



# CONDITIONS REPORT

## Head to the mountains this weekend for bluebird days

The mountains are packed with snow with recent storm systems moving through. This weekend may have a few bluebird days (or at least moments) in store for visitors to enjoy some of the fresh powder.

Remember, conditions can change quickly in the mountains so always be prepared with a map, shovel and other emergency supplies before you head out. If a parking area is full, find another place to play that has space and never park in restricted areas, along highways or where you'll be blocking other vehicles.

For a full list of conditions updated regularly, please visit [centraloregonexplore.com](http://centraloregonexplore.com).



Skiers and snowboarders ride the Pine Marten Express chairlift with Broken Top in the background on opening day Dec. 7 at Mt. Bachelor ski area.  
Dean Guernsey/Bulletin file photo

### HIKING AND DAY USE SITES

**NOTE:** Many of the trails along seasonally closed highways and forest service roads remain open, but can only be accessed by hike, snowshoe, cross country ski or snowmobile due to accumulating snowfall. See Forest websites for more details and restrictions.

#### Deschutes National Forest

- **Black Butte Trailhead:** Open
- **Black Crater Trailhead:** Open
- **Broken Top Trailhead:** Open
- **Buttes Loop Trailhead:** Open
- **Cabot Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Canyon Creek Trailhead:** Open
- **Charlton Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Crane Prairie Picnic Area:** Open
- **Crater Butte Trailhead:** Open
- **Crater Ditch Trailhead:** Open

- **Cultus Lake Day Use Area:** Open
- **Deer Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Devil's Lake/South Sister Trailhead:** Open
- **Dutchman Trailhead:** Open
- **Edison Trailhead:** Open
- **Elk Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Green Lakes Trailhead:** Open
- **Head of Jack Creek Trailhead:** Open
- **Jack Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Jefferson Lake:** Open
- **Lava Lake Day Use:** Open
- **Lemish Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Little Fawn Day Use:** Open
- **Lucky Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Many Lakes Trailhead:** Open
- **Meissner Trailhead:** Open
- **Metolius-Windigo:** Open
- **Park Meadow:** Open; moderate deadfall on tie trail to Tam Rim
- **Paulina Falls Picnic and Trailhead:** Open
- **Paulina Lake Day Use:** Open
- **Peter Skene Ogden Trailhead:** Open; patchy snow, ice and mud
- **Pole Creek Trailhead:** Open
- **Rockpile Lake:** Open
- **Rosary Lakes Trailhead:** Open

- **Round Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Six Lakes Trailhead:** Open
- **Skyliners Trailhead:** Open
- **South Twin Day Use — Launch:** Open
- **Sparks Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Summit Lake:** Open
- **Sunset View Day Use:** Open
- **Swampy Lakes Trail:** Open
- **Tam McArthur Rim Trailhead:** Open
- **Ten Mile Trailhead:** Open
- **Todd Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Tumalo Falls Trailhead:** Open; Tumalo Falls Road is closed at the gate, visitors must hike, walk or snowshoe in
- **Tumalo Mountain:** Open
- **Wake Butte Trailhead:** Open
- **Wanoga Trailhead:** Open
- **Winopee Trailhead:** Open
- **Deschutes National Forest — Diamond Peak Wilderness**
- **Crater Butte Trailhead:** Open
- **Fawn Lake Trail:** Open
- **Snell Lake Trail:** Open
- **Whitefish Creek Trail:** Open
- **Yoran Lake Trail:** Open
- **Stag Lake Trail:** Open

### OREGON STATE PARKS

- **La Pine State Park:** Open, expect reduced services; winter day-use hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; meeting hall is closed

### SKI AREAS AND SNOW PARKS

- **Updated 8 a.m. Jan. 7**
- **Hoodoo:** Open; 57.7-inch base; all lifts operating
- **Mt. Bachelor:** Open; 75-inch base; Red Chair is being used as a backup for Pine Marten and First Rays lift is closed
- **Willamette Pass:** 36 inches at lodge; rentals and tickets must be reserved online in advance

#### Deschutes National Forest

- **Crescent Lake Sno-Park:** Open; 8-12 inches; poor conditions due to low snow
- **Crescent Junction:** Open; 8-12 inches; poor conditions due to low snow
- **Dutchman Sno-Park:** Open; 36-50 inches; good conditions, limited parking and no overnight camping; 40-foot max length limit for vehicle/trailer combination; expect heavy use
- **Edison Butte Sno-Park:** Open; 10-18 inches; good conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles through March 31, 2021
- **Kapka Butte Sno-Park:** Open; 24-36 inches; good conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles through March 31, 2021
- **Meissner Sno-Park:** Open; 12-24 inches; good conditions; area roads closed through April 1, 2021; no dogs; lodge currently closed
- **Skyliner Sno-Park:** Open; unknown snow depth, access road closed for the season, road is now a ski/snowshoe trail
- **Swampy Sno-Park:** Open; 24-36 inches; good conditions; no dogs; area roads closed through March 31, 2021
- **Vista Butte Sno-Park:** Open; 24-36 inches; fair conditions;

- area north of parking area closed to snowmobiles, use Kapka Butte or Wanoga
- **Wanoga Snow Play:** Open; 16-30 inches; good conditions; expect heavy use; pack out broken sleds and all trash; shelter is closed
- **Wanoga Snowmobile:** Open; 18-30 inches; good conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles through March 31, 2021
- **Newberry (Six Mile Sno-Park):** Open; 0-2 inches; poor conditions due to low snow.
- **Newberry (10 Mile Sno-Park):** Open; 12-24 inches; good conditions; road beyond park closed to vehicles for the season
- **Three Creek Sno-Park (Lower):** Open; 0-2 inches; poor conditions due to low snow; sno-park not plowed due to lack of funding
- **Three Creek Sno-Park (Upper):** Open; 8-16 inches; poor conditions due to low snow, bare ground on ski and snowshoe trails
- **Walt Haring Sno-Park:** 8-12 inches; poor conditions due to low snow
- **Ochoco National Forest:**
- **Bandit Springs Sno-Park:** Open
- **Mark's Creek Sno-Park:** Open
- **Ochoco Divide Sno-Park:** Open
- **Walton Sno-Park:** Open
- **Willamette National Forest**
- **Gold Lake Sno-Park:** Open
- **Ikenick Sno-Park:** Open
- **Little Nash Sno-Park:** Open
- **Maxwell Sno-Park:** Open; Mountain View and South Maxwell shelters are closed
- **Potato Hill Sno-Park:** Open
- **Ray Benson Sno-Park:** Open
- **Salt Creek Sno-Park:** Open
- **Santiam Sno-Park:** Open
- **Waldo Lake Sno-Park:** Open

- **Tiddlywinks, Catch and Release:** Rideable snow
- **All other trails reporting deep snow**
- **North of Skyliner trails**
- **Shevlin Park:** Riding well
- **All other trails reporting deep snow**

### FISHING

- **Updated at 8 a.m. Jan. 7**
- **Upper Deschutes at Benham Falls:** 514 cfs; section is closed for the season to anglers.
- **Fall River:** Brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout; fish during warmest parts of the day; access limited depending on snow; fly fishing only with barbless hooks; fishing has been good for trout, all public access to the hatchery remains closed
- **McKenzie River (at Clear Lake):** 686 cfs
- **McKenzie River (near Belknap Springs):** 1,570 cfs; rainbow and coastal cutthroat trout; current hatches — blue winged olive, midge, sculpin; river access may be limited due to the Holiday Farm Fire.
- **Crane Prairie Reservoir:** 80% full; brook trout, kokanee, largemouth bass, rainbow trout; fishing is closed for the season
- **Wickiup Reservoir:** 35% full; kokanee, rainbow and brown trout, largemouth bass and catfish; fishing is closed for the season
- **East Lake:** Brown trout, kokanee, rainbow trout, Atlantic salmon; access road is closed but fishing is open year-round
- **Paulina Lake:** Kokanee, rainbow and brown trout; good fishing for trout and kokanee
- **North Twin Lake:** Rainbow trout; fair fishing; high clearance vehicle needed to get to the lake
- **South Twin Lake:** Rainbow trout; fair fishing; high clearance vehicle needed to get to the lake
- **Davis Lake:** Water level is low; rainbow trout and largemouth bass. Fly fishing only
- **Lava Lake:** Rainbow trout; access road is closed but fishing open year-round
- **Little Lava Lake:** Rainbow trout, brook trout and whitefish
- **Cultus Lake:** Mackinaw, rainbow and brook trout

### CYCLING

- **Fatbike and winter trails:**
- **Ben's-MTB-Kent's, Horse Butte Loop:** Muddy
- **Wanoga — 3 PSI, Wanoga — Outer Loop:** Rideable snow
- **All other trails riding well**
- **Phil's Trail Complex**
- **All trails are unrideable due to snow or mud**
- **Wanoga Trail Complex**
- **Deschutes River, Funner:** Winter mix



Ray Benson Sno-park offers 18 miles of cross-country ski and snowshoe trails.  
Mark Morical/Bulletin file photo

### EVENTS

#### Daily tours

**Lava Cave Tours:** A guided tour of a local lava tube exploring the geologic and human history as well as the ecology of the cave; 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.; \$65 to \$90; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [go.evnt.com/713740-0](http://go.evnt.com/713740-0) or 541-389-8359.

**Daily Snowshoe Tours:** A naturalist-guided tour through areas around Mt. Bachelor. Snowshoes and hot cocoa provided; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1:30-5:30 p.m.; \$65 to \$90; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [go.evnt.com/713722-0](http://go.evnt.com/713722-0) or 541-389-8359.

**Shoes, Brews & Views Snowshoe Tour:** Snowshoe to a spot in the Deschutes National Forest and sip some locally crafted beers or root beer for those under 21; 1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; \$65 to \$95; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [go.evnt.com/713728-1](http://go.evnt.com/713728-1) or 541-389-8359.

**Bonfire Snowshoe Tours:** A naturalist-guided tour near Mt. Bachelor out to a small bonfire where snowshoes will be treated to hot libations and a dessert; 7-11 p.m.; \$110; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [go.evnt.com/713736-0](http://go.evnt.com/713736-0) or 541-389-8359.

**Moonlight & Starlight Snowshoes Tours:** A guided tour on snowshoes in the Cascade Lakes area under the stars; 7-11 p.m.; \$95; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [go.evnt.com/713732-0](http://go.evnt.com/713732-0) or 541-389-8359.

#### Tuesday 1/12

**Beginning Fly Tying Class:** Novice anglers can learn the basics of tying flies in this 2-hour class. Register at the fly shop; 6-8 p.m.; \$80; Confluence Fly Shop, 375 SW Powerhouse Drive, Bend; [go.evnt.com/723285-0](http://go.evnt.com/723285-0) or 541-678-5633.

#### Wednesday 1/13

**Intermediate Fly Tying Class:** Take your fly tying knowledge further with this intermediate skilled class. All materials provided. Register at the fly shop; 6-8 p.m.; \$80; Confluence Fly Shop, 375 SW Powerhouse Drive, Bend; [go.evnt.com/723288-0](http://go.evnt.com/723288-0) or 541-678-5633.

### FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Fire danger is currently listed as Moderate in both the Deschutes National Forest and Ochoco National Forest. Fire danger is listed as Low in the Willamette National Forest.

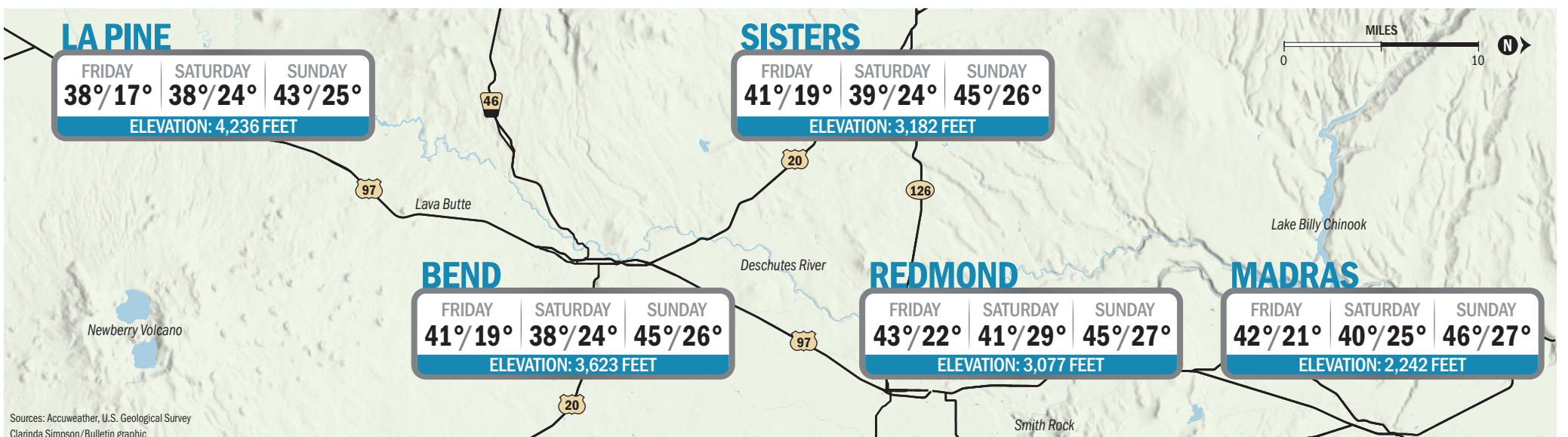
As of Oct. 14, the Industrial Fire Precaution Level has been lowered to a Level 1 for the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and the Prineville District

— Bureau of Land Management.

### COLUMBIA PARK ACCESS CLOSURE

As of July 22, Deschutes River access is closed due to safety concerns and to prevent further erosion to the river bank. The access point will be closed until further notice. For more information visit [bendparksandrec.org](http://bendparksandrec.org)

- **Hosmer Lake:** Brook, cutthroat and rainbow trout; fly fishing only with barbless hooks
- **Elk Lake:** Brook trout and kokanee; jigging, still-fishing and trolling from a boat or fly fishing are best
- **Crescent Lake:** 26% full; kokanee, mackinaw, rainbow and brown trout, whitefish and chub; winter is good for brown trout; one lake trout per day, 24-inch minimum



Sources: Accuweather, U.S. Geological Survey  
Clarinda Simpson/Bulletin graphic