

NEWS RELEASE

Sequoia National Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument

Kern River Ranger District
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Centennial 1908 - 2008

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For Immediate Release

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Fairview Bridge Will Close To Undergo Repairs

Kernville, Ca...The Sequoia National Forest (SQF) will be repairing the Fairview Suspension Bridge, a pedestrian trail bridge, located approximately 16 miles north of Kernville, California. This area is in the resort/summer home area known locally as McNally's or Fairview, and is adjacent to Mountain Highway 99, crossing the Kern River on the Whiskey Flat Trail.

The SQF will conduct routine maintenance on and near the bridge. In addition to the routine maintenance there is one major design flaw in the bridge that must be fixed. The work will include correction of a design flaw that if not corrected could cause additional damage to the bridge that would substantially reduce its life span. The bridge has no room for expansion on hot summer days and this is causing stress on the abutments and concrete supports.

Part of the work to be performed by the contractors will be preparing (cleaning) and painting the entire existing steel with an approved paint system. The bridge will be washed or sandblasted using full recovery techniques to avoid contamination of the environment and provide for proper disposal of any lead particles. Some of the other work includes, but is not limited to the following major items:

- Clear vegetation near the east bridge abutment and approach ramp;
- Excavating earth near the suspension cable anchor blocks and construction of approximately 36 square feet of concrete block retaining wall;
- Removal of the existing crossbeam and sway bracing and fabricating, galvanizing, and installing a new steel cross beam and sway brace;
- Fabrication and installation of new anchor bolt assemblies on the east bridge abutment;
- Repair of the concrete associated with the anchor bolt assemblies on the east bridge abutment;
- Installing new pressure treated timber beams; installing a new galvanized steel chain link safety railing;
- Repair anchor bolt assembly on west bridge abutment.

The bridge will be closed September 16 through November 1, 2008 to complete these repairs.

For further information please contact Cheryl Bauer, Kern River Ranger District Recreation Manager at (760) 376-3781, extension 630.

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