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Slopes offer escape from Eugene

Skiing and snowboarding are a short jaunt down the highway

By G. Jarros
for the Emerald

Snow is falling, and the powder is piling up. Time to sharpen the edges and dig out the polypropylene. Ski and snowboard season is here, and a winter wonderland is just hours away from Eugene at Willamette Pass, Hoodoo and Mount Bachelor ski resorts. These resorts offer fun and excitement for first-timers as well as experienced racers.

"It's so much fun just being up on the mountain and having the freedom to do whatever with your friends — and go fast," said Tom Nelson, University ski team coordinator.

"When you have an epic powder day with a couple new feet of snow, it's just face shots and fun," Nelson said. "Sweet powder days are probably the best."

And sweet powder days are here with all three resorts open and reporting new snow daily.

Willamette Pass

The resort is 90 minutes from Eugene on Highway 58 and offers the best opportunity for non-drivers to reach the slopes from the Eugene area. The Willamette-Pass-Express ski bus leaves daily from Ullr Ski Shop, 207 Coburg Road. Berg's Ski shop, 367 W. 13th Ave., also offers buses on weekends and holidays.

Willamette has five chair lifts and one special lift for "tubing." It has 29 runs and a vertical drop of 1,563 feet. Vertical drop measures the distance from the top of the highest chair lift to the bottom of

Ski resorts near Eugene

Hoodoo, Willamette Pass and Mount Bachelor are all within a three-hour drive of Eugene. Make sure to check snow and weather conditions before traveling.



SOURCE: Mt. Bachelor 1998-99 Program Guide, Willamette Pass Press Fall '98, Hoodoo Ski Area brochure

Katie Nesso/Emerald

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the lowest chair lift. Willamette also offers daycare and night skiing. Adult lift tickets are \$31. Groomed and marked cross-country ski trails are available for \$6.

"Willamette is good for beginners and advanced skiers and boarders," said Nelson, who practices there with the ski team.

Mount Bachelor

Mount Bachelor, three hours from Eugene, can be reached by Highway 58 or Highway 20. If you do not drive, try the "hookey-bus" that leaves from the fairgrounds Wednesday mornings.

Bachelor is the largest of the three resorts with 13 lifts, 70 runs and a vertical drop of 3,365 feet. It also offers daycare. There is no night skiing at Mount Bachelor. Lift tickets are \$39, and cross-country trail passes are \$10.50.

"Bachelor is a wonderful area,"

Turn to **SKI RESORTS**, Page 21A

More information

Best prices:
LIFT TICKET: \$26, Hoodoo
CROSS-COUNTRY TRAIL PASS: \$6, Willamette Pass and Hoodoo
DOWNHILL RENTALS: (includes skis, boots and poles): \$10 first day and \$8 each day after, Berg's Ski Shop
SNOWBOARDS AND BOOTS: \$20, Lazar's Bazar
CROSS-COUNTRY RENTALS: \$7, Anderson's Sporting Goods

Snow and weather conditions:
STATE POLICE ROAD CONDITIONS: (541) 976-7277 or (541) 889-3999
MOUNT BACHELOR: (541) 382-7888, www.mtbachelor.com
HOODOO: (541) 822-3337, www.hoodoo.com
WILLAMETTE PASS: (541) 345-SNOW, www.willamettepass.com

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