

Messages & Updates 12/20/2013

Pacific Northwest Region - Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

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Wallowa Mountain Loop Road (FSR 39) Reconstruction

The gates at the northern and southern ends of the construction area have been pulled and the southernmost 13 mile stretch of the Wallowa Mountain Loop Road, also known as the North Pine section is open. There is currently snow on the 39rd road beginning at Lake Fork Campground (approximately 8 miles north of the junction with Hwy 86). The North Pine section begins at the junction of Highway 86 and heads north for 13 miles on FSR 39. Crews continue to work in the area, please use caution when visiting.

Please enjoy the following pictures taken 12/18/13 and have a very Happy Holidays. Thank you



Southern entrance at the junction of the 39 and Hwy 86



for the greatest good



Burn piles and road side clearing



Slumping and road repair work for next summer - 2014



Roadside clearing (above)

Winter foliage (below)



The 2013/2014 construction schedule for the 13 mile North Pine section of FSR 39 is:

- Winter 2013/2014: Open for snowmobile traffic until the snow depth diminishes and contractors are able to return to the site, replace the gates, and resume work. At which point, the 13 mile North Pine section of FSR 39 will be closed until mid-June. (Detour route information below)
- June 16, 2014 to June 30 2014: The 13 mile North Pine section of FSR 39 will be closed 24 hours a day beginning 8:00 a.m. Tuesday mornings through 5:00 pm Thursday evenings, at which point it will be open Fridays through Mondays for campers and other visitors. (Detour route information below)
- 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.

Forest Service Road (FSR) 66 will be the detour route that is available during the closure periods and/or delays, 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 well-maintained single-lane gravel road with pullouts. The route is suitable for vehicles with trailers; however it is not recommended for motor homes. If unsure of suitability, please contact the Wallowa Mountains Office at 541-426-5546. Visitors should be aware that the Wallowa Mountain Loop Road and FSR 66 are often closed by snow from late October through late May or early June, and are not passable by automobiles during this time period. Both FSR 66 and FSR 39 are snowmobile routes.

For additional information on the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway, please visit www.hellscanyonbyway.com and www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman. Thank you.