

NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest
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Cobble Sisters Project Protects Fish and Water Quality

Metaline Falls, Washington: The Newport-Sullivan Lake Ranger District is providing a Special Use Authorization to provide Seattle City Light access to the Pend Oreille River to reduce the stranding of young fish when Boundary Reservoir levels decline. To ensure young fish are not stranded in a large pool located on a gravel bar and as part of the relicensing requirements for the Boundary Dam to improve fish habitat, the depression will be filled-in on a large gravel bar within the active channel of the main stem of the Pend Oreille River in Boundary Reservoir. The project is located in Lot 15, Sec. 4, T.38N, R.43E, W.M. in Pend Oreille County, on riverbed administered by the State. Construction could begin as early as mid-July 2016 and continue for 1-2 weeks.

As part of the project, a steep and unstable 320-ft long unclassified route off the Lehigh Valley Road on National Forest System Lands will be temporarily reconstructed and used for access to the project. Once the project is completed, the unclassified route will be seeded and mulched to regrow vegetation and boulders will be installed at the top of the path to mitigate safety concerns with vehicles using the unclassified route. Water bars will be placed to prevent sediment from entering the river and non-motorized access to the river will be maintained.

For more information on this project, please contact the Newport Ranger Station at (509) 447-7300.

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The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.



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