

County Gives Update on Dobson Pass

Posted: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 9:36 am

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According to a press release issued on Monday, the Shoshone County Commissioners announced the continued closure of the Dobson Pass Road. The roadway failed near milepost 8.3 on April 1, 2012 and is currently active and more movement is expected. The safety of the traveling public, and our crews, is our highest priority and we will not compromise on safety.

The County Commissioners signed a Disaster Declaration on April 1, 2012 and requested assistance from the state of Idaho. The Commissioners working with the Public Works Department, Office of Emergency Management, Sheriff's Department, Idaho Bureau of Homelands Security, Idaho Department of Transportation, U.S. Forest Service and a private engineering company have been investigating the magnitude of the failure. This effort has been difficult due to the snow and frozen ground on and below the failure. The group is also researching possible funding options for the temporary and permanent repair work.

At this time, our focus is on monitoring the site and being prepared with a short and long term plan once the conditions are safe to work. In addition to monitoring the site, the County has taken actions to reduce the waters entering the roadway failure area. The initial plan, based on today's knowledge, is to begin work immediately once the site conditions are stable and safe for construction. Public Works is investigating the feasibility of constructing a safe one lane temporary road.

The Commissioners understand the impacts to the residents of the Prichard and Murray area, to the School District 393, and to the local businesses affected by this disaster. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we move forward through the many stages of this type of project. At this time, there appears to be no financial aid available for the construction of the project from either the federal agencies or state of Idaho. Unfortunately, we are not able to estimate the cost to repair the site until the site is stable enough to safely complete a thorough investigation. The public will be kept informed with additional news release as conditions change.