



Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest
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News Release

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Canyon Creek Complex Area Closure Update

JOHN DAY, PRAIRIE CITY, and HINES, ORE. – As weather gradually transitions to spring melt off, Forest staff will resume addressing hazards within the Canyon Creek Complex Closure. The goal is to reopen the entire closure area prior to the 2016 hunting seasons.

Various hazards remain within the closure area, ranging from fire weakened trees to damaged roads, road signs, and guard rails. Not all hazard tree removal work and damage repair could be completed before heavy winter snow arrived. Work will resume to mitigate remaining hazards and complete repair work, as areas within the closure become accessible. Forest staff will open those roads previously closed, as hazards are mitigated within the closure area.

The Malheur National Forest along with a local contractor have been working through the winter to remove and mitigate the roadside hazard trees. Work is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2016.

The Fawn Springs area may be the first area to have the road hazards removed and access reopened, with the Vance Creek area likely to follow. As roads in the Upper Canyon Creek, Road's End, and Dry Soda Ridge areas are cleared of hazards, they will also be opened to the public. At this time, the Pine Creek and Indian Creek areas on the north side of the Strawberry Mountain range are expected to be the last to be reopened.

There are still many hazards that visitors need to pay attention to while in the woods, including stump holes, snags and damage to roads.

Announcements will be made as the closure area is reduced. The public may contact any Malheur National Forest office for updates.

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- www.fs.usda.gov/malheur,
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