

Payette National Forest Road Closure Update

There are several road closures while the Payette National Forest replaces several major culverts and bridges. The work will be done under contract. Road closures will occur at various dates and locations during the replacements. The culvert and bridge replacements are occurring to:

- Increase flow capacity to handle expected increases in runoff and debris due to last summer's fires.
- Provide for upstream fish passage in fish bearing streams where the existing culvert is a barrier.
- Replace culverts that are deteriorating due to age before failures occur.
- Repair and upgrade a wooden bridge damaged by fire.

The projects are listed by geographical area with roads that will be affected by closures, and the expected dates of closures. Closure dates and times will be updated as information becomes available. Traffic delays are likely outside of the closure dates in all project areas.

Funding for the projects comes from a variety of sources including; Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER), burn area restoration funds, appropriated road funding, and funding from Forest Service receipts (10% fund). Total estimated cost of the projects is 2.6 million dollars.

Krassel Ranger District

South Fork Salmon River Road projects include the following:

Goat Creek Culvert replacement

- Culvert replacement to increase flow capacity and provide fish passage.
- Currently under contract, project was delayed 2 seasons due to wild fires.
- South Fork Salmon River Road #50674 will be closed August 4th through November 1st 2008 near Goat Creek. Johnson Creek Road will be the access to Yellow Pine during closure.
- Depending on project progress, there is a possibility that the road will be open between Goat Creek and Phoebe Creek with 20 minute delays at Goat Creek from October 15 to October 30, 2008. The Forest Service will not know of this possibility until October.

Phoebe, Sisters, Indian, and Buckhorn Bar Creek Culvert replacements

- Culvert replacements to increase flow capacity, provide fish passage and replace deteriorating culverts.
- South Fork Salmon River Road #50674 is expected to be closed between Sept 11th through Sept 26 between Krassel Work Center and Goat Creek. Road will again be closed for approximately 3 days for paving between Sept 26 and Nov 1st, 2008 between Krassel Work Center and Goat Creek. Paving dates are unknown at this time.

East Fork South Fork Salmon River projects include:

Deadman Creek Culvert Replacement

- Near Deadman Bar on the McCall-Yellow Pine Road (FH 48) about 10 miles west of Yellow Pine. Contract will include Reegan Creek culvert replacement.
- Culvert replacement to increase flow capacity and provide fish passage.
- McCall-Yellow Pine Road (FH 48) expected closure between Sept 22 through November 1st 2008 between junction with SF Salmon River Road and Reegan Creek. Johnson Creek Road will allow access to Yellow Pine during closure.
- Project on Valley County road jurisdiction, project is in cooperation with the County.
- The public will be able to access the Williams Peak Trailhead (Trail 073) from the west (McCall) during the road closure.

Reegan Creek Culvert Replacement

- Culvert replacement with bridge to increase flow capacity and provide fish passage.
- On the McCall-Yellow Pine Road (FH 48) about 6 miles west of Yellow Pine. Contract will include Deadman Creek.
- McCall-Yellow Pine Road (FH 48) expected closure between Sept 22 through November 1st 2008 between junction with SF Salmon River Road and Reegan Creek. Johnson Creek Road will be access to Yellow Pine during closure.
- Project is on Valley County road jurisdiction and is in cooperation with the County.
- The public will be able to access the Sheep Creek Trailhead (Trail 071) from the east (Yellow Pine) during the road closure.

East Fork Bridge Replacement

- Fifty year old wood bridge was damaged by fire at both abutments, and has scorched lead-base paint on steel.
- Entire 250 feet long bridge super structure will be replaced using modular bridge and will support highway legal loads.
- Existing concrete piers and footings will be modified for modular bridge.
- Project is on Valley County road jurisdiction and is in cooperation with the County. County obtained a grant from the State to assist with funding.
- Contract was awarded in Aug 2008. Construction will occur in 2009. Contract is expected to start once the Johnson Creek Road opens after the 2009 spring thaw. The Forest Service expects the East Fork road to be closed at the bridge from mid-June to Sept 30, 2009.
- Winter/spring access to Yellow Pine on the East Fork Road will be provided after November 1st, 2008.
- Johnson Creek Road will provide access to Yellow Pine during periods of closure.

Parks Creek

- A 55' long temporary bridge was installed at Parks Creek in August 2008.
- The Forest Service, Nez Perce Tribe, and Valley County are working together to install a permanent bridge in 2009.

New Meadows Ranger District

Cold Springs Culvert Replacement

- Culvert replacement to increase flow capacity and provide fish passage.
- Smokey Boulder Road #50074 will be closed from Sept 8 for approximately 3 weeks at the culvert replacement location. Motorists may access the road via the south using roads #74 or #102. Huckleberry Road may also be used to bypass the closure. Pollock Mountain trailhead will be accessible from Smokey Boulder road via Round Valley.

Council Ranger District

North Fork Grays Creek Culvert replacement

- Culvert replacement to increase flow capacity and provide fish passage.
- North Fork Grays Creek Road #50217 will be closed starting Sept 22 for approximately 3 weeks.

Middle Fork Weiser River Road culvert replacements

- Replace culverts at Warm Springs Creek, Bar Creek, and Boulder Creek
- Culvert replacement to increase flow capacity and provide fish passage.
- Installations to be done by Adams County, materials supplied by Forest Service under Cooperative agreement

Fawn Creek Culvert replacement, Lick Creek area

- Lick Creek Road #50143 will be closed for 2 to 3 weeks at Fawn Creek. Alternative access for upper Lick Creek will be available via Grouse Creek Road #50123.
- Culvert replacement to increase flow capacity and provide fish passage.
- Project may occur in 2009.