



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

Region 4 *Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Jefferson, Wheeler,
Deschutes, Crook, Klamath and Lake Counties*

June 1, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OR 242 available for bicyclist and pedestrian use

McKenzie Pass Highway (OR 242) will be available for use by bicyclists and pedestrians starting Friday, June 2. **THE HIGHWAY IS NOT OPEN TO MOTORIZED VEHICLES, INCLUDING MOTORCYCLES.** The Oregon Department of Transportation reminds motorists that it is illegal, and very dangerous, for unauthorized motor vehicles to enter the area beyond the gate.

While pedestrians and bicycles can use the cleared section of the roadway for recreational activities, **users are asked to be aware of maintenance work taking place on the west side of the summit, toward McKenzie Bridge.** Intermittent work may take place throughout the entire length of the highway, as crews prepare the roadway for vehicle traffic.

ODOT crews have spent several weeks blowing the snow, which reached depths up to 30 feet. Snow must melt off the highway before it will be opened to vehicular traffic. The 36-mile stretch of road, which opened to vehicles on May 26 in 2005, is estimated to open in July, weather permitting.

User Reminders:

- Bicyclists and pedestrians are advised to stay on the right side of the road and remain alert at all times when recreating on this stretch of the McKenzie Pass Highway (OR 242). The potential for emergency or government vehicles using the roadway, at anytime, is always a possibility.
- Illegal vehicle entrance is punishable by fines of up to \$5,000. Additionally, any driver causing damage to natural resources can be fined an additional \$5,000. Local law enforcement will patrol the highway during the coming weeks and issue citations for illegal activities. *Witnesses of illegal motorist activities are asked to call the Forest Service at 541.549.7700 with vehicle license plate, description and state of origin.*

- All animals must be leashed to prevent collisions and confrontations with pedestrians and bicyclists. Leash laws will be enforced.
- Bikers, hikers and dog walkers are advised to pack extra water, sunscreen and snacks.

For road information, visit www.TripCheck.com.

##ODOT##