



**File Code:** 1900

**Date:** March 10, 2020

The Wenatchee River Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is proposing a project to improve fish passage at road crossings on Minnow Creek, a tributary to Chikamin Creek, in the Chiwawa River Basin (see attached map). This project will remove two culverts that are acting as fish passage barriers on closed roads and upgrade a culvert to a bridge. Exact locations are as followed:

- Site 1 (upgrade to bridge): road 6210-000, Township 28N, Range 17E, Section 21
- Site 2 (culvert removal): road 6210-120, Township 28N, Range 17, Section 16
- Site 3 (culvert removal): road 6210-160, Township 28N, Range 17, Section 16

The intended results of the proposed project include increasing migratory fish access to almost 4 miles of stream habitat. This project is being planned in conjunction with Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

This project is be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(18): "*Restoring wetlands, streams, riparian areas or other water bodies by removing, replacing, or modifying water control structures such as, but not limited to, dams, levees, dikes, ditches, culverts, pipes, drainage tiles, valves, gates, and fencing, to allow waters to flow into natural channels and floodplains and restore natural flow regimes to the extent practicable where valid existing rights or special use authorizations are not unilaterally altered or canceled.*" District Staff will prepare a Categorical Exclusion and document the decision with a Decision Memo. These documents will summarize the project purpose and need and will analyze the potential effects of the project on the environment.

You can participate in this project planning effort by providing comments to District Ranger Jeff Rivera by April 20, 2020. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comment letter should be addressed to the attention of Mariah Mayfield, Wenatchee River Ranger District, 600 Sherbourne St, Leavenworth, WA, 98826, or can be emailed to [mariah.mayfield@usda.gov](mailto:mariah.mayfield@usda.gov). For further information about the project, please contact Mariah at 509-784-4620.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Sincerely,

JEFF RIVERA

District Ranger



# Minnow Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Project

**Legend**

**Minnow Creek Sites**

**Type**

-  Culvert Removal
-  Upgrade to Bridge
-  Section

