

NEWS RELEASE

Lolo National Forest

United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service Lolo National Forest Building 24, Fort Missoula Missoula, Montana 59804

www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo

For Immediate Release

Contact: Boyd Hartwig 406-329-1024 Date: August 4, 2008

Public Reminded of Rock Creek Road Closures

Missoula, MT. – Missoula Ranger District officials are reminding the public that the Rock Creek Road will be closed twice this month to install a retaining wall and to remove a culvert and install a new bridge.

The first closure will occur at mile post 19.5 from August 11-15 for the retaining wall work. The road will also be closed August 18-22 at mile post 23.8 (Cougar Creek) to remove a culvert and install a new bridge. Theses shortterm closures will not occur on weekends.

Road improvement work has been ongoing on the Rock Creek Road since June 23 to improve the long-term condition of the road and reduce potential sediment flowing into Rock Creek.

The reduced potential sediment delivery will directly benefit fish habitat. In addition, the removal and replacement of the existing undersized culvert near Cougar Creek with a pre-cast concrete bridge will allow for fish movement along a natural stream bed. The bridge will also be sized to pass large flood flows.

An alternate route into the Rock Creek area is through Phillipsburg, then along Highway 348 and west to the old Gillis Bridge. Motorists can then cross the bridge and turn right to access Upper Rock Creek.

Motorists should use caution in the work areas as there will be road construction equipment and hauling along the road for the next several weeks. For current information on road work and potential delays, please contact the Missoula Ranger District at (406) 329-3814.