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# deschutes NATIONAL FOREST

## Winter Trail Access and Condition Update January 3<sup>rd</sup> – January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Winter Trail Highlights

- There has not been significant snowfall since the last report and currently none of the SnoParks on the Forest have adequate coverage for winter recreation. However, a winter storm is expected to arrive in the area on Friday and bring substantial mountain snow. See inside for more details.
- Expect high use at developed recreation sites on holidays and weekends. Have flexibility in your plans and do not park in an illegal or unsafe location.
- TEMPORARY TRAIL CLOSURE in effect for multiple trails and roads in the Phil's Trail system including Ben's and Kent's Trail. 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.
- None of the temporary signs in the Dutchman-Moon Mountain area have been installed. Closure boundaries and temporary trail diamonds are not posted and 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 SnoPark 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.



Santiam SnoPlay, at Santiam Pass, on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Many SnoParks are virtually bare of snow.



Swampy Lakes SnoPark on December 21<sup>st</sup>.



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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: January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

**General snow conditions: Poor quality snow with shallow coverage. Bare ground present at all SnoParks. Winter storm arriving on January 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**\*\*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'	0-3"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage. No grooming yet. 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 trails	HWY 46, MP 15	5,400'	0-3"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage. 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'	0-4"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31.
<b>Swampy</b> 1,3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 16	5,800'	1-4"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31. No dogs.



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<b>Vista Butte</b> 1,3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 18	5,950'	2-6"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage. Area north of parking area closed to snowmobiles, use Kapka Butte or Wanoga.
<b>Dutchman</b> 1 4 5 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 22	6,250'	12-20"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage. 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'	4-8"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage. 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'	2-4"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage. 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'	0"	No snow.
<b>Ten Mile</b> 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 21, MP 10 East of Hwy 97	5,560'	1-4"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage. 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'	0"	No 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'	0"	No snow. 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'	1-4"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage.
<b>Crescent Lake</b> 2 Snowmobiling/BC (no ski/snowshoe trails)	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 2	4,700'	1-4"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage.
<b>Walt Haring</b> 2 Snowmobile/ski trails	Hwy 97, Between MP 202 and 203, north of Chemult, off FR 9772	4,800'	0-2"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage.



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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 <https://www.conordicclub.org/>
- **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: January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

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

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

- ❖ **Phil's Area Trails** – Snow free and clear. Skills area now open.

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



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- **Ben’s Trail** – Closed from the start of Ben’s Trail at Phil’s Trailhead west to the junction with KGB Trail; Ben’s connector (Jct. 5) to Skyliner Road is also closed.
- **Kent’s Trail** – Closed from the start of Kent’s Trail at Phil’s Trailhead west to the junction with KGB Trail.
- **MTB Trail** – Closed from the junction with Ben’s Trail south to the junction with Kent’s Trail.
- **Voodoo** – Closed from the junction with Ben’s Trail south to the junction with Phil’s Trail.

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** – Intermittent mud and snow possible.
- ❖ **Sunriver, 41 Road, and Welcome Station Area** – Intermittent mud and snow possible.

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 west to the junction with Larsen’s.

Trail and road closures will be in place seven days a week.

- ❖ **SunLava Paved Path, Lava Lands Area** – Possible patchy snow. Pine needles may exist on surface. Heavy use on weekends.
- ❖ **Tumalo Creek 2 Trail** – Possible snow on upper portions. Possible blowdowns.
- ❖ **Fall River Trail** – Snow free.
- ❖ **Horse Butte to Swamp Wells area trails** – Snow free from Horse Butte to Swamp Wells Horse Camp. Unknown conditions above (south) SWHC.
- ❖ **Peter Skene Ogden Trail** – Likely snow free on lower portions.
- ❖ **Lava Cast Forest Trailhead** – Possible patchy snow.
- ❖ **Hoffman Island Trailhead** – Possible patchy snow.

## Sisters Ranger District:

- ❖ **Metolius River Trails** – Intermittent mud possible.
- ❖ **Black Butte Trail** – Mostly snow free. Blowdown possible.
- ❖ **Suttle Lake Trail** – Snow free with light blowdown.
- ❖ **Lake Creek Trail** – Intermittent mud possible.
- ❖ **Whychus Creek** – Intermittent mud possible. **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) – Intermittent mud possible. Please stay on designated trails.



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- ❖ **Peterson Ridge Trails** – Snow free. Enjoy new trailhead on Forest Road 16!
- ❖ **Jeff Lake Trail** – Lower portions snow free. Blowdown possible.
- ❖ **Chush Falls** – Likely snow free. Blowdown possible.

### **JANUARY SPECIAL TRAIL EVENTS:**

None scheduled that I’m aware of.

### **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**

**Minimize Campfire Impacts**

**Respect Wildlife**

**Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

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



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## **TEN ESSENTIAL SYSTEMS:**

For details on the “Ten Essential **Systems**”:

[http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/ten+essentials.html?s\\_kwcid=TC|13029|ten%20essentials||S|p|7499840765&cm\\_mmc=ps\\_google\\_CH- -Category%20-%20Camp%2fHike- -Camping%2fHiking\\_GeneralTerms\\_Essentials- -ten%20essentials&gclid=CNq\\_h8Xbsq4CFQN8hwodYhH-PQ](http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/ten+essentials.html?s_kwcid=TC|13029|ten%20essentials||S|p|7499840765&cm_mmc=ps_google_CH- -Category%20-%20Camp%2fHike- -Camping%2fHiking_GeneralTerms_Essentials- -ten%20essentials&gclid=CNq_h8Xbsq4CFQN8hwodYhH-PQ)

## **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>, 2024**.

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

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

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

[Recreation.gov - Camping, Cabins, RVs, Permits, Passes & More](https://www.recreation.gov/camping-cabins-rvs-permits-passes-more)

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>