# New Weight Restriction

## Fish Creek Bridge (#5850)




The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) recently issued a new load posting for the **Fish Creek Bridge** about 29 miles north of Big Timber on US Highway 191 (US 191) in Wheatland County. The posting is part of a multi-year effort to update load ratings and postings on Montana bridges as mandated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The posting on US 191 applies to specialized hauling vehicles (SHVs) and limits the maximum gross vehicle weight of single-unit vehicles with 5-7 axles to 27 tons. The location of the Fish Creek Bridge is pictured to the right.



MDT recently repaired this bridge to reduce the impact of the posted weight restriction, which now only applies to SHVs. Crews can be seen in the image below working on the bridge.



The FHWA mandate is in response to changes in the trucking industry over the last decade. Truck manufacturers are building SHVs capable of legally carrying heavier loads than typical vehicles have in the past. SHVs are single-unit, short-wheelbase, multiple-axle trucks commonly used in construction, waste management, bulk cargo, and commodities hauling industries.

Because SHVs are built to concentrate heavy loads over a short length, they have been found to stress bridges more than standard commercial vehicles. To account for their increasing presence and ensure safe operation, FHWA has determined that all states must include these new, short, heavy vehicles when evaluating the safe limits of bridge capacity.

More information on Montana's bridge weight limit signs can be found in MDT's load posting brochure, located here: http://bit.ly/mtbridgebrochure.

Questions? Comments?
Contact Us:
1-888-824-8445
mdtbridgeloadposting@mt.gov

MONTANA
Department of Transportation

Learn more about Montana's Bridge Load Posting Program:
http://bit.ly/bridgeload

To comply with the mandate, MDT is currently updating load ratings for 4,500 public bridges across the state, including approximately 2,500 owned and maintained by MDT. This effort is expected to take about two more years to complete.

Bridge weight restrictions are required when the engineering analysis of a bridge, known as a load rating, indicates that it cannot carry standard, legal loads. Load ratings provide information about how much distributed weight can safely pass over a bridge. Load posting signs show maximum weight limits for different vehicle types, depending on their axle configuration. A posted bridge is safe to use, but the weight of certain vehicles must be limited accordingly.

Questions? Comments?
Contact Us:
1-888-824-8445
mdtbridgeloadposting@mt.gov

MONTANA
Department of Transportation

Learn more about Montana's
Bridge Load Posting Program:
http://bit.ly/bridgeload