

Messages & Updates 5/1/2014

Pacific Northwest Region - Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

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Wallowa Mountain Loop Road (FSR 39) Reconstruction

Construction has resumed after a long winter on the 13-mile stretch of the Wallowa Mountain Loop Road, also known as the North Pine section of Forest Service Road (FSR) 39. The North Pine section begins at the junction of Highway 86 and heads north for 13 miles on FSR 39. **This section of the road is closed through June 15th, 2014 twenty four hours a day. Forest Service Road 66, which is the detour route** (see below for further information) will be available for travel depending on snow conditions; **however the road is still currently snow covered and impassable.**

Below is a photo of the construction currently occurring on the 13-mile stretch of road ... this 13-mile stretch of road is closed ...



for the greatest good

You may have heard about the plowing by Wallowa County on FSR 39 from the junction of Hwy 82 (east of Joseph, OR) to Lonesome Saddle. At this time, there are still obstructions on that portion of FSR 39, such as:

- ❖ Rocks and trees will still be coming onto the road due to spring thawing conditions.
- ❖ Safety is a concern. In some areas, there are limited turn-around, parking, or passing opportunities.
- ❖ The road is closed at the junction of FSR 39 and FSR 66, and the detour route (FSR 66) is still snow covered and not suitable for travel.
- ❖ FSR 3965 to Hells Canyon Overlook is still closed by snow.

Below is a photo at Gumboot along FSR 39 ...



The 2014 construction schedule for the 13-mile North Pine section of FSR 39 is as follows:

- **Spring 2014:** Construction work on the 13-mile North Pine section of FSR 39 has begun and this section of the road will be closed until June 15, which will begin the next phase of the construction, roadway excavation (see next bullet).
- **June 16, 2014 to June 30 2014:** The 13-mile North Pine section of FSR 39 will be closed beginning at 8:00 am every Tuesday morning through 5:00 pm every Thursday evening 6/16/14 – 6/30/14. The road will be open at 5:01 pm every Thursday evening through 7:59 am every Tuesday morning for travel 6/16/14 – 6/30/14. However, it's important to note that the road surface will be rough as it is still under construction during these open periods.
- **July 1, 2014 to October 15, 2014:** Visitors can expect up to one hour delays on the 13-mile North Pine section of FSR 39 or use the detour. Construction activities will be on-going, so please drive responsibility through the construction zone (see detour route information below beginning July 1, 2014).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Camping at Lake Fork campground, dispersed camping, and recreational opportunities are not be allowed in this 13-mile section of FSR 39 any time this year.

Forest Service Road (FSR) 66 will be available for use as the detour route depending on snow levels. FSR 66 begins at the junction of FSR 39 and FSR 66 (also referred to as Duck Creek, Fish Lake Road, Twin Lakes Road, or Clear Creek Road) and continues west then south before connecting with Baker County Road 999, just north of Halfway. The detour route is 30 miles in length and is a single-lane gravel road with turnouts. The route is suitable for vehicles with trailers; however it is not recommended for motor homes. Visitors should be aware that the Wallowa Mountain Loop Road and FSR 66 are often closed by snow from late October through late June, and are not passable by automobiles during this time period. Both FSR 66 and FSR 39 are snowmobile routes.

For current information about road conditions or other information, please call: Wallowa Mountains Office at (541) 426-5546, Pine Field Office at (541) 742-6705, or Supervisors Office at (541) 523-1246. For additional information on the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway, please visit www.hellscanyonbyway.com and www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman.

**Thank you for visiting Hells Canyon National Recreation Area
Travel safely and responsibly!**