



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Gypsum Springs Road

Category: Roads and Bridges

BLM
Montana

New Bridge Improves Public Safety and Access

The photo below shows Gypsum Springs Road as it crossed BLM-managed public lands near the Pryor Mountain National Wild Horse Range in south-central Montana, before improvements were made. The route is in Carbon County, Wyoming, near the small town of Warren.



This road washed out at the Crooked Creek crossing before improvements were made.

Like so many dirt roads on western public lands, Gypsum Springs Road tended to wash out during major storms at the low water crossing over Crooked Creek. This impacted public access to popular sites such as the BLM's Pryor Mountain recreation site and the Forest Service's Custer National Forest. The BLM has made it a priority to quickly repair the road after these washouts – but it was expensive and time consuming. Each repair cost about \$1,500; one

or two repairs were needed each year. ARRA funding offered an opportunity to fix the crossing so that it could handle torrential high water events without the need for annual repairs. A new structure also would improve public land access, improve public safety and reduce BLM's liability.

The original proposal was to install a double box culvert at the low water crossing. However, early in the design phase, Montana BLM determined that a bridge could be built for essentially the same cost. Using about \$200,000 in ARRA project funding, BLM hired a local contractor who installed a precast, trideck bridge to replace the low water crossing. The new bridge was completed in April, and is shown below.



A new bridge was installed to handle water from torrential storms.

BLM Contact: Greg Albright, Montana State Office, 406-896-5260

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

