



The Crooked River Valley Rehabilitation (CRVR) project is underway on the Red River Ranger District, near Elk City. The large restoration project is partnership project with the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Department (Watershed Division), Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest and Bonneville Power Administration. The purpose of restoring Crooked River is to improve fish habitat for ESA-listed species and sensitive fish species in the lower two miles of the valley.

The restoration project will move mine tailings to rebuild the floodplain and the river in order to provide quality in-channel and off-channel habitat through floodplain connection, improving riparian areas, and creating higher quality spawning and rearing areas for salmon and steelhead. The CRVR project is phased over 6 years and includes construction of a bypass channel to hold the river during the next few years while the floodplain and river are being reconstructed. A levee and haul route separate the channel from the construction area and will be used for construction traffic to protect public safety.

Although construction sites are never pretty, the Nez Perce Tribe and Forest Service are taking all actions to reduce the environmental and aesthetical impact to the valley. The end product will be a valley bottom and river channel that supports increased spawning, rearing and migratory corridor for salmon and steelhead in Crooked River, as well as cutthroat, rainbow, and bull trout habitat. Short-term impacts are expected and include the removal of riparian vegetation, and filling in of dredge ponds and the river channel. These short-term impacts will provide long term benefits to many species and the public that call this area home.



For more information, please visit the Bonneville Power Administration site at https://www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/NEPADocuments/nepa/CrookedRiver/FS_CRVR_ROD_Final.pdf