



PRESS RELEASE

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USFS APPROVES REVISED UPHILL TRAVEL POLICY AT MT. BACHELOR

New policy permits uphill travel on designated route to summit along with expanded access to Cinder Cone area

(Bend, Ore – Jan 15, 2010) – A revised uphill travel policy at Mt. Bachelor has recently been approved by the USFS. The new policy allows access for uphill travelers along a designated route to Mt. Bachelor’s summit, while expanding access to the popular Cinder Cone area farther to the west to Ed’s Garden run. The summit route will be open under conditions that do not adversely impact avalanche reduction, slope grooming, parking, snow removal, maintenance or other downhill ski area operations. Status of uphill travel routes will be communicated via www.mtbachelor.com and signage at the base of Red Chair, Sunrise Base Area, the top of Rainbow Chair, and top of Summit Express. The revised policy is slated to go into effect Tuesday, January 19. Uphill routes may be realigned, removed or added as circumstances warrant.

“Recently, Mt. Bachelor and other ski areas have seen an increase in uphill travelers within ski area boundaries. While uphill travel in the ‘frontcountry,’ within the ski area boundary may seem innocuous, it poses safety concerns for uphill and downhill recreationists, ski area operations and ski area staff when the area is open and after hours/pre-opening when the area is being maintained with heavy machinery, and at times, remotely delivered explosives. That’s why uphill travel is not permitted in any fashion at many ski areas. Mt. Bachelor’s new policy reflects our commitment to seek a balance between mitigating safety concerns of uphill travel as a recreational use within the downhill ski area/Special Use Permit area with the reasonable needs we have in operating a sustainable and successful alpine ski area, for which we have been granted a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service. In the spirit of cooperation, we committed to continue an open ended dialogue with the uphill community regarding backcountry and frontcountry access issues in the Mt. Bachelor region of Deschutes National Forest. I’ve received feedback that this updated policy is a positive, new starting point. I also agree that it is by no means the finish line,” said Dave Rathbun, Mt. Bachelor President and General Manager.

Designated Routes – effective January 19, 2010

- The Cinder Cone route. Originates at the bottom of Red chairlift and ascends the Leeway run to the saddle of the Cone. Travel is permitted 360 degrees around the Cone. Ascending from West Village, uphill travelers stay to the west side of the bamboo poles marked with lime green flagging running up Leeway. Ascending from the western base of the Cone, uphill travelers stay north of Ed’s Garden run, in the trees off the groomed run. Uphill travelers use caution at all times on the service trail that borders the north side of the Cone. The Cinder Cone area encompasses approximately 180 acres of terrain and offers 715 feet of vertical drop. The Cone

area is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week during the winter operating season with the exception of active grooming and avalanche control operations periods.

- The Summit route. The uphill route to the Mt. Bachelor summit is open during sustainably safe conditions, i.e. when the Summit chairlift is open to the public, following avalanche reduction work and grooming operations. The route originates at the bottom of Rainbow chairlift, follows Flying Dutchman run to the top of Rainbow lift, then follows the climbing road, crossing East Healy and Healy Heights runs, and then ascends the ridge to the southeast of Beverly Hills run, terminating at the top of the Summit chairlift. The route is marked by bamboo poles with lime green flagging. An uphill traveler information kiosk at the Sunrise base and signs at the top terminals of the Rainbow and Summit chairlifts designate protocol and route status. Uphill travelers descend from the Summit on designated open trails and runs.

- The Kwoh Butte backcountry gate. To accommodate backcountry access to Kwoh Butte from within the Mt. Bachelor ski area boundary, a backcountry access gate is maintained near the bottom of Larry Valley, on the south side of the catch line. Persons using this gate leave the maintained and patrolled ski area and exit the Mt. Bachelor Special Use Permit area. If returning to the Mt. Bachelor permit area/ski area, travelers re-enter through this same gate. Entering or exiting the ski area boundary outside the designated backcountry gate is prohibited.

Summit Uphill Route. Open during lift operation hours, when Summit lift is open. www.mtbachelor.com

East catchline is closed to uphill traffic.

The Cone. Open to uphill traffic up Leeway run to saddle. 180 acres, 751' vertical to parking lot. Use CAUTION when on operations road.

Cinder Cone Route
Open 24 hrs per day, 7 days per week except during active grooming and avalanche control operations. Please stay west of the bamboo markers traveling uphill on Leeway run. On the west side of the cone uphill traffic is to stay north of Ed's Garden run in the trees off the groomed run. The Cinder Cone area is unpatrolled and uncontrolled for avalanche except during ski area operating hours

The Summit Route
The Summit route is only open when Summit lift is open. Check the lift status sign at the base of Sunrise lift for Summit lift open closed information. Use Flying Dutchman run to the top of Rainbow lift. Then use the cat climbing road marked with bamboo poles and green ribbon to Summit top.

All other areas within Mt Bachelor Permit area are closed to uphill travel

Uphill Travel Protocol – winter season

1. Check uphill travel information and status online at www.mtbachelor.com, on the snow conditions page, before leaving for the mountain. Double check uphill travel status by reviewing base area and on-mountain signage before and during ascent.



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2. Follow designated uphill routes. Bamboo with lime green flagging will be used to mark uphill travel corridors.
3. Yield and steer clear of downhill users and ski area machinery, i.e. grooming machines and snowmobiles, until moving entities are clear of your position.
4. Adhere to trail and boundary closures on the descent as well as Your Responsibility Code to avoid conflict with downhill users and ski area personnel.
5. Dogs on leash are permitted only in parking areas at Mt. Bachelor. Practice Canine Courtesy by cleaning up and removing dog waste. Dogs are not permitted within the ski area boundary, i.e. on ski runs or slopeside in base areas.
6. If you pack it in, please pack it out. Help keep Mt. Bachelor and Deschutes National Forest clean.

Outreach and Education

Mt. Bachelor is working closely with Deschutes National Forest and other organizations and individuals to build awareness and provide public education regarding uphill travel and recreation issues. Our goal is to find a reasonable balance between and among user groups who share a common interest in recreating within the Mt. Bachelor Special Use Permit area in a safe, non-confrontational and sustainable manner.

About Mt. Bachelor

Mt. Bachelor is the sixth largest ski resort in North America, offering 3,683 acres of lift-accessible terrain. The mountain features 10 lifts, seven of which are Express Quads, plus two tubing lifts and wonder carpet and an average annual snowfall of 370 inches. The previous two seasons have seen snowfalls over 500 inches. Mt. Bachelor also features terrain parks, 56K of groomed and tracked cross country trails, snowshoeing, tubing, sled dog rides and summer attractions. For weather conditions, news and events visit www.mtbachelor.com.

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