

Gates Park Bridge Update; January 3, 2008

The following was a request from Myra Mumma who is the editor of the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula newsletter, The Feedbag.

Myra - We started the repair of the Gates Park Bridge this summer. We worked over the approaches and stabilized the deadman anchors by increasing the overburden. We also did a small reroute on the eastern approach to prevent further erosion over the anchors. We finished this year's work by replacing the worn out running plank. We still have the more technical work left of replacing the sills that are crushing and repairing the concrete abutments.

I'm not sure if you are aware, but starting in early July of this year our trail crews got pushed out of the hills by wildfire and it remained that way for the rest of the season. After it snowed this fall we had approximately 165,000 acres of fire that encompassed 200 miles of trail. Fixing this trail damage has become our priority and continuing the bridge repairs will likely get moved to the back burner for a year.

Thanks for your interest.

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