 0.17 to 0.28 whereas the moderately to highly disturbed watersheds resulted in mean values of 0.37 to 0.42.

Table E-2. Longitudinal profile data in Elk Creek.

Segment ID	Year	Maximum Residual Depth (ft)	Mean Residual Depth (ft)	Standard Deviation	Percent of reach as pool	Percent of reach as riffle
CE01	2005	4.88	0.70	0.99	78%	22%
CL01	2005	4.84	0.80	1.18	67%	33%
CL01	1999	4.08	1.08	1.16	82%	18%

Table E-3. Large woody debris data in Elk Creek.

Segment ID	Year	Segment length (ft)	Total number of pieces	Total LWD volume (yd ³)	Number of key LWD pieces per 100 m	LWD demand (includes debris jams)
CE01	2005	1318	32	133	0.7	High
CL01	2005	1714	75	534	1	High

Table E-4. Pebble count and cross-sectional data in Elk Creek.

Segment ID	Cross-section number	D ₅₀ (mm)		Change (from 2000 to 2005) in cross-sectional area (ft ²)	Gini coefficient
		2000	2005		
CL01	1	21	20	-27.4	0.00108
	2	20	34	22.7	0.00273
	3	28	37	5.3	0.00059
	4	19	22	-15.1	-0.00404

Table E-5. V-star data in Elk Creek (2005 only).

Upper Elk		Lower Elk	
Pool number	V*	Pool number	V*
1	0.47	1	0.16
2	0.20	2	0.35
5	0.35	3	0.26
7	0.20	4	0.22
8	0.17	5	0.62
11	0.17	6	0.12
12	0.16		
High	0.47	High	0.62
Low	0.16	Low	0.12
Mean	0.17	Mean	0.26
Variance	0.000055	Variance	0.0026
Standard Error	0.0074	Standard Error	0.05

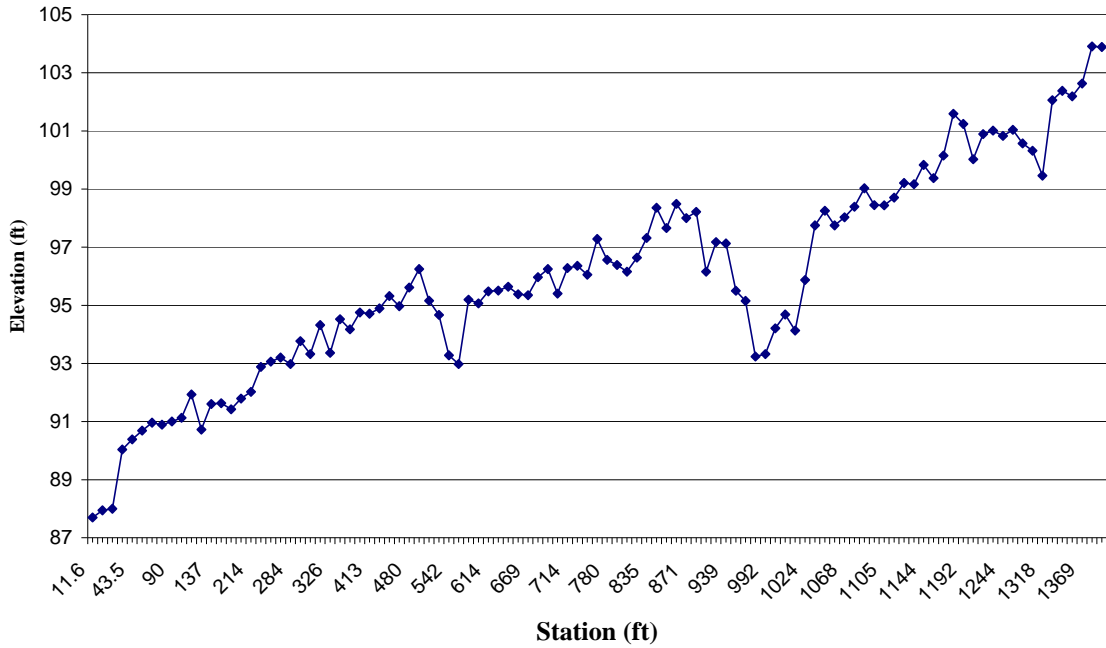
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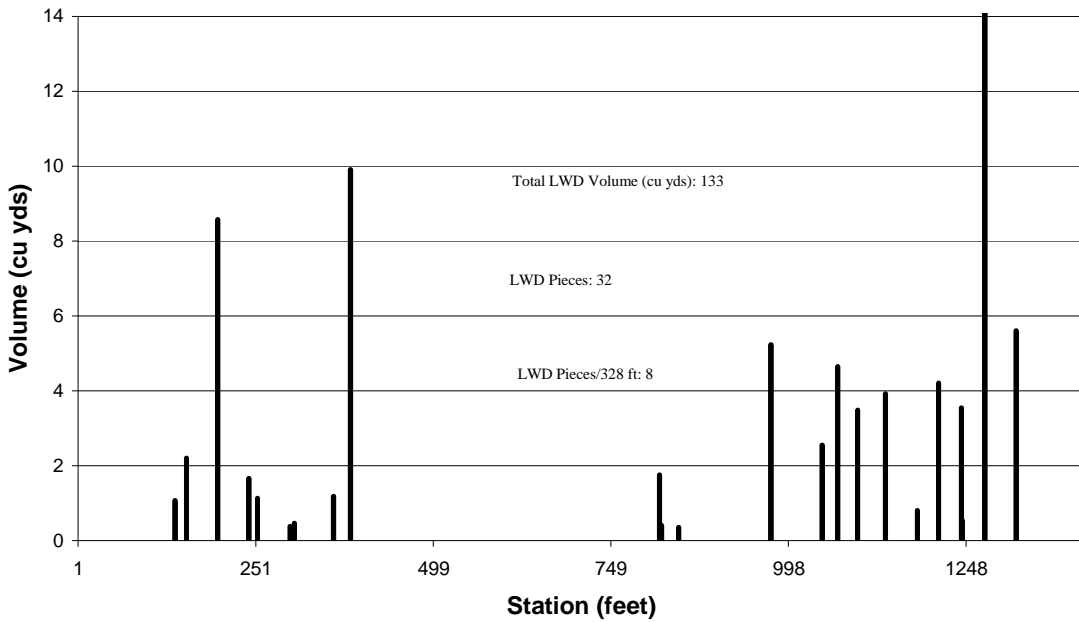
Appendix E

Upper Elk Creek Long Term Monitoring Segment Longitudinal Profile and Large Woody Debris Volume, 2005 (Segment CE01)

Upper Elk Creek Long Term Channel Monitoring Longitudinal Profile
Segment CE01 10/10/2005



Upper Elk Long Term Channel Monitoring
Large woody debris
Segment CE01 10/10/2005



**LONGPRO2 output for Upper Elk Long Term Channel Monitoring Segment CE01,
2005**

Top Elevation: 103.91
Bottom Elevation: 87.94
Reach Length: 1395.00

Standardized Statistics:

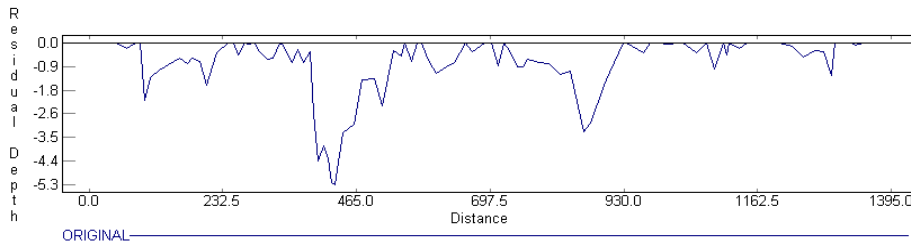
Number of data points in raw data: 103
Number of data points in Standardized data: 103

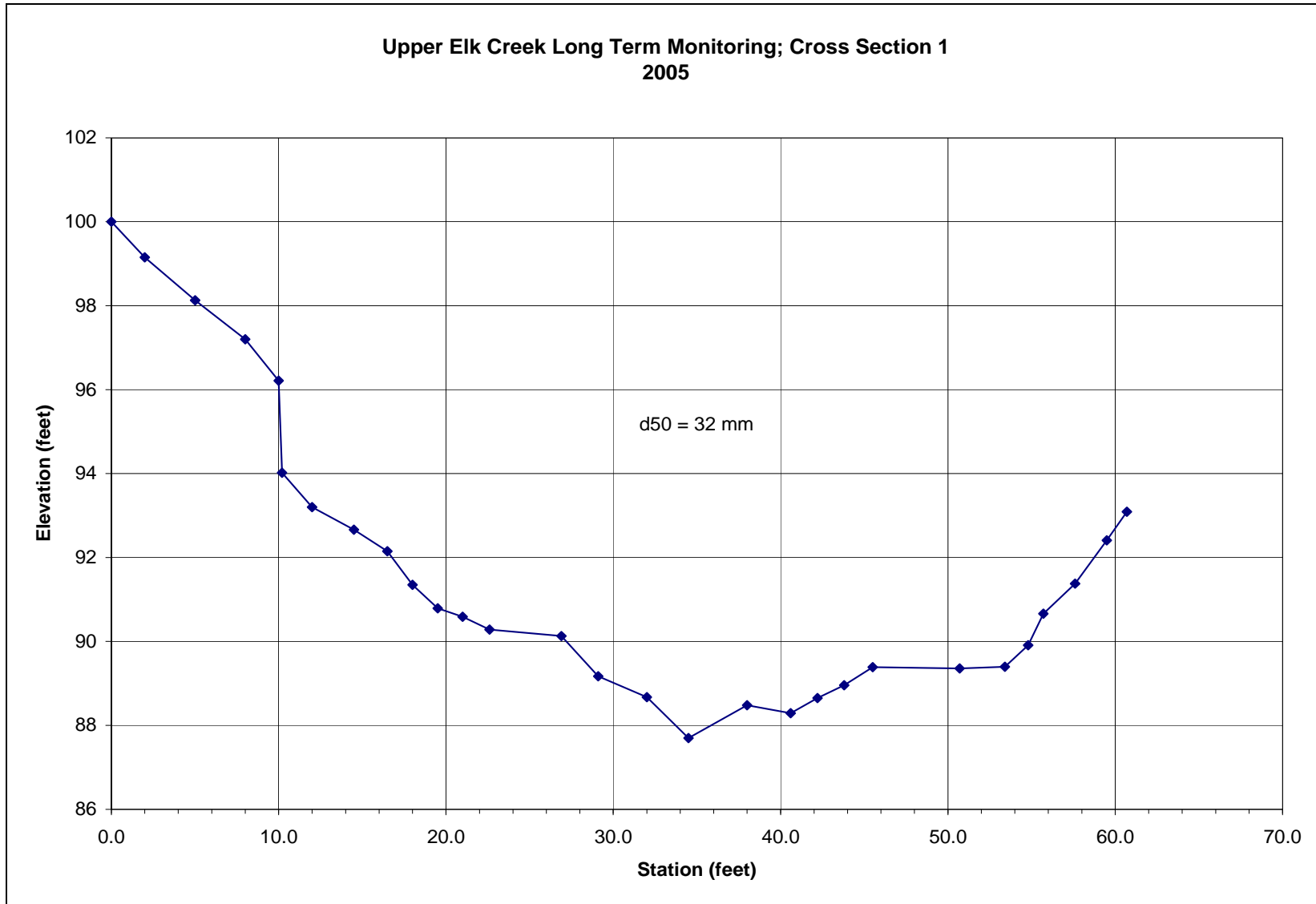
Reach Step Distance: 13.54

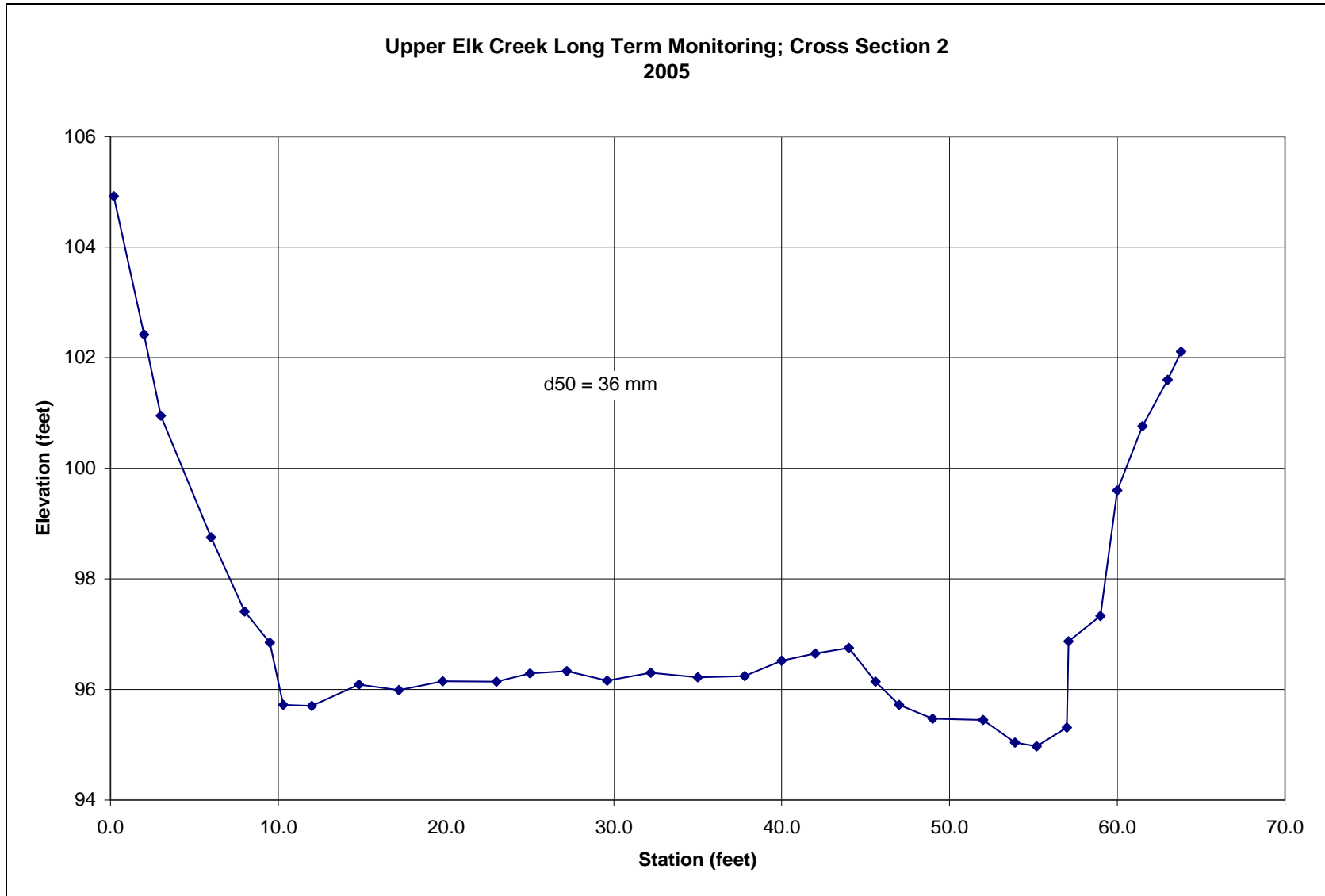
Max Residual Depth: 4.88
Mean Residual Depth: 0.70
Standard Deviation: 0.99

Number of non-zero Residual Depths: 80

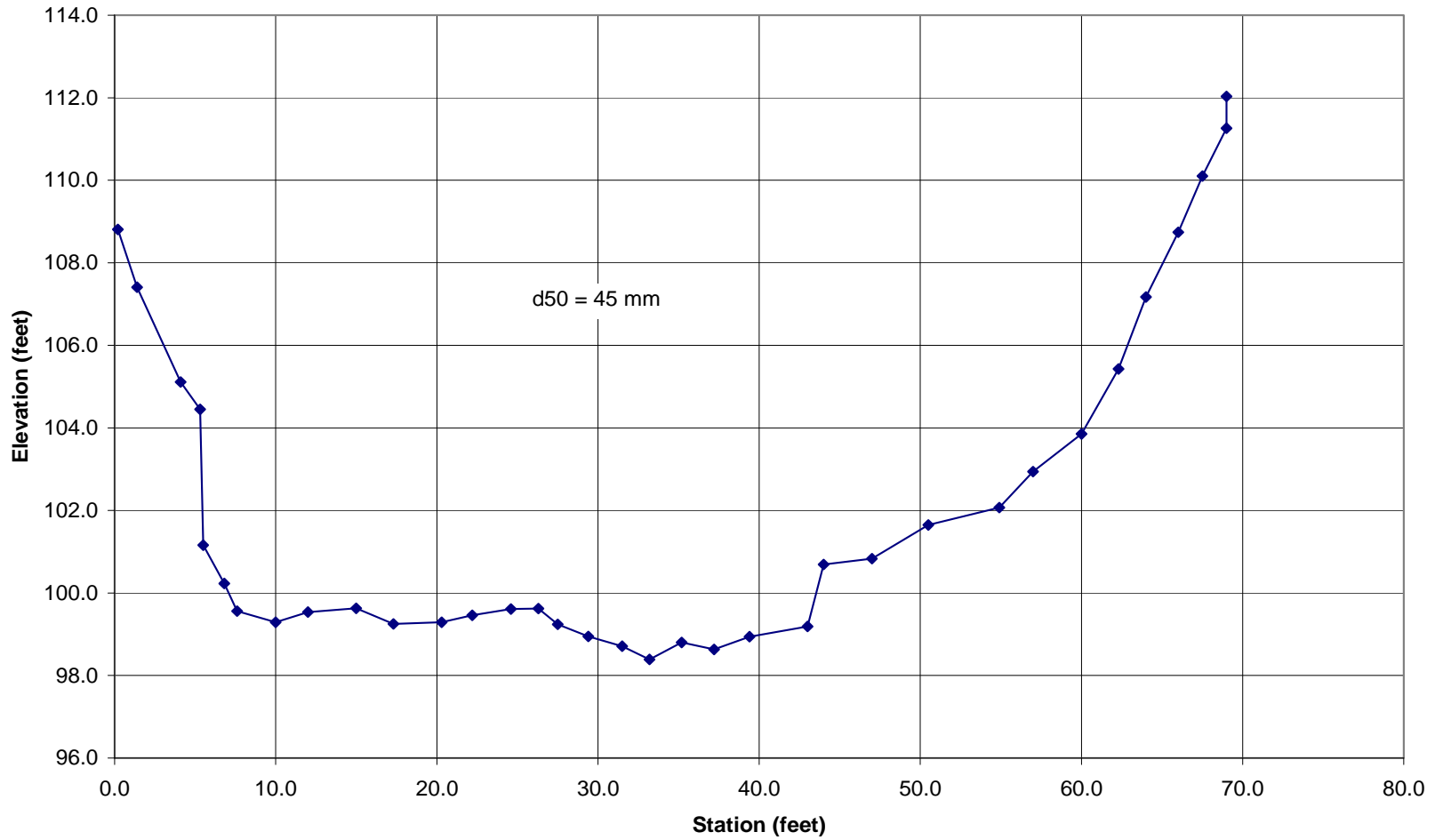
Percent of Reach as pool: 77.67
Percent of Reach as riffle: 22.33

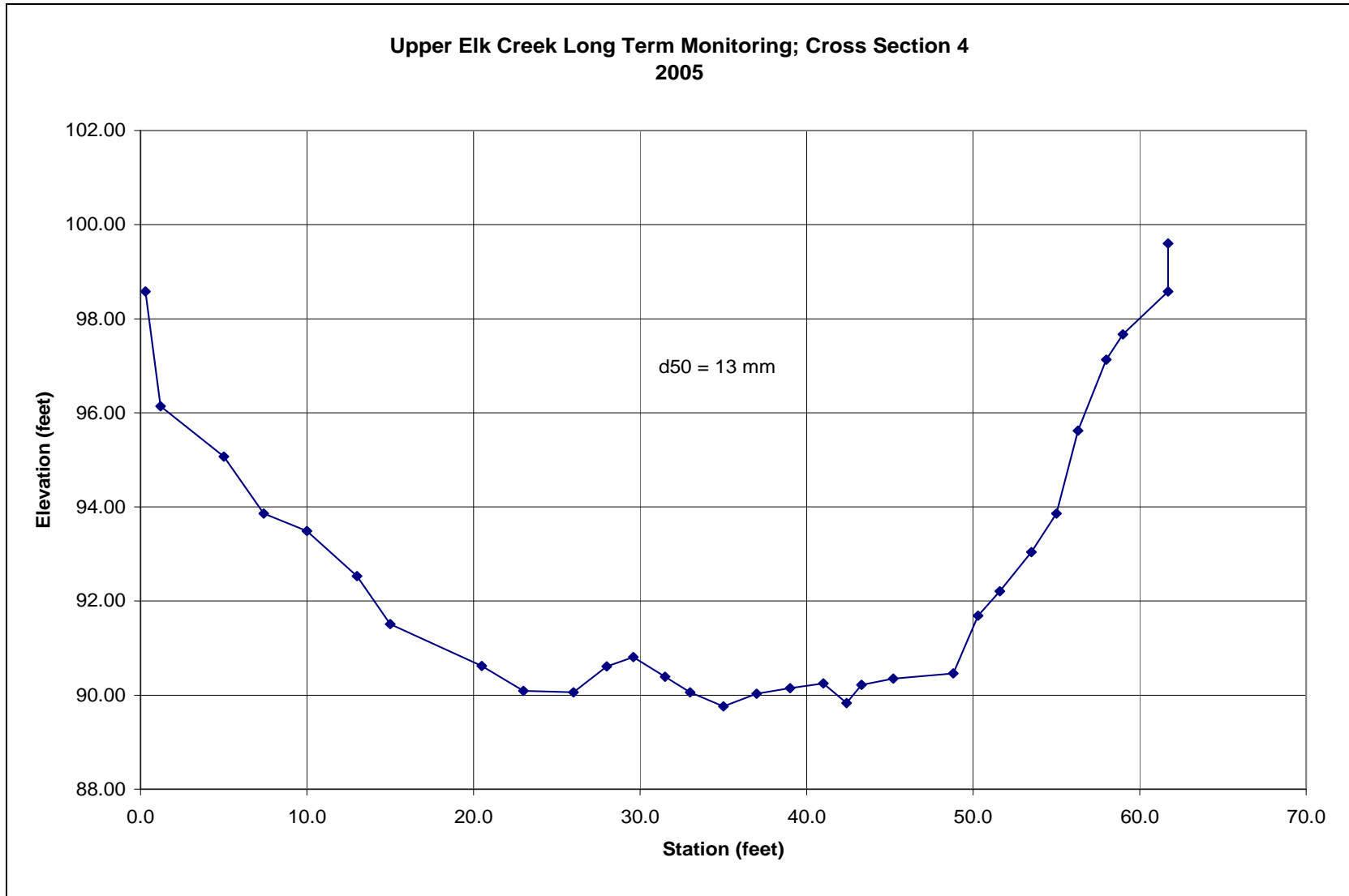




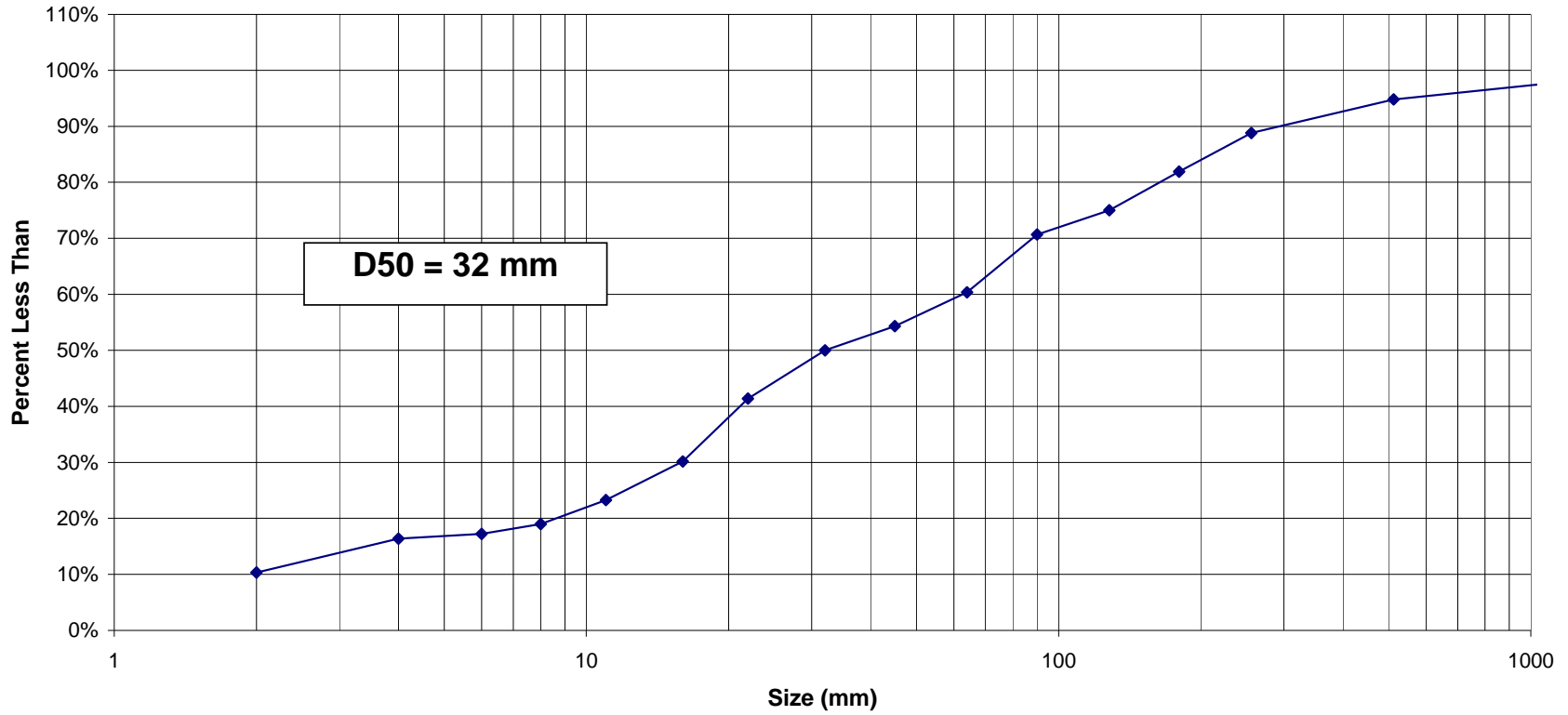


Upper Elk Creek Long Term Monitoring; Cross Section 3
2005

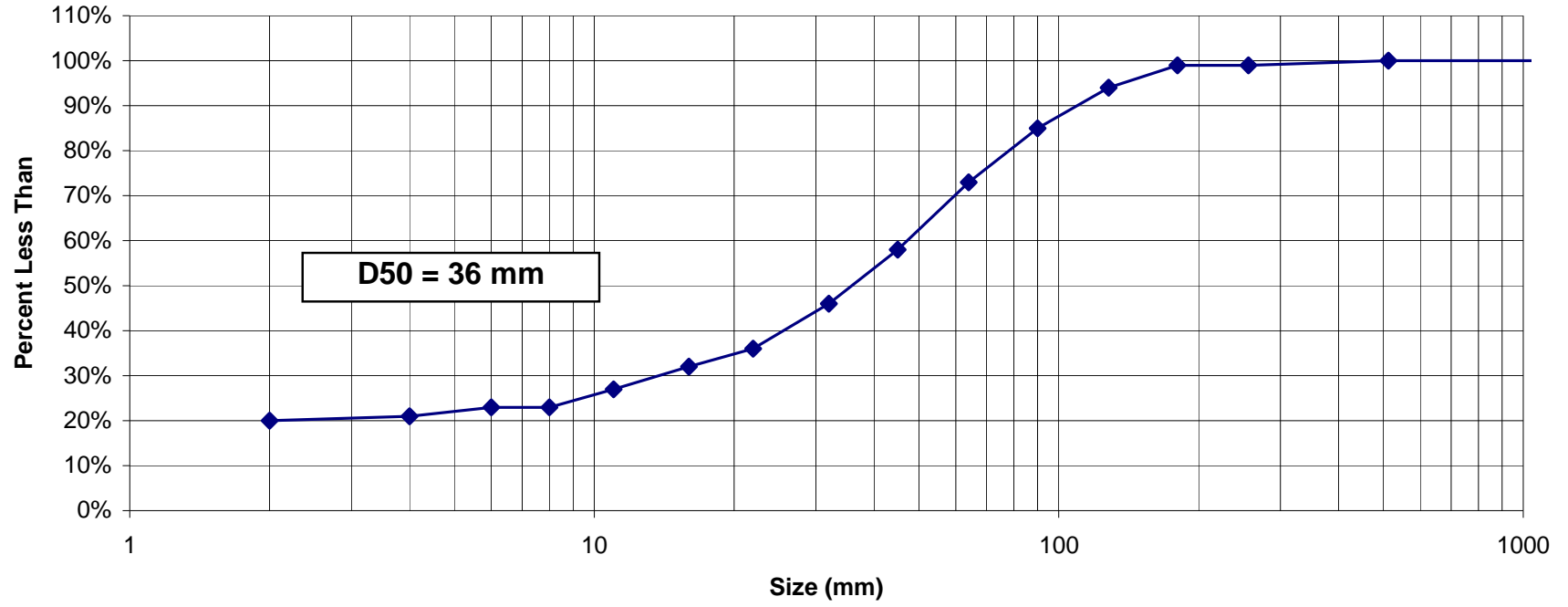




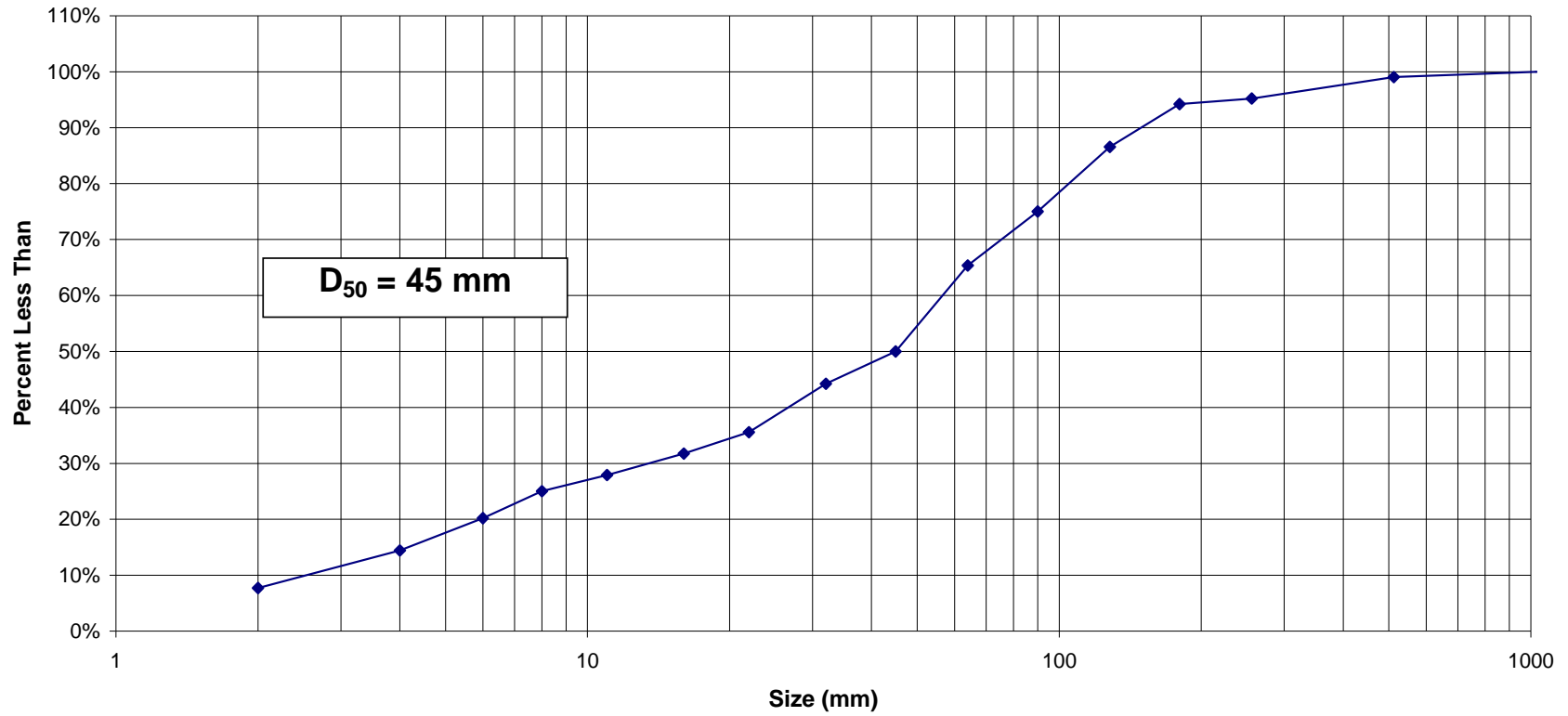
Upper Elk Creek Pebble Count Data Cross Section 1 Oct. 10, 2005



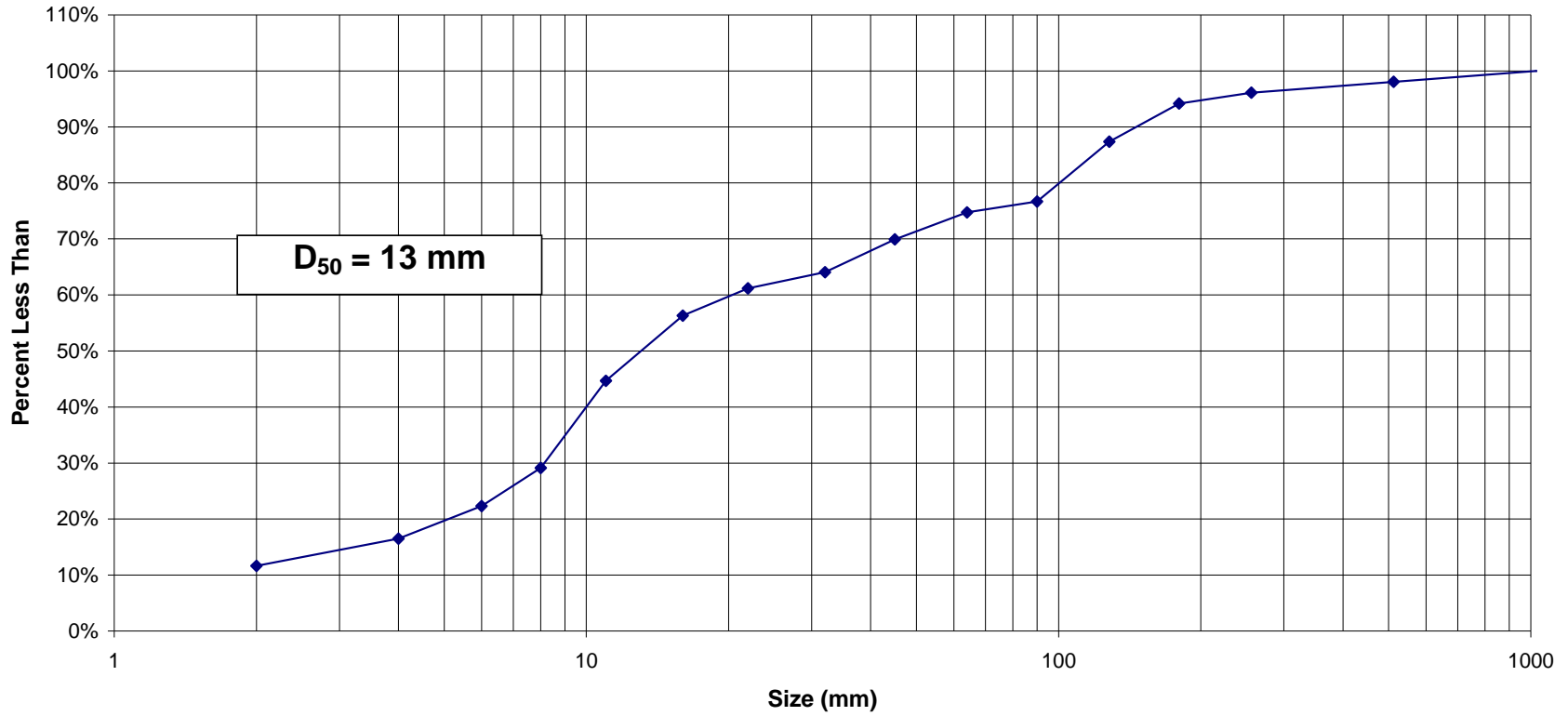
Upper Elk Creek Pebble Count Data
Cross Section 2 Oct. 10, 2005



Upper Elk Creek Pebble Count Data Cross Section 3 Oct. 10, 2005

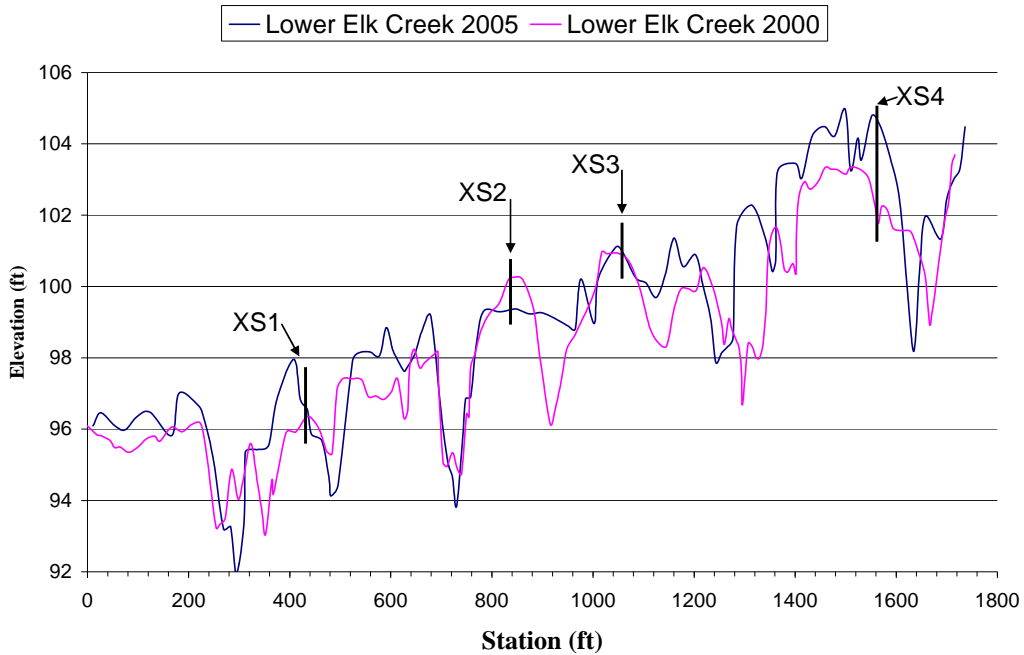


Upper Elk Creek Pebble Count Data Cross Section 4 Oct. 10, 2005

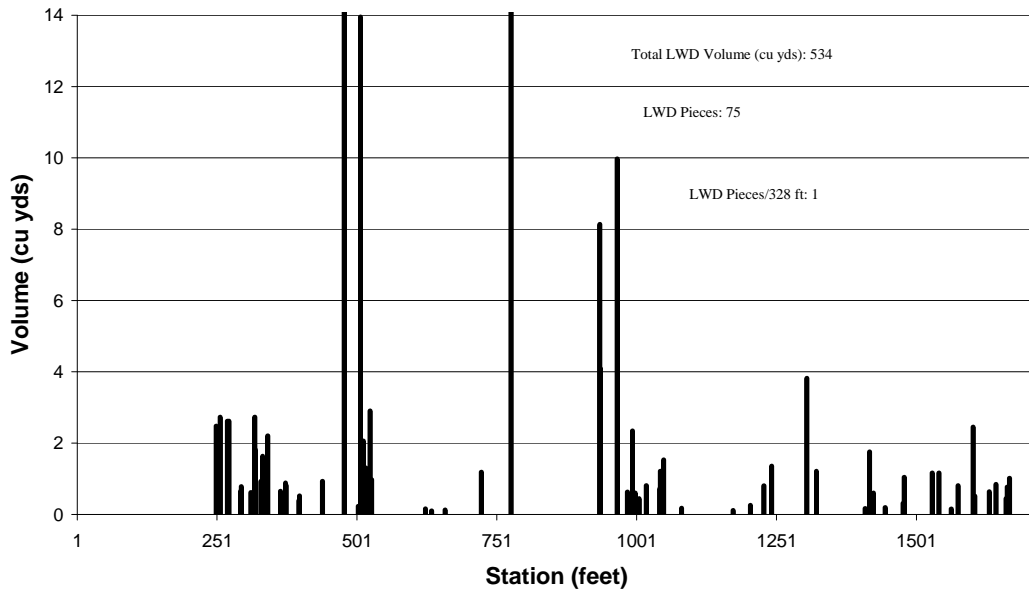


Lower Elk Creek Long Term Monitoring Segment Longitudinal Profile and Large Woody Debris Volume, 2005 (Segment CL01)

Lower Elk Creek Long Term Channel Monitoring Longitudinal Profile
Segment CL01



Lower Elk Long Term Channel Monitoring
Large woody debris
Segment CL01 10/10/2005



**LONGPRO2 output for Lower Elk Long Term Channel Monitoring Segment CL01,
2005**

Top Elevation: 104.97
Bottom Elevation: 91.98
Reach Length: 1710.00

Standardized Statistics:

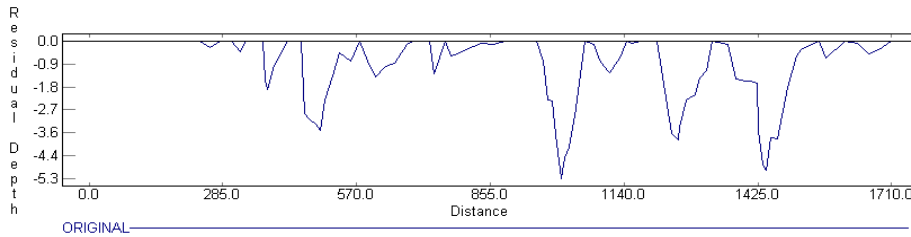
Number of data points in raw data: 104
Number of data points in Standardized data: 104

Reach Step Distance: 16.44

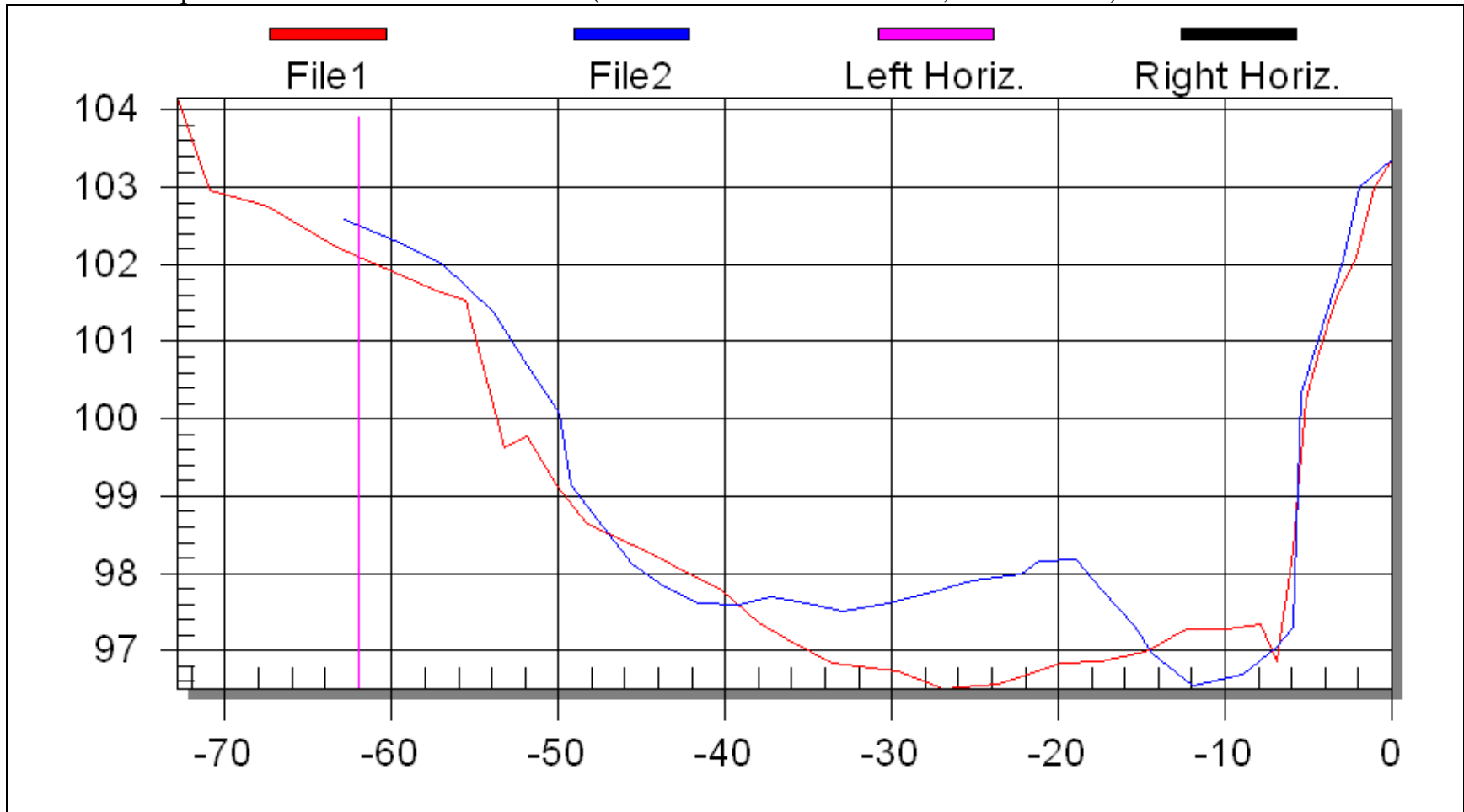
Max Residual Depth: 4.84
Mean Residual Depth: 0.80
Standard Deviation: 1.18

Number of non-zero Residual Depths: 70

Percent of Reach as pool: 67.31
Percent of Reach as riffle: 32.69

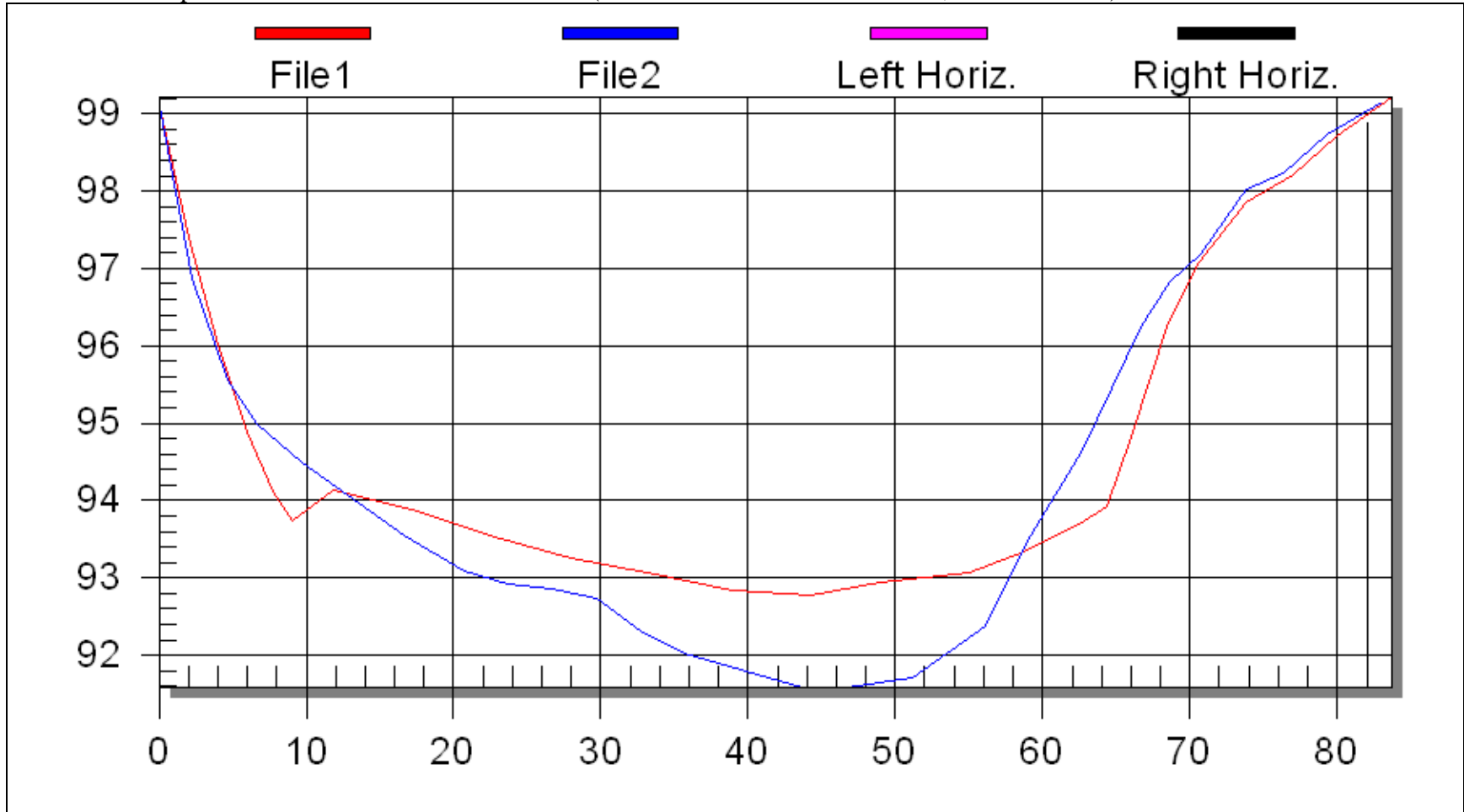


WinXSPRO output for cross-section #1 in Lower Elk (File 1 = 2000 and File 2 = 2005; all data in feet)

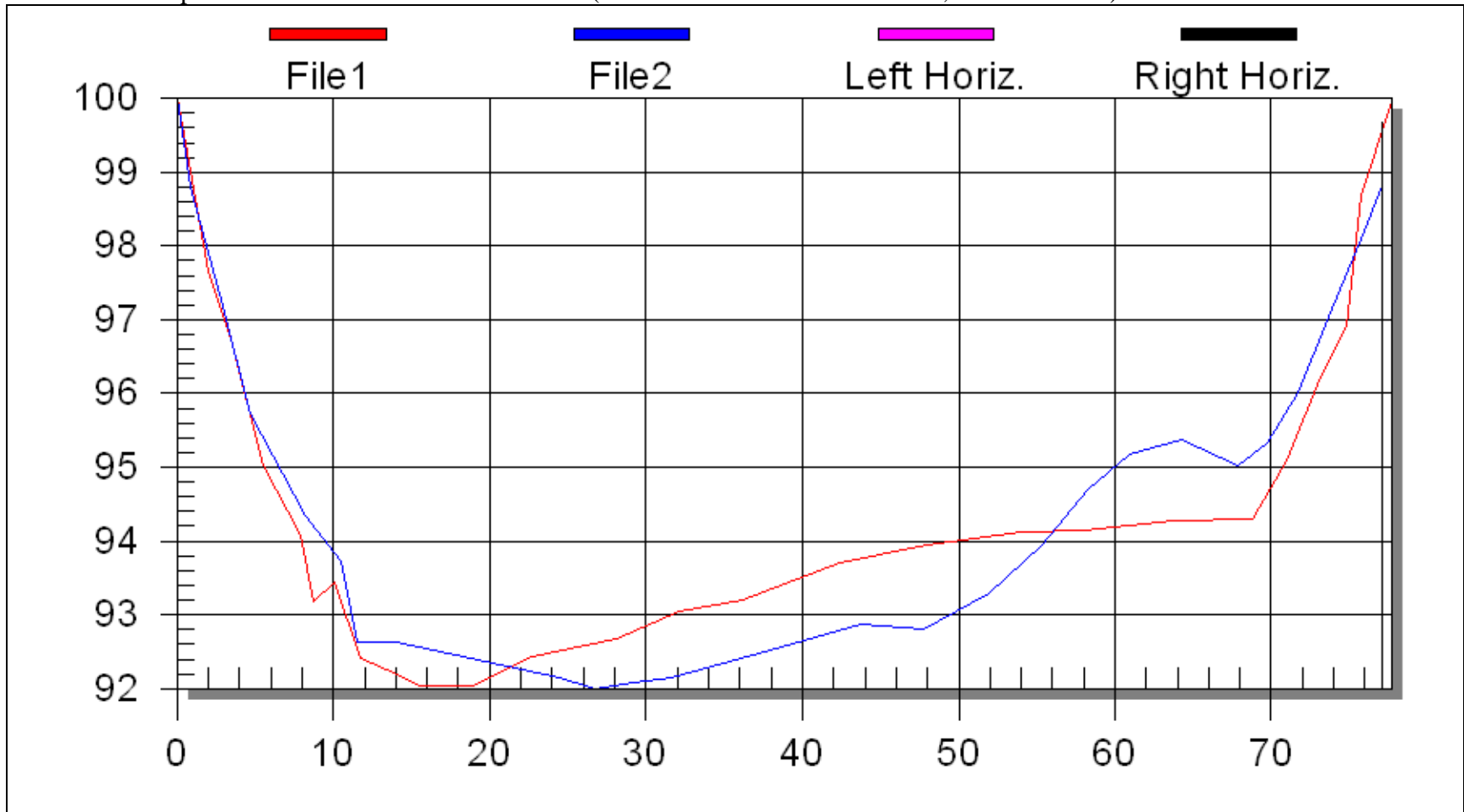


Note: the software only allows negative values on the x-axis when the stable point is defined on the right bank

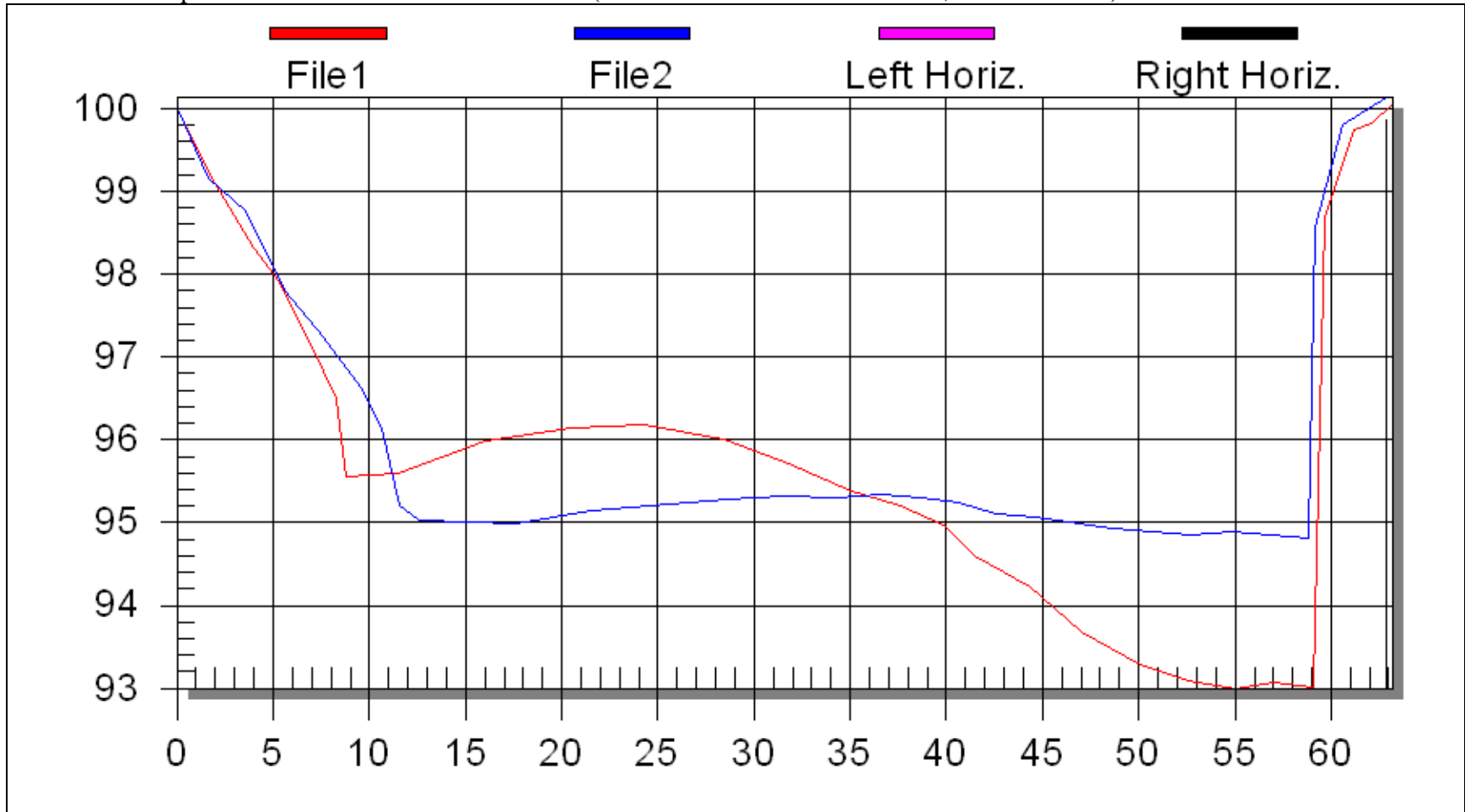
WinXSPRO output for cross-section #2 in Lower Elk (File 1 = 2000 and File 2 = 2005; all data in feet)



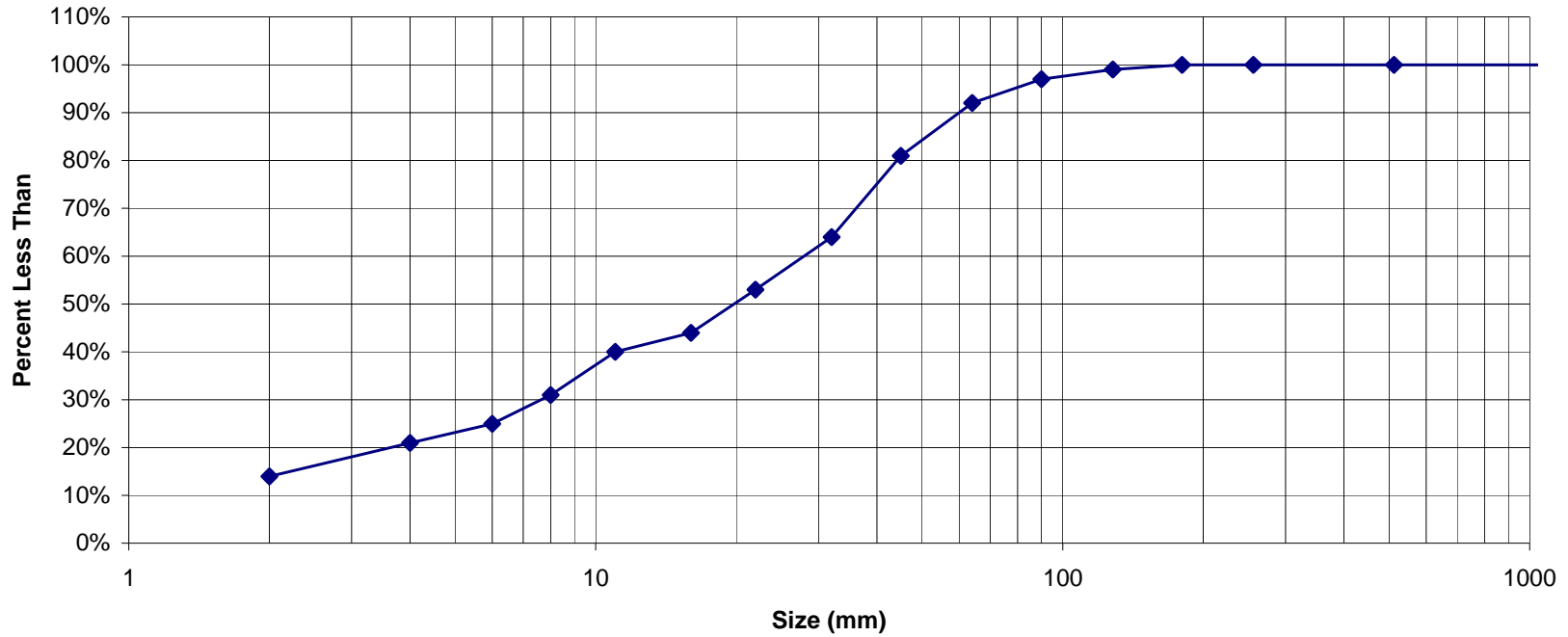
WinXSPRO output for cross-section #3 in Lower Elk (File 1 = 2000 and File 2 = 2005; all data in feet)



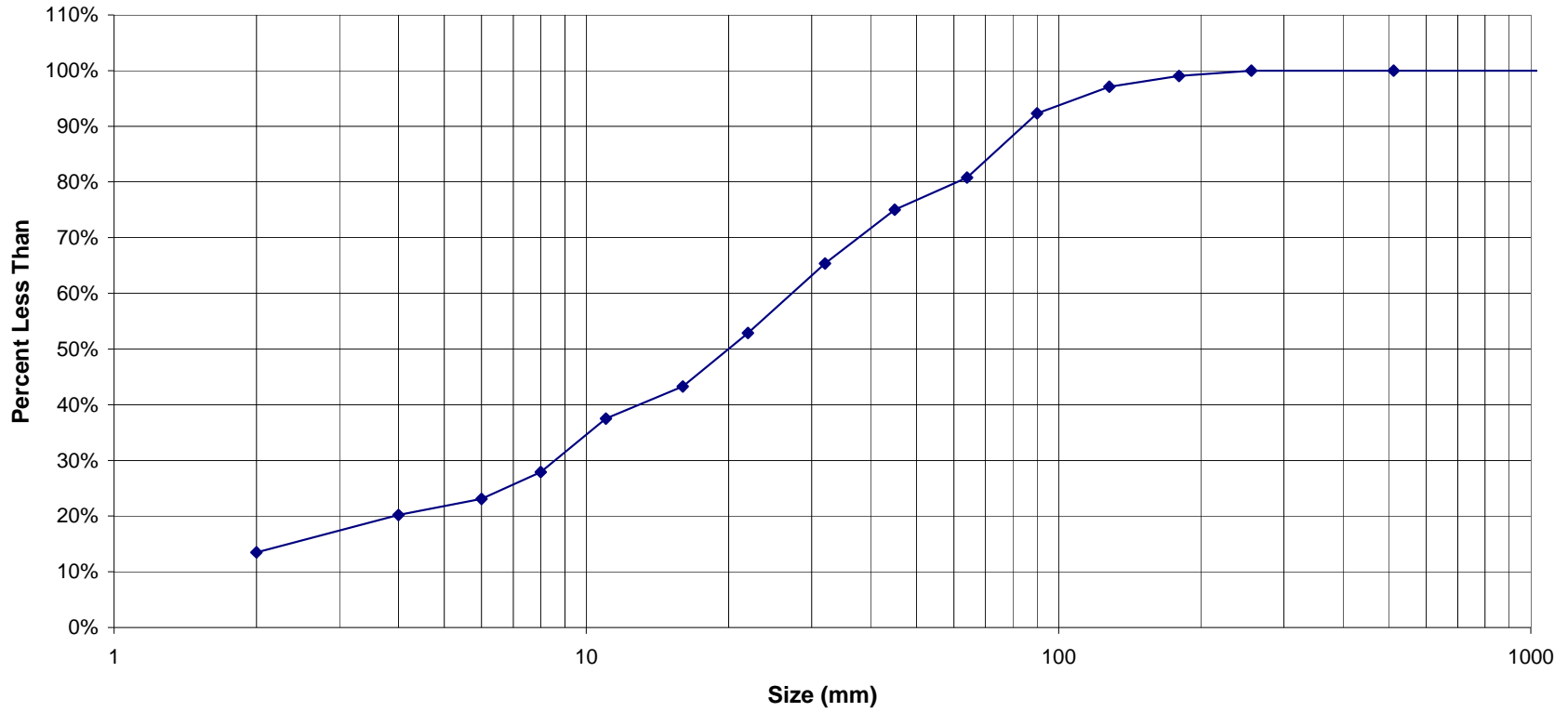
WinXSPRO output for cross-section #4 in Lower Elk (File 1 = 2000 and File 2 = 2005; all data in feet)



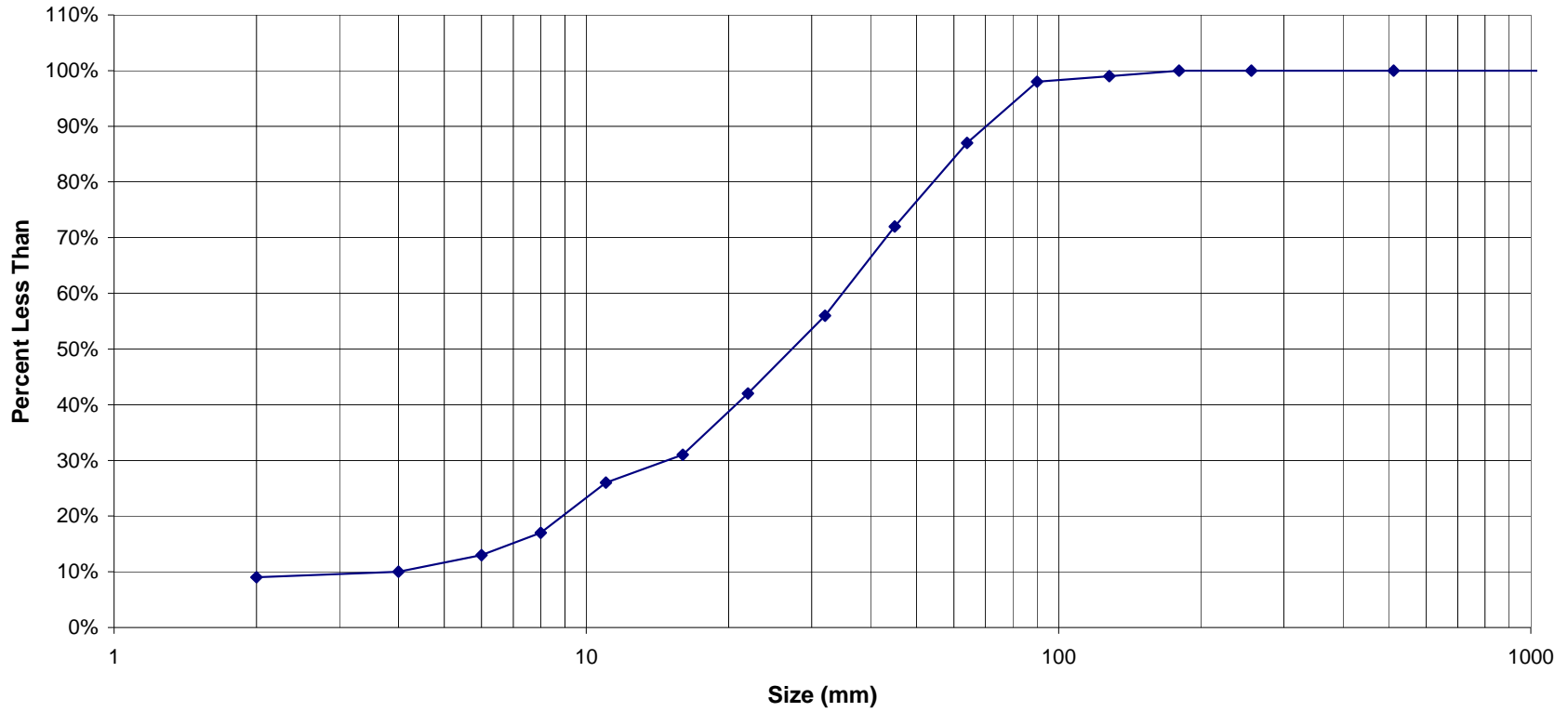
Lower Elk Creek Pebble Count Data
Cross Section 1 Oct. 11, 2005



Lower Elk Creek Pebble Count Data
Cross Section 2 Oct. 11, 2005



Lower Elk Creek Pebble Count Data
Cross Section 3 Oct. 11, 2005



Lower Elk Creek Pebble Count Data Cross Section 4 Oct. 11, 2005

