



*George Washington & Jefferson National Forests*  
**Mount Rogers National Recreation Area**  
**3714 Highway 16**  
**Marion, VA 24354**  
**(276) 783-5196**

*Contact: Jay Martin or Beth Merz, 1-800-628-7202*

---

**Today's Date: September 4, 2012**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---

**REPLACEMENT OF ROARING FORK CULVERT  
AND TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FOREST SERVICE ROAD 220, POOR VALLEY**

A section of the Poor Valley Road (Forest Service Road 220) in Tazewell County will be closed to public traffic for up to 60 days to allow replacement of the damaged culvert at the Roaring Fork crossing. For traffic safety, an approximately 2-mile section of road spanning the culvert site will be closed until the work is completed. Residents and Forest visitors will continue to have access to national forest lands from the intersection with State Route 16 to the Forest boundary west of the culvert, as well as from other Forest system roads in the vicinity.

“This work has been needed due to the changing channel of Roaring Fork, which brings more water through the culvert than it was designed to carry, causing it to overflow the road. The new culvert will be an arched, bottomless structure with more capacity. The approaches to the culvert will be improved as well,” stated Area Ranger Beth Merz.

Signs placed on the road by the Forest Service state that the closure will be in place from September 5 through November 3, 2012. However, if the work is completed earlier, the road will be reopened promptly.

Please contact the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area office for more information.

**-USFS-**

*The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.*