

# CONDITIONS REPORT

## Explore areas south of Bend

This weekend is going to be another warm and dry one. But there is still enough snow to grab your nordic skis or snowshoes and explore some of the sno-parks in Central Oregon. Southern sno-parks are also typically less crowded than their northern neighbors, so if you're looking for an adventure away from crowds, this is the place to go.

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

### HIKING AND DAY USE SITES

*NOTE: Many of the trails along seasonally closed highways and forest service roads remain open, but can only be accessed by hike, snowshoe, cross country ski or snowmobile due to accumulating snowfall. See Forest websites for more details and restrictions.*

#### 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; snow, ice, mud
- **Lava Cast Forest Trailhead:** Open; likely significant snow
- **Lava Lands:** Open; visitor center closed for season, trails still open; possible patchy snow and ice
- **Metolius-Windigo:** Open; patchy snow
- **Peter Skene Ogden Trailhead:** Open; snow, ice, mud; deep snow above Mckay
- **Sun Lava Trailhead:** Open; heavy use on weekends; potential snow and ice

#### Willamette National Forest — Diamond Peak Wilderness

- **Bear Mountain Trail:** Open
- **Blue Lake Trail:** Open
- **Corrigan Lake Trail:** Open
- **Diamond Peak North:** Open
- **Diamond Peak South:** Open
- **Diamond Peak Tie:** Open
- **Happy Lake:** Open
- **Hemlock Butte Trail:** Open
- **Marie Lake Trail:** Open
- **Mt. Yoran Trail:** Open
- **Pioneer Gulch Trail:** Open
- **Rockpile Trail:** Open

#### Willamette National Forest — Waldo Lake Wilderness Area

- **Abernethy-Deer Creek Trailhead:** Open
- **Betty Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Betty Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Black Creek Trail:** Open
- **Bobby Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Bunchgrass Trailhead — Lower:** Open
- **Bunchgrass Trailhead — Upper:** Open
- **Cupit Mary Meadow Trail:** Open
- **Devil's Garden Trailhead:** Open
- **Erma Bell Trailhead:** Open
- **Fuji Mountain Trailhead at Gold Lake:** Open
- **Gander Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Gold Lake Day Use Area:** Open
- **Harralson Trail:** Open
- **Helen Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **High Divide Trailhead:** Open
- **Jim Weaver Loop Trailhead (Waldo Lake Trail):** Open
- **Koch Mountain Trailhead:** Open
- **Marilyn Lakes Trailhead:** Open
- **Mt. Ray Trailhead:** Open
- **North Waldo Day Use Area:** Open
- **Rigdon Lakes Trail:** Open
- **Salmon Lakes — Waldo Mountain Trailhead:** Open
- **Spirit Lake-Waldo Meadows Trailhead:** Open
- **Swan Lake Trailhead:** Open
- **Twin Peak Trailhead:** Open
- **Verdun Trailhead:** Open
- **Wahana Trail:** Open
- **Whig and Torrey Way Trailhead:** Open
- **Winchester Ridge Trailhead:** Open

#### Bureau of Land Management

- **Black Hills ACEC:** Open; climbing

- and geocaching are prohibited
- **Christmas Valley Sand Dunes:** Open
- **Crack-in-the-Ground:** Open
- **Derrick Cave:** Open
- **Fossil Lake ACEC:** Open; motor vehicles and fossil collecting prohibited

#### Smith Rock Raptor Season Closures

- The Monument Area will be closed to climbing beginning Jan. 10.
- The Canyon Trail near the Bald Eagle nest is restricted to travel in groups of 4 or less, and noise needs to be kept to a minimum.
- Peregrine and Prairie Falcon climbing closures will go into effect at a later date.
- A park-wide ban on drones is in effect for remainder of nesting season.

- **Green Mountain:** Open
- **Lost Forest:** Open, vehicles restricted to designated roads only

### OREGON STATE PARKS

- **Fort Rock State Natural Area:** Open; rock scrambling closed in southeast area to protect nesting falcons; cave tours canceled
- **La Pine State Park:** Open

### SKI AREAS AND SNO-PARKS

- *Updated 10 a.m. Jan. 20*
- **Hoodoo:** Open; 58.4-inch base; Tiny Treat, Leap of Faith, Dante's Vision, Hodag's Horn, Hodag's Trail, Rabbit Run, Impossible Dream Lower closed, all other trails open
- **Mt. Bachelor:** Open; 69-inch base; Skyliner, Aplenglow, Rainbow and Summit are closed, all other lifts open
- **Willamette Pass:** Open; Twilight and EPA operating
- *Updated 10 a.m. Jan. 13*

#### Deschutes National Forest

- **Crescent Lake Sno-park:** Open; 18-24 inches; marginal conditions with shallow coverage
- **Crescent Junction:** Open; 18-24 inches; marginal conditions with shallow coverage
- **Dutchman Sno-park:** Open; 66 inches; fair conditions; limited parking; no overnight camping; 40' max length limit for vehicle/trailer combination; expect heavy use all the time; no dogs
- **Edison Butte Sno-park:** Open; 30-42 inches; fair conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles Dec. 1-March 31; There is a temporary closure on Trail 3, between junction 134 and 132, and on Trail 25, between 133 and 125B due to logging
- **Kapka Butte Sno-park:** Open; 54-60 inches; fair conditions; area side roads closed to highway vehicles Dec. 1-March 31
- **Meissner Sno-park:** Open; 30-42 inches; fair conditions; area roads closed through April 1; no dogs
- **Skyliner Sno-park:** Open; gate/road to Tumalo Falls is closed for the season; road is ski/snowshoe trail
- **Swampy Sno-park:** Open; 42-54 inches; fair conditions. no dogs; area roads closed to highway vehicles Dec. 1-March 31
- **Vista Butte Sno-park:** Open; 54-60 inches; fair conditions; area north of parking area closed to

- snowmobiles, use Kapka Butte or Wanoga; no dogs
- **Wanoga Snow Play:** Open; 36-42 inches; marginal conditions; expect heavy use all the time; area roads closed to highway vehicles Dec. 1-March 31; pack home broken sleds and all trash

- **Wanoga Snowmobile:** Open; 36-41 inches; fair conditions; area roads closed to highway vehicles Dec. 1-March 31
- **Newberry (Six Mile Sno-park):** Open; 12-18 inches; marginal conditions due to low snow
- **Newberry (10 Mile Sno-park):** Open; 24-36 inches; fair conditions with thin coverage; road 21 beyond Ten Mile closed to vehicles for winter season
- **Three Creek Sno-park (Lower):** Open; 18-24 inches; marginal conditions; road 16 may not be immediately plowed after a storm and use of funding
- **Three Creek Sno-park (Upper):** Open; 24-36 inches; fair conditions; road 16 may not be immediately plowed after a storm
- **Walt Haring Sno-park:** Open; 18-24 inches; marginal conditions with shallow coverage

#### Ochoco National Forest

- **Bandit Springs Sno-park:** Open
- **Mark's Creek Sno-park:** Open
- **Ochoco Divide Sno-park:** Open
- **Walton Sno-park:** Open

#### Willamette National Forest

- **Gold Lake Sno-park:** Open
- **Ikenick Sno-park:** Open
- **Little Nash Sno-park:** Open
- **Maxwell Sno-park:** Open
- **Potato Hill Sno-park:** Open
- **Ray Benson Sno-park:** Open
- **Salt Creek Sno-park:** Open
- **Santiam Sno-park:** Open
- **Waldo Lake Sno-park:** Open

### CYCLING

- **Fatbike and Winter trails**
- **Horse Butte Loop, Maston, Ben's, MTB, Kent's:** Muddy
- **Wanoga:** 3 PSI, Wanoga: Outer Loop: Rideable snow

#### East of Bend trails

- **Arnold Ice Cave, Swamp Wells:** Deep snow
- **Horse Butte Loop, Boyd Cave Trail, Coyote Loop:** Muddy
- **Crooked Arm, Dry River Canyon, Mad Max Drive, Escape From Moscow:** Riding well
- **All other trails Winter mix**
- **Phil's Trail Complex**
- **Some trails are closed weekdays until 3 p.m. Friday, see note.**
- **Storm King closed between Storm King's junction with Phil's Trail and Grand Slam**
- **Most trails have snow, ice, or mud**

#### Wanoga Trail Complex

- **All trails either muddy winter**

mix

#### North of Skyliner trails

- **Shevlin Park:** Winter Mix
- **All other trails under deep snow**

#### Swampy Lakes trails

- **All trails in deep snow**

#### Cascade Lakes trails

- **All trails in deep snow**

#### Mt. Bachelor

- **Bachy West XC:** Deep snow
- **All other trails closed**

#### Sunriver area trails

- **All trails in deep snow**

#### Prineville and Ochoco trails

- **All trails have winter mix or mud**

#### Sisters trails

- **All trails in deep snow**

#### Maston complex

- **All trails rideable snow or muddy**

#### Redmond trails

- **The Saddle:** Closed for nesting eagles
- **All other trails have rideable snow or muddy**

#### Madras East Trails

- **E-Bikes allowed on all trails**
- **All trails muddy or rideable snow**

#### Waldo Lake Region

- **All trails under deep snow**

#### Cascade Crest

- **All trails under deep snow**

#### McKenzie Region

- **McKenzie River trail closed from Tamolitch Trailhead to Fissell Boat Launch due to Knoll Fire**
- **All trails under deep snow**

### FISHING

• *Updated at 10 a.m. Jan. 20*

- **Lower Deschutes (Pelton Dam to Columbia River):** 5,110 cfs; redband trout, steelhead, whitefish; emergency closure from mouth to Sherars Falls in effect for steelhead, mouth to Moody rapids is closed to all fishing, fall Chinook and coho numbers are starting to increase; angling for all species is closed from the Northern Boundary of the Warm Springs Reservation upstream to the Pelton Regulating Reservoir from Jan. 1-April 21
- **Middle Deschutes (Benham Falls to Lake Billy Chinook):** 3,980 cfs; brown trout, rainbow trout; anglers reporting good fishing in the mornings and evenings; artificial flies and lures only, no limit on brown trout
- **Upper Deschutes at Benham Falls:** 453 cfs; rainbow trout, brown trout; fishing closed until May 22, 2022
- **Crooked River (below Opal Springs):** 1,230; rainbow trout and mountain whitefish; 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), the water is currently low and dirty with plenty of aquatic vegetation in the channel
- **Fall River:** Brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout; good fishing throughout the river; fly-fishing with barbless hooks only
- **Metolius River:** 1,360 cfs; bull trout, rainbow trout; good fishing reported; fly fishing only upstream of Bridge 99, artificial lures and flies permitted below; catch and release only; public access to Wizard Falls Hatchery remains closed
- **Tumalo Creek:** 1.65 cfs; rainbow trout
- **McKenzie River (at Clear Lake):** 464 cfs
- **McKenzie River (near Belknap Springs):** 301 cfs; rainbow and coastal cutthroat trout; fire cleanup still being conducted in the area, access may be limited; all nonadipose fin-clipped trout must be released; lures and artificial flies only
- **Crane Prairie Reservoir:** 80% full; closed to fishing until April 22
- **Wickiup Reservoir:** 37% full; closed to fishing until April 22
- **Prineville Reservoir:** 18% full; rainbow trout, small and largemouth bass, catfish, crappie, crayfish; trout fishing has been good near the dam, all boat ramps are closed due to low water
- **East Lake:** Brown trout, kokanee, rainbow trout, Atlantic salmon; good fishing but water temps are warm; water level is lower for this time of year, may be difficult launching larger boats
- **Paulina Lake:** Kokanee, rainbow and brown trout; good fishing for kokanee and brown trout; Paulina-East Lake Road closed for the winter
- **Ochoco Reservoir:** 10% full; rainbow trout, black crappie, smallmouth bass; water level is still extremely low and bank access is limited to walk-in only
- **Haystack Reservoir:** 88% full; rainbow and brown trout, kokanee, largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill and bullhead catfish
- **Lake Billy Chinook:** Bull, brown and rainbow trout, kokanee, smallmouth bass; bass fishing picking up with kokanee and bull trout fishing being fair
- **North Twin Lake:** Rainbow trout; good fishing reported
- **South Twin Lake:** Rainbow trout; good fishing reported
- **Davis Lake:** rainbow trout and largemouth bass; water level is low and it may be difficult to launch larger boats; fair fishing for largemouth bass; fly fishing only; fair fishing, catch and release for trout, no limit on size or number for warmwater fish; Odell Creek Channel and Odell Creek are closed to fishing upstream of the West Davis Lake Campground boat launch until May 22
- **Lava Lake:** Rainbow trout; algae bloom; recent reports are mixed, should improve when the water quality does
- **Little Lava Lake:** Rainbow trout, brook trout and whitefish; best methods are bait, lures and flies still-fished or trolled
- **Cultus Lake:** Mackinaw, rainbow and brook trout; troll depths for mackinaw and shallower areas for rainbows
- **Hosmer Lake:** Brook, cutthroat and rainbow trout; Cascade Lake Highway closed for winter; fly fishing and catch and release only with barbless hooks; good fishing reported
- **Elk Lake:** Brook trout and kokanee; jigging, still-fishing and trolling from a boat or fly fishing are best
- **Diamond Lake:** trout; all brown and tiger trout must be released; trout fishing has been good on lures; if you catch one over 20 inches, take it to the marina to be entered for a raffle
- **Crescent Lake:** 10% full; kokanee, mackinaw, rainbow and brown trout, whitefish and chub; one lake trout per day, 24-inch minimum; fishing is poor; lake level is extremely low, developed ramps are unavailable for launching boats
- **Waldo Lake:** Boating restricted to electric motors or non-motorized vessels
- **Walton Lake:** Rainbow trout; the lake is completely iced over and anglers have had good success through the ice
- **Odell Lake:** Lake trout, kokanee, rainbow trout; good fishing for kokanee with some larger fish being caught; 25 kokanee per day in addition to daily trout limit

### EVENTS

#### Ice Skating Rink Hours

**The Pavilion:** Drop-ins welcome during public skate sessions. Open skating session times vary, see website for details; \$12 adults, \$11 older adults (60-79) and students, \$10 youth and honored citizens (80 plus), children under 3 with a paying adult are free, \$3 discount if you bring your own skates, \$6 per person for special sessions; 1001 SW Bradbury Drive, Bend; [bendparksandrec.org/facility/the-pavilion](http://bendparksandrec.org/facility/the-pavilion) or 541-389-7588.

**Seventh Mountain Resort:** Reservations required. Open skating sessions run 1 hour and 20 minutes every two hours from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; \$15 adults, \$12 children 7 to 18, \$5 children 6 and under, \$5 discount for bringing your own skates; Seventh Mountain Resort Ice Rink, 18575 SW Century Drive, Bend; [seventhmountainriverco.com/ice-skating](http://seventhmountainriverco.com/ice-skating) or 877-765-1501.

**Sunriver Village:** Reservations required for all skaters. Open skating sessions run 1 hour and 15 minutes every two hours 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; \$15 adults, \$11 children 5 to 12, \$3 discount if you have your own skates; Sunriver Village Ice Rink, 57100 Beaver Drive, Sunriver; 541-593-5948.

#### 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; 1:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; \$95 per person, \$70 children 11 and under; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [wanderlusttours.com](http://wanderlusttours.com) or 541-389-8359.
- **Shoes, Brews & Views Snowshoe Tour:** A naturalist-guided tour snowshoeing the Cascades with a local microbrew or root beer to enjoy afterward; 1:30-5:30 p.m.; \$100 per person \$70 children 11 and under (root beer available for those under 21); Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [wanderlusttours.com](http://wanderlusttours.com) or 541-389-8359
- **Prohibition Cave Tour:** Explore a cave in a system known to have been used to distill spirits (illegally) with a naturalist guide and then head to a local distillery to learn about its history; 1:30 p.m.; \$115 per person, \$90 children 11 and under; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [wanderlusttours.com](http://wanderlusttours.com) or 541-389-8359
- **Daytime Snowshoe Tour:** Snowshoe through the powdery snow in the Cascade Mountains; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or 1:30-5:30 p.m.; \$95 per person, \$70 children 11 and under; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [wanderlusttours.com](http://wanderlusttours.com) or 541-389-8359
- **Starlight & Moonlight Snowshoe Tours:** Watch twilight descend over the Cascades and enjoy a clear starry night while snowshoeing powdery snow-filled forest at night in the Cascade Mountains; 7-11 p.m.; \$100 per person; Wanderlust Tours, 61535 S. Highway 97, Bend; [wanderlusttours.com](http://wanderlusttours.com) or 541-389-8359
- **Sled Dog Rides with Oregon Trail of Dreams:** Stay snug and warm in the sled while a team led by professional mushers take you on an adventure along snowy tree-lined trails near the slopes of Mt. Bachelor; \$100-\$275, Advance reservations are required; Mt. Bachelor Ski Area, 13000 Century Drive, Bend; [mtbachelor.com](http://mtbachelor.com) or 800-829-2442.
- **Winter Wandering:** With more than 10 miles of hiking and biking trails, the Metolius Preserve is a good place to spend the day outside. The trails are open year-round if you are adventurous enough to ski or snowshoe in; Metolius Preserve, SW Warm Springs Road, Sisters; [deschuteslandtrust.org](http://deschuteslandtrust.org) or 541-330-0017

#### Friday 1/21

- **Friday Night Lights with Abilis CBD:** Enjoy bonfires, live music and more every Friday night at Hoodoo; 3:30-9 p.m.; free; Hoodoo Ski & Recreation, Hwy 20 Box 20, Sisters; [skihoodoo.com](http://skihoodoo.com) or 541-822-3799.

#### Saturday 1/22

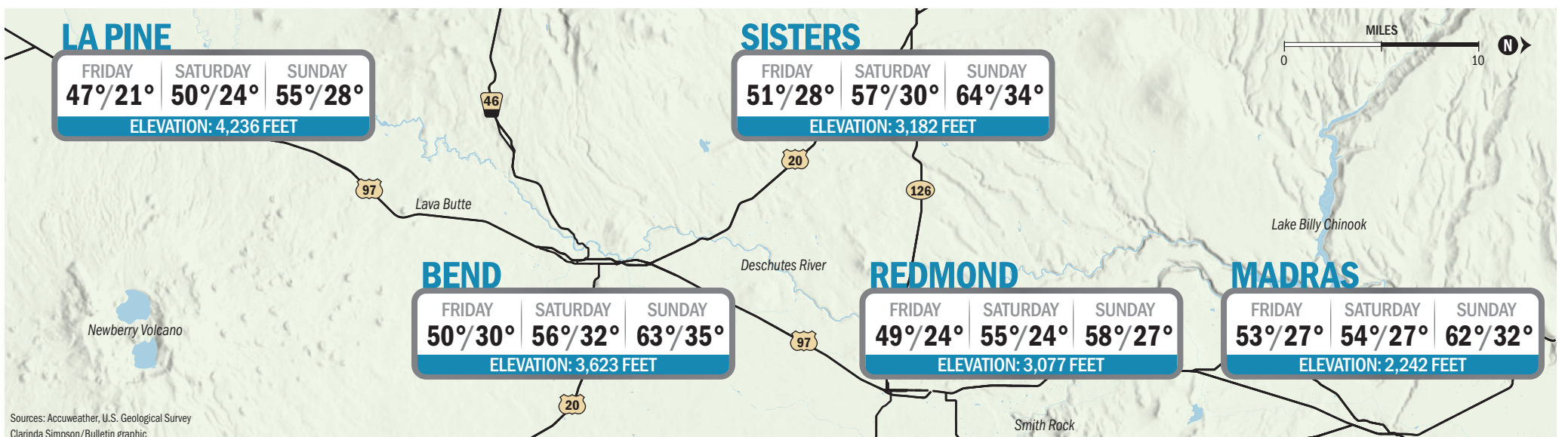
- **Saturday Morning Coffee Run:** Join CORK every Saturday for a long run starting at Thump Coffee; 9-10 a.m.; free; Thump Coffee, 549 NW York Drive Suite 200, Bend; [facebook.com/corksrunners](http://facebook.com/corksrunners) or 541-306-6689.
- **Exploring Crater Lake National Park:** Join REI experts and learn about hiking and backpacking in one of the most breathtaking National Parks in the country; 5-6:30 p.m.; REI, Online, Bend; [oldmilldistrict.com](http://oldmilldistrict.com)

#### Sunday 1/23

- **Central Oregon USASA Slopestyle:** Register to compete in USASA slopestyle by Thursday or go watch the completion this weekend; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Mt. Bachelor, 13000 Century Drive, Bend; [mtbachelor.com](http://mtbachelor.com) or 800-829-2442.

#### Thursday 1/27

- **Thursday Night Run:** Meet at Spoken Moto for a 3- to 5-mile run through the paved trails in the Old Mill and stay after for food and drinks; 6-7 p.m.; Spoken Moto, 310 SW Industrial Way, Bend; [facebook.com/corksrunners](http://facebook.com/corksrunners) or 541-306-6689.



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