



## Gifford Pinchot National Forest

10600 N.E. 51<sup>st</sup> Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682

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

Contact: Ken Sandusky 360-891-5007

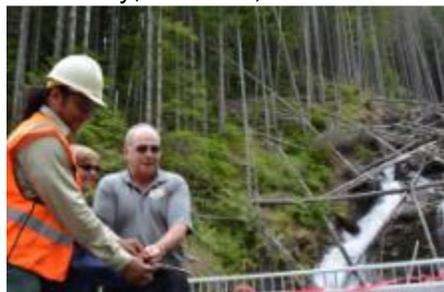
July 3, 2012

### *Benham Creek Bridge and Forest Road 25 Open*

**VANCOUVER, WA** – Forest Road 25 is now open between Cougar and Randle, Wash. Forest Road 99 to Windy Ridge and other east side Mount St. Helens attractions remains closed due to snow.

The replacement of Benham Creek Bridge on the north end of Forest Road 25 was completed on schedule, and crews have pushed through lingering snows along high-elevations stretches of FR 25.

On Friday, June 29, officials from Lewis County, Western Federal



Lewis County Commissioner, Lee Grose; Western Federal Lands Division Engineer, Clara Conner and Cowlitz Valley District Ranger Mose Jones-Yellin cut the ribbon

Lands Highway Division and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest held a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for the new bridge.

“It gives us a venue for the tourist trade we’ve become reliant upon,” said Lewis County Commissioner, Lee Grose regarding Forest Road 25, which provides access to the east side of Mount St. Helens from the north. “Not to mention, I use this road quite often myself to visit family in White Salmon,” Grose added. “It cuts an hour and a half off the trip.”

Western Federal Lands’ Clara Conner said, “It always takes a team effort, especially with what we deal with in the Northwest, and this project is a real microcosm with a lot of history of damage and repair.”



The site is slide-prone, as this picture shows

She said this was an Emergency Relief Program Project designed for easier replacement if it is ever again damaged by landslide.

The abutments are designed to withstand the slide which destroyed the last bridge in 2008. The prefabricated concrete girders are designed to give way without damaging the abutments, allowing the girders and bridge surface to be replaced without rebuilding the entire structure.



Forest Road 99 at Milepost 4



Concrete girders and abutments

###