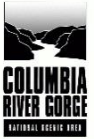




Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Trails Update

February 28, 2019

Know Before You Go!



General Update

With all our winter weather, expect snow and ice on all trails in the Scenic Area and plan appropriately. The waterfall corridor and trails such as Herman Creek and the PCT are best explored with snowshoes, trekking poles, carrying the Ten Essentials and extra supplies for winter travel. Note that our trails are not maintained or marked for winter travel, and may be difficult to follow under snow and ice. There is a report of a slide on Wahkeena trail making it impassable at this time.

Exit 41 at Eagle Creek is closed due to a landslide. [Oregon State Parks has closed Starvation Creek Trailhead](#), so Mt. Defiance and Starvation Ridge trails are inaccessible. The Historic Columbia River Highway is open, with limited parking. The Larch Mountain snow gate is closed until May, but snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and biking is permitted on the road.

Recent Search and Rescue missions are a reminder that snow depths increase with elevation! Turn around before you become disoriented or injured by traversing in deep snow. North facing slopes receive little to no sunlight, and trails may be buried under feet of snow not far from the trailhead. Check [NOAA Weather Forecast](#) before heading out, and avoid the burned area during high wind and rain events.

Most of the area and trails located between Multnomah Falls and Cascade Locks remain legally closed due to remaining post-fire hazards. Check the [Eagle Creek Fire Closure map](#) and respect closure signs them as they mark dangerous areas, and those who enter closed areas are subject to citations and fines. We're actively working with partners on these trails and you may create a hazard for yourself and crews.

Washington Trails

Augspurger- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice. Trail may be difficult to follow and use of a GPS unit, map and compass while hiking is suggested. Access to the upper section of Augspurger is best achieved with a 4WD vehicle and may be difficult to impossible in winter.

Balfour-Klickitat Trail- 2/28/19: Expect snow on trail.

BZ Falls- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice on trail.

Cape Horn- 2/28/19: Seasonal Peregrine Falcon closure is in effect, starting February 1 [Cape Horn Seasonal Closure](#).

Winter Ten Essentials

Always tell someone where you're going, your itinerary, and when you plan to return.

- 1. Map and compass:** Know how to use them. Do not rely on car GPS or phone!
- 2. Sun protection:** Sunglasses, ski goggles, lip balm, sunscreen.
- 3. Insulation:** Waterproof and windproof clothing. Dress in layers. Bring a hat. Avoid cotton.
- 4. Illumination:** Headlamp or flashlight and extra batteries.
- 5. First-aid kit:** Considering adding a whistle and signal mirror.
- 6. Fire starter/ matches/ lighter:** Fire can be used to signal for help as well as heat liquid to keep you warm.
- 7. Knife or multi tool:** Consider duct tape and repair kit.
- 8. Extra food:** At least one day's worth. Food can provide energy and improve morale. Avoid foods that can freeze in cold temperatures.
- 9. Water** and a way to purify and thaw it.
- 10. Emergency shelter:** tarp, bivy sack or emergency blanket are all lightweight and protect against the elements.

Catherine Creek- 2/28/19: Report of one tree on trail, expect snow as well. Dogs must be on leash in the Catherine Creek trail corridor year round.

Coyote Wall Trail System- 2/28/19: Dogs must be on leash from December 1- June 30.

Dog Mountain- 2/28/19: Expect snow on trail. Parking is not permitted on SR 14.

Klickitat Trail- 12/18/18: Trail clear of logs.

Sams Walker- 12/18/18: Trail clear of logs.

St. Cloud- 12/18/18: Trail clear of logs.

Oregon Trails

Angel's Rest- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice on trail, may be difficult to navigate.

Deadwood- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice on trail, may be difficult to navigate.

Devil's Rest- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice on trail, may be difficult to navigate.

Gorge 400- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice on trail. **Wyeth trail is still closed.**



Horsetail Falls trail covered in ice and snow. 2/27/19

Gorton Creek- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice on trail, may be difficult to navigate.

Herman Bridge- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice on trail, may be difficult to navigate.

Herman Creek- 2/28/19: Road to trailhead is not plowed. Expect snow and ice on trail, may be difficult to navigate.

Horsetail Falls- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice on trail. Trail is open to Ponytail Falls but closed beyond this point.

Larch Mountain- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice on trail, may be difficult to navigate. There is a small slide on the switchbacks above Dutchman Tunnel. Trail is now open from Multnomah Falls Lodge to Sherrard Point on Larch Mountain. Note that access is primarily available from Multnomah Falls, as the snow gate on Larch Mountain Road is closed for winter.

Mt. Defiance- 2/28/19: **Access is currently closed due to a hazardous material spill** [Starvation Creek Trailhead Closure](#).

Multnomah Spur- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice, trail may be difficult to navigate. Trail is open, but access is limited due to the snow gate being closed.

Multnomah Way- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice, trail may be difficult to navigate. Trail is open, but access is limited due to the snow gate being closed.

Nick Eaton- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice, trail may be difficult to navigate.

Ridge Cutoff- 2/28/19: Expect snow and ice, trail may be difficult to navigate.

Sandy River Delta- 2/28/19: Trails are open; dogs must be leashed on the Confluence Trail.

Starvation Ridge- 2/28/19: **Access is currently closed due to a hazardous material spill** [Starvation Creek Trailhead Closure](#).

Wahkeena- 2/28/19: Report of slide on trail near Larch Mountain Trail junction, trail may be impassable. Expect snow and ice, trail may be difficult to navigate.

Pacific Crest Trail:

PCT is open, expect at Moody Avenue and Herman Creek trailheads. An area closure remains in effect for Benson Plateau, making it illegal to hike off trail through that area. Please check the [PCTA website](#) for information on additional PCT trail closures and conditions.

Due to the Eagle Creek Fire the following trails maintained by the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area are closed:

**Bell Creek
Eagle Creek
Franklin Ridge
Gorge 400
Horsetail Creek
Moffett Creek
Nesmith Point
Oneonta
Ruckel Creek
Tanner Butte
Tanner Creek
Wahclella Falls
Wauna Viewpoint
Wyeth**