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MORE OUTDOORS COVERAGE

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Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

A surfer carves the wave at the Bend Whitewater Park during the winter.

SURFING THROUGH WINTER AT BEND WHITEWATER PARK

BY MARK MORICAL • The Bulletin

In the summertime, surfers and kayakers at the Bend Whitewater Park sometimes must dodge the laid-back floaters and tubers who clog the Deschutes River on hot days. In winter, the tubers are nonexistent but a dedicated group of surfers remain, carving the human-controlled waves on even the chilliest of days.

Ryan Richard, a wave shaper for Bend Park & Recreation District and an avid river surfer, says a hardcore group of 50 to 100 surfers from Central Oregon, and a few kayakers, frequent the park during winter but usually only about 10 at a time at the most. Equipped with thick wet suits and the use of heated restrooms for changing at McKay

Park, river surfers actually find their sport quite accessible and comfortable during the winter and early spring.

Directions: The Bend Whitewater Park is located near the Colorado Avenue Bridge in Bend, with access from McKay Park at 166 S.W. Shevlin Hixon Drive.

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another outing



Makenzie Whittle/Bulletin file

A view of Prineville from Ochoco Viewpoint looking east in 2019.

We have some pretty incredible vistas along Central Oregon highways.

Over the years, viewpoints have been created so travelers can stop, stretch their legs and safely take in the scenery. Some are simple wide spots in the road with a sign or two indicating points of interest, some are full-fledged parks.

Ochoco Wayside State Scenic Viewpoint offers a perfect panorama view from high on a plateau of Prineville below and the Ochocos to

the east. While there are no services and only a few picnic tables and a covered shelter, the views here are outstanding and the real draw to pull off State Highway 126.

There are also a few short walking trails that offer more views to the north and south.

Getting there: From Prineville, drive 1 mile west on State Highway 126 from the interchange at U.S. Highway 26 and turn right.

— Makenzie Whittle, The Bulletin



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