



CONDITIONS REPORT

Trails, camping, fishing south of Bend

There is a pleasant week ahead of us in Central Oregon, and with that and melting snow, things are slowly opening back up for camping and fishing.

The southern portion of the Cascade Lake Scenic Byway, for instance, is open from Deschutes Bridge to Crescent Cutoff Road, and Wickiup and Crane Prairie reservoirs are now open for fishing season.

So grab your hiking gear (and take along your spikes as there is still snow in certain areas), a pole or a tent and explore the areas of southern Deschutes County and beyond.

For a full list of conditions updated regularly, please visit centraloregonexplore.com.

HIKING AND DAY USE SITES

NOTE: Many trails and Forest Service roads may still have sections of snow, or be in poor conditions due to winter weather. Know your limits, go prepared and be prepared to turn around if conditions worsen.

- Deschutes National Forest**
- Aspen Day Use:** Open
- Benham East Trailhead:** Open
- Benham West Trailhead:** Open
- Bessie Butte Trail:** Open
- Besson Day Use:** Open
- Big Eddy Day Use:** Open
- Big River Boating Site:** Open
- Boyd Cave Day Use Area:** Open
- Dillon Day Use:** Open
- Fall River Headwaters:** Open
- Lava Cast Forest Trailhead:** Open; patchy snow and ice
- Lava Island Day Use:** Open
- Lava Lands Trails:** Open; potential patchy snow and ice, visitor center is still closed; trails and parking area open
- Meadow Picnic:** Open
- North Twin Boating Area:** Open
- Peter Skene Ogden Trailhead:** Open; Paulina Creek restoration in progress, use caution to avoid machinery
- Slough Day Use:** Open
- Sun-Lava Trailhead:** Open
- Ten Mile Trailhead:** Open
- Tenino Boating Site:** Open
- Wake Butte Trailhead:** Open

- Bureau of Land Management**
- Black Hills ACEC:** Open; climbing and geocaching are prohibited
- Christmas Valley Sand Dunes:** Open
- Crack-in-the-Ground:** Open
- Derrick Cave:** Open
- Fossil Lake ACEC:** Open; motor vehicles and fossil collecting prohibited
- Green Mountain:** Open

LOST FOREST

Open, vehicles restricted to designated roads only

OREGON STATE PARKS

- Fort Rock State Natural Area:** Open; day-use hours 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; rock scrambling closed in southeast area to protect nesting falcons
- La Pine State Park:** Open, expect reduced services; winter day use hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; meeting hall is closed; reservations for cabins required; campfires permitted in designated rings only, no charcoal briquettes, candles, tiki torches or other devices that emit flames or embers.

SKI AREAS AND SNO-PARKS

- Updated 8 a.m. April 29**
- Mt. Bachelor:** Open; 68 inch base; spring hours in effect; Pine Marten, Skyliner, Summit and Northwest are only lifts currently running for remainder of the season.
- National Forest sno-parks close for the season April 30**



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file
A angler carefully watches his line for a bite while fishing a section of water near Sheep Bridge Campground at Wickiup Reservoir in August 2020.

Fire restrictions

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

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

CAMPING

Deschutes National Forest

- Fall River Campground:** Open

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

Wanoga Trail Complex

- Catch and Release, Deschutes River, Lower Storm King:** Riding well
- Gull Point Campground:** Open
- North Twin Lake Campground:** Open
- Pringle Falls Campground:** Open
- South Campground:** Open
- West South Twin Campground:** Open
- Whitefish Horse Camp:** Open
- Wyeth Campground:** Open
- Cycling**

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 for more information.

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

- All other trails reporting deep snow**
- Swampy Lakes trails**
- Middle Flagline:** Closed through Aug. 15
- Tumalo Creek:** Rideable snow
- All other trails reporting deep snow**
- Sunriver area trails**
- Swan Song:** Winter mix
- Crater Rim:** Deep snow
- La Pine State Park:** Riding well, deadfall reported
- All other trails riding well**
- Waldo Lake Region**
- Cultus Lake Loop:** Riding Well
- All trails reporting deep snow**

- Updated at 8 a.m. April 29**
- Upper Deschutes at Benham Falls:** 1,210 cfs; section is closed for the season to anglers until May 22.
- Fall River:** Brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout; river was stocked with rainbows the first week of April, fair fishing and active hatches during the warmest part of the day; fly-fishing with barbless hooks only
- Crane Prairie Reservoir:** 86% full; brook trout, kokanee, largemouth bass, rainbow trout
- Wickiup Reservoir:** 51% full; kokanee, rainbow and brown trout, largemouth bass and catfish; North Wickiup boat ramp is open and docks have been installed; water is low but boats can be launched safely; five kokanee per day in addition to daily trout limit
- East Lake:** Brown trout, kokanee, rainbow trout, Atlantic salmon; access road is closed but fishing is open year-round
- Paulina Lake:** Kokanee, rainbow and brown trout; good fishing for trout and kokanee
- North Twin Lake:** Rainbow trout; stocked with rainbow trout earlier in April, boating area has reopened
- South Twin Lake:** Rainbow trout; stocked with rainbow trout earlier in April
- Davis Lake:** Water level is low; rainbow trout and largemouth bass. Fly fishing only
- Cultus Lake:** Mackinaw, rainbow and brook trout
- Diamond Lake:** trout; now that the ice is off the lake, fishing has been excellent; if you catch trout 20 inches or longer, take them to the marina to be entered in a raffle; brown and tiger trout must be released to help controlling illegally introduced tui chub
- Crecent Lake:** 26% full; kokanee, mackinaw, rainbow and brown trout, whitefish and chub; lake level is low for this time of year, developed boat ramps are marginal for launching larger boats; one lake trout per day, 24-inch minimum
- Odell Lake:** Lake trout, kokanee, rainbow trout; bull trout must be released; 25 kokanee per day in addition to daily trout limit, one lake trout per day 24 inch minimum; Forest Service boat ramps are still closed, access is limited to resorts

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; wanderlusttours.com or 541-389-8359.
- Daily Snowshoe Tours:** A naturalist-guided tour through areas around Mount 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; wanderlusttours.com or 541-389-8359.
- Brews & Views Kayak Tour:** A naturalist-guided tour paddling on a calm section of the Deschutes River with a local microbrew or root beer to enjoy afterwards; 1:30-5:30 p.m.; \$65 to \$95; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; wanderlusttours.com or 541-389-8359
- Deschutes River Kayak Tour:** Paddle along a tranquil stretch of the river guided by a naturalist; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1:30-5:30 p.m.; \$70 to \$95; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; wanderlusttours.com or 541-389-8359

Ongoing

- Big Butte Challenge:** Hikers and runners will summit five buttes in Central Oregon, going at their own pace whenever their schedule allows using a GPS-enabled activity tracker to submit efforts before the deadline; through May 31; \$60; throughout Central Oregon; go.evnt.com/752281-1 or 541-350-4635.

Friday 4/30

- Happy Hour Trail Ride 'n Skills:** The weekly clinic will work on specific skills needed for different biking trails including jumps and corners, technical climbs and descents and more; 4-6 p.m.; \$75; new trail each week, around Bend, Bend; go.evnt.com/767661-2 or 541-728-7878.

Saturday 5/1

- CORK Saturday Long Run:** A weekly group run for all paces. Social distancing observed at all times, limited to 25 runners; 9-11 a.m.; Thump Roastery, 549 NW York Drive, Bend; go.evnt.com/774043-0
- Cornering and Switchbacks Clinic:** The clinic will work on dialing in body position on the bike and understanding how to handle different types of corners; 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; \$75; Seventh Mountain Resort, 18575 SW Century Drive, Bend; go.evnt.com/767663-2 or 541-728-7878.
- Beginner/Intermediate Skills Bike Clinic:** The clinic will work on bike set up and body position then skills in the afternoon including braking, shifting cornering, switchbacks, wheel lifts and more; 1:30-3:30 p.m.; \$75; Seventh Mountain Resort, 18575 SW Century Drive, Bend; go.evnt.com/767665-2 or 541-728-7878.

Sunday 5/2

- Skills and Ride Clinic:** The clinic will start with basic dialing in the bikes and working on body position before progressing through several more skills and then hopping on a nearby trail to test out the newly learned skill; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; \$99; Seventh Mountain Resort, 18575 SW Century Drive, Bend; go.evnt.com/766496-1 or 541-728-7878.

Tuesday 5/4

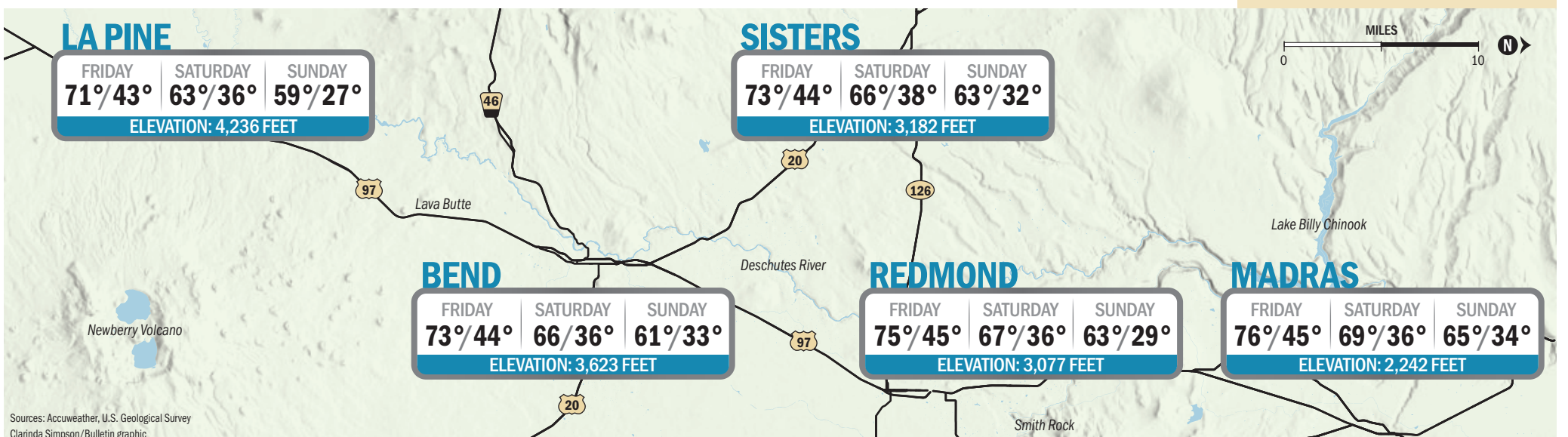
- Get Confident — Safety and Judgment for Outdoor Adventurers:** The online class will cover the ten essentials resources for hiking and emergency supplies with mock scenarios to practice decision making and more; 7-8:30 p.m.; registration required; Bend; go.evnt.com/773515-1 or 503-446-0803.

Wednesday 5/5

- Hollywood Road Hike:** Enjoy local color, history and geocaching on this leisurely paced hike with great views of the Crooked River Canyon; 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; registration required; Ranch Chapel Parking Lot, 5060 SW Clubhouse Road, Terrebonne; eventbrite.com
- Women's Foundational Skills Bike Clinic:** Women new to mountain biking can learn fundamental skills to feel more confident setting up the bike, shifting, braking and navigating small trail obstacles; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; \$75; Seventh Mountain Resort, 18575 SW Century Drive, Bend; go.evnt.com/767652-2 or 541-728-7878.
- CLBC Bend Brewpub Run:** A 3-5 mile group run will start and end at the brewpub, each runner will receive a half-off voucher for a pint; 5:45-8 p.m.; Cascade Lakes Brewpub, 1441 SW Chandler Ave., Bend; go.evnt.com/773525-0 or 541-388-4998.

Thursday 5/6

- CORK Thursday Run:** A 3-5 mile weekly run along the river trail will take place. Social distancing must be observed at all times. Limited to 25 runners; 6-8 p.m.; Zpizza Tap Room, 1082 SW Yates Drive, Bend; go.evnt.com/774930-0



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