



**SUSPENSION TRAIL BRIDGE  
USING SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS**

**Rattlesnake Creek, Missoula, Montana**

*Brad Miller PE*

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**HDR**



# PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Initial Concept by Others Showed Cable Stayed Bridge Using Smallwood





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- A Similar Bridge Was Well Over Budget
- Considered 90 Foot Cable Suspension and Prefab Steel Bridges in Preliminary Design
- Suspension Bridge Chosen for Aesthetics and to Take Advantage of Smallwood Grant





# SMALLWHAT? SMALLWOOD!

- Large Stands of Lodgepole Pine in the Northwest Killed by Pine Bark Beetles



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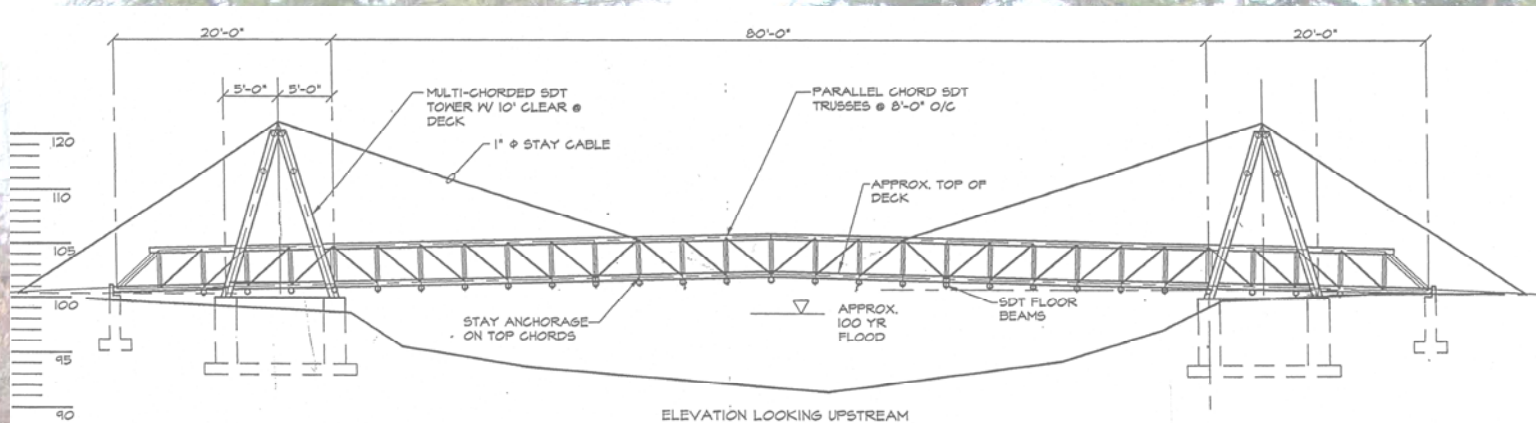
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- Use This Sustainable Design Resource For Bridge Members to Qualify for Grant

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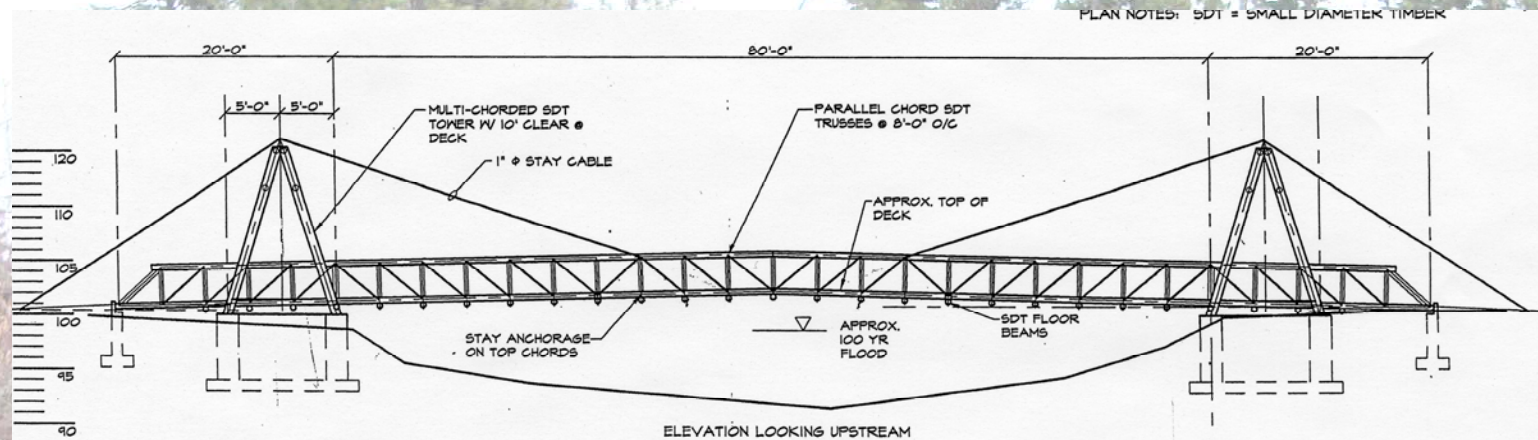
# PRELIM DESIGN STRATEGY



- Original Cable Stayed Bridge Concept By Others



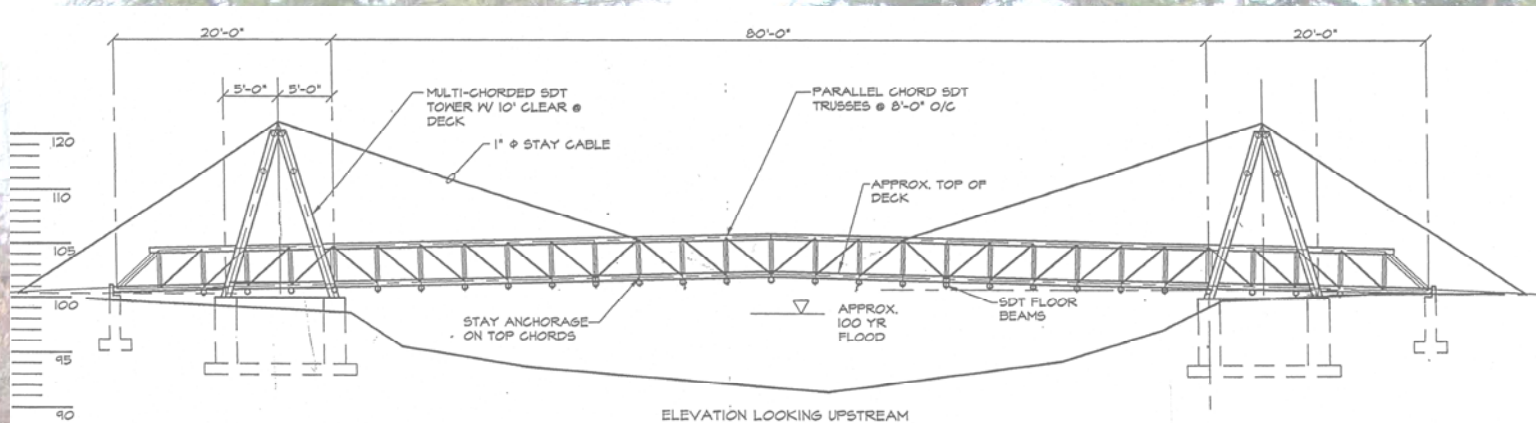
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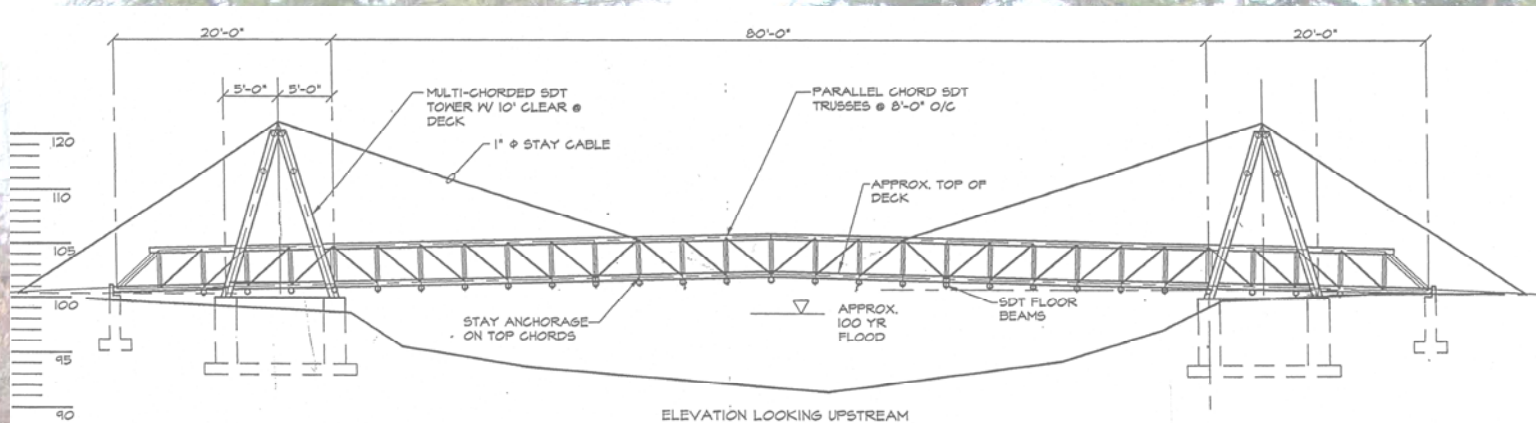
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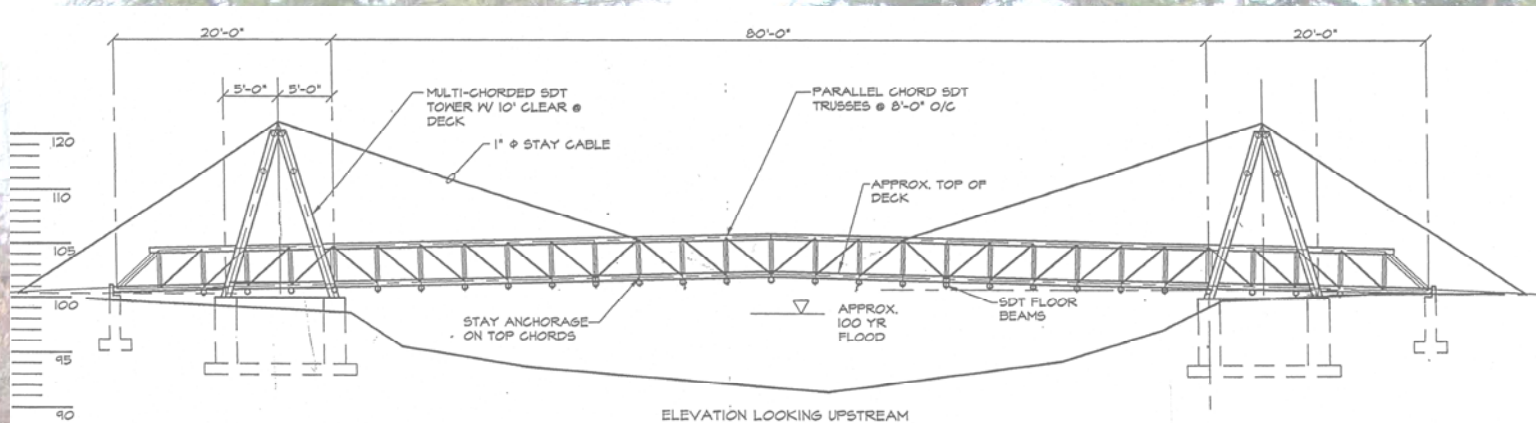
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- Simplify Details for Ease of Construction, Long Term Maintenance, and Aesthetics
- Improve What Works, Avoid What Doesn't Work



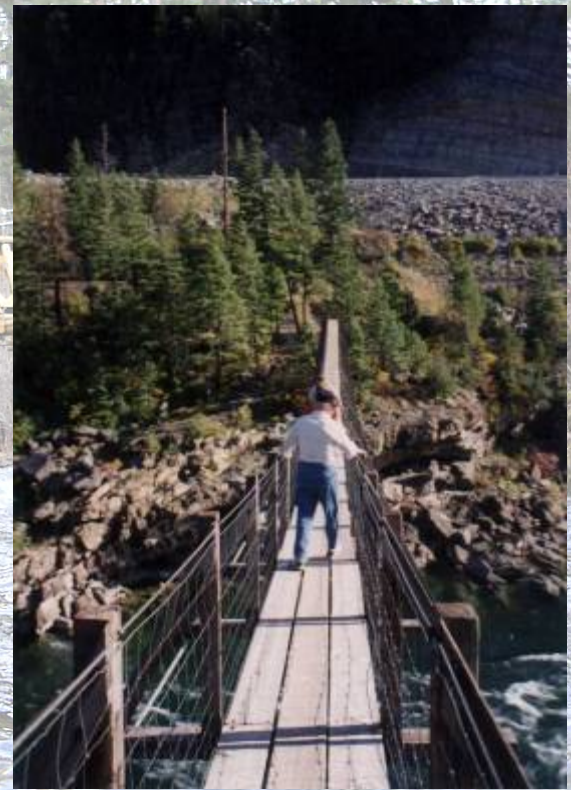
# PRELIM DESIGN STRATEGY

Look at Existing US Forest Service Back  
Country Pack Bridge Designs





# USFS SERVICE SUSPENSION BRIDGES

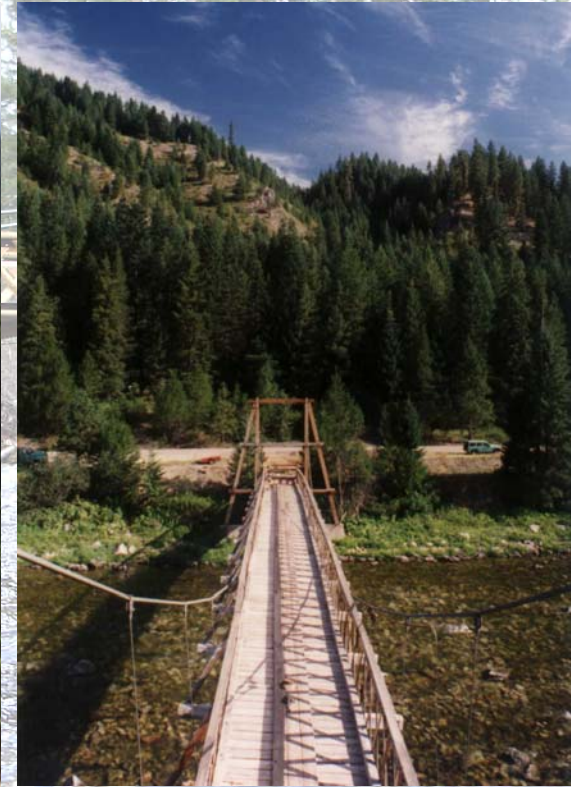


Typical USFS Suspension Foot Bridge,  
Kootenai River Near Libby, MT

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# USFS SERVICE SUSPENSION BRIDGES



Typical USFS Suspension Pack Bridge With  
Hanger Cables, Lochsa River In Idaho

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# USFS SERVICE SUSPENSION BRIDGES



Construction of USFS Salmon River Pack Bridge  
Near Mouth of Wind River, ID (1960)

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# USFS SERVICE SUSPENSION BRIDGES

• 75 to 400 Feet, 1930 to 1960

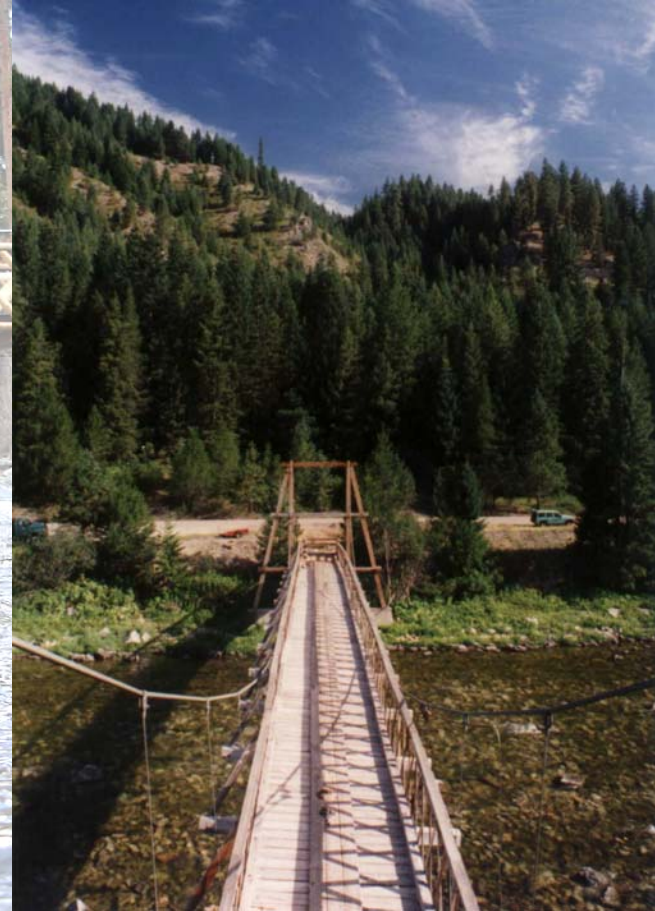


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# USFS SERVICE SUSPENSION BRIDGES

- 75 to 400 Feet, 1930 to 1960
- Local Materials, Untreated, Replaced Later With Treated

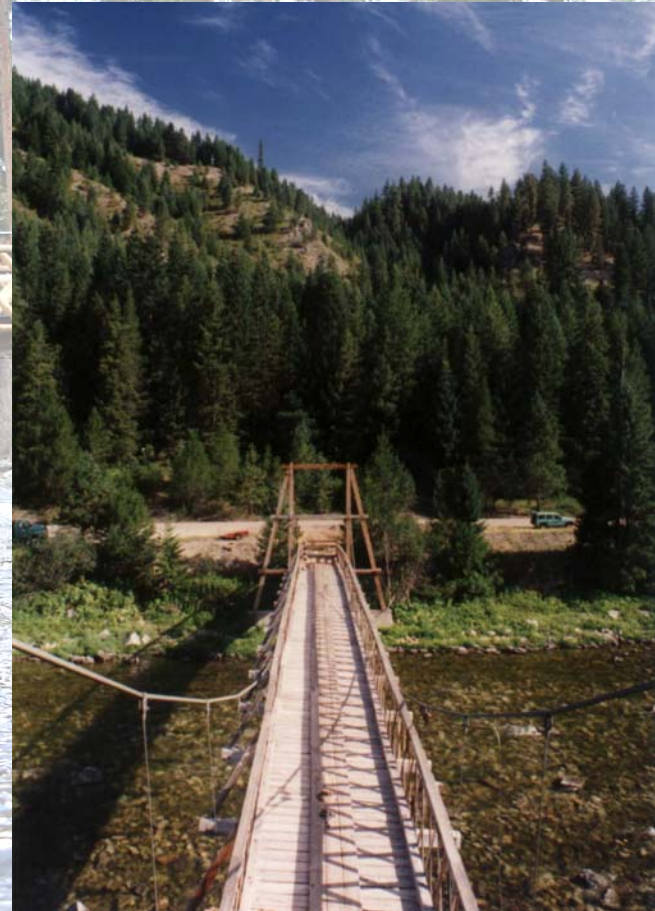


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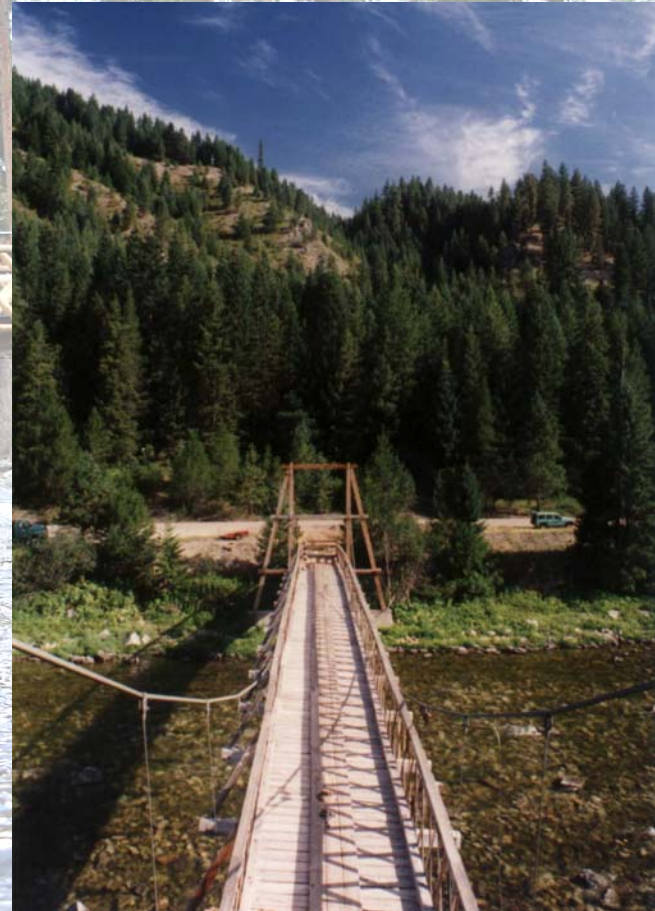


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# USFS SERVICE SUSPENSION BRIDGES

- 75 to 400 Feet, 1930 to 1960
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- Later Bridges Treated Initially
- Stiffening Trusses Added Early On To Reduce Bounce



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# USFS SERVICE SUSPENSION BRIDGES

- 1X6 Lattice with 2~2X6 Top and Bottom Chords





# USFS SERVICE SUSPENSION BRIDGES



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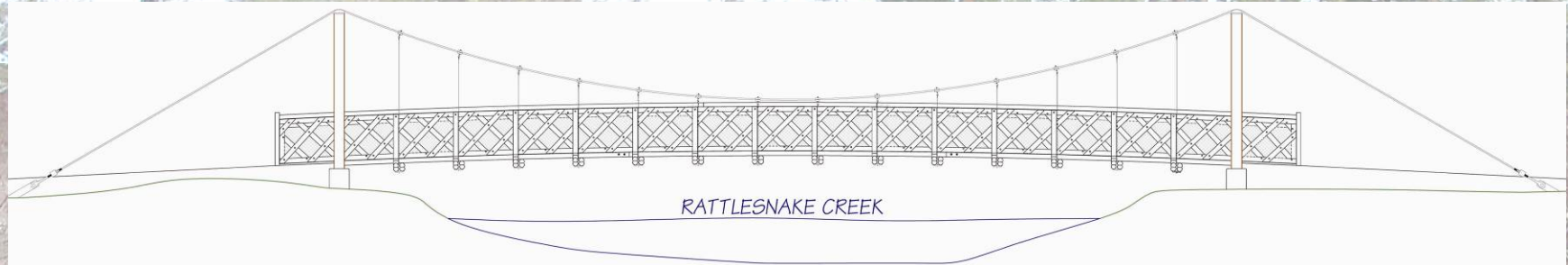


- 1X6 Lattice with 2~2X6 Top and Bottom Chords
- Problems With Splices and Connections
- Towers Hard to Rehab
- Many of These Have Lasted 75 Years!

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# FINAL DESIGN STRATEGY

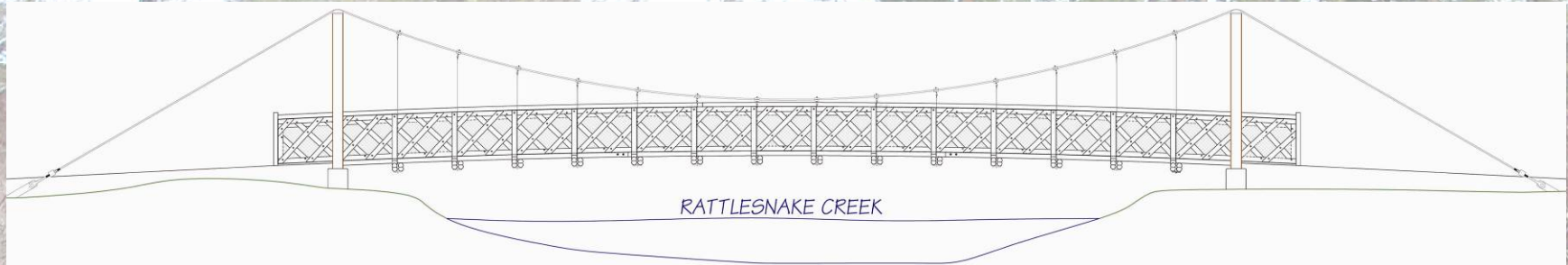


- Use Lattice Stiffening Trusses, From Half Rounds, Face Flat Sides Toward Each Other

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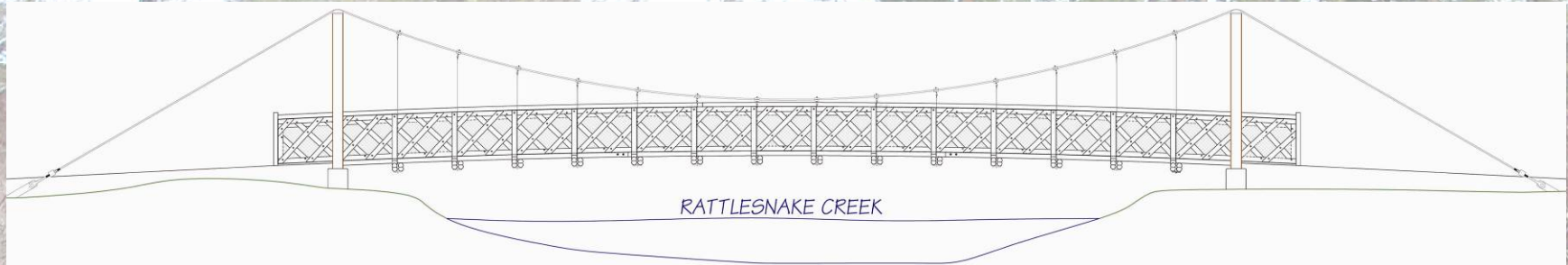


- Use Lattice Stiffening Trusses, From Half Rounds, Face Flat Sides Toward Each Other
- Use Structural-Tees Top and Bottom to Tie Everything Together

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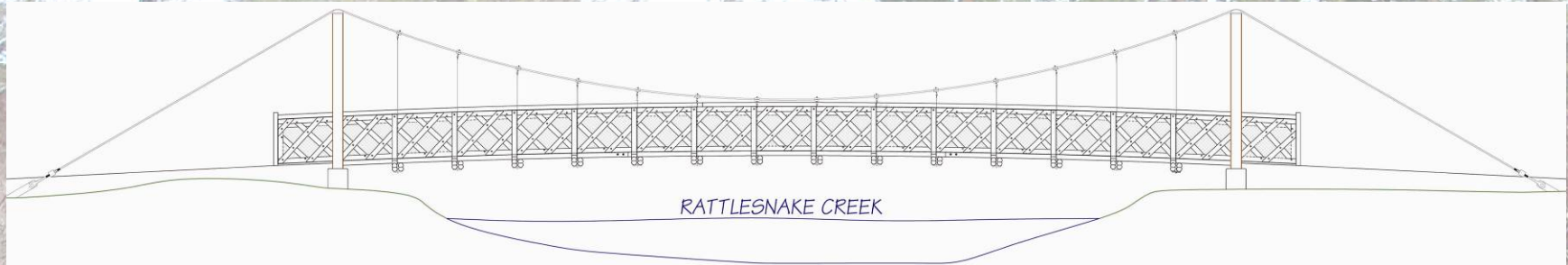


- Eliminate Stringers For Simplicity and Savings

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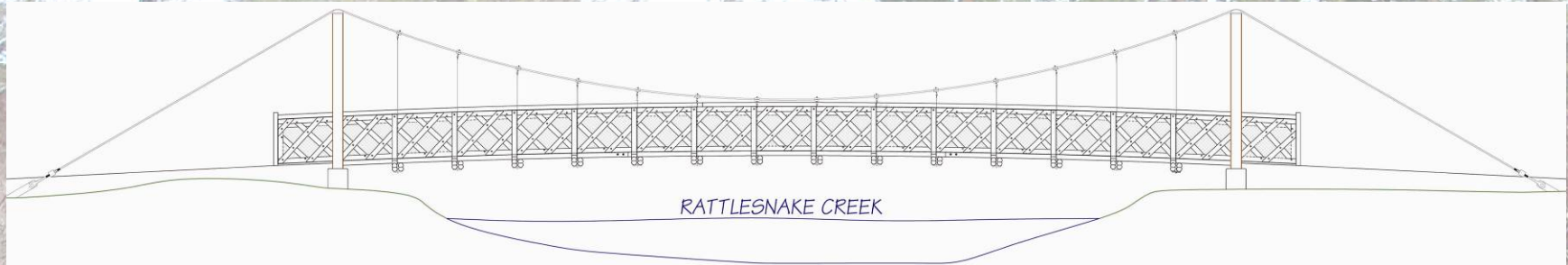


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- Run 3 1/8" Glu-Lam Deck\* Longitudinally over Floor-Beams

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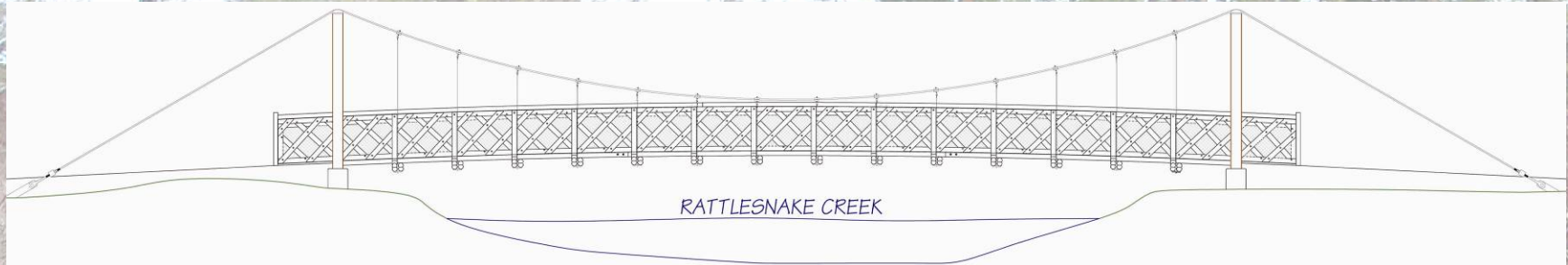
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- \*Composite Deck Proposed Later & Used

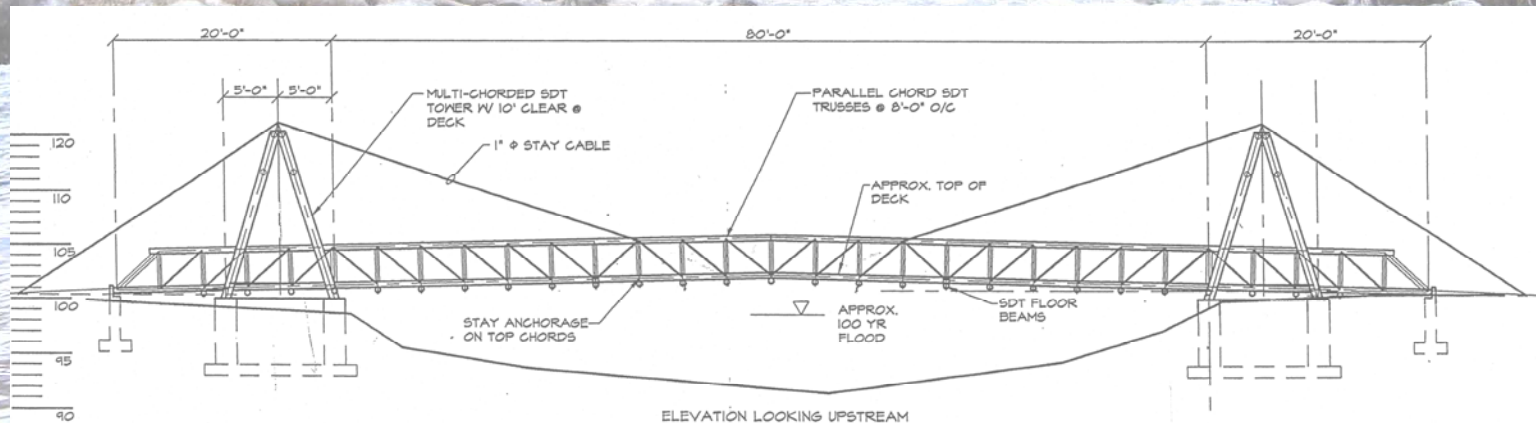




# FINAL DESIGN STRATEGY



Suspension Bridge - Lattice Stiffening Truss



Original Cable Stayed Bridge Concept





A photograph of a suspension bridge spanning a river. The bridge has a wooden deck and a complex truss structure supported by cables. The river is turbulent with white water rapids. The background is a dense forest of tall pine trees. The text 'How? What? When??' is overlaid in blue at the top.

# How? What? When??

Easiest Way to Describe This Structure and How it Goes Together, is to Go Through the Construction Sequence

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# CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE



Cable Anchors

Pier Tower Footings





# CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE



Cables Connections  
Towers and Cables





# CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE



Smallwood Floor-beams, Braces, and Stiffening Trusses With Split Ring Shear Connectors

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# CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE



Floor-beams, Braces, and Stiffening Trusses

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS!





# CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE



Special 4X12 Composite Deck Made From  
50% Sawdust and 50% Recycled Plastic

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# CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE



Steel Plates and Cones Installed on Towers as Climbing Deterrent





# CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE



Concrete Approaches and Vinyl Coated Mesh





# CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE



4'x8'x $\frac{3}{4}$ " Rubber Mats - Recycled Tires  
**SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS!**





# RIBBON CUTTING



April 21, 2006

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Rattlesnake Creek Pedestrian Bridge







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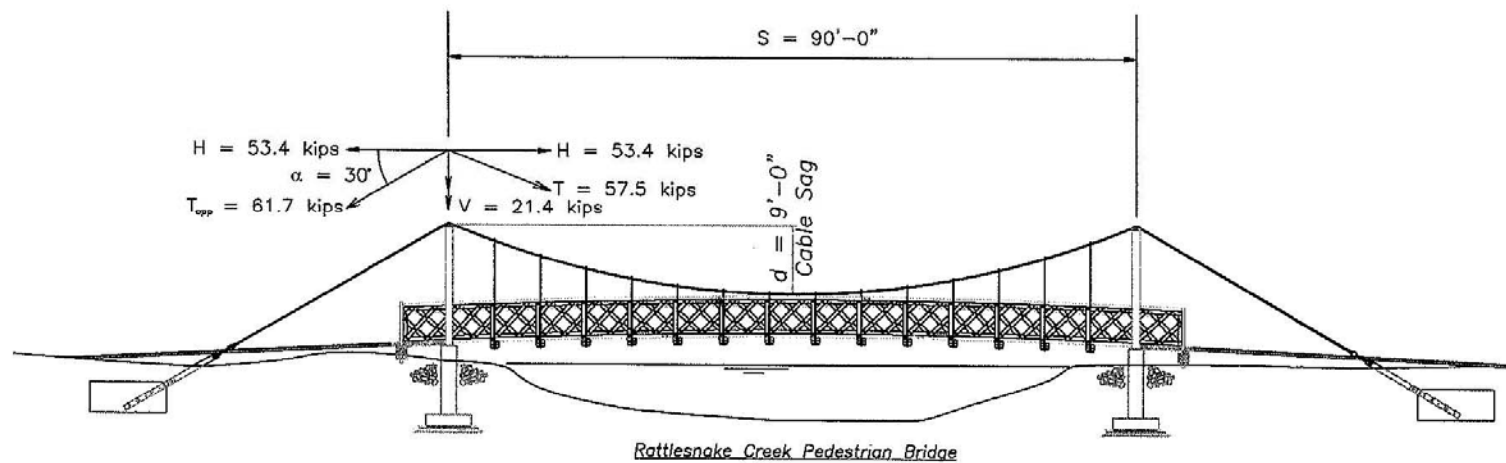


Rattlesnake Creek Pedestrian Bridge





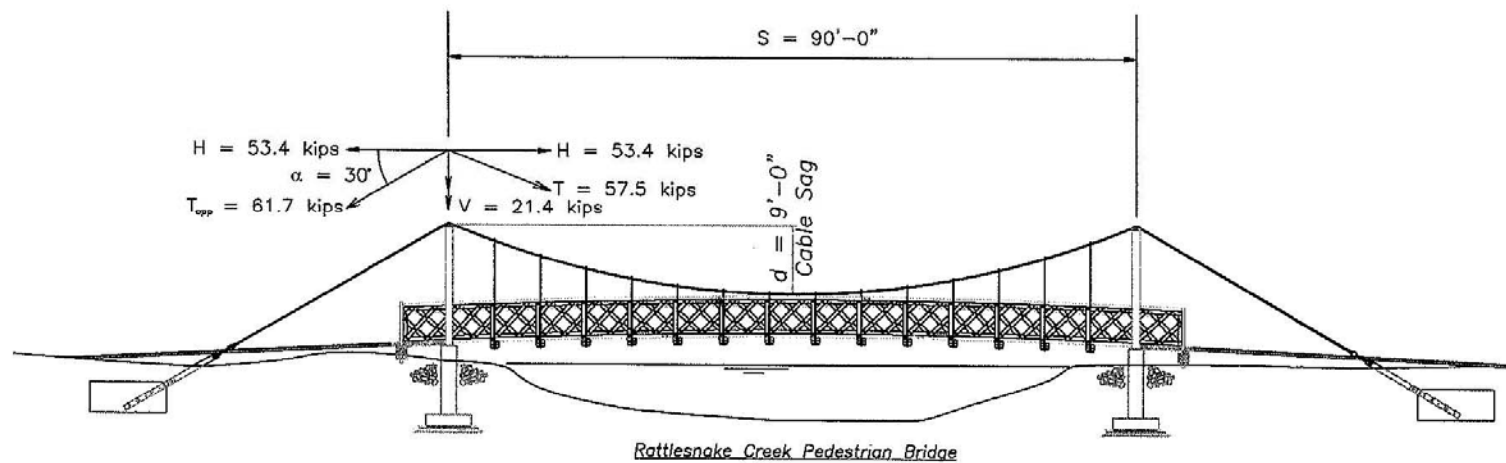
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- Cable Sag Should be 8% to 10% of Span



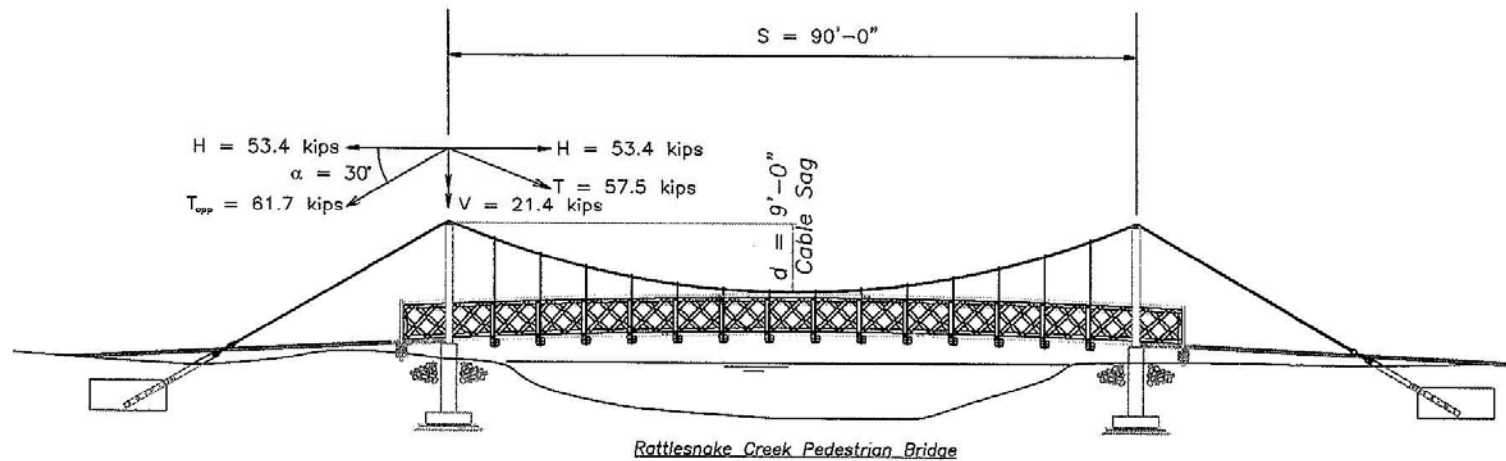
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- Cable Sag Should be 8% to 10% of Span
- Deck Camber is for Aesthetics etc, Consider 1% of Span, Check ADA



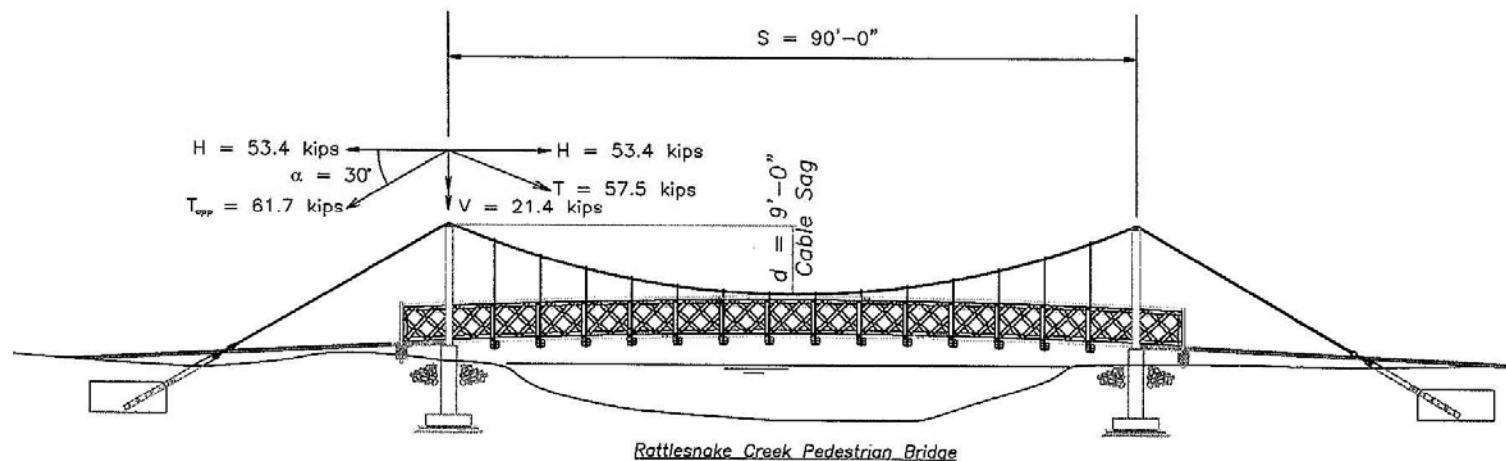
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- 85 psf Pedestrian Load with Allowable Reduction According to AASHTO, but Not Less Than 65 psf



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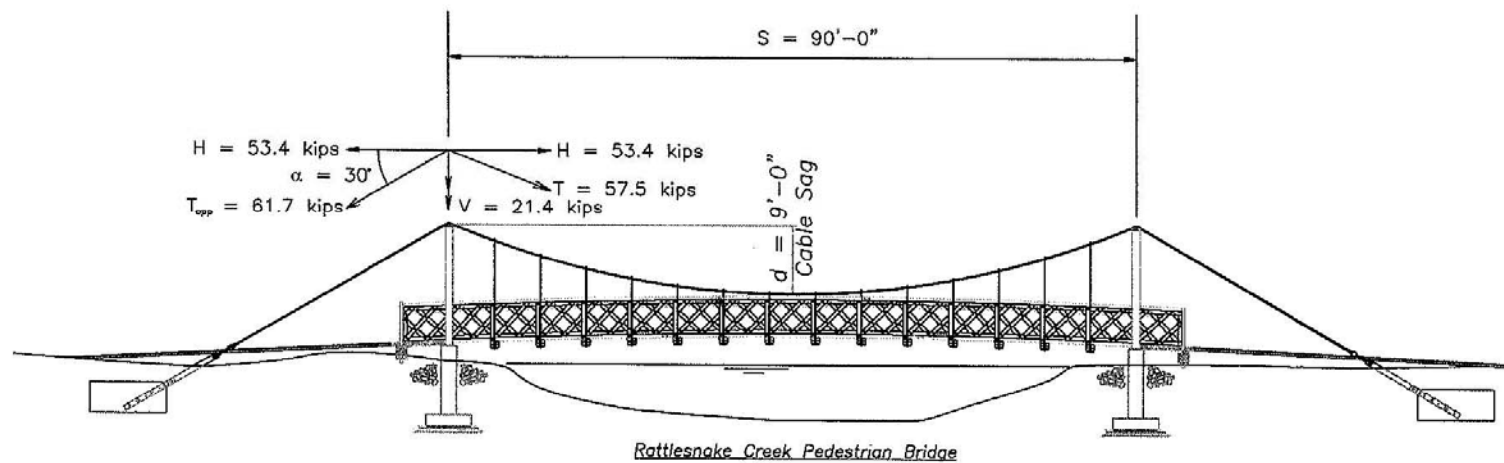


- 85 psf Pedestrian Load with Allowable Reduction According to AASHTO, but Not Less Than 65 psf
- Consider Snow, Light Vehicles, and 1,000 Pound Point Load if the Bridge is for Horses

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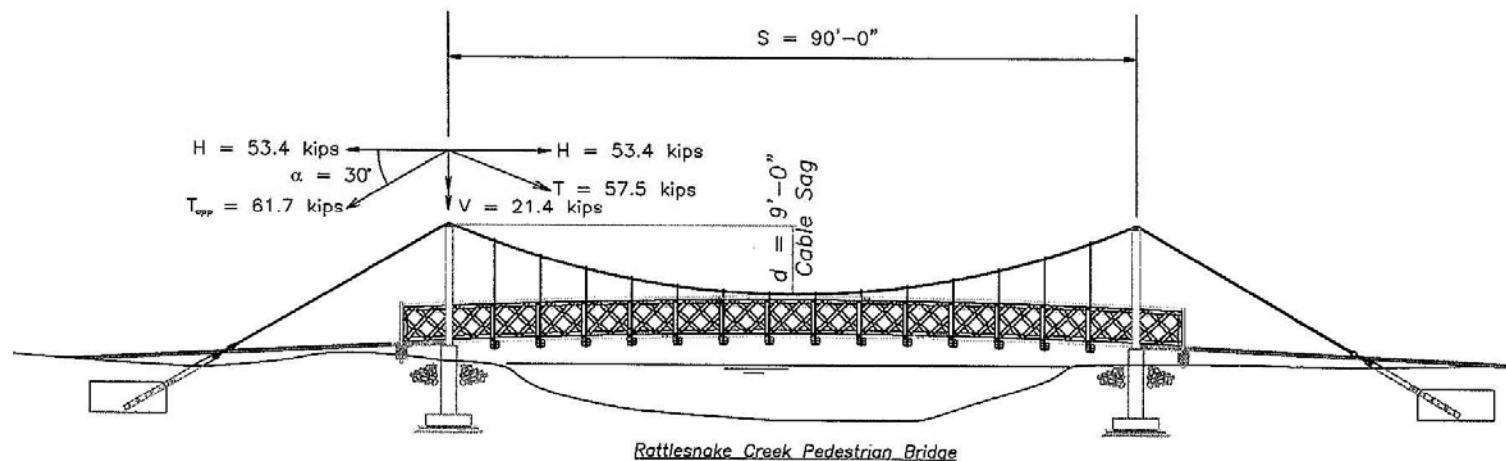
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- Approximate Hanger Forces as Uniform Loads for Main Cables Forces, Close Enough for Small Br.'s



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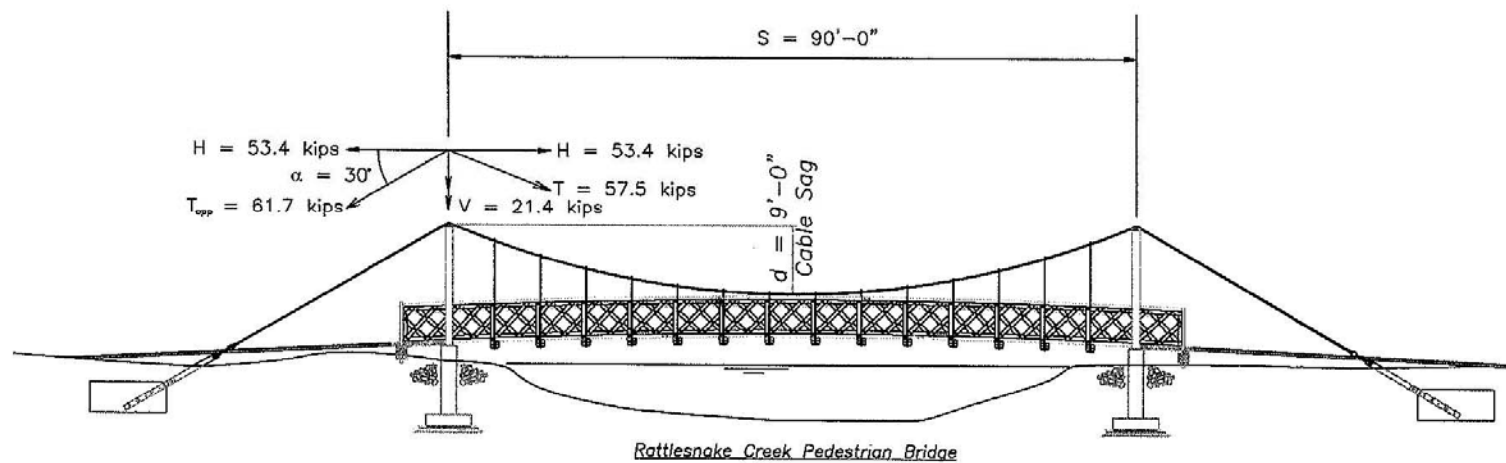
- $H = wL^2 / (8d)$

$$V = wL / 2$$

$$T = (H^2 + V^2)^{1/2}$$



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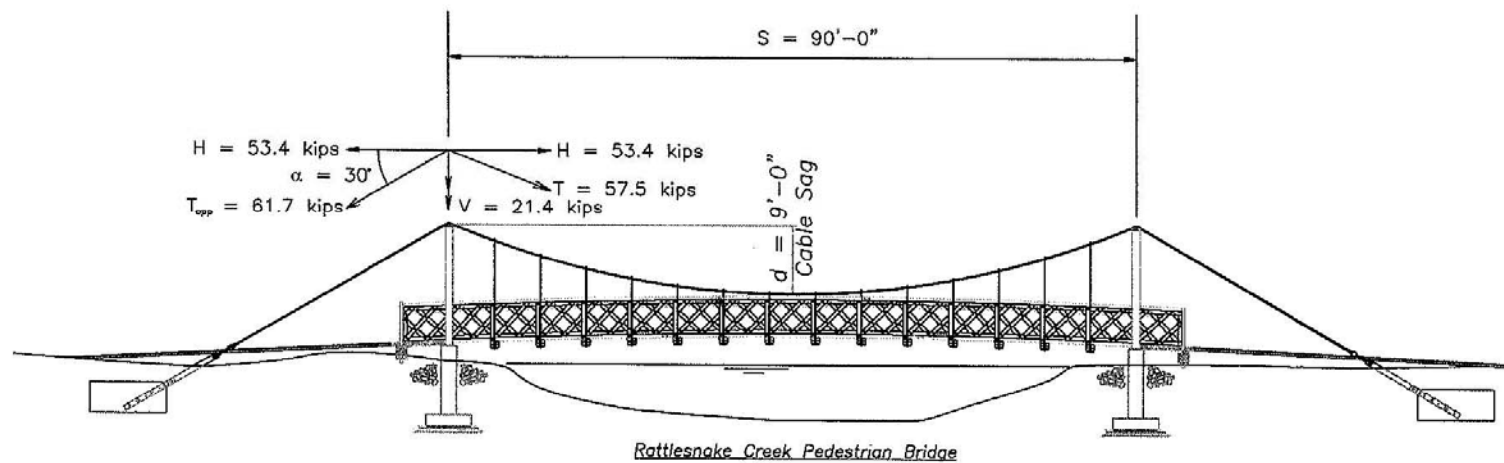
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- Check T on Back Span if Angle is Different





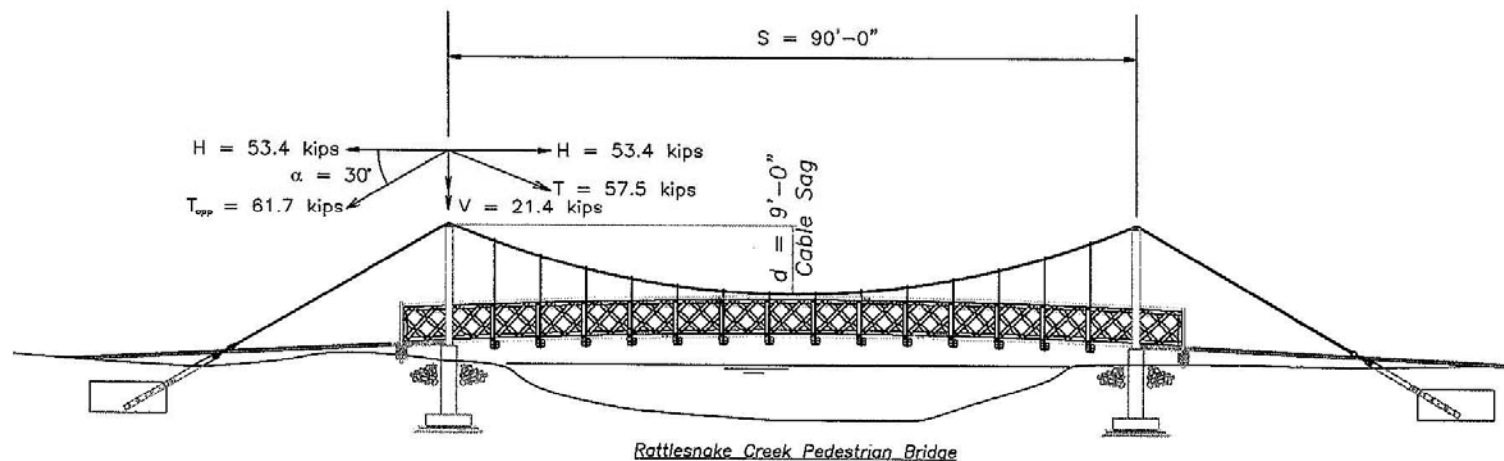
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- Factor of Safety for Cables and Connections = 3.0



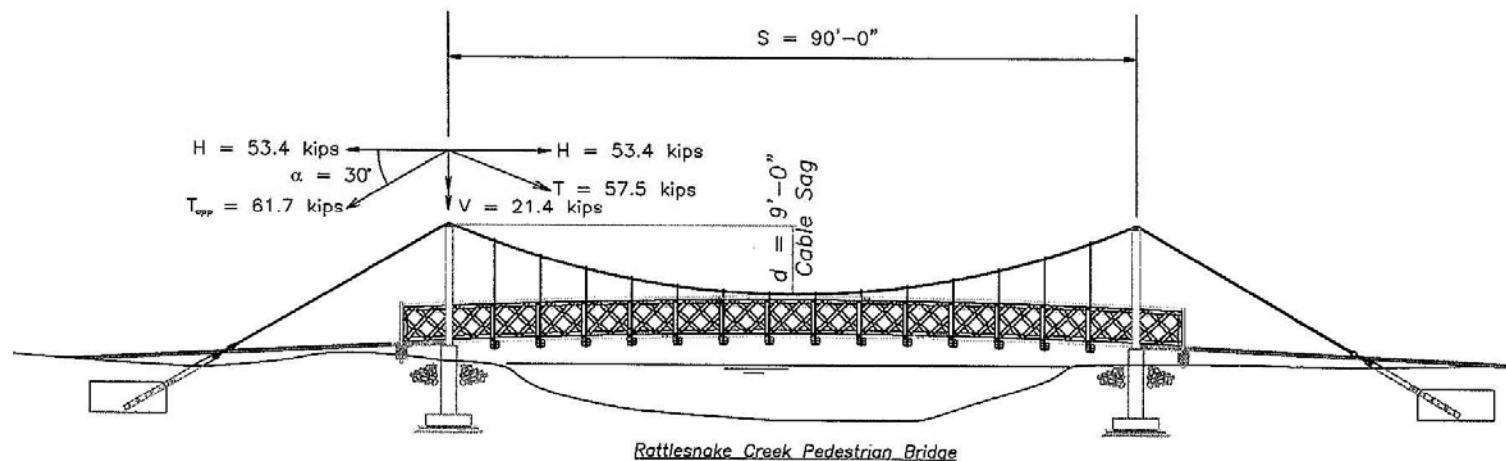
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- Cable Anchors Sized So That  $W_{anchor} > 2V$ , and



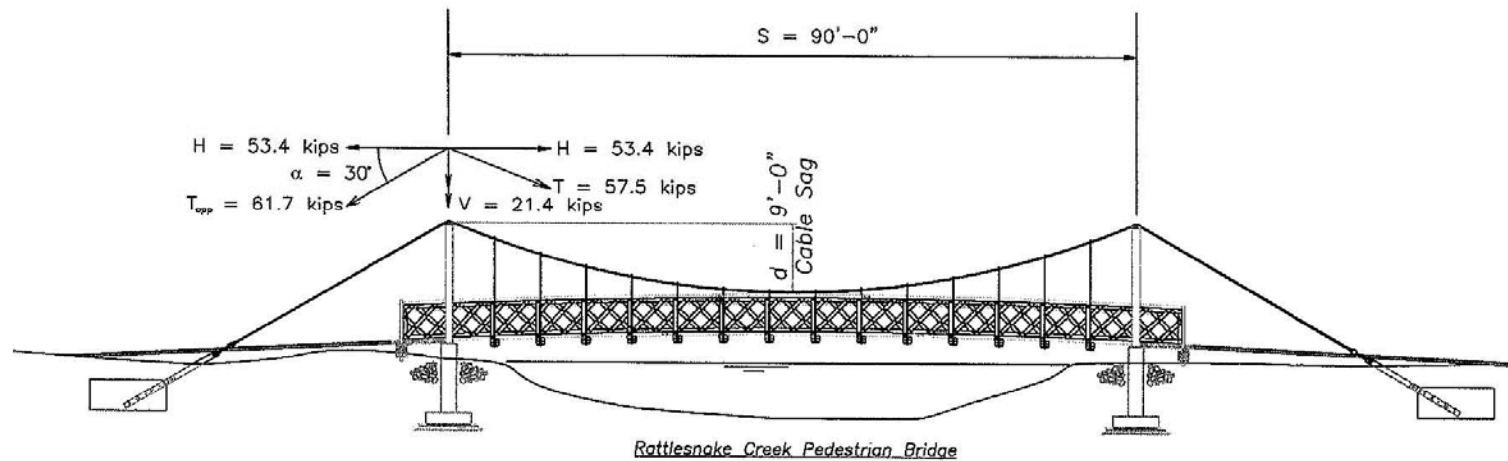
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- Earth Pressure on Front Face  $< 2000$  psf



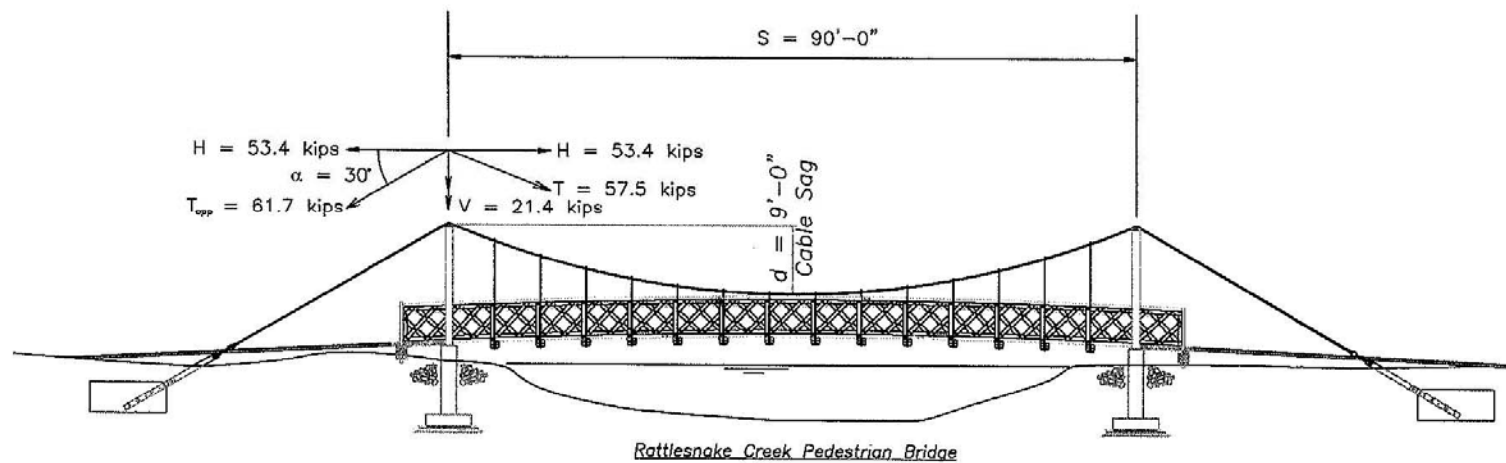
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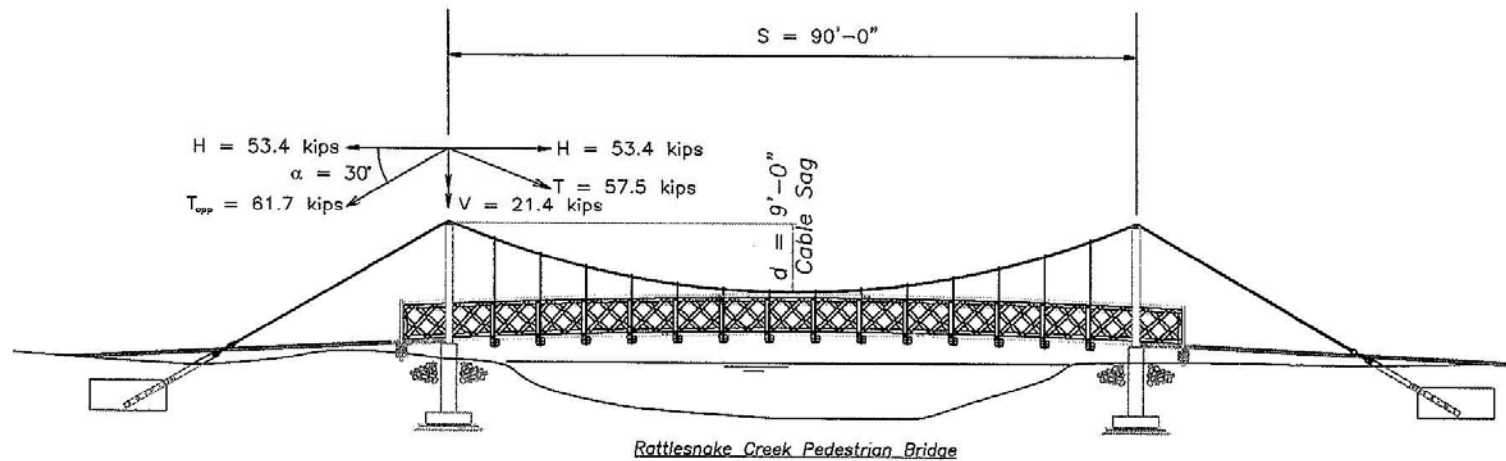
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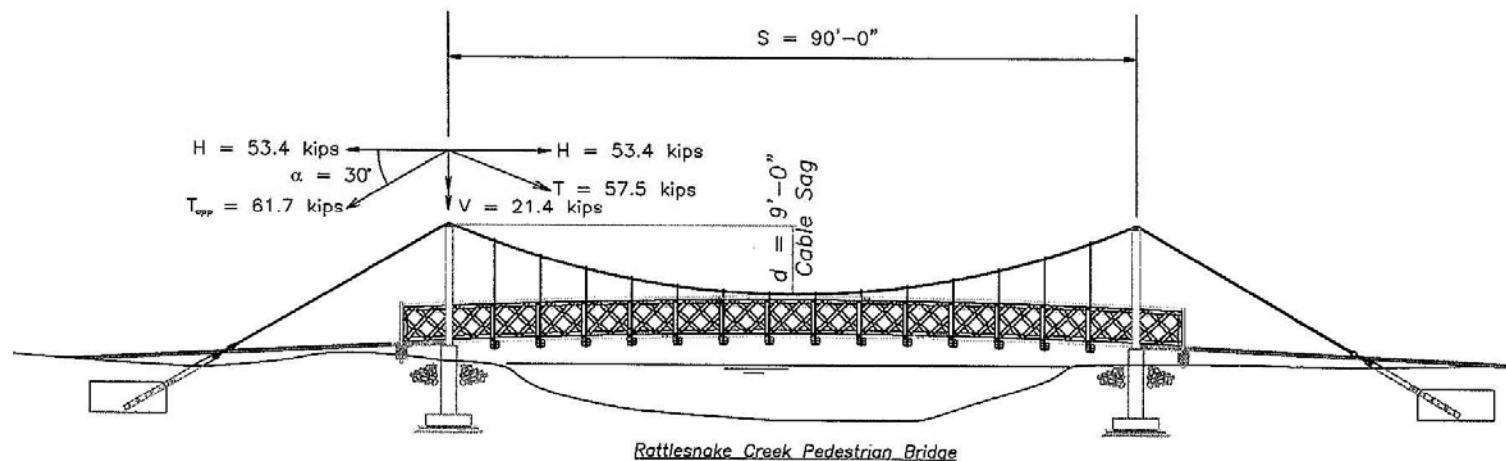
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- Use Rule of Thumb For Stiffening Truss by John Roebling



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- Use Rule of Thumb For Stiffening Truss by John Roebling
- Treat as Equivalent Simple Span =  $0.4S$  for Live Load Only





Rattlesnake Creek Pedestrian Bridge  
Questions????

