

EXP BIOP Dark Canyon Culvert Replacement Project

Project No. 1992-026-01

Contract: 52986

Completion Report

Period Covered: June 1, 2011-February 28, 2013

Completed by: Joe Platz

United States Forest Service

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

La Grande Ranger District

La Grande, OR

February 1, 2013

BEFORE

Looking downstream at culvert

AFTER



Dark Canyon Culvert Project

This project replaced an undersized, juvenile steelhead passage barrier with a properly sized open arch culvert. This action re-opened 1.5 miles of juvenile steelhead rearing habitat.

Specific actions accomplished were:

- Removed existing culvert.
- Constructed a new open arch culvert with concrete footings and appropriate streambed substrate.
- Rehabilitated and defined a stream side dispersed recreation site using 25 boulders and several logs.
- Rehabilitated the site by planting riparian grass seed, mulching, and planting riparian shrub seedlings.
- Established four channel cross section sites for monitoring channel dynamics over time.
- Constructed Antler Springs enclosure fence (0.26 miles).

Expected benefits are:

- Improved passage for juvenile steelhead by eliminating the velocity barrier and achieving stream velocities that allow for passage.
- Improved natural flow pattern of the stream channel through the culvert.
- Reduced risk of culvert failure by installing a culvert that will pass a higher flow volume.
- Improved riparian/wetland communities through mulching, seeding, and planting.
- Decreased dispersed recreation impacts

Total cost: \$213,000 (BPA funds: \$123,000; USFS funds: \$90,000)



Relocating juvenile steelhead from project site



Riparian seedlings protected by Vexar tubes

BEFORE

Looking upstream at culvert outlet



AFTER



Looking upstream at edge of dispersed campsite



Antler Springs enclosure fence

