



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.

Beat the heat on the Metolius



BY MARK MORICAL
The Bulletin

CAMP SHERMAN — It is rarely hot enough in Central Oregon to fish the Metolius River without waders.

But this past weekend, it certainly was, and my son, Mason, and I enjoyed cooling off in the frigid, spring-fed river as we cast for trout in our shorts and sandals.

Other anglers ditched their waders, as well, as a record-breaking heat wave swept across the Northwest.

The Metolius is not a bad place to be when temperatures soar into the 100s.

Bursting out of the ground from springs beneath Black Butte, the river stays consis-

tently cold even during extremely hot weather. And, it's a pretty special place to wet a line.

Limited to fly-fishing (upstream of Bridge 99) and catch-and-release angling, the Metolius is a majestic product of the Cascade mountains. Located northwest of the town of Sisters, it flows 23 miles on a route north and then southeast to Lake Billy

Chinook.

The crystal-clear river provides the opportunity to hook native rainbow trout, and bull trout when they migrate upstream from the reservoir in the fall.

For all its untamed splendor, the Metolius is known as a challenging river for anglers. But finding a fishing hole



ABOVE: A fly angler fishes for rainbow trout Sunday near Pine Rest campground on the Metolius River.

LEFT: Bend's Mason Morical bikes along the Camp Sherman Trail on Saturday.

Mark Morical/Bulletin photos

Green Drake hatch that runs from late May to mid-June, but there was a flurry of may-fly and caddis activity in the evenings. The Golden Stone hatch is also starting, and we saw several of those larger bugs.

Hiking

For those not necessarily seeking the challenge of fly-fishing the Metolius, hiking the shady trails along the river is an ideal way to take in the beauty of the area.

See **Metolius / B10**

on the river is easy, as trails trudged by anglers line the banks.

Mason and I hiked upstream from our campsite at Pine Rest campground to find numerous fishing spots.

In the early morning or evenings when the fish are rising to the surface, dry-fly fishing with PMD or caddis patterns can be productive on the Metolius. We just missed the fabled

How to float the Deschutes River this summer

BY JULIE BROWN
For The Bulletin

The weather is heating up, and chances are very good that residents and visitors are hitting the water this summer. We're fortunate to have the Deschutes River running through the community, and despite drought condi-



WATER

tions, it will continue to please river users with recreation activities.

In recent summers, more than 200,000 river users floated and paddled the river between Memorial Day and Labor Day. As we come out of the pandemic, river fun is

still possible with some planning.

Here are some tips for getting the best river day this summer:

Plan ahead for rentals and shuttle service. Limited capacity means advanced reservations are strongly encouraged this summer.

See **Float / B9**