



Oregon Department of Transportation

# NEWS RELEASE

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

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## **McKenzie Pass Highway opens PARTIALLY for non-motorized traffic on May 19**

**MCKENZIE BRIDGE** -- The McKenzie Pass Highway (OR 242) will officially open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic on Saturday morning, May 19. The highway closed for the winter on November 7. However, crews encountered more snow than expected on the west side of the Pass, delaying opening of the through route until next week. About 3 and a half miles of snow remain to be cleared from the Highway to the east of Alder Springs.

ODOT urges those who access the highway from the east side to seize the opportunity to ride or walk the scenic route. The highway will be open to pedestrians and cyclists from the east gate near Sisters to just west of the Obsidian Trailhead, allowing visitors approaching from the east to hike the Obsidian Trail and visit the Dee Wright Observatory.

Beginning on or around June 15, Willamette National Forest officials will begin a road improvement project at Dead Horse Grade (about mile point 69). The project, funded by the Federal Highway Administration, will cut back the slope and realign the highway, making the road more stable and safe for all users. The highway will be closed to traffic on foot and vehicles at that time.

**##ODOT##**