

OUTDOORS



View of South Matthieu Lake with North Sister rising in the background. ZACH URNESS/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Rewarded for extra effort

It feels like a loophole, but you can get to sold-out Matthieu Lakes with a permit from a more-distant, less-traveled trailhead

Zach Urness | Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

A few weeks ago, I found myself seemingly out of luck. ● I'd hoped to backpack to the Matthieu Lakes, a pair of alpine pools tucked into the forest and lava rock near McKenzie Pass in the Three Sisters Wilderness. The lakes, believe it or not, are named for "the man whose vote saved Oregon" — but we'll get to that a bit later. ● Anyway, because I wanted to go on a weekend, the permits for the main trailhead were sold out almost as soon as they became available. ● This has become pretty common in the era of the Central Cascades Wilderness Permit system, in which hikers and backpackers need a special permit from Recreation.gov to enter many backcountry destinations in the Sisters, Jefferson and Washington wilderness areas.

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EXPLORE OREGON PODCAST

Mushroom hunting with educator Rachel Zoller

Skyla Patton
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

In this episode, outdoor intern and fungus enthusiast Skyla Patton talks all things mushroom hunting with pro forager and educator Rachel Zoller, better known as Yellow Elanor.

They dive into the world of fungi and detail the importance of skills like proper identification of anatomy and utilizing community resources while demystifying how complex the art of mushroom foraging really is.

For more mushroom guidance, visit Yellow Elanor's YouTube channel for how-to videos and tips on identification. She can be found on Instagram @yellowelanor.

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Skyla Patton is an outdoor reporter and multimedia storyteller. She can be reached at spatton@gannett.com and on Twitter @ganjajournalist.



Early chanterelles growing off of the Oregon coast. SKYLA PATTON

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Rachel Zoller poses with a fresh haul of chanterelles. RACHEL ZOLLER / YELLOW ELANOR