



File Code: 2520

Date: May 26, 2020

PUBLIC SCOPING LETTER

May 26, 2020

Stream Habitat Enhancement of the Kahler Reach of Nason Creek

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the public scoping period under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Stream Habitat Enhancement of the Kahler Reach of Nason Creek is underway. The United States Forest Service (Forest Service) is lead agency preparing the Categorical Exclusion and public involvement is an important part of the scoping process. This project will occur in coordination with project sponsor Chelan County Natural Resources Department.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Stream Habitat Enhancement of the Kahler Reach of Nason Creek project is located entirely on Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest land in T26N R17E S07 between river mile (RM) 6.0 and RM 7.6 on Nason Creek. Nason Creek is a tributary to the Wenatchee River in Chelan County, Washington. The proposed habitat restoration actions are intended to restore habitat and river processes to improve impaired habitat conditions for ESA-listed Upper Columbia River (UCR) spring Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Upper Columbia River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and Columbia River bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*).

This project will install wood and boulder structures from RM 6.0 through RM 7.6 in order to increase the quantity and quality of pool habitat in this reach. Pool habitat is important to provide holding and resting areas for adult spawning salmonids; as well as provide lower velocity refugia. The major project elements include the installation of 22 engineered large wood structure complexes, 3 engineered large wood bank roughening complexes, and approximately 1250 feet of temporary access routes; the decommissioning of 750 linear feet of current road access that impinges floodplain/wetland connectivity; and the removal of 160 cubic yards of road fill to reconnect wetland swale. Project components and construction implementation have been designed to minimize potential impacts and the project is expected to provide a net environmental benefit for Nason Creek.

This project is expected to be constructed during low-flow instream work window for Nason Creek summer 2021.

HOW TO COMMENT

Written, hand-delivered and electronic comments will be accepted. Please direct comments regarding this project to:

Matt Karrer

Wenatchee River Ranger Station

Okanogan – Wenatchee National Forest

600 Sherbourne St.

Leavenworth WA 9882



Project – related information is also available at the Forest Service website:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56854>

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A Rivera

District Ranger
Wenatchee River Ranger District
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest