



File Code: 1950-1

Date: January 8, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

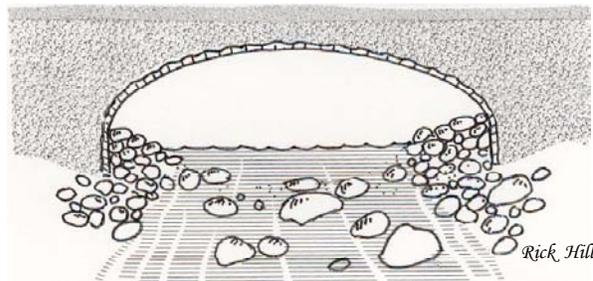
The Klamath National Forest is proposing to modify road stream crossings at 22 locations on the Salmon River, Scott River, and Happy Camp Ranger Districts. Through this proposal (**Klamath Fish Passage Restoration Project**), the Forest Service would reconstruct existing Forest Service-administered road crossings at 20 sites by installing open-bottomed crossings to reestablish natural stream bottom configuration and achieve fish passage objectives. Existing crossings would be removed at an additional two sites on a road already closed. Please see enclosed table and maps for location of proposed actions.

The reason for this letter is to invite you to participate in the analysis process by providing your comments and any concerns you may have about this project. To encourage your informed participation in the planning process, this letter includes a description of proposed actions and reasons for the proposal.

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to remove existing culverts at 22 road stream crossings and reestablish road crossings at 20 of the sites with open bottom crossing structures. Please see the attached map(s) for site locations. Road crossings would not be reestablished at two of the sites on a closed road (Sites 169 and 169a). Existing culverts may be left in place and altered or retrofitted to achieve fish passage objectives at two of the sites (408 and 501). Road crossings would be reestablished by installing **arches** or constructing **bridges** at 18 of the crossings.

An **Arch** is a road crossing structure with an open bottom. Arches are typically cast from concrete. They function like a **bridge** spanning a stream without covering or altering the stream bottom as occurs with a culvert. Arches require similar excavation and footing structures as bridges. The picture to the right is an artist representation of an arch.



Proposed actions include any or all of the following treatments:

- Removal of all or portions existing fill material at the stream crossing,
- Removal of conventional culverts with corrugated or concrete bottoms,
- Replacing conventional culverts using arch or bridge structures with open bottoms,
- Seeding and mulching disturbed areas, and
- Construction and use of temporary crossings to permit traffic flow during restoration work and removal of temporary crossings following project completion. Existing public access will be maintained by proposed actions except at Site 246 (Kangaroo Crossing on Road 41N08) where the road may be closed up to four hours during the day for the duration of bridge installation except emergency situations.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

Restoration of historic fish passage and upgrading of stream crossings associated with roads are part of the Klamath National Forest's effort to recover healthy fish populations and protect water quality in Klamath Basin watersheds under the *Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan*. The purpose of this project is to reestablish 35 miles of historically occupied fish habitat, improve aquatic habitat quality, and reduce risk of sediment delivery within associated streams.

DECISION TO BE MADE

The decision to be made is whether or not to undertake these fish passage restoration actions.

The analysis leading to this decision will be completed in compliance with the *National Environmental Policy Act*, the *Clean Water Act*, the *Endangered Species Act*, and the *Historic Preservation Act*. Management direction is provided by the *Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan*, which incorporates the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*.

COMMENTS

Proposed actions will be fully analyzed prior to any decision on final project design. For this project to result in the best possible outcome for people and the environment, please share any issues, concerns, suggestions or information you may have relating to this proposal.

Any of the individuals listed in the table on Page 3 would be happy to answer your questions or provide additional information. Although comments are welcome throughout the analysis process, your comments would be most useful if received by **January 31, 2003**. Please send your issues or written comments to one of the individuals listed in the following table at the indicated address. Comments are a matter of public record and as such may be provided to interested parties upon request.

Contact List				
Names	Address	Phone	Fax	email
Annie Buma	c/o Happy Camp Ranger District P.O. Box 377 Happy Camp, CA 96039	530-493-1725	(530) 493-1775	abuma@fs.fed.us
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Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Margaret J. Boland
MARGARET J. BOLAND
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTIONS BY SITE

Site Number	Road Number	Existing Culvert to be Removed (feet)	Proposed Outcome	Map Number
169	46N31Y	7x63	Remove culvert	1
169a	46N31Y	2x24	Remove culvert	1
171	45N19	9x60	Arch	1
176	15N06	7x103	Arch or Bridge	8
179	16N05	3x51	Arch	8
181	15N08A	11x84	Arch or Bridge	8
218	40S06	7x61	Arch or Bridge	2
219	40S06	4x32	Arch	2
230	39N08	6x43	Arch or Bridge	4
232	39N08	6x32	Arch or Bridge	4
235	40N17	5x45	Bridge	4
237	40N17	8x58	Arch or Bridge	4
244	40N08	5x47	Low Relief Arch	3
246	41N08	8x84	Bridge	3
248	44N45	11x84	Arch or Bridge	7
262	48N14	5x63	Bridge	2
263	11	6x43	Re-bed pipe	2
266	11	10x128	Bridge	2
408	38N04	12x85	Retrofit Culvert or Arch	5
409	38N27	7x53	Arch	5
501	10N04	Concrete Box	Retrofit culvert or Arch	6
502	40N17	6x43	Arch	4