

# West Bend Project



for the greatest good

**What's Happening Now:** Contractors currently are commercially thinning, masticating (mowing), and doing other forest restoration work on an 8,250 acre area within the 26,000 acre West Bend Project. The Forest Service expects to finish work in the most popular mountain biking trail areas, including Phil's Trail and Marvin's Gardens by October, or sooner if possible. As work is completed and areas are safe to enter the closure will be reduced in size.

## Closure

- Operators working on large equipment cutting and moving trees in the unit **cannot see people walking through the area and may not be able to prevent an accident. Mastication can cause debris to hurl over 500 feet from the equipment.**
- In addition, patrols have seen people climbing on log decks in the units. These log decks are not secure and could easily roll and seriously harm people playing or standing on them.
- **Given these safety hazards, the Forest Service has implemented a full area closure from Monday through Friday until the project is completed. The area is available to the public every weekend.**
- Trail closures include: Phil's Trail, Marvin's Garden, The Lair, COD, Elfin Magic, Grand Slam, and others. Road closures include Forest Road 4610 from Skyliners to Cascade Lakes Highway and a portion of Forest Road 4615.

## Other areas to ride during the week:

For information on where to ride during the closure, people can contact the Bend Fort-Rock Ranger District (541-383-4000), Central Oregon Trail Alliance, websites like [bendtrails.org](http://bendtrails.org), local outfitters and guides, or local bike shops. Here is a general list of places for people to ride during the closure:

- **Early Season (Now-May 15th)** : East of Bend, Horse Butte, Horse Ridge, Cline Buttes area (Maston, Juniper, Tumalo Canals – Between Tumalo and Eagle Crest), Peterson Ridge (Sisters), Radlands (Redmond), Lower 66 (Prineville) and Grey Butte/Skull Hollow (Smith Rock)
- **Mid-Season (May 15-August 15):** Wanoga area trails, Swampy area trails, Skyliner area trails, Mt Bachelor Bike Park, Mrazek Trail through Tumalo Falls and/or Shevlin Park, Newberry Crater and Swamp Wells Trails (late June opening) and Ochocos area trails (late June opening)
- **Late Season (August 15-snow season)** All trails listed in Mid-Season plus: Flagline to Swampy area and the High Lakes area.

## Current Conditions:

The Forest Service encourages visitors to **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO** by bookmarking our interactive map <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/webmaps/deschutes/west-bend/public-information/>

USE THIS QR CODE WITH A QR READER ON YOUR PHONE TO GET INTERACTIVE MAP OF AREA.



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## Background and Community Engagement in the Project:

- ◆ Years of planning have gone into the decision to restore this part of the forest adjacent to Bend. The Deschutes National Forest and the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project worked together to engage the public and recreation stakeholders in the planning process. These treatments are the result of that work and community involvement.
- ◆ This unit is part of a 5,226 acre contract area known as “Ruble.” This stewardship contract area is broken into units and work is expected to continue on this contract through 2019. Ruble is one portion of the 26,000 acre “West Bend Vegetation Project” within the Deschutes National Forest and adjacent to the city of Bend slated for restoration work being done in conjunction with the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project.

## What will it look like in a few months to a year?

- ◆ In the next 6-9 months visitors will see effects of tree falling and removal. There will be slash piles, orange painted trees, and damaged trails, all of which will be addressed. Visitors will also see a forest with better views and longer sight distances.
- ◆ In the long term, visitors can expect to see a more open forest, with bigger trees. More importantly, we all will experience a more resilient forest that offers a lower risk of stand replacing fire.