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# deschutes NATIONAL FOREST

## Winter Trail Access and Condition Update March 5<sup>th</sup> – March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

### Winter Trail Highlights

- Recent storm systems have brought significant fresh snow to Central Oregon and all Sno-Parks on the Forest have adequate snow for winter recreation. General conditions can be described as deep powder with wind scouring in some open areas. More snow is in the forecast and then warming next weekend, so conditions are likely to change daily.
- Expect heavy crowds at all developed recreation sites on holidays and weekends. DO NOT PARK in an illegal or unsafe location.
- All summer trails have at least some snow. See inside for more details.
- Many area roads are closed through April 1<sup>st</sup> including the Tumalo Winter Range and those that serve as winter trails. Use a map or smart phone app to make sure you know where you are.
- All of the temporary signs in the Dutchman-Moon Mountain area have been installed. However, many closure boundaries are unmarked. It is the visitor's responsibility to know where they are.
- Sno-Park permits are now required in designated Sno-Parks. Funds from permit sales are used by ODOT to plow and remove snow from Sno-Park parking areas.
- Through April 30<sup>th</sup>, dogs are prohibited on the north side of Cascade Lakes Highway, including Meissner, Swampy, Vista and Dutchman Sno-Parks.



Recent photo of a volunteer with Central Oregon Nordic Club (CONC) working on a trail out of Swampy Lakes. Individual and club volunteers contribute a tremendous amount of labor to our local trails.



Ray Benson SnoPark on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Recent storms have replenished local SnoParks, creating good snow conditions.



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## SnoPark Conditions Table Coding:

Special area restrictions or notations relating to the table below are as follows:

- 1 = Area/trails closed to dogs except working dogs in harness on groomed snowmobile trails and only with a permit**
- 2 = Area open to dogs**
- 3 = Area/trails closed to motorized use**
- 4 = Vehicles with trailers limited to 40' overall length**
- 5 = High to extreme use with special area/trail restrictions, see sno-park information board, trail maps and area signing for full details. Very limited parking, try to avoid on weekends and holidays.**

## Deschutes National Forest SnoPark Trail Conditions

**Last Updated: March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**General snow conditions: Fresh powder with good coverage. Some wind scouring in open areas, especially on ridges.**

**\*\*Conditions subject to change without notice and at whim of nature.\*\***

SNO-PARK NAME Designated trails or activities with numerical notations explained above	LOCATION Hwy or Road and milepost	PARK ELEV.	APPROX. SNOW DEPTH TOTAL	SNOW CONDITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS
<b>Meissner</b> 1,3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 14	5,350'	30-42"	Good conditions. Area roads closed through April 1 <sup>st</sup> . No dogs.
<b>Wanoga Snow Play</b> 2,3,5 Sledding Groomed ski/dog trails Groomed Fatbike	HWY 46, MP 15	5,400'	42-60"	Good conditions. Expect heavy use all the time. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31. Pack home broken sleds and all trash.
<b>Wanoga Snowmobile 2</b> Snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 15	5,500'	42-60"	Good conditions. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31.
<b>Swampy</b> 1,3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 16	5,800'	48-66"	Good conditions. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31. No dogs.
<b>Vista Butte</b> 1,3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 18	5,950'	48-66"	Good conditions. Area north of parking area closed to snowmobiles, use Kapka or Wanoga.



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<b>Dutchman</b> 1 4 5 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 22	6,250'	60-90"	Good conditions. Limited parking/no overnight camping. 40' max length limit for vehicle/trailer combination. Expect heavy use all the time!
<b>Kapka Butte</b> 2 Snowmobiling/ski/shoe	¼ mi. south of Hwy 46, on Road 45	5,900'	54-66"	Good conditions. Area side roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31.
<b>Edison</b> 2 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	4 mi. south of Hwy 46 on Road 45	5,000'	42-54"	Good conditions. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31.
<b>Skyliner</b> 2 Ski/snowshoe	Skyliner Rd MP 9	4,700'	UNK	Gate/road to Tumalo Falls is closed for the season. Road is ski/snowshoe trail.
<b>Six Mile</b> 2 Snowmobiling	Road 21, MP 6 East of Hwy 97	4,400'	6-12"	Fair conditions due to low snow.
<b>Ten Mile</b> 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 21, MP 10 East of Hwy 97	5,560'	30-60"	Good conditions. Road 21 beyond Ten Mile closed to vehicles for winter season.
<b>Lower Three Creek</b> 2 Snowmobile/Ski	Road 16, MP 8	4,400'	6-12"	Fair conditions due to low snow. SnoPark not currently plowed due to low use and lack of funding.
<b>Upper Three Creek</b> 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 16, MP 11	5,250'	24-36"	Good conditions. Road 16 may not be immediately plowed after a storm.
<b>Hwy 242 (Mckenzie Pass)</b> 2 Snomo/ski/shoe	Hwy 242, MP 7 from Sisters	3,800'	UNK	Hwy closed to summer access. Parking area may not be plowed.
<b>Crescent Junction</b> 2 Snowmobiling	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 1/2	4,750'	24-48"	Good conditions.
<b>Crescent Lake</b> 2 Snowmobiling/BC (no ski/snowshoe trails)	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 2	4,700'	24-48"	Good conditions.
<b>Walt Haring</b> 2 Snowmobile/ski trails	Hwy 97, Between MP 202 and 203, north of Chemult, off FR 9772	4,800'	24-36"	Good conditions.



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## For more information on winter trail grooming and maintenance, go to:

- **Meissner Nordic Club** - Ski trail grooming at Meissner – <http://www.meissnernordic.org/>
- **Central Oregon Nordic Club** - Ski/snowshoe trail maintenance on most area blue diamond trails - <http://conordicclub.org/new/>
- **DogPac** - Grooming/maintenance on ski trails open to dogs out of Wanoga Snow Play Sno-Park - <http://dogpac.org/>
- **Moon Country Snowbusters and Sisters Sno-Go-Fers Snowmobile Clubs** - Wanoga to Sisters area trail grooming – <https://mcsnowbusters.wixsite.com/website>
- **La Pine Lodgepole Dodgers Snowmobile Club** – Newberry National Volcanic Monument area trails - <http://www.lapinedodgerssnow.org/default.aspx>
- **Walker Rim Riders Snowmobile Club** - Crescent area - <http://www.walkerrimriders.com/page125235.aspx>
- **Mt. Jefferson Snowmobile Club** - Santiam Pass area - <http://www.mtjefferson.org/>

## WINTER MAP DOWNLOADS ON iPhone, ANDROID OR TABLET:

Using GPS, the Avenza Maps app works on your iPhone, Android or tablet to show your location on a map you have downloaded. You will need the Avenza Maps app on your device, which is free to download. Once the app is installed on your phone, go to...

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/deschutes/maps-pubs/?cid=STELPRDB5408820>

...to download PDF winter maps directly.

## Deschutes National Forest Summer Trail Conditions

**Last Updated: March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**\*\*ALL SUMMER TRAILS ARE UNDER SNOW/INACCESSIBLE, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED BELOW\*\***

### **Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District**

#### ❖ **Phil's Area Trails** – Snow.

The following temporary trail and road closures are in effect to protect the public's safety as thinning and fuel reduction work continues:

- Voodoo Trail will be closed from the northern junction with Ben's south to the junction with Phil's Trail.



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- Ben's Trail will be closed from the junction with Forest Road (FR) 4610 to the junction with FR 4601-300 and Pine Drops/Whoops.
- Storm King will REOPEN between Phil's Trail and FR 4615. The trail will remain CLOSED between FR 4615 south to the junction with COD.

Trail and road closures will be in place on Mondays starting at 12am through Fridays until 3pm. The closures are NOT in place on weekends and federal holidays.

E-Bikes are not allowed on any non-motorized trails.

- ❖ **Deschutes River Trail** – Snow. Please do not use muddy trails, which damages the tread and trail corridor.
- ❖ **Sunriver, 41 Road, and Welcome Station Area** – Snow.  
The following temporary trail and road closures are in effect to protect public safety as thinning and fuel reduction work continues:
  - Tyler's Traverse and FR 300 (Tyler's Uphill) will be closed between FR 41 and east to the junction with FR 4130.
  - Tyler's Traverse will be closed between the junction with Larsen Trail south to the junction with Forest Service Road 4133.
  - Duodenum will be closed from its junction with Royal Flush to its junction with Tyler's.Trail and road closures will be in place seven days a week.
- ❖ **SunLava Paved Path, Lava Lands Area** – Snow. Pine needles may exist on surface. Heavy use on weekends.  
The following temporary trail and road closures are in effect to protect the public's safety as thinning and fuel reduction work continues:
  - Blackrock Trail will be closed in entirety.
  - Old Mill Hiker Trail will be closed in entirety.
  - Sun-Lava Paved Path will be closed between the junction with FR 9702 and Lava Lands Visitor Center.Trail closures will be in place on Mondays starting at 12am through Fridays until 3pm.
- ❖ **Lava Lands Trails** – Snow. Visitor Center is closed for the season. Trails and trailhead parking remain open.
- ❖ **Tumalo Creek 2 Trail** – Snow. Possible downfall. Hiker only.
- ❖ **Fall River Trail** – Snow.
- ❖ **Horse Butte to Swamp Wells area trails** – Snow.
- ❖ **Peter Skene Ogden Trail** – Snow.
- ❖ **Lava Cast Forest Trailhead** – Snow.
- ❖ **Hoffman Island Trailhead** – Snow.



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## Sisters Ranger District:

- ❖ **Metolius River Trails** – Snow to patchy snow.
- ❖ **Suttle Lake Trail** – Snow.
- ❖ **Lake Creek Trail** – Snow.
- ❖ **Whychus Creek** – Snow. **Please, stay on the main designated trail and avoid using posted and closed social trails in restoration sections.**
- ❖ **Whychus Overlook Trail** (barrier free, closed to stock and bikes) – Snow. Please stay on designated trails. Enjoy the newly constructed vault toilet!
- ❖ **Peterson Ridge Trails** – Unknown. Likely snow free on lower portions.

## MARCH SPECIAL TRAIL EVENTS:

Bachelor Butte Dog Derby – March 3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> – Sled dog race around Wanoga, Kapka snowmobile trails

## SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES/OPENINGS:

Hwy 46	CLOSED at West Village.
FR 370	CLOSED for the winter season.
Tumalo Falls Road (FR 4603)	CLOSED for the winter season.
FR 21	CLOSED (at Ten Mile SnoPark) for the winter season.
Hwy 242	CLOSED for the winter season.
FR 16	CLOSED at Upper Three Creeks SnoPark.
FR 60	CLOSED for the winter season.

## “LEAVE NO TRACE” REMINDER:

PLEASE, PRACTICE THE SEVEN LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPALS:

**Plan Ahead and Prepare**

**Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**

**Dispose of Waste Properly**

**Leave What You Find**



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**Minimize Campfire Impacts**

**Respect Wildlife**

**Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

For details on the 7 LNT Principals: <http://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>

## **TEN ESSENTIAL SYSTEMS – WHAT TO ALWAYS PACK INTO THE BACKCOUNTRY:**

For details on the “Ten Essential Systems”, go to:

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/ten-essentials.html>

## **WILDERNESS PERMITS:**

Beginning in 2021, Wilderness permits are now seasonally required at 19 trailheads for day use and all trailheads for overnight use in the Mt Jefferson, Mt Washington and Three Sisters Wildernesses. The permit system will resume on **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

**How do I learn more about the permit program?**

[Willamette National Forest - Home \(usda.gov\)](http://www.usda.gov/willamette-national-forest)

**How do I get a permit once they are available?**

[Recreation.gov - Camping, Cabins, RVs, Permits, Passes & More](http://www.recreation.gov)

Then put “Central Cascades Wilderness” in the search and all options will show. Reservations can also be made over the phone.

**For further information on Deschutes National Forest winter or summer trails, please call:**

Deschutes National Forest Headquarters: (541) 383-5300

Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District: (541) 383-4000

Sisters Ranger District: (541) 549-7700

Crescent Ranger District: (541) 433-3200

Find this weekly trail access and condition report on the Deschutes National Forest website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/deschutes/home/?cid=stelprdb5347630>