

Avoid muddy trails

Many Sisters folks are eager to get out hiking as spring struggles to get started in Sisters Country. However, Sisters Trails Alliance (STA) is asking hikers to stay off muddy trails.

A mild winter and freeze-thaw cycles have left the area trails with a surface of soft mud in many locations. Riding, running, or hiking on muddy trails creates tread damage that requires many hours of volunteer time to repair. Deep ruts and footprints are unsightly and create low spots for snow or rain to settle.

To avoid these puddles, trail users tend to divert around the muddy patches and thereby inadvertently do even more damage to the delicate soils and plants adjacent to the trails. The resulting scarring and widening degrades both the quality of the tread and the aesthetics of the trail experience.

STA is asking users to keep in mind some tips for using the trails responsibly:

- Ride early in the day before the ground thaws.
- Turn around when you encounter soft trail conditions.
- If you encounter a section of soft trail, ride or walk through the middle of the trail tread rather than going around.
- To some degree, fat tire bikes can be used in softer conditions. Use good judgement, if the trails are a muddy mess, find another place to ride.

Ian Reid, Sisters District Ranger, says, "the Forest Service appreciates the support and voluntary compliance in ensuring the sustainability of our trail systems."

STA joins him in that sentiment. For more information visit www.sisterstrails.org.

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COVID-19: Violations of governor's orders a Class C misdemeanor

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Other retail businesses must implement strict social distancing measures and designate an employee or officer charged with ensuring compliance. Retail businesses able to adapt to take-out style shopping — as several have in Sisters — can also remain open.

Childcare facilities will be closed unless they care for the same 10 or fewer children in attendance during the week. Open childcare facilities must prioritize serving children of first responders and parents who work in healthcare or emergency response.

Grocery stores and pharmacies can remain open, with encouragement to maintain social distancing practices.

Violations of the governor's orders would be a Class C misdemeanor. The full text of the governor's order is linked in the online version of this story and is available through *The Nugget's* Facebook page.

Sgt. William Bailey, public information officer for the Deschutes County Sheriff's office, told *The Nugget* that the Sheriff's Office is emphasizing education over enforcement in regard to

COVID-19-related restrictions and they do not plan a draconian response to violations.

"If necessary we will contact them (a violator) and educate them on the restrictions and get them to comply that way," Bailey said.

The city is closing the playground at Cliff Clemens Park, will not open the campground in April as usual, and is trending toward closing the recycling center, said City Manager Cory Misley.

Schools remain closed until April 28. Superintendent Curt Scholl reported that, "after our spring break, on April 6, our staff will begin work to develop core supplemental work to send out to our students... it is our goal to get supplemental materials out as quickly as possible and estimate that we should start disseminating materials no later than Wednesday (April 8)."

Manufacturers and the construction industry may continue operations but must ensure that their employees are maintaining social distancing measures. Some construction activity in Sisters has continued through the restrictions.

Peter Hall, the principal of the ClearPine development at the north end of Pine Street in Sisters told *The Nugget*, "We pressed the go button on two more housing starts in the ClearPine Collective, a new cluster of cottages in



PHOTO BY CODY RHEAULT

Construction activity has continued in recent days.

ClearPine's Phase 6. With the coronavirus outbreak, it was more a measured decision to push forward with new investment in workers and materials. Buyer demand has been very strong in ClearPine so far this year, but new homebuyers may be slower to move until the economic picture begins to clear. Nevertheless, I decided to keep building for the future. The two new houses will be complete in the September timeframe. We also made a decision to proceed with construction of ClearPine phase 5,

starting March 23." Many community activities have been canceled, including the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Department's annual Community Easter Egg Hunt, the Sisters Folk Festival's My Own Two Hands Art Auction and Party, Sisters Science Club gatherings and more.

The Nugget will provide continued updates on the status of businesses and events as well as updates on the overall coronavirus situation as they come available at www.nuggetnews.com.

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