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U.S. Department of the Interior

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## National Park Service News Release

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### Bighorn Canyon Road and Lake Conditions Update

Fort Smith, MT: Road crews continue to work on both the North District and South District of Bighorn Canyon.

#### Road Conditions

The week of July 8, crews will be milling and paving, crack sealing and repairing guardrail on the North District, near Fort Smith, MT.

Milling and paving will be completed on the upper switchyard road, Afterbay campground road and Afterbay road. There will be single lane closures during daytime hours while work is being conducted. The roadway to be open overnight with traffic delineation through the active worksites due to narrowing of lanes and staged construction equipment.

Crack sealing will be conducted on the Ok-A-Beh and Afterbay roads. Visitors should expect single lane closure along these routes during the day.

Guardrail will be removed and installed along highway 313 and on the Afterbay Road. There will be single lane closures during daytime hours while work is being conducted. The roadway to be open overnight with traffic delineation through the active worksites due to narrowing of lanes and staged construction equipment.

The week of July 15, crews will be on both the North District, near Fort Smith, MT and the South District, near Lovell, WY.

Crews continue to mill and pave along highway 313 in Fort Smith. There will be single lane closures during daytime hours while work is being conducted. The roadway to be open overnight with traffic delineation through the active worksites due to narrowing of lanes and staged construction equipment. Micro surfacing will also be completed on the Lower Ok-A-Beh parking lot. There are partial and full closures planned for this project, with at least half of the boat ramp and Upper Ok-A-Beh parking lot to remain open. scheduled dates for partial closure of the lower Ok-A-Beh parking lot is July 16 and 17. A full closure of the entire parking lot is planned for July 17 from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The lower Ok-A-Beh parking lot will again have a partial closure for pavement marking on July 18 and 19.

On the South District, near Lovell, WY, crews will be crack sealing the Horseshoe Bend Marina Parking lot. There is a partial daytime closure on July 15 with the Horseshoe Bend upper parking lot to remain open. Crews will be micro surfacing the Horseshoe

Bend Marina parking lot and Devil's Canyon parking lot July 18 and 19. During this process there will be partial daytime and night time closures. At Horseshoe Bend the upper parking lot will remain open and at Devil Canyon at least 11 parking spots will be open for public use. After micro surfacing is completed in these areas, crews will complete pavement marking.

The week of July 22, crews will be continuing to complete paving and milling projects, crack sealing, pavement marking and guardrail work. At this time we are expecting full closure of the Horseshoe Bend upper parking lot on July 22 to 24 and Lovell Visitor Center closures July 29 to 31 and again on August 1 and 2. During the visitor center closures, visitor services will be conducted from the Crooked Creek Ranger station near Horseshoe Bend.

Schedules and locations of work are subject to change based on weather. Visitors are encouraged to check park social media accounts for the latest updates.

### **Lake Conditions**

The lake level as of July 8, 2024, is 3637.0. The driftwood continues to be a minimum, but can cause serious damage to boat props and lower units. Black Canyon and Dayboard 9 docks and floating restrooms have been installed. These facilities are open for day use only at this time. The Campgrounds remain closed due to bears. The park is working toward opening those campgrounds, but doesn't have an opening date at this time. The floating restroom at Devil Canyon will remain out for the season for repairs. Floating restrooms are available at Barry's Landing and Dryhead. There is no fuel on the lake.

If you have questions, please call the Bighorn Canyon Visitor Center at 307-548-5406.