

Update: US-199 reopening

September 2, 2023



On Saturday, September 2, 2023, at 6:00 pm, The California Highway Patrol (CHP), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Oregon State Police (OSP), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Del Norte County Sheriff's Office (DNSO) and Josephine County Sheriff's Office in collaboration with the Pacific Northwest Incident Management Team 13 and Southwest Incident Management Team 2, have agreed to a full reopening of US-199 to all traffic. Caltrans and CHP will continue to pilot northbound traffic from Patrick's Creek to Oregon Mountain Road South and southbound traffic from Oregon Mountain Road South to Patrick's Creek.

Please continue to drive slowly and with caution as Fire personnel, Caltrans and construction crews remain actively working on the fires and highway repairs. We anticipate this work to continue for at least the next several weeks if not months. The California Highway Patrol and California Department of Transportation will continue to monitor the highway to ensure it remains safe for travel to the motoring public. The Smith River Complex Fire is still active and very unpredictable, on top of the effects of weather, so please be

prepared at the possibility of future closures should something change and it becomes a safety risk to our motoring public and/or personnel.

****We ask for the motoring public's continued patience and to expect delays in the piloted area.****

Previous Coverage:

On Friday, September 1, 2023, at 4:00 am, The California Highway Patrol (CHP), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) in collaboration with the Pacific Northwest incident Management Team 13 and Southwest Incident Management Team 2, have agreed to a limited reopening of US-199 to "only" Commercial Traffic.

Commercial traffic is to include commercial vehicles transporting property for commerce (the exchange of goods and services between businesses).

Northbound traffic will be screened at the Pioneer Road closure and then will be piloted from Patrick's Creek to Oregon Mountain Road South. Southbound traffic will be screened through ODOT at the closure in O'Brien and then will be piloted from Oregon Mountain Road South to Patrick's Creek.

This will be a 24/7 service provided until the complete reopening of US-199. Please be aware that Fire personnel, Caltrans and construction crews remain actively working on the fires and highway repairs so drive slowly and with caution. We are hopeful this is one step closer to reopening the US-199 to all traffic in the near future.

The California Highway Patrol and California Department of Transportation currently have a plan in place and are prepared to facilitate traffic through US-199 in California, once the roadway is deemed safe for everyone.

The Smith River Complex Fire is very unpredictable, and these plans are subject to change if there is a safety risk to our motoring public and/or personnel.