



# CONDITIONS REPORT

## Go see areas near Sisters and local sno-parks

Another winter storm is heading our way, but this one won't last long as warmer temps are forecasted coming into next week. So enjoy the winter while you can by checking out areas near Sisters this weekend.

The Cascades will see some more snow than the lower elevations, but with extra accumulations, there is a higher chance of avalanches or getting your car stuck. Stay vigilant and always be prepared when you travel in the snow.

For a full list of conditions updated regularly, please visit [centraloregonexplore.com](http://centraloregonexplore.com).

### HIKING AND DAY USE SITES

*NOTE: Many of the trails along seasonally closed highways and forest service roads remain open, but can only be accessed by hike, snowshoe, cross country ski or snowmobile due to accumulating snowfall. See Forest websites for more details and restrictions.*  
 • All summer trails are under some amount of snow.

#### Deschutes National Forest

- **Black Butte Trailhead:** Open
- **Black Crater Trailhead:** Open
- **Canyon Creek Trailhead:** Open
- **Chush Falls:** Open
- **Cold Springs Day Use:** Open
- **Head of Jack Creek Trailhead:** Open
- **Head of the Metolius:** Open; snow free and clear
- **Jack Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Jefferson Lake:** Open
- **Lake Creek Trail:** Open; patchy snow, ice and mud
- **Lower Black Butte Trailhead:** Open
- **Lower Bridge Day Use:** Open
- **Lower Canyon Creek (West Metolius Trailhead):** Open
- **Metolius-Windigo:** Open
- **Park Meadow:** Open; moderate deadfall on tie trail to Tam Rim
- **Pole Creek Trailhead:** Open
- **Rockpile Lake:** Open
- **Round Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Scout Lake Day Use:** Open
- **Sisters Cow Camp:** Open
- **Sisters Mirror Trailhead:** Open
- **Sisters Tie Trailhead:** Open
- **Suttle Lake Day Use:** Open
- **Tam McArthur Rim Trailhead:** Open
- **Whychus Creek Overlook**

Trailhead: Open  
 • **Whychus Portal (Lower Whychus Trailhead):** Open

#### Willamette National Forest — Three Sisters Wilderness Area

- **McKenzie River Trail:** Partially open
- **Tamolitch Blue Pool:** Open

### SKI AREAS AND SNOW PARKS

Updated 8 a.m. Feb. 25

- **Hoodoo:** Open; 92.7 inch base; Hodag lift and Autobahn Tubing Park are closed
- **Mt. Bachelor:** Open; 111 inch base; First Rays lift is closed, Summit lift closed during winter storm cycle
- **Willamette Pass:** 75 inches at lodge; rentals and tickets must be reserved online in advance

#### Deschutes National Forest

- **Crescent Lake Sno-park:** Open; 10-12 inches; fair conditions with low snow
- **Crescent Junction:** Open; 10-12 inches; fair conditions with low snow
- **Dutchman Sno-park:** Open; 72-100 inches; good conditions, limited parking and no overnight camping; 40-foot max length limit for vehicle/trailer combination; expect heavy use
- **Edison Butte Sno-park:** Open; 42-60 inches; good conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles through March 31, 2021
- **Kapka Butte Sno-park:** Open; 54-78 inches; good conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles through March 31, 2021



Bulletin file photo  
 Still water at Suttle Lake reflects the clouds and sun above.

#### Smith Rock climbing closures

To protect nesting raptors, the following climbing routes are closed: Cajun Cliff, Victoria Tower, Little Three Fingered Jack, Puddy's Tower, The Monument, Anglin's Buttress, French Tent Rock, First Kiss Area north of Monkey Face and Smith Rock Group NE Face (both towers, above 100 feet). The Canyon Trail near the bald eagle nest is restricted to groups of four or less and noise must be kept to a minimum. See [smithrock.com/seasonal-closures](http://smithrock.com/seasonal-closures) for more information.

- **Meissner Sno-park:** Open; 36-48 inches; good conditions; area roads closed through April 1, 2021; no dogs; lodge currently closed
- **Skyliner Sno-park:** Open; unknown snow depth, access road closed for the season, road is now a ski/snowshoe trail
- **Swampy Sno-park:** Open; 54-78 inches; good conditions; no dogs; area roads closed through March 31, 2021
- **Vista Butte Sno-park:** Open; 54-78 inches; good conditions; area north of parking area closed to snowmobiles, use Kapka Butte or Wanoga
- **Wanoga Snow Play:** Open; 48-60 inches; good conditions; expect heavy use; pack out broken sleds and all trash; shelter is closed
- **Wanoga Snowmobile:** Open; 48-60 inches; good conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles through March 31, 2021; shelter is closed
- **Newberry (Six Mile Sno-park):** Open; 6-10 inches; marginal conditions due to low snow
- **Newberry (10 Mile Sno-park):** Open; 24-48 inches; good conditions; road beyond park closed to vehicles for the season
- **Three Creek Sno-park (Lower):** Open; 12 inches; marginal conditions due to low snow
- **Three Creek Sno-park (Upper):** Open; 18-24 inches; good

conditions; Forest Service Road 16 may not be plowed immediately after a storm  
 • **Walt Haring Sno-park:** 8-10 inches; good conditions

#### Ochoco National Forest

- **Bandit Springs Sno-park:** Open
- **Mark's Creek Sno-park:** Open
- **Ochoco Divide Sno-park:** Open
- **Walton Sno-park:** Open
- **Willamette National Forest**
- **Gold Lake Sno-park:** Open
- **Ikenick Sno-park:** Open
- **Little Nash Sno-park:** Open
- **Maxwell Sno-park:** Open; Mountain View and South Maxwell shelters are closed
- **Potato Hill Sno-park:** Open
- **Ray Benson Sno-park:** Open; 70-75 inches; good conditions, expect heavy use
- **Salt Creek Sno-park:** Open
- **Santiam Sno-park:** Open
- **Waldo Lake Sno-park:** Open

### CAMPING

#### Deschutes National Forest

- **Allen Springs Campground:** Open

#### Trail closures west of Bend

Beginning Jan. 28 the following trails are closed from 12:01 a.m. Mondays and 3 p.m. Fridays (except for federal holidays) due to timber harvesting and forest restoration work:

- Lower Whoops
- Pine Drops
- EXT
- Storm King from the junction with Forest Road 4615 and the junction with Phil's Trail
- Phil's Trail between the junction with EXT and it's western terminus at the junction with Pine Drops
- Upper Whoops
- Lower Whoops
- Skyliners

#### Bureau of Land Management seasonal trail closures

The following Bureau of Land Management trails are now closed through Aug. 31 to protect nesting raptors:

- Millican Plateau OHV Trail System (Route 95 only)
- South side of Trout Creek Trail including climbing walls
- Cline Buttes Recreation Area (portions of Deep Canyon, Fryrear, Maston, Jaguar Road)
- Horny Hollow Trail
- Dry River Canyon

For more information, visit [blm.gov](http://blm.gov).

- **Camp Sherman Campground:** Open
- **Graham Corral Horse Camp:** Open
- **Lava Camp Lake Campground:** Open
- **Lower Bridge Campground:** Open
- **Pine Rest Campground:** Open
- **Sisters Cow Camp Horse Camp:** Open; no campfires

### CYCLING

#### Fatbike and winter trails:

- **Ben's-MTB-Kent's, Horse Butte Loop, Maston:** Muddy
- **Maston, Wanoga — 3 PSI, Wanoga — Outer Loop:** Rideable snow
- **Cline Buttes, Horse Ridge Area:** Winter Mix
- **Madras East Hills, The Radlands:** Riding well

#### Sisters trails

- **Lake Creek:** Winter mix; deadfall reported
- **Peterson Ridge, PRT East, Sisters Tie:** Muddy
- **Peterson Ridge Tie:** Winter mix, deadfall reported
- **Metolius-Windigo (99 Upper):** Deep snow
- **New reports needed on other trails**

### FISHING

Updated at 8 a.m. Feb. 25

- **Middle Deschutes (Benham Falls to Lake Billy Chinook):** 3,910 cfs; brown trout, rainbow trout; water is higher and clarity is good with decent trout fishing; open year-round for trout, artificial flies and lures only; no limit on brown trout
- **Metolius River:** 1,450 cfs; bull trout, rainbow trout; consistent fishing reported; fly fishing only upstream of Bridge 99, artificial lures and flies permitted below; catch and release only; public access to Wizard Falls Hatchery remains closed; river is closed to fishing above Allingham Bridge until May 22, 2021
- **McKenzie River (at Clear Lake):** 408 cfs
- **McKenzie River (near Belknap Springs):** 1,040 cfs; rainbow and coastal cutthroat trout; current hatches — blue winged olive, midge, sculpin
- **Lake Billy Chinook:** Bull, brown and rainbow trout, kokanee, smallmouth bass; Metolius arm is closed until spring, no recent reports for rest of lake
- **Suttle Lake:** Kokanee, brown trout

### EVENTS

#### Daily tours

- **Lava Cave Tours:** A guided tour of a local lava tube exploring the geologic and human history as well as the ecology of the cave; 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.; \$65 to \$90; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [go.evnt.com/713740-0](http://go.evnt.com/713740-0) or 541-389-8359.
- **Daily Snowshoe Tours:** A naturalist-guided tour through areas around Mt. Bachelor. Snowshoes and hot cocoa provided; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1:30-5:30 p.m.; \$65 to \$90; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [go.evnt.com/713722-0](http://go.evnt.com/713722-0) or 541-389-8359.
- **Shoes, Brews & Views Snowshoe Tour:** Snowshoe to a spot in the Deschutes National Forest and sip some locally crafted beers or root beer for those under 21; 1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; \$65 to \$95; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [go.evnt.com/713728-1](http://go.evnt.com/713728-1) or 541-389-8359.
- **Bonfire Snowshoe Tours:** A naturalist-guided tour near Mount Bachelor out to a small bonfire where snowshoes will be treated to hot libations and a dessert; 7-11 p.m.; \$110; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [go.evnt.com/713736-0](http://go.evnt.com/713736-0) or 541-389-8359.
- **Moonlight & Starlight Snowshoes Tours:** A guided tour on snowshoes in the Cascade Lakes area under the stars; 7-11 p.m.; \$95; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [go.evnt.com/713732-0](http://go.evnt.com/713732-0) or 541-389-8359.

#### Ice Skating Rink Hours

- **The Pavilion:** Public skating by reservation only. Open skating session times vary, see website for details; \$12 adults, \$11 older adults (60-79) and students, \$10 youth and honored citizens (80 plus), children under 3 with a paying adult are free, \$3 discount if you bring your own skates, \$6 per person for special sessions; 1001 SW Bradbury Drive, Bend; [bendparksandrec.org/facility/the-pavilion](http://bendparksandrec.org/facility/the-pavilion) or 541-389-7588.

- **Seventh Mountain Resort:** Reservations required. Open skating sessions run 1 hour and 20 minutes every two hours 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; \$15 adults, \$12 children (60-79) and students, \$10 youth and honored citizens (80 plus), children under 3 with a paying adult are free, \$3 discount for bringing your own skates; Seventh Mountain Resort Ice Rink, 18575 SW Century Drive, Bend; [seventhmountainresort.com/ice-skating](http://seventhmountainresort.com/ice-skating) or 877-765-1501.
- **Sunriver Village:** Reservations required for all skaters. Open skating sessions run 2 hours three hours noon-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. Sunday; \$15 adults, \$11 children 5 to 12, \$3 discount if you have your own skates; Sunriver Village Ice Rink, 57100 Beaver Drive, Sunriver; [sunriverice.com/sunriver-ice-skating](http://sunriverice.com/sunriver-ice-skating) or 541-593-5948.

#### Friday 2/26

- **Mountainfilm on Tour — Week One:** The program of outdoor adventure films will be available to watch from the comfort of your own home; streaming through March 1; \$20; Bend; [go.evnt.com/742422-1](http://go.evnt.com/742422-1) or 541-385-6908.

#### Sunday 2/28

- **Orangetheory Fitness Run Club:** A guided 3- to 5-mile hike with body weight workouts mixed in will be held. Free for members and nonmembers; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Orangetheory Fitness, 320 SW Powerhouse Drive, Bend; [go.evnt.com/742903-0](http://go.evnt.com/742903-0) or 541-904-5123.

#### Monday 3/1

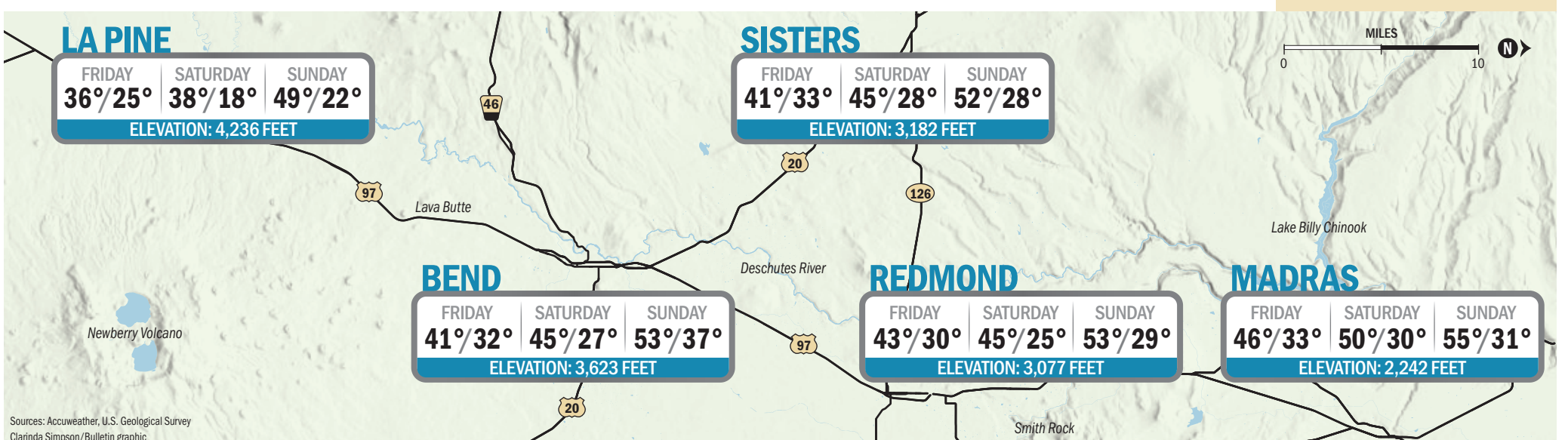
- **Virtual Natural History Pub — Environmental Justice and the Movement to Diversify Public Lands:** Since the turn of the 21st century, a movement has emerged to address racial and ethnic inequities in public lands access, recreational use and employment; 6-7 p.m.; registration required; High Desert Museum, online; [go.evnt.com/738690-1](http://go.evnt.com/738690-1)

#### Wednesday 3/3

- **Know Wild — How to Really Help Injured and Orphaned Wildlife:** The animal care team at Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory will share experiences from inside wildlife rehabilitation. The event will not be recorded; 6:30-7:30 p.m.; registration required; Deschutes Public Library, online; [go.evnt.com/742408-1](http://go.evnt.com/742408-1) or 541-312-1063.



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin file photo  
 A skier gets some air at Hoodoo Ski Area.



Sources: Accuweather, U.S. Geological Survey  
 Clarinda Simpson/Bulletin graphic