



Clackamas River Corridor Spring Updates

Fire Recovery Road Updates

There are multiple hazard tree and road repair contracts currently active on the district. Work including cutting and removing fire-killed hazard trees, replacing damaged drain and stream culverts, and repairing pavement is ongoing this year and into 2025. All of these contracts are with companies based within a couple hours of the Forest.

Contracts for Forest Roads (FR) 57, 5710, and 4630 have a completion deadline of Dec. 31, 2024. Solid progress is being made and we're hopeful these roads will open earlier, but several variables can impact those dates. While the mild winter allowed hazard tree work on FR 57 to start much earlier than expected, culvert and road repair work can't start until the ground dries out in late spring or early summer. (If it's too early to plant tomatoes, it's too early for heavy equipment to start digging up old culverts.) Later in the season, contractors can potentially be pulled away to help fight wildfires in the region as heavy equipment operators or other nearby projects that require moving that piece of equipment.

The contract for hazard tree and roads work on FR 54 will be advertised this spring.

The good news is that most roads are already open. [View the map of remaining road closures here.](#)



Brush and small diameter hazard trees cut along Forest Road 57.

Summer Recreation

District staff have been busy all winter making progress on the extensive work to help rebuild

Rainbow Campground Redesign

Mt. Hood National Forest, the [National Forest Foundation](#), and a local contractor are

recreation sites.

At the end of May, we will be reopening Shellrock, Raab, Kingfisher, and Hideaway Campgrounds. They will be first-come, first-served in 2024.

Contractors will also begin repair work at Ripplebrook, Riverside, Riverford, and Armstrong Campgrounds this summer, although they will not open this year.

Looking to resupply or pick up a snack? Ripplebrook Store will also reopen by Memorial Day. The old camp store suffered a lot of damage in 2020, but underwent renovations in 2023 by the new operator, Bagby Preservation.

After months of repair work, Bagby Hot Springs and Bagby Campground will be reopening around May 1. More details to come as we get closer.



Map showing campgrounds opening this summer.

redesigning and repairing Rainbow Campground, which was damaged during the Riverside Fire. Once finished, it will have substantial upgrades to its pull-ins, picnic tables, fire rings, and site layouts. The parking for the Riverside Trail is also being improved and will provide hikers better trail access. While the work is still underway, Rainbow Campground should reopen sometime this summer.

Rainbow Campground is the first of many more sites that will undergo repair and redesign over the next few years. Forest staff are using feedback gathered from community meetings and surveys conducted in 2022 and 2023 to plan work. The Clackamas River Corridor is tightly constricted by the state highway, steep canyon walls, federal wilderness, cultural sites, and a scenic byway designation. While all these features make the Clackamas a special place, they limit recreation site expansion or creation of new sites.



New picnic table & fire ring at Rainbow Campground

Introducing Clackamas River District Ranger, Phil Monsanto

Phil Monsanto has been named as the new district ranger for the Clackamas River Ranger District. Phil has worked on Mt. Hood National Forest since 2016 and has been acting as the district ranger since late last summer. Phil's leadership has helped continue to balance the extraordinary fire recovery work from the 2020 and 2021 wildfires with the ongoing complex work carried out every year by recreation, fire, silviculture and timber, fisheries and wildlife, engineering, and other staff areas on the district.

Phil grew up in Washington State. Once his parents bought a truck camper, his family spent their summers exploring our public lands while hiking, boating, and fishing. After spending summers in college working as a wildland firefighter (including two seasons as a smokejumper), Phil joined the Peace Corps and served in the Dominican Republic helping local farmers develop their tree nursery program. He then joined the National Park Service as a firefighter while working on two Masters of Science- one in Forest Ecology and one in Forest Resources. Phil worked on both the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in WA and Mt. Hood as a silviculturist. Before starting his tenure as district ranger last summer, Phil was the

"I am humbled to be selected as the Clackamas River District Ranger," said Phil. "I hope while in my position I can provide support to a great group of people who really care about natural resources management and public recreation."



Watch out for winter damage along forest roads!



Winter weather can cause large boulders to fall down slopes and onto roads.

It's officially spring! But there's still plenty of snow across the Forest, especially at higher elevations. Please use caution when driving in the area and be prepared for snow-covered roads.

Heavy precipitation and snowmelt often cause landslides and rockfall. Areas recently burned by wildfires are also more susceptible to landslides. Fire can destroy vegetation, kill root systems, and alter soil properties - soils may not be able to absorb water, ultimately causing landslides. [Learn how you can stay safe in burn areas.](#)

[Visit our Riverside Fire Recovery photo album for more photos!](#)

Check out these resources!

- Stay up on Bagby Hot Springs updates: www.bagbypreservation.com/bagby-updates/
- More [fire recovery info](#), [closure maps](#), and [links](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about fire recovery & recreation](#) on Clackamas River Ranger District
- Mt. Hood [recreation site webpages & conditions](#).

