



## Winter Trail Access and Condition Update December 4<sup>th</sup> – December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Winter Trail Highlights

- Early season snow storms have got winter off to a quick start. Most SnoParks on the Deschutes National Forest have adequate snow coverage for snow sports. See inside for more details.
- Expect heavy crowds at all developed recreation sites.
- Summer trails are a winter mix. See inside for more details.
- Many area roads are closed through April 1<sup>st</sup> including the Tumalo Winter Range and those that serve as winter trails.
- To align with the Governor's emergency COVID-19 orders, all front country shelters are currently CLOSED. This includes the Meissner "Lodge," Wanoga Sno Play, 10 Mile, Crescent Junction and Upper Three Creeks.
- Approximately 50% of the signs in the Dutchman-Moon Mountain area have been installed. Very few trail markers have been put up thus far. It is the responsibility of the user to know where they are.
- FR 370, FR 21 (Paulina Lake Road) and Cascade Lakes Highway (at West Village) are now closed for the winter season. See inside for more details.
- Sno-Park permits are now required in designated Sno-Parks. Funds from permit sales are used by ODOT to plow and remove snow from Sno-Park parking areas.
- Through April 30<sup>th</sup>, dogs are prohibited on the north side of Cascade Lakes Highway, including Meissner, Swampy, and Dutchman Sno-Parks.



Volunteers with COTA and CONC, along with FS Trails staff, completed a new trail bridge just before the snow came in. This is located on the Tumalo Creek Trail, as it crosses the South Fork. It was a huge, successful effort!



Temporary signs mark a motorized closure area on Tumalo Mountain on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. With high use expected throughout the winter, it is extra important people understand and follow area rules.



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## SnoPark Conditions Table Coding:

Special area restrictions or notations relating to the table below are as follows:

- 1 = Area/trails closed to dogs except working dogs in harness on groomed snowmobile trails and only with a permit**
- 2 = Area open to dogs**
- 3 = Area/trails closed to motorized use**
- 4 = Vehicles with trailers limited to 40' overall length**
- 5 = High to extreme use with special area/trail restrictions, see sno-park information board, trail maps and area signing for full details. Very limited parking, try to avoid on weekends and holidays.**

## Deschutes National Forest SnoPark Trail Conditions

**Last Updated: December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**General snow conditions: Decent coverage with variable consistency.**

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

<b>SNO-PARK NAME</b> Designated trails or activities with numerical notations explained above	<b>LOCATION</b> Hwy or Road and milepost	<b>PARK ELEV.</b>	<b>APPROX. SNOW DEPTH TOTAL</b>	<b>SNOW CONDITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS</b> (Conditions subject to change without notice and at the whim of Nature)
<b>Meissner</b> 1 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 14	5,350'	10-18"	Area roads closed through April 1 <sup>st</sup> . No dogs. Meissner Lodge currently closed.
<b>Wanoga Snow Play</b> 2 3 Tubing/sledding Groomed ski/dog trails	HWY 46, MP 15	5,400'	12-24"	Marginal – fast and icy. Expect heavy use pretty much all the time. Pack home broken sleds and all trash. Shelter currently closed.
<b>Wanoga Snowmobile</b> 2 Snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 15	5,500'	12-24"	Good conditions. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31
<b>Swampy</b> 1 3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 16	5,800'	18-30"	Good conditions. No dogs. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31
<b>Vista Butte</b> 1 3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 18	5,950'	18-30"	Good. Area north of parking area closed to snowmobiles, use Kapka Butte or Wanoga.



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<b>Dutchman</b> 1 4 5 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 22	6,250'	24-36"	Good. Limited parking/no overnight camping. 40' max length limit for vehicle/trailer combination. Expect heavy use all the time!
<b>Kapka Butte</b> 2 Snowmobiling/ski/shoe	¼ mi. south of Hwy 46, on Road 45	5,900'	18-30"	Good. Area side roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31.
<b>Edison</b> 2 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	4 mi. south of Hwy 46 on Road 45	5,000'	8-16"	Good. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31.
<b>Skyliner</b> 2 Ski/snowshoe	Skyliner Rd MP 9	4,700'	UNK	Gate/road to Tumalo Falls is closed for the season. Road is ski/snowshoe trail.
<b>Six Mile</b> 2 Snowmobiling	Road 21, MP 6 East of Hwy 97	4,400'	4-6	Marginal conditions due to low snow. Road 21 beyond Ten Mile closed to vehicles for winter season.
<b>Ten Mile</b> 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 21, MP 10 East of Hwy 97	5,560'	7-9	Good conditions with thin coverage. Road 21 beyond Ten Mile closed to vehicles for winter season.
<b>Lower Three Creek</b> 2 Snowmobile/Ski	Road 16, MP 8	4,400'	2-6"	Poor conditions due to low snow. SnoPark not currently plowed due to low use and lack of funding.
<b>Upper Three Creek</b> 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 16, MP 11	5,250'	8-10"	Fair. Road 16 currently in good condition all the way to SnoPark.
<b>Hwy 242 (Mckenzie Pass)</b> 2 Snomo/ski/shoe	Hwy 242, MP 7 from Sisters	3,800'	UNK	Hwy closed to summer access. Parking area may not be plowed.
<b>Crescent Junction</b> 2 Snowmobiling	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 1/2	4,750'	6-8"	Fair conditions but shallow coverage.
<b>Crescent Lake</b> 2 Snowmobiling/BC (no ski/snowshoe trails)	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 2	4,700'	6-8"	Fair conditions but shallow coverage.
<b>Walt Haring</b> 2 Snowmobile/ski trails	Hwy 97, Between MP 202 and 203, north of Chemult, off FR 9772	4,800'	6-8"	Thin coverage.



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## For more information on winter trail grooming and maintenance, go to:

- **Meissner Nordic Club** - Ski trail grooming at Meissner – <http://www.meissnernordic.org/>
- **Central Oregon Nordic Club** - Ski/snowshoe trail maintenance on most area blue diamond trails - <http://conordicclub.org/new/>
- **DogPac** - Grooming/maintenance on ski trails open to dogs out of Wanoga Snow Play Sno-Park - <http://dogpac.org/>
- **Moon Country Snowbusters and Sisters Sno-Go-Fers Snowmobile Clubs** - Wanoga to Sisters area trail grooming – <https://mcsnowbusters.wixsite.com/website>
- **La Pine Lodgepole Dodgers Snowmobile Club** – Newberry National Volcanic Monument area trails - <http://www.lapinedodgerssnow.org/default.aspx>
- **Walker Rim Riders Snowmobile Club** - Crescent area - <http://www.walkerrimriders.com/page125235.aspx>
- **Mt. Jefferson Snowmobile Club** - Santiam Pass area - <http://www.mtjefferson.org/>
- **COTA Winter Fat Bike Trail Grooming** - out of Wanoga Snow Play Sno-Park, for the 2019-20 winter season as snow conditions allow.

## WINTER MAP DOWNLOADS ON iPhone, ANDROID OR TABLET:

Using GPS, the Avenza Maps app works on your iPhone, Android or tablet to show your location on a map you have downloaded. You will need the Avenza Maps app on your device, which is free to download. Once the app is installed on your phone, go to...

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/deschutes/maps-pubs/?cid=STELPRDB5408820>

...to download PDF winter maps directly.

## Deschutes National Forest Summer Trail Conditions

**Last Updated: December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**\*\*ALL SUMMER TRAILS ARE UNDER SNOW/INACCESSIBLE, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED BELOW\*\***

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

❖ **Phil's Area Trails** – Patchy snow, ice, and mud. Please do not ride on muddy trails. There are currently NO closures associated with the West Bend Project. E-Bikes are NOT allowed on any non-motorized trails.

For more information on COTA, go to: <http://cotamtb.com/>

❖ **Deschutes River Trail** – Patchy snow, ice, and mud.



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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).

- ❖ **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). Potential patchy snow and ice. Heavy use on weekends.
- ❖ **Lava Lands Trails** – Potential patchy snow and ice. Visitor Center is closed for the season. Trails and trailhead parking remain open.
- ❖ **Tumalo Creek 2 Trail** – Patchy snow, ice, and mud. Hiker only.
- ❖ **Fall River Trail** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Horse Butte to Swamp Wells area trails** – Mostly snow free and clear. Snow and ice on Swamp Wells as you climb to Horse Camp.
- ❖ **Peter Skene Ogden Trail** – Patchy snow, ice, and mud.
- ❖ **Lava Cast Forest Trailhead** – Patchy snow and ice. NWFP required!
- ❖ **Hoffman Island Trailhead** – Patchy snow, ice, and mud.

### Sisters Ranger District:

- ❖ **Metolius River Trails** – Snow free and clear.
- ❖ **Suttle Lake Trail** – Patchy snow, ice, and mud.
- ❖ **Lake Creek Trail** – Patchy snow, ice, and mud.
- ❖ **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. Enjoy the newly constructed vault toilet!
- ❖ **Peterson Ridge Trails** – Snow free and clear.

### DECEMBER SPECIAL TRAIL EVENTS:

None scheduled that I’m aware of.

### SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES/OPENINGS:

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

**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



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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>