



United States Department of Interior
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BLM IMPROVES CALYPSO TRAIL ACCESS

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BLM MCFO Public Affairs

TERRY – Work crews from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Miles City Field Office have completed improvements to a portion of the Calypso Trail, a seven and a half mile dirt road that heads north from the old Milwaukee railroad grade west of Terry and north of the Yellowstone River.

BLM crews placed an 18-inch culvert at the road entrance and a 16-foot cattle guard further down the road, eliminating the need for a gate. A 78-inch diameter polymer-coated corrugated steel culvert was also installed to divert runoff. Rock-filled wire enclosures, called gabions, were positioned for headcut stabilization and to protect the inlet of the culvert.

The road has been re-routed to bypass a hazardously eroding headcut and now crosses over BLM ground directly from the old east-west running railroad grade.

BLM Civil Engineer Wendy Warren said the culvert was designed to withstand a 50-year flood event and although the road is still relatively rugged, the improvements were made primarily with safety in mind.

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“There was a section that was very hazardous, if you weren’t aware of it,” said Warren. She went on to describe a severe washout with a 30-foot drop that was bypassed by the road’s re-routing.

According to on-site BLM Engineering Equipment Operator Lloyd Butcher, the equipment and material costs for this improvement project represent approximately \$24,000.

The two-track route follows the Calypso Trail which historically served as a cattle trail and later as a freight route for railroad construction. Motorists are advised that the road, even with the new improvements, is still primitive and persons should consider weather concerns and terrain hazards prior to using it.

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