

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: Fox, Chris -FS <cfox@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2015 9:37 AM
To: Fox, Chris -FS; Domsalla, Ryan -FS
Subject: Magruder Road Corridor Mudslide Cleared
Attachments: Magruder Road mudslide - update.docx

Magruder Road Corridor Mudslide Cleared

Hamilton, Montana (June 8, 2015) – Due to the efforts of the Forest’s engineers and road crew, the mudslide which occurred last week on the Magruder Road Corridor on the Bitterroot National Forest has been cleared; the road is now passable by passenger cars, and vehicles towing livestock and camping trailers. Please be aware that the road has an elevated potential for slides as conditions change throughout the summer/fall. Please be prepared, and have a contingency plan in mind when using this road system.

The slide, which is located at Scimitar Creek, approximately 7 miles west of Nez Perce Pass at mile marker 26.2, was likely triggered by strong thunderstorms with localized, heavy rains that passed over the area. This is the same location where another debris flow, also triggered by heavy rains, dumped mud, rocks, and trees onto the corridor and took out a large section of the road last summer. To see photos of last week’s slide visit www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheBitterroot

The 101-mile primitive Magruder Road Corridor between Darby (Montana) 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 one-lane 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 100 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.

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