

# DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST

## SUMMER TRAIL CONDITIONS AND ACCESS

### UPDATE FOR JUNE 20, 2006

#### Deschutes National Forest General Trail Conditions:

**Weather forecast** for the next week on the Deschutes National Forest is calling for mostly clear skies with temperatures in the upper thirties/forties to mid seventies and eighties. Keep in mind that last week we had severe thunderstorms pass through the area and we are in the thunderstorm season. If caught out in severe thunderstorms, seek appropriate cover for wind, lightning and hail/rain and be aware of possible flooding.

The warmer/sunny weather will keep the spring thaw moving along at a steady pace resulting in improved trail access from a snow standpoint over the next week. **Snow** yet blocks many of the mid elevation (5,600 - 6,000 ft.) recreation sites and/or trails, and the higher elevations (above 6000 ft.) are mostly under snow. Keep in mind that many of the Forest's Wilderness trails are above 5,000 ft. in elevation and presently 85% snow covered. The speed at which the snow is melting is increasing; but keep in mind that we yet have 4-7 ft. of snow depth in areas like South, Middle and North Sister, Green Lakes, Broken Top, Mt. Washington, Mt. Jefferson, and Diamond Peak. It may not be until late July that all Wilderness Trails are snow free.

**Winter blowdown** so far is reported to be anywhere from light to heavy in volume. Trail clearing has begun and some of the cleared trails are listed below. Some low use trails will not be cleared this year.

**Mosquito count** is on the rise and they are getting real hungry. Reports are beginning to come in of **very high** counts. It's shaping up to be **memorable** mosquito year. Take nets and/or repellent as necessary.

**Road, trailhead, and specific high use trail information:** is as follows and is broken down by Ranger District (Bend\Fort Rock, Sisters, Crescent).

# Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District

June 20, 06 updates

## General Road Access:

Road Name or Number	Condition or Access
Cascade Lakes Hwy (Hwy 46)	Open, but limited access to a few trailheads and recreation sites from Dutchman Flat to Elk Lake due to snow. See trailhead table below.
Road 370 to Todd Lake and beyond to Broken Top Trailhead and Happy Valley	Blocked by 2-6 ft. of snow, est. full opening mid July. <b>At this time, it's a ½ mile hike over snow into Todd Lake.</b>
Road to Sparks Lake boat ramp	Blocked by snow, est opening next week.
Road 600 to Irish/Taylor Lakes	Open to Little Cultus Lake but blocked by snow and downed trees approx. 2 miles east of Irish/Taylor Lks.
Road 4603 to Tumalo Falls Trailhead	Open
Road 21 to Newberry Crater	Open into Crater from Hwy 97 but blocked by snow from the east.
Road to Paulina Peak	Blocked by snow, est. opening early July.

**Trailhead Access:** The following table lists District **trailheads** and their access. Also noted are those trailheads that are primary Wilderness access points. Trail conditions out of those trailheads may be described in general terms. These conditions and access are subject to change without notice.

Trailhead Name (Alphabetical order)	Trailhead Access and/or trails conditions
Aspen	Open - River trails in good condition

Benham Falls East	Open - River trails in good condition
Benham Falls West	Open - River trails in good condition
Bessie Butte	Open - light blowdown
Big Eddy	Open - River trails in good condition
Blue Lagoon	Open - not cleared
Broken Top (Wilderness)	Blocked by snow, est mid-late July accessible
Charlton Lake	Road 4290 open. Trails under patchy snow and blowdown.
Corral Swamp (Wilderness)	Open - trails under patchy snow and sections of heavy blowdown.
Crater Ditch (Wilderness)	Blocked by snow, est mid-late July accessible
Deer Lake (Wilderness)	Open - trails under patchy snow/moderate blowdown
Devils Lake/access to South Sister Climber's Trail (Wilderness)	Partial blocked locked by snow, est. June 28 fully accessible, est. snow free access to Summit late July. On June 9, there was 7-8 ft. of snow in the Moraine Lake area and Lake ice covered. Trail to summit under 3-8 ft. of snow except for section of red ridge near summit. 6/9 Photos
Dillon Falls	Open - River trails in good condition
Dutchman Flat (access to Tumalo Mt.)	Open - trails in area are 100% under 1-4' of snow. Poor conditions for snowmobiling, skiing, and snowshoeing. Due to minimal snow and bare ground around Sno-park, closed for the summer season for snowmobiling.
Edison	Open - trails higher up have patchy snow
Elk Lake (Wilderness)	Trailhead snow free - trails under patchy to 3' of snow/blowdown.
Green Lakes (Wilderness)	Partial blocked by snow, est. June 25 fully accessible into trailhead parking, trail access

	to Lakes est. mid July. June 9 report - Lakes ice covered and 7-8 ft. of snow on ground. 6/9 Photos
Hoffman Island	The <b>new detour from the Sunriver/Cottonwood Jct into Lava Cast Forest and Hoffman Island Trailheads</b> is now open. The detour is well signed and quite visible. Trail not cleared.
Horse Butte	Open - trails cleared
Irish\Taylor (PCT direct access) (Wilderness)	Blocked by snow and blowdown - road access blocked 2 miles east of Lakes.
Lava Cast Forest	The <b>new detour from the Sunriver/Cottonwood Jct into Lava Cast Forest and Hoffman Island Trailheads</b> is now open. The detour is well signed and quite visible. Trails in good condition.
Lava Island	Open - River trails in good condition
Lava Lands	Open
Lemish Lake	Open - trails under patchy snow and moderate blowdown
Little Crater	Trailhead open - trails under patchy snow and some blowdown.
Lucky Lake (Wilderness)	Open - trails under patchy to 1' of snow/moderate blowdown
Many Lakes (Wilderness)	Blocked by snow and blowdown
Meadow	Open - River trails in good condition
Newberry Rim	Blocked by snow - est. late June-early July accessible
North Twin/South Twin	Open - trails cleared
Obsidian	Patchy snow
Osprey Point	Open

Paulina Falls	Open - Patchy snow
Paulina Peak	Blocked by snow - est. late June-early July accessible. Trails under snow and not cleared.
Peter Skene Ogden	Open - entire trail was cleared but may have new blowdown about 2 miles from bottom.
Phil's	Open - trails in good condition
Quinn Meadow Horse Camp (by reservation)	Blocked by snow - trails not cleared
Sisters Mirror (Wilderness)	Trailhead snow free - trails under 1-3' of snow and not cleared.
Six Lakes (Wilderness)	Open - trails under patchy to 2' of snow/moderate blowdown
Skyliner	Open
Slough	Open - River trails in good condition
Sparks Lake (Ray Atkeson Trail)	Blocked by snow, est. June 25 accessible
Swampy Lakes	Open - trails in area have patchy snow. Flagline bike trail closed until Aug. 15 for elk calving
Todd Lake (Wilderness)	Blocked by snow, est. July 1 accessible but patchy snow remaining around Lake
Todd Lake Horse Camp	Blocked by snow, est. June 28 accessible
Tumalo Falls	Open - trails above blocked by snow 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond trailhead. Bikers - UPHILL BIKING ONLY on North Fork Trail so, until the trail melts out, est. early July, trail closed to biking until then.
Wake Butte	Open - light blowdown
Winopee Lake (Wilderness)	Open - patchy snow/moderate blowdown on trails, limited trail clearing in progress, trail cleared to West Cultus boat-in camp, Wilderness trails not cleared est. moderate blowdown.

## **Special Bend/Fort Rock High Use Trail Information:**

Heavy warm rains can accelerate the melting of the snow pack. While this may sound like good news at speeding up access to favorite trails, it may also mean increase erosion to trails and other forms of flood damage ie. high water in lakes, streams and rivers.

- **Phil's Trailhead area trails are in good condition and very popular this time of year.** Expect to find some blowdown and lingering snow patches around and above Swampy Lakes areas. Swede Ridge mostly snow free but some blowdown. Swampy trails/South Fork/North Fork are partially snow covered. Heads up on a trail closure affecting the segments of COD and KGB that fall on Cascade Highlands Project (private property). See the COTA website at: <http://www.cotamtb.org/news.php?060517211809> for more information on those trail closures.
- **Notice: We've received reports of target shooters near some of the trails in the Phil's Trail area that has been a safety concern of many of the area trail users.** To those doing target practice on Public Lands, please be aware of local regulations and be sure the direction you are shooting in is not across a road, trail or any recreation, residential or occupied area. Be aware that trails, roads, recreation sites and waterways are numerous in the Central Oregon area and unless you are shooting directly into a hillside, you may unknowingly be shooting across roads, trails or other potentially occupied areas. To trail users or other public land users, if you think target practice in an area is in violation of local regulations or being done in an unsafe manner, contact local law enforcement officials and/or local land managers.
- **South Sister Climber's Trail, Green Lakes, Moraine Lake, Broken Top and Todd Lake area is yet under 2 to 7 ft. of snow.** Trailhead parking is partially blocked by snow with

**limited parking available.** If you plan on visiting these areas over the next few weeks, plan on limited parking, hiking on snow and dealing with the hazards ie. not being able to follow a trail, postholing, high water crossings, spring avalanche potential, falling rock, ice covered lakes and streams, etc. This area and trails are not recommended for the inexperienced or unprepared.

- **Most Wilderness Trailheads are yet snowed in. 90% of Wilderness Trails are yet snowed in so plan on snow covered trails and all the hazards listed above.** Wilderness information Boards and Wilderness permit sign-in stations are yet being installed at many of the Forests Wilderness access trailheads. Wilderness trail clearing has been completed only on a few select Wilderness trails on the Sisters District.
- **July 1-Sept. 30 dogs are required to be on leash when on or along trails in the Todd Lake, Broken Top, Soda Creek, Fall Creek, Green Lakes, Moraine Lake, South Sister and South Sister Climber's Trail areas.**
- **Hwy 46 is now fully open but, Broken Top, Todd Lake, Todd Creek Horse Camp, Sparks Lake Trailhead and Boat Ramp are fully snowed in and Green Lakes/Devils Lake/South Sister Trailheads are partially snowed in.** It may be early July (late July for Broken Top) before all trailheads and recreation facilities are accessible along this section of Hwy.
- **Deschutes River Trails - snow free and cleared of blowdown from Sunriver to Meadow Picnic with all trailheads on this section accessible. May 1 - Sept. 30 the seasonal Dog Leash Regulation is in effect along the Deschutes River Corridor from Benham East Picnic area to Meadow Picnic.** This includes all trails, recreation facilities and the area referred to as the Deschutes River Corridor in that area. Persons possessing a dog off leash in this area may be cited. Reasons for the leash requirement are: user conflicts and wildlife protection.

- Tumalo Falls Trailhead is open but North Fork/Bridge Creek Trails - expect snow within 1 ½ mile of Tumalo Falls Trailhead.
- Road 21 from the west into Newberry Crater is now open, but be aware that there is yet patchy -2 ft. of snow in the general area. Road 21 access from the East is yet blocked by snow. Most recreation sites, trailheads and boating access in the Crater are snow free. The road to Paulina Peak is yet under snow and may not open until late June to early July. Trails above the Crater floor are mostly under snow and blowdown.

## Bend/Fort Rock Special Event Information:

- The IMBA/COTA Spring Fling held on Saturday, June 10 was a great success with over 50 volunteers pitching in to construct about ½ mile of primary bike trail. This new trail is not yet complete and will likely be open to use later this fall. Thanks to all those who were able to attend this work party.

## Sisters Ranger District

June 20, 06 updates

### General Road Access:

Road Name or Number	Condition or Access
Road 12	Open
Road 14	Open
Road 15	Blocked by snow ¼ mile below Trapper Meadow
Hwy 242	Closed due to snow, rocks and blowdown. Access to bikers and hikers but expect patches of snow, rocks and blowdown in road. Scheduled for opening July 4 Weekend.



Road 370 (connecting road to Todd Lake and Cascade Lakes Hwy)	Blocked by 2-6 ft. of snow, est. full opening mid July.
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<b>Trailhead Name (Alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Trailhead Access and/or trails conditions</b>
Bear Valley (Wilderness)	Open - Rock Pile Lake Trail cleared to within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of Wilderness boundary. See additional notes below.
Black Butte	Open - trail is logged out.
Black Crater (Wilderness)	Hwy 242 closed by snow and debris. Scheduled for opening July 4 weekend.
Jack Lake (Canyon Creek Meadow access) (Wilderness)	Open - trails above trailhead are under patchy snow/blowdown.
Jefferson Lake (Wilderness)	Open - see trail notes below.
Lava Camp Lake (PCT/Wilderness access)	Hwy 242 closed by snow and debris
Little Three Creeks (Wilderness)	Blocked by snow
Millican Crater (Wilderness)	Blocked by snow
Park Meadow (Wilderness)	Blocked by snow
Pole Creek (Wilderness)	Open - trail snow free to Soap Creek but not logged out. Notice - sometime in the next few weeks, this trailhead will be closed for 2-3 days (mid-week) to removed hazard trees.
Scott Pass (Wilderness)	Open
Tam McArthur (Wilderness)	Blocked by snow

Whychuse Creek (Wilderness)	Open - trail is logged out.
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### Special Sisters High Use Trail Information:

- **Black Butte Trailhead/trail is snow free and cleared.**
- **Jefferson Lake Trail** is logged out about 1 mile past Cougar Springs. Sugar Pine Ridge is logged out to approximately mile 3.
- **Trail from Bear Valley to Sheep Springs Campground** is logged out and ready for use. There is a portion of the trail along Bear Valley Creek that has been washed out by a seasonal drainage. It is passable, but very uneven ground.
- **Scout and Dark Lake are logged out.**
- **Suttle Lake Loop is Logged out**

### Crescent Ranger District

June 20, 06 updates

#### General Road Access:

Road Name or Number	Condition or Access
Road 60	Blocked by snow at approx. milepost 14
Road 6010 (Summit Lake Road)	Road closed at gate 5 miles from Lake until snow melts out and road has chance to drain.
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<b>Trailhead Name (Alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Trailhead Access and/or trails conditions</b>
Crater Butte (Wilderness access)	Open - expect snow and blowdown on trails
Emigrant (Wilderness access)	Blocked by snow - est. mid July accessible
Fawn Lake (Wilderness access)	Open - expect snow and blowdown on trails
Maiden Lake	Open - expect snow and blowdown on trails
Meek Lake	Blocked by snow but soon accessible
Moore Creek	Open - expect snow and blowdown on trails
Pangra Pass (Wilderness access)	Blocked by snow - gate opens June 30
Rosary (PCT access)	Open - expect snow and blowdown on trails
Skyliner	Blocked by snow - est. mid July accessible
Snell Lake (Wilderness access)	Blocked by snow but soon accessible
Trapper Creek (Wilderness access)	Temp closed for railroad work - expect snow and blowdown on trails
Whitefish Lake (Wilderness access)	Open - expect snow and blowdown on trails
Windigo (PCT access)	Blocked by snow - est. mid July accessible
Windy-Oldenberg	Open - expect snow and blowdown on trails
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### **Special Crescent High Use Trail Information:**

Nothing to report at this time!

Next Deschutes trail updates - June 26!

Have a safe week...