



## Winter Trail Access and Condition Update April 30th – May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Spring Trail Highlights

- Summer trails are slowly becoming accessible. However, most middle and high elevation trails are under at least patchy snow. The Deschutes River Trail, Horse Butte area, the Phil's system, and low elevation trails around Sisters are all accessible. See inside for more details.
- For winter recreation, most SnoParks are out of business for the year. Ray Benson and SnoParks above 5500' are the only ones with adequate snow coverage. Most trail and boundary snow poles have been removed from the Dutchman-Moon Mountain area. Trail and boundary navigation can be difficult without these poles. It is the responsibility of the user to know where they are. The Three Sisters Wilderness, Bend City Watershed, and "Dutchalo" area are all CLOSED to snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles.
- WILDERNESS PERMITS WILL BE REQUIRED from 19 trailheads for day use and all trailheads for overnight use in the Mt Jefferson, Mt Washington and Three Sisters wildernesses from May 28 to September 24, 2021. For more information, see inside on at the top of Page 2, just above "Summer Trail Conditions Report."
- TRAIL CLOSURE in effect for multiple trails between Forest Road 4615 and Skyliner Road, including Lower Whoops, Pine Drops, EXT, and portions of Phil's and Storm King, due to thinning operations.
- Got a trail report to share? Relevant information includes things like snow and access, number of downed trees, and overall condition of trail. Send emails to [joseph.welke@usda.gov](mailto:joseph.welke@usda.gov)



Ray Benson SnoPark on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. A few SnoParks like this one have lingering snow, but most are out of business for the season.



FS Trail Crew removing downfall on Chush Falls. After several high wind events this Spring, hikers are likely to encounter down trees as trails melt out.



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## WILDERNESS PERMITS:

Beginning this summer, Wilderness permits will be required from 19 trailheads for day use and all trailheads for overnight use in the Mt Jefferson, Mt Washington and Three Sisters wildernesses from May 28 to September 24, 2021. Annually the permit season will begin the Friday before Memorial Day and ends the last Friday in September. To learn more about the Wilderness Permit program, go here:

[Willamette National Forest - Home \(usda.gov\)](http://usda.gov)

### **How do I get a permit?**

Permit reservations can be made through **recreation.gov**, either online or over the phone. Go to:

[Recreation.gov - Camping, Cabins, RVs, Permits, Passes & More](http://recreation.gov)

Then put "Central Cascades Wilderness" in the search and all options will show.

Permit reservations opened on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7 a.m. Every year the reservation period will open on the first Tuesday in April. Most permits, 50-80%, only become available 7 days prior to the hike.

## Deschutes National Forest Summer Trail Conditions

**Last Updated: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**\*\*Conditions subject to change without notice and at whim of nature.\*\***

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

- ❖ **Phil's Area Trails** – Mix of snow, mud and ice. Please do not ride on muddy trails. Several trails in the area will be CLOSED for visitor safety while contractors conduct thinning operations. Lower Whoops, Pine Drops, EXT, Storm King from the junction with Forest Road 4615 and the junction with Phil's Trail, and the western-most portion of Phil's between the junction with EXT (near Forest Road 300) and it's western terminus at the junction with Pine Drops will be closed from Monday at 12am until Friday at 3pm. Outside these hours, the trails will all be open. E-Bikes are NOT allowed on any non-motorized trails. For more information on COTA, go to: <http://cotamtb.com/>
- ❖ **Deschutes River Trail** – Snow free and clear. Northwest Forest Passes are required for parking in posted 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).
- ❖ **Sunriver, 41 Road, and Welcome Station Area** – COD, Catch and Release, Lower Tyler's, Storm King and Roundabout all snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Sun Lava Paved Path** between Sunriver, Benham East and Lava Lands (Trailhead access points at south end of Lava Lands parking lot, Benham East or Circle 7 in Sunriver). Snow free and clear. Pine needles may exist on surface. Heavy use on weekends.
- ❖ **Lava Lands Trails** - Open for the season.



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- ❖ **Tumalo Creek 2 Trail** – Snow free and clear. Hiker only.
- ❖ **Wanoga Area** – Most trails still under deep snow.
- ❖ **Swampy Lakes** - Deep snow.
- ❖ **Todd Lake** - Deep snow.
- ❖ **Tumalo Mountain** – Deep snow.
- ❖ **Broken Top** – Deep snow.
- ❖ **Todd Creek Horse Camp** - Deep snow.
- ❖ **Sparks Lake** – Deep snow.
- ❖ **Ray Atkeson Trailhead and Sparks Lake** – Deep snow
- ❖ **Green Lakes/Soda Creek** – Deep Snow
- ❖ **Devil’s Lake/South Sister** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Quinn Meadow Horse Camp area trails** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Metolius Windigo Trail** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Moraine Lake** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Mirror Lakes** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Horse Lake** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Elk Lake** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Six Lakes** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Lucky Lake/Senoj** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Corral Swamp** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Cultus Lk and Winopee** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Many Lakes** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Lemish Lake TH** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Charlton Lake** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Osprey Point** – Unknown. Likely patchy snow.



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- ❖ **Fall River Trail** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **South/North Twin Lakes** – Likely patchy snow with possible downfall.
- ❖ **Horse Butte to Swamp Wells area trails** – Snow free on trails below Swamp Wells Horse Camp. Snow and likely downfall above SWHC.
- ❖ **Newberry Caldera Trails** - Deep snow.
- ❖ **Peter Skene Ogden Trail** – Snow free on lower section, deep snow up high.
- ❖ **Lava Cast Forest Trailhead** – Snow free and clear of downfall. NWFP required!
- ❖ **Hoffman Island Trailhead** – Snow free and clear of downfall.

### **Sisters Ranger District:**

- ❖ **Black Butte** – Deep snow.
- ❖ **Metolius River Trails** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Suttle Lake Trail** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Lake Creek Trail** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Whychus Creek** – Snow free and clear. Temporary closure of trailhead. Follow signs to alternate parking area. **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) – Snow free and clear. Please stay on designated trails. Enjoy the newly constructed vault toilet!
- ❖ **Peterson Ridge Trails** – Snow free and clear. Check out the new trailhead on FR 16!

### **Crescent Ranger District:**

- ❖ **PCT** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Oldenberg** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Summit Lake** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Meek Lake** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Windy Lakes** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Whitefish Horse Camp** – Likely melted out.
- ❖ **Pretty Lake/Fawn Lake** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Metolius-Windigo** – Unknown
- ❖ **Maiden Peak** - Deep snow
- ❖ **Pengra Pass TH** - Deep snow



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❖ **Yoran Lake** - Deep snow

## **MAY SPECIAL TRAIL EVENTS:**

Unknown.

## **SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES/OPENINGS:**

Hwy 46	CLOSED at West Village.
FR 370	CLOSED for the winter season.
Tumalo Falls Road (FR 4603)	CLOSED until June.
FR 21	CLOSED at Ten Mile SnoPark.
Hwy 242	CLOSED until June.
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>

## **TEN ESSENTIAL SYSTEMS:**

For details on the “Ten Essential Systems”:

[http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/ten+essentials.html?s\\_kwid=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_kwid=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)



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**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:

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5299503.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5299503.pdf)

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

<https://bendtrails.org/>

Central Oregon Off Hwy Vehicle Program:

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5340950.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5340950.pdf)

Prineville BLM: <https://www.blm.gov/tag/prineville-district-office>