

= Washington State Route 31 =

State Route 31 ( SR 31 ) is a Washington state highway located entirely in Pend Oreille County . The highway , which is 26 @. @ 79 miles ( 43 @. @ 11 km ) long , starts at an intersection with SR 20 in Tiger and travels north to the Canada ? US border north of Metaline Falls . At the border , SR 31 becomes British Columbia Highway 6 ( BC 6 ) . The route parallels the Pend Oreille River for most of its route and the primary functions of the highway is to serve and connect Tiger , Lone , Metaline and Metaline Falls with British Columbia .

Before 1964 , the route from Newport to BC 6 was the northernmost section of Primary State Highway 6 , which ran from Spokane to BC 6 . Originally created in 1964 , SR 31 extended southeast to an intersection with U.S. Route 2 ( US 2 , formerly US 195 ) in Newport . The North Cascades Highway ( SR 20 ) was extended to Newport in 1973 and SR 31 from Newport to Tiger became SR 20 . SR 31 had one auxiliary route , SR 311 , which became SR 211 after SR 20 was extended .

= = Route description = =

State Route 31 ( SR 31 ) is 26 @. @ 79 miles ( 43 @. @ 114 km ) long within Pend Oreille County , Washington from SR 20 in Tiger north to British Columbia Highway 6 ( BC 6 ) at the Canadian border , located north of Metaline Falls . The highway parallels the Pend Oreille River for most of its route and connects Tiger , Lone , Metaline and Metaline Falls with British Columbia . The route also parallels the Pend Oreille Valley Railroad from Tiger to Metaline Falls ; the railroad extends south to Newport along SR 20 and east to Dover , Idaho .

SR 31 starts at an intersection with SR 20 and Tiger East Road in the small community of Tiger . The road turns northwest after the intersection and then curves north after intersecting Vogel Road . After crossing the railroad , the highway forms the eastern boundary of Lone Municipal Airport and later passes Sullivan Lake Road . At the Sullivan Lake Road junction , SR 31 is named McKay Road and crosses the Lone Millpond to enter the city of Lone . There , the route is renamed Second Street and leaves the city to parallel the Pend Oreille Valley Railroad and the shoreline of the Pend Oreille River . The name of the road changes to Lehigh Avenue , a name that stays with SR 31 until the Canadian border . The railroad crosses the road and later bridges the Pend Oreille River , as the highway turns northwest and reverts northeast . The route reaches Metaline and curves southeast to cross the Pend Oreille River on the Pend Oreille Bridge into Metaline Falls . After turning south and back north , the highway starts to curve multiple times until intersecting Sullivan Lake Road and being directed northeast . The road turns north and crosses two streams before curving northwest and then northeast to Lake Lucerene . After passing Lake Lucerene , SR 31 passes Crescent Lake and Boundary Lake before ending at the Canadian border . SR 31 's northern end at the Canadian border is the easternmost crossing in Washington and is located east of Crawford State Park .

= = History = =

= = = Pre ? SR 31 ( 1923 ? 1964 ) = = =

In 1923 , a system of roads to connect cities throughout Washington was established . One of the roads , State Road 6 , followed a route from Spokane to the Canadian border . The road was named the Pend O'Reille Highway , a name that would identify the route until 1964 . The state road system was later expanded into a new system in 1937 .

During the creation of the Primary and Secondary Highways in 1937 , the road that was State Road 6 became Primary State Highway 6 ( PSH 6 ) . PSH 6 ran from U.S. Route 10 ( US 10 ) and US 195 ( future US 2 ) , north to the Canadian border ; the route was co @-@ signed as US 195 from Spokane to Newport . US 2 was signed over PSH 6 from Spokane to Newport in 1948 and the route became SR 31 from Newport to the Canadian border during the 1964 highway renumbering . During

the renumbering , WSDOT replaced the previous system of Primary and Secondary Highways with a new system called State Routes , which is still in use today .

== SR 31 : Newport ? BC 6 ( 1964 ? 1973 ) ==

SR 31 's previous route ran a total of 73 @. @ 31 miles ( 117 @. @ 98 km ) from Newport northwest to Tiger and north to the Canadian border at BC 6 . The route started in Newport at the intersection of W. Walnut Street ( SR 31 northbound and US 2 eastbound ) and N. Union Avenue ( US 2 westbound ) . Next , the highway went northwest and left Newport to parallel the Pend Oreille River for the rest of its route . The road would also join the Pend Oreille Valley Railroad north to the current southern terminus . SR 31 turned west and passed Lake Newport State Park , located on the shores of the river , before curving northwest and entering the community of Dilkena . From Dilkena , the road goes north to pass SR 311 's northern terminus in Usk and pass the towns of Cusick , Locke and Jared . The highway turned east at Jared and back northwest at Ruby . After Blue Slide and Lost Creek , SR 31 would continue north out of Tiger , which was the eastern terminus of SR 294 . SR 31 from Newport to Tiger later became SR 20 after it was extended on SR 294 and SR 31 in 1973 .

=== SR 311 ( 1964 ? 1973 ) ===

From 1964 until 1973 , SR 31 had an auxiliary route called State Route 311 . The highway ran from US 2 west of Newport , north 15 @. @ 24 miles ( 24 @. @ 53 km ) to SR 31 in Usk . The road was entirely located within Pend Oreille County ; the southern terminus was located east of Pend Oreille State Park on US 2 and west of Diamond Lake and the community of the same name . SR 311 advanced north past Sacheen Lake and Davis Lake to the northern terminus , which was 2 @. @ 39 miles ( 3 @. @ 85 km ) south of Cusick . SR 311 was established as SSH 6B in 1937 during the creation of the primary and secondary highway system . In the 1964 renumbering , SR 311 was created over SSH 6B . When SR 20 was extended over SR 294 and SR 31 , SR 311 became SR 211 , which it is still currently designated as .

= Major intersections =

The entire highway is in Pend Oreille County .