

## Similkameen River Trail to Enloe Dam







*The parking lot, about one mile out of Oroville on the Similkameen-Nighthawk Road. This entrance to the trail bordering the Taber's vinyard begins a two mile hike to the viewpoint overlooking Enloe Dam and Similkameen Falls.*

*The beginning of the trail at Taber Bypass leads down to the reconstructed 100-year old Girder Bridge over the Similkameen River. Only non-motorized vehicles allowed on trail.*



## Similkameen Connector Trail - Phase 1



*Map of Phase 1 of Similkameen Connector Trail leading to Similkameen Falls and Enloe Dam. The trail occupies the old rail bed of the Washington & Great Northern Railroad and will eventually carry the trail to Nighthawk.*

Okanogan County is working in cooperation BLM and private land owners to develop a non-motorized recreation trail. When completed much of the trail will consist of an easement only. This means that the public will be welcome to use the trail but property adjacent to the trail will remain in private ownership. The owners graciously permit us to maintain and use this trail on their land. Please help us assure continued access by respecting this property. Pack out litter, leave all fences and gates as you find them, and stay on the trail. Thank you.

Phase 1 includes a 3.5 mile trail from Oroville to a view point just east of Enloe Dam. Currently the Okanogan County POD is working to release Enloe Dam. Due to concerns for safety at the Enloe Power House and dam, Okanogan County has agreed to limit the scope of Phase 1, to the POD project boundary. It is our intent to continue the trail to Nighthawk and beyond in years to come, but at this time all of the necessary easements are not in place.

The Washington & Great Northern Bridge was originally built between 1906 & 1907 of wood truss construction. In 1952 the bridge was replaced with the current bridge of concrete pillars and steel girders. The central girders are 9 feet tall and all five sections were recycled from other bridges around the country. The bridge stands 86 feet above the river and is 375 feet long. Many historic features can be viewed along the trail. When completed pedestal signs featuring historic photos will describe each location. Please leave old rusted artifacts, cans, spiles, plates where you find them, that is a part of the experience.

Have Fun Be Safe











*The Similkameen River is being considered for Wild & Scenic River status by the BLM Eastern Washington office in Spokane.*

*Looking up the Similkameen River and at mid-sections of the river.*





*Braided rapids between dark azure colored pools.*



*Looking back down river with staghorn sumac in the foreground.*

*Most of the trail is a flat railroad bed with gentle slope.*



*Suction dredging can be observed on the lower reaches of the river where placer mining is conducted.*



*A suction dredge is a powerful underwater-type of vacuum cleaner. It sucks up streambed material (rocks, sand, gravel, silt, gold and other minerals), passes it up through a suction hose, and runs it across a recovery system floating at the surface.*

*Pieces of gold, which are very heavy, are separated from the other streambed materials and trapped, as the gravel and other material wash through the recovery system and are then washed back into the stream to fill in the hole as the dredge moves forward in the waterway.*

*Gold found in streambeds is called "placer gold." Placer gold is most commonly found in flake form, usually about the size of flattened grains of rice and smaller. Some deposits carry a larger amount of such flakes and fine-gold.*



*Similkameen Falls in foreground with Enloe Falls behind.*

*These pictures are taken from the bench at the end of the Phase 1 trail giving you a head-on view of the falls and dam.*







*Thundering white-water crashes, rumbles,  
and roars without ceasing. Canyon winds  
amplify the sound, then like a wild  
symphony, fade as the breezes  
pass down stream, rising  
and falling without end.*





*The following pictures are taken beyond the end of Phase 1 part of the trail to give you a sense as to the vistas Phase 2 will provide of the falls and dam on the west side of the river.*

*Pictures of the Similkameen Falls on the west side of the river showing the old penstock in the foreground that delivered water to the original powerhouse downstream from the falls.*





*The penstock is a water conveyance, woodstave pipeline that delivered water 743 feet down river to the two steel surge tanks that fed water to the hydro turbine generators in the powerhouse.*



*Showing the partially hidden powerhouse and surge tanks that fed water to the powerhouse on the west side of the river.*



*Enloe Dam is a 315 foot long, concrete, gravity arch dam structure with a hydraulic height of 57 feet. The spillway crest has pipe sockets at 4 foot centers set in the crest for installation of flash boards raising the dam an additional 5 feet*

*Enloe Dam empounds a small reservoir approximately two miles long by 200 feet wide with an average depth of 9 feet. It is estimated that the original 1,500 acre-feet reservoir has been reduced to 556 acre-feet of water storage capacity by the accumulation of sediment.*

