



# CONDITIONS REPORT

## Areas north of Bend and regional sno-parks

Warm spring weather is returning this weekend! Take it in while you can because weather this time of year is never consistent: We'll be back to those chilly temps come Monday.

This weekend is a great time to soak in the sun on trails and campgrounds (yes, campgrounds) north of Bend. With a wide variety of scenery to choose from including high desert and verdant forests vistas, you'll have whatever you're in the mood for up north.

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.*

#### Deschutes National Forest

- **Black Butte Trailhead:** Open
- **Black Crater Trailhead:** Open
- **Cabot Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Canyon Creek Trailhead:** Open
- **Charlton Lake 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
- **Pole Creek Trailhead:** Open
- **Rockpile Lake:** Open
- **Round Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Sisters Cow Camp:** Open
- **Sisters Mirror Trailhead:** Open
- **Sisters Tie Trailhead:** Open
- **Suttle Lake Day Use:** Open; patchy snow, ice and mud
- **Tam McArthur Rim Trailhead:** Open
- **Whychus Creek Overlook Trailhead:** Open
- **Whychus Portal (Lower Whychus Trailhead):** Open

#### Ochoco National Forest

- **Alder Springs Trailhead:** Open; access road closed to motor vehicles, reopens April 1
- **Baneberry Trailhead:** Open
- **Barnhouse Trailhead:** Open
- **Black Canyon East (Formerly South Fork) Trailhead:** Open
- **Black Canyon West (Formerly Dusty Camp) Trailhead:** Open
- **Boeing Field Trailhead:** Open
- **Coffeepot Trailhead:** Open
- **Cottonwood Trailhead:** Open
- **Cougar East Trailhead:** Open

- **Cougar West Trailhead:** Open
- **Cyrus Trailhead:** Open
- **Fry Trailhead:** Open
- **Giddy-Up Go Trailhead:** Closed
- **Gray Butte Trailhead:** Open
- **Green Mountain North Trailhead:** Open
- **Keeton Trailhead:** Open
- **Kelsey Trailhead:** Open
- **Line Butte East (Formerly Fawn Creek) Trailhead:** Open
- **Line Butte West Trailhead:** Open
- **Lookout Mountain Lower Trailhead:** Open
- **Lookout Mountain Upper Trailhead:** Open
- **Mascal Corral (Formerly Apple West) Trailhead:** Open
- **Mother Lode Mine Trailhead:** Open
- **Payten Trailhead:** Open
- **Potlid North Trailhead:** Open
- **Potlid South Trailhead:** Open
- **Rim (Formerly Apple Middle) Trailhead:** Open
- **Rimrock Springs Trailhead:** Open
- **Rock Creek Trailhead:** Open
- **Round Mountain North Trailhead:** Open
- **Round Mountain South Trailhead:** Open
- **Scales Corral Trailhead:** Open
- **Scotty Creek Trailhead:** Open
- **Skull Hollow Trailhead:** Open
- **South Prong Trailhead:** Open
- **Steins Pillar Trailhead:** Open
- **Tam-A-Lau Trailhead:** Open
- **Trail Crossing Corrals Trailhead:** Open
- **Twin Pillars North Trailhead:** Open
- **Twin Pillars South Trailhead:** Open
- **Wildcat North Trailhead:** Open
- **Wildcat South Trailhead:** Open

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

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

#### Bureau of Land Management

- **Cline Buttes Recreation Area:** Portions of Deep Canyon, Fryrear, Maston and Jaguar Road are closed through Aug. 31
- **Huntington Wagon Road:** 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.
- **Peter Skene Ogden State Scenic Viewpoint:** Open
- **Smith Rock State Park:** Open — limited services; no camping; climbing closures to protect nesting raptors in place until August; park-wide drone ban is in effect.
- **Tumalo State Park:** Open; expect reduced services; group facilities are closed; reservations for yurts required

### SKI AREAS AND SNOW PARKS

- *Updated 2 p.m. March 24*
- **Hoodoo:** Open; 98.3 inch base; Hodag lift and Autobahn Tubing Park are closed
- **Mt. Bachelor:** Open; 113 inch base; First Rays lift is closed, Summit will close with continued high winds and winter storms
- **Willamette Pass:** 45 inches at lodge; rentals and tickets must be reserved online in advance

#### Deschutes National Forest

- **Crescent Lake Sno-park:** Open; 6-10 inches; poor conditions with low snow
- **Crescent Junction:** Open; 6-10 inches; poor conditions with low snow
- **Dutchman Sno-park:** Open; 66-96 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; 18-42 inches; marginal conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles through March 31
- **Kapka Butte Sno-park:** Open; 42-66 inches; good conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles through March 31
- **Meissner Sno-park:** Open; 10-30 inches; fair 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 Sno-park:** Open; 36-54 inches; fair conditions; no dogs; area roads closed through March 31

#### Trail closures west of Bend

Beginning Jan. 28, the following trails are closed from Mondays 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 it's western terminus at the junction with Pine Drops
- Upper Whoops
- Lower Whoops
- Skyliners

- **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; 24-42 inches; fair conditions; expect heavy use; pack out broken sleds and all trash; shelter is closed
- **Wanoga Snowmobile:** Open; 24-42 inches; fair conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles through March 31; shelter is closed
- **Newberry (Six Mile Sno-park):** Open; 0-6 inches; poor conditions due to low snow
- **Newberry (10 Mile Sno-park):** Open; 12-24 inches; fair conditions, low snow around sno-park; road beyond park closed to vehicles for the season
- **Three Creek Sno-park (Lower):** Open; 0-6 inches; poor conditions due to low snow
- **Three Creek Sno-park (Upper):** Open; 8-16 inches; fair conditions
- **Walt Haring Sno-park:** 0-6 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

#### Deschutes National Forest

- **Allen Springs Campground:** Open
- **Camp Sherman**

- **Campground:** Open
- **Lower Bridge Campground:** Open
- **Pine Rest Campground:** Open
- **Sisters Cow Camp Horse Camp:** Open; no campfires

#### Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland

- **Allen Creek Horse Camp:** Open
- **Big Spring Campground:** Open
- **Biggs Springs Campground:** Open
- **Bingham Springs Campground:** Open
- **Cold Springs Guard Station:** Open
- **Cottonwood Campground:** Open
- **Cottonwood Pit Campground:** Open
- **Cyrus Horse Camp:** Open
- **Frazier Campground:** Open
- **Haystack West Shore Campground and Day Use Area:** Open
- **Mud Springs Horse Camp:** Open; no campfires
- **Salters Cabin Horse Camp:** Open
- **Scotts Campground:** Open
- **Skull Hollow Campground:** Open
- **Whistler Campground:** Open; no campfires
- **White Rock Campground:** Open; no campfires
- **Wolf Creek Campground:** Open
- **Wolf Creek Industrial Campground:** Open

#### 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).

#### BLM — Prineville District

- **Barr Road North Staging Area:** Open
- **Buckhorn Staging Area:** Open
- **Macks Canyon Recreation Site:** Open
- **Steelhead Falls:** Open; no potable water

### CYCLING

#### Prineville and Ochoco trails

- **66 Trails:** Muddy
- **Cougar Creek, Independent Mine, Lookout Mountain, Round Mountain, Scotty Creek:** Deep snow; deadfall reported
- **Prineville Bike Park:** Riding Well

#### Sisters trails

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

#### Maston complex

- **All trails riding well**
- **Redmond trails**
- **Blue-Belly Stem:** Riding well, deadfall reported
- **Cole Loop:** Muddy
- **All other trails riding well**

#### Madras East Trails

- **All trails riding well**

### FISHING

- *Updated at 2 p.m. March 24*
- **Lower Deschutes (Pelton Dam to Columbia River):** 4,610 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.
- **Middle Deschutes (Benham Falls to Lake Billy Chinook):** 3,760 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):** 1,314 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@fws.gov](mailto:crookedbulltrout@fws.gov)
- **Metolius River:** 1,400 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
- **McKenzie River (at Clear Lake):** 335 cfs
- **McKenzie River (near Belknap Springs):** 824 cfs; rainbow and coastal cutthroat trout; stocking will resume in late April; fire cleanup still being conducted in the area, access may be limited; all nonadipose fin-clipped trout must be released; lures and artificial flies only
- **Ochoco Reservoir:** 21% 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:** 82% 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

#### 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.
- **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/sunriver-ice-skating](http://sunriverice-skating.com/sunriver-ice-skating) or 541-593-5948.

#### Saturday 3/27

- **CORK Saturday Long Run:** A group 5- to 8-mile run will take place, limited to 25 participants to ensure social distancing; 9-11 a.m.; Thump Roastery, 549 NW York Drive, Bend; [go.evnt.com/754090-0](http://go.evnt.com/754090-0)

#### Tuesday 3/30

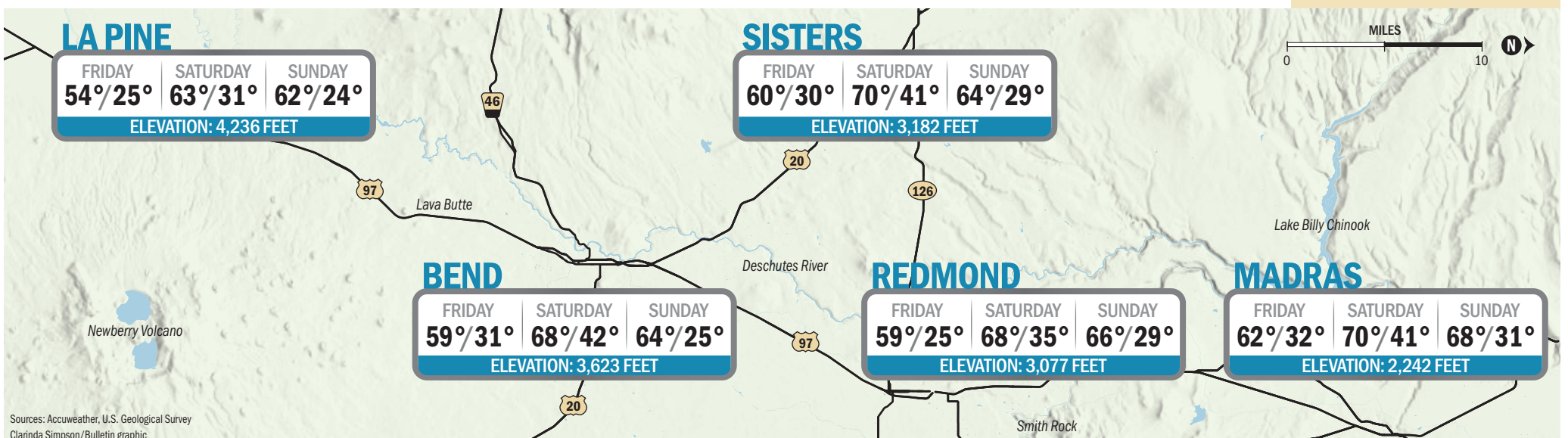
- **Early Spring Wildflowers of Central Oregon:** Join the Deschutes Land Trust and Carol Moorehead for a virtual wildflower hike to get to know Central Oregon's early spring blossoms; 5-6 p.m.; registration required; online; [go.evnt.com/756095-1](http://go.evnt.com/756095-1) or 541-330-0017.
- **Know Wild — Wilderness Permits FAQ:** Learn more about the story behind the permit system, how it will be managed, how you can get permits and more; 6-7 p.m.; registration required; Deschutes Public Library, online; <https://go.evnt.com/755399-1> or 541-312-1063.

#### Wednesday 3/31

- **Know Wild — Changing Climates and Wildlife, A Climate-Altered Future:** Consider ways that changing climates are affecting wildlife and effects we can anticipate as climate change continues; 6-7 p.m.; registration required; Deschutes Public Library; [go.evnt.com/755406-1](http://go.evnt.com/755406-1) or 541-312-1029.

#### Thursday 4/1

- **CORK Thursday Run:** The weekly 3- to 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/756125-0](http://go.evnt.com/756125-0)



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