



## Forest Service News Release

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### Trail Clearing and Maintenance Projects

**Hamilton, MT, June 26** — Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen (BRBCH) and the Bitterroot National Forest are partnering on several trail clearing and maintenance projects taking place in July.

The first project is scheduled for July 3-5<sup>th</sup> at the East Fork Guard Station on the Darby-Sula Ranger District. Volunteers will be doing general trail maintenance and clearing near the guard station and will also be rebuilding corrals and rolling up wire fencing at the site. Volunteers and stock will be camping at East Fork cabin.

The second project is scheduled July 21-23<sup>rd</sup> at Bear Creek on the Stevensville Ranger District. Volunteers will be brushing and clearing trees and cleaning water bars on Bear Creek Trail #5 to the pass. Crews and stock will be camping for two nights and clearing trails for three days.

The public should be on alert and watch out for volunteer work crews and stock at these locations. For more information visit [www.bchmt.org/bitterroot](http://www.bchmt.org/bitterroot).

BRBCH was established more than 40 years ago and was one of the first chapters in the nation. Their goal is to ensure that stock users can continue to access backcountry and wilderness trails. The club annually contributes over 600 personal hours and 425 stock hours on projects, most on the National Forest, that create significant benefits for all trail users and for the natural resources. The group also provides annual pack/re-supply support for volunteers staffing the historic St. Mary's Fire Lookout.

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