



## Forest Service News Release

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### Forest Installing New Culvert on Johnson Creek

**Hamilton, MT, June 21** — The Bitterroot National Forest is planning to install a new culvert on the West Fork Ranger District's Johnson Creek. The work is scheduled to begin this week and will continue for approximately two weeks.

Heavy equipment and trucks from the project will be working and driving on Forest Road #5685 (Thunder Mountain Road) at and around mile post 1.1, making the road impassable. The project location is approximately 5.8 miles from the intersection with Beaver Creek Road.

This loop road connecting Hughes Creek to Beaver Creek has recently been opened for firewood cutting. While both sides of the closed area will remain open for travel, motorists are reminded that the loop will not be able to be completed during the road closure.

Signs will be posted at each end of the loop alerting drivers to the closure, and barricades will be installed in the immediate area around the construction site.

The forest is replacing the culvert at this location along with doing road repairs and other improvements. The current culvert is not sufficient in size and during high runoff may pose potential risks to the road. Besides increasing stream flows, the new bottomless arch will also help improve the passage of fish and other aquatic organisms.

For more information contact the West Fork Ranger District at (406) 821-3269. Stay in touch with us through [www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot) or [www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF).

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