



The side of Sand Rock has been eroded by westwardly winds. Makenzie Whittle/Bulletin photos



A ponderosa pine stands near a fenced-off section of the Lost Forest.

Lost Forest

Continued from B1
The stand of mostly pine and juniper trees is 40 miles southeast from the nearest similar forest, and the pines here receive about half of the average water needed to grow and thrive. Nevertheless, they persist.

There isn't much signage once you're in the Lost Forest, so make sure an area map is downloaded to your phone or you have a paper one handy. And if you want to explore longer, there are six designated campsites within the Lost Forest and three more out in the sand dunes area. Only camp in designated areas and do not

collect wood from the Lost Forest.

On a recent trip, the wind howled across the dunes, kicking up a sandstorm that this Oregon girl had never seen before.

After trying (and failing due in part to the sandstorm) to find Fossil Lake, my sister Heather and I made our way east toward the Lost Forest, which remained under clear blue skies.

The tops of the ponderosa pines bent heavily under the westward gusts as we made our way deeper into the forest.

Even driving on a windy day can bring unexpected sightings. Wildlife here can range from mountain blue-

birds bathing in whatever pools of water they can find to raptors scouting their next meal, or bobcats and jackrabbits bounding through the sagebrush, fescue and other desert ground covers. Keep your binoculars or camera ready.

As we explored further, minding the rocky road and deep ruts of deep sand and mud, the trees gave way to a sudden rocky butte.

Sand

Sand Rock is about 3 miles into the forest, but it seems longer given the slow, careful speed necessary to get here.

Knowing nothing about the rock but its name, we edged closer, deciding to make our way there when a side road appeared leading to it.

Sand Rock seems aptly named as deep cuts running north-south in the rock have been eroded by and filled with the coarse sand that covers the landscape here.

The exposed areas of the large basalt formation have been sandblasted for centuries as the wind kicks up the sand left behind from ancient lakes here mixed with ash from the eruption at Mt. Mazama 7,700 years ago, creating a rock face that resembles Swiss cheese.

It, like Lost Forest as a whole, is a specimen of resiliency. Against the wind, low rainfall and creeping sand dunes, both still stand.

Out there

The drive out to Lost Forest takes some time — about an hour and a half from Bend — but along the way, geologic sites like Hole-in-the-Ground, Fort Rock State Park and Crack-in-the-Ground offer places to stop and stretch your legs. Otherwise, follow the signs along the Christmas Valley Highway to the Christmas Valley Sand Dunes, turning left on Fossil Lake Road.

At the T-junction, turn right onto Lost Forest Lake and continue along the well-maintained gravel road until you reach the end then turn left.

The Lost Forest is closed to all motor vehicles except for the designated roads, many of which are bordered by fences and packed with red "Closed" signs.

These designated roads are rough and depending on the time of year, can be thick with mud or sand. A 4x4, high-clearance vehicle is highly recommended. If you get stuck, there is spotty cell service, and it's a long walk back to Christmas Valley.

■ Reporter: 541-383-0304, mwhittle@bendbulletin.com

TOP PICKS WHERE TO EXPLORE

Top picks east of Bend

Bandit Springs sno-park — Located off U.S. Highway 26 between Prineville and Mitchell, the sno-park hosts the most varied network of Nordic ski and snowshoe trails in the Ochoco National Forest. With trails zig-zagging through tall ponderosa pine stands, sno-bunnies of all skill levels can find a section of powder to call their own.

Mad Max Drive Trail — The easy mountain biking trail is in good shape right now. Located just off U.S. Highway 20 near Horse Ridge, the 2.3 mile one-way trail follows an old, cracked section of highway gently up the hill. If you're up for more of a challenge, Mad Max Drive connects to Has No Horse on the easterly terminus, which continues up the hill then back toward horse ridge.

Tumulus Trail — Tucked away on the backside of the Oregon Badlands Wilderness area with the trailhead located off of Dodds Road, the Tumulus Trail hugs the an irrigation canal for about a half-mile before turning southward into the Badlands area. Here it connects to many other trails including the Black Lava and Dry River trails. With many sections more exposed, this is a great section to do during the winter when the ground is less sandy and the temperatures cooler.

Camera

Continued from B1

In the mornings before the sun came up, Laakmann would put on his fishing waders to capture ice mushrooms that formed over rocks in Tumalo Creek near Tumalo Falls. When out at Smith Rock, climbing it is a great opportunity to capture the area's formations and climbers scaling the rocks.

"I'm not up to his (climbing) level," Zatz said of Laakmann. "So when we go climbing, I take pictures of him."

Whenever they are back-country skiing at Black Crater north of the Three Sisters, they make sure to take time to snap photos to remember their experiences.

"It is pretty cool to create stuff," Zatz said. "It is cool to capture things you think are cool and then show it to other people."

The two have leaned on Eli's father Daniel Zatz, a professional photographer, as well reading through books and tutorials on YouTube to learn the technical side of their Rebel T6 and Canon EOS 5D cameras.

"I've been around cameras my whole life, so I'm used to taking photos," said Zatz. "I would say I began taking it more seriously when the pandemic hit."

Most of their improvements

came from tinkering daily until they figured out better techniques for getting the camera to do what they want it to do.

"It took a couple months of going out every night behind our house taking night photos," Laakmann said. "Through that, and guess and check, I've been able to find out how to use them."

The two high schoolers found a new hobby, creative outlet and new ways of enhancing the outdoor activities they already enjoy.

"I just like the creativity you get from it and the technical

part," Laakmann said. Experimenting with different compositions, going to different places — just being out there is so much fun."

Zatz shares a similar sentiment that the addition of photography makes looking back at the fun they had more enjoyable.

"I love doing the (outdoor) sports," he said. "But taking photos of other people doing the sport, and taking photos of the beautiful scenery just gives you something to remember the trip by a little bit more."

■ Reporter: 541-383-0307, brathbone@bendbulletin.com

NYC
NAMASPA
YOGA COMMUNITY
2 LOCATIONS
BEND • REDMOND
We're Smiling Big!
Open For Practice!
Sign up at www.Namaspa.com



Heidi Olson-Dunlap
Broker Associate
LIC#20125768
406-539-5088
heidi@mountainlivingreg.com



Mickey Hewitt
Broker Associate
LIC#201213060
541-668-5550
mickey@mountainlivingreg.com



www.mountainlivingreg.com
Member **MLS** **FDIC** **Equal Housing Lender**

KLA-MO-YA Casino
Less Than 2 Hours South of Bend
888.552.6692 | klamoycasino.com
SLEEP INN
CHOICE

NEW MEMBERS
can win up to \$250 Free Play
and Earn up to an additional \$50 Free Play

| PEPSI THURSDAY KIOSK | FAB FRIDAYS | COOKWARE SUNDAYS |
|--|---|---|
| Earn 30 points between 10am-8pm Win a 2-liter of Pepsi product and a Tote Bag (tote bag, one per day) (While supplies last) Earn up to 4 2-Liters each day <small>(May only win once per day)</small> FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18, 25 10am-8pm | Every 10 points earned will get one entry into the drawings starting on February 1st. One winner each drawing every half-hour. WIN UP TO \$500 CASH 6:00pm - \$100 Free Play 7:30pm - \$250 Cash 6:30pm - \$150 Free Play 8:00pm - \$300 Cash 7:00pm - \$200 Free Play 8:30pm - \$350 Cash 9:00pm - \$500 Cash <small>(May only win once per night)</small> FEBRUARY 5, 12, 19, 26 6pm-9pm | Earn 75 points once on Sunday, Feb. 21st and 28th to get a different piece of cookware. Week 1 (Feb. 21st): Sapphire Diamond 4 qt Sauté Pan w/ Lid Week 2 (Feb. 28th): Sapphire Diamond 5 qt Dutch Oven w/ Lid <small>(May only earn one (1) gift each week) While Supplies Last</small> FEBRUARY 21, 28 10am-8pm |

See Bonus Club for Complete Details

WHEN ENTERING - All Guests and Team Members will have:

- Their temperatures checked
- Must wear a mask
- Maintain a minimum of 6ft. distance from others

No smoking or vaping will be allowed in the Casino, Restaurant or the Sleep Inn Hotel.

SUNDAY GUITARS
2021 SHOP LOCAL CHALLENGE

THANK YOU, CENTRAL OREGON FOR SUPPORTING OUR LOCALLY OWNED, SMALL BUSINESS!

Come visit our amazing New Location!
759 NE Greenwood Ave • Bend
541-323-2332



Tami McLaughlin
Loan Officer
NMLS#272540

O: 541-250-4095
C: 406-539-5938
F: 541-414-6627
tami.mclaughlin@wvbk.com
wvbk.com/tami-mclaughlin



Member **FDIC** **Equal Housing Lender**



"25 years of experience, specializing in jumbo & unconventional lending"