



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.



Makenzie Whittle/The Bulletin
Mike Whittle gathers supplies from his tackle box while preparing to fish at Lava Lake.

What could possibly be a more classic Father's Day outing?

Take dad fishing

BY MAKENZIE WHITTLE
The Bulletin

If you're lucky enough to still have your dad or another father figure in your life, take him fishing once in a while — if that's what he's into, of course.

My dad, Mike Whittle, taught me to fish when I was old enough to hold my Mickey Mouse fishing pole, but still young enough to not realize that there was no hook at the end of the line (I kept catching my parents with it). My sister and I grew up learning to cast, tie the improved clinch knot and the most important lesson: Even if you don't catch anything, a day spent fishing is still a good day.

For the past few Father's Days, we've taken him out for a whole day of fishing, just the three of us. We rarely catch anything, but floating in our kayaks on one of our favorite lakes while quietly chatting is still worth the smell of PowerBait and worm guts that lingers on our fingers by the end of it.

This year, Dad and I took the trip a little early and went bank fishing at Lava Lake along the Cascade Lakes Scenic Byway, a lake that we've frequented countless times since moving to the area in 1990.

FISHING
See a breakdown of fishing spots around Central Oregon, B10

See **Fishing** / B10

La Pine State Park is an easy ride for new mountain bikers

BY MARK MORICAL
The Bulletin

Mountain biking does not have to be all about gut-busting climbs, jump-filled descents and technical features.

Sometimes we just want to take a nice, easy bike ride through a pretty place on a sunny day.

La Pine State Park is the ideal spot for that.

While mountain bike trails in Central Oregon seem to be increasingly geared to-

ward advanced riders who want to take on jumps and more challenging terrain, the trails at La Pine State Park are ideal for beginners and families or those just looking for a mellow ride.

The 2,000-acre park in southwest Deschutes County includes about 14 miles of mostly singletrack trails that are shared by hikers, bikers and equestrians. The flat,



TRAILS

nontechnical nature of the High Desert trails makes them perfect for family bike rides with the kids or for older riders looking to log a few miles on easier terrain.

Most of the trails are well-designed and designed in short loops that, when combined, allow a biker to experience much of the park on a ride of just two or three hours.

See **La Pine** / B9



Bend's Mason Morical, 13, rides his mountain bike along the crystal-clear Fall River in La Pine State Park on Saturday.

Mark Morical/
The Bulletin