

PARK COUNTY HAMMOND CREEK ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT



The Problem

The Hammond Creek Road Bridge over Rock Creek is primarily used by recreationists and two large agriculture operations located on the north side of the existing bridge. The bridge currently is load posted for 15 tons and has severe scour beneath the north abutment, resulting in over one foot of settlement. Due to the scour condition, the bridge is closed during high water events to protect travelers against potential bridge failure, and the bridge is inspected prior to reopening the roadway. Without this bridge, users would be required to use an 11-mile detour, adding approximately 30 minutes to emergency response times.

The Solution

Construct a new concrete tri-deck beam bridge that can carry two lanes of traffic and legal load limits to provide connectivity for residents and agricultural business.

The Cost

Current Project Estimate: \$599,244
Funding Applied For (to date):
• MCEP (ranked #5) \$299,622



The Need

Park County is financially responsible for 55 bridges over 20-ft in length, in addition to a number of bridges less than 20-ft in length. With a minimal tax base and a project estimated over \$500,000, the County is depending on grant funding to assist with this bridge replacement project.

The Importance

The Hammond Creek Road Bridge serves only one full-time resident; however, the large agricultural operations accessed by this bridge make it significant for the economic health of the county. The bridge is also heavily used by recreationists, as it is used to access both State of Montana and Bureau of Land Management property. A new bridge will allow residents to safely perform agricultural operations more efficiently, safely and cost-effectively and will maintain the route for recreational tourism.

Your Support for the MCEP Program and other infrastructure funding is critical for the success of the Hammond Creek Road Bridge over Rock Creek in Park County.





OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

April 29, 2022

MT Department of Commerce – Community Development Division
Montana Coal Endowment Program
PO Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523


To Whom It May Concern:

As Director of the Office of Disaster and Emergency Services at Park County, I am writing to convey support for the proposed Hammond Creek Road Bridge Replacement Project. As a department that relies on sustained operational coordination and prompt responses, we are committed to the successful implementation, management and maintenance of the project deliverables. The project bridge is located in an area leading to multiple trailheads, drainages and parts of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The bridge also serves as access for year-round residents, County personnel, public safety responders, Forest Service personnel and recreationists.

The primary needs for this improvement project are for life safety and property/natural resource conservation. Emergency service access and the ability to safely evacuate residents served by these roads are essential. Additionally, this project is important to property and natural resource conservation. The heavily recreated area consists of heavily timbered national forest as well as homes situated in the wildland urban interface. Safe, reliable access for fire resources is required to effectively engage wildfires in this high risk area. The current load limits of the Hammond Road Bridge over Rock Creek hinders our ability to safely deploy fire resources when fire is on the ground.

It is clear that this project meets the goals and objectives set forth by the Department of Commerce and will address public safety concerns and the need for emergency service access. Please feel free to contact my office at 406-222-4190 if I can provide any additional information.

Yours truly,


Greg Coleman
Director



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF PARK COUNTY, MONTANA

WITH COURAGE, HONOR AND INTEGRITY, WE PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS

SHERIFF BRAD BICHLER

CLAY HERBST - UNDERSHERIFF

JEFF MOUNT - CHAPLAIN

April 29, 2022

MT Department of Commerce – Community Development Division
Montana Coal Endowment Program
PO Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523

Dear MCEP Managers:

On behalf of the Park County Sheriff's Office, I am writing in support of Park County's request for Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP) funds to replace the Rock Creek Bridge on Hammond Creek Road near Clyde Park. As a department that relies on sustained operational coordination and prompt responses, we are committed to the successful implementation, management and maintenance of the project deliverables. The project bridge is located in an area leading to multiple trailheads, drainages and parts of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The bridge also serves as access for year-round residents, County personnel, public safety responders, Forest Service personnel and recreationists.

Safe, reliable access for property owners is essential to our rural and wildland interface communities. The current condition of the bridge proposed for replacement limits our ability to safely deploy public safety and emergency services, especially in high water situations. The deficiencies of the bridge, specifically concerns related to structural integrity, load limits and flow restriction, combine to create a significant impact to public safety. The current bridge is prone to blockage and flooding during high water, further undermining the structural integrity and closing the road to travel. The load limit also restricts firefighting and public safety equipment, hindering safe and effective responses.

I hope you will consider the wide ranging benefits and immediate local need for this project and ask that you favorably consider Park County's request.

Sincerely,

Brad Bichler
Park County Sheriff

PARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
41 4 E CALLENDER ST
P.O. BOX 443
LIVINGSTON, MT 59047

BUSINESS/CIVIL (406) 222-4172
NON-EMERGENCY (406) 222-2050
FAX (406) 222-4175

May 5, 2022

MT Department of Commerce -- Community Development Division
Montana Coal Endowment Program
PO Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523

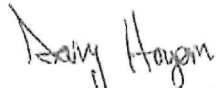
To Whom It May Concern:

As the Wilsall Rural Fire District #3 Chief, I am writing to convey support for the proposed Hammond Creek Road Bridge Replacement Project. As a department that relies on sustained operational coordination and prompt responses, we are committed to the successful implementation, management and maintenance of the project deliverables. The project bridge is located in an area leading to multiple trailheads, drainages and parts of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The bridge also serves as access for year-round residents, County personnel, public safety responders, Forest Service personnel and recreationists.

The primary needs for this improvement project are for life safety and property/natural resource conservation. Emergency service access and the ability to safely evacuate residents served by these roads are essential. Additionally, this project is important to property and natural resource conservation. The heavily recreated area consists of heavily timbered national forest as well as homes situated in the wildland urban interface. Safe, reliable access for fire resources is required to effectively engage wildfires in this high risk area. The current load limits of the Hammond Road Bridge over Rock Creek hinders our ability to safely deploy fire resources when fire is on the ground.

It is clear that this project meets the goals and objectives set forth by the Department of Commerce and will address public safety concerns and the need for emergency service access. Please feel free to contact my office at 406-578-2095 if I can provide any additional information.

Yours truly,



Gary Hoyem, Chief
Wilsall Rural Fire District #3

May 10, 2022

MT Department of Commerce
Montana Coal Endowment Program
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523

Re: Hammond Creek Road Bridge Replacement Project

On behalf of Clyde Park City Fire & EMS, I am writing to convey support for the proposed Hammond Creek Road Bridge Replacement Project. As a department that relies on sustained operational coordination and prompt responses, we are committed to the successful implementation, management and maintenance of the project deliverables. The project bridge is located in an area leading to multiple trailheads, drainages and parts of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The bridge also serves as access for year-round residents, County personnel, public safety responders, Forest Service personnel and recreationists.

The primary needs for this improvement project are for life safety and property/natural resource conservation. Emergency service access and the ability to safely evacuate residents served by these roads are essential. Additionally, this project is important to property and natural resource conservation. The heavily recreated area consists of heavily timbered national forest as well as homes situated in the wildland urban interface. Safe, reliable access for fire resources is required to effectively engage wildfires in this high risk area. The current load limits of the Hammond Road Bridge over Rock Creek hinders our ability to safely deploy fire resources when fire is on the ground.

It is clear that this project meets the goals and objectives set forth by the Department of Commerce and will address public safety concerns and the need for emergency service access.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Buniger", written in a cursive style.

Will Buniger, Chief
Clyde Park City Fire & EMS



File Code: 1560
Date: May 10, 2022

MT Department of Commerce
Treasure State Endowment Program
301 South Park Avenue
PO Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620

To Whom It May Concern:

As District Ranger of the Yellowstone Ranger District for Custer Gallatin National Forest, I am writing to convey support of the Rock Creek bridge replacement project application submitted by Park County. I understand the scope of this project will address findings from Preliminary Engineering Reports which detail the current lack of safety elements associated with the bridge and extent of scour beneath the abutments.

Consistently ranked as one of the top ten most popular destinations in the State of Montana, Park County is experiencing steady community growth and economic prosperity with an influx of residential and commercial development and a desire to continue to attract the significant numbers of tourists that pass through the region each year. At the forefront of regional and statewide attractiveness, outdoor recreation opportunities are becoming increasingly sought after. In order to sustainably manage inevitable growth and maintain the health and quality of our communities and our natural environment, it is critical that we engage in forethought and planning for our infrastructure, communities and transportation systems. The project area caters to many types of outdoor enthusiasts and provides access to some of the best public lands and recreation areas in the region. The proposed bridge replacement project will allow members of our community and the many visitors to our area to safely reach recreational destinations in the area.

It is encouraging to see Park County pursue a project that will improve connectivity to the wide array of recreational areas and I hope you will consider this proposal favorably. Please feel free to contact my office at 406-222-1892 if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

ALEX SIENKIEWICZ
District Ranger





May 5, 2022

MT Department of Commerce – Community Development Division
Montana Coal Endowment Program
PO Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523

To Whom It May Concern:

As a landowner representative, with property accessed by Hammond Creek Road, I am writing in support of Park County's request for funding related to the proposed Hammond Creek Bridge over Rock Creek Replacement project. I am well aware of the varying and unsafe conditions associated with the Rock Creek bridge which are often exasperated during seasonal weather conditions that frequent the area.

Park County received notice from the Montana Department of Transportation in September 2020 that a bridge on Hammond Creek Road over Rock Creek was determined to be scour critical. Both bridge abutments have experienced settlement due to scour below the bridge spread footing; the northern abutment has significantly worse settlement and half the girders have been shimmed to compensate and maintain roadway elevation. This settlement has caused multiple large cracks to form within the north abutment wall. Both the concrete abutments and wingwalls are deteriorated beyond repair. In addition, the northern abutment has settled over a foot, with multiple girders being shimmed.

I understand that the alternatives analysis found that bridge replacement at the existing bridge location provides the most technically feasible and most cost-effective long term solution to address threats to health and safety. Replacement will also minimize temporary impacts to the environment eliminate known deficiencies with the existing bridge.

I feel it is important that you consider the wide ranging benefits and immediate local need for this project and ask that you approve Park County's grant request. Please contact me should you have any questions at mducuennois@lonemountainland.com.

Sincerely,

Mike DuCuennois *Vice President*
Project Area Landowner Representative
Crazy Mountain Ranch

P.O. Box 37 ~ 52 Hammond Creek Road ~ Clyde Park, Montana 59018

May 8, 2022

MT Department of Commerce – Community Development Division
Montana Coal Endowment Program
PO Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523

To Whom It May Concern:

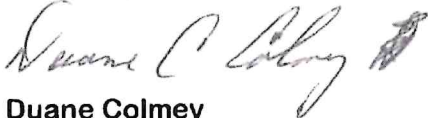
As a Park County landowner, with property accessed by Hammond Creek Road, I am writing in support of Park County's request for funding related to the proposed Hammond Creek Bridge over Rock Creek Replacement project. I am well aware of the varying and unsafe conditions associated with the Rock Creek bridge which are often exasperated during seasonal weather conditions that frequent the area.

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I feel it is important that you consider the wide ranging benefits and immediate local need for this project and ask that you approve Park County's grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Duane Colmey", followed by a small, dark, stylized mark or flourish.

Duane Colmey
Area Landowner

May 8, 2022

MT Department of Commerce – Community Development Division
Montana Coal Endowment Program
PO Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523

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I feel it is important that you consider the wide ranging benefits and immediate local need for this project and ask that you approve Park County's grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brooks Watson".

Brooks Watson
Area Landowner

May 9, 2022

Montana Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620

To Whom It May Concern:

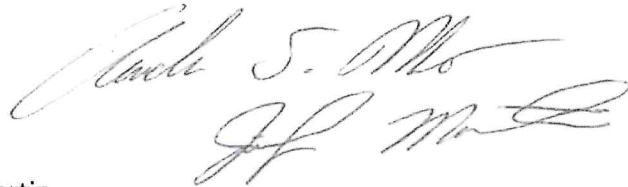
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We feel it is important that you consider the wide ranging benefits and immediate local need for this project and ask that you approve Park County's grant request.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Andrew and Jennifer Martin in cursive script.

Andrew & Jennifer Martin
Project Area Landowners

May 8, 2022

Montana Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620

To Whom It May Concern:


As Park County landowners, with property accessed by Hammond Creek Road, we are writing in support of Park County's request for funding related to the proposed Hammond Creek Bridge over Rock Creek Replacement project. We are well aware of the varying and unsafe conditions associated with the Rock Creek bridge which are often exasperated during seasonal weather conditions that frequent the area.

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Sincerely,


Bob Fry & Tami Keefer
Project Area Landowners

