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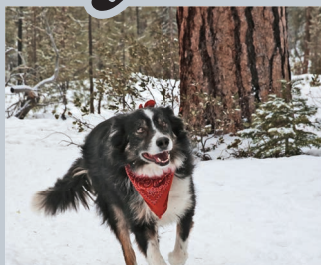
**BI-MART**



Terrain is varied at Edison Butte Sno-park.

## Edison Butte Sno-park: a 'favorite' among locals

BY BRIAN RATHBONE • The Bulletin



Photos by Dean Guernsey/  
For The Bulletin

**Edison Butte Sno-park  
is dog friendly.**

*"You can take your dog, there are shelters everywhere so you can have a fire, hang out—sometimes, I'll pack a lunch and drinks and hang out."*

— Liz Bluhm, an avid cross-country skier from Bend

Sledders, snowshoers, snowmobilers each have a place to play at Edison Butte Sno-park.

With 12 marked snowshoeing and cross-country skiing trails — all conveniently with names like "High Voltage," "Tesla" and "Alternating Current" after lightbulb inventor Thomas Edison — ranging in difficulty and distances, with loops running from less than a mile to more than 5 miles.

There are also areas for sledding and trails for snowmobiling at the park, which is located east of Mount Bachelor on Forest Road 45. Most of the snowmobile trails and the snowshoeing/cross-country skiing trails do not intersect, allowing for

peaceful exploration of the forest without having to hear the roaring engines.

"It is a fabulous resource," said Alan Rutherford of Sunriver. "Snowmobilers go one way; we (snowshoers and skiers) go another way. I heard one just as we were coming back. For the most part, we are separated, which is nice because you can enjoy the ambiance of the forest."

With minimal snowfall in the Bend and Sunriver area, Rutherford, along with his friend Bud Morris, have been regulars at the sno-park, where several feet of snow have fallen in the higher elevation areas.

See **Edison Butte** / B9

## Small ski areas: Let it snow, and keep snowing

BY MARK MORICAL  
The Bulletin

At this time last year, Hoodoo Ski Area had just 18 inches of snow and was forced to close for a week.

But Mother Nature delivered the goods this winter, as the small ski hill near Sisters boasted a snowpack of 57.7 inches as of Thursday and hosted a significant number of skiers and snowboarders over the holidays.

"It's been a fantastic snow year," said Matthew McFarland, general manager at Hoodoo.

"We've been getting a snow-storm, on average, every other day. We've had a couple of rain-storms, but other than that, it's been snow, upon snow, upon snow."

Last season, Hoodoo did not open until Dec. 26, but this season, it was able to open during Thanksgiving weekend for just the fourth time in the past 20 years.

Willamette Pass ski area, which has also struggled in recent winters to remain open, opened in time for the winter holidays this season and had

a reported snowpack of 36 inches as of Wednesday.

Located about 70 miles southwest of Bend off state Highway 58 between Central Oregon and Eugene, Willamette Pass is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hoodoo, located 45 miles northwest of Bend on Santiam Pass, is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (with night skiing) and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

See **Ski areas** / B10



Skiers get off the chairlift at Hoodoo Ski Area.

Dean Guernsey/  
For The Bulletin