

Outdoor opportunities



Spokesman file photo

Above, Steelhead Falls, located on the Deschutes River at Crooked River Ranch.

Central Oregon is known for its wide array of world-class recreational possibilities, such as climbing the crags of Smith Rock, biking its scenic byways, hiking trails, golfing or fishing. Located in the middle of the fun is Redmond, your hub for all that Central Oregon has to offer.

Depending on the season, recreation enthusiasts have easy access to road and mountain biking, hiking, camping, climbing, horseback riding and just about any snow sport you can think of. With so many possibilities there is something for the adventurer in everyone.

Within the last decade, state scenic bikeway designations and nonprofits such as the Central Oregon Trail Alliance have turned Central Oregon into a premier biking destination.

Biking the road

The Twin Bridges Scenic Bikeway is a 37-mile, moderate loop, officially beginning and ending in Bend's Drake Park. The loop wanders throughout Bend, Tumalo and Redmond and affords its users panoramic views of the Cascade Mountains.

The Sisters to Smith Rock Scenic Bikeway is 37 miles one way, a moderate ride beginning in downtown Sisters and ending at Smith Rock State Park in Terrebonne. For those seeking more miles, simply turn around and head back to **Page 26**

Sisters for a completely different set of views as you switch your direction from east to west.

The McKenzie Pass Scenic Bikeway is a challenging 36-mile ride out of Sisters on state Highway 242 that heads west over McKenzie Pass and showcases the contrasting forests of both sides of the Cascade Mountains. If you're here at the right time in late spring, you can ride the route after it is plowed and before cars are allowed on the road.

For more information on these and many other rides based in and around Redmond, visit www.rideoregonride.com.

Biking the trail

Central Oregon trails provide breathtaking fun for riders of all ages and abilities. From in-town, paved trails to loops deep in the forest, Redmond has easy access to your off-road two-wheeled fun.

The Dry Canyon Trail is Redmond's easy, four-mile, paved path lined with juniper groves and picturesque rock cliffs. Beginning on the southern end at SW Quartz Avenue, the trail also has a dirt path which parallels the paved one.

The 4,100-acre Maston Area is located just south of Eagle Crest on the Cline Butte Highway. Its 20 miles of mountain bike trails are open in the winter and early spring, while closed in the summer to protect the nesting grounds of