

Gold Lake Tunnel Restoration Project Update 9/30/03

The Gold Lake Tunnel Restoration Project will hopefully be completed in October of 2003, pending weather and SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) clearance. Archaeology and cultural surveys were conducted during the field season of 2003. These surveys in conjunction with previous surveys uncovered some historical sites in the vicinity of the project area. The Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resources Department has taken the lead in obtaining clearance from SHPO, which they are hoping to receive by October 3, 2003.

A Biological Assessment has been completed for the project and a Decision Notice is expected to be signed by October 10, 2003. This project is fulfilling NEPA requirements through a categorical exclusion.

If the weather does not allow for implementation this fall, then the project will be implemented in the summer of 2004 (months of July or August for low flow.) Monitoring will commence immediately after implementation and during subsequent spring run-offs as well as during low flow to ensure all stream flow is being routed through the main channel.