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deschutes NATIONAL FOREST

Summer Trail Access and Condition Update May 24th – May 30th, 2024

Trail Highlights

- Access is slowly expanding as the snow line recedes, but deep snow persists in the high country. Depending on aspect and proximity to the crest, most trails above 5000 ft have at least some snow. Overall, Forest visitors should expect a late melt out. See inside for more details.
- Except for Dutchman, there are no Sno-Parks on the Forest that have adequate snow coverage for recreation. The removal of temporary signs in the Dutchman-Moon Mountain area is complete. Trail navigation can be difficult without these markers. It is the visitor's responsibility to know where they are.
- Over the holiday weekend, expect high use and crowds at all developed recreation sites. On the snowy sections of Cascade Lakes Highway, there is VERY little parking and access off the main highway. Be realistic in your plans – the transition from winter to summer is not instantaneous.
- Be aware of the possibility of prescribed burning in areas west of Bend that may result in temporary trail closures. Check the DNF website for latest Alerts.
- 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



Broken Top Trailhead on May 23rd. Only the roof of the toilet is visible, indicating 7-8 ft. of snow above 6500 ft. Access to the high country will come late this year.



Recent photo of trail re-route at Suttle Lake. To create more sustainable and user friendly alignments, FS and partner crews completed a few short re-routes on this popular trail.



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CENTRAL CASCADE WILDERNESS PERMITS:

Beginning in 2021, Wilderness permits are now seasonally required at 19 trailheads for day use and all trailheads for overnight use in the Mt Jefferson, Mt Washington and Three Sisters Wildernesses. Permits will be required starting **June 15th, 2024**.

On April 2nd, 40% of Central Cascades Wilderness Permits for overnight use were released for advanced reservation on Recreation.gov. The remaining 60% of overnight permits will be available through a rolling 7-day window once permit season begins on June 15th. Overnight permits are not available at local Forest Service offices or outside the reservation system.

How do I learn more about the permit program?

[Willamette National Forest - Home \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/willamette-national-forest)

How do I get a permit once they are available?

[Recreation.gov - Camping, Cabins, RVs, Permits, Passes & More](https://www.recreation.gov/camping-cabins-rvs-permits-passes-more)

Then put “Central Cascades Wilderness” in the search and all options will show. Reservations can also be made over the phone.

Deschutes National Forest Summer Trail Conditions

Last Updated: May 24th, 2024

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

Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District

- ❖ **Phil’s Area Trails** – Trailhead now open! Most trails snow free and clear.

Please do not ride on muddy trails, which can damage the tread and trail corridor.

E-Bikes are not allowed on any non-motorized trails.

- ❖ **Tumalo Falls Area** – Road to trailhead now open! Trail conditions are unknown but snow and possible blowdown will be encountered a short distance above the falls. Farewell and upper Mrazek are closed M-F while forest thinning takes place.

Stock, dogs, bikes and camping are all prohibited inside the Bend Municipal Watershed. On North Fork Trail, mountain bikes are limited to uphill riding only.

Due to very limited parking and extremely high use, there is a 27’ vehicle length limit at Tumalo Falls TH. Please pay close attention to “NO PARKING” signs on one side of the entrance road. These sections of roadway must remain open to avoid traffic hazards and permit larger emergency vehicle access.

- ❖ **Deschutes River Trail** – Snow free and clear. POSSIBLE TRAIL CLOSURE starting Tuesday, May 28th, due to prescribed burning. If burn goes forward, all trails between Meadow Camp and Dillon will be temporarily closed. Check DNF website for Alerts.



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- ❖ **Sunriver, 41 Road, and Welcome Station Area** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Sun Lava Paved Path** between Sunriver, Benham East and Lava Lands. Snow free and clear. Pine needles may exist on surface. Heavy use on weekends.
- ❖ **Lava Lands Trails/Lava River Cave** – Snow free and clear. Timed reservations available through www.recreation.gov
- ❖ **Tumalo Creek 2 Trail** – Snow free. Possible blowdown. Hiker only.
- ❖ **Wanoga Area** – Patchy snow.
- ❖ **Swampy Lakes** – Snow.
- ❖ **Todd Lake** – Deep snow.
- ❖ **Tumalo Mountain** – Deep snow.
- ❖ **Broken Top** – Deep snow and behind a closed gate.
- ❖ **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** – Unknown. Likely snow free at trailhead with snow near Lucky Lake. Possible blowdown.
- ❖ **Corral Swamp** – Snow.



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- ❖ **Cultus Lk and Winopee** - Snow.
- ❖ **Many Lakes** - Snow.
- ❖ **Lemish Lake TH** - Snow.
- ❖ **Charlton Lake** - Snow.
- ❖ **Osprey Point** – Likely snow free.
- ❖ **Fall River Trail** – Likely snow free.
- ❖ **South/North Twin Lakes** – Likely snow free with possible blowdown.
- ❖ **Horse Butte to Swamp Wells area trails** – Snow free on lower portions near Horse Butte and below Swamp Wells Horse Camp. Above SWHC, deep snow and likely blowdown.
- ❖ **Newberry Caldera Trails** – Snow.
- ❖ **Peter Skene Ogden Trail** – Snow free on lower section, deep snow up high.
- ❖ **Lava Cast Forest Trailhead** – Likely snow free. NWFP required!
- ❖ **Hoffman Island Trailhead** – Likely snow free.

Sisters Ranger District:

- ❖ **Black Butte** – Light blowdown on upper section and snow likely near summit. Snow free and clear on lower section.
- ❖ **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. **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.
- ❖ **Peterson Ridge Trails** – Snow free and clear. New trailhead on FR 16!
- ❖ **Metolius-Windigo** – Likely snow free on areas below 5500 ft. Moderate to heavy blowdown possible through Pole Creek fire scar.
- ❖ **Tam Rim/Three Creeks Area** – Deep snow and behind a closed gate.
- ❖ **PCT** - Deep snow and behind a closed gate.
- ❖ **Scott Pass/Millican Crater** – Both trails are snow free and clear on lower 1 mile. Snow and likely blowdown above that. Trout Creek Tie conditions unknown.



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- ❖ **Black Crater** – Deep snow and behind a closed gate.
- ❖ **Chush Falls** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Pole Creek/Green Lakes/Park Meadow/Camp Lake/DeMaris Lake** – Trailhead is accessible. Unknown snow conditions but likely starting around 5500 ft. Blowdown likely.
- ❖ **Head of Jack Creek** – Snow free. Blowdown possible.
- ❖ **Jefferson Lake** – First four miles snow free and clear. Unknown conditions beyond, likely light blowdown with snow around 5000 ft.
- ❖ **Cabot Lake** – Unknown. Likely light blowdown with snow around 5000 ft.
- ❖ **Rockpile Lake** – Trailhead not accessible due to snow and blowdown. Light blowdown and snow free on lower 1.5 miles.
- ❖ **Jack Lake TH** – Trailhead is accessible but trail users will hit snow and possible blowdown a short distance from parking lot.
- ❖ **Round Lake** – Snow free and clear from trailhead to Square Lake. Snow beyond.
- ❖ **MINTO LAKE, BRUSH CREEK AND SUGAR PINE RIDGE TRAILS ARE ALL IMPASSIBLE DUE TO BRUSH, HEAVY DOWNFALL AND EROSION.**

Crescent Ranger District:

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

MAY SPECIAL TRAIL EVENTS:

None that I'm aware of.



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SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES/OPENINGS:

Hwy 46	OPEN for the summer season.
FR 370	CLOSED at Cascade Lakes Highway.
Tumalo Falls Road (FR 4603)	OPEN for the summer season.
FR 21	OPEN for the summer season.
Hwy 242	CLOSED to vehicles at ODOT gate.
FR 16	CLOSED at Upper Three Creeks SnoPark.
FR 60	OPEN for the summer 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 – WHAT TO ALWAYS PACK INTO THE BACKCOUNTRY:

For details on the “Ten Essential Systems”, go to:

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/ten-essentials.html>

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



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Crescent Ranger District: (541) 433-3200

Find this weekly trail access and condition report on the Deschutes National Forest website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/deschutes/home/?cid=stelprdb5347630>