

**BATES**

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The park makes a great base camp for adventurous jaunts in just about any direction, such as a drive on County Road 20/Middle Fork Lane, along the lazy and winding Middle Fork of the John Day River. Bates is also surrounded by three wilderness areas — Strawberry Mountain, Monument Rock and North Fork John Day.

The nearby hills were prime gold mining area, and the remnants of several old towns — Galena, Susanville, Greenhorn and Whitney — are also available for investigative exploration just a short drive away.

Two nearby bicycle routes, the Old West Scenic Bikeway and the Trans-America Trail, also make Bates State Park popular with cross-country cyclists.

The park, which opened in 2011, is one of the newest in the Oregon State Park system. Its very existence



**A friendly flock enjoys the sunshine at Bates Pond.**

Eagle photos/Cheryl Hoefler

operated from 1917 into the 1960s.

Residents, friends and family members continue to gather at the site for biennial reunions.

Bates State Park has 28 primitive campsites for tents or self-contained RVs, three of which are accessible to those with disabilities. There's a hiker/biker camp area with six sites and electric plug-in access. No reservations are needed; campsites are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Other features include fire rings, picnic tables, potable water, a day-use area with a covered shelter and vault toilets.

All you need to bring is food, a book and, of course, a camera.

The park is open from May 1 to Oct. 31.



Trails from up on the hillside provide scenic views of Bates Pond and the state park beyond.



Bates State Park, about 17 miles north of Prairie City, is one of the newest gems in the Oregon State Park system.

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**How to get there:**  
 From Prairie City, head east on Highway 26 about 15 miles. Turn left on State Route 7, and left again just past mile post 1 onto County Road 20/Middle Fork Lane. The entrance to the park is about a 1/2 mile ahead on the left.  
 For those traveling from the Dale/Ritter area, it's about 40 miles from the junction of County Road 20 and Highway 395 down to the state park. County Road 20 is paved and easily accessible in good weather.

**Bates State Park**  
 28 primitive sites, tent or RV; day use area with restrooms  
 BATES, OREGON  
 1 mile north of Hwy 26 & Hwy 7 Junction  
 oregonstateparks.org

**Clyde Holliday State Park**  
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