Expansion of the Western States One Stop Shop for Rural Traveler Information

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Ian Turnbull
Caltrans District 2

NRITS 2015
Session B1: Using Partnerships to Improve Traveler Information
Monday, August 10, 2015, 1:00 PM
Disclaimer

The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Western States Rural Transportation Consortium, the California Department of Transportation, or Montana State University.
Abstract

The One-Stop-Shop (OSS) web application provides travelers with comprehensive, real-time data that can be used in planning their trips. OSS presents routing functionality, camera images, weather information, elevation profiles, rest areas, points of interest and more, in a consistent, easily accessible and intuitive interface that allows travelers to plan both instate trips and trips that cross state borders. In November 2014, OSS expanded coverage to include Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona as well as California, Oregon, Washington and Nevada, which have been covered since 2011.

OSS was developed using a "best effort" approach to bring in data from multiple states and organizations, providing over 25 separate layers. States were not required to change their feeds for use in OSS, although they were encouraged to make data accessible online that otherwise was not available. Managing the import and presentation of this data via an intuitive and responsive interface presented various technical challenges to the project team, and the expansion to additional western states and beyond was taken into account when expanding the system.

In this presentation we will discuss the details of the expansion of the One-Stop-Shop, including usage information.
History: Closely Related Web-Based Efforts

Past Projects
- Western States OSS Prototype via Clarus FHWA 2010-2011
- OSS Phase 1 Caltrans 2008-2010
- WeatherShare Phase 1 Caltrans 2003-2005
- OSS Phase 2 Caltrans 2006-2009
- WeatherShare Phase 2 Caltrans 2006-2009

Current Projects
- ICM Caltrans 2006-2009
- WeatherShare Phase 3 Caltrans 2012-2015
- AWOS/RWIS Phase 1 Caltrans 2008-2010
- AWOS/RWIS Phase 2 Caltrans 2012-2015

Future Projects
- COATS IV Deployment Assistance Caltrans 2009-2010
- WeatherShare Phase 4 Caltrans 2015-2016

Blue = Covers WSRTC Region
Ice = Covers California

Past Projects
- WeatherShare Phase 1 Caltrans 2003-2005
- WeatherShare Phase 2 Caltrans 2006-2009
- AWOS/RWIS Phase 1 Caltrans 2008-2010
- AWOS/RWIS Phase 2 Caltrans 2012-2015

Current Projects
- COATS VI Data Quality Caltrans 2015
- OSS Phase 2 Caltrans via WSRTC 2011-2016
- WeatherShare Phase 3 Caltrans 2012-2015
- WeatherShare Phase 4 Caltrans 2015-2016

Future Projects
- OSS Phase 3 Caltrans via WSRTC 2015/2016-2017
What is OSS?

A Pictorial Overview …
Thousands of Field Elements represented in the Road / Travel Conditions Layer Covering 11 States
Camera Images (2014-11-10)
Camera Images (2014-11-10)
Camera Images (2014-11-10)
Google Traffic
Google Traffic
Chain Requirements and RWIS Data
Thousands of Weather Observations
The Layers

**Current Weather**
- Air Temperature
- Relative Humidity
- 1 Hour Precipitation
- 24 Hour Precipitation
- AHPS 24 hr Precip.
- Wind

**Other Info**
- Rest Areas
- Features of Interest
- Truck Scales
- Summit Locations

**Road/Travel Conditions**
- Check/Uncheck All
  - ✔️ Chain Requirements
  - ✔️ Incidents
  - ✔️ CMS
  - ✔️ CCTV
  - ✔️ RWIS
  - 🗞️ Road Information
  - ✔️ Google Traffic

**Forecast Weather**
- Air Temperature
- Wind Speed
- Wind Gust Speed
- Humidity
- Sky Cover
- 12-Hour Chance of Precipitation
- 6-Hour Precipitation
- Snow
- Weather
Expansion and Related Efforts

- Summer 2014: The OSS team began experimenting with expanded coverage for weather conditions and forecasts.
- Summer 2014: Sean Campbell began work on feeds for CCTV and CMS from additional states.
- September 2014: The OSS team implemented mouse-over viewing of cameras and other data.
- September 2014: Caltrans (Sean Campbell) added links to OSS from the Caltrans camera/video page.
- November 2014: The OSS team expanded coverage from four states to eleven states.
- November 2014: An MSU press release is picked up by local (Montana) news and other regional sources.
User Sessions

A session is a user visit to the site.

Since November 2011 ...

Sessions

138,610

Since September 2014 ...

Sessions

113,577
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. California</td>
<td>80,608 (59.26%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Nevada</td>
<td>18,664 (13.72%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Montana</td>
<td>8,671 (6.37%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Oregon</td>
<td>6,191 (4.65%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Washington</td>
<td>4,874 (3.68%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Arizona</td>
<td>1,773 (1.30%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Idaho</td>
<td>1,580 (1.16%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Colorado</td>
<td>1,409 (1.04%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Texas</td>
<td>1,344 (0.99%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Ohio</td>
<td>924 (0.68%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Utah</td>
<td>867 (0.64%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Iowa</td>
<td>586 (0.43%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Florida</td>
<td>554 (0.41%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Wyoming</td>
<td>487 (0.36%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Illinois</td>
<td>468 (0.34%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Minnesota</td>
<td>429 (0.32%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Hawaii</td>
<td>421 (0.31%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Oklahoma</td>
<td>371 (0.27%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. South Dakota</td>
<td>337 (0.25%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Missouri</td>
<td>327 (0.24%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Nebraska</td>
<td>325 (0.24%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Alaska</td>
<td>321 (0.24%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. New York</td>
<td>317 (0.23%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Michigan</td>
<td>299 (0.22%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Connecticut</td>
<td>284 (0.22%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Pennsylvania</td>
<td>276 (0.20%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Georgia</td>
<td>273 (0.20%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. (not set)</td>
<td>253 (0.19%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Virginia</td>
<td>248 (0.18%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. New Mexico</td>
<td>246 (0.18%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Maryland</td>
<td>223 (0.16%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. North Carolina</td>
<td>219 (0.15%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. Tennessee</td>
<td>212 (0.16%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. New Jersey</td>
<td>157 (0.12%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Massachusetts</td>
<td>149 (0.11%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Wisconsin</td>
<td>145 (0.11%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Kentucky</td>
<td>144 (0.11%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Kansas</td>
<td>140 (0.10%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. District of Columbia</td>
<td>123 (0.09%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. Arkansas</td>
<td>120 (0.09%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. Mississippi</td>
<td>116 (0.09%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. Indiana</td>
<td>113 (0.08%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. Louisiana</td>
<td>107 (0.08%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. (not set)</td>
<td>83 (0.06%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. South Carolina</td>
<td>48 (0.04%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. Alabama</td>
<td>47 (0.03%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47. Delaware</td>
<td>33 (0.02%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48. North Dakota</td>
<td>31 (0.02%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49. West Virginia</td>
<td>27 (0.02%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50. Maine</td>
<td>21 (0.02%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51. New Hampshire</td>
<td>15 (0.01%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. Vermont</td>
<td>12 (0.01%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53. Rhode Island</td>
<td>6 (0.00%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accessed from 602 Communities in California

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Visitors</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>15,389</td>
<td>(19.03%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chico</td>
<td>4,915</td>
<td>(6.10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>4,752</td>
<td>(5.90%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Redding</td>
<td>4,126</td>
<td>(5.12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>1,829</td>
<td>(2.27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>(2.23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>1,736</td>
<td>(2.15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Folsom</td>
<td>1,269</td>
<td>(1.57%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>1,144</td>
<td>(1.42%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Santa Rosa</td>
<td>1,142</td>
<td>(1.42%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,389</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued...
An event is a user interaction such as selecting an icon or a layer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Events</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RTC-CCTV</td>
<td>5,130,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTC-CMS</td>
<td>336,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTC-Incidents</td>
<td>270,005</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTC-ChainReq</td>
<td>140,547</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTC-RWIS</td>
<td>133,332</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTC-RoadInfo</td>
<td>99,288</td>
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<tr>
<td>CWx-AirTemp</td>
<td>47,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FWx-Weather</td>
<td>21,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWx-Wind</td>
<td>17,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWx-24HrPrecip</td>
<td>10,885</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since November 2011 ... 6,847,896 Total Events

Since September 2014 ... 6,609,042 Total Events
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Source/Referral</th>
<th>Visits</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(direct) / (none)</td>
<td>78,796</td>
<td>56.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>dot.ca.gov / referral</td>
<td>46,051</td>
<td>33.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>google / organic</td>
<td>4,522</td>
<td>3.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>westernstates.org / referral</td>
<td>1,390</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>montana.edu / referral</td>
<td>1,285</td>
<td>0.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>visitmshasta.com / referral</td>
<td>853</td>
<td>0.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>bing / organic</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>0.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>co.shasta.ca.us / referral</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>0.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>yahoo / organic</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>0.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>kbzk.com / referral</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>0.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>cawspportal.wr.usgs.gov / referral</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>0.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>facebook.com / referral</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>0.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>m.facebook.com / referral</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>0.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>intranet / referral</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>0.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>lassenhigh.org / referral</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>csntoday.org / referral</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>0.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>carsonnow.org / referral</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>l.facebook.com / referral</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>semalt.com / referral</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>kxlf.com / referral</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>actionnewsnow.com / referral</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>excite.com / referral</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>qwowd / referral</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>tripadvisor.com / referral</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>webdev.coe.montana.edu / referral</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>westerntransportationinstitute.org / referral</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>69.51.77.202.81 / referral</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>lassenuhstdlsh.schoolfusion.us / referral</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Im.facebook.com / referral</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>us.mg203.mail.yahoo.com / referral</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>redbluffdailynews.com / referral</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>spokesman.com / referral</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>thetruckersreport.com / referral</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>t.co / referral</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>bozemannmagazine.com / referral</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>californiaagricultural.com / referral</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>transportationradio.wordpress.com / referral</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>onramp.dot.ca.gov / referral</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>greatfallstribune.nt.mednewsmemory.com / referral</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>transnet.dot.state.or.us / referral</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>360ohk6qdmcm1-n-c.yom.mail.yahoo.net / referral</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>crawler.seamalt.com / referral</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>charter.net / referral</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>babylon / organic</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>calltrans.ca.gov / referral</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>staging.csntoday.org / referral</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>10.160.32.18 / referral</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>seamalt.seamalt.com / referral</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>duckduckgo.com / referral</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>webhelper.centurylink.com / referral</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Caltrans Links

http://dot.ca.gov/dist2/
http://dot.ca.gov/dist3/departments/traffic/cameras/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>/research/its/cctv/hq/nevada.htm</th>
<th>31,146 (85.57%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>/research/its/cctv/hq/oregon.htm</td>
<td>2,672 (7.34%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>/dist2/</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>/research/its/cctv/hq/arizona.htm</td>
<td>817 (2.24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>612 (1.68%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MSU Links


http://www.montana.edu/weather/

Montana State University > Weather and Road Conditions

Weather and Road Conditions

- One-Stop Shop for Traveler Information (OSS)
- Montana State University ECE/ORSL Weather Station
- Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center Advisories

Montana Department of Transportation

- Montana Hourly Weather Roundup
- Montana Zone Forecasts -- Western
- Montana Zone Forecasts -- Southwest and North Central
- Montana Zone Forecasts -- South Central and Southeast
- Montana Zone Forecasts -- Northeast
- State Forecast for Montana
- Extended Outlook for Montana
- Montana Weather Summary
- Montana Detailed Road Report
- Montana Road Report Maps and Traveler Information

The NWS weather and road information is provided by a network feed from the Montana Department of Transportation. Weather items are updated starting at 20 minutes after the hour. Road reports are updated around 7:00 a.m. every day, and again around 3:00 p.m. except for weekends and holidays. Road reports may be updated during the day as conditions warrant.
The Western Transportation Institute is the country's largest National University Transportation Center focused on rural transportation issues.

Because we live and work in rural communities, we understand the critical roles rural transportation plays in the lives of people, in the environment and in the economy.

We draw from our eight integrated research groups to create solutions that work for our clients, sponsors and rural transportation research partners. WTI focuses on rural issues, but some of our program areas also address the concerns of the urban environment. Whatever the objective, we bring innovation and expertise to each WTI transportation research project.

WTI Project News

The One Stop Shop for Traveler Information now includes Montana — and Idaho, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming! OSS has been providing travelers in California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada access to route-oriented, real-time and near real time weather and road information through a single website, and now the Rocky Mountain States have access to this valuable traveler tool. Developed in partnership by WTI and Caltrans, OSS won an international award from the Intelligent Transportation Society of America for Best New Innovative Practice earlier this fall. Visit the OSS site at http://oss.weathershare.org/.

Great job goes out to Doug Galarus, Leann Koon, Dan Richter, and Caltrans Project Manager, Sean Campbell and Caltrans Project Champion, Ian Turnbull.

See the MSU news article here: http://www.montana.edu/news/15240/msu-39-s-wti-launches-new-traveler-website-for-montana-rockies-region
On the News …

http://www.westernstates.org/Projects/OSS/Updates/2015-04-06.html

ABC Montana (November 16th, 2014)

FOX Montana (November 16th, 2014)

KTVM (November 17th, 2014, 10 PM)

KTVM (November 17th, 2014, 6 PM)
MSU launches new Rocky Mountain weather and road condition reports

BOZEMAN - Just in time for the winter travel season, a Montana State University website is ready to provide continuing information on weather and road conditions across the Rocky Mountain region. In a news release, MSU said, "The One-Stop Shop for Traveler Information (OSS), which was developed at MSU's Western Transportation Institute and sponsored by Caltrans, offers travelers a website that integrates weather and road information from multiple Western states. Unlike websites for state transportation departments, the OSS provides travelers with current road information that does not stop at jurisdictional boundaries. Combined with real-time weather information, the OSS... Read Story >
Chains, snow tires required over Sierra mountain passes

Submitted by Jeff Munson on Wed, 12/24/2014 - 4:34pm

UPDATE: Snow is falling down to the valley floor on this Christmas Eve night. Go here for the latest road conditions before you head out traveling. Go here for the latest forecast from the National Weather Service.

Snow and lower elevation rain this afternoon is expected to change to snow at all elevations this evening behind a cold front. A period of moderate to heavy snow is expected in the Sierra through early evening, with whiteout conditions possible over the passes, according to the weather service. Lake Tahoe and much of Northern Nevada is under a Winter Weather Advisory.

Snow will end tonight as the front moves into eastern and southern Nevada. Snowfall totals through this evening are forecast to be 6-12 inches over Sierra passes, 3-6 inches around Lake Tahoe (at lake level), and 1 to 3 inches for the valley floors of northeast California and western Nevada, according to the weather service.
3. Re: safe places to stay on a roadtrip from Toronto to San Francisco

Nov 17, 2014, 8:19 AM

I posted this elsewhere, but I found this neat link to road conditions in the Western US. Once your trip gets to the edge of this map, you can use the route planner to give you up-to-the-minute road conditions for your route. I would bookmark this on your mobile device.

http://oss.weathershare.org/

(I had trouble getting to this website this morning, so had to google One-Stop Shop for Traveler Information)

When you are parking at your overnight stops, I would also try to back up to a light pole in the parking lot which will block the doors shut.

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2. Re: Ohio to Berkeley/SF area end of December

Nov 22, 2014, 8:58 PM

I'll just add a couple of things to Randy's thorough post.

Carry paper maps, either from AAA or buy a good Road Atlas at a brick and mortar bookstore. If you have to divert during your trip due to weather this will be more useful (and safer) than trying to depend on GPS routing.

Below is an example of a good Road Condition site which covers multi-states. I did find it useful, but I think the DOT site had more information, but this one is a good start for a general look-see.

http://oss.weathershare.org/

As a woman traveling solo, I would plan to stop by dark each night. www.sunrisesunset.com will give you your daylight hours.

I also recommend audio books to listen to as you make your way across the country.

Keep your gas tank topped up especially in the West. At 1/2 start planning where you are going to fill and fill by 1/4. I would not let it get to 1/4 in winter.

Have fun, be safe and give us a trip report when you get there!

Edited: 9:00 pm, November 22, 2014

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4. Re: 4 day road trip through Oregon and Washington

Nov 17, 2014, 8:49 AM

Here is a link to road conditions across the Western States. If you zoom it will give you current chain/traction tire recommendations/requirements.

http://oss.weathershare.org/

You can use the route planner feature (only has begin and end, can't do midpoints) which also pops up an elevation profile.

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Winter Road Conditions link for Western US

Nov 17, 2014, 8:15 AM

http://oss.weathershare.org

(I did have trouble getting to this website the first time I tried it this morning and had to google One-Stop Shop for Traveler Information and link from there.)

I saw an item on this website in the local paper this morning which provides motorists with current info on weather and road conditions in multiple western states. It's pretty neat because it goes across jurisdictional boundaries. It was developed by folks at Montana State University in Bozeman.

If you look at the upper right, there is a trip planner where you can put in start and end points and it will even pop up an elevation profile. If you zoom in a bit you can see road conditions, chain/traction tire requirements, closures, warnings, all sorts of stuff. FWIW I see in Oregon it still looks to be a mess and is still requiring/recommending carrying chains or having traction tires from the bad storm that moved thru a few days ago. In the instructions I also saw where it will show you all the rest stops.

I've only played with it a bit this morning (hey, it's 5AM and I don't have much coffee on board!) and the only downside I can see is that it may give you more information than you want, lol.

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Report Inappropriate Content
1. Re: Driving from Spokane to San Francisco in the winter

Dec 04, 2014, 11:44 AM

Well Heather, it will probably just depend on what is going on at the time. For instance today on the Idaho Palouse (Moscow ID area) down to Lewiston we've had freezing rain with snow on top of it. Yuck. Supposed to have rain for tomorrow. I would much rather drive thru snow than on ice caused by freezing rain.

What routes are you considering?

From Spokane or CoA south to Pullman or Moscow, then down US95 in Idaho to Boise, south from there to Oregon and in to Nevada?

Or thru Eastern Washington, SW from Spokane on 395 to the Tri Cities, pick up I82 there to I84 then along the east side of the mountains to Bend?

Since you are going multi state, you might also want to post on the Road Trip forum.

tripadvisor.com/ShowForum-g1-1129567-Road_Tri...

Here also is an interesting website that shows you road conditions all over the West. It's great for an overview, but go to the individual state sites for more specific information.

http://oss.weathershare.org/

Good luck. Just heading to the local airport this morning and hope it is less treacherous in 45 minutes!

Pam

2. Re: 11-day trips from Seattle to Grand Canyon in Christmas 2014

Dec 11, 2014, 10:34 AM

Maybe try this site:

http://oss.weathershare.org/

3. Re: winter roadsn from texas to washington

Dec 18, 2014, 11:55 AM

Watch 10 days weatherforecast on www.weather.com or use a site like this one:

http://oss.weathershare.org/

4. Re: Denver to Las Vegas - Elevation Migraines - Southern Route

Jan 08, 2015, 11:10 AM

You can also go to this website for road conditions which will also give you an elevation profile.

http://oss.weathershare.org/

Click on the Route Planner in the upper right. Plug in your route. You will have to do it in segments since I have not found that you can plug in intermediate waypoints to make it follow the route you want. Anyway, an elevation chart will pop up after you click on the Plan Route button.

Pam

5. Re: Winter Trip: Quad Cities (IA/IL) to San Francisco 12/20/14

Dec 18, 2014, 10:14 AM

Here is a road condition link that might be helpful to you as you travel. It covers the Western states. In just looking at it and comparing data for my local area it does give a good overview, but you will want to focus in on individual states for more comprehensive data, especially if the weather is bad as Photoguy indicates it is predicted to be.

http://oss.weathershare.org/

I also always feel compelled to say this, but make sure you have paper maps in case you need to divert from your chosen route due to weather. Do not depend on GPS. Keep your eye on your gas tank especially in the west. Don't let it get below 1/4. You should start planning when you are going to fill when you get to about 1/2 a tank.

Edited: 10:18 am, December 18, 2014
I just found this amazing web site for fast information traveling in the western states. Gives up to date status of chaining requirements and a variety of other stuff:

http://oss.weathershare.org

Jan 3, 2015

MyRadar is an excellent app.

Web sites I regularly consult for trip planning:

m.accuweather.com/en/us/national/weather-radar

www.weather.com/maps/current

oss.weathershare.org — outstanding for 11 western states, gives current road conditions, highway camera views, road hazards including crash incident updates from highway patrol, etc. etc.

I consult all of these before any trip for trip planning, during 30 minute breaks, before starting each day, etc. etc.

Lepton1, Jan 3, 2015
Transportation Radio

Rural Traveler Information Site Grows
Posted on November 19, 2014 by brwagenblast

Just in time for winter weather, the One-Stop Shop for Rural Traveler Information now includes many of the states in the western lower 48. The site was developed by the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University. We learn more in this report from Bernie Wagenblast.

Listen to story
Traffic Map

This Traffic Map provides a color-schemed map of Los Angeles showing areas of high impact traffic opposed to areas of low traffic. By clicking on the layer options at the top left of the map, you can control the amount of information available.

Welcome to the One-Stop Shop (OSS).

If you are unsure how to use OSS, take a look at the User Guide and the Basic User video. To get help when using OSS, click on "Help" in the upper left of the screen.

OSS is provided as service to the public. System performance and data quality cannot be guaranteed. As with all traveler information data, drivers are responsible for the decisions they make when using the data.

Thanks for using OSS.

Click here if you don't want to see this message again.
One Stop Shop for Traveler Information

If you're unsure how to use OSS, take a look at the User Guide and the Basic Usage video. To get help when using OSS, click on "Help" in the upper left of the screen.

OSS.WEATHERSHARE.ORG

US National Weather Service Reno Nevada

Isolated snow showers have resulted in light accumulations on Highway 36 at Fredonyer Summit and Highway 44 at Bogard Rest area. Road temperatures in the low 40s have kept snow from accumulating on roads so far, but as seen in the webcam screenshots they are shiny and likely slick early this morning. Keep up-to-date on road conditions before you venture out for Easter festivities today! (http://oss.weathershare.org/#)

KTVN Channel 2 News

There are no chain requirements on Donner Summit right now. For the latest road conditions, call 511 or go to www.ktvn.com.
You can stay up to date on weather in our area with our KTVN Storm Watch weather app. The app gives you forecast information, like radar, storm tracking and more for any location in the country, all in the palm of your hand.
You can download it for free for your iPhone, iPad, or Android smartphone. Just search KTVN in the iTunes or Google Play Store.

US National Weather Service Reno Nevada

Just wet over Donner Summit. No chain requirements at this time. Here is a great site for monitoring current road conditions and chain and snow tire requirements...
http://oss.weathershare.org/#
Turkey Day Safety

Hard to believe, but Thanksgiving is the 2nd leading holiday for cooking accidents. According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking accidents cause over 5,000 fires per year. Cooking accidents are more common on Thanksgiving than on an average day! So, keep these safety tips in mind:

- Never leave your home while food is baking in the oven.
- Additionally, set an oven timer if you don’t burn your food.
- Keep young children away from the stove.
- Clear the floor in your kitchen around any tripping hazards.
- Stay in the kitchen while you’re cooking on the stovetop.
- Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling jewelry while cooking.
- Check the batteries in your smoke alarms.

Food Safety

It’s an American tradition to eat well this holiday. Here are some tips to keep yourself and others safe:

- Cook your turkey until it reaches 165°F.
- Avoid leaving food out for more than 2 hours.
- If you are travelling with food, keep it cooler by wrapping it in ice or a cooler filled with ice.
- The 5-second rule is a myth!

Holiday Travel

If you are heading out to eat someone else’s Thanksgiving feast, keep these travel safety tips in mind before you go:

- Check road conditions frequently. Montana weather can vary drastically from one end of the state to the other. [http://oss.weatherlink.com/]
- Keep an emergency supply kit in your car for all members of your family:
  - Heavy coat, gloves, hat
  - Sturdy boots
  - Blanket or sleeping bag
  - Extra water and food
  - Small shovel or scooper (you can also pop off a hubcap or the windshield visor and use it to scoop snow)
  - Bright flagging or a flashlight to identify your location
  - First aid kit
- Don’t rush. Expect heavy traffic. Leave early so you don’t have to hurry.
- Keep your gas tank full—no one wants to be stranded in a cold car.

BUILDING AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT FOR YOUR CAR

- Cell phone charger
- First aid kit
- Jumper cables
- Flares
- Water, snacks
- Flashlight
- Boots, gloves, warm clothing
- Blanket
- Shovel, ice scraper, snow brush
- Bag of sand or cat litter
- Tire chain or snow tires
Caltrans warns drivers to be vigilant

10/22/12 – Caltrans’ Redding office is reminding motorists traveling in northern California to be vigilant regarding winter driving and be prepared on the roadways for possible changes in the weather or road conditions. With the current rain and snowfall prediction, now is the time to become familiar with the informational tools and tips available on the internet and to prepare for travel in the north state. The website links listed below have the traveling public in mind and are readily available on the Caltrans District 2 webpage.

District 2 Chain Control Map/QuickMap
At this website, motorists can keep track of changing conditions and plan a route of travel specifically within northern California. The Caltrans District 2 Northstate Chain Control Map includes the counties of Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Shasta, Trinity, Tehama, Butte, and Plumas and has information on road conditions, chain control restrictions, and definitions of what the restrictions mean. Also available is the Caltrans Quickmap, which features the same traveler’s information but includes statewide road information.

One Stop Shop for Traveler Information
Another great traveler’s link is oss.weathershare.org the One Stop Shop for Traveler Information (OSS). This website, developed by the Western Transportation Institute in cooperation with Caltrans District 2, contains road and weather information for California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada. OSS utilizes a multi-state road conditions map including a planning feature that allows the user to indicate the start and end points of their trip and uses Google routing to find an efficient route.

For more information call the Public Information Office at 530-229-0511 or 530-225-3260.
At the 2014 ITS World Congress in Detroit, Michigan, the One-Stop Shop was announced as the winner of ITS America’s Best of ITS Award for Best New Innovative Practice – Research Design and Innovation.
Next Steps: Phase 3

- Add Missing Field Elements for Current States
- Add Layers: Fire?
- Address Mobile Use
- Expand Further?
Expansion?
Expansion?
Expansion?
Expansion?
Acknowledgements

- Caltrans D2
- Caltrans DRI
- WSRTC
- FHWA – Clarus
- WTI UTC
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For Further Information see:

http://oss.weathershare.org  
http://www.westernstates.org  
http://www.westernstates.org/Projects/OSS/