**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Spirit Lake Intake Gate Replacement and Geotechnical Drilling Project**
**Phase 1 - Forest Road 99 Extension Improvements**

**What is the Spirit Lake Gate Replacement and Geotechnical Drilling Project?**

The Spirit Lake Tunnel Intake Gate Replacement and Geotechnical Drilling Project will replace one single cast iron tunnel inlet flow gate with redundant tunnel inlet flow gates, dredge 1980s spoils piles where logs get hung up and prevent lake draw down, and conduct geotechnical investigations and core sampling within the debris blockage to more accurately determine and predict safe conditions for existing and possible future alternate systems to control water levels in Spirit Lake.

For more background information, please visit: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57259](https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57259).

**What work is being done in 2022?**

In the summer and fall of 2022 improvements will be made to Forest Road 99 Extension/#207. Road improvements are needed to mobilize appropriate equipment, materials and supplies for the Spirit Lake Intake Gate Replacement and Geotechnical Drilling Project. More specifically work will be done to widen corners and replace failing culverts along Forest Road 99 Extension/#207.

**Why is this work being undertaken?**

After 40 years, continued improvements are needed to support operations and maintenance of the Spirit Lake infrastructure.

The Forest Road 99 Extension/#207 Improvement Project work will support the Spirit Lake Intake Gate Replacement and Geotechnical Drilling Project. Additional work associated with the project will occur in future years.

For more background information, please visit: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57259](https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57259).

**When will this work take place and how long will it last?**

Forest Road 99 Extension/#207 work is already underway and is expected to continue throughout the summer and fall of 2022 until weather conditions block access to the project area.

**Where will this work take place?**

Work will start at the Forest Road 99 Extension/#207 at the Windy Ridge Interpretive Site and continue along an approximate two-mile section of the Forest Road 99 Extension/#207 to the researcher parking lot at the junction of Abraham Trail #216D. Work will also take place at the Way Pit near Forest Road 2560.
What can visitors in the area expect to see?
Visitors can expect to see large construction equipment and materials, culvert replacements, and widening of corners. Dust may be seen from various locations on the Monument. Rock hauling will occur on Forest Road 99. Visitors will encounter large vehicles and are advised to use caution when traveling to the area.

Will this work impact public access? If so, then when and for how long?
Forest Road 99 Extension/#207 is an administrative use only road that is closed to public motorized vehicles. Administrative use includes agencies, special-use permittees, search and rescue and tribal groups. During the project permitted access to these groups will be coordinated by forest personnel.

Forest Road 99 Extension/#207 is usually open to the public for hiking and mountain biking and is often used as a connector to the Truman Trail #207 (hiker only) or Abraham Trail #216. However, during this road improvement project work, Forest Road 99 Extension/#207 will be closed on weekdays and open on weekends.

Temporary closures are needed to implement the road work and ensure a safe work environment. Visitors are asked to respect closures and to recreate in other areas of the Monument during the closure periods.

Always check current conditions for forest closure & conditions updates

Will I be able to access the Truman Trail #207 this summer and fall?
The public will have access to the Forest Road 99 Extension/#207 on weekends, but it will be closed to the public weekdays starting every Monday at 6:00 am until Friday at 12 pm. The closure area starts at the gate of Forest Road 99 Extension/#207 at Windy Ridge Interpretive Site at milepost 16.3 and continues along Forest Road 99 Extension/#207 to the junction of the Abraham trail #216D at milepost 17.8. The closure will remain in place until Dec. 31, 2022.

The closure order and map can be found online at