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COVERAGE**

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Bulletin file photo

Backcountry guide Jonas Tarlen makes the first tracks in a glade near the top of Tam MacArthur Rim.

Backcountry skiing on Tam Rim

BY MARK MORICAL

The Bulletin

Boasting a plethora of perfectly pitched north-facing slopes, Tam MacArthur Rim has become a popular locale for backcountry skiing and snowboarding in Central Oregon.

Accessing Tam MacArthur Rim (often called Tam Rim) requires a 6-mile snowmobile ride from Upper Three Creek Sno-park, just south of Sisters, to Three Creek Lake. Jutting 1,500 feet above the lake, the rocky Tam Rim stretches for 2 miles, a scenic invitation for snowriders seeking deep, virgin powder. Located near the lake are a number of yurt dwellings where backcountry skiers

can stay overnight to maximize their opportunity. Timberline Mountain Guides (which operates Oregon Ski Guides) and Three Sisters Backcountry Inc. offer guided ski trips at Tam Rim, which reaches as high as 7,732 feet in elevation.

Directions: From Sisters, travel 11 miles south on Forest Road 16 (Elm Street in Sisters) to Upper Three Creek Sno-park. Accessing Three Creek Lake and Tam Rim requires a 6-mile snowmobile ride (or cross-country ski or snowshoe) from the sno-park.

Contact: threesistersbackcountry.com or oregonskiguides.com.

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another outing

If you've spent any time south of Bend, you've likely driven past Lava Butte, a 500-foot cinder cone immediately west of Highway 97 between Bend and Sunriver. Lava Butte's base is home to Lava Lands Visitor Center, behind which one can access paved paths atop the sprawling boulder field created by lava that spewed from the butte some 7,000 years ago, as well as a bike path running to Benham Falls East Day Use and Sunriver beyond. The flow covered over 6,000 acres to the north and west of the butte, altering the course of the Deschutes River and creating terrain so rugged Apollo astronauts trained here for moonwalks.

And many visitors stop at the lava field, but for those willing and able to hoof it up the steep Forest Road 100, which corkscrews to the top of the butte, the peak affords even better views of



Catherine Jasper makes her way back to the parking lot after hiking up Lava Butte.

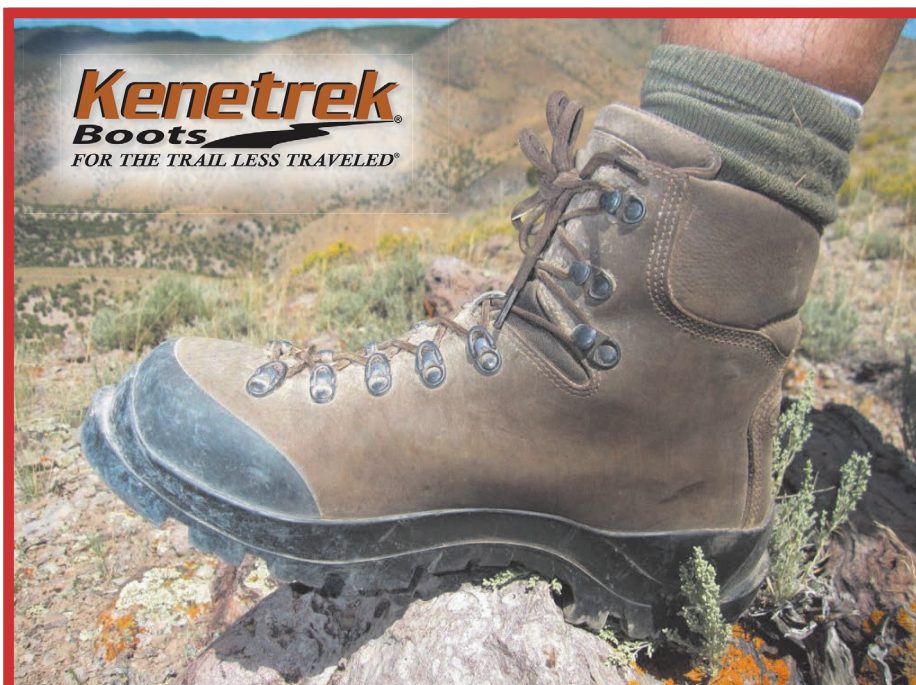
the Cascades to the west, Paulina Peak to the southeast (also part of Newberry National Volcanic Monument) as well as Luna, Kelsey and other buttes to the east.

(There is a shuttle service to the top from Memorial Day through Labor Day.)

Now is a great time to make the hike, about 3.5 miles round trip from the visitor center.

Getting there: From Bend, drive south on U.S. Highway 97 to the Crawford Road entrance and proceed to the southwest of the visitor center, where parking is available even when the center is closed. Follow the sidewalk in front of the center to the cinder road and the top of the butte.

— Photo and story: David Jasper, The Bulletin



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