

# Seek Comments About New Big Creek Bridge

Proposed for bid opening and contract award this summer is a new bridge across Big Creek 20 miles north of Columbia Falls along with 1 1/4 miles of road realignment and improvement.

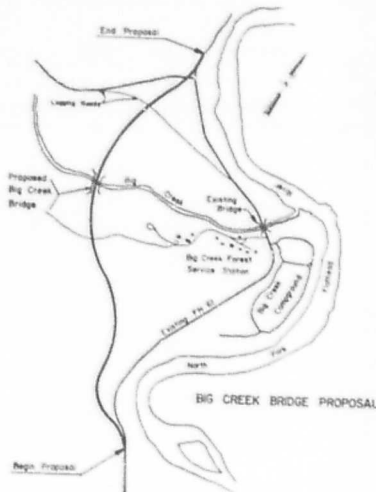
The project would utilize Forest Highway Funds and is a project of the Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and Montana Highway Department.

The present Big Creek bridge is termed unsafe. The Montana Department of Fish and Game has objected to the proposed new site in that it could adversely affect elk-deer winter range, and prefers the present bridge site which Flathead National Forest feels is in a congested campground-work center section.

Jerry L. Budwig, director, Office of Federal Highway Projects, Bldg. 40 Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colo. 80225 has asked "suggestions of prudent alternatives from interested agencies, organizations or individuals. Your opinions and factual information will be appreciated."

Budwig continued: "The (Big Creek bridge) proposal is now in the initial stage of development. Your concerns and inputs and those of other agencies, organizations and individuals will aid in determining how this bridge can best be improved."

Budwig concluded: "When the proposal reaches an appropriate stage of development, a public meeting or public hearing will be held for public input and participation. You may want to contact us about this proposal." This can be done in writing.



## H.H. Dam

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be evaluated as a part of the feasibility study.

He added that the study would be closely coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Montana Department of Fish and Game "to arrive at a plan which will afford beneficial production of power as well as downstream benefits to fish and wildlife."

## Routine Upkeep Of H.H. Units

**HUNGRY HORSE** — Back on the line Friday will be generator No. 2 at the Bureau of Reclamation's Hungry Horse powerplant.

Supt. Richard L. Taylor said that the unit had been down since Feb. 22 for routine bi-annual maintenance under supervision of Nick Schwarz, chief of maintenance. Unit 3 will be down for maintenance March 14 through April 1. Each year two of the four 71,250 kva generators and 105,000 hp turbines go through this maintenance cycle.

Arriving here early next week for electrical testing of Unit 3 will be Tom Goodwin and Howard Thomas from Coulee Dam, Wash., and Burt Milano, Denver.

Hungry Horse started producing electricity Oct. 1, 1952. President Harry S. Truman speaking in Kalispell pulled the switch.

# Slate Timber Review Of Great Bear Area

**KALISPELL** — Great Bear Wilderness Study team will review timber resources in the study area at a meeting starting Thursday 1 p.m. at Flathead National Forest offices in Kalispell.

Richard S. Smith, planner, noted that the Great Bear Wilderness Study Area contains a high proportion of non-forest and non-commercial (unproductive forest, as compared to other non-reserved portions of the Flathead and Lewis & Clark National Forests."

He continued: "The differ-

ence is due to high elevations and the area's fire history. Approximately 75 per cent of the area was burned between 1890 and 1929 with major fires in 1903, 1910 and 1919. Some areas burned twice."

Yield summary of a 19-page study of timber factors shows that during the next 40 years a harvest of about 12 million board feet should be possible in the Great Bear Wilderness Study Area. Another statement is: "After the 40 years, the potential yield should increase until the forest is at an intensive level of management which

will produce about 22 million board feet a year."

The figures are referred to as "strictly potentials."

Potential timber yield from the Lewis and Clark portion of the Great Bear Wilderness Study Area is estimated at just over one million board feet a year, with a realistic future potential "would be similar to the present yield or a half million board feet a year."

## N.F. Fishing

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stream and downstream fish traps.

At least six tributaries and the main stem of the North Fork will contain traps. Objective is to determine the number of upstream migrants in each of the specific areas as well as the total run. Downstream traps, hopefully, will give a good idea of the production of these fish as well as spawning success.

Proposal is being made to the Montana Fish and Game Commission to open Big, Coal, Whale and Trail Creeks to fishing between May 15 and July 4.

Benefits of the study will also include such information as relative importance of each spawning area, and the whole project of fishery management in the Flathead.

## Bear Season

**HELENA** — Montana's black bear season has been set to open on the traditional date, April 1. There's a new approach to closing dates though, according to Joe Egan, assistant administrator for the game division, department of fish and game.

In northwestern Montana, all hunting districts beginning with the digit 1 will close to black bear hunting June 30, then reopen Sept. 1 through Nov. 27. Seasons in hunting districts beginning with digits 2, 3, 4 and 5 will run uninterrupted from April 1 through Nov. 27. Cubs or females with cubs may not be taken.



**WEATHER forecast:** Partly cloudy Thursday night and Friday with widely scattered snow showers Friday afternoon. Predicted high Thursday about 42, low 25, high Friday 40-45.

Precip.

	High	Low	Altjout	AC	HE
March 4	43	21			
March 5	41	27			
March 6	57	25			
March 7	48	40	tr.	.05	
March 8	45	35	.02	.04	.22
March 9	42	34	.03	.03	.26
March 10	42*	30	tr.	.05	.04

\*anticipated

**Meteorologist Ray Hall** at the airport said normal high and low for March 11 is 39-19 with sunrise and sunset 6:58 a.m.-6:36 p.m.

**Hall commented** that temperatures are averaging about 8 1/2 degrees above normal.

**Hungry Horse Reservoir** elevation Thursday morning was 55.32 feet below full mark. A year ago it was 48.70.

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