

Horse Creek Complex and Rebel Fire

Update for Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017, 9 a.m.

Fire Information: (541) 719-8371

Online: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5523/>

<https://www.facebook.com/WillametteWildfires2017/>

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Current Situation: Firefighters are spreading fast growing native grass seed on firelines as the last of the suppression repair work for the Separation, Avenue, and Rebel fires is nearing completion. This grass will stabilize the soil giving the forest's natural vegetation an opportunity to take hold. Crews continue on Highway 242 removing hazardous trees. Grading work is still underway on Forest Roads. Rain is moving back into the area and is forecast to continue through the week. Cooler temperatures will bring snow to the higher elevations. Fire managers will evaluate the situation daily with the welfare of crews in mind as they strive to complete their work.

Attention: Visitors to reopened lands may encounter areas burned by recent and past wildfires and need to be aware of their surroundings as trees can fall without warning. Drivers are encouraged to be cautious on all Forest Roads because of ongoing operations.

Areas, roads and trails in the McKenzie River Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest are open. The trails in the southern portion of the Mount Washington Wilderness have reopened. Horse Creek Road, FSR 2638 is open along with East Fork and Wapiti, FSR 1993.

The northern portion of the Aufderheide Scenic Byway (FSR 19) is open allowing access to Tewilliger "Cougar" Hot Springs. FSR 19 will remain closed from Cougar Crossing to Frissell Crossing as crews complete their work in that area of the Rebel Fire. Recreation sites and trailheads along the closed portion of FSR 19 will remain inaccessible.

Highway 242, Old McKenzie Highway, is closed to all traffic including hikers, bicyclists and skateboarders for the safety of the public and the crews working. Trailheads and recreation sites on 242 will remain closed. Heavy equipment is operating along the highway removing hazardous trees. The wood product is hauled over the road to be sorted for firewood, fish habitat restoration, and merchantable materials.

The Three Sisters Wilderness area in the Ranger District will remain closed because of the recent wildfires. The exception is the following trails and areas to their south that are open: Frissell Crossing #3320; Olallie #3529; Wildcat #3331; the portion of Water Holes #3538 that connects to Park #3530; Horse Lake #3516 and east to the forest boundary.