

BiOp Projects
La Grande Ranger District
Site Visit 12/19/07

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South Fork Spring Creek

The existing culvert is an open-bottom arch about 10 foot in width that was constructed without concrete footings. Stream is eroding under the sides, especially at the upper end. To stop the undermining of the structure concrete was placed inside the culvert on the stream bottom, creating a flat, slightly sloped bottom. The concrete extends 2-3 feet beyond the outlet but does not go all the way to the inlet. The structure is a partial barrier to juveniles but does not block adults at flows during migration. The crossing does not meet fish passage criteria.

The FS has discussed alternative but has not done a complete site survey. They feel a bridge is preferred due to needed span, about 18 feet, and the amount of fill that would be needed over any kind of arch. Joe thought some kind of kit bridge would be cost effective alternative. FS could do the project under programmatic NEPA and ESA documents.

We discussed private engineering vs. FS doing the design (Joe). He could do it, depending on work load.

Discussion on how this site became a priority, compared to other possible passage projects on the district, specifically Catherine Creek. Answer, it is in a planning area and is ready to go. The District mentioned 3-4 other passage problem sites on Catherine Creek (Chinook). These, however are not on the BiOp list. Discussed whether we could get them on the list. We don't know, will check with BPA.

GRMW assessment. Spring Creek site is not an especially high priority, it is steelhead only, juveniles only and does not appear to be a complete blockage.

Dark Canyon

The existing culvert is a 3-4 foot round CMP in a deep road cut, sloped at 2-4 % with a drop at the outlet. As with Spring Creek it blocks juveniles but not adults. It is high up in the system. Paul estimated 3 miles of habitat above the crossing. Appears from the quad map that is a generous estimate. Regional design team is doing final design, almost complete. Construction could occur this year. Joe said they are designing a structural plate pipe at flat slope.

GRMW assessment. Again, this is not a high priority project given it is only juvenile passage and amount of habitat above the site. Guess priority and cost/benefit depends on construction cost. Might be reasonable if it is a \$50K project. Approaching \$100K or over and the benefits need to be looked at closely.

GRMW will talk with BPA about these kinds of projects. They are not as high a priority as passage for Chinook. FS will look at other potential passage projects on Chinook systems if they can be put on the list. As we understand from BPA the actions list is off the table depending on what happens with the BiOp and Judge Redden. If BPA doesn't get "credit" for the actions, the money is gone.