



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

**Rogue Valley  
Public Affairs**

*Jackson and Josephine Counties*

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**Feb. 23, 2006**  
**06-17-R3**

## **Tree removal paves the way for South Medford Interchange project**

MEDFORD — Brush and tree removal tomorrow signals the start of construction work on the South Medford Interchange project, a \$70 million effort aimed at relieving traffic congestion and safety issues at the current Barnett Road interchange (exit 27) on Interstate 5.

“The tree and brush removal will be handled now before birds can nest for the season,” said ODOT Technical Services Manager Joe Squire. “Some of the trees, such as Cottonwood and Ash, will be used for wildlife habitat in the Rogue Valley and site restoration once the interchange is complete.”

Nearly 200 trees and brush near the Bear Creek bridges on I-5 need to be removed. The joint venture with the City of Medford has been in development for more than five years. The project’s bid opening is March 16 with major work scheduled later this spring.

The site of the new I-5 interchange is 1,900 feet south of the Barnett Road overpass, which will be modified into a local east-west connector.

I-5 motorists are advised to drive with caution in the work zone.

**##ODOT##**

