

Example Comparison of a Stream Assessment Unit

PLS* section versus NHD* reach

Legend:

-  Monitoring location
-  Confluence of upper and lower extent of reach (new proposed)
-  Section line delineation of Assessment Units (1998 – 2012)
-  Extent of assessment unit to represent condition of the reach based on data from monitoring location

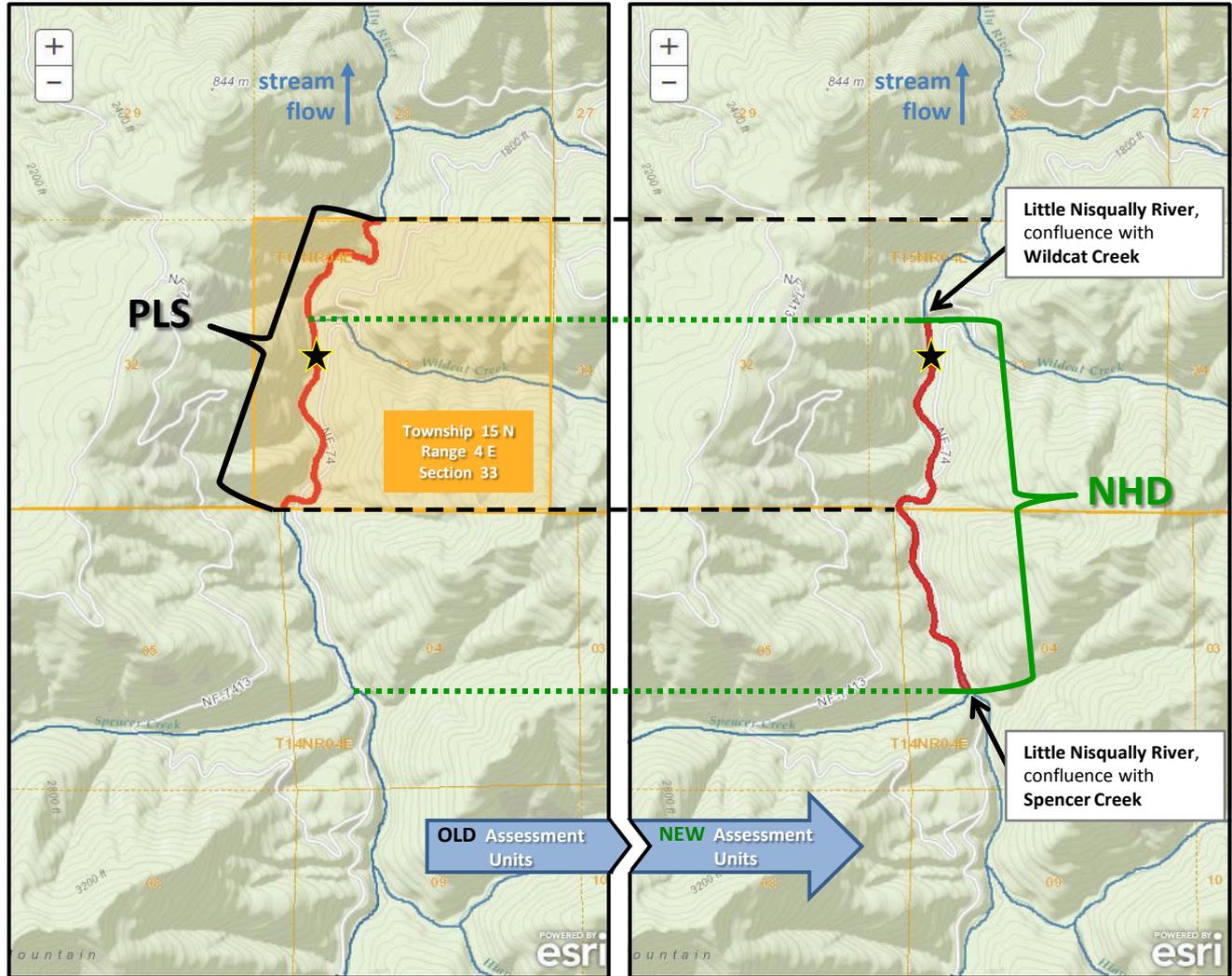
EPA guidance requires water quality assessments for streams to specify the lengths (i.e. segments) of streams that are assessed.

Currently, the data from a monitoring point (★) is associated with a length of stream (👉) that is bounded by the **Public Land Survey (PLS)** section boundary (left map).

The new segmentation system (right map) is based on the confluence to reach defined by the **National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)**. The data from the monitoring station are associated with the NHD reach upon which the station occurs. The rationale for the new segment breaks is that data from a given station may not represent water quality in a reach beyond its confluence with tributaries (upstream and downstream) because the tributary inflows (polluted or non-polluted) may significantly alter water quality in the receiving stream in a way that is not represented by the data from the station.

2012 EPA Approved WQ Assessment

Proposed Draft WQ Assessment



Approved Listing	Parameter	Medium Category	Waterbody Name	Assessment Unit ID	Lower Address	Upper Address	Proposed Listing	Parameter	Medium Category	Waterbody Name	Assessment Unit ID	Lower Address	Upper Address
 22177	Temperature	Water	LITTLE NISQUALLY RIVER	1223113467944	5.901	8.161	 22177	Temperature	Water	LITTLE NISQUALLY RIVER	17110015000064	0	100

* The PLS system was used in Water Quality Assessments from 1998 to 2012. The proposed assessment uses the NHD system for new listings and converts former listings to this new stream extent.