



# CONDITIONS REPORT

## Visit High Desert areas and sno-parks

Central Oregon is warming up and what better place to soak up some rays than by heading to the open vistas of the High Desert areas.

Many of these places have sprawling openness with little shade making them perfect for a late-winter stroll. Plus, this weekend we spring forward with daylight saving time beginning early Sunday morning, giving us all a little more sunshine to explore in.

Remember, March weather can change quickly, so always go prepared.

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 hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing or snowmobiling due to accumulating snowfall. See Forest websites for more details.*

#### Deschutes National Forest

- **Bessie Butte Trail:** Open
- **Boyd Cave Day Use Area:** Open
- **Horse Butte Trailhead:** Open; mostly snow free and clear
- **Pine Mountain:** Open

#### Ochoco National Forest

- **Alder Springs Trailhead:** Open; access road closed to motor vehicles
- **Cyrus Trailhead:** Open
- **Gray Butte Trailhead:** Open
- **Hammer Creek Trailhead:** Open
- **Rimrock Springs Trailhead:** Open
- **Scales Corral Trailhead:** Open
- **Skull Hollow Trailhead:** Open
- **Tam-A-Lau Trailhead:** Open

#### Bureau of Land Management

- **Badlands Rock Trail:** Open
- **Black Hills ACEC:** Open; climbing and geocaching are prohibited
- **Chimney Rock Trail:** Open
- **Christmas Valley Sand Dunes:** Open
- **Cline Buttes Recreation Area:** Portions of Deep Canyon, Fryrear, Maston and Jaguar Road are closed through Aug. 31
- **Crack-in-the-Ground:** Open
- **Derrick Cave:** Open
- **Flatiron Rock Trail:** Open
- **Fossil Lake ACEC:** Open; motor vehicles and fossil collecting prohibited
- **Green Mountain:** Open
- **Huntington Wagon Road:** Open
- **Lost Forest:** Open; vehicles restricted to designated roads only
- **Lower Crooked River:** Open
- **North Fork:** Open
- **Oregon Badlands Wilderness Tumulus Trail:** Open
- **Redmond Caves Recreation Site:** Open
- **Scout Camp Trail:** Open
- **Steelhead Falls Trail:** Open
- **Trout Creek Trail:** South side of trail, including Trout Creek climbing walls, is closed through Aug. 31

### OREGON STATE PARKS

- **Cline Falls State Scenic Viewpoint:** Open; expect reduced services; restrooms are closed, portable toilet is on site; maintain social distancing and wear a mask
- **Cove Palisades State Park:** Open for day-use and lake access; Crooked River Campground (E Loop) is open; Deschutes Campground and moorage slips will open May 14.
- **Fort Rock State Natural Area:** Open; day-use hours 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; rock scrambling closed in southeast area to protect nesting falcons
- **Jasper Point:** Open; boat ramp closed due to low water conditions; camping is closed for the season
- **Peter Skene Ogden State Scenic Viewpoint:** Open
- **Prineville Reservoir State Park:** Open; expect reduced services
- **Smith Rock State Park:** Open — limited services; no camping; climbing closures to protect nesting raptors in place until August; parkwide drone ban is in effect.

### SKI AREAS AND SNOW PARKS

- *Updated 8 a.m. March 11*
- **Hoodoo:** Open; 96.7 inch base; Hodag lift and Autobahn Tubing Park are closed
- **Mt. Bachelor:** Open; 109 inch base; First Rays lift is closed
- **Willamette Pass:** 65 inches at lodge; rentals and tickets must be reserved online in advance

#### Deschutes National Forest

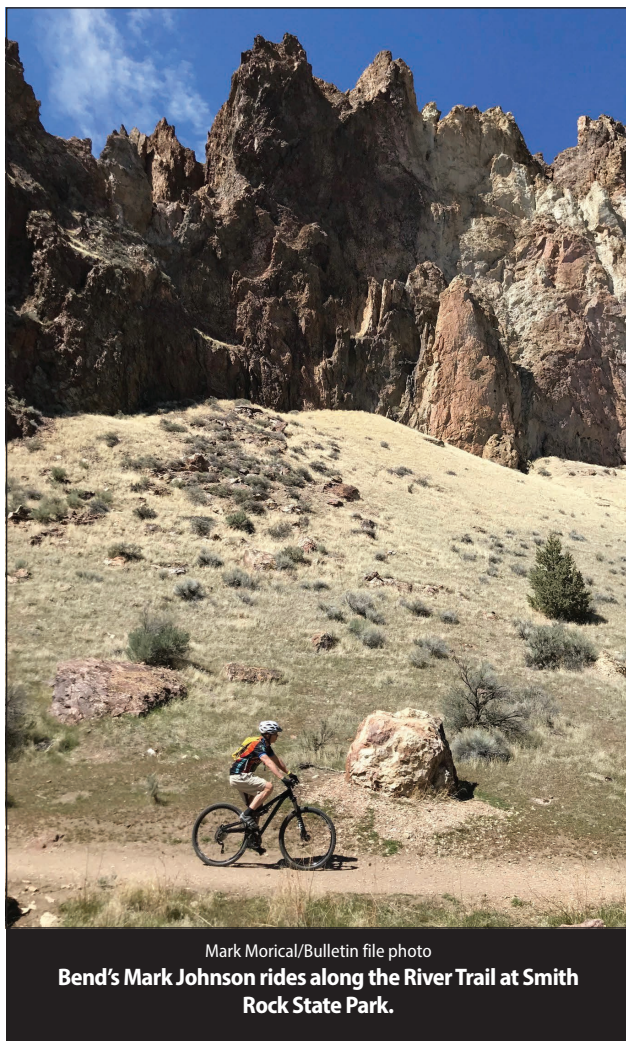
- **Crescent Lake Sno-park:** Open; 10-12 inches; fair conditions with low snow
- **Crescent Junction:** Open; 10-12 inches; fair conditions with low snow
- **Dutchman Flat Sno-park:** Open; 72-96 inches; good conditions, limited parking and no overnight camping; 40-foot max length limit for vehicle/trailer combination; expect heavy use
- **Edison Butte Sno-park:** Open; 30-48 inches; fair conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles through March 31

#### Trail closures west of Bend

Beginning Jan. 28 the following trails are closed from Monday to 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 its western terminus at the junction with Pine Drops
- Upper Whoops
- Lower Whoops
- Skyliners

tion with Forest Road 4615 and the junction with Phil's Trail



Mark Morical/Bulletin file photo  
**Bend's Mark Johnson rides along the River Trail at Smith Rock State Park.**

- **Kapka Butte Sno-park:** Open; 42-66 inches; good conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles through March 31
- **Meissner Sno-park:** Open; 24-36 inches; good conditions; area roads closed through April 1; 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 Lake Sno-park:** Open; 42-66 inches; good conditions; no dogs; area roads closed through March 31
- **Vista Butte Sno-park:** Open; 42-60 inches; good conditions; area north of parking area closed to snowmobiles, use Kapka Butte or Wanoga
- **Wanoga Snow Play:** Open; 36-48 inches; good conditions; expect heavy use; pack out broken sleds and all trash; shelter is closed
- **Wanoga Snowmobile:** Open; 36-48 inches; good conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles through March 31, 2021; shelter is closed
- **Newberry (Six Mile Sno-park):** Open; 2-6 inches; poor conditions due to low snow
- **Newberry (10 Mile Sno-park):** Open; 18-30 inches; fair conditions, low snow around sno-park; road beyond park closed to vehicles for the season
- **Three Creek Sno-park (Lower):** Open; 2-6 inches; marginal conditions due to low snow
- **Three Creek Sno-park (Upper):** Open; 14-18 inches; good conditions; Forest Service Road 16 is plowed by may have icy ruts
- **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; 54-66 inches; good conditions, expect heavy use
- **Salt Creek Sno-park:** Open
- **Santiam Sno-park:** Open
- **Waldo Lake Sno-park:** Open

### CAMPING

#### BLM — Prineville District

- **Barr Road North Staging Area:** Open
- **Big Bend Campground:** Open
- **Buckhorn Staging Area:** Open
- **Castle Rock Campground:** Open
- **Chimney Rock Campground:** Open
- **Cobble Rock Campground:** Open
- **Lone Pine Campground:** Open
- **Macks Canyon Recreation Site:** Open
- **Post Pile Campground:** Open
- **Steelhead Falls:** Open; no potable water
- **Stillwater Campground:** Open

### CYCLING

#### Fatbike and winter trails:

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

#### East of Bend trails

- **Dry River Canyon:** Closed through Aug. 31
- **Coyote Loop, Has No Horse, Horse Butte Loop, Horse Ridge Area, Sand Canyon, Swamp Wells:** Muddy
- **All other trails riding well**

#### Maston complex

- **All trails riding well**

#### Redmond trails

- **Cole Loop, Gray Butte:** Muddy
- **All other trails riding well**

#### Madras East Trails

- **Coyote Run, Valley of the Bones:** Winter mix
- **Peek A Boo — Berm Mountain, Wide Open:** Muddy
- **All other trails riding well**

### FISHING

- *Updated at 8 a.m. March 11*
- **Lower Deschutes (Pelton Dam to Columbia River):** 4,900 cfs; redband trout, steelhead, whitefish; trout will continue to be less active through the winter but can be caught on something slow and tasty, steelhead fishing is done as most fish are entering spawning grounds in closed waters.

#### 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)

#### Smith Rock climbing closures

To protect nesting raptors, the following climbing routes are closed: Cajun Cliff, Victoria Tower, Little Three Fingers 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.

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• **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

• **Crooked River (below Opal Springs):** 1,292 cfs; rainbow trout and mountain whitefish; only fish downstream of Bowman Dam to Lake Billy Chinook; fishing has been good but water remains low; any trout over 20 inches are considered steelhead and must be released, bull trout must be released unharmed and reported to the USFW at [crookedbulltrout@usfw.gov](mailto:crookedbulltrout@usfw.gov)

• **Metolius River:** 1,410 cfs; bull trout, rainbow trout; consistent fishing reported between Allingham Bridge and Bridge 99 but access may be difficult depending on snow; 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

• **Prineville Reservoir:** 40% full; rainbow trout, small and largemouth bass, catfish, crappie, crayfish; trout fishing has been fair, good for warm weather species

• **Ochoco Reservoir:** 19% full; rainbow trout, black crappie, smallmouth bass; trout fishing should start increasing with lower temperatures; ramp still likely unusable due to low water levels

• **Haystack Reservoir:** 83% full; rainbow and brown trout, kokanee, largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill and bullhead catfish; west side boat ramp is open

• **Lake Billy Chinook:** Bull, brown and rainbow trout, kokanee, smallmouth bass; Metolius arm is now open but tribal fishing permit required, kokanee fishing has been excellent

### EVENTS

#### 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 7 to 18, \$5 children 6 and under, \$5 discount for bringing your own skates; Seventh Mountain Resort Ice Rink, 18575 SW Century Drive, Bend; [seventhmountainriverco.com/ice-skating](http://seventhmountainriverco.com/ice-skating) or 877-765-1501.
- **Sunriver Village:** Reservations required for all skaters. Open skating sessions run two hours long every 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-skating.com](http://sunriverice-skating.com) or 541-593-5948.

#### Friday 3/12

- **Central Oregon Sportsmen's Show:** The annual outdoor sports and recreation exhibition will be held and include seminars, local and regional business and more. Tickets must be purchased in advance online; 12-8 p.m.; \$5 to \$12; Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, 3800 SE Airport Way, Redmond; [go.evnt.com/749221-2](http://go.evnt.com/749221-2) or 503-246-8291.

#### Saturday 3/13

- **CORK Saturday Long Run:** A 5-8 mile group run will take place. Runners must maintain social distancing while running and masks must be worn inside any building. Limited to 25 participants; 9-11 a.m.; Thump Roastery, 549 NW York Drive, Bend; [go.evnt.com/749775-0](http://go.evnt.com/749775-0)
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#### Sunday 3/14

- **Central Oregon Sportsmen's Show:** The annual outdoor sports and recreation exhibition will be held and include seminars, local and regional business and more. Tickets must be purchased in advance online; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; \$5 to \$12; Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, 3800 SE Airport Way, Redmond; [go.evnt.com/749226-2](http://go.evnt.com/749226-2) or 503-246-8291.

#### Tuesday 3/16

- **Beginning Birding:** Learn what tools you might need, what parts of the bird to look at, and where you might want to go to get started; streaming online; registration required; online; [go.evnt.com/749732-1](http://go.evnt.com/749732-1) or 541-330-0017.
- **Know Wild — Pollinator Pathway & Native Bees of Central Oregon:** Learn how you can help pollinators this spring and get acquainted with native bees in this two-part presentation with Basesy Klopp and Toni Stephan; 3-4 p.m.; online; [go.evnt.com/749182-0](http://go.evnt.com/749182-0) or 541-312-1029.

#### Wednesday 3/17

- **March Nature Night — Restoration and Reciprocity:** This talk with Dr. Robin Kimmerer explores the ecological and ethical imperatives of healing the damage done to our land and waters; 7-8:30 p.m.; registration required; Bend; [go.evnt.com/749733-1](http://go.evnt.com/749733-1) or 541-330-0017.

#### Thursday 3/18

- **CORK Thursday Run:** The weekly 3-5 mile run will take place. Runners must maintain social distance on the route and wear masks when entering any indoor space. Limited to 25 participants; 6-8 p.m.; Crosscut Warming Hut No.5 Tap House, 566 SW Mill View Way, Bend; [go.evnt.com/747360-0](http://go.evnt.com/747360-0)

