



A mountain biker rides along a section of Skyliner Trail on Wednesday.

Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Biking

Continued from B1

The trail soon thereafter transitioned to a downhill stretch as the trees gave way to thick manzanita. Mount Bachelor and Tumalo Mountain came into view to the west, as did Broken Top and South Sister, their snowy flanks contrasting brilliantly with the bright blue sky.

More climbing was to come, and the trail eventually turned into rocky doubletrack winding up to the Swede Ridge Shelter. I began climbing, and along the way, I looked to the right and saw Tumalo Falls from a mile away: an interesting view of the popular falls, revealing the enormity of the

surrounding forest.

The doubletrack climb was relatively challenging as it just seemed to keep going. The climb is a bit longer and more gradual than the climb up Tumalo Ridge. I had to stop and walk in some places, but I finally reached Swede Ridge Shelter after about 1,000 feet of elevation gain.

I took a break at the shelter, located at about 6,000 feet with more dramatic views of Broken Top and South Sister.

The shelter is there primarily for cross-country skiers to warm themselves inside during the winter, but it also serves as a pit stop for trail-weary mountain bikers in summer and fall.

From the Swede Ridge Shelter, mountain bikers have a

few options. They can take the Swede Ridge Trail west, then descend the South Fork and Tumalo Creek trails back to Skyliner Sno-park. According to bendtrails.org, South Fork is now clear of trees with only a couple of small snow patches.

Another option is to head east on the Sector 16, Upper Whoops and Skyliner trails back to Skyliner sno-park. Because South Fork still had significant snow last week, I turned onto the Sector 16 Trail, a rolling, twisting downhill stretch with numerous sharp turns deep in the trees.

The trail eventually connected to Upper Whoops, a fast descent that includes some bermed corners and small jumps. But that section does

not include the more massive jumps and features of Lower Whoops, so Upper Whoops is more approachable for the average mountain biker. (Lower Whoops is currently closed on weekdays due to a U.S. Forest Service thinning project. It is open from 3 p.m. on Fridays until sunset on Sundays.)

From the bottom of Upper Whoops, I connected to the Skyliners Trail to finish the ride. The cross-country route led me 4 miles back to Skyliner Sno-park.

This loop can also be rid-

Tumalo Ridge-Skyliners Loop

Directions: Head 10 miles west of Bend on Skyliners Road to Skyliner Sno-park on the left.

Distance: 13.5 miles, two to three hours.

Elevation gain: 1,400 feet.

Trail features: Challenging climbs and fast descents along single-track, with numerous mountain views along the way.

Rating: Technically intermediate and aerobically strenuous.

Season: Late spring through fall.

den in the opposite direction, starting up the Skyliners Trail and finishing with a descent of Tumalo Ridge.

The 13.5-mile ride took a little more than two hours, with about 1,400 feet of climbing. It

was a challenging but not overwhelming loop, one of many options for mountain bikers as the snow disappears in the Central Oregon high country.

■ Reporter: 541-383-0318, mmorical@bendbulletin.com

TOP PICKS WHERE TO EXPLORE

High Desert hot spots

Cove Palisades State Park — In the middle of High Desert plateaus of sagebrush, the Crooked, Deschutes and Metolius rivers meet and form Lake Billy Chinook. Dammed in 1964, the long arms of the lake are great escapes from the summer heat for fishing, water skiing or just floating the day away. If you decide to fish the Metolius Arm, you'll need a tribal angling permit from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Because the area is a state park, \$5 day-use permits are required or a year pass is accepted.

Redmond Caves — Managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the caves on the south end of Redmond are close enough and short enough to explore in just a few hours. The five lava caves near the Redmond airport formed from the Newberry Caldera over 60 miles south and have been used for over 6,000 years to Native Americans and now, day explorers. Great for escaping the summer heat, make sure you bring at least three light sources, water, sturdy shoes and watch for rattlesnakes.

Willow Creek Canyon Trail — Just west of Madras under the train trestle bridge is the trailhead for the 6 mile one-way trail that connects to Lake Simtustus. Following its namesake of Willow Creek the trail follows old railroad grades and dips through rock cuts that make for nice climbing opportunities as well as some stunning High Desert topography. Bring plenty of water as the dusty trail can get very hot.



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We are excited to invite you, our readers, to participate in this unique project. Please bring your photos to one of our scanning sessions listed here — and be sure to check our submission guidelines. Photos will be scanned on-site and given right back to you. In order to keep things speedy, please fill out our simple photo submission form prior to the session. Forms can be downloaded at HelloBend.PictorialBook.com. Please plan to fill out one form for each photo you'd like to submit.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- » General interest photos, such as: commerce, industry, transportation, rural life, public service, etc.
- » Photos taken between 1950 and 2000.
- » Photos taken in Central Oregon.
- » If you're a private collector, call 360-723-5800 to set up an appointment.
- » Photos will become part of the Deschutes Historical Museum's archived collection.

SCANNING SESSIONS

Thursday, June 10 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Friday, June 11 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, June 12 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Saturday, June 12 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
The Bulletin
320 SW Upper Terrace Dr., Ste. #200, Bend



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