



Oregon Department of Transportation

# NEWS RELEASE

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

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## East Side McKenzie Pass Highway Opens For Motorized Traffic June 18

### Road Improvement Project Closes West Side Through Traffic Blocked From Obsidian Trailhead

**BEND** -- The McKenzie Pass Highway (OR 242) will PARTIALLY open to motorized traffic on Monday, June 18. The highway closed for the winter on November 7, 2006. Last year, the highway opened to motorized vehicle traffic on June 29.

ODOT urges those who access the highway from the east side to seize the opportunity to drive the scenic route from near Sisters to the Obsidian Trailhead.

Beginning the week of June 18, National Forest officials expect to begin a road improvement project at Dead Horse Grade (mile point 69). During the work period, the highway will be closed to all traffic from the Obsidian Trailhead (mile point 70.85) on the east side to Alder Springs on the west side. U.S. Forest Service officials anticipate completing the project by Aug. 15.

The McKenzie Pass Highway became a seasonal scenic highway in 1962 with the completion of the Clear Lake-Belknap Springs section of OR 126. Even during its tenure as the main route between the southern Willamette Valley and Central Oregon, the narrow, twisting roadway and high elevation (5,325 feet) made the highway too difficult to maintain and keep clear during the winter months.

**##ODOT##**

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Visit the ODOT News Media Center at [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM)