

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **County Begins Work on South Park Loop Bridges, Road Closure near Melody Ranch, August 15-mid December**

Jackson, WY – August 3, 2011. On August 15<sup>th</sup> Teton County will begin construction work to replace the existing South Park Loop Road Bridge over Flat Creek near Melody Ranch. This project will require closure of the South Park Loop Road in the vicinity of Melody Ranch for the entire 4-month construction period. Concurrent with the road bridge project, the County will also begin construction of a new pathway bridge over Flat Creek adjacent to South Park Loop Road. The bridges will be operational and South Park Loop Road will re-open by mid-December.

For residences and business west of Flat Creek, traffic will be rerouted around the west side of South Park (from High School Road or via the north end of South Park Loop Road). Residences and businesses east of Flat Creek will be accessed from Highway 89 and the south entrance of South Park Loop Road. Non-motorized traffic will be detoured through Melody Ranch using the Teton County pathways system. Lower Valley Energy does not anticipate interruption of electric service during the construction period.

Due to a variety of factors, including environmental considerations for spawning trout in Flat Creek and the valley's short construction season, this four-month period is the most favorable time for construction. Sean O'Malley, Teton County Engineer asks for the public's patience and understanding: "We recognize this road closure will be a significant inconvenience for local residents and we will make every effort to minimize the disruption - but the roadway bridge can no longer be economically maintained in a safe condition and must be replaced." Brian Schilling, Teton County Pathways Coordinator remarked, "The addition of this long-anticipated pathway bridge will greatly benefit the community's pathways users by completing a missing link in the County's pathway system and fixing a safety hazard that currently forces users onto the busy roadway near Melody Ranch."

To keep the public informed on project progress, regular updates will be posted on the county website at [www.tetonwyo.org](http://www.tetonwyo.org) over the next few months.