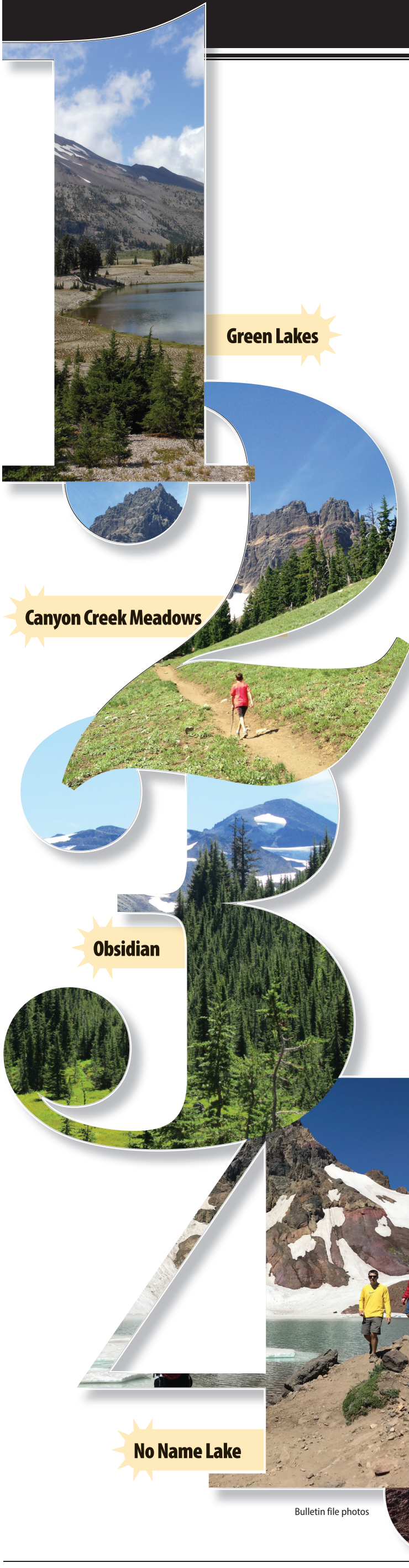


THE REGION'S HUB FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

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.

TOP summertime HIKES in Central Oregon

BY MARK MORICAL • The Bulletin



Green Lakes

Canyon Creek Meadows

Obsidian

No Name Lake

South Sister Summit

Bulletin file photos

The snow continues to melt at high elevations, and more and more trails in Central Oregon are opening up to hikers.

As you make plans for alpine treks this season, below is a top-five list of summertime hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades range that should become relatively snow-free in the coming weeks.

Keep in mind that all of these hikes now will require a Central Cascades wilderness permit, purchased within seven days before the start of a trip if not already purchased in advance of the season. (See information box). While the permit system means hikers must now plan ahead more, it should help alleviate overcrowding and overuse in these spectacular wilderness areas.

1. Green Lakes

Features: The 9.1-mile out-and-back trail to Green Lakes is one of the most popular hiking paths in Oregon. The trail in the Three Sisters Wilderness follows babbling Fall Creek through a dense forest and leads hikers to the clear alpine lakes between South Sister and Broken Top. The trail only gains about 1,200 feet in elevation along the way, but it connects with the summit hikes to both South Sister and Broken Top. For alpine vistas, Green Lakes is about as good as it gets. And there is nothing quite like taking a dip in one of the lakes on a hot day as South Sister towers above you.

Directions: The Green Lake/Soda Creek Trailhead is about 25 miles southwest of Bend off Cascade Lakes Highway.

2. Canyon Creek Meadows

Features: Diverse wildlife (mountain goats!), incredible mountain views and abundant, colorful wildflowers make the Canyon Creek Meadows loop one of the most popular hikes in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness. The hike to the lower meadow is just 4.5 miles with only 400 feet of elevation gain, making it ideal for families and kids. The option to hike to the upper meadow and the viewpoint saddle make the trek much harder: a 7.5-mile hike with 1,400 feet of elevation gain, including the steep, rock-strewn path up a glacial wash-out plain to the shoulder of Three Fingered Jack at 6,500 feet.

See Hikes / B10



'Tis the season: Outdoors organizations work on new trails

BY EMMY ANDREWS
For The Bulletin

Central Oregon is blessed with hundreds of miles of trails, but why stop there? With our population growing, more trails are needed to continue to provide the recreational trail experience our region is famous for.

Hundreds of people — mostly volunteers — are working behind the scenes to plan for the future of our trail system and build new trails once

they are approved by land managers. These people work diligently (and often for free) for a variety of local nonprofits and coalitions including the Deschutes Trails Coalition, Central Oregon Trail Alliance, Central Oregon Nordic Club, Central Oregon Running Klub, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Ochoco Trails, Sisters Trail Alliance and many more.

These groups work with



TRAILS

land managers including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, state, counties and cities, to navigate the often-lengthy planning, environmental review and approval process for new trails.

Thanks to their hard work, multiple new trails in Central Oregon are newly completed or under construction. Here's a roundup of some of my favorites.

Afternoon Delight

This approximately 4.5-mile trail is the newest trail in the Sunriver trail system that has been under construction for the last few years. Afternoon Delight can be accessed from either Bend or Sunriver. It connects Tyler's Trail, a popular mountain biking trail located off Forest Road 41 (also known as Conklin Road), to the Roundabout Trail, a loop trail near the Cardinal Landing Bridge in Sunriver.

Afternoon Delight is an easy to intermediate trail on land managed by the U.S. Forest Service. It will be most popular with mountain bikers; however, it is also open to users on foot.

Stinger and Jackrabbit

These new trails are located on Cline Butte on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. They are accessed from the Cascade View Trailhead via the Blue-Belly Stem and Loop. Stinger (East

and West) and Jackrabbit form an approximately 2-mile loop and are rated blue (intermediate). Since they are new, the trails are soft and loose, but the tread should firm up after a season of use.

An outer loop past the Jackrabbit intersection is still under construction and will be rated intermediate or advanced. Once built, this trail will offer amazing mountain views and technical rocky sections.

See Trails / B9