



Forest Service News Release

Media Contact: Tod McKay
(406) 363-7122

Bridge Replacement on Chaffin Creek Road

Hamilton, MT, October 11 — The Bitterroot National Forest is in the process of replacing a deficient bridge on the Darby/Sula Ranger District's Chaffin Creek. The work began last week, and a road closure in the immediate construction area began on Monday, October 9th. Work is scheduled to take approximately two weeks.

The bridge is located on the Chaffin Creek side of Road #374, approximately two miles from where it intersects with West Fork Highway. For safety reasons, the general public is asked not to access through the site until the road can be safely re-opened. Residents in the area will be able to access through the site for the duration of construction with coordination from the contractor.

The area above the bridge site including Chaffin Creek Trailhead, can be accessed by the other end of Forest Road 374, which intersects with West Fork Highway at Trapper Creek, approximately six miles from the intersection of West Fork Highway and Highway 93.

Signs will be posted alerting drivers to the replacement project as well as detour information.

The new bridge will replace an existing bridge that has been identified as deficient and needs to be upgraded. The new structure will be able to pass flood waters as well as allow passage of aquatic organisms.

For more information, contact the Darby/Sula Ranger District at (406) 821-3913. Stay in touch with us through www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF and www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot.

###

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.