

Camping to open at Detroit Lake State Recreation Area

After being closed since September due to damage from the Santiam Canyon wildfires, Detroit Lake State Recreation Area will allow limited camping beginning Tuesday, according to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). Campers will

be able to reserve sites up to six months in advance starting at 6 a.m. Monday for visits April 20 and beyond.

Some sites are still closed to public use, and loops will open on a rolling basis through June. Reservations can be made through oregonstateparks.reserveamerica.com, or by calling 800-452-5687.

While Detroit Lake State

Recreation Area was in the path of the Santiam Canyon wildfires, it suffered much less damage compared to the adjacent resort town of Detroit.

"For the most part, visitors won't notice anything different from previous years," Park Manager Bob Rea said in the announcement.

While the park was closed, staff removed burned vegetation

and made repairs to a damaged water tank, which Rea plans to replace come autumn.

"Restoring drinking water soon as possible was our top priority," he said. "I'm confident our water tank will carry us through the busy summer season."

Contact: stateparks.oregon.gov.

— Bulletin staff report



Makenzie Whittle/Bulletin photos

Ponderosa pine tower over neighboring lodgepole pine trees along a connecting trail between North and South Twin Lakes.

Twin Lakes

Continued from B1

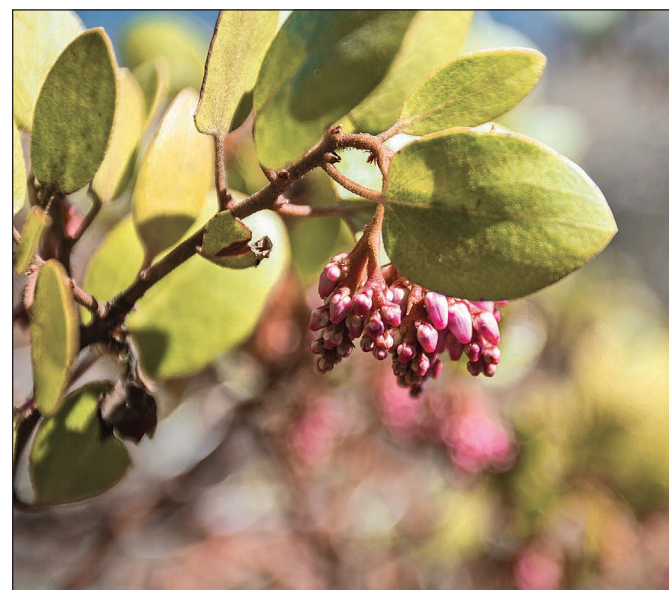
The twins

The lakes are popular summer destinations for families looking for a day out on the lake. Their small sizes of 112 and 99 acres (North and South respectively) and tree-lined shores make them less windy compared to other lakes in the area when the afternoon comes, and because of their restriction on motorized boats, they make safe places for swimming.

If swimming isn't your thing, South Twin has a trail skirting the circumference of the lake clocking in at about 1.5 miles. The trail also connects through an unmarked spur trail to the North Twin Lake Trail, which is a little less than 2 miles around. The connecting trail is about a half-mile clockwise from the day-use area and leads uphill before descending into a lodgepole and ponderosa pine stand and clearing on the way to the northern neighbor.

South Twin is also one of the few lakes in the Deschutes National Forest that does not allow dogs in the day-use area, and those found bringing their pooches can face a \$100 fine. The reason, according to the U.S. Forest Service's website, is for safety due to the number of kids and families who frequent the long shoreline and for sanitation reasons, as there is no natural outlet for the lake and clarity becomes an issue later in the season.

At the time of writing, the day-use area at South Twin and boating area at North Twin are closed as the Forest Service readies the areas for the summer season and removes hazardous trees. Currently, there are a lot of downed logs and branches from the winter needing to be cleaned out before it's ready for the masses. The trails, too, have a fair amount of dead trees over the path, as well as small sections of snow, but most can be maneuvered around or over fairly easily.



Manzanita berries begin to grow in along the shores of South Twin Lake.

Getting ready

About 20,000 years ago, magma met with groundwater and created a steam eruption forming a shallow crater that eventually filled with water — the two lakes we see today.

North Twin Lake shows off the crater with the surrounding low hillsides cupping the lakewater.

Both lakes are stocked regularly with rainbow trout and are open year-round for fishing, if you can reach them that is. The road out to the lakes is not maintained during the

winter season but currently is mostly clear, with only the south side of the road still seeing some spots of snow.

But with warmer weather on the way, they shouldn't last long.

While neither lake can rank highly on the breathtaking factor — after all, Central Oregon is full of stunning waterways that make for some stiff competition — they are still stalwart locales for families spending those long summer days on the water. This means that both can get quite busy, South

Twin especially, once the season really swings into gear.

The campgrounds at both lakes are also looking to be popular this year. Both require online reservations through recreation.gov, as do all campgrounds within the Deschutes National Forest (save for Cinder Hill, Paulina Lake and Prairie campgrounds). They will open for the season on May 28, and sites at South Twin are already fairly booked on the weekends through the summer.

With more and more people accessing our natural areas than ever before, it's important to either prepare to arrive at a lake or trail early or to plan an alternate destination if a location is crowded and parking is full.

And as some areas will be subject to the Central Cascade Wilderness Permits starting Memorial Day weekend, areas like the Twin Lakes, which do not require the passes (South Twin does require a \$5 day-use permit or a Northwest Forest Pass), may be even more popular than ever.

■ *Makenzie Whittle is a Bend native. She and her family have taken day trips since she was an infant, exploring the far-reaching corners of Oregon. She continues the tradition today and can be reached at 541-383-0304 or mwhittle@bendbulletin.com*

TOP PICK OF THE WEEK

Camp Polk Meadow Preserve



Makenzie Whittle/The Bulletin

A red-winged blackbird sings atop a cattail at the Camp Polk Meadow Preserve near Sisters.

BY MAKENZIE WHITTLE
The Bulletin

The Deschutes Land Trust managed 151-acre Camp Polk Meadow Preserve near Sisters is beautiful any time of year, but as spring continues to ramp up with plants and wildlife, it is especially nice right now.

The majority of the property is closed to the public except when on designated hikes with the Land Trust, but one short, gravel walking trail is open year round, the Hindman Springs Area.

The interpretive loop trail is less than a half-mile, but offers visitors to the preserve a chance to see some of Deschutes County's history as well as wildlife. It's here that the remains of the Hindman barn, one of the oldest

structures in the county, still stand.

Since the trail is within the nature preserve, dogs are not allowed.

Getting there: From Bend, drive north on U.S. Highway 20 for 16 miles then turn right on Cloverdale Road. Continue for 3.5 miles then turn left on State Highway 126 for about a half mile, then turn right onto Camp Polk Road. Follow the road for 3 miles then turn right at the sign to the preserve, Cemetery Road. From Sisters, Drive 3 miles on N. Locust Road/Camp Polk Road then turn right to continue on Camp Polk Road. Continue for a half mile until the preserve entrance sign on Cemetery Road and turn left.

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

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Fire restrictions

Fire danger is currently listed as Moderate in the Deschutes National Forest. Fire danger is listed as Low in the Ochoco and Willamette National Forests.

Industrial Fire Precaution Level is currently at Level 1 for the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and the Prineville District — Bureau of Land Management.