



Forest Service News Release

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Bridge Replacement at White Stallion Road

Hamilton, Montana (May 12, 2023) – The Bitterroot National Forest is in the process of installing a new Bottomless Arch Structure on the Darby/Sula Ranger District’s Sleeping Child Creek. The work had begun the week of April 17th, with the plan that installation would be complete and the road re-opened by the time the snow had melted off Forest road 273 (White Stallion Road). With the rapid warm-up and resulting rate of runoff, the project had to be paused until flows can effectively be managed and diverted around the project site and installation can continue. Heavy equipment from the project will be parked at the project site and traffic control is in place at milepost 11 on Sleeping Child Road, which remains passable. Forest Road 273 (White Stallion Road) is currently closed at this intersection.

Signs are currently posted in the area alerting drivers to the road work, as well as at the North Fork Rye road, South of Darby informing drivers that the loop route to Sleeping Child cannot be completed. Snow levels at higher elevations will likely prohibit passenger cars from making this loop for the next week or so.

The forest is replacing the bridge at this location, along with doing road repairs and other improvements. The current bridge was not sufficient in size and during high runoff had posed risks to the road. Besides increasing stream flows, the new bottomless arch incorporates native stream channel preservation, improves the passage of fish and other aquatic organisms, and greatly increased safety and sight distance with better road alignment and curve widening.

For more information, contact the Darby Ranger District at (406) 821-3913. Stay in touch with us through www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheBitterroot.

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