
Bozeman Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release
Date: June 6, 2007

Contact: Jonathan Kempff, 406-587-6732

Trail Work in Bear Canyon Begins

The Forest Service, Gallatin County and Department of Natural Resources are moving the Bear Canyon Trail from the west side of the Bear Creek on the old road to the east side of the Creek. The old trail, on the west side, will be decommissioned to eliminate the soil erosion occurring currently. The new trail is being constructed by the Montana Conservation Corps.

The trail re-location is being conducted as part of implementing the Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan and to begin resolving water quality issues in Bear Creek. Under the new travel plan, summer motorized, mountain bike, and stock use is prohibited year-long until all of the area trails are improved to minimize soil erosion. This work will begin resolving water quality issues as detailed in a complaint the county, Forest Service, and Department of Natural Resources received from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

“The work began June 4,” said Jonathan Kempff. “The trail re-location is Phase 1 of a multi-phased project that addresses water quality issues as well as implementing the travel plan to allow for continued use of Bear Canyon by all users.”

Phase II of this project includes trail relocation and re-habilitated on the Bear Canyon loop system and is expected to be complete within 3 years. “Bear Canyon recreationists can expect to see some changes,” continued Kempff. “We will mark the new routes and post information in the area.”

The area will remain closed to stock, mountain bikes, and summer motorized uses until all Phases of work are complete on the loop system. The area remains open to foot and cross-country ski travel. For more information please contact the Bozeman Ranger District, (406) 522-2520.

- FS -



3710 Fallon Street, Suite C, Bozeman, MT 59718
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>