

= California State Route 139 =

State Route 139 (SR 139) is a state highway in the U.S. state of California . Running from SR 36 in Susanville north to Oregon Route 39 , it forms part of the shortest route between Reno , Nevada , and Klamath Falls , Oregon . SR 139 cuts through much Modoc National Forest and passes near Antelope Mountain and Tule Lake . The entire route is part of the California Freeway and Expressway System , but is a two @-@ lane road . North of the SR 299 overlap , SR 139 is an eligible State Scenic Highway , but has not been designated as such ; the short piece north of Tulelake is however part of the federal Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway . The portion north of SR 299 is also in the Interregional Road System as a High Emphasis Route and in the National Highway System . North of SR 299 , the highway was built by the federal government and turned over to the state in about 1940 ; the remainder was built by a joint highway district of Lassen and Modoc Counties , completed in 1956 , and given to the state in 1959 .

= = Route description = =

State Route 139 begins at SR 36 in Susanville , and heads northeast up Antelope Mountain along the eastern edge of Susanville Ranch Park before turning north and descending into the Eagle Lake Basin , passing along the eastern edge of Eagle Lake and later the Said Valley Reservoir . The highway continues north and northwest through valleys and over hills and through a part of the Modoc National Forest , through the community of Avila Place , and then enters the east end of the Big Valley , where it begins to overlap SR 299 through Adin . The combined routes continue northerly through another part of the forest and over Adin Pass into the Warm Springs Valley , where SR 139 splits to the northwest near Canby .

SR 139 runs northwest and north over mostly flat terrain through the center of the national forest and the communities of Ambrose and Perez before turning northwest . The route continues through Copic , Newell , Stronghold , Homestead , and Tuber before cutting across the intermittent Tule Lake as the Lava Beds Highway through the city of Tulelake to the Oregon state line at Hatfield . At an intersection right on the state line , SR 161 begins to the west , and Oregon Route 39 continues northwest towards Klamath Falls .

= = History = =

In 1925 , a state @-@ created " California Highway Advisory Committee " recommended a number of additions to the state highway system ; among these was a route from Susanville to the Oregon state line towards Klamath Falls , via Bieber . This would be part of a road connecting Reno , Nevada and Klamath Falls east of the Sierra Nevada , which would attract heavy traffic and improve access to Crater Lake and Lassen Volcanic National Parks . A local county road already followed this path , but it was unpaved , mostly dirt and gravel but with sections of rock and bad sand . This was close to the present SR 139 , with notable deviations around the areas of Hayden Hill , Bieber and Lookout , and Malin , Oregon (as Tule Lake covered SR 139 's current location) .

By the mid @-@ 1920s , the main road southeast from Klamath Falls , still unimproved in California , headed southeast to State Highway Route 28 (now SR 299) at Canby rather than south to Bieber . There travelers could head east on Route 28 to Alturas and south on the present US 395 (not a state highway north of Susanville until 1933) towards Reno . The California state legislature passed a law in 1939 , providing for state takeover of the Canby @-@ Oregon road if the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Public Roads were to construct and pave it . The road was in fact mostly paved by mid @-@ 1939 , and under construction or completed by mid @-@ 1940 , when Oregon Route 58 opened , continuing the corridor northwest from Klamath Falls . In 1943 the legislature gave it the Route 210 designation ; Oregon had added the short connecting Hatfield Highway to its state highway system in 1937 .

Lassen and Modoc Counties organized Joint Highway District No. 14 on December 21 , 1929 to construct and maintain a road from Susanville via Adin to Oregon . However , since the state took

over the part north of Adin , the district 's scope was narrowed to Susanville @-@ Adin . It finally completed work in 1956 , and held a ceremony on August 26 , in which it placed a monument at a point near Eagle Lake . The legislature added the road to the state highway system as Route 216 in 1959 . The portion south of Horse Lake Road became an extension of Route 20 instead ; this route from Susanville to Ravendale (later Termo) was never constructed by the state , and was deleted from SR 36 in 1998 . Also in 1959 , a spur of Route 210 west to Dorris was added ; this became SR 161 in 1964 .

By 1946 , the Canby @-@ Oregon portion had been marked as Sign Route 139 , connecting with Oregon Route 39 ; it was extended south over US 299 to Adin and Routes 216 and 20 to Susanville by 1960 . The number was legislatively adopted , replacing Routes 210 and 216 , in the 1964 renumbering . It has remained a two @-@ lane road , despite being added to the California Freeway and Expressway System in 1959 (Canby to Oregon) and 1965 (Susanville to Adin) .

= = Major intersections = =

Except where prefixed with a letter , postmiles were measured on the road as it was in 1964 , based on the alignment that existed at the time , and do not necessarily reflect current mileage . R reflects a realignment in the route since then , M indicates a second realignment , L refers an overlap due to a correction or change , and T indicates postmiles classified as temporary (for a full list of prefixes , see the list of postmile definitions) . Segments that remain unconstructed or have been relinquished to local control may be omitted . The numbers reset at county lines ; the start and end postmiles in each county are given in the county column .