

TOP PICKS WHERE TO EXPLORE

Makenzie Whittle/Bulletin file photo
BELOW: Hole-in-the-Ground is a mile-wide maar volcano near Fort Rock formed deep underwater.



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file photo
From an overlook looking south towards Prineville, the 460 acres of open land located near the center of the photograph was purchased by the city of Prineville and is part of the Barnes Butte Recreation Area.



Top picks east of Bend

Barnes Butte — The moderate 2.7-mile trail just east of Prineville rarely gets large amounts of snow, but there can be frigid wind gusts at the top of the 567 foot trail. However, once you've climbed the steady incline up, the butte offers views of Prineville and the valleys surrounding.

Chimney Rock — Another 2.7-mile moderate trail, is this one in the Crooked River Canyon near Prineville Reservoir. It has a higher elevation gain — 623 feet — but climb is more gradual, this trail ends at the basalt rock plinth above the river. The trail up is wider allowing for more room to socially distance, and there are benches to rest and enjoy the view.

Hole in the Ground — The aptly named hole is actually a volcanic maar hidden in the woods off Oregon Highway 31 near Fort Rock. It was formed when magma met the water of the ancient lake that covered the valley area thousands of years ago. There is technically a road down to the center of the hole, but it should only be attempted if your car has good ground clearance and you know what you're doing. Otherwise, hike the 2-mile out and back trail that gently descends into the bowl.

— Makenzie Whittle, *The Bulletin*

Central Oregon rental shops

BEND

- **Cascade Snow Bike** — snow bikes
20409 Trap Ct, Bend, OR 97702, (541) 728-1119
- **Central Oregon Rentals** — snowmobiles
63026 Plateau Dr, Bend, OR 97702, (541) 306-6197
- **Powder House Ski & Snowboard** — Snowshoes, cross-country skis, downhill skis, snowboards.
311 SW Century Dr, Bend, OR 97702, (541) 389-6234
- **Pine Mountain Sports** — snowshoes, fat bikes
255 SW Century Dr, Bend, OR 97702, (541) 385-8080
- **Mountain Supply** — Snowshoes, cross-country skis, downhill skis
834 NW Colorado Ave, Bend, OR 97703, (541) 388-0688

SISTERS

- **Eurosports** — Snowshoes, cross-country skis, downhill skis, snowboards.
223 E Hood Ave, Sisters, OR 97759, (541) 549-2471

SUNRIVER/LA PINE

- **Village Bike and Ski** — snowshoes, cross-country skis, downhill skis, snowboards, fat and mountain bikes
57100 Beaver Dr #21, Sunriver, OR 97707, (541) 593-2453
- **Sunriver Sports** — fat bikes
57100 Beaver Dr #16, Sunriver, OR 97707, (541) 593-8369



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Greg Rubin works in the rental department at Skjersaa's in Bend.

Brinduse. "Create a new retail space to have more space to accommodate crowds of people to space out. It has been a challenge — it hasn't really affected business."

At Skjersaa, the response to new safety guidelines has been leaning into online reservations, which has allowed for quicker trips for customers in and out of the store.

"The online reservation system made things easier," said Holmes. "With cross country skis, we have reservations only because we were selling out for sure. Same for snowshoes."

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Shops

Continued from B1

"It has been quite busy; we had a really good December," said the rental manager, who added having a newer, larger stock of rental gear and being under new ownership has helped business as well. "Cross-country rentals have been good, ski and snowboard way bigger than we have had

before."

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, retail stores have had to adjust how they operate on a daily basis. At 4 Seasons, the already small shop of roughly 2,000 square feet in The Village at Sunriver had to revamp its insides to accommodate the crowds of people entering the store.

"Managing the customers has been a challenge," said

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