



# CONDITIONS REPORT

## High Desert trails, camping and more

It may seem an odd time to head to the arid and sparsely shady High Desert terrains around Central Oregon, but with a little planning and a lot of water, a good day of exploring can be had.

There may be some chances of rain or even thunderstorms coming up, and the desert can offer great opportunities to check out the storms — just be careful of flash flooding if you do find yourself in a downpour.

For a full list of conditions updated regularly, please visit [centraloregonexplore.com](http://centraloregonexplore.com).

### HIKING AND DAY USE SITES

- **Deschutes National Forest**
- **Bessie Butte Trail:** Open
- **Boyd Cave Day Use Area:** Open
- **Horse Butte Trailhead:** Open; light deadfall above Swamp Wells Horse Camp near junction with Crater Rim
- **Pine Mountain:** Open
- **Ochoco National Forest**
- **Alder Springs Trailhead:** Open
- **Cyrus Trailhead:** Open
- **Gray Butte Trailhead:** Open
- **Henderson Flat OHV Trail System:** Open
- **Henderson Flat Staging Area:** Open
- **Rimrock Springs Trailhead:** Open
- **Skull Hollow Trailhead:** Open
- **Tam-A-Lau Trailhead:** Open
- **Bureau of Land Management**
- **Badlands Rock Trail:** Open
- **Black Hills ACEC:** Open; climbing and geocaching are prohibited
- **Chimney Rock Trail:** Open
- **Christmas Valley Sand Dunes:** Open
- **Cline Buttes Recreation Area:** Portions of Deep Canyon, Fryrear, Maston and Jaguar Road are closed through Aug. 31
- **Crack-in-the-Ground:** Open
- **Derrick Cave:** Open
- **Flatiron Rock Trail:** Open
- **Fossil Lake ACEC:** Open; motor vehicles and fossil collecting prohibited
- **Green Mountain:** Open
- **Huntington Wagon Road:** Open

- **Lost Forest:** Open, vehicles restricted to designated roads only
- **Lower Crooked River:** Open
- **Oregon Badlands Wilderness Tumulus Trail:** Open
- **Redmond Caves Recreation Site:** Open
- **Scout Camp Trail:** Open
- **Steelhead Falls Trail:** Open
- **Trout Creek Trail:** South side of trail, including Trout Creek climbing walls is closed through Aug. 31

### OREGON STATE PARKS

- *All campfires and any devices that emits flames or embers are prohibited within any state park or state-managed forest until conditions improve. Propane cook stoves and lanterns are allowed, propane fire pits are not*
- **Cline Falls State Scenic Viewpoint:** Open
- **Cove Palisades State Park:** Open
- **Fort Rock State Natural Area:** Open; day-use hours 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; rock scrambling closed in southeast area to protect nesting falcons; cave tours canceled for 2021
- **Jasper Point:** Open; boats with motors are not advised due to low water
- **Peter Skene Ogden State Scenic Viewpoint:** Open
- **Prineville Reservoir State Park:** Open; boats with motors are not advised due to low water
- **Smith Rock State Park:** Open

### CAMPING

- *All campfires are prohibited within the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and lands managed by the BLM*
- **Ochoco National Forest**
- **Cyrus Horse Camp:** Open; no campfires
- **Haystack Reservoir Campground and Day Use Area:** Open
- **Haystack Reservoir Group Site:** Open
- **Haystack West Shore**

### Bureau of Land Management seasonal trail closures

The following Bureau of Land Management trails are now closed through Aug. 31 to protect nesting raptors:

- Millican Plateau OHV Trail System (Route 95 only)
  - South side of Trout Creek Trail including climbing walls
  - Cline Buttes Recreation Area (portions of Deep Canyon, Fryrear, Maston, Jaguar Road)
  - Horny Hollow Trail
  - Dry River Canyon
- For more information visit [blm.gov](http://blm.gov)



Bulletin file photo

The Middle Deschutes surges just south of Lake Billy Chinook, where the Alder Springs Trail ends.

### Fire restrictions

Fire danger is currently listed as Extreme in the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests. Fire danger is listed as High in the Willamette National Forest. Industrial Fire Precaution Level is currently at Level 4, General Shutdown meaning all operations are prohibited for the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and the Prineville District — Bureau of Land Management. Campfires are banned with the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests, areas managed by the BLM and Oregon State Parks and state-managed forests east of Interstate 5.

- **Campground and Day Use Area:** Open
- **Skull Hollow Campground:** Open
- **BLM — Prineville District**
- **Barr Road North Staging Area:** Open
- **Big Bend Campground:** Open
- **Buckhorn Staging Area:** Open

- **Castle Rock Campground:** Open
- **Chimney Rock Campground:** Open
- **Cobble Rock Campground:** Open
- **Lone Pine Campground:** Open
- **Macks Canyon Recreation Site:** Open
- **Palisades Campground:** Open
- **Post Pile Campground:** Open
- **Steelhead Falls:** Open; no potable water
- **Stillwater Campground:** Open

### CYCLING

- **East of Bend trails**
- **Dry River Canyon:** Closed through Aug. 31
- **Arnold Ice Cave, Crooked Arm, Holy Loop, Horse Ridge Area, Sand Canyon:** Sandy and loose
- **All other trails riding well**
- **Prineville and Ochoco trails**
- **Cougar Creek:** Riding well, deadfall reported
- **All other trails riding well**
- **Maston complex**
- **All trails riding well**
- **Redmond trails**
- **The Saddle:** Closed for nesting eagles, likely to reopen in late fall
- **All trails riding well**
- **Madras East Trails**
- **E-Bikes allowed on all trails**
- **All trails riding well**

### FISHING

- *Updated at 8 a.m. July 29*
- **Lower Deschutes (Pelton Dam to Columbia River):** 4,090 cfs; redband trout, steelhead, whitefish; steelhead fishing should start picking up downstream of Macks Canyon
- **Middle Deschutes (Benham Falls to Lake Billy Chinook):** 3,600 cfs; brown trout, rainbow trout; anglers reporting fair fishing in the mornings and evenings; artificial flies and lures only, no limit on brown trout
- **Crooked River (below Opal Springs):** 1,173 cfs; rainbow trout and mountain whitefish; water level is higher but will be lower than average this summer; more whitefish than rainbows, fair fishing for rainbows; any trout over 20 inches are considered steelhead and must be released, bull trout must be released unharmed and reported to the USFW at [crookedbulltrout@fws.gov](mailto:crookedbulltrout@fws.gov)
- **Prineville Reservoir:** 35% full; rainbow trout, small and largemouth bass, catfish, crappie, crayfish; bass and trout fishing has been good
- **Ochoco Reservoir:** 12% full; rainbow trout, black crappie, smallmouth bass; water level is still extremely low and bank access is limited to walk-in only
- **Haystack Reservoir:** 40% full; rainbow and brown trout, kokanee, largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill and bullhead catfish; North Unit Irrigation District announced it will minimize its operation water meaning the reservoir will not be as full as normal; boat ramps are unusable under these conditions and shoreline fishing will be from the muddy lake bed; warm-water fish will be more active with warmer temperatures
- **Lake Billy Chinook:** Bull, brown and rainbow trout, kokanee, smallmouth bass; bass fishing picking up with kokanee and bull trout fishing being fair

### EVENTS

#### Daily tours

- **Lava Cave Tours:** A guided tour of a local lava tube exploring the geologic and human history as well as the ecology of the cave; 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.; \$65-\$90; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [wanderlusttours.com](http://wanderlusttours.com) or 541-389-8359.
- **Brews & Views Kayak Tour:** A naturalist-guided tour paddling on a lake in the Cascades with a local microbrew or root beer to enjoy afterward; 1:30-5:30 p.m.; \$65-\$95; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [wanderlusttours.com](http://wanderlusttours.com) or 541-389-8359
- **Central Oregon Volcano Tour:** Explore the Newberry Caldera with a naturalist guide around Paulina Lake; 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 2-6 p.m.; \$70-\$95; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [wanderlusttours.com](http://wanderlusttours.com) or 541-389-8359
- **Cascade Lakes Canoe or Kayak Tour:** Paddle around one of the mountain lakes with a naturalist guide; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or 2-6 p.m.; \$70-\$95; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [wanderlusttours.com](http://wanderlusttours.com) or 541-389-8359
- **Starlight & Moonlight Canoe Tours:** Watch twilight descend over the Cascades and enjoy a clear starry night while paddling on one of the mountain lakes; 8 p.m.-midnight; \$100; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [wanderlusttours.com](http://wanderlusttours.com) or 541-389-8359

#### Friday 7/30

- **Friday Morning Creekside Yoga:** Annie Wilson will lead an all-level yoga class along the creek with music from her vinyl collection playing. Drop-in or sign up in advance by DMing @yogawithannie on Instagram; 10-11 a.m.; \$15; The Suttle Lodge, 13300 U.S. Highway 20, Sisters; [thesuttlelodge.com](http://thesuttlelodge.com)
- **Intro to Jumping Mountain Biking Clinic:** The clinic will work on the proper understanding of how to take off, stay balanced in air and land the bike safely; 1:30-3:30 p.m.; \$75; Seventh Mountain Resort, 18575 SW Century Drive, Bend; [gritclinics.com](http://gritclinics.com)
- **Gravity Race Series:** A series of six races will be held featuring men's, women's and youth divisions and a live DJ playing during each race, prizes awarded to top finishers of each division; 3:30-7 p.m.; \$15 adults, \$10 youths 16 and under; Mt. Bachelor, 13000 Century Drive, Bend; [mtbachelor.com](http://mtbachelor.com)
- **Bend Trail Sessions Mountain Bike Clinic:** The weekly clinic will work on specific skills needed for different biking trails including jumps and corners, technical climbs and descents and more; 4-6:30 p.m.; \$89; Seventh Mountain Resort, 18575 SW Century Drive, Bend; [gritclinics.com](http://gritclinics.com)

#### Saturday 7/31

- **CORK Saturday Run:** A weekly group run will take place; 8-11 a.m.; free; Thump Coffee, 549 NW York Drive, Bend; [centraloregonrunningklub.org](http://centraloregonrunningklub.org)
- **Sunriver Nature Center Bird Walk:** Tom Lawler, expert birder and nature photographer, will lead small groups around Sunriver's wetlands, meadows and forests to find a variety of birdlife that surrounds the Nature Center; 8:30-11:30 a.m.; \$10 registration required; Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory, 57245 River Road, Sunriver; [snco.org](http://snco.org)
- **Donation Based Outdoor Yoga:** An all-levels, all-ages yoga session will be held; 9-9:45 a.m.; \$10 suggested donation; Deschutes Brewery, 399 SW Shevlin Hixon Drive, Bend; [facebook.com/wildthingbend](http://facebook.com/wildthingbend)
- **Beginner/Intermediate Skills Mountain Biking Clinic:** The clinic will work on bike set up and body position then skills in the afternoon including braking, shifting cornering, switchbacks, wheel lifts and more; 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; \$75; Seventh Mountain Resort, 18575 SW Century Drive, Bend; [gritclinics.com](http://gritclinics.com)
- **Art in Nature — Take Me to the River:** A guided paddle along the Deschutes River with a concert featuring Horse Feathers, Honey Don't and Joel Chadd Trio; 1:15-9:30 p.m.; \$195 paddle and concert, \$120 concert only; La Pine State Park, 15800 State Recreation Road, La Pine; [bendticket.com](http://bendticket.com)

#### Sunday 8/1

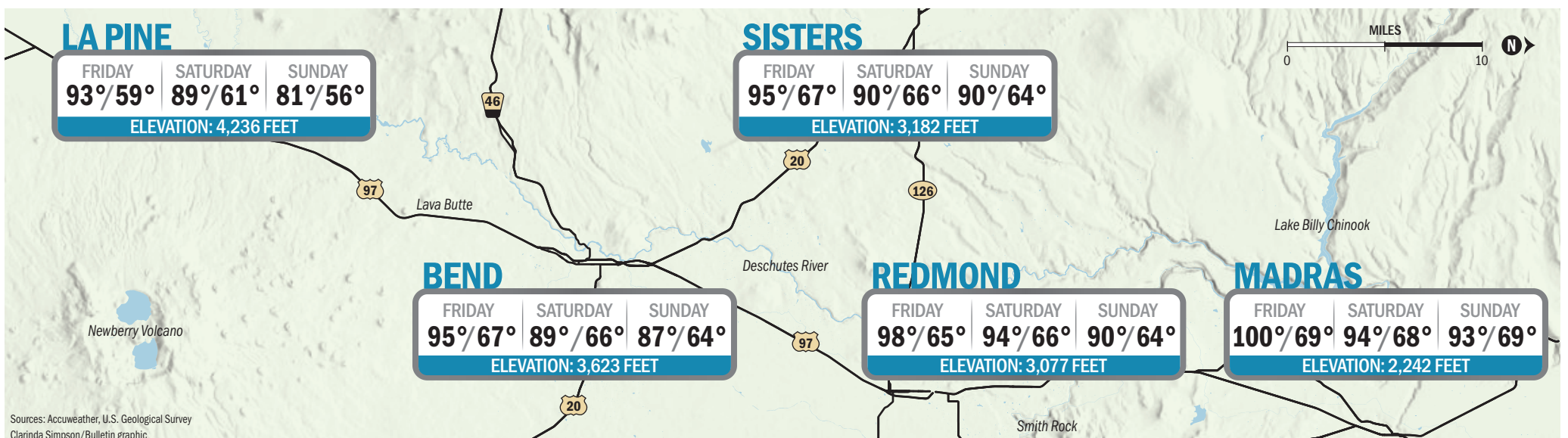
- **Donation Based Outdoor Yoga:** An all-levels, all-ages outdoor yoga class will be held. Bring your own yoga mat or towel and water; 9-9:45 a.m.; \$10 suggested donation; LOGE Camps, 19221 SW Century Drive, Bend; [facebook.com/wildthingbend](http://facebook.com/wildthingbend)
- **Skills & Ride Mountain Biking Workshop:** The clinic will start with basic dialing in the bikes and working on body position before progressing through several more skills and then hopping on a nearby trail to test out the newly learned skill; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; \$99; Seventh Mountain Resort, 18575 SW Century Drive, Bend; [gritclinics.com](http://gritclinics.com)
- **Sundays with the Yoga Lab:** The grounding, all-levels outdoor yoga class will be taught by Yoga Lab owner Ulla Lundgren weekly; 4:30-6 p.m.; \$15; The Suttle Lodge, 13300 U.S. Highway 20, Sisters; [thesuttlelodge.com](http://thesuttlelodge.com)

#### Wednesday 8/4

- **Women's Foundational Skills Mountain Biking Clinic:** Women new to mountain biking can learn fundamental skills to feel more confident setting up the bike, shifting, braking and navigating small trail obstacles; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; \$75; Seventh Mountain Resort, 18575 SW Century Drive, Bend; [gritclinics.com](http://gritclinics.com)
- **Cascade Lakes Brewing Bend Pub Run:** A weekly 3- to 5-mile group loop run starts and ends at the brewpub; 7-9 p.m.; free; Cascade Lakes Brewing Company, 1441 SW Chandler Ave. Suite 100, Bend; 541-388-4998.

#### Thursday 8/5

- **CORK Thursday Evening Run:** A 3- to 5-mile group run along the Deschutes River Trail. Stay after for food and drinks with the club; 6-8 p.m.; free; Cascade Lakes Brewing, 1441 SW Chandler Ave. Suite 100, Bend; [centraloregonrunningklub.org](http://centraloregonrunningklub.org)
- **Trail Running:** A weekly group trail run led by Chris Colovos on the South Canyon section of the Deschutes River Trail. Bring water, snacks and drinks provided after the run; 6:45-8 p.m.; \$7 suggested donation; run starts and ends at Farewell Bend Park, 1000 SW Reed Market Road, Bend; [facebook.com/bendadventuresports](http://facebook.com/bendadventuresports)



Sources: Accuweather, U.S. Geological Survey  
Clarinda Simpson/Bulletin graphic