



#### **Bitterroot National Forest**

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# News Release

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## **Forest Installing New Culverts and Road Improvements – Willow Creek**

Hamilton, Montana (August 6, 2020) – The Bitterroot National Forest is planning to install new culverts and begin additional road improvements next week on Willow Creek Road on the Stevensville Ranger District. See below for additional project details and closure dates.

### **Willow Creek Road Improvements**

Road Closed: August 10-14<sup>th</sup>

Intermittent Delays for Culvert Installations: August 17 - Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

*Project Details:* The project consists of upgrades on the streamside sections of Willow Creek Road including gravel placement, compaction of existing roadway, culvert installations, clearing of roadside brush and ditch and shoulder reconditioning. Crews will also install surface drainage features including water bars and drivable dips. The public should expect heavy truck traffic on weekdays (Mon-Fri), as well as large equipment including graders, water truck, excavator, and rollers on the roadway throughout the life of the project. Signs will be posted in the area alerting drivers to the road work. Please drive slowly and carefully! During culvert installations, motorists could experience temporary delays anywhere from a few minutes up to two hours.

### **Willow Creek Culvert Replacement**

Road Closed: August 17 – September 4

Location: Willow Creek Road #364 and Butterfly Road Crossing

*Project Details:* The project consists of installing a new bottomless arch culvert on Willow Creek. The work is scheduled to begin on August 17<sup>th</sup> and continue for approximately three weeks. Large excavation and heavy equipment from the project will be parked on Willow Creek Road at the Butterfly Road Crossing, making the road impassable. Signs will be posted in the area alerting drivers to the closure. The construction will not close Road #969 which accesses Willow Mountain Lookout and Burnt Fork Lake. The new culvert will allow improved passage for fish and other aquatic organisms to facilitate movement up and down the stream.

For more information contact the Stevensville Ranger District at (406) 777-5461.

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