



Jeremy Dickman/For The Bulletin

Bulletin Outdoors Writer Mark Morical rides his mountain bike at Peterson Ridge on Sunday.

## Biking

Continued from B1

While the trails at Peterson Ridge are somewhat similar to trails west of Bend — both have gradually sloped single-track cutting through a ponderosa pine forest — what sets Peterson Ridge apart are numerous Cascade peak views and a litany of loop options in a relatively small area.

More than 15 loop options are possible, varying in distance from 1.4 miles to 20.8 miles. This makes the area welcoming to a variety of skill levels, from beginners looking for a quick, easy ride, to more advanced riders seeking to push themselves.

Spring and fall are the best times of year to ride at Peterson Ridge, as some of the trails become quite dusty in the summertime, much like the Phil's Trail network west of Bend.

On Sunday, after riding for several miles, we arrived at an overlook where we could take in the dramatic views of Middle Sister and North Sister. A scramble up some rocks provided a view of the vast forest of ponderosa pines and glimpses of other peaks such as Black Butte, Black Crater, Three Fingered Jack and Mount Washington.

We continued climbing along the edge of the ridge until we arrived at yet another viewpoint junction, this one called Peak View. From there, at the far south end of the ridge, we could see Mount Jefferson as well as other peaks. We had climbed nearly 1,000 feet in about 8 miles and were ready for some downhill.

We turned onto the Top Rung connector trail to link up to the PRT Middle and

### Peterson Ridge trails

**Directions:** From Bend, take U.S. Highway 20 to Sisters. Turn left on Elm Street. The trailhead is about a half-mile south off Elm Street, on the left.

**Length:** Loop options of 2 to 20 miles.

**Elevation gain:** Up to 1,000 feet.

**Trail features:** Nearly 30 miles of singletrack. East side offers unique trail with banked corners and small technical areas. West side is a bit more technical, with commanding views of Middle Sister and North Sister along the ridge.

**Season:** Spring through fall.

PRT East trails, then began descending through open sagebrush country and back into the ponderosa pine forest.

The east trail features a section of banked corners and up-and-down dips through an old canal, a fun stretch that showcases the ingenuity of the volunteers who built the trail.

After that section the trail steepened, and we picked up lots of speed as we headed back toward the trailhead. We negotiated a few technical rock sections, but for the most

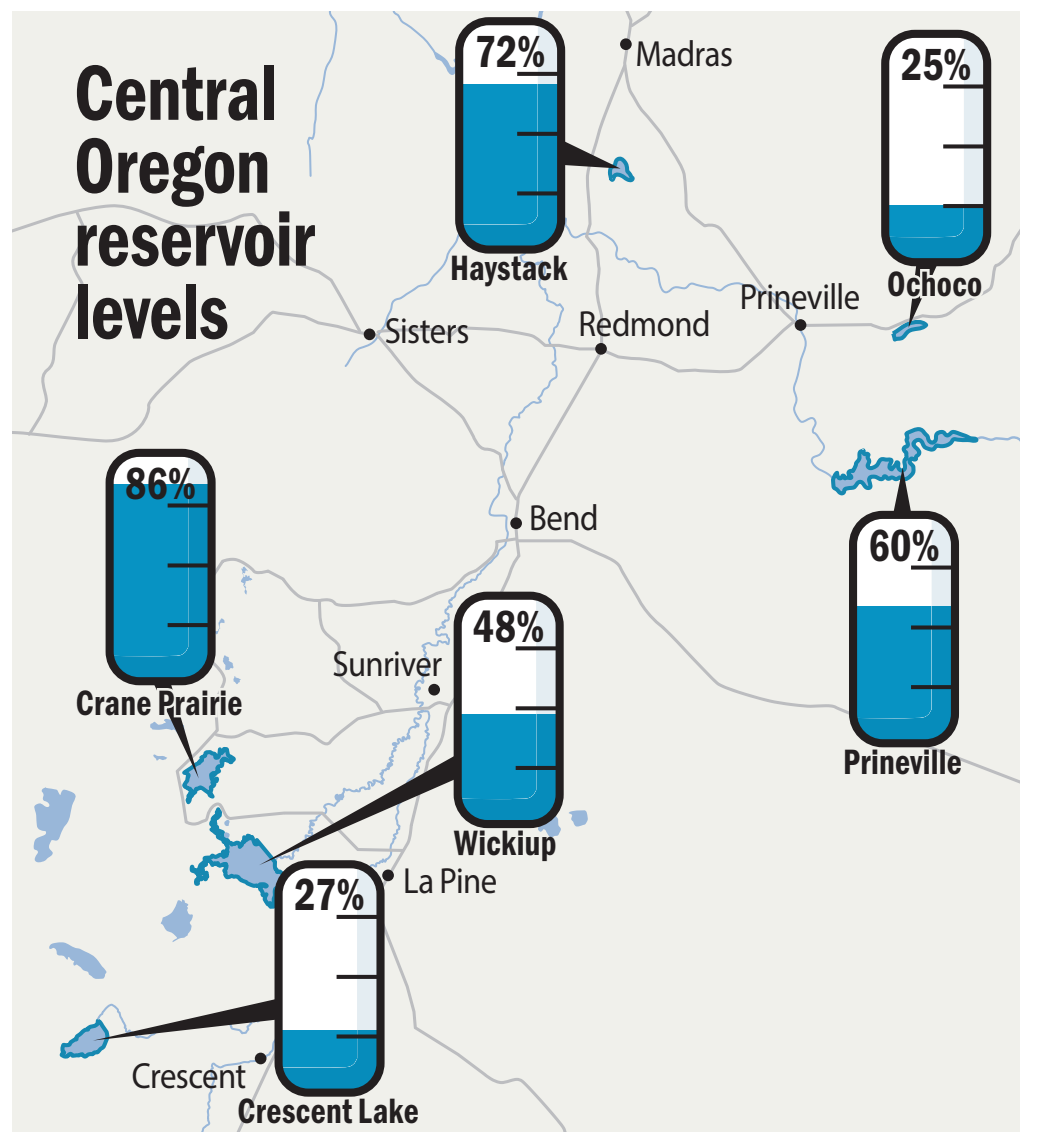
part the trail was smooth singletrack back into Sisters.

We only encountered a few other mountain bikers and some hikers on the 16.5-mile ride, as Peterson Ridge is often less crowded than trails closer to Bend.

While the Bend area has more miles of singletrack, Sisters offers an escape from the crowds and a dynamic trail system designed will all ages and skill levels of mountain bikers in mind.

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**Columbia Park access closure**  
As of July 22, Deschutes River access is closed due to safety concerns and to prevent further erosion to the river bank. The access point will be closed until further notice. For more information visit [bendparksandrec.org](http://bendparksandrec.org)



Source: Bureau of Reclamation

Clarinda Simpson/The Bulletin

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