

= Washington State Route 173 =

State Route 173 (SR 173) is an 11 @. @ 86 @-@ mile @-@ long (19 @. @ 09 km) state highway serving Douglas and Okanogan counties in the U.S. state of Washington . The highway travels northwest along the Columbia River from SR 17 in Bridgeport to U.S. Route 97 (US 97) in Brewster . It serves as an alternate route to SR 17 , which travels north of the Columbia River , and serves the Chief Joseph State Park and the Bridgeport Bar State Wildlife Recreation Area . SR 173 was established during the 1964 highway renumbering and codified in 1970 , but it has been a part of the state highway system since 1931 as a branch of State Road 10 , later Primary State Highway 10 (PSH 10) . The highway crosses the Columbia River on the Brewster Bridge , which originally opened in 1928 and was destroyed in 1967 before being re @-@ built a decade later .

= = Route description = =

SR 173 begins at an intersection with SR 17 southwest of the Bridgeport Bridge in Bridgeport , a city in rural Douglas County . The two @-@ lane street travels northwest through Bridgeport as Foster Creek Avenue and turns northeast onto 17th Avenue and later northwest as Columbia Avenue to Bridgeport Park , where SR 173 turns southwest onto 10th Street and Maple Street to leave the city . The highway turns northwest , following the Columbia River towards Chief Joseph State Park . SR 173 continues west , forming the southern boundary of the Bridgeport Bar State Wildlife Recreation Area before crossing the Columbia River into Okanogan County on the Brewster Bridge . The highway enters Brewster and becomes Bridge Street , traveling north over Swamp Creek to end at an intersection with US 97 .

Every year , the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) conducts a series of surveys on its highways in the state to measure traffic volume . This is expressed in terms of average annual daily traffic (AADT) , which is a measure of traffic volume for any average day of the year . In 2011 , WSDOT calculated that between 970 and 3 @, @ 400 vehicles per day used the highway , mostly in Brewster .

= = History = =

SR 173 follows the route of wagon roads built in the late 19th century between Brewster Ferry and Bridgeport Ferry on the east side of the Columbia River . The Brewster Bridge was completed in June 1928 and the roadway was first codified in 1931 as part of a State Road 10 branch that connected Brewster to Coulee City . State Road 10 became PSH 10 and retained the branch during the creation of the primary and secondary state highway system in 1937 as the state purchased the Brewster Bridge . The branch was moved to the west side of the Columbia River , located north of Bridgeport , in 1951 and a new branch between Bridgeport and Brewster was created to continue maintenance of the paved highway . During the 1964 highway renumbering , SR 173 was established on the route of the PSH 10 branch between Bridgeport and Brewster , later re @-@ aligned into a straighter highway and codified in 1970 . The Brewster Bridge later was destroyed in a fire in August 1967 , being replaced by a 15 @-@ minute ferry until the new span was opened in the 1970s . No major revisions to the route of the highway have occurred since 1970 , however the state tried unsuccessfully to transfer ownership of SR 173 and the Brewster Bridge in 1986 .

= = Major intersections = =