

News Release



U.S. Forest Service
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For Immediate Release

Update on the replacement of Stubblefield Lake Bridge

In August 2017, hurricane flooding on the West Fork of the San Jacinto River damaged Stubblefield Lake Road Bridge and its pedestrian walkways. Flood waters caused loss of asphalt, eroded embankments and parking areas. The northwest corner of the bridge was undermined creating a large hole. The pedestrian bridges have extensive damage. The southern bridge piers have been undermined, causing it to lean away from the main road bridge. The resulting bridge closure creates longer drives to national forest recreation areas and longer commutes for some neighboring residents. It also eliminates a popular fishing site and a river crossing for the Lone Star Hiking Trail. Engineering studies recommended the replacement of the damaged bridge and pedestrian walkways.

A bill to provide supplemental funding for necessary hurricane expenses was passed by Congress. In support of the US Forest Service, Central Federal Lands Highway Division, Federal Highway Administration is overseeing the design and construction. At the end of August, US Forest Service met with Walker County Precinct #4's Commissioner Jimmy Henry and Brandon Decker to discuss preliminary drawings and the updated project time line. The new bridge design will be 55' longer, about 2 feet higher, and have safe walkways on both sides for anglers and other recreationists. The existing boat launch and nearby parking will be modified slightly by the new longer bridge. The bridge construction is scheduled to start in May 2020 and to finish in November 2020. Those companies interested in bidding should see the project advertised in January or February 2020.

For more information on this project, please contact Acting District Ranger, Jeff Stoney, Sam Houston National Forest, at 936-344-6205.

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