

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmckay@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 4:13 PM
Subject: News Release: Magruder Road closed weekdays through August 29
Attachments: Magruder Road closed weekdays until 8-29-14.docx



NEWS RELEASE

Bitterroot National Forest

www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot

www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheBitterroot

United States
Department of Agriculture
Bitterroot National Forest
1801 N First St
Hamilton, Montana 59840

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tod McKay (406) 363-7122

August 19, 2014

MAGRUDER ROAD CLOSED WEEKDAYS THROUGH AUGUST 29

Hamilton, MT. – The West Fork Ranger District on the Bitterroot National Forest has announced that a section of the Magruder Road Corridor in Idaho will remain closed during weekdays until August 29th. Road crews are working to clear debris from 6 washouts that occurred last week and were triggered by localized, heavy rainfall from thunderstorms.

The washouts are located approximately 7 miles west of Nez Perce Pass - the Montana & Idaho border. This is the same area as last summer's Gold Pan Complex fires in the Frank Church and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

The road is currently closed Monday through Thursday, between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. During these hours, all travel including pedestrian, stock, and motor vehicles is prohibited from Cayuse Creek to the CCC Camp. Barricades have been posted on both sides of the closure and the public is being asked to not attempt to drive through the area. There is heavy equipment working on the road including a backhoe, excavator, dump trucks, road grader, and bulldozers. The closure is for public and road crew safety.

Magruder Road will be open to high-clearance vehicles only (equipped with 4-wheel drive) Friday through Sunday and weekdays after 5:00 p.m.. Forest officials advise that the road is single-lane only and trailers are prohibited.

Crews have made good progress in the last few days clearing away tons of debris that flowed across the road. Once the debris is cleared, they will begin making repairs to the roadbed and improving drainage by installing several temporary culverts. For the latest photos visit www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheBitterroot.

The 101-mile primitive road between Darby and Elk City, Idaho was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. It allows motorists to drive between the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness Areas. The road is rough, steep and winding, with few turnouts for passing oncoming

vehicles. The road winds through vast undeveloped areas offering solitude and pristine beauty, but no services for nearly 120 miles.

For more information contact the West Fork Ranger District at (406) 821-3269. Stay in touch with the Bitterroot National Forest through www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheBitterroot and www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF.

###

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.