



NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
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DATE: Aug. 21, 2007

CONTACT: **Crawford, La Crosse and Vernon counties:** Carrie Olson (608) 785-9472) or Dave Pericak (608) 785-9108

Richland and Sauk counties: Jeff Schure (608-275-3228) or Pam Biersach (608-275-3282)

SUBJECT: ***Contact DNR for help in culvert/bridge related repairs to reach your land***

MADISON – People who need to re-install culverts and bridges to reach homes, farms, and businesses cut off by washed out roads and floodwaters are encouraged to call the Department of Natural Resources for immediate advice on culvert sizing and other issues that will assure the work is done properly to avoid washing out and more flooding problems.

Taking just a few minutes to make sure the work is done right will also protect lakes and streams and make it easier, once things have settled down, for the property owner to seek the appropriate state permits for the work, says Mary Ellen Vollbrecht, who leads DNR's habitat protection program.

“If you have to replace a culvert or bridge across a stream to get to your property, you want to build something that will work and will not wash out again or cause flooding on your property,” she says.

People who are trying to get access to their properties may be grabbing anything they can get their hands on to replace a culvert, but if it's the wrong size it will further flood their property or wash out again, Vollbrecht says.

“If you're replacing a culvert that was more than 24 inches in diameter – or replacing a bridge, call a water management specialist in your county to get advice on the size of culvert needed or how to build bridges or culverts that work for the long-term and meet all standards to protect the environment. Remove the damaged parts and prepare the site but contact us before installing a culvert more than 24 inches or any bridge. Helping people get access to homes, farms and businesses in flooded counties is the top priority of our staff and we'll get back to people within 48 hours or sooner based on their access needs.”

For questions concerning properties in Crawford, La Crosse and Vernon counties call:

- Carrie Olson (608) 785-9472 or Dave Pericak (608) 785-9108. Public works departments should contact Nick Schaff [715-839-1609 (desk) 715-492-0327 (cell)]. If Nick is not available, the back-up contact is Cameron Bump [715-839-2786 (desk) or 608-516-0522 (cell)].

For questions concerning properties in Sauk and Richland counties call:

Jeff Schure (608) 275-3228 or Pam Biersach (608) 275-3282. Public works departments should contact Russ Anderson. If Russ is not available, the back-up contact is Cameron Bump [715-839-2786 (desk) or 608-516-0522 (cell)].