

Similkameen (Squantl) Falls



Rick Gillespie photos (Dec 2011)

Showing the relationship of the Similkameen Falls to Enloe Dam up stream. Notice the natural channel on the west side of the main falls rock wall which may be a natural route up over the falls to gain access to the pool below Enloe Dam. If the dam were removed, it seems as though passage over the falls would not be the barrier for salmonids to the upper Similkameen River breeding habitats.



From above the falls looking on the west side of the falls with the main part of the falls in the middle of the picture.

This December flow is probably close to the low flow of the river.

Notice the natural channel on the west side of the falls which when covered with more water when salmonids would be migrating up the river to seek out spawning gravels may be a natural pathway over the falls.



The white water notch in the center of the picture is approximately 6 feet wide. The notch was blasted in the rock wall of the east side of the fall's vertical wall to channel water to the hydro station James Hagerty built in 1906 to generate electricity. The flow returned to the river below the falls. Notice the L-shaped concrete corners that mark the top of the notch, as well as the remnants of concrete foundation remains on the left center where the hydro power house was located

The horizontal channel leading water to the notch was where Hagerty's crib dam must have been located delivering water to his power station.

The main stem of the falls is located to the right of the white water in upper right corner.



The channel delivering water to the notch visible in the previous picture. Notice the concrete corners at the top of the notch. A log has floated across the top of the notch.

Showing the main stem of the falls, the west side natural channel on upper edge of the picture and the notch in lower left corner with channel along bottom of the picture.

Dale Swedberg, Sinlahekin Wildlife Refuge Ranger, pointed out the necessity of establishing that salmonids would be able to get up over the fall's natural rock wall during times they would be migrating to prospective spawning grounds up river of the falls. He cautions that the notch pathway is not natural and for that reason, can't be considered when addressing the coyote legend.

Dale also pointed out that a salmonid needs a pool of water that is $\frac{2}{3}$ the depth of the a barrier they are trying to clear. The PUD records the fall's rock face to be 30 feet tall which would necessitate a pool's depth beneath it to be 20 feet allowing a steelhead or chinook to propel itself over the falls. However, the amount of water going over the falls during their migration does not present a 30 foot wall since the river's water level is much higher submerging most of the wall's height underwater.

