

Deschutes National Forest

Spring Trail Access and Conditions Update

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Updated April 27, 2017



Trails near snow lines (approx. 4,500-5,000") are likely muddy. Please avoid using muddy trails as early season use causes erosion and tread damage



Various signing at snow parks is in place to help make parking/traffic flow safer and more efficient. Please follow posted traffic and other snow park signage.

Spring Trail Highlights

- Most summer trails below 4,500' elevation are snow free and accessible. Snow lines are slowly rising! Please avoid using muddy trails.
- Trailheads and summer trails above 4,500' are mostly blocked by snow and late winter-like conditions.
- *Snow free access to higher elevation trails likely to be delayed until late July to late August, due to snow and down trees.*
- Be aware of weekday (M-F) trail, road and area closures for logging operations, north and west of Cascade Lks Welcome Station and Deschutes River trails from Lava Island to Aspen.
- Northwest Forest Passes required at various trailheads and day use sites beginning May 1.
- Cascade Lakes Welcome Station now open Saturdays/Sundays, 10-4.
- Lava Lands will be open Thurs-Mon. starting May 5.
- Most Deschutes NF snow parks now lack adequate snow for fair to good winter trail access. Winter trail grooming is finished for the season.
- Seasonal closures of Hwy 46, Hwy 242, Road 21, Road 16, Tumalo Falls Rd and Road 370 are still in effect until further notice. Spring road plowing in progress on some key access roads.
- Watch weather forecasts closely.
- Go prepared with your Ten Essential Systems.

Have a safe Spring trails season!

GENERAL SUMMER TRAIL CONDITIONS AS OF APRIL 27, 2017:

Currently, most Deschutes National Forest summer trails below 4,400' elevation are snow free and accessible. With cooler temperatures and even new snow over the past few days and weeks, the average snow line at 4,500-5,000' has only been slowly creeping higher. Trails and areas closer to the Cascade Crest have lower snow lines with substantially deeper snow than areas east of Hwy 97 corridor.

EXPECT DELAYED SEASON ACCESS! Wilderness trails in the Green Lakes and South Sister area may yet be under 12-16 ft. of snow. Snow free access to Wilderness trails is not expected to be available until mid-June for lower elevations and possibly well into August (or later) for higher elevations and much of the South Sister Climbers Trail. Logging out (tree clearing) of these trails does not occur until the trail is snow free. Plan accordingly for any backcountry Wilderness day or overnight hikes and stock rides.

DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST SUMMER TRAILHEADS/TRAILS:

Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District summer trails/access:

- ❖ **Phils TH** is snow free but area trails are blocked by snow and mud starting approx. at the 4,500' elevation. Please avoid using muddy trails. Be aware of closed trails Mon-Fri (COD between Junctions 21 and 32 and Grand Slam Trail), roads and area closures due to West Bend logging activities. Also Mon-Fri trail closures for Deschutes River Trails between Aspen and Lava Island are in effect. For more information on COTA, who they are, what they do and how you can help, go to: <http://cotamt.com/>
- ❖ **Tumalo Falls Trailhead** - Road closed to motorized vehicles due to snow. Hikers and bikers can access Tumalo Falls by hiking or riding the closed road until hitting snow approx. ½ mile from Tumalo Falls Trailhead. Expect 1-2 ft. of snow on the last road section and then 2-6 ft. of snow from TH and above Falls.
- ❖ **Deschutes River Trailheads/Trails** - Access to all DRT trailheads and trails is snow free and mostly cleared of down trees. Mon-Fri trail closures for Deschutes River Trails between Aspen and Lava Island are in effect for logging activities. Access roads to trailheads are being graded. Road 41 from Hwy 46 to Sunriver is now snow free. Beginning May 1, Northwest Forest Passes are required for parking in posted

Have a safe Spring trails season!

NWFP locations. Iron Ranger fee stations are available at: Meadow Picnic, Road 41 and Hwy 46 junction, Benham East and Lava Lands "After Hours Parking Lot" (Black Rock TH).

- ❖ **Sun Lava Paved Path** between Sunriver, Benham East and Lava Lands (Trailhead accesses south end of Lava Lands parking, Benham East or Circle 7 of Sunriver). Snow free and in good condition; cleaned of winter debris by volunteers.
- ❖ **Lava Lands Trails - Lava Lands trails are accessible.** Lava Lands interpretive trails and the trail on Lava Butte are open. Blackrock Trail to Benham East is snow free but may have a few trees down. Trailhead parking available on south side of Lava Lands off the 9702 road. Lava Lands will be open Thursdays-Mondays 10-4 starting May 5. Summer schedule, 7 days 9-5 begins Memorial Day Weekend.
- ❖ **New Rimrock Trailhead** - Previously known as "Good Dog Trailhead", is snow free and accessible and DRT access trail in good condition. Please cleanup after your pet. Located at MP 5 on Hwy 46, between Entrada Lodge and Widgee Creek. NWFP not required.
- ❖ **Tumalo Creek 2 Trail** - Snow free, possibly some down trees on trail.
- ❖ **Wanoga Mt. Bike Trails** currently blocked by snow.
- ❖ **Swampy Lake Trails** currently blocked by snow (24-34").
- ❖ **Tumalo Mt. Trail** - currently blocked by snow (90-120").
- ❖ **Todd Lake Trailhead** currently blocked by snow (80-90").
- ❖ **Todd Creek Horse Camp** - Closed for the season due to snow and Hwy 46 gates closed.
- ❖ **Sparks Lake Trailhead** - Closed for the season due to snow (60-70") and Hwy 46 gates closed.
- ❖ **Ray Atkison Trailhead and Sparks Lake boat ramp** - Closed for the season due to snow (60-70") and Hwy 46 gates closed.
- ❖ **Green Lakes/Soda Creek Trailhead** - Closed for the season due to 60-70" snow and Hwy 46 gates closed.
- ❖ **Devils Lake/South Sister Trailhead** - Closed for the season due to 70-80" snow and Hwy 46 gates closed.

Have a safe Spring trails season!

- ❖ **Quinn Meadow Horse Camp area trails** - Closed for the season due to 60-70" snow and Hwy 46 gates closed.
- ❖ **Metolius-Windigo Trail** currently blocked by snow in most sections.
- ❖ **Cultus Lake and Winopee Lk TH** - currently blocked by 30-40" snow and closed road.
- ❖ **Lemish Lake TH** - currently blocked by snow.
- ❖ **Charlton Lake TH** - currently blocked by snow.
- ❖ **Osprey Point TH** - currently blocked by snow and closed road.
- ❖ **Fall River Trail** - Snow free and may have trees across trail.
- ❖ **South/North Twin Lakes area trails** - Snow free and may have trees across trail. .
- ❖ **Horse Butte to Swamp Wells area trails** - Trails out of Horse Butte TH are firm and in good condition for approx. 4 miles, then expect soft trails, mud and snow higher up. Avoid using muddy trails.
- ❖ **Newberry Caldera trails** - Road 21 into Newberry Caldera with access to Monument summer trails is closed due to snow. Gate beyond Ten Mile Snow Park is closed and spring snow plowing operations in progress with approx. 5-7 ft. of snow in Caldera.
- ❖ **Peter Skene Ogden Trail** - Lower half is snow free for 3-4 miles then snow above. Expect down trees on trails and muddy sections. Please do not use muddy trails.
- ❖ **Lava Cast Forest Trailhead** - currently blocked by snow.
- ❖ **Hoffman Island Trailhead** - Accessible with patchy snow and down trees likely on trail.
- ❖ **Pacific Crest Trail** - Area access trails and trailheads inaccessible and blocked by snow. PCT is currently under approx. 60-100" of snow. See PCT notes below under Wilderness Trails. <http://www.pcta.org/>
- ❖ **Wilderness Trails** - All Deschutes National Forest Wilderness trails are currently inaccessible due to snow and seasonal closures of access roads. Access to lowest elevation trailheads is estimated approx. late-May to early June. Snow free trail access will be much later! Above average winter snowfall and colder spring temperatures with continued snow accumulations at higher elevations will likely set

Have a safe Spring trails season!

back snow free access along the PCT from Diamond Peak to Mt. Jefferson into possibly late August. Clearing of down trees will also be weeks behind average schedule and in remote sections may not be complete until late September or later. Hiking over these snow covered trails during early summer will be difficult and likely result in "postholing" and losing the trail in many cases. **Schedule your Wilderness trips accordingly!**

Sisters Ranger District summer trails/access:

- ❖ **Black Butte Trail** currently blocked by snow. Road access to trailhead is also blocked by 1-2 miles of snow
- ❖ **Metolius River Trails** - Overall trail access is fair to good with most sections snow free and dried out. Muddy sections possible along with down trees. Some running water possible along Smiling River Campground section. Picture below!



- ❖ **Suttle Lake Trail** now snow free and mostly free of down trees.
- ❖ **Lake Creek Trail** now snow free, may have soft to muddy sections and a few down trees likely.
- ❖ **Whychus Creek** -Trailhead (6 vehicle capacity) and lower end of canyon trail is snow free and mostly in good condition. Possibility of short muddy section. Please avoid using

Have a safe Spring trails season!

muddy trails. **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) – Trailhead and trail are snow free and in good condition. Please stay on designated trails. Expect high use over coming weeks with limited parking available.
- ❖ **Peterson Ridge Trails** Low to mid elevations out of Sisters town are snow free and in good condition. Expect to encounter mud and snow approx. 7-8 miles out of town and avoid using muddy trail.
- ❖ **Metolius-Windigo Trail** - SEE DETAILS IN BEND/FORT ROCK RANGER DISTRICT SECTION ABOVE!
- ❖ **PCT** - SEE DETAILS IN BEND/FORT ROCK RANGER DISTRICT SECTION ABOVE!
- ❖ **Horse trails out of Sheep Springs Horse Camp** - Mostly snow free and accessible with some trail brushing/clearing in progress.
- ❖ **Head of Jack Creek Trail** - Unknown conditions but trailhead likely snow free.
- ❖ **Wilderness Trails** - - SEE DETAILS IN BEND/FORT ROCK RANGER DISTRICT SECTION ABOVE.

Crescent Ranger District summer trails/access:

- ❖ **PCT** - SEE DETAILS IN BEND/FORT ROCK RANGER DISTRICT SECTION ABOVE!
- ❖ **Oldenberg Trail** currently blocked by snow.
- ❖ **Summit Lk Trail** - currently blocked by snow.
- ❖ **Meek Lk Trail** - currently blocked by snow.
- ❖ **Windy Lakes Trail** - currently blocked by snow.
- ❖ **Windigo Pass** - currently blocked by snow.
- ❖ **Whitefish Horse Camp** - currently blocked by snow.
- ❖ **Pretty Lk/Fawn Lake Trails** - currently blocked by snow.

Have a safe Spring trails season!

- ❖ **Metolius-Windigo Trail** - SEE DETAILS IN BEND/FORT ROCK RANGER DISTRICT SECTION ABOVE!

- ❖ **Maiden Peak** - currently blocked by snow.

- ❖ **Wilderness Trails** - - SEE DETAILS IN BEND/FORT ROCK RANGER DISTRICT SECTION ABOVE!

GENERAL SNOW, WINTER TRAIL CONDITIONS ON APRIL 27:

Know before you go!

Over the past 2 weeks the Deschutes National Forest has received a mix of cooler spring like temps with some rain as well as new snow across the various elevations. This has resulted in rising snow line at lower elevations but higher elevations above 6,000' mostly maintaining snow depths. The weather forecast into next week is calling for mild to warm temperatures with softening spring snow conditions expected. Only a few Deschutes National Forest snow parks now remain in fair to good snow conditions with increasing limited snow access to winter trails. See the Snow Park Conditions Table below for further snow depths and conditions. Snow depths/conditions can vary day to day and we attempt to provide periodic updates on snow conditions and access into the spring season.

Be aware that strong/fast moving winter storms can change conditions very quickly. Increasingly, rain on snow events have added challenges to winter conditions with water hazards. Check weather forecasts closely, go prepared, use sound judgement and avoid becoming a search and rescue statistic or worse!

NOAA weather forecast for Cascade Lks Hwy at 5300':

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lon=-121.52560715332032&lat=43.9825885847535#.WDS09JgzXIU>

Have a safe Spring trails season!



Wanoga Snow Play Hill currently has 8-14" snow depth (some bare ground) with fair to marginal spring snow for bumpy sledding conditions. Runs could be rough and icy. Sled safe, wear helmets, do not build jumps and remove broken sleds and other litter from the sledding area. Keep the "runout area" clear and dogs on leash. Photo is

Snow Park 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.

All sno-parks (except Skyliner and Hwy 242) are plowed with State funds and require an Oregon State Sno-Park Permit

Have a safe Spring trails season!

Deschutes National Forest Snow Park Conditions Table

Updated April 27, 2017 Spring Break Report!

Snow conditions: Lower elevations bare ground with rising snow lines at 4,600-5,000'.

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 (Conditions subject to change without notice and at the whim of Nature)
Meissner 1 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 14	5,350'	Patchy to 18" snow	Fair to poor wpring conditions with trail grooming not in progress! .
Wanoga Snow Play ,2 3 Tubing/sledding Groomed ski/dog trails	HWY 46, MP 15	5,400'	8-14"	Fair to poor spring snow conditions. Bumpy slope conditions. Wear helmets! Sledding hill closed to snowmobiles.
Wanoga Snowmobile 2 Snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 15	5,500'	14-20"	Fair spring conditions, trail grooming no longer in progress.
Swampy 1 3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 16	5,800'	24-34"	Good spring conditions!
Vista Butte 1 3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 18	5,950'	16-44"	Fair spring conditions, trails may be hard to follow. Area north of parking closed to snowmobiles, use Kapka Butte or Wanoga.
Dutchman 1 4 5 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 22	6,250'	80-90"	Good snow conditions, snowmobile trail grooming no longer in progress. Limited parking/no overnight camping. 40' max length limit for vehicle/trailer combination. Expect heavy use!
Kapka Butte 2 Snowmobiling/ski/shoe	¼ mi. s. of Hwy 46, on Road 45	5,900'	50-60"	Good spring conditions, trail grooming no longer in progress.
Edison 2 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	4 mi. s. of Hwy 46 on Road 45	5,000'	Patchy -18"	Poor spring conditions. Heavy beetle killed lodgepole in area, high number of trees on trails.
Skyliner 2 Ski/snowshoe	Skyliner Rd MP 9	4,700'	No snow	Inadequate snow conditions. Gate/road to Tumalo Falls road access closed due to snow at upper end.
Six Mile 2 Snowmobiling	Road 21, MP 6 East of Hwy 97	4,400'	No snow	Inadequate snow conditions. Out of winter service for the season.
Ten Mile 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 21, MP 10 East of Hwy 97	5,560'	No snow	Inadequate snow conditions. Road 21 beyond Ten Mile closed to vehicles, plowing in progress.
Lower Three Creek 2 Snowmobile/Ski	Road 16, MP 8	4,400'	No snow	Inadequate snow conditions. Out of winter service for the season.
Upper Three Creek 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 16, MP 11	5,250'	Patchy snow	Inadequate snow. Road 16 closed due to snow beyond sno-pk.
Hwy 242 (Mckenzie Pass) 2Snomo/ski/shoe	Hwy 242, MP 7 from Sisters	4,200'	Patchy - 6" at gate	Hwy closed to summer access. Hwy plowing to begin early May with possible opening late June.
Crescent Junction 2 Snowmobiling	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 1/2	4,750'	Patchy	Inadequate snow. Road 60 currently closed.
Crescent Lake 2 Snowmobiling/BC (no ski/snowshoe trails)	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 2	4,700'	Patchy - 10"	Poor to marginal spring conditions, Road 60 currently closed due to snow.

Have a safe Spring trails season!

SPECIAL TRAIL EVENTS EFFECTING TRAIL USE:

Other non-Deschutes summer trail options in the Central Oregon area:

Smith Rocks/Gray Butte - State and BLM hiker, biker, horse trail options.

Maston Area - hiker, biker, horse trail systems on BLM, west of Redmond.

Lake Billy Chinook area - State park trail options

Badlands Wilderness - BLM hiker and horse trail options. Designated Wilderness and is closed to biking.

Horse Ridge - BLM hiker, biker, horse trails.

Millican Plateau - Motorcycle/atv trails, open to non-motorized use too. Watch for motorized trail use.

Know the different trail designation diamonds and colors. Orange generally designates winter motorized user information and blue diamonds and signing for non-motorized (skiers/snowshoers). Please learn and abide by motorized and non-motorized trail and backcountry restrictions.

Other local trail access and conditions information can be found at:

Central Oregon Trails Alliance: <http://cotamtb.com/trails/>

Central Oregon Off Hwy Vehicle Program:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5340950.pdf

Prineville BLM:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet!/ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gDfxMDT8MwRydLA1cj72BTJw8jAwjQL8h2VAQAzHJMsQ!!?ss=110601&type=recarea&recid=38734&actid=93&navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&position=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&navid=1100000000000000&navid=&cid=null&pname=Central+Oregon+--+Prineville+Bureau+Of+Land+Management

Oregon State Parks: https://www.google.com/?gfe_rd=ssl&ei=JT_OVq-QJ-qD8Qeti66IBg#q=oregon+state+parks+in+central+oregon

Have a safe Spring trails 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 – See photo and information below on wrong disposal and effects!

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>

SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES/OPENINGS:

Hwy 46	CLOSED from Dutchman Flat to Road 42.
Road 370	CLOSED from Hwy 46 to Road 4601 near Three Creek Lks. Earliest possible opening August?
Tumalo Falls Road	CLOSED until fully melted out and road maintenance complete. Open to hiking and biking. Snow blocks road $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Tumalo Falls trailhead.
Road 21	CLOSED from Ten Mile Sno-Park to east end of Newberry Caldera. Road to Paulina Peak closed until melts out.
Hwy 242	Mckenzie Pass, CLOSED likely until ODOT opening later June?
Road 16	CLOSED beyond Upper Three Creek Sno-Park closed until melted out to Three Creek Lakes.
Road 60	CLOSED until snow free.

TEN ESSENTIAL SYSTEMS:

"What are The Ten Essentials?"

"The Ten Essentials are items The Mountaineers recommends everyone carry on all trips. The Pacific Northwest is a beautiful place that can be wild and unpredictable. Being prepared for anything is essential. This is as important on short, local trips as it is on long, backcountry trips. It is easy to

Have a safe Spring trails season!

forget first aid kits and warm layers short trips, but a short trip can quickly turn to a long trip if you get lost or injured."

"The Ten Essentials started as a list of ten simple items and is now a systems approach that guides you in preparing for any trip in any season. The two basic questions are: (1) Can you respond positively to an accident or emergency? (2) Can you safely spend a night or more out? **Here is a list of The Ten Essential Systems:**

1. Navigation (map & compass)
2. Sun Protection (sun glasses, sun screen, lip balm)
3. Insulation (extra clothing)
4. Illumination (flashlight or headlamp, spare bulb & batteries)
5. First-Aid Supplies (gauze, tape, etc.)
6. Fire (fire starter, matches, lighter)
7. Repair Kit (knife, duct tape, tools, spare parts)
8. Nutrition (extra food)
9. Hydration (extra water, water purification)
10. Emergency Shelter (tarp, garbage bag)

Further details on the "Ten Essential Systems":

http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/ten+essentials.html?s_kwcid=TC|13029|ten%20essentials||Slp|7499840765&cm_mmc=ps_google_CH--Category%20-%20Camp%2fHike--Camping%2fHiking_GeneralTerms_Essentials--ten%20essentials&gclid=CNq_h8Xbsq4CFQN8hwodYhH-PQ

SPECIAL SAFETY NOTES:

Go prepared for changeable weather conditions. Winter season conditions exist! Be sure to go prepared with plenty of warm clothing, water, and food as well as other emergency essentials.

For further Deschutes National Forest winter or summer trails information, 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

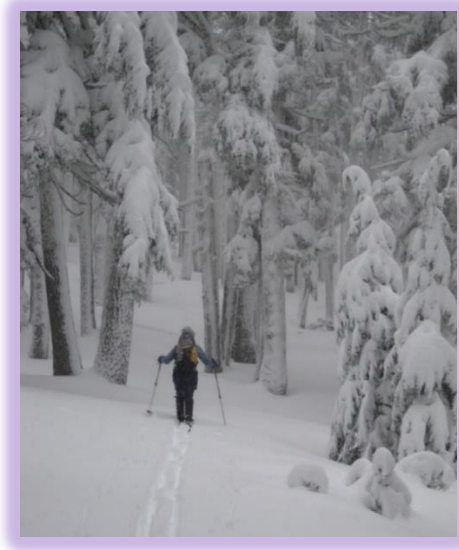
Find this weekly trail access and condition report in the Deschutes National Forest Website at:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5299503.pdf

Have a safe Spring trails season!



Thank you so much volunteers!



Have a safe Spring trails season!