



Pend Oreille County

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Final Report for the Middle Branch Leclerc Creek Fish Passage Phase 2:

The history of the Middle Branch Leclerc Creek Fish Passage Phase 1 Project started in the spring of 2008 when WDFW personnel approached Pend Oreille County and asked if there would be interested in sponsoring a culvert removal project on the East Branch of Leclerc Creek. The County met with WDFW on site and assessed the two upper culverts under the Middle Branch Road and the lower culvert under the East Branch Road. The original proposal was to remove the lower culvert and set a Concrete Con-span bridge structure on the East Branch Road. A second bridge would be required at the removal of two culverts on the Middle Branch Road. Due to the depth of the existing culvert and the size of the bridge structure it would require to span the deep creek crossing, it was determined to be less expensive to set one new bridge in the location of the upper culverts on the Middle Branch Road and make an alignment change to the East Branch Road. This configuration would require only one bridge structure. An agreement was entered into for the County to sponsor the project. WDFW agreed to design the creek channel and Pend Oreille County agreed to perform the road design and construction and spec the bridge. Participants in the project funding were the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Washington State Department of Ecology (Bridge), United States Fish and Wildlife, Seattle City Light (Boundary Dam), Stimson Lumber Co. (Right of Way), and Pend Oreille County (design and construction).

During final design a cost estimate for the project was run. It was determined that the current funding was not sufficient. The project was divided into two phases.

Phase 1 would complete the elimination of the upper culvert, build the roadway and install a new bridge structure.

After phase 1 was completed funding for phase 2 was pursued through a WNTI grant with USFW and Title II. Funds were secured through these two grants.

The Middle Branch Leclerc Creek fish Passage Phase 2 project removed the lower barrier culvert and restored the stream bed. The extent of the cut for slopes from the edge of the creek to the top

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of existing ground was reduced due to the rock outcrops that were discovered during excavation and removal of the culvert. These rock outcrops were exposed and revealed part of the original flow pattern of the creek. With direction from WDFW, pools and channels were developed while placing rock to build the creek bed.

As the culvert was being excavated slopes were built from the edge of creek to the break of existing ground. Two to one slopes were built and covered with jute matting for slope stabilization. Wood Straw, an engineered wood strand material was placed on the flatter slopes at 70% coverage.

In April and early May of 2012, Pend Oreille County crews, with assistance from WDFW personnel planted Western Larch, Western White Pine, and Thinlead Alder. A combination of bush and grass seed was broadcast over the site.

An inspection of the re-vegetation of the site showed the Western White Pine and Thinlead Alder was thriving. The Western Larch appeared to have died. The University of Idaho Forestry Department was consulted. We were told that Larch will appear dead after it has been planted. They said that most likely it is fine and will have an adequate survival rate. Pend Oreille County continues to monitor the site.

Phase 1 and II of the Middle Branch Leclerc Creek Projects was a success due to the collaboration of many agencies pooling their resources and talents. The cooperation between Pend Oreille County, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, United States Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, United States Forest Service, and Stimson Lumber Company. All these agencies contributed to the completion of a project well done.

Submitted by:

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