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Historic Columbia River Highway reopens Friday after renovation closure

Vista House also re-opens Friday and plans a Saturday-Sunday winter schedule

The Historic Columbia River Highway reopens Friday morning after closures for a highway restoration project.

In addition, Vista House, overlooking the Columbia River Gorge, reopens Friday and will be open, weather permitting, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through the winter.

The Historic Columbia River Highway has been closed around the Crown Point site during restoration of 600-foot viaduct surrounding Vista House, which is part of the Oregon State Parks system.

The viaduct and its 29 support columns are deteriorating. Without restoration, the road could require weight restrictions, which would keep tourist buses, RV's and other large vehicles off the road.

Occasional lane closures may be necessary in the final stages of the renovation project, which is scheduled for completion by late spring 2013.

The road, now called the Historic Columbia River Highway, opened in 1916. Two years later, Vista House opened at the Crown Point summit 733 feet above the Columbia River. Crown Point typically receives more than half a million visitors a year.

For more information, go to <http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/or/crownpoint>.



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