

Hillsides are 'weeping,' falling on Calif. highways

By Tony Bizjak, Sacramento Bee

As the rain and snow have fallen this winter, so have California's hillsides, forcing the closure of major roads through the Sierra Nevada and causing millions of dollars in damage.

The California Department of Transportation estimates that the winter's pounding storms have caused \$400 million in damage to California highways. And the worst may still be coming.

Caltrans officials said they hope to keep Interstate 80 and Highway 50 open throughout Presidents Day weekend, but travelers should be aware the door could shut at any moment as a series of storms dumps more rain on already saturated mountainsides.

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