

Gates Park Bridge Update

Recommended Repairs

Ian Bardwell

Trails Manager, Rocky Mountain



The Rocky Mountain Ranger District on the Lewis and Clark National Forest has completed its initial analysis of the Gates Park Bridge project and is recommending that the bridge be repaired. For those unfamiliar with this project; the current bridge, built in 1964 was found by Forest Service Inspections to be deteriorating in parts of its structure.

An analysis has been completed to determine the necessity of the bridge along with a more in depth inspection to determine the exact structural parts in question. The subsequent inspections have helped to pinpoint the problems which have resulted in narrowing the scope of work from what was initially expected. The Lewis and Clark Forest has selected the alternative of repairing the existing structure with the help of the Minimum Required Decision Guide (formerly the Minimum Tool Analysis).

While the Forest is still developing this alternative, the project will include work on the towers, the abutments, and the deadmen anchors. Work has tentatively been proposed to begin in the 2008 or 2009 field seasons.

For more information or questions regarding this project please contact Ian Bardwell at the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, P.O. Box 340 Choteau, MT 59422 or call (406) 466-5341.

This information came from U.S.F.S;

Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex 2007 Newsletter (Volume 17)