

# USFS proposes changes to trails

The "Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Washington Wilderness Trails Project" draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public comment. Public comments will help the Sisters Ranger District craft a final decision regarding the project.

The Sisters Ranger District proposes to change the trail class of two trails and decommission three trails within two wilderness areas and close two wilderness trailheads. The project area is located about 12 miles west and northwest of Sisters.

The draft environmental assessment describes two alternatives, including the No Action alternative. The proposed action (Alternative 2) would change the trail class of a section of the Jefferson Lake and the Brush Creek trails located in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. The trails would change from Trail Class 3 to Trail Class 1. Trail Class 1 trails are minimally developed, receive minimum maintenance, and are passable for the most part by hikers only. This change in Trail Class affects about 12 miles of trail.

In the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness the Minto Lake and Sugar Pine Ridge trails would be decommissioned. In the Mt. Washington Wilderness the Dry Creek trail would be decommissioned. Additionally, the Dry Creek and Hortense trailheads in the

Mt. Washington Wilderness would be closed.

Trail decommissioning would remove trailhead signs; conduct drainage work along trail segments to prevent soil erosion and other resource damage; remove structures such as trail bridges; and conduct restoration handwork to encourage the natural recovery of the trails. About 15 miles of trail would be decommissioned.

On March 27, 2013, a final rule revising 36 CFR Part 218 was published in the Federal Register. The 36 CFR 218 rule provides the public an opportunity to comment and express concerns on projects before decisions are made, rather than after. This would allow the Agency to make minor changes for a project prior to signing a final decision. The Forest Service believes this aligns with our collaborative approach to forest management and increases the likelihood of resolving those concerns, resulting in better, more informed decisions. For more information on 36 CFR Part 218, see the Federal Register, Volume 78, No. 59, March 27, 2013.

Comments will be reviewed and addressed in a Response to Comments section of our decision.

There are three ways for you to obtain a copy of the draft environmental assessment: Request a hard copy — one will be mailed to you or

you can come by the district office to pick up your copy; request a copy of the draft EA on a compact disk (CD); or download the draft environmental assessment through <http://data.ecosystem-management.org>.

Submit comments to the Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Washington Wilderness Trails Project, District Ranger, Kristie Miller, P.O. Box 249, Sisters, Oregon 97759; FAX 541-549-7746. Email comments should be sent to [comments-pacificnorthwestschutes-sisters@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwestschutes-sisters@fs.fed.us). Those submitting electronic comments must do so only to the email listed above, must put the project name in the subject line, and must either submit comments as part of the email message or as an attachment in only one of the following three formats: Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf). Please include your mailing address if you are submitting comments by email.

To obtain a copy of the draft environmental assessment contact Michael Keown, Environmental Coordinator, Sisters Ranger District, P.O. Box 249, Sisters, Oregon 541-549-7735. For more information about the project contact Jason Fisher, Wilderness Specialist, Sisters Ranger District, Post Office Box 249, Sisters, Oregon 541-480-6423.



PHOTO PROVIDED

On the road again...

## Plowing begins on McKenzie Highway

Maintenance crews began plowing the McKenzie Highway this month in preparation of its opening to motor vehicles this summer.

Through the middle or later part of April, crews will plow one lane across the pass and clear out wind-fallen trees from winter storms. ODOT will rely on Mother Nature to melt the remainder of the snow.

The earliest the highway

will open to motor vehicles is the third Monday in June, weather permitting. During the summer, about 300 cars a day travel the highway.

The McKenzie Pass Highway became a seasonal scenic highway in 1962 with the completion of the Clear Lake-Belknap Springs section of OR 126. Highway 242 over McKenzie Pass is part of the McKenzie Pass - Santiam Pass Scenic Byway.

**FAMILY CARE**  
Children to the Elderly

**Three Sisters Chiropractic**  
270 S. Spruce St., Sisters  
Dr. Inice Gough, DC, 541.549.3583  
[ThreeSistersChiropractic.com](http://ThreeSistersChiropractic.com)

*Metamorphosis*  
hair | massage | nails  
facials | makeup  
541-549-1784  
161-C N. Elm St.

**Offering Aveda™ Skin & Body Care!**

**AVEDA**  
the art and science of pure flower and plant essences

**CORK CELLARS**  
— LOCALLY OWNED —  
**350 WINES**  
Plus Craft Beer  
Outdoor seating!  
Memorable Lunches & Dinners  
**CHEF-CREATED SAT. DINNER SPECIAL:**  
Flavors of New Orleans:  
**Jambalaya!**  
Call for reservations,  
541-549-2675

**Tues-Sat 12-8 p.m.**  
391 W. Cascade Ave.  
541-549-2675

Looking for consistency in your dental care?  
We can help.  
Come visit us today!

Exceptional Health, Prevention & Aesthetics

**Ben Crockett, D.D.S.** Check us out on facebook  
541-549-9486 / 541-549-9110  
410 E. Cascade Ave. ■ P.O. Box 1027 ■ Sisters, Oregon 97759  
Hours: Mon., 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tues.-Wed., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thurs., 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

**SISTERS DENTAL**

**Sisters Coffee**

Breakfast 6-11 | Soup 11-2 daily | Buy coffee at [SistersCoffee.com](http://SistersCoffee.com)  
541-549-0527 • 273 W. Hood Ave.

**SPRD SISTERS** Park & Recreation

**Summer Happenings at SPRD**

— SALLI —  
Sisters Annual Lacrosse Invitational — May 7-8  
Crest the Cascades — June 18  
Oregon High School All-Star Games — June 18-19  
Adventure Camps — June 20-August 12  
Great Northwest Running Camp — June 26-July 1  
Car Show — July 16  
British Basketball Camp — August 2-5  
Luau — August 11

See [SistersRecreation.com](http://SistersRecreation.com) or call for details  
1750 W. McKinney Butte Rd. | 541-549-2091

**SNO CAP MINI STORAGE**

Sisters Industrial Park  
157 Sisters Park Dr. • 541-549-3575  
[www.SistersStorage.com](http://www.SistersStorage.com)

- State-of-the-art Security Technology
- Sizes from 5x5 to 12x40
- Individual Gate Codes
- Long-term Discounts
- On-site Manager