



Source: FHWA

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**Project Number:**

MT FLATHEAD 486(1)

**FHWA Contact:**

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**Project Partners:**

Flathead National Forest

US Border Patrol

Flathead County, MT

**Contractor:**

Brice Civil Contractors

Anchorage, AK

**Notice to Proceed:**

January 03, 2023

**Estimated Completion**

**Date:**

July 2024



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**North Fork of the Flathead River  
Blankenship & Belton Stage Road Resurfacing**

**Project Description:**

This project is being administered by the Federal Highway Administration Western Federal Lands Highway Division, in partnership with Flathead National Forest, US Border Patrol and Flathead County. The project will provide an improved travel surface and replacement of existing culverts on sections of Belton Stage Road, Blankenship Road, and the last 5 miles of North Fork Road and Glacier Drive between Polebridge and Polebridge Ranger Station in Glacier National Park.

**Surface Conditions:**



Current road conditions consist of existing aggregate surface course. There are sections of rough, rutted, and ponding road within existing conditions.

**Current and Upcoming Work:**



The contractor has wrapped up production work for the season and is concentrating on punch list items to get the roads ready for winter shutdown. We will ensure the road is back to at least the width and surfacing condition the existing road was prior to starting the work before leaving the area for the year.

On Blankenship Road and Belton Stage Roads construction crews are working on punch list items.

On Glacier Drive near Polebridge, a layer of millings have been placed and compacted. The road was not completed and there will be low areas where water will continue to pond like past seasons with continued rain and snow melt.

On North Fork Road, the contractor continues to shape the road and ditches to drain and plans to demobilize their equipment this week. North Fork Road will most likely pond/become muddy in the same areas as past years during rain/runoff as there were no changes to the profile of the road this season.

FHWA is partnering closely with the contractor and partners to develop a strategy for completing the project in the 2024 season.

**Traffic Delays:**



Partial width closures with a maximum of 30 minute delays should be anticipated traveling within the project limits near Belton and Blankenship Road until winter shutdown. The North Fork Road remains closed until construction winter shutdown. In-holders, authorized agencies, and emergency traffic are advised to comply with traffic control and yield to oncoming traffic.

**Project Website:** [North Fork of the Flathead River | FHWA \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/flathead/)

**Western Federal Lands Highway Division**



**Shaping the road to drain**



**Placing Millings on Glacier Drive**



**Whale Creek Material Source**