



PRESS RELEASE –

Yakama Nation Fisheries and Partners to Provide Open House to Discuss Lake Wenatchee Highway (SR 207) Salmon Habitat Restoration Alternatives



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Yakama Nation Fisheries (YNF) is hosting an informational community meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 to share information about a new salmon habitat restoration project being developed to address concerns related to the Lake Wenatchee Highway (State Route 207) along Nason Creek near Coles Corner in Chelan County, Washington. Two identical public information sessions will be offered at the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club Clubhouse at the Lake Wenatchee Airstrip (14400 Chiwawa Loop Road, Leavenworth, Washington 98826), from 3:00 pm to 4:50 pm (Session 1) and from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm (Session 2), to share information about the purpose and need for this developing restoration project.

Over the past four years the YNF Upper Columbia Habitat Restoration Project has been working with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the United States Forest Service (U.S. Forest Service) to develop restoration actions that could proactively address on-going fish habitat and highway stability concerns where WSDOT has three Chronic Environmental Deficiency sites that also occur on U.S. Forest Service lands. Chronic Environmental Deficiency sites are locations along rivers and streams where WSDOT maintenance crews have had to conduct roadway repairs at least three times in the previous 10 years, and the on-going maintenance negatively affects aquatic fish habitat.

In 2022 Yakama Nation Fisheries updated a feasibility study and alternatives analysis that was originally conducted by the Chelan County Natural Resources Department in 2012 that examined possible ways to improve fish habitat and highway operations in this section of Nason Creek (creek miles 3.2 to 4.6). Based on the results of the 2022 Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Yakama Nation Fisheries is now working with WSDOT and the U.S. Forest Service to examine the potential to construct a new highway alignment to replace 0.6 miles of SR 207 to eliminate two of the Chronic Environmental Deficiency sites and recover nearly 13 acres of floodplain and wetland habitat for salmon recovery purposes.

The meeting on March 21, 2023 will be hosted by Yakama Nation Fisheries with WSDOT and U.S. Forest Service staff in attendance. WSDOT and the U.S. Forest Service are considering their potential roles in conducting upcoming SEPA and NEPA processes to support agency decision making regarding the potential for 0.6 miles of highway realignment and additional salmon habitat restoration alternatives. SEPA and NEPA processes have not yet formally started for this project, but Yakama Nation Fisheries feels it's important to communicate about this potential project now given the project's potential to realign a segment of SR 207. To assist in outreach to the general public and interested parties Yakama Nation Fisheries has created a Project Information Webpage at <https://yakamafish-nsn.gov/restore/projects/yakama-nation-fisheries-state-route-207-project-chelan-county> where technical documentation about the project alternatives are currently published.

Helpful general information about SEPA and NEPA processes can be found on-line using the following links:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/DOE/files/4c/4c9fec2b-5e6f-44b5-bf13-b253e72a4ea1.pdf>

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1042286.pdf

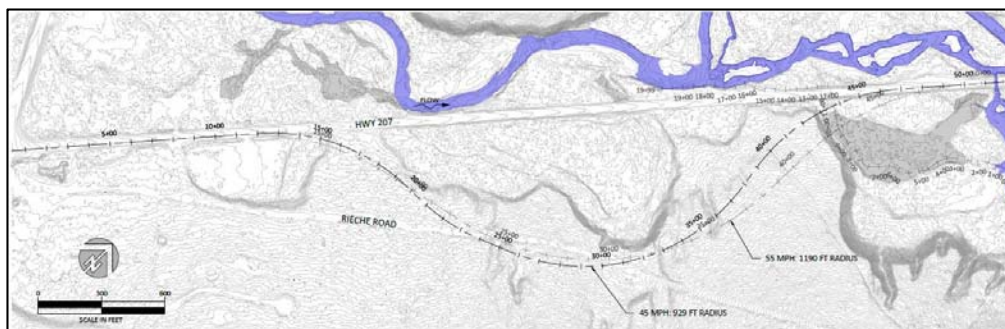
Yakama Nation Fisheries is welcoming members of the public to communicate information about this potential project using the following email address: YakamaNasonProject@yakamafish-nsn.gov



Photos of the upper SR 207 Chronic Environmental Deficiency site along Nason Creek where roadway stability and fish habitat need to be addressed.



Aerial photo of the upper and middle SR 207 Chronic Environmental Deficiency sites along Nason Creek.



Plan view sketch of a possible realignment of SR 207 near Cole's Corner in Chelan County, Washington.