

NEWS RELEASE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION



Gifford Pinchot National Forest

10600 N.E. 51st Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/giffordpinchot>
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/mountstheleus>

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Benham Creek Bridge Dedication Ceremony

VANCOUVER, WA – Over this winter, Western Federal Lands Highway Division contractor Ladd Construction has completed the replacement of the bridge over Benham Creek on the north end of Forest Road 25 at milepost 13.5. A dedication ceremony and ribbon-cutting is planned for June 29 at 1 p.m. at the construction site.

A final inspection is scheduled for June 29 and the contractor will have until July 2 to finish the bridge. Forest Road 25 will open to public travel on July 2, though road conditions and snow may limit through-travel. For conditions information on all Gifford Pinchot National Forest roads and recreation sites, please go to <http://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/giffordpinchot/recreation#cond> or call 360-891-5000.

Please also remember, another closure at the north end of FR 25 is scheduled for Sept. 5-15, 2012 for the replacement of a culvert at Woods Creek.

Additional Information:

- The Benham Creek Bridge was washed out in Dec. 2008
- The crossing opened again in the summer of 2009 with a temporary one-lane structure
- This permanent concrete bridge is a cooperative project between the Forest Service and the Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD)
- Forest Road 25 is one of the most popular routes on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, accessing destinations such as Forest Road 99 and all the attractions on the east side of the volcano, along with Wakepish Sno-Park in the winter
- Forest Road 99 will remain closed due to snow and will open when conditions allow
- Forest Road 25 is expected to open by the Fourth of July
- The Forest Road 26 wash-out will be repaired this year and the road will be open as conditions allow

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