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THE REGION'S HUB FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Each week in this section, you will find the area's most complete guide of what's open and closed; outdoor activities and events; top picks of places to explore; conditions of hiking and biking trails, fishing holes, water flows, camping spots, parks and more — as well as features from outdoor writers and field experts.



Bend's Mark Johnson hikes along Paulina Creek east of La Pine.



Mark Morical/Bulletin photos
Wildflowers grow near a small waterfall along Paulina Creek.

Walking among water wonders

PETER SKENE OGDEN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

BY MARK MORICAL
The Bulletin



TRAILS

Three years had passed since I last hiked the Peter Skene Ogden National Scenic Trail along Paulina Creek with my friend Mark Johnson.

Time goes by awfully fast these days. Still, it had been long enough to forget the details of the numerous water wonders that line the 9.4-mile trail just outside the Newberry National Volcanic Monument east of La Pine.

Paulina Creek flows with abandon out of Paulina Lake, starting with Paulina Creek Falls and then surging west downhill to form numerous smaller waterfalls and water features.

Johnson and I set out last Friday for a half-day hike along the trail, which runs from Ogden Group Site at its west end to Paulina Lake at its east end.

Several starting points exist for hikers, but we opted for McKay Crossing, located about a third of the way up the trail at a picturesque campground. It was about a half-hour drive from Bend.

The Peter Skene Ogden Trail was named after a trapper with the Hudson's Bay Company who made the first recorded trip into Central Oregon in 1825, according to the Oregon Historical Society. Ogden crossed the Crooked River country to the northeast. The city of Ogden, Utah, is also named after him.

Starting out from McKay Crossing Campground, we followed a wide trail that took us through an area that included smaller, second-growth pine trees. This makes for a potentially hot section of trail, and we were getting a bit of a late start.

See **Water** / B12