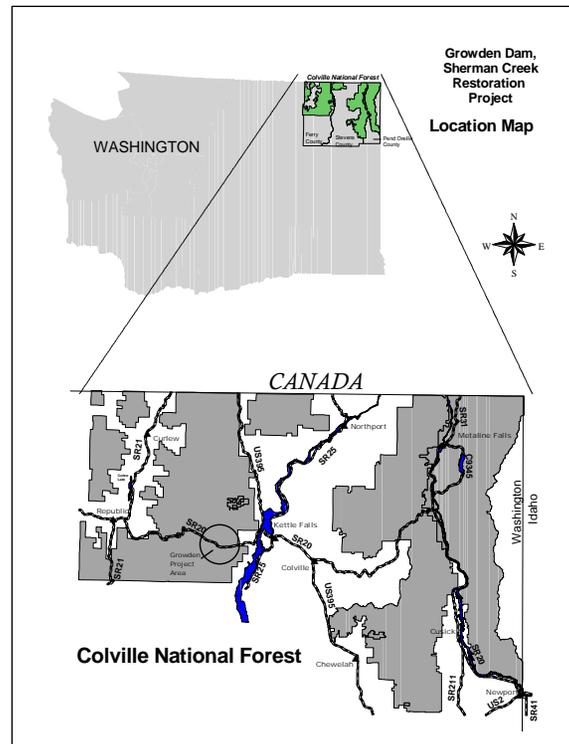

Forest Service Region 6 Dam Removals

There are 2 dams being removed in Region 6 this year. Growden Dam and Hemlock Dam were both built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. While similar in size, Hemlock Dam is a concrete dam and Growden Dam is a earthen dam. Both dams were full with sediment. Both dams are being removed with full removal of sediment.



Hemlock Dam (above) is located on the Wind River Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Growden Dam is located 15 miles from Kettle Falls on Highway 20. The Growden Dam Site and Lane Creek Road are closed during construction. However the site is easily viewed from the road. Care should be taken to avoid the trucks hauling sand and other traffic on Highway 20.

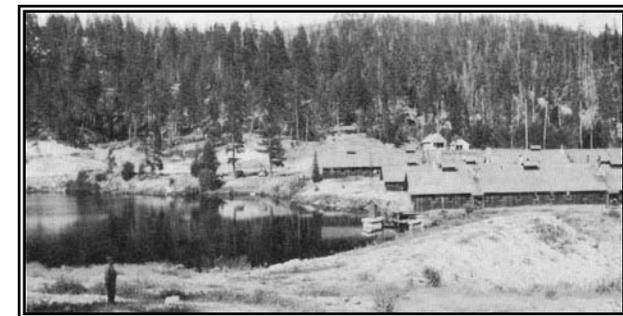


For More Information:

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Growden Dam Removal

Three Rivers Ranger District
Colville National Forest



Growden Dam Removal

Growden Dam is past the end of its useful life. Small dams of this type were built with an average life span of 50 years. The dam was built in 1937 as a recreational pond. It filled in with sediment by 1954 after the construction of Highway 20. It has not served its designed purpose for over 55 years, yet the Forest Service has maintained the dam and assumed the safety risk.

The dam was recognized as a significant safety risk in the early part of the 1970's. This threat became real in 1998 when a 100 year flood almost overtopped the dam. This 72 year old dam has become a liability.



An Innovative Approach to Dam Removal

The Air Force Reserve provides training opportunities for its equipment operators through the Innovative Readiness Training Program. The program is designed to meet the needs of the nation while providing valuable training. This project would not have occurred without this program. The AFR provides equipment, operators, and fuel for the project. The Forest is managing the overall dam removal and will be responsible for revegetation and monitoring.



The goals of the project are to provide for safety, temperature reduction, bed-load movement, and fish passage.

The dam will be completely removed and the sediment behind the dam will be taken to Lane Creek pit for restoration of the pit.

Time-lapse Photography

Two time-lapse photography cameras have been placed to record the removal of the dam. Below are pictures of before the Air Force Reserve started and July 26, 2009 when a moose wandered through.

